



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES



SEARMÓIN CHOIMISIÚNAITHE

den 101^ú Rang na nDaltaí



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COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

of the 101st Cadet Class



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na hÉireann
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SCHOOL COMMANDANT'S WELCOME

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen MacEoin School Commandant, Cadet School



It is my great honour to welcome our families, friends, guests and the wider military community here to Pearse Barracks in the Military College - the home of the Irish Army Officer.

Service in the profession of arms is not to be taken lightly, at any rank. It is, however, a responsibility that becomes amplified when that vocation is one of leadership and command of Ireland's soldiers. The Army Cadetship delivers intense and robust training that is at all times dignified, but is also exceptionally difficult to complete. This training ensures that these newly-commissioned officers are best prepared to carry out what is, after all, their core function: the leadership and command of troops on military operations. It is for this reason that our officer-cadets have received state-of-the-art education and training in everything from weapons handling to international relations; from infantry tactics to military law. It is the reason why they have been guided to live and breathe the ethos, standards and values system of Óglaigh na hÉireann these past 18 months.

Your son or daughter, brother or sister, family relation or friend has just succeeded in what is the State's most demanding residential leadership course. It is an education unlike any other, one in which they have developed their character and competence as the future leaders of the Army through all sorts of physical and mental challenges, underpinned throughout by a rigorous professional military education as delivered by our academic partner institution, Maynooth University. They have also developed crucial friendships and bonds of comradeship that will endure for the decades to come, and will indeed outlast their own time in uniform.

To the families, partners and friends of the Cadets of the 101st Class, I know I speak for the Sergeant Major and for all staff of the School when I say 'thank you' for your unwavering support for all that has been asked of your loved one. The family support that our cadets enjoy is indeed vital, for without it they could hardly hope to have so clearly achieved their potential and have harnessed their obvious talents. The School is also indebted to the leadership of Comdt Lisa McMahon, the Class officer; to her deputy Capt Tom Murphy; to the Class Company Sergeant CS Will Lawlor and to all of the NCOs and Officers who instructed and supported.

To the women and men of the 101st Cadet Class: you are now professional Army Officers, part of the continuum of service that has been Óglaigh na hÉireann for over 110 years and now more than 100 Cadet Classes. I am proud of you and all that you have achieved, but remember that your journey is really only beginning. I look forward to following your careers in the coming years and indeed to serving with you on operations at home and abroad, wherever this road before us may lead.

Beir bua!

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Mac Eoin
Commandant, The Cadet School

FOCAL FÁILTE Ó CHEANNASAÍ NA SCOILE

An Leifteanant-Choirnéal Stephen Mac Eoin Ceannfort, Scoil na nDaltaí

Is rímhór an onóir dom fáilte a chur roimh ár muintir, ár gcairde, aíonna eile agus an pobal míleata i gcoitinne anseo i nDún an Phiarsaigh sa Choláiste Míleata - bunáit an Oifigigh in Arm na hÉireann.

Ní cúram magaidh ar aon chor óglachas a dhéanamh faoi airm, gan bheann ar chéim, grád ná rang. Is troime mar chúram é, ina dhiaidh sin is uile, nuair is gairm cheannaireachta i gceannas ar shaighdiúirí de chuid na hÉireann atá i gceist. Le linn Daltacht Airm, cuirtear traenáil ar an dalta atá dian docht, agus cé go ndéantar sin le haird ar an dínit i gcónaí, is cúrsa traenála é atá rídheacair a chríochnú. Cinntítear leis an traenáil seo go bhfuil na hoifigigh nuachoisíúnaíthe seo sárullamh le tabhairt faoin gcúram sin (tar éis an tsoil) is croifheidhm dóibh: ceannaireacht agus ceannasaíocht ar thrúpaí le linn oibríochtaí míleata. Is ar an ábhar sin a cuireadh na daltaí oifigigh faoi oideachas agus oiliúint de scoth an domhain maidir le gach uile réimse idir airm a láimhseáil agus chaidreamh idirnáisiúnta; oirbheartaíocht coisithe agus an dlí míleata. Is ar an ábhar sin a fuair siad treoir maidir le maireachtáil de réir mheon, chaighdeán agus chóras luachanna Óglaigh na hÉireann le 18 mí anuas.

D'éirigh le do mhac nó le d'iníon, do dheartháir nó do dheirfiúr, do dhuine gaoil nó do chara teacht go ceann cúrsa sa chúrsa cónaitheach seo sa cheannaireacht is déine ghéire de chuid an Stáit. Is cúrsa oideachais seo ar leith é seo, cúrsa ar cothaíodh lena linn tréithe agus inniúlacht cheannairí an Airm san am atá le theacht trí réimsí dúshláin den uile chineál, don cholainn agus don intinn, a raibh oideachas dian gairmiúil míleata de bhonn daingean faoi ar feadh an chúrsa arna chur ar fáil ag Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, an foras acadúlachta lena n-oibrítear i gcomhar. Tá cairdeas cinniúnach agus caidreamh comrádaíochta cothaithe acu chomh maith a leanfaidh go ceann na mblianta fada romhainn agus a sheasfaidh go deimhin níos faide ná a seal féin in éide.

Deirim le daoine muinteartha, páirtithe agus cairde Dhaltaí an 101ú Rang, agus is eol dom go labhraím thar ceann an Mhaorsháirsint agus lucht foirne uile na Scoile nuair a deirim é, 'go raibh maith agaibh' as seasamh go tréan buan leis an dalta le linn an chúrsa. Tá buntábhacht go deimhin leis an mbonn treise a chuireann an teaghlach faoin dalta óir is deacair a cheapadh, dá uireasa sin, go mbeadh siad tagtha in inmhe chomh tréan soiléir agus a rinne agus leas bainte acu as an gcumas is acmhainn dóibh. Tá an Scoil faoi chomaoin freisin ag an gCeannfort Lisa McMahon, an toifigeach Ranga; ag

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

an gCaptaein Tom Murphy, an leas-oifigeach; ag an Sáirsint Complachta Will Lawler, Sáirsint Complachta an Ranga, agus ar na ONC agus na hOifigigh ar fad a rinne teagasc agus bearta cúnta.

A mhná agus a fhir an 101ú Rang Daltaí: tá sibh anois ina nOifigigh Airm ghairmiúla, gné den sruth leanúnach seirbhíse a bhaineann le hÓglaigh na hÉireann le 110 mbliana anuas agus níos faide, agus anois le 100 Rang Daltaí agus níos mó. Is ábhar mórtais agamsa sibh, agus gach a bhfuil bainte amach agaibh, ach ná dearmadtar nach bhfuil anseo dáiríre ach tús aistir. Táim ag tnúth le súil a choinneáil ar an tslí bheatha atá romhaibh i rith na mblianta seo romhainn agus go deimhin le fónamh a dhéanamh in éineacht libh ar oibríochtaí in Éirinn agus thar sáile, cibé áit a dtugann a bóthar seo romhainn sinn.

Beir bua!

An Leifteanant-Choirnéal Stephen Mac Eoin
Ceannfort, Scoil na nDaltaí

SERGEANT MAJOR'S WELCOME

Sergeant Major Stephen O'Neill

Sergeant Major, Cadet School



As regimental Sergeant Major of The Cadet School, I take pride in acknowledging and congratulating both students and staff of the 101st Cadet Class. To the students for their display of commitment and resilience, to the staff for their level of professionalism and often countless hours.

As members of the 101st Cadet class your achievements demonstrated through your commitment, determination and resilience culminates in your commissioning as Officers of Óglaigh na hÉireann. Your hard work has come to fruition in preparing you and shaping your character to take up leadership appointments in numerous Corps of the Army. You have demonstrated your commitment to the values of the Defence Forces (DF) to include your collective participation in charity fund raising events in support of local charities and DF veterans. In time your personal reflections on the values will guide you through challenges that you will face throughout your military career ahead. The Cadetship is designed to lay the foundation for your transition into various leadership appointments amongst the commissioned ranks of the DF, with a commission comes a responsibility to uphold the values of the DF and to value your subordinates. Lead by example.

To the dedicated Officer and NCO staff of the 101st Cadet class, not only have you carved out young Officers of character and competence, you have made a valuable contribution to the future leadership of the organisation. The commitment of the logistical, training and administration staff of the Cadet school has been integral to the successful completion of the Cadetship of the 101st Cadet class. As members of the Cadet School staff you have displayed leadership, mentorship and proved yourself as a valuable source of knowledge to students of the 101st Cadet class and you have excelled in a unique environment, displaying professionalism through fostering and contributing to an educational environment. Throughout the Cadetship you have displayed and demanded high standards, often requiring you to test the competency of students in numerous appointments within various scenarios, ultimately adding to the building blocks of each member of the 101st Cadet Class.

Stephen O'Neill
Regimental Sergeant Major
The Cadet School

FOCAL FÁILTE ÓN MAORSHÁIRSINT

Maorsháirsint Stephen O'Neill

Maorsháirsint, Scoil na nDaltaí

I mo Mhaorsháirsint reisiminte dom ar Scoil na nDaltaí, is ábhar mórtais dom toradh a gcúraim a admháil agus a thréaslú le daltaí agus lucht foirne an 101ú Rang Daltaí. Leis na daltaí as an dua agus an dúthracht a léirigh siad, leis an lucht foirne as an ardleibhéal gairmiúlachta ar feadh oiread uaireanta fada an chloig.

Tá de thoradh ar an dul chun cinn a léirigh an 101ú Rang Daltaí le teann dúthrachta, díocais agus dua go bhfuil sibh bhur gcoimisiúnú ina nOifigigh in Óglaigh na hÉireann. Tháinig de thoradh ar an obair dhian a rinne sibh gur ullmhaíodh agus gur múnlaíodh sibh ó thaobh tréithíochta chun glacadh le ceapacháin cheannaireachta i gCóir éagsúla de chuid an Airm. Léirigh sibh dúthracht maidir le meon Óglaigh na hÉireann (ÓÉ) lena n-áirítear rannpháirtíocht an chomhair in imeachtaí cruinniú cistí ar mhaithe le carthanais áitiúla agus seansaighdiúirí ÓÉ. Le himeacht aimsire, beidh an machnamh pearsanta ar ghnéithe den mheon sin ina réalta eolais agaibh maidir le réimsí dúshláin a shárú a thioctaidh romhaibh le linn slí bheatha mhíleata. Leagtar amach an tréimhse Daltachta d'fhonn bonn daingean a chur fúibh ag aistriú go dtí ceapacháin éagsúla cheannaireachta i measc ghráid choimisiúnaithe ÓÉ, gabhann leis an gcoimisiún an dualgas seasamh le meon ÓÉ agus meas a bheith agaibh ar na ranganna níos íochtaráí ná sibh féin. San eiseamláir atá an cheannaireacht.

Le hOifigigh agus ONC lucht foirne an 101ú Rang Daltaí, ní hamháin go bhfuil Oifigigh óga cothaithe agaibh atá tréitheach inniúil, tá cion mór tairbhe déanta agaibh maidir le ceannaireacht na heagraíochta san am atá le theacht. Bhí dlúthbhaint ag dúthracht lucht foirne lóistíochta, traenála agus riaracháin Scoil na nDaltaí le Daltacht an 101ú Rang Daltaí a thabhairt go ceann cúrsa go sásúil. Ag fónamh daoibh ar lucht foirne Scoil na nDaltaí, léirigh sibh cumas ceannaireachta agus meantóireachta, thaispeáin sibh gur fiúntach an fhoinsé eolais sibh ag daltaí an 101ú Rang Daltaí agus chruthaigh sibh go sármhaith i dtimpeallacht faoi leith, ag saothrú le teann gairmiúlachta trí thimpeallacht oideachais a chothú agus cion tairbhe a dhéanamh ina leith. Le linn na Daltachta, léirigh sibh ardchaighdeáin agus d'éiligh sibh iad, ó b'éigean daoibh go minic inniúlacht na ndaltaí a thástáil i mbun ceapacháin iomadúla i gcásanna samhailta éagsúla, ag cur de réir a chéile le comhthréithe an uile dhuine den 101ú Rang Daltaí

Stephen O'Neill

An Maorsháirsint Reisiminte

Scoil na nDaltaí

THE LOCATION: PEARSE BARRACKS, CURRAGH CAMP An Suíomh: Dún An Phiarsaigh, Campa an Currach

The prospect of establishing a potential young officers training facility was first broached at the Treaty negotiations in 1921, when General Michael Collins considered that there would be a need in Ireland for a standing professional army. The structure of training he wished to reflect was that of the Swiss system of military organisation. The first of these classes commenced in



Kilkenny barracks run by Comdt Barra O’Bráin with 130 students from the surrounding rural areas, with training incorporating elementary military skills along with lessons ‘as Gaeilge’. The ratification of the Treaty by the Dáil in 1922 brought with it developments in Cadet training. On 16th Jul 1922 Comdt O’Bráin was instructed to move his training to Beresford Barracks (known as Ceannt Barracks today) in the Curragh Training Camp, the day also historically marking the official handover of the camp by the departing British Forces.

Following the Civil War, public backing for establishing The Cadet School or even recruiting further enlisted officers was left wanting. A turn in fortune came with an invitation from the French Forces to send a delegation for a review of its Army at Longchamps on the 14th Jul 1923 and five officers travelled out, led by General MacMahon, Chief of Staff. The visit encompassed all the major French military centres, but an area surpassing the rest was L’École Speciale Militaire de St Cyr, the largest training centre for French officers. The Irish officers witnessed a professional training and educational basis that enveloped an extensive range of subjects, employing thorough teaching practices. The Defence Forces Act later that year made the proposal for the “Irish Military College” and in the face of growing plans for demobilisation, an Army School of Instruction was founded in Kildare. The training was a general course of instruction for all officers with an additional specialised course for a select cadre of those preparing for promotion, including 30 Cadets. In October 1925, the School’s resources were strengthened with the amalgamation of an NCO’s School of Instruction thereby forming the once “Army School of Instruction” (ASI)

The following year the Defence Forces witnessed the need for officers in the Air Corps, Army School of Music and the Corps of Engineers and decided to enlist Cadets for all

three services. A selection board was drawn together to choose the individuals that would become the Engineer Cadets. Out of twelve vacancies, only two applications were made and ultimately only one took up a position. However, there was still no sign of Army Cadets at this stage and there would not be until a suitable course of instruction was developed following the military mission to the United States, in 1926 headed by Maj. Gen. H. MacNeill (who was later to become a Divisional Commander during the Emergency/Second World War period). This mission had the dual aim of studying the United States National Defense Act in operation and of examining the US military system, with a particular focus on military education. This included extensive periods of study in a variety of US Army schools, including Fort Leavenworth, Fort Benning and Fort Sill. Although the structure was initially to be based on the Swiss military, the USA system was decided upon following this Mission and after An Garda Síochána also successfully used the American policing system for the basis of its Irish establishment.

Pressure was mounting for the recruitment of an Army Cadet Class and in particular the need for Infantry Cadets, and on their return on the 2nd Oct 1927 the Mission quickly submitted its findings. They believed that Ireland could not imitate another country's system and that it would need to be based on our likely tasks, our equipment and resources, along with our tactical doctrine. The Civil Service advertised for the Infantry Cadets and on 01st Feb 1928 and the first class of general purpose Army Cadets enlisted in the Curragh. It was envisaged as a four-year course with a minimum of 90 Cadets studying in College at any one time. To gain entry one must have attained the Intermediate Certificate and pass an examination through the Civil Service Commissioners. A marked difference from then and now, however, is that the College made 'no attempt to turn out a Cadet as a trained Platoon or Section Leader', training which was expected to be carried out by their Unit after a further four years.

Although The Cadet School was to be located at a University, instead it was to become amalgamated with the Infantry School and Command and Staff School in Keane Barracks (known today as Pearse Bks). A syllabus was finally agreed upon, with the Officer Commanding allowed to use his discretion in its implementation, once the syllabus was covered within two years, and the first Commissioning Ceremony was held on the 02nd Sep 1929.

The pictures of Cadet Classes hanging on the walls of the Cadets Mess stand as silent testimony to the classes that have passed out of the School since that day. While over the course of the years there have been changes in the sizes of classes, in the length and nature of their training, the primary mission of The Cadet School has remained steadfast - to produce leaders of 'character and competence.'

THE ARMY NO. 1 BAND

Banna Uimhir a hAon an Airm



The Army No. 1 Band was formed in 1923 and gave its first public performance under the direction of Colonel Fritz Brasé at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, in October of that year. The Band, the first of four military bands established between 1923 and 1936, has retained its original title.

The No. 1 Band has performed at all major ceremonial occasions since the foundation of the State, including all Presidential Inaugurations from that of President Douglas Hyde to the recent Inauguration of Uachtarán Connolly last year.

The band's engagement schedule now includes attendance at Áras an Uachtaráin for Presentation of Credentials ceremonies of newly appointed Ambassadors, the provision of musical support for State visits to Ireland by foreign Heads of State and high-profile State Engagements such as The National Day of Commemoration. In addition, the band fulfils all military music requirements for the Defence Forces' Second Brigade.

Concert engagements at the National Concert Hall, recitals in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, and a highly successful Schools Concerts programme are a regular part of the band's life. The Army No. 1 Band was prominent throughout the many state ceremonies commemorating the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising, and more recently for the visit to Ireland of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Today the Army Band, 2 Brigade, will be performing under the baton of Capt. William Chester. Captain William Chester is a Waterford born musician. He is a lifelong member of the Barrack Street Concert Band, Waterford. William served as a Bandsman in the Defence Forces School of Music for 8 years and was commissioned into the rank of Captain in July 2024. William recently completed the MMus in Composition at the Royal Northern College of Music, with Distinction, studying under Adam Gorb and Gary Carpenter.



Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

His first March, *Operation Mincemeat* (2023), was premiered by The Band of HM Royal Marines with RNCM Students at the RNCM Concert Hall. Following this, William was commissioned by the Irish Defence Forces School of Music to write a new March for the Centenary of the unit. *Máirseáil Chéiliúridh* (2023) was premiered by the Massed Bands of the Defence Forces School of Music at the National Concert Hall, Dublin. During his time at the RNCM, William was selected to write a Fanfare for the 50th Anniversary of the college, which was premiered by the RNCM Wind Orchestra.

THE CADET SCHOOL REGIMENTAL COLOUR Bratach Reisiminte Scoil na nDaltaí



The colours of The Cadet School consist of an Officer's sword on a golden sunburst on a background of St. Patrick Blue, with the motto of the school written above on the banner. St Patrick's blue was originally adapted as the colour of the Order of St. Patrick, but the same colour has long been associated with St. Patrick's cross and, according to historian G.A Hayes-McCoy, on early versions of the national flag. It is also the colour of the President of Ireland, who is Supreme Commander of Óglaigh na hÉireann.

The Sunburst in gold is an association with The Fianna of ancient legend, whose exploits are described in the An Fhianníocht cycle. According to legend, The Fianna, which included the famous warrior Fionn MacCumhaill and his son Óisín, was established to defend the country from invasion and as such, became the prototype standing army in Ireland. The sunburst also featured on the flag of Fianna Eireann, the military boy scout organisation which was founded by the revolutionary thinkers and leaders Bulmer Hobson and Countess Constance Markievicz in 1909. The organisation with the Irish Volunteers / Óglaigh na hÉireann of 1913, from which the Defence Forces traces its origins. The sword is the traditional weapon of an officer and thus symbolises both the unique authority to bear arms that is invested by the state in every officer and the long military traditions of service in the profession of arms from which we draw our inspiration. Each sword is handcrafted in tempered steel with a decorative etching of Celtic knotwork around the Harp and the shamrock, national symbols of Ireland. The guard and pommel are finished in gold with a sharkskin and copper grip.

The motto 'An Ród so Romham', which may be translated as 'This road before me' is taken from the poem 'Fornocht do chonac thú' by Padraic Pearse which as its theme of loyalty and devotion to duty. It is taken to signify the highest ideal of loyalty to country and devotion to duty, which the Officer-Cadet and the Cadet School must cherish and foster. The initial presentation of the Colour to the Cadet School took place on the 24th of July 1954 when it was presented by The Minister for Defence, General Seán Mac Eoin, T.D. That colour was laid up in 1989, by the Minister for Defence, Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D.

**Fornocht do chonac thú
Pádraig Mac Piarais**

*Fornocht do chonac thú,
a áille na háille,
is do dhallas mo shúil
ar eagla go stánfainn.*

*Do chualas do cheol,
a bhinne na binne,
is do dhúnas mo chluas
ar eagla go gclisfinn.*

*Do bhlaiseas do bhéal
a mhilse na milse,
is do chruas mo chroí,
ar eagla mo mhillte.*

*Do dhallas mo shúil,
is mo chluas do dhúnas;
do chruas mo chroí,
is mo mhian do mhúchas.*

*Do thugas mo chúl
ar an aisling do chumas,
's ar an ród so romham
m'aghaidh do thugas.*

*Do thugas mo ghnúis
ar an ród so romham,
ar an ngníomh do-chim,
's ar an mbás do gheobhad.*

Translation:

*Naked I saw thee,
O beauty of beauty,
And I blinded my eyes
For fear I should stare.*

*I heard thy music,
O melody of melody,
and I closed my ears
For fear I should falter.*

*I tasted thy mouth,
O sweetness of sweetness,
And I hardened my heart
For fear of my weakening.*

*I blinded my eyes,
And I closed my ears,
I hardened my heart
And I smothered my desire.*

*I turned my back
On the vision I had shaped,
And to this road before me
I turned my face.*

*I have turned my face
To this road before me,
To the deed that I see
And the death I shall die.*

OATH

An Mionn Coimisiúnaithe

Traditionally as part of the Commissioning Ceremony, each Cadet will be required to swear an Oath of Fidelity to Ireland and to the Constitution.



The wording of the Oath is as follows.

Mionnaímse (nó dearbháimse)....., do salamanta, go mbead dilis d'Éirinn agus tairseach don Bhunreacht agus, faid a bheadh im oifigeach de na Buan-Óglaigh, go gcomhlíonfad gach ordú dleathach a bhéarfais m'oifigigh uachtaracha dhom agus nach gceanglóid le haon eagraíocht nó cumann polaitíochta ná le haon chumann rúnda ar bith ná nach mbead im chomhalta den chéanna. Ná nach dtaobhód leis an gcéanna.

I....., do solemnly swear (or declare) that I will be faithful to Ireland and loyal to the Constitution and that while I am an officer in the Permanent Defence Forces I will obey all lawful orders issued to me by my superior officers and will not join or be a member of, or subscribe to, any political organisation or society or any secret society whatsoever.

COMMISSION Coimisiún an Uachtaráin

Each Cadet will receive today a Commissioning Scroll signed by the President of Ireland, Taoiseach, and the Minister for Defence.

Each scroll is stamped with the Great Seal of the office of the President of Ireland. The commissioning scroll reads as follows;



'Trusting in your fidelity to Ireland and loyalty to the Constitution and reposing special confidence in your courage, honour, good conduct and intelligence, I, Catherine Connolly, The President of Ireland, hereby, on advice of the Government, constitute and appoint you to be an officer in the part of the Defence Forces known as the Permanent Defence Forces as and from the 9th April 2026. You will faithfully discharge your duty in the Permanent Defence Forces rank of Lieutenant or in any higher rank to which your merit may hereafter determine your appointment or promotion. You will exercise and train in arms and maintain in good order and discipline the men, women and inferior officers serving under you who are hereby each and all enjoined and commanded to render your obedience as their superior officer. You will yourself observe and obey without question such lawful orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from The Minister for Defence or from any of your superior officers.'

AWARDS

Gradaim na nDaltaí

The ARCO Sword

This sword, presented by the Association of retired Commissioned Officers, is awarded to overall No 1 student on the Cadet Course. While the sword itself is retained in the Cadet's Mess proudly displaying the names of past recipients. The winner will get to keep a smaller replica of the sword itself.

Winner: Cadet Matthew Sweeney

The Lt Gen William Callaghan Sword

This trophy is awarded to the best Cadet in tactical exercises and practical leadership. It was originally presented by Lt Gen William Callaghan (RIP), former Force Commander, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. It consists of a sword mounted on a mahogany backing, on which a brass plate has the following inscription: 'Awarded annually to the Cadet who obtained 1st place in Tactical Training and Practical Leadership Ability'.

Winner: Cadet Seán Stynes

Col Justin McCarthy Trophy

The Colonel McCarthy Trophy is given to the best individual debater. It was presented to The Cadet School in February 1963 and received on behalf of the School by Cadet Dan Rea. Colonel Justin McCarthy, whose portrait and medals are displayed at the nearby United Nations Training School, was among the first Army officers to deploy overseas to Lebanon in 1958. He later died while on United Nations Service in the Congo.

Winner: Cadet Clodagh Lehane

Lt Kieran Murphy Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the best overall sports person. Lieutenant Murphy was a member of the 51st Cadet Class, who died tragically in a road traffic accident, and the trophy was presented by his classmates.

Winner: Cadet Kieran Malone

Sergeant Major Scanlon Sword

This sword was presented by Sergeant Major Tony Scanlon, former Cadet School Sergeant Major. It's awarded to the Cadet who best promotes the Esprit de Corps of the Defence Forces, its traditions and associations.

Winner: Cadet Simon Gallagher

The Cadet Marksman's Cup

This Cup is awarded to the Cadet who receives the best overall combined shot in the Steyr assault rifle, the General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and the Heckler & Koch Universal Self-loading Pistol (USP).

Winner: Cadet Padraig Holohan

Cadet Andrew Greene Award.

Cadet Andrew Greene, a member of the 35th Cadet Class, died during training from leukemia in December 1962. His picture hangs in the Cadet Mess Ante room. The annual 10km road race is conducted in memory of him, his bravery, and resilience shown during his illness. The award goes to the winner of the annual 10 Km road race.

Winner: Cadet Luke Thompson

Capt Mary Jo O'Sullivan Award

This award is presented to the Cadet who achieves the highest marks in Academic Studies. The award was presented to The Cadet School in 2013 by members of the 58th Cadet Class in memory of their classmate who died on 12th September 2012.

Winner: Cadet Padraig Holohan

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

The Col. Frank Lawless Award

This is presented to the Cadet who best embodies the values of the Defence Forces throughout the entire cadetship. The award was presented to The Cadet School in 2018 by members of the 58th Cadet Class in memory of their classmate, Colonel Frank Lawless, a third generation Army Officer who died in service in 2016.

Winner: Cadet Kurt Condron

The Lt Paul Giblin Award

This award is presented to the Cadet who achieves the highest score on Navigation Assessments. The award was presented to The Cadet School in 2023 by members of the 87th Cadet Class in memory of their classmate who died on 12th June 2017.

Winner: Cadet Craig Griffin and Cadet Elina Mats

THE CLASS PENNANT

Meirge an Ranga



Class Pennant
Cadet Claire McCormack

The 101st Cadet Class pennant, which is displayed on the Parade Square today, is a flag that is unique to the members of our class. Every year each Cadet Class designs a pennant that reflects its collective ethos, serving as a tangible representation of the beliefs and spirit of the class.

The design of the 101st Cadet Class pennant was created by Cadet Poynton on behalf of the class. It encompasses a mixture of traditional, cultural references drawn from both the Defence Forces and Irish heritage, while also symbolising the beginning of a new century within the Cadet School. As the first class of this new era, the pennant reflects both continuity with tradition and a new beginning for the Cadets themselves commencing their journey of training and development.

Featured on the body of the pennant is a variation of the Cadet School 'Sunburst', derived from the traditional battle symbol of the Fianna and reflected in the Defence Forces badge. Within the Sunburst is the "101st" motif rendered in an Irish uncial fabela font which is reminiscent of traditional lettering seen on Irish town signage throughout the country.

A phoenix is seen in the center of the pennant, formed from a Celtic interlace knot. This interwoven design symbolises structure, discipline, and unity, with the four principal

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

interlaced elements representing the Army, Naval Service, Air Corps, and the Cadet School itself. At the center of the phoenix is the Defence Forces badge, reinforcing the shared identity and common purpose of all Cadets upon entry to the school.

The phoenix is traditionally associated with renewal, rebirth, and transformation. It reflects the opportunity Cadets have to emerge stronger and more resilient as they undergo personal and professional development throughout their training. It is depicted alongside the Cadet School Sword, which all Cadets aspire to hold upon commissioning. Inscribed on the sword is the Cadet School motto “An Ród So Romham” (The Road Before Me) signifying the journey that lies ahead for each member of the class.

The black background forms the foundation of the pennant and was selected as a unifying colour commonly associated with the Defence Forces. The years “24” and “26” displayed on the hoist side represent the class’s period of training. The corners contain traditional Celtic knotwork which reflect themes of protection, continuity, and resilience as the class progresses toward commissioning.

Upon commissioning, the pennant will take its place among those of previous Cadet Classes in the Cadets’ Mess, becoming part of the history and tradition of the Cadet School.

THE CLASS FLASH

Suaitheantas an Ranga



The 101st Cadet Class Flash Cadet Andrew Sheffield

A flash or insignia is designed and worn by units to differentiate themselves and instils a sense of pride and belonging to their unit. It is tradition for each Cadet class to design their own flash, to be worn by Cadets and instructors alike.

Our design features a mountain goat standing confidently on a ledge – a symbol of strength, agility, and sure-footed progress in tough terrain. Of course, we couldn't resist the double entendre of the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) Surrounding it is our motto: "An Ród So Romham" - "The Road Before Me" - representing the journey, responsibility, and honour that lie ahead.

THE STORY OF THE 101ST CADET CLASS

Scéal an 101ú Rang Daltai

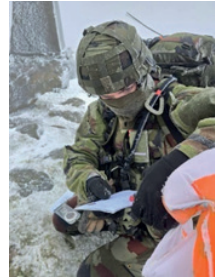
Cadet Luke Thompson & Cadet Gearóid Reynolds

The Induction Stage

We started our journey in the Cadetship on the 15th of October 2024. We said goodbye to our friends and families, and with Cadets from the Army, Air Corps and Naval service, we began our training.



Phase one, or the induction phase involved initial military socialisation, and began our physical fitness training as well as the development of key military skills such as navigation, weapons handling and military writing. Phase one started in mid-October and ended in late December and consisted of many early and cold winter mornings stood in Pearse Square awaiting inspection. Adjusting from civilian life to a military environment wasn't easy but we got our first taste of teamwork as we assimilated into our sections and progressed from daily PT runs to full-scale battle PTs in the frozen December tank tracks. We concluded the phase with our first ground exercise, Celtic Warrior, followed by the Christmas dinner which brought us to the long-awaited Christmas leave.



The Development Stage

Coming back into the New Year, we began with an introduction to the SRAAW and the M203 and saw the continuation of our physical training which now ramped up another level. The class were also introduced to the Engineer and CIS Corps in two introductory weeks on the far side of the camp. After two weeks in a warm and comfortable lecture theatre, we moved onto training for Section Field. Days and weeks passed, with a morning trip to stores becoming embedded in our daily routine. The ominous Section Field began with a practice week in Kilworth. We started strong with Exercise Scratch (a battle PT which lasted approximately six hours, of which we felt every minute). After a few pats on the back and emptying several Lucozade Sports bottles, we kicked into rifle cleaning, which would soon become our evening ritual. Numerous section attacks would take

place during the day and then after a hearty dinner and a warm shower, we would clean our weapons to inspection standard. This was what our lives became for the next two weeks until we mounted the cherished ROPS, our troop carrying trucks, and were brought back to the camp. We hadn't long crossed the cattle grids leading into Curragh Camp when we were shaking hands with the Minister for Defence, Simon Harris, and the Chief of Staff as they visited the Curragh to unveil the new Cadet School HQ.



Our next big task lay ahead of us - CBRN week involved an introduction to the skills and drills required to survive and operate in a CBRN environment, culminating in a revision of drills in the gas chamber in the Engineer compound. Once our lungs had cleared and the CBRN suits had been packed away, the class were off to the Pre-Commissioning Ball of the 100th Cadet Class. After weekend leave, we returned to barracks, and completed SERE training, learning vital skills such as how to safely set a fire and build a shelter. We ended the week with a splash as we performed the confidence jumps off the bridge in Blessington.

The following week saw us become qualified PTLs (Physical Training Leaders), permitting us to warm up troops, bring them on runs up to 10km and cool them down. This is a qualification that will follow us into our Commissioning and is applicable to civilian life also. We then completed MIT (Military Instructor Training), which qualified us to instruct classes on foot drill, arms drill and standard infantry weapons (the SRAAW, M203, Steyr rifle and the GPMG).

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

Once we completed our MIT block, we kicked into FAR (First Aid Responder) training, with instructors from the Medical Corps teaching us basic first aid. We moved from practical training with the Medics into theoretical training in lecture halls for our Defensive Studies. Throughout the Cadetship, Cadets receive a level 7 diploma in Defence and Leadership Studies from a third level institution, Maynooth University. This study is broken up into week-long blocks, spread throughout phase 2 and phase 3, educating us on subjects such as Politics, Military History, Bookkeeping, Irish History and Sociology.

A highlight of phase 2 is the class pilgrimage to Lourdes, where Cadets took part in religious ceremonies, military parades and supported the local charity group - the Curragh Lourdes Fund. This was a highly rewarding experience, enjoyed by every Cadet. Once we arrived back to Ireland, our final exercise to finish Phase 2 lay before us. Platoon Field, a scaled-up version of Section Field, took us to the Glen of Imaal where we practiced and were assessed in platoon attack tactics. To celebrate finishing Platoon Field, Cadets went on Adventure week - a week either in Donegal, rock climbing and kayaking, or in Clare, learning to scuba dive. This brought Phase 2 to a close as we said goodbye to the Air Corp class, who left to continue their training in Baldonnel.



The Empowerment Phase

Phase 3, or the Empowerment phase represented an uptick in both pace and responsibility for the Cadets, seeing us on five weeks of ground exercises over a three-month period. These five weeks involved the Dig-In, our defensive exercise, Exercise ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance,

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

Target Acquisition, Reconnaissance), and our offensive exercise, OOTW (Operations Other Than War) where we were tested on our leadership, our command and control and on all the military skills that we had learned so far in Phase 3, and the Cadetship as a whole.

Going from the ground to Áras Uachtaráin, the 101st Cadet Class acted as the Guard of Honour for our newly appointed President Catherine Connolly, who was presented with Credentials by the new Ambassadors.



Finally, we completed Exercise MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) in Poolbeg, Dublin, where we practiced room clearance, and defensive tactics in built up area, seized multi-story facilities, as well as conducting urban CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) warfare. To mark the end of a difficult but rewarding phase, we played 7-side soccer between the staff and Cadets before enjoying a well-earned Christmas dinner. We then broke for Christmas leave, looking ahead into both the New Year and Phase 4.



The Synthesis Stage

We began Phase 4 with several courses that we would take into our commissioned lives. These courses include range management, blinds disposal (unexploded munitions disposal) and pistol training. We also received our briefs from each of the different Corps, in order to help us choose our future career paths beyond Commissioning. The class went on to do Platoon LFTT (Live Fire Tactical Training) before completing CRC (Crowd Riot Control) training. Our CRC week ended with a riot with the Junior Cadets acting as the

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

rioters, and the phase culminated with the PSO exercise (Peace Security Operations) and a charity run inspired by the David Goggins 4 x 4 x 4 challenge to aid O.N.E (Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel) and the Curragh Lourdes Fund, two highly important charities that are close to the class.



Our story now continues as we look forward, as a class, to commissioned life in our units.

AN TODHCAÍ

Cadet Caoilte Curneen

Inár mbaill den 101ú Rang Daltaí, táimid go léir ag tnúth leis an saol inár gcuid aonad nua agus na dúshláin a bheidh romhainn chomh maith le heolas a chur ar chultúr na n-aonad éagsúil seo. Inár n-oifigigh nua-choimisiúnaithe, táimid go léir ag tnúth go mór lenár ndeis cur le hÓglaigh na hÉireann agus tá an-áthas orainn faoin obair a bheidh muid ina bun leis na Mná agus na Fir go léir atá ag fónamh leis an eagraíocht seo.

Tá baill an 101ú Rang Daltaí an-bhródúil agus táimid ag súil go mór leis an ionadaíocht a dhéanfaidh gach duine againn ar an tír seo anseo sa bhaile agus thar lear.

Inár n-oifigigh nua in Óglaigh na hÉireann, táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an deis atá againn fónamh thar lear leis na saighdiúirí faoinár gceannas i dtimpeallacht dhainséarach ar na misean éagsúla a thagann chun cinn agus ár scileanna mar cheannairí agus gach rud a d'fhoghlaim muid i Scoil na nDaltaí a chur ag obair. Múineadh na scileanna go léir a bheidh ag teastáil uainn i Scoil na nDaltaí, scileanna a bheidh againn go deo agus a sheasfaidh linn nuair a éiríonn cúrsaí deacair.

De réir mar ardú ag teacht ar uimhreacha Óglaigh na hÉireann, táimid ag súil leis an ról a bheidh againn inár dteagascóirí ag múineadh earcaigh nua agus ag obair leis na saighdiúirí dhá agus trí réalta. Ar deireadh, táimid ag tnúth tabhairt faoi na cúrsaí éagsúla a chuireann an eagraíocht seo ar fáil dúinn. Tá go leor den rang ag tnúth freisin cur lena gcuid oideachais tríd an scéim USAC a chuireann ar ár gcumas dul chuig Ollscoileanna tríú leibhéal agus céimeanna leibhéal 8 a bhaint amach saor in aisce.

Mar fhocal scoir, tá gach rud a bhfuil sceitimíní orainn fúthu luaite cheana féin. Ar deireadh táimid ag súil leis an mbóthar seo atá romhainn leis an eagraíocht seo agus is é sin an rud is tábhachtaí.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Ár nÉachtaí

Cadet Shooting Team



A selected cohort of Cadets partook in numerous training days and competitions for competitive shooting. Cadets were chosen after our ARPs took place, with only those with top scores, Marksmen, being added to the team. Cadets Daly, O'Rourke, Callaghan and Reynolds taking part in the team. The shooting team put in a great effort and showed strong marksmanship skills in the All-Army Competition.

The Falling Plates team, represented by Cadets Russell, Holohan, Griffin, Slevin and Harris came second in the DFTC and advanced through to the All-Army Competition where they put in a strong effort on the day and made the Cadet School proud.

The Cadet Football Team



The Cadet School football team were in the division 3 colleges football championship, they represented the school well in all games.

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

A number of footballers took part in the medical services football competition with a number of cadets representing the DFTC. They would go on to beat 28th Bn in the final to leave victorious.

A number of Cadets also represented the DFTC in the brigade football competition. Cadets were transported from the FOB in Kilworth straight to the final where they went on to beat 3rd Bn after extra time. It was an excellent performance by the team.

The Cadet An Cosantóir Team



The Cadets competed in the annual An Cosantóir race on the 1st October 2025 in Phoenix Park. We entered 2 blocks of 20, a 3-person loaded march team, as well as a number of Cadets who participated in the Individual Run category. We retained the 10km block run title for the third time in a row with Block 1 finishing first with a time of 41.45, with block 2 also making an excellent effort on the day. Cadets Thompson, Poynton and Gallagher finished second in the loaded march just behind the overseas 126 Bn. Cadet Thompson finished strong, coming in first with a serious time of 45.22.

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

The Cadet Debating Team

By practicing and competing in debates, the 101st Cadet Class had many opportunities to improve their public speaking and debating skills. Cadets first tested their skills against each other before taking on Dublin Business School, which saw the Cadets taking the win with Cdt Martin Foley winning 'Best Overall Speaker'. Cdt Leigh Walsh was a guest speaker at a debate with the The Philosophical Society of Trinity College Dublin. The Cadets then competed in the Irish Times Debate with Cdt Clodagh Lehane advancing to the Grand Final.



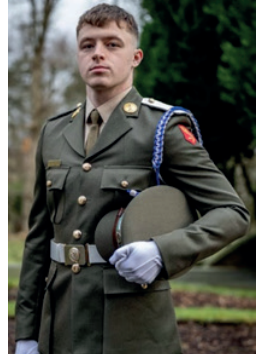
CADET CLASS CAPTAIN

Captaein na nDaltaí – Cuimhne Phearsanta

Cadet Cian Whittaker

‘A Personal Reflection’

Eighty-one civilians from all corners of the island and further afield arrived into the Cadet’s Mess on the morning of the 15th of October 2024, all unaware of the road that lay ahead of them over the next eighteen months. One hundred Cadet classes had walked the road before us. A road both long and short, marked by challenges and growth, carrying us through the highest of highs and the lowest of lows and ultimately transforming civilians into junior leaders of character and competence of Óglaigh na hÉireann. This road is embodied in our motto; ‘An Ród so Romham’ – ‘this road before me’.



The 101st Cadet Class are grateful to and were supported throughout our eighteen-month long Cadetship by the members of staff of the Cadet School both past and present, our Seniors, the 100th Cadet Class and of course our families and friends who we could not have completed this journey without.

Over the length of our time here, we have learned and been tested on many technical skills such as weapons handling, navigation, fieldcraft, tactics and much more. Together we overcame some of the most physically and mentally challenging tasks; from a 20km tab across the peaks of Wicklow, to crawling every bank in the Glen of Imaal, to surviving the storms of the Dig-In and OOTW, to long nights of no sleep in ISTAR, from marching 32km side by side from Coolmooney to the Curragh, to foot and arms drill, to many, many hours of UIE. Together we found resilience, fortitude and camaraderie through all of this. The 101st developed as a team, as the tough times in barracks and on the ground only served to bond us closer together. Comedy was found throughout the adversity as we always found a way to smile through it all.

We improved our teamwork skills, learned from our mistakes, adapted under pressure, cultivated our confidence to lead and communicate effectively, and to perform in challenging situations. Our Cadetship, although now coming to an end, is only just the beginning of our careers. The road ahead is one that we all now must walk ourselves. As we go our separate ways to our different units across the country, we will always take with us that we were members of the 101st Cadet Class, and this we can be proud of.

Commissioning Ceremony of the 101st Cadet Class

Our Cadetship was one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences that I have personally undertaken. I look forward to seeing where each one of us progresses to in our careers, as I'm sure our paths will cross again at home and overseas.

Thank you.

Cadet Whittaker, Cadet Captain

CADET SCHOOL STAFF

Lucht Foirne Scoil na nDaltaí

School Commandant:	Lt Col Eugene Cooke
	Lt Col Stephen Mac Eoin
Second in Command & Chief Instructor:	Comdt Fiachra Ó Coighligh
Cadet School Sergeant Major:	RSM Stephen O'Neill
Cadet School Student Counsellor:	Comdt Andria Fitzpatrick
Cadet School Quartermaster Sergeant:	CQMS James Lawton
Chaplin to the Cadet School:	Fr PJ Somers
Class Officer 101st Cadet Class:	Comdt Lisa McMahon
Second in Command 101st Cadet Class:	Capt Thomas Murphy
Company Sergeant 101st Cadet Class:	CS Will Lawler
Platoon Comd No 1 Pl 101st Cadet Class:	Capt Clare Murphy
Platoon Comd No 2 Pl 101st Cadet Class:	Lt Peter Keanan
Platoon Sergeant No 1 Pl 101st Cadet Class:	Sgt Craig O'Halloran
Platoon Sergeant No 2 Pl 101st Cadet Class:	Sgt Damian Hall

STUDENTS OF THE 101ST CADET CLASS

Daltaí an 101ú Rang Daltaí



Lieutenant George Baldry

Cadet Baldry is from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary and is 30 years old. He is the son of Marc Baldry and Angela Toohey. Before being awarded his Cadetship he worked as a secondary school history teacher in the UK. His interests include chess, Warhammer, gym and reading. The highlight of his Cadetship was taking part in the Guard of Honour for the Presidential Credentials in the Áras.



2/Lieutenant Conor Byrne

Cadet Byrne is from Mountmellick Co. Laois and is 21 years old. He is the son of Marc Byrne and Susan Byrne. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was working in construction on-site for multiple projects. His interests include playing hurling, football and golf whenever he can. The highlight of his Cadetship was the breakfast roll after exercise OOTW.



2/Lieutenant Liam Campbell

Cadet Campbell is from Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin and is 22 years old. He is the son of Sharon Campbell. Before being awarded his Cadetship he worked as a landscaper. His interests include the gym and hiking. The highlight of his Cadetship was getting on to the ROPS at the end of the Dig-In exercise.



2/Lieutenant Daniel Callaghan

Cadet Callaghan is from Greystones, Co. Wicklow and is 20 years old. He is the son of Emer Callaghan and Paul Callaghan. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was completing his second level education. His interests include the gym, sports and the outdoors. The highlight of his Cadetship was completing OOTW (Operations Other Than War).



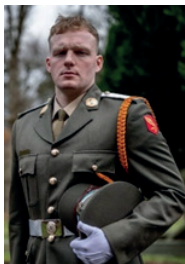
2/Lieutenant Eoin Cleary

Cadet Cleary is from Redcross, Co. Wicklow and is 20 years old. He is the son of John Cleary and Maura Fullam. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was completing his second level education at Colaiste Chill Mhantain. His interests include running, swimming, bouldering and jiu jitsu. The highlight of his Cadetship was completing the final ground exercise, exercise OOTW (Operations Other Than War) and the pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Kurt Condron

Cadet Condron is from Co. Carlow and is 23 years old. He is the son of Fiona Condron and Ken Condron. Before being awarded his Cadetship he served as a 3 star Private in the 3rd Battalion and served overseas in the 123rd Battalion. His interests include boxing, golf and scuba diving. The highlight of his Cadetship was getting to scuba dive during Adventure week.



2/Lieutenant Ciarán-John Corcoran

Cadet Corcoran is from Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon and is 23 years old. He is the son of June Carton and John Corcoran. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was studying at the University of Missouri on a sports scholarship. His interests include rugby. The highlight of his Cadetship was carrying the national flag during the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Pierce Cummins

Cadet Cummins is from Shanagerry, Co. Cork and is 23 years old. He is the son of Tim Cummins and Nuala Cummins. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was working as a postman. His interests include studying modern day infantry tactics. The highlight of his Cadetship was running the Mil Col Marathon with Cadet Ryan.



Lieutenant Caoilte Curneen

Cadet Curneen is from Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry and is 26 years old. He is the son of Philip Curneen and Kay Curneen. Before being awarded his Cadetship he worked as a business branch assistant manager. His interests include the gym, rugby and camping. The highlight of his Cadetship was getting to take part in the military pilgrimage in Lourdes and interacting with other militaries around the world.



2/Lieutenant Fionn Cusack

Cadet Cusack is from Valentia Island and is 20 years old. He is the son of Áine Cusack and Cathal Cusack. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was completing his second level education at Colaiste na Sceilge. His interests include playing football and darts and playing his guitar in his free time. The highlight of his Cadetship was the camaraderie with his section during Exercise MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain).



2/Lieutenant Thomas Daly

Cadet Daly is from Ballyshannon Co. Donegal and is 24 years old. He is the son of Frances Daly and Manus Daly. Before being awarded his Cadetship he worked as a bartender and on the farm. His interests include boxing, reading and current events. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Tom Daly

Cadet Daly is from Athlone, Co. Westmeath and is 20 years old. He is the son of Nigel Daly and Emma Daly. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was completing his second level education at Marist College. His interests include Gaelic football. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Daniel Doyle

Cadet Doyle is from Gorey, Co. Wexford and is 21 years old. He is the son of Sean Doyle and Katherina Doyle. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was studying a Construction and Management Degree at the University of Limerick. His interests include the gym, rugby and hurling. The highlight of his Cadetship was completing Scratch during Section Field.



Lieutenant Oran Foley

Cadet Foley is from Wexford, Co. Wexford and is 26 years old. He is the son of Mark Foley and Caroline Foley. Before being awarded his Cadetship he studied Economics and Politics at Trinity College Dublin. His interests include taekwondo and chess. The highlight of his Cadetship was finishing the march back from the Glen of Imaal.



Lieutenant Alex Gallagher

Cadet Gallagher is from Glenavy, Co. Antrim and is 28 years old. He is the son of Hugh Gallagher and Mary Gallagher. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was working in the field of Geophysics. His interests include GAA. The highlight of his Cadetship was taking part in the ISTAR (Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) Block.



Lieutenant Simon Gallagher

Cadet Gallagher is from Glenavy, Co. Antrim and is 27 years old. He is the son of Hugh Gallagher and Mary Gallagher. Before being awarded his Cadetship he spent a year working in Boston, Massachusetts. His interests include poetry. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Craig Griffin

Cadet Griffin is from Loughrea, Co. Galway and is 22 years old. He is the son of Paul Griffin and Anita Griffin. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was studying Mechanical Engineering at Atlantic Technological University. His interests include weightlifting, fitness and clay shooting. The highlight of his Cadetship was marching back into the Curragh Camp, behind the bagpipes as we approached the Cadet school, completing the March Back.



2/Lieutenant Fionn Heslin

Cadet Heslin is from Maganey, Co. Kildare and is 21 years old. He is the son of Terence Heslin and Averil Heslin. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was undertaking a PLC. His interests include sports. The highlight of his Cadetship was the completion of OOTW (Operations Other Than War).



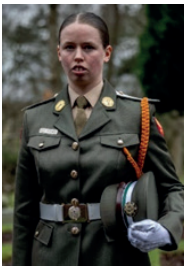
2/Lieutenant Padraig Holohan

Cadet Holohan is from Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny and is 25 years old. He is the son of Liam Holohan and Paula Holohan. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was a Private in the 3rd Infantry Battalion and served overseas in the EUBG (European Union Battle Group). His interests include going to the gym. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Thomas Jackson

Cadet Jackson is from Dundalk, Co. Louth and is 25 years old. He is the son of Mary Brennan and Frank Brennan. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was serving as a 3 star Private in the 27th Battalion and was overseas with the 124th Battalion. His interests include running, weightlifting, and palaeontology. The highlight of his Cadetship was the first cup of tea after completing OOTW (Operations Other Than War).



2/Lieutenant Isobel Kellegher

Cadet Kellegher is from Liscarroll, Co. Cork and is 20 years old. She is the daughter of Oonagh Kellegher and Colum Kellegher. Before being awarded her Cadetship she was completing her second level education at St Mary's Mallow. Her interests include running and piano. The highlight of her Cadetship was taking part in Adventure week.



2/Lieutenant Shane Lawlor

Cadet Lawlor is from Kilcullen, Co. Kildare and is 20 years old. He is the son of Joseph Lawlor and Suzanne Lawlor. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was completing his second level education at Cross and Passion College. His interests include boxing and music. The highlight of his Cadetship was partaking in the 1916 commemorations outside the GPO on Easter Sunday.



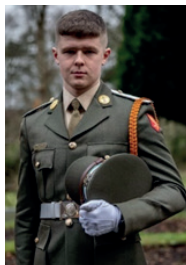
2/Lieutenant Clodagh Lehane

Cadet Lehane is from Mallow, Co. Cork and is 20 years old. She is the daughter of Niall Lehane and Diahann Lehane. Before being awarded her Cadetship she was educated at St Mary's Mallow where she completed her second level education. Her interests include traveling and the Red Cross. The highlight of her Cadetship was the ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) block and the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



Lieutenant Joshua O'Brien

Cadet O'Brien is from Doneraile, Co. Cork and is 25 years old. He is the son of Barry O'Brien and Rosemary O'Brien. Before being awarded his Cadetship he studied Engineering at the University of Limerick. His interests include rugby, fitness and outdoor sports. The highlight of his Cadetship was experiencing the first warm shower after Scratch.



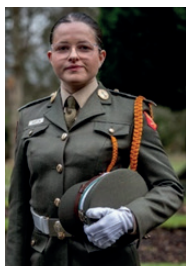
2/Lieutenant Toby MacAdam

Cadet MacAdam is from Ballinacorney, Co. Galway and is 20 years old. He is the son of Mona MacAdam and Rory MacAdam. Before being awarded his Cadetship he completed his second level education at Gort CS. His interests include playing hurling, golf and the gym. The highlight of his Cadetship was the bridge jump.



2/Lieutenant Padraig Mac Carthaigh

Cadet Mac Carthaigh is from Bullaun, Loughrea Co. Galway and is 21 years old. He is the son of Aodan Mac Carthaigh and Roisin Mac Carthaigh. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was completing his second level education. His interests include playing hurling and video games. The highlight of his Cadetship was Exercise OOTW (Operations Other Than War).



Lieutenant Lauren Martin

Cadet Martin from Ballyhooly, Co. Cork and is 23 years old. She is the daughter of Tiernan Martin and Gretta Martin. Before being awarded her Cadetship she studied English Literature at the University College Cork. Her interests include boxing, gym, tennis, reading and writing. The highlight of her Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Kieran Malone

Cadet Malone is from Co. Clare and is 30 years old. He is the son of Martin Malone and Siobhan Malone. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was working as an Airport Police Fire Officer in Shannon Airport, and he was studying a BSc in Strength and Conditioning in Setanta College. His interests include GAA, athletics and mountaineering. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes and taking part in the 1916 Memorial Ceremony outside the GPO.



Lieutenant Elina Mats

Cadet Mats is from Longford Town, Co. Longford and is 31 years old. She is the daughter of Irina Mats and Juri Mats. Before being awarded her Cadetship she completed her degree in Russian & Spanish in Trinity College Dublin, and went on to work in management consulting and the financial services sector, most recently at PTSB. Her interests include rock climbing, foreign languages, travel, cycling, and running. The highlight of her Cadetship was Scratch and the bridge jump.



2/Lieutenant Claire McCormack

Cadet McCormack is from Moate, Co. Westmeath and is 20 years old. She is the daughter of Cora McCormack and Thomas McCormack. Before being awarded her Cadetship she was completing her second level education at Moate Community School. Her interests include Gaelic football, learning new languages and literature. The highlight of her Cadetship was getting to experience Adventure week in Donegal.



2/Lieutenant Josh McDonnell

Cadet McDonnell is from Newbridge, Co. Kildare and is 21 years old. He is the son of Laura McDonnell and Chris Devereux. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was enlisted as a 3-star trooper in the First Armoured Cavalry Squadron. His interests include hunting, martial arts and general fitness. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class trip to Kilmainham Gaol.



Lieutenant Michael McNamara

Cadet McNamara is from Claremorris, Co. Mayo and is 25 years old. He is the son of Michael McNamara and Pauline McNamara. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was studying PE and Maths at the University of Limerick. His interests include Gaelic football and swimming. The highlight of his Cadetship was taking part in the 1916 Memorial outside the GPO.



2/Lieutenant Kevin McNeill

Cadet McNeill is from Maynooth, Co. Kildare and is 22 years old. He is the son of Ann McNeill and Enda McNeill. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was studying at Maynooth University. His interests include anything and everything GAA related. The highlight of his Cadetship was taking part in Adventure week.



Lieutenant Sam McQuaid

Cadet McQuaid is from Wexford Town, Co. Wexford and is 24 years old. He is the son of Collette Blake and James McQuaid. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was educated at the University College Cork where he studied Law. His interests include travelling and running. The highlight of his Cadetship was Scratch.



2/Lieutenant Éamon Moran

Cadet Moran is from Crossabeg, Co. Wexford and is 21 years old. He is the son of Gerry Moran and Deirdre O'Grady. Before being awarded his Cadetship he served as a 3-star private in the 3rd Battalion. His interests include playing hurling. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



Lieutenant Timon Nieuwstadt

Cadet Nieuwstadt is from South Africa and is 27 years old. He is the son of Andre Nieuwstadt and Maria Nieuwstadt. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was working in the field of Engineering. His interests include running and swimming. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Luke Phelan

Cadet Phelan is from Gowran, Co. Kilkenny and is 20 years old. He is the son of Michael Phelan and Olive Phelan. Before being awarded his Cadetship he had started his degree in Engineering. His interests include fitness and playing the guitar. The highlight of his Cadetship was finishing Exercise Long-Reach.



Lieutenant Aaron Poynton

Cadet Poynton is from Balrothery, Co. Dublin and is 37 years old. He is the son of Thomas Poynton and Eileen Poynton. Before being awarded his Cadetship he completed a MA in Geopolitics & Grand Strategy and worked in strategic emergency planning for the Department of Defence, he was also active in 7th Battalion RDF. His interests include cycling, running, photography and hiking. The highlight of his Cadetship was Military Operations Urban Terrain in Dublin Port.



2/Lieutenant Gearoid Reynolds

Cadet Reynolds is from Tuam Co. Galway and is 20 years old. He is the son of Gerry Reynolds and Siobhan Reynolds. Before being awarded his Cadetship he had started a psychology degree at the University of Limerick. His interests include ultra-running. The highlight of his Cadetship was Exercise Long-Reach.



Lieutenant Matthew Russell

Cadet Russell is from Kilkenny City, Co. Kilkenny and is 25 years old. He is the son of Eddie and Aine Russell. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was studying Business at the University of Limerick. His interests include hurling and golf. The highlight of his Cadetship was Adventure week.



Lieutenant Donal Ryan

Cadet Ryan is from Rochestown, Co. Cork and is 24 years old. He is the son of Edward Ryan and Roisin Ryan. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was educated at the University College Cork where he graduated with a degree in commerce. His interests include the gym and MMA. The highlight of his Cadetship was running the Mil Col Marathon with Cadet Cummins.



2/Lieutenant Andrew Sheffield

Cadet Sheffield is from Kiltoom, Co. Roscommon and is 20 years old. He is the son of George Sheffield and Niamh Sheffield. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was working as a waiter at his local hotel and playing football. His interests include playing football and basketball. The highlight of his Cadetship was learning how to kayak during Adventure week.



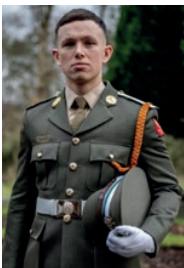
Lieutenant Andrew Slevin

Cadet Slevin is from Co. Meath and is 27 years old. He is the son of Damien Slevin and Michelle Slevin. Before being awarded his Cadetship he worked as a sports therapist. His interests include camping and shooting. The highlight of his Cadetship was being a rioter in CRC (Crowd Riot Control) training.



2/Lieutenant Séán Stynes

Cadet Stynes is from Suncroft Curragh, Co. Kildare and is 21 years old. He is the son of Michael Stynes and Sebrina Stynes. Before being awarded his Cadetship he had completed his second level education at Newbridge College. His interests include running and football. The highlight of his Cadetship was getting to sleep on the transit after exercise Long Reach.



Lieutenant Matthew Sweeney

Cadet Sweeney is from Ardara, Co. Donegal and is 25 years old. He is the son of Sheila Wray and Stephen Sweeney. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was educated at the University of Galway where he studied Economics, Politics and Law. His interests include playing football. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



2/Lieutenant Lara Tankosić Kelly

Cadet Tankosić Kelly is from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and is 20 years old. She is the daughter of Tanja Tankosić and Garret Kelly. Before being awarded her Cadetship she was educated at Sarajevo Druga Gimnazija. Her interests include weightlifting, movies and sea swimming. The highlight of her Cadetship was adventure week and Exercise MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain).



Lieutenant Luke Thompson

Cadet Thompson is from Waterford City, Co. Waterford and is 24 years old. He is the son of Grace Hamilton and Simon Thompson. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was educated at the University College Dublin where he studied Law with Politics. His interests include running and cycling. The highlight of his Cadetship was Exercise OOTW.



2/Lieutenant Sam Turner

Cadet Turner is from Taghmon, Co. Wexford and is 20 years old. He is the son of Frank Turner and Niamh Bierney. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was completing his second level education at St Peter's College. His interests include rugby. The highlight of his Cadetship was the class pilgrimage to Lourdes.



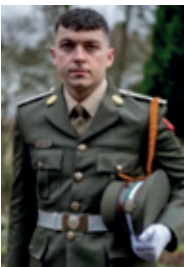
2/Lieutenant Leigh Walsh

Cadet Walsh is from Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath and is 30 years old. He is the son of Lorna Walsh and Walter Walsh. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was living and working in Aberdeen, Scotland. His interests include kickboxing, martial arts and gaming. The highlight of his Cadetship was completing Phase 3.



Lieutenant Oisín Ward O'Brien

Cadet Ward O'Brien is from Laytown, Co. Meath and is 25 years old. He is the son of Grainne Ward and Camillus O'Brien. Before being awarded his Cadetship he worked as a civil servant. His interests include reading and music. The highlight of his Cadetship was being a part of the first section to finish Exercise Long Reach.



2/Lieutenant Aidan Wells

Cadet Wells is from Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary and is 21 years old. He is the son of Liam Wells and Margeret Wells. Before being awarded his Cadetship he worked at his local Credit Union as a Member Service Representative. His interests include soccer, hurling and football. The highlight of his Cadetship was the completion of Exercise Long Reach.



2/Lieutenant Cian Whittaker

Cadet Whittaker is from Oughterard, Co. Galway and is 24 years old. He is the son of Johnny Whittaker and Catherine Faherty. Before being awarded his Cadetship he was three years into a degree in History and Politics in the University of Galway. And had just returned home from living in the Netherlands for a year. His interests include rugby, running, the gym and traveling. The highlight of his Cadetship was carrying the national flag through the streets of Lourdes.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Focal Buíochais

After eighteen months of physical and mental hardship, laughs and late nights, it's important to appreciate all of those who have helped us come this far. From fixing buttons on the way out the door to an inspection, sharing snacks on the ground, or even offering a sweet and a sympathetic ear when someone is struggling, we continuously worked for each other as a team. However, it's not just each other that we have relied on to get this far, it is also our friends and families and the sacrifices that they too have had to make along the way.

It is our close circle that supported us throughout this journey by adapting to our unusual and very often inconvenient timings, our absence, and listening to stories involving terms and acronyms that they may, but often did not understand. Life in the Cadet School can seem very different and unfamiliar, so sometimes, just hearing a familiar voice on the other end of the phone can give us the reassurance that we need.

As a class, we don't want to overlook all those who have been there for since we first arrived at the Curragh. It is through our loved ones coming together to support us and what we do that has made this period of training a lighter load, and for some, what has made it pass by quicker than expected.

Now, as we approach Commissioning, the 101st Cadet Class are more grateful than ever to have our loved ones to celebrate this achievement with us. If the Cadetship has taught us anything, it is to appreciate the people around you, the ones who encourage you, who are honest with you, even when you don't want them to be. We have learned to appreciate those who will always stand by our side.

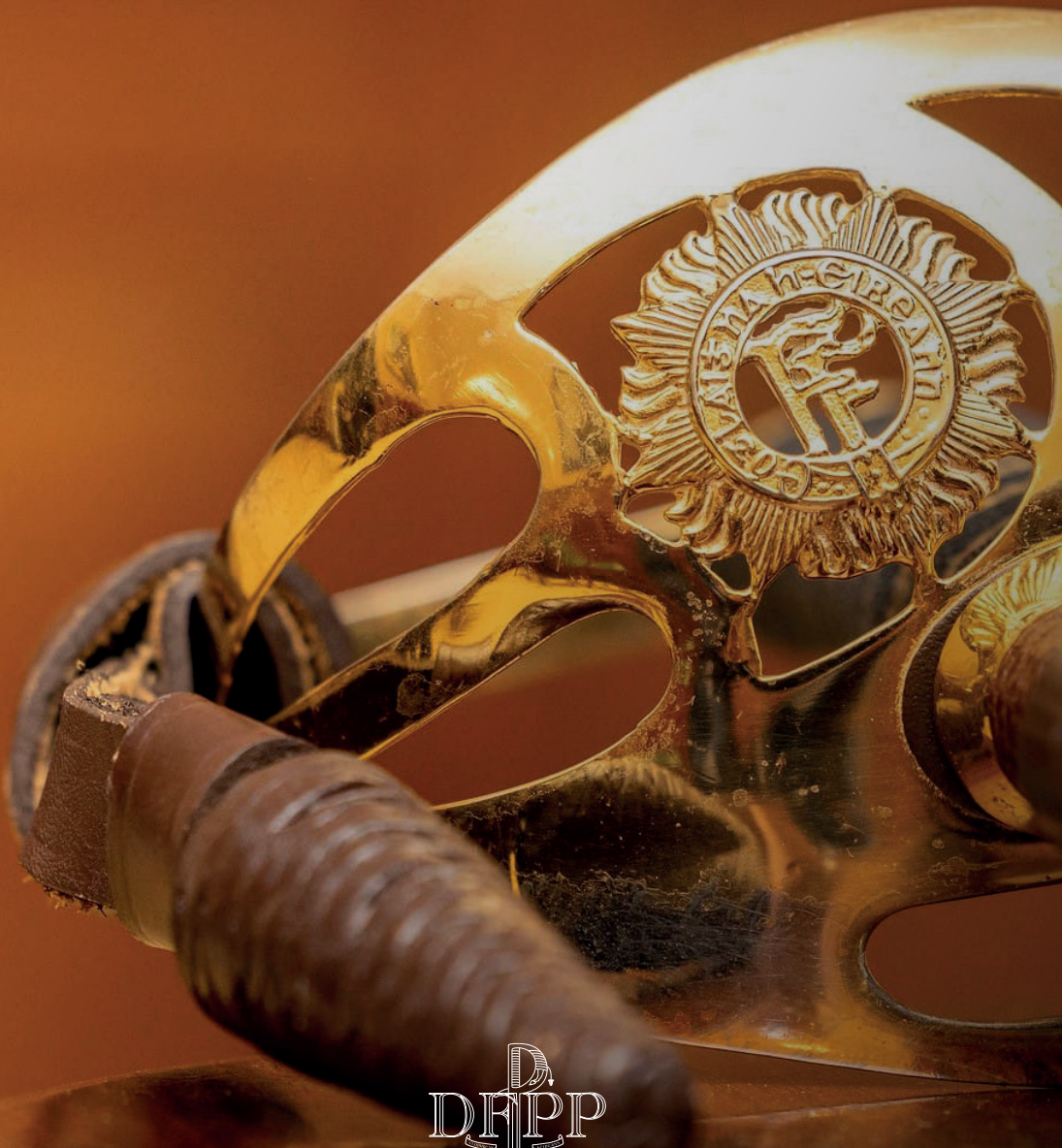
And so, to all the parents, guardians, grandparents, siblings, partners and friends who have shared the weight of the bad days, and made the good days all the better, thank you. We may not say it enough, but we are deeply grateful to each and every one of you.

The 101st Cadet Class.



“Óglaigh na hÉireann has been the people, is the people and will be the people. Our green uniform does not make us less people. It is a cloak of our service, a curtailer of our weaknesses, an amplifier of our strengths.”

Lieutenant General Richard Mulcahy



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