

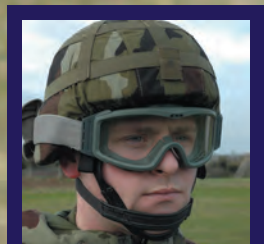
# An Cosantóir

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New Equipment p.8



Overseas p.18



Profile p.28

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Front cover:  
A/Sgt Michael Kelly (2 Pl  
1 Mech Coy 34 Inf Gp) on  
security detail in south  
Lebanon. (See pages 14 to 24.)

[www.military.ie/pr/an\\_cosantoir](http://www.military.ie/pr/an_cosantoir)

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### Price Increase April 2007

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PDF Officers €2.08 pm

O/Ranks: 48 cent pw



## news update... news update... news update...



### A Helping Hand

In January, as part of their CIMIC work in BiH, 4 Ir Comp EUFOR donated €500 to the orphanage in Tuzla, which looks after 101 boys and girls from three months to 20 years of age. Before Christmas they also gave €500 to a school in Dubrave. Pictured (l-r) at the orphanage are: Comdt P Murphy (OIC NSE), Sabina Halilcevic (interpreter), Lt Col Peter Burns (OC 4 Ir Comp), along with the social worker and financial director of the orphanage.



### Well Done Grandpa

Pictured here is his grandfather, who was presented with the Cedar by the ceremony in... Also present... daughter, Lt... family, friend... including Lt... Photo: Armn



### Going for Gold

At a Gaisce ceremony held in Dublin Castle in February, Capt Donal Burke (DFHQ) and Cdt Gearóid Ó Briain (ACC) were presented with their Gold Awards from President Mary McAleese. Ken Finley's photo shows (l-r): Comdt Pat White (2 Fd Arty Regt), Capt Burke, Cdt Ó Briain, Lt Col Jim Lynott and Capt Niall Buckley (both Air Corps).



### For a Few Euros More

The DF presented a cheque to Rehab for new equipment. Pictured at the presentation are (l-r): Jane Evans (Rehab), Capt Manus Ward (DFSC), Cathy Shubotham (Rehab) and Sgt Mick O'Brien (DFSC). Kneeling (l-r): Sgt Maj William Scott (4 Inf Bn), Capt William Tierney, Lt Col Maxi McGrath (HQ 2 E Bde) and Cpl Robert Forrester (5 Inf Bn). Photo by: Armn Billy Galigan.

### Admiral Browne Remembered

In March, Maj Gen Dermot Earley (D COS Sp) and Commod Frank Lynch (FOCNS) attended a ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to mark the anniversary of the death of Mayo-born Admiral William Brown, founder of the Argentinian Navy. Maj Gen Earley is seen here with Gen Luis Alberto Poxxi (D COS Argentine Army) and Irish Ambassador Philomena Murnaghan.



### We Can Fix It

Pádraig Devaney's photo shows some of the 13 DF Heavy Vehicle Apprentice Mechanics currently undergoing training in the Athlone Institute of Technology sitting on a MAN 14-tonne truck, which, along with two Nissan Patrols, was donated to the college in March for apprentice training. For more see Keep on Truckin' in April's Connect.





## news update.. news update.. news update..

**Well done, Grandad!**

Pictured here is Fionn Moran congratulating his grandfather, Maj Gen Carl Dodd (ret'd), who was presented with the Order of the Cedar by the Lebanese Government at a ceremony in the Officers Mess, McKee Bks. Also present was his Maj Gen Dodd's daughter, Lucy Moran, along with many family, friends and former colleagues including Lt Gen Jim Sreenan (COS). Photo: Armn Billy Galligan.

**On the Ball**

The Defence Forces volleyball team took on their Garda counterparts in a representative series match in Templemore Garda College in March. The home team beat the visitors three sets to two. Pte Pat O'Keeffe's (12 Inf Bn and DF Coach) photo shows Garda Mark Campbell and Sgt John Byrne (4 Sp Wing) exchanging gifts prior to the match. Pat's other photo shows the DF Volleyball team sporting their new team strip.



NEWS UPDAATE

**Space Cadet**

During the FÁS Opportunities Exhibition in Croke Park in early March, the guest of honour, US Astronaut Bonnie Dunbar, met with some of the Defence Forces personnel, who were manning the information stands. Armn Billy Galligan's photo shows Bonnie with Air Corps pilots Lts Noonan and McKenna.

**All the best, Pat**

On St Patrick's Day, Coy Sgt Pat McCandless (A Coy 58 Res Inf Bn) retired after 41 years service in the RDF. Pictured with Pat is (left) Comdt Eugene McCosker (OC A Coy) and (right) Pat's son, Lt John McCandless. Photo: Lt John McCandless.

**A Fitting Tribute**

Lt Gen Jim Sreenan (COS) is pictured looking at a model of the new memorial to deceased members of the Defence Forces to be erected in Merrion Square later this year, during the memorial's launch on March 22nd. Photo: Armn Billy Galligan.

**Safety First**

As part of the Defence Forces' commitment to developing a safer and healthier working environment, Maj Gen Dermot Earley (D COS Sp) presented health and safety compliance certificates to various units in March. Armn Billy Galligan's photo shows Maj Gen Earley accepting a certificate on behalf of the Defence Forces from Mr Adrian Kearns (Dir State Claims Agency) outside HQ LBC, DFTC. Also pictured (l-r) are: Col Brendan Farrelly (DDFT), Comdt Robert Corbett (DF H&S Offr), Ms Gemma D'arcy (SCA), Col Paul Pakenham (DFHQ), Maj Gen Earley, Mr Adrian Kearns, Brig Gen Pat O'Sullivan (GOC DFTC), Mr Pat Kirwan (SCA, Brig Gen Chris Moore (A COS Sp) and Lt Col Eamon Fogarty (1 ADR).



**Capt Brian Hughes (Ord Corps) gives us a brief outline on the selection of the new HK USP Pistol, due to enter service this year...**

In early 2005 the decision was made to replace the FN 9mm pistol, otherwise known as the Browning Automatic Pistol (BAP), which has been in general service with the Defence Forces since 1963. October 2006 saw the arrival of its replacement, the 9mm Universal Self-loading Pistol (USP) made in Germany by Heckler & Koch (HK), a world-renowned, quality small-arms manufacturer.

Small-arms manufacturers were invited to tender for the 2005/2006 procurement competitions and after an intensive review of submissions from the respondents, the competition was reduced to six. Each of the respondents, Glock, Walther, Steyr, FN, HK and CZ, submitted weapons for technical and field testing to determine the best replacement pistol to suit the Defence Forces' requirements.

A panel of firers for the weapons test was selected from personnel from units of 4 W Bde. These were a mixture of experienced All-Army shots and novice shooters. Each fired approximately 2,000 rounds of ammunition from each pistol as per a programme of firing tests. The first 500 rounds were fired mainly in grouping and application practices until the firers became familiar with the weapon. An additional 700 rounds were fired from each weapon for technical testing.

After the familiarisation phase the firers shot the BAP Table 11 practice in order to gauge the accuracy of the weapons.

At the end of the firing programme, the firers were debriefed and completed a questionnaire on the attributes of the various weapons. The results were converted into a marking scheme to compare each of the pistols under assessment. This process took five days to complete for each weapon.

Also during the user tests, weapons were inspect-

ed, gauged and had their accuracy tested at regular intervals by ordnance corps personnel.

Even though all pistols performed to very high standard in the technical evaluation and field trials, the final decision was that the HK USP Standard Pistol was deemed the best suited for the Defence Forces' particular requirements.

The USP is a self-loading pistol with a calibre of 9mm x 19mm, a locked-and-buffered breach system, and a 15 cartridge magazine capacity. The pistol incorporates single-action and double-action trigger actions. Single-action allows firing when the hammer is fully cocked and ready to fire: this requires a reduced trigger pull and allows more accurate firing. Double-action involves cocking the hammer by engaging the trigger until it flies forward to fire and the trigger pull is over twice that of single-action.

A combined de-cocking lever and safety catch also enable the user to chamber a round and make the weapon safe by rotating the hammer forward under control, meaning that double-action is required to fire. In addition, the safety can be set to 'safe', thus preventing unintentional firing incidents.

The magazine release can be actuated with either hand; sighting with dots allows a quick and precise target acquisition; the ergonomic design of the hand-grip allows users easy access to all controls; and the pistol can easily be field stripped for cleaning and maintenance.

Following the exhaustive assessment process, those who made the decision, based on technical, performance and safety criteria, are satisfied that the HK Universal Self-loading Pistol will prove to be a good choice for the Defence Forces and a worthy successor to the BAP, which served us well over the last 45 years. ■

# Taking Aim

## HK 9MM UNIVERSAL SELF-LOADING PISTOL (USP)



*On the range*



I've fired it from 15m and 25m and find the accuracy very good due to the recoil system used.



Above:  
Pistol cleaning kit

## VOX POP

*Sgt Rena Kennedy spoke to Ordnance Corps personnel about their first impressions on the new pistol during a recent shoot.*

### **Sgt Brian Hayes**

(Ord Coy 2 LSB)

"The pistol has a very good sight picture due to the high visibility sights on the weapon. It's very easy to handle, lighter than the BAP but sturdy and rigid. I've fired it from 15m and 25m and find the accuracy very good due to the recoil system used. Soldiers will find it user friendly for stripping, assembling and cleaning. Its a modern looking pistol and will look the part in overseas missions. When unloaded, it appears top-heavy due to the steel frame but when loaded with 15 round magazine the weight evens out."



### **Cpl Jimmy Cummins**

(Ord Det SSU)

"The pistol is very smooth and easy to fire, I found I didn't need a lot of hands on practice to fire it accurately and there's not as much kick off it compared to the BAP. The TOET's will basically be the same and people should have no problem adapting to the weapon with tuition. The goggles that you use actually come with prescription lenses (inserts) if needed, so are very modern."



### **Capt Deirdre O'Rourke**

(Ord YO's Cse)

"It's a good weapon to fire, it's not as hard to maintain as the BAP. Table 11 may have to be revised somewhat. Everyone when firing will have to wear the goggles as a safety feature firing in close proximity. The helmet is very comfortable when worn with Peltor ear defenders and the respirator."



### **Pte David Nolan**

(Ord Coy 1 LSB)

The high visibility fore sight and rear sight when used in conjunction are a very effective method of aiming. The additional safety feature of the de-cocking lever will take a little while getting used to but overall people will make the change from firing the BAP to firing the USP without any problem."



1. Slide
2. Proof marking
3. Caliber designation
4. Slide release
5. Serial number
6. Hammer
7. Safety/decocking lever
8. Magazine release
9. Trigger

The HK USP Standard Pistol.



The Defence Forces has been in the process of replacing and upgrading equipment for a number of years and there has been major investment in vehicles, aircraft and weapons systems. In 2004, the Integrated Protection and Load Carrying System (IPLCS) Board, drawn from all corps and services of the Defence Forces and including line and technical personnel, was established by D COS Ops to address the issue of individual protective and load-carrying equipment. The board's task was to investigate, identify and procure the most appropriate and user-friendly modern equipment to provide optimum protection and allow efficient and safe carriage of loads for troops in peace support and ATPC operations. A major part of its remit was to have regard for all current and projected equipment programmes to ensure compatibility and interoperability.

Following intensive research and evaluation of current trends and equipment used by other forces, the board decided that a range of protective and load-carrying items was required to best meet the needs of the Defence Forces. This new system includes a helmet, body armour, goggles, elbow- and kneepads, long-frame rucksack, day sack and assault vest.

In line with planning guidance issued by the General Staff, priority was given to the procurement of the protective elements of the system and trials were conducted on these in 2005 and 2006. Following this, trials were conducted on the long-frame rucksack and day sack in 2006, and initial trials are currently being conducted on the assault vests with a view to an order being placed in 2007.

Throughout all the trials, emphasis has been placed on ensuring compatibility with current equipment, such as clothing, ear defenders, respirators, NVE, fire control systems, vehicles and weapons.

Various items of equipment were identified by the board from the wide range of such items available on the market and the best of these were then given trials by the Defence Forces over a number of months, both at home and overseas. After the initial tests were completed, equipment reviews were held to

ensure that the proposed purchases were compatible with current equipment.

Finally, the board made their recommendations for purchase. The General Staff have agreed with all of the board's recommendations and have initiated a programme to press forward with these recommendations. The procurement plan is almost complete with the following progress to date:

Item	Qty	Delivery	Remarks
Helmets	12,000	Nov 2006	For immediate issue
Body armour	8,000	Dec 2006	For immediate issue
Protective goggles	5,000	Dec 2006	For immediate issue
Knee/elbow pads	10,000	Feb 2007	For immediate issue
Main/day packs	12,000	Apr 2007	Acceptance in March 07
Assault vests	7,000	Aug 2007	Tender due this summer

The main issue that faced the board was to provide the optimum protective and load carrying equipment for operational duties. The protective equipment could not compromise protection for comfort and weight and the load carrying equipment had to ensure that even the smallest and slightest of stature could effectively carry the prescribed combat loads.

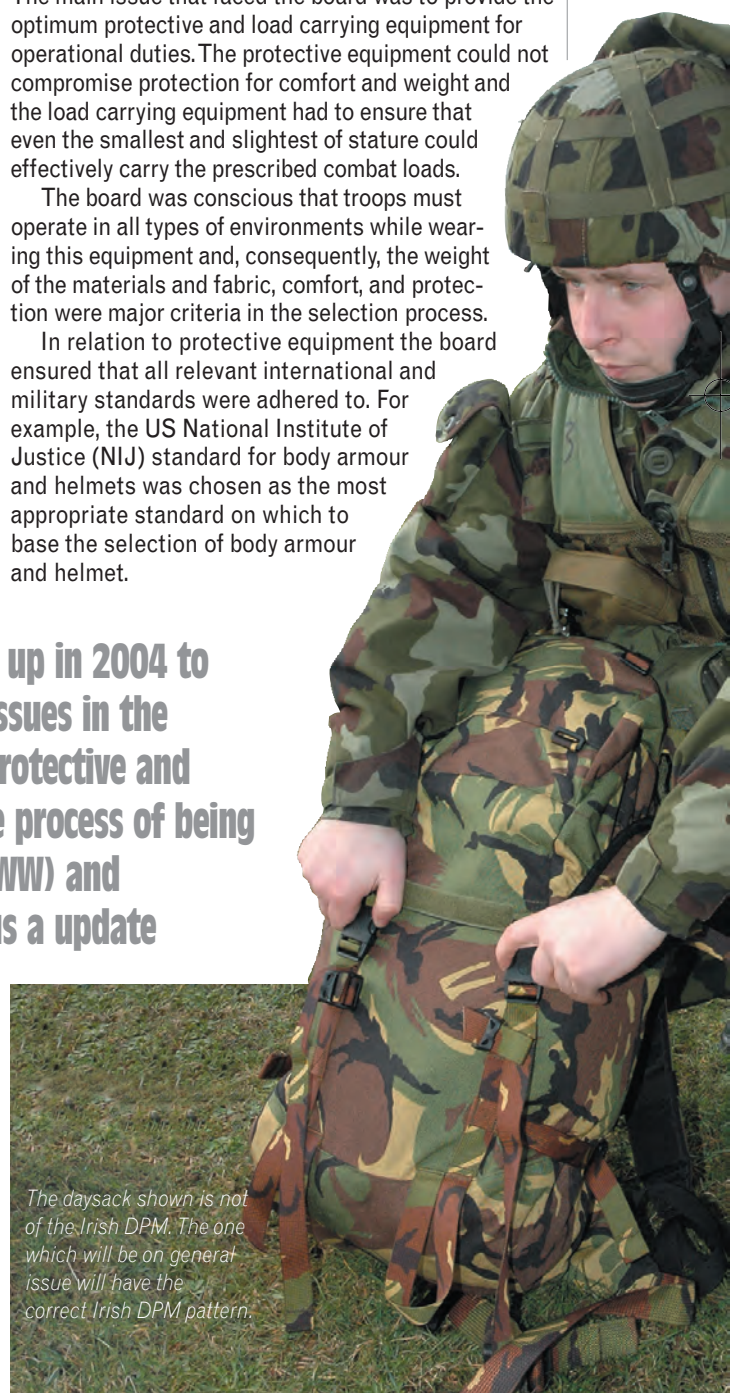
The board was conscious that troops must operate in all types of environments while wearing this equipment and, consequently, the weight of the materials and fabric, comfort, and protection were major criteria in the selection process.

In relation to protective equipment the board ensured that all relevant international and military standards were adhered to. For example, the US National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standard for body armour and helmets was chosen as the most appropriate standard on which to base the selection of body armour and helmet.

As a result of the work of a board set up in 2004 to look at protection and load-carrying issues in the Defence Forces a wide range of new protective and load-carrying equipment is now in the process of being rolled out. Comdt Tom O'Keeffe (OIC IWW) and Capt Brian Hughes (Ord Corps) gives us a update on what's coming in 2007...

# GEARING UP

FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



The daysack shown is not of the Irish DPM. The one which will be on general issue will have the correct Irish DPM pattern.



The board was conscious that troops must operate in all types of environments while wearing this equipment and, consequently, the weight of the materials and fabric, comfort, and protection were major criteria in the selection process.



### Body Armour

The new body armour, which provides protection for front, back, groin, and neck, consists of flexible, soft armour panels for greater comfort, supplemented with front and rear ceramics. It is available in a range of sizes and personnel will be measured prior to issue to ensure correct fitting.

The new body armour, available in DPM or UN blue covers, is designed to protect personnel from small-arms fire. The soft armour is NIJ standard IIIA and the ceramic plates are NIJ III, which can protect against 7.62mm and 5.56mm rounds as well as a high degree of protection against fragments. The soft panels are tailored to cover the torso and groin while the SAPI (small arms protective inserts) are 10" x 12" double curved ceramic plates.

In hot environments, the soldier will wear his issued dry-flow t-shirt under the body armour. In cooler climates the body armour will be worn under the smock. The outer cover is made of similar material to the cotton DPM short-sleeve shirt currently on issue. It is machine washable and can be replaced if damaged.

An optional flotation device, which can be attached externally to the body over webbing and body armour, is available for troops involved in amphibious operations. It is designed to ensure that personnel with webbing, body armour and rifle will remain afloat if they are immersed in water. An automatic inflation device will ensure that a wounded or unconscious soldier will float face-up out of the water. The outer cover and harness are olive green and the inner bladder, when inflated, is a high visibility orange.



### Helmet

The new helmet, RBH 303IE, is a variation of the PASGT helmet worn by B Coy, 3 Inf Bn and ARW personnel and has a additional space to accommodate ear defenders and communications headsets. The helmet is designed to protect personnel from small-arms fire. It gives a high degree of protection against 9mm ammunition and fragments, while offering limited protection against other ammunition calibres. The helmet is compatible with all Defence Forces weapons, fire control instruments, night vision equipment, respirator and ear defenders. It consists of: helmet shell and harness; carrying bag, DPM or UN blue cover; blunt impact visor (optional); neck curtain (optional), which are worn during public order operations. The helmet shell is designed to ensure maximum coverage of the head. The harness and headband are riveted to the helmet and have leather pads to ensure comfort and shock absorption. The helmet cover is one-piece with camouflage eyelets for adding foliage or identification devices.

It is imperative that soldiers wear the correct size helmet with the chinstrap closed, otherwise protection cannot be guaranteed. The leather headband has 20mm of adjustment and the correct size is attained by measuring the circumference of the head just above the ears.

The helmet is very strong and durable and is made of rigid, woven aramid fibre (Kevlar). Proper care must be taken of the helmet to ensure optimal performance and when not worn the helmet should be stored in its carrying bag.

### Protective Goggles

The new protective goggles are designed to protect the wearer from impact by small low velocity fragments and enable the user to remain effective in sunny, sandy and/or dusty environments. The goggles are compact, with a low-profile frame that offers optimal helmet and night vision systems compatibility. The goggle exceeds ANSI Z87.1 requirements, including those for impact resistance, and comes with tear-off lens and lens covers, and a protective sleeve that keeps the goggles and lens clean and scratch-free when not worn. The frame can also accommodate corrective lenses by means of a special insert that sits internally into the frame.





**The volume of equipment a soldier carries is ever increasing and the board was committed to delivering a system that would provide the optimum load-carrying capacity, which incorporated an ergonomic carriage system that would reduce physical stress on the soldier.**

### **Elbow and Kneepads**

The new elbow- and knee pads are designed to protect the user when engaged in tactical operations in urban environments, where the soldier may have to take up prone or kneeling firing positions on hard surfaces. They are olive green in colour and consist of 25mm of high-density foam covered in durable Cordura nylon. The pads have a dual hook and loop-fastened elastic straps that provide a comfortable and secure fit for all sizes.

### **Load-Carrying Equipment**

Military operations often require soldiers to carry heavy combat loads. The weight carried can vary significantly depending on the mission and can include weapons, ammunition, radios, water, rations, clothing and protective equipment. During extensive trials, the board decided on a modular, three-tier system, comprising Battle Order (New Assault Vest), Augmented Battle Order (New Day Pack) and Marching Order (New Main Pack)

One of the challenges the board faced in arriving at a solution to the carrying of combat loads was that many operations at home and particularly overseas are vehicle mounted. The current Combat Equipment Fighting Order (CEFO), where the loads are carried on the hip, is not compatible with APC- or heli-borne operations. As an interim solution soldiers serving overseas in Liberia, Lebanon and Kosovo are issued with a chest rig system. However



*The backpack shown is not of the Irish DPM. The one which will be on general issue will have the correct Irish DPM pattern.*

no chest-borne system, however, can accommodate the same volume of equipment normally carried in CEFO. For this reason, priority was given to sourcing an assault vest with compartments for essential equipment: ammunition, water, emergency medical kit and personal role radio.

Items essential for 24-48 hour operations, such as wet gear, rations and cooking equipment, will be carried in a 35-litre day-pack, which also has a compartment for the Sincgar radio.

The volume of equipment a soldier carries is ever increasing and the board was committed to delivering a system that would provide the optimum load-carrying capacity, which incorporated an ergonomic carriage system that would reduce physical stress on the soldier. To that end, the new long-

frame main pack incorporates a hip belt that allows for optimum distribution of load between hips and shoulders.

The inclusion of the hip belt reinforced the need for the Fighting Order system to be chest-borne as a waist-borne system would be incompatible with the rucksack.

Notwithstanding the effectiveness of the load-carrying equipment, the onus is on commanders to ensure soldiers carry only the equipment that is needed for a particular mission or task. ■



The recently published government White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland' sets ambitious targets for Ireland's energy policy. It sets a target of 33% for energy savings for government departments, state agencies, local authorities and the public sector overall. The government also undertakes to publish an action plan for 'green procurement', with the aim of equalling the best European performers in this area by 2010.

In common with all large organisations, the Defence Forces has been faced with rapidly increasing utilities costs in recent years. Between 2001 and 2006 costs for electricity, gas, oil, water and waste disposal increased by almost 50%, with a further significant increase projected for the current year. Energy costs (electricity, gas and heating oil) accounted for 86% of the utilities budget of 9.9 million in 2006. While successful initiatives have been implemented in the area of water conservation and waste disposal, which have helped stem the increase in costs, this article will, in the main, concentrate on the area of energy costs and energy conservation.

The responsibility of the Defence Forces in the area of environmental protection is clearly enunciated in the Department of Defence Strategy Statement 2005-2007, which states:

**With increasing concern over carbon emissions and sustainable energy policies worldwide, these issues have also come to the fore in Ireland in recent years. In this article Col Jim Foley (Dir of Engr), a chartered engineer, outlines the Defence Forces' efforts to address these problems in line with government policy.**

## **Switch On... and switch it off!**

### **DEFENCE FORCES' ENERGY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**



Below:

Maj Gen Dermot Earley, Mr David Taylor and Col Jim Foley at the launch of the DF energy awareness campaign.

"In line with Government policy and the National Heritage Plan and National Diversity Plan, the Department and the Defence Forces are committed to employing best practice to ensure the protection of Ireland's natural environment and heritage resources. Our main focus on environmental issues is concentrated on the conservation of defence lands, pollution prevention, energy conservation, recycling and waste disposal, and environmental enhancement generally. The preservation, protection and restoration of natural resources while fulfilling Defence training and operational requirements are key issues."

A major building development programme over the last ten years has seen significant improvements being made in all Defence Forces installations. Old buildings have been insulated, single-glazed windows have been replaced with double-glazing, more efficient heating systems have been installed, building energy management systems have been fitted in many buildings, and new buildings have been constructed to meet the highest energy conservation standards.

The Defence Forces, like other major electricity users, has taken advantage of the deregulation of the electricity market to obtain competitive tenders for the supply of its electricity requirements and the present contract was tendered jointly with An Garda Síochána and the Prison Service.

Various energy efficiency programmes have been introduced in recent years and a number of pilot projects in the area of energy efficiency and energy management have already been put in place in various installations throughout the Defence Forces. These projects will not alone save money and reduce carbon emissions but they are useful learning tools and will assist in determining the Defence Forces' strategy in the area of energy efficiency. The following illustrate some of the areas being investigated.

Naval Service ships produce 70,000 litres of useable waste engine oil annually and the refurbishment of the naval workshops offered the opportunity to examine possible uses for this waste oil. A feasibility study indicated that it could be used as a fuel for space heating and water heating for the workshops. This, it is estimated, will require 25,000 to 30,000 litres of waste oil annually. If diesel was used 20,000 litres would be required, reflecting its higher energy content compared to waste oil.

The additional capital cost of the boiler and associated equipment and consultancy fees was approximately €13,000. Savings in fuel costs will exceed €10,000 per annum at today's costs, which gives a payback period of less than 18 months, and as oil prices increase the relative savings increase.

Allied to this is the saving made by not having to dispose of the waste oil! This project has obvious potential for expansion to other sites in the Defence Forces.

The use of cooking oil as a fuel for heating systems is also being examined. In Haulbowline alone, ships' galleys and cookhouses produce 12,500 litres of waste cooking oil annually. This can be used as a 'carbon neutral' fuel and it is intended in the near future to convert an existing heating system for evaluation purposes.

A small wind turbine has also recently been installed in the Naval Base. While this project will have a relatively long payback period of 11 years, it will assist in evaluating the feasibility of using wind turbines as an alternative means of energy supply. It will also provide detailed wind analysis of the Haulbowline site by means of wind monitoring equipment located on the turbine tower.





Preliminary investigations suggest that two one-megawatt wind turbines could supply all the electricity requirements for the Naval Base. These would have a capital cost in the order of €3 million, which would result in a payback period of approximately six years, assuming a 10% annual increase in electricity costs. Significantly this project, if implemented, would reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 3,200 tonnes per annum.

A geothermal pump and heat recovery system has been installed in another building. This system, which is used with an under floor heating system, allows for heat to be drawn from the earth and transferred to the building in winter, while in summer it removes heat from the building and transfers it to the relatively cooler earth.

The heat recovery system allows constant fresh air while capturing up to 95% of the heat in the stale air. Fresh air is drawn in from the atmosphere through a heat exchanger and is warmed before entering the building, while stale air is extracted and passes through the heat exchanger on its way out. The fans required have a very small electrical load (approximately 150 watts) and the comparative level of carbon emissions for heating the building using electrical heating, oil heating and the combined geothermal pump/heat recovery system are 7.8 tonnes, 4.2 tonnes and 1.2 tonnes respectively. The relative running costs per annum are estimated at €1,800 for electricity, €900 for oil and €80 for the installed system.

Solar thermal panels are being used in another building that provides accommodation and recreation facilities for up to 24 people. A 20 sq m solar panel array was installed in 2005 as part of an upgrade of building services. The system provides the bulk of the hot water required and, while having a relatively long payback period of 10 years, has reduced maintenance requirements and results in a significant reduction in carbon emissions of 3.7 tonnes per annum.

In some instances savings can be made and energy usage reduced by simply doing nothing. On one building external decorative lighting, serving no useful purpose, was disconnected saving €400 per annum plus maintenance costs.

The reduction in carbon emissions expected from these relatively small pilot schemes is: wind turbine, 2.03 tonnes; solar panels, 3.72 tonnes; geothermal pump and heat recovery, 6.5 tonnes

While much has already been done in the Defence Forces to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and associated services, the management of these facilities is key to determining their energy usage. There is little point in having well insulated buildings if lights are left on, windows are open while heaters are on, or heating is on in unoccupied buildings, etc.

In recognition of the importance of having personnel at all levels appreciate the part they can play in reducing energy usage, the Defence Forces' Energy Awareness Campaign was formally launched by Maj Gen Dermot Earley, D COS (Sp) on March 8th. The launch of the campaign, which is being co-ordinated by the Director of Engineering, was attended by brigade logistics officers, barracks commanders, logs officers, barracks services officers and barracks accountants. The attendance also included Mr David Taylor, CEO of Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), and members of his staff. SEI is providing assistance with the campaign and the Defence Forces has in the past availed of grants, made available by the government through SEI, to implement energy conservation measures. Those attending the launch received presentations on Energy Efficiency, Energy Awareness and Energy Management from staff of the Directorate

You're not the only one that likes to  
**SWITCH OFF!**



Leaving a PC monitor on all night wastes enough energy to microwave six dinners. Switch off all equipment when not in use.



Ceanncheathrú Óglaigh na hÉireann  
Defence Forces Headquarters

**DON'T**  
turn me on  
and then just  
leave meee!!



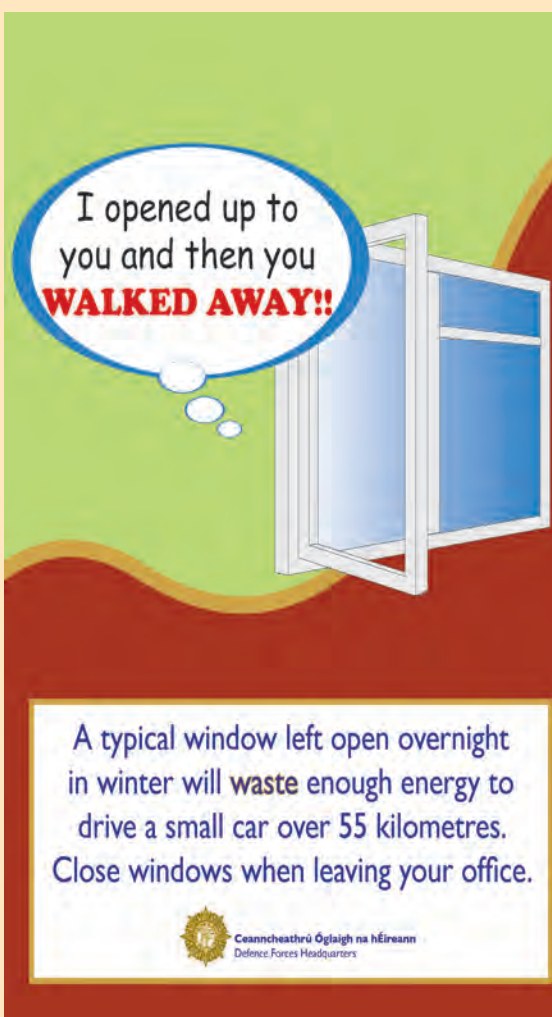
Lighting an office overnight wastes enough energy to heat water for 1,000 cups of tea. Switch off all lights when not required.



Ceanncheathrú Óglaigh na hÉireann  
Defence Forces Headquarters



# Last out – switch off!



of Engineering and SEI.

SEI has already carried out preliminary surveys of several barracks in relation to energy usage and obvious areas where savings can be made were highlighted.

In his address, Maj Gen Earley stressed the importance of, and need for, a change of culture among Defence Forces personnel in relation to energy usage. He pointed out that the Defence Forces, as a major public sector organisation, has an obligation to be to the fore in the implementation of government policy in the area of environmental protection and ensuring that the best use is made of available resources.

In view of the importance being placed on the campaign he indicated that barracks commanders would be appointed as energy managers in each location, and that there will be regular reviews on progress being made.

Maj Gen Earley pointed to the success of the waste management initiative as an example of what can be achieved. In the period 2000-2003 the cost of waste disposal for the Defence Forces doubled, brought about mainly by the spiralling cost of disposal to landfill. Consequently, a waste management strategy for the Defence Forces was developed. A new contract for waste disposal for the Defence Forces was also prepared and tendered. This contract included recycling, a fixed price for a three-year period, and better controls and reporting in the area of waste management. It also included the running and management of a waste management facility in the DFTC by the contractor.

A study group was also set up to identify the infrastructural works required in each military post to implement the waste management strategy and a construction programme commenced. Barracks waste managers and waste teams were appointed and training courses conducted. The implementation of the Defence Forces' waste management strategy has been an outstanding success and shows what can be achieved. Each military post now has a recycling centre, waste costs have been halved in the last four years, and the savings have been used to directly fund other services for the Defence Forces.

The energy awareness campaign includes a poster campaign, training for energy managers, and constant review of progress. Funding for energy efficiency projects will be made available, energy audits of buildings will be carried out, and an immediate programme of energy efficiency measures commenced. This programme will include the installation of passive infrared sensors (PIRs) to control lighting in corridors and toilet areas, and the fitting of low energy light fittings, etc.

The annual Utilities Achievements awards, which have been presented since 2004 to recognise those barracks where significant progress had been made in the area of utilities management, will also take much more cognisance of the progress made in energy awareness and the implementation of energy saving measures than in previous years.

The achievement of the targets for energy reductions set for the public sector by the government in the White Paper will present a significant challenge to the Defence Forces. However, there is confidence that it can be achieved with the co-operation of personnel at all levels and the provision of funding, training, and other necessary resources.

There will be an obvious financial benefit to reducing energy usage and switching to renewable energy sources, but more importantly these measures will ensure that the Defence Forces continues to play its part in protecting the environment and is to the fore in implementing government policy in this area. ■



**In March Sgt Willie Braine and Terry McLaughlin visited the troops of 34 Inf Gp Unifil, the first Defence Forces unit to serve in Lebanon since 89 Inf Bn in 2001. This is their report...**

While you will often hear about the Irish leaving Lebanon in 2001, members of the Defence Forces know that this only refers to the Irish battalions that served with Unifil. Since 2001 Irish personnel have continued to serve in Unifil HQ in Naqoura, serving in a number of key positions and continuing our commitment to the mission since 1978. However, the deployment of 34 Inf Gp in October 2006 did see the return of a major troop contribution (158 personnel) to the mission.

The Irish contingent, which forms part of a joint Finnish/Irish battalion, comprises of a mechanised infantry company with headquarters, administrative and logistical elements. The Finnish contingent comprises an Engineering Company and as the senior partner, a Finnish Officer, Lt Col Osmo Toivanen is battalion commander, while Lt Col Billy Harrington is the battalion 2i/c. Though both contingents bring different elements to the battalion, they both have Irish and Finnish troops serving in all levels of the HQ and the support elements.

Following last year's conflict between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, triggered by the Lebanese group's capture of two Israeli soldiers and the killing of four others at an attack on an IDF patrol in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, the Irish government acceded to a request from the UN for a contribution of troops to the enlarged Unifil force, which resulted in the establishment of the Finn/Ir Bn.

The Finnish Engineering Company is involved in the construction and maintenance of Unifil positions and Explosive Ordnance Demolition (EOD) operations throughout the Unifil Area of Operation (AO). While the Irish troops primary role is to provide protection to the Finnish engineers with troops mounted in Mowag APCs, supported by either a 90mm or 20mm AML Armoured Cars, when operating in the

AO, they also use their substantial transport assets such as DROPS vehicles to assist in the transport of Finnish engineering equipment.

The Finnish constructed Camp Ida, home of the Finn/Ir Bn near Ebl es Saqi, in the old Norbatt/Indbatt area, close to the towns of Marjayoun and Khiam. (Some readers will remember the Hotel Dana in Ebl es Saqi, which, with its swimming pool and restaurant, was sometimes used by Irish troops in the past).

One noticeable difference is that there is a 'no walking out' policy, which means that there is little direct contact between the Irish troops and the local population. Many of the troops who had previously served in Lebanon remarked on this and most do not like the new policy. Of course, as Lt Col Billy Harrington pointed out, this is a different type of operation; we no longer man checkpoints or OPs and we are not scattered throughout a number of villages over a wide area the way the old Irishbatt used to be.

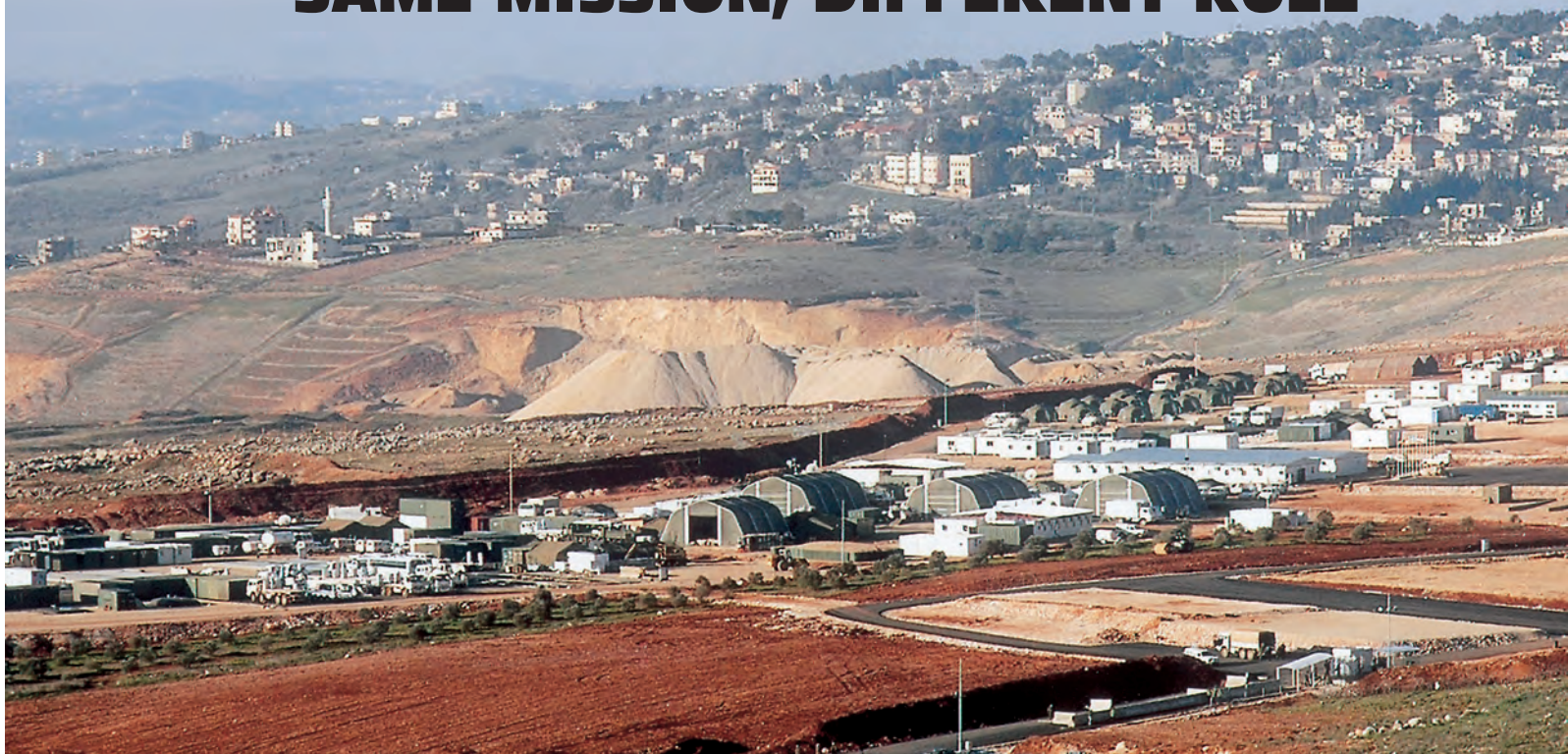
During our visit the Irish troops were in the process of moving from the six-man tents they had occupied since October 2006 into very comfortable, well equipped single or two-berth containers. Though the new accommodation is spacious and more comfortable, there was some nostalgia for life in the tents as many of the troops said that the shared hardships and camaraderie experienced while living in such basic accommodation contributed to the very good esprit de corps and morale that were very noticeable during our time there.

We were given free access to personnel and were impressed by the openness of all we spoke to. While the overall impression of the mission was very positive there was no attempt to gloss over any difficulties, such as the problems with the food, which Lt Col Harrington addresses in his interview, or the 'walking out' policy.

One thing that struck us was the degree of organ-

# UNIFIL

## SAME MISSION, DIFFERENT ROLE





**As to the future, it is hard to predict what will happen. Hezbollah's attitude to UNIFIL will have a major influence on events. At the moment Hezbollah are ambivalent to, if somewhat distrustful of, UNIFIL's presence but the future development of the mission may push this relationship either in the direction of acceptance or outright hostility.**

ised, ongoing training carried out on a daily basis. The training, mainly the responsibility of Capt John Anderson (2i/c Mech Coy) incorporates Phase 4 of TC11/2006. Training is also mission-relevant with subjects such as First Aid and Mine Awareness. Just as at home, personnel also receive lectures on a variety of topics such as interpersonal relationships.

There are organised runs outside the camp every day between 1500hrs and 1700hrs as well as other physical training, such as platoon route marches. Kit maintenance, which takes place in the evening, is another regular activity.

APC training was conducted in the early part of the trip by instructors from B Coy 3 Inf Bn, who travelled to the mission area for Mowag crews and dismountable troops training.

The quality of the troops' equipment, accommodation and facilities is also a far cry from the old Leb days and the Irish contingent can match any of the other contingents in this regard.

During our few days we also visited the Old Irish AO, to see how things were affected by last year's conflict. While we got very little time in the area, signs of the conflict were still visible, with many damaged houses in villages such as Haddathah, Shaqra and Brachit. Some of the heaviest fighting had taken place in the area forward of the old Irishbatt AO, particularly in Marun ar Ras and Bint Jubayl. We passed through the latter and were shocked by the extent of the damage to the centre of this large town, most of which was totally devastated, with hardly a building still standing.

On our way through Brachit we called on Rosie, who grew up with the Irish as her neighbours and who had a shop for many years at the back entrance to the old C Coy HQ. Rosie's accent is as Irish as

ever and all those who knew Rosie and her family will be pleased to know that they are all still alive and well.

Few of the old DFF compounds are still visible, Brachit Compound being the exception, and one of the clearest signs that life has moved on since we left the area is the presence of a family fun park, complete with Ferris wheel, only about 100 yards away from the entrance to our former position on Hill 880.

The monument to the Irish who died in Lebanon, which was constructed close to the church in Tibnine in 2001, is in good repair and is visited regularly from by Irish personnel from 34 Inf Gp, Unifil HQ and by visiting Irish dignitaries.

By the end of our visit to Finn/Ir Bn, it was obvious that although this is still Unifil and still Lebanon, the mission has changed and Lebanon has moved on. The old Irishbatt of checkpoints and OPs in AtTiri, Haddathah, Brachit, etc and the intimate relationship with villagers and mingie men has long gone and has been replaced with a more focused, better equipped, operation with a clear and achievable mission.

No Unifil contingents conduct checkpoints, as these are done by the Lebanese Army whose presence for the first time in the South in large numbers is a new and welcome development. The Leb Army also liases with Finn/Ir Bn in operations such as the major de-mining tasks near Khiam, referred to in our interview with Lt Col Harrington.

As to the future, it is hard to predict what will happen. Hezbollah's attitude to Unifil is a factor. Confrontation between the major opposing political groups in Lebanon almost pushed it the brink of civil war only two months ago and, while the situation may have calmed since, there is still potential for further crises. ■





**In October 2006 Irish troops returned to Lebanon in sizeable numbers after a five-year absence with the deployment of 34 Inf Gp to serve with Unifil as the Irish contribution to a joint Finnish/Irish Battalion. Sgt Willie Braine and Terry McLaughlin met with the Irish Commander, Lt Col Billy Harrington, in Camp Ida to get his views on his unit's role and activities.**

The Finn/Irish Battalion is a Force Commander's asset, which means that only Force HQ can direct its operations. "We got that sorted out early on," Lt Col Harrington said. "With the new deployment in UNIFIL since its enlargement the whole structure has changed. Previously the individual battalions would report directly into Force HQ in Naqoura but now the UNIFIL AO has been divided into two sectors, East and West, each with its own commander to whom the units on the ground report. The sector commanders then report to the Force Commander (FC). When we first arrived, the restructuring was still bedding in and attempts were made to try to exercise control over Finn/Irish Battalion - understandably, as we would provide a great asset to any commander with the range of skills and equipment at our disposal. So, at a very early stage at a meeting with the Force Commander's people we told them that our understanding when we came over was that the unit was to be directly under the control of the FC and no one



## ***PUNCHING ABOVE OUR***

**L**t Col Billy Harrington (OC 34 Inf Gp & DCO Finn/Ir Bn), from Mitchellstown, Co Cork, first served with 3 Inf Bn and spent 10 years in the Curragh before moving to Training Branch, DFHQ.

Subsequently he held a number of appointments in Cork before taking over as 2i/c 12 Inf Bn in 2003. He travelled overseas to Kosovo in 2004 before returning to Cork as Adj 1 S Bde. He returned to DFHQ in 2005 to C&A before travelling to Lebanon as OC 34 Inf Gp last October. This is Lt Col Harrington's fourth trip to Lebanon having served previously as a platoon commander, company 2i/c, and MIO.

"This is a completely different situation from our previous service in Lebanon," Lt Col Harrington told us. "The old Irishbatt was involved in a ground-holding role, with three companies deployed manning a range of posts, checkpoints and observation posts. We no longer have that kind of role. Our main mission is to protect the members of the Finnish engineering company as they go about their tasks of constructing camps for other UNIFIL contingents and carrying out EOD work throughout Lebanon."

else. They agreed that was the case and that sorted that problem out for the future."

Lt Col Harrington is highly complimentary about the Finnish contingent. "The standing of the unit throughout UNIFIL has been enhanced by the excellent work carried out by the Finnish engineers," he says. "They are outstanding people who work very long hours and do a top-class job. Of course to do their job they have to have our support: we have to be out there with them. They have a planning cell, which plans all their jobs; a heavy construction platoon, equipped with heavy machinery, which is used for horizontal construction - site clearance and preparation and so on; a light construction platoon, who carry out the vertical building; and EOD. So they can be carrying out several jobs in different places at the same time, and we have to support each operation."

One such recent operation involved the construction of a new camp for the incoming Malaysian Battalion near the village of Cowkaba (check spelling). "As the hill where the camp was to be built had been used by one of the sides in the recent con-





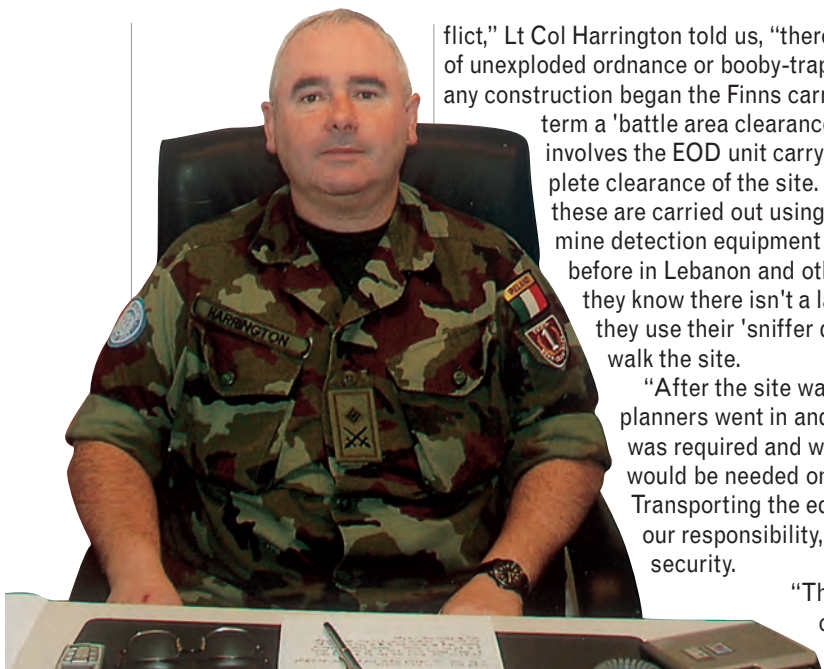


pletely levelling the top of the hill. It was a huge task, and our guys were there for three weeks living in a patrol base in very basic conditions on the side of a mountain."

"That operation was the first time that our troops from Mech Coy were on the ground for a sustained period. I have 37 first-timers with me and another good number who have been to Kosovo and Liberia but have never served in Lebanon before so it was a good experience for our young soldiers who can now understand what it was like to have lived on an OP in Lebanon with basic facilities and the 'genny' running constantly in the background. They also had to learn their arcs and all the towns and forces in the area, friendly or otherwise. They then had to be able to brief people on all this as required. The Chief of Staff visited this site during his recent visit and to see a young corporal giving a faultless brief, as if we'd been in the area for years, was great and is, I think, an indication that the training these guys get at home is spot on."



## OUR OWN WEIGHT



flict," Lt Col Harrington told us, "there was a danger of unexploded ordnance or booby-traps, so before any construction began the Finns carried what they term a 'battle area clearance' (BAC), which involves the EOD unit carrying out a complete clearance of the site. Sometimes these are carried out using the standard mine detection equipment like we used before in Lebanon and other times, if they know there isn't a landmine threat, they use their 'sniffer dog' unit to walk the site.

"After the site was cleared the planners went in and decided what was required and what equipment would be needed on site. Transporting the equipment was our responsibility, as was on-site security.

"The horizontal construction involved com-

Other jobs may not involve staying on site throughout construction. If the job is being carried out in a Unifil battalion's area they provide the on-site security and the Irish contingent's role is providing protection for the Finns to and from the site and also helping to transport the machinery with DROPS vehicles.

An ongoing task that Mech Coy are involved in is supporting the Finnish engineers in clearing a large area north-west of Khiam that was subject to a major cluster bomb strike. Due to the size of this operation and the sensitive nature of the area the Lebanese Army is also involved.

"At the outset," Lt Col Harrington says, "our operations people sat down with the Finns, UNIFIL liaison people and the Lebanese Army, to work out the best way to carry out the task. It was decided that we would provide an inner cordon around the site and the Leb Army would provide the outer cordon, interfacing directly with the local people. Khiam is a Hezbollah stronghold and there is a great deal of suspicion towards UNIFIL, so we also spent hours meeting with the local people and the mukhtar explaining exactly what we would be doing in the area and the benefits of this operation to the locals."

The setting up of Camp Ida, the Finn/Irish base, had its own problems. Firstly, the Finns had to take two metres off the top of the hill to prepare the site.



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**The two nationalities are working well together operationally. "Of course there are some differences," says Lt Col Harrington, "but none that we couldn't iron out. They have the same structure we have with S1, S2, S3 and so on, and many of our procedures are the same. Other things like slight differences in voice procedure and 'groundhog' drills were sorted in our SOPs."**

Then when the living containers arrived they were deemed not to be up to specification and were rejected. By a stroke of good luck a Lebanese company was found that manufactured suitable containers in the Bekaa Valley. As Finn/Irish Battalion had their own transport their order could be fast-tracked by the company. Having originally been expecting to move out of their six-man tents in December 2006 the troops were finally able to start moving into their new two-berth containers in February 2007.

The living containers are laid out in lines of 10, with each line having its own ablution unit, briefing/recreation room and bunker. The bunkers are massive constructions, extremely well protected, and each able to comfortably take a platoon. The defensive/look out posts are also well protected with the lower part of the tower surrounded by gabions and the manned area covered by Kevlar panels and fitted with bullet-proof glass.

All facilities in the camp, such as the mess and the dining hall are run and used jointly by the Finns and the Irish. For instance the cooking is rotated on a daily basis, with Finnish cooks and Irish cooks providing meals on alternate days. "This has caused some problems," Lt Col Harrington admits, "and there's no point saying otherwise. The types of food and styles of cooking, and the Irish and Finnish palates, are very different and many of our guys are finding it very hard to come to terms with the Finns' dishes: although no more, I might add, than some of the Finns are finding the Irish food hard to take. We have thought long and hard about this and we can't come up with a better solution. We have one kitchen and it's too small and the equipment is too scarce to allow for both Irish and Finnish cooks to work side by side preparing different choices each day. But it is a problem. Food is important, particularly when you are confined to camp with no other option than to eat what's on offer or go hungry."

The 'old sweats' are finding many other changes from their previous experiences in Lebanon. The maps are back out as they learn the new roads and routes between places they were previously unfamiliar with such as Marjayoun, Hasbiyah, and Nabatiyah. The ubiquitous water truck on which everyone depended in Irishbatt is gone: the Finns dug a well in camp that pumps 15,000lts of water per hour, so water shortages are a thing of the past. Probably the major difference is the lack of direct contact with the locals. There is no 'walking out' policy and no 'mingie' runs. This is certainly disconcerting to the guys who had served with UNIFIL previously, and who were used to meeting and talking to the local people on a daily basis.

The two nationalities are working well together operationally. "Of course there are some differences," says Lt Col Harrington, "but none that we couldn't iron out. They have the same structure we have with S1, S2, S3 and so on, and many of our procedures are the same. Other things like slight differences in voice procedure and 'groundhog' drills were sorted in our SOPs."

The influence of NATO/PfP can also be seen in the area of operations and intelligence. Finn/Irish Battalion operates with a NATO-style 'tactical operations centre' (TOC), which differs from our traditional ops cell. It has a permanent staff who man the centre 24 hours a day and is under the command of a Battle Captain. The S2 cell is designated Intelligence, rather than Info as it was under the old system, giving greater emphasis to its military role. The info role now comes under S1.

Socially, there are greater differences between the two nationalities. The Finns' social life

to a great extent revolves around the sauna, and while they do

have an interest in sport -

ice hockey is their main passion - it is miles

away from the Irish.

"They are somewhat taken

aback by our

passion for

sport," Lt Col

Harrington

says, "and in

some cases

find it down-

right confus-

ing. For

example we

get to see a

fair few of the

big matches in

the mess when

they're on, so first

the Finns saw a

rugby match in which

all the Irish were shouting

for the team in red, Munster;

the next rugby match was Ireland

against Wales and they saw us shouting

for the team in green against the team in red. Then

there was a Premiership game between Man

United and Spurs and they saw half the Irish shout-

ing for the team in red and the other half for the

team in white. So I suppose you can understand

their confusion."

Overall, Lt Col Harrington feels that the joint

battalion is working very well. He admits that being

the junior partner causes some difficulty for the

Irish, who have been used to doing their own thing

for so long, but recognizes that given the size of the

Defence Forces and the likelihood for this type of

mission to become the norm we will have to get

used to adapting to the junior role. "Being the junior

partner numerically may mean that we can't run

things exactly the way we would like to but it doesn't

mean our contribution to the mission is in any

way diminished," he says. "The quality of our per-

sonnel and equipment and our long years of over-

seas experience will allow us to continue to 'punch

way above our weight' for a long time to come." ■







Lt Dave O'Loughlin



Sgt Maj Eddie Foley



Coy Sgt Philip Jones

### **Lt Dave O'Loughlin**

Lt Dave O'Loughlin (4 Inf Bn) is platoon commander of 1 Pl, Mech Coy. This is his first trip to Lebanon and he says it has been "an outstanding experience". He has nothing negative to say about the mission and says that morale is great in the camp.

"There are two infantry platoons and a cavalry troop in Mech Coy," Dave told us. "In the early days we were doing a lot of convoys and escorts, and we were involved in a long-term operation at Unifil's position 7-1. When we are not out of camp my platoon carries out security duties or is on stand-by for emergency response." Lt O'Loughlin says the Mowag APCs have been "magic", operating really well in the conditions and being relatively trouble free.

*...it has been "an outstanding experience"*

### **Sgt Maj Eddie Foley**

Sgt Maj Eddie Foley (4 Inf Bn) is the Finn/Ir Bn Sergeant Major. Eddie is on his third trip to Lebanon and has also served in Eritrea and Liberia. As Sgt Major, Eddie is responsible for camp routine, administration and discipline.

"There are some noticeable differences for me with this mission. For instance, 80% of the Finns are reservists and although they are well trained and very good at their jobs they don't have the same military background as the troops we would usually be dealing with. We don't have a parade in the morning, so my day starts with the CO's brief at 0730hrs. After that I carry out a camp inspection that involves taking a walk around the camp, visiting all locations."

Given the difference between the specialist nature of the Finnish engineer company and the more traditional military background of the Irish troops, ceremonial aspects fall to the Irish to organise. "For instance," Sgt Major Foley told us, "all guards of honour must be half-Finn, half-Irish. Now, that caused us some problems given that we

**While in Camp Ida, Sgt Willie Braine spoke to both Irish and Finnish soldiers on their experiences during the mission with Unifil to date...**

# Shared Experiences

both have different weapons and different arms drill, so we had to devise a hybrid drill that allowed the different movements to be incorporated within a single time sequence so that everyone would be working together. That was interesting but worked well in the end."

*Recreational activity is also one of the sergeant major's responsibilities and one that Eddie takes particular interest in given his own sporting background as a runner and a FIFA qualified referee.*

"At the moment we have a run on the Triangular Road, which goes around the camp, and soon we are hoping to have a longer run in place out to UNIFIL position 4-2."

### **Coy Sgt Philip Jones**

Coy Sgt Philip 'Ozzie' Jones (Tpt Coy, 1 LSB) is the Tpt Workshops Coy Sgt in Logs HQ. Ozzie is on his 10th trip to Lebanon having first served with 46 Inf Bn. His last previous trip was with the FMR with 85 Inf Bn in 1999. He has also served in Cyprus and Kosovo.

As with many of the 'old sweats' Ozzie finds this trip completely different to his previous trips to Lebanon. "It's not the same at all," he told us. "We don't have any contact with the locals at all and spend most of the time in camp. I preferred it when we mixed with the local people, shopping in the 'mingie shops' and visiting the villages and people's houses: that's how we established such a great relationship with the Lebanese over the years and how we gained their trust."

*"The young lads out with us now don't get to meet the people at all or even see much of the country unless it's out of the hatch of an APC."*

Ozzie's views are quite representative of the older soldiers who have served in Lebanon before, most of whom lament the lack of direct contact with the local people.

### **Cpl Tony Cronin**

(1 Fd Arty Regt)

### **Cpl Jason Walsh**

(B Coy, 12 Inf Bn, Clonmel)

### **Tpr Jason Shanahan**

(1 Arm Cav Sqn, DFTC)

We met with the three lads to get an idea of their views of the mission. All three have strong army connections. Cpl Cronin's father is still serving after 31 years service and his uncles, grandfather and great-grandfather also served with the Defence Forces, mostly with the Cavalry Corps. Tpr Shanahan's father also served with the Defence Forces and was wounded in the relief of Jadotville in the Congo. Cpl Walsh also has army connections on his mother's side.

They told us that the infantry platoon's six cars operate in three teams, with each team designated as Alpha, Bravo, or ERG (emergency response group)





Cpl Tony Cronin



Cpl Jason Walsh



Tpr Jason Shanahan



CQMS Tony O'Reilly



Pte John Manning

on a daily basis. "Our main role is providing armed escorts for the Finnish engineers or visiting VIPs," the lads told us.

***The three were unanimous in their praise of the performance of the Mowag Pirhanas. "They are definitely the best cars operating with any of the contingents out here," they said.***

They also gave great credit to the Mowag fleet manager, Sgt John Flanagan, for the superior performance of the Defence Forces' vehicles.

When out driving the driver and gunner must rotate jobs every two hours for safety reasons so it is essential that everyone is qualified to do each other's jobs. "There has been a lot of on-the-ground training with the Mowags since we came out," the told us.

***"There has been a commanders course and a dismounting course for APC crewmen and the training has been very realistic due to being carried out while we are actually deployed."***

#### **CQMS Tony O'Reilly**

CQ Tony O'Reilly, from B Coy, 3 Inf Bn, DFTC, is on his 9th trip to Lebanon having first served with 50 Inf Bn. Eight of his trips have been as a CQ, including one as acting BQMS. Tony had no hesitation about travelling to Lebanon for another tour of duty. "There's a great bond between Irish soldiers and the Lebanese," he says, "and as soon as I heard about this trip I put in for it straight away."

Tony's original job when he came over was working with the 'national support element' (NSE) but it soon became obvious that there was a gap in the contingent's logistical requirements and he has been filling this role for the last five months.

"I basically have the same role as a BQMS at home," Tony told us. "I'm responsible for barracks services, engineering works, procurement, and Logs HQ in general, including the accounts for ordnance, medical, engineering, and miscellaneous accounts."

The battalion's S4 is a Finnish officer and the 2i/c is an Irish officer, Capt Connor Gorey. Tony says there is a very good relationship between the two nationalities in Logs. "Obviously, there are difficulties for us," Tony says, "in that we are not the lead nation, but that's the way it is and we just have to work with it."

***From a professional point of view Tony says that the Defence Forces' MIF system is working very well out in Lebanon.***

He finds camp life "grand" although it was difficult at the start and very different from his previous experiences in Lebanon. One of the biggest differences he finds from his earlier trips, however, is the equipment. "There's no comparison," he says. "Everything is far superior nowadays, from clothing and armour to PLCE."

#### **Pte John Manning**

Pte John Manning (12 Inf Bn, Limerick) is the youngest soldier serving with the Irish contingent and was 21 last September. He has been in the Defence Forces for two years and this is his first trip overseas.

***"I'm not really surprised with anything over here to tell you the truth," he told us, "because I had no idea what to expect!"***

He is finding the trip very interesting and says that having another 12 or 13 guys from his home unit on the same trip made it much easier to settle in.

#### **Maj Juha Helle/Capt Mikko Ulli**

Major Juha Helle is the commanding officer of the Finn Engr Coy and his 2i/c is Capt Mikko Ulli, both are full-time officers in the Finnish army, unlike most of their company, 80% of whom are reservists.

"This is the way we do things in Finland," Maj Helle told us.

***"...Advertisements are placed for the particular skills that are required, such as bulldozer driver, carpenter, etc, and suitably qualified reservists apply to fill the positions.***



Maj Juha Helle

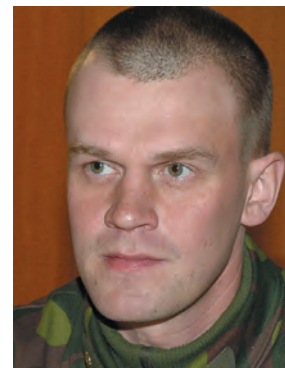
It works well for us as the people we have here are all carrying out these jobs in their civilian lives, so we get exactly the range of skills we require."

When Major Helle arrived at Ebel es Saqi in August 2006 he had 10 days before any of his machinery would arrive and only a further 15 days until the arrival of the battalion's advance party of 11 Finns and two Irish.

"The first three weeks were the most challenging," Maj Helle told us. "We had to source the location, draw up the plan and carry out sufficient ground preparation, before the battalion arrived. We felt the key was a good plan for the layout for the camp and I think we achieved that."

Both Maj Helle and Capt Ulli say that the relationship between the Irish and Finnish contingents is working very well.

***"Of course there are many differences between us but there are also a lot of similarities, and even our differences complement each other to a great extent."*** ■



Capt Mikko Ulli



**L**t Col John Molloy, a cavalry officer, was working in Current Operations in DFHQ prior to his selection for overseas service with UNIFIL in August 2005. This is his fifth tour of duty to Lebanon and he also served a year in Bosnia with ECMM in 1998/99.

Lt Col Molloy was serving as Senior Liaison Officer (SLO) with Unifil when the IDF/Hezbollah conflict broke out on July 12th 2006. When his one-year tour of duty was coming to an end the Force Commander (FC) asked him to extend for another year to head up Unifil's Planning and Co-ordination Office established in Beirut when the conflict ended.

As SLO Lt Col Molloy's job involved liaising with his LO counterparts in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in an effort to keep lines of communication open between the two sides. Much of his work was done over the phone but face-to-face meetings with other LOs took place at least once a week. He was attending one such regular meeting with the IDF in Nahariya, Northern Israel, the day the fighting broke out.

"Prior to the conflict we had no indications that anything unusual was about to happen," he recalls. "There were no major incidents and the situation was the same as usual with the IDF and Hezbollah observing each other from their positions on either

side of the Blue Line. In fact at our meeting in Nahariya that morning the IDF LO and myself had just been talking about how calm the situation was when a telephone call came in about an attack on the Blue Line."

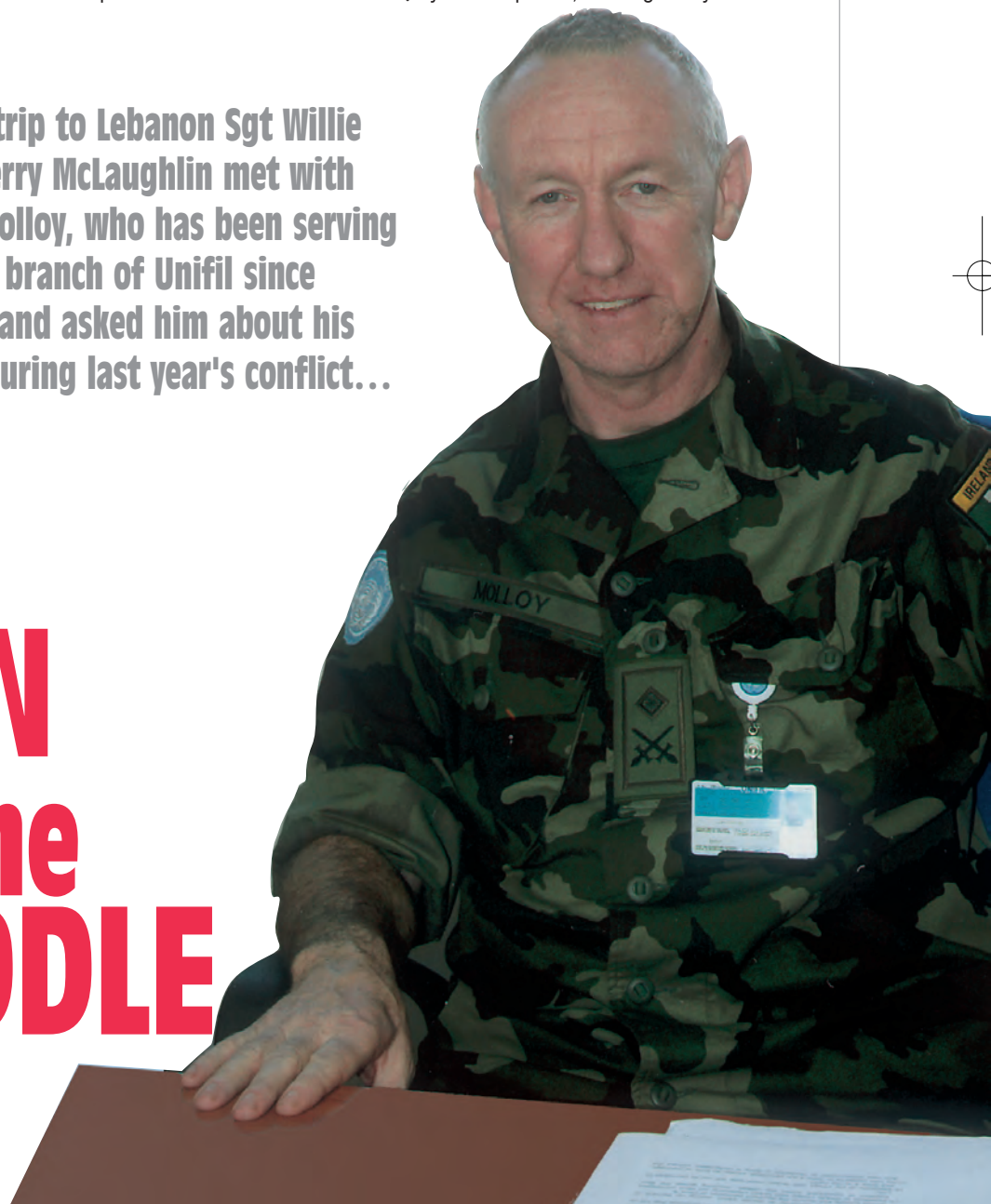
The meeting was adjourned immediately and Lt Col Molloy and his team headed back to the border. "When we got there we couldn't get across due to the intensity of the fighting. There was artillery fire; heli-gunships were firing rockets; there was heavy machine-gun fire from ground forces; and mortars firing as well. Of course the IDF would have been aware at that stage that they had taken casualties in the Hezbollah attack."

Lt Col Molloy's party were ordered to a safe area south of the border and they waited there for a few hours, thinking that things would calm down and they could continue as normal. Later that evening they returned to Nahariya and stayed in a hotel overnight. "The streets of Nahariya were very quiet," he says. "Sirens were going off occasionally warning of possible rocket attacks but it wasn't until about six or seven the next morning when the Katyushas started coming in: one landed in the street quite close to where we were staying."

Fortunately Lt Col Molloy still had comms with Unifil HQ by mobile phone, although they had little

**During their trip to Lebanon Sgt Willie Braine and Terry McLaughlin met with Lt Col John Molloy, who has been serving in the liaison branch of Unifil since August 2005 and asked him about his experiences during last year's conflict...**

# The MAN in the MIDDLE





**"Our reputation gained over 30 years in Lebanon meant that many people rang me looking for advice. They would ask me should they stay in their houses or try to drive north. What could I tell them? People were staying in their homes and being killed, others were being killed when their cars were attacked out on the roads. It was an impossible situation."**

new information. "The political advisor to the FC was in Israel at the time as well so we met up with his group in Tiberias," Lt Col Molloy told us. "From there we travelled together through Israel, up through the Golan Heights, across the border into Syria and across Syria to the border with Lebanon. Then we headed for Beirut. We were lucky in that we had just crossed one of the major bridges when it was taken out, so we managed to get to Beirut without too much difficulty."

The group spent three days in Unifil House before a convoy could be arranged from Unifil HQ to bring them south. "It's great credit to the French convoy commander that he managed to get us back to Unifil HQ as so many bridges had been blown and roads cratered," he says.

Back in Naqoura, Lt Col Molloy returned to his job of trying to liaise between Unifil, the IDF and the Lebanese authorities. "It was a crazy time for the rest of the conflict," he recalls. "The phone was ringing 24 hours a day and it was almost impossible to get any sleep. I was getting calls from everywhere and everyone, the IDF, the LAF, the Red Cross, and from civilians in villages all over the south. It was an extremely difficult time."

Particularly difficult were the phone calls he received from Lebanese civilians who either knew him or at least knew he was Irish. "Those were very traumatic," he says. "Our reputation gained over 30 years in Lebanon meant that many people rang me looking for advice. They would ask me should they stay in their houses or try to drive north. What could I tell them? People were staying in their homes and being killed, others were being killed when their cars were attacked out on the roads. It was an impossible situation. For example, we had reports of a young woman who was bleeding to death in Rumeish, near the border. Then I got a call from a man who said: 'Molloy, you are Irish, you have to save this woman; if you don't her death will be on your hands.' How do you respond to something like that? Fortunately I was able, with great difficulty, to get an armoured vehicle through to the village, thanks to the Ghanaians. It shows you the danger of even these humanitarian interventions as the front wheels of the

APC were shot out just after they picked up the wounded girl."

The difficulty in moving around was causing problems for everyone, including Unifil, which was having great difficulties in replenishing its posts. "In Naqoura it got to the stage that we were down to three days rations of food, water and fuel," Lt Col Molloy says. "So you can imagine how bad things were for our outposts. Much of my time was taken up trying to arrange convoys for ourselves or for civilians who were trying to flee north. I would get the details and contact the IDF LO and tell him 'X amount of vehicles will be travelling from A to B at such and such a time and they would be travelling through villages X, Y and Z.' Even at that I never received any concrete guarantees and was usually told that the vehicles would be travelling at their own risk. Similarly, they would never tell me if any IDF operations were due to take place other than they would tell me that they would not advise convoys to travel along a particular road at a particular time."

Movement became increasingly hampered as more roads were cratered and more bridges taken out. "As time passed Unifil became paralysed due to the destruction of the road network," Lt Col Molloy says. "Even humanitarian runs were becoming impossible. At one stage we thought that if the IDF gained control of the south as far as the Litani it might improve the situation as the conflict eased but that never happened; they never dominated the ground."

While Lt Col Molloy says that "it would paint the wrong picture" to say that UN positions were deliberately targeted, they were certainly caught in the line of fire. "Our positions suffered a huge number of 'firing close' incidents," he says, "and we had in excess of 40 incidents when rounds impacted within the perimeter of posts. Of course the worst incident came on July 25th with the tragic deaths of four of our personnel in OP Khiam, which was struck during a period of intense fighting in the area of Khiam."

In the final days of the conflict, Lt Col Molloy says Tibnine "took a hammering".

"The old Camp Shamrock was severely hit and at one time we were afraid we were going to lose Tibnine hospital," he recalls. "A car was hit outside





the hospital and the fire spread to six others. All the windows and doors were blown out of the hospital and there was a danger of the heating oil tank exploding."

There were also five impacts in Naqoura, which destroyed some accommodation units but luckily no one was hurt.

Another difficulty faced by Lt Col Molloy was that his family and other families of Irish and Unifil personnel were living in Tyre, which was in his own words "a hotspot" of conflict. "I was able to speak to my wife every day and as SIO I made it my business to speak to all the Irish families at least once a day," he says. "It was a very traumatic time for them, and for all the Irish personnel in Naqoura. It was a great

officer and a French senior NCO with me but the rest of the staff are political affairs officer. Our role is to carry out discussion at a strategic level with the three main branches of the Lebanese security forces; the LAF, the Surité General, and the Internal Security Force. We meet with the general staff of the three organisation to see what they need and what help Unifil can supply."

As to the future political situation in Lebanon Lt Col Molloy says that the solution can only come from within. "Yes, there has been violence and confrontation but at least the leaders of the different groups appear to be willing to keep the lines of communication open and I think the spectre of civil war is causing all involved to take stock of the situation."



**"We are very well received, particularly by the Lebanese side who have a great affinity with the Irish at all levels, including the most senior government levels. While the IDF are more suspicious of us they still respect us as honest brokers..."**

relief when a UN-chartered cruise liner made it to Beirut and evacuated all the UN civilian personnel in the south. They were brought to Cyprus and the Dept of Foreign Affairs and the Gardaí stationed there with UNCIVPOL did a marvellous job. Our families' feet hardly hit the ground before they found themselves whisked away to the airport and onto aircraft. It all happened so quickly that when my wife rang me from Dublin she didn't know where she was!"

Eventually a cessation of hostilities was brokered on August 14th. ("It's not officially a ceasefire," Lt Col Molloy told us. "Technically Israel and Lebanon are still at war, as they have been for decades.")

As part of the UN's support for the cessation the head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) sent a two-man team to give technical advice and support to the Lebanese authorities. During their time in Lebanon this team set up the Planning and Co-ordination Office. Due to Lt Col Molloy's nine months' experience and his personal knowledge of the senior liaison personnel on all sides, the Force Commander asked him if he would extend his term to head up the office, which is part of a civilian/military cell. "It is a mainly politically-oriented outfit," Lt Col Molloy told us. "I have a French

As to Hezbollah's attitude to Unifil, Lt Col Molloy says: "They were part of the government when it signed up to UN resolution 1701 and even though they have since pulled out of the government I am not aware of any change in their attitude to Unifil."

On a positive note Lt Col Molloy says he was very impressed with the speed and efficiency of the Lebanese Army's deployment into the south in the wake of the conflict. "Their determination was clear to see and they are very focused on their mission," he says. "The biggest problem they face is their equipment and vehicles, many of which are very outdated."

Lt Col Molloy feels that Ireland's reputation in the region has been a great benefit to him in his liaison role. "We are very well received, particularly by the Lebanese side who have a great affinity with the Irish at all levels, including the most senior government levels. While the IDF are more suspicious of us they still respect us as honest brokers and they know we will tell them the truth, whether they like to hear it or not! This reputation has been built up over the last 30 years and must be jealously protected by everyone who serves out here. We must remember that a reputation that has taken 30 years to build can be lost overnight." ■



Right:

At the 2006 Royal Hospital Kilmainham commemoration from (l-r): Robert Mulrooney (Pres Naval Assoc), Neville Brennan, Raphael Clarke (both Dublin Br), Tommy Kavanagh (Waterford Br, Declan Pendred (Sec Naval Assoc) and Gerry Kennedy (Limerick Br).



**In this article Declan Pendred gives us the background to the Naval Association and records some of their activities over the years.**

The Naval Association (An Cumann Chabhlaigh) was established in 1962 but activities ceased in the mid-'80s due to a decline in interest. In 1992 at a meeting at the Stella Maris Seafarers Club, Dublin, the association was revived with the election of an executive council and the establishment of the association's first branch. This branch was called the Leading Seaman Michael Quinn Branch, after he gave his life attempting to rescue Spanish sailors from their stricken trawler off Bantry while serving onboard LÉ Deirdre.

With branches in Dublin, Waterford, and Limerick, membership is open to serving and former officers, NCOs and ratings of the Naval Service and Naval Service Reserve (formerly An Slua Muiri) and to ex-members of the Marine Service and the Maritime Inscription.

Our aims are:

- To promote social, cultural, educational and sporting activities
- To establish a comprehensive listing of all ex-members of the Naval Services
- To render aid and assistance, when necessary
- To promote and further interests in matters appertaining to the sea
- To maintain the seafaring traditions of Ireland.

In 1995 two significant events happened. Firstly, the association was presented with its colours by the Harbour Master of Dublin Port, at a ceremony onboard LÉ Eithne. Secondly, following a request from FOCNS Comdre John Kavanagh, the Dublin branch in 1996

hosted an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Naval Service. This also led to the association hosting a maritime festival in May 1996. To publicise the festival the association paraded its new colours in the Boston St Patrick's Day Parade in 1996. The 158-strong contingent that marched included 85 serving officers, NCOs and ratings. The festival turned out to be a great success and was followed by a four-day Tall Ships visit to Dublin, also arranged by the association.

1997 saw reciprocal visits between the Naval Association and the Birkenhead branch of the Royal Naval Association, and the following year members of the association from Dublin and Waterford travelled to Miami and then on to the largest Naval Base in San Diego.

When the Tall Ships race came to Dublin the following year the association provided the communications for this major maritime event.

In the same year, Comdre John Kavanagh presented the Association's president, Mr Piaras O'Connor, one of the first to join the new Marine Service set up at the outbreak of WWII, with his Chain of Office.

That year, association was also invited to the opening of the Peace Park at Messines, Belgium.

In 2001 the association again travelled to Birkenhead RNA to participate in their annual parade and memorial service.

Also that year, Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, unveiled a stained glass window commissioned by the association at the Garrison Church, Cathal

# The Naval Association

Right:

During the JFK aircraft carrier visit to Dublin in 1996, Declan Pendred presented a photograph of the Naval Service Guard of Honour being inspected by President Kennedy during his visit to Ireland in 1963 to the XO JFK. Also in photo is Terry Cummins (Current PRO Naval Association).



Brugha Bks, in memory of the deceased members of the Marine Service, the Maritime Inscription, the Naval Service and the SM/NSR.

In 2006 the Association raised over €2,000 for the Red Cross appeal for the Tsunami disaster, and another €2,000 for LÉ Eithne's fund to assist the poor during their visit to South America.

Last year members of the association had the honour of meeting Pres McAleese in Aras an Uachtarain, and later that year 65 members travelled to Ginchy and Guillemot, France to attend ceremonies commemorating the recapturing of these towns by Irish regiments in WWI. Lt Matt Comiskey (SM Retd) was presented with a certificate by the Mayor of Ginchy in recognition of Matt's uncle, Patsy, who lost his life during the battle.

On November 11th last year the association hosted a banquet in Dublin Castle to commemorate both the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme. ■



The C&S course is a nine-month residential course conducted annually by the C&S School in the Military College. The aim of the course is to qualify officers of all service corps to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel and higher, to command formations of all components of the Defence Forces, and to perform the higher staff work involved in the handling of such formations [DFR CS 3, part 1, Para 6(ii)].

It is the principal career course for commissioned officers and the main focus of instruction is on the essential requirements of professional military knowledge: command and staff studies; tactical, operational and strategic studies; and command, leadership.

A groundbreaking addition occurred in 2002 with the introduction of the MA in Leadership,

Management and Defence Studies (LMDS), which represents an evolution in military studies and explores possibilities in how to develop military thinking and critical analysis. The MA programme, delivered in partnership with NUI Maynooth, continues to go from strength to strength. It enhances the education provided by the school, and benefits the school, its students and, in turn, the senior management of the Defence Forces.

For many years the Defence Forces has enhanced its standards of tactical instruction to a very advanced stage, and in 2005 the Chief of Staff announced that it was time to embrace a new challenge: "... the need exists to shift emphasis within the essential core elements of the C&S Course, moving them beyond the tactical into the operational and strategic levels...In this wider cognitive arena officers must strive to attain greater levels of understanding of issues, reflective thought and wider appreciation of the validity of different 'observer positions' around the multi-faceted problems that pertain to command at this level." (*An Cosantóir*, May 2005)

The operational level or 'art' is "the use of military forces to achieve strategic goals through the design, organization, integration, and conduct of strategies, campaigns, major operations, and battles" (US JP 3-0).

**In this feature Col Con McNamara (Sch Comdt C&S Sch) brings us up to date with recent changes to the Command and Staff (C&S) course.**

# A COMMANDING VIEW



Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Jim Sreenan congratulates Comdt Gerry Lane on being designated Best Overall Student.





*The study of strategy ranges from Jomini (above) and Napoleon to the modern day approach of John Boyd.*

*Above right: The 62nd Senior C&S course on Graduation Day.*



Operational art requires broad vision, the ability to anticipate, and effective joint- and multinational co-operation, and is practiced not only by joint force commanders but also by their senior staff officers and subordinate commanders.

Joint operational art looks not only at the employment of military forces but also at the arrangement of their efforts in time, space, and purpose. It focuses in particular on the fundamental methods and issues associated with the synchronization of air, land, sea, space, and special operations forces.

So it was that the 62nd Senior C&S Course, which ran from 5th September 2005 to 28th May 2006, was the first course to study the Operational Level of conflict and the associated professional military art and science dimensions. The new challenge meant that it was time for that old bugbear of many a course co-ordinator ... syllabus revision!

In organisational terms the C&S School moved to a two-semester course, as well as co-ordinating the enhanced academic tuition required. This tuition came as usual from the plethora of national, professional and academic institutions with which the Defence Forces maintains its strategic interests. Operational level military tuition was rendered in the form of Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Headquarters training from the school in Allied Joint Force (JFC), Brunssum, Netherlands, and was con-

ducted at UNTSI for the course with a number of international students from 27th - 31st March 2006. The success of this course has meant it has been included on the current C&S Course.

In addition to the operational level, students completed advanced study in areas such as defence studies, geo-strategy and strategic studies. Group presentations and plenary discussions were used to advance 'groupthink' and collective awareness approaches. A particular highlight of the course for me was the syndicate presentation on the 1999 bombing campaign in Serbia and Kosovo.

The course were very fortunate to receive a detailed and informative briefing from Lt Col Michael McGovern (OC1 Bn RIR), who had just returned from Iraq.

For the 62nd Senior C&S course all good things came to an end with their thesis submission in June of last year. This highlight for the students can only have been matched by their graduation in November, where many of the graduates were joined by their families, without whose support an endeavour in the nature of the C&S course is undoubtedly unsustainable.

Finally, the 63rd C&S Course is reaping the benefits of their predecessors' course in terms of course construction and methods of (operational level) instruction. For the Defence Forces, I hope to see the benefits of our move to the operational level in terms of military tasking and overseas deployments. For us, our desired 'end state' is to develop analytical and conceptual abilities among graduate officers so as to enable them to command formations of all components of the Defence Forces and function efficiently in all headquarters, including operational and strategic, both at home and abroad. ■

### 62nd SENIOR C&S COURSE AWARDS

*Best Overall Student* (combined marks - thesis & military): Comdt Jerry Lane (HQ 4W Bde)

*Best Thesis:* Comdt Paul Whelan (Air Corps)

*Best Military Marks* (Lt Gen O'Neill Sword): Maj Joe Duncan (US Armed Forces).

*The dying moments of General James Wolfe, victor over the French at Abraham Heights, Quebec, Canada 1759.*







**T**he Defence Forces probably offers one of the most exciting, action-packed careers available to young people in Ireland today, with no two days the same and huge opportunities for adventure and challenge. The Defence Forces offer a wide range of skills to its soldiers and one such person who is testament to 'living a life less ordinary' is Sgt Kenneth Murphy (2 Inf Bn).

Just completing 13 years service Ken has packed more into his career than most, be they soldier or civilian. Back in 1994 Ken was working as a shift supervisor with his spare time spent with 20 Inf Bn FCA. Even though he had no family members serving in the Defence Forces Ken felt it was a natural progression to join up. Maybe it was a sign of the pre-Celtic Tiger era but at that time there were almost 10,000 applicants for 500 recruit places countrywide. Competition was tough, but having made the grade Ken joined one of three platoons training in the Gormanston Camp on the Meath coast.

Ken says that recruit training was a bit of a shock to the system with early morning beach runs followed by a full day's instruction on foot drill, weapons and tactics. "If you were lucky and had behaved during the week, you got off at the weekends," he says, but he learned quickly that Army 'weekends' for a recruit started at 1230hrs on Saturday and ended at 1800hrs on Sunday: so, with barely 24hrs to catch up with friends, family, and his girlfriend life was far from 'ordinary'.

Ken recalls that the training facilities were good, with endless green areas, and confesses that he probably knows every inch of the airfield...not by choice...but he admits it enhanced his fitness levels.

After training he was posted to 29 Inf Bn in Monaghan and with the border still active he hit the ground running with plenty of duties and quickly became familiar with the area. It was a good transition from training because he felt he was getting to "soldier for real", with call-outs for EOD, regular weapons finds, and daily checkpoints to be manned.

Ken completed his first trip overseas with 79 Inf Bn Unifil in 1996, an eye-opening experience in more ways than one. The traditionally Dublin A Coy was up to strength so Ken found himself in a mixed platoon, serving with soldiers from Galway, Donegal, Clonmel and Cork, and only one other "token Dub".

**For this month's profile, Sgt Rena Kennedy spoke to Sgt Ken Murphy(2 Inf Bn) about his life, his work and his experiences...**

# ***Living 'A Life Less***



**For eight weeks of the trip he was employed in the quick-reaction force (QRF) with an American National Guard company who were on immediate call for a variety of tasks in the Sarajevo area.**

He fondly recalls the problems he encountered with the language barrier during the first three months, and this was not with the Lebanese but with the guys standing beside him on checkpoints! He really enjoyed his trip, though, and got to visit his Dublin mates in AlYatun about once a month, only to be slagged that he "sounded like a culchie".

On returning from Lebanon, Ken came back to a country in the grip of the BSE crises and so from checkpoints in sunny South Lebanon it was back to reality with checkpoints on the wet and windswept border roads.

Despite his busy operational life, Ken still made time to complete an 81mm Mortar course, the first of many weapons courses he would undergo. He also took part in the Defence Forces platoon-in-attack competition, which he really enjoyed, especially because of the very clear rivalry between the competing battalions.

In September 1997, when 29 Inf Bn was disbanded as part of the reorganisation of the Defence Forces, a window of opportunity opened and Ken jumped at the chance to be posted to Dublin with 2 Inf Bn. With no time to settle in and find his bearings Ken was straight off to Portlaoise Prison for a two-month tour of duty, which Ken says "was a great way to get to know the lads from the battalion."

Serving in the prison was very different from being on the border and Ken enjoyed the working the same 'shift' for the full two months compared to the uncertainty that duties on the border sometimes offered.

The move to 2 Inf Bn also presented him with good career prospects, as the turnover of troops was higher compared than it had been in 29 Inf Bn and consequently in January 1998 he commenced his Potential NCOs course. Following promotion to corporal Ken went on a UN Operations course in UNTSI and then the MP Provost Corporals course.

January 1999 saw Ken deploy to Bosnia with SFOR, which he describes as "a brilliant trip, a great experience working with troops from a variety of multinational backgrounds". For eight weeks of the trip he was employed in the quick-reaction force (QRF) with an American National Guard company who were on immediate call for a variety of tasks in the Sarajevo area. He says he learned a lot while in this job, which culminated in a five-day Tactical CP Exercise.

Returning to 2 Inf Bn Ken was selected to train recruits, an experience he enjoyed and describes as "very satisfying, seeing recruits strolling in the gate but marching proudly around the square in a matter of weeks".

Not one to let the grass grow under his feet, Ken completed his Standard NCOs course in 2000 and was promoted sergeant in the late summer of 2001. Another stint training recruits followed, though this time he was at the helm as platoon sergeant.

Ken's next overseas trip was to Eritrea with UNMEE a platoon sergeant with 1 Guard and Admin Coy. His first two weeks in theatre was in an Indian camp where they faced water restrictions and lived on pack rations, in what he describes as "difficult" conditions. However, the Irish took over a camp from the French Foreign Legion and conditions improved immensely. For R&R in Eritrea Ken went on a diving trip to Massawa on the East Coast. (Diving is a sport Ken loves and he is currently on his Mon 1 Instructors Course.) Ken says he learned a huge amount on this trip to Eritrea about the role of a platoon sergeant in an operational setting, compared to training recruits, and that the experience gained has certainly has stood to him.

Having being promoted into a recce platoon vacancy, Ken went on the Basic Recce course in January 2003 and followed this with the Light Recce Commanders course, held in Warminster, England. Of the eight-week UK course approximately six weeks were spent on the ground, the majority in the Sennybridge training area in the well-known Breacon Beacons. Even though he was the only foreign student on the course Ken says he really enjoyed the course, and got on well with his peers and instructors alike. When Ken came back to Ireland he was posted to the IWW, DFTC, for three years in order to impart his hard-earned, new knowledge.

With nine years service under his belt and with a considerable number of courses completed, Ken was not happy to sit back and during his three years in the IWW. He completed six more courses, including the Defence Intelligence Security Course, PTI Course, NVE Instructors course, HMG Instructors course, Anti-armour Instructors course and CTI course. He returned to 2 Inf Bn in Aug 2006 and immediately went on the Basic Snipers course, followed by the Instructors course back in the IWW.

Ken and his wife Adrienne have two young children and at times he finds he has to work hard to achieve a balance between home and work life. He admits he hasn't had a "quiet" time at work in a long time but relishes the work he carries out especially in instructing. Ken recommends that if any NCO can get to work in a training school environment they should do so as he says it would greatly enhance their experience.

At the moment he is instructing on a Range Management course and during the summer he hopes to concentrate as much as he can on his diving. As secretary of the DF Diving Group the coming months will be busy organising the various camps for the summer.

In the words of the Chief Of Staff, "the greatest asset the Defence Forces has at its disposal are the men and women of the organisation and the individual qualities and professionalism they bring". If there was ever a true advertisement of 'living a life less ordinary' Sgt Ken Murphy certainly lives up to that description. ■



**ess Ordinary'**



## BOOK REVIEWS

***Their Name Liveth For Evermore****Author:* Patrick J McNamara*Published by:* Limerick Historical Publications*Price:* €30.00

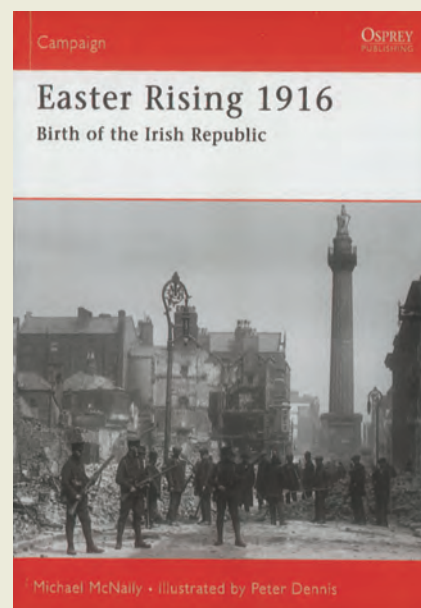
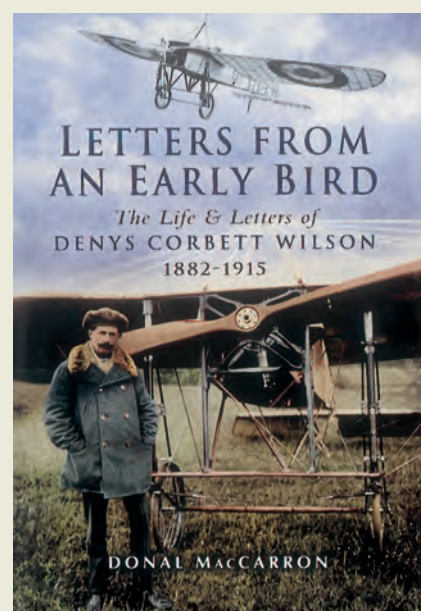
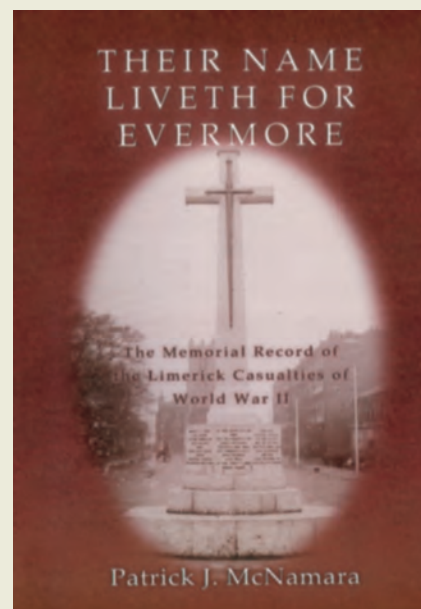
In this his third book, Limerick man Patrick McNamara tells the story for the men and women of Limerick city who fought in World War II. Patrick's meticulous research gives account of the battles that included, Dunkirk, Monte Cassino, Anzio, Normandy that Limerick men from all walks of life fought and died in. He also records the countless military graveyards scattered around the world where you can find their remains, far far home. Col Colm Doyle (Retd) on reading the book noted, "I have been impressed with the details of Patrick's research to elicit the facts pertaining to the individuals who are featured amongst its pages and the obvious attention each of them received. He has transformed these soldiers from mere statistics to personalities and gives us much insight into a generation of soldiers, who have been largely airbrushed from history and deserve our admiration, gratitude and respect. Patrick's book gives a sense of closure to the brave men and women of Limerick who gave their lives in battle."

***Letters From An Early Bird*****The Life and Letters of Denys Corbett Wilson***Author:* Donal MacCarron*Published by:* Pen & Sword Books Limited*Price:* €29.35 (£19.99)

In his short but eventful life, pioneering aviator, Denys Corbett Wilson certainly packed a lot in! In 1915, at the age of 33, he was killed while flying his RFC plane over the German lines during World War One. Author Donal MacCarron's book tells the story of this English man, who was one of the earliest aviators to fly and who thrilled thousands of spectators here in Ireland during his frequent visits. We follow Corbett Wilson or CW as he was known, as he went to France to learn how to fly. From there we read about his flying adventure and notably his crossing from Fishguard to Enniscorthy in 1912. He was held in great affection by the people of County Kilkenny, where he spent a lot of time at Danver House, near the birthplace of his mother living the life of a country gentlemen, hunting, shooting and fishing. As he never married, CW was close to his mother, Ada Caroline Wilson. With the Great War breaking out in 1914, CW already a pilot with the RFC flew with No3 Squadron off to France. From his letter to his mother, CW gives an account of life on the front, especially as an aerial spotter right up to his death on the 10th May 1915.

***Easter Rising 1916*****Birth of the Irish Republic***Series:* Campaign 180*Author:* Michael McNally*Illustrator:* Peter Dennis*Published by:* Osprey Publishing*Price:* €20.54 (£13.99)

This reference book is the ideal companion to any Irish historian with an interest of the foundation of the Irish Republic and the subsequent 1916 Rising. Author Michael McNally and Illustrator Peter Dennis give the reader an insight into Ireland and its people during this period. They have clearly laid out the background and players to the Rising, both Irish and British forces. Peter's illustrations and in particular his maps of Dublin City during various parts of the battle are easy to follow, even if you wanted to walk the battle sites. The author equally uses archive photographs throughout, which captured the Rising from start to its finish. Osprey Publishing have outdone themselves again in this fine book on the birth of the Irish Republic.





## Information required

A Chara

As a militaria enthusiast, I have read Flt Sgt Jim Perkins' article on shoulder flashes, and also the column that 'Connect' runs on the same subject.

Perhaps you could run this image of the badge worn by that force who they took over coast defence duties in the dying years of the Treaty forts.

I am currently completing a history of these forts and would be glad to hear from anyone who 'served the guns' at any time in the past. A loan of photographs would be greatly appreciated. My email is: donmacs@onetel.com



Very truly yours

Donal M. MacCaron

## National Spring Clean Campaign 2007

Dear Editor

I am emailing you on behalf of An Taisce in relation to the National Spring Clean Campaign 2007. National Spring Clean (NSC) is Ireland's largest anti-litter campaign.

The environment is a big issue right now and people often wonder how they can make a difference to such a big problem. But if everyone did a little it would go a long way to help reduce carbon emissions.

We were hoping that you would help promote this worthy campaign which runs in April.

Last year almost 350,000 volunteers took part in over 3,500 events nationwide. An estimated 3,340 tonnes of litter was collected with 35% being recycled. This year NSC looks forward to improving on these unparalleled figures.

Every year we try to encourage various groups and sectors of society to take responsibility for, and actually help clean up, litter in their own area, be it at home or at work.

By 'spreading the word' you will be helping us promote litter education and also heighten awareness of litter issues. If your reader would like to know more or needs guidance in organising a clean up in their home, work or community, they can log onto: [www.nationalspringclean.ie](http://www.nationalspringclean.ie) or ring: 01-4002219.

Thanks

Sarah McGovern  
An Taisce

**LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR**