LINTON ENGINEERS WIN GOLD, SILVER IN CAMBRIAN PATROL

Two teams of engineers from Linton-based 2 Engineer Regiment have won gold and silver awards at the arduous Cambrian Patrol competition in Wales. The awards are the highest ever scored by a New Zealand team entered in the event.

The team led by Lieutenant Rodney Masters received a gold medal, and Lieutenant Nathan Williams’ team won silver.

Cambrian Patrol is held in the rugged mountainous area of Brecon, in mid-Wales, and is seen as one of the toughest military patrolling events in the world. Over two days each eight-person team is tested on its physical fitness, patrol techniques, combat first aid, deep river crossing skills, weapon-handling and battle-field evacuation. The average time for the latter skill is 32 minutes; in past competitions the fastest time a patrol has achieved is 19 minutes. Lt Masters’ team achieved its aim in 18 minutes.

Contingent Commander Major Mike Owen said the two Kiwi teams had done exceptionally well, and he was very proud of what they had achieved.

Fifty-six patrols entered the competition, of which 18 were internal United Kingdom teams, and the rest were from various countries, including New Zealand, the United States and Australia. Of the 56 teams, 16, including a British Commando team, did not finish the competition because of injury.

“The topography is very steep and the ground incredibly hard,” said Major Owen. “The patrolling area is full of hedgerows which have to be navigated around. In general it’s very hard, inhospitable country. Part of the patrol involved the guys marching nine miles in full service kit. It’s very hard,” said Major Owen. “The patrolling area is full of hedgerows which have to be navigated around. In general it’s very hard, inhospitable country. Part of the patrol involved the guys marching nine miles in full service marching order (full kit, each weighing about 32 kg).”

A glitch meant the teams’ mission-critical equipment—navigation equipment, bayonets, compasses etc—didn’t arrive in Wales at the same time as the teams did. Just 48 hours before the competition began the teams’ hosts, 31 Cadet Training Team managed to find enough equipment for the New Zealanders to use.

“We were treated superbly. They couldn’t do enough for us—it was very humbling.”

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A patrol from the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) in Bamyan Province, Afghanistan was attacked by a group of insurgents using small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades on 3 November. There were no New Zealand casualties.

The New Zealanders were engaged on more than one occasion throughout the incident and the patrol returned fire.

Coalition air support was activated and two helicopter gunships engaged the insurgents. Supporting New Zealand patrols moved to assist and all NZDF personnel were able to move to a safe location.

During the attack two vehicles suffered minor damage, but there were no injuries sustained. Personnel have returned to Kiwi Base and are preparing for their next task.

“Although Bamyan Province continues to be a relatively secure part of Afghanistan, it is imperative that we continue to provide security alongside the Afghan National Police” said COL Martin Bransfield.

ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?
By Principal Army Chaplain Lance Lukin

A standard Google search of the term ‘ethos and values’ will net you around 2,550,000 results. Two of the top 40 results on the entire internet will link you directly to the New Zealand Army. If you were to refine the search to pages just within New Zealand then we would feature as the top result.

Clicking on the hyperlink would take you to a page outlining out core values: Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity, known to us all as 3CI. These four words are explored in detail in the booklet The Way of the New Zealand Warrior. They are the bi-line on the cover of this magazine, and they hang on banners in our camps. Why? Because they are the cornerstone of our Army.

We know them, we can quote them when required but do we live them out?

I remember the former Chief of Army, Major General Lou Gardiner once saying that the “values are not something that can be turned on and off at whim”, but rather must be lived out in our everyday lives, whether at home or at work, whether in the field or the workshop, on exercise or deployment.

The Army recruiting website gives these useful definitions of our values:

COURAGE includes both physical and moral courage: those with physical courage overcome their fear in the face of danger; while those with moral courage make difficult decisions and have the conviction to stand by their principles in the face of adversity.

COMMITMENT is displayed when personnel work together as one team to serve the interests of all New Zealanders, putting others before ones self when necessary.

COMRADESHP is the basis of all Army teams. It means looking after each other, understanding that more can be achieved by working as a team than as individuals.

INTEGRITY requires honesty, sincerity, reliability and consistency.

These are more than just great catch-phrases or marketing slogans. I firmly believe that our core values are standards to strive for, ideals to live by. And not just when we are wearing the uniform, but 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

And yet do we live them out? Are they part of who we are as members of the New Zealand Army? Do we live and breathe these ideals? Or do we think that “what happens on tour stays on tour”, or what no one sees doesn’t really matter?

Someone once said to me that a true test of our character is being the person we are when no one else is looking.

That means when we are away from our home and family on deployment, or after hours when we are at home, or in the pub on a Saturday night, or when we walk in the door after work.

Our core values are the cornerstone of our Army.

They are high ideals. They challenge us to live a higher standard. They are not for the faint hearted or the weak. They are the basis of all Army teams. It means looking after each other, understanding that more can be achieved by working as a team than as individuals.

So, are you up to the challenge?
The 27 (MG) Battalion was originally composed of Territorial Force soldiers who trained to become an effective fighting force. They became strong and self-sufficient through the efforts of the training cadre staff, and later under the instruction of their battle-scarred veterans. For long periods the machine gunners were dispersed throughout the division and occasionally, they supported British, Australian, Indian, Greek and Canadian formations.

Throughout the war, due to the nature of their support work, the battalion came together as a unit only in rear areas when reconstituting and resting, unlike other Battalions which stayed together for the duration.

The 27 (MG) Battalion have a very proud and distinguished history. The battalion fought in Vevê, Greece, 1941; Galatas; Crete; Sidi Azeiz; Tobruk 1941; Defence of Alamein Line; Ruweinsat Ridge; El Meir; Alam El Halifa; El Alamein; Mersa Matrûh; Minqar Qaim; Tребaga Gap; El Hamma; Enfidâville; Takrouna; Middle East 1941–44; North Africa 1940–1943; The Sangro, Castel Frentano; Orsogna; Cassino I; the Advance to Florence; Cerbasia; San Michele; Paula Line; Celle; Fasenza Pocket; Saint Angelo in Salute; Pescattolo; Bologna; Sillaro Crossing; Gaiana Crossing; Italy 1943–1945; and BCOF Japan 1945–1948.

The 27 Machine Gun and Infantry Battalion Association held its 70th and final national reunion in Christchurch on 21/22 2009. In order to maintain the unit’s regimental traditions and unit distinctions within the NZ Army into the future, the Commanding Officer of 2/1 RNZIR, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh McAslan, approached the 27 Battalion Association earlier in the year to gauge their views on 2/1 RNZIR assuming the custodianship of their unit traditions and unit distinctions.

“This is important to us because we, as a regular unit within the NZ Army, can continue to maintain the spirit, distinctions and memories of 27 Battalion on behalf of New Zealand and the Army,” said LTCOL McAslan. “It allows us to continue to develop the concept of service and the ethos and values of Army personnel through understanding our military history, especially given the prominent place in history 27 Battalion holds.”

27 Battalion has a very proud military past which saw the unit fight throughout the Mediterranean, North African, and Italian campaigns; and as part of J force in Japan over the course of World War II. The former members of 27 Battalion see the transfer of campaigns; and as part of J force in Japan over the course of World War II.

The 27 Machine Gun and Infantry Battalion Association and 2nd 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR) celebrated a significant occasion recently when 2/1 RNZIR officially took custodianship of the 27 Battalion’s regimental traditions and unit distinctions.

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“The 27 Machine Gun and Infantry Battalion Handover Parade with 2/1 RNZIR was reviewed by CAPT Williams and three former first echelon members of 27 Battalion, who are all now in their 90s. Around 120 former 27 Battalion members and their families attended the parade which followed a service in the All Saints Garnson Chapel in Burnham, and was followed by a luncheon in the Burnham Combined Mess. The former members of 27 Battalion and their families were welcomed to the 2/1 RNZIR unit lines with a powwhir. During the parade, 27 Battalion officially handed their Regimental distinctions and unit embellishments to 2/1 RNZIR. A charter signifying the handover was also presented. The parade was attended by the Chief of Army, Major General Rhys Jones; the Colonel of the Regiment (RNZIR), Colonel (Retired) Bob Upton; the Honorary Colonel of 2/1 RNZIR, Colonel (retired) Baden Blackburn; and the Regimental Colonel of the RNZIR, Lieutenant Colonel Evan Williams.

“2/1 RNZIR’s Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFSW) Platoon has a similar operational role to that performed by 27 Battalion, and accordingly, will be the element within 2/1 RNZIR that will take primary responsibility for the maintenance of 27 Battalion’s traditions and embellishments. This will include DFSW Platoon adopting 27 Battalion’s Call Sign 51, their tactical sign which will be displayed on DFSW vehicles, and 27 Battalion’s distinctive red and black unit flash that will be worn in addition to the traditional red diamond. DFSW Platoon will also compete annually for a small replica sterling silver Vickers machine gun trophy for the best gun team that members of the 27 Battalion competed for after World War II.”

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By Judith Martin

Army Chef Lance Corporal Steve Hogan has been made a full member of the New Zealand Culinary Team, one of the most coveted culinary honours in the country.

Membership of the team means he will represent New Zealand at the International Food and Hospitality Association competition in Singapore next year, and possibly in the World Catering Olympics in Germany in 2011.

LCPL Hogan, 24, who has been in the Army for just five years, admits to being a bit nervous about being part of the team. “There is pressure on now to prove I really do have what it takes to be a member,” he says.

The 2 Land Force Group soldier, who is based at Papakura Camp, is no stranger to culinary accolades. With another Army chef and steward he won the prestigious Toque d’Or competition in September 2008. The two chefs produced a spectacular three course meal in two and a half hours, which was then served by their steward to a panel of 17 top industry judges. He has also been in the team that has twice won the Roy Smith Competition, an inter-base culinary contest.

The business manager for the New Zealand Culinary Team, Gary Miller said LCPL Hogan had impressed not only team management but also his fellow team members, with a great work ethic and by demonstrating a desire to improve himself in all tasks set to him.

Aspiring to be among the best in his field is akin to training for any international competition LCPL Hogan has found; it requires practice, practice, and more practice.

Every third weekend he travels to Christchurch where he meets up with other team members to recreate the dishes they plan to enter in the international competition.

The chefs prepare dishes for what is known as the “cold table” and, while the food is edible, it is covered in aspic for longevity and is judged solely on presentation.

They also practise their “hot kitchen” techniques, where they are judged on their methods, presentation, cleanliness, wastage, and taste.

Despite winning several competitions, as a junior chef he wasn’t expecting full team membership. Full members of the team are usually accomplished chefs with more than 10 years of industry experience. His fellow team members all have international experience and run kitchens in award-winning restaurants.

Earlier this year he travelled with the team to Wales, where his venison dish won him a bronze medal.

There is pressure to perform. “I try not to let things get on top of me, but I want to prove I do have what it takes.” Culinary disasters do happen, but so far, not to him.

In a competition only a set amount of pre-weighed ingredients is allowed. “So if you burn something or spoil it, that’s pretty much it—you go without.”

He has always enjoyed cooking, and says the beauty of being a chef is that food can be manipulated into whatever a chef wants it to be. “You can, for example, take a plain piece of meat and cut it, marinate it, roll it, do whatever you want to create something special.”

Learning his trade in the Army has been excellent, he says, with the environment, and company of other chefs and soldiers being what he enjoys most. He lives on base, and because he cooks all week, prefers to eat what anyone else will cook at weekends.

And when he visits his family? “No, I don’t cook there either. I leave all that sort of thing to Mum!”
A MOTHER WRITES

The sight of armed soldiers doing pre-deployment training in downtown Wanganui recently upset some residents. The mother of two soldiers, wrote to Army News regarding their concerns ...

I am the very proud parent of one of those soldiers. Come December he will fly to Timor Leste to ensure that the people of that country continue to rebuild and continue to enjoy just a few of the freedoms that we take for granted. Freedoms, by the way, that New Zealand soldiers have helped gain for them since New Zealand first sent peacekeeping troops to stabilise the volatile situation the country was in, in 1999.

My son, and many others, will not spend Christmas with his family or partner. His birthday in February will probably be spent patrolling downtown Wanganui recently upset some residents. The mother of two soldiers, wrote to Army News regarding their concerns ...

As a woman, I, too, believe in life. Both of my sons have served in a peacekeeping capacity in Bosnia, Afghanistan and East Timor. They have never fired a shot in anger, but they have played soccer, rugby and volleyball with the children of those countries.

Kiwi soldiers are loved and respected in the theatres of war in which they have served overseas and it would be wonderful to believe that they could be equally as respected and loved by those at home.

New Zealand Army soldiers were training in Wanganui because it was a similar environment to that they will encounter in East Timor. They were being taught to interact and be sympathetic with the locals – talking with them and ensuring their children are fed and their families are safe.

If you are anti-violence I would suggest your energy was better expended opposing the horrendous video games and even movies that our own children have access to every day.

Sue Miller • Wanganui
WINGS

The wings, instituted early in the SAS history, were taken from a scroll on the walls of a Cairo club. The scroll was of an "Ibis bird" with its wings outstretched. The dark and light blue colours on the wings are Cambridge and Oxford blue. The wings were awarded to individuals by David Stirling (above) once he had decided they had done well enough, usually on an operational mission. The wings were originally worn on the left breast but later removed and worn on the right sleeve to avoid confusion with RAF pilots. Their design is distinct from other parachutists' wings because they swoop up instead of down.

Today SAS wings are only awarded after successful completion of the NZSAS cycle of training in a graduation ceremony called 'Badging'. Because the SAS wings are a symbol of qualification, they can be worn throughout a serviceman's military career, even if they decide to leave or are posted out of the special forces fraternity. Currently, the other SAS embellishments (beret, badge and belt) are regimental accoutrements and are only worn by qualified personnel while they serve in 1 NZSAS Group or the Directorate of Special Operations.

BERET

The sand (or ecru) beret has its origins in WWII. Originally David Stirling's L detachment wore white berets; however this was changed to sand colour to aid in desert camouflage. In 1944 the SAS adopted the maroon beret, while attached to the 1st Allied Airborne Army. When the British SAS was re-raised for Malaya it continued to wear the maroon beret. The New Zealand SAS was also raised at this time so the maroon beret was adopted. However, in 1957 the British SAS reverted to the sand beret. In 1995, the NZSAS was increased in size from a Squadron to a Unit, as part of this change the sand beret was adopted. Today all three of the Commonwealth's SAS Units wear the sand beret. The sand beret is a unit embellishment, but like all special operations embellishments it must be earned. For operators it is earned after successful completion of special operations selection and training. For support personnel, the sand beret is earned after a successful trade assessment and probation period.

BADGE

The famous SAS badge was adopted by David Stirling in 1941. Corporal Tait of L detachment reputedly designed the badge. Often referred to as a winged dagger, the badge actually represents the flaming sword of Excalibur. It is only worn by 'badged' members of the SAS.

SWORD OF EXCALIBUR

Legend has it that King Arthur received Excalibur from the Lady in the Lake. Excalibur was given to King Arthur to help him rid the evil that existed where good dwelt. Excalibur, once grasped by King Arthur, became a part of him and advanced his combat skills. Excalibur was a sword forged out of goodness so therefore was to be used only for the fight against evil. This was the catch to Excalibur— it would lend its powers to its master as long as it was used for good. If it was used for evil purposes, Excalibur would be taken away and the user would be left in eternal agony.

BELT

The SAS Stable belt is a regimental embellishment worn by 'badged' members of the 1st New Zealand Special Air Service Group. It originated from 22 SAS Regiment and was first worn in October 1965 by members of 1 Detachment, 1 Ranger Squadron NZSAS who fought alongside 22 SAS in Borneo. The distinctive colour originates from David Stirling's original concept of integrating the traditional Oxford and Cambridge blues.
The New Zealand Defence Force’s immediate disaster relief tasks in the wake of the tsunami that struck Samoa and Tonga on 29 September 2009 are completed, and all troops involved in the operation have returned home.

HMNZS CANTERBURY loaded the Iroquois helicopter, vehicles and plant, and sailed from Apia on 21 October. The departure of NZDF personnel did not signal the end of New Zealand’s assistance however; the NZ$6.1 million dollar contribution to a combined trans-Tasman package, announced by the New Zealand government, will provide the Government of Samoa with the ability to rebuild its infrastructure, restore essential services and begin the process of economic recovery.

In Tonga, New Zealand has pledged $1.5 million dollars to help the northern island of Niuatoputapu rebuild.

More than 150 personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force helped with the disaster relief. Major Paul Hayward, of Linton-based 2 Engineer battalion, took a multi-trade team with him to help with the disaster relief, including field engineers. They spent a lot of time moving debris using plant that was already on the island, and also built whatever was needed immediately, mostly water tanks and stands.

He said the operation reinforced the need to be able to deploy quickly. “We managed to get everything together that we needed, and got stuck in. We always have to be prepared for operations such as this.”

Trades section commander Corporal Jeremy Evans said his team initially thought they would be going to Samoa, but ended up in Tonga. They worked with New Zealand’s Deputy High Commissioner who liaised with local authorities to establish their work and clean-up priorities.

He said the piles of debris were huge. “You don’t really realise how bad it was until you are standing there in front of it. About 90 percent of the buildings on the shoreline were just flattened.”

HELPING THE NEIGHBOURS
NEW ZEALAND TROOPS HELP AFTER PACIFIC DISASTER

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For an engineer just four months into his military career, helping with the disaster relief in Samoa was a “hugely rewarding experience” says Sapper Tom Motley.

Formerly from Pateley Bridge in Yorkshire, England, Sapper Motley marched out from his basic course in May this year. He has been in New Zealand for eight years, and worked as a builder both here and in England. The deployment to Samoa was his first with the Army.

His spent his time there at first helping local police search for missing or injured people, and then using his carpentry skills to build water tank stands and toilet facilities for local people.

Sapper Motley said he was very impressed by how people rally around and work together in a crisis situation. “We did a lot of work, but they also did a lot for themselves. It was great to see how keen they were to help us and each other.”
ARMY MUSICIAN SELECTED AS COACH FOR NATIONAL UNDER-23 TEAM

Sergeant Major Graham Hickman has been selected as the Musical Director of the National Youth Brass Band for the 2010, 2011 and 2012 seasons.

“I feel extremely privileged to have been given this responsibility,” said SGTMJR Hickman. “The NZ Army Band has always experienced difficulties recruiting suitable specialist musicians.”

The National Youth Brass Band is selected every year through a nationwide audition process. They undertake a ten-day course in January/February culminating in a concert tour through part of the country. The 2010 course will be held in Dunedin followed by a tour of the lower South Island.

SGTMJR Hickman is also currently Musical Director of civilian band Woolston Brass; the undisputed Champion Band of Australasia having recently won both the New Zealand Brass Band Championships and the Australasian Brass Band Open Championships.

CHIEF OF ARMY COMMENDATIONS

Four Chief of Army Commendations were presented to members of Trentham Regional Support Battalion (TRSB) personnel recently.

MR BARRY SARNEY
Mr Sarney’s commendation recognises the significant contribution he has made to tailoring within the Trentham Defence Area and the greater Wellington region. Mr Sarney began his service with the New Zealand Army on 16 November 1988. During his career, he has been called upon to meet sudden and often unrealistic deadlines in support of Trentham Unit outputs. In these activities he has not only met the deadlines and achieved definitive objectives, he has done so with an inspirational work ethic, team ethos and, as can be quoted from his personal file, an inherent ability to “go the extra mile in order to complete the task without failing to maintain his personal high standard of work”.

MR JOHN BIRD AND STAFF SERGEANT JAMIE TAWHARA
Mr Bird and SSGT Tawhara’s commendation recognises their efforts in saving the life of a comrade in that they quickly ensured the casualty was provided the necessary life saving medical treatment until paramedics arrived. Both men’s actions proved their dedication and genuine concern for their colleague.

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO RUSSELL
WOz Russell’s commendation recognises his significant contribution to catering. His efforts within the New Zealand hospitality trade have significantly enhanced the reputation of the New Zealand Army and the New Zealand Defence Force. His commitment, leadership and vision have raised the standards of the chef trade and consequently the morale, retention, and mana within the New Zealand Army.

PSYCHOLOGISTS’ WORK ACKNOWLEDGED

Two Army psychologists, Majors Helen Horn (left) and Steve Kearney (right) have been awarded certificates by an international defence science and technology organisation for their work involving research into survival psychology.

The certificates were awarded by Commander Scott Rennie, RNZN, (centre) who is New Zealand’s representative on the Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP), a forum for defence science and technology collaboration between Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The certificates were presented for the significant contribution the two officers had made in creating and demonstrating the efficacy of a selection programme for survival psychology. The programme resulted in increased interoperability in training and operations among TTCP nations.

ARMY VIETNAM VETERAN RECEIVED US BRAVERY MEDAL AFTER 41 YEARS

Vietnam veteran Colonel (RET) Brian Chippindale was presented with the US Bronze Star with V device, on Friday 16 October in a ceremony at the Silvendale RSA, north of Auckland.

The presentation of the medal took place 41 years after COL Chippindale earned it during a firefight in the Vietnamese jungle in April 1968. The medal was pinned to his chest by the US Consul General, Randy Berry Jnr on behalf of the US Government.

COL Chippindale was a Captain in the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps, attached to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, of the US Army when he earned the medal. The unit was on patrol when they were attacked. His response to the hail of Vietnamese rifle, machine gun and RPG fire was to lead his American colleagues in a counterattack, which forced the enemy into retreat.

For his actions that day, he was awarded the US Bronze Star with “Valour device” which is a gold “V” worn on the ribbon to denote that the medal was awarded for gallantry. The award was announced the following month and the citation for the award was read out to the unit but COL Chippindale never received the actual medal before he returned to New Zealand.

US and South Vietnamese gallantry awards to New Zealand military personnel for service in Vietnam had never been officially recognised. As part of the New Zealand Government’s memorandum of understanding with Vietnam veterans the awards were formally recognised earlier this year and recipients of the awards received formal notification from the Chief of Defence Force.

The National President of the RNZRSA, Air Vice Marshal (RET) Robin Kilscher officiated at the ceremony in front of a large crowd including children and grandchildren.
By Judith Martin

The high regard in which the Army is held by New Zealand’s Polish community was evident recently when a delegation of local Polish people visited the Chief of Army, Major General Rhys Jones.

The General was presented with a copy of New Zealand’s First Refugees, Pahiatua’s Polish Children during the visit. The book is a record of what is seen as a unique episode in New Zealand’s history—the arrival of 732 refugee children and their guardians and their successful integration into New Zealand society.

The New Zealand Army and the Polish community go back a long way; soldiers returning from World War II on the USS GENERAL RANDALL in 1944 helped look after the Polish refugee children, many of them orphans, and their 100 or so guardians.

When the children arrived in Wellington they were taken by train to Pahiatua station, from where 33 Army trucks transported them to an old internment camp, which became the Polish Children’s Camp. The camp was administered by the New Zealand Army, and all Army maintenance staff took orders from the camp commandant Major Foxley. It is remembered by the Polish children as a delightful refuge from the war, where they were cared for, had fun, and encouraged to thrive in their new homeland.

The children attended school, and outside of school hours they helped with cleaning and planted vegetable gardens. To help them get acquainted with the New Zealand way of life the Army and the Catholic community collected invitations from New Zealand families for the Polish children and adults to spend holidays with them.

It is 65 years since the children arrived in New Zealand. The book, New Zealand’s First Refugees was published by the Polish Children’s Reunion Committee, and edited by Wellingtonian Adam Manterys, who is the son of one of the refugees, Stanislaw Manterys. It explains the background to the children’s arrival in New Zealand, and records the stories of dozens of the refugees, and those of their own children, and other New Zealanders who remember the small refugees. It also contains a significant collection of photographs.

Accepting the book from the delegation, MAJGEN Jones said he was aware of the history of the Polish children, and the significant contribution the Polish community had made to New Zealand society. There were also strong military links; the Polish Army had fought alongside New Zealanders in Cassino, Italy during World War II, and a Polish Army Brigade was now based in Afghanistan where New Zealand troops are serving.
Sudan, or more specifically, Khartoum, sounds an exotic location shrouded in mystery. It is at the confluence of the White and Blue Nile, making it strategically important within North Eastern Africa, and it has been the centre of much fighting since it was founded in 1821, writes Major Terry McDonald.

My initial perception of Khartoum before my deployment was romantic; a deep blue Nile River, sail boats fishing their daily quota and an easily accessible history. I also thought (having looked at Sudan on a map) that although a large country, ‘it’s not that big’. I soon found out it is about ten times the size of New Zealand, with swamps the size of the North Island.

Modern Khartoum now finds itself as the location of the Headquarters of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, or UNMIS, which has been in Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (or CPA) in 2005.

This uneasy peace agreement was reached between the civil war factions of the central government in the Northern part of Sudan and the rebel movement based out of South Sudan. The peace came at the end of the Second Sudanese Civil War, which saw fighting for 22 years, claiming approximately 1.9 million lives and displacing up to four million people. However, when people think of Sudan, their minds are generally drawn to remote team sites to monitor and verify the peace agreement. The ten thousand-strong military force has both integrated and taken lead roles within their respective team sites, demonstrating to the eclectic mix of nationalities within the UN that Kiwis quickly adapt to new environments.

My role as J5, Military Planner within UNMIS Force Headquarters has been an exceptionally rewarding one. The internal issues faced by the military here are no different from at home, however the external issues have been the most challenging—such as planning the support to the elections process within Sudan in early April 2010, and providing assistance and security to the annual migration of the Misseryia nomadic pastoralists through the agriculturalist tribal areas, to name a couple. The ten thousand-strong military force of UNMIS has an extremely challenging mandate. As the J5, ensuring that they are able to meet the challenges ahead is one of the key aspects of my role.

Major Terry McDonald with Khartoum children and local youths.

I have been amazed at the ex-pat Kiwi community in this part of the world. There are Kiwis everywhere, which demonstrates how sought-after we are. It has been very useful to hear a recognisable accent, knowing that there are like-thinking and speaking people who will get down to business and solve the problems at hand. The catch cry from the South Pacific or South East Asia contingents of, ‘hey Kiwi!’ or ‘kia ora bro’ reminds you how far the NZDF culture actually extends.

On behalf of the current contingent, I would like to express our appreciation for the efforts of those in New Zealand who look after us. We maintain tenuous links via the internet and phone with news back home, and in particular, our thoughts go out to those affected by the recent events in Samoa, those who have deployed to assist with the recovery and those who made both that deployment and ours work so well. Our intent is to leave a little bit of New Zealand here in Africa when we come home, improve what we can, where we can and ensure that the good reputation that has been established by our predecessors remains intact, allowing Kiwis to continue to be counted as ‘doers’ within UNMIS.

‘The darkest thing about Africa has always been our ignorance of it.’
George Kimble – geographer

‘Reminds me of my time in Africa. Someone forgot the corkscrew and for several days we had to live on nothing but food and water.’
W.C. Fields

UNMIS is also the home of three New Zealand Defence Force Officers; one based at the military headquarters in Khartoum and two United Nations Military Observers (or UNMOs) posted to remote team sites to monitor and verify the peace agreement. The NZDF commitment complements the wider NZ government approach, with MFAT (through NZAID) contributing over NZD $16 million to assist the UN to relieve the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region since 2004. The small NZDF military commitment serves to provide physical assistance to the significantly more inconceivable to a Kiwi.

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Residents driving into the Waiouru housing area were bemused recently to find their way obstructed by barbed wire, armed soldiers and armoured vehicles. Roadblocks were set up on Ruapehu Road, suspicious vehicles were pulled over and searched, and some drivers were “arrested”.

The activity was part of the New Zealand Officer Cadet School’s Exercise Takrouna 2009. A cache of supplies belonging to the MAF (Musorian Armed Forces) had been located near Lake Moawhango, and this had led to the discovery that Musorian collaborators in North Waiouru city were supplying cadres of the MAF with food supplies and explosives. Each day, an officer cadet was given command of one of the three motorised cavalry platoons of Alpha Company and tasked with conducting a Vehicle Check Point (VCP) to stop the flow of this materiel. Meanwhile, a second officer cadet was taking another platoon to Lake Moawhango or Karioi Forest to engage with MAF elements, while a third cadet held a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) in readiness at Alpha Company’s forward operating base (FOB).

Exercise Takrouna is held every October to test students of the Officer Cadet School. It is the penultimate exercise of a training course that begins in Waiouru at the beginning of January. Each morning during this year’s exercise, Major Kit Taylor and Captain Matt Watts of Alpha Company briefed three different officer cadets on the platoon-level tasks they were to carry out the next day. MAJ Taylor told them of the assets that were available if they needed them: infantry, LAVs, reconnaissance, indirect fire support, signals and engineers. Five hours after being briefed on what was required, the three students had to give a back-briefing on how they intended to carry out their mission.

I live close to Ruapehu Rd, and it was interesting to see the different ways the young trainee officers carried out the same task at the same place each day. The Saturday roadblock was very unobtrusive, with most of the LAVs and soldiers hidden behind trees, and only a couple of coils of wire blocking the road. But on Sunday motorists had to wend their way through a gap between two menacing LAVs blocking the road, coils of wire blocked most of the surrounding streets, and signs warned “Army Roadblock Ahead.”

As the week progressed, the other officer cadets tasked with engaging the MAF insurgents north of Waiouru city variously had to coordinate the use of recon patrols, retrans detachments, mounted and dismounted infantry, assault boats, bangalore torpedoes and mortar fire.

“The aim of Exercise Takrouna is to create combined arms training,” explained Training Warrant Officer WO2 Grant Collins. “The officer cadets are required to coordinate those support agencies to the greatest degree possible, in order to enhance their command and leadership skills.”

OCS staff present during Ex Takrouna offered none of the advice had given to students on earlier exercises; instead they were quietly grading them for “PICSIE.” Planning the task, Initiating it, Controlling its execution, Supporting the members of their platoon, Informing them and their company commander of any developments, and finally Evaluating the success of the mission.

Often the officer cadets had to deal with unexpected events. When “explosives” were found in a car at Monday’s roadblock, the driver took to his heels and escaped on foot. An officer cadet had prepared to assist the other platoons on patrol, but suddenly found himself defending the Forward Operating Base from attack.
In early October, the Musorian Armed Forces moved across the international border into New Zealand and headed towards the Mackenzie region which they planned to reclaim. The soldiers of the 3rd Logistics Battalion were deployed to support the fighting forces tasked with pushing the Musorians back home, writes Major Kirsteen Collins of 3 Logistics Battalion.

EXERCISE SECOND STEP

A Combat Service Support Team (CSST) from 3rd Logistics Battalion deployed into the South Canterbury/Mackenzie District for Exercise Second Step during October. The exercise aim was to practice mobilisation, deployment and operation of a CSST. It started with pre deployment training in Burnham followed by moving to Lyttelton Wharf for a simulated sea move to Timaru. There the CSST completed man-up procedures after disembarking the notional ship before moving to Waimate for the first deployment.

Subsequent deployments to Campbell Park Estate (10 km south of Kurow) and Hakataramea Valley increased the level of intensity and skill level expected. The CSST provided real time support to 2/1 RNZIR, QMAR, and 165 Battery (who were taking part in Exercise Black Templar) as well as a simulated battle group.

Additional civil aid tasks were completed such as moving displaced people, fixing tracks and assisting local farmers. Throughout the exercise the CSST also faced numerous scenarios involving improvised explosive devices, displaced people (played by Christchurch Cadet Unit and soldiers straight from Corps training), civilian Musorian sympathizers, mortar attacks and section-size groups of Musorian soldiers. These scenarios tested the soldiers in their levels of response and reactions to situations from full combat though to children fighting for food.

This was the first time in several years that 3 Logistics Battalion had deployed a large CSST into the field. Exercise Second Step was definitely a step in the right direction and provided many learning experiences for 3 Log Bn, highlighting the need to practice exercises on this scale much more often. Commanders at all levels walked away with plenty to think about for next year, and soldiers were exposed to new approaches and skills to apply in the future. It was of huge benefit to the battalion, and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

The CSST consisted of 120 personnel from 15 trades, and 53 vehicles.

FIELD KITCHEN

Exercise Second Step was a big learning curve for the caterers as most of them were either junior or intermediate qualified, and this was their first experience of a Company Exercise. The caterers’ daily tasks consisted of preparing three fresh meals a day for about 150 people, as well doing the soldier skills of sentry and roving patrols.

During the exercise they were also expected to learn how to utilise not only basic catering equipment, but tactical Field Kitchen and Kerrick water heaters efficiently and safely, as well as the aging but still functioning M59 burner cabinets. It was also a chance to familiarise themselves with the other basics such as fuel identification and stock rotation of fresh rations. Shift personnel were given further challenges when restrictions were placed on them to see how they reacted and overcame them. The biggest challenge though was imposed in house where equipment such as burners was taken from them, leaving only certain ovens or pressure kettles available to be used. These were tackled head on and the Company was none the wiser as the food that went out was still of the same high standard as throughout the earlier part of the exercise.

The chefs found the field environment a good challenge as not only did they produce meals consistently, but tactical Field Kitchen and Kerrick water heaters efficiently and safely, as well as the aging but still functioning M59 burner cabinets. It was also a chance to familiarise themselves with the other basics such as fuel identification and stock rotation of fresh rations. Shift personnel were given further challenges when restrictions were placed on them to see how they reacted and overcame them. The biggest challenge though was imposed in house where equipment such as burners was taken from them, leaving only certain ovens or pressure kettles available to be used. These were tackled head on and the Company was none the wiser as the food that went out was still of the same high standard as throughout the earlier part of the exercise.

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**DIGGING MY OWN GRAVE**

By Kate Gudsell

Wednesday morning, the day of my “deployment” to Tekapo, I woke with a feeling of anxiousness welling up, a knot developing in my stomach. I turn on the radio to listen to the long-range weather report and am greeted by the promise of a howling southerly rising up through the mainland by the weekend. What was I thinking putting myself forward for five days with the NZDF? I try to put the weather, my lack of equipment and preparation for five days camping with a bunch of soldiers in the freezing cold to the back of my mind. The only saving grace that I can think of is that I’ve often been told I drink and swear like a trooper. Then I remember my brief with Jane Mortlock—all exercises are completely dry. There goes my plan of dazzling them with my ability to hold a handle or two, get them onside with my attempts at rapier wit, let alone being a hardy journalist.

Oh and another thing, whatever you do don’t complain about the food or the accommodation. The drive south from Christchurch does nothing to calm my nerves; the impending sense of doom growing deeper with every kilometre. The remaining drive is somber, I take in the Mackenzie scenery and think about the fact that the last time I was in Tekapo I would have been eight, and it would have been Christmastime. I am wishing less hell I was in that safe place.

I get to the camp and cannot work out where I am supposed to go. Reluctant to look like an idiot, I park in the rear of the camp, hoping I am in the right area. I step out and ask for the Logistics Battalion before I realise there is so much more to it than what I first thought. They’re Lieutenant Justin White and Lieutenant Mark Chambers, who I accompany for the next six hours. It takes a good 24 hours of being with the 3rd Logistics Battalion before I realise there is so much more to it than what I first thought. I am impressed with what bravado I can muster that I’m going into the field. During my five days there were two really stand-out conversations I had, and the half hour drive from Tekapo camp included one of them.

His name is Johnny. I deduce from the conversation that he is in his early 20s and has a wife and children, which surprises me as he seems so young. I ask him how he ended up in the Army, and he tells me that the Army has been more of a family then his own. I am in awe of his humility and his openness. He talks about the Army with an intense affection that speaks volumes of what the NZDF can give to the nation’s young men and women. We go to what will be my first destination and I am sad to leave the conversation.

I am transported from place to place until eventually I am dropped off in the middle of a field as twilight sets in. It is about 2030 and I am taken to the Transport Platoon Commander Second Lieutenant Mark Chambers, who I accompany for the next six hours.

I get back to camp at 0300 and have a stretcher waiting in headquarters, the sight of which fills me with joy. At 0700 I stumble out of the HQ briefing room and make-shift bedroom.

The Officer Commanding, Major Kirstine Collins asks me how I slept, and explains the briefing process. I sit through the brief to the exercise of the day, a humanitarian exercise, and am relieved to hear we expect to finish by 1800 hours. That’s about the only thing I grasp as I am overwhelmed by the acronyms, abbreviations and Army terms.

The exercise begins and I am in the second Pinzgauer of the convoy which ends up being ambushed. I am in the middle of recording and it hits and it is bizarre and surreal because everything around me is kicking into action and I have no idea what is going on.

The soldiers jump out and under the earlier instructions of the Convoy Commander Second Lieutenant Justin White I stay in the vehicle. It takes a good 24 hours of being with the 3rd Logistics Battalion before I realise there is so much more to it than what I first thought. They’re not playing—and they’re training. This is their life. This is what they do.

After spending a day venturing around the tents and talking to different people I am struck by the integrity of the soldiers and their willingness to talk to me, as well as the fearlessness with which they embrace the chance to be deployed to help those in need.

It is on my third night that I have the second remarkable conversation of the exercise. It is 0200 and all around me is organised chaos as the new campsite is put together.

I have made a pathetic attempt at a shell scrape and am now holding a torch for Company Sergeant Major Gilbert Kelly to dig his scrape. He is the only person in HQ who I have had any real communication with.

We get to talking and he makes me laugh when he mentions the irony of something which is meant to save your life looking so much like a grave. We start discussing deployment again and paraphrase he says that their job is about family. Everyone has families, everyone needs a family and support regardless of whether they are from Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, the Solomon, Lebanon, Syria. Everyone is human, everyone has frailties and faults, and everyone deserves a chance and help.

And this is their job.

I am freezing despite my six layers and Major Collins suggests helping finish digging my shell scrape to warm up. This is the last thing I want to do, but I think of my conversation just a few hours earlier, and what I have experienced so far and the fact that she hasn’t even been to bed but was going out digging.

So I get out there and get stuck in—in a civilian kind of way, to the amusement of a few of the close by soldiers.

Taking pity on me the medic comes and shows me the way of the “angry dragon.” I am all go from there, I’m shifting those cracked boulders and dense soil with the skill and speed of a three-year-old attempting to colour between the lines.

I’m nearly finished when to my disappointment the digger rocks up and in one swift 10-second swoop does the job which took me about 45 minutes.

The shell scrape and I are literally gutted.

Kate Gudsell is a journalism student.

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**STUDENTS GIVEN CHANCE TO VISIT GALLIPOLI**

A new national speech competition gives senior students the chance to win a trip to Gallipoli on Anzac Day, while honouring the men and women who made sacrifices in service of New Zealand.

The National Bank RSA Cyril Bassett VC Speech Competition will serve as a tribute to Cyril Bassett, VC (1882–1933), the only New Zealander at Gallipoli to be awarded the Victoria Cross, for “most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty... he has subsequently been brought to notice for further excellent and most gallant work connected with the repair of telephone lines by day and night under heavy fire.”

Cyril Bassett was awarded the Victoria Cross for escaping bullets which left his uniform in tatters. During the ferocious battle for Chunuk Bair, he and a handful of companions laid and repaired an essential telephone wire connected with the repair of telephone lines by day and night under heavy fire.

The competition is open to all New Zealand Year 11 and secondary school in NZ

*The RSA is pleased to partner with The National Bank to honour both the deeds and the memory of Cyril Bassett VC, and to provide young New Zealanders with the opportunity to research and speak to an indelible aspect of our nation’s ANZAC heritage,* said RNZRSA national president Robin Klitscher.

“We know that young people are interested—we see this each Anzac Day. We are also aware of the tremendous talent in our secondary schools. The winner of the speech competition will be a worthy youth ambassador for New Zealand at Gallipoli next Anzac Day.”

Steven Fyfe, Deputy Chief Executive of ANZ National, says the competition is a fitting tribute to Cyril Bassett, who worked at The National Bank from 1908 until his retirement in 1952.

“The National Bank from 1908 until his retirement in 1952. The National Bank started operating in New Zealand over a hundred years ago and Cyril Bassett is one of hundreds of our staff who have served our country overseas over that time.

“We are honoured to be working in partnership with RNZRSA to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices made by Cyril Bassett and the many men and women who have served New Zealand in wars and armed conflict overseas,” he said.

More information:

* A letter with information has been sent to every secondary school in NZ
* Visit www.rsa.org.nz
EXERCISE SANTICI PREPARES CADETS FOR MODERN WARFARE

By Officer Cadet Oliver Lynn

Army officer cadets studied the theory, application and conduct of a Stability and Support Operation (SASO) throughout September.

A few days ago was spent on the theory and principles behind SASO and the cadets then moved onto some of the basic tactics, techniques and procedures relating to applying these principles in environments ranging from light peacekeeping duties to war. 

Cordons and searches, vehicle checkpoints, vital asset protection, lessons in mine warfare and improvised explosive devices were some of the many topics covered. However, it was the lessons with the experienced Staff Sergeant Bruce formerly of the British Army that captured the cadets’ attention.

With PowerPoint presentations, video footage and hands-on practical experience focusing on room clearances, cadets were left confident they had a basic understanding of what was required of them.

After the lessons were finished the cadets helped the local police force in Mangakino to restore order to a disorderly town and quell an anti-government insurgency.

Arriving at an FOB (Forward Operating Base) on the outskirts of Mangakino, we made an operable yet comfortable camp out of equipment brought with us and scrounged from nearby industrial yards. This included a gym and exercise area, a tented mess with PowerPoint and projector, an effective Command Post with computers and colour maps as well as facilities for camp security.

From the beginning we were into the scenario, with the sections rotating through days on patrol, vehicle checkpoints, camp security and as a quick reaction force (QRF), which could usually go from relaxing to being out the gate in body armour and webbing within four minutes. The cadets built a good relationship with members on the Mangakino community, especially with local children. After a week we felt we had gathered enough intelligence to begin acting on it.

In the last few days of the exercise, house raids were conducted on a number of insurgent ‘safe houses’ which resulted in an exchange of gunfire and numerous arrests.

With the insurgent threat removed and stability restored to Mangakino, it was now time for the cadets to head home. The highlight of the exercise was definitely the contemporary nature of the scenario. We were no longer digging trenches to repel an armoured attack, but were partaking in what we saw to be the nature of warfare today.

However, we were surprised to find that all of the principles behind contemporary warfare were directly linked to peacekeeping operations, reinforcing the old adage that “Peacekeeping may not be a soldier's job, but only a soldier can do it.”

As we saw, friendly chat with the locals and handshakes could turn into bullets whizzing past in a fraction of a second. We must always therefore be prepared for war. The interaction with the local community was another highlight, especially the touch game and meal put on by us for the kids from the local youth centre.

The culinary skills of the three cooks who deployed with us were also received extremely well.

CAPABILITY UPDATE

As the unit’s title suggests, the cell is responsible for the management of Army capability across the C4EW battle operating system (BOS). Working closely with other Capability Staff the unit’s key responsibility is to ensure the Army is properly equipped, trained and prepared for current and future operations in all aspects of C4EW.

The cell is a mixture of individuals, steering the ship is the first of three British imports, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Oryburn, the second being the executive officer MAI Helen Murphy, the third being a UK exchange officer MAI Phil Cutforth, Royal Signals. Filling other staff appointments and providing the New Zealand over watch is MAJ Pat Beath EW, Warrant Officer Class One Dale Wetere, Comms, and Warrant Officer Class Two Richard Hood, IT. Added to the mix Mr Andrew Dick, the Communication Information Systems Branch Customer Relations Manager, who has the primary role of being the liaison between Army and CIS Branch. As you can see a small but busy team.

The cell’s main effort is to support the NZDF Land C4ISR project (C4ISR). To better resource this MAI Herman Hudopohl and WOs Brian Chalmers have recently been posted out from the C4EW CMC to the Land C4ISR project team. This project will have a major impact on Army in the future and rightly deserves the attention and the added manpower. In line with this, Chief of Army has expressed how important he sees the Army Command and Control Battle Lab’s (AC2BL) role to date, in keeping alive the vision for modernisation of the C4 capability, and the important part it will play in the future in supporting the development of the capability.

If funding permits C4EW CMC plans to deliver equipment trialled by the AC2BL by introducing it into service over the next 18 months. MAJ Phil Cutforth has the staff lead for both Land C4ISR and AC2BL within the cell and fills the part-time role of System/Solution Architect for Land C4ISR.

CURRENT PROJECTS

The Command Post (CP) Infrastructure project is the regeneration of a deployable CP at Battalion and Company level. It involves acquiring new tentage complete with its own power, environmental climate control, furniture and visual display equipment. A recent trial was conducted on Exercise Black Templar with favourable results. The next phase of the project will see 3/1 RNZIR being issued with a small quantity of this equipment, with the final phase the eventual introduction into service of an adequate amount of similar equipment to be used by all units within Army as a standard deployable/field CP capability. It is important to note that the shelters are not being introduced to provide life support facilities, but accommodation and messing.

Similarly the CP Communications project is soon to deliver. Known as WAVE, it is a distributed by Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) software application that connects users together, regardless of device type. It is compatible with TMCS, cell phone, analogue phone, IP phone and intercom systems but initially will be used to provide access to multiple radio nets from a laptop in the CP. In simple terms it will give us the capability to once again remote our communications from LAV/LOV into the CP. This technology was also trialled on Ex Black Templar with successful results from a CP user perspective. It is envisaged that this capability will be issued to 1 NZ Signals Regiment next year to be provided as required to formation units.

On the electronic warfare (EW) front MAI Beath continues to pursue a comprehensive series of project work that is supporting the regeneration of the EW capability within Army.

On the IT side, over the last couple of months, WO2 Hood has conducted an audit of Army’s deployable IT equipment. This has allowed the C4EW CMC to establish a better understanding of what is currently in Army’s fleet and will ensure that SAP accounts reflect current holdings. Additionally the development of a five-year replacement programme for the deployable IT fleet is being conducted in conjunction with Directorate of Equipment Management (DEM). This will see a rolling replacement of equipment that will begin this financial year starting with the replacement of some Panasonic Tough Book laptops.

Finally, the C4EW CMC has also picked up responsibility for future GPS equipment, ECM, and future equipment vehicle integration for LAV and LOV. The cell also provides School of Military Engineering support/advice on a range of CIS matters.
One hundred and fifty New Zealand Defence Force personnel carried out pre-deployment training at Linton and Waiouru during September and October in preparation for deployment to Timor-Leste.

Personnel have been drawn from 16 Field Regiment, QAMR, 2/1 Battalion, 2 Logistics Battalion, Navy and Air Force. They will be using armoured Pinzgauers in theatre for the first time. These are replacing the Australian M113s that have formerly been in use in Dili.

Visitors were invited to watch the personnel carrying out live firing training at Paradise Valley near Waiouru at the end of their pre-deployment training.

Dealing with contacts, and battle-field casualties was the focus of recent pre-deployment training in Waiouru.

Black Templar, the largest Army exercise in the South Island for some time and which involved up to 650 personnel, Air Force helicopters, Light Armoured Vehicles (LAV), infantry, artillery and engineers, was held recently.

The soldiers from Burnham-based 3rd Land Force Group, and Air Force personnel from Ohakea’s No 1 Squadron, spent 16 days training throughout South Canterbury and the Mackenzie country.

A full report of the exercise will appear in the December issue of Army News.
A FULLY SUPPORTED ARMY, EQUIPPED TO WIN

The Combat Service Support (CSS) Immediate Needs Programme will deliver eight capabilities that will help ensure the Army is fully supported by appropriately scaled, well equipped and trained CSS elements. Five of these capabilities are shown here. The new equipment will enable the Army to support offensive and defensive operations, peacekeeping, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. The remaining three projects cover bulk fuel, bulk water and an upgrade to 16 of the in-service repair shelters.

UPGRADE TO UBRE DISPENSE PACKS (DP)
The Army currently has 12 Unit Bulk Refuelling Equipments (UBRE) in service. An upgraded prototype, shown unpainted above, has been developed that has incorporated new technology, replacing the direct drive to the main pump with a hydraulic motor. The prototype has significantly improved fuel delivery to 200 litres per minute simultaneously at two nozzles on 20 metre hoses. Bulk flow rates have also improved to 400 litres per minute through 4” hoses and pumping in and out of the on-board tank now passes through the filter system.

The UBRE will continue to be carried on the Unimog and six tonne trailer while they are in service. This will allow time to evaluate future requirements that may be delivered, by the Land Transport Capability Programme.

A contract has recently been let to upgrade the remaining 11 DP with project closure anticipated around Aug 2010.

Distribution
The 12 UBRE are likely to be issued to units as follows:

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Contractor
The prototype was built and refined by Martin Engineering of Palmerston North with user input. Following a competitive tender, Martin’s have also been awarded the contract to upgrade the remaining 11 DP.

NZLAV POWER PACK AND TURRET LIFT CRANE
The NZDF has ordered ten self powered, self demounting palletised knuckle boom cranes that will support motorised operations. They will be utilised by Army in both the maintenance and supply environments as materials handling equipment (MHE). They will be carried on the Unimog and will be capable of lifting and slewing one tonne at eleven metres.

The maintenance variant will be fitted with a winch to allow precision lifting and replacement of power packs, turrets, wheel assemblies and general items.

The supply variant will be capable of handling NATO pallets with self centring forks.

The crane shown here is the “proof of concept” machine and differs from those that will be delivered under the project.

Distribution
The 10 cranes will be distributed as follows:

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Contractor
The contract has been awarded to Crane Sales NZ Ltd of Matamata. Delivery will be spread over 12 months concluding late 2010.
DEPLOYABLE VEHICLE SERVICING FACILITY (DVSF)

Army has taken delivery of five DVSF as a new capability to provide lubrication services in the field. The DVSF are self-contained platforms designed to be carried on Unimogs or six tonne trailers and will normally be operated on the ground.

The DVSF offer a range of services including dispensing and recovery of engine oils and antifreeze, pressurised greases and a bath for washing parts. It can also store all waste for proper disposal to help protect the environment from contamination.

The platform is self powered and air driven.

DVSF will primarily be operated by RNZALR Vehicle Mechanics.

Distribution
It is planned to distribute the DVSF as follows:

| RNZIR | 1 |
| Log Bn | 1 |
| 3 Log Bn | 1 |
| 2 Engr Regt | 1 |
| TTS | R&M pool for deployment |
| TTS | Trg pool |

Contractor
The DVSF were built by Fuelquip of Lower Hutt.

HEAVY TRANSPORTERS

Army has taken delivery of four purpose-built low bed semi-trailers that are each capable of carrying more than 26 tonnes. The trailers have their own engines powering hydraulic systems for a widening deck, landing legs, main ramps and an on-board winch. The rear two axles are self steering and the deck lowers on the air bags for loading.

The trailers are designed primarily to carry the Light Armoured Vehicle with the deck widened. They can also carry other in-service vehicles, the 20 tonne Swing Thru and 20' ISO containers at the standard deck width of 2.5 metres. Inoperable vehicles can be winched on and off the lower deck and short portable ramps are provided to allow one or two axles of a light vehicle access to the upper deck, depending on its length and weight.

New tractor units have also been ordered and these should be in New Zealand by December 2009. After a competitive tender process, the Mercedes Actros 3248 was selected. It is a commercial off the shelf (COTS) 8x4 tractor unit with a wide range of advanced features to assist the drivers.

Integration of tractors and trailers will occur early in 2010 and drivers will be trained on the combination soon after.

These heavy transporters will be operated by selected personnel of the RNZALR Driver trade and experience with this new combination will help inform the LTCP.

Distribution
Three transporters will be operated by 2 Log Bn with the other going to 3 Log Bn.

Contractor
The trailers were built by M.F. King Ltd of Lower Hutt and the tractor units are being imported by Mercedes-Benz NZ Ltd in Mt Wellington. The modifications to the tractors and integration with the trailers will be completed by TRT of Hamilton, the Mercedes sub-contractor.

20 TONNE SWING THRU

Army now has five Swing Thru container handling systems that are capable of lifting and handling 20' ISO containers weighing up to 20 tonnes each.

The 20 tonne Swing Thru systems will be carried primarily on either the in-service Mercedes 2228 or 16 tonne trailer. It is intended that the 20 tonne Swing Thru fleet will transfer onto 20' cargo decks to be delivered under the Land Transport Capability Programme in the next few years.

The two 10 tonne machines that were acquired for the Timor deployments will remain in service to facilitate both operator training and the handling and movement of empty 20' containers. The Swing Thru fleet will be operated in the distribution network by personnel in the RNZALR Driver Trade.

Distribution
Four 20 tonne Swing Thru will be issued to 2 Log Bn and one to 3 Log Bn.

Contractor
These machines were purchased from Swing Thru NZ Ltd of Christchurch and were built by B.J. Scarlett Engineering of Timaru.
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ARMED FORCES CaNTeeN CoUNCIL DIvIDeNDS* Thanks to Army employees supporting camp Hot Shot stores and cafes, turnover has gone up and the AFCC has been able to pay increased dividends of $462k to the ACWF during the year. This scheme provides Army personnel with a network of holiday homes, welfare grants and loans, sponsored life and health insurance group schemes and a banking and home loan package. ARMED FORCES CaNTeeN CoUNCIL DIAgRams While it was necessary to close down Wanaka during its redecoration, overall it was possible, with the addition of the period ‘Art Deco’ home that was purchased in front of the existing Napier units, to provide 8,789 (8,466) nights of accommodation in 2008/09 with Napier being occupied 82% of the time, Hanmer 82%, Acacia Bay 75%, Mount Maunganui 73%, Wanaka 70%, Akaroa 69%, Wainekane 67%, Rotorua 65%, Nelson 61%, Turangi 60% and Wanganui 59%. COMPLETED UPGRADES AND ONGOING LEAVE CENTRE REFURBISHMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS The major projects during 2008/09 involved finishing off the South Island leave centres refurbishment programme with a redecoration at Wanaka and then installing new playground equipment at Acacia Bay. Mid 2009 the bathrooms in units 1 and 2 at Waikanae had an upgrade and more recently decisions were made to replace the old Rotorua units with three separate new Lockwood homes that are to be constructed early 2010. Using the findings of last year’s leave centre survey other locations to be considered for establishing leave centres are the main cities Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. GROUP BENEFITS Available to all members are the ACWF sponsored Army Group Life Insurance Plan, the NZDF Health Insurance Plan and the NZDF Banking and Home Loan Package. 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Are you effectively managing your money and therefore the security of your future?

NZDF has a personnel plan for retirement by offering a variety of superannuation scheme options. Currently, 6,900 personnel belong to one of our three in-house superannuation schemes: Defence Force Superannuation Scheme (DFSS) Category A, DFSS Category B or the Civil Staff Superannuation Scheme (CSSS).

Last year, a number of significant changes were made to those schemes and we invited members and the Single Services to provide feedback on what other changes they would like to see. A number of suggestions were made, some of which were recently approved by the Executive Leadership Team. As a result, further changes to the DFSS and, subject to legal signoff, the CSSS, will soon be applied.

Adjustments made to DFSS Cat A and CSSS include:
- Reduction to the vesting scales, to a maximum of five years;
- A loosening of access provisions enabling members to retrieve funds without having to leave NZDF or submit a hardship claim;
- Modification to the structure of the Civil Staff Superannuation Scheme to reduce the impact of administration fees on members’ savings; and
- More flexible rules governing the transfer of funds to DFSS Cat B or KiwiSaver.

The changes defined for the DFSS Cat A will apply from 1 November this year. Meanwhile, the intended date for the commencement of DFSS Cat C is 1 December 2009. This delayed launch date is to allow time for any comments that may be raised by members with the Government Actuary, on the proposed change to the CSSS structure. CSSS members have received letters advising them of these changes and choice and reflect the issues raised by the membership and Single Services.

If you are contemplating making a change to your current arrangements, or taking advantage of the new early access rules, think carefully about the long term implications. It may be prudent to seek independent financial advice. If you are one of the 2,686 regular force and civilians who do not currently belong to a superannuation scheme, and you are under 65 years of age, why don’t you investigate joining a superannuation scheme?

For more information and membership details contact: Mr Douglas Callander, NZKVA National Secretary 23 Longcroft Terrace Newlands, Wellington, 6037 Phone: (04) 478-3338 Fax: (04) 478-3602 Email: callanderd@clear.net.nz

**ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION MARKS 75 YEARS**

The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association marked its 75th Anniversary with a parade and ceremony on Sunday 1 November in Browns Bay, Auckland.

The group has existed under various names since it was established at Devonport’s Mascon Hall in June 1934, as an association for serving and non-serving gunners. Vice President of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association, Barry Dreyer said, during this time the organisation has worked “in all honourable ways to keep alive the old spirit of comradeship among gunners and extend a helping hand to members of the Association who may be in need of assistance.”

The 75th Anniversary was a very good opportunity for us to celebrate our rich history and remember those no longer with us,” he said. Members of the community attended Sunday’s parade, which included a largest field gun crew, marching party, and a frühzug of the 19 November pay date.

**NEW ZEALAND KOREA VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION**

Veteran membership of the New Zealand Korea Veterans’ Association is available to those members of the New Zealand Defence Force who have completed a posting in Korea in the United Nations Military Commission since 1 January 1958, and were Defence Force who have completed a posting in Korea in the Association is available to those members of the New Zealand Korea Veterans’ Association in Browns Bay, Auckland.

The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association marked its 75th Anniversary was a very good opportunity for us to

**RESERVE PAY SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY**

The final elements of the new Reserve Force (ResF) pay system, currently being implemented, will ensure reservists are remunerated fairly for their service.

The final stages of the new scheme, being implemented at present, will see all reservists placed onto at least step 1 of the NZDF Remuneration Tables. The work currently underway will also ensure that other entitlements are in line with what Regular Force (RF) personnel and NZDF Civilians are receiving.

Over the last year gratuities and motor vehicle allowances have been removed but have been more than compensated for by new daily rates of pay—9.2% holiday pay and the military factor component. All personnel will be on at least step 1 effective from 6 November and will be paid at this rate on the 19 November pay date.

In addition to the step 1 work, single services are finalising pay progression models that will allow individuals to be paid in recognition of operational service and performance. This will result in pay rates which will more accurately reflect the experience and service of individual ResF personnel in the same way that RF pay recognises specific skills or experience that individuals have gained.

Earlier this year it became apparent that there were problems with some aspects of ResF pay. In some cases individuals had been inadvertently paid holiday pay twice and this had, in part, hidden the issue of personnel who had yet to be placed on step 1 of the tables.

The Directorate of Reserve Forces and Youth Development (DRFYD) has been working with the Military Remuneration Team to produce a solution. The Remuneration manager is close to finalising a ResF remuneration policy that will clarify entitlements for administrators and for individuals. The experience has fostered a closer working relationship between the remuneration team and DFRFYD staff.

The Director General Defence Reserve Forces and Youth development, Brigadier Sean Trengrove says it is important that ResF personnel understand that the pay system itself is not changing, but that work is being undertaken to ensure ResF personnel will be remunerated as they should be.

“We found a number of problems and we have put in place a project to ensure that these issues are identified and remedied quickly,” said BRG Trengrove. “It is important to understand that issues which have arisen are concerned primarily with the way the system was implemented and fixes to these problems have been identified and are being put in place.”

“We will continue monitoring ResF pay to ensure the objectives of ResF MRS are achieved,” said BRG Trengrove.
A’HOY ME HEARTIES

NgaTa Wairepo, of Trentham Camp, approached a weekend of Navy-organised sailing with trepidation, but she’s more of a sailor than she thought ...

Some of us didn’t know what they had let themselves in for and the rest of us weren’t sure what to expect. Our level of confidence in what we were undertaking was no doubt related to the amount of experience we had previously gained on the water. It turned out that two of the most experienced sailors among us didn’t even have their driver’s licences but in saying that, what we lacked in experience we made up in a willingness and desire to give it a go and take advantage of the opportunity presented to us.

After introducing ourselves, we got into our foul weather gear and by the time we were kitted out we were sure that the part even if we didn’t have a clue what we were doing. We soon learned that we had a very capable skipper and mate who created a no-stress learning environment. We learned very quickly that we were in safe hands, regardless of what we did, and nothing was ever a drama. We initially motored away from the marina and got out into the harbour to get a real taste of what sailing was all about.

In time we all exercised our new found confidence in tacking and gybing our way around our makeshift course and were quite safe in the knowledge that two of the most experienced sailors among us didn’t even have their driver’s licences but in saying that, what we lacked in experience we made up in a willingness and desire to give it a go and take advantage of the opportunity presented to us.

By the time we got back to the pier and stowed the yacht we were all feeling rather pleased with ourselves. Our thanks to the Royal New Zealand Navy for creating this opportunity and making the weekend possible.

NEW ZEALANDERS AT WAR
EDITED BY GAVIN MCLEAN AND IAN MCGIBBON WITH KYNAN GENTRY

PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN GROUP (NZ)

Reviewed by Terry Kinloch

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of books written about New Zealand’s military history. In some cases, we would have been better off had the publishers been a little more selective, but that is certainly not the case here. The fact that world-renowned publisher Penguin has seen fit to publish a book of recollections by ordinary New Zealanders at war is evidence of the growing respectability of war literature in this country. This book has been compiled and edited by widely published, ‘heavyweight’ historians from New Zealand’s Ministry for Culture & Heritage: Gavin McLean, Senior Historian; Ian Gibbon, General Editor (War History); and Kynan Gentry, Web Historian. This is no dusty, academic ‘official’ history, though; the editors have brought to light an impressive variety of images painted in the words of New Zealanders, in a highly accessible manner.

Uniquely, New Zealanders at War covers the war experience of New Zealanders from as far back as the early 1800s, to as recently as two years ago. The standard theatres—Gallipoli, the Western Front, Crete and North Africa—all receive comprehensive coverage, but the inclusion of the other wars before and since these global conflicts makes this book a particularly valuable record. Maori warriors in pre-colonial taia; British soldiers in Regiments of Foot, zealous missionaries, enthusiastic militia cavalrymen and frightened settlers living through the New Zealand Wars; captured mounted riflemen and exhausted nurses in South Africa at the beginning of the 20th century; conscientious objectors and battle-worthy members of the NZEF in both world wars; Kiwi Spitfire pilots and bomber crews serving in the RAF in WW2; torpedoed prisoners of war; veterans of Crete and Greece, North Africa, Italy and the Pacific; Kiwi merchant seamen suffering through the Battle of the Atlantic; Kiwi gunners and sailors in the Korean War; infantrymen in the steamy jungles of Borneo and South Vietnam; United Nations observers in India and Pakistan, and in Bosnia; and EOD technicians in Afghanistan—all have something to say, something to add to the collective war experience of our young country. Each section of the book opens with a ‘potted history’ of the war being covered, and these short authoritative summaries are an excellent element of the book.

It is a shame that recollections of military operations since the end of the Vietnam War occupy only a few pages in this large book. That is not a failure of the editors, but of those of us who have played a part in this recent military history and failed to record our experiences for posterity. By and large, NZDF personnel no longer write letters by hand, or keep diaries; instead, we use ephemeral-emails to correspond with our loved ones. E-mail is, without doubt, a very convenient and quick means of communication, but every time a reader hits the ‘Delete’ button, another fragment of our military history is lost forever.

Readers looking for a one-volume, easy-to-read compendium of the war experiences of ordinary New Zealanders would have to go far to find a better book than this one. It is the sort of book that can be picked up, read for a few pages, and put down again, over and over again. For soldiers who want to understand their profession as New Zealand warriors and its possible impact upon their lives in times of conflict, this book is an excellent introduction. The public of New Zealand, whether they appreciate it or not, owe the Ministry for Culture & Heritage a huge vote of thanks for this work. Lest we forget.

* LTCOL Terry Kinloch is a serving Army officer and historian.
By Carey Clements

The 3rd Auckland Northland Battalion Group threw aside the challenges laid down by three other North Island Battalion sports teams to win the prestigious Harding Cup in Auckland in September.

Named after the late Brigadier Ralph Harding, who enlisted into the Auckland Regiment in 1916 and who was later awarded the Military Medal in the Great War, the cup was first competed for in 1951, not long after the donator had finished his military service which included the two World Wars.

Over the years the cup had been won by a variety of units including a Mobile Dental Unit and the New Zealand SAS, before it was finally put in its current format as a competition for the four North Island TF Battalions just over a decade ago.

This year featured a Required Fitness Level test for the first time (although as a non-competition sport) along with the three usual sports—rugby union, netball and golf.

The golf was the first of the sports to literally tee off at 0830 at the Takapuna Golf Club on the North Shore. After the long and short games of the 16 competitors had been played over 18 holes, 3 Auck Nth was eventually awarded top honours with PTE John Murphy of 5 Battalion having the lowest aggregate score.

The netball final resulted in a low scoring affair due to some strong defence by both teams, but in the end, hosts 3 Auck Nth narrowly edged out 5 Battalion 23-22. Hiri Temple of 6 Battalion won the Most Valuable Player from the four competing sides.

The most dramatic sports match of the weekend however was reserved for the rugby final in which a tenacious 5 Battalion finally overcame a brave 7th Wellington Hawkes Bay Battalion side 31–24.

Although 5 Battalion won the match and the rugby trophy by a nine-point margin, the game was anything but one-sided as scores were traded by both sides before the game went into two ten minute extra halves after the scores had been locked up at 19-all at regulation fulltime.

5 Battalion halfback and captain, PTE Tim Ewen-Jarvie lead the individual scorers with three tries and three conversions, while 7 Battalion second five-eight PTE Norman Metimiti was not far behind with two tries.

Ewen-Jarvie said after the match that grit played a major part in the final 20 minutes with his side not having any players left on the substitute bench at the end owing to the injuries incurred during the game.

He also paid tribute to 7 Battalion for their gutsy effort in the way they kept 5 Battalion in check throughout, while he dedicated the win to his outgoing RSM, Warrant Officer Class One Kenneth McRae.

During the weekend a number of notable visitors came out to watch the teams in action including former New Zealand Governor-General and now Honorary Colonel of 3 Auck Nth, Dame Cath Tizard, along with the Territorial Force Advisor, Brigadier Ants Howie.

The prize giving also saw the incoming Commanding Officer of 6 Battalion Major Julian Sewell promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, while the two sons of the late Brigadier Harding, Dr Dennis and Harold Harding presented the cup named after their father.
Army Cycling Success at Taupo Thriller

By LTCOL Mark Blythen

Thirty Army riders and support personnel took part in the Jamis Day–Night Thriller mountain bike (MTB) race in Taupo recently. The Day–Night Thriller, held between 1030 and 2300 has been selected as the premier event for Army mountain biking due to its user-friendly course, great atmosphere, high profile, and central location. This year saw the New Zealand Army’s biggest turnout and the best results to date.

The Day–Night Thriller is the largest 12-hour mountain bike event in the world and New Zealand’s largest mountain bike race, with more than 3,000 riders. Run annually, it’s a relay format consisting of teams and solo riders racing to complete as many laps as possible in the time available (6 or 12 hours, depending on the category entered).

The event is based on the public park at Spa Road in Taupo. The course is approximately nine km of cross-country trails running through the parklands and adjacent pine forest, then finally weaving through a central tented village where each team has a pit site to conduct handovers and administration. Every rider passes through the village in the course of their lap, and it is the focal point for riders, support personnel and spectators.

The NZ Army mountain bikers were there in force this year with five Army teams in the twelve-hour race and two Territorial Force soldiers in a civilian team competing in the six-hour race. It was Army’s biggest participation and our best results ever, with the men’s open team placing 4th in its grade (13th overall of 317 starters). A great result from the two 6 Hauraki Battalion soldiers competing as part of an ANZAC six hour team, managing a podium finish with third in the mixed category.

The Army maintained a high profile and professional image throughout the event, using Army cycling tops, branded marquees, and with supporters in NZ Army caps and shirts. The positive comments and encouragement from other riders and spectators throughout the event reinforced our view that, in addition to reinforcing our core values, these activities provide fantastic public relations value with significant benefit for low input costs.

Our thanks go to the Defence Communications Group for subsidising the team’s entry fees, Bike Hutt for supplying water bottles, Army Sports for the loan of the cycling kit, Linton Multisport Club and Army Recruiting for the marquees, TRSB Catering for our rationed meals, and the TRSB and Linton Q stores for the equipment.

The next major Army Cycling Event for Army riders is the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge on 28 Nov 09. More details to follow. Further detail including other 2009 events and for those interested in competing for Army in events later in the year should go to the Army Cycling NZDF Intranet site at: http://communities/Sport/ArmyPages/Sport/Cycling/Homepage.aspx

Results

Army riders have entered the event in previous years. This year however saw the Army’s biggest turnout and good results across the various grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Place in Grade</th>
<th>Place Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 hr Men’s Open</td>
<td>Brett Greive, Mark Blythen, Tom Hirst, Matt Savage, Glenn Kirk</td>
<td>4th (of 108)</td>
<td>13th (of 317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 hr ‘Older Peddlers’ (Vet Men’s)</td>
<td>Dean Hodgson, Ash Walker, Keith Pittams, Paul Dickie, Dain Te Paa</td>
<td>19th (of 65)</td>
<td>76th (of 317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 hr Mixed Team #1</td>
<td>Dave Carmody, Nathan Hey, Anique Denton, Ruth Rothman, Haley Savage</td>
<td>12th (of 46)</td>
<td>88th (of 317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 hr Mixed Team #2</td>
<td>Greg Mildon, Paul Hodges, Pam Perkins, Carley Frederickson, Manuel Dalton</td>
<td>20th (of 46)</td>
<td>145th (of 317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 hr ‘Older Peddlers’ (Vet Men’s)</td>
<td>Mike Beale, Joe Geissler, Chis Fitzwater, Greg Wright</td>
<td>37th (of 65)</td>
<td>149 (of 314)</td>
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12 hr Older Peddlers: Dad’s Army on patrol Day & Night

Mid September saw another Jamis 12-hour Day–Night MTB in Taupo, so out rolled the ‘Dad’s Army’ team, one of the 5 Army teams to compete this year. The team was a true mix of Army units, including civilians Keith Pittams and Dean Hodgson (Log Exec), MAJ Ash Walker (HQ PNZ), SGT Darin Te Paa (ARSC) and SGT Paul Dickie (TTS).

The team’s name came about as were to be the Army’s ‘social’ team, riding in the Vets (35 yrs+) grade. But there’s no such thing as social in these events, especially when you bring a bunch of fit and competitive folk together in one place. The overcast conditions did nothing to dampen the spirit of the team, with times for the 8km course regularly below 30 minutes. Nightfall slowed the lap times only slightly but by then the competitive nature of the team had fully kicked in with laps being timed to the 100th of a second. We completed 24 laps, finished a creditable 19th out of 65 teams in the ‘Old Peddlers’ grade, and 76th out of 317 starters overall.

Another well run and supported event with record numbers of Army pers competing; wearing the brand with pride; supporting and competing against our mates, ourselves, and the RNZAF teams beside us. Roll on the 2010 ride!

6 Hauraki Battalion riders take on the Jamis Day—Night Thriller

It was a good day for two keen Territorial Force mountain bikers and their civilian mates (two of whom had come from Australia just to complete the race).

Geared up and ready to go, the mixed team put their best foot forward for the six hour Jungle Coffee ride with a good result, coming third overall.

The team, nicknamed ANZAC’s because of Army ties and the fact that two riders came over from Australia to participate, included Luke Vyle (6 Hauraki Battalion) and his two brothers Brent and Matthew, who are both dedicated mountain bikers. The female component consisted of Emma Carrad (WMA, 6 Hauraki Battalion) and Aussie Kirsten, who is a resident of Melbourne.

The day was a huge success for all teams involved, with winning teams in the six hour event all completing 12 laps. The TF riders happily pedalled the Army brand, wearing army cycling shirts and vowing to come back for another podium finish!
By LT COL Rob Hoult

The seed was planted, appropriately, while out running. It was mid 2006; I was posted to the AATC, and I was out on an extended run around Mount Herbert in Christchurch’s Port Hills with fellow AATC staff members Sean Waters and Mark Rayward. We were talking about endurance sports events that we were thinking of doing in the future. I let on that I was contemplating an Ironman triathlon comeback after many years away from the sport. And not just any Ironman; I wanted to take the hard road of qualifying for the world champs at Kona, Hawaii, which entailed completing the NZ Ironman in the top few places of my age-group just to qualify.

With that public utterance, the intent was born. Just over two years later, with the 2008 and 2009 NZ Ironman races under my belt and a highly sought after qualifying position, I was at Kona, ready for action. Mind you, getting there was not without challenge.

The build-up through this year’s winter was far from easy. It took considerable motivation to make myself go out training in unpleasant weather, and complete the up to 20 hours of training per week that I needed to do to race well. Success only comes with hard work though, and fear of failure was a powerful and ever-present driver.

Thanks to very generous support from the Singapore Fund and the Burnham Camp UPF, I was able to generate the funding to support a two-week acclimatisation period at Kona leading up to the race. This is absolutely critical for racing in Kona’s high temperatures and humidity, especially when coming out of a cold New Zealand winter.

I arrived in Kona on 26 September, and for the next 10 days my focus was progressively getting my mind and body used to running and cycling in temperatures in the high 30s, as well as adjusting to ocean swimming with its associated swirls and chop. This stage went well, and while it was inevitably very hard coping with temperatures, two if not three times what I’d left in Burnham, I was gaining confidence with the way I was adjusting. I was especially enjoying my long ocean swims, mostly completed on my own.

Race week was soon upon me, and my previous week of training, resting and reading seemed very peaceful and relaxing in comparison. Registration, gear checks and check-ins, race briefs and team meetings and so on, take up enough time to make it seem pretty busy, and of course, as race day comes closer, tension is slowly building. One of the traps is actually getting too caught up in the pre-race hype. It’s supposed to be a time of winding training right back, and maximising rest. Spending time as much as possible with friends or family on the course just leads to getting wound up—best avoided! It’s an uncomfortable feeling of release—the huge mental and physical demands of that race are enormous.

On turning around at the Energy lab, it was unbelievably hot, well over 45 degrees, but it was only 13 km to go, and anyone can run 13 km, or at least that’s what you tell yourself. The downside is that this is from point on, there is a tailwind, and while you get a slight push, there is no cooling effect.

The final two km down Palani Road, and back onto the Ali’i Drive to the finish line were unforgettable. It’s so hard to describe the emotions of elation, satisfaction and achievement that were running through my head. On crossing the finish line there is a strong feeling of release—the huge mental and physical battle is over, and you suddenly feel pretty weak and unsteady on your feet.

So, to the big questions; why do it, and was it worth it? Well, in short I’m one of those people that need a personal, non-work related challenge in front of them. It satisfies my hunter-gatherer / explorer genes, keeps me young in spirit, and I believe that a regular dose of hardship is good for the soul. As to the second question, it was absolutely worth it. That this was a two-year goal makes it even more special. The race was a very fitting goal makes it even more special. The race was a very fitting end to the year.

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armySPORT
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2009 WORLD JET BOAT MARATHON

Jet-boaters from around the world converged on Canterbury in September for the World Jet Boat Marathon. The event was conducted on four different Canterbury rivers covering approximately 800 km on water, writes Staff Sergeant Callum McKenzie of Joint Services Health School, who competed in the event.

A total of 35 boats turned out for the boat show on the first day, mixed throughout the five different classes (based solely on engine size). All boats compete for overall honours but to be eligible they must start and finish every leg of the marathon. Separately the boats compete for individual class honours based on accumulated time over the marathon with penalties added for failing to start or finish legs. I entered in D class (up to 4200 cc), driving Dyo. Other entries of interest were Ryan Ringer from the USA with his Helicopter Jet Turbine engine powered boat and Mark Cromie’s 2000 hp monster, both boats capable of speeds in excess of 125 mph.

Although this type of race is not the most exciting for the crews, it does allow a great opportunity for spectators to view the boats in action, and several thousand Cantabrians took the opportunity to line the river banks, mainly to see a turbine-powered boat for the first time on New Zealand waters. At the opportunity to line the river banks, mainly to see a turbine-powered boat for the first time on New Zealand waters. At the

On Day Two the teams headed to the Waiau River in North Canterbury for a 105 km upstream leg from Stilts to Hamner Springs. It was time for the drivers to earn their money on a river that has everything from open braided sections to deep gorge with pressure waves. It didn’t take long for the river to start claiming its victims, one of the first was the turbine boat of Ryan Ringer who discovered that large amounts of water through a turbine engine spinning at 2,4000 rpm do it no good at all and his marathon was over on the second day. I had an eventful upstream run launching my entire boat out of the water after hitting a tree stump but managed to reach the top of a big wave and pick up a place in my class. One of the faster boats in the class was one of the many that failed to reach the top of the run. After the river was cleared of the many stranded boats by the officials, it was time for the downstream leg of 60 km from Hamner Springs to Waiau township. This leg was to claim another of the big names with Mark Cromie parked ‘high and dry’ on one of the corners in the gorge after his motor cut out. The fault was later detected as a computer virus in his engine management computer but the race was over for the Cromie team. A clean run downstream for the Dyo team saw us maintain our 2nd place in class.

Day Three had the boats launching in the Rakaia Gorge for a 90 km leg up to the Rakaia Gorge Bridge, the downstream leg being the exact opposite. Clean runs on both legs for me saw me hold 2nd place in class, however the faster, higher horsepower D-class entry of John Hibbs (Hybrid Marine) was cutting into the lead he had handed Dyo after running aground on the Waiau. The D-class boys were also climbing the overall ladder as more boats fell victim to mechanical failure and navigational errors.

Day Four and it was down to the mighty Wairau River. A 60 km of river from the Stilts Bridge up to Kurow with the downstream leg being the exact opposite. The advantage of local knowledge was on the side of Dyo with some good time being made sticking to the south bank of the river instead of zigzagging over the many braids on the way up.

Day Five was a lay-day for the teams allowing a much needed break for the drivers and crew members. On Day Six the teams were back in Christchurch on the Waimakariri River for an 85 km leg from the Stilts Bridge up to Woodstock. The weather had turned against the teams with pouring rain making visibility an issue for both drivers and navigators. A clean upstream run for the Dyo team was made sweeter by the late arrival of the Hybrid Marine boat who had encountered engine overheating issues and ran aground four times. This gave us a 10-minute buffer heading into the return downstream leg.

Day Seven was a repeat of the first days racing with a criterion at the Waimakariri Bridge this time approximately 72 km long. Holding off the Hybrid Marine boat was never going to be an option for our slower, less powerful boat but with at least 30 minutes back to 4th place we only had to keep in on the water and cross the line to achieve a podium finish.

So all in all it was a pleasing result, 3rd in D-class and 11th overall. Nearly 800 km on water boated, 760 litres of Av Gas burned for the week and only about five litres of ‘bog’ used to try and keep the bottom of the boat straight after the Waimakariri irrigation ditch! Overall honours went to Ross and James Murdoch of Christchurch who lead the event from start to finish.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Singapore Fund and Burnham Camp UF for their financial assistance, LT Ron Christmas of JSHS and WO2 Marriott for taking leave to be part of the trailer crew to get us in and out of the water.
by: ALT Laura Clague, MSL Burnham

After individual regional and inter-base competitions, the three Services converged on the Devonport Naval Base to compete at the 2009 Inter-Services Hockey Tournament. The competition was played on the Kristin College Turf, which was only a short drive from Devonport. The women’s competition consisted of the Army, Navy and Air Force teams as well as an invitational Kristin College Girls Team. The men’s competition consisted of the Army, Navy and Air Force teams, with the fourth team of the competition being the NZ Police Men’s Team. There were several organised functions throughout the week such as ‘Loud Shirt Night’ and ‘A Day at the Races’, which gave the teams an opportunity to get a bit creative and mingle with each other. However, no one really relaxed too much in the final prize-giving night. It was a fantastic competition with all three Services showing loyal and proud support to their teams and it was good to see the rookies being put through their paces. Finally, it was also great to have the men’s Police team involved, and many a cop was seen patrolling the sidelines.

I am proud to say that the Army Women won all of their games and took out the Sam Kereama Memorial Trophy as women’s champions. The Army Men weren’t quite as lucky with a slip against the Navy who beat them 3–2. The end result in the men’s competition saw the Navy retaining the Rees Trophy as overall winners. The Navy Men were also awarded the Ces Cameron Cup – Spirit of NZDF for being the team that best exemplified all that is good about NZDF hockey both on and off the field. Individual trophies were also handed out to CPL Shonalla (aka TK) Tangare-Kaiwai and SLT Ian Peterson, as, respectively, the Women’s and Men’s Most Valuable Players. Finally, the Navy Hockey Club Trophy for the uncapped NZDF player who made the most on-field impact was awarded to LCDR Mark Speedy. The final prize-giving night was a memorable one, with the Navy putting on an excellent function! The official evening closed with the announcement of the 2009 Men’s and Women’s NZDF Hockey Team. This year they would be competing at the National Tournament in Wellington, held over 27 September – 3 October.

Prior to leaving for the National Tournament a training camp was held. This was based out of Ohakea and included team building sessions, physical training sessions with the PTIs, turf time in both Levin and Palmerston North, and a warm-up game against Manawatu. The game went well for our ladies and we beat a young Manawatu side 7–1. This put us in a pretty good mood and headspace prior to tournament. Despite a hard fought game, the men lost by one goal, but came away eager to perform better.

A lack of accommodation in Trentham meant the Defence Force teams ended up staying in Shelly Bay, which on the positive side was very close to the turf. However, on the downside, it lacked hot water, beds, cooking facilities or a laundry. As a result we bombarded the local pool everyday after games, slept on stretchers with sleeping bags and ate a lot of BBQ rations!! Although not ideal, I think it did foster team cohesion as we shared in the “hardship” together.

The women’s team ended up playing six games in five days. Despite our win against Manawatu the tournament did not go well for us. The first two days began with some solid thrashings. However, things came together later in the week and we had a win against West Coast 5–2. The men fared far better from the onset and after winning their first three games against Mid South Canterbury (3–1), NZ Police (4–0) and West Coast (9–1), they looked in a promising position to take their Division. As was expected the last game, against Nelson, was effectively the final for their Division and despite their best efforts, the Men finished second overall, a very pleasing result!

Even though the individual DF teams were focusing on the tournament, the camaraderie of the Defence Force kicked in with both teams supporting each other when they could and spending their down times together. Some of the guys even managed to drag themselves out of bed for the ladies oldaw game! The week was capped off with a prize-giving at the turf, where the men proudly

Overall, my first experience of Army Sport has blown me away. Sport is an excellent way to meet people and I now have many contacts throughout the Services that I can call on for direction and help as I need it in the future. It is also a great way to get out of the office for a while, have a break and play a sport you enjoy. I was very lucky this year to get to experience for the first time Regionsals, Services and Defence Force competitions and I would strongly encourage all those in the wider Defence Force to get out and give sport a go! I can almost guarantee that you will have awesome time and come away with new friends!

The following people played for the NZDF Teams at the National Tournament in 2009:

Women’s Team:
F/LT B. Iggo (Coach), MAJ D. Ackroyd (Asst Coach), CPL R. Koch (Manager), MAJ S. Harrison, SGT D. Walker, CPL K. Miller-Palatich, CPL C. Fredericksen, CPL S. Tangare-Kaiwai, CPL E. Geange, CPL S. Cooper, LCPL S. Hannam, AHSO J. Butler, Miss K. Symonds, Mrs. A. Gawn.

Men’s Team:
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