

# BIOGRAPHY

**COLONEL H. J. COOPER, DSD**  
Deputy Chief of Army



Colonel Helen Cooper joined the New Zealand Defence Force in 1988, initially serving as a Territorial Force soldier.

In January 1990, she transferred to the Regular Force and commenced officer training at the Officer Cadet School, Waiouru, graduating in December of that year.

As a young officer Colonel Cooper held a number of staff, training and command appointments. As she has moved into more senior NZDF positions she has worked in organisational and output design, strategic HR and was the Commanding Officer of the NZDF Youth Development Unit and Inspector General Army.

Colonel Cooper deployed to the Cambodian Mine Action Centre as the Logistic Technical Advisor in 1999, and commanded the Combat Services Support Group with 6th New Zealand Battalion Group, East Timor in 2002.

In 2011, she deployed to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation as the Chief Military Observer Group Lebanon, the first female to hold a command appointment at this level.

In July 2017, she was promoted to Colonel and appointed as the Assistance Chief of Army Delivery, responsible for the current operations of Army Headquarters. She is currently posted as the Deputy Chief of Army and is the President of the International Associations of Peace Keeping Training Centres.

Colonel Cooper is a graduate of the NZDF Command and Staff College and was awarded the Distinguished Services Decoration in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours List for her contribution to the Army Transformation Programme.