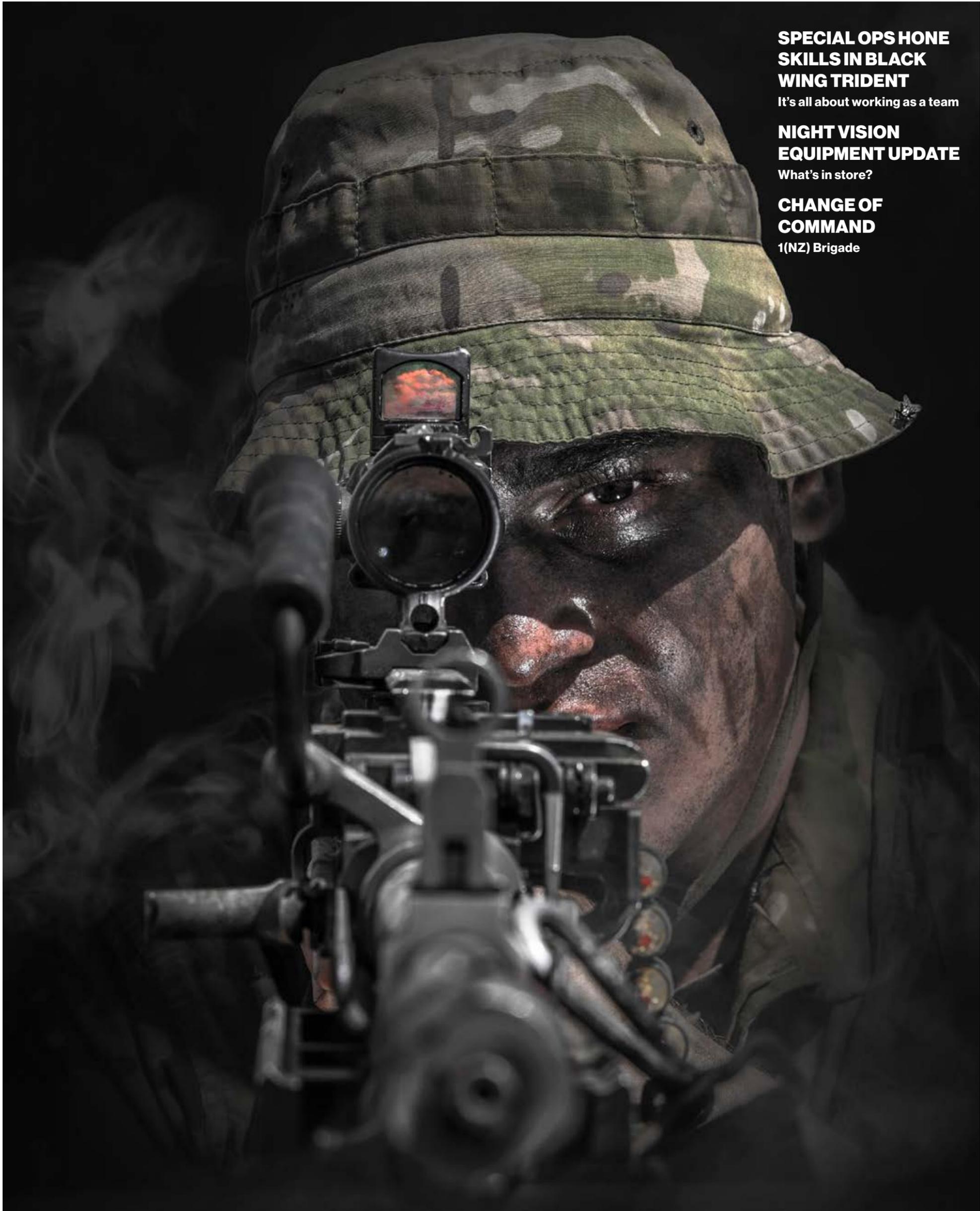


ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 531
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It's all about working as a team

NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT UPDATE

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SMA.NET

Kia Ora to you all. I trust the Easter break and a period of leave in April has lifted the spirit. In this month's SMA space, it's a pleasure to hand over writing duties to one of the three Army Formations – the first, a little less known than its older siblings at Brigade and TRADOC. Joint Support Groups (JSGs) recently appointed Command WO, Vance Thompson takes us through some of the recent history, role and challenges of JSG. Enjoy the read – raise your awareness and continue to learn about your Army. – SMA

Joint Support Group "Myth vs Fact"

Kia ora koutou, I would like to take the opportunity to talk about the Joint Support Group (JSG) and what it is about, as there is misunderstanding/confusion across the Land Army.

Our History

How did we get to where we are now? In December 2015, a NZDF directive was released to establish the Joint Operational Health Group (JOHG), which basically combined all NZDF Health personnel and capability, both uniformed and civilian, across all three services into one identity – JOHG. JOHG became part of HQJFNZ. Two units were established drawing from 2nd Health Support Battalion, Devonport Health assets and the various Air Force Medical Treatment Centres and

gymnasiums scattered throughout New Zealand. The establishment of JOHG was a massive change process that required combining large numbers of personnel from the three Services, with individual Service cultures, traditions, and ways of working.

The two Units that made up JOHG, known as the Deployable Health Organisation (DHO) and the Force Health Organisation (FHO), each resembled a Battalion type ORBAT. DHO's primary task was to provide deployable capability, whilst the FHO focused on garrison health support capability.

In July 2016 JOHG was rebranded to the Joint Support Component Command (JSCC) and sat alongside the Land Component Command, Air Component Command, Special Operations Component Command and Maritime Component Command. Whilst NZDF Health remained the core of JSCC, the intent was to cast its net wider across NZDF and include other Joint Enablers under its command, such as Joint Military Police (JMP), Joint Fuels, Joint Movements, and Joint Munitions. Whilst the concept had its merits as a joint enabler, the only additional capability that was likely to move into JSCC was the NZDF MPs. It was about this time a review of JSCC occurred, and it was decided that a single service needed to be a proponent of this Joint enabler. In 2019, JSCC reformed under the sponsorship of the Chief of Army to what we have today, the Joint Support Group now making up the third NZ Army Formation and reporting directly to the Land Component Commander. JSG has grown over this time, with the establishment of a Formation Headquarters located in Trentham, and the original units, the DHO with its HQ's and sub units in Linton, Burnham, Waiouru and Devonport. The FHO with its HQ in Trentham and elements in all nine NZDF camps and bases, which now includes the Joint Military Police Unit (JMPU) with its HQ

located in Trentham and elements located throughout each region (Northern, Central, Southern).

Our Mission

JSG's mission is to provide operationally prepared force elements, conduct base support operations, and support domestic and expeditionary operations in a joint, interagency and multinational environment within designated response times.

Through this, as a Joint Enabler, we enable the force to do what it needs to do.

JSG – Who are we?

Many readers will be unsure what is part of JSG. JSG consists of Navy, Army and Air Force contributing both military and civilians staff across most of the following groups.

Military medics, nurses, doctors, environmental health specialists, dentists, dental assistants, physical training instructors, military police, civilian nurses, doctors, dentists, gym staff, civilian management and administration staff, military and civilian logistic operators, General List Officers, and non-health Trade Warrant Officers and soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Challenges

There are many challenges that JSG has to navigate. A formation made up of three different Services with a significant portion of civilian staff, creates complexity. The language, single service culture and traditions are a number of examples that requires constant effort to understand to ensure JSG succeeds. There are many different 'systems' within the JSG environment which JSG personnel have to become familiar with and successfully operate which are governed by single service policies



and protocols. JSG personnel have to be agile and resourceful in order for them to conduct their role effectively.

Moving Forward

As we move forward from Operation Protect commitments, our focus is now on Force Regeneration. Regeneration concepts are being planned and executed across NZDF. Each single service will have their own ideas and priorities to regenerate their force. In many cases, these will all have a different focus. A crawl-walk-run approach will be critical to ensure capability and competency are achievable over a period of time that does not compromise tempo or safety. JSG will need to support the three services as they retrain and re-calibrate their own capabilities and outputs, whilst concurrently focusing on retraining and building its own capability that has deteriorated over the past couple of years.

Cover: Ready for action: Exercise Longtan. Photo: CPL Naomi James.



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Editor: Judith Martin
Ph: 021 240 8578 E: armynews@nzdf.mil.nz
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A Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130 Hercules and crew have begun transporting donated military aid bound for Ukraine from centres in Europe.

The Hercules left RNZAF Base Auckland with a crew of nine personnel on board.

The majority of the approximately 50-strong Air detachment has deployed independently to a base in the United Kingdom in advance of the aircraft's arrival, to start the preparations for the movement of donated military aid destined for Ukraine.

Among this group are alternative flying crew, maintenance technicians, and two air load teams which will manage cargo loads for the aircraft. The two air load teams will also be able to assist with cargo movements on partner military aircraft.

From the United Kingdom, the Hercules will fly between countries in Europe, picking up donated military aid and transporting the cargo to destinations from where the stores can be taken by land into Ukraine.

The movement of donated military aid around Europe is being coordinated by an international coordination centre in Stuttgart, Germany.

The New Zealand Defence Force has deployed a group of eight personnel, including New Zealand Army logistics personnel and RNZAF air liaison and air movements personnel, to work as part of the international team coordinating the logistics for donations, matching transport to aid consignments, as well as receiving, packaging, and arranging the onward transportation of military aid into Ukraine.

NZDF personnel will not be entering Ukraine.

A three-person advance party is currently in the United Kingdom, where they are facilitating the arrival of the aircraft and assimilation of personnel into the Stuttgart coordination centre, before themselves travelling to Stuttgart.

The deployment of the Hercules, air transportation and logistics



personnel is in addition to the deployment of NZDF intelligence staff to the United Kingdom. As well, an officer is also being deployed to the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters, and a liaison officer will be working at a NATO headquarters in Belgium.

The NZDF's open source intelligence capability is being utilised to take advantage of time zone differences between

New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

A consignment of helmets, body armour, radios and other equipment was flown by military aircraft to Europe and delivered to Ukraine.

The deployment of the Hercules and RNZAF detachment is for up to 60 days, while the logistics team has been deployed for up to 90 days.

A MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMY



In last month's *Army News*, the Chief of Army, the Land Component Commander and the Sergeant Major of the Army outlined the challenges and opportunities of Army Regeneration. This plan was formalised with the release of CA's PLANORD – Army Regeneration, on 14 April 2022. By now, you should have received more information and perhaps briefings via your chain of command about how this will affect you.

In my first *Army News* column since I assumed the role of DCA, I want to reiterate and emphasise some aspects of regeneration. In his article, CA made the following statement: "Soldiering must be 'more than just a job' and it requires that our workspace is one where positivity thrives, the opportunity to strive for professional excellence exists, and our people are valued and respected". These three aspects of this statement are what I want to explore more fully.

Our valued and critical support to New Zealand on Operation Protect (which I saw firsthand as the Joint Head of Managed Isolation and Quarantine) provided us an opportunity to leverage and hone our soft skills, being exposed to diverse approaches as we worked with other agencies and organisations, from Ministry of Health through to iwi and hapū. As with any operation it has impacted us, individually and collectively. Our collective readiness to meet outputs has predictably dropped and the regeneration plan will address this, in the timeframe as outlined by LCC last month. As was pointed out, regeneration is both a challenge and an opportunity for us all. We should however remember that while we are conducting regeneration, the world remains in a state of flux, ever-changing and evolving, never static. The world remains complex, uncertain, and challenging – all points highlighted in last year's Defence Assessment

and further amplified by the current events in Europe.

So, I pose a question to each of you: as we strengthen our individual and collective standards, where are we relatively against the various threats that we may find ourselves up against in our next operational environment? I also challenge you to think and act on what improvements you can make or suggestions that will result in us regenerating stronger and being operationally relevant sooner.

I believe that the positivity CA was describing requires all of us to accept the challenge of regeneration and 'own' it, while striving for excellence in all that we do. After all, we are all 'the system'. While we need to now pause, take stock and regroup, that doesn't mean that we are not capable. Our strength comes from our Army history, values, ethos, Ngāti Tūmataunga, our culture, and most importantly from you, and your experiences however varied they may be. This is why we can approach regeneration with enthusiasm and with a view of each and everyone of us making our Army the Army we want it to be.

Striving for professional excellence is integral to being a professional Army, focused on being 'ready today, prepared for tomorrow'. How do we achieve professional excellence? You will have all heard the terms continual improvement focus and striving for better but is this enough? Our organisation can keep making improvements, but still lose ground relatively. American computer scientist and professor Alan Perlis stated that "Optimization hinders evolution. " Evolution is not improvement, it's change – the willingness to try new things, different methods, uncomfortable tasks. Organisations (at all levels) succeed by becoming better at executing existing strategies, focusing on increasing efficiencies and improving core capabilities. That said, when the environment changes (as is happening now), organisations succeed through innovation—developing and experimenting with novel strategies and shifting resources to new approaches. I believe this is the professional excellence 'call to

arms' that CA envisages, and as I stated above, my challenge to you individually. I don't recall a time in my career when we have had such an opportunity to influence and shape our future and we should all embrace this.

Being valued and respected should be a given in our organisation. Camaraderie and trust are essential to any team, even more so to one whose purpose is to deliver lethal effects – one that depends on its comrades to deliver in a time of need. Our strength comes from unity. Ki te kotahi te kākaho, ka whati, ki te kapuia, e kore e whati. This whakatauki says that a toetoe stern cannot be broken if it is in a group. I believe each and every one of us, you and I, should feel safe and be safe in our place of work – both physically and psychologically. We should have equitable opportunities and celebrate our successes at all levels. By embracing diversity of thought we will be stronger and more competent and capable as a professional organisation that can deliver operationally.

As Head of Operations in MIQ I worked in a flat structure, one that encouraged collaboration – I saw firsthand how powerful this was. Although the Army is a hierarchical structure, I believe we can and should engage more widely across the organisation and thereby empower you to be more able to positively influence our organisation.

One final thought I would like you to consider. We are all leaders, from Lead Self through to Lead Organisation level. The actions of each of us, of you, influences others daily. From setting basic standards, holding others accountable for actions that are not reflective of our culture, through to influencing policies or capability procurement. We are 'they', we are 'the system', so if you see something that can be improved, do something about it. Discuss it and raise with your chain of command, take action and make our Army stronger. Be an active part of our regeneration.

**Brigadier Rose King
Deputy Chief of Army**

Army to observe raft of safety recommendations

The Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell, says he deeply regrets injuries caused to three soldiers during an exercise at Linton Military Camp in August 2020.

The soldiers were undergoing riot training to prepare them for peace-keeping duties when during the training, fuel was at one stage poured by a mock rioter from the top of a container on to the trainees and ground below.

Two people were doused in petrol and then caught fire when a molotov cocktail was thrown and didn't shatter where it was intended, instead bouncing into a container wall, breaking, and starting a fire.

A third person was then burnt when one of the panicked soldiers ran into him.

In a case brought to the Palmerston North District Court by WorkSafe the NZDF was fined \$354,750 for failing to take steps to protect the soldiers. The NZDF was also ordered to pay \$100,000 emotional harm reparation, split between the three soldiers harmed during the incident.

MAJGEN Boswell said after the court hearing the Army should have done better to keep its soldiers safe.

"I accept the judge's comments made in handing down this fine.

We ask a lot of our soldiers and while it is important that they are prepared for whatever task is demanded of them, we must ensure we keep them safe when we prepare for such tasks.

"Here, we clearly failed them and that is not acceptable. We have carried out a full Court of Inquiry, to determine what went wrong with the training that night and to establish better safeguards in future. The Court of Inquiry made 12 recommendations and whilst one requires further assessment I can tell you that we have, or are in the process, of implementing the remaining 11.

"Nothing can put right the injuries that were caused that night, but since then we have both supported the victims and engaged in a restorative justice process. I have heard their victim impact statements – they are right to be angry and to feel let down. I hope they can see how seriously we have taken this. We can, and must, do better in the future."



Sappers from the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers set out 300 crosses of remembrance in the grounds of the Levin Home for War Veterans in the week before Anzac Day.

The crosses represent WWI and WWII service personnel who finished their days at the rest home.

They are visited by the families of many former residents who place poppies and remember their loved ones. Many other people walk around them and read the names. Lest we forget.

• *Army News* will have full Anzac Day coverage in its May edition

Friday 22 April marked 100 years since the first poppy appeal was held. It was moved online in 2020 due to the pandemic, but it remains the longest continuously running appeal in New Zealand's history. Here, Brigadier Rose King accepted a donation in exchange for a poppy from a member of the public in Wellington.





LINE OF SIGHT

By Lucy Handford
Photos: Corporal Dillon Anderson

Taking over a compound, reinforcing it, controlling the location, setting up observation points, patrolling at all hours of the day. These are just some of the tasks conducted by soldiers from Bravo Company, 2nd/1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, on Exercise Foxhound 2.

Quick on the heels of last year's Exercise Foxhound 1, this follow-up training exercise took place over four days at Burnham Military Camp, West Melton Rifle Range and Oxford Forest. The soldiers were given a clear mission: to disrupt the insurgents in order to secure the area of operations.

As well as preparing soldiers through battle procedure and the execution of a variety of infantry specific tasks such as fighting patrols, deliberate attacks and ambushes at individual, section, platoon and company levels, Foxhound 2 required personnel to assimilate skills required for peacekeeping missions including the conduct of key leadership engagements, securing of vital infrastructure and convincing the local population to support the Army's efforts. This was facilitated through the use of the Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE), which has recently been adopted by NZDF and provides a comprehensive training scenario in which to immerse soldiers and commanders.

Private George Engleback, a rifleman in 4 Platoon, 2/1 RNZIR, said a big part of the exercise was about the soldiers communicating effectively with civilians (acted by role players).

"We needed to defuse the situation by communicating effectively with the public about why we were there, and what our role was. That ability to interact with civilians is a really important skill to have, and this exercise put that to the test. Not all training exercises have that sort of public interaction so Foxhound 2 stood out in comparison to other, more kinetic based exercises," he said.

Private Handro Vermeulen, a rifleman in 6 Platoon – 1 Section, 2/1 RNZIR, was one of the 90 personnel taking part. He said Exercise Foxhound 2 gave him a good indication of what he could be doing if deployed overseas on an operation.

"Foxhound 2 was an eye-opener for me in that it wasn't just kicking doors down, it was a realistic exercise that gave me a better understanding of what I might be tasked with on an overseas op," he said.

"Working in the urban environment is my favourite and this gave me the opportunity to get better and better at urban drills. By far the most challenging aspect was running security. When you're coming up to a couple of hours lying on your guts and staring out to nothing, most soldiers would agree that it's the least fun part, but it's an important task that has to be done," he added.

Ex Foxhound 2 also provided the Network Enabled Army (NEA) programme with a further opportunity to test the Tranche 1 C4 capabilities being delivered to Land Component. The equipment proved a success in a tactical environment, allowing commanders to plan and deliver orders quicker and more effectively and increasing their situation awareness post H-hr.

The action ramped up on the final day of the exercise with a company attack to culminate the activity and put the NEA equipment to the ultimate test. This saw the Company go into a deliberate planning cycle with orders delivered the night before the attack. The following morning with support from a NH-90 from No. 3 Squadron, the Company conducted a deliberate

attack onto the Burnham Urban Training Facility which was the fictional location of an insurgent meeting. Once the attack was complete the Company then had to quickly re-orientate and conduct a Cordon and Search operation at West Melton Rifle Range. This planning cycle and two Company activities saw the Company certify that the NEA equipment enhanced their ability to win on operations.

Officer Commanding of Bravo Company, Major Alex Bowyer, said this exercise signals a clear intent to get soldiers training in their core skills again, while introducing some of the exciting new capability that the Army has procured.

"While Covid-19 continues to present us with some challenges, training and exercises in preparation for complex operations is again our key focus. Kicking off the year with an activity like this, which focused on infantry core skills, but in a complex scenario is just the start. Now is an exciting time to be soldiering, with the land components' focus on re-generating to be better than before Covid-19 was a thing," he said.



.....
“Foxhound 2 was an eye-opener for me in that it wasn’t just kicking doors down, it was a realistic exercise that gave me a better understanding of what I might be tasked with on an overseas ops.”

- PTE Handro Vermeulen

SPECIAL OPERATIONS A 'TEAM SPORT'



By Simone Miller

20, 10, 6, 1... the loadmasters signal to five wetsuit-clad soldiers while the back of the C-130 Hercules drops down over the Hauraki Gulf.

The rope is cut and an inflatable Zodiac rolls off while the stick of special operators jog off the aircraft, spread star-shaped, to follow the craft to the sea.

Black Wing Trident is just one exercise showcasing the training and capability of the NZDF's land and air forces, aiming to ensure certification of C-130 crews, while dispatching Special Air Service operators and boats onto the surface of the sea. Five different sub-units with more than 10 different trades, across two services, came together to achieve a collective output.

"Within the Regiment we are very fortunate to work with NZDF's major platforms. On this activity No. 40 Sqn was able to parachute us and our boats into the ocean to enable us to go and do our job. Doing things like Black Wing Trident really demonstrate how Special Operations is a team sport.

"To make this activity work it required a significant joint force team. Pilots, navigators, parachute jump instructors, crewman, S and S riggers, moveops, signalers, engineers, logisticians, SAS and the list goes on," says OC A Sqn.

The exercise practises infiltrating the coast from the sea, while avoiding detection from land, and moving a significant amount of equipment for the tasks ahead. The aircraft flies southeast to the drop zone, with the launch occurring 35 nautical miles off the horizon. More than 2,000 pounds of equipment can be carried by boat.

And while it may seem like a normal day in the office for some, the skill required is second-to-none, with risks that personnel could drift or be injured during the jump, or that equipment could fail, making the accuracy of the drop zone and boat rigging essential.

One of the highlights of this activity for me was seeing the complexity of tasks the 5 Mov team worked through. Their role was not simple by any means, and it was excellent to see the accuracy and skill that went into ensuring the boats were rigged and then dispatched correctly. Every boat was perfect, a testament to 5 Movs' skill. "They were awesome," says Troop Commander A Sqn.

2LT Zoe Williamson, of 51 AD Troop, 5 Mov Coy, experienced the exercise for the first time.

"Exercise Black Wing Trident was my first air drop exercise and it did not disappoint. Six boats were rigged and prepped in two days. A highlight was getting on the RHIBs which took us close to the drop zone. Watching the C-130 move into the drop zone meant the anxious wait to see if the parachutes would deploy was almost over. Our team's hard work was rewarded as all six boats dropped successfully. The hospitality we received while working up in Papakura was excellent, an experience I will never forget," she says.

With Covid-19 interrupting many exercises, this year's Black Wing Trident exercise allowed the units to conduct currency activities in an inflatable assault boat airdrop which had not been completed since the Covid-19 pandemic began, setting the scene for more advanced training to happen later in the year.

"Unfortunately not a lot of aerial delivery opportunities have happened lately courtesy of Covid-19. The 5 Mov Coy air dispatchers were keen to get stuck in and brush off their rigging skills while also updating their repertoire of rigging uncommon loads for air drop. The exercise will allow units to conduct more advanced training scenarios in the future and will help in the continued success when working together on operations," says the TG6 Mov Op.

No day is the same within the NZSAS and operators are always looking at advancing their skills, finding more learning and training opportunities, and increasing their ability to be highly interoperable with Navy, Army and Air Force units.

"To soldiers, sailors or airmen who are unsure if they could contribute to 1 NZSAS Regt, I'd say all skills and trades contribute to the success of the mission. We really enjoy working with our colleagues in RNZAF as there is a real shared sense of purpose working with operational air units. It's a lot of fun working with mates across Services and seeing how everyone's contribution makes operations work. We are lucky that this is something we get to do often," says OC A Sqn.

If you're interested in challenging yourself, are highly motivated and have a desire to work within 1 NZSAS Regt, register your interest now by completing an AFNZ 3 found at <http://org/nzsof/LP/NZSAS.aspx> or emailing SASRec@nzdf.mil.nz.



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OCTOBER 2022

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<http://org/nzsof/LP/Recruiting.aspx>

**SHOOT,
MOVE,
MEDICATE**





By Lucy Handford
 Photos: Corporal Chad Sharman

The modus operandi for soldiers in Alpha Company, 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, is based on four principles: shoot, move, communicate and medicate. Exercise Alpha Kōura, the first exercise of the year for the company, focused on three of those principles: shoot, move and medicate.

Alpha Company conducted Exercise Alpha Kōura in the Tekapo Military Training Area in March. Major Josh Sullivan, Officer Commanding Alpha Company said the purpose of Alpha Kōura was to provide a snapshot of the basic level of competency of Alpha Company participants.

“The exercise focused on soldiers’ effectiveness in key individual competencies along the training themes of shoot, move and medicate. It also provided a start state for understanding the subsequent planning of Alpha Company’s regeneration post Op Protect. Concurrently it aided in assessing the level of instruction provided by commanders at the lead teams and lead leaders level,” he said.

Designed to maintain infantry skill levels in live-field firing, the shoot element of the exercise required soldiers to engage targets both far-off and close up, utilising a number of weapon systems such as the MARS-L rifle, the Glock G17, M203 grenade launcher and the Mag58 general purpose machine gun. Working in sections of up to 10, the focus was on basic infantry core skills including static shooting and marksmanship. Other activities including pack marches, night-firing, navigation stands and escape and invasion activities were also added to the mix to induce stress and test the soldiers both physically and mentally.

In contrast, the move and medicate aspects of the exercise tested the soldiers on their ability to conduct tactical combat casualties’ care by both day and night. Members of Alpha Company were exposed to additional medical training in between live-firing serials and then tested when they least expected it at the completion of a night navigation circuit.

Around 40 personnel headed to the Tekapo Military Training Area for the five-day exercise, with the Company harbouring out in the field to maximise their time in the training area. Combined with theory, soldiers were required to excel in engaging at distance, understand the environmental conditions which could affect their firing, as well as display their ability to work effectively in a team.

Private April Ma’a, an Infantry soldier in 2 Platoon – 2 Section, was one of the participants on Exercise Alpha Kōura. She said the shooting was the most enjoyable aspect, but the training also highlighted the importance of teamwork.

“I enjoyed using the Glock, using the MARS-L at close range was cool, and in general just shooting at long range. I haven’t used weapons to that extent since I joined in 2020 so it was great to get out there,” she said.

“This exercise also brought out the importance of teamwork. Take night navigation for example, you need to use your team. If you don’t it’s not going work. I learnt to lean on my team and know that they are there for you,” she added.

Corporal Nathan Kawana is a supply technician, working in Alpha Company Headquarters. While his role was largely to provide support to those on exercise, a highlight for him was the ability to participate in live-shooting.

“During the exercise, we were using the MAG 58 and doing a lot of drills with two personnel on the gun. We worked on calling out the range and communicating between the gun groups. It was great to have that amount of time on the various weapon systems,” he said.

Lieutenant Jordan Corke, 2IC of Alpha Company admits this training wasn’t all singing and dancing, rather it was about getting back to the “bread and butter” of the job after multiple rotations on Op Protect.

“Our job is to live in the field and close with the enemy. Exercise Alpha Kōura focused on building those skills back up and getting that practice in to ensure our infantry personnel know the capability of their weapon systems inside out,” he said.

“Move, shoot, medicate and communicate are simple competencies. Mastering these ensure our infantry teams are proficient. But location also plays a key role. When you train in unfamiliar environments, soldiers gain a much better understanding of how different environments place different pressures. That prepares soldiers for what they may face in a real-life scenario,” he added.

Alpha Company now seeks to enhance these skill-sets and build towards a top soldier competition as a look ahead to the start of the regeneration cycle.



Colonel Ben Bagley (left) takes over from Colonel Stef Michie.



CHANGE OF COMMAND AT 1(NZ) BRIGADE

The command of 1 (NZ) Brigade changed recently under the watch of their families, officers and soldiers.

Colonel Ben Bagley has taken over from Colonel Stef Michie.

COL Michie said being part of 1 Brigade during such a demanding and important period was an enormous privilege. "It was an absolute career highlight. It's been incredibly tough not just for Brigade personnel but also for their families; I was constantly inspired by their personal qualities and their commitment."





COL Bagley, his wife Belinda and daughter Ella are challenged.



Ella Bagley and the Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell adjust the ceremonial korowal.



Linton-based soldiers on parade.



COL Bagley salutes members of the brigade.

NATO award for new commander

Tying up all the loose ends of New Zealand's Afghanistan commitment as Covid-19 raged in the country was just one of the challenges Colonel Ben Bagley faced on his most recent deployment.

His demonstration of exemplary leadership and devotion to duty during the deployment has earned him a prestigious NATO Meritorious Service Medal which was presented to him by Defence Minister Peeni Henare recently.

COL Bagley deployed to Afghanistan in mid-2020. His task was to close down the Op Rua II training mission in the midst of the close down and withdrawal of forces for NATO's Operation Resolute Support. By then New Zealand had reduced its presence in Afghanistan to only six personnel, relying heavily on the support provided by the Australian Defence Force.

Deployed as New Zealand's Senior National Officer and Director of Future Operations, he was given the task to officially hand back Kandahar Air Base to the Afghanistan authorities not long after arriving in theatre. "We couldn't meet Afghan officials in person, so the whole job was completed by VTC," he said.

As the Kandahar handover was being organised, concurrent planning for the handover of air bases at Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Bagram was also added to the task. As the mission drew down his duties also included reducing the troop force flow into theatre to prepare for withdrawal, whilst maintaining the viability and security of key bases.

As Director of Future Operations he led the Resolute Support Force Management Board and streamlined a complex multi-nation capability to be maintained. His job involved keeping airfield operations going at a vital air node which enabled civil and military flights to continue to support the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces in Kandahar Province and southern Afghanistan.

He engaged with every branch of the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces, and lead a disparate group of stakeholders to develop solutions that enabled airfields to continue to function once handed over by the mission.

COL Bagley's citation said his efforts resulted in the continuation of airfield security and services, which preserved capability. "Through his distinguished work ethic COL Bagley has influenced, reassured and assisted members from all services of the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces," it said.

The spread of Covid-19 throughout Kabul meant all welfare facilities such as base gymnasiums and support facilities could not be used. "For PT it was just a matter of putting on thermals and dusting the snow off the equipment that had been moved outside to avoid the further spread of the virus." The Kiwi team based in Kabul did really well to overcome all of these seemingly insignificant challenges to ensure they maintained their cohesiveness and morale, he said.

Base dining facilities were also closed although takeaway food was available. When the chefs succumbed to Covid-19, ration packs were issued.

COL Bagley said he felt humbled to receive the award and was proud of the work he and his team achieved in what was a challenging and fluid environment.

FORTY YEARS OF PEACE KEEPING IN MIDDLE-EASTERN HOT SPOT

April 25 marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Multinational Force and Observers peace treaty in Sinai, Egypt. A New Zealand team has been part of the treaty since its inception. The mission supervises the implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, and its headquarters is based in Rome.

Participation by New Zealand originally took the form of Rotary Wing Air Support and subsequently evolved to its present form. In 1998, New Zealand increased its participation to twenty-six personnel their primary tasks being the provision of a Training and Advisory Team (NZTAT) and a transport section as well as staff appointments throughout the Force. Over the last 40 years the roles provided by New Zealand have evolved, but have centred around drivers, trainers and staff officers for the majority of that time.

Since 1 December 2019, New Zealand has also provided the MFO with its Force Commander (FC), Major General Evan Williams. MAGJEN Williams is the third New Zealander to have filled the Force Commander role, the others being Major General Donald McIver (from March 1989 to March 1991) and Major General Warren Whiting (from March 2010 to March 2014). Thirteen nations contribute troops to the MFO.

The contingent is commanded by a LTCOL who also fills the role of the Force Chief Plans Officer. Other essential Force positions filled by New Zealand include:

- A military police officer who acts as either an investigator or shift commander.
- A Physical Training Instructor who is responsible for maintaining fitness across the Force. He/ she also greatly assists the Morale and Welfare Office in running sporting and wellbeing events.
- The Force Passport Clerk who facilitates obtaining visas, local Egyptian ID Cards, and MFO ID Cards.
- Three members of the Force Engineering Office: a Major who acts as a Project Manager, a Warrant Officer (WO2) who assists with the supervision of remote sites, and a Project Electrician.
- The Force Training Team (FTT) which establishes, conducts, and

evaluates training courses based on MFO Standard Operating Procedures. NZCON personnel fill the roles of operations instructors, driving Instructors, the Training Warrant Officer, and senior instructor FTT. The FTT provides both initial integration and continuation training as well as validating day-to-day operations. It is also responsible for the highly competitive Annual Force Military Skills Competition.

- A Driving Section. On average, NZCON drivers travel over 356,630 kilometers annually. The Sinai provides a particularly challenging driving environment that is unique in the world, so the skills of these professional drivers are tested daily. The knowledge and high standards they display in the operation of heavy lift vehicles and coaches are shared with other drivers within the Force Transport section via an effective driver-training programme.



In 2016 New Zealand troops based in the Sinai Peninsula shifted to a smaller but more secure area in the south.

"Morale within the contingent is high. Everyone is settled into their roles and can see how their job contributes to the MFO's mission," said Major (MAJ) Gabrielle Gofton who was the MFO's Engineering Project Manager at the time.

Between May and July 2016, a number of the troops from the nations that make up the MFO's Force moved from North Camp to the South Camp near Sharm el Sheikh on the southern tip of the peninsula due to the deteriorating security situation in the Northern Sinai.

The shift has turned South Camp into "a hive of construction activity" as the MFO builds new facilities to accommodate the influx, according to MAJ Gofton who managed seven construction projects in South Camp and at the MFO Airport Terminal.

Situated on a bluff overlooking the Red Sea, South Camp compensates in views what it lacks in size. There is also a range of facilities available including a gym, library and a café with a pool table and shuffleboard.

The Sinai Peninsula is home to numerous Bedouin tribes, who originated from people who migrated to the Arabian Peninsula around 500 years ago. In the Sinai there are estimated to be 600,000 Bedouins representing at least sixty percent of the overall Sinai populace. Bedouin loyalty at all levels, is predicated on security. It is first to the clan (khamsa), second to the tribal confederation (gabila), and then to the nation with which they identify. Access to profit, physical security, and tribal honor are the main drivers of tribal factions when in negotiations. As construction of a large cement wall IVO Rafah by EAF continues and further development of Central Sinai requires labour and stores, it is likely that Bedouin tribal elders will seek to form factions and unions to gain government construction contracts, implicitly aligning certain tribes with government forces.



New Zealand troops in Sinai over the years.





2/1 RNZIR STEPS UP TO SUPPORT VETERANS

By Lucy Handford

Soldiers from 2nd/1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and medics from Southern Health Service Support recently stepped up to help 32 Rannerdale Village veterans move to their new accommodation, Aldwins House, a specialist rest home and hospital care facility in Linwood.

As well as assisting the residents to pack up at Rannerdale Village in Upper Riccarton over three days, 38 soldiers transported their belongings using the Army Band truck, and helped the veterans to unpack and settle into their new home.

Commanding Officer of 2/1 RNZIR, Lieutenant Colonel Cory Neale said "Lending a hand on a small task like this allows 2/1 to remain meaningfully engaged with the community and especially with our veterans. We know the military connection is as important for ex-service personnel as it is to current members of the NZDF. After all, it is their legacy that we work hard to build upon every single day."

One of the veterans supported by the Army was Gordon Gerken, 96, a WWII RNZAF veteran who served in the Pacific.

"It has been marvellous to have the help from the soldiers. Us old people can't do this on our own, so we are very grateful to them for their support. It reminds me of something I was once told, which I have always remembered. If you can help somebody as you pass along then your living has not been in vain," he said.

Another resident 2nd/1st supported was Army veteran, Geoff Pere, 82, who served as a lead scout in an infantry section in Malaya.

"It's fantastic that these soldiers have come along to help. I've had a good chat with some of them. I was asking them about the insignia on their new uniforms and they explained that they were from 2nd/1st. I was in the same unit and was part of the group that established Depot Company back in the 1950s. In many ways

these soldiers are the inheritors of the work that we did back then," he said.

Captain Mel De Lange, Quartermaster for 2/1 RNZIR, said the unit has a history of supporting the veterans at Rannerdale Village.

"When the request for support came through, the units agreed to help immediately. These veterans have carved a pathway for all current serving soldiers, they deserve all the support that we can give them. Moving at any time in our lives is a stressful task so to be able to reassure them and make the process of settling into their new accommodation a little easier was the very least that we could do," she said.



Soldiers help pack up veterans' rooms.



LOOKING BACK

About 4000 New Zealand servicemen served in Malaya/Malaysia between 1948 and 1966.

The Malayan Emergency was a 12-year-long conflict in the Malayan peninsula which arose from an attempt by the Malayan Communist Party to overthrow the British colonial administration of Malaya.

Fifteen New Zealand servicemen lost their lives in Malaya between 1948 and 1960, three as a result of enemy action. The New Zealand roll of honour records the deaths of 20 New Zealanders on operational service in the combined Malayan and Malaysian (Borneo) campaigns between 1948 and 1966.



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Building Financial Resilience

By Mark Williamson,
NZDF Benefits Manager

At some time during our lives most of us experience financial hardship, some of it severe. Money problems may be temporary, and disappear over time, often after successful interventions like introducing a household budget. For others, the problems may be ongoing. Over years the problems may eat away at us and significantly impact on our health, our families, and on our work performance.



Most of us are proud. We may respond to money problems in different ways. Frequently, problems are not discussed with others; they may not even be discussed with our partners. Human nature being what it is, there is a temptation for us to ignore the problems until they become overwhelming. Best to avoid that. A cross section of financial practitioners will advise that the best way to address money problems is to admit there is a problem, seek help and advice from experts and put in place long term strategies for dealing with the problems.

This includes being proactive, in other words acting in advance of a crisis, rather than reactive, responding to a problem only once it has become a crisis.

Defence households are like a cross section of NZ society; some of our families will be finding it hard at the moment. Reflecting this, there are a range of resources available to help households build financial resilience.

Resources include:

- The Force Financial Hub and Force4Families sites which provide access to a range of services, benefits and tools. This includes a financial guide for households facing financial pressures;
- The NZDF financial capability programme; partnered with the Retirement Commission delivers a range of programmes for Defence households. Popular programmes include the Women’s Programme which looks at money management from a female perspective, and the NZDF Investor Education Programme, which outlines the advantages of investing over saving and explores different types of investments. There is also the “Get Started” programme which is a great way of learning about money management and budgeting;

- A range of webinars and podcasts produced for us by the Retirement Commission and Milestone Direct Ltd, NZDF’s preferred financial advice service;
- Access to free budgeting services across camps and bases and HQNZDF. “Money Talks” provides nationwide services including their financial mentor service which is aimed at helping households build their financial management and budgeting skills. Some of the camps and bases also have local providers they prefer to use;
- The discounted financial advice and planning service provided to us by Milestone Direct Ltd;
- Adhoc presentations, including “Finding Financial Freedom”; and
- Externally, there are sites like the SORTED sites and those provided by your bank which also provide powerful, easy to use tools to help with money management and budgeting.

There are some powerful tools there to assist. Reflecting the value of these resources, the EXCO (NZDF leadership team) recently approved additional funding to increase the financial capability programmes run annually in camps and bases. As Covid ebbs we hope to be able to resume classroom training by the end of April.

There is also funding to provide financial plans for vulnerable households each year. A financial plan is a critical document for most of us and involves the household working with a financial planner in working out their financial situation and then in developing short and long term goals, and strategies for achieving those goals. Goals may range from preparing a household budget, to paying off debt, to saving for a first home deposit, or to preparing for retirement.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, or want to apply sound money management practices

to head off a future crisis, then please have a look at the resources available. We are all different and have different requirements. What works well for one household may not work for another. Look at the menu of resources available and select those best suited to your circumstances.

Deployed personnel or those posted overseas are not disadvantaged. Most of the resources listed are able to be accessed via the internet, technology permitting. Partners and other family members in NZ are also able to access.

To find out more, google the Force Financial Hub, or contact the NZDF Benefits Team on benefits@nzdf.mil.nz, or Milestone Direct Ltd on 0508 645 378.

CAREER MANAGEMENT CORNER

DACM Staff changes

Due to short notice postings/OP deployments the following staff changes have occurred at DACM:

- LTCOL Rob Loftus is now the RF Military Secretary, replacing LTCOL Terry McDonald who has joined the NZDF team, on promotion to COL, contributing to the next Defence Assessment
- LTCOL Darren Young is now the TF Military Secretary, replacing LTCOL Ollie Te Ua
- WO1 Ed Dore-Wright has assumed the role of Soldier Career Manager Infantry, replacing WO1 Dave Thomas who is deploying to OP FARAD as the RSM
- WO2 Glenn Savage has moved from the position of ResF Workforce Advisor to the role of Operations Warrant Officer in the DACM Ops Cell

Career Boards

DACM facilitated the Formation Promotion Advisory Boards (FPAB) for qualifying officers and soldiers over the period 28 Mar–6 Apr. The purpose of the FPABs is to allow Formation Commanders to represent their qualifying individuals for assessment of promotion suitability, development needs and extension suitability. Those represented at the FPABs are:

- Soldiers – SSGTs and WOs up to Tier 3 WO1.
- Officers – CAPTs with 3 years seniority and above, up to and including MAJs.

Officer Selection and Commissioning From the Ranks Boards

AFNZ413D applications for attendance on OSB 01/22 and the CFRB over the period 10–14 July are due in to DACM 19 May 22.

Further information on the application process can be found on the Army Career Management Intranet Site under Career Progression.

Kippenberger Scholarship Scheme

Applications for study via the Kippenberger Scholarship Scheme are due in to DACM 16 May 22.

Further information on the application process can be found on the Army Career Management Intranet Site under Education and Training.

Key Dates

4–5 May 22

Career Management Board (CMB)

11 May 22

Warrant Officer Employment Board (WOEB)

16 May 22

Kippenberger Scholarship (Semester 2) applications due at DACM

19 May 22

CFR and OSB applications to be submitted to DACM on AFNZ413D via Chain of Command

For more information:

Army Career Management Intranet Site:
<http://orgs/sites/armint/1-0001/>

Contact us at:
DACMRegistry@nzdf.mil.nz



EXERCISE VENOM 1

Soldiers from Victor Company honed their close country skills in the Whirinaki Conservation Park near Minginui, and Paradise Valley on a recent exercise

The focus of the exercise was to close individual and section level skill gaps in the close country. It saw a crawl, walk, run approach as V Coy sought to pivot away from the urban focus of the previous two years.

Due to the effects of Covid-19, V Coy deployed with reduced numbers which fluctuated between four and five sections over the course of the exercise.

It began with three days of key individual skills training, including gun team drills and standard operating procedures (SOP), lead scout drills, reaction to contact, movement in the close country and navigation.

The next two days were spent on section SOP development. This allowed the sections to shake out and rehearse quick attacks, ambushes and observation posts.

The blank firing phase of the exercise finished off with a tactical phase that saw the sections conducting tasks with the addition of an enemy party and having the opportunity to utilize the skills they had rehearsed in the earlier phases.

The steep terrain and thick secondary bush of the park presented challenges, however the training value for those who attended was good.

Live field firing

The end of blank field firing phase saw V Coy move to Waiouru to begin prep for the live field firing phase. This phase was a confirmatory of what was covered in Whirinaki Forest broken down into two parts.

Part one was the build-up phase, which had soldiers assaulting in pairs and teams. Part two, was the culminating point for the exercise which had sections conducting assaults in a close country environment.

Part one was a round robin of three stands. The first stand covered pairs and teams moving through a jungle lane IVO Zone 1. This was to build soldiers' confidence assaulting with live rounds in a close country environment.

The second stand involved soldiers operating the M203 with chalk rounds IVO Zone 1. This also allowed soldiers to develop other skills like JD's, fire control, and build their confidence when firing onto distant targets.

The third stand was conducted at the SART range. This provided a great opportunity to develop hand to hand fighting skills, and long distant shooting utilizing LSW, DMW and MARS-L. The SART range provided scope to work on fire control orders and still build on each soldier's confidence when operating these weapon systems.

The second and final part of the exercise saw V Coy move to Paradise Valley from Zone 1. WMTA wasted no time in providing a decent amount of rain to begin part two of the live field firing. The section assaults were conducted in two days with minimal issues but still room for improvement. The section ambush was the final activity which saw the end of Ex Venom 1 and as a bonus NO BLINDS!



Reserve Force Training

By Sergeant Caroline Williams

Arriving at The Army Depot (TAD), Waiouru Military Camp (WMC), can be a little daunting as a recruit, particularly with Covid-19 thrown into the mix.

It would take more than that to deter the 107 eager Reserve Force (ResF) recruits arriving to begin six weeks of training.

Reserve Force recruit training consists of two modules. Module one (MOD 1), normally run from a Reserve Force unit prior to commencing initial training, gives the recruit an insight into the Army battle rhythm and is also where they learn the basic structure of the NZ Army, rank structure, and parade skills. This gives the recruit a unique opportunity to stay in a military environment, build friendships with fellow recruits, and confirm if the Reserve Force is what they envisaged.

Module two (MOD 2) is the main part of a recruit's initial training and is based at TAD for the duration. This is the foundation course where soldiers are taught basic soldiering skills including drill, leadership, learning management systems (LMS), first aid, weapons training, navigation, radio communication, and fieldcraft. The training culminates in a five-day field exercise in the Waiouru training area where a large part of the course is put into action. Training is blended, face-to-face learning and student online learning.

"The course was short and sharp with every soldier keen to experience life as a soldier," said WO2 Rob McGee, Company Sergeant Major, KRITHIA Company (for RTF 166).

With Covid-19 in the community, TAD had to adapt to the constantly changing Covid environment.

Recruits from areas under lockdown Level 3 were based at Helwan Camp for the first two weeks of training to ensure they were Covid free, said WO2 McGee. Regular Force instructors were also required to step in for training due to limited Reserve Force instructors available as a result of the outbreak.

On completion of MOD 2, recruits engage in Corps training, including, infantry, medical, or combat engineer training.

The first Reserve Infantry Corps training of the year was run by 2/4 RNZIR in WMC in January. MAJ Andrew True, Officer Commanding KRITHIA Company (for RTF 166), TAD, said the feedback was positive regarding the standard of recruit training, and Corps trainees had been motivated and enthusiastic. MAJ True re-iterated WO2 McGee's sentiments that MOD2, although challenging, was a pleasure because the recruits were keen to learn.

"Training is about a positive approach. We want people joining the Army to have an enjoyable experience, and of course, there will be times of difficulty. However, arriving with the right mindset and receiving positive reinforcement throughout training, builds confidence, helping recruits make the right choices for the future", said MAJ True.

ResF soldiers and officers are volunteers who are paid for the hours they work, usually spending twenty plus days annually, training with their respective ResF unit. They have the opportunity to deploy and engage in short term regular force engagements, such as the NZDF support to the operation of Managed Isolation Facilities.



Operators conducting dry firing practice in different positions.

NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE



Mission: Equip the NZDF close combatant with the ability to observe, manoeuvre and engage to gain the tactical advantage over an adversary across a 24 hour mission profile.

The Night Vision Equipment Programme is sponsored by the Land Domain, within Capability Branch. The programme was initiated in 2008 with Cabinet approval and is a multi-year effort to regularly refresh the NZDF's Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Night Observation (STANO) equipment. As technology is rapidly changing, the programme ensures the most advanced and suitable equipment is available to the NZDF.

Dismounted STANO capabilities include the ability to effectively employ platforms, equipment and weapons systems across all domains and services. This includes Night Vision Goggles for aircrew and boat coxswains and the base suite of equipment for the dismounted soldier and RNZAF security forces. The programme is currently delivering:

- Upgraded NVG Image Intensification Tubes for RNZAF pilots;
- Laser Target Designator systems for the Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) capability;
- New dual NVG and in line weapon sights for NZ Special Operations Forces; and
- Thermal in line weapon sights and weapon mounted laser range finders for Army snipers and Fire Support Group (FSG) personnel – this article provides an overview of the weapon mounted laser range finder project.
- By prioritising the needs for NZDF, the programme is focusing on its next phase of capability delivery. This involves equipping the NZDF close combatant with the ability to observe, manoeuvre and engage to gain the tactical advantage over an adversary across a 24 hour mission profile. This requires the dismounted close combatant having a base equipment suite comprising of dual NVGs, a night aiming device and in line weapon sight.

The Weapon Mounted Laser Range Finder Project

The Weapon Mounted Laser Range Finder (WM-LRF) Project's aim is to deliver to the NZDF, a WM-LRF solution to mount on the Barrett MRAD Sniper Rifle and the M107A1 Anti-Materiel Rifle (AMR) that are used by snipers and FSG personnel. The WM-LRF will complement other hand-held range finding devices, such as the Vector IV.

What is a Weapon Mounted Laser Range Finder?

A WM-LRF is a device that can be attached to weapons picatinny rail, or to a special purpose scope mount. It enables a weapon operator to acquire the range to their target with the push of a button – without needing to come out of a firing position or take their eyes off of the target. The firer is able to aim at a target and simultaneously activate the device's range finding [eye safe] laser. The device will then display that target range in metres on a small display for the firer to view, enabling an accurate shot to be taken. As well as providing target ranges, the WM-LRF has Infrared night aiming lasers (similar to the PEQ-15), as well as on-board ballistic software to calculate shot data for the firer.

Why is a Weapon Mounted Laser Range Finder Important?

NZDF war fighters are required to be capable of operating effectively by day or night. Devices such as an In-Line Weapon Sight allow an operator to continue to use their 'day-optic' (i.e. ACOG) by night. However, anybody who is familiar with the ACOG on their MARS-L will know that the reticle features different aiming points that relate to how far away the target is. This exemplifies why an accurate distance (range to target) is extremely important to a firer's ability to hit a distant target – as the distance increases, so too does the importance of an accurate range. In the absence of a purpose-built range with known distances, a firer must have the means to quickly and accurately determine how far they are intending to shoot. Therefore, the WM-LRF is considered to be a critical enabler of a weapon system's ability to be effective by day and night.

How do we decide what the best product is for NZDF?

We put them to the test! Throughout the first half of 2021 and with assistance from the scientific community, comprehensive testing was carried out to measure how the products performed against

the requirements set by NZDF. A technical evaluation phase involved tests such as weighing the devices on scales, assessing their battery life and measuring how fast the devices could calculate target ranges. The technical phase also included field tests that involved commissioning a private surveying firm to survey an area to test the accuracy of each device's range readings – this allowed results to be captured with an accuracy of +/-1cm, out to 2.5km. To ensure results were consistent and accurate across all of the products, a custom test target was built with Defence Technology Agency (DTA) verifying that the target's surface was the required reflectivity at specific light wavelengths. The technical field testing was carried out on private land near Murchison, in the South Island.

Although we can run thorough technical testing of product performance, nothing beats input from NZDF end-users to ensure that the equipment is up to the job standard. In late June 2021, snipers and AMR operators from across the NZ Army came together to take part in a field evaluation activity. The purpose of the activity was to give NZDF personnel hands-on experience with the proposed WM-LRF products so they could give robust and informed advice to the project on what product best suited the needs of the NZDF end-user community.

After a full day of classroom-based training and learning the basic operating functions of the different products, the operators fitted the WM-LRF to their Barrett M107A1 and MRAD rifles and set about making sure all weapons were zeroed, before performing the calibration and alignment procedures for the respective products. A deliberate set-up procedure is required because unlike a handheld laser range finder which has its laser aligned to the optic at the factory, a WM-LRF needs to have its lasers adjusted to match the scope's reticle – much the same as a PEQ-15 needs to be zeroed to the MARS-L before being used.

Once all devices had been fitted and aligned, operators put them through their paces as they engaged targets ranging from 500m out to 2500m with the Barrett M107A1 and MRAD rifles. Activities were conducted that allowed participants to test the products against different



A WM-LRF combines key functions from other products into a single package.



Operators testing and adjusting their fire positions with WM-LRF fitted.



The laser range finder test target in position in the hills near Murchison.



A member of the project team assisting operators to fine-tune the LRF alignment on a distant target.

requirements – such as their ability to quickly engage multiple targets, how easy they were to use with different items of clothing on, and how they connected with other in-service weapon system components. Participants filled out surveys each day where useful feedback was captured by the project and was used to inform each product’s performance. By night, participants rotated through stands which gave them an opportunity to engage targets by night using the WM-LRF, as well as testing the maximum range the device’s infrared aiming lasers were visible to operators when observing through spotting scopes and in-service night vision equipment.

Some of the product testing serials required a lot of ammunition to be fired over a relatively short period of time, which would have exceeded the daily .50cal firing limits. In order to make sure all products were tested robustly without risking participant safety, a custom jig that replicated the normal recoil profile of the MRAD and M107A1 weapons was designed and built by Terminator Products, based in Nelson, NZ. The jig was able to be fired by a staff member using a remote keypad, and was secured to a trailer positioned so the weapons were aiming into the

target area. Each WM-LRF was fitted to the weapons and subjected to hundreds of rounds fired, as test data was recorded by project staff. The jig has a modular cradle to allow for other NZDF weapons to be mounted and is expected to be used for future testing carried out by Capability Branch.

To finish their testing, a basic tactical task was simulated to make sure all of the products were up to the job standard. This task also gave operators an idea of how the WM-LRF might affect or enhance their drills and procedures. Over the course of the last frosty morning, participants packed their weapons and equipment into carry bags before conducting a small dismounted move to a firing point in the tussock which overlooked the target area. They then set up the weapon and went through their firing procedures using the WM-LRF to range targets and provide associated shot information. Having the WM-LRF products fitted meant that jobs could be done by the shooter that are usually associated with the spotter – such as measuring the distance to targets and calculating ballistic data, this in turn resulted in a simplified and more efficient engagement process overall.

What’s next?

Thanks to feedback from NZDF end users – the project has been able to select a WM-LRF solution for the Sniper Rifle and AMR that will enhance the NZ Army’s long range precision shooting capability. An order has been placed with the manufacturer and delivery of the devices is expected in New Zealand by mid-2023. Operator and maintainer training packages for the relevant user groups are being planned to take place once the devices have arrived in New Zealand.

On behalf of Capability Branch, the Night Vision Equipment Programme would like to thank the people involved (and their parent Units) for the support provided to the WM-LRF Project. End-user subject matter expertise has been instrumental in assisting the project to deliver a WM-LRF solution that is proven and fit for purpose. As the project prepares for the delivery and introduction into service of the WM-LRF, we look forward to working with you all again soon in the near future.



| WM-LRF Platform | Max Range* | | Ranging Accuracy (out to max range) | Mounting Method | Battery Type | Ballistic Calculator |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| | Range finder | IR Aim Laser | | | | |
| MRAD / M107A1 | >2500m | >1500m | 0.1% | Scope Mount | L91 AA | ✓ |

* Man sized target used for LRF. 1.75m x 0.5m.

Our people

KING'S BADGE TO FORMER WELLINGTON SOLDIER

A former Wellington Company 5/7 Battalion Corporal has been awarded the King's Badge on the Royal Marine Commandos Recruit Course.

At 32 weeks the Royal Marine's initial training programme is one of the longest and most arduous in the world. The Royal Marines are the UK's Commando Force. They are an elite fighting force held at high readiness, optimized for worldwide response and able to deal with a wide spectrum of threats.

Marine John H said his service in Wellington Company greatly helped him top the Commando Course. "Field craft and shooting were vital skills I took with me to the UK. I received a lot of mentorship from my mates in Wellington Company, and I thank WO1 Mark Mortiboy, WO1 Munga Wright, WO1 Diesel Sarney, WO2 Marty Hill and SSGT Sam Selby for their continuing support."

King's Squad and King's badge

On his visit to the Royal Marine base in Deal in March 1918 HM King George V visited Royal Marine training. He was impressed by what he saw and he directed that the senior squad of recruits under training would be designated "The King's Squad". As a mark of distinction it is customary for members of the squad to wear a white Lanyard on the left shoulder of their Dress Blues and to wear the chinstrap of their peaked hat under the chin. Today more than 100 years years later the senior recruit troop at the Royal Marines Training depot Lympston is titled the King's Squad.

Soon after his visit the King further directed that the best recruit in the King's Squad should be awarded the King's Badge. The badge consists of the cypher of the King George V (GvR) within a laurel wreath. It is worn on the left sleeve, and on all forms of dress no matter what rank the Badgeman latter attains.



RSA Online / RSA Ipurangi

By Ash Brunton

RSA Online is the digital face of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RNZRSA). With around 3,000 members it is one of the larger RSAs and was established to appeal to a younger generation.



I am the President of RSA Online and I hope to transform it into the place that serving and newly released veterans turn to for help or to provide support to other veterans. One of the initiatives we are introducing is reducing the types of membership to two; Veteran and Supporter. A veteran is anyone who at any time has served in the defence or police forces of New Zealand or other Commonwealth country regardless of operational service whilst a supporter is anybody else who recognises the commitment our veterans have undertaken and the sacrifices they have made. Another initiative is to establish a forum where veterans can discuss

the future shape of RSA and RSA Support Services.

The annual subscription fee is \$20 but serving veterans (including Police) and supporters under the age of 18 do not have to pay this fee. Half of the fee is paid to the RNZRSA and this helps to provide, amongst other things, the support services available to veterans and their dependent whānau.

Support services include emergency needs grants to get veterans or their dependents in crisis into overnight accommodation, provide them with food and get a support person of their choice to them as soon as possible. Once the critical

phase of the crisis is resolved the RSA can provide additional support.

To join RSA Online google RSA Online, or go to <https://www.rsa.org.nz/find-an-rsa/rsa-online/>

Once you have subscribed there is a closed Facebook page you can join, and information on how to access this will be in your welcoming letter.

My vision is that over time RSA Online becomes a place where serving and newly released veterans can go to in order to seek support or refer others for help.



TWENTY TWO LIGHT ARMoured VEHICLES SOLD TO CHILEAN NAVY

The New Zealand Defence Force has finalised a sale of 22 surplus New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicles (NZLAVs) to the Chilean Navy for use by their Marine Corps.

The sale is worth US \$19.855 million and the vehicles will be shipped to Chile in two tranches, one this year and one in 2023.

Commander Defence Logistics Command, Commodore Andrew Brown, said it was pleasing to get a sale negotiated for the vehicles. Eight more NZLAVs remain on the market to sell. The prospect of a sale to the Chilean Navy has been under consideration and negotiation for over two years, with a number of NZ and foreign government consents required before any sale could be finalised.

The NZDF bought 105 NZLAVs in 2003. One was written off

after being badly damaged in Afghanistan and one is being used in Canada as a test vehicle.

Commodore Brown said the remaining NZLAVs, numbering 73, will continue in service with the NZ Army.

Analysis undertaken during the Defence Assessment process in 2008-09 concluded that the Army had more NZLAVs than necessary to fulfil Government-directed outputs. In 2012 the Government determined that the number of NZLAVs be reduced, and that 20 would be made available for potential sale. The number for sale was later increased to 30 in 2019.

The Chief of Army, Major General (MAJGEN) John Boswell, said the NZLAV fleet continues to be critical to Army's ability to provide the New Zealand Government with a combat capable military response option for use alongside our allies and partners.

MAJGEN Boswell said the sale still allows the Army to maintain a range of capabilities and offer a number of potential deployment options including domestic disaster response, regional security missions, peacekeeping through to combat operations.

Unclaimed 28 (Maori) Battalion Medals Identified

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is encouraging whānau of soldiers and officers of the 28 (Maori) Battalion to apply for medals their relatives might be eligible for.

At a ceremony conducted at Rongomaraeroa o nga hau e wha Marae in Waiouru, Chief of Army Major General John Boswell announced the NZDF was now in a position to present these medals, which recognise the service and sacrifice of soldiers and officers of the 28 (Maori) Battalion.

New Zealand Government policy after World War II was that former service personnel would have to apply for their medals, which would then be sent to them through the post. This was to avoid the problems experienced after World War I, when about 10 percent of medals posted to ex-Service personnel or their families were returned because of out-of-date address information.

For a variety of reasons, however, many former World War II veterans did not claim their medals. NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals worked with David Stone, from Te Mata Law, regarding the unclaimed medals of C Coy 28 (Maori) Battalion. 137 (or 15 percent) of the 900 men who served in C Company, it was found, never applied for their medals.

Last year the first unclaimed medals ceremony was conducted

at Hawke's Bay's Hougarea Marae, followed by a large Ceremony at C Company House in Gisborne, where 65 medals were presented to whānau of C Company soldiers. Major General Boswell said it was his intention to perform similar medal ceremonies for A Company, B Company and a combined ceremony for D Company and Battalion HQ.

"This is a significant day to honour the service and sacrifice of those soldiers from 28 (Maori) Battalion. It's also an opportunity to recognise the mana they brought to themselves, to their families, to the New Zealand Army and to New Zealand."

NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals have identified approximately 500 sets of medals that were never claimed by former 28 (Maori) Battalion personnel.

Sir Robert Gillies, who is the last living member of the Battalion, said "it's about time these medals were presented." Sir Robert said his medals reminded him of his friends in the Battalion, and were always hanging on his coat.



28 (Maori) Battalion member Sir Robert Gillies has his korowai adjusted before a ceremony in Cassino, Italy.

The families of the men who never claimed their medals are entitled to apply for these medals through the New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Archives and Medals Office. The contact details are: NZDF Personnel Archives & Medals, Trentham Military Camp, Private Bag 905, Upper Hutt 5140, New Zealand.

Tel: (04) 527 5280

Online applications may also be submitted via: <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdf/medal-and-service-records/medal-applications/>

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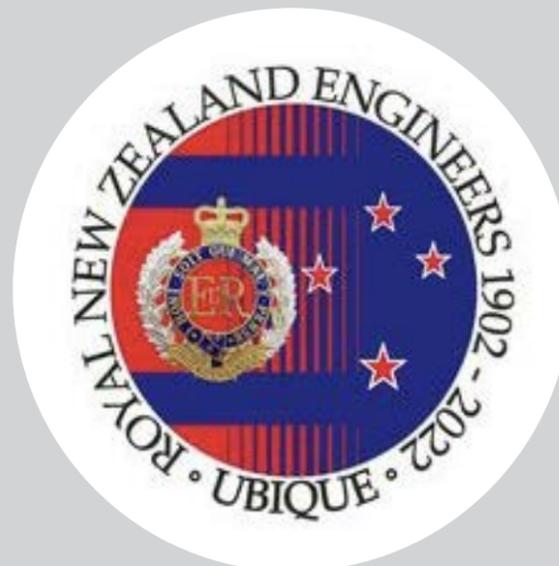
- Major General John Boswell
Chief of Army

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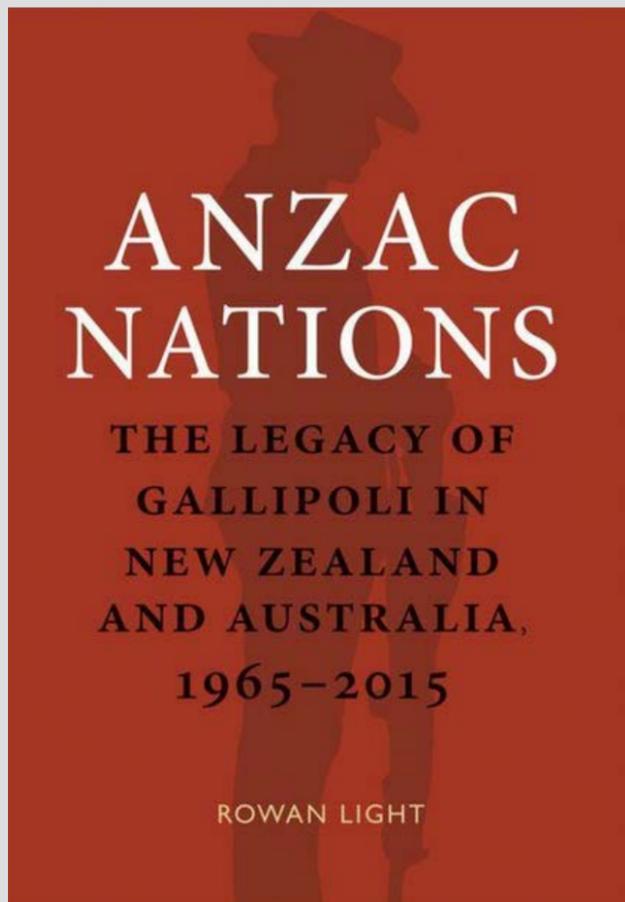
14-16 October

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For more information email: RNZEreunion@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEWS



Anzac Nations The legacy of Gallipoli in New Zealand and Australia 1965-2015

By Rowan Light

Published by Otago University Press

Anzac Nations is one of those books that provides the reader with exactly what it says it will on the cover – the way Gallipoli's legacy has evolved and changed in Australia and New Zealand between 1965 and 2015.

The book is an academic text and some of the themes explored are quite complex and nuanced. The story is told in what can initially seem to be quite imposing academic language, but once the reader gets used to it, this is a very readable and interesting account.

In 1965, Anzac commemorations were still very much the domain of WW1 veterans, they were an event for veterans, not for the general public. As the ranks of the WW1 veterans started to thin out, serious questions were asked about the viability of the commemoration. In 1965 there was also growing discontent within New Zealand society about the Vietnam War. Anzac Day became a focus for protest and

there were regular ideological and physical clashes between veterans and protesters on both sides of the Tasman.

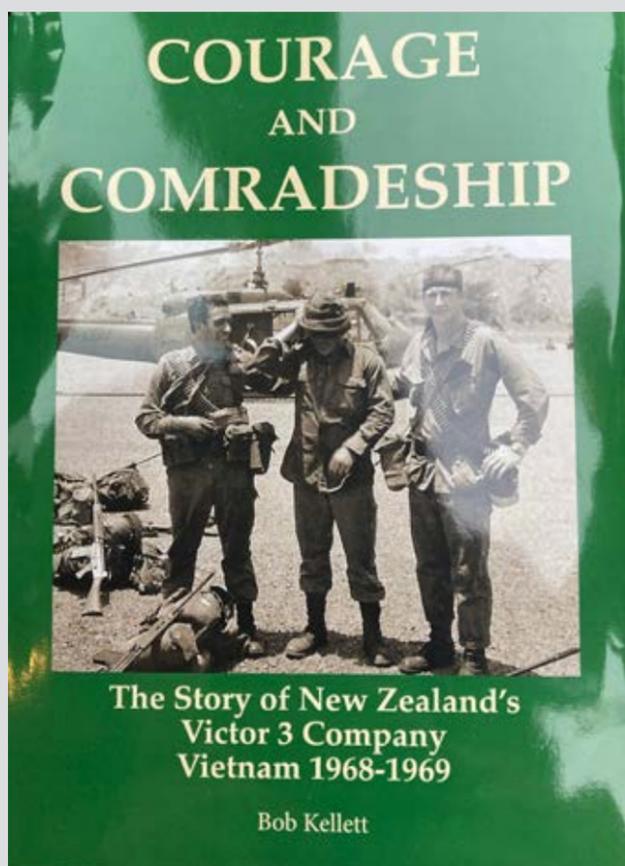
Throughout the book, as the title states, events in Australia and New Zealand are compared and contrasted. Rather than just an outline of what was happening in New Zealand and why, we see the similarities and the differences highlighting how the ANZAC partners have taken differing approaches to what Anzac and Gallipoli mean against a much wider evolving tapestry of national identity.

Over the years, politicians on both sides of the Tasman have made adept use of Gallipoli and Anzac Day to build and reinforce national identity myths. Light illustrates clearly and quite compellingly how successive New Zealand governments were successful in utilising Anzac Day as a reinforcement of national pride and unity. Anzac Day brought the nation together, Waitangi Day drove it apart, ergo, smart politicians like Helen Clark put a much bigger emphasis on one than the other.

Anzac Nations is very much focused on the way the meaning of Anzac Day has evolved in national mythology and I was disappointed not to find any reference to, or invocation of a veteran's perspective. This veteran focus forms a central theme of Australian Afghanistan veteran, James Brown's book *"Anzac's Long Shadow"* which examines the way Anzac Day in Australia has evolved into a citizen focused event which has become increasingly irrelevant to veterans. This perspective definitely warrants exploration in the New Zealand context.

There are a number of published works in Australia examining the "Gallipoli Legacy", from different perspectives. A similar discussion through a Kiwi lens is long overdue and *Anzac Nations* is a welcome publication in respect of beginning the korero.

Reviewed by Jeremy Seed



Courage and Comradeship The Story of New Zealand's Victor 3 Company Vietnam 1968-1969

Written and published by LTCOL (rtd) Bob Kellett

Courage and Comradeship comes hard on the heels of two recent publications by LTCOL (rtd) Tony Howell (Jungle Green Shadows and Vietnam Anzacs) about Kiwi infantry in Vietnam. Like Howell's publications, Courage and Comradeship is a welcome addition to this previously sparsely covered period of NZ military history.

Bob Kellett was a platoon commander in V3 and his book tells the story of V3, literally from start to finish. The raising, training and employment, then eventual disbandment of the company is covered in detail. The early chapters provide a high level strategic overview of post WWII conflict in Vietnam and how it eventually morphed into what we know as the Vietnam War and how New Zealand became involved.

Each chapter is dedicated to a specific operation undertaken by V3. The author has a clear, concise style in which events are outlined simply and in a straightforward,

easy to follow but very readable way. The chapters are broken into smaller blocks which flow well but break up the overall text into easily digested bite sized chunks. This format, combined with the writing style make for a quick but informative and entertaining read.

Kellett has also made use throughout the text of personal recollections of specific incidents from other members of V3. These cover everything from light-hearted, off-duty moments to intense experiences during contacts and certainly add a human perspective to the narrative.

Something that quickly becomes obvious is the professionalism and skill levels of V3. They were highly trained and clearly skilled at close country combat operations. High levels of proficiency at tracking, movement, daily routine and ambushing all played a significant part in their success...and you can't help but be in awe of the huge number of claymores they had to carry, and clearly used to significant effect.

In addition to filling a valuable gap in our military history by detailing the operations of V3, this book will no doubt become a taonga to the whānau of any

V3 veteran. Whether Grandad, Dad, Uncle or other family member told you a lot about what he did, or never mentioned a thing about Vietnam, this book will take the reader into his world. The book explains what he did, how he did it and provides an insight into why he may have chosen to consign Vietnam to his past and never talked about it.

Courage and Comradeship is thoroughly recommended. Anyone with an interest in post WWII New Zealand Army operations, close country operations, or more specifically, exactly what V3 did in Vietnam will find plenty here. Bob Kellett has done a superb job telling the unit stories and created a worthy record of their service for future generations.

Reviewed by Jeremy Seed



MILITARY MUSCLE BATTLES IT OUT FOR BODYBUILDING TROPHY

By Wing Commander Stu Pearce

Athletes from the Defence Force, NZ Police, Fire and Emergency, St John and Corrections, competed in the Armed Forces and Emergency Services Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships late last year.

Army, led by Linton-based Sapper Ayden Foster won the overall Te Kiwi Maia Trophy for highest scoring team. Ayden dominated in Men's Bodybuilding and was awarded his ICN Pro Card. Fellow Linton-based Corporal Jimmy Green won Overall Classic Physique, while Army veteran Lisa Crosland-Marshall taking out first place for Women's Transformation and Sergeant Kim McComish and Corporal Ashley French winning first place in Ms Fitness Model 40+ and first place in Ms Figure Open respectively.

The competition was hosted by ICN NZ, part of a global, all-natural bodybuilding federation where drug tested athletes compete under World Anti-Doping Agency rules. The competition proved a strong, aesthetic and athletic physique is achievable without using performance enhancing drugs. It also built comradeship across the Services, and self-confidence in our athletes, while promoting the highest levels of operational fitness and health.

The standard of athlete on stage was exceptionally high. Athletes had spent many months in training, managing their diet and nutrition, working towards "Peak Week", the final few days before the competition, where carbohydrate, protein, fat and water intake is closely managed to ensure the leanest possible physique.

It wasn't just the physical transformations that were impressive. Athletes embodied our core values in every way – the commitment to stick to a strict training and diet plan, comradeship in supporting fellow athletes, the integrity to compete fairly, and the courage to take to the stage and showcase months of hard work and dedication.

Woodbourne's Corporal Jenny Creene won Overall Ms Figure, alongside Flight Lieutenant Mark Mieremet who won Overall Men's Fitness. Ohakea's Leading Aircraftman Kayla Holely won the Overall Sports Model title along with fellow Ohakea athlete Flight Lieutenant Shirley Barakuta who won her class in Ms Fitness First Timer and then went on to win Overall Ms Fitness Model. Leading Aircraftman Aubin Moore added to the Ohakea women's medal tally winning Gold in Novice Sports Model and a Bronze in Figure.

Leading Aircraftman Ezra Te Awa Awe took out a third place medal in Classic Physique against fierce competition from Army's more experienced athletes – an impressive result for a first timer. Hokowhitu's Flying Officer Laura Small showed incredible potential and poise on stage, winning a silver medal in First Timer Sports model. Nicole Booth won gold in Ms Bikini First Timer for Navy. Kane Bint, representing St John, won gold in Men's Fitness Novice.

Meanwhile the fight was on in the Masters 40+ class with Ohakea's Wing Commander Stu Pearce narrowly beating Woodbourne's Lawrence Turner to first place. In the Masters 50+ class Kim Reid (Police) took out the gold with Fire & Emergency's Hori Mana winning second place and Ohakea's Mike McDermott winning bronze.

The competition also included a transformation class. In transformation, athletes use training as a way of overcoming health or wellness challenges. Some athletes trained to lose weight, others to tackle underlying health issues such as diabetes, recovery from cancer or PTSD. If there was a people's choice award it would have undoubtedly gone to Linton-based former infantryman Harry Hill who lost in excess of 30kgs to compete in transformation. Harry's passion, grit and bravery to take to the stage earned him a standing ovation from the judges, officials and audience.

The story behind the medal ribbons.

The ribbon attached to medals awarded NZ Armed Forces & Emergency Services ICN Bodybuilding & Fitness athletes incorporated a kowhaiwhai pattern taken from our whareniui at the Air Force's Tūrangawaewae. It depicts the mangopare or hammerhead shark, represents the struggle to achieve that which is difficult and is used as motivation to encourage perseverance.

Are you up for the challenge?

If you are inspired by our athletes and would like to compete in the AFES Bodybuilding & Fitness Champs 2022, please email bbcomp@nzdf.mil.nz





*Lance Corporal Sam Powell during the Anzac dawn ceremony in Gallipoli.
Photo: Corporal Sean Spivey*