

BIOGRAPHY

Lieutenant General Jeremiah (Jerry) Mateparae, ONZM Chief of Defence Force, New Zealand

Lieutenant General Mateparae was born in November 1954. He enlisted into the Regular Force of the New Zealand Army in June 1972. After three years service as a soldier, he graduated in December 1976 from the Officer Cadet School at Portsea Australia, to the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR).

He has had Regimental and Staff appointments in the New Zealand Defence Force. These include command at platoon, company and battalion level in the New Zealand Infantry Battalions and he has also served with the New Zealand Special Air Service. He commanded the First Battalion RNZIR. His other appointments include Chief Instructor at the New Zealand Army's Tactical School, Staff Officer Operations at New Zealand's Army Training Group and Army General Staff and Director of Force Development, Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force.



In December 1999, Lieutenant General Mateparae was promoted and assumed the appointment as the New Zealand Army's Land Commander. In July 2001 he was re-appointed as the Land Component Commander in the Headquarters of Joint Forces New Zealand. In February 2002, Lieutenant General Mateparae took up the appointment of Chief of Army.

On 1 May 2006 he was promoted to his current rank and took up the appointment of Chief of Defence Force.

Lieutenant General Mateparae has had two operational postings to peace support missions. He commanded the combined-force Truce Monitoring Group on Bougainville during OPERATION BELISI in 1998. He also had one 12 month tour of duty with the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation (UNTSO) as the Chief Observer in Southern Lebanon from May 1994 to May 1995. From December 1999 to July 2001, Lieutenant General Mateparae was the Joint Commander for New Zealand forces in East Timor.

He has attended courses and training with the British, Australian, Singaporean, Malaysian and American armies. He is a graduate of the British Staff College, Camberley, the Australian Joint Services Staff College, the USCINCPAC Symposium on East Asian Security and the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom. He has a Master of Arts with First Class Honours from the University of Waikato, and is a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management.

Lieutenant General Mateparae was made an Additional Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the January 1999 New Year's Honours List for his service in Bougainville.

Lieutenant General Mateparae is married to Janine, and they have five children. His interests include reading, (watching) sport, homeopathy and keeping fit.