



## Commission on the Defence Forces - Quick Reference Guide and Government response to the Report.

The Commission on the Defence Forces was established on foot of a commitment in the Programme for Government and the Government decision in December 2020, which also agreed its terms of reference and membership (See Newsletter, Issue No. 40: ARCO engagement with the Commission on the Defence Forces). The Commission published its report on the 9th February 2022.



The Commission undertook a significant body of work on the future of the Defence Forces, encompassing their wide-ranging terms of reference, having regard to immediate requirements while also seeking to develop a longer-term vision for beyond 2030. The report contains 69 main recommendations and together with sub recommendations, comprises 130 recommendations in total.

These recommendations were guided and informed by existing government policy, namely, the White Paper on Defence 2015 and the White Paper on Defence Update 2019. The Commission's terms of reference included consideration of appropriate capabilities, structures and staffing for the Army, the Air Corps and the Naval Service.

The report proposes significant changes for the Defence Forces, including to Defence Forces' culture, high-level command and control structures, HR and staffing and for the level of Defence provision in Ireland. The following "Quick Reference" (kindly provided by RACO and Signal Magazine) will act as a guide to accessing the relevant information in the full report of the Commission. The document is divided by themes, with direct quotations from the Commission Report and their page references. Use the quotations as an indication of the content, and the page reference to gain full context around the quotation. In keeping with the intent of this Quick

Reference Guide, the text is an exact reflection of the content and recommendations of the Report – no opinion; positive or negative is offered on the contents.

### VISION

Commission's vision for the Defence Forces of 2030 and beyond:

The Defence Forces will be a joint military force capable of providing the people of Ireland with a safe and secure environment and enforcing and protecting Ireland's sovereignty. It will uphold national values, reflect the diverse society that it serves, and remain poised to meet the challenges of an evolving and complex world. (p. iii)

This vision, coupled with the ambition for transformation, will need to be pursued relentlessly, with strong external and parliamentary oversight, and will require the engagement of external expertise to help drive and support the necessary transformation process. (p. iii)

Five core areas that must be addressed in a detailed implementation plan on foot of policy decisions in relation to level of ambition and budget:

- › Transformational change to modernise the Organisational Culture, its Human Resources Strategy
- › Reform High level Command and Control and creation of a Joint Strategic Headquarters
- › Revitalise the Reserve Defence Force
- › Reform and Restructure the Services
- › Joint Capability Development

69 Individual recommendations are outlined on page xiv of the report.

### Level of Ambition (p. iv, p. 141; p. 217)

As set out in Chapter 5, the Commission has found it useful to focus its work around three possible tiers of LOAs for the Defence Forces.

- › **LOA 1 current capability:** Aiming to uphold sovereign rights and serving on peace support operations to the same extent as at present.
- › **LOA 2 enhanced capabilities:** Building on current capabilities to address specific, priority gaps in our ability to deal with an assault on Irish sovereignty and to serve in higher intensity peace support, crisis management and humanitarian relief operations overseas.



- **LOA 3 conventional capability:** Developing full spectrum defence capabilities to protect Ireland and its people to an extent comparable to similar sized countries in Europe.

The scale of funding required for each level of ambition is illustrated in table 8, Page 141, on a single year basis by comparing the actual Outturn for 2020 (representing LOA 1) and an approximation for LOA 3 based on the 2020 average GDP % of comparator countries applied to Ireland's estimated 2020 GNI\*. The LOA 2 expenditure figure is an estimate of the medium-term annual cost of this level of ambition based on the elements outlined in Chapters 6 and 9. It should be noted that this latter figure is a rough approximation to illustrate the scale of the funding commitment required and it has been calculated with the assistance of experts from the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces.

**Table 10.8: Illustrative annual cost of three Levels of Ambition**

Level of Ambition	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of GNI*
LOA 1*	€1,032m	0.50%
LOA 2	€1,500m	0.72%
LOA 3**	€2,967m	1.425%

\* Based on 2020 gross outturn for Votes 35 and 36.

\*\* Based on 2020 average GDP % of comparator countries applied to GNI\* for Ireland.

Table 8 shows that for Ireland to approximate the level of commitment to defence of our comparator countries (i.e. LOA 3) would require a near trebling of our defence budget. Even to meet the modest, but urgently required, enhancements of our capabilities outlined in Chapter 6 would require a budget increase of approximately 50%. It must be emphasised that these figures reflect the level of ongoing annual expenditure that would be required for LOA 2 and LOA 3, and not a once off level of spending. The very large budget increases required to meet LOA 2 and LOA 3 reflect the current exceptionally low level of current Defence expenditure as shown in Section 10.6.

Further detail on the calculation of the cost of LOA 2 is provided in Appendix 14. The figures set out there are approximate but reflect the findings in Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 on the main capability enhancements (equipment, infrastructure and staffing) required as part of this level of ambition. It should be noted that this includes a net increase in the Permanent Defence Force establishment, including civilian staff, of some 2,000 personnel, bringing the total to approximately 11,500 (in addition to the existing cohort of civilian employees), to provide for a range of recommendations made including double crewing of Naval ships, creation of a separate training establishment, providing camp staff in all main locations, increasing staff resources for a number of units and providing the resources required to undertake the necessary HR reforms. Ultimately, the additional numbers would be subject to detailed design, decision making and proactive management within a future Strategic HR culture, with prioritisation of staffing leading to reductions in some areas and additions to others, across the services, on the basis of the new detailed force design and savings from elimination of some ATCP and other taskings; for example, security duties at Portlaoise Prison account for some 74,000 workdays annually.

As the Commission has recommended a step up to LOA 2 in the short term, RACO has reprinted Appendix 14 – Calculation of the cost of LOA 2 for information.

## APPENDIX 14 CALCULATION OF THE COST OF LOA 2

**A. LOA 2 – Equipment and Infrastructure (Capital).** Based on estimated costings provided by the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, Table 1 below sets out the ten year approximation of likely capital costs associated with a step up to LOA 2. The final column provides the annualised approximation of these costs.

**Table 1: 10 Year Equipment and Infrastructure costs**

Domain	10 year Total Estimate (€m)	Annualised Estimate (€m)
Land	950	95.0
Maritime	594	59.4
Air	430	43.0
Joint/Cyber/SOF	80	8.0
Sub-total	2,054	205.4
Inflation @20%	411	41.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>246.5</b>

**B. LOA 2 – Human Resources (Current).** Table 2 below sets out the annualised personnel costs of the estimated net additional personnel numbers that would be required to implement the changes recommended to make a step up to LOA 2.

**Table 2: Annualised Cost of additional personnel**

Domain	Estimated Numbers *	Estimated Cost (€m)	Estimated Additional Numbers per Service **
Land	200	12.000	700
Maritime	700	35.000	950
Air	100	5.000	350
Training Establishment	500	17.500	-
Joint/Cyber/SOF	500	33.190	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>102.69</b>	<b>2,000</b>

\* These are indicative figures produced by the Commission, based on initial outline projections provided by the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, for the purposes of calculating an approximate annualised cost of a step up to LOA 2.

\*\* Additional Numbers per Service include the estimated numbers for each service in the second column plus a distribution of the joint staff numbers (training establishment and other joint) on the basis of a 50/25/25 ratio (Land/Maritime/Air). All of these figures are indicative.

Table 3 below contains the annualised estimated costs of the rank and pay structure changes recommended in Chapter 8.

**Table 3: Annualised estimate of rank and pay structure changes**

Personnel Cost Increases – Existing		
Change	Numbers	Cost (€m)
Lance Corporal Rank	841	0.742
Long Service Increments	2,000	2.087
Private Medical Cover	9,500	9.500
Removal of marking time for Private 3 Stars	1,500	1.976
MSA adjustment for Private 3 Stars	1,500	6.900
<b>Total</b>		<b>21.205</b>

**C. Shortfall in LOA 1.** At present, under LOA 1, additional annual estimated pay costs of some 47m would be required to meet the existing shortfall in strength versus establishment numbers. Regardless of a move to LOA 2, this would have to be funded under LOA 1 if the current baseline level of capital investment is to be maintained, alongside a full establishment of 9,500 personnel. Clearly, as part of a move to LOA 2, this current shortfall in LOA 1 would have to be met but, nevertheless, it is included here in order to identify the level of increased funding that will be required to move from current levels up to LOA 2.



## D. Additional Current costs that would arise in LOA

2. Additional running and maintenance costs for new equipment and personnel is estimated to be a further 40m per annum, while the additional pension costs from the larger establishment would amount to approximately 10m extra per annum.

**E. Total Estimates Annualised Increases.** Table 4 below sets out the total annualised costs, capital and current, of making the step to LOA 2 and implement the recommendations as set out in Chapter 8.

Table 4: Total Estimated Annualised Costs	
Capital/Current	Cost (€m)
Capital	246.500
Current	220.895
Total Estimated Increase of a move to LOA 2	467.395
Existing LOA 1*	1,032.000
Total LOA 2 Estimate	1,499.395

\* Based on 2020 gross outturn

## SECURITY

While the threat and risk environment remains complex and partially unpredictable, as described in the White Paper, the Commission wishes to highlight one overarching trend of unpredictability and four interrelated trends of particular importance in shaping the future security environment in which the Defence Forces must navigate.

- › First, increased great power competition.
- › Second, continued instability on Europe's borders and less United States involvement in containing it.
- › Third, a continued blurring of the lines between internal and external security, accelerated by the increased use of hybrid forms of aggression against Western democracies.
- › Fourth, a more demanding environment for troops deployed overseas. (p. 5)

The proliferation of state and non state actors and the growing interconnectedness, including in the information sphere, creates an inherently unpredictable system, in which national and global shocks and surprises at strategic, operational and tactical level may occur despite the best intelligence and analysis. Therefore, societal and organisational resilience is a critical asset. In areas where redundancy is unaffordable, credible plans to surge capacity must be in place. The Commission considers the Reserve Defence Force to be a critical asset in this regard. (p. 10)

## POLICY

The Commission has not been asked to undertake a critical examination of the national defence policy outlined briefly in Chapter 3. It has, in essence, been asked to consider the appropriate capabilities, structures and staffing required for the Defence Forces to meet the requirements of national policy and to fulfill the tasks implicit in the high level defence policy and the roles. (p. 15)

As set out in the Strategy Statement of the Department of Defence and Defence Forces, and repeated in the Commission's Terms of Reference, Ireland's high level Defence goal is to:

- › Provide for the military defence of the State;
- › Contribute to national and international peace and security; and
- › Fulfill all other roles assigned by Government. (p. 11)

Requirement to defend the State from a conventional attack as a contingency, i.e. "unlikely but possible", and says that the Government has decided that there is a continuing need to retain armed forces to exercise the right of self defence. (p. 11)

Military capabilities for a worst-case scenario would be prohibitively expensive and therefore "prudent defence planning involves maintaining an appropriate level of capability that can be enhanced". (p. 11)

The Commission believes that international liaison and co operation between the Defence Forces and the armed forces of other countries should be enhanced and strengthened with the immediate creation of a Defence Attaché network. (p. 12)

The High Representative, together with the Member States, has been invited to take work forward with a view to adoption of the Strategic Compass by March 2022. It would be speculative at this stage to suggest what may emerge from this process and what operational implications might flow from it. (p. 14)

## Government Response to the Report



On the 12th July, the Government approved a decision to move to Level of Ambition 2 (LOA2) over a six-year period to 2028. This will result in the Defence budget rising to 1.5 billion, in 2022 prices, by 2028. In addition, the move to LOA2 will require an additional 2,000 personnel (civil and military) over and above the current establishment of 9,500. The Commission recognised that any proposal to move to LOA3 could only be considered in the context of a step-up, in the first instance, to LOA2 and following a comprehensive review of Ireland's defence policy.

For specific capabilities recommended under each LOA, the Commission highlighted that appropriate examination by defence planners, of those capabilities specified within the report, would be required to develop detailed specifications, assess value for money and consider whether the same effect can be more effectively delivered by different means. The Commission also recognised that significant infrastructure development would be required to support some of the capability enhancements considered.

Government has also noted that, in light of the Commission's report, there is an urgent need for HR and cultural transformation in the Defence Forces and this will be prioritised. This High Level Action Plan identifies the recruitment, through an open process, for the new senior-level civilian positions of Head of Transformation and Head of Strategic HR for the Defence Forces as early actions required to progress this transformation.



## THE COMMISSION ON THE DEFENCE FORCES AND GOVERNMENT DECISION

ARCO welcomed the Government Decision on significantly increased provision for Defence, announced on 12 July 2022. ARCO had made a substantial submission and was satisfied that due regard had been accorded to the inherent knowledge and experience residing within our Association. ARCO looks forward to an honest and energetic implementation of the decision by Government. Strong inputs from ARCO resulted in the inclusion of the recommendation on the establishment of an Office for Veterans' Affairs.

The Government decision taken on 12 July 2022 to implement the bulk of the report and provide significant additional financial resources was a good day for Defence provision in Ireland. The engagement and drive of the Minister in bringing the question of appropriate Defence provision to Government decision is commended by ARCO, as well as the courtesy shown by the Secretary General in briefing the Veteran Associations prior to the announcement of the Government decision. Both approaches are refreshing and hopefully reflect long overdue new relationships.

ARCO regards the recently published High Level Implementation Plan as just the beginning of the process of renewal and rebuilding. ARCO appreciates the political practicalities of what NEEDS to be done and what can be achieved at any particular time. For its part, ARCO will continue to contribute to the national conversation in keeping the issue of Defence prominent as well as the continued recognition of the interests and value of Veterans in the national arena.

## ARCO RELEVANCE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

ARCO have been engaged in activities in the past year, which enhances the relevance of our Association both internally to the diversity of our membership, and externally in the public arena. One such activity was by invitation and reflected the value of the knowledge, experience and considered perspectives of our membership base. This and other activities provide ARCO with an opportunity to raise and highlight issues of concern and interest to our members.

## ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE BY THE CIVIL SERVICE MANAGEMENT BOARD

This review process was one of a series conducted into various Departments. The purpose of these reviews is to "embed a culture of regular and objective assessments of the capacity and capability of Departments to achieve its objectives and take the necessary action to close any gaps."

The President of ARCO acknowledged the personal invitation of the Secretary General to ARCO for assistance and cooperation with the Review Team and ARCO was glad to assist in any way.

The discussion was wide-ranging and comprehensive. It included the topics of leadership, policy making, customer service charter, delivery of outputs and outcomes, engagement with veterans' affairs, cyber security, and the perception of the Department of Defence. The approach to the discussion involved the Chair asking questions including supplementary questions to the representatives of ARCO.

ARCO representatives made clear and authentic statements on various issues and highlighted their concerns, and equally recorded the positives in their dealings with the Department. The interventions built on the submission to the Commission on Defence.

## ISSUES OF CURRENT CONCERN

### PENSIONS

At a recent meeting with the Department of Defence ARCO signaled that it would be proactive in this area in the coming months.

The Commission on Pensions, the Dáil Committee Report on the Commission's findings, and the latest signals from the Taoiseach regarding future State Pension qualification ages, as well as hinted rises in PRSI payments are of interest and concern to our members.

ARCO recalled its key demands to maintain Parity and the Value of pensions, and pursue this interest, independently and through the Alliance of Retired Public Servants, including the right to negotiate.

ARCO cited that our younger members and military personnel generally were singularly disadvantaged by various adjustments in Government Pension Policies over the last two decades, due mainly to early mandatory retirement ages, part payment of pension entitlements, the lead in time for the payment of the State pension and full pension entitlements.

In ARCO's view, these decisions were shortsighted and are inter alia a significant factor in retention difficulties apparent within the Defence Forces as expressed to the EXCOM by recently retired officers.

### DISABILITY PENSION PROCESS REVIEW

In March 2021 ARCO made a submission to the Minister for Defence seeking a review of the Disability Pension Process in order to modernise and ensure best practice. The case was predicated on the perceptions and experiences of applicants and recipients, of the process. Whilst it was acknowledged that many aspects of the Disability Pension scheme were very good, concerns remained regarding openness and transparency as the process was worked through. The submission is available on our website.

On 28 July 2022, ARCO received a comprehensive reply from the Secretary General. ARCO has yet to respond formally, but notes that there appears to be a willingness within the Department to address gaps in service delivery where identified, without going through a formal external review as requested by ARCO.

### US ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ESTA) AND VISAS.

ARCO has recently become aware of retired officers encountering problems in obtaining permission to enter the US as a consequence of having served in countries currently on the US list of restricted countries, whilst in service with the Defence Forces. In some cases, this has resulted in considerable personal expense in having to reschedule flights etc.

It would appear that the problem is more widespread than initially thought and affects officers currently serving and those who retired in recent years. This includes Visa for entry as well as the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) online facility operated by the US. In response, Commissioned Officers Management Office (COMO) issues a certified letter of service to serving officers when required and will extend this service to affected retired officers on request. ARCO is informed that this arrangement has proven satisfactory in obtaining US visas.

ARCO members are advised to make themselves aware of US entry requirements as well as those countries currently on the US Restricted list, in good time prior to travel and, if affected, to apply to COMO for a certified letter of service to accompany the Visa application. The contact details for COMO is as follows;

Commissioned Officers Management Office. Department of Defence, Station Road, Newbridge, Co Kildare. 045 492540

# CLOSURE OF ULSTER BANK AND KBC ACCOUNTS

Ulster Bank and KBC have notified ARCO members, who hold accounts in these two banks, that they are withdrawing their banking activity and associated services from the Irish market.

ARCO has received communication from the National Shared Services Office (NSSO) in relation to this withdrawal of banking services. The NSSO provides HR and payroll administration services for government departments, including the Department of Defence, Pensions Section.

While many of our members, who use Ulster Bank and KBC accounts for the payment of their pensions, have already updated their bank details with the NSSO, some have yet to do so. The NSSO is currently writing to these members.

Also, if you are in receipt of a payment from the Department of Social Protection (DSP), for example Pension, Child Benefit or Household Benefits, you will need to let that department know your new bank account details to ensure there is no disruption to your payment.

A Change of Bank Details form is available on the ARCO Website at <https://iarco.info>. Please complete the form, if not already done so, and return by email or post to the address as shown on the form, as soon as possible.

To ensure continuity of payment customers are advised, where possible, not to close their old account until a payment is received in their new account.

Guidance on how to move accounts as well as a tool to compare different accounts is available on the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission website: [www.CCPC.ie](http://www.CCPC.ie)

The NSSO contact details are as follows:

- › NSSO Contact Number: 0818 107 100  
(Monday to Friday – 9am to 1pm)
- › Email Address: [Payrollcontact@nssso.gov.ie](mailto:Payrollcontact@nssso.gov.ie)  
Monday to Friday – 9am to 4pm
- › Postal Address: Military Pensions, Payroll Services, National Shared Services Office, Central Business Park, Clonminch Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 W7A4.



## Dates For Your Calendar Defence Forces Events 2022.



15 Sept '22	66th Inf Gp UNDOF, Ministerial Review. Cathal Brugha Bks., at 14.30hrs
22 Sept '22	ARCO Panel Discussion on Future of Ireland's Security Interests. The Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. Time: TBC.
07 Oct '22	ARCO AGM, McKee Bks., Dublin at 11.30hrs
22 Oct '22	Annual Gala Concert, National Concert Hall, Dublin.
24 Oct '22	122 Inf Bn UNIFIL, Ministerial Review. Renmore, Galway at 14.00hrs
03 Nov '22	Defence Forces Deceased Members Mass, Various Locations. Confirm with Garrison Chaplain
05 Nov '22	Niamba Ambush Anniversary Mass, Cathal Brugha Bks., Dublin. At 12.00hrs
?? Nov '22	DFTC Gala Concert (Date: TBC)
16 Nov '22	DF Remembrance Ceremony, Merion Square, Dublin at 12.00hrs
14 Dec '22	DF Carol Service. Arbour Hill. At 20.00 hrs



# 97th Cadet Class and 11th Potential Officers Course. An Cliaomh Gaisíochta.



## 2/Lieutenant Ryan Bradley.

2/Lt Ryan Bradley was the winner of the ARCO Sword at the recent Commissioning of the 97th Cadet Class. 2/Lt Bradley is from Lifford, Co. Donegal and is 25 years of age. He is the son of Valerie and Michael Bradley. Before being awarded his cadetship, he was a Private in the 28th Infantry Battalion. His interests include football, soccer, Brazilian Ju-Jitsu, reading and golf. The highlight of his Cadetship was the CRC training. 2/Lt Bradley has been commissioned to 1 Armoured Cavalry Squadron in the DFTC.

Pictured at the Commissioning Ceremony are (Left to Right) Lt Col Daragh O'Brien, School Commandant, The Cadet School; Brig Gen Seamus O'Giolláin (Retd) President ARCO; 2/Lt Ryan Bradley; Mr Simon Coveney, T.D. Minister for Defence; Lt Gen Seán Clancy, Defence Forces Chief of Staff.



## Capt Philip Cole.

Philip was the winner of the ARCO Sword at the recent Commissioning of the 11th Potential Officers Course. Philip is a native of Clondalkin, Co. Dublin but now lives in Co Kildare. He is 42 years old and is married to Valerie who was also a student on the course. He joined the Defence Forces in 1998 and has previously served in 2 Inf Bn, 2 BTC Dublin and the 7 Inf Bn. He has completed six overseas missions; two tours to Lebanon, two tours to Kosovo, one tour to Eritrea and one tour to Mali. His hobbies include hillwalking, football and reading. Philip was posted to the Ordnance Group, DFTC, Curragh on Commissioning.

Pictured at the Commissioning Ceremony are (Left to Right) Lt Col Daragh O'Brien, School Commandant, The Cadet School; Brig Gen Seamus O'Giolláin (Retd) President ARCO; Capt Philip Cole; Mr Simon Coveney, T.D. Minister for Defence; Lt Gen Seán Clancy, Defence Forces Chief of Staff.



## New CEO of ONE

On the 1st of February 2022, ARCO member Lt Col Cormac Kirwan (Retd) took over as the Chief Executive Officer of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE).

Prior to taking up this role, Cormac was the Operations Manager for Kildare GAA since October 2016. This role involved working alongside Kildare GAA's Management Committee to continue the development of Kildare GAA across several key areas including club, games, capital, and financial development projects.

Prior to commencing employment in Kildare GAA, Cormac served for 28 years in the Defence Forces (Cavalry Corps) and served in a variety of appointments both at home and abroad throughout his service. He completed five tours of duty overseas including Lebanon, Kosovo, European Union Training Mission (EUTM) Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Cormac graduated from the University of Limerick in 1993 with a BA in Physical Education, completed a Diploma in Training and Management in 2006 from the National University of Ireland Maynooth (NUIM) and completed a MA in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies in 2010 from NUIM.

ARCO would like to wish Cormac the very best in his new employment and also to wish the previous CEO, Oillie O'Connor (CEO since 2006), the very best in his retirement and to thank him for his leadership and dedicated work in support of all military veterans and for his cooperation with ARCO over the past 16 years.



## Fr Paschal Hanrahan appointed as Head Chaplain to the Defence Forces.

ARCO congratulates Fr Paschal Hanrahan who has been appointed Head Chaplain to the Defence Forces.

Fr Paschal is a native of Ennis, Co Clare and a priest of the Diocese of Killaloe. He was educated at St Flannan's College, Ennis and St Patrick's College Maynooth. In his youth he was a member of 22 Infantry Bn, RDF/FCA. After serving a curacy in the town of Kilrush in County Clare, he pursued his interest in all things military and was commissioned into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in December 2005.

After serving with various units and deploying overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan he was selected for the Intermediate Staff and Command Course at the UK Defence Academy. This was followed by a number of Staff Roles at Army HQ and by Brigade appointments across the UK. In July 2020 he was selected for promotion to Assistant Chaplain General and appointed Principle Roman Catholic Chaplain in the British Army.

In September 2021 he applied for the post of Head Chaplain with the Defence Forces, in succession to Fr Seamus Madigan, and he assumed this role on 01 March 2022.







## Deceased Officers

### *Ar dheis De go raibh A n-Anamacha*

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

Brig Gen Jack Kissane	05 Jan '22
Cmdr Patrick Adrian (Pat) O'Mahony	07 Jan '22
(Padraig Ó Mathúna)	
Comdt John T.A. (Terry) McNulty	12 Jan '22
Lt Col Pearse McCorley	13 Feb '22
Capt Noel Shannon	14 Feb '22
Capt Declan Whelan	27 Feb '22
Capt John Clarke	24 Mar '22
Lt Kenneth (Ken) Hanley	25 Mar '22
Lt Col George Staunton	05 Apr '22
Capt Brendan Lynch	23 Apr '22
Comdt Brian Kavanagh	30 Apr '22
Comdt Thomas (Tony) White	10 May '22
Lt Col Gordon Birch	21 May '22
Comdt Eddie Fitzgerald	21 May '22
Lt Eamonn (Eddie) Cassidy	24 May '22
Capt John (Johnny) Martin	17 June '22
Lt Col Michael Nolan	26 June '22
Lt Col Sean Hennessy	28 June '22
Comdt Kevin Geraghty	23 July '22
Comdt Patrick (Pat) Donnelly.	12 Aug '22

## Defence Forces Veterans Day 2022



ARCO participated in the Veterans' Day ceremonies in McKee Barracks on Sunday, 19 June 2022.

Veterans' Day celebrates and commemorates the service of all former members of Óglaigh na hÉireann who have selflessly and loyally served the State. It also recognises the sacrifices of the families and dependents of service personnel due to the exigencies of the service including frequent and extended absences from home. The attendance therefore, of the broader Defence Community in Sunday's ceremonies is significant and appropriate.

Veterans' Day formally brings together the recognised Veteran Associations of ARCO, ONE and IUNVA, recognising the support they provide to veterans, protecting their interests, and advocacy on behalf of the Defence Forces generally on issues of importance. The day also provides a welcome opportunity for all veterans to reconnect and renew old friendships and comradeship and the attendance of Unit, Corps associations and clubs, with whom all veterans can identify, enhances the day.

*Pictured above. Right: Brig Gen Séamus O'Giolláin (Retd), President ARCO, laid a wreath to honour departed servicemen and women.*

## ARCO AGM 2022

The 2022 AGM will be held on Friday 07 October 2022 at 11.30hrs. in McKee Bks., Dublin. Any motions should be sent to Hon Sec at [brendanamcandrew@gmail.com](mailto:brendanamcandrew@gmail.com) by 01 Sept 2022.

## Welcome to ARCO's New Members

Lt Cdr Jason Long	Capt (NS) James Robinson
Col Gerald (Gerry) Kerr	Brig Gen Patrick Flynn
Capt Michael McGinley	Brig Gen David Dignam
Comdt Jason Culloty	Comdt Tom Walsh
Comdt Rory Finnegan	

## 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](mailto: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