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Troops urged by military to act with 'dignity and respect'

By Staff Reporter

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THE most senior military figure in Northern Ireland has written to all troops due to take part in Sunday's event urging soliders and their friends and families to act with dignity and respect during the parade.

The Special Order issued by General Officer Commanding (GOC) Major General Chris Brown said the event was not a celebration of war nor was it an excuse to deepen divisions in the north.

He reminded the soldiers that not everyone in the region supported the British army and that the right to protest was one they should respect.

His note also revealed that the army has taken a number of measures, such as ensuring no guns will be carried during the event, in an effort to ease tensions.

"We must recognise the events do not have the undivided support of the wider community in Northern Ireland," he wrote.

"The right to legitimate and peaceful protest is something we all respect and hold dear.

"Critical to the success of these events and the viability of similar occasions in the future will be our demeanour as we share the streets.

The GOC also said in his note: "This is not a celebration of war. It is certainly not an excuse for deepening friction amongst the community in Northern Ireland; I expect you all to ensure it does not become one.

"The events of this weekend are and must remain, a dignified opportunity to give thanks for peace and for the safe return of brave Irishmen and women."

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