

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **BRIGADIER-GENERAL PAUL PAKENHAM (RETIRED)**



Brigadier-General Paul A. Pakenham (Retired) was commissioned in 1971 and posted to the Artillery Corps. He served in both command and staff appointments in the 4th Western Brigade (4 Field Artillery Regiment, Mullingar), and 2nd Eastern Brigade (2 Field Artillery Regiment, Dublin).

Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) instructed in the Command and Staff School, The Military College. He had extensive service in all three Branches within Defence Forces Headquarters: in the Office of the Chief of Staff (Strategic Planning); Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations (Director of Combat Support, Director of Artillery and Director of Cavalry); and Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Support (Director of Administration, OIC Commissioned Officers' Management Section, and Staff Officer Ceremonial).

In 2000, with the advent of European Security and Defence Policy, Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) was posted to the Western European Union Military Planning Directorate in Brussels. When the European Union Military Staff was established, he was transferred to the Council Secretariat as Deputy Chief Concepts Branch, Policy and Plans Division. His duties included Capability Development and Concepts, and initiating the European Union and the United Nations interface at the military strategic level.

Representing the Irish Defence Forces, under the French and Swedish Presidencies, Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) chaired the Land Group of the Headline Goal Task Force, which elaborated the military capabilities required by the 1999 Helsinki Headline Goal.

In 2004 and 2005, Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) chaired a Joint Working Group on Capability Development, consisting of defence planners drawn from 14 European capitals. This Working Group developed the crisis management scenarios, and the associated land, sea and air capabilities required for the European Union's Headline Goal 2010.

As a Staff Officer in Strategic Planning Office, in 1999 he developed the Framework Document for Ireland's membership of NATO's Partnership for Peace, and prepared the Defence Forces contribution to the White Paper 2000. After his tour of duty in Brussels, he developed the Irish Presidency Work Programme for the European Union Military Committee for the first semester of 2004.

As Director of Administration, he planned and coordinated the administrative, logistic and financial support for the Defence Forces with the EU Force in tChad, and managed the expeditionary deployment of assets to the mission area, using air, sea and land corridors. Under the auspices of the Military Heritage Trust, he supervised the deployment of School Supplies, provided by Saint Patrick's Centre Downpatrick, for children residing in the Irish Battalion's Area of Operations in tChad.

Brigadier-General Pakenham's last overseas United Nations appointment was Chief Operations Officer, UNMIL, Liberia in 2006 and 2007. As Chief Operations Officer of the 15,000 strong United Nations Force, his tour with UNMIL coincided with the consolidation of the Liberian Government and the associated nation-building operations. He successfully planned, commanded and executed the transfer of former President Charles Taylor of Liberia to The Hague, for trial by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In addition to UNMIL, his significant United Nations overseas service includes: 2 tours with UNIFIL in Lebanon (Troop Commander and Company Commander); UNTSO in the Middle East (Observer, Military Advisor to Force Commander UNDOF on the Golan Heights, and Team Leader in Observer Group Lebanon); and UNIKOM in Iraq (Deputy Chief Operations Officer).

As General Officer Commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> Southern Brigade, Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) led and commanded an all-arms brigade formation, consisting of Permanent Defence Force units and Army Reserve units. The Brigade's units were drawn from all corps of the Army Component, including infantry, artillery, cavalry, engineer, signals, transport, ordnance, and medical corps, and the School of Music. He retired from the Defence Forces - Óglaigh na hÉireann in February 2012.

A native of Dublin, Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) attended CBS Synge Street. He is a distinguished graduate of both the Irish Command and Staff School, and the US Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) also graduated from the National University Ireland - Galway (BSc), and the National University Ireland – Maynooth (Dip Soc Sc).

Residing in Dublin with his wife Nancy, they are blessed with three daughters (Niamh, Orla and Fiona), three grandsons (James, Seán and Oisín) and one granddaughter (Sophie).

His interests include travel, outdoor pursuits, military history and theatre. He is a former Director of the Mullingar Credit Union, and Chair of Parents and Friends of the Mentally Handicapped Mullingar and District.

Currently, Brigadier-General Pakenham (Retired) is Chairman of the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust (Ltd), President of the Artillery Club, Council Member of McKee Officers' Club, Executive Committee member of the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers, a member of the Military History Society of Ireland and an associate member of the Cavalry Club.

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