

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

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JULY/AUGUST 2013

MEDIA
PIONEER
AWARDS

SHORTLIST 2013



EUTM SOMALIA
DRONE WARFARE

EU PRESIDENCY

GAISCE AWARDS

BELGIAN MINE
CLEARANCE

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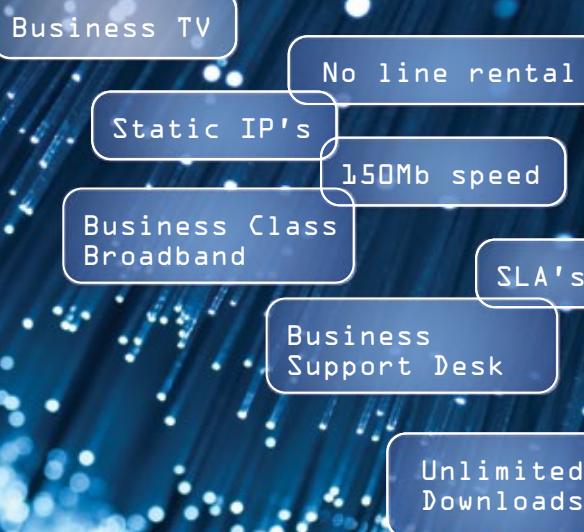
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Front Cover

Silhouetted Soldier story on P8. Photo by: Pte Jonny O'Hare (27 Inf Bn)

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout: www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine

Well it's the summer at last; let's hope the good weather lasts. We have a bumper issue to get you over the summer break with 6 extra pages. We start with many of your photos *On Parade*. Our *In Focus* this month features the Fouga Magister on display in Collins Bks, Dublin and the story of the *Silhouetted Soldiers* on our front cover by Pte Jonny O'Hare (27 Inf Bn). Our main feature is by Lt Col Tony Cudmore who takes us through Ireland's *EU Presidency*. Wesley Bourke talks to the guys and girls undertaking the Gaisce Award under the watchful eye of 2 Arty Regt. Lt Col Gerard Buckley reports on another new combined EU mission - EUTM Somalia. Our Lebanon feature this month focuses on the *Belgian Mine Clearance Team* by Wesley. In *Strategic Review*, Robert Tarrant briefs us on the concept of Drone Warfare in *Remote Fire*. Our *In Reserve* feature by Lt McCandless this month is with the newly formed Res Coy with 28 Inf Bn, who underwent Public Order Training. Our extended *History* pages this month feature the Asgard by Paul O'Brien and the Battle of the Boyne by Wesley. In *Sport* we have the DF Track and Field Championships and the Medical Services Cup, plus our other regular features – *World Strategic Picture*, *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.

Wayne Fitzgerald
Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

Military Tattoo Listowel



Pictured are the respective flag bearer parties from the RDF, IUNVA, ONE, Royal British Legion and American Legion attending the Military Tattoo celebrations in Listowel, Co Kerry. Photo: Comdt George Kerwin (Retd) PIO IUNVA

Canadian Cadets Visit



The RSCS Canadian Northwest Cadets visited Ireland in May, they visited the Eqt Sch, Arbour Hill Church and the IUNVA House and memorial gardens amongst other sites. Pictured is Tony Roe of IUNVA Post 1, who gave them a brief on the UN Veterans Assoc. Photo: Comdt George Kerwin (Retd) PIO IUNVA



Mission to Sea Farers

Pictured is Armn Joe O'Donnell (ACHQ) who piped at this year's Sea Sunday parade, where all those who work on the sea, save on the sea and have perished at sea are recognised and remembered annually. Now in its 18th year the event was initiated and is maintained by Rev David Williams, rector of St Mulhouse Church, Kinsale and is supported by the Defence Forces, the RNLI from Ireland and UK stations, the Irish Coast Guard, the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, and the HSE. The sole piper led the parade from St Mulhouse Church to the wreath laying and Blessing of the fleet at the pier in Kinsale. Photo: Brig Gen Paul Fry (GOC AC)

6 | ON PARADE

FAREWELL PAT

BQMS Pat Farrell (DFTC) retired from the Defence Forces on 23 May after 36 years service. Pictured here are Pat and his DFTC colleagues. Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)



DF GOLF CHAMPIONS

Pictured are the winners of the DF All Army Match Play Golf Championships 2013, which was played in the Curragh G/C 23 May 2013. The DFTC Team (L/R): Comdt Mark Pendergast, Cpl Dema Houligan, Sgt 'Spider' Maher, BQMS Andy Behan, Sgt Thomas (Ozzie) O'Toole, Sgmn Eugene O'Toole, Sgt Anthony Ennis, CQMS Mick lane and missing from the picture are Cpl Duggie Houlihan and Pte Leo Foy. Photo: Arvn Debbie Keating (105 Sqn)



POTENTIAL OFFICERS

COURSE 1981-82

Pictured are the remaining serving officers from the 5th Pot Offrs Course 1981-82 attending the Pre-Retirement Course 28-30 May 2013 in the DFTC. This is the end of an era after a combined service of 114 years. (L/R): Comdt Dave O'Neill, Lt Col Pat Power & Comdt Seamus O'Sullivan. Photo: Lt Col Pat Power (Sch Comdt Cav Sch)



FALLING PLATES CHAMPIONS

The 2 Bde Small Arms Shooting Competition was held in Kilbride Camp on the 29/30 May 2013. The 2 Cav Sqn beat the 28 Inf Bn in a tense and close run final in the Falling Plates. 2 Cav Sqn's best time was 19.5 seconds. Front row (L/R): Tprs O'Brien, Westwood, Lowry, Gibney. Back row (L/R): Sqn Sgt Caffrey, Lt Piggott, Cpl Scollard, Capt Dillon, Tpr Kelly and Lt Forde (Team Captain). Photo: Capt Ciarán Dillon (2 Cav Sqn)



2 ARTY REGT "TAKE POST"

After the last 120mm heavy mortar round was fired in the Glen of Imaal recently, Lt Col Ray Yorke (OC 2 Arty Regt) is pictured to the left of the Regimental Pennant alongside Comdt's Niall Verling (right), Shane Brady and Greg Byrne (left), while RSM Noel O'Callaghan is to the far left of the group. Photo: Arvn Jason Byrne (105 Sqn)



COMERAGH MOUNTAIN WALK

On 23 May 2013, members of the Tpt Gp, DFTC completed their Annual Unit Walk over the Comeragh Mts in Waterford & Tipperary. Back row (L/R): Pte Murphy, Pte Doyle I, Pte Daly, Pte Doyle, Pte O'Grady, Pte Doyle W. Front row (L/R): Sgt Brennan, Lt Looney. Photo: Lt Gavin Looney (Tpt Coy, Tpt Gp)



GO ON GIRL

Cpl Abina Whelan (OTW, Inf Sch, Mil Col) completed the Flora Women's Mini Marathon in 1:31 in full battle gear in order to raise awareness for the charity Aoibheann's Pink Tie. She said "Well done to all the ladies who ran for Aoibheann's Pink Tie." Photo Cpl Abina Whelan



NEW IKON TEAM ▶

DF IKON, (Defence Forces Information and Knowledge ONline), is a powerful new collaboration platform which will enable document, records and enterprise content management across the Defence Forces. DF IKON is built on Microsoft SharePoint software. The prototype IKON site is being trialed in 5 locations before being refined and commencing roll out across the DF in late 2013. Training for the personnel in the 5 trial locations is currently ongoing in the DFTC. Photo: Captain Barry Byrne



PROMOTION IN THE FIELD ▼

Cpl Eric O'Brien (1 Inf Bn) was notified by Lt Col Antony McKenna (OC 108 Bn) in front of his peers that he had been promoted to Sgt and would be fulfilling a vacancy as a Line Sgt in 6 Inf Bn, Athlone on his return to Ireland in November. Photo: Capt Mark Conway (PIO 108 IRISHFINN Bn)



EUTM SOMALIA MEDAL PARADE ▼

Pictured is the last joint Irish-Maltese team to serve together in EUTM Somalia at the Equator. They are (L/R): WO Brian Gatt, Lt Johnathan Grey, SSGT Silvio Grech, CQMS Billy Bohane, LCPL Saviour Sammut and Sgt Trevor Allen. Photo: Sgt Trevor Allen (1 Bde MP Coy)

‘LÁ NA BHFIANN’ ▶ (WARRIOR’S DAY)

The Sergeant Tommy Halligan Tipperary Branch of ONE held its annual ‘Lá na bhFiann’ (Warriors’ Day) in the serene town of Clogheen, Co Tipperary, on Sunday 19th May 2013. Photo: Domhnall Mac Cáirtháigh FS (PRO SAC ONE)



UNIFIL MARATHON ▲

Pictured are members of 107 IRISHFINN Bn who successfully completed a marathon (26.2 miles) from UNP 2-45 in At-Tiri to Naqoura on 27 April 2013. The photograph was taken on completion of the marathon at Dún Aonghus in Naqoura. Over €5,000 was raised through sponsorship and various events, with the Tibbin Orphanage, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund all benefitting. Photo: CS Pat Balfie (MP Gp, DFTC)



ONE AGM ▶

Pictured are members of ONE at their recent AGM held in Whites Hotel, Wexford. They are (L/R): Sean Shinnors, John Whelan, Ted Moynahan, Conor Swords, John Mullan, Dougie Doyle and Charlie Ashe. Photo: Sean Shinnors



Silhouette

REPORT & PHOTOS BY
PTE JONNY O'HARE (27 INF BN)

As most of us know 'the Glen' can dish out some seriously harsh weather. While making work a little tougher it does have the benefit of adding some great character to photos.

I took part in a TESS (Tactical Engagement Simulation System) exercise in the Glen in January run by Sp Coy, 27 Inf Bn, from Aiken Barracks, and which included two-star privates from Gormanston Camp. The enemy for the exercise was provided by members of A Coy, 27 Inf Bn, of which I was a member. Our task was to hit-up the 'good guys' and do our best to give them trouble. It was interesting, with the TESS equipment, to see how quickly we were 'killed', and also to see that 20, or so, well-positioned enemy really aren't a match for a company in attack.

The two images were taken during this exercise. Pictured early in the morning of the final attack is Pte Arnold (the soldier on his own) and Ptes Walsh and Smith (front cover pic), all of A Coy, 27 Inf Bn. ■



ON PARADE

LÉ Aoife

P22 LÉ Aoife is pictured departing Galway Docks on the 31 May 2013. *Photo: David McGrath*

Warriors' Day

The Thomas Kent Branch of ONE combined its 'Lá na bhFiann' (Warriors' Day) with its annual commemoration ceremony for the executed Cork Patriot, Comdt Thomas Kent, of whom the branch takes its name. Pictured are members of the 12 Inf Bn, 1 Bde at Comdt Kent's memorial plaque. *Photo: Domhnall Mac Cárthaigh FS (PRO SAC ONE)*

Air Corps Photographers

This group are rarely seen this side of the camera, and were photographed during the recent Air Corps GOC parade. Pictured (L/R): F/Sgt Willie Barr, Cpl Deco Parkes, Pat O'Meara, Sgt Damian Faulkner, Armn Jamie Barrett, Arwn Debbie Keating, Armn Paddy Reilly, Cpl Column Lawlor, Armn Jason Byrne and Sgt Karl Cosgrave all from 105 Sqn, No 1 Ops Wing. *Photo: Cpl Lisa Kenna (No 1 Ops Wg)*



FOUGA MAGISTER ON DISPLAY

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

In the early hours of Monday the 5th June members of the Air Corps transported a Fouga Magister aeroplane (216) from Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel to Clarke Square, in Collins Bks. The plane was then reassembled and will be on display in the National Museum of Ireland: Decorative Arts & History and is on loan for the summer months from the Air Corps Museum & Heritage Project. "It's a great privilege to be displaying a Fouga Magister aircraft, we are very grateful to the Air Corps" said a member of the museum staff.

With its distinctive 'butterfly' tail, the iconic French built Fouga CM 170 Magister was a 1950s two-seat jet and was Fouga's greatest success with nearly 1,000 constructed. It had a top speed of: 715km/h, a wingspan of: 12m and a length of: 10m.

The Fouga Magister has a unique place in Irish military history: one was used to attack Irish troops serving as UN peacekeepers in the Congo in 1961. This lone Fouga was flown by a Belgian mercenary in the Katangan Air Force who carried out the bombings and machine gun attacks on Irish troops. This was the first occasion on which Irish troops would experience an air attack. The Air Corps operated six Fouga Magisters (CM170-2) from 1975 to 1999, four of which equipped the Silver Swallows Aerobatic display team. The Silver Swallows were famous internationally for winning the Lockheed Martin Cannestra trophy for 'best display by an overseas team' at the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford in 1997. This plane is one of those used by the Silver Swallows.

For more information and history on both the Fouga Magister and the Silver Swallows I recommend reading: Fouga Magister - An Irish Perspective by Joe Maxwell and Radu Brinza with original drawings by Philip Avonds. ISBN: 978-0-9562624-1-7 - 108 Pages, 210 x 297 mm. Price: €22. www.maxdecals.com - joe@maxdecals.com

You can also learn about Ireland's military history since 1550 at the permanent Soldiers & Chiefs exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland: Decorative Arts & History in Collins Bks. www.museum.ie/en/exhibition/soldiers-chiefs.aspx ■





EUROPE



A serving British soldier Lee Rigby (25) was brutally killed in London by two men shouting Islamist slogans. The soldier was rammed by a car and then hacked to death with knives and a cleaver. Michael Adebolajo (28) and Michael Adebowale (22) were taken to hospital under guard after being shot and arrested by police on suspicion of the murder. The attack was recorded on smart-phones and was widely broadcast.

The European Union let its arms embargo on Syria lapse. Britain and France are the only countries in the EU keen to send weapons to opposition fighters, but said they did not intend to do so immediately. In response Russia threatened to send S-300 missiles to bolster President Bashar Assad's defences. Israel however, said that this would be a "game-changer".

In an agreement with the Claims Conference, a Jewish fund for Nazi victims, the German government agreed to pay €772m for the homecare of Holocaust survivors throughout the world. The funding will provide some 56,000 Holocaust survivors with nursing care, medication and social services.

ASIA

After Taiwan recalled its envoy to Manila the Philippines sent a representative to apologise for the death of a Taiwanese fisherman who was shot by the Philippine coastguard in disputed waters.

China became one of a number of countries to be granted permanent observer status on the Arctic Council along with India, Italy, Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

In the wake of a third North Korean nuclear test, China toughened its position against the pariah kingdom. In response Pyongyang sent a special envoy to Beijing for talks with the Chinese government.

China launched its fifth manned space mission. Three astronauts took off from a launching pad in the Gobi desert.



The second-in-command of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali-ur-Rehman, was reportedly killed by an American drone strike.

If confirmed, the death would provide a boost for the American government, which had placed a \$5m bounty on his head.

Britain's Ministry of Defence agreed to return around 90 Afghans held at Camp Bastion, a British base in Helmand province, to the authorities in Afghanistan. The men claim they are being held illegally. It is reported that eight have been detained for up to 14 months without charge.

Turkish police charged into Istanbul's Taksim Square on foot and with water-cannon to remove demonstrators who had been camping out for 14 days. Demonstrators in Gezi Park refused to give up and heavy clashes ensued.



The head of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, was said to have ruled against a previously announced merger of its Iraqi ally with Jabhat al-Nusra, an extreme Islamist group in Syria which has become prominent in the rebellion against Bashar Assad's regime.

A video showing a Syrian rebel apparently biting into the heart of a dead Syrian soldier stirred revulsion and embarrassment among sympathisers of the rebels.

Forces loyal to Syria's president, Bashar Assad, backed by fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah, retook Qusayr, a strategically important town near the Lebanese border. France accused the Syrian regime of using Sarin nerve gas against its enemies.

After a string of bomb blasts in Sunni areas on May 17th that left at least 66 people dead, a wave of violence struck Iraq on May 20th. With at least 76 killed in Baghdad by car-bombs in Shia districts. Two bombs also killed at least 15 people in the southern Shia-dominated town of Basra on the same day, while 12 Iranian pilgrims were killed by another bomb north of Baghdad.

Africa



Mali's army clashed with separatist Tuareg fighters from the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, and recaptured Anefis, a village near the northern town of Kidal, the rebels' last remaining stronghold.

At a gathering to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the African Union and its forerunner, the African heads of state accused the International Criminal Court in The Hague of racism and "hunting" Africans. Citing one case they called on the court to drop its prosecution of Kenya's president, Uhuru Kenyatta, and his deputy over alleged crimes against humanity, demanding that the case be sent back to Kenya.



José Efraín Ríos Montt, an 86-year-old former military dictator in Guatemala, was sentenced to 80 years in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity suffered by Ixil Mayan Indians including ordering the deaths of 1,771 of the Indians between 1982-83. Guatemala's Constitu-

THE AMERICAS

tional Court later threw out the conviction.

defended the intelligence services data-mining operations, saying they had disrupted dozens of terror plots.

In a move to make the fight against terrorists more transparent the Obama administration for the first time acknowledged having killed four Americans abroad since 2009. The four died in drone strikes.

General Keith Alexander, the head of America's National Security Agency,

At a meeting in Havana negotiations between Colombia's government and the FARC guerrillas, reached an agreement on rural development, the first issue in a five-point agenda in peace talks which began last October.

EU PRESIDENCY

Defence contributions during Ireland's presidency of the Council of the European Union (January – June 2013)

BY LT COL TONY CUDMORE (SPB, DFHQ) PHOTOS DF PHOTOGRAPHERS AND AS ACCREDITED



© Niall Carson

Since the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Baroness Catherine Ashton now conducts the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), assisted by the European External Action Service. The EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) forms an integral part of the EU's CFSP.

The role of the presidency in the area of CSDP is to support the High Representative and the European External Action Service. In this context, Ireland has utilised the presidency as an opportunity to influence the development of the CSDP agenda.

As part of the Irish presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Minister for Defence prioritised a number of areas to progress during our presidency. These priorities included: contributing to the preparations for the European Council (heads of state and government) meeting in December 2013, which will include a thematic discussion on security and defence and military capabilities; continued development of the CSDP; addressing the impact of the financial crisis on defence (including progressing the opportunities for pooling and sharing); enhancing EU/UN relations; developing EU co-operation in the area of maritime security and surveillance; support for jobs, growth and innovation through focusing on the role of small and medium enterprise (SME) in fostering innovation in the security sector.

In relation to progress made during the presidency, the key event was the informal meeting of defence ministers held in Dublin Castle in February. The Secretary General of NATO, on his first formal visit to Ireland, attended the meeting, as did the UN (also for the first time) represented by the under-secretary general in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. A range of issues were discussed, including the upcoming meeting of the European Council on defence; Mali; the Horn of Africa; and partnerships between the EU and the United Nations.

Three very successful CSDP seminars were also held in Ireland. The first was on the topic of regional organisations' co-operation with the United Nations in the area of crisis management, peace support and peace enforcement operations. The second dealt with the issue of maritime security and surveillance. The third focused on defence issues for consideration at the European Council meeting to take place later in 2013. The outcomes from all these seminars have been very positive and have stimulated debate in these areas at EU and institutional levels.

In summary, the priorities have centred on how Ireland and the Union as a whole can contribute to the enhancement of the EU CSDP, a critical component of the EU CFSP, which is central to the achievement of Ireland's foreign policy objectives.



CSDP structures and instruments

In order to enable the European Union fully to assume its responsibilities for crisis management, the European Council (Nice, December 2000) decided to establish permanent political and military structures. These structures include the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the European Union Military Committee (EUMC), both of which visited Ireland and the DFTC for a briefing and demonstration on military capabilities during the presidency period.

The PSC meets at ambassadorial level as a preparatory body for the Council of the EU. Its main functions are keeping track of the international situation, and helping to define policies within the CFSP, including the CSDP. It prepares a coherent EU response to a crisis and exercises its political control and strategic direction.

The EUMC is the highest military body set up within the Council. It is composed of the chiefs of defence of the EU's member states, who are regularly represented by their permanent military representatives based in Brussels. The EUMC provides the PSC with advice and recommendations on all military matters within the EU.



Current Defence Forces engagement in CSDP military operations and missions

The European Union Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) aims to strengthen Somalia's government and institutions by providing military training to members of the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF). Launched in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1872 (2009), the mission is one element of the EU's comprehensive approach to challenges in the Horn of Africa, which includes efforts to promote political progress, improved governance, strengthening the rule of law, and responses to development and humanitarian needs. The mission is currently commanded by Brigadier General Gerald Aherne.

The European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) is assisting with the training and reorganisation of the Malian Armed Forces. The operation, launched in the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 2085 (2012), is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach to the situation in Mali and the Sahel. It is intended to help improve the military capacity of the Malian Armed Forces in order to enable them, under civilian authority, to restore the country's territorial integrity.

The Council of the European Union decided on July 12th 2004 to conduct a military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the EUFOR Althea operation was

launched on December 2nd 2004. This EU-led operation contributes in a significant way to the EU's overall reinforced engagement in BiH, while EU assistance programmes are helping BiH to make further progress towards European integration in the context of the stabilisation and association process. The main effort of

Sgt Denise English listens to a Mali army platoon commander before a lesson on patrolling [Picture: Corporal Lu Scott, Crown copyright]

the operation is to provide capacity-building and training support for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina while retaining the capacity to intervene to support BiH efforts in maintaining a safe and secure environment. ■





THE **KERRYWAY** CANCER RESEARCH WALK



Day 2 - Sat 27th July
Lauragh to Kenmare Distance 25 Km -
walking time 8 hrs max height 380 mts
(Incorporating Part of the Beara Way)

Day 1 - Friday 26th July
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Drive, Determination and Commitment

REPORT BY WESLEY BOURKE
PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

Gaisce, the President's Award, is an awards scheme for young people between the ages of 15 and 25. There are three awards: bronze, silver and gold. Affiliated to the Duke of Edinburgh International Awards (which operates in 140 countries and sets the awards' criteria worldwide), Gaisce was established on March 28th 1985.

From the outset the Defence Forces, and particularly 2 Fd Arty Regt, has been a huge supporter of the awards scheme, and provides practical help by putting participants through their paces as only the military knows how. The newly established 2 Arty Regt, based in Athlone, is carrying on that tradition.

Gaisce is not a competition in that the only person you compete with is yourself. The aim of the awards scheme is to contribute to the development of young people through the achievement of personal challenges. These challenges consist of completing tasks in the areas of community development (helping with a charity work or Tidy Towns, for example); personal skill (mastering a new skill such as a musical instrument or a language); and physical recreation (taking up a sport such as GAA or tennis or doing a marathon). These are followed by organising and participating in an adventure task as part of a group (this is an endurance challenge carried out on foot, by bicycle, canoe, or on horseback). The length of time spent on the adventure task depends on the category of the award. For example, someone in the bronze award category would complete a walk of 25–35kms or a 100–130kms cycle over

two consecutive days, whereas for the gold award the walk is 80–110kms and the cycle 300–350kms over four consecutive days.

During the first week in June 2 Arty Regt organised the adventure challenge for 27 Gaisce participants for a week. Some arrived with kit bags bigger than themselves and all had a similar nervous look, as they had no idea what the army had in store for them.

"We are delighted in this unit to be involved in Gaisce," said Lt Col Ray York (OC 2 Arty Regt) in his welcoming address. Our Supreme Commander, An t-Uachtarán, is patron of Gaisce and we are delighted to be involved in this prestigious event." Breaking the ice with the nervous young adults and getting a laugh out of them Lt Col York told them he wanted the best out of them over the week: "drive, determination, and commitment!"

He added that they would be "challenged both physically and mentally" but that they should enjoy it.

As well as the planned 35kms walk the artillery instructors also had a few surprise challenges for the participants, including kayaking, a night-navigation exercise, pontoon building with the engineers, rock-climbing, a talk by local historian Paddy Heaney, and even a SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) exercise run by the Air Corps. "You won't get this on a Play-Station," said Lt Steven Cooper.

When we met up with the participants in the Slieve Bloom Mountains they look flushed and tired after finishing a leg of their mountain walk. "This week with the army has been very tough," said a happy Darragh Walsh (aged 17) from Tralee.



"Sleeping out in the Slieve Blooms in a tent you have to make yourself, walking across the mountains with all your gear, and having to deal with all the bugs crawling all over you, is something I've never done before!"

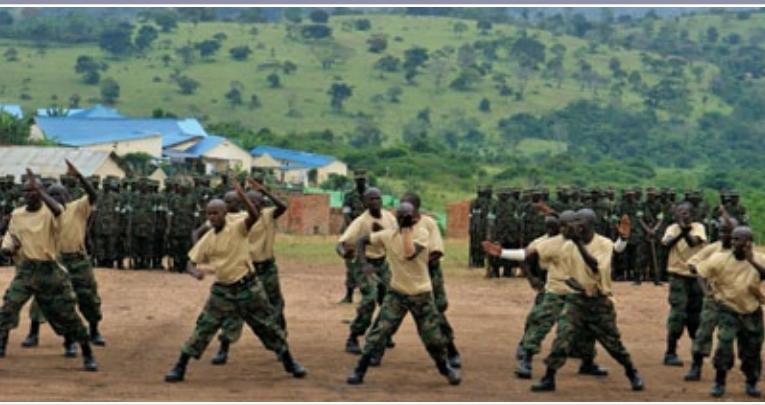
"It's of great benefit for the unit, too," said Lt Cooper. "While the difference between working with soldiers and working with young civilians is immense, training like this provides a great opportunity for us to encourage younger potential leaders in our unit." ■



A New Dawn

for the European Union Training Mission Somalia

BY LT COL GERARD BUCKLEY (CHIEF OF STAFF, EUTM SOMALIA)



At 1511hrs local on 07 May, Brig Gen Gerald Aherne, Commander of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) Somalia, contacted General Patrick de Rousiers, Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, and declared 'initial operating capability' of the mission's Mentoring Advisory and Training Element (MATE) headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia.

This momentous occasion marked the first Western multinational military crisis-management presence in Somalia since the ill-fated 'Black Hawk Down' era of the early 1990s. This deployment to Mogadishu marks a paradigm shift in the European Union's engagement with Somalia and is reflective of the centre-of-gravity shift by the international community to Mogadishu. EUTM Somalia, as an instrument of the European Union's Comprehensive Approach, is consistent with the emerging and developing political framework in Somalia and is an example of the European Union's willingness to evolve in parallel.

EUTM Somalia has been operational since 2010, and has been led by Ireland since the beginning of its second mandate, which commenced in August 2011 under the command of Col Michael Beary (currently Commandant of the Military College). The mission is now in its third mandate, under the command of Brig Gen Aherne (formerly GOC 4 W Bde).

From the outset the mission of EUTM Somalia was to contribute to the strengthening of the Somali government. To this end, EUTM Somalia contributed to the building-up and strengthening of the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF), accountable to the Somali government, and consistent with Somali needs and requirements.

When EUTM Somalia was launched in March 2010, a transitional federal government (TFG) was the internationally recognised government of Somalia. However, its writ did not extend beyond the central districts of Mogadishu. Together with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), led by Uganda, the TFG was locked in combat for survival with the radical Islamic militant group Al Shabaab.

When EUTM Somalia was launched the greatest need was the provision of well trained, well led, cohesive infantry units. These units were required to participate in pressing security operations alongside AMISOM. The European Union and its crisis-manage-

ment operation, EUTM Somalia, responded by delivering training from the Bihanga Training Camp, located in Western Uganda. At that time, due to the security situation and the absence of basic training infrastructure in Somalia, the delivery of training in an external location was the most appropriate and effective means of meeting Somali needs.

In Bihanga, EUTM Somalia, alongside the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), and with the provision of United States' logistical support, has trained 3,000 Somalis, men and women. The training evolved from basic military training during the first mandate, to the training of company-sized units plus a cadre of 120 Somali trainers. These trainers will form the initial basis of the Somali self-training capability.

The training included specialist modules on fighting-in-built-up-areas; communications; mine- and IED- awareness; and combat life saving.

Incorporated in all training were classes and exercises on international humanitarian law, human rights and gender awareness. All of these personnel have returned to Somalia and now form the basis of the SNAF's 5th and 6th Brigades, which in turn form the nucleus of the SNAF's combat capability and have successfully participated in combat operations in Afgoye, Marka, and Baidoa.

Much has changed since 2010, and as the situation in Somalia has evolved the European Union's and EUTM Somalia's engagement has evolved in parallel. In the summer of 2012, a new provisional Somali constitution was adopted, a new parliament was elected by a council of elders, and subsequently a new president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, was elected by parliament. The president appointed Prime Minister Shirdon and a new government, which replaced the TFG. A new, more energetic and assertive Somali federal government has now emerged.

The improved political situation has seen a corresponding enhancement of the security situation. Al Shabaab has withdrawn from key cities in the central and southern regions of Somalia, and the liberation of Kismayo, the largest port in the south, and the opening of the important line of communication between Mogadishu and Baidoa, have been major setbacks for the group. Nevertheless, Al Shabaab retains control of significant parts of rural areas



An AMISOM convoy using Mamba MRAP vehicles on patrol in Mogadishu.

trainers and to assist during the delivery of the SNAF annual training plan. It is also anticipated that specialist training will be delivered in Jazeera Training Camp, Mogadishu, before the end of the year.

Specialist training activities will continue in Bihanga until the end of 2013 and it is expected that all EUTM Somalia activities will then migrate to Mogadishu in 2014. The Defence Forces continues to support training in Bihanga and currently an MP training team, led by Lt Tomás Caufield, is deployed, in conjunction with an Italian Carabinieri training team.

EUTM Somalia will move all of its activities to Mogadishu on a phased and conditions-driven basis. The conditions-based deployment to Mogadishu focuses on the provision of four priority conditions: force protection, medical, real life support and CIS connectivity.

The provision of security and adequate force protection is the mission commander's primary consideration. This entails securing the MATE HQ, which is located within Mogadishu International Airport (MIA), and ensuring appropriate force protection measures are in place in all external locations where advisors, mentors and trainers will operate.

Personnel are seen as most vulnerable while moving between locations outside MIA. To mitigate this risk, the mission will utilise MRAP vehicles for all external movement and will have an Italian QRF on immediate standby for extraction operations. A DF C-IED analyst and DF J2 personnel are essential elements of the provision of mission-essential force protection in Mogadishu.

The second consideration for the mission commander is to ensure the provision of Role 1 and Role 2 medical support. Role 1 support is provided by EU candidate country Serbia and the Role 2 capability is provided by civilian contractor Medical Support Solutions. The Role 2 facility is capable of providing damage control surgery, intensive care for up to 18 hours, and laboratory services. Thereafter patients can be evacuated by air using AMREF Flying Doctors, based in Nairobi. Currently the mission is satisfied that it possesses the most capable medical facility in Somalia.

Real life support proved an initial challenge, although it was reassuring to find that the Bihanga Training Camp service providers, African Skies Ltd, were building a camp within MIA. The new camp is known as the International Campus and MATE HQ are now one of a number of occupants of this facility.

The provision of CIS was also a major challenge. However, due to the endeavours and ingenuity of Capt Frank Hickey (MHQ J6) and Sgt Conor Conlon (MATE HQ J6) these have been overcome.

While much has been achieved in a relatively short period during the third mandate, many challenges remain. The professionalism and dedication of EUTM Somalia personnel will be tested in the coming months as the security situation, though improving, still poses a major challenge. However, working cohesively with other EU bodies and in a spirit of partnership with Somali authorities it is anticipated that all these difficulties will be overcome. ■



EUTM Somalia Mission Commander Brig Gen Gerald Aherne greets President Hassan Sheik Mohamud of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

CLEARING the WAY

REPORT BY WESLEY BOURKE

PHOTOS BY CPL COLUM LAWLER



In our interview with Brig Gen Patrick Phelan (Feb 2013 issue), the UNIFIL DFC spoke about the effort being made to mark an agreed border along the Blue Line/Line of Withdrawal between Lebanon and Israel. However, the agreed locations of many of the marker posts are in areas littered with mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). To make safe paths for the various authorities to access the marker locations, UNIFIL employs 11 de-mining teams. The Belgian de-mining contingent shares Camp 245 with the Irish/Finnish battalion.

It is important to put the situation in South Lebanon in context regarding mines and UXO. Trying to quantify the amount of these items left behind after the numerous conflicts over recent decades would be like trying to estimate the number of grains of sand on a beach. In any event, mines and UXO remain a continuous threat to military personnel and civilians alike. Following the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000 the Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (MACC) was established to commence de-mining to make the area safe for military personnel and the civilian population. There are 20 de-mining teams (from the UN, the LAF and NGOs) carrying out this work for MACC.

In the wake of the 2006 IDF/Hezbollah conflict, MACC estimated that 48.1 million square metres of land were contaminated. While MACC has confirmed 1,058 cluster bomb unit (CBU) strike locations, the exact extent of the contamination will remain inconclusive in the absence of detailed Israeli strike data.

Since the end of the 2006 conflict, in excess of 150,000 CBUs; 15,600 items of UXO; and 526 unexploded bombs have been cleared. Furthermore, more than 30 million square meters have been cleared either visually (surface) or sub-surface.

The primary operational task for UNIFIL's de-mining teams is to clear paths through minefields to allow for the marking of the Blue Line or 'blue points' as the de-miners call them. UNIFIL's current 11 combat engineering de-mining teams come from Belgium, Cambodia, China, France, Italy and Spain.

The Belgian de-mining contingent consists of 106 personnel, 33 of whom make up the de-mining platoon. Their equipment and procedures are largely the same as those employed by Defence Forces de-mining teams; the only differences being in terminology and equipment suppliers.

De-mining in the heat of a Lebanese summer, where temperatures can exceed 40°C, particularly while wearing heavy protective equipment, can be an incredibly difficult task. "We have an SOP that our de-miners have to come off the line after an hour," Capt X (who cannot be named for security reasons) the Belgian de-mining platoon's commander told us. "This allows them to rehydrate and take a rest. This job requires everyone involved to be focused and concentrating at a very high level."

When the de-miners are given a 'blue point' to clear a path to, they are generally given a chart, provided by those who planted the mines, outlining the location of minefields, the type of mine and the number of them. "International law requires armed forces to keep details of mines they plant," the platoon commander continued. "This means that when we get to a site we already have a considerable amount of information. Unfortunately, however, this is not always the case as some of the mines were planted in conflicts going back decades and the further you go back the less information was kept."

Clearing an area generally requires the de-miners to get down on their knees and prod every square inch of the area. While most mines are found at a depth of 2-3cm, the de-mining teams are required to clear the ground to a depth of 20cm, so that every mine is accounted for.

The de-miners' job is further complicated by 'acts of nature' and 'acts of war'. The first case applies to things like heavy rains or flooding, which might cause areas of ground where mines are planted to move. This means that information on charts may no longer be accurate.

An example of an 'act of war' that can effect de-mining operations, would be when the IDF breached existing minefields at several places along the Blue Line during their invasion of South Lebanon in 2006. In opening up corridors for its troops the IDF moved large amounts of earth to either side, in many cases covering existing mines with an extra layer of earth. Those areas have since returned to nature and to the untrained eye look no different from surrounding areas.

Fortunately, however, the de-miners are experts. "You become used to, and learn to predict, minefield patterns," Capt X said. "You know, for example, that generally if you locate one mine you should find another in 3m. In the case of a breach you'll come across an area with no mines and an adjacent area with an extra layer of earth. In these areas we may have to go down to 40cm or deeper until we account for all the mines."

In the middle of a minefield de-miners also have to watch out for UXO. Unfortunately there are no charts to say where these are or how many of them there are. With so many conflicts there are literally thousands of items of ordnance fired from artillery pieces, mortars, or tanks, or dropped from aircraft, that failed to go off. These can be anywhere, lying in wait, and this is why concentration is vital.

This wouldn't be quite such a big problem if the older a mine or UXO got the less dangerous it became. Unfortunately, as one of the de-miners explained, it's not that simple. "Today, mines can be designed to disintegrate after a year. However, here we are dealing with mines dating back to the 1940s and the older mines actually get more dangerous and unstable with age, due to corrosion."

The more I watched these guys slowly prodding the ground the more I wondered how they do this dangerous job. Yet, they all seemed relaxed and carefree despite the dangers they faced. The armoured ambulance stationed in the rear and two of the team standing by with a stretcher 'just in case' wouldn't exactly put my mind at ease either.

It's a long and tedious process. Every millimetre has to be covered and in the hour we watched them the team had advanced no more than a metre.

Hopefully there will come a day when South Lebanon will be mine free. Until then we will depend on these specialist de-miners to put their own lives at risk to clear a path for everyone else to walk on in safety. ■



Remote Fire

The Advent and Future of Drone Warfare

BY ROBERT TARRANT MA, MSC

The ascent of 'The Drone' to the battlefield over the last decade is one of the most notable aspects in the development of modern warfare. From their roles in gathering intelligence to unleashing attacks on targets, their functions and abilities appear to be limited only by the creativity of their commanders. Drones are, however, changing the very nature of warfare itself and presenting a challenge to societies and those removed from the battlefield. Their existence will change peace-keeping and combat far into the future as well as the role of the 'solider at war'.

The rise of the modern drone itself tells a unique story of entrepreneurship, innovation and perseverance. In 1977 Abraham Karem an Israeli-born engineer and veteran of the Israeli Air Force, gathered a team including a former Formula 1 legend, Hans Hermann, to develop an

unmanned aerial aircraft. At first they started building with basic materials like plywood and even a four-stroke engine. The project proved itself viable enough to receive funding from the Defence Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA), the research arm of the US Department of Defence (DoD). Together they developed Amber, the predecessor to the Predator.

Late in the 1980s the project was cancelled due to perceived duplication at the DoD and Karem's Leading Systems Company went bankrupt and was sold, making its way to General Atomics after a brief stint with Hughes Aircraft. Karem continued to work on a larger model of Amber called GNAT. After being eventually fitted with a quietened engine in the early '90s to suit clandestine operations, the Predator was born.

Since its introduction the Predator has expanded from reconnaissance in the 1995 Balkans conflict to where it has now become the quintessential drone; armed, quiet and deadly. Its proven reliability and battle sturdiness in the remote Hindu Kush Mountains in eastern Afghanistan have made it an icon to both its users and enemies. In fact the use of drones has been so successful that Al Qaeda has released a list of 'twenty-two tips to avoid drone strikes' in a bid to combat their effectiveness. Such tips include 'hiding under thick trees' and 'setting up fake gatherings with dolls'.

Systems that were developed in parallel with the programme have now been given their chance on the battlefield. These include, a hand-launched, 60cm-long, switchblade style 'kamikaze drone' carried into battle in a backpack, useful for pinned down troops in remote areas, and the 'Desert Hawk', launched from a 'bungee' cord and used primarily for base- and perimeter-protection.

Larger, more developed systems, include the BAE Systems Taranis, named after the Celtic God of Thunder, which is planned to fly intercontinental stealth missions. The Dassault nEUROn is leading the development of mainland European UCAVs (unmanned aerial combat vehicles). Across the Atlantic the X-47B was recently loaded onto the USS Harry S Truman for 'deck-handling trials', evolving the role of carrier-based UCAVs. China has also made its investment in UAVs, launching the Guizhou Soar Eagle and the WuZhen-2000.

However, while the term 'drone' generally refers to pilotless aircraft, similar unmanned devices are being employed by the military in a range of different environments. The Seafox is an anti-mine vehicle that has recently been deployed by the US Navy to the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow strip of water leading into the Persian Gulf. The proliferation of unmanned vehicles has also had its impact on land in the shape of the Packbot, which is intended as a robotic mule for carrying goods and sup-



plies over rough terrain, and also in the use of robotic devices by bomb disposal personnel to defuse dangerous devices and IEDs.

The use of drones themselves has not been limited to just state militaries. For example, Hezbollah have reportedly developed their own UAV for attacks on Israel. Also, in 2011 Libyan rebels launched UAVs supplied by NATO while also scavenging and creating their own remotely wired, robotic guns. There have also been claims, as yet unproven, that Iraqi insurgents successfully hacked live, unencrypted, video feeds from Predator drones, using basic off-the-shelf computer programmes.

The creation of these new frontline capabilities has itself sparked a rethink in the delivery of combat systems. What is being sought with each new development is increased autonomy. Concepts such as 'swarming', where drones are grouped, has led to ideas of independent, self-contained systems. A scaled-up version of this envisions a 'mothership' directing an entirely autonomous fleet that would include robotic submarines and destroyers. Boeing's AH 64-E, dubbed the Apache Guardian, has developed this capability, being able to control unmanned aerial vehicles as an expansion of its functionality. Ideas like these are still primarily drawing-board material but demonstrate the current trajectory where the human user is removed from the dirty, dull and dangerous jobs on the battlefield.

In a move of particular note to the Defence Forces, the United Nations has shown interest in deploying UAVs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to monitor the border with Rwanda. Could peacekeeping missions of the future mostly be carried out by drones and other robotic devices and could this decade represent the end of large-scale, human peacekeeping operations? If so, what forces and capabilities will the Defence Forces need to develop in order to stay relevant in its peacekeeping niche?

The continuing automation of warfare has even raised fears of a conflict between man and machine, such as that portrayed in the Terminator films of the 1980s, and countless other sci-fi stories. This fear stems from the growing autonomy that increasing artificial intelligence can give robots and the idea of such machines having the power of life and death on the battlefield.

Robots uploaded with the 'rules of war' and concepts of conflict would not be unaccountable to military courts or civilian law. Instead, issues of malfunction would dominate explanations of collateral damage.

However, the idea that unmanned combat vehicles would be set loose without a command structure and essentially given carte blanche over their activities, is not only

abhorrent to public opinion but also to the military ethos and organisation. The prospect that command and control functions or the responsibility for operations would be handed over primarily to robotics is also unrealistic.

In any event, a certain cautiousness must be maintained when predicting the end of the human at the centre of combat. Conflict itself has always been about the struggle of humankind's ideas and not just autonomous impulses. No robot can replace the dynamics of human interaction or intuition when it comes to the areas of politics and/or command. It is our greatest flaw and strength that we do not act or behave in entirely programmed patterns as a computer does. Reducing warfare to binary codes would make the act itself entirely pointless and devoid of meaning. In short, conflict is a human thing.

Separate from these issues are the effects experienced by remote operators. How will the increasing use of drones change the experience of conflict itself and the concept of the 'warrior'? Conventional conflict generally requires the mobilisation of a large section of the public. In most circumstances soldiers are removed from their societies and a physical line is drawn between the home front and the war front. Drone warfare has seen the blurring of this line. Drone pilots often spend 8-12 hours a day 'flying' missions over Afghanistan from a bunker, sometimes unleashing lethal munitions, and returning home the same day to their families. Consequently, it has been reported that drone pilots suffer from higher levels of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result. This blurring of the line represents a change where warfare becomes a regular job, almost like shift work, rather than a dangerous, specialist occupation carried out separate from society.

The introduction of drone warfare in many ways represents the current technological revolution at its full potential. Drones will become a key component in the arsenals of both state and non-state actors. Time will tell what restraint we must put on these devices, including their appropriate use in combat and the effect they will have on the soldiers themselves. Peter W Singer's *Wired for War* remains the seminal piece on robotics and modern warfare and is a must-read for anyone interested in the future of robotics and its interaction with the most dangerous of all human activities, going to war.

Robert Tarrant, a regular contributor to An Cosantóir, holds a BA in International Relations from Dublin City University (DCU). He is a graduate of MSc Strategic Studies at the University of Aberdeen and an analyst with Wikistrat.



ATLANTIC OCEAN (May 2013) An X-47B UCAS demonstrator flies over the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Timothy Walter)



IN RESERVE

RDF Public Order Training

BY LT JOHN MC CANDLESS (RES COY 28 INF BN)



While many would have spent the June Bank Holiday with family and friends, reservists from 28 Inf Bn made their way to Finner Camp to attend a public order course. Over 30 personnel of all ranks took part in the three-day course instructed by Sgt Enda Cassidy (28 Inf Bn), assisted by Sgt Seán O'Donnell (RDF Cadre, 28 Inf Bn).

The course began with a lecture on the types of threats and crowd dynamics that those tasked with maintaining or restoring public order will face. Following a lecture on the organisation of the public order platoon the course was shown the protective equipment each team member would wear.

With the lectures completed, the rest of the training took place outside. We began by learning the various formations running line, tactical withdrawal, etc; how to

cover crossroads, T-junctions, and left-to-right junctions; what to do in the event of injuries ('man down'); and use of the baton.

The course culminated with Exercise 'Range Road' in Finner Camp, which evaluated how we had assimilated the training throughout the weekend. In this exercise the shield teams worked well together as rioters using various types of missiles attacked the public order teams. It is vital that each team member keeps their self-control in the face of the aggression, that no-one breaks the line, and that all know what their job is within the platoon.

This was a new departure in training for us and speaking with the students after the exercise it was clear everyone enjoyed the course although everyone was a little fatigued.

A special word of thanks must go to our instructors who gave up their Bank Holiday to conduct the course. ■



ADVANCED Tactical Medic Course

BY ROB GILBEY (RDF)



I was very lucky to win a place on the ESTI's (Emergency Services Training Institute) Tactical Medic Advanced Course as a prize in a raffle held at RDFRA's annual delegate conference.

At first I wondered what I'd let myself in for but after I read the course joining instructions I was delighted. Since joining the Reserve Defence Force, I had been surprised at how little we learn about first aid, in particular how to conduct casualty care under fire. Any first aid training we receive centres on occupational first aid and isn't really reflective of what we as potential combatants can expect to encounter on potential operations. Even the issuing

of a lone field dressing per man is evidence enough that while we carry small arms and can operate heavy weapons, we aren't equipped and trained to deal with devastating injuries that can occur on both sides when such weaponry is used.

That is where the ESTI Tactical Advanced Medic Course comes in. On day one, we were introduced to the concept of tactical medicine and casualty care under fire and how it differs from the conventional 'street' first aid. We went on to learn about airway control, utilising nasal and oral airways, i-gels, tourniquets (both civil and combat application), haemostatic agents (quick-clot gauze), the application

of Israeli field dressings, needle chest decompression, and we were given introductions on how to do IV cannulation and suturing open wounds.

Once we had grasped the basic skills, we were introduced to our tactical instructors for the week, four gentlemen from the USA with military and SWAT backgrounds, who represented Medic Up Inc, a company that specialises in teaching tactical medical training. From that point onwards, the tempo of the course changed.

“Good medicine is bad tactics,” was the first lesson they taught us. From that point on, the rules had changed. Tourniquets went from last resort to first response for traumatic limb haemorrhage. We were then introduced to the SALT (supraglottic airway laryngopharyngeal tube), a simple, albeit blunt looking, airway opening device that facilitates blind endotracheal intubation. The transition from clinical to tactical was beginning to come together.

The second day saw us in Wicklow, where we began with morning PT. After a good session of burpees, press-ups, sit-ups and flutter kicks, we were ready to start the day. However, PT featured regularly throughout the course, as increasing the heart rate during training allows a student to experience the loss of fine motor skills required during first aid, which in turn demonstrates the requirement for controlled breathing in stressful situations.

We were taught how to secure weapons, basic ‘greenfield’ tactics, casualty assessments, counter-mine and counter-IED training. Later that evening we were brought to a school where we began our ‘active shooter’ training, which is based on a scenario similar to the mass-shootings at Columbine high-school, Utoya Island, and the more recent Aurora cinema shooting. Here we began to learn room clearance drills, working in small teams, and clearing classrooms and corridors under the direction of our SWAT instructors.

The next two days had us in Tallaght in a three-storey tactical training facility where we began to hone our room clearance and CQB drills, along with the introduction of variables such as friendly and enemy casualties, prisoners, panicked civilians, hostages and active shooters. While this was going on, separate stalls were set up to run us through sensory deprivation and overload exercises, as well as assessing our abilities to work as pairs under pressure while delivering first aid to various casualties.

The exercises throughout the training were brilliant, and one of the key issues I see as a reservist is that our exercises aren’t dynamic enough and often the set piece exercises we do don’t allow for much initiative and failure. On this course, whenever we ‘stacked up’ and entered the arena, it was a force-on-force exercise and we’d often be competing against the wit of our ‘enemy’, sustaining casualties along the way; just as you would expect in a real situation. After each action, we’d then be debriefed by our instructors. As the course continued we as a class were better able to critique our own mistakes. On the whole, I believe we progressed from organised chaos to a fairly cohesive team.

At the end of the fourth day we said goodbye to our Medic Up instructors. It was an absolute privilege to have been taught by the two Mikes, Rusty and Stephen.

Next came our assessment day when, after a written exam, each student was assessed on individual skills learnt in the week. This involved suiting up into body armour, loading a replica pistol, then entering a room, identifying and neutralising the threat before dealing with three separate casualties.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed the course. What gave the course its realism were the US instructors as their depth of knowledge and experience in the subject matter is something that isn’t really organic to Ireland, which is what makes this course potentially ahead of its time. It did, in my own opinion, weigh more on the tactical side as opposed to the medical side, but as it is the first privately run course of its kind in Ireland, it is understandable that with the amount of civilian paramedics, gardaí and military involved it would be a little difficult to find the balance of skillset straight off.

This course really should be compulsory learning for anyone in the business of carrying a weapon or working domestically or overseas with those who carry weapons, whether military, police, or private security.

Many thanks to all the instructors and support staff at ESTI and Medic Up; I learnt a lot of skills that I will try to keep up while hoping I never have to use them.



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MEDIA OPS

This month we have decided to show you how easy it is to submit content to the Defence Forces, so that it may be used on our Social Media sites or in An Cosantóir and Connect.



The Defence Forces won the award for 'Best Use of Social Media by a State Body' in the Annual Social Media Awards 2013 (AKA 'Sockies'), for the second time in three years. It is a tribute to the many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Women who provide content to us for use on all our platforms. It is also a great recognition for the efforts of a small group of photographers, videographers and public relations and press staff across the organisation, at home and overseas, who keep all our content fresh, interesting and responsive.



The DF manages five Facebook Pages (main page, Air Corps, Naval Service, DF Training Centre and Recruitment). We have

over 30,000 LIKES on our main Irish Defence Forces Facebook page, so please keep the photos and feedback coming. We also operate three twitter accounts@defenceforces, @dfpo and @dfarchives.

A big thank you to all our contributors and followers. For Facebook please send your photos to press@military.ie



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Writing articles

Ideally we would like articles submitted by email or disc (CD/DVD). Hardcopy articles are also accepted.

As a general rule, we look for 2 page articles with 600 to 700 words per A4 page to allow for 4/5 photos to accompany it. Larger articles are considered, though they may be spread over two issues or submitted to the 'Defence Forces Review' publication with the author's approval.

Sending in a photograph

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

- Try sending the original image unchanged or unedited!
- File size: No less than 1.5Mb and no bigger than 3Mb (as jpeg)
- Resolution: 300 DPI
- Dimension: 150x100mm (6x4in) minimum

Naturally, if you are sending in a number of digital photographs, burn them to disc and post in! Clearly mark envelope 'CD with Photographs'.

Also submit a short note with details like: Who, What, When, Where & Why!

- What was the occasion?
- When, Where & Why did it happen?
- Who is in the photograph (left to right, back to front, rank, first and surnames) and also important - Who took it?
- If sending in photographic prints, avoid writing on the back of them.

For An Cosantóir & Connect send articles and photos to magazine@military.ie or connect@military.ie



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

A CURIOUS JOURNEY ON THE HIGH SEAS

BY PAUL O'BRIEN & GARETH MURRAY PHOTOS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND, COLLINS BKS & © PAUL SHERWOOD (WWW.SHERWOOD.IE)

Irish involvement in naval history is abundant. From polar exploration to the development of the submarine, to merchant shipping, Irish men and women have been to the forefront of naval developments.

Ireland's struggle for independence has a unique marine element, as many of the weapons used were smuggled into the country aboard ships. In July 1914, Erskine Childers landed 900 German-made Mauser rifles from his yacht, Asgard, in Howth, County Dublin.

When the Home Rule bill passed its final reading in the House of Commons in 1912 it led many to believe that Home Rule for Ireland was soon to be on the statute books. The Protestant population of Ireland constituted a local majority in north-east Ireland and they, believing that their economic prosperity arose from the union with Britain and fearing domination in an Irish Catholic parliament, prepared to oppose Home Rule. Ulster Unionists armed themselves in preparation to defend that union.

Since the Ulster Volunteer Force had managed to smuggle in thousands of weapons and ammunition at Larne, Irish republicans sought to arm themselves in case civil war erupted in Ireland. The plan to smuggle arms into Ireland was to be one of the most daring feats ever undertaken by the Irish Volunteers as it would have to be done under the watchful eyes of the largest naval force in the world, the British Royal Navy.

On May 28th 1914, Darrell Figgis and Erskine Childers travelled to Hamburg where they negotiated the purchase

of 1,500 Mauser rifles and 49,000 rounds of ammunition from the Moritz Arms Company. (Childers, an Anglo-Irish republican who had served in the British army, was also an accomplished author, having written *The Riddle of the Sands* in 1903, a novel that predicted war with Germany.)

Childers planned to use his yacht, Asgard, to smug-

gle the weapons into Ireland. While the Asgard would take the majority of the consignment, another yacht, the Kelpie, skippered by Conor O'Brien, would take the remainder.

Launched in 1905, the Asgard was not a typically designed yacht. Purpose built, she had a large, double frame and was sturdily constructed. She measured 15.5 metres in length from stem to transom with a beam of four metres. The vessel was carvel-built, which means that the hull planks are fitted edge to edge and then fixed to the frame, giving a smooth, sturdy surface.

Apart from Erskine Childers, the Asgard was crewed by Molly Childers, Mary Spring Rice, Gordon Strachey Shepard and two fishermen from Gola Island in County Donegal, Patrick McGinley and Charles Duggan.

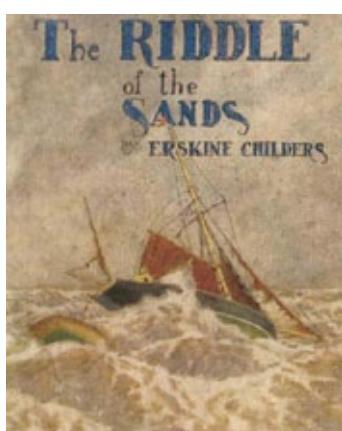
Despite encountering bad weather on the outward trip, the Asgard made the rendezvous with Figgis and the German tugboat Gladiator at the Rotigen lightship at the mouth of the Scheldt River off the Belgian coast. After five hours of strenuous work, the arms were transferred from the tug to the yacht, with every available space on the yacht being filled with weapons and ammunition. The ship then set sail for its destination, Howth Harbour.

Avoiding British patrols on the high seas and navigating the difficult waters of the English Channel, the yacht sailed unhindered into the Irish Sea. After a total of 23 days at sea in which the ship weathered one of the worst storms recorded on the Irish Sea since 1882, the yacht came within sight of the harbour.

On the morning of Sunday July 26th 1914, 800 members of the Irish Volunteers and members of Fianna Éireann met the ship as it docked on the East Pier. The ship's cargo was unloaded within 45 minutes and stacked into an array of vehicles, ready for transportation to a number of arms dumps throughout the city.

The remainder of the arms shipment from the Kelpie was transferred onto the Chotah, a steam-yacht, near the Welsh coast. They were then brought to Kilcoole in County Wicklow where the arms were successfully landed on Saturday August 1st.

The mission was an astounding success, with the Republicans managing to evade the might of the British Navy and land a huge consignment of arms and ammunition in the country.



HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

With the success of the UVF and the Irish Volunteers gun running, British forces increased patrols on the seas. Two years later, on the eve of the 1916 Rising, the German government sent 20,000 rifles to Tralee Bay on the Aud, which was disguised as a Norwegian steamer, but it was intercepted by the British Navy and escorted to Queenstown, County Cork. At the mouth of the harbour, the German crew sank the ship, sending its cargo to the murky depths below. Despite this setback, the Rising took place on April 24th 1916 and many of the rifles that were landed by the Asgard were used throughout Easter week.

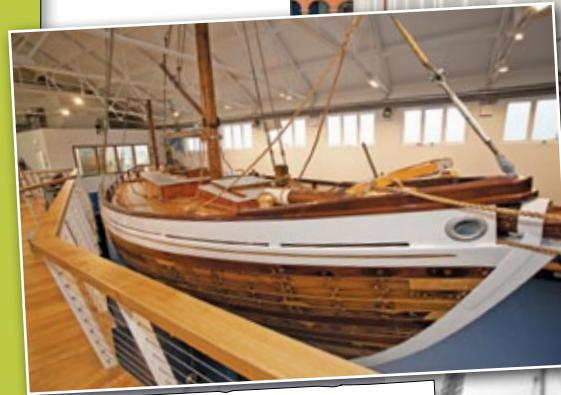
Some of those that had risked their lives on the high seas aboard the Asgard were later to die tragically. Gordon Shephard, who became a brigadier general and commander of the Royal Flying Corps, was killed during the First World War. Erskine Childers was seen by the British government as a traitor and yet was never accepted by the Republicans because of his Anglo-Irish origins. He was arrested during the Irish Civil War and found in possession of an automatic pistol that had been a gift from his friend, Michael Collins. The new Free State Government had passed a law stating that anyone found in possession of arms or ammunition was to be executed and consequently Childers was shot by firing squad in Beggar's Bush Barracks.

Of the others, Mary Spring Rice died in Wales in 1924 after a long illness, Molly Childers lived until 1964, and the two deckhands, McGinley and Duggan, lived for many years after the event, with McGinley settling in the United States.

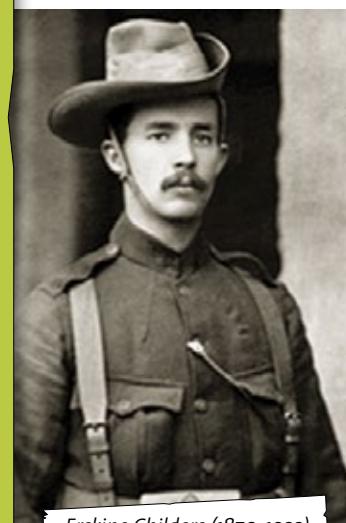
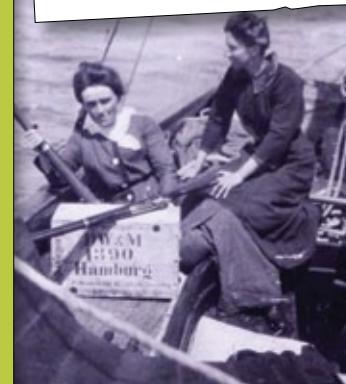
After successfully defying the British Navy and landing her cargo at Howth Harbour, the Asgard set sail for Bangor in North Wales, where she was laid up in a boatyard until 1927 before being sold to a private owner.

The ship was to have two other owners before being purchased by the Irish government in 1960 and used as a training vessel. After a number of years on the high seas, the ship was placed on display in Kilmainham Gaol where thousands of visitors learned of its remarkable history. In recent years, the ship was removed from the prison and it underwent a period of conservation and preservation and is now currently on display at the National Museum Collins Barracks, Dublin. ■

STORY HISTORY



Molly Childers (left) and Mary Spring Rice (right) posing with their cargo of guns from Hamburg.



Erskine Childers (1870-1922)



The Asgard on her return to Ireland in 1961.

STORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

Military History on your Doorstep

BY WESLEY BOURKE PHOTOS SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD



Many members of the Defence Forces are avid students of military history and its importance is recognised in its inclusion as a module on many of our courses, from recruit training to strategic leadership courses. Studying past wars, campaigns and military leaders gives us insights into leadership, strategy, tactics, politics, logistics, and weaponry. It helps us to peer through von Clausewitz's 'fog of war' to determine just how Napoleon lost the Battle of Waterloo or how the Viet Cong brought the fight to the largest military power in the world.

Of course, Ireland is steeped in its own military history, which makes studying this subject even more accessible to our personnel.

Over the last decade or so heritage sites and centres have popped up all over the country: the National 1798 Visitor Centre in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford; the Battle of Aughrim Interpretative Centre in Co Galway; Charles Fort outside Kinsale, Co Cork; and the Soldiers and Chiefs exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Bks, Dublin, just to name a few. With access to guided or self-guided tours, living history displays, original artefacts, documents, maps, uniforms and weapons, and the chance to stand on the ground where a battle took place and study the topography, the military student can be virtually transported back in time.

One such site we visited was the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre on the south bank of the River Boyne, 3km north of Donore Village, Co Meath.

The venue has everything a student of military history would want; a video history of the battle, cannon, muskets and uniforms, and walks of the original battlefield.

The Battle of the Boyne was fought in 1690 between two rival claimants to the English, Scottish, and Irish thrones: the Catholic King James and the Protestant King William. Its outcome had huge ramifications at the time, which have lasted to the present day. For the military history student this battle has it all; strategy, tactics, politics, weaponry, and even an international dimension.

In February 1685 Charles II, the protestant king of England, died without leaving a legitimate heir. The line of succession therefore fell to his brother James. However, James was a Catholic, which was a problem for many of his potential subjects. Consequently, an alternative claimant was sought. William of Orange, the Protestant nephew of James, and also his son-in-law since his marriage to James's Protestant daughter, Mary, in 1677, was seen as an ideal candidate.

After James took the crown war quickly ensued. In what became known as the Glorious Revolution, William invaded England in November 1688 and was pronounced William III of England, Ireland, and Scotland. James, with French assistance, regrouped in Ireland.

There was a lot more at stake, however, than just the English crown. This was actually part of a greater European struggle that was taking place between Louis XIV of France and the League of Augsburg (later the Grande Alliance, after England joined), which had been formed by the Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I to stop French expansion. The League was also supported by Pope Alexander VIII and the Papal States.

At the time of the Boyne the Grande Alliance and France were fighting the Nine Years war and the opposing armies in Ireland represented the opposing European factions, James allied to the French and William with the League.

For the Catholic Irish, however, they saw this as an opportunity to gain back land and entitlements they had lost. In effect, for them, the War of the English Succession would be a continuation of the Irish Confederate Wars of 50 years earlier.

William's second-in-command, the Duke of Schomberg, a 75-year-old professional soldier, landed in Ulster in 1689 with 20,000 troops and secured the north. After William landed his forces at Carrickfergus on June 14th 1690, James manoeuvred his army to prevent a Williamite advance on Dublin. The battle of the Boyne took place on July 1st 1690 (by the Julian calendar; July 11th by the current Gregorian calendar).

Taking up positions on the north and south banks, the Williamite army was roughly 36,000 strong, mainly consisting of European protestants; Dutch, Danes, French, Germans, English, Scots, Irish, Swiss, Italians, Norwegians and Poles. However, it also included the elite Dutch Blue Guards, who were Catholics.

The Jacobite army consisted of approximately 25,000 Irish, French, English, Germans and Dutch troops.

William's troops were not only stronger numerically, but were also generally far better trained and equipped than James's. The Danish and Dutch troops, for example, were professional soldiers equipped with the latest flintlock muskets. Although James had some good units, such as the Irish cavalry (who were recruited from among the dispossessed Irish gentry), the Irish were generally hastily mobilised, poorly trained and equipped with far less efficient matchlock muskets.

The main armament on both sides was the musket, which in the hands of a trained soldier could generally fire three, 0.5" lead balls, per minute. Both sides also had cannon. (The Visitor Centre has a number of examples of these weapons, which are very different from our traditional image of a cannon.) The French 4lb cannon fired a solid iron cannonball or sometimes canisters of musket balls. Its maximum range was 2,500m with an effective range of 500m and a rate-of-fire of 20 shots an hour.

On a bright cloudless July 1st William's forces (wearing sprigs of green to distinguish themselves from the Jacobites, who were wearing white pieces of paper resembling the White Cockade of France) commenced the battle. William launched a two-pronged attack: a direct frontal assault across the river following a feint by his right wing, under the command of one of Schomberg's sons, which marched upriver to Slane with the threat of turning the Jacobite left flank. The feint succeeded, and many of James's best troops were drawn away in an attempt to prevent being outflanked and having their line of retreat cut.

Led by the Dutch Blue Guards, William's forces crossed the river in the face of cannonade and heavily defended fortifications. However, the Williamite forces were relentless and the Irish Jacobite infantry fell back. As the Irish foot began to rout the Irish and French cavalry threw themselves onto the riverbed and furiously drove into the Williamite lines. The Blue Guards faltered, and the Danish Brigade and Huguenot regiments also suffered under the Jacobite cavalry. In an attempt to rally the Huguenot's, Schomberg, with no armour, rode into the fray calling out in French: "Come on, gentlemen: there are your persecutors!" He was immediately surrounded by a number of the Irish cavalry and was cut down. William himself then led a contingent of

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

cavalry from Enniskillen into his faltering ranks.

As a leader William led from the front and was everywhere along the line. As a result he was shot several times. One ball struck the cap of his pistol and another careered off the heel of his jackboot. Seeing their general's bravery the Williamite forces pressed on. The same could not be said of James. With Williams forces prevailing in the front and advancing from the flank James's forces broke and ran. As his army began to retreat he fled for safety, firstly in Dublin, then Duncannon Fort in Wexford, and on to France.

James's forces suffered some 1,500 casualties while Williamite losses only amounted to roughly 750. William's victory was rejoiced throughout Europe as many saw this as a French defeat. Pope Alexander VIII ordered a torchlight procession in Rome in celebration and Te Deums were sung in the Catholic cathedrals of Austria and Spain.

Meanwhile, James blamed his men for his defeat. "When it came to a trial they basely fled the field and left the spoil to their enemies," he said. "Nor could they be prevailed upon to rally, though the loss in the whole defeat was but inconsiderable: so that henceforth I never more determined to head an Irish army and do now resolve to shift for myself." In response the Irish nicknamed him 'Séamus a' chaca' (James the sh*t).

Even though the battle was lost the Jacobite cause in Ireland continued. The decisive Battle of Aughrim would be fought the following year forcing the Jacobites to fall back into Limerick, where the Treaty of Limerick would finally end the Williamite Wars. After this, many prominent Jacobites and their followers would depart for exile in Europe.

Between 1691 and 1791 almost half-a-million such 'Wild Geese' left Ireland to form the famous Irish brigades of armies throughout Europe. James's general, Patrick Sarsfield, the Earl of Lucan, became a marshal of France; Marshal Charles O'Brien, Viscount Clare and Earl of Thomond, fought for the French at Fontenoy; Marshal Roland James Nugent commanded in the Austrian army, and his son Laval became a marshal in the service of King Ferdinand V of Spain; Marshal Maximilian von Browne rose in the service of Maria Theresa of Austria; and Marshal Peter de Lacy became famous throughout Europe and parts of Asia as a commander in the Russian army of Tsar Peter the Great.

The best part of visiting this battle site today is that you can walk the original grounds and see for yourself where the Blue Guards crossed, and stand where William and James stood. There are several walks shown on a colour-coded map full of information that will bring you to Oldbridge Village, the Crab Apple Walk, Greenhills, Groggin's Field, and the Canal Towpath.

The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre and battlefield is a wonderfully preserved site comparable to those of Waterloo and Gettysburg: and even better, it's on our own doorstep.

The Centre opens seven-days-a-week throughout the year and is very affordable at €4 per adult, with concessions for children, seniors, students, families and groups. Groups of ten or more intending to visit must pre-book. www.battleoftheboyne.ie



DF TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

PHOTOS ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN & CAPT E O'BRIEN

The Defence Forces Track and Field Championships took place on the 5th June in Scanlon Park, Kilkenny home to the Kilkenny City Harriers Athletic Club. The Championship was hosted by 1 Bde and assisted by the DF Athletics Committee.

The General Mulcahy Trophy for overall athlete was based on an accumulative points system of 4 points for a win and 2 points for a second. The Inter Brigade Shield was presented to the Bde with the most points, with the scoring set at 3 points for a win and 2 points for a second and 1 for a third. The Medley relay scores double points. 1 Bde achieved the best overall points and were awarded the Inter Bde Shield.



MEN'S EVENT	FORMATION	TIME
100m		
1st Pte Bennett	1 Bde	11.25
2nd Capt Kedney	2 Bde	11.28
3rd Cpl Davis	DFTC	11.44
200m		
1st Capt Kedney	2 Bde	23.56
2nd Pte Kelly	1 Bde	24.63
3rd Cadet Finnegan	DFTC	
400m		
1st Capt Kedney	2 Bde	53.06
2nd Pte Kelly	1 Bde	54.68
3rd Pte Smith	DFTC	
800m		
1st Cpl O'Neill	DFTC	2.04
2nd Cpl Doherty	1 Bde	
3rd Pte Murphy	DFTC	
1500m		
1st Cpl O'Neill	DFTC	4.39
2nd Cadet Doyle	DFTC	
3rd Cadet McCaffery	DFTC	
5000m		
1st Pte Rodgers	1 Bde	15.48
2nd Cpl O'Neill	DFTC	16.03
3rd A/B Roche	NS	

MEN'S EVENT	FORMATION	TIME
Shot Putt		
1st Cpl Reddy	DFHQ	11.65
2nd Capt Moody	2 Bde	10.52
3rd Pte Brennan	1 Bde	10.12
Discus		
1st Cpl Reddy	DFHQ	29.92
2nd Capt Moody	2 Bde	29.38
3rd Pte Brennan	1 Bde	28.98
Long Jump		
1st Pte Brennan	1 Bde	6.15
2nd Cadet Finnegan	DFTC	5.33
3rd Pte Phelan	1 Bde	5.25
4 x 100m Relay		
1st DFTC		
2nd 1 Bde		
Medley Relay		
1st 1 Bde		
2nd DFTC		
3rd 2 Bde		
3000m Masters		
O/40 Pte Kelly	2 Bde	9.36
O/45 Sgt Devlin	1 Bde	10.52
O/50 Sgt Bishop	2 Bde	10.31
O/55 Pte Burns	1 Bde	11.31

SPORT

SPORTS

Medical Services Cup

BY CPL DAVID CULLEN

On the 5th of June the Medical Services Cup was played out between the DFTC & Athlone on McDonagh GAA grounds. This hard fought game went to the DFTC, who won on a score line of 4-11 to 1-11.

This victory had special significance as it marked the completion of an unprecedented '5 in a row', for the DFTC Ops team, in a competition that first started in 1924. It is also worth noting that the starting 15 consisted entirely of Privates and Troopers from 1 MIC and 1 ACS. The ARW provided the squad captain who did not start due to injury as well as one other member of the panel.



Col Tom Aherne presents the Chaplains Cup to the DFTC Team Captain



Athlone Team



DFTC Team



LADIES EVENT	FORMATION	TIME	Inter Brigade Shield
100m			1 Bde
1st Lt Whelan	1 Bde		
2nd Cadet Tierney	DFTC		
2nd Lt Kelly	2 Bde		
		13.18	
1500m			
1st Pte Nolan	1 Bde		
2nd Cadet Tierney	DFTC		
3rd Cpl Scorr	2 Bde		
		5.48	
3000m			
1st Pte Fenton	1 Bde		
2nd Pte Nolan	1 Bde		
3rd Cadet Tierney	DFTC		
		11.23	
Shot Putt			
1st Cadet Tierney	DFTC		
2nd Pte Dargan	1 Bde		
3rd Pte Walsh	1 Bde		
		6.50	
		6.39	
		6.31	
Long Jump			
1st Lt Kelly	2 Bde		
2nd Cadet Tierney	DFTC		
3rd Pte Cullen	1 Bde		
		4.95	
		4.75	
		3.66	
Medley Relay Trophy			1 Bde





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Wed 24th of July 2013

Start Time : 1130hrs

Naval Base
Haulbowline

Entry Fee: €10
Dry Flo T-Shirt with all entries

Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd - Senior Men
1st, 2nd, 3rd - Senior Female & Vets
1st, 2nd, 3rd - Over 40s
1st, 2nd, 3rd - Over 45s
1st, 2nd - Over 50s
1st - Over 55s
Team Prize- Team of 3

Entries Close 17th July 2013
For More Information Contact:
WO Tom Kelly Ext. 4889
LS Cian MacParthalain Ext. 4667



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GEAR REVIEW

PRINCETON TEC FRED



HEADLAMP

COLOUR: BLACK WITH RED LED

PRICE: €24.70

INCLUDES: BATTERIES AND HEAD-STRAP

The manufacturer says...

With an increased demand for red lighting to preserve night vision, the Fred was born. Utilising the exact same ergonomic and lightweight styling of the Fuel, the Fred enables you to preserve night vision with the substitution of a Red LED for one of the white. The Fred will always turn on in the low mode of the Red LED, so you never have to accidentally blind yourself or any other people. To enable the three white LEDs, just hold the button down for 1.5 seconds. Waterproof- Level 1 is assigned to lights that offer a degree of water protection equivalent to IPX4 in the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards. Lights rated at Level 1 are designed for water resistance to splashing and quick dunkings. Specifications: Power: 45 Lumens, Lamp: 3 Ultrabright LED, Red LED, Burn Time: 180 Hours, Batteries: 3 AAA, Weight: 78 Grams.

Our reviewer Cpl Valerie McGuinness (2 BTC) says...

The headlamp is very light, compact, well built and comfortable, compared to similar products. Light direction is fully adjustable. The battery compartment is easy to open with a tool included on the band buckle you could also use a screwdriver or coin. The red light and white light are dim or bright enough for most tasks. It takes a little practice to learn how to choose a specific setting (red/white/dim/bright), but it is really easy to turn on red dim, white dim and power off with one push. The longest recommended time of continuous use on red dim (with one battery) is for about 8 days - hopefully you won't find such a need. The light is rated as waterproof. I do not know for how long the headband will last with ageing, that was my only concern.

Waterproof to Level One 7 - Burn Time 9 -
Lumens/Brightness 9 -
Head-Strap durability 8

5.11 ALPHA SCOUT KNIFE

COLOUR: BLACK

PRICE: €34.95 - €5.00 OFF!



The manufacturer says...

At 6.75" in length when fully open, or 3.75" when closed, the Alpha is a slightly smaller version of 5.11's Spearpoint Scout knife. Designed to be easier to use for those with slightly smaller hands. The Alpha Scout Spearpoint is a conventional tactical knife with a standard blade size. What really makes this knife stand out are its user control features which include a handle shape, finger choil and top spine jimping (or added grip). With four unique carry options and an additional lanyard hole - this is one of the most versatile tactical knives on the market. The heat treated 3.5mm AUS8 stainless steel blade is both strong and durable, and the Scout's blade also features a black oxide coating to reduce visibility and glinting keeping you concealed and safer in duty environments. The Scout Spearpoint is built to last and its Liner Lock construction featuring nested 420-J2 heat-treated stainless steel liners will ensure it doesn't seize up or jam when you need performance most. Additionally, the Scout Spearpoint is fitted with heavy-duty pivot posts and screw with Torx fasteners for extra strength.

Our reviewer Cpl Daren Murphy (2 BTC) says...

The knife is lightweight but durable and tough. The spear point design is great and the blade shape is efficient for everyday cutting chores. The black oxide coating holds very well and doesn't chip. Maintenance is easy; just a few strokes with a ceramic sharpener and the edge can be used again like a scalpel. The pivot point is easy to lubricate with just a drop of your preferred formula. This blade is a great urban environment tool as well as an outdoor tool. There is a slicing and piercing tool. I highly recommend this knife. It's a very comfortable knife to hold, the blade is extremely sturdy and the lockup sounds secure.

Durability of the blade 9 - Anti-glare (black oxide) 9 - Lock Mechanism 8 - Sharpness

ASP TRAINING BELT

COLOUR: BLACK

PRICE: €15.00

The manufacturer says...

The ASP Eagle Logo Belt's innovative design and high-quality nylon materials provide the size and strength

needed to fully support a public safety professional's tactical equipment, such as batons, flashlights, radios and guns. The belt is heavy and stiff, never floppy, which is critical for police officers who are carrying a number of tools and weapons on their belts.

Available in either 1.5 and 1.75 inch width models. The belt has a custom nylon weave design that is full-bodied and rigid with a distinctive stitch line accenting the top and bottom edges. The tip of the belt is also uniquely reinforced for added durability. In addition, the Logo Belt has a hidden, leather handcuff key pocket located on the inside of the belt. ASP's standard key, the ASP Pentagon Handcuff Key will fit in the pocket.

Our reviewer Cpl Louise Woods (MP Group, DFTC) says...

The belt is suitable for daily use of members of the Investigation Platoon, Military Police as it is tough enough to hold the ASP Baton, handcuffs and Pencil Flashlight, and is comfortable and discreet under civilian clothing. The hidden handcuff key on the belt is easily accessed and definitely a plus feature. The belt may not be suitable for members of the MP Provost Platoon, due to the quantity of equipment carried on a daily basis, but could be used during other Police Duties as required. The belt design is for a limited capacity of equipment with easy access to the user. I would highly recommend the ASP 1.5" Training Belt.

Durability 8 - Support (accessories/pouches/weapons) 8 - Easy Access (hidden handcuff key) 9 - Fit 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 a 5.11 Alpha Scout Knife on the team-alpha website?

Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to subs@military.ie, closing date 19 August 2013. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn. Last month's winner of a €100 voucher for Team-Alpha.ie was Gerard Morrissey, Co Wexford



Why not stay with us?



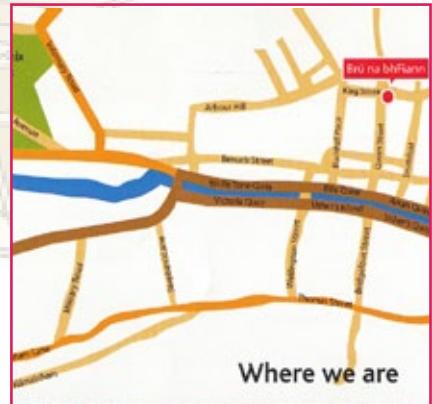
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North King Street, FREEPOST, Dublin 7.

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

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 takes place 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.

Fuchsia Launch



On the 27th June ONE will launch their annual Fuchsia Appeal in order to raise much needed funds for ONE's charitable causes. The main drive of the appeal takes place during the month of July which is the month of the National Day of Remembrance. The fuchsia was chosen as it's widely grown throughout Ireland and is commonly known as Deora Dé or God's Tears. To this end the Fuchsia was chosen as a fundraising emblem, a badge of remembrance and a symbol to honour those currently serving in the Defence Forces.

To donate please see advert on page 34 or visit www.oneconnect.ie or contact 01 485 0666 / info@oneconnect.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.

E	T	A	J	F	X	F	U	B	L	C	C	Z	T	C
E	R	R	L	Y	P	O	E	W	I	U	R	E	F	G
A	P	M	Y	D	K	D	C	S	E	O	S	C	N	I
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S	D	D	O	A	Z	W	E	O	D	Y	M	A	I	D
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ARMoured
ISTAR
MOWAG
PANHARD
PIRANHA
RECCE
SCORPION
SCOUTING
SQUADRONS
SURVEILLANCE

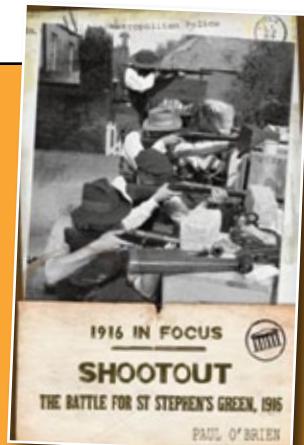
Cavalry

JUL/AUG Q&A COMPETITION

1. What year did the Fouga Magister enter service with the DF (this issue)?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a signed copy of *Shootout: The Battle for St Stephen's Green, 1916 (1916 In Focus)* by Paul O'Brien (reviewed this month).

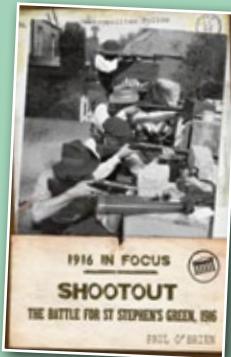
Last month's winner of Pathfinder: A Special Forces Mission Behind Enemy Lines by Capt David Blakeley was Thomas Salmon, Co Westmeath. Closing date 19 August 2013.



BOOK

SHOOTOUT:

THE BATTLE FOR ST STEPHEN'S GREEN, 1916 (1916 IN FOCUS)



Retired Chief of Staff Lt Gen Gerry McMahon DSM launching the book at Hodges Figgis on Dawson Street, Dublin. Photo by Cpl Paul Millar

Author: Paul O'Brien

Publisher: New Island (March 2013) www.newisland.ie

Pages: 112

ISBN: 978-1848402119

Price: €12.99

ST STEPHEN'S GREEN is a truly magnificent and picturesque place, but nearly 100 years ago it was the site of a fierce battle between the Irish Volunteers and British forces during the 1916 Easter Rising.

The leadership of the Rising knew that St Stephen's Green would be a strategic location and accordingly deployed the 2nd Battalion, Irish Volunteers, to the Jacob's Biscuits building on Aungier Street and the 3rd Battalion to Boland's Bakery in Ringsend as flanking units. Meanwhile, Comdt Michael Mallin, a 14-year veteran of expansionist campaigns of the British Empire, took up position in the Green with his 160 volunteers, men and women. Entering the park through the Fusiliers' Arch, they set up a command post at a park kiosk near Lord Ardilaun's statue (aka Sir Arthur Guinness).

Then they began to dig-in. With slit-trenches and foxholes dug and the heavy foliage of the Green's large trees providing cover from view, they awaited the advancing British forces. The ensuing battle lasted for seven days until eventually the volunteers 'mouse-holed' their way through the College of Surgeons and connected buildings to avoid capture.

In his enjoyable and informative book O'Brien explains the tactics and orders of both sides as the battle progressed and gives depth and colour to an often overlooked operation from the Rising.

O'Brien is a master story teller and continues his high standard with this his third book in the '1916 In Focus' series and this his fifth book overall on this period of Irish history.

About the author: Paul O'Brien has carried out extensive research into Irish and British military deployments during the 1916 Rising and has written a number of works focusing on the military aspects of the Rising. This original writing has brought new life to the military history of 1916. A keen collector of toy soldiers, he currently resides in Dublin with his wife Marion. www.paulobrienauthor.ie

BOOK

TWICE A HERO

From the trenches of the Great War to the ditches of the Irish Midlands 1915-1922

Author: Phil Tompkins

Publisher: Memoirs Publishing (Oct 2012) memoirspublishing.com

Pages: 253

ISBN: 978-1909304307

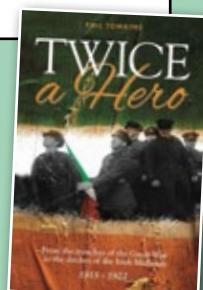
Price: €10.60 (amazon.co.uk)

"A soldier's story written by a soldier"

GEORGE ADAMSON, JOINED the 10th Irish Division in 1915, and was inducted into the Leinster Regiment and saw service in Salonika and Macedonia, 1916-1917. On his return to Ireland George joined the Athlone Brigade of the IRA.

Phil Tompkins's book is based on the tale of his paternal granduncle Brig Gen George Adamson who fought in the Great War and the Irish War of Independence. George became a heroic young Irishman, a gallant soldier, patriot and rebel when he fought through many campaigns in our history.

During his research for the book Phil found that heroes like Brig Gen George Adamson, and other volunteers who



had fought and died to liberate Ireland, lie buried in an unattended cemetery. Phil wanted to make sure that their stories and memories are recorded for future reference both for his family and so that they are remembered as the heroes they were by a grateful nation.

Phil Tompkins was born in Dublin and educated at CBS Westland Row. In 2008 he was awarded a BA Hons Degree in Creative Writing by the University of Bolton, England. An ex-elite forces soldier his writing reflects continuing interest in military history. Phil is working on his next book 'Once a Soldier' and currently resides in the North of England, in semi-retirement with his wife Maree.
www.philtompkins.com

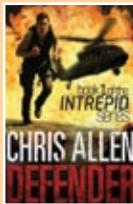
BOOK

INTREPID SERIES BOOK 1 & 2

By Chris Allen

DEFENDER #1

Publisher: Momentum (Nov 2012)
Sold by: Amazon Digital Services, Inc.
ASIN: B00ABQOL2A **ISBN:** 978-1743341377
Price: eBook €2.22 / Print €12.99
Pages: 374



BILLED AS PART Jason Bourne and part James Bond type character; Alex Morgan is an agent of Interpol's Intelligence, Recovery, Protection and Infiltration Division – Intrepid.

He certainly lives up to this claim, the ex-paratrooper turned Interpol's half cop/half spy is sent on his first solo mission to Africa - as the 3rd agent sent on this mission he tries to find out what happened to agents 1 & 2. He meets and falls for Arena Halls, a member of the British Foreign Office who is undercover as an aid worker.

His priority is to withdraw workers from a mining company who are under fire in the Malfajira civil war, with the help of the USMC he succeeds but not without casualties. Here he meets his new nemesis Victor Lundt, whom he battles nearly to his death.

Once recovered, Alex travels to Australia on the trail of a Foreign Office mole. Arena is kidnapped by Lundt and is used as a bargaining chip for when the final duel takes place.

The evil killer Lundt, is wounded and on the run with Arena still trapped, but the ever determined and extreme professional Alex Morgan – will never let him get away.

HUNTER #2

Publisher: Momentum (Dec 2012)
Sold by: Amazon Digital Services, Inc.
ASIN: B00GDZKFNK **ISBN:** 978-1743341384
Price: eBook €3.29 / Print €14.00
Pages: 440



ALEX MORGAN HAVING recovered from his first mission is summoned to the Director of Intrepid, General Davenport's office and given a mission that will test him to the extreme.

After a failed hit on a judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), who is an old family friend of Davenports and the kidnapping of her only daughter – he is told “*the safety catch is off, return that girl to her family and drag those b@stards back to justice - dead or alive - it makes no difference...*”

The mission takes him to the Balkans, 15 years after the war to track down Serbian War Criminals and members of the Zmajevi clan. To capture their leader Dragoslav “Drago” Obrenovic and his lethal enforcer known only as the “The Wolf”, who has set about with his own mission - taking over as Šefa (Boss)!

Follow Morgan and his team of Intrepid agents as they track and capture their targets using the latest technology and equipment to bring them to international justice in the Hague.

Major Chris Allen (Retd) has seen and done it all, having served in three Commonwealth armies across two decades and four continents. As a paratrooper, he saw the world from under a billowing parachute, often by night, entering foreign countries with the usual passport-stamping obligations eschewed. Exiting military life with injuries, Chris transitioned into humanitarian aid work during the East Timorese emergency, served with three major law enforcement agencies in Australia, in the wake of 9/11 protecting Sydney's most iconic landmark and between 2008 & 2012 was the Sheriff of New South Wales.

The Intrepid Series: 'Defender' and 'Hunter' have become instant eBook sensations with a print deal and a film franchise underway. <http://intrepidallen.com>

DVD

A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD

Directed by: John Moore
Written by: Skip Woods (based on the article “Farewell to Arms” by John Carlin)

Starring: Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney, Sebastian Koch, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Cole Hauser, Amaury Nolasco and Megalyn Echikunwoke

Release Date: 07 June 2013

Runtime: 1hr 38mins **Cert:** 15



BRUCE WILLIS REPRISES his role yet again in this his fifth appearance as the legendary NYPD cop John McClane in this action franchise. This time McClane travels to Russia to look up his estranged son Jack (Courtney), unbeknownst to John, Jack is an undercover CIA agent. Together they team up trying to stop a nuclear weapons heist by the Russian mafia, in this cat and mouse, tit-for-tat action adventure. With father and son at each other's throats, they both find out they have their own methods and ideologies on tackling situations – explosively!

The film was enjoyable and entertaining with the comical one line gags and catch phrases only Willis can pull off!



ADVENTURER LARA CROFT Tomb Raider first appeared on our PC screens back in 1996, now in the 2013 re-imagining release of Tomb Raider the now modernised character is back with more substantially advanced in-game realism than ever before.

After a brutal storm destroys the boat she was travelling on, a frightened young woman is left washed ashore on an unknown beach. On her own but not alone she begins the first adventure for a young and inexperienced Lara Croft in a story which charts the journey of an ordinary woman who finds out just how far she must go in order to stay alive.

Armed with only the raw instincts and physical ability to push beyond the limits of human endurance, Tomb Raider delivers an intense and gritty story into the origins of Lara Croft and her ascent from a frightened young woman to a hardened survivor.

www.tomraider.com

Genre: Action - **Platform:** Xbox 360, PS3 & PC - **PEGI:** 18 - **Price:** €49.97 (gamestop.ie) - **Release:** 05 March 2013. © Square Enix Ltd. & Crystal Dynamics. All rights reserved.

NAME
RANK
UNIT

MARTIN MOULES
SERGEANT
MEDICAL DETACHMENT,
DFTC, CMU



I joined the Defence Forces in October 2001, enlisting as a general service recruit with the Air Corps. I did my recruit training in the Military Training School of the Air Corps College, after training I was accepted on a three-star medical course, conducted in the Medical School, DFTC. The course was three months long, but was worth it. On return I was posted to the Medical Aid Post (MAP). Soon after that I did my Ambulance Skills course, again in the Medical School. This course qualifies you to be a military ambulance attendant. I also did a Phlebotomy course, which allows medics to take blood.

In 2005 and 2006 I travelled overseas to Liberia as a medic with 92 and 95 Inf Bns. Operating as a medic overseas gives you a much broader insight as it's much more hands-on than at home. On the majority of patrols in Liberia we would hold a clinic, during which I would assist the doctor in attending or treating members of the local population. On my return I applied for a Pot NCOs course and in December 2006 I completed the course with 4 BTC in Custume Bks, Athlone. In April 2007 I was promoted to corporal in the MAP.

I then underwent a Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT) course with the Wilderness Emergency Medical Services Institute (WEMSI). A great course that teaches you how to treat an injured patient outdoors with a limited amount of equipment.

In 2009 and 2010 I again travelled overseas this time to Chad with 99 and 102 Inf Bns, as a medic corporal. A medical platoon consists of 2 doctors, 1 Coy Sgt, 2 Sgts, 5 Cpl's and 4 Ptes. We were deployed operationally with the patrols and in the MAP. My trip with 102 Inf Bn was the last mission to Chad, so as well as providing medical support we also helped close down the camp and mission. Between these missions I completed my Stnd NCOs course in the NCO Trg Wing of the Military College.

On my return from overseas in 2010 I completed a part-time EMT course in my own time over a ten-week period with Medicall in the Marino Institute of Education. On completion I was qualified as a medic technician, grade 3. I also completed an Advanced Tactical Medical course with the Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) at my own expense. This was a great, and very rewarding, course. I found that these courses really helped me when I was a medic for the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training course conducted by the Military Training and Survival School in the Air Corps College.

I took part along with other members of the Medical Corps in the 2012 UK Armed Forces "Arduous Serpent" exercise which appeared in An Cosantóir October 2012.

In 2013 I was promoted to sergeant medic with the newly established Central Medical Unit (CMU) in the DFTC, where I now administer the medical detachment. In the CMU we cover all military and sporting events throughout the DF. In addition to this we provide approximately 350 HSE ambulance call-outs a year. I also instruct in the Medical School on the Military First Responder (MFR) course, which is currently ongoing. The course, run in conjunction with Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) recognition, with successful students registered as Emergency First Responder (EFR). It is also heavily orientated towards care-under-fire scenarios.

I'm also an FAI certified referee with the Kildare/Laois Irish Soccer Referee Society. I have been a referee for five years and cover the senior leagues. I have covered some high profile DF fixtures such as last year's DF –v– RAF series. This year I coached Derry Rovers FC from Edenderry, Co Offaly, to the league title for the first time in the club's 25-year history. This was a great personal achievement for me. ■





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