



Cumann na nIar - Oifigeach Coimisiúnta

newsletter

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

Issue No: 17. Autumn 2009

ARCO Web Site: www.iarco.info

ARCO 15th Annual General Meeting

– McKee Barracks, Saturday 10th October 2009

The 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Association (see Notice and Agenda opposite) will be held on Saturday 10th October 2009. Members are encouraged to attend and avail of the opportunity to meet with your Executive Committee and renew old friendships. To facilitate members travelling to Dublin by train we are again holding the AGM at Mc Kee Barracks which will make access from Heuston Station more convenient.

A lunch with wine (gratis) will be provided after the meeting.

The ARCO Sword for Best Cadet was presented by the President to 2/Lt Paul Ralph at the Commissioning Ceremony held in the Gymnasium, DFTC, on 21st January 2009. Paul, who hails from Co. Meath, has previous military service with the RDF having served with the 65th Inf Bn and in the PDF with the 1st Air Defence Regiment. We wish Paul every success in his career in the Defence Forces. Members of the Executive Committee continue to represent ARCO at various State and Defence Forces Ceremonies during 2009. Following on ARCO's achievement of gaining observer status on the CAOGA Board of Management we were granted full membership with voting rights at the CAOGA AGM held in DFTC on 26th March. We thank the Chairman and the Board of Management of CAOGA for their support in this matter. The annual formal meetings were held with RACO and the Secretary General DOD and the meeting with the General Staff will be held in the Autumn. Current membership numbers now stand at 720. We continue to actively recruit new members. Your committee continues to develop strategies which will enhance the relevance and viability of the association into the future. Some of these strategies involve the committee holding their monthly meeting at various locations around the country to enhance and raise our profile. Locations visited to date are Collins Bks., Cork, Custume Bks., Athlone, and the Naval Base Haulbowline. We were very well received by the GOCs' and the FOCNS during these visits. Another, is to seek office facilities for the Association in one of the military installations in the Dublin area. A successful ARCO tour to Brussels, Ypres and Paris was undertaken in February and it is hoped to organise further tours in the future.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers (ARCO) will be held in the Auditorium, Defence Forces School of Catering, Mc Kee Barracks, Blackhorse Avenue, D 7, on Saturday 10th October 2009 at 1130 hrs.

AGENDA

1. Opening Address by President, ARCO
2. Minutes of 14th AGM –11/10/08
3. President's Report
4. Report of the Hon. Secretary
5. Report of the Hon. Treasurer to include audited A/Cs
6. Report of the Hon. Membership Secretary
7. Amendment to ARCO Association Rules
8. Annual Subscription
9. Appointment of Auditor
10. Elections to Executive Committee
11. Any other business

Ken Kelly, Lt Col Droum, Leap, Skibereen,
Hon. Secretary Co. Cork
ARCO Tel: 028-34769
Email: kayteekay@eircom.net

Attending the AGM? Need lunch?

Coffee will be available in the Officer's Mess from 1030hrs. A light lunch with wine (gratis) will be served after the meeting. Those wishing to partake of lunch are requested to notify the Hon. Secretary on or before 5th October 2009.

• **Don't forget to bring your I.D card to facilitate your entry into Bks** •

Not attending? Apologies from those unable to attend will be read out on the day. These can be conveyed to the Hon. Secretary, contact details above.



The Cadet School Association

1. The Cadet School Association (CSA) was established in October 1999. The main objective of the CSA is to provide additional financial support to The Cadet School in order to enhance morale among cadets during their period of cadet training. In furtherance of this objective the Trustees are empowered to promote, organise and manage conferences, lectures and seminars on topics relevant to cadets and to promote, encourage or undertake research and disseminate results of such research.
2. With this in mind, the CSA has set up The Cadet School Association Annual Lecture. The lecture theme is confined to topics of leadership and/or military history and keynote speakers will be invited to address cadets annually on these topics.
3. The Inaugural Cadet School Association Lecture took place in Pearse Hall, The Cadet School on Wednesday 10th June 2009. The topic for this lecture was 'Leadership at Platoon Level in a Conflict Situation'. An audience of cadets and invited guests were addressed by:

Capt (Retd) Noel Carey – Jadoville, Congo, September 1961.
Lt Col Tom Aherne – At-Tiri, Lebanon April 1980.
Capt Ed Holland – Caglavica, Kosovo - March 17 Riots 2004.
4. Each speaker addressed the audience on their personal perspective of leading a platoon in a conflict situation with specific attention to:
 - a. The challenges encountered from a leadership point of view in leading/commanding a platoon in a conflict/crisis situation.
 - b. How prepared they were for the situation from a leadership standpoint.
 - c. What were the main issues in motivating and leading troops in their particular situation.
 - d. What lessons were learned from a leadership standpoint.
5. In addition to the Annual Lecture, the CSA has collaborated with The Cadet School in funding a number of projects in the School since 1999, including:
 - The funding of an Information Technology facility in the Cadet's Mess The facility has a laser printer, a scanner and 10 new-networked computers with satellite broadband connection.
 - The funding of an outdoor recreational facility at the Cadet's Mess.
 - The funding of standardised Photograph Albums for Cadet Class photographs to preserve each class history.
 - The funding of framed portrait photographs of former graduates who commanded multinational forces overseas. These portraits hang in the Cadet's Mess Dining Room.
6. The CSA is currently involved in funding a number of minor projects aimed at preserving and promoting Cadet School tradition.
6. The following members of The Cadet School Association comprise the Board of Trustees:

Comdt Joe Fallon (Retd) - Chairman
Col Tommy Doyle A/Commandant, The Military College (Ex Officio)
Col Dom Timpson (Retd)
Lt Col Joe Mulligan, Commandant, The Cadet School (Ex Officio)
Comdt Derry Enright (Retd)
Lt Ciaran McKeown, 1 Logs Bn, Collins Bks Cork
Comdt Ray Murphy, (Secretary), The Cadet School
7. The CSA welcomes and deeply appreciates the support of all officers, both serving and retired. Annual subscription to the CSA is €25.00. Should anyone wish to join the CSA, application forms/Standing Order forms are available from:

Comdt Ray Murphy
Secretary CSA,

The Cadet School,
Military College,
Curragh Camp,
Co Kildare

Tel: 045-445163

E-Mail: ray.murphy@defenceforces.ie.



Welcome to ARCO's new members:

Lt Gen J.N. Bergin	Comdt F. Lambert
Lt Gen P. Nash	Comdt T. Markham
Brig-Gen P. O' Callaghan	Lt Cdr W. O' Brien
Brig-Gen L. Mc Namee	Comdt F. Reidy
Col F. Bushell	Lt Cdr J. Shalloo
Col D. Conway	Lt Cdr E. Whelan
Col P. Mc Hale	Capt D. Connolly
Col W. Nott	Lt (NS) P. O' Giollain
Lt Col D. Cogan	Lt (NS) J. Halpin
Lt Cdr A. Cleary	Lt Cdr M. Quillinan
Comdt P. Daly	Capt L. Toland
Lt Cdr E. Doyle	
Comdt P. Kearney	

Executive Committee Meeting - Naval Base Haulbowline



Front Row L to R : Col B. O' Connor, Lt Col K. Kelly, Col M. Lucey, Capt(NS) C. O' Donnell
Back Row L to R : Col S. Downes, Lt Col S. Scanlon, Col R. Heaslip, Lt Col J. Ahern

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-Anamacha Deceased Officers

Our condolences to the families and friends of those who passed away since our last Newsletter went to print:

Lt Col Noel Heffernan	11 April 2009
Comdt Kevin White	21 April 2009
Capt George O' Doherty (AC)	02 May 2009
Capt Patrick Needham	22 May 2009
Lt Col Vinnie Whelan	24 May 2009
Col Ned Doyle	25 May 2009
Capt Des Duff	27 May 2009
Capt Mick Kielty	24 June 2009
Comdt Phil Mc Menamin	02 July 2009
Comdt Jim Campion	25 July 2009
Maj Gen Dermot Byrne	07 August 2009
Col Ray Whyte	13 August 2009

National Memorial for Members of the Defence Forces who Died in Service



Merrion Square West

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Newsletter is issued in Spring and Autumn. Articles or items of interest are always welcome. If you have something to contribute please send it to the Editor at melucey@hotmail.com or by post to Col M.E Lucey (Retd) 228 Grange Rd., Rathfarnham, D16.

National Security and Climate Change

Risk Management in a Transformed Global Ecology

Comdt (Retd) D. O'Laoire.

Political denial and delay over four decades of inaction has rendered the possibility of ever reversing human induced climate change remote. Scientific discourse is even now describing the 6th mass extinction on Earth with the loss of some 100 species a day.

Beginning with Kyoto and now with the ascent of the Obama administration in Washington climate change is now top of the international political agenda. The challenge facing mankind is daunting but let us live in hope and not despair.

Surprisingly, despite climate change being a most prominent and best-studied phenomenon, it has thus far received little systematic analysis as a security issue.

The link between climate change and security was made as far back as 1971 when it was only a nascent concern when Peter Falk [an early environmental commentator] outlined what he called the 'first law of ecological politics' which remains strikingly relevant for the issue of adaptation to climate change namely: 'There exists an inverse relationship between the interval of time available for adaptive change and the likelihood and intensity of violent conflict, trauma and coercion accompanying the process of adaptation.'

The direct manifestation of widespread and long term trend towards warmer global temperatures are by now familiar and include heat-waves and periods of unusually warm weather, ocean warming, sea level rise and coastal flooding, glacial melting, Arctic and Antarctic warming. The harbingers of change foreshadow the types of impacts likely to become more frequent and widespread and include spreading disease, early spring arrival, plant and animal range shifts and population changes, coral reef bleaching, downpours, heavy snowfall and flooding, droughts and fire.

"A warmer world won't just be inconvenient. Huge swathes of it, including most of Europe, the US and Australia as well as all of Africa and China will actually be uninhabitable - too hot, dry or stormy to sustain a human population. This is no mirage. It could materialise if the world warms by an average of just 4oC, which some scientists fear could happen as soon as 2050". [James Lovelock, The Vanishing Face of Ghia, 2009]

This short article outlines the security – climate change phenomenon with the purpose of stimulating debate on the appropriate response by Ireland's security services including the Defence Forces to a new spectrum of threat.

The concept of security and climate change can best be understood with reference to four discussion topics i.e. [1] Food Security, [2] Risk of Lethal Pandemic, [3] Fresh Water Reserves and [4] Weather Events.

All of these four elements coincide where the Irish Defence Forces current mission to Chad is arguably witnessing at first hand a conflict exacerbated by diminishing environmental resources. While there are historical, political, geopolitical and cultural elements to the conflict the fact is that large parts of Darfur and Chad have become inhospitable to humans- bordering on the uninhabitable – making positive conflict resolution very difficult and challenging. The critical fresh water reserve in the region is Lake Chad where the surface area of the lake has decreased from 9,650 square miles [25,000Km²] in 1962 to a mere 521 square miles [1350Km²] today, resulting from a combination of reduced rainfall and increased demand for water for agricultural irrigation and other human needs.





World Food Reserves

The world food reserves are at a 50-year low. By 2020 50% more food is required to feed the world population. Balance this challenge against the reality of a world where previously productive land has become barren; where monoculture and reliance on narrow genetic strains increases the risk of large scale crop failure; where bio-fuel and palm oil production is diverting food production; where world food prices are rising sharply and where food riots were a common occurrence in many countries of the world in 2008 and 2009.

Risk of Lethal Pandemic

In Vienna there is a monument in memory of the Plague, which decimated one third of the medieval population of Europe. The Asian flu pandemic of 1918 killed more people than were casualties in the Great War. Global temperature increases will affect microbiological ecology and coupled with global food production and distribution systems and mass travel, it is not a question if a lethal pandemic will emerge but rather when. The current swine flu pandemic may be a portent of more serious events to come.

World Fresh Water Reserves

Glacial retreat in the Himalaya and Tibetan Plateau is negatively impacting on the fresh water arteries of Asia where 82% of the world population live. The Huang Ho, Yangtze, Mekong, Irrawaddy, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus and the Syr Daryna are under pressure. This, tragically, is just one example of a global reality where pollution, industrial activity, global warming and changing weather patterns have exposed the precarious state of global fresh water reserves.

Weather Events

If we compare the number of earthquakes over the last 10 years with the number of cyclones and severe floods we see a pattern of significantly increased weather events. How, we must ask is climate change affecting the frequency of natural hazard? To cyclones and floods we can add extreme temperatures, famine, insect infestation, slides, wave surge and wild fires. We think of Hurricane Katrina and the political clash between Denmark and Greenland over the new maritime transport routes caused by icecap melting.

To this dismal list we can add the energy crisis. Our dependence on fossil fuels and our environmentally inefficient use of energy

reserves have played a large part in bringing the world to this place. While the frantic adaptation to alternative energy is laudable it may be too little and much too late to make any significant impact on the cycle of climate change and global warming. Our dependence on diminishing fossil fuels and nuclear energy will continue and will further divide the developed and developing worlds.

Professor John Beddington, UK Chief Scientist, was quoted in the Irish Times of 19 March 2009 where he warned of a 'perfect storm' of food shortages, scarce water and insufficient energy resources threaten to unleash unrest, cross-border conflicts and mass migration as people flee the worst-affected regions of the world. This 'perfect storm' could be with us as early as 2030.

How does the Defence Forces respond and prepare to meet the security threats of climate change?

The security threats arise in the context of social, political and economic dislocation driven by diminishing access to food and water resources coupled by fear of, and actual pandemic aggravated by frequent and severe weather events. The threats will impact on developed and developing countries but the impact will be mitigated in the developed world. While there must be a national response to the threats, the management and response capability lies with the international community and Ireland's interest can best be served by constructive cooperation with international organizations including EU, OSCE and UN.

The debate on 'ecological peacekeeping' or the implications for global peacekeeping in the reality of irreversible global climate change has already begun in the international community and Ireland generally and the Defence Forces in particular must actively participate in this debate. Constant risk assessment is critical and the UN school at the Military College may have a role in informing the debate including the provision of international training and education for peacekeeping in this new reality.

Biography

Comdt Donal O'Laoire is a member of the 41st Cadet Class and a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. Following early retirement in 1990 he has practiced as an independent environmental consultant in Ireland and EU and has undertaken UN assignments in North Africa, Central Europe, India and the Phillipines. From 2006 to the present he has worked with the UN in China in the context of that countries obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.



The Sailor of today, Warrior, Diplomat, Scholar and Innovator.

Cdr M. Mellett

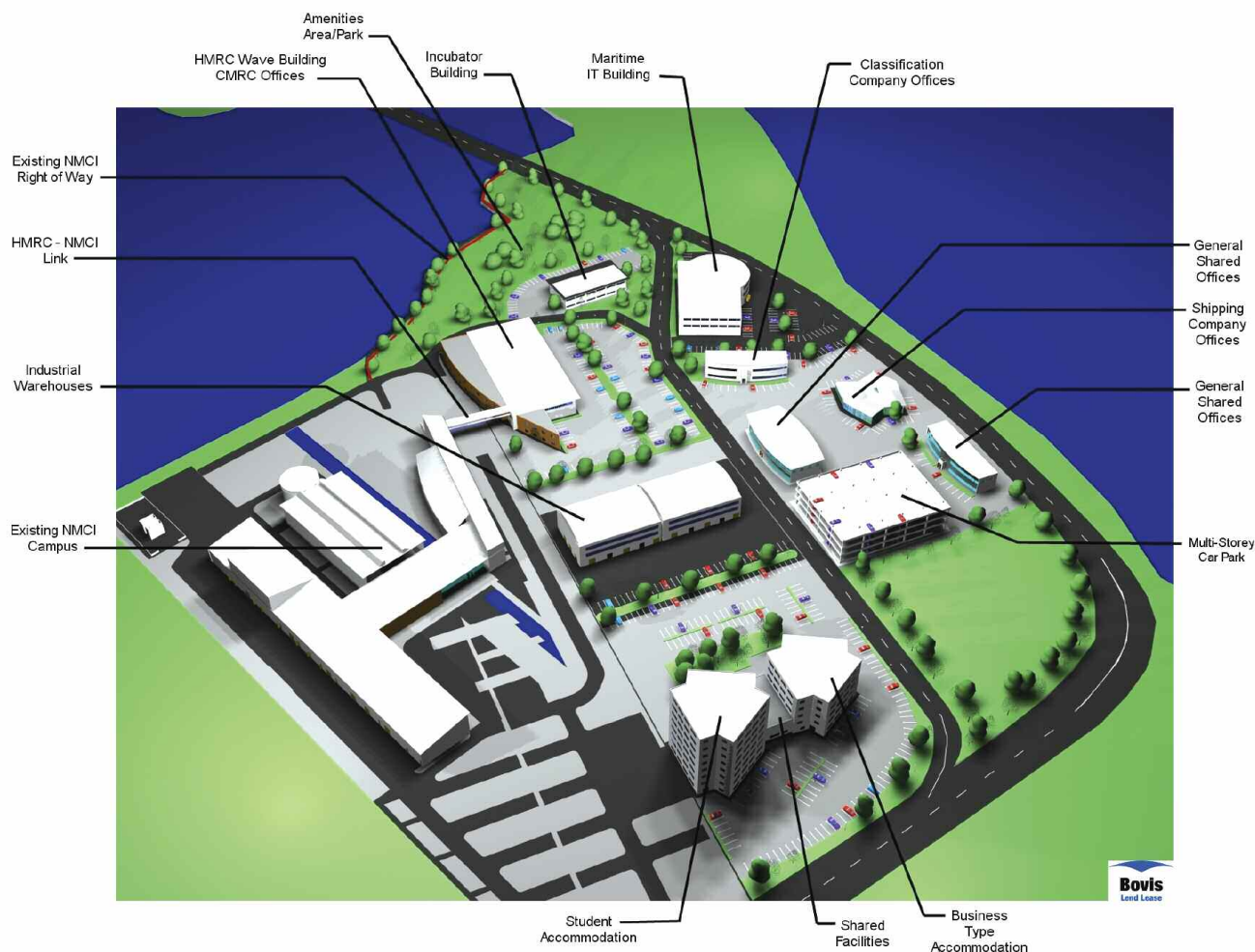
Ireland faces economic difficulties of a depth and scale unknown since the 'thirties'. The response then was to take radical measures including the development of State companies, together with the creation of an industrial sector behind tariff barriers. Today our challenges demand a similar degree of innovation. To grow market activity Ireland needs to attract inward direct investment, which compliments its unique strengths. In terms of export it needs to rise to the challenges of the smart economy blending applied research development and innovation with small and medium enterprises encouraging stimulants wherever possible. In these regards is there a role for the public service? Almost daily we hear the argument that the public service has become too heavy. It is often put that without the cut and trust of competition the momentum for reform is emasculated resulting in inertia. What about defence? By any measure the transformation in the Defence Forces over the last decade has been remarkable. Where it is now, however, is not a destination and the journey of change requires further innovation.

Within the Naval Service the challenge for transformation is inextricably linked to the profile of resources in terms of people and equipment, how it develops and the way it innovates. Ireland has a maritime domain of almost 1 million square kilometres where it currently or potentially has sovereign rights. This area represents the largest maritime domain to land ratio of any EU member state with the smallest Navy on the Euro Atlantic rim delivering defence, policing and other services. With a shrinking economy just dwelling on size is not an option but thinking smart is. To this end the Navy has focussed on the development of its resources and in particular its centre of gravity – its people. An institution's people and their intelligence are key enablers for knowledge. Education and learning are the production lines for intelligence. This is why already measures are in place for every junior NCO sailor to be awarded a Higher Certificate at level 6 on completion of his potential NCOs course. Into the future on completion of senior NCO training every NCO will be awarded an ordinary degree at level 7. While at officer level honour degrees at level 8 are being achieved through one of the most progressive work based learning programmes in the State. The uniqueness of these programmes reflects the radical nature of how the Navy has integrated learning in the workplace into the development of its personnel. The transformation to a knowledge institution is being further advanced by the manner in which the Navy feeding through the National Maritime College is helping drive the maritime and energy cluster Ireland initiative (www.merc-ireland.ie). The key hallmark of a post-modern navy is how it reflects not just on its role in the delivery of the traditional 'warrior' services but also how it prepares for its diplomatic and other services. The outputs of the Navy in many ways represent a 'public good'. A 'public good' that can also further policy objectives in the international domain such as the 2002 deployment to Asia supporting the governments Asia Pacific Strategy by acting as a focal point for around 5000 business decision takers. Innovation is about just that and with the largest cohort of maritime professionals in the State the Navy has a significant role to play in contributing to the development of the maritime economy. Its sailors in their own right also represent

a highly technical 'public good' who through structured reflection in their core activities can add knowledge to a raft of other areas, the development of which will help drive Ireland's maritime economy while simultaneously enhancing the quality of Naval services. What better professional in maritime security than an experienced sailor who through critical reflective thought informally or formally (on masters or PhD programmes) through work based learning in the course of their day job can harness the

technological solutions such as those available from space and earth observation systems. What better manager of an offshore wave, wind or tidal energy farm than an experienced sailor who is properly skilled to drive the maritime economy on retirement. In the final analysis just thinking size before thinking smart is putting the cart before the horse. So for now lets all think smart and innovate.

Figure 1:- Depicts the Maritime and Energy Cluster Ireland Initiative adjacent to the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI).



An Cosantóir 10 Km Fun Run & 5 Km Walk



Annual Road Race

This years annual An Cosantóir Fun Run and Walk will take place on

WED 14 OCT 2009

Phoenix Park

See www.dfmagazine.ie

McKee Bks: 1100hrs
Walkers start: 1215hrs
Blocks start: 1230hrs
Main race starts: 1330hrs

FEES: Individual: €10,
Team: €50 Block: €200

CLOSING DATE

Submit completed forms and fees by October 5th to 2009 An Cosantóir 10k DFHQ, Infirmary Road, Dublin 7. Entry forms available from your BPEO office or from dfmagazine.ie





Your Annual Service

My car is over six years old and has 140,000 miles on the clock. Like myself, it is more than half way through its lifespan and is past its best performance. Nonetheless, it's a good car that I bought new and have looked after dutifully. It has rewarded me with safe and reliable driving. I cover about 22,000 miles a year and I thought about changing it last year. Then I reconsidered; it's a sound car that I know well and, with continued care, it should give me nearly as much service again. Besides, it is worth very little on the market now and, even if I am proven wrong in the next few years, I can still get a new one and I won't have lost anything as my current depreciation is minimal.

You may not agree with my car-logic but there is an undeniable analogy between our cars and our bodies. They both need to be treated with respect and to be given regular check-ups if they are to perform well throughout their life-spans. There is also an undeniable difference between

them: you can't trade in the old body for a new one! Men are generally very good at ensuring the car is checked regularly for tyre pressure, oil and water and taking it in for its service at the appropriate intervals. At the risk of being chauvinistic, women are less so. Women, however, generally take good maintenance care of their bodies - they put a lot of effort into their appearance, go to the doctor if they have a worrying symptom and get examinations such as smears and mammograms done appropriately. Men, on the other hand, tend to ignore unexplained symptoms as long as possible and avoid an annual check-up unless they are pressured into it. Even in the DF, where the Annual Medical is readily available and required by regulation, it is amazing how often it is dreaded and avoided by so many male officers.

Like my car, the older we get, the more parts there are that may give trouble and there seems to be an irrefutable logic to the argument that this irreplaceable machine, which has served us so well through thick and thin, soldiering, sport and the odd party, deserves at least as regular a check-up as the car.

There are a number of conditions that develop slowly over time and that do not generally produce symptoms until there is a disaster, such as a stroke or a heart attack. The most notable of these is, of course, high blood pressure. If not detected and treated appropriately, blood pressure

causes blood vessel damage and an increasing spiral of pressure and damage to organs. Diabetes, especially non-insulin dependant or late-onset diabetes, is another disease which is insidious in its onset and classically leads to organ damage and retinal haemorrhage if left untreated. These conditions, and many others can be readily detected by a simple screening examination, including blood and urine tests, performed about once a year.

Other conditions come on slowly and, though they produce symptoms, they develop so gradually they are almost unnoticed or accepted as normal. The analogy is made with the dripping tap which worsens so slowly that no one notices how much water is being lost after a year or more! Conditions that come to mind and should be treated include failing sight, prostate obstruction, deteriorating respiratory function, depression and osteoporosis - which can occur in men too!

All the appropriate tests can be conducted in most GP surgeries and should cost you a lot less than a car service. So, if you haven't had a check-up for some time, make an appointment and do it now. Hopefully, it will give you peace of mind and, even if a problem is detected, it will be far better dealt with early than late.

You would do it for your car; go and do it for yourself!

Col (Retd) M. Collins, MICGP, FFOM

DEFENCE FORCES Annual Gala Concert

Saturday 17th October 2009, 8 P.M.

Featuring

**Bands of the Defence Forces and
Pipes and Drums
and Fiona Murphy
Mezzo Soprano**

in aid of

**Defence Forces Benevolent Fund
& Soldiers Aid Fund**

Tickets: €25

BOOKINGS:

**National Concert Hall:
Tel. 01 417 0000 /
Fax. 01 4751507
Website: www.nch.ie**

**Cathal Brugha Bks Booking Office:
Tel. 01 8046296
(Opening Monday 21st September)**

