



Commissioning of 82nd Cadet Class



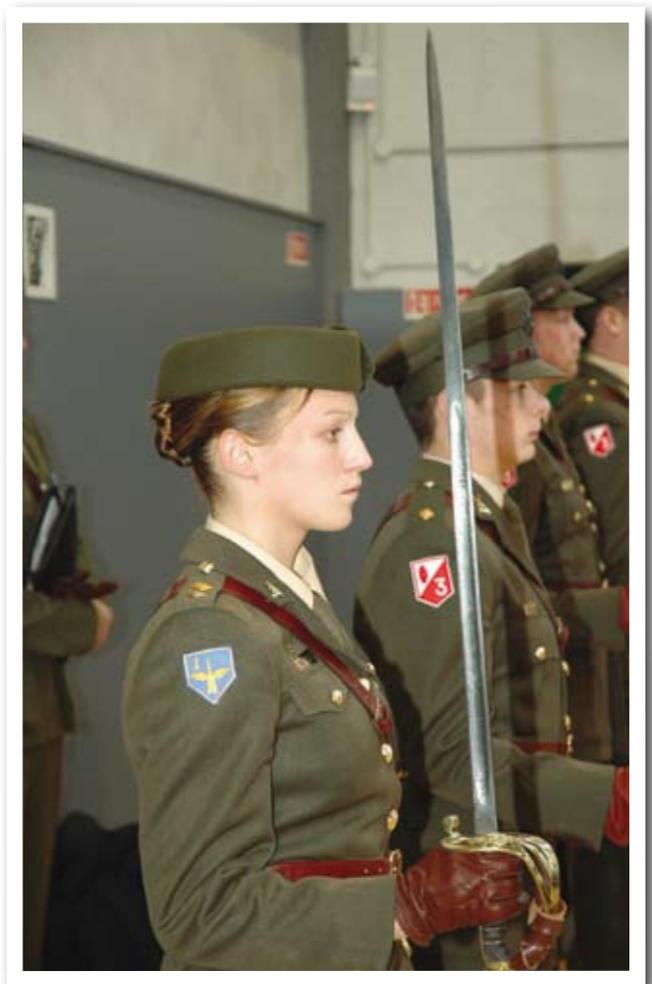
The commissioning of the 82nd Cadet Class took place on the 17th of January at the Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh, Co. Kildare and was attended by the Minister for Defence, Mr. Willie O'Dea T.D. and the Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) Major General Dermot Earley.



Members of this cadet class were awarded a Presidential commission and took an oath of allegiance in which they swore to be faithful to Ireland and uphold the Constitution. Lieutenant Denis Flynn from Sligo was awarded the ARCO Sword which is presented at each commissioning ceremony to the cadet who achieves first place in the class. There are eight university graduates in the class and five members had previous service as enlisted personnel in the Defence Forces, two of these had also served overseas with UNIMIL in Liberia.

Cadets complete a physically and intellectually challenging 15-month residential course designed to equip them to command a platoon of 31 soldiers, the lowest formation commanded by an officer.

The course includes weapons handling, military tactics, military engineering, human resource management, communications skills, military law, computer training in office information systems and physical education and training; it also includes professional academic studies, which are an indispensable part of the cadet education. During the academic course, cadets are introduced to those critical issues that are essential for the modern Defence Forces officer to understand in order to operate successfully. These include the political and strategic context in which defence and security policy is made and focus on international relations and the constitutional and social dimensions of civil-military relations. They study the various theories of war and analyse different types of war by means of a study of modern campaigns.



Commandant Paul Kennedy was the Officer in Charge of the 82nd Cadet Class which was the first class to undergo the revised Standard Cadet Course: "The development of the revised course and resultant changes for cadet education and training was a challenge in terms of planning and managing the various inputs. However it was incumbent on all the staff in the School to ensure that the finished product reached the high standards that merit the award of a commission and I believe that the highest standards were maintained. In my experience the increased number of graduates and serving-soldiers brought a greater sense of maturity and experience which was of benefit to the entire Class."

Speaking on the day, the Minister highlighted the particular significance of this commissioning by pointing out that the 82nd Cadet Class were the first to have been awarded cadetships under the new integrated induction scheme. The scheme was introduced as part of the Defence Forces modernisation agenda which established a new, streamlined, 15-month cadet education and training course. "This professional development does not end today. It will continue for the duration of their military career. This well-balanced combination of military and academic disciplines is the best preparation for the challenging tasks that they will be required to perform both at home and overseas," said Minister O'Dea.

