

Major General Dermot Earley Appointed Chief Of Staff

In April, the Government announced its nomination of Major General Dermot Earley for appointment by the President as Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces; his promotion on June 28th 2007 will see him assume command of 10,500 members of the Permanent Defence Forces, of which over 800 are currently serving overseas and 13,000 members of the Reserve Defence Forces. He succeeds the current Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Jim Sreenan who is scheduled to retire on age grounds on that date.

Dermot Earley has had distinguished military service at home and abroad, including postings abroad as Military Advisor to the UN Secretary-General from 1987–1991 and as Battalion Commander in Lebanon in 1997. At home, he was instrumental in establishing the Army Ranger Wing and the United Nations Training School and he commanded the 27th Infantry Battalion in Dundalk. He was also the Officer in Charge of the Defence Forces Conciliation and Arbitration Section with responsibility for all industrial relations matters with RACO and PDFORRA.

He holds a specialist Diploma in Physical Education from St. Mary's College, Twickenham [1971], is a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies, London [2001] and holds an MA in Peace and Development Studies from the University of Limerick [1999].

He has been the Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) for the last three years. A former Roscommon football all-star, he is actively involved in Sarsfields GAA Club in Newbridge, Co. Kildare where he has lived for the past 30 years with his wife Mary and six children; his son, Dermot, is a Captain in the 5th Infantry Battalion.

The Government has also decided to appoint Brigadier General Patrick O'Sullivan (59) to succeed General Earley as Deputy Chief of Staff (Support). His appointment sees him assume responsibility for human resource matters, finance and logistics within the Defence Forces.

The President, National Executive and RACO professional staff wish to congratulate both Maj Gen Earley and Brig Gen Pat O'Sullivan on their promotion and wish them every success in the challenges that lie ahead.



Major General Dermot Earley