

# ARMY TODAY

## NZSAS



The 1st New Zealand Special Air Service Regiment (NZSAS) is the premier combat unit of the New Zealand Defence Force. The NZSAS is based in Auckland and comprises highly professional New Zealand soldiers and officers committed to the pursuit of excellence. Their motto is “Who Dares Wins”.

The NZSAS was established in June 1955 as an elite New Zealand Army unit capable of undertaking unconventional warfare. The unit was originally modelled on the British Special Air Service Regiment. The NZSAS has seen action in numerous theatres which include Malaya, Borneo, Indonesia, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

### 1NZSAS has four main roles:

**Surveillance and Reconnaissance** – operate in complex terrain and difficult situations, often for long periods of time on a range of missions and tasks.

**Combating Terrorism** – respond to a terrorist situation in support of the NZ Police at the request of the New Zealand Government.

**Direct Action** – flexible force, capable of conducting complex, joint special operations, for short duration strikes to recover designated personnel and material.

**Support and Influence** – organise, train and advise host nation military and para-military forces to maintain internal security. Also provide assistance to other New Zealand government agencies in the conduct of national strategic operations.

### Why can't the public know more about the NZSAS?

It is important that any information about the NZSAS released to the public does not compromise current and future operational security of the unit. The public have the right to know general

information on the role, tasks and general outline of the history of the unit.

A four-part SAS documentary series on TV3 Inside New Zealand provided greater public awareness of the purpose of the unit, the high level of performance, and focuses on the individual and team aspects of the unit.

