EXERCISE JOINT WAKA
Honing amphibious skills.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
Our top young soldiers

CAPABILITY
What’s in store
On Patrol

Being part of the profession of arms has its challenges. These challenges may affect your mental health and wellbeing during your career. You are not alone; it is normal to be challenged personally and collectively in our family. How you bounce back from a mental health issue is equally as important as recovering from a physical injury. Within our organisation there is expert help available and there are our own people who have been successful in recovering from depression, PTSD or other mental health issues. There is no stigma in seeking help, only pride and mana in stepping forward to seek assistance. Keeping connected with our mates, looking after our mates, being active, seeking support from professional health and wellbeing experts will only help in your recovery. Integrated Wellness supports the Force. Jungle Tip: Battle preparation is the most important step in everything we do as a Force; looking after your mates and family is part of battle preparation. As the Force deploys on Exercise Talisman Sabre, and others continue their overseas service on deployment, and those at home continue their professional developments within their units, I ask you to continue to look after your mates, maintain your character, and connect with your family when the opportunity presents. Nga mihi – see you on patrol.

The Fiji experience
by TAD instructor Corporal Kauikione Feikau

I recently had the opportunity to accompany the Chief of Army and his delegation as part of a counterpart visit to Fiji. This gave me the opportunity to see how our superior work and a chance to engage with them both professionally and socially at such a high level. Upon landing in Nadi our first visit was to the Black Hawk Training Camp. This is where the Royal Fijian Military Force (RFMF) conduct their PDP before deploying on tour. A parade was conducted to acknowledge the CA, and a ground and safety brief followed soon after. This is when I began to notice that the way the RFMF worked was very similar to the New Zealand Army. We were on the training they conduct before deployment. To bid us farewell, they had a Kava Ceremony. In a way it is very much a similar NZ culture when performing a haka or powhiri. It was eye opening to see what kind of environment they work in and how lucky we are to have what we have here in New Zealand. That night we travelled to Suva and were accommodated in the Grand Pacific hotel, five star barrack equivalent.

Over the next few days we visited the RFMF and Royal Navy Force camps and were introduced to a lot of high ranking Fijian officers and SNCOs. To me this was networking at a very high level and it was no different to how we network with our peers. This showed how important it is to build key relationships, as well as maintaining them. Even though this visit was short, it only cemented the long and strong relationship that New Zealand has with Fiji. This experience has been very rewarding and an awesome learning experience back in my homeland.

NZDF TRAINING MISSION IN IRAQ ENTERS THIRD YEAR

The New Zealand Defence Force’s (NZDF) training mission in Iraq entered its third year in May, with more than 23,000 Iraqi Security Forces trained to date.

The Senior National Officer for the fourth rotation of NZDF soldiers, who returned home on 1 June, said he was confident their training mission would have an enduring impact.

“It has been rewarding to see first-hand the positive effects that we have achieved by imparting skills that have transformed Iraqi forces into more capable fighters,” he said.

The fifth rotation of 106 NZDF soldiers, who arrived at Camp Taji in late May, recognises the challenges ahead for their six-month training mission.

“The whole team is under no illusions. We have a challenging six months ahead of us, building on the good work of the previous rotations. However, we intend to deliver beyond expectations; it is what Kiwi service personnel do,” the NZDF’s Senior National Officer for the fifth rotation said.

Many of the Iraqi forces trained by Task Group Taji, the ANZAC training force comprised of about 100 New Zealand troops and around 300 Australian Defence Force personnel, are in the thick of battle as they seek to reclaim parts of their country from the clutches of terrorist group ISIS.

Some form part of stabilisation forces who are working to ensure the gains made against ISIS – in Ramadi, Fallujah, east Mosul and other parts of Iraq – are sustained.

“Although ISIS is outnumbered and outgunned, continuing to build the Iraqi forces’ fighting capability through training is just as important now that they have intensified their campaign to expel the terrorist group from their country,” Major General Tim Gall, the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, said.

“The index of training effectiveness is not how many Iraqi forces we train, but how well the trainees have absorbed the training and put it to good use. Even with the imminent defeat of ISIS, Iraqi forces need to consolidate their foothold in what used to be ISIS heartlands,” he said.

Since last October, the NZDF soldiers have been conducting training at secure coalition locations that are closer to the frontline. The innovative approach has prepared an extra 1200 combat-ready fighters to date.

Unlike the main training programmes delivered at Camp Taji, the Mobile Training Teams focus on Iraqi forces with frontline duties.

“The trainees are Iraqi forces who are at the sharp end of the offensive against ISIS. So we have designed the training to be short and sharp, usually between 2-3 weeks, and focussed on the frontline tasks they will be conducting,” Major General Gall said.

“Having well-trained fighters is crucial in keeping the operational momentum as Iraqi forces push deeper into parts of Iraq that are still occupied by ISIS,”

The fifth rotation of 106 NZDF soldiers, who arrived at Camp Taji in late May, recognises the challenges ahead for their six-month training mission.
NZDF HELPS FIX BUILDINGS IN VANUATU

by Luz Baguioro, Public Affairs Manager – Joint Forces New Zealand

Engineers from Linton-based 2 ER have helped fixed several key buildings in Vanuatu as part of a multinational activity led by the French military.

Five engineers and other tradesmen have been working with personnel from the French Armed Forces New Caledonia (FANC), the US military and the Vanuatu Mobile Force.

The multinational team fixed at least eight buildings on Malekula, Vanuatu’s second largest island, including the sole medical clinic and a primary school. They also installed a new diesel generator, two water pumps and three 3000-litre water tanks, and repaired the water main on the island.

The newly refurbished buildings were handed over to the Vanuatu authorities on 1 June.

“We often work with the FANC and the US on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the Southwest Pacific. Activities such as this aim to ensure we can work together effectively if required; they also offer an opportunity for us to learn from each other,” Land Component Commander Brigadier Mike Shapland said.

Hey, how are you doing?

It has been 12 months since my previous Army News column as Land Component Commander. At that time I discussed my broad role and focus. I think it is now time to review our progress as a team and reflect on the future. My assessment or report card on how we are tracking is a strong pass but, like always, there is still room for improvement.

As a Land Force we are doing exceptionally well and I thank and congratulate you for that. We have been exceptionally busy with the continued support to operations, earthquakes and floods. I recently announced the sixth rotation to Iraq, the next rotation to the Middle East, and our engineers have commenced their return from the Sinai.

From a training perspective, TRADOC continues to deliver exceptional individual training. The Army Depot has increased our recruit training, Army Command School is nearly at capacity and we continue to prepare our forces for operations while also supporting our south-west Pacific neighbours. 1 (NZ) Bde continues to deliver our outputs and is constantly managing the demands of operational and organisational tempo. The introduction into service of our new weapons has started, and NEA and CLP remain in the forefront of our thinking. As I write this column the first tap on HMNZS Canterbury has departed for Exercise Talisman Sabre 17, where we will assess the Combined Arms Task Group. No sooner has this concluded than we prepare and participate in Exercise Southern Katipo 17.

I would like to focus on the softer aspects of being a member of the New Zealand Army and delivering our outputs. I am amazed at how quickly the last 12 months have passed, and I want you to stop and ask yourself, “Hey, how am I doing”? We are a small Army and our achievements are impressive. Our real strength is our people. Have you taken time to reflect and congratulate yourself on what we have achieved? Have you recognised and thanked your wider team for their efforts? Have you utilised some of that growing leave balance, taken your partner out for coffee or lunch, attended the school or sporting activities or taken some time out just for yourself?

I am realistic and fully acknowledge that not all of these are easily doable, especially at the moment, but you do need to stop every now and then and reflect on where you are, what’s really important and whether you have the balance right. The NZDF has implemented an Integrated Wellness Programme and I have been impressed with the support that this has provided. At this time, when tempo is high, there is always time to reflect on the Te Whare Tapa Wha or the four cornerstones of wellbeing: physical, spiritual, psychological and family health.

To finish I would like to quote parts of a letter received from MG Cavoli, Commanding General 25 ID Hawaii, on completion of his visit to New Zealand. He stated: “I especially enjoyed visiting your troops. Your soldiers are a jewel in your nation’s crown; you must be as proud of them as I was impressed.” These words have meaning and we need to ensure we protect what really is important. Sometimes all that is required is the simplest of questions: “Hey, how are you doing?”

He aha te mea nui o tea ao?
He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

Brigadier Mike Shapland
Land Component Commander
Four New Zealand Army personnel are to receive Distinguished Service Decorations, announced in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. They are:

**Staff Sergeant Tina Grant, RNZAMC**

Staff Sergeant Tina Grant is the New Zealand Army’s liaison for families that have lost family members while serving in the New Zealand Defence Force, whether it be on operations or in New Zealand.

Staff Sergeant Grant has been a strong advocate for the provision of enduring care by the New Zealand Defence Force for affected families. Following the loss of her husband on operations in 2011 she identified shortcomings in post-casualty support and duty of care by the Army and wider Defence Force. She identified a range of practical services typical of what affected parties could be required to navigate in times of grief, loss and trauma, and identified simple processes and solutions. In 2012 she was appointed to the newly created function of Army Liaison Officer for families that have lost family members while in service. She has developed her role further by also reaching out to former Army families who lost members while they were in the service of the Defence Force. She performs voluntary work as an ex-office member of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association, and the Fallen Hero’s Trust. Staff Sergeant Grant has contributed to wider NZDF initiatives now underpinning a cohesive framework of support for Regulars, Reserves, Civilians, Veterans and their families.

**Major Charmaine Tate, RNZAMC**

Major Charmaine Tate was first operationally deployed as a Medical Officer to East Timor in 2002 and was the Regimental Medical Officer for 1NZSAS Regiment from 2004 until 2013.

As Regimental Medical Officer she deployed on several occasions to Afghanistan, was a member of the New Zealand medical team in Sumatra following the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami and has also been involved with New Zealand Search and Rescue. Following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake she commanded Urban Search and Rescue medical teams and later that same year was sent to assist in Japan following the major earthquake and tsunami in March. She has been dedicated to supporting Defence Force personnel and their families, especially those in the Special Forces community suffering from deployment-related illnesses and often long after they have left military service. Much of her medical development and training has been completed outside the Defence Force and at a personal cost and she has undertaken professional military training and education not usually associated with specialist officers in order to provide a military context for her professional medical duties.

**Brigadier Ants Howie, ONZM**

Brigadier Ants Howie was seconded from September 2011 as the Senior Military Adviser to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), and was subsequently appointed as the Senior Military Adviser to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM) until 2016.

He was a member of the Defence Sector Reform Unit, which formed part of the larger Rule of Law and Security Institutions Group for UNSOM. He built confidence and trust. Staff Sergeant Grant has contributed to wider NZDF initiatives now underpinning a cohesive framework of support for Regulars, Reserves, Civilians, Veterans and their families.

**Major Andrew Thornton, RNZALR**

Major Andrew Thornton served as a Military Liaison Officer with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) from September 2015 to March 2016, and was also appointed Operations Officer in Malakal.

During his deployment, 18 UNMISS personnel and 13 logistics contractors on a barge travelling along the Nile were taken hostage by a large South Sudanese rebel group and a team was sent to negotiate their release. Negotiations were conducted in the presence of heavily armed soldiers, and the rebels threatened to shoot down any helicopter that came too close to the site of the negotiations without their clearance. At the conclusion of negotiations an anti-aircraft machine gun fired several rounds at the helicopter sent to evacuate the hostages. Major Thornton was a lead planner for the recovery operation and co-ordinated the helicopter evacuation. He personally attended the negotiation site and utilised his previous personal relationships with the rebel leadership to support the United Nations negotiators in securing the release of the hostages. Major Thornton’s leadership and local knowledge were key to the success of the recovery operation, particularly given the limited capacity of local government agencies to execute such an operation, and the mistrust that existed between the South Sudanese parties involved and the United Nations.
Joint Waka, an exercise aimed at training and testing the NZDF’s capabilities for amphibious operations was held north of Auckland recently. It involved soldiers from 1 Brigade at Linton, the Navy’s amphibious support vessel HMNZS Canterbury, and NH90 helicopters from No. 3 Squadron at Ohakea.

The field phase of the exercise got under way at Army Bay, north of Auckland, with a beach landing and advanced assault training.

The Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Tim Gall, said that although the NZDF has frequently demonstrated the ability to deploy a combined force, Joint Waka was designed to further enhance its amphibious capability.

“The ability to work together seamlessly and with maximum efficiency is a cornerstone of a successful deployed joint force that can deal with any of the contingencies we face at home and overseas including natural disasters and humanitarian crises,” he said.

“Joint Waka also ties in with Exercise Southern Katipo, our major international exercise in New Zealand later this year, which will be a further opportunity for the three Services to conduct integrated training in a simulated deployed environment.”

Various mock medical situations tested medical staff from all three Services in the hospital on board HMNZS Canterbury, also as part of the exercise.
A medical team tends a patient on HMNZS Canterbury

An NH90 at work on HMNZS Canterbury

Army vehicles during the amphibious landings
Taking it slowly, and keeping your eye on the guide is the key to driving an MHOV or similar vehicle onto a landing craft in rolling seas, say the drivers who get this nerve-wracking task.

One wrong move, and both driver and vehicle could be in very deep—literally—water. But even that scenario is catered for in training the Army provides its combat drivers.

Private Daniel Eagle was behind the wheel of a 77 (the HX-77 8x8 Enhanced Palletised Load System) on board HMNZS Canterbury during Exercise Joint Waka. He has been an Army driver for just over four years and has completed the manoeuvre before but in different vehicles.

"It wasn't the best of days but I sort of knew what to expect. You just have to take it slowly, and think about what gear you are in so you don't slide on the deck. You also have to keep your eye on the guide who is helping you and follow their instructions."

If the worst happens, and he goes over the side, he has been trained how to free himself from the truck as it sinks into the ocean.

"We have done vehicle escape training where they put you into a capsule and lower you into the water. You learn what to do in that situation so that you don't panic."

PTE Eagle, from 10 Transport Company, 2 CSSB, says he enjoys driving in the various conditions his trade encounters. "Going off road, driving at sea, it's quite fun."
TOP SOLDIER

1RNZIR’s Top Soldier Private Thomas McLaren-Brown has won the title of 1RNZIR’s Top Soldier following a fiercely fought competition recently.

PTE Scott Davis was placed second in the competition, and PTE Alexander Gislason third. The competition at Linton Military Camp was held to encourage excellence, and to test competitors’ skills and mental agility. The Top Soldier competition saw all Privates within the unit compete in “Round Robin” style stands, which included general soldiering skills ranging from observation, communications, combat first aid, weapon proficiency, vehicle recognition and a range shoot. Not only were the soldiers’ skills and knowledge tested, but they were tested physically and mentally as well. The stands were spread across the camp and required all participants to move in between each in full kit. Fitness testing was also included with all soldiers conduct a required fitness level at the beginning of the competition and a combat fitness test in the early hours of the following morning before the stands started on the second day.

Through the night, the soldiers conducted a run/walk style circuit. The circuit measured approximately 3.1km with some participants covering distances of over 30kms in less than four hours, in patrol order.

Corporal Hayden Morgan of 1RNZIR Training Wing said overall the soldiers of 1RNZIR exceeded all expectations in the competition and should be proud of their efforts.

COMBAT DRIVERS PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES IN 38TH NATIONAL DRIVER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Private Aiden Plaisted, from 3 Combat Service Support Battalion, is the Army’s Driver of the Year.

He received an outstanding result in the Trade Training School's Driver of the Year competition, with the nearest competitor being 15 points away. The competition was held in Burnham Camp. The aim of the event is to assess combat drivers’ generic and all-arms competencies, and also foster unit esprit de corps. The competition assesses the basic core skills expected of a combat driver, and provides an opportunity for Unit Commanders and Commanding Officers to observe the current state of training within their units. It has an operational focus with events being conducted in a field environment. This year’s event was conducted in the dark to provide realistic job conditions, and add another level of complexity to the competition.

It consisted of various stands (theory, load and lashing, safe and skilled, heavy drive, competent drive and cross country) which tested the skills of the RNZALR Combat drivers. There was also a mystery stand designed to test soldier skills. It was sponsored by Warrant Officer Class One (Rtd) Peter Shelford and June Shelford in memory of their son who was tragically killed in a military vehicle accident. The event this year was an LCFT followed by a close quarter battle shoot. Medium heavy operational vehicles (MHOVs) have been embedded into the competition since 2016. The addition of MHOV has allowed the competition to evolve and this has been enhanced by the establishment of the Combat Driver Trade which has enabled the Army’s Transport Wing to focus the competition on realistic operational scenarios.

This year’s competition was sponsored by Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles, which enable place winners to receive significant overseas travel. Second place in the competition went to LCPL Nauatu Fenton-Cribb, 2 ER, and 3rd Place to PTE Thomas Morrison, 3 CSS Bn.
What’s on the horizon for Army capability?

The Army encourages a two-way information flow to ensure the right equipment is provided to its land forces. “We want our stakeholders to know what Capability Branch is planning to deliver, and when, in addition to any key generic updates,” says the Deputy Director of Land Capability Delivery, Lieutenant Colonel Dave Neal. “Discussion is encouraged so that Capability Branch staff receive the practical information they need to ensure the right equipment is provided to soldiers. We will do this through regular Army News and Email Story Board updates, ‘Road Show’ presentations, and via the soon to be established Land Capability Website,” he says.

This month: Soldier Systems, ISWRUP, Transport Admin Grouping and Key Land Minors.

**INDIVIDUAL WEAPON & 40 mm REPLACEMENT**

**Current Tasks:**
- Tranche 4 FAT planning.
- Tranche 3 shipped.
- TTT Phase 1 complete.
- First deliveries underway to priority units.

**Future Milestones:**
- Initial Operating Capability.

**Key Points:**
- ISWRUP’s priority project.

**POC:** MAJ John Lawrey 343 5335

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**PERSONAL PROTECTION WEAPON**

**Current Tasks:**
- Train The Trainer complete.
- Train the Maintainer complete.
- Training Publication approved.
- Deliveries to units complete.

**Future Milestones:**
- All services acceptance into service.
- Safety case handover.

**Key Points:**
- Project closure July 17.

**POC:** MAJ John Lawrey 343 5335

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**SNIPER RIFLE REPLACEMENT**

**Current Tasks:**
- Evaluation/complete, data being collated by PM and DTA.

**Future Milestones:**
- Evaluation report.
- Configuration management activity.

**Key Points:**
- Four systems have been evaluated over the last 6 weeks with spt from unit snipers.

**POC:** MAJ George Tweedy 3435 5289

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**ANTI-MATERIEL WEAPON**

**Current Tasks:**
- SSBC approved/AIP pending.
- Maintenance support plan.

**Future Milestones:**
- Purchase orders for non Barrett equip.
- Prime contract awarded.

**Key Points:**
- Configuration activity post SRR eval to ensure interoperability of both systems.

**POC:** Mr Justin Tunnage 3435 5289

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**SHORT RANGE ANTI-ARMOUR WEAPON**

**Current Tasks:**
- Tranche 1 upgraded wpns delivered.
- Implementation Instruction released.

**Future Milestones:**
- Introduction into service complete approx. mid 2017.
- OEM capability revision training.

**Key Points:**
- PM resource split between SFMG & SRAAW.
- Priority of effort to SFMG.

**POC:** MAJ Nigel Elder 3435 6573

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**SUSTAINED FIRE MACHINE GUN**

**Current Tasks:**
- TRS sight purchase order.
- Ancillaries have started being delivered.

**Future Milestones:**
- Contract/PO awarded.
- IS commencing approx. 2nd half 2017.

**Key Points:**
- PM resource split between SFMG & SRAAW.
- Priority of effort to SFMG.

**POC:** MAJ Nigel Elder 3435 6573

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**SOLDIER MODERNISATION OFFICE**

**Current Tasks:**
- Establishing SMO Personnel and Delivery resources.
- Preparing Capability Definition Documents.

**Future Milestones:**
- Ongoing CDD development.
- Ongoing Oversight of Projects and Soldier System development.

**Key Points:**
- Less Lethal Project is funded but in abeyance until ISWRUP complete.
- Soldier System development set for key structural changes.

**POC:** LTCOL Julian Sewell

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**SOLDIER MODERNISATION PROJECT**

**Current Tasks:**
- SSBC by Jul/Aug 17
- Future Milestones:
  - Will deliver Helmets and Body Armour as priority by Dec 18.
  - Ear Protection and Eye Protection are other priorities to field equipment.

**Key Points:**
- Soldier System Equipment Development (not fielding) is funded by SMP.

**POC:** MAJ Craig Wilson to transition to delivery pm in Jul 17

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**NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT RCR PHASE 3**

**Current Tasks:**
- Completing final Ph 2 Acquisition.
- Develop Ph 3 SSBC by July 17.

**Future Milestones:**
- Ph 3 Delivery from Jun 17 – Jun 21.

**Key Points:**
- Phase 3 will align with Soldier Modernisation.

**POC:** CAPT Andrew McKinlay

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**ONGOING SOLDIER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**

**Current Tasks:**
- HP GPS HOTO to new PM (Angela Marsh).

A range of product developments are paused awaiting delivery staffing. Some incremental WWG development is ongoing. Guidance regarding definition, prioritisation, engagement and procedures is required for new staff. This will be provided by the CDOs produced by SMO.

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**Soldier Systems**

**SMO MANAGER:** LTCOL J Sewell
Transport Admin Grouping (formerly LTCP)

ISWRUP

PROG DEL MNGR: Mr Ian Gladding

Light Mortar
Current Tasks:
- Develop doctrine and Training packages.
- Preparation for IIS.

Future Milestones:
- Introduction into service – mid 2018.
- Delivery expected end of 2017.

POC: Miss Angela Marsh

Target Registration Sight (CaS1 Replacement)
Current Tasks:
- New sights being purchased through MOD.

Future Milestones:
- First sights scheduled for delivery in six months post PO approved.

POC: Capt Andrew McIntay

HINO Fire Pods
Current Tasks:
- Fire Pods constructed and delivered to units for conversion training.

Future Milestones:
- IIS June 17.
- Key Points:
  - 17 Fire Pods
  - 4 Air Force / 13 Army

POC: WO2 Garth Boyd

High Precision GPS Replacement (PLGRII)
Current Tasks:
- Determining GPS model for each group, and signoff for this.

Future Milestones:
- Next step AFC approval.

POC: Miss Angela Marsh

DLMRTS Project
Current Tasks:
- Handover of PM.
- User requirement documentation confirmation.
- Business case development.

Future Milestones:
- Approval in principal.
- Key stakeholder engagement, Site visits.

Key Points:
- Completion of Site leasing/RMA usage.

MEDIUM-HEAVY OP VEHICLE
Current Tasks:
- NZDF vehicle acceptance complete – 194 accepted by NZDF.
- HX60/54/177 Operator/Maintenance Training complete. Specialist variant LMP in development. Delivery 1st Qtr 16.
- Weigh-bridges for Trentham in Waiouru in progress with DPG (expected Aug 21).
- Protected Wpn Sln current in IIS and soon to be issued to (NZ) Bde units.
- Publication (specifications, operator manuals, safe load & design guides) – majority of changes complete.
- CDVRAK Syllabi being updated to compliment MHOV.

Future Milestones:
- CATG FOC being evaluated on EX TALISMAN SABRE 17 by BCM.

Key Points:
- Project on-time and on-budget.
- Acquisition and IIS activities continue in parallel.

POC: Mrs Hannah Walton-France

TESS
Current Tasks:
- Finalise IIS/ILS Plans.

Future Milestones:
- IIS (July–Aug 17).

Key Points:
- On track for delivery by end of June 17.
- TT1 Activity scheduled for 14–18 Aug 17 at TMC.
- Roadshow planned for late Aug 17.

POC: Ms Vikki Sanderson

Cryptographic Refresh Project
Current Tasks:
- PH 1 & 2 ILS / IIS / Trg packages.
- PH 1 & 2 Safety Case.
- PH 1 & 2 Finance rework.

Future Milestones:
- PH-3 SBC AIP/MCF.

Key Points:
- Pan NZDF distribution of CCI.
- Multi Phase/Multi Year.

POC: Mr Abe Paurau

Javelin Training Systems
Current Tasks:

Future Milestones:
- Receive FMS Letter of Offer and Acceptance.
- Obtain funding (ACF).
- Purchase upgrade to training systems.

Key Points:
- Successful visit to JSIG occurred Apr 2017.
- FMS case process on track.

POC: Mrs Sarah Richards

OT&E Planning almost complete.
- FOC Light Task Group declared Dec 15.
- IOC HADR declared Dec 14.

POC: Mrs Ange Timbs (PM), 348 7757

DISTRIBUTION ADMIN GROUPING (DAG) (MHE, Trailers, CS and CSS Modules)
Current Tasks:
- User requirement documents completed and in various stages of approval.
- Trailer and MHE business cases submitted.
- System requirements of trailers are being developed.

Future Milestones:
- Trailer and MHE business cases approved in April/ May 2017.
- Tenders for Trailers and MHE released in June to September 2017.

Key Points:
- Focus of system requirements for MHE and modules.

POC: Mr Johan Olivier (PM), 343 5332

GARRISON, TRG & OPERATIONAL SPT (GATS) VEHICLES
Current Tasks:
- Aviation Refuellers. 4 Small to Medium Aircraft Refuellers delivered – T&E almost complete.
- GATS Charter endorsed in principle by Mar CSG.
- Prep for May/Jun CMD progressing.
- Confirmation of GATS Scope progressing.
- SSBG for Large Aircraft Refuellers in draft – to be funded FY 17/18.
- Initial draft of GATS Project IBC under way.

Future Milestones:
- GATS IBC Q3 2017.

Key Points:
- GATS funding spread from FY17/18 to FY 29/30.
- GATS Project likely to move into IFT late 2017.

POC: Gary Shanley, 343 5324

SPECIAL OPERATIONS VEHICLE
Current Tasks:
- Mobility Heavy (MH) – Contract signed, ILS contract signed, DDR complete and production underway.
- Protected Heavy (PH) – Contract returned from ADF and under review by MoD.
- Low Profile Utility and Low Profile Protected – contract signed.

Future Milestones:
- LPP – DDR and ILS contract signed April 2017.
- Project delivery July 16 – Aug 2018.

Key Points:
- IIS complete.

Project Manager: CAPT Charles Gillespie

LOGISTICS OVER THE SHORE
Current Tasks:
- User requirement approved.
- Bulk Liquid transfer being reviewed.
- Business case being finalised.

Future Milestones:
- System Requirements completed.
- Business case expected to be completed by September 17.

Key Points:
- Tenders to be released by July 17.

POC: Mr Johan Olivier (PM), 343 5332
The BL Concept

The BL is intended for personal use outside work on home computers. This is deliberate – it is felt that “after hours” use will make wargaming more accessible to the intended audience, and will allow for greater experimentation than a work-based system. Avoiding NDA if systems allow for greater access to a wider audience, with the addition of software, especially graphic-intensive systems, being almost impossible on most DAS workstations.

The software is provided as an unstructured “sandbox” for experimentation and use, and is not aligned to specific courses. LOTC students are already expected to undertake pre-course and after-hours study during promotion courses, and the WL BL is providing another means of study and experimentation, to course students and junior commanders. NB: It should be noted that the WL BL is dealing with constructive simulation for use on a personal PME tool, and as such has no correlation or relationship to the Mission Command Training School (Sim centre), which already provides virtual, constructive and collaborative simulation for courses and staff training.

The Lab Experiment

The lab battle will be run in 2017, with participants provided access to use the software on personal computers. Later this year (2017), the WL BL will run a competition to gather feedback and comments, and a report will be drafted capturing the costs and benefits the wargaming software can offer. An indicative list of potential benefits of Wargaming

- **Accessibility.** Commanders can be exposed to a range of expensive, high-end capabilities, such as offensive support, close air support, remote and autonomous systems (such as UAVs) and Main Battle Tanks, which they are rarely exposed to in training.
- **Rapid, tangible feedback and arbitration.** Software provides clear, neutral arbitration on engagements and tactical tasks, and as a result can provide rapid and tangible feedback on planning and decision making.
- **Platform for innovation and experimentation.** The nature of wargaming software encourages repeat attempts and frequent restarts against a common scenario with rapid feedback loops, allowing individualised experimentation without the consequences or pressure inherent to other Army training activities, such as course TWIs or unit exercises. Learning and training outside the classroom encourages and encourages greater creativity by providing tactical decision making and experimenting with less conventional options and approaches.

In addition, COTS wargaming software can help mitigate existing capability gaps and training shortfalls:
- **Weapons Effects Demonstrations.** Weapon Effects Demonstrations used to be conducted regularly, involving verbal briefs on contemporary weapon series of wargames has previously been used by the US Army, Australian Army and Canadian Army in various capacities.

The version of Combat Mission selected for trial in the WL BL, CMBS, incorporates modern US Army and Russian equipment in a fictional Ukrainian war scenario. Black Sea is available for Windows and Apple OS with minimal system requirements – it, a laptop less than five years old should be able to run it. It should be noted that the fictional scenario is purely a vehicle for experimentation and education, and the inclusion of US, Russian and Ukrainian forces is Battlefront’s decision to piece together a modern warfare scenario and does not reflect any NZ Army policy or selection.

CMBS incorporates all elements of small-unit combined arms warfare in a contemporary environment, including close-air support, RPAS, active-protection systems on armour, networked force considerations, mounted/dismounted manoeuvre, morale and suppression, offensive support, and ammunition consumption. It is noted as being the closest to the nature of the wargaming spectrum, but remains a commercial product designed to be accessible to the general market, and as a result is designed around a reasonably intuitive interface, inclusive of the requirements for training and experimentation, to course students and junior commanders.

CMBS has limitations, which include the lack of mission command-style orders, and unbalanced commercial scenarios that do not reflect NZ army doctrine. Black Sea seems to be strongest when used to simulate offensive operations, with the CMBS artificial intelligence and scenario system best suited to allowing the human player to attack and the computer to defend.

How to get involved

About 100 software licences have already been distributed, with about 90 remaining. If you want to participate and have not already been invited to do so through your chain of command, please contact 2LT Campbell Smith.

WG BL Software – Combat Mission: Black Sea (CMBS)

The software selected is a commercially available item sold by the US company Battlefront. The Combat Mission
The NZ Army’s Future Land Operating Concept 2035: Integrated Land Missions (FLOC 35) has been released. FLOC 35 is the NZ Army’s capstone operating concept into the near future – providing guidance for the development of concepts, experimentation, planning, force design and capability modernisation. The FLOC 35 looks to a likely future operating environment and imagines how our Army can succeed in 2035.

FLOC 35 is an aspirational document, aiming to provide an overarching direction for the development of future capability and strategy, including:
- providing the conceptual basis to generate, sustain and employ land and special operations forces
- informing and influencing the land force requirements of the Capability Management Plan
- guiding how the NZ Army achieves the Defence White Paper 2016 and NZDF Future Joint Operating Concept (FJOC) 35 objectives.

FLOC 35 examines how the land force anticipates operating out to 2035 with Navy, Air Force, and NZDF force elements, acting as a resource for all-of-government counterparts and informing future Defence Assessments and Defence White Papers.

FLOC 35 has been in development for over a year, and has relied on input and feedback from experts and specialists and commanders inside the NZDF and academia. Future concepts and force design teams within other ABCANZ armies, especially the work being done by the British and Australian Armies future development communities, has been incorporated into New Zealand’s FLOC.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- FLOC 35 has moved away from describing the future land force as a “joint” force to describing it as an “integrated” force – a concept we will need to grasp in order to be successful in the future land operating environment.
- FLOC 35 has been centred on Integrated Land Missions, rather than campaigning. This reflects the frequent nature of deployments and outputs the NZDF and NZ Army support.
- FLOC 35 is future focused, but some of the discussions and references in the document are contemporary or historical. (By learning from the past, we are better prepared to face our future.)
- FLOC 35 is a concept, not doctrine. It does not dictate or direct future tasks and capabilities, but rather illustrates and describes what might be required.
- FLOC 35 should challenge your views. As a concept, FLOC 35 should spur discussion and debate. Nothing in the document should be held to be above critical review, and the more robust the thought and conversation we have about our future the better prepared we will be as an Army. At the end of the document a ‘Key Questions List for Further Research’ is provided on topics arising from or linked to the writing of the FLOC. Any thoughts or discussion pieces on FLOC 35 are encouraged and should be submitted to the Army journal or as topics for staff papers.
- A number of initiatives and concepts arising from FLOC 35 have already started, including the Mission Command Training Centre and the Wargaming Battelab and the Force Design Project.
- FLOC 35 will be reviewed and, in the coming years, will likely be revised. All personnel are encouraged to discuss and debate the concepts and content of FLOC 35 and see how our Future Land Operating Concept – and by extension our future land force – can be enhanced.

Read the FLOC 35 online at army.mil.nz or on Command Post.
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

AS COMBAT ENGINEERS HIT THE RANGE AND WATER
Combat engineers from 2 Field Squadron honed their skills in Exercise Poseidon at the Kaipara Range recently. Close Support Sections practised explosive method of entry drills to provide mobility support to manoeuvre units. The exercise also practised the use of conventional explosive demolitions against a range of targets including a timber bridge, steel and cratering charges.

Running in parallel with the exercise were small boat operations training in Tauranga Harbour. Combat engineers are responsible for the projection of manoeuvre units across water obstacles and around the littoral environment. Ex Poseidon was used to qualify combat engineers on the NZ Coastguard Bar Crossing course which is an additional course included in the updated combat engineer trade model. The training was designed to improve the ability of combat engineers to operate the Zodiac FC470 in challenging coastal environments where operators have to negotiate surf, strong tidal flows and various weather conditions, both day and night.
PLANT TROOP OPERATORS TACKLE ARDMORE AND ROGERS SPUR

Plant operators from 2 Engineer Regiment have been busy with construction tasks across the country. The work has provided time and experience on different machines whilst working in different environments and conditions.

Two general support construction tasks were conducted, one in Auckland, on Ardmore Military Training Area, and one in Waiouru on Rogers Spur Track.

A small section from Plant Troop set out to Ardmore Military Training Area in Papakura to clear the dense vegetation around the boundary. This task was conducted in preparation for the future construction of a perimeter fence which is needed to keep civilians and poachers out of the Ardmore Military Training Area. CPL Brendon Richards and, LCPL Mohammed Ali were in charge of the task, assisted by five junior sappers.

Before commencing the job, the section was briefed on the heavy environmental constraints involved, including the expectation of sediment control as well as endangered native wildlife, such as the short tailed bat, the Auckland green gecko and the copper skink lizard.

The section was faced with a number of challenges — the weather was one, but they also had to remove tree stumps, deal with the steep and undulating terrain, and avoid disturbing the endangered wildlife.

The track clearance was conducted in two phases; phase one involved clearing plant material with the nine tonne bulldozer and phase two was clearing and tidying the remaining vegetation with the six tonne excavator. The stabilisation method used once the clearance was completed was to lay hay and grass seed, which acts as a barrier to stop the dirt from going into water ways and prevents potential damage to the environment.

Overall this task created a good learning opportunity for all involved and provided the plant operators with unique challenges.

This task involved upgrading the Rogers Spur track in the Waiouru Military Training Area from a dirt track to an all weather single lane road. Plant operators and drivers from 25 ESS completed the job over four 10-day periods. The aim was to upgrade up to 3km of the existing track into a viable road suitable for the use of any wheeled vehicle.

As a plant operator who had just completed the Basic Plant Operators Course I found this job to be a real eye opener. It showed me how to apply all we had learnt on our course to an actual job site. We conducted tasks such as stockpiling material, levelling the ground, spreading material, rolling, as well as fixing up soft spots in the road, creating berms and drains and culvert installation. It also showed me how different job sites can work together to achieve an optimal result. An example of this was how we got the material for our road from our peers working at No. 4 quarry.

Towards the end of the job the weather and ground conditions had only slowed us down a little and we had managed to create 500 metres of good quality road, as well as repair most of the haul road leading up to the Rogers Spur track.

The quarry provides material for the construction of the Rogers Spur track and other roading tasks throughout the Waiouru Military Training Area. The material was extracted from Quarries No.01 and No.04, under the command of Sergeant Daniel Fenton. As a plant operator I am involved in a number of tasks, from stockpiling to loading trucks. A power screen was hired for the use in No.04 quarry to separate blast rock, collected from the face of the quarry, into graded rock.

An average day in the quarry involves removing blast rock from the face to be screened into different grades of material. Once the material is screened, it is then stockpiled in accordance with the different grades, and from there is loaded onto trucks for distribution to task sites.

Over the construction period we learnt many skills, including risk identification, machine operation, and machine maintenance. The Basic Plant Course the Plant Operators undertake at the School of Military Engineering provided us with the knowledge to complete these tasks, after developing an understanding of the machine and how to operate it effectively. I believe that being in the quarry under the supervision of Sgt Fenton, further increased my experience and knowledge of different plant equipment and the general aspects of how a quarry is managed and functions.
The Army’s top combat marksmen won awards at the annual combat-focused Australian Army Skill at Arms (ASSAM) competition in May.

The Kiwi shooting team won the silver medal in the section match after being narrowly beaten by the Japanese Self-Defense Forces.

Four of the 19 New Zealand members joined four Australian Defence Force personnel to form an Anzac team, which won the Anzac Challenge match against 17 other international teams to bag the gold medal.

Lance Corporal Caleb Amner, a Light Armoured Vehicle Commander from the Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles, came fifth in the Individual Champion Shot category.

A pair of NZDF snipers consistently made it to the top 10 in nearly all matches and won a bronze medal in the International Competition.

New Zealand ASSAM team leader Captain Matthew Singleton said the NZ Army placed fifth overall, compared to 10th place last year. The Indonesian National Armed Forces was the overall winner, with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces in second place.

“Our team did its best and we are happy with results,” he said.

“The rigour and the combat focus of the arms competition provided an opportunity for our marksmen to test their skills against those of our colleagues in other militaries.”

Lance Corporal Caleb Amner, a Light Armoured Vehicle Commander from the Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles, came fifth in the Individual Champion Shot category.

“Participating in activities like AASAM enables us to assess our combat shooting techniques and enhance the operational shooting capability of our Army. The training helps prepare our soldiers for success on the battlefield,” he said.

The NZDF has been participating in AASAM since 1987. About 250 personnel from 19 countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States, took part in the yearly competition at Puckapunyal Military Area in southeast Australia from 5–26 May.
The 50th Anniversary of New Zealand's first infantry troops entering the Vietnam War was marked with a reunion in Waiouru recently. On 11 May 50 years ago the Victor Company Group, later known as Victor 1, deployed into Vietnam following the Government’s decision to commit ground troops to that theatre. Fifty years on, 51 of the surviving 103 veterans from that 159 strong Company Group attended the reunion. They were joined by wives, widows, partners, children, and adult grandchildren. Organiser Red Beatson, a platoon commander in Vietnam, shared some memories of the deployment. "War is not pretty," he said. "There can be days of physically and mentally exhausting work, with short, concentrated periods of intense activity. In a hostile environment, this results in a lack of sleep and food, fatigue, adrenaline pumping, fear, poor health, injury and death. A bond develops between members of a team, and those supporting or being supported. This comes about by trusting implicitly in individuals and the training they've received. Participants place their lives in each other's hands. This bonding between service personnel is difficult to explain to those who've not experienced the camaraderie; perhaps aroha comes close." He went on to say, "we may not have seen each other for many years but when we got together in Waiouru it seemed like it was only yesterday we spoke with one and other. The reunion was important to all surviving members of Victor Company as it provided an opportunity for old comrades to come together to catch up, and pay their respects to those who are no longer with us."

Another organiser, Brian Wilson, said that for many of the veterans it was perhaps the last time they would have a chance to see and speak with each other as this was most probably the last reunion. In the few days leading up to the reunion, three of those registered, two travelling from Australia, had to pull out because of health issues.

"We are fortunate in that the Army had agreed to host this reunion in Waiouru. For almost all of us our time in the Army began there. During our reunion, we were given the opportunity to talk with the modern soldiers, view current weapons, equipment and systems, visit the training areas, and we got more than a glimpse of the Kaimanawa horses."

The reunion included a formal dinner, and a moving Memorial Service at the Army's National Marae. The Vietnam War was the longest and most controversial war in which New Zealand has been involved. The political decision to commit troops was not well received by the public. Protest was widespread, and often it was the soldiers who bore the brunt of this. Between June 1964 and December 1972 more than 3,000 New Zealand military personnel served in South Vietnam. Twenty-one New Zealand servicemen were killed in action, and a further 187 were wounded during the war.

The veterans gather on the marae.
HQ NZDF INTERNSHIPS 2017

Are you a serving Reservist about to complete your university studies?
Want to learn more about what the NZDF does in your area of study?

The HQ NZDF Reserve Force Internship Scheme (RIS) will provide selected NZDF Reservists with an internship at a NZDF base across New Zealand. Interns will be placed where their individual skills can best be used while the inter will be exposed to opportunities to further a military or civilian career with the NZDF.

At the end of the 14 week placement, applicants will receive a final report/reference from their sponsor branch. The report is detailed and covers Position Title, Position Description, Experience Gained, Task/Projects completed, Skills Acquired, Strengths Displayed and a general comment from the supervisor.

Eligibility Criteria
Twelve internships are available to tertiary students who:

a. are NZDF Reservists, of PTE or LCPL rank and are from either the Navy, Army or Air Force,
b. are in their 2nd or final years of study,
c. are available for 14 weeks from 20 November 2017 to 23 February 2018 (individual start and finish dates are able to be negotiated to suit academic commitments),
d. are not in paid civilian employment and e. agree to wear civilian clothes for the duration of the internship.

Remuneration
Interns will be paid their Reserve Force salary, up to a maximum of 8 hours per day.

a. Interns are not to work weekends.
b. All public holidays are unpaid.
c. Interns are offered full board accommodation at the nearest military base to their place of employment.
d. Interns are offered a daily train pass to and from their place of work to their nearest military base.
e. Travel expenses to and from university or home locations will be met by NZDF at the beginning and end of the internship.
f. Travel expenses to and from home location (stated on initial application form) will be met by NZDF for Christmas leave. Christmas leave is unpaid.

Administration
The Reserve Force Internship Scheme is managed by the Directorate of Reserve Forces and Youth Development (DRFYD), Freyberg House, HQNZDF, Wellington. For any queries please email reserves@nzdf.mil.nz.

Selection Criteria
Applicants from any academic discipline will be considered.
1. Security Clearance
Interns must have a NZDF (CV) security clearance prior to application.
2. Application Process
a. Applications are available by emailing request to reserves@nzdf.mil.nz
b. Applications to be endorsed and sent to reserves@nzdf.mil.nz by applicant’s chain of command
c. Applications to include:
   i. Completed application form available (by email request to reserves@nzdf.mil.nz),
   ii. Covering letter, outlining why you would like to work at NZDF on a Reserve Internship,
   iii. CV – current, to include all academic, sporting and cultural achievements.
d. Interviews will be held for short-listed applicants.
   The interview will be either by phone or in person.
e. Final day for applications: 04 August 2017

AUMANGAEA Volunteers Wanted

Soldiers, sailors and airmen are being called to join other NZDF personnel in applying for the NZDF Aumangea resilience building course, which offers an opportunity for all defence personnel to harness their inner strengths.

The Aumangea programme is designed to challenge a volunteer both mentally and physically within a civilian and military environment. These environments are designed to provide volunteers the opportunity to develop confidence, their ability to succeed and to utilise tools taught while attending the programme.

The aim is to inculcate the spirit and belief in an individual so that they can win, regardless of the environment. Volunteers are exposed to the concepts of thinking smarter and understanding self-leadership while utilising selected leadership framework lessons. During the programme volunteers are required to be creative and improvise and are tested on their resilience in an austere environment.

It is expected that once volunteers have returned to their units they will provide at their level, within their sphere of influence a positive role model. The experiences you gain may just save your life on the life of your mates one day.

The next programme starts on July 10th and nominations are open now!

Eligibility: Open to Army, Navy and Air Force
Duration: 35 days
Physical requirements: Personnel are required to be operationally fit (RFL or service equivalent, CFT, medically, dentally fit and injury free) also personnel are to have an NZDF security clearance, or to have applied for one through their unit security officer.

All enquiries contact: Aumangeaprogramme@nzdf.mil.nz
**KIWI SERVICE PEOPLE HELP OUT IN NEPAL**

Three New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) members helped to train future United Nations peacekeepers from about 30 countries at a three-week exercise in Nepal recently.

Lieutenant Colonel Jane Derbyshire, a subject matter expert on the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security, gender mainstreaming and protection of civilians, was one of the instructors for the Global Peace Operations Initiative Capstone Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise.

The exercise involved about 120 participants from 30 countries and was held at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre (BPOTC) in Nepal.

“My role was to assist in training the operational planners and the tactical troops on how to integrate a gender perspective in order to bring about a more sustainable peace,” Lieutenant Colonel Derbyshire said.

“New Zealand supports regional efforts to increase the capacity of Asia-Pacific nations in undertaking peacekeeping operations. We have also contributed to the UN’s campaign to raise global awareness of the integral role that women play in peace and security.”

Flight Sergeant Joe Regan from the Royal New Zealand Air Force was involved in the field training exercise, which simulated different scenarios and was conducted at both the operational and tactical levels to ensure the troops are ready to deploy as UN Military Observers and Staff Officers. Lieutenant Commander Andrew Wells from the Royal New Zealand Navy helped conduct the staff training exercise.

The BPOTC, which was established by the Nepalese Army as a peacekeeping training camp in 1986, conducts training according to the guidelines of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

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**NZDF ENGINEERS HELP SHORE UP SECURITY FOR MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SINAI**

by Luz Baguio, Public Affairs Manager – Joint Forces New Zealand

A 34-member engineering team from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has built a new entry control point and helped construct a 3.3-kilometre perimeter fence to shore up security for a multinational peacekeeping force in the Sinai Peninsula.

Lieutenant Tom Gilbert, the Troop Commander of the NZDF engineering team, said both projects were a big boost to security at the Multinational Force & Observers’ (MFO) South Camp.

“Our engineers have done our country proud with their work. I felt humbled every time I heard comments commending their work and their dedication to get the job done,” Lieutenant Gilbert said following the contingent’s return from their six-month deployment to the Sinai in mid-June.

He said members of the NZDF engineering team, comprised of combat engineers, carpenters, plumbers, maintenance fitters and electricians from the New Zealand Army’s 2nd Engineer Regiment, considered their deployment “a very rewarding experience”.

“The MFO plays a vital role in maintaining 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 here,” Lieutenant Gilbert said.

The NZDF engineers left in late January to build the entry control point and support the perimeter fence project for the MFO, an international organisation with peacekeeping responsibilities in the Sinai. After operating at North Camp for over 30 years, the mission’s headquarters and a number of troops from the 12 nations that make up the MFO’s Force moved to South Camp in mid-2016 due to the deteriorating security situation in North Sinai.

The MFO has been building new facilities to accommodate the influx into South Camp and had requested assistance from New Zealand and other countries with some of the infrastructure projects.

“Our sappers are sought after by numerous external partners for their skills,” said Brigadier Mike Shapland, the Land Component Commander.

“We regularly send our engineers on missions overseas, including in Iraq, the Sinai and Antarctica, as well as on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the South West Pacific.”

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 around 1700 personnel.

The NZDF holds two key positions in the MFO Force Engineering Office – Project Management Officer and Engineer Warrant Officer. Major Gabby Golton, who was the Project Management Officer until last May, played a key role in planning and coordinating the MFO’s infrastructure projects during her 12-month posting in the Sinai.
Stepping forward into the unknown is a challenge in itself; NZSAS Selection is such a step and one which only some service personnel will take in their careers.

It takes a certain type of character, someone with unrelenting drive and determination, to fill in the AFNZ 3 and put them self through the hours of physical and mental training required just to get to the start of selection. On the 10th April 2017, 70 candidates from across the Defence Force and including two civilians made it to the start line for selection. This year saw SAS Selection and Commando Assessment as two separate paths; however, the initial testing was conducted collectively before branching off to separate activities.

Successful candidates’ advice

The following advice from successful candidates details what they found useful, physically and mentally, before and during selection.

Ultimately there is no easy part within selection and the first thing you need to realise is that it is a hard challenge, so prepare hard and realistically. If you expect it to be hard then it’s not as big a shock. Train as though you are on selection — no music or energy snacks — and use a realistically weighted pack. Train in the uniform and gear you will be using on selection. Get into your mental zone and ignore outside influences; train in all conditions. It’s not about having the flash gear that will get you through, it’s the time you put into training and preparation so stick to your programme and don’t be concerned about how others are training. The programme provided on the Special Operations Component Command website is proven if it is adhered to.

Starting the NZSAS selection or Commando assessment itself is one of the hardest components; by getting to day one, candidates have crossed the first hurdle. In order to test a candidate’s drive, determination and motivation, both food and sleep are limited. This lack of food and sleep, in combination with a high rate of work, means that a candidate’s reserves are quickly depleted and mental resilience becomes the determining factor.

Commando Assessment provides candidates with an opportunity to use their initiative and work as a team to achieve a task. Many candidates were surprised by this approach to the assessment itself, having come from the silence of the first two days of selection. During this late phase the directing staff take a hands off approach, say nothing and providing only written briefings. Due to the lack of feedback, candidates must continue to complete tasks with no indication of levels of performance. Candidates often struggle with this lack of feedback for the duration of the assessment. To overcome this, focus on the task at hand and strive to demonstrate your best at all times.

For both selection and assessment self –doubt plays a massive part from the beginning. It will try and trick you into thinking you are done. When doubt creeps in, the mind needs to take control and fight back. It is agreed that the basis for a successful attempt is intensive physical preparation, coupled with an understanding of the mental drive and determination required.

The stats

At the end of four days of recent Commando assessment, 37 percent of candidates remained, of whom 7.5 percent of starting candidates were accepted for further training. SAS selection saw a much lower success rate, with 7.5 percent of candidates who started SAS selection accepted for further training. This result is similar to previous years. However, many candidates tripped at the second to last hurdle during SAS selection.

Sixty percent of candidates who remained on days 7–8 were let down by their lack of navigational skill resulting in them failing to reach check points in the intended time. They were removed from selection. The old adage “fail to prepare, prepare to fail” is very much apparent here.

To avoid disappointment it is imperative that basic skills, navigation being a key one, are at the highest standard before attending selection.

The Special Operations Force (SOF) soldier will always strive for the unrelenting pursuit of excellence. Their training will never be complete, there will always be ways to improve and things to learn, and they will remain in the background quietly achieving at the highest level whilst maintaining the highest standard of discipline, only to celebrate among equals as they brook no sense of class among comrades. If you think you have what it takes to be a SOF soldier, the next SAS selection and CDO assessment is March 2018. For more information refer to the intranet http://org.nzsof/LP/Recruiting.aspx
1918 NAME TAGS RETURNED TO FAMILY

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

Descendants of a New Zealand Machine Gun Corps soldier who served in the First World War were recently presented with his name tag.

A personal name tag of Gunner James Beattie was found late last year in Hazebrouck, near Hondghem in Northern France. Following extensive research by Dolores Ho, Archivist of the National Army Museum, next of kin of James were traced to the Travela family in Christchurch.

Ms Ho said it was an honour to deliver the news to the family of their great great uncle.

“The family had no idea that a relative served in the Great War, it was a big surprise to them, they had no clue at all. “To research, to trace the family history and to be able to find the family is a big achievement and being able to tell them the family about James’ history and other family history they didn’t know about is an amazing feeling,” said Ms Ho.

James returned to New Zealand following the First World War but his personal tag was lost in the fields of Flanders. It is thought that he was near Hazebrouck in February 1918 when the New Zealand Machine Gun Corps came out of the front line and concentrated together at Hondghem.

“It is rare to find such a tag, it is very small and hardly noticeable, especially when it has been covered in dirt for nearly 100 years. I know the family will treasure it,” said Dolores.

The tag was presented to the family by Commanding Officer of 2/4 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Kendall Langston.

“This was a special opportunity to link a family with their past. A number of events have occurred from finding the tag through to presenting the family with some research on the tags owner. It tells an interesting story and is certainly a piece of New Zealand Army and Beattie family history,” said LTCOL Langston.

BOOK REVIEW

The New Zealand Experience at Gallipoli and the Western Front

By Matthew Wright

Reviewed by Colonel (Retd) Ray Seymour

I’m a keen follower of Matthew Wright. He is a prolific writer, having authored some 50 books. I applaud him for his detailed research into his subjects and his ability to ‘drill’ down and tell the story in the best way possible. I also applaud him for incorporating the personal views taken from the letters and diaries of those serving at the front. To me, these provide a far better account of what was really going on than placing weight on what was contained in the official reports and returns.

His latest work – The New Zealand Experience at Gallipoli and the Western Front is an upgraded and revised version of his previous edition, entitled Shattered Glory: The New Zealand Experience at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

What his latest edition has achieved is to become the first publication that has incorporated the revised manpower figures, including the casualty rate, of New Zealanders serving on Gallipoli. Understandably, Wright has allocated a number of pages to these figures; suggesting how the original ‘number-crunching’ may have been done and how these incorrect figures skewed the statistics. (But, as an aside, to this very day, the New Zealand Defence Force have still been unable to determine just who deployed to Vietnam).

The New Zealand Experience at Gallipoli and the Western Front examines the actual events, such as the victories at Messines and Le Quesnoy, and also the tragedies at the Somme and Passchendaele, to determine both the military, social, economic and political actions and decisions and how these related to the New Zealand soldier ‘fighting for his King and Empire’ in the front line trenches. In putting his book together, Wright has devoted the first part of his book to the lead-up to the New Zealand deployment in October 1914. He then has moved into the Gallipoli campaign, suggesting that our involvement “on Gallipoli was an accidental product of the chaos into which British thinking was hurled by events in France and Belgium”. I wouldn’t have been so kind in my comments! Action on the Western Front then dominates his book – and rightly so.

He concluded with an excellent chapter entitled “Myth and Memory”, by pulling all the strands together.

The New Zealand Experience at Gallipoli and the Western Front contains an excellent bibliography – 15 pages of references, indicating the depth of Wright’s research. His maps are excellent but the quality of some of the photographs that have been used could have been enhanced.

Our own Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Christopher Pugsley, also a prolific writer, and a renowned expert on our involvement in World War One, wrote the Foreword to Wright’s The New Zealand Experience at Gallipoli and the Western Front. I can only reiterate Pugsley’s conclusion: “It is an important book; it grips you from the opening pages.

I urge you to read it”. I have scored it a 9 out of 10.
Seventy new soldiers from All Arms Recruit Course 384 marched out in Waiouru on 7 June in front of proud family, friends and the Chief of Army Major General Peter Kelly, who reviewed the parade.

MAJGEN Kelly said seeing new recruits come in to the Army family was a highlight of his role and thanked the soldiers’ families for their support.

MAJGEN Kelly also awarded a Chief of Army Commendation to The Army Depot for its work in implementing instructor excellence and embracing change, its improvements in training and its upholding the core values of the New Zealand Army.

**AARC384 AWARD WINNERS:**

- **Top Shot**: PTE Chun King Poon
- **Top Recruit of Ngarimu VC Platoon**: PTW Celina Wright
- **Top Recruit of Elliot VC Platoon**: PTE Jesse Carr
- **Sergeant Major of the Army Award**: PTE Terry Beddek
- **Top Recruit overall**: PTE Celina Wright
- **BDR Alex McDonald Award**: CPL Chief Tai RNZIR
The platoon commanders under training on their recent course had to deal with a number of different scenarios over 24 hours ranging from clearance patrols to deliberate platoon attacks, writes instructor Staff Sergeant Kurt Brighouse.

Participants on the course included NCOs and Officers from 1 RNZIR, 2/1 RNZIR and QAMR.

From the start the students knew they were in for a gruelling two months ahead and because of this bonds began to develop almost immediately.

The course was broken into three main components including a formative close country phase conducted out of the Rangataua Forest. Phase 2 was in complex urban terrain in Whanganui from a hard standing forward operating base, and the third phase was conducted in the back blocks of Waiouru.

In daytime rain and freezing night conditions the trainee platoon commanders had to deal with a number of different scenarios, all designed to extend them.

The leadership training and command and control under prolonged arduous conditions developed the students’ mental toughness and leadership styles, forcing them to deal daily with individual and collective issues.

The highlight of the course was the Company deliberate attack on a derelict factory compound, with A Coy 1RNZIR attached as a rifle platoon.

The assault was planned and led by MAJ Cory Neale, A Coy OC, 1RNZIR, and consisted of a two pronged attack with a fire support group. The students led in and after the initial first rounds down range confusion the assault went ahead and the position was captured.

All in all the two-month long course progressed well, with the students’ confidence and experience growing daily. By course end they had developed into quite a well-oiled machine.
Our Rapid Crisis Response Element Leads the Way

By Captain Garin Golding, RNZN (Commander, Headquarters Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force)

Within Trentham, a very ordinary looking building is home to a vital element of the NZDF’s rapid crisis response for domestic and overseas operations. Headquarters Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (HQDJIAATF) is a scalable, operational-level command and control (C2) capability deployed for the conduct of joint inter-agency or multinational operations. It is the deployable C2 element of HQ Joint Forces New Zealand and is augmented by staff from other NZDF units.

In a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation, HQDJIAATF can deploy three to four people to form an initial pre-event assessment team to support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, send the Joint Command and Reconnaissance Team comprising four to 10 people to determine what kind of support is needed post-event, and up to 35 people as a light headquarters to command a sizeable NZDF joint task force.

HQDJIAATF has 19 permanent staff (18 deployable), who form the nucleus of the deployed C2 element, across a spectrum of operations ranging from domestic support to regional security and stability operations. On 12 hours notice to move, HQDJIAATF includes a command element and staff appointments in intelligence, operations, logistics and communications. It has the ability to form the framework of a comprehensive headquarters, which Exercise Southern Katipo 17 will test.

Recent operations in Vanuatu following Tropical Cyclone Pam, Fiji after Tropical Cyclone Winston and earthquake recovery in Kaikoura were largely successful with respect to HQDJIAATF. Of course, there are always areas for improvement. These include increasing the number of permanent staff, giving high priority to filling these vacancies and its information systems. This is currently under action.

It is essential for HQDJIAATF and the task elements that may be assigned in the future to have a good understanding of each other. As such, HQ DJIAATF is planning to visit a number of bases and camps. For personnel who may work alongside us, these briefings will provide an opportunity to gain further insight into HQDJIAATF’s role and capabilities as well as to share previous experiences, both positive and negative, relating to involvement with HQDJIAATF during deployments.

HQ DJIAATF

By Captain Garin Golding, RNZN (Commander, Headquarters Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force)

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Te Karanga me te Poroporoākī

August 2017

Ko te mana o te wahine ki runga i te marae
(The prestige, authority, control, power, influence, status, spiritual power, charisma of women on the sacred courtyard)

Ko te reo tuatahi o te tuhi māreikura ki runga i a Rongomaraeroa
(The first words uttered by the women over the sacred threshold of Rongo)

Ko te tangi apakura o te puna roimata
(The heartfelt sounds, shrill cries, emotions expressed by the springs of tears – women)

The objective of this wānanga is to learn the art and craft of calling and bringing the essence, spirituality and power to ALL ceremonial occasions of Ngāti Tūmatauenga.

Facilitated by Tū Matira Ranapiri-Ransfield of Ngāti Ohomairangi. Tū is an exponent in mau patu and Māori performing arts. She hails from winning National Kapa Haka including Waihirere, Ngāti Rangiwewehi and Te Mātārae-i-Ōrehu, for which Tū is the original female tutor and female leader. Marker of MPA degree at Te Whare Wānanga o Anawatiārangi 6 years, National Judge for Te Matatini (New Zealand’s National Kapa Haka Cultural Competition), Facilitator for Wānanga Karanga me Te Poroporoākī 31 years throughout New Zealand, London, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Co-Creator of Mana Wahine Production with Ōkareka Dance Company. Cultural Advisor for television series 1 & 2 for Karanga with Bravestar Media. Cultural Dramaturge for Rifleman Production Ltd and MOTH Ltd, (inc. Karanga, Poroporoākī, traditional movement integration, composition traditional sounds).

Nominations are to be forwarded through your normal command chain for consent, and forwarded to NZDF HR Service Centre for action onto ATLAS.

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The main event of the weekend’s many activities is the 100-kilometre Ultramarathon. There are three other races – over 50km, 22km, and a 5km stair challenge called the UTA51.

The entry for the 100km race are capped at 2000 and sell out quickly. This year I was lucky enough to qualify for a special entry, having had some decent results over the past 12 months.

The race takes place in the Blue Mountains, about two hours inland from Sydney. I’d heard a lot about them, but once I arrived I was blown away by the views. The big difference with the landscape was that in New Zealand we look up at our mountains, generally from sea level, whereas the Blue Mountains are actually more like huge canyons, where you would be on the edge of a township at about 800m elevation and look across these monstrous valleys with numerous high features.

Race day arrived and it was bucketing down! Starting in a rain jacket is never nice, since you heat up quickly, but getting soaked in the first hour was out of the question. The gun went off at 6:02 and the pace from the start was pretty quick for an Ultra. I settled into my own rhythm and realised how good it was to finally be running after a few quiet days, even if it was pretty unlikely I would come right until after the race, in case the images being shown live on a massive screen at the finish line for the crowd. I’d been given a lot of information on these steps and they weren’t actually too bad, because they had railings on both sides, which meant that you could heave yourself up with your arms. Ten minutes later I’d made it to the top and was met by a huge wave of applause.

Accepting the ultra trail challenge: LCPL Andrew Good

At about 5pm, just as the darkness was setting in, I reached the bottom of the steps. A film crew was set up here filming runners as they made their way up the final staircase, with the images being shown live on a massive screen at the finish line for the crowd. I’d been given a lot of information on these steps and they weren’t actually too bad, because they had railings on both sides, which meant that you could heave yourself up with your arms. Ten minutes later I’d made it to the top and was met by a huge wave of applause.

I soaked up the finish line atmosphere and high-fived a bunch of little kids as I ran through, more relieved than I can remember to finish a race. The clock read 11:02 and I finished in 21st place.

This has made me hungrier to become faster, fitter and stronger. The second half of the year features a few shorter trail races for me that will lead into the 60km Kepler Challenge in December.

I’d also like to acknowledge the Burnham UPF, who provided some much-needed financial assistance to help cover some of the costs that were mounting up for the weekend away.

If you want to get out there and have a go there are some epic events out there to choose from. Check out www.runningcalendar.co.nz

Until next time.
Fallen Hero Fight Night attracted 22 NZDF boxers, who stepped into the ring to scrap it out in the name of our fallen.

The Linton Gymnasium was transformed into a boxing battleground, where each fighter channelled months of dedicated training into three two-minute rounds of intense engagement. Their commitment and courage provided a night of unparalleled entertainment for the Linton community, and an event to raise funds for a charity that is close to our hearts – the Fallen Heroes Trust.

Spectators flooded in on the night, and the atmosphere in the gym was thick with anticipation as the decisive beats were struck by the International Pacific University Japanese Drum Team. As excitement built in the crowd, and corporate tables filled, expectant fighters nervously went through their preparation.

Support from the NZDF was evident, with the attendance of 1 NZ Brigade Command team, COL Brett Wellington and WO1 James Dawson, RNZAF representatives SGNLR Stu Pearce (OIC Ohakea Boxing), Warrant Officer Richie Pleasants (Command Warrant Officer Ohakea), and Command Warrant Officer JDHG Ngatahake Mana, and Warrant Officer of the Navy, WOCWS Wayne Dyke. The RNZN Person of the Year, POWTR Jo Stewart, and families of the fallen were also present, including SSGT Tina Grant, Ambassador of the Fallen Heroes Trust.

With three RNZAF fighters, four from the RNZN, two from the family of a fallen hero, and 13 from Army, it seemed the odds were in favour of Army. It was a night full of knock-downs and controversy. The fight of the night was between two incredibly tough women, Phoebe Van Der Plas (RNZAF) and Anastasia Wilson (Army). It was an epic bout that displayed guts, determination and perseverance. The bout went all three rounds and Anastasia Wilson won a split decision.

That the event sold out is indicative not only of the support our fighters received, but also of the continued love and support the NZDF family shows for the families of our fallen. Lest we forget.

**RESULTS:**

- **Women’s Light Welterweight**
  - Taiwai Kate Tamaki defeated Rachel Lee Grant by TKO

- **Welterweight**
  - Ronald Benton defeated Jay Dunlop by split decision (29/28, 28/29, 29/28)

- **Cruiserweight**
  - William Hullena-Lemon defeated James Deegan by unanimous points (29/28, 29/28, 29/28)

- **Middleweight**
  - Alan Holland defeated Robert Grant by unanimous points (30/27, 29/28, 29/28)

- **Light Heavyweight**
  - Zane Beeson defeated Cheyne Kipa by unanimous points (30/27, 29/28, 30/27)

- **Women’s Super Welterweight**
  - Anastasia Wilson defeated Phoebe Van Der Plas by split decision (29/28, 28/29, 29/28)

- **Cruiserweight**
  - William Hullena-Lemon defeated James Deegan by unanimous points (29/28, 30/27, 29/28)

- **Cruiserweight**
  - Kerry Cane defeated Leo Van Doorn by TKO

- **Heavyweight**
  - Joshua Westerlund defeated Issac King by split decision (30/27, 28/29, 30/27)

- **Light Heavyweight**
  - Zane Beeson defeated Cheyne Kipa by unanimous points (30/27, 29/28, 30/27)
There was a lot of camaraderie off the field but the competition was on once the RNZALR rugby league game against the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineering Team began. RNZALR won 52–12. The UK-based REME team is touring New Zealand.