DEFENCE FORCES

The last parade for reserve units at Sarsfield Barracks

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TROOPS from six Reserve Defence Force (RDF) units paraded for the final time in Sarsfield Barracks last Sunday 10 to mark the stand down of their respective units.

The stand down comes as a result of a major re-organisation of the Defence Forces announced last year by Minister Alan Shatter which saw a reduction in the number of army brigades from three to two.

The units disbanded included the 31st Infantry Battalion, 31st Logs Support Battalion, 3rd Air Defence Battery, 31st CIS Company, 31st Military Police Company and the 31st Reserve Engineer Company. Members of both the permanent defence forces and the RDF paraded their unit pennants for the last time during this ceremony.

According to Minister Shatter, the RDF re-organisation is part of a Value for Money directive where all army and naval reserve units were disestablished and embedded into Defence Forces units to create a 'Single Force Concept'.

In his address, Brigadier General Diarmuid Fitzgerald OC Southern Brigade paid tribute to the service, commitment and sacrifice of members of the RDF and acknowledged the significant accomplishments and contributions made by members of the force.

Brigadier General Diarmuid Fitzgerald inspects the troops at Sarsfield Barracks