



CMHSS

CENTRE FOR MILITARY HISTORY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

The Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies (CMHSS) serves to support, coordinate and promote the work of the university within the broad fields of military history and strategic studies. It aims to further our knowledge of the causes, conduct and consequences of war and conflict and of the conditions for peace. In support of this aim the Centre promotes research and publication within the field, provides a forum for informed discussion and debate, encourages collaboration with Irish and international organisations, and provides a range of courses and modules in military history, strategic studies, war studies and associated fields at undergraduate and postgraduate level. The Centre builds upon pioneering work undertaken by the Department of History since 2003 and was launched formally by Professor John Hughes and Major-General Patrick Nowlan at an event held in February 2009.

TEACHING



Students from the MA in MHSS graduating in Sept 2012

The Centre supports teaching and supervision of topics relating to military history and war studies within the Department of History at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The MA in Military History and Strategic Studies, which was the first course of its type within the state and is one of the most popular MA programmes within the university, represents a notable success for the CMHSS. Further details of this and other postgraduate opportunities are available via the [History Department website](#).

In order to support the provision of a stimulating and challenging learning experience for our students the CMHSS has run a number of field trips, museum visits and battlefield tours to relevant sites in Ireland and Europe. These have included trips to the Normandy battle fields, guided museum visits within Ireland and overseas, a battlefield tour of 1916 Dublin, visits to the Defence Forces Training Centre, Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel, the Naval Base in Cork and to Fort Davis, also in

Cork. We have also arranged for numerous high profile speakers to address the MA group on a range of relevant topics.



Images from recent field trips run by the CMHSS

MILITARY EDUCATION

The Centre provides a variety of modules and courses for the Irish Defence Forces. These include including a number of courses in military history, defence studies and strategic studies at the Military College at the Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp. The Centre's involvement at the Military College dates from 2003 and we currently provide teaching and other professional support to the Cadet School, the Officer Training Wing of the Infantry School and to the Command and Staff School. The CMHSS also provides a number of short courses in defence studies, maritime strategy and naval policy for the Naval Service. This work is based upon many years of experience in teaching such subjects within a military environment in Ireland and overseas and is reflective of our unique expertise within the relevant subject areas. Further details are given below.



Some of our students ... outside the classroom!

The Irish Defence Forces Standard Army Cadet Course

Diploma in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies (Special Purpose Award, Level 7, Diploma).

This diploma course is run in partnership by the Cadet School at the Military College and the CMHSS within the Department of History, with the assistance of the Department of Adult Education and other relevant departments at NUI Maynooth. Successful graduates of the Cadet Course are commissioned into the Defence Forces as either Lieutenants or Second Lieutenants and receive the Diploma in Leadership Management and Defence Studies from NUI Maynooth.

In order to gain the diploma officer cadets take part in an academic programme that is integrated within the fifteen-month residential Standard Army Cadet Course that takes place at the Military College. The core objective of the Course is to ‘*develop leaders of character and competence*’. In more specific terms the intent is to

- a. Prepare students morally, mentally and physically for their role as leaders in the Defence Forces.
- b. Imbue students with the Defence Forces values of respect, loyalty, selflessness, physical courage, moral courage and integrity.
- c. Foster a deep interest and care for individual soldiers, sailors and airmen.
- d. Provide an intellectual foundation which will act as a basis for further education and which will generate an awareness and appreciation of the economic, political, historical, social and cultural aspects of the society in which the Defence Forces’ function.
- e. Cultivate a capacity for critical thinking as a decision-maker and problem-solver.
- f. Endow students with the primary knowledge and skills essential for Light Infantry Platoon Commanders in the Defence Forces.
- g. Promote *esprit de corps* in the Defence Forces, its traditions and associations.

The Cadet School has been responsible for the training and education of officer cadets since 1928. The mission of the School is to ‘*inculcate discipline and esprit de corps, to develop the qualities of leadership and to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to lay the foundations for a professional military career*’. The Centre for MHSS has worked with the Cadet School for a number of years in support of this mission and, from 2012, will coordinate the activity of other departments and relevant partners in the provision of the new Diploma in Leadership Management and Defence Studies that will be accredited by NUI Maynooth.



Irish Defence Forces Cadets undergoing training.

The diploma includes courses focusing on subjects including Strategic Studies, Military History, Politics, Economics, Social Studies and other topics designed to further the intellectual development of the Cadets and to provide them with a foundation of knowledge and skills of relevance to them in their career within the Defence Forces. The programme includes a wide range of learning activities tailored

to meet the evolving needs of the student body. The foundation provided by this course is built upon in later career programmes undertaken by Defence Forces officers, including the Junior and Senior Command and Staff Courses. In these courses the CMHSS again supports programme delivery and the achievement of appropriate learning outcomes.

The Irish Defence Forces Senior Command and Staff Course

MA in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies

The Command and Staff School is the Senior School of the Irish Defence Forces. It is located within the Military College and supports the professional development of all Senior Officers of the Defence Forces through the provision of tailored educational courses. The Command and Staff School focuses on the development of senior leaders who can apply critical thought processes and rational decision-making skills to problem solving within complex operating environments. The School has been at the forefront in developing a Strategic Partnership with NUI Maynooth, which provides general academic support including the provision of an MA programme as part of the Senior Command and Staff Course.

The MA in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies is run by the Department of Adult and Community Education in partnership with the staff of the Command and Staff School and with the support of the CMHSS. The MA is integrated within the Command and Staff Course, a nine-month residential course that aims to develop the professional knowledge and understanding of its students, in order to prepare them to fulfil command and staff appointments at Battalion, Brigade and higher formation levels both in Ireland and overseas on international assignments.

The course is based on three core pillars: the furtherance of excellence in the Officer's profession; the use of the Military Decision Making Process to reach balanced outcomes; and, the development of critical thinking among students. The main focus of instruction is on the essential requirements of professional military knowledge with an emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving and decision making. The CMHSS provides advice, lectures and tuition in defence and strategic studies, military history, campaign analysis, strategy and operational art.

Students who successfully complete the course with appropriate grades receive an MA in Leadership Management and Defence Studies from NUI Maynooth.



Students from the Command and Staff School graduating at NUI Maynooth

The Irish Defence Forces Junior Command and Staff Course

The Junior Command and Staff Course (JCSC) is a 23 week residential course for officers of Captain or Commandant rank (or equivalent) designed to prepare officers to lead, command and make timely, innovative and ethical decisions in rapidly changing and uncertain operating environments at the tactical level at home and overseas. The course is taught at the Officer Training Wing of the Infantry School, one of the schools of the Irish Defence Forces Military College. Captains must complete the JCSC in order to qualify to enter the competition for promotion to the rank of commandant in the Defence Forces.

During the course, student officers study to develop their professional military education and to enhance their capabilities as leaders. As part of this process they learn to use appropriate conceptual and theoretical frameworks to analyse military campaigns, strategic issues and contemporary security challenges and present their findings in a professional manner orally and in writing. Staff from the CMHSS play a central role in the development and delivery of this instruction in the areas of military history, defence studies and contemporary security. During this instruction they work to develop the student officers' ability to critically analyse historical battles, campaigns and leaders with a particular (but not exclusive) emphasis on the tactical and operational levels. Also student officers enhance their ability to critically analyse key debates within the field of defence studies and contemporary security, evaluate academic and professional literature within the field and examine contemporary security challenges.

The Irish Naval Service, Officer Training School, Naval College.

Cadet Course and Naval Watchkeepers Course

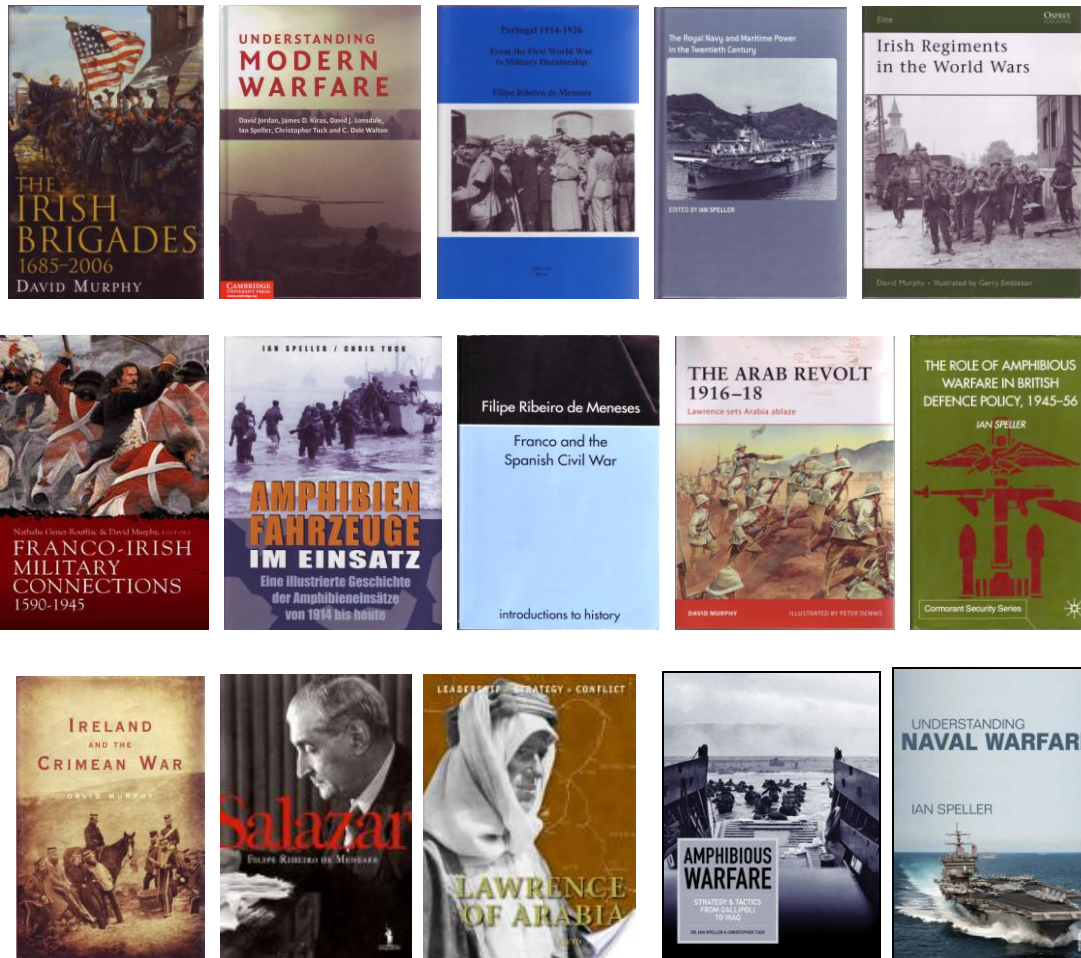


Cadets of the Irish Naval Service at the Naval Base

The CMHSS provides specialist short courses in Defence Studies, Maritime Strategy and Naval Policy to 1st and 2nd year Naval Cadets and also to junior officers taking the Naval Watchkeepers Course. These courses, initiated in 2007, replace similar courses previously provided at the Naval College by staff from Britannia Royal Naval College and rest on the unique expertise in this field of the staff of the CMHSS. Students are resident in Maynooth for the duration of each course and thus have use of the full range of research and support facilities of the university and have easy access to the staff of the Centre. These courses are integrated into the professional training of the cadets/junior officers who also complete a level 8 BA (Hons) degree in either Nautical Studies or Marine Engineering (depending on their branch) at the National Maritime College of Ireland.

RESEARCH

The Centre supports research within the fields of military history and strategic studies and staff currently supervise a number of postgraduate research students working on a broad range of topics that relate to Irish military history, British military history, the history of the Defence Forces and to contemporary maritime policy and piracy. Staff associated with the centre are also very active in terms of their own research and publications. Details pertaining to staff research is available by clicking [here](#).



An illustration of some recent books published by staff associated with the CMHSS

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

In support of our aim to encourage informed discussion and debate on security related topics in October 2011 the Centre introduced the first 'Annual Conference' with a major three-day event focusing on 'The Art of Leadership. Leadership in War, Conflict and Crises'. The conference was launched by Brigadier-General Pakenham (GOC, 1st Southern Brigade) and Professor Nowlan (President, NUI Maynooth) at an event on Friday 28 October and over the weekend we had 27 different speakers from academia, from the Defence Forces and also from overseas military academies.

The second Annual Conference took place on 20-21 October 2012 and focused on 'Small Navies'. The conference was held in partnership with the Corbett Centre for

Maritime Policy Studies at King's College London, the Centre for Applied Research in Security Innovation at Liverpool Hope University, and the Irish Naval Service. It was part of a wider project on the topic that involves these partners and has included colloquia and presentations in Ireland, the UK and at the International Studies Association Annual Convention at San Diego in March 2012.




SMALL NAVIES
Conference to be held at the
National University of Ireland Maynooth
20-21 October 2012
Call for papers.

Proposals are invited for papers that examine the role and activities of small navies in peace and war in the past and the present. The conference will focus in particular on the different ways in which navies identify and address national and international security challenges and how they interact with other navies and security agencies. In addition to examining traditional 'hard' security roles such as sea control, sea denial and power projection the conference will also examine the relationship of such navies with non-military organisations, institutions and bodies in pursuit of goals relating to broader maritime security concerns including governance, surveillance, environmental protection, support security and non-military purposes such as wealth and knowledge creation.

The conference is run in partnership with the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies (King's College London), the Centre for Applied Research in Security Innovation (Liverpool Hope University) and the Irish Naval Service.

Applicants are asked to submit a 500 word proposal/abstract accompanied by a CV to the address below by 10th April 2012. Papers should be 30 minutes in length.

For further details please contact Dr Ian Speller
Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies
NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland
Tel. +353 (0)17003652 Email mhs@nuim.ie



THE ART OF LEADERSHIP
LEADERSHIP IN WAR,
CONFLICT AND CRISES
National University of Ireland Maynooth
26 - 30 October, 2011

This three-day conference will examine military leaders and wider subjects associated with command and leadership at time of war and conflict. An impressive selection of experts from Ireland and overseas will discuss subjects relating to leadership in war, conflict and crises from history through to the present day.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Professor Gary Sheffield
Field Marshal Haig and leadership in WW1
Professor Charles Esdaile
Napoleon as a military leader

Other speakers include:

- Dr Craig Hooper (US Army Command & Staff College, Leavenworth)
- Professor Henry Lawe (Louisiana)
- Professor Geoff Roberts (SO2)
- Dr John Hagan (Dundee)
- Dr Stephen Jones (PA&S, Southport)
- Dr Fergus Macneil (NUIJM)
- Dr David Murray (JLIJM)
- Kate Deane, King's College London
- Lt Col (Ret) Barry O'S (Naval Institute, Annapolis)
- Dr Jan van der Waag (South African Military Academy)
- Dr Andrew Fitzgibbon (Queen's University)

Registration fee: €20
Senior officers, students, unemployed: €10

For further information contact:
Dr Ian Speller, Centre for Military History,
National University of Ireland,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland
t: +353 (0) 1 700037
e: ispeller@nuim.ie

WAR & SECURITY STUDIES SEMINAR

The *War and Security Studies Seminar* provides a forum for informed discussion and debate about issues relating to war, conflict and security in the modern world. Speakers include established academics and the best new researchers able to offer a fresh perspective on issues of real importance in the world today. The seminar series also includes contributions from practitioners, such as military personnel and members of non-governmental organisations, able to offer an insight from direct personal experience. Lectures are followed by an extended period of time available for questions and discussion – the livelier the better! All are welcome to attend and admission is free

In order to encourage the widest possible participation in this seminar series and to allow individuals to express their opinions freely the seminar operates under the 'Chatham House Rule, described below. This rule was devised in 1927 at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, based at Chatham House in London, to encourage openness and the sharing of information in precisely the same way as is envisaged for the War and Security Studies Seminar. The rule is employed by many international organisations as an aid to free discussion and, for this reason, we request that those attending the seminar respect its application unless the speaker specifically identifies that he/she is speaking 'on the record'.

The Chatham House Rule

“When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any participant, may be revealed.”

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



Irish and Dutch cadets at NUI Maynooth for the 2011 Security, Peace and Reconciliation Exercise hosted by the CMHSS

The CMHSS maintains close and productive relationships with a number of international institutions and organisations. This has resulted in a number of important collaborations and in the involvement of staff from the CMHSS providing lectures and workshops at institutions including the Irish Defence Forces Military College, the UK Joint Services Command and Staff College, STRIKFORNATO (Naples), the US Military Academy at West Point, the US Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth and at the Royal Netherlands Military Academy at Breda. In 2011, 2012 and 2013 cadets and staff from the Academy at Breda participated in a “*Security, Peace and Reconciliation Exercise*” hosted by the CMHSS at Maynooth in which they took part in workshops with postgraduate students from the Department of History.

CONTACT

Dr Ian Speller
Director, Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies
Department of History
NUI Maynooth
Maynooth
County Kildare
Ireland
Email: mhss@nuim.ie



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