ARMY NEWS

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Exercise Viper - What it's all about

Pacific Partnership on Leadership

SMA for the Day

Combat School - What it's all about
The Army News is published for the Regular and Territorial Force and civilian staff of the New Zealand Army.

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KAPYONG CITATION

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Boggs, Commanding Officer of 16 Field Regiment, has been presented with a citation by the Republic of Korea’s Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Hon Sung Choon Park recognising the regiment’s service and heroism during the Korean War.

Copies of the citation were also presented to veterans of 16 Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery at the ceremony at Linton Camp.

Veterans’ Affairs Minister Judith Collins also held bilateral discussions with Minister Park at Linton Camp.

“New Zealand and the Republic of Korea have a special relationship that began on the battlefield more than 60 years ago,” Ms Collins said.

“Minister Park has personally travelled to New Zealand to present the citation to the Regiment, which is a sign of the close relationship that has developed between our two countries.”

In 1950 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.

From 22 — 25 April massed waves of communist soldiers were repulsed using a combination of infantry holding ground and artillery fire support. At times gun fire was directed onto friendly infantry positions as it was the only way to break up attacks, and by 26 April the communist forces had withdrawn.

The battle was intense; 16 Fd Regt fired some 10,000 rounds in its duration. In 1950 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.

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On 26 May I went to Linton Military Camp to view the presentation of the Korean Citation to the 16th Field Regt.

Although I was not a participant, I had met eight or nine who where at Kapyong, and they informed me that they would be at Linton. So not only was I going to support them, it was also a reunion.

On the morning of the Citation it rained. The Regiment constructed shelters for us to use while the presentation took place.

The regiment marched on; the rain stopped, and for the approximate hour and a half it remained dry.

The regiment marched off, and within ten minutes the rain returned. The Gods certainly smiled on the parade.

I and everybody spoke to remarked on what a wonderful display the regiment performed. It made me very proud that I had been a part of forming 16th Field Regt.

Full marks to the camp; a lovely afternoon tea, excellent dinner and wonderful social activity.

Once again, thank you.

R G Chapman
Te Awanga

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Army News Issue 429

I refer to your issue of May 2011, page 9, The Battle of Kapyong.

10 TPT Coy was never initially part of the original Kay Force, nor did it participate in the Battle of Kapyong, the unit concerned was the NZ TPT PL.

This unit consisted of some two officers and 100 troops. 10 TPT Coy arrived in Korea in August 1951 and absorbed NZ TPT PL.

I was the OC and Brigade Armament Officer for 27 BDE. Our task was to keep 16 NZFD Regt. and the four Infantry battalions supplied with ammunition right through the Battle of Kapyong. It was a very busy period, as you say the regiment fired some 10,000 rounds. It was necessary to deliver the ammunition straight to the gun positions. We also carried out patrols when 27 BDE replaced 27 BDE.

I would be grateful if you could correct your mistake.

RR Harding
Colonel (Rtd) OBE
The NZ Army Combat Shooting Team performed with distinction at the 2011 Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM).

The Combat Shooting Team, made up of 15 soldiers and officers from across the NZ Army, including regular and territorial forces, took to the range between 9–17 May to pitch their skills against some of the world’s best.

Outperforming over 140 competitors, territorial soldier Private Mark Lupi gained two 1st places and one 3rd placing for rifle shooting while Regular Force soldiers Private Brendon Fenton, of Burnham Military Camp, and Sapper Adrian Velich, of Linton Military Camp, combined to be placed 1st in the machine gun shoot.

The NZ Army team finished fourth overall, and the top three places at the end of the AASAM competition were taken by Malaysia, Australia and Indonesia respectively.

Participation in the competition provides the NZ Army’s Combat Shooting Team with the chance to compete against top international teams including teams from the US Marine Corps, Canada, Netherlands, French Forces New Caledonia, Singapore, Brunei, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand in a challenging range of shooting activities. Not only is this important to benchmark the effectiveness of Army’s training policies it allows team members to learn new shooting techniques to pass on to their fellow soldiers on return to their units.

“The Combat Shooting Team’s participation in these competitions allows us to showcase our skills, and it also helps enhance the whole of Army’s operational shooting training”, says Team Captain Major Pat Edmonds. “At the completion of AASAM, team members are released back to their units and expected to impart what they learned throughout the competition to their own command and training personnel.”

Two Army personnel have been named in the 2011 Queen’s Birthday Honours. Lieutenant Colonel Chris Parsons, the Commanding Officer of the New Zealand Special Air Service, and Warrant Officer Class One Ian Ponse, Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment, are to receive the NZ Distinguished Service Decoration.

The Distinguished Service Decoration recognises distinguished military service by regular, territorial and reserve members of the New Zealand Defence Force, including command and leadership and service in an operational environment, or in support of operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Parsons served in Afghanistan from August 2010 to January 2011 as the Senior National Officer for Operation Waatea, which is a Special Operations Task Force to protect Kabul from insurgent attacks and to help develop a robust and ethical Afghan Counter Terrorist Police Force.

He was the third commander to lead the mission, which incorporates some of the most sophisticated support ever deployed by the New Zealand Defence Force. He built on the solid foundation laid down by his predecessors by expanding the relationship between the senior leadership of the Afghan Crisis Response Unit, Ministry of Interior and other Afghan government agencies. Through his efforts, the New Zealand Special Air Service is now a recognised leader in the partnering and mentoring of indigenous forces in a counter-terrorist and counter insurgency framework.

He was appointed an Additional Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen’s Birthday Honours 2010. Warrant Officer Class One Ponse serves as Quartermaster of the 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery.

In this appointment, he has managed three projects introducing new capabilities for operational deployments. He completed the building of specialised lines for the Very Low Level Air Defence Capability, which was completed on time and on budget. He was then instrumental in raising 39 Mortar Battery at Burnham and ensured that it quickly became operationally capable. He has also been involved throughout with the development of the KAHU Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Battle Lab, from its experimental stages to first successful deployment in 2010. The introduction to service of all three assets have significantly improved the Army’s operational capabilities.

The Army, as a part of the New Zealand Defence Force has been given some clear change direction in the Defence White Paper. The Government wants Army to be a more capable land force, which can sustain more operations and for a longer duration; but to do this we, along with the NZDF, have to manage our ‘raise and train’ business better.

There is a view that organisations, like the New Zealand Army, are incapable of making the fundamental changes that are necessary to continue to be successful without external intervention. This view considers that an organisation which is anchored in its traditional methods of business is incapable of realising the changes necessary to make the most of the opportunities that exist. External intercession is therefore required to shift the organisation beyond its traditional beliefs and associated methods of doing business. I do not believe this is true of the New Zealand Army today, we have the knowledge, skills and vision within our own staff to effect change and shape the Army into the force required for the future. I have seen many examples already of Army people who are standing up to the change challenge and a common phrase which I am given is, “show me the challenge Boss and let me crack on with it.”

In recent visits around camps and units I have seen examples of leaders at all levels seeking change agendas, such as Lt Col Brent Wellington at TAD leading significant changes to recruit training, Corporal Ben Penney who leads an innovative project at the UAS Battle Lab in 1 RNZIR and WO1 Bukit Hill at MCM who is a leader in HR change programmes including the COMP project.

These are just a few examples of the common theme that runs through leaders in the Army today; they are leaders who wanted to be pointed in the right direction with some good guidance and be left to get on with achieving the task. As an Army we are now experiencing the first tranch of a challenging civilisation programme. Our ability to successfully manage this comes from empowered Army leaders who lead our people through this difficult change process.

I am genuinely encouraged by the many examples I have seen of this approach, and I have a fundamental belief that significant change must be led by leaders at all levels in the Army. While external expertise may be required to assist in some elements of change management, Army leaders are well-trained to lead the changes necessary within today’s Defence Force. I therefore intend to continue to enforce this approach by giving leaders the necessary freedoms to make improvements in their own areas. My belief is that internally led change will produce the best change outcome for our Army, with the end result being an organisation that actively seeks to pursue excellence wherever the opportunity is found.

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 4960227

By Chief of Army, Major General Tim Keating

The most effective change is change that is led, not pushed; leaders want to lead change, not be told what to do and how to do it. “Give me the challenge boss and let me get on with it.”

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have other road users curse you - and let's face it we have all done it. Most likely the environment you were in at the time sparked the crazy driving behaviour.

The environment we operate in is all too important to how we think, react and behave. If the environment is negative, chances are our behaviour will also be negative. If the environment is positive we will generally react positively. Yet the environment we live and operate in is not a fail accompli. To a large extent each and every one of us can shape our environment.

Shaping the environment is important – not only to prevent crazy driving but also to allow us to adapt to difficult situations or change behaviours. Think about it. As you go through the day think about how many times people or organisations have shaped an environment to shape our behaviour. Banks got so tired of people leaving their cards in ATMs that they make you take your card before you get your money. The Land Transport Authority wants you to drive in a particular or predictable way so they paint lanes on the road, install traffic lights and road signs. Owners of supermarkets want to get kids to pressure parents into buying sweets so they position the sweet stands at the checkpoints – the list goes on.

Shaping the environment is all about making the right behaviour easier and the wrong behaviours a little harder. It is all about shaping organisational and individual behaviours – the environment, to achieve a desired outcome. Now think about the environmental shaping that we are going through right now. We have Chief of Army’s Army 2015 – a fundamental environment shaping for the future in terms of how we train, fight and win. We have a process for getting our personnel balance right to allow us to train, fight and win. We have logistics transformation – a fundamental environment shaping to fix logistics hollowness that reduces our ability to train, fight and win.

In short we, the NZDF and Army are shaping our future environment. We want it to be better, we want to succeed and we know that we cannot keep doing things the way they’ve always been done and for the reasons they’ve been done or done that way. As an organisation we want to try new things and new ways of doing them.

In trying new things and shaping our environment, some things might go wrong. This should not stop us from having a go. If things go wrong – we learn from it and move on – that is what shaping our environment is all about. It’s about making good behaviour easier. It’s also about being masters of our own destiny. If we don’t collectively shape our own environment team, somebody else will shape it for us and the shape we will inevitably get is not one that will be good for us or one that we will like – someone will inflict their version of “good behaviour” on us. I ask you to think about how you can shape your and our environment;— how you can contribute to where we are going and how you and we will get there. Mostly though I’d like you to think about what good behaviours you can show on our journey. Take care and be safe.

- By Deputy Chief of Army, Brigadier Charlie Lott

CASH IN LEAVE

From June this year you will be able to cash in up to one week’s annual leave each year under changes to the Holidays Act. This applies to both military and civilian staff.

Deputy Conditions of Service and Employment Mark Williamson says that although the Act does not apply to Regular Forces, NZDF has decided to apply the benefits to both military and civilian staff.

Mark says these changes will give staff greater flexibility about how they use their annual leave entitlement. You can cash in between one and five days leave owing to you each year, based on your anniversary date. If you are interested in cashing in some leave then it’s currently a manual process until July. Just fill out the “cash up of leave form” on the HR Toolkit. Once completed and approved by your manager just send via email, post or fax, the form to the HR Service centre to be validated and processed – the contact details are below.

Once validated payment will be made directly into your bank account in the next available pay period.

But note that you will pay tax on this money. It may be necessary for you to check with IRD to determine whether the additional income moves you into a higher tax bracket or affects other support you receive like Working for Families, or obligations like student loans and child support.

Changes are currently being made to KEA so that you will be able to do this yourself online, probably from July. We will advise all staff when it’s ready to be used.

Quick facts

- You can cash in between 1-5 days leave per year
- Once your anniversary date rolls around again you can cash in more leave
- Only accrued leave can be cashed in – you cannot cash in anticipated leave
- You will pay tax on any cashed in leave
- For part time workers and those who work other than your anniversary date

standard 8 hour days, for each day cashed up eight hours will be paid and 8 hours will be deducted from your leave balance.

If you have any questions about cashing in leave please contact the HR Service Centre. How to contact the HR Service centre

Email: hrs.cash.in@nzdef.mil.nz
Internal Phone: 4777 (Choose option 3)
External Phone: 0800 334772 (toll free)
Fax Internal: Dcui 157427084
External: (06) 3275084
Postal Address: NZDF HRSC Trentham Military Camp
Trentham UPER HUTT 5018

- By Francesca Lowe

Lieutenant General Sir Jerry Mateparae was honoured by a powhiri by the people of Pukawa Marae near Turangi recently. The powhiri was to celebrate his achievements and acknowledge his return home to the central North Island iwi.

The occasion was marked because Sir Jerry had not only reached the pinnacle of his distinguished Army career, he has also brought great mana to his iwi as the first New Zealand Army Officer of Maori descent to hold the rank and appointment of Lieutenant General and Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force, and the announcement of his appointment as the next Governor General of New Zealand.

“This is a most special ceremony for me in my journey,” said Sir Jerry.

“For my children to understand their roots, to see the pictures of kaumatua and kuia and to see their hapu. As I was being brought up my parents grounded me in Tuwharetoa and this place. And up on the Eastern side of Lake Taupo are my mother’s family, so it has been important for me that my children understand where they came from. The way you have allowed me to come home is special, so that my wife and family can understand the aroha that has been extended to me. When I was asked to come back, I didn’t want a big fuss, but it is important because of my extended family. It is important for me to come back to them. In many ways, as I was being brought up, they grounded me in Tuwharetoa. My roots are firmly here.”

Sir Jerry was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Literature from Massey University on 12 May 2011

Photographed with Sir Jerry after the presentation are, back row from left, Dr John Moreman, MAJ Nick Ang, LTCOL (Rtd) Nick Nelson, MAJ Josh Winerea Front, from left, Professor Glyn Harper Director CDSS, Sir Jerry, MAJGEN (Red) Piers Reid, Professor Emeritus Graeme Fraser

D - By Emeritus Graeme Fraser

Nelson, MAJ Josh Wineera Front, from left, Professor Glyn Harper Director CDSS, Sir Jerry, MAJGEN (Red) Piers Reid, Professor Emeritus Graeme Fraser

- By Francesca Lowe
SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY FOR THE DAY

- By Sergeants Rodos Blank and Joe Van Arendok

As part of his vision to grow and develop SNCOs from an early stage the Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA), Warrant Officer Class One Danny Broughton invited us to spend a few days with him in his Wellington environment. We both thought this was an interesting opportunity to see what ‘really’ happens at the top.

Our first day started at 0630 at breakfast with the SMA. Within five minutes WOs Broughton was engaged in conversation with two course managers regarding their current projects and associated issues they were experiencing, with the SMA listening with interest and offering advice and direction for both.

After getting a Security clearance for entry into Defence House we travelled up to the SMA’s office for a coffee. He laid out the plans for the next two days.

Our first stop was the Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Lott’s Monday morning conference. This was indeed the scene setter; a whole new language of abbreviations and acronyms bombarded the meeting. After some coaching and plain “soldier speak” by the Principle Staff Officer to DCA, Bernie Grant, everything became blurry instead of real.

Over the years we have all heard the terms ‘joint’, and Defence House mentioned, and imagined what these places must be like. What we saw was a generic office environment full of ‘pods’ with offices reserved solely for the heads of various departments. The stark difference between a civilian office space and the ones we saw in Defence House mentioned, and imagined what these “pods” could do a flow chart of who we had just met and how they all tied in with those in Defence House. (Cheers Sir)

From there it was over to capability branch where we were briefed on the future soldier by Warrant Officer Class Two Nigel McQuinlan. He gave a passionate talk about the projects capability branch are working on, in particular the lightening of a soldier’s load on operations.

Later that day we were ‘ambushed’ by the LCC in a lift on our way out of Defence House and the conversation picked up right where it left off from earlier that day. BRIG Wheeler is clearly a busy man who is genuinely interested in those who have demonstrated the willingness to strive for the top and deserve recognition for their efforts. Our time spent with the SMA was certainly not wasted as it gave both of us a wider view of the Army, where it’s heading and how decisions about our role within it are made, and that there is real potential for a soldier to make this job a career.

Day Two

We met with WOs PJ Smith the Warrant Officer of Joint Forces New Zealand for a coffee and discussion on the Tri-Service (purple) emphasis the NZDF is moving towards. We then moved up to the watch keeper’s brief where we saw what had occurred over the previous 24hrs of Defence Force operations. It was interesting to meet so many people whose job has a direct influence on how we do things, and of note was our meeting with the Land Component Commander Brigadier Mark Wheeler, outside his office in HQFZNZ. He gave us an outline of his future intent and asked questions of us both on various topics. We walked away from that conversation further informed about where the Army was heading, and his comments gave us confidence in our future roles. After our tour of HQFZNZ we took a “tactical pause” in the smoko lounge so as the SMA could draw a flow chart of who we had just met and how they all tied in with those in Defence House. (Cheers Sir)

Tri-Service (purple) emphasis the NZDF is moving towards. It was quite refreshing to see this unit up close and the enthusiasm showed off the unit’s capabilities to us. The course member brought their own wealth and unique operational experiences to share, but each course member brought their own wealth and unique leadership attributes, helped them establish network links as NZDF works more and more in a multi-agency and whole government environment, between public sector government departments.

The course exposed participants to public sector leadership attributes, contributed to the development of senior leaders in the public sector, and reinforce the Defence Force’s close relationship with the public sector, and public sector leaders and managers on behalf of Government.

Nineteen senior managers, policy analysts and advisors from across the public sector conducted the 12-month course. Public sector representation included Departments of Corrections and Labour; Inland Revenue; Ministries of Education, Fisheries, Justice, and Social Development; MFAT, NZQA, and NZ Police.

The course exposed participants to public sector leadership attributes, contributed to the development of senior leaders in the public sector, and reinforce the Defence Force’s close relationship with the public sector, and public sector leaders and managers on behalf of Government.

The opportunity to meet, work and learn alongside other senior Maori managers from the public sector was one of the most beneficial aspects of Maranga Tira, says Major Rob te Moana.

Maranga Tira was aimed at developing the skills and capabilities of selected personnel from the public sector and involved six residential courses in Rotoura and regular leadership seminars, discussion groups and workshops. The Leadership Development Centre (LDC), which organised the course is a Government department charged with the ongoing development of selected Public Sector leaders and managers on behalf of Government.

The course exposed participants to public sector leadership attributes, contributed to the development of senior leaders in the public sector, and reinforce the Defence Force’s close relationship with the public sector, and public sector leaders and managers on behalf of Government.

“I have leadership and management experiences as an Infantry Platoon Commander through to Company Commander and Formation and Joint HQ Staff Officer, including operational experiences to share, but each course member brought their own wealth and unique leadership and management experiences from the public sector,” said Major Te Moana. “This allowed me to draw on and expand my own leadership and management knowledge base. During the course we were also given presentations from key Chief Executive Officers from Government departments.

Major Te Moana is a graduate of the NZDF Command and Staff College and this course provided a different outlook of leadership concepts compared to what was gained at Staff College. “The course is different especially the knowledge shared and gained from public sector managers and key note speakers that was set in a Maori context and environment.”
More than 100 New Zealand Army personnel were involved in Pacific Partnership, a US-led humanitarian and disaster relief (HADR) exercise carried out with partner nations throughout the Pacific recently.

The exercise aimed to increase interoperability and deliver medical, dental, veterinary and engineering services. Niuatoputapu in Tonga was the first location Defence provided aid and assistance, the second was Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu.

Defence personnel were in the area for nine days, with the New Zealand Government supporting the development work being carried out with $250,000 of funding from the New Zealand Aid Programme. Work on the island focused on the local clinic, primary school and high school as well as the channel and wharf area of Niuatoputapu. NZ Defence Force personnel assisted in the ongoing clearance of tsunami debris, rebuilding and refurbishing schools on the island and surveyed wharf damage to prevent further damage and erosion.

Defence personnel supplied several new water tanks for the population of Niuatoputapu which had previously had insufficient sources of fresh water to rely on in emergencies. Locals on Niuatoputapu were provided with basic tool sets and paint supplies allowing them to assist with the building projects being undertaken.

New Zealand Defence Force doctors and dentists worked with local teachers, parents and school children on the island teaching preventative dental and medical methods to help the future health of the population. Niuatoputapu has only one dental hygienist and one nurse to cater to over 800 people.

The main effort has been around the provision and upgrading of facilities within the Hilifo High School, Falehau Primary school and the wharf and channel areas of the Niuatoputapu reef. There has also been a significant focus on educating and equipping both adults and youth with the skills to positively enhance their communities’ future health and wellbeing.

New Zealand Defence Force personnel put 3000 man hours into humanitarian aid and disaster relief tasks in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu. Despite heavy rain, thousands of local people also went to Luganville Hospital to receive free medical and dental care from NZ, US, Canadian and Australian Forces.

Head of engineering tasks in Matantas, Staff Sergeant John Broderson said the Kiwis helped anywhere they could.

"The interaction with the locals was good, they were shy of us at first but then a few of us attended the local church and after that they began visiting us. With the materials that we had left over at the school, we made the kids new tables and chairs for their classrooms."

Notably NZ Defence Force personnel worked alongside US forces at two local schools, to get larger jobs completed. At Ban Ban School a US Military builder, BU3 Tom Russell was impressed with the New Zealanders.

"The New Zealand guys have been great to work with and are really hard workers, we could never have got it finished without them."

Lieutenant Colonel Don Jones, commander of the NZ Defence contingent for Pacific Partnership, said the exercise had a first for him too.

"It’s the first time I’ve been on exercise with the US and they approach things a little differently to how Kiwis do, but it compliments what we can do. They have a lot of resources and they’ve got big hearts. Having the people and MH60 helicopters that USS CLEVELAND was able to bring to the effort was excellent."
NZ Defence Force personnel in Vanuatu for the US-led Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise Pacific Partnership, have deployed the Forward Surgical Team (FST) to reduce the backlog of the local population requiring surgery. The FST has completed approximately 25 surgeries in Luganville Hospital, assisting the resident locum Dr Fred Merchant, who welcomed the FST and Pacific Partnership to Vanuatu.

“The NZ FST is a professional team who are well trained, well equipped and are doing a great job. Being from the USA it’s also great to see some of my countrymen again,” he said.

The FST is land, sea and air transportable and is designed to perform surgeries in rural villages around Santo.

“There may be a range of injuries such as lump and bumps to hernias, infections and breast cancer. We have also conducted a number of emergency cases as well.”

Recent natural disasters including the tsunami in Samoa, cyclones in the Cook Islands and Fiji, earthquakes in NZ and the combined earthquake and tsunami in Japan has reinforced the need for the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to be prepared to provide immediate humanitarian aid and disaster relief. Within 24 hours of the 23 February earthquake in Christchurch, the FST was deployed to provide additional surgical assistance to the Christchurch hospital. Major King was also deployed to help in that response, and says that exercises such as Pacific Partnership are essential for the NZ Defence Force to remain prepared.

“Pacific Partnership is a fantastic opportunity to exercise the FST, test their systems and procedures to ensure the team can rapidly mobilise and deploy to any country struck by a natural disaster and provide humanitarian aid.”

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New Zealand’s contribution to Pacific Partnership has focussed on the nations of Tonga and Vanuatu, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade supporting the development work with approximately $500,000 of funding from the New Zealand Aid Programme.

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The FST is land, sea and air transportable and is designed to provide immediate and emergency treatment to receive, triage, provide preoperative resuscitation, resuscitative surgery, post-operative nursing care and prepare casualties for the next level of medical care. It utilises the skills of a pool of Civilian Volunteer Health Specialists (CVHS) from within the public health sector of NZ and draws from the Ministry of Health pharmaceutical supplies.

Major Burton King is a General Surgeon from Wellington hospital currently deployed as part of the team, and said that everyone has been kept busy. “We are seeing a full range of general surgery from lumps and bumps to hernias, infections and breast cancer. We have also conducted a number of emergency cases as well.”

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The engineering tasks undertaken on exercise Pacific Partnership were an excellent training opportunity, but also a chance to interact with other military personnel and provide much-needed help to our Pacific neighbours, says the Commanding Officer, 2 Engineer Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Don Jones.

"After we left Noumea we sailed to Northern Tonga with the FANC Puma embarked to do work on the island of Niuatoputapu (NTT), then sailed to Port Vila, Vanuatu for Anzac Day commemorations, and then sailed over to Espiritu Santo (Santo) Vanuatu’s biggest Island for a whole new programme of work and assistance—it was a very busy time for us. The FANC Puma and its crew were an essential part of the exercise," he said.

NTT is a small, remote island that was devastated by the same tsunami that hit Samoa 18 months ago.

"On NTT we did a number or repair and improvement works at two schools and at a market place, including new and repaired ablution blocks and putting in valuable water harvesting systems. For this we brought in many large water tanks and the necessary guttering and pipes to provide a resource for the whole community.

"It was nice to see kids playing straight away on the new playgrounds that we built with volunteers from the community and ship’s company. One touching highlight for me personally were the fencing tasks — at Hilifo High School we put up a 700m NZ farm style fence around the school grounds to keep out the ever-roaming pigs and horses. Local people helped us with this task which was not only nice but necessary.

"The best part was when we said we didn’t have time to do the fence at Falehau, and the locals said they could do it themselves now as they now knew how to put in the strainer posts, how to tighten the wire and then to put on the batons. We gave them the materials and they did the task well and in less than one day."

"We also installed a new computer suite at the high school and improved the public internet room they had there. Santo is a big island with spread out settlements. There are good roads to some areas but others were remote and cut off and we needed to have people and materials inserted by helicopter or landing craft, or by boats. Here the FANC Puma became essential for resupply. Engineering-wise we continued our theme of water harvesting at a handful of different villages. We brought in tanks, roof guttering and in several cases replaced the roofs."

LTCOL Jones said another key difference about working on Santo was being able to work with the Kiwis’ exercise partnership partners a lot more. "On NTT we had six Tongan Defence Service members working with us and of course our French helo team, but that was all. On Santo we not only had a larger group of Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF) but hundreds of our US and Australian partners as well. It was interesting working alongside such a big group. I’ve deployed to the Pacific a dozen times personally mainly doing construction tasks and it’s the first time I’ve been with the US and Aussies doing humanitarian aid work here."

NZAid paid for NZDF’s construction materials and medical supplies on Exercise Pacific Partnership.

LTCOL Jones says Pacific Partnership was an integrated Defence effort. "We had Territorial Force sappers and medics, we had Air Force communications and strategic air movement, and of course a huge presence from Navy who were our critical enablers in the mission," he said. "HAMZES CANTERBURY not only provided our means to get to Tonga and Vanuatu, they enabled us to get a whole lot of bulky material and heavy equipment to the islands, they provided C2 support, and in some ways acted like a floating hotel. CANTERBURY also controlled the FANC helo and landing craft that got us and our resupply ashore each day," he added. Another feature of the exercise was the inclusion of civilians, such as those medical personnel in the FST and a consultant from Fulton Hogan who assisted with wharf repair advice and design.
Private Lynaire Morgan

My role was that of an Anaesthetic Technician in the Forward Surgical Team (FST) for Pacific Partnership 2011. We were working in Luganville Hospital, Vanuatu. The hospital had two theatres which were an excellent facility for Vanuatu. They have local surgeons as well as an AUS Aid surgeon who was currently working at the hospital.

After settling into our 12 berth cabin, we spent the next few days being briefed and learning the ‘ins and outs’ of the ship’s routine. After that we settled into the galley with the Navy chefs, where we remained for the majority of the exercise producing approximately 300 meals, three times a day everyday.

The heat in the kitchen at times was almost unbearable, as the high outside temperatures mixed with the heat produced from our burners. During meal times being in our tent was like working in a sauna. None of the chefs deployed had worked in the type of environment and the heat was something that will not quickly be forgotten.

The locals were very friendly and accommodating towards us, even hosting two cultural nights for the contingent to sit back and relax, while they sang and danced for entertainment. An ‘umu’ was cooked, kava was served and a good time was had by all.

After two solid days cleaning in tropical rain storms, we were back into the galley of HMNZS Canterbury for the voyage home. This included a 3 day stop in Noumea to disembark the French Puma, and take in some well deserved R & R. We arrived back into Devonport to be greeted by the winter cold and strong winds, a major contrast to what we were used to.

There are no waiting lists for surgery in Vanuatu and non-urgent cases are not considered a priority. The FST performed primarily non-urgent cases and one acute patient that resulted in a successful multi-national AME of an Australian civilian.

It was a very humbling experience to be a part of Pacific Partnership 2011 as my first overseas trip with the New Zealand Army. My personal highlight was the team work that goes into an exercise like this. With what is considered minimal staffing by New Zealand operating room standards, the FST was able to produce similar outputs to a regular theatre back home. And this is purely due to team work and hard work, it is very rewarding to be part of a team like the FST.
WINNING HEARTS AND CHANGING LIVES – THE FST IN VANUATU

By Lieutenant Colonel Darryl Tong RNZAMC

Exercise Pacific Partnership 2011 (ExPP11) was an excellent experience for members of the Forward Surgical team (FST) comprising 17 personnel drawn from the Regular Force, Territorial Force and the civilian volunteer health service (CVHS).

The FST included two surgeons, an anaesthetist, two anaesthetic technicians, a radiographer, two diagnostic lab technicians and nursing staff covering the operating theatre, recovery ward and surgical wards.

The NZDF provided the only surgical capability for the second phase of ExPP11 in Vanuatu in support of a US Navy MEDCAP involving service personnel from the US military and Australian Defence Force (ADF) whose main focus was to provide primary care and health surveillance for the people on Espiritu Santo.

The FST was fortunate to work alongside the dedicated local hospital staff and had many dealings with an AUSAID surgeon, Dr Fred Merchant who is a retired general surgeon from Chicago originally but now residing in Fiji. Life changing surgeries ranging from hernia repairs to removal of large growths and draining of infections allowed the FST to exercise as a cohesive unit and accomplish its primary mission of being able to deploy and conduct real-time surgery in a humanitarian aid role overseas.

Three surgeries in particular have literally changed the lives of the patients involved and highlights the necessity of a FST capability for NZDF deployments overseas, and the great fortune of having dedicated health professionals willing to serve on such missions with the NZDF. The first involved a 17 year old man from the more remote regions in the North of the island who presented with a two month old crush injury of his left hand. As with most of the local population he did not complain. The thumb and index finger were crushed with bone exposed and dead tissue. The hand was completely useless in its current state. The index finger was removed but as much of the thumb was preserved in order to give as much functional grip as possible for the future. Despite reassurances and explanations through interpreters, the young man was petrified that he was going to lose his hand. The look of relief along with a huge smile that followed once he saw that he had most of his hand left was priceless. For a man who lives off the land, the prospects of only having one functional hand was bleak, but after surgery and some limited rehabilitation, this young man would be able to gain the use of both hands once again and continue on with his life as before.

A 16 year old woman presented to the out-patient screening clinic and was referred to the FST from one of the US Navy doctors. Due to traumatic piercing of her ears and probable infection, large growths of scar tissue (keloids) had disfigured both ears to the extent that this young woman hid most of her face with her hair and was obviously shy and reclusive due to her loss of self-image. The keloids were removed and the ear lobes reconstructed and once again the priceless look of disbelief followed by joy was evident after surgery. The surgery itself was relatively minor but the end result was the rebuilding of self-confidence and self-esteem – so important for a 16 year old woman to have.

Perhaps the most life changing surgery was performed on an Australian tourist who sustained injuries to his upper legs including a life threatening injury to his right femoral artery. Due to the quick actions of the AUSAID surgeon who was in the immediate vicinity when this occurred, the tourist was prevented from bleeding to death and was taken to the local emergency department at Luganville hospital where the specialist team from the FST was able to assess and prepare him for surgery with minimal delay.

His femoral artery was repaired and although the patient was stable it became evident that the patient’s leg was at risk and required specialist vascular intervention in Australia. The patient was evacuated by military helicopter to Port Vila and subsequently flown to Australia. The true spirit of Pacific Partnership was manifested during this medical evacuation as it involved US, Australian, New Zealand and French military personnel working together in close cooperation.

HR SERVICE CENTRE

Five new personnel will join the HR Service Centre to look after training course nominations as they start to flow in from Army after 1 July.

Over the next month Esther Whittaker (team lead), Lisa Millin, Sara Webber, Ash Garstang and Dianne Taylor will join WO1 Joe Paurini, Inger Dempsey, and Lucy Fiu in the Training and Education team in the HR Service Centre, based in Upper Hutt.

The new team’s role is to receive the names of people nominated for individual training courses, and to process these nominations through to enrolment in liaison with Career Managers, other nominators and training providers. Essentially, the TED team will do the pre-course admin on behalf of training providers, freeing them up to concentrate on teaching.

This includes checking pre-requisites for each nomination and processing waivers, withdrawals and where appropriate, arranging pre-screening.

Course nomination pilot valuable

The new course nomination process used by the HRSC Training and Education team was trialled with seven training courses (3 Navy, 2 Army, 2 Air Force) for three months using the Learning Management System (LMS) as a replacement for ATLAS.

Warrant Officer Joe Paurini says the trial was incredibly valuable.

“The pilot found performance issues with LMS, which means we reverted to using ATLAS for lodging nominations. That wasn’t what we’d expected but at least we found the issues during the pilot,” says Joe.

“He says the pilot was a steep learning curve for everyone involved.

“The team was brand new, and along with the pilot nominators and training providers we all learnt a lot and worked through kinks in the process together. Things like pre-requisites holding up enrolments, and determining whether schools would send joining instructions” The course nomination function in LMS is now being reviewed using information from the pilot, to ensure it can meet the needs of the Defence Force. A decision on whether to proceed with it will be made in August.

Moving work over to the HRSC

The new team in the HRSC will pick up course nomination admin work from the Services in phases – starting with specified courses at Waiouru, Linton, Burnham and Trentham for courses starting from 1 September. A second stage in the pilot will be undertaken with Air Force and Navy with the aim of bringing them on after September. WO1 Joe Paurini is currently meeting with stakeholders at camps and bases around the country to explain the process and next steps.
Families and friends of the Army’s newest soldiers watched displays of nearly all the skills the 160 young men and women learned on their recruit course when they graduated on 1 June.

It was the first time an All Arms Recruit Course Graduation had included such displays, which were carried out in perfect weather in front of a large crowd.

The Parade Commander, Major Billy Vince said the graduation format was changed on the suggestion of the Commanding Officer who felt the recruits’ families should be given some idea about what was learned in the 16 weeks they were training in Waiouru.

“So we included as many aspects of their training as we could in the graduation.”

The display included recruits demonstrating Close Quarter Battle, patrolling, and conventional aspects of drill. They staged a platoon patrol and mock attack, and an urban operations scenario where they searched buildings and apprehended people.

Private Alec Wardle received the Top Recruit award, and PTE Daniel Babinski, the Sergeant Major of the Army award. Sapper R Wright won the Top Shot award. Land Component Commander Brigadier Mark Wheeler reviewed the graduation parade.

Major Vince said everything that was taught on the recruit course was based on the Army’s ethos of Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity.

“Our course is split into four parts. In the first four weeks our discipline is an imposed discipline so that the recruits can come to terms of what the Army is about. We teach them how everything we do is based around teamwork – them, the section and the platoon. The second four weeks is focused on weapons and weapons drill, and applying field skills.”

The latter six weeks were devoted to advanced work, such as Close Quarter Battle, ending in a final exercise at week 14, known as Exercise Warrior.

“This is a skill at arms exercise which lasts for 36 hours and is very demanding. It covers everything the recruits have learned since day one.”

The exercise was designed to test recruits’ physical and mental robustness, their resilience, and how they handle sharing adversity.

“Exercise Warrior was very, very cold. It was hard for them at the start. But they developed a sense of achievement. They will always look back on that exercise and remember it. They learn their strengths and weaknesses, and they help each other out with things they are not so good at or confident about.”

Following graduation those soldiers who have opted for combat trades headed to their corps training and would then be posted to their unit or battalion. Most of those who graduated will become trades people, including vehicles mechanics, maintenance fitters, armourers, and carpenters.
Exercise Viper is the Land Force Groups largest combined arms field exercise within a conventional setting this year was held in Waiouru and Linton recently. More than 440 troops from 1 RNZIR, 163 Battery, 2 Field Squadron, Signals Regiment, 2 Logistics Battalion, 4 Hauraki Regiment and 7 Wellington Hawkes Bay Battalion together with 3 Squadron RNZAF took part.

Exercise Viper was effectively three separate ‘sympathetic’ exercises, created to ensure that all capability bricks were able to make the most of operating in a combined arms environment, while also meeting specific sub-unit and unit training objectives. Due to the live firing nature of the majority of activities, the exercise was predominately a series of Battle Handling Exercises (BHE) with some discrete tasks, mostly involving more than one Battlefield Operating System. The combined arms nature of Exercise Viper presented a myriad of opportunities to plan and conduct a platoon level night attacks before each platoon conducted a BHE based on an OP CRIB scenario. This gave platoon commanders time and assets, such as KAHU Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), to deliberately plan for the conduct of a convoy escort task, and effectively react to either an improvised explosive device and/or engagement from a hostile force.

Whiskey Company is in the Directed Level of Capability.
generation cycle, with its focus for the exercise on achieving cavalry section live firing. This exercise allowed platoon commanders and sergeants the time to coach their commanders and soldiers, in both a live firing and simulated environments, while having to coordinate support from other arms and services. This provided the firm base from which to conduct some platoon level training.

The reconnaissance platoon conducted sniper training for the first week before providing a number of trackers for a NZ Police investigation in Whanganui. The Micro – UAS detachment also conducted some training in Waiouru, affording the operators some good air time in conjunction with KAHU UAS. A reconnaissance detachment was also attached to Whiskey Company for the conduct of platoon attacks.

Combat Service Support (CSS) Company as always were kept busy throughout the exercise. While concurrently supporting the companies, they were also able to conduct their own echelon training and conduct reaction shooting and section live field firing, with some impressive individual shooting being observed.

The Battalion Headquarters was also kept very busy bringing into service the new Command Post tent, which included the very welcome heating and air-conditioning unit; and getting familiar with operating the Tactical Area Network Environment (TANE) and associated tools such as the SITAWARE 5.3 COP (Common Operating Picture). As part of the Information Management Battle Lab, this is critical in developing the tools and processes for managing information that will allow effective decisions to be made. Concurrent with the CP training, the HQ was involved in both coordinating and supporting numerous non live and live firing activities.

At the completion of the live firing activities, the battalion took a small pause before the Skill at Arms (SAA) commenced. This involved teams completing a series of eight stands and completing a navigation circuit over a period of approximately 30 hours. The winning team will be featured in a future edition of the Army News.

EX VIPER has been successful in a number of areas, and has provided a good foundation for ongoing training within the formation.
“Hellfire”, a School of Artillery exercise focused on testing various courses, was held on Thursday 12 May. 16 Field Regiment deployed a 6 Gun Battery of 105mm light guns to Waiouru in support of the annual exercise, which also up-skilled personnel for other courses this year. For those who haven’t seen it before, the gun line is a busy place. The Reconnaissance party is constantly on the move, rolling from position to position making sure gun positions are feasible to occupy. Concurrently the guns are firing an assortment of missions from smoke and illumination to concentrated high explosive on to various targets. Supporting the gun line are two command posts, Q-store, ammunition resupply and workshops.

This year, Hellfire incorporated the Intermediate Caterer’s Course from Joint Services Catering School. They were based out of UTF where they were under assessment as shift IC’s. Three hot meals a day were supplied to the hungry gunners despite the wild weather; they were well received and no doubt were a large contribution to the high spirits of all involved in Hellfire. No complaints were made, and who could complain with variety such as curries, stews, chops and burgers delivered regularly. All agreed that military caterers would always be a welcome addition to artillery exercises.

Exercise Hellfire also received assistance for 3 Squadron, RNZAF and Movement Operators from 5 Movement Company. A number of 105mm Smoke rounds were delivered to the gun line by 3 SQN’s UH1H helicopters to support a ‘direct shoot’ which practises the defence of the gun position. After that, elements of the Reconnaissance group and forward observers were uplifted by the helicopters and delivered swiftly to their next locations.

The RNZA Staff Sergeants’ course is an intense 14-week course based out of Waiouru and Linton. Students are from the various trades within the RNZA. The course provides the knowledge and skills to fill some of the senior positions within a gun battery and as an instructor at the School of Artillery. Exercise Hellfire was the main testing exercise for the course and was the first time on the course the students were able to interact with all the elements a gun battery provides.

The Forward Observers (FO) course was also tested on Exercise Hellfire. Students were required to show competence in tactical procedures and technical missions. The two courses complemented each other well with the Staff Sergeants’ course providing the technical gunnery and leadership to support the call for fire of the FO’s course, to include Danger Close missions conducted out of the Close Target Observation Post (CTOP), which is a concrete bunker. These missions are so close to the FO’s that special safety procedures are required to avoid being hit by fragments.

In addition to these courses, the RNZA Young Officers (YO) course is being run by the School of Artillery and they too were on the exercise. No testing was conducted on the YO’s; instead they gained valuable exposure to the appointments they will be filling. Exercise Brimstone will be their testing exercise, along with a few other courses. It will be a bit colder, but that busy gun line will provide the best training opportunities and scenarios for them to display their skills.
Exercise Arete in the South Island gave 3rd Catering & Supply Company (3 CSC) a chance to shake out and get our junior non-commissioned officers (JNCOs) and soldiers into field mode as well as practice our associated trade skills.

The exercise was unable to be conducted in late March as originally planned because of the Christchurch Earthquake and associated commitments. It was pushed back to 1–5 May, right before Ex Southern Avenger, held to support the Junior Logistic Operators’ Course.

The scenario was based around an earthquake (again!) in Colchis, a fictional nation of the east coast of New Zealand. The Musorians were making a move to reclaim Colchis under the guise of providing humanitarian aid and earthquake assistance. The New Zealand Army was not fooled however, and deployed a CATG (Lt) to not only assist the local population, but also to prepare to block a possible advance by the Musorians.

Supply Platoon, along with a small catering detachment, deployed as part of the Combat Service Support team (CSST) to provide support to the CATG (Lt).

Arriving at Ashworth’s Beach, about 30 minutes north of Coloni (Christchurch), the platoon deployed into the CSST position and established our functional areas. 3 Transport Company, who were on Exercise Summer Lancaster, tied into the exercise by co-locating in the CSST, and 36 Heavy Lift Platoon delivered MHE, a 10,000L water tank, 3 containers and 24 pallets of humanitarian aid to Supply Platoon. This assistance helped bulk out the platoon and give us a more realistic amount of stock on the ground.

The platoon got to work establishing a VCP, laying MATEL wire and positioning stock. It wasn’t long before the first tasks came through from CSST HQ, run by MAJ Kirstine Collins and Warrant Officer Class Two Leon Whetlow. There was a combination of all arms and trade tasks including clearing patrols, refueling and providing field showers. These were aimed at testing the JNCOs and provided them with a variety of different challenges due to the changing threat level from militia forces conducting attacks with small arms, or employing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against the CSST elements.

Our response to incidents inside the CSST was also tested with scenarios including fires in the field kitchen and near fuel stocks, burns in the kitchen and major fuel spills. The soldiers responded well to these incidents and provided updates to Platoon headquarters to be passed up the chain. The Platoon HQ definitely became adept at providing incident reports.

During clearing patrols, the JNCOs were tested with scenarios involving injured soldiers and IEDs.

The bulk section was tested with a range of demands from various units. Issuing and receipting of stock was tested as well as management of stock levels. Although not the most glamorous job, the soldiers worked constantly to ensure unit demands and priorities were met as quickly as possible. The Platoon HQ developed systems to better account for stock and ensure minimum re-order points were established to keep appropriate stock levels.

The catering detachment of Lance Corporal Kate Johnston, Private Shane Eaton and PTE Amy Wild kept the CSST (including Transport platoon) well fed. Being on fresh rations and having a hot meal was always a morale boost and the food was excellent. The caterers were always flexible and able to sort meals for tasks arriving back to position late. They even put on a smoko when the CATG (Lt) Commander Commanding Officer 3 Logistics Battalion arrived for a tour.

The CSST HQ also provided some additional training opportunities for the soldiers throughout the exercise, including a night driving circuit using NVG, a trip and para-flare lesson and pairs assault training on the final morning. This was a good blow out for the soldiers and provided some good refresher training before Exercise Southern Avenger. The Platoon HQ was provided with planning tasks to work through, which weren’t quite as exciting as what the soldiers were up to.

The exercise was very well run and provided the soldiers with a mix of training that was both challenging and applicable to their trade. Solid feedback was provided to the JNCOs and everyone maintained a positive attitude right to the end of the exercise.
Corporal Olly Ohlson has served in Timor-Leste twice, and is now deployed to Bamiyan Province in Afghanistan with the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team. He has patrolled in many different vehicles throughout his career, including Unimogs, Pinzgauers, and four wheel drives. He is now a LAV Commander on the rugged roads of Afghanistan, and it’s a great opportunity, he writes.

“I deployed to East Timor in 2002 with Alpha Company on NZBATT6 and more recently in late 2006-07 on OP GYRO 2 with Victor Company of the 1st Battalion. Having the chance to deploy to Afghanistan and command the NZLAV was a great opportunity for myself to gain experience on operations and to lead a mounted patrol. This is the first deployment of NZLAV into Bamiyan province and I felt honoured not only to command my own vehicle but also command a Troop of three LAVs. It’s a big responsibility but it’s a challenge I accept. With the help of the Patrol Commander and the other two LAV Commanders, the work load has been easier to maintain.

Having the NZLAV to patrol in is a great asset for both the patrol and the contingent. The mobility of the vehicle, the armour, the fire power and the capabilities it has to offer are vital to the patrol’s safety and mutual support on the ground. Having this great machine comes with the responsibility of maintenance and servicing of the vehicles. Keeping our NZLAVs maintained and serviced to a high standard will keep them on the roads, available for patrols and ready to react to any task that is given to us.

At the moment I’m living in a Forward Patrol Base (FPB), which is occupied by Kiwis with a few essential attached personnel who maintain our vehicles and facilities. We have a busy camp with a large number of personnel sharing the facilities but the atmosphere is good and everyone gets along well. The FPB is located in the North East of the Bamiyan Province and is a short drive across some demanding country from the main Kiwi Base in Bamiyan. Living and patrolling from the FPB is great, we have our own dining facility which comes with our own chef, and we also have a games and recreation room, showers and a wash house for laundry. We also have internet and phones so this is usually the place where everyone is during their down time. We maintain a large amount of vehicles and equipment from the patrol base so the carpark is pretty full. We also have a good gym, which is just the right size for the amount of equipment we have. We have our own accommodation with single rooms and it’s nice to have some of your own space.
We are now well embedded into our routine and getting out and about in Bamiyan Province as we settle into summer. Due to a relatively light winter, there has been a lot less snow melt this spring and low levels of rainfall. This has resulted in better than expected road conditions across the province which has allowed the patrols to get out and about frequently.

One of the recent highlights was the visit to Bamyan by the Commander of the International Assistance and Security Force, General David Petraeus. We welcomed the General to Kiwi Base with a traditional wero and haka. It was the first time in his career that General Petraeus has experienced a welcome of this nature. By his own admission, he is an incredibly competitive individual, and he certainly appreciated the competitive spirit and traditions on the wero and haka. As a sign of his gratitude and respect, he presented all members of the Maori Cultural Group with one of his personal challenge coins; a highly sought after collectable in Afghanistan.

The purpose of General Petraeus’ visit was to discuss plans for transition from international forces and agencies leading in the security, governance and development areas to Afghan lead. Bamiyan has been selected as one of the provinces that will be in the first tranche for transition which is expected to commence from around July. The fact Bamiyan has been selected in the first tranche is attributable to both the progress the province has made under the leadership of the local Provincial Government led by Governor Sarabi, and also the efforts of New Zealand over the past nine years. All who have served or contributed to building a more stable and secure environment here can be justifiably satisfied with Bamiyan being at the forefront of the transition process.

Being an infantry patrol, it’s what we train to do. The Humvees we ride in provide the extra mobility we need but at the end of the day it’s always the skill of the person behind the machine; whether a vehicle or a weapon system that gets the job done.

Ground drills are a completely different set of skills to that while mounted. With that I am glad to say that the soldiers in our patrol have had to master both. Our boys create space from potential danger by dismounted clearances of the ground where likely danger awaits. Extra caution is always practised throughout the entire contingent ensuring we are ready, as danger never sleeps.

The day comes to an end as the sun drops behind the rocky outcrops of these mountainous ranges and the night sets in. Our much loved sleep is broken each night while our patrol is out and about. Extra duty fills the gaps. Staring into the darkness of the countryside during the night is as peaceful as things get. The moon hovers above us casting a natural light across the country; silence reigns with the exception of wild dogs howling across their territory. And as the night ticks over another day arrives, with many more still to come.

CPL Ritson, K3.
A posting to the Combat School (Cbt Sch) as an instructor provides those in the Combat Trade with challenges and opportunities to further develop and enhance their knowledge and skills, says Sergeant Denton Paterson, an instructor at Combat School, Land Operations Training Centre. He is based in Waiouru.

"While the primary function of an instructor is to train soldiers to work in a collective environment, instructors can use their expertise to deliver instruction and to reinforce training objectives using their own experiences," he says.

There are two distinct areas to the Combat School; Mounted Operations based in Linton and Dismounted Operations based in Waiouru. These are further defined by sub-areas or wings; Light Armoured Vehicle Wing (Mounted Operations Wing), Gunnery Wing and Driving and Maintenance Wing, Dismounted Operations Wing, Small Arms Wing and Support Weapons Wing.

Combat School is responsible for the delivery and evaluation of a number of combat courses for Army and is developing courses for Defence Force common competencies i.e. Small Arms Shooting Coach / Small Arms Purpose-built Range Conducting Officer.

During a posting to the School personnel instruct on or administer courses run by their wing. They also have the opportunity to work with other wings as an assistant instructor / safety staff or they can observe training from both a mounted and dismounted perspective.

Postings to the Combat School are normally based on a two year cycle. While posted to the school there are opportunities for travel overseas to enhance knowledge and skills e.g. U.S Marine Corp Non-Lethal Weapon Instructor Course, Australian Urban Operators Instructor Course, Canadian Urban Operations Course, Australian Small Arms Annual Conference, Canadian Army Direct Fire Specialist (LAV Gunnery) as well as assisting combat units during overseas training exercises.

Combat School staff become recognised subject matter experts (SMEs) within their wing’s area of expertise. They are involved with new equipment and weapon trials, and senior Combat School staff will provide mentorship to assist in new personnel develop as an instructors and SMEs.

Posting opportunities to the school Q Store are also provided to RNZALR personnel in the Sup Q trade which can enhance and broaden their knowledge and skills in Combat Service Support matters relating to individual combat training.
Leadership Skills:

Sergeant Phil Cheater, a Combat School instructor, recently attended the NATO Intermediate Leadership Course in Sion, Switzerland. It was, he says, an excellent way for an NCO to develop valuable leadership skills.

“The course has been designed and is run by the Swiss Armed Forces NCO Training Centre. SGT P.J. Tanuvasa, RNZAF and I were the first New Zealand servicemen to attend this course and were among fourteen other nationalities who attended. Attendees included soldiers from countries such as Canada, Romania, Iraq, Holland and Luxembourg to name a few.

The courses’ key theme was the development of leadership skills for NCO, focusing on the international environment and enhancement of cultural awareness. The real benefit of the course was in the wide range of cultures and experiences that each participant brought. Instruction was largely in open forum which allowed for maximum participation and flow of information.”

The benefits of working side by side: Mounted Operations Wing’s move to Linton

NZLAV individual training is now conducted from Linton Camp by the Mounted Operations Wing (MOW), Combat School. 1 RNZIR has allocated Combat School one of its NZLAV hangers, and some office space, and, eight months on, the benefits of being co-located with most of Mounted Operations’ principle user units (1 RNZIR, 2 Engineer Regiment, 16 Field Regiment, and 2 Logistics Battalion) continue to be realised.

These benefits range from being able to share training resources, to discussing tactics, techniques and procedures, and working gaining better training efficiencies.

MOW is made up of three sub-wings: Tactics, Gunnery, and Driving and Maintenance. A shortage of Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps (RNZAC) instruction means all wings help each other out with their respective courses. The wing has a constant flow of courses all year round, with the demand for courses often outstripping its ability to provide. The units the wing support have shown good commitment to working through this course shortage by providing additional instructors and resources.

Towards the end of 2011, the new Intermediate Crewman’s Course will be conducted for the first time. This course will give RNZAC corporals the required skills and knowledge they need to assist in the training of their assigned platoon / troop. This training has previously been given at a much later stage in their career. The Non-Tactical Crew Commanders Course will also be introduced to enable maintenance support personnel to command a NZLAV test drive on an approved test circuit. The wing uses the Crew Gunnery Trainer (CGT) to enhance the training of both NZLAV gunners and commanders. The CGT gives MOW the ability to conduct a large percentage of NZLAV Gunnery training on the simulator, before any live firing. However, as with most simulation, it only enables live firing, and most definitely does not replace it.
ARMY GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN PREMIUMS

Sovereign Assurance has for many years underwritten a specially designed Life Insurance Plan called the Army Group Life Insurance Plan (AGLIP) to cover the lives of military personnel and their partners. Since inception the Plan has helped the next of kin in the event of death and also members of the Plan who have suffered serious injury or illness.

Following changes to the way life insurers are taxed, which came into effect on 1 July last year, Sovereign must review its policies. In view of a change last year to a new IT system to manage the Plan and a change to the way premiums are collected, Sovereign agreed to delay the review of AGLIP premiums until this year. Sovereign has now completed its review of the rates and members will soon receive individual letters notifying them about the new premium amount that is to be deducted either fortnightly, monthly or annually from their bank account or credit/debit card from 1 July 2011. For any members deployed overseas these letters will be sent to their latest home address as noted in Sovereign’s records.

**EXISTING POLICIES - Premium Rates for policies that existed prior to 1 July 2010**

Under the transition tax arrangements for life insurance premiums, policies that were in force prior to 1 July 2010 are able to be grand-parented for up to 5 years. This has allowed the impact of the tax changes to be gradually implemented through to 30 June 2015. This year Sovereign will start increasing the premium for policies in force prior to 1 July 2010 by $0.40 to $9.35 (based on the fortnightly premium for $100,000 life insurance cover and $50,000 living insurance cover - Option 1) and then each year the premium will increase by a similar amount until the premium reaches $10.95 in 2015. The premium will then be equal to the premium for new AGLIP policies.

**Premium Rates for policies effected between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011**

The existing fortnightly premium of $8.95 (Option 2) will remain unchanged until 30 June 2012. However, because of the tax changes the premiums will need to increase to $10.95 from 1 July 2012.

**NEW POLICIES - Premium Rates**

Effective from 1 July 2012 Sovereign will increase the premium rates for new policies from the current rate of $8.95 (Option 1) to $10.95. This increase solely reflects the changes in the way life insurance premiums are now taxed.

As the above information relates to Option 1 ($100,000) level of life cover premiums please refer to the following premium table that details all three cover options and their fortnightly premiums.

**Future Premium Rates**

As allowed for in the Master Policy Sovereign will continue to review premium rates annually. If there are any future changes to premiums, the Executive Committee of the Army Central Welfare Fund (the holder of the Master Policy) will be given three months notice by Sovereign.

If you have any questions about the premium changes or your policy(ies), please give Sovereign’s Customer Relationship Team a call on 0800 500 108.

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**ESA – NOT VESA – NEW PROCESSES FOR ACCESSING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

The Voluntary Education Study Assistance (VESA) scheme is changing to become a Defence-wide scheme called ESA. The new ESA Scheme (Education Study Assistance) retains the aims of the VESA scheme. The scheme is set up to provide for optional personal development study programmes that are funded by the Defence Force and which individuals complete mainly in their own time. This supports the development of all personnel through higher level education, and is of mutual benefit for both the individual and the Defence Force.

The scheme was changed to provide greater equity and consistency across the Services. The education structures supporting the ESA scheme have merged into a tri-Service organisation (Defence Learning Centre under the NZ Defence College) and it is therefore more practical to deliver support for a single scheme on a tri-Service basis. It is anticipated that the new centralised scheme will support a similar number of students as have studied in previous years.

ESA is available for all Regular Force personnel, civil staff with more than two year’s service/employment and Territorial Force personnel in certain circumstances. The criteria for ESA are similar to VESA. These are:

- Assisted funding for papers is limited to a total of $6250 (GST Inc) per annum per person unless otherwise approved by the Defence Education Board.
- No more than two papers will be assisted per year.
  - Applicants need to indicate a direction of study rather than a random array of papers, and there will be a list of approved programmes/courses and providers.
  - Programmes of study across several years can be applied for. These will be considered by the Defence Education Board.
  - All postgraduate study will need approval from the Defence Education Board.

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**FORTNIGHTLY PREMIUM**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>INSURED AMOUNT</th>
<th>LIVING ASSURANCE</th>
<th>CURRENT</th>
<th>POLICIES IN FORCE PRIOR TO 1 JULY 2010</th>
<th>NEW POLICIES BETWEEN 1 JULY 2010 &amp; 30 JUNE 2011</th>
<th>NEW POLICIES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2011</th>
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<td>$9.35*</td>
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**Premium Rates**

- *Premiums will increase by a similar amount each year until 1 July 2015.
- **Premiums will remain unchanged for 12 months but will increase to the full premium effective 1 July 2012.**
The Special Operations Forces Induction Course (SOFIC) covers physical barrier testing, familiarisation with Unit-specific weapons and equipment, and educates personnel on the ethos and values of the Unit. Shortly after receiving posting notification, new personnel will receive a training programme, together with an explanation of the SOFIC, in order to ensure they are physically and mentally prepared for the course the following January.

Special Operations Forces Induction

- All support and EOD personnel conduct a revised version of the first two days of SAS Selection. Attendees are given normal food intake and sleep. On day one personnel complete the SAS operational fitness requirements to a minimum of a G2 standard. This involves an RFL, the SAS Battle Efficiency Test, webbing and rifle run and a swimming skills assessment. On day two candidates conduct a timed pack walk for 8km over semi-rough terrain and carrying a 35kg pack.

- The next portion of the SOFIC teaches support and EOD personnel the basics of operating in a special operations environment. This includes revising their weapons skills and teaching new weapons skills, tactical vehicle movement, the use of SF radios, and medical skills.

- The physical and the teaching components of the SOFIC take 10 days in total. This 10 day package is open to personnel posted to 1 NZSAS Gp and also those who are intending to provide direct support to the Unit, such as Doctors in the Defence Reserves.

- Those who are posted to 1 NZSAS Gp, then complete the traditional three month probation. During the probation period, personnel conduct specific to role training to ensure they have the necessary technical skills to perform their role in a special operations environment. At the completion of probation, work performance, attitude and test results are reported on, and their continued service in the Unit is confirmed.

- At the end of three months those who qualify become fully fledged Unit members and as such earn the right to wear the coveted sand beret. From this point they can be considered for overseas deployment with the Unit. They will also be considered for other special operations courses, such as parachuting and airmobile courses, etc.

- If someone fails an aspect of the SOFIC they will be given every opportunity to re-test. If they still cannot pass, then at the Commanding Officer’s discretion, they may remain in the Unit to support base and domestic operations.

The SOFIC is about ensuring 1 NZSAS Gp has the right calibre of personnel to deploy on operations and that those people are prepared to survive and win on the modern battlefield. For more info on Support Squadron, 1 NZSAS Gp including current vacancies go to Command Post/Formations/NZSOF.
On a clear autumn day recently 40 Officer Cadets deployed on Exercise Le Basse Ville, a much-anticipated field exercise for the NZCC year. It gave the cadets an opportunity to learn section tactics as well as develop their leadership and command skills.

The exercise began with basic training on section level tactics. From there the exercise became harder as each Officer Cadet was rotated through command appointments. Everyone was given a day as section commander and had a specific mission to complete, ranging from simple clearing patrols to more complex night ambushes. These gave everyone a range of experiences throughout the week. While clearing patrols meant assaulting up large features, this was often preferable to lying dead still for five hours on a frosty night, waiting to spring a night ambush.

Everyone enjoyed the first few days of warm clear weather before the rain set in. Much to our instructors’ delight we had a couple of days of heavy rain where a lot of officer cadets had the luxury of their first cold wet sentries.

Everyone also learnt the joys of digging in until the early morning and only getting a few hours sleep a night. The rain couldn’t last forever though, and sure enough we had beautiful weather again for the last few days.

When the morning of the final day came, the four sections trudged back into the platoon HQ position. Morale was high when the cadets saw the Uimigos waiting to take them back to camp and began thinking of the fast food and sleep everyone enjoyed the first few days of warm clear weather before the rain set in. Much to our instructors’ delight we had a couple of days of heavy rain where a lot of officer cadets had the luxury of their first cold wet sentries.

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A SOLDIER'S VIEW OF THE VIETNAM WAR

Reviewed by Colonel (Rtd) Ray Seymour

Yet another book on Vietnam, I thought. It will probably be the same as many others but the stories, as its veterans grow older, will have gained more embellishments than the last time they were wheeled out; I KIA becoming 10 KIA and the like. I soon found out how wrong I was. "A Soldier’s View of the Vietnam War" is just such a superb book. While its genesis was to produce a ‘reunion book’ dreamt up by Bill Te Awa, this “must have” book has turned into something far greater than what was initially envisaged and must now stand forever as one of the more accurate and compelling stories of New Zealand’s involvement in the Vietnam War.

There are just so many positive stories told in this book that have been so well illustrated by the personal photographs of those soldiers who had ‘been there and done that’. It is these soldier stories and their photographs that make this book, page after page I read of the honesty and sincerity of these men from V4 who have told their stories. I also read of the anaesthesia they had – and still have for each other the companionship they have and the deep-seated camaraderie that still exists within this “band of fine warriors”. It’s also a sad story for it tells the stories of the deaths of Don, Jack, Jerry, Mo, Murray, Pete and Stan. May they rest in peace. It tells the story of heroes – all 191 of them as listed in the Company Nominal Roll. It is also a story of those men from V4 who were awarded medals for bravery – Brian, Tom and William. And there were so many men whose stories that are so well recorded in this book who must have been so close to also gaining special recognition, such as Oily (with the number of bullet and shrapnel holes in him it must mean he constantly leaks); Ray Symons for his outstanding performance on Operation Waipourau, and even “The General” along with my old mate Len. All are so well reported on. The book also tells the story of other special people who contributed to this Company. One in particular stands out and I have no hesitation in yelling her name from the top of my voice. It was that “Angel in White” – Sister Pam Miley. Pam nursed me when I returned injured from Vietnam so I know personally just how much an “Angel” she is. While this book is all about V4 Company and their service in South Vietnam during their “364 days and a wakey”, plus a little about their training in New Zealand and then in Malaysia and about their return to Singapore and their subsequent reunions, much of what is written could quite easily have been the story of any of the other New Zealand rifle companies which also performed with distinction in that most difficult and “dirty” war. But well done V4 and well done the V4 Editorial Committee for your efforts. You have done well.

“A Soldier’s View of the Vietnam War” needs to be on the shelf of every public and school library in New Zealand for it is a testament of the tremendous efforts that these brave Kiwis gave in the pursuit of peace in Vietnam. The book is available from the National Army Museum Gift Shop for $69.95 plus postage within NZ of $7.50.

• COL Seymour is a Vietnam War veteran, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Army Museum, Waiouru.

You can order a Soldier’s View of the Vietnam War Online at www.asoldiersview.co.nz

For further information email info@asoldiersview.co.nz
"FANCY HITTING THE AUSSIES FOR A HOME RUN IN MELBOURNE THIS YEAR?"

The Army men’s and women’s softball teams will tour to Australia between 29 Oct - 6 Nov 2011. The Australians are hosting all NZ Defence Force Service teams at RAAF Base Williams in Melbourne. The tournament will also mark the 25th anniversary of softball in the Australian Defence Force. The Australians are expecting more than 250 participants, for what is shaping to be the largest Defence softball tournament ever held. The NZDF Inter-Service tournament will also be part of this tournament, which is the first time it has been held overseas.

The Army Inter-Regional tournament will be held in Waiouru over 23 to 26 September 2011 when the tour contingent will be selected. A tour training camp will be held in Papakura, prior to departing for Melbourne.

KEY DATES
- 23 to 26 September 11-Inter-Regional Tournament, Waiouru
- 27 to 28 October 11-Training Camp, Papakura
- 29 October to 6 Nov 11-ADF Softball Tournament, Melbourne

Tour Co-ord: Corporal Bex Dymock 367-7841
Softball Code Chairman: WO2 Dean Groves 347-8028

STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND FACE THE CHALLENGE AHEAD BY:
- Completing an Army Sports Nomination form - signed by your unit CO/OC
- Send your nom to the tour co-ord NLT 29 August 11.
- Ensure you have a current passport
Army Sports Awards

Army touch player, physical training instructor Corporal Eugene Hepi has won the Chief of Army’s Supreme Sports Award, the individual Sportsperson of the Year award, and the outstanding Sportsperson of the Year award. The awards were announced at the Army’s Annual Sports Awards in Waiouru on 28 May.

CPL Hepi was the driving force behind the NZ Army Open Men’s victory at the February 2010 New Zealand Defence Force touch tournament. As a standout player he has taken on the role of player/coach and has continued to guide the Open Men’s team to repeated success. He was a member of the Manawatu Open Men’s provincial side that finished fourth in the 2010 NZ National Touch Tournament, and as a result of his performance at the NZ Nationals he was selected for the NZ Over 30s Men’s touch team.

In June 2010 CPL Hepi toured with the NZ Touch contingent to Townsville, Australia for the first Masters Trans-Tasman series in 20 years. In November last year he was one of the primary organisers of the 2010 Army Regional Tournament in Waiouru. After selection of the New Zealand Army team he took on the responsibility of providing key training advice for all three NZ Army touch teams in their bid to win the NZDF Touch Tournament.

Staff Sergeant Nicky Hansen who has worked with both Army softball and rugby league teams was named Sports Official of the Year. An accomplished NZDF softball and rugby league official and administrator, she has represented rugby league at Army and provincial level, and softball at Army, NZDF and national level. She was nominated for the award for her continued dedication, coaching role, but returned in 1996, again as assistant coach. He was appointed as coach of the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1993, WO1 Small stepped down from the coaching role, but returned in 1996, again as assistant coach. WO1 Small’s contribution to softball commenced as assistant coach of the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1991. When he was selected as a player in the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1993, WO1 Small stepped down from the coaching role, but returned in 1996, again as assistant coach. He was appointed as coach of the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1999, the position he held until he was posted overseas to Canberra for the last two years. WO1 Small has also held the position of head coach of the NZDF softball team.

The highlight of WO1 Small’s Softball career to date was his appointment as Manager of the New Zealand Men’s national side – The Black Sox in May 2008.

Warrant Officer Class One Wayne Small, for his services to Softball

WO1 Small’s contribution to softball commenced as assistant coach of the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1991. When he was selected as a player in the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1993, WO1 Small stepped down from the coaching role, but returned in 1996, again as assistant coach. WO1 Small’s contribution to softball commenced as assistant coach of the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1991. When he was selected as a player in the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1993, WO1 Small stepped down from the coaching role, but returned in 1996, again as assistant coach. He was appointed as coach of the NZ Army Men’s softball team in 1999, the position he held until he was posted overseas to Canberra for the last two years. WO1 Small has also held the position of head coach of the NZDF softball team.

CPL Hepi was on a course when the Army Sports Awards were announced, so his wife, CPL Lisa Hepi collected his trophies on his behalf. Capt Whitton has represented Regional, NZ Army and NZ Defence Force Volleyball teams since 1998. He is the NZ Army and NZDF Volleyball Code Chairperson. In addition he is the current chairperson of the Linton Camp Volleyball Club, a position he has held for 10 years and the Club Captain. Add to this his involvement with coaching all the teams in the Club shows a level of commitment rarely seen. Capt Whitton is a regular playing member of the Linton Senior Men’s team in the local competition.

SSgt Miratana’s ageless enthusiasm and passion for NZ Army Touch is an inspiration for all NZ Army Touch players and NZ Army sportspeople alike. He has been a successful coach, player, manager, referee, and will always be known for his uncompromising competitive spirit. His passion for his game is second to none and his personal sacrifice to developing Touch in the NZ Army is impossible to measure.

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The Australian Army Women’s Rugby Team toured New Zealand in May to contend the Lou Gardiner Trophy, an award competed for at all grades of rugby between the two inter-Tasman nations.

The trophy was first won by the NZ Army Academy team in 2009 at the Anzac Test at Westpac Stadium, and was retained by the NZ Army Men’s team in 2010 when it traveled to Canberra to play the Australian Army in May 2010. The pressure was on the NZ Women’s Team to uphold the reign of the Lou Gardiner Trophy for 2011.

The NZ Army Women’s Rugby Team had not mustered since their British Test Match in 2008, and with a new coaching staff and 9 new players to the Army side, the pressure was on to uphold the mana of the NZ Army rugby teams.

The team assembled five days before the test match on 13 May and trained daily under coach Warrant Officer Class Two Bumper Jones and assistant coach WO2 Dwayne Eriksson, who, to their credit brought the women together very proficiently. The coach presented the game plan and detailed set play and phase play strategies, which the team practised and rehearsed in the days prior to the game. Specialist coaches and referees from the Manawatu Rugby Union came into camp to coach rules, breakdown law, lineout and scrum technique and improved the players’ performance significantly.

**Match Day**

After a nervous and excited run through the set plays, phase plays in the morning’s captain’s run, the team was ready to take on their trans-Tasman opponents.

The teams assembled at the half way in front of their nation’s flags, and silent national anthems ensued. The teams moved to centre-field where the NZ Women’s Army Team performed the NZ Army Haka in preparation for the ensuing battle, calling to the ancestors of Ngati Tumatauenga who have fought and fallen before them. The Australians respectfully held their ground at the half way.

The game began with both teams apprehensive, but after settling into the game, the NZ women began to dominate all aspects of the game, and within the first five minutes points were put on the board by halfback Private Shasa Isaacs who dived over the line in broken play. The NZ captain Corporal Mata Oltaches controlled the game effectively and slowed the game pace to play the coach’s game plan, choosing line-outs and scrums for penalties over the option of quick taps. The floodgates soon opened and by half time the score was 32-0 with tries to PTE Lisa Evans, Lieutenant Raylene Kirk, Corporal Summer Goodall, and Pte Isaacs (3). The second half, although losing some game plan composure saw a similar try count and the end score was 64-0, with further tries from PTE Isaacs, LT Kirk, CPL Summer Goodall, and tries for PTE Kiri Mae, LCPL Cheree Field and PTE Talia Cochrane-Darling (1 try, 2 conversions). Player of the match was awarded to PTE Kiri Mae, who carried the ball strongly throughout the game and made high yardage.

Major General (RTD) Lou Gardiner awarded the trophy to the NZ captain CPL Oltaches at the evening function, followed by a speech by Colonel Phil Collett (President of NZ Army Rugby) who announced he was admittedly sceptical about backing women’s rugby, and was suitably impressed by the performance and would look to support further Women’s Rugby fixtures in the future. Congratulations to the team, management and all those involved for a successful rugby campaign against the Australian Team. A special thanks to COL Collett and the NZ Army Rugby Committee for their support and backing, and allowing the assistance for NZ Army Women’s Rugby Team in 2011 and beyond.