



**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

Searmanas Coimisiúnaithe an 64ú Rang Daltaí

Bunáit Chablaigh, Inis Sionnach An

tAire Cosanta

An tUasal Helen McEntee T.D.

Déardaoin, an 25ú lá Meitheamh 2026

Commissioning Ceremony Of the 64th Cadet Class

Naval Base, Haulbowline

Presentation of Commissions by

Minster for Defence

Ms. Helen McEntee T.D.

Thursday, 25th June 2026

COIMISIÚNÚ

Tá an tSeribhís Chablaigh, atá Lonnaithe ar Inis Sionnach i gCuan Chorcaí, ina bhall de Fórsaí Chosanta na hÉireann. Tá na Daltaí tar éis dhá bhliain a chaitheamh faoi stiúir oifigigh ón Choláiste Chablaigh agus séard atá sa searmanas inniú ná bronnadh na gcomisiúin agus comóradh go bhfuil an staid seo bainte amach acu ar an ród seo rompu.



The Naval Service, which is based on Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour, is the maritime component of the Irish Defence Forces. The Cadets have spent the last two years under the guidance of the Officer Training School staff. This ceremony is the award of their commissions and is a declaration that they have achieved the required standard to become officers in the Irish Naval Service.

FÁILTE



On behalf of the Naval Service, I wish to extend a warm welcome to the Minister for Defence, Helen McEntee TD, on the occasion of the Naval Service Commissioning Ceremony. I wish to extend a sincere welcome to the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Rossa Mulcahy, and to all other military and civic dignitaries present on our Naval Base, Haulbowline today.

This year marks the eightieth anniversary of the creation of our Naval Service. In the immediate aftermath of World War II, the Marine Service became part of the Defence Forces and changed its name to what it remains today - An tSeirbhís Chabhlaigh or Naval Service. Today signifies the 64th class of Naval Cadets to be commissioned as Officers in service to the State.

I would like to congratulate the members of the 64th Naval Cadet Class on your Commissioning Day and to welcome you as the newest leaders in our Service. While today marks the final day of your formal Cadetship training, your journey does not stop here. Leadership requires lifelong learning and to practice it requires skill, reflection and imagination. The foundations you have set will be built upon at sea in the years ahead.

I wish to thank the staff of the Naval College, in particular the Officer Training School, whose efforts do not go unnoticed and who do such fine work in turning out high calibre individuals. Finally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the family and friends of the 64th Naval Cadet Class. As members of our wider naval family, your continued support and kinship is integral to the success of our Naval Service. Enjoy your day!

Darragh Kirwan

Commodore

Flag Officer Commanding Naval Service

THE NAVAL COLLEGE STAFF FOR THE 64TH CADET CLASS WERE:

Officer Commanding & Commandant Naval College:	CDR Roberta O'Brien
OIC Officer Training School:	LT CDR Thomas Mullaney
Class Officer:	LT(NS) Patrick Kearns
NCO I/C Cadet Training:	CPO Andrew Hickey
Class NCO:	PO Dylan Mahony

THE 64TH CADET CLASS:

On the 30th of September 2024, the 64th Cadet Class were inducted into the Irish Naval Service and began their training in the Officer Training School. In the first two weeks, the 64th Cadet Class were introduced to the Naval Service by learning basic foot drill, completing Personal Survival Techniques and with tours of the Naval Base and ships before moving to the Cadet School at the Military College in the Curragh Camp, Kildare.

Here, the Cadets were given basic military training, focusing on foot and arms drill, marksmanship, military discipline, fitness and land navigation. In December 2024, the 64th Cadet Class moved back to Haulbowline to begin Phase 2 of their Training.

Phase 2 of training commenced in January 2025 with a busy schedule ahead. This 'Marinisation' phase ran from January to May, with the Cadets studying navigation while also completing a range of courses such as:

- Engineering
- Communications
- Fisheries
- Gunnery
- Strategic Studies

Phase 2 concluded with exams in General Navigation, Chartwork, Rules of the Road, Leadership, Communications and Engineering.

THE 64TH CADET CLASS:

The 64th Cadet Class got the opportunity to travel to Palermo, Sicily, to partake in the Forum for Peace, Security and Prosperity, where the 64th Cadet Class engaged with other students from military schools around the world, discussing the wide range of issues facing militaries across the Globe. The 64th Cadet Class also went to Lourdes to partake in the Annual International Military Pilgrimage, as is the tradition for all Cadet Classes. The 64th Cadet Class were involved in multiple diplomatic ship visits including visits onboard French and Peruvian vessels.

The 64th Cadet Class joined LÉ William Butler Yeats to commence phase 3 of their training. On board LÉ William Butler Yeats, the 64th Cadet Class started to learn about life at sea. They understudied all the roles, including Seamanship, Gunnery,

Communications & Engineering. At sea the Cadets were involved in a maritime interdiction operation which resulted in a large drug seizure off the coast of Cork, the cadets were also involved in numerous fisheries inspections acting as assistant boarding officers.

Phase 4 commenced in September 2025 with the 64th Cadet Class studying in both the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) in Ringaskiddy and Munster Technological University (MTU) in Bishopstown. Studying alongside civilian students, the Cadets learned various maritime and engineering subjects such as astro-navigation, seamanship, maths, science and stability. Even though the Cadets were studying in NMCI/MTU their duties as Naval Cadets were not forgotten.

Daily, the cadets practised their pilotage skills with their Class Officer, LT (NS) Patrick Kearns, in the simulators, aiming to become competent enough to navigate a ship for the first time.

After 21 months of training, the 64th Cadet Class will take the next step in their careers.

THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY:

The Commissioning Ceremony is the formal presentation to the Cadet Class of their Commissions upon completion of their training as Cadets. It marks their graduation to the officer body of the Naval Service.

The Commission is the direction from the President, as the Commander in Chief of the Defence Forces, to exercise and train in arms and maintain in good order and discipline the men and women serving under them. The Commissioning scroll presented by the Minister, appointing each new officer, is signed by An tUachtarán on behalf of the state, and also by An Taoiseach and the Minister for Defence on behalf of the Government.

TIMELINE & OUTLINE OF CEREMONY:

1050 - Chief of Staff arrives at the Naval Base

1100 - Minister for Defence arrives at the Naval Base

1130 - All Guests to be seated

1135 - Guard of Honour Falls in

1150 - Minister for Defence arrives and inspects Guard of Honour

1205 - Commissioning Ceremony Commences

The Commissioning Ceremony begins with the marching on Parade of the National Colours. The Colour party takes up its position facing the Cadets to be commissioned. The Officer administering the Oath calls each Cadet by name. The Cadets will then march forward to the Colours where the Oath is administered. The Cadets are invested with their rank markings and receive their swords.

Individually, each cadet will march forward to the Minister for Defence, and be presented with their commission as an officer in the Naval Service.

The newly commissioned officers now hand their commission to the Master at Arms, the highest ranking Non-commissioned officer of the Service, from whom they in return receive their first salute as an officer.

A representative of the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) will then present the Perpetual Trophy to the Best Overall Cadet. On completion of the presentation, the National Colours are marched off parade.

The Minister for Defence will then address the parade. The National Anthem will then be played, after which the Minister for Defence will leave the Parade ground.

The Parade Commander will dismiss the parade and the ceremony will be complete.

You will be asked to stand where it is appropriate, i.e. at the arrival of the Minister for Defence, marching on/off of the National Colours and the playing of the National Anthem.

CADET PROFILES:



AIDEN DEAN WEBER-HOBBS

Aiden was born in Germany and moved to Cork in 2000 at a very young age, where he was raised as the middle child of three. He attended University College Cork, graduating with a BA in Greek and Roman Civilisations and History, before completing a Higher Diploma in Geography, reflecting his strong interest in history. Growing up, Aiden had a keen interest in sport, particularly soccer, which he played from a young age. Seeking a dynamic and fulfilling career, Aiden was drawn to the Naval Service. He particularly enjoyed the sea time during his cadetship, with a highlight being the patrol aboard LÉ William Butler Yeats (P63).



MICHEÁL-DESMOND NUGENT

Micheál-Desmond is the youngest of four in his family, born in Dublin and raised in Mullagh Co. Cavan by parents Wendy and Kieron he completed his leaving cert in Virginia college. Having an interest in the military his whole life he applied for the cadetship whilst in 6th year. Micheál-Desmond really enjoyed his time at sea aboard LÉ William Butler Yeats (P63) developing his navigational skills which solidified his choice of joining the Navy. He now hopes to make the most of his new career.



JACK ELWOOD

Jack Elwood the eldest son of Barbra McDonagh brother to Emily Elwood, is from Rochestown, Cork previously Shantalla, Galway. He attended St.Anthonys Boys National School and St.Francis College Rochestown. Before joining the Defence Forces he worked as a retail worker and barman. He has had great success in the underage of rugby winning multiple cups with the Munster region then went on to become part of the Cork East development squad for rugby. His favourite part of the cadetship was his time at sea on the L.E. William Butler Yeats (P63) working with the machinery onboard.



CORMAC EASON

The eldest of three to parents Aoife & Derek, Cormac grew up in Malahide, Co. Dublin, along with his siblings Eoin and Tara. Cormac joined the Naval Service straight out of school after he completed his Leaving Cert in Malahide Community School. From a young age, Cormac spent time on the water kayaking, sailing and rowing. He developed a love for the sea, and also enjoys hurling, GAA and Rugby as well as the outdoors, where he spends time hiking and camping. Cormac was drawn to a career in the Naval Service because he wanted to make his love of the water his full-time career. Cormac's Favourite part of the cadetship was sail training and his patrol on LÉ William Butler Yeats (P63).



ANDREW THORNTON

Andrew is the eldest in his family, born and raised in Donabate, Co Dublin by his parents Eugenie and Brian. Andrew graduated from the Technological University Of Dublin with a degree in Aviation Technology in 2022 and a degree in Transport Operation and Technology in 2023. Subsequently working as a Graduate Aircraft Design Engineer. Having previously served as an Able Seaman in the Naval Service Reserve. Andrew has been an avid sailor from a young age and built his love for the sea. Andrew's favourite part of the cadetship was the extensive time he spent at sea on board the L.E. William Butler Yeats (P63) where he got the opportunity to sail to France .



JOSEPH PORTER

Joseph is the youngest in his family, born and raised in Derry to his parents Siobhan and Jim. He attended St. Columb's College then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Liverpool John Moores University. Joseph has been a keen scuba diver for many years and this passion for the sea spurred him on to join the Naval Service. The highlight of his cadetship was serving aboard LÉ William Butler Yeats (P63) and attending the International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity in Palermo, Sicily.



LUKE BYRNE

Luke is the middle of 3 siblings in his family: Emelia and Ruth. He grew up in Wexford and went to school in Bunclody. He was raised by his parents, Luke and Carmel. Luke's father and sister are both serving in the air corps. Both have made multiple Peacekeeping Missions, a path Luke hopes to follow during his time in The Naval Service. His grandfather, Johnny Hardy, also served, with trips to the Congo and Cyprus. Luke enjoys playing rugby and hurling. He joined the Naval Service because of a keen interest in engineering. Luke's favourite part of the cadetship was the Curragh phase.



JAMES MALONE

James is the eldest of two in his family, was raised in Co. Wexford by his Parents Ellen and Emmett with his sister Kitty. James always had an interest in the sea being involved in water sports particularly rowing from a young age. James joined the Naval Service straight after secondary school as an engineering cadet and has an avid interest in engineering. James's favourite part of the cadetship was the two weeks spent sail training onboard a tall ship. His other interests are running, fishing and swimming.



CILLIAN DUNBAR

Cillian is the second youngest of four children, born and raised in Co. Wexford by parents Paddy and Linda. After working on construction sites, Cillian joined the Naval Service in March 2024 as a recruit in the 1st platoon of the J.I.T.C and served as an O/Seaman for a brief spell. Cillian then applied for a Naval Service Cadetship with a view to furthering his career and education within the service. Cillian has a keen interest in running, basketball and GAA. Cillian's favourite part of the Cadetship was the trip to Palermo for the International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity.

FORM OF OATH:

I, do solemnly swear (or declare), that I will be faithful to Ireland and loyal to the constitution and while I am an Officer of 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.



FOIRM AN MHIONNA:

Mionnaímse (nó dearbhaímse), go solamánta go mbead dilis d'Eirinn, agus tairiseach don Bhunreacht agus, faid a bhead im oifigeah 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 dtaobhdóid leis an gcéanna.

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