Solomon Islands mission scales down
Afghanistan: enhancing stability, security
Defence ministers meet
Te Kaha, Endeavour deploy
Whenuapai report released
New Zealand Defence Force personnel are preparing to scale back their commitment to the Regional Assistance Mission (RAMSI), the multinational mission established to restore law and order in Solomon Islands.

Flying operations ended on July 15, and ANZAC Lines, the tented camp which has been the home to the New Zealand contingent, has been dismantled.

On July 24 representatives from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Tonga and Papua New Guinea took part in a number of ceremonies held in Honiara to mark the downsize of the military aspect of the mission.

While the bulk of New Zealand Defence Force personnel have withdrawn from the region, a small military presence will remain in the Solomon Islands until 2006.

New Zealand’s military commitment of two, three-month deployments of an infantry platoon of 33 people as well as three support personnel will continue until 31 July 2006. The platoon will be rotated among the five troop-contributing countries of New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga. New Zealand will also contribute one officer to the RAMSI headquarters for two years, until 31 July 2006.

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.

Editor: Judith Martin, Defence Public Relations Unit, tel 64 4 4960227, email: Judith.martin@nzdf.mil.nz

Editorial Policy: The opinions expressed in Defence Update are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Defence Force or the Ministry of Defence.

The Defence Public Relations Unit also produces individual publications for New Zealand’s Navy, Army and Air Force.

These are available on request.

COVER: RNZN rating, OCO Adam Young during the dawn Beat Retreat ceremony held at Devonport to mark HMNZS Philomel’s 90th birthday. Photo: Sergeant Sarah Jardine. Inset: A Solomon Islands girl bids farewell to the NZDF contingent. (See Solomon Islands mission scales down)
New Zealanders help rebuild Bamyan police force

In an Afghanistan province where the main form of transport is the donkey, safe driving skills are few and far between.

New Zealand Defence Force personnel are doing their bit to change that, however, and are making headway into creating the basics of an effective traffic police force in the Bamyan province.

Group Captain Gavin Howse, the NZDF senior national officer in Afghanistan, says the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team’s presence in the province helps towards enhancing security and stability, without which, he says, no reconstruction could take place.

“Security forces such as an operational police force that we take for granted at home simply do not now exist in Bamyan, so our personnel are helping re-establish and train the Bamyan police force. We’re helping with vehicle maintenance training, driver training and vehicle checkpoint training. Rebuilding the force is not as simple as recruiting a few more officers and getting the experienced policemen to train them up - Bamyan has to rebuild its police force.

“Many of our personnel are skilled in these areas, so it made sense that they help with the training.”

The skills being taught are basic and routine - how to check oil levels and tyre pressure, how to reverse safely, and how to drive to the conditions of the rough roads of Bamyan.

“For many of the people we are training, donkeys have been their main form of transport, so we have to start from scratch with vehicles,” says Group Captain Howse.

The NZPRT, which has been in Afghanistan for 10 months, has donated two of its Toyota Hiluxs to the Bamyan police, to use as training vehicles. The Hiluxs have been funded by the US Army’s Commanders Emergency response Programme, which is one of the six funding sources of the NZ PRT.

Staff Sergeant Dawn Boxer, and the NZRT mechanic Corporal Marty Withington, have been training the local police in vehicle maintenance, as well as driver evaluation and driver training; basic road rules, driving so the vehicle is not damaged by the roads and, how to accurately reverse a vehicle.

Sergeant Wayne Nepia, with help from some members of the NZDF security platoon, has been instructing the police in vehicle checkpoint drills, skills which local police need to help maintain security in the local area. The course involves Sergeant Nepia training the police to set up the checkpoint, and a member of the security platoon to be the driver of the car. They then go through several different scenarios together, so the police can learn to deal with different situations.

“This country has been ravaged by fighting and uncertainty for decades, and the stability and security the PRT provides is welcomed by the local population. For the safe and secure future of the Bamyan area, it will need to develop a well-trained and effective police force, so we are doing what we can to help that process.”

Enhancing stability: (Above) Group Captain Gavin Howse hands over a representative vehicle “key” to the local police chief, while (below and at right) New Zealand Army soldiers help train local mechanics.
Donkeys, dogs, goats and people
- Kiwi medics in Afghanistan

When hundreds of donkeys, goats, cows, dogs and horses turned up to a local health clinic in Afghanistan recently, it was all par for the course for the New Zealand Defence Force personnel there, says New Zealand Army nurse Captain Georgina Parata-Turvey.

“The New Zealand medical team was in its element. They’re Kiwis, they’re versatile. With a bit of guidance they knew just what they had to do,” says Captain Parata-Turvey.

The health clinics in remote areas of Bamyan province where the New Zealand Defence Force Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) is based, were multi-purpose. It was a case of checkups for all, livestock included.

And in a country where donkeys, and occasionally horses, are often the main mode of transport, and goats and cows provide families with their only source of milk and protein, animal health and welfare is an important issue.

“It took us nine hours of travel on extremely basic roads to reach the villages where the clinics were held, so it made sense to check out people and animals at the same time,” says Captain Parata-Turvey. “Our medics loved it. They’ve had more experience working with people than donkeys, but they thoroughly enjoyed their time dosing donkeys, and doing similar tasks.”

The United States-initiated clinics were the result of a combined effort between the PRT and United States military personnel working in the Bamyan province, and were organised so that people in remote areas of the war-ravaged province could get some form of medical check, and have their animals treated, dosed and vaccinated at the same time.

The NZPRT, which includes 94 service personnel, is in Afghanistan to help rebuild the infrastructure of the Bamyan province. The team includes nurses and medics, and together with their US counterparts, as well as US veterinarians, they ran all-day clinics in the remote villages of Ru Ye Sang, Ghandakia, Shidan and Kamahard, which have little, if any, medical facilities.

The NZPRT also provided security for the medical team, which travelled from Bagram to hold the clinics.

One of the main challenges facing the medical team was the language difficulty - there was only one female interpreter brought with the USA team, although there were enough male interpreters. Six hundred patients were seen, half of them men, and the remainder women and children. “At times it seemed like the entire village would turn up each day to be seen, and keeping the flow of patients organised and orderly was a huge task,” says Captain Parata-Turvey. “Women patients in Afghanistan will be seen only by women clinicians and

Clockwise, from top left: Sergeant Dawn Boxer helps to dose a goat; local Afghan children; Sergeant Shelley Eriksson helps a US doctor treat a badly burned child; Private Dan Gregory provides security for the medical team; locals on their way to the clinic and, (centre) Cpl Jules Hurford and LCpl Kelly Roberts treat an equine patient.
interpreters, likewise men will be seen by only male clinicians and interpreters.”

She found the standard consultation with most of the villagers in all the clinic areas would be “headache, sore stomach and ‘pain all over my body” and the standard treatment would be a mild painkiller and multivitamins.

“The policy was to see as many folk and animals as possible, and provide them with medical treatment or advice if we could, and we referred some to hospitals and dental facilities in Kabul or Bagram. In Ru Ye Sang, 900 livestock were attended to. Cattle, donkeys, horses, sheep and were vaccinated and dewormed, and the dogs were given rabies vaccinations.”

NZPRT medics CPL Julie Hurford and LCpl Kelly Roberts spent two days helping with veterinary care. “Both women,” says Captain Parata-Turvey, “thoroughly enjoyed the days spent dosing donkeys, and the antics that went in hand with this.”

In the Bamyan province bread is baked in earth ovens, with the fire and embers below the ground. The locally produced wheat flour is formed into flat loaves, and the dough adheres to the walls of the oven and cooks within minutes. When the baking is finished, and the fire left to die down, the oven should be covered. Many toddlers however, fall into uncovered ovens and sustained multiple burns. Sgt Shelly Eriksson, the NZPRT’s senior medic, helped US doctors treat a young girl with extensively burnt after she fell into a bread oven.

One of the clinics was held in a village in the Shiadan area. “There weren’t many United States personnel available to assist, so nearly all the Kiwi personnel turned out to help with the organisation, security, animal care and vaccinations. The local children were given the day off school, but they all seemed to be in the huge school tent behind the school when we arrived. Our first thought was, ‘Oh no, not 600 school kids to see as well’. With some sorting of people lining up for consultations, the numbers of patients were eventually reduced to a manageable level.”

Captain Parata-Turvey says malnourishment is a major medical problem in the Bamyan area. At the local hospital more than two thirds of the inpatient paediatric admissions are from malnourishment alone, and often very serious.

“Hopefully, when the area where we are based becomes stable, and life for the local population returns to some sense of normality, with jobs returning to the local economy and things as simple as being able to grow crops and raise livestock happen without them being ‘requisitioned’ by the Taliban, the level of malnutrition will decrease.”
The strengthening of Closer Defence Relations between New Zealand and Australia was the main issue discussed when New Zealand Defence Minister Mark Burton met his Australian counterpart Robert Hill on July 23.

Along with discussions on regional and global security issues of mutual interest, the Ministers discussed the practical bilateral activities that support the close Australia-New Zealand Defence relationship, including capability development, command, control and communications for combined operations, training, exercising, personnel development and logistics cooperation.

The Ministers discussed the campaign against terrorism and agreed to encourage regional cooperation in countering terrorist activities. They also agreed to work together in addressing weapons of mass destruction proliferation in the region. They discussed the new security challenges confronting the South Pacific, which underlined the importance of timely, coordinated and effective responses on the part of the Australian and New Zealand Defence Forces. They agreed on the importance of close consultation at both policy and operational levels on defence assistance to their South Pacific neighbours with a view to enhancing its effectiveness.

New Zealand and Australia have cooperated significantly in a number of areas of capability development, including Orion maritime surveillance aircraft projects, the development of Army equipment, and ANZAC frigate upgrades. The recent placement of NZDF officers in Australian Army and Navy Project Offices is expected to help collaboration.

The two Defence Forces kept in close touch on their respective programmes for replacement troop lift helicopters, and Messrs Burton and Hill agreed there was potential for operational collaboration once the New Zealand Navy's new patrol vessels and multi-role vessel were brought into service.

They noted that, over the next 12 months, there would be a continued focus on collaboration in capability development, particularly ANZAC frigate upgrades, replacement of utility helicopters and a range of land capabilities. At the same time, collaboration would be pursued in other areas such as Australia-New Zealand satellite communications, and improvements to our bilateral secure communications systems.

The Defence Ministers also noted that the current high tempo of operations by the ADF and NZDF had at times limited ability to participate in the full range of planned bilateral exercises. As a result, joint exercises, combined operations and collective training in which both countries participated would be reviewed to ensure that advantage was taken of every opportunity that arose.
Student pilots train

Exercise Wise Owl, a bi-annual Pilot Training Squadron (PTS) deployment designed to test military student pilots in operating their aircraft from a deployed camp, will be held in Matamata next month.

Operating away from their home base at Ohakea, the student pilots taste what it’s like to work from ‘field’ conditions for the first time. Seven air trainer aircraft will be deployed to Matamata from RNZAF Base Ohakea for the six wings course pilots and their instructors from PTS. Two King Air aircraft and a communications unit will also deploy to take advantage of the training opportunity.

The camp will be self-sufficient. To support the exercise there will be a field kitchen for catering, medical facility, administration unit, operations unit, communications centre, logistics unit providing camp supplies and spares, as well as a maintenance centre for the aircraft.

The deployment and redeployment of the aircraft, supplies, camp pack-up equipment and personnel is a logistics exercise in itself.

Apart from its operational tasking, Exercise WISEOWL 83 is a chance for schools, organisations, and the general public to visit the camp to meet Air Force personnel and find out more about the Air Force. The camp will be open to the public on Saturday 7 August 2004 between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. At the Open Day there will be static displays as well as a short aerial display of some of the RNZAF’s aircraft.

Senior military appointments

Brigadier Warren Whiting is the NZDF’s new Land Component Commander. He previously held the position of Assistant Chief Personnel. Brigadier Paul Southwell, has been posted to the position of Deputy Chief of Army after holding the role of Land Component Commander. Commodore Bruce Pepperell of the Royal New Zealand Navy, has been posted as Assistant Chief Personnel.

Air, Army in flood rescue

Army and Air Force personnel helped evacuate up to 1000 people from flooded homes in the Whakatane area recently.

An Iroquois helicopter and several Unimog trucks were used in the evacuation after heavy rainfall on July 17. Territorial Force soldiers from 6th Hauraki Battalion, Regular Force soldiers from Waiouru and Linton military camps, and personnel from RNZAF Base Ohakea helped police alert people to the flooding, and move them to safety.

Navy celebrates

The 90th anniversary of the commissioning of New Zealand’s first warship, HMNZS Philomel, was celebrated in Auckland in mid-July. The floating version of the ship has long since disappeared, but all New Zealand Navy personnel are familiar with HMNZS Philomel, their land base in Devonport.

Celebrations included a powhiri and Beat Retreat ceremony, with a ceremonial guard and the Navy band in attendance. Past Commanding Officers of HMNZS Philomel attended the celebrations. Pictured: Philomel Commanding Officer Captain Warren Cummins with a photo of the original HMNZS Philomel.

Whenuapai report released

Defence Minister Mark Burton has released a report on the public consultation process over the future use and disposal process for Whenuapai airbase. It concludes the first stage of the process, and supports the need for a thorough analysis as the next step in determining any future use of the land.

“This report was undertaken by Defence to gauge local views on the four broad options outlined in the October 2003 Whenuapai Discussion Document: residential usage, an industrial/development site, a commercial airport, or other public works”. Clearly, a thorough understanding of local views and concerns is essential to an informed decision making process,” said Mr Burton.

Much of the debate surrounding Whenuapai’s future involves whether it should be retained as an airport. Before a decision can be made the implications of this option need to be investigated further, in particular, whether or not there is a need for a second commercial airport in the Auckland region, the national and strategic considerations, and the likely local impacts.

Cabinet has directed the Ministry of Economic Development, in consultation with the Treasury, Ministry of Transport, Ministry for the Environment, and other appropriate agencies, to produce a report to answer these questions.

Want to know more about the report? Whenuapai Airbase-Consultation, Future Use Options and Disposal Processes, is available on www.nzdf.mil.nz
The Navy is to make changes to its Operations Branch to ensure its trades match the requirements of its future fleet.

The changes come into being on October 1 2004, when the branch will include the new trades of Combat Systems Specialists, Seaman Combat Specialists, and Electronic Warfare Specialists.

Operation Branch manager Cdr Wilson Trumper says the changes are being made so that Navy operational trades are more aligned with the new technology in the Navy’s two ANZAC frigates, and the ships it will operate under Project Protector. Those ships are expected to enter service around 2007, and will include a multi-role vessel, an in-shore and offshore vessels.

Cdr Trumper says the Navy’s Leander frigates required, for example, a gunnery branch. HMNZ ships Te Kaha and Te Mana have automated gunnery systems, so the emphasis nowadays is more on skills such as using smaller calibre weapons, boarding skills, and seamanship such as boat handling and at-sea replenishments.

**THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD**

### NZ DEFENCE FORCE OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN MISSIONS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DEPLOYED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNMISET</td>
<td>Timor Leste</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNMIK</td>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNTSO</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAMSIL</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRIBUTIONS TO MINE ACTION MISSIONS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DEPLOYED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MADP</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMAC</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL MISSIONS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DEPLOYED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Assistance Mission</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FORCES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DEPLOYED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SFOR Staff Officers</td>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAF Staff Officers</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFO</td>
<td>Sinai</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEF Staff Officers</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEF Provincial Reconstruction Team</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEF (RNZAF)</td>
<td>The Arabian Sea</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq Reconstruction Team</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEF (HMNZS Te Mana)</td>
<td>The Arabian Sea</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL DEPLOYED** 448*

* Not including NZSAS deployed in Afghanistan for which details are withheld.