



Cover: Defence Forces Press Office

SUMMER 2021

CONTENTS

ISSUE 66

4 NEWS UPDATE

10 SAFETY EDUCATION SEMINAR



Ireland's Chief Fire Officers Association, which is set to host the 6th International Safety Education seminar at Dublin's Croke Park Conference Centre on 7-8 December, now invites sponsors and exhibitors to come on board.

12 NAVAL SERVICE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Ireland's Naval Service is getting set to celebrate its 75th anniversary in September with a series of events to mark the milestone since the foundation of the maritime, defence and security service in 1946.

18 NAVAL SERVICE



As the Naval Service puts plans in place to celebrate its 75th anniversary in September, it recently transitioned to a new single operational uniform that will now visually reinforce its identity as a co-equal service within a joint Defence Forces.

27 DEFENCE FORCES



Global pandemics and cyber-attacks were, until recently, high-level threats that we have acknowledged, but for which we failed to adequately prepare. As we are all too aware, both have come to pass, and the State has scrambled to mitigate the threat, according to Commandant Conor King, RACO General Secretary.

32 COAST GUARD



The Irish Coast Guard's fleet of Sikorsky S-92 helicopters cover the country's rugged and stormy coastline. Here's a snapshot of some search and rescue callouts, and the prompt response by the pilots and winch crews when the 'red phone' rings, where every second can change the outcome of each mission.

39 GARDA CENTENARY PROJECT

Next year will be a busy one for An Garda Síochána and the Garda Síochána Retired Members' Association (GSRMA) with both organisations now putting plans in place to celebrate the centenary since the foundation of the Force in 1922.

43 EU FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMME

The BFireSafe@School project, first launched as a pilot in Ireland in August 2019, is now delivering a new teacher-led fire safety education resource for post-primary students across Europe.

46 AIRPORT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



The importance of strong collaboration and training programmes in adapting to current pandemic challenges and to inform future resilience planning across airport rescue and firefighting services were discussed during a webinar, hosted by the Airport Fire Officers' Association

51 HEART FOUNDATION RESEARCH

Lifesaving rehabilitation for heart patients is in "absolute crisis" and no hospital in Ireland has a full team in place to help them recover, the Irish Heart Foundation has warned. The charity claims that the vital service is now being treated as an 'optional add-on' in hospitals.

55 COMMUNITY HEALTH

Fórsa trade union has called on the Health Service Executive to fast-track plans to recruit 7,000 community-based health staff over the next three years, as part of the commitment, set out in the Government's Sláintecare Strategic Action Plan 2021-23.

57 FOREST FIRE PREVENTION

Meath County Council, in collaboration with Coillte, has produced a promotional video to highlight land-based wildfire prevention measures and create greater awareness of litter pollution in the county.

59 COMMUNITY AIR AMBULANCE



The Irish Community Air Ambulance was tasked to 127 incidents across nine counties during the first three months of 2021, and the charity's Chief Executive Michéal Sheridan says the service needs community fundraising and corporate support to continue.

61 SEARCH & RESCUE MEMORIES



Helicopter rescue stories and photographs, covering a career that spans nearly 50 years as a Search and Rescue pilot in the Irish Air Corps, are included in a new book by retired Army Comdt Frank Russell, to raise funds for a cancer sanctuary centre in Co. Westmeath.

65 PATIENT ADVOCACY SERVICE

Ireland's Patient Advocacy Service and the HSE have pledged to work together to further improve support services for people who wish to make a complaint about the care they have received in public acute hospitals.

67 INTERPOL CONFERENCE

With evolving critical ransomware threats and the pandemic shifting the foundations of police work, senior police officials have endorsed measures to boost the role of National Central Bureaus as part of a co-ordinated response between INTERPOL and frontline police.

73 EUROPEAN FORENSIC INSTITUTE

The European Forensic Institute in Malta offers a range of undergraduate training programmes in forensic science, criminology, digital forensics, investigative and intelligence sciences, which brings together experts with students and professionals.

74 DIGITAL INNOVATION

Digital evidence is rapidly becoming an invaluable tool for law enforcement agencies across all crime investigations and forensic processes as they face a variety of complex issues in dealing with the sheer growth in the volume of digital content.

77 UK EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW

The transformational power of new and emerging technologies will be the central theme of the Emergency Services Show, which returns to Birmingham's NEC on 7 and 8 September.

79 UK FIREFIGHTERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Firefighters across the UK held a minute's silence to mark Firefighters' Memorial Day 2021 on 4 May, in memory of more than 2,300 firefighters who died in the line of duty.

80 UK FIREFIGHTER DATABASE

A database has been developed by the University of Central Lancashire to assess potential links between exposure to fire toxicants and the increased cases of cancer and other diseases among firefighters.

81 UK NEWS

84 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PUBLISHER

Patrick Aylward

EDITOR

Grace Heneghan

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Catherine McDonagh

ADMINISTRATION

Anne-Marie Moran

CIRCULATION

Audrey Fitzgerald

Emergency Services Ireland,
14 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2

T: 01-6785165

E: info@emergency-services.ie

W: www.emergency-services.ie

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information included is correct, the publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors, omissions or discrepancies. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.

All Rights Reserved Emergency Services Ireland © 2021