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- Home
- News Archive
- Your Representatives
- Manifesto 2007
- Downloads
- Election Results 2007
- Election Results 2005
- Election Results 2003
- Email Updates
- Text Message Updates
- Policy Documents
- DUP Advice Centres
- Give Us Your Views
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- Join the Party
- Links

DUP NEWS**Latest News:****DONALDSON - DUP SET TO HONOUR SAS AT STORMONT**

The DUP's Lagan Valley MP Jeffrey Donaldson has outlined his plans to submit an application to officials at Stormont asking to reserve the Long Gallery for an event to celebrate the role of the SAS in defending law and order during the Troubles. Commenting before submitting the application Mr. Donaldson said,

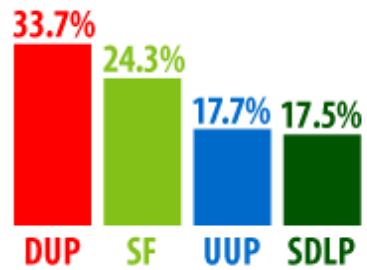


"The SAS played a crucial role in preserving innocent life in Northern Ireland during the terrorist campaign and it is important that their role is commemorated.

In recent days Sinn Fein MLA Jennifer McCann tried to book the Long Gallery in Stormont for an event celebrating the life of IRA bomber Mairead Farrell. The DUP has rightly opposed the event as Farrell was a terrorist bomber and her actions are not something to be celebrated. I believe we should celebrate the lives of role models but who in their right mind could view a terrorist who was prepared to kill innocent men, women and children as a role model? That is not the image we want to portray to our children as we build a peaceful and prosperous Northern Ireland.

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However it is right and proper that we should celebrate and commemorate our armed forces who stood against terrorists such as Farrell. Many of these men and women gave their life to defend our democratic rights and oppose those who sought to take our rights away. I personally was inspired by our soldiers who stood against terrorism to the extent where I joined the Ulster Defence Regiment.

This initial event will be an opportunity to pay tribute to those SAS men and women who protected Northern Ireland from the evil hands of terrorists. But, over the coming months the DUP will be seeking to invite other representatives of the armed forces to Stormont where we can make presentations to former soldiers in admiration of their sacrifice for our Province."

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