



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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MAY 2020



EUFOR TCHAD/RCA A REVIEW

[STRENGTHEN THE NATION]



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Contents

VOLUME 80
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CONTENTS

It's your magazine | 3

FEATURES



12 Medevac: Inside the EAS
By Comdt Declan Daly (Ret'd)



16 Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20 Part 2
By Brian Hartigan



20 EUFOR Tchad/RCA: A Review
By Professor Ben Tonra



24 Ship Shape
By Lt Cdr David Lyons

REGULARS

- 6** On Parade
- 8** In Focus
- 10** Vets News
- 27** Tac-Aide
- 34** Notice-Board
- 35** Reviews
- 38** What I Do

28 Forging a Future for Mali
By Comdt Kyran Byrne


32 COVID-19 3D FACEMASK PRINTING
By Capt Paul Shorte, CIS



28. Forging a Future for Mali

**32. COVID-19 3D
Facemask Printing**



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Front Cover

Front Cover: ARW Patrol in Tchad. Photographer - Unknown.

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout:
www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine

Editorial

Hello, and welcome our fourth issue of 2020, continuing with our 80th volume – in the historic milestone the *An Cosantóir* magazine has reached.

With the redirection of focus towards COVID-19 and the restrictions placed upon the country our On Parade section this month is lighter than it has been but there are plenty of pictures to enjoy, please keep documenting your events and sending them in. Our In Focus pages by Damien O'Herlihy takes the opportunity of isolation to look back at last months article by CQMS Barrett and compare how an article in the first edition of *An Cosantóir* still has relevance to today's range practices. Vets news is provided by I.U.N.V.A., with a report on the volunteers status of its members during the COVID-19 crisis.

Our first main feature, a 2 part, provided by Signal Magazine, is by Comdt Declan Daly (Ret'd), looks at the EAS initiative, its initial beginning and how it evolved.

Moving on from this we continue with part 2 of the Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20 article, provided by Contact Magazines Brian Hartigan, the feature concludes with a number of interviews with serving troops and their experiences during the disaster.

Our Front Cover feature, provided by Signal Magazine, is a very interesting look

back at the EUFOR Tchad mission, by Professor Ben Tonra, its been over a decade since the mission finished and Ben gives a detailed review of mission over this and the next 2 issues.

In Ship Shape, Lt CDR David Lyons gives us an insight into his career in the Naval Service and how it led him to become the OIC of the Naval Dockyard.

Moving on from this Comdt Kyran Byrne reviews the Mali mission and his experience of it whilst serving with the mission in 2019, a very interesting read for any soldiers planning on travelling to the mission area.

There's plenty more to read in the magazine so please enjoy and of course we have our regulars Tac-Aide, Noticeboard and our competitions, one of which is running for a limited time and could see you win 1 of 5 unique handcrafted pens kindly provided to us by Bill Dooley of Curragh Pens, see page 4 for further details.

Many thanks to all our contributors, especially Brian Hartigan of *Contact Magazine* and Ruairi Kavanagh of *Signal Magazine* for providing us with some of the articles featured in this issue of *An Cosantóir* Magazine.



Sgt Karl Byrne – (Stand-in) Editor

IT'S BEEN A TRULY STRANGE AND AT TIMES SURREAL FEW MONTHS. WE'VE ALL BEEN FORCED TO ADAPT IN SO MANY WAYS, AND EVERYONE'S EXPERIENCE AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

Many of our members, we know, have been involved in the Covid-19 response efforts while simultaneously dealing with the loss of a second household income. For those who fall into this category, please do know we're here to help. Whether it's in relation to your shares, existing loans or our new 'GetOverTheHump' Covid-19 loan, you can reach us on 018554489 for a discreet and confidential chat.

And coming back to that word "adapt", here we've outlined a brief guide to managing a reduced household budget:

1. Map out your monthly spending in an excel sheet using your Credit Union/Bank statements over the last six months. And be honest, whether it was too many take away coffees, gambling or whatever else you'd rather not shout about.
2. Next input your income at its new level and identify your shortfall.
3. Next input your savings, if any, so you can see how long you can realistically cover your shortfall.
4. Now highlight all non-essential spending and be draconian about it.
5. Lastly, if you've still got a deficit, see what bills you can delay. The five main banks have agreed to temporary mortgage and loan suspensions for those genuinely affected. Equally here in ANSACC we've supports in place and we encourage you to call us to talk about your options.

**Take care all, and once again, we're here if you need us –
ansaccu.ie/loanoptions / 018554489 / info@ansaccu.ie**





▲ NSRC & 1 MIC ASSIST WITH PPE DELIVERY

Members of the NSRC (National Storage Reception Centre) along with members of 1 MIC, both from the DFTC, assisted in the packing and delivery of vital PPE supplies which arrived from China, to be delivered to various HSE destinations last month. In a joint convoy with An Garda Síochána, the PPE was collected from Dublin Airport and distributed throughout the HSE to the frontline staff combating COVID-19. *Photo: DF Flickr*



▲ AIR CORPS NVG TRAINING

Recently the Air Corps helicopter squadron No.3 Ops Wing conducted NVG training. The training is an essential part of a helicopter pilots training as flying at night is something they may need to do, not only in a military capacity but also for ATCP/ATCA operations.

Photo: Pte Lukasz Gancarz



▲ EASTER 1916 RISING COMMEMORATION 2020

Capt Darren Reilly reads the Proclamation outside the GPO at a ceremony marking the Anniversary of The Easter 1916 Rising. The ceremony was reduced in line with HSE Ireland COVID-19 guidelines. *Photo: A/M Sam Gibney*



▲ 116TH INF GP UNIFIL MRE

Troops of the 116th IN GP UNIFIL travelling Lebanon conducted the MRE (Mission Readiness Exercise) in the Glen of Imall back in April. Conducting various types of exercises and scenarios the troops can be seen in the above pictures carrying out medical drills and mine clearance drills.

Photo: A/M Sam Gibney



▲ TAOISEACH LEO VARADKAR VISITING JTF

Minister for Defence An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, joined by Minister with responsibility for Defence Paul Keogh TD visited the COVID-19 Joint Task Force located in Mckee Barracks on 6th of April. An Taoiseach was escorted and briefed on the JTF by the Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM & also the newly appointed head of the JTF Brigadier General Brian Cleary. The JTF provides, within means and capabilities, Aid to the Civil Authorities (ATCA) support to government departments and agencies (with priority to the Dept of Health and HSE), by providing personnel and equipment to a range of requests for support. *Photo: A/M Sam Gibney*



▲ AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (DIVISION 19) PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARD

Captain (Dr) Mathew McCauley, Medical Corps, Army Reserve, has been awarded the American Psychological Association's (Division 19) Presidential Citation for 'exceptional leadership, service, and international clinical and research contributions' in advancing the science and practice of military psychology. Congratulations to Capt. McCauley on his achievement and best of luck from the *An Cosantóir* team in his career in the Defence Forces Army Reserve.

Photo: Provided by Capt (Dr) Mathew McCauley

SOME ASPECTS OF SOLDIERING NEVER CHANGE!

BY CAPT (AR) DAMIEN O'HERLIHY

As a member of 2 Brigade Cavalry Squadron Reserve I have along with every member of the Reserve submitted through the chain of command to my Commanding Officer my availability should the need arise where the Reserve is called to help our colleagues in the PDF and our fellow citizens. Like everyone in Ireland at the moment I am listening to the advice and adhering to the recommendation of the National Public Health Emergency Team and practising social distancing and washing my hands regularly.

I am also looking up <https://military.ie/en/member's-area/> to get regular updates on information about how the DF is helping the nation during this time. It is a great source of accurate and up to date information.

With a little bit more time on my hands having just about walked the legs of my dogs and now have my front garden fit for entry into Bloom in the Phoenix park I found myself with a little more time to spare and was delighted to get my April edition of the *An Cosantóir* magazine through my letter box.

So with a cup of Barry's tea in hand and a seat in the sunshine in my back garden I set about to enjoy and read for a couple of hours in the sunshine. The article by CQMS (AR) Michael Barret 7 Bn was very enjoyable and showed the commitment shown by many reservists who come in and train on weekends in addition to their regular parade nights during the week.

These additional training weekends are to get in the practice to be of a sufficiently high standard to compete in the 2 Brigade shooting competition as to quote CQMS Barrett "As in all worldwide military formations, shooting skills are held in the highest esteem by the Defence Forces. To represent one's unit in a shooting competition is a great honour for any DF member".

This is so very true and the bonds of morale and discipline developed by these teams with the hours spent together honing their skills and caring and cleaning for their equipment and rifle are absolutely worth it when they stand on the firing point representing their unit to compete to be the best.

It reminded me of an article I had read earlier in the first edition of *An Cosantóir* that was published on 27th December 1940 that I have access to through the online version of the magazine https://www.dfmagazine.ie/dfmag_

[pdfs/1940_1949/Vol_01_1940/01_Dec_27/Vol_1_No_1_Dec_27_1940.pdf](#). In this copy of the original magazine there was an article about the LSF (Local Security Force) rifle.

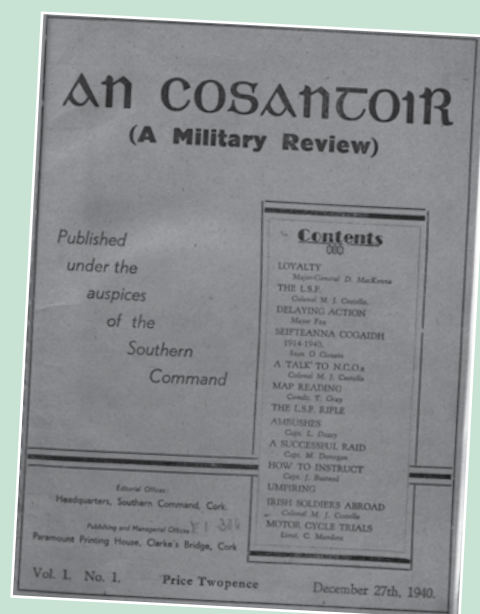
The LSF was a precursor to the Reserve Defence Force we have today.

The article opens with the lines "The rifle issued to the LSF is one of the most modern and one of the best rifles, if not the very best rifle in use. With powerful propellant and streamlined bullet, the trajectory is flat. Consequently during combat comparatively little adjustments of the sights is necessary."

The comparisons to the Steyr AUG are almost the same, as the Steyr is indeed one of the best modern rifles in use by other militaries around the world. The article goes on to list the importance of proper care of the rifle as it states that the "Rifle is a piece of fine mechanism and it must be kept clean, free from rust and well lubricated if it is to do good work and remain in serviceable condition." These simple words are so accurate and true that they are adhered to even to this day and will be adhered to for as long as there are rifles being used by the Defence Forces.

It continues to list the Inspections that are to be carried out and goes on to speak about the Care and Cleaning whilst in the Garrison, which we would know as daily cleaning. It then goes on to Care and Cleaning after Firing with the opening words "When a rifle has been fired the bore must be thoroughly cleaned not later than the evening on which it is fired" I'm sure the author will be glad to know that this is still the case today some 80 years after this article was published.

The article goes on to speak about removing metal foul-





ing and finishes with the importance for the Rules for the care of the Rifle on the range opening with “*Wipe out the bore with a clean cloth patch each time before going to the firing point. Always clean at the end of each days shooting, a rifle that has been fired should never be left overnight without cleaning*”

Suffice to say that it can be absolutely guaranteed that a keen eyed NCO will have inspected each and every rifle that was used on the range in Kilbride by members of C Company 7 Bn that day to ensure that they were of a sufficiently high standard of cleanliness before being handed back into the armoury.

So there is a silver lining in this social distancing we are all partaking in at the moment and I am looking forward to reading through the online archive of *An Cosantóir* magazines and seeing the evolution of the equipment available to the Defence Forces since 1940 to where we are at now in 2020 and I wonder if I will see any similar articles as to the two I have just seen and read about and find out what other aspects of soldiering have not nor will they ever change. ■

VETERAN'S NEWS VETERAN'S NEWS VETERAN'S NEWS

IUNVA VETERANS COMMUNITY SUPPORT COVID – 19 VIRUS

POSTS SUPPORT FEEDBACK OPENING DATE 19TH MARCH 2020

POST 1: 23RD MARCH 2020

Locations

Finglas: Derek Judge - Prescriptions & Food parcels deliveries.
Clondalkin: Michael Dillon & Frank O'Connor – Prescriptions deliveries
Arbour Hill: Michael Buggy, Ronnie Daly, John Egan, Noel O'Neill, Veterans & Community food parcel Deliveries.

POST 6: SINCE 1ST APRIL 2020

1. We forwarded information on Covid-19 to over 200 ex-soldiers that we have on our notification list.
2. I can confirm that we got 4 volunteers, who offered to collect medicines or foods.
3. One member is helping look after 2 elderly neighbours in his own area.

POST 11: SINCE MONDAY 23RD MARCH 2020

- Working in the test centre in Newbridge for Covid-19 some of Post 11 veterans are helping out with Administration.
- We are very low on PPE and we need additional PPE for our test sites. John Murray IUNVA is volunteering in Newbridge.

POST 19: 19TH MARCH 2020

- Volunteers in the Fermoy region to provide support for our elderly, our sick and our Medical & Frontline staff during Covid-19.
- Assistance to The Fermoy Forum office is open between 9am - 2pm, Monday-Friday. Please contact Grainne O'Connor on 0860225111

POST 24: 20TH MARCH 2020



- Maintaining contact with 'at risk' members, keeping all members informed from credible resources, see our website Post 24 IUNVA.
- We have registered with Tipperary Volunteer Centre who are co-ordinating with local government on how best to deploy volunteer services informed that specific requests will be forthcoming during the next week or so.
- Text alerts are being sent to our 50 members as required.
- Some members have registered with HSE 'Be on call for Ireland: HSE is looking for Healthcare & Non-Healthcare Pros'
- Obviously the volunteer services are at each individual's discretion.

POST 4 / 24: 21ST MARCH 2020

We are up and running since 2013, and have only been successful because of the support of the original Post 24 and IUNVA and now Post 4. Mr Mick Haslam, Mr John O'Callaghan, Mr Paddy Hackett and Mr Seamus Cagney were all part of the initial set up of the Soup Kitchen with myself and Ina Doyle. Mr Haslam due to ill health no longer volunteers with us but Seamus, Paddy and John are weekly volunteers for 6 years. Without them, IUNVA and both posts, we would not have been able to grow from supporting about 6 people in our local community to over 115 people on a weekly basis including ex-members of Defence Forces with soup and sandwiches and grocery bags. ■



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

WE HAVE LISTENED TO YOU AND WANT TO HEAR MORE!



Public Relations Branch are working to improve internal communication across our Defence Forces. To assist this we have created a forum for open two-way communication where we welcome your feedback and/or questions on any matter of interest to you as a serving member of Óglaigh na hÉireann.

This email address is live now at:

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Privacy and Confidentiality are guaranteed and you will receive a response within three working days.



STRENGTHEN
THE NATION

MEDEVAC

Inside the EAS



PART 1

Comdt Declan Daly (Ret'd) provides an insiders viewpoint of what it is really like to fly the Irish Air Corps' HEMS missions, the challenges, the rewards and its unique demands.



139
SER. NO. 3145



WELCOME TO EAS

Up front in the cockpit, it's Pauls' first day as a fully minted EAS P2. In the back, Luke is on his first shadow shift – flying as an observer, learning from the more experienced crewmembers before going live on his own as an EAS crewman/ EMT. Myself, Jamie (our crewman) and Pat (our Advanced Paramedic (AP)) have been doing this for a while.

The first task we receive from the NACC dispatcher is a good 'first job' for the newer guys. It's a pick up of a patient with a suspected STEMI in Tobercurry, North of Knock Airport. The weather is a stable cloud base at 600 – 700 feet with 10+ vis underneath. There's enough involved that the newer guys will have to do a bit of thinking about our route, but no real pressure on the rest of us so we can help the learning process along as much as possible. Everything goes fine on the outbound leg, the weather stays unusually 'the same' and even with the pick up site on rising ground, the cloud doesn't touch the ground until about a mile North of our target.

It stays this way until we land on at Galway Hospital. I notice a flurry of activity in the back and Pat calls 'Cab off' – he wants to isolate the comms in the back from the cockpit. I look over my shoulder and see Luke starting chest compressions on the previously stable patient who has gone into cardiac arrest just as we touched down. As this is Pauls' first real job, I decide to keep this to myself and we run through the shutdown checks as normal in the cockpit – you never know how people will react the first time this happens around them and it's usually quickest and safest to just get things done like you always would. By the time the engines

wind down enough to hear what's happening in the back, the patient is alive again and moaning at Luke to stop hurting her chest. This is all normal; the lads take it perfectly in their stride. A fairly standard 'Welcome to EAS'.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1963, the Irish Air Corps has provided an unbroken service to the state in terms of moving the sick and injured around the country by helicopter. Starting with the Alouette III, the Air Corps introduced an air ambulance service moving patients in need of specialist care from regional hospitals to major ones where definitive care was available. The Air Corps also introduced Ireland's first SAR capability, but although there's an overlap in the end result to the patient, this is a very different service. Through the years, various different aircraft have been used to move patients between hospitals with the advent of the Dauphin allowing a comparatively limited night time capability. These were all however hospital to hospital or hospital to airport missions, today they would be described as an IHT (Inter Hospital Transfer) or Tertiary HEMS. This means that patients were not being moved from the scene of an incident to hospital. In 2011, the Air Corps began a pilot project in concert with the National Ambulance Service to assess the need for a national HEMS. Initially envisaged as a one-year assessment, this mission began flying in 2012 and became what we today call the Emergency Aeromedical Service. Despite responding to thousands of calls in the intervening years, not much is publicly advertised about how we go about our business or what is involved for a crewmember who wants to fly a HEMS mission in Ireland.

Having been fortunate enough to be involved from the very beginning of the service, this is my own experience of flying HEMS in Ireland.

WHAT IS HEMS AND WHY IS THE MILITARY DOING IT?

The short answer is that HEMS or Helicopter Emergency Medical Services allow clinical care to be delivered to scene of illness or injury at speed and allows patients to be moved from areas that would otherwise be too distant from definitive care or inaccessible by land. HEMS is usually broken down into three types of calls: Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Calls. A Primary Call is when the aircraft is tasked before any other emergency service has reached the scene i.e. help is also on the way in the form of an ambulance but it's far away. Secondary HEMS is when an ambulance crew or other clinical practitioner is at scene and decides that HEMS is needed. To a pilot, there's really no difference between the two except that the Advanced Paramedic will probably be longer at scene in a primary call if we arrive before everyone else, as the patient hasn't been treated yet. Tertiary HEMS is either the prearranged or short notice transfer of a patient between two medical centres. This last category is also variously called Air Ambulance or IHT, Inter Hospital Transfer, and is usually but not always the most benign category of aeromedical job to fly.

But why use a helicopter at all? Treating patients at scene and moving them to hospital is surely ambulance work, right? Sure, it is. And if everyone lived beside a hospital with every conceivable medical treatment available that would work just fine. However, most hospitals will have a certain amount of skillsets and services available and outside of that you will probably be looking at initial treatment at the nearest centre, before being subsequently moved to definitive care. So, if you need, for example, cardiac care and you live in Galway City, good for you! If you need cardiac care and you live in Clifden, well let's hope you make it through the journey of over an hour on secondary roads.

Using a helicopter can overcome some of the problems with this scenario, which is replicated all over the country. A helicopter doesn't mind about potholes, it doesn't worry about the icy roads or flooding, and boggy or mountainous

terrain is not much of an issue either. The travel time over any distance is remarkably shorter – 12 minutes in an AW139 vs over an hour in the example above – and what this means is that the chance of you being flown directly to definitive care – the care you need for your particular illness – is much higher. So, for example, you live in Galway but you don't need cardiac care, you have a severe isolated head injury. Now you need to go direct to Beaumont Hospital in Dublin. Instead of crossing the country by road, a helicopter will take you from West to East in just under an hour.

WHY THE AW139?

From an aeromedical utility standpoint, the real game changer of the 139 is the cabin: it's big, rectangular and modular. For purely CASEVAC missions, you can have four stretchers plus attendants. It can comfortably carry neonatal kits with full medical teams and ample onboard oxygen. International air ambulances by day and night came within reach for No 3 and for the first time, we were able to pick up patients directly from Irish hospitals and fly them to the UK if that's what their clinical needs dictated.

'Big enough to carry a lot of people, fuel and equipment, but small enough to land just about anywhere. The 139 is in the Goldilocks zone of HEMS heli's.'

For EAS, it means that we can carry all the clinical equipment we might need (the boot is fairly full in addition to the cabin space) a full crew, patient, a family member or medical team and, critically, a full three hour fuel tank while still allowing an ample power margin. It's a 'smiles all around for everyone' kind of helicopter and the more I fly it the more I like it. Cruising at 150kts, the 139 brings almost the entire country within range of a PCI lab in less than 90 minutes for STEMI calls and even the most remote areas are not much further away than that. I mentioned earlier that we ended up doing jobs on EAS that were very different than anyone initially expected. Some of those have been tasks that the 139 makes easy work of, while the EC135, as good a machine as it is, would definitely not have been able to carry out. People are alive who otherwise wouldn't be purely because of the quality this machine brings to the service. ■



Disclaimer: Any personal views expressed in this article are those of the author alone. This article first appeared in the Winter 2019 edition of *Signal*, the magazine of the Representative Association of Commissioned Officers, and is reprinted by permission.

OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST 13-20

PART 2

On 7 January, a C-17 Globemaster flew from Brisbane to Adelaide with a water purification and desalination system (WPDS) to turn sea water into drinking water for residents of Kangaroo Island.

The system was flown to RAAF Base Edinburgh, north of Adelaide, and transported by road and ferry to the island.

Nine soldiers from 6th Engineer Support Regiment, based at RAAF Base Amberley, and two health-support staff from 2nd General Health Battalion, based at Gallipoli Barracks, set up and operated the system for weeks.

Lieutenant Mark Loneragan, of 6th Engineer Support Regiment, said WPDS was

capable of producing up to 100,000 litres of purified water a day from the sea.

"Once established and initial supply is achieved, the system can continue to produce water under supervision, with regular maintenance undertaken by a small support team," Lieutenant Loneragan said.

Aside from heavy-lift aircraft, RAAF also put Poseidon's eyes in the sky to provide vital daily information to firefighting crews on the ground.

Operating out of RAAF Base Edinburgh, the crews from No. 11 Squadron flew eight to 10 hours a day conducting aerial surveillance of infrastructure and roads in fire-affected areas all across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia's Kangaroo Island.

Wing Commander James Wright was in charge of P-8A operations and planning and said the crews had also been capturing imagery, which was passed to authorities on the ground.

"Our value is from the P-8A Poseidon's speed and the expertise of the crews to interpret what they are seeing on the ground, from a height of around 15,000 feet," Wing Commander Wright said.

"They can get from one target to another very quickly and this has proven to be a useful service to ground-based crews.

"Everyone wants to contribute in some way and our members have been really keen to support this operation," Wing Commander Wright said.

"Sadly, our crews were seeing homes and businesses destroyed but, importantly, they can then quickly assess the status of a township, which is useful for those on the ground who don't have our birds-eye view."

Other aircrews doing a big job were the C-27J Spartans, pushed to their limits in nightmare flying conditions.

In heavy smoke and poor visibility, the crews from No. 35 Squadron made essential contributions to airlift missions, especially around south-east Victoria.

Their missions included delivering supplies and specialist personnel into Mallacoota, and evacuating members of the civilian community.

The mission to Mallacoota was also supported by Australian Army Chinook, MRH90 and Black Hawk helicopters, contracted search-and-rescue helicopters, and the Navy.

The first Spartan landed in Mallacoota on the evening of 3 January and evacuated 25 people, but heavy smoke thwarted the first attempts to land in the town the following day.

Video of a Spartan crew flying through an eerie red glow generated by the smoke, attracted international media attention.

Improved conditions on 5 January allowed Defence aircraft to evacuate 381 people, with eight Spartan missions carrying out 243 of those – including 73 children and 15 infants, along with 13 dogs and three cats.

In their first week, the Spartan detachment had carried 472 people and nearly 18 tonnes of cargo and supplies, including generators and diesel bladders flown into Mallacoota to help provide power for those in the community who chose to stay behind.

C-27J Spartan pilot Flight Lieutenant Sean Joyce said the biggest challenge to the mission had been the smoke and the weather.

"Initially all the smoke that was being blown in from the fires in the vicinity of Mallacoota was making it very difficult to land at the airfield," Flight Lieutenant Joyce said.

"A cold front also came through and brought in some associated cloud and rain, which made it even more challenging."

Even with a forecast of heavy smoke and poor weather, Spartan crews launched on missions on the chance that visibility around Mallacoota would be good enough for a quick landing.

"We've been really well prepared – we built up as many differ-

ent approach options for getting into Mallacoota as we could," Flight Lieutenant Joyce said.

"But I don't think any of the crew on board have encountered conditions like this before."

"On some days the visibility has been down to 500m or less, when you wouldn't even attempt to get in."

"We were using all of the tools we have available – but, on some days, none of those were good enough."

"On other days, we made it in, and worked a full crew duty day just to get as much as we could in and out of Mallacoota."

They even flew an extended crew duty day on 5 January, allowing an additional 90 people to be flown out of Mallacoota before bad weather closed in on the following days.

While the flight from Mallacoota to East Sale takes less than an hour, Spartan crews did what they could to make the trip enjoyable for passengers.

This included providing children with lollies supplied by the Australian Red Cross, along with poppers and colouring-in books donated by the local community.

"It's pretty clear to us that they've been through a lot, but once they're able to get on the plane and get airborne, and they know they're being evacuated to a safe part of the community, they're pretty relieved," Flight Lieutenant Joyce said.

"They're really glad to get all the help."

Flying into small regional airfields is a mission that plays to No. 35 Squadron's strengths with the C-27J Spartan.

"We have a smaller physical footprint than larger transports, so we can have multiple aircraft

on the ground at Mallacoota at the same time as other assets like Chinooks and Black Hawks," Flight Lieutenant Joyce said.

Mallacoota Airfield has two runways – one asphalt, the other unsurfaced – measuring approximately 1km long.

On these missions, the Spartan is able to take approximately 30 passengers or up to 2700kg of cargo.

No. 35 Squadron's Detachment Commander at RAAF Base East Sale Squadron Leader Mark Seery said crews carefully managed the Spartan's weight, fuel and tyre pressure when operating from Mallacoota.

"What you don't want to do is land on a runway and put any holes in the surface or damage it in any way so that other aircraft can't use it," Squadron Leader Seery said.

"No. 35 Squadron has been landing on the unsurfaced dirt runway, and taking off on the sealed runway."

"Our light footprint has made us really effective in operating from Mallacoota."

The Spartan's work was made easier by a No. 4 Squadron Combat Control Team delivered to Mallacoota on 5 January to help coordinate passengers for the Spartans, provide weather and airfield information, and assess the condition of the runways.

Further west, the ADF expanded its efforts to defend Kangaroo Island in support of emergency services and the community.

As of Thursday 9 January around 250 reservist and full-time





ADF personnel were on Kangaroo Island.

ASLAV light armoured vehicles from 1st Armoured Regiment were conducting route reconnaissance and helping access hard-to-reach areas.

Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles were being used to drag fallen and felled trees off roads and lanes.

The desalination plant was fully operational, pumping out 100,000 litres of drinking water per day from sea water.

Bulldozers and graders were clearing firebreaks.

And, Army truck drivers were helping to deliver hay donated by farmers on Australia's mainland to properties to feed livestock.

A fleet of aircraft were also on standby at RAAF Base Edinburgh to evacuate residents from the island should it be deemed necessary. Thankfully it never came to that.

And still more help was coming.

A large convoy of equipment and personnel from the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment based in Townsville departed Lavarack Barracks on 12 January, bound for the fire zones of Victoria – to be partnered with a force of about 100 army engineers from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

The PNGDF contingent and the bulk of the 3rd Brigade personnel travelled the following day via RAAF C130 Hercules to prepare for the arrival of their convoy and to receive their orders.

A day after that, Fiji said it was sending an engineer platoon to help too – and soon after that, Japan said it was sending two C-130 Hercules.

As time progressed and with scores of bushfires still out of control, but with people largely out of danger, much attention began to flow towards animal welfare.

Many farm animals were starving on scorched earth. Even water was scarce in a lot of places, because infrastructure had been destroyed or dams had been sucked dry in the fire fight.

Cooma farmer George Walters was an individual who put a lot of blood, sweat and tears in to doing what he could – and then the Army stepped in to lend a hand.

"The whole community has gotten behind the relief efforts, but to have the assistance of the Army has been a massive boost," Mr Walters said.

"Some sheep, cattle and horses haven't had anything for days.

"We are now reaching farms and properties that desperately need assistance."

Private Shaun Whitehurst, an HX77 heavy-truck driver from Brisbane-based 7th Combat Service Support Battalion, was one of those tasked to help.

"I'm from off the land at Gin Gin, up past Bundaberg, so I know how tough farmers are doing it," Private Whitehurst said.

"It's a privilege to be able to get out and help – being here makes me proud to wear the uniform."

Army vehicles – even helicopters – distributed much-needed fodder for several days.

One of the biggest tasks after the fires was clearing fallen or dangerous trees from roads and roadsides all across three states.

While it was common and expected to see the engineers at the task, a closer examination of shoulder patches often revealed infantry, artillery or even RAAFies behind chainsaws or swinging axes.

The sight of the gunners wielding chainsaws may at first seem unusual, but the scene made perfect sense when you consider that artillerymen often build gun emplacements in the field as part of their normal war-time operations.

But for others, new skills were taught and practiced as a matter of necessity in the face of the mammoth task.

Army Reserve infantry soldiers were busy across south-east NSW, armed with new chainsaw training and skills from the School of Military Engineering.

The fit and nimble soldiers had their skillsets enhanced with a special one-day chainsaw course in Holsworthy that qualified them in crosscut operations.

This training allowed them to cut up fallen timber so their teams can haul away the debris from roads, tracks, fences

and properties.

Lieutenant Aiden Frost, 2nd/17th Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment, and team leader for the 5th Engineer Regiment Task Group's Strike Team 3, Response Team Alpha, said the bushfire crisis instantly focused the minds of all soldiers in the field.

"What I've noticed is that the traditional rivalries between units may still exist for the purposes of humour and rivalry, but the truth is that everybody here is a soldier first," Lieutenant Frost said.

"In the absence of normal coordination, it's been amazing to see people across the corps work together to make things happen

speed and scale of the ADF's response to the bushfire emergency.

Commissioner Andrew Crisp said Defence brought an impressive scale of forces to support the response, relief and recovery efforts, which meant results could be delivered quicker to affected communities.

"From planes to helicopters, from ships to plant and equipment, the sheer numbers of personnel and their assets which the ADF could get out on the ground on any one day was fantastic."

Commissioner Crisp also said the community response to ADF participation was valuable.



and help the people affected by this tragedy."

The presence of the soldiers also gave a sense of hope to homeowners who lost everything.

Verona residents Jim and Enid Humphries lost their home to the fires north of Bega and were living in a tent for a while, but soon had a caravan to live in, thanks in part to the Army.

A new access track to their property was needed to circumvent the destroyed house but the path was blocked by burnt-out trees.

That changed when Strike Team 3 arrived, allowing a caravan to be hauled onto the property so the Humphries' could abandon their tent for a little more comfort.

Mr Humphries said the presence of the soldiers was an unexpected godsend.

"Without them I'd have to be into this with a chainsaw myself – and that wouldn't be pretty," the 75-year old said.

As firefighting raged on across three states and the ACT, the scale of the effort was so unprecedented that Australia's stocks of water-bombing fire retardant were worryingly depleted – and, again, the military had a solution and volunteers ready, willing and able.

A RAAF C-17A Globemaster III collected the first 20-tonne load of critical fire retardant powder from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and delivered it to RAAF Base Richmond, followed the next day by a second load on a RAAF KC-30A multi-role tanker transport. Even a Canadian CC-177 Globemaster pitched in. More than 100 tonnes was eventually airlifted.

Another mammoth flying effort was achieved by the Chinooks, recording a record for the most hours flown in a month by the Australian CH-47 fleet.

Maintenance Troop Commander for C Squadron, 5th Aviation Regiment, Captain Amy Power, said hitting the 400-hour mark after a month was testament to her team's high-tempo deployment.

"We've done a lot of flying and the maintenance workforce have been working extremely hard to make sure the aircraft are serviceable and ready to go when required," Captain Power said.

Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner praised the

"ADF involvement brings a sense of confidence to the community," he said.

"People see the uniforms and feel safe."

"That's an intangible benefit and it had an equal, if not a greater, impact on relief and recovery."

A key factor that enabled close coordination between emergency services and the ADF was close working relationships.

Colonel Michelle Campbell, the Senior ADF liaison officer at the Emergency Management Victoria's State Control Centre (SCC) in Melbourne, said the rapid and agile Defence response had its foundations in lessons learnt from Victoria's 2009 Black Saturday fires.

"Previously, State-level ADF liaison was with each agency individually and that took a lot of time," Colonel Campbell said.

"Now, by being embedded at the SCC, we can liaise directly with all agency representatives to support the effects they were trying to achieve and it sped everything up."

Commissioner Crisp said the presence of the liaison officers helped emergency services staff understand what resources Defence had available and how their people and assets could be employed.

"Working with ADF liaison officers has been terrific," Commissioner Crisp said.

"Professionally and personally, it's been an absolute pleasure working with them."

With a lot of cleanup and support still required, Operation Bushfire Assist gradually wound down in the weeks after the rains – after reaching a peak effort of nearly 7000 military personnel deployed from an organisation that is bound by law to defend Australia from external threats and only allowed under law to assist in domestic emergencies beyond the capacity of civilian authorities.

As the global climate changes and the sunburnt country of fires and flooding rains experiences more and more extremes, there is talk of expanded responsibility for the Australian Defence Force – with all its equipment and eager manpower – to have a greater and more easily called-upon role on the homefront. ■

EUFOR TCHAD/RCA: *a review*

BY PROFESSOR BEN TONRA

PART 1

With a decade having passed since the Defence Forces lead EU operation to Chad and the Central African Republic (EUTM Tchad/RCA), the EU research group Globus recently published an analysis of the mission, under the title 'The (In)Justices of Peacekeeping'. This was authored by Professor Ben Tonra of the UCD School of Politics and International Relations.

INTRODUCTION

The European Union's (EU) stated goal is to play a significant part in global security governance. The Lisbon Treaty (Art.42.1) provides that the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) will create an 'operational capacity drawing on civilian and military assets' to be deployed on 'missions outside the Union for peacekeeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter'. The nature of this capacity is more precisely defined (Art 43.1) as being 'joint disarmament operations, humanitarian and rescue tasks, military advice and assistance tasks, conflict prevention and peacekeeping tasks, tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peace-making and post-conflict stabilisation'.

The Union's ambitions in the field of security and crisis management have been variously ascribed (Forsberg 2006; Pohl 2012) to an attempt to balance against the preponderance of US power, to create a clearer political identity for the Union and/or as a pragmatic attempt by member states to address proximate security challenges. The Union has created a substantial bureaucratic and policy making infrastructure to sustain its efforts to apply civilian and military resources to the management and resolution of international security crises. While the preponderance of these efforts has been civilian, the military contribution has not been insubstantial.

The EU has a by now significant track record in the deployment of military forces in support of international security. The old claim that the Union was an economic giant, political dwarf and military worm no longer applies (New York Times 1991). Since 1999 the Union has deployed on 34 operations and missions through the Common

Security and Defence Policy (EEAS 2017). Of these, ten have been wholly military in character and these have entailed the deployment of a total of more than 20,000 military personnel.¹ These missions have ranged from crisis management missions with coercive tasks/potential (e.g. physically to protect vulnerable populations or to threaten/intimidate adversaries) to capacity-building efforts designed to strengthen local actors facing security threats.

In these military operations, the Union has been circumspect and cautious, even 'modest' (Tardy 2015: 21). While structures have been created, they have not always been used – as in the case of EU battlegroups which have been available as a crisis management tool since 2007, but have not yet been deployed. Moreover, crisis management as practiced by the EU to date has evidenced clear characteristics which place it at the minimalist end of a spectrum of engagement. First, EU crisis management has always entailed the consent of all state parties to a dispute. The potential use of military force has thereby been limited to non-state third parties. Second, the use of force has never been central to an EU crisis management operation.

The military force deployment has always been part of a much wider political/strategic effort which is directed towards specific political/diplomatic goals ostensibly as part of a conflict resolution strategy. Most often, this entails the use or threatened use of military force in support of the security of local actors or to forestall threats from hostile non-state actors. Finally, such military operations are generally presented as being impartial in as much as they are not *parti pris* to the dispute itself but are seen as offering support to the parties in pursuit of dispute resolution. Cumulatively, then, the traditional picture of any military component to EU crisis management to date is that of consensual, non-coercive and impartial intervention.

The critical question for this paper is the extent to which, if at all, these crisis management principles are consistent with the principles of justice and whether they have actually pertained in the field. Even in principle, the line between crisis management and warfare can be permeable. In the field, that line is even less visible as troops face hostile combatants threatening them or the vulnerable



local populations that they are mandated to protect. As EU military operations have developed over time, they have operated within well-defined institutional and decision making structures, but they have also generated their own informal practices and norms. While the processes giving rise to EU force generation do not easily lend themselves to the creation of institutional memory, the underlying structures of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security

tions in each case for EU military operations. The paper will then move on to a detailed consideration of the 2008-2009 EUFOR Tchad/RCA operation and therein to identify which, if any, of these assumptions/implications are evident. To finish, the paper will offer conclusions as to how, in what degree and to what ends this EU military operation might be considered to have been just, and what lessons might have been learned – and which might yet be learned – in the pursuit of international justice through the use of military forces.



■ GLOBUS AND THREE UNDERSTANDINGS OF JUSTICE

Of course, determining what is 'just' is problematic from the outset (Tomić and Tonra 2018). As noted above, this paper follows Eriksen's (2016) three conceptions of global justice: justice as non-domination, justice as impartiality and justice as mutual recognition. These are grounded in an understanding of global justice which is rooted in questions of power and structure: where obvious asymmetries of status give rise to dynamics of domination. Each of the aforementioned understandings of global justice highlight different paths to what might be understood as 'just' outcomes and offers a degree of internal consistency in modelling what a 'just' international system might look like. Each, however, also reveals serious dilemmas and – while not mutually exclusive in their application – poses stark political and ethical choices.

Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP), the Political Security Committee, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU Military Committee and EU Military Staff etc., are generating key sets of assumptions and norms deriving from the practice of EU crisis management. A key corollary question is thus whether these too are consistent with considerations of international justice.

The EU is frequently presented – and often presents itself – as a global actor promoting universal values and international justice. In crisis management this is frequently adduced as resting on the aforementioned three principles of consent, non-coercion and impartiality. However, whether these principles, individually or in concert, truly represent justice is open to interrogation and this can perhaps be well illustrated in looking at the case of the EU's 2008-2009 intervention in Chad and the Central African Republic. This was one of the largest EU military operations to date, inter alia deploying combat units in support of its mission objectives which included those of protecting civilians in danger, improving local security to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian aid workers, protecting United Nations (UN) personnel, premises, installations and equipment, and ensuring the security and freedom of movement of its own personnel.

This paper will first outline a model for the consideration of justice in security and crisis management that derives from the GLOBUS research programme. Three understandings of justice are considered; justice as non-domination, justice as impartiality and justice as mutual recognition. In each case, the paper will briefly map out the implications of each of these understandings of justice for security and crisis management operations; highlighting necessary assumptions and implica-

■ JUSTICE AS NON-DOMINATION

Eriksen (2016: 7), defines injustice as 'subjection and rule without justification' with inequality, vulnerability and humiliation all key indicators of dominance. When applied to the global community of states, such justice concerns arise both within and between states and centre on the (ab)use of power in unequal relationships. Justice in this context can then be understood as non-domination of one by another (Petit 2010), giving rise to a security of status or 'standing' arising from the mutual agreement of equal actors. At the international level then, justice implies 'a claim to respect the integrity and sovereignty of states and their [respective] systems for protecting rights' (Eriksen 2016: 14). Such an understanding of global justice necessarily leads to a focus on strengthening the system of Westphalian states and underpinning structures of global governance which reinforce state sovereignty. Critically, it obviates the notion of states having rights, responsibilities or obligations beyond their own borders. Non-interference in the sovereign affairs of other states also becomes an over-riding principle but leaves open paths to collective action in support of states' rights and sovereignty.

In terms of security and crisis management, what does such an approach to global justice imply? Clearly, support of state sovereignty is central and therefore collective security arrangements and effective global structures to address threats to state sovereignty are relevant. Where states face internal security threats from third parties, the capacity and willingness of the international community to come to the aid of a state so threatened would also be significant. Beyond these basics there is also scope for significant action in offsetting inequalities in power. There could, for example, be attention given to designing global structures dedicated to strengthen-

ing state capacity and addressing structural inequalities so as to empower the weak and bind the strong. Legitimisation of crisis management and other international security interventions would also be a central consideration. Were such an understanding of justice to apply to EU crisis management operations one might expect to see:

- Absolute precondition of UN or other multilateral authorisation/legitimisation of crisis management operations.

- Operation with the full and active consent of all state parties.

- Dedication to the strengthening and security capacity building of other state actors.

- Coordinated and cooperative engagement with other multilateral actors.

- Absence of normative assumptions/goals within operations (e.g. on gender, human rights, etc.).

- Absolute respect for local customs and values.

This understanding of justice creates a model of crisis management almost wholly centred on guaranteeing state security. Issues of justice at the sub-state level are left to the state to resolve at its discretion. Issues of trans-border justice, such as climate, migration and trade etc., are left as a function of interstate bargaining among equal partners – without precondition or expectation of shared norms/values. Such a vision of justice is also remarkably static in temporal terms,

order beyond the state' where 'justice should be the content of an agreement that would be reached by rational people under conditions that do not allow for bargaining power to be translated into advantage' (Barry 1989: 7, cited in Eriksen 2016: 13). In sum, the sovereign equality of states cannot, in and of itself, deliver justice. States must themselves – equally and fairly – be held to the requirement to deliver freedom to all. This serves to 'trump not merely collective goals but also national sovereignty understood in particular way' (Dworkin, 2011: 333, cited in Eriksen 2016: 14). This is achieved through [...] 'authoritative institutions that interpret and enforce valid norms' (Eriksen 2016: 15).

Such institutions also construct a corpus of norms and expectations of state behaviour grounded in the key value of freedom. Justice as impartiality sees obstacles to freedom as problematic infringements of individual autonomy and therefore countenances intervention (which is itself of course a form of dominance) to vindicate that right to freedom for all people. As Eriksen (2016: 14) puts it, 'Freedom can only be restricted for the sake of freedom itself'. These are the grounds from which humanitarian intervention and the doctrine of responsibility to protect have evolved with 'justice' presented as a 'context-transcending principle' that can over-ride state sovereignty (Eriksen 2016: 14).



leaving little or no space to address historic injustices – the goal of which would be to ameliorate the effects of such historical injustices in terms of power asymmetries, rather than an effort to 'right' historical 'wrongs'. These lacunae are addressed in part by a second understanding of global justice.

JUSTICE AS IMPARTIALITY

Transitioning from a state-centric view of justice as non-domination to a view of justice grounded in shared and transcendent values entails a change of logic. While non-domination presupposes the sovereign equality of states, justice as impartiality entails an equality in rights and freedoms – which runs across and through state borders. Dominance remains the injustice to be addressed, but in terms of justice as impartiality, its resolution rests in the 'need for a law-based

In terms of security and crisis management this conception of justice has enormous and obvious implications. States are now not only responsible for the stability of the international system of sovereign states, but have obligations to defend freedom throughout – even at the expense of individual state sovereignty where deemed necessary. Critically, of course, such judgements as to what constitutes an obstacle to freedom are not left to the judgement of any individual state or group of states, but must be determined by impartial global institutions. Even so, it presupposes universal agreement on the meaning and implications of 'freedom' as an over-riding value – which we know to be contested. For an actor such as the EU, this approach would have profound implications for the shape of crisis management:

Emphasises the role of international institutions and multi-

lateral global governance in ensuring the equal and undifferentiated adjudication of contested claims to freedom and justice.

Active defence and promotion of universal values, international law and cosmopolitan norms among states and within international institutions.

Active engagement in operations dedicated to the vindication of rights to freedom – and where necessary without the consent of all state parties.

Support intervention (through supranational/multilateral channels) in other states' affairs in case international norms are not respected.

Sustained support for concepts such as human security and the responsibility to protect.

Justice as impartiality widens our perspective on justice beyond the state and opens the door to addressing injustice at a number of different levels. As an abstract principle it adds nuance and multiple layers to our understanding of justice but necessarily also poses challenges in its practical application, not least because it 'increases the risk of glossing over relevant distinctions and differences' (Eriksen 2016:17). The focus/risk of domination may shift from individual states to multinational institutions or hegemonic states or consortia of states which could result in 'monological moralism and/or authoritarianism in the form of a world state' (Eriksen 2016: 17-8). The critical question of course is who defines justice and freedom? Whose 'justice' thereby dominates?

JUSTICE AS MUTUAL RECOGNITION

In respect of both of the preceding conceptions of justice, there is a profound absence of reflection on sources and definitions. In respect of justice as non-domination and its focus on state sovereignty, there is an absence of thought given to the model of the Westphalian state placed at the centre of our conversation and more especially on the ways in which that model of political organisation has been historically determined and applied. In respect of justice as impartiality, there is an absence of reflection on the definition and application of the value of 'freedom' and any clear or decisive means of adjudicating on contested understandings thereof – other than relying on multilateral institutions and historically contingent international law. It is this absence of reflexivity that our third conception of justice – justice as mutual recognition – seeks to address. Consideration must begin with an

acknowledgement that the 'requisite sameness, the substantial equality necessary for citizens to see themselves as members of a 'community of obligations', is not in place' at a global level (Eriksen, 2016: 18). Moreover, many of the 'differences' with which a putative global community is faced, can be traced to multiple 'injustices' executed over time. Such injustices, inter alia slavery, (de) colonisation, despoliation, exploitation and expropriation go some way, in and of themselves, to explaining contemporary material and ideational asymmetries between states and peoples. It is for this reason that the view of justice as mutual recognition 'cannot be grounded in our common humanity or abstract principles of equal freedom' (Eriksen 2016: 18) but rather has to start with concrete agents in concrete circumstances.

The critical issue of who determines what equality, freedom and justice mean are central to a conception of justice as mutual recognition. Global justice as mutual recognition problematises structural forms of injustice that derive from '[...] the unconscious assumptions of well-intentioned people, cultural stereotypes, market mechanisms, and other processes of ordinary life' (Eriksen 2016: 19). To that end, all voices must be heard, acknowledged and empowered equally to forestall the prospect of unintended injustice since 'we cannot know what is just unless all affected are heard' (Eriksen 2016: 18).

With these issues in mind, justice as mutual recognition must advocate for tangible developments in ideology, institutions and material capabilities, which would allow for real mutual recognition. In terms of security and crisis management this would entail a significant shift of emphasis. 'Resolving' crises would extend well beyond the proximate management of conflict to the adjudication – through deep and intensive structured dialogues – of long-standing and contested claims to justice. No external arbiter could mandate intervention and all parties to dispute – whether state or non-state actors – would hold equal voice and legitimacy. As regards, the EU's engagement in this field, it would likely entail:

Open and equal dialogue and reciprocity with a wide variety of security 'partners' – both state and non-state actors.

Creation of deliberative security fora which relied wholly upon consensus-driven outcomes.

Within crisis management operations, full accommodation and inclusion of cultural differences and uniqueness of other parts of the world without judgement, without hierarchy and without preference.

Demonstrate respect and reciprocity in dealing with disenfranchised parts of the world and deploy wide range of policy tools to address underlying disequilibria giving rise to inequality and conflict.

Profound retooling of crisis management operations to ensure local ownership of security activities with its partners wholly in line with local preferences and priorities.

The three views of justice offer a systematic framework for analysis, which sets out the main hypotheses of what EU security and crisis management could look like were it to be consistent with any one of these.

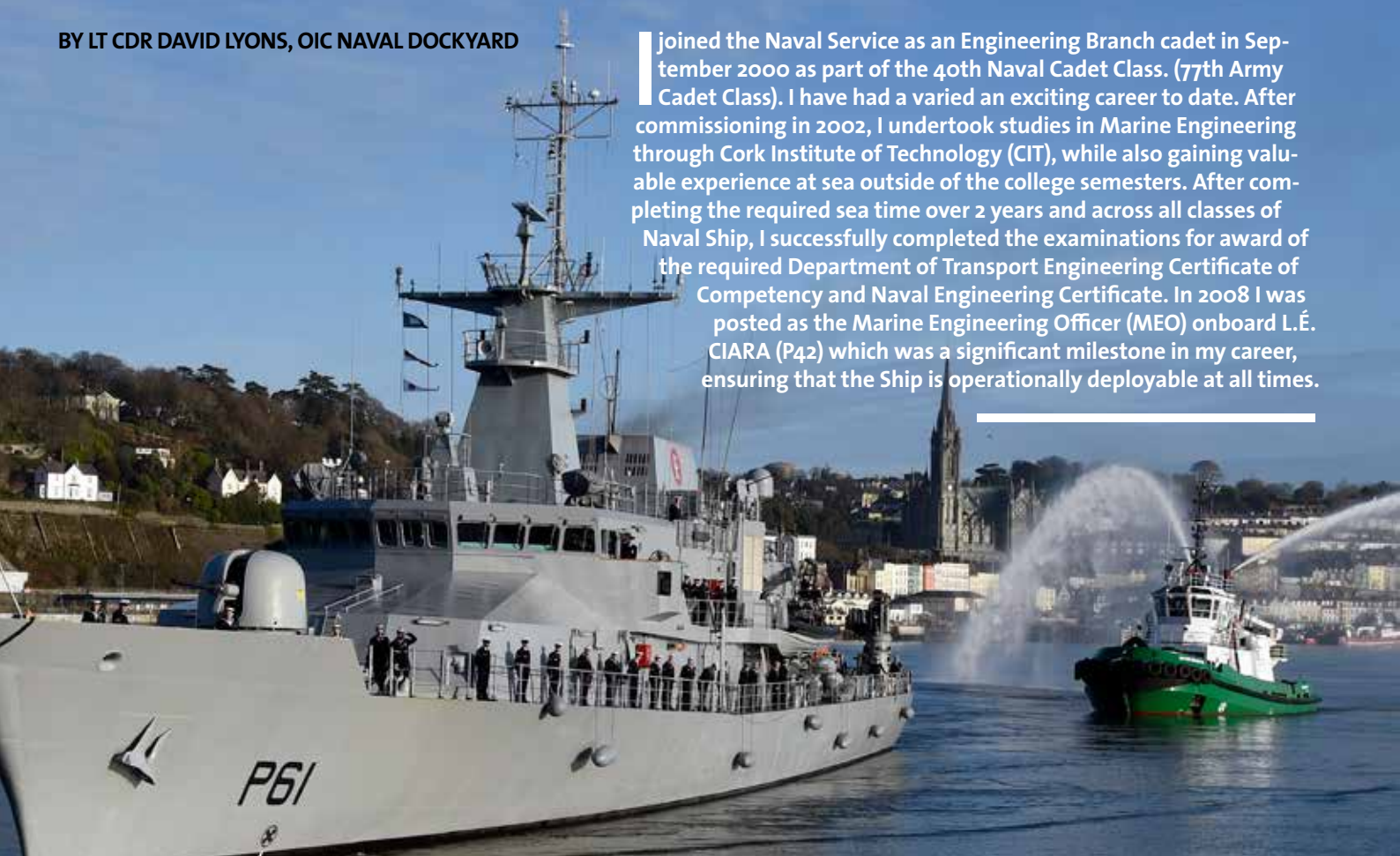
This article first appeared in the Summer 2019 edition of Signal, the magazine of the Representative Association of Commissioned Officers, and is reprinted by permission. ■



SHIPSHAPE

BY LT CDR DAVID LYONS, OIC NAVAL DOCKYARD

I joined the Naval Service as an Engineering Branch cadet in September 2000 as part of the 40th Naval Cadet Class. (77th Army Cadet Class). I have had a varied and exciting career to date. After commissioning in 2002, I undertook studies in Marine Engineering through Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), while also gaining valuable experience at sea outside of the college semesters. After completing the required sea time over 2 years and across all classes of Naval Ship, I successfully completed the examinations for award of the required Department of Transport Engineering Certificate of Competency and Naval Engineering Certificate. In 2008 I was posted as the Marine Engineering Officer (MEO) onboard L.É. CIARA (P42) which was a significant milestone in my career, ensuring that the Ship is operationally deployable at all times.



In 2010, after a 24 month posting onboard an operational seagoing unit and all that this entails, I was rotated ashore into the Mechanical Engineering & Naval Dockyard (MENDY) as Workshops Officer. In 2011, I moved to Fleet Support Group (also within MENDY) which is responsible for the maintenance and repair of all small boats within the Naval Service. This unit is key to the successful delivery of small boat operations at sea. In 2013, I moved from MENDY to Planning Inspectorate & Maintenance Management (PIMM) where I worked with other engineering officers and highly experienced technical NCOs on all aspects of the maintenance management system for the NS fleet and the planning of refit periods and drydocks. In December 2013, I was appointed as a military Aide De Camp to An tUachtarán. This was the first time that a Naval Officer had been appointed to this prestigious role and is a particular career highlight for me.

In 2016, I returned to sea as MEO onboard L.É. ROISÍN (P51), the first P50 Class Offshore Patrol Vessel. I remained with the ship until she entered her Mid Life Extension Program in Q4 2018. I was then posted to L.É. WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS (P63),

the third in class of the P60 vessels, which at that time was the newest ship in the NS fleet. In April 2019 I was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and in May of last year I rotated ashore into my current role.

What is your current role and how does the position rotate in terms of sea and land-based appointments?

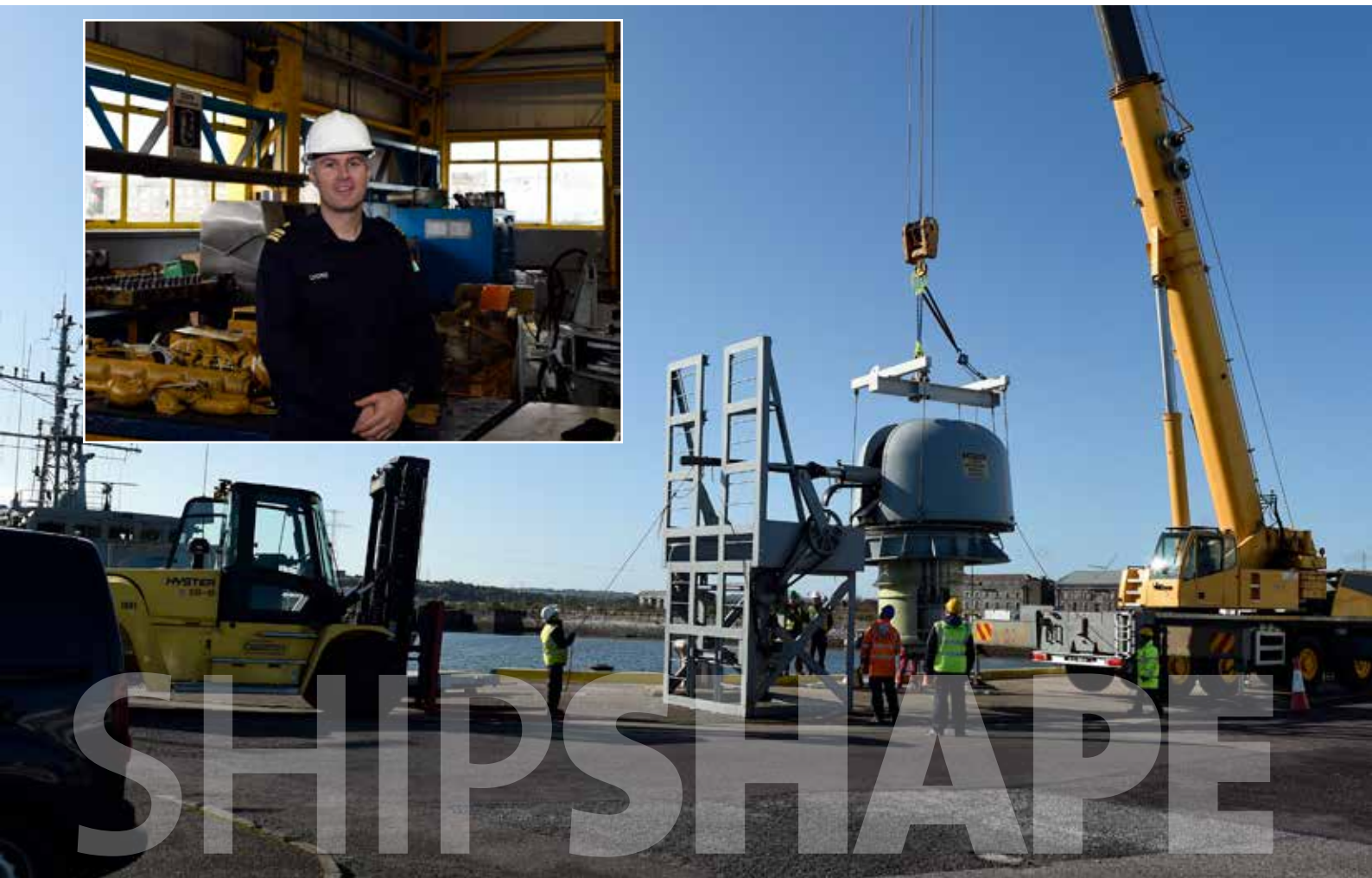
My current role is Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Naval Dockyard at Haulbowline Naval Base. I am responsible for overseeing all operations in the Naval Dockyard, which is tasked with delivering technical support and engineering maintenance to NS ships and other units as required.

The Naval Dockyard is a blended civilian / military workforce tasked with heavy technical support for Naval Ships and vessels. This unit has a unique workforce of trades such as fitters, welder fabricators, electricians, joiners, plumbers and riggers in addition to general operatives and other civilian staff working in conjunction with military personnel to provide support to the operational seagoing units. In general, postings are for a 24 month sea rotation followed by a 24 month shore appointment, subject to the requirements of the Service.

What particular challenges do the resource challenges that are facing the Defence Forces have on your current role?

In my current role, the majority of the workforce are civilian employees, but there have been retirements of some highly skilled and experienced technical military personnel from this unit. The retention and recruitment difficulties being

"The Defence Forces as a learning organisation is committed to lifelong learning and personal development which in turn enables it to transform itself in response to changing demands and needs. The strategic leader has a responsibility to enable this learning, to nurture and develop new and expansive patterns of thinking and to encourage creativity, innovation and



experienced have led to an increase in the support requested by both seagoing and shore units including engineering and maintenance support from the Naval Dockyard and MENDY.

For an Officer in the Service, how do you feel career progression opportunities could be refined and improved? Are there any particular training or learning opportunities that could be examined that would benefit both individual's and the Service as a whole?

I have found the Service to be very supportive in terms of allowing me to develop both personally and professionally. Joining from Leaving Certificate as a cadet, it has shaped the person that I am today. It has supported me in obtaining qualifications in both marine and mechanical engineering through CIT and continues to support me as I currently undertake a MSc in Occupational Health through UCC by distance. It can be difficult to balance the demands of a career and further education, but it can be managed. The DF describes itself as a learning organisation, stating that

initiative which will facilitate the transformation and further development of the organisation."

Given that NS Engineering Officers are so specialised, there has historically been reduced opportunity for attendance on career courses and overseas service. The high turnover rates in technical streams has further exacerbated this situation. One solution that could be examined would be a review of establishment for NS Engineering Officers to provide additional specialist posts where there are high turnover rates and/or long training lead times.

It is important that we attract, but as importantly that we retain the personnel that we invest so much in. In this regard another opportunity that could be examined is a defined and adequately resourced Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy for technical officers.

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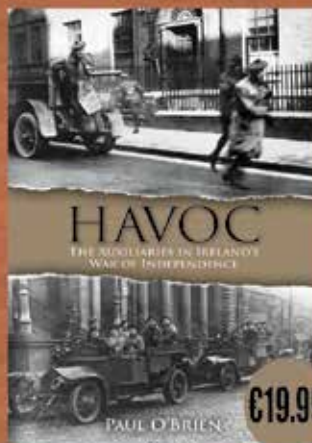
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along with Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald,
Editor of An Cosantóir



*"They were sent over here to break the people and they
were a far more dangerous force than the Black and
Tans."* - Commandant Tom Barry

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEFENCE FORCES PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

PSYCHOLOGICAL TOOLKIT: QUICK TIPS MANAGING SITUATIONAL ANXIETY DURING THE COVID-19

WHEN FACED WITH TREAT OR UNCERTAINTY, ANXIETY AND WORRY ARE NORMAL REACTIONS.

We can't eliminate these reactions completely, but we can learn to tolerate distress by focusing our attention on what we can control and what we can change.

Focus your attention on **CONTROLLABLE FACTORS** by doing the following:

- Follow HSE guidelines
- Practice your own social distancing
- Check your thinking and modify your behaviour (i.e. by being optimistically vigilant, NOT panicking or under-responding)
- Limit your social media usage (i.e. only checking a reputable news source once or twice per day)
- Ignore fear-mongering (i.e. through forwarded text messages or posts on social media platforms)
- Identify coping mechanisms to help you deal with frustration, irritability, worry, and potential boredom

Try to take your attention away from **UNCONTROLLABLE FACTORS**, such as:

- How other people react
- The level to which other people practice social distancing and follow HSE guidelines

COPING MECHANISMS

ROUTINE: Develop a routine - we are experiencing a degree of social and occupational restriction at present. Routine gives us reassurance and a sense of predictability in the world when we need it.

SLEEP: Prolonged isolation or social restriction may lead to our sleep-waking cycle being disrupted. Try to get up and go to bed at your usual time.

TRAINING AND DIET: Exercise, eating well, and avoiding excessive alcohol and caffeine use will be important in regulating your mood and anxiety levels during this period.

SOCIAL: Try to maintain connectedness during social isolation. Use technology to your advantage here (Skype, Google Hangouts etc.). This will not replace face-to-face connection, but it will enable some semblance of social connectedness and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

LINK IN WITH APPROPRIATE SERVICES
(DF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, PSS, INSPIRE)
WHEN ANXIETY OR DISTRESS BECOMES
DEBILITATING OR INTOLERABLE

(Adapted from "COVID-19 Psychological Survival Guide", Mark Smith, President, Psychological Society of Ireland)

STRENGTHEN
THE NATION



FORGING A FUTURE For Mali

Commandant Kyran Byrne, who returned from deployment as a Chief Instructor with the European Union Training Mission to Mali (EUTM) back in 2019 spoke on how the mission is constructed, how its operations are delivered and how it is a unique, challenging and rewarding mission to serve on.

European Union Training Mission (EUTM) Mali was created in 2013 under Council decision 2013/34/CFSP, dated 17 January 2013 which stated in Article 1 that *"The Union shall conduct a military training mission (EUTM Mali), to provide, in the South of Mali, military and training advice to the Malian Armed Forces (MAF) operating under the control of legitimate civilian authorities, in order to contribute to the restoration of their military capacity with a view to enabling them to conduct military operations aiming at restoring Malian territorial integrity and reducing the threat posed by terrorist groups. EUTM Mali shall not be involved in combat operations."*

In order to achieve its mission EUTM maintains two training bodies in order to deliver training to the MAF. The Advisory Task force (ATF), located in Mission HQ (MHQ) in the Malian capital of Bamako, and the Education and Training

during the events of the attack of KTC on February 24th 2019, the Irish expertise in engineering and base security were deployed to great effect. Significant input & expertise was sought and provided at all levels, again Irish personnel were



Task Force (ETTF), in Koulikoro Training Centre (KTC), situated 60 km to the North East. The advisory task force is largely responsible for the staff level training of the Malian Armed Forces in staff and HQ functions. Whereas the ETTF provides training in the “*hard skills*” domain from Counter Improvised Explosive Device (CIED), Company size operations and some operational level planning education and everything in between. MHQ, Bamako retains the customary military staff cells and function G1,G2,G3 etc with the support of a dedicated Force protection component. KTC has a similar Force Protection unit comprised of both Spanish & Czech personnel along with various supporting and enabling functional groups, National Support Elements and the German-run Role 2 hospital.

For explanatory purposes it is worth pointing out that most if not all appointments rotate on a six monthly basis. Certain entities will change nationality in the coming six to 12 months, however specific positions tend to remain the responsibility of one nation, which is confirmed at the Force Generation conference in Brussels annually.

IRISH INVOLVEMENT

Irish personnel are committed to all areas of the mission, from the MHQ in Bamako to the ETTF in KTC. The Chief G4, SO G1, a number of senior NCO staff and the Joint Transit Team (JTT), enabling armoured protected mobility around the Area of Operations (AO) at the direction of MHQ, are all appointments held by Irish personnel. The Irish component of ETTF is crucial to the mission. Executive Officer (XO) KTC, Deputy Chief Instructor (DCI), a number of training personnel, the main body of the S6 Cell and a number of Logistics and Infrastructural NCOs are all Irish appointments. For the greater part of my own deployment I was serving in the position Chief Instructor, as my predecessor had. Due to the nature of the appointments at ETTF HQ, Irish staff serve on the ETTF Command Group. Having a voice and presence at this body ensures that through our participation in the mission the Irish commitment is enhanced at all levels. Of note

able, and in a position to contribute, across all areas, thereby providing value added input to the mission throughout. The core function of the EUTM is training, therefore the Irish training team are central to the missions main task. Presently there are a total of four trainers providing training across a number of areas. Personnel find themselves mandated for such specific roles due to a number of factors, such as the high level of ability of Irish personnel in planning and teaching skills. It is fair to say that no Irish trainer ever found themselves singularly employed in a particular area of their mandated appointment.

Immediately upon arrival there will always be an imperative that all trainers while simultaneously establishing the relationships with the other nationalities, improve and enhance their own skills. This means a deep immersion and advanced training in other weapons including RPG-7, DShK, PKM Brown-ing .50 Cal. Due to the perceived insider threat, additional classes in Unarmed Combat (UAC) were offered along with briefings on the particular cultural sensitivities of the mission. Of the total 90 of trainers with EUTM, at any one time there are approximately 80 in mission. Other issues such as national caveats precluded certain personnel from being selected for particular tasks. Therefore it was essential to maintain flexibility in all aspects of planning in order to select and assign trainers, while at all times maximising and exploiting the talent from within the teams and personnel. Previous experience, level of staff training and, occasionally, language skills, were guiding factors in the selection of personnel. However, Irish personnel were central to providing assistance and guidance to other nationalities throughout the mission, due to their own high levels of ability and experience.

DISPELLING MYTHS

The primary EUTM language is English, much of discussion continues about the availability and use of French speakers in the mission area. Some of the contributing nations obviously arrive inculcated as fluent French speakers, however not all are employed as trainers and again their use and employ-

ment is somewhat limited due to certain national caveats and restrictions. Some other nationalities will speak and work through French depending on their role, function and background. Although an important aid, the ability to speak French is not mission essential. Mali as a nation has eleven recognised tribal groups, the Malian Armed Forces itself is predominantly populated by members of the Bambara tribe. Throughout my own deployment I observed a number of courses in KTC where no Malian Trainees on a given course could speak any French, therefore interpreters were used to translate often from English, German or Spanish to Bambara. Although having the ability to speak French in Mali will certainly enhance one's own abilities and provide greater understanding and clarity, working off the assumption that it is mission essential would only prove to demonstrate a lack of understanding of the mission and the particular challenges it poses.

Culturally, the Malian Armed Forces (MAF) are unique and training must be delivered on the right level, often when training large groups of officers, the training itself should be delivered by officers of a commensurate rank. Issues surround-

to provide a holistic, all-encompassing approach.

The A-DDR remains in the planning phase. However, once initiated, it will have obvious consequences for the mission. Security, force protection, availability of human assets and infrastructure are all areas that need to be established prior to initiating training in this area. The potential for a number of Tourag or other ethnic groups to participate in the this process will present its own unique challenges for inclusion and addressing the sensitivities of the MFA.

INTEROPERABILITY

EUTM has approximately 24 different contributing nations. Since its establishment the Irish have been collocated with the British contingent as part of Op. NEWCOMBE (the British Armed Forces participation in the mission). There is an obvious benefit for both nations and the relationship between the two militaries is emblematic of the overall integration and cooperation which the mission enjoys. Issues of an individual's prior experience or regimental history are again completely extraneous and should not feature anywhere in the mission.



ing gender, religion and societal norms are often present and retain their own unique challenges. In order to gain the trust and cooperation of the MFA it is essential to enhance their extant talents, and exploit what they already know. Trainers are reminded not to force social, personal or national agendas upon training as the consequences could affect the mission overall. Issues such as a nation's colonial history, what flag is on their uniform or their participation in other missions, particularly in the Middle East, as they relate to the MFA are essentially extraneous and have no bearing on the relationship between the MFA & EUTM. The particular tribal and inter-ethnic conflicts that exist in Mali are far more relevant. The Tuareg rebellion of 2012 and the potential inclusion of this ethnicity due the Accelerated Disarmament, Disengagement and Reintegration (A-DDR) process loom large on the horizon. The MFA's own attitudes to the Tourag tribe need to be addressed as soon as they become evident. Part of the confidence building process in the mission involves the inclusion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in all training, both centralised, or decentralised. It itself forms a core mandatory component of all training, in order

The integration and inclusion of all nations is far more important, it is critical that the participating personnel at all levels foster close working bonds and ties from the outset. Sports, PT, cohesion and the shared experience, similarities and commonalities of military service act as a tool in order to foster these relationships. Training and broadly speaking, doctrinally all the participants are similar, however in the delivery of training, trainers personnel must be comfortable and familiar with Malian doctrine which eliminates and removes the necessity for developing a bespoke product.

There are a number of other missions and entities in the area. These various actors although independent of each other at times provide support and assistance where and when required. Operation Barkhane¹, MINUSMA², EUCAP³ & G5 Sahel⁴ all enjoy certain levels of cooperation and have a form of reciprocal benefit.

CMATT

ETTF & ATF perform a number of centralised (those training activities performed and executed in KTC) and decentralised

¹Operation Barkhane is a French led counter-insurgency operation in the Sahel region that commenced on August 1st 2014.

²United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission (MINUSMA) in Mali is a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali.

³EU Capacity Building Mission in Mali (EUCAP Mali).

⁴G5 Sahel is an institutional framework for coordination of regional cooperation in development policies and security matters in west Africa. It is comprised of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

(those evolutions that are performed remotely for a specified time frame). It is important to draw the distinction on these activities. Firstly the name; CMATT or Combined Mobile Advisory Training Team indicates that both ATF provide advisory function while ETTF provide soldier skills. With new directives from HQ, the design and schedule of CMATTs change and readjust. The current plan is to visit each military region at least once a year. This is rescheduled based on availability of personnel due to centralised activities, and in some instances, the security situation in a military region.

Mali itself for operational reasons is divided into eight military regions. CMATTs are further divided into two configurations based on size; Heavy and Light; Heavy obviously consuming a greater number of support assets and trainers than the light. CMATT light are normally performed in more austere locations such as Timbuktu or Gao, further to the north. Their location and distance requires a large logistical effort. EUTM personnel including Force Protection personnel will live and work from Operation Barkhane bases, which is an example of the support the two missions give each other.

any previous misadventures or cultural misinterpretations have long since faded into obscurity. However, as I have mentioned above, drawing on examples, particularly from the Tourag rebellion of 2012, need to be made cautiously. The importance of EUTM maintaining a presence in the MMS cannot be stressed enough. It is analogous to EUTM providing the on the ground realities and “Bottom up” approach and through our participation on CMATT and other centralised and decentralised activities while both the coordinated and independent activities of the ATF and ETTF provide the “Top Down” effect on leadership. Irish trainers and officers are heavily committed in these areas and have enhanced greatly this particular critical aspect of the mission.

It is true to say the security situation in Mali has changed greatly in the recent months, we all saw the manifestation of this deterioration in February of 2019, however this did not nor should it deter any of the participants from achieving the mission. All the personnel in KTC remained steadfast in their commitment to the core task and the mission. I personally saw the supreme commitment from all members of the mul-



Due to operational security issues, the use of interpreters is prohibited in these locations. Therefore EUTM must exploit its human talent e.g. our albeit limited pool of French speaking personnel. As previously stated, not all Malian Soldiers speak French and this presents a unique challenge to the EUTM personnel. Personnel need to be able to adapt their planning and adjust the end state of CMATTs activities quite quickly, depending on circumstances. Therefore a degree of flexibility in all aspects of the approach is required.

All other CMATTs; Sikasso, Kati, Kayes, Segou and Sevare have had significant levels of Irish participation. None of this is to say that Irish personnel are precluded from a particular location, it is merely a matter of selecting the right fit person for the job.

FUTURE OF THE MISSION

During the IRCON 12's time in country, EUTM built on the relationship between the Malian Military Schools (MMS) and the mission. It has been viewed as of critical importance to participate and involve EUTM in each of the three MMS; École militaire interarmes (EMIA – Malian Cadet School KTC), École d'état-major (EEM – Staff College, KTC) and finally the L'école des sous-officiers (ESO - NCO School, Banankaro). In December 2018 EUTM provided a consolidated block of training in EMIA which set conditions for current and ongoing participation in this school. It is worth pointing out that

tinalional cadre. However, to dwell on this issue or incident would be to expend valuable energy that could be otherwise put to good use. In order to demonstrate and espouse the virtues of the mission and in keeping with all good military transitions the core function must be executed now with greater resolve than ever before. It is not to say that anyone on mission should be blasé or negligent, however adjusting to the “new normal” in KTC was the imperative. EUTM is entering a new era, an adjusted security situation with new evolutions and departures in training being frequently encountered, my own time in the mission provided for an unsurpassed experience. The particular challenges, and the issues if working in the climate, country and environment on Mali are unique amongst current Defence Forces deployment. It is a mission that any Irish soldier would be both privileged to serve on, and would invariably benefit tremendously from.

CAREER BIOGRAPHY

Comdt. Kyran Byrne Commissioned with the 78th Cadet Class in 2003. Held posts in B Coy 3rd Battalion, 27 Inf Bn, 2 Bde G3/5 and 7 Inf Bn. Currently posted to 7 Inf Bn as a company commander. Previous tours include 100bn T'Chad, 106Bn UNIFIL, G3 Sec West HQ in UNIFIL and finally Chief Instructor EUTM Mali as part of IRCON 12 from Sep 2018 – Mar 2019. ■

COVID-19 3D FACEMASK PRINTING

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES CORPS: *“Le Luas a Cosaním” “With Speed I Defend”*

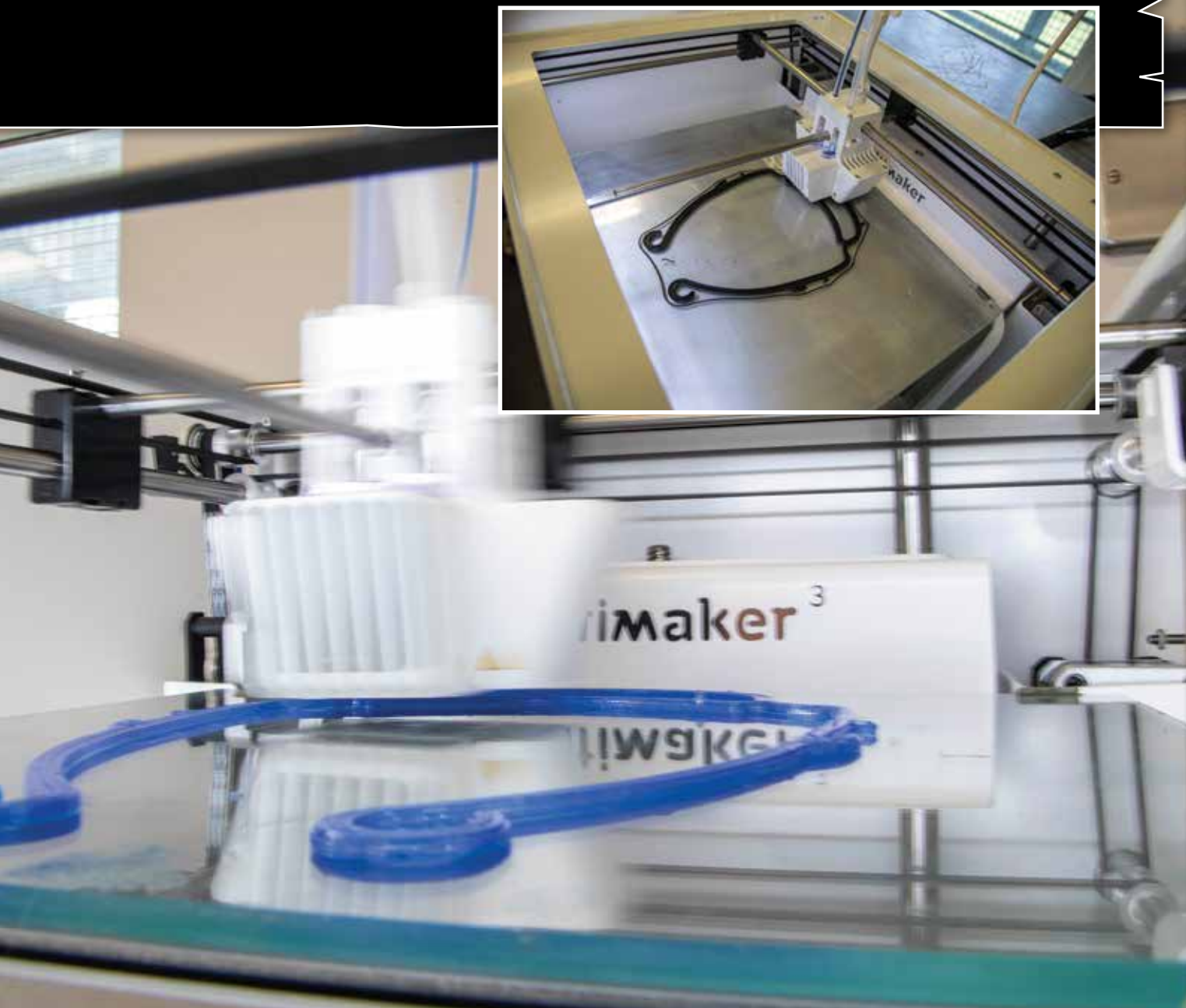
BY CAPT PAUL SHORTE, CIS



***“Necessity is the mother of all invention”* is a quote that is widely used in times of crisis and conflict. The ability to adapt and innovate is a key component in all CIS programmes and developments. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced this approach and shown the versatility of our military communications infrastructure and systems. The CIS Corps has developed a number of key initiatives in terms of capability development with the sole aim of reducing the timeframe from idea inception, to concept development and finally operational deployment. Through collaboration between our industry partners, the CIS Corps and the Defence Forces have deployed a significant array of CIS assets in response to COVID-19 while maintaining all routine and overseas operational commitments.**

The ability of the CIS Corps to ‘scale up’ in response to COVID-19 is evident through a number of key tasks that were completed in a greatly reduced timeframe. The Defence Forces C4IS system SitaWare is being utilised extensively in the Joint Task Force (JTF) HQ. Although a military operational planning tool, SitaWare has been adapted to provide the necessary command and control functions required by the JTF for COVID-19. Through integration with our GIS systems, key information is available at the click of a mouse providing real time data and analysis. Necessity has greatly assisted the rapid development and integration of 3rd party data sources where by commanders can now make more informed decisions within the domain of Aid to the Civil Authority (ATCA).

The capacity to stand up contact tracing centres within



24 hours of initial scoping, utilising the entire Virtual Desktop Architecture that underpins this operation, brought considerable praise from HSE personnel. This configuration and deployment of IT assets, which enabled our Cadets and the wider Defence Forces colleagues to fulfil their vital role, is one example where the CIS Corps can bring to bear its considerable expertise. Another area where innovation and development has come to the fore is in the area of Additive Manufacturing (AM) aka M3D printing. For a number of years AM has been utilised by CIS to develop prototypes and models, which ultimately and more importantly has substantially reduced the timeframe and financial outlay normally associated with equipment development programmes. The CIS Corps has joined forces with our Defence Forces colleagues in the Ordnance Corps to produce 3D printed PPE for the HSE and our printers have been working away silently producing PPE for a number of weeks.

COVID-19 has affected the Defence Forces in the same way as many organisations. Remote working and the dispersal of personnel have placed a greater emphasis on how we conduct our daily operations and effectively manage the associated risks. Delivering remote access services and enhanced 'hot desk' infrastructure facilities the CIS Corps has securely leveraged Public Cloud based solutions to underpin DF resilience and business continuity whilst also 'piggy backing' on GSM cellular services in enhancing Naval Ship connectivity from HSE testing centres along the quays in Galway, Dublin and Cork. The CIS Corps as strategic force enabler is delivering an effective and secure system of systems to sustain the operational requirements of the Defence Forces. A whole of Corps approach is taken to ensure delivery and maintenance of these services from the design/development stage through to the logistics chain, which oversees the lifespan of these systems from induction to disposal. ■

NOTICEBOARD

SUDOKU'S

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Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Jessica Howard, Wicklow. Closing date is 15th May 2020

WORD SEARCH

CROSS OFF THE WORDS IN THE LIST AS YOU FIND THEM.

Word searches are fun, they also bring benefits you may not realise and can play an important role in keeping you mentally fit.

O G M A S K S G G G U V D W I
G E K K T L S H H N W N F I S
E S W E E L E P Y I R O H S O
N N S J S Z Y B B C Y Q E D L
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COVID
QUARANTINE
TESTING
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TRACING
SOCIAL
DISTANCING
STAYHOME
EPIDEMIC
VIRAL
ISOLATION
MASKS
SYMPTOMS
HYGIENE
RESTRICTIONS

BOOKS

SHADOW WARRIORS

Author: Paul O'Brien & Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald
Publisher: Mercier Press
ISBN: 9781781177624
Pages: 160
Price: €12.99



This is a very well written book on Ireland's Special Forces, the Army Ranger Wing. It is a detailed chronology of the formation and life of the ARW since its inception and the various different theatres in which they have served. In the midst of growing national and international terrorist threats, the authors describe the reasons for the need of such a unit to be formed. The book states the various different roles that the ARW perform and lists in detail the equipment they use and how and why they use that particular kind.

The authors, right from the outset, inform us that this is not going to be the gun-toting, helicopter flying, flash-banging type of book that society has come to expect from Special Forces literature. Instead, it is more poised, secretive tale, while telling the reader about the ARW, it doesn't give too much away. In doing this, the authors have maintained the secrecy of the Unit.

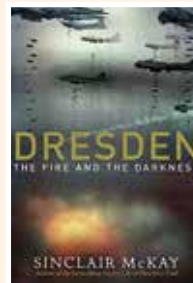
The last section of the book should be particularly appealing to people who aspire to join Ireland's elite military unit. It gives a comprehensive account of the physical training that one should go through before attempting to apply for the ARW Special Operations Force Qualification Course (SOFQ). It also breaks down what is expected of each candidate and what they will go through when on the course (minus the physical and mental fatigue).

In short, in an age of growing interest in Irish military affairs, this book gives the reader a peek into the world of Ireland's Special Forces unit, the Army Ranger Wing, their training, roles, equipment and service history but all the while keep us guessing and wanting more. As such, we don't get an abundance of testosterone-filled, edge of your seat type stories from their missions around the world, but in doing so the book lives up to its title Shadow Warriors. You know they're there but you can't make out too much more.

By The Irish at War. A Podcast on Irish Military History

DRESDEN

Author: Sinclair McKay
Publisher: Viking
ISBN: 9780241389683
Pages: 400
Price: €25.99



The Sunday Times Top Ten Bestseller 'Powerful... there is rage in his ink. McKay's book grips by its passion and originality. Some 25,000 people perished in the firestorm that raged through the city. I have never seen it better described' Max Hastings, Sunday Times Published for the 75th anniversary In February 1945 the Allies obliterated Dresden, the 'Florence of the Elbe'. Bombs weighing over 1,000 lbs fell every seven and a half seconds and an estimated 25,000 people were killed. Was Dresden a legitimate military target or was the bombing a last act of atavistic mass murder in a war already won? From the history of the city to the attack itself, conveyed in a minute-by-minute account from the first of the flares to the flames reaching almost a mile high - the wind so searingly hot that the lungs of those in its path were instantly scorched - through the eerie period of reconstruction, bestselling author Sinclair McKay creates a vast canvas and brings it alive with touching human detail. Along the way we encounter, among many others across the city, an elderly air-raid warden and his wife vainly striving to keep order amid devouring flames, a doctor who carried on operating while his home was in ruins, novelist Kurt Vonnegut who never thought that his own side might want to unleash the roaring fire, and fifteen-year-old Winfried Bielss, who, having spent the evening ushering refugees, wanted to get home to his stamp collection. Impeccably researched and deeply moving, McKay uses never-before-seen sources to relate the untold stories of civilians and vividly conveys the texture of contemporary life. Dresden is invoked as a byword for the illimitable cruelties of war, but with the distance of time, it is now possible to approach this subject with a much clearer gaze, and with a keener interest in the sorts of lives that ordinary people lived and lost, or tried to rebuild. Writing with warmth and colour about morality in war, the instinct for survival, the gravity of mass destruction and the importance of memory, this is a master historian at work. 'Churchill said that if bombing cities was justified, it was always repugnant. Sinclair McKay has written a shrewd, humane and balanced account of this most controversial target of the Anglo-American strategic bombing campaign, the ferocious consequence of the scourge of Nazism' Allan Mallinson, author of Fight to the Finish 'Beautifully-crafted, elegiac, compelling - Dresden delivers with a dark intensity and incisive compassion rarely equaled. Authentic and authoritative, a masterpiece of its genre' Damien Lewis, author of Zero Six Bravo 'Compelling... Sinclair McKay brings a dark subject vividly to life' Keith Lowe, author of Savage Continent 'This is a brilliantly clear, and fair, account of one of the most notorious and destructive raids in the history aerial warfare. From planning to execution, the story is told by crucial participants - and the victims who suffered so cruelly on the ground from the attack itself and its aftermath' Robert Fox, author of We Were There.

Taken from www.easons.com

KEENIE MEENIE

Author: Phil Miller
Publisher: Pluto Press
ISBN: 9780745340791
Pages: 352
Price: €18.19

Keenie Meenie Services - the most powerful mercenary company you've never heard of - was involved in war crimes around the world from Sri Lanka to Nicaragua for which its shadowy directors have never been held accountable. Like its mysterious name, Keenie Meenie Services escaped definition and to this day has evaded sanctions. Now explosive new evidence - only recently declassified - exposes the extent of these war crimes, and the British government's tacit support for the company's operations. Including testimonies from SAS veterans, spy chiefs and diplomats, we hear from key figures battle-hardened by the Troubles in Northern Ireland and the Iranian Embassy siege. Investigative journalist Phil Miller asks, who were these mercenaries: heroes, terrorists, freedom fighters or war criminals? This book presents the first ever comprehensive case against Keenie Meenie Services, providing long overdue evidence on the crimes of the people who make a killing from killing.

Taken from www.easons.com



IRELAND'S CALL INITIATIVE

BY CONOR SHERIDAN



Pte Neil Sands

As the battle against Covid-19 has intensified across the world and here at home, many stories have come to light of the incredible work and fundraising being carried out by volunteers across the globe. This includes reserves and specialists in Oglai na hÉireann, who are providing

support to the HSE to defend and protect the people of Ireland. One such example of this is Ireland's Call Initiative, set up by Pte Neil Sands in late March.

Pte Sands is based out of the 27th Infantry Battalion AR, Aiken Barracks in Dundalk, and is currently undertaking the PO course in Defence Force Training Centre in the Curragh. He is the fourth generation of his family in the Defence Forces - most notably his grandfather, Cmdt. Peter Sands served with distinction in the former 8th Battalion, also out of Louth.

A design entrepreneur, Pte Sands has spent the last decade in global technology roles and served as Chief Experience Officer at tech company Salesforce in California. It was in California in 2015 that Neil had his first foray into civic fundraising when, in his role as president of the Irish Network Bay Area, he aided the Department of Foreign Affairs in the repatriation of the six Irish students who lost their lives in the Berkeley balcony collapse.

The idea for the current campaign, the Ireland's Call Initiative (ICI), began to grow in March as concerns were raised about potential shortfalls in Ireland's medical staffing. The virus presents an enormous challenge to Ireland's healthcare system and while the social distancing measures implemented by the Government have flattened the curve, this will result in a lengthened demand for healthcare workers which could last for months. Figures show that around 24% of all Irish cases are healthcare workers, meaning the work that Ireland's Call is doing is vital in providing reinforcements to step up and help wherever they are needed.

An initial offer in late March to pay for flights for two doctors to make their way home to Ireland, and self isolate in the home Sands was vacating; gathered momentum and now has international support.

"I am a big believer that when things are at their worst, Irish people are at their best. We started this campaign with the idea that it could be a show of solidarity. The reserve defence forces are a huge part of that, serving in both civilian and military capacities." Pte Sands said. *"For the public, even though people are at home, they can still pull on the green jersey and get involved by donating towards getting these healthcare workers home to answer Ireland's Call. These healthcare workers stranded abroad want to return home to Ireland in its hour of need, and we should do everything we can to support that. It's our chance to stand shoulder to shoulder with our front line."*

Ireland's Call is working with the Department of Foreign Affairs, airlines and travel agents to create pathways to source and fund flights for healthcare workers across the globe, with medical practitioners coming home to join the front line in Ireland. Upon their return home, Ireland's Call is also supporting the healthcare workers with accommodation to self-isolate effectively for 14 days. ICI has even received numerous offers from generous members of

the public offering up their spare properties to medics across the length and breadth of the country.

After an initial six-figure seed fund for Ireland's Call was provided by Irish and Irish-American donors from the private sector, the campaign gained increased exposure and support from the public and a GoFundMe page on its website has seen over €33,000 donated in just over 3 weeks, showing it to be an initiative that



Dr. Mariane Hennigan home from New Zealand

everyone can get behind. The campaign is being run on Twitter (@ICInitiative) with the hashtag #AnswerIrelandsCall and through a dedicated website – www.AnswerIrelandsCall.com – which has been visited by medical professionals in over 30 countries.

To date, the Initiative has flown home 27 healthcare workers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada home to Ireland. Continued arrivals from these countries and from the US, the Philippines and Pakistan are expected to grow that number to over 50 by mid-May. In total, Ireland's Call has financed over 100 flights since the end of March, and a cumulative distance of 523,594 kilometres has been flown returning Ireland's medics to the front line.

ICI is an All-Ireland project, and has seen medics return to work in hospitals across the island, encompassing both HSE and NHS hospitals in Northern Ireland. The medics that have returned home have been assigned to areas such as Kilkenny, Galway, Belfast, Limerick and Dublin. The other healthcare workers are waiting to be assigned as the HSE deals with the incredibly positive response to its recruitment drive.

The Initiative's first arrival, on the 4th of April, was Dr. Marianne Hennigan who touched down in Dublin following a journey home from Auckland. Dr. Hennigan had lived in Perth, Australia for almost three years and was working at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital as a locum doctor in emergency medicine. She was travelling in New Zealand when the country went into an almost immediate lockdown. Her flight back to Perth was abruptly cancelled with no replacement available. In that moment, Dr. Hennigan made up her mind to not return to Perth at all, but to make her way back to Ireland to help out on the front line.

"Getting out of New Zealand looked like it wasn't going to happen and I was starting to think that I was going to be stuck there for the

foreseeable future but Ireland's Call reached out and looked after everything, they were amazing." commented Dr. Hennigan. *"I am so grateful to them for getting me back to Ireland. I would much rather be in the front line helping out than being stuck in another country in an Airbnb."*

Dr. Hennigan was welcomed home to Ireland by PTE Sands at Dublin airport and put up in accommodation organised by the Initiative for her period of self-isolation. Dr. Hennigan has since returned to work in St. Vincent's Hospital where she is working alongside her mother, who is a nurse there.

Following Dr. Hennigan's arrival, Ireland's Call has welcomed home a steady stream of homecomings, with 26 more healthcare workers returning in the subsequent weeks. Amongst them have been friends, couples and families.

"We decided to come home early as we could see that the situation was far worse than what we had seen in Vancouver." said Dr. Hensey. *"We had been in touch with colleagues in Dublin and heard of many hospital staff becoming sick. Not only is this worrying for those falling ill, but it is also placing strain on those who are continuing to work in the hospitals. It was clear that more people were needed on the ground"*.

Similarly, Dr. John Galbraith and his wife, nurse Larissa, were working in New Zealand having left Ireland three years ago and are raising a young child.

Dr. John Galbraith said; *"When I realised the impact that Covid-19 would have on the Irish health service I decided to come back and help out as soon as possible. I had a number of flight cancellations due to route closures and travel restrictions and was told by the*



2 Nurses home from Kuala Lumpur



Frontline Doctors - Dr. Jodip Vukoja and Dr. Abbie Robertson home from Christchurch, Australia



One couple, Josip Vukoja and Abbie Robertson, travelled home from Christchurch, Australia to Dublin via Auckland, Kuala Lumpur, Doha, and London. The total cost of this travel was €4,000 each. As diagnostic radiographers they are essential in the diagnosis of Covid-19 cases by portable chest x-ray.

"We felt helpless over here and we didn't feel good staying while knowing the stressful situation the healthcare workers of Ireland were under."

Josip and Abbie are currently self-isolating and waiting on confirmation of their next placement, which is likely to be St. Luke's General Hospital in Kilkenny.

While it is a sacrifice to cut short a spell abroad as a doctor or nurse in the early stages of your career, it is another thing entirely for young families. Ireland's Call has helped two families with young children relocate back to Ireland in the last month.

Dr. Mark Hensey and Dr. Noelle Casey, a cardiologist and a GP, had been living in Vancouver with their two young children (2 and 3) when they chose to answer Ireland's Call. The family are now in quarantine in Wexford.

airline that it would be nearly two months before I could get back. Within a few hours of contacting Ireland's Call Initiative they managed to get me on a flight that was leaving a couple of days later. I'm now back in Ireland doing two weeks of self-isolation until I can start work in Galway University Hospital to help out in any way I can."

As Ireland's Call grew, Pte Sands developed a simple mantra. Fly the Heroes, House the Heroes, Kit the Heroes. ■



Sgt Shaw at Listoke Distillery in Monasterboice, Louth



NAME

JACQUELINE GRAHAM

RANK

PTE

UNIT

NSRC, TPT GP, DFTC



Pte Jacqueline Graham was inspired to join the DF by her father and grandfather as they both served in different Corps within the DF. Her father served in the Military Police Corps, while her grandfather served in the Medical Corps. Another driving factor was a career interview that she got in school, which didn't go as planned with her being told she should consider a career elsewhere, this only made her more determined to join.

Pte Graham applied for both the Army and Naval Service at the same time. After completing the physical and medicals for both she was unsuccessful at enlisting into the Naval Service, but she was successful at enlisting into the Army. So only two weeks after she completed her Leaving Cert, Pte Graham was attested into the DF on 11 June 1999 with the 31 Recruit Platoon, 27 Inf Bn, in Aiken Bks Dundalk. Her training was different than anything she had done before, especially after only completing her Leaving Cert. The training was really physically and emotionally tough but she soon got into the swing of things.

Once finished Recruit and Three Star training Pte Graham was posted to the 2 Cav Sqn, based in Cathal Brugha Bks Rathmines. While in the cavalry she completed many courses, many of them being driver courses. These included Jeep and trailer, DR Course, Mini Bus, and a 4X4 Truck. She then went on to become a driver of the AML20, and AML 60 in 2005.

In June 2008 Pte Graham transferred to 2 Bde Tpt Coy, also based in Cathal Brugha Bks. Some of the first courses she completed in her new unit were an ECDL course, PMS course and even an orderly room Cpls course. As a member of transport unit she conducted even more driving courses, first up was a 6X6 driving course which she completed in 2010, next was a midi coach driving course which she completed in 2011 and finally a full coach driving course which she completed in that same year.

In 2014 she transferred to the NSRC, Tpt Gp which are based in the DFTC Curragh Camp. This move opened up the opportunity to complete further driving courses within the DF fleet of vehicles. Pte Graham completed an Articulated Lorry and Trailer course in 2016, also the 8X8 Truck and Trailer course that she completed 2017. These vehicles are some of the largest and heaviest on the roads in Ireland.

While serving with the NSRC Pte Graham has also been given the opportunity to complete externally recognised courses through the DF. All of these courses are related to the safe transportation of goods. Like ADR training, which is the transportation of dangerous goods. She also completed

IATA training which is the transport of goods by air, IMDG which is International Maritime Dangerous Goods, and a Cert in Dangerous Goods Safety Advisors (DGSA).

Pte Graham is currently employed in the Goods In and Goods Out Office of the NSRC, this entails dealing with overseas manifests and troop rotations for overseas missions. Due to working in this office she has also been able to complete third level education to assist her in her job with a Diploma in Freight Forwarding, and a Degree in Supply Chain Management.

Pte Graham hopes to stay in the NSRC as she really enjoys her work. She also gets the opportunity to use all her skills and qualifications that she has learned, while also expanding her knowledge in the logistics role. ■





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