



DEFENCE

# Formation of The Ulster Defence Regiment

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### Introduction

1. On 13th October the Government stated in Parliament its intention to introduce legislation which would create in Northern Ireland a locally recruited, part-time, military defence force. The creation of such a force was recommended by Lord Hunt's Advisory Committee on Police in Northern Ireland. The Government of Northern Ireland had already announced its agreement with Lord Hunt's proposal.

2. Lord Hunt's Committee based its main recommendations on the principle that police and military rôles should be separate in Northern Ireland, as they are in the rest of the United Kingdom. Military tasks, the report recommended, should exclusively be undertaken by military forces. In consequence, the Committee proposed that the Royal Ulster Constabulary should be relieved of all military duties and that the Ulster Special Constabulary should be replaced by two separate forces. One would be a volunteer police reserve to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the performance of normal police duties. The other would be a locally recruited part-time force, under the control of the General Officer Commanding, Northern Ireland, to support the regular military forces on purely military duties.

3. This White Paper sets out the Government's proposals for this new part-time military force. The Government of Northern Ireland have been fully consulted.

### Title

4. The title of the new force will be The Ulster Defence Regiment.

### Task

5. The task of the new force will be to support the regular forces in Northern Ireland, should circumstances so require, in protecting the border and the State against armed attack and sabotage. It will fulfil its rôle by undertaking guard duties at key points and installations, by carrying out patrols and by establishing check points and road blocks when required to do so. In practice, such tasks are most likely to prove necessary in rural areas. It is not the intention to employ the new force on crowd control or riot duties in cities.

### Organisation

6. The new force will be part of Her Majesty's military forces. It will consist of lightly armed companies. These will be grouped according to local operational requirements into units of different sizes to be known as battalions. Battalion areas will approximate to County boundaries. The actual size of the force will be determined in the light of experience as the build-up proceeds, but in any case will not ultimately exceed 6,000 officers and men.

7. The new force will be under the command of the General Officer Commanding, Northern Ireland. While remaining responsible to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, the General Officer Commanding will work in the closest consultation with the Government of Northern Ireland through a Security

Committee presided over by the Minister of Home Affairs. The immediate commander of the force will be a Regular Army brigadier. The battalion commanders will be local members of the force; during its early life these appointments may be filled by present County Commandants of the Ulster Special Constabulary, almost all of whom are ex-officers of the regular forces and who have had much experience in dealing with the tasks for which the new force is designed. Each battalion commander will be assisted by a Regular Army major responsible for training and administration. A small regular staff will support the training major, and administrative and training personnel will be recruited locally.

### **Call-out Liability**

8. Members of the force will be liable to be called out for service only in Northern Ireland in any of the following circumstances:

- (i) for so long as necessary or expedient in defence of life or property in Northern Ireland against armed attack or sabotage, whether actual or apprehended. This liability relates to what Lord Hunt's committee called "the threat of armed guerilla-type attack" and will permit rapid reaction to meet any local emergency. For the purpose of this liability for service, the Secretary of State for Defence may authorise an officer of the regular forces not below the rank of major to call out the force or any part of it; and may empower him in turn to authorise another such officer to the same end. The Secretary of State may attach such conditions to the exercise of the power to call out as may seem expedient to him. As stated above in paragraph 7, the General Officer Commanding would in practice act in consultation with the Security Committee presided over by the Minister of Home Affairs
- (ii) for whole-time service in defence of the United Kingdom against actual or apprehended attack
- (iii) for whole-time service in circumstances of imminent national danger or great emergency.

9. Members of the force who are called out will be given the same protection against loss of employment and in other respects as members of the reserve forces.

### **Terms of Service**

10. Lord Hunt's Committee recommended that this new force should provide full opportunity for all citizens of Northern Ireland to serve the community as a whole. To this end, enrolment will be open to all male citizens of good character of the United Kingdom and Colonies, normally resident in Northern Ireland, whatever their denomination. All applications will be considered centrally by Headquarters, Northern Ireland, which will be the final authority for acceptance of recruits after strict security vetting. Like all entrants to the Army, recruits will be required to take the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen.

11. The normal engagement will be for three years and may be extended subject to recommendation.

12. The lower and upper age limits for service will be 18 and 55, but as a transitional measure persons with previous military or similar suitable service may be recruited or allowed to serve beyond age 55.

### **Discipline**

13. Members of the force will be subject to military law in the same way as members of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. Officers will be subject to military law at all times, others when on training or duty.

14. In order that the force can react effectively to "guerilla-type attacks" it may be necessary to authorise some members of the force in certain circumstances to draw arms and ammunition and keep them at home. When this happens, such members will be subject to military law while arms and ammunition are in their charge.

### **Training Obligation**

15. In order to achieve the standard of efficiency and discipline necessary in a fully effective defence force, annual training will be obligatory. Initially this will consist of 12 days (normally comprising one consecutive period of not more than a week, and some training week-ends), and 12 two-hour training periods of which none will be consecutive without the agreement of the man concerned. When members of the force have been called out for duty in an emergency, the training obligation may be reduced; and in exceptional circumstances the requirement for a substantial consecutive period may be varied. In addition, there will be a number of optional training periods, on the basis of 15 two-hour periods a year for each member; these periods can be pooled at the discretion of battalion commanders.

### **Emoluments**

16. Members of the new force will receive Regular Army emoluments for full days' training or duty in the same way as the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. Training Expenses Allowance and travelling expenses will be payable at the rates applicable to the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. A non-taxable annual bounty will be payable to all members of the force who give satisfactory service and complete the annual training obligation, at the following rates:

<i>1st/2nd year</i>	<i>3rd/4th year</i>	<i>5th and subsequent years</i>
£25	£30	£35

In the calculation of emoluments, service with the Ulster Special Constabulary will be reckonable as service with the new force.

### **Equipment**

17. The basic weapon of the force will be the rifle. Equipment will include troop-carrying and small four-wheel-drive vehicles for the mobile element, together with means of radio communication. Uniform will be combat dress with a parade dress for formal wear, although there may be some delay in providing the latter.

## Timing of Formation

18. The force will start to form on 1st January 1970, and will, it is planned, be operationally effective by 1st April 1970.

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14. In order that the force can react effectively to "guerrilla-type attacks" it may be necessary to authorise some members of the force in certain circumstances to draw arms and ammunition and keep them at home. When this happens, such members will be subject to military law while arms and ammunition are in their charge.

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12. Members of the new force will receive Regular Army entitlements for full days' training or duty in the same way as the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. Training Expenses Allowances and travelling expenses will be payable at the rates applicable to the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. A non-taxable annual bounty will be payable to all members of the force who give satisfactory service and complete the annual training obligation, at the following rates:

Rate	1st/2nd year	3rd/4th year	5th and subsequent years
	£25	£30	£35

In the calculation of entitlements, service with the Ulster Special Constabulary will be reckonable as service with the new force.

11. The basic weapon of the force will be the rifle. Equipment will include troop-carrying and small four-wheel-drive vehicles for the mobile element together with a parade area. The force will be equipped with a parade area providing the latter.

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