Corporal Willy Apiata, VC
Patrol live firing drills on the 25m range at Ohakea.

The fourth rotation of New Zealand Defence Force personnel to deploy to Solomon Islands is completing pre-deployment training at RNZAF Base Ohakea.

The first section of the contingent will leave New Zealand for Solomon Islands on July 18, with the main body leaving on July 22. The contingent they are to replace returns to New Zealand on July 26.

Of the 43 strong contingent, 30 are Territorial Force personnel from 5th Wellington-West Coast – Taranaki, and 7th Wellington – Hawkes Bay Battalions. The Territorial personnel have spent the last four months preparing themselves to reach a directed level of capability. The contingent will now hone its skills to an operational level.

The contingent commander, Major Sholto Stephens says the personnel deploying to Solomon Islands have been undertaking a wide variety of training, including driving light operational vehicles, weapon handling skills, revising their use of the Army’s new radios, and advanced first aid and combat life saving.

“We’ll be doing many different tasks when we arrive in the islands but our main one will be interacting with the locals, finding out what’s going on and doing what we can to encourage stability.”

The NZDF personnel are expecting to work closely with the 35 New Zealand police who are already working in Solomon Islands. They will be based at Guadalcanal Beach, from where they will conduct their patrols to local villages and islands.

A contingent member has designed a crest specifically for the deployment. It represents the two primary contributing units – the rising phoenix and the stag’s head have been superimposed as one single image to represent the temporary merging of personnel from 5 WWCT and 7 WHB Battalion Groups to provide Op RATI II(a) a composite Rifle Platoon.
NZ flag lowered in Bosnia marking 15 years of Kiwi contribution

One of the largest operational deployments of New Zealand military staff since the Vietnam War ended in Bosnia last month.

On 29 June 2002 a flag lowering ceremony held in Camp Butmir Sarajevo, officially ended this country’s involvement in the international peace keeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Commander of the European Force, Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer said that New Zealand’s association with Bosnia-Herzegovina had been a long and rewarding one for the NZDF personnel.

New Zealand Defence Attaché in London, Brigadier Paul Southwell attended this incident which is special because it marks the departure of our military from Bosnia, but not necessarily the departure of our interest in the area.

New Zealand first became involved in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 when the United Nations requested troops be sent to contribute to the UN Protection Force. By the end of that year seven Kiwis were permanently assigned there as military observers.

As the situation deteriorated two years later, a further request from the UN led to a further deployment of a reinforced infantry company of 250 men.

By late 1995, the Kiwi area of responsibility was widely regarded as one of the most settled areas in central Bosnia. A total of 261 New Zealanders were serving in Bosnia at this time.

Nearly 1000 Kiwi service personnel have served in the region over the last 15 years. Army News will be publishing a feature on the NZ Army experience in Bosnia in August.

First Lebanon team returns home

A New Zealand Defence Force battle area clearance team, which includes Army field engineers, returned to New Zealand recently after five months in Southern Lebanon.

The ten-strong team has been assisting the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre in Southern Lebanon to clear munitions from crop fields, orchards and grazing land. An area the size of almost 19 rugby fields were cleared and 957 explosive remnants of war were disarmed by the Kiwis.

Senior National Officer Lieutenant Commander Steve Lenik said there was a real feeling of accomplishment after months of hard work.

“The team has done an amazing job. Our training prepared us for the physical work we were doing, but nothing could prepare us for the satisfaction we felt watching the land we’d just cleared being reoccupied. We could see immediately what a difference our work was making to the lives of the Southern Lebanese people. It was an incredible experience.”

Some of the land can now be grazed and crops such as wheat, fruit and tobacco can now be planted safely.

One soldier has already returned to New Zealand and a further two will remain in Southern Lebanon for a week to assist with the accreditation process of the new team which arrived last week.

The 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon has left substantial amounts of unexploded munitions scattered throughout urban areas and farmland. At the end of the conflict the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) estimated that more than one million unexploded cluster bomblets remained spread over 798 sites in southern Lebanon, mostly in urban or populated areas.

The New Zealand Defence Force has instigated a Defence-wide project to ensure it makes the best use of its resources to deliver what the government requires of it. We want to ensure everything the NZDF does is done simply and efficiently,” says Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae.

The project’s aim is to eliminate duplication and streamline processes to free up money for delivering military capability. “It will keep the Defence Force moving forward, and is part of delivering the NZDF 2007-2011 Strategic Plan and meeting the Defence Sustainability Initiative goals. The project is being undertaken because we as a defence force must focus on essentials,” says LTGEN Mateparae.

“The challenge ahead of us, which is outlined in our strategic plan, involves defence transformation as we bring new aircraft, ships and equipment into service and consolidate our operations. At the same time we need to continue delivering the high quality outputs we are required to deliver to New Zealand. To meet this challenge, we need to ensure that everyone is working as smart as possible and that we eliminate waste in all of our processes.

“The primary objectives of the review are that we improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our internal systems and processes. While we have an imperative to ensure the NZDF can live within the funding available to us over the next three years, my main purpose in directing this initiative is to free resources from back-office functions to better support the delivery of capability in Units and Formations.

“As the work of the review unfolds we have got to be able to sustain our capabilities in the longer term. This will only be achieved by fundamentally rethinking our systems, processes and the ways in which we use our resources.”

Timeframes: The focus of the review is initially on managing funding issues over the next three years. In doing so, the NZDF is aiming to establish sustainable efficiencies which will ensure a firm basis for the future. The NZDF Executive Leadership Team has set targets and timeframes. By the end of this financial year the project team will have reported back with initial findings and scope, and projects will then be established to develop detailed implementation proposals, which can then begin within the 2007/08 financial year.
The parliamentary elections in Timor Leste, where the New Zealand Defence Force’s largest deployment is based, passed without significant incident on June 30.

A large voter turnout for the election was anticipated, with 82% of eligible voters having voted in the previous two rounds of the Presidential Election. B Coy was tasked with assisting the United Nations Police (UNPOL) to provide a secure environment for the election within their tactical area of operations which included the Dili CBD and eastern suburbs.

In the lead up to the final phase of the election campaign, B Coy intensified its patrolling regime in order to increase the International Security Force’s presence on the streets of Dili to deter any potential trouble that could spring from the final election rallies of the various political parties.

B Coy operations were carefully coordinated with UNPOL and the Garda Nacional Republica (GNR), the Portuguese Riot Police. Consequently B Coy, acting in close cooperation with both UNPOL and the GNR, was able to disrupt any possibly sinister plans to incite inter-factional violence. They were able to quickly and effectively quell minor incidents of civil unrest.

B Coy also has a section based in the eastern city of Baucau, some 100km east of Dili, where it provides security to a detachment of Australian engineers who are undertaking civil aid tasks in the eastern districts. The Baucau section is enjoying the change in scenery and the odd game of soccer and volleyball with the locals.

On the 26 June the F-FDTL held a ceremonial parade at the Government Palace to mark the introduction of their new uniforms. It was a significant occasion for the F-FDTL, who since the crisis of April - May 2006 have been working hard to enhance both their professionalism and standing in Timorese society.

About 300 F-FDTL personnel were on parade, including the Defence Force’s small naval detachment, resplendent with their battalion and Defence Force colours. The parade was reviewed by President Horta in his role as the ceremonial head of the Timorese Armed Forces. Elected President of the Republic of Timor Leste in May, President Horta was formally inaugurated into office on 20 May 2007.

A number of international dignitaries, including representatives from UNMIT and the iSF, also attended the parade. The highlight was the exchange of the old and new uniforms between the Timor Leste Prime Minister and Chief of Defence Force. As Pte Eugene Bertram commented, “For so many important people to attend, it was obviously a proud and significant day for this developing force. Good on them.”

By Major Dave Thorsen
3 Squadron RNZAF Detachment

An RNZAF No.3 Squadron helicopter detachment is part of the ANZAC Aviation Group that comprises ADF, NZDF and HEVILIFT (civilian contractor) helicopter assets. The ANZAC Aviation Group operates a mixed fleet of Blackhawk, Iroquois, Kiowa and Bell 412 helicopters. The RNZAF Iroquois have added another unique capability to that already afforded by the ADF Blackhawk and Kiowa helicopters, being able to move troops and stores into landing zones that are inaccessible to the larger Blackhawk helicopters.

No.3 Squadron has just completed 150 hours of flying in support of the iSF. They have conducted a wide range of tasks, including the routine movement of stores and personnel, aero-medical evacuation and support to Special Forces continuation training. However, their main task over recent weeks has been flying in support of the parliamentary election, transporting ballot boxes and election officials into and out of remote locations.

Since arriving on April 23 they have transported more than 450 passengers, primarily New Zealand and Australian troops, and more than four tonnes of freight.

Helicopter detachment commander Squadron Leader Tim Evans said operations during the parliamentary elections resulted in the Iroquois achieving the 150 flying hours milestone.

“As many of Timor’s villages have poor access by road, the helicopter involvement in the election process was the pickup of full ballot boxes in order to enable timely collection and counting of the votes.”

Other tasks included transporting troops and supplies and assisting with aero-medical evacuation. During Timor’s presidential elections the helicopters assisted by transporting officials, ballot boxes and voting screens to polling booths in outlying regions.

The current rotation of Air Force support personnel is to be replaced at the end of July.

The NZDF deployment to Timor Leste comprises some 175 NZDF personnel tasked with assisting the Government of Timor Leste to maintain law and order, and to help the development of the Timorese Defence Force. The NZ Police also have a contingent of 25 personnel serving as part of the United Nations Police (UNPOL) with the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor Leste (UNMIT).

The deployment consists of four separate task groups:

TG GYRO comprises the National Command Element, National Support Element and Bravo Company, 2/1st Battalion, RNZIR. TG GYRO has been placed under operational control of the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force, and its primary focus is the conduct of stability and support operations in support of the Government of Timor Leste.

TG MANU consists of a helicopter detachment from 3 Squadron, RNZAF. TG MANU has also been placed under operational command of the International Stabilisation Force and is tasked with providing rotary wing support.

TG TOA comprises two NZDF officers seconded to UNMIT, one of whom, Col Graeme Williams, is the Chief Military Liaison Officer. TG KAHANGA consists of two NZDF officers attached to the Office of Defence Force Development. These officers hold J1 and J4 advisory appointments within the Timorese Defence Force, FALINTAL – Forca de Defesa de Timor Leste (F-DTL).
The Deputy Chief of Army, Sergeant Major of the Army, and several other officers and soldiers were presented with medals and awards by Chief of Army, Major General Lou Gardiner recently.

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE BO NGATA
Warrant Officer Class One Bo Ngata was awarded the Mentorious Service Medal, the issue of which is limited to 20 recipients serving at any one time.

WO1 Ngata enlisted into the Regular Force of the Army in 1978 and after basic training was posted to 36 Battery, 16 Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery.

He served as a rifleman with 2nd/1st Battalion RNZIR in Bumhama and 1st Battalion RNZIR in Singapore from 1981 to 1985.

As a senior non-commissioned officer he held instructional appointments with the School of Artillery, the Army Depot and Officer Cadet School (NZ).

He was Battery Sergeant Major within 16 Field Regiment and was Regimental Sergeant Major of that regiment.

Mr Ngata served as Regimental Sergeant Major of the New Zealand Battalion in East Timor in 2001.

After the East Timor deployment he was posted to the role of Regimental Sergeant Major, Land Operations Training Centre. This was followed by the job of Formation Sergeant Major, and Land Force Group and Command Sergeant Major at Headquarter Joint Forces New Zealand.

Mr Ngata is currently Sergeant Major of the Army and has been in the appointment since May 2006.

Mr Ngata has seen operational service in Bougainville and East Timor. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1992.

BRIGADIER PHIL GIBBONS
Brigadier Phil Gibbons was awarded the clasps to the Armed Forces Award in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List. He was originally awarded the Armed Forces Award in 1994.

The Brigadier is currently Deputy Chief of Army and has been in the role since April 2006. BRG Gibbons enlisted into the Regular Force of the New Zealand Army as a soldier in 1976. Two years later he was selected to attend officer training at the Officer Cadet School Portsea, and from there graduated into the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

BRG Gibbons has filled a number of command and staff appointments. These include: adjutant and senior instructor of tactics at the Officer Cadet School (NZ), Chief Instructor of the School of Infantry, and Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

He has also been Deputy Chief of Staff Operations on the Headquarters, United Nations Transitional Authority East Timor. His staff appointments include Assistant Chief of General Staff Human Resources, Commander and Land Force Group and Land Component Commander, Headquarter Joint Forces New Zealand.

BRG Gibbons has seen operational service in Bosnia and East Timor.

In 2000 he was made an additional member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

BRIGADIER ANTHONY HOWIE
Brigadier Anthony Howie was awarded the Efficiency Decoration. The Brigadier enlisted into the Regular Force in 1974. After initial training at the Officer Cadet School Waiouru he attended the Officer Cadet School Portsea in Australia, graduating into the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

His staff and command appointments include Chief Instructor, School of Infantry and Commanding Officer, Waiouru Training Depot.

After an Army General Staff role, he served as the New Zealand Contingent Commander on the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai. He returned in March 1994 as Commanding Officer 4th Battalion Otag Southland.

Following the role of Deputy Commander 3 Land Force Group in June 2000 and two years later deployed to Iraq as the Senior National Officer, Operation Raba.

He is currently the Army’s Territorial Force advisor.

Earlier awards include the Armed Forces Award (1986) and he was made an additional officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

MAJOR GERARD McMULLEN
Major McMullen was awarded the Armed Forces Award.

The Major enlisted into the Regular Force in 1975 and trained as a telecommunications technician. As a non-commissioned officer he served with various signals units and completed tours as a radio sergeant with both 1st and 2nd/1st Battalions, RNZIR. He also held training appointments on Headquarters Support Command.

Major McMullen was commissioned in 1995 and has since held a number of staff appointments in training, including the military assistance programme.

He was adjutant of Trentham Regional Support Centre before the current posting of Asisstant Director Interoperability Coordination, Communications and Information Systems Branch at the Headquarters, NZ Defence Force.

He was awarded the NZ Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1990.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEVEN COOK
Lieutenant Colonel Cook served in Afghanistan from October 2006 to April 2007 as Chief of Staff and Officer Commanding the New Zealand National Support Element. He was awarded the General Service Medal Afghanistan.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GRANT MOTLEY
Lieutenant Colonel Grant Motley served in Afghanistan from October 2006 to April 2007 as the Senior National Officer, Task Group Koa and C5 Plans. He was awarded the General Service Medal Afghanistan.

MAJOR WAYNE CROSS
Major Wayne Cross served in Afghanistan from October 2006 to April 2007 as the Senior National Officer, Task Group Koa and C5 Plans. He was awarded the General Service Medal Afghanistan.

CAPTAIN PETER JACKSON
Captain Jackson was awarded the Chief of Army’s commendation. Captain Jackson was commissioned on 30 April 1999. During his service, Captain Jackson completed operational intelligence appointments in Somalia and East Timor prior to a further operational posting as an Acting Captain in the Intelligence Branch of Headquarter Multinational Division (South West) in the NATO Peace Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) from 30 March to 20 September 2001.

During the SFOR mission Captain Jackson maintained strong personal characteristics of integrity, maturity and judgement that combined with his professional acumen, innovation influence and personal dedication to produce intelligence work of the highest order. He constantly exceeded the standards and duties required of him, while his personal qualities provided a positive example within the multinational staff environment. As a result, Captain Jackson not only enhanced the achievement of the peacekeeping mission within the multinational environment but was also an excellent ambassador for both the New Zealand Defence Force and the nation itself.

BRIGADIER PHIL GIBBONS and Sergeant Major of Army, WO1 Ngata.

Warrant Officer Class Two Mark Morton, RNZALR was awarded a Chief of Army’s commendation for his outstanding effort and overall commitment to supporting the Land Component Commander (LCC) and Joint Staff, whilst posted to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFJNZ) between 2006 - 2007. Warrant Officer Class Two Morton was posted to HQ JFJNZ as the J30 – Administration Support on 2 February 2006. His performance in that appointment over the three year period has been above the expectation of his rank.

WO 2 Morton quickly established himself as a hard working and loyal Warrant Officer supporting LCC and NZ Army’s interests in HQ JFJNZ.

He displayed a willingness and commitment that set an example for other service personnel to emulate. He was (and is) constantly sought by all ranks for advice, support and as an ‘action-man’ to get tasks and improvements completed. WO 2 Morton has become a reference point for all service personnel in HQ JFJNZ and is commonly referred to by all service personnel as the ‘Chief Sergeant Major’ – an unofficial title conferring respect for his efforts and demeanour.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICK TAI
Lieutenant Colonel Rick Tai, RNZALR received a Chief of Army’s commendation for his outstanding effort and overall commitment to supporting the Land Component Commander (LCC) and Joint Staff, whilst posted to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFJNZ) between 2006 - 2007.

WO 1 Tai was posted to HQ JFJNZ as the Staff Officer (personnel) Land (S/JL-P) to the LCC in December 2005. His performance in this appointment has been far above the expectation of his rank.

WO 1 Tai quickly established himself as a hard working and knowledgeable personnel officer representing LCC’s and Army’s interests in HQ JFJNZ. He displayed a maturity and experience beyond his years. He was often selected to lead Personnel Working Groups or represent LCC and the Formations at Joint Force or HQ NZDF level fora.

WO 1 Tai became a sought after advisor on the personnel readiness and performance appraisal systems for the New Zealand Army by individuals within the New Zealand Army and across the NZ Defence Force.

Other awards
During the awards ceremony WO 2 Yvonne Wynyard, NZIC, was promoted to WO 1, WO 2 Greg Mitchell, RNZAC, received his GSM Afghanistan medal, and WO 1 Harding, RNZALR his MSM medal.

Warrant Officer Class One Bo Ngata, Maj Gerard McMullen and LT-Col Steven Cook.
Battle of Messines remembered

New Zealand Defence Force personnel and the people of Belgium came together at a memorial ceremony to mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Messines in Messines, Belgium on Thursday 7 June.

About 250 people attended the ceremonies at Messines, including the New Zealand Minister of State Services, Annette King and the Governor of West Flanders, Mr Paul Breyne, and many of the citizens of Mesen (Messines) and West Flanders.

Following the main ceremony at Messines Ridge Cemetery a plaque was unveiled in memory of Lance Corporal Samuel Frickleton of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the Battle.

The Battle of Messines was launched on 7 June 1917 near the Belgian village of Mesen. The attack started with a series of massive explosions under the German trenches which killed about 10,000 German soldiers.

The battle was one of the most successful on the Western Front. The New Zealanders captured the village of Messines, flanked on one side by the Australians and on the other by British and Irish troops.

Military Adviser Defence Staff London, Lieutenant Colonel John Boswell said, “The attack was an excellent example of what can be achieved with careful staff planning, an element of surprise and the effective use of artillery. However, over 3,000 New Zealanders were injured and 700 were killed.”

The town of Messines held a number of other events around 7 June including an exhibition of New Zealand Victoria Cross winners and battlefield walks.

A small ceremony was also held at Frickleton’s gravesite at Taita Cemetery on Thursday 7 June.

Lance Corporal Samuel Frickleton (4 April 1891-6 August 1971) was born in Scotland but immigrated to New Zealand to work as a coal miner on the west coast. Enlisting in the NZEF, he served briefly in Gallipoli before being returned to New Zealand as medically unfit in November 1915. In the following April he re-enlisted, and was posted to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade. At Messines on 7 June 1917, Frickleton rushed ahead into the artillery barrage, despite being slightly wounded, to destroy with hand grenades two enemy machine-gun posts that were inflicting heavy casualties. He was awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions. Despite ill health, Samuel Frickleton lived to the age of 80. He died in 1971 and is buried at Taita Cemetery.

Poppy Packs cost $30 (plus $2 p&p). Pre-order now for delivery in July as numbers will be limited. Proceeds will go to RNZRSA welfare funds to support veterans and their families.

It tells the story of the battle and provides a step-by-step guide on how to find New Zealand soldiers’ graves. Inside is a map showing local cemeteries of interest. RNZRSA poppies are also included.

12 October 1917 – the worst disaster in our nation’s history when around 2,700 New Zealanders were either killed, wounded, or listed as missing in a single day on the Western Front.

The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Association (RNZRSA) is offering for sale a commemorative Poppy Pack to mark the 90th anniversary of Passchendaele.

The Frickleton Plaque.
When Cate Linton arrived at the Limited Service Volunteer Company (LSV COY) in 1998 as a 17-year-old girl, she probably didn’t imagine that 18 years later she’d be a major in the army, let alone the Officer Commanding of the Company. Major Linton says she enrolled for the LSV course as a teenager, because, with only school-certificate typing under her belt, she felt “she hadn’t done very much very well”. Cate was surprised to find she excelled as a trainee at the then twenty week long LSV scheme, being physically capable, thriving on the various challenges and bonding well with her peers. “I just seemed to fit in and adjust well to the discipline and training” she recalls.

Major Linton viewed those twenty weeks at the Burnham-based LSV COY as an opportunity for change, rather than a punishment - and says that’s an attitude encouraged in trainees today. Although the LSV Scheme has never been an army recruiting tool as such, the LSV experience left Major Linton keen to join the army, and ended up providing good grounding for Basic Training. “After the LSV scheme I found that basic training was easier than I’d expected but I think this was because I’d already been indoctrinated into the culture and systems; basic was really then an extension of what was covered while on course and introduced the soldiering aspects.”

The LSV Scheme, in its current form, has been running since 1993 and trainees wear military uniform and operate within the structure of Section, Platoon and Company. Trainees are subject to tight behavioural boundaries and to military law throughout the six week residential course. Five intakes of about 100 trainees descend on the camp each year.

Since Major Linton succeeded Majorian ‘Latts’ Lattimore as Officer Commanding in December last year, she’s made few changes to the scheme. Although some aspects of the course have been “tweaked” she’s wanted to “sit on it for six months” to observe how the status quo was working.

“The course is extremely effective,” she says, “and this can be seen in the transformation of trainee attitudes and motivation throughout the six week period.” Statistical information provided by Work and Income New Zealand (WInZ) shows that 90% of trainees move on to further training or employment within two months of completing the course.

Major Linton has a Bachelor’s degree in Education and has worked for the past three years as the Detachment Commander at the Military Studies Institute. Her passion for education may be why developing and nurturing the units 26 tri-Service staff is so important to her.

One of her goals as OC has been to ensure that there are professional development plans for the LSV Coy staff. “The staff of this unit do a tremendous job and this shows in how quickly they earn the respect of the trainees and in the results achieved. While here they are wearing many hats; disciplinarian, mentor, instructor, and they are looked upon by trainees as positive role models. It’s therefore important that the staff have support within the unit and that their personal and professional goals can be actively pursued and achieved.”

Instructors operate on a “firm but fair” basis with the trainees. Repeated insubordination is not tolerated, nor is fraternisation between trainees. Because the focus of the course is on developing individuals and team work, relationships forming undermines what the trainees are trying to achieve.

Major Linton says that it’s a fair rule “They’re only here six weeks and we’re not running a dating agency!”

The LSV COY seeks to teach the trainees ‘life skills’, and lessons are held on personal presentation, budgeting, dealing with drugs and alcohol, anger management, time management and goal setting. Outdoor activities like abseiling, white water rafting and the FTX (a 30 km tramp) complement classroom-based tuition. Major Linton observes that young men particularly tend to take very well to the course, perhaps because they respond well to environments where there are clear boundaries and rules.

Changes in trainees’ attitudes over the course is striking. Trainees often arrive at the camp with histories of abuse and/or drug and alcohol problems and without positive role models in their lives.

Most leave Burnham with a real sense of self esteem and achievement. “The rewards come from seeing the trainees bond, and from seeing their confidence and hope for the future grow. It’s a pretty awesome experience to witness,” says Major Linton.

Major Linton has faith in the trainees and in the Case Managers at Work and Income to keep the momentum going. “In six weeks we can provide the tools for change in an individual-but ultimately the onus is on that individual to move forward for his or herself.”

Background: The Limited Service Volunteer scheme is a combined Ministry of Social Development (MSoD) and NZDF initiative. MSoD provides the operating costs while the NZDF delivers expertise and income New Zealand (WInZ). The stated mission of the LSV is “to increase numbers of young New Zealanders entering employment or further training”. It is estimated approximately 70% of trainees find employment or go on to further training within two months of completing the LSV course. For further information about the scheme please contact Mr Peter Te Paa, National Co-ordinator LSV, Work and Income New Zealand, on 029 2463574.

Recruitment figures for the New Zealand Defence Force are looking promising, with more than 1,572 uniformed staff having been commissioned or enlisted into the Services since June last year.

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Chief of Defence Force, LT GEn Jerry Mateparae said while recruiting was a major issue for the Defence Force, noting the current tight labour market he was buoyed by recent figures.

“The measures being undertaken will not provide immediate relief, but we expect them to go some way to addressing the Navy’s needs.”

Assistant Chief of Defence Personnel, Commodore Bruce Pepperell said all three Services have been developing their lateral recruiting processes. “Lateral recruits bring skills and experience that are readily deployable thus filling key personnel shortfall gaps quickly.”

“The prime challenge for the Army, which currently has a very high operational tempo, is to rebuild and grow within our current employment market,” he said.

The Air Force was also recruiting overseas, and encouraging former personnel to re-enlist. In order to meet its targeted figures, the Air Force had introduced innovative recruiting methods including the use of new mobile phone technology, the completion of the reality game “Air Force Special Ops”, and new recruiting vehicles.
Riot training heats up in Linton

By Faye Lougher

Linton-based soldiers were attacked in June by water bombs, pine cones, pieces of wood and anything else protestors could lay their hands on. Anyone visiting the camp would have been forgiven for thinking a riot had broken out, but it was Whiskey Company’s riot training exercises.

Lieutenant Anika Tiplady says the training exercises are conducted several times a year, and always prior to any overseas deployment. “It’s one of our core skills as part of a cavalry battalion. The scenarios build up from a low level then as the training continues it gets a lot more intensive. That’s how we do it, we step all our training – we start off nice and easy and build it up,” she says.

There were two different scenarios – in the first, the area between the LAV hangars was designated the access to a council building and the civilian rioters were trying to get through to protest the government had not provided food and the locals were starving. In the second scenario, sited at the camp’s back gate, protestors were trying to gain access to the local river for fishing and the soldiers’ job was to prevent this for security reasons.

Various defensive devices were used by the soldiers during the training, including batons, face masks and shields – both the three-foot and six-foot riot shields. “The shorter shields are used by the commanders as they are more manoeuvrable. The commanders also used the PRR – personal radio radios. We had the standard weapons with us but we didn’t want to use weapons against civilians so we had them slung behind us for use as a last resort.

“We also made use of the LAV and that was very effective. We were focused on incorporating the use of the LAV into our training because it is how they are employed in a riot situation,” says Lt Tiplady.

“I haven’t deployed in a live riot situation but we get a lot out of being on the receiving end of intensive rioting during training and it also tests the commanders in controlling the troops in such a high intensity environment. It’s good to use the vehicles for getting to grips with the situation. We don’t do riot training all the time but the guys enjoy it whenever we do.”

The protestors became more and more vocal and proactive in their attempts to get through to the building as the training escalated, and they used a number of projectiles, including water bombs, pine cones, pieces of wood and anything else they could lay their hands on – as would happen in a real situation.

“The projectiles were used to distract the soldiers and to make them aware of certain things that can happen in a riot. It teaches them to keep their eyes open and look for what is coming because in a riot there are often more dangerous projectiles. The guys in the LAV had good observation posts to see if anyone was about to use weapons or if a large group was coming,” says Lt Tiplady.
The Antiarmour Platoon, 2LFG, spent much of June revising its break contact drills using Javelin under the watchful eye of a former reconnaissance platoon section commander and sniper.

Javelin was introduced into service last year, with the weapons issued to units in December.

The Army has 24 Javelin medium-range anti-armour weapons to provide troops with protected mobility and enhanced fire power to 2500 metres, day and night. The “fire and forget” warhead provides enhanced intelligence, tactical situational awareness, surveillance and reconnaissance capability.

Anti-Armour platoon commander Lieutenant Brad Taylor said the exercise was designed to allow soldiers to revise their break contact drills while they were carrying the equipment, pieces of which weighed up to 15 kilograms. They completed a series of drills from mounted and dismounted platforms, and with and without specialist kit. The training was conducted to establish section level SOPs for the newly-formed platoon – in preparation for supporting Exercise Wolf 2 and 3.

Corporal Moke used his reconnaissance knowledge to develop the anti-armour –specific training for the platoon.
A plaque commemorating the military service of nine Invercargill lactose factory workers has been rescued and restored, courtesy of Territorial Force personnel from 4th Otago Southland Battalion Group and the dairy company Fonterra.

Major Ian Piercy of 4 O South, in civilian life, is facilities coordinator for Fonterra’s Edendale site. Fonterra is celebrating the site’s 125th birthday this year and staff investigated the site background and some historical items. “We discovered a plaque which commemorated the military service of nine lactose factory workers in World War II. This plaque had been displayed on a building at the site until 1993 – but it was due for demolition. The plaque was saved by a staff member and put into storage. This is where it remained until being discovered earlier this year,” says Maj Piercy.

The plaque was in poor condition and needed a clean and polish to regain its former glory. It was restored and a plan was then made to re-dedicate this important part of the Edendale site’s history.

The plaque was re-dedicated at a ceremony attended by people of the local community and 60 Fonterra staff. Major Piercy represented the NZ Defence Force personnel from 4th Otago Southland Battalion Group and the dairy company Fonterra. 

“The plaque was in poor condition and needed a clean and polish to regain its former glory. It was restored and a plan was then made to re-dedicate this important part of the Edendale site’s history.”

A special day for three Edendale sisters of returned serviceman Tommy Ward. The women lay poppies at the new Edendale plaque. Back, Chook Hillis, Edna Bloxham and front, Mona Beck.

R/Set Second Lieutenant Cliff Magon graduated with a Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in both management and communications management. He studied towards this qualification while an officer cadet with the Army’s Kippenberger Scheme. As part of his studies 2LT Magon conducted practical research projects designed to complement his study towards this degree. One of these projects included the creation a public relations strategy for the Inspire Net Jets basketball team aimed to encourage more attendance by fans at local games.

Second Lieutenant Magan is continuing to study through the Army and is working towards a Diploma of Teaching (Secondary Teaching). This qualification will provide him with the teaching and learning principles needed in his work as an education officer.

It is worthwhile looking into what qualifications can be gained while serving in the NZ Army. There is a wide range of study options available that can contribute to a formal qualification. There are many advantages associated with gaining a qualification. These include adding to individual professional development, creating opportunities for career advancement and providing people with qualifications that recognise and individual’s personal achievements.

If you want to find out more, make an appointment with your MSI detachment to discuss your study options.

By LCPL Leslie Milligan
Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration (CWID) 2007

Tributes were made at a luncheon recently to celebrate the 70th birthday of Doctor Don Stewart, senior medical officer at Linton Camp.

Lieutenant Colonel Oiroa Kaihau said Dr Stewart was critical to the smooth running of the Army’s clinical services.

“He is a long time member of the Medical Treatment Centre. I thank him for his efforts and long may they continue. Don’s role in the MTC is critical to Linton Camp and I thank his wife, Margaret, and his family for their support.”

Dr Stewart graduated from Otago University in 1962 and spent many years as a GP both in New Zealand and on various Pacific Islands. He was a member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force from 1946 to 1986, becoming a Wing Commander in 1979 and broadening his medical expertise to include aviation medicine.

“When I left the Air Force I went to Australia and then Saudi Arabia to work for the Saudi Arabian Air Force. I loved it and was away for nine years. I came back to New Zealand at the beginning of 1994 to work for one year at City Doctors in Palmerston North. I was then invited to take up the job of senior medical officer at Linton,” said Dr Stewart.

“I enjoy it hugely working with young people who have discipline and who are polite and keen to work rather than seeking sick leave certificates. I’ve enjoyed the wonderful staff and senior colleagues that I work with here; we’ve got a good team.”

Brigadier Anne Campbell, Director General Defence Medical Services, first met Dr Stewart long before he joined the Army. In 1980 she was a medical student and he was stationed in Singapore.

“We had two and a-half years in Singapore with the Air Force and I clearly recall a young Anne Campbell who was a medical student,” he said.

Colleagues who came along to celebrate Dr Stewart’s birthday said all they thought of the world of him.

“He’s the senior medical officer and he supervises the other medical officers and the nurses. He has great knowledge and also mana — he’s such a valuable asset,” said Captain Rosemary Fraser.

He also recalled a morning tea to celebrate his 60th birthday 10 years ago when he was called out to attend a staged car accident with multiple casualties.

“IT was to see how we would react to it from a social situation. We performed well and of course saved many lives! I just wonder what is planned for today,” he joked.

In 2000 Dr Stewart had a short deployment in East Timor and said he greatly appreciated the experience. In 2005 he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the New Zealand Defence Force as a medical officer. He has been involved as a doctor for Manawatu Rugby for more than 13 years and he and his wife breed alpacas on their 50 acre block in the Turitea Valley.
Tool blacks!

By Pete Smithies

Waiouru Army camp was the chosen venue for the first team camp of the 2007 New Zealand World Skills team in June. Gathering together from all over the country, the “Tool Blacks”, joined by the 17 judges and 4 people from SkillEX head office, arrived ready to endure a weekend of physical activity and team building in traditional army style. The 14 competitors who make up the “Tool Blacks” and who will be representing New Zealand at the 2007 WorldSkills Competition in Japan in November, include Lance Corporal Joshua Comerford (Restaurant Service) and Sniper Luke Routledge (Electric Installations). Candidates compete in 14 different trade skills ranging from welding to restaurant service to electrical wiring. Each candidate is trained and mentored by their SkillEX National Skills expert who will also be attending in Japan, as part of the New Zealand international judging contingent. Each competitor was selected for the WorldSkills team after winning gold at the 2006 SkillEX National Finals; they also had to meet the high performance standards and skill criteria necessary to compete at the WorldSkills international level. LCPL Josh Comerford said preparation for Japan required 3 weeks of extra work each week – “not to mention the extra 30 hours of study in the evenings”.

Each competitor has an intensive training programme to prepare them for the challenge of competing against the best young tradesmen in the world from the other 47 member countries. As part of the team’s overall training programme, two team camps are organised. These camps are crucial for team building and are designed to mentally and physically prepare the team members to face the rigors of the WorldSkills Competition.

“The team coming together like this is really good,” said Josh. “We have the opportunity to get to know each other before Japan. I am not sure what the living arrangements will be like over there but weekends like this can only help to unite the team more closely.”

The team camp at Waiouru was the first opportunity for the whole team to get together and meet each other. The first morning comprised a number of exercises in the gymnasium designed to break down any barriers and build confidence within the team; this was followed by a high and low rope exercise that had the competitors working together, relying on each other and having fun. The afternoon saw the competitors racing against time and each other to construct a tent and cook a three course meal from the standard Army ration pack. For most of the team, the final activity of the day was the highlight of the weekend – the grueling assault course! The competitors showed their determination, stamina and team spirit by jumping over walls, wading through ice cold creeks, running up torturous hills, negotiating muddy slopes and slippery ropes. All the competitors encouraged and physically helped one another through the tough course and all felt great satisfaction in everyone being able to complete it.

To help prepare the team physically for the WorldSkills Competition, Army dietitian Nicola Evans spoke about what and how to eat to help prepare for the physical and mental demands. The competitors also learned about the rules of team behaviour and the responsibilities of representing their country.

The next team camp will be in September at the Massey Rugby Institute in Palmerston North.

WO 1 Keith “jock” Dodds was a Vietnam-war bound corporal when it was not a good time to be a soldier in New Zealand. He was part of V5 Company, the eighth company to be formed for that war, and the man with what seemed like a Scottish lilt stood out – hence his name Jock. He was, in fact, a Geordie, and harked from a village near Newcastle in the north east of England. He died on 10 June 2007.

WO 1 Dodds was, according to his peers, different. He had acquired a professionalism that was unusually sophisticated, and it was one that never left him. His calmness in a crisis set him apart from others, and his decision-making was deliberate and calculated, and as a consequence his section revered him.

His military career progressed and, in due course WO 1 Dodds was selected to be the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Officer Cadet School. Such a selection amounts to a statement of extraordinary confidence, as he was trusted to train and prepare the next generation of officers. Again, he was revered by the officer cadets he trained. He was, says one, kind and discerned also respected soldiers.

“He knew why he served, and he took the trouble to explain it,” said one of the first to congratulate us because he had earned it. “He was one of the first to congratulate us individually on our successes on graduating, reminding us also to remain humble while maintaining the standards that he had instilled in us. We had the utmost respect for Jock, and the time that he spent instilling life and military skills in us was appreciated.”

Jock Dodds was, according to former CO, Brigadier (Rtd) Roger Mortlock, “a clever, smart soldier who easily understood the often complicated and twisted nuances that come with a profession that serves to repair political failures.”

“He knew why he served, and he took the trouble to understand the ever-changing context in which he served. In later life he pursued the academic study on International Relations. He never stopped studying, even after he left the service.”

He was, in the words of a member of his 1991 Officer Cadet Class: A true gentleman, the epitome of a warrant officer, and of a New Zealand soldier. A humble and honourable man, an example of all that is good about the New Zealand Army. WO 1 Dodds is survived by his mother Anne, sisters Marnie, Mortlock, “a clever, smart soldier who easily understood the often complicated and twisted nuances that come with a profession that serves to repair political failures.”

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“We've been a chef in the Army for four years now. I'm always experimenting, and trying to become a better chef. We have a lot of fun, and learn at the same time.”

Newly promoted Lance Corporal Hanson Patau

Stepping up

Congratulations to the following personnel on their recent promotion:

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A kind and honourable man
Meaty training for TF company

Soldiers worked under the noise and fury of blank fire from the M16 rifles as they engaged with an ‘enemy’ party during the climax to the weekend exercise.

“We started this weekend to have the sort of training that is now common place on overseas operations under Rules of Engagement (ROE),” he said.

“This was good in that it gave the soldiers a chance of learning something completely new - compared to the usual skills they carry out during field exercises.”

After attending lectures in the classroom, the soldiers then practiced what they were taught. These skills included: setting up snap and deliberate vehicle check points, urban patrolling and counter vehicle ambush drills. Important skills such as key point protection under ROE’s and conducting the basics of prisoner of war handling were also worked on.

Sgt Watts said his company was lucky during the exercise. “We got good assistance from some Regular Force soldiers and their stores. We were able to use some foreign weapons which helped add to the authenticity of the ‘enemy’ group,” he said.

Similar skills have been practiced by the Gisborne-based Alpha Company and Napier-based Charlie Company during Exercises Cassino and South Pacific respectively.

By Corey Clements

Operational skills used everyday by personnel deployed overseas were the focus of a Territorial Force exercise held in Trentham Camp recently.

Soldiers from Bravo Company, 7th Wellington Hawkes Bay Battalion, focused on internal security operations in the final phase of Exercise Alamein.

Bravo Company Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Paul Prouse, said Alamein was the first step his Wellington-based Company used as a build up towards Exercise Egypt.

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By Corey Clements

We will remember them – Korean War service remembers the fallen

Servicemen and women who died during the Korean War were remembered at a wreath laying ceremony in Wellington on Monday June 25.

The ceremony marked the 57th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War and was held at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at the National War Memorial.

Among the dignitaries were Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr Joon-gyu Lee, and Mr Forbes Taylor, President of the New Zealand Korea Veterans Association.

Ambassador Lee paid his respects and acknowledged the Unknown Warrior with a head bow.

Full ceremonial order was followed, including the tolling of the Peace Bell six times, the laying of wreaths and the haunting notes of The Last Post played by a bugler.

At the ceremony all joined in voicing, “we will remember them.”

The Korean War started on 25 June 1950. Four years later, an armistice was signed in July 1954, but the last elements of Kayforce returned to New Zealand in 1957.

New Zealand’s original force comprised Headquarters Kay force, 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery, a signals troop, a light aid detachment, a transport platoon, and a small reinforcement training unit. The total strength being 70 officers and 574 other ranks.

A total of 3794 soldiers served in Kayforce during the war. Thirty-three died on active service, 79 were wounded and one was taken prisoner by the North Koreans.
By Lieutenant Matt Tucker

The second phase of Whiskey Company Group’s Exercise Wolf took part in Hawke’s Bay in June. The group combined with detachments of engineers, reconnaissance, snipers, Javelin, signallers, an FO Party, 3 Squadron, 5 Squadron and its A1 Echelon to again form Task Force Wolf.

The Wolf series of exercises is designed around the three block war concept and fighting an asymmetric enemy.

Exercise Wolf Two was planned around operations currently being conducted by the Canadian Armed Forces operating in southern Afghanistan. The Canadians are finding that on any given day a combat team could have elements distributing aid, quelling riots and, at the higher end, conducting direct action against insurgents. This is the epitome of the three block war concept.

Task Force Wolf began its advance from Linton after a 24 hour lockdown in Chaytor Hangers which aided in the battle preparation of the task force. Reconnaissance and sniper detachments had been inserted 24 hours prior to the Task Force advance to provide early warning and timely information for the airmobile insertion of a security platoon. The following day the task force advanced on multiple axes with dismounted elements, conducting airmobile insertions to secure critical points and defiles to provide security to its main body.

Once firming at Roy’s Hill Range in Hawkes Bay, the force to established and hardened a Forward Operating Base (FOB BLACK) from which operations were conducted.

During the exercise, the ‘enemy’ was played by the Cadres of 7 WnHB commanded by Capt Marc Schmid and W01 Hone Dalton. The enemy had been briefed beforehand on the concepts involved and the parts they were to play. Throughout the exercise the enemy proved to be a clever, cunning and adaptive foe which Task Force Wolf pursued.

Almost immediately, the FOB endured sniper and mortar attacks from an unrelenting enemy. This forced an immediate change in the security of the FOB and the deployment of the Quick Reaction Force, saturating the local area with presence patrolling.

Throughout the exercise the task force conducted various platoon and company tasks with two full-sized operations. Commanders at all levels faced the issues that are involved when fighting the three block war. Any platoon could be delivering aid and the next day could be conducting ambushes on enemy insurgents. This type of operation gave commanders the dilemmas of Rules of Engagement, keeping soldiers aware of their specific roles and the issues of fighting an enemy that is rarely seen but always active.

Task Force Wolf conducted a variety of operations during the exercise ranging from cordons and searches to VIP protection. Other operations conducted included Company-sized OP lines, ambushes, aid distribution, mass casualty scenarios. Other training covered key point protection, local and presence patrolling, raids, convoy escorts and integrating indigenous security forces such as the Afghanistan National Army and Police.

Exercise Wolf Two provided another opportunity for commanders and soldiers at all levels to operate in a combined arms setting. It also provided commanders the opportunity to test their tactics against a non-conventional enemy and assess intelligence crucial to the success of future tasks. The exercise provided those of Whiskey Company knowledge of command issues when dealing with local security forces and the barriers needed to be overcome by conventional means but more often than not by thinking outside the square.

Support from 3 Squadron and 5 Squadron again proved to be a force multiplier the ability to project forces further and faster and to receive timely intelligence during crucial planning phases and decisive parts of the battle.

Whiskey Company and attachments will again reform in September for its DLOC assessment on Exercise Wolf Three which will be conducted throughout the North Island.
His motivation to become a spy is to protect Islam against the and is disgusted by the ruthlessness of the global jihad and committing in Algeria. Nasiri professes to be a true Muslim involved in their activities by running weapons. After falling out young man after being alienated from his family and local community. From the underworld of Islamist cells in Belgium, through the training camps of Afghanistan, to the radical mosques of London, he risked his life to counter the emerging global network that the West would come to know as Al Qaeda. A Moroccan by birth, he moved to Belgium in 1994, as a young man after being alienated from his family and local community. Nasiri's account of terrorist cell operations in Europe provides a fascinating insight into how such a terrible threat can emerge from within a community, and how, in the case of Britain, laws designed to deal with the domestic threat posed by the IRA hampered co-operation with other intelligence services in dealing with a global threat. Nasiri offers a chilling insight into the reasons for the hatred so many Muslims apparently hold for the West, stating that there will "always be violence as long as Western powers continue to manipulate the Muslim world". He also sheds light on the motives of the terrorists he despises, who seek to use a corrupted version of the jihad concept to support their quest for a global Caliphate. Herein lies the paradox of our involvement in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East. As long as Western military forces are deployed in Islamic countries or are perceived to be harming Muslims, individuals such as Nasiri will feel sufficiently enraged to want to strike back through terrorist attacks against Western communities. However, if the West does nothing, we face the risk of dangerous groups exploiting the chaos of weak or failed states to pursue their puritanical theocratic visions. Doing nothing will provide Al Qaeda the opportunity to re-establish the types of training camps described by Omar Nasiri and provide yet another avenue for terrorists to hone their skills.

Anyone harbouring doubts about the reasons for our military actions in Afghanistan should read Global Jihad and is disgusted by the ruthlessness of the global jihad and committing in Algeria. Nasiri professes to be a true Muslim involved in their activities by running weapons. After falling out young man after being alienated from his family and local community. From the underworld of Islamist cells in Belgium, through the training camps of Afghanistan, to the radical mosques of London, he risked his life to counter the emerging global network that the West would come to know as Al Qaeda. A Moroccan by birth, he moved to Belgium in 1994, as a young man after being alienated from his family and local community. Nasiri's account of terrorist cell operations in Europe provides a fascinating insight into how such a terrible threat can emerge from within a community, and how, in the case of Britain, laws designed to deal with the domestic threat posed by the IRA hampered co-operation with other intelligence services in dealing with a global threat. Nasiri offers a chilling insight into the reasons for the hatred so many Muslims apparently hold for the West, stating that there will "always be violence as long as Western powers continue to manipulate the Muslim world". He also sheds light on the motives of the terrorists he despises, who seek to use a corrupted version of the jihad concept to support their quest for a global Caliphate. Herein lies the paradox of our involvement in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East. As long as Western military forces are deployed in Islamic countries or are perceived to be harming Muslims, individuals such as Nasiri will feel sufficiently enraged to want to strike back through terrorist attacks against Western communities. However, if the West does nothing, we face the risk of dangerous groups exploiting the chaos of weak or failed states to pursue their puritanical theocratic visions. Doing nothing will provide Al Qaeda the opportunity to re-establish the types of training camps described by Omar Nasiri and provide yet another avenue for terrorists to hone their skills.

Showing the flag in Invercargill

Mayor Tim Shadbolt inspects the parade

The 4th Otago Southland Battalion Group took to the streets of Invercargill recently with drums beating, flags flying, bayonets fixed and swords drawn to exercise its 48 year old charter. The parade was part of a training exercise in the Invercargill area, concentrating on the Longwood Forest north west of the city. Escorting the Colours, the parade through the central city was exercising a right first given to the unit in 1959. Halted outside the Invercargill City Chambers the mayor, Tim Shadbolt inspected the troops and told those assembled that allowing the battalion to parade through the city, showed the community's trust in its local military unit. Mayor Shadbolt awarded two medals. C/O Lieutenant Colonel Grant Day received a clasp to his efficiency decoration, while Major Ian Piercy, OC Combat Company, received the New Zealand Overseas Service Medal and the United Nations Medal for serving 13 months in Lebanon and Syria in 2005 and 2006.
AQUARIUS
Jan 23 to Feb 19
You may feel someone is trying to
manipulate you or push you
towards doing something you
don’t want to do. Tell them to go
away, and if they persist, bite them
on the inside of the thigh. That
really makes the eyes water.

PISCES
Feb 20 to Mar 20
There are some things you
should do, and some things you
shouldn’t. Especially if there is
a more than 35 per cent chance
of getting caught. (Some push it
up to 38 per cent, but there’s no
point in going crazy with the whole
probability thing).

ARIES
Mar 21 to April 20
Money is coming your way quickly.
Now all you need is a roadblock
through the skin of an armoured
van.

TAURUS
Apr 21 to May 21
It you were to die tomorrow, would
you be more upset that you hadn’t
met all of the challenges and
goals you had set yourself, or that
you hadn’t totally maxed out your
credit cards?

GEMINI
May 22 to June 21
You have a chance to excel
with a creative project you read
about on the Internet. Something
so creative, in fact, that the
Mythbuster guys won’t touch with
a barge pole and a blast shield. Go
on, give it a go. What’s the worst
that could happen?

CANCER
June 22 to July 23
Don’t let your heart rule your head.
Remember, trust your spleen.
Always.

LEO
July 24 to Aug 23
Don’t fear change, it can be a
positive force. Especially now that
a jar of the stuff is worth about
three times what it use to be with
the new coins.

VIRGO
Aug 24 to Sept 23
You may be feeling a little
emotionally flat. It could be the
darkness of winter getting to you.
Try smiling. Even if you don’t feel
like it. Maybe tap dancing will
help too. While playing a cheery
musical instrument such as a
banjo or ukulele. That would also
distract you enough so the Mental
Health Support Team and Capture
Squad could get a net over you.
Crazy tapdancing freak.

LIBRA
Sept 24 to Oct 23
Just think, for another $50 million
the Canadians would have thrown
in the Transformers options on
the LAVs that turns them into
combination washer/driers that
can fly into outer space. That’s
what happens if you skimp on the
defence budget.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 to Nov 23
Helping others will show you are
a sensitive, compassionate team
worker. Ignoring them will see you
regarded as a heartless loner. One
of these people will be given more
work, and another will be feared
and avoided. It’s not really a plan,
more of a lifestyle option.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 to Dec 20
Before you agree to do something,
check out how viable the whole
proposal is. And when it is obvious
that only disaster can await,
decide whether it is better to suck
up and fail, or predict failure and
watch it happen? One makes you
a team player, one makes you
appear wise.

CAPRICORN
Dec 21 to Jan 20
You may become confused by all
the changes going on around you.
Realise that change is the
great constant of this century.
Along with the plethora of witless
nincompoops posing as public
figures.

ACROSS:
1 Geographic area for which a
commander has been assigned
responsibility (7,2,3)
6 Armoury
7 Branch
9 Primes
11 Oppose
13 Small military road vehicle
believed to have got its name
from initials of General Pur-
pose description
14 Staff
15 Demolish
16 “end of transmission”signal
18 End of the Cold War after World
War II
19 Face guard
20 Dimensions
21 Car store (anag)
22 “end of transmission”signal

DOWN:
1 Tiger rebel in Sri Lanka
2 Engineer (abbr)
3 Destroys
4 Stormed
5 Defence, Vindication
8 Steep-sided flat-topped hill in the
US
10 Drive back
12 W Asian republic
13 Shifts sails suddenly from one
side of the vessel to the other
14 Mid-east tower
17 RSA (sl)
18 Stick
19 Face guard
22 “end of transmission”signal

THEMES
The aim of the seminar is to increase the
participants’ understanding of warfighting in
a contemporary environment. Themes include:
• an examination of the current strategic
environment and emerging warfighting
concepts; and
• an overview of contemporary warfighting
and stability and support operations currently
being undertaken by New Zealand and allied
armed forces.

The New Zealand Army in association with Massey
University are grateful for the support of:
Embassy of the United States of America, Wellington
Seminar information can be found on the Centre
for Defence Studies homepage
http://defence.massey.ac.nz/
Enduro riders - skills and stamina rewarded

By Gary Perkes

Medallions were bestowed recently on members of the New Zealand Army team that participated in the International Six Days Enduro (ISDE) motorcycle event in Taupo last year. The trio, comprising Mike “Rosco” Ross, Adrian “AJ” Vogt and Ricky Kernohan, came second out of the military team entries, behind Sweden. Overall, the team won the 48th place from a field of 135 teams. There were 670 riders participating from all over the world.

The very first ISDE was held in 1913 with the aim of testing the reliability of motorcycles and the skills of riders. Now the ISDE attracts riders from a range of different disciplines – motocross, cross country and enduro. The ISDE format can be compared to the international car rally where sports, so contestants have to pay their own way. The team assembled, was met by the Air team at Woodbourne. The next full day’s shooting comprised four matches, including 25 targets, 25 targets, single single, 25 targets single barrel and 25 targets points score.

The ISDE is the most extreme form of off-road endurance team racing. Each day the contestants faced challenging rides over rugged terrain which required them to tally up to 1600km by the end of the day. The series were restricted to a daily maximum of 7½ hours’ elapsed time, including rider-conducted maintenance. Despite pre-race injuries by two of the team and the third developing wrist stress, their own pluck and stamina – combined with unspiring attention by their support team – saw them through to credible performances.

The individual placings were: Kernohan, silver medal E2 class (up to 250cc 2-stroke/250cc 4-stroke); Vogt, bronze medal E2 (up to 250cc 2-stroke/450cc 4-stroke) and Ross, bronze medal E3 (over 450cc 4-stroke).

Following the lengthy validation of placings by the world body, the medallions were presented to the men by Chairman of the Linton Sports Council and Commanding Officer of 2nd Health Support Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Oiroa Kaialu.

Assistant co-ordinator of the team, Major Gareth Jones, said an important aspect of the team’s success lay in the high level of support given by fellow members of the Linton Multisports Club in the fundraising campaign leading up to ISDE.

“Enduro riding is not on the Army list of recognised sports, so contestants have to pay their own way – there is virtually no chance of them participating in the next ISDE being held in Chile this year.” Despite not being a recognised sport, enduro riding involves critical military skills. Whether employed as lead scout for a SAS patrol, a transport section commander in a logistics convoy or an infantry reconnaissance element, finely-honed motorcycle riding skills are essential for operating in a motorised or cavalry environment. Enduro riding develops the skills and confidence of riders to the highest levels of proficiency, Major Jones said.

Clay target shooting interest growing

The RNZALR Clay Target Team shot competitively for the first time this year against the RNZAF Base Woodbourne Team.

The shoot was at Queen’s Birthday Weekend at Base Woodbourne, and was supported by the Regimental Matters Committee and parent units. The shooting conditions were excellent – a clear crisp winter’s morning with little wind. At the corps week event, the Regiment named a RNZALR Clay Target Team made up of the top six scores over the competition. The first five were team members, and the sixth, was a manager / reserve in the event of any further competition.

The team included: SSgt R Tiffen, 2 Cant NWMC Bin Gp, Pte C Heath, 3 Wkp Coy; Pte D Dudli, 3 Wkp Coy, SSgt G Walsh, TTS and Capt N Hill, 2/1 Bn.

The team assembled, was met by the Air team at Woodbourne. The next full day’s shooting comprised four matches, including 25 targets, 25 targets single, 25 targets single-barrel and 25 targets points score.

Saturday morning the Army team travelled to the range at Woodbourne. Shooting conditions were excellent – a clear crisp winter’s morning with little wind. After a couple of short introductions it got down to the serious business of the competition.

The shooting was a close competition until the points score match. The Woodbourne Team pulled too far ahead and came away with a well deserved win.

Later we were hosted at a prize giving and barbecue dinner at The Chevron Lounge Sports Bar and watched the AB’s do a better job on the French than we were. A great night gone the less, with some strong friendships forged and our combined sport the better off for the day.

By SSgt G Walsh - TTS

PTIs celebrate Corps birthday

Seventy-two former and serving physical training instructors (PTIs) from throughout New Zealand gathered at Trentham Camp in June to celebrate 20 years as a corps.

All participants enjoyed a fun packed programme highlighted by an Amazing Race around the Wellington region, followed by a Corps’ reunion dinner. The dinner also doubled as a farewell for the Corps with Capt JJ Pihema who is now working as civilian for the Army Adventurous Training Centre.

A church service was also held to recognise those Corps members who unfortunately are no longer with us.

The NZ Army employed its first physical training instructor in 1949 when Warrant Officer Class One Jimmy Page and Sergeant “Jacko” Jackson were enlisted from the British Army and based in Trentham Camp.

By 1964, the NZ Army had 14 trained PTIs. On the 24th of March 1964, the Chief of General Staff (CGS) at the time, Lt Gen Thornton proposed they be concentrated into a PT Corps. Unfortunately, however, the proposal was never actioned and the PTIs remained part of the infantry.

In 1986 the Director of Infantry and SAS, Lt Col Ray Seymour MBE submitted another proposal to form the NZAPTIC. This proposal was approved by the CGS of the day, MAJ GEN Mace CE, OBE and all established PTI posts were tied from 1 June 1988.

This year celebrations was a great weekend enjoyed by everyone. Planning is already underway for the 25th Birthday celebrations.

By WO1 Grant McCarroll - NZAPTIC

Inter-Regional Army Rugby Competition

Book a space in your diary. The Inter-Regionals have been confirmed for 13 – 17 August 2007 at Waiouru. The competition will include Mens, Women and Academy teams. Nominations for representation in your regional team are open now. They should be submitted through your chain of command.

Academy Side

The New Zealand Army Rugby Committee has pleasure in announcing the creation of the New Zealand Army Academy Rugby Team. This team will replace the current Colts, although Colts teams may be formed on an ad hoc basis as required.

The academy rugby team will consist of players of all ages selected by academy team management. Regional academy grades will participate in inter-regional Army rugby competitions and an Army Academy Team will be selected.

Nominations are now sought for:

Coach
Manager
Strapper

CVs detailing experience are to be forwarded to Capt Lisa Ferris, Secretary Army Rugby Committee, c/o H2 RNZAF no later than 3 August. For those interested in playing for the Army rugby team or the academy side please contact your regional rugby representatives or submit a nomination for your regional team through the chain of command.

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The New Zealand Army Band is wowing audiences in Modena, Italy where it is playing at the Modena International Military Tattoo. Full coverage of the band's activities will be in your next issue of Army News.