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Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea TD pays tribute to Lt. General Jim Sreenan for his service to the State

Minister O'Dea pays tribute to Lt Gen Sreenan's contribution as Chief of Staff saying:

"Lt Gen Sreenan's time as Chief of Staff will long be remembered as a time of positive change and modernisation. His leadership was vital in seeing through these positive changes and they stand in testament to his loyalty and dedication to the Defence Forces. He can look back on a career of service and commitment, both at home and abroad - culminating in his appointment as the deputy Force Commander of UNIFIL overseeing the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in 1999 - 2000. Personally I wish Jim and his family every good wish for the future - a future that I know will see him continue to contribute positively. It was a pleasure working with Jim and I thank him for his remarkable service to the State."

"Lt Gen Sreenan's work will be ably carried on by the incoming Chief of Staff Major General Dermot Earley. Major Gen Earley will continue the ongoing work of providing our troops with the best training, the best equipment and the best facilities. He is very highly regarded across all ranks, with an reputation for being both accessible and approachable. He also has an impressive track record of service overseas, particularly during his time in the United Nations from 1987 to 1991 when he served as the Deputy Military Advisor to the UN Secretary General."

"In his work, the new Chief of Staff will be ably and capably supported by his two Deputies - Maj Gen Pat Nash who already serves as Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) and the incoming Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) Brig Gen Pat O'Sullivan. We are indeed fortunate to have people of their calibre at the head of our Defence Forces and I wish them well," concluded Minister O'Dea.

ENDS.