



Cumann na nIar - Oifigeach Coimisiúnta

newsletter

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

Issue No: 45 Autumn/Winter 2023

ARCO Web Site: www.iarco.info

2023 Annual General Meeting

The **ARCO AGM** which was held in Cathal Brugha Bks. on 06 October 2023, was well attended by members. The following report was presented by the President of ARCO, Brig Gen Séamus Ó'Giolláin (Retd), to the members on the day.

Introduction

The President framed his report around ARCO's Internal and External objectives as set out in its Rules. These objectives continue to form the basis of ARCO's effective governance, transparency, accountability, and relevance.

Firstly, he addressed, as appropriate, the Internal framework of activities such as Governance, Pensions and related issues, Accreditation, and Communications.

Secondly, he addressed ARCO's External Framework, addressing the interfaces with the Defence Community and other external actors; Veterans' Associations, The Alliance of Retired Public Servants (ARPS), Networking, and Transition to Civilian Life and Career Programmes.

Internal Framework

Governance

The period of the pandemic saw a 65% changeover of personnel on the EXCOM during the period of the Covid pandemic. This year sees a continued changeover of personnel with the welcome introduction of two new members being proposed for membership of the EXCOM. Three of the long-standing EXCOM members are standing down after many years of sterling service to you, the members, and there are several role changes proposed for existing members.

However, there are several shortfalls emerging. Two are pressing shortfalls.

We have advertised among our membership for a volunteer to come forward to take over the running of our Social Media platforms and the President's tenure of office comes to an end at next year's AGM and a replacement needs to emerge and engage soon. Encouraging members to come forward and contribute at the level of the EXCOM is not easy, as many other clubs and societies also experience.

Looking to the future ARCO needs to encourage more generational transition within its membership and at the level of the EXCOM. The profile of retired officers is changing as are their interests and concerns. ARCO must remain relevant to this ever-increasing diversity.

Pensions and Pension Related Issues

Pensions, and pension related issues, remain a major focus of the EXCOM's endeavours.

ARCO's Pension Strategy continues to focus on:

- Retaining Pension Parity,
- Maintaining the value of military pensions into the future,



- Accreditation, and
- Implications of the Single Pensions Act 2012 on the DF in terms of retention and consequently on the longer-term future of ARCO in terms of relevance to future membership.

Parity. The President recalled that Government approval to extend the Public Service Pay Agreement Building Momentum 2021, to the end of 2023 was secured in Oct 2022. ICTU on behalf of the ARPS, secured the Ministers approval, for the maintenance of pension parity for the lifetime of the Agreement. These increases amounted to an approximate 6.5% over the period of the agreement. In 2023 our members have received two tranches of increases paid together in last May's pension cheques of a 3% increase backdated to



(continued over . .)

Feb 2022 and a 2% increase from 1 March 2023. These increases applied only to pre-2013 pension schemes.

Pensions awarded under the Single Public Service Pension Scheme are increased in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases. They do not get the benefit of these pay increases but have been in receipt of an 8.2% CPI increase effective from 1 January 2023.

A further 1.5% (or €750 whichever is greater) from 1 October 2023 is due. Pensions Section has informed ARCO that this rise will be reflected in Dec 2023 pension cheques. (Revised in Nov 2023).

Substantive discussions and negotiations have commenced on a successor public sector pay agreement. From ARCO's perspective the maintenance of parity and maintaining the relative value of pensions will be critical and ARCO will support the ARPS, with whom we have a common interest, in ensuring this.

Accreditation. Beyond the reassurance on Parity for the duration of this agreement, the Alliance of Retired Public Servants (of which ARCO is a founding member), continues its slow but deliberate work, through various fora, on the evolution of the status of pensioners and de facto accreditation of public service pensioners within the industrial relations machinery of the State. This is another focus of ARCO's stated objectives. Continued affiliation and support of the Alliance is critical to our members interests.

Communications

Social Media. ARCO's Website, with the associated text-a-service, and Social Media Platforms (Facebook, 'X' [formally Twitter] and Linked-in) provide cost effective and efficient communications support for our membership, providing a marketing tool for the Association, and, in parallel, convey appropriate and relevant information to ARCO's Target Audiences. These platforms all show a



Pictured (L to R). Mark Keane President PDFORRA, Derek Priestley Asst Gen Sec RACO, COS, President ARCO, Michael Kinahan National President ONE, Mrs. Jacqui McCrum Sec Gen DOD, Brig Gen Rossa Mulcahy ACOS and Col George Kerton IUNVA

steady growth in activity and interest (a collective increase of 800 followers this year alone) and include some followers of significance in the Military, Political, Civil Service and Academic arenas.

They are an effective means by which to promote ARCO as an Association of relevance and value to Defence and Security thinking and thus as an advocate of substance.

Members with LinkedIn, 'X' (formally Twitter) or Facebook accounts are encouraged to access ARCO's Platforms via our website to view our postings on each of the three platforms. Thereafter, members should "Like" as appropriate, "repost" (LinkedIn) and "retweet" ('X') ARCO's postings on these platforms. Visible activity on these platforms attracts additional interest and thus contributes to the enhancement of ARCO's profile, particularly with the younger cohort of serving and retired officers.

ARCO has published its usual informative and professionally produced newsletters 43 and 44 since our last AGM. Our latest issue setting out our considered observations and actions taken in our response to the publication of the IRG DF Report, has received considerable favourable comment from our members and others.

We are continually conscious of the importance of timely and accurate

internal communication as this is how most of our members retain contact with the Association. Whether via the Website, Text Service, social media, Emails from local Reps, Newsletter or circulating documents it is our intention to keep members informed of issues and events.

External Framework

ARCO will continue to actively participate in these areas of primary importance.

Alliance of Retired Public Servants. Uniquely ARCO is the only Association within the Alliance with direct access to a member of the Government.

Interfaces with the Defence Community

Engagement with the Minister includes formal meetings on an annual basis. Since our last AGM we have met with the Minister on two occasions. On 30 November, we met with Mr Simon Coveney TD in person just prior to his taking up office as Minister for Agriculture as part of the annual cycle of meetings. We have since met with Mr Micheál Martin TD Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence as part of a consultative process with all stakeholders on the Terms of Reference into the forthcoming Tribunal of Inquiry consequent on the Report of the IRG DF. An earlier meeting was scheduled with the

Veteran Associations on the same matter, but the Minister was unable to attend at the last minute. This meeting was chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Defence. The President acknowledged the assistance given to the EXCOM delegation preparing for attendance at these meetings by ARCO members. ARCO is satisfied that our inputs, both written and oral, received a fair hearing, but to the extent that these will be taken on board, when issued, remains to be seen. ARCO is mainly concerned with issues such as legal representation of choice and the costs thereof being covered by the State as well as full access to documentation on the matters our members may be required to address at the Tribunal.

ARCO also sought a meeting with the Minister to set out our members serious misgivings about many of the Findings and Conclusions contained in the IRG DF Report. Our concerns also included the imbalance in the composition and function of the External Oversight Body with the exclusion of the COS and the inclusion of the Sec Gen DOD. This meeting did not take place and accordingly a written submission was handed to the Minister's office in June. A seven-page response was received from the Minister. The main points of ARCO's submission appeared in Issue 44 of our Newsletter. In this I wish to acknowledge the inputs from many members who contacted the EXCOM and whose statistical analyses of the IRG DF Report greatly informed our submission.

The Chief of Staff last hosted a meeting with ARCO on 14 September 2021. He has yet to meet with us formally, but he did address our members informally at last year's AGM. He will attend lunch with us today and be accompanied by the ACOS Brig Gen Rossa Mulcahy. The Sec Gen of the Department has also kindly accepted our invitation to lunch today.

In person **quarterly meetings** with the Department of Defence and DFHQ and the Veterans' Associations

continue. The atmosphere is positive and business-like though little of substance is achieved. While it has been clear in this forum, that the Department has no appetite for the establishment of an Office of Veteran Affairs and as no progress has been apparent in the meantime, it will be instructive to monitor the delivery of the Government's decision on this. ARCO also made a detailed submission to the Consultative Forum on International Security Policy (CFISP). This was as part of our Advocacy objectives of engaging with the broader defence and security domain on matter of national importance. The President acknowledged the work of one of our members who led this project and provided the detailed submission on our behalf.

ARCO was represented at All State ceremonial events during the year as well as remembrance and other events organised by ONE and IUNVA. ARCO awards were presented to the leading newly Commissioned Officers of the Army and Naval Service at their respective Commissioning Ceremonies during 2023.

Finally, ARCO has a fruitful relationship with RACO advancing issues such as Pensions, Military Transition Programmes and ARCO's Membership Campaign. Given the evolving relationship between ICTU and the ARPS, ARCO will seek to build on this with RACO. ARCO maintains a mutually supporting interface with the IDFOC.

Veterans' Associations

ARCO remains actively engaged with ONE and IUNVA, in advancing the interests of Defence Forces Veterans. ARCO's submissions and lobbying frequently champion the interests of veterans of all ranks. Our three Associations have engaged in informal coordination in preparations for meetings with the Minister and Department of Defence on matters of common interest and concern agreeing on leads and support on such issues.

Networking

During 2023 ARCO continued with its Networking strategy providing communications and opportunities, for both our members and the wider Defence Community.

On Wednesday, 26th July 2023, ARCO hosted a Panel Discussion on Military Career Transition to the Civil Service in the UCD University Club – See Page 7. This successful event, in our networking and outreach programmes, attracted a large and diverse audience of both retired and serving Defence Forces personnel, as well as UCD alumni and staff.

The Panel Discussion was organised and moderated by Captain Phillip Quinlan (Retd), a member of ARCO's Executive Committee. The President commended his proactive engagement in furthering this ARCO objective.

ARCO participates on the **Transition to Civilian Life (Pre-Retirement) Courses** for officers approaching or contemplating early retirement. Sadly, a return on our membership is not accruing from this forum as we would like and indeed need. Nevertheless, 2023 has seen a moderate increase in membership from Officers retiring early, hopefully this trend will continue. (Subsequent note; Nov 2023 saw a significant increase in membership)

Conclusions

In conclusion, I would like to sincerely compliment ARCO's Officers, Regional Representatives, for their steadfast support in advancing the Association's ethos, values, and objectives during 2022/23.

Likewise, we commend the work of Brig Gen Liam McNamee, Lt Col Sean Scanlon, and Lt Col Joe Ahern in advancing ARCO's interests within the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund, CAOGA and the Alliance of Retired Public Servants.

Helicopters for the Air Corps

Lt Col Richard Cummins (Retd), Air Corps

2023 marks the 60th Anniversary of the arrival of the first helicopters in the Air Corps. The decision to purchase helicopters was announced by the Government on the 22 January 1963 as a reaction to severe criticism in the press and from opposition politicians. This criticism came about because of the government's impotence aiding its citizens during severe weather conditions that crippled the country for weeks at the end of 1962 and the beginning of 1963. Roads became impassable due to severe frost, ice and heavy snowfalls that left many rural areas completely cut off for extended periods resulting in severe hardship for many people.

The question of the country acquiring helicopters in a search and rescue role was a topic that had exercised two inter-departmental committees, the first in 1958 and the second in 1962. Both committees had representatives from several departments, including Defence. The 1958 committee was tasked with examining *"the position in regard to arrangements for rescue on the occurrence of sea and air disasters and to make recommendations"*. There were two military representatives on the committee, Capt McKenna, OC Naval Service and Comdt Johnston, Air Corps. Prior to the first meeting of the committee both officers were briefed by the Director of Plans & Operations that the Dept of Defence was not in a position to undertake the operation of a rescue service co-ordination centre and the Defence Forces were not interested in the purchase of helicopters. The committee considered the use of helicopters and concluded that *"the use of helicopters for search and rescue work, particularly in the case of marine casualties which so often occur in bad weather and adverse visibility is subject to very definite limitations imposed by the operating characteristics of these machines and the circumstances in which they would be useful for saving life have been and is likely to be rare in Irish conditions. The cost of an effective helicopter service for search and rescue purposes around the Irish coast would not be warranted."* The one significant recommendation that came out of this report was that a 24-hour rescue co-ordination centre be set up.

The second committee was set up on the 11th December 1961 *"to reconsider, in light of the shipping casualties which occurred off the Wexford coast in October 1961 and off the Mayo coast in December 1961, the advisability of providing a helicopter sea and air rescue service"*. In both these tragedies there had been loss of life and helicopters from the UK had to be called on to lift sailors from the wrecks. Nevertheless, despite the effectiveness of helicopters in these events, the board concluded that *"helicopters would normally represent only a marginal improvement on the rescue service provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and Coast Life Saving stations, but in certain relatively rare circumstance they would be superior to these services and possibly essential to saving life. We consider*



On 26 Nov 1963, Alouettes 195 and 196 arrived in Baldonnell, flown by Comdt McMahon (Above) and Lt J.P. Kelly.

that the heavy cost of a helicopter service solely for search and rescue purposes would not be warranted". This report was submitted on the 30th November 1962. There were three military representatives on this board, Capt McKenna, OC Naval Service, Lt Col Bunworth, Plans & Operations and Lt Col Teague, Chief Technical Officer, Air Corps. These officers all submitted minority reports disagreeing with the main report. Capt McKenna did so based on the experience of the Naval Service over the previous two years when it had been tasked with running the Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

During this period Capt McKenna stated that there were several occasions when helicopters had to be requested from the UK to deal with maritime emergencies that were outside the capabilities of Irish resources. Lt Col Bunworth supported Capt McKenna's position. Lt Col Teague felt that the acquisition of helicopters for military use would also allow them to be used in an air/sea rescue role and that this would represent a useful solution.

The Minister for Transport and Power, Mr Childers, submitted this report to Government on the 9th of January 1963, right in the middle of the weather crisis. On the 16th of January 1963, the Secretary to the Government wrote to the Secretary, Dept of Transport and Power stating that the Government at their meeting had decided

- (a) that the Minister for Defence should undertake the establishment of a helicopter service for sea and air rescue work and for other emergencies, the unit to comprise the minimum number of helicopters and to be based at Baldonnell Aerodrome, Co Dublin.
- (b) that the helicopters should be made available for uses other than those mentioned above and



Pictured above are the first 3 Alouette III helicopters that served in the Air Corps. The numbers were 195, 196 and 197.
Photo: by kind permission of the Air Corps.

(c) that the Minister for Defence should submit draft regulations to govern the use of the helicopters for non-military purposes."

On the 30th January 1963 OC Air Corps wrote to the Assistant Chief of Staff (ACS) stating that to implement the government decision a flight of three helicopters would be required. He also stated that the Air Corps had commenced research into the various helicopters available that could fulfil the role and, about getting personnel trained abroad. He also advised the ACS that he had formed a board consisting of himself, Col Keane, the Executive Officer, Lt Col Swan and the Chief Technical Officer, Lt Col Teague and their first intention was to visit the UK Air Ministry to get information on helicopter operations and training. Sufficient information on helicopters and prices had been acquired by early February 1963 to allow the Secretary, Dept of Defence to write to the Secretary, Dept of Finance requesting the provision of £320,000 in the estimates for the purchase of three helicopters. A sum of £273,000 was included.

Following representations from various helicopter companies and visits to Westland Helicopters in the UK and Sud Aviation in France the number of helicopter types being considered was reduced to three, Westland's Whirlwind 1 and Whirlwind 3 and Sud Aviation's Alouette III. Following an evaluation of these three types, the Whirlwind 1 was ruled out because it was powered by two internal combustion engines making it more prone to breakdown and complex to maintain. The Alouette III won out over the Whirlwind 3 because it was considered to be the simplest and safest to fly and to service. It also matched the Whirlwind 3 in terms of range and speed and had one jet turbine engine as against two on Whirlwind 3. It was also cheaper. On the 14th March 1963 OC Air Corps wrote to the ACS recommending the purchase of the Alouette III helicopter. The contract with Sud Aviation was signed on the 28th May 1963. The decision to buy a French helicopter represented a milestone in the history of the Air Corps to that date, as it was the first time that it bought a non-British aircraft.

On the 28th May 1963 Capt J. Moore and RSM R. Gallagher departed for France to attend a technical course on the Alouette III and the Artouste IIIB jet engine. OC Air Corps nominated Comdt B.L. McMahon and Lts F.P. O'Connor, J.P. Kelly and C.F. Carey to be trained as helicopter pilots. In July, Air Corps personnel visited RAF St Mawgan to determine how a Search and Rescue (SAR) unit should be organised, to examine standard operating procedures and training procedures, and to see what ancillary equipment was required. The four pilots commenced their helicopter training at Baldonnel with a French company, Union, using an Alouette II. Seven NCOs were also attending a technical course in Baldonnel in July, prior to four of them going to France in August. Pilot training was completed on the 19th September 1963 and at the end of October Lt O'Connor and Cpl Fahy went to the RAF for a four-week winching course.

The first two Alouette III helicopters arrived in Baldonnel on the 26th November 1963 flown by Comdt McMahon and Lt Kelly accompanied by French pilots. The third helicopter arrived in April 1964.

On the 30th December 1963 OC Air Corps issued Order No 1 concerning the establishment of and the operational duties of Helicopter Flight. The unit was to have an establishment of six officers and nineteen enlisted personnel. The duties of the flight were (a) Air/Sea Rescue, (b) Aid to Local Authorities in the event of civil distress or natural disaster, (c) Emergency Rescue, (d) Commercial uses, (e) Duties arising from military and non-military requirements.

So, in the space of less than a year the Irish authorities had gone from a position of being unable to justify the cost of helicopters for sea/air rescue to one where they now had three machines specifically for that purpose, not because of any overriding concern for lives at sea but because the Government were embarrassed into it following their abject failure to be able to offer their citizens any support in a weather emergency.

52nd Cadet Class: 1975/1977



45th Anniversary of Commissioning.

The 52nd Cadet Class held the 45th Anniversary of Commissioning recently in the Ardilaun Hotel, Galway.

Rear Row (L to R). Connie Whelan, Brian Daly, Ciaran Healy, Dermot Scully, Noel Giles, Fionan O'Higgins, Ray Murphy, Roy Kilfeather, Harvey O'Keeffe, Liam Kenneally, Eamon O'Boyle, Seamus O'Donoghue, Gerry Davis.

Third Row (L to R). Brendan Harrison, Conor Richardson, Paddy Duggan, Aidan Donnelly, Jim Burns, Phil Cotter, Joe Kelly, Jim Fitzgibbon, Eamon O Siochru, Mick Clancy.

Second Row (L to R). Tom Ahearne, Jim A. Cahill, Barry O' Sullivan, Gerry McAnaney, Gerry O'Sullivan, Jim Murphy, Tom Shaw, Eugene Smyth, Hugh Carthy, Philip Smyth, Willie Donagh, Mark Keogh, Jim McCarthy, John Fitzmaurice, John Minihan, Billy Enright, Con Murphy.

Front row (L to R). Brendan O'Dea, Ciaran Ennis, Kevin Cleary, Kieran Dalton, Eamon Siggins, Peter Marron, Jim G Cahill, Kieran Brennan, Eamon Caulfield, Brian Monahan, Liam O'Carroll, Brendan McNally, Greg Kelly, Gerry Hannon, Eamon O' Hara..

ARCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023/2024

APPOINTMENT

President
Vice-President
Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer
Hon Membership Secretary
Immediate Past President

APPOINTEE

Brig Gen Séamus Ó Giolláin
Capt David Barry (NS)
Col Brendan McAndrew
Col Brian Monahan
Col Des Bergin
Brig Gen Paul Pakenham

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Eastern Region | Capt Philip Quinlan |
| Eastern Region | Comdt Ciaran Motherway |
| 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 | Comdt Eoin McDaid |
| NS Region | Cmdr Gerard O' Flynn (NS) |
| NS Region | Capt David Barry (NS) |
| AC Region | Lt Col John Kirke |
| AC Region | Comdt Paul Deevy |

CO-OPTIONS

ARCO Website
Newsletter
Representative on CAOGA Board
Representative on DFBF Board
Representative on Council of the Alliance of Retired Public Servants
Social Media Manager
IT Support

Comdt William Campbell
Col Declan Carbery
Lt Col Sean Scanlon
Brig Gen Paul Pakenham

To be appointed
Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Temporary)
Comdt Ciaran Motherway

AUDITOR and TRUSTEES

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Auditor | Comdt Pat Casey |
| Trustee | Col Billy Nott |
| Trustee | Capt Ray Murphy |
| Trustee | Lt Col Pat Godfrey |

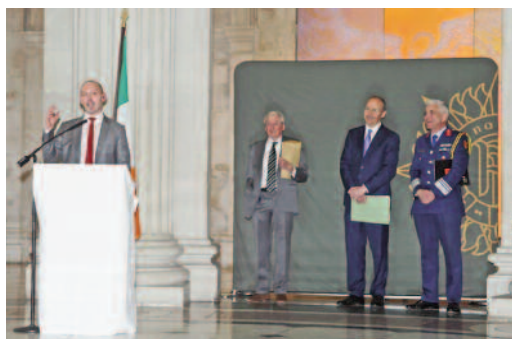
Upcoming Ceremonial Events 2024

| Date | Event |
|----------------------|--|
| 17 March 2024 | DF involvement in selected St Patrick's Day Parades |
| 31 March 2024 | Easter Sunday Commemoration, GPO, Dublin, at 12.00hrs |
| 01-03 May 2024 (TBC) | Ministerial Review, 124 Bn UNIFIL. Cathal Brugha Bks., Dublin |
| 08 May 2024 | 1916 Leaders Commemoration Ceremony, Arbour Hill, Dublin, at 10.00hrs |
| 19 May 2024 | National Famine Commemoration, Location: TBC |
| 22 – 26 May 2024 | 64th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Bookings: through Joe Walsh Tours |
| 14 July 2024 | National Day of Commemoration. Royal Hospital Kilmainham, at 13.30hrs |

The Irish Defence Forces, 1922 - 2022

By Eoin Kinsella

(Eoin Kinsella speaking at the launch of his book. Present also were Dr Maurice Manning, Mr Micheál Martin, An Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence and Lt Gen Sean Clancy, Chief of Staff)



Tracing its history to the foundation of the Irish Volunteers in 1913, the Irish Defence Forces has evolved beyond recognition from the force

that emerged in tandem with the new state in 1922. Plunged immediately into the chaos of a bitter civil war, the path towards a professional Defence Forces during the 1920s and 1930s was rarely smooth, with progression hampered by internal dissent, political neglect and limited financial investment. The island of Ireland possesses a geopolitical and strategic importance that belies its size, and the difficulty of creating and maintaining a force capable of defending Irish neutrality was brought home during the Emergency (1939–45). Those years saw the

greatest mobilization of manpower in the history of the state, an achievement quickly forgotten as the Defence Forces were allowed to return to the doldrums in the late 1940s.

Revitalization came following Ireland's accession to the United Nations in 1955, as the Defence Forces emerged as a core component in the UN's peacekeeping efforts and a vital – if under-appreciated – element of Ireland's international relations. At home, the Defence Forces' duty to aid the civil power became ever more important with the outbreak of the Troubles in Northern Ireland in 1969. In recent years a number of important challenges have emerged, both internally and externally, with the Defence Forces compelled to adapt to changing demands at home and abroad.

This richly illustrated book explores the landmark successes and achievements, struggles and missteps of the Defence Forces over the past century. Highlighting the men and women of the Army, Air Corps, Naval Service and Reserve, it offers the first complete overview of the development of the Defence Forces from the foundation of the Irish Free State to the present day.



Panel Discussion on Military Career Transition to the Civil Service

On Wednesday, 26th July 2023, ARCO hosted a Panel Discussion on Military Career Transition to the Civil Service at the Cedar and Cypress Rooms in the UCD University Club. This successful event, in our networking and outreach programmes, attracted a large and diverse audience of both retired and serving Defence Forces personnel, as well as UCD alumni and staff.

The event, part of our on-going work on military community engagement and career transition, provided valuable insights into the career paths of the panellists, the realities of transitioning from the Defence Forces to the Civil Service, and the ability to transition between branches within the Public Services.

The Moderator of the Panel Discussion was Captain Phillip Quinlan (Retd), who is a member of ARCO's Executive Committee. The panellists, who have successfully transitioned from the Defence Forces to the Civil Service, were Commandant Donal Gallagher (Retd) from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Captain John Boylan (Retd) from the Department of Transport, Captain Dr Gerry Waldron (Retd) from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Captain Graeme Towell (Retd) from the Department of



Defence, and Captain Danny O'Sullivan (Retd) from the Department of Housing and Local Government.

The panellists shared their career journeys and experiences, highlighting the challenges and opportunities of transitioning from the military environment to the public sector. They also offered valuable advice and guidance to those who may be considering or planning a similar career change. The discussion was lively and engaging, with many questions and comments from the audience.

The event concluded with a successful networking session, which provided the opportunity to mingle and exchange views with the panellists and other attendees. Many attendees expressed their appreciation and complemented ARCO for hosting the event. ARCO acknowledges the attendance and support provided by the panellists, moderator, attendees, and the UCD University Club, for making this event possible and successful.



**The President and
Executive Committee
of ARCO wish all of their members a**

Happy and Healthy Christmas
**and hope that your Holiday Season is full of
Peace and Joy.**



6th Infantry Battalion Association

The Association's AGM was held in Custume Bks in September, where Lt Col John Durnin (Retd) was reappointed President of the Association



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Mobile Phone Number

ARCO's Texting Service is part of our aim at improving communications with our members. Thanks to all members who responded to this notice in previous Newsletters. Your details have been updated on our database, so you should now be receiving messages through the Texting Service. Any Members of ARCO who are still NOT receiving messages through the ARCO Texting Service should ensure that their **NOT** receiving messages through the ARCO Texting Service should ensure that their **current mobile phone number** is recorded on our database. Please forward your mobile number to your Regional Representative or to declancarbery@hotmail.com

Welcome to ARCO's New Members:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Comdt Kenneth Sheehan | Cdr Martin McGrath |
| Cdr Padraig Macklin | Col Brendan Delaney |
| Col Mairead Murphy | Capt Donncha Lenihan |
| Capt Norman Scott | Capt Gerry Gallagher |

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.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Lt Lorcán O'Rourke | 26 Aug '23 |
| Col Patrick (Paddy) Ghent | 03 Sept '23 |
| Lt Cdr Aidan Kehoe | 14 Sept '23 |
| Col Seán Hurley | 16 Sept '23 |
| Lt Col Raymond (Ray) Roche | 18 Sept '23 |
| Capt Daniel (Danny) Jevens | 09 Oct '23 |
| Lt Col Kevin Roberts | 12 Oct '23 |
| Brig Gen Dan Rea | 17 Oct '23 |
| Capt Ronald (Ronnie) Bermingham. | 21 Oct '23 |
| Lt Col Nicholas (Nicky) Hegarty | 08 Nov '23 |
| Capt Michael Maguire | 02 Dec '23 |
| Lt Col Michael Bohan | 05 Dec '23 |
| Comdt Paddy Gore | 11 Dec '23 |

Defence Forces Veterans Day 2023

ARCO participated in the Veterans' Day ceremonies in McKee Barracks. 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.



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 (now known as X), via @ARCOIreland