Exercise Alam Halfa, which begins later this month, is the first of two major field exercises being held this year by 1 (NZ) Brigade. The exercise will be conducted in the Northern Wairarapa, Napier and Waiouru areas to practise combined arms skills. The majority of the exercise will be conducted within the Waiouru Military Training Area. Initial lodgment will be through Napier with tactical transit via state highways to Waiouru. The field phase of the exercise is 26 April – 6 May. On Monday 16 April 2/1 formally welcomed the group of US Army personnel to their unit.

Prior to their lodgment in Napier, US Army personnel are training with 2/1 Regiment, 16 Field Regiment’s refocus, Len Manning’s legacy, Ghurkas train in Burnham, Tussock Buster.

Exercise Alam Halfa focuses on conventional warfare operations, including armoured and light infantry tactics. Primarily an Army exercise, Alam Halfa will also be supported by Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) and Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) elements. In large-scale exercises, NZDF often exercises Army personnel to their unit.

NZSAS have served New Zealand with distinction over the course of their deployments in Afghanistan. Having a great-great uncle who fought at Gallipoli will make Lieutenant Colonel Mark Blythen’s role as Contingent Commander in the upcoming Anzac Day ceremonies in Gallipoli even more personal.

“My great-great Uncle, Sergeant Mark Vipond from Matakana, served at Gallipoli with the Auckland Mounted Rifles. He landed at Gallipoli in October 1915 but was later evacuated due to illness. He then went on to fight in Africa and was killed in Egypt in August 1916 and is buried at Kantara War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt. I am honoured to be part of the Anzac Day ceremonies at Gallipoli and have the chance to connect to my family this way,” LT COL Blythen said.

LT COL Blythen, currently the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion of the Royal New Zealand Army Logistical Regiment, is based at Linton, near Palmerston North. As contingent commander LT COL Blythen is responsible for coordinating the official New Zealand contingent which includes the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Rear Admiral Jack Steer, and 31 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel including an Army chaplain, catafalque guard, and members of the NZ Army Band.

The Anzac Day ceremonies in Gallipoli begin on Saturday 24 April with the Turkish International Service and conclude with the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair on 25 April. The services will be attended by dignitaries from New Zealand, Australia and Turkey.

Exercise Alam Halfa, 26 April – 6 May. On Monday 16 April 2/1 formally welcomed the group of US Army personnel to their unit. Prior to their lodgment in Napier, US Army personnel are training with 2/1 Regiment, 16 Field Regiment’s refocus, Len Manning’s legacy, Ghurkas train in Burnham, Tussock Buster.

EXERCISE ALAM HALFA
The New Zealand Army will soon have its very own, scientifically validated, task-specific, fitness test. A one standard for all—regardless of age, gender or trade—based on the minimum physical requirements to do the job of the All Arms Soldier safely and effectively.

Over the last 18 months, a team of subject matter experts from all trades, along with exercise specialists from the Defence Technology Agency (DTA), personnel advisors and chain of command have been toiling away behind the scenes to develop a robust and relevant means of determining physical readiness to perform the required tasks at Directed Level of Capability. This isn’t the first time Army has tried to do this and the good work of previous attempts is being built on. By the end of 2012, Army will have an evidence-based test that is task-related and accurately reflects current and future job demands. It will be non-discriminatory, standardised and able to be performed almost anywhere.

With a task-specific physical test will follow task-specific physical training, to help as many people as possible meet the required and validated level of performance. Testing will identify areas of weakness to guide future preparation and ultimately enhance performance and reduce injury.

The intent is to introduce this Fitness Test into the NZ Army to replace the Battle Efficiency Test (BET) in May 2012. There will be a final trial phase from Apr-Oct 2012 where units will have the opportunity to give feedback. This will allow for final analysis to be completed and considered prior to introducing the final product into the NZ Army by January 2013 where it will replace both the Battle Efficiency Test and the required Fitness Level. This test consists of the following assessments:

- Jersey Can (JC) Lift and Place
- Simulated CASEVAC Drag
- Fire and Manoeuvre
- Simulated CASEVAC Stretcher Carry
- Tactical Move by foot (Unspecified)

Full details of each assessment will be available from May 2012.

**NZ SAS soldier’s bravery to be recognised posthumously**

One of the two New Zealand NZSAS Regiment soldiers killed in combat last year, Lance Corporal Leon Smith is to become the latest recipient of the Charles Upham Award for Bravery.

The award is made to the person who has risked their life to undertake an outstanding act of heroism during the previous two calendar years, as determined by the Charles Upham Trust Committee.

Nominations are called for each year from organisations such as the NZ Defence Force, NZ Police, NZ Fire Service, Civil Defence and the Surf Life Saving Association in addition to the public.

On 19 August 2011, Lance Corporal Smith was part of a NZSAS Task Force that responded to an insurgent attack on the British Council Office in Kabul, Afghanistan. Also present was Corporal Doug Grant, who was traumatically killed during the incident. During the response, Lance Corporal Smith had exposed himself to insurgent fire in order to confirm Corporal Grant’s location after he had been mortally wounded. He then ran across exposed and open ground in order to reach Corporal Grant’s location, and immediately started applying first aid until he could be evacuated.

The announcement means that LCPL Smith will become the 24th recipient of the Charles Upham Award for Bravery when it is presented by the Governor General at a time and place yet to be determined. He will also become the fourth member of the NZ Defence Force to receive the award.

**MEMORIAL-crosses presented to slain soldiers’ families**

The families of two NZSAS soldiers killed in Afghanistan last year have been presented with the New Zealand Memorial Cross by Prime Minister John Key.

Family members of both Corporal Doug Grant and Lance Corporal Leon Smith attended a closed ceremony in Papakura Army Camp, which was also attended by senior members of the NZDF and colleagues from the NZSAS Regiment.

The New Zealand Memorial Cross is presented to family members of New Zealand Service personnel who lose their lives during, or as a result of, operational service outside New Zealand.

Prime Minister John Key presents the Memorial Cross to Lance Corporal Leon Smith’s brother.
This is my last "Say Again Over" piece as your Deputy Chief. I will however endeavour to keep contact in my new role as COMLOG. I’ve been privileged to be your DCA for just over 12 months. The job can be characterised by the words ‘frenetic’, ‘fulfilling’ and ‘fun’ although ‘frustrating’ rates a mention. I have been fortunate to have had a bunch of the outstanding staff, officers, both military and civilian who have often gone the extra mile to begin to get us to where we need to be to support CA’s and CDF’s intent. To them all my grateful thanks and best wishes. Many of my current team have been properly rewarded with promotion and commands in their own right. This seems to indicate standard posting to the Office of DCA is a highway to stardom!

Though 12 months isn’t long to be in this job, I thought I’d close my time as DCA by sharing some of the lessons I’ve learned about command and leadership in this job. They are based on musings from US General Colin Powell but adapted by a much lesser ranked (and probably rated) NZ Brigadier, DCA. For the record I’ll use command and leadership interchangeably. Here goes – you might relate to or with some or all of them.

Lesson One: being a commander means that sometimes you have to get over it. Being ‘nice’ in command and telling people what they want to hear just doesn’t cut it. Sometimes a commander must make the hard calls that may hurt others in his or her command but will allow overall success. It goes with the job and we shouldn’t be frightened of it. In my experience seriously annoyed people get over it after a while especially if you consider the lessons that follow.

Lesson Two: the day that your team stops bringing you their problems is the day that you have failed as their commander. This being said, a wise team will bring you a problem with a set of options from which you can choose a course of action which may or may not seriously annoy people. I like to think that a good commander encourages his staff to knock on the door or large on in and speak their mind on a problem or issue that they can’t solve on their own – discussion or debate should then ensue and a decision reached. Once the decision is reached, the team then ‘get on with it’, meaning debate is over – but they should have sufficient trust in their commander to come back to him or her to resolve issues they can’t fix. I see command as being a problem – solution – problem – solution cycle.

Lesson Three: a good commander doesn’t know what he or she can get away with until he or she tries. Now! I’m not condoning the old adage that “it’s better to seek forgiveness than permission” but I do wonder whether we as commanders push the envelope as much as we could without being downright stupid about it. A good commander to me takes calculated risks – again some will seriously annoy some people (higher or lower than us) but that’s our job. Being bold without being reckless is good. Tinkering is timid and that’s bad.

Lesson Four: a good commander never lets his or her ego get so close to their position that when they or the position goes, their ego goes with it. I seem to recall making this point in an earlier “Say Again Over”. A good commander is humble, he doesn’t take credit – he gives it. He does however take the rap when things don’t go according to plan or someone has been reckless. While having an ego is a good trait, having too big a one is a fatal flaw for a commander in my opinion.

Lesson Five: a commander’s perpetual optimism is a force multiplier. These days it is all too easy for commanders to be doom and gloom. Guess what? If a commander is all doom, chances are his team will think that doom and gloom is de rigueur. My point here is it seems to be fashionable these days to have ‘bad morale’. Yet look around and especially look back. Look where we have come from and what outstanding successes we have created. More importantly look where we are going. Army 2025 and F3 are fantastic opportunities – they are a pathway for the future and I think they are a great cause for optimism.

Lesson Six: the commander in the field is always right. This refers to the difference between front office and back office, between supported and supporters. I’m going to leave this one open – it is worthy of your debate!

Lesson Seven: a good commander is always honest – he or she presents the good with the bad and does not shy away from taking responsibility for bad news. Goes with Rule 1. One of the criticisms I will accept is that I’ve not always been able to tell the full story of something because hadn’t it been the bad news coming or understand the extent of it. No excuses though – a commander should go and find out the extent of the bad news and be front and honest with the team. It also helps if a commander can explain ‘the why dimension’. In my experience, if the team can see ‘why’ they can understand their commander.

Lesson Eight: good commanders encourage fun. Every QTS has this as an issue and I think we’ve got so good at ‘going for it’ we’ve lost the talent for sitting back and laughing at ourselves. One of the real pleasures I’ve had working in army GS is the amount of laughter my team shares – taking the mickey is OK (providing it is not done malevolently) and I’ve noticed that fun and laughter are infectious. ODCA is notorious for being “loud” – frankly I don’t care because that is because there is a healthy element of fun in our workplace and you know what? It costs absolutely nothing!

Lesson Nine: command is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible. This one stirs the perennial debate about the difference between leadership and management. To me the difference is very, very clear. We command/lead our people and we manage our other resources. After all you can’t command or lead money, infrastructure or equipment (although sometimes we wish we could), you simply manage them but in leading our people we also must by definition manage them.

Lesson Ten & last: command is lonely. Goes without saying if we consider the lessons above. In my view commanders should not be afraid of the loneliness, nor should we shy away from it. As the other hand commanders should not use it as an excuse to be heavy handed, disrespectful or dispassionate. Finally to those of you who have provided often witty and biting feedback in an earlier “Say Again Over”, thanks. I enjoyed penning them and I can only hope you’ve read and got something from them even if that is heated disagreement. Thank you also Army for your support in my time as DCA – it is a job I’ve thoroughly enjoyed and been proud to have, though the events of last year were a professional and personal challenge. Like most of you though I’m over it!

Stay safe and well. All the best.

Brig Charlie

**A MONTHLY COMMENT FROM DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMY**

**BRIGADIER CHARLIE LOTT**

**TOP SOLDIERS RETURN FROM HAWAII**

A stint with the United States Army provided a valuable insight for New Zealand’s two Top Soldiers into how other armies train and operate.

Private Kieran Manaena (Trentham Regional Support Battalition) and Sean Spivey (s NZI Brigade) won the Top Soldier Award last year, with their prize being a place each on the prestigious US Army Warriors Leadership Course in Hawaii. They won the Top Soldier award after topping the 17 deployable criteria, including marksmanship, fitness, health standard, readiness to deploy, and past performance.

PT Spivey said the course was held in its own separate camp in the centre of Oahu five minutes drive from Schofield Barracks.

“The days were long, starting at 0400 and ending at 2000. We were assessed on drill (American drill), running PT, oral history brief, leadership positions, and preparing a lesson to a section size group, and multiple written tests. We played the enemy party in the exercise.

“All course members were Sergeants, and were either based in Hawaii or were Americans based in Japan. Keiran and I were the only international students. I learnt that the NZ Army is relaxed but extremely professional, we don’t get deployed as much but we take a lot of pride in our jobs and do them to a very high standard.

“The American Army is completely different to the NZ Army in the way that they concentrate a lot on customs and courtesies. We’re not so strict on standing to attention when talking to superior ranks whereas they are. We can talk to lower ranks as friends but still have the respect to work hard for each other every time it’s needed, and at the end of a hard exercise get together for a BBQ.”

PTE Manaena said it was interesting to see first-hand how another Army trains its soldiers.

“Well we were learning on both sides, with the US soldiers showing interest in how the New Zealanders train and operate.

“ learnt how to do their drill, conduct their PT, and use their weapons. We showed them how to strip and assemble their own weapon similar to our LSW C9, and Sean showed them how to strip the M4. The US Army Pacific Command Sergeant Major Frank Leota (the equivalent of New Zealand’s Sergeant Major of the Army) visited the soldiers during their field training exercise to talk about their experiences during the course, and to give them a better understanding of the importance of developing the NCO corps.

“We don’t teach sergeants, we refine them,” Sergeant Major Leota said. “We refine what these sergeants have already been trained in and developed on everyday and ensure that we haven’t slipped a beat.”

“As an example of NCO development, he explained that the technology used at the NCO Academy was a great part of the educational programme, but emphasized ‘sergeants train sergeants’ and when equipment fails, it’s the responsibility of the NCO to get ‘back to the basics.’

“The future of the Pacific relies on partnerships and friendships, he said.

“You are our partners in the Pacific,” he told PTE’s Spivey and Manaena.

“Junior leaders are empowered with the authority, autonomy, and responsibility that they will take on as NCOs, Sergeant Major Leota said.

“At the USARPAC command sergeant major, I will continue to ask and receive international students to attend the WLC to expose them to the way we train and develop the future leaders of our Army.”

Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Class One Danny Broughton applauded both PTE Manaena and PTE Spivey for representing their country and their Army well.

“Our soldiers are more than capable of holding their own regardless of the task and no matter what the environment. This course has provided an opportunity to prove this against others with similar length of service and training time. I am quite sure that our two Top Soldiers are now more aware and appreciative of what it means to be World Class with Mana and being ready for the next fight. Well done to both of them.”

**PTE Sean Spivey**

**PTE Kieran Manaena**
Corporal Dougie Hughes, a rifleman from 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, based in Linton Military Camp, deployed with the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyan, Afghanistan in September 2011.

An incident occurred at Forward Patrol Base Romero on 3 April and he was flown to Bagram Air Base, accompanied by his patrol commander. CPL Hughes was pronounced dead at approximately 1345hrs (NZ time).

His tangi was held at Te Tarai O Rahiri Marae. The Governor General, Lieutenant General Sir Jerry Mateparae attended, as did the Minister of Defence Dr Jonathan Coleman, the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Rhys Jones and other Defence Force personnel, including his comrades from 1 RNZIR.

LTGEN Jones and the Commanding Officer 1RNZIR, Lieutenant Colonel Glenn King spoke at the service which was officiated by the Army Chaplain Padre Rewai Te Kahu. CPL Hughes was buried at a local urupa.

LTGEN Jones said CPL Hughes was on his second deployment to Afghanistan, and was a committed and professional soldier.

“He was diligent and motivated and set high standards for himself. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and best wishes are with his whanau as well as members of his unit, his friends, and colleagues within the Army and the Defence Force. We will continue to support the future wellbeing of his family.

“I wish to thank all those elements of the New Zealand Defence Force who assisted with his repatriation back home or with ceremonies and family support within New Zealand.”
The NZ Defence Force has completed its investigation into the death of Private Kirifi Mila who was killed when the vehicle he was travelling in rolled off the road down a steep bank in the North East of Bamyan, Afghanistan, on 15 February 2011. 

Private Mila was the vehicle gunner in the lead Humvee during a routine patrol as part of NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) operations.

The Court of Inquiry found the following:

- As the driver negotiated a corner at low speed, the road narrowed significantly and developed a reverse camber, a ‘foot path’ type lip on the left hand side and thick vegetation on the right hand side.
- Consequently, the right hand Humvee wheels lost traction and slipped down the embankment almost simultaneously. The vehicle rolled one and a half times before coming to a rest on its right hand side.
- The vehicle rolled on to Private Mila, who died as a result of crush injuries to his thorax and abdomen.
- Attempts by the driver to steer the vehicle back onto its course failed. “Once the sideways slide began, the vehicle was virtually unrecoverable. The dramatic and unforeseeable change in road conditions could not have been reasonably predicted” by the driver.
- The Humvee’s speed was not “excessive for the weather and road conditions at the time of the accident”.
- “The driver was qualified to drive the vehicle,” and his patrol members “all rated him as one of the better, more experienced drivers within the contingent”.
- The accident could not “reasonably be attributed to the driver’s competence or lack thereof”. His qualifications, training and experience were found to be adequate for operating Humvees in Afghanistan.
- No vehicle defects were found which could have contributed to the cause of the accident.
- “The vehicle was being driven in accordance with the NZ HMWV (Humvee) Operators Manual”, with one exception – none of the occupants were wearing seatbelts. “The wearing of seatbelts would have drastically reduced the amount the vehicle occupants were thrown around inside the vehicle during the accident”.
- However, there has been common practice among NZPRT personnel not to use the seatbelts fitted in Humvees. “Some witnesses suggested that the cumbersome operation of the in-service Humvee seatbelt over the top of the Humvee harness would inhibit fast exit from the vehicle” during a firefight.
- Contingent personnel were “predominantly unaware” of the provisions in the Humvee Operators Manual, including the roll-over procedures. Had the correct roll-over procedure drills been carried out by the vehicle occupants, “it is likely that Private Mila would not have been killed as a result of this accident”.
- “The existence and purpose of Humvee gunner harnesses was virtually unknown to personnel prior to this accident”. Gunner harnesses are designed to prevent the gunner from being thrown out of the turret in an incident. Private Mila was not wearing a gunner harness as it was not fitted to the Humvee. At that time, gunner harnesses had not been used by the NZPRT for some time.

The Court of Inquiry made a number of well-considered and thorough recommendations, which the NZ Defence Force has agreed with, including that:

- The NZ Humvee Operators Manual “be reviewed for currency and compliance and enforced across the mission”.
- Vehicle roll-over training be conducted before operating vehicles in Afghanistan.
- The safety case in respect of using the seatbelts fitted in Humvees be further investigated.
- All “NZ operated Humvees have, and routinely use, the gunner’s harness”.
- “A training needs analysis... be conducted to identify the skills gap and confirm the training required to enable current NZDF personnel to competently operate Humvees in Afghanistan”.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Dave Gawn, who was the Assembling Authority for this Court of Inquiry said:

“Kirifi was a good, professional soldier. He was a popular member of his battalion and was well known as a colourful character. It has been a very difficult time for Kirifi’s family as well as his comrades in the Defence Force.

“The Court of Inquiry has enabled the NZ Defence Force to gain a better understanding of the circumstances leading up to the accident and what we should be doing as a result.

“The NZ Defence Force accepts the Court’s conclusion that the driver faced a dramatic and unforeseeable change in road conditions which he could not reasonably have predicted. The slide and the rollover which resulted were wholly accidental and once the slide commenced it was unrecoverable.

“The Defence Force fully accepts the Court’s recommendations, and a number of changes have been made to pre-deployment training, introduction to theatre training, and procedures in theatre.

“Vehicle roll-over training is conducted for all personnel deploying to operate in vehicles in Afghanistan.

“Gunner harnesses are now used by all New Zealand gunners operating in Humvees.

“Further examination of possible improvements to pre-deployment training in New Zealand and training in theatre has also been undertaken.

“There is a fine balance between travelling safely and the ability to exit a vehicle expeditiously if it comes under attack by insurgents. Seatbelts are now worn as a matter of routine, however the Commanding Officer may authorise personnel to not wear a seatbelt if he considers that wearing seatbelts in a specific threat environment poses a significant risk.”
The Army has to deliver the best possible individual training across the board because it is the foundation of everything we do, says the new TRADOC Commanding Officer, Colonel Evan Williams. “We do it well now, but we can, and should, strive to do it better.”

TRADOC stands for Headquarters Training and Doctrine Command New Zealand, and in the Army’s new command and control structure replaces what was formerly known as Headquarters Land Training Doctrine Group, based in Waiouru. The organisation is responsible for land specific doctrine, the delivery of Army’s individual training, command of the Reserve Infantry Units and directed training evaluation.

Colonel Williams, who comes to his new role after several years as Military Secretary says the TRADOC adage “Training is what we do, Doctrine is how we think” fits perfectly with what his organisation has been tasked to achieve. “We are aiming to meet the Chief of Army’s intentions around training a thinking Army, and are looking at how best to deliver Army-wide training, how the Army learns, and the ways in which we train against our doctrinal framework.”

So what has changed? An Army Command School has been established, of which Officer Cadet School New Zealand is a sub-element. The school also has a NCO and Warrant Officer Development Wing, and offers officer training as well as junior, senior and Warrant Officer leadership training. The schools within LOTC (Land Operating Training Centre) will continue to deliver their Trade and Corps-specific training along with key promotion and all arms courses.

Colonel Williams says it will mostly be business as usual with LOTC, TAD and AGS(2NZ) while TRADOC command looks at how best to develop the tools and skills needed across the Army to fit with its operational and exercise needs and to learn from ourselves and other Armies such as our ABCA allies. “We need to develop a learning culture across the complete training space, lessons learned, doctrine, Corps, Trade and indeed into the collective environment.”

“It is our aim to provide the best possible training because good training is the foundation of everything we do, both individually and collectively. If we have an excellent base product coming out of the Army Depot and Officer Cadet School, and then it is enhanced as it goes through LOTC, we stand an excellent chance of achieving success with our fundamental first steps right and deliver the best possible product which we can then enhance as our personnel progress through their careers.”

TRADOC, he says, will continue to develop a doctrinal framework and contribute with the development of a working lessons process to inform contemporary training at an individual level to ensure personnel can do whatever is required when the NZ Brigade or HQ RJTF(I) are required to deliver either on operation or on exercise.”

“TRADOC is training a thinking Army, and we have to get people thinking about more than just their trade, their branch or their Corps. We want our people to start thinking of the effect they have in the wider environment, and that’s not something that can be taught on a trade-specific course. We have to be agile about how we train, as we can never guarantee our operational environment or threat – it could be in close or open country, urban, mountainous or extreme desert.”

The Headquarters of TRADOC will remain in its current location of Waiouru until December 2013 when it is expected to move to Hokowhitu. LOTC is already ensconced in either Linton or Hokowhitu. In addition, HQ TRADOC is heavily involved in Programme Moiwanga which is looking at options regarding the right-sizing of the Waiouru Camp as part of Army 2050 and beyond. This programme will inform both the future footprint of Waiouru and the future locations of TRADOC’s units. “It is important we get this right so that we keep the good in what we do throughout the process.”

Finally, TRADOC has taken on the command of the Army’s six Reserve Infantry units which this year are to be formed into three Reserve Infantry Battalions. “They won’t be required to deliver a (Regular) battalion output, but will be charged with delivering an infantry-focused output, with very clear, well-defined core skills. I see a bright future for our Reservists and believe the amalgamation of units will see them reinvigorated with an improved sense of belonging.”

Colonel Williams says he is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. “I have always enjoyed training. It’s great to see someone arrive who knows very little about what the Army does, and at the end of six weeks we deliver a soldier. Instructors get a lot of satisfaction out of that and so do I as a commander. You can see a clear result for your effort. And our instructors take real pride in what they deliver.”

“The key challenge I am looking forward to is how to actually put in place the tools, processes and organisations that will enhance learning and that will train a thinking Army!”

In May 1998 he was promoted and posted to the New Zealand Contingent Multi-National Force, Sinai as the Military Assistant to the Force Commander. He returned to 2nd Battalion RNZIR and assumed the appointment of Company Commander B Company in December 1998. During this posting he deployed to East Timor with the 2nd New Zealand Battalion (S/1 RNZIR), United Nations Transition Authority East Timor from May to November 2000. Colonel Williams completed the United States Army Command and Staff College Course at Leavenworth from June 2001 to July 2002, graduating with a Master in Military Art and Science. On his return to New Zealand he was posted to the Tactical School, Waiouru as an Instructor and became the Chief Instructor in 2003.

Colonel Williams has served as Commanding Officer 2 Field Hospital, which then became 2nd Health Support Battalion. During this posting he deployed to Banda Ache, Indonesia as the Senior National Officer, in response to the tsunami disaster, from January to February 2005. He has held the appointment of the Director Training and International Commitments, Army General Staff Wellington, and in May 2008, took up the appointment of Military Secretary (Director of Officer Career Management). In December 2011 on promotion to Colonel, Colonel Williams assumed the role as Commander, NZ Army Training and Doctrine Command, in Waiouru.
Army nursing officer Captain Dave Greenhough of the Aviation Unit, RNZAF Base Auckland, teamed up with Squadron Leader Jude Telford recently to train RNZAF Boeing 737 cabin crew in first aid and aero medical (AE) evacuation procedures. The pair ran in-flight practical scenarios for various members of the crew, and tried to inject realism and practicality into the training, reports Dave.

Dealing with medical emergencies in flight is a common occurrence. There will be many a traveller who has been delayed or diverted from their destination as a result of a medical incident. In the course of their duties RNZAF aircrews may have to respond to in-flight medical incidents. In-flight aircrew medical responsibility was identified as an area for additional training. To meet these needs a specific Cabin Crew First Aid Course was designed by the Aviation Medicine Unit in conjunction with 40 Squadron.

The course provided theoretical and practical training on managing common medical conditions such as: motion sickness, anxiety, trapped gas, ear and sinus pain. The course also covered the emergency management of sudden collapse, cardiac arrest and deteriorating respiratory conditions in-flight.

During the practical phase of the course a component was carried out onboard the aircraft during a flight. This training was run by aeromedical evacuation instructors working through simulated scenarios using on-board medical equipment. The crew got hands-on experience with patient moving and handling, managing an arrest with airway management, chest compressions and using a training AED.

The in-flight training was well received and the crew got to experience the practicalities of dealing with medical emergencies during a flight. The 40SQN Aircrew and Pilots were very enthusiastic and demonstrated great team work and professionalism during the training.

Looking to the future, there is potential to develop the Cabin Crew First Aid Course and roll it out to Aircrew on other Airframes.

Research into in-flight medical incidents suggests that up to 159 incidents occur per 1 million passengers carried. In a global context IATA figures predict there to be about 3.6 billion passengers being moved by aircraft per year by 2014. This equates to approximately 604,200 medical incidents in-flight a year by 2014.

In addition to the numbers of medical incidents it is important to consider the aviation working environment. Once in flight the aircrew cabin can be considered a remote environment. This remote environment is made unique and complex by altitude, trapped gas, fatigue, noise, reduced oxygen levels and potential delay to definitive medical treatment.

The first two Light Guns (L119) to be rebuilt under a project conducted between New Zealand and Australian Defence agencies completed live fire activities during Exercise Spotty Bulldog in March.

The exercise was attended by representatives from the NZDF's Capabilities Branch and Directorate of Land Equipment Management, and the Joint Logistic Unit (Victoria) of the Australian Defence Force, who saw the live firing and also conducted quality assurance inspections of the guns.

The Light Gun Rebuild Project takes advantage of the reliability and utility offered by the Light Gun and will rebuild the fleet so that its service life extends through to 2030. The project commenced in 2010, with the first guns being sent to Australia in 2011 to be rebuilt by Australian facilities at BAE Systems, Bandiana. This offers benefits to both New Zealand and Australia, with the New Zealand Army being able to retain its artillery capability at a fraction of the cost of buying a new system, and the Australians able to keep their maintenance facilities staffed and working at a time when they are transitioning between gun types for their own artillery.

The rebuild of the guns includes the inspection, repair or replacement of all major assemblies such as recoil mechanism, buffers, recuperators, and painting the gun to its original colour while integrating of all authorised NZ Army approved modifications. The guns will be rebuilt in four tranches, with the first due to be returned in 2015.

The Commanding Officer, 16 Field Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Matt Weston, shared his enthusiasm for the rebuild project. "One of the most tangible benefits for 16 Field Regiment is that we will have an increase in availability and reliability of our Light Guns for both training and operational purposes.

The rebuilt guns also offer savings for the Army's annual operating budgets. Mr Lance Leroux, Equipment Manager, Weapons Systems, Directorate of Land Equipment Management notes that, "Equipment Management for the Light Gun will be reviewed and amended to more effectively support the Light Gun and provide value for money through rationalised inventory and increased availability and reliability.

In essence, the service intervals will change to 12-24 months from the current 9-18 months."

The rebuild of the Light Guns, in conjunction with the medium mortars, will maintain the Army's indirect fire capability. The Army will maintain a proven and effective weapon system in service, and it will also form the basis for current and planned enhancements to the offensive support capability. A further benefit of this project and the visit to Exercise Spotty Bulldog is that it maintains the strong relationships between the New Zealand and Australian Defence Forces.

While on the ground in New Zealand, when a medical emergency occurs in a metropolitan area we can expect St John's to attend fifty percent of all 111 calls in eight minutes and 95% of calls within 20 minutes. However if a medical incident occurred in flight there would be an inevitable delay to get the aircraft on the ground. Extended time in the air means prolonged medical responsibility on the aircrew and use of limited resources.

In-flight aircrew medical responsibility was identified as an area for additional training. To meet these needs a specific Cabin Crew First Aid Course was designed by the Aviation Medicine Unit in conjunction with 40 Squadron.
The NZ Army hosted the 2012 Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar (NOLES) where it promoted a greater understanding of non-lethal weapons and technology in the Asia-Pacific region.

Non-lethal, or “less lethal” systems as they are known in New Zealand, are weapons and devices designed to incapacitate a target while minimising fatalities or permanent injury.

The NZ Defence Force’s Land Component Commander, Brigadier Mark Wheeler, said NOLES was an annual multilateral seminar sponsored by the US Marine Corps Forces Pacific. Keynote speakers this year discussed topics including International Human Rights Law, the Laws of Armed Conflict, and planning considerations for the employment of less lethal weapons.

Approximately 75 participants attended from 19 countries, making it a significant multi-national engagement with representatives from the wider Asia-Pacific region, exposing participants to current and future less lethal weapons capabilities.

“It is becoming more commonplace for military forces to be operating in conflict zones where they are required to maintain law and order, control civil disturbances, or respond to rapid changes in levels of violence, where the use of lethal force may not be justified or permissible,” says Brigadier Wheeler.

“Less lethal weapons provide military commanders with more options. They can be used to disperse large groups of hostile people, stop or disable vehicles, or deny access to important facilities.”

According to Brigadier Wheeler, the use of less lethal technologies provides security forces with the ability to counter non-traditional threats, while mitigating the effects on the civilian population and the environment.

This was the 10th year that NOLES has been held. The initiative is designed to promote awareness of non-lethal (or “less lethal” in NZDF terminology) weapons as well as develop techniques, tactics and procedures to maintain order in low-intensity or civil unrest scenarios encountered on operations.

NOLES is an annual event and each year the US co-hosts the event with another country in the Asia-Pacific region. Last year the seminar was co-hosted with Thailand.
ARMY MOVERS:

Working with mates on the side of a mountain

By Private Luca Godinich, Movement Operator, 3 Transport Company

On the 17 February Sergeant Peter Van der Vlerk from 5 Movements Company in Linton and I deployed to Mt Cook Village. Our task - in conjunction with 3 Squadron RNZAF, Department of Conservation (DOC) and the New Zealand Alpine Club - was to remove the derelict De La Beche hut by building underslung loads to be lifted out by the Iroquois helicopter. The De La Beche hut is located 1600 metres above sea level, beside Tasman Glacier in Mt Cook National Park. It was built by relatives and friends in 1979 in tribute to those who perished in a thunder storm on 19 January 1930. It has been used over the years by climbers for shelter as they explore the National Park.

Due to weather delays we flew to the hut accompanied by two DOC personnel on the afternoon of the 19th and started load rigging immediately as we only had a two day window of clear weather to complete the task. After a memorable night staying in a rock bivouac we were back rigging early Sunday morning to finish the underslung loads. The rigging was quite challenging due to the amount of debris and also the limited area in which to build loads. In total there was 12 loads lifted from the hut site, with only the orange frame left at the site for a potential new hut to be built there in the future. The task ran smoothly throughout and highlighted the excellent interoperability between 5th Movements Company and 3 Squadron, RNZAF.

The army people issue 430 | April 2012

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the corps of royal nz engineers (rnze) celebrated its 110th birthday with a ceremonial parade and a variety of activities on 24 march. the parade was held in the school of military engineering parade ground opposite the 16 field regiment headquarters, and the capability display was in velvin field next to the rnze museum.

operational and long service good conduct medals were presented to regular force and reservist personnel, and 1 field squadron (ales) was re-integrated back into 2 engineer regiment. the armed forces award was presented to officer commanding 25 engineer support squadron major alistair mitchell. the award is presented to officers who have completed 15 years full time service, and whose character and conduct have been irreproachable.

certificates marking 20 years’ service to the rnze were presented to warrant officer class two brams bramley, wo2 john flintoft, and sergeant maurice low.

the rnze museum, which is run by a charitable trust and owned by the nzdf, was rededicated and reopened as part of the celebrations, and a rnze capability display involving world war 2 era vehicles was held.

officially the museum has never closed but it required a number of significant refurbishments therefore access was limited while these were completed.

the facility includes a chronology of the rnze corps, beginning from the early new zealand wars to the present time. every key campaign and war is detailed, and the museum contain more than 1000 items relating to the corps. the museum’s library has an extensive reference collection.

part of the museum has been set aside for general use, and includes a lecture room and training facility.

entry to the museum is by arrangement.

the remains of the hut are prepared before being removed by the rnzaf iroquois.

george butcher, ex k force, and wo1 dirk millar csm 1 (nz) brigade discuss the korean war display at the re-opening of the rnze corps museum.

colonel commandant rnze anthony wilson unties the sappers knot to re-open of the rnze corps museum.

colonel paul king presents campaign and service medals to some of the troops of 2er (2nd engineers regiment). the parade at linton also marked 110 years of the corps of royal nz engineers and the re-opening of the rnze corps museum.
NZ ARMY SOLDIER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

By Lieutenant Colonel Vern Bennett, Deputy Director Land Capability Delivery

Writing in his blog in May 2011, Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Charles Lett spoke of the soldier as a system, and one that is becoming more complex as it links in with other Army capabilities. This view of the soldier as a system underpins NZ Army’s capability development, and Soldier Systems forms the initial element of all land capabilities. This focus supports soldiers to be fit to fight (based upon their equipment, training, and related factors of human performance), giving us the ability to appropriately equip ourselves to meet the demands of our various missions, locations and tasks; while also ensuring that the kit that we give the soldier can be used alongside Army’s other capabilities - such as LAVs, new vehicles acquired through the Land Transport Capability Programme, or as part of the Network Enabled Army.

We consider a number of issues when developing our Soldier Systems. We have a relatively high operational tempo which provides an imperative to introducing new equipment, but we have to balance these immediate demands with the more deliberate plans conducted as part of our formal capability development. The NZDF has a wide range of tasks in diverse parts of the world which means that our equipment has to be able to function in a variety of physical environments and mission types. Finally, the technological advances in soldier systems come at an increasing cost and we need to ensure that we get the right stuff at the right time - focusing on what we need to do the job rather than spending lots on product development. To this end we focus on acquiring and adapting proven military-off-the-shelf and civilian-off-the-shelf systems (MOTS and COTS) that we can employ effectively for operations. We do not lead development - our focus is being active in acquiring and adapting known technologies. This has provided new systems and report damages and faults as they occur so that all of the equipment can be maintained. This is particularly important for equipment held in centralised locations.

We have invested heavily in protection and Organisation, Concepts, Information and Equipment). When we acquire and introduce Soldier Systems we use the PRoCIE system operated by Defence Capability (Personnel, Research and Development, Infrastructure and Organisation, Concepts, Information and Equipment). However, when we consider how we are actually going to use the soldier systems, we have developed the following principles.

• Training. The new soldier systems and equipment are more technologically advanced and require specific and regular training to maintain proficiency in using it.
• Performance. Technology enhances our capabilities but it does not replace our basic skills and attitudes. We are soldiers first and the Soldier Systems are there to help us to do our jobs.
• Equipment. The equipment is provided to meet the users’ requirements. The focus is on what we need; not what looks good in brochures.
• Procedures. We can only maximise the full use of the equipment when we employ relevant Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Taking shortcuts with the procedures can compromise the effectiveness of the Soldier Systems themselves.
• Support. We need to make sure that we look after the new systems and report damages and faults as they occur so that all of the equipment can be maintained. This is particularly important for equipment held in centralised locations.
• Integration. Each element of the soldier system is introduced as part of an integrated capability that is designed to work together rather than as add-on purchases.

The Soldier Systems Development is being conducted within Capability Branch by the Land Combat Capability Working Group and a specialist delivery cell within the Directorate of Programme Delivery, Capital Acquisitions in Defence Logistics Command (Common Lines), and the Directorate of Land Equipment Management in Defence Logistics Command (Land). The policy for developing and maintaining the Soldier Systems is conducted by various elements of Army General Staff, Capability Branch and Defence Logistics Command. These agencies coordinate current Soldier Systems work and will develop the next programme to be conducted as part of the Defence Capital Plan, due to commence delivery in 2015/2016. In the meantime the focus will remain on SSPE, Night Vision Equipment, the In-Service Weapon Replacement/Upgrade Plan, due to commence delivery in 2015/2016. In the meantime the focus will remain on SSPE, Night Vision Equipment, the In-Service Weapon Replacement/Upgrade Programme and support for current operations. We will have articles on key programmes and projects in forthcoming editions of the Army News.
By Lieutenant Colonel Mathewson, CO, 16 Field Regiment

As part of Army 2015, NZ Army’s 16th Field Regiment (16 Fd Regt) was tasked with refreshing its roles and functions in line the Chief of Army Major General Tim Keating’s vision to Operationalise the Army.

In essence this has seen the Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA) embark on a plan to increase its utility across a broader range of conflict types and operational situations.

Undertaken in a holistic manner, the project includes work on operating concepts; Training, Tactics and Procedures; locations; structures; trade models; and individual training. Alongside this piece of work, the RNZA in conjunction with NZ Defence Force Capability Staff have continued to develop and modernise the RNZA capabilities – presenting an exciting opportunity for the RNZA to transform itself into a force multiplier that will enhance the Army’s ability to both meet its operational outputs and assist in the creation of optimal joint effects.

HYBRID BATTERIES

The most visible aspect of this change is the restructuring of 16 Fd Regt into 3 Hybrid Batteries (Bttys) - two Regular force (161 and 163 Bttys) and one made up of Army Reserve (11/4 Bty). The Bttys have a unique structure in that mortars and guns are integrated into the same sub unit. Additional new capabilities including Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) and Information Operations (IO) will also be added to the mix. The Bttys of the future will be capable of completing traditional artillery tasks such as neutralisation of direct fire systems or disrupting infantry formations, as well as producing less kinetic effects more appropriate for non kinetic effects such as engineers, medics, educators or legal staff.

- Targeting. The JOSCC will take a lead on the Targeting function and provide Offensive Support advice and liaison to 2/1 RNZIR.
- Coordination and control of joint fires. The application of fire provided by coalition air and maritime force elements are integrated with land manoeuvre via the Joint Offensive Support Coordination Centre (JOSCC) and Joint Offensive Support Teams (JOSTS) provided by the Hybrid Bty. This includes the provision of Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) and Joint Fires Observers to control and coordinate aerial platforms.
- Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR). The Hybrid Bty will provide ISR to the CATG via deployment of JOST in overwatch and surveillance roles and via the use of UAS in a reconnaissance role. JTACs will be tasked with fulfilling information requirements of the CATG Commander.
- Battlespace Management. The JOSCC and JTAC element of the Hybrid Battery will provide the CATG a link into coalition airspace coordination with the air component elements deployed. The JOSCC will ensure that airspace is managed in such a manner that ground manoeuvre and surface to surface fires are deconflicted from flight routes and coalition joint fires. This is an area of increasing importance as the NZDF seeks to engage in amphibious operations.
- Targeting. The JOSCC will take a lead on the Targeting process within the CATG on behalf of the CATG Commander. The targeting process is part of staff planning and ensures that key targets are selected and prioritised, acquired at the right time with the correct asset and that the appropriate effect is then applied to them. A full range of kinetic and non kinetic effects are planned for as part of this process, lying in kinetic fires, IO and CIMIC.

- IO. IO is an integrating function that seeks to achieve information dominance on the battlefield. The JOSCC will provide an IO planning function to the CATG. The JOSCC will be largely focused on directing IO to influence key players and organisations within the operational area.
- CIMIC. The Hybrid Bty of the future will be able to provide teams trained in G2, G3, and the RNZIR members largely returned to 2/1 RNZIR. A JOST has remained in Bumham to provide Offensive Support advice and liaison to 1/2 RNZIR. Additionally 11/4 Bty was transferred from ANZ to under command 16 Fd Regt in Dec 2011.

THE FUTURE:

161 Battery will be assessed for DLOC by Dec 2012. This assessment will be largely focussed on acquiring readiness in the provision of traditional fire support tasks with both 105 mm light Gun and 81 mm Mortars. As greater individual competence in new functionalities is developed then the Bty will be assessed accordingly.

An important first step in achieving DLOC across a broader range of capabilities is describing how the Hybrid Bty will work, 16 Fd Regt and the School of Arty have commenced drafting documents to describe how the RNZA will operate. These documents will aim to provide a basis for future work with Army and NZDF to confirm operating concepts that can then drive future development.

Concurrent.ly, NZDF Capability Staff in conjunction with the School of Artillery and 16 Fd Regt are working to complete the introduction into service of the new indirect fire prediction system (IFPS), rebuild the light guns and acquire new survey and positioning systems. Other projects include ongoing development of sensor capabilities including UAS, replacing meteorological equipment and the provision of input into the medium vehicle replacement program.

SUMMARY:

Having commenced the project in Dec 2011, the RNZA has an exciting opportunity to generate greater utility in a wider range of situations than was possible in the past. Whilst we are only just beginning to understand the full impact that we will be able to effectively tailor make a package that best suits the force elements we are supporting – increased flexibility at no additional cost to the user.

Ex Spotty Bulldog was largely technical by design and with an emphasis on learning the ins and outs of both weapons (mainly mortars), and associated deployment and C2 considerations, the exercise commenced with mortar sub-cal rounds and progressed from there. Deployment areas ranged from sand to hardstanding and back to mud, and basic familiarisation missions on each weapon were followed by more complicated activities. Whilst not necessarily reflecting what the TTPs will eventually be, the Bty executed scenarios that were designed to draw out weapon employment limitations and lessons and enhance user confidence and competence. The guns provided illumination for the mortars, both weapons were fired concurrently, at separate targets, and rapid deployments were practised for both.

As part of the exercise live fire support was provided to W Coy, 1 RNZIR via a number of BHCDs. This provided a good opportunity to practise close cooperation with mounted forces.

As a first hit out, the results were better than expected. Although we don’t claim to have mastered the art of employing both weapons we have certainly learnt a lot and are now very well placed to improve further and also try new options on EX ALAM HALFA.

BC 161 Bty
When Private Len Manning was shot dead in Timor-Leste nearly 12 years ago, it was New Zealand’s first combat casualty since the Vietnam War. He was well-liked by his colleagues and superiors, and after working in the country for several months the young soldier had grown to love and respect the people he was trying to protect.

Now, thanks in part to Len’s parents Charlie and Linda, and a group of like-minded Kiwis, a group of Timorese youngsters have a much brighter future. Colonel Martin Dransfield, the current Chief Military Liaison Officer, United Nations Mission in Timor Leste, and PTE Manning’s Commanding Officer when he died, explains.

Len served in Timor Leste in 2000 with the Second New Zealand Battalion. He had a special empathy with the Timorese people, and in particular with those he worked alongside in Timor and Fatumean. This was reflected in a series of pencil drawings he made whilst he was on patrol in the border region. He sadly lost his life on 24 July 2000 whilst protecting the people he had grown to love and respect.

In 2002, his parents Charlie and Linda set up the East Timor School Trust, that is located in Maudemo Suco, Tilomar SD, Cova Lima District. It was established in 2005, and provides vocational training opportunities to students who have not completed primary, pre-secondary or secondary schooling as a result of family circumstances, such as the death of a parent or lack of funding.

I discovered an exciting setup that provided a 12 month course that qualified its students in one of the following: carpentry, electrical/solar panel installation, sewing/tailoring and hospitality. I was particularly impressed by the eight graduates I met who had won the contract to install the electricity cables between Suai and Salele, while another five were already installing electricity cables in the Casabauk Suco.

I contacted Charlie and Linda Manning with a proposal to select students from the areas that Len had served, namely the soldiers of GYRO 11 and the Military Christian Fellowship. I immediately realised that she had not only a good idea, but an idea that was possible due to this fantastic opportunity.

The journey is not over though, as during the selection process I asked one of the girls what she would do with her tailoring skills, and she said she would make school uniforms.

I have visited the Manning Scholars three times this year and each time I notice that their confidence has grown and that they have a real sense that their dreams are now becoming possible.

The journey is not over though, as during the selection process I asked one of the girls what she would do with her tailoring skills, and she said she would make school uniforms. I immediately realised that she had not only a good idea, but had realised a need. We are now looking at the possibility of sponsoring the girls to set up a small business to produce uniforms for the local schools.

It is wonderful to be part of a journey that was started by Charlie and Linda and has already provided many young Timorese with the opportunity to learn and use skills that are so desperately needed in their new country. I would also like to thank those soldiers from GYRO 11 who gave so generously and of course the NZDF Military Christian Fellowship.

Len’s parents Charlie and Linda, and a group of like-minded Kiwis, have provided a 12 month course that qualified its students in one of the following: carpentry, electrical/solar panel installation, sewing/tailoring and hospitality.
New Zealand Army
Order of Battle
Correct as at 16 April 2012
By Corporal Joseph Seconi

Why would 30 infantrymen and a RNZN medic walk 27km in the scorching 35 degree heat of Timor Leste? Why? This is a question that many of the soldiers and officers who completed the walk asked themselves during the eight hour ordeal.

It was to build “a sense of achievement” Major Steve Challies, current Officer Commanding of GRYO 12, told the soldiers and NCOs of the infantry platoon only days beforehand. It was a “chance to prove to our Australian brothers that the humble Kiwi soldier can still carry a pack weighing 30kgs, and march for a sustained period of time.” The soldiers did just that, and proved to MAJ Challies that they could indeed walk for a length of time and distance to achieve a goal.

In the early hours, the Infantry Platoon under the command of Lieutenant Matthew Singleton moved to a pre determined drop off point somewhere in the central regions of Timor Leste. From this point, the order of “we are walking back to Dili” was given, and the walk commenced. Within minutes of starting, there were two key leaders in the platoon who set the pace. Lieutenant Rimoni Leota and Private Christopher Wagstaff both egged each other along and kept the rest of the platoon trying to catch up with them. The mandatory hourly stops were a welcome chance to drink some water and readjust soldiers’ packs. The final 4 kms were indeed the hardest. In the heat of the day, with limited cloud cover or trees, the soldiers made the final long and painful dash for the finish line. To his credit, Officer Commanding ANZAC Company, Maj Spencer (ADF), who walked with the soldiers, finished in high spirits saying that it was good to “be one of the lads again!”

All the soldiers and officers that completed that walk, can hold their head high. That day, we all achieved a goal, and proved ourselves to our Australian brothers! A special thanks must go out to our support staff, namely Warrant Officer Class Two Richard Clutterbuck, and Staff Sergeant Lawrence Colvin. The Pinzgauer that you drove to the rear of the soldiers was a consistent reminder not to give up, and to soldier on.

By Private Arapeta Brown

One of the many roles for the infantry soldier here in Timor Leste is to get out and visit the local villages in the outer regions of Timor Leste. Every month or so, an infantry platoon from ANZAC Company gets tasked with this long range patrol which are called Regional Engagement Patrols (REP). Our platoon was tasked with a REP to an area called Ermera.

Ermera, which is in the central highlands of Timor Leste has hundreds of smaller villages, which the platoon visited. It has been many years since ANZAC soldiers had last been in the Ermera region, and we received a warm welcome from everyone we met. Under the command of Lieutenant Matthew Singleton, the sections split from the platoon and were allocated several villages to visit.

Each day on the patrol we would go and visit a new village and meet with key leaders. These leaders were usually the village chief (suco) or a police officer from the PNTL (Timor Leste police). While my section commander would conduct these meetings, we soldiers would spend the time playing soccer with the local kids. We tried to build a positive vibe in these meetings, we soldiers would spend the time playing soccer with the local kids. We tried to build a positive vibe in these meetings, we soldiers would spend the time playing soccer with the local kids.

For more information visit www.sistersinarms.co.nz
The 1st New Zealand Special Air Service Regiment is now conducting two selection courses annually, one in January and the other in May/June. These courses are strategically placed on the training calendar to allow successful candidates to commence training following selection. The selection course is designed with two specific ‘gates’ relevant to the candidates intentions. Candidates who wish to serve in the Regiment as a Badged operator (SAS) or as a Commando (CDO) will all start on the same selection course. For CDO applicants to be selected for further training they will need to successfully complete Days 1-4 (1st gate) of the selection course. SAS applicants will need to successfully complete Days 1-9 (2nd gate) to be selected for further training. Commissioned applicants will need to successfully complete the appropriate Officer Testing when they have reached their specific gate. Below is a basic day to day breakdown of the NZSAS Selection course, Gate System and application process.

**Pre-Selection**
- Equipment checks, confirmation of basic military skills and psychological tests.
- NZSAS Regt Fitness Testing and Mixed Terrain Navigation
- CDO Officer Testing

**DAY 1 - 4**
- Close Country Navigation and other activities
- SAS Officer Testing

**GATE 1:** On successful completion you will be considered for further training to attend CDO Training Cycle.

**GATE 2:** On successful completion you will be considered for further training to attend SAS Training Cycle.

**Application Process**
- Go to the NZSOF Intranet Site which will detail specific dates and required documents.
- Conduct a medical examination MD918 through your regional medical cell.
- Complete a G1 NZ Army RFL through your regional gymnasium.
- Complete all fields on the application form AFNZ 3 and forward it through your chain of command.
- Download and begin the 1NZSAS Selection course training programme.
- Make contact with the 1NZSAS Regt recruiter to check on your application process and answer any questions.
- Arrange travel to Papakura Military Camp and prepare for the start of pre-selection.

**Contact Information**
1NZSAS Regiment Recruiting Cell SGT B. MARAKU 
RENNIE LINES | PAPAKURA MILITARY CAMP
E: brett.maraku@nzdf.mil.nz
C: 021 743 096
http://awi-teams/1NZSAS/

Do you need a change from your current role/workplace? Does influencing and providing leadership and motivation to the Youth of New Zealand sound like something you want to contribute to?

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Contact your Career Manager or Command Warrant Officer, Youth Development Unit on Dix’s email shane.maslin2@nzdf.mil.nz or DTELN 337 7210. Next Staff Induction course is 21 – 25 May 2012 in Burnham. Apps close 11 May 2012

Check out the YDU SharePoint site for an application: http://org/nzdf-yd/default.aspx

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Physical Training Instructors (PTIs) in the NZDF conduct three major training courses before achieving a full qualification as an NZDF Physical Fitness Instructor. This starts with a single service selection board where individuals are assessed in endurance, strength, power, speed, functional skills and attitudes to become a New Zealand Army PTI. If accepted for further training they then attend the 22 week Primary trade training course held at the DPE & RT School in Woodbourne. Upon successful completion of this course they are provided with an Offer of Service and if accepted become members of the New Zealand Army Physical Training Corps (NZAPTC). After that, they are posted to a gymnasium for on the job experience for approximately 18 months and then return to the school for their final 15 week residential course; The Advanced Physical Fitness Instructors course. This is an academic based course concentrating on exercise physiology, fitness test design, advanced programme design, kinesiology, research and data gathering.

Throughout these courses a large quantity of the training is theoretical, particularly on the Advanced Course. Through the efforts of the team at Army Qualifications, an agreement was found between Massey University and the NZDF to provide accreditation for six papers towards the Bachelor of Sport and Exercise based on the learning outcomes achieved on both the Primary and Advanced PTI courses. From this, PTIs have the option of applying for tertiary studies toward either the Diploma in Exercise Sciences or the Bachelor in Sport and Exercise.

Qualification pathways:

WO1’s Greg Meldon and Jason Keno, the first NZDF PTIs to gain this qualification extra-murally. This took them over 10 years to achieve and although significant time was spent after hours, the result is extremely rewarding. It provides them with a civilian recognised qualification giving them and the NZDF credibility when attending internationally recognised health conferences and learning establishments. In addition to this it also provides a qualification they can use for employment beyond the NZDF.

The NZ Defence Force has helped local security forces in Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan, take another step in their capacity building with the graduation of their first National Police Provincial Quick Response Force (PQRF) platoon.

Training the Afghan National Police to take over the role currently performed by NZ Defence Force military patrols is an important part of the transition strategy.

The graduating class of 28 recruits is the initial tranche of what is intended to be a company-strength of over 100 Afghans. Over the next 12 to 18 months this company will be developed by the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZ PRT) and NZ Police.

Sergeant Justin Carter, a member of the NZPRT team training the PQRF, said he was impressed by the platoon’s progress and their level of commitment and dedication.

“The NZPRT training team recognised very early on the importance of winning the hearts and minds of the policemen we would be training. We formed a very close professional working relationship and bond with our students.”

The platoon trained for three months in a number of skill areas from the basics of first aid, navigation, radio communications and weapon handling, to comprehensive training in military tactics in order to defeat insurgent threats and respond to high risk contingencies.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Dave Gawn, said the PQRF has been designed, equipped and trained to be a tactical response capability for Bamiyan province.

“The PQRF are trained to a significantly higher standard in military tactics than routine ANP,” he says. “The development and training of the PQRF has progressed exceptionally well to date, but there is still a long way to go. Continued progress and momentum is required over the next one to two years to fully develop the PQRF capability.”

Bamiyan was the first Afghan province to hold a transition ceremony in July 2011, marking the transfer of provincial level security and responsibility back to Afghan control. The NZ Government and the NZ Defence Force are committed to support the transition process to ensure a smooth and measured handover of responsibility.

The NZPRT is currently led by civilian director Richard Prendergast, and continues to support long term development, peace and security by facilitating reconstruction and assisting in the provision of a secure environment in Bamiyan.
**1 NZ SAS Regiment Share Lessons Learned**

Recently members of 1 NZSAS Regt visited camps throughout New Zealand to speak with various units, namely 1 RNZIR, 2/1 RNZIR and The Combat School. These discussions focused largely on key lessons learnt from recent counter insurgency (COIN) and combat operations in Afghanistan.

The reason for the brief was to ensure that the Army’s Combat School, Combat Units, junior commanders and enablers likely to deploy with a Combat Team are armed with the most important information gained from NZSAS Regt’s experience of recent years.

The scope of the brief covered information on environment and the enemy in theatre; an individual skills package focused on both equipment and individual drills; and a command package focused on lessons learnt from small group tactics and coordination within the Area of Operations (AO).

Staff Sergeant Glen Savage, an instructor at The Combat School, said the discussions provided:

- Good examples of the benefit gained from detailed planning, rehearsals and coordination prior to tasks.
- These briefs were designed to fit within the Chief of Army’s intent to ‘Operationalise the Army’ during the Prepare, Advance and Engage phases of Army growth, which began in 2011 and will culminate in 2030.
- In reference to this a Private from Alpha Company, 1 RNZIR said it was good to see that simple training and mastery of basic skills pays off in high risk operations.
- The brief was well attended, particularly by 2/1 RNZIR who initially requested the brief in order to prepare its soldiers for upcoming deployments to Afghanistan.
- The presentation’s theme focused on some fundamental points. Key to this was the fact that the basic skills taught within the NZ Army and to Combat Specialists serve us well while conducting combat operations in the most unforgiving of environments.
- Keep it simple, coordinate and plan in detail, trust your training. Who Dares Wins.

**ISWRUP Update – Apr 12**

The NZDF In-Service Weapon Replacement/Upgrade Programme (ISWRUP) is Capability Branch’s Team responsible for upgrading and replacing the NZDF’s small arms fleet.

When the programme began in 2008 there were known capability deficiencies. At the same time, NZDF forces found themselves conducting a range of tasks ranging from crowd control in Timor Leste through to patrolling in Afghanistan. ISWRUP was developed to ensure the NZDF’s small arms fleet across all Services is capable of delivering a broad variety of effects, less-lethal to lethal in order to promote a tactical advantage.

Additionally, ISWRUP projects enhance force protection and situational awareness through upgrades to capability such as sighting and target acquisition systems.

In short, ISWRUP ensures that our personnel are appropriately armed and equipped to succeed on modern, future, battlefields.

The following information highlights key deliverables of ISWRUP and tracks their current progress.

**TACTICAL SHOTGUN (TS):**

The Benelli My NZD Shotgun capability, now known across NZDF as the Tactical Shotgun (TS), commenced introduced into service in Feb 12.

This project is coming to a close with units conducting transitional training and the final delivery date for associated pouches, slings and combat torches nearing. The project is expected to be completed in June this year.

**7.62MM DESIGNATED MARKSMAN WEAPON (DMW):**

- The NZDF purchased a number of 7.62mm rifles in 2011 to support current operations in Afghanistan and the weapon was introduced into service during Crib 18. The DMW was purchased as a specific operational requirement.
- The lessons learned from the operational employment of this weapon will be used to support the acquisition and implementation of the full DMW capability within the Regular Force manoeuvre units, and supporting training establishments. This weapon system is intended to provide the section with precision fires and complement/support the effects of the LSW.
- A business case for the future in-service DMW is currently being drafted.

**7.62MM LIGHT SUPPORT WEAPON (LSW):**

LSW are currently in the procurement stage with first production run scheduled to commence shortly. The first batch of ancillaries (20x light weight ground mounts) arrived recently. At this stage, the project timeframe given in last edition of Army News remain unchanged and end users should see the phased withdrawal of C9 fleet from service and the 7.62mm LSW introduced into service over the last quarter of 2012.

**THE IW STEYR UPGRADE:**

- The business case for this project was approved in November 2011, and a request for Registrations of Interest from manufacturers was released in March this year. Based on the responses from industry, tenders will be called for and a manufacturer selected.
- The upgraded IW Steyr will provide a modular weapon system with an open architecture and a range of ancillaries, providing operators with the ability to tailor their weapon to their mission or task-specific requirements. (For example, the ability to fit a range of night-vision equipment to the system.)
- We will release updates around the acquisition of this capability as the process progresses.

**SNIPER RIFLE REPLACEMENT AND THE ANTI MATERIEL RIFLE:**

- These projects are starting up early this year, with initial work around the user requirements due to be finalised by mid-2012. Once the requirements have been identified, business cases for each of the projects will be drafted. Once again the end user community will be engaged throughout this process to ensure that we get a capability that best fills our user requirements.

**OTHER PROJECTS:**

- The remaining ISWRUP projects include the Short Range Anti Armour Weapon (84mm) upgrade, the Personal Protection Weapon (pistol) replacement, the Sustained Fire Machine Gun tripod and target acquisition replacement and the Grenade Launcher (M203) replacement.
- These final capabilities are due to be completed over the next 1-3 years. Programme staff are monitoring related developments amongst the other ABCA nations and in the defence industry and will continue to focus on delivering New Zealand soldiers, sailors and airmen world-class, operationally-proven equipment.

**COMMON ANCILLARIES:**

- The NZDF’s future small arms fleet will have ancillaries that will be common or similar in function and appearance between weapons. This will enable operators to move between weapon systems without having to relearn ancillary operation drills while greatly simplifying the logistics and fleet management systems needed to support the small arms capability.
- Further and more detailed Capability Updates to follow in future editions of the Army News.
One hundred and eighty personnel from the Ghurka Battalion of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces are in Burnham for Operation Pacific Kukri 2012. The exercise sees a company (C Coy) from the 2nd Royal Ghurka Regiment (2RGR) training at the West Melton Range and Tekapo Military Training Area for six weeks until 5 May 2012.

The exercise is being supported by 2/1 Royal NZ Infantry Regiment. 2RGR is using use of land areas here not available in Brunei, allowing for interoperability and development using the key training areas of West Melton and Tekapo. This allows the operational proficiency of their infantry to be practised and enhanced. Tekapo itself provides challenging conditions and terrain not readily available in Brunei.

By Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Class One Danny Broughton.

We’ve got too many hats to wear and I don’t mean appointments!

I hat, wide brim hat, beret, baseball cap x 4, MRH, Lemon Squeezer, Helmet x 4, beanies x 3, neck warmers that could be a hat, shamaghs that could also be a hat, black ones, green ones, blue ones, desert cam, yellow ones, we got them all.

I get really confused when I go to parades because like everyone else, I’m waiting to see what hat the boss is wearing. So the boot of the car is filled with hat boxes.

There is no doubt that we need something that protects us from the environment, something for day to day, something for ceremonial, something that is uniformed and something that everyone wants to wear.

Environment

What we are talking about here are the combat and climatic environments. Choice is important and leaders and soldiers need to ensure the appropriate headdress is worn for the climate that they are operating in. In developing the new combat uniform, Capability Branch has developed a hat (Boonie) that will replace both the jungle and wide brim hat. They have also developed a digi camouflage baseball cap that has a Velcro patch on the front. This will be a midweight hat and replace both the winter and summer weight black baseball hats. It will allow you to attach the Kiwi or similar patch to it for non combatant HADR type events and it can be removed if you were to step up to a SASO type event where camouflage is required for the task.

Day to Day

We are fixated on the beret for some reason. Maybe because it looks good, it is easy to carry around and it is really robust. Unlike our mates across the ditch, there is certainly no intention to get rid of it. Unfortunately, it provides absolutely no protection from the sun, unless you have a bald head. The new Boonie hat will provide another option as will the MRH. The point here is that the day to day headdress must be appropriate to the environment and leaders need to enforce this.

Ceremonial

With effect now, we are going to one ceremonial hat and that hat is the Mounted Rifle Hat (MRH). The Soldiers System Management Group (SSMG) is conducting some research and development into getting us a MRH that is comfortable, waterproof, lighter and that can take a hammering. The Chief of Army and I have seen such a hat but we look forward to their research.

The wearing of the Lemon Squeezer is to be preserved in our Colour and Banner parties in the same way as the infantry and Scots SNCO Sashes are now.
The annual Tussock Buster motorcycle trail ride held at Waiouru on the weekend of Friday-Sunday 23-25 March attracted 1,630 riders. For two years in a row, Tussock Buster has proved to be the biggest motorcycling event of its kind in New Zealand. OFFLIMITS is a registered charitable trust and its purpose is to raise funds for the promotion of NZDF sporting activities and to assist with soldier welfare.

The local Waiouru community received a cash injection of more than $150,000 from event attendees; the local community groups benefited by providing meals and other supporting activities and the OFFLIMITS trust raised a considerable sum via entry fees. A number of soldiers took leave to attend Tussock Buster and help on the days leading up to the event, and 65 Defence Force personnel attended the event as riding participants. The weather was favourable for the event with fine weather on the Friday and Saturday and some light rain Saturday night and early Sunday.

For some, this made the tracks slippery but for the majority, it just increased the fun they had on the wide open flowing tracks for which Waiouru is renowned.

Mike Ross, the event manager was particularly pleased with the high number of family groups in attendance. “This bodes well for the future and confirms that OFFLIMITS is providing a fun yet safe event for people of all ages regardless of whether they ride motorbikes or quads,” he said. OFFLIMITS is beginning to develop scale and will be able to offer significant long term benefit to soldiers and the wider NZDF said the OFFLIMITS chairman, Dave Greenslade. “The trust is currently working with Commander TRADOC, Commander 1(NZ)Bde and their staff to develop a joint plan to ensure that a portion of the funds raised is used to rejuvenate tracks within the Waiouru training area so that there is better access for wheeled military vehicles for exercise purposes and for utilisation at OFFLIMITS sporting events.”

“Work is starting with ensuring the tracks are more robust so they can be used by LAV, Pinzgauers, motorbikes and mountain bikes. Discussions are underway to see how other pieces of defence land can be used for safe community sporting activities.” OFFLIMITS has a guided quad bike and 4x4 tour organised for Waiouru in coming weeks. According to Dave Greenslade, these are pilot schemes prior to cranking up the marketing machine in 2013 to grow the numbers and revenue generating capability of these events. OFFLIMITS’ success is timely in light of the defence funding cuts and the trust will work within the terms of its trust deed to find innovative ways to raise funds for soldier activities and welfare, he added. “There is lots to do and the trustees and their supporters are focussed on long term success.”

The text contains images of soldiers, participants, and local community groups involved in the event.
Despite operational tempo and other commitments, more than 55 competitive riders and officials made up of teams from Northern, Central, Southern and guest riders from the RNZAF lined up for the 2012 Official Inter Regional Road and Mountain Bike (MTB) Competition in Upper Hutt recently.

The first day of competition started in ideal conditions with high octane Criterium racing which produced some blisteringly fast efforts and sprint finishes by all riders. The Criterium race was included again as a stage due to its spectator appeal; a controlled course and the fast tactical riding required by teams and athletes. The Challenge grade it was CPL Murray Kinnell (Southern) who went fast and hard from the start to dominate the sprints and the final finish lap ahead of LCPL Noeline Popata. Open Females saw SGT Kelly Carter dominate the intermediate and final sprints points. In the Open grade, an early break by Damon Taylor and Matt Savage (Northern) while team member Aaron Tregoweth (Northern) controlled the chase bunch, allowed Northern to dominate to see Savage gain enough Northern points to come first ahead of Taylor. The Elite Grade provided some great entertaining and fast racing with riders tussling it out in a 30 minute explosive sprint race. Southern athlete, LTHamish Wright dominated the course as he has done for the last three years gaining enough intermediate sprint points and the final sprint to take first place.

The Criterium stage was followed in the afternoon by a MTB hill climb and a Double D (Downhill stage) up and down a technically winding single track through the scenic Wainuomata Mountain Bike Park. Highlights from this stage saw Elite athlete Rob Hoult (Southern) wind his way to get the fastest Elite time in the Hill Climb, and Emily Hume and Nerissa Chapman challenge themselves to battle it out in the Open Female grade to take out first and second place respectively. The Double D downhill proved to be a high-speed race stage with the fastest time ridden by Elite grade rider Maj Brett Grieve (Southern) in 6mins flat followed close behind by Open grade rider Oliver Smith (Northern) in a time of 6.02mins.

Day 2 was a day of road stages in the Whiteman’s Valley area in Upper Hutt with athletes competing in two stages spread throughout the day. The first stage was the road race where the undulating, roller coaster 35km loop course where speeds averaging between 35 – 50km/hr saw all grades and teams fighting for finishing positions. The female athletes combined into one grade in the road stage with Challenge females working hard with the Open grade. Given the generally flat course it was always going to benefit the sprinters. SGT Carter and PTE Shanelle Clark smashed the field and both took line honours in their respective fields. Colin Huston’s tactical positioning and riding in the Masters grade throughout with an aggressive sprint for the line ensured the Masters road title went to Central. The Elite grade proved to be a fantastic tussle with the main bunch staying together until the final kilometre. It was Southern riders who dominated with LT Hamish Wright and Mark Lewis taking out the final sprint in the final 400m to push out rival Northern and Central riders on the corner.
The 2013 Cycling Inter-regional’s will be held in Linton to be hosted by Central region in April 2013. Further detail including other 2012 events for those interested in riding and joining the NZ Army Cycling Club in events later in the year can be found at the NZ Army Cycling Club Intranet Homepage:

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

Ride Safe, Ride to Win
Working as One

Army Reserve soldiers know of the LAV but few have the
opportunity to scramble over, let alone train with them. The
mounted route reconnaissance patrol of the training area
provided the soldiers a good appreciation of what it is like to
travel in and work with these vehicles and weapon systems.
Exciting as the LAV is, it struggled to out do an opportunity
gaining a qualification. The shooting coaches used the
three days allocated and took every opportunity to provide
quality individual coaching. Eighty five percent of those who
attempted the qualification shoot passed. This confirmed the
benefit of having shooting coaching and the value of WETS
training before an AWQ. For soldiers who at best may only
fire once in eight months or so, that was a very good result and is
testimony to time well spent by the coaches and a keen desire
by the shooters to do well. Congratulations to Private McLeod
(6 Hau) who scored the highest points.

Speaking of which, any opportunity to fire live rounds even
if it is an Annual Weapons Qualification (AWQ) shoot, is
always a welcomed one. The AWQ shoot was not just about
training before an AWQ. For soldiers who at best may only
benefit of having shooting coaching and the value of WETS
coverage especially during the AWQ.

The combined training programme conducted out of Helwan
Camp was noteworthy for its many exciting, and for a lot of
soldiers, new experiences.

There was time spent undertaking weapons effect training
(WETS) in the Waiouru Simulation Centre where shooting skills
were tested with the aid of computer generated scenario’s.
WETS is valuable in providing direct feedback on individual
weapon handling and marksmanship and also provided excellent
preparation for the next activity – live fire.

Colonel Evan Williams, Commander TRADOC shares some
thoughts with the soldiers regarding restructuring proposals
and Army Reserve service.

These two tests and qualifications are sought out,
particularly by Army Reserve soldiers who seek to be, or
remain, eligible to deploy on operations.

Some not so good) and by sheer weight of numbers and
good, some not so good and) by sheer weight of numbers and
firepower eventually saw the ‘enemy’ resistance crushed.

Two UH-1H helicopters from 3 Squadron RNZAF swooped
in low and fast. Against the backdrop of a cloud shrouded
Mount Ruapehu, 3/6
soldiers were familiarised
with seating arrangements,
safety procedures and
then practised their 10 and
2 o’clock approach and
exit drills. Upon receiving
thumbs up from the crew,
the CP gave the command
for the patrols to mount and
be airmobiled to the start
of the field exercise. The
rapid deployment to the
start line was assisted by the
soldiers having received their
orders and completed battle
preparation the night before.

A rendezvous with the
well camouflaged logistic
element provided a
welcomed if not too brief
respite as the patrols took
shelter under the cam net
umbrellas to complete
battled field administration. It was not long before they were
off again in search of militia elements. And they found them.
They were hiding in a village (‘better known as the Ulf, the
urban training facility) south of Ngāmatea Swamp. The next
day a slow search of the village and awkward interaction with
‘village people’ was soon replaced by screams and shouts as
the patrol came under fire from a small militia element hiding
in two of the houses. The excitement of fire and movement
soon replaced any lingering discomfort from having been wet
and cold. Hasty orders, regrouping, target indication (some
good, some not so good) and by sheer weight of numbers and
firepower eventually saw the ‘enemy’ resistance crushed.

The composition of an Army Reserve contingent is
interesting for many reasons not least of which is the variety
of backgrounds from which these soldiers come. The 3/6
battalion group was no exception – there were students,
lawyers, truck drivers, self-employed, fisheries officers,
NZ police, farmers, crop harvesting operators, contractors,
Customs employees, and many others. The ease with which
these soldiers come together and focus on the military task at
hand says much of the training they have received, the benefit
of shared values, and the importance of good leadership.
What is often forgotten is these Army Reserve soldiers have
to seek employer agreement to get time off. There are also
families who often give up precious family time so their dad,
mum, or partners attend military training.

For those reasons alone it pleasing to hear soldiers leaving
these training activities with comments such as ‘that was
a good exercise’, and ‘I really enjoyed that’. This is key to
keeping them interested, engaged, and trained for their role
in the NZ Army. And on that note the 3/6 Battalion staff are
congratulated for a job well done.

In addition to Whiskey Company, 1 RNZIR, and 3 Squadron
RNZAF, special mention must also be made of the enthusiastic
support of a Signals Squadron who provided excellent radio
communication support and familiarisation training, and also
1 Health Support Company who provided essential medical
coverage especially during the AWQ.
THE OCCUPIERS: NEW ZEALAND VETERANS REMEMBER POST-WAR JAPAN BY ALISON PARR

Reviewed by Major Neil Bleasdale

This is an oral history, completed many years after the event when survivors are few and memories are long. Yet, despite these restrictions, it is a good oral history. It is Alison Parr's second oral history and benefits from her experience as a historical researcher and extremely tight editing. It outlines why New Zealand had a presence in the occupation forces, what comprised that force, how we got to Japan, where "J Force" was stationed, etc. and what it did there (officially and unofficially). It concludes with the departure and eventual repatriation to New Zealand. The book covers reminiscences from front line soldiers and airmen, headquarters staff, WAACs and VAD nurses.

The numerous illustrations are sensibly placed and, along with Parr's uniting commentary, complement the recollections, in a systematic, logical and very readable way.

One of the noticeable traits of this book is its honesty. On a personal level, those who freely gave their time have been forthcoming in talking about their attitudes toward the Japanese, and their memories in fraternisation, drinking, and black marketeering. On a more public level, the unsavoury incidents that do not show New Zealanders in a good light are also in the book. These include the attitude of our own RSA towards J Force veterans when they returned home.

If I have a complaint it's over the limited examination of what tasks J Force undertook. I believe that every task undertaken by J Force has been mentioned in the book. But considering that J Force was there for more than two years, many long-term tasks seem to have been brushed over in a quick sentence, paragraph or single recollection. I suspect that my minor niggle is because of the small number of veterans interviewed, which in itself is not a fault of the authors, making, but merely a product of time since the occupation.

There are many more stories from J Force that are not included in this book — the hijack of the Chofu train, the "initiation" of reinforcement officers who had been posted to Japan straight out of officer training units, dentures lost in "honey pots", the splitting of the Officers Mess so that the Force Commander didn't have to deal with those that did not meet his favour etc. And I'm sure that there are a great many more that are also not included. But perhaps their very non-inclusion makes this a balanced book. Alison Parr has steered a good course between having insufficient memories to illustrate her various themes and having so many vignettes that the book's essential structure is lost.

My final observation builds on my opening comment — why do we wait until the last possible moment to collect our oral histories? It just doesn't make sense. For a start, the number of veterans, and therefore the pool of memories and recollections, decreases as time passes. And it is a well-documented fact that time alters memories, most often in a rose coloured way. We should be looking now at our histories from Borneo, Kashmir, Rhodesia, Singapore, Bosnia, Somalia etc. while we still have veterans from these operations/military experiences, and this book serves as an exemplary example on how to put together and present an oral history.

Major Bleasdale is a serving Army officer, and the son of a J-Force veteran.

• Army News reader David Weston of Lower Hutt is the winner of the two ANZAC books in last month's Win a Book contest. The books, A Day to Remember by Jackie French, and The Horses Didn't Come Home by Pamela Rushby, are for younger readers.
By Major Mark Bateman, NZDF Threat Integration Cell

The New Zealand Defence Force Threat Integration Cell (formerly the C-IED Cell) met with several Government agencies and an international audience recently to discuss the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and ways in which cooperation can help address the issue in the future.

This was the first event of its kind in New Zealand and was a further important step in developing relationships between the NZDF, department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and a number of other government agencies.

The Wellington conference included representatives from New Zealand agencies including Police, Customs, Air Security, Maritime New Zealand as well as Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the NZ scientific community, amongst others. Representation was also present from Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States.

The event was opened by VCDF and hosted by COMJFNZ who said the recent experiences with the Christchurch earthquakes, the Rena incident and the Rugby World Cup had clearly shown the benefit of a whole of government approach to resolving some of the major issues that face New Zealand.

“The IED is the number one killer of Service personnel around the world today. It is easily accessible to those who would seek to harm our nation’s interest and as we look to our forces leaving Afghanistan, we must learn to work closely with our partners and benefit from those that share security responsibilities both nationally and internationally, in order to ensure that New Zealand is prepared for whatever the future might bring.

*Those that threaten our nation’s security and national interests will be equally at home overseas or, with the right opportunity, on our own shores. This gives an uncomfortable relevance to New Zealand from a domestic perspective because those facilitating the use of IEDs form part of a broader threat continuum that militaries in isolation are not necessarily configured to deal with.

*The internationally, widely-held, pragmatic and realistic view is that countering these threats requires an ‘all-of-government’ response. We cannot allow ourselves to be complacent or blind to this fact. The danger associated with individuals or groups using IEDs requires a unified approach and a multinational strategy, if we are to ultimately succeed in our efforts to defeat this threat. We have gained a lot of knowledge and lessons from our experience in Afghanistan, sadly some through tragedy, and it is important that we retain these lessons as our forces shape for the future. We must continue to engage with our partners in a meaningful way as it is the sharing of information, experiences and, where appropriate, resources that will enable us to understand the threats to our nation, its people and its interests, and ensure that we are best prepared to face them.”

The wide range of national and international experts meant that the conference was able to learn from the expertise and experiences of those in attendance. The series of working panels stimulated some excellent ideas on how we can share information and work together to face this and other emerging threats, particularly in our near region – the Asia Pacific.

Major Josh Wineera, a Massey University defence security advisor said that an IED can be used as an instrument of terror, it is an indiscriminate and insidious threat and, while it was recognised that IEDs, despite their evident danger to military personnel, are not yet a top priority for other security agencies in New Zealand, it was keenly felt that the sharing of information domestically and internationally is a key aspect of ensuring the protection of all New Zealanders.

“It is information that will help to shape how New Zealand is able to contribute to countering threats in a global sense and what will, in turn, ensure that our shores remain as keenly and well protected as they are now, by all those involved in the future security of our nation.

Despite the main focus of the conference revolving around the threat of IEDs, it was clearly recognised that this weapon system was simply one form of threat and that from a national security perspective New Zealand would be hard pressed to focus and dedicate resources to this medium alone.

However, many of the processes used in combating the IED are equally applicable to any number of other threats and by working together to leverage off some of the security systems, processes and expertise that already exist within New Zealand’s security agencies, the impetus will be that much greater and the chances of an adversary succeeding that much reduced.

Many of our government security agencies have excellent records in dealing with emerging threats, be it through intercepting dangerous contraband such as drugs and weapons, or breaking threat networks in conjunction with other international agencies. These are national issues, threatening national interests and it is only natural that defeating the issues should be considered a national responsibility.

In order to ensure that NZDF keeps pace with this need for change, COMJFNZ has expanded the remit of the JFNZ C-IED cell into that of a Threat Integration Cell. Many of our international partners are seeking this type of approach within their own nations and through this conference, New Zealand has once again established itself as a lead player in the field.

Next month: A British victim of an IED tells his story

Through the Army News, we have been able to share the stories of those who have been involved in or around IED incidents. As we move from Afghanistan back to the theatres of the Asia Pacific region, we must remain alert to the threat and understand why it is such an important part of our training delivery and our approach to the potential areas of conflict that we might face in the future.

MAJ Bateman
MAJ Threat Integration Cell
Twenty-five Ironman NZ finishes are proof that Ron Skelton doesn’t know how to quit while he is ahead. Now the West Auckland ultra-distance cyclist is taking on what he believes is the world’s toughest challenge again.

Last year, Skelton (53) became the first Kiwi to tackle the legendary Race Across America (RAAM) solo, rolling off the start line a few minutes before Wellingtonian Josh Kench. And while his younger rival (38) beat him across the finish, Team Ironman also completed the 5000km ride across the deserts, mountains and plains of the United States within the 12-day deadline.

The Massey truck driver and NZ Army reservist was overjoyed with his time of 11 days 13 hours 37 minutes, but is adamant he wants to become the first Kiwi to finish the race twice. He has already confirmed his entry in the 2012 event, starting in Oceanside, California, on June 13.

RAAM isn’t like most cycle tours, where riders get to rest overnight and begin their journey again by the light of day. The clock keeps ticking, whether the competitors are on their bikes or not, most averaging just a couple of hours sleep a day in their bid to reach the Annapolis Naval Academy, Maryland, within the allotted time.

Three-time winner Wolfgang Fasching of Austria who has also climbed Mt Everest says the world’s highest mountain is more dangerous, but RAAM is physically, mentally and emotionally harder to do.

One of the minor disappointments of Skelton’s previous outing was that he passed through some of the route’s breathtaking scenery such as Utah Monument Valley and Wolf Creek Pass, the highest point through the Rocky Mountains in pitch darkness.

Regional Hockey
Open to All: Any Skill Level
Fun on and off the field guaranteed!

When: 16—20 July 2012
(Noms to POC by 6 Jul)
Where: Burnham

Point of Contact
Burnham: CAPT Thorne & LT North
Linton: SGT Carter & CPL Culver
Waiouru: CPL Landers
Auckland/Wellington: SGT Fredericksen & CPL Oien

Photos: Jamie Till