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**Cover Image:** Mates: Sapper Brendon Hills congratulates his friend, newly-graduated TF officer SLT Waaka Parkinson. Photo: Judith Martin

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**How it’s done: Mrs Roy shares her experience with recruits, and (right) shares a laugh with an instructor.**

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER RE-VISITS WAIOURU**

Recruits at Waiouru received some unexpected high-level advice when the Associate Minister of Defence, Heather Roy paid a visit last month.

Mrs Roy was in Waiouru in her capacity as Associate Minister as the National Army Museum: Te Mata Toa launched its new brand.

But it was Sapper Roy – Mrs Roy is also a Territorial Force soldier – who sat down with recruits in the pine shelter belt near the camp range and chatted about life in the Army, how the course was going – and the best way to clean a rifle.

The recruits under the trees were cleaning their Steys. Familiar with the cleaning drill, she borrowed a rifle stock from one of the recruits and began passing on a few old soldier’s tricks of the trade. “They always check for dirt here,” she said, as she felt inside the stock and then removed a dirt-stained finger. “See! So you take a toothbrush and brush like this.”

Mrs Roy is on an extended leave of absence in order to prevent any conflict of interest with her role as Associate Minister of Defence, but she demonstrated she appreciated the diverse nature of activities conducted within the camp and the demands of military training.

She was accompanied by the Chief of Army, Major General Lou Gardiner, and Col Roger McElwain, Commander, Land Training and Doctrine Group.

Mrs Ray's visit to Waiouru began with a Barrack Guard provided by soldiers from the Waiouru Support Centre and commanded by Warrant Officer Class 2 Tony Spice. This was followed by a powhiri at the Army Marae before she was escorted into the Waiouru Training Area to visit Exercise Thunder Warrior, the annual Singaporean Armed Forces (SAF) exercise.

She tried out one of the missile mounted LDOVs for size, and watched the live firing of two Spike missiles and artillery fire before greeting and talking to members of the SAF.

After lunch she was escorted to the Army museum where she unveiled the new branding of Te Mata Toa which translates literally as “through the eyes of the warrior”.

**NEW SUPPORT FACILITY AT PAPAKURA**

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on the 13th of February to mark the opening of Auckland Regional Support Centre’s (ARSC) purpose built facility in Papakura Military Camp.

As part of the ceremony Pte MS Maihi was also presented with the New Zealand General Service Medal (Timor-Leste) and the New Zealand Operational Service Medal. Prior to the Commander 2 LFg, Colonel Tim Keating, and Private Maihi cutting the ribbon, Chaplain Mike Subritzky said a prayer, blessing both the building and staff.

The new facility was purpose built to enable the consolidation of staff to occur, and to facilitate closer second line support to 1 NZSAS Group. The building includes a Headquarters, CIS element, workshop complete with dust/particulate free room facilities and 2T vehicle hoist, warehouse, transport, armshole that features both a repair and main unit armoury functions, and Auckland Welfare Fund facilities. The facility also provides a modern briefing/conference room to enable more professionally presented training and seminars to occur.
Brigadier Riordan’s paper takes place on July 2 and 3. It is taught in late June and early July. The others cover laws of armed conflict, terrorism and international law, and peacekeeping deployments involving the New Zealand Defence Force.

Waikato University Law School Associate Professor Claire Breen says the two-day paper is part of a suite of four similar papers being taught at the university.

Brigadier Riordan’s topic covers international criminal law as derived from legal developments in the past century, and will look at crimes such as torture, sexual violence, use of child soldiers and terror attacks on the civilian population.

The Associate Minister of Defence Heather Roy said, “Today’s medal ceremony marks another milestone in the journey to freedom by Timor-Leste. In the past New Zealanders’ service has been acknowledged with medals from the United Nations, Australian and New Zealand Governments.

Brigadier Riordan’s paper takes place on July 2 and 3.
The Manawatu district showed the military just how much it was valued at a welcome function at the end of January. More than 1000 Army and Air Force personnel and their families converged on the Convention Centre, and listened as Palmerston North mayor Jono Naylor spoke about how important the military was to the local community, and how individuals played an important role not just in their work but in the community’s sport and culture. Commanding Officer of 2 LFG, Colonel Tim Keating also spoke, and told those gathered about how the military, and the partners and children of service personnel, were involved in all aspects of the community.

“Our people and their families bring much more in a community sense to Palmerston North and the Manawatu – they bring enthusiasm,” he said. Wing Commander Tim Walshe of RNZAF Ohakea said defence staff were an integral part of the community, not only because of the economy, but the social interaction they had with the community.

The New Zealand Army and the Royal New Zealand Air Force provide a total of 2750 jobs in the Manawatu at bases in Linton and Ohakea, with a wage bill of $123 million annually. According to research conducted by Palmerston North City Council economic policy advisor Peter Crawford if the region lost its defence employers it would cost $50.8 million in household incomes, and economic activity would drop $258 million.
By Judith Martin

It was hard, dirty and dangerous work, but the five Army fire fighters from the Emergency Response Squadron of 2nd Engineer Regiment, who lent their labour to devastated Australians last month say they will never forget the experience.

The team, led by Warrant Officer Class Two Wayne Bramley (Linton) included SSgt David Murray (Linton) SgT Rob Allen (Waiouru) CPL Chris Kennedy (Waiouru) and LCpl Eric Pepperell (Bumham), were part of the 50 strong contingent of New Zealand fire fighters, air operation personnel, fire behaviour specialist and incident managers who travelled to Melbourne in support of their Australian colleagues. They returned home on 7 March.

The state of Victoria, and in particular the area north-east of Melbourne has been devastated by the bush fires, which have claimed the lives of 201 people. The fires were exacerbated by unprecedented weather conditions, and as well as fatalities, thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes, many of which have been destroyed in the fires.

WO 2 Bramley, 2 LGF’s Fire Master, said his team spent most of their time back-burning, and blacking out, methods used to control massive fires.

Back burning is burning from a control line back in the direction of the active wild fire. Blacking out is burning any residual that is left after the back burn is completed and the active fire has stalled. Pockets of vegetation and ground litter pose a risk of re-ignition.

“The fires were in remote areas and the Australians bulldozed a lot of tracks to help prevent the fires spreading. One of the main problems was what was known as “killer trees”. These were huge eucalyptus trees, some of them about 100 years old, which are burnt at the base and could come down with the slightest breeze. If we found them we had to tag them, sometimes close the road to the area, and call up the bulldozers to come and knock them over,” said WO2 Bramley.

The fire crews rotated in the work they did. When hot spots and embers were found after back burning they were doused with water supplied by one of several fire vehicles following the crews. He said it was very hot, dirty and at times dangerous work. “An ember fell on a vehicle tyre one day and the tyre caught alight. You couldn’t touch any metal parts of the vehicles without burning your hand.”

WO 2 Bramley said his team found the experience professionally very rewarding. “We’re well trained in the military and we have the skills to help in situations like that. We don’t usually get the chance to use those skills here so it’s good to be able to put them into practice to help our neighbours.”

“The days were long – up at 5.50am, and we worked until dark. We went to bed between 10 and 11pm, sometimes later depending on what was happening.”

After each seven days on the fire line the men had two days off. They abandoned their two-man tents in the bush, and opted for a hotel in Melbourne.

And what was first on their mind after hitting a smoke free zone? A beer? A swim? WO 2 Bramley: “Yes we did think of that. But really it was having a rest. It was tough work but we’re all delighted we did it.”

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IOT 2009 OFFERS UP 96 OFFICER CADETS

By OCDT Jack Seabrook

Few people would consider standing to attention an achievement. However Tuesday 17th February few could have been prouder than the friends and family of the graduating Initial Officer Training (IOT) class of 2009. Coming from throughout New Zealand, and as far abroad as Munich, Germany, this year’s officer cadet trainees proved that they not only had what it takes but that they could lead, follow and perform together to a notable standard.

Recently appointed Associate Minister of Defence, Heather Roy reviewed the day’s parade, which also doubled as the graduation for the 2009 Territorial Force Commissioning Course (TFCC) class. Under the watchful eye of the DCA BRIG Phil Gibbons and with help from high ranking proud parents from both the Army and Navy, gorgets were attached to show the trainees’ entrance into the New Zealand Corps of Officer Cadets.

The parade proved to be a fine finish to six intensive weeks of training that shocked the trainees out of their civilian habits and made them ready for their future roles in the Army. After quickly adapting to rising early and zipping through breakfast, the trainees were often training until late evening and enjoying every moment of it.

Particular favourites of the course proved to be learning and honing skills on the IW Steyr and the C-9, and using Waiouru Camp’s Weapons Training Simulator which enabled speedy and quality learning of weapons usage while also allowing the trainees to know exact shooting statistics.

Despite the appeal and enjoyment of the initial training, most trainees had their minds thoroughly set on the centerpiece of IOT, Exercise Maadi, their first real contact with fieldcraft. Split into sections of twelve, trainees delved into soldiering skills, learning the humility of digging a shell scrap late at night or the finer points of trading ration pack meals. More advanced tasks such as a night exercise on avoiding detection from night vision goggles proved to be a favourite. A day of live firing in Long Valley gave the trainees another chance to test themselves in pairs’ manoeuvres and twenty-three lucky trainees had the opportunity to set up and fire live claymores.

An explosively good experience produced a total of 96 enthusiastic officer cadets, 50 of whom will now continue on to New Zealand Commissioning Course and hopefully graduate by year’s end; others will return to Waiouru after a year with their Territorial Force Battalion; and the rest will join the Kippengerger Class at Linton Camp. Though only a small taste of experiences the Army offers, IOT proved to be exhilarating for all and only the first step in many military careers.

LTCOL John Coleman, whose daughter OCDT Leigh Coleman has completed her Initial Officer Training, was one of several military parents who helped attach gorgets to trainees at the Waiouru ceremony. Centre, Is it Ma’am or Mum? OCDT Delia Snell with her mother, LTCOL Maree Sheard. Below, Perfect drill added to the occasion.
By Judith Martin

Warrant Officer Rob Mowat is well-organised. It’s a matter of having to be when you alone are responsible for managing the delivery of one of the NZDF’s newest premises, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal facility in Trentham, and its associated buildings throughout New Zealand.

“There’s always lots of risk associated with a project like that, as every project manager knows. They can range from falling short on budget, to taking much longer than planned... the risks are endless. Having a successful project is a matter of good communication and identifying early what can go wrong and what can be done to mitigate that risk.”

WO2 Mowat has been awarded a Chief of Army Commendation for the work he did in managing the delivery of the infrastructure for what is formally known as the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (and informally The Bomb Squad) at Trentham Camp. In awarding the commendation Chief of Army, MAJGEND Lou Gardiner said the “extremely complex” project involved many diverse aspects, and would normally be managed by a complete team rather than one individual.

Having the support of the Joint Logistics Support Organisation where he works helped immeasurably with the task at hand, says WO2 Mowat. “There are so many people here to offer advice and the benefit of their experience,” he says.

The New Zealand Defence Force’s EOD Squadron main premises were officially opened in May last year. The new capability means greater security for New Zealand, and brings together skilled Service personnel with expertise in explosives disposal.

WO2 Mowat says the facility was the first capital project he had managed, and initially involved creating a design that met the NZDF’s functional purpose for the project. Those plans then went to consultants Opus International who turned it into a workable floor plan. From there a quantity surveyor provided a rough idea of costs. The construction drawings were completed, and the project put out to tender.

“My job was to guide that process and make sure things were happening and people were doing their job.”

The building had to be low-maintenance, and as energy efficient as possible. Included in the project was an adjacent two-storied building designed primarily for robots - an essential tool in bomb disposal - to make their way around. Smaller, ancillary facilities have also been built throughout New Zealand for the EOD Squadron as part of the project.

WO2 Mowat says one of the things he enjoyed most about the project was seeing it through from beginning to end. Towards the end he was, however, whisked out of New Zealand to purchase materials for an urgent job for New Zealand troops in Timor Leste. The NZDF contingent had to move quickly from its Dili base to another site in the city, and office accommodation, an armoury, a company aid post, ablution blocks and a covered gymnasium had to be built. It fell to him to source materials in Darwin – some had to be driven up from Canberra – and arrange for them to be shipped, in a hurry, to Dili. His fellow engineers were on hand in Dili to complete the new facility for the Kiwi contingent, and all went to plan.

It was “interesting” says WO2 Mowat working out where to source material and how to transport it. “The Aussies were very helpful, and we had a Major in Darwin who was a great help.”

Being responsible for a big project can be a tad stressful at times, he says. “But there’s nothing like standing back and looking at a building that is going to be there for the next 50 years or so and has gone up on time, on budget, and to the end user’s functional requirements.”

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**PROMOTIONS:**

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Selection. Something many in the military have thought about; something less have attempted and something even fewer have been successful on. I do not intend to preach to you about what you need to do to get there, you can read that online. What I want to do is give you some of the realities of the course, talk about the perceived hardships and myths and go through some of my personal observations that will hopefully give you a better understanding of what you are up against. It is important for you to understand that I am somebody who has passed and failed selection and I give this to you with no ego attached.

THE DECISION

The decision to attend. It may sound obvious, but this is probably the most important part of the step. It is when you decide that you want to become part of this unit. Your reasoning must be sound; no “I’ll give it a go” or “people think I should so I will” as people with this attitude will not finish. If you are in a relationship that you want to keep, you will need to talk to your partner in detail and explain to her exactly what it is you want to do and why. If your foundation is not solid that gets rid of the clay. The men who can get themselves past that barrier are usually the men we want – the men we will turn into SAS officers and soldiers.”

YOUR TRAINING

Your training will vary depending on your start state. Because the majority of selection is done with a pack on your back, so should your training. For myself, I walked a number of longer sessions to get my mind used to the boredom and fatigue. Ensure that you do not over train. Take time off during training to relax and take it all in. At the end of the day, we are all in the military and can all carry a pack. It is really no different on selection other than the fact that it is you, not your commander who decides when you get up to take that next step.

PRE-SELECTION

Pre-selection must be a lot of fun for those who are in the position to observe it from the sides. People of all shapes and sizes turn up with just as many different attitudes and reasons for wanting to be there. It soon becomes apparent that those bristling with confidence and a desire to prove themselves during this phase will inevitably fail. Pre-selection does give you your first glimpse of the badged members though and I would be lying if I did not say that it was inspiring to see people wearing the beret and belt. Just concentrate on what you are there for and forget about the other distractions.

SELECTION PROPER

Selection proper is the time to show what you have got. Day one starts with the RFL, shortly followed by the BFT, swim test and hares and hounds (webbing fun). It is a hard slog of a day but if you break it down into its key elements, it is much simpler. As someone once said to me “the way to eat an elephant is by doing it one bite at a time”. Days two to four are open country pack walking. That’s it, simple; but for some reason it is the time when most people come off the course, not because they do not make the timings (which are not that difficult) but because they take themselves off. For whatever reason, they have given themselves the excuse to depart. If you have your motivation squared away from the start, then this will not be you. Exercise Von Temptsky, the ‘dunes’ or the ‘jerries’ as it is affectionately known. Probably the most talked about and anticipated part of selection. I must admit that prior to starting them I was also a little anxious about the next 20 hours until I had a realisation. That realisation was that I am going to be here for the next 20 hours, carrying jerry cans, so deal with it. And I did. Like the others around me, I just knuckled down and got on with it and to be perfectly honest found it easier than I thought I would. If the task was not achievable then no one would have passed, and so many have. So my advice to you is to suck it up and crack on. You have already made the decision to be there so don’t cut yourself short. The final days of selection are occupied with the close country navigation and the 60km pack walk. Do not let yourself relax because you have “broken the back” of the course by finishing the ‘jerries’, because it will only make the next few days harder. The key, as with the rest of the selection is just to keep on going, and be prepared to go a little further than that.

PASSING

Passing selection for me was an interesting experience. For so long I had been looking at the selection ‘door’ and all of a sudden it was open. It’s a very satisfying feeling to know that you have passed but the reality that it is only the beginning also starts to set in.

I have a long way in my journey to go and I would not presume to know the ‘in’s and out’s’ of this unit and those that make up its numbers. All I know is that I want to be part of it. I sincerely wish you all the best for your journey.
The road to NZSAS GP now has two paths – the Special Air Service (SAS) route, or through the Counter Terrorist Tactical Assault Group (CTTAG). Both directions are voluntary, and each are achievable with grit, determination and the will to succeed.

The SAS/CTTAG roads lead to the one goal of “Success for further training within 1 NZSAS GP”

Here a soldier who tried for SAS selection last year, was not ready, so changed path to CTTAG Assessment tells his story.

I attempted the NZSAS selection course in November ’08 for the first time but was unsuccessful; however I was given another opportunity in the CTTAG entry assessment.

I had used the training programme provided by the NZSAS for selection. I spent a lot of time pack marching long distances; however I wish I had done more big hills. I joined my local orienteering club to practise navigation and square away my map to ground skills. I was happy with the work I had put in before I arrived and was confident with my navigation. Not worrying about how prepared you are helps with the mental side of it, allowing you to focus on the job at hand.

The SAS selection course began with pre-selection which surprisingly involved a lot of walking, but gave everyone a chance to practise navigation. The course itself was hard mentally and physically. The first four days were tough because you were racing the clock. Add to that a mistake with your nav, some bad weather and rolled ankles, and before you know it you’re behind and trying to catch up. Once at the jerry cans I struggled to keep them from hitting the ground and this weighed heavily on my mind. This is where I came off the course.

In my debrief interview with the Training Officer I was offered a second chance. There was a CTTAG entry assessment course starting in two days, and if I wanted to be on it all I had to do was get some rest and some food in me. I was driven up north with a couple of other guys who had come off on the jerry cans as well. We got our heads down and in the morning found that pretty much everyone who came off the first selection course was there and ready to go all over again.

None of us knew too much about the entry assessment and we tried to piece together what we were going to be in for, and assumed it would be not much sleep and a lot of work. That was pretty accurate. The course began with the usual RFL and BET, but the difference being the beep test rather than the pack march. In my mind I was worried about the level of fitness I had having only just come off the first course. I was to realise that the first day is designed to exhaust you, so that those who genuinely want to be there will stick it out.

The attrition rate seemed to be about the same as selection with guys disappearing on the first day. The intensity and tempo of the whole thing was very high. By the end of the first day you knew you had worked hard and there was plenty more to come. I was given a second chance and I wasn’t going to mess it up. I wanted to be there. I remember being so tired that I was falling asleep on my feet. The course was the hardest thing I have done to date, but finishing is an amazing feeling.

CTTAG Entry Assessments 15-22 May 09
A. Pre–Entry 15 – 17 May 09
B. CTTAG Entry Assessment 18 – 21 May 09
C. CTTAG Officer Testing 21 – 22 May 09

CTTAG Employment Training 6 Jul – 22 Oct 09
A. March-in / Administration 6 – 9 Jul 09
B. CTTAG Employment Modules are over the period 11 Jul – 22 Oct 09
C. CTTAG Beret parade 23 Oct 09

NZSAS Selection 7-26 Nov 09
A. Pre-Selection 7 – 13 Nov 09
B. Selection 14 – 22 Nov 09
C. Officer Testing 23 – 26 Nov 09
It was the end of an era recently at Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles (QAMR), with the handing over of the squadron from Major Mike Duncan to Major Sholto Stephens.

One last parade as Squadron Officer Commanding gave Major Duncan the chance to inspect the Squadron and talk to the Troopers before the guidon was passed to the incoming OC, Major Stephens. To mark his two years commanding, the squadron presented Major Duncan with a QAMR plaque and a framed QAMR Squadron flag.

To celebrate his new posting as Executive Officer of 2/1 Battalion RNZIR, a large cabbage was also presented in good humour.

Major Stephens, on taking command of the Squadron paid tribute to the outgoing OC, saying “Major Duncan departs the unit having developed it extensively during his tenure. He can be very proud of his efforts as the Officer Commanding for the past two years. I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to command the Unit, particularly at a time when elements of it are deployed overseas on operations.”

Major Duncan said he was departing with a sense of pride. “It has been a real privilege to command QAMR. It has been the high point of my Army career and this has been due to the high calibre, professionalism and commitment of the officers, NCOs and soldiers of the unit. That professionalism and commitment has been the key reason that QAMR has been able to rebuild and re-equip from unit strength of 12 with no vehicles, who brought the Squadron down from Waiouru in 2005, to its current strength of 70 and 15 NZLAV.

“That, coupled with a very high retention rate (only three soldiers released in 2008), an enviable equipment serviceability record and a reputation of being a ‘can do’ squadron is the reason the unit continues to be one of finest (and oldest) units in the NZ Army. With an ongoing deployment of a half troop to OP CRIB every six months and individuals deploying to RATA and GYRO, QAMR is also doing its ‘bit’ towards supporting NZ Army operations around the world.”
Gaining Commander Home Command approval to deploy on an operational mission, be it the first or successive mission, is not such a straightforward thing. **Major Syd Dewes**, an Army Reserve Officer posted to 3 Auckland and Northland Battalions, RNZIR, Arch Hill, Auckland.

I was looking at the computer screen, temporarily immobilized by the email. “**Nominations Called For May 09 Deployment** … My heart started racing and the excitement was enveloping— even though I had not yet read where the deployment was to, it did not matter. I was, you might say, in the zone. I was ready to deploy again. In the space of a few seconds I tore off chunks from the sequence of events that played out in my mind – there was an eager bite at making necessary preparations; an excited ravenous bite for pre-deployment training; something that felt like a pensive bite for the deployment itself; and a big swallow for the eventual return home. After having gathered myself, the feeding frenzy slowed and gave way to what can only be described as a more considered chewing action— I hit the paralysis by analysis trip-wire.

‘Should I Stay or Should I Go?’ These words and title track by British punk rock group, The Clash, sang out in my head and started to dominate thoughts, generating waves of emotions, and turmoil—it was not so much me questioning my want to deploy but it had everything to do with— “How do I get this past the ‘Boss’, “, and I was not thinking about the Army boss either. I found myself going around in ever tightening circles trying to figure out how to raise the prospect with Commander Home Command of me going on another mission.

I could say the Army is posting me. A blatant lie, but, if used this approach could provide the necessary whipping boy in whose direction any forthcoming outbursts from ‘Missus’ could be directed. Now that could be mighty handy but my ethos and values screamed another more dominating response.

I could say something like ‘I’ve been asked to deploy’ and await the reaction. Not perhaps the best approach because if the reaction, and a very likely one it would be too, is, ‘No you aren’t going anywhere—I’m loose’!

I could take the most direct route—the fait accompli and simply say straight up, “Sweetheart, I’ve accepted a deployment …leaving in May.” Now that would get it done and dusted, surely. But experience has taught me, this would be one of those times my wife can be like Piha Beach and I best watch the waves over the next few days and even months and be prepared to be caught, repeatedly, in the rip, after one thought it was safe to move on. This can prove very problematic. Ummm.

Another line from the song played out in my head…”if I go there will be trouble”. I recalled a scene from the movie ‘Bravo Two Zero’ where Dinga was in the bar, four sheets to the wind, with the title song playing away in the background. It gave me an idea—tonight I’ll float the idea of me going away over a bottle, or two, of wine. I felt buoyed with the thought of progress but in a shadowed corner of my mind a little niggle rattled knowingly … “this is not going to be plain sailing by any means”, and, I shut the thought away as I, somewhat distracted now, tried to continue on with my day, clearing the inbox.

Fast forward now to the second bottle of wine. I still hadn’t figured out how to raise the subject—in amongst the chat about the near finished house redecoration work, the visit to the vet clinic, and a host of other things, I was still half a mind into trying to figure out how to let the cat out of the bag. I just had to get this over with and out it came! “Love, I have volunteered to deploy to Timor in May for six months”. Phew. There— it was now out in the open. I braced and readied myself for the response—it was quick, direct and it was not pretty. Suffice to say the dinner engagement was off— “Anyone for dessert? Yeah right”. Being left alone to clear the table was a welcomed relief, and I lost count of the days I repeated this shore and lonesome routine. Eventually the impasse passed, but true to form, occasionally when I thought it safe to go back into the water…

There are two equally strong competing forces … the need to protect and preserve our relationships and the want to demonstrate one’s readiness and commitment. Operational deployments are now part and parcel of military life and how we communicate our next move, with partners and family is never easy— no one rank bracket, gender, or corps, finds it any easier. When there are children, elderly parents, and/or special family occasions to be marked during one’s time away, these just add to an already difficult process to tip the scales in your favour. How our partners respond differs for a whole host of reasons. In my book this is the biggest hurdle to negotiate. Yes I am a soldier and yes I signed up to do and go where I’m told. But, my wife is not and did not. There are two equally strong competing forces at play here – the need to protect and preserve our relationship(s) and the want to demonstrate one’s readiness and commitment to the profession of arms—this can make for a difficult spot to be in and we have to find a way for them to co-exist.

In my experience what has helped in no small way getting ‘Commander Home Command’, ‘OC Rear Details’, ‘The Stay Behind Party’, ‘The Missus’, ‘The Partner’, whatever title you want to give them—sign off to successive deployments has been the tremendous support provided by our Deployment Services Officers (DSO). The value these ladies bring to enhancing our operational effectiveness is immense and I can speak from personal experience of how through their genuine care and support they have endeared themselves to our families. I know from chats with other servicemen and women, this experience and appreciation runs wide and deep. In my case, the good service provided by our DSO’s during my last deployment has definitely helped smooth the waters for me to deploy once again. For that, I am very, very grateful.

Oh yes, and by the way, I am still awaiting formal confirmation of the May deployment and truly hope it is forthcoming because I don’t fancy the idea of having to go through the wringer, well at least not for another 12 months. Having notified Army I am ready, it is now a case of me asking ‘Am I Staying or Am I going?’

**Resettlement Seminar Research**

The aim of Resettlement Seminars is to provide advice, guidance and information for military personnel who have completed 16 years or more service that will prepare them for the transition from military to civilian life. MSI is currently reviewing the Resettlement seminar content to ensure that they are meeting this aim. As part of this review, your feedback is important.

If you know of any ex-serviceperson who may be interested in sitting in on the ex-serviceperson’s panel please feel free to contact MSI.

We are continually looking to improve this service for you, your feedback is important to us. Please send feedback to tina.grant@nzdf.mil.nz by email or extension number 7926.
The people of South Sudan are remarkably resilient and their ability to bounce back from quite devastating events that are commonplace in war and famine torn Sudan is amazing…"
Corps with a vote of Thanks.
The exercise provided an opportunity for St John to present the Royal New Zealand Army Medical exercise has been very successful and everyone has enjoyed themselves.”

“This week everyone has had to contend with heat and rain that tended to ignore tents and tents adding an unplanned element to the exercise and to the camp as a whole.

Day two of the exercise saw a dramatic change in the weather that had water flowing through the rear of the dental surgery, seeing a number patients and easing the backlog of patients who required dental treatment.

To make the training as realistic as possible the dentists worked independently from a tent at

Exercise Starlight Avenger enabled medical staff from around New Zealand to work together to ensure that should the need arise they are familiar with the equipment and aware of the constraints of working in a deployed environment.

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• Development of and reliance on a shared data source helps to provide greater consistency and accuracy of data.
• Improved data quality makes it quicker and easier to provide robust information to the Service Chiefs, AC Pers, EIL, and government.
• Data analysis skills are shared more easily between the Services.

Additionally, the change reflects Personnel Branch taking an active role in the leadership and co-ordination of workforce planning across the NZDF.

“We may have some way to go but good progress has been made and I’m confident that the team will continue to provide better service to the Services, Personnel Branch, the EIL and CDF.”

Medical staff from the Army’s Regular force as well as Army Reserve forces converged on Linton Camp to conduct a week’s intensive medical training recently.

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“This week everyone has had to contend with heat and rain that tended to ignore tents and dripped down or ran under them,” says Maj Paul Kendall. “Aside from the rain and heat the exercise has been very successful and everyone has enjoyed themselves.”

The main challenge was maintaining and improving service levels during the change. The workforce planners have their own Service requirements to maintain while also working to improve the service to the Executive Leadership Team, Assistant Chief of Personnel and the Chief of Defence Force. While there were a few problems with implementation, overall it went surprisingly smoothly. “We were lucky as we were already meeting regularly which made the team dynamics and working together an easy adjustment,” CDR Rennie says.

The benefits of the change so far have been significant:
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• Data analysis skills are shared more easily between the Services.

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EX STARBRIGHT AVENGER

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By Judith Martin

Wandering camels, huge pot holes and hair-raising local driving habits are all in a day’s work for a group of Sinai-based NZDF personnel. The Kiwi truckies are usually behind the wheel of huge Volvos, driving around the Middle East in support of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) an organisation that monitors, from two camps in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, and works to prevent any treaty violations. An independent organisation, the MFO numbers about 220 personnel, 600 of them civilians, from countries including New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Columbia, Fiji, France, Hungary, Norway and the United States.

New Zealand has been a member of the MFO since its inception in 1981. The NZDF contribution was originally helicopter support, but has grown over the years to become a 26-strong contingent providing mainly drivers, and driving instructors. The drivers are amongst the MFO’s best; they regularly receive commendations from the MFO commander for achieving 30,000 accident-free kilometres of driving, and their enjoyment of the work they do is obvious. The sand drifts, endless stretches of desert, and relentless heat are all more of a challenge than a hindrance. ”Market day in the villages we pass through can be mayhem. You have to stay alert to anything. People just wander across the roads, and when the local kids hear a truck coming they’ll race out to see it. We always made sure we got a good night’s sleep though, so it’s no trouble staying alert,” says one driver.

The drivers supply all the outposts with fresh water, pick up goods from Israel and deliver them to the two camps (North and South) that the MFO is divided into. North Camp is where most of the New Zealanders are based. It provides logistical and operational support for the force, members of which work from about 30 remote outposts split between three battalions and scattered along the length of the peninsula next to the Israeli border and the Gulf of Aqaba. It is just 45 km from the turbulent Gaza Strip.

The force mans checkpoint and observation posts, and monitors any alleged violations. Observers patrol the borders, especially near Gaza. Violations are investigated, and recommendations made to the MFO director general, who decides on further courses of action.

The MFO is a tri-service mission, and New Zealand’s contribution to the force also includes a training and advisory team which provides the formal driving and operational training for the MFO. Force personnel come from their own countries with skills for their core tasks, and the Kiwis provide them with all license testing, unit driver training courses, and specialist courses, as well as defensive driving. They also provide senior personnel from contributing countries with skills to run their remote outposts.

Sgt Johnny Wanoa, now the operations sergeant with 16 Field Regiment, is a driving instructor and served in the Sinai in 2005-2006.

“Working with personnel from 11 different countries meant that one of the biggest challenges we faced was being understood. We had interpreters but sometimes even they were a bit hard to understand. But that said, working with so many different militaries was also one of the best parts of the deployment. We got to see how other soldiers worked and did things.”

The high accident rate in the harsh Egyptian conditions was one of the reasons for the establishment of formal training for MFO drivers. LTCOL Patrick Butterworth, the current Commanding Officer of the New Zealand MFO contingent says the conflict in Gaza was on everyone’s minds earlier this year.

“We were close enough to hear the bombs, but far enough away to be out of harm’s way. The war within Israel’s borders is part of the continuing struggle to establish a lasting peace for the Palestinians and Israelis, but it is not part of the MFO mandate to have any role there; instead we are continuing with our routine reporting of activity in the military exclusion zones of Sinai.”

He agrees that one of the main challenges New Zealand personnel face is the variety of languages spoken on the MFO base.

“Drivers need Spanish to talk to the Uruguay transport detachment, liaison officers need Arabic and Russian (to talk to the tourists), and the Deputy Chief Operations (Plans) needs Norwegian and American, whilst the RSM needs Fijian. We are all working hard on our Maori singing skills, too, since the cultural group is a strong part of our contingent’s identity.”
Have you served in Iraq, Angola, Somalia, or Bougainville? Would you like to share your story with readers in the Army News history series? If so, and you are a serving Army officer or soldier, contact Judith Martin on judith.martin@nzdf.mil.nz, or tel (04) 4960237.

Top, anti-clockwise, drivers prepare for work; driving instructor Nicholas Matthews checks a driving test with a Columbian soldier; TF Officer Captain Antony Mitchelson who served in the Sinai in 2005; driving instructors Sergeants James Wharehinga and Johnny Wanoa help two Columbian soldiers with their written driving knowledge.
Members of the ship’s company of HMNZS Philomel could be forgiven for thinking their base had been taken over by the Army in February when fifty-five soldiers descended on Devonport. The soldiers were members of the 3rd Auckland Northland Battalion (3 Auck North), Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, a Territorial Force (TF) unit based in Grey Lynn, Auckland.

In 2009, 3 Auck North officers and senior non-commissioned officers marched into Philomel for eight days of instruction on the newly introduced Army Leadership Framework and to complete physical competency tests.

3 Auck North Commanding Officer, LTCOL Chris Powell said Philomel provided an ideal location for the battalion’s training activities.

“Philomel's messing, accommodation and classroom facilities gave us an ideal location close to our headquarters and easy to travel to for our personnel.

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“The added advantage of a large military establishment like Philomel is that TF personnel snap straight into a regimental mind-set when they march in.

“That meant that with only eight days we could fit as much training as we wanted to into that time and we knew the team would be motivated and focused from day one,” said LTCOL Powell.

While the classroom-based activities at Philomel kept the Battalion’s command element busy, they also took time out of their training schedule to take a guided tour of HMNZS Canterbury. The training finished on Saturday 14 February with a Battle Efficiency Test which saw the soldiers march 12 kilometres carrying full equipment and undertake a series of physical tests before marking the conclusion of the AFE with a BBQ.

“AFE was a resounding success and the hospitality we received from Philomel’s company went a long way to making it the success it was.

“Living at Philomel enabled Battalion members to get an insight into Navy life and culture and this was the first time many of the Battalions personnel had experience of the Navy.

“Exposure to the Navy in this way has had an extremely positive impact and increased the understanding and awareness of the RNZN amongst all attendees,” said LTCOL Powell.

Light Armoured vehicles (LAV) and helicopters were just two of the big machines that South Island Army reservists worked with during their annual field exercise in February.

Exercise SOUTHERN KIWI 09 brought together Territorial Force (TF) soldiers from all around the South Island to prepare them for the job they will be doing if and when deployed overseas.

Based out of the Army’s West Melton range and in the small village of Coalgate, they conducted foot and vehicle patrolling, cordon and search operations, vehicle checkpoints and small attacks on isolated locations. They learnt how to use Army’s specialist radios for communication and travelled in Unimogs, LAV and Airforce helicopters as part of the week long exercise.

“This week offered reservists the opportunity to take on challenges that you would regularly experience full-time in the Army,” explained Colonel Chris Faulls, Deputy Commander for the 3rd Land Force Group.

“We were particularly pleased with the support we received from the locals in Coalgate. Many of the villagers agreed to take part in the exercise by volunteering to have houses and cars searched. This made the exercise so much more real for our soldiers and for that we are very grateful.”

Visitors out to the exercise included local media, the Minister of Defence Dr Wayne Mapp, MP for the Selwyn District Amy Adams, and the Mayor of Selwyn Kelvin Coe. Dr Mapp shared his own experiences of being in the reserves with several of the soldiers, describing it as “just the most direct expression of citizenship.”
Schoolchildren camped at the lakeside above the Patea River Hydro Dam were woken just after dawn by the sound of explosions and prolonged gunfire. For fifteen minutes they were spectators to an intense battle between Army Engineers and saboteurs of the Free Island Party. The Engineers had ambushed the FIP cadre as they were on their way to disable the powerhouse beneath the dam. The engineers knew the insurgents were carrying poisonous chemicals, in an attempt to make the powerhouse unserviceable, so when they captured and searched the insurgents, they donned gasmasks, and later they were put through a field decontamination unit. This was the climax of Ex Masada, the territorial engineers' annual field exercise. The reservists had joined soldiers from Linton's 2 Field Regiment and headed into southern Taranaki to practise skills that would be needed when they are deployed, or in case of a natural disaster.

They went into action more quickly than they expected. The fire trucks with the regiment were passing through Wanganui when Det Commander Cpl Kennedy noticed a grass fire threatening two houses. He stopped his convoy and they went to work, to the astonishment of local onlookers as they jumped out of the trucks in their DPMs. An hour later they were on their way again to their FOB at Waverley, and the next day they were front-page news: "Army firefighters to the rescue."

"That incident showed the ability of Field Squadron personnel to combine civilian emergency aid with tactical requirements," said Maj Rowan Wallace, OIC of Ex Masada, when I finally found him in his FOB, hidden behind a high security fence and barbed wire barriers the engineers had erected around the now disused buildings of Waverley High School. My little car was tucked in behind the barbed wire alongside about two dozen army vehicles; Unimogs, supply trailers, LOVs, and the celebrated fire trucks. In the school foyer I found the SHQ, where half a dozen officers were typing out orders on laptops set up on trestle tables. They were commanding three troops of sappers from 3 ANR, 5 WWCT and 2 Cant's battalions. These were supported by an echelon of a dozen specialists; cooks, fire-fighters, mechanics, quartermasters and medics, and they were being challenged by an enemy party of local reservists led by two RF NCOs.

On Tuesday it was raining steadily when we visited the 3 ANR sappers at Opunake where they had felled some unwanted trees and were now rebuilding a ponga retaining wall at the local lake. And the heavens had opened up by the time we reached the reservists laying concrete at the playcentre of remote Little Hurleyville. To prevent the deluge from washing all their work away, the resourceful sappers had protected it with a 14 x 11 tent. Just down the road, the pouring rain was not stopping them from their work chainsawing firewood as a fundraiser for the playcentre. Meanwhile 5 WWCT sappers on patrol around the FOB at Waverley were reporting suspicious activity by a group in an old blue Holden. Two midnight intruders were discovered on the roof of the High School and patrols chatting to locals on the streets of Waverley were told of a suspicious group lurking in the Waverley racecourse buildings. Then a bomb was found planted in one of the Squadron's vehicles.

The troublemakers had fled, but during the search Spr Leighton Mosese discovered a bag of nitrate fertilizer, a textbook on explosives and a note detailing the poison attack on Patea Dam.

So before dawn the next morning, we were in a long convoy heading up through the bush-covered hills of the remote back country to spring our ambush. By midday we were back at Waverley High School, packing up for the move back to Landguard Bluff and Linton. "Working in Taranaki has given the soldiers an opportunity to practise soldiering skills in unfamiliar territory while carrying out civil aid tasks," explained Maj Wallace, as we stood around outside the school office drinking our last cup of tea. "And in this case we've been able to leave something worthwhile behind."
WHAT’S IN YOUR RATION PACK?

By Captain Nicola Martin, Army Dietitian

We all know that food is essential to provide us with the energy and nutrients we need every day. During training and on operations, what you eat and how frequently you eat becomes even more important to help optimise your physical and mental performance. It is also well known that food has a significant impact on morale. So during the latest tender round for products in the operational ration packs (ORPs) a real effort was made to meet both the nutrition and soldier satisfaction requirements of the ‘rat packs’.

A small study was conducted with soldiers to provide feedback about what food items are consumed most and how the ORPs may be improved. From this study we found that the most popular components of the ORPs are the main retort meals, the biscuits and the chocolate bars (no surprises there). The least popular retort meal was the Lamb and Mint Gravy.

To enhance the variety and appeal of ration packs there have been a number of changes to the main retort meals, such as flavours and size. The new flavours are: Chicken Jambalaya, Moroccan Lamb, Vegetable Tagine, Thai Chicken and Chicken Satay. Some of the main meals are now supplied by Kaweka®, a new and innovative NZ food company, based in Hawkes Bay. Their range of ‘heat & eat’ meals are available from your local supermarket and were already being bought as popular ‘jack rats’. The increased meal size from 250g to 300g was due to popular demand but has also allowed us to improve the nutrition composition of the meals by increasing the complex carbohydrate content and reducing the saturated fat.

Other improvements to the ORPs include the addition of Horleys® Replace Hydration sports drink powder (as seen in sports stores and supermarkets); Recaldent chewing gum to help prevent tooth decay; chocolate chip biscuits; scroggin mix; hand wipes; a full ingredient list with allergen statements and nutrition information; and several changes to packaging and sizes. After overwhelming requests from soldiers, cheese in a can is back to replace the soft cheese in a sachet. Initial feedback from soldiers about the recent changes has been really positive.

RECENT CHANGES TO OPERATIONAL RATION PACKS (ORPs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Updated Ration Packs</th>
<th>Old Ration Packs</th>
<th>Reason for Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retort meal size 300g</td>
<td>Retort meal size 250g</td>
<td>• Soldiers request • Enhance carbohydrate profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New retort meals - Chicken Jambalaya, Thai Chicken, Moroccan Lamb, Vegetable Tagine, Chicken Satay</td>
<td>Retort meals: Beef Satay, Lamb &amp; Mint Gravy, Vegetable Curry, Tikka Beef Masala, Chicken Curry</td>
<td>• Provide change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retort meals higher in carbohydrate and lower in saturated fat</td>
<td>Retort meals low in carbohydrate and high in saturated fat</td>
<td>• Improve nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horleys® Replace Hydration sports drink powder</td>
<td>Cordial powder</td>
<td>• Provides energy and electrolytes quickly to optimise performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese in a can (with tear-tab)</td>
<td>Cheese sachet</td>
<td>• Soldiers request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anzac and Chocolate Chip biscuits</td>
<td>Anzac and Ginger Nut biscuits</td>
<td>• Provide change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanuts and raisins in all ORPs</td>
<td>Sultanas in only 1 x ORP</td>
<td>• Provide change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose sweets in all ORPs</td>
<td>Glucose sweets only in Menu A</td>
<td>• Improve energy value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recaldent chewing gum</td>
<td>No chewing gum</td>
<td>• The dental gum cleans teeth and contains calcium which helps repair teeth and prevent tooth decay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x 13g jam sachets, 2 flavours</td>
<td>1 x 26g jam tube</td>
<td>• Sharp tube corners damaged other products • Food safety improved with single serve sachets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x 15g Marmite sachets</td>
<td>1 x 15g Marmite tube</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jam and Marmite in 3 x ORPs each</td>
<td>Jam in 3 x ORPs, Marmite in 1</td>
<td>• Improve variety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion flakes in all ORPs</td>
<td>Onion flakes in only 1 x ORP</td>
<td>• Standardise condiments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt 2 x 1g, Pepper 2 x 1g</td>
<td>Salt 1x 7g, Pepper 1x 1g</td>
<td>• User friendly, single-serve sachets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar 6 x 7g</td>
<td>Sugar 7 x 14g</td>
<td>• Provide room in ORPs for sports drink powder • Less wastage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x towelettes</td>
<td>No hand wipes</td>
<td>• Improve hand hygiene pre and post meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full ingredient list and nutrition information panel</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>• Inform soldiers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UP AND COMING CHANGES

If you are a frequent user of the ration packs you can look forward to more regular changes than there have been in the past, particularly increasing the variety of the main retort meals. New flavours may include: Thai Lamb and Potato Curry, Spaghetti Bolognaise, Smoked Salmon Risotto and Venison and Mushroom Casserole.

Potential new products currently being developed include stewed fruit and creamed rice in retort pouches.

Catering for vegetarians is difficult with the small number of ORPs we produce; however, we are currently looking at how we can provide more vegetarian main retort meals (without upsetting all the carnivores out there).

Where Do They Come From and Who Eats Them?

The ORPs are managed under contract for the NZDF by SPEL. Each individual component is hand packed at the ration store in Linton. In 2008 the NZDF purchased 35,000 ration packs and 376,000 individual hexamine tablets. This equates to 3,990,000 individual components packed into 24hr ORPs. Although the ORPs are used by all three services, Army consumed 94% of the total ORPs purchased in 2008, Air Force 4% and Navy 2%.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Regular feedback about the ORPs is welcome and your POCs are:

Mr Simon O’Sullivan
Contract Manager (Fleet Manager, Ration Packs)
simon.o.sullivan@nzdf.mil.nz

Dave Montgomery
SPEL Ltd Ration Pack Manager
d.montgomery@spel.co.nz

Capt Nicola Martin
Army Dietitian
nicola.martin@nzdf.mil.nz
By John Archer

During Ex Mono, 4 Platoon of 7 WHB Bn had to fight off a strong counter-attack from insurgents after clearing them out of the remote village of Yutyeff in the hills behind Waiouru. Despite heavy and accurate fire from the machine guns and Steyrs of Lt Sam Valentine’s reservists, the green-clad figures kept pressing forward down the valley towards Yutyeff (the UTF), popping up on ridges, first at 800 metres, then at 400m, until their assault was finally halted with the aid of supporting mortar fire in a gully 200m away.

They were hardy warriors; one of them still kept appearing after being hit 253 times by fire from 4 Platoon, according to the signals being relayed to the laptop held by the platoon’s instructor. All this was apparent through the new small arms retaliatory target (SART) equipment the Army is introducing.

This system provides a simulated enemy in live-fire training for individuals and sub-units practising minor tactics. It has been supplied by SAAB Training Systems (STS), of Sweden, which also supplied the similar, but much larger targetry system installed at the MTR Range, Paradise Valley, for LAV gunnery training.

The Army has 105 new Stationary Infantry Targets (SIT), seven Sound Effect Simulators (SES) and four Moving Infantry Targets (MIT). Seven purpose built trailers have been built (by Kea Trailers Ltd, Te Rapa), to hold targets and simulators, battery rechargers, and two portable Toughbook laptops, modems and UTF communications. Two trailers will be kept at Waiouru, Linton and Burnham and one at Papakura.

The new targets are smaller and lighter than the obsolete DART system which they replace; they can be carried further and dug in more quickly. The targets will be issued with a number of multi purpose holders which can be configured to have them swing out sideways or in “scissors” mode from behind walls or trees for urban or jungle warfare. The moving targets, however, will require much more digging, as up to 30 metres of light railway track has to be buried for the MIT to run along. The rails can be buried in an existing ditch, with sandbags to raise them to the correct level.

The new targets are fitted with lights to simulate gunfire or provide low level lighting to enable the targets to be engaged at night. TESS equipment can also be used with the SART system. Each target has an individual internet address, so it can exchange information with the instructor’s laptop via a UHF link.

The targets are controlled by software that will run on any Windows computer. The instructor marks the position and number of each target on the computer screen, and then programmes the target’s behaviour into it. The target can be made to pop up and down by either manual control or automatically, by reacting to one bullet hit, or by “dying” after taking a specified number of hits. The software can activate individual targets or a whole block of targets at once. Stephan Larsen of SAAB Training Systems explained that one laptop can easily control 100 targets or more, so all five SART trailers could be gathered together for a big exercise, if required, to simulate a whole enemy platoon moving forward.

More likely, this block movement function will be used for training in close-combat reaction shooting. Previously an instructor would set up numbered cardboard targets in columns of five, the most distant about 30 metres away, the closest five metres. A trainee stood in front of each column, and on command they all fired at a designated number: “5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 2” pretending it was one man charging at them. Then the Steyrs or pistols were put down and the trainees went forward to check the targets and record the accuracy of their fire.

Now each of the trainees will have SART targets to shoot at, and with one stroke of the stylus on his touch screen, the instructors can make all these pop up in the desired sequence. The number of hits for each trainee will show up on the computer screen immediately.

Mr Allen Owens has spent much of his time over the past two years developing this new training system. In mid February combat instructors and Weapons Training System staff from throughout New Zealand gathered at Waiouru for a train-the-trainers. Mr Owens noted that it would be a few weeks yet before all the new SART systems are in general use.
The Chief Logistic Officer (Army) Colonel Charles Lott is sponsoring a Tri-Service Supply Trade Warrant Officer Seminar (SWOS) for Senior Supply Trade Warrant Officers from across the New Zealand Defence Force at the Messines Army Centre, Trentham Military Camp this week. Each single Service of the NZDF has its individual supply organisations, which operate in isolation with little formal interoperability between the Services. With the move towards joint logistics and combined logistic training being discussed it is timely that some formal steps be taken to encourage collaboration, cooperation and networking between the individual supply trades. The theme for SWOS 09 is ‘Bringing Out the Best In People’ with the focus on harnessing the power of collaboration, cooperation and networking.’

Objective
The objective of the seminar is to:
- establish consensus through presentations, discussion and syndicated exercises on the theme;
- provide the opportunity for supply trade officers to discuss trade related issues at a pan-NZDF level, and provide an opportunity to establish and strengthen Tri Service networks at the WO level;
- Selected Supply Trade Officers and Warrant Officers who are, or likely to be, filling key trade related positions within the respective single services are attending the course. SWOS 09 is aimed at the Warrant Officer level as a means of encouraging buy-in at all levels for future visions and concepts.

Point of Contact for any SWOS matters is WO2 Rob McKie, Warrant Officer Supply Policy, Army General Staff.

The seminar is being conducted in three components:

Scene setting.
This is the first time many of the attendees have been exposed to other Services Supply trades and will have little understanding of each others’ trades. Time is being spent setting the scene through personal introductions, and presentations on single Service trade visions, models, structures and issues.

Presentations.
Presentations are being made in support of the theme by guest speakers from key areas in the NZDF and industry. These presentations are a combination of structured presentations and followed by Q&A sessions.

Networking and working group sessions.
The aim of these sessions is to:
- Identify issues that can be sorted at the WO level in the short, medium and long term and come up with an action plan.
- Identify issues that can be sorted at the single Service level in the short, medium and long term and come up with an action plan.
- Identify issues that can be sorted at the Tri-Service level in the short, medium and long term and come up with an action plan.

Common issues that have already arisen in initial discussion between the Services are:
- SAP Training,
- SAP utilisation,
- General Supply Training,
- Filling gaps, within the trades and between the Services, and getting the right mix of trade personnel on missions.

The seminar supports the vision of NZDF, and it is hoped it will shape the direction of the individual Supply trades and how they will interact into the future.

The Royal New Zealand Army Education Corps (RNZAEC)
Communicate Effectively Level I Course (CEC)
‘Bringing Out the Best In People’
Leadership and career success in the New Zealand Army is built upon the ability to communicate and co-ordinate the best efforts of people to reach common or agreed upon goals. Successful leaders understand that this is best accomplished by drawing on the strengths and desires of those they command. Recent studies indicate that military leaders spend more time communicating than performing any other activity. Successful leadership requires you to communicate information, intention and emotion in a way that can be easily understood and accepted by others. Communication typically functions on two levels, comprising content (what is said) and relationship (how it is said). The ability to interact and communicate effectively both through the written and spoken word is an essential skill for all military personnel. Being an effective communicator means being able to get your message across to another person as it was intended. This is true whether you are using informal or formal channels to communicate. Effective verbal and written communication requires knowing the subject or information to be communicated, organising the information into a logical structure, and then delivering it in such a way as to ensure the audience understands the message being conveyed.

To help with this, the RNZAEC has reintroduced the CEC Levels, which is a new revitalised version of the previous CEC. This course provides servicemen and women with the tools necessary to further develop their written and verbal communication skills. The content of the CEC consists of practical and team based activities aimed at maximum participation and group feedback, all of which are conducted in a safe learning environment.

Contact your local MSI now and forward a nomination now in order to attend the new CEC.
The city of Napier in New Zealand’s Hawkes Bay has long been renowned for its warm, sunny climate, its seaside location and its Marine Parade lined with Norfolk Island pines. It is a very popular location for leave centre booking requests. Readers will be familiar with the two leave centre units on Tom Parker Avenue, and with the front private residence leading up the driveway. An opportunity arose late in 2008 to purchase the front residence and convert it into a third Leave Centre unit. Supported by feedback from the 2008 Leave Centre survey, which reflected that Napier was a very popular destination with users, the Army Central Welfare Fund committee proceeded to purchase the house for a very competitive price. Renovations were underway to convert the residence to a leave centre standard, which can now sleep a maximum of eight individuals. The unit was officially opened for occupancy on 19 December 2008. Future improvements will endeavour to maintain the original art deco character of the units.

**Army Leave Centre Plans for 2009**

A refurbishment programme for the Rotorua Leave Centre is currently underway. Users will enjoy an extensive refurbishment of all four units, including bathrooms, kitches, and ventilation. A proposed bathroom and laundry renovation is underway for Waikanae Unit 1 and 2.

Assistant Director Welfare and Leave Centre Administrator will be paying a visit to Mount Manganui sometime in March 09 to identify further cosmetic improvements for all four units to give them a fresher look. In December 2008, the units received new drapes and curtains as well as new televisions (including free-to-air channels) and DvD players.

Special thanks to Ms Kim Ballantyne, Research Officer (Psychology) for her time and contributions to the project. A story on Land Information New Zealand’s new topographic map series in last month’s Army People News raised issues for some Army personnel. Here is some additional information provided by members of the NZDF Geospatial Intelligence Organisation (GIO) who have worked closely with LINZ in the preparation of the new map series.

1. **Can I keep using the NZmg Maps within our map libraries?**

   No. A condition of the replacement programme LINZ is running is that the old NZmg maps have to be returned to LINZ (Land Information New Zealand). From September 2009 only the new NZTopo50 maps will be available from the map library.

2. **Is the Waikuru map changing, and if not why not?**

   The NZMS260 sheet for Waikuru (T26) will no longer be available. You will need sheets B314, B315, and B316 from the new NZTopo50 series. The ATG training area map is a UTM grid/projection product and will not change. That is because it is a ‘train as you fight’ issue as UTM is the grid used on most operations.

3. **What do I do with the stock of NZmg maps I have?**

   As it stands at the moment, they will need to be returned to LINZ. We’re still working through how that will happen.

4. **How do I get NZTopo50 maps, who pays for them, and what is the lead time to get them?**

   The initial supply of NZTopo50 maps, to replace existing stock of NZMS260 maps, is funded by LINZ as a one-off replacement. The NZDF has already provided LINZ with stock numbers of existing NZMS260 maps. The new map series won’t be available for use until it is publicly launched in September 2009. At the moment, the plan is to co-ordinate the changeover via the map library in Trentham. However LINZ may, on ISU instructions, assist by sending the replacements directly to units rather than physically through the library.

5. **If I am on exercise or out tramping and need emergency assistance can I only use NZmg references from September?**

   You’ll find it harder to get emergency assistance using the old NZMS260 series, as all the emergency services will have switched to the new NZTopo50 series. Call centres will have the ability to convert from old to new but that obviously adds a small delay so it would be better to use only the official National grid.

6. **Will Service GPS (PLGR 96+, PLGR II, Garmin) work on the new grid system?**

   They should. Army was advised of this change two years ago and the only issue identified was with gun laying systems. There is the ‘user definable’ option, in which case the parameters are entered for the new projection and grid (central meridian 175°, scale factor 0.9996 and the false origin in the handout).

   The GMA from LINZ is that if your GPS does not support NZG02000, then set it to WGS84, as for all practical purposes, there is no difference between NZG02000 and WGS84. If your GPS does not support NMT grid co-ordinates, but it has the facility to allow you to set the parameters for a projection, then the LINZ figures to do that can be provided.

7. **Will all the Kit that take from GPS work on the new grid (GPS, Vector, Ncros, Sg12, TAC Nav etc)?**

   Issues with GLPS (it only takes UTM or NZmg) have been identified. The solution is that the Army/gunners follow ‘train as you fight’ and use UTM.

8. **Will the Grid Magnetic Angle (GMA) I set on the Silva compass change, and if so, why?**

   No, the magnetic variation will not change. The magnetic variation is the angle between your location and the magnetic North Pole, and your location and the geographic North Pole. Because your location has “moved” 190 m closer to the geographic North Pole, the magnetic variation may change by an extremely tiny amount, so tiny that it won’t have any effect on the magnetic variation that you’ll use with a compass. There will be another cause for a negligible change to the GMA as the new grid and old one aren’t quite parallel i.e. GMA is that angle from grid N to Mag N and grid N moves slightly more. But as you always look at the angle printed on the map to get GMA (as it varies from sheet to sheet but is approx 21° in NZ), users will just take that number. The variation (declination) from north (true) to where the magnetic field points won’t change as that is physical. The GMA will as the old and new grids aren’t parallel. But as you should always take the GMA from the map you are using, this isn’t an issue. The fact that it may be a few degrees different to a previously used one is immaterial. The one the map reader has at the time should be used.

9. **Is it correct that latitude and longitude will change?**

   The lat/long co-ordinates of a feature on the new NZTopo50 maps will be different to the lat/long co-ordinates of the same feature on the old NZMS260 maps. This is because the datum has changed from NZ95gD1949 to NZ95gD2000. The change in datum changed the position of the centre of the earth a small amount, which moves all the latitudes and longitudes a little bit. The difference, for the same latitude and longitude value, is 190 metres to the north, and 10 metres to the east (i.e. in the new NZTopo50 series, a lat/long co-ord will be 190 m north and 10 east of the same lat/long co-ord in the old NZMS260 series).
Lance Corporal Jonathon McFadyen was nonchalant about winning the 2009 Southern Regional Driver of the Year Competition, saying he was just pleased to get the opportunity to get behind the wheel again. McFadyen competed in the annual competition, run by 3 Distribution Company, 3 Logistics Battalion, and took out three of the eight stands – cross country driving, competent driving and vehicle servicing.

The annual competition is held to find the best RNZALR drivers within 3rd Land Force, and is open to both Regular and Territorial Forces. It aims to develop and raise their overall operational skills.

"Each stand within the competition is set up to test the drivers on basic trade skills, skills that they would be using on everyday taskings," said Sergeant Michael Goldsworthy, who organised this year’s event. "The overall standard was quite good which is reflected in how close the points were between the competitors. It was also good to see the work put into the stands by the judges considering their other work commitments and the busy nature of the whole formation."

Despite the nonchalance McFadyen was pleased with his win. "There is quite a bit of friendly rivalry between 3 Logistics and us Loggies within 2/1," he said. "Three of us from 2/1 competed and it was great to come out on top!"

When asked what put him ahead of his seven competitors, McFadyen said he tried to be "extreme at every stand". As a Lance Corporal, McFadyen is more often taking a lead role with command, than driving. "I really enjoyed driving a Mog again – getting back to the roots of being a loggie."

All the DvRALR competitors must be Privates or Lance Corporals, and qualified on the junior transport course, but have not previously qualified as a driving instructor.

McFadyen, Pte Kalim Dennis (Logistics Company, 2/1 Battalion) and Pte Matthew Laing (3 Distribution Company, 3 Logistics) will represent the Southern Region in the National Driver of the Year Competition, conducted in Linton Military Camp during RNZALR Corps Week.

As part of this year’s Anzac Day commemoration on 25 April the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) invites students in Year 7 and 8 to enter Operation Anzac Spirit.

HOW TO ENTER

Design a poster showing what Anzac Day means to you. This can be in the medium of your choice (drawing, painting, collage etc) but please no items larger than A3 size. Entries close 25 April.

Winners will be announced on 5 May.

Where to send your entry:

OP ANZAC SPIRIT
Defence Communications Group
Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force,
Private Bag 39997,
Wellington.

DON’T FORGET TO PUT YOUR NAME, AGE, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS, AND THE NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL ON THE BACK OF YOUR ENTRY.

THE IMPORTANT PART – THE PRIZES

There are three prizes up for grabs:

1. A day with the Navy, plus a copy of The Reluctant Hero signed by Corporal Willie Apiata VC.
2. A day with the Army, plus a copy of The Reluctant Hero signed by Corporal Willie Apiata VC.
3. A day with the Air Force, plus a copy of The Reluctant Hero signed by Corporal Willie Apiata VC.

Four runners up will be awarded a prize pack of NZDF products.

Entry criteria and further information about Operation Anzac Spirit and Anzac Day is available at www.nzdf.mil.nz
For the fourth consecutive year the NZDF Men’s Over Thirties Touch team has attended the NZ Touch National Provincial Championships. This tournament is the premier Touch event in New Zealand for provincial representative sides, and the NZDF Men’s 30s side has previously won silver (2006) and finished third in 2007.

The 2009 NZDF side was made up of seven NZ Army, six RNZAF and one RNZN players. On day one against tough opposition and in atrocious weather conditions the NZDF disappointingly lost to Kapiti-Horowhenua Red (1-3), and were outclassed by Wellington (0-6) and Canterbury (3-8). Day two thankfully saw the rain subside, only to be replaced by howling Wellington winds. A convincing win against Kapiti-Horowhenua Blue (8-3) raised the players’ spirits but was followed by a loss to Bay of Plenty (4-9).

With results not going the NZDF way, missing out on the semifinals was a huge disappointment. In the playoff for 5th and 6th place the NZDF played the closest to their potential and dominated Kapiti-Horowhenua for the entire game running out winners 9-1.

A comparison has to be made with the provincial competition faced. Provincial representative touch teams are selected before Christmas each year and train regularly for several months in preparation for this annual tournament. A number of NZDF pers forego provincial honours each year in order to represent NZDF. Selected NZDF teams are fortunate to spend three days together prior to competing. The fact that NZDF is competitive at this level at all is testament to the loyalty of the players and the camaraderie that exists in the NZDF. This was evident throughout the tournament with pride and commitment that was clearly displayed on the touch field.

The NZDF Men’s 30s team would like to acknowledge the continued support of CDF and the NZDF Sports Chairperson and Secretary. The opportunity to play at the highest level in NZ is a privilege for many provincial players in any sport and Touch is no different. Without NZDF support many service personnel may never have this experience.
People do not stop playing sport because they get old… they get old because they stop playing sport.

Following recent Chief of Army approval for NZ Army sports teams to compete at Masters Games, a mens 30+ touch selection team attended the NZ Masters Games in Wanganui at the end of January.

With more than 6000 competitors in over 40 sports, the NZ Masters Games is the largest sporting event in NZ and is held annually alternatively hosted by Wanganui and Dunedin. With competition promoted in a friendly atmosphere the games are an enjoyable event on and off the field, and reinforce the view that age is no limitation to involvement in sport and recreation. A large emphasis is placed on the social benefits of sport with competition each day and social activities continuing long into each night.

The touch tournament was held at Springvale Park in Wanganui directly adjacent to the NZ Masters Games Village. Far more active than the adjacent petanque competition, the touch games were as fast paced and competitive as any other tournament. Due to the majority of teams playing in grades 35+ and over, the mens 30+ grade accommodated the “youngsters” of the tournament.

Although the grade was relatively small the NZ Army side always looked like the team to beat. Kitted out in the stylish new 2009 Kia Kaha uniforms, the Army side displayed a professional image that was commented on by opponents and spectators alike. Undoubtedly good looking off the field, on the field the classy game skills and fitness of the Army team could not be matched by the local opposition. With five games played over the weekend and with an unbeaten record, the NZ Army Men’s team successfully debuted at the NZ Masters Games winning the gold medal in the final 10-3 against Jandals from Wanganui.

As a group of “youngsters” attending this large event, the enjoyment factor of sport was obvious and still as contagious as ever. The participation by so many people theoretically long since retired from competitive sport was inspirational to say the least. For many, the competitive spirit has not been lost and the games provide a genuine opportunity to continue playing into the mature years and also an avenue to experiment with other sports competing against like minded individuals.

NZ Army Touch mens 30s would like to thank the Chairperson Army Sport for his approval to compete at this enjoyable event, and the RSM 5 WWCT Br, WO1 K. MacRae, for his generous hospitality over the weekend.
Saturday and Sunday, 28-29 March 2009, is the new TUSSOCKBUSTER two-day trail ride being held at Waiouru on the central plateau. TUSSOCKBUSTER evolved from ‘Code Green’, the two-day trail ride run by Linton Multisports in 2007 and 2008. Both these events attracted more than 400 riders each day. What makes this event different? A charitable organisation called OffLimits has been established. This will run the annual TUSSOCKBUSTER trail ride, plus organise mountain biking, adventure bike, quad bike and adventure racing activities within the Army training area. The funds raised will assist soldiers to participate in multi-sports activities. The area for the two-day trail ride is massive – 63,000 hectares of pristine land – rolling hills, unpolluted rivers and lakes, native bush, gravel roads and hundreds of kilometres of tank tracks that contain no whoops at all. The scope for planning different rides is amazing and trails can be designed for different riding skill sets. If demand is great enough, quad-only tracks will be provided. For the TUSSOCKBUSTER this March, Mike Ross, the chief organiser, has developed four main tracks ranging in terrain and difficulty. The first three tracks range from 20km-45km with detours for difficult areas and short cuts home. The forth track is up to 90km with river crossings, formed trails and shortcuts home prior to the 50km mark. There is even the opportunity to ride your bike right onto the top of the dam wall at Lake Moawhango (a massive lake hidden just off the Desert Road). A fuel tanker, providing 95 octane fuel, will be positioned at the 50km point and fuel can be purchased for $2 per litre. Two kids tracks will also be available. One is right beside the camping area and the other is a flat to gently rolling 5km track. This is a once a year event, so if you want to ride the Army training area at Waiouru in 2009, then 28-29 March are the dates and www.offlimits.co.nz is the place to visit for more information.

THE FREEDOM TO FAIL IS VITAL IF YOU'RE GOING TO SUCCEED. MOST SUCCESSFUL MEN FAIL TIME AND TIME AGAIN, AND IT IS A MEASURE OF THEIR STRENGTH THAT FAILURE MERELY PROPELS THEM INTO SOME NEW ATTEMPT AT SUCCESS.”

MICHAEL KORDA

A memorial ANZAC mass will be held in the Sacred Heart College Chapel, 250 West Tamaki Rd, Glen Innes at 10am on May 10 2009. Men who are old boys of Sacred Heart College, and are in, or have been in the NZDF, are invited to attend. 2009 is the centenary of the Sacred Heart College Old Boys Association.

“ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING AN OFFICIAL ARMY SPORT”

Register your Interest in the inter-regional competition and Army Cycling by placing your details on the Army Cycling Data Base on the Army Intranet at: http://ami-teams/Army_Sport/List/Cycling/AllItems.htm.
Cycling fever hit Army again with cyclists from Linton and the greater Trentham riding to work as part of NZ Transport Authority’s (NZTA) annual nationwide ‘Bikewise Go By Bike Day’ (gBBD), in February.

In Linton, twelve riders met at the Square in Palmerston North for a breakfast organised by the local Council, before riding the 50km to Linton Camp where there was a spot prizes draw. A few people rode in to the square from camp just to do the ride which showed great commitment. Due to the operational nature of 2LFg, not all regular riders could make the event because of training commitments, however Linton hopes to make the event much bigger next year.

There was a slightly larger turnout in Trentham where more than 120 riders from the three Services, JSO, and our SPEL partners answered the call and cycled to work. The weather played its part and Wednesday dawned clear and windless, if a little chilly. The cyclists converged from all around the Hutt region, with some riders commuting across Camp while others rode 25km from Wainuiomata. However no one could out-do Maj Spike Milliken who, for the 2nd year running, started out at 0430hrs and rode a staggering 55km from Paparuaumu to Upper Hutt. About 80 riders, including the Upper Hutt Mayor Mr Wayne Guppy, converged on the Trentham Gym for an easy ride up to the Upper Hutt City Council Chambers (UHCC). With a MP escort and bailed by a TV One News cameraman the group safely negotiated the 5km distance after avoiding early morning traffic and the odd rubbish truck. At the Upper Hutt City Council Buildings the group enjoyed coffee and fruit provided by the UHCC Activation crew while Maj Rob Te Moana, Army’s Cycling Chairperson, was interviewed for television.

Having rested the group rode back to Camp, to be rewarded with a light breakfast and Spot Prize draw. All the cyclists had a chance to grab cycling accessories kindly provided by Bikewise, Army cycling and NZDF suppliers, and Army branded tee-shirts, caps, and drink bottles.

Images from the Linton and Trentham gBBD activities can be found on the Army Cycling Intranet website link below. http://communities/Sport/ArmyPages/Sport/Cycling/Homepage.aspx

Next year it’s planned to register Army in NZTA’s ‘Bikewise Battle’, which runs over the whole of February.

Watch out for the following cycling events coming up over the next couple of months:

- Le Race - Christchurch 29 Mar 09
- Forrester's Grappiner - Nelson 4 Apr 09
- Rotoura - Taupo 100km flyover - Rotoura-Taupo - 4 Apr 09
- The MTB Day Night Classic in Taupo 12 Sep 09
- The Around the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge on the 28 Nov 09

Army Cycling continues to foster the sport within Army and NZDF. For further information on Army Cycling initiatives and above upcoming events, and info on this years Army Cycling Inter Regional which will be held in Linton over the period 18 – 19 April, see the Army Cycling website at the below NZDF intranet site link.

Army Cycling Intranet: http://communities/Sport/ArmyPages/Sport/Cycling/Homepage.aspx

Ride Hard, Ride Safe
SSgt Nicky Hansen, who won the Official of the Year award, was nominated as a result of her distinction. He represented the Army at camp, regional, NZDF, national and international levels with pride and devotion. The Chief of Army’s Supreme Award went to the NZ Army Men’s senior rugby team. Guest speaker at the awards was Gordon Gibbons, the manager of the world champion New Zealand rugby league team, the Kiwis.

The awards were presented by the Chief of Army, MAJGEN Lou Gardiner. Colonel Daryl Tracey, the Commander of 3 LFg, accepted the New Zealand Army Command Trophy on behalf of all Army sportsmen and women from the southern region.

The NZ Army Men’s Senior Rugby team was placed first at the Inter Services games in 2008. The 2008 team won the Inter-Service Tournament for the 5th consecutive year, defeating both Navy and Air Force, therefore retaining the prestigious King George V Cup. This has never been achieved before by any single Service team in the 90-year history of the Cup. More significantly this year’s team was made up of 15 new caps at this level.

The Outstanding Sports Award
LT Kirk was nominated for this award as a result of the following notable achievements within the nomination period and for her continued pursuit of excellence as a member of various sports teams.

Between October 2006 and December 2008 she was a member of:
- Central Region Women’s Touch team
- NZ Army Women’s Touch Team which won the inter services tournament
- NZDF Women’s Touch Team
- NZ Army Women’s Hockey Team which won the inter services tournament
- NZDF Women’s Hockey Team which was placed 6th at the National tournament
- Manawatu Women’s NPC Rugby Team which was placed 3rd in the NPC tournament
- Linton Women’s 7s Rugby Team
- Manawatu Women’s 7s Rugby Team
- Aoteaoranga Women’s 7s Rugby Team which toured Amsterdam and London in May 08
- New Zealand 7s Rugby World Cup Squad
- NZ Army 7s Rugby World Cup Squad
- New Zealand 7s Rugby Union World Cup Squad

LT Kirk’s achievements at camp, regional, Army, NZDF, national and international levels are a true indication of her exceptional sporting ability. She represented every team with pride and dedication and was a credit to herself and the reputation of the NZ Army.

Individual Sports Person of the Year Award
Spr Davis, who won the Individual Sports Person of the Year award has an impressive list of achievements. They include membership of:
- Linton Army Rugby Club, Senior A Team
- NZ Army Senior Mens Team (Winners of the King George V Cup)
- NZ Defence Force Senior Mens Team (Winners of the Pacific Rim Cup)
- Manawatu U20’s Rugby Representative
- Manawatu Senior Rugby Development Representative
- Manawatu Men’s Touch Representative
- New Zealand U20 Men’s Touch Representative

He represented the Army at camp, regional, NZDF, national and international levels with pride and distinction.

Official of the Year Award
SSgt Nicky Hansen, who won the Official of the Year award, was nominated as a result of her following notable achievements and for her continued dedication, time and effort put into NZ Army and NZDF Sport. Her achievements include:

- Softball
  - Strapper for: NZ Softball National League: Canterbury Red Hawks
  - NZ Softball National League: Canterbury Red Hawks (Women) and Canterbury Red Sox (Men) for home games and finals (Feb-Mar 08)
  - Canterbury 19’s Boys National tournament in Hastings (Jan 08)
  - Canterbury 19’s Boys Jeffries Cup (Dec 08)
  - Inter services Army women’s team Inter-Regionals (Northern and Southern)
  - Assistant Tournament Co-ordinator

Rugby League
- Provincial (2008) – trainer or strapper for: Canterbury Under 16’s
- Canterbury Bulls (assisted with on field injuries and side line treatment)
- Inter-Regionals (Southern)
- Inter-Services (Army)
- Assisted part-time with Burnham Chevaliers during trainer absence

She has contributed to dual codes (Softball and Rugby League) at provincial, Army and regional levels. In softball she is a qualified and experienced strapper, and within the Rugby League environment is a fully qualified and experienced trainer.

She has the respect of staff and players who she works with and her communication skills, humour and ‘can do’ attitude contribute to the smooth running of teams she is involved with.

Speaking after awards, MAJGEN Gardiner said Army sport was continuing to prosper, despite a shortage of players due to the Army’s high operational tempo.

“All those involved in sport strive for excellence and success without that effort interfering with the development of friendships and good-natured rivalry. Sport develops the whole person and provides the opportunity for Army personnel to test their speed, strength, agility, skill, judgement and temperament against each other. All these attributes are required during operations. “The utilisation of sport to develop Army personnel in a holistic sense clearly makes good sense and is an investment in the future.”

Sponsors for the awards this year included Tetra (NZ) Ltd, Lane Walker Rudkin Apparel, Trentham Camp Hot Shots, Hart Sport, gen-i and Liquorland.

DON’T ACCEPT SECOND BEST

The path the New Zealand Rugby League team took from being at times ill-disciplined and losing, to becoming world champions, was outlined by team manager Gordon Gibbons at the Army Sports Awards.

He has been manager of the NZ Rugby League Team, known as the “Kiwis”, for 53 tests, and comes from the Manukau Club where he played, coached and was a committee member. He is currently Kiwis Team Manager, and Football Operations Manager for Auckland Rugby League.

Mr Gibbons told his audience how former assistant coach Wayne Bennett rallied the players and let them know they were capable of what he saw as their true potential. He told players “in no uncertain terms” that they should not accept second-best, and that it was not okay to lose the game but win the second half.

“And that was the beginning of our World Cup victory,” said Mr Gibbons. He spoke about the importance of general self-discipline, not just on the field but in every aspect of life.

“Our whole campaign was based on humbleness and integrity, and representing our country to the best of our ability, without tripping up on the field. We played with passion and pride, but our battle has only just begun. We may have beaten Australia last year, but what we do in May this year will be equally important.”
Clockwise, from top left: Col Darryl Tracey, CO, 3LFG, accepts the NZ Army Command trophy from CA, MAJGEN Lou Gardiner; CO, 2LFG Colonel Tim Keating, the Manager of Hot Shots Trentham Camp, Mrs Catherine Enright, and Army Sports Administrator of the Year, SSGT N Hansen; WO1 Shaun Thomas, CA, MAJGEN Gardiner, and SSGT Richie Ewins; guest speaker Gordon Gibbons; Sponsor Andrew Johnston from LWR International Ltd presents the Sports Person of the Year award to Sapper Paul Davis, as LCC, Brigadier David Gawn looks on; Sponsor Vicki Maxwell (Eterra (NZ) Ltd), Outstanding Sports person of the Year Lt Raelene Kirk, and MAJGEN Gardiner; an Army Colour is awarded to WO2 Warren Hodge.