



newsletter

2021 Annual General Meeting

The Association's 27th AGM took place, in virtual format by means of electronic communications technology (Zoom), on 01 October 2021.



REPORTS

› Reports were presented by the President: Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd), the Secretary: Col Brendan McAndrew (Retd), the Treasurer: Col Brian Monahan (Retd), and the Membership Secretary: Col Des Bergin (Retd). All reports, including the audited accounts for the period ended 31 July 2021, were unanimously adopted.

EXCOM APPOINTMENTS 2021/2022: SEE BELOW.

Comdt Pat Casey (Retd) was elected as Hon Auditor. Col Bill Nott (Retd), Comdt Pat Godfry (Retd) and Comdt Ray Murphy (Retd) were elected as Trustees.

Pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Association's Rules, the incoming EXCOM during its November meeting co-opted members to perform the following specific functions:

- › Representative on the Executive Committee of the Board of the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund: Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd),
- › Representative on CAOGA's Board of Management: Lt Col Sean Scanlon (Retd),
- › Representative on the Council of the Alliance of Retired Public Sector Associations: Lt Col Joseph Ahern (Retd),
- › ARCO's Webmaster: Comdt Billy Campbell (Retd), and
- › Editor of ARCO's Newsletter: Col Declan Carbery (Retd).



The President welcomed the newly elected Regional Representatives Col Eamon Caulfield (West), Capt Oonagh (South) and Lt Col John Kirke (Air Corps). He paid tribute to Brig Gen Gerry McNamara who retired in November and Capt Ray Bonar who retired at the AGM. The election of eight new members of the EXCOM at the 2020 AGM and three new members at the 2021 AGM including a female member, represents a 64% turn-over of the committee, and reflects one of the primary outcomes arising from ARCO's 2019 Relevance Workshop.

President's Closing Remarks. Serving the Defence Community for three decades, ARCO's priorities derive from its specified objectives as prescribed in the Association's Rules. Whilst advancing our relevance with its evolving membership cohort, ARCO's focus for the short to medium term, is:

- › The advancement of members' interests and needs,
- › Advocating and Lobbying
- › Enhancing mentoring support, networking activities, and military transitional programmes,
- › Actively engaged with the Alliance of Retired Public Servants in advancing ARCO's Pension Strategy, including pension parity and negotiation rights for public servants,
- › The reform of the Disability Pension Process,
- › Extending its membership base,
- › Advancing the Combined Veterans' Strategy along with ONE and IUNVA:
- › The appointment of a Commissioner for Veterans
- › The Establishment of a Joint Office for Veterans' Affairs, and
- › The preparation of a framework for the elaboration of a Veterans' Policy.

Finally, the President encouraged all Members to maintain a practical and positive interest in advancing ARCO's ethos and objectives, thereby promoting, safeguarding and protecting the interests of members, and spouses or civil partners of deceased members. (For more detailed information on the AGM, please visit the ARCO website.)



ARCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021/2022

APPOINTMENT	APPOINTEE
President	Brig Gen Séamus Ó Giolláin
Vice-President	Capt David Barry (NS)
Hon Secretary	Col Brendan McAndrew
Hon Treasurer	Col Brian Monahan
Hon Membership Secretary	Col Des Bergin
Immediate Past President	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES	
Eastern Region	Col George Kerton
Eastern Region	Capt Philip Quinlan
Southern Region	Capt Tony Doonan
Southern Region	Capt Oonagh Maher
Western Region	Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran
Western Region	Col Eamon Caulfield
DFTC Region	Lt Col Seamus Rouine
DFTC Region	Capt Paul Amoroso
NS Region	Cmdr Gerard O' Flynn (NS)
NS Region	Capt David Barry (NS)
AC Region	Lt Col John Kirke
AC Region	Brig Gen Paul Fry

AUDITOR AND TRUSTEES	
Auditor	Comdt Pat Casey
Trustee	Col Billy Nott
Trustee	Capt Ray Murphy
Trustee	Lt Col Pat Godfrey

CO-OPTIONS	
ARCO Website	Comdt William Campbell
Newsletter	Col Declan Carbery
CAOGA	Lt Col Sean Scanlon
DFBF	Brig Gen Liam MacNamee
Alliance of Retired Public Servants	Lt Col Joseph Ahern



O.5167 Lieutenant-General William Callaghan DSM

Author: Colonel George Kerton (Retd)

INTRODUCTION

ARCO has commissioned this article to mark the centenary of the birth of one of Ireland's outstanding peacekeepers, Lieutenant-General William Callaghan DSM who was born in County Cork on 03 July 1921.

Forty years ago, Major-General William Callaghan assumed command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Alexander Erskine (Ghana) who was the first Force Commander of UNIFIL. Major-General Callaghan was well experienced in peacekeeping operations having served in the Congo, Cyprus and in the Middle East in command appointments. In this article, we look back on his contribution to the Defence Forces and to the United Nations during a military career spanning forty-eight years.



BACKGROUND

William Callaghan was born on 3 July 1921 and grew up in Buttevant, County Cork. His parents were Cornelius O'Callaghan, a farmer, and Margaret (née Walsh). He had one brother, Jack, and three sisters, Kathleen (his twin), Lilly and Eileen. He received his secondary education at the Patrician

Academy in Mallow. In 1939, he enlisted in the Defence Forces as a cadet with 13 Cadet Class, was commissioned on 1 July 1940 and appointed to the Infantry Corps.

HOME SERVICE

During the Emergency, he served initially in 1 Division in 10 (Uisneach) Infantry Battalion, and thereafter with 13 Infantry Battalion and 4 Infantry Battalion. He remained as Second-in-Command D Company 4 Infantry Battalion from 1946 to 1950, when he was posted as Training Officer Southern Command Training Depot.

From 1952 to 1955 he served with the Tipperary Area Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ). On promotion to the rank of commandant in April 1955 he was appointed as Company Commander D Company 12 Infantry Battalion. In 1957, Comdt Callaghan was appointed Officer Commanding Clare Area Staff FCA.

In 1959, with the reorganisation of the Permanent Defence Force and the integration of reserve units with regular units in the brigades, he was appointed as Officer Commanding 22 Infantry Battalion FCA. He returned to this appointment after his first two periods of UN service.



9 Inf Gp UNFICYP received by President Éamon de Valera on 05 September 1967. Comdt Bill Callaghan, Second-in Command, second row behind OC 9 Inf Gp Lt Col M. J. Murphy.

In 1966 he was posted as Second-in-Command 12 Infantry Battalion. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in November 1969 and was appointed as Executive Officer 5 Brigade. In June 1970, after his third tour of duty in Cyprus, Lieutenant-Colonel Callaghan served at HQ Western Command and also commanded 14 Infantry Group on the border in County Donegal for a short period. In 1971 he was appointed as Officer Commanding 2 Infantry Battalion, and returned to this appointment following a six-month tour of duty in Cyprus.

In November 1976, he was promoted to the rank of colonel and deployed to UNTSO Headquarters in Jerusalem. On promotion to the rank of brigadier-general in June 1979, he was appointed as Assistant Chief of Staff. In March 1980 he was promoted to the rank of major-general and was appointed Adjutant-General by the President on the recommendation of the government. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general on 02 June 1981.

OVERSEAS SERVICE

In November 1961, Comdt Callaghan deployed to the Congo as Company Commander B Company, 36 Infantry Battalion, ONUC. On 16 December, this battalion was involved in Operation Sarsfield to seal off Elisabethville, with A Company



Pictured Left. Comdt Callaghan with his wife Carmel and children on his return from Congo.

seizing and holding the Kasenga Highway Tunnel (known as the Tunnel) and B Company securing the road network near the Tunnel.

Comdt Callaghan completed three tours of duty with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). In April 1964, he was Company Commander B Company, 40 Infantry Battalion. This battalion was the first unit of twenty-two Defence Forces units to serve in Cyprus. He was Second-in-Command 9 Infantry Group from October 1967 to March 1968. Lieutenant-Colonel Callaghan was OC 21 Infantry Group from October 1971 to April 1972.



Maj Gen Bill Callaghan, FC designate with UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim at UN HQ New York on 29 January 1981.

Colonel Callaghan served in the Middle East as Senior Staff Officer of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) from November 1976 until March 1978 and thereafter as Acting Chief of Staff until June 1979.



Lt Gen Bill Callaghan, Maj Gen Liam Prendergast AG, Lt Gen Emmanuel Erskine (Ghana), COS UNTSO and Irish UNTSO UNMOs, Damascus, March 1984.



On 5 February 1981, Major-General Callaghan was appointed as Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) by the Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim. Serving in the appointment to 31 May 1986, he remains the longest serving Force Commander since the mission started in 1978.

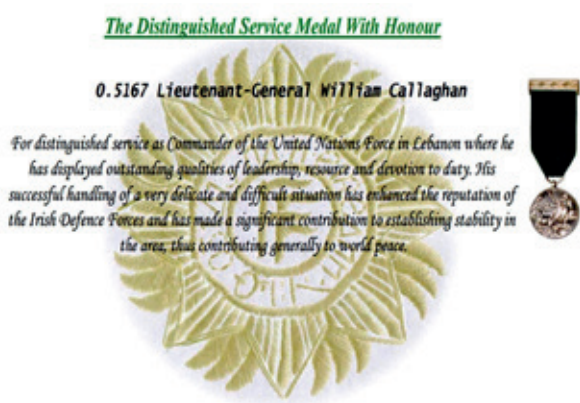


Lt Gen Bill Callaghan at Brashit on his last visit as FC UNIFIL to 57 Inf Bn. L to R: Capt Gerard Breen, Capt George Kerton, Capt Brian O'Keeffe, Comdt PJ Delaney C Coy Comd, Col Walter McNicholas COMIRCON (partly hidden), Lt Col Michael O'Hagan-Wright Bn Comd. March 1986.

Lieutenant-General Callaghan returned to UNTSO to serve a second term as Chief of Staff from May 1986 to his retirement on 08 June 1987. Lieutenant-General Callaghan's unbroken record of UN command in the Middle East for more than six years from 05 February 1981 to June 1987 has yet to be equalled in the Defence Forces.

AWARDS

Lieutenant-General Callaghan was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Honour for his service in Lebanon.



Lieutenant-General Callaghan was also awarded the National Order of the Cedar by Lebanon and the Legion d'Honneur by France.

The Lieutenant-General William Callaghan Sword is awarded at commissioning ceremonies to the overall best Army Cadet in Tactical Exercise and Practical Leadership.



Lieutenant-General Callaghan died peacefully at home in Templeogue on 26 December 2015 at 94 years of age and was buried in Shanganagh Cemetery on 30 December. He was predeceased in 1994 by his wife, Carmel, and was survived by their five daughters and two sons, Marie, Patricia, Carmel, Claire, Fiona, Bill and Declan. (Pictured above).



Pictured above. Lieutenant-General Callaghan with his grandchildren.

In expressing his sympathy to the Callaghan family, President Michael D. Higgins also expressed gratitude for Lieutenant-General Callaghan's service to Ireland and to the international community.

"His steadfast commitment to advancing peace and prosperity in the Middle East and his leadership throughout his career was recognised by all those working for international peace," the President said.

"His unwavering support for international law and multilateral cooperation drew the respect of his peers all over the world. He has left not only a great legacy for the armed forces, but for all those who work for international peace."





61st Anniversary of the Niemba Ambush

The 61st Annual Mass and Wreath Laying Ceremony in memory of those who lost their lives in Niemba was held in Cathal Brugha Barracks on 06 November 2021.



ARCO President, Brig Gen Séamus Ó Giolláin (Retd) laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

*Photos. Wayne Fitzgerald
Fundraising & Marketing Officer
Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE)
Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE)*

Defence Forces Remembrance Ceremony

The Defence Forces Remembrance Ceremony was held in Merrion Square on 17 Nov 21. This Ceremony commemorates serving members that have died in the last 12 months.



Pictured above. Left to Right: ONE president Diarmuid Higgins, RSM Michael Dillon (Retd), representing IUNVA Chairman and ARCO President, Brig Gen Séamus Ó Giolláin (Retd) who laid wreaths on behalf of the three Veteran Organisations.



Publications by ARCO Members

Green Cap and Blue Beret

by Comdt Joe Fallon DSM (Retd)

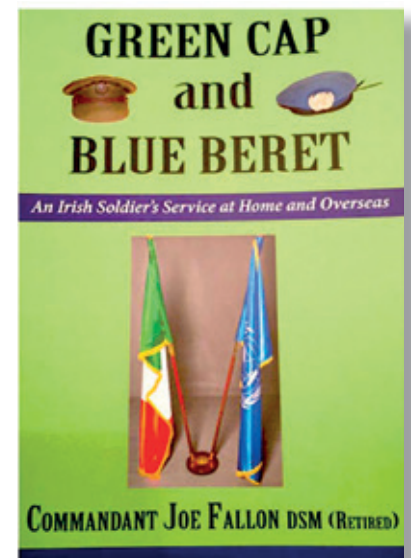
Comdt Joe Fallon DSM (Retd) has recently published a book titled 'Green Cap and Blue Beret'.

His book provides an account of his family background and his service in the Defence Forces, covering both military and non-military events at home and overseas.

Joe's wide range of appointments gave him direct contact with senior military and civilian leaders in Ireland particularly during the Northern Troubles, and while on United

Nations service in the Middle East with UNTSO during the October 1973 War.

Joe is donating the entire receipts from sales of his book to welfare homes for retired soldiers. Copies of the book at €20 plus postage are available from Hayesprint Publishing
Tel 065 7071125.
Email info@hayesprint.ie.



IT'S YOUR CLUB! The Management of Sports Clubs

by Comdt J.J. Killian (Retd)



ARCO member Comdt J.J. Killian is a businessman and organisational management consultant who has been involved in sport and sports clubs all his life. His on-pitch activities have always been mirrored by an involvement in the administration of the same clubs. This sports administration involvement has been matched by many years of service on Boards of Directors, National Councils, Boards of Voluntary Organisations, and other committees.

IT'S YOUR CLUB! The Management of Sports Clubs, by Comdt J.J. Killian, is published by Oak Tree Press and is available in print and eBook formats from www.SuccessStore.com, Amazon and good bookshops.

Many sports clubs have become large and complex entities with strong membership numbers and significant budgets, yet they are still operated by

people who are essentially volunteers. IT'S YOUR CLUB! based on many years of practical experience of club committees, boards of directors and national councils, addresses many of the situations that cause problems for club officers.

It covers all aspects of the administration that supports the operation of the various functions of the club, explaining aspects of committees and their roles, the roles of the main officers, the importance of governance, the advantages of strategic planning, how leadership and management play different roles and how current legislation, such as child protection, affects the modern voluntary organisation.

IT'S YOUR CLUB! provides the definitive text on the leadership and management of sports clubs and will give club officers the confidence to make decisions vital to their club's viability.



Air, Sea and Land Memories: a pilot revisits

by Comdt Frank Russell (Retd)

Motivated by what to do during the Covid19 lockdown, one of our members, Comdt Frank Russell (Retd) has self-published a book of memories and pictures titled: Air, Sea and Land Memories: a pilot revisits.

According to Frank, some of the stories relate to his involvement in the Air Corps Air Ambulance, and Search and Rescue missions, with some unforeseen outcomes!

However, his stories are not confined to his service in the Air Corps. Niemba has its story, an ascent of a Biblical mountain, a tragic air crash off Connemara, along with other unusual times and places that Frank recalls in the book.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the LARCC Cancer Support Centre (www.cancersupport.ie) in Multyfarnham, Co Westmeath, of which Frank is a Co-Founder.



The on-going support of cancer patients is even more critical in the current Covid 19 climate, as many will know.

Frank's book is available at Hayes Print, Ennistymon, Co Clare, contacted on 065-7071125. Cost is €20 euro, excluding postage.



Gá Gasced an 35ú Rang: What deeds, the 35th?

By Col Des Travers (Retd)

On 31st January 1961 a group of young men from all corners of Ireland gathered together for the first time on a square in the Curragh Camp, and the 35th Cadet Class was born. They would spend eighteen gruelling months working to become officers in the Irish Defence Forces and, after that, would be scattered to different postings and even different countries. 'Gá Gasced an 35ú Rang: What deeds, the 35th?' compiled by Colonel Des Travers and edited by his daughter Jane Travers, brings together

again the members of that cadet class and, sixty years later, tells the stories of their lives before, during, and after their time in the Defence Forces.

Des's book is available from Amazon and Woodbine Books, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare. All proceeds from the book go to Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE) which provides Support, Comradeship, Advocacy and Remembrance (SCAR) for Irish Veterans.

Recent Promotions . . .

Lieutenant General Seán Clancy



to Chief of Staff

Major General Adrian Ó Murchú



to DCOS Support

Brigadier General Rossa Mulcahy



to Assistant Chief of staff



The President and Executive Committee of ARCO wish all of their members a happy and peaceful New Year.

Departure of Long Serving EXCOM Members

Brig Gen Gerry McNamara
Capt Ray Bonar

Western Region
Air Corps Region

Have retired from the EXCOM after many years of devoted service to ARCO. We wish them all the best in the future and good health in the coming years.

Deceased Officers

Ar dheis De go raibb A n-Anamacha

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

Comdt Margaret (Peggy) Flanagan	27 June 2021
Comdt Charles (Charlie) Martin	08 July 2021
Cmdr Rory Costello	10 July 2021
Capt Brian Phelan	06 Aug 2021
Capt Sean Berry	17 Aug 2021
Lt Col Thomas (Tom) McGrath	20 Aug 2021
Col Sean Norton DSM	24 Aug 2021
Comdt James (Jim) Carley	25 Aug 2021
Comdt Liam Gavin	28 Aug 2021
Lt Col James (J.H.) Murphy	11 Sept 2021
Capt Dan Mulligan	11 Sept 2021
Lt Col Frank O'Reilly	26 Sept 2021
Capt John McSweeney	11 Oct 2021
Col Michael (Mick) Dunne	30 Oct 2021
Lt Cmdr Peter Dunne	10 Nov 2021
Comdt Vincent (Vinny) Fitzgerald	13 Nov 2021
Rev Fr Colum Swan	26 Nov 2021

Welcome to ARCO's New Members

Comdt David Slattery
Comdt Thomas Duffy
Col Michael Dawson
Lt Col Stuart McNamara
Comdt Patrick Maher
Comdt Philip Grant

Comdt Thomas Murray
Comdt William Dunne
Capt Philip Lane
Comdt Damien Kelleher
Lt Cdr Patrick Mitchell

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS / NOT RECEIVING TEXT MESSAGES?

If you are a member of ARCO and have recently changed your email address from the Eircom provider, or for any other reason, please contact your



Regional Representative or declancarbery@hotmail.com to advise of your new email address. Include your service number when doing so for verification purposes.

Almost 750 of our members now receive texts from our texting service. If you are one of the approx. 130 members not receiving texts please contact your Regional Representative or declancarbery@hotmail.com to advise of your current mobile phone number. Again, include your service number when doing so for verification purposes.

If you know of any members who are not receiving texts, or who have changed their email address, please advise them to contact us.

All personal information voluntarily provided by members to ARCO is treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality and complies with GDPR legislation and ARCO's Data Protection and Privacy Policy.

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