



**Lt Gen Seán Mc Cann  
Chief of Staff (CHOD)  
Defence Forces, Ireland**

Lieutenant General Seán Mc Cann is the Chief of Staff (CHOD) of the Irish Defence Forces. He was promoted to this appointment by the Irish Government on 13 June 2010. Lieutenant General Mc Cann was previously Deputy Chief Staff Operations (D COS (Ops)) Defence Forces Headquarters.

Formerly GOC in the Defence Forces Training Centre (DFTC) and Director of Operations, he has also seen service in the DFTC as Director of Cavalry and Commandant of the Combat Support College, and in Defence Forces Headquarters as Personal Staff Officer to the Chief of Staff and as a Staff Officer in Operations Section. He lives in Walshestown, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Initially he enlisted in the Defence Forces as an Officer Cadet in 1970. Following commissioning as an Officer he served in various Cavalry units in Plunkett Barracks and at the Military College in both the Infantry School and the Command and Staff School and at Command HQ. In more recent years he was Chief Instructor in the United Nations Training School in the Military College, Curragh. He was educated in Thurles CBS and Cistercian College Roscrea. He is a graduate of University College Galway (UCG) and of the United States Command and General Staff College.

Overseas he has served in Lebanon, Israel and Kuwait with the United Nations and in Former Yugoslavia with the European Union Monitoring Missions (EUMM). In the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) he was Second-in-Command of 'Recce' Company 49<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in 1981 and Company Commander in 1987. He was Senior Operations Officer with the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission in 1991. He served in Sarajevo with EUMM in 2000 and in 2002 was Chief of Observer Group Legation, part of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation (UNTSO). In 2003 he was appointed as Chief Operations Officer with UNTSO based in Jerusalem.

He captained the Defence Forces and the Curragh (now Newbridge Rugby Club) rugby teams and played for UCG and Connacht. He has long associations with the Curragh Golf Club where he was Captain in 2005, and President in 2008 and 2009.

His interests include sports, current affairs, gardening and travel.