



Crises in the Defence Forces?

Over the past few months there have been numerous articles printed, and discussions on both radio and TV, highlighting the crises in the Army, Alr Corps and Naval Service. On 16 September 2018 and again on 29 April 2019, ARCO released Statements of Concern on the serious deterioration of the service conditions, and the depletion of strategic defence capabilities in the Defence Forces. ARCO's stated position on these significant issues (poor pay and conditions of service) remains relevant today. The second Respect and Loyalty Parade, organised by the Defence Forces Ireland Family Forum, took place in Cork City on Saturday, 04th May 2019. The purpose of the Parade was to heighten awareness among elected representatives and citizens of difficulties within the DF. This was followed by the retirement of Comdt Cathal Berry who said that members of the military were being treated with "contempt" by the government. He was quoted as saying "I am not leaving because I hate the Army. I am leaving because I love it. I can't just sit back anymore and watch the Defence Forces being completely dismantled and demoralised before my eyes".

Also, Comdt Conor King, General Secretary RACO made an unprecedented appearance before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs & Trade & Defence on 30th May to discuss the retention crisis in the DF. RACO stated that they welcomed the opportunity to go before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Defence to highlight the fact that 35% of military personnel have left the organisation in the last 5 years and 87% of personnel earn below the average public sector wage. RACO called for the introduction of a specific independent Defence Forces pay review body to ensure the unique nature of military service is recognised and that military personnel with limited industrial relation status are fairly treated.

Highlights of the RACO Opening Statement were as follows;

- The CSO continually reports that the military personnel are the lowest paid public sector employees, which is ironic as the IPA has consistently reported that the DF is the most trusted public service organisation in the State, with a 'trust score' of 82%,
- Accordingly, 87% of all DF personnel earn well below the average public sector wage,
- There exists a lack of viable or credible retention policies to retain military personnel and consequently no amount of recruitment will 'fill the leaking bucket',
- In 2015 and 2017 the University of Limerick identified a dysfunctional cycle of turnover of DF personnel; this now stands at a worrying 9% overall, but 14% in the Naval Service,
- 3,200 personnel left the Defence Forces between 2014 and 2018, which is an astonishing 34.7% of the average strength for those years.

In addition to the above, ARCO issued a statement on 10 July 2019 calling for the Minister for Defence to present formal proposals to government, establishing, without delay a statutory based, permanent and independent Defence Forces Commission to address remuneration (including pensions), service and retention conditions and the conciliation and arbitration architecture.

Because DF personnel forfeit normal employee rights as a condition of their service to the State, it is, therefore, the responsibility of Government to recognise this and ensure that all personnel are fairly treated.

In light of the above, the following article has been written by Lt Col Michael Murphy (Retd), where he outlines his views on the current state of the Defence Forces and whether it is prepared for the challenges ahead. Lt Col Murphy retired from the Defence forces in 2013 after over 40 years service. He served mostly in 2 E Bde and DFHQ. He also served overseas in operational and command appointments with the UN and NATO in Lebanon, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Kosovo. He has an MSc in Security and Risk Management from the University of Leicester and regularly appears on TV and radio discussing the Defence Forces and other security matters.

The Defence Forces - Fit for Purpose?

The Republic of Ireland is facing into an uncertain future. The likelihood of a 'no-deal Brexit' is greater now than it has been since that referendum was held; if it occurs it will result in the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland becoming an EU external border. The UK has stated that it will not create border infrastructure on the northern side of the border. We know that the EU insists on border controls on its external borders. Therefore, it appears the Republic will be required to secure the EU frontier; this is going to be difficult because the Irish government has also insisted that it will not create border infrastructure.

Is the Irish government going to challenge EU authority? Very unlikely. The border is now taking on a significance for the Irish government that heretofore, even during the Troubles, it was able to avoid. If infrastructure is created, we can expect that there will be protests. We know peaceful protests can easily turn to violence. Whether it wants to or not the Irish government should be preparing for incremental rising violence along the border.

Politicians have informed us that one of the fallouts from Brexit is that Irish unification has become a current issue. Some have called for an early border poll. Senator Mark Daly, Fianna Fáil, served as Rapporteur of the Joint Oireachtas Committee which ratified the 'Brexit and the Future of Ireland' report in July 2017. The report, nearly 500 pages long, looked at the impact of Brexit on unification. Unfortunately, the report is wishful thinking; for example it appears that deradicalization is going to solve terrorism problems. This might explain why, in a search of the document, it is not possible to find mention of either the Defence Forces, Óglaigh na hÉireann, Irish army, Irish Air Corps or Naval Service.

Recently the Irish government endorsed the 'Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland' Report and agreed to accept all recommendations. This report which will influence state intelligence architecture for the foreseeable future failed to even mention unification. Do politicians really think there could be a united Ireland without violence? If yes, they do not know Irish history, do not understand loyalism, and do not understand the strategy of the self-styled Republican movement. The government is sleepwalking the state into trouble while simultaneously decimating the operational effectiveness of the Defence Forces.



Before the Good Friday Agreement the population in the Republic was generally homogenous. Since then, Ireland has opened its borders and has witnessed an influx of people from all corners of the world. It would be wishful thinking that Ireland will escape the experiences of other states. When people move to another state they bring with them their national, ethnic, and religious problems. The Irish did it after emigrating to the USA in the 19th Century. The rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) witnessed a number of people leave Ireland to support and join the terrorists in Syria and Iraq; some are on their way back from the battlefield. A number of European states have been victims of Islamic Salafist Jihadi terrorists. To date Ireland has avoided such an attack; as did many other European states until the jihadis found the time for attack was appropriate.

The international security situation is at its most uncertain since the end of the Cold War. It would be a very brave or foolish analyst to predict the security environment for the coming decade. But one thing for certain is that the future is shaping up not to be peaceful. For example, during the 2019 EU elections security commentators, academics and politicians talked about physical and/or cyber threats on the EU coming from the Russians and the Chinese. President Trump's scepticism of his European partners was also highlighted. These and the Russian annexation of the Crimea were put forward as to why EU states need to come together militarily to defend Europe. That is why politicians on the continent praised PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation) as the 'waking giant', 'the embryo of an EU army'. Meanwhile in Ireland politicians denied that PESCO was any such thing. Somebody is 'off message'.

So how has the Irish government prepared the state defences for this challenging security environment?

Anyone who served along the border during the 1970s knows how difficult it was to eventually establish and maintain security and stability. Prior to the Troubles there were no full-time army

posts north of the Dublin - Galway line. During the late 1960s the army had been cut to pieces by the government. When the Troubles started the army was not operationally ready and was unfit for purpose.

There was very little lead-in time before the military was dispatched to take up positions along the frontier. Shortly afterwards bombs were set off within the Republic, water reservoirs, electrical power stations, and other critical national infrastructures were threatened. Dan Harveys' book 'Soldiering against Subversion' is a good introduction to understanding how security within the Republic was a 'a close-run thing'. It is hard to believe, but the Defence Forces of the 1970s had more advantages to respond to the threats of that time than it has today.

Due to reviews, reorganisation and cut-backs there is now no First Line Reserve and the FCA (Reserve) has been savagely reduced. At the start of the Troubles the Reserve proved to be an essential initial response until the regular army got up to strength. Also, at that time the PDF had been structured to facilitate speedy expansion to meet emergencies; this is no longer the case. As well, in recent years officers have been leaving the forces in droves; this has resulted in a major deficit in the number of mentors of Captain rank. As a result, young officers and NCOs today have to muddle through hoping to be doing the right thing, in the correct way, at the right time, wishing not to get it wrong.



The Defence Forces, unlike the HSE or the Gardaí, are not being tested on their primary function on a daily basis. As a result their ineffectiveness will remain hidden and unnoticed until 'that call'. By then it may be too late with the state in serious trouble struggling to get out of it.

Research has proven that military cohesion makes armies successful. It is also a truism that NCOs provide the backbone of every army. The 2012 reorganisation of the army was not based on sound military judgement; political interference was very evident. The reorganisation attacked the elements that produce military cohesion, it destroyed units, dishonoured soldiers' loyalty and trust in their leaders, and demonstrated weak state respect for the armed forces. The destructive reorganisation was then compounded by adopting a new but very flawed promotion system for NCOs. It should be understood that from the mid-1990s, NCOs had provided unit stability to compensate for the



then newly created officer's promotion system; a system based on individualism and transactional leadership. With the new NCO promotion system, unit stability has been totally destroyed and has put the final nail in the coffin of military cohesion. Untold damage has been done to the army. Defence Forces operational effectiveness is questionable.

Ireland's weak military position

During the EU election campaign Ireland's neutrality became a matter for discussion. There were two opposing camps: those who believe Ireland should discard neutrality, show solidarity with the EU, and agree to closer military cooperation; and, opposing are those who wish to protect Ireland's traditional military neutrality but who also oppose any expenditure on Ireland's defence. Both sides appear not to be too concerned that Ireland is not just neutral or non-aligned but is actually defenceless.

The state cannot protect its cyber-space, its skies, its waters or its land. The EUphiles peddle that there are economic opportunities for Irish businesses by getting involved in EU defence. That is to say that they want Ireland to involve itself with other states that have effective militaries and the ability to protect themselves but that Ireland would remain not spending money on defence. Needless to state Ireland as the weakest link would be the first target in any future conflict. This is reminiscent of the late 1930s when the then government refused to prepare and arm the Defence Forces for the coming war. When the war did start it was too late for Ireland, it was defenceless. By then it was every country for itself. Éire and the Irish people were very lucky the UK survived the Nazi onslaught.

The Defence Forces continue to receive plaudits from politicians and there has to be a realisation that this is all they are going to receive. No election or political seat will be lost because of a political party's poor defence policy or lack of defence strategy. The coming years will be testing for politicians. The government will come under pressure to participate in the EU militarisation that has been called for by the German Chancellor, the French President, and EU presidents. Many Irish military may look forward to that participation as seeing an opportunity for defence to be taken seriously; that will be a fallacious hope. Ireland will remain defenceless and its participation in EU militarisation will merely expose it as a weak link and a prime target for attack.

PEACEKEEPING and UNIFIL at FORTY - ONE

UNIFILs transition, through its forty-first birthday on the 28 March 2019, coincides with a certain worldwide change to the overall concept of Peacekeeping (PK) as an international tool encouraging peace and stability. The question we must address is whether Conflict Resolution & Peacekeeping has arrived at a crossroads and certainly, the UN has now entered a period of significant adjustment. Indeed, we can see from the recent UN reforms, which entered into effect in January 2019, that the UN is open to change. In Sep 2015 the then Secretary General Ban Ki Moon commented on the critical need for change in the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) report:

We must harness the full range of tools available: political, security, development, human rights and humanitarian, and we need to change the way in which we do business within and across that range¹.

I would suggest that PK rests now in a period of uncertainty with questions over international commitment to such operations reflected in an ever-tightening budgetary environment. Just one member, the United States of America (from a total of 193 UN member states) funds 22% of the overall UN budget and 28.47% of the Peacekeeping budget (2018-19)¹. The rules based international order centered on effective multilateralism cannot be taken for granted given the trend toward isolationism, populism on the extreme Left & Right fringes and the rise of nationalism. Instability remains endemic worldwide, prominent examples include Africa (DRC, CAR, Mali) the Middle East Yemen (verging on famine), Syria and the Palestinian Territories, South America and Venezuela all providing real challenges into the future. Real challenges that the UN member states, including traditional peace keeping nations, like Ireland, will be asked to address.

The UN has been subjected to criticism from many quarters and an unfortunate simple new phrase has entered the lexicon surrounding the deployment of PK operations: "A UN mission should do no harm" which is some way removed from the UN Charter and the ideal of nations banding together to proactively promote peace worldwide. This situation, resulting from the disgraceful actions of members of the UN, civilian, police and military in Africa with Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and in Haiti with the introduction of infectious disease. UN casualties have also spiked, since 2013 over 205 personnel in UNPKOs have been killed by acts of violence, more than during any other 5-year period in UN history. This prompted the completion of the Lt Gen Santos Cruz report where he stated:

The United Nations has not fully adapted to modern hostile, operational environments and Security Council mandates. The United Nations lacks a conceptual approach as certain missions operate outside the

By **Maj Gen Michael Beary DSM**

Maj Gen Beary (Retd) was Head of Mission and Force Commander, UNIFIL from July 2016 to August 2018. Prior to his appointment to UNIFIL, he was the GOC, 2 Brigade. In September 2018 he was presented with a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) with Honour, for displaying outstanding qualities of leadership, diplomacy and devotion to duty.



governing principles of peacekeeping – consent, impartiality and minimum use of force. The UN also lacks required supporting skill sets, and resource processes and mindset for delivering peace operations in modern, complex conflict environments and forceful Security Council mandates.

The UN has 88,796 civilians and military personnel dispersed among 14 UN missions in April 2019 and Ireland has 618 personnel deployed worldwide^{iv}. The budget of 7 billion^v represents less than 0.4% of worldwide military spending^{vi}. The EU had 17 military and civilian missions deployed worldwide in November 2018 with approximately 7000 personnel^{vii}. This represents a significant international commitment by both the EU and UN to peace. However, a significant challenge for the UN has been the non-engagement in UNPKOs by European countries where only 7% of UN troops are provided by Europe and a significant proportion of them are represented in UNIFIL with 14 EU/NATO countries. Why do we have such low representation? Firstly, Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Srebrenica disasters still impact the thinking of some EU countries and it is politically challenging for EU/NATO countries to accept fatalities in such missions. Ireland has been proactive and suggested a new initiative of rotation cycles or deeper cooperation between European countries in contributing to PKOs. However, 'No End State' is always a concern for EU/NATO countries and particularly, when important capabilities are deployed. The EU/NATO position is diametrically opposed to UN planning where short-term deployments with frequent turnovers are a real challenge.

Change and the need for progress are being addressed. Secretary General Guterres launched his Action for Peacekeeping Initiative (A4P) in 2018 and effective from 1st Jan 2019 the UN HQ peace and security architecture is now reconfigured in a new Dept of Peace Ops (DPO), Dept of Support (DOS) and a Dept of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) with the intention to deliver more regionally integrated political strategies and improving linkages with regional partners such as the AU and EU^{viii}. Time of course will reveal if such initiatives gain traction and have a real impact.

EU countries, both NATO and Partners, provide military skills but also and more importantly, incredible political and diplomatic weight to UNIFIL and make the achievement of the mission objectives considerably easier. This is a good entry point to explore UNIFIL and the Middle East.



Lebanon 2019

Lebanon, historically, is enjoying a 'purple patch' and South Lebanon is currently playing out an uncharacteristic role in a period of unprecedented calm with gentle winds blowing through Tyre, Sidon and Bint Jubail but surrounded by perfect storms including Syria, Yemen, Libya and even the Palestinian Territories.

The contrast now between the initial deployments by Óglaigh na hÉireann under UNSCR 425 and 426 could not be more pronounced. During the last two years Lebanon has successfully held local elections, framed an electoral law with proportional representation, held general elections on the 06 May 2018 and managed, following a significant time delay, to form a government. For a country with 18 different confessions and major external influencers, Iran and Saudi Arabia, that is no mean achievement. However, corruption, provision of basic services and over a million Syrian refugees, in addition to the resident Palestinian refugee population, place great strain on this embryonic institutional framework. Interactions with the Lebanese government indicate that memories of the 15-year civil war and conflicts with Israel help greatly to reduce tensions and temper exchanges within the government. Hezbollah continues to grow in power and in the general elections Hezbollah and Amal won 28/128 seats,^{ix} taking all seats in South Lebanon. Like Northern Ireland, Lebanon also has a form of 'identity politics' focused on leaders and sectarian groups. Militarily they represent a meaningful deterrent to Israel considering their success at frustrating the IDF in the 2006 war and recent war fighting experience gained in Syria. Additionally, Hassan Nasrallah's public pronouncements indicating that the next war will be fought in Israel were noted in exchanges with the IDF leadership. While the situation is relatively calm the potential for a flare up along the 118 km Blue Line is ever present and constant 24/7/365 liaison along that line of withdrawal by UNIFIL is imperative. The international community cannot let their guard down regarding this enduring flashpoint.

Ireland & UNIFIL @ Forty - One (Mar 1973 UNSCRS 425 & 426)

Turning to Ireland and UNIFIL, let us try and position UNIFIL in the geopolitics of the Middle East and in the afore-mentioned context of global peacekeeping. Ireland and Óglaigh na hÉireann have a long proud history with PK. Lebanon represented our first deployment in 1958 following ratification of UN membership. UNIFIL has a military strength of 10,222^x comprising 42 nations including 14 NATO /EU countries with a budget of \$483 million. It is unique within PKOs in that it has a maritime task force and within the UN it is considered a "Five Star Mission" well resourced, comprising of well-trained personnel. Ireland is currently providing an Infantry Battalion (400 strong approx.) to the mission following the withdrawal of our former joint partners, Finland. The UNIFIL female strength of 500, though low in numbers, is utilized to great effect to reach out to the local male and female population. Female peacekeepers, on patrol and in the conduct of local leader engagements, are used to facilitate meaningful dialogue with communities that male peacekeepers have traditionally had

challenges accessing. For example, engagement with female civilians from Shia communities has proved challenging in the past but female peacekeepers are proven key enablers in facilitating communication between UNIFIL and this demographic. This was very much in accordance with the greater UN and Secretary General Guterres agenda to mainstream gender and promote more females to leadership positions in HQ and in the field.


However, we should remind ourselves that in South Lebanon we are sitting on a major regional fault line rife with many conflict trigger points and traditionally the greatest hotspot in the Middle East. The underlying causes of the indigenous conflict remain unaddressed, (particularly the Palestinian question) and the strategic considerations underlying UNIFIL's deployment in its current form remain equally valid today and rendered even more complex by the regional conflict.

The Mandate (UNSCR 1701 & 2373) @ 13

UNSCR 1701 adopted in August 2006 was a comprehensive mandate, containing both the military and political aspects. The mandate has been successful in providing the mission with the handrails to maintain stability. UNIFIL works closely with the Beirut based UN Special Coordinator's Office who is responsible for those mandate areas beyond UNIFIL's remit i.e. providing the overarching objective of addressing the root causes of the conflict and a long-term solution. The Mandate was unanimously renewed in August 2017 and 2018 however 2017 was accompanied by a very difficult debate within the Security Council on the role of UNIFIL. Somewhat bizarrely during this period, it was apparent to the UNIFIL team that we were gaining ground in helping to build a 'Resistance to War' within South Lebanon evidenced by growing signs of normalization including farming, building and Tyre enjoying its best tourist year with over 400,000 visitors. However, 'Holding the Ground' peacekeeping is not enough, it must be dynamic and innovative and below are two practical insights into UNIFIL peacekeeping initiatives

Firstly: Engaging the Parties

A PKO like UNIFIL cannot replace an overall political solution and peace cannot be imposed or enforced, it must grow from the parties. UNIFIL hosts monthly meetings between senior LAF and IDF Commanders, known as Tripartite Meetings, where both, despite being at war, can sit together in one room and calmly and professionally discuss issues of a tactical nature at Brigadier General Level. Both parties take part voluntarily in this process. It is a mechanism that the UN is considering utilizing in other conflict areas. Backing up the tripartite system of communication the Mission has Liaison Teams deployed on both sides of the Blue Line with the LAF and IDF to allow for immediate communication in the event of an incident occurring. A major UNIFIL initiative was to resolve a long-standing disagreement centered on the IDF construction of a wall/fence and the Lebanese need to regain land in 13 reservation areas where the Blue Line was different from the 1948 Armistice line. 19 Tripartite Meetings held in 2017 represented more than three times the annual average with total



cooperation between the negotiators on each side and chaired by UNIFIL. However, while ground solutions were found the Lebanese election cycle served to frustrate UNIFIL's efforts in addition to a Lebanese imperative to solve the maritime resource issue offshore.

Secondly: The Maritime Question

The question of Maritime resources provides both opportunities and challenges. The opportunity rests in the potential for the issue to help build trust between Lebanon and Israel but the possibility of disputes leading to greater tensions also exist. This issue though not part of UNIFIL's mandate resulted in the mission being drawn into the negotiations on solutions to the 13 Lebanese reservations where the 1948 Armistice line is at variance with the Blue Line or line of withdrawal. UNIFIL took an active part in assisting the acting US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Satterfield in seeking solutions. However, trust needs to be built before there will be a satisfactory outcome for both parties. These negotiation initiatives continue to this day and these two examples provide an understanding of the major strategic issues that UNIFIL sought to help resolve.

Conclusion: Converting Resistance to Resistance to War

The Lebanese take on Clausewitz's Enigmatic trilogy is – The Army, the People and the Resistance (in lieu of Government). UNIFIL also has a different metric, measuring peace by reference to what we termed the 'teenage index' putting South Lebanon now thirteen years since the 2006 34-day war and local teenagers who have not seen the face of conflict.

Irish Foreign Policy and the Irish people have supported PK since our first deployment to Lebanon in 1958. I believe that PK is the right way forward, despite its detractors. However, peacekeeping is just that, managing crisis and such multinational deployments /engagements are not suitable for warfighting. Peace cannot be imposed or enforced - it must grow from the parties. UNIFIL is proving that where we can secure the commitment of the parties, peacekeeping can be successful and deliver sustainable results. The relative calm along the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon tends to suggest that UNIFIL is merely a holding operation; and hence the question of how much the international community should continue to invest towards this venture (\$483 million) becomes pertinent. I would posit that this holding operation has gained strategic significance in the current regional context. There is merit in holding the ground when everything around is in free fall.

Political movement now as UNIFIL passes the 41-year deployment mark is critical. UNIFIL continues to do its work, essentially Fire Brigading along the Blue Line and ensuring the Area of Operations is not used to mount aggressive actions. The UN mantra that a PKO can never replace political movement is very true in the case of Lebanon and Israel. Difficult conversations will need to take place, conversations that in some quarters can never be countenanced. The Teenage Index is the best hope for success because it is from that generation that progress can be made.

UNIFIL has the greatest number of fatalities of any mission numbering 313 of which Óglaigh na hÉireann has the highest number, 47 soldiers we did not bring home. The 42 nations with UNIFIL have given the gift of peace to the population of S Lebanon for almost 13 years and such dividends of peace include Tyre having the best ever tourist season with over 400,000 visitors, extensive building projects in S Lebanon and farming right up to the Blue Line – impossible to imagine in times past.

On the general construct of Peacekeeping some commentators contend that states favor the logic of security and war over the logic of peace. Peacekeeping remains the best path forward, but constant change is necessary to keep the concept fresh and meaningful. Alexandra Novosseloff, a noted commentator on UN affairs, provides insights on how PK might go forward:

Peacekeeping is a worthy idea; what needs to be re-examined is how member states use it. Successful peacekeeping missions require that everyone be mobilized. They also require a genuine strategy that is understood by all actors, with the Security Council acting as an orchestra conductor and providing political support, while troop contributors manage the military support, the Secretariat oversees quality control of contributions, and partner organizations supply any political or military services within this strategy^{xiii}.

Peacekeeping works and we must Persevere.

ⁱ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/how-we-are-funded>

ⁱⁱ Highest UN Mission fatalities are UNIFIL with 313 of which Ireland has 47 (Nov 18)

ⁱⁱⁱ https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/msrs_april_2019.pdf

^{iv} https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/1-summary_of_contributions.pdf including Gardai, UN civilians, Staff Officers and Troops – 30 April 2019

^v <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/operational-support> ^{vi} Novosseloff, A. Feb 16, 2018, Blue Helmets: UN's Unloved Stepchild Needs Leadership

^{vii} Under the framework of the CSDP, the EU has launched some 35 missions and operations since 2003 bringing stability, rule of law, and security sector reform to countries as diverse as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo, Iraq and Ukraine. About 7000 personnel are currently servicing in the 16 on-going operations, ten civilian and six military (Jan 2017)

^{viii} Sherman, J. Sep 2018, Action for Peacekeeping: Will Political Consensus Lead to Change in Practice?

^{ix} Wimmen, H. 9 May 2018, International Crisis Group Briefing, In Lebanon's Elections, More of the Same is Mostly Good News

^x <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>

^{xi} <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1732636/lebanon-satterfield-returns-positive-tel-aviv-border-demarcation>

^{xii} <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/fatalities>

^{xiii} Novosseloff, A. 16 Feb 2018, Blue Helmets: UN's Unloved Stepchild Needs Leadership



6th Infantry Battalion Association

The AGM of the 6th Infantry Battalion Officers Association was held in the Officers Mess, Custume Barracks, Athlone on 08th March 2019. The Association was founded by Lt Col Mick Tallon in 2014 and is going from strength to strength through the efforts of the current OC 6th Inf Bn, Lt Col Oliver Dwyer, and the outgoing President of the Association, Lt Col Dan Murphy (Retd).



Pictured at the AGM were (on left) Lt Col Dan Murphy (Retd) after handing over the Chain of Office to the incoming President of the Association, Col Éibhear Ó h-Anluain (Retd). Pictured above is the new Association tie which was unveiled on the night. The group photo above is of those who attended the AGM.



On the 26th June, 22 members of the Association paid a visit to the Joint Houses of the Oireachtas. The visit was organised by Lt Col John Durnin (Retd) and the Captain of the Guard, Comdt John Flaherty (Retd). The group attended Leaders Questions and this was followed by a tour of the Dáil, Seanad and all had lunch in the Dáil restaurant. Pictured (above) is President of the Association, Col Éibhear Ó h-Anluain (Retd) presenting John Flaherty with a memento, in recognition of the excellent support he gave in organising the visit.



Upcoming Events 2019

Date	Event
22 August 2019	DF Gala Concert, Radisson SAS Hotel, Athlone. 19.00 hrs
?? August 2019	Collins/Griffith Commemoration. Glasnevin Cemetery
07 September 2019	Cavalry Corps Memorial Day. DFTC. 11.00hrs Mass (TBC)
?? September 2019	Ministerial Review, 60th Infantry Group, UNDOF (6th Inf Bn). Athlone
?? October 2019	Ministerial Review, 115th Infantry Bn, UNIFIL (3rd Inf Bn). Kilkenny
04 October 2019	ARCO AGM, McKee Bks. Dublin. 11.30 Hrs.
16 October 2019	25th Anniversary of ARCO. Hibernian Club, St Stephens Green, Dublin. 1830hrs
19 October 2019	Defence Forces Annual Gala Concert. National Concert Hall, Dublin. 20.00hrs
?? November 2019	Niamba Ambush Anniversary Mass, Cathal Brugha Mass, Cathal Brugha Bks., Dublin. 12.00hrs (TBC)
01 November 2019	Deceased Members Commemoration Mass, Various Locations. (Time: TBC)
?? November 2019	DFTC Gala Concert. 20.00hrs.
11 December 2019	Defence Forces Carol Service, Arbour Hill Church, Dublin. 20.00hrs



ARCO AGM 2019

The 2019 AGM will be held on Friday 04 October 2019 at 11.30hrs. in McKee Bks, Dublin. Any motions should be sent to Hon Sec Lt Col Joe Ahern (Retd) at joepahern@gmail.com by 28 August 2019.

ARCO Reception; 16 October 2019

To mark the 25th Anniversary of the formal establishment of ARCO, a reception will take place in the Stephens Green Hibernian Club, Dublin on Wednesday, 16th October commencing at 18.30hrs. Further details will be published on the ARCO website.

EU related Contract Work

ARCO member, Col Dorcha Lee (Retd), has been asked by a European based company to facilitate contact with ex Defence Forces officers who may be interested in EU related contract work. For further information Dorcha may be contacted at dorchalee@hotmail.com.

3 Infantry Battalion Association



Pictured above are the officers who attended a recent Association AGM and Dinner in Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny.

ÓGLAIGH NA HÉIREANN
THE DEFENCE FORCES

Bands of the Defence Forces & Pipes & Drums

Annual Gala

Concert

in the National Concert Hall, Dublin.
on Saturday, 19th October 2019
at 1915hrs

In aid of
Defence Forces
Benevolent Fund
& Soldiers Aid
Fund

Tickets: €25

BOOKINGS:
National Concert Hall: T. 01 417 0000
or Website: www.nch.ie
or from Cpl Frank Whelan. Ph 01 - 804 6296
/ email: frank.whelan@defenceforces.ie

EDITOR'S NOTE

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.

Commissioning Ceremony. 94th Cadet Class An Cliaomh Gaisíochta



2/Lt Conor Heffernan, from Hacketstown, Co. Carlow is pictured after receiving An Cliaomh Gaisíochta from Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd), President ARCO. Conor is 22 years of age and is the son of John Heffernan and Schira Murray. He left Presentation College Carlow in 2015, after his Leaving Certificate, and worked between Ireland and the UK as an Adventure Sports Instructor. His passion still lies in sports such as rock climbing, mountain biking and kayaking. He represented the Cadet School in athletics and Gaelic Football. Conor was posted to the 1st Armored Cavalry Squadron in the DFTC.

Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

Col Tom Aherne	Comdt Jorg Peter Ott
Cdr Pearse O'Donnell	Comdt David O'Mara
Comdt Diarmuid Enright	Comdt Sean Curran
Comdt Walter Young	Lt Col Con Kealy
Col Patrick McDaniel	Comdt Frank O'Leary
Comdt Philip Cotter	Maj Gen Kevin Cotter
Capt Noel Giles	Lt Col James Dawson
Comdt Peter Conran	Col Desmond Bergin
Comdt Michael Delaney	Lt Maoilíosa Ó Cúlacháin
Capt Gabriel D'Arcy	Lt Cdr Shane Anderson

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.

Capt Fachtna Young	15 Dec 2018
Cdr Noel Goulding	18 Dec 2018
Capt Diarmuid Dineen	19 Dec 2018???
Lt Victor Harris	26 Dec 2018
Col Claude Carroll	25 Jan 2019
Capt Seamus Cunningham	29 Jan 2019
Comdt Art Magennis DSM	12 Feb 2019
Col Henry (Harry) Quirke	25 Feb 2019
Maj Gen Liam Prendergast	10 Mar 2019
Col Hugh O'Connor	11 Mar 2019
Brig Gen Patrick (Paddy) Keogh	27 Mar 2019
Lt Col Chris Browne (Dr)	22 Apr 2019
Lt Col Martin Cafferty	04 May 2019
Capt Luke Mullins	21 June 2019
Lt Col Daniel O'Shea	19 July 2019
Maj Gen F. K. (Kevin) Murphy	28 July 2019