



Pension Matters; An update

By ARCO EXCOM

Public Service Pension Reduction

Under the Financial Emergencies Measures in the Public Interest Act 2015 (FEMPI), the Public Service Pension Reduction is being ameliorated providing for a total reduction of €1,680 in three phases for retired officers: The third phase of the restoration of pension income subjected to the Public Service Pension Reduction (PSPR) is due from January 2018. (See Newsletter No. 29). This will see a further €780.00 restored to most PSPR impacted pensioners.

Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020

The Public Service Stability Agreement was approved by Government and ratified by the Public Service Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Paragraph 6.2 of the agreement prescribes that future policy on public service pensions in payment for the duration of the agreement will be guided by:

- The need to adopt an equitable approach to the various public service pensioner cohorts who are now not only differentiated by amount of pension in payment (determined by grade and service) as heretofore but also by date of retirement (in particular pre and post end-February 2012).
- Accordingly, for those who retired or will retire post end-February 2012, to the extent that they retired on reduced salaries, they will receive pension increases in line with the pay increases due to their peers currently in employment under the terms of this Agreement.
- When alignment is achieved between pre and post end-February 2012 pensioners, as will happen progressively for salary pay ranges up to €70,000 by 2020 under this Agreement, pay increases will continue to benefit pensions in payment for the duration of this Agreement.

Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017

General

On 07 November, the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, T.D. secured Government approval for the publication of the Public Service Pay and Pensions Bill 2017.

When enacted, the Bill will provide the legal basis for the provisions of the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018 - 2020, which was approved by Government in June, and was ratified by the Public Services Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in September.

Pension Restoration

Regarding pensions, part three of the legislation provides for a further substantial lessening of the impact of the Public Service Pension Reduction (PSPR) on public service pensions in 2019 and 2020, with a provision to provide for the elimination of the remaining impact of the measure by Statutory Order to be made by 31 December 2020.

The Bill provides for the lessening of the PSPR for both pre- and post-March 2012 retirees.

From 01 January 2019, retired officers in receipt of pensions up to €39,000 will be exempt PSPR, and from 01 January 2020 the figure increases to €54,000.

Officers who retired on or before 29 February 2012 had their pension calculated by reference to their 'pre-cut' salary. Officers who retired after that date had their pension calculated on their (lower) salary at January 2010. Because of the difference in salary, different rates of PSPR were applied to these cohorts.

For the pre-2012 cohort, the following table applies:

Annualised Pension (2019)	Annualised Pension (2020)	Reduction
Up to €39,000	Up to €54,000	Exempt
€39,000 - €60,000	€54,000 - €60,000	12 per cent
€60,000 - €100,000	€60,000 - €100,000	17 per cent
Over €100,000	Over €100,000	28 per cent

For the post-2012 cohort, the following table applies:

Annualised Pension (2019)	Reduction (2020)	Reduction (2020)
Up to €60,000	Exempt	Exempt
€60,000 - €100,000	3 per cent	1 per cent
Over €100,000	8 per cent	6 per cent



Pension Matters; An update (continued)

(continued over . . .)

Consistent with PSPR application to date, the band-specific percentage reduction rates above apply to the relevant slices of an affected pension; they do not apply to the entire pension.

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform is required to make a Statutory Order by 31 December 2020, which provides for a date by which any remaining PSPR impact will cease to apply.

Pay Increases

Pay increases since 2016 to end-2020 will be passed along to pensioners whose pensions were based on lower salary levels than are paid to pensioners who retire after each increase.

For post end Feb 2012 retirees, all pay increases since 2016 will be passed along.

For pre end Feb 2012 retirees, pensions based on (pre-cut) salaries of over €70,000 will not receive any parity increases. For this cohort on (pre-cut) salaries of less than €70,000, pensioners will benefit where the PSSA increases result in the current salary exceeding its

pre-FEMPI peak. These increases will be applied in addition to the lessening of PSPR as outlined above.

ARCO's Strategy – Pension Related Issues

Members are encouraged to peruse ARCO's Strategy, ARCO's Submissions to the Pay Commission, to the Minister for State with Responsibility for Defence, and to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, and subsequent responses, all of which are posted on ARCO's website.

The Programme for Partnership Government commits the current administration to fully restore pensions for retired public servants by 2021. In the current financial climate, 2021 as a possible date for the full restoration of pensions is unwarranted and unfair. In this context, ARCO, along with the Alliance of Retired Public Servants is continuing to pursue full restoration of all pensions to all cohorts by the end of 2019, the determination of pension increases, and access to an independent third party mechanism for pension related issues.

DF Veterans' Day: 08 October 2017

Following on from the inaugural commemorative ceremony to honour the service of retired members of the Defence Forces, which was held in the DFTC on Tuesday, 02 September 2014, the 2017 Ceremony (4th Veterans Day) was again held in the DFTC on 08 October. The event, which was hosted by the Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM and the General Officer Commanding DFTC, Brig Gen Joe Mulligan, was attended by The Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D. The Minister welcomed our members along with members of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) and the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONE) to the DFTC to acknowledge the contribution that former servicemen and women have provided to the State, both here at home and around the world.

The Minister stated that, "While only in its fourth year (Veteran's Day), it is already becoming a firm fixture in the Defence Force Calendar. It is an important day to honour all of those who once wore the uniform of our army, naval service and air corps, who have always been fundamental to the success of the Irish Defence Forces.

In recognising the generations of dedicated service, the Minister stated that "I would like to pay tribute to you former members of the Defence Forces, for the important role that each of you have played in your career at home and overseas. Your dedication and service has contributed in no small measure to the excellent reputation of the Defence Forces."

The Minister reviewed a parade involving members of the Permanent Defence Forces along with a representative body from ARCO, IUNVA and ONE. Following a short multi denominational religious service, a

wreath laying ceremony to honour departed servicemen and women took place.



Commander Gerard O'Flynn (NS) (Retd) receiving the Centenary Commemorative Plaque from Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D. Also pictured are Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, COS (Left) and General Officer Commanding DFTC, Brig Joe Mulligan (Right)

ARCO President, Commander Gerard O'Flynn (NS) (Retd) laid the wreath on behalf of ARCO.

The Minister also presented a Centenary Commemorative Plaque to the Organisation of National Ex-servicemen and women (ONE), the Irish United

Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA) and the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) to acknowledge the central role played by veterans of the Defence Forces in the 1916 Centenary Commemorative events of last year and to recognise their past service to the State.



Air Traffic Control in the "Old Days"

By Lt Col Richard Cummins (Retd)

Between 1937 and 1948 Air Corps officers worked as control officers in the control towers at Foynes, Shannon and Dublin airports. This was necessary as the Dept of Industry and Commerce, who had responsibility for civil aviation, had not recruited civilian personnel to train as control officers. They did not begin to correct this situation until 1942 when JP Saul was recruited as Chief Control Officer and there began a gradual recruitment of personnel.

Approximately twenty seven Air Corps officers were involved in the provision of control services at the three airports at various times. Dublin Airport opened in 1940 with the first commercial flight taking place on Friday 19th January with an Air Corps officer, Capt Ned Stapleton providing the control service. One of the Air Corps officers who provided control services at Dublin Airport was Lt Brendan Flanagan. Lt Flanagan was a member of the 2nd Short Service Officers Wings Course commissioned in 1941. Lt Flanagan left the Air Corps in late 1952 to work with Aer Lingus where he went on, in due course, to be a captain on Boeing 747's. In 2005, when in his eighties, he recorded some of his memories of working as a control officer at Dublin Airport between early 1943 and mid-1946. It is, to my knowledge, the only first-hand account of the work that went on in control towers in those early days. It is published here, in an edited format, with the kind permission of Brendan Flanagan's grandson Comdt Ruairi O'Brien, who found it in his grandfather's papers following his death in 2015.

These are Brendan's own words:

"The airfield itself had no hard runways. The main runway, 24, was marked by lights sunk into the grass runway. There were four large floodlights at the airfield's four corners. There was also a rotating lighted wind "T" to indicate wind direction at night. On the control tower roof there was a rotating airport beacon with white and green beams.

About fifty people worked at the airport – Aer Rianta staff, Aer Lingus staff, the Met Service and State Radio staff (Dept of Posts

& Telegraphs). There was no voice (radio) contact with the airport. State Radio provided W/T communication in Morse Code. They also provided the only Air Navigation Aid (a direction finder). Using a special "Q" code an aircraft might ask in Morse "QDM Dublin" and the airport might reply "QDM 270". The aircraft had asked "What is my magnetic course with zero wind to reach Dublin?" The reply was "With zero wind your magnetic course to reach Dublin is 270 degrees (W)." Sometimes an aircraft asked for a position report or fix. Dublin, The Isle of Man and Bristol (direction finders) took simultaneous bearings on the aircraft's Morse Signal. State Radio passed the three bearings to the Dublin Control Officer who plotted a triangulation and the resulting position was passed to the aircraft. The whole operation took about 3 or 4 minutes. At that time radio bearings were measured using a "Loop Aerial", most airports had one.

Unfortunately the horizontal parts of a loop aerial made bearings unreliable and were used with caution. Dublin Airport had the best loop aerial then available. The loop was made of four very high masts with connecting horizontal parts buried underground. This eliminated the night effect error. The four aerias were in a field beside the airport, now the site of the airport church.

In the control tower was a Ping-Pong size chart table. The table had a chart of Ireland and Britain with a "True" compass drawn around Dublin, The Isle of Man and Bristol Airports. From the centre of each compass rose was threaded a lead weighted fishing line which lay over the table side. Bearings could be plotted almost instantly and a position in latitude and longitude passed to an aircraft. Radio bearings travel in great circles which appear as awkward curves on the well - known Mercator projection of our schooldays. The control tower chart was drawn on the Gnomonic projection on which radio bearings are straight lines.

Tours of air control duties lasted two or three weeks. Normally I flew to Dublin Airport from Baldonnel in a Miles Magister aircraft.

An Aer Lingus flight went to Liverpool about 10.30. Visual signals were given for taxi and take-off clearances. These were red or green flashes using an Aldis signal lamp. State Radio then signalled Liverpool with the necessary information – estimated time of arrival, number of passengers etc.

A reciprocal British Rail Airways flight arrived from Liverpool at 11.30 and departed for Liverpool at 14.30. The Aer Lingus flight arrived back in Dublin about 15.30.

The Aer Lingus Operations Officer was always impatient to learn the number of passengers. For four or less it was a taxi, for more than four he needed a bus. The aircraft used were De Havilland 86 biplanes. About once a week Aer Lingus used their DC 3.

After my exhausting day I would fly back to Baldonnel and then proceed by bicycle to 26 Palmerston Road, Rathmines. On this

journey I rarely saw more than five cars on the Naas Road. There was no catering at Dublin Airport. Lunch was available at the Boot Inn on the opposite side of the airfield. This was a fairly long walk, sometimes through wet grass. Many times my wife Nancy got the Aer Lingus bus to and from the airport and spent the day with me in the control tower. She made good toast on an upturned one bar electric fire. Sometimes the toast was burned. The master chef would then take over and she gave the green lamp signals.

I have many memories but two incidents were special. On one occasion I went to Dublin Airport by Army car and it was arranged that a relief control officer would fly over to Dublin Airport before lunch. That morning a large group of architectural students arrived to inspect the famous building. They finished on the viewing verandas and watched the British aircraft landing at 11.30. Then the Air Corps aircraft arrived. The relief control officer was Capt Dessie Johnston, one of the best aerobatic pilots, ever, in the Air Corps. Dessie was flying a Gloster Gladiator and seeing spectators put on a wonderful display over the airfield, quite low. The students waited to see this daredevil pilot. He came out of the cockpit wearing a well-cut dark overcoat, Anthony Eden hat and carried a rolled up umbrella. Not quite what they expected. Dessie was going to a late wedding after his duties.

The other incident occurred on a December Sunday. I was on standby at Baldonnel. Dublin Airport requested a control officer and I flew over in a Magister. Landing the light aircraft I could see and feel that the grass runway was very soft. Heavy rain for a few

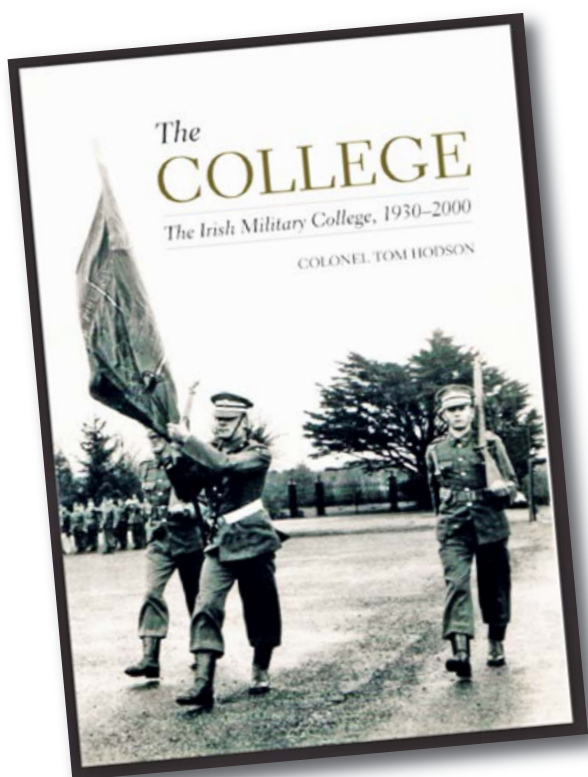
days had left it almost sodden. Shortly afterwards I gave landing clearance to a DC 3 aircraft which made deep cuts in the grass as it landed. I never knew where the aircraft came from or where it went.

Later a group of about five or six people, including the airport engineer came to the control office. He was giving them "The Tour". When he finally spoke to me it was to inform me that the DC 3 would depart next morning at 3 am. I said that the grass runway was unsafe for a night take-off with a strange pilot and I would arrange for departure just after dawn. He became angry and threatened me with higher military authority. Back in Baldonnel, the Officer Commanding the Air Corps, Col Delamere, rang me. He was furious and pointed out that my attitude was an embarrassment to many, including the government. Although shaken, I realised he was not prepared to take the responsibility and give me a direct order. I maintained my position and he banged the phone down. Sometime later General McKenna, Chief of Staff of the Army rang me. He had heard about the Dublin Airport incident and wanted to hear my view. I told him the position and he had some questions for me: Was I the control officer at Dublin Airport? Yes! Who appointed me? OC Air Corps. Is it the control officer alone who decides that a safe take-off can be made before he gives clearance to the aircraft captain? Yes! The General said he was satisfied with the arrangement for a daylight departure.

My last tour of duty was in mid-1946. Dublin Airport was then quite busy mainly with DC 3 aircraft and runway 24 was a hard surface."

The pen is mightier than the sword.

Two members of ARCO have been busy writing books recently, which will be of interest to our members.



THE COLLEGE *Col Tom Hodson (Retd)*

The Military College is the primary educational and training establishment in the Defence Forces. It is responsible, in the main, for the planning and conduct of courses for officer cadets and of career courses, mandatory for promotion, for officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned (NCOs).

The Military College is located in Pearse and McDonagh Barracks at the Curragh Camp. Its location allows it to take advantage of the many training installations and facilities, the technical expertise of the Corps schools contained in the Curragh Camp. It is also close to the Glen of Imaal, the major Defence Forces field firing area.

When the full implications of establishing an integrated military training system had been fully examined and debated, The Military College, much as it exists today, was established in 1930. It was concerned mainly with the training and educating of officer cadets and officers. To that end there were three constituent schools established, the Cadet School, the Infantry School and the Command and Staff School.

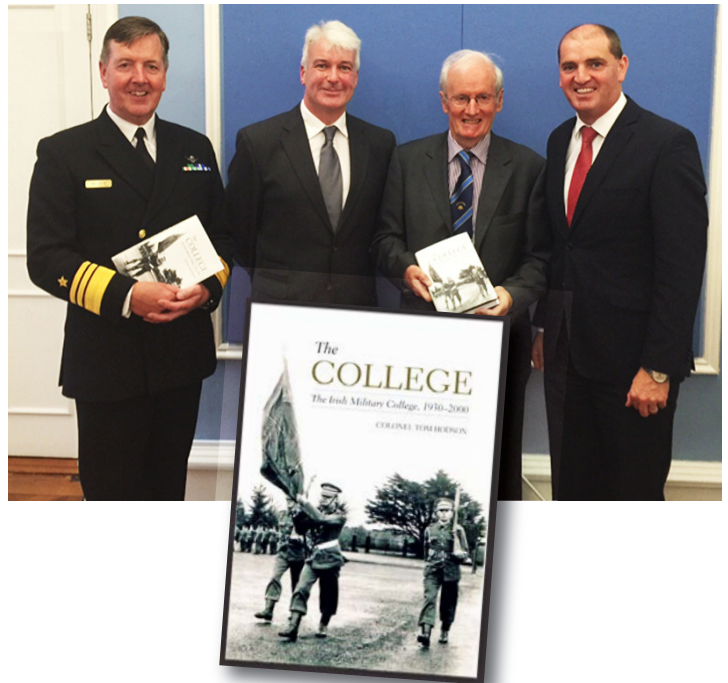
The dispatching of military personnel to the academies of foreign armies, especially those with recent experience of warfare, has continued through the decades. Officers have attended courses of instruction in the military schools of France, Germany, India, United Kingdom and the USA. This has allowed The Military College to keep abreast of modern military doctrine and to formulate our own doctrine, adapted to our own special needs and circumstances, in the light of modern developments.

For sixty years The Military College, located in Pearse Barracks, continued to carry out its primary function, the training and educating of cadets and officers. In 1993, as part of a rationalisation plan, The Military College was amalgamated with the non-commissioned officer (NCO) training schools of the General Training Depot (GTD), located in a neighbouring barracks, McDonagh Barracks. Thus the responsibilities of The Military College were extended to include the planning and conduct of career courses for NCOs. The NCO School and the Infantry Weapons School of the GTD became Wings of the Infantry School and the School of Administration became a constituent school of The Military College.

On 16 Sep 93 the Minister for Defence inaugurated a new constituent school, the United Nations Training School, Ireland for the purpose of formulating and disseminating peacekeeping doctrine throughout the Defence Forces, to enhance current instruction on courses and to train officers and NCOs for specific peacekeeping missions.

The reorganization of the Defence Forces, conducted in Nov 2012, reconfigured the structure of the Defence Force Training Centre with the Artillery School, Cavalry School and The Defence Forces Physical Education School becoming institutions of the Military College.

This brought the total of constituent schools to eight, The Command and Staff School, The Infantry School, The Cadet School, the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI), The Artillery School, The Cavalry School, The Military Administration School, and The Defence Forces Physical Education School. Each school is commanded by a School Commandant responsible to the Commandant of the Military College for its operation and performance in the conduct of courses.



The College Commandant is directly responsible to the Chief of Staff who has primary responsibility for the training of the Defence Forces.

Tom stated that "The rational and drive behind the book is simple: a long-standing awareness that the story of an important Defence Forces and national institution had not been told. However, if the motivation was simple, I faced the long task with great trepidation. How could I write such a history when each serving and retired officer, and now increasing numbers of NCOs have their own personal histories of 'The College'? For that reason I have tried to keep the narrative archive based, with of course my own comments and conclusions, for which I am responsible. It is not a listing of courses but an attempt to situate the College within the wider Defence Forces and national experience. It starts not in 1930 (a necessary date because the College was established in 1930) but early in the Civil War. It is dealt with largely chronologically with chapters devoted to specific decades. It also however covers wider topics such as COS directives to the CMC, doctrine, 3rd Level education, amalgamation of the Mil Col and GTD and education and training for female officers and cadets, etc."

Following his retirement in 2004, Tom entered Trinity College, Dublin where he gained a BA (Mod) in the History of Art and French, and an MLitt on the French artist and soldier, Georges Jeannot (1848-1934). He edited *Chiefs of Staff: The Portrait Collection of the Irish Defence Forces* (Dublin: McKee Officers Club, 2011). He has contributed to seminars in the History Department of Trinity College, Dublin on the Falklands War and the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Witness to War Crimes

- a summary



Col Colm Doyle (Retd) has written a book titled "Witness to War Crimes: The Memoir of a Peacekeeper in Bosnia". "Pen & Sword" will publish the book, which is edited by Professor Kenneth Morrison, De Montfort University, Leicester. The former BBC War correspondent, Mr. Martin Bell, wrote the foreword to the book. The publication date is expected to be around May 2018.



Meeting with Lord Peter Carrington in Christie's, London on 7 April 1992, the day Colm was appointed Lord Carrington's Personal Representative for Bosnia.

This important memoir tells the story of Colm Doyle's unique experience in Bosnia & Herzegovina during the former Yugoslav republic's slide to war. Initially deployed to the city of Banja Luka as a European Community Monitor in October 1991, he soon found himself taking over as Head of the Monitor Mission for Bosnia, where he was based in Sarajevo from November 1991 to March 1992. Colm then served as the Personal Representative to Lord Peter Carrington, Chairman of the recently established Peace Conference on Yugoslavia. He was the only person to have held this role and therefore had unprecedented access and a unique perspective on events.

During this dramatic period, Colm endeavoured to halt the move to conflict, meeting with presidents, prime ministers, political party leaders, military commanders and warlords, while endeavouring to mediate, negotiate and persuade all sides to halt the seemingly inexorable path to war. He arranged ceasefires, visited prisoner of war camps, arranged the evacuation of election monitors and helped negotiate the hostage release of Bosnia's President, Alija Izetbegovic. He has assisted at the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, testifying at a number of trials, including those of Slobodan Milosevic, Radovan Karadzic and General Mladic.

This is his story and an important insight into the political, diplomatic and military events that led to the brutal and senseless Bosnian war. A unique memoir, it should be of considerable interest to students and academics of recent Balkan history, as well as the lay reader.



Colm Doyle with Comdt Dermot Cogan, Senior Operations Officer and General Pavle Strugar, commander of the JNA's 2nd Operational Group at Strugar's HQ in Bileca on 6 Dec. 1991. It was on this day that his (JNA) forces shelled Dubrovnik for which he was found guilty at The Hague and sentenced to 8 years. Colm testified at his trial.



Colm pictured with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic at a reception for the incoming UNPROFOR on 20 March 1992.

48th Cadet Class Reunion - 1972/1974



The 48th Cadet Class held a 45th Anniversary reunion in Collins Barracks, Cork on the 15 Sep 2017. All members of the Class are retired except for Lt Col Larry Devaney who is still serving in the Ordnance Corps. Col Des Travers (Company Commander) was the Guest of Honour.

Front Row L to R

Comdt Niall Cremin, Lt Col Larry Devaney, Capt Paul Lindsay, Col Andy Kilfeather, Col Des Travers (Coy Comd), Comdt John Flanagan AC, Comdt Michael Hanrahan, Comdt Michael O' Connor.

Middle Row L to R

Lt Col Andrew Richardson, Comdt Kevin Hendrick, Comdt Gerry Freyne, Lt Cdr Gene Ryan, Comdt Michael Duffy, Comdt Liam Gillespie, Comdt John Sheehan, Comdt John Mc Mahon, Comdt Dennis Cronin, Les Kilgrew, Comdt Tony O' Sullivan, Comdt Noel Minogue.

Back Row L to R

Comdt Ian Folan, Lt Cdr Mick Quillinan, Lt Col Joe Scanlon, Capt Barry O' Brien, Comdt Kevin O' Dwyer, Comdt Frank Daly, Comdt Tom Cox, Comdt Frank Condon AC, Comdt Sean O' Fiachain.

Thanks to Col Andrew Kilfeather (Retd) for forwarding the photograph.

Upcoming Events 2017/2018

Date	Event
13 December 2017	DF Carol Service. Arbour Hill Church, Dublin. 2000hrs
17 March 2018	DF involvement in St Patrick's Day Parades
01 April 2018	1916 Easter Rising Commemoration, GPO, Dublin
09 May 2018	1916 Leaders Commemoration, Arbour Hill, Dublin.
17 - 22 May 2018	60th Annual International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes.*
08 July 2018	National Day of Commemoration. Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin. (TBC)
July/Aug 2018	Ceremonial Guard, Merrion Square Memorial, Dublin. Exact dates to be confirmed.

*Bookings from Jan 2018 through Joe Walsh Tours



*The President and Executive Committee
of ARCO wish all of their members a*

*Happy and Healthy
Christmas and a Prosperous
New Year*



ARCO Presented cheque for DFBF to COS 28 July 2017



ARCO presented a cheque for €2000.00 for the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund to Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM. Pictured from L to R are Lt Col Richard Cummins (Retd), Treasurer ARCO, Comdr Gerard O'Flynn (Retd) President ARCO, COS, Col George Kerton (Retd) Vice President ARCO, and Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran, Asst Chief of Staff.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The article "Few Irish people claim back their medical expenses" has been deferred to the next edition of the Newsletter, due to pressure of space in this Newsletter (NO. 33).

This Newsletter is issued in Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter. The editor welcomes articles or items of interest, or suggestions as to what should be included. If you have any contribution or suggestion please send them to the Editor, declancarbery@hotmail.com or post to Col Declan Carbery (Retd), 61, The Paddocks, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Air Corps Commissioning



Lt Col Richard Cummins (Retd), representing ARCO, is pictured presenting 2/Lt Oisín Murtagh with An Cliaomh Gaiscíochta at the recent Air Corps Commissioning Ceremony. Oisín was the winner of the ARCO sword for best student at the commissioning ceremony in Casement Aerodrome. 2/Lt Murtagh, who is twenty-two years of age, is from Clontarf in Dublin. He attended Catholic University School and joined the Air Corps directly from secondary school. He is now training to be a helicopter pilot.

Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

Lt Col Robert Hume	Lt Cdr Brian Nolan
Brig Gen Paul Fry	Capt Enda McGuane
Lt Col Kevin O'Ceallaigh	Lt Col Walter Hayes
Comdt Michael O'Carroll	Col Peter Richardson
Capt (NS) Robert Scarrott	Lt Cdr James Deacon

CAOGA

The rebroking of the Group Scheme is ongoing and Lt Col Sean Scanlon is representing ARCO at the various meetings being held. The current 3year cycle finishes at the end of December 2017. There are currently 3,594 members of the scheme (2,277 members and 1,317 spouses).

Deceased Officers

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-Anamacha

Our condolences to the families and friends of those comrades who passed away since our last newsletter.

Lt Cdr Gerry O'Donoghue	10 Sept 2017
Capt Neville Furlong	16 Sept 2017
Lt Cdr Fionán O'Shea	08 Oct 2017
Col Henry (Harry) Crowley	23 Oct 2017
Comdt Danny Hynes	06 Nov 2017