INNOVATION CHALLENGE
We need your ideas

ARMY ENGINEERS
Making a difference in the Sinai

MHOVS
All you ever need to know

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

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### On Patrol

In the first week of being appointed your 15th Sergeant Major of the Army, I have travelled to all camps across the land domain to firstly, thank 14th SMA for his tenure, secondly to introduce myself and tell my story. My story is focused on why education is important to be successful and my commitment to professional leadership and profession of arms (inspire or retire); the legacy of the Office of SMA.

I will work to enhance professional military education opportunities for soldiers. Education is important in encouraging future leaders of our Army to think, to continue life long learning, to adapt to future challenges, and to enhance a soldier’s ability to operate in complex environments on operations. The New Zealand soldier remains trusted, professional and ready to act because of the NZDF’s continued investment in education, training, readiness levels, equipment, and integrated command and control. Good examples of this recently include the support provided to flooded communities in the Edgecumbe region, the Christchurch fires, the earthquake response in Kaikoura and those who are preparing for operations in our operations across the globe.

I will represent the concerns of our families, our veteran community, our colleagues, our soldiers, sailors and airmen. This is the DNA of the NZDF.

I will also work to continue the focus WO1 Mark (Titch) Moritboy, DSM had, which was to care for our soldiers and to get leaders back with their soldiers.

Time on tools is important to us all, in order to seek opportunities to enhance core skills of thinking, moving, shooting, and communicating. Your efforts every day have impact, and this impact demonstrates your commitment to making a difference for your family and our nation. I thank you, and I thank your family for their continued support in what we all do.

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### Always Take the Weather With You

By Captain Sharon Mascalbari-Dare and Corporal Kathryn Rooney (Australian Defence Force)

In the heart of Iraq, surrounded by concrete and dust, one New Zealand Army soldier is both protecting his Anzac counterparts and nurturing a garden of his own making.

The New Zealand Army is deployed to Iraq with Task Group Taji Rotation Four, a combined force of New Zealand and Australian Defence Force personnel who are working with Iraq Security Forces, delivering military training to prepare them for their fight against ISIS.

For six months he’s based at the Taji Military Complex just north of Baghdad, providing force protection for the men and women of the task group.

"Basically, we’re here to protect both the New Zealand and Australian soldiers we’re working with, as well as other coalition forces including the British, Americans and the Iraqis that we’re training as well," he said.

As part of his role, the New Zealander says he takes every opportunity to build relationships with the Iraqi soldiers.

"We’ve learnt some Arabic and some of the Iraqis speak a bit of English. When we’re not engaged in training activities we have conversations with the Iraqis, as you would with anyone," he said.

"We show each other photos of family and friends, and sometimes they’ll tell you ‘this is my brother’, or ‘this is my cousin’. Sometimes, they show you photos of their brothers or cousins who have been killed in action."

"Many of the Iraqis have had a rough time, but they’re often the soldiers who work hardest. They want to make a change." As Task Group Taji 4 prepares to commemorate Anzac Day, the New Zealander also feels he has a personal connection to the Iraqis.

His own family has a history of military service in the Middle East region dating back to the Great War.

"My great grandfathers fought with the Anzacs at Gallipoli, and my grandfathers and grandmother served in World War II," he said.

"I’m aware of that lineage. There’s a bigger picture beyond me and it gives significance to what I’m doing."

"I’m quite proud of it. I want to do a good job, I want to do the best I can, and I want to then be able to pass on that legacy to future generations." During his down-time, the New Zealander has worked hard to create a unique and tranquil retreat for himself and his neighbours in the Taji compound, constructing a garden next to his accommodation, in the dust.

"New Zealand is pretty green and here it’s just dust, dust, dust," he said.

"Early on I thought I needed to make the place more liveable, like those song lyrics ‘always take the weather with you’. This garden has been a fun little hobby to do outside of work hours."

After working on the lawn, to picking off the dead-heads, to making sure everything is presentable, he hopes this will be a welcome retreat for his neighbours deployed with his combined Anzac task group. The infantry soldier works cross our nation and overseas.

"Everytime I leave for a mission or an operation, I know that my family are here for me, missing friends but the memories of good times stay with me."

The garden has made a difference to life at Taji for the soldier as well as his neighbours.

While he is looking forward to going home, he is in no hurry.

"I still don’t have any roses, but I have a huge array of other flowers." The garden has made a difference to life at Taji for the soldier as well as his neighbours.

The garden is a welcome addition to his daily routine, reminding him of home and everything that he is missing.

"We are actually enjoying living here." The soldier enjoys the simple pleasures of life, such as eating some delicious food.

"I’m missing people, missing family, missing friends but the lifestyle here isn’t too bad," he said.

"We are actually enjoying being away from home. We are living in a new environment, with new people and new experiences. We are learning new things and new skills, and we are doing things that we have never done before."

The soldier is grateful for the support of his family and friends, both in New Zealand and Australia.

"I am humbled and humbled to be represented by CA to represent you all. I am a soldier of Ngati Tumatauenga, ready to serve you and to continue to serve our nation. Nga mihi – see you on patrol."
A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY

On 1 April WO1 Clive Douglas became our 15th Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA). I am very fortunate to have such an outstanding soldier join me in leading our Army. I have known Clive for over thirty years, when he and I served together in Bravo Company, 2/1st Battalion, RNZIR. He was a Private and I a 2nd Lieutenant. I distinctly remember the SMA because apart from being a very keen and capable soldier he also excelled at swimming and single handedly won the inter-company swimming sports competition for Bravo Company by winning every event he entered. Who would have thought then that 30 years later, we would be side by side and both leading the NZ Army?

It goes to say that being a small Army does provide us with a key strength.

Our Army is very small in comparison with our traditional partners and this means we need to excel in what we are good at to maximise our strengths. One of these strengths is our people; you, the men and women who make up our Army. Relationships are important. They matter not only in times of peace but also in times of conflict. Historically, New Zealand soldiers have developed great relationships and made strong bonds wherever they have served.

The SMA and I are fortunate to be attending Anzac Day commemorations in France and Belgium this year where the people from places like Longueval, Le Quesnoy, Ypres and Messines continue to honour the memory of Kiwi soldiers who fought in those far away battlefields. The Kiwis forged strong bonds with those communities then, and those bonds are still strong. When I visit my counterparts around the world I am always complimented on the standard of our soldiers (all ranks) who are deployed on operations in far-flung places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Sinai, Israel, Lebanon, South Sudan, Korea and UAE.

What the above exemplifies is how good you all are at building enduring professional and personal relationships during your everyday interactions here in New Zealand, on camps and bases, in small towns and big cities, and everywhere overseas where you serve.

These relationships will serve us well in times of crisis as we have seen recently in Edgecumbe, Christchurch and Kaikoura. They will also serve us well in running our platoons, troops, companies, squadrons, battalions, and formations. The professional relationship that Clive and I forged over 30 years ago augers well for our Army today and I look forward to working alongside him.

Onward

Major General Peter Kelly
Chief of Army

NEW WEAPONS USED IN GUARD

Soldiers from Trentham Camp formed a quarter guard using the new MARS-L rifle system for the first time recently. The guard was reviewed by the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating.

TIME TO CHECK YOUR MIBP COVER

By NZDF Benefits Manager Mark Williamson

A recent tragic death is a timely reminder to us all to check the insurance available to personnel, including TF/Reserve members, under the NZDF Member Insurance Benefits Programme (MIBP).

The MIBP has four Tiers
Tier 1 funded by CDF and includes $300,000 life cover
Tier 2 additional life insurance up to $1.1m, funded by the member
Tier 3 insurance for the member’s partner/spouse
Tier 4 insurance for the member above the $1.1m maximum available under Tiers 1 and 2 combined, and for other family members.

One thousand one hundred and twenty-one current and former Defence members have purchased Tier 2 cover and 728 spouses/partners are covered by Tier 3. Tier 2 and 3 cover is available at any time including for TF/Reserve Force members. It has been particularly difficult to reach out to the TF/Reserve Force community for a variety of reasons. All TF/Reserve Force units are urged to brief members on the MIBP cover available to them. MIBP covers all occupations, no matter how hazardous.

Details of the MIBP are available on the HR Toolkit or the Force Financial Hub – Google search Force Financial Hub and go to the MIBP landing page.

To arrange a quote for MIBP Tiers 2 to 4 contact the broker AON on 0800 642 748 or email nz.nzdf@enquiries@aon.com.
Teams of soldiers helped man cordons in Edgecumbe, which was engulfed by floodwaters caused by heavy rains earlier this month.

Army Reservists, backed by two trucks and two other vehicles, were dispatched after a request from the Whakatane Emergency Operations Centre.

Their main tasks were to assist Police in maintaining cordons and checkpoints around areas that had been evacuated to ensure the safety of people and property. Soldiers were also deployed to help the NZ Fire Service ensure residents in flooded areas had been evacuated.

Just a week before the Edgecumbe flood, the NZDF sent 50 personnel to Whanganui and Rangitikei to help evacuate residents, fill sandbags, check on residents in flooded areas and man cordons after the councils declared local states of emergency.
The New Zealand Army relay team placed first in the relay category of the Fire Fighter Combat Challenge North Island regional event in Palmerston North earlier this month.

The team broke the New Zealand record twice with a fastest time of 1:24.07 and was awarded the title of North Island relay champions 2017.

A large team of firefighters from the Army’s Emergency Response Squadron turned out for the event.

Ten individuals competed as well as one tandem team and two relay teams.

SGT Daniel Klaassen was placed fifth in the open male category, and the NZ Army team placed third in the fastest aggregate times.

The tandem team came second overall in the open tandem event, and the Waiouru relay team placed first in the Plate round.
By CAPT Bernard Redshaw RNZ Signals

It’s a saying often heard in our Profession of Arms: “Never give up”. And so it was with RNZAF SGT Mason Robinson. Having seen a memorial featuring a WW1 soldier in Sydney two years ago, he had a vision of having a similar one in the RSA section of Nelson’s Marsden Cemetery. His vision was realised on Saturday 15 April, when, accompanied by a flypast by the RNZAF Black Falcons, the Minister of Veterans’ Affairs, Hon David Bennett arrived to unveil Nelson’s own WW1 statue.

Also included in this ceremony were: Nelson Mayor Rachael Reese, Tasman Mayor Richard Kempthorne, National RSA President BJ Clark, Nelson District President Derek Nees, Nelson RSA President Barry Pont, and of course SGT Mason Robinson.

There were many involved in the project. Sponsors/supporters included Veterans’ Affairs, Nelson City Council, Lottery Grants Board, Rata Foundation, Talley’s, Port Nelson, Mitre 10 Mega, Nelmac, and Allied Concrete. All of these, and others, were approached by SGT Robinson, and many gave some of their services free.

The War Memorial design came from Robinson, with concept drawings and later the engineering plans created by Nelmac’s design team, and the statue by Oamaru sculptor Donald Paterson. The hard work of construction of the site was carried out by Army engineers from Burnham and Linton Camps: SGT Robbie Skerton, LCPL Andy Good, LCPL Michael Hodge, and SPRs Todd Hamilton, Michael Whitehead and Brendan Guy. I followed their three-week task, working very long hours, often in bad weather.

SGT Robinson has this to say: “Without the dedication and can-do approach by the NZ Army Engineers, we would not have made it. I wanted their tasking and stay in Nelson to be one they would enjoy and never forget – they are now part of Nelson history”.

Sculptor Donald Paterson gave his approach to the statue design: “The soldier is standing respectfully in reversed arms, but he has earned the right to stand a little slumped, exhausted, distant in thoughts of lost mates and the horrific scenes he has witnessed. He is finally at rest, yet bears the weight of his lost innocence. He is perhaps contemplative, as he faces a return to normal life, knowing that nothing will be the same. The battles are over but the memories remain”.

A WW1 MEMORIAL IN NELSON
The 2017 Army Innovation Challenge is now open for entries. If you have a good idea that can benefit our organisation, get onto the Army Innovation page on DIXS and download the entry form, or email Armyinnovation@nzdf.mil.nz to request it. Any new ideas or ideas implemented since July 2016 that benefit our organisation can be entered. Entries are open to all ranks, and civilian staff.

You can enter your idea in either the Equipment, Process or Organisational Category, plus the People’s Choice Category. If you have any questions, or would like further advice, contact us at Armyinnovation@nzdf.mil.nz.

The categories are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>EQUIPMENT CATEGORY</th>
<th>PROCESS CATEGORY</th>
<th>ORGANISATIONAL CATEGORY</th>
<th>PEOPLE’S CHOICE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ideas that affect in service equipment or promote the introduction of new equipment.</td>
<td>Ideas that seek to improve existing processes within the NZDF.</td>
<td>Ideas that change the way that the Army or NZDF operates as an organisation, or that introduce a new way of operating.</td>
<td>Once your submission is accepted, you’ll be invited to post your idea on the Hub Ideas Page. Hub users will then be able to comment and ‘like’ your idea. The idea with the most likes will win the People’s Choice award.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key dates:

- **APR 13**: Entries open
- **AUG 01**: Pre-Selection judging panel
- **AUG 25**: Final Judging
The 34 New Zealand Defence Force engineers sent to the Sinai Peninsula in early January have reinforced the positive reputation built by the NZDF over the years amongst members of a multinational peacekeeping force.

The engineers, from the New Zealand Army’s 2 Engineer Regiment, are building a 3.3-kilometre security fence around the Multinational Force & Observers’ (MFO) South Camp.

“The sappers have a reputation in South Camp of being extremely hard workers. I have had comments from numerous people about how hard they’ve been working,” Lieutenant Tom Gilbert, the Troop Commander of the engineering team, said.

The MFO is an international organisation with peacekeeping responsibilities in the Sinai Peninsula. After operating at North Camp for over 30 years, the mission’s headquarters and a number of troops from 11 other contributing nations that make up the MFO’s Force moved to South Camp in mid-2016 due to the deteriorating security situation in North Sinai.

To accommodate the influx into South Camp, the MFO is building new facilities and had requested assistance from New Zealand and other countries with some of the infrastructure projects.

Lieutenant Gilbert said the progress on the fence had been steady.

“The mood of the troops is very positive. We have made visible progress that the guys can be proud of. Everyone is looking forward to the remaining time here and finishing our tasks.”

Deployed to the Sinai for up to six months, the engineering team includes combat engineers, carpenters, electricians, plant operators, welders and a supply technician.

“We have a range of experience levels in the engineering contingent, with sappers who have recently joined the Army and very experienced senior non-commissioned officers who have deployed to the Middle East and other countries in the past. This has been an asset to us as the experienced members are able to mentor the junior ones. This will also benefit the respective trades as they will be able to pass their experience to their peers when we return home,” Lieutenant Gilbert said.

Corporal Thomas Roy, one of two Section Commanders for the combat engineers, said their experience so far had been “hugely rewarding”.

“We’ve been able to see the benefits of our work and the role we play here. It has been an amazing opportunity to visit this part of the world, see the local sights and interact with the people,” Corporal Roy said.

Members of the engineering contingent seem to have taken the hot and dry weather and the diverse cultural environment within the MFO in their stride.

“The temperatures at the moment are still manageable but for someone coming from Waiouru, it is very challenging working in such heat. Nevertheless, I was very keen to get stuck into the work that was waiting for us upon arrival. It is great to be doing the job overseas that we spend so much time training for at home,” Sapper Benjamin Kerr, a plant operator, said.

Lieutenant Gilbert said the New Zealanders’ friendly nature made it easy for the engineering team to adapt to the diverse cultures within the MFO.

“We are working with people from all over the world, both military and civilian. Everyone must work together to achieve a common goal. The Kiwis are naturally good at getting along with people from other nations and this has been proven once again in this deployment,” he said.

The NZDF has been contributing a transport section, a training and advisory team, and a number of key staff positions to the MFO since it was established in 1982. At present, 26 NZDF members form part of the MFO Force of about 1700 personnel from 11 other countries.

“The role of the MFO is a vital one for the maintenance of peace in this area of the Middle East and being a part of it is hugely satisfying. The team can be proud of what they have achieved so far and are looking forward to the second half of the deployment,” Lieutenant Gilbert said.

At present, there are 42 Army engineers deployed on missions overseas, particularly in Iraq, the Sinai Peninsula and Antarctica.

“Kiwi sappers are trusted professionals in their trades and their skills are actively sought by both the NZDF and external partners,” Lieutenant Colonel Terry McDonald, Commanding Officer of 2 Engineer Regiment, said.

“They approach every task as an opportunity and continue to serve across the globe, representing themselves, the NZDF and wider New Zealand to the best of their ability.”
Army marksmen showcased their skills at rifle, pistol and machinegun shooting in the New Zealand Army Shooting Competition last month.

The preparations for the competition began the week before with personnel, vehicles and stores concentrating in Helwan camp and beginning a week of rehearsals. The team themselves had begun rehearsals earlier as training camps had been held by most units earlier in the year. All firers completed range familiarisation and zeroed all weapons before the competition began at Taylor Range, Manning Range had the machine guns pistol match followed by the Queen’s Medal pistol match, and Old Class Range had the machine gunners begin LSW Match 1. In preparation for the next day, the night shoot and section match draw was done during the Team Captains’ meeting.

The next day was the longest for all teams, as all ranges were busy with their respective range activities including the Weapon Training Simulator (WTS). Throughout the day and night the following matches were completed:

- Queen’s Medal Rifle Match
- Team Rifle Match 2
- Teams Rifle Match 2
- Night match held in the WTS

The next day the Section match was conducted on Old Class Range and the SART Range. The new layout of the SART Range proved to be a problem for some teams as only three teams shot down more than 80 percent of targets. While this had been a problem in the past, the new layout had been designed to be more challenging.

Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Scores</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>LCPL Caleb Amner, 16 Field Regiment</td>
<td>5/7 RNZIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>PTE Caleb Kahotea, PTE Lehi Ramage</td>
<td>1 RNZIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>LCPL B. Willis</td>
<td>2/1 RNZIR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The NZ Army Rifle Team Trophy
Awarded to any first time firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE Sam Ollivier

The Trentham Rosebowl Trophy
Awarded to the RNZAC firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
LCP M

The Pig Sticker
Awarded to the RNZAC firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE Travis Sherriff

The School of Infantry Trophy
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal, aged under 23
PTE B. Willis

The Army Cup
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
LCPL B

The Lewis Gun Trophy
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE Sam Ollivier

The Vickers Gun Trophy
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
LCPL M. Lupi

The Lewis Gun Trophy
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE Sam Ollivier

The Brook Trophy
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE Richard Osbaldition

The Trench Trophy
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE T. Beznec

The Log
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE T. Beznec

The Pig Sticker
Awarded to the RNZIR firer with the highest score in Queen’s Medal
PTE Travis Sherriff

NZASC 2017

Army marksmen showcased their skills at rifle, pistol and machinegun shooting in the New Zealand Army Shooting Competition last month.
The intention was to provide a deployable mobile platform and prime mover capability for personnel, weapons systems, containers, equipment, fuel and cargo across a wide variety of tri-service users in diverse climatic and topographical conditions across a wide spectrum of armed conflict. The MHOV fleet will complement other in-service mobility capabilities in support of the motorised, light infantry and composite Task Group across the spectrum of conflict. Mobility capabilities are critical enablers for Task Groups to maintain freedom of action and manoeuvre; the MHOV fleet provides NZDF with a tactical capability across the battle space.

With the previous fleet of vehicles being in service for over 30 years the change to a more modern type of vehicle brings with it a need to understand how it can be utilised within our current procedures and if there is need to alter these to suit how the vehicle is required to be operated.

Now that the initial phase of introduction is complete and the vehicles are being used for their intended purpose within NZDF units some common concerns have been raised by those who haven’t had the opportunity to regularly use the vehicles. Frequently asked questions about the MHOV fleet

Is the weight of the new vehicles restricting their use compared to the old fleet?

The New Zealand Transport Authority has a set standard for vehicle dimensions and mass to ensure there is a reasonable balance between road safety, productivity and managing New Zealand’s road infrastructure. The NZDF is not exempt from this legislation therefore we must ensure all vehicles we are operating comply. To put it in basic terms there is a weight limit a vehicle may operate at; if the weight of the vehicle once loaded exceeds this then we are required to gain an Over Weight Permit (OWP) before we can continue. The Mercedes Benz fleet had a much lower tare and gross weight compare to the MHOV and therefore almost never required OWP. You could load a Unimog to its limits and still be within the NZTA regulations. The introduction of the significantly heavier MHOV family of vehicles has meant that once a vehicle is loaded (sometimes to only 50% of its load capacity) it will be classed as overweight under the rules of NZTA. It is true that with the old fleet we could usually load our vehicle up to the correct weight and then start our task; now the operator needs to be aware of not only the vehicle load capability but once loaded, if the vehicle exceeds the NZTA limits.

If that is the case the NZDF has a system for operators to easily obtain an OWP for their vehicles. This is managed by Mr Charles George, the Land Transport Compliance Manager based in Linton. He works on compliance issues across the board but more importantly OWP issues with MHOV and is able to obtain OWPs for all NZ state, regional, and provincial roading networks.

Can the MHOV fleet operate on most roads in New Zealand?

The main State Highways within New Zealand are generally open for use by the MHOV fleet but what we do need to be aware of is accessibility once we start using secondary roads. Where once we could drive our vehicles wherever we had access, with an OWP they will usually come with restrictions. This may be in the form of not being able to drive on certain roads or more commonly bridges that, due to their structure, cannot take the weight of a heavy vehicle without the risk of damage. To counter this planning needs to be done to ensure the correct route is chosen and possibly an alternate route identified if circumstances change.

Planning is needed to ensure we have the correct size of load on the vehicle, if the vehicle is over the NZTA limit an OWP is obtained and the correct route must be followed. The OWP once issued will state what restrictions are in place in the area that we will be operating and what precautions are to be taken. For the sake of extra time spent on preparation, which has increased compared to the old fleet, the benefit of extra load capacity can only be seen as an advantage. For example the Unimog had a load capacity of 4 tonnes whereas its direct replacement, the MAN HX 60s, can carry a 6-tonne load.
Is the MHOV a less capable vehicle off road?

Although the MHOV range of vehicles does have less ground clearance and a shallower fording depth compared to the Unimog, it is a purpose-built military vehicle with increased load capacity and modern vehicle systems for operating on and off road.

Out of the Mercedes Benz fleet only the Unimog and 2228 Dump Truck had an off road capability. All variants of the MHOV are off road capable. While the 2228 could carry an 8 tonne load it was restricted to formed roads only as it was based on a modified civilian model. Its replacement, the HX 58 can carry a 9 tonne load off-road and the largest vehicle in the new fleet, the eight wheel drive HX 77, can take 15 tonnes.

The new vehicles also have multiple levels of traction and stability control to enable the vehicles to operate on terrain that would have challenged the Unimog, and the vehicle body is designed to protect the crew in the event of an accident.

Even with the increased weight and size of the vehicle, if operated using the vehicle systems in conjunction with correct off-road driving skills, the MHOV is a very safe and capable vehicle compared with those it has replaced.

Is the vehicle overly complicated and unable to be repaired quickly?

The cost of maintaining the Mercedes Benz fleet was becoming increasingly prohibitive, while its reliability decreased, as you would expect of a vehicle that has been in service for 30 plus years. The more modern operating systems in the MHOV fleet at times does require specialised equipment to identify and repair faults but the reliability of the vehicle in the environments that it operates has proved so far that it is far more efficient with minimal time spent off the road being repaired.

There is still the same faults and repairs you would expect of any vehicle in military use but the vehicle systems have the ability to display fault codes to the operator that can then be accessed and identified by maintenance support elements; this cuts down on the time the vehicle is out of service and is a far more efficient way of dealing with faults.

Is travelling on the back of a MHOV in the seating pods comfortable?

For troop movements seating pods are fitted to the MHOV. These come in 6 and 8 person modules depending on the configuration required for the task. Each seat within the pod comes with its own four point harness, roll over protection and a weapon holder.

The benefit of the new seating pods is the increased safety within the vehicle deck if not installed correctly and offered no roll over protection for the passengers.

Are licencing and familiarisation courses difficult to obtain?

To operate an MHOV the driver requires a Class 2 Licence for the HX 58 and Class 4 for the HX 58 and HX 77. In addition a Bridge Engineering Self Supervision (BESS) qualification is needed due to the times the vehicles are operating on over weight permits. Being BESS qualified allows the driver to identify potential weight related restrictions on route and then take the appropriate actions in accordance with NZTA regulations.

The problem some personnel are having is that as part of the application process for the BESS qualification NZTA conduct a Traffic History Check on the individual. If the applicant has a pattern of unsuitable driving behaviour then they will not be granted a BESS card therefore they will not be able to operate the MHOV.

Commanders need to be aware of this fact when nominating personnel for operator courses and individuals themselves need to be honest if they know they may have traffic infringements that could become a problem. Not everyone that holds the licence will automatically get on and then qualify for an MHOV driving permit.

MHOV courses are currently being conducted by Defence Driver Training School and some individual units that have specialised equipment. At this stage all courses are being held in the North Island which is restricting the number of personnel that can be trained and thereby making it difficult for some personnel to get on to a course. With the introduction of a new fleet and phasing out of the old there will be a transition period where there will be a backlog of those that need training. Commanders need to identify the personnel within their units that are priority for qualification and ensure those individuals have the appropriate licences and traffic history before nomination.

Once training areas and instructors become available within the South Island numbers of qualified personnel will increase.

Is the MHOV a suitable vehicle for the NZDF?

Unlike the previous fleet of vehicles the MHOV is a purpose built military vehicle. In addition to the increase in the vehicle’s load capacity and ability off road for all variants, the new vehicles can be fitted for communications, weapon systems and armour. Vehicles within the fleet also come with winches and cranes fitted which allow for self recovery and loading. The HX 77 model also has the ability to self load with flat racks for stores or vehicles and 20 foot ISO containers thereby reducing the number of vehicles and personnel required for any one task.

The vehicles are also compatible with other forces around the world allowing the NZDF to operate efficiently in a coalition if needed. The Australian Defence Force is currently introducing the same vehicle types and the British Army have been operating them for a number of years.

The increase in ability, reliability and safety for the operators with this modern fleet makes it a very suitable vehicle for the NZDF.

In conclusion with regard to the stated advantages of the MHOV fleet and its increased ability, as with any new piece of equipment the biggest change needs to be with those who operate it.

Once training areas and instructors become available within the South Island numbers of qualified personnel will increase.

### Comparison of Vehicle Specifications

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<td>Load</td>
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<td>Power</td>
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<tr>
<th>U1700L vs HX 60</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unimog 1700</strong></td>
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The new W.E. Platt Protected Weapon Station was evaluated during Evaluation Playtime 3 (EVAL PLAYTIME 3) recently in the Waiouru Military Training Area (WMTA).

EVAL PLAYTIME 3 carried on from previous Capability Branch-led evaluations and focused on evaluating the weapon station as part of the overall Medium/Heavy Operational Vehicle (MHOV) Project, as well as providing an opportunity for RNZALR force elements to evaluate experimental Network Enabled Command/Control systems.

The exercise was the first time many of the new combat drivers had operated the new Protected Weapon Station while firing live rounds. The full Weapon Station weighs approximately 600 kgs and can only be fitted to an MHOV when the applique armour is also fitted. This combination allows the MHOV to operate in a higher threat environment than the old Unimog and 2228 could, and is able to protect the MHOV crew from calibres as high as 7.62mm.

Under the control of the 1(NZ) Brigade Training Warrant Officer (WO1 Hone Dalton), soldiers from 2 and 3 CSS Battalions spent a week learning how to operate the MAG 58 Machine Gun while in a convoy of up to eight trucks.

The Business Change Manager of the Transport Administrative Grouping, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan George said: “Learning to range and shoot on the move was a steep learning curve for most of these soldiers, but it is a far more realistic type of training and the type of activity that they are more likely to have to undertake in the course of their duties as combat drivers.”

He added that the MHOV was a capability which allowed the Army’s Combat Service Support forces to modernise the way they conducted logistic support.

“It is a crewed vehicle which provides protection to our soldiers, has the ability to provide self protection through its own weapon system, and in the future will have the ability to better conduct command and control (C2) in a network-enabled environment.”

LTCOL George’s last point pertains to the experimental Network Enabled Army (NEA) C2 systems which were also trialled on EVAL PLAYTIME 3. The experimental C2 systems provided new radios, as well as a battle management system which allowed commanders on EVAL PLAYTIME 3 to give
their orders via radio and a tablet system. This in turn allowed MHOV crews the ability to see key features in real time on their maps and respond to changes en-route by voice and graphical representations.

The culmination of EVAL PLAYTIME 3 was a level four live firing Battle Handling Exercise (BHE) utilising eight MHOVs, simulating the action required when being ambushed on the move. The BHE which was in front of about 40 guests (including the Chief of Army and Sergeant Major of the Army), illustrated the new range of skills required from the Combat Driver trade, predominantly around the C2 requirements, basic tactical vehicle employment, as well as weapon operation. These are skills which will become important across all Army trades as it continues to modernise and acquire a new range of protected mobility platforms in the future.
ANZAC BRIDGE

Soldiers from 10 Tpt Coy helped clear the build up of sediment around the arches of the Anzac Bridge at Kaiparoro as part of their ongoing partnership with the Friends of the Anzac Bridge.

This working relationship was initiated in 2006 by the late Major Mac McColl and each year 10 Tpt provide a work party to maintain the area around and on the bridge, as well as attend the Anzac Day Service.

After the work was finished the Friends of the Anzac Bridge were hosted by 10 Tpt Coy in Linton Camp. The visit included a unit brief by Major Mickayla Kerr and a static display of 10 Tpt Coy vehicles and equipment, including MHQ and NEA.

The friends of the Anzac Bridge includes descendants of those who died in WWI and WWII and whose names are on the bridge, as well as locals from Kaiparoro and Masterton.

This year the Anzac service will focus on Belgium and will pay special mention to Rifleman Stephen Morgan and Private Charles Harvey who died in Belgium in 1917. The service begins at 1400hrs.

FINAL FAREWELL FOR LONG SERVING SOLDIER

By Charlene Smart, Senior Communications Advisor (South), Defence Public Affairs

With a military career spanning 40 years Roland Alfred Manning, known as Roley to his friends, had his final farewell in January 2017 at the age of 87.

Roley enlisted in the New Zealand Army on 11 April 1949. In 1953 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two, at the time this was the youngest every person to be promoted to this rank, he was only 21 years old. He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in 1965. During this time he was predominately employed as an instructor.

In January 1980 he commissioned as a Lieutenant and was employed as the Army Works Officer for the South Island till his release. During this time he rose to the rank of Major. In his last nine years in the service he was responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of all Army buildings, facilities and land in the South Island.

Roley played a significant part in evolving small arm skills in the Army. He was appointed Senior Weapons Instructor of the New Zealand Battalion in Singapore – this was considered the premier Instructor appointment in the NZ Army.

Another significant appointment in his military career was his involvement with the Fiji Infantry Battalion. For his work with the Fijians during 1953-1954 he was awarded the Mention in Dispatches (MID) decoration which is awarded for gallant or meritorious action in face of the enemy.

Roley was also a rugby man at heart, coaching from the late 1950’s at both the regional and Army level. He also coached the Christchurch High School Old Boys senior team that won the Club championship in 1979.

In the testimonial dated 26 June 1989, Roley’s last day in the Army, the then Colonel (COL) Bob Upton, Commander 3 Task Force, wrote he always had a “pleasant disposition, caring attitude, sense of humour and genuine concern for people. His ability to anticipate problems and produce viable options, accord priorities and a willingness to co-operate has highlighted his good performance as a Staff Officer”.

COL Upton (retired) said it was an honour to thank and farewell Roley when he left the military after such a stellar career.

“He could be an absolute charmer and he was a lot smarter than many have given him credit for. Pragmatic, caring, industrious and honest – what more do I need to say. It was a privilege to have served with Roley and from my perspective more importantly to call him a friend. “If someone said it could not be done, Roley, legally or illegally, would find a way to achieve it. He would often come to my office and say – “Sir, I am going to tell you what I am about to do and then you are to forget this conversation ever occurred”.

“In other words, as a good officer he always kept me informed but he took full responsibility for his own actions,” said COL Upton.

During his 40 years in the New Zealand Army Roley received the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (military), Mention in Dispatches, New Zealand Operational Service Medal, General Service Medal (1918–62) with clasp “Malaya”, New Zealand General Service Medal (Warlike) with clasp “Malaya 1960–64”, Army Long Service & Good Conduct Medal & clasp, New Zealand Defence Medal with clasp “Regular” and Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. He will be missed.
Twenty-three female Afghan officer cadets recently completed a 12-month training programme that New Zealand Defence Force mentors help provide at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA).

The female graduates were among the 340 cadets who marched out on 9 March and made up the largest female graduate class since the ANAOA opened its doors in October 2013.

“Today’s largest ever female graduate class demonstrates the progress the Afghan security forces are making in allowing women to help defend their country,” General Gordon Messenger, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff of the United Kingdom (UK), told the graduates. “Men need to understand the amount of value they bring to the future. They make it a far more professional and effective army,” General Messenger said.

He also urged the new officers to remain patriotic and dedicated. “The more dangerous things become, the more important your leadership will be. You will experience difficult times when others look up to you for guidance.”

“The completion of the ANAOA’s 8th commissioning course in March coincided with the end of the nine-month deployment of Lieutenant Colonel Julian Sewell, the NZDF Senior National Officer, Captain Samantha Scott and Staff Sergeant Steve Burt. All three, together with Staff Sergeant Ronan Tua and Staff Sergeant Shaun Cassidy, helped mentor the ANAOA cadets.

The NZDF has 10 officers and senior non-commissioned officers deployed to support the UK-led mentoring mission to the ANAOA. Modelled on The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom, the ANAOA trains officer cadets on both conventional warfighting skills and counter-insurgency. The training programme comprises 10 field exercises, English language, tactics, war studies, signals and Information Communications Technology, and communication skills.

“In July, the 3 Kandak (or battalion) is scheduled to complete the ANAOA’s 9th commissioning course. The mentors for this Kandak include Lieutenant Colonel Bevan Elmiger, the NZDF Senior National Officer, Captain Ruth Tautari and Staff Sergeant Dave Bertram. Since 2003, the NZDF has deployed a number of contingents to Afghanistan as part of the international community’s contribution to the country’s security and development.”

The ANAOA, which is situated at Qargha just outside Kabul, forms part of the NATO’s Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces and institutions.

Although New Zealand’s main security contribution to Afghanistan – the Bamyan Provincial Reconstruction Team – came to an end in April 2013, the NZDF has continued to deploy 10 mentors and support staff to the ANAOA. NZDF members have helped mentor more than 2000 officer cadets in the past three and a half years.

“Never underestimate the value of teamwork; strive to create a team with a sense of purpose. The best quality that you have is that you are the future of this nation.”

“TODAY’S LARGEST EVER FEMALE GRADUATE CLASS DEMONSTRATES THE PROGRESS THE AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES ARE MAKING IN ALLOWING WOMEN TO HELP DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY”

– General Gordon Messenger, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff of the United Kingdom
They are caught in a vicious cycle of violence and poverty but the South Sudanese remain resilient and carry on.

The people of South Sudan are the most amazingly proud and resilient folk, according to Lieutenant Colonel Esther Harrop, who completed her six-month tenure as the New Zealand Defence Force’s (NZDF) Senior National Officer in South Sudan at the end of March.

“They have met some wonderfully brave people. Despite their extreme poverty and very real fear of death, they still have hope.”

As an example, she cites the women living in a village close to the United Nations (UN) House compound in the South Sudanese capital of Juba whom she visits occasionally.

“These women work so hard to get food to feed their children. They spend their days gathering firewood to sell or make into charcoal, looking after sick children and trying to keep what is left of their families safe. Their husbands are either dead or barely making both ends meet,” Lieutenant Colonel Harrop said.

The three-year civil war has disrupted the lives of hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese, who are predominantly farmers, and has caused what the UN describes as “an escalating catastrophe”.

The NZDF’s two Military Liaison Officers (MLOs) – Major Keith Bradley, who was based in Malakal in the north, and Major Dave Leonard, who was in Yambio in the south – witnessed some of the intense fighting between government forces and the rebels as well as the flight of tens of thousands of people trying to escape the hostilities.

“It sounds like a cliché but we really do punch above our weight. The new UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, David Shearer, has said that our Kiwi MLOs are making a huge difference to the success of the mission. We get on with people and get things done,” LTCOL Harrop said.

Whilst the onset of the wet season in May is expected to herald a respite from the fighting, famine and a collapsing economy have left about 7 million people – nearly two-thirds of South Sudan’s population – in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. There are 1.9 million internally displaced people in the country.

In February, the UN declared famine in parts of Unity State in the northern-central part of South Sudan, which has seen some of the fiercest fighting, and warned that people are already dying from hunger.

“I work with humanitarian colleagues who deliver aid to some of these areas and the stories they tell aren’t pleasant,” said LTCOL Harrop, who has been extended for a few months to work as Mr Shearer’s Military Assistant.

Conditions in Protection of Civilian (POC) sites, which can accommodate up to 120,000 internally displaced people, are “pretty bleak”. UN agencies led by the Unicef have set up makeshift classrooms, recognising that educating the next generation of South Sudanese is key to the future of the world’s youngest nation.

At the POC sites, families share a dwelling the size of a single garage and covered with either a plastic or canvas roof, according to LTCOL Esther Harrop.

“Kids play by the drains and the barbed wire fence, and occasionally have a soccer ball. They practically have nothing but still manage to share a laugh and a smile.”

Despite the vicious cycle that has trapped South Sudan, LTCOL Harrop said she remains hopeful of the East African country’s future.

“There is a lot of good work going on here and we in the NZDF contribute to that.”
In 2016, the Soldier of the Year (SOTY) Award was introduced to celebrate outstanding individual achievement and to encourage all soldiers to strive to embody the NZ Army ethos and values. Units from across Army submitted nominations, a number of which were based on soldiers who had been recognised in some form within their respective Units. Congratulations to LCPL Amber-Lee Nui on being awarded the inaugural New Zealand Army SOTY. It is now time to share why such an award is so prestigious and should be held in such high regard in our organisation, within the general public of New Zealand and across wider International Armed Forces.

The award recognises a modern soldier who displays the characteristics of the New Zealand Warrior, has had irreproachable conduct throughout their service, demonstrates solid performance both in the All Arms and trade skills domain, and exemplifies the highest standards of the Army ethos and values.

How do we determine the award recipient and how do we measure their success in contrast to those beside them? We can breakdown and define the Army ethos and values and the characteristics of a New Zealand warrior:

- Have they served New Zealand loyally and honourably?
- Do they demonstrate the core values of Courage (both physical and moral), Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity?
- Do they display a can-do attitude?
- Can they work independently?
- Do they use their initiative?
- Can they lead self?
- Do they display the attributes of leadership amongst peers?
- Do they display tenacity?
- Are they conscientious and display a strong work ethic?
- Do they have the endurance to keep going when the going gets tough?
- Can they adapt to a changing environment?
- Do they display care, empathy and compassion when the situation dictates?
- Do they seek to mentor, coach and help other soldiers around them?
- What do they do that is extra, over and above the norm?

A soldier who exemplifies the standards above creates an environment where excellence is achieved. Our soldiers look to work in a positive environment where role models will mentor and coach them, and where in turn they can mentor and coach those around them.

Recognising our people

Recognition is important not only for the SOTY but everyday in our units. It keeps the competitive spirit alive within units and across Army. Seeing the SOTY receive a commendation, wear distinguishable badges, patches and have their trophy on display in their Unit serves as a challenge for other soldiers to strive for. Let’s take a look at what the SOTY receives:

- The recipient's details are added to the SOTY honours board which lives in the office of SMA.
- The SOTY trophy is displayed for 12 months in the recipient's Unit. The recipient receives a miniature version to keep.
- A CA’s commendation and citation.
- A CA’s coin/box and SMA Manaia.
- NZ Army Insignia to be worn on all forms of dress for the year.
- Internal and external media training and coverage.
- The recipient is the NZ Army nomination for the NZDF person of the year.
- A sponsored learning package.
- A tour of duty to an appropriate overseas event or visit.
- Sponsored attendance at designated events as guest of CA/SMA.

While you could say the winner takes it all, that's not the case. The remaining finalists receive the CA’s coin/box and an SMA coin. They are also considered to accompany the CA/SMA to activities both at home and abroad.

I challenge all our soldiers to aspire to be the best they can be. For our Units across Army, it’s a tough selection process, the talent we have is so incredibly exciting and diverse. The challenge that units face is to determine what it is that your soldier has achieved or displayed that will give them the competitive edge.

To our soldiers, be all that you can be. To our units, look out for those soldiers who are stepping up at work and after hours. SOTY 2017 is underway. ‘Standing on the shoulder of giants’ – now is your time.
The New Zealand Tunnelling Company built a series of tunnels during World War 1 under the French city of Arras. Military historian Dr Chris Pugsley has explored the chalk caverns where tough Kiwi miners created a shelter for 30,000 British troops and fought a relentless underground war against the Germans.

I made my way down a brick-lined staircase beneath the city of Arras in northern France. Eight steps down was a vast, cathedral like chamber flanked by chalk columns. A name scratched in the chalk pillar next to the entrance caught my eye — “Ted Jones NZET.” I let Ted Jones of the New Zealand Engineers and a member of the New Zealand Tunnelling Company welcome me to this piece of New Zealand that has lain undisturbed under Arras for the last 80 years.

The tunnelling company, specially recruited from the mining districts of New Zealand, arrived in France in March 1916 to fight an underground war beneath the trenches of the Western Front. From 1916 to 1918 the cellars, sewers and medieval quarries of Arras became the tunnellers’ home. Like moles, they matched themselves against the German tunnellers to be first to dig beneath each others’ trench or tunnel, lay explosive and detonate it. It was a lonely, terrifying subterranean war where finishing second meant death by carbon monoxide poisoning or from being buried under hundreds of tonnes of collapsing tunnel.

New Zealanders like Ted Jones were miners in uniform with only a veneer of military training. They came to France using techniques brought from New Zealand. Not for them the narrow shafts employed by British, French and German miners who dug stooped on their knees or lying down. The New Zealanders dug standing so they could swing their pics, relying on speed to compensate for the extra chalk they had to dig out. From March 1916 the Kiwi tunnellers fought an underground war in the front lines, earning a reputation for speed and efficiency. Because of this they were chosen for one of the largest mining projects of its type in World War 1.

Arras itself was built from chalk mined from underground quarries that by 1916 lay forgotten beneath the city and its suburbs. In many cases there were vast caverns reaching 15-20 metres to their ceilings, supported by chalk columns deliberately left by the 16th and 17th Century quarries to support the roof. It was these caves or “boves” that the New Zealand tunnellers discovered along the axes of the Arras-Cambrai and Arras-Baupaume road which ran through the city towards the German front-line through the suburbs of Ronville and St Saveur.

**Underground city**

A plan was devised by the British High Command to link these underground quarries with tunnels and turn them into a vast underground city where thousands of men could hide ready for the planned British offensive of April 1917. This became the task of the New Zealand tunnellers, and in four months they linked these individual caverns with tunnels, using the tunnel spoil to raise the floors in each of the caverns until the scarce timber available could be used to prop up and...
secure the chalk ceilings. The New Zealanders coordinated and developed the two tunnel systems running under each road, the one under St Saviour being named after British cities, while the one under Ronville became a miniature New Zealand.

Entering the caves was the beginning of one of the most fascinating weeks of my life. I was standing in the “Wellington” cavern which could accommodate 4000 men. Each cave the New Zealanders discovered was named after a New Zealand town – Russell, Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington, Nelson, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin, and finally, just before the German front line, Bluff. Wellington is a cathedral: large aisles, high ceilings, with monk cells off it for battalion headquarters and medical rooms. By contrast Auckland has low, flat ceilings with piles of chalk debris held back by drystone chalk walls. In Auckland you can understand why the tunnellers insisted on timbering each cavern when you look up at the fissures criss-crossing the ceiling. New Plymouth is the same, and as water dripped from the fractured roof I suddenly felt closed in. It was the only cavern I was eager to leave. In each the chalk was pockmarked with candle niches and blackened by candle smoke. You can see the remains of the candles where men sat on their greatcoats, wrote letters, or carved into the walls are pockmarked with candle niches and blackened by candle smoke. You can see the remains of the candles where men sat on their greatcoats, wrote letters, or carved into the chalk. Those men have gone long ago but their names and dreams remain.

The connecting tunnels were routes linking the entire system with a light railway. Soldiers could climb down into the sewers below the Grand Place in the centre of Arras, get on the light railway and be taken to their billets underground or all the way to Bluff. Just before the German lines. The tunnels’ side are marked with rusting iron ties for electric wiring and field telephones, and the broken porcelain conductors can still be seen.

The 400 strong tunnelling company was assisted by labour parties send from the New Zealand division. Prominent among those were the Maori and Pacific Islanders of the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion. New Zealand soldiers of the infantry battalion also laboured here.

**Arras offensive**

The Germans never learned of this underground city and more than 30,000 men stayed here — 15,000 moving through the tunnels on 9 April 1917, the day the Arras offensive was launched. For the first week all was success, the Canadian Corps gained Vimy Ridge, but then the British advance bogged down and the bloody battle of attrition that was trench warfare on the western Front resumed.

Forty-one New Zealand tunnellers lost their lives at Arras and 151 were wounded, almost all in the underground battles around the city between 1916 and 1918. By infantry standards these figures are not high, but one has to imagine men being asphyxiated, lying trapped and alone under tonnes of rubble from German counter-mining, or —ironically— being killed by a chance bullet or shell while in their billets above ground.

In 1918 the New Zealand tunnellers stripped their underground city of lighting and railways and closed them off. Wellington, Blenheim and Nelson were used as air-raid shelters from 1943 to 1944 while the Allies bombed the Arras railway yards above.

- This story is extracted from one that first appeared in New Zealand Defence Quarterly in 1997.
The Skill at Arms competition, hotly contested by all units from 1 (NZ) Brigade, was won by 1 RNZIR. About 130 soldiers, including team managers and support personnel, took part in the event. Skill at Arms traditionally signifies the end of the collective training period, and gives the Commander 1 (NZ) Brigade an idea of the standard of individual skills within the Brigade. Units put their best teams forward, and a variety of skills are tested. Second place went to 2CSSB, and third, to QAMR.
Army driver Private Peter Brown is planning to trek from Kathmandu to Everest Base Camp and back to raise money for the New Zealand Cancer Society. PTE Brown says he was inspired by the work of Cancer Society and after he lost a few family members and friends. "Now I want to make a change and support others. He is training most weekends by climbing mountains throughout New Zealand, and posting videos of his efforts on his Facebook page, "Peter’s Journey To Everest." He also wants to draw attention to the work the Cancer Society does for people with cancer, and their families.

"Please help me help them by giving whatever you can using the ‘Give Now’ button. The more people that know about Cancer Society NZ, the greater their impact, so please also spread the word by sharing my page with your friends and family." He hopes to raise $40,000.
KIWI TRAINING HELPS PREPARE AFGHAN TROOPS

The New Zealand-trained officer cadets of 3 Kandak (Battalion) of the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) deployed on Exercise Blook Assault/Afghan Honour recently, to be tested in command of an Infantry Blook (Platoon) in both offensive and defensive operations in urban and open country environments.

The cadets had entered the second term of a three term course, and having progressed past the basic soldiering phase of Term 1, were now being trained to command a platoon in combat against the Taliban. The exercise took place at Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC) on the outskirts of Kabul City, Afghanistan.

A group of 10 officers and SNCOs from the UK, Australia, and New Zealand travelled to KMTC, escorted by a Platoon of Royal Irish Rangers mounted in Foxhound Protected Mobility Vehicles. These troops are based at Qargha Camp in Kabul as part of a multinational team responsible for mentoring the Afghan National Army (ANA) instructors at ANAOA. This is achieved through working closely with the ANA and mentoring them over the year long course. The 3 Kandak mentors comprise a NZ Lieutenant Colonel, a UK Major, a Scotsman as RSM and four pairs of SNCOs and Captains from the UK, Australia and NZ. Each Captain/SNCO pair have three ANA junior officers and three Sergeants as mentees. The Major has three ANA Captains while the RSM and CO work one on one with their ANA counterparts.

Mentoring the ANA can be a real challenge that takes time to get used to. The cultural and institutional differences between the ANA and the coalition nations are many and no one approach suits every situation. The most important first step is to establish a good rapport with the mentee so that they respect you enough to listen and take your advice on board. All the good ideas and suggestions in the world have no effect if your mentee doesn’t want to give you the time of day. Once that rapport is established the mentors should then focus on a specific area in which to make a difference and accept that improvement may be very small at first. You can’t change the world in one day.

On arrival at KMTC the mentors moved into nearby Camp Scorpion, a US camp approximately five mins drive from KMTC itself. At Camp Scorpion the US provide security, dining and ablution facilities with the camp proving to be an ideal forward base from which to operate from. While the US provide security at Camp Scorpion, the Royal Irish are tasked with Force Protection (FP) in the Training Area. Their contribution is vital as it allows the mentors to concentrate on their role knowing that security is being taken care of by the FP.

The exercise plan was to conduct a round robin training circuit in which the three Tolays (Companies) would conduct three different activities in one-day blocks. The three stands consisted of open country operations, a patrolling circuit, and an urban combat circuit. The urban training area was a mock village of around 10 walled compounds spread over about a squared off area. The facility allowed up to Tolay-sized attacks from numerous directions and could pose a variety of tactical problems for the cadets in command.

During the first day of each rotation, two hours was allocated to the mentors to take the ANA instructors through instructor development training. The mentors at the urban stand took them through urban combat techniques including breaching and room clearance.

Once the cadets arrived on site they began battle prep and were assigned command appointments. They then began attacks on the compounds. After a lot of smoke and heavy weights of fire from the squad machine guns, the compounds were taken and the reorganisation began. Some of the tactics and fire manoeuvre were less than conventional, but in the end the compounds were cleared and the enemy destroyed. After the mentors debriefed the instructors the cadets reset in preparation for further urban assaults.

On the last day of the rotation the cadets conducted a Tolay level attack on the village which was observed by the Commandant of the Academy. This was the grand finale for the exercise and was rehearsed, in accordance with custom several times before H-hour to ensure a good demonstration for the Commandant. After the attack was complete the Commandant addressed the cadets and congratulated them on a good activity.

Being in KMTC ensured that the instructors had more scope to train and coach the cadets for a longer, more consistent period. This provided the mentors more opportunities to advise and influence the instructors, moving them towards a self-sustainable position in the future.
The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 came into effect on 4 April 2016. It has now been in force for a year, therefore now is a good time to review our progress in line with the new requirements. At the unit level you should have seen little change. We are still doing the activities that we have always done; field training, range practices, skill at arms competitions, physical training, and live field firing to name a few.

However what has changed is the requirement to apply more rigour in our assessments of the risks involved with our activities during the planning phase. There are two parts to this assessment. Firstly we have to identify the potential consequences or impact of something going wrong during an activity and secondly, analyse the likelihood or probability of that consequence actually occurring (including using past events i.e whether this consequence has ever happened before and, if so, how often?) we can provide another perspective on the activity. The reality is that provided we follow our robust training standards, procedures and established practices the chances of being injured whilst performing your military duties remains small. You are more likely to be injured during PT and sport than to suffer an injury falling from the 12 foot wall or wounded during live field firing (yes that happens but not often)!

The message from Work Safe New Zealand is that, ‘those who create the risk also manage the risk’. We already do this. We have very good training; we assess the risks involved; we have robust controls, processes and practices; and we have first class people. When we put them all together we can confidently ask our people to do extraordinary things reassured that there will be robust controls in place to protect them from the identified risks. As individuals we all need to play our part by following the rules, guidelines and our training, and speaking up when our usual high standards may be breached.

In mid 2016 Army General Staff sponsored an external consultant to update Unit Activity Based risk registers. This was an opportunity to delve into the risks you face everyday in the conduct of your activities and to document the controls we currently have in place. This process will continue with the Army Health and Safety team working with the remaining units to complete the project by the end of 2017. NZDF is currently reviewing Defence Force Orders 81 – Risk Management (DFO 81). Once that is complete and the revised orders published, Army General Staff will assess the need for Army to have its own risk management policy including any integrated training to ensure everyone from recruits and officer cadets upwards are taught the principles of risk management and how they apply at the various levels of command. Army health and safety will include any DFO 81 amendments into DFO (A) Vol 2 – Army Health and Safety to ensure consistency of messages and terminology. It is important to note that DFO 81 looks at risk from a whole of NZDF perspective across a variety of risks while DFO (A) Vol 2 is only concerned about the health and safety of people.

The new legislation requires every one of us to manage risk to the extent of our ability to influence the risk and the extent of our ability to control the risk. To assist us with this responsibility, in Army News issue 475, August 2016, the Directorate of Safety introduced the acronym S.A.F.E. as an aid:

- **See** what could possibly cause harm?
- **Assess** how likely and how bad would the harm be?
- **Fix** how can you eliminate the harm, and if it can’t be stopped how can you minimise the likelihood or impact of the harm?
- **Evaluate** are the controls still working?

By applying SAFE we will effectively manage the risk in whatever activity we do, no matter where we do it, and will stay safe so we can go home to our families at the end of the day. They will thank you for that.
The Invictus Games is about strength, courage, comradeship, facing challenges and being the best you can be, no matter what you have been through. In fact there are many more words that can be used to describe the power that is the Invictus Games.

Following a number of selection camps over the past six months the 2017 Invictus Games team has been named. It compromises 25 strong individuals who optimise what it is to be a sailor, soldier and airmen in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), both currently serving and veterans. Not to mention the wider training squad this consists of close to 40 individuals, all very inspiring people.

The Invictus Games will take place in Toronto, Canada this year from 23–30 September, the largest and longest Games yet. It will comprise 600 wounded, injured and ill active duty and veteran men and woman from around the world. In total 16 nations will compete in 12 adaptive sporting events.

NZDF Team Captain Jason Pore (ex-Army and NZSAS) said the Invictus Games is a place where everyone can be equal and where everyone shares common ground.

“Adapted sport offers the opportunity to achieve success in a very short time period, to use this success to build self-confidence and focus on possibilities instead of dwelling on what can no longer be,” he said.

Pore said he is very proud to be the team captain and hopes to develop a strong sense of purpose within the team this year.

“The mana I feel at being chosen to lead this team is immense. We are all warriors, brave warriors and have come together to celebrate our strength and resilience, and to remind ourselves and the world that we will not be forgotten,” said Pore.

Sport in the NZDF promotes teamwork, excellence, fitness and well-being – and it can help in the recovery of those who have been injured, wounded or been unwell as part of their service to our country.

Royal New Zealand Air Force Corporal (CPL) Megan Rowe said there are no words to describe how she feels about being a part of the NZDF Invictus Games team.

“Nothing I can say will ever accurately portray what it feels like to be a member of this team. Being part of this team has given me the greatest sense of belonging I have ever felt,” said CPL Rowe.

Royal New Zealand Navy Lieutenant (LT) Dan Crawford said to him the Invictus Games is about showing that no matter what you can still achieve your goals.

“I see competing in the Invictus Games as a way of proving that there shouldn’t be any restriction on somebody just because they have a medical diagnosis.

“The only change to my health is that it is now a known condition opposed to the unknown, and the only impact on my health is a great resilience and determination to succeed,” said LT Crawford.

The team is indebted to their families whose ongoing support has not only helped in their recovery, but allowed them to continue to work as valued colleagues who actively contribute to our Defence Force, and to those people we serve.

Pore said he “strongly believes that the road to recovery is within the biggest support group – whanau”. The team could not participate without the generous support of so many, in particular that of our key sponsors – Auckland RSA, Christchurch Memorial RSA, Fulton Hogan, BLK, OffLimits Trust and the Fallen Heroes Trust.

The team’s journey can be followed on facebook.com/InvictusGamesNZ and Instagram.com/NZDFInvictusTeam.
MAJOR BRETT GRIEVE

Army’s 2016 Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year

By Judith Martin

Major Brett Grieve admits he something of a speed freak when he hops on his racing cycle.

It stands him in good stead however; the Burnham-based RNZALR officer has been named the Army’s 2016 Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year. He also won the Chief of Army Supreme Sports Award.

“Fatigue is something competitive cyclists have to manage really closely,” says Major Grieve. “To reach optimal fitness we need a high volume of training, and it is easy to go too hard and end up sick or simply mentally fatigued. Rest, nutrition, and recovery are vital parts of any training programme.”

The vulnerability of cyclists as they share the road with much bigger vehicles means crashes are the other big issue. Major Grieve is off his bike right now following a recent crash in Dunedin. He has lost quite a bit of skin, so it’s a painful few weeks waiting for the nerve endings to be covered with new skin. “Thankfully this is relatively rare, and only the third time I have had road rash to this extent.”

Cycling has been growing in popularity in the Army and across NZ as people see it as a great way to be fit and healthy. In the Army there is a big social component with group rides being held regularly in every city, in addition to various races.

Major Grieve says the growth of Army Cycling specifically is due to the work of his colleagues LTCOL Mike Beale, MAJ Steve Challies, COL Craig Stewart, MAJ Rob Te Moana and MAJ Jim Pope, who launched the “unofficial” Army Inter-Regional competitions which led to the code being recognised in 2012.

“At the inter-regional competitions we have a lot of fun. It’s pretty social, but we give it 100% when on the bike, so it’s got that mix that HQ Army Sport like to see. Our members never struggle on their RFLs or CFTs either!”

In the Army Sports Awards held last month Warrant Officer Class Two Shane Porter received the Army Sports Official of the Year Award, and the award of Young Sportsperson of the Year went to Private Sammy McIntosh.

Captain Tane North is the winner of the Individual Sportsperson of the Year award. The Army Men’s Hockey Team won the Team of the Year award. Chaplain Ra Koia, softball player par excellence, was presented with a New Zealand Army Colour. Army News will feature profiles on the winners throughout the next few months.

While the speed-induced adrenaline rush in cycling is hard to pass up, there are definite challenges in the sport, and they are presented not just by fellow competitors.

“Fatigue is something competitive cyclists have to manage really closely,” says Major Grieve. “To reach optimal fitness we need a high volume of training, and it is easy to go too hard and end up sick or simply mentally fatigued. Rest, nutrition, and recovery are vital parts of any training programme.”

He owns two bikes: a road racer and time trial (TT) bike.

“The TT bike (Giant Trinity) is built for aerodynamics, and at the recent Army Inter-Regional competition I was able to ride at 44kph for 8km by staying low and stable and pushing just below my threshold power. The TT bike is pretty uncomfortable to ride and requires quite a bit of practice before the low position can be held for a whole trial. It is worth it though, as the reduced frontal area means much higher speeds can be attained for no additional power.

The TT bike, despite its fancy aerodynamic looks, is not his favourite. “But it is fast and I like to win, so it’s in the shed!” His favourite bike is the road racer (Giant Propel) which is a great balance of aerodynamics, lightness, power transfer, comfort and handling. It is the perfect bike for a break away or attacking on a downhill or a fast peloton sprint finish.”
Army softballers proved their Defence domination when both the men's and women's team were undefeated in the recent Inter-Services tournament.

The icing on the cake was that they also picked up the NZDF shields played for between all three Services and an invitation team (Police). This was a first for the men's team which broke the Police stranglehold on that particular shield in recent years.

Prior to the tournament both teams assembled at Trentham Camp, for a pre-tournament training camp. Army Softball Patron Winnie Shanley was on hand to offer encouragement and to present the red jersey to each team member. At the conclusion of the training camp both teams agreed the camp was invaluable, honing the players' skills for a week of tough softball to come. "Keep it simple" and build from there was the call across the Army teams.

Army Sport had recently purchased a pitching machine which both teams made the best use of through the weekend to hone and improve both batting and fielding skills. The men's team made use of its highest speed setting and it certainly threw some heat down to help fine tune each batter's eyes before facing the formidable pitching from Air Force ace CPL Greg Anderson (a Samoan International) and Police ace Phil Bayne (a Canterbury provincial rep in his day).

Former NZ Black Sox player MAJ Clayton Willocks' advice was to "Execute the basics well and the result will take care of itself. When fielding, collect the ground balls, catch the fly balls, and make a nice throw. When batting, swing at strikes. The team that does this the best will win!" This advice certainly paid dividends during the tournament.

The tournament began with all teams converging on diamond one for a moment's silence to remember local umpire “Toyko Joe” Okada. Tokyo Joe started his affiliation with Defence and the Inter-Services tournament back in 1997. Chaplain Raharuhi Koia was on hand to say a prayer and offer a fitting tribute to Tokyo Joe.

Assistant Police Commissioner Mike Rusbatch then officially opened the tournament and with 50-year Police veteran Mr Stan Hooper throwing the first pitch of the game, a tradition usually associated with the World Series finals in Major League Baseball. Stan was a member of the first Police team back in 1967. For the record, his pitch just touched home plate, but was considered to be "a strike".

Game One began with Army men in their new jerseys facing the defending champions Police. Army's bats were ready right from the start scoring a run in the first inning to set the tone. Rookie Army pitcher Mr Caleb White-Hodge kept the powerful Police batters quiet and for the first time, scoreless. Caleb's batters supported him in the best possible way by piling on the runs to cause a devastating 14–0 whitewash. In game two, Army's bats were again too hot to handle when they unceremoniously destroyed the Navy 28–4.

The Army women's team was dealt a pre-game blow with talented player LCPL Cindy Ries-Rupapera sustaining a tournament-ending knee injury and having to be taken to the camp medical facility by SMA WO1 Titch Mortiboy (who just happened to be on hand to help). Although gutted about the loss of their teammate, the team stuck to their guns, spurred on by ace pitcher and captain Mrs Jenni Mumm to beat the Police 12–1 in the fourth innings with a solid batting effort backed up by some great fielding. The fielding was the standout effort from the women's second game of the day, beating Navy in the fourth innings 10–0 to end day one on a promising note.

Day Two followed in a similar vein with both Army teams keeping the pressure on their opposition to again record a perfectly flawless series of winning results with the women having a double header against their main competition Air Force, beating them in the top of the fifth innings 9–0 in the first game of the day. They had to fight back from being 2–0 down in the third innings of the second game to win 5–2 after the seventh innings had been completed.

CAPT Grant McCarroll, involved as a player for his 30th year, told his team mates: “Remember who you are playing for and those who are back at the units still working while we (we) get the opportunity to represent the NZ Army at this tournament. It’s 50 Years of Police Softball – Let’s crash their party with results on the diamond. Sport is all about full-
stops, so put a full stop in that result and get ready for what is next. Even though you may be playing the same team, no two games of sport are ever the same”.

Both Army teams were privileged to have Army’s senior leaders in attendance in their dugouts throughout the tournament with WO Defence, CA and SMA all present at most stages during the tournament. Both Army teams were very appreciative of Army senior leadership along with all supporters who turned up to cheer on the red machine.

The final day of a double round robin tournament played a key role. Teams can win day one and two, but fall short on the final day when double points are on offer, so the challenge for the coaches and senior team members was to keep the players focused and maintain momentum so as to seal the deal for the Army contingent.

The men’s team also had the emotional aspect to deal with in that this day would be the last game at an Inter-Services tournament for retiring team coach and stalwart Chaplain Ra Koia. Team captain SSGT Andrew Chambers was determined to send Ra AKA “Dre” off in style with a clean sweep of wins.

The women started the final day with another stellar batting effort coming away with an 18–4 win over Navy and finished the tournament with an 11-0 win over police. That saw them come away with an outstanding for and against total of 55–7 showing their dominance over the rest of the competition with both bat and glove.

For the ladies Mrs Jenni Mumm picked up the top batter, top pitcher and MVP trophies, with Sig Ruth Tietie taking the top women’s Runs Batted In trophy. Newcomer PTE Samara Simmons took both the most stolen bases and tournament rookie trophies home.

For the men, PTE Ron Stevens won the most stolen bases, Mr Danny Bullen won the men’s Runs Batted In Cup, MAJ Clayton Willocks won the men’s top batter trophy and Mr Caleb White-Hodge won the men’s top pitcher, rookie of the tournament and a thoroughly deserved Tournament MVP trophies.

Most homeruns for the tournament was also shared by Mr White-Hodge, Mr Carlaus Tekawa and Mr Doon Groves of Army softball along with another two players from the other service teams.

And finally, to cap off an outstanding tournament for army softball Chaplain Ra Koia was awarded the Black Sox Trophy for dedicated and committed service to NZDF Softball.

This year marks 50 years since the Police joined the tournament at Burnham Camp.

Army softball legend, the late John Eagar, used to tell the tale of when the Police first came along to softball. 

“We Service teams back in those days were a bit regimented and tended to be segregated at the after game functions and therefore didn’t really socialise with the other teams. That all changed when the Police showed up, they showed us how to relax, mix and mingle and enjoy ourselves. So, we did and that’s why we all get along so well now, thanks to the Police.”

Police VIP Stan Hooper presents Army skipper Jenni Mumm with the NZDF Women’s Shield.
Don’t be confined to barracks with the flu!

MAJ Tim Tuatini

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