

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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**2nd Prize, €5,000:** Philip Molloy, Fethard -On- Sea, Co Wexford

**3rd Prize, €2,500:** Jack Bolger, Newbridge, Co Kildare

**4th Prize, €1,500:** Jennifer O'Neill, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

**€500 Prize:** Vincent Clarke, Monivea, Co Galway; Jim Croash, Clonsilla, Dublin 15;  
Eamon Friel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal; Niall O'Keeffe, Ballybritt Road, Co Galway

**€100 Prize:** Patrick Joseph O'Keeffe, Tinahely, Co Wicklow; Michael Byrne, Navan, Co Meath;  
David Dunne, Baldonnel, Dublin 22; Martin Wiley, Maugheraboy, Co Sligo; John Ferguson,  
Tralee, Co Kerry; William Connolly, Fethard, Co Tipperary; John Russell, Listowel, Co Kerry;  
Ronan Scannell, Dublin Rd., Galway; Noel Norton, Donnycarney, Dublin 5; Ian Brennan,  
Blakestown, Dublin 15; John Mc Coombe, Naas, Co Kildare; Denis Granville, Castlelyons,  
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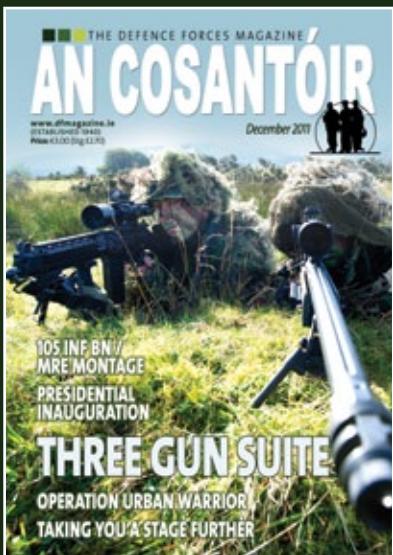
## Congratulations to all our winners

*The next draw will take place at the end of November 2011*

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AN COSANTÓIR

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*Season's greetings and a happy new year to all the members of Óglaigh na hÉireann and their families.*

*Pauline Harrigan Quinn*

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**Front Cover:**

Sniper Course Nov 2011.  
Photo by: Armn Neville Coughlan

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# EDITORIAL

**S**o, we finally made to the end of the year, we had a few small hiccups along the way, what with the move, the new staff and new designer. But, I think you will agree the magazine is the better for it. We lost some great friends and colleagues in 2011, the late Jim Darker (R.I.P.), and Sgt Dave Nagle has decided to leave the DF after 24 years, and is out there giving Bear Grylls and the likes a good run for their money, we wish him best of luck.

This month our *On Parade* pages feature our regular reader's photos, *In Focus* features a Canine insight and a look at Advanced Para Medic Training. In *Strategic Review* this month we have an article from a recently Retd Sgt Pat Finnucane who informs us about Third Level Education opportunities. We have a brief report from the last *PDFORRA ADC*, and another on the fifth anniversary of the 'Soldiers and Chiefs' exhibition at National Museum in Collins Barracks. We have two photo montages; the *President's Inauguration* and one of the recent *105 Inf Bn MRE/Review* and Chalk one. Our *History* section has a Re-enactment feature on a July 4 weekend in the American Folk Park in Omagh by Wesley Bourke. In *Sport* we have part two Lt Col Mick Dolan's article on cycling touring 'Travels with Surly', and we have our other regulars - *Tac Aide*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.



**Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor**



CONTINUING TO INFORM, RECORD AND ENTERTAIN



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**AN COSANTÓIR**

We wish all the members of the Defence Forces, their Family's a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER COMPETITION



sponsored by Discount Supplements are: Winner Diarmuid Collins €100 voucher - Runners Up Cormac Byrne & Derek Herbage both received €25 vouchers

# ON PARADE



## GRADUATES ▲

Pictured at a recent ceremony in UCD's Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business, two Air Corps NCOs were awarded the Advanced Certificate in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. (L/R): Sgt Ray Grange, Lt Col Kevin Byrne (International Vice President of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), Mr Aidan Murphy (President of the CILT in Ireland) and FQMS Derek McGuinness.



## FATHER & SON ▲

Pictured on his last day in Baldonell is FQMS JJ Behan and his Son Cpl Arran Behan. Photo by Sgt Damian Faulkner (105 Sqn)



## NAVAL SERVICE ▲

Naval Service Recruit Class St. Brendan pictured at their Passing Out Parade on November 3, 2011. Congratulations to Instructors and Recruits. Photo by A/Sea David Jones (NS)



## RECRUIT CLASS ST. BRENDAN ▼

Recruit Class St. Brendan with Tim Severin on in the Naval Base Haulbowline, Cobh. Photo by A/Sea David Jones (NS)



## THREE STAR ▲

Pictured at their recent Three Star passing out parade in McKee Bks are the 85th Platoon from the 5 Inf Bn. Commanded by Lt Ronan Lambe and Pln Sgt Alan Hayles. Photo by Fr Robert McCabe CF



## LAST

## FLIGHT ▶

Pictured on her last flight is Capt Anne Brogan with Brig Gen Paul Fry (GOC AC) who presented her with a plaque in commemoration of her achievement as the first Female Pilot of the Air Corps. Photo by Armn Paddy Reilly (105 Sqn)

## SADHBH & CIARA

Photo of (L/R) Sadhbh and Ciara McDonagh from Lisheenkye N.S. proudly displaying their letter and photographs from President Mary McAleese who personally brought their best wishes to Lebanon where their dad Comdt Edward McDonagh is serving on a peacekeeping mission with the 104 Inf Bn. Photo by Darach Glennon



## PRESENT ARMS DRILL ▲

Lt Ronan Lambe salutes Parade Commander Col JJ O'Reilly (EO 2 E Bde) while the 85 Pln perform the Present Arms drill. *Photo by Fr Robert McCabe CF*

## GALA CONCERT ▼

Pictured at the recent Gala Concert in Mullingar organised by the 4th Fd Arty Regt for four charities, are the Pipe Band of ONE from the Curragh (at their first concert performance). Music was also provided by the Military Band of the 4 W Bde and the Mullingar Choral Society. *Photo courtesy of RSM Noel O'Callaghan (4 FAR/104 Inf Bn)*



## BRANCH MASS ▼

Photo shows members of the Lower Ormonde Branch of ONEt from Nenagh, Co Tipperary who held their first Branch Mass on the 6 Nov 2011, they were joined with fellow members of ONEt, IUNVA and guests. *Photo courtesy of Tommy Maguire / Eddie Lillis*



## DUBLIN CITY MARATHON ▲

Pictured after the recent Dublin City Marathon are (L/R) Sgt Anthony Jinks, Cpl PJ Byrne, Pte Stephanie Meehan, Col Ger Aherne (A/OC 4 W Bde), Pte Miriam Fortune, Cpl Jimmy Nugent (on his 100th marathon) and Pte Noel Kelly (winner of the Over 40s category with a time of 2hrs 32mins). *Photo courtesy of Sgt Anto Feery (HQ 4 W Bde)*



## THE LIBRARIAN ▲

Pte Ray Jordan receives his last library book from Comdt Kevin Campion (OC USAC) prior to his retirement after 25 years in the DF. Pte Jordan was the Librarian in USAC for most of his career. *Photo courtesy of Cpl Eric O'Brien (USAC)*

## IN MEMORY ▼

Paddy Armstrong, founder of the United Irish Ex Services Association of Australia, who laid a wreath at the Armistice Day ceremony at the Sydney Cenotaph on November 11, in memory of the 50,000 Irish who died fighting in WWI and the 6,700 Irish-born (equivalent to 7 battalions) who served in the Australian Army in that conflict, of whom 900 died. *Photo courtesy of Paddy Armstrong*



# IN FOCUS

## DOGS ON PARADE

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

Castlemore Aerodrome recently played host to a Multi-Agency K-9 Conference. There are many agencies in Ireland that use K-9's as part of their teams. The purpose of the conference was to pool and share knowledge. Taking part in the conference were: Irish Customs, the Prison Service, Civil Defence, Airport Police, Dog Training Ireland, An Garda Síochána, Police Service Northern Ireland, Search and Rescue Dog Association (Ireland), Danish Customs, Czech Republic Customs, Northern Ireland Prison Service, Royal Canin. Through talks and displays each agency demonstrated what their K-9's can do.

Of all a dog's senses, its sense

of smell is the most highly developed. Dogs have about 25 times more olfactory (smell) receptors than humans do. Dogs can sense odours at concentrations nearly 100 million times lower than humans can. They can detect one drop of blood in five quarts of water!

No doubt you have seen K-9's in action at the airport sniffing through people's luggage for illegal contraband. The Defence Forces do not use K-9's but you may have come across them on exercise with a Search and Rescue team or overseas with a C-IED team, on sentry duty, or searching for mines. That's right dogs have a 98% success rate when searching for explosives. K-9's can literally be a man's best friend. ■



# Advanced Medicare

BY WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOS BY CPL NOEL COSS

**Medical care both on and off the battlefield is constantly evolving. New techniques, technologies, and medicines, mean that those in the medical profession have to keep up to date with the best international practise. In recent years there is a higher standard of care provided pre-hospital. To achieve this Paramedics are being taken to the next level. It is envisaged that every ambulance will have an Advanced Paramedic onboard. When an ambulance arrives at a scene or someone's home care can now be given on location. This in turn will take pressure off Accident & Emergency units. The Advanced Paramedic will literally bridge the gap between the Paramedic and the Doctor.**

The Defence Forces currently has five Paramedic students training to become Advanced Paramedics. The course which is run by UCD and coordinated via the National Ambulance Training School in St Marys Hospital, Phoenix Park.

"The whole way in which we treat people is changing. The Advanced Paramedics are going to be responsible for admitting, discharging, and treatment all in your home," explained Coy Sgt Dave O'Connor, "If you have a patient who just needs an IV that can now be done in the house. There is no need to have them on a trolley in A&E. This is why A&Es around the country can close because the Advanced Paramedics are there."

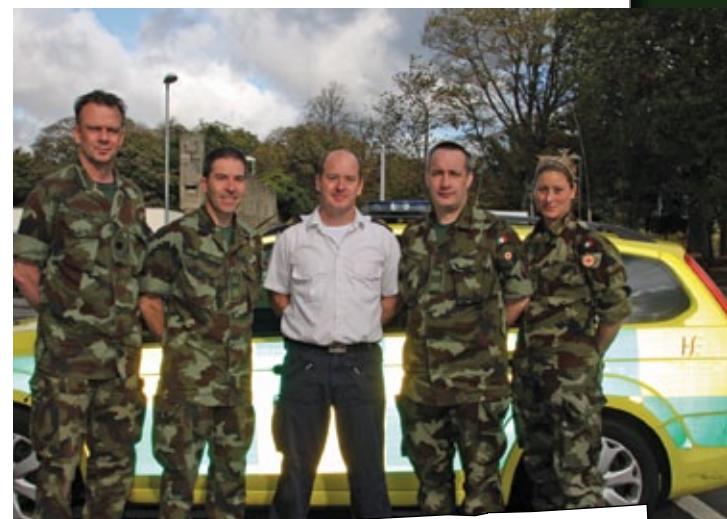
The DF medical teams are made up of Combat Medics, Paramedics, Nurses and Doctors. In the military the need for Advanced Paramedics is even more prevalent. If a soldier is wounded in combat he may be some distance from a hospital or medical facility. It will be up to the Advanced Paramedic to help keep the soldier alive. "With the introduction of Advanced Paramedics this means we can give an injured soldier greater care," said Coy Sgt O'Connor, "It will also mean we will now be on



a par with other militaries around the world which are now using Advanced Paramedics. We will be able to stabilise, give the necessary drugs keeping the patient alive until the person can be brought to a medical facility. This will make a huge difference for us overseas."

The course is a graduate Diploma in Emergency Medical Science and is run by UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science. The principal aim of the Paramedic course is to provide the level of training and education necessary for modern emergency medical care providers to become confident and effective practitioners in the pre-hospital environment.

This course aims to focus on the application of a sound theoretical base to develop the student's clinical decision making abilities and to develop sound techniques of patient assessment and clinical care. The course also serves as a foundation for further professional study within the service. ■



All photos taken in the National Ambulance Training School St. Mary's Hospital Phoenix Park.  
(L/R): Coy Sgt Dave O'Connor (2 Med Coy), Cpl Hugh Swan (1 Med Coy), L/S Steven Deagan (NS), Sgt Adrian Killroy (4 Med Coy), Cpl Michelle Brarmley (Mil Hosp DFTC).

# WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE

## EUROPE

**Russian** membership of the World Trade Organisation is one step closer after the remaining difficulties between its neighbours, **Georgia**, have been settled.

ETA, the Basque terrorist group, declared a 'definitive cessation' to violence. In recent years the group has been severely weakened after several successful police operations in France and **Spain**.

**German** Parliament member Jerzy Montag said that authorities told him he could have been a target of a neo-Nazi terror cell that was planning assassinations. Police notified him of 'a list', which included information on him and other politicians, was found in the remains of the exploded terrorist's flat in the East German town of Zwickau.

## AMERICAS

Alfonso Cano, the leader of FARC, was killed by the Colombian army. Cano led the guerrillas since the group's founder died of a heart attack in 2008.



Police in western Pennsylvania arrested Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez, on a charge of trying to assassinate US President Barack Obama. For firing eight shots from his car parked near the White House. One bullet hit a window on the White House but was stopped by bulletproof glass, while another was found on the White House exterior.

## AFRICA

The Transitional Council in **Libya** voted Abdurrahim el-Keib, as the country's new prime minister. He is said to rule an interim government at least until elections next summer.

**Kenyan** troops have invaded **Somalia** in search of kidnappers they believe to belong to the Somali Al-Shabaab terrorist group. The invasion is being supported by Somali government troops.

The Islamist sect, Boko Haram, killed scores of people in a series of attacks mainly in the town of Damaturu in **Nigeria's** north east.

A former mayor in Rwanda has been convicted of genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity over the deaths of 2,000 Tutsis during the country's 1994 genocide, the UN-backed International Criminal Tribunal for **Rwanda**. Former mayor Gregoire Ndadimana served as a leading facilitator and commander in the slaughter of Tutsis in Kivumu, where an estimated 4,000 Tutsis were murdered, according to the ICTR's Summary of Judgment.



## MIDDLE EAST



The **Syrian** Foreign minister met a delegation from the Arab League in Qatar to discuss ways of ending what is now eight months of civil unrest. The Arab League said it will arrange for negotiations to take place between the opposition leaders and the Syrian Government.

The UN said that more than 3,500 people have died since March in Syria's unrest. Even with the Arab League's draft peace deal, 60 people have died in the last week. The Syrian government announced that it was releasing political prisoners as a first step towards peace.

The UN General Assembly voted 107 to 14 (there were 52 abstentions) in favour of **Palestinian** admittance as a full member of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). Both the United States and Israel said they would stop their contributions to the organisation; 22% and 3% respectively.

**Israel** is easing restrictions on the Palestinian territory of Gaza, allowing building materials for the private sector to enter the densely populated sliver of land for the first time since Hamas took control there in 2007.

US president Barrack Obama announced that all remaining, 39,000 American military personnel would be withdrawn by the end of the year. Negotiations with **Iraqi** authorities to retain 5,000 personnel failed over disagreements to provide them with immunity from Iraqi law.

## ASIA

In its first ever presidential election as a parliamentary democracy, **Kyrgyzstan** elected Almazbek Atambayev, Leader of the Social Democratic Party, as president. The president announced plans to close a large American military base.

A suicide bomber in **Kabul** attacked a convoy killing 17 people including 13 military and civilian employees of ISAF. In a separate attack three Australians and an Afghan interpreter lost their lives in the Uruzgan province.



One of four former Khmer Rouge leaders charged with crimes against humanity was ruled unfit to stand trial and could be set free, a spokesman for the special UN court in **Cambodia**, courts decided that Ieng Thirith, the 78-year-old former minister of social affairs in the Khmer Rouge regime, was 'not fit to stand trial as she has dementia.'

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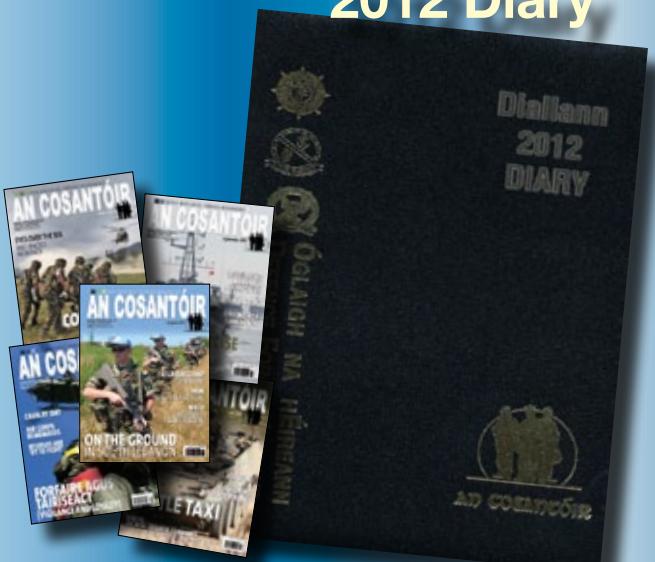
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The Defence Forces Magazine

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# Worry and Guilt or Collective Responsibility

## CAOGA GROUP LIFE ASSURANCE MEMBERSHIP - A NO BRAINER

BY COMDT PAULINE O'CONNELL (SECRETARY CAOGA)

A recent survey portrayed Irish consumers as emotional financial decision makers, with worry and guilt driving their financial choices. According to the survey by Caledonian Life 60% of Irish brokers say that a sense of worry was the biggest driver for clients opting to take out life assurance. While worry about being prepared if something bad happened was a significant factor 34% of respondents took a more practical approach and purchased financial products, including life assurance, because they felt that they are a necessity and wanted to take a proactive approach to financial planning.

Officers in the Defence Forces owe much to the foresight of Capt Bill O'Carroll who set up CAOGA in 1949 after seeing the plight of the widow of a 2 Inf Bn officer forced to raise a family on a pension that was a quarter of her husband's salary. Since then CAOGA has provided life assurance cover for Defence Forces officers.

Almost 60 years on the original scheme is still the cornerstone of CAOGA today. The principles and values governing CAOGA are unchanged. In his case to the military authorities concerning the setting up of CAOGA, which pays out a death benefit of approximately

€20,000, Bill O'Carroll intuitively stated that this Friendly Societies Benefit should not be a replacement for other insurance. His words of caution have come to pass with the setting up of the Group Life Assurance Scheme in 1979, which now pays out a benefit of €350,000 in the event of the death of a member.

Whatever the findings of the Caledonian survey, the emotion driving officers' decisions in joining CAOGA is a genuine desire to protect his or her loved ones in the event of the death of a key family member – a mature and responsible decision made in the interest of one's family. By joining the CAOGA Group Scheme, as young officers we are assuming collective responsibility for the welfare of ourselves and our colleagues.

With the demise of the Celtic Tiger we as a nation are reassessing our priorities and values and realising that health, wellbeing and financial security are our top priorities. The pressures of post-Tiger Ireland are greatly adding to the stress in people's lives and we are now, more than ever, asking if we have made adequate provision for our families in the event of the death of either spouse. While all types of insurance have become more expensive, customers are putting need above greed and realising that in the event of the death of a loved one an adequate and affordable life cover is required.

The latest Group Life Assurance Plan, underwritten by Generali was negotiated by the CAOGA Committee on behalf of our members, cognisant of the current financial climate and the desire to ensure that members with greatest need are adequately covered.

Retaining our membership base has never been more important and whether you are a cadet, a serving captain or a retired colonel, your membership is valued.

For the first time, cadets will be covered free of charge with a benefit of €30,000, provided they sign up to the



## CAOGA – A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

Times to check your CAOGA file cover and review your benefits and nomination forms:

- Travelling Overseas
- On buying a home (to review your finances)
- Getting married (to join your spouse)
- In a civil partnership
- Having a family (to join your children)
- On separation/divorce (to review your nomination forms)
- On retirement (to arrange pension deductions)
- On the death of a loved one Mortgage Protection Life Assurance Review Service

group scheme at first opportunity. We also have an agreement in principle on tax relief on premiums for serving members, which will make the group scheme more affordable for younger mortgage holders. This tax relief is part of an AVC (Additional, Voluntary Contribution) scheme and, unfortunately, is therefore not available to retired personnel in receipt of a pension. Tax relief will come on stream in the next few months.

At a time when welfare and pension entitlements are no longer cast in stone, it has never been more important for officers to be members of the CAOGA Group Life Assurance Plan. It is also essential that officers' spouses join the spouse scheme on marriage. If an officer tragically loses his or her spouse, it is likely that even though they may still have a full salary, childcare costs will increase greatly and financial outgoings will remain high until the children become financially independent. It is therefore imperative that spouses of members join the group scheme at first opportunity, when only random health checks are carried out by the insurance provider.

The decision to cut benefits for members in the over-60 categories was not taken lightly but was reached following intensive negotiations between the CAOGA committee and our broker, based on

a risk analysis of the numbers of officers entering the various age brackets in the immediate future. This decision and all our decisions were made in the interest of protecting the viability of the Group Life Assurance Plan in the coming years.

The main factor that influenced the recasting of our Group Protection Life Assurance Plan was the recent high claims experience for members in the ages of 50-65 years. The adjustment of the benefit for members in the 61-65 age bracket to €200,000 was again carefully considered to ensure adequate benefits at an affordable cost. The increased premiums for spouse members are directly related to our recent high claims history among spouse members.



The very significant decrease in benefits for members in the 66-74 year brackets came about following an actuarial risk analysis of the large numbers of officers entering these brackets relative to our membership base over the period of the new contract. Agreement was reached following a unanimous vote by the CAOGA committee.

Research shows that we are the only group life assurance plan in the country providing life cover to people over 65 years of age. Our benefits are also greater than those being paid by any other group life assurance plan. Please be assured that the CAOGA committee are committed to getting the best deal possible for members of all ages.

The high level of claims experienced by CAOGA over the past 18 months is reflected in all group life assurance plans in Ireland. It is hoped that this high claims experience will improve over the period of the coming contract and that this will be reflected in premiums in the future.

While the rules governing the running of CAOGA, set up under the Friendly Societies Act, have stood the test of time, the CAOGA committee, with legal advice, is at present conducting a root-and-branch review of our rules to ensure their relevance to the trends and changes in Irish society today. Legislative changes brought about by the enactment of the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabits Act, 2010, will be fully reflected in the amended rules. Likewise, all measures necessary will be adopted to ensure the increase and retention of our membership base in the future.

Another very important and often unsung area of CAOGA's work is the provision of welfare grants to serving officers who find themselves in financial distress through no

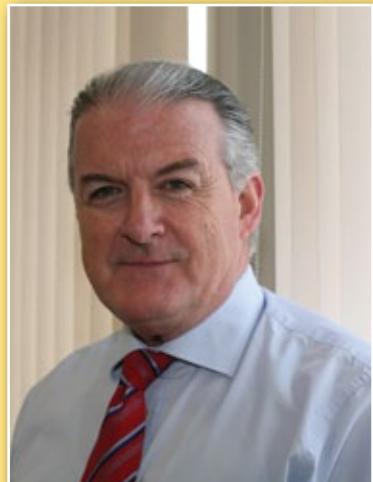
fault of their own. Serving officers contribute €2 per month to the CAOGA Benevolent Fund; not be confused with the Army Benevolent Fund which provides assistance to all other-ranks and retired officers. Applications are processed by the committee on a discreet and confidential basis, with no reference to the identity or gender of the applicant. Only the treasurer, on making payment, is aware of the identity of the recipient.

CAOGA is in the process of launching a new content-based, interactive website in order to communicate more efficiently with our members. The website is designed to make CAOGA more accessible to all officers and we will be keeping you updated on developments via mail shot. You will also be able to email us any of your queries or worries regarding your personal CAOGA cover and we will undertake to reply to you as soon as possible. If you have not already contacted the CAOGA office with your personal email address, please email us at [info@caoga-defenceforces.com](mailto:info@caoga-defenceforces.com)

While the environment in which we find ourselves may have changed dramatically in the past few years, the tenets governing CAOGA remain essentially the same. It is an organisation dedicated to the collective welfare of the officer body: it is for all officers and is committed to working for your family's protection now and in the future. Should you have any queries or concerns in relation to CAOGA or if you are considering joining, please do not hesitate to contact me, Comdt Pauline O'Connell (Secretary COAGA) or Ms Judy Farrell (CAOGA Administrative Officer) at 01-8042785/2786, [www.caoga-defenceforces.com](http://www.caoga-defenceforces.com) or call to the COAGA office located in DFHQ, Infirmary Road, Dublin 7. All queries are dealt with in strictest confidence. ■

## FREE MORTGAGE ADVICE

For free mortgage and mortgage protection advice for CAOGA members, contact our insurance broker, Mr Martin Sheehan, of Penpro at 01-2000100. (Martin was selected as our insurance broker after a tendering process. His other clients include such diverse groups as the Garda Representative Association, the Law Society of Ireland and University College Dublin.





## CAOGA GROUP PLAN RENEWAL

### NEW CAOGA GROUP ASSURANCE PLAN BENEFITS AND PREMIUMS



#### MEMBERS GROUP ASSURANCE PLAN (Generali)

ITEM	AGE BAND	OLD PREMIUM	OLD BENEFIT	NEW PREMIUM	NEW BENEFIT
1	17-28	€17.00	€175,000	€15.00	€150,000
2	29-35	€32.00	€330,000	€25.00	€250,000
3	36-60	€50.00	€350,000	€50.00	€350,000
4	61-65	€50.00	€350,000	€38.00	€200,000
5	66-70	€55.85	€125,000	€48.00	€100,000
6	71-74	€55.85	€125,000	€30.00	€40,000

#### SPOUSES OF MEMBERS GROUP ASSURANCE PLAN (Generali)

ITEM	AGE BAND	OLD PREMIUM	OLD BENEFIT	NEW PREMIUM	NEW BENEFIT
7	17-28	€37.00	€350,000	€11.00	€150,000
8	29-35	€37.00	€350,000	€19.00	€250,000
9	36-60	€37.00	€350,000	€34.50	€250,000
10	61-65	€37.00	€350,000	€45.00	€150,000
11	66-70	€43.25	€125,000	€45.00	€75,000
12	71-74	€43.25	€125,000	€15.00	€15,000

#### CAOGA FRIENDLY SOCIETY SCHEME

ITEM	AGE	SUBSCRIPTION	BENEFIT
13	MEMBER TO 70th Birthday	€10.00	€19,680
14	SPOUSE MEMBER	€5.00	€21,141
15	Child cover over 10 to 25th birthday	Free	€4,000
16	Child cover – under 10	Free	€1,269

*All CAOGA Friendly Society subscriptions are refundable to members at the age of 70 years.*

#### CAOGA BENEVOLENT FUND

ITEM	AGE	SUBSCRIPTION	BENEFIT
17	For all serving officers	€2.00	Grants

*Item 17: The CAOGA Benevolent Fund subscription is for serving officers only and is not to be confused with the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund which is for retired personnel of all ranks.*

# Three Gun Suite

BY WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

**S**nipers have a very unique job on the battlefield or in any other operational setting. The sniper provides the commander with specialised and advanced capability in a particular area. Using fieldcraft and stalking skills, the sniper provides valuable information in all operational settings and as well as being able to engage high value targets sniper teams may be used in the provision of force protection to the unit. They possess special skills, training, and equipment, the nature of which means that they go mostly unseen and unheard. Utilised by various Corps, the sniper is a valuable force multiplier that has evolved over the decades. The sniper is now one of the key assets available to a Company, Battalion, or Brigade Commander. Snipers, like any other asset of the Defence Forces utilise the latest technology available to their speciality. This year Defence Forces snipers have been enhanced by the introduction of new equipment. Complementing the existing .308 92 Accuracy International, sniper teams will now also have the use of the .338 SM Accuracy International and the 7.62mm modified FN spotter rifle.

Traditionally the job of a sniper was to deliver discriminatory, highly accurate rifle fire against high value enemy targets that cannot be engaged successfully by the regular rifleman because of range, size, location, or visibility. Today his job also includes Force Protection and an integral part of the ISTAR (Intelligence Surveillance, Target Acquisition Reconnaissance) matrix. In recent years Defence Forces snipers have served with EUFOR Chad/CAR, the EU Nordic Battlegroup, and currently with our redeployment to UNIFIL.

The weapons snipers use are mission specific. Teams work off the Three Gun Suite concept; an antipersonnel rifle, anti-material rifle, and spotter rifle. Until now Defence Forces snipers have used the .308 92 Accuracy International and the 5.56mm modified Steyr spotter rifle. "The introduction of the .338 SM Accuracy International is not a replacement for the .308 92," explained Lt Steven Byrne, a sniper instructor in the Infantry Weapons Wing (IWW). As he pointed out the different features on the weapons, he added that "It complements it. The .338 has increased range giving the sniper a greater anti-personnel and anti-material capability."

The new spotter rifle is a modified 7.62mm FNs that were



## Vox Pops

already in stock. "The FN spotter rifle offers greater close protection with semi and fully automatic fire up to a range of 800m; a significant increase in capability," according to Sgt Kevin Byrne, a sniper instructor in the IWW. He adds that "It is equipped with the same sights and optics as the sniper rifles in order for the spotter to bring the sniper onto his target."

Sniping is an art form that requires the development of basic infantry skills to a high degree of perfection. The art of sniping requires learning and repetitious practice of the skills until they are mastered. A sniper must be highly trained in long range rifle marksmanship and fieldcraft skills to ensure maximum effective engagements with minimum risk.

It takes a patient disciplined person, capable of working with his spotter at times beyond friendly lines. In addition to marksmanship skills, he must be able to detect and stalk a target, estimate the range of a target, and have mastered the art of concealment and camouflage, and observation.

Defence Forces snipers are very highly trained. To become a sniper in the Defence Forces you must pass the challenging and demanding 7 week Basic Snipers Course. Open to all ranks the course is conducted at unit level. The Sniper Badge however is tested and awarded by the Inf Wpns Wg. The next course available to NCO and officer snipers was the Instructors course. With snipers being deployed on missions such as the EU Nordic Battlegroup it was decided to introduce a 3 week Intermediate Snipers course to ensure all snipers, not just instructors are fully trained and familiar with their role.

"The Intermediate course takes a sniper who has proven his ability and enhances his skill level,"

Lt Byrne explained, "they will be introduced to skills that are not covered on the Basic course and that he would only cover if he was a student on the instructors course." The enhanced skills the sniper will learn include; advanced marksmanship techniques, and sniper deployment. It will be on the Intermediate Course that the sniper will learn the .338 SM Accuracy International and the 7.62mm FN spotter rifle.

"The Intermediate Course is great, not all snipers go on to be instructors," added Sgt Byrne, "So this course, gives all snipers the additional skills and increased capabilities that they will need for the types of overseas missions on which Defence Forces personnel deploy." The first Intermediate Sniper Course will be run by the IWW in April 2012. ■

**WE SPOKE TO SNIPERS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING CONVERSATION TRAINING WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF THE NEW .338 SM ACCURACY INTERNATIONAL AND THE 7.62MM MODIFIED FN SPOTTER RIFLE.**



**CPL DAVID NORDON, 27 INF BN.**

The .338 is quite similar to the .308 in terms of its use. It is a very accurate weapon. It pushes our range capability right out to 1500m. The 7.62mm spotter rifle takes a little bit of getting used to since we are used to the Steyr. With the added features it is extremely accurate up to 800m. Both these weapons really enhance our capabilities.



**SGT UEL FISHER, 28 INF BN**

These two weapons have brought the Defence Forces up on a par with international standards and advanced sniping in some areas. The .338 is a very positive development in the field. A sniper can engage or observe targets at ranges of 1km plus while safe from small arms fire and detection.



**SGT SHANE HENNESSY, 4 INF BN**

The .338 gives us the ability to fire and observe out past 1000m. This is significant increase from the .308; don't get me wrong the .308 is an excellent weapon but it just doesn't have the range of the .338. I've just taken two shots there to get on target and it is very nice to fire. The 7.62mm FN spotter rifle is great. For both spotting and close protection it is great.



**LT STEWART FITZELL, 27 INF BN**

The introduction of these two new weapons will give the Battalion Commander the enhanced capability of further distance on which he can engage a target. The .338 also allows you to operate in more difficult conditions. For example it can fire accurately in stronger winds than the .308, further ranges, and a greater anti-material capability. So it gives the unit commander more options on the battlefield.



# museum

National Museum of Ireland  
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Decorative  
Arts & History



Collins Barracks  
Benburb Street,  
Dublin 7.  
Tel (01) 6777 444  
info@museum.ie  
www.museum.ie

**Open:**  
Tuesday to Saturday  
10am to 5pm.  
Sunday 2pm to 5pm.  
**Closed:**  
Mondays incl. Bank  
Holidays

*Free Admission  
Free Parking  
Guided Tours  
New Exhibitions  
Museum Cafe  
Museum Shops*

*Family programmes and  
events for people of all  
ages.*

**Museum Stop:**  
Red LUAS Line



BY CPL PAUL MILLAR

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SGT MICK BURKE

**T**he 'Soldiers and Chiefs' exhibition is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year at the National Museum in Collins Barracks, Dublin. It is the National Museum's largest exhibition and has received over one million visitors as well as winning the 'Best Exhibition' award in 2009.

The exhibition, which covers the period from 1550 to the present, is approached through three main themes: the Irish soldier at home; the Irish soldier abroad; and the Irish soldier in the 20th Century. It is very fitting that this exhibition is on display in the barracks that held the first ever review of the Free State Army in December 1922.

The first theme concerns garrison life in Ireland; how trades and communities grew around the military over centuries, and the four major Irish wars up to 1800. It challenges many common preconceptions, from foreign involvement to the reasons why soldiers join armies.

The Irish soldier abroad is next, starting with the 16th Century Wild Geese, and includes the Irishmen who enlisted in the armies of France, Spain and Austria. This area includes the battle flag of the Dillon Regiment from the battle of Fontenoy in 1745. In a section on the American Civil War we hear about the estimated 300,000 Irishmen who fought on both sides. This section finishes with the little known battle of Ridgeway in 1866 when Irish veterans attacked the British colony of Canada.

Irishmen once comprised nearly 40% of the British Army, though recruitment was never consistent and changed with economic conditions. The Irish in British service section covers this aspect from 1790 to 1914. There is an interactive display with three main weapons a soldier would have used and visitors can handle the guns and receive realistic instruction taken from the manuals of the day.

This theme continues with the First World War, when 150,000 Irish volunteered for service with the British Army.

# SOLDIERS AND CHIEFS

## The Irish at War

Central to this display is a restored 18-pounder field gun used in its thousands in the Great War, and also used in the Easter Rising and the Irish Civil War. To the side lies a German maxim machine-gun, which, weighing in at over 50kg and deployed at a rate of 15 per battalion, provided a formidable obstacle for the troops that faced them across the battlefields of the Western Front. Throughout this display you catch glimpses of trench life; from the boring times spent trying to make life easier to the horrible reality of 'going over the top'.

The 1916 Rising forms the next part. Central to this section are the actual flag that flew over the GPO and James Connolly's undershirt, worn while wounded in the GPO. There are many snippets here that document the Rising, shedding light on the tactics of both sides.

The Irish Wars covers the War of Independence and the Civil War. This section highlights the difficulty in telling friend from foe or fighter from civilian. It also includes a number of items that show the value of Cumann na mBan in assisting the rebel efforts. Last in this area, stand Michael Collins' overcoat, still marked with a mud stain from where he fell at Béal na Bláth and the uniform that IRA chief of staff Liam Lynch was wearing when he died; both men killed in action.

The area covering the period from the establishment of the Free State to present times includes the Emergency, and great displays about the Congo and our contribution to UNIFIL in Lebanon.

If you want to really understand the history, traditions and identity of the Defence Forces, then a visit to the 'Soldiers and Chiefs' exhibition is a must.■



# PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF: MAXWELL PHOTOGRAPHY, ARMN PADDY REILLY (105 SQN)  
& ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

**O**n 11 November 2011, Michael D Higgins became the ninth President of Ireland following a ceremony in Dublin Castle. Almost 300 members of the Defence Forces took part in the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony.

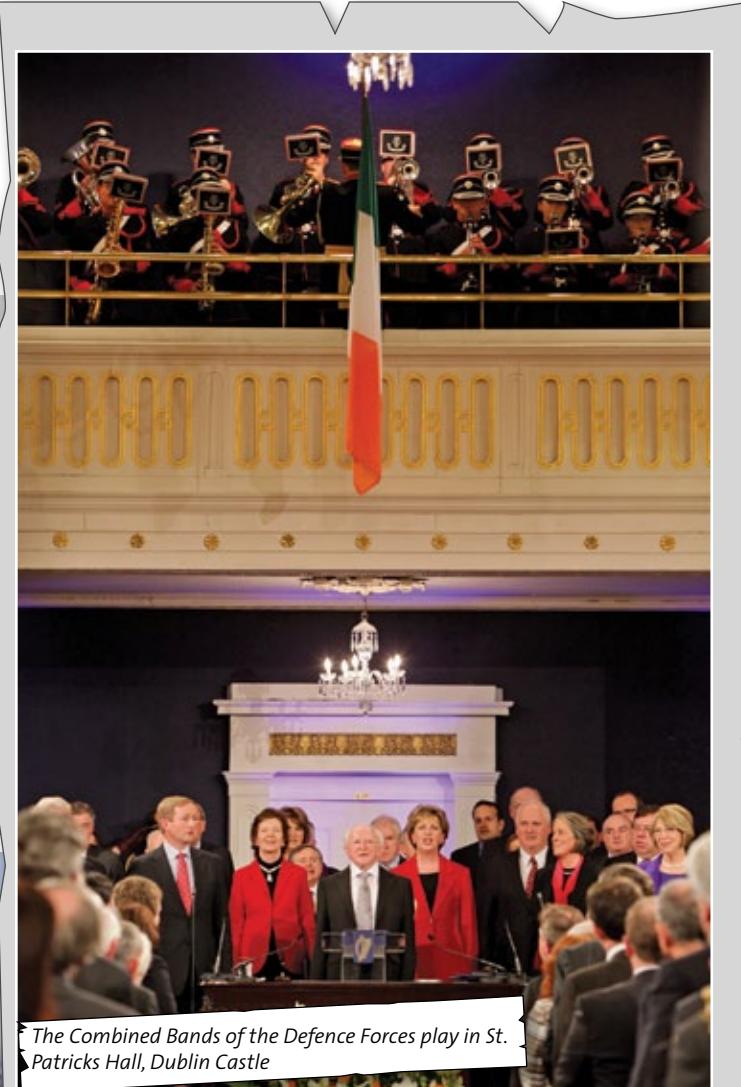
The Defence Forces involvement will included a Motorcycle Escort of Honour, a Guard of Honour, a 21 Gun Salute, an Air Corp Fly Past and the Combined Bands of the Defence Forces. The Guard of Honour was drawn from the 5 Inf Bn, McKee Bks, the 21 Gun Salute was drawn from the 4 Fd Arty Reg, Columb Bks Mullingar and the Escort of Honour was drawn from the 2 Cav Sqn from Cathal Brugha Bks.

## The president-elect made the following declaration:

In the presence of Almighty God, I, Michael D. Higgins, do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will maintain the Constitution of Ireland and uphold its laws, that I will fulfil my duties faithfully and conscientiously in accordance with the Constitution and the law, and that I will dedicate my abilities to the service and welfare of the people of Ireland. May God direct and sustain me.

Article 13.4 of the 1937 Constitution of Ireland provides that "The supreme command of the Defence Forces is hereby vested in the President."





# 105 INF BN IN REVIEW AND MRE

PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY ARMN NEVILLE  
COUGHLAN & ARMN  
PADDY REILLY (105 SQN)

Over the past several months 450 personnel of the 105 Inf Bn have been getting themselves ready for overseas deployment to UNIFIL. During the month of October their preparations culminated in a three week Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) in the Glen of Imaal. The MRE tests all personnel in every scenario a peacekeeper may encounter during his six month tour of duty. The men and women of the 105 Inf Bn primarily come from the 1 S Bde with 3 Inf Bn as the lead unit. Lt Col Philip Brennan is the Battalion Commander.

On November 8 in Kilkenny Castle the Battalion held their Ministerial Review. In attendance was Minister of State for Defence Mr Paul Kehoe TD, Lt Gen Seán McCann (COS) and Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (GOC 1 S Bde).

The Minister stated that, "the International Community continues to view Lebanon as a very volatile environment

requiring a robust and extensive international presence."

During the early hours on the November 16/17, the first chalk of the 105 Inf Bn departed Dublin Airport bound for Lebanon. They left on a chartered Air Berlin, Airbus A330-200, the troops boarding the aircraft and the National Stores Reception Centre (NSRC) staff had to deal with torrential rain during the load. The NSRC are a little known unit which is currently embedded in the DFLB in the DFTC and as such provide an extremely valuable service to the DF on all deployments and extractions from overseas missions. All overseas luggage and freight is dispatched via the NSRC. This pool of expertise is often overlooked and unrecognised by the wider Defence Community. In all overseas deployments they are among the first to be deployed and the last to be extracted.





*Photo shows: The Chief of Staff Lt Gen Seán McCann with Pte Shelley Kehoe with her uncle Minister of State Paul Kehoe TD, and Lt Col Philip Brennan (OC 105 Inf Bn).*



# Taking You a Stage Further...

BY PATRICK FINUCANE

A career in the Defence Forces offers many things to young soldiers today. Whether it is overseas service, weapons or specialist training, technician or career courses, there are more and more opportunities opening up as the DF becomes a more streamlined, efficient and effective organisation. As with other career opportunities within the DF the area of further education is one that is increasingly being availed of by many personnel. While there is scope within the annual training directive for enlisted personnel to undertake the leaving certificate programme, many more are now going further afield and applying to third-level institutions to further their studies.

For many, access to such programmes is primarily through the Refund of Fees or Courses Specific to the Defence Forces schemes, through which each application is assessed on the relative benefit of the proposed course to the DF before financial support can be accessed. Not every applicant is successful and many of those who aren't still decide to pursue third-level education for a variety of reasons, whether it is for personal development or with one eye to the future. In deciding to self-fund there are several issues for the prospective student to evaluate before committing to college. Aside from the obvious financial implications, one area that has to be 'squared away' immediately is – 'Can I undertake a two- or three-year programme in my own time and successfully integrate it with my working obligations?'

In attempting to answer such a difficult question it is essential that the prospective student approaches his commander and informs him of his intentions. The support of the unit or section OC is critical. While the military duties and obligations of the soldier will always be paramount, there is often a great deal of flexibility with unit commanders to assist the prospective student, particularly when involved in own-time study.

Other issues, such as career courses and overseas deployments, should be discussed with family and colleagues, as they too will have to be factored into the equation. It should also be remembered that the academic year is not continuous and breaks quite frequently. Generally, it can run roughly from September to December, and then from January to May, so it is possible to successfully integrate a soldier's military commitments and academic pursuits.

Having weighed up the pros and cons of whether go for the third-level option or not, identifying the right course and institution is equally important. Here, the question



Pat on his graduation day with his wife Jan Carroll

to be asked is: 'What qualification am I aiming for, and will it be of use to me and the organisation?' While many applicants within the DF may be mature applicants (over 25) and may not have a primary degree, they can still apply for places on several MA-level programmes. For example, many serving members of the DF have successfully completed MA programmes in the School of Law and Government at DCU (an institution where currently there are approximately 25 members of the DF attending other programmes).

The fact that a potential student may not have a primary degree or even a leaving certificate is not always a stumbling block to entry into university. Many institutions such as DCU, UCD and NUIM, all accept mature students who meet certain criteria.



The G2 Cell MNBC KFOR



Standard NCOs Course



**D DFT is responsible for the administration of external education schemes provided by the DF. The DF currently offer the opportunity for further education to its members under the following schemes:**

#### **Refund Of Fees TI 04/2000**

The aim of this TI is to enhance personal development for DF personnel by providing funding for relevant civilian educational opportunities to DF personnel who have not previously received DF funding. Courses under this scheme are conducted in one's own time.

#### **Courses specific to DF Requirements – TI 05/2000**

The aim of this TI is to fund selected personnel to undergo relevant external courses to obtain qualifications which have been identified as being essential to meet the fundamental requirements of the D. Funding can be sought for courses conducted on a full or part-time basis.

#### **DF Adult Education Scheme TI 07/2002.**

The aim of this TI is to enhance the educational opportuni-

Indeed, in many cases selection is often based on an individual's military employment and their particular experience gained within the DF. The experience gained on overseas deployment is held in extremely high regard by many third-level institutions.

Finally, while the decision to attend third-level can be a daunting one, prospective students should always remember that quite often they already possess the necessary skills and ability to successfully complete third-level. Skills gained within the DF such as time management, lesson planning and class presentation all transfer quite easily to the civilian environment. In deciding whether to apply or not, first speak with colleagues who have already attended university. Ask them what the experience was like and how it benefited their military career. Identify any potential difficulties that may arise before you make your decision.

In summing up, the American psychologist Abraham Maslow famously said: 'If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail'. This observation shows the benefit developing different 'tools' and what better way is there to do this than through further education, which helps to equip an individual with a greater range of skills and qualifications.

**About the author:** Patrick Finucane retired from the DF as a Sergeant in January 2011 after 21 years service. He holds an MA in International Relations from DCU, an M Litt in Terrorism Studies from the University of Saint Andrews, and he is currently pursuing his PhD with the School of Law and Government in DCU, where he was awarded the inaugural Charles J Haughey Doctoral Fellowship. His PhD deals with Violent Islamist Radicalisation in Ireland. ■

ties for DF personnel. The scheme is open to all ranks for courses conducted in own-time only. There is no service undertaking for courses under this scheme and priority is given to,

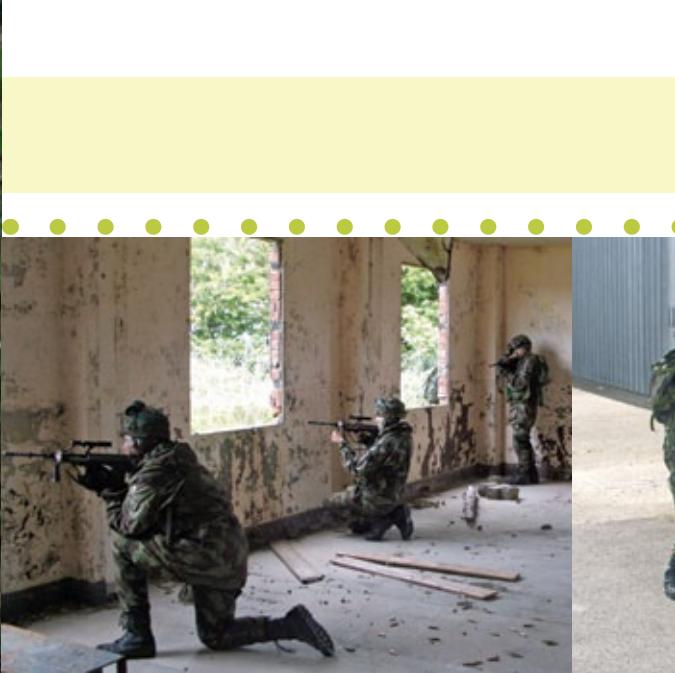
PSS applications and PSS literacy applications.  
Pers not previously funded for education.  
Pers living in single quarters in Bks.

#### **Army Trainee Technician Scheme – TI 04/2002**

The aim of this TI is to provide a structured approach and outline responsibilities in the sourcing, training and employment of trainee technicians (TTs) recruited from within the Defence Forces. The CSSC is the TT Co-ordinating Centre.

#### **Foreign Language Training (FLT) TI 06/2005**

The aim of this TI is to bridge the gap that exists between DF language requirements and current competency levels. The following languages are designated as the current priority languages for the DF; French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, and German.



# OPERATION URBAN WARRIOR

BY PTE CONOR MURPHY (B COY, 65 RES INF BN RDF)

Fighting in built up areas (or FIBUA as it is commonly known) is not a new phenomenon in modern warfare. The Russian Red Army perfected it during the Battle of Stalingrad during WWII and did so once again during the Battle of Berlin in Apr 1945. A prime example would be the famous Battle of Mogadishu in 1993 and more recently the second battle for Fallujah in Nov and Dec 2004. It involves literally fighting street by street, building by building and room by room. The battle is not won until that street, building or room is completely clear of enemies, booby traps, IEDs etc. For some members of the 65 Reserve Infantry Battalion it was our first time undertaking FIBUA Training.

Our FIBUA training took place over a number of weekends from Feb till May 2011 under the instruction of PDF personnel, before culminating in a large exercise in June. The PDF instructors were Cpl's Eastwood and McEnaney and Lt's McEoin and Gough from the 5 Inf Bn. In the morning of our first day of FIBUA training, we began by practising basic skills, such as how to fall and roll properly. After all these were completed we were divided into three groups. One group is completing an obstacle course, another scaling walls using your buddies and another group learning how to use ladders to assault buildings, how to

dismount ladders and how to hold them properly. The obstacle course enabled us to refine skills such as climbing walls, leopard crawling, bear crawling, scaling high walls, climbing high fences and balancing across beams. We did this in pairs and in between each exercise we had to carry our buddy either by piggyback or fireman's lift. This was to simulate that in a FIBUA environment, or indeed in any warfare environment, your buddy could get shot, get wounded or worse case scenario be killed and you've got to get him or her out of there.

On the "how to scale walls using your buddies" exercise we were taught how to get over walls and obstacles using our buddies to lift us up and over or by using objects commonly found in an urban environment, like planks of wood to get them over the top. These included the shin lift, the knee lift and finally the platoon lift. The final one was achieved using ladders. In a FIBUA environment it is always more practical to assault a building through the top floor. We were taught how to hold and secure the ladder so it wouldn't fall down, how to get off the ladder and finally how to dismount them properly. All three groups rotated before eventually we completed each exercise.

In the afternoon we progressed onto how to assault buildings. This included how to break in windows, break in doors, rip



open doors and pull them off their hinges. Secondly we moved onto how to assault ascending a staircase and how to clear hallways before finally we moved onto how to attack and clear buildings hallway by hallway, room by room. This was probably the most enjoyable part of the training day as it incorporated all that we had learnt throughout the day, such as entering buildings, breaking windows and doors if needs be, attacking and taking rooms and buildings. It also incorporated some of our usual Greenfield Tactics.

The actual exercise for FIBUA commenced on the weekend of 18-19 June 2011 at two locations. On the Saturday we used the FIBUA MTF in the Curragh Camp to get a refresher of our training from the previous months and finally on Sunday "Operation Urban Warrior" commenced, the actual exercise, with no more dry runs took place in Gormanston Camp.

On the Saturday morning in Gormanston Camp we were divided into sections and platoons before making our way to the Curragh Camp. We were the first RDF unit to use the FIBUA MTF from within the 2 E Bde area. The FIBUA Facility provided every scenario we could come up against in a FIBUA environment such as the usual assaulting room by room, attacking upstairs, rooms clearance and scenarios new to us in FIBUA such as passing supplies through an enemy held building and subterranean operations which involved close quarter fighting in a tunnel. In the evening time we returned to Gormanston Camp where we retired to our billets before receiving our orders for the following day. It was very straight forward scenario, the "enemy" had taken Gormanston Camp and we were to provide a platoon-company strength assault on the camp to take it back.

At 0830 hours the two platoons advanced, section by section, down Gormanston beach in battle column formation and this was to continue until we reached Irishtown house when were hit up from our right flank side. The moment we had waited for since we started our training had arrived. Number one section was to assault first, number two section was to provide reinforcements while number three section was to be held in reserve. We assaulted the building through a downstairs window under covering fire towards the upstairs windows where the enemy was situated. Number one Platoon became bogged down in the first floor of Irishtown house as the enemy occupied all the upstairs rooms armed with GPMG's and had what is called a "killing

field". Eventually though Irishtown house was overrun and we moved onto our next objective.

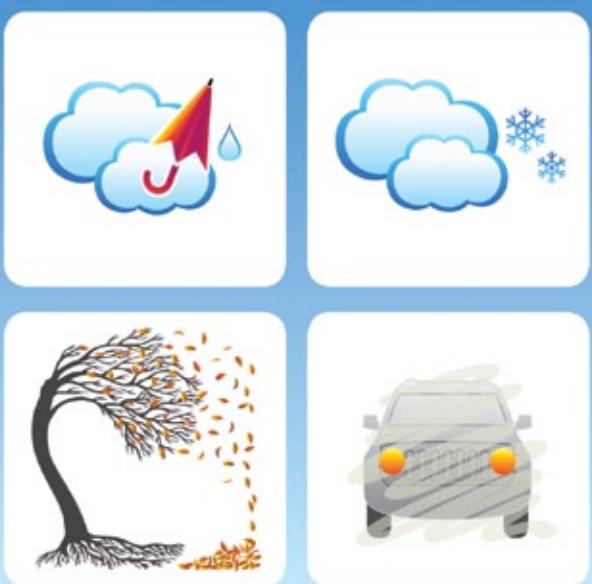
From Irishtown house we advanced in a file column in the long grass and held our position until second platoon had cleared their objective. When we got the all clear and we advanced once again this time to the old Air Corp buildings. We moved in two to three man squads under covering fire until we reached the buildings. We found the entrance point boarded up so we used a break-in tool called a knock-knock to break in the door then threw in a flash bang and fired off some rounds to clear the hallway. Once again we used two man squads to clear each room and left one man from each squad to hold that room. The Air Corp buildings were taken by number one platoon and were initially meant to be taken just by two sections but we ran into trouble halfway through as we took "casualties" from enemy fire.

From here number one platoon advanced in leaps and bounds until we reached the hedgerows surrounding the water tower. Number one platoon took the water tower with each section taking a floor each and another section taking the courtyard. After clearing the water tower we advanced in leaps and bounds with covering fire to an old abandoned enemy held house near the camp canteen. Each room like before was taken with small two man squads with one man tossing in a thunder flash to neutralise the enemy then the two men going in to clear the room with the front man taking an about turn to the near corner and the second man going to the far corner. In the last room we encountered an iron door with a small trap-door which the GPMG was firing out of. We tossed in a thunder flash, fired off some rounds and cleared the room.

For the final objective two sections were to make the assault and one section was to act as reserve. I was part of this reserve section and we held our position and provided covering fire as required. By 1300 hours the camp was cleared of all "enemy" and the mission accomplished.

How the months of voluntary training culminating in the exercise benefited the battalion. FIBUA can mean that there are high casualty rates, this highlighted the importance of individual soldiers being familiar with the platoon drills at all levels to that they are able to work on their own initiative when leaders become casualties. The exercise helped to foster a great esprit de corps and camaraderie among the personnel making the exercise overall a great success.

# BE WINTER-READY



Visit: [www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie)

See: AERTEL page 592

Tel: Office of Emergency Planning 1890 252 736



## Carol Service

Church of the Defence Forces, Arbour Hill

Wednesday 07 December 20:00hrs



Enjoy some pre-Christmas reflection  
with the Army No 1 Band  
& RTÉ's Cór na nÓg

The Chaplaincy Service

[www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie)



### We need more Platelet donors in Ireland.

You may already be a blood donor, or giving blood may be something you always wanted to do. But there is also an extra special gift you can give to help save or improve the lives of patients in Irish hospitals.

Platelets are one of the components of your blood, essential for clotting. Every year we need over 20,000 units and demand is increasing all the time. The majority of these platelets are needed for cancer patients. Donations take place at the National Blood Centre in Dublin, and the Munster Regional Transfusion Centre in Cork.

**To find out more about becoming a platelet donor...**

visit [www.giveblood/platelets](http://www.giveblood/platelets)  
text PLATELET to 53377

or

Call 01 432 2833 (Dublin) or 021 480 7400 (Cork)



For the first 40 correct entries we receive at our Office, we are giving away an iPhone 3G/3GS cover inscribed with the Defence Forces Logo on the rear.

### Question?

What is the first word on Page 15 of An Cosantóir's November 2011 Issue?

To Enter:

Send your answer with a Self Addressed envelope to:  
An Cosantóir, Block 5,  
Ceannt Barracks,  
Curragh Camp.



# TAC

## NAVIGATION PART 2

### FINDING YOUR POSITION

**You must know and be familiar with:**

- Your map
- Your compass
- Map legend

Part one dealt with getting from A to B, using a map and compass. Part two here will help you find your location and next month we will look at grid references & route cards.

### SETTING YOUR MAP

**This is a basic skill that is the quickest way of finding your position if visibility is good enough.**

#### Method 1

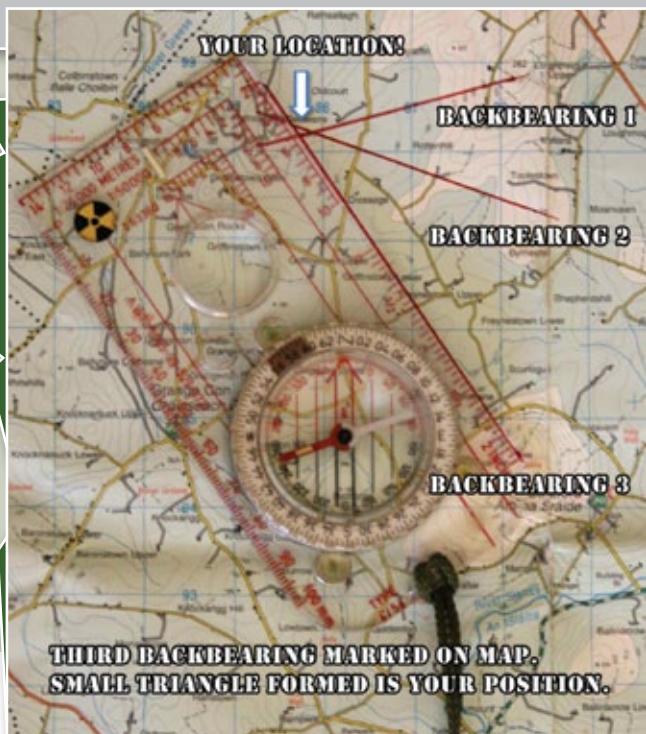
##### Surroundings

- 1) This is good if you have some idea of your position.
- 2) Locate two or more features around you like a road, church or a bridge.
- 3) Find the same locations on the map.
- 4) Line up the map locations with your surroundings that you picked.
- 5) Your map is now set- not precisely, but good enough so you know your direction.

#### Method 2

##### Setting north

- 1) With your compass bezel reading at zero, dial in the magnetic variation.
- 2) Place the compass on the map.
- 3) Line up the direction of travel arrow with grid north.
- 4) Twist the map with the compass on it until the compass needle sits inside the housing north.
- 5) Your map is now precisely set.



### RESECTION

- 1) Locate three definite features you can see on the ground.
- 2) Find these on your map.
- 3) Take a bearing to one feature.
  - a. Remove magnetic variation.
  - b. Convert to a back bearing (subtract 3200mils or 180 degrees)
- 4) Place your compass on the map. Place the compass edge on the feature, line up grid North with the housing orientating lines, draw a line from the feature.
- 5) Repeat steps three and four for the next features.
- 6) A small triangle will form where the lines meet. Your position is in the centre of this triangle.

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

# ÉIRINN GO BRÁCH (IRELAND FOREVER)

BY 1ST SGT WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILLY GALLIGAN

*"Come on boys up and over let's get out of here, they're pressing us," these pessimistic words went through the ranks like a domino. One by one the men broke and ran. Captain Keith Jacknan was not impressed. For days he'd been drilling his men for this very moment. Now at the first sight of the grey southerners his lads have turned yellow. No point of the sword or cries from the NCOs to "Stand boys. We can hold them," could get them to stand firm. The enemy was only a small Confederate patrol. Capt Jackman wondered how the men would react under hail of cannon balls and confronted by tens of thousands of southern troops.*

This July 4 weekend in the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh the American Civil War was brought to life. Irelands own Minstrel Boys ranks were filled with visiting members of the German Mess, The American Eagle Society (UK), and the 5th Virginia (Historische DarstellungsGruppe München).

Before the first major engagement at Manassas junction on July 21 1861, both the Union and Confederacy had to raise armies. Militia units were called up and new volunteers trained in. For the publics amusement we did just that. With 30 men some of whom were 'fresh fish,' while others had 'never seen the elephant' (two 19th century expressions to describe 'new recruits' and 'soldiers who had never seen battle before') the task ahead was not easy. 2nd Sgt Andy Braeunling and myself as 1st Sgt were instructed to put the company through their paces. With Baxter's Manual for Volunteers in one hand we did all we could to get the men ready for their first big fight.

Armies haven't changed all that much in 150 years. All a soldier has to know is his left and right and be able to count one and two, this is the easy bit. In a battleline the men are in two ranks, one in front and one to the rear. When marching in column they are in files of four. Easier said than done, we haven't even thrown in a musket yet.

Like the militia of the day, these re-enactors only drill every so often. However much to the disgust of Lt Gareth Harding they barely knew their left from right. As it is the way in the army the Lt gives out to the 1st Sgt, the 1st Sgt gives out to the Cpl, and the Cpl gives out to the Pte. The public of course lap up the roaring and shouting. "Get your dressing", "that's your right foot that's your left". Little did the public know we weren't acting.

The arms drill was designed to make it easy for the men on the march and of course loading and firing as quickly as possible at the enemy. There were two principle formations; the battleline and the skirmish line. In the battleline men



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

stand elbow to elbow and the rear rank was only half an arm's length from the man in front. The skirmish line was an open formation where men could lie down or take cover if available. Loading a musket took, in the case of Baxter, ten movements. It was not a fast procedure with black powder cartridge and ball having to be rammed down the barrel. A trained soldier was meant to be able to fire three aimed shots a minute. Although our men couldn't figure out a right wheel from a left wheel Captain Jackman was happy that they could put up a fight.

With fixed bayonets when the command "Charge" came, the proud Irishmen lowered their muskets and cried Fág an Bealach! The hearted battle cry clearly sent the public running; let's hope it would have the same

effect on the enemy.

\* Fág an Bealach! and Éirinn go Brách! are two battle cries used by Irish warriors and soldiers. They are sometimes seen on the flags of Irish units most notably the Rebels of 1798, the San Patricio's and Irish units in the Civil War. One beautiful inscription may be found on the flags of the Irish Brigade 'Roimh Nár Dhruid Ó Sbairn Iann' ((they) never retreated from the battle of blades). You can see this inscription on the 69th New York Regiment flag on display in Dáil Éireann which was presented to the Irish people by President J.F.K in 1963. ■

*More photos from photos from July 4th can be viewed: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/amanwithhiscamera/sets>*



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

# FÁG AN BEALACH! (CLEAR THE WAY)

BY 1ST SGT WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRETCHEN DZEDZEJ

Over the century's Irish have found themselves in the armies of Spain, Austria, France, Mexico and England just to name a few. Their battle cries have been heard on many a battlefield. Wherever they went they made their mark. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, otherwise known as the War Between the States. By the 1860's hundreds of thousands of Irish men and women had left their native land because of famine, economic hardship, or deportation. After German immigrants the Irish became the second largest foreign provider of troops to the armies of the Civil War. Of the 3 million in uniform 300,000 were first generation German and 190,000 were Irish.

In April this year Civil War Living History units came together to take part in the commemoration of the firing of the first shots of this great conflict in Charleston South Carolina. The re-enactment followed the original timeline. There are parts of Charleston and the harbour that have not changed in 150 years. Downtown Charleston and many of the old forts and batteries have not changed all that much being preserved in excellent condition. Although Fort Sumter is only half its original size it still dominates the entrance to Charleston harbour.

Stationed outside Fort Moultrie with the Washington Light Infantry we waited for days to see if Federal Major Robert Anderson's detachments of engineers and gunners of the 1st US Artillery Regiment in Fort Sumter would accept the surrender terms of Confederate Brigadier General P. G. T. Beauregard. The small garrison had been cooped up on the island fort since South Carolina had left the Union in December 1860. On January 9 US President James Buchanan had sent the Star of the West to resupply the fort. Charleston Cadets on Morris Island fired on the steamship which had to turn back to Union waters. By April the beleaguered Federals were cut off from the rest of the world and on meagre half rations. Surrounding them in batteries around the harbour where the militia units of South Carolina consisting of some 7,000 men. Many of their names bear the mark of their immigrant heritage; Irish Volunteers 28th Regt SC Militia, Magrath Guard and the Hibernian Guards 16th Inf Regt, and the German Light Artillery. Only camped a few companies away was the Meagher Guard who woke every one up in the morning with



shouts of Éirinn go Brách! (Ireland forever). On Fort Sumter there were Irishmen too.

The new president, Abraham Lincoln who had been inaugurated in March 1861, had sent a fleet to resupply the Federal fort. Knowing this the growing Confederate States pushed for a peaceful and swift solution in Charleston harbour. All they wanted was for all Federal troops to leave all Confederate territories and for those seceded states to be left alone. On Thursday, April 11th, Major Anderson turned down a demand for surrender. At 4:30 a.m. April 12 Confederate batteries opened fire. For 34 straight hours over 3,000 shots were fired at the fort. Firing from Fort Moultrie was 2/Lt John C. Mitchel Co. B, South Carolina Artillery Battalion. John was the son of the famous Irish nationalist of the same name.

Of course this April the living history artillery were only firing blanks. The noise echoed around the harbour like thunder. Each shot was met by a cheer from local South Carolinians and re-enactor's alike no different than 150 years ago.

April 14 150 years ago just so happened to be a Sunday. Agreeing to evacuate the fort Major Anderson handed over command to Confederate Lt Col Roswell Ripley and the Palmetto Guard. The fact it was the Sabbath Confederates saw this as a sign God was on their side. Alexander Querengässer from Germany and myself were the only two Europeans to take part in this commemoration. Fort Sumter is a Federal monument. We were quite surprised when the Union Flag, the stars and stripes, was lowered and the Confederate First National and the Palmetto Flags were raised. It was a poignant

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

scene as men in the ranks shed tears at the sight. We knew not to ask; their ancestors had fought and died for southern independence. As an Irishman and a German it was a great honour to be allowed take part in this commemoration. Of Andersons 86 artillerymen 16 were German/Prussian born while 38 were Irish. To bring home this point during the original handover Major Anderson began a 100 gun salute. On the seventeenth shot the gun prematurely discharged killing Pte Daniel Hough, from Tipperary. Embers from this premature firing ignited a nearby stack of blank rounds. This explosion injured five more men including Pte's George Fielding (Waterford), Edward Gallway (Cork), James Hayes (Tyrone), John Irwin (Limerick) and George Pinchard (Orange County, NY). Pte Gallway died in a Charleston hospital five days later, himself and Hough became the first two enlisted men to die in this conflict.

At home people have little understanding of the Irish involvement in the American Civil War let alone Pte's Hough and Gallway. Many of us have heard of Thomas Francis Meagher who after being exiled to Van Diemen's Land for raising the tricolour for the first time in 1848 went on to raise an Irish Brigade to fight for Lincoln's Union. Philip Henry Sheridan is another man who springs to mind. Said to have been born in Cavan or somewhere on the Atlantic he went on to become one of the most famous Union cavalry generals of the war and beyond. Cork born Confederate Maj Gen Patrick Cleburne made his mark by at one point suggesting arming African Americans to fight for the south, while in Florida Brig Gen Joseph Finegan, a native of Clones, defended his state from Union invasion. Others with Irish blood whom you may be familiar with include: Federal General's George Meade, Michael Corcoran, Ulysses S. Grant, and Robert Patterson, Confederate Generals: Patrick Moore, Walter Layne, James Hagan, William Browne, Stonewall Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart and John C. Breckinridge to name a few. ■

*More photos from Fort Sumter can be viewed: [http://zedzay.smugmug.com/Events/April-14-2011/16689087\\_wwF8bF#1258494740\\_Tj2wgnZ](http://zedzay.smugmug.com/Events/April-14-2011/16689087_wwF8bF#1258494740_Tj2wgnZ)*



# Travels with Surly

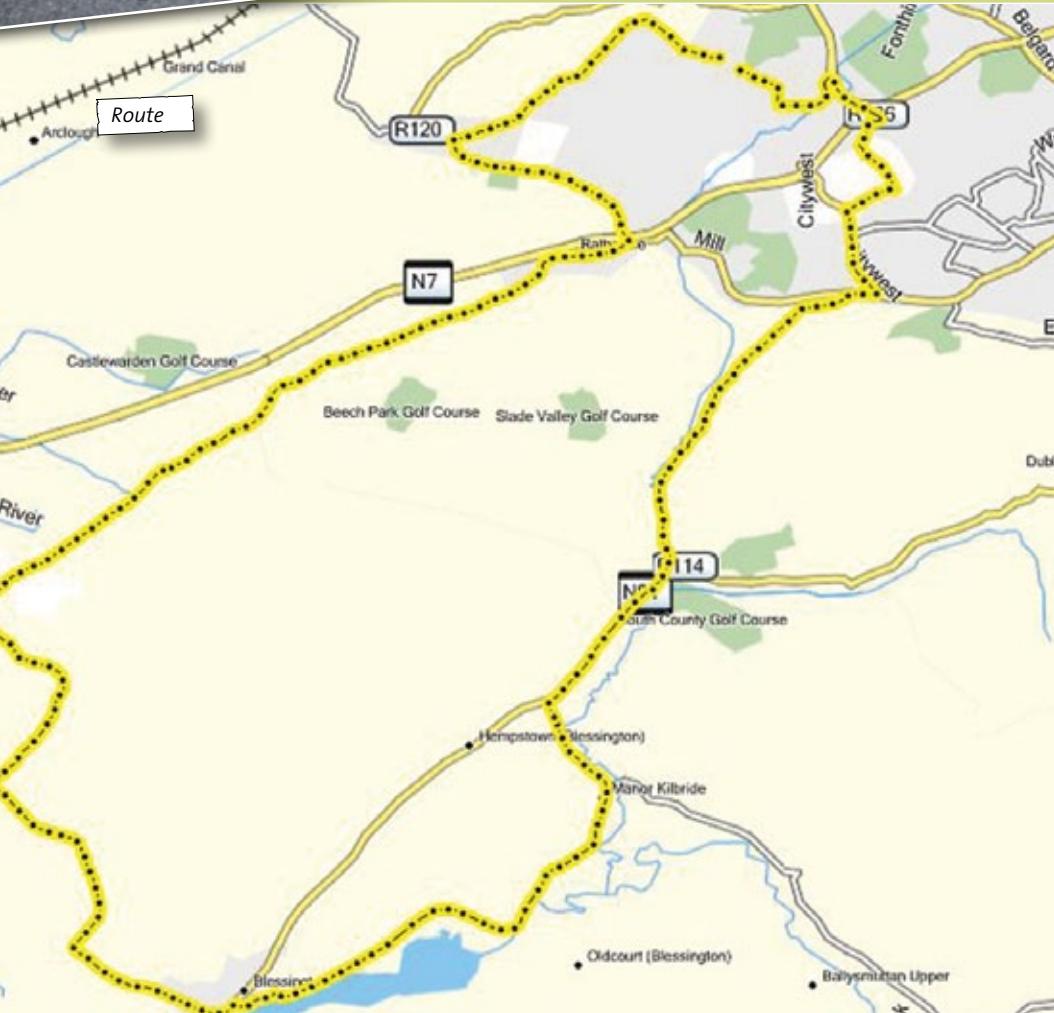
(apologies to John Steinbeck)

BY LT COL MICK DOLAN

part 2



Unlike the road-racer, who will take the handle off a toothbrush to save weight, the touring cyclist begins with a heavy bike – and then adds to it. Everything is about convenience and having the necessities to hand. This is what I call the cockpit. From the left – glasses, phone, bell, light, clock, Garmin and mirror. I find all are indispensable.



The new Garmin is very light, gives feedback on everything from splits to cadence but is normally charged from the computer. Not much good for touring! I use the Garmin eTrex Vista HCx. This is very reliable and robust. Best of all, it's powered by AA batteries with each pair giving about fifteen hours of operation. Unfortunately the rail mount has to be bought separately online. It comes with the basic maps but requires the purchase of mapping software for greater detail. All the routes I cover here will be done on this. The phone is to hand – only to know its ringing and you know where it is! The rest of the kit aids survival on the road.

Sometimes even the touring cyclist likes a bit of company. That this company is available for a spin is very welcome indeed when the wind is significant, as there is a level of sympathy from the 'greyhounds' for the weight of the machine being pedalled by the tourist. I was fortunate to have this level of acceptance for this route on 5th October. Baldonnel hosted the An Cosantóir 10 km race/fun-run

and the cyclists in the Air Corps put together a 50km spin for those cyclists who were not exactly fleet of foot. Not to suggest for a moment that they wouldn't have been able for the 10k!

This was a nice route from Baldonnel to Newcastle and on to Rathcoole veering off to the left of the Poitin Stil pub



and heading turning south parallel to the N7 over 'lumpy' roads. The wind and the first pull up the hill were testing and I was very happy to tuck into the group and concentrate on the back wheel of the bike in front. next pic

As the road flattened out on the way the Rathmore, we were able to chat and, as the group rotated to allow everyone to take their turn at the front, we all got to chat with each other. This was a fun spin and this was obvious from the relaxed atmosphere. We turned towards Eadestown and headed on towards Blessington. One of the downsides

wasting this benefit and the group turned from Blessington towards Manor Kilbride. None of the rises were severe and we made good time back to the N81 from where we were delighted with the downhill to the turn for Citywest. Past the Shopping Centre and we were on the home stretch to Kingswood and back to Baldonnel.



50k done and the route is local enough to the Curragh to count as a spin from the DFTC. A very pleasant couple of hours in good company. Thanks to the lads in Baldonnel and all who turned out for the spin.

The Defence Forces Cycling Association is up and running and while the current focus is on CISM and racing events, there will also be a focus on the leisure aspect. It's up to everybody to ensure this happens – get on your bike for an hour – outside of the gym! On this spin, Blessington is a logical stop for a coffee. From there the world of the Wicklow Mountains opens up – but not yet! I Hope to see you out on the road as I recce the next spin. ■



for me on a 50 km spin with these riders was that there was never the suggestion that we'd make a coffee stop. This was a short spin and the turn in Blessington put the wind at our backs. No point in



## DEFENCE FORCES VS AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

### Annual Camogie Representative Game

PHOTOS BY CPL NOEL COSS

The Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána have an excellent working relationship. To help enhance and build on this relationship the two organisations come together several times a year on the sporting field; including GAA football, hurling, and camogie, soccer, rugby and golf. October 9th in the DFTC the two organisations camogie teams clashed in a battle that saw the Garda pull away in the second half to a 5-13 3-9 victory.

Col Noel Joyce (EO DFTC) congratulated both teams on a fantastic match. Taking part in the game were several 2011 Senior & Intermediates All-Ireland Champions.



Wexford team players from left to right Garda Josie Dwyer (Wicklow Garda Station), Pte Shelley Kehoe (105 Inf Bn), Garda Sharon Kehoe (Terenure Garda Station) Pte Louise O'Leary (33 Res Inf Bn)



## 1ST CANOE SPRINT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

PHOTOS BY A/SEA DAVEY JONES, NAVAL SERVICE PRESS OFFICE

On October 1st Canoe Sprint held their National Championships in Inniscarra, Co. Cork. Members of the Cork Naval Service Reserve provided swift water rescue for the day on the regatta course. Canoe Sprint is an Olympic sport. Currently there are several athletes in training for the final qualifiers for the London Olympics 2012. Eamon Fleming, Director Canoe Sprint Ireland, thanked the Naval Service for providing an invaluable service and that paddlers on the water could compete in a safe and secure environment.

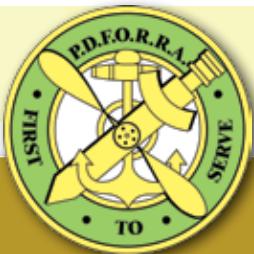




Paul Kehoe TD, (Minister of State for Defence)



Maj Gen Ralph James (D COS OPS)



# PDFORRA Annual Delegate Conference

BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

On the 8 October, PDFORRA held their annual delegate conference in the Hodson Hotel, Athlone. There were a lot of concerned and worried faces as delegates from around the country were reeling over rumours of barrack closures, which are now a reality.

The President of PDFORRA Willie Webb, and the General Secretary Gerry Rooney, welcomed the new Minister for Justice and Law Reform and Defence to his new appointment, and look forward to a positive working relationship with him.

The past year has seen PDFORRA members struggle to survive in what has proved to be very challenging times with pay cuts, pension levies, increased taxes, and other increased charges, on day to day living standards. Now many of PDFORRA members now qualify for family income supplement (FIS). President Webb said, "It is deeply disappointing to see that elements of the Government and Civil Service are constantly trying to bring about the total destruction of the Defence Forces by stealth i.e. the close down of barracks, disbanding of units, reduction of establishments, to a point where one would have to ask the question is it necessary to have a Defence Forces at all."

Minister of State for Defence, Paul Kehoe TD acknowledged the professional and hard work done at home and abroad by the Defence Forces over the last year, particularly during the visit by the US President Barrack Obama and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. However these are hard economic times. He stated, "The implementation of the Croke Park Agreement is a key objective for this Government. The Agreement is an enabler of change and modernisation in the public service. This is vital if we are to continue to deliver high level services to citizens in difficult economic conditions.

The Agreement recognises the contribution which the Defence Sector has already made to the necessary process of budgetary adjustment to secure economic recovery and renewal."

General Secretary Gerry Rooney remarked that some of the demands of the Croke Park Agreement are unrealistic given the long standing reform process which the Defence Forces have already undergone. "The State is endeavouring to implement the Croke Park Agreement and deal with the Permanent Defence Force on a 'one size fits all' basis. This approach cannot work, it's unfair and it doesn't make sense. The Defence Forces is unique in the context of the public service, with its command and unit structure and its roles, which require its members to work in all parts of the state and overseas, as decided by the Minister and the Government."

PDFORRA is the Permanent Defence Force Other Ranks Representative Association.

Our purpose is to represent and pursue the interests of enlisted personnel serving in the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps, on specified matters regarding their pay and certain conditions of service in the Republic of Ireland. All enlisted personnel of the Permanent Defence Force are entitled to become members of the Association.

**To find out more about or to join PDFORRA: John Lucey House, Unit 2 Collins Square, Benburb Street, Dublin 7 - hq@pdforra.ie - Freephone: 1800 200 250 - Fax: 01 671 2484 - www.pdforra.ie**



**PDFORRA**  
Wishing a **Merry Christmas** and a  
**Happy New Year**  
to all PDFORRA members serving at  
home and abroad  
especially on United Nations  
missions



# NOTICEBOARD

This page is designed to give our readers an easy-to-follow list of upcoming events or notices for our wider Defence Forces Family. Readers that want to submit notices that may be of interest to others should keep their notices to the point, include contact details and send by email to: [magazine@military.ie](mailto: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](http://www.dfmagazine.ie)

## Curragh Military Museum:

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

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## 1Life

1Life is a dedicated 24 hour freephone national suicide prevention helpline.

The 1life service is available to anyone living in the Republic of Ireland who may be feeling suicidal, in crisis or worried about a loved or friend. Even though it may feel difficult to talk with someone right now, we've tried to make getting in touch as easy as possible. Call 1800 247 100 or text HELP to 51444 for 1 to 1 text support. [www.1life.ie](http://www.1life.ie)

## Pieta House

**Pieta House** is a suicide crisis centre. We help those who are thinking about taking their life, those who have already tried to, and those with self harming behaviours. We offer one-to-one counselling with highly specialised therapists, who help the person in crisis, move out of crisis. Our service is completely free of charge. Tel: 01-6010000 Email: [mary@pieta.ie](mailto:mary@pieta.ie) Web: [www.pieta.ie](http://www.pieta.ie)

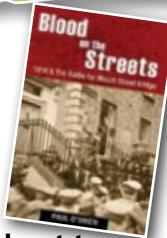
# SUDOKU

SUDOKU NO. 004 (MEDIUM)

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## DEC/JAN Q&A COMPETITION



1. Who did the Irish Soccer team beat to qualify for Euro 2012?
2. Who is the new President of Ireland?
3. How much is an annual online subscription to An Cosantóir ([www.dfmagazine.ie](http://www.dfmagazine.ie))?

Answers on a postcard to the normal address or email [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) for a chance to win a signed copy of Paul O'Brien's *Blood on the Streets, 1916* and the battle for Mount Street Bridge. Released in 2008, explores what really happened during the battle for Mount Street Bridge.

Last month's winner of a signed copy of Airman Michael Whelan's latest book 'Allegiances Compromised' – *Faith, Honour and Allegiance Ex British Soldiers in the Irish Army 1913 – 1924* and a copy of *In the Service of Peace – Memories of Lebanon* by Comdt Dan Harvey is Kevin Byrne, ACHQ, Baldonnel.

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

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

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

# REVIEWS

reviews

39

## BOOK

### MY BROTHER'S A SPY

**By:** Alex Roys  
**Format:** Kindle Edition  
**ISBN:** 978-1466403581  
**Price:** \$1.16 (€0.86)

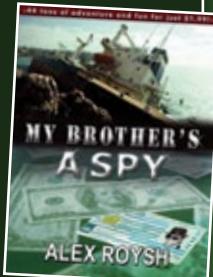
**THE STORY** about a wily Kremlin plot to ship a boatload of high-tech Russian and German arms to Argentina, and, in this way, spark the second Falkland War. MI6's tardy attempts to derail the deal are wrecked by German intelligence. While the British military are at their wits' end, two honest and uncompromising brothers, Englishmen from Holland, take the lead. After a series of dramatic, funny, seemingly impossible events, the arms ship finally deviates from its course and beaches on a rugged shore – little more than eight thousand miles away from its goal.

Alex Roys' first novel really delivers, from the great book cover to the comedy, suspense, adventure middle to the comical and entertaining ending, this book has it all. It is based in Europe, including Ireland, UK, US, Canada, Holland and France. "Such a book is, so to say, naturally aimed at rough, adventurous guys who join military, police or commando forces!"

The novel is based on an insiders' knowledge and on the author's own experience. It's not a typical suspense pulp novel, pipe-dreamed by a person who's never been on a secret mission himself. It's not a typical 'former spy memoir', either. It's something else, more unique than the former, more colourful than the latter, and more amusing than both taken together.

Alex Roys (pen name), a descendant of a famous Cossack (cavalry) military family, was born in 1966 in the country that was, and still is, a headache for the CIA, British MI5, Israel's Mossad and German BND: Alex Roys is currently living in Europe, with his wife and two children. Alex served a period of compulsory service in the Soviet Army and more...

Printed version due out shortly, but you don't need a Kindle to enjoy this read you can download a Kindle app for free at [www.amazon.com/gp/kindle/kcp](http://www.amazon.com/gp/kindle/kcp), available for most devices.



## DVD

### THE GUARD

**Director:** John Michael McDonagh  
**Genre:** Comedy/Thriller

**Cinema Release Date:** 19 Aug 2011  
**Rental Release Date:** 18 Nov 2011  
**Certification:** 15

**Starring:** Brendan Gleeson, Don Cheadle, Liam Cunningham, David Wilmot, Rory Keenan, Mark Strong, Fionnula Flanagan, Dominique McElligott, Sarah Greene, Katarina Cas, Pat Shortt, Darren Healy

**THE GUARD** is a comedy-thriller set on the west coast of Ireland. Sergeant Gerry Boyle (Gleeson) is a salty village cop with a subversive sense of humour and an uncanny knack for keeping people at arm's length. When a straitlaced FBI agent (Cheadle) chasing an international drug-smuggling ring hits town, Boyle has no intention of letting the arrival disrupt his routine of hookers and wisecracks. Initially, he relishes offending and ridiculing the agent, but a murder and a series of peculiar events draw the reluctant sergeant into the investigation. He realises that he needs to take matters into his own hands, and the only person he can trust is Everett. And so the scene is set for an explosive finale.

[www.theguard.ie](http://www.theguard.ie)



## GAME

### BATTLEFIELD 3



IN **BATTLEFIELD 3**, players step into the role of the elite US Marines. They will experience heart-pounding single player missions and competitive multiplayer action ranging across diverse locations from around the globe, including Paris, Tehran and New York. **Battlefield 3** takes First Person Shooters to a whole new level.

Winner of over 50 awards including Gamescom Best of Show - **Battlefield 3** leaps ahead of its time with the power of the innovative technology of Frostbite 2, the next instalment of DICE's cutting-edge game engine. This state-of-the-art technology is the foundation on which **Battlefield 3** is built, delivering enhanced visual quality, a grand sense of scale, massive destruction, dynamic audio and incredibly lifelike character animations. As bullets whiz by, walls crumble, and explosions throw you to the ground, the battlefield feels more alive and interactive than ever before.

**Genre:** Shoot 'Em Up **Platform:** PS3, XBox 360 & PC **Price:** €43.97 **PEGI:** 16

**Released:** 28 Oct 2011 © 2011 Electronic Arts Inc. Trademarks belong to their respective owners. All rights reserved.

# WHAT I DO

**NAME**

**RANK**

**UNIT**

**JAMES HARDING**

**LIEUTENANT**

**OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL,  
NAVAL SERVICE COLLEGE**



I am the Cadet Class Officer for the 50th Naval Cadet Class and I also carry out the duties of the Officer in Charge of Naval Simulation Training. There are currently seven cadets in the 50th Cadet Class. I am responsible for all aspects of the Cadet Training Syllabus. This includes lectures on everything from military writing to navigation and meteorology. My main focus is to ensure that each Cadet has reached the high standards required both in terms of their leadership/management skills and professionally as Naval Officers.

**“It is some transformation when you compare what they were like at the start to their commissioning day”**

Naval Cadet Training is varied and fast moving; I along with my NCO training staff, CPO Brendan Madden and L/ Seaman Jonathan Dennis, have seen the Cadets develop through the year to date. This has taken them from the basic military training in the initial months to their professional training term and on to their first deployment at sea. This last year has been a busy and involved year with the Cadets.

Six of 50th Cadet Class are now in their first year in the NMCI studying for a BSc in Nautical Science and the sole engineer in the class is in CIT studying for a BEng in Mechanical Engineering. As a result my role has changed considerably. I now liaise with the third level institutes to ensure that the Cadets are performing to the standards expected and assist the Cadets in the areas that they may have difficulty with.

A lot of my time is now taken up with the Naval Watch-keeping Course (NWC), on which I am the main instructor. The successful completion of this course allows Officers to take a bridge watch and to be a divisional Officer onboard a Naval Ship. This job is tied closely into my other role as OiC Simulation training, as the majority of the NWC is conducted in the modern simulation suites here in the NMCI. This allows us to conduct realistic Naval Training in a controllable environment without the unpredictability of the open ocean. This makes the training cost effective and reliable. I also run simulation exercises for the various other courses in the Naval College. ■





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