Bureaucracy can stifle innovation, and Brigadier Charlie Lott plans to create a culture of ridding the Army of as much of it as possible.

The newly appointed Deputy Chief of Army took up his new position earlier this month. Most recently he was the Trentham-based Logistics Commander (Land). One of the main parts of his job, he says, will be orchestrating the changes that the Chief of Army wants to make, and implementing those changes.

“We are refocusing on what we do. The buzz word is “operationalise” but to me it really means we are making ourselves better at what we do as an Army. And the only way we can do that is to empower the people out there who work with our systems and processes, because they are the people who know where the “faults” are, and they will have ideas as to how those faults can be fixed.”

Brigadier Lott is justifiably proud of the Army Logistics Transformation Programme which was launched in 2009 and has been progressively implemented since then. The plan is a synchronised and coherent programme of work designed to ensure the relevancy of Army logistics now and in the future. But he says it was his team that was successful, not just him on his own. “As loggies we are always one team. It was not just me, it was the team who got behind the ideas and made them work. The programme was a complete mindshift in the way Army had always operated, but the logistics team and COMLOG got behind it and now it has a great head of steam.”

The Army can, at times, “kill itself with compliance”, he says. “And it’s all own-goal stuff. Overly zealous compliance actually adds big cost to our business – if we focus on being simpler and smarter, those costs can be redirected towards what we actually are paid for – generating and deploying operational capabilities.” We should be pushing the authority to make decisions down to much lower levels than they are now. We need to stop practices that we know aren’t smart, but that we do just because we have always done them that way. And if mistakes are made, and they will be occasionally, we shouldn’t automatically come down like a ton of bricks on people

“If people don’t learn from mistakes then that’s a different situation. I know we’re not going to get everything right, particularly as we go through this time of massive organisational change. But we shouldn’t blame someone just because they had a go at something to make it better and it didn’t quite go according to plan.”

A graduate of Officer Training at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Australia he entered the Royal New Zealand Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the rank of Second Lieutenant in December 1978. He has served in the Sinai, Somalia and East Timor, and in January 2001 he was awarded made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of his role as G4, Land Command and Chief of Logistics during the mobilisation of the Joint Forces to East Timor, from June to December 2000.

While he acknowledges the Army and the NZDF is facing organisational pain, he says he is looking forward to the challenges his new role presents. “We are facing huge change, and we commanders have to lead the Army through it – it isn’t going to go away and there is no magic wand to wish it away. We have simply run out of choices and we have to play our part in existing within our means.”

Referring to the civilianisation project he says it is vital the Army constantly reminds itself it is dealing with real people with real lives and families. And they must be treated with fairness and respect as we work through the tough times ahead.

CIVILISATION INFORMATION

What is civilianisation?

For the Army to be deployable it needs to make sure that its skilled uniformed personnel are being used in the best possible way. Civilisation is about operationalising the Defence Force and the Army - civilianising posts that don’t need to be done by military personnel and getting the right people into the right roles.

Why is it happening?

Government instructed the Defence Force to move $350-$400 million spending each year to reinvest in its deployable military capability. Civilisation of certain roles will help Army reallocate resources from the back and middle of the organisation so that it can reinvest in new and improved military capability in the future.

What’s the process?

There are two processes happening at the same time:

• Civilisation of Military Personnel (CoMP) - identifies those paralines, or jobs, that could be performed by a civilian, rather than someone in uniform. Formation Commanders and Trade Subject Matter experts (SMEs) have assisted in this process, which has now been completed. The list of positions that will be civilianised has now been released and it has been posted on the Defence Personnel Executive intranet site for the Civilisation Project.

• Impacted Military Personnel (IMP) - scores and assesses uniformed individuals in targeted ranks against a set of criteria to check they should still be in uniform.

What are the targeted ranks as part of CoMP?

Up to 200 Army personnel will be impacted from the ranks of SGT to WO1, and CAPT to LT COL. This number across these ranks has been identified from an analysis of current personnel numbers by rank and trade versus the new demand requirement based on the Force Structure Review. In addition to these personnel, there is to be a reduction in numbers of Colonel equivalent posts across the Defence Force by more than 10.

What’s the criteria IMP are being measured against?

• Performance: Assessed using annual reports, deployment reports and discipline history

• Potential: Employment versatility across skills, knowledge and experience the Army will require for its future workforce.

• Deployability: Medical grading and fitness.

• Commitment to Service: Willingness to post, willingness to attend professional military development and willingness to maintain deployability requirements.

The same criteria are being used to assess both soldiers and officers.

Next Steps

Final decisions on who will be released will be made in mid June and those affected will be advised by their Commanders on 29 June 2011. More information about the process will be given to impacted personnel early next month.

Army will begin the transition phase for impacted military personnel from the end of June. Job descriptions for the 300 plus roles will be made available in July, and the Army will be offering full support to impacted personnel.
KIWI MILITARY TO THE RESCUE IN VANUATU

The Army’s Forward Surgical Team helped save the life of an Australian tourist seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident in Vanuatu earlier this month.

New Zealand Defence Force personnel are in Vanuatu for the US-led Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief exercise Pacific Partnership, and had deployed the Forward Surgical Team (FST) to reduce the backlog of the local population requiring surgery.

On 6 May the team was told about a tourist who had been struck by a vehicle in Santo, and was in a critical condition. The local hospital asked the FST for help, and it was discovered the accident victim had suffered a cut to his femoral artery and had developed a blood clot. The patient was treated and eventually transferred by a United Sates PUMA helicopter to a hospital in the Vanuatu capital of Port Vila.

Both the Australian and the New Zealand High Commissioners in Vanuatu have written to the NZDF personnel to express their thanks for the assistance they gave to the injured man.

The June issue of Army News will provide full coverage of all aspects of the NZDF’s involvement in Pacific Partnership.

TF HELP OUT WHEN HAWKE’S BAY HAMMERED

- By Staff Sergeant Pita Lloyd

Members of 7 Wellington Napier Hawke’s Bay Battalion (WNHB) and Regional Army and Navy recruits were mobilised early morning on 27 April 2011 to assist in a Regional State of Emergency after a destructive rainstorm struck Hawke’s Bay.

The heavy rains began early Tuesday and only began easing Thursday. In the three days of rainfall Napier recorded 249mm, Wairoa 222mm, Hastings 126mm with the central Hawke’s Bay and coastal areas recording between 114mm - 250mm.

Over the weekend landslips and flooding closed the road into Clifton, Ocean Beach and Waimarama and cut off the rest of Hawke’s Bay up until 30 April. Over the period 80 - 90 residents were evacuated.

NEW OPTOMETRY POLICY PROVIDES MORE CHOICES

A new health policy for optometry services which has just been released, gives military personnel more choice about which optometrist they use and what type of glasses or contact lenses they choose.

Optometry consultations, prescriptions, lenses, and frames are now funded up to a set limit, but within that limit you can choose the products you want, including single or multiple pairs of glasses, tinted or progressive lenses, or even contact lenses.

To be eligible for this funding you need to be referred by a NZDF doctor, see a registered optometrist, and get at least one pair of glasses as part of the total purchase.

In addition to a wider choice of products, you can also choose your own optometrist. Some optometrists already have discounts for NZDF personnel – your local health care facility or MYC can provide more information.


Defence Health is also making other changes to deliver health services that are better, cheaper and designed to ensure that personnel are fit for operational service.

As part of these changes Defence Health is reviewing our supplier and funding arrangements. Where possible we will be developing benefits, including discounts, for all NZDF personnel.

The Combat Shooting Team has its eyes on the prize at the 2011 Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM). AASAM gives the Combat Shooting Team a chance to compete against International teams from Australia, US Marine Corp, Canada, Netherlands, French Forces New Caledonia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and a total of over 500 competitors including Australia domestic shooters in a challenging range of shooting exercises.

The Army and New Zealand Armies Small Arms Shooting Cup has only been won once before by New Zealand in 2005.

The NZ Army Combat Shooting Team is aiming to have it firmly in its sights this year!

The competition is on now and runs until 17 May. Keep an eye on the SMA Blog in Command Post for updates.

As the individual competitions heat up, NZ Army’s Combat Shooting Team are showing their skills, with three 1st places and a hard-fought 3rd.

Private Mark Lupi won two 1st places and a 3rd place for rifle shooting.

Private Brendon Fenton and Sapper Adrian Velich placed 1st for machine gun.

NIW WANT YOUR STORIES

Do you have a story to tell in Army News? Is there someone or some unit you know of that is doing their job in a particularly innovative or effective way? Or do you perhaps have a story you think the rest of your colleagues in the Army would like to hear? Let us know—email armynews@nzdf.mil.nz

If you need help or advice call the editor on 04 4910027

I have just returned from a visit to the Republic of Korea, where I travelled with a group of current serving members of 56 Field Regiment, 2 Logistcs Regiment and New Zealand veterans of the Korean War and the Minister of Defence, Dr Wayne Mapp. We were part of a larger group of veterans and current service people from Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The visit was to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong, where the Commonwealth Brigade, supported by 16 Field Regiment blunted the advance of a much larger enemy force that was attempting to capture the Southern Korean capital of Seoul. The guns of 16 Field played a major role in this battle and the regiment was awarded a Korean Presidential Citation for its actions.

It was wonderful to see how our Korean hosts valued the contribution of the veterans who laid the foundations for the modern Republic of Korea that exists today. They went to every effort to ensure the veterans well catered for and given the appropriate acknowledgements for their service. There was also poignant acknowledgement for those that died during the war. As part of the visit programme we were able to visit the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Pusan to pay our respects to our fallen.

Sometimes it is difficult in our business to see the big picture of the good that our military contribution achieves. At the end of an operational tour of duty it can be difficult to see how we as a group and as individuals contributed to the greater good. It was made very clear to all the New Zealand Korean veterans that they had been part of something special that gave a nation the opportunity to stand independently on its feet and eventually become very successful. I sensed an element of pride in this group some sixty years after they had given their service in what their achievements had come to mean.

I am sure that some time in the future our veterans from current operations we’re are engaged in, helping nations less fortunate that our own, will also feel a sense of pride in the role that they played in enabling these nations that struggle today to have the chance of peace and later prosperity. While it may be difficult to comprehend your roles now and any praise may be clouded by a sense of hopelessness or political debate, the role that the New Zealand Army plays in establishing the international peace and order, gives fledging or troubled nations the opportunity to progress from this often hard won peace into prosperity.

The people from these nations will always be grateful to those that contributed in their time of need, and in the case of Korea, they will never forget those that came 61 years ago from New Zealand.

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IN BRIEF
The phases are:

**Phase 1 - Transition 9 May:**
Auckland region personnel: including 3 Auckland, 2 Northland, and 1 SAF. Personnel in Waiouru, Base Auckland and Wellington.

**Phase 2 - Transition 4 July:**
(Note: this is currently the expected date. We will let you know in advance if it changes.) Personnel based in Linton and Waiouru including 5 Waiouru staff.

The Army transition to soldiers receiving administration and pay support from the Defence Force HR Service Centre is now going to be completed in two phases. Originally all soldiers were going to transition on 9 May, but the new two-phase approach is to match the phased posting of Army administrators to the HR Service Centre for the Army go-live.

From their transition date, soldiers will need to do their basic HR administrative tasks, such as leave bookings, online using KEA. If soldiers cannot access KEA or if they have an HR admin query they can’t resolve themselves they can contact the Defence Force HR Service Centre, by email hrsc.admin@nzdf.mil.nz or phone 0800 DHFRC (0800 334772).

Administration and payroll processes have been standardised across all three Services. All Defence Force personnel can obtain information about the standardised processes on the Military Pay and Admin site at: http://org/dpe-hrsc/lp/maphome.aspx.

The change applies to Regular Force as well as Territorials. Once the administration of all Army personnel has transitioned to the Defence Force HR Service Centre, Army administration centres will be closed.

Personnel who are unsure about using KEA should contact their administration centres and ask for help before the change over date.

It is an ideal opportunity for everyone to make sure that their details are up-to-date in KEA.

There is currently no change in admin and pay support for deployed personnel on short term deployments of 12 months or less.

Major Rik Anderson, Operations Manager at the new HR Service Centre, says the move to self-service admin and pay follows the introduction of other self-service work tools, such as those for uniforms and domestic air travel.

*Streamlining delivery of HR administration support means we can redirect our HR resources into the important things that Army people really need such as specialist HR advice, or assisting commanders and personnel to sort out more complex HR issues,* Major Anderson says.

Major Anderson said the new HR Service Centre will have the capacity to surge resources to support Army units if they need it for specific events such as the march in of a recruit course, or for high readiness call-outs and deployment checks.

### Waiouru Transition Underway

Waiouru Camp began its transition to Training and Education Services in mid-May. Training and Education Services is one of the three key areas of the Training and Education Directorate.

Detailed workshops are being held with each school and external suppliers, such as Lockheed Martin, to ensure that all the nuances of scheduling and organising training courses at each school are well understood and ready for handover.

The same process will run at Woodbourne and Devonport with other camps and bases to follow. It is expected that the initial implementation will take until 30 September.

This phased approach is being taken to meet the varied requirements of the camps and bases.

Meanwhile, the former Signals School building at Waiouru is being turned into the Training and Education Directorate’s new home in the camp.

It will house Waiouru’s TED staff including planning and scheduling coordinators, evaluators, and learning designers along with team leaders.

### The Month That Was

- **By Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Charlie Lott**

Having been Deputy Chief of Army for nearly a month now, and after chatting to Chief of Army Major General Tim Keating, and Judith, our Army News editor, I thought it appropriate to commit to writing a monthly column for you all describing from a ‘Wellington Warrior’s’ perspective, the month that was, on a theme by theme basis.

I thought it appropriate for three reasons— firstly, it is easy for us in Wellington to make decisions (after all we pride ourselves on being decisive don’t we?) but it is difficult for us to communicate the why’ dimension of those decisions to you, the men and women who are expected to implement them. This column should provide the context or connections between the decisions that come out from Army Office. Secondly, I have become more and more aware that we don’t celebrate our successes and we don’t name the successful. I hope, through your feedback to this column, to be able to do that as we go forward. Thirdly, and probably most importantly, we all acknowledge the changed and changing environment we are in. Some things will never be the same again. I hope that through this column, I can "de-mystify de-change".

A wise man once said however "it is not necessary to change...change is not mandatory. The quote aptly sums up the position we as part of New Zealand find ourselves in. We all know of the looming financial impediment we face.

We could not foresee it however, perhaps because we didn’t want to, but right now the requirement to change is here and our choices are extremely limited as to how we navigate our way through and hopefully past it (though as General Gordon R. Sullivan so aptly put it ‘Hope is not a method’). We can no longer pretend things are going swimmingly and that change is good but not for me. Change is right here…right now and it won’t go away.

We are all in this together. We face the real prospect that real people with real lives and real families have already been, and are going to be, impacted upon. Civilisation will touch us all in one way or ‘other’. The ‘business’ reforms required will touch us all in one way or ‘other’ — many already have. Events such as the Canterbury/Christchurch earthquakes which many are blaming for our current and immediate future predicament have and will continue to touch us all in one way or ‘other’.

This ‘change’ is not new. I remember back when we closed Hopu Hopu Camp, lost the 5.5” guns, lost CVR (T) Scorpion, endured car-less days, lost the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport, Royal New Zealand Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and so on.

At the time those changes seemed catastrophic and wavefull but look at it another way. Did the wheels fall off our Army…? No! Instead we picked ourselves up, carried on in our new shape, grew and developed and in a tad over ten years (…all right then twenty years) later went to the then-East Timor to do our business for real. Even more importantly we are still doing the real business and doing it very well. Why is it that we can star on operations but are constantly pinged for poor corporate performance back home? Is it because we are natural risk takers on operations but won’t take risk back home? Is it because we are afraid of being hammered by the hierarchy when a plan doesn’t quite go according to plan? Or is it because we quickly adapt and change on operations but seemingly struggle to adapt and change back here? I want to finish this rambling with a quote for you.

**Seamos realistas exigimos lo imposible (be realistic – examine the impossible)**

As we navigate our way through the sea of change have a think about that.

**We can no longer pretend things are going swimmingly and that change is good but not for me. Change is right here…right now and it won’t go away.**
“When you go home, tell them of us and say
For their tomorrows we gave our today.”

- John Maxwell Edmonds
New Zealand Defence Force personnel in New Zealand and throughout the rest of the world commemorated Anzac Day on Sunday 25 April.

Ceremonies were held in places as diverse as Gallipoli, New York, Beijing, Riyadh, Afghanistan and Timor Leste to mark one of New Zealand’s most significant days.

Defence Force representatives also attended many of the dawn and civic ceremonies held at war memorials and town halls throughout New Zealand.

The Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Rhys Jones represented the Defence Force at a number of Anzac Day services in Gallipoli, while the Chief of Army, Major General Tim Keating attended ceremonies in Korea.

“Anzac Day is a day to honour the sacrifice of our service men and women who gave their lives in the cause of peace not only at Gallipoli but in other conflicts,” said LTGEN Jones. “Today the Anzac spirit forged on these shared battlefields continues with New Zealand Defence Force working alongside our Australian counterparts on numerous operations and exercises around the World.

“Anzac Day is also a day when many New Zealanders reflect on what it means to be a Kiwi and the values we hold dear like mateship, courage and loyalty. It is a time when our military personnel reflect on their history and the deep connections they have as individuals, and collectively as the Defence Force, to our nation. It reinforces a sense of identity, belonging and pride.”

“This year we were represented at numerous services around the world and in New Zealand,” he said.

Anzac Day services were also held wherever NZ Defence Force personnel were on overseas missions such as Timor Leste, Korea, the Sudan, and Solomon Islands, and the Pacific, where the US-led mission, Pacific Partnership is taking place. New Zealand Defence Attaches also attended services in the countries they reside including Singapore, Riyadh, Canada and Japan.

Around 200 people converged on the tiny settlement of Tinui, near Masterton, where the first Anzac Day ceremony was held in 1916. The service, held at 1030, featured a catafalque guard and firing party.

In Sudan, a small dawn service was held at the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery, where one New Zealand soldier is buried. The service was attended by members of the United Nations Mission in Sudan from Australia, Turkey and Britain, as well as members of the local expatriate community.

The sole New Zealand Defence Force representative in Iraq attended the Dawn Service at the Australian Embassy in Baghdad, with a number of Australian troops and expatriate New Zealanders and Australians.

A Dawn Service was held at Kiwi Base in Bamyan Province, Afghanistan, and in the Solomon Islands the New Zealand contingent attended a Dawn Service alongside Australian Defence Force personnel, members of the Diplomatic Corps and Participating Police Force at the Royal Solomon Islands Central Police Station Cenotaph. From there the NZDF personnel attended an Anzac breakfast and began the traditional Anzac Day sports competition between all the nations who support the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

In Seoul a joint Australia- New Zealand Embassy Anzac Day Dawn Service was held at the National War Memorial followed by a gunfire breakfast (coffee with rum added which recalls the ‘breakfast’ taken by many soldiers before facing battle).

This year’s ANZAC Day coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong during the Korean War. Subsequently the ANZAC Day commemoration included 200 Commonwealth veterans of the Korean War (including 15 Kiwis), and the Australian Prime Minister, the New Zealand Minister of Defence, and the Australian and New Zealand Chiefs of Army.

In London about 3500 people gathered at Hyde Park Corner for the Dawn Service. This was followed by a wreath-laying at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and service in Westminster Abbey.

The Head of Defence Services in London, Brigadier Phil Gibbons accompanied the Prime Minister John Key to services in Le Quesnoy and Longueval in northern France.

ANZAC Spirit Alive and Well in Australia

More than 50 NZDF staff attended several Anzac Day related events across Australia in the days leading up to 25 April and on the day itself. Representation ranged from school visits and addresses to formal state, territory and national services in metropolitan areas and rural towns across the country.

The NZDF was represented at all state and territory capitals and the Acting High Commissioner. “A pleasing aspect this year was the ability to support several small town services around the country, including Bungonia in rural NSW and Yea in rural Victoria” said Lt Col Darren Beck the Military Adviser in Canberra.

The national ANZAC service in Canberra was attended by over 9000 people on a fine and still Canberra morning. Noted Australian author Les Carlyon also emphasised this during his address at the national service held at the War Memorial in Canberra.

“And today is about remembering our bond with New Zealand, because there can be no talk of ANZAC, there can be no notion of an ‘ANZAC spirit’, without New Zealand. The New Zealanders were alongside us at Gallipoli, and in France and Belgium, just as they were alongside us again at Kapyong in Korea. Today is a good time to remember that the values we share with New Zealand are profoundly stronger than any trifling differences we might have about rugby or racehorses”.

The Bungonia Village Anzac Day service in central NSW was a simple yet symbolic affair attended by about seventy locals, with many of them there to remember family members whose names are engraved on the Village cenotaph.
By Judith Martin

Pacific War veteran Phillip Hedley Buscomb waited 67 years before receiving his war medals. Sitting alongside him at the Anzac Day service when he was finally presented his medals, was his mate Major Syd Dewes.

Mr Buscomb, 91, served in Fiji, Tonga, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal and Treasury Islands. The former farmer, known as Phil, has poor eyesight and lives in the Ranfurly Veterans’ Home in Auckland. Whenever he and Major Dewes meet up he’s keen to hear stories about where the latter has served, what of the people there, and how they live.

A rifleman with A Company, 34th Battalion in the 3rd NZ Division, his war was similar to that endured by many of the young New Zealand men who fought in Pacific jungles. He survived though, and returned to New Zealand in 1944 where he resumed farming. But while he lived to tell the tales of his war-time experiences, his past year has been tinged with sadness.

It’s all to do with someone Major Dewes describes as a “fine looking English lady”, June Bokman. She is a similar age to Mr Buscomb but, despite a friendship that has endured for almost 70 years, the pair have never met.

June, her two sisters and mother moved to Southampton, England early in WWII after being bombed out of their London home. At the time young women were being encouraged to become “pen-pals” with serving soldiers as a morale-booster for the troops abroad. June’s mother knew Phil Buscomb’s mother in New Zealand, and June was encouraged to write to Phil.

June’s first letter arrived after Phil’s company had left Guadalcanal, and followed him to the Treasury Islands where he eventually received it. They have been corresponding ever since. June’s mother knew Phil Buscomb’s mother in New Zealand, and June was encouraged to write to Phil.

June’s first letter arrived after Phil’s company had left Guadalcanal, and followed him to the Treasury Islands where he eventually received it. They have been corresponding ever since. June who is now in her eighties lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was planning to travel to New Zealand to meet the man she has known for so long, but a stroke has put a stop to their efforts.

Mr Buscomb never married, and has no close living relatives so Major Dewes and a couple of other of Mr Buscomb’s friends write to June on his behalf.

“It’s not all over by a long shot - I will write to June giving her a running commentary of the (recent Anzac) day accompanied by some photographs and in our way try to bring them closer together. I suspect a friendship such as this, one that has lasted some 70 years, photos and the like are just icing on an already well made, fine cake.”

Major Dewes, a Territorial Force officer with the 3rd Auckland (CRO) and Northland Battalion, visited Mr Buscomb on Christmas Day. “I asked him where his medals were, only to learn he had never applied for them— he claimed he was “too busy”.

“After some effort and encouragement he eventually agreed to me applying for them on his behalf - I think he thought he had to do that and did not relish the idea given his poor eyesight and no longer having the use of his right hand on account of the stroke. Suffice to say thanks to the lovely helpful staff in our Defence Medals Office in Trentham we were able to eventually present Phil his medals on Anzac Day.”

He now wears with pride the 1939-1945 Star, the Pacific Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-45, and the New Zealand War service Medal.

Major Dewes says he expects Mr Buscomb and Ms Bokman to stay in touch.

“Their story is very touching, and it’s extremely sad that they cannot now meet. But in all this they remain strong – they are not outwardly upset nor asking why this has happened. I have had the privilege of reading June’s letters to Phil because of his failing sight, and they are written in language that shows respect, warmth, enduring affection and appreciation of life.”

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Prime Minister John Key paid his first visit to the battlefields of the First World War on 24 April 2011 when he attended Anzac Day commemorative services at Le Quesnoy and Longueval, in the Somme Valley, north-east of Paris and site of some of the war’s heaviest fighting.

Accompanied by the New Zealand Defence Attaché to France, Brigadier Phil Gibbons, and New Zealand’s Ambassador to France, Rosemary Banks, the Prime Minister and Mrs Bronagh Key spent much of the day taking part in services, laying wreaths and meeting the many French and New Zealanders who turned out.

At Le Quesnoy, liberated by the New Zealand Rifle Brigade on 4 November 1918, a week before the Armistice, with the Maire (Mayor) Senator Paul Raoult, he laid a wreath at the plaque which marks the place where the assault was led up a scaling ladder by 2nd Lieutenant Leslie C Averill and Lieutenant H W Evans. The town council hosted a vin d’honneur at which both Mr Key and Senator Raoult spoke of the warm and expanding friendship between the town (now twinned with Cambridge) and New Zealand. He presented M. Raoult with a greenstone friendship memorial.

At Longueval, he visited the New Zealand memorial, which stands on a ridge and marks the line the New Zealand Division reached on its first day in the Somme campaign on 15 September 1916. Then it was to nearby Caterpillar Valley. This was the name given by the army to the long valley which rises eastwards, past “Caterpillar Wood”, to the high ground at Guillemont. The ground was captured after fierce fighting in the latter part of July 1916. It was lost in the German advance of August 1918 and recovered in 28 August 1918.

A Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery was subsequently opened nearby. It contains the named graves of 214 New Zealanders and 1272 officers and men of the New Zealand Division with no known graves. It was from this cemetery in November 2004 that the remains of an unknown New Zealand were placed in the care of New Zealand and returned to the tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Wellington. Brigadier Gibbons escorted Mr and Mrs Key around the cemetery, explaining features and the surrounding terrain, which gave the Prime minister a clear understanding of the ground over which the New Zealanders fought. He laid a wreath at the main New Zealand memorial, and floral tributes on the site of the most recent New Zealand burial, the soldier interred in February this year.

Brigadier Gibbons also identified a headstone of Private E Key of the Norfolk Regiment who died in April 1917. The Prime Minister said he would make family enquiries to see whether he was a relative. Later that day he returned to London to take part in the services of 25 April.
A visit to the Republic of Korea to mark the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong over the Easter weekend was a bittersweet experience for 16 Field Regiment gun Sergeant Dean Cootes.

SGT Cootes’ great-uncle John Burborough, a New Zealand Army driver during the Korean War, was killed in a vehicle accident in Korea the day before he was due to return home to New Zealand. He was 25. The Burborough family, of Tararua in the South Island, had received a letter telling them when their son and brother was due home from the war, and they were very excited. They then endured the heartache of knowing he was dead just days before they were due to be reunited.

“I have always known about what happened to him, and have always wanted to travel to Korea to see where he fought,” said SGT Cootes. “It was an honour, and quite an emotional experience to be part of the commemorations, and to visit his grave.”

SGT Cootes was part of a small team from 16 Field Regiment RNZA, and 10 Transport Company who escorted Korean veterans and family members to Seoul for the battle commemorations. Many of the veterans had not returned to Korea since they left almost 60 years ago.

Over five days commemorations were held at the Korean Patriots Grave site in Seoul, and in the Commonwealth War Graves site in Pusan where SGT Cootes placed a poppy on his great-uncle’s grave. The team also visited the Gloucestershire memorial at Imjin River, the ANZAC memorial in Kapyong Valley and the Middlesex memorial in Kapyong town.

Veterans from all units involved in the war attended as well as the Chief of Army, Major General Tim Keating, the Minister of Defence Dr Wayne Mapp, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and Korean Ministers Park and Kim. Other activities included a visit to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) including Camp Boniface and Song Seong OP in the area of the Hook.

Anzac Day was commemorated at the National War Museum in Seoul and was attended by all contingents as well as local Australians, New Zealanders and Britons.

SGT Cootes said the landscape in some parts of Korea reminded him of parts of Afghanistan, but he couldn’t imagine fighting in such harsh conditions. “We have all the gear these days, but then they just had what they were wearing and a blanket.”

He said it was great to hear the veterans’ stories. “Most of them were in their eighties, and it was a very emotional time for them too.”

The Battle of Kapyong

In 1951 16th Field Regiment (16 Fd Regt) was established as New Zealand’s contribution to the Korean War. Along with 10 Transport Company, a Divisional Signals detachment and two Navy frigates, New Zealand servicemen deployed in theatre on 15 December 1950. As part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade they were eventually deployed north of Seoul in the area of the Kapyong Valley in early April 1951.

With Anzac Day approaching it was planned to acknowledge the day with the Australian 3 RAR Battalion and Turkish soldiers also in theatre. On 22 April however a massive communist offensive of some 30 000 troops put paid to this plan and the Battle of Kapyong began.

Kapyong valley had long been used as an approach route to Seoul and should the communists break through the entire front would shatter. Elements of 6 Republic of Korea (ROK) Division, 3 RAR Bn, 2 Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry Battalion (PPCLI) and...
Partnering can be remarkably productive—this was highlighted recently on the work done to improve the survivability of a number of New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicles (NZLAV) to be deployed as a result of a change to threat levels in New Zealand’s Area of Operations in Bamiyan province, Afghanistan.

From September 2010 to March 2011 the Equipment Management Group (Light Armoured Vehicles) and Directorate Of Land Engineering together with the Army’s strategic partner, Lockheed Martin Global Incorporated worked together on improving the LAVs’ survivability.

The programme consisted of up-armouring the exterior of the vehicles, fitting mine protection kits, energy attenuating crew and dismount’s seating, upgrading the vehicles’ driveline to cope with the additional weight, designing and fitting various electrical and electronic attachments, improving internal fire fighting capabilities and fitting additional storage, stowage and safety capacity.

The work was as complex as it was technologically challenging with many of the survivability improvements having to be designed, prototyped and fitted in-house to account for the uniqueness of the New Zealand fleet and operational security considerations.

For example, the recovery version is unique to New Zealand and to accommodate the driver’s protection kit the team had to design, manufacture and fit a modification to allow the recovery rope to pass through the driver’s compartment without fouling or otherwise interfering with the energy attenuation of the driver’s kit or safe operation of the vehicle.

The complexity of the programme was increased by the fact that the various enhancements came from different original equipment manufacturers and had to be integrated into the whole survivability package inside extremely tight timelines.

This was compounded by the absolute requirement that the deployed weight of an individual vehicle could not exceed 16,000kg; the programme team therefore had to determine, by vehicle, what enhancements could be removed for transit and retrofitted in theatre with the least inconvenience and engineering effort.

The team also had to contend with the design, building and fielding of various support equipments such as vehicle maintenance jacks, modifications to the rear door, redesigned spare wheel brackets and turret stands.

Throughout the work the programme team remained focused, committed and determined despite having to overcome some engineering integration challenges that would have had the original equipment manufacturer, General Dynamics Land Systems – Canada challenged, and despite that company having a much larger capability for research and development and fabrication.

The programme team very quickly worked out a series of work-streams that would maximise each member’s capabilities. Throughout the period the team worked physically long hours, and spent many other hours thinking on solutions to the engineering challenges faced. The military team was able to clearly demonstrate the power of partnering as they worked alongside Lockheed Martin engineers to develop the best possible solution to provide protection to crews, dismounts and support crews while the vehicles are deployed.

More importantly the team worked with original equipment manufacturers, the US Stryker Support Team, the Canadian Department Of Defence and commercial suppliers to ensure that timelines and cost baselines were met. The result of their efforts was that the deployment occurred on time, under budget and with an end product being greatly enhanced survivability of NZ LAV in Afghanistan. The crews of those vehicles can have the utmost confidence in the end product and its supportability.

A Kiwi patrol from the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team was struck by an improvised Explosive Device in the north eastern area of Bamiyan province on 28 April. The NZ Defence Force personnel were in a Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) and sustained no injuries. The vehicle suffered some damage but is able to be recovered.

A second patrol provided assistance.

“This incident has highlighted the value in deploying the LAV to Afghanistan as its upgraded armour protected those inside from injury,” said Commander Joint Forces Major General Dave Gawn.
Being unarmed in an area where nearly every man carries a weapon is probably the most challenging part of his job in Sudan, says Captain Marcus Fowler.

"Last week my patrol was hijacked at gunpoint by a militia group. The option presented was to hand over two vehicles or be shot, so the Patrol Commander made the decision to leave the vehicles behind. They were returned undamaged later in the day after negotiations between the United Nations, national military representatives, and local chiefs."

Captain Fowler is in the Abyei area which is part of Southern Kordofan State and is adjacent to the border between North and South Sudan. It is still undecided whether Abyei will be a part of North Sudan or the part of South Sudan; in July South Sudan will become the world's newest country.

According to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Abyei was entitled to its own referendum to decide on whether it was to be part of the North or South, however due to disagreements between the North and South over voter eligibility this referendum has not occurred and it is unlikely that this will occur before the end of the CPA.

The area is rich in oil and is an important migration routes for the nomadic Misseriya tribesmen who migrate from Northern Abyei to the South and back each year with their cattle in search of water and pasture. In order to maintain a degree of peace in the area joint units of military and police have been formed with equal amounts of troops from both sides, co-habiting in a relatively small area.

"After 30 years of fighting each other this has mixed results. Peace is being maintained generally, however there is still mistrust and allegations are made regularly.

As an UNMO (United Nations Military Observer), one of my jobs is to make sure that these joint units keep to troop numbers as was agreed, that build up of more heavily armed units keep well clear of the area, that child soldiers are not included in any form, and that the civilian population is protected from harm.

"We do this by regularly visiting these units by vehicle and by air. Sometimes numbers are verified by physically counting each soldier, and other times by confirming with commanders from both sides.

"In essence, we are a bit like a referee at a rugby game. We cannot be seen to take sides and must be very careful that if we are going to do something to help one group, the other must get the same treatment."

The New Zealand Defence Force has had military observers in Sudan since July 2005.
Selection is fundamental to any special force or special operations force. 1 NZSAS Group has long had a rigorous selection process for SAS candidates. Since 2005 there has also been a selection process for Commandos (previously CTTAG). Explosive Ordnance Device (EOD) Squadron were designated as special operations forces in July 2009. Since then a trial has been conducted to determine the appropriate selection criteria for them too. Nowadays the complexity of modern special operations means that support personnel are likely to get out on the ground with special operators more than they would have in previous years. As a result, 1 NZSAS Group has designed a selection model that enables candidates to be assessed to the level required by their special operations role. The SAS selection standard remains the same. Now, however, the initial stages of SAS selection have now been opened up to candidates for support roles, for EOD and for Commandos. This is coined the ‘gates’ system. In short, candidates now pass a series of ‘gates’ as they progress through selection. The first gate is reached after two days and ensures that a candidate will be considered by the Selection Board for suitability in a special operations support role and for the EOD Squadron, dependent on their psychological suitability. Given the nature of support roles, candidates are given more time to complete their portion of selection than those wishing to push on and be selected for Commando or SAS service. The next issue of Army News will explore this portion of selection and the new Special Operations Forces Induction Course in more detail. After four days the second gate is reached and successful negotiation of this puts a candidate into contention for commando as a Commando. Accepting to train as a Commando on the Counter Terrorist Course is highly competitive. So in keeping with the principles of selection, candidates are invited to go always a little further and individuals who progress the furthest past Gate 2 will be prioritised for a starting position, ahead of their counterparts.

Gate 3 and the final gate, is completion of the SAS Selection. Everyone who gets to this point is considered for SAS training and potentially service as a badged member of the Unit. In addition, Commando and SAS officer candidates are required to complete Officer Testing after they have completed the physical aspects of selection. Officer testing explores an officer’s ability to problem solve when tired and under pressure. Service in 1 NZSAS Group is based on four abiding tenets (see Army News issues 402, 415 and 417). The most important of these is the unremitting pursuit of excellence. To that end, the ‘gates’ are designed to give all candidates the opportunity to reach the pinnacle of selection – completion of the SAS Selection Standard – regardless of whether they originally set out to be selected for a support role or a combat role. If you are missing the ‘gates’ – keep going. Who knows, you might suddenly have a number of options open to you that you never thought possible. To help candidates prepare, 1NZSAS Group has a network of ex-SAS members and physical training instructors around the country who can give prospective candidates good advice. You can have a mentor allocated by contacting the SAS Recruiting Cell. The Recruiting Cell will also give you a recommended training programme and will offer you a state of the art navigation training package that has been designed in-house and is specifically tailored to the skills you will find useful on selection.

Throughout the year, the SAS Recruiting Cell visits bases throughout New Zealand and runs training for candidates so they can see how their preparation is going. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions ring or e-mail the recruiting cell and lock in the next session near you. 1NZSAS Group also runs pre-selection immediately prior to Selection itself. Pre-Selection is designed to give candidates vital knowledge specific to Selection, including additional tutoring on navigation. Selection for special operations is designed so candidates can demonstrate that they have what it takes to go always a little further. They demonstrate this to the staff, but also – and most importantly – they demonstrate it to themselves. This self-knowledge helps give the special operator and special operations ‘enabler’ the confidence to win when they go in harm’s way.

If you want to make a difference and want to work with a group of like minded and motivated professionals, give the 1 NZSAS Group Recruiting Cell a ring or visit http://www.teams/1NZSAS/ and request a training mentor and start on the road to selection.

FAQ
Q: How often is Selection run?
A: There are two selections each year. They are run in Auckland in late January and in June.

Q: Do I need to serve two or three years before attempting Selection?
A: No. The best advice is to do selection as soon as you are ready. Selection is designed to identify those people with the qualities we need – we will teach you the skills.

Q: Is the open country phase still run in Port Waikato?
A: No. What was known as the open country phase of selection has been shifted to the Hunua Ranges. This is more efficient for us. It also means that navigation does not play such a big part in your success or failure because the selection routes are on marked tracks. The other advantage of the Hunua Ranges is that it is public land so you can train in your own time on the actual selection routes.

Q: Is navigation still part of Selection?
A: Yes, but not as big a part as it used to be. Initially you will be expected to read a map and relate it to the ground. As Selection progresses, you will be required to navigate through course country using a map and compass. If you successfully complete the close country phase you will have demonstrated your skills sufficiently to be recognised with a SAS Basic Navigation qualification. Make sure you include navigation training as part of your preparation. The Recruiting Cell has state of the art training materials to help you.

Q: If I get accepted for further training on the June Selection can I start ‘cycle’ of SAS courses (Cycle) straight away?
A: Yes, if you have completed SAS Selection (got to Gate 3) in June the Commanding Officer may invite you to start ‘cycle’ straight away. In this case you will start with a number of classification based courses to allow your body to recover before going in to the field and learning SAS patrol skills.

Q: Can I attempt the June Selection straight after completing the Counter Terrorist Courses?
A: Yes. A number of people have done this successfully already. Instead of reporting to your Squadron you would attend June Selection and if successful you would attend one of these sessions ring or e-mail the recruiting cell and lock in the next session near you. 1NZSAS Group also runs pre-selection immediately prior to Selection itself. Pre-Selection is designed to give candidates vital knowledge specific to Selection, including additional tutoring on navigation. Selection for special operations is designed so candidates can demonstrate that they have what it takes to go always a little further. They demonstrate this to the staff, but also – and most importantly – they demonstrate it to themselves. This self-knowledge helps give the special operator and special operations ‘enabler’ the confidence to win when they go in harm’s way.

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Q: What if I fail Selection?
A: The operational environment has changed. Now Support Squadron personnel are more likely to go on the ground with SAS or in to the ‘hot zone’ with Commandos and EOD. On day one your operational fitness will be confirmed. The minimum pass is a G2 standard. This also means you complete your Required Fitness Level and Battle Efficiency Test at the start of the year. We will also check your swimming skills so we can identify those who need extra tuition. Swimming is important because many special operations missions are conducted in the maritime environment. Day two is a timed pack walk through the Hunua Range. The distance simulates a typical SAS mission which requires those involved to walk across country to a target, do a task and then walk out to a pick-up point.

Q: What if I fail the Support Selection, will my posting order be cancelled?
A: We will do all we possibly can to help. If you fail, then during the normal three month probation period for service in a support role you will be given the opportunity to re-test those portions that you failed out on. If you still cannot pass you may still be able to serve within the Unit but you would not be eligible to deploy on combat missions, we're afraid.

In Papakura we have a physical training culture and some of the best physical training instructors in the NZDF – so you will have every opportunity to re-test throughout the year and earn your beret.
2 Engineer Dive Team - Exercise Poseidon II

2 Engineer Regiment Dive Team has recently returned from Lake Moawhango where they conducted Exercise Poseidon II.

The exercise is one of two annual training concentrations and had three distinct objectives. The first objective was to revise all divers in the search and recovery operations that support the field Army. The second was to provide support to bridging operations and the third was to provide support to tactical reconnaissance. All these tasks fall under the mobility umbrella.

As with anything nowadays there is a certain amount of compliancy, and the first day of the exercise was taken up with workplace first aid and oxygen administration training with the civilian company Firstaid4life. This training enables our divers to maintain their civilian accreditation and be eligible for further training. The team received an exercise brief, loaded kit and headed to the tropical lagoon in the central north island known as Lake Moawhango. Cold weather was forecast and in true Waiouru fashion it didn’t fail to deliver, bucketing down for the first two days.

The initial tasks enabled the dive team to revise the search schemes used to locate obstructions and equipment. Individual circular searches and group search swims along a jackstay fulfilled this requirement. It also enabled us to test our emergency procedures in the event of a dive casualty. The dive SNCO organised an ‘incident’ which was deliberately kept quiet from the team and the majority of Waiouru Medical Treatment Centre (MTC) in order to provide realism. The ‘incident’ saw a diver come to the surface suffering from a notional pulmonary barotrauma holding his chest and complaining of pain. The dive team acted quickly, stripping the kit off him. The first aiders laid him down and administered oxygen while moving the casualty to Waiouru MTC. Once at MTC the professionals took over and the team stood down. The whole sequence took 30 minutes and reminded the team of the dangers of diving at altitude.

Saturday 9 April saw Lance Corporal Lloyd Rakaupai command a pier construction near Ayres Rock, Lake Moawhanga. This location provided the team with good real estate to practise constructing a pier made from Christchurch Cribs. This type of pier is normally used to provide an intermediate platform during bridge construction. It is an expedient piece of kit that can easily be transported on the back of a Unimog or 2228. The pier can be constructed as high as seven layers or 4.5m. LCPL Rakaupai said “the hardest part of the task was building the base layer and ensuring it was level on the lake bed”. He went on to say “it’s good to see the whole process of joining the cribs together from start to finish”. The task took six hours and left the team with a sense of achievement.

The end of the week allowed the team to hold the bi-annual dive team function in Taupo. Members had a chance to swap shark wrestling stories and create nick names for the new members. One of note is Dirty Badger Macninetees for the new dive SNCO. All highly amusing and helping foster the team’s esprit de corps.

Week two kicked off with glorious weather and the team ready to continue the good work. Operating in the amphibious environment is more relevant than ever for the New Zealand Army and the team took the opportunity to develop its standard operating procedures (SOP) for landing point reconnaissance. The training assisted in fine tuning the skills that will provide a green army amphibious reconnaissance capability. Two days and one night were
devoted to rehearsals with a Battle Handling Exercise (BHE) at night providing the final confirmation. The BHE saw the team construct a boat hide in the North West arm of the lake and conduct battle prep in Waiouru. The Dive SNCO delivered orders and the team prepared themselves for a covert landing point reconnaissance. The notional Kaimanawa Militia held areas of key infrastructure in the Waiouru region. One of these areas was the hydro electric water inlet in the North East corner of the lake. A small group of militia had set up overwatch on a peninsula controlling access. The dive team moved tactically to the boat hide, driving with the use of Night Vision Goggles. Once at the hide the divers and support crew completed final safety checks before moving off slowly to the target.

The boats went firm 300m short of the target and the divers slipped slowly into the water. The reconnaissance party consisted of two pairs; pair one being LCPL Brendan Yaxley and Sapper Charlie Greaves and pair two being Sappers Warryk Dunbar and Matthew Thomson. The divers took their bearings and left the surface. The compass swim went without detection and the teams hit the shore and started their tasks. Not only were the teams interested in the physical aspects of the landing point such as profile, obstacles, and mines but they also tuned in to the tactical considerations such as the enemy's disposition, numbers, morale, weapons and other considerations that essentially help the infantry achieve its aim.

Unbeknown to the six man OPFOR patrolling the peninsula the divers stayed on target for 20 minutes watching and listening. Vital information was gained and the pairs moved back towards the boats for the recovery to the boat hide. Apart from some minor issues on the recovery the task went well and the divers secured the boats in the hide and moved tactically back to Waiouru.

SPR Dunbar enjoyed the challenge and said "the onus was on the diver. If we made a mistake we could compromise the whole op". SPR Dunbar added "this is the best thing I’ve done so far in five years in the Army". SPR Greaves enjoyed the BHE and said “it was good to see the SOP work without any mistakes”.

The concept of having engineer divers is nothing new and having an Army dive capability provides key support to NZ Army mobility, counter mobility and survivability operations. Essentially what is required above surface must also be provided below. All RNZE divers are competent in construction and combat engineer techniques including the use of explosives underwater. This provides support not only to our war fighting functions but also to humanitarian relief within the Asia-Pacific region. With the advent of the Joint Amphibious Task Force this capability will provide NZ Army more versatility when operating in the amphibious environment.

Do you want to join?

Interested in joining 2 Engineer Regiment Dive Team? Do you have the aptitude to be part of a highly motivated team that works in arduous conditions? Can you meet the following pre requirements?

- Member of Royal New Zealand Engineers,
- Required Fitness level G1
- Medically cleared fit to military dive,
- Pass a dive physical fitness test consisting of the following minimum standard:
  - Bleep test standard of 9.6,
  - 30 Press ups,
  - 30 half sits,
  - 8 pull ups, and
  - 400m fin in 8 mins 30 secs.
- Have a workplace first aid and oxygen administration certificate, and
- Be recommended by your Officer Commanding

Point of Contact: SSGT Mick Spicer, 2 Engineer Regiment, Dive SNCO
By Corporal Greg Fagg and Sapper Jake Wansink

Our first interaction with the quake began with the first rumblerings on 22 September 10. The earth shook again (7.1 magnitude) at 0435, and all those members of the 3rd Emergency Response Troop available to return to work mustered at the fire station. We then conducted a door to door check of the residents of the Burnham housing area. As they moved around the darkened township, it was soon obvious by cracked and fallen chimneys that there had been a major event less than 4 km away.

Once the residents had been checked and the full extent of the quake was known, requests for assistance from the NZ Fire Service began flooding in. One of the tankers was sent with a crew to assist Sumner Brigade due to the loss of the water main there. The following day a second tanker and crew was deployed to New Brighton in similar circumstances, with the crew responding to numerous calls to knock down unstable chimneys disrupted by the quake. By late afternoon the crew was redeployed to Christchurch Men’s Prison to assist with water supply and fire fighting.

Due to the quake the mains had failed, so prisoners were to be relocated to unaffected prisons throughout the country; rioting was expected as they were already setting fire to books and bedding. When the relocation did occur 12 hours later, it passed uneventfully as the majority of prisoners just wanted to get away from the constant aftershocks. We were hoping that that was it... all over, some lessons learnt and some different emergency responses clocked up.

When the first Canterbury quake struck, there was wide spread destruction but the resounding cry was “at least no one was killed”. When the alarm went up on 22 February 11, it was soon obvious that this quake was far more destructive than both September’s event, and the shudder on Boxing Day combined. Calls flooded into fire communications and within minutes the off duty and volunteer members of the brigade had mustered yet again. Fifty minutes later three crewed fire appliances were quickly dispatched to Christchurch, the first of the New Zealand Defence Forces assets to deploy, literally hitting the ground running.

The devastation was beyond belief and quickly they were aware that many people had died as a result of the numerous collapses. The very first crew to hit the red zone was sent straight to the CTV building to assist USAR to try to suppress the fire burning within. A further crew responded to a Hazardous Substance leak involving a Cyanide based product in Bromley, before responding to the 23rd floor of the Hotel Grand Chancellor, room 2302, where an elderly couple were trapped in their room. Helping rescue them, our personnel were quickly redeployed to help more trapped people.

Another crew was responding to persons trapped in a lift. By now the full extent of the devastation was evident, and the phenomenal amount of emergency calls our crews were responding to prompted the Emergency Response Squadron to release and deploy further crews from both its Linton (2ERT) and Waiouru (4ERT) troops with a further appliance in support. Senior students on the command fire course filled in on shifts to allow further manpower to respond, and one of the ERS’s USAR technicians withdrew from a promotional course to make up members in the USAR team deploying from Palmerston North.

In the week that followed the first response, ERS worked in 12 hour shifts, attending more than 70 emergency incidents ranging from the rescue of persons trapped, structural fires, hazardous chemical incidents, gas leaks, and chimney collapses, to building collapses, USAR, building salvage (protection from the elements), an electrical transformer explosion, and water supply at Woolston Fuel Farm. This allowed the supply and distribution of fuel throughout Christchurch to occur.

The skills, initiative and mental toughness of the squadron members were tested vigorously in that period. Standing side by side with their civilian counterparts in the New Zealand Fire Service, the members of the ERS who responded to the alarm demonstrated their capabilities and professionalism. Both permanent brigade members and volunteers fulfilled the definition of the unit name to the letter.

At the end of the week the squadron conducted a reorganisation and down scaled its activities in a response to the reduced number of emergency incidents. ERS maintained its standby task at the fuel farm for a few more days then lent its assistance as part of the greater effort to the cordon task in the Christchurch CBD. As it stands, ERS looks at maintaining the RNZE adage of ‘first in last out’.
CHRISTCHURCH QUAKE RELIEF - PART THREE

WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS
**BEHIND THE SCENES – DSS BURNHAM**

The Christchurch quake in the early afternoon of 22 February focused the attention of the country, and the world, on Christchurch. While the response of our military to this disaster has been well covered in the media, an enormous amount of effort has been going on behind the scenes, particularly by DSS staff. Here are some examples of the response of Defence Shared Services personnel.

**DSS Burnham**

- Burnham FM Section, along with contractor partner Fulton Hogan Ltd, quickly checked key infrastructure for damage and serviceability. With Burnham camp largely untouched by the quake and self-contained infrastructure-wise, the base was called upon to support an ‘all of Government’ response.
- The FM Section has worked hard to anticipate requirements and ensure that the camp continues to function despite increased demands on the infrastructure e.g. ensuring that the B Block Mess, which provided meals to the people working in the city.
- The FM team was involved in establishing the temporary mortuary for the region, which had never been considered in contingency planning.
- Q Staff worked long hours since the earthquake (at maximum capacity) and pulled together to provide support not only to their own team, but to all DSS functional areas. A phenomenal amount of freight has been received and stores despatched.
- Barrack, housing and CL vehicles worked at maximum capacity to meet the needs of the Formation and visitors.
- Data Communications - Corporal Iain Brookes was busy ensuring additional landlines were established, PABX services were not compromised and he worked long into the night to ensure data comms has not been compromised and his client base have had their needs met.
- The Travel Team worked hard to meet all of the Formation requirements which has been a difficult task given some of the destinations personnel have been required to travel to, or flights have been booked out due to affected Cantabrians moving out of the city. The travel team at Linton provided valuable assistance.
- Events Co-ordinator Trevor Todd has also been busy managing the facilities within his portfolio. He has had to cancel a significant number of non priority activities in camp (both military and civilian based) and has worked hard to work out compromises with respect to venues.
- The determination and pride of our Burnham staff has meant the service they provide to Burnham has not been degraded at all. They have been proactive and have thought ahead, anticipating the needs of the base and in the words of the Chief of Staff of HQ 3LFG, are ‘awesome’.

**Other support**

- While our Burnham colleagues were working hard to provide support on the ground, DSS personnel at the NSC and other camps and bases were stepping up to provide what support they could to their Burnham colleagues and our suppliers in their efforts to maintain services in Christchurch.
- The afternoon of the quake saw a vendor update page go up on the DSS intranet site providing information for anyone needing to contact their regular suppliers in Christchurch. Further updates were added as and when they came in.

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**SIGNALS PLAY A MAJOR PART SUPPORTING THE RELIEF WORK IN THE CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE**

Since its establishment, 41 CIS Troop has given communications support in a wide variety of activities, from formation exercises and training, to the September Quake and the Pike River Mine tragedy. The Canterbury Quake, at 12:51, on 22 February, unfortunately continued that streak.

Our support to the Canterbury Quake involved a retransmission station on the Port Hills, communication detachments in the CBD, a detachment assisting the 3LFG Command Post and drivers to all those locations. With the Troop being spread so widely apart, the role of the INCO Detachment Commander was vital. Everyone was on shift work, so it meant that junior ranks had to step up into the role. The stressful nature of the event, compounded by liaising with senior personnel, as well as working abnormal hours, meant this was no easy feat.

I am proud of 41 CIS Troop’s support to the Canterbury Quake. Though all members of the Troop performed well, most credit of our success must go to the Detachment Commanders. The members of 41 CIS Tp have experienced many emotions, ranging from the initial shock, to sadness, to the joy brought from being able to assist. These are some of their stories...

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**LIFE OF A DRIVER DURING OPERATION QUAKE**

- By Second Lieutenant Pedrosa Durie

Since the earthquake, 41 CIS Troop has been supporting the relief work in the Christchurch Art Gallery.

**LIFE OF A DRIVER DURING OPERATION QUAKE**

- By Sig Suzanne Dacillo

On 22 February at 1510 the earthquake hits. It doesn’t feel like a big one, but as soon as I get into work and they turn the news on, the reality sinks in. Our Troop is immediately hands-on, doing load-lists, preparing vehicles and assigning people to detachments. I am first put in the role of an operator at the Police Station - a 24 hour shift with two others. I can remember driving into the CBD that day with Lance Corporal Gribben as the driver. It took more than two hours to even get into the city. Cars were lined up at every petrol station, blocking roads and intersections. Every comer we turned we saw a new row of destroyed buildings. There were people in bright coloured vests trying to clear buildings, Police everywhere, and cordon people slowly trying to navigate traffic away from the city. The roads were in ruins, cracked and protruding and covered in silt.

After the shift at the Police Station, I was tasked with being one of three drivers. Our shift consisted of 24 hours on and 48 hours off. We had to drive people to the Police Station, the Arts Centre, one of the positions on the main cordon and up the Port Hills to the Retransmission Detachment. Each drive took about 3 hours, depending on how long each handover took. We initially had one day task and one night task. The night task was the worst. Driving into the city at night was like driving through a ghost town. The streets were pitch black and ice cold, and the smell that drifted on the wind was sickening. Driving near buildings that had people still trapped inside was a gut wrenching thought.

- By Lance Corporal Lisa Russell

I didn’t really think anything of it at first, because it just felt like the many other earthquakes we’ve had. Then coming back to work after my meeting at the Conference Centre, everybody was running around load listing, getting everything ready just in case we got the call up. We got called up that day at around 1400, and everybody had to come back to Burnham to find out where and what they were to do.

I got put in as Detachment Commander for the Command...
**LIFE AT THE ARTS CENTRE DURING OPERATION QUAKE**

By Lance Corporal Kieran Wilson

With the immediate requirements of the 22 February Earthquake met, the checking on families, checking of personal possessions and housing, we deployed in support of the recovery efforts.

A comms recce was conducted around the Art Gallery site to confirm that Satellite link could be established. This proved to be a little more difficult than initially expected. Getting close to the Art Gallery itself was difficult, as myriad media networks had taken residence in every free space and parking spot available.

A quick assessment and search by Staff Sergeants Glenn Cossey and Simon Nice found us an area by the Arts Centre that we could use to get a nice open sky shot. Great we thought; we can establish here and we aren’t that far from the Art Gallery.

However, for anyone unfamiliar with the Christchurch Arts Centre, let me paint a word picture for you. Around the front of the Pinzgauer’s location was the main building itself, an old heritage building of stone, arches, columns and windows. The corner closest to us was completely collapsed. Stone and debris lay everywhere. To the rear of our vehicle lay another building, similar in build to the Arts Centre, the chimneys had fallen and taken some of the facade with it. This building was roughly 15 metres to the rear.

But we had to have comms, so there we stayed. I was in location, and comms were established by 14.00hrs on 25 February. From here I introduced myself to the Liaison Officer whom I was supporting. The services we provided to help the support were Internet via the Ipsiast Satellite link, DIXS via RAS, printing, and DTelN.

An additional requirement for a back up system to the VTC being used inside the Art Gallery came into play later. After some trial and error, we found a way to make something similar to the VTC solution, to allow the liaison officers to use RAS without having to come out to the Command Post LON. After liaising with the IT guys inside the Art Gallery, this proved to work a charm.

**LIFE ON THE CORDON DURING OPERATION QUAKE**

By Sig Cedar Vaimea

Once back in camp after Exercise Southern Katipo was abandoned, and after everyone had confirmed that their families were safe and sound, we were allocated our locations and set off for our 24-hour shifts.

Our job in the Police Station was to provide communications between the Police Station, the cordons around the CBD and 3LFG. As you could imagine, it was chaotic during the first few days. There was plenty of traffic over the net, with Officers handing out their orders, and personnel at the cordons sending in their reports.

It was strange working on the 3rd floor of a ‘safe’ building, with big cracks along the walls and chunks of plaster missing. Certain floors in the building were still cordoned off and deemed unsafe.

After a week, we went onto 12-hour shifts as manpower was back to normal, and traffic on the net became less hectic.

Overall, communications were amazing for pretty much all of the deployment. It was great to see an awesome response and effort put in by RNZ Signals during this heartbreaking disaster on home soil.

**WORKING IN THE RETRANS STATION DURING OP QUAKE**

By Sig Bree Jordan

We are sitting up on the rocking port hills, overlooking the broken Christchurch City, with high winds day and night blowing all around the Pinzgauer, and with antenna and tent set up. The views are amazing, but I sit and think as the shifts go on, how long will Christchurch be subject to the wrath of Mother Nature, and how long will the Signallers of Burnham be up on these hills and in the other locations?

The shifts started as two personnel for a 24-hr shift. There is one alpine tent for the person not on shift, situated where there are as few rocks as we could find. There is a generator for power. We run the Pinzgauer every 6 or 7 hours for an hour to charge the radio batteries. We listen on the radios for our call signs, and to make sure everyone is still talking and the retrans station is working. Logging when we do handovers and when we refuel the generator and static charges for the vehicle.

The most fulfilling feeling I have had on retrans was the first day I came up. Some civilians walking around asked us if we had seen a dog. We told them that there was one last seen up in the top under the cover of the building and it had a sore leg. When we asked around, the previous detachment reported that someone had taken the dog away with him, but he had left his name and phone number. So we gave them the number, and also our own cell phone number. A few hours later we received a text saying “Thank you so much, the dog was ours. Glad to have our baby back. WE LOVE THE ARMY!!!” It made my day and week, knowing we had helped in a different way, other than communications.

**Post at 3LFG. We had to put our antennas on the roof while it was raining, which was rather difficult.**

We had comms up and running by 1715hrs. The first couple of days were busy over the radio, but over time, it slowly died off. We did help out the other staff in the CP by answering the phones for them. We received a number of unusual requests, such as “I’ve got a tonne of carrots, where do you want them?”

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Zealand Army. It appears a far cry from what is happening within the New
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James Kaio.
are transforming their militaries, says the Army’s Director of
was an invaluable introduction into how small Baltic states
ABCA program in a most commendable fashion. He also
Canada said LTCOL de Koning’s professionalism, tenacity
and actions represented the New Zealand Army and the
General Rhys Jones, the assistant Chief of Land Staff,
Estonia is part of NATO and invited New Zealand to send
someone to its Higher Command Studies course. Eleven
officers from seven nations attended the course, and LTCOL
Kaio was the only primarily English speaker.
"Everyone who attended came from nations like ours which are
undergoing change. New Zealand was invited to attend
because our training is recognised as world class, and also
because of our policies for change."
The curriculum involved much strategic thinking, leadership
development, and then a lot of learning about NATO and
changes, and the global influences on those changes. The last
part of the course was devoted to practical transformation.
Most of the lecturers were British or American, and 11 Chiefs
of Defence Forces from various countries spoke to participants
throughout the course.
LTCOL Kaio said at one stage he had to brief the deputy
Chief of Defence Force of Estonia on how he could change his
(Estonian) Defence Force for the better.
Throughout the course, which he topped overall, he was able to
share with his colleagues the lessons New Zealand had
learnt regarding its force structure. “We are small and fiscally-
constrained so we have to focus on key capabilities, and
understand that if something does not meet an operational
output then we don’t fund it.”
He included the New Zealand Defence Force experiences in
Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste in his
presentations, and explained how, when a force is
restructuring, ideally it must choose the areas it wants to excel
in, and choose a capability that can complete a range of tasks.
Estonia, he said, is heavily reliant on conscription and its
military was interested in how geographically separate and
small New Zealand is, yet the country is involved in missions
throughout the world.

A six-month long Higher Command Studies course in Estonia
was an invaluable introduction into how small Baltic states
are transforming their militaries, says the Army’s Director of
Strategic Development, Lieutenant Colonel James Kaio.
The former Soviet republic of Estonia is the smallest and
most developed of the three Baltic states, and on the face of
it appears a far cry from what is happening within the New
Zealand Army.

But LTCOL Kaio says New Zealand, Estonia and the countries
from which other course participants came from had a lot
in common, namely their size, and the need to change and
establish future strategies.
“Most Defence Forces around the world know that
transformation is the norm nowadays — you can’t just stay the
same forever. Change is normal, whether it is in business or
the military.”
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A sophisticated new Defence Force truck and trailer unit will
be used for carrying general cargo, for back loading equipment
and for driver training.
Warrant Officer Class Two Dave Billmore, pictured on the
trailer guiding, and Warrant Officer Class One Keith Bridgeman
operating the winch, from Defence Logistics Command’s
Directorate of Land Equipment Management, tested the heavy
equipment trailer winch at Trentham on 27 April.
The modern computerised heavy equipment transporter
(HET) can carry NZLAVs, 10,000 litre water tanks, NATO
containers and a range of other equipment.
Pre-testing had determined that the winch on the unit
needed slight modifications after a RODUM (Report Of
Defective or Unsatisfactory Material) was returned on it.
The HET is among four Mercedes Benz heavy equipment
 carriers purchased for a range of logistics uses by Defence
about a year ago. They’ve been modified and tested during
the past 12 months. “It’s taken a while to get them into service
because of the modifications required,” says Equipment
Manager for Medium / Heavy Vehicles Mary Roberts.
The truck trailer unit is one of the first trucks imported
into New Zealand with the highest clean air Euro 5 emission
standard. “We’re quite ahead of the game with it having a Euro
5 standard. Most new trucks in New Zealand would have a Euro
4 rating,” Mary Roberts says.
“It’s a great piece of kit which requires drivers to use all the
skills and knowledge most civilian truck drivers use every day.
That includes responsibility for load weights, axle weights,
load positions and tie down systems.”
Driving the HET will allow Defence Force drivers to become
familiar with navigation and engine management systems that
monitor braking, speed, revs, idle times, and fuel usage.
An on board camera records driver and other road user
actions, there is an on-board NavMan GPS tracking system,
a hydraulic dock widening system, sliding fifth wheel and an
axle group load measuring system.

Lieutenant Colonel David de Koning was presented with
the Canadian Forces General Campaign Star with South-West Asia ribbon at a ceremony in Wellington in
April.
The medal was presented by the Canadian High
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3rd Logistics Battalion conducted its Longest Day in as part of the Battalion’s annual Right of Line competition. The aim of the Longest Day is to develop leadership and teamwork in a physically and mentally challenging environment. Sections from 3 Workshop Company, 3 Transport Company and 3 Combat Support Company were pitted against each other over a gruelling 50km cross country route, conducting twelve stands at various points which tested both physical and mental skills. The stands were developed to test all arms operational skills which often need to be conducted in conditions of duress. The normal fatigue of such activities was heightened by adverse weather conditions and steep terrain, but the Sections were well led by the Battalion’s junior leaders. All participants in all Sections finished with all their personnel, and well ahead of the predicted AUNTY HUHA time!

Winning Section: Bluebell 2 – CPL Simon Evans, LCPL Brady Whyte, Privates Scott Bradbury, David Taylor, Brendon Fenton, Aaron Bacon, Desmond Rogers, James Young.


3 Workshop Company (3 Wksp Coy) has always been competitive when it comes to the ‘Right of Line’ competition within 3rd Logistics Battalion, and this year’s Longest Day competition was no exception. 3 Wksp Coy could still taste the bitterness of last year’s defeat and its members were eager for revenge. We were there to win and that’s exactly what we did.

I won’t lie to you my comrades, the going was initially tough. This was expected and did nothing to help our already rock bottom morale. We just looked to the sky and laughed in the face of adversity.

Through the howling wind and rain, over treacherous mountainous terrain, we persevered until after five hours we reached the summit of Mt. Herbert, the third stand of the day. Being greeted by SGT. Fisher’s ‘Cheshire cat’ grin we could sense something was amiss... we were in for a hard stand. But being blessed as 3 Wksp Coy is, we breezed through SGT Fisher’s dreaded stand of navigation, claymore and Kim’s games. After a quick brew that healed all wounds, we were off again. No rest for the wicked.

With the looming Mt. Herbert at our backs, we began the slow descent. A sense of tranquillity embodied the group as the horizontal hail began to sting our faces. Our optimism was at an all time high. Within another five hours we were on flat ground. All that stood between us and the town of Little River was a 2.4km jerry can carry. With the help of the burly mechanics in our team, it was as if the jerries were empty.

Having now gone dark, it was a good time for a tea break. We were still only halfway through the stroll and our big engines needed feeding.

The next couple of stands proved our strengths. Grabbing top points in both the riddle stand and tyre change stand - strangely, the burly mechanics who were so useful during the previous stand must have been recovering as they remained silent through the ‘intellectual’ stand. We were able to take advantage of using mountain bikes for 3km and a Unimog ride for another 3km.

This boost in morale provided the will to take us over the finish line at three in the morning - 19 hrs, 50 km and 12 stands after starting. All the hard work was rewarded the next day at the prize giving. The taste of our beer was made that much sweeter knowing that we had come out on top... again.
The quintessential New Zealand citizen soldier Brigadier (td) Dr Brian Thomas McMahon CBE, KStJ is the 2011 Anzac of the Year.

The award was instituted last year by the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Association (RNZRSA) to recognise the qualities of comradeship, compassion, courage and commitment which are embodied in the tradition of Anzac. The award was presented to Dr McMahon by the Governor-General, Sir Anand Satyanand, at a ceremony at Government House in April.

RNZRSA national president Lieutenant General (Rtd) Don McIver said Brian McMahon had given significant service to New Zealanders and to the international community as a soldier, a citizen, a doctor and a humanitarian.

“Brian McMahon has exhibited the qualities of comradeship, compassion, courage and commitment throughout his 60 years of service to his fellow citizens, his comrades in arms and those he has served through his activities in overseas aid projects. He is a dedicated professional whose commitment and compassion for his fellow servicemen and women and their dependants, for those he has touched in his profession as a doctor, and for those he has touched in aid activities in Vietnam and the Pacific Islands are a matter of public record,” said Mr McIver.

Brigadier McMahon (td) served in the New Zealand Defence Force for over 42 years, culminating in his appointment as Director General Defence Force Medical Services. He began his service as the Resident Medical Officer in Wairau in 1966. In 1968 he was appointed Regimental Medical Officer of 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment in Malaysia. He served on active service as a Medical Officer in the 1st New Zealand Services Medical Team in Vietnam in 1969. He also had the honour of being appointed as the Honorary Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen 1980-83.

In addition, Dr McMahon provided his expertise as a medical advisor to four separate service organisations: Ministry of Defence 1980-84, The Order of St. John 1980-93, New Zealand Red Cross 1981-84, and New Zealand Surf Life Saving Association 1981-84.

Internationally, Dr Brian McMahon is an active member of Leprosy Trust Board Fiji (Inc) based in Suva. He has undertaken leprosy missions in the South West Pacific and South East Asia first as Chairman, and then as the medical advisor to the Christchurch-based Pacific Leprosy Foundation – an activity he continues to undertake.

Brigadier (td) Dr Brian McMahon holds numerous Honours and Awards including Commander Order of the British Empire (CBE), Knight of the Order of St John (KStJ) and Knight Commander Order of St. Lazaurus of Jerusalem (KClJ). He has also had the honour of being appointed as the Honorary Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen 1980-83.

RNZRSA National President Don McIver says Brian McMahon has demonstrated the spirit of Anzac in his lifetime of service to the army, to the nation, and to the international community as soldier, citizen, doctor and humanitarian.

The bronze statuette

FAQs

What is the Anzac of the Year Award?

The Anzac of the Year Award was established in 2010 to recognise the spirit of Anzac evident in New Zealanders today. The successful recipient demonstrates the spirit of comradeship, compassion, courage and commitment, qualities which are embodied in the tradition of Anzac.

Why was it established?

The Award serves a variety of purposes. It is a reminder to current and future generations on how shared past has shaped us as a nation. Secondly it ensures that the Anzac spirit lives on.

How is the recipient selected?

The Award is organised and managed by the RNZRSA National Office. Recipients of the Award are determined by a Selection Panel of distinguished individuals specifically convened to consider nominations.

Who were previous recipients?

The first recipient of the award was Christchurch man Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) John Masters ONZM MC JP. He was a decorated Army officer who served for 27 years. During that time he was awarded the Military Cross for rescuing a wounded Gurkha Warrant Officer under extremely difficult circumstances. He was also made a life member of the Gurkha Regimental Association’s Sirmoor Club – an honour normally restricted to Gurkhas. After retiring from the Army in April 1983 Lt Col Masters held several senior management roles in business, but he retained his interest in the Army and its soldiers; indeed in all veterans.

Why is the Award a statuette of two soldiers and a donkey?

The ‘Man with the donkey’ is one of the most recognised symbols of Gallipoli that represent the qualities of the Anzac spirit – comradeship, compassion, courage and commitment.

It stems from the story of New Zealander Private Richard Henderson and the donkey, where these qualities were exemplified. At Gallipoli, 19-year-old Henderson went far beyond the call of duty when he repeatedly brought in wounded men under heavy fire and with total disregard for his own life. Later, on the Western Front, similar feats of courage and selflessness would see him awarded the Military Medal. This commitment and compassion for his fellow comrades took a considerable toll on Henderson’s health as he went blind and battled illness all his life.

The base of the bronze statuette depicts the Maori hammerhead shark motif, signifying Tumatauenga, the God of War.

The Award was designed by official New Zealand Army artist Captain Matt Gaudie.
The role of native troops in WWI was initially problematic with the empire view that white men should fight white men. However, once Indian troops were accepted for service the rules were relaxed by the Imperial General Staff in London. The 1st Maori Contingent started gathering in October 1914, and camped and trained on the racecourse at Avondale, Auckland. detachments arrived from throughout the country until the complement of 500 soldiers was reached.

The Maori Contingent was trained as pioneers to build roads, trenches and carry out other rear area logistic duties. For some time the intention was that one of the two companies of the Maori Contingent would be deployed to Samoa and the other to Egypt for garrison duties. Maori leaders lobbied for the contingents to be kept together, and in February 1915, the 1st Maori Contingent was deployed to Malta and from there to the Gallipoli campaign. We owe a debt of gratitude to the acutely attuned observations of Captain Peter Buck (Te Rangihoua) who was assigned as the Medical Officer with the 1st Contingent. It was he who recorded for posterity when Maori soldiers were involved in the attack on Sari Bair in August 1915. The men involved in the attack on Sari Bair in August 1915. The men involved in the attack on Sari Bair in August 1915.

In France the Pioneer battalion came into its own where they were deployed in platoon-sized detachments with the Infantry involved in the attack on Sari Bair in August 1915. The men involved in the attack on Sari Bair in August 1915. The men involved in the attack on Sari Bair in August 1915.

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By Major Eugene Whakahoehe

The sport of boxing has many benefits for the New Zealand Army and promotes the qualities desired within a soldier. Late last year the Army Sports Committee approved the boxing policy and organisation that will support the development of Boxing within the NZ Army.

The Army’s NZ Boxing Committee, led by Lieutenant Colonel Brett Wellington, aims to establish boxing as an official sport within the Army and Defence Force.

LTCOL Wellington believes that boxing promotes mental and physical skill sets directly relevant to our warrior ethos; primarily courage in the face of adversity, the will to win, commitment to mental and physical improvement, and the controlled application of aggression in a violent confrontation.

Contrary to common belief boxing is not about attrition, rather it rewards those who can out think an opponent, are adaptable and innovative, and who, irrespective of setbacks, maintain courage and determination to win.

The development of boxing involves growing the clubs in Burnham, Linton and Waiouru. This includes a closer relationship with the NZ Boxing Council and seeking opportunities for soldiers to compete in tournaments throughout the country. Billy Meehan, coach of the NZ Commonwealth Games boxing team in India, has recently accepted the role of boxing advisor to the Army in recent months.

Mr Meehan brings a wealth of experience to the NZ Army Boxing Committee as a boxer and coach. As one of the most successful boxers in New Zealand boxing history, Mr Meehan has competed and coached at the national and international levels.

He said it was pleasing to see Army boxing was up and running as it added strength to Army’s game. “Army boxers are good to have in the gym as they are familiar with hard work and discipline. Over the years the Army has produced good boxers such as Nigel Anderson, Garth De Silva and David Prosser. The potential I have seen from the Linton and Waiouru boxers is really promising and I look forward to seeing Army boxing developing throughout the country.”

Late last year members of the NZ Army from the Burnham Boxing Club participated in a boxing tournament against the other Services. This was very successful, with Army boxers dominating the ring. In the next few months, members from each club will participate in boxing tournaments with a view to select a NZ Army boxing team. This team will represent the NZ Army at a Services boxing event.
The Speight’s Coast to Coast is now a famous and well-established long running multisport event. It begins with one foot in the surf of Kumara on the West Coast and culminates in a sprint to the East Coast beach of Sumner, Christchurch.

It involves firstly a dash to the cycles and a 55km leg to the foothills of the Southern Alps. Secondly, an arduous mountain run of 33km over the Southern Alps to the Eastern side. The next leg incorporates a kayak section of 67km to the Waimakariri River Gorge followed by the final section, a 70km cycle to Sumner.

I have been keen to give it a go for some time so my posting from 5 Movement Company to SCE where I am working a shift roster allowed me to train and prepare on my days off. Training was intense and involved long hours trying to pull the three disciplines into time. However the scenery I got to see—nearly every river, mountain and long road in Canterbury—was outstanding. The expense involved, besides time, was substantial and after a kayak purchase, bike wheels and lots of other bits and pieces there was not much change left of approximately $9000! It was a worthwhile investment I might add.

Conditions on the first day could not have been better. Clear skies, with just a slight head wind off the cycle. Such nice weather however meant for a hot, hard run through the mountain pass. Good for the support crew morale though. The kayak section was completed in gale force winds which were responsible for a number of casualties. Fortunately, I was not one of them. One good thing about the wind was on the final cycle, it made it a fast sprint into Christchurch.

It was never so good to see the outskirts of Christchurch and I made the beach in Sumner in a total time of 14hrs and 28mins. This put me in 5th place in the women’s open category and 37th overall in the two day field. This was my first Coast to Coast, an achievement that made me feel very proud and tempted me to think about doing it in the One Day field next year. Is there any other country that you can race from one side of the nation to the other? The experience, the time and not to mention the pain faded away in the personal satisfaction of having completed such a challenge.

I would like to thank Burnham UPF, Army Sports South, SCE UPF, Staff Sergeant Carl Alfsen, Captain Scott MacGibbon, Major Kirstine Collins and Paul’s Camera Shop for the assistance and guidance they have given me.
About 60 competitive riders made up of teams from Northern, Central, Southern and a guest team from RNZAF lined up for the first inaugural 2011 Official Inter-regional Road and Mountain Bike (MTB). This was despite the Army’s operational tempo and commitments to the Christchurch earthquake relief effort.

The three day tour and competition was held at Linton Camp in mid April. This year saw Elite, Open, Veterans and Challenge grades racing with both male and female riders competing equally in their grades alongside each other. The Manawatu region turned on brilliant weather for the three day tour and competition.

ROAD

With a carnival atmosphere and excellent riding conditions, the Manawatu area produced pristine riding conditions for the 43 road riders during the competition. It involved a 36km (Open/Veterans and Challenge) and 54km (Elite) graded road race, Criterium graded race, and an Individual Time Trial (ITT) over a 15km, 20km and 30km circuit within Linton Military camp.

The first stage was the road race over a flat and fast course by Linton village with speeds averaging between 30 – 55 km/hr that saw all grades and regional teams fighting for finishing positions. The Challenge Grade worked hard with pressure from Private Cameron Peters (Southern) dominating the bunch and finally making a break in the last 500m from the breakaway bunch to come first in the road stage. The Open/Vets grade saw Central and Southern take out the top two finishing positions beating Northern riders again this year. Northern tactics included dominating and forming break away bunches with the use of team/peleton tactics. The Elite grade proved to be a fantastic tussle with countless attacks put in by dominant southern rider, Lieutenant Hamish Wright. The final sprint between Hamish and RNZAF rider Flight Sergeant Todd Hewlett following behind, saw Hamish take out the 54km road stage in 1hr 24mins, while the remainder of the riders battled it out at the rear of the lead riders.

The ideal riding conditions with the second stage involving a CRITERIUM race produced some excellent, fast and accelerating efforts with high octane sprint finishes by all riders. CRITERIUM was included again as a stage due to its spectator appeal and the fast tactical riding required. In the Challenge grade, Lisa Ferris from Wellington went fast and hard from the start to work with team member Colin Huston denying Southern rider Pte Cameron Peters from dominating this stage. The Open/Vets grade saw some great intermediate sprints with some good breaks and leading by Tania Larkin. The final sprint finish and intermediate sprint points seeing Kate Lester (Southern) just nudging ahead for 1st place ahead of sprint point contender Aaron Tregoweth and Jeremy Drummond (Northern). The Elite Grade provided some great entertaining and fast racing with NZ Army and RNZAF riders tussling it out in the 35 minute high octane sprint race with Southern rider, Hamish Wright (Southern) gaining enough intermediate sprint points and the final sprint to take 1st place ahead of F/Sgt Todd Hewlett (RNZAF).
Individual Time Trial (3rd stage) is demanding with individuals competing against themselves and their bike. Great times were gained over the 30km (Elite), 20km (Open/Vet) and 15km (Challenge grades) rolling and flat course around the Linton LAV circuit. Hamish Wright gained the fastest time of 41.34 in the Elite grade, Aaron Tregoweth fastest male at 30.33 in Open/Vets, Kate Lester fastest Open/Vet female in a time of 30.44, Lisa Ferris the fastest female and fastest in Challenge grade in a time of 25.12 followed by Colin Huston fastest Challenge male in a time of 25.42.

This year saw a special annual Commissarie award presented to those riders who reinforced Army’s core qualities of Courage, Commitment and Comradeship and competed with enthusiasm and commitment throughout all road stages and in some cases saw riders competing in all Road and MTBing events. This year the award was presented to: Mrs Kathy Walker, Lt Nerissa Chapman, Col Craig Stewart, SSgt James Goode, Mr Tom Hirst and WO1 Aaron Williamson.

Overall regional results saw Northern Region again retaining the Road trophy for 2011.

2011 NZ Army Cycling Inter-Regional Competition Article (MTB)

26 MTB riders competed in the three different Mountain Bike (MTB) races. The Northern region won the regional title in a close competition with Central and Southern who were placed third overall. The most successful male and female riders were competing for the King and Queen of ‘The Mountain Bike’ trophies for the first time this year. Mr Glenn Kirk and Lt Nerissa Chapman were crowned King and Queen of ‘The Mountain Bike’ respectively.

The new expanded three race format used for the inaugural Official Cycling regional’s proved very popular with a number of roadies trying out some fat tyre riding. The expanded format included a Night Cross Country (N-XC) race, a traditional Cross Country (XC) race and a European style Cyclo-Cross (CX) race. The night and traditional cross country races were held in Linton Camp on purpose built single tracks. The Cyclo-Cross was run over a short circuit on the area beside the gym incorporating the sports field, numerous obstacles on the confidence course and the pines beyond.

Riders were required to compete in all three races in one of three categories; Elite (for the top end riders), Open / Veterans (for those still competitive but not at the top of the sport) and Challenge (for those with less experience). Each grade competed over the same courses the only difference was the total distance they were required to ride for their respective grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade /Race Distance</th>
<th>Night-Cross Country</th>
<th>Cross Country</th>
<th>Night-Cross Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elite</td>
<td>15km</td>
<td>33km</td>
<td>60 minutes plus one lap</td>
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<td>Open /Veterans</td>
<td>10km</td>
<td>23.5km</td>
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<td>Challenge</td>
<td>5km</td>
<td>14km</td>
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The racing was very competitive in all grades not only for the podium positions but as all finishing placings contributed points to the Regional competition, and contributed to individual points for the King and Queen of ‘The Mountain Bike’ trophies. The racing was hard on bodies and bike with five riders being awarded DNF (Did Not Finish) due to mechanical problems and one DNF due to injury. Mr Tom Hirst gets a special mention for having to borrow a bike to complete two of three races having had a chain failure and in both cases having to run half a lap to get back to the start finish line to get a replacement bike.

THANKS

Thanks go to our 2011 NZ Army Cycling sponsors, Bike Hutt of Upper Hutt, and Pedal Pushers of Palmerston North for their ongoing support and to our new sponsor CRANKIT of Palmerston North in making this years Inter-Regional’s a major success. A special thanks also goes out to all of our marshals, officials including our two BikeNZ International and National level commissaries.

Detailed results including overall Individual awards and trophies from the 2011 Army Cycling Regional’s can be found in the Army Cycling NZDF Intranet Site at the following link:

http://communities/SportPages/Sport/Cycling/interregional.aspx

The 2012 Cycling Inter-regional’s will be held in Wellington to be hosted by Northern region. Further detail including other 2011 events for those interested in riding as part of the growing family of NZ Army Cyclists in events later in the year can be found at the NZ Army Cycling Intranet Homepage:

http://communities/SportPages/Sport/Cycling/Homepage.aspx

Ride Strong, Ride Safe

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