

NEW ZEALAND

# DEFENCE UPDATE



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# Report into bullying, violence allegations

**The Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson has expressed his regret that a number of Regular Force cadets had to put up with unacceptable treatment meted out by their comrades several years ago.**

"I have received the Ministerial review into the Allegations of Abuse at the Waiouru Regular Force Cadet School from 1948 to 1991 and Events Surrounding the Killing of Cadet Grant Bain in 1981 conducted by the Hon D S Morris Esq.

Cadet Grant Bain was shot dead in the Cadet School barracks in February 1981. Cadet Andrew Read subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge of carelessly discharging a firearm causing death.

"Justice Morris's report is thorough and balanced. The report very fairly places the events in the context of the values and norms of the day (which are somewhat different from what they are now) and also explains the role and aims of the RF Cadet School. Justice Morris has rejected any allegation of widespread sexual abuse and he found that any abusive behaviour was that of cadets to

cadets and did not involve the Regular Force NCOs or officers.

"However, even accepting the "background context" it appears that that a number of RF cadets had to put up with treatment meted out by their comrades, which no person should have been exposed to in any circumstances. For that I express my sincere regrets.

"Notwithstanding the fact that many of the events in question happened two or more decades ago, the findings of the Morris Report will doubtless be of concern to the public and give rise to questions over current practices. For this reason I welcomed an administrative review to examine the efficacy of current policies and practices of the NZ Defence Force to prevent physical, sexual and other abuse.

"I am pleased to advise the review found the NZ Defence Force's policies for the prevention and management of abuse are sound, and personnel throughout the NZ Defence Force are striving to implement those policies. There is a strong awareness of the need to provide a safe working environment and to protect people from all forms of abuse. Commanders at all levels saw this as an integral part of their leadership responsibilities.

"I wish to assure families who entrust their family members to us to prepare and train them for service in the Defence Force, that we take this responsibility seriously. If there are shortcomings, failures or wrong doings, those responsible will be held to account and face the consequences of carrying out unauthorised actions or allowing them to take place."

Justice Morris's report found bullying took place but nothing to support claims of a culture of violence, says Defence Minister Phil Goff.

"In the case of the death of Cadet Bain, Mr Morris reported that some mistakes had been made by the authorities at the time," Mr Goff said.

"Mr Morris found that Read should



*The Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson*

have been charged with manslaughter. However, he was satisfied that the decision on the charge was made by the Police officer heading the inquiry, and that there was no collusion between the Army and the police over the matter. "Mr Morris was also satisfied that the subsequent military Court of Inquiry was conducted properly and in accordance with all statutory requirements.

"However he felt that it would have been more appropriate for the Army to have brought further charges against Read, although he noted the decision not to do so was taken on legal advice.

"Mr Morris's view is that the Army failed to adequately supervise the use and handling of ammunition on the firing range, and that it gave Read too much un-policed authority over junior cadets. However, he was ultimately unable to find that closer supervision would have prevented the death of Cadet Bain.

"The review indicates that few serious incidents are occurring. However, it has recommended greater performance management measures to monitor the effectiveness of abuse prevention policies. These recommendations will be acted upon," Mr Goff said.

Judge Morris's report, and the Ministry of Defence review, are available at [www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



*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](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz). We welcome your feedback.*

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



These are available on request.

**COVER:** Happy Christmas. Photo: Nikki Payne  
**Inset:** Exercise Silver Warrior. Photo: RNZAF

## Kiwi troops leave for a White Christmas

### ***The next rotation of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel bound for Afghanistan left Christchurch International Airport on Saturday 3 December.***

Based in Bamyán in central Afghanistan, the Navy, Army and Air Force personnel will make up the seventh Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to deploy to the area.

The PRT will face a number of challenges including the harsh Afghan winter.

Major General Lou Gardiner, Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, says NZDF personnel in Afghanistan can be proud of their contribution.

"The professionalism and expertise of our defence personnel has earned great respect for the contribution made towards achieving stability in Afghanistan," said Major General Gardiner.

"Along with the other 18 missions NZDF personnel are deployed to around the world, New Zealand's

PRT in Bamyán has received high praise from both within Afghanistan, and from other countries," he said.

Major General Gardiner acknowledged that the situation in Afghanistan still poses a security challenge.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Phil Goff welcomed home New Zealand Special Air Service personnel who returned from Afghanistan on November 22.

The SAS has concluded its third rotation undertaking reconnaissance and direct action missions. Around 50 personnel were involved in the six-month deployment.

"The SAS have played an important role in the multilateral engagement mandated by the United Nations Security Council to counter terrorism and to restore stability to

Afghanistan," Mr Goff said.

"Their presence, together with other international forces, has been critical both to constrain the influence of Al Qaeda and Taliban elements and to allow nation-building and reconstruction to take place.

"New Zealand forces, both SAS and those serving with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyán, have helped ensure a fair and credible democratic process for the first-ever elections to the Afghanistan Parliament, which took place in September.

"Our SAS personnel are regarded as being among the best in the field by other coalition forces. I thank them for their commitment and professionalism, of which New Zealand can be proud."



*Farewell: Private Travis Hauaru Russell and his girlfriend Chez O'Donnell shortly before the contingent departed for Afghanistan. Photo: David Hallett, The Press.*

# Silver Warrior – a battalion goes

***Militia attacks, live firing, ambushes and protest – they were all part of the scenario that made up Exercise Silver Warrior, the New Zealand Army exercise held recently throughout the lower North Island.***

The exercise, which involved 800 personnel and more than 250 vehicles, was the largest for some years, and was conducted to determine if Linton-based 1st Battalion, which is the Army's motorised battalion, has reached DLOC (directed level of capability) - in other words, whether it has reached the standard required of it by government.

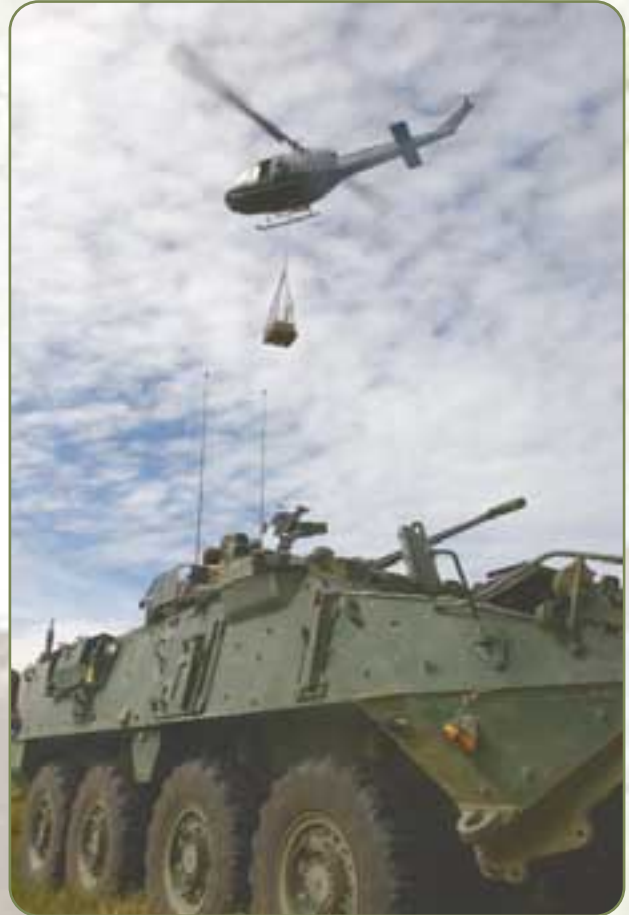
Chief of Army, Major General Jerry Mateparae says he is confident the motorised battalion will make the grade, and, with training directed at a few specific areas, will be able to respond to whatever the government requires of it.



A formal staff procedure to decide whether the battalion has achieved DLOC will now take place, with a recommendation made to the Chief of Defence Force, who will then advise the government.

The exercise was monitored by independent military assessors from Canada, Singapore and Australia, and senior New Zealand military personnel.

Various groups within the Army had been training intensively, much of it using the Army's new light



armoured vehicles and light operational vehicles, since early last year.

"The government may require the Army to some day work in a multi-threat environment where we will be required to help deliver humanitarian assistance, keep the peace in some areas, and undertake combat operations, often all simultaneously.



# through its paces



"The exercise was designed so the battalion group could be monitored and evaluated in distinctly different scenarios which mirrored real conflict situations happening throughout the world today. While there are some areas where further work is needed, I have the overall impression the units involved demonstrated very clearly that they are able to operate effectively as motorised battalion group." says Major General Mateparae.

The commander of 3rd Land Force Group, Colonel Sean Tregrove, who led the international team of exercise



assessors, said observations and recommendations were made known to the various units involved in Silver Warrior as the exercise progressed.

"While we were always monitoring the battalion's abilities, we also wanted everyone to get the best they could from the exercise, so it was beneficial to make our observations known as Silver Warrior progressed."

The Canadian military is very conversant with light armoured vehicles, and their input into the exercise was invaluable, he said.

*Photos:RNZAF photographers ACs Rachael Main, Sam Shepherd, Loren Mehaffy and Brad Hanson.*



# From private to Director General -

By Judith Martin

**The New Zealand Defence Force has for the first time appointed a woman to the rank of brigadier. She is Anne Campbell, who has been appointed Director General Defence Medical Services, and as brigadier will be New Zealand's highest-ranking female military officer.**

Anne Campbell laughs when she remembers her first days as Private Lowe, soldier.

"I never envisaged a career in the Army – what a thought! I wanted a bit of adventure, and I needed money to help pay my way through medical school, so I joined the Territorial Force. There was no way I was going to make it my career though – I just wanted to enjoy myself."

And enjoy herself she did, learning core military skills and leadership training, and spending her holidays outdoors, which she loved.

It wasn't until her final year at medical school, when she worked an elective period with the New Zealand Army Battalion in Singapore, that she first encountered regular force personnel. She loved being in the field working as a medical officer, but, as many women entering what was then a male-dominated workforce found, there were hurdles to clear.

"They looked at me and said, 'women don't go into the field here.' I told them I had my DPMs (field uniform) boots and pack and was ready to go. And off I went."



A rewarding career: Brigadier Anne Campbell

She met, and later married, an infantry officer, Bob Campbell, who was based in Singapore when she did her medical elective.

"I had the choice of changing my job every two or three years to coincide with his postings, or I could join the Army as a medical officer. I chose the latter and I have never regretted it."

She describes her husband Bob, who is now a lieutenant colonel and Commandant of the Cadet Forces, as her mentor, providing constant encouragement throughout her career.

But the hurdles didn't cease. When she became pregnant, one commanding officer was adamant he could not have a pregnant officer working in his unit.

"But just as there was negativity in some areas, there were other people, like a commanding officer I had at one time, Lieutenant Colonel John Dennistoun-Wood (later Brigadier), who were amazingly supportive. He would encourage me, educate me in various aspects of the Army, and be very inclusive to ensure I learnt about tactics in the Army in a way that would help the job I was doing."

The New Zealand Defence Force is now much more supportive of serving female personnel, she says.

When she became pregnant with her first child, Joshua, now 18, she had a maternity uniform – an elongated jungle-green shirt - specially made, as there was no maternity uniform provided. "I didn't want to be known as " that pregnant doctor". I was still Major Campbell, and I wanted to continue being that person."

Ashley, her daughter, now 16, enjoys similar adventures and has now joined the cadet forces.

Throughout her career she has served in clinical and medical staff appointments, and has held senior health positions at camps and bases throughout New Zealand, as well as completing a recent secondment with the Ministry of Health.

While now much of her time is spent desk-bound, Brigadier Campbell has continued practising family medicine (general practice)- her specialty - throughout her 25-year Army career. Put her in a disaster zone and she's in her element; she deployed to Papua New Guinea following the tsunami there in 1997, and to Banda Aceh earlier this year in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami and earthquake.

In Papua New Guinea, as commanding officer of the New Zealand contingent, she worked alongside surgeons and

# Brigadier Anne Campbell



*Brigadier Campbell's husband, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Campbell (left) and Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson attach her new rank slides*

other doctors as they amputated limbs, debrided wounds, and fought to save the lives of casualties. In Banda Aceh she again worked as a medical officer, treating patients at the local hospital the New Zealand defence team helped reopen following the devastation.

"Both those experiences were unforgettable. When you're a health professional, disaster relief and humanitarian aid are two of the most satisfying things you can do. They're short, sharp, full-on activities, but in terms of what you can offer they are very rewarding."



*Disaster relief: Brigadier Campbell with one of her patients following the tsunami which devastated part of northern Papua New Guinea in 1997, and (above right) members of her NZDF team at work with victims.*

She served in East Timor too, and since 1997 has been involved in preparing every contingent that has deployed overseas from New Zealand.

The medical issues facing the New Zealand Defence Force, she says, include ensuring the force finds a balance in providing operational health care for operational troops. "We maintain the force wellness and therefore its strength. Defence is responsible for ensuring its personnel are well and fit, and does so through its medical services directorate, providing free health care and ensuring fitness standards are maintained."



The age of retirement from the NZDF is increasing, and that brings health issues with it, as does the high tempo of operations, deployments and exercises.

As a consequence Brigadier Campbell is always on the lookout for doctors to join one of the three Services, either in the regular force, or on part-time contracts. "I can tell them every day will hold a challenge, and that missions, while they may have to rough it and eat the same food for a week, bring with them huge professional and personal benefits"

Having recently returned from a conference in the United States, where much of the discussion was about the effects of Cyclone Katrina, she says she would like to see a better-integrated disaster relief system between the civilian and military sectors in New Zealand. "It is partially there, but I think it needs to be more robust."

As far as the NZDF's medical capabilities are concerned, the future is looking bright, she says.

"We have the forward surgical team, and our new multi-role vessel will include a surgical platform. The Air Force's 757s, once the cargo door is modified, will have an intensive care platform for moving up to seven critically ill patients, and of course we still have the C130 Hercules for moving many patients. We are constantly monitoring how well prepared we are for whatever may arise."

# Profile - Phil Goff

***The New Zealand Defence Force's focus over the next three years will continue to be in the Pacific, with an increasing emphasis on Asia, predicts new Defence Minister Phil Goff.***

"But we will always be ready to deploy much wider than that, and obviously (the NZDF deployment to) Afghanistan is critical to the campaign against terrorism. I think our focus will continue to be on the Pacific because we can really make a difference there, and it's our area of first responsibility. The Asia-Pacific region is always going to be relevant to us, and has been for some time."

Mr Goff says his six years as Minister of Foreign Affairs served him well for the Defence portfolio in that it gave him the opportunity to visit most of the NZDF deployments around the world, and see for himself how and where the defence force operates.

"That has given me a hugely positive impression of the way in which our defence force operates, their competency, their courage and their ability to develop rapport with the local people in the countries where they work. I think that is, to a large extent, what distinguishes New Zealand forces from the forces of other countries. I keep getting feedback, particularly in the Pacific, that New Zealand defence personnel treat people with respect, and are down to earth and friendly. And international organisations like the United Nations ask for New Zealand troops because they know when they are tasked with something they will do it appropriately and well."

He is also positive about the acquisition of new equipment for the NZDF, and applauds decisions made in recent years to focus financial resources to develop capacities that can be carried out well, rather than spread money thinly across the surface.



He has seen the Army's light armoured vehicles and light operational vehicles in action, at the recent Army exercise, Silver Warrior.

"Good equipment is one of the factors that can build up morale and encourage recruitment - if you put someone into a job and they're dealing with antiquated and inadequate equipment, then they can never be fully happy with what they're doing. Reasonable wages and working conditions are of course another factor. People will want to join the defence force if they feel what they are doing is valued, not just by the government but by the population as a whole."

The Defence Sustainability Initiative, a \$4.6 billion injection of funds over the next 10 years, will enable the defence force to plan ahead, which it has not been able to do for some time, says Mr Goff.

"We must ensure, though, we have the capacity and capability to manage the way in which we utilise those resources in the most cost effective and efficient way. We know that if the defence force says it is going to do something operationally it will happen, and it will be done well. What we have to do now is create that same level of excellence in the way we manage our resources. I think we're ahead of other defence forces throughout the world, but we have to continue to strive for excellence in the management, in particular the financial management and administrative responsibilities, of the defence force."

Building capacity for security forces in countries such as Timor Leste and Afghanistan will continue to be important so they can carry on in the longer term once New Zealand peacekeepers are no longer there, says Mr Goff.

"And so will be increasing our ability to be interoperable with other groups, in particular the Australians. We don't have to be the shadow of Australia, we don't have to agree with Australia on everything, but in the larger picture we have shared strategic interests, and our cooperation in the Pacific is important if we are to improve the results we need."

"Working closely with Australia we have the ability to make a real difference in the Pacific. It's not just defence forces, it will be defence forces working in conjunction with police, with NZAID, with maybe (the departments of) Corrections and Customs, so that we've got a truly collaborative approach to helping a country achieve stability and security."



*Phil Goff, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, addresses the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan.*

## Solomon Islands

***Captain Jason Hutchings has been putting both his military and policing skills to good use for the past six months in Solomon Islands, where he has been deployed as part of the regional assistance mission there.***

A Territorial Force officer, Captain Hutchings is deputy commander of the mission's military component. In civilian life he is a police constable in Gisborne, where he works as an education officer with local youth programmes.

The assistance mission in Solomon Islands includes a large contingent of police from 11 countries throughout the Pacific, with 25 from New Zealand.

"I chose to come here as part of the military because I wanted the leadership and command experience, and what I have been doing here is very different from the work I do at home."

The New Zealand Defence Force has had a presence, in varying numbers, in Solomon Islands for the past five years. That presence was downsized last year, but is due to increase in February 2006, with the deployment of an infantry platoon.

Captain Hutchings' role has included him being operations officer as well as deputy commander, and hence his time has been busy.

"Each day we send out patrols around the island, and plan and run operations from our headquarters (in Guadalcanal). There are always meetings to attend, and liaison with various other groups."

The police are responsible for security in Solomon Islands, and the military provides support, with the

combined contribution geared towards promoting peace and stability.

Captain Hutchings says he has gained a wealth of experience in operational planning, and working in a coalition environment.



*New friends: Captain Jason Hutchings*

## New Defence personnel graduate

***In front of an audience which included proud families, invited guests and representatives from the New Zealand Defence Force, 25 Naval officers and 65 sailors graduated in a combined parade on Friday 9 December at Devonport Naval Base.***

In his first visit to the base, Defence minister Phil Goff reviewed the parade, presented prizes and welcomed the graduates to the Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force.

The graduating trainees represent New Zealand from Invercargill to Kaitaia. Two Fijian naval officers also completed training.

All the graduates have undertaken initial training under the Captain Fleet Personnel and Training in Devonport.

The training period covered diverse and challenging areas from fire fighting, sail training, sea survival, sword and pack drill, to naval history and traditions. After many hours (and miles) of physical fitness training through to classroom instruction and leadership and management skills, all has been designed to provide a foundation of skills and knowledge for their future Naval careers.

The top prize for the best overall graduating officer is the Minister of Defence Sword of Honour, awarded to Midshipman Andrew Hogg. The top prize for sailors is the Spencer Tewsley Cup and Tankard, presented to the best all round new entry trainee, Ordinary Electronic Technician S. Winikerei. A number of other prizes were also awarded at the parade.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand Army has 30 new officers following an Officer Cadet Graduation Parade at Waiouru, also held on 9 December. The Chief Justice of New Zealand, Dame Sian Elias, reviewed the parade, which was attended by Chief of Army Major General Jerry Mateparae and Land Component Commander Brigadier Warren Whiting, as well as friends and family of the graduating officers.

## ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD

### Pandemic preparations

The New Zealand Defence Force is preparing for the role it may have following an outbreak of avian influenza in New Zealand.

While Defence has a "fair idea" of what the government may wish it do in the event of an outbreak, firm decisions have not yet been made, says the Director General Defence Medical Services, Brigadier Anne Campbell.

The NZDF has been involved in all the Interagency Planning Group meetings called to discuss the possibility of an outbreak, and is also involved in 15 other working groups, set up to look at a variety of other issues, including border control, the law, and schools and education.

Brigadier Campbell says defence's first priority is to preserve its full strength as much as possible, so that it is ready and able to do whatever the government requires of it.

Defence has a stockpile of the anti-viral medication Tamiflu that is for defence personnel who are deployed overseas.

Personal protection equipment packs have been prepared for those personnel who may have to deal with significant risks.

"The most important issue for defence personnel – and for that matter everyone – is personal hygiene. Hand-washing after sneezing, coughing and bathroom use is vital, as is handwashing before food preparation. Sick people should stay at home. Air conditioning systems in offices need to be checked to ensure they are working properly."

Brigadier Campbell says she feels New Zealand, because of its geographic isolation, and the planning done already, is in a relatively good position as far as a possible pandemic is concerned.

### Playground for Afghan children

A Kiwi soldier serving in Afghanistan has used his spare time to build a playground for children at a Bamyan school.

Lance Corporal Josh Whitehead built a set of playground swings and a basketball set from scrap metal he found in the New Zealand compound.



Lance Corporal Josh Whitehead and the playground he made in Afghanistan

A member of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT), Lance Corporal Whitehead took three weeks to build the items for Markaz Girls' High School.

Playgrounds with proper equipment are rare in Afghanistan and this one, to the best of the NZPRT's knowledge, is the first to be built in Bamyan.

After putting his ideas to paper, Lance Corporal Whitehead built both items by measuring them out on the ground and making a best estimate of the dimensions.

"The biggest challenge was getting the framework of the swing set square because of the uneven ground I had to work on."

"I designed the swing as a kitset so we could get it to the school easily. It only took a handful of us a couple of hours to put everything together," he said.

The playground equipment has proven to be extremely popular with the children of Markaz Girls' High School, (the school also includes boys up to ten years old) with children often queuing for a turn on the swings.

### New chief Defence scientist



Defence science: Stephen Wilce at work

A scientist with a keen interest in human performance, as well as an extensive background in Defence sciences, has been appointed to lead the Defence Technology Agency.

Stephen Wilce is the NZDF's Chief Defence Scientist, and Director of the Defence Technology Agency (DTA).

The DTA resolves scientific and technological problems within Defence, while at the same time developing knowledge that worldwide trends have indicated the NZDF will probably need in the future. It provides scientific advice and systems to the NZDF and Ministry of Defence, and interacts with New Zealand Industry, Crown Research Institutes, Universities, and the International Science and Technology community.

Mr Wilce has a science background covering a variety of industries ranging from supercomputing to telescope systems and weapons research through the development of aerospace systems. He says that despite this pure technology environment, he has focussed in more recent years on the science of human performance, particularly in relation to critical decision making in the face of overwhelming information overload, and he expects this will come through in his new role.

## ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD

### Captain Gauldie, artist

Following in the famous footsteps of one of his predecessors, the recently appointed Army artist Matt Gauldie has been issued with the honorary rank of Captain by the Chief of Army, Major General Jerry Mateparae.

Stepping away from tradition, Captain Gauldie chose to attend a 12-week Basic Training course in Waiouru to gain a better understanding and insight of the Army, and more accurately reflect the true nature of the military in his paintings. Having completed his basic training course successfully, Captain Gauldie graduated on Saturday 26 November.

The role of the Army artist is steeped in history. The first of the Army artists was Peter McIntyre who produced a number of paintings during World War Two, capturing the spirit of the war and recording New Zealand's involvement. Matt Gauldie, like Peter McIntyre, has been commissioned as a Captain in the Royal New Zealand Artillery.

Matt Gauldie has been appointed as the Army's artist for the next three years.



*Artist and soldier: Captain Matt Gauldie receives his rank slides from his mother, Mrs Gail Gauldie, and Chief of Army Major General Jerry Mateparae*

### Chefs at sea

Navy chefs Taleshah Shailer (below) and Christopher Bowden had a taste of how sailing used to be when they undertook a 10-day deployment on the sail training ship Spirit of Adventure recently.

Able Chef Shailer and Leading Chef Bowden cooked for everyone on board the 45.2 metre barquentine, which has 14 sails and is sailed by its mainly teenaged crew. The ship is operated by a trust established to offer young New



Zealanders the chance to develop their independence, leadership and community spirit.

Able Chef Shailer, who has served with the RNZN in the Gulf, and is now based in the main galley at HMNZS *Philomel* in Devonport, says the experience was "amazing".

"It was lots of fun – just the atmosphere and the range of activities. I'd do it again any time." The chefs deployed with the Spirit of Adventure to extend their training.

### New pilots



Four newly-qualified pilots were presented their Wings at a parade at RNZAF Base Ohakea recently.

The presentation of the Pilot's brevet signifies the successful completion of over a year of flight training.

Pilot officers, from left, Kane Sanson, Mike Garrett, Matt Ferris and Joel Bradley, are going on to fly either helicopters, C-130 Hercules or P-3 Orions.

### Command and Staff College meres

The NZDF Command and Staff College has had 11 pounamu (jade or greenstone) mere made to present each year to the Dux of the College's Staff Course.

The mere are carved from the same stone, and the original, full-size mere will be permanently displayed at the college. One mere will be presented each year to the student who has achieved the highest grades on the Staff Course, and who has demonstrated sound leadership and good coursemanship.

Mere are traditionally treasured by their owners and handed down from generation to generation. They were used in battle and regarded as essential to emphasise points in effective oratory.



*Defence chaplain Stephen Carney and Command and Staff College Director Lieutenant Colonel David Strong at a ceremony to bless the mere.*

## ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD

The war in Kosovo held the headlines throughout the world for several months in the late 1990s. Six years after the establishment of an interim civil administration, Kosovo is "mostly stable", says New Zealand Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blackwell, who has spent the past six months on a United Nations mission in the conflict-ravaged country.

Lieutenant Colonel Blackwell, pictured at right with Zambian colleague Major Elias Mpaio, deployed to Kosovo as a United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) military information officer.

With three assistants, he worked with UNMIK's military liaison component, which was responsible for various tasks, including liaising with military forces throughout Kosovo. The 38 officers from 27 countries provided military advice to the UNMIK executive and other international organisations operating in Kosovo, and helped assess threats to the security of international civilian personnel.

As a staff officer with the liaison component Lieutenant Colonel



Blackwell worked in an information unit to ensure a constant information flow between all the military liaison teams operating in the country. Of the 38 officers only three spoke fluent English, so the responsibility for drafting and coordinating all reports fell to him.

He says the security situation in Kosovo now is "relatively calm".

"It can be fragile at times, however. I don't think there will ever be an easy solution (to conflict) in the Balkans."

Lieutenant Colonel Blackwell, who is due to return to New Zealand just

before Christmas, is to be replaced in Kosovo by an RNZAF officer.

The NZDF has had a lengthy involvement in the Balkans, with military observers first being sent there in 1992. Two years later New Zealand deployed an infantry company to serve in central Bosnia-Herzegovina. Eleven NZDF personnel are based in Bosnia as military observers. New Zealand has provided a military officer to serve with UNMIK since the mission was first established.

## 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	8
UNCMAC	Korea	3
UNAMI	Iraq	1
UNAMA	Afghanistan	1
UNMIS	Sudan	3
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/NCO	Afghanistan	3
MFO	Sinai	26
OEF Staff Officer/SNCOs	Afghanistan	4
OEF Provincial Reconstruction Team	Afghanistan	120
OEF (RNZAF)	The Gulf Region	6
OEF	Florida, USA	3
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ON OPERATIONS OR DEPLOYMENT</b>		<b>195</b>