

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

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May 2012



**NAVAL CADETS**  
**CYBER WARFARE**  
**PUTTING THE 'EYE'**  
**IN ISTAR**



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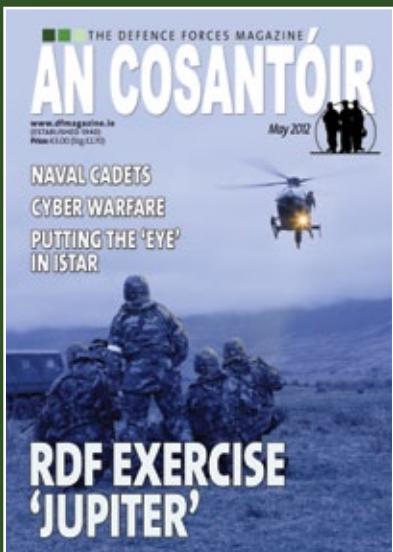
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**Front Cover:**

87th Cadet Class completing Evac-Drills  
by Jim O'Connor. For more Defence  
Forces photographs, checkout:  
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# EDITORIAL

**H**ello and welcome to our May issue, we really got out and about this month. Starting with our *In Focus* pages, introducing you to the Military Vehicle Club of Ireland (MVCI) and the Sir Roger Casement Branch of ONE based in Baldonnel. We have a colourful feature on Naval Service Cadets in training and on MUAS (mini unmanned aerial system) by Wesley Bourke. Other articles this month are; in *Strategic Review* we have Cyber Warfare – The Fifth Domain by Robert Tarrant BA and *In Reserve* we have an excellent feature on the RDF's Exercise 'Jupiter' as the enemy for the EU Battle Group by CQMS Mike Barrett (62 Res Inf Bn). Our centre spread is a photographic diary from Lebanon by Capt Paul Holohan (105 Inf Bn). James Scannell writes for us in our *History* section about WWI & WWII Sunken Treasure discovered off the coast of Ireland late 2011. In *Sport* we have a feature on Defence Forces Boxing with great photos by Cpl Noel Coss, and finally our other regulars - *On Parade*, *Tac Aide*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*. I hope you will agree that we really did get around this month. If you have any story or topic you feel we should cover, please don't hesitate to email or call.



**Pictured:** Lt General Séan McCann (COS) met with General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on a recent visit to Washington.

**Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor**



**20 Campa Gaeilge**

**Dún Uí Mhaoliosa, Gaillimh, Bealtaine 27 - Meitheamh 1, 2012**

**Defence Forces  
Annual Irish Language Training Camp  
Sunday 27 May - Friday 01 June, 2012**

The emphasis of the camp will be towards the spoken language and is directed towards all ability Groups, from beginner to fluent speaker. Persons attending this camp, however, will need some basic understanding of the language - early secondary school level will suffice.

For more information and an Application Form contact your Oifigeach Gaeilge:



Name	Formation	Unit	Ext No
Capt J. Freely	2 E Bde	BTC E	6413
Capt P. O'Gathain	1 S Bde	31 Res Arty Regt	0904 31503
Lt D. O'Reilly	4 W Bde	1 Inf Bn	1794
Lt C. Nic Céile	DFTC	DFSPG	5358
Capt P. O'Connor	DFHQ	Press Office	2502
Comdt R. Verling	Air Corps	Baldonnel	7526
S/Lt P. Rooney	Naval Service	Haulbowline	4717

# ON PARADE



## FOR THE CHILDREN ▶

On the 29 Mar, in aid of the Children's Ward of the Waterford General Hospital the crew of the L.E. Aoife participated in a charity cycle from Waterford to Cork to raise much needed funds. *Photo by L/S Murphy D & courtesy of PO Alan Hamilton*



## WELL DONE ▲

On the 13th Apr, the 14th Air Corps Recruit Platoon held their Passing Out Parade in Baldonnel, where a new rifle drill, PTs and unarmed combat display was put on for all the family's. *Photo: Photographic Section, 105 Sqn*



## IN COLOUR ▲

Image designed by Kieran Normoyle, an RDF Medic in Sarsfields Bks Limerick and is currently studying Product Design and Technology in the University of Limerick. *Image: Kieran Normoyle*

## 125TH RECRUIT PLATOON

Members of the 125th Recruit Platoon with Comdt Cathal Keohane (O/C 1 S Bde BTC) with Staff Officers and Trg NCO's of the BTC. *Photo by: Sgt Barry McCarthy (Press Office 1 S Bde)* ▼



## DEL SAHARA ▶

The 100km del Sahara is run in southern Tunisia's Sahara desert in March every year. This years race had 134 entrants from 18 countries. This was 2/Lt Fergal Fitzgerald's (65 Res Inf Bn) first attempt at anything beyond a Marathon and turned out to be the only entrant from Ireland. The course is predominately across dunes making progress all the more difficult, and temperatures peaked at about 27°C - 29°C, total time 11:46:24. *Photo: 2/Lt Fergal Fitzgerald*



## FOR CHARITY ▲

Pictured on the 26 Mar at the presentation of a cheque for €2,700 by Military Police Coy and Sch, DFTC to DEBRA Ireland. The proceeds were from a Half Marathon and 10K challenge and some other initiatives. *Photo: Sgt Pat Balf (MP Coy, DFTC)*

## RECCE LEADS THE WAY ▲

Students and Instructors of the Basic Recce Cse which took place in Cav Sch, CSC, DFTC. *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)*



## ◀ CHAMPIONS

The DF Volleyball championships were held in Cork on the 28/29 March, with the 4 W Bde winning the event. Photo shows the winning team. Back row (l/r): Cpl M Merrigan, Pte J Touhey, Pte K Ryan, Pte G Matthews and Cpl J Mc Garvey, coach. Front row (l/r): Pte H Duggan, Cpl S Ward (Capt), Pte C Mc Gahern and Pte G O Connor. Photo: Lt Brendan Kelleher

## BEAVER AND CUB SCOUTS ▼

On the 11 Apr the Beaver and Cub Scouts from Mountmellick, Co. Laois paid a visit to the DFTC during their Easter Holidays. They are seen here with some members of the Defence Forces and their equipment. Photo Cpl Noel Coss (PR Sec, DFHQ)



## WITH THANKS ▼

Pictured at the Passing Out Parade of the 26th Recruit Pln BTC W on Wed 4th Apr 2012, where a presentation was made to Dr Kirby O'Hanlon (South Westmeath Hospice) of €500 raised by the Pln throughout their training. Also pictured are Brig Gen Gerard Aherne (GOC 4 W Bde), Comdt Kevin McCarthy (OC BTC W), Lt Lisa McMahon (Pln Comdr 26th Rec Pln) and members of the 26th Rec Pln. Photo: Sgt Anthony Feery (HQ 4 W Bde)



## ON YOUR BIKE ▲

Photo shows members of the 62 Res Cav Sqn on a recent DR course in Cathal Brugha Bks. Sgt Gerry Smith (Instructor) is pictured with his students: Cpl Daire Garvin, Tpr Mathew Jones and Tpr Brendan McCarthy. Photo: Lt Damien O'Herlihy (62 Res Cav Sqn)



## MAYOR OF TIBNIN ▲

CPO Owen O'Keeffe who has served in Lebanon, welcomes Mr Nabil Fawaz, Lord Mayor of Tibnin, South Lebanon, to the Naval Base during his visit to Cobh to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of the Titanic. There were 157 Lebanese passengers on board, 29 of which survived and 6 of them from the Village of Tibnin. *Gaoth chórách agus farraige i do chúls* (Fair wind and following seas) Photo: PO John McGarry

# IN FOCUS

## PRESERVE, RESTORE, DISPLAY: The Military Vehicle Club of Ireland



BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS COURTESY OF MVCI

One Saturday morning in 1993 in Clarke NCOs' Mess, Curragh Camp, a meeting of 13 military vehicle enthusiasts from all over Ireland resulted in the formation of the Military Vehicle Club of Ireland (MVCI), to promote the preservation, restoration, and display of military vehicles throughout the island of Ireland.

The club has seen its membership grow beyond the founders' wildest dreams, with a steady stream of new members and vehicles, and new branches and shows springing up all over Ireland.

In the early years the majority of privately owned military vehicles were in Northern Ireland but now ownership is countrywide and there is a vast array of vehicles, including ACMATs, British Ferrets, Russian tracked vehicles, American and German WWII vehicles, and many more.

The MVCI's 15th annual show in the Curragh Racecourse is scheduled for Sunday May 20th. This show has grown from a handful of vehicles displayed in a small car park at the back of the racecourse to being held in the main racecourse arena. It is now regarded as one of Ireland's main military vehicle events. This year, due to the increasing numbers of vehicles and displays, the show will be moving to an even larger site beside the old Stand House Hotel, but still at the Curragh Racecourse. This will allow for vehicle movement displays and battle re-enactment along with the usual living history displays.

The MVCI is a non-profit club and all money raised from the annual show is given to the club's chosen charities. In the past 15 years the MVCI has donated over €25,000 to such groups/charities as the Army and Garda benevolent funds, the Curragh and Air Corps soldiers' aid, the Drogheda Memorial Hospice and the Barrettstown Gang Camp.

From the MVCI's point of view the main purpose of the Curragh show is promoting the preservation, restoration and display of military vehicles and giving people a great day out for a minimal fee. Entry prices have remained the same for the last six years and entry is free to senior citizens, retired members of the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána and children under ten. See you at the Curragh!

For more info on the MVCI please contact: Willie Nugent (Club President) at +353 (0)86 8142446, [willienugent@eircom.net](mailto:willienugent@eircom.net); or Robin Payne (Club Secretary) at +353 (0)87 2589013, [robin@mycompany.ie](mailto:robin@mycompany.ie).

### Jim's Labour of Love

MVCI Chairman Jim Smith had long wanted a Defence Forces Nissan Patrol to display. He eventually found one on eBay being sold by a sheep farmer in Wales. The vehicle, originally 89 D 1452, which served with the military police, was one of the first batch supplied to the Defence Forces. The vehicle was sold at auction after its military service and was purchased by a UK dealer. It was then sold on to the farmer who used it on his farm for 12 years. Remarkably, when it then turned up on eBay after all this time it still had its fading MP crest on the doors.

Jim brought the Nissan home on a low-loader as the years in the Welsh hills had not been kind to it and it needed a total rebuild. It has now been fully refurbished and is in full working order. There was a lot of hard work but Jim is very happy with the result and plans to display the restored vehicle at this year's annual show.

As well as being the current chairman, Jim is also one of the MVCI's original founders. In addition to the Nissan Patrol, he has also restored a 109 MP Land Rover and a 4 Cav Sqn motorcycle. ■



A JM9 half-tracked vehicle



# Sir Roger Casement Branch, ONE

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

The Sir Roger Casement Branch of ONE (Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women) was established in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel, in late 1979. The branch has grown from strength to strength over the years mainly due to the efforts of its members and the great relationship it has had since its foundation with successive GOCs and serving Air Corps personnel.

Significant events undertaken by the branch include: establishing the ONE Memorial Garden in Baldonnel with a monument to the memory of deceased former Air Corps personnel who have served within the Air Corps; holding an annual Mass of Commemoration in the Garrison Church; the presentation of a unit flag designed by a member of the branch to the Apprentice Training School; and a presentation to GOC Air Corps of a book of copies of the letters of Roger Casement.

In addition, every year the branch organises a number of trips to places of historical interest as well as organising events that provide an opportunity for former colleagues to meet and renew old acquaintances. An example of the latter is the annual Christmas lunch for retired Air Corps personnel. This very popular event has become a favourite reunion for former colleagues.

Paddy O'Meara, who stood down as branch chairman in January 2012, joined the Air Corps as a boy apprentice in 1956 and served for 12 years, mostly as an instructor in the Air Corps Apprentice School, retiring as a

flight sergeant in 1969. After leaving he joined AnCo the industrial training authority that had been recently set up to promote industrial training throughout the country. Paddy has been an active chairman since his election in January 2007. During his tenure he oversaw the updating of the magazine-style version of The Link newsletter, which is circulated to all members on a quarterly basis and is greatly appreciated particularly by overseas members. An extensive website was created that provides full details of the branch's history, committee, and details of upcoming events. Copies of The Link are also archived on the site. The website has been the key in generating contacts from many former Air Corps members who are scattered around the world and who wish to maintain contacts with their old comrades. A new Facebook page and email address were also created for the benefit of all members.

In addition, Paddy successfully negotiated with the board of ONET and the Dept of Defence, with the kind support of the GOC Air Corps, for approval for the members of the branch to wear Air Corps-style forage caps as part of their ONE uniform. This headgear has been very popular with the members. It further identifies the branch and its members within the Air Corps family and branch membership has increased as a result.

A programme of collection days was set up in selected shopping centres to generate support for ONET's national

Fuchsia campaign. These collections were professionally arranged with the use of advertising posters, backdrops and videos. In addition to the funds generated, the PR spin off for the branch was invaluable, particularly with the communities in the Baldonnel, Clondalkin and Dublin Airport catchment areas.

Paddy will continue to serve as a committee member, with special responsibility for maintaining the communications systems, and he wishes the incoming chairman every success in the position.

The new chairman, Finnbar Lyons, enlisted in 1953 as a direct-entry aircraft mechanic and served with No 1 Fighter Squadron (Gormanstown) until he left in 1961 to work for Aer Lingus as an aircraft technician. Finnbar says his main focus as chairman will be to continue Paddy's great work through the communications media, events and outings, and to increase membership, which currently stands at 150+.

Personnel who have served in any part of the Defence Forces are welcome to join the branch and to attend its meetings, held on the third Thursday of the month at 20.00hrs in the NCOs' Mess, Baldonnel. For more info on the branch, contact the secretary: Noel Murphy, [oneroger-casementbranch@gmail.com](mailto:oneroger-casementbranch@gmail.com) or visit [www.oneaircorpsbranch.com](http://www.oneaircorpsbranch.com) or [www.facebook.com/pages/ONE-Roger-Casement-Branch/100278033401653](http://www.facebook.com/pages/ONE-Roger-Casement-Branch/100278033401653) ■



ONE Memorial Garden



Branch members on the Fuchsia Campaign



Finnbar Lyons & Paddy O'Meara

# WORLD STRATEGIC PICTURE



## EUROPE



A landmark ruling in the European Court of Human Rights agreed that Abu Hamza, an Egyptian born Muslim cleric based in **Britain**, and four other suspected Islamists could be sent to the United States to face terrorist charges.

National unity was called by **French** President Nicolas Sarkozy, after a gunman opened fire outside a Jewish school in Toulouse, killing three children and a teacher. The shooting followed the killing of three French soldiers by the same gunman, Al-Qaeda sympathiser Mohammed Merah.

## AFRICA

**Mali**'s president, Amadou Toumani Touré, was overthrown by rebel forces in protest of his handling of an insurgency by Tuareg rebels. Mali's neighbours imposed a trade ban in response.

Talks were held in Addis Ababa, **Ethiopia**'s capital, between Sudan and South Sudan after heavy fighting broke out between the two. Oil is at the centre of the dispute. The African Union told South Sudan to remove its forces from the Heglig oilfields, which are controlled by Sudan.

## AMERICA'S

39 members of the FARC guerrillas were killed by **Colombian** troops after attacking one of the guerrilla's camps. The Minister for Defence called it 'one of the biggest blows' against FARC in recent years. The group released four soldiers and six police officers whom it had kept hostage for up to 14 years. Colombia's president, Juan Manuel Santos, welcomed the move but said it was not enough to start peace talks.



A cash reward of \$10m was put up by the **United States** for Hafz Mohammad Saeed, a founder of a terrorist group that struck Mumbai in 2008.

On the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War, **Argentinean** president, Cristina Fernández, called the British presence on the Malvinas 'absurd'.

The trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others accused of planning the 9/11 attacks will resume next month in a military tribunal in **Guantanamo**.

## MIDDLE EAST



Maj Gen Paola Serra, the FC of UNIFIL peace-keeping force in **Lebanon** met with senior officials from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) at UN Position at Ras Al Naqoura crossing as part of ongoing efforts to reduce tensions and boost security along the countries' border. The IDF presented their plan to construct a wall to replace the existing Israeli technical fence along the Blue Line. The technical details of the works are yet to be carried out.

Some 30 separate bombs were set off across **Iraq** on a single day leaving at least 52 killed. It has been described as an attempt to block an Arab League summit in Baghdad on March 29th.

**Syria** agreed to an April 10th deadline to start implementing a UN/Arab League peace plan. It will not pull its forces out of cities until opposition forces disarm. Turkey protested to Syria after its forces fired on refugees trying to cross the Turkish border. Over 24,000 refugees have entered Turkey since the unrest began. The ceasefire began on April 12th but observers are sceptical.

## ASIA

A parliamentary commission in **Pakistan** called on America to stop all drone attacks on its territory and to apologise for the killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers in November.

**Myanmar**'s National League for Democracy won most of the seats it contested in by-elections that were held in 45 constituencies. The leader of the democracy movement, Aung San Suu Kyi, won a seat just outside Yangon. It was the first time the NLD had participated in elections since 1990, in which the result was overthrown by the army.

Bomb attacks in two cities in southern **Thailand** killed 13 and injured more than 300. An Islamic insurgency group is suspected. After rumours of a coup in China the government suspended micro blogging sites, shut down websites, and arrested six people.



According to a report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, defence spending in Asia this year will overtake Europe. **China** announced it would raise its budget by 11%, **India** by 17%, raising it to \$110 and \$38 billion respectively.

# PROMOTING LEADERSHIP

## at Sea

BY WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOS BY ARMN NEVILLE COUGHLAN

Can you imagine being woken at 0500hrs and told to grab your gear and board an AW139 helicopter with absolutely no idea what lies ahead of you? Well that is exactly what happened to the members of the senior Naval Service cadet class earlier this year when they were hit with a sur-

prise four-day PLX (planned leadership exercise). What made it even worse for the cadets was that they were in the middle of an academic training phase in the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) at the time and a gruelling physical exercise was the last thing on their minds. ▶





All the taskings facing the Cadets on the PLX were extreme scenarios based on incidents they may have to face during their careers at sea with the Naval Service.

The first 24 hours of the exercise were spent in the Kilworth area setting up camp, bugging-out, getting hit-up, setting up camp again, and bugging-out again, and so on. "The purpose of the PLX is to assess and enhance the cadets' leadership, teamwork and communications skills," explained Lt James Harding. "We constantly changed the scenarios and locations so they didn't get comfortable, and we tired them out physically and mentally in order to put them under extra stress."

For the next stage of the exercise the cadets were brought back to the NMCI to face another range of challenging scenarios. One task involved using the Bridge Simulator to navigate a ship back to Cork Harbour while avoiding suicide attack craft. After the ship was 'hit' the cadets went to the Damage Control & Fire Fighting yard where they had to try to save the ship. If the directing staff were looking for leadership, teamwork and communication they certainly got it here as the cadets went about their business with quiet determination. The damage control room is an awful place to operate; dark and noisy, and with water pouring in constantly. By the time the water got to chest height it was time for the cadets to abandon ship and get into their survival gear.

Along with the constantly changing scenarios the cadets were also hit with regular PT sessions and camber crossings (clambering along a rope suspended in the air; over water in this case). As a result, opportunities for sleep over the four days

were few and far between and the cadets tried to snatch a couple of hours whenever they could.

Another scenario the cadets faced was an armed boarding of a suspected drug smuggling vessel. A very convincing L/Sea Denis acted as the non-English speaking crew of the suspect vessel. Due to a major communication problem an initial boarding attempt was unsuccessful and the cadets had to do it again. "We don't expect them to be experts in the various areas," said Lt Harding, "but we want to see how they react both individually and as a class. Throughout the exercise we brought them aside and briefed them on what to improve on and look out for. This worked very well."

The last night of the exercise was spent in Fort Davis where the cadets faced a number of search scenarios, a reconnaissance of Blackrock Castle in Cork Harbour in RIBs, and round-the-clock PT circuits. The next morning after crossing the estuary the cadets had to complete a route march back to base. Even then they were not finished as they were hit unexpectedly with yet another camber crossing.

Both Lt Harding and L/Sea Denis were very happy with the exercise and the cadets' performance. L/Sea Denis said: "A week like this reminds them of what they are about and where they are going."

To reinforce the importance of the skills the cadets were developing on the exercise it should be noted that at the time of the exercise some of their Naval Service colleagues were detaining an illegal fishing vessel while others were taking part in the search for several missing fishermen off the coast of Cork.

## We asked the Naval Service cadets about their appointments on the PLX:

### CDT MARCUS RYAN



My toughest appointment was on the water crossing in the diving camber. It was our last exercise and we were all drained and worn out, so it was very challenging from that aspect. However we all came together and motivated each other to get across, despite having few resources. The first time we did the crossing, earlier in the week, we had seven helmets and seven harnesses, one per cadet, but this time we were only given one helmet and one harness, so we had to figure out a way to get them back each time. Despite this we managed to get everyone across with 30 seconds to spare over our time limit of 30 minutes.

### CDT PAUL O'BRIEN



My appointment was in damage control and fire-fighting. Initially, it was very hard because even though we've all done the course it took a while for the terms and procedures to come back to us. Once we did get back into it we were able to deal with the tasks we were set. In my role I soon realised that I needed to take a step back and delegate where needed. This was the main thing I learned throughout the exercise; in a leadership role you have to be able to step back and observe what is going on, assess the situation and make a decision. For example, if you are up front trying to plug the leak yourself you cannot see what is going on behind you.

### CDT CIAN DUGGAN



I was team leader during our survival exercise in the NMCI. What really struck me during this exercise was how switched-on everyone was in such a confusing environment. We did our original survival training just two weeks into our cadetship and at that time it took us over half an hour to get our survival gear on, swim across the survival pool in stormy conditions and get into the life raft.

This time it only took a matter of minutes to get survival suits on, form a survival ring in the pool, number off, form a swimming strip, get into the life raft and carry out the procedures required to maintain the integrity of the raft. I was very happy as leader of that task.

### CDT JOHN BUCKLEY



I was team leader during the armed boarding exercise. Although we have had armed boarding training this was our first real-time situation out on the water, deploying from RIBs onto a vessel. As we had two RIBs I split the team into two, a security team and a search team. Teamwork and communication

was vital and our first boarding attempt, although unsuccessful, provided us with a sharp learning curve. As a result the second attempt went very well and the security team boarded and secured the vessel. Dealing with a non-English speaking crew proved difficult and communication was again vital before we were able to get the search team on board, where they found the smuggled items.

### CDT CONOR FOLEY



I was team leader during a simulated armed boarding exercise in the Operations Training Centre. The Simulation Room is designed with many doors, corridors and rooms leading from one to the other, the idea being that you have to search each room thoroughly before moving onto the next. As leader you really do have to take a step back to assess what is going on. You always have to think one step ahead, trying to work out where the next potential threat is going to come from and directing your team in that direction. During this exercise we used HKs loaded with Simmunition, which is basically a little paintball, so we had to wear face guard and body armour, which made it very claustrophobic in that environment. It's as real as it gets and using the Simmunition shows you see how easy it is to get hit.

### CDT SEÁN MCCOY



I was appointed Officer of the Watch during the bridge exercise and our task was to get the vessel into Cork harbour and on to the Naval Base while avoiding fast attack craft. I had no charts so I really had to utilise my team, putting people on radar and others on lookout. I had to depend on their advice on when to turn the vessel and how best to avoid the attacking craft. We dodged several but one got us just before we got to the island. We have done bridge simulation before but nothing this pressurised.

### CDT RICHARD CHUTE



I was the team leader for our late night PT exercise on Fort Davis. Unlike a lot of other exercises where as leader you can step back, here you were taking part as well. My main task was to keep everyone motivated and keeps us going, which wasn't easy 72 hours into the exercise when we were starting to get really tired and worn out. Fort Davis is a very challenging environment for this type of exercise and we had five circuits to get through. As the class was split I really had to be vocal so they could all hear me. However, the class really came together during this exercise and I think it went well, although it wasn't easy. ■



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**2012 SUMMER SOLSTICE "WALK THE LINE" CHALLENGE**



**IN AID OF DUBLIN & WICKLOW MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM (CHARITY No: 10148)**

**DATE: SATURDAY JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**  
**START TIME: 20:00Hrs**  
**REGISTRATION: LARCH HILL SCOUT CENTRE FOR TRANSPORT TO THE START POINT**  
**ROUTE: THE DUBLIN / WICKLOW COUNTY BOUNDARY LINE**

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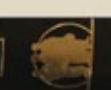
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# A LIFELINE FOR MOUNTAIN RESCUE

BY GEN WARD (DWMRT)

**O**n June 25th 2011, the Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team (DWMRT) took on our biggest fundraising and public relations project to date called "Walk the Line".

We set ourselves 3 main goals: The first was to raise our teams profile, the second to ensure all those who participated came away from the event safely whilst having enjoyed their time on the mountain and the third to try raise some much needed funds to help purchase a 4x4 stretcher capable vehicle to improve the level of pre-hospital care we could provide to those we rescue.

As a member of the DWMRT for 15yrs, I do like a challenge, but project managing this event was taking me across a line I had never walked before. I quickly realised this was never going to be about one person this had to be a team effort and it certainly was. The organising of this event took a lot of time and effort and as volunteers who go out to search and rescue those who find themselves lost and or injured in the mountains, we knew safety had to be our highest priority.

The route chosen took our 32km walk along the boundary of the Dublin & Wicklow Mountains, starting at Kilbride and finishing in Marlay Park. To fit in with the summer solstice we started the walk at 9pm at night and the plan was each participant would find themselves on a peak at sunrise.

The team worked hard for months, ensuring we did our best to meet all the requirements to run a successful event which catered for the needs of all those who signed up, so all team members and volunteers walked the route as a full recce. Our team grew in size and strength as a result of this event. It was great to see the new working with the old, and team members working hand in hand with the many volunteers who selflessly gave up their time to guide and help out on the event.

We worked hard with all the agencies such as the National Park, Coillte, Leave No Trace and Marlay Park to ensure we met all the permit requirements and we are proud to have organised "Walk the Line" in accordance with these principles and became one of the few Challenge Walks to be supported by Mountaineering Ireland who had this to say about our event: "DWMRT has put a lot of effort into planning "Walk the Line" to ensure that this event has a minimal impact on a beautiful and sensitive part of the Wicklow uplands, whilst also providing a safe and enjoyable experience for participants. We believe the event is in line with Mountain Ireland's Policy on Organised Events in the Mountains and that the approach taken provides a positive example for other groups."

The scale of our ambitious route, our determination to do it

the right way and our duty of care to the 300 people we were about to spread over 32km of wild, mountainous terrain meant our team stepped its resources up to a new level to ensure the event succeeded. Mountain Rescue is traditionally a community organisation – we live in the community we operate in, we serve the larger community of outdoor enthusiasts and we support the growing industry which supplies training and equipment to those who love the mountains. It shouldn't be surprising that so many from these communities volunteered their support and services to facilitate this event – from retired team members to professional guides, from bus-drivers to our main sponsor the Great Outdoors, from friends and family to complete strangers who offered to spend a cold night on the hill marshalling the route. Nonetheless we found ourselves constantly surprised at the generosity of the many people who made this event possible and we'd like to thank them all sincerely for their help. Without the communities that support us, we wouldn't have a purpose or the ability to do what we love to do.

The good news is we are well on our way to being able to purchase a 4x4 stretcher capable vehicle and look forward to updating you all when we do. But more important than any money raised was, witnessing that so many people were willing to put themselves on the line for us when we needed them.

Walking the line on June 25th was always supposed to be a challenge for any participant. With the mist and the bog, the darkness and the distance - make this an event that not everyone can take on. The disappointment on the faces of the few when they had to cut their challenge short, the courage of those overcoming physical limitations, the craic in the groups, the speed of the runners, the exhausted joy of the many who enjoyed a well-earned breakfast in Marlay Park meant so much to team members that we didn't need to debate about whether we're doing this again – we couldn't *Not* run it...

We are officially launching "Walk the Line" 2012 and have teamed up with our main sponsor the Great Outdoors to launch "Help Save a Life" and to "Walk the Line" June 23rd 2012. For more information contact us via email [walktheline@dwmrt.ie](mailto:walktheline@dwmrt.ie) or log onto [www.walktheline.ie](http://www.walktheline.ie). ■



# Putting the

“E”

# Eye IN ISTAR

BY WESLEY BOURKE  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF SGT WAYNE FLOYD (ARTY SCH)

ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target-Acquisition and Reconnaissance) is essential to the successful conduct of all military operations, whether they be of a peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or combat nature. For a commander to make the best decisions he needs accurate, real-time information and intelligence. These include forward observation teams, cavalry recce teams, snipers, surveillance LTAVs (light tactical armoured vehicles), and UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), all of which play a different role in gathering information and intelligence. Among these the UAV is unique in that it has the ability to fly, all but undetected, and give a real-time, bird's-eye view of an area, day or night.

The concept of the UAV, which has been around since the Vietnam War, was substantially developed by the Israeli Defence Forces during its various conflicts with its neighbours. UAVs were heavily employed during the long, low-level conflict along the Israeli/Lebanon border to provide surveillance of Hezbollah activities.

The US has also been heavily involved in the evolution of UAVs and the US Army's increasing use of these vehicles has been highlighted in recent years by their operations in Afghanistan and the Tribal Areas of Pakistan. Most people will have seen released footage of attacks launched with mis-

siles mounted on General Atomics MQ-1 Predators against suspected Al Qaeda or Taliban targets.

Compared to their early versions UAVs have become much more cost-effective, making them more accessible to smaller armed forces such as the Defence Forces, for whom the UAV is a relatively new acquisition (December 2007).

The Defence Forces primarily use the UAV to complement its ISTAR capabilities. In this role UAVs come in a variety of packages; micro, mini, and tactical, with MALE (medium-altitude long-endurance) and HALE (high-altitude long endurance). Micro UAVs, such as the Lockheed Martin Desert Hawk III, are tiny craft, small enough to be launched and operated by a single individual with minimal training, and are used for 'over-the-wall' surveillance at section and platoon level. Mini systems, such as the Aeronautics Orbiter MUAS (mini unmanned aerial system) employed by the Defence Forces, may require a crew of up to six to operate, and are generally used at company and battalion level for 'over-the-hill' surveillance. At the top range, tactical UAVs, for example the Thales Watchkeeper WK450, need a full runway to operate from and, with an endurance of up to 17 hours, are 'over-the-horizon' assets used by operational HQ elements.

The Artillery Corps are the primary operators of the Orbiter MUAS in the Defence Forces as it can be used to allow gunners to react to developing situations on the ground, thereby enabling timely responses through the target-sensor-engagement chain. "This is an excellent, compact, light-weight package," explained Capt David McElroy (MUAS Instructor, Arty Sch). "It can be assembled and in the air within 20 minutes, has a range of 15kms

MUAS in training at home



MUAS in flight at home





Airframe on launcher Chad



and up to four hours endurance; providing the commander with real-time surveillance."

The Orbiter has been deployed on exercises at home and on operations overseas, although the troops involved in these operations would generally have been unaware of the Orbiter's presence because it is unlikely to be heard from the ground unless operating at very low altitudes.

The Orbiter can be fitted with a D-STAMP (Daytime STAbilized Miniature Payload) daytime camera with a x10 zoom lens. It also has the ability to be fitted with a U-STAMP (Uncooled STAbilized Miniature Payload) night-time camera equipped with forward-looking infra red (FLIR). "With this we can see anything with a heat signa-

ture at night or in poor visibility during the day," Capt McElroy said. "We can literally pick up everything - personnel, vehicles, thermal shadows, small

animals: it's very, very effective."

After they receive their mission it takes the Orbiter teams no more than 20 minutes to assemble the system, carry out a strict

pre-flight checklist, and get it airborne. The number in an Orbiter team is mission specific but generally consists of four to six: the operator, known as DUO1 (Designated UAV Operator 1), the co-operator (DUO2) and two to four dedicated ground personnel, termed crew members. Local security, battlespace management, and communications requirements will vary according to mission specifics.

"The operators of the MUAS have the same responsibility as the crew of a manned aircraft," said Sgt Wayne Floyd (MUAS Instructor, Arty Sch). "The DUO1 flies the MUAS; the DUO2 monitors the pre-flight checklist, the control screen, reports and telemetry; and the other team members are ground crew, who are generally either waiting to recover the airframe or getting another one ready. (The Orbiter's recovery is facilitated by parachute and airbag, allowing it to be used over and over again.) The Orbiter detachment personnel are highly trained and regularly complete currency training to test and develop their skills."

The Orbiter has already proven itself with the Defence Forces on overseas operations with EUFOR Chad/CAR and was found particu-

larly effective on the EU Nordic Battle-group exercises in 2010. "In Chad the Orbiter gave commanders multiple capabilities," Capt McElroy said. "For example, it was deployed with patrols to make sure their route was clear. In other instances it was used to send back real-time pictures of platoons patrolling in built-up areas.

"There is also a Remote Video Terminal facility that allows battalion staff, company and platoon commanders to see exactly what the operator sees on his screen. This means a commander can monitor and assess a situation as it unfolds. Unknown to the troops on the ground there may be hostile activity just around the corner but with an MUAS in the air that real-time information can be picked up."

While the Orbiter's contribution to the ISTAR suite is invaluable, Arty School instructors are now testing them for other tasks. "With the overall picture of the battlefield that can be gained from the Orbiter at higher altitudes, we have developed the ability to direct artillery fire and we are also exploring how it can be used to assist search operations to counter IEDs," says Sgt Floyd.

There are limits to the Orbiter's use, just as there are to any other asset a commander has at his disposal. It cannot operate in bad weather and its range is limited to 15kms, so commanders have to remember that it doesn't have the ability to fly the length and breadth of the country. Also, there is a trade-off between picture quality and detection. While flying at low level may provide a better picture it increases the likelihood of detection. Generally the Orbiter operates around 1,000ft for optimum picture quality.

As Sgt Floyd explained, it's just a question of unit commanders getting used to the MUAS and its capabilities. "If you're having an exercise and are requesting an MUAS," he says, "come down and talk to us and we'll take you through what we can and can't do." ■

Recovery Chad



# LEBANON DIARY

BY CAPT PAUL HOLOHAN (105 INF BN, UNIFIL)



Pte Joe d'Alton and Pte David Hanrahan delivering water

While others celebrated the New Year, the troops of Irishbatt were called upon to aid the people of Bint Jubayl when the hospital's local water supply ran extremely low. To ensure the hospital received sufficient water, A Coy, 105 Inf Bn and the battalion's Transport Platoon organised a daily convoy that diverted much of Irishbatt's own water supply to the beleaguered hospital. Each convoy delivered up to 20,000 litres of water per day and the operation lasted over three weeks. This meant strict water rationing at Post 6-5, HQ of the Irish battalion.



Brig Gen Pakenham receiving brief at UN Post 6-50

On January 4th Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (GOC 1 S Bde), accompanied by Mons Eoin Thynne (HCF) and Lt Col Burke, arrived in Lebanon to meet the troops of 105 Inf Bn, most of whom are drawn from the 1 S Bde area. Brig Gen Pakenham visited the three Irish posts and several locations throughout the Irish battalion's area of operations (AO). He also visited the UNIFIL Force Commander, Major General Paola Serra, in Naqoura and the Sector West Commander in Shama.



Pte Kane briefing the FC Major Gen Paola Serra

On January 31st 105 Inf Bn received an official visit from the new UNIFIL Force Commander, Major General Paola Serra (Italy). Maj Gen Serra was warmly welcomed to Post 6-5 by OC 105 Inf Bn, Lt Col Philip Brennan. The Force Commander received a full operational brief in the TOC, followed by a visit to the Blue Line.



Lt Col Brennan delivering Irish cultural brief

On February 2nd 105 Inf Bn hosted the Commander Update Brief (CUB) in UN Post 6-5. Sector West Commander, Brig Gen Lamanna Carlo, was in attendance along with the various battalion and group commanders. Along with the usual business of the CUB, Lt Col Philip Brennan briefed the visiting commanders on Irish culture and traditions. The visiting commanders were introduced to some traditional Irish culinary delights, including a Guinness beef stew prepared and served by Irishbatt's chefs.


**Cpl Dan Fitzpatrick and Capt Denis O'Brien push over for a try**

On February 10th 105 Inf Bn participated in a challenge rugby game in Tyre against the Lebanese Rugby Federation. Although the Irish battalion won with a score line of 72-7, both teams showed the crowd some excellent rugby throughout, with a very competitive edge to the game. The team spirit of both sides ensured the fixture was a great success, with new friendships being formed and the integration of the Irish battalion into the Lebanese community being enhanced through the medium of sport.


**Force Sergeant Major Dickson Uwasu and Sgt Major Stan Hurley**

On February 20th UNIFIL Force Sergeant Major Dickson Uwasu (Ghana) visited the Irish battalion and was warmly welcomed to UN Post 6-5 by Sgt Maj Stan Hurley and his staff. A full operational brief was delivered to Sgt Maj Uwasu by Comdt Sean Dunne (S1) and Comdt Tim Daly (DCO), followed by a reception at which Sgt Maj Uwasu met the battalion's NCOs and privates.


**Sgt Michael Fitzgerald and Fawaz Fawaz**

As a part of the larger CIMIC plan for 105 Inf Bn a number of small but extremely worthwhile projects are taking place in the village of Tibnine. These include English lessons for adults, which are held in the local library twice a week. Our picture shows Sgt Michael Fitzgerald conducting lessons with the assistance of Mr Fawaz Fawaz, president of the local charity committee. Assistance is also provided by Ms Christine Ghostine, English teacher in the local high school. The class is made up of approximately 20 students aged between 16 and 60.


**Comdt Fergal MacDonald and Lt Danielle Murphy planting trees at Tibnine**

On March 27th a tree planting project took place in two locations within the Irish battalion AO in the villages of Tibnine and Aynata. The Lions Club of Beirut kindly donated the trees through UNIFIL's Civil Affairs section. The tree planting was performed by a combination of personnel from the Irish and Malaysian UNIFIL battalions, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and locals from the two villages.

**Joint LAF/UNIFIL patrol along the Blue Line**

In accordance with UNSCR 1701, 105 Inf Bn conduct daily joint operations in their AO with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). These operations, which are conducted by day and by night, vary from mechanised, soft-skinned, and foot patrols, to conducting checkpoints. These operations help both Irishbatt and the LAF in increasing and maintaining situational awareness. Our photo shows Pte Mark Slattery as point man in one such patrol.


**Mowag patrol along the Blue Line**

In addition to the daily joint operations conducted with the LAF, the Irish battalion also conducts a range of other operations, including Blue Line-, village-, and area domination patrols. Our picture shows an area domination patrol being conducted in Mowag Piranha IIIs. The planning and preparation for such patrols is meticulous, incorporating full orders, situational update briefs, and rehearsal of drills and actions on procedures for dealing with many potential and probable eventualities.


**Joint UNIFIL/LAF Blue Line patrol**

Picture here is a joint patrol along the Blue Line comprising 105 Inf Bn personnel from UN Post 6-52, led by Lt Ian Crowley, troops from the Force Commander's Reserve (FCR), and LAF troops. Such joint operations portray the excellent co-operation and relationship that has been built and maintained between the different forces involved. They also highlight the tireless work of the forces involved towards providing a peaceful, safe and secure environment for the people of South Lebanon.

# Cyber Warfare the FIFTH DOMAIN

BY ROBERT TARRANT BA  
MAIN IMAGE BY JIM O'CONNOR



The Twenty-First Century battlefield represents an arena inconceivable to strategic planners at the turn of the last century. In addition to air and space, military planners are now faced with comprehending the invisible battlefield, the so-called fifth domain. Cyberspace, cyber security and cyber warfare are hot topics. Like other battle spaces the cyber field is littered with its own complexities. Unlike other battle spaces, cyberspace is a rapidly advancing arena. The principal issues and policies, like deterrence and the attack capability of states, are largely developing through a Darwinian process of trial and error.

I recently attended a conference on cyber security at the Institute for International and European Affairs (IIIEA), an international affairs and policy think-tank based in Dublin. The main

speaker was Dr Adam Segel, the Ira A Lipman Senior Fellow for counter-terrorism and national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and an expert on cyber security.

As well as outlining the present capabilities of this new emerging battlefield Dr Segel also explained how the major powers are presently involved in testing the limits of this battle space and are looking to establish 'redlines', areas of unacceptable political confrontation, which have yet to be defined.

In fact, such a redline may have already been reached in the widely reported attack on the Natanz Iranian Nuclear Reactor in 2010 allegedly by an Israeli hacker linked with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). The attack utilised a Stuxnet Worm, a programme which uses loopholes unknown to the soft-

ware developer at the time of development. These are often called 'zero day attacks'. Not only does this represent an attack on what could be deemed critical state infrastructure, but also, if true, a shift from lone-wolf cyber attacks towards an organised military capability, even though this attack, for all intents and purposes, caused nothing more than a nuisance.

Previously the Russia-Georgia conflict in 2008 demonstrated the ability of cyber warfare to 'blind' an opponent before an attack, thereby establishing a true application of cyber power to the physical battlefield.

However, the problem with cyber warfare is twofold, political and practical. Firstly, there is a credibility gap surrounding a response to a cyber attack and in how exactly a government's response would be signalled.



For instance, if State 'X' threatens State 'Y' with a physical attack, such as an air strike or naval bombardment, unless it ceases its online aggressions, what facilities would it target to deter further attacks? The dispersion of cyber attacks or attackers over a network is the main impediment to an effective response. Most importantly, the danger of escalation where a state or states equipped with nuclear weapons is involved must be factored in when considering such

options. These considerations lead to credibility problems surrounding such retaliatory threats.

Secondly, although they pose a grave threat to personal and national financial and economic wellbeing, cyber attacks have so far amounted to nothing more than delivering a sanctioning effect rather than direct warfare or attack in the traditional military sense. Their role is currently seen as primarily espionage, alongside the disruption to services both within and outside state control. Until it becomes possible to upload a tank or ground forces (think *The Matrix*) onto the cyber field with the ability to mount an 'electronic occupation' cyber warfare is limited in its overall battlefield application. However, it must be stressed that this does not make the arena unimportant or irrelevant. A comparison must be drawn to air power in its genesis, where traditional military officers underestimated its potential and revolutionising effect on warfare.

Cyber warfare's potential to shape policy is already evident with the creation of new high-tech branches in some of the most advanced militaries in the world. The establishment in 2009 of US Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) and its sub components in the US Army and Navy is a testament to its impact and the seriousness with which cyber warfare is being taken in the halls of the Pentagon. Academically, US military schools are also brushing up on the new battlefield, and the US Naval Academy has just announced a cyber warfare course as a requirement for its cadets and future officers.

Ireland will not be immune or isolated from the effects of cyber warfare. After all, this battle space is not constrained by geographical or physical boundaries. Access to such a space is immediate from New York to Beijing, provided internet access is available.

Currently, Ireland is home to some of the world's largest and most technologically sophisticated multinational companies who have a major interest in having a secure environment in which to do business. Although not critical to the state's infrastructure in the military sense, the threat of cyber attacks on commercial activities, if not taken seriously, has the potential to disrupt the economic and financial wellbeing of the state.

A battlefield where the only sound is the endless tapping of keyboards and the measure of defeat is signalled by the 'blue screen of death' (BSOD) resembles a challenge the likes of which have never been seen before. In the coming years the thresholds of cyber technology and warfare will be challenged and changed allowing the emergence of some type of order and concepts of battle. The hope is that this balance will not destroy the very nature and purpose of the internet itself - the movement of information.

Robert Tarrant holds a BA in international relations from Dublin City University (DCU). He is a recent graduate of MSc Strategic Studies at the University of Aberdeen and a member of the Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA). ■



# THE FAR SIDE OF JUPITER

## RDF Participation in the EU Battlegroup Ex

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY CQMS MIKE BARRETT (D COY, 62 RES INF BN)

Exercise 'Jupiter', the work-up exercise for 2 ISTAR Coy, EU Battlegroup 2012, took place in the Wicklow area between March 26th-30th 2012. In response to a request to 62 Res Inf Bn for a platoon-size group to act as enemy/insurgents, a volunteer group of 30 personnel from the unit reported to Cathal Brugha Bks on March 26th.

As the reservists' participation in the exercise would require them to spend 72 hours on the ground, sleeping bags, kip mats, hexis and other necessary stores had been issued over the preceding weekend.

The platoon was briefed on the exercise

scenario, which involved a state breaking up into various warring sub-states, each with their own armed militia. The RDF platoon was to act as one of these hostile armed groups; the so-called Sylvanian Provincial Militia.

To help make the Sylvanians stand out, the platoon would not be wearing normal DPMs for the duration of the exercise, but was instead issued with an assortment of old blue Naval Service and Air Corps uniforms, giving them a realistic militia-like appearance. To reinforce the realism the platoon was issued with a variety of decommissioned foreign weapons, including Eastern Bloc AK rifles, a Soviet-style RPG launcher, a German HK rifle, and even an old Gustav SMG! These touches gave the platoon a very unique and unusual appearance. It would also give the ISTAR Coy

plenty to report back on in terms of dress and weapons when they

found us.

The first day of the exercise involved the platoon moving to the area in which it would

be operating and setting up a base camp. Thankfully the weather all that week was to consist of a cloudless mini heat-wave, with temperatures rising to 20°C or more each day, although becoming quiet cold after dark.

Our role was to provide a target grouping for the ISTAR Coy to locate, observe and report on. And so the platoon began a series of daily assigned tasks - simulating a militia/insurgent force - training and carrying out operations such as posting sentries at the basecamp, local foot patrols, and mobile patrols in Sylvanian transits and 4x4s.



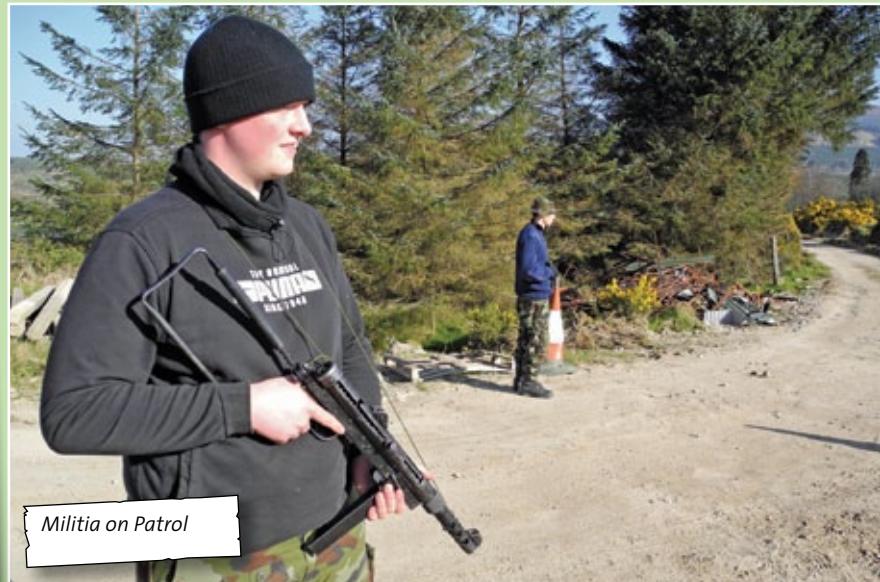
An improvised rifle range was set up in a disused quarry some two miles from basecamp and used for dry weapons practice and, later on, section-level contact drills, all of which we understood had been covertly observed by the ISTAR recce teams.

Night patrols, listening patrols and basecamp sentry duties kept the platoon operating at a high tempo pace each night. On a more practical level, catering was well provided for by 62 Inf Bn cadre staff who delivered meals three times a day from the cookhouse in Kilbride Camp.

Air Corps helicopter activity also took place during the three days, some of which involved simulating the extraction of some members of the platoon from the area of operations.

Later in the exercise the recce elements of 2 ISTAR Coy covertly approached the basecamp to observe and report on the ongoing routine and activity.

From the point of view of the RDF, Exercise 'Jupiter' gave us a chance to function in our primary role, supporting the PDF, not in an operational role, of course, but in providing troops to provide assistance for an important exercise. As far as we could tell the whole exercise was very well organised in its detail, scope, and especially the amount of assets involved. Overall, Exercise 'Jupiter' is most certainly an exercise in which we would look forward to assisting in again.





# RESERVISTS MARATHON MARCH

BY CPL NEIL RICHARDSON (56 RES INF BN)

**O**n Monday 31 October 2011 two RDF NCOs, Cpl John Carroll (Sp Coy, 65 Res Inf Bn) and Cpl Eoghan McNamara (62 Res Eng Coy), took part in the Dublin City Marathon. Like many of their fellow runners, John and Eoghan were participating in order to raise money for charity: unlike their fellow runners the pair of reservists were wearing uniform, boots, helmet, webbing and backpack, having received permission to represent the RDF. This made it a marathon with a difference for the two NCOs, who were participating to raise money for Pieta House (the Centre for the Prevention of Self-Harm or Suicide) and Aspen Counselling Services, both based in Lucan, Co. Dublin.

The idea of marching the marathon in uniform with kit started when John decided to do it for the 2010 marathon. "I just thought it might be a good way to promote the Reserve while at the same time raising money for a worthy cause," says John. "I got permission to wear my uniform

and it was a great experience."

John, an operations administrator in civilian life, who is currently a student on the 2011/2012 RDF Potential Officers course, raised €5,200 in the marathon that year for the Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland. This year Eoghan, a mechanical engineer, who met John when they were both students on their RDF Potential NCOs course back in 2008, signed up to march with him in this year's event.

When asked why they chose Pieta House and Aspen Counselling Services as their charities John said that the wife of a sergeant from his unit is a co-runner of Aspen Counselling, and Pieta House is a well known name in suicide prevention. "What really decided us, however," he says, "was that the sergeant's best friend tragically committed suicide, so we decided to focus our efforts on raising money for suicide prevention and awareness."

The RDF pair went to great lengths to reach their goal of raising €5,000. Along with setting up a [mycharity.ie](http://mycharity.ie)

webpage where people could donate online, they ran table quizzes and raffles, including a very successful one held in MacTurcaills Bar in Dublin, and organised two non-uniform days in a primary and secondary school. They also managed to secure sponsorship from many individuals and some businesses.

John and Eoghan found training for the marathon an enjoyable challenge. "We trained separately three days a week on our own gym programmes," says John. "and then every Sunday in the months leading up to the marathon we trained together in the Phoenix Park. We purposely trained with more weight than we'd be carrying on the day, and started off with 10k marches, building up to 20k over time."

When the big day came, Cpl Carroll and Cpl McNamara finished the marathon in eight-and-a-half hours, and were delighted to have beaten their fundraising target by raising €8,350.

In closing, the two reservists would like to express their thanks to everyone in Sp Coy, 65 Res Inf Bn and 62 Res Eng Coy; Capt Bernard Morgan (OC Sp Coy, 65 Res Inf Bn); Comdt John Fitzsimons (OC 62 Res Eng Coy); and Sgt Fergie Boylan (PDF Cadre, Sp Coy, 65 Res Inf Bn); and everyone who sponsored them and supported them during the past several months. All donations were greatly appreciated. They also wished to express their appreciation to MacTurcaills Pub and Lucan Sarsfields GAA for the use of their facilities for their fundraising events. ■





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- No single supplement on select dates in May
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# DRIVER STANDING ORDERS PARA 44 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

In this month's tac-aide we are going to look at Driver Standing Orders (DSO) Para 44, which deals with traffic accidents. A large percentage of our personnel are qualified to drive service vehicles and to carry out driving details on a daily basis, be it on exercise, general duties or on aid to the civil power (ATCP) operations such as cash-in-transit escorts, prisoner escorts, or EOD, etc.

While road traffic accidents (RTAs) are not a regular occurrence, they can and will happen. Hopefully, as a driver you will never be involved in an RTA but nevertheless you are obliged to know the following standing orders:

- a.** Where any person is injured or any property is damaged and a service vehicle is involved in the occurrence of such injury or damage (whether the driver or management of such vehicle was or was not the cause of such injury or damage) the driver will halt and dismount. Where an officer is present the driver will comply with his instructions.
- b.** The driver will immediately obtain such particulars of the occurrence as will enable him to submit a report and sketch on AF 439 as laid down in sub-paras hereunder.
- c.** Every accident will be reported to An Garda Síochána, as soon as possible after the occurrence, and a member of An Garda Síochána will be requested to visit the scene.
- d.** When a member of An Garda Síochána is present all conversations or questions concerning the case will be addressed to him and not to any other parties involved.
- e.** Care will be taken by the driver of a service vehicle which is involved in any occurrence not to say, do or write anything in the presence of, or to persons other than his superior officer, that could be construed as an admission of liability on his part. Money will not be tendered or accepted.



- f.** Where a person or persons are injured in an accident it is permissible to convey them to a hospital or to a doctor.
- g.** Altercations with other persons regarding occurrences are strictly forbidden.
- h.** On return to barracks and before going off duty the driver of a service vehicle involved in an occurrence will submit a written report, together with a sketch of the scene, to the NCO on duty.
- i.** The report will contain the following information:
  - (1)** The time, date and place of the occurrence.
  - (2)** Names and addresses of:
    - a. Owner of other property involved;
    - b. Occupants of service vehicle;
    - c. Occupants of other vehicle or vehicles;
    - d. Injured parties;
    - e. Independent witnesses;
    - f. Doctor treating injured persons and at what hospital;
    - g. Any other parties involved.
  - (3)** Registration numbers, make and type of all vehicles involved.
  - (4)** Particulars of the other party's insurance.
  - (5)** Any other relevant information.





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Tales of

# SURVIVAL AND SUNKEN TREASURE OFF THE IRISH COAST

BY: JAMES SCANNELL

PHOTOS: PUBLISHED WITH KIND PERMISSION OF ODYSSEY MARINE EXPLORATION INC.

**In September 2011 Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc, based in Tampa, Florida, announced that it had confirmed the identity and location of the SS Gairsoppa, some 4,700m beneath the surface of the North Atlantic approximately 300 miles off the coast of Ireland. The 412ft, 5,237 ton, single-screw, steel-hulled vessel was sunk on February 16th 1941 by the German submarine U-101 while en route from India to Britain. Her cargo included silver bullion valued at £600,000 at 1941 prices (£150million in 2012).**

Odyssey uses innovative methods and state-of-the-art deep-sea technology and is a world leader in deep-sea shipwreck exploration. It also allows the general public to share in the excitement of deep-sea exploration by making treasures and artefacts available for viewing through its website, exhibits, books, television, merchandise, educational programmes and its virtual museum ([www.odysseysvirtualmuseum.com](http://www.odysseysvirtualmuseum.com)). Odyssey's shipwreck operations are the subject of the Discovery Channel television series 'Treasure Quest', which began in 2009.

In 2003 Odyssey discovered the American Civil War-era SS Republic in 1,700ft of water and successfully recovered over 50,000 coins and 14,000 artefacts. In May 2007 they recovered 500,000 gold and silver coins from a colonial-era site code-named 'Black Swan', followed two years later by the discovery of Admiral Balchin's HMS Victory.

In 2010 Odyssey won the salvage contract for the Gairsoppa. Under the contract the company will retain 80% of the value of the silver bullion salvaged.

Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Company, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, built the vessel as the SS War Roebuck for the British Ministry of War in 1919 but a month after her launch in August she was renamed SS Gairsoppa and joined the British India Steam Navigation Company's fleet, working the waters of the Far East, Australia and East Africa.

In 1940 the Gairsoppa was enlisted in the service of the Brit-

ish Ministry of War Transport and in December of that year, under the command of Capt GH Hyland, commenced her final voyage, from Calcutta to the UK, with a cargo of pig iron, tea, general cargo, and about 240 tons of silver bullion bars.

At Freetown, Sierra Leone, the Gairsoppa joined convoy SL-64. As the convoy reached the northern latitudes the Gairsoppa, laden down with its heavy cargo, was forced to reduce speed due to high winds and heavy ocean swells. On February 14th, with supplies of coal running low and unable to keep up with the convoy, the Gairsoppa was forced to leave the convoy and sail independently, with Capt Hyland plotting an independent course for Galway.

Around 8am on February 16th the Gairsoppa was circled by a German Focke-Wulf FW200 Condor aircraft and at around 1030pm that evening she was spotted by U-101 commanded by Kaptänleutnant Ernst Mengersen, who mounted an attack from the starboard side. One torpedo struck the No 2 hold and the resulting explosion brought down the foremast and with it the ship's radio aerials, which prevented distress signals being sent out. With the ship sinking by the bow, the order to abandon ship was given. Great difficulty was experienced launching the lifeboats due to the combination of the ship still being under power and a heavy swell.

One lifeboat, commanded by Second Officer RH Ayres, drifted astern and narrowly missed the ship's rotating propeller blades when the stern rose in the air as the vessel started to go down by the bow. According to Ayres the ship was on fire for'ard and aft and he heard the sound of machine-gun fire from the submarine, which had apparently surfaced but did not detect them. Ayres threw out a sea anchor and waited until daylight. All that remained of Captain Hyland and his crew of 82 (European officers and Indian ratings) and two gunners were eight Europeans and 23 Indians, two of whom had been taken off the only other lifeboat sighted.

Ayres hoisted a reef sail and headed eastwards. While a

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shortage of drinking water - most of it had been lost during the launch - made eating the dry sea biscuits extremely difficult, keeping warm from the biting cold February weather was the main priority as the North Atlantic at that time of the year was a very harsh environment, especially in an open boat. A canvas canopy provided the officers with some shelter while the Indians wrapped themselves in blankets, but within four days hypothermia began to set in. Drinking water ran out after eight days and by the 13th day, when land - the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall - was finally sighted, only three Europeans and two Indians remained alive.

Too weak and exhausted to try for the safety of Falmouth beyond the headland, the survivors attempted to steer the lifeboat into a small cliff-lined bay called Caerthillian Cove. Unfortunately, the turbulent sea capsized the lifeboat and all the occupants were thrown into the raging surf. Ayres and two other survivors managed to scramble back on board the lifeboat as it was righted and dragged back out to sea by the undertow. A second attempt was made at landing but the waves capsized the lifeboat again and the occupants were thrown back into the sea.

Three evacuee schoolgirls from London who were walking the cliffs above gathering firewood, saw the lifeboat being capsized. One of girls ran down to the beach and shouted to the men to keep swimming as help was coming, while another dashed across the fields and alerted the coastguard.

One of the boat's occupants managed to reach the rocks but was washed off and drowned, while a second managed to hold onto the overturned lifeboat but lost his grip before the Lizard lifeboat arrived. Ayres managed to keep afloat and was rescued from the sea by a member of the coastguard who ran down to the beach, waded into the sea and managed to drag him ashore more dead than alive. Ayres was then brought up the cliff on a hurdle to Lord Semphill's large house at the top of the cliff and was later removed to Heston Cottage Hospital to recover from his ordeal.

The bodies of the other two men drowned in the second landing attempt were later recovered and identified as Radio Officer RF Hampshire and Gunner Norman Thomas. The bodies of two unidentified Asians were also recovered and all four remains were buried at Landewednack, Cornwall.

The captain and the 10 British crew members who drowned are commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London, and the 70 Indian sailors on the Chittagong War Memorial.

Second Officer Ayres was later awarded an MBE for his efforts to rescue his fellow sailors. After an eight-month long recovery he returned to sea and later reached the rank of captain. He subsequently became a British India Steam Navigation Company cargo superintendent, serving in Calcutta, Singapore and Bombay. He retired in 1964 and died in 1992.

Two weeks after announcing the discovery of the Gairsoppa, Odyssey announced that it had discovered the First World War shipwreck SS Mantola, which was carrying a cargo of silver valued at £110,000 (1917 prices) when it was torpedoed by U-61 on February 7th 1917. The wreck was discovered in 2,500m of water about 100 miles away from the wreck of the Gairsoppa. In September 2011 the UK Department of Trade awarded the contract for the recovery of the Mantola's cargo to Odyssey, with the company again allowed to retain 80% of the net silver salvaged.

*Footnote: The U-101 was stricken at Neustadt on 21 Oct, 1943. It was scuttled and the wreck was subsequently broken up there on May 3rd 1945.*



SS Gairsoppa



The torpedo hole in the hull of the SS Gairsoppa



U-101



'ZEUS' Odyssey's Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)

# Packing a PUNCH

BY COMDT NEIL TAYLOR (DFAA)  
PHOTOS BY CPL NOEL COSS

Boxing has a proud and distinguished history in the Defence Forces, with serving personnel performing with distinction at national and international championships, and hosting a major championship in 2002 when the boxing was held in the Curragh. There have been many DF boxers of note, including Phil Sutcliffe and Tony DeLoughrey, with the most notable of all perhaps being Michael Carruth who won a gold medal in the Barcelona Olympics.

Defence Forces boxing is currently going through a renaissance and resurgence and is very much 'punching its weight' at national and international levels. Gnr Ross Hickey is the current National Elite Champion at 64kgs; Pte Ciaran O'Griofa is the National U-21 Champion at 85kgs; and Gnr Paul Farrell is the National Novice Champion at 75kgs, having defeated Cpl Ian Joyce in an all-Defence Forces final earlier this year.

That strong foundation is enhanced by a large number of competitive boxers at elite, intermediate, novice and underage levels. In addition, the DF boxing stable has been augmented by the arrival of a number of former underage boxing stars, such as Pte Keith Boyle, and international-standard kick-boxers, including a current world champion, Pte Brian Brosnan, who is also a former junior, intermediate and U-21 national boxing champion.

A progressive series of training camps, internal championships, coaching courses and support-staff development has taken place in the last six months. A very successful DF Championship took place in Aiken Bks, Dundalk, in December 2011 with almost 50 boxers on show. In addition, a close, mutually beneficial relationship has been fostered with the Irish Amateur Boxing Association. Evidence of this positive relationship was shown when the DF hosted the national Elite boxing panel training camp in the DFTC in February. Among those taking part were Olympic medallist, Paddy Barnes; European champion, Joe Ward; world champion, Katie Taylor; and our own Ross Hickey.

A competitive match took place in March 2012 against a Garda Síochána selection and Crumlin Boxing Club. The DF team won a landslide victory over the GS selection on a score of eight victories to one, with one bout drawn. A follow-on 'novice only'



Capt John Moody V Garda Sean O'Brien



## DEFENCE FORCES -V- GARDA SÍOCHÁNA SELECTION

**28TH MARCH 2012, MCKEE BKS**

### RED CORNER

Pte Shane Egan  
2 Inf Bn

Capt John Moody  
5 Inf Bn

Tommy Fay  
27 Inf Bn

Pa O'Shea  
4 Inf Bn

Rec Brian Brosnan  
BTC, 4 W Bde

Keith Boyle  
5 Inf Bn

Pte Ciaran O'Giofa  
1 Inf Bn

Cpl Tommy Sheenan  
Air Corp

John Joyce  
5 Inf Bn

Rec Liam Green  
BTC, 4 W Bde

### BLUE CORNER

Gnr Paul Farrell  
2 Fd Arty Regt

Sean O'Brien  
Garda

Pte Dave McCormack  
1 Inf Bn

David McDonald  
Crumlin

David Conlon  
Garda

Sean Allen  
Garda

Cormack O'Connor  
Crumlin

Niall Kennedy  
Garda

Joe Kavanagh  
Garda

John Corcoran  
Crumlin

### WINNER

Shane Egan

John Moody

Tommy Fay

Pa O'Shea

Brian Brosnan

Keith Boyle

Draw

Niall Kennedy

John Joyce

Liam Green

show against the GS is scheduled to take place on April 28th allowing for a wider trawl of talent to be vetted in competitive action.

The immediate objective of DF boxing is to provide a support system for boxers at all levels to compete in all grades of provincial, national and, ultimately, international competition. To this end a strong, dynamic core of support staff, coaches, umpires and referees have been working tirelessly to promote, support and drive home the boxing gospel. These include Pte Paul Thompson, Capt Jamie Feely, Pte Declan Maher, Lt Eoghan McDermott, Cpl Martin Fennessy, Capt John Moody and Sgt Brendan Murray. Many others (too many to name) are actively boxing, training, umpiring, refereeing or supporting boxing, and thereby ensuring that it is on a solid foundation and building for the future. We are all just waiting for the next big Defence Forces knockout success story. So 'Seconds, out!' and get ready for action. ■





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## TRINITY COLLEGE

The University of Dublin

Irish School of Ecumenics

### Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict & Dispute Resolution Studies – Dublin

**Email:** [cdrssec@tcd.ie](mailto:cdrssec@tcd.ie)

This programme interests those, in both the public and private sectors, who wish to study civil mediation and other non-adversarial dispute and conflict resolution processes (ADRs) which are increasingly a part of legislative and management structures in the EU and internationally.

Through an alliance with Mediation Forum-Ireland those who complete the CDRS programme will have an opportunity to have their names included in the relevant specialist panel of Accredited Mediators. This one year programme is taught at ISE, Trinity College Dublin on two evenings per week over 24 weeks (September to April) with two practical, skill-based mediation training workshops held on Saturdays.

### M.Phil. in International Peace Studies – Dublin

**Email:** [peacesec@tcd.ie](mailto:peacesec@tcd.ie)

International Peace Studies provides an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the sources of armed conflict and war. It examines the conditions for achieving sustainable peace through peacemaking and peacebuilding. The programme draws on the fields of international relations, ethics, development studies and conflict resolution. Our graduates are employed in the diplomatic service, in NGOs and international organizations such as the UN, in media and education. Others continue to PhD programmes.

### M.Phil. in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation – Belfast

**Email:** [reconsec@tcd.ie](mailto:reconsec@tcd.ie)

This programme is a unique opportunity to study in a society in transition from conflict. Students can specialise in Master courses in conflict resolution or reconciliation, or pursue a joint Master course across both areas. Conflict Resolution offers specialisation in practical skills, meeting the needs of both experienced practitioners and those wishing to enter this field. Reconciliation Studies offers an inter-disciplinary approach to politics, theology and ethics and is excellent preparation for Ph.D. study.

*M.Phil. students can study full-time for 12 months or part-time for 24 months. The Master in Conflict Resolution will be delivered through short-block intensive programmes.*

For further information regarding these programmes, our M.Litt. and Ph.D. programmes, our M.Phil. in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies, all relevant closing dates or to apply on-line please refer to the following websites:

[www.tcd.ie/ise/](http://www.tcd.ie/ise/); [www.tcd.ie/Graduate\\_Studies/](http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/); <http://www.tcd.ie/ise/study/apply/>.

Applications will be considered after the closing dates only if places remain available.

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Bea House, Milltown Park, Dublin 6

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683 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 4EG,  
Tel. +44.28.90770087; Fax: +44.28.90373986



# GEAR REVIEW

The new sponsors of our Gear Review page is Team-Alpha, a company founded in 2008 to provide a dedicated online store for law enforcement personnel and members of the military to purchase extra equipment and clothing. Starting with brands such as 5.11 Tactical, Streamlight and ASP, the company expanded their range with the addition of several more brands to cater for the hunting, outdoor and Airsoft markets as well. They are committed to bringing their customers the highest quality and best value products into the future.

## ASP TRIAD LED FLASHLIGHT

Retail Price: €97.95

A flagship flashlight for ASP, the Triad is described as 'a new generation of high-intensity LED light'. The Triad features independent focusing elements that can be set to either a room-illuminating halo or a focused, central, penetrating beam. There is also a strobe function. The Triad's LEDs provide an intensively bright light that is considerably higher than similar palm-sized flashlights on the market.

The Triad's ability to automatically recognise battery strength and adjust the driver to compensate for any change in voltage is a beneficial feature for tactical use. Each Triad is precision machined from high-strength, aerospace aluminium. A satin-black, hard-coat finish is accented by an extremely durable, foamed-vinyl grip. The Triad is powered by Lithium cells with a 10-year shelf life, is O-ring sealed for water resistance, and has been performance tested under the most severe conditions.

The Triad's activation system is sensitive and quiet, the rear-mounted switch provides universal orientation when grasping the light, and the over-moulded activation button is always under the thumb. The three-position rotary collar is positive and direct: in the centremost position the switch is locked off, and the collar is rotated to the right for constant-on and to the left for intermittent light.

### Tested by Cpl Finola Lafferty (DFHO)

"The Triad's independent focusing element, which can illuminate the room or provide a focused penetrating beam, is a very useful feature. It provides a very bright light and the flashlight itself is, light, waterproof and extremely durable. Although it's a bit pricey I would still recommend this flashlight."



## CAMELBAK MXC COMBAT GLOVES

Retail Price €49.95

These gloves are used by the US Army and have been combat tested in close-quarter battle, military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) and working in and around heavy equipment and vehicles. The MXC Combat Gloves feature a military Kevlar® brand fibre blend (96% Kevlar® for flame retardancy and cut-resistance and 4% P-140 anti-static fibre for safety around fuels, explosives and electronics). The design also incorporates the Flex-Cut™ index finger, which provides maximum dexterity and flexibility without material build-up in-trigger. There is also concealed, interior seam stitching using para-aramid thread, which enhances durability, especially around vulnerable fingertips.

The MXC Combat Gloves have a smooth-leather palm, fingers and knuckles, specially treated to improve durability, and a Kevlar® fibre knit cuff that provides easy-on, easy-off comfort. These gloves also have proven perspiration/moisture resistance, incorporating a tanning technology which keeps leather soft and supple for the life of the glove, even after repeated exposure to perspiration or moisture.

### Tested by Alan Kelly (Depot Ord, Rtd)

"I used these gloves on two recent visits to the range and found the quality very good. They were breathable, comfortable and flexible and they didn't impede mobility or dexterity of the fingers. The leather provided a good non-slip contact with the rifle, which was still

pretty good even when wet. I felt no loss of sensitivity on the trigger and trigger control during firing was not affected.

While I found the gloves are not waterproof and not ideal for the cold I still think they are suited to typical Irish weather.

Overall I would say they are good value and would recommend them to a friend."



*Rating: Comfort 9/10; Fit (true to size) 10/10; Grip 10/10; Value for money 9/10.*



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## COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha are offering the complete Magpul DVD Collection consisting of The Art of the Tactical Carbine Volumes 1&2 (7 discs) and The Art of the Dynamic Handgun (4 discs), featuring over 21 hours of practical and instructional material.

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Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to subs@military.ie by 23rd May 2012. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

For information on more of Team-Alpha's products visit [www.team-alpha.ie](http://www.team-alpha.ie) or contact [customerservice@team-alpha.ie](mailto:customerservice@team-alpha.ie). You can also follow them on:



# NOTICEBOARD

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

## ONE ADC/AGM

The Annual Convention 2012 (including AGM) of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONE) will take place in the Cavan Crystal Hotel, Co. Cavan, over the weekend of the 15th, 16th, 17th of June 2012, and will commence on the Saturday morning at 11:00 am. Contact ONE for more info: 01-4850666

## Leading Seaman Michael Quinn DSM Memorial Weekend

Drogheda 26th and 27th May 2012 hosted by the Michael Quinn Branch (Dublin) of the Naval Association.

## Uniform Services

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## Curragh Military Museum

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

**For all queries contact:** 045-445342 or email: [curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie](mailto:curragh.militarymuseum@defenceforces.ie).

# SUDOKU

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

## MAY Q&A COMPETITION



1. Who is the pilot featured on the front cover of Aprils Issue?
2. Who is the new President of the GAA?
3. How many years ago did the Titanic sink?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) for a chance to win Stieg Larsson's 'The Girl Who Played With Fire', the 2nd part of the Millennium Trilogy. Last month's winner of the Hawker Hurricane Mkl 1:72 Airfix Model Plane was Airman Terry Murray, Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell.

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

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

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

# REVIEWS

reviews

135

## BOOK

### 'CROSSFIRE' 1916 & THE BATTLE FOR THE FOUR COURTS

**Author:** Paul O'Brien

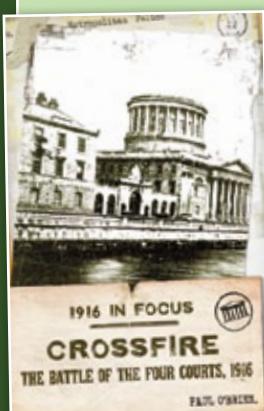
**Published:** New Island Books (28 Mar 2012, [www.newisland.ie](http://www.newisland.ie))

**Pages:** 126      **Price:** €12.99

**ISBN:** 978-1-84840-129-7

**EASTER MONDAY 1916**, Comdt Edward Daly commanding the 1 Bn the Irish Volunteers, occupied the Four Courts and the surrounding area. Using a labyrinth of streets, alleyways and tenement buildings, Daly and the Volunteers created a killing ground that would witness some of the fiercest fighting of the 1916 Rising. 'Crossfire' 1916 & The Battle for the Four Courts is a factual account of the battles that erupted in and around the Four Courts area of Dublin city.

From the Volunteers rapid deployment and their first contact with British Forces on that Easter Monday to their refusal to surrender until Sunday 30th April, the author clearly lays out the events of that turbulent week in Irish history. Explained day by day and hour by hour, this easy to read book examines the battles that were fought in the streets and buildings around the courts area of Dublin. From the military perspective the battles are well described with an in depth look at fighting and defending in built up areas. The difficulties of combat in an urban environment are well detailed, an experience that today's soldiers can relate to. The author also examines the atrocities that were uncovered on North King Street as the Rising came to its bloody conclusion. The inquest and subsequent cover up are all well detailed within the book, a terrible tragedy that still remains unsolved to this day. This book is as near as one can possibly get to the fighting without actually taking part. This is Paul O'Brien's third work on the 1916 Rising and is a must for all those interested in the military aspects of the 1916 Rising.



## DVD

### ACT OF VALOR (2012)

**Directors:** Mike McCoy & Scott Waugh

**Genre:** War/Action

**Certification:** 12A

**Run Time:** 1 Hr 50 Min

**Cinema Release Date:** 23 March 2012

**Rental Release Date:** 5 June 2012

**Starring:** Alex Veadov, Roselyn Sanchez, Nestor Serrano, Emilio Rivera, Jason Cottle, Gonzalo Menendez, Ailsa Marshall, Drea Castro, Alexander Asefa and Sonny Sison

**USING AN EXCEPTIONAL** blend of real-life people and original filmmaking; *Act of Valor* stars a group of active-duty Navy SEALs, which shows their true commitment to country, team and family. The film is inspired by true events and combines excellent combat sequences using the latest battlefield technology resulting in a true to life action film for the ultimate action/adventure movie fan.

The film focuses on a SEAL Team and shows the secretive world of these elite and highly trained soldiers. In a story of global anti-terrorism, *Act of Valor* takes audiences deep into the kidnapping and rescue of a CIA operative, which reveals the discovery of a deadly terrorist plot against the US. The SEAL team is then dispatched on a race against time manhunt, to prevent the terrorist attack.

There has been some talk about the quality of the acting, but take into account who is playing the main characters, then this is not a movie about acting, if we can believe that professional footballers and wrestlers can play soldiers then why can't we let real Navy SEALs show us how its done! <http://actofvalor.com>

## GAME

### TOM CLANCY'S GHOST RECON: FUTURE SOLDIER



**FROM THE AWARD-WINNING** team that brought us Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter 1 & 2, this game features cutting-edge technology, prototype high-tech weaponry, and state-of-the-art single-player and multiplayer modes. The game will go beyond the core Ghost Recon franchise and deliver a fresh gameplay experience, with unparalleled levels of quality that will excite long-time fans and newcomers alike. Become part of a Special Mission Unit under the direct command of the Joint Spec Ops Comd, they are the elite US Special Forces better known by their battlefield legend name, they are the Ghosts...

In the near future, four of these elite soldiers serve as the tip of the spear in a hidden war raging across the globe. But even as the Ghosts accomplish their objectives, they discover the threat they face is greater than they ever imagined - one that could alter the international balance of power forever. Only the best of the best, soldiers with a unique mix of skills on and off the battlefield, ever get to wear the coveted Ghost insignia. Equipped with the most advanced combat technology, the Ghosts track down the highest-value targets in the highest-risk conflict areas around the world, fighting from the shadows in any climate or terrain.

**Genre:** First Person Shooter - **Platform:** PS3, PC & Xbox 360 - **PEGI:** 16 - **Price:** €44.97 (PC €30) - **Released:** 25 May 2012 - <http://ghostrecon.ubi.com> © 2012 Ubisoft Entertainment. All Rights Reserved.

# WHAT I DO

NAME

CIARA SHEEHAN

RANK

2/LT

UNIT

1 FLD ARTY REG

**On graduating from the Cadet School**

**you are assigned to your unit. There**

**are two aspects to my job. One would be on deployment on the gun**

**line, and the other back in barracks.**

As a junior officer you then have to complete a Corps specific Young Officers course. A YOs course teaches you the deployment of artillery in the field. You are taught in the use of the L118 and L119 105mm field guns, and the Ruag 120mm mortar. You also learn the positions of Command Post Officer (CPO), and General Post Officer (GPO). On a YOs course you are given familiarisation on all of the other specialist equipment and positions used by an artillery regiment such as, Forward Observation Officer (FOO), the Mini Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and the Surveillance Target Acquisition LTAVs (Light Armoured Tactical Vehicles), so you know how they work and fit into the bigger picture. However, these are specialist courses which you do later.

On the gun line you have a Battery Captain who is in command of the battery. Under him as a young artillery officer you have three main appointments: CPO, GPO and FOO. A battery will either have six

L118 or L119 105mm field guns or six Ruag 120mm mortars. The battery is broken into a left and a right section. There are three guns in each. You have a section NCO for each of those.

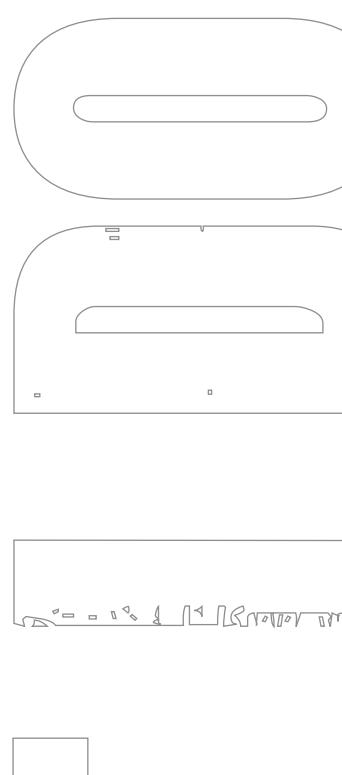
The GPO lays out the guns, he is almost like a Recce party as a lot of his work is done in advance. He works ahead of the gun and surveys them in. As each gun is laid he then moves onto the next position.

The CPO is in charge of and on the gun line giving out the bearings and elevations to the gun crews. The CPO gets the target information from the FOO team, which is in a Forward Observation Post. The CPO then calculates the information either manually on the plotter, or onto the two plotting computers the Gun Zen for the 105mm or the Gun

Dog for the 120mm mortars. These in turn work out the bearings and elevations, which are then passed onto the guns.

Barrack life is very similar to other units in the Defence Forces. You have our routine unit training programme, duties, and courses. Keeping familiarised with artillery equipment is a vital part of your annual training. A regiment is limited to the amount of time it can spend on the ground each year. Another aspect to an artillery regiments daily life is ceremonial duties. Ceremonial duties for artillery units are quite unique. For ceremonial purposes we are trained on and operate a battery of 6 Royal Ordnance QF 25pdr field guns. Our unit is also responsible for the battery 6 QF 12pdr Coastal Defence guns on Fort Davis.

The artillery is a great corps to work in. It brings a totally different aspect to life into the Defence Forces both at home and overseas. ■



# Making your money go further



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### Members Draw

#### Results Sheet for 29th March 2012

**1st Prize, €10,000:** Ian McGill, Kilcock, Co. Kildare

**2nd Prize, €5,000:** Joseph Morrison, Cobh, Co Cork

**3rd Prize, €2,500:** Philip Owens, Drogheda, Co Louth

**4th Prize, €1,500:** Clare Dargan, Athy, Co Kildare

**€500 Prize:** Thomas Mc Dermott, Newbridge, Co. Kildare; Janet Peakin Callery, Raheny Dublin 5; David Lynch, Cobh, Co. Cork; Alan Mc Dermott, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

**€100 Prize:** Kenneth Forrester, Swords, Co. Dublin; Alan Kirwan, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois; Eugene Farrell, Dundalk, Co. Louth; Colm O'Connor, Celbridge, Co. Kildare; Declan Sheridan, Donabate, Co. Dublin; Joseph Peter Whelan, Nurney, Co. Kildare; Jimmy Cullen, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary; Brian Kelly, Crumlin, Dublin 12; Derek O'Bryan, The Curragh, Co. Kildare; Martin Bolger, Thomastown, Kilkenny; Caroline Warnock, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal; Alan Greene, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon; Terence Pierce, Cobh, Co. Cork; Shane Morris, Newbridge, Co. Kildare; Vincent Mulligan, Mall Road, Co. Monaghan.

### Congratulations to all our winners

*The next draw will take place in 26th April 2012.*

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# CORK CITY MARATHON

## INTER-SERVICES CHALLENGE

4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
2012  
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

### The Race

Competition will take place in the full Marathon and the Team Relay.

### Marathon

- Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with Lord Mayor's Trophy for first man and woman U40 and O40
- Trophy in each Service category.

### Relay

- Teams of five
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with Lord Mayor's Trophy for first team
- Teams must be made up of serving or retired service personnel
- Prize for team raising the most funds for charity
- Prize for best participatory team as judged by Panel.

### Eligible entrants

Serving and/or Retired Uniformed Service Personnel, including:

- Airport Fire & Police
- Ambulance Service
- Civil Defence
- Coastguard
- Defence Forces
- Fire Service
- an Garda Síochána/Police
- Registered Nurses
- Naval Service
- Postal Service
- Prison Service

### How to Enter

Use the standard entry form (enter online or download a copy) but ensure you enter your Service and Unit information on the form.

Further information is available at [www.corkcitymarathon.ie](http://www.corkcitymarathon.ie)



MEMBER OF

