

ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 547
OCTOBER 2023



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Working with our Pacific partners

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Why Competition Matters

“In the crucible of competition, soldiers are forged into warriors.”

General Stanley McChrystal, U.S Army

Competition has always played a pivotal role in forging battle-hardened forces. The New Zealand Army, with its unrelenting pursuit of excellence, is no exception. For our soldiers, competition isn't just about winning medals; it's about honing warfighting attributes and developing mental resilience. It's not just about physical prowess; it's a mental battlefield where soldiers learn to thrive under pressure. Whether it's in the fierce rivalry of a sporting event or the precision of a trade competition, soldiers are constantly challenged to think on their feet, adapt to unforeseen circumstances, and persevere through adversity. This mental resilience becomes their lifeline in the field, where every moment counts towards success.

The Land Component has been engaged in fierce competition in 2023. Notwithstanding the regular camp sports run by our physical trainers, or the regional and inter-service sporting competitions, we also have annual fixtures such as Lone Pine (1 RNZIR v 2/1 RNZIR), Cordite Cup (QAMR v 16 Fd Regt), RNZALR Sports/Trade Week, and RNZE Sports Week that bring large groups of soldiers together to battle for Corps, Unit, and individual supremacy. 1 RNZIR have pitted their soldiering skills against Australian and Fijians forces while 1 (NZ) Bde have a combined section currently competing in CAMBRIAN Patrol. To further emphasize the importance of competition, 'Right of Line' activities within units are some of the most vigorously contested activities competed for within Army.

Sports and trade competitions hold great significance within the Army, offering numerous benefits for our soldiers. These competitions are valuable for

fostering camaraderie, teamwork, and mental focus. Engaging in sports competitions helps soldiers maintain peak physical fitness, a crucial aspect in the field. The competitive environment encourages a culture of constant improvement, motivating soldiers to push their limits and strive for excellence. These opportunities allow our soldiers to learn, grow, and excel, regardless of the scale or nature of the competition.

Competition can be considered one of the cornerstones of our success. It enhances our combat skills, fosters mental resilience, and strengthens esprit de corps. General James Mattis U.S Marine Corps shared that 'Competing against one's peers is where true growth and excellence emerge'. To reinforce this statement from General Mattis, the NZ Army shooting competition not only selects the premier shooter for NZ Army, a second order effect is the enhancement of individual and unit readiness when the coveted trophies are competed for.



While competitions (sports or trade) can be considered a burden to an already burdened force, I would seriously question what do we miss out on when we don't do it?

Land Component Sergeant Major WO1 Ray Kareko

NZ INVICTUS GAMES TEAM UPLIFTED BY COMPETITION IN DÜSSELDORF

The New Zealand Invictus Games team says the journey to compete against other military veterans has been life-changing for some as they “smashed it” at this year’s tournament in Germany.

The 2023 Games, held in Düsseldorf, ended after eight days of competition, and the closing ceremony was attended by Games' patrons, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

The Games are the only international adaptive sporting event for wounded, injured and ill active duty and veteran service members – using the power of sport to inspire recovery and support rehabilitation.

This year's Games attracted around 550 competitors from more than 20 nations competing in 10 sporting disciplines.

The 21-member New Zealand team, swinging poi at the closing ceremony, was led by flag-bearer, Able Communication Warfare Specialist (AWCS) Paulette Doctor, a double breast cancer survivor, who won the last of New Zealand's five medals – a bronze in table tennis.

“Invictus means so very much to me, it's helped me out of dark times and continues to uplift me when I'm low,” AWCS Doctor said.

“It fills my cup more than I think I deserve and for that I am so grateful and honoured.”

Team manager, Commander Julie Fitzell, said the Games had been life-changing for many.

“I have witnessed confidence, joy and strength grow within the team,” she said.

“What shone through at the Games and made our Kiwi team so special was our united strength – bonds created that will live well past the Games. They had each other's backs and trusted each would catch the other if they stumbled.

“I'm immensely proud of their ability to push through the challenges they each have. They turned up and just smashed it, with many achieving personal bests beyond what they first thought capable.”

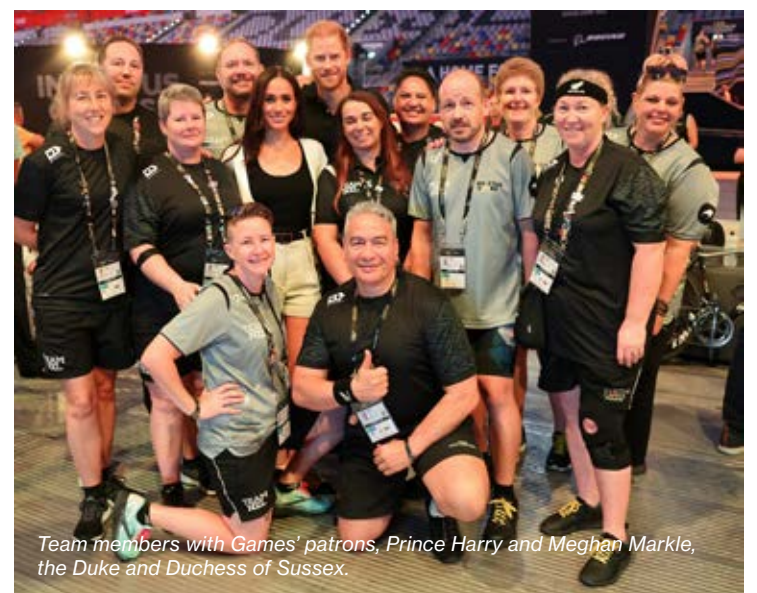
Head of Mission, Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell, said the Games were about providing people with opportunity.

He said the New Zealand team members had set their own objectives and goals, and they are all pursuing them in their own way.

“It doesn't matter if it's just making it around the track or winning a gold, it's about doing what they can for themselves to the best of their ability and to enjoy the opportunity.”

More than 140,000 people attended the events, which were livestreamed and broadcast world wide.

In his games-closing speech, Prince Harry said they had all witnessed the true impact sport



Team members with Games' patrons, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

had on competitors' recovery and their post-traumatic growth.

“You have opened people's hearts through your vulnerability, resilience and through your sheer abilities. You have shown us that joy can emerge from struggle. And for that, we are eternally grateful.”

German Federal President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier said the competitors' strength to keep going every single day had brought them together in Düsseldorf.

“For eight days you have been together with people who understand precisely where you're coming from when you tell your story. And that is exactly the reason for these Games.”

The next Invictus Games will be held in Canada in 2025.

New Zealand's medals at the 2023 Invictus Games:

- **Gold:** 100m sprint – Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) Leading Physical Training Instructor Jack Church
- **Silver:** discus and indoor rowing – Royal New Zealand Air Force Flight Sergeant Stacey Adam and in powerlifting – NZ Army Staff Sergeant Melissa Hansen
- **Bronze:** table tennis – RNZN Able Communication Warfare Specialist Paulette Doctor

Learn more about the 2023 Invictus Games team's stories here: www.nzdf.mil.nz/invictus-games-2023

Cover: 2LT Georgina Wallace, 16 Field Regiment, in a jungle patrol during Exercise Cartwheel.

Photo: Marc Weakly

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A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



As a very general observation, and there are always exceptions, but in an attempt to avoid being seen as 'blowing our own trumpet' New Zealanders tend to be modest about their accomplishments and masters of the understatement. Some deliberately look to 'hide at the back' when accolades are being offered whilst others are quietly happy to move on, with little or no fuss, to the next issue or challenge as soon as either success is achieved or circumstances allow.

There's a lot to like about that as a characteristic. It helps us stay grounded, keep a degree of perspective about our achievements, and it reminds us as an Army, as we relentlessly pursue professional excellence, there is always more to do.

Equally though, even in an environment where we must constantly push ourselves to aim higher and higher, always seeking a better standard, it is easy to forget how far we have come and what we have achieved. That we have risen above what have been some pretty challenging times and that we are, well and truly, back in the game.

And if we pause and reflect on the environment across Army right now, there is a lot to celebrate and it is important that we do. It's important because our people are really stepping up and delivering on regeneration milestones, enhanced engagements with our partners and allies, and operational outcomes of the highest standard regionally and around the world.

It's also important because celebrating success is key to building self-confidence and self-belief. It allows us to better appreciate how far we have come, and it provides a benchmark from which to push 'onwards and upwards.' Equally, it supports Army's resiliency as, when times are tough, looking back and celebrating success reminds us what good looks like and gives us confidence that setbacks we face are only temporary.

In the August edition of *Army News*, I referred to the superb work being done in places like TRADOC and 1 Brigade, both delivering on today's requirements and preparing the force for tomorrow. I spoke of the progress being made by HQ staff with respect to conditions of service, capability enhancement, doctrine and infrastructure. I also referenced several key activities such as Exercise Talisman Sabre and the great outcomes our people are currently achieving across a number of operational deployments, including the ongoing training of Ukrainian soldiers.

All of these are worthy of recognition and the outcomes being achieved are significant. As are those from the recently completed regional deployments by 16 Field Regiment to Fiji and the Officer Cadets to Papua New Guinea. The contributions our people made to the NZDF rugby team at the recent Defence Rugby World Cup in France, the successful completion last week by some 20+ SNCO on the Warrant Officer's Course, and the outstanding performance of a very special bunch of Kiwis in September at the Invictus Games in Germany. These are activities that instantly come to mind – there are many more.

But what is really important, what I'm asking you all to do, is to just pause for a moment. Reflect on the breadth, level and diverse nature of what we've either got going on in Army right now or are about to commence. Acknowledge the quality of what you're doing and how, as both individuals and as a collective, you're stepping up, owning your space, and meeting what's required of you. From where I'm sitting, and whilst we still have a number of challenges to overcome and plenty of work to do, I'm seeing good people, doing good things, and achieving great outcomes.

As you reflect on this, know that what you are doing matters, it is making a difference to the preparedness of our Army, and there is real purpose behind your actions.

So, just for a moment, acknowledge your accomplishments for what they are and accept with pride the accolades being afforded. There is absolutely no denying that they are impressive, and without question, worth celebrating.

Doing great work team, keep going.

Major General John Boswell
Chief of Army



Bravery medal for WO2 Mike Marvin

A Linton-based soldier who tackled a junior colleague out of the way of a grenade blast following a mishrow was awarded the New Zealand Bravery Medal by the Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro last month.

Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Mike Marvin was the safety supervisor during a grenade throwing practice at the New Zealand Defence Force Raumai Range in June 2020.

During the practice, to re-qualify soldiers on using hand grenades, the younger soldier removed the pin and took a throwing stance but misthrew the grenade, which missed the natural safety rise and landed dangerously close.

Realising immediately what had happened, WO2 Marvin tackled the soldier backwards into a small depression four metres from the grenade, using his body to shield them from the blast.

He said his training kicked in immediately.

"Safety instructors are trained what to do when there is a mishrow. We often practise a dropped grenade scenario, although the real thing had never happened to me before."

The grenade exploded but WO2 Marvin didn't realise he had been injured until about 15 minutes later.

"At the time we were all concentrating on the soldier I took down as they were in a lot of pain because I landed on them.

"Someone asked me if I was OK and I lifted up my top and saw I was bleeding."

He received fragmentation blast injuries. Eight steel balls from the grenade are still in his lower body as they are too deep to be removed.

However, he said he wasn't in much pain and has had no after-effects.

The former British Army soldier who has been in the New Zealand Army for 15 years and is the Master Driver for 1 (NZ) Brigade, said he was grateful for the safety training he has received.

"I suppose there was a bit of luck in it too, but training certainly pays off."

No blame could be attributed to the soldier, he said.

"It was just a one-in-a-million incident – it just went wrong."

Comms system underway for Bushmasters

Defence has issued a Request for Proposal for services related to the design, build and installation of communications and digital systems, which will connect the new Bushmaster vehicle fleet for years to come.

"The new digital and communications systems will ensure New Zealand Army personnel can work anytime and anywhere, on domestic exercises as well as on multinational deployments with international partners," said Huntley Wright, Assistant Secretary Capability Delivery, Ministry of Defence.

"The systems will help to keep New Zealand Army personnel safe, with the latest technologies providing real-time digital maps, secure radios and instant messaging. They will advance a soldier's



situational awareness, support their decision making, enable information collection, and improve secure communication between people and other vehicles."

The Request for Proposal is asking for a Prime System Integrator who can deliver and support the communications and digital systems, from design through to installation, troop training, and equipment disposal. Some systems are being purchased through a separate contract, and will be integrated as part of this process.

There are 43 Australian-made armoured vehicles in the fleet, which come in five different variants including protected ambulances, troop transport, and mobile communications and command hubs.

A phased approach is being taken to kit out the fleet by 2026. Some vehicles have had radios installed, which are in use at Waiouru Military Camp for driver and commander training.

RETURN TO MALAYSIA 2023

By Bill Russell

Twenty-six veterans, wives and friends departed for a nostalgic trip back to Malaya (now Malaysia) in August to revisit places that many years earlier were the centre of their lives.

Leaving New Zealand for Singapore was much the same that those post the 1961 era did when the RNZAF purchased TEAL's DC-6s and so commenced the long flight of some 10 hours (longer in those days).

As always, arriving in Singapore, one is hit with a wall of humidity and the perspiring process starts immediately, especially as NZ has just experienced a cold and wet winter.

It had been hoped to visit the Tengah air force base and Sembawang navy base, but as the day following our arrival was a Saturday, the bases were closed or in the case of Tengah, the delivery of some new jet fighters resulted in stricter security.

A visit to Dieppe Barracks was also not an option as the blocks that NZ had been domiciled in, had been demolished. Through the good services of the DA in Singapore we were able to have a windscreen tour of Nee Soon army base, which is where many of us started and finished our journey in Asia back in the 1960s era.

From Singapore to Kuching in Sarawak Malaysia was a shortish two hour flight where we acquainted ourselves with Heroes Park Cemetery, the venue for our combined service with the South Australian and Northern Territory Branch of the MVA. It was to be held the next day.

Heroes Park Cemetery is a small cemetery with 21 graves and three mausoleums. All the graves have one thing in common – KIA (Killed in action). It's a sobering place.

Affixed to the walls of the cemetery in recent years, have been commemoration plaques

and it's here that the only known acknowledgement to NZ's contribution to the Emergency and the Konfrontasi campaigns exist. Other plaques are of various Australian units, the RAF has one and the SAS have one attached to the wall.

Monday August 28 saw us up bright and early and in position by 8am for what was to be one of the highlights of the trip. Guest speaker was H. E. Pam Dunn the NZ High Commissioner to Malaysia. She received the "colours" from the NZ flag party and she addressed the meeting.

Other speakers were Kim Hoskin, one time Colonel of the NZ Intelligence Corp, an officer of the Border Scouts and a Vietnam veteran. The President of the Sarawak Tourist Federation (STF) (Heritage division) also spoke.

Many local veterans attended and it's estimated some 300 people from all over Sarawak attended.

From Sarawak it was on to Kuala Lumpur for perhaps the biggest parade we would ever be associated with in our lifetime.

Again, it was an early start as we had to be in position by 6am when the roads were closed.

The Merdeka Parade is a cacophony of sound and movement. Loud speakers at full volume, all on a different subject and all in Bahasa Malaya constantly describing what is going on.

It was hurry up and wait for four hours as we were due to parade at 10am. Under the newly reappointed RSM Ray Marshall, a veteran of RTM 17 and RTM 19 tours we took off.

I am not sure whether it was 120 paces or 140 paces per minute, it just seemed fast, and I was playing catch up. For veteran Evan Black who did the march in his electric wheel chair it was just a matter of more throttle.

As we neared the saluting base where the King and Queen of Malaysia were taking the salute, the 'colour party' dipped their flags and the Battalion Commander of the day Gerald Tuarau gave a salute on behalf of us all while we managed a somewhat "eyes right".

The noise and the incessant blaring of the speakers, not to mention the cheering, was simply awesome.

The circuit is approximately 3km, but we had special arrangement and joined the parade 100 metres before the saluting base and then

moved out some 100 metres after. Considering we were all over 80 years of age, we did ok.

From Kuala Lumpur it was on to Malacca to revisit the camp that most of us has spent some time in during our early years. It's all changed, it has doubled in size, nay its trebled, and now holds a division whereas in our day it held the 28th Commonwealth brigade.

Wellington lines has not changed much, possibly needs repainting, not many newer buildings have been built in what were our lines. We did a windscreen tour of the lines, but I suspect most people wanted to get down out of the bus, and walk around, I certainly did, but we were not given the chance.

Malacca has certainly changed and for the better. It's now quite a slick city, with numerous high-rise buildings. Our hotel had 22 floors, it was difficult to get acquainted with the places we knew, we just did not find them. The Valiant hotel, the Blue Duck Inn, The Happy Land, The Palace etc... never found them!

Veterans will remember the Malacca river. It was not the cleanest river around and still is not, but it has tour boats travelling up and down it every 30 minutes or

so and the boats are full! The river banks are built up and it has had a marvellous restoration job.

From Malacca it was another trip back to KL and then on to Maran over on the east coast very close to the City of Kuantan. It was here that Kampong NZ was opened by the then-High Commissioner Sir Charles Bennett at Sungei Kertam close to Kuantan.

Kampong NZ was made possible by a grant from the NZ Colombo Plan funds back in 1961 and the then-Deputy Prime Minister Jack Marshall presented a cheque for \$551,000 to fund the building of it.

July 28 2026 will see the Sarawak Tourist and Heritage Federation plan a huge celebration to mark the 60 year anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement with Indonesia. Perhaps those who served during Konfrontasi should start planning now and follow this up with a visit to Kampong NZ.



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Major Catherine Dymock at commemorations in Beirut, marking 75 years of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation.

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN TAKE THE LEAD IN OLDEST UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION

By Alex Mason

Working alongside personnel from around the world as part of the United Nations' longest-running peacekeeping mission, has been a rewarding challenge for two New Zealand women.

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) is now in its 75th year. It operates in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Israel to help preserve peace between the Middle Eastern neighbours.

Palmerston North local Captain Zarra Houppapa, and Dunedin-born Major Catherine Dymock, are among the latest in a long line of Military Observers sent to UNTSO by New Zealand since the early 1950s. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) deploys personnel to patrol and monitor ceasefires and military activity in Israel's Golan Heights, Lebanon and Syria.

Born in Wellington, 28-year-old Captain Houppapa joined the New Zealand Army aged 19.

"I wanted to travel. Travelling was a big thing for me, to get out and see the world, and meet new people," she said.

Life in the Army has taken her as far afield as Iraq and now the Israeli city of Tiberias, where she leads a team of UN Military Observers from the likes of Norway, Canada, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden and India.

Alongside two Australian Defence Force personnel, Captain Houppapa is part of the first all-female UNTSO leadership team in the Tiberias outstation.

She said having females in charge had been a change for some observers from different cultural backgrounds, but it had been a great experience.

"And because the three of us happen to be from Australia and New Zealand, we've had that Anzac camaraderie as well."

Summer temperatures have made for sweltering conditions as observers carry out patrols, or monitor activity from posts along the Area of Separation between Israel and Syria.

Their job is to ensure limitations on equipment and military personnel are adhered to, and report on any violations of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement.

The blend of nations in Captain Houppapa's team helped maintain neutrality and eliminate bias; in order to report on a violation, it must be seen by two UN Military Observers from different nations.

Working with people from other countries brought some difficulties, but also meant Captain Houppapa now had friends from all over the world.

The challenges and rewards of a multinational environment is a sentiment echoed by Major Dymock, who recently completed her deployment as Senior National Officer leading the NZDF contingent.

The former Dunstan High School student said she found immense enjoyment working with people from other backgrounds, while based in Lebanon.

"Everyone has their own culture, language, history and work ethic and it was wonderfully challenging balancing all those aspects.

"This was also the most rewarding as well, as we came together for the good of the mission and the mandate, and the diversity of our team was also its strength."

For Major Dymock, it was an honour to represent New Zealand at 75th anniversary ceremonies held at UNTSO headquarters in Jerusalem and in Beirut, acknowledging the service of previous military observers and commemorating fallen peacekeepers.

She said while the NZDF only deployed up to eight personnel at a time, their robust training, skills and experiences saw them add a lot of value to the peacekeeping efforts.

"The friendly nature of the Kiwis, and our flexibility and strong work ethic means that we can have a positive impact on the mission and the people in the region.

"Being able to live in the community, go out on patrol and talk to locals, either unofficially in coffee shops or formally during Key Leader Engagements, was very rewarding."

As unarmed observers they're not encumbered by weapons, but Captain Houppapa said it's still been "stinking hot" with their uniforms and body armour on. Then come winter, the mountainous Golan Heights will be blanketed in snow.

"You get both extremes in the whole year, but it's interesting. You get to see a lot of the country; Israel, the Golan Heights and looking across to Syria."

Captain Houppapa had learnt a lot about the history of the area, and was aware of not saying anything that might offend someone or cause tensions.

"Generally people are pretty receptive towards the UN, so personally I haven't felt any kind of danger or anything like that. But I'm also not naïve to the fact it could change."

She had found her time with UNTSO an eye-opening experience. "It's experiences like this where you realise how lucky we are to be Kiwis," she said.

An unexpected delight was the cats which made themselves at home amongst the observers.

"There are cats everywhere in the country but we have outpost cats, which is great because they hunt down all the creepy crawlies that we don't like. We get snakes and spiders and things up in the Golan," said Captain Houppapa.

She said they receive tick treatments and are spoilt by the observers, who buy cat food in case the day's catch doesn't sate their appetites.

Her outpost is currently home to two felines, Snowy and 15-year-old Junior.

"It's a running joke that Junior's the longest-serving UN Military Observer in the mission."



United Nations Military Observer, Captain Zarra Houppapa with a former head of UNTSO's Tiberias headquarters.



United Nations Military Observer, Captain Zarra Houppapa (centre) with her fellow members of the first all-female UNTSO leadership team in the Tiberias outstation, Captain Liz Daly and Captain Anita Price from the Australian Army.



Junior, one of two resident felines at a UN Military Observer outpost in Israel.



Carpenter and counsellor take the wheel in Antarctica with NZ Army Reserve Force

Seeing dozens of orca whales in their pods, attempting cross country skiing and gazing out across the snow to Mount Erebus are among the highlights of a deployment to Antarctica for two Christchurch men.

Private Joel Agnew, a registered counsellor, decided to join the New Zealand Army Reserve Force in 2018. He enlisted with 3rd Active Reserves Company, attached to 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion – the logistics battalion based at Burnham Military Camp.

“I was looking for adventure while also gaining a specialist trade through military driver instruction,” Private Agnew said.

That adventure came in the form of Operation Antarctica, one of the New Zealand Defence Force’s (NZDF) largest deployments and one of its most enduring missions. The NZDF has been providing support to Antarctica programmes since 1955.

Among those deployed alongside Private Agnew earlier this year was fellow 3rd Active Reserves Company combat driver, Sergeant Justin Dark.

Born in Invercargill, Sergeant Dark joined the Reserve Force in 1998, attracted by their offer to pay for his heavy vehicle licence. Last summer, the carpenter went on his first overseas deployment – to the harshest continent on Earth.

The Covid-19 pandemic had scuppered his hopes of going to Antarctica in 2020, so when he received the call-up in January 2023 he leapt at the chance, despite only having a week to prepare.

“My boss at Armitage Williams Construction was great about the sudden change of plans as they knew it was something I was really keen on doing.”

Private Agnew said being trained to drive in tough and unpredictable conditions, prepared combat drivers well for any sudden changes on Antarctica’s unsealed roads.

The men were part of a platoon of around 20 soldiers and one officer tasked with transporting stores from three cargo vessels that docked in McMurdo Sound. That included food, building materials, hygiene products and research items for scientists based in the Ross Dependency region.

The NZDF works closely with its partners at Antarctica NZ, providing Defence capabilities and subject matter experts, and supporting vital scientific and environmental programmes.

For Sergeant Dark and Private Agnew, this meant being part of a 24/7 operation, working 12-hour shifts from 6pm to 6am until the vessel berthed at that time was empty.

“There is no darkness during the summer months and the sun just circles the sky during the whole shift, so it’s hard to know what time it is without looking at your watch,” Private Agnew said.

“They called us night rats because we technically had lunch at midnight.”

He said the endless sunshine kept temperatures surprisingly warm for most of the deployment, with highs of around 10 degrees Celsius.

But at times the wind chill factor dropped to around minus 30 degrees Celsius, with Sergeant Dark saying it could get painfully cold out in the elements.

Days off provided opportunities for hiking, walking and skiing, lectures and visits to the library, or events with societies, clubs and special interest groups.

“I honestly appreciated every opportunity to explore, read up on previous great explorers at the

library, or go learn some stuff and talk to people in the science block,” Private Agnew said.

In his down time, Sergeant Dark also enjoyed walking in the snowy terrain with colleagues, often making the one hour journey from McMurdo Station to Scott Base, and sometimes acquiring icicles on his eyelashes.

Private Agnew said Antarctica was by far the most beautiful place he’d ever been.

“Just being there does something to your spirit. Perhaps this is to do with the environmental rawness of it all and relative geographic isolation, or just the untampered beauty.

“I also enjoyed being able to experience the trip with some great people from near and far.”

He said the wildlife was “unreal”, a sentiment echoed by Sergeant Dark who saw orcas, seals and penguins.

“They’re quite amazing creatures. I didn’t get to see the Emperors up close, but the Adélie penguins were changing their feathers. They’d come up and be around you, you just had to make sure you avoided them, give them the space to do their thing.”

There was a good sense of camaraderie on the ice, with Sergeant Dark saying everybody pitched in together.

“You do have to make sure you have a great attitude to be there because you’re eating, sleeping and working with the same people in close proximity.”

Private Agnew said there’s a phrase ‘What happens in Antarctica, doesn’t stay in Antarctica’, meaning changes to the climate there can forecast what’s likely to follow globally.

“For the NZDF to be connected to what happens on the ice, through our mission to support the important research, ultimately contributes to furthering a better understanding of our world and, therefore, empowers us to make responsible decisions about the environment.”

NZDF support to Antarctica programmes includes air transport by RNZAF Hercules and Boeing aircraft, contributing to the New Zealand Antarctic Programme, and deploying personnel for the New Zealand/United States Joint Logistics Pool.

Personnel fill a variety of roles both on and off the ice – such as Scott Base support staff, communications personnel to connect up with research teams in the field, cargo handlers, plant operators, aviation refuellers, air movements specialists and more.

BASEL TATTOO 2023

By Private Sylvia Vail

Each summer in Basel, the world's second-largest tattoo attracts people of all ages to Switzerland to enjoy a broad array of musicians and dancers from all over the world.



Elite military bands make up the majority of the Basel Tattoo cast, ranging from traditional Pipes and Drums to our own innovative New Zealand Army Band. Along the bank of the picturesque Rhine River sits the historical Kasern Basel, where the show is held annually. This year, the lineup featured around 200 pipers and drummers who formed the 'Massed Pipes', as well as performers from New Zealand, Oman, Europe, Canada, Mexico and Ukraine.

Upon landing in Switzerland, the band was launched into scorching days of lengthy rehearsals, during which each act fine-tuned their performances and incorporated lighting and pyrotechnics. The NZAB has attended the Basel Tattoo four times since 2007, and there is synergy between the groups and the event organisers were eager to utilise the unit's versatile range of musicians throughout the Tattoo. The show kicked off with the NZAB fanfare party accompanying the Swiss national anthem from high above the arena. Lance Corporal (ResF) Bryony Williams' soaring soprano vocals were then featured in the Scottish act in the middle of the

show. Her rendition of 'Skye Boat Song' was an evocative adaptation of the Scottish Gaelic melody.

The band's own display was designed and led by Drum Major Staff Sergeant Kevin Hickman. SSGT Hickman imparted his valuable expertise into this year's performance, utilising the experience acquired from producing our dynamic display at the 2022 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. As the gates opened, the sound of drums echoed across the arena to the legendary opening from Queen's 'We Will Rock You'. CPL Campbell McKellar electrified the crowd with Brian May's iconic guitar solo. The act showcased classical pieces such as 'Toreador Song' in which the sousaphone players transform into raging bulls, charging at the narrowly escaping Drum Major who played the role of the matador. Contemporary sing-alongs transformed the audience into a chorus, singing along to crowd favourites such as 'Thriller' and 'Hey Jude'. Additionally, as traditional for the band's overseas displays, the band showcased Aotearoa's pride, strength and unity through a powerful Haka.

Our very own ResF SSGT Tristan Mitchell was appointed the honour of Command Drum Major. SSGT Mitchell's role was to lead the massed bands; a contingent comprised of all the attending nations to form the finale display. During the finale, the NZAB performed two duets which were accompanied by the entire cast. CPL Raynor Martin and Private Kyle Lawson were showcased on flugel in a beautiful rendition of Evening Hymn, arranged by the Tattoo's Musical Director, Christoph Walter. LCPL Joel Williams and PTE Shannelee Etches also starred in a nostalgic duet of Boyzone's 1990s hit, 'No Matter What'.

Special events were held during the weekends to extend the Tattoo experience to the wider community. One event saw the Tattoo cast joining local bands for a spectacular street parade through downtown Basel, giving the general public a sample of the Tattoo lineup amongst the fifty four parade groups. The following weekend included 'Children's Day', transforming the Tattoo arena into a large playground for the children to try instruments, meet

the cast, and ask questions. The NZAB's 'New Orleans' band was in attendance, playing a selection from their vibrant and rhythmic 'second-line' repertoire.

Between the experienced organisers and the performers' professionalism, the shows ran like clockwork.

Many performers would visit the cast bar post-show, forming lasting friendships between musicians and dancers from all over the world. Various smaller ensembles from the NZAB regularly provided entertainment at the cast bar, ranging from PTE Etches' intimate solo acoustic set to the raucous and vivacious dance band. For many in the New Zealand Army Band, this was their first deployment to the Basel Tattoo. It was an incredible experience of music and exploration, from floating down the grand Rhine River to crossing the border to visit a charming French village. As the band began the journey home, eager to reunite with loved ones, they had yet again proudly left a piece of our Aotearoa culture in Europe.



FIRE COMMAND AND CONTROL JUNIOR COURSE

Realism was the key when 12 students undertook the Fire Command and Control Junior course recently.

The School of Military Engineering Fire Wing course focuses on developing NZ Army emergency responders and RNZAF firefighters in the trade skills required to implement the command and control role when responding to complex emergency Incidents.

The course is aimed at the LCPL/LAC rank bracket as trade progression to CPL. While junior in rank, qualifying on this course will empower these personnel to make time critical decisions that could make the difference between life and death for those in need. All of this without the safety of a SNCO or Officer.

Over six weeks the students were exposed to realistic training environments designed to simulate the diverse and dynamic situations that they will encounter as Officer in Charge of a fire appliance. The first week provided a steep learning curve as they confirmed a comprehensive pre-course package, covered co-ordinated incident management system (CIMS) training, Service and agency legislation, tactics and operational considerations.

The vegetation fire phase was based out of the Waiouru Military Training Area and involved fighting real vegetation fires. Students were required to co-ordinate the response of three recently introduced Volvo Rural Fire appliances to fight fires by day and night. The benefit of responding to vegetation burning in a natural environment is that OIC's are required to react to the dynamic changes in fire behaviour and adjust firefighting tactics while managing crew safety. This is enhanced during night operations where situational awareness is drastically reduced.

The next phase took the course to Wood Training Facility in New Plymouth where they were exposed to Category Four aircraft incidents and were required to co-ordinate the use of an Aviation Rescue Firefighting Vehicle to effect external fire suppression through monitor operations, followed by the deployment of crews to effect internal rescue and fire suppression.

The third phase took the course to Fire and Emergency New Zealand National Training Centre (FENZ NTC) in Rotorua where they were assessed as OIC responding to structure fires and hazardous material incidents. Due to the complexities and scale of response required for these incident types, the training was conducted with the use of the virtual reality (VR) simulation suite designed specifically for FENZ station officer training. The VR suite allowed large scale, complex and dynamic scenarios to be played out over a short duration to replicate fast evolving incidents that ranged from multi-storey apartment complex fires to large chemical spills and electric vehicle fires on a major state highway.

The last phase of course focussed on response to motor vehicle accidents. In order to provide an environment that challenged learners individually and as a collective, car wrecks were heavily damaged to replicate high speed incidents they may encounter on the state highways and roads of NZ. Scenarios ranged from cars crashing into houses, to mass-casualty incidents that required learners to employ the pre-hospital emergency care skills they refreshed with St John early in the course as they conducted triage. All of this while co-ordinating with role players acting as NZ Police, St John and power authority representatives.





75 YEARS OF DEFENCE FIRST AID COMPETITION

By Andrew Bonallack

Can you survive the Defence Force's tricky medic competition?

Transporting casualties, trauma care, CPR, medical evacuation logistics and communication – everything that makes up the expertise of a Defence Force first aider is put to the test in the Waterhouse competition.

The Waterhouse Trophy is a biennial Tri-Service first aid competition, in which teams are confronted with a number of training scenarios designed to challenge both the physical and mental components of military first aid. Fire and Emergency New Zealand submitted the only non-New Zealand Defence Force team, while 2/1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment fielded the only non-health team.

Run by Defence Health Organisation, this year's event – the 75th anniversary of the competition – was hosted at the Police College in Porirua.

Officer in Charge, Lieutenant Aidan Bilbe, said the competition got underway in howling wind and pouring rain.

"The teams really hit their stride and enjoyed the new twist on a competition which first ran 75 years ago." Normally teams of four, this year the teams were reduced to three, creating a resourcing challenge for life-saving duties in each scenario. "And there were plenty more twists to keep those

soldiers who had competed in the past on their toes."

As well as dealing with trauma and organising handovers and evacuation of patients, teams were quizzed on first aid and brain-twisting logic puzzles.

Lieutenant Colonel Kelvin McMillan, Commanding Officer Defence Health Organisation, said within a military context, treatment received in the first 10 minutes can have a significant impact on the survivability of a casualty.

"Their skills as a first aider or first responder put simply, saves lives," he said.

The Waterhouse competition began in the 1940s in Wellington, between 13 field ambulance sub-units. Since the Vietnam War, the competition has included memorial trophies dedicated by the families of the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps and Royal New Zealand Air Force medics who have been killed on military operations.





EXERCISE LULUAI

Jungle training in Papua New Guinea was the focus of Exercise Luluai recently.

Eleven officers, 60 soldiers and 35 Officer Cadets as well as support elements took part in the exercise in Lae, PNG.

The aim of the exercise, said OCS Chief Instructor Major Gwyn MacPherson was to conduct jungle training, carry out command assessments and further develop relationships with PNGDF.

“OCS (NZ) platoons conducted the tactical exercise in the Close Training Area to the North West of Igam Barracks. The platoons conducted advance to contact, clearances, ambushes, harbouring and night routine and withdraw and delay.

“There were two Lead Team (platoon command) assessments per platoon and concurrently Lead Team (section command) assessments were conducted every 24 hours.”

The Army Command School Commandant, RSM and Padre David Nelson were part of the contingent, with Padre Nelson conducting a church service with a local congregation.



WO2 Kelly Carter gets to know the locals.





EX CARTWHEEL 23

By Major Belinda Noonan

The NZ Army deployed 92 personnel to Fiji in September for Exercise Cartwheel 23, an annual bilateral exercise with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and US Army Pacific (USARPAC). The training is designed to build and assess light infantry and combat support warfighting capability in an expeditionary environment.

This year's exercise expanded on the training delivered during Exercise Cartwheel 22, through enhanced NZDF contribution, with the addition of a Mortar Handlers' course and a Heavy Machine Gun course for 3rd Battalion of Fiji Infantry Regiment (3FIR) students, in order to enhance interoperability and interchangeability.

The NZ Army personnel invited to take part in the exercise included an infantry platoon and a sustained fire machine gun (SFMG) team from 1RNZIR, and a mortar battery element from 16 Field Regiment. The NZ Army contribution to Exercise Cartwheel 23 is a key element of our enduring partnership with Fiji, and of our focus on the Pacific and working alongside regional partners.

Senior National Officer, Major Michael Doughty said the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) had been training and working with its partners in the RFMF for many years.

"Exercise Cartwheel was NZ Army's first attempt at interoperability with RFMF and USARPAC. For Ex CARTWHEEL 23 we decided to integrate more

closely with RFMF through living together in the camp and field environment. We're really happy to have another opportunity to work together and continue to build on our interoperability, so that when we're on operations together we understand and operate the same systems and know how each other works. We co-located with the Fijians for almost a month, sharing the same tent lines and food, at the Delta Company camp in Nadi as well as the platoon operating bases in the Nasouri Highlands training area. This has resulted in enhancing our already close relationship with our Fijian whānau and learning more about their culture and how to operate in the tropical jungle environment."

The RFMF Contingent Commander, MAJ Mikaele Masiwini said, "the aim of Exercise Cartwheel 23 was to exchange knowledge and experiences and enhance all nations taking part. The exercise was not just about combat capability but also building on our friendships for years to come. Our relationship with the Kiwis goes back well before this exercise and we have very similar values.

You don't need to invite the Kiwis to join in with our devotion (prayer time) or a meal as they just know to turn up."

MAJ Masiwini also reflected on his deployment to New Zealand as part of the Fijian contingent that supported the response to Cyclone Gabrielle in the Hawkes Bay in March this year. He said it is easy to integrate with NZ Army elements based on our established relationship.

Lieutenant Cody Broad, who was involved in delivering the Mortar Handlers course, said "Ex CARTWHEEL was a great experience, we lived with the Fijians both in camp and in the field and it was great really getting to know them and learning how to live in the bush. It was also great to be back "on the tools" in Fiji as a soldier and being able to compare ourselves against four other nations".

As well as delivering courses, NZDF personnel also participated in a round robin field training component and learnt about jungle warfare alongside personnel from Fiji, the US and Australia. MAJ Doughty said this included jungle survival lessons from UK military

trainers, rappel training led by the US contingent, and jungle lanes live field firing where troops advanced down a prepared route and engaged with a fictional enemy.

MAJ Doughty said the planning for Ex CARTWHEEL 24 has commenced and it is anticipated that the next iteration will further develop the integration and interoperability between the contributing nations.



3/6 BATTALION PERS POLISH SKILLS

Officers and soldiers from 3/6 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, spent three days focusing and honing their close country infantry skills during Exercise El-Alamein recently.

Exercise El-Alamein is the second of three close country three day exercises conducted this year by 3/6 Battalion, in the build up to next year's Reserve Force concentration exercise.

"It's good to get back to basics and focus on the traditional infantry close country skills. Soldiers are learning at an individual and section level so we get those basic skills back to where they were prior to Covid," said Captain Samuel Carswell, second-in-charge, Hauraki Company.

Since the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, close country training has been limited, with restrictions placed on training due to the outbreak. Although the unit has been training at Ardmore and Riverhead, the Exercise El-Alamein location was in an established forest that was ideal for close country training.

"One of the positives of this exercise was the ability of our training staff to co-ordinate early on. This meant they had time to create quality training that soldiers both engaged in and enjoyed while refining those core skills. Having soldiers understand the why and the importance of refining the basics is rudimentary to our training.

"We're fortunate to have some really experienced training SNCOs within our unit who pass on their knowledge and expertise."



RESERVE FORCE Q&A

A regular column answering your questions about the NZ Army Reserve Force (ResF).

What questions do you have?

Send queries to timothy.sincock@nzdf.mil.nz

Volunteer Employment Protection Act 1973 (VEPA)

The VEPA protects an employee's job when they are away from their normal employment for military service. Key facts:

- Reserve Force soldiers are entitled to protected service up to a total of three months' full-time service and three weeks' part-time service in any training year.
- To be eligible for protected service, employees must advise their employer at least 14 days before the start of the training which qualifies as protected service.
- An employer must let an employee take leave for training when the required notice has been given.
- An employer must employ the employee in the same job when the employee resumes employment after the training.
- Employers have the right to apply to postpone an employee's protected service if the employee's absence will cause them undue hardship.

For more information on the VEPA refer to www.employment.govt.nz

Defence Employer Support Council

To support organisations who employ Defence Personnel, DESC:

- Support good relations between Reserve Force soldiers and their civilian employers.
- Work with employers to identify potential NZDF opportunities where members with unique skills are needed by the NZDF.
- Promote to New Zealand businesses and organisations the many benefits that Defence People can bring.
- Provide advice to the Minister of Defence.
- Support strategic partnerships between NZDF, government agencies and civilian employers.

Defence Employer Support Council: enquiries@desc.govt.nz

Ukraine (Op TIEKE)

Reserve Force personnel interested in supporting New Zealand's commitment to the training of Ukrainian soldiers can enquire (nomination criteria and PDT/deployment dates) and register their interest with their Cadre Staff or through their ResF command chain. Ideally, you'll need to be proficient in instructing on such topics as weapon handling, range practises, and field craft.

2LT Lily Feng



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

By Sergeant Caroline Williams

Joining the NZ Army Reserve Force in 2015 as a Combat Engineer has provided 2nd Lieutenant Lily Feng with the physical and mental challenges she was seeking, pushing herself consistently beyond her comfort zone.

Spending five years as a sapper, she commissioned from the ranks in 2020 after graduating from the Territorial Force Commissioning Course, and is now serving as the Troop Commander of 3 Troop, 2 Field Squadron, 2 Engineer Regiment (2ER).

It is mandatory that Combat Engineers spend time in the ranks before commissioning. The Army Reserve Force does not currently have the option of direct entry as an Officer. This provides a foundational military engineering knowledge as well as a unique leadership perspective which an officer candidate can take in to their future role.

"I love being part of the Combat Engineers, and feel very lucky to be in the position to serve New Zealand," 2nd Lieutenant Feng says. 2LT Feng has supported Operation Protect as part of the NZ Government response to Covid-19, and contributed to the humanitarian and disaster response to Operation Awhina during the recent flooding in the Bay of Islands.

Training as a Biomedical Engineer at the University of Auckland, she moved across to marketing a few years after working as a product development engineer and comments, "The only thing in common with my job and my degree is the word 'engineer', you don't need to already be an engineer or have a technical background to become a Combat Engineer. In our troop, we have people from

many walks of life, university students, business CEOs, software developers, educators, data analysts and of course, engineers and people from the trades."

In her current civilian role, she is a Category Marketing Manager at a global medical device company, Fisher and Paykel Healthcare. 2LT Feng is the first to acknowledge the contrasting roles between her civilian and military employments and enjoys the diversity.

"In my civilian role I work with our international sales teams to help them sell medical devices to hospital healthcare professionals. The device provides a relatively new respiratory therapy, so my job is to lead a team that provides education and sales tools to sales reps. Our goal is to help physicians make the best respiratory therapy decisions for their patients, many of them were Covid-19 patients."

Working in various roles at Fisher and Paykel Healthcare over the last eleven years, 2LT Feng says the company has been supportive of her Reserve Force role, and NZDF training has been beneficial to her civilian employment. "The Army provides me with challenges that my civilian job will never be able to give me," she says.

2LT Feng knows she has faced challenges in her Army life but says it's the rewarding work, the people and the friendships that help pull her through.

"On recruit training you have a battle buddy. My battle buddy and

I both became Combat Engineers, and belong to the same troop in Auckland. The friendship was built from day one, forged through challenges and developed over time. It's a great feeling to trust someone one hundred per cent and know you have each other's backs."

A battle buddy is another soldier who serves alongside you during training. Each of you is expected to assist the other both in and out of the field, forming a united bond. Battle buddies share challenging moments during their training and this often forms a friendship that spans a lifetime.

"I am also fortunate to have a very supportive partner, he is encouraging of what I do, and it makes juggling full time civilian work, Army work, family, and life more manageable," she says.

Combat Engineers provide mobility and counter-mobility support to manoeuvre elements. Specific tasks include the creation or removal of obstacles through the use of explosives, the use of specialist search equipment to conduct military search operations, the employment of tactical bridging assets including the Medium Girder Bridge (MGB), and the operation of tactical watercraft by day or night to counter water obstacles.

Any Defence Recruiting enquiries can be directed to 0800 1 FORCE. Each Reserve Force company has its own training programme in line with its battalion's training focus. Reserve training normally comprises of a training weekend and training night a month, with additional exercises and training opportunities available throughout the year.



AMBUSHING THE AUSSIES IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD

By SQNLDR Kiri Ohlson

Manawatū man Corporal Edward Young jumped at the chance to cross the ditch and test his mettle in a driving job with a difference as he commanded a 20-tonne armoured vehicle into battle against his Australian counterparts.

Along with around 300 other New Zealand Army personnel, Corporal Young was heavily involved in this year's Exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia.

During the largest ever staging of the Queensland-based exercise, two mounted infantry platoons, 20 New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs) and a combat service support element formed a combat team, using their speed and firepower to clear and destroy a fictional enemy. Their aim was to support the 650-strong Australian battlegroup alongside personnel from Fiji, Australia, France, and the United States.

Corporal Young was a Reserve Force soldier in the Waikato Mounted Rifles for three years prior to joining the NZ Army Regular Force. In choosing a career with the Army, he's following in the footsteps of his grandparents who served in the Second World War – one of his grandads was in the Royal New Zealand Navy, while the other served in the Armoured Corps.

Now, almost seven years into his Army career, he is a crew commander of his own LAV, posted to Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles (QAMR).

During Exercise Talisman Sabre, two LAV troops worked alongside the Australian tank force looking to stage a night-time ambush on some Australian LAVs.

"We were getting ready to go to bed when we heard them rolling up, so we jumped into action and moved closer," Corporal Young said.

"They didn't notice us and we were able to ambush them by hitting them with our laser. The LAVs on the exercise were usually fitted with a laser warning receiver which will light up and make an audible tone to let them know they've been hit. This one wasn't, so they kept driving and we pursued them but couldn't catch them. They had to be found later and told they'd been hit.

"Further up the road, we arrived just in time to clear an area for the French troops who needed to land a fleet of helicopters. That was great to be a part of but it also looked really cool."

After attending Exercise Talisman Sabre in 2019, Corporal Young said the 2023 exercise felt much bigger, with more nations attending.

"It's been a good opportunity for the lads to see how we would work with other nations and how we build interoperability. We stack up well with our partners, and other nations tend to think we're pretty onto it and quite professional."

Being in the Armoured Corps ensured a soldier became fit and strong both mentally and physically, he said.

"We work in small teams which move very quickly. We are often working in confined spaces and can go from relaxing to responding within an instant. You have to be able to flick that switch and be on straight away."

Talisman Sabre is a biennial Australian-hosted and United States-supported combined exercise focussed on planning and conducting a high-end, warfighting scenario. This year's exercise was the largest-ever, with approximately 30,000 military personnel from 13 nations taking part.

It was designed to improve combat readiness, exercise war-fighting skills and systems, and advance interoperability between the participating nations.

Our people



Andrew Shaw was promoted to the rank of Brigadier recently. He has assumed the position of Assistant Chief Strategic Commitments and Engagement. Pictured, his wife Lieutenant Colonel Viv Shaw, and father, Rod Shaw attach his new rank slides.



Lieutenant Colonel Vanessa Ropitini had just two weeks notice that she was deploying to Europe to support the New Zealand Government's contribution to the international response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Her outstanding efforts as the Logistic Task Group Commander with the International Donor Coordination Centre in Germany have now been recognised with an honour – a Distinguished Service Decoration – she thought was the “sort of thing that happened to other people.” Above, LTCOL Ropitini receives her award from the Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro.



Ground breaking for maintenance support facility

A ground breaking ceremony for the new Maintenance Support Facility at Burnham Military Camp was held recently.

The \$70-million project will replace Second World War-era buildings with fit-for-purpose infrastructure to enable the maintenance and repair of defence equipment.

This logistics infrastructure is essential to ensure the New Zealand Army is a multi-role combat force and is equipped and prepared for future challenges,



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PISTOL PACKING CORPORAL HEADING TO AUSTRALIA COMPETITION

Corporal Leeann Leadbetter is a dab hand with a pistol, so much so she is representing New Zealand at a major shooting competition in Australia later this month.

The Christchurch-based Reservist will be competing in the Oceania Games in Brisbane, in the air pistol and 25m sports shooting event.

CPL Leadbetter, a force health protection technician, became interested in pistol shooting during the Covid lock down. She joined a local pistol shooting club, and her pistol packing passion began.

"I like the sport because it's competitive but also quite social. It requires a fair bit of physical and mental discipline, and you have to block out all distractions and concentrate on the objective."

She trains at home five days a week, mostly indoors using an electronic target. She wears shooting glasses, and has two pistols – a .177 calibre air pistol, and a .22 sports pistol with a five shot capacity.

A relative newcomer to the sport she has won several trophies, ranging from North Island championships, shooting competitions in Auckland and Hawkes Bay, national competition.

A security contractor in her civilian life, she says she is super keen to compete against the Australians.

"It's all about precision and accuracy, and having good cardiovascular fitness and core strength so you can control your breathing. It's a bit of a mental game too!"



NZ ARMY MENTORING PROGRAMME



Make the most of your journey

WHY HAVE MENTORING?

Organisations that run effective mentoring programmes have better leadership development, higher engagement and more positive and inclusive cultures.

Selecting a mentor is one area of a service person's life that they have autonomy over. This increases their satisfaction, motivation and wellbeing.

MENTORING PROGRAMME AIMS:

- Enhance participants' service and personal attributes.
- Unlock potential and increase satisfaction within the service.
- Inspire and motivate participants through focussed attention and support.
- Encourage the development and implementation of innovative ideas.
- Encourage the development of NZDF wide teamwork.
- Build diverse and inclusive support networks.
- Build networks and enhance relationships beyond roles, ranks, units and camps.

SOME EXAMPLES OF WHEN WE CAN HELP YOU:

- Dealing with the impact of change for an individual's role or rank.
- Supporting an individual who may be looking at an alternate trade.
- Help competent technical experts develop interpersonal skills.
- Developing a more strategic perspective after a promotion to a more senior role.
- Handling conflict situations, so that they are resolved effectively.
- Providing helpful connections through experiences in life e.g. single parents, PTSD, learning difficulties, business aspirations, sport goals.

Visit the [NZ Army Mentoring Programme Webpage](#) or contact the NZ Army Mentoring Manager WO2 Nicola Renata, People and Culture, AGS

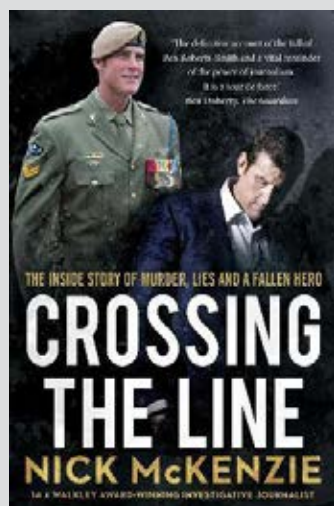
HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU?

We have competent and experienced personnel available who can provide time and skills to assist you.

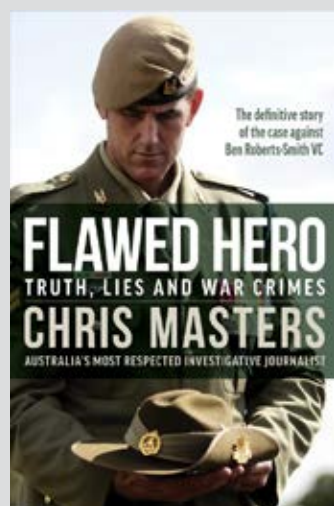
The programme is designed to assist development and support the mentee's goals.

A mentor can also provide a supportive connection, required in unique scenarios.

BOOK REVIEWS



**Crossing
The Line**
The Inside Story of
Murder, Lies and a
Fallen Hero
By Nick McKenzie
Published by
Hachette, Australia



Flawed Hero
Truth, Lies and War
Crimes –
The definitive story
of the case against
Ben Roberts-
Smith VC
By Chris Masters
Published by
Allen and Unwin

When he'd finished being Britain's greatest military leader, The Duke of Wellington entered politics and quickly found that the media who had loved him when he was beating Napoleon were less enamoured of him on the domestic front. His frequent battles with newspapers prompted him to offer the advice to "never get into an argument with anyone who buys ink by the barrel"... when you've read the story told in these two books, you'll realise it's advice that Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG, SASR (Victoria Cross, Medal for Gallantry, Special Air Service Regiment) probably should have taken himself.

Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith was decorated three times for actions in Afghanistan with the SASR. Standing almost seven foot tall, he is an imposing figure; a hero for modern Australia straight from central casting. Roberts-Smith is the most highly decorated living Australian veteran and, until these stories about his conduct and behaviour in Afghanistan came to light, he was held in extremely high regard in Australian society.

In 2018, major Australian newspapers *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* published stories alleging potentially serious SASR misconduct on deployment in Afghanistan. Roberts-Smith was not initially named, but was in later stories and he subsequently launched legal action claiming he had been defamed. The case gripped Australia and these books, written by the veteran Australian investigative journalists Chris Masters and Nick McKenzie, tell the story of how they came to uncover, and subsequently publish these stories.

Neither book is an attempt to discredit Roberts-Smith's VC, nor are they about incidents that could be attributed to "the fog of war". The allegations against Roberts-Smith do not appear to be motivated by medal jealousy as some have suggested, if that were the case, ask the authors, then why have no similar allegations been made against any of the other ADF VC recipients from Afghanistan?

Masters and McKenzie, through separate channels, got wind of stories doing the rounds in the SASR about potential war crimes committed by unit members in Afghanistan. Additionally, there was alleged to be a widespread culture of bullying in the unit which was also said to have a less than healthy culture.

Masters was the only journalist who had been embedded with the

ADF Special Forces (SASR and Commandoes) in Afghanistan and while there, had heard rumours and allegations that there had been some questionable conduct by some members of the SASR. McKenzie had picked up on similar stories through ADF channels and eventually they began to work together and as they did so more and more of what they heard focused on the actions of one individual in particular.

Both books tell the story, from the authors' perspectives of the work that went into chasing down the initial rumours, the background work in attempting to verify what they had been told and then the resulting court case. Masters goes into more detail about the court case than McKenzie, but both highlight how difficult it was getting serving and former members of the SASR to testify, a number who had been spoken to by the journalists, said they would only tell their stories in court if they were legally compelled to do so, and that's exactly what happened.

McKenzie does not go into any real detail about Roberts-Smith VC, but Masters discusses the award, noting there are some who dispute the veracity of the citation, while others believe the award to be thoroughly deserved. Both authors however point to questions surrounding the circumstances of his earlier award of the Medal for Gallantry (MG) and there is clear disdain from some SASR members about his Commendation for Distinguished Service.

But SASR colleagues, Afghan villagers and The Taliban are not the only characters in this story. There are significant corporate media power plays, interfering private investigators, ex-spouses and scorned lovers, bizarre behaviour involving a kid's lunchbox buried in the backyard and more. With a cast like this, it's probably

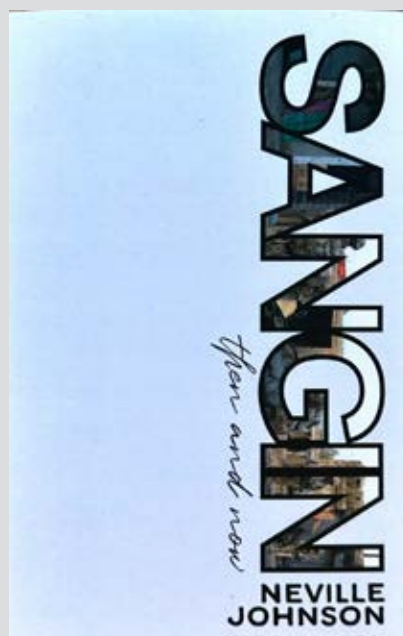
no surprise that McKenzie's book is a page turner that reads more like a thriller than a non-fiction book. Masters has had lengthy involvement with the SASR and his book goes into the trial and what happened in greater detail than McKenzie, but also clips along at a great pace, both are fascinating reads providing insight into both how investigative journalists operate and the world of the SASR in Afghanistan.

Roberts-Smith is not portrayed in an overly positive light in either book. It is clear he is a divisive character who polarised people, they seemed to love him or hate him, there was no middle ground... and that seems to apply as much to his time in the SASR as it does to his time in the corporate world after he got out of uniform.

To my mind, one crucial point that only received the briefest of mentions is the mental state that he and his colleagues were in after multiple, intense deployments to Afghanistan. If the incidents alleged did indeed occur, how culpable are the military chiefs who sent these men back into the fire time and time again and their political masters? ...comment from both groups has been conspicuous by its absence.

These two books provide fascinating "insider" insight into how allegations swirled, journalists operated, egos clashed and people behaved under stress ultimately leading to a scandal that consumed Australia. Both books are thoroughly recommended. I have no idea how accurate or true the stories told about Afghanistan are, but reading through the evidence presented for and against Roberts-Smith is engrossing. He has appealed the decision of the court and round two of this absorbing case is due to begin in February.

Reviewed by Jeremy Seed



Sangin, then and now

By Neville Johnson
Published by Dead Reckoning Collective

"Glowing red hot hail rained down on our cold existence,
They welcomed us with a rage of burning bitter detestation."

So begins *Sangin, then and now*, a slim volume of heart-strings-tugging verse penned by British veteran, and now honorary Kiwi, Neville Johnson.

Sangin in Helmand province was one of the deadliest places in Afghanistan for British and American troops. More than 100 British soldiers died there trying to keep it out of the Taliban's clutches.

Johnson's verse is evocative, sobering and beautiful, but never maudlin or depressing.

He came to visit once more.
Tapping, rapping at our door.
I was still, utterly still

He was stalking the valley once more.

This odious, faceless shadow.
With no mercy or kindness.
A morbid nothingness,
There was no heart to beat in his chest,

A black void filling the space.
Nor tears to shed from his black sockets.

Death lingered inside the wire
His silence burned us all.
Ripping away a part of me, part of us all.

The hooded vale of death had covered this Valley.
Smothering us all.

Johnson's time in Sangin had a profound impact on him.

"Writing this book was the release of post-war emotions and memories I chose to forget ...this collection of poetry is a discovery of healing and a newfound passion for life," he writes in his introduction.

We are all the richer for his well-chosen words.

Reviewed by Judith Martin



By Lieutenant Colonel
Martin Dransfield

The annual NZDF-hosted Golden Oldies game, played for the 10th year running, took place on Davis Field, Trentham recently. After the successful fund raising effort last year for the Afghanistan PRT families, this year was dedicated to raising funds for the newly established Veterans Hospital in Baucau, Timor-Leste.

Currently, hospital equipment is being sourced in Australia through cooperation between Australian and New Zealand East Timor veterans. The money raised at the game will assist in the transport and purchase of hospital equipment.

The teams consisted of players from the Upper Hutt Yellow Bellies, Horowhenua Crusaders, Whanganui Bohemians, Wairarapa Milhillians and the NZDF. After the torrential rain of the previous 24 hours, the weather cleared and enabled the traditional three 20 minutes periods to be played in good conditions on a perfect pitch. A number of red (60–65), gold (65–70) and purple (70–84) shorts were worn

reflecting the age of the players, and one standout was Rosco from the Milhillians who is 88. When these players receive the ball there are established rules regarding tackling, which it was noted that the NZDF players occasionally broke through a trained military setting to tackle anything that moves. Despite these occasional infringements of the rules, which were well refereed by Dean (Deano) Goodin from the Wairarapa, the game was played in good spirits, and some of the younger players enjoyed the more physical aspects of the game.

After the game the teams enjoyed the hospitality of the Wellington Area Sports Club

(WASC), and an excellent meal was provided by ESS Trentham, as well as a superb curry provided by Tama and Rose Andrew.

Given that the theme was to support veterans thanks should be given to Marty Donoghue and the RSA team for providing prizes for the fund raising raffle.

It was also our real honour to have the Timor-Leste Ambassador to New Zealand, HE Felicidade Guterres, attend the match and speak at the post-match function. She spoke of her gratitude, on behalf of all Timorese, for the support New Zealand provided to Timor-Leste on the road to their independence in 2002, and the

ongoing support from New Zealand to her nation. She was particularly grateful for the NZ\$1,400 which was raised on the day for the hospital equipment fund. She was joined by her family, embassy staff and the F-FDTL military students who are attending the Defence International Language Centre.

A special mention should be given to Dee O'Conner for all her amazing work in pulling together all the support, including: sourcing the raffle prizes, organising the food, and, along with the WASC team, organising the raffle and the social function.





A soldier who has played hockey since he was in primary school had no idea he was about to receive the Army’s top sports award when he was called to attend the awards in Wellington.

“I thought something might be in the wind but had no idea it would be the top award,” said SIG Robert Belchamber. He received the Supreme Award from the Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell.

SIG Belchamber, until a year ago, was a diesel mechanic with the Army for about nine years. He was originally in the RNZAF and service changed in 2014.

He has been instrumental in the success of both the NZ Army and NZDF hockey teams, and has served as a captain, assistant coach, and coach in the NZ Army team over the years. He has also been part of the senior leadership team and assistant coach for the NZDF team, all while continuing to play.

At very short notice he took on the lead of facilitating the regional games where he took several coaching sessions, ran most on-field activities and also selected both the men’s and women’s teams.

“I enjoy all aspects of the game, even though I’m now in the Masters. It’s not just the physicality but the social aspects as well.”



Trooper Manny Partsch is never happier than when he has a volleyball in his hands.

Originally from South Auckland he has played since Year Nine. The Army’s Young Sportsperson of the Year, developed himself into an up-and-coming future star with solid potential for NZ Army volleyball in 2022. He showcased his outstanding talent early on, receiving MVP for his first game, and then continued this throughout the tournament,

becoming one of the stars of the NZDF Inter-Services. With powerful offensive spiking and serving he scored numerous points for his team.

“It’s just a fun game to play – I loved joining the Army team. I wasn’t expecting an award – it’s very humbling.”



Hockey player and administrator Major Myles Houlahan has received the Army Colour in recognition of his dedication to the sport both within Army and the NZDF.

MAJ Houlahan’s sports career began 11 years ago and has seen him represent the NZ Army and the NZDF in men’s hockey. He has played 1st division club hockey since enlisting in the NZ Army, winning four club championships across the Manawatu, Christchurch and Wellington regions. He has played with the Manawātū Senior Men’s Representative team on several occasions.

Warrant Officer Class Two Lawrence Colvin also received the Army Colour for his career in Touch. He has over many years taken on the responsibilities of manager, coach and code chairperson.

While his playing history is significant in recent years he has stepped away from being a player and dedicated himself to become a referee.



BLACK FERNS XV CALL-UP FOR TWO ARMY PERSONNEL

By Andrew Bonallack

Captain Laura Bayfield and Private Leah Miles are in the first-ever Black Ferns XV squad, competing in the World XV tournament.

Both Laura Bayfield and Leah Miles are familiar with the build-up, the nerves and the self-belief that comes with elite-level sporting competition. But they are definitely excited to be wearing the black jersey.

Fresh from the provincial Farah Palmer Cup competition, the pair got the phone call in September to join the newly-created Black Ferns XV squad, with a week to prepare for their first match in the World XV competition against Samoa's Manusina XV.

The Black Ferns XV was formed to foster the professional growth of players, coaches and management on the international stage, according to New Zealand Rugby (NZR). It's seen as a high-performance pathway to the Black Ferns.

Both women have worn black before, in the Defence Ferns team competing in the first International Defence Rugby Competition (IDRC) last year.

NZR called CAPT Bayfield after the Farah Palmer Cup final against the Auckland Storm. She and several other Canterbury teammates were picked for the squad.

"I was super-stoked," she says. "I'm really grateful for the opportunity."

An engineer, CAPT Bayfield is second in charge (2IC) at 3rd Field and Emergency Response Squadron at Burnham Military Base. "The Army has been 100 percent behind me," she says. "They've been really supportive all year while I've been training for Canterbury. I've been keeping up with some work, as much as I can, but rugby is the focus this week."

This team has different people, but it's the same energy, she says. "Nerves are natural, but you believe in yourself and your abilities. You know you're here for a reason."

CAPT Bayfield enlisted in the NZ Army in January 2017, after graduating from Mt Albert Grammar School in Auckland.

In 2019, as a Second Lieutenant with 2nd Engineer Regiment, Bayfield was in Officer in Charge of a team of engineers involved in the construction of a Bailey bridge over the Waiho River in South Westland, after the original bridge was washed away by floodwaters. It remains one of the highlights of her career.

"I started as 2IC last year and I really enjoy it. It's really diverse and every day is different. You work with emergency responders, with very different trades and you get a very broad experience of engineers."

Private Leah Miles, a reservist with 2/4 Battalion 1RNZIR in Dunedin, had been looking forward to a bit of off-season time after an intense season with her Otago Spirit side, plus her Super Rugby Aupiki commitments with South Island franchise Matatū.

She was also looking to reconnect with her Reserve unit, after putting things on hold to concentrate on rugby. "Then this came up, and you can't say no. The first person I told was one of my best mates. I went to her work class and told her there and she said, 'what?!'"

She had joined the Reserves in 2021, saying she had been at a loss as to what to do after finishing her degree – a Bachelor in Psychology at the University of Otago.

"My careers adviser planted the seed, saying I had the personality of someone that would steer towards military service. I thought, that could be quite cool, and a new way to push myself."

She is excited for the games ahead. "I think I'm feeling like I normally would. We all know how to play rugby."

She says a lot of younger girls in the various teams have asked her about the Defence Force. "I just say, go for it. The life lessons you learn are so valuable. And they can see how supportive the Army is to me, giving me heaps of time to train."

CAPT Bayfield agrees. "I'm a great example of the Defence Force supporting its people in sport. In Year 13 I loved sport and that was one of the factors that drew me to the Army. I've played volleyball in Australia, hockey at a national level, Defence Force rugby and provincial rugby in Canterbury. There's a lot of similar values in the military and sport, and the Defence Force has supported me the whole way."

The Black Ferns XV comfortably won their opening match against a spirited Manusina XV, 38-12, on 22 September.

"There's a lot of similar values in the military and sport, and the Defence Force has supported me the whole way."

Captain Laura Bayfield



Photos courtesy of Mags Media.

HONING LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND TRADITIONS: THE WARRANT OFFICERS COURSE 2023

In the familiar rugged terrain of Waiouru, a transformative event is unfolding – the Warrant Officers Course 2023. Steeped in a legacy of military tradition and high expectations, this course cultivates leadership in the art of the possible, and the honing of skills vital to the esteemed ranks of warrant officers in the New Zealand Army.

The cornerstone of this course is the concept of 'stretch zone training,' pushing participants beyond their comfort zones to foster growth and fortify their leadership, command and planning capabilities. Integrity is not just a virtue here; it's a fundamental aspect of every activity, ingrained in every summative undertaken.

A high standard of drill was maintained throughout, with over 40 parades conducted over a seven week period, culminating in a Beat Retreat with the CO and recruits of The Army Depot as VIP and guests, showcasing the grandeur of ceremonial drill. These were not mere routines but an act of respect for our traditions and discipline. Our traditions run deep, and ceremonial drill is a testimony to the reverence held for these solemn customs; Beat Retreat, Anzac Day, Ramp and Funeral Drill. The many parades conducted during the course showcased precision, coordination, discipline and unison – the bedrock of any successful military operation.

In the heart of the training lies the tactical proficiency of leading soldiers through training and combat, enabling and maintaining command. The expertise required for this skill set involves tactical planning, delivering articulate back briefs to sell your plan to one-ups, and a deep understanding of military tactics and manoeuvre. The tactical knowledge showcased by the Army Command School schooled us in the intricacies of attack and defence. Culminating in briefing a commander on your tactical plan for what some chose to be an up-the-guts attack on



a prepared defensive position, it was a gauntlet that every student ran through, some with aplomb, all with courage.

In this modern era, public interaction is a crucial skill. The participants undergo rigorous media interview training to prepare them for the demands of representing the armed forces in the public eye. The plethora of welfare services are also explored, enabling the duty of care inherent in the responsibilities of military leadership, extending beyond the battlefield to engaging with the public, shaping perceptions and providing care for those under our command.

A counterpoint to the modern skill of media relations was the historical and cultural aspects interspersed throughout. Our first day in Waiouru saw us touching base on the Marae, good food, good stories and a sound sleep after travelling up from Wellington. A battlefield tour near Taupō saw students reliving the pursuit of Te Kooti, from the East Coast, through the Urewera's to Ngatapu, just south of Taupō. Time was also taken to detail the rich history behind each of our units and organisations; colour parties, drill ceremonies, the art of verbal and written discourse and the evolutions of the past few decades.

Planning under tight deadlines is a test of commitment and organizational skills, qualities inherent in every Warrant Officer. These abilities came into play daily; planning training, providing guidance and overseeing the welfare of soldiers, whilst maintaining standards and expectations. These tasks are not simply logistical exercises, with troops to task, but require a solid understanding of the commander's intent, enabling their end state with sound knowledge, meticulous planning and prompt execution. The art of conducting written and verbal back briefs is emphasized, ensuring that information is communicated

succinctly and effectively, a crucial trait in the fast-paced military environment.

No course in Waiouru would be complete without a wee bit of suffering following the end of course function; slightly parched from the previous night, twenty-three dusty Staff Sergeants clambered up Totem, some for the very first time. Accompanying us were the WO1 mentors that have guided our thinking throughout, along with a very curious and chatty Brigade Command SarMaj, WO1 Lyall Mooney. This shared suffering underpins our fierce comradeship, gained during our stretch zone exploration of the possible, highlighting the importance of discipline and preparation in Ngāti Tū. Comradeship is affirmed throughout the course, reinforcing the notion that together, individuals can achieve more than they could alone.

As the Warrant Officers Course 2023 concludes, it becomes evident that this amalgamation of adventure, leadership, planning and adherence to tradition is shaping a cadre of individuals ready to lead with honour, discipline, and distinction. It is a testament to the commitment of the New Zealand Army to produce not only proficient soldiers but also exceptional leaders, steeped in the rich traditions that define our nation's military legacy.

