



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

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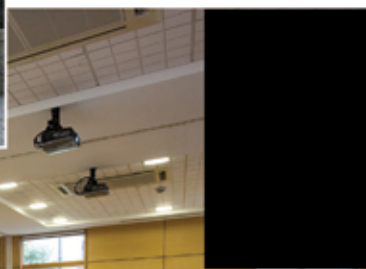
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Front Cover

Sgt Alan Martin of No 3 Ops Wing, photographed by Armn Pat Reilly, now retired.

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout:
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Editorial

Hello and welcome to our April issue, let's hope the remaining spring weeks improve.

Your photos from around the Defence Force community are *On Parade* – so keep them coming. *In Focus* features the prestigious *Gaisce - The President's Award*, with a profile look at recent recipient Cpl Anthony O'Donoghue and then for International Women's Day we have *Woman to Woman: we can help each other* by 1st Lt Inka Venho, FINIRISHBATT in UNIFIL. *Veteran's News* looks at the 5 Inf Bn Association and the newly formed 28 Inf Bn Association. In our first main article Comdt David Slattery briefs us on *Exercise 'Golan Days'* with the 46 Inf Gp, UNDOF. In our front cover story read about the lifesaving software *LocateMen12* developed by Air Corps pilot Lt Colin Gallagher. Next is *Accreditation Where Credit is Due*, written by Capt Gavin Egerton, an instructor in the Officer Training Wing who are running the Jnr Command & Staff Course or JC&S. *Winter Mountaineering* by Cpl Tomás Everard features some excellent photographs on his recent mountain training course held in Switzerland in January. In our *Strategic Review* feature *Spreading Terror in Nigeria - Boko Haram*, Paul O'Brien looks at the first anniversary of the 276 abducted schoolgirls from the town of Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria in April 2014. Next in *Driving Up Standards*, we hear from students on the recent MT Driver Instructors course accompanied by Sgt Karl Byrne's photographs. Our *History* feature *Death in the City: Dublin 1916*, by Paul O'Brien reminds us of the scale of death and destruction of the 1916 Easter Rising. In *Sport*, Sgt Rena Kennedy writes about two recent Swimming courses conducted by the DFPES in *Water, Water, Everywhere...* Plus we have all our regular features and reviews.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor



Recruit Platoon Reunion



Winner! Winner!



On the 24th March, Lt Col Michael Dawson, Oic PR Branch, selected the winning entry from our immensely popular competition with the excellent prize of an **M1 or M2 Military Spec Watch** worth €645.75, kindly

sponsored by Mileata Military Watch Company, Ireland. See their advert on page 30.

The correct answer was 80,000 (www.mileata.com), and our congratulations to the winner ROBERT TAYLOR, Dublin 15.

Pictured are members of the 59th Recruit Platoon, 5 Inf Bn who held their 25th year reunion while taking in a tour of Collins Bks, Dublin and later in the NCOs Mess McKee Bks, Dublin on 21st February 2015. They are pictured with Lt Col Colin Dwyer (Pln Officer), Sgt Major Tony Murray Retd (Pln Sgt) and Sgt Paddy Moore Retd (Section Cpl). Many thanks to all those who travelled near or far, and from their recent obscurity – stay in touch. Photo: Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald, PR Branch





EUTM MALI ▲

On 24th February 2015 a Multi-national CSDP medal parade hosted by the Training Task Force, EUTM Mali Commander Brig Gen Alfonso García-Vaquero Pradal (ESP-A) was held in Koulikoro Training Centre (KTC). Where 198 personnel from 23 Troop Contributing Nations were presented medals - among those were 7 Irish DF personnel. Lt James Mulderrig is pictured receiving his CSDP Medal. *Photo: Lt Col Johnny Whittaker, EO Training Task Force, EUTM Mali*



ONE SOUTHERN AREA COUNCIL ▲

The ONE Southern Area Council (SAC) held their AGM on 21st February 2015 in Templemore Co Tipperary, and it was hosted by the Pierce McCann Branch. Pictured (L/R) is: Seamus Lawlor, Tony Canning, Billy O'Brien and Gerry Enright. *Photo: Seamus Lawlor, PRO SAC, ONE*



BATTLE FOR DERMOT EARLEY CUP ▲

The victorious Defence Forces team under the management of Fergal Costelloe and Dermot Earley Jnr beat Castlewellan of Down by 3-9 to 2-6 in the final at Gallarus in the West Kerry Gaeltacht as part of the PhoneWatch Comórtas Peile Páidí Ó Sé 2015 - the renowned international football festival which took place across the Dingle Peninsula on 22nd February 2015. The annual football festival which was attended by over 1,000 people and contested by 34 teams has become an international GAA event with senior, intermediate and junior clubs travelling this year from 11 different counties as well as Madrid, Brussels and parts of England. *Photo: Philip Jones, MKC Communications*



JAVELIN YOUNG GUNS ▲

Pictured are students and instructors of the first Javelin Young Entry Course to be ran in the 6 Inf Bn, Athlone. Students were from: 6 Inf Bn, 7 Inf Bn and 2 Arty Regt. *Photo: OIC Course, Lt Marie Pigott, 6 Inf Bn.*



DOD FAMILIARISATION VISIT ▲

A familiarisation visit of Dept of Defence (DoD) personnel to the DFVC took place on 27th February. The visit was designed for personnel who have recently transferred to the DoD from other Gov Depts and allowed the group to be briefed on DF logistical facilities and support activities carried out in the DFVC. Pictured outside DF Vehicle Base Technical Stores are: Capt Barry Daly, Capt John Dicker and Comdt Mick Murray (DF Veh Base Wksp), John Doyle, Donal Heaphy, Barry Conroy, Declan Casey, Sally Curry, Declan O'Callaghan, Eileen Moyles and Grainne Guinan (All DoD), Col Sean O'Keeffe (HQ DFVC) and Cpl Powell (DFV BW). *Photo: Col Sean O'Keeffe, SSO Services & Support, HQ DFVC*



VIP VISIT ▲

Recently Dr Valarie Cummins the Director of IMERC from the National Maritime College Ireland (NMCI), Cork made a visit to Collins Bks Cork. Pictured (back row L/R): Comdt Ian Travers (OC 1 Fd CIS), Lt Emma Stanley (HQ 1 Bde), Comdt Pat O'Connor (OC 1 Cav Sqn), Comdt Kevin Higgins (OC 1 Bde Engrs) and Capt Enda Moynihan (1 Bde Ord Coy). (Front row L/R): Lt Col Niall Dowling (1 Bde Ord Offr), Dr Valarie Cummins (IMERC), Col Patrick Flynn (EO & 21/C 1 Bde) and Lt Col John Hanlon (1 Bde Engr Offr). *Photo: Sgt Don Sheehan, 1 Bde Press Office*



THE CLODAGH DALY TRUST ▲

On 9th March the Association of International Military Enthusiasts (AIME) made a presentation of a cheque for €2,000 from the proceeds of their Salute Military Vehicle & Re-enactment Show to the Clodagh Daly Trust. The 9th Salute Show takes place on the 29-30th August in the National Show Centre Swords. Pictured L/R: Eileen and Sean Curtis (Chairman AIME), Cpl John Daly (Father of Clodagh Daly) and Chris Mitchell (Secretary AIME). *Photo by: Sgt Karl Byrne, PR Branch*



ALL IRELAND CLUB HURLING ▲

Comdt David O'Shaughnessy, 3 Inf Bn officer and Kilmallock native is stationed overseas with UNIFIL in South Lebanon but had his mind firmly focused on Croke Park on 17th March watching his former club mates and his younger brother, GAA All Star and former Limerick senior hurler Capt Andrew O'Shaughnessy who contested the All Ireland Club hurling final against Pte Colin Fennelly of Ballyhale Shamrocks. Comdt O'Shaughnessy is spreading the gospel of Kilmallock hurling to a multinational environment with troops from Italy, Republic of Korea, France, Ghana, Serbia and Malaysia. *Photo: Comdt David O'Shaughnessy*



NEW YORK, NEW YORK ▲

Pictured L/R is Lt John McCandless and CQMS Damian Downey who ran the New York City Half Marathon on Sunday 15th March 2015. They are both members of C Coy Reserve, 28 Inf Bn. *Photo: John McCandless*

DECORATION DAY IN LIBERIA ▲

Decoration Day, marked on the second Wednesday in March is a public holiday, where those who have died are remembered and traditionally where the graves of loved ones are decorated and maintained. A member of the ARW who was part of the first ECAT (Emergency Civilian Assistance Team) deployed as part of the Ebola response was able to visit and clean up the monument to Sgt Derec Mooney (ARW) RIP who died in Liberia in 2003. The staff from the Irish Aid Office in Monrovia made time to pay their respects and lay a wreath in memory of Sgt Mooney. The picture shows (L/R): Teta Lincoln and Claire Talda, Programme Officer Liberia (attached to the Irish Embassy, Freetown) laying a wreath at Sgt Mooney's memorial. *Photo: Capt Barry Ryan, ECAT, Sierra Leone*



A GAA ALL STAR ▲

Pictured at her recent passing out parade in Collins Bks, Cork is Recruit Kiev Dollard (a GAA All Star) along with Brig Gen Kieran Brennan, GOC 1 Bde and Recruit Dollard's Laois teammate Comdt Sue Ramsbottom, Mil Col, DFTC. *Photo: Cpl Christine O'Leary, HQ 1 Bde*



TACTICAL PHASE ▲

Pictured are Recruits drawn from 2 Arty Regt and Air Corps along with their instructors while undergoing their Recruit Tactical phase in the Glen of Imaal recently. *Photo by: Gnr Jamie Martin, 2 Arty Regt*



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



US CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS ▲

Comdt Peter Keenan (28 Inf Bn) talks with General Martin E. Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs before the General asked him to review the march past of the troops with him. Which was a great honour for the Comdt and the 28 Inf Bn. *Photo: Lt John McCandless, 28 Inf Bn*



ATHLONE ▲

Pictured are members of the Army Band and IUNVA in this year's St Patricks Day parade in Athlone. *Photos: Oliver Horgan*



NEW YORK CITY ▲

Some pictures from this year's St Patrick's Day Parade in New York City with members of the 28 Inf Bn. *Photos: James Corry*

GALWAY ▲

St Patrick's Day Parade in Galway. Bishop Martin Drennan and Fr Robert McCabe CF blessing the shamrock and while Lt Col Mary Carroll (OC 1 Cn Cois), presented it to the troops who were participating in the Galway City Parade. *Photos: John Greene*

AROUND THE WORLD



COBH ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2015 ▲

The largest crowd ever attended this year's St Patrick's Day Parade in Cobh and beneath a clear blue sky, with glorious sunshine, thoroughly enjoyed what was unquestionably the biggest and best one ever held in the town. A greater number of groups took part and there were some very imaginative floats. The Cobh Branch of the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) provided a 'Colour Party' and under its Branch Parade Marshal, John Walsh, led the parade through the town, commencing at the Heritage Centre and finishing at the Old Town Hall. Cobh's Joe Devlin, complete with crozier, for the tenth year in succession, played a superb role as St Patrick! *Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS. (PRO Cobh Branch of ONE)*



◀ FERMOY'S WW1 LINKS TO GUERNSEY

The Irish Ambassador to the UK, Mr Dan Mulhall, and members of the Defence Forces participated in Guernsey's 100 year commemoration of their militia men leaving the Channel Islands to come to Fermanagh to train for World War 1. Over 250 Guernsey men travelled to Fermanagh to join D Company of the Royal Irish Regiment (RIR), garrisoned in Fermanagh, on the 4th March 1915. Members of the 1 Brigade Cavalry Squadron, currently headquartered in Collins Barracks, Cork, participated in the commemoration due to their unit's link to Fermanagh, having been based there from 1948 to 1998. Ambassador Mulhall noted that one of the important connections between Ireland and Guernsey, other than our membership of the British-Irish Council, was this intriguing historical link between Fermanagh and Guernsey and the fact that their men fought side-by-side during World War 1. The Defence Forces contributed a Colour Party to the commemorative parade (see photo), from the site of the Old Militia barracks to St Peter's port, Guernsey, in order to cultivate the historical link and heritage between the Republic of Ireland and Guernsey.

This commemoration event helped to highlight the historical ties between Ireland and Guernsey and, in particular, the town of Fermanagh. About one-third of the Guernsey members of the RIR died on the Western Front during WW1. The survivors were keen to retain their regimental links and after the war set up the Guernsey Sporting Club, which still exists.

Flag Party: Lt Eoin Carroll, Sgt Marcus Aherne and Sgt Martin Ormonde with the national colours at St Peter's Port, Guernsey. *Photos: Peter Frankland & Comdt Pat O'Connor*

Anthony with his father Michael after being awarded his MA in Adult Learning & Development in NUI Galway, October 2014.



GAISCE

The President's Award

With Cpl Anthony O'Donoghue, No 4 Sp Wing

BY STEPHEN PEERS, GAISCE

Gaisce - The President's Award is the most prestigious Award in Ireland for young people aged 15 to 25. The Award is a self-directed personal development programme in which participants are supported and mentored by a more experienced person, a volunteer, a President's Award Leader (PAL), to set and achieve a personal challenge over a period of time. Gaisce an old Irish word which means 'a great achievement' and it is in the spirit of this meaning that the programme challenges young people to set and pursue personal goals in four different areas of activity: Community Involvement, Personal Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey. There are 3 levels to the Award programme, starting with Bronze and progressing to Silver or Gold with the time and maturity required, increasing as the participant moves from Bronze towards the Gold Award. The minimum period to complete the Bronze Award is 26 weeks and for Gold this increases to 78 weeks.

President Michael D Higgins celebrated 30-years of Gaisce - The President's Award, by presenting the Gold Award to over 60 young people in a ceremony held in Dublin Castle on Wednesday, 4th February 2015. DCOS Support Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM was a special guest at the ceremony, which he attended on behalf of the Defence Forces.

A former minister for defence said in 1922 that his vision for the emerging military was that it would become an institution through which the young people of Ireland would pass to become better citizens. This ethos remains to this day.

Cpl Anthony O'Donoghue (No 4 Sp Wing, Air Corps) was among those receiving the Gold Gaisce Award from President Higgins for outstanding contribution to his community, enhancing personal skills, a physical and adventure journey, and a five-day residential project.



Cpl Anthony O'Donoghue with President Michael D Higgins, Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM (DCOS Sp) and Mrs Sabina Higgins.



Stephen Peers (Gaisce), Col Brendan McAndrews (ADC to President), Cpl Anthony O'Donoghue and Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM (DCOS Sp).

"I really enjoyed the experience of completing the Award," Cpl O'Donoghue said. "The army rock-climbing course was very challenging and enjoyable; hiking the Wicklow Way was a fantastic experience; I met many new friends helping out with Cheshire homes and engaged in rewarding activities; and completing the Pilates instructor course has given me skills for myself and to pass on to others."

The awards ceremony is a chance to celebrate the achievements of Ireland's young people who have participated in the Gaisce programme, and for their efforts to be recognised by the president. This year the president will also present awards to 11 young people from Northern Ireland who completed their programme as part of the Joint Award initiative between Gaisce and The Duke of Edinburgh Award in the UK.

Gaisce is grateful to the Defence Forces for its commitment to Gaisce Award through its annual Gaisce/Defence Forces Adventure Challenge, a unique event in which 30 young applicants are selected to participate each year.

Anyone within the Defence Forces who is interested in taking part in the Award programme can contact us at: Gaisce The President's Award, Ratra House, North Road, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 6171999 or email: mail@gaisce.ie or visit www.gaisce.ie. ■

WOMAN TO WOMAN

“Women are strong. We can help each other. This will help us more than you ever knew.”

BY FIRST LIEUTENANT INKA VENHO, CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION (CIMIC) OFFICER, FINIRISHBATT UNIFIL
PHOTOS AUTHOR AND COURTESY OF UNIFIL FLICKR
www.flickr.com/photos/unifil/

FINIRISHBATT is located in the southern part of Lebanon in the municipality of Bint Jubayl. The joint-battalion of over 500 men and women has area of responsibility (AOR) containing fourteen villages, which peacekeepers cooperate with local residents to stabilise the security situation. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has three main functions: to monitor the cessation of hostilities, support the Lebanese authorities and to assist the Lebanese population.

Instability in Lebanon effects men and women in different ways. UN Peacekeepers are doing valuable work by creating trustful relationships with local populations. During peacekeeping operations it is essential to recognise the critical needs of the local population in the area of operations, such as electricity, water supply challenges or medical support requirements. The ultimate goal of peacekeeping operations is to carry out the reconstruction of the host nation's society and preserve the integrity of the nation's ability to work independently.

The committees that have discussions and make decisions on behalf of the communities are often male dominated. Women are also affected in these communities in many ways but they do not have a voice. Therefore it is important to take into account women's viewpoints and their special needs in order to create a safe and peaceful environment. In Lebanon women are primarily responsible for childcare and home maintenance. Due to the cul-

tural and religious traditions, local women find it especially difficult to work with foreign men. The inclusion of females in the peacekeeping forces to gain the trust of local women is crucial as the local women can approach female peacekeepers much easier than their male counterparts.

Lifesaving first aid training for Lebanese women is one of the FINIRISHBATT practices to provide support to Lebanese people. Finnish



Finnish Female Peacekeeper

and Irish nurses and medics have a diverse skill set and are highly valued within their Battalions. Local women gather in the social centres of the southern Lebanese villages of Ayn Ibil and Bint Jubayl to receive first-aid training provided by FINIRISHBATT nurses and medics. Husbands let wives participate in the training only in the presence of other women. Even the presence of a single foreign man is enough to prevent women from participating. Topics covered in the four lessons to be held each week in March include: treatment of burns, open wound dressing, preventing choking and recognising critical disease symptoms.



Irish Female Peacekeeper

Women meet each other openly and smile warmly in an arena where support, assistance and compassion are welcome. Many of the skills taught are new to the local women and they actively ask questions and write notes. Old traditions die-hard and some of the commonly used traditional remedies are enough to shake any old wives tale. The traditional treatment for a burn is to cover it with toothpaste, yoghurt or egg white, and wrap it tightly with gauze. Peacekeepers answer these issues with respect and kindness to the local's traditions. Women practice burn wound dressing and discuss the different degrees of burns. Next week's lesson deals with open wound dressing and to prevent bleeding and the women of the local community look forward to seeing the FINIRISHBATT nurses and medics again.

Peacekeepers work in many different ways to unify the community. Peacekeepers act as role models to children so that they also have an opportunity in the future to work for peace and international cooperation. Lebanese girls and young women often say that they feel a greater sense of safety in the presence of female peacekeepers and that they too wish to be strong and independent women. Peacekeeping operations have the positive impact of enhancing future generations. We are working to create the possibility of a more secure future for the men, women and children of Lebanon. ■



Peacekeeper and Medic Cpl Sarah Tobin shows how to cover up burn injuries



Peacekeeper and Nurse Cpl Tiina Hoffrén teaches Lebanese women about different types of burn injuries



5 Inf Bn Association

By John Mullally, Assoc. Secretary Photo Sgt Tom O'Niell

The 5 Infantry Battalion Association was presented with its new Colours recently. The Association was formed in 2012 when it was announced that the Bn would be disestablished as part of the DF re-org. One serving and five retired members of the Bn got together and formed the Association so the name 5 Inf Bn could be kept alive.

The last two Sgt Majors of the Bn, Dick Dillon (1999 - 2005) and Gerry Hanly (2005 - 2012) sponsored the Association Colour and formally presented it to the Committee at their meeting held in the NCOs Mess McKee Bks on 13th February 2015. The Association attends military events and will be holding social events throughout 2015.

With the dis-establishment of the 5 Inf Bn the task of organising the Annual Mass for Deceased members of the Bn has been taken over by the Association. The Association AGM is held on the first Saturday in November each year followed by the Deceased Members Mass. Pictured L/R back row: Patrick (Marlo) Brien, Stefan O'Reilly, Eamonn Doyle, John Mullally and Joe Hanly. Front row L/R: Christy Mahon, Dick Dillon and Gerry Hanly.

Past members of the Bn are welcome to join and can visit: www.5thbattalionassociation.com for more information or contact: 5 Inf Bn Association, C/O NCO's Mess, McKee Barracks, Blackhorse Ave, Dublin 7 or email: info@5thbattalionassociation.com



28 INF BN ASSOCIATION

By Eamonn Toner Assoc. Chairperson

We are pleased to announce the formation of the 28 Infantry Battalion Association. The new Association has been formed to revive and maintain the memories of all those who serve or have served in the Bn since its genesis in 1973. It intends to foster and renew



comradeship organising reunion events throughout the year. The Association has also given a commitment to support the 28 Inf Bn museum in Finner Camp. A meeting was facilitated by Lt Col Prendergast, OC 28 Inf Bn, who

provided a briefing and discussed the Association's Constitution and put us on an official footing. He praised the Association for consolidating the links with the current unit and wished them success in its endeavours. It was agreed that an Annual Association Day would be hosted by the 28 Inf Bn to commemorate the foundation of the Bn. The day would involve a parade, mass for deceased members with refreshments. It was agreed that this would be at the end of August/early September.

Membership of the Association is open to serving members and to those who served in the Bn since its founding in 1973. Pictured recently at the launch of the 28 Inf Bn Association in Finner Camp is L/R: Coy Sgt Con O'Brien (representing Sgt Major), Capt Phelim Carroll (Bn Adj), Lt Col Mark Prendergast (Bn OC), Eamonn Toner (Chairperson), Liam Smith (Secretary) and John Davies (Treasurer).

You can contact the Assoc. on Facebook:
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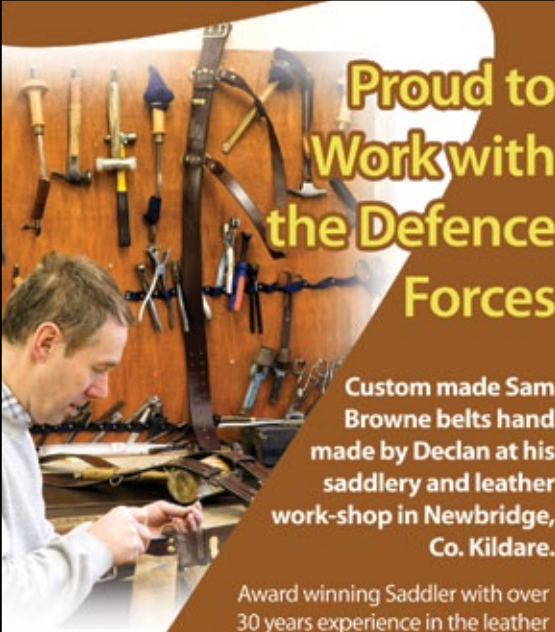
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EXERCISE 'Golan Days'

BY COMDT DAVID SLATTERY PHOTOS BY INFO CELL 46 INF GP, UNDOF

46 Infantry Group, under the command of Lt Col Denis Harrington, deployed to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights, Syria, in October 2014 following a substantial period of political and military uncertainty regarding the future of the mission. Prior to deployment, neither UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 350 of 1974, which authorised the UNDOF mission, nor UNSCR 2163 of June 2014 could accurately reflect the realities of the situation as they were in late summer of 2014.

Immediately prior to 46 Inf Gp's deployment, armed elements (AEs), none of whom were originally party to the 1974 Truce agreement, directly targeted UN posts and captured UN personnel in the Area of Separation (AOS) between Syria and Israel in an unprecedented shift in the civil war in Syria that came in the wake of the Arab Spring uprising of 2011.

It became immediately evident that the dynamic of the mission had radically changed in a very short period, not only due to the infantry group's move to their new base in Camp Ziouani on the Alpha side, but also because of the reduced presence of UN forces inside the AOS.

Concurrent with the assessment phase of pre-deployment training for 46 Inf Gp, the operational environment in UNDOF was transforming, and along with it the operational requirements. Although pre-deployment training was tailored towards the operational reality as it existed for 44 Inf Gp, fortunately the purpose of a mission readiness exercise (MRX) is to create 'a coherent unit capable of carrying out its tasks effectively and to the standard required for the operational environment'.

One of the first tasks assigned to 46 Inf Gp Force Reserve Company (FRC) on deployment to UNDOF was the occupation of UN Post 80, one of only six posts that remained occupied inside the AOS following the relocation from Camp Faouar in September 2014. The purpose of this task was to ensure that a quick-reaction force (QRF) capability was maintained within the AOS at all times.

Having executed the task and completed the pertinent contingency planning, Comdt Owen McNally, DCO and Coy Comd Mech Coy, directed training to focus on likely future taskings, the most probable and highest tempo of which would be the reoccupation of posts inside the AOS.



The ESSC team commence search and clearance of a simulated abandoned UN post.





The relocation from more than a dozen posts in the AOS became the impetus for Exercise 'Golan Days'. The purpose of Golan Days was to evaluate members of the FRC in the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs)

involved in the clearance and re-occupation of previously vacated UN posts located within the AOS.

What resulted was a collaboration of efforts between the mechanised company, the Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) Detachment, the Engineer Specialist Search and Clearance Team (ES-SCT) as well as CIS and medical detachments in a comprehensive exercise that heralded a new training focus for the Irish FRC in UNDOF.

On completion of initial planning, the exercise was rolled out over four phases. Phase 1 involved continuous training, comprising C-IED, first aid, mine awareness, CBRN, CIS (including ECM training), anti-ambush drills, and urban patrolling. The most challenging posts to reoccupy inside the AOS would be those located inside urban centres therefore, the focus of the training had to include an urban aspect. Phases 2 and 3 covered exercise preparation and the exercise itself, which took place on 13th December 2014.

Phase 4, perhaps the most relevant phase to future operational planning, involved a detailed after-action review (AAR). This revealed some interesting developments and was the genesis for the creation of mission-specific, combined mech, ordnance and engineer standard operating procedures (SOPs).

The AAR highlighted a number of areas, many of which had yet to be addressed in routine training events. The AAR documented various LIs (lessons identified) during Golan Days I and allowed for relevant corrective action, deliberated upon by the respective section heads, to be applied during Exercise Golan Days II, conducted on 24th January 2015. The lessons learned from the second running of the exercise may well be the vital legacy of 46 Inf Gp.

Since 46 Inf Gp's deployment, the publication of UN General Assembly Resolution (69/94), dated 5th December 2014, has reaffirmed, in robust terminology, the international community's perspective on the 'occupied Syrian Golan', while UN SCR 2192 (18 December 2014) strongly condemned 'the use by armed Syrian extremist groups of improvised explosive devices in the UNDOF area of operation'.

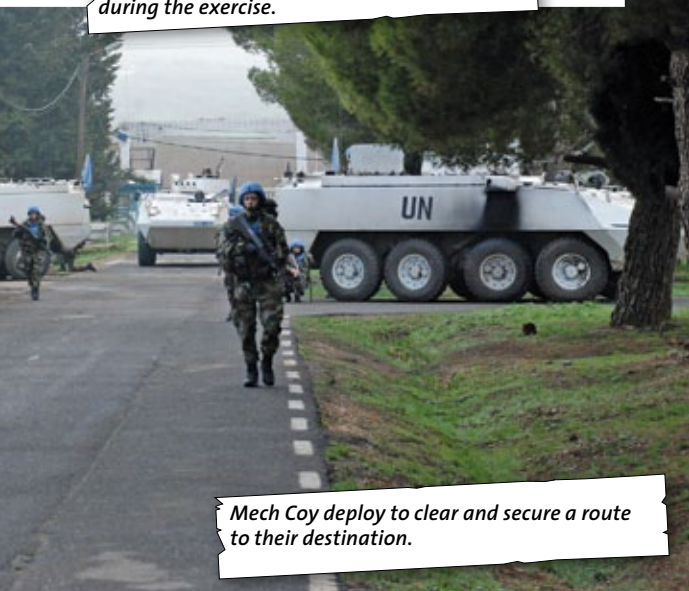
It is clear that the future of the FRC in UNDOF will necessitate continual close integration of mechanised infantry/cavalry, ordnance, and engineers, and the review of enhanced TTPs, to effectively counter any future threats, and to meet the standards required for the new operational environment. ■



Comdt Owen McNally delivers the scheme of manoeuvre for Exercise Golan Days.



Brig Gen Hanlon, DFC UNDOF, and BSM Lamb observe a Medevac from within the ICP during the exercise.



Mech Coy deploy to clear and secure a route to their destination.

LOCATEME112

Life Saving Technology

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD



Sgt Damian Faulkner, 105 Sqn

An Air Corps pilot has developed a new system that has enhanced the efficiency of air ambulance operations and is helping to save lives. An Cosantóir went to Baldonnell to meet with Air Corps Press Officer Capt Brendan O'Dowd and the developer of the new system, Lt Colin Gallagher, a heli pilot with BE (Electrical & Electronic) and MEngSc degrees.

An ST segment myocardial infarction (STEMI) is the deadliest and most common form of heart attack in the industrialised world. The STEMI requires urgent medical treatment and for the best outcome sufferers need to be receiving treatment at a cardio clinic within 90-minutes. (This period is often referred to as the 'golden hour'.)

Evacuating a patient by air instead of by road can be a decisive factor in making the 90-minute target. However, an effective air ambulance response also depends on knowing the exact location of the casualty. To this end Lt Colin Gallagher developed LocateMe112, which is used to pinpoint casualties' locations. The new system is so well regarded that it has been integrated into the HealthAtlas AeroMedical application system developed by the Health Intelligence Unit of the HSE and OpenApp, and is helping to save lives.

Lt Gallagher said: "Getting the exact location has always been a problem for primary response, where ground ambulance crews and the helicopter are tasked simultaneously to a distressed 999 caller. LocateMe112 takes advantage of current technology to provide an exact location within minutes."

LocateMe112 enables the GPS chip on an emergency caller's smartphone to be activated remotely by a link contained in an SMS text

message, which rescue services can then use to pinpoint the exact location of the injured person. The key feature of LocateMe112 is that it doesn't require the installation of an app; the only requirement is that the caller has a smartphone with its location services (GPS) turned on.

While Lt Gallagher's system is not unique, he used an Open Source code and developed his system for trial by the Air Corps.

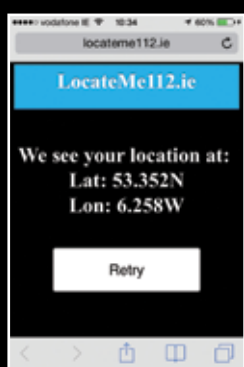
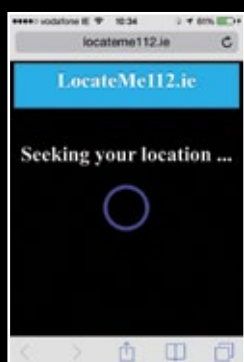
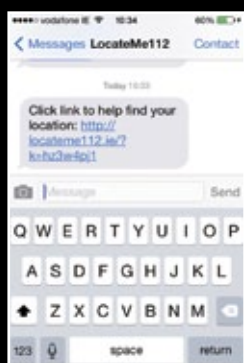
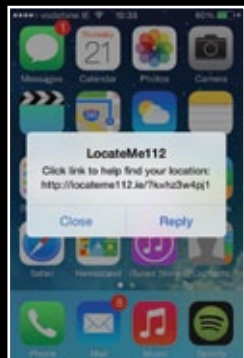
Lt Gallagher continued: "Once the concept was developed and running it was then handed over to the Health Intelligence Unit of the HSE, and mounted on their mapping system (like a plugin), so that there was only one port of call for 999 operators and pilots."

The Air Ambulance from No 3 Ops wing is often tasked by the National Aeromedical Co-ordination Centre (NACC) to attend 999 calls with directions given for roads, which are harder to follow by air. This difficulty was identified by the then EAS Detachment Commander, Comdt Phil Bonner, who set Lt Gallagher with the task of finding a technical solution to help locate the patients/casualties quicker.

With a knowledge of satellite navigation and direction finding on mobile devices, Lt Gallagher set about developing a geolocation application program interface (API), in his own time, using W3C software technology based on HTML5 coding, as used by modern browsers on smartphones.

Lt Gallagher added, "It doesn't have to be the patient's phone; it can be a relative or anyone at the scene, like a first responder."

Lt Gallagher tested LocateMe112 by running it off his own home server for six months. Using friends and family in remote locations to accept the message he would locate them every time.

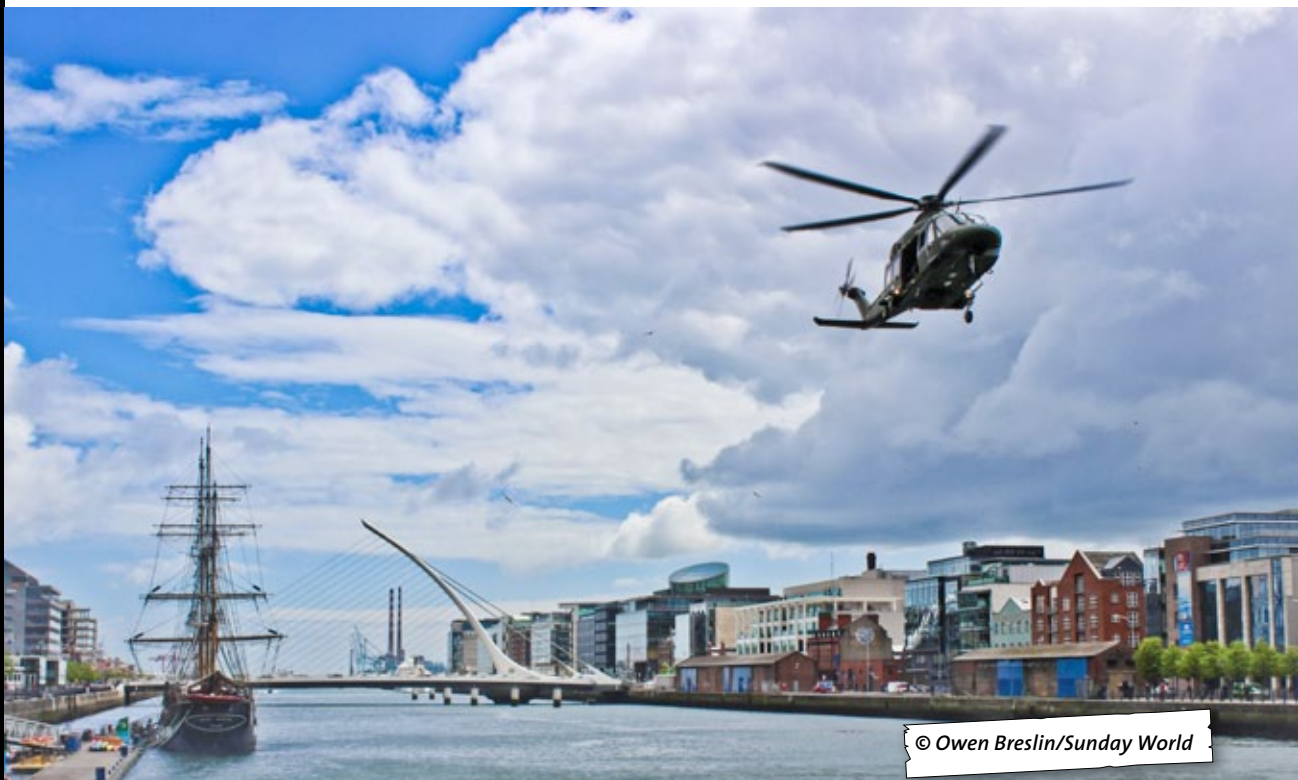


When a person in distress calls 999 the operator goes through a series of questions to determine what assistance is needed. If a heli is required the call is passed to the NACC desk which initiates the LocateMe112 message to get the caller's location.

When the caller receives the text mes-

sage (daughter). The STEMI call was put through to the NACC desk operator who sent him the text from LocateMe112 and dispatched a heli, which was able to locate the patient and get him to the nearest hospital in Galway within 40 minutes. The doctor said the patient would have died where it not for the heli's rapid intervention.

The application, now being co-ordinated by the NACC, is available to other agencies across Ireland including the HSE, An Garda Síochána, the



sage and clicks on the link ,the coding behind the link does three things concurrently: it looks for the last cached location on the phone prior to the call; it activates the GPS chip which takes three minutes to fully activate; and it carries out cell mast triangulation.

A typical call will take three minutes to locate the position of the

phone to within ten feet. As the general location will be identified immediately the heli can be dispatched without delay and LocateMe112 will provide the exact location en route - thus saving valuable time from initial call to the heli's arrival.

The following are some examples of how LocateMe112 has been used in the past few months.

A family of four got lost in Cratloe Woods, Co Clare, in August 2014. Mountain rescue teams tasked by NACC were unable to locate the family, but a rescue heli from Shannon used LocateMe112, which was still on trial at the time, to locate the father's phone and direct the ground rescue team to the location.

In the same month a doctor at the scene of a STEMI in Co Roscommon called for an ambulance on his week-old smartphone (a present from his

Coast Guard and other emergency service providers.

Since its introduction late last year LocateMe112 has been a great success and in the first two months of 2015, the system has been used successfully on five different occasions.

The new system is a source of huge pride to the Air Corps. Capt O'Dowd said: "It's great to see LocateMe112 being used so successfully by so many users. It is innovations such as this application and people like Lt Gallagher that help the Air Corps develop and expand."



ACCREDITATION

Where Credit is Due

BY CAPT GAVIN EGERTON, OTW, INF SCH

Located in the DFTC's Military College, the Infantry School conducts a wide range of instructor and careers courses for students from all corps of the army. With the Director of Infantry as school commandant, the Infantry School comprises of the Officer Training Wing, NCO Training Wing and the Infantry Weapons Wing. In this, the first instalment of a three-part series of articles highlighting the work of the Infantry School, Capt Gavin Egerton focusses on the OTW's Junior Command and Staff Course.

Once a year, the Infantry School's Officer Training Wing conducts the Junior Command and Staff Course (JCSC). This 25-week course is a hugely important stepping stone in the professional development of an army officer's career and is an essential qualification for promotion to commandant.

The course normally accommodates up to 24 captains from all corps of the army and one or more foreign students. The last number of JCSC courses included officers from the Maltese Armed Forces.

Although a requirement for promotion, the JCSC is actu-

ally designed for junior captains, as it imparts the necessary skills that equip officers to function as members of a battalion staff, supporting the commander in his planning and execution of operations, both at home and overseas.

The primary staff functions of S1 (Personnel), S2 (Intelligence), S3 (Operations), and S4 (Logistics) are practiced throughout the course during command post exercises (CPXs) and through tactical exercises without troops (TEWTs). Students are required to complete a number of TEWTs to practice their skills using the estimate of the situation as part of the military decision-making process (MDMP).

While TEWTs are an individual effort, the CPXs rely heavily on teamwork and practice students in a variety of battalion command and staff appointments, invariably in a pressurised environment. Through careful analysis and teamwork, operations orders (OpOrds) are prepared and delivered to the battalion staff and instructors. The MDMP is the essential core of the JCSC syllabus, and the fact that





Capt Stephen MacEoin receiving his level-8 higher diploma in Leadership, Defence and Contemporary Security

so much course time is dedicated to this subject is a reflection of its importance in developing critical thinking and analysis skills among the students.

This development of critical thinking is crucial to the professional development of the army officer and essential in decision making and problem solving. Critical thinking is not just developed via the MDMP and TEWTs but also through the growing partnership with Maynooth University. The students of the JCSC spend one day per week for the first half of the course studying in Maynooth under the tutelage of Dr

Ian Speller and his staff at the Centre of Military History and Strategic Studies. Dr Speller lectures on a variety of topics from grand strategy, through joint operations, to contemporary security, and students are encouraged to discuss these topics in an open forum, challenging what they have studied and critically analysing the subject matter.

The study of military history allows army officers to learn from the lessons of the past and explore the decision-making processes commanders have faced under extreme pressure in difficult circumstances. The JCSC undergo a block of instruction in military history and this culminates with campaign-analysis syndicate presentations.

In order to conduct in-depth research, the JCSC visits famous World War II battlefields. This year's course will travel to Normandy for one week where students will be afforded the opportunity to delve further into their assigned topics.

With the advent of accreditation in the Defence Forces and the academic evolution of the JCSC, students who graduate from the course at the Military College now also graduate from Maynooth University with a level-8 higher diploma in Leadership, Defence and Contemporary Security.

The graduation ceremony of the 25th JCSC at Maynooth and the Military College on 29th October 2014 marked the first occasion on which JCSC graduates received the higher diploma, and the current course is set to continue this new departure.

Accrediting the JCSC recognises the hard work and effort put in by the students and gives them a tangible reward at the end of the course.



25th JCSC at their graduate with Lt Col Sean Murphy and Dr Ian Speller (NUI Maynooth).

Lt Col Liam Condon (Chief Instructor, Inf Sch) said: "The JCSC provides an essential set of skills which add great value to the inputs of its graduates, both at home and in the overseas environment. I would encourage officers to undertake this valuable professional development course as early as possible". ■

Vox Pops

CAPT TOM HOLMES, UNDOF

"I am currently serving as a JOC duty officer in UNDOF Force HQ where my primary function is to monitor and report on all incidents and activity in the AO. I was a student on the 25th JCSC and I feel that the course benefited me greatly, especially in my current role. This was highlighted during the turbulent period in UNDOF's temporary reloca-



tion to the A-side, where the changing situation required the JOC duty officer to act as POC for all positions and OPs. I had to quickly collate and assimilate information and provide detailed analysis and guidance for the Force Commander. The JCSC assisted me greatly in gaining a better understanding of what important facts should be conveyed in a briefing and the confidence to brief general staff in a multinational environment."

CAPT DAVE SLATTERY, UNDOF

"The JCSC provides the necessary tools to allow detailed planning to be conducted at all levels and is greatly advantageous in smaller units such as UNDOF. In the case of the Mech Coy 2i/c appointment, it has allowed the company to conduct a detailed estimate process for both meaningful training and potential operations."



CAPT VINNY MCGRATH, STUDENT 26TH JCSC

"At present, I am a student on the 26th JCSC. The course covers a wide range of topics both military and academic. There is a good balance of time spent in the Infantry School and time spent in Maynooth University, which provides an interesting approach for a military course. Overall there is a positive attitude towards all aspects of the course from both students and instructors."



WINTER MOUNTAINEERING

REPORT & PHOTOS BY CPL TOMÁS EVERARD, NO 3 OPS WING, AIR CORPS

In January of this year myself and two members of the ARW took part in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Winter Mountaineering course, which was hosted by the Swiss Army in Andermatt. In addition to Swiss participants there were students from five other countries: Canada (1), Israel (4), Poland (5), Kyrgyzstan (2) and the three of us from Ireland.

The course started after breakfast on Monday 12th January, with an introduction and brief by the course commander, Lt Col Luciano Fieschi, who welcomed us and outlined the objectives of the course. He also introduced us to the three mountain guide specialists who would be overseeing the course: Julian Beermann, Thomas Lustenburger and Michael Illien. Following this we were brought to the stores and issued with cold-weather gear, skis, boots and any equipment we'd need on a day-to-day basis for the next two weeks.

After lunch we had a ski ability assessment, followed by off-piste and Nordic ski assessments. It was immediately clear there were different levels of experience, so the course was split into three groups, from those with a good skiing ability to the complete beginners.

On the second day, we were taught skills and advanced techniques on the piste, to be used later off-piste and spent the morning practicing these. After lunch we had a lecture and practical demonstration on how to locate avalanche victims via a transceiver of the type that everyone involved in the course wore at all times. Using probes as well, we practiced on a number of buried transmitters that could be switched on remotely.

The next day we refined our newly-learned skills on the piste for most of the day. In the afternoon we went back to the classroom to prepare for our tour the next day.

On day four a short train journey first thing in the morning brought us to Oberalppass, the start of the tour. My group comprised seven students, each of whom would lead a leg. Our route brought us from Oberalppass, up and down mountains to L'ai da Tuma (Lake Tuma), which is the source of the river Rhine. From here we had another few kilometres to our destination, a cabin in the mountains where we spent the night.

We left the cabin early the next day, heading back to barracks the way we came. On the way, we simulated a casualty and assembled a sled using his skis and a few extra pieces we were carrying. Using this method we found it surprisingly easy to get our casualty off the mountain, needing only two or three people to transport him.

We then had the weekend free to relax and practice our skiing on our own time.

Week two started with a full-scale avalanche exercise, with students playing the roles of chief of operations, log writer, and team leaders. The scenario had ten 'victims' buried in the avalanche, eight with transmitters and two without. Thankfully we had the help of a rescue dog and handler to help us locate the two victims without transmitters.

Although conditions were difficult for both the rescue team and the dog because of soft, fresh snow and a breeze that threw off the scent for the dog, we eventually found all ten victims. Later that evening we received more equipment for our bivi the next day.

Day seven started with a short hike to our bivi location where we dug snow caves to spend the night. Caves of different capacities were dug and as our two-man cave was relatively quick to dig we spent some time melting snow and filling water bottles for the rest of the course.

I was a bit nervous about sleeping in a cave with more than a metre of snow above my head but my Canadian buddy put me at ease and reassured me that he had plenty of experience building these. I have to admit, in our sleeping bags, and with the addition of an arctic candle, the sleeping area was surprisingly cosy to sleep in and we had a great night's sleep.

We left straight from our bivi site the next morning for our next tour, which brought us to the summit of Paxolusstock at 2,740m. This was our last chance to practice leading a tour before our final test the next day.

In the evening we were back in the classroom again to plan a

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING



route and make out a route card for the next day's test tour.

Our final assessment started in the town of Realp from where we were to be assessed on our ability to organise a tour, plan a route and lead a group. We split into smaller groups and took turns to lead to our destination, the almost 3,000m peak of Schafberg, which we reached in about four hours. Here we had lunch and took some photos before our 45-minute descent back to the car park.

From there all that was left to do was return our kit, collect our certificates and go out for the end-of-course meal and a few celebratory drinks before returning to Ireland the next afternoon.

Overall this was a great course to be a part of and one of the most physically demanding I've ever done. I struggled with the altitude in the first couple of days but soon got used to it. It was my first time being on a course with people from foreign militaries, which presented challenges but was a good learning experience. I think everyone's skiing and group-leading abilities improved greatly.

For information on membership of the Defence Forces Association of Mountaineers (DFAM) as well as any upcoming courses you can get in touch with any member of DFAM. ■

SPREADING TERROR IN NIGERIA

Boko Haram

BY PAUL O'BRIEN

On the night of 14/15 April 2014 armed insurgents entered the town of Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria, and abducted 276 schoolgirls from the state-run secondary school. The group then managed to evade government forces and disappear into the Sambisa Forest, an area covering 30,000sq miles that includes dense jungle and open savannah.

A statement issued by the group revealed that the children would be treated as slaves and married off; a reference to an ancient Islamic belief that women captured in conflict are considered war booty.

Responsibility for the kidnappings was claimed by a group of insurgents known as Boko Haram (loosely translated as 'Western education is forbidden'), an Islamic jihadist and terrorist organisation based in northern Nigeria.

Founded in 2002, the organisation grew rapidly under the leadership of Mohammed Yusuf. The group's ideology advocates strict Sharia law and the establishment of an Islamic state in Nigeria. It objects to the westernisation of Nigerian society and is against what it sees as the concentrated wealth of the country being distributed among a small political living mainly in the Christian south of the country.

During the first seven years of the organisation's existence, it managed to grow in strength and evade government notice by withdrawing from society and setting up bases in the remote north-eastern areas of the country. The Nigerian government repeatedly ignored warnings of the group's growing radicalisation and their increased militancy.

In 2009, after a spate of attacks against police stations and other government buildings in Maiduguri, a violent uprising by Boko Haram was quashed by the authorities, resulting in the death of Mohammed Yusuf and the imprisonment of many of his followers. However, following a mass prison breakout a year later, the group reorganised and commenced a campaign of attacks against soft targets, steadily escalating their actions to include attacks against police and military installations as well as a suicide attack against the UN headquarters at Abuja.

The group has been conducting its campaign of terror on the cheap, making mayhem with a makeshift collection of automatic weapons, rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. They acquire these armaments from stolen Nigerian military stocks or purchase them on the thriving Central African arms black market. Neighbouring countries such as Chad and Libya also provide an abundance of arms that are easily transported across under-policed and sometimes non-existent borders.

Since giving their allegiances to al Qaeda, military training has increased and has become more sophisticated with international insurgents conducting training camps in the Maghreb and the Arabian Peninsula. This training has enabled them to launch more audacious operations.

Funding for the group is traced to its involvement in bank robberies and kidnapping ransoms. Nigerian businessmen held for ransom may fetch an estimated \$1,000,000, while foreign nationals, many of them aid workers, bring in even more. The group is also involved in extorting money from local governments, with councillors willing to pay subsidies in order to protect their villages.

While Nigeria is now a democracy under its president, Goodluck Jonathan, the country was once governed by a series of ruthless military dictatorships from 1966 until 1999. It was during this time, and the rise of ethnic militancy, that Boko Haram grew in popularity and established a base in Maiduguri, the capital of the north-eastern state of Borno.

A religious complex, consisting of a school and living quarters, attracted many Muslim families from across Nigeria and neighbouring countries. Yusuf Mohammed's goal of creating an Islamic state while also denouncing police and political corruption enabled the organisation to become a fertile recruiting ground for disenchanted Muslim youths.

After the prison break in 2010, Boko Haram reorganised and launched IED at-



Cameroon's Elite Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) meets with local tribesmen on the border with Nigeria. © Anthony Galloway/NBC News



tacks against a number of soft targets, killing many civilians. In 2011 a vehicle-borne IED attack killed six people at the police station in Abuja. Eleven UN staff members and 12 civilians were killed and over 100 people were injured in the attack on the Abuja UN HQ.

Attacks have increased in recent years, with politicians, religious leaders, security forces and civilians being targeted and Boko Haram has occupied large swathes of northern Nigeria where the Nigerian military are unable to expel them.

Since the advent of democracy in Nigeria, the army budget has been reduced and recent investigations have revealed that the military are short of basic equipment, such as radios and armoured vehicles. Morale is low, with widespread corruption amongst its ranks. Government sources have stated that Boko Haram are better armed and better motivated than army personnel and that it is impossible to locate and destroy the insurgency.

While operations against Boko Haram have gained some momentum in recent months, the insurgents have found sanctuary in the Sambisa Forest where they can launch mass attacks against poorly

defended villages, looting, killing and burning properties in what appears to be a warning to local people not to collaborate with the security forces.

In January 2015 Boko Haram launched an attack against the town of Baga. Protected by a multinational force comprising troops from Niger and Chad, the town was the last bastion in Borno State under the government's control. Insurgent forces advanced on the town from the north, south and west (the eastern flank was cut off by water). With the town surrounded, the multinational force fled leaving thousands of men, women and children to the wrath of the insurgents. As the troops fled, the insurgents torched the town, killing inhabitants with impunity. An estimated 2,000 people lost their lives, with thousands of refugees fleeing the area, seeking sanctuary further south.

International condemnation has brought the insurgency and Nigeria's counterinsurgency campaign to the world stage. While many have suggested an increase in military operations supported by Western powers, others have claimed that a reduction of the region's poverty and the construction of an education system that gains the support of local Muslims is the only way that the situation can be resolved.

Along with many schools in Nigeria the secondary school in Chibok, where the schoolgirls were abducted, had been shut down but the students were called in to sit their final exams. The insurgents, who entered the school under the guise of being guards, ordered the terrified students, aged from 16 to 18, to come with them. Reports state that the Nigerian military were aware of the planned attack but failed to send a security detail to secure the school, stating that their overextended forces were unable to mobilize reinforcements.

While the abduction of the schoolgirls has prompted global outrage and prompted a search operation supported by international forces, the Islamic extremists, along with their hostages, have evaded capture. A video taken by Boko Haram reveals the girls dressed in long headscarves and robes, clothing known to be associated with conservative Islamic dress codes. Several of the girls talk about their conversion from Christianity to Islam and reports received have identified that many have been taken ill from the conditions they are being held under and also due to the region being malarial.

The Nigerian government has claimed that they have carried out negotiations with Boko Haram to get the schoolgirls released, but so far these do not appear to have borne fruit.

Petitions submitted by the girls' families have pleaded with not only the Nigerian government but also with world powers to contact

Boko Haram to negotiate the safe return of their children. A campaign entitled 'Bring Back Our Children' has brought worldwide support for the safe return of the girls.

While some of the captives managed to escape, the families and relatives of those that remain still await news of their children, believing that the Nigerian government did too little too late and left the girls to what many believe is a fate worse than death.

Recent news sources claim that Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have accepted a pledge of allegiance from Boko Haram. ■



Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) troops carry the Israeli-made Galil assault rifle.



Protestors march to highlight the #BRINGBACKOURGIRLS campaign started by Ramaa Masley



Driving Up STANDARDS

ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY STUDENTS OF THE MT DRIVER INSTRUCTORS COURSE PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE

The MT Driver Instructors course took place in the Transport School, DFTC, from 19th January to 20th February 2015. The course was five weeks in duration, with the final week consisting of a written test, a class-taking assessment and a practical driving assessment. Before commencing the course, the students had to pass two pre course assessments consisting of a rules of the road examination and a practical-driving assessment.

The objectives of this course are to provide the student with academic and practical knowledge on the rules of the road and their application for learner drivers; methods of instruction for driver training from a classroom and driving perspective; a comprehensive knowledge of driver-safety issues; and Transport Corps administration and accountancy procedures.

Thirteen students, representing all corps in the Defence Forces, and with a wide range of military experience, took part in the course. Units represented on the course included Tpt Gp DFTC, Eng Gp DFTC, Naval Service, 27 Inf Bn, 6 Inf Bn, 2 Arty Regt, 7 Inf Bn, 12 Inf Bn and Ord Gp 1 Bde.

To coincide with the MT Driver Instructor course, a Module 2B driving course took place in the Transport School. Conducting both courses concurrently proved very successful and was of significant benefit to both courses as the student instructors got invaluable experience instructing real students, under the guidance of qualified driving instructors.

The student instructors practised giving lessons to Module 2B students on all sections of Drivers Standing Orders (DSOs), rules of the road, and on-road driving lessons, including trailer instruction, hazard perception, traffic-light procedure, roundabouts, and cross-country driving.

At the end of the course, each student instructor was able to demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of driver-training practices and requirements, including novice-driver safety issues and an ability to instruct on introductory Defence Forces driver training modules. They were also able to communicate advanced knowledge of the Defence Forces driver training policy to student drivers. In addition they were able to demonstrate knowledge of MT driver administrative requirements, general driver health-and-safety issues, DSOs and road-traffic accident procedures.

The role of the Defence Forces driver instructor is to educate the learner driver in all aspects of driver training, including classroom instruction and practical (on-road) driving instruction.

The standard required of the DF driver instructor is the same standard expected of approved driving instructors accredited by the Road Safety Authority (RSA). With the vast array of vehicles in the Defence Forces, both troop carrying and stores carrying, all Defence Forces driving instructors must be competent, motivated and have a very high standard of personal driving and instruction, in addition to knowing all specifications for vehicles they are trained on. It is important that these standards are adhered to in order to ensure the Defence Forces complies with civilian best practice in regard to driver training and safety standards. ■



Vox Pops

Cpl Paul Howe

"I started off in a Land Rover and have now progressed to the artie truck and trailer. This course seemed a natural progression from there and has taught me you can teach an old dog new tricks. Very enjoyable course; I'd recommend doing it."

Cpl Robert Merrigan

"I've been driving for 10 years now and after doing this course it will be good to be able to pass on what I have learned to future DF drivers. I have really enjoyed the course and look forward to coming back to the school as an outside instructor one day."

Sgt John Cannon

"The course is very informative and enjoyable at the same time. It was conducted in a nice and relaxed manner. Plenty of good instruction from the outside instructors as well as the transport school staff. I feel as though my own driving has also improved."

Sgt Thomas Naughton

"I learned a lot on the course and have definitely improved my own driving skills. I'm looking forward to teaching my new skills to those wanting to progress their driving skills in all DF vehicles."

Cpl Gavin Brackenbury

"It was a very informative course that brings home all the safety aspects of driving and also improves your own personal driving skills. Learning to teach students makes you more aware of the rules of the road. It will be a pleasure to pass on all my new skills to students on future courses."

PO Tom O'Donovan

"It was a tough course but very enjoyable. It was hard coming up from Cork but I'm glad I did. I learned a lot that I had forgotten, as I haven't been in a transport unit in 10 years. I will now go back to the navy and run driving courses in the future whenever I can."



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(DFTC) & SOLDIERS AID FUND



EVENT INFORMATION



VENUE: DFPEs, DFTC

DATE: 7th May 2015

TIME: 1000hrs Safety Brief / 1100hrs Start of Event

COST: €50.00 per 5 man Team

EVENTS: A variety of challenging & Fun events – with PRIZES!

DRESS: (Civilian PT gear), (Swim togs, hat & goggles), (DPM's, Boots, Helmet, Gloves) Non-swimmers welcome too ☺

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 17th April 2015

POC: BDE BPEOs & forwarded to siobhan.osullivan@defenceforces.ie



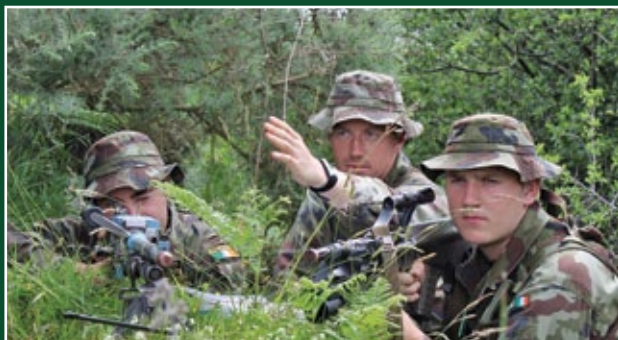
Benefit night in Ceannt NCOs Mess @2000hrs - all participants welcome!! ☺







FIELD CRAFT – PART 7



Indication of Targets

When a target is indicated, the soldier has to be able to recognise it quickly so that it can be effectively engaged. Also, on occasions, when the soldier is alone and has seen the target, he/she has to be able to indicate it to the remainder of the section.

Aim: To teach how to recognise and indicate targets.

Preparation: Recce the training area and select an arc of fire and reference points and realistic battle targets to use during demonstration and practice in direct, reference point, clock ray and handangle methods of indication. If taking the lesson indoors, position three adjoining landscapes against one wall and mark the section's position not more than 10m from them. Check that the target indicated has been recognised correctly and encourage the use of the word "Again" if it has not.

There are two types of target:

Point Targets: Which appear to the naked eye to have no appreciable width or depth such as a corner of a field.

Wide Targets: Which have width but no apparent depth such as a hedgerow.

Arc of Fire: Explain and demonstrate, that it is easier to recognise a target if the area of ground in which it is likely to be, is known; such an area of ground is called an 'Arc of Fire'.

An Arc of Fire is indicated in the following sequence:

- The Axis, i.e. the middle of the arc.
- The Left and Right of Arc.
- Reference Points (Prominent objects): These should be as permanent as possible, woods, mounds, etc, a reasonable distance apart and easy to identify. A specific point of the object is nominated and given a range and name, i.e. "400 - Mound - bottom left corner - to be known as Mound."

Methods of Indication:

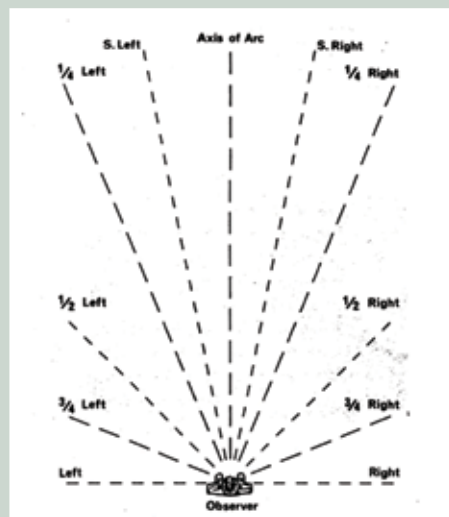
Direct Method: Explain and demonstrate that this method is used to indicate obvious targets. The range, where to look and a description of the target are given.

- 'Centre of arc', for targets on or very near the axis.
- 'Left' or 'Right', for targets 1600 mils (90 degrees) from the axis.
- 'Slightly', 'Quarter', 'Half' or 'Three quarters' and 'Left' or 'Right', for targets between the axis and 'Left' or 'Right'.

Reference Points: Explain and demonstrate that to indicate less obvious targets, a reference point may be used together with the direct method and perhaps the words 'above' or 'below' as well. Examples:

- "copse" is the reference point, and "small bush" is the target: "300 - copse - slightly Right - small bush"
- "mound" is the reference point, and "gate" is the target: "200 - mound - slightly Right - and below - gate"

NOTE: When indicating targets, the range given is the distance to the target.



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

DEATH IN THE CITY

Dublin 1916

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND VIA FLICKR
www.flickr.com/photos/nlireland/sets/72157628305129213/



It is an interesting fact that between 24th April and 12th May 1916 over 1,200 Irish men and women died in Dublin, France and elsewhere as a result of war. Some were killed trying to free their country from oppression, others fell believing they were supporting the cause of civilisation. A number were civilians who became unintended victims of the Easter Rising.

While the centenary of the 1916 Rising is rapidly approaching, not many people know of the scale of death and destruction that was inflicted on what was then considered the second city of the British Empire.

As the Dublin Metropolitan Police were withdrawn from the city streets and law and order collapsed, many impoverished Dubliners saw an opportunity to loot from premises left unguarded. As doors were broken open and windows smashed, tales of ragged street urchins collecting booty from Noblett's sweetshop on O'Connell Street and women stockpiling shoes and dresses soon became legendary within the city. While some citizens appealed to the looters to stop, the Irish Volunteers and the military both fired on the large groups that rushed from building to building.

As the battles intensified throughout the city, many civilians found themselves caught in the crossfire and there were to be many casualties. A blind man who was shot by a sniper on O'Connell Street was treated by a medic from the St John's Ambulance who ran to his aid and applied a field dressing to

the wound. As the men stood up and tried to get out of the firing line, two shots rang out in quick succession, killing them both. Many more were to fall on that street as a very real war erupted in Dublin city.

Even the salubrious surroundings of the plush Shelbourne Hotel on St Stephen's Green wasn't a safe haven for its many guests staying there for the bank holiday weekend.

While walking through the revolving doors of the hotel, George Smethwick was shot and seriously wounded. Victor Brooke was hit in the leg as he sat down for lunch in the dining room and a Mr Armiger had his jaw shattered by a bullet as he sat down in the sitting room of the hotel. The wounded and the remaining guests were transferred to the safety of the writing room at the rear of the building. Nearby an eight-year-old girl, Doreen Carphim, was shot and wounded.

Many of the casualties were non-combatants and the nearby Mercer's Hospital recorded 16 dead and 278 wounded during Easter week. The hospital was overwhelmed and temporary casualty-clearing stations had to be provided at premises on Merrion Square and Harcourt Street.

A fierce gun battle at Mount Street, in Ballsbridge, resulted in numerous deaths among the residents as many left their houses to see what was happening in their city.

Even those who remained indoors weren't safe: Mrs Elizabeth Kane was killed and her daughter seriously wounded when their house, 20 Delahunty Buildings, came under fire.

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

Mr Hayter, a local grocer, was also killed as he attempted to cross the line of fire.

In order to retake the metropolis from the rebels, the British directed artillery fire on to the city, with devastating results. Fires erupted throughout O'Connell Street, adding to the ones that had been set by the looters. The conflagration spread rapidly, destroying everything in its path, with the fire brigade unable to attend to the inferno as the battles raging throughout the city prevented them from leaving their stations.

A number of bizarre events occurred during that week, the most unusual being the twice-daily truce, observed by both sides, as Mr James Kearney, the park keeper, entered St Stephen's Green to feed the ducks.

As large parts of 'the second city of the Empire' burnt to the ground, rebel positions slowly began to capitulate and surrendering Volunteers were taken into captivity.

It is a little-known fact of the Rising that there were more civilians killed during that week than British soldiers or Irish Volunteers, yet while the rebels are remembered each year in a public commemoration in O'Connell Street, the hundreds of non-combatants, men, women and children, that were killed that Easter week, have no memorial. Instead, they lie throughout Dublin's many graveyards, forgotten, a silent reminder of a city at war and of 'man's inhumanity to man'. ■

About the author:

Paul O'Brien is a military historian and author and a regular contributor to *An Cosantóir*. He has written many books on the 1916 Rising, including *Shootout: The Battle For St Stephen's Green, 1916*; *Field of Fire: The Battle of Ashbourne, 1916*; *Cross-fire: The Battle for the Four Courts, 1916*; *Blood on the Streets: 1916 and the Battle for Mount Street Bridge*; and *Uncommon Valour: 1916 and the Battle for South Dublin Union*. He has also written monographs on Dublin's oldest cemetery, *Bully's Acre, (Kilmainham Tale 4)* and *Arbour Hill Cemetery (Kilmainham Tale 5)*. www.paulobrienauthor.ie



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

WATER *Everywhere...*

BY SGT RENA KENNEDY, DF PRESS OFFICE PHOTOS SGT PAUL BRADY, CIS GP, DFTC

Both the Basic Swimming and Assistant Swim Teachers courses commenced in the Defence Forces Physical Education School (DFPES), Military College, DFTC, on 9th February 2015 and ran concurrently for two weeks. The courses are hosted by DFPES with tutors coming from the school staff (Sgt Stephen O'Toole, Sgt Mick Brogan & Cpl Mary Wrafter) and also from Irish Water Safety (Anna Byrne and retired Coy Sgt Dan O'Connell).

For the students on the basic course the majority of time is spent in the water being taught the various leg and arm actions for the four main swim strokes (front crawl, back crawl, breast stroke and butterfly). Instruction is also given on life saving and survival strokes, such as treading water, sidestroke and life-saving stroke. Each swim stroke is taught with a contrasting activity, such as head/feet-first surface dives, pencil dives and sculling. Lessons vary in length but the majority last approximately 30-40 minutes, depending on the ability of the class.

The students on the Assistant Swim Teachers course spent periods in the lecture hall learning the teaching practices and teaching points for each swim and life-saving stroke and contrasting activity. For teaching purposes swimming strokes are broken down into different phases. As an assistant swim teacher you must know the levels of the students you are teaching and also move at a reasonable pace of instruction for your students, which can be challenging if some pupils are more advanced than others. Keeping the attention of your class, be they adults or children, is a vital part of your teaching ability.

Sgt Liam Brady executes a dive under the watchful eye of Sgt Mick Brogan



Pte Gretta O'Connor giving instructions

Basic Swimming Course

and is tested rigorously. On passing the course you must achieve a minimum of 15-hours as an assistant swim teacher before progressing to the Swim Teachers course.



Sgt Stephen O'Toole has 41 years' service in the Defence Forces and will retire later this year. Anyone who uses the DFPES's training facilities and students who have attended any of the school's various courses will be familiar with Stephen. A multi-talented athlete, he won many sporting titles over the years including boxing, running, swimming and CISM pentathlon, and was Irish triathlon champion in the 1980s. His love of swimming stems from his belief that it is a basic life skill and one that should be promoted in all walks of life.

Sgt O'Toole encourages water safety alongside the enjoyment aspect of swimming and recalls that the Defence Forces has lost personnel due to drowning accidents overseas and at home. He gets great enjoyment from seeing a non-swimmer with very little confidence in the water improve their skill and make progress over the two weeks of the Basic Swimming course. For the assistant swim teachers, Stephen would like to see them utilise their qualification and teach basic swimming strokes to members of their home units.

Sgt Mick Brogan outlined the annual events in the DFPES swimming pool to give a flavour of how utilised the facility is by members of the Defence Forces and civilians alike. The school conducts the Assistant Swim Teachers course, Swim Teachers course, three Basic Swimming courses and two Life Saving courses annually. The staff also conducts confidence training with all recruit platoons and a one-week intensive training course with Naval Service recruits.

There are twice-weekly, early-morning, stroke-improvement, endurance swims and evening water aerobics lessons available. The DF triathlon, dive, canoe and water polo clubs also regularly use the facility.

In addition, the pool provides access to lessons for all local schools and numerous swim clubs. It's certainly a busy spot! ■



Pencil dive off high platform

Remaining courses in 2015

Basic Swimming: 30th March -10th April

Basic Swimming: 30th August – 11th September

Life Saving: 29th June – 24th July

Swim Teachers: 30th August – 11th September

Vox Pops

Sgt Chris Hoare (1 Bde AR & NBG) Basic Swimming course

"I was apprehensive coming on the course. I didn't have a fear of water, more a fear of drowning. There was no opportunity for me as a child to learn how to swim so I felt as I got older it was a skill I was lacking. After week one I was able to swim one width in front crawl, back stroke and breast stroke. By week two I managed a length in each stroke.

"It was a huge achievement for me to dive off the 3ft board and to have the confidence to jump into the dive pool.

"I would recommend the course to non-swimmers, as I felt learning with students who had some knowledge of the strokes made me work harder and pushed me on."

A/Sea Colin Archer (Naval Service) Basic Swimming course

"I was a very weak swimmer coming on the course. Apart from the swim week I did as a recruit I hadn't spend much time in the pool. I have a fear in deep water that decreased over the course as I learned how to tread water. I have more confidence now that I can swim in different strokes and this will help me when I do sea survival skills in the Naval Base. I was happy to pass my assessments on week two, with front crawl being my preferred stroke."

Armn Donal McLean (Air Corps) Basic Swimming course

"I came on the course to learn the basic swimming strokes and the correct technique for each. After the assessment on day one I felt I had a lot to learn but over the hours spent in the pool I became more confident and I definitely improved; being able to swim a length towards the end of the course. My favourite stroke would be backstroke and my least favourite is breaststroke.

"I'd recommend the course for non-swimmers and improvers, as the varying standards in swimming on my course certainly helped push me along."

Pte Gretta O Connor (27 Inf Bn) Assistant Swim Teachers course

"I previously completed the DF Life Saving course and have an interest in swimming as I compete in triathlons. I came on the course to learn the technicalities of each stroke so I can improve my own performance as a swimmer and also to teach the correct stroke initially to students instead of trying to correct bad habits. I would like to spend a few years gaining experience in swim teaching and then progress to coaching. I only learned to swim myself in 2010 so it's never too late."

(Gretta is competing in Ironman Canada in July and will have to swap the tepid temperatures of the DFTC pool for the 3.8km swim in Lake Alta. She is hopeful of qualifying for a place in Ironman Hawaii. We wish her all the best.)

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Aishlinn Quaid, pictured with
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teer to take a BUMBLEance Sponsorship Card, just send us your
name, address, e-mail and phone number and we will do the
rest. Training is on every Sunday @ 09:00 in Arthur's Quay
Park, Limerick, we will be delighted to see you there and who
knows - we might just get fit!

Please feel free to email us marie.quaid@gmail.com or
save1training@gmail.com if you want to do this or help in any
way. Thank you and we look forward to your support.



DEFENCE FORCES

Triathlon Training & Event Programme 2015



28 Jan 2015	Training Day	Custume Bks	1000hrs start
04 Feb 2015	Training Day	Custume Bks	1000hrs start
11 Feb 2015	Training Day	DFTC	1000hrs start
11 March 2015	Training Day	Dundalk	1000hrs start
08 Apr 2015	DF Duathlon	Baldonnell	1000hrs start
29 Apr 2015	Training Day	Haulbowline	1000hrs start
TBA May	Training Day	Lough Ennel, Mullingar	1000hrs start
27 May 2015	Try a Tri	Haulbowline	TBC
03 June 2015	DF Triathlon	Lough Ennell, Mullingar	TBC
20-24 Jul 2015	Open water swim camp - Galway		TBC

*Training days will be coached by Triathlon Ireland qualified coaches in swimming
biking and running each day. All levels catered for. Beginners welcome.*

For more information contact

Training Officer - Sgt Jackie Wykes - jackie.wykes@defenceforces.ie

GEAR UP



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Reinforced grab handle, QuickTact™ accessory straps, Sunglass pocket, Flip-down ID panel and Padded internal laptop sleeve.

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Send your answer along with your name, address & contact number to An Cosantóir's address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 21st April 2015. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner was: Joe Fitzgerald, Newbridge, Co Kildare

NOTICEBOARD

WRITING ARTICLES AND LETTERS

Ideally we would like articles and letters submitted in by email or disc (CD/DVD). As a general rule, we look for 2-page articles with 600 words per page. Larger articles are considered, though they may be 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 – And **MUST** come with photographs or recommendations to sources of images.

SENDING IN A PHOTOGRAPH

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

Save as: jpg format - **File size:** No less than 1.5MB - **Resolution:** 300 DPI - **Dimension:** 15x10cm (6x4in) minimum.
For our convenience and to make it easier to remember try get the original photo from the digital camera and send that in. Naturally, if you are sending in a number of digital photographs burn them to disc and post in, mark envelope 'CD with Photographs'.

Also submit a short note with details like: **Who** is in the photograph (L/R: rank, first and surnames) & **Who** took the photograph? **What** was the occasion? **When** did it happen? **Where** did it happen? If sending in photographic prints, avoid writing on the back of them.

WORD SEARCH

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

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

Engineering

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R	F	S	Q	S	K	G	B	U	L	W	A	R	K	U
Y	W	B	D	E	M	Y	C	H	A	F	Q	I	U	V
U	P	U	R	Z	K	T	R	O	F	R	A	T	S	Y
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N	O	C	G	I	J	P	W	O	W	H	T	Z	N	A
E	J	U	A	M	E	T	T	E	U	Q	N	A	B	C
K	A	S	P	J	H	I	N	O	I	T	S	A	B	M
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N	J	A	C	F	X	E	H	U	P	G	T	S	P	M

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Q&A APRIL

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE AIR CORPS PILOT WHO DEVELOPED LOCATEME112 (THIS ISSUE)?

Post your answer along with your name and address to us or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a limited edition *An Cosantóir* Dry Flo T-shirt and DF 'Goody Bag'

Last month's winner of the *An Cosantóir* T-shirt and 'Goody Bag' was Danielle Burke, Monasterevin, Co Kildare. Closing date is 21st April 2015.



VETERANS INTERNATIONAL PARADE

The Patrick Sarsfield Branch ONE is delighted to announce that the Veterans International Parade (VIP 2015) will take place on Sunday 17th May commencing at 12:00 noon from Pery Square, Limerick. For more information visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/onepsb Or contact the secretary 083 324 4822.

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THE GREEN DIVIDE AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE IRISH CIVIL WAR

Author: Michael B. Barry
Publisher: Andalus Press
 (November 2014) <http://andalus.ie/>
ISBN: 978-0956038364
Price: €25.00*
Pages: 192



The Irish Civil War that erupted in 1922 was a bitter and bloody conflict that shaped Ireland for the decades that followed. The Green Divide is an illustrated history of this tempestuous time in Irish History. The signing of a Treaty with Britain divided the country and what began as a tense standoff between pro- and anti- Treaty forces escalated into armed conflict. Like all Civil Wars, the actions deteriorated into a bitter downward spiral of arson, executions and assassinations. Barry's work packs in plenty of detail, spinning through the events at a quick pace without compromising the book's real purpose, that of an illustrated history.

As with the author's other works, the real draw is its impressive collection of photographs and other images. This alone gives the reader a better sense of what life was really like, for those involved in the fighting and those caught up in this tragic affair. Just some of the amazing pictures in this edition include Free State troops travelling to Cork city by sea, the storming of the citadel and their advance through that county. There are pages of posters and public information materials (from both sides of the conflict), plus documents to give the reader a clearer insight into specific events.

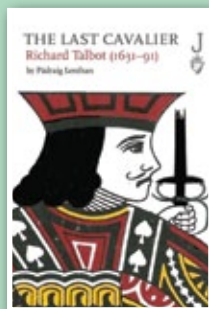
Barry is also a talented photographer who inserts current photos of Civil War monuments, places and buildings to great effect, which enhances the reader's perception of the conflict. Revealing that those battle sites and memorials are still visible once you know where to look. Perhaps some of the most poignant photographs are those that show the damage to the rail and road infrastructure that would take decades to repair. This is undeniably an illustrated history as it should be seen, and an excellent and enthralling read. **PO'B**

*Available in bookshops or send a cheque for €33 made out to Andalus Press (includes €8 postage for Ireland). To: Andalus Press, 7 Frankfort Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6, Ireland.

THE LAST CAVALIER: RICHARD TALBOT (1631-91)

Author: Pádraig Lenihan
Publisher: UCD Press (October 2014) www.ucdpress.ie
ISBN: 978-1906359836
Price: €40.00 Hardcover
Pages: 260

Pádraig Lenihan's biography of Richard Talbot 'The Last Cavalier' throws light on some of the most dramatic events of the 17th century in Ireland and in England. A fascinating character Talbot fought in the Irish Confederate Wars, joined the Royal Court in exile in Europe, was involved in a plot to assassinate Oliver Cromwell, worked as an agent for dispossessed Irish Catholics in the settlement of Irish lands after the restoration of Charles II, served as Lord Deputy of Ireland under James II and fought at the head of the Jacobite Army at the Battle of the Boyne before his unfortunately timed death in August 1691.



Lenihan is meticulous in referencing his sources and uses a wealth of primary source material to carefully trace Talbot's extraordinary career – which included a term of imprisonment in the Tower of London, service with the Anglo-French fleet in a naval battle against the Dutch in 1672 and match-making for the Duke of York (later James II) in 1673.

Possessing only a vague impression of the events and chronology of this period in Irish and European history I was at times overwhelmed by the volume of characters operating on the same stage as Talbot and by the complicated nature of the political intrigues in which he was involved.

Lenihan does an excellent job in making his subject accessible if not particularly likeable. While this is by no means an easy read, it is a fascinating account of one of most important, and until now largely forgotten, political figures in Ireland at that time. **NG**

AVENGER: INTREPID 3

Author: Chris Allen
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Chris Allen's latest book *AVENGER: Intrepid 3*, sees the return of a vengeful enforcer, Alex Morgan the Interpol special agent who is back in the most exciting Spy/Thriller Series since Ian Fleming's James Bond. Allen's series is based on the idea of an Interpol Unit know only to a few as Intrepid: the Intelligence, Recovery, Protection and Infiltration Division. "They are a top secret black ops taskforce operating in the shadows to protect the world's most vulnerable people from the worst among us".



Following on from the number 1 bestsellers *DEFENDER: Intrepid 1* and *HUNTER: Intrepid 2*, where Alex and the Intrepid team are sent to Hong Kong to investigate the human trafficking ring known to be run by the unknown blonde European woman known only as the Knight Witch.

During a fierce gun battle through the back streets against triad hit squads and corrupt cops Alex meets and rescues his newest Interpol colleague Elizabeth Reigns, who he finds as an equally impressive operative during the mission. It's not all good news, with a loss to the team which sends Alex seeking revenge on the Night Witch and her secretive team of traffickers.

Follow Alex as he tracks her back to her island lair and infiltrates her close nit team as a security adviser, then the game of wits begins and ends with a nail biting finish. **WF**

AIR CORPS APPRENTICESHIP

WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

BY APTCE CONAL SHEERAN PHOTOS BY SGT PAUL MILLAR

I'm Conal Sheeran, from Athlone, Co Westmeath, and I'm a member of 70th Air Corps Apprentice Class. I am currently in my second year studying for a B Eng in Military Aviation Technology.

The apprenticeship takes four years, with each year comprising two academic semesters consisting of six modules, on subjects such as maths, physics, aerodynamics, aircraft structures and systems, and power plant (gas turbine engines). Throughout each semester students complete a number of continuous assessment projects and face final exams on each subject, which provides both a practical and academic challenge.

Each year, apprentices also undergo a period of work experience in a live aircraft environment, under supervision from Air Corps aircraft maintenance technicians.

Every apprentice spends time in No 3 Support Wing and No 1 Support Wing hangars, where rotary- and fixed-wing maintenance take place. Time is also spent in Avionics Squadron, No 4 Support Wing, where the electronics and electrical systems of every Air Corps aircraft are dealt with.

Currently, my class of 20 apprentices is just completing Year 2 Semester 1, which has been the most practical and hands-on semester so far. As part of our power plant module, Sgt Eoin Stanley and Sgt John Brophy, two of our instructors, tasked us with designing and building four working gas turbine engines for our final projects.

All of our skills were tested on this project, particularly the CAD (computer-aided design) course we completed in Year 1, which was a huge element in our design process for the engines, along with producing maintenance manuals and illustrated parts catalogues for each.

Our workshop skills very much came into play, with every apprentice manufacturing unique, homemade components, such as compressor and turbine blades for the engines. Our planning, organisational and leadership skills were also being tested, as time was a huge issue, with other modules running concurrently, and the project leader changing each week.

Integration with personnel from other Air Corps workshops (who were a massive help), such as the Machine Shop, and the Welding and Sheet Metal Shop, was also a huge factor in this project and gave us an insight into the volume of work that is involved in aircraft maintenance planning.

On completion of my degree, I hope to be sent to No 3 Support Wing as part of the maintenance crew for the AW139 and EC135 helicopters.

I would highly recommend an Air Corps apprenticeship to any school-leaver thinking of a career in engineering. ■



70th Air Corps Apprentice Class pictured with Brig Gen Paul Fry, GOC AC and Sgt Eoin Stanley at the rear.

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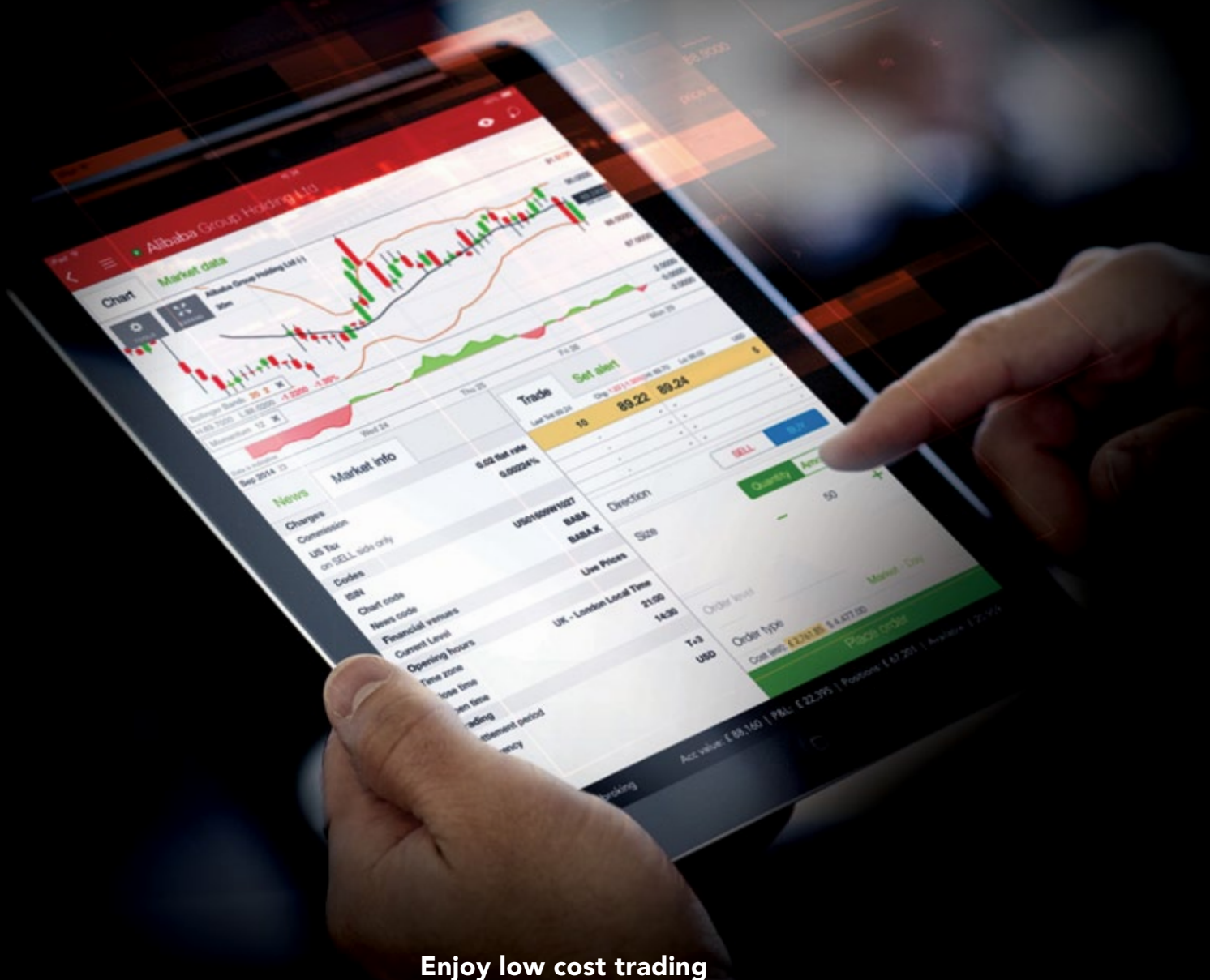


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