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AN COSANTÓIR

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MAY 2013

**MEDIA
PIONEER
AWARDS**

SHORTLIST 2013

IMERC
RDF RE-ORG
THE NAVAL SERVICE
CBRN
TRAINING
BTC CHALLENGE

**MOUNTAIN
SURVIVAL**

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Front Cover

Geb Spez Combined Winter Mountaineering Course, Switzerland. Photo By: Cpl Paul O'Connell (i Cn Cois)
For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout: www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine

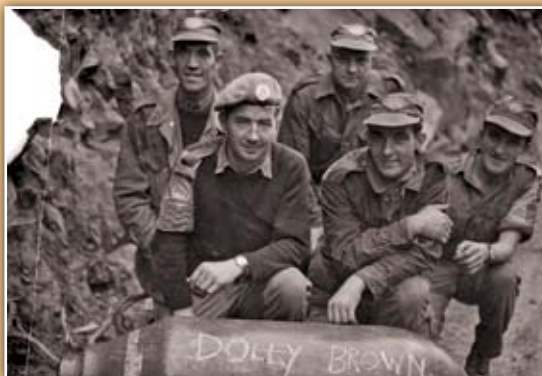
Hello and welcome to a very special May issue, with *An Cosantóir* shortlisted for the **Specialist Pioneer Media Awards 2013**. We are extremely proud just to be shortlisted as it shows that the magazine is recognised internationally as a professional in-house magazine – well done to all the staff past and present – onwards and upwards for another 73 years.

We have many of your photos *On Parade*. Our *In Focus* pages features two St. Patricks Day visits to the US – with members of both the RDF and UN Vets updating us on their visits. We have taken a break from our Lebanon features to fill you in on what's been happening around the DF. In *Mountain Survival*, Pte Thomas Mc Hale-Roe (1 Cn Cois) reports on the Mountain Rescue Training Course with the Swiss Armed Forces. Sgt Karl Byrne pens his first article for us; in *BTC Challenge* he explains this new venture by 2 BTC. Capt Paul Morrissey writes about *Addressing the CBRN Threat* with some great photos to accompany it. Our *Def-Tec* centre spread is on the Naval Service, and in particular the LÉ Emer and her crew, we also have a pull-out poster of LÉ Emer to accompany the feature. In *Strategic Review* Wesley Bourke reports on the Naval Services contribution to *IMERC: Developing a Maritime Ireland*. Wesley reports on the current re-org of the RDF in our *In Reserve* pages. In our *History* feature Lt Col John O'Loughlen visits the Irish/French Exhibition in the National Museum, Collins Bks, Dublin. In our *Sport* pages Cpl Paul Millar visited Athlone to report on the DF Indoor Climbing Championships. Plus we have our other regular features – *World Strategic Picture*, *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews* and the start of *Special Edition What I Do*.

Wayne Fitzgerald

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

Can you help?



Liam O'Keefe, telephonist at the DFTC switch, will retire after 28 years service. Chances are anytime you rang up the Curragh switch it was Liam that helped you find your way. He has assisted thousand's of DF personnel. Liam started work in MaGee Bks, Kildare, home of Depot Artillery. When in 1985, he used the old-style switch with the jacks that had only two lines and 50 extensions. He moved to the DFTC after 13 years and spent the remainder of his career manning the phones there. Now, Liam says he is looking forward to just relaxing and putting his feet up. Everyone here in the DFTC wishes him the best and a happy retirement. Photo: Cpl Paul Millar (PR Br)

This photograph was taken in Cyprus during the UNICYP mission in April 1965. If you can help identify anyone or add to the story this photo please send your comments to Coy Sgt Paddy Sludds sluddsp@live.ie or call 086 8903856.



Thanks Liam!

Roscommon County Council and the Connaught Rangers Association presents

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NEW SAILORS ▶

On 4th April 2013, Recruit Class Robert Forde had their Passing Out Parade at Haulbowline Naval Base. During their drill display they formed the shape of an anchor. *Photos: A/Sea David Jones (NS)*



BEST SOLDIER & KELLY FAMILY ▶

On 27th March, Col W Dwyer (EO DFTC) presented the trophy for 'Best Soldier' to Pte 2* Dean Foster at the Passing Out Parade of 102 Rec Pln, 1 ACS. Also pictured at the event are the Kelly Family (l/r): Sgt Paul Kelly (Retd) with his sons Pte 2* Darren Kelly, Pte Michael Kelly and Tpr Chris Kelly. *Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)*



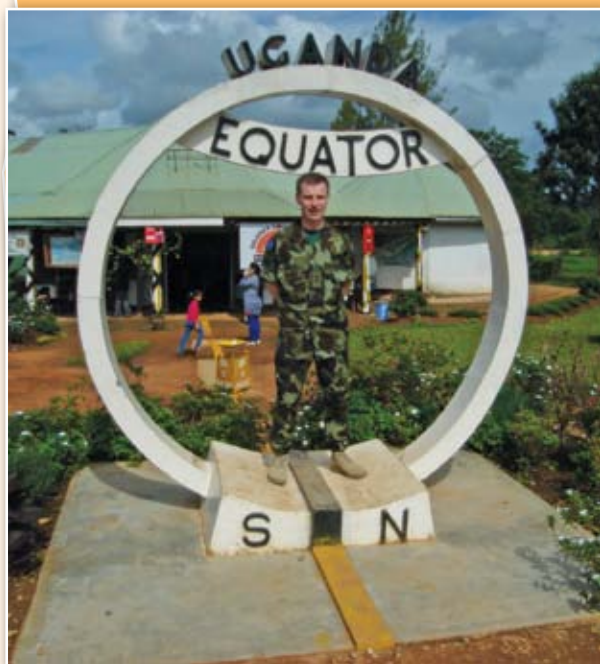
◀ NEW 7 BN SOLDIERS

Pictured on March 26th 2013, at the Passing Out Parade of 86th Rec Pln, 7th Inf Bn, in Gormanston Camp, are (l/r): Lt Donal Mitchell, 'Best Soldier' Pte 2* B Lynam, Sgt Mark Cummins and Fr Bob McCabe CF and the 86th Rec Pln under the control of Sgt Cummins. *Photo: Sgt Damian Faulkner (105 Sqn, AC)*



EUTM SOMALIA ▼

Pictured on the equator is Lt Tomás Caulfield of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM), Somalia, who is part of the MP Training Team for the Somali Armed Forces, based at Bihanga, Uganda. *Photo: Lt Col John O'Loghlen*



FAMILY TRADITION ▲

Pictured continuing the long standing tradition of families from Mullingar joining the ranks of the Artillery Corps are (l/r): RSM Noel O'Callaghan with Sgt Paddy Poynton and his son Gnr Paul Poynton, his grandfather retired RSM Larry Poynton (4 FAR) and Lt Col Denis Harrington OC Costume Bks, Athlone. And another family also pictured with RSM and the OC are retired Sgt Paul McConville (4 FAR) and his son Gnr Darren McConville. *Photos: RSM Noel O'Callaghan (2 Arty Reg)*

ISAF TROOPS ▶

Pictured on St. Patrick's Day while serving with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan with General Joseph 'Fightin' Joe' Dunford, Commander of ISAF are (l/r): Comdts' MacNamee, Craven and Lawlor, Gen Dunford, BSM Higgins and Coy Sgt Kelly. *Photo: DF Press Office*





WITH THANKS

Pictured at a charity 'Race Night' event hosted by the NCOs Mess, Collins Bks, Cork, were over €3,500 was raised for the Cork Penny Dinners charity. They are (l/r): RQ Eddie Foley (1 AR), Isabel McMahon (Cork Penny Dinners), Cpl Tom O'Regan (Ord Coy), Sgt 'Junior' Carroll (NCOs Mess), Mrs Catriona Twomey (Cork Penny Dinners), Cpl Donal Murphy (NCOs Mess), RSM Jerry Dineen (1 AR), Mr Gary Heslin (Cork Penny Dinners) and Lt Col Pat Coleman (OC Collins Bks). *Photo: Sgt Barry McCarthy (1 Bde HQ)*

NEW JNR LEADERS

Pictured on 11th April 2013, at the Passing Out Parade of 54th Potential NCOs Course in Custume Bks, Athlone. Where Brig Gen Michael Finn (GOC 2 Bde) presented the 'Best Student' award to Pte David Cassidy (1 Cn Cois) and 'Best Contributor' to Gnr Paul Halpin (NSRC). *Photo: Lt Lisa McMahon (2 BTC)*



YOUNG CAVALRY OFFICERS

Pictured at a Cavalry Club Young Officer Induction Dinner held at the Officers Mess Military College on 4 April 2013, the four newly commissioned officers were welcomed into the Cavalry Corps. They are: Lt Brian Lane, 2/Lt Grattan O'Hagan, 2/Lt Darren Reilly and 2/Lt Lisa Chambers. *Photo: Capt Michael Bohan*



ONE COLOUR PARTY

Pictured is a Colour Party of the ONE Fr James Gilmore Branch from Swords on St. Patrick's Day 2013, they are (l/r): Sean Shinnors, John Whelan, Brian Kenny, Jack Devereux, Ronnie Lewis, Margaret Hunt, Dessie O'Hara and Paddy Rooney. *Photo Dessie O'Hara*

IN REMEMBRANCE

On Easter Sunday, 31st March 2013, ONE Patrick Sarsfield Branch held a commemoration ceremony at Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE) Monument in Pery Square, Limerick. The Mayor, Gerry McLoughlin laid a wreath at the monument in remembrance of the men of 1916. The Colour Party under the command of Gerard Enright rendered military honours at the monument. *Photo: Patrick Sarsfield Branch*



POST 27 HONOURS SAINT JOHN BOSCO

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON

On the 26th February, Post 27 Portlaoise of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) was proud to provide a Guard of Honour (GoH) for the relic of Saint John Bosco. The Italian saint canonised in 1934, was making his way around the world for preparation of his 200th anniversary in 2015.

The GoH lined up outside the church of St. Peter and Paul in Portlaoise at 14.30hrs to salute the relic and casket of Don Bosco into the

church. We then led the procession with the flag party and GoH forming up on both sides of the casket.

Later that evening we went back to the church to honour the saint at 19.30hrs for night mass, we again led the procession with the flag party and GoH led the priest to the altar and also during the offering of the host and wine.

We had 19 members of Post 27 at the church for the mass; Patrick Canning with the National Flag, Myles

Carroll with the UN Flag and Tommy Breen carried the Post Flag. Members who marched beside the casket were James Bastik, Richard Reid, John Molly, Cyril Henry, Michael Coyle, Christopher Maher, Archie Raeside, Patrick Harding, Patrick Murray, Emmet Bourke, with James Shields as co-ordinator and Joseph McEvoy the parade marshal. The stewards were; Tommy Flanagan, Tony Harrington, Conny Dunne and James Hutchinson.

www.iunvapost27.ie ■



UN VETERANS VISIT BOSTON – FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

REPORT BY PATRICK CANNING (POST 27)

Members from IUNVA Post 30 and Post 27 travelled to the US to take part in this year's St Patrick's Day celebrations. We arrived on Friday the 15th and attended a reception in the Moakley Courthouse in Boston, and then on Saturday 16th March we were invited to a change of command ceremony in the Suffolk College of Law in Boston by Capt Fitzpatrick from the Judge Advocate General Office.

On Sunday 17th March members of Post 30 (Galway) and Post 27 (Portlaoise) met in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel Boston to march in the St Patrick's Day parade. With the weather at -5° so we kept moving as we waited 1hr 45mins until we joined the parade. Our uniforms and medals were visible so that people lining the roads could see them. The Parade went through downtown Boston; it was approx 4 miles long and it took 3hrs to complete. Our partners were also on the Parade carrying a Galway banner. The feeling was amazing as we were cheered by the crowds as we paraded by.

Everyone from our group completed the parade journey.

On Tuesday 19th March, all the members from Post 27 jumped on a bus and headed to New York for the day. They were: Jim Bastik, Charles Mott, Paul Kearney, Gerald McDonald, Christopher Delahunt, Seamus Kelly, Patrick Canning, Mary Dowling Mott, Veronique Canning and Bridget Coughlan. It was snowing in Boston when we left and it took us 4hrs to get to the Big Apple. Our first visit was to the UN HQ, then to the amazing Time Square. We then visited 'Ground Zero', the symbol of the 9/11 disaster. This was a sombre place to be, a bronze plate 9x3 meters is in place to remember the police officers, firemen and rescuers who lost their lives on that terrible day. They are in the process of building 4 new structures, as well as a memorial to all the people who lost their lives in the twin towers. We finally visited the Statue of Liberty from Battery Place, as we did not have enough time to travel to Staten Island. The trip overall was great and it was well worth the visit. ■

RESERVISTS ON THE MARCH

BY LT JOHN MC CANDLESS (58 RES INF BN)

On March 14th members of 58 Res Inf Bn departed Finner Camp under the leadership of Comdt Gerry Jordan and Comdt Peter Keenan to take part in the unit's fourth St Patrick's Day Parade in New York. Despite the fact that each member of the unit was travelling at their own expense there was no problem getting volunteers for the trip.

The group visited various sites in New York including the Armoury, home of 69th Infantry Regiment, more famously known as the 'Fighting 69th', where we received the usual céad míle fáilte from the unit commander, Lt Col James C Gonyo.

At 0600hrs on Saturday 16th March, the day of the parade, our officers and senior NCOs attended the commander's reception at the HQ of the 69th Regiment for the traditional St Patrick's Day toast. Comdt Keenan presented Lt Col Gonyo and his staff with shamrock, and Lt Col Gonyo presented us with boxwood. The 69th wear sprigs of

boxwood in memory of their charge against Confederate lines along Mayre's Heights at the Battle of Fredericksburg. It was their ferocity at this battle that led Confederate General Robert E Lee to dub them 'the Fighting 69th'. Special guest at the ceremony was 4-Star General Frank J Grass, the National Guard Bureau's 27th chief.

We were additionally honoured when Lt Col Gonyo invited us to march with him and his regiment from Lexington Ave to St Patrick's Cathedral for High Mass. As we marched towards the cathedral, 850 members of the 69th sang out a marching chant, which brought applause and salutes from New Yorkers. It truly was an honour to be part of a 252 year old tradition and this gesture by the 69th is one we will particularly remember with pride.

We joined the remainder of our battalion at 0730hrs outside St Patrick's Cathedral to more applause and photo opportunities.

During the Mass members of the battalion were asked to be part of an escort during the Eucharist. A group of reservists of all ranks carried out this duty with dignity and pride in front of the Mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, and An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD.

Before the parade Mayor Bloomberg came and greeted us. At 1100hrs, we rendered honours to the Colours of the 69th Regiment as they passed by to begin the parade.

The parade was made much more special as An Taoiseach joined us for the march. Before setting off he shook everyone's hand and wished us luck. It was a great honour for the unit to lead the largest parade in the world down 5th Ave with An Taoiseach beside us.

At the end of the

parade we fell in behind the 69th as they marched into their HQ. Tradition has a large part to play here, with the generals and the officers of the 69th lining the entrance to the Armoury to salute the troops as they enter. As our turn came Lt Col Gonyo asked for three cheers for the 58th Bn. This was a moment my fellow reservists and I will never forget.

On the journey to New York we met the Maynooth Chamber Choir, who on tour. Before the parade Comdt Jordan had asked Lt Col Gonyo if the Chamber Choir could visit the Armoury after the parade to sing for him and his men, which the Lt Col duly sanctioned. The choir's performance totally captivated their audience, both Irish and American and Lt Col Gonyo said it had been the highlight of his term as commander of the 69th. It was a great way to end the evening.

As Comdt Jordan stated, "These trips have created great cohesion, identity and esprit de corps within our unit". The welcome we received was second-to-none and we were very proud to be representing our country in uniform at the biggest St Patrick's Day parade in the world. ■

An Taoiseach with Members of the 58 Res Inf Bn, with Sgt Cinturati US Marine Corps



(l-r) Col Gonyo OC 69 Regiment, Gen Frank Grass (Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff) at the morning toast in the 69 Reg HQ at 6am with Comdt Peter Kennan, Lt John Mc Candless and Comdt Gerry Jordan



Cpl Andrea Kelly and Cpl Kevin Begley escorts the Priest at Communion





EUROPE

Former UK prime minister, Baroness Margaret Thatcher died aged-87. The UK's first female prime minister was borne to St Paul's Cathedral for a ceremonial funeral as thousands lined the streets of London. Although not officially a state funeral she received full military honours, the coffin was escorted by members of all three armed forces to a service before a congregation of 2,300 from across the globe.



EU backed talks between the leaders of Serbia and Kosovo ended with no deal on how to coexist peacefully. Talks mediated by Catherine Ashton, the EU foreign affairs chief said, the gap between the parties was "narrow but deep".

Thirteen people were shot dead in a village near Belgrade, Serbia's capital, by an unemployed veteran of the Balkan wars who went on a gun rampage. Identified by police as Ljubisa Bogdanovic, born in 1953, he also shot his wife, mother and son before turning the gun on himself.

THE AMERICAS

Two explosions ripped through bystanders at the finish line of the Boston Marathon in April. Three victims died; a 29-year-old woman, a Boston University graduate student from China and an 8-year-old boy, with 264 treated in hospitals. Federal law enforcement officials said both bombs were small, and tests showed no C-4 or other high-grade explosive, suggesting crude materials were used. After a shootout with federal agents, the bombers were identified as Chechen brothers Tamerlan (26), now dead and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (19), recovering in hospital with gunshot wounds. Tamerlan is believed to have been on a federal database of potential terrorism suspects.

Efraín Ríos Montt, Guatemala's military dictator in 1982-83, and his then chief of military intelligence, José Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez, are on trial in Guatemala for genocide and crimes against humanity. The charges arise from systematic massacres of the country's indigenous population carried out by military and paramilitary forces during the country's brutal civil war.

Bolivia's president Evo Morales, said his government would take Chile to the international courts in order to recover a corridor to the Pacific Ocean. Access was lost in a 19th-century war with Chile. Chile's president, Sebastián Piñera, has vowed to defend the country's borders. A ruling is due this year over their maritime boundary.

ASIA



North Korea's regime has become ever more

aggressive, putting its rocket and artillery units at a "combat posture" by targeting US bases on the American mainland, Guam and Hawaii. It said it was preparing for a "state of war" with South Korea and threatened to restart its Yongbyon nuclear reactor.

UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, warned that the crisis on the Korean peninsula may

become "uncontrollable". He again urged North Korea to tone down its "provocative rhetoric" while South Korea has raised its alert level to 'vital threat'. Both the US and South Korea warned North Korea's dictator, Kim Jong Un, of the consequences of any attack.

Former president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a 1999 coup - ruling until 2008, has returned from a self-imposed exile in London. He claims he had come to "save" his country.

Africa

THE MIDDLE EAST

A spokesman for the Syrian extremist Islamist group, Nusra Front, said that the group had merged with al-Qaeda in Iraq. Nusra Front is a prominent force in the battle to overthrow the regime of Bashar Assad in Syria.



The Syrian National Coalition took Syria's seat at an Arab League summit in Qatar. Its delegation was led by Moaz al-Khatib. A spokesman from the Assad government said the seat had been handed to "bandits and thugs".

Lebanon's Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, resigned amid infighting and disagreements. Tammam Salam, a Sunni, is considered closer to Saudi Arabia and the West and less friendly to Hezbollah, the Shia party-cum-militia, than was his predecessor.

In South Sudan five peacekeepers from India and seven foreign civilians were killed by a militia said to be led by David Yau Yau, leader of the Murle tribe. South Sudan's government has accused Sudan's government of trying to stir up strife in the breakaway state.



One of Congo's most notorious warlords, Bosco Ntaganda, walked into the US embassy in

Kigali, the Rwandan capital, to be taken to the International Criminal Court. The ICC had issued an arrest warrant for him in 2006, for seven counts of war crimes and three counts of crimes against humanity between 2002-2003.

After rebel fighters took Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic. Michel Djotodia, a rebel leader, declared himself president. The ousted president of CAR, François Bozizé, has accused Chad of helping rebels to overthrow him.

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MOUNTAIN SURVIVAL



For the past 15 years the Swiss army has been training foreign troops in mountain skills. Their mountain specialists, Geb Spez, known locally as the 'soldiers in skis', are in the Military Mountaineering Service Centre in Andermatt at the foot of the Gotthard Pass in Central Switzerland. From there they run a variety of international courses, from skiing, and winter- and summer-climbing, to mountain rescue and dealing with avalanches, as part of the Swiss contribution to NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) project.

BY PTE THOMAS MC HALE-ROE
PHOTOS CPL PAUL O'CONNELL (BOTH FROM 1 CN COIS)

Switzerland still has national service and military service is compulsory for all Swiss men aged between 20 and 34; women can serve voluntarily. The Geb Spez maintains a state of permanent readiness for training and support in mountain-rescue tasks for the entire Swiss army. After their 15 weeks of basic training some Geb Spez personnel are posted to different combat units to assess and advise commanders on mountain exercises and operations.

There are 600 mountain specialists on active and reserve duty. In addition to their military duties Geb Spez personnel are occasionally called in to assist the civil authorities.

Mountaineering and skiing are core competences of the Swiss army, and it is therefore natural that their international exchange courses should include these skills. On January 14th two members of the Irish Defence Forces underwent a Geb Spez combined winter mountaineering course (CWMC) in Switzerland along with 13 other students from Belgium, Canada, Georgia, Great Britain, Israel, and Switzerland. The course combined a two-week basic winter mountain training

course and a two-week advanced winter mountain training course, and is designed to provide students with mountaineering, avalanche, and rescue techniques to an expert level. In addition there were a number of tactical exercises in the mountains to allow the students the opportunity to apply the different techniques.

The main objectives of the courses were to give the participants the knowledge necessary to serve as a training instructor and adviser. Training is given to improve general knowledge and the ability to survive in mountainous areas under difficult winter conditions. The participants must learn how to perceive and evaluate avalanche risks, and then initiate and take avalanche rescue measures in fulfilling missions in different terrains.

The courses provided by Geb Spez assume a certain level of skill in the subjects, so to participate in the basic course you must have mountaineering qualifications and a competent skiing level. You also require a high level of fitness before attending the course. Most international participants usually come from their countries' military mountaineering units. The two De-

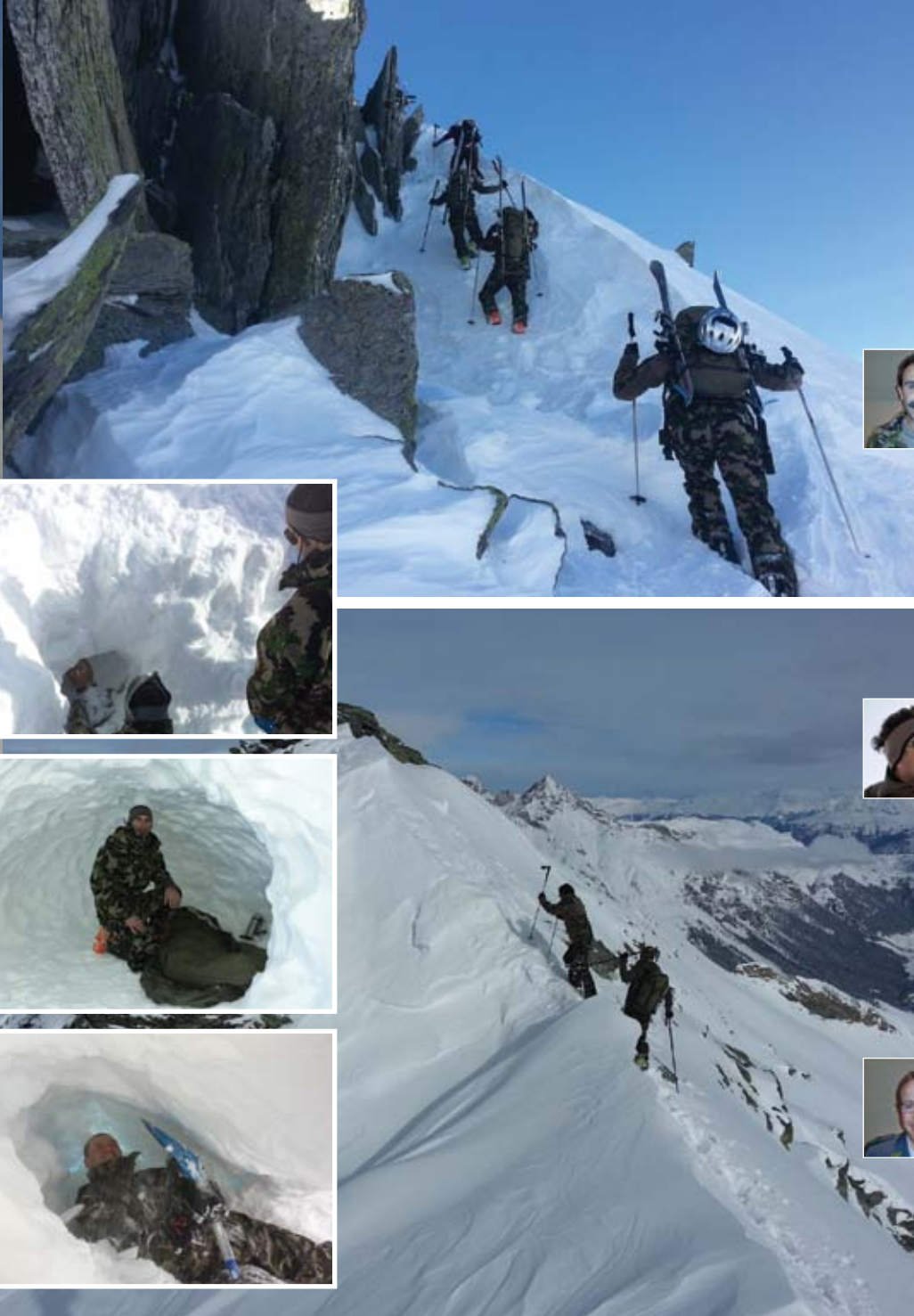
fence Forces participants are members of the Defence Force Association of Mountaineers (DFAM) and qualified confidence training instructors (CTIs).

On the basic course we started off with skiing on- and off-piste, before progressing to cross-country touring. In the evenings, after dinner, we attended lectures on avalanche risks and rescue techniques, alpine navigation and survival skills.

All equipment on the course was supplied by the Swiss army, including insulated Gortex army uniforms. On the second week we got the chance to put our skills into action as the class took part in avalanche rescue exercises while on overnight expeditions staying in alpine huts.

Only those who successfully pass the basic course are allowed to continue on to the two weeks of the advanced course. During the advanced course there was a lot more asked, and expected, of us. The instruction was more in-depth and the students were given a leading role when planning routes and assessing conditions.

The members of the class also took part in carrying out snow profiles in steep terrain, which is the most impor-



LT COL LUCIAUO FIESCHI

(33 years' service: Swiss Mountain Rescue)

"There are two main benefits of the Pfp Combined Winter Mountaineering course. First is the technical training from different military mountaineering units. As instructors we find we learn as much from the students as they do from us. Second is the human element. These courses bring together troops from all over the world to work together with the same goals. This sharing of knowledge and experience is one of the main key elements to Pfp courses."



LT DANIEL SCHLIEFSTEINER

(23 years' service: IFMGA mountain guide)

"The Pfp courses have a very good atmosphere compared to other courses. From my experience as a civilian mountain guide, I find working with soldiers is different to working with civilians. Soldiers have a different attitude and motivation to reaching the goals and objectives of the course that they are on. They are fully committed to the course and give it 100%."



CPL ARNO CAPREZ

(10 years' service: mountaineering instructor)

"The course gives the students lots of practical training in the mountains. Every day they are putting theory into action, so progression levels on the course are rapid. The course may not be perfect for everyone, but it has well-experienced instructors and the students have a good opportunity to ask as many questions as possible and progress their alpine mountaineering skills."



PTE PASCAL VENDRAME

(7 years' service: skiing and mountaineering instructor)

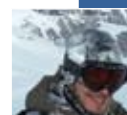
"A lot of the soldiers on these courses come from countries that don't have extreme mountains like the Swiss Alps. This course introduces them to different terrain, teaches them how to deal with extreme cold, and how to survive in snow conditions overnight. They also learn how to work in rescue teams, both as a participant and leader, so the course has lots of benefits, from teamwork to survival skills."



PTE SILVAN JOHN ROTH

(3 years' service: skiing and rock-climbing instructor)

"It's rewarding to spend time in the mountains with international students. As Geb Spez we are not only teaching, but also learning from the students. Whether its technical climbing skills or survival skills, each country seems to have different techniques and methods to share on the course."



tant task in assessing avalanche risk. An area roughly two metres squared is dug into the snow, to ground depth if possible, temperatures are taken, and the shape and consistency of the snowflakes are measured. This information is then sent to the Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research in Davos Dorf, which analyses avalanche risk and issues daily avalanche bulletins for the benefit of tourists and the general public. The Institute also relies on qualified civilian mountain guides to forward information and also information from robotic stations situated throughout the country.

In the final week of the course we were based in a military bunker in the mountains from where the class set off on expeditions that included learning how to build snow holes and how to survive sleeping in the snow overnight.

At the end of the four weeks everyone who had passed all the requirements of the course received a diploma in Winter Mountain Training, issued by the Swiss Military Mountaineering Service Centre.

The course has two main benefits: first, extending the knowledge and experience of mountaineering throughout different international military organisations, and, second, spreading comradeship and kinship between the participating military personnel. ■

addressing the CBRN THREAT

BY CAPT PAUL MORRISSEY (ENGR PL COMD, 108 INF BN) PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLOR

The 17th CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) Defence Instructors course ran in the School of Military Engineering (SME) from January 28th to March 1st. The five-week, train-the-trainers course was attended by students from almost all corps of the Defence Forces.

The objectives of this course are to give officers and NCOs the level of knowledge required to: organise and run CBRN training safely and efficiently within their brigades and formations; operate the Respirator Training Facility (RTF) in a safe manner; and competently and confidently instruct on the skills outlined in 'Survive to Fight'.

The course developed the students' knowledge of the CBRN 'Survive to Fight' drills before moving onto CBRN detection,

recce and survey. The final phase of instruction focused on the newly refurbished Karcher CDS 1000 decontamination unit, which gives us the ability to use the newest, most efficient decontaminates available.

The students' introduction to the roles and capabilities of other state agencies involved in CBRN was facilitated by visits to the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland and the Office of Emergency Planning. The students also received briefs in the SME from the Ordnance Corps, Civil Defence and the Fire Service.

The course culminated in a final exercise that combined CBRN survey skills and the setting up of a full CBRN decontamination line. In the first phase the students acted as a CBRN platoon tasked with supplying a number of survey teams to enter a suspected contaminated area to determine the type of agent released and the extent of the contamination.



For the second phase of the exercise the students set up and manned a CBRN decontamination line for those who would have theoretically been contaminated in the first phase of the operation. They conducted pre-, main- and post-decontamination of personnel, kit and vehicles. This was the first time the newly upgraded CDS 1000s were set up for an exercise and tested to their full capacity.

Troops of the 101st Three-star Course, who were undergoing the CBRN element of their training in the DFTC at the time, played the part of the contaminated survey teams.



The exercise was greatly enhanced by the Ordnance Corps' new CBRN field simulation unit, SIMPLUME, which allowed us to place a number of transmitters around the Military Training Facility (MTF). The students could get live 'readings' from these transmitters on the training versions of the new light-weight chemical detector, LCD 3.3, they were equipped with. This made the exercise more realistic for the students, who now had realistic readings showing up on their detector units. They were also able to identify the agent based on these readings.

From a DS point of view it meant we had much more control over the exercise and were also in a far better position to assess the students' use of equipment and their knowledge of the survey drills.

Students on the course return to their parent units with the knowledge and skills required to train personnel up to a higher standard of CBRN proficiency than ever before. Their running of company-level CBRN defence specialist courses will play an important role in maintaining and developing our CBRN capability as part of any modern military force, and allowing us to remain current and interoperable with foreign militaries within Europe and further afield. ■





BTC Challenge

BY SGT KARL BYRNE PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE & SGT MICK BURKE

In the recent reorganisation 2 E Bde BTC and 4 W Bde BTC were amalgamated into 2 BTC, headquartered in Dublin with two training centres continuing to operate in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin, and Custume Bks, Athlone.

On March 22nd 2 BTC (Dublin) and 2 BTC (Athlone) brought six teams each from their current Potential NCO courses to the Curragh to face each other in a battle of mind, body and spirit. Lt Ryan from 2 BTC (Dublin) was appointed i/c of the event, which was instigated as an 'OC's challenge' by 2 BTC HQ.





On the day of the competition the 12 teams, each comprising at least six members, readied themselves to start the course that Lt Ryan had set up, comprising six challenges and a final race around the Tank Tracks. Warm-ups completed and battle-cries roared, the teams set out in pairs to face their first challenge.

First on the menu was the GPMG stand where the teams carried out a relay involving stripping and assembling the GPMG, interspersed with 150m runs carrying water containers.

Next came an endurance race involving an ammunition resupply in the area of the old graveyard.

From there it was on to a small pond just near the Sheep Pens at Lumville House where they were tasked with retrieving a ball from 7ft-long tube. The teams quickly realised they needed to fill the tube with water to bring the ball within reach and with only helmets and bare hands to get the job done, all the competitors were soon drenched in pond water.

A long stretch up to the Fairy Ring brought the teams to a map-reading challenge, where team members were tested on their skills with a map and compass working out grid references and bearings.

From there a short 300m dash across the Plains brought them to their fifth challenge, which tested the team leaders' ability to control his team. They had to manoeuvre their way across an area using two planks, each of which was only just long enough to hold the full team. On reaching a designated area each team member then had to throw a dummy grenade at a marked target.

This was followed by a long trek to the woods beside the pitch-'n'-putt club where the teams faced a CBRN challenge in which they were timed getting into full Cat 4 Romeo dress and field stripping and assembling their rifles.

It was then on to the final event, a race around the dreaded Tank Tracks. Luckily for the teams the course only went over the hills and not through the

deep pools in some of the tracks. While many would say that every team that completed the challenge were winners, that's not the military way and Section 1 of 2 Pl, BTC (Dublin), were triumphant overall.

The winning section consisted of: Cpl Collins (2 BTC Staff, Sec Comd), Cpl Rochford (7 Inf Bn, 2i/c), Pte Connaughton (7 Inf Bn), Tpr Donnelly (2 Cav Sqn), Sgmn Browne (2 Bde CIS Coy), Pte Wright (28 Inf Bn), Pte Dowdal (4 Fd Eng Coy), Armn Saunders (No 1 Sp Wing), Pte McCabe (1 Mech Coy), Pte Hynes (McKee Camp Staff), Pte Holohan (LBH). ■



Fire-fighting team were (l/r): A/Mech Alan Murray, A/Sea Justin Guinan, L/Sea Tom Kiely and TT/ERA Ken O'Donovan



the NAVAL SERVICE



BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLOR

On March 28th staff from An Cosantóir joined the Naval Service's LÉ Emer (P21) on a patrol in the Irish Sea. It was a cold, early start for us on Dun Laoghaire's east pier, where our escort picked us up in a RIB (rigid inflatable boat) powered by twin Yamaha 400 outboard engines. We were given a safety brief, which was precise and to the point - life jackets were fitted and its safety devices pointed out - "Sit forward, at all times keep your arms and feet inside, and don't let go" - and then we were off.

The RIB parted the emerald waters of the Irish Sea as we made our way out into Dublin Bay to LÉ Emer where the crew awaited our arrival.

The ship, which is due to be decommissioned as part of the fleet replacement programme when the first of two new naval vessels enters service; P61 is due January 2014. LÉ Emer still looked really impressive as we drew alongside. The RIB was hoisted aboard and we were very warmly greeted by the ship's executive officer and 2 i/c, Lt (NS) Gavin McCarthy, who gave us another safety brief as we removed our life jackets and wets. We were also informed that we would be told when and where we could take photos, as much of the ship's operations and equipment are classified.

Our first visit was to the bridge, where we were introduced to the ship's captain, Lt Cdr Daniel Wall, and some of his crew. We were invited to observe the ship's navigation system and view our lane out of Dublin Bay and into the Irish Sea. As the ship moved out smoothly in the Force

5 sea-state, Lt McCarthy told us about the ship's recent activity and upcoming tasks. "On Monday and Tuesday we took part in a two-day examination at sea for future ships captains' who were undergoing the Senior Command Operations Course (SCOC) conducted by the Naval College," he told us. "This is the culmination of a six-week course for our future ships captains. On Wednesday we were on a fishery patrol on the East Coast; today we have a press visit; on Sunday some of the crew are involved in the 1916 commemoration ceremony at the GPO; and then on Monday we start a four-week fishery patrol."

Lt McCarthy then gave us a brief rundown on what is involved on a fishery patrol, including boarding operations. "Being boarded for inspection is very common for fishing vessels," he explained. "It's just like drivers being stopped and having their tax and insurance checked by An Garda Síochána." He then showed us the screen displaying the Fishery Intelligence System (FIS), which is updated hourly by satellite and enables the NS to monitor all of the vessels in their patrol zone.

After the bridge we were given a tour of the ship, where we met many of the crew going about their daily routine. While at sea there will generally be around 20% of the crew resting at any one time due to shift rotations. We were then invited to lunch in the Senior Rates Mess, where we relaxed and conversed with the crew over some tasty soup and rolls.



Navigator S/Lt Tadhg Clarke



Lt Alan Flynn (NS) checks the charts



Later the ship's crew gave us a fire-fighting demonstration and a display of a boarding party's equipment and tactics.

Unfortunately my sea legs went missing for parts of the visit, much to the amusement of my fellow visitors and the ship's crew, but during those absent times I at least had the pleasure of visiting many of the ship's 'heads' and I felt I did my bit to help keep them clean after use.

Although we only spent a few hours on board, I think our short visit still gave me a good understanding of what it takes to be a member of the Naval Service. They truly are a dedicated team of hard-working professionals; even seasick sailors still have to get on with the job.

The Naval Service is acknowledged, nationally and internationally, as a flexible, impartial, multi-skilled, well trained, highly motivated, professional maritime service that is responsive to the needs of the nation. The primary role of the Naval Service is the maintenance of our maritime sovereignty by the delivery of operational patrols, over which Ireland claims jurisdiction by establishing a physical presence at sea. This includes deterring intrusive or aggressive acts, conducting maritime surveillance, maintaining an armed naval presence, ensuring right of passage, protecting our fisheries and other marine assets, and combating illegal drug and weapons smuggling. The Naval Service must also be capable of supporting army operations through sea-lift and close naval support.

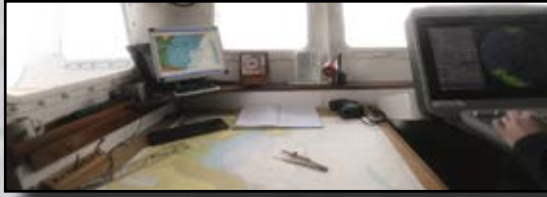
In 2012 the Naval Service patrolled 132,000 sq miles of sea (approx four times the land mass of Ireland, representing 15% of Europe's fisheries) during their 1,480 patrol days. They boarded and inspected 1,325 fishing vessels from Ireland, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Lithuania, Belgium, Portugal, Denmark and the Faroes. 40 fishing vessels from Ireland, UK, Spain, France and Lithuania were warned for 53 infringements and they made 20 detentions for alleged infringements of fishing regulations. The Naval Service Diving Section is the states primary dive agents and was called out on 79 operations. They were involved in 14 separate Search and Recovery operations following requests from the Coastguard and An Garda Síochána lasting 49 days. ■

All of the Naval Service operates 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. It is a testament to the men and women of the Naval Service that this feat is achieved with a small fleet of eight ships and only 1,094 personnel. To find out more about the Naval Service visit: www.military.ie/naval-service/





Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND



Weaponry Onboard

Main Armament

Bofors 40mm L70 Canon

Secondary Armament

2 X 20mm Rheinmetall RH202 Canon



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTOIR

dfmagazine.ie

LÉ Emer Characteristics

Type	Offshore Patrol Vessel
Length	62.5m
Beam	10.5m
Draught	4.4m
Main Engines	2 X SEMT- Pielstick Diesel 4,800 HP - 1 Shaft
Speed	17 Knots
Range	6750 Nautical Miles @ 12 knots
Beam	10.5m
Crew	46 (5 Officers)
Commissioned	16 January 1978

Named after the wife of Ireland's most famous warrior, Cúchulainn. Emer was a proud and dominant woman. She has been described as being hot tempered and violent, tolerating no rivals for her husband's affections.



L.É. Emer

Defend | Protect | Support

IMERC:

Developing a Maritime Ireland

BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & A/SEA DAVEY JONES

IMERC (Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster) was amongst the projects put forward for An Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Awards 2012 after the organisation was singled out for demonstrating innovation and excellence across the full breadth of state services. An Cosantóir met with IMERC Director Dr Valerie Cummins, and Strategy Co-ordinator Lt Niamh Ní Fhatharta, to find out exactly what IMERC is, its vision for a maritime state; and how the Naval Service is involved.

Not only do we sometimes forget that we live on an island, many people are unaware that we have the largest maritime area of any EU country, at the land-equivalent of 220 million acres. However, we only derive 1% of our GDP from the maritime sector. This compares poorly with the UK (5%), Denmark (11%), and Norway (20%), as examples.

By properly harnessing our maritime resources Ireland has the potential to become a leading global actor in the maritime sector, and in turn stimulate enormous growth for the state. For example, the South Porcupine Basin off the west coast is the site of a major gas field that could yield €5 billion in revenue. Other significant potentials exist in the marine renewable energy sector.

A recent FORFAS report estimated that there is the potential for 52,000 jobs in the marine sector in Ireland by 2030, and in a time of economic downturn these are surely very promising figures.

This maritime potential has not gone unnoticed by the government. Several initiatives have been launched to encourage growth and development in the sector, such as the Making it Happen Strategy, the IDA Strategy, the Smart Ocean Consultation Strategy, the Energy White Paper, the Ocean Energy Strategy, the Sea Change Strategy, Ireland's submissions to the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and the Atlantic Strategy, the work of the cross-governmental Marine Co-ordination Group, and IMERC.

IMERC is a strategic national initiative mainly consist-

ing of a tri-partnership between University College Cork (UCC), Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), and the Naval Service. The Cluster also features industry partners, foreign direct investment client (FDIs) and various academia and research groups.

The UCC Bord Gais Beaufort Laboratory will be built beside the National Maritime College of Ireland in Ringaskiddy and will become the UCC footprint in the IMERC campus. (The new laboratory will house the largest marine renewable energy research group in the world.) It is envisaged that IMERC will be an engine for new ideas through research that will translate into sustainable innovative enterprises of the future.

"When I started off in UCC there was no marine research centre in the country," Dr Cummins told us. "IMERC developed from all of us looking at the opportunities in the maritime sector. For example, we have the best wave-energy regime in the world off the west coast of Ireland, as well as the best resources and excellent academic knowledge base to underpin it. Plus we have the best eight out of the top ten technology device based companies here in Ireland, which means that we really have a competitive edge. So this is about seeing the strategic opportunity and putting the foundations for that in place now for future generations."

IMERC sees new opportunities existing in the development of niche products and services targeted towards global growth sectors, such as marine renewable energy, shipping, logistics and transport, marine



Dr Valerie Cummins (Director IMERC) with her Naval Service colleague Lt Niamh Ní Fhatharta (NS)





products that would not ordinarily be available to us.

The EU-funded projects come in two ways, either as Framework Projects 7 (FP7) or interregional projects, where funding is granted to certain country groupings within the EU. For example, through NMCI research (The Halpin Maritime Research Centre) IMERC are involved in two interregional projects in the Atlantic Area (Portugal, France, Spain, SW England, Wales and Ireland). In contrast, an FP7 project can be established in an individual EU country.

"We are currently working on a project called ARCO-POL Plus," said Lt Ní Fhatharta. "This is based on NHS (noxious hazardous substances) detection, monitoring and management. NHS covers any pollution of the sea other than oil spills, and includes containers lost from

ships, liquid gas, and various chemicals in different forms.

This project is putting plans and protocols in place to deal with NHS spills and how they would be cleaned up. If this was to happen in Cork harbour, for example, the Naval Service would be a responder."

All of the projects are about developing new and existing technologies in a cost-effective way. Some of these technologies may be familiar to our readers, such as the automated underwater vehicles and unmanned aerial vehicles used in NHS detection.

Other ways the Naval Service is benefiting is through collaboration projects with SMEs. "We help them and they help us," said Lt Ní Fhatharta.

SEFTEC, for example, a Cork-based, safety training company, has developed a partnership with the NMCI that sees the company with a fully manned office in the NMCI, where the majority of the company's training courses are now conducted.

The HUET (helicopter underwater egress trainers) manufactured by SEFTEC that is in use at several international training facilities is also used by SEFTEC in the NMCI's environmental pool.

"In conjunction with ourselves and CIT they developed a personnel tracker that can track anybody who is going into a fire situation onboard a ship," Lt Ní Fhatharta added. "CIT had the technology and the knowledge whereas the Naval Service have the experience and capability to test the product."

Dr Cummins also commented on the Naval Service's collaboration with business and industry. "It is great to be able to look at the Naval Service and how they engage and support businesses," said the IMERC Director. "They are showing an example that could be replicated across the country with other state institutions.

"The Naval Service is also seeking to become 'a knowledge institution'. This stems from a vision within the Naval Service that we can become the smartest and most innovative small naval service in the world."

The inculcation of a culture of innovation within the Naval Service provides an opportunity for the transformation to a post-modern service. Current Naval Service targets are to have 30 personnel undergoing MAs and 10 undergoing PhDs by 2016.

IMERC was recognised by the Taoiseach as a unique example of joined-up thinking across three public sector institutions, the results of which, have leveraged major capital investment; succeeded in attracting inward investment; supported indigenous industry; and enhanced capacity for research and innovation in Ireland's maritime sector.

These positive comments are a strong sign that IMERC will certainly be a driving force in shaping a maritime Ireland for the future. ■

tourism and recreation, maritime security, maritime training, and maritime information and communication technologies (ICT). It seeks to harness and integrate public sector and industry expertise in order to develop the Cluster and to realise the potential of emerging economic sectors, including the nascent ocean energy sector.

In just looking at our renewable energy alone, including wind, wave, and tides, the government has set a target of 500MW of wave and tidal derived energy by 2020, while the recent Ocean Renewable Energy Development Plan has identified the feasibility of at least 1,500MW from wave and tidal, and 4,500MW from offshore wind sources by 2030. With IMERC helping in research and development in these areas we could see a time in the future where Ireland could literally be a battery for Europe.

"The vision of IMERC is to become a research and commercial cluster of world standing, by realising Ireland's potential in the global, maritime and energy markets of tomorrow," said Lt Ní Fhatharta, "and the Naval Service is a core partner. Awareness of the capabilities of the maritime sector is growing within Ireland and internationally. The potential of the natural resources sitting on our doorstep is being realised and this makes this sector fast moving and exciting to be involved in."

The environment facing the Naval Service is rapidly becoming more complex and challenging. As Ireland's largest maritime provider, the Naval Service, with its 1,100 personnel, eight vessels, and dock facilities, is a perfect, innovative partner for IMERC. Over 50% of NS personnel are technically focused in areas such as ship logistics, surveillance systems and subsea operations, uniquely placing it for product development, testing, and demonstration.

Naval Service involvement in IMERC is through EU-funded projects, innovation partnerships, and collaboration projects with SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and industry.

"Naval Service involvement in these projects allows for furthering the skillset of our personnel involved and provides access to products and technology that we would not normally have," Lt Ní Fhatharta told us. "By collaborating on projects it's a win-win

situation for everyone, as we bring knowledge, expertise and the toughest test conditions in the world, while we get access to trial and test



Prof Pat Fitzpatrick (UCC), Lt Niamh Ni Fharthartha (IMERC), Dr Valerie Cummins (Director IMERC), An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Mr Morris Quinn (Asst Sec Dept of Defence) and Commodore Mark Mellett DSM (FOCNS)

IN RESERVE

Transforming the Reserve

BY WESLEY BOURKE
PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLOR

At the end of last year the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) underwent a major re-organisation into a two-brigade structure that involved the disestablishment of 4 Western Brigade, the standing-down or amalgamation of a number of units, and the reassignment of personnel. With a new establishment of 9,500 the 4 Western Brigade and some units were stood down with their personnel reassigned. In conjunction with this a reorganisation of the Reserve Defence Force (RDF) has also taken place and as of March 31st 2013 the RDF has been re-organised under the 'single force' concept.

Since the founding of the state the Defence Forces has always included a reserve element, and over the decades' reservists have played a vital role in supporting their PDF colleagues and providing a visible Defence Forces presence around the country.

The Volunteer Reserve, which was formed in 1929 was reformed and renamed the Local Security Force (LSF) during the Emergency. By the start of 1941 the LSF had swelled to around 10,000 and had outgrown its role. Consequently it was renamed the Local Defence Force (LDF), and placed under the authority of the Defence Forces.

In 1946 the force was reorganised once more under its Irish name, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ). An Slua Muirí was also established as the Naval Service's reserve. Integration with the PDF in 1959 saw the reserve reorganised along similar lines as their

PDF colleagues with the formation of infantry battalions, artillery regiments and other similar formations, and the upgrading of weapons and equipment.

During the years of the Troubles reservists assisted their PDF colleagues by carrying out duties in barracks and posts around the country and freeing PDF personnel for other security duties along the Border.

Twenty-five years of integration ended in 1984 when the force was reorganised as an independent reserve. In 2005 the reserve was again reorganised to incorporate both integrated and non-integrated elements. The restructured organisation, renamed the Reserve Defence Force (na hÓglaigh Cúltaca), comprised the Army Reserve (Cúltaca an Airm) and the Naval Service Reserve (Cúltaca na Seirbhís Cabhlaigh).

Under the current reorganisation, with an establishment of 4,000, the existing Army Reserve units will be stood-down throughout the spring of 2013 and their personnel offered reassignment. Reservists will now form new batteries, companies, platoons, squadrons, and troops within PDF units. For example, C, D, and E companies of 1 Cn Cois in Galway will be reservist companies. Reservists will now come under the direct command of their new PDF COs and Brigade GOCs.

The 'single force' concept will allow for greater effectiveness and efficiency, and will enhance the training of reservists. GOC 2





ON FEBRUARY 11TH 2013 the RDF's Sluagh Hall in Swords, County Dublin, closed its door after 75 years. On what was quite a sombre occasion, Comdt Michael Ridge (2 i/c 65 Inf Bn) said: "As the troops march out through these gates for the last time, we remember everyone who interacted with this building from its opening in 1938. We remember in particular those who have passed on. Life-long friends were made, challenging training was undertaken and embraced, hands were shaken, disputes were resolved, hearty laughs were enjoyed, an odd drink was taken, but above all – service to the state was so willingly given." (Photo by Sean Shinnors)



4 W BDE RDF UNITS STAND-DOWN

REPORT BY CAPT BRIAN CONNOLLY (1 CN COIS)

The stand-down parade of the RDF units of 4 Western Brigade took place on Sunday March 10th in Dún Uí Mhaolios, Galway.

The ceremony was a poignant occasion for those who took part, as it marked the ending of an old era and the welcoming of a new phase for RDF units in the West of Ireland. Attended by Brig Gen Diarmuid Fitzgerald (GOC 1 Bde) and Comdt Kevin McCarthy (OC 1 Cn Cois), the ceremony gave all 120 personnel on parade an opportunity to reflect on the past and to look forward to a bright future for the Reserve Defence Force.

Brig Gen Fitzgerald, a native of Galway, commented: "Sunday's ceremony is an opportunity for members of 1 Cn Cois to pay tribute to the service, commitment and sacrifice of the soldiers of 51 Res Inf Bn, 54 Res Artillery Regiment, 54 Res Engr Coy and 54 Res LSB, and also acknowledges the significant accomplishments of these units, which were established in 2005 as a result of the Reserve Defence Forces Review Implementation Plan.

"The RDF contributes to Ireland's defence capability by providing a capacity to augment the PDF in the event of a major crisis. It also serves as a source of recruitment for the PDF and provides a character-forming opportunity for young Irish men and women to serve the state. "The RDF has played a significant and appreciated role for Ireland and the Defence Forces in the past and will continue to play an important role in the future. This could not take place without the dedication and loyalty of the Officers, NCOs, men and women of the RDF." ■

Brig Gen Fitzgerald inspects the parade



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SURVIVAL

BY CPL PAUL MILLAR

This is the last part of the series looking at a small selection of survival skills. All the skills presented here are linked to the basic survival principles; Protection, Location, Water and Food.



SHELTERS

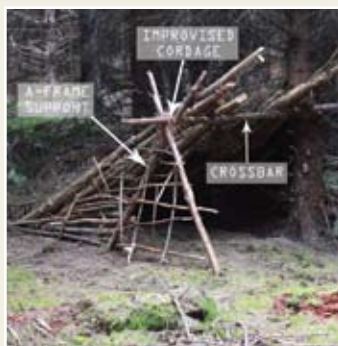
Shelters come under the 'protection' element of the survival principles. Sometimes the need for a shelter outweighs the need for food, as exposure to the weather can kill a person faster than hunger.

There are three main types that are covered here. You can use a combination of them to suit your location.



'A' Frame

- Suitable for max 2 people.
- Quick and easy to set up.
- Centre pole must be strong.
- Weave/place a lattice of smaller branches to form the walls.
- Pile up the insulation, ensure it doesn't either blow away or collapse the shelter.



Lean-to

- Suitable for 2-3 people.
- Can be made without cordage.
- Vine/roots can be used to tie if needed.
- Small 'A' frame can be used for a standing support.
- The cross bar must be strong.
- If you're in a larger group, construct 2 facing each other with a fire in the centre.



Teepee

- Good for larger groups.
- Need cordage for the initial set up.
- 4 large poles used, branches woven in between them.
- A small fire can be brought inside, just think ventilation.

General points:

- Make your shelter a small fit. If it's too large, you won't be able to heat it up.
- Spend some time looking around your location. You'd be surprised what you could find.
- Bedding: absolutely essential to any shelter. Think of creating space between you and the ground. It's this gap of air between you and the ground that insulates.

EVERYTHING SHOWN HERE IS NOT TO BE PRACTISED WITHOUT INSTRUCTION.

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



Les Irlandais et La France

REPORT BY LT COL JOHN O'LOGHLEN

PORTRAIT PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL SHERWOOD
www.sherwood.ie



Gendarme Denis Lambolez (French Embassy Police Officer) with MP Cpl Michael Kelly and MP Cpl Mark Hughes

In January, over 200 people attended the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Bks, for the official opening of 'The Irish and France: Three Centuries of Military Relations', an exhibition produced by France's Musée de l'Armée (Army Museum), and which was brought here in association with the French Embassy in Ireland.

The exhibition, which marked the start of 'Culture Connects', the cultural programme launched by the government as part of Ireland's presidency of the EU, was unveiled on the 9th of January by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD, and Mde Emmanuelle d'Achon, French Ambassador to Ireland. It had been on

display last year in the Musée de l'Armée in the Hotel des Invalides, Paris last year.

The exhibition traces Irish/French military co-operation since the 17th century. From the end of the Williamite War to the First World War; from Samuel Beckett, who fought in the French Resistance, to Lt Gen Pat Nash, Operational Commander EUFOR Tchad/RCA, who was awarded the Légion d'honneur by President Sarkozy in 2009.

Covering the period from 1689 to 2012 it includes material relating to the Wild Geese* and the Irish regiments that fought for France.

In the French Army, there are four periods that saw Irishmen serving in significant numbers: the Wild Geese regiments from 1688 – 1791; Napoleon's Irish Legion from 1803 – 1815; the Franco-Irish Ambulance Brigade in 1870 – 1871; and the French Foreign Legion in the 1980s.

For most of the 18th Century the French Army's Irish Brigade included about half-a-dozen regiments, which were named after their commanders, such as the Clare, Walsh, Lally, Dillon and Bulkeley regiments.

One of the Irish Brigade's most famous days came on May 11th 1745 at the Battle of Fontenoy, where it counter-attacked the British infantry and saved the day for the French. A painting depicting this event can be seen in the Hall of Battles at Versailles, outside Paris.

(The 92nd Regiment, based in Clermont, is the last remaining French unit with a connection to the Irish Brigade. This unit's current 2i/c, Lt Col Charles Arminjon, attended the launch in the National Museum and expressed a strong interest in the 92nd Regiment establishing a relationship with a suitable Irish unit, possibly based on rugby, which is very strong in the Clermont area.)

In 1803 the new French Leader, Napoleon Bonaparte created an Irish Legion, composed of Irish officers in command

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

of German and Polish enlisted men, to fight in Spain.

The tradition of serving with the French army continued in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War when a large group of Irish medical volunteers served in the Franco-Irish Ambulance Brigade.

The exhibition also covers the role of Irish men and women in the two world wars – in particular Samuel Beckett's service with the French Resistance in World War II, including his flight from the Nazis. Beckett initially joined the information network Gloria SMH, which worked with the special operations executive of the Resistance, where he translated confidential documents that were microfilmed and smuggled to London. Despite having many incriminating documents at his house, which could have led to his arrest and execution, Beckett managed to escape when the network was exposed and its members arrested. He fled Paris to the South of France with his partner, Suzanne Dechevaux-Dumesnil, where he continued to store arms for the Resistance. After the war Beckett was awarded the Croix de Guerre, a French military award for heroism, and was described as "a very brave man who for two years acted as an intelligence officer".

During the 1980s, when the Irish Defence Forces were not recruiting and service in the British Army was not popular due to the Troubles, many Irishmen joined the French Foreign Legion. (A number of retired Legionnaires attended the event in Collins Bks.)

The last section of the exhibition deals with the most recent co-operation between the French army and the Irish Defence Forces in the EUFOR Tchad/RCA mission. This display includes the awards and medals presented to Lt Gen Pat Nash (a guest at the official opening with his wife Deirdre) during his tenure as Operational Commander of the mission from October 2007 to June 2009.

"I was very happy that we could transport (this exhibition) to Dublin and translate it also," said the French Ambassador Mde d'Achon. "We think that school children can come here and learn more, perhaps about the past and the wars of the times, but also to learn about peace in Europe, because a good part of the exhibition is about what Europe is doing now to protect peace and to encourage peacekeeping."

The display at Collins Barracks Museum runs to June 2013. ■

TORY HISTO



Lt Gen Pat Nash awards collection, including Legion d'Honneur, 2nd left



Lt Gen Pat Nash, former Opcdr EUFOR Tchad RCA, with the French Military Attaché, Col Alain Bayle



Pictured (l/r): Lt Col Brendan Delaney (OC 7th Inf Bn) and Lt Col Charles Arminjon (OC 92ème régiment d'infanterie de Clermont-Ferrand)



Pictured (l/r): Capitaine Cédric Dwoinikoff (92ème régiment d'infanterie de Clermont-Ferrand), MP Cpl Mark Hughes, Gendarme Salvatore Insera (French Embassy Police Officer) and MP Cpl Michael Kelly



Pictured (l/r): Gendarme Denis Lambomez (French Embassy Police Officer), Lt Col Brendan Delaney (OC 7th Inf Bn), Gendarme Salvatore Insera (French Embassy Police Officer) and Lt Col Charles Arminjon (OC 92ème régiment d'infanterie de Clermont-Ferrand)

*** The Wild Geese is the collective term traditionally given to the men who left Ireland in large numbers to join the armies mainly of France, Spain, Austria and Russia.**

A descendant of the Wild Geese, Patrice MacMahon, became president of the Third French Republic in 1873, and one of the main avenues leading from the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, is named after him.

TORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTOR

DF Indoor CLIMBING Championships

REPORT & PHOTOS BY CPL PAUL MILLAR

The second DF Indoor Climbing Championships were hosted by Custume Bks, Athlone, on March 26th. The event, organised by Capt Richard Kilfeather of Defence Forces Association of Mountaineers (DFAM), was split into a number of different climbs, distinguished by the colour of the hold. As the day progressed the climbs became successively harder, testing the climbers' endurance and technical ability to the maximum.

There were no second chances in this competition, once a competitor fell they were out of the event. One climb in particular, which had an overhang before the toughest move, proved to be the most difficult obstacle. It was eventually conquered by the winner of the competition, PO Jim Cleary, who was the only climber to reach the top.

The other category up for grabs was the endurance climb. This was based around one single climb that had to be scaled as many times as possible without stopping. Two climbers were tied at the top for this, so a climb-off took place on a slightly harder route but with the same rules. Sgt Larry Chambers (27 Inf Bn) eventually emerged victorious.

These championships are the start of what will be a very busy season for DFAM, with five rock-climbing courses being run by the various formations and a CTI course in August to top it all off.

For more information about how to get involved in mountaineering contact: richard.kilfeather@defenceforces.ie ■

RESULTS

DFAM Climbing Competition:

1st Place - PO Jim Cleary (NS)

2nd Place - Tpr Patrick Mc Carthy
(62 Res Cav Sqn/2 Cav Sqn)

DFAM Endurance Climbing Competition:

1st Place - Sgt Larry Chambers (27 Inf Bn)



PO Cleary on his title winning climb



Pictured (l/r): Capt Kilfeather, Tpr McCarthy, PO Cleary and Sgt Chambers

SPORT

SPORTS ROUND-UP



Sgt Chambers in action on the last endurance climb





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19 June 2013

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1 Day event in Dublin/Wicklow Mountains

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- Start Time 0900hrs

SHORT COURSES: 12KMS

- **Start Point:** Military Rd, Kippure Junction (Sheet 56) Grid Ref **0 1415/1414**
- Individuals or 2 pers Teams Only
- Start Time 1200hrs

BOTH RACES FINISH IN KILBRIDE CAMP
Prizes for each Category.

- Please submit Numbers, Ranks, Names and Team Names on Race Entry.
- Closing Date for entries is **WED 5th June**
- Entries to colin.robinson@defenceforces.ie

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GEAR REVIEW

BENCHMADE MINI-GRIPTILIAN - COMBO EDGED KNIFE

COLOUR: BLACK HANDLE WITH SATIN BLADE

PRICE: €80.00

The manufacturer says...

BenchMade's Griptilian and Mini-Griptilian knives series are amongst the top tactical and survival folding knife products in their range. Featuring several variations in blade type, colour and style there is a huge amount of variation to choose from.

This Mini Griptilian has a 2.91-inch Satin finish stainless steel blade with combination plain and serrated edge with black thermoplastic handle. The blade handle makes this a great military or hunting knife as it will match perfectly with your other kit. All Griptilian Knives feature 154cm stainless steel drop-point blades with a hardness rating of 58-61HRC making them tough and durable but still lightweight enough for effortless manoeuvrability.

The Griptilian series employ the AXIS® locking mechanism with dual thumb-stud opener - A 100-percent ambidextrous design, AXIS® gets its function from a small, hardened steel bar which rides forward and back in a slot machined into both steel liners. The bar extends to both sides of the knife, spans the liners, and is positioned over the rear of the blade. It engages a ramped, tang portion of the knife blade when it is opened. Two omega style springs, one on each liner, give the locking bar its inertia to engage the knife tang. As a result, the tang is wedged solidly between a sizable stop pin and the AXIS® bar itself.

The handles of the Griptilian knives are also embossed with a textured surface and ribbed spine meaning that these knives actually grip back when you hold them. The Griptilian Knives all feature a Tip Up clip and Lanyard hole to provide additional carry options.

Drop-Point: A slow convex-curved drop in the point characterises a drop-point blade. The drop-point format lowers the point for control but adds strength to the tip.

Our reviewer Lt Alan Kearney (OBTS) says...

The knife comes with a soft pouch designed for storage when not in use. My first impressions are it is a well-presented and manufactured knife. The blade has a 'clip point' which is both practical and is one of the many areas where attention to detail is quite evident; such as plenty of 'jimping' (machined grooves) in areas on the liner and the blade designed to improve grip or feel. The locking system is robust and feels very safe, with a small amount of practice it becomes quite easy to utilise opening and closing. The blade is constructed from a variety of steel known for good edge retention and relative ease of sharpening. The liners too are made from the same stainless steel and while not impervious to rust, should not deteriorate without serious abuse. Serrations on a blade, particularly on one so small, will never suit everyone and is very much a personal choice; however, the knife can be supplied with or without. The handles didn't seem to 'grip back' as the manufacturer suggested, but they seem adequate as opposed to being 'of note'. The belt clip may be changed from one side to the other (but not end to end) and it has the all important lanyard hole for use in the field. Overall you are paying a price for a well-made and dependable small knife, with lots of excellent features, expensive perhaps, but not if viewed as a quality utility tool from a respected manufacturer that will last a lifetime. There is a lot of choice in this price range, but the knife would certainly warrant a place on any shortlist.

Blade Durability 9 - Handle Grip 8 - Locking/Safety 9 - Manoeuvrability 7



KESTREL SILVA STARTER 1-2-3 COMPASS

PRICE: €13.00

The manufacturer says...

This compass has two graduation lines as well as large numerals at every 20 mark, and its clear base-plate makes it easy to read a map and set bearings. To get a precise wind direction, simply point the large base plate arrow into the wind, turn the bezel to match the red North indicator to the red needle, and read the wind direction at the base plate arrow. This full-featured compass has a declination correction scale to allow you to make quick adjustments of map bearings to field headings, a sure-grip dial and ergonomically-contoured base plate, includes inch and millimetre rules for mapping and plotting.

Our reviewer Ciarán Mac Giolla Phádraig (Subscriber/Scouter) says...

My first impressions of the compass are that the size is perfect for a starter compass; you can calculate bearings and headings with ease. The dial and base-plate are well made and would take some force to damage or even just to scratch. Packed with extra features like the declination scale and the ability to gauge wind direction the compass is perfect for anyone – either an experienced orienteer or a day tripper. The only thing lacking would be a lanyard and a magnifying glass to read the smaller map details. Overall it is a quality piece of kit.

Accuracy 9 - Wind Direction Feature 7 - Declination correction scale 8 - Value 9



COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha are offering a €100 Voucher to be used on their website www.team-alpha.ie. For a chance to win this

month's prize answer the following question: How much is an Otterbox Defender Series iPhone 4S Realtree Camo MAX4HD Orange Phone Case on the team-alpha website?

Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 22nd

May 2013. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner of a €100 voucher for Team-Alpha.ie was Jack Cullinan



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 who 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

Up Coming Events

The IUNVA annual wreath laying ceremony takes place on Saturday 19th May at 12:00hrs at Arbour House Memorial Garden, Arbour Hill.

IUNVA Post 1, Arbour Hill, will have their **deceased member's mass** on Sunday 23rd June at 11:00hrs in Arbour Hill Church.

Royal British Legion's annual wreath laying ceremony takes place on Saturday 13th July at 15:00hrs at the National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge.

The National Day of Commemoration will take in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham on Sunday 14th July, guests to be seated for 10:15hrs. This is an organised event by the Dept of An Taoiseach.

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Lanyards made to order: Competitive prices, contact Brian on 087 2971982

Sam Browne Belts: Custom made to measure by Declan Clancy on 045 432606 or visit www.declanclancysaddlery.ie

Curragh Military Museum

Opening Times: Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm; Thursday 2 to 8pm; Sundays 2.30 to 5.30pm; Closed Friday, Saturday and Bank Holidays.

For all queries, contact: 045-445342 or email: curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie

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.

Naval Service

G	N	I	L	S	I	A	O	I	F	E	D	S	E	P
N	Q	T	N	Y	L	S	T	Q	C	E	N	G	E	O
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AISLING
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MAY Q&A

1. What year was the LÉ Emer Commissioned?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win two Osprey books: Dambusters - Operation Chastise 1943 by Douglas C Dildy & Nimitz-Class Aircraft Carriers by Brad Elward.

Last month's winner of two Osprey books: The Thompson Submachine Gun and Sniper Rifles both by Martin Pegler was John O'Toole. Closing date 22 May 2013



BOOK

SEAL TEAM SERIES

Author: Chuck Dixon

SEAL TEAM SIX 3

Publisher: Dynamite Entertainment
(Jul, 2012)
Pages: 272
Sold by: Amazon Digital Services Inc.
Price: €2.99 (Kindle Edition)
ISBN: Boo8KPH5oK



RANKED #27 IN the Top 100 Fiction/War List, on Amazon Kindle Store's 'Best Sellers list'.

In SEAL Team Six #3, we follow Manny, Flame, Heath and the rest of the team to Mexico and a brand new terror threat to the US homeland. The South American drug cartels have made a new friend with international terrorist know only as El Arike, who has shown the cartels a new way into the US to exact their anarchy. Seal Team Six search for a submarine pen along the Mexican coastline. If they don't find the narco mini sub that could - if successful deliver an attack on the US that will shock the world and wipe 9/11 from the history books.

SEAL TEAM SIX 4

Publisher: Dynamite Entertainment
(Oct, 2012)
Pages: 181
Sold by: Amazon Digital Services Inc.
Price: €2.99 (Kindle Edition)
ISBN: Boo9ZLE5ZG



CONTINUING THE STORY in SEAL Team Six #4, Flame is recovering in hospital from a pharma-induced coma due to injuries sustained in Mexico. While Manny and Heath are on a vengeance fuelled personal vendetta across the US. They end up taking on a narcotics gang known as 'Pecadores Diez' or Sinners Ten from the Sinaloa cartel. Will this off-the-record private war be over before their leave ends?

Meanwhile in the South American jungles of the Philippines, Priest leads the rest of team in a race against time; they are outnumbered and outgunned in a hostile land. Their mission is to retrieve sensitive intelligence from a downed drone.

Get all four books for €8.00 (amazon.com): SEAL Team Six Max Edition Vol. 1 (Books 1-4)(Kindle Edition) ASIN: BooA2ATA6S

New York Times Best-Selling Author Chuck Dixon is considered one of the most prolific writers in the history of the comics' medium, he's perhaps best known for his decade-long run on multiple Batman titles. He is the co-author of the best-selling Robert Jordan New Spring and Wheel of Time Graphic Novels. He is the co-creator of the Batman villain Bane and currently writes GI Joe. Books #1 & 2 were reviewed in June 2012.

DVD

MEMORIAL DAY

Director: Samuel Fischer
Starring: Jonathan Bennett, James Cromwell, John Cromwell, Charles Hubbell, Emily Fradenburgh, Jackson Bond and Mary Kay Fortier-Spalding
Certification: 15
Runtime: 1hr 48mins
Cinema Release: 15 March 2013 (US, April 2012)



A REALLY ENJOYABLE WAR FILM, THAT BRINGS HOME THE MEANING OF HOW WAR AFFECTS US.

Memorial Day is a dual tale of War, starting with WWII veteran Bud Vogel (James Cromwell) who tells his grandson in flashback scenes about the trials and tribulations of War. These flashback scenes feature Lt Bud Vogel played by John Cromwell the real life son of James - which adds to the realism of the tales.

Filmed in a similar style to 'Saving Private Ryan', these action scenes are well made and scripted. Where for every item young Kyle takes from his grandfather's footlocker a tale begins.

Move forward to Bud's grandson Kyle (Jonathan Bennett) now serving in the second Iraq war as Staff Sgt Kyle Vogel. Kyle is wounded from an IED, and while he recovers in hospital recalls the tales to his medical practitioner under duress. Where he realises he has similar war experiences to that of his grandfather.

GAME



ALIENS COLONIAL MARINES

SEGA

18

20th CENTURY FOX

gearbox



BASED ON JAMES Cameron's 1986 best selling movie 'Aliens' comes Aliens Colonial Marines. Were you play as part of a United States Colonial Marine squad and must prepare to face an alien assault more intense and horrific than ever before. Driven by a new and original story back on LV-426 and penned by renowned writers Bradley Thompson and David Weddle. Aliens Colonial Marines still retains the atmospheric look and feel of the original films. Creating an entirely new interactive Aliens experience. Packing classic Aliens weaponry ranging from pulse rifles to flamethrowers as well as brand-new equipment and skills all within a squad-based combat system, players will become an elite USCM. Featuring: claustrophobic environments, a brooding soundtrack, and a multitude of surprises and shocks. Players will battle against menacing alien hordes in strikingly detailed levels that include the stark interiors of the abandoned Sulaco spaceship and unique environments created specifically for the game.

Genre: FPS - **Platform:** PS3, Xbox 360, Wii U & PC - **PEGI:** 18 - **Price** €34.97 (Wii U €49.97) (gamestop.ie). Released: 12 Feb 2013. © Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. SEGA Corporation. Gearbox Software, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

NAME
RANK
UNIT

.....
TONY O'REGAN
.....
SGT 1ST CLASS
.....
19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP
(AIRBORNE) - U.S. ARMY
.....

**VETERAN
SPECIAL**



I'm Dublin inner-city born-and-bred and was always into the army, having spent many years of my youth in the Boy Scouts. I spent two years with 2 AD Bty FCÁ in Griffith Bks before I joined the PDF in 1978.

I was trained in the General Training Depot in the Curragh and then I went to Depot Arty (now the Arty Sch) to do my gunnery training before being posted to 1 AD Bty in Magee Bks, Kildare Town.

In 1980 I completed the Potential NCO course with the CTD E in Cathal Brugha Bks. I stayed on in Cathal Brugha Bks as an instructor with my old FCÁ unit before returning to Depot Arty as an instructor.

I served in the ARW from 1982 to 1989 and I have also completed three overseas trips with 53, 61, and 72 Inf Bns to Lebanon.

Following completion of my Senior NCO course in 1988 I returned to CTD E where I instructed from 1989-1999.

After that I emigrated to the United States. I had been heavily involved in Kempo for years and had been to the US many times for competitions and I'd made a lot of friends there. I started off running a dive store but before long I joined the US army, through the National Guard, and a whole other career opened up for me.

I went through basic combat training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, then rigger school in Fort Lee, Virginia before joining a mechanised infantry reconnaissance unit in Boston. After that I went to the National Training Centre (NTC) as part of an air-mobile operational training force, which is basically a 'hunter-killer' force. During my training in Fort Irwin in the Mojave Desert I won the Best Soldier award in 2001.

Then when 9/11 happened I went back to my unit, which had changed from a mechanised to a light infantry unit.

Although I was 47 at this stage I decided to try for the US Special Forces, which meant I had to do selection all over again. Out of 600 guys, 109 of us passed selection, which was 20hrs a day over 8 weeks with a 65lb pack and at one time was -40°. Since then I have been on active service on several occasions, both working as an instructor and on operations.

The years of training I received in the DF on things like small team tactics, night ops, raids, and direct action, were all of great benefit to me in the US Forces. I'm very proud of my DF roots and I'm always telling people where I came from – the Irish Defence Forces.

I have been on active service from 2004-07 as part of Special Forces JFK Special Warfare School and have served in Afghanistan twice, including 18 months with the Emergency Reaction Team in the US Embassy in Kabul in 2008; I have also served in Africa including places like Somalia, Mali and Senegal.

At present I am an E7 (Sgt 1st Class) qualified for promotion to E8 (Master Sergeant). I have six years left to serve, and I'm confident I will see that time out. I have now over 38 years service in the military and I believe the US SF are second to none. ■

"I'm very proud of my DF roots and I'm always telling people where I came from – the Irish Defence Forces."





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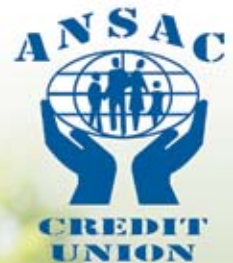


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