CHANGE OF COMMAND
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN BOSWELL
THE NEW CHIEF OF ARMY

TE AURAKI –
THE RETURN
BRINGING OUR SOLDIERS HOME

BATTLING THE
BLAZES
OUR FIREFIGHTERS ON THE US FRONT LINE
A change of command for
NGATI TUMATAUENGENA

“I am honoured and humbled to assume the role of Chief of Army.”

Major General John Boswell

The Army News is published for the Regular
and Territorial Force and civilian staff of the
New Zealand Army.

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A Force for New Zealand

New Zealand Government

Cover: The Army’s new Chief, Major General
John Boswell.
Photo: LAC Vanessa Parker

Warriors on the Army Marae.
As kuias and kaumatua, warriors and whanau looked on, the command of the New Zealand Army changed at Ngati Tumatauenga’s marae in Waiouru on Monday 10 September.

Under a perfect sky with just a hint of an icy breeze coming off the mountain, Major General Peter Kelly handed over command of the Army to newly-promoted Major General John Boswell.

The Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Kevin Short who was officially welcomed on to the marae for the first time during the morning’s proceedings, attached Major General Boswell’s new rank slides, helped by the General’s wife, Mrs Vicky Boswell. Air Marshal Short told those gathered that Major General Boswell’s record and experience made him an ideal choice to be Chief of Army. “He puts all his intellect and skills into what he is doing, and does a fantastic job. (In appointing the new Chief of Army) I was looking for someone who put his heart and soul into delivering for the Army, and the New Zealand Defence Force.

“John is a very honest, open and courageous man and I’m looking forward to him leading the Army, and helping me lead the NZDF.”

MAJGEN Boswell, whose children, mother and other relatives were in the audience, said he had had no greater honour afforded to him throughout his career than to command New Zealand soldiers. “Throughout my career I have seen the very best, the not so good and the absolutely tragic aspects of commanding soldiers, with the latter being reflected in the photographs of our fallen which are on the walls of the meeting house. I am honoured and humbled to assume the role of Chief of Army. “I am clear in my mind of the on-going need to continue to provide our government with a range of options across the spectrum, from humanitarian aid and disaster relief, to full combat they may need to deploy in the service of our nation. I am deeply aware of the role we must provide in being absolute experts in the land environment.

“We will work alongside our partners, allies and other government agencies, and we’re going to have to do that in an environment that is more complex and demanding than ever. I have a very clear vision of what a modern, agile, and highly adaptive light fighting force is. “I am also acutely aware of the challenges we will face to man, equip and train that future light fighting force, and the need for us to produce a force that is agile in thought and action. I have confidence we can meet those challenges head on, and we will succeed because of the foundations for our success that have been laid by my predecessor.”

MAJGEN Boswell thanked MAJGEN Kelly for his command and service.

MAJGEN Peter Kelly said he felt a slight chill when he removed the Chief of Army korowai for the last time. “You do give your heart and soul when you command a service, and it’s a special moment when you pass over command,” he said.

Addressing Air Marshal Short, he said he had a fantastic team. “I couldn’t think of a better person to hand command over to than John Boswell. He is an outstanding bloke, with the soldiers’ best interests at heart. The Army is in great hands.”

MAJGEN Kelly paid tribute to his wife Kate, whom he said had been at his side through every moment of his career.

At a poroaki (farewell ceremony) after the command handover, the Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Class One Clive Douglas presented MAJGEN Kelly with a specially made Te Korowai O Te Toa, The Cloak of the Warrior.

The stunning korowai incorporated white, which signified MAJGEN Kelly as a rangatira and chief, purple representing linkage to NZDF and blue, which represented the time he spent serving in and leading 1 NZSAS Regiment. It also featured green which signifies his formative years in his career as an Infantry Officer. The black represents Te Kore, the unknown in one’s life and career. It was blessed by an Army padre before being placed on MAJGEN Kelly’s shoulders.

Flanked by warriors, and led by Padre Tony Brooking and kaumatua Heemi Te Peeti MAJGEN Kelly and Kate Kelly were led towards the entrance of the marae where a 50-strong group of soldiers farewelled them with a resounding version of the Army Short Haka, Te Haka Tu.

The Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Kevin Short and Mrs Vicky Boswell place the Chief of Army korowai on Major General Boswell’s shoulders.
New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) soldiers serving in Iraq relied on technology to connect with their families on Father’s Day on 2 September.

Around 30 Kiwi fathers are deployed with Task Group Taji, the combined New Zealand-Australian task group which is in Iraq to train elements of the Iraqi Security Forces to assist in their fight against the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group.

Staff Sergeant James Kirkland, who works in the Task Group workshop, is on his second deployment since having children and said it had been tough being away from his two daughters and fiancee.

“It’s definitely pretty hard. This is the longest I’ve spent away from them,” he said.

Instead of the usual breakfast in bed and hand-delivered card he gets from his children on Father’s Day, Staff Sergeant Kirkland was at work at the Taji Military Complex, about 20 kilometres north of Baghdad.

But he said he looked forward to opening the Father’s Day package his family had sent.

“I’ve heard they’ll send something over – hopefully it’s some Weet-Bix. I’ll feel loved with some Weet-Bix,” he said.

For Operations Officer Captain James Brosnan, this was his first Father’s Day away from his one-year-old daughter and wife.

“It really hasn’t sunk in yet but when the day comes around I’ll think about all the things I’ve been missing,” he said.

Advances in communication technology had made the separation easier, he said.

“I was a bit teary when I thought, Father’s Day, and I’m away for it,” he said.

While his family is more than 15,000 kilometres away, he said the distance hadn’t affected their strong bond.

“The farther away we are in distance the closer we seem to have become as a family,” he said.

Around 100 NZDF and 300 Australian Defence Force personnel comprise Task Group Taji. The current rotation deployed to Iraq for six months in June.

Kiwi troops in Iraq on Father’s Day with photographs of their children.
“Today we honour the memory and the sacrifice of 27 soldiers who died serving their country overseas. We’re bringing them home to their families, who have waited more than 60 years for this moment.

“This project is about making sure the inequalities and inconsistencies of the past are put right and everyone is treated the same, regardless of wealth, rank or cause of death.”

Te Auraki (The Return) project manager,
Group Captain Carl Nixon

Lieutenant Laurence Macintosh whose 1 RNZIR soldiers provided the vigil for the men who were repatriated. Photo: Petty Officer Chris Weissenborn
There were tears, smiles and sighs of relief when the remains of service men, and one child, who had lain in the ground of foreign countries for decades were finally brought home recently.

The ceremonies were dignified and poignant as serving men and women carefully watched over the caskets and brought them to New Zealand soil to be finally laid to rest by the servicemen’s families.

In the most recent tranche the remains of 27 soldiers and one child were repatriated from Malaysia and Singapore and returned to their families at a ramp ceremony at Auckland International Airport. The New Zealand Army soldiers were serving in Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam when they died. The child was the son of a member of the Army.

The remains were returned on a chartered Air New Zealand flight and were received with a traditional Māori welcome, before the caskets were carried past a guard of honour and handed back to their families. A short private family service was held, followed by an NZDF haka as the hearse left the airport. Earlier this year two Air Force airmen were repatriated from Fiji and a Navy mechanic from American Samoa.

Between 1955 and 1971 NZDF personnel who died while serving overseas were interred in overseas cemeteries unless their families paid repatriation costs. Representatives from Malaysia and Singapore attended the soldiers’ ramp ceremony. The NZDF also invited representatives from Veterans Affairs, the Returned and Services’ Association, and Vietnam and Malayan veterans’ organisations to witness the arrival home.

The NZDF is not conducting military funerals because all of the deceased had military funerals before they were originally buried. Families have been provided with NZDF support, such as chaplains, buglers and pall-bearers as required.

The NZDF deployed an expert disinterment team of bio-archaeologists, forensic anthropologists and NZDF odontologists (dentists) to carry out the repatriation and denisation process. The team was led by an NZDF doctor and worked alongside the Malaysian Armed Forces, who provided logistic and forensic support.

Planning is already under way for the next two tranches of project Te Auraki, under which two personnel will be repatriated from England later this month, and two from the Republic of Korea in October.

The New Zealand Government is funding the repatriation. The initial budget for the project was $10 million. However, it is estimated the cost will not be more than $7 million.

The families of those being repatriated have been the NZDF’s key priority during Te Auraki, and each family has been consulted and supported by a liaison officer throughout the process. The decision to repatriate Service personnel was made by the families.

There is no cost to families for the disinterment, repatriation, and re-interment of their relative, and up to 12 members of each family are being invited to attend the arrival ceremony for their relative, at no cost to them. The NZDF is providing support (chaplains, buglers, pallbearers) for the re-interments as requested.

Families can reinter their relative at a place and time of their choosing in New Zealand. Remains can be reinterred at Service, public, or private cemeteries depending on family preferences and the Service person’s qualifying service. Memorials (headstones or plaques) can be provided and $1000 given towards a headstone for those who wish for their relative to be interred in a public/private cemetery.

**REPATRIATION – AN UNPRECEDEDENTED OPERATION**

By Rebecca Quilliam

**Bringing home the bodies of dozens of servicemen who died and were buried overseas is an unprecedented mission for the New Zealand Defence Force, but the man at the fore of the operation said it was vital it was done right.**

Group Captain (GPCAPT) Carl Nixon was offered the opportunity to lead the repatriation project in July last year.

“I knew immediately I was going to do it because it was such a great thing to do. It wasn’t until I was walking back up the road that I thought ‘Crickey, this is really important to so many people.’

However, the first repatriation was completed without a hitch, he said.

“From the arrival into Fiji of all the teams and getting everyone over there in time, to the disinterment at the sites, to the fly back up by the G-130 Hercules, to the on-time arrival at Base Chelova and finally to the relief and the excitement and appreciation on the faces of the families.”

The moment the aircraft touched down was the most poignant for the families because “they told us that was the moment it had become real”, he said.

Reading the stories of those who died and how the family were treated in the aftermath was emotional for GPCAPT Nixon and he realised he needed to work with a certain amount of detachment.

“I could not possibly sustain that level of emotion in this project and what’s really helped has been the family liaison lead, Yvonne Walden, getting the liaison officers out into the field and working with the families. Because that allowed me to step back, and at times, say no to things. We could not meet all the requests of the families.”

“I am a military officer, so I will naturally default to the orders of the day. But this project is not like that. This is important to the families and also, it’s important that we re-establish that trust with this group of New Zealanders that lost a lot of faith in their Government and their Defence Force at the time.”

When the last of the bodies have been brought home to their families, it will bring a feeling of relief that the repatriation issue had been resolved, GPCAPT Nixon said.

“We will have contacted everyone, we will have brought everyone home that is in scope to bring home, so this issue is now closed off for New Zealand.

“Without doubt it will be very emotional for the project team, because every day I see how much work they do towards this. And that’s not just about talking with the families and hearing their stories. It’s also the straight administration of getting hundreds of people travelling and the mechanics of the project and the ceremonial aspects as well. They are engaged in it a heck of a lot,” he said.

Group Captain Carl Nixon
The Commanding Officer, 2 Engineer Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Terry McDonald and his RSM, Warrant Officer Class One Greg Hinch travelled to Opotiki (Torere Marae) to represent The Royal New Zealand Engineers at the reinternment of SPR Waitawhiti Toni, RNZE. Sapper Toni died on active duty in Malaysia in 1966 and was buried at Terendak Camp.

“It was a really significant event for the Corps, as he was the only Sapper to come home with Te Auraki and we thought it was important to let him, his family and friends know that the Corps remembers. It was a really poignant service for him and PTE Rongomai Honatana, RNZIR – the community welcomed us and showed strong support for the event. It was really well supported by Opotiki Cadet Forces and veterans, which was great.

“It was also good to hear about the long and proud military history of the community members – there are a number of gallantry awards that have been presented through various conflicts and campaigns, and the small community has a lot to be proud of with their sons and daughters.”

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Tuatini also travelled to the reinternment of SPR Toni, and that of Private Rongomai Honatana, who are both his second cousins. He said it was a memorable and moving experience. “My great aunt never expected to see her son returned, and his name was on a tombstone of his own with hers in the cemetery.”

LTCOL Tuatini said a huge crowd of locals turned out for the ceremonies, including a large number of Vietnam veterans. “They sung as we entered the marae, and the return was obviously very important to them. It’s a very small marae, but they have contributed so much to the armed forces.”

One group of NZ Army soldiers was closer than most to the repatriation process, responsible for ensuring the fallen personnel were never left alone on their journey home.

After the remains were formally identified, a team of ten soldiers from 1 Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (1 RNZIR) conducted a 24 hour vigil around the caskets until they were returned to their families in New Zealand.

The significance of the role was not lost on Private Sean Chapman who spent almost two months in Malaysia as part of the team who conducted the vigil every day in shifts, led by Lieutenant Lyle Patterson.

“The vigil is a way of always being there, every step of the way for them. It’s our way of saying you’re not left behind, you’re not forgotten, and we are there with you all the way until you get home.”

Pie Chapman said it was fitting that members of 1 RNZIR helped bring the remains home, as the majority of the repatriated personnel belonged to that battalion or its predecessors.

For PTE Chapman, who hails from Opotiki, it struck particularly close to home, with Private Nongoma Honatana being repatriated to his hometown.

“These guys are Kiwis, but it’s a lot closer to home, the possibility of knowing someone who is related to them, or knew them, who is still alive now, is actually quite high because it wasn’t that long ago.”

The scale of the loss was particularly striking when conducting the vigil at a hall in the Malaysian Armed Forces’ Wardieburn Camp in Kuala Lumpur, where the caskets of the twenty-seven personnel and one child were transferred ahead of the flight back to New Zealand.

“It’s one of those experiences that I don’t think anyone else, hopefully, will have to experience. It’s quite eye opening when you see the impact they would have had on, not only their friends, their platoons, and on the Kiwis in general, when you have casualties of that size.

“It does take you back quite a bit when you see the cost of war and the cost that New Zealand paid to help get independence for Malaysia.”

Lieutenant Laurence Macintosh said being a part of the Te Auraki team that conducted the disinterment in both Malaysia and Singapore was a humbling and altogether moving experience for the soldiers of 1 RNZIR. “At all times during the operation, our soldiers provided overwatch for the caskets of the fallen and in some cases they were there with them from their disinterment in Taiping to their burial in Taupiri.”

Private Benjamin Tana, from 1 RNZIR, was a member of the vigil team that kept a 24 hour watch over the soldiers in their caskets until they were returned to their families in New Zealand. He discovered he was related to Trooper Adrian Thomas through his mother’s great-uncle Paul Thomas (Adrian’s brother) who was one of the main instigators in bringing his brother and other fallen soldiers home.

He got to attend the reburial of Trooper Thomas in the family urupa in Kaeo. “It was a great honour to finally bring him back home after so many years resting overseas.”
On 29 August four new Explosive Detector Dogs (EDD) and their handlers graduated from the intensive Counter Explosive Hazards training course. These Labradors and their Sapper handlers from 2 Engineer Regiment at Linton are the first tranche of a recently established capability to support counter explosive hazard operations that's being delivered by the Ministry of Defence and NZDF.

The dogs and their handlers spent 10 weeks undergoing extensive training by the New Zealand Police Dog Training Centre in Wellington. The dogs have been trained to identify a number of varying target odours and search patterns, enabling them to support operations both domestically and globally.

Alan Inkpen, the Military Working Dog Manager - Land, said the Explosive Detection Dog team provide a valuable skillset that can be deployed in order to reduce the risk to New Zealand Defence Force personnel and civilian population from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

"The dogs are trained to assist with route, vehicle and venue searches as part of the layered approach used by NZ Army to defeat the use of IEDs. This force protection measure reduces the risk to human life and the dogs can identify any suspicious objects faster than traditional ways of searching," said Mr Inkpen.

"The Defence Force has deployed dog and handler teams before including to Afghanistan to identify IEDs, to conduct high profile venue searches, during recent Royal visits, and to conduct venue searches during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast."

This is the first time the NZDF has procured dogs from the New Zealand Police Detector Dog breeding programme. The dogs are all from the same "I" litter and accordingly are named Inky, Ivan, Iggy, Iris and India, and were fostered by families before starting their detector dog training with the Defence Force. The contribution these foster families have made to the overall success of the training programme was recognised at the graduation.

"All four dogs are still young, only 11 months old. We undertook a significant amount of environmental training with the dogs in order to simulate any number of situations they may encounter including aircraft and emergency vehicle noise, shopping malls, going up escalators or in an elevator," said Mr Inkpen.

When working the dogs they wear the Sabre Tactical Harness manufactured in New Zealand and developed by NZ Army and the New Zealand Police. The harness can be fitted with additional protective panels in order to protect the dog's vital organs.

"It is crucial that we can provide the dogs with same protective gear that we would afford to our soldiers, so in addition to the harness the dogs are also trained to wear protective boots when working in hazardous environments, as well as ear protection and goggles when needed," said Mr Inkpen.

Complementing the training programme, all handlers completed an animal welfare and veterinary package including emergency animal care taught by Massey University. This training enables the handlers to perform emergency animal treatment to their dog if it was injured while deployed.

The teams will soon relocate to their new base at Linton Military Camp where a new facility to house the dogs is being built. Although based in the Manawatu the teams will be available for deployment throughout New Zealand and overseas as duties demand.

The dog and handler teams are:

Sapper Cunningham & Iris  
Sapper O'Shannessy & India  
Sapper Dinsdale & Iggy  
Sapper O'Keefe & Inky  
Sapper Elms & Ivan
ARMY FIREFIGHTERS SAY LONG, HOT DAYS WORTH IT

They work up to 15 hours each day, in temperatures as high as 43 degrees Celsius, but the chance to help fire-ravaged communities halfway around the globe makes it all worth it, New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) firefighters helping battle wildfires in North America say.

Nine NZDF firefighters – eight from 2ER New Zealand Army and one from the Royal New Zealand Air Force – are part of New Zealand contingents sent to help battle the massive fires in the United States and Canada.

“Our day starts at 5:30am and we would be working at the fire line up to 11 hours and not get back to camp until 8:30pm,” Army Sergeant Alex Walker, who is leading the three-member NZDF team in the United States, said.

“It’s difficult, challenging work and the tasks vary each day. Sometimes it is holding a fire line, at times it is patrolling the perimeter of the fire.”

Cal Fire, California’s firefighting agency, appointed the NZDF firefighters deployed in early August to the United States as task force leaders. Each of them are managing between 60 and 100 firefighters trying to suppress the Carr Fire in Northern California, which burned about 230,000 acres, destroyed nearly 1100 homes and killed eight people.

Although the days may be long and hot, Sergeant Walker said the gratitude shown by the locals was more than enough reward.

“When we stop at the petrol station, people ask us where we are from and they are amazed when we tell them that we’re from New Zealand,” he said. “They shake our hands and could not thank us enough for coming halfway around the world to help.”

The Kiwi firefighters said it was impossible to buy anything outside the camps because the locals won’t let them pay.

“Our warm thanks for the help which you and your team are currently providing. Those responding to our needs in this way are pure gems,” Mr John Donaghy, the former Canadian High Commissioner to New Zealand, said in a letter to Brigadier John Boswell, the Land Component Commander.

The NZDF deployed six other firefighters to help combat the wildfires raging across British Columbia in Canada.

Army Sergeant Michael Scott, who is heading the NZDF team in Canada, said the fires they were dealing with were bigger and more dangerous than they had encountered in New Zealand.

“Cedars are massive and when they burn they are like giant chimneys, which can be quite dangerous,” Corporal Tony Morris, a Senior Firefighter from the Royal New Zealand Air Force, said.

“It has been full-on and pretty tiring. But it’s been very rewarding. We’ve all learnt a great deal and it’s all worth it,” said Corporal Morris, who is helping battle wildfires at Revelstoke, a city in southeastern British Columbia.

Although there is not much difference in the way firefighters in Canada and the United States operate, the New Zealand firefighters had to be briefed on how to deal with bears and other wild animals.

“There are bears, wolves and cougars in the areas where we are operating and we were told that if we encounter them we should make as much noise as possible and make ourselves look as big as we can and back away,” Sergeant Scott said.

“We work in pairs and we have whistles on our shirts, but fortunately we have not had to use them yet.”
When Army engineer Major Jono Meldrum stood in front of a group of angry South Sudanese tribesmen as they thrust their spears into the dirt he didn’t realise some skills he learnt on his promotion courses were soon to become very useful.

It was April 2014, and the situation in South Sudan, one of the world’s newest countries, was dire. A number of resupply barges were traveling down the White Nile River destined for a UN base at Malakal. The resupply operation was a long time in its planning and it was the first time in a while that the river had been used as a resupply option. Major Meldrum was a Military Liaison Officer in Malakal and was tracking the progress of the barge convoy. Malakal had not been resupplied for a long time and so was running low on fuel and other essential supplies. As the barge convoy passed a small township called Tonga, they were ambushed.

"There was a sustained contact during which some of the barges were abandoned and the UN personnel consolidated onto two remaining barges and withdrew to a safe location upriver. I was in the UN base at Malakal, about 100km away when I became aware of the ambush," he said.

The initial (incorrect) reports suggested one of the Military Liaison Officers had been lost overboard during the contact. "I knew there were only two Military Liaison Officers on board, and one of them was my NZDF colleague Major Geoff Faraday," His heart sank as he processed that information and its potential implications.

"I had prepared myself for the negotiations. I had thought of likely questions, anticipated the likely angles, and considered how I was going to address the thorny issue of the fact that these South Sudanese forces had engaged a well-marked UN convoy. And knowing my hosts had no food or supplies, I had stocked up on cigarettes to help break the ice." The negotiations started but before he’d had a chance to speak, they had turned nasty.

"My hosts were not pleased with my presence and my interpreter became noticeably uncomfortable as he translated their words to me. Some of my hosts started thrusting their spears into the dirt in front of me and the atmosphere became noticeably tense."

"It was finally my turn to speak. I had not anticipated
my hosts getting so angry so quickly. And while I was not at the stage of having to talk for my life, I knew they wouldn’t take kindly to me saying the wrong thing. I was still uncertain of exactly how I was going to secure safe passage for the barges, without aggravating them further by implying that they had ambushed a well-marked UN convoy.

And in that moment what Major Meldrum describes as “quite a weird thing” happened.

“For a brief second my mind flew back to being questioned during some of my promotion courses. And I recalled how I’d had to defend my tactical solutions to questioning instructors. And I thought that if I could talk myself through those promotion courses I could talk myself through these negotiations.”

“So I started talking. And talked about how I empathised with their plight of not having any resupply for a number of weeks. And how it must be difficult to have obtained independence for their homeland only to fall into internal conflict. And I got around to the fact that my friends were in some barges a little way up the up the river, and explained that I’d be grateful if they could provide some security for them as they transited past.

“And I gave out all my cigarettes.”

After a while things calmed down, and he was able to inform Major Faraday to begin his move.

To this day he is still unsure why the rebels wanted to disrupt the convoy. “And I needed to skirt around the issue during the negotiations. It could have been accidental. It could have been desperation for food. It could have been a mistake by a junior soldier. Ultimately, it doesn’t really matter. It happened, and we needed to deal with it.”

After he gave Major Faraday the go-ahead to move, the barge convoy began the move down the river. He arranged to rendezvous with him alongside the river as he passed Tonga.

“Stuck with the river bank with my South Sudanese hosts, about hundred soldiers started to array themselves along the river bank. This was the exact same location that Geoff had been ambushed three days earlier (see sidebar).

“But rather than adopt a conservative, covered firing position on the barge, Geoff had removed his body armour, and stood tall on the bow of the leading barge waving a white flag. His rationale was that if the South Sudanese saw him standing tall and unarmed they would see he wasn’t a threat and they wouldn’t ambush the barges a second time.

“This action (for which Major Faraday received one of New Zealand’s highest gallantry awards, the NZ Gallantry Star) is the single bravest thing I have ever seen asoldier do. I feel amazed, humbled, and incredibly proud when I recall it.”

He says he felt very well prepared for his deployment. “And I felt very well supported in theatre. I had regular contact with HQ JFNZ. I knew the mission manager at HQ JFNZ wouldn’t mind if I slightly exceeded my satellite phone use to call home, and my boss made a point of touching base with my family while I was away.”

What he saw in South Sudan though had a profound effect on him.

“I lived alongside South Sudanese people who were suffering on a scale and intensity that I struggled to reconcile. Some of what has occurred, and is still occurring in South Sudan, is truly horrendous. And while a lot of that can be compartmentalised in theatre, some of it stays with you for a while after you get home.”

Fortunately, I was incredibly well supported by mates, colleagues, and the system when I got back. That support continued even when I left the Regular Force and I am very grateful for it. Like others, he had a few challenges adjusting back to life when got home. “It’s taken a while, and sometimes I still struggle a little with the seeming injustice of suffering. But I’m slowly understanding that sometimes you just need to accept things as they are and try and minimise the judging.”

“To that end, I am trying to live in the moment. Trying to appreciate and enjoy the time with my family, and trying to make the best of the time and the circumstances that I have.”

- Major Meldrum, who is now an Army reservist, was awarded a Defence Meritorious Medal by the Chief of Defence Force recently for his work in South Sudan.

On 17 April 2014, an armed mob of civilian demonstrators gathered in Bor township, with the intention of moving on to the United Nations Mission in Southern Sudan (UNMISS) base to protest against the UN presence.

Major Geoffrey Faraday voluntarily led a group of Military Liaison Officers to establish a mobile observation post and in doing so was able to issue a warning that the mob was approaching a camp occupied by thousands of displaced persons. The mob breached the camp perimeter and began to attack the occupants with rifles and machetes.

Without regard for his safety, he reported on the situation to UNMISS Headquarters and was able to guide the quick reaction force to counter the penetration of the camp perimeter. The attack left 53 civilians dead and afterwards Major Faraday was one of the few people who went out into the camp to search for those in need of medical attention.

Following the attack on the camp at Bor, Major Faraday was deployed on a convoy of four barges with civilian crew and a protection force of UN peacekeepers on board, tasked with taking essential food and fuel supplies along the White Nile River to the UN Camp in the town of Malakal.

On the morning of 24 April 2014 the convoy came under heavy attack from a company of the South Sudanese Rebels Liberation Army (SPLA), occupying prepared positions on the west bank of the river. During the attack the fuel barge carrying Major Faraday sustained damage to one of its engines and became detached from the rest of the convoy, drifting towards the enemy on the river bank. It drifted to a stop 200 metres from the SPLA position, where intensified fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades struck the barge. The SPLA then tried to close in on the barge, but were repelled by the UN soldiers on board, four of whom were wounded during the fight. Major Faraday took control of the situation, though he had no command authority over the UN soldiers or the civilian barge crews. For four hours from the start of the attack until mid-afternoon, the convoy was kept under constant fire. Throughout this period, Major Faraday provided leadership to all on board the barges, moving under fire between firing positions encouraging the soldiers to fight back, and ensuring the four casualties were being attended to. He exposed himself to enemy fire on a number of occasions to maintain his situational awareness and provide regular reports to the UN Force Headquarters on the state of the battle and to request fire support and assistance.

Realising that assistance would not be available, he made the decision to abandon the two fuel barges, transfer the personnel, casualties and stores to the two ration barges and withdraw the convoy out of danger, which he managed to achieve by nightfall, finding a safe harbour site with an anti-SPLA unit. After the fire-fight and withdrawal, Major Faraday reported to the UN Headquarters that the two fuel barges were probably adrift on the Nile, resulting in the barges being salvaged and recovered to Malakal.

Major Faraday’s outstanding gallantry and leadership resulted in a successful conclusion to the battle with the rebel forces and prevented loss of life among the convoy’s 72 civilian and military personnel, and also enabled the UN’s northern base in South Sudan to remain operational.

Major Faraday left the Army after he returned from South Sudan and went back to university to study for a Masters in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies at the London School of Economics. After the course he returned to South Sudan to work with many of the same communities he had done when previously there. After 14 months he moved from South Sudan to Iraq and he currently works with the Danish Refugee Council in Mosul. “I still have connections with South Sudan supporting a community group that provides training for women looking to start their own businesses. It is a very small drop in the ocean for the needs of the people but it is something. I have no doubt that I will return at some stage,” he says.
We take management of our training areas seriously and as such, the Tekapo Military Training Area has become a prime example of environmental management for the better.

The NZDF manages 17,000 hectares of land in Tekapo which our soldiers use to train and exercise in. Defence Estate and Infrastructure Land Management Officer Mrs Shona Sam says it is an integral part of the NZDF culture that we are responsible land owners and that we look after and protect the area.

“We help to protect what makes New Zealand so unique and that is the natural landscape. The Mackenzie Basin is a significant landscape and we manage a large tract of un-grazed land high in biodiversity value.

“We work hard to ensure that we minimise our impacts as much as possible for the long term sustainability of the landscape as a whole, while still providing a good training area for current and future soldiers,” she said.

Mrs Sam said soldiers can cover any part of the training area on foot, but vehicles are restricted to minimise the impact on the environment and to provide safe and effective routes for military training.

“Any firing with large calibre firearms are restricted to the impact zone, and as part of any exercise there is time set aside to refurbish areas, particularly ensuring digging and explosion holes are remediated.

“If necessary grass seed is spread and then covered with shade cloth to prevent soil from blowing away in the wind,” she said.

When exercises take place in Tekapo soldiers and their units are given rules that show where they can go, where they aren’t able to go and where they can fire into.

“This is to help protect the significant natural land value areas and waterways in the training area from being negatively impacted by military activities.

“As part of the brief when they arrive on the ground soldiers are given information about what to look out for and what to do if they see something while they are out in the training area that could impact the environment, like pests,” said Mrs Sam.

Something very unique to this 17,000 hectares of land is that NZDF does not graze any animals in the training area. “We don’t graze any of the training area and therefore it provides a large space where native plants can establish, grow and increase in number. Tekapo is a hard climate to grow anything in and the soils are quite poor in nutrients which means it can take many years to re-establish native plants and recover from any sort of impact,” she said.

There are some areas within the training area which have not had any grazing or impact for over 20 years and as a result NZDF is seeing some good recovery of native tussocks and other native plants.

“Snow tussock is one native tussock that is becoming more visible now than it has in the recent past. We also have a very good population of robust grasshopper which is a nationally endangered insect species present in the training area that we have been able to maintain, as well as its current distribution and population,” said Mrs Sam.

Keeping the area as pristine as it is takes a lot of effort and NZDF works with a number of organisations to help achieve this. There are several places within the training area which have been classified as significant areas and there is a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Conservation in place to ensure that they are protected.

The Upper Fork River is a significant natural area and contains little to no pest plants and has a high natural biodiversity.

“This makes it a pretty important space to protect. The areas contains several threatened native fish, there are also threatened lizards present in the area along with braided river birds like the Banded Dotterel which nest on the riverbed.

“We work closely with the Department of Conservation to allow as much access for them as possible and have also worked with them to put protective measures in place such as fish weirs which prevent trout getting up the streams and eating the native fish.”

There are also a number of other ways that NZDF help to mitigate any pests impacting the local biodiversity and environment – including measures to stop the spread of didymo, control of wilding conifers and pest control of wallabies, rabbits, hares, ferrets, possums and hedgehogs which are all a threat to the environment.

Mrs Sam said at present all vehicles are prohibited from crossing the Fork River to prevent any spread of pests and didymo into the area.

There is a large wilding conifer control program on in the training area with the objective of having no adult coning trees and so far NZDF have been largely successful with this, Mrs Sam said.

“A lot of what NZDF does naturally aligns with helping protect biodiversity. Soldiers training on foot have minimal impact on the ground and putting vehicle restrictions to reduce environmental impact has also had a significant positive impact on the training area and helps to ensure that the area remains a good training area for the long term,” said Mrs Sam.
Taking Command of Army’s Training

As the new Commander of Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Colonel James Kaio is picking up the controls with both hands and, as expected, intends to carve a path of leadership, excellence and innovation. His first priority is to create time and space to allow his units to succeed.

“We have passionate instructors that work hard at training our people but they have a number of competing requirements such as implementing new policies, assisting with capability development, personal development and family needs. Our people need more time, better tools and improved processes to better prepare, deliver, review and improve our individual training”. Although the focus of TRADOC is on individual training there are three different outputs: initial training, professional development and pre-deployment training.

“IT’s an interesting Command and it comes with a number of very intriguing challenges,” said COL Kaio. Striving for excellence in training is the life blood of the formation and he intends to help cement TRADOC as a leader in its field. “TRADOC focuses on individual training and that hasn’t changed for many years. But we aren’t learning fast enough to reflect learning in society. Our Army needs to be an employer of choice and we need to improve our use of technology. We need to use it better and invest in it more.

“There is an absolute need to get cold, wet and dirty in order to experience the harshness of soldiering but the theory of training can be done better – technology is one way of doing this.” He will bring his overseas experience into play in an effort to get leverage off the ABCANZ armies. “We’re too small to be leading edge but because we are a small Army we can make changes fast. We need to leverage off our partner armies who are much larger and better resourced. We need to be rapid integrators – to integrate ideas, doctrine and technologies that can make us better on the battlefield.”

The Collective Training Centre (CTC) is one of the best examples of the rapid integrator technique, he says. “They are seeing things from around the world and implementing best practices into our own training. They train across multiple environments. Iraq is not the same as the Pacific and not the same as Africa. They are a font of knowledge and are able to adapt to the requirements of each mission.” COL Kaio also plans on observing a wide range of training to better understand the issues but more importantly to understand the successes. “We are going to focus on what’s good and then pass these golden nuggets around the Army so that others can learn. “Everyone who wants to progress in our Army will come to TRADOC, either as a recruit or through one of the courses at our schools. You will need to be an instructor at some time in your career and to be selected shows you’re at the top of your game. And while you’re teaching, you’re also learning.”

Colonel Kaio and his family are welcomed onto the Army Marae at Waiouru.

The challenge is laid by Warrant Officer Class Two Aaron Morrison.

From left, LCPL Shanan Harris, (ARQMS 5/7 RNZIR), SGT Jackson Lewis, (Cadre NCO 5/7 RNZIR) COL Glenn King, BRIG (now Major General) John Boswell, COL Kaio, SSGT Chris Kidney, (Cadre NCO 5/7 RNZIR) and Private Ryan Ingleton (3/6 RNZIR).
Chef Karl Seidel, judge at the Toque d’Or culinary competition, nods his approval at a plate of Blackberry-rubbed beef sirloin with a beef and bacon pie with blue cheese sauce. “I like that,” he says to another judge. “That was number eight?”

Seidel doesn’t know it, but number eight is the New Zealand Defence Force team of two chefs and one steward. On the other side of a long line of fridges, and out of sight of the judging, Able Chef Danielle Swart, Lance Corporal Tyrone Broad (chef) and Lance Corporal Hiria Ripa (steward) turn their attention to dessert, the last course in the three-course national Toque d’Or competition.

Toque d’Or, meaning Golden Hat, is an annual event pitting the best culinary students and trainees against each other in a live kitchen cook-off. There are eight teams at the Logan Campbell Centre on 13 August, and a very large red-numbered digital clock counts down the last 30 minutes of the event.

Teams are judged not only on the quality of food prepared, but the presentation and service that goes with it, the amount of wastage, and their cleanliness in the kitchen. Guest diners from the industry, three to a team, are served by the steward team member, who explains the courses.

“It’s intense,” says LCPL Broad, who is based at Burnham. He says NZDF chfeing might not have the perception of fine dining, but Defence Catering is like any tertiary hospitality organization, with the same skills taught and qualifications offered. “NZDF are not the underdogs,” he says.

ACH Swart says you go into a “zone” when you’re up against the clock. “You don’t see or hear anybody other than your teammate. It’s a real buzz.”

The experience was a first for LCPL Ripeka, also from Burnham, who enjoyed the interaction with her diners. “I love hospitality. It’s really good, giving the service, being professional, and learning about the dishes. You have to know your menu, the beverages. Communication between myself and the chefs is key.”

LCPL Ripeka took a gold medal in points for her front of house service, while the two chefs earned a silver medal for their kitchen work.

Wendy Steele, the Director of Hospitality Business magazine, was one of the diners at the NZDF table. “The lady serving us was exceptional,” she says. “Confident in the right way, very articulate, explained things very well. The food was great and the wine was a match.” She comes every year, and secretly hopes to be on the NZDF table again. “My dad was in WW2, so I always feel, it’s something special to be on the Defence Force table.”

“The NZDF team competed admirably against the other seven training institutes from across New Zealand but unfortunately didn’t take out the top spot on the podium. The results were very close though with six teams getting a combination of either Gold or Silver in Kitchen and Front of House. ARA Institute of Technology Canterbury was placed first and the Innovative award went to Sky City Auckland.
The US gunners’ mettle is tested in Tekapo territory.

With the winter weather firmly settled in, 163 Battery had its ranks reinforced by a contingent of fellow gunners from the 3-7 Field Artillery Regiment, US Army, to conduct Exercise Lightning Kiwi 18.

The exercise was designed to maintain and further develop relations with our American partners through a challenging activity promoting interoperability, and improving the ability of 16th Field Regiment to participate in future division artillery operations.

Members of Alpha Battery left the sun kissed shores of Hawaii and joined 163 Battery to prepare for the exercise. Through the cold and wet mornings at PT to spending hours on the howitzers mastering our gunnery processes, our American counterparts showed undying enthusiasm and a will to learn all aspects of operations within the battery. The battery later deployed to the barren wind-swept plains of Tekapo, where the 3-7 motto “never broken by hardship or battle” would truly be tested.

A hard and fast tactical scenario tested problem-solving at all levels, small arms fires with the incorporation of a small arms remote target range, and indirect fire support. “Lightning Kiwi was an incredible opportunity for our soldiers,” said LT Rodney Anderson. “Training in infantry minor tactics as well as technical gunnery is not something we get to do often back home.”

As well as building new relationships 163 Battery rekindled some old ones, when a few members of the battery went to Waimea to visit 92 year old LT (Rtd) Don Scott. Don was the Easy troop commander during the Battle of Kapyong in the Korean War. Much like the gunners out in Tekapo, Don had also worked closely with the Americans, calling in fire support from 214 Battery, 65th Field Artillery to aid in the withdrawal of 3rd Battalion RAR. The stories he shared reinforced the importance of training with our allies in order to best prepare for future conflict.

As our American counterparts returned to their home base 163 Battery re-rolled to support A Company, 2/1st Battalion as they conducted Platoon and Company assaults by day and night. Speaking on the firing with A Coy, 2/1 RNZIR, MAJ Brent Morris, battery commander 163 Battery said “Firing in support of the manoeuvre arm is the most important and beneficial training we can do as a battery. The Joint Fires Teams have learned valuable lessons on fire planning, and the importance of good reliable communications. No other training event can better emphasise lessons like this.”
QAMR EXERCISE CASSINO
5–17 June 18

Exercise Cassino is just one of the many training commitments that Queens Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles conducts over any given training year.

It’s an opportunity to test live field firing at a troop level within an operational setting and identify training deficiencies for upcoming squadron level exercises. Troops execute a variety of tasks given over a number of different platforms (OPORD, Data, Verbal, and Radio Orders) designed to test their delivery systems while offering commanders varied experiences. Whilst the exercise itself is run organically, QAMR also offers the opportunity for a number of other units to attend and support. This year Second Lieutenant Joshua Bishop of 3/6 Battalion upheld a long standing tradition of Reservist integration in the annual exercise where he attended as a watch keeper in the Squadron/ExCon Tac HQ. He recounts his experiences below.

In previous years I’ve enjoyed attending Ex Cassino as an infantry dismount, when 3/6 Bn would tie in their Ex Cassino with QAMR. Our unit would be congregated in Waiouru conducting our annual HE qualifications while also participating in NZLAV familiarisations and rehearsals prior to providing infantry sections for QA’s Battle Handling Exercises. This year, post commissioning I had the unique opportunity to experience the exercise from a different viewpoint, that being from the Company or Squadron CP. The two weeks I spent shadowing the OPSO provided a number of valuable experiences and insights built on to prior exposure to CP operations as a general list. Our CP was established towards the northern end of Carbuncle which also offered picturesque views of Mt Ruapehu, a sight enjoyed from many aspects within Waiouru. However, true to form, Waiouru never once decided on what the weather was going to do and instead we experienced everything from sun, fog, hail, sideways rain, sleet, snow, gales and of course a good morning frost. But alas all part of the experience when visiting Waiouru.

The exercise contained 4 tasks over 4 days which each fed into a greater evolving scenario, culminating with a BHE style live firing activity against an OPFOR point guard. Each deployed troop conducted a KLE & observation post (Key Leader supplied by NZ Intelligence Corps), AO clearance, deliberate attack and a battle replenishment/block. During my time I was fortunate to break out of the CP and observe a battle replen. Of course OPFOR seized the opportunity to conduct a hasty attack from which the Troop picked up the fight from the A1 Ech and gave QBO radio orders to pursue and destroy the enemy. Live firing was a totally new experience for me and gave appreciation to the complexity of a troop commander’s responsibility for his vehicles and the sections inside them. While the live firing experience was a one off, life within the CP presented new opportunities and experiences, a chance to develop skills and gain familiarity in CP operations. We were fortunate to have three signallers attached whom were invaluable and provided the CP with its communication and data capability. The daily exposure I had to LAV operations, tactics, routines, reports and returns and even on occasion stepping up as a very ‘notional’ MFC are all experiences I would seldom otherwise get exposure to. I wasn’t the only reservist to be tied in to the activity either. A young private from 5/7 Bn was stepped up as a section 2IC amongst the Infantry recently off Combat Corp training provided by 1 RNZIR and three Int-ops from 1 CSR. In the brief conversation I has with him, it became very clear that the experience had been hard, challenging, but most of all enriching. His experience is something that he will take back and feed into his section members and unit. Across the week, the command team demonstrated flexibility de-conflicting where needed but also tying in with other units in the area. For example the engineers had set up their REBS (gap crossing system) which was able to be factored into a scenario.

If the opportunity presents itself in coming years, Ex Cassino is an activity I would aim to attend. From a reserve perspective, while the work can be hard (I’m thinking about the soldiers manning a dismounted OP in the snow) the training value and interoperability you achieve working alongside regular units is of high value to your development and experiences that you take along with you in your career.
The 70th Anniversary of the Regular Force Cadet School will be held in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day which ended WW1. The 70th Anniversary event will be held 10–11 November 2018 in Wellington.

Saturday 10th November
• All day: Classes can enjoy time at leisure in Wellington, or organise their own group activity.
• 1635–1730: Beating the Retreat at the National War Memorial, Pukeahu
• 1800–2345: Plated dinner at Te Papa in the Amokura Gallery.
Guest speaker Hon Ron Mark.
Please register to purchase tickets for this event.

Sunday 11th November
• 1100: 100th Commemoration of the Armistice at the National War Memorial, Pukeahu
For registration and travel enquiries, contact Voula Siatiras at Orbit Groups & Events: contactgroups@orbit.co.nz / 04 494 7188.

Registration for the event
You will be required to register for the event, and there will be a small administration fee applicable to members, staff, non-members and accompanying partners.
A plated dinner will be held at Te Papa on Saturday 10 November. There will be a cash bar available for you to purchase drinks on the night.
If you wish to attend the dinner, you will be able to purchase tickets via the registration site.

Registration desk
A staffed registration desk will be available on Friday 9th & Saturday 10th November at the West Plaza Hotel. Times will be confirmed closer to the event to collect lanyards and for any other assistance.

Travel and accommodation
You have the option to request assistance with booking travel and accommodation through Orbit World Travel via the registration site contactgroups@orbit.co.nz.

For registration and travel enquiries, contact Orbit Groups & Events:contactgroups@orbit.co.nz / 04 494 7188.
For all other enquiries please contact Gordon Forrester: helgor@xtra.co.nz or www.rfcadet.org.nz

Are you interested in joining the Female Engagement Team (FET)?
The FET assessment will be conducted in November 2018, with selected applicants conducting training in 2019, or 2020 depending career requirements.

How to apply:
Nominations open 6 August. For more information visit http://org.nzsof/LP/Recruiting.aspx.

Applicants are required to be:
• Rank CPL – SSGT (E), 2LT – MAJ (E) (or equivalent RNZN, RNZAF).
  ‐ Applicants accepted at PTE – LCPL (E) in exceptional circumstances.*
• Physically fit – RFL within six months.
• Agile, Determined, Resilient, Adaptable, Ready for a challenge!
*Individuals with other knowledge, skills and attributes at this lower rank level will be considered. For example: other professional qualifications and/or experience, the ability to speak other languages, or life experience. Persons wishing to be considered under this circumstance need to apply to the CO 1 NZSAS Regt in writing outlining their personal situation or reasons.

The entry assessment is a critical screening process for those women within the NZDF who want to be employed within the FET. Approval of successful applicants will be based upon their psychological, mental and physical capabilities to predict their chance of success on SOF enabler training. It also allows career manager’s certainty in the posting cycle, prior to successful applicants beginning FET training the following year.

Commanders and Career Managers: The FET is a new and exciting opportunity for women to serve as a FET member in 1 NZSAS Regt, likely for a three year post. Candidates that successfully complete the FET entry assessment will be considered for further training consisting of a comprehensive training package. For 2019 there is likely five slots on this training package. Post this FET training package, successful candidates will either receive an offer of service to join the current FET or enter a holding pool of trained and qualified FET personnel. The decision for this will be based on overall performance with candidates ranked against available positions, with the final decision made by the COs panel. This isn’t the end of their trade or Corps career. FET members will be released to attend their Corps/ trade course and service promotion course requirements. After their FET posting, members will return to trade and bring their new skills and experiences. Certain individuals will be offered a second (back-to-back) post to enable continuity and skill enhancement, on an as required basis.

It’s a small world, as the saying goes. New Zealand Army Colonel Stef Michie was chatting to US Army Colonel Levi Dunton, one of his classmates at the Australia Defence College Strategic Studies Course recently. COL Dunton is an Apache pilot by trade.

“As comrades do, we discuss missions etc and unsurprisingly COL Dunton has served many tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. As it turns out, he was on duty in Afghanistan, flying out of Bagram on 4th August 2012. When a MEDEVAC mission was launched into the vicinity of Baghak in Bamin Province, COL Dunton got the call to fly escort for the MEDEVAC aircraft. So as it turns out, he spent a lot of time in the air supporting our PRT forces in Afghanistan that day.

“Of course I explained to him the significance for the New Zealand Army of the ground fighting going on that day, as well as the impact of the loss of Lance Corporals Rory Malone and Pralli Durrer, but also the lives saved thanks to the brave medevac pilots (and their escorts). Most importantly, I passed on my thanks, on behalf of us all.”
By Charlene Williamson, Senior Communications Advisor (South), Defence Public Affairs

Leaving a lasting impression on an organisation and a community is not something Brett Manning would have expected, but to say he did is an understatement.

Warrant Officer Class One Brett Manning (retired) passed away suddenly in early June at the age of 61. Brett spent 44 years of his life working for the New Zealand Defence Force, and he was both a Territorial Force and Regular Force soldier as well as a civilian employee in the New Zealand Army.

Brett enlisted in 1974 as a Territorial Force soldier where he reached the rank of Corporal before joining the Regular Force in 1981. The move saw him start again as Private and progress through the years to Warrant Officer Class One in July 2000.

As a Regular Force soldier Brett served in 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, the New Zealand Defence Support Unit in Singapore, School of Military Intelligence and Security, Land Operations Training Centre and Headquarters 3rd Land Force Group in Burnham.

Brett was a founding member of the New Zealand Intelligence Corps (NZIC), becoming an instructor at the New Zealand Army Intelligence Centre in Papakura prior to the School of Military Intelligence & Security (SMIS) being established. He moved with SMIS to Waiouru where he was later promoted to Warrant Officer Class One. He took the skills learnt in the NZIC to Burnham were his last posting in uniform was as A/ S2 of HQ 3LFG. Brett retired from the Army in 2003 and then continued on as the civilian Security Manager for Burnham Camp.

Long term friend and colleague Mr Peter Jackson knew Brett for 35 years and said he was great to work with. "He was highly professional, very likable and had a great (sometimes wry) sense of humour. He was also a pragmatist, and always sought workable solutions that complied with the intent, if not always to the letter of the law. "These things made him a well-respected and highly valued member of the New Zealand Army’s intelligence and security functions. He really was a pleasure to work with,” said Mr Jackson.

Brett has left a lasting impression on everyone he has worked with, more than he will ever know. He will be missed.

DECISIONS NOW AFFECT OUR ENGINEERING AND TECH FUTURE

By Suzi Phillips

GirlBoss founder, Alexia Hilbertidou kicked off the 2018 NZDF Engineering and Technology Conference in Albany recently with a strong case for supporting more women into engineering, technology, maths and science.

The conference was a joint event, put together by the NZDF and the NZ Institute of Plant & Food Research (IP&F). It was a joint event, putting together engineering and technology for a disrupted future of work, as well as capabilities for the future, transforming your organisation, and innovation in action.

The conference was a joint event, putting together engineering and technology for a disrupted future of work, as well as capabilities for the future, transforming your organisation, and innovation in action.

Further sessions on the first day focused on tech vision and democratising data, the future of work and cognitive computing, and the impacts on business and society.

On the second day, the focus shifted to other aspects of innovation in a changing work-force and preparing for a disrupted future of work, as well as capabilities for the future, transforming your organisation, and innovation in action.

Breakout sessions were held for each service with navy looking at the Future Sailor applied to Naval Engineering, Naval engineering transformation, and some relevant Defence Technology projects in the Southern Ocean. Army looked at aspects of additive manufacturing, the exploitation of virtual reality, unmanned vehicles and robotics and personnel protection.

The Air Force’s focus included presentations on future tech research, organisational change, the RNZAF supply trade strategy, and RNZAF engineers, technicians and suppliers in a DARs structure.
Linton, Waiouru and Ohakea military and civilian personnel got the chance to get up close to a myriad of aspects of what it means to live a healthy lifestyle at an occupational, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual level.

“A healthy lifestyle should not just be looked at on the physical level. It is also being at the top of your game in those other elements too,” said Colonel Matthew Weston, Commander 1 (NZ) Brigade.

“The Army’s ability to achieve mission success will always be centred on its people.”

The Expo had a theme of ‘Be the best you, for your colleagues, for your whanau,’ and was made up of more than 70 stands and four speakers covering topics ranging from financial services, education, and property investment, to Veterans Affairs New Zealand and sports equipment, plus everything in between.

Hundreds of personnel and their families walked around the stands and listened to key speakers deliver seminars that focused on the RSA’s Burnham Hub model, having a purpose-full life, ensuring a balanced well-functioning body, and lifestyle modifications for optimal functioning and aging.

A group of highly motivated people pulled the Expo together, developing strong content and a line-up of interesting exhibitors to suit the needs of the contemporary military person and their family.

“Defence rightly expects a lot from its people and this is how we can show them the resources we have available to make sure they can do their job properly,” said Captain Shannon Shattock, one of the event organisers.

“It’s all about military personnel and their needs.”

Kristy Hill said the speakers were a very popular part of the Expo and the seminars had been professionally filmed so they could be accessed by military members who could not make the event.

Veterans Affairs New Zealand (VANZ) said it was important personnel understood that veterans come in all ages and that 18 and 19 year olds can be veterans.

Matthew Dyson from VANZ said there were lots of resources that modern military personnel could utilise.

“There are great tool kits for our personnel within NZDF and it is important to note that our veterans today are showing different needs. There is a lot more awareness around post-traumatic stress disorder now, for example.”

This was the third year the Expo had been held at Linton and each year the format is improved to ensure it meets personnel’s wants and needs. This year there were spot prizes to win organised by the Community Services team, and personnel were also able to compete in various fitness challenges and fun competitions, making it more interactive than in previous years.
Captured over the course of 18 months, the NZ Army exhibition He Hōia Ahau – I am Soldier follows the journey of cadets and recruits as they train to become the future leaders and soldiers of the New Zealand Army – Ngāti Tūmatauenga.

“My family and I moved to Ohakune just over two years ago, in part to provide me an opportunity to focus on more long term documentary photographic stories rather than general photography and magazine work,” Craig says.

“To integrate into a new community I started teaching photography in Ohakune, a three month course which quickly expanded to include Waiouru.” It was at this course he met then-Commander Training and Doctrine Command, Colonel Karyn Thompson. Craig discussed the opportunity to take a series of photographs to document the training undertaken at Officer Cadet School and The Army Depot.

“The interest was sparked by the opportunity to photograph an environment that, to me, was completely foreign. I saw it as an opportunity to tell a story that is rarely told through civilian eyes,” Craig says.

The experience proved to be both rewarding and challenging.

“The environment in Waiouru is a major contributor to how difficult the experience is for anyone working there. Photographing in driving rain, freezing wind, sand storms or finding myself in deep snow at ungodly hours of the morning, all make for challenging photographic environments,” he says.

But the challenges were outnumbered by highlights. “This entire journey has been a huge honour and privilege to produce,” Craig says. “I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with all the men and women I have worked with over the past 18 months.

“A personal highlight for me was the afternoon I spent with WO2 Aaron Morrison as he taught the recruits the NZ Army Haka – Tū. It was an incredible and entertaining experience, learning the history and meaning of the NZ Army haka.”

This moment was captured, alongside hundreds of others – from the day the new recruits stepped off the bus, to the moment they stepped out of Waiouru as soldiers of the NZ Army. The exhibition covers key aspects of life in garrison, on the field, and in between. Offering a unique perspective on NZ Army training, and set within an equally unique training environment – itself showcased in all its character as part of the series – He Hōia Ahau offers a glimpse into life behind the wire at the Army’s primary training establishments, and at the profound impact that training has on those who undertake it.

At its heart, the story behind He Hōia Ahau is one of character. The strength of character that is developed through the training conducted by the New Zealand Army.

“The pride, standards, self-worth and self-confidence that is developed through the training is tangible as the central theme of this exhibition,” Craig says.

“To put it simply, the NZ Army is producing some damn fine kiwis. Kiwis that are proud to serve New Zealand. Kiwis with mana.”

He Hōia Ahau – I am Soldier opens at The Academy of Fine Arts in Wellington on October 19, and runs until November 2. Entry is free.
About the author

Peter Cooke specialises in New Zealand military history and industrial heritage, having written a dozen books to date. He has also written on such diverse topics as Shell Oil NZ Ltd, Wellington Returned and Services Association, water supply, rugby in war, and mine-proof vehicles. As a product of the British diaspora, he brings an internationalist perspective to works on New Zealand history, showing the country as part of a global whole.

Peter edits two New Zealand military history periodicals, lobbies for defence heritage sites under threat and runs field trips to local battle sites. Married with children, he lives in central Wellington and is actively involved with his community.

Art in Recovery: Stronger Together

Art and Sculpture Exhibition – 9 November 2018

We want to see your Art!

The New Zealand Army is calling for registrations to our Art in Recovery initiative and will have an exhibition of art works to recognise service personnel, their families/whānau and their journeys of recovery as told through their own art.

The exhibition will celebrate and recognise New Zealand Defence Force personnel who have been injured, wounded or ill as part of their service to our country, as well as Families of our Fallen.

Art in Recovery is open to:

• Any current or former serving New Zealand Defence Force Injured Wounded or Ill personnel
• Any family and friends of current or former serving New Zealand Defence Force Injured Wounded or Ill personnel
• Any family and friends of New Zealand Defence Force’s Families of our Fallen

Entries close 1 October 2018 with an art unveiling on 9 November 2018 at Burnham Military Camp.

For more information and to get a registration form email: artinrecovery@nzdf.mil.nz
SECRET SAS OPERATIONS IN AFRICA – C SQN’S COUNTER-TERORIST OPERATIONS 1968–1980

By Major (Rtd) Michael Graham. Published in the UK by Pen and Sword Military. Reviewed by Jack Hayes.

As someone who worked in New Zealand in the security industry with Mike Graham, I heard many of the stories in this book in person so it is no surprise that he was finally convinced to put it all down on paper. The author lives in New Zealand and enjoys a quiet life now.

This book is true – despite his introduction on ‘faction’ – the events in this book all happened and are factually correct. This is a good read with lots of action, with his troops getting shot at far too often by large calibre rockets, machine guns and mortars, thankfully not very accurate which is why he lived to tell the tale. C Sqn Rhodesian SAS have a proud history that should be better known in New Zealand. A number of New Zealand Army members served in the Rhodesian Army and had some exciting experiences at a time when New Zealand had no wars on the horizon.

Secret SAS operations in Africa tells the story of a country literally fighting for its life – and it lost. Sadly, as Zimbabwe, it still has a long way to go to get back to the economic powerhouse that it once was. With great natural resources, amazing scenery and some truly wonderful people Rhodesia was a great place to live and make a living. That is not the case today with tribal factions still fighting over their perceived rights.

The book will explain why as professional soldiers we need to sometimes look outside the box – like the raid launched from a South African submarine on the port of Beira in neighbouring Mozambique. They sank the Russian ship tied up at the wharf with limpet mines. The ship was loaded with heavy weapons and armoured vehicles destined for use by ZANU guerrillas in Rhodesia. Job done, the team paddled back out to sea in their Klepper canoes to be picked up by the same ‘happened to be passing by’ South African submarine. They completed raids involving 300+km sorties in canoes, downstream assaults on major training camps in Zodiac inflatables, walked for up to a week to demolish bridges, and posed as British tourists to complete the recce of targets in neighbouring countries where the terrorists operated out in the open with impunity.

Could we dare to be that bold?

Finally, this book records the end of an era where well-armed troops with good discipline and training took on mainly conscripted locals who received very basic training and who as a result suffered heavy casualties whenever they were surprised by the men of C Sqn. Surprise was a real advantage along with subterfuge. In almost all cases, those attacked did not know who it was they were fighting. False leads and clues helped disguise their identity along with the use of AKM and RPG weapons.

If you are interested in Africa or Special Forces, you will enjoy this book. Well done Mick – it is a keeper. Thanks for the effort to record it for all of us.

Jack Hayes is a former member of INZSAS Regiment.

NEW QUALIFICATION OPPORTUNITY FOR NZDF MANAGERS

This month the Defence Qualifications team at NZ Defence College is launching a new qualification programme for military managers to gain a nationally recognised qualification in the workplace.

The NZ Diploma in Business Level 5 (Leadership and Management) is a brand new qualification released by NZQA, replacing the former National Diploma in Business Level 5. It is the new industry standard qualification for those who are managing people, resources and workplace operations.

The approved programme for NZDF personnel involves completing seven modules over twelve months delivered through a blend of workplace (60 credits) and new learning (60 credits). Phase one focuses on leadership and management within the workplace.

Defence Qualifications Programme Developer, Terry Grant says, “The workplace modules draw on a person’s learning from the Leadership Framework and uses reflective practice to demonstrate their abilities as an effective manager of activities and people.

“Your 1-up manager is an important part of the journey too. They are involved in the conversation from the beginning and provide verification of your leadership and management capabilities at the end of each workplace module.”

Phase two is facilitated online by an experienced external provider and focuses on the remaining modules covering the core competencies such as principles of business, people and contexts, implementing innovation and change, impacts and influences, and reporting results.

Graduates can consider working in a manager/leader role at an operational level. Alternatively, this qualification can be used as a step towards further study such as project or applied management.

If you are Lead Leaders qualified with subordinates or are a manager interested in developing managers in your team contact NZ Defence College to take your knowledge and skills to the next level with this programme.

Email: NZDCqualifications@nzdf.mil.nz
The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Invictus Games team and Rolleston College have joined forces to spread the word on the healing power of the Games.

The Invictus Games uses the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate understanding and respect for wounded, injured or ill current and former servicemen and women. The NZDF is sending 25 competitors to this year’s Games, being held in Sydney.

Students at Canterbury’s Rolleston College have been studying adaptive sport and recently had a chance to hear the NZDF team’s stories and see them training. Army Warrant Officer Class Two Koro Hati, who won bronze in team archery at a previous Games, said team members had shared their experiences and ongoing physical and mental challenges with the students.

“They were really interested in what we had to say. It shows them that it’s not just able-bodied people that can enjoy sport. Anybody can,” WO2 Hati said.

“They also learned that the most impaired person is the most able person when you’re in a chair.”

Rolleston College physical education head Andrew Gebbie said a key part of the module had been teaching the students empathy.

“Our learners have taken on board the presentations and the values of the Invictus Games and have started to make links to our school values,” Mr Gebbie said.

“It has been a big part of this unit, having conversations about empathy and understanding. It’s so empowering for our learners to talk about the challenges that the Invictus competitors have overcome.”

Mr Gebbie said hearing from team members with mental illness such as PTSD had been hugely important.

“It is very obvious that an amputee or someone in a wheelchair has a disability but to... talk openly about mental illness, and specifically PTSD, was a great opportunity. This gives our learners the tools to recognise these feelings within themselves and talk openly about what was previously not spoken of.

“It has taught our learners that the greatest challenges or traumas can be overcome.”

The team visited the school on the Invictus Games Fly the Flag day – a day when all 18 allied nations competing in the Games fly their Invictus Games flag. The New Zealand team left theirs with the college for students to sign, and will take it with them to fly at their accommodation in Sydney.

Team manager Warrant Officer Gareth Farmer said a number of personnel at the nearby Burnham Military Camp had links to the school and the visit marked the start of an important relationship between the team and the school.

Throughout the Games the team’s journey can be followed on:
Facebook: facebook.com/NZInvictusTeam
Instagram: @NZInvictusTeam
Twitter: @nzdefenceforce

The Invictus Games Sydney 2018, presented by Jaguar Land Rover, are being held from 20-27 October and will involve 500 competitors from 18 allied nations competing in 11 different adaptive sports.

The NZDF team is sponsored by Auckland RSA, Christchurch Memorial RSA, Fulton Hogan, Jaguar Land Rover and Direct Sport.
Well I never actually went anywhere, but here is my story! When I completed Ultraman Australia 2016 in the Sunshine Coast, I won the Military and Emergency Services Division Trophy. Me being me, I knew I had to return in 2017 and defend my title. To me it wasn’t anything that should be simply handed over to the next winner without the current holder defending his title.

For those that don’t know, an Ultraman is a 3 day event covering 515 kms of swimming, cycling and running. Day one is a 10 km Ocean Swim followed by a 140 km Cycle, day two is a 280 km Cycle, and day three is a Double Marathon of 84+ km.

However when I completed Ultraman 2016, I had strained my Peroneal Tendon which curves around the ankle. It gave me grief at the end of the cycle, but I could run on it okay, so I wasn’t too worried. But with training for the 2017 Ultraman event it wasn’t coming right and I just pushed through without saying too much to my Coach, Ray Boardman. I finished the 2017 Ultraman event but I wasn’t in great shape at the finish line. My support crew on a couple of occasions on day two had to remove my cycling shoes and massage my right foot, much to their delight. I didn’t win the Military and Emergency Services Award in 2017, but I was quietly ecstatic that I made it to the finish line in the allocated timeframes and was the first to congratulate the new winner of the Military and Emergency Services Award (an Australian Fireman).

When I returned to New Zealand from Ultraman Australia 2017, Coach Ray gave me five weeks to recover before getting me back into training. I took this time to go to physio, which they sent me for Ultrasounds, etc and discovered my left Peroneal Tendon was 2mm in thickness and my right one was swollen to 4 times the size at 8mm thickness.

I only completed three events though over the 2017/18 season, being the December Iron Māori Half Ironman, which I always enjoy and support as it is about supporting health and wellbeing. I also tackled the January Port of Tauranga Enduro, as this was a new event with a distance of between 2/3 and 3/4 of an Ironman. Then in March I returned to Ironman, all of which I finished and was happy with my timings under Coach Ray’s guidance... so now what?

It was time to lift my game and I was always intrigued by the Erin Baker/Cameron Brown Award and became interested in the Iron Māori /Port of Tauranga Legend Series. As such after a discussion with Coach Ray and my partner, I decided to put the two series of events together and come up with the following events that make up the Erin Baker/Cameron Brown Award and the Iron Māori/Port of Tauranga Legend Series as follows:

03 Nov 18 – Iron Māori Quarter Ironman (Iron Māori / Port of Tauranga Legend Series),
24 Nov 18 – Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge (Erin Baker / Cameron Brown Award),
01 Dec 18 – Iron Māori Half Ironman (Iron Māori / Port of Tauranga Legend Series),
12 Jan 19 – Port of Tauranga Enduro Event (Iron Māori / Port of Tauranga Legend Series),
10 Feb 19 – Kinloch Triathlon (Erin Baker / Cameron Brown Award),
23 Feb 19 – Across Lake Taupo Swim (Erin Baker / Cameron Brown Award), and
02 Mar 19 – Ironman New Zealand (Erin Baker / Cameron Brown Award).

Lance Corporal Andrew Good (RNZE) won the Canterbury road championship race recently.

The race was 10km, consisting of five two km laps. He completed the race in 31.15 minutes.
The Army Men’s team won the inter-Services volleyball tournament recently.

Seedings from 2017:

WOMEN MEN
1. Navy 1. Air
2. Air 2. Navy
3. Army 3. Army

DAY 1:
Round Robin 1 at ASB Stadium, Kilbirnie
(By Best of 5 sets, first team name shows, score first)

Women
Navy vs Army. 3–0 Navy (25:14, 25:17, 25:21)
Navy vs Air. 3–0 Navy (26:24, 25:23, 26:24)

Men
Air vs Army. 3–0 Army (14:25, 20:25, 21:25)
Navy vs Army. 3–0 Army (25:12, 25:23, 25:19)

DAY 2:
Round Robin 2 at Walter Nash Stadium, Taita

Women
Navy vs Army. 3–0 Navy (26:24, 25:10, 25:18)
Air vs Army. 3–1 Army (23:25, 20:25, 25:12, 20:25)
Navy vs Air. 2–1 Navy (25:16, 17:25, 26:24)
(Best of three sets)

Men
Army vs Air. 3–1 Army (25:19, 16:25, 17:25, 09:25)
Navy vs Air. 3–1 Navy (25:21, 19:25, 17:25, 18:25)

DAY 3:
Finals Day at Walter Nash Stadium, Taita
2nd vs 3rd Semi (Best of three sets)

Women
Air vs Army. 2–1 Navy (13:25, 25:19, 15:13)

Men
Navy vs Air. 2–0 Navy (25:22, 25:15)

FINALS

Women
Navy vs Air. 3–0 Navy (25:19, 25:18, 25:18)

Men
Army vs Navy. 3–0 Army (25:13, 25:23, 25:15)

Final results:

WOMEN MEN
1. Navy 1. Army
2. Air 2. Navy
3. Army 3. Air

Visit www.cyclechallenge.com for event details or to enter.
ARMY TAKE HONOURS AT INTER-SERVICES RUGBY
The NZ Army Women's rugby team were the winners at the Inter Services rugby tournament in Blenheim recently after they beat the Navy and Air Force teams. (Army 36–Navy 5, and Army 22–Air 5).

It was a close call for the New Zealand Army Men's team who held on to the King George Cup after beating Navy by more points than Air Force. Army's game against Air Force was a 10–all draw.
INTAKE
FROM CIVILIAN TO SOLDIER
THE ULTIMATE TEST

In an observational documentary style, Intake follows a troop of diverse, young recruits through basic training as they attempt to become soldiers in the New Zealand Defence Force. Witness all the highs and lows as they are pushed beyond their limit, where only the strong will succeed.

PREMIERES TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER, 8:30PM AND ON DEMAND

Find out more at mairitelevision.com/intake