

Monday 9 June 2008

**NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY**

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## **SACRIFICE OF SERVICEMEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO BE REMEMBERED**

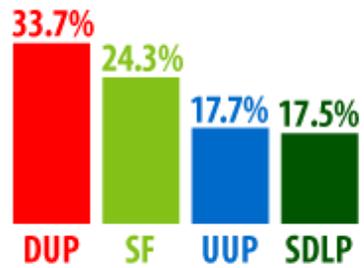
A special service to honour and give national recognition to the hundreds of members of the armed forces who lost their lives serving in Northern Ireland and the thousands who were injured is to be held later this year. The Ministry of Defence announced today the official service - also honouring civil servants killed or injured - would take place on September 10 at St Paul's Cathedral in London. It will also pay tribute to over 300,000 personnel who served in Northern Ireland on Operation Banner - the military operation which ran in the province from 1969 to 2007. There will be 2,000 places available in the Cathedral for what will be an all ticket affair. The announcement has been welcomed by DUP MP Jeffrey Donaldson, himself an ex-serviceman in the Ulster Defence Regiment. Speaking today Jeffrey Donaldson said:



*“Our armed forces made a massive contribution to securing the more peaceful situation that we enjoy today. By standing firm in the face of terrorist aggression, the armed forces showed those who would use such tactics that they could not win*

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*against democracy and the rule of law. During the course of the 38 years of Operation Banner 760 servicemen and women made the supreme sacrifice. We are deeply indebted to those brave men and women as well as the more than 300,000 servicemen and women who served over the course of Operation Banner, which has undoubtedly been a success.*

*I was pleased to learn that the MoD plans to honour those who served in Northern Ireland. It is fitting that the memorial service should be held in St. Paul's Cathedral – the scene of many national celebrations and events. The memorial service will provide an opportunity to celebrate the success of the armed forces in defeating the terrorists whilst reflecting on the service and dedication of those who took part in that campaign.”*

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