



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

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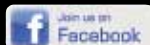
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EDITORIAL

Hello again, I'm sure you will have noticed how more and more pages have changed within the magazine, as we continue our makeover. Our Review and Noticeboard pages have been completely revamped, we now have another competition and a Suduko, we hope you like what you see. Well we didn't just stop there; JM Publishing has also rejuvenated our dfmagazine.ie website, with a few new pages too. Getting back to this month we have, On Parade features our reader's photos, the 46th Rec Pln, 27th Inf Bn and the first Cavalry Corps Recce Competition. In our *Strategic Review*, Commodore Mark Mellett DSM (FOCNS) talks to Wesley Burke about the future of Sea Power. In our *Def-Tec* centrespread we have a feature on the recent Naval Service Exercise 'Quixotic' with photo montage. Our *History* section has the second part of the Glen of Imaal by Gnr Terrence O'Reilly. In *Sport* we have a roundup of the latest events, our *Gadget* page is again sponsored by the Great Outdoors with a €100 voucher offered as a prize to their monthly competition. We also have the first in a series of features on the Reserve Defence Forces, so another stuffed issue with. Finishing off with our other regulars - *Tac Aide*, and *What I Do*.

The online version of the magazine is available on www.dfmagazine.ie, it is free to current subscribers by logging in with their email address and their subscriber number, please email subs@military.ie to register your email and to receive your subscriber number. New subscribers may also register on this site to avail of our printed version or the online version of the magazine at very competitive prices.

Connect Newsletter: Spot the Difference Winner for April 2011 is Michael Crabbe, Dublin 24. Congratulations Michael, an €80 voucher kindly sponsored by Debenhams is on the way to you. Apologies for the late notification.

Please support the CMC Sponsored Charity Competition on the inside front cover, by emailing CMC with your name, address, contact number and most importantly your Service, whether you are PDF or RDF, get involved! It is based on spread betting so training and advice is offered by CMC. You never know, you could be presenting a cheque for €1,000 to your favourite charity this Christmas.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald
Editor



Writing articles and letters

Ideally we would like articles and letters submitted in by email or disc (CD/DVD). Hard-copy articles are also accepted.

As a general rule, we look for 2-3 page articles with 600 to 700 words per A4 page. Larger articles are considered, though they may be spread over two issues or submitted to the 'Defence Forces Review' publication with the author's approval.

All material submitted should have a military related topic or be interesting to our readers.

Sending in a photograph

When sending photographs in, especially by email, please consider the following:

- Save as jpeg format
- File size: No less than 1.5Mb and no bigger

than 3Mb (as jpegs)

- Resolution: 300 DPI
 - Dimension: 150x100mm (6x4in) minimum
- Naturally, if you are sending in a number of digital photographs, burn them to disc and post in! Clearly mark envelope 'CD with Photographs'. Also submit a short note with details like:

- Who took the photograph
- What was the occasion
- Where did it happen
- Who is in the photograph (left to right, back to front, rank, first and surnames)

If sending in photographic prints, avoid writing on the back of them.

If you can't do this, please send them in as big (size) as you can, unchanged or unedited.

ON PARADE



IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR ▲

During a recent visit to an RDF Camp in Fort Berehaven, Bere Island, Lt Col Brendan Crowley (EO 1 S Bde AR) and BSM Leslie Doyle (HQ 1 S Bde), were 72 new recruits passed out, three of these were his nephews Adrian, Eoghan and Brian Doyle of Spt Coy, 34th Inf Bn. They join a long line of relatives in the RDF. *Photo courtesy of BSM Leslie Doyle (HQ 1 S BDE)*



VISITORS WELCOME ▲

Pictured at a recent fact finding mission to UNTSI were (l/r) Capt Conor Galvin (RDF, Instructor UNTSI), Col Michael Meehan (A/CMC), Brig Gen I Gede Sumertha Kusuma Yanca, PSC (Chief of Peacekeeping Centre of Indonesian National Defence Forces), Major Parimeng (staff of Indonesia Defence Attaché in London), Major Arief Widarto (Indonesian National Defence Forces) and Comdt Rory Finegan (A/CI UNTSI). *Photo by Cpl Bernie Byrne (HQ DTFC)*



FOND FAREWELL ▲

At a recent retirement presentation in Gov Blds are (l/r): Cpls Donnelly C, Kerrigan E (MP Det), Dermot McCarthy (Retiring Gen Sec Dept of an Taoiseach), Capt Dailly M (C/O MP Det), Comdt M Tracy (ADC to the Taoiseach), Pte Ronan R (Fire Piquet). *Photograph by Pte Robbie McAney (Fire Piquet)*



IN REMEMBRANCE ▲

Photo shows members of the Sir Roger Casement Br ONet and Col G. O'Sullivan (CAS SP) at the 'La Na bhFiann' ceremony for their National Day of Commemoration at Arbour Hill on Sunday 24 July. *Photo by Michael McDonnell (L.I.P.F. Mullingar)*

WITH THANKS

Members of the 13th Irish Contingent (EUFOR), raised €1,500 by fundraising/donations and donated it to the Children's ward of the Clinical Centre University Hospital in Sarajevo (Kosevo). Pictured (l/r): Lt Col Conrad Johnston, Sgt Seamus Gannon, Mesic Mehmed (DPW Engineer Camp Butmir) Capt John Fitzgerald, RSM Jerry Dineen, with Nurses Besker Kata, Smajlovic Meldijana, Cato Muhira, Beslic Fata, Cpl Darren McDade and Coy Sgt's Andrew Marlow & Thomas Hand. *Photo courtesy of Cpl Darren McDade*



CONGRATULATIONS

Pictured receiving their Masters Degree in Energy Management from the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) are (l/r): Lt Tom O'Connor (62 Res Fd Eng Coy) and Armn Bernard Lynch (Air Corps). *Photo courtesy of Lt Tom O'Connor (RDF)*



What the Papers Say...

FLOOD REACTION WAS 'ADEQUATE' AT BEST; REPORT

An assessment of the recent response by state agencies to severe weather conditions over the past two years has concluded... It also pays tribute to the Defence Forces - who answered 1,363 requests for assistance.

Irish Examiner, August 11, 2011

G.I. JANES WANTED

The Meningitis Research Foundation is looking for fit young women to take part in its fundraising G.I. Jane Challenge in October. The event, which is to be held in Kippure Adventure, west Wicklow, will see teams of up to 10 girls tackle a range of outdoor tasks, including a gruelling assault course. Real Irish Army bosses will be barking orders as the girls tackle 10-foot climbing walls, a zip-wire and other horrors. If you think you've got what it takes, sign up before Sept 5 at www.meningitis.org

Sunday World, August 14, 2011

SIGNING OF CONTRACT FOR €37M COMPLEX

The construction contract is being signed in Monaghan tomorrow for the largest school building project to be undertaken in the Republic in the present economic climate - a €37m campus on the 20-acre site of a former Irish Army base in the town.

Sunday Independent, August 14, 2011

24/7 AIR AMBULANCE

The authorities have finally responded to the public outrage caused by the failed attempt

to fly liver-transplant teenager Maedhbh McGivern to London for an operation - but only after a second error was revealed. A dedicated 24/7 air ambulance service will operate from Dublin Airport, starting today. AeroMedevac, which has a contract to provide services to Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin, will move its medically equipped Cessna aeroplane to Dublin Airport tomorrow morning. The aircraft has previously been based at Weston Airport, outside Dublin, which restricted it to flying only in daylight hours, raising fresh criticism of a system that left the 14-year-old from Leitrim languishing on the transplant list.

Irish Daily Mail, August 18, 2011

KEEPING THE IRISH ARMY FIGHTING FIT

The pay isn't the best and you have to know how to treat everything from battle scars to headaches, but being in the Army Medical Corps is a real vocation

Irish Times, August 16, 2011

CRUMLIN LANDS ITS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BAKU

National Champion Ross Hickey (Grangecon) feels he did enough to challenge European champion Ray Moylette for the light welterweight berth with a 19-12 victory over Sonny Upton (Holy Family, Belfast). A member of the Defence Forces, he could not get time off to go to the European championships and Moylette ended up going and winning the Gold medal.

Irish Examiner, August 15, 2011



SGT MAJOR SIR! ▲

The 104 Inf Bn greet the outgoing and incoming Force Sgt Major at Camp Shamrock. Pictured (l/r): BQMS Declan Flanagan, WO Owuse Dickson (Incoming), WO Ddong-Yure Willam's (outgoing) and RSM Noel O Callaghan.

DEBENHAMS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNER

FAREWELL TO A LEGEND! ▼

Congratulations to this month's Debenhams sponsored photo competition winner of a €100 voucher.

RSM Francie O'Brien (Retired) has spent over 49 years associated with the Defence Forces in both the Military (1962) & the Main Tech Stores (1985) to present.



Francie is the last Congo veteran to have worked in Baldonnel, and holds the record of being the only Air Corps RSM to have held the appointment of Battalion Sergeant Major with UNIFIL 3 times. Photos courtesy of RSM John McCormick (5 Sp Wing)

ON PARADE

WELL DONE!

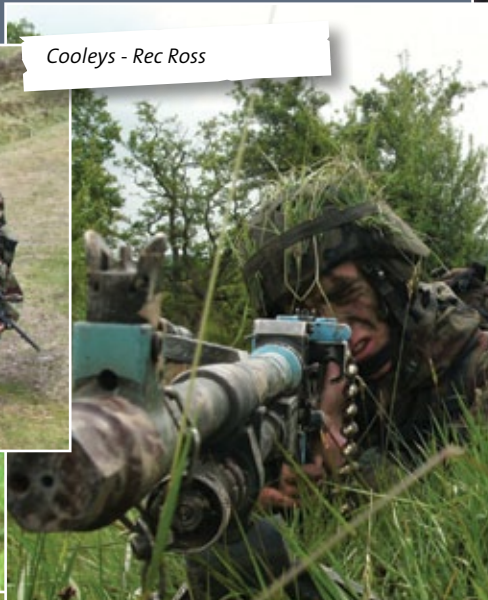
To the 46th Recruit Pln from the 27 Inf Bn, who finished their Recruit training in Dundalk, they started with a 42 potential new recruits on the 14 March and finished with a total of 37, who passed out on the 07 July 2011 as Two Star Ptes.

Photos by Cpl Ciaran McGeough (Sp Coy, 27th Bn)

The Cooleys - Rec Simpson



Cooleys - Rec Ross



The Glen - Rec Kiely



The Cooleys - On the ground



Battle PTs - My feet are wet



The 46th Rec Pln and their Training Staff



The Glen - Rec Fox



RECCE SKILLS PUT TO THE TEST

BY LT JOE TYNAN (CAV SCH)

The first Cavalry Corps Recce Competition was conducted by the Cavalry School between 12-15 July. Designed to exercise participants' skill-sets in a realistic scenario, the competition allowed the teams to maximise their freedom of action and develop their leadership and tactical awareness skills.

On arrival the teams received a mission-scenario briefing and were then allotted time to prepare and issue orders for conducting a CTR (Close Target Recce) on an NAI (Named Area of Interest).

The exercise required each six-man team to insert to its NAI from a DOP (drop-off point) in Glenmalure, gather information, and extract along a different route to friendly lines. Along their extraction route, teams were required to liaise and RV with friendly forces, use target grid procedure to direct fire onto an enemy position, and also exercise their contact drills. Teams were also tested on their medical skills when dealing with a 'casualty', and then had to prepare a patrol debrief to an S2 (Int officer) on return to FLOT (forward line of own troops).

From the Corps' point of view it was pleasing that the participating teams performed to a very high standard and the effort throughout was noted as exemplary. However, in any competition there can be only one winner and the honour of taking the pennant in the inaugural competition fell to 1 Armoured Cavalry Squadron.



1 Armoured Cavalry Squadron with the winner's pennant are: (back row l-r) Tprs Burroughs, Murphy and Allen; (front row l-r) Lt Branagan (Det i/c), Lt Keane (Det 2i/c) and Cpl Parker.



In addition to the natural tendency for competition to raise standards there are additional benefits to be gained from the introduction of the Cav Corps Recce Competition. The performance of personnel in the competition will help the Cav School to produce an AAR (After Action Review) on the overall standard of dismounted recce in the Corps, and the lessons that were learned this year will help make next year's competition even better. ■

WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



EUROPE

Violence erupted along the **Serbian Kosovo border**. Kosovo police attempted to seize two border crossings in order to enforce a ban on Serbian imports. Ethnic Serbs responded with gunfire, killing one Kosovo policeman, and set fire to a border checkpoint.

Norway suffered its worst peacetime atrocity. A far right extremist, Anders Behring Breivik, went on a shooting rampage at a political youth camp run by the ruling Labour Party and set off a car bomb in central Oslo. The final death toll was 77.

The **Sellafield plant** is to be shut down. The decision was made by the British Nuclear Authority based on the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

AMERICAS

In **Mexico** the war on drugs continues. Police captured



José Antonio Acosta, aka 'El Diego'. He is the alleged leader of a drug gang in Ciudad Juárez. Police say he confessed to ordering the murder's

of more than 1,500 people.

In **Guatemala** a court sentenced four former soldiers to more than 6,000 years in prison each for their role in a massacre in the 1982 civil war.

President Barack Obama signed an order that will formally end the ban on homosexuals openly serving in the US armed forces on September 20th.

AFRICA

On June 27th the UN Security Council established Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in **Sudan**. The Security Council was deeply concerned by the violence, escalating tensions and population displacement. The operation will monitor the flashpoint border between north and south, and is authorised to use force in protecting civilians and humanitarian workers in Abyei.

After a six year mandate UNMIS (**UN Mission in Sudan**) wound up its operations on the same date as South Sudan's independence. In support of the new nation, the UN Security Council established a successor mission to UNMIS, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) on July 9th, for an initial period of one year.

Famine worsened on the **Horn of Africa**. The UN estimates that more than 12million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are in need of immediate help. Thousands have died and hundreds of thousands more are on the brink of starvation. Since last November the UN has received \$1 billion in emergency relief, it will need \$1 billion more by the end of this year. UN General Secretary, Ban Ki-moon, has appealed for help.

ASIA

Only after a month since the leadership in **Pyongyang** announced a return to talks North and South Korea exchanged artillery fire across their maritime border.

General David Petraeus, commander of NATO and allied forces in **Afghanistan**, stepped down to head up the CIA. The US and allied forces have started scaling down in the country.

The mayor of **Kandahar** was killed by a Taliban insurgent who concealed a bomb in his turban; making it three high ranking officials killed in the last month. NATO suffered its worst single death toll since the start of the war. A helicopter with 38 on board was shot down by the Taliban. On board were 7 Afghanistan army personnel, one translator and 30 U.S. troops, 22 of which were members of the elite Navy SEAL's, some of which were members of the teams which killed Osama bin Laden. The Taliban insurgents were later tracked down and shot.

An American spy plane was chased by Chinese fighter jets in late June into airspace claimed by **Taiwan**. The Chinese aircraft withdrew when Taiwan scrambled fighters of its own. The Chinese defence minister demanded that the US cease surveillance flights along its coast.

MIDDLE EAST

The **Turkish** military leadership resigned on mass in protest against the government's decision to block promotions for officers accused of plotting a coup. The government quickly moved to appoint replacements avoiding a crisis.

Six **French** UNIFIL peacekeepers were wounded by an IED. The bomb was deliberately set to target a UN convoy.

In **Libya** Rebel forces captured the town of Bir al-Ghanam, only 80km from Tripoli. Mustafa Abdul Jalil, leader of the Rebel movement, dismissed his cabinet after the assassination of his military commander, General Abdel Fatah Younis, by a faction on the Rebel side. Rebel forces have been recognised as the legitimate government in Libya by the US and others.

The trial of former **Egyptian president**, Hosni Mubarrak, began in Cairo. He is charged with corruption and ordering the killing of protesters. After being carried into court on a stretcher he pleaded not guilty. On trial at the same time are Mr Mubarak's sons Alaa and Gamal, and six other officials from his regime.

In **Syria** unrest continued. Since July 31st it is reported security forces have killed more than a 100 people. In recent weeks the government has moved their focus from Hama to Deir ez-Zor, a city further east. Human rights activists claim that over 1,800 civilians have been killed in the government crackdown on civil protest. The Arab League, Turkey and Saudi Arabia pressed the Syrian government to relent.

IRISH PERSONNEL REDUCE IN EUFOR BiH



BUTMIR
CAMP



Lt Col Anthony Bracken BMC served with EUFOR BiH from July 2010 to April 2011 as Headquarters Commandant and OC 12th Irish Component. In this article he informs us of the role of HQ Commandant and on the reduction of the Irish component in July 2011...

Camp Butmir, located beside Sarajevo International Airport, has housed successive headquarters of the two international peace-support operations based in BiH since the late 1990s. Elements of the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) began the move into Butmir in 1997 and this mission was succeeded by the incumbent European Force (EUFOR) in 2004. Formerly a police garrison adjacent to a sports airfield, the camp was well selected for its development potential. A public road, locally known as the Rajlovac Road, was commandeered and blocked, and the current military encampment was planned and constructed over a period of four years.

With its perimeter of 3.5 KM the camp area is more than adequate to house its considerable infrastructure, which includes HQ EUFOR in 'Building 200'. The mission has reduced from an original strength of 6,500 in 2004, with troop garrisons throughout BiH, to its present number of 1,400 with a reducing number of liaison houses in the country. Any troops of an operational and response nature (the Austrian-led Multinational Battalion and

the International Police Unit) reside in and work from Camp Butmir.

Headquarters Commandant
The nearest equivalents to EUFOR's Headquarters Commandant (HQ Cmdt) in the Defence Forces could be either the Camp Commandant, McKee Barracks, or the Barrack Commanders in the Brigade HQ garrisons. Such officers command the installation that houses the 'regional' headquarters, so to speak. Corporate memory at Camp Butmir suggests that the concept migrated to Sarajevo from the United States, as the first Headquarters Commandants were US colonels. They were also the senior colonel in camp. As such they only answered to the Chief of Staff (COS) and the Commander (COM) of the force itself. While there have been many changes in the force profile since 1997 that principle remains in force. HQ Cmdt continues to have an independent role as a division chief, answerable only to COS and COM.

The provision of real life support (RLS) best describes the daily activities of HQ Cmdt Division. It is the largest component of the force with over



Lt Col A. Bracken is presented with the key of the 'German Corner' by EUFOR COS Brig Gen Gunter Geisa on the occasion of the taking over of the facility by HQ CMDT Division, Feb 1 2011.



On July 12 2011, COM EUFOR Maj Gen Bernhard Bair welcomed His Excellency Mr Tom Brady, Ambassador of Ireland to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia to Camp Butmir. Pictured here (l/r) are: Col Pat Phelan (SIO EUFOR BiH), Maj Gen Bernhard Bair (COM EUFOR), His Excellency Mr Tom Brady Ambassador of Ireland to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia, Chiara Popplewell (Dep Head of Mission with the Irish Embassy in Ljubljana) and Lt Cmdr Pearse O'Donnell (NS) MA to the FC.

500 personnel, 70% of whom are civilian, and it influences every aspect of daily routine on the camp. From the Bulgarian guard who permits entry at the main gate to the ID card office that registers and issues permits to new personnel, everyone in camp depends on the support and assistance of the division. Feeding, accommodation, laundry, barrack services, supplies, and sports and recreational facilities are all supervised and controlled by the division.

HQ Cmdt has been commanded by Irish lieutenant colonels since the US vacated the office in 2006, two years into EUFOR's existence. It could be assumed that the appointment came to the Defence Forces because of our reputation for conciliation and co-operation on overseas missions. My experience would suggest that this is true in part but our innate sense of fairness and honest endeavour has also served to gain universal respect within the international garrison in Sarajevo.

Other appointments in HQ Cmdt filled by DF personnel included the Camp Sergeant-Major and senior NCOs in the operations, travel, welfare and administrative offices. The military police, who led the DF entry to SFOR in 1997, were also an integral part of the division and the life of the camp.

Leading the civilian branches are a number of ex-servicemen from the British armed forces who now reside in Sarajevo. Their professionalism and continuing loyalty have been very important to the ongoing success of the division. Mr Jim Makin, Director of Public Works, was the first RSM of the camp when SFOR initially occupied the green-field site. His knowledge and personal input across the spectrum of life in Butmir is immense and greatly appreciated. Mr Glen Meekings, Dining Facility Manager, also a former senior NCO in the British armed forces, runs a dining establishment that routinely caters for up to 3,000 meals per day. The last member of this impressive trio at HQ Cmdt Division is Mr John Brown, who essentially holds the warehousing and logistics accounts portfolios of both NATO and EUFOR. This peculiarity is as a result of the 'Berlin-Plus' agreement whereby NATO

supports EUFOR in terms of infrastructure and certain equipment. John supervises a small but extremely efficient staff that maintains and delivers the extensive inventory of RLS supplies to the camp.

The budget and resources currently placed at the disposal of the HQ Cmdt ensure a relatively flawless operation. When one takes into account that this includes over 30 concessionaires, a fully-staffed gymnasium and a fire-brigade, then the extent of the remit is clear.

The Irish Component

The Defence Forces had been considering a reduction in the number of personnel in EUFOR BiH since the spring of 2010 and contingencies were put in place in the summer of that year to finalise the appointments that would remain.

However the component was retained in full following the withdrawal of the battalion from the MINURCAT mission in Central Africa. This allowed 12 Irish Component to deploy in July 2010, followed by 13 Irish Component in January 2011, the final unit of its size to serve with EUFOR BiH. The smaller 14 Irish Component deployed to the region in July of this year.

The full extent of the influence of Irish personnel in the force appeared in clear focus when it was confirmed earlier this year that the DF were reducing their component by some 85% from July. The numbers game would be difficult in itself but where would one source similar personnel in terms of suitability and experience? The Irish had become heavily embedded in both Force HQ and HQ Cmdt Division.

EUFOR is now essentially an intelligence-driven mission backed by a small quick reaction force based at Camp Butmir. From a time when multinational task force sectors were the norm the main effort is now served by liaison and observation teams, or 'LOT houses' as they have become known.

Seven appointments are filled by Irish personnel of 14 Irish Component currently deployed with EUFOR. A DF colonel leads the Intelligence and Analysis Division (IAD), the busiest of the sections at Force HQ. He has three other DF personnel



Col Pat Phelan, SIO EUFOR BiH, presents the Force Commander, Major Gen Bernhard Bair, Austrian Army, with the traditional bowl of shamrock on the morning of the 17 Mar 2011.

AMBASSADOR'S PHOTO BY MARKUS RUMPOLD and courtesy of EUFOR BiH Press Office
www.euforbih.org

assist-
ing him in this task. It is assessed that this staff grouping will remain in situ until at least January 2012. The Force Commander's Office also remains unaffected by the Irish reduction. Major General Bernhard Bair (AU) has two DF officers on his personal staff; a military advisor (OF-4) and a special advisor (OF-3). The seventh and final member of the component is the HQ Cmdt.

The exodus of Irish personnel in July and the 38 appointments that have been vacated by them is likely to have had significant effects. Irish officers and senior NCOs, in particular, had become both the mainstay and corporate knowledge for much of the daily routine at Force HQ and HQ Cmdt alike. The mine-awareness education campaign had been spearheaded by an Engineer Corps company sergeant; the control and custody of EUFOR's non-assigned vehicle fleet had been vested in an Irish BQMS, and both the contracts and audit functions at J8 Finance were the remit of Irish CQMSs. Add to these the appointments of senior NCO at the Joint Visitor's Bureau/Protocol Section, the chief of the Air Travel Office at HQ Cmdt (RSM/BQMS), and the senior NCO in Training Section, and one can readily appreciate the vacuum that has likely now ensued to a lesser or greater degree since July. It was my experience in EUFOR BiH that DF personnel and their contribution to the mission and camp life

were highly regarded by superiors and subordinates alike. They were viewed as fair and reasonable in all their dealings with the many nationalities inhabiting the camp. They were also renowned for their helpful nature and at times limitless patience with colleagues who may have been challenged in both experience and language skills. In short, I believe that the reduction of DF numbers in EUFOR BiH will have a disproportionate impact on the operations of the HQ and of HQ Cmdt Div. The true measure or calculation of that impact may only be possible towards the end of 2011 and into 2012. The withdrawal of the eight provost personnel and the seven verification team members will also be significant.

It is anticipated that the configuration of the mission in BiH will soon change. Successive recent manpower and organisational reviews (MORs) have engaged with the subject and have been reducing personnel establishments and running costs accordingly. The 'migration to a training mission' discussions and rumours have long abounded and the full handover of all security-related duties to the BiH authorities is viewed as inevitable and to be welcomed. I suspect that this sizeable withdrawal of Irish personnel may well hasten that process and consideration. Affectionately known as the 'Irish Mafia', successive components since 2005 have made an enormous contribution to camp and mission life. The history of DF involvement in EUFOR BiH continues to be another proud chapter in the force's long and distinguished record of overseas service. Every good wish and continued success to the 14th Irish Component now resident at Camp Butmir. Go dté siad slán. ■

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ONE MAN'S SCRAP IS

ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE:

The Lynch Family and Sliabh na mBan

BY CAPT PAT O'CONNOR

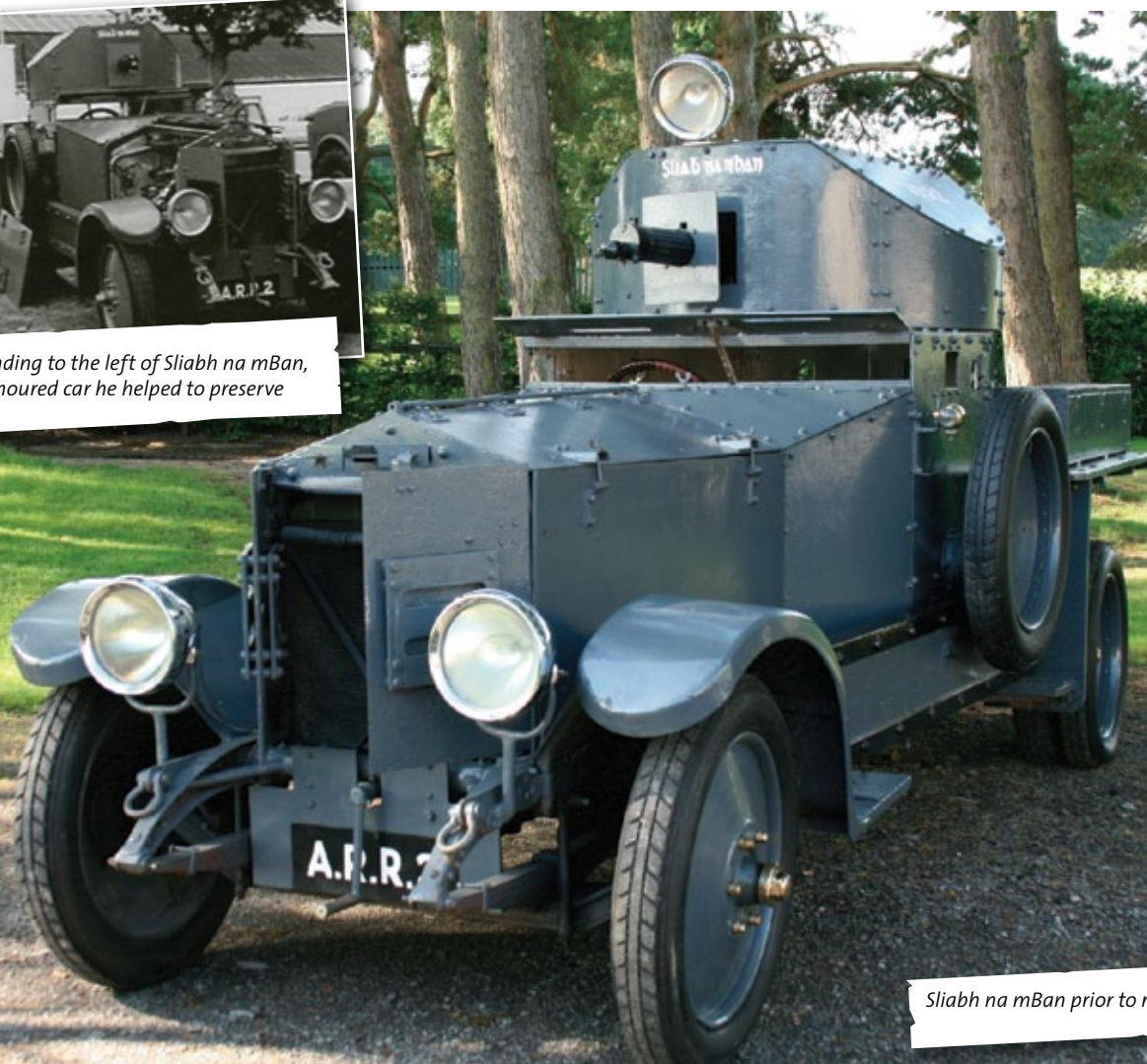
The armoured Rolls-Royce (ARR) Sliabh na mBan has had an exciting and varied history in service with the Irish Army. The car first saw action on Dublin's O'Connell Street during the Civil War and was part of the National Army convoy that was ambushed at Béal na Bláth and which tragically ended in the death of General Michael Collins; it was captured by anti-Treaty forces and later recovered deficient its machine gun, it has

starred alongside James Cagney in the 1959 film *Shake Hands with the Devil* and was used in the later productions *Insurrection* and *Shadow of Beal na Blath*.

Having seen so much service, one might ask how can this historic vehicle still hope to be part of the plans for the centenary celebrations of the 1916 Easter Rising? The answer is largely down to three generations of the Lynch family; Paddy, Pat and Padraig Lynch.

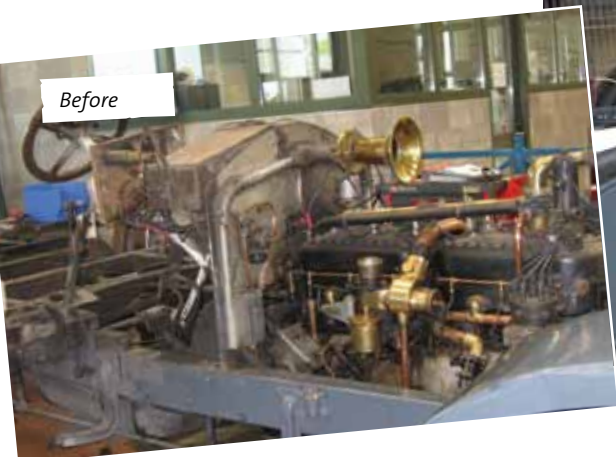


Paddy Lynch standing to the left of Sliabh na mBan, admiring the armoured car he helped to preserve



Sliabh na mBan prior to restoration

Before



After



Paddy Lynch was a driver in the National Army posted to Dublin during the Civil War. As duty driver he often drove General Michael Collins on his tours of the city. On one such occasion while driving Collins on patrol at Mount Street Bridge shots rang out from a nearby building. Collins ordered: "Drive on Lynch!" and Paddy drove the general, his Colt pistol on his knee, to the safety of Beggars Bush Barracks, where the general turned to him and declared: "Lynch, that was close, we were lucky there!"

Paddy Lynch moved his family to the Curragh in 1923 and took up a post in the Cavalry Workshops when it was established in 1924. Because Paddy worked in Cavalry Workshops from its formation he was perfectly positioned to keep a watchful eye on Sliabh na mBan, creatively ensuring parts were made available for the car. Sliabh na mBan was always Paddy's priority as a mark of respect to the assassinated General Collins.

"Collins was my father's idol," Paddy's son, Pat Lynch, reveals. "He made the case to save Sliabh na mBan because of its link to Collins."

After the Emergency the ARRs were deemed fit only for scrapping but Paddy, who had spent the previous 20 years maintaining Sliabh na mBan, in particular, would not allow that to happen and he intervened. The car was saved from the scrap heap in homage to General Collins. To find a way around the administrative process to keep the car it was taken 'on-charge' as two tonnes of scrap metal; but this was far from scrap metal in the eyes of the Lynches.

For the last 65 years Sliabh na mBan has been tenderly cared for in Cavalry Workshops in the Curragh and what is now Vehicle Base Workshops in the Defence Forces Training Centre.

Pat Lynch came to work in the workshops, colloquially known as Tin-Town, with his father in 1947 and immediately Paddy began showing his son how to care for his pride and joy, including his personal test to check if the engine was running correctly.

"My father would stand an old two-shilling piece on its edge on the top of the cylinder head," he recalls. "It had to remain perfectly still; if the coin fell over the car wasn't in proper working order. It was my father's pride and joy

and he instilled in me that it would be my responsibility once he retired." This was the beginning of the handover from father to son of the guardianship of Sliabh na mBan.

Paddy Lynch died as the foreman of Tin-Town and some years later, in 1977, Pat became foreman and he gave Sliabh na mBan the same tender care his late father had.

"I drove Sliabh na mBan all over the country, from county fairs to ceremonial events" he says. "It was always the centre of attention. Everyone wanted to be near a piece of history so closely connected with Michael Collins."

As time and a lack of funding took its toll on Sliabh na mBan, driving it became less of a pleasure according to Pat: "It wasn't very edifying. It had become a real banger and you'd be mortified driving it onto parade. The tyres were like net curtains there were so many holes in them!"

Eventually some money was made available and Pat slowly nursed Sliabh na mBan back to life and continued to care for the car until his retirement in 1990. The Lynches, however, weren't happy to relinquish care of the car and Pat's son Pádraig has been involved in the current project to restore Sliabh na mBan as close as is possible to when it first came out of the Rolls-Royce garage in Woolwich, England.

Pat very much approves of the work that has been done on the project. "Words fail me," he says. "I'm astounded by the condition of the car. My father would have been very proud of it."

Pat is happy the car is still in safe hands with his son Pádraig and the incredible work that has been done by all the staff in Vehicle Base Workshops. He feels that Sliabh na mBan has had a new lease of life and that its current guardians are now understanding the car's significance.

"I always felt six foot tall telling people I looked after Sliabh na mBan," Pat says. "You were thought of as 'somebody' because of it. Now this crop can go home and tell their wives and children 'I look after Sliabh na mBan'. That means something."

*Sliabh na mBan has been completely refurbished and will be unveiled by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD on September 3rd, Cavalry Day, at Ceannt Barracks in the Defence Forces Training Centre. ■

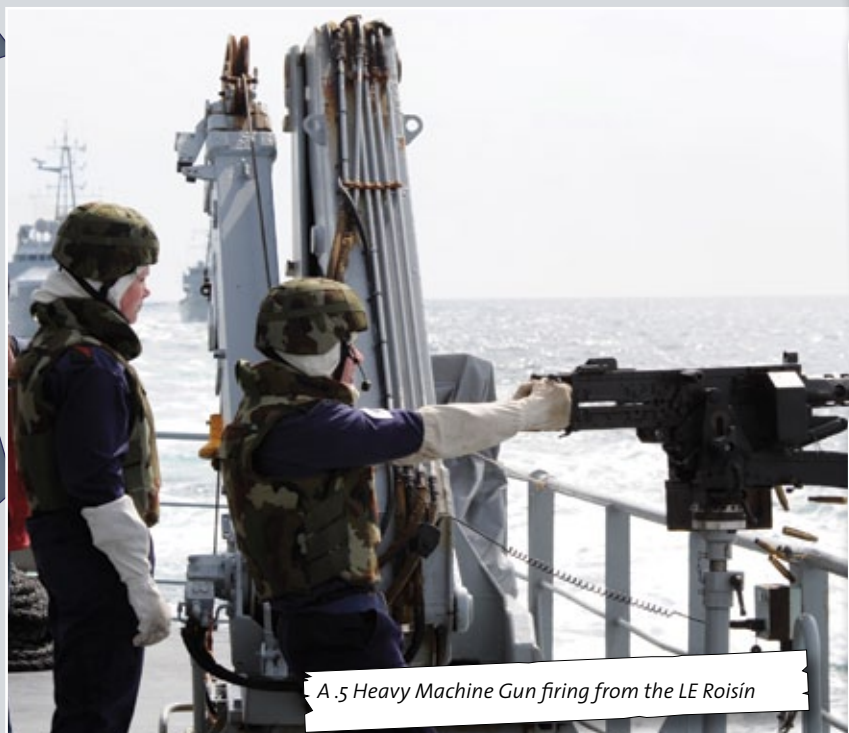
EXERCISE QUIXOTIC

BY LT CDR ROBERTA O'BRIEN
PHOTOS BY A/SEA DAVID JONES



A Rigid Inflatable Boat in action

The importance of the Naval Service to the state can be seen when it is considered that Ireland's jurisdictional rights include an enormous maritime domain, the largest in the north-western EU. Similarly to property rights, jurisdictional rights that are not upheld are in danger of becoming more imaginary than real, with consequential bad outcomes for the state, such as illegal resource extraction, illegal dumping and drug trafficking.



A 5 Heavy Machine Gun firing from the LE Roisín



An Armed Naval Boarding Team in action



Fire Fighters get ready PO/Mech Paddy Harte & L/Mech Susan Grogan onboard the LE Roisín

Being able to control activities in our waters requires three distinct capabilities: surveillance, to know who is using our waters; presence, to represent the authority of the state; and patrolling, to respond appropriately to any violation of laws, threats to national security, or emergencies. The NS is Ireland's primary asset in delivering these capabilities.

In short, state ships are the means of projecting Ireland's presence at sea, albeit that our seagoing resources are extremely modest.

Notwithstanding Ireland's primary requirement to secure its sovereign rights, it must also meet obligations and maintain capabilities to further Irish and international policy objectives in the maritime domain. The NS currently delivers services to over 20 government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

The Service is tasked with a broad range of defence, security and other roles. Routine patrols are multi-tasked, encompassing national and maritime security, ocean governance, safety and surveillance, port security, fishery protection, drug interdic-

tion, pollution control, and search & rescue. The Service supports Army operations in the littoral (sea/shore overlap) and by sea-lift, and provides support on aid to the civil power/authority operations. The Fisheries Monitoring Centre at the Naval Base is responsible for monitoring all fishing activity within Ireland's exclusive fishery limits and all Irish fishing vessels operating around the world.

In addition, Naval Service vessels undertake supply and reconnaissance missions to our troops serving with overseas peace support operations and participate in foreign visits worldwide in support of Irish trade and diplomacy.

It is vital that Naval Service personnel are trained to the highest standard to facilitate the delivery of such wide-ranging and important tasks. To this end continuous training is carried out both at sea and ashore. In addition to individual ship's crew training a period of collective training is carried out every year as part of the Naval Service's annual exercise programme. This year seven ships participated in Exercise 'Quixotic', which took place

off the south coast between 13 and 16 July. The aim of Quixotic was to train, test, and enhance fleet operational readiness, by exercising the ships as task units (two or more) and as a task group (all seven).

The main objectives were: to exercise ships in multi-ship evolutions that they may be required to undertake in an operational situation; to practice multi-ship fleet-work and evolutions of high training value; to exercise and evaluate command, control and communications (C3) arrangements and procedures; to exercise personnel in contingency and emergency situations; to exercise all ships' armaments in air- and surface roles; and to carry out enhanced surveillance of Ireland's maritime jurisdiction.

The exercise was in two phases. Phase one involved multi-ship collective evolutions/training, in areas of training that NS ships have little opportunity to carry out at other times due to operational commitments. Substantial Air Corps and NS assets were incorporated in this phase.

The second phase was scenario-driven and included exercises in



The AW139 carrying out winching drills



Fire fighting EX onboard the LE Roisín are A/Mech John Bertles, L/Mech Susan Grogan and PO/Mech Paddy Harte

the military decision-making process (MDMP) for Naval Operations' command staff, officer tactical command and staff, and ships' command teams.

These exercises enable the Naval Service to build on current standards, and assess doctrine and training, with the goal of improving overall capability and operational readiness.

The tasks involved during the week covered a wide range of activities. Fleet-work tested all seven ships in the synchronised movement of ships in close proximity. This requires the bridge team (comprising the officer-of-the-watch, the navigation officer, communications team, helmsman, and combinator operator) to work as a unit to ensure these manoeuvres are carried out effectively and efficiently.

A surface shoot was carried out by the fleet in line formation using the ships' primary armaments - 76mm Oto Melara, 57mm Bofors and L70 Bofors - and secondary armaments - .5" HMG, 20mm Rheinmetals, and

7.62mm GPMG.

An armed boarding exercise was also conducted, as one of the main capabilities employed in countering drug running and other illegal activities is the Naval Service's ability to deploy heavily armed boarding teams. Boarding teams drawn from the ships' crews were deployed in full tactical gear to board a 'vessel of interest' (VOI). In an operational setting, once the vessel is secured and searched any suspects are detained and transferred to the mother ship. Crews are then deployed to take the vessel to a designated port. It was such armed boarding training and capability that led to the seizure of a cargo of cocaine with a street value of €750 million in 2008 onboard the 65ft yacht Dances With Waves.

As the primary sea-going agency of the state the Naval Service also trains to render assistance to vessels on fire or which have been damaged after a collision. Consequently, all personnel onboard Naval Service ships are qualified to the International Maritime Organisa-

tion's standards in fire-fighting and damage control. One of this year's exercise scenarios concerned a vessel in distress. The exercise vessels were required to send their fire-fighting and damage control teams to each other's vessels to put out fires and stop flooding.

Interoperability with other services is an important factor and, consequently, joint operations are essential. Exercise Quixotic provided an opportunity to work with the Air Corps, who provide a vertical replenishment capability, with helicopters able to transfer people and equipment between ship and land and also between ships. On this occasion a number of personnel were transferred between the Naval Base and LÉ Roisín.

The smooth running of Exercise Quixotic reflects the amount of ongoing training carried out by the individual ship's crews throughout the year. Such training is essential to ensure that the Naval Service continues to deliver a professional and efficient service to the state. ■

Developing Ireland's SEA POWER

A NAVAL SERVICE PERSPECTIVE FROM FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING THE NAVAL SERVICE (FOCNS), COMMODORE MARK MELLETT DSM

BY WESLEY BOURKE



The fundamental role of the Defence Forces is the delivery of defence services. Within the Navy we are responsible for the maritime aspect of this. However, while our primary role is maritime defence and security, the government's white paper on defence in 2000 designated the Naval Service as the state's principal sea-going agency, providing multiple services, not just in defence and upholding sovereignty and security, but delivering services to many other departments, agencies and actors in the maritime domain. These include inter alia support to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Transport, An Garda Síochána, the Department of the Environment, Department of Education, the Coast Guard, Customs and Revenue, and the Sea Fishery Protection Authority.

As a naval man over the years I have been surprised at how sea-blind we can sometimes be as a nation, especially considering the fact that we are an island steeped in maritime history; a history that is reflected in the exploits of people such as St Brendan the Navigator crossing the Atlantic 1,500 years ago, the Pirate Queen, Gráinne Ní Mháille, and the remarkable achievements of Commodore Barry, Admiral Brown and others. In the last century, however, we seemed to have lost our understanding of the importance of the seas around our country so much so that Ireland's maritime constituency was weak. In Article 6 of the Treaty that ended the War of Independence, competence for several strategic ports, as well as the burden of maritime and coastal defence, were left in the hands of British Royal Navy. From a national perspective the impact of this neglect of the sea in many ways became institution-

alised in the governance arrangements of the time, the legacy of which continued for many decades right up to more recent years. This is surprising when one considers that today over 97% of our trade by volume travels by sea.

The Naval Service evolved against this backdrop where maritime affairs were not at the core.

I do sense however that things are changing and the establishment by government of the Assistant Secretaries Co-ordinating group on marine affairs is a very positive development bringing about integration and very constructive cross governmental changes in the approach to maritime affairs.

Today with a relatively small fleet we patrol what is the largest sea-to-land ratio of any EU state in northwest Europe. We have expanded our portfolio over the last ten years and today's Naval Service boasts highly-trained, professional and versatile personnel. Our relationship with the rest of the Defence Forces is becoming more integrated and joint and we are continuously expanding our capabilities with the Army and Air Corps. We regularly support Defence Force personnel and missions overseas, and over the last decade we have also seen a steady increase in deployments in support of diplomatic, trade and economic objectives. To date these deployments have taken us to every continent except Australia.

Our task for the future is to see how we can deliver on our commitments to government from within the available resource envelope.

Sea-power encompasses all aspects of the maritime spectrum, from defence and security to maritime trade and natural

resources. When planning for the future we have to take all of these aspects into consideration and we also have to look at potential threats that may affect us not next year but well beyond that – 20, 30 or even 40 years down the road. The new ships we build today may well be in service in 2050!

In the current economic climate we really have to be as efficient and as innovative as possible in order to provide the best service to the state and the citizen. Therefore, the role of a post-modern Naval Service is not just taking a traditional, linear defence and security approach, but to be a versatile, multi-skilled organisation, providing many services and, where possible, working to stimulate and generate the national maritime economy, and helping it to grow. Amongst the enemies of the state we see the economic deficit as one that must be attacked.

Globally, maritime threats have evolved over the last decade in relation to maritime terrorism, piracy, arms smuggling, and drugs trafficking. While some of these threats may not be as relevant to Ireland today as they were in the past, we must remember that we are part of a wider community and the island of Ireland sits in a geo-strategic centre of gravity position on the western approaches to Europe. Some threats, such as arms or drug consignments, may not be bound for our shores but are simply passing through waters under state jurisdiction. In such cases we have a responsibility to police our waters and ensure to the best of our ability that these illegal consignments don't get through our jurisdiction on their way to their destination.

To counteract these threats we have to manage our resources effi-



ciently and we are increasingly working towards the development of a recognised maritime picture (RMP), which will, to some degree, facilitate our ability to see what is happening in our waters and thereby aid the planning process.

The three dimensions of the maritime defence and security realm are surface, sub-surface and air. Marrying our naval assets with the latest in surveillance technology is the key to controlling these dimensions.

At the moment we have the ability to cover a lot of what happens on the surface. Our crews and vessels are very versatile, well trained, and well equipped for drugs and arms interdiction, and we effectively specialise in intercepting and boarding small vessels on the high seas.

We are currently looking at subsurface technologies and we are collaborating with the Marine Institute's 'Smart Bay' 'Smart Ocean' initiatives. Some readers may wonder what threats we could face from beneath the surface. But if you take drug smuggling, for example, the resources available to some drug cartels are enormous. Five years ago they had the technology to smuggle their drugs in semi-submersible craft or in sub surface attachments on merchant ships. Today they are building and using full submersibles.

Regarding ship design we have to try to predict where we will be operating in the future, something that can change substantially. For instance, ten years ago our economic exclusion zone (EEZ) extended for 200 nautical miles, whereas today, since the government's claim through the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, this has increased to over 500 nautical miles or over 1000

kms offshore, effectively doubling the Naval Service's area of responsibility. These extended waters have to be patrolled and we have to deliver the same quality of services as anywhere else. In times of bad weather a merchant vessel can stay clear of these hostile waters, statistically the most hostile in the world, but we have to be prepared to operate in them when delivering defence or government services.

These waters represent substantial economic value. For example, we have an estimated € 3/4 trillion in

natural gas and oil reserves off our west coast within our EEZ and possibly double that if you include our continental shelf jurisdiction. This economic potential doesn't include the renewable wind and wave capacity that is also around our shores. We have the world's richest wave resource on our doorstep. Indeed, there is no reason that Ireland could not become the battery of Europe in the future. Ireland currently gains approximately 1% of its GDP from the maritime sector, in the future, however, we could find Ireland competing with other countries in the maritime sector. Just look at some of our neighbours where for example the sector makes up 5% of the UK's GDP, 8% of Belgium's, 11% of Denmark's, and 20% of Norway's. Once we start utilising our natural resources and leveraging the technology opportunities our maritime sector's contribution to GDP will start rising rapidly.

As regards funding, we have to rationalise what we have at the moment and look at increased efficiencies in terms of how we do our business. This will require a transformation across the board to find the most efficient, cost-cutting solutions. This transformation, which has to be collaborative, and evidence based, will not just be top-down but must also be bottom-up. This means we shouldn't just sit on our hands and wait for directions. The Chief of Staff's transformation agenda has empowered all parts of the Defence Forces to institutionalise an agility that ensures the relevance of the Defence Forces to society and requires that it is adaptable and useable. We are responding to his leadership and setting the agenda for the Naval Service in a professional and smart manner,

transforming the Navy into a knowledge institution. We have set our vision that by 2016 our navy will be the smartest, most innovative and responsive Naval Service provider in the world. I believe that our personnel have the experience and the knowledge to do just this and what else should the citizen expect.

Adopting a collaborative approach to look at efficient and potential ways for cost-cutting through arrangements with other institutions in the state that have an interest in the maritime, will lead to more effective public services in the area of defence, security and government services. Already with partners such as University College Cork (UCC), Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), Enterprise Ireland, the IDA, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Bord Gáis and over 30 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) the navy has been a key driver in the establishment of the Maritime Energy Research Campus & Commercial Cluster (MERC3). Under the MERC umbrella a variety of projects and collaborative initiatives are leading to new technological developments which are enhancing the capabilities of the naval service and also leading to job creation. Collaborative initiatives being pursued include inter alia technology development in the application of wireless technology for tracking marine firefighters in enclosed spaces, the development of unmanned maritime air vehicle and remote underwater vehicle technology and the development of enhanced security technologies for high value items. Amongst the institutes engaged in MERC are CIT's Nimbus and Rubicon Centres, and UCC's Tyndall, 4C, CMRC and HMRC centres. Companies from all over Ireland such as Reamda, CBE, Cathyx Ocean and Skytec as well as many more are actively engaged in technological development. Already the initiative is resulting in foreign direct investment to Ireland. All of this in turn is helping to stimulate the economy in the maritime sector.

So it can be seen that the future of the Naval Service is not just to be found simply through the linear traditional approach of delivering defence and security services. The future is very much integrated into a complimentary strategy which drives innovation and the creation of knowledge, and the facilitation of adaptive, dynamic capabilities that allow the service to seize that fleeting objective that otherwise would be lost. It is a strategy that is helping the Navy to achieve its vision, that is to be the smartest. ■

RAISING RDF STANDARDS

BY SGT MICHAEL MULLIGAN (RDFTA)

The first Standard NCO Course for RDF personnel was run in the DFTC earlier this year. While the course was conducted in the NCO Training Wing the majority of the instruction was given by RDF personnel from the RDF Training Authority (RDFTA) or other RDF units, with personnel from the NCO Training Wing only becoming involved in a small number of specialist areas.





Proceedings began with an orientation day for potential students, to inform them about the nature of the course and of what was expected of those selected. The day included briefings on IT's, the RDFTA's distance-learning site, and administration in the field. Although only 30 places were available on the course, a pleasantly surprising 53 potential students attended the orientation day.

The course itself started on 16 April with the first of three weekends that make up Module 1, which mainly comprises of lectures on a wide variety of subjects including administration, drill, MOI, range management, military law, map reading, leadership and tactics. The aim of this module is to cover most of the theoretical elements of the course and prepare the students for the practical elements of Module 2. The first module also included a number of PT sessions and a navigation exercise. Between the weekends the students had to complete a number of assignments, including making out a route card, the completion of a butt register, a military writing assignment and the planning of a tactical exercise. All of these assignments were delivered via the RDFTA's distance-learning website. The students had to be successful in two examinations, a written assessment and a navigation exercise, in order to progress to the next module.

Module 2; two-week full-time training element of the course, commenced on Saturday 11 June with a weekend that consisted of lectures on a range of subjects including communications and tactics. The students also completed another navigation exercise, in the area of Kilbride Camp. As with all navigation exercises and assessments

on the course, this was completed in CEFO and helmet.

The tempo of the course picked up on Monday with revision of section and platoon battle drills. The students worked well into the night, travelling to Kilbride Camp, again to conduct a night-navigation exercise, to familiarise them with the additional difficulties they would face during the tactical block.

Wednesday morning was a difficult time for the students as they conducted an ammunition resupply exercise and organised the evacuation of casualties. They very quickly learned about the problems a platoon sergeant will encounter when faced with resupplying his platoon during combat.

A first for any RDF course was the introduction of two sessions of battle PT, which saw the students, and a number of the instructors, pushing themselves to the limit under the control of instructors from the NCO Training Wing.

Much of Friday and Saturday was based in the classroom where the course received excellent instruction in first aid from Sgt Seán O'Sullivan (34 Res Inf Bn) who is also a civilian paramedic.

Sunday 19 June saw the students undertake a general test, covering all elements of the course to date, before moving to Coolmoney Camp for further tactical training. During this second week the course was supported by 2nd Eastern Brigade personnel (65 and 67 Res Inf Bns and Tpt Coy, 62 Res LSB). Drivers from Tpt Coy provided essential logistics support and the infantry provided 'enemy' and security, as well as augmenting what would otherwise have been a very understrength student platoon, which was down to 18 due to the amount

of students who had dropped out for various reasons.

The week in the Glen of Immal began with two days of platoon-in-attack, which saw the start of test appointments for the students. This was followed by two days in Stranahely Wood on a perimeter-in-defence operation, which was a first for most, if not all, of the students on the course. Having been exercised in defence routine and coming into contact with the enemy, the platoon moved to occupy a base camp from where they conducted a number of recce and resupply patrols. The exercise culminated in an early morning ambush conducted in terrain which seriously challenged personal fieldcraft.

On return to the DFTC the course attended to their personal admin prior to an end-of-course function in the Military College NCOs' Mess, a place the students hadn't seen much of in the previous two weeks!

The high rate of departures from the course (the final number represented only 33% of the attendance on the orientation weekend) was due to a number of factors including injury and failing assessments. The instructors had made it clear that this would be a robust course where all the students would be challenged to the limit both mentally and physically, and so it proved.

The RDFTA expect that another RDF Standard NCOs Course will be conducted in 2012 and they strongly advise potential students to start to prepare now. Physical fitness, particularly combat fitness, is a key element of the course and this can only be achieved over time, there is no quick fix. In addition, potential students must ensure that they are well practiced in fieldcraft, tactics, and map reading. ■



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DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES CORPS (DCIS)
10 + 10 Security Tips for protecting your computers and information
IT OPERATIONS SECTION**AT WORK****1. Ensure your anti-virus software is running:**

You must make sure that you have anti-virus software installed on your PC and that it is up to date. If a virus is detected, disconnect from the network and call your local IT Helpdesk.

Up to date  Out of date 

2. Use a strong password:

Your password is your personal key to access your information. Choose a strong password that is hard to guess but easy to remember and never write it down. For example pick a phrase and change letters for numbers or special characters like "Go!ngForAWalk"

3. Sharing passwords:

It is strictly forbidden to disclose your password to anyone else. This includes writing down your password. You are responsible for all actions while your account is logged in.

4. Leaving your PC unattended:

Unattended PCs must be locked or logged-off.

5. Store all classified information securely:

The CISM is rated for up to restricted classified documentation only. Any higher classified documentation must be handled according to the appropriate Infosec Policy.

6. Proper use of e-mail:

Always double-check the addresses of the recipients and the proper classification. If you are unsure about the nature or source of an e-mail you have received, DO NOT open it.

7. Protect digital information:

Learn how to maintain the need-to-know principle for digital information by utilising privacy markings and security classification as per the Manual of Military Security. Ensure your information is backed up by saving it on your network drives. Information on your desktop or PC hard drive is NOT backed up.

8. Never change hardware or software configuration yourself:

New hardware or software requests must be submitted to your local IT Helpdesk.

9. Use only DCIS issued computer media:

Computer media such as storage devices and software for use on DF Networks must be issued through official channels.

10. Reporting of information security incidents immediately:

Any information security incidents should be reported to your local IT Helpdesk and your Unit Security officer immediately. This includes any sign of computer misuse and security breaches as well as any software or hardware security threats such as viruses.

AT HOME**1. Use virus protection software:**

Use anti-virus software that supports automatic updates of new virus definitions. Schedule your software to automatically scan all of your computer files regularly.

2. Use a strong Password:

Restrict access to your computer by changing all default passwords. Then use a strong password that it is hard to guess but easy to remember.

3. Keep your system patched:

Keep your operating system (e.g. Windows XP, Vista, etc) and all application patches up to date. Today, most vendors offer automatic updates. If yours do not, you may need to check their websites periodically or join their mailing lists.

4. Use a firewall:

Use a personal firewall or the built-in firewall functions of the operating system or the anti-virus software. Learn how to configure it, to allow, only the services you want (e.g. mail, Web browsing, etc.)

5. Back up your important data:

Back up regularly all important files that you cannot replace easily on external media (e.g. CDs, DVDs). Keep them in a separate place.

6. Do not open unknown or unsolicited emails:

Do not open unknown or unsolicited email messages regardless of how tempting the subject line or attachment may be. Be suspicious of any unexpected email attachments. Disable scripting features (e.g. Javascript, ActiveX etc.) in email programs such as Outlook.

7. Do not keep computers on line when not in use:

Either shutdown your computer or turn off your Internet connection when you are not using it. Otherwise you risk your computer being hijacked and turned into a "zombie" doing things that you do not know about. This is essential for those using the popular broadband Internet connections.

8. Protect your personal information online:

Know who you are dealing with online. Never browse the internet with an administrator account, instead create and use accounts with limited privileges.

9. Protect your wireless network:

Place your access point in the centre of your home, away from outside walls, change the default Service Set Identifier (SSID) name and enable its security feature – preferably Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA2). Consider enabling the Media Access Control (MAC) Filtering.

10. Make an image of your computer in case it is damaged or compromised:

For quick recovery from a hardware failure or security compromise create a full system back up (disk image) or recovery disks of your computer configuration.

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE GLEN

(PART 2)

BY GNR TERENCE O'REILLY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CPL GREG DORNEY

In July we looked at the little known history of the Glen of Imaal started with the massacre of an Elizabethan force in Glenmalure and ended with the surrender of Michael O'Dwyer in 1803. This month Gnr Terence O'Reilly continues the tale...

A few hundred metres to the northwest of Leitrim OP is the site of the old Leitrim Barracks, constructed during the summer of 1803 to guard the mountain road between the Glen of Imaal and Glenmalure. Costing £8,000 to build, it was designed to accommodate 200 soldiers.

When the British Army first established an artillery range in the Glen in 1899, troops were accommodated under canvas in huge tent cities. Hutted camps were subsequently established at Leitrim Barracks and Coolmoney, between them capable of accommodating 2,500 men, 500 horses and three batteries of 18-pounders. All 800 tons of material for the camps were brought in by mule, a massive undertaking. A Royal Artillery officer stationed in Leitrim Barracks at the time recalled: 'It had been built as an outlying barracks in a troubled period of Irish history to deal with rebellious contingents operating from the hills, and confine them as far as possible to the wild region they occupied. For its original purpose it was very well constructed, with a massive wall enclosing a courtyard, which in our less disturbed time was transformed into a lawn and flower garden.'

A short distance to the north of Coolmoney Camp is the site of the former Coolmoney House, built by the Hutchinson family in 1837 and purchased for use

as an officers' mess by the British Army in 1912. The building featured a large gloomy cellar and several bedrooms, one of which, number 21A, had a legend attached. It was said to have been the room of a servant girl who was impregnated and murdered by a member of the aristocracy. A large stain, which proved impossible to remove, was said to be visible on the floorboards, and it was also claimed that some officers who slept in the room were terrified by a malign presence - or possibly pranksters. (Shortly before the building's demolition in February 1999, a prayer service was held in the drawing room 'to bring peace to all who had suffered in the house'.)

In July 1921, Coolmoney Camp was occupied by 266 men of the 4th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, while Leitrim Barracks was occupied by 106 men of the 48th Battery. These units were withdrawn on 26th January 1922 after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Anti-Treaty forces occupied the two installations at the outbreak of the Civil War, but they abandoned them on the arrival of the Free State army during the winter of 1922.

The newly formed Salvage Corps was tasked with dismantling the camps and succeeded in doing so in the face of constant rain and sleet, roads "like the beds of mountain streams" and illness brought on by drinking local water, with all salvaged material being transferred by motor transport to huge hangars at Tallaght aerodrome. In the last days of the Civil War in April 1923 the

then unoccupied Leitrim Barracks was burned out by anti-Treaty forces. While its sturdy walls stood for some years after, today there is almost nothing to show that 100 years ago it was the centre of a hutted camp the size of Coolmoney.

The Salvage Corps' pride in their achievement was not shared by the Artillery Corps when the army returned to the Glen of Imaal in 1925, one officer lamenting that they found "a lovely camp levelled, even water pipes broken, houses torn asunder". The engineers began rebuilding the camp, and the artillery fired its first shell in the Glen of Imaal (from an 18-pounder) at 1000hrs on 1st September 1925.

Another project for the engineers was the construction of an OP/bunker at Cris-sadaun; "built the hard way by young men in the Twenties to test gunners under fire and to practice flank observation." Two other observation posts (Hart OP and Camara OP) originally stood on the northern slope of Camara Hill.

In 1934 the Irish Kennel Club recognised



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

GLEN IMAAL MEMORIAL
ERECTED BY THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY ASSOC. IN
MEMORY OF THE UNDERNAMED SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF
THE DEFENCE FORCES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN AN
ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION IN GLEN IMAAL SEPT 16 1941

LIEUT. J. J. BRIERTON
LIEUT. J. D. FENNESSY
LIEUT. T. O. O'NEILL
SERGT. T. STOKES
CPL. E. J. KENNEDY
CPL. W. SHANNON
CNR. J. MURPHY
CNR. J. McDONNELL
CNR. G. P. O'HAGAN
CNR. J. OSBORNE
C/SERGT. P. McMAHON
SERGT. M. SCULLION
CPL. D. CLEARY
CPL. C. HEFFERNAN
CPL. J. TAYLOR
LIEUT. H. J. McLOUGHLIN **CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION.
ARTILLERY DEPOT & SCHOOL.

PRAY FOR THEM.
LEACH. Cuimhneachain Ghleannó MÓIL
An Cumann Airléire Fhriacharbáichach
Cuimhneachain Soidiccuimhe Aran sé chomhaleadnóg de
Nátorasá Cosánca, aca ainmne che chiosa fuair bás i
BPloasc thaismeach in Gleannó MÓIL 16ú Meán Fómhair 1941

Lt. S. S. O BRIARTUIN
Lt. S. D. O FIONNASA
Lt. T. O. O'NEILL
SAIR. T. SCÓC
CRE. É. S. O Cinnéide
CRE. L. O SEANAIN
CNR. S. O MURCHU
CNR. S. MACDONAILL
CNR. G. P. O'HAGAIN
CNR. S. OSBORNE
SAIR/COM. P. MACMACHÚNA
SAIR. M. O SCOLLAIN
CRE. D. O'CLEIRIGH
CRE. C. O'NEARNAIN
CRE. S. CAILLIUR
Lt. M. MACLOCHLAINN

AN
CATHLÁN
FRIACHARBÁICHACH
IOSEA & SCÓIL AIRLÉIRE.
AN Cór Innealtóirí.

CUIGH AR A SON



Gnr Terence O'Reilly is currently a member of staff of the Defence Forces library (DFTC), specialising in military history. He has written many books most notable: 'Hitler's Irishmen' (2008) and 'Our Struggle for Independence' (2009) 'Rebel Heart: George Lennon: Flying Column Commander' (2009) all by Mercier Press. He is a former artilleryman who completed several tours of duty with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon. He lives in Portlaoise. www.mercierpress.ie/terenceoreilly

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

Castlebar Walking Festival

BY CAPT BRENDAN MCDONALD (RDF)

Castlebar has hosted its 4 Day International Walking festival for over forty years. The walks cater for all tastes and talents with challenges from 10K walks to the more challenging 40K walk and the 30K ramble. The walks/ramble started each morning at 0830 hrs and finished around 1530hrs. The organising committee have gone to great lengths to show the areas of beauty on the lesser known tracks and trails. This year there were approx 1,000 participants with all walks of life ranging from schoolchildren completing the 10K walks to the more experienced tackling the longer routes. This event holds a particular attraction for the military with many countries using it as training exercise for the Nijmegen 4 day walking festival.

Castlebar always has a large continental influx principally from the northern European countries such as Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Each year sees a variety of armed forces taking part in uniform and this year was no exception with Dutch, German and Swedish soldiers marching in uniform. While the festival has still has participants from 1st and 6th Inf Bn's such as Paddy McManus and William Wallace, it has been a while since there has been any DF personnel in uniform taking part.

Some International Military walkers join their Irish DF colleagues



This year 54 Reserve Cavalry Squadron had 3 participants in uniform on the 30K Ramble. These included, Sgt John Hamrock, Sgt Rowena Gillespie and Capt Brendan McDonald. Apart from some blisters and tender toes the participation was a great experience. Weather was great for the most part with

only some rain on the Sunday.

Routes were varied and included some new routes. Day four saw the Irish contingent assist in the carrying of a stretcher, as they came to the assistance of a casualty who had fallen leaving a bad leg wound. Sgts Hamrock and Gillespie quickly came to his attention and with the help of military colleagues the casualty was stretchered to transport to take him to hospital.

The event concluded with a very appropriate 'Blister Ball' that night. It was a fitting end to a challenging few days in which many military and civilian friends and from home and abroad got to meet and enjoy the countryside around Castlebar. The organisers are quiet champions of a very popular tourist event who should be congratulated and encouraged. If you are moderately fit and can walk for 5-6 hours for four days then you will enjoy it. For further information the Castlebar Walking Festival committee have a website at: www.castlebar4dayswalks.com

Capt Brendan McDonald, Sgt Rowena Gillespie and Sgt John Hamrock



Defence Forces Track and Field

The DF Track and Field Championships were conducted in Tullamore Harriers Athletic Stadium on 8 June 2011. On what was an unseasonably wet and windy day, there were some outstanding performances, in particular the achievement of a DF record in the 400m of 50.87 by Lt James Ledingham which helped him to his second General Richard Mulcahy trophy as best athlete in a Defence Forces Championships. Lt Ledingham also took the 800m and 1500m titles and helped anchor 1 S Bde to a victory in the Medley Relay. There were other notable performances from Lt Ruaidhri Kedney who won both 100m and 200m, Pte Siobhan Tierney who won ladies 1500m and 3000m and Pte Nagle, 32 Bn RDF who won both Men's Shot and Discus. 2 E Bde won the 4 x 100 Relay on their way to regaining the Inter Formation Shield and 1 S Bde won the Medley Relay.



	NAME	BDE	TIME		NAME	BDE	TIME		NAME	BDE	TIME
LADIES 100M											
1	Lt N Ni Droma	4 W Bde	14.10	1	Lt R Kedney	2 E Bde	23.16	1	Pte Nagle	1 S Bde	12.23
2	Lt Lyons 2 E Bde			2	Lt Murphy	2 E Bde		2	Pte Kilkenny	4 W Bde	
3	Pte Flannery	4 W Bde		3	Pte Brennan	1 S Bde		3	Cpl Reddy	DFHQ	
LADIES 1500M											
1	Pte S Tierney		5:35	1	Lt J Ledingham		50.68	1	Pte Nagle	1 S Bde	36.54
2	Cpl McGuinness			2	Lt R Kedney			2	Cpl Reddy	DFHQ	
3	Pte Fenton			3	Pte Cuddihy			3	Pte Fleming	4 W Bde	
LADIES LONG JUMP											
1	Lt A Marnell	4 W Bde	14.05	1	Lt J Ledingham	1 S Bde	2.04	0/45	Pte McSweeney	2 E Bde	10.37
2	Lt Lyons 2 E Bde			2	Cpl E O'Neill	DFTC			Pte T Burns	1 S Bde	
3	Pte S Tierney	2 E Bde		3	Recruit Heaney			0/50	Pte J Fallon	4 W Bde	
LADIES SHOT PUTT											
1	Lt Lyons 2 E Bde		8.23	1	Lt J Ledingham	1 S Bde	4.12	0/55	Comdt T O'Keeffe	DFTC	
2	Lt N Ni Droma	4 W Bde		2	Cpl E O'Neill	DFTC			CS W O'Riordan	1 S Bde	
3	Pte Flannery	4 W Bde		3	Rec Ward	4 W Bde			Sgt T Grogan	4 W Bde	
LADIES 3000M											
1	Pte S Tierney	2 E Bde	11:54	1	Cpl P Byrne	DFTC	15:39	1	4 X 100 RELAY		
2	Cpl McGuinness	2 E Bde		2	Lt D Collins	2 E Bde		2	2 E Bde	50:57	
3	Pte Fenton	1 S Bde		3	Cpl S McKeigue	4 W Bde		3	1 S Bde		
MENS 100M											
1	Lt R Kedney	2 E Bde	11.6	1	Pte D Brennan	1 S Bde	6.43	1	DFTC		
2	Pte Bennett	4 W Bde		2	Cadet Henshaw	DFTC		2	MEDLEY RELAY		
3	Lt G Ryan	2 E Bde		3	Tpr Pratt 1 S Bde			3	1 S Bde		
MENS 200M											
MENS 400M											
MENS 800M											
MENS 1500M											
MENS 5000M											
MENS LONG JUMP											



Defence Forces Triathlon

On the 12 Aug 2011 the DF Triathlon was held in Lilliput, Mullingar.

Here is a selection of results and photos by Armn Neville Coughlin, for more visit our Flickr site:

www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine/ and for the full results visit: <http://precision-timing.net/result/view/id/171>

MALE

1st Capt Oisín McGrath
2nd Sgt Paul Connolly
3rd Cpl Gavin Crawford

FEMALE

1st Capt Laura Keane
2nd Capt Claire Quinn
3rd Pte Gretta O'Connor

OVER 40'S

1st Sgt Declan Madden

OVER 50'S

1st CS Kevin Killeen

NOVICE MALE

1st Pte Neal Buckley

RELAY

1st Andy Gray Team

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DEFENCE FORCE DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

The Dublin Marathon date is fast approaching and for those taking part the training will be getting intense. Here we look at a few gadgets that will help with the final training push and make sure you are hitting race day in tip-top shape.

CAMELBAK QUICK-GRIP

A lot of runners and trail runners prefer to carry their water in a handheld as opposed to a backpack/bladder combo. It's a personal choice but for the least amount of bulk and weight you can't look beyond the Camelbak Quick-Grip. The set includes the excellent 610ml Podium Chill Bottle that is insulated to keep your water cold



and the perfectly designed grip that includes ventilation mesh for sweat-free bottle gripping and a nifty pocket for carrying keys and a couple of gels.

GARMIN FORERUNNER 610

Garmin's new flagship wrist mounted running GPS is one of the hottest gadgets of 2011. A combination of standard buttons and a beautiful touch screen means that its one of most intuitive and easy to use GPS ever. The list of functions is mind blowing; GPS, pace, distance, heart rate and calories to name but a few. Another ingenious feature is the Virtual Racer mode which gives you the opportunity to race your past best time in real time



which is great fun; it really is you versus you. Hands Down the best running GPS on the market right now.

SALOMON EXO IV CALF TIGHTS

Compression has been the word on everyone's lips lately making its way from a niche product a couple of years ago into the mainstream now. Just take a look around at any of the races and the amount of people with either knee length compression socks or calf tights is incredible. Why are they so popular you may ask? Well, they work that's why! The compression accelerates blood flow, which in turn delivers more oxygen to your muscles. In layman's terms this means increased endurance and performance and hopefully a better finish time on the big day.



POWERBAR ENERGY GEL

Let's admit it, anything legal that will help you out on marathon day is to be welcomed. Gels are one such thing, replacing the carbs and



sodium that the body loses while running long distances and therefore increasing your performance and hopefully taking some of the pain away!

SEPTEMBER COMPETITION

This September, the Great Outdoor Store have offered one of our readers the chance to win this month's fantastic competition to win a €100 voucher. All questions are based on this month's issue.

1. Who is the book Rebel Heart about?
2. Which Recruit Platoon is featured On Parade?
3. What does GPS stand for?

Competition closing date is the 19th September

Send all entries with your name and address: September Competition, An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare, Ireland. Or email to: subs@military.ie

August's prize winner of €150 voucher for the North Face store is: Rachael Green, Craughwell, Co. Galway



NOTICEBOARD

This page is designed to give our readers an easy-to-follow list of upcoming events or notices for our wider Defence Forces Family. Readers that want to submit notices that may be of interest to others should keep their notices to the point, include contact details and send by email to: magazine@military.ie or by post to: Editor An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland. PS. Our old noticeboard will still be made available on www.dfmagazine.ie

Curragh Military Museum Opening Times:

Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm; Thursday 2 to 8pm; Sundays 12.30 to 3.30pm; Closed Friday and Saturday. For all queries, contact: 045-445342 or email: curraghmilitarymuseum@defenceforces.ie.

ONE Information:

Niemba Memorial Mass, in Cathal Brugha Bks on Saturday November 5th.

UNVA Information:

United Nations Day is on Monday the 24th October.

Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, UNVA Memorial Garden on Sunday November 6th.

Niemba Wreath Laying Ceremony, Glasnevin on Tuesday November 8th.

Tipperary Remembrance Trust

Are holding a Remembrance and Conference Weekend on 23/24/25 September.

In the Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary. For further details please contact: Michael Haslam (Chairperson) 062 52408/086 4083842 or michaelhaslam@eircom.net

50th Anniversary Deployment of 'A' Coy 36 Inf Bn (Congo) December 1961

WED 16 NOV - Reception hosted by Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Andrew Montague, Mansion House

SUN 11 DEC - 09:45 Wreath Laying Ceremony United Nations Plot, Glasnevin Cemetery, 11:00 Mass McKee Bks, 13:00 Re-union Dinner Dining Complex, 15:00 NCO's Mess. This is strictly an Invite and Ticket only event: For more info contact during normal working hours: Jim Clarke on 086 3523614 or jimmyclarke9@gmail.com

SUDOKU

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SUDUKO NO. 001 (MEDIUM)

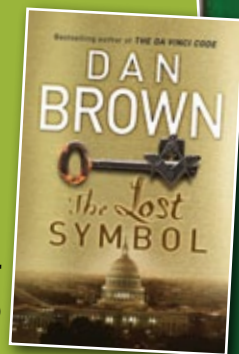
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SUDUKO IS THE LATEST PUZZLE CRAZE TO COME FROM JAPAN; IT'S A NUMBERS GAME THAT'S DRIVING EVERYBODY MAD!

NEW Q&A COMPETITION

1. What media personality recently dropped out of the Presidential race?
2. What Irish International Soccer player has recently transferred to LA Galaxy?
3. Who was recently named the New Miss Ireland?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win **The Lost Symbol**, the latest novel by American writer Dan Brown. It is a thriller set in Washington, D.C., after the events of The Da Vinci Code, and is the third Brown novel in a series, following Angels & Demons and The Da Vinci Code...



Simply fill in the blanks spaces with the numbers 1-9.

Every row, column and 3x3 block must contain all nine digits with no number repeated in:

- Each of the nine vertical columns
- Each of the nine horizontal rows
- Each of the nine 3x3 boxes

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7	1	9	2	3	6	8	5	4
3	5	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

BOOK

REBEL HEART: GEORGE LENNON: FLYING COLUMN COMMANDER

By: Terence O'Reilly
Publisher: Mercier Press
 (November, 2009)
www.mercierpress.ie/terenceoreilly
ISBN: 9781856356497
Paperback: 288 pages
Price: €17.99

Although largely a biography of a little known Irish rebel, George Lennon was one of the most unusual figures in our struggle for independence, Terence's book features previously unpublished extracts from the rebel fighter's memoirs.

George Lennon at 20 was the youngest commander of a flying column during the war of independence and fought for the anti-treaty side during the Civil War. When it became clear that the anti-treatyites had lost the war and that a guerrilla campaign would cause the ordinary people to suffer he voluntarily laid down arms and was left in peace by the pro-treaty forces, starting on a path that would take him far away from the country he fought for and very far from the path of violence.

He emigrated to the US in 1926, returning in 1938 when he made earnest efforts to develop the national economy. Before he died, George had embraced Zen Buddhism, written a play about his experiences and become as much a rebel of peace as he had been a fighting rebel.

Gnr Terence O'Reilly is currently a member of staff of the Defence Forces Library (DFTC), specialising in military history. He is a former artilleryman who completed several tours of duty with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon. He has written many books, most recently: 'Hitler's Irishmen' (2008) and 'Our Struggle for Independence' (2009) all by Mercier Press. His work has also appeared in the pages of *An Cosantóir*.



DVD

FAST FIVE (AKA FAST AND THE FURIOUS FIVE)

Format: Blu-Ray / DVD

Certification:



Duration: 130 min

Director: Justin Lin

Genre: Action/Adventure & Suspense/Thriller

Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Jordana Brewster, Tyrese Gibson, Joaquim de Almeida & Ludacris to name a few!

Rental Release Date: 19 Aug 2011

Cinema Release Date: 21 Apr 2011

Universal Studios / www.fastfivemovie.com



Vin Diesel and Paul Walker reunite for the fifth instalment of the 'Fast and Furious' action thriller franchise.

Rio De Janeiro provides a great backdrop in, with the chief villain being Reyes (Joaquim de Almeida), a mobster with a businessman front, with his tentacles of vice and influence extending toward every part of the city. Dominic Toretto (Diesel), Brian O'Conner (Walker) and the former's sister Mia (Jordana Brewster) hide out in the city as fugitives having broken Dom en route to prison at the end of Fast and Furious, and with the kind of money available for the taking to start a family of their own with Mia found to be pregnant, they decide to assemble a team, not to pass up the opportunity of robbing Reyes

blind. But the Rio gangsters are not the only ones on Dom's tail; wily federal agent Luke Hobbs (Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson) has also been assigned to track down Dom and Brian, and will stop at nothing to corner his prey.

As far as franchise films go, The Fast and Furious series seem to be hitting the ground at top gear, with this instalment not showing signs of slowing down, but prepping a new direction for future films to take, shifting gears from a film showcasing hot bodies (not solely just car chassis) and fast nox-enabled cars into the classic heist genre, given that it had that as its underlying premise from the first film, and now with a growing ensemble, are ready to give the likes of Ocean's Eleven a run for its money.

GAME

CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE 3

RELEASE DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2011

Continuing on with the tales of bravery and confrontation in battle, Modern Warfare is back.

The best-selling first-person action series of all-time returns with the epic sequel to the multiple Game of the Year award winner, and it looks amazing; with more spectacular cinematic sequences than ever, more varied gameplay than we expected and a plot that encompasses many of the world's major cities. Available on PS3, X360 & PC - Price: €49.97
 PEGI: Age 18+

For more info see: www.callofduty.com/mw3
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WHAT I DO

NAME
WILL LAWLER
RANK
CORPORAL
UNIT
**INFANTRY WEAPONS
WING, MIL COL, DFTC**


I joined the Defence Forces in July 2000, originally serving in 2 Inf Bn for 9 years, I really enjoyed my time there, but working here is very interesting. I have served overseas with UNMEE (Eritrea), 2 x UNMIL (Liberia) and the 38 Inf Gp KFOR (Kosovo).

The primary function of the Infantry Weapons Wing is to train instructors for the Defence Forces in Infantry Support Weapons, these include the .5 HMG, 60mm and 81mm mortars, 84mm anti-tank rifle and the Javelin anti-tank missile. I am an instructor on the .5 HMG, Javelin anti-tank missile, 60mm and 81mm mortars. Members of the DF would know some of these as the Direct Fire Instructors course (.5 HMG and Javelin antitank), or the Machine Gun Instructors course (.5 HMG and SFG). Once qualified, instructors then go back to their respective Brigade Training Centres/Units and run their courses.

We also run the Reconnaissance Commanders courses, Sniper Instructors course, and the Level 3 Armoured Fighting Vehicles Recognition course. The latter is the highest level that can be achieved and this can only be tested by us. We are also responsible for the updating and writing of weapons manuals and syllabi. This makes sure there is the same standard throughout the Army. Because we are the primary centre for infantry weapons training we run and judge all the Army competitions.

We are also the primary centre for training of Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT). All LFTT instructors, (all officers, Sgts and above) are trained here and all exercises are coordinated through us. In order to keep up with best safety practises LFTT instructors are regularly brought back to us for requalification. This is very important due to the intensity and high safety parameters for LFTT exercises.

I personally instruct on the Direct Fire Instructors course, and the Mortar Instructors course. Incorporated into that we have some really cool equipment which has really improved the capabilities of these weapons. On the mortars for example we use what is called a MorFire Controller System. This can be linked to the Sincgar radios, LH40C Laser Range Finder, and Gar-

man Global Positioning System (GPS).

The Mortar Fire Controller, who is in the Observa-

tion Post calling in the fire, uses the MorFire to calculate the targets. The Sincgar allows him to send the information via a text message to the Command Post Operator (CPO) on the gun line. The CPO calculates and sends via the Command Post Control Unit down to the Monitor Display Unit on each mortar, this is a computer screen in front of the No. 1 man on the mortars. The system is very fast and cuts out all the shouting that we used to have to do on the gun line. The No. 1 simply hits Apply, Acknowledge and Fire. Very Fast, Very Efficient. ■

"I love my job here, we are at the top of our fields and are setting the standard for the whole Army"



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Members Draw

Results Sheet for 28th July 2011

1st Prize, €10,000: Kevin Mc Cauley, Strabane, Co Tyrone

2nd Prize, €5,000: Kevin Armstrong, Carrick an Shannon, Co Roscommon

3rd Prize, €2500: Stephen McCaul, Cobh, Co Cork

4th Prize, €1500: John Russell, Listowel, Co Kerry

€500 Prize: Joseph Peter Whelan, Nurney, Co Kildare; Mark Doherty, Ballybofey Co. Kildare; Andrew Gillmore, Co Armagh, BT 65 56GY; Ronald Rushe Athlone, Co Westmeath

€100 Prize: James Grattan, Kildare, Co Kildare; Conor Bogle, Castlefinn, Co Donegal; Larry Walsh, Cobh, Co Cork; Mark Bowes, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15; William Carr, Newmarket On Fergus, Co Clare; John Bates, Cobh, Co Cork, Gary Mc Ardle, Youghal, Co Cork; Thomas O'Neill, Cabra, Dublin 7; David Gallagher, Letterkenny, Co Donegal; William Lafferty, Ballyshannon, Co Donegal; Thomas Lynch, Corbally, Limerick; Michael Coughlan, Cork City, Cork; William Webb, Athy, Co Kildare; James Melay, Bunclody, Co Wexford; Amy-lee Kearney, Finglas, Dublin 11

Congratulations to all our winners

The next draw will take place on the 25th August 2011

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