WHAT SNOW?

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New defence attaché for Saudi Arabia

Defence Minister Phil Goff recently announced the establishment of a new Defence Attaché position in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Brigadier Neville Reilly will take up the position in July. BRIG Reilly is a highly experienced and distinguished NZ Army Officer and former defence attaché in Jakarta.

"In recent years, New Zealand has increased its commitments to peace support operations in the Middle East and Central Asia. "We currently have around 160 NZDF personnel in the region.

"We also have personnel working within the United Nations Missions in Afghanistan and Iraq,“ Mr Goff said.

A defence attaché provides liaison between New Zealand defence interests and those of the nation in which they reside.

New Zealand now has 17 defence attachés cross-accredited to over 32 countries. The majority of the attaches are based in Asia and the Pacific, but New Zealand is also represented in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada and at the United Nations.

Battle of Minqar Qaim book launched

Defence Minister Phil Goff recently attended the launch of a controversial book examining the battle of Minqar Qaim (see review page 12).

In his book, Breakout: Minqar Qaim, Colin Cameron studies the 1942 battlefield confrontation in North Africa between New Zealand and German forces, in which thousands of New Zealanders made a daring night-time escape through encircling Axis Korpss troops.

The battle has been controversial in recent years. Some historians have accused the Kiwi soldiers of massacring wounded and surrendering Germans (including medical staff), while others have praised the action as a superb fighting achievement by professional soldiers.

Merv Sim said claims that New Zealanders deliberately bayoneted German medical staff and surrendering soldiers, were well wide of the truth. “As the book makes clear, such accusations ignore the context and fact that it was hand-to-hand fighting in the dark with no quarter given by either side."

Monetary reward for soldiers

If your soldiers make a suggestion of exceptional merit, their efforts may be recognised with a monetary reward through the NZ Army’s Suggestion Scheme.

Examples include:
- simplification or improvement of work methods;
- introduction of labour or time saving equipment;
- demonstrable economies as the result of changing procedures, forms, or organisation structures;
- improvements in safety standards;
- reduction in fatigue, monotony, or boredom;
- savings in labour, time, money, or materials;
- improvement in public relations or morale;
- reduction of repair or maintenance costs;
- improvement in working conditions;
- reduction in scrap or waste, or ways of using these, or receiving a return on them; and
- improvements to operational readiness or effectiveness.

It is just one of the many ways we acknowledge innovation! For further guidance: Refer to DRO(A) Book 2 Chap 39 Sect 1 (available online via the intranet).

Lead from the front

For further information, contact your Formation Headquarters or Logistic Executive, AGS

Study links reinforced

Senior staff from the Military Studies Institute recently visited the University of New England, in Armidale, Australia.

LT COL Richard Taylor (CO MSI) and Ms Bernice Robertson (academic registrar) discussed developments in UNE’s Bachelor of Administrative Leadership (BAL), Master of Administrative Leadership (MAL), and Bachelor of Training Development (BTD) programmes with their counterparts at UNE.

Army entered into a formal relationship with UNE in 1997 to access a range of distance education programmes. The most popular of these has been the BAL, which has been used by Army to develop SNCOs and officers commissioned from the ranks (CFR). The BTD has also become popular in recent years.

UNE grants SNCOs and CFR advanced standing to the BAL and BTD, in recognition of their military training and work experience. Between 20 and 25 SNCOs and CFR officers commence the BAL or BTD each year.

LT COL Taylor said the visit helped reinforce links between the two institutions. "The relationship with UNE, which MSI manages on behalf of Army, is one of our most important professional development partnerships”, he said. "It provides a cost-effective means of improving Army’s mid-level leadership, management and training development capacity, while also givingthoseindividualswhounderstandthe programmes an opportunity for personal development."

While visiting UNE’s pro-vice chancellor (international and entrepreneurial), Professor Robin Pollard, they presented him with a Ngati Tumutauenga plaque.

Contributed by Captain Abbie Bull
The Navy use ships, the Air Force use aircraft and we, being land based, use our feet or vehicles to get from A to B. Our vehicles are used to move equipment, stores and people, both administratively and tactically. The Army operates more than 1,200 vehicles in all classes – we drive over 2.8-million kilometres per year in our UNIMOG Fleet alone.

We rely on vehicles to do our job, and because we spend so much time either driving or being driven, safety in our vehicles is of the utmost importance. Wearing seatbelts is a simple act, we all know we have to do it – it makes sense and it saves lives.

The wearing of safety belts by drivers and passengers has been proven to markedly reduce injury and increase the chance of survival in a crash. While drivers of military vehicles are governed by the seat belt rule, this is not always the case for other vehicle occupants – particularly for passengers traveling in the back of UNIMOGs.

Unlike civilian vehicles specifically designed to carry passengers and fitted with a full complement of safety features, medium and heavy military vehicles (UNIMOGs and MB 2228s) which are adapted to carry passengers in the rear do not have the same safety features. If personnel choose to ignore the rules already in place for safe passage in these vehicles and do not seat themselves correctly or wear the seatbelts provided, they increase their risk of injury.

Chief of Army, Maj Gen Lou Gardiner, has released a signal message issuing guidance to units on the carriage of passengers and equipment in the vehicles generally observe the seatbelt rule, this is not always the case for other vehicle occupants – particularly for passengers traveling in the back of UNIMOGs.

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Commanders are required to make themselves aware of the importance of being a world class Army that has mana no tino – commitment. The values of commitment, and more compliance and more responsibility for, safe. Seating and safety belts are available for use in our medium and heavy military vehicles, and they must be used. Personnel are not to sit on decks or on makeshift seating. Where possible, personnel are to be distributed across the number of vehicles available so that maximum use is made of cab seats that have lap and diagonal seat belts. Commanders are to fault check and stop unsafe practices. When a seat belt is provided, fasten it and wear it when the vehicle is in motion. It may save your life or the lives of your mates.

- Wearing a safety belt is the single most important thing you can do to increase your chances of surviving a crash.
- Wearing a vehicle safety belt reduces the risk of being killed or seriously injured in a road crash by about 40 percent.
- When someone chooses not to wear their safety belt, they aren’t just risking their own lives. If a vehicle suddenly stops – for example, in front of a post, or collides with a tree, or a lamppost, and car, to realise how fortunate we both were. Without the wearing of seatbelts I have no doubt we would have been in much worse physical shape than we were. In fact I escaped unhurt whilst “Hoops” broke his leg.

The Battle of the Somme was first shown to an invited audience in London on 10 August 1916, barely seven weeks after the opening of the offensive on 1 July, 1916, the NZ Film Archive presents two screenings of the classic film The Battle of the Somme (UK, 1916) with live piano accompaniment.

**Where:** NZ Community Trust Mediatheatre
**NZ Film Archive, cnr Taranaki & Ghuznee Streets, Wellington**
**When:** Friday 30 June, and Saturday 1 July
**Time:** 7.30pm, both seats
**Tickets:** $8 Public / $6 Concession

The Battle of the Somme was first shown to an invited audience in London on 10 August 1916, barely seven weeks after the opening of the offensive on 1 July. It was then put into general release in London on 21 August and in the rest of the country on 28 August the same year. It was received with considerable popular acclaim, and seen by a very large audience. The film achieved over 2,000 bookings by October and at one point was being simultaneously screened in 30 London cinemas.

Many of its scenes have become part of the classic imagery of the First World War, and are still to be seen on screens today.

**Production Co:** British Topical Committee for War Films, on behalf of the War Office
**Producer:** William F Jury
**Cameramen:** Geoffrey H Malins and J B McDowell
**Editors:** Charles A Urban and Geoffrey H Malins
**Beta-SP (originally 35mm), B&W, silent, 80 minutes**

**The screenings of The Battle of the Somme have been made possible by the generous assistance of the Film & Video Archive, Imperial War Museum, London.**

**Presented in association with the Friends of the Film Archive and with the support of the Royal New Zealand Returned Services Association.**

**THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME (UK 1916)**

**To commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the opening of the Somme offensive on 1 July, 1916, the NZ Film Archive presents two screenings of the classic film The Battle of the Somme (UK, 1916) with live piano accompaniment.**

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**Visit http://events.filmarchive.org.nz**
In my last week as the Military Secretary I tried to recall where the last 19 months have gone. In October last year I wrote an article for the Army News and I took the opportunity to dispel a few myths about officer career management in the NZ Army. Now look back with considerable satisfaction that some of these myths have been dispelled. During my time, I hope the Military Secretaries have assisted you to communicate your aspirations and professional development needs. There are now a myriad of mediums to get career management advice and guidance. The Officer Career Management booklet (currently being distributed), Corps Progression Models and the NZDF Competency Framework are just some examples that are available, either in hard copy or through the expanded MS Branch website.

I acknowledge that I have been the “gatekeeper”, at times frustrating some officers, however on behalf of the CA, we must protect the organisational needs and ensure that officers in the chain, such as rank seniority, promotion prerequisites etc are not crossed. I have also had the challenge to manage the perception or message that gets out when a command decision is made.

Over recent years the Military Secretaries have worked hard to enhance the Army Promotion Board (APB) procedures. Having now been a part of the 2005 and 2006 APBs, I am confident that the Boards are objective, balanced and constructive in their assessment processes. The letters officers are now receiving provide more visibility of their employability, their future postings and their professional development requirements. This advice will only continue to develop as new initiatives such as the NZDF competency framework and the new MD68 personal report, are progressed.

I challenge all officers to use the developmental framework available within Army and through their own initiative, to meet the qualifying criteria for advancement, in order to put themselves in contention to satisfy their career ambitions. Remember, officer career management is about a partnership, which most importantly includes you. If the myths have been dispelled, what other excuse can you use not to achieve your aspirations?

Contributed by COL David Russell, Military Secretary

**New equipment boosts Army’s arsenal**

Twenty-four medium-range anti-armoured weapons, the Javelin, arrived in Waiouru last week.

The Javelin is a shoulder-launched weapon that can defeat any main battle tank in the world, out to a range of 2500m. It weighs 22.3kg, including a 6.4-kg command launch unit (CLU) and a 15.9-kg missile and missile launch tube, and is carried by a crew of two.

It will assist in providing a protective envelope for Army’s soldiers, vehicles and equipment. The Javelin’s optics and thermal imagery will also provide the NZ Army with additional surveillance and target acquisition capability, and improve tactical situational awareness.

Javelin is the result of a $26 million project approved by Government in 2005, as part of the Army’s modernisation programme. The CLUs cost $125,000 each, and the missiles $85,000 each.

The Javelin system also comes complete with indoor and outdoor simulators for training. This training approach has been highly successful overseas, with 93% of operators trained achieving a first-time hit with live ammunition.

Major General Lou Gardiner, the Chief of Army, says: “The Javelin will help us do our jobs better; soldiers will be able to operate more confidently; and we strengthen our position as a technologically advanced Army.”

Most of our allies, including Australia, the UK and US, use Javelin, and it has been proven in combat by allies in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Army has purchased 24 CLUs, 10 indoor trainers (computer-based simulation equipment), 10 outdoor trainers (laser-based simulation equipment) and 10 laser simulator target kits. The equipment arrived in Auckland last week, and has been moved to Waiouru where the initial training on the new weapon system will take place.

1 RNZIR and 2/1 RNZIR, NZSAS and Combat School, will receive Javelin.

**Officer promotions**

The Promotion Advisory Board (PAB) and the Army Promotion Board (APB) have now sat. The promotion grading letters have been sent out for all Captains with seniority of three years and above, all Majors, and all Lieutenant Colonels.

Included with each letter is a copy of the new Officer Career Management booklet which explains some of the key principles involved, the requirements for officer promotion, the posting process, and the officer career management cycle. If you have not yet received a copy, they are available from your local Administration Centre or Adjutant.

The content of the letters is based around the NZDF Competency Framework which was introduced in 2002. Each individual is assessed based on their MD 68, course reports, operational reports and performance profile, against the competencies required for each rank, and also against the competencies required for progression to the next rank.

The framework works on a series of building blocks. There are a total of 13 competencies for officers within the framework ranging from Building Trust through to Service Discipline. As you progress through your career you are expected to develop and expand these competencies to meet the challenges of each position and rank. For example, under the Decision Making competency all officers from 2nd Lieutenant are expected to be able to “Make Decisions”, for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel an individual must display “Operational Decision Making”, and for promotion to Colonel individuals must display the competency of “Strategic Decision Making”.

To be considered for promotion there must be evidence that you are not only achieving the competencies for the current rank but that you are also displaying the competencies required for the next rank. That does not mean that you are expected to have mastered them completely, rather that you have the potential to do so with further development and experience.

It is important to note that you can not focus just on the competencies required for the current or next rank. All officers are expected to display the basic competencies such as maintaining discipline standards throughout their careers.

**Promotions**

LT COL Bruce Kenning was promoted to Colonel and Group Manager Property Management at JLSO House recently. DCA, BRIG Barry Vryenhoek(L) and Project Director JLSO, COL Charles Lott(R) carried out the promotion. COL Kenning heads the 132 strong Property Management Group of JLSO consisting of 95 civilian staff and 27 military staff, located the JLSO Hub, and at camps and bases throughout NZ. JLSO House is located in the Central Institute of Technology complex at Trentham, and currently houses the JLSO Implementation Team.

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**Santa pips colonel**

There was a surprise waiting for Major Martin Donoghue when he turned up to the Army General Staff mid-winter Christmas function last week – promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Given full honours, he was presented with his new rank by Santa, and promoted by DCA Brigadier Barry Vryenhoek. LT COL Donoghue leaves for a six-month overseas posting next month.

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BLOOD SAVES LIVES

Bamian Hospital's maternity unit recently received a new blood fridge as a result of NZAID funding. Afghanistan has the second highest neonatal mortality rate in the world, with an estimated average of 600 newborn baby deaths every day according to new figures released by Save the Children. Improving maternity services has been a real focus for NZAID funding in the Bamian province. The past year has seen the completion of a new maternity ward, the first graduates from a new initiative in midwifery training, the new blood fridge allows the hospital immediate access to stored blood, often a lifesaving resource in a complicated child birth. Prior to the arrival of the new blood fridge, a field blood fridge loaned by the NZPRT “kept the blood bank running, saving many lives”, stated Dr Santanu Sanyal the Bamian Hospital Director.

On air in Russia

The security platoon in Bamian are used to getting strange requests at the front gate of the NZPRT, but last week a dusty late model Toyota Corolla stopped and two gentlemen stepped out and approached the sentry. It was obvious from their western style of clothing that they were not locals. After a lengthy discussion with an interpreter, looks of bewilderment, lots of hand gestures, and head shaking from both parties, our interpreter stated, “I think they are a Russian film crew and they want to interview the commando”.

“Vremya” the prime news show was covering the Bamian region and segments would include stories on Her Excellency Habiba Sarabi, the first female governor in Afghanistan. During her interview she mentioned the efforts of the NZPRT providing both security and assistance with reconstruction tasks. They therefore decided that they wanted to interview the NZPRT “General”.

So Captain Ross Smith, the SNO of the NZPRT, was interviewed outside Kiwi Base by Sulhode Sodololoe. At the end of the interview Captain Smith stated, “I have had some experience in front of a camera in previous commands, but none as strange as this one. There were certainly difficulties with language and I managed to answer the questions provided to me by my interpreter, but I am not sure I was answering the question asked by the interviewer. (But I gave) him a full account of the activities of the NZPRT relating the work we are currently doing in maintaining the security situation and also the projects we are managing with respect to reconstruction and capacity building.”

The interview will be screened on 28 June on Channel One Russia, the top ranked Russian channel. Go to www.dw.ru to see the interview.

NEW WHEELS IN BAMIAN

Thanks to the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), the Bamian Afghan National Police (ANP) District Commanders can now respond to requests for police assistance in new vehicles.

In late-May Superintendent Dave Lawry, a New Zealand Police Officer assisting in police capacity building in the Bamian province, handed over to General Wahadat, the Provincial Chief of Police, the keys for seven new Toyota Hilux 2.6 litre diesel King Cab vehicles. Governor Habiba Sarabi, along with Captain Ross Smith, the Senior National Officer of the NZPRT, were also present at the handing over ceremony that was held at the Regional Police Training Centre.

This project has taken some time to come to fruition and has taken a great deal of work by the PRP Project Manager, Squadron Leader Tim Evans, so that the helicopters were tasked by Civil Defence on a case by case scenario.

“The Iroquois were used in a reconnaissance role by Flying Civil Defence staff to get an overview of the situation. We also transported staff into hard to reach areas to make contact with families who had not been heard from due to the telecommunication problems. Flying generators into various locations was also a key role.”

Three services – one force

Swift progress continues across all seven of the Protector ships, to be delivered into Naval service during 2007. Whilst the majority of construction on the two Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) is being conducted at the Tenix shipyard in Williamstown, Australia, several modules have been built in Whangarei.

The hangar, funnel and bridge modules departed New Zealand via barge on 12 June 2006, bound for Williamstown, where the final construction phases will take place.

Several Northland engineering companies won sub-contracts for various construction aspects under a programme developed by Tenix, to maximise New Zealand industry involvement in the Protector ship project.

As well as the OPV modules, all four of the Lake-class Inshore Patrol Vessels are being built in Whangarei.

RNZAF supports civil defence

Two RNZAF Iroquois helicopters responded to the call of civil defence staff in support of the South Island’s “big freeze” last week. Detachment commander, Squadron Leader Tim Evans, said that the helicopters were tasked by Civil Defence on a case by case basis.

“The Iroquois were used in a reconnaissance role by Flying Civil Defence staff to get an overview of the situation. We also transported staff into hard to reach areas to make contact with families who had not been heard from due to the telecommunication problems. Flying generators into various locations was also a key role.”

Iroquois support was provided in conjunction with soldiers from Burnham Military Camp.

On Timor

Kiwi soldiers in East Timor controlled a loud, anti-government protest at the Government Buildings in Dili last week.

Thousands of young East Timorese converged at the government headquarters on the waterfront calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Man Atals, who dismissed nearly half of the nation’s 1,400-strong army earlier this year and is blamed for the violence that followed.

Working as part of a Joint Task Force, the Kiwi soldiers escorted the protesters – who were noisy but non-violent – through town. Fortunately, they had been prepared for the protest. In the week before, they had prepared for potential difficult situations, and conducted further training to reinforce the rules of engagement, and command and control.

In recent weeks, it has been business as usual for New Zealand soldiers in Dili: patrolling, maintaining law and order, and confiscating weapons. “They are doing an outstanding job in a politically intense environment”, said LT COL Jeremy Harker, the senior national officer in Dili.

After over a month on rat packs, NZ Army soldiers are now on fresh rations.

Update on Timor

OPVS - next step in construction

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5 WWCT sounds go west

Eighteen months in the planning and what happens, pipes and drums 5 WWCT make it to Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, for Anzac Day 2006. How did we get there and make it happen?

We lost our bass drummer, PTE Malcolm, and then Pipe Major LCPL McKenzie Rowe (Mac) over the ditch to Perth, Australia—a family who has been part of the band for nearly 20 years. Two people left us but another door opened: “Why doesn’t the band come over to Kalgoorlie for Anzac Day 2006?”

Kalgoorlie is a town with a population of around 40,000 people (similar to Wanganui), a third of who are Kiwis, and with a historical link which goes back to Gallipoli. The 10th Light Horse Western Australia fought on the right flank of the Wellingtons during the battle for Chunak Bair, and lost large numbers of their ranks during the battle for the Nek.

Two people left us but another door opened: “Why doesn’t the band come over to Kalgoorlie for Anzac Day 2006?”

The band was blown away by the generosity and hospitality shown to us in Kalgoorlie, and the Eastern Gold Fields Highland Pipe Band hopes to come to Anzac Day 2007.

The week was amazing. Our youth got to go places they had never been before, such as down the mines, and—those who had money left—shopped till they dropped. All in all, it was a very rewarding experience for a group of young people. Our thanks also to our CO and members of our unit HQ who supported us and members of our battalion group within their tight budget restraints helped us as well.

The band worked long hours practising—weekend after weekend—to raise the standard to play in Kalgoorlie. Our members not only work full time but they work at night as well! Our leaders are active within the regiment in other roles.

The band’s 22-strong membership comprises a mix of Territorial Force soldiers and civilians (ex-military and family members), ranging in age from 13 to over 70 years old. There are 10 pipers, five side drummers, four tenor drummers, a base drummer, Drum Major WO1 Henry and Pipe Major LCPL Walkley.

The band traces its link with 5 WWCT back to 1902, when a band was formed for the Wanganui Highland Rifles. Led by Maj McNaught, this band was absorbed into the regiment at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

In 1940, WO1 Andrew, VC, OSO, was appointed the CO of the 22nd Battalion and was granted permission by General Freyberg to form a band from within the unit boundaries. Between 1940–1947, the band served in England, Egypt, Greece, Crete, Western Desert, Syria, Italy and Japan.

Since 1947, the band has remained an important part of 5 WWCT. The band had mixed fortunes and fluctuating numbers before 1970, when COLL Don McGregor joined the regiment. He recognized the importance of the band for the unit’s public relations and morale, and encouraged it to recruit new members. Although now retired, he is still a member of the band.

Since 1983 the band has performed on Remembrance Day and Anzac Day, for the King of Tonga’s birthday, for the Anzac tour in Tasmania, and at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The band is currently preparing for the Year of the Veterans Pageant in November.

Congratulations to the following personnel on their recent promotion:

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<td>Y6772</td>
<td>COL R.J.</td>
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We may have come a long way in the 10 years since Major Kelli Pepper (pictured) enlisted, but the new equity advisor says there is still room to improve equity in the Army.

MAJ Pepper has only just taken over from MAJ Lynne Smith, but she’s already got a firm grasp of the issues. They affect everybody, she says. “In the Army we believe that equity is still very important, and that it is a leadership issue at every level. It’s not just about discrimination and harassment,” she says.

“Number one, equity is about fairness, in the treatment of men and women. It includes the integration of women into combat trades, having family friendly policies, and recognising and enjoying the diversity of our people.”

Now staffed by a very diverse workforce, the Army’s focus on equity has moved to improving operational effectiveness. “We need to take it right from the bottom level, from small-group cohesion, and make sure that people work well all the way through. We need to be able to operate effectively at home and, when we’re away on operations.”

MAJ Pepper describes her role as being an advisor on equity matters. She is assisted by an equity training and support officer in Waiouru, and a network of anti-harassment advisors (AHA) scattered around the camps and bases. If anyone needs advice, or assistance with their complaints and issues, they should contact their local AHA, or MAJ Pepper.

Equity affects everybody, she says, and everyone plays a part in making the Army a better, more equitable workplace. “We want to try and encourage people to support each other and look out for each other, and if you see something that you know isn’t right, raise your hand and say so.” It’s about being more considerate and aware of differences in the Army, says MAJ Pepper.

Contributed by Anno Norman

SSGT and WO career decisions made

Belinda, 26, a SSGT and25-year-old Charlie, our drummer, attended the Coolgardie Dawn Service and laid a wreath.

Piper Mr Ross Duncan played at the Boulder Dawn Service. CPL Walkley and 15-year-old PTE Sefo and 16-year-old Callum Sefo laid a wreath.

Operational service Commended

A parade was held at 16 Field Regiment recently to present medals for service in Afghanistan and the Sinai—the NZ Operational Service Medal and Officer Service Award (OSA) awards. To begin the presentations, Commanding Officer 2 Land Force Group, Colonel Lofty Hayward, presented 16 Field Regt Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Martin Neale, with the Armed Forces Award (pictured).

Further information on the WOEB and the advisory boards can be accessed through the MCM website: http://awp.teams/ago/MCM

Contributed by MAJ Recardo Bosch

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The Pipes and Drums of the Wellington, West Coast and Taranaki Battalion Groups are the only military pipe band in the New Zealand Defence Force. It is a Territorial Force band, whose members are active within the regiment in other roles.

The band’s 22-strong membership comprises a mix of Territorial Force soldiers and civilians (ex-military and family members), ranging in age from 13 to over 70 years old. There are 10 pipers, five side drummers, four tenor drummers, a base drummer, Drum Major WO1 Henry and Pipe Major LCPL Walkley. The band traces its link with 5 WWCT back to 1902, when a band was formed for the Wanganui Highland Rifles. Led by Maj McNaught, this band was absorbed into the regiment at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

In 1940, WO1 Andrew, VC, OSO, was appointed the CO of the 22nd Battalion and was granted permission by General Freyberg to form a band from within the unit boundaries. Between 1940–1947, the band served in England, Egypt, Greece, Crete, Western Desert, Syria, Italy and Japan.

Since 1947, the band has remained an important part of 5 WWCT. The band had mixed fortunes and fluctuating numbers before 1970, when COLL Don McGregor joined the regiment. He recognized the importance of the band for the unit’s public relations and morale, and encouraged it to recruit new members. Although now retired, he is still a member of the band.

Since 1983 the band has performed on Remembrance Day and Anzac Day, for the King of Tonga’s birthday, for the Anzac tour in Tasmania, and at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The band is currently preparing for the Year of the Veterans Pageant in November.
Starting with a bang

The Petroleum Operators course starts with a bang! – no explosions or raging infernos, just a shock to the system. I didn’t know what to expect when we left camp mid-May, heading for Makomako to live in our ESH (unused explosive store house), but everyone settled in and we set to work. I found it both physically and mentally challenging, not knowing what to expect at the best of times, and working on unfamiliar equipment. I mean, who had heard of a UBRE? I had never heard of one, but later discovered it was “unit bulk refuelling equipment”. Also, who knew you had to clean your fuel (jerry cans)? What a great piece of equipment.

One of the things I enjoyed the most was the tank cleaning. Who knew that wearing breathing apparatus and squeezing into a tank would be fun? Then we came to the classroom work – not really my strongest point; the instructors had me puzzled with their schematic diagrams and accounting. Although that was challenging, after much explaining it soon became clear. I recommend the Petroleum Operators course to all in RNZALR who want a challenge.

Contributed by PTE S Smith

Postings

SURVEY

Getting posted to a new location is something we all expect as part of our careers within the New Zealand Army. For those of us that have partners/families, a decision has to be made whether to take an accompanied or unaccompanied posting. An unaccompanied posting, where the service person moves to the new posting location without their partner/family, is common within the New Zealand Army. Globally, this type of “commuting” lifestyle is on the incline. While past research has shown considerable career gains for those on unaccompanied postings, there are inherent relational and global stressors recognised to cause significant problems to both personnel and their partners/families.

This research is being conducted together with the New Zealand Army Psychology Service and Massey University, as part of my Masters Thesis. I aim to identify how personnel and their partners on both unaccompanied and accompanied postings differ in satisfaction levels in areas such as work and family, and the influences that expectations and social support have on this relationship. On completion of this research, I hope to identify areas for development in the aid and support networks currently available to New Zealand Defence Force personnel choosing to take either an accompanied or unaccompanied posting. Surveys are being sent out to service personnel on both accompanied and unaccompanied postings, and their partners are invited to participate.

If you receive a survey within the next few weeks, please complete and return the questionnaire, as your participation would be greatly appreciated. If you have any queries regarding this research, please contact either of the research officers below.

MAJ Helen Horn
Senior Psych (A)  Tel: 349 7085
Helen.Horn@nzdf.mil.nz

LT Alana MacDonald (pictured)
Research Officer (Psych)  Tel: 169 9657
Alana.Macdonald@nzdf.mil.nz

Cadets graduate into RF

To the delight of their parents and their former cadet unit commander LT Cyrus Tawhara, three ex-City of Napier cadets made it through 13 weeks’ extensive training to qualify on the All Arts Recruit Course Regular Force.

During their time in the City of Napier Cadet Unit, Sapper Logan Pearse, Sapper Te Kaha Hawekirangi, and Private Tyrone Taurau were ranked cadet sergeant and consistently achieved high honours.

SPR Logan Pearse was awarded Top Soldier on the All Arms Recruit Course, and was highly recommended for the Sergeant Major of the Army’s Award.

LT Tawhara said it was fantastic to see these young men progress through the cadets and onto higher honours. “It makes all the hard work and the right attitude worth it to achieve personal goals.”

All three soldiers will now be based in Linton Military Camp attending their corps training and training on trade-based subjects.

Presentations at 3 Log Bn

Commander of 3rd Land Force Group, Colonel Dave Gawn, presented 2nd Lieutenants Daniel Brown, Andrew Thornton, and Darroch Ball, from 3 Log Bn, with their commissions as officers. Warrant Officer Class 2, Dave Wise, also received his warrant.
Tongan student Lance Corporal Soane Tai Tu’ima and Fijian student Sapper Lepani Qaqalailai began the Basic Carpentry Course this month, based at School of Military Engineering at Linton Military Camp. They are here for the six-week duration of the course as part of the Mutual Assistance Programme.

I am one of the lucky ones, there were heaps of us wanting to be selected,” said SPR Qaqalailai.

There was also hot competition among soldiers in the Tongan Defence Services for LCPL Tu’ima’s spot. Along with many other hopefuls, LCPL Tu’ima put his name forward for the programme to learn more about engineering construction. He was keen to come on the course and feels fortunate to be chosen.

Although the NZ Army trains the students in a very similar way to the Fijian and Tongan defence forces, the tools used here are more technically advanced. Both soldiers didn’t have any trouble picking up the advanced technology, and are enjoying the course.

When they return home they will be expected to write a report on what they have learnt on the course and how the new skills can be transferred to their working environment, and to pass the information on to others in their unit.

Their first impressions of New Zealand are good “except I feel cold all the time”, says LCPL Tu’ima. SPR Qaqalailai spent four months training in Linton in 2000, so he had an idea what to expect, and is enjoying being back here.

Throughout the course the students will be very busy, but before going home their hard work will be rewarded with a weekend in Auckland, which both say they are looking forward to.

The students phone home about every couple of nights. LCPL Tu’ima leaves behind a wife and two daughters, who he admits he misses a lot.

Reported by Caroline Williams

There is a new kid on your course. Although he’s had many years in the military, his face is unfamiliar. English is his second language, but he’s keen to chat and make friends. During summer, when the rest of camp is complaining about sweltering in their DPMs, he’s wondering what all the fuss is about.

While these officers, soldiers or police officers get a slice of New Zealand culture and training, a handful of NZDF personnel get to taste two years of sun, coconuts, island culture – and a good dose of hard work. NZDF currently has five service people based in the Pacific under the MAP programme, including one Army warrant officer in Tonga and two Army engineers in Vanuatu.

The Ministry of Defence established MAP in 1973. It was designed to assist in development projects by giving medical and trade assistance, and to assist in development projects by helping to build national security forces, with whom we share strategic interests, to make a modest contribution to these forces by training assistance, and to assist in development projects by giving medical and trade assistance, and providing advice and supervisory assistance”.

Although the programme is over 30 years old, in many cases the programme is an extension of links that go back much further. In the case of Tonga, for example, there has been a NZ Army technical advisor based with the Tongan Defence Services since 1976 but the two countries’ history goes back even further, to WWII.

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Around 70 per cent of the MAP’s approximately $2 million allocation is spent in the Pacific, says Major Andrew Morris, AD MAP Coord in HQ NZDF.

“The origins of the Mutual Assistance Programme are linked to the New Zealand Defence Force’s early involvement in South-East Asia, and a desire to sustain a secure environment. The character of the programme has now moved rapidly away from the client/donor context. South-East Asian countries no longer require the basic training that NZDF provided in the past. However, the training sought by these countries is in the areas where the NZDF’s professionalism is highly regarded. Pacific countries face many security challenges, and there has been a shift towards assisting these countries.”

Many Pacific countries are young, developing countries, and it is in New Zealand’s interest to ensure they grow into stable nations, free of teeth problems along the way. In East Timor and the Solomon Islands this year, it was their military elements that caused the first outbreaks of violence.

The MAP programme provides activities that increase professionalism, management skills and trade training. Some MAP students attend officer cadet or Command and Staff College courses; others technical trade training such as catering, engineering and mechanics, or specialist skills such as scuba diving and logistical support. The NZDF instructors and advisers who are seconded to the Pacific usually foster a particular function in the host organisation, by providing on-the-job training and offering advice on matters such as equipment. They also administer MAP, including recommending students for courses in New Zealand.

“I am asked, ‘what if one of these MAP students we train up as a mechanic goes back home and leaves the service?’ I say, that’s fine because it’s part of New Zealand’s overall assistance to the development of that country.”

Captain Andy Warden’s position as the GSO3 International Commitments encompasses coordinating the New Zealand Army’s role in the MAP programme. He says they’ve honed the programme and they’re “starting to get it right.” “We’re [now] offering them the right courses, the right amounts of numbers of students on courses, and the
He may be one of an average of about 70 students a year from Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, and Papua New Guinea who visit New Zealand for training as part of the Mutual Assistance Programme (MAP). This year, there are 95 places available on the programme.

Reported by Anna Norman

right amount of those courses, focusing on the areas that they need.”

When he meets up with students who have studied in New Zealand, the feedback is very positive – well, almost. “While they’ll always laugh about how cold they were in Waiouru, they seem to have pretty fond memories of their classmates and the course.”

He says New Zealand Army soldiers also take away something from the experience. He recommends they take advantage of the opportunity to work with people of different cultures and form bonds that may come in handy next time they deploy, for example, to Vanuatu, or the Solomon Islands. “It’s a good programme, and students and instructors need to make the most of having different people on the course, and take away different experiences from them.”

MAP is called the “Mutual” Assistance Programme for a reason, agrees MAJ Morris. “Our understanding about Tonga, for example, is developed to a higher degree by having someone like WO1 Yorwarth there. Since it has been going since 1976, what that presents to the New Zealand Defence Force is a pool of people who have intimate experience of working in Tonga, and it helps strengthen the relationship between ourselves and the Tongan Defence Services.

“MAP provides us with a variety of spin-offs. Those engineers, for example, working in Vanuatu, end up doing a lot of work around the Pacific. What that gives us is a number of people who know how to speak Vanuatu pidgin, which is similar to pidgin in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, and develops our own understanding of what is going on in the region.

“If we were to send some engineers say to the Solomon’s, as we did a few years ago, among those troops will more likely be people who have done some service in the region, know how to operate there, and can give the others some advice. So that’s why we call it a Mutual Assistance Programme.”

The programme emphasises the principles of mutuality and NZDF possesses opportunities for two-way contacts in the form of exercises and training exchanges.

The MAP mission is achieved by:

- Using the skills of the NZDF to provide appropriate training and advisory assistance, consistent with New Zealand Government policy, to South Pacific and Southeast Asian participants in the MAP.
- Recognising in the South Pacific, in particular, a sense of shared security interest, to foster cooperation and to promote confidence and regional awareness.
- Assisting South Pacific participants to develop capabilities that contribute to their own national stability and peaceful development.
- Creating opportunities for the NZDF to gain experience of other environments and perspectives.
- Promoting greater awareness and understanding of NZDF and New Zealand through participation in the programme.

WO1 Kevin Yorwarth says he’s living proof that there’s nothing boring about a life-long career in the NZ Army. People say to him, “You’ve been in the Army for 24 years?”, and shake their heads with amazement that someone can remain in one organisation for over two decades without needing a change. But WO1 Yorwarth’s career has been full of change. He’s divided his 24 years in the Army between Auckland, Waiouru, Trentham and Linton. And, since the beginning of the year, he has been based in Tonga as a Technical Advisor Mechanical to the Tongan Defence Services (TDS), as part of the Mutual Assistance Programme (MAP).

“The career in the Army is always changing. Like here in Tonga, how many people in civil street would get to come here. Here I’m doing something different – just like those who deploy. With the skills that you are taught during your career, the Army sets you up very well, so that you can adapt to what is going on around you. People are always told they need to get around and get experience, and they don’t actually think, ‘hey, wait a minute, you can get that all here (in the Army?)’.”

WO1 Yorwarth and his family, wife Maria and their two daughters, are getting what can certainly be classified as an “experience”. In Tonga, WO1 Yorwarth is part of NZDF Pacific MAP, providing advisory assistance to TDS. The programme has many facets from individuals attending training in New Zealand, the conduct of Mutual Aid Training Teams in Tonga, to assistance with workshop or equipment matters - to name just a few. Six months into his two-year stint in the Pacific, WO1 Yorwarth has dropped down a few gears to adjust to “island time” – no myth – and the realities of living in a small (population 155,000) island nation.

“When island life you get the better weather, especially winter, but Sunday is Sunday just like New Zealand 50 years ago”, he says, “nothing is open and even running is not allowed. The downside is you get to trek through five or six different supermarkets to restock the pantry (and even then you won’t get all you want), or spending the whole day trying to register your car. Everyone says, ‘you are on a tropical island, that must be cool’, and it is, but there are a whole host of other things that you have to do with which you would not at home.”

“That’s all part of the experience, he says.

Next month is the birthday of King Taufa’aahu Tupou IV of Tonga, who will turn 88. “For a month before, half of each day is spent practising for the parade so that come the fourth of July, they can parade for the King.” It’s been interesting learning how to operate within an old-school monarchy, he says. In Tonga it is very much led by the King and what he decides.

The New Zealand High Commission organised ANZAC Day (Tonga is the only non-ANZAC country that recognises the day, as Tongan troops fought alongside ANZACs in WWII) and were privileged to have the Princess Regent, HRH Pilateva Tuita, in attendance. That meant learning about a new set of “Tongan protocols”. “Although [New Zealand] might show respect to someone who is important, over here it is a totally different bangle.”

There are many quirky differences when you live in a kingdom, he adds. For example, if you’re driving in Tonga and a motorcade comes up behind you or towards you with lights blazing, everyone pulls off to the side of the road; they’re letting the royal motorcade drive past.

WO1 Yorwarth has found TDS to be a very professional Defence Force, with intelligent and hardworking soldiers. When on course in New Zealand, language can make studying harder, especially when the trade jargon is thrown into the mix. “All trades are getting a lot more technical, which means soldiers from TDS require a higher English proficiency than has been required in the past.”

But despite this hurdle, Tongan MAP students perform very well in New Zealand.

In the past, the TDS’s focal point was internally focused, but WO1 Yorwarth says they are becoming more involved in Pacific and World Affairs. TDS comprises of a force of approx 1000 personnel, mainly Army and Navy plus a small Air Wing. Although a small force, TDS is just as busy as the NZ Army. This year we will see TDS involved in RAMSI in the Solomon Islands, a busy exercise programme deploying platoon plus elements to New Caledonia, Hawaii and Tonga. NZDF plus visit from other countries, along with their day-to-day duties in Tonga.

“Doing all these deployments and activities (training and operational), places a big burden on TDS, being a smaller force,” says WO1 Yorwarth. “So although we continue to foster the main stream trade skills, we are increasingly focusing on leadership in the young soldiers. As in the NZ Army, it is these soldiers who are going to be the future of TDS.”

Reported by Anna Norman
The Linton Military Camp Fire Station personnel used a new, two-line rescue system when they took part in Line Rescue Training this month.

Line Rescue Training covers all aspects of high angle rescue (anything over 60 degrees), and low angle rescue (anything 60 degrees and below).

The rigging used to raise casualties is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Twin Line Rescue System, a new system that uses a twin-line system instead of a single-line system. The twin-line system is safer, more versatile and enhances the response capability said trainer, Station Officer Royce Tatham, from Palmerston North Fire Station.

Fire fighters will use this equipment to rescue casualties in operational and local environments.

The training covers basic line set-up, rescue knots, selecting and setting anchor points – both improvised or man-made, basic repelling to recover casualties, and rigging to raise the casualties using the FEMA Twin Line Rescue System.

Learning and utilising this equipment forges closer links between the New Zealand Fire Service and the New Zealand Army, says Staff Sergeant Brent Ruuru. To maintain these skills, station line rescue training will be conducted for at least eight hours each month.

Reported by Caroline Williams

Station Officer Royce Tatham (red hat) gives a debrief

Senior Fire Fighter Keith Murphy is pulled vertically up the cliff edge when problems arise in the horizontal position

Tim-berrrr...

Sappers on the basic Combat Engineer course practiced operating Husqvarna chainsaws at Linton Military Camp this month. The three-day course taught 60 students (in two troops), the proper techniques for operating a chainsaw.

CPL Edge Edgerton, a course instructor, said about half the students on the course had never touched a chainsaw before, but they soon became competent. The chainsaw is a valuable tool to the engineers, and is used for building, and to create or overcome timber obstacles.

Mrs Judy Vine retired after having worked for Defence for over 28 years.

Initially working in Wellington, Judy very quickly transferred to Trentham Military Camp to what was known in those days as the “satellite office”. She said that all their work was couriered out from Wellington three times a day. When the work arrived they used to work like mad to get it finished because once it was completed they could “play” as they knew that there was no more work to be done until the courier arrived with the next lot of material to be typed up.

Judy has been the PA and typist to 17 commandants or COs at Trentham Camp. She still keeps contact with many of them although they have long since left the Army. Her quiet efficiency and friendly manner has endeared her to all the staff who have come into contact with her over the years.

Judy said that she “has had a great run and that Defence has been great to work for”. In her retirement, Judy will initially spend some time with family in Australia and then will settle down at home to spend more time in her garden.

Reported by Keith Knox
The Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers Memorial Church of St Martin’s, situated at Linton Military Camp, was an idea turned to reality by the RNZE Corps Memorial Association. The association wanted to provide a centre where the spirit and unity of sappers of all ranks, serving or retired, could be fostered and maintained.

Included in the plans for the memorial site was the RNZE chapel and museum, which are now housed next to the Flank Regiment. The chapel was the first part of the memorial centre to be constructed. The triangle of land the chapel is situated on was leased by RNZE from the Karangahou County (or the “Crown”) before it was given to the New Zealand Army. At the time, it was the only piece of Crown land surrounded by Army land.

The purpose of the piece of land was to house artefacts and memorabilia in the Engineers Museum, the chapel, and a memorial for those who lost their lives during battle. Although the chapel and museum were built, the memorial wasn’t.

The chapel, now 108 years old, was offered to the association in April 1972 to house the Rolls of Honour of the corps, and form part of the memorial centre.

The chapel was built in 1888 at a small village near Norsewood, Makotuku. Eleven years later it was destroyed by fire. Within the month, residents had rebuilt the chapel and it was dedicated on 5 February 1894.

The chapel’s memorial windows around the altar, commemorating the men of Makotuku who had served, gives a link to the past and present. It seemed the placement of the chapel at Linton would be a fitting memorial home for those remembered by the people of Makotuku. There is now also a memorial listing the names of the soldiers of Makotuku who served in action, mounted on a wall in the chapel.

By 30 November 1972, soldiers from 2 Field Squadron were working on the foundations for the chapel. It was dismantled and transported to Linton Military Camp to be restored to its original state, and rebuilt where necessary. The project took longer than hoped, as personnel had to fit in the construction with their primary army activities.

In July 1974, the restoration was complete, including the grounds, pathways and lawn. The chapel holds the Rolls of Honour cabinet that houses the Rolls of Honour of New Zealand sappers killed in action during both World Wars. It also holds one of the two original, hand-worked Great War Rolls of Honour. The other original is in the Kitchener Chapel in St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

The altar was constructed by Reverend HE Rowe, ED, Chaplain to the Forces and a former padre at Linton in 1959-1960. It was moved from the former chapel, which was just a room on the camp. The altar includes kauri, matai and oak timber. It is understood that it was worked in oak and kauri to represent the old world of Europe (oak), in particular Britain, and the new world of New Zealand (kauri).

The circular window above the chapel’s altar – the badge of the Royal Engineers – was provided by the Royal Engineers.

The bell tower was also built to house a bell found in north-east Thailand by members of 5 Specialist Team, RNZE, and brought back to New Zealand when they returned. The bell was made in 1920 in Italy and is inscribed with “Cor Jesu Pax Nostra”, meaning “heart of Jesus be our peace”.

There are also other memorials to fallen soldiers, including those who have served and returned home. These include a roll of No 1 Company NZ Engineers, and members of No 8 Company, Post and Telegraph Engineers, Wellington, on active service.

On 20 July 1974, the RNZE held a parade for the opening of the chapel and held the unveiling of the plaques ceremony. It was formally opened by Lieutenant Colonel GA Lindell, DSO, ED.

Since the opening, plaques dedicated to sappers that have since died in places such as Thailand, Malaya, South Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and New Zealand, have been placed at the end of the pews.

The Royal Australian Engineers presented a prayer desk they made from Australian timbers to the SME in December 1983. Once completed, the desk was flown to Whenuapai by RNZAF Hercules and placed in storage. Although “Prayer Desk, RNZE, SME, Linton Camp”, was clearly marked on the crate, those delivering the package thought there must be some mistake – why else would a prayer desk be delivered to SME? It wasn’t until two months later when the chief engineer from the RAE enquired about the desk that it was tracked down and delivered!

The first marriage celebrated in the Chapel was WO2 Mat Munro, an instructor at SME.

Services are regularly held at the Chapel on Sundays at 1100hrs and are open to all.

Reported by Caroline Williams
BOOK REVIEWS

BREAKOUT Minqar Qaim, 1942
William Scott Publishing
$49.95
Reviewed by BRIG Kevin Riordon

It is a strange phenomenon that New Zealanders seem far more comfortable commemorating military defeats than victories. Most Kiwis have at least a basic understanding of the tragedy that was Gallipoli, but to tell us nothing abouts played by New Zealanders at the victory at Beersheba. Similarly, a survey of WWI battles might bring forth recognition of the bad news we had at Greece, Crete and Monte Casino, but the battle of Minqar Qaim, fought over the night of 27–28 June 1942, is practically unknown.

This is a pity, because Minqar Qaim was a victory for New Zealand and one of which New Zealanders should be proud. In this respect, the book Breakout – Minqar Qaim by Colm Cameron is a welcome addition to the growing books on New Zealand’s military past. The battle was a very significant event for New Zealand. When it seemed almost inevitable that the entire New Zealand Division would be forced to surrender it instead managed to launch a surprise attack on the encircling Afrika Korps forces and escape, bloodied but intact, to fight another day. It is hard to imagine what the loss of over 10,000 soldiers in a single battle would have done to the New Zealand war effort, but it is at least possible that our history of WWII would have come to a bit chronologically it is the very type of book that provides a good read on

THE MONEY COACH

"Put your coat according to your cloth." (Shakespeare)

BUDGETING

A budget can be a powerful tool for getting ahead financially.

Where do I start?

A good place to start with budgeting is to look at how you are currently spending or managing your money.

• Keep a spending diary, get a small notebook and carry it with you;
• Every time you spend money make a note of it, whether it’s paying a bill or buying a chocolate bar or making a donation;
• Do this for about a month to get a good picture of where your money goes and to catch all bill payments;
• When you have completed this, you have the basis for your budget

But it’s hard! I won’t be able to keep it up!

Remind yourself of your financial goals. What did you want? Think of yourself as an athlete: what does it take to reach the top of your sport? What does it take to be an All Black? It’s a daily choice that requires commitment and self-discipline. If you want this enough you can do it.

Okay, now what?

You can try “The Claytor’s Budget” (as taken from Moses & Whitaker, Making Money Mode Simple). The budget you have when you don’t really want to have a budget.

• Write down your fixed outgoings for the year, such as mortgage or rent, loan repayments, rates, car registration, insurance etc. Add these up and divide by 12, and put this amount away every week into a separate account and don’t use it for anything else;
• Join a Christmas Club, and that should take care of Christmas;
• Put so per cent of your gross income into a separate savings account;
• If you now pay cash for all other spending you will be on the night trail. You may have to do without a few things, and cut down for a few weeks, but you will certainly benefit in the long term.

Older hands in the military history game will, perhaps, find much of the material very familiar, and this is because Cameron relies very largely on secondary material. Those who have read Martyn Urn’s In the Kiwi Sos, Desmond Young’s Rommel, and Howard Kippenberger’s Infantry Brigade, will find that these works have been heavily relied upon. On the other hand there are some very interesting previously unpublished personal accounts of the battle and I would have liked to have seen these given much more prominence, along with some accounts in the archives which do not appear to have been used. Nevertheless, this is an “academic” quibble and I doubt that those who read for pleasure will be put off in the slightest. Well worth reading and a good reference point on one of the most important feats of arms to which New Zealand can lay claim.
Snowbound Burnham

The snow came falling down, and continued to fall down. It started at 4.30am and kept going until mid-afternoon. The power in the Burnham housing area went off at around 8.00am, but was restored by lunchtime.

The next day, Tuesday, brought icy roads making driving very difficult, and Burnham School was closed. By Thursday, life was returning to normal but there were plenty of damaged trees to be pruned for safety.

Personnel from 3rd Transport Company went out with Civil Defence representatives and delivered much-needed generators and other supplies to snowed-in families in the South Canterbury region.

And in Waiouru ... but the show goes on

The Senior Non Commissioned Officer (SNCO) promotion course 02/06 recently conducted Exercise Kalamai in Waiouru. Ex Kalamai is the culmination of six weeks instruction on leadership planning and conduct of training, operational concepts, and management.

Ex Kalamai has replaced Ex Legionnaire as the field exercise component of the SNCO promotion course. Ex Legionnaire dates back to SNCO promotion courses held in the 80s, and although it had always been a tough exercise in its own right, it was felt that Ex Legionnaire had lost currency with today’s contemporary operational environment. The single task nature of Ex Legionnaire activities no longer represents what the Army requires of its SNCOs.

Ex Kalamai is an FOB based, low- to mid-intensity conventional operations exercise. Students are placed in the role of a platoon sergeant, and are tasked with leading a patrol to conduct security or clearance tasks. But once the patrol commences, the patrol faces an ever changing situation, with routes becoming impassable, equipment failures, and fresh tactical information coming to hand.

Directing staff feed the changing situation to the platoon sergeant, who then conducts a hasty mission analysis, modifies orders where necessary, and continues with the task. The platoon sergeant must multi-task his or her platoon, in order to achieve the mission. On Ex Kalamai the weather played an important part in the changing situation – but, nevertheless, all tasks were completed successfully.

Feedback from the students on Ex Kalamai has been good. The FOB operating environment allows for sufficient time to be set aside for planning, rehearsals, patrol conduct and After Action Reviews. It has assisted in developing students’ all corps competencies, as some students indicated that they had not operated in the field, or handled weapons for some years.

Most importantly, students commented that they had gained increased levels of confidence, and felt comfortable returning to their unit capable of performing as a SNCO. SSGT Morrison RNZIR, of NCO Coy, TAD, piloted the new concept for Exercise Kalamai.

Note: Kalamai is the city in southern Greece where SGT Jack Hinton VC, earned his Victoria Cross.
AQUARIUS
Jan 21 to Feb 19
Try and add a theme to that winter holiday. A trip to Surfers will be much more interesting if you and the family all go as Starzky and Hutch characters, or the cast of Doctor Who. Just don’t be the Dalek, Aussie security guys can get pretty mean in the interrogation room, and they use pliers in that particular strip search ...

CANCER
June 22 to July 23
Don’t spend money you don’t have. Unless you have a spare major organ that is good on the open market. Just be warned, there is a limited demand for appendix implants.

PIECES
Feb 20 to Mar 20
There is plenty you can do to spice things up professionally - and personally. Just try not to mix the two. Lederhosen have their place, as do angora sweaters.

ARIES
Mar 21 to April 20
Don’t spend money you don’t have. Unless you have a spare major organ that is good on the open market. Just be warned, there is a limited demand for appendix implants.

TAURUS
April 21 to May 21
There is plenty you can do to spice things up professionally and personally. Just try not to mix the two. Lederhosen have their place, as do angora sweaters.

VIRGO
Aug 24 to Sept 23
Don’t talk about emotional matters with your family, they’ve scanned you enough emotionally as it is. Why else would you have joined the damned Army in the first place? Apart from the challenges, the snappy uniform and the satisfaction of serving the greatest country on Earth, naturally ...

LIBRA
Sept 24 to Oct 23
A chance meeting from someone in your past could alter your future. Unless they are from your future, then your past could be in for a real shake-up.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 to Nov 22
Each evening the sun sets in five billion places, seen by 10 billion eyes set in five billion faces. OK, so The Chills said it first. But I had to put it in context for it to make sense.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 to Dec 20
Something good will take place in a business meeting and will result in banks being able to increase their profits by another five billion dollars this year. While this is good for the banks, it has very little benefit for you. Surely you don’t begrudge the banks a little ray of sunshine every now and then ...

CAPRICORN
Dec 21 to Jan 20
You will discover interesting hidden talents that will put you in high demand. There are two I know of, but I fear telling you what they are lest they pervert not only the course of human history, but also a number of innocent humans.

ACROSS:
1. Engaged in war
7. Come forcibly into contact with
8. Scottish lake
9. Night before
10. Top fighter pilots
11. Absent
14. Comply
15. Enemy
16. Blood vessel
17. Resist attack
19. Second greek letter
21. Estimated time of arrival (abbr)
22. Vehicular path
23. Chevron
25. Defended position where a gun is put for firing

DOWN:
1. Small images on a radar screen
2. Rim
3. Microsoft founder
4. Emergency force other than regular
5. Unit of artillery and armoured formation
6. Formation of troops, ships

THE SMOKO QUIZ
BY MIKE DUNCAN

1. “Tommy Atkins” was a common name for British soldiers, what was it for sailors?
2. Where would you find the “Red Duster”?
3. What were the “Crusades”?
4. When was the Victoria Cross of New Zealand instituted?
5. Where would you find a Glengarry on a Scottish soldier?
6. How long did the campaign last?
7. How many New Zealanders were serving at Gallipoli?
9. What were New Zealand’s casualties?
10. In terms of troop losses, which country suffered the most at Gallipoli?
11. Which country suffered the greatest number of fatalities at Gallipoli?
12. What was it for sailors?
13. By what other name is the M16 rifle often known?
14. When did the NZ Army adopt the beret as a universal type of cap.
15. What were New Zealand’s casualties?
16. What were the “Crusades”?
17. When was the Victoria Cross of New Zealand instituted?
Brisk ride at Tekapo start!

The weather turned nasty for 4 O South Bn Gp’s Graham Anderson and other competitors in the 5th annual Lake Tekapo Mountain Bike Pursuit.

One cold Sunday in early June, Run 79 Lake Tekapo Mountain Bike Pursuit covered roads and tracks around Lake Tekapo, including two river crossings.

Graham Anderson, finance officer of the 4 O South Bn Gp, lined up in the Individuals 51-60 age group for the second successive year, with the goal of breaking five hours.

Previous years have all experienced close to ideal weather, but this year it turned nasty. The race started at 9.00am sharp after the mandatory race briefing in cold, overcast conditions. When he reached the 4WD track, the cool but comfortable. When he reached the 4WD track, the ground conditions were quite muddy so it was best not to linger close behind other bikes.

Reaching the Godley River, there were several braids to cross with a bumpy, bouldery ride between them. Although the river level was up a little and the water cold, the crossing was straightforward. But not so, the Macauley – it had risen 40cm since the start, and was swift. Several riders had to be assisted across. This was the transition point for the team riders.

The ride up the lake and through Godley Station was easy, runners on the third section faced a gruelling up and down hill section on the 4WD track, the river level was up a little and the water cold, the crossing was straight and swift.

The ride back to Tekapo on the Lilybank Road, was cold, aggravated by light drizzle and wind. It was a relief to get to the finish line and thaw out with a hot soup and massage.

Although slightly outside his target time, Graham was happy with his time of 5 hours, 2 minutes, given the conditions on the day.

Tenth win for Army women

Army women’s basketball team made a clean sweep for the tenth year in a row, when they beat Air Force in the final of the Inter Service basketball championships last week in Waiouru.

Army men’s team put up a valiant fight, to finish third.

A full report will be in the next issue.

Trentham duathlon revived

For the first time in a decade, a duathlon was held at Trentham Military Camp. Over 120 people came from all units within the Trentham Defence Area, as well as from HQ NZDF in Wellington, to run and cycle in the event.

Competitors in the Open Class of the 2006 Trentham Camp Duathlon faced two seven-kilometre runs and a similar distance bike ride, while competitors in the Veterans classes faced three five-kilometre sections.

Although the first two sections’ tracks followed the Hutt River and were relatively easy, runners on the third section faced a gruelling up and down hill section on the tracks at Cannons Point.

SSGT Don Mohr, regional physical training advisor and event organiser, said there was a good turnout of participants and the event was a definite success. “It was a good, hard track but the majority of people said that they enjoyed it and we are definitely going to run this event again next year”, he said. “One of the advantages of an event such as this is that in the unreliable winter weather, we can change the track to suit the weather and other conditions.”

Reported by Keith Knox

Results

OPEN MEN’S LT COL Chuck Dowdell of Logistical Executive in 1 hour 45 minutes and 35 seconds (1:45:35)

OPEN WOMEN’S CPL Christina Wilson of Trentham

ADMIN Centre 2:3:12

OPEN TEAM TTS1 from Trade Training School 2:4:18

VETERANS MEN’S Tom Hirst of Logistical Executive 1:18:27

VETERANS WOMEN’S Sue Davis of HQ JFNZ 1:38:55

VETERAN TEAM Demos s from the Trade Training School 1:24:46
VICTORIOUS WOMEN
AIR PUFFED OUT