



ARCO Engagement with the Commission on the Defence Forces

Background

On 15 December 2020, the Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D. announced Government approval for the establishment of an independent Commission on the Defence Forces.

The Government also approved the Terms of Reference and the membership of the Commission. In addressing the detailed tasks as provided for in its Terms of Reference, the Commission would have regard to immediate requirements while also seeking to develop a longer term vision for beyond 2030. This is against a backdrop of the high-level Defence goal which is to provide for the military defence of the State, contribute to national and international peace and security and fulfil all other roles assigned by Government. This fits within the broader context of the protection of Ireland's defence and security interests nationally and internationally. The Commission's approach should aim to ensure that the Defence Forces will remain agile, flexible and adaptive in responding to dynamic changes in the security environment, including new and emerging threats (such as from climate change) and technologies.



Coimisiún um Óglach na hÉireann
Commission on the Defence Forces

The Commission's overall approach will be guided and informed by both the White Paper on Defence 2015 and the White Paper Update 2019. Among the Terms of Reference are the following:

- The Commission will take account of Ireland's particular defence requirements, including its strong international commitment in the overseas domain as well as the particular roles of the Defence Forces in the domestic security environment which itself continues to evolve.
- The Commission will consider and recommend the appropriate structure and size of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) and the Reserve Defence Force (RDF). This will encompass consideration of appropriate capabilities, structures and staffing for the Army, and its brigade structure, the Air Corps and the Naval Service along with

the appropriate balance and disposition of personnel and structures across a joint force approach in the land, air, maritime, cyber, intelligence and space domains.

- With regard to the RDF, the Commission will consider a wide range of options and will make recommendations to better leverage the capabilities of the RDF in their supports to the PDF and to make service in the RDF a more attractive option.
- The Commission will examine the structures in the Defence Forces as well as the work of the White Paper Command and Control project to date. In that context, the Commission will consider the most appropriate governance and effective high-level command and control structures in the Defence Forces.
- The Commission will set out a strategic perspective on HR policies, and associated strategies, including grievance processes and consideration of appropriate structural flexibility, to fulfil the requirements of military capabilities for a more agile and adaptive Defence Forces in a manner congruent with modern society, and in light of the prevailing dynamics of the labour market, while consistent with public sector pay and personnel policy.

Membership. The members of the Commission are : Aidan O'Driscoll (chair), former secretary general in the Departments of Agriculture, Justice and Equality; Mr Peter Brazel, retired civil servant who worked in a number of departments, including at senior level in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform; Admiral Haakon Bruun-Hanssen, retired Norwegian Chief of Defence; Mr Shay Cody, former Chair of ICTU Public Services Committee and retired Senior General Secretary of ForSa; Maura Conway, professor of international security at DCU; Marie Cross, retired Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador to the EU Political-Security Committee (PSC); Anja Dalgaard-Nielsen, Danish researcher and security policy expert; Dan Harvey, military historian and retired Lieutenant Colonel; Caitriona Heintz, executive director of Azure Forum for Contemporary Security Strategy; John Minihan, former Senator and retired Captain, Chair of 2015 White Paper Ministerial Advisory Group;

Lieutenant General Conor O'Boyle, former Chief of Staff; Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, Finnish three-star general, Previously, Director General of the EU Military Staff and military strategic adviser to the High Representative; Geraldine Tallon, former Secretary General, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government; Gerry Waldron, doctor and former Defence Forces officer; and Jane Williams, managing partner at SIA Partners Management Consultants.

Scope of Engagement

Arising from the provisions of the Programme for Government, ARCO welcomed the Government's decision to establish a Commission on the Defence Forces.

As with the White Paper on Defence, the White Paper on Foreign Policy and External Relations and the National Security Strategy, ARCO has been fully engaged in the consultative process associated with the establishment and conduct of the Commission.

- ARCO participated in the IDFOC's webinar on the Commission on the Defence Forces on 23 July 2020.
- On 16 September, 2020 ARCO submitted its recommendations to the Minister for Defence, on the Composition and Terms of Reference for the Commission on the Defence Forces.
- Following an invitation from the Minister, ARCO submitted a supplementary submission on 04 November, 2020.
- On 13 November 2020, in a virtual formal meeting with the Minister for Defence, ARCO reiterated its broad expectations on the approach the Commission should take.
- On 26 February 2021 ARCO, in accordance with the Terms of Reference, made a formal submission to the Commission.
- On 12 April 2021, at the invitation of the Commission and in preparation for a consultative meeting. ARCO submitted a summary of its key recommendations.
- On 16 April 2021, By virtual means, ARCO formally met with members of the Commission.

Summary of ARCO's Approach and Key Points

(The full texts of ARCO's written submissions are available on www.arcoireland.com)

ARCO set out a mid to long term level of ambition and made radical recommendations to that end.

ARCO recognised that the identified capabilities set out will require considerable additional investment, increased personnel levels in the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps, and will take many years to achieve full operational capability.

Structures

ARCO posited that some features of current high-level command and control structures, undermine command, leadership, management, and operational effectiveness.

Accordingly, ARCO's written and verbal submissions recommended the separation of the roles and functions at the Strategic and Operational levels in particular. The submissions offered proposals on modernising and enhancing coherence at both levels which included the establishment of a collective, collaborative, and collegiate culture based on professional respect between civil and military as well as the empowerment of the role of the COS.

With regard to the Operational level structures ARCO posited that the current discrete independent military command structures are archaic and contrary to the principle of Unity of Command, and accordingly recommended that the centralisation of military command of the Defence Forces under the COS was essential to optimise an integrated approach, and thus force effectiveness. Furthermore, it was recommended that all army elements should be brought under the central command of a Land Forces Component Command, and that a Joint Forces HQ should be established.

Capabilities

ARCO's recommendations on capabilities was based on the considered belief that the DF required a critical mass of personnel, equipment, and skills to assemble a defined force level at full operational capability for contingencies.

For land forces, the defined force level was identified and recommended as a brigade level force comprising the organic all arms capabilities, to be capable of responding to any requirements in the defence, deterrence, security and civil support domains of operations.

As a rule of thumb, it was identified that to assemble, deploy and sustain a FOC (Full Operational Capability) force commensurate with a Brigade strength, required a minimum of three similar level force providers.



In the maritime domain, ARCO stressed the heightened awareness of Ireland's national reliance on our Sea Lines of Communications, on fisheries, on sub-sea interconnectors, on natural resource potential, and the inevitable growth in offshore renewable energy infrastructure to meet climate change priorities as well as the unforeseen consequences of BREXIT.

Accordingly, ARCO made recommendations to bring the Naval Service fleet capacity to 12 multi-role capable ships capable of meeting both current and future needs, in the timeline envisaged by this review as well as a crewing foundation based on a balance of operational outputs with lifestyle and retention.



In the air domain, ARCO's submission focussed on the requirement for detecting and responding in a timely manner



to threats to Ireland's airspace representing an unprotected avenue of approach, aimed at the heartland of Europe as well as support capabilities to overseas forces and interoperable support roles to the wider Defence Forces and the State.

Accordingly, ARCO made recommendations to maintain modern air defence systems comprising primary radars, interceptor aircraft and tactical ground to air defence systems; to rebuild a state-owned Search and Rescue capability and maintain a fleet of multi-role, agile and responsive aircraft to fulfil roles assigned.

In the Cyber domain, ARCO'S recommendations were proposed in two contexts, that of Ireland's vulnerability to the ever-growing Cyber threat, and as a template consideration in conjunction with recommendations on the development of wider Reserve concepts.



In the education and training domain, ARCO posited that there will always be a consistently high turnover of military personnel at various stages of service, and in order to stay relevant and at the cutting edge, militarily, academically, and technically, Defence Forces educational and training institutions must constantly pursue outreach engagement.

Accordingly, ARCO recommended that the DF should have the freedom of action to engage with and establish alliances with appropriate external institutions when and as required and that the force as a whole, requires the structures and depth of strength to be able to avail of and deliver professional and responsible training and education.



Personnel and Veterans

On personnel issues, ARCO had always strongly maintained that the proposed Permanent Pay Review Body be established



without delay, and that the Commission conducts its work in parallel to the Review Body. More generally ARCO focussed on the requirement to recognise the inherent and different characteristics of short-term, medium-term, and longer-term service ambitions, and thus the need for supporting strategies for retention and exit. Accordingly, Human Resource strategies must incorporate a combination of medium-term retention, mid-term exit strategies as well as career progression strategies for longer term considerations. On veterans affairs ARCO argued that military veterans comprise a unique community of young and older people who have shared and continue to share a set of common values. In the absence of a Government Veterans Policy, and a Commissioner for Veterans, the Government's responsibilities for its veterans are not being addressed and the associated outputs are far less than international standards.

ARCO strongly recommend the elaboration of a formal Veterans' Policy, the appointment of a Commissioner for Veterans, and the immediate establishment of a joint Office for Veterans' Affairs, consisting of personnel from the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces.

The Irish Free State's First Aircraft

Lt Col Richard Cummins (Retd)

One hundred years ago, in 1921, Michael Collins, Minister of Finance in the Provisional Government, authorised the purchase of two aircraft. The aircraft, a Martinsyde Type A, Mk II passenger aircraft and an Avro 504K basic trainer aircraft, were purchased in October 1921 during the Treaty negotiations. Lt Col Michael O'Malley (Retd) in his book "Military Aviation in Ireland 1921 – 1945" looks in detail at the events surrounding these purchases.

Lt Col O'Malley suggests that the purchase of the Martinsyde Type A, Mk II aircraft exclusively for the purpose of ferrying Michael Collins and the other plenipotentiaries quickly back to Ireland in the event of a breakdown in the Treaty talks is not entirely accurate. The idea for the purchase of the aircraft was based on a proposal to Collins by Emmet Dalton. However, the idea may not have been exclusively Dalton's as earlier Dalton had discussions with Charles Russell, a former RAF pilot and then a member of the 4th Battalion, Dublin Brigade of the IRA. Russell was introduced to Dalton by Sean Dowling, also a member of the 4th Battalion. Dowling later recalled that the two men had a discussion as to how Russell's experience as a pilot might be useful to the IRA. Russell apparently suggested that, in the event of a breakdown in the Treaty negotiations and a resumption of fighting, he could go to England and seize an aircraft, fly it back to Ireland and use it to bomb enemy positions. The idea of purchasing an aircraft seems to have stemmed from discussions between Dalton and Russell and possibly others. The eventual outcome was the decision to purchase two aircraft.



(Photo above: Martinsyde Type A, Mk II)

To this end Charles Russell accompanied Emmet Dalton to London during the Treaty negotiations. Also brought to London was another former RAF pilot and IRA member WJ Sweeney who was to assist Russell in the aircraft selection. Russell was seeking aircraft to carry out three roles; one aircraft had to be capable of direct flight to Ireland carrying passengers and/or freight and it had to be capable of amphibious operations transporting freight from ships in home waters to designated locations in Ireland. They were also seeking an aircraft capable of being used for bombing operations in Ireland. In London Russell consulted with the representatives of various aircraft companies and received quotations for a number of aircraft

capable of carrying passengers and direct flight to Ireland. The field was eventually narrowed down to two suitable aircraft, a Vickers Viking and a Martinsyde Type A Mark II. The Vickers Viking was rejected because, at £4,675, it was considered too expensive. There was also a delivery period of three months and this was also deemed unacceptable. This left the Martinsyde Type A Mark II, a four - seater biplane, fitted with a Rolls Royce engine, complete with floats or land undercarriage. The aircraft had a range of 550 miles at a cruising speed of 100 miles per hour. It was priced at £2,600 and could be delivered in twenty - eight days.

When it came to selecting the second aircraft, Russell considered two aircraft, the Avro 504K and the de Haviland DH 9. Russell described the de Haviland DH 9 as a long - range bomber that was used during the "European War" and was very suitable for that purpose. However, he ruled it out on the grounds of cost considering that a price of £1,000 was exorbitant except for permanent use. This suggests that whatever aircraft was purchased was to be used only in a short - term bombing role within a very limited budget. This left the Avro 504K which was a compromise as it was a basic training aircraft and was not fitted in any way for bombing. The aircraft carried a crew of two and could only be used in a bombing role by one of the crew members manually dropping the bombs over the side. The price quoted for this aircraft was £175.



(Photo above: Avro 504K)

Michael O'Malley speculates as to the reason why it was felt necessary to purchase two aircraft. He suggests that Michael Collins, advised by Russell, was hedging his bets while awaiting the outcome of the Treaty negotiations. On the one hand he was preparing for a peaceful outcome by purchasing an aircraft capable of several commercial roles. On the other hand, he was preparing for the possible failure of negotiations and resumption of hostilities by having the same aircraft available to get back to Ireland in a hurry. The training aircraft could be used in a bombing role should hostilities resume and in the event of a peaceful outcome could be used as a training aircraft in a new military or civilian organisation, whichever was developed by the new state.

Once the aircraft had been selected, McSweeney returned to Ireland with the task of preparing for the arrival of the two aircraft. Leopardstown Race Course was selected as a suitable

landing site and six men would be required to handle ground operations at the site. Also, to be available were two motor cars, sixty gallons of petrol and five gallons of water. Provision was also to be made for the possibility of a night landing. Payment for the aircraft was made by Russell with funds provided by the Irish Self-Determination League of Great Britain, the funds having been channelled to that organisation by the Dail Defence Department. This was done to hide the transaction from the British authorities in Dublin as the Dail's bank accounts were under British surveillance. Russell received the money in three tranches from the Irish Self-Determination League, £1,500 in October and payments of £1,300 and £250 in December. He also had £60 from another unspecified source. This came to a total of £3,110. However, this sum did not cover all the expenses associated with the purchase and the total final costs came to £3,247-10-0 with Russell later claiming back the difference. Some of the additional expenses included modifying the Martinsyde aircraft that had a capacity for four passengers to create capacity for five passengers. Other expenses included

hangarage costs, paying a pilot to test fly the aircraft and teaching Russell how to fly the aircraft. One of the more interesting costs incurred by Russell was £25 paid to the Director of London/Paris Air Service for a study of the viability, including costs of "the commercial possibilities of an air service between Cove (Cobh) and London". This suggests that Collins and Russell were contemplating the possibility of establishing a civil air service.

The Treaty was signed on the 6th December 1921 and with no immediate need for the aircraft they were placed in storage. They were eventually delivered to Ireland as freight in June 1922 and this added another £520 to the overall cost. The total amount of £3,767-10-0 spent on the aircraft and associated costs represented almost 40% of the purchases made by the Director of Purchases of Dail Eireann's Department of Defence in that period. They became the first aircraft owned by the Irish Free State.

66th Cadet Class (1989 -1991) - 30th Anniversary Reunion.

Pictured are members of the 66th Cadet Class at their 30th Anniversary reunion held in Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare in November 2019.



From Front - Left to Right:

Finola McNamara, David Denieffe, Martin Timmons, Mick Logue, Tommy McGrath, Shane Bonner, Ray Kenny, Gary Mannering, Derek Priestley, Robbie Kiely, Des Healy, Donnagh Verling, Larry Egar, Tom Clonan, Rossa Coleman, Tony Geraghty, Paul Clarke, Martin Brett, Cormac McCarthy, Fergal MacDonald, Dave McNamara, Darragh O'Brien, Sean Dillion, Pat Kidney, Colm Kelleher, Ronan Verling, Owen Foley, Jackie McMahan, Barry O'Loughlin, Richard Brennan, Conor Bates, Gerry O'Malley, Pdraig Connelly, Shane Bradley, Caitriona McDonagh, Valerie Ryall, Sean Fitzpatrick (Class Officer)

Approval of MSA Increase to Military Pensions in Payment on 03 July 2019

Approval of Increase

On the 23 February 2021, the Minister of Defence advised ARCO that the benefit of the MSA increase, which was recommended in the Public Service Pay Commission Report of May 2019, would be paid to military pensions, which already include an MSA component, backdated to 04 July 2019. He stated that the Department of Defence had received formal approval from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) to pass on the benefit of the MSA rate increase awarded to serving Defence Forces personnel on 04 July 2019 to relevant qualifying military pensions that were already in payment before that date. For pre-4 July 2019 military pensioners the measure only applies to those pensions that already include an MSA component

Background

The Public Service Pay Commission (PSPC) was established in late 2016 to advise Government on Public Service remuneration policy. The Commission's first Report was issued



in 2017 and its second Report was issued in August 2018. The third Report, which dealt with Recruitment and Retention in the Permanent Defence Force, was finalised in May 2019. On 04 July 2019, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Paul Kehoe, and the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe welcomed the PSPC report examining recruitment and retention issues in the Defence Forces.

The report was accepted in full at the weekly Cabinet meeting, at which an extensive implementation plan was also agreed. They reported that the PSPC report represented a €10 million package that would result in immediate and future benefits for members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF).

Among the proposals contained in the report was a **10% increase in Military Service Allowance (MSA)**, which applies to all Defence Force personnel and is a unique payment taking account the obligations of military life.

The ARCO Newsletter (Issue No. 37) outlined the details contained in the four submissions to the Minister of State with Responsibility for Defence, where ARCO advanced its strongly held opinion that the MSA increase must retrospectively apply to all military pensions that were already in payment on 03 July, 2019. Earlier, on 10 December 2019, DOD stated that it would only index link the MSA increase to retirement benefits for eligible military personnel retiring on or after 04 July 2019.

ARCO's Objectives

Whereas significant progress has been made in recent years on our Membership Campaign, on our Mentoring and Networking



Projects, on our Website, coupled with the launching our Social Media Platforms, the subject of Pensions remains a key objective of our Association.

Independent Public Service Commission Report

Arising from the Independent Public Service Pay Commission's Report, with effect from 04 July, 2019, as an integral component of core pay, an increase in the universal Military Service Allowance (MSA) was retrospectively reflected in the remuneration of serving commissioned officers, up to and including the rank of Colonel and Captain (NS), and all enlisted personnel. The increase was also reflected in relevant military pensions commencing on or after 04 July 2019.

However, the MSA increase was not reflected in those military pensions with a MSA component, already in payment before 04 July 2019. This had an undue effect on the living conditions of all Defence Forces Veterans, spouses, civil partners and dependent children.

ARCO's Submissions

In four submissions to the Minister of State with Responsibility for Defence, (31 October 2019, 16 December 2019, 15 January, 2020 and 05 March 2020), and a subsequent submission to the Minister of Defence on 17 July 2020, ARCO advanced the case that no grounds exist, for not including the 2019 MSA increase in those military pensions, that were already in payment on 03 July, 2019. Parallel cases were made to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

It should be recalled that ARCO's five submissions were inclusive in nature, championing the case for all Defence Forces Veterans, namely retired commissioned officers and enlisted personnel, coupled with spouses of deceased personnel.

ARCO was advised that the payment process was a significant administrative task and would take time to complete. Work has commenced and the relevant increases and arrears were implemented for the vast majority of enlisted personnel ranks in the June pension payroll. Work on this will continue, on a rank-by-rank basis, over the coming months, and will be completed as quickly as possible, subject to other work and payroll requirements.



Identity Cards – Retired Commissioned Officers (PDF)

As a result of a number of requests from retired officers for information in relation to access to identity cards, I am including the following update on information which appeared in the ARCO Newsletter, Issue No. 26 (Spring/Summer 2014). (Editor)

For all retired officers the official Defence Force Identity Card is a very important document which, inter alia, facilitates identifying the retired officer on entry to Defence Force locations. As an official form of identification there is a requirement for these Defence Forces Identity Cards to be kept up to date and this is the personal responsibility of each retired officer.

Defence Force General Routine Order (GRO) 01/2012 provides the relevant information on Identity Cards and it contains a provision for official Defence Forces Identity Cards to be available to retired Commissioned Officers of the Permanent Defence Force. The current arrangement for the issue of Defence Forces Identity Cards to retired officers

is a matter for Area Records Offices. These offices are located in Collins Barracks (Cork), Cathal Brugha Barracks (Dublin), Custume Barracks (Athlone), DFTC (Curragh Camp), AC HQ (Baldonnel) and NS HQ (Haulbowline).

To overcome any possibility of major delays arising from data access and/or other technical problems, retired officers wishing to renew their Defence Forces Identity Cards should make prior contact with the

relevant Area Records Office and arrange an appointment to be processed.



AREA RECORDS OFFICES - CONTACT INFORMATION

LOCATION	CONTACT PERSON	SECTION	PHONE
Collins Barracks, Cork	Sgt Sean Driscoll	Records & Data Management Section	(021) 4514143
Cathal Brugha Bks., Dublin	Sgt Jonathan Kennedy	Records & Data Management Section	(01) 8046314
Custume Barracks, Athlone	Cpl Amanda Ganly	Records & Data Management Section	(01) 8041022
DFTC, Curragh Camp	Cpl Joe Balfe	Records & Data Management Section	(045) 445036
Air Corps HQ, Baldonnel	Armn Terry Murray	Records & Data Management Section	(01) 8047826
Naval Service HQ, Haulbowline	L/S Conor Peate	Officers Records, Personnel Management Section	(021) 4864723



Military Transition Webinar - 26 Aug 2021

Career Transition – A Defence Forces discussion.



ARCO will host three speakers to discuss the topics of:

- The JP Morgan Military Transition Programme as it prepares for its second year in Ireland - presented by the head of the programme, Michelle Osborne of JP Morgan
- A first-hand account from Capt Eoin Rochford (Retd) who completed the Goldman Sachs Military Transition Programme
- Military reservists as part of your team and what the Armed Forces Covenant is in the UK - presented by Dan Barter who is a senior manager in EY UK and is the EY Lead for Defence

Date and time: Thu, August 26, 2021. 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Registration: Registration for the Webinar is through [Eventbrite](#)

Commissioning Ceremony 96th Cadet Class An Cliaomh Gaisíochta



2/Lt Shane Aherne, from Fermoy, Co. Cork, who is 24 years of age was the winner of the ARCO Sword at the recent commissioning of the 96th Cadet Class. Shane was presented with his sword by Brig Gen Pail Pakenham (Retd), President of ARCO. Prior to commencing his Cadetship, Shane attended the Cork Institute of Technology. His interests include hurling and football. On Commissioning, Shane was posted to 1 Cav Sqn in Collins Bks., Cork.

Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

Comdt Michael J. Kelly	Capt Joe Kelly
Lt Col Peter Burns	Capt Noel Shannon
Comdt Maurice O'Donoghue	Capt Tom Croke
Col Sean O'Keeffe	Lt Col Cormac Kirwan
Capt Paddy McNamara	Capt Stephen O'Sullivan
Capt (NS) Brian Fitzgerald	Lt Joseph Kelly
Capt Patrick (Barney) Callaghan	Col Con Ryan
Lt Col Brian Lenihan	Capt John Aherne
Lt Col Christopher Droney	Capt Brendan Kenny
Comdt Brian Kirkpatrick	Capt Gerry Davis
Col Michael Dawson	

ARCO's Submission – Disability Pension Process – March 2021

In a submission dated 22 March 2021 to the Minister for Defence, ARCO advanced observations and recommendations on the Disability Pension Process.

Members of the Defence Forces work in sometimes dangerous and potentially hostile environments both at home and overseas. They are aware that serious injuries, attributable to military service, have occurred since the Army Pensions Act of 1923 was enacted and are likely to occur in the future.

Defence Forces personnel have legitimate expectations that if they suffer an injury or contract a serious illness, attributable to military service, they will be compensated on retirement. Veterans who have suffered a disablement should have confidence in a transparent, credible, and just compensation scheme, arising from the Army Pensions Acts 1923 – 1980.

ARCO holds the view that the legislative framework providing for the payment of a Disability Pension or a Gratuity, and the assessment of the degree of disablement, is out-dated. This framework has yet to be reviewed in line with best practice and the occupational injuries compensation schemes available in the wider Irish community.

The submission is available on the ARCO website; www.iarco.info

Deceased Officers

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-Anamacha

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

Col James (Jim) Fives	17 Dec 2020
Col Anthony (Tony) Murphy DSM	07 Jan 2021
Col Terence (Terry) Higgins	25 Jan 2021
Lt Col Des Hearn	27 Jan 2021
Comdt Thomas (Tom) McNally	01 Feb 2021
Col Thomas (Murt) Clancy	11 Feb 2021
Capt John (Jack) Phelan	17 Feb 2021
Brig Gen James J. (Jimmy) Flynn DSM	15 Apr 2021
Cmdre Joseph Anslem (Joe) Deasy	03 May 2021
Brig Gen Patrick (Pat) Grennan	04 May 2021
Comdt Peter Riordan	08 May 2021
Lt Col John Gahan	20 May 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

For further information, please visit ARCO's Website: <https://iarco.info/> and follow us on LinkedIn under Association of Retired Commissioned Officers, or on Facebook and Twitter, via @ARCOIreland