INSIDE

2 LOG SOLDIERS WIN TOQUE D’OR 03

PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOLOMON ISLANDS 10-11

KIWI SOLDIERS SHOOT FOR GOLD 22-23
Date set for gallantry medals return

The gallantry medals stolen from the Army Museum Waiouru in December last year are to be returned in a formal ceremony to the museum on 21 October, says Chief of Army Major General Lou Gardiner. “We are very excited in having the medals returned to their rightful home at the Army Museum Waiouru and the ceremony will acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of all those involved in their successful return, including the support of the New Zealand public.” The returned medal sets include nine Victoria Crosses and two George Crosses and were stolen from Waiouru Army Museum in the early morning of 2 December 2008.

Private Manning remembered at Wellington ceremony

Private Leonard Manning, shot and killed in East Timor eight years ago, was remembered with love and roses when his mother Linda met East Timor Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao in Wellington recently.

Mrs Manning, from Waikato, and Mr Gusmao laid roses at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at the National War Memorial in Wellington. Mr Gusmao was in Wellington to hold talks with Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Private Manning, 24, was killed on July 24, 2000.

A very special man

Mr Xanana Gusmao with Linda Manning in Wellington

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Three New Zealand soldiers fought and won their own battle in the kitchen on September 1 when they went head-to-head with culinary students from around the country in the annual Nestlé Toque d’or competition.

Culinary students LCPL Stephen Hogan and LCPL Makere Lee whipped up six covers of a spectacular three-course meal in just two-and-a-half hours which was served by restaurant service student, PTE Kirsty Lister, to a panel of 17 top industry judges.

It is the first time in the 18-year history of the New Zealand competition that the New Zealand Defence Force Joint Services Catering School has taken out top honours in the event.

The team battled against students from 11 other training establishments around the country in their quest for the award. Students were judged on taste, professionalism, working methods, knife skills, hygiene, minimisation of waste and front-of-house beverage delivery and service. Menus also had to be prepared and were judged on the use of correct terminology and recipe development. This year’s judging line-up included World Association of Chefs Societies’ approved judge John Sloane from Singapore, television personality chef Paul John and respected restaurateur Travis Clive-griffin from Saluté in Greytown.

Hogan, who was also selected during the event to become a junior member of the New Zealand Culinary Team (NZCT), said he was ‘honoured’ to have been part of the team that won.

“It’s an amazing feeling to win such a prestigious competition.”

He said the achievement came after a considerable amount of time and effort was spent preparing for the event.

The team praised their tutors who they said were “fully committed” to winning the award.

Team manager Staff Sergeant Manu Ferguson said he was proud of his team’s “amazing” achievement.

“Right from the start, I told them to simply go out there, have fun and enjoy what they were doing – which is exactly what they did. They’re a tight unit and have demonstrated hard work, passion and commitment.”

SSgt Ferguson said the win was solid endorsement of the high standards set by the Defence Force in the area of trades training.

As well as receiving the coveted Toque d’Or (Golden Hat) trophy each team member also received a travel grant.

Event organiser Pip Duncan said as well as demonstrating their skills in front of some of the nation’s most highly-regarded culinary professionals, student chefs were also able to earn their way onto the New Zealand Culinary Team (NZCT) which competes at an international level.

“Hogan has some exciting challenges ahead of him with training starting in a few weeks and the first international event set to take place in Singapore in April 2010,” Pip said.

“The NZCT comprises a number of the nation’s top chefs, and is coached and guided by some of our most experienced industry professionals. In the past, the team has competed at the prestigious American Culinary Classic in Chicago, winning three bronze medals. They’ve also been awarded their own certificate as well as pass it on to other male family members and friends. We encourage men to complete a Men’s Health Scorecard about their current health. Those with high scores will be encouraged to seek an appointment with their health professional. Everyone who completes the Scorecard and sends their details to the Cancer Society will be eligible to go in a draw for some great prizes including airline tickets, a set of running shoes for the family, gym passes and mobile phones.

“Full time military personnel are encouraged to raise any health concerns during their medical board period,” said Brig Campbell.

At the same time, in order to continue the educational process DGMHS has introduced a new book called “A Men’s Guide to Health”. This publication is available at all Defence Medical Centres, Dental Centres waiting rooms and at NZDF libraries.

For more information on the Men’s Health Challenge, the Scorecard, prizes, and men’s health issues visit www.menshealthchallenge.org.nz

We did it: Toque d’Or winners Private Kirsty Lister, and Lance Corporals Makere Lee and Steve Hogan.
Cairns gets LAV boost

Chris Cairns was able to give his feet brief respite when he was given a lift in a New Zealand Army Light Armoured Vehicle (NZ LAVIII) into Waiouru Military Camp late last month.

Cairns is walking from Pukekohe to Rolleston to raise awareness of rail safety. At Waiouru, Cairns has booths-on-the-ground support from two soldiers who walked alongside him as the second Desert Road leg took them into Waiouru township.

Chris said walking the first leg was one of the hardest things he has done and was thankful for the Army support. “I thought it would be a lot flatter than it was, being the Desert Road, but it really was tough. It was great having the Army onboard, however – the LAV is an impressive piece of equipment!”

Colonel Roger McElwain, Commander of the Land Training and Doctrine Group based at Waiouru said the initiative was a great way to raise awareness of rail safety within New Zealand communities.

The walk is also in memory of all those who have died on the rail network. Chris lost his sister Louise who was killed along with two other young women whilst they were passengers onboard a train hit by a cement truck which had failed to stop at a level crossing.
The difference the NZPRT makes

By Warrant Officer Ross Connochie

The increase in agriculture, housing, and educational facilities throughout Bamyan Province was the most significant change Chief of Army MAJGEN Lou Gardiner noticed during a recent visit. "I feel it is an indication that people are feeling more secure and confident in their future and that the NZPRT is making a difference," he said.

MAJGEN Gardiner, accompanied by the Sergeant Major of the Army, WO2 Bo Ngata visited the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team in August. It was his fourth visit to the province in four years, and the main focus was meeting his soldiers, and other personnel who make up New Zealand PRT.

He also wanted to see how the contingent and the mission as a whole is progressing. MAJGEN Gardiner visited the Forward Patrol Bases, and said he was impressed with the unity and cohesiveness of the contingent as a whole. He said he was impressed to see the officers leading from the front, and paid tribute to the New Zealand Police Mentoring Team who have a coordinating and mentoring role at the Afghanistan National Police (ANP) Regional Training Centre (RTC), adjacent to Kiwi Base.

He also visited the RTC and was encouraged by the quality of instruction being carried out by the ANP instructors. He said he was not surprised to learn that the RTC was recognised as one of the leading police training institutions in the country, consistently producing the highest quality of recruits. "The cornerstone of democracy is a strong and credible police and judicial service and the NZ Police are providing a medium for compliments and vehicle information to drivers, you are the target of this scheme. With an 0800 bumper sticker, the sticker will allow other road users to provide feedback on driving and vehicles. The use of a free phone number scheme has been very successful in reducing the number of accidents and poor driving in other New Zealand transport organisations. They also provide a medium for compliments and vehicle information to be reported. Army hopes we will see a similar positive result.

The aim of the initiative is to foster awareness by Army drivers of their requirement to demonstrate safe driving attitudes and practices, increase the visibility and openness of Army driving, good or bad, can now very easily be reported and investigated. If the incidence of accidents and speeding offences are a reflection of wider Army driving standards then our worst driving occurs in cars, minibuses and light 4x4. Coincidently these are our invisible fleet. Vehicles like LAV, Unimog and Pinzgauer are easily recognisable by the design and colour. Is that why their drivers appear to demonstrate more care? With a 0800 bumper sticker you are no longer anonymous therefore the invisible fleet are the vehicles being targeted for the trial. If the trial is successful all Army vehicles will carry the bumper sticker.

Calls will be received by the existing 0800 NZARMY Call Centre. They will then be passed to Army the next day. The processing of the report will depend on the nature of the report. Compliments and advisory reports – "the brake lights are not working," will be processed by Logistics Executive. Accidents, complaints and speeding reports will probably result in a knock on your door by the Military Police. During the trial it is planned to give regular updates on the number of reports that have been received.
Canteen council funds boost local communities

A cheque for $257,700, the Army's share of the Armed Forces Canteen Council surplus, was presented to the Chief of Army by the Council chief executive, Brigadier (Retd) Rick Oottway recently. The cheque brings the total paid to Army Welfare Funds for the 2007/08 year to $248,333. The AFCC makes regular contributions to the Single Service Welfare Fund. In the year ending March 2008 sales were $16.8m with a net surplus of $1.3m. From this surplus $732,000 is to be paid to the Single Service Welfare Funds.

Each service is responsible for determining what the funds are used for but generally they go towards providing amenities and benefits which help the Service community, and maintain morale.

Funds are disbursed to each regional unit to use on projects appropriate for each camp, base or ship and are used for projects such as maintenance of holiday homes, purchase of equipment for hire, sports equipment and new facilities.

At Waiouru Army Camp funds received last year were used to set up a facility known as the Sugar Shack Youth Centre that provides a place for teenagers to hang out, listen to music and play pool, table tennis or PlayStation games.

Major Monique Brown said, "We get over 70 teenagers a weekend coming to the 'Shack' and they love it. They are waiting at the door before it opens and they are cleaning and tidying it up before it closes ready for the next night!"

"The Sugar Shack Youth Centre has made a huge positive impact and difference to not only the kids, but to the whole Waiouru Community. At the beginning the teens only hung around in their cliques, made up of Taihape School kids, Ruapehu College kids and those that didn't go to school and they were shy and negative towards each other. Now they all mix freely and enjoy the freedom of gentle rivalry in a fun environment and they certainly have no problem mixing," said Monique.

"Before the Shack, teens spent their weekend nights at home with one or two mates during the winter or out roaming the streets in the summer. Now they have a place to hang out and catch up with their mates. It's a really positive high energy environment and the kids thrive on it," she added.

At Burnham a recent project has been the establishment of a new basketball court and at Linton half of their funds go towards sports fees and the remainder has been used to build a number of garages and a wood working shop for use by personnel.

In late August the “Sugar Shack” celebrated its first birthday. In the past year the Shack has opened its doors to the teenagers of Waiouru 112 days and in that time over 2515 teenagers have used the facility.

Major Brown said the Shack was very grateful to the local community, particularly the Army and Transfield for all the support they have given over the last year. This support has made it possible to provide a safe and positive environment for teenagers.

During the birthday celebrations the Shack presented the prizes for a writing competition that was conducted in July. Local youth were encouraged to write something real and positive about their personal experiences living in Waiouru. Submissions consisted of rap songs, poems, stories and letters. The competition was organised and entries judged by Cliff Magon and his team from the Military Studies Institute. Cliff read about the Waiouru snow, local hunting, the skate park and the benefits of living in a small close community.

COMPETITION WINNERS:

Juniors 11yrs - 12yrs
Effort - Manakini Te Kahu
Winners Marimo Te Are and Hamuera Kahukaka (rap song)

Intermediate 13yrs - 14yrs
Effort - Corban Thrupp
Effort - Jordan Trill
Effort - Hamson Brown
Winner Jasmine Ruru (picture and poem)

Seniors 15yrs - 17yrs
Effort - Melanie Alasana
Effort - Manika Beauchamp
Effort - Sharee Vincent
Effort - Anthony Edwards

Overall Winner Brittany Iakopo-Fairweather (Picture and Poem)

The prizes donated by Army, Transfield, Subway, Hot Shots and Shell consisted of iPods, MP3s, Billabong wallets, teeshirts, hats, backpacks and vouchers.

Ordinary men, extraordinary service - Chunuk Bair Day

By Pte Carey Clements

The biggest prize and one of the biggest prices given at Gallipoli in 1915 was remembered on August 8 when soldiers from the 7th Wellington and Hawke’s Bay Battalion Group gathered at Ataturk Memorial in Wellington to remember the fallen on Chunuk Bair.

Ninety-three years ago, the soldiers of the Wellington Battalion captured the highest position on the peninsula in what was a short lived allied victory in the campaign.

Knowing the risks involved after learning of the annihilation of the Aucklanders the previous day, LTCOL William Malone’s Wellington BN (comprising Territorial members from 7th Wellington West Coast Coy, 9th Hawke’s Bay Coy, 15th Tarakani Coy, and 17th Ruahine Coy) set off at dawn on August 8 on a sweltering day at the end of which there were just 50-70 survivors left, including Malone himself.

To mark the occasion ninety-three years later the soldiers of Bravo Company stood to attention in bitterly cold and wet conditions before lowering their heads as the names of those killed were read out.

The simple ceremony began with a catafalque guard at the memorial before the Adjutant of 7 Wellington Hawkes Bay Battalion Group, Captain Paul Corke read out the story of Chunuk Bair and what significance it holds to the Reservist Battalion.

A wreath was laid by Lieutenant Paul Prouse before Private Brooke Riley read out the nominal roll of the Wellington Battalion that fought and died that day. A member of the 7 Wn HB BN Band, Lance Corporal Ricky Henderson sounded the Last Post before the soldiers left the rain driven monument for the warmer comforts of the Seatoun RSA, where an old documentary on Chunuk Bair was being played on a large television screen. The documentary featured real life veterans talking about the events of August 8, which gave a sense of reality to the Bravo Company soldiers of ordinary men performing extraordinary service.
As I have near 20 years within the NZ Army I can reflect on the many organisational changes that have occurred over my career – in my personal opinion, some successful and some not so successful. One change within the Army that has continued to have a reoccurring theme is that of Courage, Commitment, Camaraderie and Integrity (C3i). I have been impressed to see that many of our younger soldiers and officers have taken these few simple words to heart and follow through on the concepts, incorporating them daily within their own lives.

As such, C3i is often spoken about but seldom seen in the forefront of many of our daily activities. On 25 July 2008, I was very much humbled and impressed by the selfless act of one soldier who was on his SNCO’s course at the Army Depot, Waiouru. Why so specific on the date? It now holds a central significance in my life as you will find out during the unfolding of this article. Allow me to set the scene for you…..

The day started as many others do, saying goodbye to my family as I walk out the door and head to work. Mid afternoon everything changes when I am approached at work by the OSGT Corporal walked into my wife’s place of work (Subway), and Staff

The Square Trust rescue helicopter and Team

Land operations Training centre, commandant, and Staff

Bae Systems (Australia).

Lockheed Martin

Bae Systems Australia is a large Defence contractor in Australia and has worked with the ADF in all theatres and with all three services. Current projects include the MR19 upgrade, Battlefield Command Support Systems. In July o8 BAE Systems acquired Tenix Defence, creating the largest defence contractor in Australasia. BAE Systems plc is the global parent company with more than 100,000 employees operating from over 100 sites around the world, including some 5500 employees in Australia.

Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin is an advanced technology company headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland USA with its efforts focused on the military and the defence forces of the United States and its allies. 25% of the annual revenue of Lockheed Martin comes from logistics and sustainment, with current projects including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter logistics and the Military Flying Training Systems for the UK RAF.

SPEL

SPEL is a wholly owned subsidiary of William Adams Pty Ltd. William Adams Pty Ltd is based in Melbourne, Australia with an additional 19 branches throughout Victoria and Tasmania. The customers of William Adams include the ADF, open cast mining, underground mining, forestry industry, roadning as well as other Government departments.

Thales

Thales is a global supplier of equipment and services in the aerospace, land, maritime and commercial sectors. Thales employs 3700 personnel at 35 sites across Australia. Current projects include In Service Support for the ADF Bushmaster vehicles as well as Battlespace Communications Operations Group.

TSDI

TSDI Pty Ltd is a jointly owned company of Thies Services Pty Ltd and DynCorp (Di) International LLC created for the purpose of performing and completing Defence projects in Australia and New Zealand. Thies is a major provider of maintenance for the Australian industrial sector, while Di is a leading provider of maintenance and training for the US military and to other global militaries. Current projects include AH-64A Apache Helicopter maintenance and USAF War Reserve Material warehousing and storage.

VT Support Services

VTSS is a defence contractor providing engineering and support services to global governments and organisations. Based primarily in the UK and US, VTSS employs over 14,000 personnel. Current projects include logistics support to class A, B and C vehicles (from Land Rovers to Challenger 2 MBT) for the UK MOD. VT currently has a presence at the Devonport Naval Base providing engineering capability to the RNZN.
Linton nurses off to Afghanistan

By Gary Parkes

Two Linton Camp nursing officers are training for a deployment to Afghanistan. To one, it is more of the same. For the other, a totally new experience.

They are Royal NZ Nursing Corps nurse Captain Kevin Drysdale, who flew out to the Canadian-led coalition armed forces hospital in Kandahar in October.

For CAPT Fitzell, who is going to Kandahar as an intensive care nurse, foreign operations have ceased to be a novelty: “Although every one is different, this will be my sixth operation and I’m looking forward to it. Looking after coalition soldiers will be good. It will be the pinnacle of deployments – it doesn’t get more real.”

Previous deployments have included Bosnia, the Solomons, East Timor and the tsunami crisis in December 2004.

In 2006 he served in Bamian as Regimental Nursing Officer. That involved providing nursing care for 120-odd Kiwi soldiers. “This will be completely different, looking mainly after the Canadian and Afghan armies and the Afghan police as well as coalition forces coming in.”

CAPT Fitzell initially joined the Army as a riflemann in 1992. “That was the best time of my life, but I decided I had better look abroad so I left in 1996 and trained as a nurse.” He was among the first group to train at Waikato Hospital for the Bachelor of Nursing degree.

“But I missed the Army a lot, so returned.”

Although wife Nicola and his three children are used to him disappearing for periods, CAPT Fitzell says it is never easy.

Apart from lower level deployments, it will be the first in a “hot zone” for CAPT Drysdale, the first in his specialisation to be deployed by the NZ Forces to Afghanistan.

He briefly describes his role as providing diagnostic support for forward field surgical teams. Basically, there are two functions. The first is to analyse a patient’s bodily fluid and tissue chemistry to ensure appropriate medications are administered to optimise recovery.

Secondly, it will be his job to analyse and isolate disease outbreaks — “Not so much to do with surgical applications but more to do with force health protection in non-battle injuries. The sooner we can give a result as to what a patient’s infection is the sooner they can be treated and sent on their merry way again.”

To keep his specialist certification current, CAPT Drysdale is required to spend about 70% of his time in a recognised laboratory. Thus most of his time is dedicated to working in Nelson Hospital MedLab, with monthly forays to Linton working on corps training and running up scientific instruments to ensure they are operational.

CAPT Drysdale trained as a medical scientist in Palmerston North and Wellington Hospitals. During 1992-95 he specialised in tropical laboratory medicine in Papua-New Guinea. Part of his learning curve there was meeting his wife, Celine. They moved to Nelson from there and have since added three children to their family.

Although only having joined the Army early last year, CAPT Drysdale already had a memorable overseas deployment under his belt. In early June he joined the 2nd Health Support Battalion detachment to Rarotonga for a fortnight to deal with just under 80 surgical cases, as well as running a few first aid courses and treating some dental cases.

The plan for their deployment to Afghanistan means the pair will embark on a two-week pre-deployment training course. In the meantime, CAPT Fitzell is continuing with stints at MidCentral Health’s Palmerston North Hospital between Linton duties, keeping his clinical training up to the mark, while CAPT Drysdale will continue with his Nelson-Linton-Nelson routine.

Pipes & Drums passion of late unit commander

By Gary Parkes

Among the many attributes of the late 5th Wellington West Coast Taranki Battalion Group Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel was his total dedication to the unit’s Pipes & Drums.

That was one of the many points underlined in the Funeral service for Lieutenant Colonel Don McGregor, OBE, held in Wanganui Collegiate Chapel just days before the unit’s 90th anniversary celebrations in its birthplace of New Plymouth.

Eulogies were delivered by son-in-law Lance Rowe, Director-General of Reserve Forces (and LTCol McGregor’s successor as Commanding Officer of the then 5th Battalion (Wellington West Coast Taranki), Royal NZ Infantry Regiment), Brigadier Tim Brewer, former Pipes & Drums Drum Major Adam Gibson and former Pipe Sergeant and fellow Wanganui District Councillor Randhir Dahya.

The overflowing chapel of mourners heard how LTCol McGregor reported to the Hawera Army Office in 1953 to sign up for Compulsory Military Training, being posted to Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles. He took a liking to the military values and way of life and went on to join the Territorial Force, being commissioned in October, 1955.

His reputation as “a soldier’s man” manifested itself in the early stages of his career. As a Regular Force platoon commander in Malaysia in 1959, he was known to go out and round up his troops after a “night on the town”, shielding them from the unwanted attention of the Military Police.

After serving in Southeast Asia, LTCol McGregor was posted as an United Nations observer in Kashmir during the India-Pakistan border clashes. On one occasion he stayed up all night playing chess with an Indian general in order to prevent a battle breaking out.

In 1970 he was seconded to Tonga for four years as Commander of the Tonga Defence Force. He reported directly to King Tupou IV.

A posting to Defence Headquarters followed, after which he went sheep farming in Huntville, taking the opportunity to learn the pipes he had bought in Pakistan. Later he moved to a farm near Wanganui and rejoined the TF as Commanding Officer of SWCWT in 1984.

He returned to Tonga in 1986 as CO of SWCWT, this time with the band he had especially built up as a “present” to the King. Included among the band’s ranks was son Manu, who was born in Tonga (the Princess is his Godmother). He returned with the band three years later, this time piping “Happy Birthday” for the King’s 60th birthday.

While commanding TDF he was on a passport boat which came upon a Korean fishing boat illegally fishing. He boarded it and ordered it to return to Nuku’Alofa.

About that time he moved to Aird, a Forreld farm which had been in the family since 1860 and where he died on August 3. He would have been used as a practice room by the Fordele Pipe Band.

LTCol McGregor led the band to Tasmania for an Anzac Day tour in 1997 and to the Edinburgh Tattoo and the Queen Mother’s centenary in 2000.

Before being elected onto the Wanganui District Council he mounted a campaign which included visiting every household in his spread-out rural ward.

In 1973 he bought Nugget, a black Clydesdale. He was riding that as a knight leading the Clan March at the Turakina Highland Games when the horse was spooked by fluttering flags and bolted, with LTCol McGregor hanging on for grim death before bringing it under control at the opposite end of the field. Nugget was fitted out as a Regimental Drum Horse for battalion parades in New Plymouth and Wanganui.

In the early 90’s he accepted an offer from a retired RN Commander of a ram which was named Ramilles and adopted as the Regimental Mascot. (Due to “attrition” there were actually about three Ramilles’). Prior to a Charity Parade in Wanganui some of the lads treated Ramilles to a hair do, spraying him with the corps belt colours. Fearing Col Don would not approve, orders were given for the dye to be scrubbed off. Ramilles became so stressed a vet suggested an injection of sedative. The shot was a tad much and Ramilles became legless on parade and the Mascot Major RP sergeant had to carry him off.

In Edinburgh Col Don ensured the band did go unnoticed by deciding they would wear lemon squeezers. The ploy worked and he wound up with “the best seat in the house” taking his place among royalty and dignitaries in the VIP enclosure.

Above: Members of the 5th Wellington West Coast Taranki Battalion Group carry LTCol Don McGregor from Wanganui Collegiate School’s chapel. Below: Drum Major of the Pipes & Drums of the 5th Wellington West Coast Battalion Group, SGT Rob Henny, carries the wraith which had been borne on a tenor drum during the service.
By Lt Mike Gleeson

A team of RNZAF tradesmen deployed to Niue in August to conduct civil aid tasks and prepare the facilities that was to accommodate NZDF and NZ Police personnel supporting the 39th Pacific Island Forum later in the month.

The 10 man team, supported by a medic and chef from 2 LFG, escaped the wind and rain of a Manuwatu winter with the assistance of a RNZAF C-130 and arrived on the “Rock of the Pacific” in perfect tropical conditions. They quickly set up living quarters in the Niue Youth Centre, and once reconnaissance had been conducted on their job sites the work began.

Their primary task site was the Niue High School, where they repaired the ablution block, installing new showers and lighting, finishing the work with a paint job any engineer would be proud of. They also replaced solar panels which heat water for the home economics class room and are critical to the kitchen operation. A sheltered walkway was constructed at the school, and the engineers also put in a valiant effort on the school's touch rugby field against a nimble and numerically superior opposition.

The engineer construction team carried out running repairs at the Youth Centre and at a local hall that would serve to accommodate media reporting on the Pacific Island Forum. This task and the repairs at the High School were sponsored by NZ Aid. They also assisted the Niuean Police to construct a vehicle shelter at the Police station and some much needed renovations to their smoko room.

Once the main body of NZ service personnel arrived on 13 Aug 08 a small team of tradesmen remained as maintenance crew for the duration of the Pacific Island Forum, while the remainder of the team returned home.

The engineers enjoyed their short trip to Niue, and were welcomed by the locals. Niueans are still talking about the great work done on Exercise Tropic Twilight 2005 and were grateful for the reconstruction efforts of the engineers after cyclone Heta devastated the Island.

Leisuretime highlights of the trip included hunting coconut crabs at night in the forest with a local guide, and snorkelling with a pod of humpback whales.

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**ARMY LEAVE CENTRES HOLIDAY BALLOT**

**PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY EARLY - APPLY NOW FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS BALLOT**

Ballot period for all locations for Christmas Holiday are now opened. Units will be allocated on a Friday to Friday basis only.

Closing date for application is on Thurs 18 Sept 08 at 1630hrs. Ballot will be drawn on Mon 22 Sept 08.

All successful applicants will be advised and will receive an invoice. Application form is available on the Army Intranet, for all military and civilian personnel who have access to the site.

Christmas Holiday application is on a weekly basis as follow

**Week 1:** In Fri 19 Dec Out Fri 26 Dec 08

**Week 2:** In Fri 26 Dec Out Fri 02 Jan 09

**Week 3:** In Fri 02 Jan Out Fri 09 Jan 09

**Week 4:** In Fri 09 Jan Out Fri 16 Jan 09

If you need any further information please contact the Leave Centre Administrator:

Phone : 04 527 5823
Fax : 04 527 5898
Toll free : 0800 111823
They range from students, chefs and a vet, to carpenters, a DOC ranger, and university lecturers, and they all have one thing in common - they are helping maintain peace and stability in Solomon Islands.

The military component in Solomon Islands, most of whom are Territorial Force soldiers, continues to play a vital role in providing security and support.

The New Zealand Defence Force has contributed to the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI) since the mission’s inception in 2003, and earlier this year the Minister of Defence, Phil Goff extended the deployment to March 2009.

The NZDF personnel provide ongoing support to the local police force and to the RAMSI Participating Police Force, which is drawn from throughout the Pacific. New Zealand also has 35 police officers in Solomon Islands.

The soldiers’ role includes assisting RAMSI police in downtown Honiara, carrying out patrols, and helping with external security at Rove Prison. These important tasks help free up personnel from other Pacific Island countries to undertake community work outside Honiara, for which they are particularly valuable.

Senior National Officer Major Bede Fahey, a former Regular Force officer but now a police employee and commanding officer of Wellington Hawkes Bay Battalion, says the platoon worked well together “right from the start.”

They spent the first part of their tour of duty completing security work at Rove Prison in Honiara, and then deployed to rural bases, from where they patrolled the surrounding areas.

During their patrols they talk with as many local community members as possible, and often pitch in with community projects, such as small construction projects, and infrastructure repair.
Tension began simmering between various factions in Solomon Islands more than 30 years ago. It wasn’t until the late 1990s, however, that fighting began in earnest. Guadalcanal people, irked by their perception that Malaitan settlers in Guadalcanal had the best land and jobs, ran thousands of Malaitan settlers off the island. Malaitan combatants in turn formed the Malaitan Eagle Force, and the shootings and general mayhem began. After two years of fighting the Townsville Peace Agreement was signed. It was designed to end the fighting between the militia groups the Isatabu Freedom Movement, which represented indigenous Guadalcanal people, and the Malaitan Eagle Force, made up of settlers from neighbouring Malaita. A group of New Zealand and Australian peace monitors deployed in support of the Townsville Agreement.

July 2003: the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) begins. New Zealand peacekeepers were, and are, an integral part of RAMSI, which includes the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police, and personnel from the Pacific Island contributing states (Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga). The New Zealand contingent comprises four RNZAF Inquis helicopters from No 3 squadron and the personnel to operate and support them; a team of NZ army engineers; a combat service Support team, and a group of staff officers to man the Combined Task Force Headquarters.

April 18-20 2006: sees unrest and a deteriorating security situation, and much of the downtown area in the Solomon Islands capital of Honiara known as Chinatown is destroyed. The destruction leads to the loss of 1,600 jobs, as amenities such as the Casino Hotel and Fortunes Restaurant are looted and burned. The New Zealand Defence Force sends an Infantry Company to Honiara, increasing troop numbers from 46 to 125. Defence personnel are located in Honiara (RAMSI Headquarters) and Rove.

June 2006: The situation in Solomon Islands stabilises, and there is a draw down of the New Zealand presence to a platoon strength of 44.

2008: The mission for the military component of RAMSI remains largely unchanged since 2003 and that mission is: To provide protection and support to Participating Police Force (PPF) operations in order to assist the Solomon Islands Police (SiPF) establish and maintain the rule of law in the Solomon Islands.

The New Zealand platoon conducts a number of tasks under the direction of Australian-led CJTF 635 which comes under the auspices of Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Additional tasks include frequent patrols in the Honiara CBD.

In recent years every Solomon Island contingent from New Zealand has been made up of mainly Territorial Force soldiers. The RATA (7) deployment includes a total of 33 TF personnel, including 16 from Wellington West Coast Taranaki Battalion, and 14 from Wellington Hawks Bay Regiment.
Sapper Boustridge’s quick thinking rewarded

Sapper Luke Boustridge used his Army training to good effect at the 2007 Worldskills International in Japan, where he saved the life of a Japanese man at the final function.

The Japanese gentleman had fallen off the stage, hitting his head, knocking himself unconscious and swallowing his tongue. Everyone near him looked on, and Sapper Boustridge, sensing the man was in real trouble, went to his aid.

He cleared his airway and carried out mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until paramedics arrived.

The man was admitted to hospital and made a full recovery. Sapper Boustridge’s quick thinking and action was rewarded by the presentation of a certificate of appreciation from Worldskills International at a ceremony at the Logistic Executive recently. Chief of Army MAJGEN Lou Gardiner presented the certificate, saying he was very proud of Luke for his actions.

“Luke should also feel very proud of himself. Not many people can lay claim to saving someone’s life,” said MAJGEN Gardiner.
By Gary Parkes

Following a drenching by icy rain at a dawn parade, skies cleared for the 5th Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Battalion Group’s 150th Anniversary celebrations in New Plymouth last month.

The unit had its origins in 1858 with the formation of the Taranaki Rifle Company, which eight years later joined with the Wanganui Rifles to become the Wellington West Coast Rifles Battalion. By 1911 it was known as the 11th Taranaki Regiment. It was part of the 1st Battalion, Wellington Regiment, under its former Commanding Officer, Colonel W. G. (Bill) Malone, when it took Chunuk Bair during the Gallipoli Campaign, only for the prize to be lost due to lack of reinforcements. Col Malone was killed in action on August 8, the date now observed as 5WWCT’s Regimental Birthday.

Formalities of the Taranaki anniversary celebrations began with a dawn Parade at Stratford’s Malone Gates (the largest memorial to an individual soldier in the Southern hemisphere) on Friday, August 8.

The following afternoon the unit exercised its privilege of having freedom of the New Plymouth district by holding a charter parade through the streets of New Plymouth. The arrival of the parade at Puke Ariki was heralded with the sound of gunfire and spectators were treated to a display of soldiers rappelling down the side of the adjoining shopping mall.

Reviewing officer for the parade was New Plymouth Mayor Peter Tennent, who spoke of the unit’s proud history and the district’s pride in having so many of its citizens involved with it for one and a half centuries.

Following the inspection of the unit by Mr Tennent, medals and awards were presented by the Honorary Colonel, Col Martin Devlin.

During proceedings two commemoration plaques were unveiled by a former CO, Director-General of Reserve Forces, Brigadier Tim Brewer. They were blessed by the unit chaplain, Captain Mike Douglas and iwi minister the Rev Albie Martin.

Former members of the unit were accorded the honour of joining the battalion group in its return march to the dispersal point, before old and new soldiers adjourned to the New Plymouth RSA for an evening’s entertainment.

Celebrations concluded with a service held in St Mary’s Pro Cathedral – part of which had been home to members of the Taranaki Rifles for a short period during its beginnings. Officiating were Bishop Philip Richardson and the vicar, the Rev Canon David Hollingsworth (an ex-airman). Old colours of the Taranaki and 5WWCT are laid up in the church.

5WWCT will conclude its 150th anniversary year with celebrations at its Wanganui headquarters in March.
CouragE, CommitmENt, ComraDEShIp aND INtEgrIty

The Trade Training School and ammunition and explosive ordnance (eod) wing (eod) wing conducted a second pilot Joint Service basic eod operator's course recently.

Eight students across a broad rank range, and including Navy Ratings took part. The trade backgrounds were equally diverse, and involved ammunition technicians, army engineers and navy divers.

The course aimed to train selected personnel to become effective eod operators able to carry out a render Safe Procedure (rSP) on conventional munitions (land, sea, and air) in support of 1 nZ eod Sqn in New Zealand, and to provide support as an eod team member on overseas operations.

The course was conducted in four main parts including the theory of ammunition design, covering all aspects of ordnance specific to each Service. This included lessons on land mines, sea mines, and aerially delivered and clustered munitions, all of which have been encountered by NZ eod teams operating in Afghanistan and Lebanon. This phase also included an in-depth analysis of the construction of guided weapons and torpedoes.

Having been made familiar with the design of ammunition, we quickly moved on to the equipment we would be using to render those munitions safe. Though more frequently used by an advanced eod operator, it was our task to become familiar with the "tools of the trade"; rocket wrench, 0.50in de-armers, were readily assimilated along with mini DRFD, the in-service remote firing device for eod, and detection equipment for CW agents, mines and deep buried UXO.

Course participants looked forward with great anticipation to the demolitions phase which were conducted in Zone 1 Waiouru, and the grenade range. Despite appalling weather conditions, this phase was extremely enjoyable, and was felt by all to be a just reward for the hard work that had preceded it. Everything we had been taught was tested in severe snow squalls and howling winds. But, undaunted, the students rose to the challenge and set about producing very effective render safe procedures. We practised various demolition procedures, including; counter mining, deflagratory (burning) techniques on GW, rockets and propellants, linked demolition charges (Main line and Ring Main) and the different methods of initiation – electrical and igniferous, the latter method being very familiar to Blinds Disposal.

The phase concluded with the destruction (by low order techniques) of four Mk80 series of aerially delivered munitions, the 1000lb bomb! I say concluded with low order destruction, but one of the methods failed with spectacular results! The instantaneous state change of 935lbs of high explosive and metal, from a solid to nothing more than gas and iron filings, is something the course will not forget in a hurry!

To pass and gain the course qualification we were all required to carry out a number of staged UXO scenarios, based on actual incidents. These incidents called into question not only our recent learning, but also our ability to constantly review and revise our RSP as the situation developed, and at the same time maintain command and control of the incident and the eod team. This was an understandably stressful time, but one that has fully prepared us for the very demanding role we were being trained for.

Despite the occasional set-back, all of the students passed the course, but not without a few sighs of relief! Several students have made an immediate and direct contribution to a NZ eod Sqn capabilities, and others will be called upon to do so, in their current role with the Operational Dive Team and the Waiouru Ammunition Depot.
by Judith Martin

the united nations truce supervision organisation, which monitors the truce between israel and the bordering countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel, is the longest-running UN mission and was established after the creation of the state of israel in 1948.

most of the 153 military observers are based in the areas of separation between israeli and Southern Lebanon, and israel and Syria on the Golan Heights. the observers, from 23 countries, are spread among Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Egypt, with 37 of them at the UNTSO headquarters in jerusalem.

LT Col Mark Ogilvie.

the New Zealand Defence Force has contributed peacekeepers to UNTSO since 1996, making it New Zealand’s oldest UN mission. Military observers seldom see their counterparts as they are each teamed up with observers from other countries in order to maintain neutrality and avoid claims of complicity.

Working from patrol bases and observations posts, the observers are the eyes and ears of the peacekeeping process. They maintain, in military-speak “situational awareness” – in other words, they patrol, watch, talk, and find out what’s going on in their locality, and what’s likely to happen.

An observer accompanies most patrols, which, although unarmed, have radio contact with their local UN headquarters, and access to bunkers at the various patrol bases scattered throughout the region.

When French peacekeeper Major Jean Louis Valet was cut down by Israeli tank fire in the parched brown Lebanon hills in January 2005, disbelief rippled through the New Zealand-led Observer Group Lebanon (OGL).

His death was a sobering experience for his usually ebullient boss, the now-Commandant of the Land Operating Training Centre in Waiouru, LTCol Mark Ogilvie.

“Jean Louis’s death was the first casualty under fire that the United Nations Truce Supervisory organisation had suffered in 17 years. To lose him when nothing like that had happened for so long was a shock to the whole station. We had become complacent and the incident jerked us back to the fact we were in a zone of conflict.”

OGL at that time consisted of 50 observers from 18 countries. The Israeli Defence Force had pulled back from South Lebanon, and manned a defensive line along that demarcation. Southern Lebanon had been mostly peaceful for 5 years, and local communities were getting on with their lives in the relatively benign environment.

However, the radical Islamic movement, Hezbollah, was still determined to take the fight to Israel. The group’s stated aims were to expel Israelis from all areas of Lebanon, and return Jerusalem to Muslim control.

“Hizbollah would snipe, and occasionally kidnap Israeli soldiers, demanding in exchange the return of Hezbollah soldiers held by the Israeli Defence Force. That caused all sorts of problems, including roadside bombings and raids. The IDF response would always be swift and surgical.”

For the first two months of his deployment relative peace prevailed.

Now, LTCol Ogilvie recalls with equanimity the tragedy that struck UNTSO, on January 10 2005.

“It was the best of times and the worst of times. The loss of Jean-Louis in those circumstances affected everyone and it became the biggest leadership challenge of my career. But we came through it quickly and learned from the experience. The situation in Lebanon, like so many similar places, can turn around and bite you very quickly.”

He speaks without bitterness. “It was the first time I had seen one of my soldiers killed in action, and it was difficult but we did everything by the book as far as critical incidents were concerned. There was extreme sadness, but it led to invaluable bonding. We improved our standard operating procedures, shook off our complacency and regained an operational focus. In time, Observer Group Lebanon became an exceptional station.”

He believes those operational improvements were born out when, in mid-2006, Israel reinvaded Southern Lebanon in response to a Hezbollah raid. Although OGL’s Khiam patrol base was destroyed, causing 4 UN deaths, the group was still able to function.

LTCol Ogilvie has served with UNTSO twice – his first deployment there was as a young captain in 1989. The mission was his first experience in an area where people can be aligned to one of 17 different versions of Christianity, and where there exists several different Muslims. The different allegiances made, and still make, he says, the political and religious situation very complex.

“There was a saying, if you think you understand the Middle East, you haven’t been here long enough. I suppose that’s the same with all civil wars and insurgencies. But the nature of Israel’s creation and the wars that followed means this is a conflict that will take generations to resolve. An in a part of the world where memories go back centuries, past wrongs are not easily forgotten or forgiven. We’ll be there for a while yet.”
Eight soldiers and officers from Lithgow and Trentham Camps have accepted the challenge to become stronger, faster, fitter, leaner, and to lose weight or fat for an endurance event. They are responding to a challenge issued by Army health leaders in the hope that they can achieve their goals within a set period. The fitness and nutrition campaign is being coordinated by Army dietician Captain Nicola Martin at Army physical training advisor (PTA) Monica Darlow. Army News will track each individual’s progress, and Capt Martin and WO Fowler will sum up their results in our November issue.

Using the results of initial assessments and scores, PTAs and Captain Martn have developed individual nutrition and physical training plans to help the participants meet their goals. In this issue, Army News WO Fowler and Captain Martin share great tips on healthy eating and physical training that can be incorporated into anyone’s life, no matter what stage of their career they are at.

**STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAMMING**

The soldiers on the strength and conditioning programme are being encouraged to be stronger and leaner but not necessarily bulkier. They are looking to improve their ability to perform their daily functions as soldiers better by being able to lift heavier loads or perform tasks better for longer. By adopting the recommended foods and exercise, they will be able to improve their condition with an improvement in strength, endurance and flexibility.

**Guideline 2 is represented by the food pyramid at right:**

- **Key:** Fit (nutritionally occurring and added)
- **Oggs:** added sugar
- **Filled symbols show fats and added sugars m foods.

**Basic Healthy Eating**

All healthy adult New Zealanders should achieve the Ministry of Health’s Food and Nutrition Guidelines (OWN). These guidelines are the basis of healthy eating, and combined with regular physical activity they form the foundation for a healthy lifestyle.

**Food and nutrition guidelines for adult New Zealanders**

1. Maintain a healthy body weight by eating well and by daily physical activity.
2. Eat well by including a variety of nutritious foods from each of the four major food groups.
3. Eat plenty of vegetables and fruit (≥2 a day).
4. Eat a variety of grains and cereals, preferably whole-grain (≥4 a day).
5. Have milk and milk products in your diet, preferably reduced or low-fat milk (≥2+ a day).
6. Include lean meat, poultry, seafood, eggs and legumes (≥2 a day).
7. Drink plenty of liquids each day, especially water (≥2+ a day).
8. Prepare foods in a way that preserves nutrients (fried and smoked).
9. With minimal added fat, especially unsaturated fat.
10. That are low in salt: if you can, choose low-salt foods.
11. With little added sugar, limit your intake of high sugar foods.
12. Keep a variety of foods, such as beans, peas and lentils.
13. If choosing to drink alcohol, limit intake.
14. Purchase, prepare, cook and store food to ensure food safety.
15. At least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on most if not all days of the week and if possible add some vigorous exercise for extra health and fitness.

Guideline 3 is represented by the food pyramid at right.

**Key**

- **Fit:** nutritionally occurring and added
- **Oggs:** added sugars

These symbols show fats and added sugars m foods.

**Nutrition for Strength & Conditioning**

There is a lot of confusion about how to increase muscle size and function, particularly when it comes to the right nutrition. Traditional thinking by people trying to increase bulk and improve strength has emphasised that very high dietary protein intake is required to maximise protein stores in muscle and that supplements are critical to this process. However, science has shown us that in order to achieve gains in strength and conditioning you need to follow an appropriate resistance training programme that is supported with good quality nutrition.

**Resistance Training**

Resistance exercise need to be emphasised to adapt, grow and gain strength.

**Energy**

You need to provide the right amount of energy (kcal) for your body to support the training. Carbohydrates Your body requires carbohydrates to carry out exercise and creates the right environment for positive body changes to occur.

**Proteins**

Protein plays an important role in growth and repair of injury tissues.

**Carbohydrates**

It is important that you follow the Food and Nutrition Guidelines and eat a variety of foods from each of the four major food groups. If you are trying to improve your strength and conditioning you should consider making extra energy to support your training programme.

**Key**

- **Oggs:** added sugar
- **Filled symbols show fats and added sugars m foods.

- **Fats, Oils, Sweet & Salt Use sparingly**
- **Milk, Yogurt & Cheese Groups**
- **Vegetable Groups**
- **Fruit Groups**
- **Grain Groups**
- **Beef, Lamb & Pork Groups**
- **Fish & Shellfish Groups**
- **Egg & Nuts Groups**
- **Vegetable Groups**
- **Fruit Groups**

**Breakfast**

- 2 x sweet-ban with canned peaches and trim milk
- 2 x weet-bix with peanut butter, OJ

**Lunch**

- 1 x lamb wrap with extra salad
- 2 x small chocolate chip biscuits
- 1 x apple

**Dinner**

- Mash potato, spinach steak with mushroom sauce, beans and carrots

**Snack**

- Apple and cucumber and custard

**Strength Session (5:30 a.m.)**

**Breakfast (0715)**

- Apple crumble and custard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Dinner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 x sweet-ban with canned peaches and trim milk</td>
<td>2 x weet-bix with peanut butter, OJ</td>
<td>Mash potato, spinach steak with mushroom sauce, beans and carrots</td>
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**Cost of food.**

The cost of food will vary depending on your location, the number of people you are feeding, the type of food you choose, and how you prepare it.

**Potential Barriers**

- Lack of interest in nutrition
- Lack of time to prepare meals
- Lack of money to purchase healthy foods
- Lack of knowledge about healthy eating

**Pie Anastasion Green**

**Overview**

- Pte Green, 21, is a fitness instructor. She is enthusiastic and motivated towards keeping fit and participation in something active at least once a day generally. She also enjoys the social aspect of being in the Army.

**Goals**

- Achieve a 100% pass, 60% progress
- Successfully complete an APT
- Combine healthy eating and regular physical activity into her lifestyle

**Potential Barriers**

- Pte Green’s programme will be interrupted by an upcoming regional and possibly inter-services competition.
- She is aware that her meals are not very varied but she has been eating regularly and does her best to stick to a healthy diet.
2LG recently hosted a NZ Police-sponsored young driver education programme in Linton Camp. The Youth Driving Education Programme is an intensive two-day course for young drivers who have been stopped by the police for a range of driving offences including drunk driving, careless driving, driving without a licence or breaching the conditions of a restricted or learner licence. The programme is an innovative course designed to educate young drivers via the real life experiences of other young drivers who’ve been seriously injured or killed others. The course includes perspectives of other related parties including emergency services, family members, funeral directors, and insurance companies. The programme is viewed as an alternative to Youth Court, and consists of presentations, discussions and practical driving skills.

Initially pilot courses were conducted and qualitative research was undertaken with students attending the programme. This was designed to evaluate the content and achievements of the programme, in particular to assess the impact the course has in educating young drivers, reforming attitudes and encouraging responsible driver behavior. The programme is constantly being validated and different mediums are being developed to deliver the key messages. So far the courses have been very successful, with a very small number of students re-offending.

Sergeant Peter Knight of the Palmerston North Police Youth Section believes locating the course within a military camp has many advantages and is grateful for the support to date. “The camp has all the facilities located within its boundary and therefore eases the control and co-ordination aspects.” In the main all the agencies freely give of their time and resources, without which the course would not be possible.

Police have made a commitment to offer up places for soldiers to attend. Whilst not strictly within the target group, soldiers who have a history of committing driving offences, particularly off-duty, will benefit from this programme, and in turn, the Army and wider community will be better off. If places for soldiers are made available on future courses, then units are encouraged to nominate personnel to attend.

**HAVE YOU GOT YOUNG DRIVING OFFENDERS IN YOUR UNIT?**

Many of our young (17-24 years of age) soldiers own vehicles and use them frequently during off-duty hours. Due to their age and/or licence status (learner, restricted or full), they are subject to the provisions of the graduated licence system and young driver alcohol limits. Young drivers are still developing their driving knowledge and skills in regards to vehicle control and coping with traffic situations. At the same time their propensity for risk taking is high and personal choice selection can be misguided. These factors (and others) mean that our young drivers are at a high risk of committing offences or being involved in a serious crash.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there are difficulties in gaining visibility of off-duty offending unless it results in a court appearance or loss of licence, commanders can expect that a number of their soldiers are committing offences which incur fines and/or demerit points. The consequence of off-duty offending can impact on a soldiers’ ability to perform their role within a unit, and more importantly, if the offending is forming a part of their normal driving behaviour, the safety of personnel can be placed at risk.

As a commander, if you have personnel within your unit that came to your attention for repeated poor driving behaviour, on or off-duty, then it is the best interests of all concerned to do something about it. If the soldier holds a DD5, recommend to the CO that the DD5 is suspended [see DFO 36Ch R 2.95] or forbid them from driving military vehicles. Consider placing the soldier on a formal written warning. Most importantly, initiate the remedial training that will address the issue. Consult with unit D’or Driver Training Wing instructors, along with your own leadership team, as to the best course of action. Often the issue will not be a question of skill—it will be attitude.

The challenge is to educate and encourage the soldier to change their approach to the driving task from one of risk-taking and poor choices to a safe and responsible attitude. Courses such as Defensive Driving, Army Driver Awareness and the Police programme focus heavily on driving risk, personal choice, and consequence. Maybe an activity within your unit is an option. Get the soldier to present a relevant driving subject to their peers, and relate it to their situation. Arrange emergency service groups or crash victims to relay their experiences to your soldiers. There are many groups of people inside the Army or in the local community who can assist.

Ultimately it is the offender who has to adjust their attitude, but we can certainly facilitate and guide them onto the right track. Have you got young driving offenders in your unit? Are they responsible for driving one of your unit vehicles? Do you put your soldiers in the vehicle with them? Do your soldiers travel with them during off-duty periods? If the answer to any of these questions is ‘yes’, then do something about it before another road tragedy occurs.

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**Real life experiences back safety message**

SSgt Phillip Allridge (Linton Fire Troop) narrates the crash scene demonstration to the Police Youth Driver Education Programme participants.

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**Bulk Atlas Entry Bureau full steam ahead**

The newly formed Bulk Atlas Entry Bureau is now processing all three Army base administration centre documents as well as continuing to assist Linton Administration Centre (LAC) with their leave passes. Once the BAE Bureau is fully staffed the rollout will continue with LAC, Navy and Air Force coming online over the next few months.

Bulk Atlas Entry was initiated in 2007 at a JSLO conference attended by several senior administrators from the three Services. The Personnel Administration Development Team (PADT) at JSLO developed the concept through to fruition in March 2008. Ongoing recruitment of civilian personnel will see the BAE Bureau grow from the current two casuals to four or five permanent staff.

The Trentham Admin Centre (TAC) trialled the pilot project, forwarding all their ATLAS data entry to the BAE Bureau. In November 2009, Bumham and Linton Administration Centres started forwarding their leave passes; in the lead up to Christmas the BAE Bureau actioned 1,200 leave passes in one week.

Administration Units scan and email their documents to JSLO where they are entered into ATLAS. Their target is a 48-hour turnaround which is being easily achieved. In the future specialist software will be introduced allowing units to download documents directly to the BAE Bureau. The documents will be retained within the programme allowing Admin Units to check the source document at any time.

Feedback on this process has, so far, been positive. Administration Units are now able to better utilise the resources freed up by sending this work to JSLO to be actioned rather than having staff spend on average 30-40% of their time on data entry.
Leadership skills win trophy for college student

James Teau of James Cook High School Service Academy won the New Zealand Army Leadership trophy at the induction course for the Auckland Service Academies in August.

The course, similar to a mini basic, was held on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf, and was conducted by staff of the 3FG Youth Life Skills cell.

The Auckland Service Academies have been set up to give good students in low decile schools an insight into Service life, and better prepare them for entry into the Navy, Army, Airforce or Police. Sixty-five students recently completed the six month Auckland training course.

At the end of the course a number of trophies were presented to the academies for various activities; the Navy Trophy was presented to Onehunga Academy for winning the Exercise Longest Day competition, and the Airforce Trophy for the Drill Competition was presented to Glenfield Academy. The Sports Trophy was presented to James Cook Academy. This course saw the introduction of the New Zealand Army Leadership Trophy, which was presented to James.

The trophy is presented to the individual who displayed basic leadership skills and qualities Army personnel strive for - courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity.

James took charge on many occasions during the course especially during demanding times when the pressure was on, and had all academies working together achieving their goals.

He hopes to join the Army soon and become a field engineer.

ARMY RECRUITERS WANTED

The NZ Army is currently seeking senior non-commissioned officers that have the passion and enthusiasm to be able to articulate the Army “dream” for the purpose of recruiting top quality applicants.

Competitive salary package includes own office, a work blackberry, dedicated late model vehicle, ongoing training, fantastic support network, and annual gym membership.

If this sounds like you, read on...

6 HauCelebrates 110th Birthday

By Julia Banks

6 Hauraki Battalion Group exercised its Charter Rights to parade in Tauranga on Sat 12 July to celebrate its 110th birthday. The 190-strong parade was led by CO LTCOL Warren Banks.

The camp has many advantages and is grateful for the support to date. "The camp has

By SGT Mel Nathan-Patua

Career Development

Recruiting is a real shock from mainstream military life. All of a sudden you’re thrust into an almost corporate world of sales pitches, BlackBerries and seven figure advertising budgets. Nowhere else in the Army do you get exposed to things like sales techniques, customer service and advertising theories, but as in the mainstream Army, it’s just another set of skills that must be developed and mastered in order to complete the task at hand — recruiting. One of the benefits of this promotion focus is the training we receive from prominent speakers around New Zealand.

Our last speaker had taken first-place at the International Speech Competition in Canada. He had some great ideas and methods on how to develop our own personal presentation techniques. These sort of skills are useful not only in recruiting, but would be great to an instructor, or a leader, or even outside the Army.

But recruiting is more than just applying a set of sales pitches. Today’s kids are very aware, and they have a fair idea when you’re talking rubbish. You need to be able to articulate what it is to be in the Army and the difference we make, and one of the most real and honest ways to do this is to share your own stories. Believe it or not, they love these stories we all have.

But I guess the element that is crucial to your success as a recruiter, is your own enthusiasm and passion for what you do in the Army and the part you play.

Personal Benefits

On a personal level, my initial interest in recruiting was primarily as a means to move closer to our extended family at a time when there was serious illness in the family. However, when I reflect on the year so far, I can see it has achieved so much more. Relocating to a different town can be tough, especially when you don’t have the familiarity and safety of the Army infrastructure and networks around you, but luckily, the nature of recruiting forces you out into the community. It’s a great excuse to get out there and get to know people, spark old friendships and build up new contacts for the future; in a nutshell — a fantastic opportunity to re-establish yourself in your home community. And being able to show your old teachers what you’ve achieved so far in life is an added bonus too!

Our kids, 1 and 3 years old, have thrived being amongst their extended family as well.

They’ve been able to get to know their wider family at a much deeper level than is possible just on Christmas holidays. They’ll be locals for good now! And on the flip side of the coin, having the whanau around to baby sit has meant my hubby and I can get away to spend a bit of time together.

The NZ Army is currently seeking senior non-commissioned officers that have the passion and enthusiasm to be able to articulate the Army “dream” for the purpose of recruiting top quality applicants.

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If this sounds like you, read on...
Pacific Partnership 2008 is a multi-national collection of military personnel and civilian NGOs from United States, Australia, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Canada – and New Zealand - who provide much needed medical, surgical and engineering services in the Pacific, all from one ship-borne base.

This year the NZDF team participated in the PNG leg of the deployment. The USNS Mercy went on to visit the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Micronesia and Guam.

by Capt Jane Webb RNZN

The first thing that strikes you about the United States Naval Ship, Mercy, is her sheer size. A floating gargantuan, she is hard to miss. Her length is 894 ft, beam 107.5 ft, she can travel at a speed of 17.5 knots and has twin GE turbines with two boilers cranking out 24,000 horse power. In a previous life she was an oil tanker and was refitted as a hospital ship in 1986. There is no mistaking what her role is: she has big red crosses painted over her bright, white hull. She has a sister ship, the COMFORT. Between them they carry out humanitarian missions every other year. However, the primary role of the MERCY is combat trauma support and was activated in support of operations Desert Shield / Desert Storm in 1987, spending 6 months in the Arabian Gulf.

In January 2005 USNS Mercy deployed to Banda Aceh following the Boxing Day tsunami and treated more than 9,500 patients and performed 19,512 medical procedures. In April 2006, the MERCY completed a humanitarian deployment to the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia and East Timor, treating over 60,000 patients.

As we came aboard in Darwin, we were all awed by this spectacular lady of the sea. I was part of a medical contingent of eight NZDF personnel who were selected to participate in Pacific Partnership 2008.

The team consisted of three nursing officers: LT Donna Hammond, LT Casey Pinny and myself (Army), one medical officer, Sgncdr John Duncan, RNZN, three medics - SGT Jolene Walters (RNZAF), LMed Tia Paitai (RNZN), LCP Joseph Konlechner (Army) and one environmental health technician, F/S Colin Edie (RNZAF). We were very warmly welcomed by our US Navy colleagues who made it clear our participation was very much appreciated.

The MERCY had already been away from her home base of San Diego for some months by the time she arrived in Darwin, having conducted missions in the Philippines, Vietnam and Timor Leste, with a core team of Active Duty Naval medical personnel. At various ports Navy Reservists, Partner Nation military medical personnel (NZ, Australia, Canada, India, Korea, Chile) and civilian NGOs (Operation Hope, Operation Smile) came aboard to help. At any one time while we were aboard, there was a crew of nearly 1000 people.

After four days sailing we arrived in PNG, this was plenty of time to adjust to ship board routines. Coming through the Strait of Torres was spectacular, the water only two metres deep in some places.

The MERCY was to remain in Port Moresby for 2 weeks, conducting ship board surgery and also conducting MEDCAPs (medical civilian aid provision) in various locations on shore. There were also engineering projects conducted by the Seabees such as repairing and remodelling local health clinics. The vets on board conducted VETCAPS. Prior to the arrival of the ship, teams on shore had been working with the local hospital and health agencies screening people as candidates for treatment.

All patients and their escorts were transported from the pier to the ship in small "bandaid" boats, following mandatory screening for tuberculosis, which is endemic in PNG. All patients were initially processed through the casualty receiving area and then taken to their assigned wards to await pre operative preparation.

For PP08 there were 3 different wards in service, medical/surgical, ophthalmology/gastroenterology, and paediatrics, for a total of 62 beds with an additional 20 "hotel" beds for patients waiting to leave the ship. The three operating theatres were kept very busy, as were ICU (four beds), recovery, (seven beds). This of course was a fraction of her true capability; the total number of beds on board is 1000 (80 of those being ICU beds) with 12 operating theatres available.

Interventional Radiology, X-Ray, CT, physiotherapy, dental, pharmacy, optometry, preventive medicine and laboratory/
blood bank services were also available.

Members of the 17 member US Navy Band were aboard, and went ashore frequently to play concerts for the locals or hold music sessions at the local schools. They were very well received. The ship had two Sea Hawk helicopters embarked. These were used extensively in transporting supplies and equipment ashore for the engineering operations. The aero-medical evacuation team was involved in rescuing an Australian tourist who had become unwell while walking the infamous Kokoda track.

LCPL Joe Konlechner and I went to Hanuabada, a village close to the port, to help out with a MEDCAP early in the mission. That day over 700 locals were seen by the team. People had lined up for many hours prior to our arrival at 7am, and continued to wait all day in the searing heat. Some fainted from heat exhaustion, with one man requiring treatment by LCPL Konlechner with IV fluids and cooling cares. This was a unique opportunity for them to obtain some expert free medical care, even if limited in scope, as patients at the local hospital have to pay for treatment and medication, something many cannot afford.

The dentists were pulling teeth out all day as poor dental hygiene is a big problem, compounded by continuous chewing of betel nut. Many tooth brushes were handed out! Reading glasses were distributed, and medical officers and paediatricians conducted basic medical examinations. We saw many children with lice, fungal skin infections, scabies and school sores. Most were underweight, some with large infected burns that had not received any treatment. The pharmacy had a stock of basic medications, and I helped out by administering intramuscular injections of antibiotics. We took bags of toys with us and handed them out. The children also loved having their photos taken.

At the conclusion of a very long day, an afternoon tea was put on for us by local ladies, which was appreciated. I worked 12 hour night shifts on Ward 11 for most of my time on the ship, taking care of patients having eye surgery for cataracts and gastrointestinal investigations, mainly colonoscopies. The ward was set up just like any on shore hospital ward, with the exception that patients slept in racks and there were no windows! Also, all equipment was tied down in case of rough seas. Lt Pinny and Lt Hammond both worked 12 hour shifts in the Intensive Care Unit, which was a very busy place. SGT Walters, LMed Paitai and LCPL Konlechner divided their time between ship’s sick parade and MED/ENG Caps, F/S Edie was ashore most days assisting the preventive medicine team spraying for mosquitoes and looking at water quality. SGN/CR Duncan worked very hard ashore on many MEDCAPS.

For a very deprived and poor nation, the presence of the Mercy caused a sensation. Many locals received treatment or surgery that would never have been possible at the local hospital, which is very under resourced and neglected. Without exception, every patient I spoke to or took care of, either on the ward or at the Medcap, was very appreciative of the care they received, however basic or minor. They heaped thanks and praise upon us for coming to help the people of PNG.

I learned a lot about what life is like for the average person in PNG. It is a very hard life, with poor nutrition and lack of access to health care. TB, malaria, HIV and AIDS, typhoid, measles, and intestinal worms are common. There are high rates of crime and unemployment, the cost of living is high compared to the average weekly income, with a daily struggle to put enough food on the table.

It was a very rewarding and interesting mission, a unique opportunity to get a taste of naval life on a grand scale, to gain experience working with military medical personnel from other countries and to help people from a nation much less fortunate than our own. The cost of all the PP08 missions was US$22 million.

Even though there were only 8 of us, we Kiwis seemed to make an impression and everyone was genuinely sad to see us go home.
Kiwi soldiers

**SHOOT FOR GOLD**

It was the New Zealand Army’s turn to strike gold when its Combat Shooting Team won the prestigious Parachute Cup at the Central Skill at Arms Meeting in the United Kingdom recently.

The winning team - SSGT Chad Hally, LCPL Alex Miller, and Sappers Aaron Johnson and Adrian Velich - won the match with the highest score achieved in several years. A Gurkha team came second, with the Australian Combat Shooting Team coming third.

The win followed two months of build up training in Waiouru. The NZ Army Combat Shooting Team (NZACST) left New Zealand for the United Kingdom on June 28 and from London headed to Bisley where the Central Skill at Arms Meeting (CENTSAM) was held.

**CENTSAM** is possibly the best known of all international military shooting competitions, while the ranges at Bisley itself are some of the most famous in the world.

Team Captain, Acting Major Dan Wildy said the team arrived at Bisley on June 29.

“By July 1, after marrying up with our kit, we were on the range conducting check zero. A few days of hectic training, range familiarisation, acclimatisation, and recovery from jetlag followed. Given the size and scope of CENTSAM, about a dozen ranges were used during the competition, spread over three separate range complexes. Range familiarisation therefore required good navigation and some fast driving in order to make timings at the range.”

The competition opened with the Whitehead Cup in the morning with LCPL Alex Miller coming third in the match. Later that day the Association Cup was held, with SSGT Chad Hally also placing third. There was little time for celebration, however, with three matches to be held the following day.

The first match on July 7 was the Roupell Cup where a member of the team, SPR Aaron Johnson was placed third. The Roupell Cup was followed by two matches in the afternoon, the Whittaker Trophy and the Machine Gun Match. There were no top three places all went to firers from the Sultan of Oman Armed Forces, though both LCPL Miller and SPR Johnson made it into the top ten. Better luck was achieved in the Machine Gun Match, with SPR Johnson placed second and LCPL Chris Folu third.

MAJ Wildy said that after two day’s competition team spirits were high with a growing sense of self belief prevailing. “Our third day was busy with two matches – the Roberts Cup and Graham Trophy. In the Roberts Trophy, which is known as the Attack Match, SSGT Hally shot particularly well, placing second. In the afternoon PTE Mark Lupi shot particularly well and came fifth in the Graham Trophy which is an urban contact styled match.”

MAJ Wildy said the high that followed winning the Parachute Cup was tempered by the need to rush off to a different range to shoot the Combat Snap match. “It was the NZACST “B” team to shine, placing second in the fast paced match that saw a fire team match (4 personnel) negotiate an obstacle course of 100m, then engage a series of reactive targets at 300m from the prone position. A series of targets were then engaged in a snap shoot from the standing position at 400m. As usual, the match was done in patrol order, body armour, and helmet.” The team members were CAPT Sergai Davis, PTE Grey Hitch, PTE Lupi, and SPR Velich.

Five days into the competition the team had achieved much of what they’d set out to do and team members were feeling tired. There was, however, three days of competition and five matches left to shoot.

The Rural Contact Match and the Falling Plate Match were held on July 10. While no top ten finishes were achieved in the Rural Contact Match, spirits remained high as the team entered the carnival atmosphere of the Falling Plate Match.

MAJ Wildy: “The Falling Plate is held as a knock out tournament with four teams running then firing at the same time, with the winning team progressing to the next round. While neither NZACST got their respective plates down first, they got to the mound fastest.

LCPL Folu also managed to stun the crowd into silence when he arrived at the mound a good 30 metres ahead of the next fastest competitor.”

In the final two days of shooting the team shot well, picking up a number top five team places. The most notable of these places was a strong second place in the Commonwealth Cup behind the British Army Combat Shooting Team and ahead of the Australian team.

At the end of the competition aggregate scores were compiled, with some very positive results being achieved by members of the NZACST. SPR Johnson won the Gurkha Welfare Match (an aggregate of scores achieved in the Roupell Cup, Henry Whitehead Cup, Association Cup, and Whittaker Trophy). LCPL Miller was placed third in the Gurkha Welfare Match.

The International RUAG Match (sponsored by the defence company RUAG) is an aggregate match combining the scores of seven separate matches. In this match the NZACST scored particularly well, with SSGT Hally sixth, SPR Johnson seventh, LCPL Miller eighth, and SPR Muschamp ninth. The first five places all went to firers from the Sultan of Oman Armed Forces, which has a professional shooting team.

“*The important thing was we beat the Aussies!*” said MAJ Wildy.

He said the results achieved during CENTSAM 2008 were the best to date for the NZACST. “The firers performed well under pressure and demonstrated the world class nature of the New Zealand Army. Thanks must again go out to all those who helped contribute to the teams success, notably the coach, WOz P Mumm, the team manager SGT K McGregor; team armourer CPL C Fitzgerald, HQLTG staff (MAJ T O’Neill, WOz T Witton, and LT J McLean), and to all those who provided support during training including Hotshots; Transfield; Combat School; NZASCE (WTS) and TAD.”

**The Parachute Cup**

The Parachute Cup, which was held four days into the competition, is a fire team match (4 personnel) consisting of a 500m run in patrol order, body armour, and helmet under three minutes. It is followed by a continuous run down match from 600m – 500m firing at each mound using different fire positions. Movement between mounds is done by fire and movement (without the firing).
Combat Rifle Shooting, as its name suggests, is combat focussed. The maintenance of combat focus was enhanced at CENTSAM 2008 by the wearing of body armour while firing. Competitors must now wear a helmet, body armour, webbing of no less than 7.5kg, carry a gas mask, and at times run and shoot in the gas mask.

The make up of various matches is also designed to replicate shooting in a combat environment. This includes urban styled matches, moving targets, fire team matches, snap shooting, reactive targets, plenty of running, fire and movement, and the odd obstacle. There are no “belly flopping” matches at CENTSAM.

To be successful at CENTSAM and other Combat Rifle competitions, firers must therefore be able to shoot as well as be physically fit. Firers must also learn to adapt their shooting styles to work effectively while wearing body armour and helmet.
One very cold Saturday recently, medals were presented to 13 reservist soldiers and officers from the Second Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast Battalion Group (2 Cants) for their time spent on operations in the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Sudan.

The Honorary Colonel of the 2 Cants, Colonel Nohuru Kotua, was the reviewing officer and presented the New Zealand Operational Service Medal, the New Zealand General Service Medal (Solomon Islands) and New Zealand General Service Medal (Timor Leste).

Major Grant McMillan and Corporal Pye deployed to the Solomon Islands as part of New Zealand’s contribution to Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands between November 2007 and March 2008 and were awarded the New Zealand General Service Medal Solomon Islands. Privates Raizin, Hayman, Bay and Gould were also awarded the New Zealand Operational Service medal in addition to the General Service Medal Solomon Islands.

TOP LEFT: Maj Grant McMillan, Pte David Bay, A/Lcpl Brent Raizin, Pte Jayson Hayman and Pte Andrew Gould

Captain Peoples and Sapper Eck deployed to the Timor Leste as part of New Zealand contribution to Operation Koru between December 2007 and May 2008, and were awarded the New Zealand General Service Medal Timor Leste. Privates Hodgson, Friend and Pelvin were awarded the New Zealand Operational Service medal in addition to the General Service Medal Timor Leste. Additionally Private Edwards deployed to the Timor Leste as part of the New Zealand contribution to Operation Koru between May and July 2006 and was awarded the New Zealand General Service Medal Timor Leste.

LEFT CENTRE: Pte Jeremy Pelvin, Pte Shannan Edwards, Sapper Michael Eck, Capt Gerard Peoples, Pte Adam Friend and Pte Matthew Hodgson

LEFT: Captain Wright received the Operation Service Medal for deploying as part of New Zealand’s contribution to Sudan in support of the United Nations Mission in Sudan between March and September 2007.

His Excellency Derek Leask (New Zealand High Commissioner to London) presented Major Sam Bassett with his 2nd clasp to the ANZSM, COIL presented Major Tim Keating, who received the MNZM for services to the NZDF, COL Paul Van den Broek, ODNZM, and Distinguished Service Decoration recipients Major Chris Mortiboys, WO Wayne Morris, RZNZM, and Captain Michael de Boer.
Henry John Laurent, VC

During the Allied advance towards the end of World War 1, the New Zealand Division came up against a strong German position at Gouzeaucourt Wood. On 12 September 1918, during confused attacks on this objective, Sergeant Harry Laurent was sent out with a 12 man patrol to probe the enemy defences. An error in map reading meant that the patrol actually penetrated silently about 700 metres into the enemy positions. Sergeant Laurent only realised his mistake when they reached the enemy artillery gun line. Not seeing this as a problem, he found a heavily fortified trench system, and immediately attacked. After hand to hand fighting the 12 Kiwis killed 30 of the enemy, captured the trench and took 112 enemy soldiers prisoner. Being so far from his own positions Laurent then had to lead his small group, now down to eight fit men, back to their own lines. In a masterful display of leadership and cool determination Sergeant Laurent managed this retreat in good order, keeping all 112 of his prisoners under control while at the same time fighting a cool rearguard action. This rather amazing feat resulted in the award of the Victoria Cross to Sergeant Laurent. According to his citation "...the success of this daring venture was due to Sergeant Laurent’s gallantry and enterprise."

Harry Laurent was born in 1895 at Tarata in the Taranaki. He attended Hawera District High School before leaving to work in a cheese making factory. He joined the NZEF in May 1915 and was sent first to Egypt and from there to France to serve with the NZ Rifle Brigade. He was wounded in the first battle for the Somme in 1916, but returned to the front and showed excellent leadership which saw him promoted to sergeant. After the war Laurent was commissioned as a second lieutenant before leaving the Army. While working for an engineering firm in 1921, he married Ethel Homewood. "Of appointments including commanding the Hawera area defence unit. Lieutenant Colonel Laurent finally retired from the Army in 1949 and died in Hastings in 1987 aged 92."
To my knowledge, there have been very few books which attempts to demonstrate through photography the part that New Zealanders played in the First World War particularly Gallipoli, a campaign which has been used a lot recently to demonstrate a pivotal point concerning our emergence as a nation in the South Pacific. Author Sandy Callister is to be congratulated on her ‘Marching as to War: New Zealand’s Great War Photography’, an Auckland University Press book which clearly defines how the tremendous effect our participation in this horrendous event helped to set in place a gradual move away from traditional ties with Great Britain.

This is not a picture book which one can pick up and browse. It is a scholarly appraisal that draws unashamedly upon facts and figures, plus a number of very rare snapshot photographs made by the rank and file who participated in the 1914-1918 conflict in Europe. To do this Callister has searched high and low to put together 75 photographs into a publication that graphically delivers an impact which some may find disturbing, especially Chapter Five: ‘Broken Gargoyles’, photographs of facial disfigurement caused by bullets, shrapnel and explosives.

While at least these particular photographs were not made in the heat of battle, they do, along with some carefully selected ‘arranged’ photographs of wives and sweethearts from publications like the Auckland Weekly News, give us the other side of the coin from those made in the front line. They make this book an important addition to your bookshelf.

I do have a criticism, its more to do with presentation. I question an overuse of small prints because I fear miniscule presentations of these tiny images may be lost upon the general reader who might have expected the author to select just one from the many and given it special treatment. Take for instance ‘Support Troops’, 4th November 1918, extracted from Hugh Stewart’s, The New Zealand Division, on page 63 where it is shown simply as a small 75 x 62 mm print. When it is featured on the cover, its effect is absolutely stunning!

How I’ve loved the the same treatment given some of the images in Album 112 that resides in Dunedin’s Hocken Library. In at least the discussing ‘photographic albums of the battlefield’ in Chapter two, Callister draws a comparison of Gallipoli with other occasions where photographers have made an impact on the way the war was reported, she uses Roger Fenton of Crimean War fame and Matthew Brady of the American Civil War as illustrations. I thought it odd she didn’t mention the New Zealand Land Wars where British Engineers who actively photograped Maori embattlements at Rangariri should at least have come in for some comment. There were officers, both Colonial and British, who took up the camera in this conflict to while away the time. Then there was the South African Boer War, where I’m sure comment was necessary simply because by using her own written description on what qualifies for this book would apply. I refer here to her statement about the technological break through that saw easy-to-use hand held cameras with roll film come onto the market in a period defined as 1882 - 1904. This improved access to tools of trade that were simple to use and portable is the Lynch pin argument she identifies as the principle component for The Face of War.

As I read and reread the text, painstakingly going over the footnote s that were set out in the notes at the back, I began to yearn for some wise counsel and overview by the author. This was forthcoming in the final chapter. I revelled in the way it was handled with an inspirational photograph of ‘A bit of New Zealand in a glass house at Kew’. The way this was treated or more correctly interpreted was wonderful and became a welcome balm over the visually disturbing contents.

At first glance, there is nothing particularly arresting about this image, it neither depicts a site of battle and fellow soldiers nor says anything directly about the experience of soldiering. It is not the kind of image that makes it into the popular accounts of the First World War. It is, however, a telling wartime image both for what it literally depicts and for what it says to the observer.

William Main is one of New Zealand’s preeminent photographic historians and has written and published extensively on the subject. He founded Exposures Gallery in Wellington, and is a former head of the Photography Department at Wellington Polytechnic, and Director of the New Zealand Centre for Photography.

MARCHING AS TO WAR - The Anglican Church in New Zealand during World War II

by Geoffrey Haworth

Reviewed by Group Captain John Neal

I am not sure that this book will become either a best seller or compulsive reading within the NZDF. Its central theme is the life and time of the Anglican Church (sometimes, and erroneously, referred to as the “Church of England”) during the years of World War II and it thus details a side of our history and a small microcosm of that nation into the bargain.

Insofar that it describes many of the more mundane internal dealings and squabbles of this denomination makes for some heavy reading, and even for me as an Anglican clergyman, such detail as: “Every year when there was no General Synod, its standing committee was required constitutionally to meet. But this continuity broke down in 1942, when the standing committee did not meet, and in 1945, when it failed to raise a quorum.” is hardly a riveting read. I can testify to the soporific qualities of passages such as these.

Having purged my soul of that criticism, “Marching as to War” is an addition to the Church Army (Anglican’s version of the Salvation Army, if that doesn’t sound too oddball) and the pacifists who were not popular in New Zealand society because of their habit of asking awkward questions and demanding answers about uncomfortable issues that people generally prefer to ignore. What’s news?

Beginning as the Reverend Mr Howarth’s doctoral thesis, “Marching as to War” is well produced and equally well illustrated. Some of it is heavy going for the reader who endures, there is a wealth of background about New Zealand society in general, and its armed forces, during World War II that provides the thoughtful reader with much as he or she tries to understand today’s society and military. There are valuable nuggets to be mined here and the patient – to say nothing of persistent - worker will be well rewarded.

Group Captain John Neal is an Anglican clergyman and the Principal Defence Chaplain
By 2Lt Donald McLeod

Specific transportation skills, in particular using the Swing Through Container Handling System (STCHS), were honed when 36 Heavy Lift Platoon, 3 Distribution Company, 3 Logistics Battalion held Exercise Heavy Crusader recently.

The exercise was based around likely 3rd line transport taskings in support of a ‘notional’ Brigade Support Area. The tactical scenario for the exercise was based around division sized ABCA conventional operations, fighting a Musorian brigade who had secured Dunedin and Timaru. While the division continued to arrive via Harewood Airport and Lyttelton Port, NZDF Brigade cleared and secured Timaru.

The Heavy Lift Platoon played its part by moving containers, palletised loads and vehicles between the airport, port and the Brigade Support Area. Throughout the exercise, training was centred on developing skills in loading and securing different types of equipment and stores, while also developing the 20ft container move capability, in a realistic scenario.

The platoon comprised mainly personnel from Heavy Lift Platoon, however help was provided from 2/1’s Logistics Company and 2 Canterbury Nelson Marlborough & West Coast Battalion Group. The platoon was broken into two sections, one focused on the operation of the two STCHS, with the other section loading and securing various types of vehicles, dummy loads, oil drums, as well as Skytrack and MATBRO forklift equipment. Bailey bridging was also taken from 3 Engineer Field Troop and transported to Tekapo, and later back to Burnham, which proved a new experience for most involved.

Throughout the exercise there were some minor mechanical problems: the STCHS levers used to re-position the legs snapped off several times, requiring a fastball from 3 Workshops Company, as well as an electrical fault requiring repair in Timaru; the MATBRO experienced a minor electrical fault, which was remedied by the Transport Sergeant. Surprisingly the 25 year old Mercedes 2228’s had very few problems, with none requiring major repairs.

The platoon worked solid 16 hour days, taking only one and a half hours for breaks, with the minimum six hours sleep. By the end of the exercise exhaustion was apparent; however, the platoon constantly set new loading time records by night and in difficult weather. The exercise objectives were met and feedback from both Territorial and Regular Force personnel was very positive.

Thumbs up for soldiers’ fundraising challenge

Practising her hitch-hiking skills will be only one part of the training regime undertaken by Second Lieutenant (2LT) Ruth Tautari as she prepares to take part in a major fundraiser for Cure Kids, the Accor $10 Queenstown Challenge.

Ruth, who comes from the South Hokianga, joined the New Zealand Army in January 2007. She is now the Motor Trade platoon commander at 2 Workshop Company in Linton Military Camp. Ruth said, “I joined the Army because I wanted a challenge. I always enjoyed sport and fitness and my older sister was in the Army so I decided to follow in her footsteps.”

"I really enjoy my job supervising the training of the vehicle mechanics that specialize in heavy diesel automotive engineering. They are a bunch of great guys who are proactive and competitive in everything they do. I get the opportunity to develop my leadership skills and knowledge with the assistance of some really good senior officers as well as being able to play sports and travel.”

When she is not working Ruth is really into sports, and plays rugby and touch and enjoys waka-ama, swimming and karate.

Ruth and team member 2LT Nick Fuller will form one of three New Zealand Defence Force teams taking part in the Accor $10 Queenstown Challenge from 1-3 October. The 35 teams participating in the event are given $10 and have to use various modes of transport to get from Auckland to Queenstown in three days. The team that arrives in Queenstown with the most points after undertaking a wide variety of challenges on the way will be the winner.

“The event will benefit a lot of young children who need medical help, so we are really keen to raise as much money as we can,” said Ruth.

Prior to the event all teams participating in the Accor $10 Queenstown Challenge have to raise $2,000 for Cure Kids. Funds raised will be used for medical research into life-threatening conditions that affect children.
Army softball history slides safely onto the Internet

New Zealand Army Softball has hit a home run by documenting and recording nearly 60 years of its softball history.

A dedicated effort over the last three years has seen past and present Army softballers send their personal team photographs and tournament programmes to the Army Softball Committee. The Air Force and Navy Photographic departments were also particularly helpful in searching their negative archives for Army softball photographs. The 500+ photographs collected were digitally scanned and adjusted to be displayed on the internet.

In some instances, former players throughout NZ were interviewed in an attempt to piece together Army softball details and milestones. Many official tournament programmes from as far back as 1962, and which contained valuable information, which helped piece Army softball’s history.

The task took hundreds of hours, but the end result is a superb and extensive softball record that can be enjoyed by all.

The NZ Army Softball webpage includes information:

- **About Us**: Provides a summary of New Zealand Army Softball from its inception in October 1949 to the present day. This page provides an insight into the Army Softball Committee, Code chairperson, NZ Army Softball Patron, Inter-Regional and Inter-Services tournaments and Army softball culture.
- **Events Calendar**: The Events Calendar lists the New Zealand Defence Force softball tournaments, for Navy, Army, Air Force and Tri Service softball events that are scheduled for the softball calendar year.
- **News**: This page lists Army softball news from the various tournaments played within Army and NZ Defence Force.
- **Honours and Awards**: This lists Army softball service personnel and Army civilian employees who have represented a New Zealand National or Provincial team at various levels. It also lists Army personnel who have received and or nominated for softball orientated Honours and Awards from the Army or NZ Defence Force.
- **Tournament Archive**: This documents a variety of softball tournaments held within the NZ Army and NZ Defence Force. This archive lists the tournament, date, venue and team lists that have been copied from the numerous tournament programmes and documentation that ex members have provided or donated to Army Softball.
- **Image Gallery**: Displays Regular Force Cadet, Inter-District, Inter-Regional, Inter-Service and numerous miscellaneous softball tournaments and individual photographs. If you have NZ Army softball photographs that are not displayed here, please ‘Contact Us’.
- **60th Anniversary**: This page is currently under construction, but gives brief details for the planned ‘60th Anniversary of softball in the New Zealand Army’ scheduled for a date in October or November 2009 (to be advised). Full details, including the programme of events and outline costs will be displayed in the coming months.
- **Player Profiles**: Documents the personal softball profiles of Army softball players and officials.

The information contained within this webpage represents some of the stories of a unique group of Army sporting men and women.

**2008 Army Softball Schedule**

- **Inter-Regional Tournament**: 17 – 21 November, Burnham Camp Christchurch
- **Army teams training camp**: 28 – 30 November, in Auckland (venue TBA)
- **Inter-Services Tournament**: 1 – 5 December, HMNZS Philomel Auckland

**Army Regional Softball Representatives**

- **Auckland**: Sgt Tauhiki Taimal DfEnj 397 7042
- **Waiouru**: SgSgt Kimi Grant DfEnj 367 7997
- **Linton**: Maj Ra Koia DfEnj 369 7634
- **Wellington**: WO2 Dean Groves DfEnj 345 6438
- **South Island**: Maj Dean Pascoe DfEnj 377 7012

Those shady Aussies

A combat sombrero is being trialled by Australian soldiers deployed to Iraq.

Major Crispin Boxhall says the sombrero provides plenty of shade to the wearer, “but also to about half a dozen passers-by too”.

Initial results are very positive, and he hopes to see the sombrero in service soon.

From “Army” the Australian Army newspaper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1 Individuals not involved in a military force
2 Case for bullet and charge
3 NZ’s second largest region
4 Private cricket club based at Lords
5 Central European republic
6 Of the sea
7 Military accommodation
8 The US Chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War
9 Shelf
10 Attack helicopters
11 Acting
12 14 US spy agency
13 14 Flag
15 16 Action
16 Senior
17 18 Identifiers
19 Tooth
20 21 Interbase Cricket tournament
22 23 Salvoes designed to disturb the rest of enemy troops (9,4)

DOWN:

1 Individuals not involved in a military force
2 NZ’s second largest region
7 Military accommodation
8 The US Chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War
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From “Army” the Australian Army newspaper.
ARMY RUNNERS GIVE THEIR ALL IN SAF HALF MARATHON

By WO1 Marcus Fowler

In mid August seven of the fastest runners in the Army departed for Singapore to compete in the SAF Army Half Marathon. This is an annual event that is open to both military and civilians, where runners must complete the grueling 21km event as a team or an individual. Don’t be fooled into thinking that a team event is like a relay. The top five times, of the seven runners, count towards the overall team time.

Our team of chosen “racing sardines” was from across the Army and needed to show race results from a recognised half marathon prior to selection. Each competitor was capable of running 1 hour 20 minutes or faster. One of the runners LCpl Steve Smith of 5 Mov coy recently won the Wellington Half Marathon in a stellar time of 1hr 35mins. Other well known team members included world champion age group triathlete Capt Shanon Stallard, and Ironman LTCol Rob Hoult. After 2 months of build up training in NZ, the team felt pretty confident of doing well.

Anyone who has been to Singapore before knows it can get very hot and muggy. Coming from the depths of an NZ winter made the acclimatisation even harder. The team put in a number of training runs to mitigate this as much as possible, but four prep days before the race was only going to be cursory at best.

The race was eventually won by PM Shanavas from the Indian Army in a blistering time of 1hr 07mins 34 secs. Our team was well placed at the start line and got away in good style. Each of the team members took things cautiously over the first half of the race then “cut loose” on the return leg. The race was eventually won by PM Shanavas from the Indian Army in a blistering time of 1hr 07mins 34 secs.

The Kiwi lads had given their all as they crossed the finish line with nothing left in the tank. Each runner was pale, on the edge of collapse through dehydration, but alive and well.

Raceday was spectacular. The surrounding roads were closed off, marshalls and safety vehicles everywhere, and sound systems blasting. There were 40,000 runners at the start of the half marathon. To put that into perspective, it took 20 minutes for the runners who were spread over 4 lanes of road, to reach the start line.

Our team was well placed at the start line and got away in good style. Each of the team members took things cautiously over the first half of the race then “cut loose” on the return leg. The race was eventually won by PM Shanavas from the Indian Army in a blistering time of 1hr 07mins 34 secs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placing</th>
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<td>Pte Nathan Johnston</td>
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<td>46th</td>
<td>Capt Shanon Stallard</td>
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<td>Lt Col Rob Hoult</td>
<td>1:29:18</td>
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<td>WOs Steve Bougen</td>
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<td>11th veteran overall</td>
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<td>70th</td>
<td>Capt Steve Hall</td>
<td>1:39:03</td>
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Rugby tournament will test pacific defence teams

Defence Force rugby teams from across the Pacific will converge on Wellington in October to take part in the Pacific Nations Military Rugby Tournament (PNMRT). All games in the competition, which is hosted by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), will be held at Maidstone Park in Upper Hutt. The teams are divided into two pools with round robin matches played from 28 -30 October, with the final games held on 1 November.

Teams participating in the tournament are the Australia Defence Force (ADF), French Armed Forces New Caledonia (FANC), NZDF, Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), Tonga Defence Services (TDS) and an NZDF Development Team.

“The aim of the tournament is to foster healthy competition and greater understanding between Pacific Nation Defence Forces through rugby,” said the Chief of Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae.

The inaugural Pacific Nations Military Rugby Cup in 2006 was hosted by the ADF. After the tournament the participating nations’ Defence Force Chiefs decided to hold a similar tournament biennially, with New Zealand and Australia hosting the tournament alternatively.

“We are looking forward to hosting the teams as well as representatives from all the countries involved in the tournament,” LT GEN Mateparae said. “We regularly work alongside many of the Defence Forces in the Pacific region and hope to enhance our working relationships on the sports field.”

“The test series is open to the public and will provide a great opportunity to see Pacific Nation Defence Force teams in action in what should be a highly competitive but good spirited event,” said LT GEN Mateparae.

ARMY TRAINING CAMP FOR FIRST FIFTEEN

Twenty-four Papatoetoe High School rugby players got to see if they’ve “got what it takes” when they trained with the New Zealand Army last week. The school won a training camp at Linton Military Camp for their 1st XV, coach and manager as part of an Army recruiting competition.

The camp covered the areas needed to become a successful individual as well as a rugby player.

The programme included:

- Two training sessions with the NZ Army rugby team.
- The Linton Camp Army confidence course.
- A briefing on sports nutrition.
- Leadership training - to develop leadership skills at school, within themselves and in their community.
- Fitness training and tips by an Army Physical Training Instructor (PTI), focused on providing the foundation for further progress as a rugby player.
- A briefing on careers as a soldier or officer in the NZ Army.

Anika Tiplady, the army’s own black Fern, hosted Papatoetoe High during the camp.

“As Papatoetoe High’s 1st XV have demonstrated throughout their season, competing in sport requires commitment, a high level of physical fitness, leadership and teamwork – all values that play an important part in the NZ Army,” said Anika.

“In the New Zealand Army, sports and socialising are all part of the job. You even get paid for it!”
**Army Wellness Programme**

By Anne Gawn  
Manager, Army Wellness Programme

Since our articles about the Army Wellness Programme (AWP) in the last issue of Army News issue, Medical Treatment Centres throughout New Zealand bases have had calls from personnel keen to join the programme. We are delighted with your interest and are forging ahead to get things into place for the programmes to begin in each camp.

When the AWP cells are up and running, the AWP nurse will send out a letter of invitation to those personnel who are over forty years old. There will be a ‘Roadshow’ in your area when we start, and at that time you will be given the opportunity to register your interest.

We are currently processing personnel to run the AWP cells; interest in the programme is very high and there have been a lot of applicants. We expect that the AWP will be rolled out in late October. Everything seems to take time of course, and there will also be an issue with the Christmas leave period causing disruption to those who start the programme this year.

Some questions came up after our last articles that require clarification.

The AWP is paid for by Army, and targets Regular force, Army personnel who are over forty years old. It is not available for Navy, Airforce or civilians.

Personnel targeted for the programme are 40 years and over, as that age group will benefit most from a risk reduction programme. By ‘risk’ we mean, risk for cardiovascular disease, such as being overweight, in poor physical condition, not eating a balanced diet, smoking, having high levels of blood cholesterol etc.

Having said that, there will be some personnel who may have the opportunity to join the AWP earlier, if it is deemed beneficial by their Medical officer or Nursing officer.

No one considers they should be on the programme will be turned away, although if they are fairly young and fit they will not derive that much benefit from it.

We are very pleased with your response to the first articles, and look forward to getting the programme up and running, so we can start seeing some results.

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**Tough as ever…. almost**

By Sergeant Mark Roberts

Like a lot of old soldiers I like to try to convince myself I am still as physically fit as I was 20 years ago. This year I decided to enter the “Rotorua Tough guy” to see if it was true. After asking around within the squadron I soon had eleven others who fancied the challenge.

For those who do not know, the “Tough Guy” is a 12 km cross country run of two six km laps around an assault course. Since we had four weeks to prepare I asked if the team could do its own training in preparation. This consisted of long cross country runs and sand dune running at Foxton beach and once a week around the confidence course at Linton camp, for one hour.

The day of the race arrived, and saw a field of 2200 at the start line. Only 800 though intended to run the full race. The winning time was 1 hour 4 minutes. The first team in was Sapper Shaw at 1 hour 12 minutes (19th) and he was closely followed by LT Masters who came in at 1 hour 14 minutes (25th).

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I came in a while later at 1 hour 42 minutes (270th) – so much for my mid life crisis. All members of the team said they thoroughly enjoyed the race and the function afterwards. I am sure they will be up for it next year.

I would like to especially thank the five young sappers who back-filled the team at short notice because of deployments and courses, and the CRE for financially backing the team.

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**Skiers and snowboarders take up NZ Army challenges on 5 mountains**

The Army is well known for challenging people to see if they have what it takes to be a soldier. This winter, the Army is taking its challenge to five of New Zealand’s premier ski areas. The quest for skiers and snowboarders is to film their best trick in designated ski areas and share it with the rest of New Zealand.

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The best ride at the close of the competition claims a grand travel prize to the acclaimed Niseko ski resort in Japan plus a training day with the army. There’s also 2009 ski season passes and Army Survival Packs for the most popular videos on each of the five mountains.

To judge the best ride of the season, the Army have pulled in some seasoned industry pros: Hamish Acland (one of NZ’s most successful freeride skiers and editor of NZskier magazine) and Robbet Hollis (renowned snowboarder and owner of the NZSnowboard.com website).

“The NZ Army challenges are generating a lot of action on the fields. People are filming their tricks and really getting into it,” says Hamish Acland.

“The site (www.armybig5.tv) is a real innovation for the ski industry. It essentially means people can share videos of their best moves on the ski field and see how they rate against their friends.”

Director of Recruiting for the NZ Army, Major Sara Harrison, explains why the Army is engaging people on the mountains:

“There are lots of similarities between aspiring boarders and skiers and soldiers and officers in the Army. They all crave a challenge, have the dedication to be the best and have a sense of adventure.”

The Army wants to have an engaging presence in the alpine environment to give boarders and skiers a taste of the variety of life and challenges in the Army.
The Army Rugby Team continued its build up to the Services tournament later this year with some spirited play at Linton on September 5. The score was 22-12 to the Turbos Development Team.

Photos: SGT Gareth Davies
LCpl Dane Berghan of the NZ Army rugby team during the tough encounter with the Manawatu development rugby team. Photos: SGT Gareth Davies