

History of the Artillery School

History

After the establishment of the Artillery Corps, a center of excellence and instruction was required in order to maintain standards, to develop tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and to oversee training throughout the Artillery Corps. The Depot Artillery was established in 1931 and based in Magee Barracks Kildare. The Depot provided the Defence Forces with both its instruction in Artillery matters through the Artillery School & its training support Field Artillery Battery and also the Capability Development & Sustainment functions through the Directorate of Artillery and Artillery Technical Staff & Stores element. These capabilities were small and severely tested by the large expansion of the Army in the run up to and during the Emergency period (1939-1945) and again with the Defence Forces' expansion into international Peace Keeping/Support Operations from 1960 onwards and the need for Vital Point / VIP security, in particular GBAD, from the 1970s onwards.

These roles posed significant challenges. Some of these included how to conduct Artillery live fire training whilst being limited almost exclusively to the Glen of Imaal or Gormanston AD Ranges, how to introduce Artillery practices into an Army that was almost exclusively infantry and Counter Insurgency, but in particular the challenges around resourcing of Artillery units (in particular logistically).

As the Army changed over time, through multiple re-organisations, Depot Artillery was disbanded in 1998, when Magee Barracks in Kildare closed. The Artillery School survived and moved to the Curragh, initially as part of the Combat Support College. The Artillery School found its new home in Connolly Barracks in the Curragh Camp, where Magee House now houses the majority of the Artillery School's facilities and offices.

Training, Operations, and Responsibilities

The Artillery School today is part of the Military College, in the Defence Force Training Centre (DFTC) and is the centre of excellence for Artillery training in the Defence Forces. The Artillery Corps' knowledge has expanded significantly over time through our experience of deployments of Artillery both at home and in overseas missions, and through continuous liaison with other military Artillery institutions and attendance on foreign courses, including a close relationship with the Royal School of Artillery in Larkhill in the United Kingdom. The Artillery School is responsible for the supervision of all Live Fire Artillery training, and conducts the majority of the corps' career courses and technical courses. The Artillery School also organises and conducts Artillery exercises. As well as these more obvious roles for a military school, the Artillery School also plays a vital role as the centre for Research and Development into best practices and equipment in Artillery affairs internationally, in order to maintain the highest knowledge possible of developments in Artillery, and to advise the Director of Combat Support and ISTAR accordingly.



Instruction on the Foxtrack Ground Surveillance Radar

Preparing for the Future

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the use of Artillery based systems on current peace support operations around the globe demonstrate that Artillery remains a key component of combined arms warfare and military operations for a modern armed force. Even prior to the Ukraine conflict, the Report of the Commission on the Defence Forces published in early 2022 specifically highlighted the requirement for the Army to increase its fire power and increase the size of its Artillery Regiments. Ongoing research, which is also done in conjunction with members of the two Brigade Artillery Regiments, includes but is not limited to: mechanised Artillery options for the future, armoured mortar platforms for the future, counter UAS/UAV sensors and effectors, future UAV options, future air defence missile launcher options, Artillery variant Light Tactical Vehicles (LTVs), counter battery radar options, air defence radar options, upgrades to the L118 and L119 105mm Guns, and future force structures for the Artillery Corps. This work is ongoing to ensure that no matter what structure the future Army embraces, the Artillery Corps will be ready to play a vital role and be a key component of the Army of the future.

Strategic Vision

The vision of the Artillery School is to constantly strive to achieve excellence in the professional effectiveness of Artillery Corps personnel by providing them with the skills and knowledge to maximise performance and facilitate operability. This is achieved by creating an environment and ethos that is conducive to study, learning, and personal development. Artillery School staff set the tone and foster such a climate for all students. The Artillery School continuously strives to improve its knowledge base through the experience gained by its instructors in overseas missions and through co-operation with foreign Artillery institutions.

Today the Artillery School is part of the Military College, and is under the stewardship of School Commandant Lt Col N. Maher, Chief Instructor Comdt J. Troy, and Acting Regimental Sergeant Major M. Dinnegan. The Artillery School has a total establishment of 22 staff members.



Mortar Live Fire

Guns of the Artillery Corps



L118 Light Gun



RUAG 120MM MORTAR



RBS 70 MISSILE