

NEW ZEALAND

DEFENCE UPDATE

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Home from Iraq – Lieutenant Colonel Oiroa Kaihau

Life without body armour and the sounds of explosions and sirens is something New Zealand Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Oiroa Kaihau relishes.

The first New Zealand Defence Force officer to deploy as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), Lieutenant Colonel Kaihau, has returned to New Zealand after completing his six-month mission.

He spent three weeks in Baghdad, before travelling to Erbil, a mainly Kurdish, semi-autonomous region. While in Erbil he lived with a contingent of Korean defence force personnel who were there to provide security. The only military person in a UN international staff of six, his job was to provide the interface between the multi-national forces in Erbil and the United Nations. The UN withdrew most of its international staff from the region just before the 2003 war, and controls most of its Iraq programme from Amman in Jordan. It is now trying to return to the region, and is

building a secure compound in Erbil, separated physically from populated areas so that it can provide assistance and deliver humanitarian aid from a secure base.

The United Nations mandate in Iraq includes providing advice on the holding of elections, promoting discussion on the drafting of a national constitution for Iraq, and advising the Iraq government on the development of effective civil and social services. It is also promoting the protection of human rights, judicial and legal reform in Iraq.

Lieutenant Colonel Kaihau said most of his work in Erbil revolved around liaison work, and interacting with representatives from other nations to find solutions to local issues and problems.

"The United Nations wants to provide a strong foothold in both Erbil and Basra, and is focussed on developing the governance and constitutional process, so that it has a proper base on which to offer humanitarian aid. As an adviser I was called on to consider a wide range of issues – some military and some non-military. I helped develop solutions and options. Despite coming from a logistics background, this was not a disadvantage and I found the all arms military training I had received held me in good stead to deal with the problems I faced."

One of the biggest challenges, he said, was to "not become complacent" as far as security was concerned.

"When I first arrived in Baghdad during the January elections insurgents fired a Katushya rocket into the Embassy Palace Annex where I was staying in the International Zone. It didn't explode,



Savouring peace: Lieutenant Colonel Oiroa Kaihau.

but impacted in the building and killed three people. It was much quieter in Erbil, but we always had contingency plans just in case. Rockets were fired into the Korean Camp on one occasion, but all fell short of their target. The worst incident while I was in Erbil was the suicide bombing outside a police recruitment centre. We heard the explosion from the Korean Camp, some 8km from the incident site and there were a large number of people killed, but we weren't directly affected.

"Insurgents didn't appear to be targeting the United Nations or non-Government organisations. It was mostly security forces, politicians or high-profile Government officials. We were largely confined to the Korean Camp for most of the time, but we had all the communications tools we needed, including the Internet. It was difficult at times coping with not being able to get around at will, but the security situation was such that that was how things had to be.

"Coming home, I really appreciate being able to drive where I like, and go out whenever I feel like it without hearing explosions or wondering if I should take cover."

Lieutenant Colonel Kaihau has been replaced in Erbil by another Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Shatford.



New Zealand Defence Update provides information about defence policy and people, and the activities of our forces throughout the world, to a wide audience in New Zealand and overseas. It is published monthly, and is also available on www.nzdf.mil.nz. We welcome your feedback.

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These are available on request.

COVER: NZ Army driver Lance Corporal Kylie Fastier in the Sinai (See *Soldiering in the Sinai*)

Photo: Judith Martin

Inset: An RNZAF Iroquois maintainer at work in Fiji.

Photo: AC Sam Shepherd

Significant progress in gender integration

The New Zealand Defence Force has made significant progress in gender integration over the past seven years, an independent review has found.

There is now an improved representation and distribution of women throughout the Services, a culture that accepts and values women as well as men, a reduction in harassment incidents, and improvements to the way harassment issues are responded to.

The review says there are still some areas, however, which require work. "It is up to Defence

bedded in, and it was important for the NZDF to now look at further improvements to its current gender initiatives.

"We are talking about cultural, systemic and attitudinal change. This review has given us some very valuable and positive feedback about the progress that has been made within the NZDF. It also gives us information about the areas where we can still make refinements. "

A former RNZAF officer, she feels while the improvements reflect in some areas changes in society's views on women, they also reflect the commitment of Defence leadership to education and awareness, and a willingness to help people look at things differently.

The review says balancing work and family responsibilities is a major issue for the NZDF. The intrinsic nature of the work meant these difficulties were never going to be able to be "solved", but there is a need to constantly look at ways of minimising them.

Ms Gillan says now may be the time to challenge some of the ways the NZDF has always done things. "Some of the ways we do things may have been appropriate 20 years ago, but not so fitting now."

"Society has changed, as have people's expectations of what their work life should be like. In the military the underlying Service needs are paramount, but I think we have to look for more clever ways of how we manage people. For example, we have always insisted that training occurs at certain points in a person's career. Much of this training is residential courses that take a person away from their home, family and community for extended periods of time.

"We expect disruptions in terms of deployments - it is what we are training for - but in the build-up, do we have to do things the way we have always done them? Without ever letting go of the core values of the military, we now need to look at how we can make that commitment to service less of an impingement - perceived or otherwise - so that Service personnel feel they can manage the demands placed on them."

Women in combat

It was a man's world once, but not any more. All occupations within the New Zealand Defence Force are now open to women, and those spoken to about gender integration in the Force say women definitely receive the same opportunities and treatment as men.

"Gender in the New Zealand military has nothing to do with anything career-wise," says one. "It's training, attitude and capability."

From Naval principal warfare officers, to Army infantry, artillery and armoured officers, to pilots and defence attachés, women are everywhere in the NZDF.

"The NZDF has come a long way since I first joined the Service in 1970. Although we have gone through some pain in working towards gender integration, we (as a Defence Force) have matured considerably," says Group Captain Mary Cox, New Zealand's defence advisor in Malaysia.

"With excellent role models in New Zealand in all parts of society many of our younger Service personnel, both men and women, are used to women having the opportunity to do anything and the freedom to make any career choice they wish. This is reflected in the changed attitudes in the NZDF on gender issues."

Commander Maxine Lawes, who joined the Royal New Zealand Navy as an enlisted rating in 1985, and was one of the first Navy women to go to sea, says she can remember some initial opposition to women serving on ships.

"But once we were on there things changed - we were just part of the ship's company, doing a job." However, once the trial was completed and women were officially serving in ships, more issues were raised relating to gender integration, and they took some time to resolve.

A supply officer, Commander Lawes has served on various ships, has been aide-de-camp to the Governor-General, and has recently returned from a year as a peacekeeper in the Middle East.

She acknowledges hearing of sexist attitudes within the Navy earlier in her career, but those attitudes were not widespread, she says. In some trades and branches where women did not serve it was more prevalent than in those where women had been serving for a number of years.

"I think they were based more on naivety, or were from men who had not spent much time working or training with women and were unsure what was appropriate behaviour."

Major Karyn Te Moana, an Army signals officer, says she has noticed definite improvements in the way women and their careers, are treated in the Army.

"When I was commissioned women could only join certain branches. I wanted to be an infantry officer but I couldn't as combat trades were not open to women then."

Major Te Moana married fellow officer, Rob Te Moana in 1992. The couple are the same rank, and have two young children. The Army, she says, has had an excellent attitude towards their postings, ensuring they both serve in the same location, and that one of them has a day job if the other is training or on deployment. Both have served as peacekeepers throughout the world, including Bosnia, East Timor, Angola and the Sinai.

"There used to be an attitude in some areas that there was little benefit in training women to a high degree as they would get pregnant and then leave the Service. Some people may still have that attitude and you will never change them, but the career management structure within the Army is identical for men and women now."



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Making headway: (clockwise from top) Helicopter pilot, Flight Lieutenant Heather Peart; Naval officer, Commander Maxine Lawes; Naval Principal Warfare, Officer Lieutenant Commander Lisa Hunn; Army officer Major Karyn Te Moana; and the Army's first female armoured vehicle commander, Captain Sara Harrison.

Force leaders to consider these, and decided whether some of the systems within the services reflect modern management and the expectations of society as a whole, says NZDF Human Resources Manager (Policy) Laura Gillan.

The review into progress being made into gender integration was commissioned by the NZDF six years after what was known as the Burton Report was delivered in 1998. That report, which made 121 recommendations to the NZDF, was instigated by the Human Rights Commission in response to complaints by individuals about the way the Defence Force was managing allegations of harassment and mistreatment.

Ms Gillan says five years is a "fair amount of time" for the changes promoted in the Burton report to have

Sinai soldiers – Kiwis in the

By Judith Martin

In a Sinai base just 40 km from the turbulent Gaza Strip, New Zealand Army driver Lance Corporal Kylie Fastier can't wait to get on the road to Israel.

It's no ordinary road, and she's no ordinary truckie. And despite the increased risk of terrorist activity in the Middle East in recent weeks, the day has started well for this Sinai soldier.

Diminutive – she barely reaches her truck's wing mirror – it's her birthday today, and as she turns 22, it's another day in paradise for a Wanganui kid who was brought up loving trucks, and now drives them for a living in the heart of the Middle East.

Signs of past tensions in the nearby area are apparent, with Israeli tanks still patrolling the Gaza border, and various militant factions threatening each other. The suicide car bombing at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in southern Sinai in late July killed 88 people, and on August 15 a roadside bomb exploded just south of the camp where the New Zealanders are based. In the latter incident a van driven by two Canadians was seriously damaged but there were no serious injuries.

Corporal Fastier is one of eight New Zealand Defence Force drivers who ferry huge Volvos around the Middle East in support of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) an organisation that monitors, from two camps in the Sinai Peninsula, the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, and works to prevent any treaty violations.

An independent organisation, the MFO numbers about 2200 personnel, 600 of them civilians, from countries including Australia, Canada, Columbia, Fiji, France, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway and the United States.

Commanding Officer of the New Zealand contingent, Lieutenant Colonel Dan Gawn says as tensions in the Middle East have heightened slightly, the threat level in the Sinai has recently increased.

"Our personnel are not immune to terrorist activities. We have certain movement restrictions in place, and we are always vigilant. We are constantly monitoring the regional and global situation to assess the potential impact on our personnel and operations."

But terrorism is a remote thought in Kylie Fastier's head. Her soldier mates have showered her with presents, and, in the evening a small party is planned. A day later she



On the road again: Kiwi truck drivers prepare for a day's driving.

will step up to a dais, shake hands with MFO Commander Lieutenant General Roberto Martinelli, and, along with a group of other New Zealand drivers, receive a commendation which mentions her "outstanding performance of duties in achieving 30,000 accident-free kilometres of driving."

In the meantime though, a trip to Israel and back beckons. And that could mean dodging the odd wandering camel or donkey, not to mention the hordes she will have to ease her vehicle past during market day at nearby el Gorah.

Potential terrorist threats aside, for the Sinai's Kiwi truckies, there are other, maybe just as serious threats to consider, considering what they are driving: wandering camels, potholes (they are large and frequent), the unusual local driving habits (blind corners don't register) sand drifts, endless stretches of desert, and the relentless heat.



Middle East

"It's what makes the job interesting," says Corporal Fastier. "You have to keep your wits about you all the time, much more so than in New Zealand. I love trucks – my dad was a truckie, and I'd sit up in the cab with him whenever I could. Driving over here is just the best job."

Market day in nearby el Gorah is mayhem, she admits. "You have to stay alert to anything. People here just wander across the roads, and when the kids hear a truck coming they'll race out to see it. We always make sure we get a good night's sleep though, so it's no trouble staying alert."



North Camp where most of the Kiwis are based, is at el Gorah and provides logistical and operational support for the force, members of which work from about 30 remote outposts spilt between three battalions and scattered along the length of the peninsula next to the Israeli border and the Gulf of Aqaba. It is just 40km from Gaza, the strip of land from where 15,000 Jewish settlers were recently evicted after 38 years of occupation.

The MFO mans checkpoint and observation posts, and monitors any alleged violations. Observers keep their eye on the borders, especially near Gaza. Violations are investigated, and recommendations made to the MFO Director General, who decides on further courses of action.

There are 28 New Zealanders in the MFO, and as well as the team of drivers, and support staff, they include a training group who provide the formal driving and operational training for the MFO. Personnel come from their own countries with skills for their core tasks, and the Kiwis provide them with all licence testing, unit driver training courses, and specialist courses, as well as defensive

driving. They also provide senior personnel from contributing countries with skills to run their remote outposts.

The drivers supply all the outposts with fresh water, pick up goods from Israel and deliver them to the two camps. Corporal Michael Fraser, who oversees the driving team, says driving a left-hand drive vehicle on the right side of the road requires a lot of concentration at first.

"When our drivers arrive (from New Zealand) they are already skilled, but we do a bit of fine-tuning here before they are tested and begin completing missions."

The high accident rate in the harsh Egyptian conditions was one of the reasons for the establishment of formal training for MFO members.

Sergeant Nicholas Matthews, an Army fitter and turner by trade, is also a qualified driving instructor, and with a team of other New Zealanders, tests the driving skills of all peacekeepers joining the MFO. He ensures they are familiar with MFO regulations, including Israeli and Egyptian road rules. Having an interpreter on hand helps, he says.

"The language barriers are difficult, but we share a common background (in the military) so that helps. I get a buzz out of teaching people, and I have to say my Spanish is improving."

In the next issue of Defence Update: The Middle East-based United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation - what it is, what role New Zealand plays, and the Jerusalem-based New Zealander who is its Chief of Staff.



Above, NZ Army driving instructor Sergeant Nicholas Matthews checks the driving test of one of his MFO colleagues, while, (right) driving instructors Sergeants James Wharehinga and Johnny Wanoa help two Columbian soldiers with their written driving knowledge.

Working with Fiji *By Danielle Coe*

New Zealand Defence Force ties with Fiji were re-established last month. The RNZAF went to the island nation for Exercises Tropic Astra and Tunex Astra. It was the first time the Air Force has been to Fiji since 1999.

And at the end of August eight New Zealand Army instructors began running a three-month officer cadet training course for 36 cadets from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. The New Zealand instructors are being assisted by 10 RFMF instructors.

The renewed relationship will help maintain security in the South Pacific, and allow New Zealand to work more closely with its Pacific neighbours.

The New Zealand Army instructors are providing training in battle craft and leadership principles. The focus of the three-month course is to produce junior officers who will be capable of leading a Platoon-sized (30 people) group, and who have the potential to advance to positions of further responsibility.

For the RNZAF it was the first time one of its most recently formed squadrons, the Operational Support Squadron (OSS), responsible for air movements, communications, air security, and deployable refuelling, was able to fully practise its capability.

Based on the edge of the Nadi airfield, more than two hundred people took part in exercises Tropic Astra and Tunex Astra over two weeks.

For No.3 Squadron Tunex Astra gave aircrew the chance to reacquaint themselves with the subtle differences involved in flying helicopters in the tropics. The Iroquois don't perform as well in a hotter environment, with the heat and humidity affecting the engines and aerodynamics.

"We really notice the differences when we're doing emergency training, like engine-offs, as the helicopter is limited on power," said Squadron Leader Stu Brownlie.

The physiological affects of the heat is another important factor for both aircrew and maintenance personnel to monitor.

"The guys need to be mindful of hydrating and keeping out of the sun during the heat of the day," said Warrant Officer Dennis Moratti.

For the maintainers, compared with working in New Zealand the biggest difference comes when it's time to pack up the helicopters.

Rigorous New Zealand bio security requirements meant dismantling the camp and preparing the aircraft for



Little helpers: Local children help stack goods unloaded from an RNZAF Iroquois helicopter.

return to New Zealand take a huge amount of effort.

"We have to depanel the aircraft and get in with the vacuum cleaners and pick all the seeds out. Then we wrap it tail-first with glad wrap," said Warrant Officer Moratti.

Over two hundred flying hours were set aside for the exercise, with most of the flying in support of local communities. The four Iroquois operating out of Nadi were used to transport building material to remote locations and books to schools under aid programmes.

While in Fiji all aircrew were also required to undergo tropical survival training. Working with members of the Fijian Army, RNZAF Survival School instructors provided refresher courses in both jungle and sea survival.

Tunex Astra, a communications exercise ran for the first half of the deployment. Twenty people took part in Tunex, which was run from three locations. As well as working from the main camp in Nadi, Communications technicians worked from a camp at Queen Victoria School, and another one in the highlands. Split into three groups, they rotated between each site practising working in a tactical environment.

The focus of the exercise was on both long and short-range communications.

"To do this, we used line of sight systems (VHF and UHF) and long distance HF radio systems," said Warrant Officer Tony Johnstone.

The exercise also allowed communications technicians the opportunity to gain experience in the use of tactical satellite systems.

Navy and MFish work together

The frigate HMNZS *Te Mana*, with six fishery officers embarked, spent more than a week at sea patrolling the Hoki grounds of the South Island in August.

Maritime Commander Commodore Jack Steer said the multi-agency operation was very successful. "Te Mana facilitated the boarding of commercial fishing vessels by

Ministry of Fisheries officers to ensure compliance with Fisheries legislation. The operation effectively demonstrated the success of a multi agency approach to the maintenance of security within our Exclusive Economic Zone."

Navy ratings, volunteers graduate

Fifty-seven Naval ratings graduated from their Basic Common Training course at Devonport Naval base in August. The ratings have been training for 14 weeks at the Navy's New Entry Training School.

Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Ledson reviewed the graduation parade, and presented prizes.

And 17 newly trained Navy Volunteer Reservist Ratings also graduated in August after two weeks intensive training at the New Entry Training School, Devonport. The 17 graduates are from the four Royal New Zealand Volunteer Reserve Divisions, Ngapona (Auckland), Olphert (Wellington), Pegasus (Christchurch) and Toroa (Dunedin) and come from a wide range of full time occupations including laboratory technician, builder, fitter and turner, and student. Captain P.B. Arnold VRD, Captain of Naval Reserves reviewed the parade.



On guard: Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Ledson inspects the guard at the graduation ceremony, while, (right) Able Seaman Cameron Smith with his mum, Karen after the ceremony.



Army Engineers Construct checkpoint in Afghanistan

After only a month in Afghanistan members of the New Zealand Defence Force Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) are rolling up their sleeves and getting down to business.

Army Engineers have just finished constructing a permanent checkpoint for the Afghan National Police (ANP), about thirty kilometres north east of the Kiwi's base at Bamiyan.

The building with barrier arms will allow the ANP to stop and search vehicles at a road junction linking the north of Bamiyan with Kabul.

The checkpoint could play an important role in significantly reducing the illicit movement of weapons and drugs. It will also increase the presence of the Afghan authorities in the local area.

Army Carpenter, Staff Sergeant Nigel Snalam, supervised the construction, assisted by Corporal John Dobson and four local Afghan workers, permanently employed by the New Zealanders.

At the foot of a narrow gorge, construction presented a number of challenges.



It's yours: Representatives of the NZ PRT hand over the checkpoint to the Afghan National Police.

"The foundations were particularly hard to dig because of the rocky ground. They had to be dug by hand, which took all of the first day," said Staff Sergeant Snalam.

The second day saw the actual construction itself, with the building fully completed and painted.

One hundred and twenty-two New Zealand Defence Force personnel are currently in Afghanistan as part of the PRT. Originally deployed in September 2003, the PRT has been extended through until September 2006.

Territorial chair appointed



John Allen, Chief Executive of New Zealand Post, has been appointed as the first Chair to the Territorial Forces Employer Support Council (TFESC).

The Volunteers Employment Protection Act 2004 created the TFES. The Council is a national organisation, sponsored by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), to develop the support of employers of part-time members of the NZDF.

Around 35 territorial personnel deploy overseas a year and in the past 12 months territorials have served in

Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Iraq, East Timor, Sinai and Afghanistan. "I look forward to working with Defence and the employer community to strengthen and support our Territorial Forces," said Mr Allen.

The TFESC will ask employers to grant Military Leave for training and deployments, and will encourage discussion between the employer community and the NZDF. Employers who release employees for military training or operations gain employees with improved leadership abilities and other essential skills.

IN BRIEF

CDF, COMJFNZ visit troops

The Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson, and the Commander, Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Lou Gardiner visited New Zealand Defence Force personnel serving in Afghanistan and the Middle East recently.

Their visit included observations of the activities being planned and conducted by the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, including support to the upcoming parliamentary elections. Air Marshal Ferguson made several defence diplomacy visits throughout the Middle East, and Major General Gardiner saw the work being done by the nine-member team of New Zealanders serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), and the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). The Kiwi UNTSO members help monitor the truce between Israel and the bordering countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The MFO monitors the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula.

Major General Gardiner visited the military observers at their remote outposts in the areas of separation between Israel and South Lebanon, and Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights. He held discussions with United Nations commanders in Damascus and Lebanon, and also with Major General Clive Lilley, the New Zealand Army officer who is Chief of Staff of UNTSO, and is based in Jerusalem.

In Egypt where the 26 New Zealanders are part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), Major General Gardiner spoke with the MFO Commander and the senior staff about the Mission and progress being made, as well as with New Zealand Defence personnel about the work they are doing. He was also taken by helicopter to the MFO's most

northern outpost near the Gaza Strip to observe the activities taking place.

CDF and COMJFNZ said their visits enabled them to see first-hand the work their personnel are doing, the conditions in which they are working, and the impact they are having in the region.

Air Marshal Ferguson said he was impressed at the impact the New Zealanders are making, and by the comments made by military leaders with whom the Kiwis are working alongside. The work being done by the NZ PRT was important, tangible, and much appreciated by local people who want peace, stability and security.

Major General Gardiner agreed.

"From my observations, and those of the commanders I spoke with, the NZDF personnel we have working there are effective, hard-working and resilient. They bring uniquely New Zealand characteristics and skills to the job at hand, and I was very proud of their professionalism in what are at times difficult, and often dangerous, conditions. New Zealanders can be confident that the performance of Defence personnel reflects well on New Zealand."

An article on CDF's visit to the Middle East will appear in the next issue of Defence Update.



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Major General Gardiner congratulates RNZAF driver AC Geoff Stainton, who received a commendation for his driving skills in the Sinai.

THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD

NZ DEFENCE FORCE OPERATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN MISSIONS	LOCATION	DEPLOYED
UNOTIL	Timor Leste	1
UNMIK	Kosovo	1
UNTSO	Middle East	9
UNCMAC	Korea	1
UNAMI	Iraq	1
UNAMA	Afghanistan	1
CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL MISSIONS	LOCATION	DEPLOYED
Operation Rata	Solomon Islands	1
Operation Koru	Timor Leste	3
CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FORCES	LOCATION	DEPLOYED
EUFOR Liaison Team	Bosnia	11
ISAF Staff Officers	Afghanistan	3
MFO	Sinai	26
OEF Staff Officers	Afghanistan	6
OEF Provincial Reconstruction Team	Afghanistan	122
OEF (RNZAF)	The Gulf Region	6
OEF	Florida, USA	3
NZ SAS personnel	Afghanistan	

NZ DEFENCE FORCE DEPLOYMENTS

HMNZS <i>Te Kaha</i>	Australia	173
5 Squadron RNZAF (Exercise Deep Sabre)	Malaysia	26
RNZN, RNZAF (Exercise Bersama Lima)	Mayaysia	32
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ON OPERATIONS OR DEPLOYMENT		426