
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEFENCE FORCES


ANNUAL REPORT 2015



An Roinn Cosanta
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE



Óglaigh na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND



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Minister,

We are pleased to submit to you the Annual Report on the performance of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces for 2015.



Maurice Quinn
Secretary General

Maurice Quinn



Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM
Chief of Staff

Mark Mellett



Foreword by An Taoiseach and Minister for Defence

I am very pleased to receive the 2015 Annual Report of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces which provides extensive details of the wide range of work undertaken and outputs delivered throughout 2015. The Report outlines the very significant achievements and developments that occurred during the year. It is also clear that on a day to day basis, the Defence Organisation continued to deliver a very broad range of services both at home and overseas, including providing for the defence of the State, provision of domestic security supports, contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, and the delivery of a wide range of “non-security” supports to Government Departments and Agencies.

I wish to take this opportunity to convey my thanks to the Secretary General, the Chief of Staff and to their civil and military personnel for all of the very significant work carried out during 2015.



Enda Kenny T.D.
An Taoiseach and Minister for

Enda Kenny



Foreword by Minister with Responsibility for Defence

I welcome the publication of the Annual Report of my Department and the Defence Forces for 2015.

It is clear that 2015 was a very significant year for the Defence Organisation with publication of the new White Paper on Defence, following Government approval. The White Paper sets out the defence policy framework for the next decade, and its publication was a key priority for the Government in 2015. I congratulate all of those who were involved in its production and also I thank those who contributed to the discourse that led to its finalisation. In this regard, on 15th May 2015 a Symposium was held at Farmleigh House, which provided a wide stakeholder group with an opportunity to discuss differing policy emphases as part of the concluding phase of preparation of the new White Paper. Based on a forward looking assessment of the security environment, the White Paper sets out the defence policy response to security challenges, including the defence contribution to international peace and security. To ensure a flexible and adaptive response, the White Paper also provides for regular reviews of defence requirements and this will enable the Defence Organisation to be adaptive to changing circumstances.

The Irish Nation is very proud of the Defence Forces and the work that they do. In December 2015, the Naval Service, on behalf of Óglaigh na hÉireann, were deserving winners of a People of the Year Award in recognition of the tremendous work carried out in the Mediterranean under the banner of Operation Pontus. I would like to commend the outstanding humanitarian role played by the crews of LÉ Eithne, LÉ Niamh and LÉ Samuel Beckett in saving the lives of so many migrants who were fleeing from truly desperate circumstances. The success of Operation Pontus, involving the rescue of 8,592 migrants, demonstrated clearly the value of Ireland's participation in this extremely important humanitarian mission.

Ireland celebrated 60 years as a United Nations member in 2015 and this was marked at a special UN60 Exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland in November 2015. Since the first deployment of Irish peacekeepers to



Lebanon in 1958, the men and women of the Defence Forces have participated with honour and distinction. Their dedication and service continues to contribute in no small measure to the excellent reputation that Ireland holds as a member of the international community and as a major contributor to international peace and security across the globe.

At home, both the Defence Forces and Civil Defence were to the forefront in assisting local authorities during the severe flooding events that occurred in various parts of the country at the end of 2015 and in early 2016. I would like to compliment both the members of the Defence Forces and the volunteers from Civil Defence for their tremendous efforts in preventing further damage to homes and businesses in severely affected areas.

Finally, I also wish to thank the Secretary General, the Chief of Staff and all of the Organisation's personnel, both at home and overseas, for the work undertaken in 2015 and for their continued efforts.

Paul Kehoe T.D.
Minister with Responsibility for Defence

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Kehoe', written in a cursive style.



Contents

INTRODUCTION	11
SECTION 1: DEFENCE POLICY	13
SECTION 2: ENSURING THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER	23
SECTION 3: DEFENCE FORCES OPERATIONAL OUTPUTS	43
APPENDIX 1: FINANCIAL INFORMATION	53
APPENDIX 2: CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUPS WITH INPUT FROM DEFENCE	54
APPENDIX 3: MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (SLAS)	56
APPENDIX 4: OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2015	57

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report reviews the performance of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces during 2015. Performance is reviewed against the programme headings and objectives set out in the Department of Defence and Defence Forces Strategy Statement 2015 – 2017.

The Strategy Statement for the period 2015-2017 establishes the High Level Goal of the Defence Organisation¹ as:

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.

There are three distinct but complementary strategic dimensions required to deliver the High Level Goal. These are:

1. Defence Policy
2. Ensuring the Capacity to Deliver
3. Defence Forces Operational Outputs

These headings form the basis of individual sections in this report.

This report fulfils the requirements of Section 4(1) (b) of the Public Service (Management) Act, 1997 for an annual report to the Minister on performance against strategic objectives.



¹ The terminology used in this Annual Report is as follows; the term 'Defence' is used to refer in a broad sense to defence provision in Ireland comprising civil and military elements; the "Defence Organisation" refers to the civil and military organisation; the "Defence Forces" refers to the military organisation.

SECTION 1: DEFENCE POLICY

SECTION 1: DEFENCE POLICY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Defence policy encompasses all areas of Defence provision and underpins the requirement to ensure that the State retains and develops appropriate defence capabilities having regard to the defence and security environment. In addition, the Department of Defence provides a broad range of supports to the Minister to assist him in his role as head of the Department.



The Defence Organisation has civil and military elements, which work collaboratively to ensure that the Minister's and Government's requirements for Defence are delivered. The Secretary General is the Minister's principal policy adviser, while the Chief of Staff is the Minister's principal military adviser.

In respect of domestic security and support, the defence policy framework encompasses, among other things, the work of the Office of Emergency Planning and the development of Memorandums of Understanding and Service Level Agreements with other Government Departments and State Agencies, across a diverse range of roles.

The defence policy framework also encompasses, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, defence inputs to the maintenance of global and regional peace and security, including the ongoing development of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, Ireland's support for multilateralism and collective security through participation in UN mandated peace support and crisis management operations, our engagement in NATO's Partnership for Peace and support to the OSCE.

Strategic defence issues were discussed throughout 2015 by the **Strategic Management Committee** (SMC). The SMC is a joint civil-military committee

comprising the Secretary General of the Department of Defence (Chairman), the Chief of Staff, the two Assistant Secretary Generals, the Director, the two Deputy Chiefs of Staff and the Assistant Chief of Staff. The General Officer Commanding the Air Corps and the Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service attend in respect of matters affecting their services. Close co-operation on all matters between civil and military elements are a priority. The SMC meets on a monthly basis. The Minister occasionally attends meetings of the SMC.

The **High Level Planning and Procurement Group** (HLPPG) is chaired on rotation by the Assistant Secretary General (in charge of Finance and Contracts Branches) and the Deputy Chief of Staff (Support). The HLPPG is a joint civil/military group whose role is to develop and implement multi-annual rolling plans for equipment procurement and disposal, and infrastructural development (including property acquisition) based on the policy priorities in the White Paper.

The **National Security Committee** continued to meet and receive briefings throughout 2015. It is primarily concerned with monitoring high level security issues and ensuring that the Taoiseach and Government are advised of these and the responses to them. The Committee is chaired by the Secretary General to the Government, and comprises the Secretary General of the Department of Justice and Equality, the Garda Commissioner, the Secretary General of the Department of Defence, the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, and the Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In 2015, the Committee received threat assessments from the Garda Commissioner and the Chief of Staff and reviewed the overall security situation in the domestic and international environment.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

During 2015, the Director of Military Intelligence continued to provide timely and comprehensive defence and security assessments to the Minister for Defence in respect of State security and the safety and security of the Defence Force personnel deployed overseas on peace support operations. Monthly intelligence summaries were provided to the Minister and threat assessments and briefings were provided as required. The Defence Forces intelligence effort is closely harmonised with that of An Garda Síochána.

Military Intelligence monitored and conducted analysis of the security environments in which Defence Forces peace support operations were conducted, with a particular focus on force protection. In doing so, Military Intelligence provided levels of situational awareness, as well as early warning and threat assessments to units and troops serving overseas in order to support the successful conduct of operations. Due to the changing security environment in 2015, there was an increased requirement to ensure situational awareness and this is reflected in an increased level of outputs. During 2015, Military Intelligence provided 107 briefings and assessments, including monthly intelligence and security briefings, pre-deployment and post-deployment briefings for personnel on Peace Support Operations, and Ministerial briefings. Military Intelligence also provided numerous internal awareness and security briefings for military career courses and staffs of the Defence Forces.

WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE

The new White Paper on Defence was published in August 2015 and provides the defence policy framework for the next decade. Given the dynamic nature of the security environment, this policy framework is flexible and responsive, and enables the Defence Organisation to adapt to changing circumstances. As well as providing for the Defence of the State from armed aggression, the roles assigned to the Defence Forces also include continued provision of supports to An Garda Síochána, to major emergencies and civil contingencies and the defence contribution to international peace and security. Provision of non-security supports maximise the utility of defence assets and improve the overall value for money achieved from defence expenditure.

The White Paper also sets out the following key capability decisions:

- To maintain the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) establishment at least at 9,500 personnel.
- To retain the existing two Brigade Army structure and Air Corps and Naval Service structures.
- To review high level Command and Control arrangements.
- Measures will be taken to enhance the capabilities of the Army Ranger Wing, in particular with the aim of increasing the

strength of the Unit considerably.

On the equipment front, the immediate requirement is to ensure that the Defence Forces can continue to undertake the tasks that are required of them. This will require replacement of significant equipment platforms over the life-time of the White Paper, including:

- Upgrade or replacement of the Army's fleet of armoured personnel carriers (APCs),
- Replacement of a further three Naval Service Vessels – LÉ Eithne, LÉ Ciara and LÉ Orla, and
- Replacement of the Air Corps' Cessna fleet and CASA maritime patrol aircraft.

Other equipment priorities identified, in the event of additional funding becoming available (beyond that required to replace existing capabilities), are radar surveillance capability for the Air Corps, further ships for the Naval Service and additional armoured vehicles and air defence capabilities for the Army.

Human Resources are a key component of capability and the White Paper sets out an ambitious programme in order to ensure that the Defence Organisation can continue to meet the challenges of a changing world. It includes a section dealing with Veterans and the support that the Veterans Organisations will receive from the Department and the Defence Forces. It also includes a section on Gender and provides that further initiatives will be developed to encourage more women to apply to join the Defence Forces and to increase female participation at all ranks. Specific provision is also made for the development of a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. This seeks to build on existing policies in relation to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and equality, and to underpin a supportive and challenging workplace environment where individuality and diversity is respected by all.

The White Paper provides that the primary role of the Reserve Defence Force (RDF) is to augment the PDF in crisis situations, whilst it has also been assigned a formal role in contributing to state ceremonial events. The White Paper also provides for the establishment of a Specialist Reserve comprising a panel of professionally qualified members of the RDF who can undertake specialised tasks by virtue of their qualifications or professional skills that, on

occasion, may not be readily available within the PDF.

The White Paper also provides that Civil Defence will be developed around its central strategic objective of supporting the Principal Response Agencies in a variety of emergency and non-emergency situations. This embraces the large number of support roles under the Framework for Major Emergency Management including assistance in dealing with a wide range of emergencies at national and local level, including severe weather, flooding and searches for missing persons.

WHITE PAPER NEW INITIATIVES

The White Paper introduces a wide range of new initiatives for the defence sector including:

- A new process of fixed cycle defence reviews is to be established, at three and six yearly intervals. These will ensure that there is foresight, flexibility, poise and overall preparedness in terms of defence planning and provision.
- A specific defence funding study will be established to capture in a new way the expected long-term costs of meeting Ireland's defence requirements using a ten year planning horizon linked to the proposed new framework of fixed cycle reviews.
- The Department, in conjunction with other Government Departments and Agencies, will explore the contribution of gender focused measures, particularly in relation to the deployment of female personnel. This is an area that the Secretary General of the United Nations recently called upon Ireland to further support.
- The potential development of a new Institute for Peace Support and Leadership Training. It is foreseen that the new Institute would have international standing and contribute to the overall development of knowledge and experience in the areas of peace support and conflict resolution.
- Engagement by the Defence Organisation in innovation, research and product development will be further developed over the lifetime of the White Paper, through the Defence Enterprise Initiative.
- A new employment support scheme, with the direct involvement of the Defence Forces, is to be developed which will be aimed at people

in the 18-24 age range who might otherwise struggle to break out of cycles of disadvantage.

Following the publication of the White Paper, a total of 88 projects were identified to be completed over the ten year period. A joint civil/military project team was established to oversee the implementation process.

CAPITAL SPENDING ALLOCATION

In September 2015, the Government announced the Capital Plan for the period 2016-2021. €437m was allocated to Defence, including an additional €65m over this timeframe. This funding will play a vital role in ensuring that the priorities identified in the White Paper can be met, and that the Defence Forces can deliver fully on the roles assigned by Government. The duration of the Plan is particularly significant in allowing for strategic medium-term planning which is so critical in the Defence environment.

STRATEGY STATEMENT 2015-2017

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Management Act 1997 and following consultation with a range of Government Departments and Agencies, a new Strategy Statement was approved by the Minister in March 2015 covering the period 2015-2017.

This Strategy Statement provides the strategic framework for the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces for the period from 2015-2017 and is available to view on the Department of Defence website (www.defence.ie).

CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES

There are important cross-departmental dimensions to the work of the Defence Organisation. Department officials and Defence Forces personnel are represented on a number of inter-departmental groups and committees which consider a range of cross-cutting issues that impact on Government. A list of the Groups where the Defence Organisation has input is included at Appendix 2 to this report.

DOMESTIC SECURITY AND SUPPORT

In contrast to many other states, the Defence Forces provide a variety of operational outputs at home, on a day to day basis, and across a wide spectrum. These include activities in support of An Garda Síochána such as providing airport security duties, prisoner escorts and explosive ordnance disposal.

It also involves the provision of a fishery protection service, the provision of an air ambulance service to the Health Service Executive and the provision of support to the civil authorities across a wide range of contingencies, including assistance to local authorities during severe weather events such as flooding. In addition, at the request of Government, the Defence Forces have responsibility for providing a permanent armed guard at Government Buildings and at Portlaoise Prison.

The Naval Service, together with An Garda Síochána and the Customs Service of the Revenue Commissioners form the Joint Task Force on Drug Interdiction with responsibility for the interdiction of illegal narcotics at sea.

Where services are provided to other Government Departments and Agencies on a regular basis, a formal arrangement such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a Service Level Agreement (SLA) is agreed between the Department of Defence and the requesting body. The existence of MOUs and SLAs between the Department and other government departments and agencies continued to facilitate planned and efficient response by the Defence Forces in emergency and other situations. These agreements are reviewed periodically and updated as required. A list of MOUs and SLAs in place during 2015 is included at Appendix 3 to this Report.

The Department of Defence had a formal agreement, now discontinued, with the Banking & Payments Federation Ireland, and its member banks, which provided that the banks pay the Department the full economic cost incurred as a result of provision by the Defence Forces of cash in transit escorts. The cost incurred in respect of each 12 month period to end-December was paid during the following year. The payment for the service provided in 2014 was received in 2015 and amounted to €4.2 million. The requirement for Defence Forces support to An Garda Síochána, in Aid to the Civil Power for routine cash in transit escorts ceased in November 2014.

Separately, each year the Department of Defence recoups the full economic cost incurred as a result of escort and security services provided to the Central Bank in the previous year. The total cost of this service in 2014 was €1.3m and this amount was received from the Central Bank in 2015. The Defence Forces continue to provide support to other specific escorts on request.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Government Task Force on Emergency Planning provides strategic direction and co-ordination of emergency planning. It is comprised of Ministers and/or senior officials from all Government Departments and key public bodies. The Government Task Force met on five occasions in 2015.

The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) supports the Minister for Defence in his role as Chairman of the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning. National emergency planning in Ireland is structured around the 'lead department' principle, which means that the Government Department that is responsible for an activity in normal conditions retains that responsibility during a major emergency/crisis, particularly one that has a national level impact. The Task Force decided in early 2014 that there was a requirement to develop a national framework for emergency management, to ensure an overarching national co-ordination, and define the roles and responsibilities of Government Departments in co-ordinating the national response to emergencies/crises at a strategic level. Throughout 2015, a sub-group of the Task Force has worked with key stakeholders to develop a new national framework, which will build on existing national arrangements, and will replace the 'Strategic Emergency Planning Guidelines' and the 'Guidelines for Co-ordinating a National-Level Emergency/Crisis Response'. An initial draft framework was prepared and circulated to the Task Force for comments during 2015 and work is now continuing towards completing a final draft, which is expected to be brought to the Task Force for approval and publication in 2016.

Throughout 2015, the OEP maintained regular contacts with other EU member states through their emergency planning structures, particularly with the United Kingdom. Officials from the OEP also attended various international seminars and training events. Information from these various contacts was shared by the OEP through the Government Task Force, particularly through the sub-groups it chairs, in relation to a wide range of areas such as planning national co-ordination of emergencies, use of social media, as well as EU and OECD emergency planning issues, particularly in relation to national risk assessments.

As part of the ongoing requirements under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the OEP has taken the lead in co-ordinating the review of Ireland's National Risk Assessment, and work on this commenced in late 2015.

As part of the annual preparations for the winter season, in November 2015 the Minister for Defence, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government jointly launched the Government's 'Be Winter Ready' 2015-2016 Information Campaign at the National Emergency Co-ordination Centre.

The main objectives of the 'Be Winter-Ready' campaign are to maintain a "Whole of Government" approach to winter preparations by:

- providing practical advice on how best to prepare for the coming winter;
- ensuring the public are aware of where advice and help can be found, if needed; and
- reassuring the public that preparations are being made and arrangements have been put in place to ensure that there will be a co-ordinated response to severe weather events.

The OEP maintained an information campaign on Twitter during the winter period to augment the 'Be Winter Ready' campaign and to support the public information campaigns during the severe weather that occurred in late 2015. The Twitter account can be followed on @emergencyIE and the public are continually encouraged to join in the conversation at #bewinterready.

The National Emergency Co-ordination Centre (NECC), which is maintained by the OEP to a high level of preparedness, was used throughout the year for the hosting of workshops, exercises and meetings associated with emergency planning and response. The NECC was used for a series of National Emergency Co-ordination Group (NECG) exercises and meetings throughout 2015.

The severe weather events that occurred in December 2015, with record high rainfall, led to severe flooding across the country. During this period, the NECG (which was chaired by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, which has the lead role for such events) managed the national level response and

provided regular media and government briefings. This response extended into 2016. Staff from the OEP attended all meetings and provided advice and inputs as required.



INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Ireland's international defence and security policy context is defined by our active political and operational role in support of the United Nations (UN), our commitments to the United Nations Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) formally known as the United Nations Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS), our participation in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP).

Ireland has accorded central importance to the UN since it became a member in 1955 and, within the UN, has supported effective international action in areas such as disarmament, peacekeeping, development and human rights.

It has also been a strong defender of the primary role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. In line with this approach, Ireland has taken seriously its obligation under the UN Charter to make available to the Security Council armed forces, assistance and facilities in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. This is reflected in Ireland's continuous involvement in peacekeeping operations, mandated or authorised by the Security Council, since 1958.

Ireland has a long-standing policy of military neutrality. However, this has never been a limiting factor in the use of defence as an appropriate tool of international policy in the UN context and in the context of European Union membership having regard to the provisions of the EU Treaties.

Over recent decades, the peacekeeping environment has been transformed and peacekeeping operations have grown in number, complexity and robustness. The UN is increasingly relying on regional organisations and arrangements (e.g. EU, NATO, African Union) to launch and manage operations on its behalf and under its authority. In tandem with this changing environment, the EU is today playing an increasing role within the international security domain through the development and evolution of the CSDP, which is elaborated under the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy.

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

CSDP is an integral part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, which encompasses the EU's international obligations to the maintenance of international peace and security. CSDP's primary function is to provide the Union with an operational capacity to undertake peacekeeping, conflict prevention and crisis management operations outside the territory of the Member States.

In addition to military tasks, there is a significant civilian and humanitarian dimension. In this regard, the EU has at its disposal a comprehensive range of economic, humanitarian, diplomatic, political and military instruments which it can use to influence the international security agenda. Ireland's participation in CSDP takes place within the framework of our commitment to the primacy of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security. Based on the provisions of the Treaty on European Union, amended by the Lisbon Treaty, Ireland has continued to participate in the ongoing development of EU military and civilian crisis management capabilities under CSDP. Throughout 2015, the Defence Organisation worked proactively in this area in association with colleagues from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Participation in CSDP imposes no obligation on a Member State to participate in any EU operation. The deployment of troops and personnel, or the commitment to contribute financially, remains the exclusive prerogative of each Member State, to be decided in accordance with its own national decision making processes. In addition, decisions by the EU as a whole in the Defence arena are made on the basis of unanimity, and no operation can be launched without the unanimous approval of all Member States.

INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

During 2015, there were four ministerial meetings – two formal meetings of the EU Foreign Affairs Council with Defence Ministers, and two informal Defence Ministers meetings. Ireland was represented at all of these meetings. There were also four meetings of Defence Policy Directors at which Ireland was again represented. The Policy Director meetings were held to prepare for the ministerial meetings and as such the agendas were similar. In addition, there were two NATO (January and May) and two EU (May and November) CHODs (Chiefs of Defence) meetings in 2015. There was also a UN CHODs meeting held for the first time, on 26th and 27th March 2015.

Ireland maintains bilateral relationships with other countries at both policy and operational levels, and the Defence Forces have regular staff to staff meetings with other militaries to exchange information and experiences. During 2015, approximately 20 bilateral meetings were held with a range of EU Member States and other organisations, such as the European External Action Service, the European Defence Agency, the UN and NATO.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UK

On the 19th January 2015, the Minister for Defence and his UK counterpart signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Defence, Ireland and the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence on the enhancement of bilateral engagement on certain aspects of security and defence co-operation.

The MOU takes into account matters such as military forces training; exercises and military education; exchanges of views on EU Common Security and Defence Policy; potential joint contributions to UN Crisis Management Operations; joint procurement initiatives; pooling and sharing of resources; general sharing of experiences in reform of defence services; potential for staff exchanges; sharing of information and joint contributions to Security Sector Reform and capacity building in crisis locations.

The MOU and the associated Action Plan will support the development of a greater mutual understanding of the policy considerations underlying our respective actions and engagement in multilateral arrangements for possible joint contributions to the UN. It provides opportunities for more joint and collaborative work in support of international peace and security. It will also enhance the potential for further joint contributions to UN peacekeeping operations.

The signing of the MOU places already existing co-operation arrangements in the Defence area between Ireland and the UK on a more formal and transparent footing, while fully respecting the differing policy positions and security arrangements of both States.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, JUNE 2015

At the European Council on 25th and 26th June 2015, conclusions were adopted on Security and Defence. In line with previous conclusions from December 2013 and those of the Foreign Affairs Council of May 2015, Heads of State and Government renewed their commitment to developing a more effective, visible and results-orientated CSDP. They highlighted the need to further develop both civilian and military capabilities and to strengthen the ability of European industry to deliver those capabilities for use in CSDP.

Heads of State and Government recalled the need for Member States to allocate a sufficient level of expenditure for defence and for the EU budget to provide appropriate funding for CSDP related research. The conclusions also flagged the need to mobilise EU instruments to counter hybrid threats and for the intensification of partnerships between the EU and regional organisations such as the UN, the OSCE, the African Union and NATO.

In light of the changing international environment, the European Council mandated the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HRVP) to prepare a new EU global strategy on foreign and security policy in close co-operation with the Member States. This strategy will replace the 2003 European Security Strategy and is to be finalised by June 2016. Council Conclusions also provided that the European Council will keep security and defence policy regularly on its agenda.

Members of the Defence Forces are currently deployed in two of the EU CSDP military operations, namely, European Union Force (EUFOR) Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and European Union Training Mission (EUTM Mali). Further information on these missions can be found in Section 3: Defence Forces Operational Outputs.

NORDIC BATTLEGROUP 2015

Participation in the EU Battlegroups demonstrates Ireland's commitment to the development of EU capabilities in the area of crisis management and contributes to our overall credibility within the Union. Ireland's active engagement in EU Battlegroups enhances our capacity to strongly influence the ongoing development and evolution of the rapid response capacity of the EU, in particular the role Battlegroups can play in reinforcing and acting as a strategic reserve for UN blue-hat operations, consistent with the expressed views of the Secretary General of the United Nations who strongly supports the development of EU Battlegroups to this end. It also supports the development of rapid deployment skills and capabilities within the Defence Forces, together with improved interoperability with like-minded States.

Participation in a Battlegroup is fully consistent with Ireland's traditional policy of military neutrality and our national position.

Ireland participated in the Nordic Battlegroup in 2015, which was on standby for the first six months of the year. The Nordic Battlegroup comprised Sweden, acting as Framework Nation, Finland, Norway, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Ireland. The Defence Forces contribution to the Battlegroup was an Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) Task Force comprising of a command and control element, ISTAR Company and Combat Service Support personnel (180 personnel in total). However, as the Battlegroup did not deploy, the number of personnel involved leading up to and during the standby period was twelve. These personnel, mainly staff officers and non-commissioned officers, were engaged in training and planning activities, serving in various appointments and posts, in both the Operational and Force Headquarters.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence policy at a national level is set down by the Department of Defence. The organisation is managed and developed at national level by the Civil Defence Branch of the Department. At local level, Civil Defence is based in each local authority area under the operational control of the relevant local authority. On a day to day basis, these units operate under the control of a Civil Defence Officer, who is an employee of the local authority.

Civil Defence training and operations are funded by a combination of a central grant from the Department of Defence and a contribution from the relevant local authority on a 70/30 basis respectively.

As well as grant aid and policy advice and support, the Department provides other supports to local Civil Defence units such as central training for local instructors in a “train the trainer” system through the Civil Defence College. The Department also supplies vehicles, uniforms and personal protective equipment for volunteers and a wide range of other equipment to local authorities. In 2015, the Department also provided significant additional funding to Civil Defence and this was used to replace some of the older vehicles.



IRISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

The Red Cross Act 1938 provides for the establishment, by Government Order, of a national Red Cross Society. Pursuant to this Act, the Society was established by the Irish Red Cross Society Order 1939, in which the Government set out the basis upon which the Society is administered. The Order, as amended, provides that the Society's General Assembly shall exercise the powers of the Society, organise the Society and control and manage its

affairs. Whilst the Irish Red Cross Society is an independent charitable body corporate, which is responsible for handling its own internal affairs, Red Cross legislation has traditionally been sponsored and brought to Government by the Minister for Defence.

In November 2015, the General Scheme of a Red Cross Bill was approved by Government and subsequently forwarded to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for drafting. This Bill provides for the independence of the Irish Red Cross Society while also, in accordance with the State's commitments under the Geneva Conventions, providing for the protection of the national Society and the emblems of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Bill, if enacted, will amend and consolidate the existing regulatory framework for the Irish Red Cross Society comprising of the Red Cross Acts 1938 to 1954 and all ancillary secondary legislation.

The Department of Defence provides an annual grant-in-aid to the Society which is a contribution towards the salary and administration costs of running the Society's headquarters. The grant in 2015 amounted to €869,000 of which €130,000 represented the Government's annual contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

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SECTION 2: ENSURING THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER

SECTION 2: ENSURING THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER

DEFENCE FORCES STRENGTH, EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

The Defence Organisation must retain and develop a broad range of capabilities in order to ensure that it can efficiently and effectively deliver the required outputs. The retention and development of the defence capabilities required to deliver operational outputs is underpinned by the capacity to discharge a broad range of management tasks including; planning, financial management, human resource and industrial relations management, audit, management of legal matters, procurement, ICT and estate management. There is a concerted effort across the Defence Organisation, both civil and military, to ensure that the State retains appropriate defence capabilities to effectively discharge the roles assigned by Government. In this context, this section of the report describes associated developments during the course of 2015.

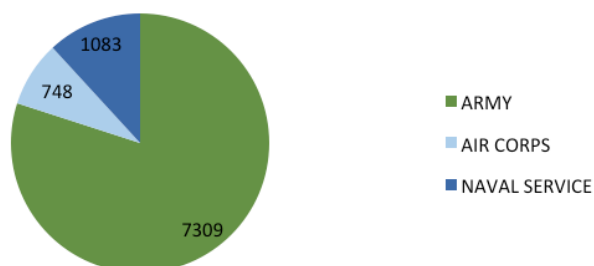
DEFENCE FORCES STRENGTH

The Defence Forces are organised on conventional all arms military lines providing a sufficiently flexible structure to carry out all the roles assigned by Government. The Defence Forces consist of a Permanent Defence Force (PDF) and a Reserve Defence Force (RDF).

PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE STRENGTH

The PDF consists of the Army, the Air Corps and the Naval Service. The strength of the PDF on 31st December 2015 was 9,140 personnel, comprising 7,309 Army, 748 Air Corps and 1,083 Naval Service personnel (see figures 2.1 below). These strength figures have been calculated on the basis of actual numbers serving on that date, excluding those members who are on career breaks, or on secondment to and being paid by other organisations.

Figure 2.1 Permanent Defence Force (PDF) strength on 31st December 2015



RESERVE DEFENCE FORCE

The RDF consists of the First Line Reserve (FLR), the Army Reserve (AR) and the Naval Service Reserve (NSR). In accordance with the White Paper on Defence, the primary role of the RDF is to augment the PDF in crisis situations and to contribute to State ceremonial events. The RDF is now organised alongside the PDF within a Single Force Structure. On a day to day basis, the Army Reserve (AR) and Naval Service Reserve (NSR) undertake training in preparation to assist the PDF, when required.

The FLR comprises former PDF personnel. The substantive strength of the FLR as at 31st December 2015 was 240 personnel. Figure 2.2 gives a breakdown of the figures between Army, Air Corps and Naval Service whilst figure 2.3 breaks down the effective strength of the AR and NSR which totalled 2,280 personnel on 31st December 2015.

Figure 2.2 Substantive Strength of the FLR on 31st December 2015

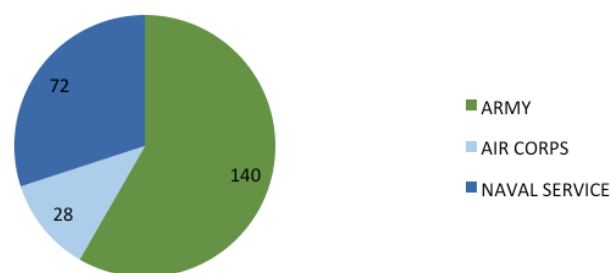
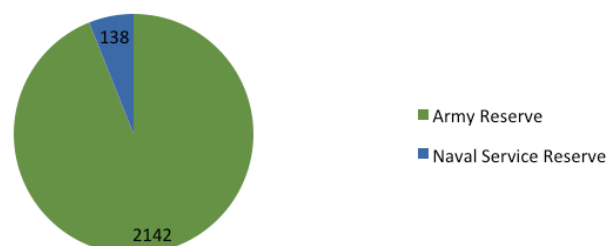


Figure 2.3 AR and NSR strength at 31st December 2015



PDF RECRUITMENT

A total of 406 personnel were inducted into the PDF during 2015, with 307 of these in line appointments and the remainder being specialists such as Air Corps Apprentice Aircraft Technicians, Naval Service Engine Room Artificers and Apprentices, Cadets, Medical Officers, Instrumentalists and a Conductor in the Defence Forces School of Music.

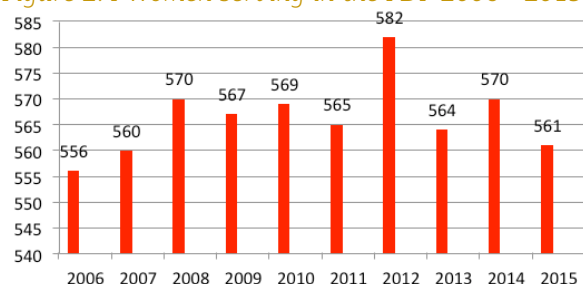
Table 2.1 Induction to the Permanent Defence Force in 2015

Category	Number
General Service Recruitment	307
Air Corps Apprentices	24
Naval Service Artificers	5
Cadets	49
Medical Officer	1
DFSM Instrumentalists	19
DFSM Conductor	1
Total	406

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF WOMEN IN THE PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE

The Government are committed to a policy of equality of opportunity for men and women throughout the Defence Forces and to the full participation by women in all aspects of Defence Forces activities. The Defence Forces supports equality of opportunity for women and men in all aspects of their service. All promotions and career courses are open to both women and men on merit. The Defence Forces prides itself on providing a working environment that allows for equality of opportunity for all personnel. Policies on equality are constantly communicated to all ranks and the Defence Organisation is committed to ensuring a proactive approach is taken to both the recruitment and retention of women in the Defence Forces. Figure 2.4 below illustrates the strength of females serving in the Defence Forces over the past ten years.

Figure 2.4 Women serving in the PDF 2006 - 2015



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

During 2015, promotion competitions to the rank of Sergeant and higher non-commissioned officer (NCO) ranks saw 255 personnel promoted across the Defence Forces with 175 promoted in the Army, 20 promoted in Air Corps and 60 promoted in the Naval Service. At the rank of Corporal, a total of

207 personnel were promoted across the Defence Forces, which translates as 4.8% of enlisted strength progressing to higher rank.

A total of 14 promotion boards were convened in 2015 in order to facilitate the filling of Officer vacancies arising within the Defence Forces. The promotion boards used a competency based approach to assess candidates for Major General and Brigadier General vacancies. Competency based approaches are now being progressed for all other officer competitions.

DEFENCE FORCES TRAINING

The primary focus of the Defence Forces, when not on operations, continues to be training and education. The primary purpose of this is the development and maintenance of military capabilities. The Defence Forces promotes education of personnel for the enhanced operational capability that it brings in order to be able to react to constantly changing environments. As such, training and education continue to be central to capability development and remain core elements of the five pillars in the Defence Capability Framework.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION OUTPUTS

In 2015 the Defence Forces Training & Education Branch oversaw the planning, conduct and administration of 44 instructor courses, 1,516 skills courses and 38 career courses (including 19 Primary Career Progression Courses). In total, 20,775 students completed 1,598 courses during 2015.

The RDF continued to prepare and train for its role of augmenting the PDF in times of crisis. The focus during 2015 was on continuing to implement and further develop the Single Force Concept.

The funding available for RDF training in 2015 was maintained at a level to support the planned training. A total of 1,475 Reservists utilised 22,548 man-days in pursuit of professional development through career courses at all levels including recruit training, skills courses, continuous professional development seminars and participation in integrated exercises.

Career progression in the Defence Forces is facilitated by successful completion of the relevant career courses. During 2015, a total of 413 personnel completed 19 primary career progression courses across a range of areas as per Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2 – Primary Career Progression Courses Conducted (Including RDF)

Course Title	Courses	Students
Potential NCO (NS)	1	22
Potential NCO (AC)	1	30
Potential NCO (ARMY)	3	58
Logistics Accountancy Course	1	20
Standard NCO Course (NS)	1	29
Standard NCO Course (All Corps)	3	50
All Arms Standard NCO Course	2	106
Senior NCO Course (NS)	1	29
Young Officers Course (All Corps)	3	29
Junior Command and Staff Course	1	17
Junior Command Operations Course (NS)	1	4
Senior Command and Staff Course	1	19
Total	19	413

In addition, the conduct of Induction Training continued to be assigned a unique priority during the training year. Prior to the commencement of each course, Officer and NCO training staff completed the required “Pre Course Orientation and Training for Instructors Course”. This assisted in meeting the challenges of recruit induction training. As outlined in table 2.3 below, a total of 459 recruits completed their induction training across the Army and Naval Service during 2015.

Table 2.3 – Completed Recruit Induction Training

	PDF	RDF	Total
1 Brigade	125	110	235
2 Brigade	79	20	99
Defence Forces Training Centre	41	40	81
Naval Service	44	-	44
TOTAL	289	170	459

COLLECTIVE TRAINING

Collective training moulds sub-units, units and formations into integrated and coherent combat forces. In the second half of 2014, the Defence Forces began the process of improving its operational effectiveness by increasing the quantity and scope of collective training and exercises. This process continued in 2015. Defence Forces Training and Education Branch developed exercise goals and objectives for two Defence Forces Battalion level exercises which were conducted over a period of three weeks by both 1 Brigade and 2 Brigade. In keeping with the Single Force Concept, members of the RDF were integrated into the participating units. As outlined in table 2.4 below, a total of 980 troops participated in these exercises, including 94 RDF troops which represent almost 10% of the total number that exercised.

Table 2.4 – DF Level Exercises

	PDF	RDF	Total
1 Brigade	474	60	534
2 Brigade	412	34	446
TOTAL	886	94	980

OVERSEAS TRAINING

The conduct of essential Pre-Deployment Training for both units and individuals being deployed to overseas missions, including UNIFIL, UNDOF, Resolute Support Mission (RSM) and EUTM Mali, was co-ordinated by Training and Education Branch in collaboration with the Military College during 2015. In addition, four Mission Readiness Exercises were conducted for larger troop deployments to UNIFIL and UNDOF involving approximately 600 troops before deployment to respective mission areas.



LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND DEFENCE STUDIES PROGRAMME

During 2015, the Leadership, Management and Defence Studies (LMDS) Programme for Enlisted Personnel continued to successfully develop. On 5th November 2015, 184 personnel were conferred with awards by the Institute of Technology (IT) Carlow, comprising 88 with a Higher Level Certificate in LMDS (Level 6), 43 with a Minor Award in LMDS (Level 7), and 53 who were conferred with a BA (LMDS) (Level 7). This brings to 591 the number of persons conferred with awards by IT Carlow under the LMDS Programme since its inception in 2012. The Accreditation Cell of the Defence Forces Registrar's office, continues to promote the benefits of the Programme among soldiers, sailors and airmen to attract them to join the LMDS Programme. In 2015, the number of Defence Forces personnel who have joined the Programme rose to approximately 2,000. NUI Maynooth conferred 22 Special Purpose Awards at Level 7 (LMDS) associated with Cadet Training, seven Higher Diplomas (Leadership, Defence and Contemporary Studies) associated with the Junior Command & Staff Course and 21 MAs (LMDS) associated with the Senior Command & Staff Course. Meanwhile, the National Maritime College of Ireland conferred Leadership Management and Naval Studies awards at Level 6 to 33 personnel, and at Level 7 to 12 personnel.

DEFENSIVE AND OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

In view of the reduced resources available to the Defence Organisation in recent years, the consistent application of a strong evaluation and procurement process in relation to equipment purchasing and maintenance/upgrade programmes has ensured that the Defence Forces continue to have access to

modern equipment. This focus continued into 2015 with an ongoing analysis of equipment expenditure to ensure that this is linked to capability priorities. A particular focus was towards ensuring that modern and effective equipment is available for overseas operations, as is the case with the UNIFIL deployment in Lebanon and the UNDOF deployment in Syria.

The budgetary provision for 2015 allowed for the acquisition of a range of priority defensive equipment such as Force Protection Equipment, Mine Clearance Equipment, 12.7mm Heavy Machine Guns, the continuing upgrade of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) HOBOT robots, a Replacement Mortar Fire Control System, the upgrade of the RBS 70 Surface to Air Missile System, the purchase of a number of armoured EOD trucks and the completion of the Conversion Programme for nine Mowag Piranha III vehicles with the installation of Kongsberg Remote Weapon Stations. The provision also allowed for the acquisition of ammunition types needed to maintain stocks given the training and overseas requirements throughout the year. In 2015 an Armoured High Mobility Engineering Excavator was acquired, whilst the Defence Forces Engineer Specialist Search and Clearance (ESSC) capability was further enhanced with the procurement of MineWolf remotely operated vehicles and MAN HX 60 search vehicles. Personal Protective Equipment was also upgraded for the ESSC teams.

Transport related procurement also continued in 2015. The main acquisitions were eight Ford Transit chassis cabs, 23 saloon cars, 33 hatchback cars, three Mitsubishi Pajero vehicles, three Ford Transit minibuses, four vans, two tractors and trailers, and two ride on mowers. In addition, funding was provided on a continuous basis for the required maintenance of vehicles in the military transport fleet, both at home and overseas.

The current Naval Service Ship Replacement Programme continued in 2015 when the second new Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), LÉ James Joyce, was delivered and commissioned in September 2015. This followed the delivery of the first new OPV, LÉ Samuel Beckett, in 2014. A third OPV, to be named LÉ William Butler Yeats, is scheduled for delivery in mid 2016. The costs of procuring these new vessels are being met from the Defence Vote allocation. In tandem with the deliveries of the

three new ships, arrangements are made for the decommissioning of the oldest ships in the Naval Service fleet which have reached the end of their useful lifespan - LÉ Emer and LÉ Aoife have already been decommissioned, and LÉ Aisling will be decommissioned in 2016. The acquisition of these modern new vessels, combined with a continuous process of refurbishment and repair in the fleet, will ensure that the operational capability of the Naval Service is maintained.



The new White Paper on Defence sets a number of key equipment priorities which will ensure that the Defence Forces have the capability to undertake the roles assigned to them at home and overseas. The White Paper recognises that there are several new and enhanced platforms to be procured. In the context of the Naval Service fleet, there is a requirement to replace a further three vessels that are reaching the end of their lifespan in the coming years. For the Air Corps fleet, this includes the replacement of the Cessna fleet with three larger aircraft suitably equipped for Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance tasks. In addition, it is intended that the two CASA Maritime Patrol Aircraft will also be replaced.

The Army will continue to retain all-arms conventional military capabilities, and the principal aim over the period of the White Paper will be to replace and upgrade, as required, existing capabilities in order to retain a flexible response for a wide range of operational requirements at home and overseas. There will be a focus on the essential force protection provided by armoured vehicles and the most cost effective option of upgrading or replacing the current fleet of armoured personnel carriers will be identified. A small number of

armoured logistical vehicles will be procured for force protection overseas.

REVIEW OF INVENTORY MANAGEMENT IN THE DEFENCE FORCES

Arising from the publication of the Review of Inventory Management in the Defence Forces in May 2014, a Stock Management Policy was introduced by the Defence Forces Logistics Branch during 2015. This is focussed on reducing the amount of inventory carried by the Defence Forces.

In conjunction with the reduction in inventory, an assessment of Stock Keeping Units (SKU) was conducted across the Defence Forces in 2015 and the data was recorded on to the Defence Forces Logistics Management System.

New inventory control measures will also be put in place splitting Defence Forces inventory into Strategic Stock (Actual Strategic Stock, Capability Critical Stock, and Contingency Stock) and Operational Stock (Safety/Minimum Stock, Operational Reserve Stock, Maximum Stock), and identifying minimum and maximum stock holdings for each SKU across all Corps. The full roll out of this concept will take place in 2016.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The property infrastructure which is available to support the Defence Forces is managed by the Department of Defence. The size, diversity and nature of the Department's current property portfolio (which is one of the State's largest) is determined by the requirements for raising, training and maintaining the Defence Forces. It includes both a 'built' estate of 17 major Defence Forces installations and a 'rural' estate comprising in the main of military training lands and firing ranges.

In 2015, circa €7.8m was spent on capital building works which were part of the on-going programme designed to modernise and enhance the training, operational and accommodation facilities available to members of the Defence Forces. In any one year, the programme provides for new start projects and for the continuation of capital building projects already underway.

Major projects that were under development during 2015 included:

- the second phase of the refurbishment of the

North accommodation block in McKee Barracks (a flagship building presenting significant refurbishment challenges from a heritage perspective) - due for completion in mid 2016;

- the continuation of a major project in the Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp, to convert all boilers to natural gas;
- the detailed planning and design for phase two of the replacement of a major storage facility in the Defence Forces Training Centre;
- the detailed design for the construction of new transport vehicle maintenance facilities in Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick and in Stephens' Barracks, Kilkenny;

A wide range of other works were also progressed during 2015, as part of the capital programme including: commencement of construction of an all weather training facility at Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin - for completion in 2016;

- refurbishment works to the Upper Billet Block at Haulbowline, Co. Cork;
- refurbishment of N Block at Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick for use as living-in accommodation, and
- the upgrade of the Clothing Stores at Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.

In addition, the following works were completed during 2015:

- the refurbishment of the cookhouse and dining hall in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell; and
- the new Military Archives facility at Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, comprising a newly constructed building for the storage of archival material and the refurbishment and linking of an adjoining building to facilitate visitor access to the facility – this was officially opened in April 2016.

Furthermore, almost €7.3m. was spent on maintenance-related works across military installations.

During 2014, Cork County Council instigated and engaged consultants to deliver a master plan for Haulbowline Island, which was completed in 2015. This plan encompasses the potential for the development of the entirety of Haulbowline Island in light of the already commenced remediation project on the island. A key requirement within this

future development is the necessity to continue to operate a fully functioning Naval Base and Naval Dockyard, and also to realise the considerable potential surrounding the use of the former Irish Steel foundry site including the Naval Service requirement for the utilisation of the west wall berthage facility to facilitate the larger P60 class Offshore Patrol Vessels. The remediation work on the island is continuing with the necessary repairs of the bridge connecting the island with Ringaskiddy having been completed in 2015.

The policy of disposing of properties surplus to military requirements continued in 2015. Property disposals during the year realised almost €1.9m.

In addition to the letting and leasing of lands and properties, the Department continues to co-operate with other Government Departments and Agencies in making Defence facilities available for a variety of purposes from time to time, including accommodation for homeless persons, the provision of firing ranges to the Gardaí, and facilities for occasional media and film productions.

INTEROPERABILITY AND EUROPEAN UNION CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, Ireland continued to contribute to the development of the EU's capability to conduct crisis management operations. This engagement in capability development is conducted in the context of the Headline Goal 2010. During 2015, the EU force catalogue was published which outlined member states potential contributions for EU crisis management operations.

In this regard, personnel from the Defence Organisation attended various training and education courses and events during 2015, both in Brussels and in other EU locations. For example, both Department of Defence and Defence Forces personnel attended Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) orientation courses, while military subject matter experts attended seminars, workshops and conferences in such areas as capability development, cyber security, communication and information systems, counter improvised explosive devices (C-IED) and logistics.

EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA)

Ireland joined the EDA when it was established in 2004. The Agency is headed by the EU High Representative (HR) for Foreign Affairs and Security

Policy. The Mission of the EDA is to support the Council and the member states in their effort to improve the EU's defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the CSDP as it stands now and develops in the future. The work of the Agency is achieved through a steering board comprising of EU Defence Ministers of the participating member states.

The EDA's main aims are to support member states in the area of capability development, to support greater efficiency and competition in the European defence equipment market and to support and improve investment in defence and security research and technology. On a day-to-day basis, the Minister for Defence is represented in the EDA by officials from the Department of Defence.

During 2015, Ireland was involved in one category B project in the area of C-IED. In April 2014, with Government and Dáil approval, Ireland joined the EDA C-IED project called Manual Neutralisation Techniques Courses and Exercises. This is a four year project which will involve researching, developing and delivering a range of training courses and exercises to address the use of manual neutralisation techniques. "Pooling and Sharing" is an EU concept which refers to member states-led initiatives and projects to increase collaboration on military capabilities. Ireland was actively involved in a number of Pooling and Sharing project teams including cyber ranges, naval training - which Ireland is leading on - and C-IED. In the context of C-IED, Ireland hosted one Home Made Explosives (HME) course in 2015. The objectives of this course were to instruct anyone likely to be involved in targeting the explosive processing chain to identify the precursors used in HME manufacture, how to safely process a scene and dispose of any hazardous substances arising from a scene. Students gained the skills to instruct other first responders on identifying hazards upon finding a clandestine HME factory. Ireland also conducted a "Commanders' Counter-Marauding Terrorist Attack Course", which was provided as part of Ireland's contribution under NATO's Partnership for Peace in 2015. This course was designed to provide emergency services personnel and military personnel with a tactical appreciation of the challenges presented by a Marauding Terrorist Attack incident; it provided relevant theoretical knowledge to enhance existing understanding of this emerging threat and an immersive practical

experience of co-ordinating responding multi-agency teams in a hostile environment.

As part of the Naval Training Pooling and Sharing project, Ireland hosted an EDA Naval Operations Room training course in Haulbowline from 31st August to 11th September 2015. Core subjects covered on the course included; Law of the Sea; Maritime interdiction operations; Maritime Domain Surveillance, Command and Control; and Maritime Picture compilation.

Ireland is also participating in a second EDA maritime Project called MARSUR and assumed the Chairmanship of the MARSUR Management Group (MMG) in June 2015. This project brings together 17 Member States and Norway who are engaged in developing a Maritime Surveillance Information Exchange System with the aim of improving maritime surveillance, information sharing and analysis to support increased security and surveillance co-operation within the common EU Maritime domain and for CSDP operations. The project is designed to develop a web based networked solution that delivers a coherent Common Recognised Maritime Picture for CSDP while also complementing national maritime security, surveillance and constabulary taskings. It is envisaged that MARSUR will form the Defence layer of the EU maritime Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE).

A major joint technical/operational conference of the MARSUR subgroups was hosted by the National Maritime College of Ireland, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork in June 2015. Ireland will hand over the Chair of the MMG to Germany in June 2016.

Ireland also supports the EDA's work in capability development and market initiatives within the framework of CSDP and the relevant treaty provisions and national legislation.

THE DEFENCE ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

There is an ongoing requirement to examine new and innovative means of improving capabilities in the security and defence domain, in order that the Defence Forces are in a position to undertake the roles assigned by Government. In July 2011 the Government approved arrangements, whereby Enterprise Ireland supports the Department of Defence/Defence Forces capability development, by raising the awareness of, and engaging with, Irish-

based enterprise and research institutes, including third level colleges that are engaged in relevant and related activities. This is achieved through a Defence Enterprise Committee which is overseen by the Defence Enterprise Ireland Co-ordination Committee. These committees comprise personnel from the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces and Enterprise Ireland. Projects proposed by institutes and companies are firstly considered and cleared by Enterprise Ireland and then submitted to the Defence Enterprise Committee for consideration. All proposals are vetted and agreed by the Committee to ensure compatibility with the roles assigned to the Defence Forces.

The Defence Forces, in turn, support Irish enterprise and research institutes, including third level colleges, which can contribute to the development and enhancement of Defence Forces crisis management capabilities. Under this initiative, the Defence Forces are supporting a range of projects that cover research, training and innovation with Irish indigenous companies and third level research institutions.

In 2015, there was also significant Defence Force involvement in Horizon 2020 proposals. Horizon 2020 is the largest EU research and innovation programme on record with almost €80 billion of funding available over seven years (2014-2020). The Defence Forces were partners in seven Horizon 2020 project proposals submitted in 2015. Ordnance Branch was a consortium member in a successful project with partners from National University of Ireland, Galway and other partners from Italy, Germany, Spain and Portugal where the project secured over €7m in research funding. The project, titled ROCSAFE (Remotely Operated CBRNe Scene Assessment Forensic Examination) will ensure that CBRNe scenes are assessed more rapidly and thoroughly than is currently possible. The Defence Enterprise Committee, with the assistance of Enterprise Ireland, will continue to support the Defence Forces engagement with partners in potential Horizon 2020 projects for the future.

IMERC

IMERC is an integrated institutional arrangement promoting the maritime and energy capabilities of Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) (via the National Maritime College of Ireland), the Irish Naval Service and University College Cork (UCC).

The Naval Service strategic partnership with IMERC continued during 2015. The development of the IMERC Campus has seen further progress with the official openings of the UCC Beaufort Building, which houses the MaREI Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy, The Entrepreneur Ship which is a marine and energy incubation hub and touchdown space for Foreign Direct Investment, as well as the servicing of several sites for a wider industrial campus. These sites are primed to be marketed by the IDA to Foreign Direct Investment and multi-national companies.

The IMERC Office also contributed significantly to the Masterplan for Haulbowline Island and was integral to securing Government support for additional remediation works on Haulbowline under the Capital Investment Plan.

HALPIN CENTRE

The Halpin Centre for Research and Innovation at the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) is the maritime research and innovation Centre for the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT). The NMCI is a constituent College of CIT and the result of a partnership between CIT and the Naval Service. Through that partnership, the Halpin Centre conducts research and innovation that is of direct relevance and benefit to interests and the capability development of the Naval Service. Naval Service engagement with the Halpin Centre continued apace in 2015. The Centre carries out research in the areas of maritime mechatronics, human factors and maritime operations and works closely with the Naval Service in all these thematic areas. The Centre develops new maritime technology products and services by working with innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups, small & medium enterprises and Irish based foreign direct investment companies, and works closely with public sector bodies to support them in delivering enhanced maritime services and public good initiatives. Projects in areas as diverse as pan-European maritime information sharing for security purposes – the EUCISE2020 project, and a project called SHAPEFITS that is providing deeper insights into health and fitness of Naval Service seagoing personnel are two examples of on-going collaborations. The most significant project activity between the Naval Service and Halpin is AEOLUS, which is exploring innovative approaches to improving both energy efficiency and operational capability for seagoing Naval Service assets.

Tangible benefits for the Naval Service through this partnership include accrued additional experience and knowledge while Naval Service involvement in projects with Halpin is increasing understanding, effectiveness, preparedness and readiness in areas that include maritime security, pollution control and continent wide information sharing systems. Through a number of these projects, the Naval Service have benefitted from exposure to, and interaction with other institutions and companies in Ireland, Europe and internationally.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE (PFP)

PfP is a co-operative arrangement between NATO and partner countries. Co-operation focuses, in particular, on defence related work, including defence reform, defence policy and planning, civil-military relations, education and training, crisis management, and civil emergency planning. The essence of the PfP programme is a partnership formed individually between each partner country and NATO, tailored to individual needs and jointly implemented at the level and pace chosen by each participating government.

Ireland also participates in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) mechanism. Ireland's involvement in PARP is focused on enhancing Defence Forces interoperability in multi-national operations and contributing to the development of military capabilities in accordance with international standards. The Defence Forces Standardisation Strategy provides the framework to ensure that the Defence Forces continue to maintain interoperable forces to effectively carry out all roles assigned by Government. The adoption of NATO standards provides the foundation for interoperability. This was further enhanced through the Defence Forces engagement during 2015 with the NATO Standardisation Agency.

Ireland continued to implement the 14th annual Individual Partnership and Co-operation Programme (IPCP) with NATO/PfP during 2015. The IPCP was developed in consultation with the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Environment, Community and Local Government; Justice and Equality; Health; and Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Defence Forces personnel attended a number of IPCP related events in 2015. These events facilitate the achievement of the Defence Forces' PARP Partnership Goals (PGs) and ensure that the

Defence Forces can incorporate best international practice into its doctrine and standard operating procedures for crisis management operations. In 2015, Ireland continued to make progress in meeting the requirements of its 31 PGs. To date, Ireland has fully implemented 16 PGs. Personnel from NATO member states and other partners attended courses provided by the Defence Forces as part of Ireland's contribution to the Individual Partnership Co-operation Programme.

CIVIL SERVICE AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The key objective of the Department's Human Resources Branch is to enable staff to contribute effectively and productively to the achievement of the Organisation's goals and objectives.

A major focus during the year was the ongoing implementation of initiatives under the Government's Reform Agenda. This included the Civil Service Renewal Plan, preparation for, and transition to the, Payroll Shared Services Centre (PSSC) in February and HR and Pension Shared Services (PeoplePoint) in July, workforce planning, staff mobility, and management of sick leave. The Department transitioned successfully to PSSC and PeoplePoint and the services provided continued to be monitored and managed as necessary throughout the year.

The Civil Service Renewal Plan was published on 30th October 2014. The three year plan identifies actions that will strengthen capacity, capability, accountability and leadership throughout the Civil Service. Responsibility for the delivery of each action is allocated to a named Secretary General or group of Secretaries General. Within the Department of Defence, a dedicated Project Manager was appointed by the Secretary General with responsibility to drive the actions and to work centrally with all other Project Managers under the direction of a central Programme Management Office. This work is ongoing.

Until early 2015, the Department of Defence staffing levels were managed through a centrally-imposed Employment Control Framework, with a ceiling of 351 full time equivalent (FTE) staff. The Department was subsequently given delegated sanction to recruit at all levels up to and including Principal (Higher). The Department had 331 FTEs as at 31st December 2015. This figure is down on 2014

figures, mainly due to the transfer of Galway-based staff to the Payroll Shared Service Centre.

Workforce plans provide an important compliance mechanism in the setting of binding multi-annual pay ceilings and in monitoring delegated sanction. The Department's Workforce Action Plan 2013-2015 forecast staffing needs in relation to strategic business objectives so as to achieve the right balance between labour demand and supply to get the right people, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time. The Workforce Action Plan 2013-2015 continued to be implemented in 2015. Planning commenced in late 2014 for the preparation of a new plan covering the period 2015-2017. This plan, which takes into consideration central initiatives including the Civil Service Renewal Plan, was completed in the third quarter of 2015 and is now being implemented.

In early 2015 the "Dignity at Work" policy replaced the previous policy, "A Positive Working Environment". There is an increased focus on early and local resolution in the new policy along with a more prominent role for mediation as a resolution method. In order to ensure that all staff were aware of the new policy, a detailed presentation on its content was made to all Branches of the Department in the second quarter of 2015.

In 2015, 97% of staff completed an annual review under PMDS. This is at the higher end of compliance across the civil service. It was agreed centrally in 2015 that the Performance Management process would move to a rating of satisfactory or not satisfactory for future reviews. The current paper based system finished in 2015 and has been replaced with ePMDS from 2016.

The Department's focus on proactively managing sick leave absences continued throughout 2015. In this regard, the sick leave rate for the year was 3.7%, which is marginally above the target of 3.5% set centrally. The revised Public Service Sick Leave Scheme, which commenced in March 2014, continues to be implemented for all staff.

In 2013, the Department launched a pilot scheme to facilitate 4th year/transition year work placements in the academic year 2013/14. Following the success of this pilot, it was decided to continue with the programme and in 2015 this led to the placement of six students, four in Newbridge and two in Galway.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

As of 31st December 2015, there were 490.9 whole time equivalent civilian employees engaged under the Defence Act 1954. The majority of these employees are craft, general operative and related grades and are involved mainly in the maintenance of equipment and military installations. The remaining employees are mostly involved in clerical and storekeeping duties for the Defence Forces and also include aircraft inspectors and various professional and technical grades. Included in the recruitment of personnel in 2015 was a Senior Physiotherapist who will head up a Physiotherapy team which will provide in house physiotherapy services for members of the Defence Forces in the short term pending a review as to how such services will be provided in the future.

The White Paper on Defence published in 2015 provides for the establishment of a planning group to undertake a gap analysis to identify supply and demand and core requirements in the civilian employee workforce. It will examine the existing service delivery model and make recommendations on a service delivery framework. In the short term, a programme of targeted recruitment will be initiated to address priority vacancies.

The White Paper also provided that the Department's Human Resources Branch will provide support in CV preparation for exiting civilian employees.

CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department continues to invest in developing its staff. With a budget of €129,000 the focus on training in 2015 was on Freedom of Information, leadership and management training and up-skilling in computer-based applications. A joint Induction Programme involving newly assigned Civil and Military personnel was also initiated in 2015. In summary:

- 375 training requests were completed in 2015.
- The overall spend on external training amounted to circa €66,000.
- In addition, €9,125 was spent on the Refund of Fees Scheme and €23,415 on advance fees to encourage staff up-skilling by providing funding for external programmes of study.
- The Department facilitated a number of staff forum events with the aim of providing opportunities for informal exchanges of information on ongoing issues within the Department.

EQUALITY

The Department of Defence continues to operate in a non-discriminatory environment in accordance with the Equality Acts and aims to ensure that the principles of employment equality are implemented in recruitment, promotion, training and work experience.

The Department's policy is that all personnel be accorded equality of opportunity and treatment. The HR Strategy reflects this policy position and includes a commitment to the implementation of the Government target that one-third of posts in the grade of Assistant Principal are filled by women. In 2015, 37% of Assistant Principals and 44% of Principal Officers were women. Overall, 36% of staff at the grades of Assistant Principal upwards were women.

In compliance with Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005, the Department of Defence undertook, where practicable, to promote and support the employment of people with disabilities. The percentage of civil servants with a disability was 4.7% and the percentage of civilian employees with a disability, employed by the Department, on behalf of the Defence Forces was 4.9%.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation that supports the front line emergency services. As of December 2015, there were 3,686 active members listed on the Civil Defence volunteer register. Civil Defence has traditionally trained volunteers in the following services: Casualty, Search and Rescue, Auxiliary Fire Service, Radiation Monitoring, Welfare and Communications. In practice, most volunteers are multi-skilled and are involved in a number of these activities. These volunteers were based in each local authority area.

Throughout 2015, Civil Defence was involved in a wide range of activities across the country including supporting responses to major emergencies. Hundreds of Civil Defence volunteers from right across the country assisted the Principal Response Agencies (i.e. Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive and Local Authorities) in responding to the severe weather and widespread flooding incidents during the winter of 2015.

Civil Defence supported a wide range of community, sporting and charity events throughout the year.

This included large events, such as the Fleadh Geoil in Sligo and the Ring of Kerry cycle race and many smaller local events. Civil Defence was involved in a major missing person search exercise with An Garda Síochána in March. Missing person searches are an ongoing feature of the work of Civil Defence. Remotely piloted aircraft systems are now regularly used by Civil Defence in these searches.

Civil Defence volunteers were deployed to approximately 1,500 events and activities during the course of 2015, including:

- 80 Missing Person Searches,
- 920 Sporting Events,
- 420 Community Events, and
- 65 Climatic/Severe Weather Relief Efforts

In 2015, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Department of Defence and the Environmental Protection Agency. This clarified the role of Civil Defence in responding to radiation incidents. During 2015 newly recalibrated radiation monitoring equipment was issued to all Civil Defence Units. This was followed by a training programme and a successful national radiation monitoring exercise.

The Civil Defence College introduced a number of new courses during 2015 and enhanced the use of blended learning as a teaching tool. This has allowed volunteers to complete some course work in their own time and without having to be away from family.

Throughout 2015, the Civil Defence College continued to engage with the Principal Response Agencies (PRAs) and the Defence Forces to develop and deliver training to equip volunteers with the skills and ability to assist the PRAs. Civil Defence has built on existing synergies to produce combined training courses which are beneficial to all in relation to mutual understandings, standardised training and sharing of skills.

Further training for Civil Defence Officers in management of water and flood incidents was delivered during 2015. Flood and swift water first response training also continued throughout 2015 – specifically in the last few weeks of the year when Civil Defence was on call throughout the country on a 24-hour basis.

In April 2015, the Civil Defence College was presented with the Rescue 3 Europe Capability Development Award at their Technical Rescue Conference 2015 hosted in Llangollen, Wales. The award recognises the capability Civil Defence developed over the previous three years in this challenging environment; highlights of which include training volunteers as accredited Swiftwater & Flood First Response Instructors who in turn provide valuable training to volunteers in their local units.

The certification and recertification of Civil Defence Officers, instructors and volunteers continued throughout the year. Civil Defence Officers completed presentation skills training during 2015 and further development training courses for Civil Defence Officers are planned.

Table 2.5 below provides details of the number of courses delivered and certificates issued by the Civil Defence College during 2015. The numbers include training courses delivered by Civil Defence nationwide and through the Civil Defence College. In addition to training courses, a number of seminars/exercises/workshops were held which did not result in the issuing of certification.



Table 2.5 Details of Civil Defence Courses delivered and certificates issued during 2015

Number of courses/seminars/exercises	801
Numbers who attended	4,229
Number of certificates issued	3,772

DEFENCE FORCES HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

EXCELLENCE THROUGH PEOPLE

All human resource practices and processes in the Defence Forces are subject to external validation through the Excellence Through People (ETP) process. The Defence Forces reaps a variety of benefits through accreditation in the scheme. It is the national standard for HR. As such it acts as an independent benchmark for Defence Forces practices and is a catalyst for the introduction of best and latest practice within the organisation. In 2015, Defence Forces Headquarters (DFHQ) achieved the ETP standard through the National Standards Authority of Ireland. The Naval Service and 2 Brigade had previously achieved the standard in 2014. This mechanism is now embedded within the Defence Forces and will be further developed in 2016 through the National Standards Authority of Ireland.

GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE DEFENCE FORCES

The Defence Forces continue to operate in a non-discriminatory environment in accordance with the Equality Acts and aim to ensure that the principles of employment equality are implemented in recruitment, promotion, training and work experience.

All regulations and Administrative Instructions concerning service in the Defence Forces will be set out in a manner consistent with this policy of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion. These policies are reviewed along with Defence Force Regulations on an ongoing basis by the Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) to ensure compliance with best practice and to maintain a working environment that treats all members of the Defence Forces in a manner consistent with equality of opportunity. The issue of dissemination of Defence Forces equality, diversity and equal status policies is crucial to its success. The policies apply equally to the Reserve Defence Force.

The role of the DF Gender Advisor is to integrate a gender perspective into the Defence Forces at all levels. The Brigade and Formation Gender Advisors are responsible for assisting in the institutionalisation of UNSCR 1325 with a particular emphasis on the pillars of protection and participation. All Gender Advisors are also responsible for educating Defence Forces personnel

on the importance of applying a gender perspective in military operations.

Ireland's 1st National Action Plan (NAP), 2011-2014 has now elapsed and a 2015 Final Report, commissioned by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade concluded that the Defence Forces are a "model of good practice" and recommend "for Ireland to share learning on the contribution of gender perspectives on peacekeeping missions." Ireland's 2nd NAP, 2015-2018 has now been published and the Defence Forces Action Plan will be amended accordingly.

A Gender Focal Point (GFP) course was created in 2015 and is now being rolled out across the Defence Forces which will help to ensure a gender perspective is integrated into plans, procedures and training at all levels.

In terms of increasing diversity, the White Paper on Defence (2015), makes specific provision for the development of a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. This seeks to build on existing policies in relation to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and equality, and to underpin a supportive and challenging workplace environment where individuality and diversity is respected by all.

PERSONNEL SUPPORT SERVICE

The Defence Forces operate a Personnel Support Service (PSS), which is a confidential service designed to give Defence Forces personnel and their families access to services both from within the military community and outside it. The type of information the PSS provides includes information, social education, psychosocial support and a referral service. The PSS provides services on a wide range of topics from financial matters to alcohol and drugs awareness. At another level the PSS provides counselling and/or support in aspects of personal relationships, parental issues, family problems, separation and bereavement. The PSS also provided support to ex-service personnel on a need by need basis.

To further enhance the services provided by PSS, an information guide on mental health and well-being was released and briefings were conducted across the Defence Forces. The PSS also developed a transition to civilian life course which is run in tandem with pre-retirement courses and is designed to provide those exiting the service with

the skills relevant to taking up employment outside the Defence Forces. This programme was further developed with the Educational Training Boards into a skills for work programme.

Prior to deployment overseas, all personnel receive instruction in stress management and the PSS trains selected personnel in both individual and group crisis intervention. Prior to returning home, trained members of the PSS visit the mission areas and carry out stress debriefs. To enhance the support services available to personnel serving overseas, a care call line, a confidential and independent service, has been extended to personnel serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and operation PONTUS in the Mediterranean.

Skills-based Training on Risk Management (STORM) in the areas of suicide and self harm was provided for Defence Forces personnel. The roll out of this programme is on-going. The PSS also continued to provide Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) support to the Irish Coast Guard and Civil Defence, whilst the PSS also trained peer support teams for the Irish Prison Service.

INDEPENDENT MONITORING GROUP

The Independent Monitoring Group (IMG) was established in May 2002 to oversee the implementation of recommendations arising from a report on the extent of harassment, bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment within the Defence Forces.

Reports of the IMG issued in 2004, 2008 and 2014. The third IMG Report, published in 2014, focused on developments since 2008 and made a total of 35 recommendations under the following headings: Human Resource Management, New Entrants, Personnel Support Services, Training and Development, Reserve Defence Forces and Continual Review of Progress.

The Implementation Group, comprising personnel from both the Department and the Defence Forces, and chaired by the Assistant Chief of Staff, continued to make good progress throughout 2015, with 13 recommendations closed, 21 active and one remaining for future implementation. In addition, an Oversight Group comprising senior personnel from the Defence Organisation, along with representatives of PDFORRA and RACO, was established to monitor progress on the

implementation of the IMG recommendations in support of dignity at work.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEFENCE FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES REVIEW

The Defence Forces Medical Corps has four main service objectives:

- To maintain and promote health and well-being for, and prevent disease amongst, serving members of the Permanent Defence Forces (PDF);
- To maximise the medical readiness of the PDF for operational activities both at home and overseas;
- To provide current and competent field medical support in operational and training settings both at home and overseas; and
- To medically assess members of the Reserve to ensure their health status is compatible with their role as part of the Single Force Concept.

The main medical services provided or organised by the Medical Corps are pre-hospital emergency care, general primary care, occupational health, physiotherapy, mental health assessment and support, and dental services. The Medical Corps employs pre-hospital practitioners (emergency medical technicians, paramedics and advanced paramedics), medical officers, dental officers, nurses, pharmacists and psychologists who provide the services, augmented by contracted doctors, and dentists tasked with providing medical services to the Defence Forces.

A shortage of medical professionals within the Medical Corps in recent years led to a review of how these services might be delivered. The review is being led by a joint civil/military standing committee and the objective is to advance the development of a sustainable integrated medical service involving both internal and outsourced service provision. The Joint Standing Committee has implemented solutions to a number of service delivery areas and will continue to develop solutions towards implementing its agreed work-plan. The Joint Committee, allied to the work of the Transformation and Systems Reform Officer, will focus on implementing solutions to ensure that medical services are delivered in an optimum and sustainable manner.

During 2015, the Minister for Health, acting on the recommendation of the Medical Council, formally

recognised Military Medicine as a Specialty in October 2015. Ireland is the first country in the world to formally recognise the Specialty of Military Medicine.

COMPULSORY RANDOM DRUG TESTING & TARGETED DRUG TESTING

In 2015, the Defence Forces drug testing team carried out 13 drug testing operations, testing a total of 1,184 Defence Forces personnel. Of the 1,184 tests, 98.56% proved negative. There were 17 positive tests representing 1.44% of the total tests completed. Appropriate administrative action ensued in all cases. As of 31st December 2015, two members of the Defence Forces were subject to targeted drugs testing. Details of drug testing are provided in tables 2.6 and 2.7 Over.

Table 2.6 Compulsory Random Drug Testing for the years 2009 - 2015

Year	Total Tested	Positive Tests
2009	1,719	6
2010	1,586	7
2011	1,362	6
2012	2,058	16
2013	1,054	13
2014	1,092	5
2015	1,184	17
Total	10,055	70

Table 2.7 Number of Compulsory Random Drug Tests completed by location in 2015

Formation	Total
2 Brigade	553
1 Brigade	220
Defence Forces Training Centre	54
Air Corps	230
Naval Service	76
Defence Forces Headquarters	51
Total	1,184

REDRESS OF WRONGS

A comprehensive review of the Redress of Wrongs process continued throughout 2015 and is due for completion in 2016. The Review will be the subject of discussions with all interested parties with a view to achieving agreement on its recommendations and implementation.

Table 2.8 Redress of Wrongs Applications

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Career Development	49	59	39	28	21
Interpersonal Relations	4	7	3	8	9
Other	31	44	69	60	47
Total	84	110	111	96	77

DEFENCE FORCES CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION SCHEME

There were approximately 132 claims processed through the Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme during 2015.

REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (RACO)

During 2015, RACO lodged a number of new claims at Conciliation Council, which were discussed at five Council meetings. There were two agreed and four disagreed reports signed in 2015. There was one adjudication hearing arising from claims during 2015. There were four meetings of the Defence Forces HQ Military Forum at which a range of issues were discussed.

PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE OTHER RANKS REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION (PDFORRA)

PDFORRA lodged a number of new claims at Conciliation Council during 2015. These claims were addressed at five Council meetings. There were four agreed and one disagreed reports signed in 2015. One adjudication hearing arising from claims was held during 2015. There were four meetings of the Defence Forces HQ Military Forum at which a range of issues were discussed.

PUBLIC SERVICE STABILITY AGREEMENT 2013-2016 "THE HADDINGTON ROAD AGREEMENT"

During 2015 work continued on the implementation of the central provisions of the Haddington Road Agreement and also the specific provisions provided for under the Defence Sector Collective Agreement. Work continued on the reviews of technical pay groups 2 – 6 and security duty allowances, as provided for under the Croke Park Agreement.

PUBLIC SERVICE STABILITY AGREEMENT 2013-2018

During 2015, discussions on the Lansdowne Road Agreement were finalised with both RACO and PDFORRA attending and participating in the

parallel process talks. All parties are committed to the reform programme as set out in the agreement.

FINANCE

During 2015, the Department's Finance Branch, based in Renmore, Galway, acted as a shared service provider to the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces, and the Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces. It is responsible for making and accounting for all payments (including payroll and pensions) on behalf of the Department and the Defence Forces; for the co-ordination of estimates-related work; and for the administration of military pensions (as well as the formulation of pension policy). Throughout 2015, the Branch worked closely with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's Payroll Shared Services (PSS) Project to achieve the successful migration of three of the Department's payrolls (Civil Servants, Civilian Employees and Military Pensions) to the Civil Service Payroll Shared Service Centre (PSSC), and will continue to co-operate fully with this project to ensure that the Department's remaining payrolls are also successfully transferred.

During 2015, the Finance Branch also completed the following tasks:

- contributed to the development of standardised processes and a common Chart of Accounts structure for the Civil Service Financial Management Shared Services Project;
- the Joint Implementation Group completed its review of the findings of the Report on the Review of Inventory Management in the Defence Forces;
- upgraded the underlying database supporting the financial and inventory management suite and applied the latest security patches to further protect the overall architecture;
- engaged with the Office of Government Procurement and four other Departments to secure a central discounted deal to utilise Oracle's Advanced Customer Service facility;
- participated in the panel to evaluate tender bids for provision of single Financial Management solution;
- implemented payroll aspects of Single Pension Scheme (Pensions Act 2012);
- implemented SEPA compliance for Military Pensions Payroll (June 2015); and
- completed an operational review of standard Pensions Declarations (Sept. 2015).

The table below illustrates some of the work completed by the Finance Branch during 2015.

Table 2.9 Financial Transactions 2015

No. of non-payroll payments made (invoices, etc.)	38,685
No. of payroll payments made*	541,181
No. in receipt of military pension (including dependants)	12,128
No. of Travel & Subsistence claims processed	18,500
No. of new pensions approved (service, disability & dependants)	396
No. of cases processed on death of a pensioner	300
No. of pension payroll queries answered**	5,021
No of Payroll Family Law queries in 2015	21
No of Payroll benefit statements provided in 2015	2,480
No of Pensions Family Law queries in 2015	374
No of Pension benefit statements provided in 2015	368
Management Reports Published	320

* From March 2015, responsibility for the payment of civil servant and civilian payrolls transferred to the Civil Service Payroll Shared Services Centre (PSSC)

** From October 2015, responsibility for the payment of military pensions transferred to the Civil Service Payroll Shared Services Centre (PSSC)

PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Government Departments are required to make payments to suppliers of goods and services within 15 days from receipt of a valid invoice. In 2015, 94% of Defence Sector payments were made within 15 days and 99.8% were made within 30 days.

In 2015, the Department of Defence paid prompt payment interest of €226.51 on 42 invoices for late payments in accordance with the terms of the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions), Regulations 2002.

CORPORATE SERVICES

LITIGATION

The Department's Litigation Branch manages cases taken against the Minister for Defence. It provides information, reports, etc., as required by the State Claims Agency (SCA) and/or the Chief State Solicitor's Office (CSSO) in respect of all types of litigation cases, including Personal Injuries Claims, Judicial Reviews, Plenary Summonses and Civil Bills. The Branch continues to play an active role in the management of litigation risk through regular meetings with the State Claims Agency. The Branch

participated on the Risk Management Liaison Group whose members include representatives from the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces and the State Claims Agency. The Branch also monitored developments in the areas of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and malaria chemoprophylaxis.

Table 2.10 below outlines the position in relation to all litigation cases as at 31st December 2015:

Table 2.10 Litigation cases 2015

Case Type	Managed By	On Hands 1/1/15	Received in 2015	Cleared 2015	On Hands 31/12/15
Personal injury	SCA/ CSSO	295	124	97	322
Judicial Review	CSSO	4	9	5	8
Plenary Summonses	CSSO	14	3	3	14
Supreme Court Appeal	CSSO	6	0	1	5
Civil Bill	CSSO	18	22	11	29
Employment Equality Authority	CSSO	1	0	0	1
Total		338	158	117	379

Total expenditure on all cases amounted to €3,730,091 in the year 2015. Table 2.11 below provides a breakdown of the figures.

Table 2.11 Litigation Costs

	CSSO	SCA	Other	Total
	Employment	Personal Injury	Personal Injury	
Settlements	€105,500	€2,108,482		€2,213,982
Plaintiff Legal Costs	€191,346	€794,639		€985,985
Medical Costs		€54,248		€54,248
Agency Solicitors Fees		€176,949		€176,949
Agency Counsel Fees		€185,419		€185,419
Injuries Board Assessment Fees		€12,461		€12,461
Miscellaneous Costs		€48,076	€52,971	€101,047
Total	€296,846	€3,380,274	€52,971	€3,730,091

LEGISLATION

During 2015 significant progress was made in relation to the following areas of legislation:

DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 2015

The Defence (Amendment) Act 2015 was enacted in July 2015 to provide for the commissioned rank of Vice-Admiral in the Defence Forces. The rank of Vice-Admiral is the equivalent naval rank to the army rank of Lieutenant-General.

DEFENCE FORCES (FORENSIC EVIDENCE) BILL

The purpose of this Bill, which mirrors closely the provisions of the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014, is to ensure that the Military Police has access to DNA testing on a statutory basis (in line, where appropriate, with the powers of An Garda Síochána under the 2014 Act) in relation to the investigation of serious crimes involving military personnel. The General Scheme of the Bill was approved by Government in February 2015. The Department worked closely with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) during 2015 in relation to the drafting of this technical piece of legislation.

RED CROSS BILL

This Bill provides for the independence of the Irish Red Cross Society while also, in accordance with the State's commitments under the Geneva Conventions, providing for the protection of the national Society and the emblems of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The General Scheme of the Red Cross Bill was approved by Government in November 2015. The Bill, if enacted, will amend and consolidate the existing regulatory framework for the Irish Red Cross Society comprising of the Red Cross Acts 1938 to 1954 and all ancillary secondary legislation.

SECONDARY LEGISLATION

Work continued during 2015, in conjunction with the military authorities, in relation to the amendment and modernisation of various Defence Force Regulations made pursuant to the Defence Act 1954.

INTERNAL AUDIT

The Department's Internal Audit Section is an independent unit which provides the internal audit service to the Department and the Defence Forces and which reports directly to the Secretary General. As a service provider, the Section follows

the audit standards published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The Section provides management, both civil and military, with an independent and objective assurance and consulting activity which is designed to add value and improve the Defence Organisation's operations. This is achieved through the evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of the risk management, control and governance processes in the Organisation. The Section works to an annual audit plan, covering a range of systems, compliance and stores audits, which is approved by the Secretary General. The Section's work is reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Department's Audit Committee which comprises two external members (one of whom is the Chair) and one representative from each of the civil and military sides of the Defence Organisation. During 2015, the Section carried out a programme of 110 audits.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Department of Defence and the Defence Forces are committed to the provision of the highest standard of customer service to the individuals and organisations with whom we interact. The Defence Customer Charter and Customer Service Action Plan (2013 – 2015), set out the principles and standards of customer service that can be expected from the Organisation.

The Department of Defence is represented on the inter-departmental Quality Customer Service (QCS) Officers' Network of the Reform and Delivery Office, Department of Public Enterprise & Reform. The Network meets on a regular basis to highlight and discuss how the delivery of quality customer service can be maintained and improved in public office, under the Civil Service Renewal programme.

Each Branch within the Department has a QCS Liaison Officer who reports to the Customer Service manager on a quarterly basis with respect to the timeliness of reply to customer correspondence, the level of customer contact received through Irish and the number of customer complaints and their resolution.

During 2015, there were 93,253 contacts by telephone, post and e-mail. 98% of correspondence was acknowledged within three working days and the rate of response within three working weeks was 99%.

PROVISION OF SERVICES THROUGH IRISH

The Department of Defence is committed to fulfilling the obligations set out in the Official Languages Act 2003 with regard to the level of service provided through Irish. The Department's third Irish Language Scheme 2014-2017 came into effect on 3rd March 2014. The Scheme sets out the Department's commitments regarding the services it will provide in Irish or bilingually. Separately, the Defence Forces have produced their third Language Scheme which came into effect on 21st April 2014. Progress on the implementation of both Schemes is monitored by Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga. In 2015, the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces continued to progress the joint Implementation Plan for the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)

Under the Freedom of Information Act, the Department of Defence, the Army Pensions Board and the Defence Forces are regarded as separate bodies for the purposes of the Act. The table below illustrates the number of FOI requests processed by the Department during 2015.

Table 2.12 FOI requests processed during 2015

	Department of Defence	Defence Forces
Requests Received 2015	94	249
Requests Carried Over from 2014	0	15
Granted	37	153
Part-Granted	21	46
Refused	15	34
Transferred	3	0
Withdrawn or Handled outside of FOI	14	3
Total Requests Finalised in 2015	90	236
Requests Brought Forward to 2016	4	28

SUPPORT TO VETERANS GROUPS

The Government remain committed to providing funding to the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONE) and the Irish United Nations Veterans Association (IUNVA). Annual grants of €40,000 and €10,000 respectively, were paid to ONE and IUNVA from the Defence Vote in 2015.

MILITARY SERVICE (1916-1923) PENSIONS COLLECTION PROJECT

The Department of Defence, as part of the Government Centenary Commemoration programme, is cataloguing and partially digitising the military service pensions files in the custody of the Military Archives. The purpose of the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection project is to make records and files relating to the period from Easter Week 1916, through the War of Independence and Civil War, available to the public and to historians. This collection comprises nearly 300,000 files.

The project is overseen by a steering group comprising representatives of the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces, the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the National Archives. In addition, a team of archivists is in place.

The third online release from this Collection occurred in December 2015. The release accounted for 882 files of individuals, which now means that a total of 2,839 files and 113,841 scanned images have been processed.

MILITARY ARCHIVES

2015 proved to be a very busy year for Military Archives as the momentum towards the 1916 centenary continued to gather pace. Work continued on the new, state of the art, Military Archives building which opened in April 2016. This new facility has a capacity to facilitate 20 researchers along with a purpose built storage repository that has a capacity to store 67,500 archival boxes. The repository is climatically controlled and maintains specific temperature and relative humidity ranges in order to preserve the archives in line with international standards. The facility also has a purpose built cool room that will store images and film reel in separate conditions to that of the main repository and a conservation laboratory where fragile or damaged material can be restored.

Military Archives continues to respond to an increasing demand of public queries. In 2015, 785 researchers visited Military Archives. 5,877 emails and 2,424 phone calls were received from members of the public. A number of media production teams were also facilitated, as were university students from UCC, NUIM and UCD. Military Archives also provided for a number of external lectures to

various groups, schools and to the general public. Other means of public engagement continues through Military Archives social media platforms, Twitter, Flickr and through the website www.militaryarchives.ie.

During 2015, Military Archives, in partnership with The Letters of 1916 Project and An Foras Feasta developed an education pack with 1916 themed lesson plans for transition year students. The initiative was sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills and the Irish Research Council. The initiative was focused around a workshop held in July in which teachers, historians, archivists, professionals in the digital humanities field, and undergraduates were invited to participate. A number of lesson plans were developed and once finalised were presented at the History Teachers of Ireland Workshop in October 2015 by Military Archives and the Letters of 1916 Project team. These lesson plans are now hosted on www.militaryarchives.ie and cover a variety of subjects including history, drama and literature. The lesson plans will assist teachers to utilise primary sources online, including those of Military Archives, to teach students and to allow for creative learning of such a significant period in our history.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

The Department's ICT Branch provides the technical platforms and systems to enable staff to carry out their functions. Maintenance and development of these technical platforms and systems formed an integral part of the 2015 support programme. The Branch is also responsible for hosting the Defence Organisation's enterprise resource planning solutions which addresses financial, inventory and asset management functionality across the Organisation. ICT Branch also contributed to security and general technology requirements with respect to the various shared services initiatives.

The overall governing body for ICT matters in the Department and the Defence Forces is the Information Technology Steering Committee (ITSC) comprising civil and military members at senior levels in the Organisation. The ITSC ensures that a strategic view is taken of programmes and that the principles of Value for Money (VFM) are applied to ICT expenditure. Expenditure programmes continue to be subject to specific sanction from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

A continued programme of investment in ICT is an essential part of the Organisation's operations and will be critical to the achievement of goals. In this regard, and taking account of the Department's multiple decentralised locations, ICT Branch will continue to extend the range of devices and use of smart technology to enhance efficiency and increase productivity and collaboration.

SECTION 3: DEFENCE FORCES OPERATIONAL OUTPUTS

SECTION 3: DEFENCE FORCES OPERATIONAL OUTPUTS

Throughout 2015, the Defence Forces continued to deliver a broad range of operational outputs across the various roles assigned by Government.

OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS ON PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

In planning and supporting overseas operations, the combined engagement of the Defence Forces and Departmental staff is an essential element in the effective management of deployments. This includes reviewing potential operations, rotation planning, procurement planning and training. The Department and the Defence Forces work together to ensure the maximisation of options available to Government to meet its international obligations, in furtherance of Ireland's foreign and defence policy objectives.

During 2015, 1,383 members of the Permanent Defence Force served overseas in various missions including postings with the UN, EU, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and PfP / NATO. Table 3.1 below gives the breakdown as per the mission categories on 1st January 2015 and on 31st December 2015.

Ireland's main commitments during the year were to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as part of a combined Finnish led joint Finnish Irish Battalion (FINNIRISHBATT). The other main commitments were to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Syria and the Naval Service humanitarian mission in the Mediterranean involving three rotations of Naval Service vessels, which concluded in November 2015. Ireland also participated in the new NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, which commenced on 1st January 2015, following the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission, which ceased on 31st December 2014.

Elsewhere Ireland continued to deploy Defence Forces personnel overseas in observer missions and troop deployments such as the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali); the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the NATO-led international security presence (KFOR) in Kosovo. Staff Officers and Military Observers, serving in the UN, EU and the OSCE, continued to make valuable contributions to Peace Support Operations in countries and regions such as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, Western Sahara, the Middle East and

throughout the Balkans. Defence Forces personnel also served in the military staffs of the EU and NATO/PfP in Brussels and with the OSCE in Vienna, where they held a variety of key appointments. In addition, Ireland contributed Defence Forces personnel to the Nordic Battlegroup Headquarters in Sweden which finished in July 2015. From October 2015, Ireland contributed Defence Forces personnel to the German-led Battlegroup 2016 in Strasbourg and also to the UK-led Battlegroup 2016 in the UK.

In response to a request from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, three members of the Permanent Defence Force were deployed to the Embassy of Ireland in Freetown, Sierra Leone in November 2014 until February 2015 under the Emergency Civil Assistance Team initiative, to assist in Ireland's response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa.

To further assist in Ireland's response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, five members of the Permanent Defence Force were also deployed in 2015 to Sierra Leone as part of a UK-led Joint Inter-Agency Task Force tackling Ebola in the region. The Irish personnel were deployed to Sierra Leone on 17th January 2015 following pre-deployment training in the UK. This deployment ended on 15th September 2015.



Table 3.1 Department of Defence and Defence Forces Overseas Postings – 2015

MISSION	01-JAN-15	31-DEC-15
United Nations led operations		
UNTSO (Middle East)	12	13
MINURSO (Western Sahara)	3	3
MONUSCO (Democratic Rep Congo)	4	4
UNOCI (Cote d'Ivoire)	2	2
UNIFIL HQ (Lebanon)	9	9
UNIFIL Infantry Battalion (Lebanon)	186	184
UNIFIL Sector West HQ (Lebanon)	4	4
UNDOF Infantry Group (Golan Heights)	130	131
UNDOF HQ (Golan Heights)	8	8
SUB-TOTAL (UN)	358	358
European Union led operations		
EUFOR (Bosnia & Herzegovina)	7	7
Nordic Battlegroup HQ	14	0
German-led Battlegroup 2016	0	10
UK-led Battlegroup 2016	0	5
EUTM Mali	10	9
SUB-TOTAL (UN Mandated Missions)	31	31
NATO led operations		
KFOR HQ	12	12
RSM (Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan)	7	7
SUB-TOTAL (NATO/PfP)	19	19
OSCE led operations		
OSCE	3	2
SUB-TOTAL (OSCE)	3	2
Military Reps/Advisers//Staff Postings		
UNNY (New York)	1	1
EUMS (Brussels)	5	3
NATO/PfP (Belgium)*	5	5
Irish delegation to OSCE (VIENNA)	1	1
CSDP/PSC (Brussels)*	9	9
SUB-TOTAL (MIL REPS/ADVISERS/STAFF)	21	19
TOTAL PERSONNEL OVERSEAS	432	429

* Both civil and military staff from the Defence Organisation are deployed to CSDP/PSC and NATO/PfP offices in Brussels.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

In 2015, 197 Defence Forces personnel were deployed with UNIFIL. The Defence Forces served as part of a joint Finnish/Irish Battalion which is based in Sector West of UNIFIL's area of operations in an area designated by the Force Commander, in the vicinity of At Tiri, and with two posts on the 'Line of Withdrawal' (also known as the 'Blue Line'), which separates Lebanon and Israel. In May 2015, with UN approval, Finland embedded one Estonian Platoon, comprising 37 personnel, in the Finnish Contingent.

There were two troop rotations during 2015. In May 2015, the 47th Infantry Group was replaced by the 49th Infantry Group and during November 2015, the 49th Infantry Group was replaced by the 51st Infantry Group. Each Infantry Group comprised approximately 185 personnel. In addition, a number of Defence Forces personnel served at UNIFIL Sector West Headquarters in Shama and at the Force Headquarters in Naqoura.

UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (UNDOF)

In 2015, 130 Defence Forces personnel were deployed with UNDOF in Syria. The Irish contingent is tasked primarily to serve as the Force Mobile Reserve, providing a Quick Reaction Force, which is on standby to assist with on-going operations within the UNDOF area of responsibility.

There were two rotations in 2015. In March 2015 the 46th Infantry Group was replaced by the 48th Infantry Group. The 48th Infantry Group was replaced by the 50th Infantry Group in September 2015.



In addition to the Force Mobile Reserve, there are a further eight Defence Forces personnel based in UNDOF Headquarters, Camp Ziouani, including the Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General Anthony Hanlon, who took up his appointment on 20th September 2014. At the request of the UN, Brigadier General Hanlon had his appointment extended until 21st March 2016.

Fighting between Syrian Arab Armed Forces and anti Government armed elements escalated in the UNDOF area of responsibility during 2014. This led to a fundamental realignment of the UNDOF mission with a view to minimizing unacceptable risks to peacekeepers, while continuing to implement the mission's mandate. Most UNDOF personnel are now deployed on the Israeli side of the area of separation. However, the continued presence of the UNDOF mission remains an important element in ensuring stability on the Golan Heights and in the Middle East region and is supported and welcomed by both Syria and Israel.

EUROPEAN UNION FORCE (EUFOR) – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

Operation 'ALTHEA' in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continues to focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment while overseeing the transfer of military tasks to national authorities. This mission remains an important part of the EU's comprehensive efforts in BiH to support a political process aimed at enabling BiH, on the basis of necessary reforms, to continue to move forward in the EU integration process.

On 10th November 2015, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution (2247) (2015) renewing EUFOR's mandate for a further period of twelve months until November 2016.

Seven members of the Defence Forces are deployed on this mission; all are located at the Headquarters in Sarajevo.

EUROPEAN UNION TRAINING MISSION – EUTM MALI

In 2013, the Council of the European Union established the EU Training Mission (EUTM Mali). Initially the mission's mandate was for 15 months, but this has been extended and the current mandate continued into May 2016.

The objective of the mission is to improve the

capacity of the Malian Armed Forces to maintain security in Mali and restore the authority of the Malian Government and the territorial integrity of the Malian State. Alongside standard infantry training, training is being provided in international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians and human rights.

The mission is now completely integrated into the military training structure in Mali. EUTM Mali is recognised as an essential partner in the reconstruction of the Malian State and the main instrument for the reconstruction of its armed forces.

Ten members of the Permanent Defence Force were deployed to this Mission in 2015.

KOSOVO FORCE (KFOR)

Ireland continues to contribute to the UN authorised and NATO-led Peace Support Operation in Kosovo (KFOR). At the end of 2015 twelve Defence Forces personnel were serving in the KFOR Headquarters in Pristina.

RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Seven Defence Forces personnel had been serving with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the NATO-led and UN-mandated force in Afghanistan since 2002. The ISAF mission concluded on 31st December 2014, whereupon the Afghan National Security Forces took over full responsibility for security within Afghanistan. The NATO led follow-on 'Resolute Support Mission' was launched on 1st January 2015 following the withdrawal of ISAF. Following Government approval, the seven Irish personnel who had been deployed to ISAF were reassigned to the Resolute Support Mission on the 1st January 2015 and were based at the Mission headquarters in Kabul. The United Nations Security Council welcomed the Resolute Support Mission with the unanimous adoption on 12th December 2014 of Resolution 2189. This Resolution underscores the importance of continued international support for the stability of Afghanistan.

The NATO led Resolute Support Mission is a non-combat training mission designed to train Afghan military personnel and to establish and administer the requisite training processes and systems to allow the Afghan Government to effectively provide for its own national security in a sustainable

manner. The Resolute Support Mission provides training, advisory and assistance activities at security ministries and national institutional levels in support of military and police forces.

ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

The OSCE is a pan-European security body, which operates in a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN charter. The OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation. Its unique approach to security is comprehensive and deals with three dimensions of security: the human, the politico-military and the economic-environmental. A total of two Defence Forces personnel serve with the OSCE, one in Bosnia and Herzegovina and one in Austria. One other officer continued to be deployed as a military advisor at the Irish delegation to the OSCE in Vienna.

UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANISATION (UNTSO)

During 2015, Ireland deployed twelve Defence Forces personnel as military observers within the UNTSO Mission area of Lebanon, Syria and Israel. In addition, a member of the Permanent Defence Force, Major General Michael Finn, was appointed by the United Nations to the post of Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the UNTSO mission in July 2013 and continued to serve in the post until 31st July 2015. In September 2015, Colonel Eamon Caulfield was appointed by the United Nations to the post of Deputy Chief of Staff UNTSO.

RAPID RESPONSE ELEMENTS (BATTELGROUPS)

The EU Rapid Response Concept was reviewed in 2014. The Concept provides Member States with opportunities to contribute to Battlegroup Rosters, Maritime, Air and Land Rapid Response Databases.

In 2015, the Defence Forces ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) Task Force (TF) was placed on standby with the Nordic Battlegroup 2015-1 from 1st January 2015 to 30th June 2015. In September 2014, 14 Defence Force personnel were deployed to the Battlegroup Headquarters in Sweden for a twelve month tour of duty. This contingent included the Deputy Commander of the Battlegroup. These personnel returned to Ireland in September 2015. The raising and concentration for the German led Battlegroup 2016-2 commenced in July 2015. The

contribution to this Battlegroup will be in line with previous ISTAR TF. Ten personnel were deployed to the German led Battlegroup Force Headquarters in Strasbourg in September 2015. In addition, five Defence Forces personnel were deployed to the Battlegroup Operational, Force and Battlegroup Headquarters in the United Kingdom in November 2015.

NAVAL SERVICE DEPLOYMENT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN (OPERATION PONTUS)

In 2015, the Naval Service deployed three ships to the Mediterranean, under the aegis of the Note Verbale signed with the Italian Government in early May 2015, to assist with the recovery of migrants from waters off the coast of Libya. During the deployment the Naval Service worked in close co-operation and co-ordination with both the Italian Navy and the Italian Coastguard.

Following a Government Decision on 12th May 2015, LÉ Eithne was deployed to the Mediterranean on 16th May 2015 to assist the Italian Authorities with the collective effort to save lives in the Mediterranean. When LÉ Eithne completed her deployment in July 2015, she was replaced by LÉ Niamh. LÉ Niamh was subsequently replaced by LÉ Samuel Beckett which commenced patrolling duties on the waters between Libya and Sicily on 1st October 2015 before returning to Ireland on 17th December 2015.

The success of the operations carried out during 2015 clearly demonstrated the value of Ireland's participation in this important humanitarian response. As outlined in Table 3.2, a combined total of 8,592 people were rescued in the Mediterranean by Irish Naval vessels. Tragically, 39 bodies were also recovered by the Naval Service during that period.

The deployment of naval assets to support Italy in addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean has been very significant. Ireland's participation has been warmly welcomed and positively endorsed by the Italian authorities. A 'People of the Year' award was presented to the Defence Forces in recognition of the exemplary service given during this operation.

Table 3.2 OPERATION PONTUS

DEPLOYED	UNIT	NO. OF SAR OPS	PERSONS RESCUED / RECOVERED
16 MAY - 17 JULY	LÉ EITHNE	22	3,377
10 JULY - 02 OCT	LÉ NIAMH	24	4,166
24 SEPT - 29 NOV	LÉ SAMUEL BECKETT	11	1,088

AID TO THE CIVIL POWER (ATCP) OPERATIONS

Domestic security is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Equality and An Garda Síochána. The Defence Forces have a key role in providing ATCP support on request. Table 3.3 below illustrates the number and type of ATCP operations where the Defence Forces supported An Garda Síochána in 2015.

Table 3.3 Defence Forces ATCP Operations conducted in 2015

Type of ATCP Operation	Number of Operations 2014
Euro Cash in Transit (CIT) Escorts	11
Prisoner Escorts	142
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Call-outs	141
Explosive Escorts	12
Garda Air Support Unit Missions	1,021
Central Bank Security Guard	365
Central Bank Patrols	1,010
Hospital Guard	11
Explosive Production Security Guard	365
Airport Security Duties	331
Naval Service (ATCP) Diving Operations	18
Total	3,427

In addition, the Defence Forces carried out a 365 day armed guard at both Government Buildings and at Portlaoise Prison which are missions that arise from Government direction rather than an ATCP request from An Garda Síochána.

Table 3.4 CIT Missions flown by the Air Corps in 2015

Aircraft	Missions	Flight Hours
Cessna FR 172	8	11
Augusta Westland 139	13	17
Total	21*	28

*NOTE: CIT operations may involve two or more Air Corps missions.

GARDA AIR SUPPORT UNIT (GASU)

The Air Corps supports An Garda Síochána in the operation of two helicopters and a fixed wing aircraft, which form the GASU. The Air Corps provides regulatory oversight and piloting for the GASU and maintenance for the fixed wing (Defender) aircraft. The Air Corps support to the GASU is covered by the terms of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Department of Justice and Equality.

Table 3.5 Missions flown by the Air Corps GASU in 2015

Aircraft	Missions	Flight Hours
EC 135 T2 / Defender 4000	1,010	1,128

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)

EOD teams operating in ATCP provide a unique response capability within the State to deal with EOD incidents. This capability which has been developed over many years in operational environments, both at home and overseas, includes the area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) operations. The Defence Forces EOD teams responded to 141 call-outs in 2015.

ATCP DIVING OPERATIONS

The Naval Service Diving Section (NSDS) has specialised capabilities that can be deployed on request to respond to emergencies throughout the State. The NSDS has an air diving capability to 50 metres and it houses a wide array of specialised underwater search and lifting equipment, including side scan sonars, hand held sonars, Ordnance Automatic Recovery System and Remotely Operated Vehicles that allows the section to search and survey to 1,000 metres depth.

Table 3.6 Naval Service Diving Section ATCP Operations 2015

Diving Operations	Operations	No. of Days
Berth Clearance for Visiting Naval Vessels	1	2
Search & Recovery operations	9	39
Total	10	41

JOINT TASK FORCE ON DRUG INTERDICTION

The Joint Task Force (JTF) is a partnership between An Garda Síochána, the Naval Service and the Revenue Customs Service, in enforcing the law in relation to drug trafficking at sea. Naval Service representatives met frequently with their counterparts in the JTF during 2015. The JTF is stood up when a maritime operation is required. This involves working closely with the Maritime Analysis Operations Centre (Narcotics) (MAOC (N)) in Lisbon. In April 2015, the LÉ Eithne and LÉ Orla were tasked at the request of the Customs Service to shadow a vessel of interest off the west coast of Ireland. The vessel was later intercepted by UK authorities and detained for suspected illegal drug importation.

The Naval Service also detected and monitored a number of Vessels of Interest (VOIs) utilising the newly installed RMP (Recognised Maritime Picture) facility. The information on these VOIs was passed to the appropriate authorities and assisted in the seizure of €15m of drugs by the Italian Authorities in November 2015.

AID TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITY (ATCA) AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES

In the event of a major emergency, the support of the Defence Forces can be sought by any of the principal response agencies, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, and the Local Authorities, in accordance with the Framework for Major Emergency Management.

The Defence Forces can provide a significant support role in a major emergency response with military operational capabilities that can be deployed across a wide spectrum of activities. The provision of Defence Forces' support is dependent on the exigencies of other commitments, and within available resources at the time. However,

the negotiation by the Department of Defence of prior agreed arrangements through MOUs and SLAs with other Governments Departments and Agencies continues to facilitate a planned and efficient response by the Defence Forces in emergency situations.

In March and December 2015, Defence Forces personnel were deployed to assist in the search for a missing person in the Kilkenny area. In September, Defence Forces personnel were also deployed to assist in the search for a missing person in the Dundalk area. The total number of troops deployed in such searches during 2015 was 436.

The Defence Forces also deployed a total of 1,304 troops to assist the Principal Response Agencies during severe flooding that occurred in December 2015. Deployments were to counties Kerry, Cork, Clare, Galway, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Westmeath, Roscommon, Sligo and Donegal. Personnel from the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces participated on a daily basis in meetings of the National Emergency Co-ordination Group on Severe Weather held in the National Emergency Co-ordination Centre.

The Defence Forces assistance and support to the Principal Response Agencies included the building of flood defences, the operation of water pumps, the provision of transportation for local communities (including a boat shuttle service in Clonlara, Co. Clare, the evacuation of people and the transportation of HSE personnel). The Air Corps provided flood reconnaissance flights for the Office of Public Works along the Shannon catchment area as well as providing a fodder delivery service to isolated farms in south Galway.

NAVAL SERVICE (NS) FISHERY PROTECTION 2015

Provision of Fishery Protection services during 2015 were based on outputs agreed with the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). During 2015, the Naval Service carried out a total of 709 fishing patrol days and conducted a total of 1,079 fisheries boardings with ten fishing vessels detained for various fisheries infringements.

As part of the Naval Service's fisheries commitments, it completed two patrols in the Common Control Inspection Programme area operating in the Exclusive Economic Zones of

Ireland, UK, France and Spain. The Naval Service also completed ten days on patrol in the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission area outside Ireland's 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone with EU inspectors onboard. LÉ Ciara and LÉ Orla conducted extensive inshore fisheries operations in co-ordination with the SFPA during 2015. LÉ Orla also embarked EU, Northern Ireland and SFPA inspectors for a multinational patrol of the Irish Sea in June 2015.

Table 3.7 Naval Service Fishery Protection for 2015

Fishing Vessel Nationality	Sightings	Boardings	Infringements	Detentions
Irish	534	493	2	7
Spanish	266	248	-	-
UK	109	99	3	3
French	207	196	-	-
Belgian	3	3	-	-
German	7	7	-	-
Netherlands	13	10	-	-
Russian	8	8	1	-
Norwegian	11	11	-	-
Lithuania	2	2	-	-
Denmark	2	2	-	-
Total	1162	1079	6	10

NAVAL SERVICE ATCA OPERATIONS 2015

In the event of an emergency, the support of the Naval Service can be sought by any of the Principal Response Agencies, in accordance with the Framework for Major Emergency Management. A total of 16 ATCA Operations for six agencies were conducted by the Naval Service in 2015.



PROVISION OF AN AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Air Ambulance Service is operated by the Air Corps and provides for emergency inter-hospital transfers of patients and also transport of emergency organ retrieval teams. It also provides transfers to hospitals from offshore islands when the Irish Coast Guard is not available. The provision of this service is covered by the terms of a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Health.

Table 3.8 Inter-Hospital Air Ambulance Missions conducted by the Air Corps in 2015

Aircraft	Missions	Flight Hours
CASA	30	85.7
Learjet 45	5	10.8
AW139	32	78.9
EC135 P2	3	7.3

EMERGENCY AEROMEDICAL SUPPORT (EAS) SERVICE

The Air Corps supports the HSE's Emergency Aeromedical Support (EAS) service which operates on a daily basis out of Custume Barracks, Athlone. This service commenced in June 2012 and was established, initially on a pilot basis, by agreement between the Department and the Department of Health.

A permanent service has now been established following a Government decision in July 2015. The Air Corps provides a dedicated helicopter operating out of Custume Barracks, Athlone, with reserve support being provided by the Irish Coast Guard.

The Defence Vote receives an additional €2.2million annually in respect of the costs incurred in running the EAS service which is based on flying 480 hours per year. The Government decision provides that various service delivery options will be kept under review in the context of ensuring a sustainable long term service.

Table 3.9 EAS Missions

Aircraft	Missions	Flight Hours
AW 139	397	788
Total	397*	788**

* Completed missions

**EAS total flying time (incl. missions that were stood down etc.)

Table 3.10 Nature of EAS missions undertaken 2015

Medical	Trauma	Paediatric	Other	Total
249	131	17	0	397

AIR CORPS CIVIL ASSISTANCE

In accordance with the roles assigned by Government, the Air Corps is committed to providing support to the civil authorities including other Government Departments and State Agencies. Table 3.11 illustrates the level of aid provided by the Air Corps to the civil authorities in 2015.

Table 3.11 Civil Assistance Missions conducted by the Air Corps in 2015

Aircraft	Missions	Flight Hours	Example of missions undertaken
AW 139	13	53.6	Major Accident Major Fire Ballot Boxes Bog Survey NPWS/Wildlife Flood Relief Island Relief
EC135 P2	4	12.7	
Cessna FR172H	38	99.3	
CASA	5	19.3	
Total	60	184.9	

Table 3.12 below illustrates the number of search and rescue support missions undertaken by the Air Corps during 2015.

Table 3.12 Search and Rescue Missions flown by the Air Corps in 2015

Aircraft	Number of missions	Total Hours
AW139	3	2.1
EC-135	1	1.2
CASA	8	37.4

AIR CORPS MARITIME PATROLS

The Air Corps operates two CASA CN235 maritime patrol aircraft in support of the fishery protection effort in conjunction with the Naval Service and the SFPA. These long-range aircraft patrol throughout the Irish Economic Exclusion Zone. During 2015, in-shore fishery patrols were also undertaken by the fleet of Cessna C172H aircraft.

Table 3.13 Maritime Patrols conducted by the Air Corps in 2015

Aircraft	Mission Type	Number of missions	Total hours
CASA	Fishery Patrols	213	1,102.90
CESSNA	In-shore Patrols	71	141.50
Total		284	1,244.4

THE MINISTERIAL AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE (MATS)

The Ministerial Air Transport Service is provided by the Air Corps to assist the President and members of the Government in fulfilling their official engagements at home and abroad. Statistical information relating to the use of the Ministerial Air Transport Service is published on the Department of Defence website and updated on a monthly basis.

Table 3.14 Details of MATS in 2015

Aircraft	Number of missions	Total hours
Learjet LR45	69	289.6
AW 139	3	9.2
CASA MPA 235	1	2.0
Total	73	300.8

PROVISION OF MILITARY CEREMONIAL SERVICES

The Defence Forces continue to participate in a broad range of ceremonial events both at home and overseas. Preparation involves liaison with a variety of stakeholders including Government Departments, Local Authorities and external agencies. The range of ceremonial events includes: State Ceremonial, National Commemorative Events, Ministerial Reviews of Defence Forces units travelling overseas and support to formation level local events such as St Patrick's Day celebrations. Highlights in 2015 included the Commemoration of the centenary of the sinking of the Cruise Liner 'Lusitania' in Cobh Co. Cork, the State Visit to Ireland of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the State Commemoration of the centenary of the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa in Glasnevin Cemetery and the State Funeral and re-interment of Thomas Kent in Castlelyons Co. Cork.

Also, on 29th May 2015 a ceremony was held on Inis Oírr in honour of SS Caomhán Seoighe, who

went missing in action while on duty with UNIFIL in April 1981. This included the unveiling of a monument dedicated to SS Seoighe and a wreath laying ceremony.

Defence Forces Veterans' Day was held on 12th September 2015 in Collins Barracks, Cork.



DEFENCE FORCES SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Defence Forces School of Music has responsibility for three military bands (based in Dublin, Cork and Athlone) and the training of seven infantry battalion pipe bands and one Air Corps pipe band. 428 engagements were fulfilled by Defence Force instrumental groups during 2015, the majority of which fell into the category of State and military engagements. Defence Forces bands provided musical support to a wide range of State ceremonial events such as the National Day of Commemoration, the annual 1916 Easter Rising commemorative events at the GPO and at Arbour Hill, the National Famine Commemoration, Citizenship ceremonies, visits of foreign Heads of State and presentation of credentials to Uachtarán na hÉireann by foreign ambassadors. Musical support was given to a wide range of military ceremonial events such as commissioning ceremonies and Army, Naval Service and Air Corps passing out parades.

Defence Forces bands also fulfilled a wide variety of civilian engagements, performing at major sporting events such as Six Nations rugby championship matches, international soccer matches and at the Dublin Horse Show opening and closing ceremonies. A combined Defence Forces band performed at annual massed bands performances in the National Concert Hall, Dublin and City Hall, Cork. Defence Forces bands also participated in a

number of St. Patrick's Day parades and continued its very popular educational programme with visits to primary and secondary schools throughout the State.

ARMY EQUITATION SCHOOL

During 2015, Army Riding Officers riding Irish bred sport horses, competed and achieved notable success at numerous prestigious international equestrian competitions, including: the RDS (Dublin), Arezzo (Italy), Odense (Denmark), Gijon (Spain), Chantilly (France), Fontainebleau (France), Lezno (Poland), Blenheim Palace Horse Trials (England) and the Boekelo Horse Trials (Netherlands).

Captain Geoff Curran was a member of the Irish Team that competed in the Nations Cup competition in Drammen (Norway) and Odense (Denmark). Captain Michael Kelly was a team member of the Nations Cup teams at Arezzo (Italy) and Gijon (Spain). During the year he had numerous wins at international competitions, most notably winning the Chantilly Grand Prix with Drumiller Lough. Captain Kelly also had wins at Fontainebleau (France), Vejer de la Frontera (Spain) and Lezno (Poland). During the year Army Riding Officers competed at numerous national shows throughout the country, the highlight of which was Captain Michael Kelly winning the Premier Grand Prix at the National Balmoral Championships in Northern Ireland for the second year in succession.

During the year the Equitation School continued its Transition Year Student Programme and Training Bursaries. Approximately 60 transition year students spent one week on work experience and two Pony Club bursary recipients completed one week of training with their horses in the Equitation School. In addition, the Equitation School continued to provide support and advice to the Sport Horse sector by hosting many visits from a variety of interest groups including equitation students from the University of Limerick and Kildalton Agricultural College as well as a number of Pony Clubs.

SECTION 4: APPENDICES

SECTION 4: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Financial information

Table A.1.1 Details of Defence Vote Expenditure for 2015 by Category

* Based on 2015 Provisional Outturn Figures

Expenditure Category	€m	%
PDF Pay and Allowances	417	62.1
Pay and Allowances of Civilian Employees and RDF	24	3.6
Defensive Equipment	24	3.6
Air Corps: Equipment, fuel, maintenance, etc.	17	2.5
Naval Service: Equipment, fuel, maintenance, etc.	65	9.7
Barracks expenses, repairs and maintenance of lands	23	3.4
Buildings – Capital (incl. expenditure on Military Archives building)	8	1.2
Military Transport: New vehicles, fuel, repairs and maintenance	12	1.8
Compensation	4	0.6
Other non-pay military expenditure	45	6.8
Administrative Budget	21	3.1
Civil Defence and the Irish Red Cross Society	11	1.6
TOTAL	671	100

Table A.1.2 Details of Army Pensions Expenditure for 2015 by Category

* Based on 2015 Outturn Figures

Expenditure Category	€m	%
Defence Forces (Pensions) Scheme & Payments in respect of Transferred Service	219	96.0
Wound & Disability Pensions, allowances and gratuities, to or in respect of former members of the Defence Forces	8	3.6
Payments in respect of dependants of Veterans of the War of Independence & other miscellaneous expenditure	1	0.4
Total (Gross)	228	100

Note: Minor discrepancies may arise due to rounding.

Appendix 2: Cross-Departmental Working Groups with Input from Defence

- CISM Network (Critical Incidence Stress Management Network)
- Civil Service Employee Assistant Service Advisory Committee
- Civil Service Renewal Working Group on cross-cutting issues
- Corepay Users Group
- Court Martial Rules Committee
- Department of the Taoiseach National Risk Assessment Steering Group
- Disability Liaison Officers Network
- Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Co-ordination Group and associated sub groups
- Electronic Recording System (ERS) Implementation Group (Fisheries)
- Finance Officers Network
- Garda Air Support Unit Steering Group
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on Risk
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on Strategic Emergency Management – National Structures and Framework
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on CBRN
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on Communications
- Government Task Force on Emergency Planning sub-group on Electricity Contingency Planning
- Health Threats Co-ordination Group
- High Level Steering Group on Cyber Security
- Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES) Management Board
- Inter-Agency Group on Illness and Maternity Benefits
- Interdepartmental Committee on Conventional Weapons
- Interdepartmental Committee on Development
- Interdepartmental Committee on EU Engagement
- Interdepartmental Committee on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Interdepartmental Committee on Peacekeeping
- Interdepartmental Committee on the Security of Government Buildings Complex
- Interdepartmental Committee to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Interdepartmental Cyber Security Committee
- Interdepartmental Meeting on the Council of Europe
- Interdepartmental meetings on Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals
- Interdepartmental meetings on the Diaspora
- Interdepartmental National Security Authority Group.
- Interdepartmental Planning Group for 1916 Easter Sunday Commemoration
- Interdepartmental Planning Group for the National Day of Commemoration
- Interdepartmental Steering Group on the Military Service Pensions Collection project
- Inter-hospital Air Ambulance Steering Group
- Irish Aeronautical Maritime Emergency Advisory Group
- Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee
- Irish Prison Service Interagency Contingency Planning Group
- Malaria Chemoprophylaxis Working Group
- Marine Co-ordination Group
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive Implementation Group
- Maritime Surveillance (MARSUR) Committee and Working Group
- Military Service Pensions Archives Project
- Monitoring and Evaluation Group on UNSCR1325
- National Aeromedical Group
- National Airspace Policy Body (Flexible Use of Airspace)
- National Civil Aviation Security Committee
- National Committee on International Humanitarian Law
- National Co-ordination Group on Severe Weather Events

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- National Emergency Planning Group on Nuclear Accidents (NEPNA)
 - National Famine Commemoration Committee
 - National Implementation Committee for Disused Radioactive Source Management
 - National Security Committee
 - National Steering Group on Major Emergency Management
 - OFGUG (Oracle Financials Government User Group)
 - OPW Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Steering Group
 - OPW Interdepartmental Flood Policy Co-ordination Group
 - Personnel Officers Executive Committee
 - Personnel Officers Network
 - Public Service Management Group
 - Quality Customer Service Officers Network
 - Risk Management Liaison Group
 - Sea Fisheries Protection Authority SLA Management Groups Levels 1 and 2
 - Sea Fisheries Protection Authority Consultative Committee
 - Sectoral Workforce Planning Forum
 - Senior Officials Group on EU Affairs
 - Shared Services Leadership Network
 - Single Pension Scheme Programme Board
 - Financial Management Shared Services – Process Design Authority
 - Various Working Groups related to the Financial Management Shared Services project
 - Financial Management Shared Services – Evaluation Panel
 - The Interdepartmental Committee on Ireland's membership of the UN Human Rights Council, 2013-2015
 - Training Officers Network
 - Various Working Groups related to the Financial Management Shared Services project
 - Working Group on Corporate Manslaughter

Appendix 3: Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and service level agreements (SLAs)

The Department of Defence has completed MOUs with:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Health
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Ministry of Defence, Finland
- Ministry of Defence, UK
- United Nations
- The State Claims Agency
- Banking & Payments Federation Ireland

SLAs have been agreed with:

- Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) - for the provision by the Air Corps of an air transport service to GSOC Investigators
- Department of Health / Health Service Executive (HSE) – regarding an Air Ambulance Service provided by the Air Corps
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government – regarding the provision of services by the Defence Forces and Civil Defence
- Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) – regarding Air Navigation Services between the IAA and the Air Corps
- Department of Justice and Equality – regarding the Garda Air Support Unit
- Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) – regarding Search and Rescue (SAR) support and other services provided by the Defence Forces to the IRCG
- Marine Institute (MI) – regarding surveys, information sharing and training between the MI and the Naval Service
- Met Éireann – regarding the exchange of meteorological data between the Naval Service and Met Éireann
- Air Accident Investigation Unit (AAIU) - in relation to services provided by the Defence Forces to the AAIU in the event of an air accident
- Marine Survey Office (MSO) - in relation to port security services provided by the Naval Service to the MSO
- Medico Unit in Cork University Hospital, - in relation to training assistance provided by the Naval Service to Medico².
- Office of Public Works (OPW) – in relation to services provided by the Air Corps to the OPW during extreme weather events
- Irish Aid – in relation to a range of services provided by the Defence Forces regarding the Rapid Response initiative
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) – in relation to services provided by the Naval Service and Air Corps to the SFPA in regard to fisheries protection
- State Claims Agency (SCA) - in relation to services provided to the Department of Defence in respect of litigation
- An Garda Síochána – Terms of service between Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána in relation to emergency incidents

² 'Medico Cork' is the communications call sign for the National Maritime Telemedical Assistance Service provided by the Emergency Department at Cork University Hospital. The service provides medical advice and assistance in the event of medical emergencies at sea or on an island.

Appendix 4: Overview of Energy Usage in 2015

This Appendix sets out the energy usage in the Defence Organisation for 2015 and the initiatives taken to improve energy performance in compliance with the requirements as set out in the European Communities (Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009, (S.I. No. 542 of 2009).

Department of Defence Energy Consumption 2015

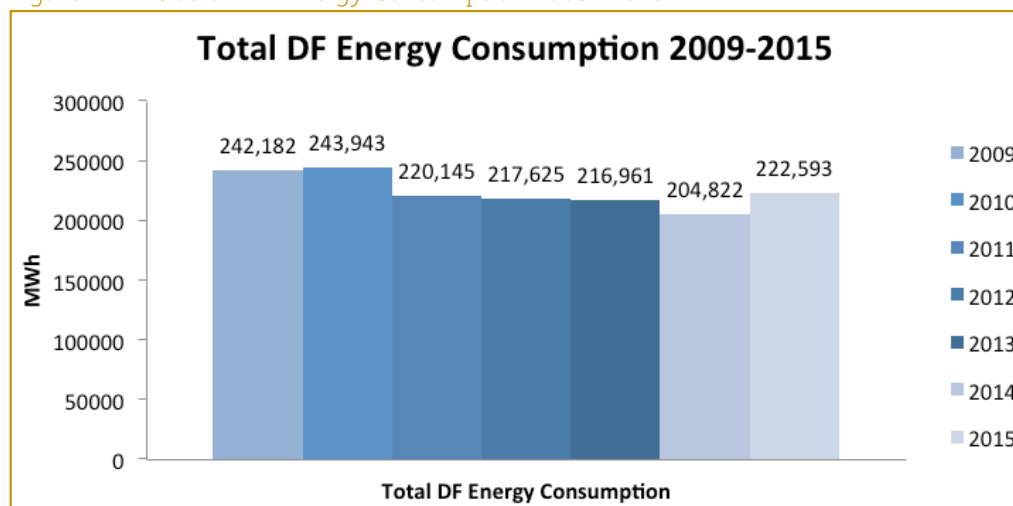
The Department of Defence continued to take a very proactive approach during 2015 throughout its buildings in Newbridge, Renmore and Roscrea in progressing energy-efficient initiatives. All staff received regular reminders of energy awareness initiatives and instructions to switch off electrical appliances when not in use.

The Department of Defence was chosen for a pilot energy study in 2007 and as such refers to 2007 as its base year. The total usage of energy in Renmore during 2015 of 670,484kWh represents a reduction in energy consumption of 31% compared to the base year of 2007. Total energy usage for the Roscrea building in 2015 was 335,423 kWh which represents a reduction of 34% when compared to 2007 figures. The total energy consumed by the Newbridge building in 2015 was 2,075,097 kWh which represents a reduction of some 2% when compared with 2011, the first full year of occupation. Energy usage has slightly increased in all buildings from the 2014 figure due to the fact that more thermal fuel was used as a result of lower temperatures during the year.

DEFENCE FORCES ENERGY CONSUMPTION 2015

In 2015, the Defence Forces consumed 222,593 MWh of energy. This represented an increase in Energy Consumption of 17,771.11 MWh (8.68%) above 2014 which was 204,821.52 MWh. The increase in energy consumption can be attributed to an increase in operational activity. Overall the Defence Forces has reduced absolute energy consumption by 9.14% since 2009.

Figure A4.1 Overall DF Energy Consumption 2009- 2015



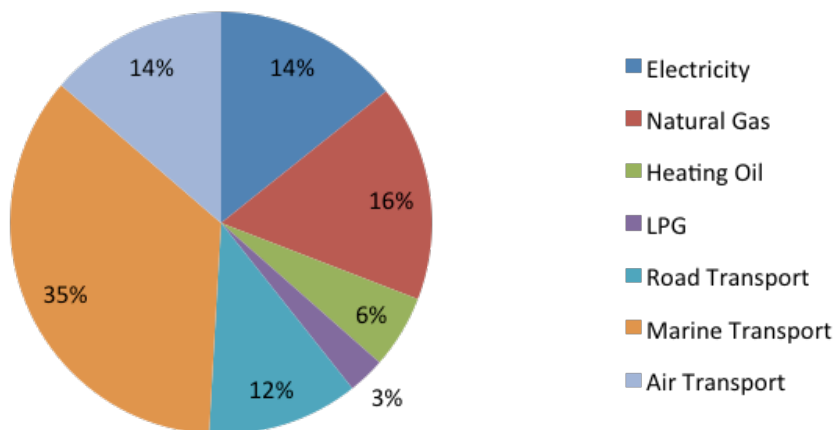
The main sources of energy consumption within the Defence Forces during 2015 were transport fuels, including marine fuel, aviation fuel and road diesel, and utilities including electricity, natural gas, LPG and heating oil.

The total consumption for each energy use is listed below and illustrated in Figure A4.2 in comparison to 2014:

• Electricity	31,809 MWh
• Natural Gas	36,906 MWh
• Heating Oil	12,489 MWh
• LPG	6,314 MWh
• Marine Diesel	78,796 MWh
• Aviation Fuel	30,465 MWh
• Road Diesel and Petrol	25,813 MWh
• Total	222,593 MWh

The following chart indicates the relative usage of transport and utilities. The most significant uses of energy remain Marine Gas Oil (35%) which is followed by Natural Gas (16%), and Electricity (14%).

Figure A4.2 Total Defence Forces Energy use (%) 2015



EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA) COLLABORATION - ENERGY

The Defence Forces has engaged with the EDA on a number of energy initiatives. In 2015 Defence Forces personnel participated in the Energy and Environment Working Group which was established on 26th June 2014. This Working Group examines opportunities to reduce fuel and energy consumption on operations at sea, on land and in the air. It contributes advice on energy topics to other EDA and national projects. At the 4th Working Group meeting in November 2015 Defence Forces personnel gave a presentation on the progress that has been made in improving energy performance, including re-certification to ISO 50001.

In October 2015, Ireland was invited to participate in the 'Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence & Security Sectors' (CFSEDSS). This consists of a series of conferences which will examine the applicability of EU energy legislation and how it can be implemented by the armed forces of Europe. The core themes of the consultation forum are energy efficiency, energy management and renewable energy. The aims of the forum are to improve the capabilities of the Defence Sector and to facilitate the Defence sector of each Member State in contributing to the EU and national strategic objectives on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

In 2015 Ireland were also invited to participate in the 'Smart Blue Camps' Water Management Project. This project attempts to address energy & environmental concerns with regard to water usage and management in barracks. The Project will be conducted over approximately three years which is broken down into two phases. Phase 1 consists of an onsite assessment, identifying problems, and prioritising solutions. Phase 2 consists of selecting and evaluating solutions, monitoring performance, and knowledge sharing.



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