

ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 529
FEBRUARY 2022



ALWAYS READY
Solomon Islands, Tonga,
West Coast, Northland

**YOUNG AND
TROUBLED**
Our mission in South Sudan

WHISKEY COMPANY
Reforms for 1RNZIR

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SMA.NET

Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great.

R. W. Emerson

Standing up.

Tēnā koutou – I trust as you open the Army News you've had a chance to take a break and rest from an extremely busy year.

As I reflect on time with my family, it is an understatement to say we needed a reset from another year of challenges. 2022 arrives as the last closed, with a tone of modified life and potentially more disruption. Covid aside, the opening of 2022 showed us the world, in particular our region, does not sit still or silent. As many of you expected, nature paid the Pacific a visit and operations have ensued to deal with the effects. Despite an early activation, I'm pleased to see NZDF committed and deployed in support of Tonga's post-volcanic crisis. Actions more than words mean so much when you are in a struggle. Being Ready. New Zealand's unwavering support to the Kingdom of Tonga reminds me of our ingrained purpose – to be ready and to respond. What makes that achievable is the skill, mind-set and readiness of our forces. As we go about resetting

the Army, training remains a critical part of generating our teams and readiness platforms. The aim of my article is to re-seed the responsibility Army's NCOs have in leading, delivering and fault-checking training. For over two years, we've taken a pause on key training beyond the most important career and capability activities. Through no fault, our combat aligned skills and some of the nuance in leading teams in high-risk roles has waned. Many will appreciate we are lacking skills and supervisory competence, but there's a plan (regeneration) to get your teams back to a good standard. What's also known is the trepidation and personal uncertainty some have about their abilities – and that's understandable too. Calibrate. As we turn toward an Army rally point, you'll hear and see more focus on achieving a foundation of basic soldiering. As always this is about thinking, moving, shooting and operating across the spectrum of Land and Special Force roles. After we assess and measure these

as individual and small teams, Commands and Schools will go about confirming what we do as specialists and generalists in a way that builds upon itself. As time and conditions allow, handling exercises will steadily increase in complexity and intensity, and it's where our smart officers and empowered NCO's earn their reputation. In times like these, soldiers must fall back on time-tested roles and responsibilities. While we might be out of practice, it can't give way to a lack of discipline or accountability to the roles enshrined in our ranks. In the months and year ahead I will be challenging our NCOs and SNCOs to go back to school in terms of leading and supervising our people. We not only have to empower them and trust them – but we have to look after them. Treat them greatly and they will show you the same. It's what we do. In the absence of predictable and continuous operational deployment, we train – that's just what we (NZ Army) do. The fact we have breadth and



depth in training is what makes us so capable, trusted and respected by peers around the world. While we don't profess to do everything – the realities of a niche Land Force is that we can't and shouldn't. However, what we can do, we must do very well. I trust that you will all calibrate to the new environment – one characterised by complexity, uncertainty and change. Own what you can, and be exceptional at it. SMA

WO1 Wiremu Moffitt
16th Sergeant Major of the Army

Cover: United Nations Military Observer Major Dan Swale makes friends with the locals in South Sudan.



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GET BOOSTED



The new variant will soon be in our community – get you and your whānau vaccinated with the booster to significantly reduce your risk of catching and transmitting COVID-19.



COVID-19 boosters are now a part of the readiness requirements for deployable armed service personnel.



Remember, children over 5 can now also get vaccinated to protect them from the disease.



Talk to your whānau about getting a booster with you – make the time to support them when they get their jab.



If you're a military member and have had your booster, note your batch number and the expiry date, email it to covidbooster@nzdf.mil.nz so we can add this to your NZDF health record.



Book your booster today

Click the COVID-19 quick-link on the NZDF ILP homepage for more information

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



Our vision, to be a world-class Army with Mana, is enduring. It frames our Service and lies at the heart of all that we do, all that we represent. It drives our pursuit of professional excellence and, through our actions, the respect we earn. And it requires that, regardless of the task we are given, our execution is both of the highest standard and in the best tradition of those that have served before us.

It also demands that the direction we take continues to deliver the outputs required of us as an Army, and positions us for the future fight. As we lean into 2022 let me talk to three factors which will shape our effort over the next 12 months.

Firstly, Covid is not going away in a hurry and will continue to impact us for the foreseeable future. It will continue to create an environment of ambiguity, uncertainty and change and it will continue to require us to remain agile in how we maintain capability and meet our Operation Protect requirements.

Covid will be a key consideration for us going forward, but we must not allow it to derail our regeneration. It is essential we remain vigilant with our protection measures, we continue to optimise training opportunities in a safe yet effective manner, and we anticipate issues as much as we can.

Know that discussions with Government are advanced as to the future of defence's contribution to Operation Protect, that Government fully acknowledge the impact that our contributions have had, and that a plan to transition defence out of MIQs is being formulated. As our understanding of the impact of Omicron improves, and the plan firms, you will be advised – progress is being made.

The second factor relates to Army's operational outputs. On-going domestic support continues to be provided whilst in the last six months contingency forces have deployed, at short notice, to both Kabul and the Solomons. Currently, C2 and engineer elements are on-board HMNZS Canterbury should support to Tonga be required/possible. Regardless, and despite the challenges we've had with personnel availability and maintaining high end capabilities, you continue to deliver.

The maintenance of our short-notice contingency capabilities will remain our training focus for the foreseeable future whilst, as soon as circumstances allow, we will reposition the force for a deliberate regeneration. The need in the short term for key elements of the force to reconstitute is acknowledged and, as required, time and resources will be provided.

Finally, through all of this, we must continue to modernise. A full review of Army's strategic plan, Army25, will be completed to clearly identify what elements of that plan must continue, what could be deferred given current

pressures, and what could be cancelled. The requirement to become a modern, agile, highly adaptive, light combat force hasn't changed – the means by which we achieve it will.

Our understanding of the 'art of the possible' in the current environment is significantly better than it was this time last year. Formations and units have done a superb job adapting to that environment and meeting the demands placed on them. As a result plans are now in place, or being refined, to ensure we continuously improve how we both generate capability, including how we support our soldiers and their families, and how we deliver Army's outputs. What is critical over the next 12 months is that, regardless of the 'curve balls' thrown at us, we create the organisational space to be able to respond appropriately and we're smart about how we do so.

The trajectory for the next 12 months is vastly improved on 2021. Our challenge now is to grasp the opportunities when they're presented – and we will.

**Major General John Boswell
Chief of Army**



OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP BY NZ ARMY OFFICER IN AFGHANISTAN RECOGNISED

Brigadier Rose King's ability to focus under pressure, synchronise multiple headquarters and agencies and her ability to bring diverse organisations together whilst deployed to Afghanistan has been acknowledged by the awarding of a prestigious medal by NATO.

BRIG King has received the NATO Meritorious Service Medal following her deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan in 2018 as Director of Future Operations in the NATO Headquarters of Operation Resolute Support.

During her six-month deployment, BRIG King, who then held the rank of Colonel, was responsible for planning and synchronizing NATO's future operations across Afghanistan.

Her citation described her as a "paramount detailed planner" who brought diverse organisations together and created a framework which focused military pressure against the Taliban, forcing them to the negotiating table.

During her deployment, she led by example through her commitment, planning, leadership and ability to deliver under pressure.

Minister of Defence Peeni Henare presented BRIG King with the medal at a ceremony in front

of colleagues, family and close friends at Parliament.

"The example BRIG King sets for those around her, both in New Zealand and on the international stage, is inspirational and reflects the values our Defence Force stands for," he said.

BRIG King said she was humbled to be acknowledged for her contribution to NATO's Resolute Support Mission during a dynamic and high-intensity deployment which included the first cease fire and security planning for elections.

She said the recognition reflected the high calibre of the multinational Future Operations team she led.

"This mission was one of the most personally challenging roles I have had but on reflection also the most rewarding.

"In receiving this medal, I am reminded of the team of committed people I had the

privilege of working with and leading toward the united goal of enhancing the lives of Afghans. Although the situation has changed dramatically since my time there, I am still immensely proud of the work we achieved."

BRIG King is the first woman in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to receive the prestigious NATO award, and at the time was only the third NZDF recipient. A fourth recipient has subsequently been awarded the medal.

Brigadier King, who has served in the NZDF for 30 years, has most recently worked as Head of Managed Isolation and Quarantine – Operations and will shortly begin her new role as the Deputy Chief of the New Zealand Army.

Brigadier Rose King receives the NATO Meritorious Service Medal at a ceremony at Parliament with Minister of Defence Peeni Henare.

Bamyan firing ranges clearance completed

Additional clearance of five firing ranges used by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in the Bamyan province in Afghanistan has been completed.

The clearance of the ranges was carried out under contract for the NZDF by Afghan company Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) ahead of schedule and within budget, despite the Covid-19 pandemic and Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

It had been estimated the work would take up to 52 weeks – spread over two calendar years because much of Bamyan is covered in snow during winter – and finish in March this year.

After completion of the clearance work, the NZDF has received

certified Clearance and Handover Certificates for all five firing ranges from Afghanistan's Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), which oversaw the work.

During the programme, OMAR:

- Located and destroyed 1,055 items of unexploded ordnance/explosive remnants of war (UXO/ERW) – 222 of these were identified as of NATO origin and of those 70 items were of an ammunition type used by the NZDF, along with other NATO countries
- Carried out additional clearance of 5,656 hectares making the land safer for locals to use
- Through a concurrent Explosive Ordnance Risk Education programme, reached 12,200 locals with instructions on identifying UXO/ERW and on measures to reduce and eliminate harm

- Through a concurrent Victim Assistance Programme, provided new prosthetics or orthotic devices (or repairs) and facilitated physiotherapy and psychosocial services for more than 10,000 Bamyan locals.

"The NZDF is pleased this work has been completed ahead of schedule and the land can now be used by locals with more confidence in its safety," said project sponsor Wing Commander Darryl Cockroft.

"This project has helped improve the lives of Bamyan locals and builds on the decade of successful reconstruction work by the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team."

The NZDF's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) was based in Afghanistan from 2003 to 2013. It operated the ranges (named Yakawalang, Dragon Valley, Beersheba, Alamein and Romero)

to fire non-explosive small-arms rounds, as well as some high-explosive ammunition types.

Over the decade, the PRT discovered and disposed of a considerable amount of foreign military unexploded ordnance/explosive remnants of war (UXO/ERW).

When the PRT withdrew from Afghanistan it cleared the firing ranges in accordance with the standards of the time. However, the International Security Assistance Force later introduced a new standard for range clearance. To meet that new standard the NZDF signed a contract with OMAR in December 2019 to undertake the additional clearance work.

OMAR's UXO/ERW findings reflect the long history of conflict in Afghanistan and are consistent with the remnants found by the PRT during its deployment in Bamyan.



ARMY HELPS DURING WEST COAST DELUGE

Burnham-based soldiers have been working on the West Coast helping communities affected by heavy rain and flooding.

Four trucks and one support vehicle, with 10 personnel, from the New Zealand Army's 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion (3 CSSB) arrived in Greymouth after departing Burnham Military Camp.

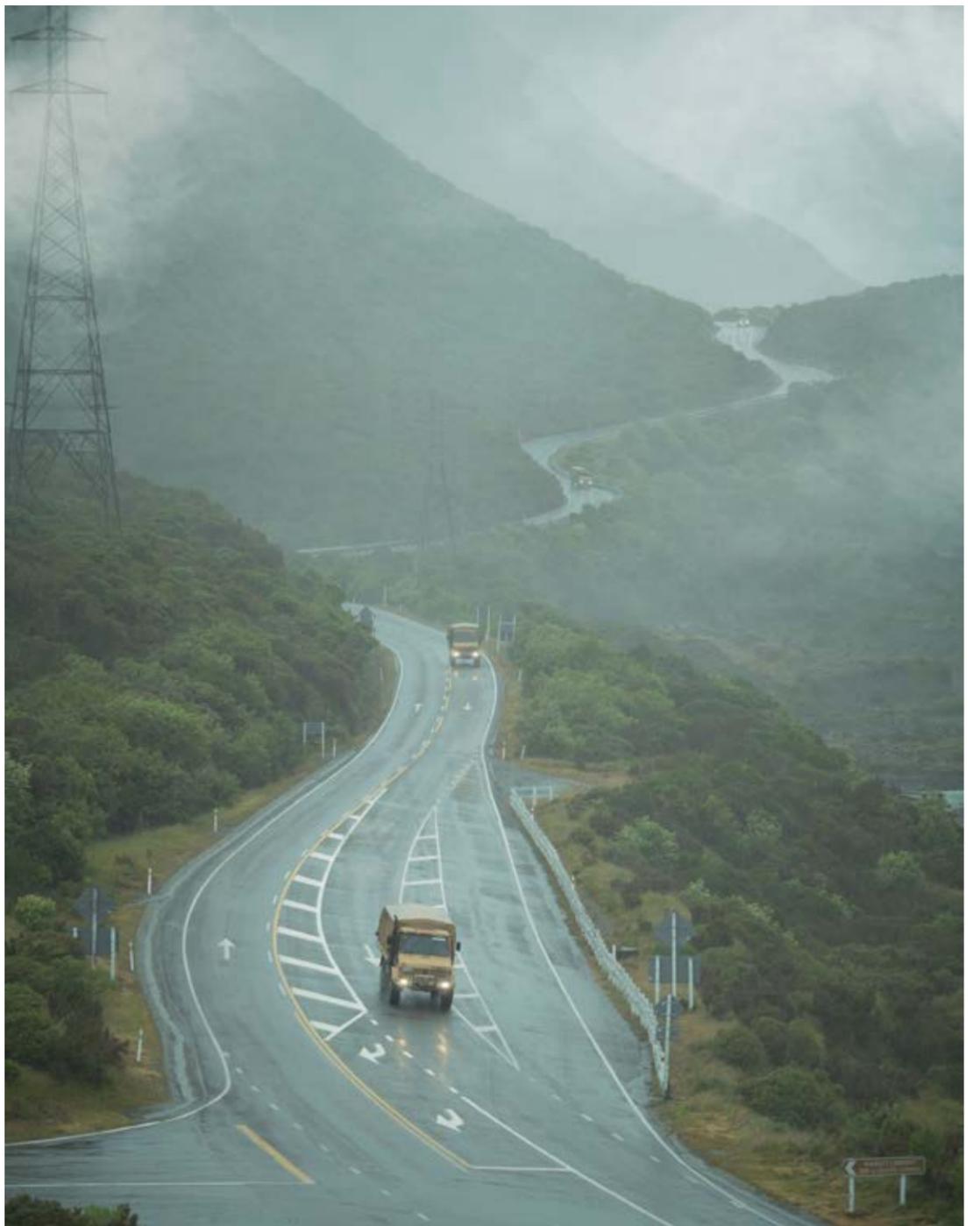
A Royal New Zealand Air Force NH90 helicopter flew to Hokitika to support evacuation efforts across the region.

A liaison team was embedded with the Emergency Co-ordination Centre in Greymouth to co-ordinate NZDF support with civilian

authorities. Army personnel assisted with planning the relief effort

Other capabilities were placed on standby to deploy to the West Coast. A catering detachment from Burnham Camp also supported the evacuation effort.

The region was battered by rain for more than 48 hours, and hundreds of people were evacuated for the night. Roads were flooded and slips on State Highway 67 left communities cut off between Fairdown and Mokihinui.



NZDF SUPPORT TO TONGA CONTINUES TO DELIVER

The New Zealand Defence Force has provided Tongan communities with more than half a million litres of fresh water and continues to transport much-needed aid.

The NZDF has deployed ships, aircraft and personnel – including Army engineers – to assist with the response following the eruption and tsunami in Tonga on 15 January.

NZDF activities are being carried out in line with Tonga's Covid-19 protocols, with deliveries of relief supplies being completed without making physical contact with Tongan communities.

Group Captain Nick Olney who is in charge of the relief effort said the NZDF was ready to help with Tonga's response, as directed by Tongan authorities. "We have carried out much-needed deliveries of aid and have produced water for Tongan communities. Our work here is being completed in line with Tonga's Covid-19 protocols which is a critical outcome for both ourselves and the people of Tonga."

Royal New Zealand Navy ship HMNZS Canterbury sailed to Nuku'alofa and took over water production from HMNZS Aotearoa which left Tonga after assisting relief efforts for about a week.

HMNZS Canterbury, with the Army's Ship's Amphibious Load Team on board continued water production. Fresh water generated by the Navy ships now exceeds 500,000 litres. Desalinated water has been fed from the ships into tankers based on the wharf at Nuku'alofa.

HMNZS Canterbury also offloaded relief supplies including milk powder, tarpaulins, ladders, water pumps and personal protective equipment in a contactless delivery onto the wharf at Nuku'alofa. The supplies remained quarantined on shore for 72 hours before being picked up for distribution by Tongan authorities.

As *Army News* went to print, quarantine protocols in Tonga meant the Army engineers have not been able to deploy on-shore. The team have used their time on-board to conduct a range of training activities including drills utilising Canterbury's RHIBs.



A soldier sanitizes donations loaded onto the wharf at Tonga.

MIQ withdrawal on the horizon

By Chief of Army,
Major General John Boswell

By now you all will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement outlining the changes to how New Zealand's border will be managed, with increasing numbers of travellers being able to self-isolate and a decreasing reliance on the MIQ system.

As part of that announcement, the Prime Minister indicated that the NZDF will now begin withdrawing from MIQ. The Chief of Defence Force welcomed the announcement in an internal message to NZDF personnel and acknowledged the dedication of those who have supported the Op Protect commitments to date.

I want to add my thanks to each and every one of you who has served on Op Protect. This deployment has been one of the hardest to sustain in recent times, and has had a profound effect on both the people and capabilities of our Army.

Army has carried the bulk of the NZDF's support to Op Protect and we have all felt the weight of this commitment. It is right therefore, that you all take pride in what you have achieved on behalf of our nation.

This has been a long patrol, no question, and whilst there is light at the end of the tunnel, there is still a requirement to complete the task in an appropriate and professional manner. And I know you will. Please know that we are working hard to understand the timeline for the drawdown, and ultimate withdrawal, of MIQ support. As soon as this is

confirmed you will be informed. In parallel with this the Land Component Commander will firm up Army's regeneration planning and we will look to commence this at the first opportunity.

For now however, we must continue to deliver our Op Protect commitment with the professionalism you have shown to date. Our future though is becoming clearer and as we get back to our core business, gear up our training, and bring the fun back in to soldiering we've got to make sure we take every opportunity that is presented – and we will.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to thank our soldiers for their service to Op Protect without acknowledging the commitment of our families. I know this has been an incredibly disruptive couple of years, that the demands placed on the families and loved ones of our personnel have been particularly hard. Please accept my most heartfelt thanks for your continued support of your soldiers, and to our Army. We cannot do this without you.



NEW RESERVIST MEDICS IN TRAINING



The Army has 20 new Reservist medical trauma specialists who are on their way to becoming a valuable deployable asset.

The Reservists come from a variety of backgrounds, including Medical School students, nurses, scientists and paramedics, and trained at Linton in an inaugural course in January.

Senior Defence Health Organisation medic Staff Sergeant Mark Anderson who designed and led the course says while the Army has had Reserve Combat Medical Technicians (CMT) the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps (RNZAMC) has never had a trade model so Reservists could not progress through the ranks or deploy.

The Reservists will continue to train. "We plan to run at least one of the RNZAMC ResF CMT Corps Training per year and also several other training periods to continue to refresh what they have learned and to grow and enhance their knowledge and skills," says SSGT Anderson.

"They now have a career path with several other courses as they progress which is good news for the Army. The ability to essentially make something out of nothing and be able to create a completely new trade for the Army has been a dream come true for me. We now have a set of very skilled and knowledgeable new people within NZDF and this will also allow us to re-integrate our existing ResF CMTs into their new trade and bring their skills and knowledge."



Reservists learned the basics of trauma medicine.



OFFICER CADET GRADUATION



The officer cadets perform a haka in front of dignitaries, including the Governor General, Dame Cindy Kiro and the Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell.



The Army's newest officers graduated in December last year, in an event that was live-streamed to their family and friends because of Covid-19 restrictions.

The Governor General, Dame Cindy Kiro reviewed the graduation parade, and the Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell was also present.

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 Elese Russell.

Other prize winners included:

The Military History Trophy

Officer Cadet Kyle Wilkinson

The Lieutenant Colonel John Masters Peers Award

OCDT Robert Bisquera

Commander Training and Doctrine Commands prize

OCDT Kyle Wilkinson

The Sergeant Major of the Army's prize

OCDT Sam Trotter

The Australian Chief of Army's prize for Tactics

OCDT Sam Trotter

The Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell, DSD Memorial Leadership Award

OCDT Jared McMahon

The Sultan of Brunei's prize

OCDT Semisi Toki

The Governor General's medal

Officer Cadet Kyle Wilkinson



Dame Cindy presents the Sword of Honour to OCDT Elese Russell.



Chief of Army, MAJGEN John Boswell congratulates an OCDT.



United Nations Military Observer
Major Dan Swale

WELCOMING 2022 IN SOUTH SUDAN

As Major Dan Swale looks out over the HESCO and razor wire, the sun sets over Jonglei State, the last time for 2021.

It's New Year's Eve and this year his celebrations will be a little different. He's serving as a United Nations Military Observer in South Sudan, the world's youngest state and also one of its most troubled.

I'm one of three New Zealand Army officers serving here, and we'll all be spending this night in different parts of the country: MAJ Oliver Lynn in Yei close to the border with Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lieutenant Colonel Dave Vink in the capital Juba and myself, here in Bor, Jonglei's capital.

For many of us, New Year's Eve is a time to look back on the year that has been. 2021 has certainly been a year like no other, shifting from our pre-deployment training in snowy Waiouru to South Sudan, where the temperature topped out at thirty-eight degrees today.

My day started like most others, with a run around the inside of the camp perimeter. I sometimes think how strange it must seem to the local security guards: this foreigner who is so wealthy that he chooses to waste precious energy running around in circles, wearing a special pair of shoes he owns solely for that purpose. Still, the guards who look on are the lucky ones. One of the guards, Jacob, is in his mid-twenties, a graduate of a Ugandan university where he studied microbiology. 'But there are no jobs in South Sudan' he tells me, 'I must humble myself as a guard here'. Yet relatively speaking

Jacob has hit the jackpot; whilst his skills may well be underutilised, he earns \$1,000 a year and the United Nations reliably pays his salary, month in month out. That's better than the majority of the population – just last week public servants blocked access to the local airstrip, protesting against having not received salaries for five months. Meanwhile a soldier at one of the ubiquitous checkpoints down the road earns the equivalent of \$5 a month, though he too hasn't been paid for the last few months.

Whilst New Zealand, like all countries, has its issues, being here definitely gives you a sense of perspective. In the week before Christmas I was reading the news from back home and the lead story was a potential blueberry shortage for Christmas. Meanwhile, two days ago we received a letter from a community of 40,000 imploring us to assist them. In this town the crops have been destroyed by flooding, food is becoming increasingly scarce in the market as the World Food Programme struggles to keep up with demand, and the population are choosing to become refugees in neighbouring Ethiopia rather than face starvation at home.

An alert pings on my phone, announcing the arrival of another email. 'Dear Colleagues, please be reminded that as the traditional way of celebrating the ushering in of the incoming New Year 2022, during the night of 31 December 2021 it is most likely that there would be a series of gunfire in Bor town over a period of time. Some of the gun firing may be heard in close proximity to UN bases. UN personnel are advised not to panic during this occasion, but as a personal security precautionary measure should strictly avoid any unnecessary movement, irrespective of place or time.' What's interesting is how quickly we adapt to 'normal'. When I first arrived in South Sudan, every bout of gunfire made me instinctively look to my body armour, noting the time and direction of the firing. What back home would be grounds for a call to the Police is just another day here, where one in five households have at least one semi-automatic rifle. Weapons are everywhere, whether carried by the Police and Army, or with cattle keepers protecting their herds from the ambushes that occur multiple times a week. What's more, knowing who is carrying weapons is frequently a challenge.



Sometimes government soldiers, cattle herders and members of ethnic militias are one and the same, depending on the day of the week and whether the government has paid salaries that month.

For all the country's challenges, I see some hope in the children here who are bright and bubbly and love to play, like children anywhere in the world. As I drove through town on my daily patrol I saw kids playing with used plastic bottles on a string, fashioned into toy cars, or pushing a bicycle tyre with a stick. At the dock alongside the river barges, children were swimming and having fun. South Sudan is an unforgiving place though; just a few weeks back the son of one of the locally employed civilians was eaten by a crocodile whilst swimming near here. It's not just the wildlife that poses a risk. My Rwandan next-door neighbour returned a fortnight ago from patrolling up the White Nile to Malakal, the only souvenir from his trip a dose of typhoid. This week he has Covid-19, which he's treating with a concoction of ginger from the market and leaves plucked from the tree outside my room.

South Sudan has so many issues: from rampant corruption to climate-change induced natural disasters, inter-ethnic violence to the Covid pandemic that is just another malaise to add to the long list of diseases afflicting the people here. It can often feel pretty bleak. Yet every now and then, there is a glimmer of hope, a life made a little better. Just last week our team identified a boy, little older than my eldest son, who had been abducted in an inter-tribal cattle raid last year.

As the sun dips below the horizon and I look forward to 2022, with the help of the UN that boy will be re-united with his family in the coming year. I think too of my neighbour, the one sipping ginger and leaf tea. When he was that boy's age, his country was going through the Rwandan genocide. Less than thirty years on, he's here, helping another African nation through its birthing pains. There are indeed many challenges to face, but sure as the sun will rise over the New Year, there is also a glimmer of hope for the people of South Sudan.





**WHISKEY
COY
BOUNCES
BACK**

By Kirsty Lawrence

History was recently made at Linton Military Camp, with the reformation of Whiskey Company, a welcomed return for 1RNZIR.

Due to a lack of personnel Whiskey Company has ceased to exist since 2013, but since then there has always been the desire to bring it back.

Whiskey Company traces its heritage to the 1 RNZIR deployment to the war in Vietnam. The first group from 1 RNZIR to deploy was given the name Victor Company (phonetic V, for Vietnam), and so the second company to deploy was called Whiskey Company. On return from Vietnam the naming convention reverted to Bravo and Charlie company for Victor and Whiskey respectively, until 1992 when it was decided to return to the Vietnam War naming conventions to honour that piece of the unit's history.

So when the opportunity finally presented itself in 2020 to reform Whiskey Company, after a large all infantry recruit course came through Waiouru, it was grabbed with both hands.

"It was such a large intake there was the opportunity to fill the whole company from scratch," Whiskey Company Officer Commanding Captain Tony Harris said.

"Mid 2020 we first started looking at it, because we've always had the intention to start Whiskey Company back up, it's just been waiting for the right time.

"We started the Combat Corps Training with 52 soldiers, which was enough to get the company back up to two platoons. Having that amount of new 1 RNZIR soldiers all in one intake is unusual, and we didn't know when the next opportunity would be."

Basic Training was held in Waiouru, with the group's Combat Corps Training undertaken at Linton. This was the first time that Combat Corps Training had been held at Linton since 2013, as it is traditionally run by Depot Company, 2/1 RNZIR.

As well as the recruits heading from Waiouru to Linton together, the non-commissioned officers running the trainings also moved with them, making them a cohesive unit. This allowed for a very rare situation as it isn't often the full complement of RNZIR Private soldiers will go through Basic Training and Combat Corps Training together as one group, then all go onto the same company together along with the NCOs who have trained them.

Having a group who had gone through Basic Training and Combat Corps training together was good for morale, Harris said.

"They know what the standards are and what to expect. The same

format was used to set Victor Company back up in 2013, and it was really successful."

The Whiskey Company Combat Corps Training had 52 students, supported by 22 staff. The course was 16 weeks long and included three exercises in close, open and urban terrain respectively. The Corps training finished in November 2021, but the majority of the sections and platoons remain unchanged as Whiskey Company goes on for further training in 2022.

"Having the opportunity to start Whiskey Company back up has been just great," Harris said.

"It's given all the officers and NCOs a chance to build a sub-unit from scratch, how we want it to be."

1st Battalion RNZIR Commanding Officer LTCOL Logan Vaughan said it was great to revitalise Whiskey and Victor Company in recent years because of the legacy they have.

"The whole unit is really stoked to have Whiskey back.

"That was one of our highlights [last year], getting another sub-unit and getting the Whiskey Company logo back up."



SOLOMON ISLANDS DEPLOYMENT

When unrest threatened to escalate in Solomon Islands towards the end of last year the Army was quick to respond.

The deployment was the first short notice land-based deployment in the region for some time, writes Captain Laurence Macintosh



A request for support was received by New Zealand from the Government of the Solomon Islands and a deployment of NZDF personnel and NZ Police was approved to conduct stability operations in the Solomon Islands for up to 30 days.

The task group consisted of a command element from Deployable Joint Inter Agency Task Force, and the High Readiness Patrol Group (HRPG) from 1 (NZ) Bde which joined the Australian Federal Police led mission to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). They worked alongside regional military partners – the Australian Defence Force, the Royal Fijian Military Forces (RFMF) and Papua New Guinea to maintain security and provide public reassurance.

The RNZN deployed HMNZS Wellington to conduct maritime tasks and work with the Task Group, while the RNZAF established an air bridge to support the deployed forces.

The HRPG worked with the New Zealand Police and the RSIPF to provide security and conducted partnered patrols within the allocated Area of Operations in Honiara. Patrols required deliberate planning and flexibility in working around competing operational demands and all patrols included women to ensure appropriate engagement could be conducted with all members of the Solomon Islands' community.

Security of Kiwi Lines was conducted 24/7 and the contingent maintained a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to respond to any incidents or accidents that could not be dealt with by the RSIPF.

The Solomon Islands has remained largely Covid-19 free during the epidemic and strict Covid-19 operating procedures shaped the operational environment. This included deployed personnel spending 10 days quarantine at our forward operating base near Henderson Airfield, and the requirement to conduct mounted patrols only (adhering to mask wearing, social distancing and limited interaction with the Solomon Islands public) for the first 10 days of the deployment until the return of five negative Covid tests conducted every 48 hours.

With the presence of the international forces, Honiara remained calm and the Task Group returned to New Zealand just prior to Christmas leaving a small stay behind force to support ongoing tasks.

What's ahead

The Multinational Police Support Group (MPSG) is made up of the Australian Defence Force, New Zealand Defence Force and Republic of Fiji Military Force contingents as the partner and regional militaries deployed to the Solomon Islands in support of security operations. Through the Australian Federal Police the MPSG supports the Royal Solomon Island Police Force (RSIPF) operations through partnered patrolling, community engagement and critical infrastructure patrols.

The Solomon Islands and New Zealand have a long shared history of friendship and

cooperation with New Zealand soldiers, sailors, and airmen having fought in the Solomon Islands during WW2 and more recently deploying under RAMSI as peace support during 2003–2013. This continued relationship of mutual respect has been evident in our local patrolling when we hear a “Kiwi, Kiwi” accompanied by a friendly wave.

With Solomon Islands now experiencing community transmission of Covid-19, the MPSG continues to support the RSIPF whilst we seek to stay adaptable to the changing operational environment.



Solomon Islands locals have not forgotten the great job Kiwi soldiers did in the Regional Assistance Mission (RAMSI), writes Corporal Scott Surrey, RNZIR who deployed there recently when unrest developed.

After the civil unrest in Honiara on 24 November 2021, Victor Company's High Readiness Patrol Group (HRPG) was deployed on short notice to Solomon Islands. There was a short period of pre deployment training that coincided with Victor Company's leadership training, making for some diverse training progressions.

After some range shooting and leadership training, the deploying personnel gathered and were issued with respirators and tropical sleeping bags. Once everyone was confirmed to be Covid-19 negative and ready to fly, the HRPG moved from Linton to Ohakea to marry up with New Zealand Police and other government agencies and flew directly into Honiara Airport.

Fijian Security Forces had already secured the airfield. Accommodation was a tight squeeze with single rooms housing up to ten soldiers with a shared bathroom. However, stretchers and working air conditioning were available which was appreciated.

The HRPG was predominately responsible for three tasks; vehicle mounted patrols, providing security of Kiwi Lines and maintaining a quick reaction force.

Each section would spend a day conducting a specific task and rotate with the other sections every 24 hours. Vehicle mounted patrols saw soldiers patrol from Kiwi Lines, liaising with the NZ Police and providing an escort, work which took up most of the day. Strict Covid-19 operating procedures were enforced on NZDF personnel by the Solomon Islands Government; soldiers on the ground were required to wear masks, socially distance and not interact

with the Solomon Islands' public. Maintaining distance during halts was difficult at times as the locals were eager and excited to see Kiwi soldiers on the ground. The locals hadn't forgotten New Zealand's contribution to RAMSI and RAMSI II and locals often waved and called 'Kia Ora' to patrols.

All patrols went through town allowing us to gain an understanding of the regular pattern of life. Every patrol was different with patrols venturing into the hills behind Honiara allowing the soldiers to get a real sense of how the people of Solomon Islands live outside of the city.

One of the more important tasks was the port security for the resupply of HMNZS Wellington. This saw one section securing the port while the ship was alongside for refuelling and another section escorting the rations from the airport to the ship.

Of note, the HRPG took Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to Solomon Islands. This was a first for the in-service UAS as they have not been flown by NZDF previously on operations. The UAS were used for security tasks and checking traffic flow. This gave the patrols vital information to enable planning and enhance situational awareness.

The experience ended all too soon for the HRPG as the direction was given for RTNZ with the advance party leaving on 14 December. The main body returned home on 18 December with the final personnel coming home on 21 December. Everyone who went to the Solomon Islands on Op SIAST didn't want to leave and would love to go back.



DEFENCE FIRE FIGHTERS COME TO NORTHLAND'S AID

A five-person Emergency Response crew from 2ER with support from RNZAF fire, deployed to Northland to support Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) fighting a large wild fire in the Waiharara area 20km outside of Kaitia.

A second team was sent to relieve the first crew on 12 January after an energy sapping eight days on the fire line. 2ER also sent an air controller to control the numerous helicopters that were in use on this fire. The fire burned for more than four weeks and proved difficult to extinguish due to the underground peat keeping it going.

The first crew was led by SSGT Alex Walker, deputy fire master Waiouru. His crew included SGT Soane Tiseli (Waiouru), SPR Brendon Adair (Burnham), SPR Kate Kempthorne (Waiouru) and SPR Merlin Le Fey from Linton. They were supported by RNZAF emergency responders CPL Quintin Riddell and AC Reid Winter.

The second crew was led by SSGT Josh Bowick, deputy fire master Burnham. His crew included SSGT Dan Klaassen, LCPL Peter Spedding, SPR Sean Tippet, SPR Callum McEwan and SPR Jodeci Baker from Linton. SSGT Dan Klaassen supported FENZ as an Air attack supervisor, controlling helicopters to fight the fire from the air.



CAREER MANAGEMENT CORNER

Army Career Management Boards

The Army Career Management Boards process is underway now commencing with interviews with individuals and Commanders. The boards are an essential component of the career management process as they provide selected groupings of officers and soldiers with feedback on their performance, perceived potential and future opportunities within Army/NZDF. That selected group is SSGT to WO and CAPT with 3 years' seniority or higher. Those soldiers and officers outside of these rank brackets are managed by the Unit Career Board process.

A key change to 2022 boards is to schedule the Reserve Force (ResF) reporting period and their subsequent boards to be conducted in parallel with the RF. Guidance on this change to the ResF units, personnel and Formations has been promulgated by TFMS.

The PDR3 is the central document used to inform the career management boards, with distribution to board members from DACM ahead of respective boards. In order to ensure that all individuals are fairly represented at the boards, it is critical that commanders

and managers (1 and 2 Up) have completed their comments and the individual has sighted those comments before they go forward to the boards. If your PDR is not completed, please talk to your 1 Up Commander to get it done.

March Actions for 2022 PDR

All personnel, CPL and above, should ensure that their PDR has generated for this reporting year and that they are aligned with the correct reporting officers. 1 Up managers should check that MSS is displaying all their members' PDRs. If a PDR has failed to raise, check with the member that it hasn't generated to someone else. If you are sure the PDR has not generated, the 1 Up will need to create one. Detailed instructions can be found on the HR Toolkit under PDR administration.

All members and their 1 Ups should now be discussing and recording PDR objectives for the year.

Key Dates

23–25 February 22

Senior Career Development Board (SCMB)

7–31 March 22

Soldier Career Development Advisory Boards (CDAB)

1–8 April 22

Formation Promotion Advisory Boards (FPAB)

4–5 May 22

Career Management Board (CMB)

11 May 22

Warrant Officer Employment Board (WOEB)

For more 2022 Board dates:

Army Career Management Intranet Site:
<http://orgs/sites/armint/I-0001/>

Contact us at:
DACMRegistry@nzdf.mil.nz

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Underwater escape training prepares 3 CSSB soldiers for flood situations

By Lucy Handford

Soldiers from 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion (3 CSSB) found themselves trapped underwater during a recent training exercise designed to develop their skills and knowledge to escape a submerged vehicle.

Comprised of theory and practical elements, the Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET), provided by Garden City Helicopters, covered safety procedures, impact preparations and escape and survival techniques.

After a morning spent in the classroom, the soldiers put everything into practice in a controlled environment at the Jellie Park Sport & Recreation Centre, Christchurch. The soldiers boarded a helicopter simulator, which was suspended by a 10 metre crane over the pool. They were assessed on various escape techniques, which saw the simulator drop into the pool, recreating various scenarios including exiting a vehicle that has been submerged upright and upside down with varied levels of visibility.

While the name of the training may suggest it is for situations where a helicopter is submerged in water, Staff Sergeant Eli Blackmore explained that there are other situations that require underwater escape skills.

"In July, when our soldiers were deployed to the Buller district on the West Coast following severe flooding they braved treacherous driving conditions. It was unprecedented, in some cases they were driving Unimogs and HX60's through deep water," he said.

"It was difficult to see the road, or determine the depth of the water, there was a risk of these vehicles turning or being submerged in the water. We need our drivers and other personnel equipped with underwater escape skills should we be faced with this sort of scenario in the future," he added.

Working alongside other agencies, 20 soldiers assisted with the evacuation of more than 800 properties and 2,000 residents in the area. They also assisted on the ground with the clean-up required after the damage and devastation that resulted from the flooding.

Combat Driver Lance Corporal Alexi Austin was one of the soldiers who was deployed to Westport in July 2021. She said the training was definitely needed after driving through flood water that was above waist height.

"I'm not going to lie, I was nervous about this training, but once we got into it, it was fine. When I was in Westport, there was no way of knowing what the roads were like, sometimes we were just guessing if what we were driving on was a road. This has given me the confidence to tackle these types of situations in the future," she said.

Vehicle Mechanic Lance Corporal Dale Gilbertson wasn't nervous about the prospect of being trapped underwater.

"The training was definitely enjoyable, it's not something I've done before so it was good to learn a new skill. We expected to be challenged but once we were taught the procedures to follow whether you're getting out of a helicopter or a vehicle, it was fine," he said.

This is only the second time that 3 CSSB has run this course independently, however after assessing there was more of a need following the Westport and Mid-Canterbury floods in 2021 they have increased student numbers. Originally only needed for operating with HMNZS Canterbury, 3 CSSB has found this training to be invaluable during callouts and will continue to be a standard course into the future.





EXERCISE HARBINGER

Sappers from 2 Fd Sqn and 3 Fd Sqn, with plant support from 25 ESS honed their demolition skills in Waiouru recently.

They also had 30 gunners from 163 Bty in support.

Exercise Harbinger was 2 Fd Sqn's annual demolition training, and the exercise was based on a conventional, near-peer scenario.

It was conducted in two phases, with the first focusing on survivability, and counter mobility with the emplacement of disrupt and block obstacles. Phase 2 was an urban assault followed by an advance to contact and reduction of the obstacles through mechanical, manual and live explosives.

The exercise was designed to maintain core combat engineer skills.

It provided controlled and graduated complexity for junior commanders, and built resilience through managed and graduated fatigue in a tactical setting.

Lieutenant Caleb Duffy, second in charge of 2 Fd Sqn said the exercise enabled the annual demolition qualification to be achieved by more than half the squadron, and also enable command and control to be practised at section, troop and squadron level.

The training was combined with 16 Fd Regt to develop mutual understanding of effects, and to develop a dug in gun line position for 16 Fd Regt to use for future training opportunities.



Sappers train using the medium girder bridge.

Director Land Domain Colonel Ben Bagley takes delivery of the vehicles from Mr Marty Roelofs, RMMVA.



HEAVY HELPERS READY AND WAITING

The Army will soon have three Heavy Recovery Vehicles (HRV) at its disposal.

The vehicles are a new capability ensuring that the largest vehicles in the NZDF fleet can be recovered on operations.

Linton will receive two vehicles and Burnham one vehicle by the middle of the year, however they will not be available for operational deployment until the end of the year.

The HRV are being purchased as the final piece of the Medium Heavy Operational Vehicle (MHOV) project, and with their interim operational release will enable MHOV to achieve full operational release now that they can be recovered on operations. The HRV project therefore has primarily been about ensuring the NZDF can self-administer in operational areas without relying on coalition partners, which may not always be present in future deployments.

Operator and maintainer training takes place in May this year, with business as usual training being picked up at Trade Training School in Trentham. One of the benefits of the HRV is that much of the manual labour side of recovery operations will be drastically reduced due to the flexibility and power of the equipment on the vehicle.

While the vehicle itself will only require a Class 4 licence to drive, it will require a Class 5 licence to operate when towing another vehicle. The Defence Driving Permit (DDP) will also require a Bridge Engineering Self Supervision (BESS) certificate to operate the "Rotator" (the crane-like apparatus on top of the vehicle). For this reason only selected RNZALR personnel who will operate this equipment will undergo the specialist training.

Features of this vehicle include the large Rotator, a main winch that has a 25 ton pull, and an extremely high level of automation that allows most static functions of the vehicle to be controlled from a remoteable control box. This along with mostly new recovery equipment that is much lighter than previous generations makes the use of the HRV a step change for users who are trained in the older generation of equipment.

The new vehicles do not cover all the NZDF operational recovery needs. Due to their size they do not have the cross country ability to reach all likely vehicle casualties. They do however have a better cross country performance than many of the largest NZDF vehicles. For this reason a separate project for a Light/Medium Recovery Vehicle is currently being scoped, and if agreed will start its definition this year.



Our people

Lieutenant Colonel Ant Blythen

When Lieutenant Colonel Blythen was informed of his Distinguished Service Decoration honour, he originally mistook it for something quite different.

"It was a complete surprise. When I first saw the email in my inbox at work I thought it was a request by another government agency for support, which is a bit ironic given what the honour is for. It was wholly unexpected."

LTCOL Blythen has been recognised for his role as the Deputy Director Strategic Commitments – Domestic which he has held since 2018.

During his tenure, he oversaw an unprecedented number of significant and complex domestic emergencies including the Covid-19 pandemic, the March 2019 Christchurch terror attack, the Whakaari/White Island eruption, bushfires in New Zealand and Australia, droughts and floods.

He was also involved in a number of proactive commitments for NZDF, and at short notice, he led the establishment of a NZDF strategic Covid-19 response cell that operated seven days a week to ensure the NZDF was responsive and effective in supporting the national Level 4 lockdown.

He was praised for his professionalism and industriousness in covering a near-continuous series of challenging national emergencies, and said he felt proud and privileged to be nominated.

"I am grateful to receive the honour and I would like to thank those that did nominate me. However, due to the work that I know is put in by many



personnel across the NZDF, I do feel somewhat like a player being praised by the coach, when the team has won the championship. "I have also benefited from leaders who have provided both necessary guidance and freedom of

action to carry out my role. I would like to acknowledge my wife, Deborah, and my children who have supported me throughout; including during many evenings, weekends, and holidays when duty has called."

• *Ant Blythen was promoted to the rank of Colonel last week.*



NZDF DEMO TEAM TACKLES UPPER HUTT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

More than 60 NZDF staff from the Trentham-based Defence Equipment Management Organisation, or DEMO, rolled up their sleeves late last year to help out the Upper Hutt community.

With help from Upper Hutt City Council, the mainly civilian staff pitched in with a number of weeding, cleaning, tidying projects at Orongomai Marae, Golders Cottage, Rimutaka Inline Hockey Club, Forest and Bird projects, 4a Better City community garden, the Spinners and Weavers Club and even decorating a Christmas tree at St Joseph's Home of Compassion.

The biggest team, around 20 people, helped out the Friends of the Mawaihakona Stream, who are restoring the stream which runs through Trentham Park, the golf course, west of Heretaunga Park and into St Patrick's College land.

The DEMO team helped clear silt and water celery from the stream, as well as cutting back the spring grass growth which is threatening to smother the smaller trees which have been planted along the banks.

A Private soldier has won two major Army Innovation Challenge (2021) Awards, for her solution to what is a health related issue for service personnel who menstruate.

The soldier recognised that menstruating outside of the garrison environment can be a challenge. Tampon use comes with the risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS), particularly if left in for long periods of time or inserted with unclean hands. Pads are a problem if worn in wet environments, and over time can fall apart or become uncomfortable as a result of exercise. Both items are single use, are unusable if they get wet, noisy to open and result in rubbish which is awkward to carry around and dispose of. The proposed and approved

solution was the issue of menstrual cup, reusable period underwear, reusable pads and dry bags to menstruating soldiers.

The soldier's success was due to both the significance of the innovation and how she carried it forward. She showed initiative, courage and grace in championing a soldier need that both improves NZARMY combat effectiveness and helps normalise diversity within the Service. She has also remained involved in the implementation of her idea, which is now a reality. The

provision of these products is intended for operational effectiveness and ensures all soldiers are supported to become their best.

The composition of items in the Period Entitlement Pack can be ordered individually to form a pack. The period products will be available from 14 Feb 22 in Regional Clothing Stores (RCS) for visual sizing and ordering of the individual items through CAPES.

A range of pads and tampons are now also available in bathrooms on Army camps and bases.

Reserve Soldiers assist with Christchurch community clean-up

Reserve Force sappers from Burnham Military Camp rolled up their sleeves recently to support Christchurch Memorial RSA's social housing area in Linwood.

The 16 soldiers from 3rd Field and Emergency Response Squadron, 2nd Engineer Regiment approached the RSA to see if there was anything they could do to assist over the Christmas period.

The RSA invited the sappers to help improve the grounds of its social housing area in the central Christchurch suburb.

The 29 social housing units are for veterans and other people who require social housing through NGOs such as the Salvation Army.

With engineers, a builder and electricians within the group, the sappers put their military and civilian skills to use to straighten and rebuild fences around the units, lay concrete for a BBQ area, remove rubbish from the grounds, pull weeds and lay bark in the gardens.

Troop Commander, Second Lieutenant John Whitcombe, said that everyone in the regiment felt it was important that residents see that people were willing to give some time to support them, especially at

this time of the year.

"The Christchurch Memorial RSA is the oldest RSA in the country and has a long history with the New Zealand Defence Force. We wanted to assist with a worthwhile cause and we could think of no better fit than helping out an organisation that is close to our roots," he said.

2LT Whitcombe said the troop also got something from the day.

"Activities like this allow us to train and use our collective skills to support our local community. The sappers also get a real sense of achievement and satisfaction in providing this service," he said.



NZ ARMY SWAPS TRAINING GROUND FOR THE HEAPHY TRACK

Soldiers from Bravo Company, 2nd/1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment switched Burnham Military Camp for the beauty of one of New Zealand's most famous tourist destinations – the Heaphy Track.

Most walkers tackle the Department of Conservation (DOC) Great Walk in a recommended four or five days so they can take their time and enjoy the varied, rugged and unique mountain, forest and beach landscapes.

The soldiers, however, walked the 78.4km track, in Kahurangi National Park, in just 24 hours as part of Exercise Bravo Rua .

With no sleep and only a few rest stops, the soldiers started at Kohaihai on the West Coast and worked in teams of four to tackle the track to ensure they finished within the time limit. The activity tested their physical fitness and mental endurance in order to build resilience.

The sight of 37 soldiers may have been unfamiliar for walkers and mountain bikers on the track.

However, DOC and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) have a longstanding relationship, said platoon commander, Lieutenant Tony Calder-Steele.

"DOC grants permission to use conservation land to enable training in environments similar to what we might encounter on operations regionally or globally. The NZDF also supports DOC to access remote islands," he said.

"DOC allowing us to walk the Heaphy was not only a great chance to improve our soldiers' resilience, but also to explore one of the most picturesque places in New Zealand. A big thanks to the Takaka DOC office for giving Bravo Company the opportunity to walk the track," he added.

Rifleman Private Carl-Jacques Reinecke found the physical aspect of the exercise challenged him most on his first visit to the Heaphy.

"I knew I was fit enough, but I really had to push myself after the first 50km. By that point you're in pain but the 'make it or break it' factor comes in and you have to push through it.

"I learnt I could push myself a lot further than I originally thought. 'Mind over matter' people always say, now after completing this exercise I know what they're talking about," he said.

Supply Technician Lance Corporal Ngoc Thang Lam said that aside from the physical and mental challenges of walking for 24 hours, Exercise Bravo Rua also tested his leadership skills.

"This gave me the opportunity to command a team of up to four soldiers. After conducting the Junior Non-Commissioned course earlier this year it was great opportunity to apply those skills.

"I really had to think about how I lead and ensure that as a team we completed the task successfully. As a team we decided when to have a break and how to set the pace so that it worked for everyone. We didn't have any sleep stops and I must admit there may have been a time or two when I fell asleep on my feet for a micro-second."

Bravo Company's Officer Commanding, Major Alex Bowyer, said the walk was also an opportunity to continue the NZ Army's integration of new Network Enabled Army radios.

"All soldiers on the exercise carried their radio systems which allowed commanders to navigate and track how other teams on the exercise were going," he said.

"This was also used as a safety control measure. Overall the exercise was a success with all soldiers learning more about themselves and each other. This was an experience they will remember for the rest of their careers," he said.





A new leader at 3 CSSB

The leadership of the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion (3 CSSB) in Burnham has changed, with Lieutenant Colonel Nik Hill taking over command from Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Linehan.

The ceremony marked the transfer of command through the handover of the two symbols of command for 3 CSSB; the Commanding Officer's sword and the 'Kaingārahu' (military leader), a pounamu manaia also worn by the CO.

Brigadier Hugh McAslan (Land Component Commander) was the reviewing officer for the parade and officiated the transfer of authority. Other senior officers in attendance included Brigadier John Broadley (Rtd) the Colonel Commandant of the Royal New Zealand Army Logistics Regiment, Colonel Stef Michie Commander 1st NZ Brigade and Colonel Esther Harrop the Regimental Colonel of the Royal New Zealand Army Logistics Regiment.

The night before the parade at the 3 CSSB formal dinner, LTCOL Linehan listed the many operations and domestic responses the Battalion had been a part of during his tenure, stating that he "could not think of a better regimental motto than; Ma Nga Hua Tu Tāngata (by our actions we are known)."

LTCOL Hill said: "I have watched the exploits of 3 CSSB for the better part of a decade. Its involvement in operations, both overseas and domestically is what made me aspire to become its Commanding Officer. I now step into a very high performing unit with a unique culture within the NZ Army."

"To the members of 3 CSSB, I'm very proud that I have been trusted to serve you as Commanding Officer. I understand the personal sacrifice associated with being a member of the NZ Army or the family of a serviceperson. I genuinely thank you for your continued loyal service and ongoing support of those who are serving. I ask for your forbearance for the short time we remain committed to Operation Protect. It has been a very trying time, but the end is now in sight."

"As OP PROTECT concludes we will reorient back to training for military operations. The NZ Army will undergo a regeneration. It will be an exciting time as we work to regain the tactical and technical skills that have faded while supporting New Zealand's response to Covid-19."

"Whirikoka ō roto – Strength from within."





The Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell was a guest speaker at the United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Wellington on 27 January.

This is the speech he delivered.



You may wonder why the Chief of Army is speaking today at the deeply significant annual remembrance of the Nazi German Holocaust that took place in Europe and North Africa some 75 years ago.

It is because the theme for this year's commemoration is Resistance and the New Zealand Army, indeed also our Navy and Air Force counterparts, through our contributions to the war effort played our part in the resistance that occurred all those years ago.

There is no single document that spells out how many people were killed as the result of Nazi genocidal policies, based on their ideology of racial superiority. Historians and other scholars have arrived at the figure of six million Jews, millions of Polish and Soviet Union citizens, hundreds of thousands of Roma and Sinti people, hundreds of thousands of disabled people living in institutions, and tens of thousands of so-called 'a-socials'; including homosexuals.

Beyond these figures are of course, those many millions, military & civilian, who also suffered during the Second World War, including some 12,000 members of the New Zealand Armed Forces who died during this conflict in the service of our nation.

Although New Zealand was aware of the Kristallnacht pogrom of Jews in November 1938, and news about mass extermination of Jews in death camps started coming through in 1942, it was only in 1945 that Kiwi soldiers came face to face with direct evidence of the Holocaust.

This occurred on the 2nd of May 1945 when units of the 2nd New Zealand Division captured Trieste in northern Italy and found the Nazi concentration and death camp called the Risiera di San Sabba. PTE Tahu Hopkinson of 28 Māori Battalion wrote that the Camp had been abandoned and all that remained were the crematoria, ashes of the dead, and a long narrow building fitted out as a gas chamber with showers, and small wooden torture cages.

Later, in May 1945, New Zealand Army officer Major SJ Wilson wrote a powerful, and disturbingly graphic, first-hand account of what he witnessed on entering Bergen-

Belsen, and his interactions with survivors.

I spoke with one or two, who with tears in their eyes tried to tell me of their sufferings & showed me their arms where their prison numbers had been tattooed into their skin. The faces of young boys & girls which should be clear & happy are shrivelled up & wrinkled like those of old men & women. I have seen just how low human beings can sink. This is just a little of Belsen.

Famously, when the US Army entered Ohrdruf Camp in Germany, General Dwight D. Eisenhower – later the president of the United States – visited Belsen and asked for US lawmakers and journalists to be sent to Europe to view the atrocities of the Holocaust. He wrote: *I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to 'propaganda'.*

And we have indeed seen Holocaust denial develop since 1945 – sadly, even here in New Zealand.

Our armed forces fought in World War 2 as part of the Allied forces, to achieve world and New Zealand security against the threat of conquest, and submission to, the ideologies of Nazism and Fascism.

It was basic to the traditional values of the armed forces to resist those evils, which were unprecedented at that time but, regrettably, have occurred far too often, in far too many countries since.

Our contribution to the ending of the Holocaust and the Second World War is the resistance that I spoke to at the start of my speech.

A resistance recently highlighted when Robert Gillies (or Bom as he is known) was awarded a knighthood in the latest New Year Honours. Bom is the last survivor of the 28th Māori Battalion which, as I've already described, was present and active at the capture of Trieste in 1945. The New Zealand Jewish Council has publicly thanked Bom and the Māori Battalion for their contribution to the end of Hitler's tyranny and making the world a better place, particularly for the Jewish people.

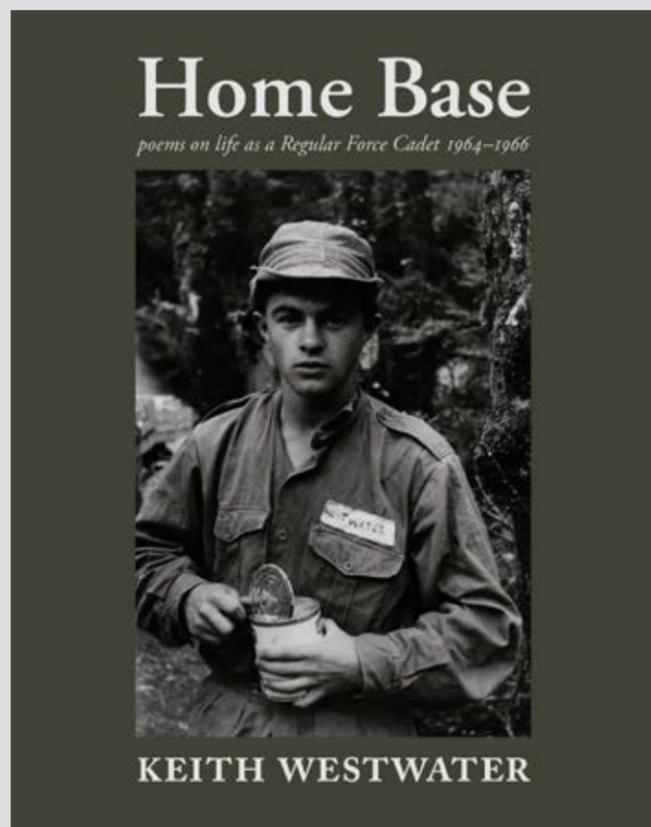
Today's Army maintains this spirit of resistance to forces of aggression and disruption by playing an ongoing role in international security and peacekeeping efforts. Our personnel have either recently served, or continue to serve, in places such as Timor Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and the Sinai. The spirit of resistance, exemplified by our forebears, our tipūna, in the fight against Hitler, guides the soldiers of today. We serve knowing that tyranny must be stood up to and we remain ready to deploy, when the Government directs, to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

The Resistance New Zealand exemplified when it stood against Hitler's tyranny all those years ago is today reflected in the culture of our modern Army, Ngāti Tūmatauenga. It is encapsulated in our core values of Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity. And our commanders and soldiers alike are taught, trained and tested against these values so we remain vigilant and capable of action against such threats in the future.

Remembering the Holocaust is therefore important for New Zealand, and equally so for your Defence Force. What we stood against, and the values we stood for in 1945, remain relevant today as a critical part of not only our national whakapapa, and our collective international memory, but also who we are as your Army.

No reira... tēnā koutou... tēnā koutou... tēnā tatou katoa.

BOOK REVIEWS



Home Base: Poems on life as a Regular Force Cadet 1964-1966

By Keith Westwater

Published by The Cuba Press, Wellington, 2021

Reading Keith Water's *Home Base: poems on life as a Regular Force Cadet 1964-1966* made me think back on life in the military and also about how well we actually knew those we served with.

Army life is a cycle of two-to-three-year postings which may see regular interconnections with some colleagues and their families but depending on where you are in the circle, with others not at all. But when you do meet, you quickly fill in the gaps, work and enjoy each other's company and then are posted on.

Keith joined the Regular Force Cadets as a 15-year-old in 1964 while in 1966, I went to the Royal Military College Duntroon as an 18-year-old on a four-year course. The RF Cadet School Waiouru accepted entrants at 15, 16, and 17. Keith graduated in the term he turned 18 and so spent three years in Waiouru – the first of some 10 years of service he would accumulate in the shadow of Mount Ruapehu. I cannot match that. I guess I could add up to nine months on the various courses and then five years over two postings. September 1976 – October 1979 and then back again after 15 months at Staff College in the UK from 1981-1982. But, like it or not, Waiouru is a part of me as much as it is for my family who lived and grew up in the shadow of the mountain. When you think about it, everyone who served there grew up in one way or another?

I and six other New Zealand RMC entrants had our first week's introduction to the New Zealand Army in Waiouru before flying to Canberra in 1966. We were melded in the fire of that experience and the three of us who graduated in

1969 know each other intimately and remain comrades to this day. Not in the way I know Keith but in the way he writes of those who were with him through those three years: true brothers in arms. A knowledge and relationship born of the trials and tribulations of military service to a degree only experienced by classmates under siege where the system deliberately explores how to break you.

In most organisations you learn to hide your weaknesses. The military does not allow this. It ruthlessly exposes them and then drives you to band together and use each other's strengths to compensate for each other's weaknesses: the essentials of true teamwork. One's initial training does that: be it Regular Force Cadets or as in my case RMC Duntroon. Comrades for life.

Home Base is that story for Keith. After reading *Home Base* I know Keith much better now than I ever did in our years of military connection. It packs a lot into its 184 pages, and I will use the words Keith emailed to me to describe it.

'Ostensibly a book of poems, the book is in a bricolage format (similar to *No One Home*) and also includes photos, short prose pieces, topo map extracts, diagrams, quotations, and extracts from a diary I kept in 1965. It presents a memoir snapshot of my time in RF Cadets.'

There is so much in this that is familiar to me: the clanking and clanging of the steam heating pipes in the barrack blocks at night, the realities of drill and spit-polishing boots; the faces of those who commanded you and who served with you. People who suddenly appear in front of you when Keith's words flood you with memory. As he puts it:

*'With an old soldier-boy's hindsight
I buff the boots of my past
Iron out memory's wrinkles*

Get ready to march on.'

Waiouru under the mountain, became Keith's home after his stepmother drove him out at the age of 15. Keith bares his soul on the unhappiness of his childhood in a similar first volume of autobiography *No One Home* which I went back to: searching for clues about this friend I suddenly did not know.

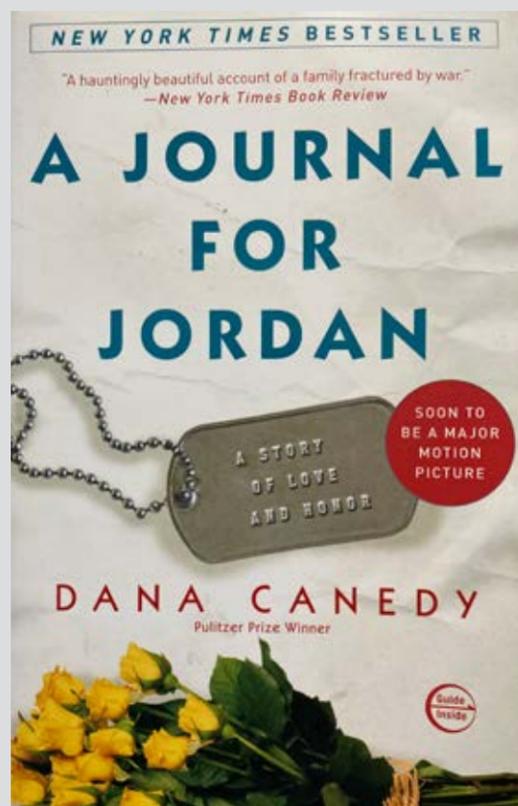
I read each at one sitting and emailed Keith – 'Overwhelmed by both books. First, heart-wrenchingly sad and the second needs the first to read between the lines. Flooded by memories of the place and the people. Looking forward to volume 3.'

No one should be able to say so much in both prose and poetry in such succinct volumes – but he has. My last emailed sentence read: 'A marvellous achievement. My congratulations.'

Keith's *Home Base* opens thousands and thousands of Waiouru veterans to a world we all knew. Each of us who served lived some part of what he describes. It was his doorway into a career in the Army – for a lost boy it became a home. Let me quote from his poem 'The best and the worst of it':

*'Doing change parades on CB
Getting into trouble and not getting caught
Barrellings from senior class pricks
Trust and faith in your mates
Fish and chips on Sunday
afternoons
It wasn't such a bad place'*

Reviewed by Chris Pugsley
Dr Christopher Pugsley is a former infantry officer with 22 years-service in the New Zealand Army. He is regarded as an authority on New Zealanders at War and is the author of some 22 books. He was appointed ONZM for service as a military historian in 2015.



A Journal for Jordan A Story of love and Honour

By Dana Canedy

Published by Penguin Random House Limited

***A Journal For Jordan* was originally published in 2008 and became a New York Times bestseller. The story has since been turned into a movie due for release in New Zealand this month.**

It is the heart-wrenching, and heart-warming story of a soldier on deployment who writes a guide to life for the young son he left behind and who is killed just weeks before his deployment ends.

The book's author, journalist Dana Canedy was a career journalist who had grown up as an Army brat. Canedy's father, it is fair to say hadn't left her with the best impression of NCOs. While focused on climbing the career ladder, Canedy met and became engaged to US Army First Sergeant

Charles King. Because of her upbringing and initial wariness of the Army and NCOs, it took a while for King to win Canedy's affections.

Canedy became pregnant just before King deployed to Iraq and while he was away, he wrote a journal for his son full of advice about how to live life properly and well, and grow to be the best young man he could. In Iraq, King was the US Army equivalent of our CSM. Clearly a leader and mentor of great mana, he was killed when a roadside IED tore through his Humvee toward the end of his deployment.

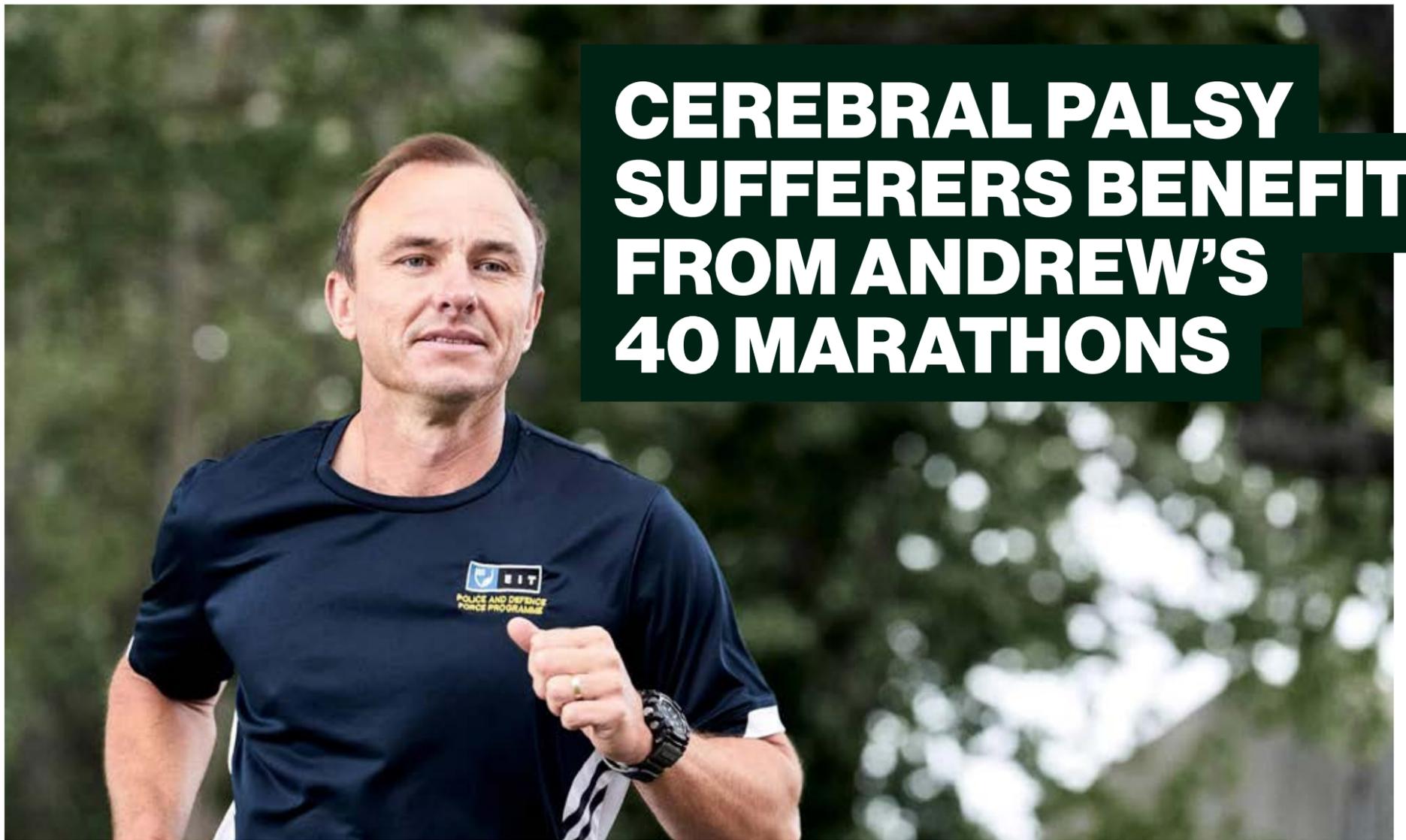
It would be easy for a book like this to be overly sentimental and mawkish, but it is a testament to Canedy's writing ability that it's not. Canedy has taken a sad, emotional story and told it in a very open, frank and compelling way. It is almost impossible to imagine what she and her son, the eponymous Jordan did

go through, but you reach the end of the book and tragedy and sorrow aside, can't help thinking that they're both going to be OK – Jordan because of the guidance his father provided and Dana because she is CLEARLY wahine toa.

King and Canedy lived in different worlds, one a front line combat soldier, the other a big city reporter with one of the world's foremost media organisations, and the book balances their stories and tells them well.

The book is very well written as you'd expect from a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. Unfortunately some of the movie reviews from the US and UK aren't great; it has been described as overly sentimental, serious and clichéd, which is a pity because the real story is anything but.

Reviewed by Jeremy Seed



CEREBRAL PALSY SUFFERERS BENEFIT FROM ANDREW'S 40 MARATHONS

When former Regular Force soldier Andrew McCrory left the Army 14 years ago he swore he'd never run again.

Now he has completed the equivalent of 40 marathons in two months, raising about \$50,000 in the process.

Andrew, from Napier, is now a Reservist with 5/7 Battalion. His pledge never to run again came apart about two years ago. "I'd had my knees done and I was good for it again," he says. He went on to complete several marathons.

He damaged his back in 2017 and saw an online post about a young girl with cerebral palsy who was raising money for an operation. He learned more about the operation called selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery, where sensory nerves in the spinal cord are cut to reduce stiffness in the legs and increase mobility.

The surgery is available in the United States but it beyond the means of most New Zealand families.

"I decided it would be good to do something big to raise money."

He set himself a goal of running 50km a day for 40 days. The extended marathon took him from Hawkes Bay to Gisborne, Otago and Tauranga and then to Wellington. From there it was down the South Island and on to Stewart Island.

The original aim was to raise about \$20,000 for corrective surgery for youngsters affected by cerebral palsy.

"I was just blown away by the support I received as I ran through all the small towns. People have been amazing."

A Givealittle page was set up, and when he had reached the bottom of the South Island it had reached more than \$42,000 in pledges.

"I'm pretty sure that, including roadside donations we will get to \$50,000. I really want to thank all those who have donated."

Andrew, who was a mechanic in the Army, is now a tutor at the Eastern Institute of Technology where he teaches a course called Services Pathway which prepares young people to apply to join the Police or the NZDF.

"I'm pretty overwhelmed by what we have raised. Driving back up the country I thought, 'Jeez, that's a long way!'"



ARMY OFFICER SMASHES GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS KETTLEBELL CHALLENGE

By Kirsty Lawrence

An Army Officer has shown just how far the human body can be pushed after breaking a Guinness World Record, losing the feeling in one of his fingers in the process.

Lieutenant Don Heald smashed the world record for the amount of kettlebell swings done in a 24 hour period, completing 10,571 reps with a 24 kilogram kettlebell, beating the previous record of 6,909 reps just 13 hours into his challenge.

LT Heald said even after beating the previous record, he decided to carry on for the full 24 hours as he had made a personal goal of cracking 10,000 reps.

Previously a Personal Training Instructor, LT Heald is now a troop leader for QAMR based at Linton Military Camp, and said he thought it would be a cool event to show those he commanded what resilience was.

"I take the soldiers for PT, so it's good to be able to walk the walk."

This isn't the first time Heald has broken a record, previously holding the world record for the most kettlebell swings done in an hour in 2017.

He said this time he decided to attempt the 24 hour record as he wanted to reclaim a title, but he also wanted a harder challenge.

"It was so long. I had so many peaks and troughs, I would feel really good for an hour and then the next hour I would feel really low and second guess myself, you go through those emotions."

"When it was around that 13 hour mark and I broke the record I felt amazing, then everyone left about 11pm and just the two judges were left and I had to grind through the night."

Heald said he trained for about three to four months before attempting the record, which involved doing kettlebell workouts three to four times a week, with a longer session on a Saturday.

To make sure he achieved his goal of 10,000 reps, he structured the challenge as an Every Minute on the Minute (EMOM) workout.

This meant he would do 11 reps in a minute, then rest for the rest of that minute, repeating that pattern for an hour.

At the end of the hour he would have a 15 minute break, then start again, repeating that 19 times.

"That got me through as I focused on each block."

Every four hours he took a 30 minute rest and then he took an hour dinner break when he broke the previous record 13 hours in.

But it wasn't completely straight forward, with the time between 1.30am and about 4.30am a real struggle.

"I was sitting on my bench in between reps and was falling asleep, and then if I stood up too fast I was feeling sick, so for about four hours I hobbled to the wall as slow as I could and hobbled back to keep swinging."

"My partner was one of the judges watching and she was like 'are you ok?'"

"I could have just gone to sleep and called it a day, but I wanted to do the 10,000."

After finishing the challenge Heald said he went outside and lay down in the sun.

"I could feel my whole body vibrating."

"I slept all day on the Sunday."

"It was quite cool to really push my body as far as it could go."

"This was the first time I really exerted myself 100 per cent over 24 hours and by the end I was absolutely destroyed."

Heald was still recovering from the event and said he had not had any feeling in the index finger on his left hand since.



BE PREPARED FOR COVID-19

It is highly likely that COVID-19 cases will soon rise in the community. Being prepared means your whānau and community can get help and support when our community is affected by COVID-19.

Get vaccinated

Get your booster.

Protect yourself and others

Practise hand hygiene, wear your mask, socially distance, scan-in, use ventilated spaces.

Stay informed

Regularly check locations of interest, think about your interactions with others and risks of exposure in unfamiliar settings.

Stay home if you are sick

Avoid contact with others, seek and follow health advice, and get tested when required. Don't risk the health of others in the workplace or vulnerable friends and whānau!

Be prepared

Prepare to self-isolate, prepare to support others, talk about reducing spread across your household. Make whānau/ pet support arrangements and have the supplies and medications available if you or the whānau need to isolate.

Keeping yourself and your workmates COVID-19 free is still your goal! NZDF will be less effective in its duties assisting NZ and other countries if lots of personnel are infected and can't be at work.

Click the COVID-19 quick-link on the NZDF ILP homepage for more information



**Book
your
booster
today**