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*Hello, my name is Comdt Amy Colclough. I am a member of the 7th Joint Command and Staff Course, and I am conducting my thesis research on **"Has the closure of Defence Forces barracks and the reduction of the Reserve Defence Forces impacted the Defence Force's ability to recruit?"***

In 1998, the strength of the Defence Forces was 11,653 Permanent and 14,767 Reserve Defence Forces. Since 1998, 14 barracks have closed, and the Reserve Defence Forces has gone from having hundreds of training locations to 28 locations. On 30 September 2024, the strength of the PDF was 7,477. The strength of the RDF in 2024 was 1,420.

The aim of the research to be generated from this questionnaire is to investigate the impact of Defence Forces barracks closures and the reduction of the Reserve Defence Forces on the DF's ability to recruit personnel. The questionnaire seeks to identify what influences individuals to join the DF. To examine if there is a relationship between the geographic locations of the Defence Forces and service in the Defence Forces. Finally, what impact did barracks closures have on an individual's willingness to serve in the DF.

I hope to get both serving and retired members of the DF from all services and all geographic locations to complete the questionnaire to gather a large pool of data.

The Questionnaire consists of 28 multiple-choice questions and should take less than ten minutes to complete. All information will be anonymous. The questionnaire will close on 18 Mar 2025.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Kind regards,

Amy Colclough
Comdt