

THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

AN COSANTÓIR

www.dfmagazine.ie

(ESTABLISHED 1940)

Price: €3.00 (Stg £2.70)



Winner of EMPA's
'Best Article Award 2013'



EUTM SOMALIA

KENNEDY'S CADETS

INTERNATIONAL RECCE

RDF FIBUA TRAINING



ISSN 0010-9460



9 770010 946001

33

Shortlisted for the Media Pioneer Awards 2013 (UK)



Kingston Technology Company, Inc. is the world's independent memory leader.

Kingston® now offers more than 2,000 memory products that support nearly every device that uses memory, from computers, servers and printers to MP3 players, digital cameras and mobile phones.

Blanchardstown Industrial Park
Snugborough Road
Dublin 15
Tel: 01 812 8888
www.kingston.com



Best wishes to the Defence Forces

Protected Mobility



Defense Solutions for the Future

GENERAL DYNAMICS
European Land Systems



Contents

VOLUME 74
Number 01
February 2014



CONTENTS



30 History



32 Sport

FEATURES



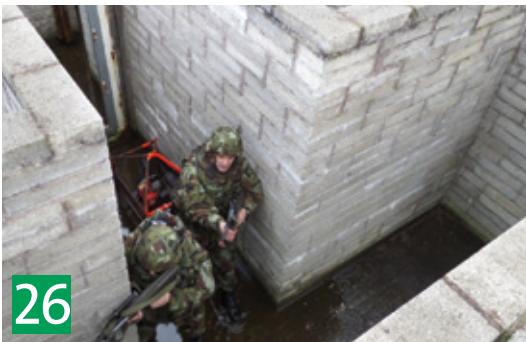
16

MP Training in Somalia
By Lt Tomás Caulfield (MP Corps)



21

Value Added: Change for the 21st Century
By Comdt Peter Ott (Trg & Ed Branch)



26

RDF FIBUA Training
By Lt Ross Wainer (2 Arty Regt)



18

International Recce Competition
By Lt Jonathan Gray & Lt Donnacha Reilly



20

Caring For Veterans
By Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald



24

Piracy on the High Seas
By Paul O'Brien MA

REGULARS

6 On Parade

8 In Focus

14 World Strategic Picture

29 Tac Aide

30 History

32 Sport

35 Gear Review

36 Notice-board

37 Reviews

38 What I do...

why you should advertise with us:

The **only** Official Magazine of the Irish Defence Forces (founded Dec 1940)

It carries information on all elements of the Irish Defence Forces. Topics cover all aspects of military life including; training, military education, overseas operations, new equipment, personalities, associations & events, international military affairs, humanitarian work, unit activities and military history.



Joe Nazari JM Publishing, Co. Wicklow **Tel:** +353 1 443 3476
Sales: +353 (0)871344135 **Email:** info@jmpublishing.ie **Web:** www.jmpublishing.ie

Published 10 times per year that reaches:

- Key influencers within both the Permanent and Reserve Defence Forces.
- An audience of approx 25k monthly readers, through Canteens/Messes, RDF training installations, military veteran associations (ONET, IUNVA), collaborations with other Armed Forces, and individual subscribers.
- Sold in 191 Outlets nationwide including 41 Eason & Son bookshops, 38 Tesco Extra/Super Stores and also The National Museum of Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Dublin.
- Your advertisements will appear in both the printed and online magazine; hosted on both www.military.ie & www.dfmagazine.ie. Providing you with direct traffic and statistics to your email and website.

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

2 years subs for €50.00 and 4 years for €90.00

Subscriber's Details (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name:

Address:

.....

I would like to subscribe for:

1 Year 2 Years 4 Years

Starting with issue No:

I enclose Cheque/PO payable to: An Cosantóir

Post to: An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

or contact us by phone: or email to pay by
Debit/Credit Card



HOTLINE: +353 (0)45 44 5312

EMAIL: Subs@military.ie

WEB: www.dfmagazine.ie

**Manager**

Capt Declan Barrett
045 445306
info@military.ie

Editor

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald
045 445307
magazine@military.ie

Connect

Cpl Paul Millar
connect@military.ie

Photographer

Cpl Neville Coughlan
photo@military.ie

Subscriptions

Sgt Karl Byrne
045 445312
subs@military.ie

Magazine Archivist

Mr Sean Shinnors

DF/PR Information:

Cpl Noel Coss &
David Cullen
045 445308
admin@military.ie

DF Webmaster

Sgt Mick Burke
045 445309
webmaster@military.ie

Designer/Advertising

JM Publishing & Media,
Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland
Tel: +353 1 443 3476
Tel: +353 87 1344135
Web: www.jmpublishing.ie
Email: info@jmpublishing.ie

Printer

Turner's Printing Co., Ltd

The fact that an article appears in this magazine does not indicate official approval of the views expressed by the author.

© Published by OiC Public Relations Branch for the Defence Forces at DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare, Ireland. Tel: 045 445312

Front Cover

A member of the 27 Inf Bn at the 2013 Recce Concentration. Photo by: Cpl Paul Millar

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

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our first issue of 2014. This issue starts off with your photos ever-present in *On Parade*. *In Focus* features the recent Air Corps Robot of Destruction display at the 50th Young Scientist Exhibit in the RDS and a recent CIS Riggers course with members of the Fire Brigade. In our first feature Lt Tomás Caulfield brings us up to date on the progress of the EU *MP Training in Somalia*. Our front cover story *International Recce* by Lts Jonathan Gray and Donnacha Reilly, who both combine to tell us how the 27 Inf Bn winners of the 2013 Recce Concentration exercise, and then represented the DF at the Cambrian Patrol Competition 2013 in the UK. In *Caring For Veterans*, Sgt Karl Byrne and I visited Leopardstown Park Hospital where we met some very interesting and delightful UK veterans. Our next main feature is *Value Added: Change for the 21st Century* by Comdt Peter Ott, on the largest third-level academic awards to members of the Defence Forces in IT Carlow. In our *Strategic Review*, author Paul O'Brien writes an informative piece on the modern trend *Piracy on the High Seas*. *In Reserve* by Lt Ross Wainer features 4 and 5 Reserve Batteries of 2 Arty Regt conducting their *FIBUA Training* in Haulbowline. In *History*, Col Bill Nott (retd) reminds us of the 37th Cadet Class visit to the US in 1963 who performed at the funeral of JFK, and of their recent trip back for the 50th anniversary. In *Sport*, Cpl Robbie Daniels writes about a recent 3 Inf Bn mountaineering training exercise in *The Adventure Begins*. Plus we have all our regular features – *World Strategic Picture*, *Tac-Aide*, *Gear Review*, *Noticeboard*, *Reviews* and *What I Do*.

At this time I would like to say a fond farewell to our longest-serving member, Wesley Bourke. After 12 years as the magazine's journalist he has taken early retirement with over 19 years service with the Defence Forces. He has submitted many articles yet to feature so this is not the last you will hear from him. On behalf of all at An Cosantóir I wish him the very best in his future accomplishments.

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

Note: Articles are currently being sought for the 2014 edition of the Defence Forces Review. Those interested in contributing should contact Comdt Neil Nolan (C&S Sch, Mil Col) at Phone: +353 45 44 5114 or Ext 5114 or email: neil.nolan@defenceforces.ie

EMPA AWARDS

Recently I met up with author and military historian Paul O'Brien, and presented him with the prestigious European Military Press Associations (EMPA) Best Article 2013 award for his article in An Cosantóir May 2013, *At the Gates of Hell – Mali*. Photo: Sgt Karl Byrne

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Pictured is Comdt Damien Coakley, EO Provost Marshal's Office, DFHQ, being congratulated by the Garda Commissioner on his graduation from the Garda Senior Investigating Officers Course in the Garda College in November 2013. Photo: Garda Training College

**GRADUATION**

Pictured at their recent graduation night are (L/R): Sgt Colin McNamara (MP Group, DFTC) who received a Certificate in Photography and Sgt Mick McGrath (Office of PM and D MP Corps, DFHQ) who received a BA in Photographic Media from Griffith College Dublin. Photo: Sgt Mick McGrath

**MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS PROJECT**

Pictured are An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, retired Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave, son of Easter Rising veteran WT Cosgrave, and Comdt Pádraic Kennedy, OiC of Military Archives, at the launch of the Military Service Pensions Project, which took place on the 16th January 2014 in the GPO. Photo: Cpl Neville Coughlan, PR Branch



IN RECOGNITION ▲

Congratulations to Airman Joe O'Donnell (ACHQ) who was promoted to Cpl. Pictured is Brig Gen Paul Fry (GOC AC) presenting him with his stripes. Joe is a founding member of the Air Corps Pipe Band. *Photo: Air Corps HQ*

CAPT MARY JO O'SULLIVAN (RIP) PERPETUAL AWARD ▶

Pictured in the Cadet School, Mil Col on 29th November 2013, in honour of their colleague Capt Mary Jo O'Sullivan (RIP), are members of the 58th Cadet Class (1981-83) who presented the Capt Mary Jo O'Sullivan Perpetual Award for Overall Academic Achievement to the Cadet School. This annual award is given to the Senior Cadet who attains highest academic marks, commencing with 89th Cadet Class commissioned in January 2014. Capt O'Sullivan (58th Cadet Class) served in the DF for 16 years and passed away in November 2012 and is survived by her husband Cdr Padraic Macklin (NS) and son Christian. *Photo: Lt Col Brian Cleary (Sch Comdt Arty Sch)*



SEAI AWARD ▶

Mr Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources presented the Naval Service with the Sustainable Energy Award from SEAI in the Public Sector Category recently. This award reflects the NS efforts to embrace best practice in energy and reduce energy consumption. The NS is the first military organisation worldwide and first State organisation to be certified to the international energy management standard ISO 50001 for its energy management program. The photo shows Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM (D COS Sp), Pat O'Doherty (CEO of ESB), Chairman of SEAI Brendan Halligan, Lt Cdr Ger Menihane, Minister Pat Rabbitte and Commodore Hugh Tully (FOCNS). *Photo: Lt Cdr Patricia Butler (NS)*



IN MEMORY ▲
At the annual 7/6 Inf Bn Association deceased members mass held in McKee Bks on 24th November 2013, a plaque was unveiled in memory of Pte Paul Carry cadre staff 65 Res Inf Bn who died in service on 17 January 2013. A presentation was also made to Mrs Jude Carry and her daughter Ruth on behalf of C Coy 65 Res Inf Bn by Fr Pat Mernagh CF Chaplain, McKee Bks and CQMS Dave Morrissey former Cadre 65 Res Inf Bn. Pictured (back row L/R) are: Capt T Brady, Sgt F Boylan (retd), Coy Sgt B Flynn, Sgt V Wallace (retd), Pte's C Smyth, R Whelan, S Lyons, Cpl G McQuillan, Pte E Gogarty, CQMS B Crawley (retd) and Cpl E Henderson. *Photo: Sgt J Delaney (retd)*



CIPD CHARTERED FELLOWSHIP

Cdr Martin Counihan was awarded a Chartered Fellowship of Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) at the CIPD Southern Branch site visit to the Naval Service. Cdr Counihan is the only Chartered Fellow in the Defence Forces to date. *Photo: Lt Cdr Patricia Butler (NS)*



KEANE INTER LEAGUE TROPHY

Pictured on 6th December 2013 is Leslie Doyle MSL (BSM 1 Bde HQ) presenting the Keane Inter League Trophy to Cpl Thomas Fitzgibbon Captain DF with Tony Murphy MSL and Comdt Gerry McAnaney. The cup is hosted annually by the Munster Senior League, who invited the Defence Forces team as opposition this year. The game was played in Cork with the DF winning 5 nil. Photo: BSM Leslie Doyle (AR 1 Bde HQ)



FAREWELL JOSIE

Pictured is Brig Gen Seamus O'Giolláin, GOC DFTC presenting Josie Kirwan with a presentation to mark her retirement after 47 years working in the Curragh Camp. Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)

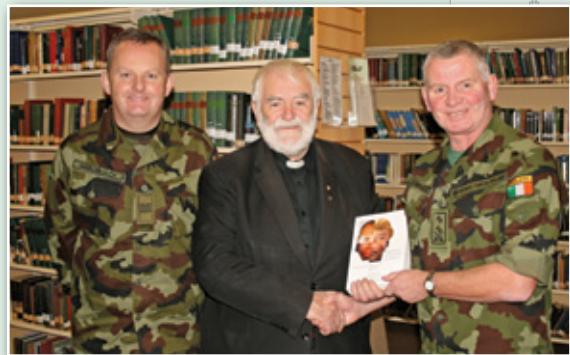


HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

Pictured on 12th November 2013, are former officers from 1 Motor Squadron and HQ Southern Command along with members of the Cavalry Club, who joined Lt Col Séan Hennessy at the Officers Mess, Collins Bks, Cork to celebrate his 90th birthday. Lt Col Hennessy was a member of the 18th Cadet Class and was commissioned in 1946. Photo: Photographer 1 Bde HQ courtesy of Col George Kerton (Retd)

RETAINING HIGH STANDARDS

The shields for 'Best NCO' and 'Best Gunner' were presented by Comdt Shane Bradley (OC 2 Arty Regt) to Sgt Willie Basic (Best NCO 2013) and Gnr Ian McGee (Best Gunner 2013) both of the 2 Arty Regt. Photo: RSM Noel O'Callaghan (2 Arty Regt)



DR MICHEÁL MAC GRÉIL

On 5th December 2013, Dr Micheál Mac Gréil, visited the DF Library, DFTC and kindly donated his book collection numbering in excess of 300 books. The collection will be accessible to all from January 2014. Dr Mac Gréil served as a cadet and officer in the Defence Forces from 1950-59. Dr Mac Gréil is pictured presenting a signed copy of his latest book 'Pluralism & Diversity in Ireland' to Col E Caulfield (Comdt Mil Col) and Sgt T McCormack (DF Librarian). Photo: Sgt JJ Ryan (HQ DFTC)

WARRIOR'S DAY

Pictured (top) are members of the Clonmel Branch of the Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) who held their annual 'Lá na bhFiann' (Warriors' Day) on Sunday 27th October 2013 and (bottom) members of the Thomas Ashe Branch, Kerry who held their 'Lá na bhFiann' in Tralee, on Sunday 3rd November 2013. Photos by: Domhnall Mac Cáरthaigh FS (PRO SAC ONE)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Pictured are members of the ONE Fr James Gilmore Branch, Swords, Co Dublin at their recent AGM held on the 4th January 2014. Photo: Dessie O'Hara

ROBOTS OF DESTRUCTION!

BY CPL PAUL MILLAR

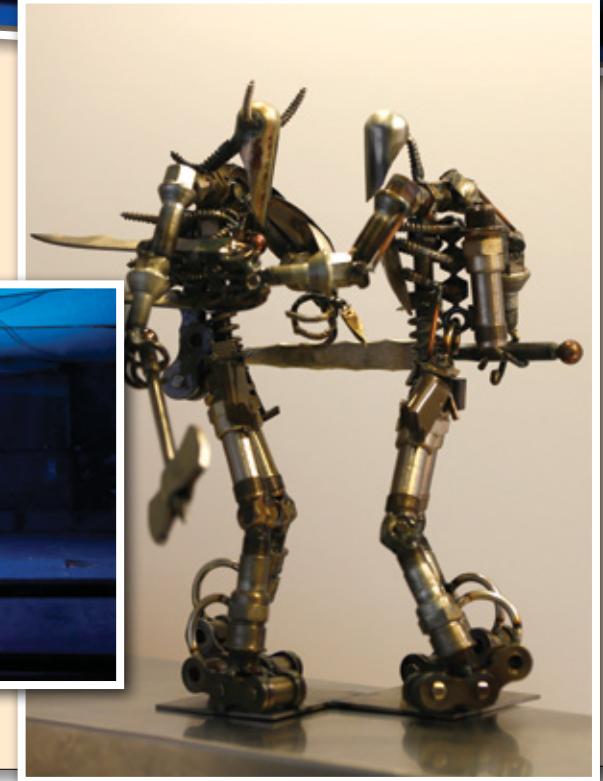
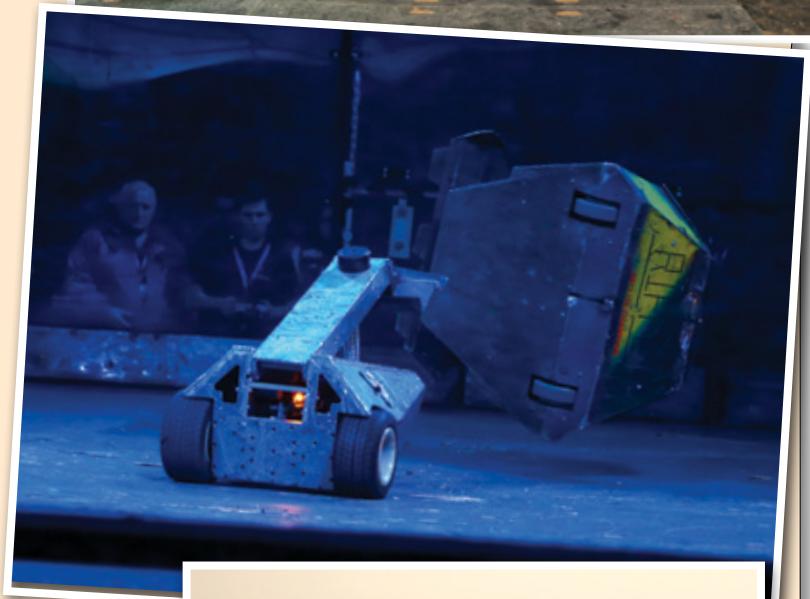
PHOTOS BY CPL NEVILLE COUGHLAN

The 50th BT Young Scientist Exhibition took place from January 6th to 11th in the RDS, Dublin, at which a six-man Air Corps team put on another of their popular robot displays. The team were in the first episode of the TV show Robot Wars and have been regular attendees at the exhibition for over 12 years. During this time their role has changed from building the fighting robots to organising the Robots of Destruction display, in which teams from the UK compete; setting up the fighting arena; erecting the tent, which was supplied by Fossett's Circus; and entertaining the crowds on the day.

The attraction has increased in popularity, meaning that the fighting arena had to change location to a 1,000-seater venue within the grounds of the RDS. There were seven shows per day over four days, entertaining close to 28,000 spectators. Apart from the fighting robots, which have the power to flip a car, the team had functional recreations from Dr Who, Star Wars and even a human-like robot that could climb a rope.

The team consisted of Sgt Ciaran 'Zulu' Byrne, Airmen Aidan Ennis, Colm O'Malley and Joe Gavin, Mr Noel Lennon (all from No 4 Sp Wing) and Cpl Will Sweeney (No 3 Ops Wing). Working as a tight-knit group they built up the crowd using radios and microphones to co-ordinate the civilian staff, cameramen and school groups, providing the most entertaining and popular part of the exhibition.

Sgt Byrne said about the team's decade-long involvement in the exhibition: "For many currently serving members of the Defence Forces, the presence of the team at the Young Scientist Exhibition was their first introduction to the work and skill levels that could be achieved by signing up." ■



New UN Memorial

BY COMDT GEORGE KERWIN (RETD) (PRO IUNVA)

On Sunday 27th October last a magnificent new monument was unveiled in the 1798 Park in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford to honour the 92 Irishmen who have lost their lives while serving with the United Nations. This was a joint venture by Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) Posts in the South Coast, consisting of Posts 3, 28 and 31. The secretary of Post 31, Enniscorthy, Paddy Doyle said the committee was most fortunate in having the generous support of the local council who not only provided the wonderful site and also carried out extensive preparation work on it. In attendance was the Minister of State at the Dept. of Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe

TD, along with many members representing the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA), the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONE) and the Royal British Legion (RBL). ■



Maj Gen Vincent Savino (retd), President of IUNVA cuts the ribbon on the new memorial.



Protecting what matters the most



GANBO & GACBO

Group Life Cover for CAFNBO members
and their spouses



Since the last review on 1st January 2011

€8,680,000

has been paid out to the families
of **56 GANBO members**

€5,115,000

has been paid out to the families
of **33 GACBO members**

Source: Matt Byrne, CAFNBO, November 2013

OUTCOME OF THE 2013 REVIEW

Please see the outcome of the 2013 Review for the Group Life Plan for CAFNBO members and their spouses below. The underwriting of the scheme has been transferred to Friends First. This is effective from the 1st January 2014 and is guaranteed for the next 3 years.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME?

• DEATH BENEFIT

MEMBER: was: €155,000,	now: €160,000
SPOUSE/PARTNER: was: €155,000,	now: €160,000
DEATH OF A CHILD: €5,000 (no change)	

• ACCELERATED TERMINAL ILLNESS PAYMENT

In the case where a member is diagnosed with a terminal illness with death expected within 12 months,* the Scheme will make an advance payment of up to 40% of the benefit payable under the GANBO/GACBO Scheme. This facility applies to serving members and their spouses only.

HOW MUCH DOES THE SCHEME COST?

GANBO Scheme for CAFNBO members:	was: €6.23 per week now: €7.02 per week
GACBO Scheme for members' spouses/partners:	was: €4.62 per week now: €5.16 per week
TOTAL COST OF SCHEME:	was: €10.85 per week now: €12.18 per week

HOW TO JOIN

The GANBO & GACBO Scheme is open to all members of CAFNBO and their spouses/partners. To join today, complete a membership card and submit it to the address below.

A nominated beneficiary is not legally binding on the trustees of CAFNBO who administer the payment of benefits which arise on death. If you wish to change your beneficiary, simply complete a New GANBO Card (Blue Card) and mark it 'CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY' on top. Address: Secretary CAFNBO, CAFNBO House, 33 Infirmary Road, Dublin 7.

PLEASE NOTE: A beneficiary is the person (or persons) nominated by you on your membership card.

HOW TO MAKE A CLAIM

For change of beneficiary or notification of death, contact

CAFNBO: Tel: (01) 671 1841
Email: cafnb@eircom.net
Website: www.cafnb.com
Write to: CAFNBO, CAFNBO House,
33 Infirmary Road,
Dublin 7.



cornmarket
group financial services ltd

*In the opinion of an attending consultant and the insurers, Friends First. Terms & conditions apply. Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A member of the Irish Life Group Ltd. Friends First Life Assurance Company Ltd. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Telephone calls may be recorded for quality control and training purposes.



Why not stay with us?



Did you know that we provide overnight accommodation facilities to serving and ex-service personnel at Brú na bhFiann (7 rooms) in the centre of Dublin. Our rates are very competitive. Members of the ONE receive a 15% reduction as do members of the Defence Forces who donate to ONE through the payroll deduction scheme.

Contact details:

email: reception@oneconnect.ie

Visit our website at www.oneconnect.ie

BRÚ NA BHFIANN

Smithfield Village,
North King Street, Dublin 7
Ph: 01 - 4850600

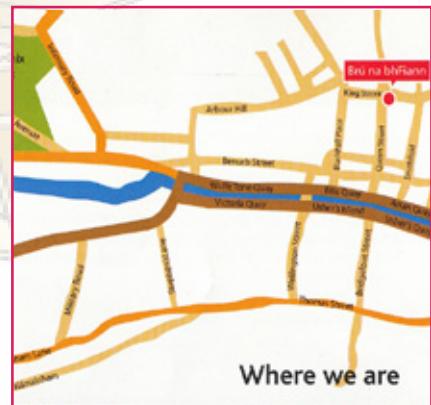
Smithfield



Brú na bhFiann



Brú na bhFiann



Where we are

SUBSCRIBE AND **SAVE !**

1 YEARS SUBS: €30 UK: £30



2 YEARS - €50, 4 YEARS - €90 OR ON-LINE - €10

OVERSEAS SURFACE MAIL: €50 (ALL SUBS INCLUDE ON-LINE VERSION)



Subscriber's Details (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name:

Address:

..... Phone:

Email:

I would like to subscribe for:

1 year 2 years 4 years On-line

Starting with issue No:

I enclose Cheque/PO payable to: An Cosantóir

Post to: An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt Bks, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

Photocopies of this form accepted



Hotline: +353 (0)45 44 5312
Email: subs@military.ie
Web: www.dfmagazine.ie

High Achievers RIGGERS IN THE DF

REPORT & PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE



Sgt Paul Browne ascends the 200ft Mast

carrying out essential work not only at home but on overseas missions as well. They are also called upon to assist in various rescues throughout the country.

The eight students on the current course have spent 10 weeks learning all about the equipment they use and the safety procedures involved in using it. The main gear that's used are the rigging harness, fall-arrest protection systems, descenders and ascenders, pole ropes, pulley systems, rescue ropes, working ropes, protective helmets, goggles, and hi-vis protective clothing and gloves, just to name but a few.

The next stage is learning how to build a lattice mast, building it up in 8-ft sections, up to 95ft in height. Something that helps instil great confidence in the skills and equipment they will need to progress.

I met with Sgt Paul Browne who talked to us about the order of the day. The plan of action was to practice two types of rescues down the centre of

On 6th November An Cosantóir took a trip to McKee Bks where the CIS School was conducting training for an on-going Riggers course. From what I saw on the day, a fear of heights is not something you would want on this course as you climb to the top of a 200ft mast.

At such heights, safety is a must and is never compromised. There are procedures to cover every eventuality and these don't change regardless of the height at which the riggers are operating. As any rigging instructor will tell you: 'If you can carry out a rescue at 6ft, you can do it at 100ft'.

Many members of the Defence Forces would be unaware of the practice of rigging as it is solely carried out by members of the CIS Corps, specifically by Comm Ops staff, in order to provide and maintain HF, VHF and microwave communications throughout the Defence Forces. There are approximately 40 active riggers in the organisation at this time



An assisted rescue down the the mast



A student assists the rescue from the ground

the 200ft mast. There are two main methods of rescue practiced by DF riggers. The first is a 'pick-off', which is an abseil rescue technique, and second is a 'lower down', which is

a direct evacuation by controlled lower technique using the rescue kit complete with descender.

The first practice rescue of the day was of the second type. In this case the rescuer accompanied the victim down, regulating

the speed of descent and attending the victim throughout the operation. The second rescue involved the victim being lowered to the ground on his own where another rigger was waiting. In this case the speed of the lowering is regulated by a team from where the rescue initially took place.

After the two rescues were successfully carried out and a well-deserved hot lunch in the cookhouse was enjoyed, the course was joined by members of the fire brigade to integrate their training and skills. Both rescues were again carried out successfully, this time with the fire brigade personnel mixed in with the DF riggers. These kinds of integrated training exercises can only enhance our riggers' skills and help to highlight the brave and often unrecognised work that they carry out. ■





AFRICA

Violence marked the beginning of a two-day referendum as Egyptians went to the polls on the 14th of January for the second time in 13 months to reshape their country's future. In all, 11 people died in events unfolding from the referendum with two dying of natural causes, while nine deaths suspected to be unlawful. Reports claim that at least four people died in Sohag and one in Beni Seouif in clashes between supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood.



Kenyan Defence Forces have claimed their fighter jets hit an Al-Shabaab camp in Somalia, killing at least 30 militants. The attack took place while the militants met at the camp in Garbahaey in Somalia's western Gedo region near the border with Kenya. An initial assessment indicates that 'key commanders' were among the fatalities. Scores of others escaped with multiple injuries with vehicles and other assets being destroyed.

ASIA

During a recent suicide bombing at least 13 people were killed and 28 wounded at a market near the Pakistani Army's headquarters. Those killed in the attack at the Royal Artillery Bazaar included civilians, security personnel and at least one child. The bazaar is in a highly sensitive military area close to the general headquarters of the Pakistani Army in Rawalpindi. Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack.



A blast at an army checkpoint in the northern Pakistani city of Bannu, resulted in 22 people killed and 38 injured. The blast struck an army convoy travelling from Bannu to Miranshah. The convoy included both military and civilian vehicles. According to intelligence sources an IED was planted in an 18-seater van. Most of those killed were passengers in that van.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Three members of an alleged al-Qaeda cell were arrested by the Israeli security service Shin Bet. A government spokesperson claimed the cell was planning to attack targets including the US embassy. Shin Bet said an al-Qaeda operative recruited the men in the Gaza Strip and that their other targets included a large conference centre in Jerusalem. The Hamas movement which runs the Gaza Strip rejected Shin Bet's claims.



The trial of four men accused of murdering former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri has begun at an unprecedented tribunal at The Hague. The four alleged associates of the Shia movement Hezbollah, who have not been arrested yet will be tried in absentia. Hezbollah denies any involvement in killing Hariri and 21 others in a massive car bomb in Beirut in 2005.

EUROPE



Kensington Palace has announced that Prince Harry is ending his time with Britain's Army Air Corps and is taking a staff officer role in London. The move takes him out of a potential combat role flying Apache helicopters. His recent deployment included a four-month stint in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, known as a Taliban stronghold.

Security forces killed seven militants in a counter-terrorism operation in Russia's southern republic of Dagestan, according to Russian news agency RIA Novosti. The six men and one woman died in a siege in Makhachkala, capital city of Dagestan. The operation came after 16 people, including several police officers, were injured in explosions from a grenade launcher and a car bomb targeting a restaurant in Makhachkala.

THE AMERICAS



The Mexican government has sent federal forces to the western state of Michoacan to order vigilante groups fighting against the cartel to lay down their weapons. The situation has become a major problem for President Enrique Peña Nieto's government, which has vowed to reduce drug violence.

The chairman of the US House Intelligence Committee, Mike Rogers claimed US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden may have collaborated with Russia, "I believe there's a reason he ended up in the hands of an agent in Moscow," he said. Rogers offered no firm evidence to back his theory, with the FBI claiming their sure Snowden who was granted temporary asylum in Russia, acted alone.



Are you paying too much for your life assurance and mortgage protection?

Special offer for An Cosantóir readers from NJC Financial Services.

1. Replace your existing policy and receive €100 cash back.
2. 1st month premium free*
3. Pay less than your current premium
4. Free Consultation
5. Kildare based. Can meet at your convenience at home or work.

"NJC Financial Services saved me €30 per month on my life insurance. I received €100 cash back, and 1 months free cover. It was quick and easy to change my policy. Highly recommend."

Mrs. L. Kavanagh. Dublin 16.

Call one of our Fully Qualified Financial Advisors on 045 487461 or 087-357-8177 for details.

*Terms and conditions apply. Neil Cartwright t/a NJC Financial Services is regulated by the Central bank of Ireland.

THOMAS WOLFANGEL

designer and bespoke tailor
TAILOR & CUTTER GOLD MEDALIST (LONDON)

Thomas Wolfangel specialises in bespoke tailoring for the military. We carry a range of international fabrics for business and formal wear.



PERSONAL ATTENTION GUARANTEED

BEST WISHES TO THE DEFENCE FORCES

Mobile: 085 214 0479 Tel: 01 280 7066

Mellifont House, 24 Mellifont Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

The International Militaria Collectors Club

Present their Militaria & Collectables Fairs

2014 Fair Dates

2014 NORTH STAR HOTEL

February 22nd

May 17th

August 16th

November 15th

Extra fair June 21st Gorey

Medals, Badges, Uniforms, Helmets, Caps, Equipment, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Postcards, Books, and much much more

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
Mark 0861602228 Eddie 0863410159
<http://www.internationalmilitariacollectorsclub.com>

Proud to Work with the Defence Forces

Custom made Sam Browne belts hand made by Declan at his saddlery and leather work-shop in Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Award winning Saddler with over 30 years experience in the leather industry, renowned for his craftsmanship and attention to detail. Each bespoke belt is made using only the highest grades of leather and brass fittings, ensuring comfort of ease and longevity of the product.

Contact Declan or Margaret Clancy at 045 432606

clancysaddlery@gmail.com

www.declanclancysaddlery.ie

Declan Clancy Saddlery

MP Training in SOMALIA

BY LT TOMÁS CAULFIELD, MP CORPS

The European Union (EU) has been providing a broad commitment in Somalia, helping to stabilise the country and strengthen its institutional framework through political engagement, support for security and development, and humanitarian aid. As part of this effort the European Union Training Mission Somalia (EUTM Somalia), in partnership with the Ugandan People's Defence Forces (UPDF), is providing the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) with restructuring assistance, in support of UN Resolution 1872 (2009).

The EU Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta was established as an EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation on 8 December 2008 to tackle the problem of piracy off the Somali coast. On 7 April 2010, the EU launched EUTM Somalia to contribute to the training of Somali security forces. This mission was primarily based in Uganda to facilitate co-ordination with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Both missions are working together to build a viable and sustainable security sector through supporting the Somali police, military and maritime forces with training and capacity building. To date the EUTM has contributed to the training of over 3,000 Somali troops.

In addition to basic training, EUTM Somalia also began to provide specialised military training in Uganda. Between April and August 2013 this consisted of training company commanders, CIMIC personnel and Military Police, in Bihanga Training Camp (BTC). The next phase of mentoring, advising and training evaluation (MATE) is based in Mogadishu, with initial operational capability (IOC) being declared on 7 May this year.

The BTC, commanded by Lt Col Frank Loose (Germany), is within the UPDF's Bihanga Training School, located in the western Ugandan district of Ibanda, 78km from the Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo, 48km from Rwanda and 40km from Tanzania. It is 270km from Kampala and due to poor road infrastructure the travel time by road from Uganda's capital is seven hours.

BTC's location is ideally suited to training as there are several square kilometres of undulating terrain intersected with streams and rivers, open ground and wooded areas. Additional training facilities included two large- and four medium-sized classrooms and a FIBUA village.

All training is conducted through the medium of English, EUTM's working language, with assistance provided by Kenyan interpreters where required.

The military police training team (MPTT) consisted of two officers and six NCOs from Italy's Carabinieri Corps and one officer (the author) and two NCOs (Sgt John Kearney and Sgt Alan Smith) from Ireland.

The team's experience covered a wide range of overseas combat, operational and training experience with NATO in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq and Kosovo; with the EU in Bosnia, Chad and Haiti; and with the UN in Chad, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and Liberia.

Prior to the arrival of the Somali MP trainees the MPTT integrated seamlessly through a mixture of training, from weapons familiarisation and range practices, topographical FIBUA exercises, a combat life-saving course, completing the tests for the Leistungsabzeichen der Bundeswehr (the German Armed Forces badge for military proficiency), and team sports. This all assisted in acclimatising to the high equatorial temperatures and high humidity (up to 90%), and building team cohesion.

The 15-week military police course undertaken by the



Joint Carabinieri-Irish MP STX



SNAF trainees includes modules in discipline and good order in the army; provost operations, such as public buildings protection; building clearance; searching; operational shooting; counter-IED; human rights; gender awareness; and basic crime scene investigation.

The training alternated between periods of field training and a combination of humanitarian classes and academic lessons. The Kenyan interpreters have been with the mission since training commenced in the BTC and being former Kenyan military personnel with up to 30 years' service they bring an invaluable wealth of experience.

The formal education level of the Somali trainees was very low and many were illiterate. This had an impact on the speed with which the instruction could be delivered, but they were quick learners and very practical in their outlook. As they would be returning to combat operations in Somalia upon completion of their training this practicality was an admirable quality.

Another challenge was overcoming Somalia's deep-rooted clan system. The training team attempted to overcome this by continuously reinforcing a broader understanding of their country as a sovereign entity and emphasising their responsibilities to all Somalis; ideas that underpinned international efforts to establish a safe and secure Somalia.

Out of an initial 125 Somali trainees 65, all males, were allocated to the military police course. They ranged in rank from private up to colonel, and in age from 19 to 58 years. Approximately 85% were illiterate, with only one trainee possessing a very good standard of spoken and written English. (Optional English lessons were provided on Saturday afternoons by the author.) Such a degree of illiteracy was not conducive to instruction based on a syllabus of training covering the principles of criminal and military law in addition to basic military police provost duties.

Consequently, the focus was on the practical elements of the syllabus, which was an ideal solution to the challenge of information retention as it kept the information being imparted short and simple, while a practical demonstration of the procedures they were to learn ensured that the goal of information transfer was possible.

Checkpoint training as Sgt Smith looks on



Another challenge was the initial instillation of discipline into these soldiers who had been taken out of the front-line fighting against Al Shahab in order to undergo this course. This was accomplished through twice-daily inspections of the trainees and their uniforms on the parade ground; a full room and kit inspection conducted weekly by the platoon leader; and ensuring that trainees queued in a single line for each meal. This latter initiative took three weeks to enforce and although we take such a simple task for granted in an ordered society it paid dividends as the course progressed.

In a military environment it taught the Somali MP trainees to realise that higher standards of discipline, military dress and deportment are expected of them than of the ordinary Somali soldier. This was pretty self-evident by the end of the fifteen weeks of training, which ran six days a week from 0800hrs to 1800hrs.

To underpin the concept of a safe and secure Somalia the SNAF soldiers received instruction in both human rights and gender awareness by experts in these areas. It was important to reinforce their role of defending, protecting and supporting the Somali people. Again, the practical approach was most effective, where photographs of Somali civilians were used as initiators of discussion. These sometimes very lively discussions brought home to the trainees their role in their society and helped them to understand what they could and could not do. For instance, they soon realised that an unruly child that a mother brings to the military police station could not be placed in custody for childish misbehaviour in the home.

The lack of a proper legal system in Somalia to which the norms of justice apply was also somewhat of a challenge when imparting the specific role of the military police within the SNAF. However, constant regular repetition of what is expected of them eventually sunk in. Indications that the training was heading in the right direction soon began to emerge during classes when deliberate examples of unacceptable behaviour described by the trainer were quickly corrected by the trainees.

At the time of their departure from the BTC for Mogadishu in August the Somali trainees were a well-disciplined and trained military police company of which both their EUTM trainers and Somali commanders could be proud.

The final BTC intake commenced their training in September and completed it at the beginning of December. Following that, EUTM Somalia will be relocated to Mogadishu in the first months of 2014. ■

About the author:

Lt Tomás Caulfield serves in the Military Police Group, DFTC. Most of his 29 years' service has been in the MP Corps in the Army and Air Corps. His last appointment in Ireland prior to this mission was as Governor of the Military Detention Barracks. He has served overseas in MP appointments in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Uganda. He received the EUTM Somalia 'Best Trainer' award for MPTT Intake Va from the mission commander Brig Gen Gerard Aherne.

Background

The role of reconnaissance is to provide timely and accurate information by day or night, in all weather and in all phases of war. In the Defence Forces this capability has been primarily assigned to infantry recce platoons and cavalry squadrons. To assess the progressing of standards in this area, an all-Army recce competition is conducted annually by the Infantry Weapons Wing (IWW).

With the first competition taking place in 2011 and won by a team from 1 S Bde's Nordic Battle Group (NBG). Since then the competition has been well attended with honours being claimed by 4 Cav Sqn in 2012 and 27 Inf Bn in 2013. As an incentive last year's winning unit would send a team to the prestigious Cambrian Patrol 2013, the British Army's annual gruelling 48hr exercise to test patrolling skills. Teams that manage to cross the finish line and many do not, are awarded a certificate and teams who also manage to impress may be awarded a bronze, silver or gold award.

Last October, 27 Inf Bn took on the task of competing the Cambrian Patrol 2013, along with other foreign competitors including the US, Canada, The Netherlands, Germany, India, Pakistan, and others. In conjunction with the IWW, Sp Coy, 27 Inf Bn developed a four-month training plan to ensure that the team were trained to the highest standard across a wide variety of military skills, under the tutelage of Sgt's Adam Gallagher and Alan O'Reilly, both 27 Inf Bn. The recce section consisted of Lt Donnacha Reilly (Sec Comd), Cpl Stephen Flanagan (Sec 2i/c) and Ptes McEvoy, O'Connor, McGuigan, Ferris, Erasmus and Pentony. Cpl McKenna and Pte Murphy travelled as subs and provided logistical support.

27 Inf Bn concentrated their training on improving physical fitness, delivering orders, model building, dismounted close-combat skills, obstacle-crossing drills, first aid and casevac procedures. With the IWW giving specialist training in IED/minefield clearance drills, POW handling, helicopter drills, media handling, and artillery target indication procedures - all training was conducted carrying weight (min 60lbs). The team was thoroughly prepared to represent the DF for the first time in this prestigious international exercise. ■

INTERNATIONAL RECCE COMPETITION

BY LT JONATHAN GRAY (IWW) MAIN PHOTOS: 27 INF BN TEAM DURING THE 2013 ALL-ARMY RECCE COMPETITION BY CPL PAUL MILLAR



Cambrian Patrol 2013

BY LT DONNACHA REILLY (27 INF BN)

At 0100hrs on 15th October we loaded our kit into our mini bus destined for Devil's Bridge, the RV and start point of the international exercise. As patrol commander I led call sign '6-1 Romeo' into location at 0430hrs. With kit checks and orders next, rain misted down as we went to work preparing a map model of the much-dreaded Brecon Beacons area. Cpl Flanagan received some admin instructions and distributed ammo while navigators Ptes McEvoy and O'Connor planned our route.

I began orders at 0800hrs, laying out the next 24hrs of the 48hr patrol. Our orders were a close target reconnaissance (CTR) of a possible enemy position followed by a link-up with friendly forces (FF). After a short drive to the start line we gladly hoisted our 75-90lbs rucksacks onto our backs. 15km later after traversing around various valleys and mountains we were at our objective. A vantage point was established, sketches drawn and information gathered on the enemy. CTR completed, we carried on narrowly avoiding search teams



with dogs, and after a long winding trail up the side of a valley to a layup point we rested. Food, water, and a little sleep for some and patrol reports and work for others, we moved on to our link-up with friendly forces at 0300hrs.

Cpl Flanagan, who now led the patrol, was given a quick set of orders on our extraction. While this was ongoing I provided a quick CTR debrief while the patrol got instruction on survival techniques by other FF. After a short truck ride to the base of another hill, at the top we met two FF who directed us down the other side where we had to conduct a tactical river crossing. In location at 0500hrs, we stripped down to nothing but our under-armour leggings and top, stuffing 'rucks' and everything but our British SA80 rifles and chest rigs into 'bivy' bags for floatation devices. In four-man detachments we quickly crossed the 75m river, establishing security on the other side in shifts while the remainder changed. Not wet enough Mother Nature decided to batter us with torrential rain for the next six hours as once again we went up a massive hill to another RV.

At 1200hrs we linked up with our 'int' source, who asked us to identify a stockpiled enemy weapons and mines. He then provided us with our next RV. A long hill march later, a thick-accented partisan welcomed us. He told us to relax and drop packs, and that he needed three members to help instruct survival techniques to some locals. Ptes McEvoy, McGuigan and Pentony took on this task and taught them how to start a fire and how to purify water. On completion we were given our next RV grid ref with friendly forces. We arrived 5km later, and told that we were moving by vehicle to a known enemy hotspot with contact likelihood very high. We donned our body armour and helmets and were transported to the Sennybridge area where we received a quick set of orders to attack an enemy location on the other side of a small hill. We moved out with live machine-gun tracer fire over our heads and mortars and simulators going off around us. Advancing along a track we came under fire from an enemy machine gun post. After returning suppressive fire and clearing the enemy position we had to assist friendly forces with some POWs. Finding that they were

mistreating their captives we took control and showed them the proper way to handle prisoners.

We were told that 2km away friendly forces needed an immediate ammunition resupply of 60mm mortar rounds. On arrival we were met by panicked friendly forces and then there was a loud explosion. Friendly forces yelled out that one of them had stood on a mine. After immediately securing the site we located the man who had lost his lower leg and was bleeding out. Cpl Flangan and Pte O'Connor quickly provided first aid, while I began building the '9-liner' and radioed in a MIST report. We extracted the casualty back up the hill through a cleared minefield to a helicopter evacuation some 600m away. The 'victim' thanked us and told us to head for a grid ref some 6kms away for further orders.

At our next RV dark figures rushed us inside to a bright warm room where a warrant officer demanded we show him certain items of kit. We then moved to another room where the patrol had to debrief on the previous 48hrs to an intelligence officer and NCO. The room was stuffy and occasionally during the debrief a pen or notebook would drop as someone nodded off. To our delight, when our interrogators were satisfied we were told the exercise was finished. After travelling around 55kms in 48hrs it was all over. Morale was lifted as we met the friendly faces of Sgt O'Reilly and Lt Gray, and we were driven to quarters for much needed showers, an hour's sleep, and, for those who could walk, some breakfast.

After an anticipated period sitting in a hall with a dozen other teams awaiting our fate we heard, "The Irish Defence Forces: awarded a silver medal." We proudly accepted our medals and smiled at each other on a job well done. Cambrian Patrol was an amazingly rewarding but brutal experience; it tested our physical conditioning, mental toughness and all our military skills. The difficulty of the exercise can be seen in that one fifth of the teams failed to complete the course. Every member of our patrol learned a lot about themselves and each other as a result, and no doubt it was the hardest thing a lot of us have done.

Conclusion

The excellent performance of the 27 Inf Bn team is testament to the quality and dedication of the unit's soldiers and is an excellent reflection on the Defence Forces as a whole. The DF will continue to train and test its reconnaissance soldiers at the highest level through the all-Army competition and to compare our best and brightest against our international colleagues. ■



CARING FOR VETERANS

Leopardstown Park Hospital

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD PHOTOS BY SGT KARL BYRNE



Geoffrey, a former member of the RAF

On 19th December *An Cosantóir* visited Leopardstown Park Hospital, Dublin, where a donation was being presented by the Association of Irish Military Enthusiasts (AIME) to the hospital's residential care services department, which looks after the welfare and care of former members of the British services resident in Ireland.

Leopardstown Park Hospital, which operates in conjunction with the HSE and other health services in south County Dublin, was established in 1917 as a hospital and a home for the care and treatment of soldiers disabled or injured while serving with the British armed forces. By the early 1970s the number of residents had decreased to less than half its occupancy and the hospital also began to cater for elderly patients from the surrounding community. In 1979 a new Leopardstown Park Hospital Committee took over the operation of the institution. The new board faced the challenges of developing a modern hospital that could meet the needs of the older generation living in south-east Dublin while continuing to fulfil its traditional role of taking care of elderly former members of the British armed forces.

Over the years the hospital has gone through major development and has increased its patient capacity to 171. The early 1980s saw the first female patient admitted for long-stay care after a former nurses' home was converted into the Clevis Welfare Home, which now caters for 30 clients. A day centre was also opened at that time

that caters for approximately 260 clients per week, who enjoy both social and therapeutic activities.

During our visit we met some residents who were being entertained by dancers and live piano music

and some refreshments as part of their Christmas festivities. One of the residents

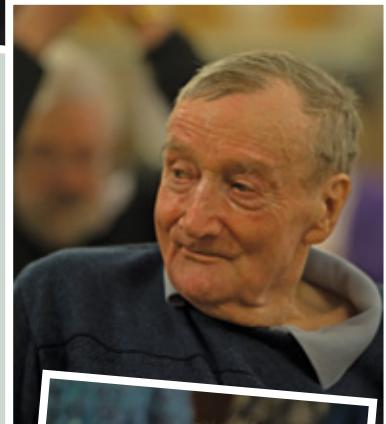
we met, Geoffrey, a former member of the RAF, told us: "I was in the last war (WWII) but I don't consider myself a veteran even though I'm 91. It's not a title I want to attain yet; it means you've given up!" With a great spirit like that the other residents were in good company.

A cheque for €1,247.76, the proceeds from AIME's 'Salute' military show, was presented by Keith Douglas and accepted by Ed Hillan, chairman of the Veterans Support Group. Ed thanked AIME for supporting Leopardstown Park Hospital continuously for well over six years. He finished by saying: "There are still many Irish people joining the British forces, so hopefully we will still be able to look after them when their time comes."

We met many other former members of the British forces on the evening, most notably: Pete McWilliams (chairman of the Republic of Ireland Branch of the RAF Association), Brian Crawford (secretary of the Irish Metropolitan Branch of the Royal British Legion), and Maj Gen (retd) David Niall Creagh 'The O'Morchoe' CB, CBE, KLJ, (president of the Royal British Legion in Ireland). We thank them very much for the entertainment and hospitality. ■



For more information on residency or care, contact Leopardstown Park Hospital, Foxrock, Dublin 18 (phone 01-6601122 or email info@lph.ie), or the Royal British Legion (<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/ireland>, phone 01-4773210 or email roi@britishlegion.org.uk).





VALUE ADDED: *Change for the 21st Century*

BY COMDT PETER OTT, SO TRAINING AND EDUCATION BRANCH

A unique event took place in Carlow on 31st October with the single largest presentation of third-level academic awards to members of the Defence Forces. Dr Patricia Mulcahy, the president of IT Carlow, conferred awards on 184 enlisted personnel who had successfully completed programmes validated by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) in September 2012. Dr Mulcahy noted that those being conferred would walk away with a qualification that was embedded on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). This was timely and valuable recognition for the high quality of taught and work-based learning received in the Irish Defence Forces; particularly in the areas of leadership and management.

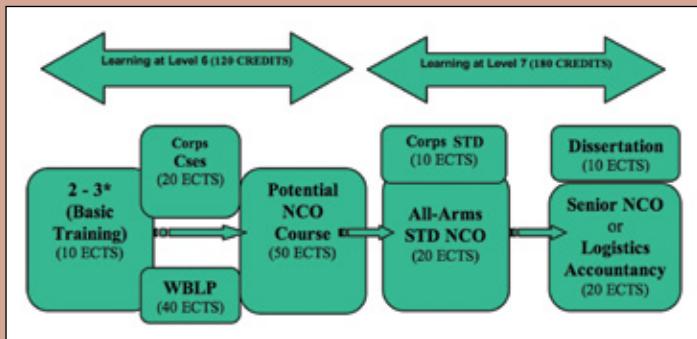
The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter TD, was an IT Carlow guest on the day and advised all present that the ceremony was evidence of the transformational effect that training and education was delivering for the Defence Forces. He congratulated IT Carlow on being named the Sunday Times Institute of Technology of the Year for 2014, and thanked the Institute for their innovative approach and determination in bringing the Leadership, Management and Defence Studies (LMDS) programmes to fruition. The minister spoke about the Hunt Report, from which government had identified increased participation in third-level education as a key element in Ireland's economic recovery and future progress; the Defence Forces partnership with IT Carlow feeds directly into such national policy.

The Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle, also addressed the

gains for the organisation from this departure: "The greatest asset we have in the Defence Forces is our people... [this ceremony] validates our principle of lifelong learning and I am particularly grateful to IT Carlow for their significant contribution to our ongoing partnership and the huge benefits it brings to the Defence Forces and the state."

Very noticeable among the VIPs on the day were the block of Defence Forces instructors, who sat as a unit to the right-hand side of the president of IT Carlow. The LMDS programmes do not deliver an award to this group but no student present would have achieved anything without them, and the knowledge, skill and competence resident within our organisation's instructor cohort was a critical element in establishing the legitimacy of the programmes. The minister noted this and complimented them for their continued good efforts.

Under the collaborative validation agreement, four programmes have been approved, spanning the career progression of enlisted personnel from induction to senior NCO level. The career courses are the main vehicles for the delivery of the awards associated with Level 6, and Level 7 on the NFQ. While these courses carry the bulk of academic credits towards the awards, a further 60 DF courses contribute a variety of totals to the overall effort. These include skills courses and associated specialist modules such as the various corps' standard NCO course. Significantly, a strong emphasis is placed on experiential learning which is captured through the completion of a work-based learning portfolio.



This model sees the 'student' across the spectrum of ranks (Army and Air Corps) moving towards a major award on the NFQ at every significant career milestone. One could refer to the process as a 'just-in-time' educational model, as referred to by Dr Marion Coy, chair of the external evaluation panel of September 2012.

Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain. This festival was a celebration of the end of the harvest season and was used by ancient pagans to take stock of supplies and prepare for the winter. It is fitting, therefore, that this date was set for the conferring, as these personnel had, without knowing it, been working and harvesting just as their ancestors had done, and now congregated at a very public ceremony to take stock and recognise what they had achieved.

This very special ceremony saw family, friends and loved ones looking on as the 184 graduates were conferred with the following awards: higher certificate in LMDS – Level 6 (Pot NCO Course); certificate in LMDS – Level 7 (all-arms and corps standard NCO course); bachelor of arts in LMDS – Level 7 (senior NCO course).

All students on the senior NCO course took up the academic award opportunity, with over 90% of the students on the all-arms standard NCO course and in excess of 85% of students on the potential NCO courses following suit.

The programme's validity and credibility is well underpinned. One of the external examiners, Dr Sylvain Paile (University of Liege, Belgium), who reviewed exam papers and dissertations is central to the European Security and Defence College and has been at the forefront of developing European standards in military training and education for nearly a decade. His involvement in this programme adds significant credibility and he is fully supportive of its implementation. From a DF perspective the quality of dissertation that was submitted by the senior NCOs was commendable, addressing all elements of leadership, management and defence studies, enticing our junior and middle managers to develop critical thinking based on academic research.

New recruits and serving enlisted personnel with career courses to complete have the opportunity to opt for an accredited award as part of their major career modules. Recruits complete all elements of the programmes and will make use of the work-based learning portfolio (WBLP) as they capture their initial experiential learning up to the successful attainment of a place on a potential NCO course. Personnel who enlisted prior to September 2012 will use a combination of recognition of prior learning (RPL) and a statement of Defence Forces career courses completed to gain entry to a programme.

IT Carlow now offers progression opportunities to personnel who gain the BA award, or have already completed the senior NCO course or logistics accountancy course. This offer is in the form of access to a higher diploma in either business manage-

ment or supply chain management. The HDip is a Level 8 qualification on the NFQ and an initial cohort of 29 Defence Forces students recently commenced studies on the Supply Chain Management Programme.

The LMDS Programme is now up and running and a continuous review process will ensure that it retains its credibility. On 14th November the author and staff from the Defence Forces Registrar's office facilitated a focus group to reflect on the programme, the journey, and the way ahead, from the individual student point of view. The following graduates of the programme contributed: Cpl Michael Gough (7 Inf Bn), Shendah Moran (3 Inf Bn), Keith Mooney (101 Sqn), Anthony Digan (2 Arty Regt) and Sabrina Roche (HQ DFTC), and Sgts Michael Dinnegan (2 Arty Regt) and Francis Dunleavy (DFHQ).

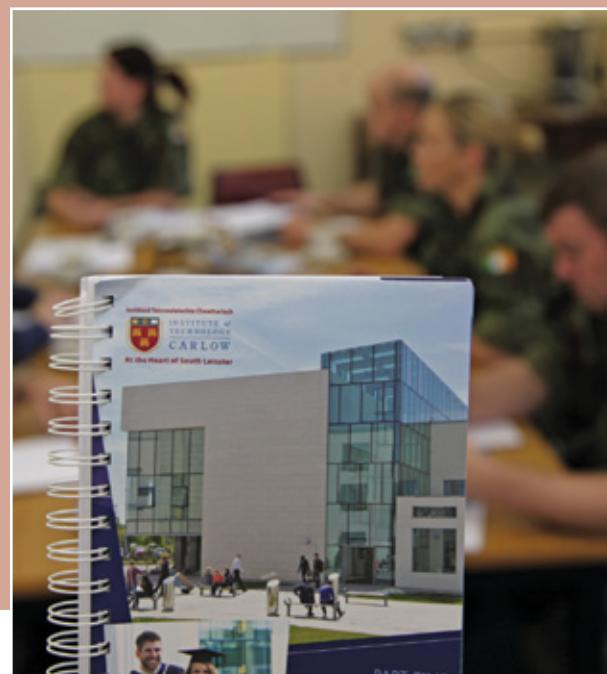
The group engaged from the outset without hesitation, with each member delivering their unique points of view and complementing one-another's recognition of the programme. Sub-groups then examined different aspects of the programme.

The graduates of the potential NCO module noted that they did not initially understand or see the merit of the programme and that the key to completing the module lay in looking for support; someone who can give an unbiased opinion in the form of a proof reader for the RPL. They stated that the RPL is nothing to be afraid of and that it is akin to sitting in a pub with your buddies re-living old stories. However, in this case these stories have a purpose. This sub-group concluded that they would now advise everyone to do it as 'the extra work is achievable and it is well worth the effort'.

Graduates of the all-arms and corps-specific standard NCO courses highlighted the commitment of the staff of the NCO Training Wing to the programme and how they had advised students to take up the programme alongside their military studies. They commented that this was key to the high number of participants. When questioned on the benefits of the award, the participants spoke of values such as 'intrinsic motivators', 'recognition' and 'personal pride'. Cpl Roche said that she was proud of her achievement and that her family could now understand why she had been busy throughout. When discussing the RPL this group noted that the major benefit was that it made the participants reflect on their careers and made them more responsible and mature.

Cpl Digan said: "I didn't have the opportunity before [for higher education]. This has opened up a lot of doors for me."

The senior NCO course sub-group spoke of the factors associated with the delivery of





Pictured at the awards are (L/R): Maj Gen Ralph James, D COS Ops, Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle, COS, Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter TD, Dr Patricia Mulcahy, President of IT Carlow and Mr J Moore, IT Carlow.

Dunleavy noted: "In hindsight I would have benefited from a greater lead-in time in picking my [dissertation] subject, which is a major element of the course."

This sub-group highlighted the support that they received from their DF supervisors as 'fantastic' and discovered that they did indeed have an academic ability and began to enjoy the process. In terms of the instruction received from IT Carlow they complimented the standard and spoke extremely positively of their experience in Carlow under the instruction of Dr Janette Davies. All participants agreed that IT Carlow's facilities, and also those in the DF Library, were excellent. They also look forward to seeing senior NCOs' dissertations in the DF Library as the process progresses.

The overall group agreed that this type of learning expands the mind and develops critical thinking. However, they didn't say that this learning is superior to traditional military learning models but that it is complementary and offers other approaches and avenues.

The benefit of the programme is that each and every individual who undergoes it adds value to the organisation. The consequence is an improved organisation with more individuals vying for places on progression courses and giving themselves improved employment chances on retirement from the DF. Each of the participants stated that they will consider undertaking further education. Even if that is the only success of the programme then it will have been a resounding success.

The following quote from Sgt Dinnegan encapsulates all that is positive and beneficial to the individual: "The DF has changed a lot over the past 10 years. When you get older you realise the importance of education and I didn't want to walk away without the qualification."

"I brought my family to the ceremony. This was very important as they can now see what I have done with my career in the Defence Forces: recognition of my service, leadership and management has been realised."

Getting to this point has been arduous and challenging for all concerned. CQMS Mick McKenzie and Sgt Gary Condren, from the Accreditation Cell of the Defence Forces Registrar's Office, have been developing new procedures and coming to grips with a new language. Those involved in the establishment and development of the academic requirements, members of various schools, and partner staffs also deserve the upmost praise and recognition, for this would not have been achievable without their input.

Further information is available on the Director of Training and Education Branch website, and the DF Registrar's splash page. The office of the Registrar is contactable at registrar@defenceforces.ie

References - Articles/ Strategy Documents:

Comdt Peter Ott & Brian McQuaid (retd), 'A Framework of Validation for Military Professional Learning', International Military Academic Forum Booklet ESDC: Brussels 2013.
Lt Cdr Brian Fitzgerald, 'Making the Grade', An Cosantóir, February 2010.
Col Anthony Bracken, 'Military Skills Acknowledged', An Cosantóir, March 2013.
Dept of Education, 'National Strategy for Higher Education Towards 2030', Dublin 2011.
Websites: www.itcarlow.ie/news.htm/view/id/1754/htm

Vox Pops



CPL KARL JOHNSON, 2 BDE BTC

As both an NCO and an instructor aligning our courses with third level is excellent. Over the years in the Defence Forces you build up a tremendous amount of skills from courses undertaken. Many of these skills are transferable into the civilian world. For example a huge aspect to an NCO's course, a Standard course or a Senior NCO's course is leadership and management. And for guys now to be able to build on this is brilliant.



PTE PAULA BIRCHILL, CMU DFTC

I've never done any third level education before. Today is great. Across the board now courses are being linked with third level institutions. Even within the Medical Corps you now do a Combat Medical Technician with University College Cork. The fact now that you can go onto do a degree is fantastic. It is something I never even considered before. Your career benefits from this and so does your personal development. It's great.



CPL CIARÁN BYRNE, MTS AIR CORPS COLLEGE

I originally started off in the 2 Inf Bn and on joining the Air Corps I trained as a refueler. To have now a third level certificate is great. I've done so many courses over the years within the Defence Forces but never a third level qualification. The fact that if you ever decided to leave and you can take this with you is brilliant. It really means a lot to people. This has now given me a stepping stone to want to go on and do more. I'll have a degree in my hands in a few years.



SGT GERARD MOONEY, NO. 1 OPS WG

I work on the CASA aircraft as a Sensor and Airborne Radar Operator. I've just come off my Senior NCO's course. I graduated today with a Level 7 certificate. I have never done any third level before. I did my Leaving Cert in 1987 so today was great. Overall I think the linking courses with third level are fantastic. For us as enlisted personnel it is recognition of years of hard work. The fact that all the courses you do can obtain points towards your third level qualification means now that your entire career in the Defence Forces is transferable and recognised if you decide to leave.



CPL WILLIAM FAHEY, 1 CN COIS

I'm just off my NCO's course. The way the Defence forces is structured now linking our courses with third level is very necessary. The days of people staying for 40 years are becoming rare. People go onto have second careers. So if you do decide to leave you now have in your hand a third level qualification. For an infantry person like me who has many weapons and drivers courses third level is something I never really thought about. It has opened up new opportunities for people like me.



CPL JOHN FRANCIS MURRAY, 2 ARTY REG

I've just come off my Standard course. This is a brilliant day. I've been artillery since I joined the Defence Forces. When you think of it you do some amount of courses throughout your career. Within each Corps guys use specialist equipment. Even within the artillery we have guys using very sophisticated pieces of equipment. More so today a lot of these skills are transferable if you decided to leave. It is a great scheme which has now opened up new opportunities for people.



PIRACY

on the High Seas

BY PAUL O'BRIEN MA

The recent film *Captain Phillips* starring Tom Hanks has once again brought to the fore the terrifying experience of kidnapping and piracy on the high seas. This true story tells the tale of a vessel captained by Captain Jack Phillips that is hijacked by Somali pirates.

Piracy remains a concern for ships passing the Horn of Africa, even though an international security force has been mobilised to police the waters, and billions of dollars has been paid out to pirates for the release of ships and their crews.

The modus operandi used in a typical attack has been analyzed by security operatives. It generally involves one or two skiffs that can travel up to speeds of 25 knots. Assaults occur in daylight, often in the early hours of the morning. Using a mother ship or larger vessel, the pirates can launch their skiffs, increasing their operating range far into the Indian Ocean. Groups vary in size and many of the pirates are high on qat, a narcotic plant that they chew. They approach the target vessel from the quarter or stern and using the threat of an RPG rocket launcher they force the ship to slow down. Using homemade ladders or bamboo poles they board the ships, where they immediately make for the bridge, the control centre of the ship. The crew are rounded up and secured. If the pirates look as if they are going to be intercepted by a naval vessel, they jettison their equipment into the sea before being arrested and without incriminating evidence they avoid prosecution and are often released.

Weapons and equipment for the attacks are sourced from Yemen and Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. The weapons consist of AKMs, RPG-7s, AK47s and semi-automatic pistols such as the TT-30.

While many of the earlier attacks were carried out by disgruntled local fishermen, groups of pirates are becoming increasingly organised. The funding of pirate operations can be compared to a stock exchange where investors can buy and sell shares in upcoming attacks. Information on ships and their cargos is radioed to the investors by members of the Somali diaspora throughout the world.

Over the last 15 years Somali pirates have attacked hundreds of vessels in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, ranging from fishing vessels, to tankers and cargo ships. Many crew members have been killed or left traumatized by their ordeals, which can last months un-



became a target for foreign fishing vessels that over-fished the region leaving very little for local fishermen. The long and remote coastline of Somalia remained unguarded as the civil war raged and was targeted by criminals who used the area as a dumping ground for the disposal of toxic waste.

According to S Thomas Troy in his book *Warlords Rising: Confronting Violent Non-state Actors*: "In 1992, reports ran in the European press of 'unnamed European firms' contracting with local warlords to dump toxic waste in Somalia and off Somalia's shores. The United Nations Environment Program was called in to investigate, and the Italian Parliament issued a report later in the decade. Several European 'firms' – really front companies created by the Italian Mafia – contracted with local Somali warlords to ship hundreds of thousands of tonnes of toxic industrial waste from Europe to Somalia."

The Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 wreaked havoc and its huge waves stirred up tonnes of toxic waste that polluted the waters and littered the shoreline of Somalia. Reports of health issues among the population of Somalia increased drastically, with cases being reported of radiation sickness and cancer.



til the ransom is paid by the ship's owners or they are rescued.

Recent UN reports and several news sources have suggested that piracy off the coast of Somalia was partially caused by illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic waste in Somali waters by several European companies. After the outbreak of the Somali civil war in 1991, the coastline

Piracy and demanding ransoms for ships and their crews are seen as a means of extracting compensation from those that are destroying the sea and the way of life of Somali fishermen. Januna Ali Jama, a spokesman for the pirates has stated that "The Somali coastline has been destroyed, and we believe this money is nothing compared to the devastation that we have seen on the seas." The local population, who benefit greatly from the acts of piracy, support the pirates, stating that the attacks are an act of self defence against those who invade and exploit Somalia's water resources illegally.

On the other hand law enforcement agencies throughout the world believe that those taking part in attacks on international shipping are not wronged locals but are career criminals who have identified easy targets that result in the payments of substantial ransoms. It is estimated that between \$339m and \$413m was paid in ransoms off the Somali coast between 2005 and 2012, with an average haul of \$2.7m. Reports released by the World Bank, the UN and Interpol reveal that those pirates actually carrying out the attacks receive very little of the bounty. Most of the money finds its way into the hands of financial backers, corrupt government officials, middlemen and a host of unscrupulous suppliers.

Money is also paid to the countless militias that control the ports in Somalia. An example of this is one agreement in Haradheer, a port north of Mogadishu, where pirates pay a development tax of 20% to al-Shabaab, an Islamist rebel group linked to al-Qaeda.

However, some of the biggest profiteers of these attacks are the insurance companies. With so many ships from so many countries passing through the danger zone, many do not comply with naval guidelines on how best to prevent pirate attacks. Premiums have increased significantly and in what could be seen as a cynical attempt to keep them high, insurance firms have failed to insist that ship owners take security precautions that would make hijackings more difficult.

Private security contractors and the German arms industry have also profited considerably from attacks on shipping.

With the increase in pirate attacks, an international military response has been co-ordinated on the high seas. A number of states have united in providing counter-piracy operations. They work to protect humanitarian aid and reduce the disruption of the shipping routes and the destabilising of the maritime environment in the region. A wide range of military vessels and air support now police the seas making it more difficult for pirates to attack. Special Forces units trained in boarding ships and rescuing hostages have had positive results. However, one of the most inventive ways of preventing pirate attacks on shipping has come from the singer Britney Spears. As pirate skiffs approach a target vessel, pop hits such as *Oops! I Did It Again* and *Baby One More Time* are boomed out across the waters. Merchant Navy officer Rachal Owens explained: "Her songs were chosen by the security team because they thought the pirates would hate them the most. These guys can't stand Western culture or music, making Britney's hits perfect. As soon as the pirates get a blast of Britney, they move on as quickly as they can."

However, even with security measures in place, piracy still continues. A recent study reveals that the most effective way to curb such high seas attacks is to disrupt the financial backers and to target those laundering the proceeds of piracy. Whatever the answer, the instability in Somalia has provided a secure base for insurgency that in the future will need to be addressed. ■

FIBUA Training

BY LT ROSS WAINERI PHOTOS CPL CATHERINE DONNELLAN (BOTH 2 ARTY REGT)

On 7th December 2013, members of 4 and 5 Reserve Batteries of 2 Arty Regt, based in Mullingar and Athlone, underwent their first experience of fighting in built up areas (FIBUA), and from all accounts it seemed to be an enjoyable and insightful experience.

The training consisted of several parade nights of preparation prior to an exercise in the tactical training area (TTA) in Haulbowline Naval Base, Cork.

The preparatory training included several lectures on FIBUA tactics and theory, combined with practical lessons around Custume Bks, Athlone. Gunners of all ranks learned about all aspects of FIBUA, including the organisation of a section; the use of cover, camouflage and concealment; entry methods; room clearance drills; casevac drills; and POW handling.

The training culminated with a small-scale, section-level exercise in the TTA involving 30 troops of all ranks. The group started off with dry drills at buddy-pair level and then moved up to section-level tactics, under supervision from PDF officers: Lts Wainer and O'Donnell (both 2 Arty Regt) and Sub Lt McLaughlin (NS).

Next, operating as three sections and using blank ammunition and pyrotechnics, the troops carried out the drills at full pace, requiring them to put the theory and practical lessons into practice.

Throughout the day as one section put in an attack another section would act as enemy, while the remaining section regrouped and prepared to mount the next attack. The exercise was conducted at a high pace, with very short debrief and turnaround times between attacks. As a consequence, a massive improvement in skills and drills was noticeable between the start and finish of the day.

The exercise gave the participants a real appreciation for how heavy and cumbersome the new equipment is while working in small and confined places; how demanding FIBUA tactics are on ammunition and personnel; and the importance of command and control.

This was the first of many such exercises for these two batteries under the new re-org and was built on the success of the 2013 orienteering and small-arms competitions, the An Cosantóir 10K, and two live-firing exercises with 120mm mortars and 105mm guns in the Glen of Imaal. The Reserve batteries of 2 Arty Regt now look forward with confidence to the challenges of 2014. ■





Alpha therapy

Now offering a special 5 day winter program - offered exclusively to An Cosantóir readers at an incredibly low price.



Dolphin therapy brings military veterans along with their families, joy and the discovery of new abilities, particularly assisting with overcoming PTSD. Therapy is also extremely beneficial for children and adults alike with special needs.

Families and participants reclaim hope, shed stress and find inspiration through activities centered around dolphin assisted therapy.

Contact Emma now for a full brochure and more details on our upcoming programs and special offers available to An Cosantóir readers!

E-Mail: emma@dolphinswim.net

 [Dolphinswim AlphaTherapie](#)

UK hotline: (+44) 20 7097 3889



A RUN FOR ALISHA



WHEN

3 March – 8 March 2014

FROM

3/3/14: Crumlin Children's Hospital (Dublin)

4/3/14: Newbridge

5/3/14: Carlow

6/3/14: Kilkenny

7/3/14: Clonmel

8/3/14: Mitchelstown

FINISHING AT COLLINS' BARRACKS, CORK ON 8 MARCH 2014

TO DONATE, GO TO
WWW.MYCHARITY.IE/EVENT/ARUNFORALISHA

 "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/arunforalisha

ALISHA'S STORY

Alisha Savage is a three-year-old from Glanmire diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain tumor known as Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumor (AT/RT). Though she still has a long way to go, every day she's one step closer to kicking cancer's butt! The next step for Alisha is a trial drug which is currently only available in the US. It's proven to be very successful so this is what her family is aiming for. And, just as everyone who meets Alisha has been so touched by how wonderful she is, the Irish Defense Forces' own Paul Mellamphy has volunteered to do what is nearly impossible! Please donate and support Paul as he runs through Ireland for Alisha Savage.

EVERY LITTLE HELPS! A EURO WILL MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.


www.alishas.com



BERLIN WWII TOUR

4 Day tour - Now taking bookings for 2014

(Aer Lingus flights Dublin - Berlin, 4* city centre hotel)

Immerse yourself on this exciting and informative tour we will visit the sites that made the city famous before, during and after the Second World War include;

- The Site of the Old Chancellery
- Site of Hitler's bunker
- Execution Site of Von Stauffenberg
- Checkpoint Charlie Site
- 4 days from only €629 pps



NORMANDY D-DAY TOUR

4 day tour - Now taking bookings for 2014

(Aer Lingus flights Dublin - Paris, 4* hotel)

- Relive the events of June 6th 1944

- Walk around the areas where the Airborne landed

- Stand on the beaches where so many men came to attack German Bunkers

- Get full and detailed facts as we walk the former Battlefields

- Visit the museums to see many fascinating exhibits

4 Days from only €695 pps

*Please note prices are group based/private tours can be arranged prices available on request.

Irish historical tour company 'When Trumpets Fade' offers a truly memorable Berlin WWII & Normandy D-Day experience. The 4 day tours have been designed by professional historian and Irish tour guide Niall Hanan exclusively for the Irish market.

"These tours are incredible - I went on a tour to Normandy with When Trumpets Fade Tours and it was the memory of a lifetime. I walked away with a profoundly enriched knowledge of what happened on D-day, how it changed the war and a deepened respect for the military and those who serve." Gerry Anderson

Contact us Now - When Trumpets Fade

Telephone: + 353 (0) 860613953 E-mail: info@whentrumpetsfade.com

www.whentrumpetsfade.com

Ronan McCormack RosActive weekend 1st & 2nd March 2014

Cycle €30
5km €15
Cycle & 5km €40

 Search for Ronan McCormack Charity Challenge www.rosactive.org

The Ronan McCormack Charity Cycle Challenge

Day 1 Schedule

Saturday 1st March 2014

100 KM CYCLE

choose your route!



Social Night

Saturday 1st March 2014
Foxe's Bar Roscommon Town
Darts Competition
Proceeds to Special Olympics Roscommon

Day 2 Schedule

Sunday 2nd March 2014

10am Invacare Series ELITE PARACYCLE CRITERIUM featuring Ireland's Elite Paracyclists
(Sign-in 8.45-9.30am)

11am "Taking the Dis" 2km Push, Cycle or Roll

to showcase the talents of people with different abilities.

(Sign-in 9.00-10.30am)

12noon 5km Sub 30 Run

Closed circuit road race

(Sign-in 10.00-11.30am)

12.30 5km Lappers Challenge

Fun Run, Walk or Push around the streets of Roscommon Town

(Sign-in 10.30-12.00am)

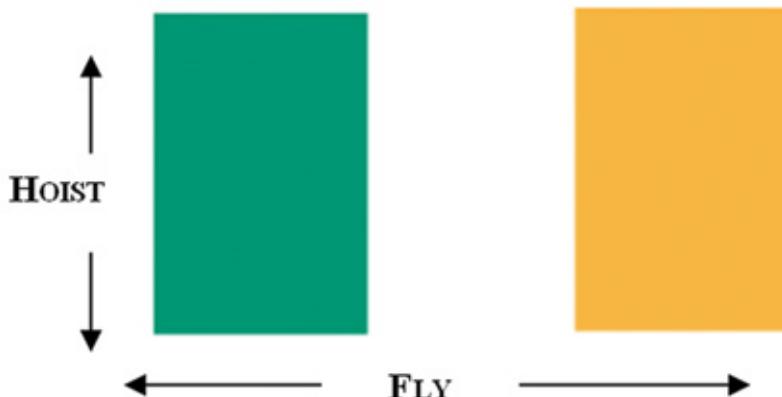
This weekend is in memory of Ronan McCormack, in aid of Jack & Jill Foundation and Roscommon Special Olympics



THE NAVAL ENSIGN

The Ensign to be used by the Naval Service shall be the National Flag. Ensigns shall be manufactured from wool bunting or a mixture of wool and nylon bunting. It shall have the following dimensions.

- a. Large Ensign - 12 feet fly by 6 feet hoist
- b. Normal Ensign - 9 feet fly by 4.5 feet hoist
- c. Small Ensign - 6 feet fly by 3 feet hoist
- d. Boat Ensign - 4 feet fly by 2 feet hoist



SIZES TO BE WORN

1. A Large Ensign shall, except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph 3 of this section be worn at naval installations on Sundays and Defence Force holidays and on other occasions as may be directed.

2. A Normal Ensign shall be worn:-

- a. By Naval Ships in commission, On Sundays and Defence Force holidays, except in winds of force 6 and upwards, and on such other occasions as may be directed.
- b. At naval installations except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraphs 1 and 3 of this section.

3. A Small Ensign shall be worn:-

- a. At Naval installations in winds of force 6 and upwards.
- b. By Naval ships in commission except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph 2(a) of this section.
- c. By Naval Auxiliary Ships and Department of Defence vessels.

4. A Boat Ensign shall be worn:-

- a. By boats belonging to naval ships at all times, by day and by night, when on duty outside territorial waters, or when going alongside a foreign ship in territorial waters.
- b. By boats belonging to naval ships and be service launches inside territorial waters when flying Burgee or Pennant.



ENSIGN HALF MASTING

1. On occasions when it is necessary to half-mast the Ensign it shall, if not previously hoisted, be hoisted to the close up position then lowered to half-mast position. Similarly before lowering from the half-mast position it shall be hoisted to the close-up position and then lowered.

2. The half-mast position is approximately one-third of the way down from the close-up position, but never below the middle point of the staff. As a general guide, the half-mast position may be taken as where the top of the flag is the depth of the flag below the close-up position.

3. When the Ensign is at the half-mast position and it is appropriate for boats to wear an Ensign, the Ensign worn by the boats shall also be at the half-mast position.

ANSWERING THE DIP

When any vessel salutes a state ship by dipping her Ensign the salute shall be returned dip for dip.

Return to ARLINGTON

BY COL BILL NOTT (RETD)

President Kennedy's visit to Ireland in 1963 was the first visit of an American president to the land of his forefathers. The visit took the country by storm at the time and required the involvement of a large number of Defence Forces' units in ceremonial events. One such event was a wreath-laying ceremony at Arbour Hill at which members of 36 Cadet Class performed the ceremonial drill under Lt (later Brig Gen) Frank Colclough.

The RTÉ film footage of the event shows the camera focused almost entirely on the president who is clearly looking in the direction of the cadets as they performed their drill. On return to the US he requested a filmed record of the entire visit including the Arbour Hill ceremony and, in particular, the cadet ceremonial drill. As the RTÉ film did not include the drill, 37th Cadet Class (the 36th having moved on after commissioning) was tasked with re-enacting it at Arbour Hill and the resulting footage forwarded to the White House. According to his wife, Jacqueline, the president showed it to many a distinguished visitor.

A few months later the assassination of the president shook Ireland and the world. As plans were being made for his state funeral, Mrs Kennedy recalled her husband's admiration of the cadets' ceremonial drill and requested an Irish cadet guard to render honours at his graveside. The Irish government immediately acceded to the request and, as a result, the day before the funeral 26 members of 37th Cadet Class found themselves on an Aer Lingus Boeing 707 flying with President de Valera to Washington in compliance with the First Lady's wishes. Also included in the party were OC Cadet School, Lt Col (later Col) Cyril Mattimoe, Capt (later Maj Gen) Kevin Duffy, and Lt Col Colclough, who would again be the officer of the guard. The rest is history, and featured in an excellent Nemeton TV documentary shown on TG 4 under the title 'Kennedy's Cadets'.

In the following January, Mrs Kennedy wrote to President de Valera to thank him for coming to her husband's funeral "and for bringing with him the Irish Cadets – who had moved him a few months before in Ireland – and who then moved the world at his grave".

Fast forward to 2011 and a reunion of 37th Cadet Class in Dungarvan where a decision was taken to organise a trip to Washington in 2013 to commemorate the historic event of 50 years before. After many contacts, meetings, emails and discussions, 11 former cadets of 37th Cadet Class travelled to Washington on 23rd November, accompanied by a colour party of five senior cadets

HISTORY

Cadet Honour Guard at President Kennedy's funeral, Washington 25th November, 1963.



37th Cadet Class retired officers at graveside of President Kennedy.



Lt Col J Dunne (retd) lays a wreath at President Kennedy's grave.

drawn from the current 89th Cadet Class under Comdt Frank Flannery, and a piper, Sgt Joe Meade. Eight of the retired officers' wives also travelled. Prior to departure, the US Embassy held a short commemorative ceremony involving 89th Cadet Class, which was attended by An Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore and Chief of Staff Lt Gen Conor O'Boyle.

On 25th November the party was received by the 'Old Guard' (the US Army's ceremonial unit) in Fort Myer, Washington, where we had been accommodated in 1963.

We were delighted to meet US Army Lt Martin Dockery (retd) who had been our liaison officer at the time and who had flown down from New York for the occasion. After a display of Old Guard ceremonial drill, Lt Col Pete McMahon (retd) presented a replica of the 37th Cadet Class pennant to the Officer Commanding the Old Guard.

The main ceremony, which took place in the afternoon at President Kennedy's graveside at nearby Arlington Cemetery, con-

HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY



sisted of the national and cadet colours being marched on accompanied by the piper. The reading of WB Yeats' poem 'The Cloths of Heaven' was followed by the playing of the same lament, 'The Mist over

the Mountains', that was played at the funeral 50 years before, and the laying of a wreath by Lt Col Rod Dunne (retd) on behalf of 37th Cadet Class and the Defence Forces. The piper brought the ceremony to a conclusion with the playing of 'Amazing Grace', a favourite of President Kennedy's.

The ceremony was conducted in the presence of the Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson and witnessed by many visitors to the graveside.

After a short tour of Arlington the party proceeded to the Tomb of the Unknowns where Capt Tom Hickey (retd) laid a wreath on behalf of the Defence Forces. This was a rare honour normally reserved for visiting heads of state and chiefs of staff. In 1963 the cadets had flown to Washington with their Lee Enfield No.4 .303 rifles under their seats. This time Col Eoin Moloney (retd), on behalf of the 37th Class, presented a deactivated Lee Enfield (which this time had travelled in the hold of the plane) to the Arlington Cemetery Authorities as a memento of the historic event, to be displayed in the Arlington Museum, next to the main entrance to the cemetery. Later that day Ambassador Anderson hosted a reception in the Irish Embassy at which Lt Col Joe Ahern (retd) presented a framed photograph of "Kennedy's Cadets", the 37th Class Guard of Honour at the graveside in 1963. The photograph will be hung in the Embassy.

The following day the party went to the Pentagon for a tour that included visiting the impact site of the 9/11 plane crash and the memorial to its victims. The group were then received by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey, whose grandparents came from Mayo and Donegal respectively. Col Brian O'Reilly presented Gen Dempsey with a Tyrconnell single-malt and a copy of the Chiefs of Staff Portrait Collection edited by Col Tom Hodson (retd) – another member of 37th Cadet Class. In reciprocation Gen Dempsey gave each member of the party a copy of his ornamental dog-tag medallion.

In the afternoon the party visited Capitol Hill and were given a very interesting tour of that historic place.



Col E Moloney (retd) presents Lee Enfield rifle to Arlington Authorities.



Lt Col P McMahon (retd) presents a replica of 37th Class pennant to OC Fort Myer.



The group pictured with General Dempsey.

As Wednesday was the eve of Thanksgiving no formal visits were undertaken and the members of the visiting party were free to visit many of the US capital's well-known sites and museums. The main body returned to Ireland the following day while some continued their trip with a visit to New York.

Everyone who travelled was struck by the warmth of the reception in Washington 50 years after the original event and it was considered that the return visit was a huge success.

The group would like to thank all who supported them in this venture, including the current and former chiefs of staff, the Department of Defence, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Irish Embassy in Washington, the US Embassy and US military attaché, McKee Officers' Club, Mr WJ McCarter, Buncrana, and ARCO.

The Adventure Begins

BY CPL ROBBIE DANIELS (3 INF BN)

Five days of mountain navigation from 25 – 29 November turned out to be a challenge of both body and mind for 15 students from 3 Inf Bn. They arrived fully kitted out and ready for an exciting week, which began at Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee. To begin with it was back to basics for the troops, with map reading, programme briefs, and lectures on mountain safety, accident procedures and mountaineering topping the list of subjects on day one. On the square in Ballymullen Sgt Henry Byrne conducted an excellent practical lesson in trusting your compass and pacing. All these are essential practical skills that would be put to test in an area that has claimed the lives of previous mountaineers.

Day two started with the usual shake out of kit, a lesson on the dangers of mountains and rivers and a practical route planning session. The group then moved on to the Macgillycuddy Reeks, the highest mountain range in the country, to test our pacing accuracy through various types of terrain. We made our way up via the route known as The Bone, traversed a ridge and then down the Zig-Zags exit route. Total time in the Reeks was about seven hours, with the weather good, apart from poor visibility on the ridge, which seemed to be the pattern for the week.

The next day we started at Kate Kearney's Cottage, moved on road through the Gap of Dunloe until we found our track, which led us up towards the fabled Ballagh Pass and eventually across The Big Gun. The challenge was enhanced by darkness and the need to pick our way through many rocky switchbacks on a steep decline. Some of the students even called it fun! But they realised very quickly how important contours are for navigation.

Our last big push was on day four when the target was Carrauntoohil via the Eagle's Nest and O'Shea's Gully. However, conditions on the day meant that we had to change the plan to just taking the Central Gully and then onto the summit and a descent by the Zig-Zags. This change in plan and the early creep of night-fall really piled the pressure on the students in what was already a challenging climb. The fact that the week was all about teaching mountaineering and practical navigation really showed here with the students performing multiple nav checks and getting the team down safely. It was an experience they will carry with them for the rest of their military careers.

I would like to thank Sgt Byrne and Sgt Shane Whelan from 3 Inf Bn, who came down to give a hand, and also DFAM members Sgt Fran Whelan (Air Corps) and Pte Conor O'Dwyer (12 Inf Bn, Limerick), without whose assistance the week would not have happened.

Two months planning for one week of madness. Was it worth it? Absolutely! ■



Vox Pops

**PTE JORDAN SEYMORE**

"I feel I greatly benefitted from this week; it was good to learn how to navigate only using map craft and feature recognition. Overall it was a very beneficial week and I would recommend anyone to take up mountaineering as you pick up some essential skills."

**PTE DEAN LONG**

"I learned a lot during this skills week; everything from navigation skills to what equipment to wear. I also learnt about dealing with the various dangers of mountaineering in Ireland. For example, how to safely cross boulder fields on steep ground, how to protect myself, and how poor planning can lead to serious accidents. All-in-all I really enjoyed the week."



**OHT® - 16 Functions**

- Spring-action Needlenose Pliers
- Spring-action Regular Pliers
- Spring-action 154CM Replaceable Hard-wire Cutters
- Spring-action 154CM Replaceable Wire Cutters
- 420HC Knife
- 420HC Serrated Knife
- Saw
- Strap Cutter
- Can Opener
- Bottle Opener
- Oxygen Tank Wrench
- #8-32 Cleaning Rod/Brush Adapter
- Phillips Screwdriver
- Large Screwdriver
- Medium Screwdriver
- Small Screwdriver

**VICTORINOX****Soldier's Knife 0.8461.MWCH**

Large lock blade for one hand 2/3 wavy edge.

Phillips-screwdriver

Can opener with small screwdriver

Lockable cap lifter with screwdriver

Wire cutters

Punch, reamer

Key ring

Wood saw



Distributed by Peterson of Dublin

Peterson House, Sallynoggin, Co. Dublin **Tel:** +353-1-2851011 **Fax:** + 353-1-2856593

Email: sales@peterson.ie **Web:** www.peterson.ie



Defence Forces

Photographic Competition



The Competition is open to all readers of the An Cosantoir, both civilian and military. All entries must contain some relevance to Military Life. Terms and Conditions apply.

Competition will run from:

February to October (incl.)
Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Overall

Entry Form and T&C available on www.dfmagazine.ie

Competition Sponsored By

Barker
PHOTOGRAPHIC LTD.
Equipment & Supplies

GEAR REVIEW



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie

HATCH SPECIALIST ALL-WEATHER NEOPRENE SHOOTING/DUTY GLOVES

SIZE: LARGE

MODEL: NS430 **PRICE:** €30.00



The manufacturer says...

Constructed of neoprene for comfort, flexibility and warmth. Palm made of Synsi-feel™ synthetic leather for excellent grip and accurate feel. Extreme-grip™ sewn onto palm and fingertips for maximum grip. Hook and loop closures keep gloves firmly in place. Hatch Specialist All-weather Neoprene Shooting/Duty Gloves are ideal for all-weather weapon use and all day wear. The snug, comfortable fit has made them a favourite choice of US law enforcement professionals. Also available with a Thinsulate liner.

Our reviewer Sgt Karl Byrne (PR Branch, DFHQ) says...

I have used the gloves while doing various activities including weapons training, hill walking and recreational exercise. The neoprene construction is both comfortable and warm in windy and cold weather, although I wouldn't expect them to hold up in sub-zero conditions they are still quite warm. The synthetic leather palms offer very good grip even under wet conditions. The hook and loop closures don't loosen easily but are not a struggle to open either. The gloves have a tight fit but once you're wearing the right size they feel natural. The only down side to these gloves I found is that they don't offer any kind of water proofing, that said I wouldn't hesitate to purchase them.

Comfort 8 - Durability 7 - Fit 9 - Grip 9 - Dexterity 7

COMPETITION

This month Team-Alpha is offering a €100 Voucher to be used on their website www.team-alpha.ie.

For a chance to win this month's prize answer the following question: How much is an Arc'teryx Drac Jacket Wolf on team-alpha.ie?

Answers on a postcard to An Cosantóir's regular address or by email to subs@military.ie by the 19th February 2014. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn.

Last month's winner was: Alan Breen

EICKHORN SOLIGEN POCKET RESCUE TOOL II

PRICE: €87.50



The manufacturer says...

The Eickhorn-Solingen Ltd. PRT tool range is excellent for those who want a small light-weight emergency pocket tool. Every product is designed and manufactured to provide long lasting trouble free service. Each is a precision tool and is as such must be used and cared for in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in order to maintain peak performance at all times.

Standard features of all Eickhorn-Solingen Ltd. Pocket Rescue Tools (PRT): Laser cut ice hardened corrosion free blade steel 440A in black or steel finish. MIL spec: -40°C / +80°C operating temperatures, laser cut serrated cutting edge, window puncher/glass breaker, half serrated cutting edge, maintenance free ergonomically designed all weather handle grip with aluminium finish, oversized thumb stud internal blade release mechanism and a pocket clip.

Our reviewer Airman Jason Byrne (105 Sqn, No 1 Ops Wg) says...

This knife comes presented in a nice sturdy aluminium box with a tool for removing the blade. Upon opening the knife I found that it fitted very comfortably into my hand due to it's ergonomically designed all weather handle grip. The glass breaker on the handle works extremely well. There is a secondary blade encased in the handle which is for cutting seat/safety belts which works well too. The blade release mechanism made it easy to fold the blade down and the trouser clip holds the knife in place securely. In my opinion I would highly recommend this knife for drivers as the features mentioned above would be very useful in case of an accident. In my opinion the price is definitely well worth it for a survival tool of this calibre.

Handle Grip 10 - Glass Breaker 10 - Function 10 - Sharpness 10 - Blade release 10



NOTICEBOARD

CHELSEA SUPPORTERS CLUB, DUBLIN BRANCH

New Members welcome! Benefits include priority tickets, match trips, pitch presentations, fun meetings and much much more...

Meetings held first Monday of each month @ 8.30pm
(second Monday if it's a Bank Holiday) in the Halfway House,
Navan Road, Dublin 7.

Contact Pat Byrne (Secretary) on 087 226 9366 /
cfcdublin@gmail.com or visit www.cfdublin.com,
www.facebook.com/ChelseaDublinSC

WORD SEARCH

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

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

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

ARTILLERY
CAVALRY
COMMUNICATIONS
ENGINEERS
INFORMATION
MEDICAL
MILITARY
ORDNANCE
POLICE
SYSTEMS

Military Corps

FEBRUARY Q&A COMPETITION

1. What year was Leopardstown Park Hospital established (this issue)?

Answers on a postcard to our normal address or email subs@military.ie for a chance to win a Defence Forces 'Goody Bag'.

Last month's winner of 'Once In Another World' by Brendan Sweeney was Sgt Denise English, Mil Col, DFTC. Closing date is 19th February 2014.



CURRAGH MUTINY SEMINAR

The 20th March 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the Curragh Mutiny. This occurred when 57 officers of the British Army's 3 Cavalry Brigade stationed at the Curragh Camp, indicated that they would resign their commissions if ordered to take military action against Ulster Unionist resistance to the implementation of Home Rule for all Ireland.

The Centre for Contemporary Irish History at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) will host a seminar to mark this important historical event on Friday 21st March, 2014, under the direction of Dr Eunan O'Halpin, TCD Professor of Contemporary Irish History. Speakers from Irish and UK universities have been invited.

Timings: full-day programme from 09.30 - 17.00, lunch is 13.00 - 14.00.

Cost: €45 (includes lunch in the Officer's Mess). The seminar will conclude with a reception in the Mess Bar. Booking forms and further details please e-mail: tbrace@tcd.ie.

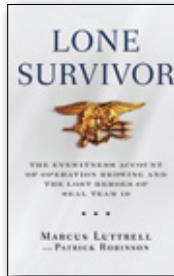
LONE SURVIVOR: THE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF OPERATION REDWING AND THE LOST HEROES OF SEAL TEAM 10

By: Marcus Luttrell (author) & Patrick Robinson (contributor)

Publisher: Little, Brown & Co (June 2007) / eBook by Sphere (January 2010)

ISBN: 978-0316067591 **ASIN:** B0035YDM4Y

Price: €6.10 PB / €4.50 eBook **Pages:** 390



LONE SURVIVOR IS a factual, behind-enemy-lines action thriller on a par with Bravo Two Zero (1993) and Pathfinder (2012).

In June 2005 a four-man US Navy SEAL team occupied an OP overwatching a Taliban stronghold on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border. Their mission, Operation Redwing, was to capture or kill a notorious al-Qaeda leader, who commanded 150+ seasoned Taliban mountain fighters and was known to have been responsible for lethal attacks on US marines.

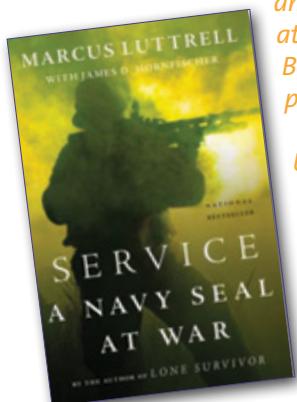
Petty Officer First Class Marcus Luttrell joined the US Navy in March 1999 and became a Navy SEAL in January 2002, becoming second-in-command to his best friend, Naval Lieutenant Mike Murphy, with whom he established a bond only soldiers know – a never-leave-a-man-behind creed bled into them on the battlefield.

An explanation of this bond of brotherhood and a full insight into the US Navy's BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL) training is included at the start of the book before we get into the main body of the tale, a battle for life against overwhelming odds.

This comes about when the Operation Redwing team, consisting of 'Axe', Danny, Mikey and Markus, are rumbled by three shepherds and their herd of goats. Modern war operates under Rules of Engagement and the Law of Armed Conflict so the SEAL team cannot eliminate these shepherds, but setting them free will lead to mission failure and more likely a fight to the death against a well trained force in their backyard. What ensues is a last man standing in the most gruelling battle for life I have ever read, losing his team one by one, with severe injuries Marcus manages to evade the enemy by crawling for days out of the area. He is eventually found by a Pashtun tribe who risk their very existence to protect him from the ever pursuing Taliban. Lone Survivor, a tale of how an experienced SF operator survives against unbelievable odds, with the help of a local populace with whom he couldn't communicate so that he could eventually bring his battle brothers dying moments home to their loved ones. **WF**

About the Author: PO 1st Class Marcus Luttrell born Huntsville, Texas in 1975. He joined the US Navy in March of 1999, and he has served in Iraq and Afghanistan. His next book: Service: A Navy SEAL at War with James D. Hornfischer, was published by Back Bay Books, May 2013, ISBN: 978-0316185387 and priced €9.50.

Patrick Robinson is known for his best-selling US Navy-based novels and his international best-selling autobiography of Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward, One Hundred Days. He lives in England and spends his summers in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where he and Marcus wrote Lone Survivor.



DVD/MOVIE



LONE SURVIVOR

Director/Writer: Peter Berg

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Ben Foster, Emile Hirsch, Alexander Ludwig and Eric Bana

Runtime: 2hrs **Certificate:** 16

Cinema Release: 31st January 2014

BASED ON US Navy SEAL Markus Luttrell's book Lone Survivor, starring Mark Wahlberg in the lead role as Petty Officer 1st Class Markus Luttrell during the faithful mission on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border called 'Operation Redwing' in 2005. Their mission was to capture or kill a notorious Taliban leader. After confirming his identity and setting up an OP they were disturbed by local shepherds who they had to set free. This led to the SEALs trying to out-run an enemy force of 150+ who were in close pursuit through the mountains of Afghanistan resulting in the deaths of three members of SEAL Team 10.

Lone Survivor is a true story of how a Special Forces operator survives against outstanding odds even after suffering the deaths of his other team members, Axe (Foster), Dietz (Hirsch) and team leader and best friend Lt Mike Murphy (Kitsch).

Although the film doesn't stand up to how PO 1st Class Luttrell survived behind enemy lines injured and dehydrated for four days and the action and realities of war portrayed in the book.

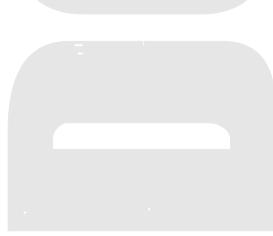
I do understand that film production was aimed at producing a two hour action movie, and as a standalone movie it is action packed and truly enjoyable and I'm pleased that Markus's story receives a wider audience as a true warrior should. **WF**



NAME
DECLAN BYRNE

RANK
CORPORAL

UNIT
3 INF BN



I am a cadre staff NCO with E Coy, 3 Inf Bn, based in Wexford. Military Post. My military career started in 1984 with 2 AD Bty, FCÁ, based in Griffith Bks. After joining the PDF I initially served with 2 Inf Bn and then 2 Fd Arty Regt before I moved back to 2 AD Bty as a member of the cadre training staff. Later I transferred to 10 Inf Bn in Wexford, which later amalgamated with 9 Inf Bn to form 33 Res Inf Bn. Now, as part of the 'single-force' concept we are part of 3 Inf Bn.

"I love working with the reserve, it's a very rewarding job and they are a great bunch of people."

Up until the recent re-org I was part of C Coy, 33 Res Inf Bn, based in Carlow Town and Bagenalstown and I also helped out with B Coy, which was based in the Portlaoise/Athy area.

With the introduction of the 'single-force' concept RDF

units now make up companies and platoons within PDF units. For example, 3 Inf Bn's C, D, and E Coy consist of reservists. The geographical spread of the reservists in 3 Inf Bn is quite vast, coming from Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Wexford, and Waterford.

The reserve sub-units depend on their cadre staff. I primarily look after administration, logistics and training. I have to maintain a file on each individual with their address, contact details, and details for pay. Coming up to training weekends or weeks we have to apply in advance for field days. There is a lot of planning and preparation in this as rations, accommodation and equipment all have to be requisitioned.

With part-timers there is a lot of communication and coordination involved. I have a database set up with all the numbers of our personnel, who will all receive several texts telling them the date of the train-

ing day, and where and when they will be picked up. As reservists, many of them have to book time off work. This can be problematic at times as sometimes personnel will not know if they have the time off until the last minute.

Obviously, training a reserve unit is not the same as a PDF unit. Personnel only meet for regular training a night, a day or a weekend at a time, and then a week during the summer. We have a few recruits in the battalion at the moment and we are also currently training everyone up on the new arms drill and getting used to the integration with 3 Inf Bn.

I love working with the reserve, it's a very rewarding job and they are a great bunch of people. ■





Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen & Women

Support our Homeless Ex-Service Personnel

Buy a Fuchsia



215 cuidíú leosan a dhéan searbhís

Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta, Brú na bhFiann, Smithfield Market,
North King Street, Dublin 7. CHY 13868 Tel: 01 485 0666

Visit our website at www.oneconnect.ie

Making your money
go further



SERVICES AVAILABLE

Savings • Loans • Budget Plan Service • Home Heating Oil Scheme
Petrol Card Scheme • Members Draw

75/76 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8554489 Fax: 01 8558067

Email: info@ansaccu.ie Web: www.ansaccu.ie



museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Decorative
Arts & History



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

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

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

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

**Museum Stop:
Red LUAS Line**