

# ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 519  
FEBRUARY 2021

**TE RUAPEKAPEKA**  
A precious and significant site

**THE GULF WAR**  
We remember

**OUR NEWEST  
OFFICERS GRADUATE**



TŪ KAHA COURAGE

| TŪ TIKA COMMITMENT

| TŪ TIRA COMRADESHIP

| TŪ MĀIA INTEGRITY

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**SMA.NET**

**If the warm weather is a sign of a promising year, I hope it holds.**

For those who worked the Christmas period, the post-leave bliss may be fading and the realities of another year of work starting to set in. With all that's going on it's important to have a positive outlook and a healthy focus heading into 2021. Today's article talks simply about getting-after the year and setting a fresh approach.

**Play the hand you're dealt.** No matter where you sit in an organisation, from time to time everyone struggles with motivation and balance. If you thought my days were a series of high-outcome meetings set between flat whites and the gym, you'd be widely off track. Like you, I can dread upcoming work if I'm tired or unprepared. Balancing today's busy schedules and family is no easy feat but one thing learned through experience is that attitude has a lot to do with coping. For me 'getting better' starts in the mind and in ourselves. While I'm no performance expert here's a couple of things I'm thinking about, going into 21.

**Leading yourself.** Life in the military tends to navigate the extremes of tireless work and

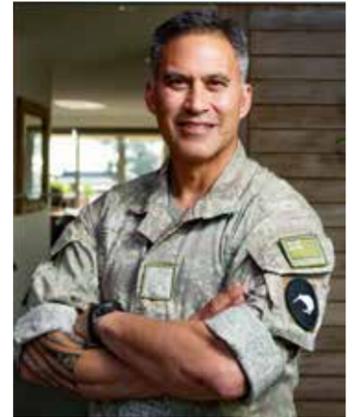
tempo – to the mundane. While we may work in an authoritarian structure – we operate in systems that empower self-leading. Gaining ownership of your work year, even in small parts can draw back a little control while meeting the jobs needs. Planning your weeks, setting priorities and creating a routine can sound easy, but its a work-on for almost everyone. Leading yourself begins with knowing your role and responsibilities, alongside very clear measures. Covid's given us an opportunity to review our work methods, so working-smart rather than just hard can really be explored. A tip to the wise, be mindful that beyond the things we do for the crown and country, be sure to balance your purpose with the well-being of loved ones.

**Get Better.** New Year's resolutions are designed to tease and torment us after January. My approach is about making constant adjustments to a few critical actions such as fitness and health, nutrition, cognition and rest. Overtime these spill into our primary functions and we create better overall behaviours. Start habits deliberately, creating small repeatable tasks and then reinforce them with rewards and acknowledgement. Be sure to tell someone about what your're doing, hold yourself to account and involve the wider team. These

actions create a series of longer lasting habits and support your goal expectations. A great book to listen to or read is Atomic Habits by James Clear (AN514 Reading List).

**Values at heart.** I finished 2020 by discussing people and values. I concluded that what we valued stood as the foundation of our culture. The challenge for us can be taking our values from words into actions. To embody values we each need to explore Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity in our own way. The Way of the NZ Warrior does a great job explaining these but you need to do the work. To me, values resonate more when I understand the consequence of not meeting them. If you inverse a value like 'courage' it conjures up words like caution, cowardly, meek and afraid, while the opposite of 'integrity' can translate to – unreliable, unfair, dishonest and meaningless. Although these terms are extremes, by shifting values from thinking into feeling moves the paradigm from head to your heart.

**Take action.** Because we observe and assess the actions of others, any major deviation from a community's principals will tend to evoke feelings of resentment. I ask you to use that ill-feeling as a sensor, your litmus test of organisational standards and an indicator to speak out.



Last year a few of our number broke clear rules, procedures and offended against a known moral code. More often than not there were observers with the ability to intervene and take action. Part of being in the uniformed service is about acting when no-one else will. I ask you to live by the first and last values of our Army by having the integrity to see right over easy, and the courage to act.

Lets set a new tone for 2021. Get after new habits, make a plan that provides ownership in your daily life, and think about the values and actions that make good people, better soldiers.

Pursuing Leadership Excellence

**WO1 Wiremu Moffitt**  
**16th Sergeant Major of the Army**

**CAREER MANAGEMENT CORNER**

**Welcome back!**

We hope those who could take some well-deserved respite time over the festive season did. 2021 will see some positive changes being made within Career Management, to improve processes and information throughout the annual cycle and also supporting command by aligning the officer and soldier board processes.

For career boards in 2021 it is intended that 1-Pagers will not be sent to individuals. The reason is to reduce administrative overheads and in recognition that all relevant information has been captured within PDR3. Please make sure your My Career tab is completed so it can be considered. It is intended that Board feedback will also be streamlined through 2021, with screenshots (as presented to the Board) being provided. This will give you the base information shown to the Board, as well as direct feedback from them to you. As we continuously improve our systems, the process may be further refined, however DACM is actively seeking to evolve to ensure you are getting correct and timely information.

When you visit the DACM ILP site, some roles will start to be advertised for individuals to apply for. You can also take advantage of the 'My Career' portal from the CPO ILP site to see what roles there are within both Army and wider NZDF to assist your career planning.

There has been a considerable completion rate of PDR3, far higher than has been seen at this point previously. It will have a

tangible benefit for our people as performance reporting remains at the heart of career development boards. If you have any questions or queries regarding PDR3, please email PDR3@nzdf.mil.nz for assistance.

Again, welcome back and we look forward to catching up during our interview rounds.

**PDR Actions this month**

Your 2021 PDR has been auto-generated and you will now need to meet with your 1 UP Commander/Manager to discuss, agree and record objectives, behavioural expectations and development goals and opportunities for this cycle. You also need to check that the correct 1-Up is assigned to your PDR and change it if required. You may also wish to assign Additional Participants who can provide additional comments on your performance and development. How-to guides can be found in the Additional Help section on the left of your PDR screen.

**Are your ESS details up-to-date?**

Members of the NZDF have a responsibility to keep their address and phone number details up-to-date so that they are contactable in an emergency. This includes:

- permanent or temporary residence
- address while on holiday
- payslip email address
- work address, and
- phone numbers.

**Key Dates**

- 26 Jan – 5 Feb 21**  
Soldier Interview Rounds – Wellington Units
- 10 Feb 21**  
Officer Interviews – Papakura
- 10–19 Feb 21**  
Soldier Interview Rounds – Manawatu Units
- 11 Feb 21**  
Officer Interviews – Burnham
- 12 Feb 21**  
Officer Interviews – Trentham
- 15 Feb 21**  
Officer Interviews – Waiouru
- 16–17 Feb 21**  
Officer Interviews – Linton
- 19 Feb 21**  
Officer Interviews – Wellington
- 22–26 Feb 21**  
Soldier Interview Rounds – Waiouru Units
- 24–26 Feb 21**  
Senior Career Management Board
- 1–5 Mar 21**  
Soldier Interview Rounds – Auckland Units
- 8–12 Mar 21**  
Soldier Interview Rounds – South Island Units
- Contact us at: DACM\_S1\_Matters@nzdf.mil.nz

**ARMY NEWS NEEDS YOUR STORIES**

**If you have an idea for a story, let us know.**

**It could be something your unit is doing, your sports team is doing, or something you are undertaking.**

**We're always open to ideas!**

Contact the editor at armynews@nzdf.mil.nz or on (04) 4960227



**Cover:** Warrant Officer Class One Mario Ropitini congratulates his newly-graduated son, Second Lieutenant Thomas Elmers-Ropitini.  
**Photo:** Corporal Naomi James



NZArmy



NZDefenceForce

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**Editor:** Judith Martin  
**Ph:** 021 240 8578 **E:** armynews@nzdf.mil.nz  
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New Zealand Government

## A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



Over the last two to three months the impact of our commitment to the national Covid response has become clearer and, as we begin 2021, there are three key observations that I think we should all reflect on.

Firstly, and most importantly, as we look around the world our nation, comparatively, is in a pretty good space. New Zealand's response to the virus in March last year proved effective and over the following months the processes and procedures the nation adopted to manage the crises continued to become more robust, more appropriate, and have, to date, ensured a reasonable level of 'normality' in NZ.

Critical to these successes are your efforts in support of the management and security of quarantine and isolation facilities. The work isn't hard, it doesn't test you as soldiers, and nor does it provide an opportunity to develop our capabilities as an Army – in fact the opposite, and some of our higher level capabilities are now being impacted by our Covid commitment. But what you do, and the manner with which you are executing your responsibilities is both essential and it is valued. You are an absolutely critical part of the national Covid response and, despite the routine nature of the role, can I encourage you to never forget that.

My second observation is that the 'battle-rhythm' Army has landed over the last three to four months is going to be with us now for some time – my guess is all of 2022, and probably well into 2023. The challenge for Commanders at all levels, and this includes me, is to strike the right balance between our Covid commitment with the maintenance of individual and collective capabilities, the introduction into service of new capabilities and the absolute need for respite.

A lot of thinking has already gone into this and our management of these requirements must continue to get better. These are not ordinary times and all of us with rank must remain agile in our thinking and adaptable with our execution. Yes, the mission comes first but we must also take every opportunity to challenge, develop, and, when needed, rest our people. Getting this balance right is not going to be easy, but it has to be done.

My third and final observation is the enduring requirement to be, regardless of the environment within which we are required to operate, the absolute best that we can at what we do. We are a small but incredibly professional Army. Our soldiers are amongst the best in the world and our history, including our recent history, reflects the achievement of many quite outstanding accomplishments from some quite outstanding people. And this must continue.

A mindset of continuous improvement, a fierce determination to be absolute masters of our profession must prevail. You are

bloody good at what you do, but you've got to challenge yourself to get better – if you don't you risk mediocrity and that, quite simply, is not an option.

So, remaining mindful of the need for the balance that I've previously discussed, I ask three things:

Firstly, continue to develop, at every opportunity, your knowledge base within your respective area of expertise. Be curious about your profession and determined to understand even the smallest of detail.

Secondly, keep our Covid response in perspective – we are where we are, right now, because that's where our nation needs us to be. Your commitment is significant and it is appreciated. Look now to carryover this commitment, at every opportunity, to the attainment of professional excellence. Perseverance though these challenging times is important but so is an absolute determination as soldiers to continually improve.

Thirdly, we've got to be smart about the training that we're able to undertake. The need for focused, well planned, well conducted training, making the most of the time we have available, will only become even more pronounced as the year progresses. Work through the frustrations in this area team, of which there will be many, and stay focused on the training outcomes we need to achieve. It's important.

Through all of this though there is one thing that must remain absolutely non-negotiable, and that's the need to look after both yourself and the men and women whom you lead. Take the time to keep things real, to rest both physically and mentally, to look out for each other and to support each other. A great quote I recently read notes that 'the best asset we have for making a contribution to the world is ourselves. If we underinvest in ourselves, and by that I mean our minds, our bodies, and our spirits, we damage the very tool we need to make our highest contribution.'

So yes, as an Army we must meet the operational demands placed on us and we must, at every opportunity, pursue excellence. But in doing so it's not about breaking ourselves but, rather, the preservation of the asset that someday will exemplify that excellence – you.

We're underway team. 2021 ain't going to throw anything at us we can't handle. Get stuck in and let's enjoy the ride.

**Major General John Boswell  
Chief of Army**

## BAMYAN FIRING RANGE CLEARANCE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



**The contractor carrying out the additional clearance of five firing ranges used by the New Zealand Defence Force in the Bamyan province in Afghanistan is ahead of schedule after the first stage of the project.**

The contractor, Organisation for Mine clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR), an Afghanistan-based organisation that has been operating for 27 years, began the additional clearance work in June last year. By the end of the first stage of clearance at the end of

October it had cleared 22 square kilometres, or 39 per cent of the total designated area. This is 7 per cent ahead of schedule.

The Afghan Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), which is overseeing the clearance work, has estimated that it will take up to 52 weeks to complete. However, the work will be spread over two calendar years, because much of Bamyan province is covered by snow for five to six months each year.

By the end of October, OMAR had found and destroyed 684 items of unexploded ordnance/explosive remnants of war, 75 per cent of which was identified as being of non-International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) origin.

The remaining 25 per cent was identified as ammunition types used by ISAF countries, with 11 per cent of the total being ammunition types that were also used by the NZDF.

The New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) operated the ranges to fire non-explosive small-arms rounds, as well as some high-explosive ammunition types.

OMAR's findings so far reflect the long history of conflict in Afghanistan and are consistent

with the remnants found by the NZPRT during its deployment in Bamyan from 2003–13. During the decade the NZPRT was deployed a considerable amount of foreign military unexploded ordnance/explosive remnants of war was discovered and disposed of by the team.

When the NZPRT team withdrew from Afghanistan it cleared the firing ranges in accordance with the standards of the time.

However, after the NZDF deployments finished ISAF introduced a new standard for range clearance, which was then adopted by DMAC.

To meet that new standard the NZDF signed a contract with OMAR to undertake additional clearance of the range areas.

DMAC Firing Range Project Manager Hassamuddin Sedeqi said great progress had been made, with the operator surpassing the planned target.

"In addition, DMAC has been consistently monitoring the project to ensure that the activities conducted in the field have adhered to the Standard Operating Procedures and the national standards," he said.

## New Rental Rates for Defence Housing and Barracks

**New NZDF accommodation rates for housing and barracks will take effect on April 1. All personnel have received notification of the new rates.**

The NZDF and Inland Revenue in accordance with the Income Tax Act 2007 agree the NZDF accommodation rate, which becomes a nationwide NZDF rate for three years.

The changes will affect all tenants of Defence housing and occupants of NZDF barracks, unaccompanied members paying NCB on a barrack room or Defence house and members who are posted overseas and living in accommodation provided by NZDF.

There have been significant increases in the market rental rates over the past three years since the last determination of Defence rental rates were set and this change is reflected in the new rates.

As a discount applies to each type of property the new rates are still significantly lower than those in the open market. The NZDF

discounted rate is available to military members only.

Rental and barrack charge calculations use the Manawatu as the national benchmark location. Rents are based on the number of bedrooms in a house. Barrack room charges are based on whether the room is a single person barrack room and the size of that room, or an open barrack room.

If a tenant has been in their property for less than 12 months at the time of the date the increases will take effect there will be no increase for that tenant until the 12 month anniversary of their tenancy.

Barrack occupants who pay barrack charges in New Zealand, and members on non-operational postings overseas (NOPA) who pay housing charges or barrack charges will pay the new rate on 1 April 2021 as these members are

not tenants under the Residential Tenancies Act. Barracks are excluded from the Residential Tenancies Act, and members on NOPA postings pay housing charges to the NZDF.

Budgeting advice is available from Money Talks, a nationwide budget mentoring service. The Money Talks website, [moneytalks.co.nz](http://moneytalks.co.nz) is where members can access the name of an organisation in their region that provides free confidential budgeting advice. Advice may also be available locally from existing base budgeting services, and The Force Financial Hub (FFH) has links to financial planning advice.

Email any queries to [DSSGHELP@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:DSSGHELP@nzdf.mil.nz) and for further information go to ILP/How we work/HR Entitlements.

# ALWAYS READY: THE HRTU TRAINS WITH ENABLERS

**The first Air Mobile course of 2021 had 1RNZIR personnel alongside the High Readiness Task Unit enablers from 2ER, 16 FD REGT and MI COY.**

The course progressed from ground training in the NH90 mock up focussing on drills within the aircraft, to refining roping techniques on the Linton Helo Descent Tower. It culminated in two days of live fast roping descents from No. 3 Sqn NH90s which also allowed the helo load masters to qualify in dispatching fast ropers. The course conducted qualifying descents from 40 ft before increasing the height to ranges of 60 to 80 ft in order to gain confidence at height.

The course strengthened relationships and enabled those taking part to conduct infiltration techniques by helo.

A spokesman said the crawl, walk, and run approach to learning accelerated students' confidence leading into the live descents.

"Helo load masters are able to qualify in dispatching fast ropers during the course qualifying serials. Two aircraft allowed a quicker turn around between sections, increasing the total amount of descents. Two days of live descents gave students more exposure to fast roping and the ability to build confidence by gradually increasing height."



“Ruapekapeka,  
a most precious  
and significant site.”

– Dame Patsy Reddy, Governor General of New Zealand



*A soldier and sailor lower the New Zealand  
and British flags as The Last Post is played.*

*Photo: SGT Maria Eves*

Government House kaumatua Joe Harawira representing the Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy, addresses the gathering.



# REMEMBERING THE FALLEN - ON BOTH SIDES

**Te Ruapekapeka is one of our most precious and significant sites and bears the traces of a dark and difficult chapter in the history of Aotearoa, the Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy told those gathered for the recent commemorations at the Bay of Islands pa.**



Navy chaplain Glen Popata blesses the monument as LT Deri White, RN, and Wing Commander Andy Bryant (Royal Air Force), UK Defence Adviser to New Zealand look on.

The commemorations on 3 February were attended by dignitaries from throughout New Zealand, as well as NZDF personnel, and were part of a series of events to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle at Te Ruapekapeka.

The theme of the commemoration was Kawea a Pūiri mai – in reverence, remembrance and respect.

The memorial headstone for 12 British soldiers, sailors and Royal Marines who died in the battle was unveiled as a lasting symbol of remembrance, courage, determination and sacrifice for all those who fought.

Their resting place was rediscovered in 2017 following years of investigation and excavation of the site. Among the find was a clay pipe, as well as items of uniform and personal equipment. All these items were left exactly where they were found when the gravesite was re-closed.

The battle itself saw a force of 1,700 British troops, Royal Navy sailors, and Māori warriors allied to the Crown, fight 500 Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Hine warriors in the last battle of the Northern War of 1845–1846.

The unveiling of the memorial allowed the opportunity for those who attended to remember and

honour the courage, determination and sacrifice for all those who fought on both sides at Te Ruapekapeka.

Dame Patsy said Ruapekapeka was part of a series of battles that began at Kororarereka. "It was actually the first significant engagement of perhaps the most infamous of my predecessors, Governor George Gray. The battle began with British shellfire directed onto Ruapekapeka Pa on the morning of 10 January 1846. By the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> approximately 20 Ngāpuhi and 12 British lay dead, and the pa itself was alight.

"The headstone marks the site where those 12 British soldiers, sailors and Royal Marines were buried by their comrades-in-arms after the dust of battle had settled.

"The text etched into the stone reads. "Although these fallen men lie not in the heart of their own land they are in honoured company for their remembrance will be as lasting as the land in which they gave their all and where their remains are kept."

Dame Patsy said Aotearoa bears the responsibility of looking after these men who for so long lay unrecognised and forgotten.

"They are now part of this land and their names are inscribed in granite for posterity. Today we



remember also the immense loss borne by Ngāpuhi and the deep wounds of that conflict which have yet to heal.”

Private Rick Mackay, from 3/6 Battalion, said it was an amazing commemoration to be a part of. “It’s so isolated and you probably wouldn’t know about it until you go,” he said.

The New Zealand Army Band performed during the commemoration, with performances that drew tears and cheers from many who had gathered to represent tangata whenua.

Army also held roles as flag orderlies and the firing party which was made up from both Army Regular and Reserve Force personnel, including personnel from 1CSR, 2/1 Battalion, HQ1NZBDE, 3CSSB and 3/6 Battalion.

The Northern War was also known as the Flagstaff War after Hone Heke made multiple attacks on the British flagstaves.

The Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell said it was an absolute honour to have been able to attend the cenotaph dedication at Ruapekapeka.

“I have been fortunate to visit many of the battlefields from our Army’s history – Gallipoli, Italy, Greece/Crete, Flanders and France – but this was the first time I have

had the opportunity to reflect and understand a major battle from the New Zealand Wars. It was a very different experience and it was incredibly humbling to witness the level of respect afforded by Ngāpuhi to the 12 British servicemen, whose remains lie under the monument.”

“As our Prime Minister alluded to, it is appropriate that as a nation we take the time to study, learn and understand our history, which includes our military history.”

*Clockwise from above:*  
 Soldiers rehearse for the commemoration.  
 Beginning in the early morning at Te Ruapekapeka Pa a ceremony was held to welcome the Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy and other dignitaries. Before the ceremony began at the British gravesite warriors met the visitors at the entrance to the site of the former British camp.  
 Dame Patsy addresses the commemoration, accompanied by Government House kaumatua Joe Harawira.

**Being part of the Ruapekapeka commemorations was particularly significant to Staff Sergeant Shannon Tahu.**

The 3/6 RNZIR Battalion Northland cadre was in charge of the 15 person firing party, the majority of whom were Reservists.

“This was a significant occasion to be part of, for many reasons. I was brought up in the region, my whānau is from this whenua on my father’s side, and I have close ties to both tupuna who had major roles on both sides of the battle, one being Hone Heke Pokai, the Ngāpuhi Chief who is known in Māori folklore for cutting down the flag pole. He helped Te Ruki Kawhiti. My other tupuna Tamati Waka Nene was an ally of the British commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Despard.”

He says being part of the commemorations made him feel sombre, but proud.

“I was thinking of the past and the hardships that occurred between our own hapu/iwi/pakeha, the divisiveness and internal fighting. I am proud that we can come together and recognise the past, accept the present, and develop the future. It’s hard to explain. I love my service to the Defence Force, in fact I cherish all the times I have been part of any commemoration, but conducting something like this in your own backyard, is very powerful to me personally.”

As the 3/6 cadre SSGT Tahu serves in the Regular Force. He previously served with 2/1 Battalion, and TAD/OCS.



*The firing party included sailors from the Royal New Zealand Navy.*



*Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern lays a wreath at the monument.*



# ALL IN A DAY'S WORK:

## LCPL Desiree Arnold

**Information Systems Operator Lance Corporal Desiree Arnold has found herself in a Navy ship in the Southern Ocean, managing a Managed Isolation Facility, and setting up technical communications equipment in the past year.**

It's all in a day's work for LCPL Arnold who has been in the Army for almost four years.

Before joining the military she worked in the information technology industry, with various telecommunication companies. "Although this allowed me to develop my knowledge it did not offer any formal qualifications and the grind of 9-5 became stale. I looked into joining Signals and found I could practise IT in obscure locations, various conditions and challenge myself physically and mentally, and at the same time get formal IT qualifications for free."

Along with much of the rest of the Army no day is predictable nowadays, thanks to Operation Protect, the military's response to the Covid pandemic.

LCPL Arnold is currently in the Regimental headquarters supporting the planning, movement and deployment of troops.

In recent month she has deployed to the managed isolation facilities.

In the months before Covid struck a typical week would include the maintenance and set up of technical and communication equipment, troubleshooting and improving the Army's classified network.

She helped implement training in Communication Access Nodes in various locations using different bearers and radio systems, and simulating traffic and faults to improve technical knowledge.

The green skills have to be kept up too, for example – weapons training, revision of warfare and protection and destruction of classified technologies in high risk scenarios.

She has deployed with HMNZS Canterbury twice.

"The purpose of having Army Signallers deploy with the Navy is to provide interoperability between the service's networks on the ship, along with the land to ship capability.

"During Op Endurance the NZDF was assisting DOC with the removal of asbestos. This required efficient communication with land, helo and ship, in which Army Signals provided the land component. It included trouble shooting, the insurance of secure voice, infill and support of radio equipment and man power on the ground."

The secondary deployment was to test and implementation of both Army and Navy Networks to provide data communication.

It's not always plain sailing. "We often deploy to remote locations and there are challenges in providing effective communications in varying terrain. Along with that we work in areas where you can only rely on yourself and the team to provide the knowledge to repair and maintain the network in challenging conditions and high stress environments."

But with the challenges comes job satisfaction.

"I enjoy the variety of technical challenges that you don't find in a normal civilian role and being able to deploy and work with various people and nations.

"As the world runs on information the Signals Corp deploys with every other unit supporting them with their communication needs. This provides great variety and job satisfaction as you can work with the front line, rear theatre of operations and the other defence forces."

LCPL Arnold is expecting her first child in May.

"I am currently baby-focused so am primarily looking forward to the great work life balance that the forces provide. Both my partner and I are Military and have been supported through our new life journey."



LCPL Desiree Arnold



# OCDT GRADUATION

**The Army's newest officers graduated in front of friends and family in a ceremony in Waikouaiti at the end of last year.**

The Minister of Defence, Peeni Henare reviewed the graduation. The Sword of Honour, which is awarded to the Officer Cadet who best displays the qualities of leadership, initiative, integrity, motivation, academic ability and physical fitness, and who is assessed as having the greatest potential as an Army Officer, was presented to Officer Cadet Hugo Mendez.



## Other prize winners included:

### The Military History Trophy

*Awarded to the Officer Cadet who gains the highest aggregate marks in Military History:*

**Officer Cadet Kamarudzaman**

### The Australian Chief of Army's Prize for Tactics

*Awarded to the Officer Cadet gaining the highest aggregate marks in Tactics:*

**Officer Cadet Craig McKernan**

### The Lieutenant Colonel John Masters ONZM, MC, Peers Award

*Awarded to the course member within the NZCC who is assessed by their peers as being the student who consistently demonstrated the core qualities of the NZDF and best displayed comradeship as a valued peer on the NZCC towards their fellow students:*

**Officer Cadet Michael Forgesson**

### Commander Training and Doctrine Command (New Zealand) Prize

*Awarded to the Officer Cadet gaining the highest aggregate marks in Education and Military Studies:*

**Officer Cadet Riordan Morrell**

### Sergeant Major of the Army's Prize

*Awarded to the Officer Cadet for best performance across all aspects of field training:*

**Officer Cadet Alexander Gislason**

### The Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell, DSD, Memorial Leadership Award

*Awarded to the Officer Cadet who has best exhibited the attributes of Leadership:*

**Officer Cadet Forgesson**

### The Sultan of Brunei's Prize

*Awarded to the best Mutual Assistance Programme Officer Cadet:*

**Officer Cadet Kamarud Zaman**

### Governor General's Medal

*Awarded to the Officer Cadet gaining the highest aggregate marks in all subjects:*

**Officer Cadet Forgesson**

## The Minor Prizes

Throughout the year there are a number of other awards eagerly contested for. The winners have already been recognised at the Corps of Officer Cadets Regimental Dinner.

### The Corps of Officer Cadets Officer Commanding's Prize

*Awarded to the Officer Cadet who has displayed the greatest improvement throughout the entire course in all areas:*

**Officer Cadet Jessica Hansen**

### The Field Wing Trophy

*Awarded to the student who has demonstrated the most improvement in battle craft:*

**Officer Cadet Haydn Baucke**

### The Sergeant Vaney Trophy

*Awarded to the best all round student in Physical Training:*

**Officer Cadet Mikayla Bigwood**

### The J.K. Williams Trophy

*Awarded to the best all round student in shooting:*

**Officer Cadet Aaron Van Zantern**

### The Regimental Sergeant's Cup

*Awarded to the top overall student in Drill:*

**Officer Cadet Solomon Baea**



The Minister of Defence, Peeni Henare presents an award to an overseas student.



2LT Forgessen receives his award.

**Second Lieutenant Michael Forgessen decided to commission after several years as an infantry soldier.**

"I decided (to commission) primarily out of the wish to seek a new career path within the organisation. Commissioning to me was the greatest challenge and biggest leap from my previous job. It was my belief that this would make it the most rewarding."

2LT Forgessen was awarded the Lieutenant Colonel John Masters ONZM, MC, Peers Award, and also the the Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell, DSD, Memorial Leadership Award which goes to the Officer Cadet who has best exhibited the attributes of Leadership.

Originally from West Auckland, the 29-year-old says the commissioning course was long and difficult at times.

"My greatest challenge was being away from friends and family for so long, but there were also great parts, like working with the international students."

He is now a platoon commander at The Army Depot.

"My advice to soldiers looking to commission would be come in to Officer training with a growth mind-set. One of the most rewarding things for me was what I learned from the direct entry cadets. This was most notable in thinking outside the box, as we can become indoctrinated to a way of problem solving in this organisation."



**Sword of Honour prize-winner Second Lieutenant Hugo Mendez has returned to QAMR where he was previously a soldier.**

Born in New Caledonia, he moved to New Zealand when he was four. He grew up in Silverdale, north of Auckland, and lived there until he joined the Army in 2013.

"I got interested in becoming an Army officer after the brief experience of learning to lead a section on my JNCO course. I enjoyed the complexity of planning a task and the detail that went into it. While it was only a brief command introduction, I gained an appreciation of the difficulty it could present and how

much there was to learn. I was also fortunate to work under some great officers at QAMR. I found that they had a large impact on the morale and quality of a troop, something I hope to be able to achieve.

"I really enjoyed the course. While it was long and had its ups and downs I learnt a lot and made some good friends.

He found the time away from his family a big challenge as well as the loss of some freedoms.

"But I particularly enjoyed the tactics package. It was challenging but allowed for professional development and to think outside the box in a tactical situation. There was so much to learn and a lot of opportunity to develop your skillset. I also enjoyed working with the international students. They had a wide range of experiences and brought a fresh perspective about how our coalition partners train and their different approaches to leadership.

# COMMENDATION FOR FORMER ARMY SNIPER

By Charlene Williamson

## Photographing the men and women of the New Zealand Army in action is not just a skill but an art.

Corporal (CPL) Sean Spivey has been awarded a Chief of Army Commendation for his work in proactively and expertly showcasing the Army in his photography.

CPL Spivey, a Photographer Specialist in the Royal New Zealand Air Force is no stranger to the Army — he enlisted as a soldier in 2008 and spent 12 years posted to 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment as a sniper.

He had always wanted to become a photographer and in 2017 he completed a course of study through the Kippenberger Scheme to pursue his passion. On completion of his study in 2019 he completed a tour of duty to Defence Public Affairs. And the next year he service-changed to the Air Force and was permanently posted to Burnham Military Camp as a Photographer Specialist.

When presenting the commendation to CPL Spivey, Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell said “You had quite a magnificent career in the New Zealand Army, and I was incredibly disappointed when I heard that you were leaving the Army. I was absolutely amazed when I heard that you were going into the Air Force.

“In all honesty though, given what you have done since you have left the service of the Army in terms of your education, pursuing your passion and the absolute professional manner in which you are providing a service at the highest level for the Defence Force at large, I can live with you leaving the Army, because you are very, very good at what you do,” said MAJGEN Boswell.

CPL Spivey said that the award means everything to him and was totally unexpected.

“To receive a Chief of Army Commendation for a job I am lucky to have means a lot to me and my family.

“I am very fortunate to be a full-time photographer. Chief of Army approved me to study under the Kippenberger scheme, so for me that time was about working as hard as I could for all those people who helped me along my journey,” said CPL Spivey.

CPL Spivey’s commendation noted his ability to proactively seek opportunities to promote our soldiers and portray Defence capabilities as second to none.

“He draws heavily on his experience as a soldier, commander, and safety supervisor and this knowledge affords him relative freedom when in the field or on exercise with soldiers. He has the ability to gain the trust and credibility to move alongside soldiers to capture raw, unvarnished images of the New Zealand Army,” the citation read.

CPL Spivey said having Army connections and qualifications has helped a lot in going straight from the infantry to being a Defence photographer.

“The major benefit of my time in the Army is when I am in the field with them. I already know the way they operate and being able to anticipate what will be coming during an assault or other routines, and the best place for me to be to capture the right image.

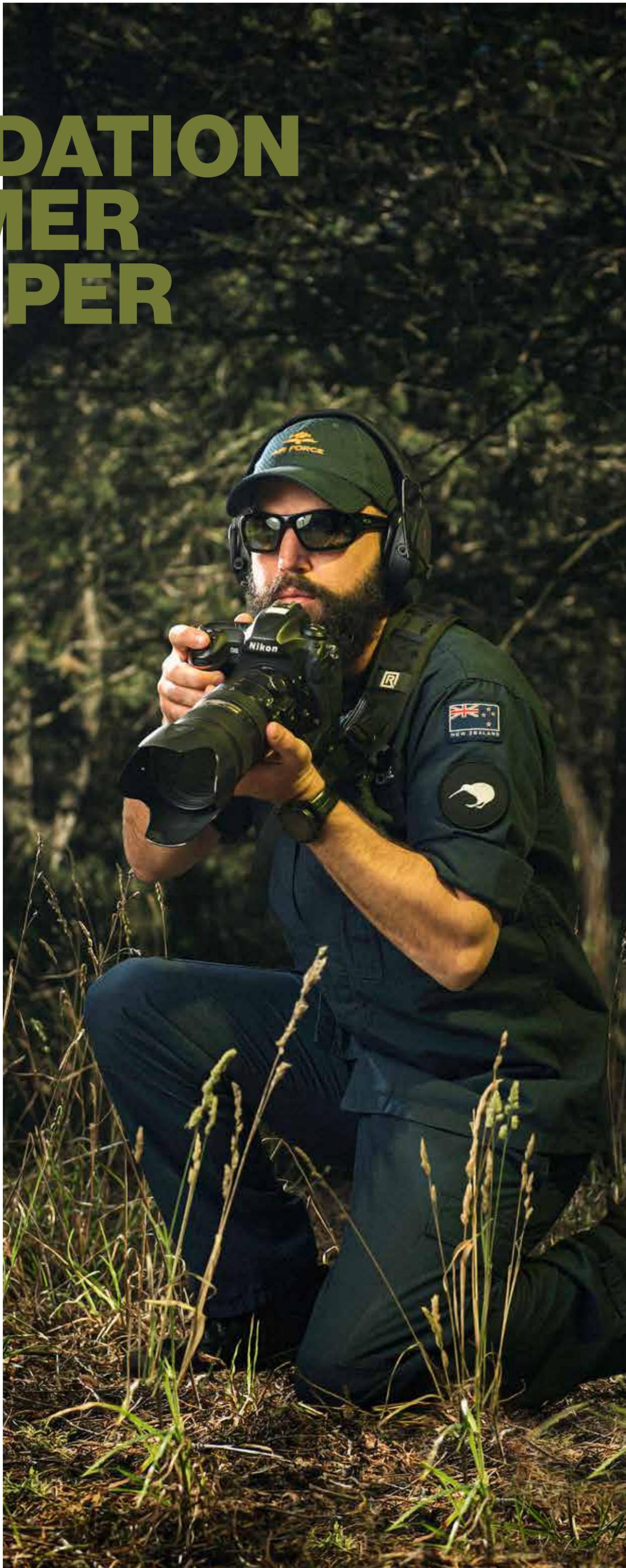
“I also know how hard our soldiers work, and I try to show that in my work,” he said.

MAJGEN Boswell said “We as an organisation continue to benefit from who you are, the services you provide, the products you produce — they are magnificent.

“You are in every sense of the word an absolute artist, don’t stop doing what you are doing, because it is impressive and the NZDF seriously appreciate it,” he said.

CPL Spivey’s citation noted his diligence and passion for art, in combination with his unrelenting professionalism, attention to detail and dedication to combat soldiers has meant he has become an ambassador for Army, its values and mana. The images he produces generate pride within the organisation and respect externally.

While CPL Spivey does miss aspects of the Army, and that the highlight of his career was becoming a badged sniper, he is looking forward to developing his skills further as a photographer and said “as great as it feels, it’s only the start”.





## CPL SPIVEY'S 2020 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

*It seems that the more modern and upgraded our NZ Army gets, the more intense and complex the battalion Top Soldier competition gets! This year soldiers had to team up and work together in pairs, a significant first for the event!*

*After following the teams around for 72 hours, I had shot a good variety of physical and mental challenges that the soldiers had been put through. For me, this stand in particular sums up the event. As a team, the soldiers accurately engage a target with an anti-armour weapon after navigating an urban environment, dealing with a medical scenario, and solving puzzles throughout.*



*I've been involved in a lot of NZ Army exercises, as NZDF photographers we're usually looking for that high impact, explosive shot. This time however, I wanted to show a more behind the scenes look into living in the field. Moments that I had not only seen, but also experienced myself. It takes a certain amount of knowledge and trust to be involved in moments like this – most people will turn into robots when the camera comes out, or they see the photographer walking towards them! But these two were great value, and having Tekapo as a backdrop definitely helps!*



*The way I like to approach my job, is to show you what you otherwise wouldn't get to see. When it gets dark, soldiers don't go to sleep – the digging continues, defences go up, sentries are placed, and in the 'open country' night patrols begin. None of which you would know about unless you're there. Photographing these two ticked a few boxes for me with my own goals in how I wanted to depict the NZ Army in the field, and I look forward to creating more of these!*



*For me this photo represents more than just a cool picture of a sniper. It represents a milestone within the NZ Army that very few get the honour of achieving through hard work, perseverance, and dedication – being badged a qualified sniper. These two are our newest snipers, passing the course.*

# NZ ARMY NON-PUBLIC FUNDS



## Personal loans available to Army personnel

### Army NPF Personal Loans

Loans to a maximum of \$15,000 may be borrowed from the scheme.

You can use your loan in a variety of ways including (but not limited to):

- Refinancing/consolidation of credit card debt at a lower interest rate
- Home improvements
- Travel
- Vehicle/Motorcycle purchases
- Vet expenses
- Mountain/Racing bicycles
- Musical instruments
- Sporting Equipment
- Refinancing private loans

*The Interest that is paid on NPF Loans is returned to soldiers by way of monthly payments from the Army NPF fund to Camp UPF funds, Camp Sports clubs, Messes, Unit UPF funds and Corps funds.*

### Loan Scheme Benefits

An Army NPF Personal Loan Scheme has been available to Army personnel since 1993. Its main aim is to provide a competitive source of finance to soldiers at favourable loan terms.

Army NPF Personal Loans can be used for a variety of purposes such as refinancing credit card debt, holidays, vehicle purchase, vet bills, home improvements and more.

### Criteria

- You must be a Regular Force or permanent full-time civilian staff member of the NZ Army.
- You need to have completed 12 months employment with the Army.
- If releasing within the next 3 years your loan term must not exceed your release date.
- Your total fixed fortnightly commitments, including your loan payments, must be within 30% of your gross income.
- You must be able to provide security for a loan if required. If you are applying to borrow \$10,000 and above you must provide security.

### Loan Features

- Maximum loan amount \$15,000 .
- Loan terms between 6 months and 3 years.
- Competitive interest rates .
- Repayments are made by direct debit from your nominated bank account.
- The interest rate is fixed for the term of the loan so your repayments remain the same.
- The maximum loan establishment fee is \$55.
- Security may be required for loans over \$7,000. For loans of \$10,000 or over security is mandatory. The only acceptable security is a motor vehicle that is fully insured and is of equivalent or greater value to the loan value being sought.
- The Army NPF offers different interest rates for Secured and Unsecured loans. The current NPF interest rates are set below the average market rate for personal loans at:
  - 7.4% secured loan
  - 9.4% unsecured loan

### Applications

Application forms and more detailed information on the process are available from the Army Personal loan site which is under quick links on the Command Post intranet site. You can also either call 0800 111823 (option 2) or DTelN 347 8339 (Trentham) or email us at [army.npf@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:army.npf@nzdf.mil.nz).

### What happens to the interest charged on the loans?

All the interest charged on NPF loans is returned to soldiers as interest payments to NPF member accounts. These accounts include your sports clubs, Messes and UPFs so the full benefits of the scheme are returned to you, the soldiers of the NZ Army

### Army Non Public Funds

Army General Staff  
Messines Defence Centre  
Trentham

0800 111823 (option2)  
DTelN: 347 8339  
[army.npf@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:army.npf@nzdf.mil.nz)

## MAU RĀKAU WĀNANGA 2021

### TE MAURI Ō TŪ | TE KAWA Ō TANGAROA

The aim of the wānanga is to instil and teach the NZ Army Taiaha art style of Te Kore enabling the mana of Ngāti Tūmatauenga to be maintained during ceremonial occasions. This wananga is opened to Te Ope Kaatua, Te Taaua Moana and Te Taaua a Rangi personnel. The modules are facilitated by leading tutors in the field of Māori Weaponry within New Zealand.

Nominations can be made via the NZDF Course Plan/Course Nominations, Enrolments & Withdrawals (CNET) which can be found on the NZDF intranet site. All participants are to be male members of the NZDF (including civilian employees).

This course encompasses two separate phases of learning. It is expected that students will complete all phases in order to achieve competency.

### Course Information:

Course short titles: A40001, A40002 & A40003

Tauria/Pou (L1 & 2)

10–19 May 2021

Noms Close: 5 April 2021

Kaiwero (L3)

21–25 June 2021

Noms Close: 17 May 2021

Where: Rongomaraeroa o ngā Hau e Whā Marae, WMC.

Enquiries contact:

Marae Staff Officer: SSGT Royal Pita ph: 0224004611

Marae Educator: Mr Steve Bethell ph: 021914068



# NEW ZEALAND INVOLVEMENT IN THE GULF CONFLICT 1991

Last month marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gulf War in which a number of NZDF personnel were involved.

A United States-led United Nations force, the Gulf War Coalition, was assembled to liberate Kuwait, which Iraq had invaded in 1990.

On 17 January 1991, two days after a deadline set in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 678, the Gulf War Coalition launched an air campaign, which began the offensive codenamed Operation Desert Storm.

The air campaign ran through to 23 February 1991. A ceasefire was declared on 28 February and under the later peace agreement Kuwait's sovereignty was restored and Iraq agreed to dispose of its weapons of mass destruction.

The New Zealand government committed two Hercules aircraft and two military medical teams to this Coalition. The RNZAF aircraft from No.40 Squadron operated with an RAF unit based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

No Defence Force personnel were killed or wounded and they were withdrawn from the Persian Gulf at the end of April 1991.

.....  
***“It was such a large military campaign with a lot of modern amazing equipment and weaponry on such a massive scale.”***

- Major David Foote

## Gulf War a first step in medical career for NZ Army Major



Major David Foote was 21 years old when he deployed to the Gulf as part of the New Zealand Defence Force contingent in 1991.

His was a medic with the Field Surgical Team, 1st NZ Army Medical Team attached to United States Navy Fleet Hospital 6(22), Awali, Bahrain.

The Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training and threat has stuck in his mind.

“The very first thing we heard as we landed in Bahrain was gas gas gas,” Major Foote recalled.

“Coming from New Zealand a highlight was seeing the sheer scale of the forces build up. It was such a large military campaign with a lot of modern amazing equipment and weaponry on such a massive scale.”

No deployment is without its challenges and this one was no different in that respect.

Major Foote said being a relatively junior practitioner and junior soldier (he was a lance corporal at the time) while being part of a small contingent in a large hospital was difficult at times.

“Overall being part of this deployment did help my career in the NZ Army. This experience set me on my pathway to continue to develop as a health professional firstly as a Medic and then on to become a Nursing Officer further down the track,” he said.

**Major David Foote**

Current role: Senior Technical Advisor for Nursing & Allied Health

Length of time in service: 24 years (broken service with 9 year gap 2001–2010)

## Gulf War a life-changing experience for Army Major

Major Ken Coombes was 32 when he deployed to the Gulf as the Admin NCO and it was the first of three Middle East missions during his NZ Army service.

“The 1991 deployment was the first operation I had been on and I felt a lot of pride deploying to an active service mission. Overall it was a fantastic experience, which was at times daunting when considering the location, environment, threat, regular Scud missile attacks and the tasks at hand,” Major Coombes said.

Major Coombes' role involved working closely with United States Navy personnel who were assisting the Construction Battalion in building the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet 500-bed tented hospital prior to the US medical teams arriving.

“I had to learn how the US Navy managed their administrative and payroll systems. There were a few challenges in the role such as the

relationship with the local Bank Manager in the Awali branch of the Bank of Bahrain and working through the language barrier and a significantly different banking system to how we did it in New Zealand,” he said.

“The limited communication back to New Zealand for business and the technology available to do our work made things hard at times.

“But the most difficult part of the operation was separation from close family and friends for what was initially an undetermined length of time and communications were unreliable and very limited.”

Major Coombes said the deployment had a significant impact on his life. It prompted an interest in learning how other allied nations work within the same field as well as a desire to travel and explore the world with his wife and to seek out new places and experiences.

“Perhaps one of the other areas that this deployment shaped my future was the exposure to what the medical team was doing.

“They were a very professional and capable group who made a significant and positive impact for many casualties and patients during the time the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet Hospital was open (4,500 patients in 45 days).

“This prompted me to volunteer as an Ambulance Officer with St John – a role I have continued with for nearly 17 years.”



**Major Ken Coombes**

Current role: Trainer at Training and Doctrine Command

Length of service: 36 years



*Private Caleb Hoyle training with soldiers from Cassino Platoon, Depot Company in Tekapo Military Training area to qualify on their open country phase. Some of the activities they qualify on are defensive and night operations such as clearing patrols and observation posts OP's, blank and live section and platoon assaults.*

*Photo: CPL Sean Spivey*

Emergency responders from 2 Engineer Regiment turned out to help fight a fire that burned through 55 acres of commercial forest in Tangimoana near Himatangi beach beginning on Waitangi Day.

The soldiers were called in to help Fire and Emergency New Zealand fight the blaze. The ground fire crews, as well as helicopters, helped extinguish the blaze and dampen down hot spots.



# PROGRESSION TO A NETWORK ENABLED ARMY



## Why is the NEA project important for the Army?

The NEA programme represents transformational change for the NZ Army. It facilitates the evolution of the NZ Army from an analogue to a digitised force through the delivery of a networked land combat capability. This progression is essential for Army to be effective as part of an Integrated Defence Force. It enables greater operational efficiencies with the same number of personnel. The Army's in-service tactical communications fleet is almost obsolete, and the NEA project adds significantly to its command and control, and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability.

## What level of connectivity between Army units is needed for the future and what is it for?

Traditionally, operations at the tactical level have relied primarily on voice communications to maintain situational awareness. The NZ Army now requires the ability to pass increasing amounts of information between command & control nodes and the 'tactical edge' of the deployed force. The ability to transfer data across a deployed network enables commanders at all levels within the force to access the right information at the right time so they can make the best decision to ensure mission success. In essence, commanders now require situational understanding, not simply situational awareness.

## What specific capabilities does NEA provide and why are these relevant for the future battlefield?

The abundance of information and data that is sourced through increasingly effective intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems requires an intelligence and information management system that ensures all commanders can gain situational understanding. The NEA programme will provide a command and control system that supports the deployed tactical

headquarters to manage and disseminate information to support the commander. This includes power generation and a physical headquarters infrastructure to house the deployed IT systems. This will be enabled by a network bearer system that supports the connectivity of each headquarters within the deployed force. This means a higher tactical commander's plan can be communicated to junior commanders and individual soldiers through a mobile tactical command system. The digital communications system hosts a battlefield management system that enables junior commanders to see friendly forces as well as known enemy force dispositions. This includes non combatants. Vitality, the NZ Army will also acquire ISR sensors, and an intelligence fusion capability, that will markedly enhance the NZ Army's ability to understand its operating environment through the detection and identification of threats, thereby contributing to both mission success, and a reduced operational risk to the force.

## How important is multinational connectivity? Does NEA provide the Army with links to multinational, joint and interagency networks?

Multinational connectivity is essential to coalition joint operations in the contemporary operating environment. The ability to conduct effective combined operations, whilst reducing the operational risk to friendly forces is dependent on situational understanding, and battlespace de-confliction in what, in the future, will be an increasingly congested operating space. Therefore, NEA capability is routinely tested and evaluated to maintain interoperability with partner Armies to ensure we remain a valued and credible partner within a coalition structure.

An important element of the contemporary operating environment is how the NZ Army operates as part of the NZDF's networked force within both a multinational and All-of-Government framework. Accordingly, the NEA programme will deliver capability that interfaces with both the RNZN and RNZAF, partnered Armies, and other government agencies.

## How is this achieved and what level of cooperation does this offer the NZDF to work more closely with allies?

The NEA programme maintains relationships across the NZDF to ensure interoperability with related capability projects. In addition, the NZ Army's standing international partnerships enables ongoing compatibility training and testing through joint exercises that enable connectivity with our partnered armies. This represents the opportunity to develop a persistent tactical network and distributed training environment to build a closer command and control relationship. This will result in a significantly increased level of interoperability with our partners which in turn, enhances the NZ Army's ability to achieve mission success.

## What stage has the programme reached under Tranche 1? Is initial operating release (IOR) still scheduled for June 2021? What does that mean for Army connectivity?

Tranche One of the NEA programme is scheduled for initial operating release mid-2021. When this stage of the programme is complete, the Army will have connectivity in the field across its ranks - from the soldier in a Light Infantry Company, to the command personnel at a Task Group Headquarters, and the superior headquarters.

## What does the Common Command Post Operating Environment (CCPOE), bearer network for a task group headquarters, and Mobile Tactical Command System (MTCS) for a rifle company provide?

- The Common Command Post Operating Environment is a deployable and modular command post system, enabling headquarters staff to plan and manage military operations in the field. The system provides a range of mobile infrastructure, including shelters, power supply, lighting, audio-visual systems and trailers to ensure personnel can successfully transport all equipment.
- The Common Universal Bearer System provides an integrated system of long range communications devices and computer systems, including satellite connectivity. The system is critical to the tactical command and control network, supporting commanders and staff in the planning, communication and execution of tasks.
- The Mobile Tactical Command System is an integrated system of tactical radios, viewing devices and software, which connects commanders within a Light Infantry Company by voice and data. The system uses Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to provide an automated Position Location Information (PLI) to command personnel and the Battle Management System (BMS). This technology enhances situational awareness, and combined with other tools, supports faster decision-making and distribution of plans and orders.

## Under Tranche 2 what is the next level of connectivity, what does it provide and why is this important?

Tranche Two will build upon the communications systems introduced in Tranche One, to provide enhanced logistics support, Health Service Support, and reconnaissance and surveillance technologies. Tranche Two also provides communications systems for troops mounted in Protected Mobility Vehicles.

## What stage has Tranche 2 reached and what are the next steps?

Tranche Two is rolling out a range of sensor suites, to enhance the capability of the Army's electronic warfare, reconnaissance and surveillance units to collect and analyse information. It has, to date, built on Tranche One with the acquisition of more Command Post systems, tactical networks and mobile satellite communications. It is also trialling new technologies to process and analyse information, and reduce risk to personnel in the field.

## What additional capabilities will the Army get under the final two Tranches?

Tranches Three and Four will build upon what has been delivered by Tranches One and Two. New capabilities will, where applicable, replace or upgrade Tranche One systems that have been superseded by technological advances.



# 85<sup>TH</sup> AGM AND ANNUAL REUNION OF THE ROYAL NZ ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

16-18 OCTOBER 2020 | TRENTHAM MILITARY CAMP

**More than 80 gunners past and present and their spouses/partners gathered at Trentham Military Camp to attend the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting and Reunion of the Royal NZ Artillery Association.**

The weekend began with a social gathering at the WOs and SGTs mess on the Friday evening where gunners past and present gathered to renew friendships and reconnect. It was gratifying to see former gunners from now disbanded Territorial units and the number of ex-Vietnam 161 Bty members in attendance.

On the Friday evening the NZ Veterans Pin and Certificate of Appreciation was presented to 102-year-old Capt. Ken Longmore by Veterans' Affairs NZ. Ken served as a Subaltern pre-WW2 with 15 Heavy Coastal Bty at Fort Dorset and then was called up on the day war was declared. He served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regt in Greece and then 6 Field Regt in North Africa but was taken prisoner at Ruweisat Ridge/EI Mreir Wadi.

He was in the same POW Camp as Charlie Upham and witnessed one of his escape attempts.

On Saturday morning the AGM was held and Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Tony McLeod was re-elected unopposed.

In the afternoon, several activities were arranged, including a pistol shoot at the Wellington pistol club and a tour of the Trentham ordnance museum.

That evening, a semi-formal dinner was held in the Officers' Mess and the guest speaker was Bernadine MacKenzie, Head of Veterans' Affairs. The Regiment's recently appointed Colonel Commandant, Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Southwell was introduced to the members along with the Regimental Colonel, Colonel Andrew Shaw.

A number of life memberships were awarded to long serving members as well as the Gunner of the Year awards to members of 161 & 163 Bty, 16 Field Regt. RNZA. 2019 award to BDR now SGT Solomon Falemai of 161 Bty and the 2020 award to BDR Ryan Buchanan of 163 Bty.

The evening finished with the traditional toast to our Captain General Her Majesty the Queen.

The next morning at 10am, a Church service was held at the Trentham Camp Chapel officiated by the Association's Vice President Greg Thwaite.

Because of the pandemic numbers were expected to be low however the Association was



thrilled at the turnout considering the circumstances.

The Association wish to thank the Camp Commandant, the PMC of the Officers' Mess and the WO and SGTs' Mess for their hospitality.

The traditions and comradery of the Corps is maintained from those who serve the guns past and present.

For those gunners who read this article and are not members of the Association, go to our website [www.RNZAA.org.nz](http://www.RNZAA.org.nz) to join and learn more about who we are. Membership is free to those who have served the colours.



Artillery comrades from several eras reunite.



## VOLUNTARY EDUCATION STUDY ASSISTANCE

**Semester One, 2021 applications are now being accepted. You may submit your request for funding within 90 days of your study start date. Apply online at NZDC, Defence Learning Toolkit VESA Application (e-form).**

**Applicants should be aware of their responsibilities prior to making an application IAW DFO 3/2016.**

**Prior to starting the application process, applicants are to:**

- Confirm the level of study is right for them with NZDC DLearn
- Advise their IUP of their study intentions
- Provide supporting paperwork including study documentation from the official learning provider website (ready to attach to your e-form application)

Contact your local DLearn Adult Learning Tutor who can assist you with your application. If you have any further queries, please email our Tertiary Services & Support Advisor at [nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz)

**A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND**

POLICY (terms and conditions) SADFO 3/2016 VESA Policy  
SADFO 3/2016 VESA Policy (terms and conditions)

The leadership of 1 RNZIR changed at the end of last year when Lieutenant Colonel Logan Vaughan assumed command from Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Childs.

LTCOL Childs' tenure oversaw a busy period in 1 RNZIR which has focused on Covid support, the growth of the unit, introduction of new capabilities and the continued certification of the High Readiness Task Unit.

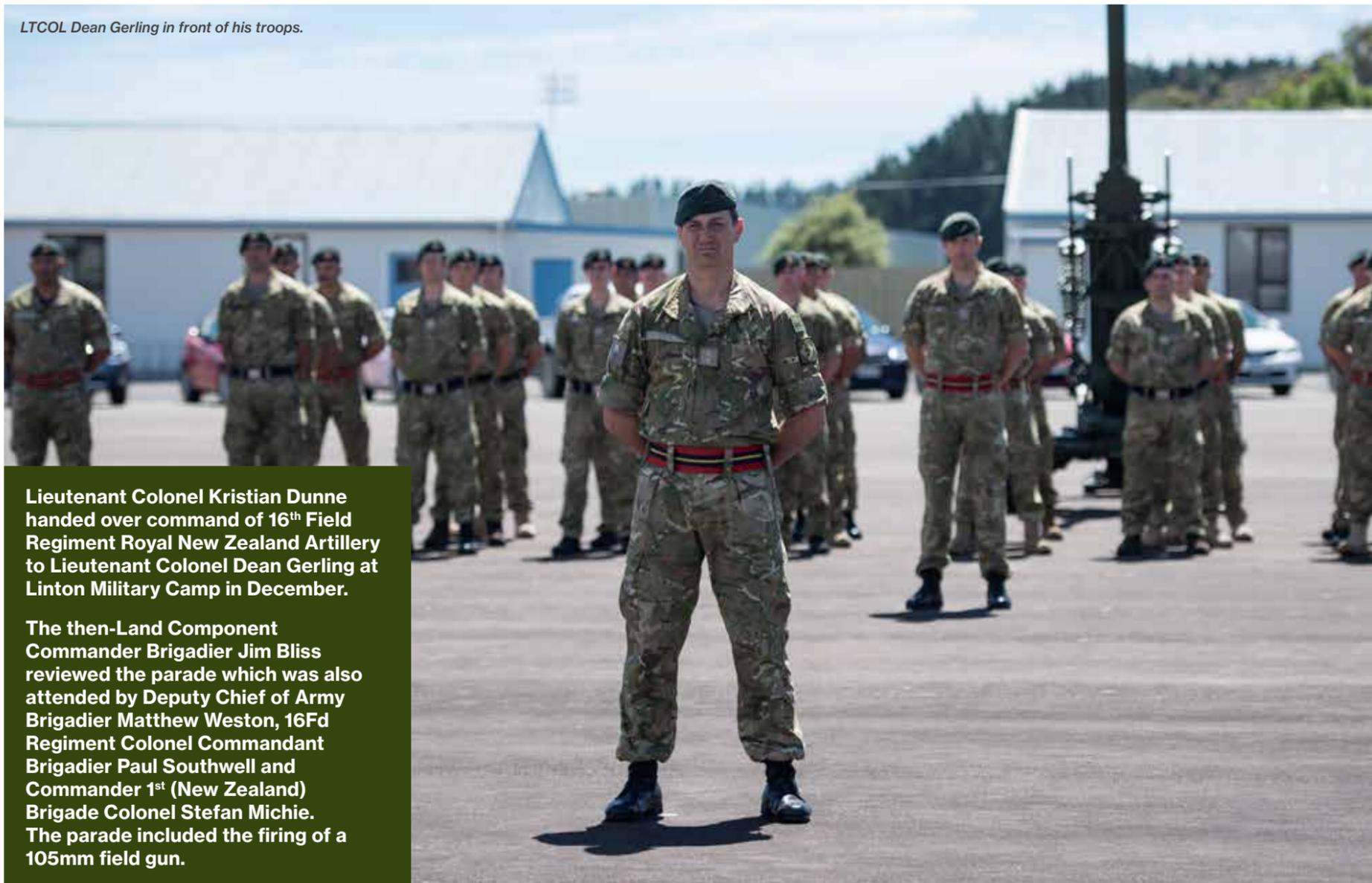
LTCOL Vaughan comes to the unit from NZCTC with the above activities still ongoing. High points for the year are anticipated to be the establishment of Whiskey Coy as the third rifle Coy and the planned Ex Shakeout certification both scheduled for the second half of 2021.

*LTCOL Logan Vaughan accompanied by his daughter Caitlin and WO1 Clint Grant enter the parade ground.*



*LTCOL Childs, accompanied by his wife, LTCOL Mel Childs and their daughter Lily congratulate LTCOL Vaughan.*

LTCOL Dean Gerling in front of his troops.



Lieutenant Colonel Kristian Dunne handed over command of 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Royal New Zealand Artillery to Lieutenant Colonel Dean Gerling at Linton Military Camp in December.

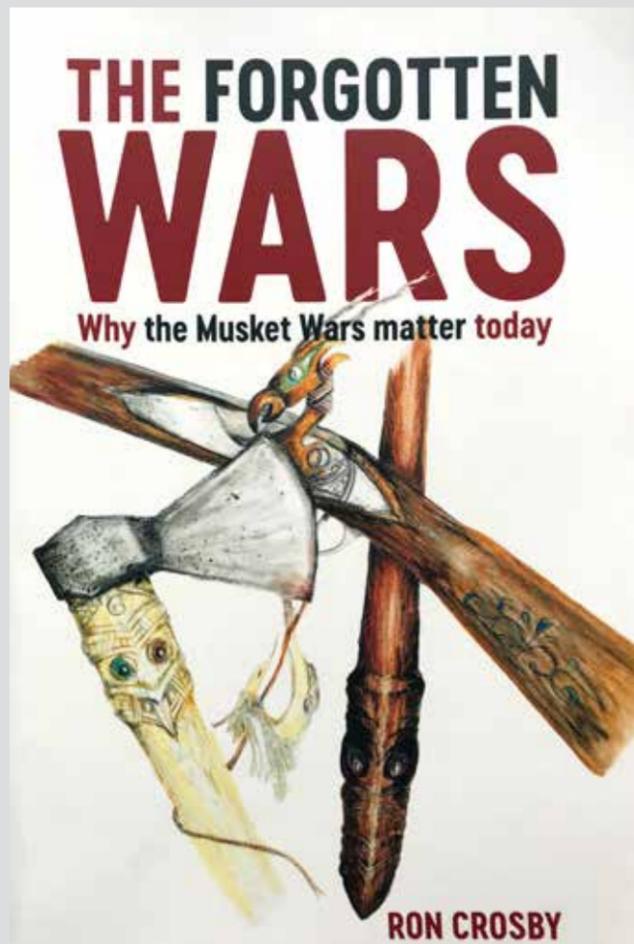
The then-Land Component Commander Brigadier Jim Bliss reviewed the parade which was also attended by Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Matthew Weston, 16Fd Regiment Colonel Commandant Brigadier Paul Southwell and Commander 1<sup>st</sup> (New Zealand) Brigade Colonel Stefan Michie. The parade included the firing of a 105mm field gun.



LTCOL Dunne is thanked for his service by the 16Fd Regiment Colonel Commandant BRIG Paul Southwell.



# BOOK REVIEWS



## The Forgotten Wars – Why the Musket Wars Matter Today

By Ron Crosby

Published by Oratia Books

**Ron Crosby has compiled an amazing historical overview of a brutal, but little known period of conflict in our nation's history and this is partially what makes the content so fascinating and the book so readable.**

Crosby's central hypothesis is that in the 30-odd years prior to The Treaty being signed, the musket enabled Iwi to redefine how they waged war on their enemies and, perhaps more importantly, on how they came to take and hold land. This conflict impacted many factors still relevant today such as inter-Iwi and inter-hapu relationships and in many cases the iwi/hapu rohe and boundaries that are so crucial to contemporary Treaty Claims.

Crosby begins by outlining key factors about the wars – why they

started, and why they stopped, how they were fought and why they matter today. This paints a complex picture of a land and a people being subjected to rapid, widespread, multi-faceted change.

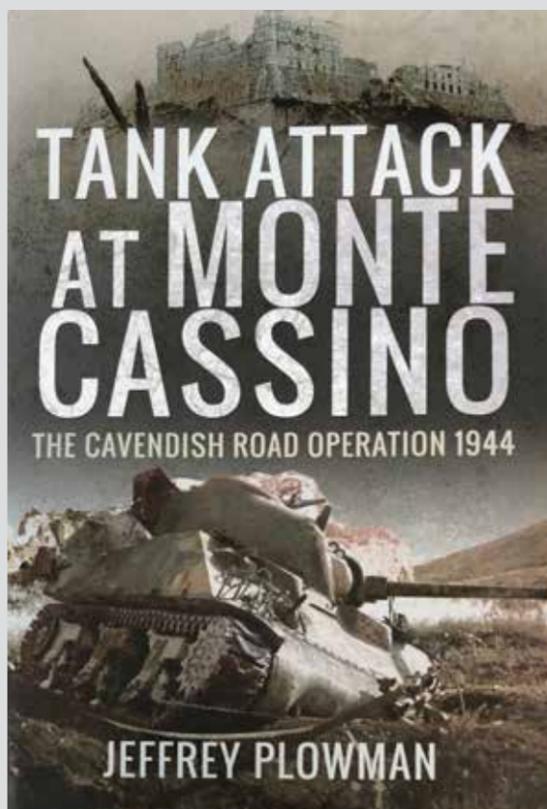
Crosby's narrative takes the reader through the musket wars from the first large-scale use of muskets by Ngā Puhi and the dominance that gave the Northerners to the last actions fought in 1841. In order to present the information in some form of logical and coherent fashion, Crosby breaks the information down both chronologically and geographically. This works well in creating an overall narrative of a wide range of actions, occurring independently of any central or main control, quite literally from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

At times the narrative can get quite complex with many place names and the names of Iwi or Taua leaders in the mix, but the text is well illustrated, clearly laid

out and accompanied by some excellent maps which clearly show the massive extent of some of the movement.

Crosby has written seven books, including the official history of the NZSAS. He is a widely renowned historian who is credited with researching, writing and publishing the first comprehensive account of the musket wars in 1999's *"The Musket Wars: A History of inter-iwi conflict 1806-1845"* and this book is a condensed version of the 1999 work. If anyone ever tells you that pre-European New Zealand had no history or that tribal conflict was 'simple', then direct them to read this book, it will certainly highlight the error of such thinking.

• Reviewed by Jeremy Seed



## Tank attack at Monte Cassino – The Cavendish Road Operation 1944

By Jeffrey Plowman

Published by Pen and Sword Military

**Jeffrey Plowman is an acknowledged expert on WW2 NZ armour and armoured operations, here he has leveraged his expertise and interest to provide a detailed, very readable and very interesting account off a little known tactical piece which was part of a much bigger strategic jigsaw.**

The allied attack on Monte Cassino is infamous for the controversial destruction by bombers of the Monastery on a hill which dominates the surrounding countryside and was believed to be harbouring Germans.

There were multiple attempts made to take the town of Monte Cassino and the surrounding hills to clear the German occupiers so the allies could push North, through Italy. Plowman provides an excellent strategic, but suitably detailed, overview of the campaign and the various attempts made to take parts of the town and the hills above it.

The background provides an excellent and necessary introduction to what the allies were trying to do and what the

Germans were doing to stop them. Cassino was the scene of much bitter fighting in which successive allied units were thrown against the town and the dug in enemy in their heavily fortified hillside positions resulting in high casualties, but few gains.

When an opportunity was identified to utilise a track (Cavendish Road) to move allied forces behind the monastery, it was seized on as a key opportunity. Armoured officers suggested that if it was improved, it could provide an ideal means for armour to approach and attack the monastery. Engineers were brought in to strengthen and widen Cavendish Road and make it suitable for just such an advance. The bulk of the book is a detailed study of the work involved in improving the track and the attempted attack, which, due to a variety of reasons, didn't prove to be the decisive strategic move it was hoped it might be.

Jeffrey Plowman has conducted comprehensive and detailed research into the units involved and the operation itself to create a really comprehensive historical record of one little-known operation. An excellent study in both allied operational cooperation on and multiple units

bringing different specialists disciplines together to achieve a single objective.

The book is heavily illustrated with a wide range of contemporary photos, some excellent maps and a guide to exploring the battlefield as it is now. There are a comprehensive range of appendices providing details of everything from the vehicles used in the armoured assault to gallantry award citations for New Zealand, US and Polish troops received for gallantry in the action.

# A MESSAGE FROM SMA WO1 Wiremu Moffitt

## PREPARE FOR SEMT 'GO LIVE' ON 9 MARCH 2021

In October last year, I updated you on the status of the preparations for launching the new Safety Event Management Tool (SEMT).

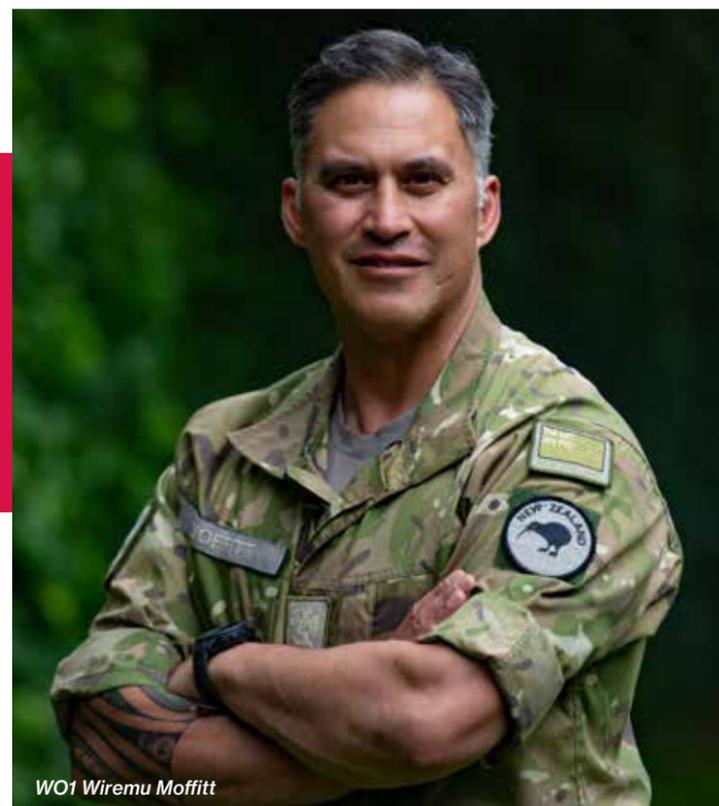
As a brief memory jogger, the SEMT will be replacing the SRS (Safety Reporting System) and will be the place for you to record a safety event such as an incident or accident, or a safety concern, or a positive initiative or intervention i.e. "something good".

As an IT platform, the SEMT has significantly more functionality than SRS, including being able to generate safety assessments for both facilities and activities. However, as with any military operation, the SEMT will be a phased introduction and Phase One for Army will be to switch from SRS to the SEMT

when recording good and bad safety events. Follow-on phases will see Army bring in Safety Risk Assessments (SRA) for facilities and Safety Risk Management Plans (RMP) for activities. Planning for this is ongoing at Army General Staff and more information will come out in due course.

What this means for you is that from 9 March 2021, we will start using the SEMT for recording all safety events and the SRS will become 'view only'...

For those with no DIXS access, reporting through a paper form will be possible.



WO1 Wiremu Moffitt

### Preparing for SEMT 'go live'

The best way to prepare for the SEMT going live is by attending an introductory overview presentation near you. These will be delivered at camps and bases throughout February and early March, with times and locations widely advertised. Make sure to go along to one of them.

For most people, attending the overview presentation is all the training they will require, as the new

tool is easy to use. But if you want to find out more about the SEMT, visit the SEMT information page on DIXS. You can find this page via the ILP, by clicking on the 'Safety' button in the right-hand side menu. (Once it goes live, you will also be able to access the SEMT itself via the same path.)

If you want to talk to someone in your area about safety or the SEMT, feel free to contact Army Health and Safety.



A 21-gun salute at Waitangi and Point Jerningham, Wellington, was carried out to mark the anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, New Zealand's head of state. It is an annual, long-standing tasking.

The accession occurred on the death of her father, King George VI, on 6 February 1952 and has been marked since then in New Zealand and around the Commonwealth.

The 21-gun salute on the accession anniversary is carried out on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

It is coincidental that the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession occurs on 6 February on the same day as Waitangi Day.

Firing salutes grew from naval tradition. A warship would fire its cannons to show that its guns were empty, demonstrating they were unloaded and it had no hostile intent.

In Wellington, saluting guns were moved from Alexandra Military Barracks in Mt Cook to Point Jerningham in 1925.

File photo





*Dog tired: As every soldier knows, standing to attention in the blazing sun can take its toll. Explosive detection dog Max takes the opportunity for a quick power nap during a 2ER parade.*

*Photo: CPL Rachel Pugh*