**Gary Sheehan**

**16th December 1983**

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the family of Recruit Garda Gary Sheehan who was murdered on 16th December 1983.

A native of Carrickmacross, in County Monaghan, Gary Sheehan had worked as a technician before joining the Garda Síochána in September 1983. Both his father and grandfather had also been police officers. He was also a member of the Carrick Emmets Gaelic Football team.

Gary was a probation police officer three months into his service and in training at the Garda College at Templemore when he was deployed in a joint police and Irish Defence Forces search for Mr. Don Tidey, the Director of a supermarket chain, who had been kidnapped in the southern outskirts of Dublin for ransom by the Provisional IRA to raise finance for its' terrorist activities.

On the afternoon of 16th December 1983, Gary and Private Patrick (Paddy) Kelly (a soldier in the Irish Army) were part of a joint forces team searching with dogs through Drumcromin Wood, at Derrada, near Ballinamore in Co. Leitrim, when they found the Provisional IRA kidnap gang’s hideout location, and were shot dead (Gary was hit in the head).

Mr. Tidey was subsequently found nearby and rescued, the Provisional IRA gang fleeing the scene, managing to escape, shooting and wounding another Garda officer in the process.

Gary’s patch has some Carrickmacross lace to represent where he was born and reared, it also has the Carrick Emmets Gaelic football crest to demonstrate his passion and love of the sport.

SEFF's thoughts and prayers are with the Sheehan family today and every day.