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## 6 **NEWS UPDATE**

- Defence Forces chief nominated for EU military post
- New appointment for former Garda Commissioner
- Testing times ahead for Gardaí over breathalysers totals
- Donegal gets fired up over female recruitment
- HSE Information service goes live
- Cyprus takes 'SafeTrx' vessel tracking system on board

## 21 **KILKENNY FIRE SERVICE**

Energy efficiency at three of Kilkenny's fire stations has improved significantly with the help of Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency and funding from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's Better Energy Community (BEC) programme.

## 23 **EMERGENCY EXPO**

More than 80 emergency services personnel recently showcased the specialist range of skills and resources within the state and voluntary emergency services sector at a special event in Finner Camp in Donegal.

## 24 **WEATHER ALERT**

An extreme weather alert service for local authorities – MapAlerter – generated 500,000 emergency alerts in the space of just 72 hours, potentially saving countless lives as Storm Ophelia ripped through the country in mid-October.

## 26 **DEFENCE FORCES**

Alongside declining recruitment is the rising tide of personnel leaving the Defence Forces; figures attained by PDFORRA show that 2,840 personnel departed the Defence Forces in the past five years, equivalent to over 30 per cent of the total number of enlisted personnel.

## 32 **SECURITY ANALYSIS**

Recent research by University of Limerick has raised concerns over leadership, performance and career management within the Defence Forces. Overall the results can be read as a damning indictment of neglect by the Government, stagnation by the Department of Defence, and poor internal military leadership

## 36 **AEROMEDICAL SERVICE**

Responding to critically ill patients across Ireland, the Emergency Aeromedical Service has completed almost 3,000 missions since it initially took off as a pilot project in 2012. The Air Corps recently hosted a family day in Casement Aerodrome to meet patients who have benefitted from the service.

## 39 **GARDA MEMORIAL**

A special monument to honour two Gardaí who were murdered 37 years ago by armed bank robbers near Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon was unveiled in July. Retired Detective Sergeant Michael Carty reflects on the bravery and courage shown by Detective Garda John Morley and Garda Henry Byrne on that July day in 1980.

## 45 **WORLD RESCUE CHALLENGE**

Fire and rescue teams from Meath and Carlow finished in the top ten at this year's World Rescue Challenge in Romania, where more than 70 teams of firefighters and rescue personnel from around the globe participated in this international challenge event.

## 54 **EURO VOLUNTEERING CAPITAL**

As Sligo's year-long tenure as European Volunteering Capital (EVC) 2017 draws to a close, Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services at Sligo County Council, outlines what the high-profile EU award has meant for the northwest county.

## 59 **COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS**

A €5,000 charitable donation will allow Newport's Community First Responders to purchase their first two automated external defibrillators and heated cabinets, thereby enabling the team to save dozens more lives in the local west of Ireland community.

## 61 **MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING**

A recent multi-agency training exercise with a difference in County Down involved RNLI volunteers and lifeguards, the Police



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Service Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Ministry of Defence and the Coastguard, is the first of many events planned for the coming year.

## 65 LIFESAVING FOUNDATION

The Lifesaving Foundation has presented its chairperson Brendan Donohoe with the 15th Ireland Medal in recognition of his 50 years of continuous active lifesaving service as a volunteer lifeguard, a lifesaving teacher, a lifeguard trainer and assessor, a drowning prevention researcher, and a national and international administrator.

## 67 UK FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

The number of UK fire and rescue staff taking long-term sick leave due to mental illness has risen by nearly one third over the last six years, new figures have

revealed. In London alone, over 100 fire personnel have taken mental health leave so far this year, some after working at Grenfell Tower disaster in June.

## 68 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Defib drones to respond to 911 calls
- EMS Congress 2018 returns to Copenhagen
- Canada's first responders suffer mental disorders
- Increase in violence against America's responders

## 70 UK NEWS

- Time to register for Trauma 2017 Conference
- Britain provides cyber security training in Poland
- Prisons are putting guards in deadly danger
- London takes emergency department to the patients



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