

ARMY

NEWS

ISSUE 549
FEBRUARY 2024



TŪ KAHA COURAGE TŪ TIKA COMMITMENT TŪ TIRA COMRADESHIP TŪ MĀIA INTEGRITY

NEWS	
NZDF team to deploy to Red Sea	3
A New Year honour for MAJGEN Williams	3
PEOPLE	
A new Army information trade is established	4
Officer Cadet graduation	5
LCC 2024 Looking Forward	6
Commonwealth applications for British nuclear test medal	9
Tangiwai disaster anniversary commemorated	11
New maintenance support facility	12
Human Performance	17
TRAINING	
Reservists in the field	14
SPORT	
Rugby league	21
Cycling	22



WO1 Wiremu Moffitt
16th Sergeant Major of the Army

Welcome back! I want to take this opportunity to wish you the best for this year and all that it brings.

It's surprising to look back on 2023 and 2022 collectively and recognise just how weary we all were. We absolutely needed the summer break, and given the recent tempo it was extremely well deserved. Returning to work it is clear there is a lift in energy, a shift in positivity and a genuine prospect of a good year ahead. I approach this column and 2024 with that same optimism. This year you will see the solid efforts of our Army Staff and the Land Component start to fruit. A host of previously discussed plans, objectives and training activities will start to flourish with a greater focus on C2, combat competency and Battle Group readiness. Looking around the world today, I sense that those actions and intentions are on point.

As you would have read in the tone of CA's opening article, we have an ongoing accountability to our strategy and its management – Army 25. As an Army we'll continue to put effort into the traditional lines of people, information, capability and importantly, relationships. 2024 is going to feel similar but I guarantee, it will be with more purpose, direction and energy. Be ready.

I recently met with soldiers in Burnham, and by the time you read this – Linton, Trentham and Papakura as well. The themes are consistent. Soldiers want effective training, adventure and a hint of risk. NCO's seek consistent leadership in which to model and coach soldiers forming an Army career. Seniors, WO's and officers of all mid-level ranks demand clear purpose and direction on a future path. That's not too much to ask.

This year summons small but continual change – not only in activities and actions, but appointments too. By mid-year we will have new faces in senior places. This will include our Chief of Defence Force, Chief of Army, some Deputies and even me as SMA. I relish the shift and what it means for a fresh era of leadership.

SELCON 2024. As we discuss soldiering realities, we're mindful of a unique and widely attended Pacific forum occurring this month. The Senior Enlisted Leader Conference is being hosted in Wellington and will draw a distinct group of Command Sergeant Majors, Chief/Command Warrant Officers and National – Senior Enlisted Advisors from the Pacific Rim. Each will be bringing one or more NCO's to benefit from the learning and legacy tied to the profession of arms. Our 2024 theme, focus and outcomes are almost entirely NCO centric. If you are attending this on behalf of your unit – congratulations and well done. For those unable to attend, be on the lookout for the live stream and SLIDO engagement. With your assistance, we intend to deliver a world-class forum that will engage, inform and help strengthen the Armies and Joint Forces of the Pacific. SMA

LOOKING BACK

New Zealand Army officers were part of a 41-strong group of United Nations military observers sent to look at the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone in 1999.

They were also involved in disarming, demobilising and reintegrating into society former Sierra Leone combatants.

It was a savage environment. Machete-armed rebels besieged the country, asking individuals if they preferred short of long sleeves. If they replied “short” their arm would be amputated from the elbow by machete, and if they said “long” they would lose just a hand.



Cover: The new Commanding Officer, 1RNZIR LTCOL Jason Tinsley, with warrior PTE Ngarino Te Tana at the change of command ceremony in Linton.

Photo: CPL Rachel Pugh

The Army News is published for the Regular and Territorial Force and civilian staff of the New Zealand Army.

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

Printing: Bluestar, Petone.

Design: Mike Hutchison, DPA, NZDF

Editorial contributions and letters are welcomed. They may be sent directly to *Army News* and do not need to be forwarded through normal command channels. Submit them to The Editor, Army News, DPA, HQ NZDF, Private Bag 39997, Wellington, or by email.

Deadline instructions: Army News is published on the third Tuesday of each month, except January. Please have all contributions to the editor by the first of the month.

Nothing in the Army News should be taken as overriding any New Zealand Defence Force regulation. Readers should refer to the relevant service publication before acting on any information given in this newspaper.
ISSN 1170-4411

All material is copyright, and permission to reproduce must be sought from the editor.

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY

MAJGEN John Boswell



The year is underway and almost immediately elements of Army have been called upon to contribute to overseas efforts in support of the international rules based system. Our contribution to maritime security efforts in the Red Sea, at short notice and alongside our partners, demonstrates a clear indication of the utility and responsiveness of Army in support of our nation’s interests.

This deployment occurs in parallel with our on-going training support to Ukraine, the maintenance of a range of missions in the Middle East, South Sudan and South Korea and at a time when we look to give greater depth and frequency to engagement with our pacific partners.

Operations like these, and there are others, are our core business. They define who we are as an Army and the special/unique contribution we make to wider NZDF efforts in support of the defence and security of New Zealand. They demand that we generate and maintain highly trained, professional individuals and units. They are enabled by both the doctrine we adhere to and subsequent tactics, techniques and procedures we employ. And, importantly, for those force elements not committed they are the focus of our force generation and readiness.

Operations of the type described above give us purpose as an Army whilst the various readiness activities we undertake to prepare force elements for operational deployment gives focus to our direction of travel. The critical requirement in both instances is ensuring we have the energy, commitment and professionalism to provide land and special operational forces trained, led and equipped to win in the contemporary operational environment.

And this is a space we own. The importance of generating and maintaining an Army able to deploy operationally is not something we can either downplay or ever walk away from. It is the responsibility of us all, regardless of rank, appointment or position to do everything we can to be the best we can and produce the best possible outcomes.

Over the next year, as we continue to lift the level and complexity of our force preparation, I encourage you all to take ownership of the opportunities you’re given. Approach each and every task with energy, enthusiasm and a determination to not just succeed, but to excel. Colin Powell wrote that ‘there are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.’

So, from individual coursing at TRADOC through unit training, exercising alongside our partners and ally, to being deployed on operations do everything you can to lift yourself and your team to the next level. Take pride in who we are,

what we represent and all that we achieve – then, having taken stock of what you’ve achieved, set the bar higher, reset your sights and get after it.

2024 has started with real purpose. The opportunity that I spoke to at the end of last year, to build on the professional foundation that we worked so hard to create post Op Protect, took just three weeks to materialise. What I can assure you is that it will be the first of many opportunities and when they’re presented, as our people did on this occasion, take advantage of it with confidence and revel in the challenge.

As a footnote can I acknowledge the quite outstanding service of four who passed away over the Christmas break. Undoubtedly, and sadly, there would’ve been others however, the passing of these four individuals for one reason or another was elevated to my level and collectively they tell a story of the great contributions our people make to, not just our Army, but our nation.

WO1 (Rtd) Fred Daniel saw active service in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam and despite suffering from significant injuries as a result of a car accident continued to serve in the regular Army before retiring to Dunedin and giving great support to both the veteran and wider Otago community. Brig (Rtd) David McGregor, a proud member of 3rd Auckland North Battalion, concluded his extensive reserve service as the Territorial Adviser and then went on, amongst many other achievements, to play a key role in the governance of the Army museum in Waiouru. WO2 (Rtd) Warren Sole loved his soldiering and gave great service to the RNZIR serving with both regular battalions, both here in NZ and Singapore. He held up the front row of the Army rugby team for many years and was as gentle and kind as he was tough and uncompromising. Finally, the SF community said farewell to WO2 (Rtd) John Vaemolo who served for 16 years with the Regiment, was renowned for his tracking and amphib skills, and had the total respect of all.

Four very different careers by four individuals who understood the value of service and, in their own ways, were not only examples for us all to follow but exemplified the very best of our Army. To them, and their respective families, thank you for being part of our team.

NZDF TEAM TO DEPLOY TO PROTECT RED SEA SHIPPING

The NZDF is deploying a six-member team to the Middle East region to uphold maritime security in the Red Sea, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has announced.

“Houthi attacks against commercial and naval shipping are illegal, unacceptable and profoundly destabilising.

“This deployment, as part of an international coalition, is a continuation of New Zealand’s long history of defending freedom of navigation both in the Middle East and closer to home.”

The team will contribute to the collective self-defence of ships in the Middle East, in accordance with international law, from operational headquarters in the region and elsewhere. No NZDF personnel will enter Yemen. It is part of a continuous New Zealand defence contribution to maritime security in the Middle East since 2013.

Defence Minister Judith Collins said the Houthi attacks showed a disregard for international law, peace and stability, and the coalition response is an inevitable consequence of their actions.

“Our NZDF personnel are highly trained and this deployment will see them work alongside their counterparts on an important mission. New Zealand supports global stability and this deployment shows our commitment to efforts to address a serious threat to that stability.”

Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters said New Zealand’s actions to uphold maritime security in the Red Sea should not be conflated with its position on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

“Any suggestion our ongoing support for maritime security in the Middle East is connected to recent developments in Israel and the Gaza Strip, is wrong. We are contributing to this military action for the same reason New Zealand has sent defence personnel to the Middle East for decades – we care deeply about regional security because our economic and strategic interests depend on it.” The deployment is mandated to conclude no later than 31 July 2024.

NZ ARMY OFFICER EARNS NEW YEAR HONOUR FOR WORK IN SINAI PEACEKEEPING

Empathy, humility, patience and perseverance are the secret to working in the Middle East, according to New Zealand Army’s Major General Evan Williams.

It’s these traits, displayed in his role as force commander for the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, that have helped him become an Officer of The New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2024 New Year Honours.

The MFO is a neutral arbiter in monitoring the security provisions of the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. It comprises about 1100 international military personnel and an additional 700 local civilian staff.

The posting is his swansong before retiring after 39-plus years in the NZ Army, topping out a wide range of leadership and command positions in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF).

Major General Williams, from Te Aroha, started the MFO role in late 2019 and was intending to retire in September 2023. However, the MFO asked him to return and he will continue as force commander until March 2024.

“It’s about four words – empathy, humility, patience and perseverance,” Major General Williams said.

“That’s it. If a force commander can master those four traits, it’s as simple as that.”

Major General Williams’ citation lauds his leadership and drive as the MFO continued to carry out operations despite being hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic and an ongoing ISIS-led insurgency. He also worked tirelessly to establish



and develop personal relationships and trust with the Egyptian and Israeli militaries.

An example of his value as a broker and negotiator between the two parties was the signing of only the third amendment to the Treaty of Peace in its 40-year history.

His strategic leadership and diplomatic acumen brought great credit to New Zealand and the NZDF.

“That’s my job; managing strategic relationships,” Major General Williams said.

“I stay focused on that and rely on some bright and capable staff officers to do the detail stuff. That’s where you earn your money as a two-star general, not by planning vehicle patrol routes in the desert.”

Major General Williams said the MFO – a world-class peacekeeping operation – was working with

two very proud peoples from two culturally different countries in a complex environment, and sometimes there was tension.

“People who come here get their eyes opened hugely when they see how complex the Middle East is. It’s a great professional experience.”

Tragically, Major General Williams’ wife Kristin died of cancer at the end of 2021. The citation says she played an exceptional role as part of the MFO leadership team, and was an empathetic and generous host who always provided steadfast support.

Despite this loss, Major General Williams remained in command and accepted the role extension to ensure important initiatives were completed.

“She always said she wanted me to go back and finish this,” he said.

“It’s a great way to finish a career.”

ESTABLISHING A NEW INFORMATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST TRADE

The NZ Army is introducing a new trade within the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals – Information and Data Management Specialist (IMSPEC).

One of the reasons behind the creation of the new trade is that the effective use of data and information stands to better enable the conduct of military operations, be it for multinational warfighting, or for inter-agency humanitarian and disaster relief operations with their information exchange complexities. These factors were recognised by Army and wider NZDF leadership and supported the new trade's approval and implementation.

Project Sponsor Lieutenant Colonel Jay McLeary says the IMSPEC trade draws heavily from the now redundant OPSIS trade, with a majority of these personnel now ready to learn new skills. "Digital age warfighting necessitates new skills within the operational force to ensure we maintain a competitive edge," he says.

Project Lead, MAJ Peter Amyes says through the delivery of new, specialist skills in direct support of operational commanders and staff, the IMSPEC seeks to overcome challenges in maintaining positive-control in increasingly complex information and data-rich environments. "The IMSPEC will deliver new information effects in support of land outputs and deployed operations, while day-to-day garrison-based Information Management functions will be provided primarily by suitably qualified civilian staff."



The IMSPEC will operate in direct support of the Army's Motorised Infantry Battlegroup (MIBG) and Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) outputs, but can also support joint expeditionary maritime and air operations as required, such as a deployed RNZAF P-8 Poseidon Fixed Wing Task Group.

"Within the Joint Networked Combat Force, the IMSPEC is pivotal to our vision of being an Information Assured Force by 2025, and becoming an Information Advantaged Force by 2030," says Major Amyes. "As a small Army, perhaps our greatest strength lies in our agility, where speed of decision making in the battlespace will enable us to act faster than our adversaries by accelerating our analysis, decision making and targeting processes. The IMSPEC positions us well to becoming an Information Advantaged Force by exploiting new data-centric capabilities, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), where positively-controlled and assured data is a pre-condition for the successful adoption of AI and ML."

The IMSPEC is intrinsically linked to the New Zealand Army's Network Enabled Army (NEA) programme, addressing Tranche-1's Tactical Command Post Information Management needs, and Tranche-2's Intelligence Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare (ISREW) data enablement. Here, new reconnaissance, surveillance and EW sensors will provide unprecedented levels of organically-collected data and

information to the deployed force, all of which needs to be moved within often bandwidth -constrained networks, be accurately tagged and filed, analysed and fused with other sources to be turned into actionable intelligence, before then being retained and archived correctly should it be required later for further analysis.

While deployed commanders and staff will still perform limited IM functions such as basic data-tagging and storing files online within applications such as today's Sharepoint and DDMS, the IMSPEC will provide intimate support through deep subject matter expertise, performing complex retrieval, enabling data analytics and data visualisation, and will be a specialist advisor to the Commander, whilst supporting the wider command post function.

"Harnessing effectively, information-data will enhance decision making, tempo and military effect. Unmanaged, it risks overwhelming or confusing a Commander and staff. In extreme cases, it may lead to damaging data spills, information security or privacy breaches, or be in breach of legislative requirements," says LTCOL McLeary.

Managing, protecting and exploiting data and information has proven critical within the recent Ukrainian and Middle Eastern conflicts, providing a decisive edge for military commanders, analysts and decision makers. "Contemporary operating environments are seeing increasing amounts of disinformation and

misinformation (or obfuscation), where examples include GPS positioning and timing data being corrupted through deliberate manipulation, creating confusion or lack of trust in the accuracy of essential data," says LTCOL McLeary. Other examples including open-source, publicly available documents and imagery being deliberately manipulated for military deception effect, delaying or hindering the timely production of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT). "The IMSPEC's role in aiding in the validation and veracity of a data source is vital to intelligence production and for ensuring trust and confidence in data in support in decision making and executing operations. Accordingly, we expect to see the trade working closely with our operators across our intelligence and surveillance and reconnaissance functions".

Outgoing OPSIS trade personnel have been studying towards a Diploma in Information Management and Records Keeping, while a handful of prospective IMSPECs participated on Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023. Australian Army staff validated the role of the developing trade noting how it enabled more rapid decision making whilst reducing information and cognitive overload on staff. Junior, intermediate and senior trade courses are currently under development. Additional external upskilling including Bachelors-level study in Information and Data Management are currently being examined. "The trade is likely to evolve rapidly as the potential and use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in support of military operations is further explored and outcomes are interwoven with the IMSPEC's role and purpose".

Enquiries for transfer to the IMPSEC from other trades and services are welcome. Queries or expressions of interest may be made to the IMSPEC Trade Lead – SSGT Stephen Lamb, or Career Manager RNZSigs – WO1 Alexander McKenzie.

TRADE PURPOSE: AS AN INFORMATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (IMSPEC):

- You will provide the unifying Data and Information Management capability for the Network Enabled Army (NEA), supporting the delivery of integrated Information Effects and ensuring our deployed forces retain an information advantage.
- You will ensure that the information and data that moves through our digital command support systems within our Network Enabled Army is accessible, trusted and well-governed, to ensure that the force retains its information advantage.
- You will manage, assist and advise commanders and staff on data analytics, data visualisation, complex data access and retrieval, assist in establishing the veracity of data, ensuring effective data-flow to military and inter-agency partners, and supporting effective governance (ie. archiving and disposal) throughout the information-data lifecycle.
- As a senior and experienced IMSPEC, you will undertake the most complex information and data problem sets, including leveraging Data Analytic tools and Artificial Intelligence and Automation tools to solve problems.

What's on offer as an IMSPEC?

- Mastery of complex problem solving in an emergent and highly desired career field, essential to modern day operations in any organisation.
- The opportunity to operate with high levels of autonomy, to innovate, and to be a world leader in defining, developing and executing military information and data management capability.
- The opportunity to enter one of NZ's newest growth / demand areas, setting you up for exciting, high-demand subsequent career pathways.
- Tertiary Education / Qualification opportunities.
- Opportunities to enhance your earning potential.
- Overseas Coursing, Engagement and Knowledge Exchange opportunities.

JOIN THE NZ SAS ASSOCIATION

The New Zealand SAS Association is open to anyone posted to the unit for more than 90 days, and welcomes new members. Those who can join include medics, signallers, logistics drivers, intelligence operators and personnel who served with E and D Squadrons.

The Association has area representatives throughout the country, and provides help, support and comradeship to its members. A newsletter is produced, and the NZSASASSN has support advisers who can help members with service entitlements, and put them in touch with other members for social events and catch-ups.

Visit nzsas.org.nz to apply
or contact info@nzsasassn.org.nz for further information



OFFICER CADET GRADUATION



Officer Cadet William Devilee was presented with the Sword of Honour (left) by The Governor General her Excellency, the Rt Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro when he and other cadets graduated recently.

The sword is awarded to the Officer Cadet who best displays the qualities of leadership, initiative, integrity, motivation, academic ability and physical fitness, and who is assessed as having the greatest potential as an Army Officer. He also received the Governor General's Medal for achieving the highest aggregate marks in all subjects.

OTHER AWARDS:

The Military History Trophy was presented by a representative for the director for Centre of Defence and Security Studies Associate Professor William Hoverd to OCDT Johnson Zhuang. This is awarded to the Officer Cadet who gains the highest aggregate marks in military history.

The Australian Chief of Army's Prize for Tactics was presented by The Commandant Army Comd Sch Lieutenant Colonel Jim Webb to OCDT Devilee. This is awarded to the Officer Cadet gaining the highest aggregate marks in Tactics.

The Lieutenant Colonel John Masters ONZM, MC, Peers Award was presented to OCDT Benjamin Spark by Mr Allan Masters, who also presented the family bio book A Bridge Over, the story of John Masters, Veteran fighter. This is awarded to the course member within the NZCC who is assessed by their peers as being the student who consistently demonstrated the core qualities of the NZDF and best displayed comradeship as a valued peer on the NZCC towards their fellow students.

Commander Training and Doctrine Command (New Zealand) Prize was presented by the Commander of the Training and Doctrine Command New Zealand Colonel Trevor Walker to OCDT Anhad Paul. This is awarded to the Officer Cadet gaining the highest aggregate marks in Education and Military Studies.

Sergeant Major of the Army's Prize was presented by the Sergeant Major of the Army WO1 Wiremu Moffitt to OCDT Harrison Fitzgerald. This is awarded to the Officer Cadet for best performance across all aspects of field training.

The Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell, DSD, Memorial Leadership Award was presented by Mary-anne and Mark O'Donnell to OCDT Fitzgerald. This is awarded to the Officer Cadet who has best exhibited the attributes of Leadership.

The Sultan of Brunei's Prize was presented by the assistant director strategic commitments & engagement branch Mr Adam Skrzynski to Moses Kabokoro. This is awarded to the best Mutual Assistance Programme Officer Cadet.



The OCS (NZ) Class of December 1993 celebrated their 30 year reunion alongside the Army cadets who graduated in December 2023. Attendees were (from left to right) Bill Horgan, Jon Beesley, Grant Cooper, Al Foreman, Matt Weston, Pete Niven, Jon Harris and Frank Aisake.

2023 LAND COMPONENT

2024 LOOK FORWARD

In 2023 the Land Component returned to training and operating, in order to regenerate combat capability and to generate effects with our partners. In essence the Component deployed a HADR TG (response to Cyclone Gabriel), demonstrated and assured the standard of the Light Infantry Company Group via Ex Valkryie Rising and practised our war fighting skills at sub unit level with our partners on Ex Talisman Sabre and JPMRC. We developed our capability to conduct BG operations via Ex Black Bayonet and Suman Warrior. Some highly specialised capabilities such as surgery and policing the force in a tactical environment were also practised. We operated with our partners around the Pacific and shared excellent training opportunities. We continued to deploy operationally on global missions with highlights including Ops Tieke, Farad, and Antarctica. Underpinning all of this effort was excellent individual training.

2024 will continue to see the Land Component engage with our partners, strengthen our capabilities and maintain our effectiveness as a world-class interoperable land force.



2024 LOOK FORWARD

FEBRUARY

IP UPSKILLING

MARCH

EX PROJECT CONVERGENCE
1BDE SKILL AT ARMS

APRIL

EX PACIFIC KUKRI
EX TROPIC FOXHOUND
EX BROLGA RUN
EX TANGATA 'TOA

MAY

EX TROPIC TWILIGHT
EX TAUWHARENIKAU

JUNE

EX VEILIUTAKI

SEPTEMBER

EX SUMAN WARRIOR

OCTOBER

JRE 24
EX SARI BAIR
CHOGM
EXERCISE JOINT PACIFIC
MULTINATIONAL READINESS CENTRE

NOVEMBER

CAMBRIAN PATROL

YEAR IN REVIEW

TRADOC (NZ)

349
COURSES

3,815
STUDENTS



1(NZ) BDE

611
FIELD EXERCISES

277
COURSES



AMMUNITION EXPENDED

5.56 MM
704,000 RDS
5.56MM BLANK
352,000 RDS
7.62 MM
2,260 BELTS
9MM
250,000 RDS
GRENADE HE
1,209



TRAINING DAYS

20,000+
DAYS IN THE FIELD,
APPROX. 7 DAYS
PER PERSON



JOINT SUPPORT GROUP

70,000+
MED
APPOINTMENTS

16,000+
DENTAL
APPOINTMENTS

8,500
PT & REHAB
SESSIONS

1000+
FITNESS TESTS



1 RNZIR Honorary Colonel BRIG (Rtd) Phil Gibbons hands the Colours to new CO LTCOL Jason Tinsley.

CHANGES OF COMMAND



LTCOL Mark Elwood (left) takes over from LTCOL Nathan Mutu as CO of the New Zealand Collective Training Centre.



COL Lisa Kelliher replaces COL Trevor Walker as CO TRADOC.

Various change of command ceremonies have taken place at camps and bases throughout the country.

Among these are:

Colonel Lisa Kelliher has replaced Colonel Trevor Walker as COMD TRADOC

LTCOL Jason Tinsley has replaced LTCOL Logan Vaughan as CO 1/RNZIR

LTCOL Mark Elwood is the new CO of the NZ Collective Training Centre

LTCOL Valanda Irwin is the new CO 3CSSB

COL Anthony Childs has replaced COL Duncan George as the Commander, Deployable Joint Inter Agency Task Force



The new 1RNZIR CO LTCOL Jason Tinsley.
Photo: CPL Rachel Pugh.

NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT 2024 UPDATE

The NZDF NVE Programme provides NZDF personnel the ability to operate effectively and efficiently by night. This means providing you, the end user with solutions that are:

- **Suitable** – provide overmatch against likely adversaries.
- **Interoperable** – provide you the ability to work seamlessly with our closest ally, the ADF.
- **Sustainable** – if you break it, we need to be able to fix it.

In order to address the capability gaps across the NZDF, we have had to prioritise available funding and are currently focusing on the dismounted close combatant.

There are upcoming changes to the NZ Army fleet of Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) and over the next 18 months you will start to see significant improvements in the NVGs used by the NZ Army as we transition from monocular to dual and fused NVGs:

1ST QUARTER 2024

Lead combat elements of the NZ Army will start transitioning from the lower figure of merit (FOM) Mini N/SEAS (Monocular NVG) to the higher FOM Kestrel (Dual NVGs). This will improve the end user's visibility of the near infrared (NIR) by night.



2ND QUARTER 2025

Lead combat elements of the NZ Army will start transitioning from high FOM Kestrel (Dual NVGs) to the high FOM plus thermal channel, BNVD-F (Dual NVG Fused). This will further improve combat effectiveness and achieve interoperability with the ADF.



1ST HALF 2025

Existing high FOM Kestrel Dual NVGs will get redistributed throughout the NZ Army. This will improve availability of quality NVG solutions across the NZ Army.

The next update from the NZDF NVE Programme will be in the April Army News where we will cover the new night fighting solution for the MARS-L for the NZ Army.

In the interim, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions

Analese Fainga'a
NZDF NVE Programme Lead
Analese.Faingaa@nzdf.mil.nz



COMMONWEALTH APPLICATIONS FOR BRITISH NUCLEAR TEST MEDAL

The British Nuclear Test Medal was announced by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in November 2022, 70 years after the first British test of a nuclear weapon. It recognises military, civilian, and overseas staff and personnel who participated in Britain's nuclear testing programme in the 1950s and 1960s.

The medal is awarded to UK Service and civilian personnel, and individuals from other nations, who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.

Full eligibility criteria for the Nuclear Test Medal can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-test-medal-eligibility-criteria>

NAMED TESTS AND OPERATIONAL AREAS WHICH QUALIFY PERSONS FOR THE NUCLEAR TEST MEDAL

- Operation HURRICANE**
Christmas Island
- Operation TOTEM**
Emu Field, Australia
- Operation MOSAIC**
Montebello Islands, Australia
- Operation BUFFALO**
Maralinga, Australia
- Operation GRAPPLE**
Malden Island, Christmas Island, Kiribati
- Operation ANTLER**
South Australia
Western Australia

Applications are now open for eligible veterans, civilians and their next of kin. For more information go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-medals>

For any questions, please email the High Commission at Defence. Wellington@fcdo.gov.uk.

For New Zealand veterans:

The British Nuclear Test Medal is authorised to be worn with New Zealand and other official medals which are permitted for wear in the New Zealand Order of Wear (dated 4 September 2020) – <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/honours-lists-and-recipients/information-honours-recipients/order-of-wear-orders-decorations-medals-in-new-zealand> .

The order of wear for New Zealand veterans is immediately after the NZ Defence Service Medal. Example: for those with the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal the order of wear would be:

- NZ Operational Service Medal – if qualified for
- Naval General Service Medal with clasp 'Malaya' – if qualified for
- NZ Special Service Medal (Nuclear Testing)
- NZ Defence Service Medal – if qualified for
- British Nuclear Test Medal
- Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

To assist the UK Ministry of Defence Medal Office in processing applications, the NZDF has provided them with a list of all NZ Armed Forces personnel known to have served on OP GRAPPLE or at the nuclear tests in Australia. This list does not include current addresses or next of kin, so NZ nuclear test veterans will still need to apply through the UK Ministry of Defence application process.



TRAINING ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE RECRUITS

“
Our professional soldiers find this a rewarding experience, as they pass on their knowledge and experience to build up the Ukrainian recruits.

Army personnel have overseen training for more than 2500 Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) recruits in the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom recently announced 30,000 AFU recruits had received training, since the UK-based programme began in June 2022.

The NZ Army first contributed artillery trainers to instruct AFU members in the 105mm Light Gun.

Since September 2022, the NZDF has been deploying personnel to the UK to provide infantry training for AFU recruits.

Working through Ukrainian interpreters, NZDF personnel deliver a basic infantry training course, instructing recruits on skills needed to survive and be effective on the battlefield.

The course covers the basic principles of shoot, move, medicate and communicate in different environments, by day and night, while reinforcing the law of armed conflict.

This training conditions the recruits to the realities of the conflict through battle inoculation, enabling them to survive and adapt on the battlefield while remaining lethal and effective at all times.

The AFU recruits range in age, and come from a variety of places and backgrounds.

With Romania recently confirming its involvement, other countries that contribute to training in the UK include Canada, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Australia.

The NZDF currently has its fifth deployment of trainers in the UK, with preparations underway to send the sixth deployment in 2024.

Major Tom Kelly, the senior national officer for the NZDF contingent over there now, is on his second deployment in that role.

“The mission has matured in the space of 12 months due to the nature of the threat and terrain the AFU are engaged with in Ukraine,” he said.

“Over the past 12 months New Zealand trainers have displayed their professionalism and humility when delivering training to the AFU, building a strong reputation for being world class instructors in the delivery of basic soldiering skills.”

Major Kelly said the fact several members of the contingents have returned for a second rotation, is testament to the strong sense of

purpose and pride New Zealand soldiers and officers have for this mission.

“Our professional soldiers find this a rewarding experience, as they pass on their knowledge and experience to build up the Ukrainian recruits.

“Ukrainian people are patriotic with a strong sense of purpose, desire and resilience to fight. They love their country and are defending their way of life against Russia.

“They apply themselves and absorb everything our soldiers can teach them, growing in confidence as they gain the skills they need to survive and be effective on the battlefield,” Major Kelly said.

The training team in the UK is made up of soldiers and officers from across 1 (NZ) Brigade including artillery, armour, engineers and logistics, as well as infantry personnel. The NZDF also has personnel deployed in intelligence, liaison and logistics support roles in the UK and Europe as part of the international community’s support for Ukraine.

KIWIS HELP SPRUCE UP WILTSHIRE WAR CEMETERY

New Zealand Defence Force and Australian Defence Force personnel, who are in the United Kingdom to train Armed Forces of Ukraine recruits, recently took time to pay their respects and help clean graves at the Codford War Cemetery in Wiltshire, the final resting place for 97 Australian and New Zealand troops.

Sixty-six New Zealanders and 31 Australians are buried at the Codford War Cemetery, where a World War One soldier from the Royal Army Medical Corps and a lone Welsh Guardsman from World War Two are also buried.

During World War One, the Wylfe valley in Wiltshire became the centre of large training and transfer camps for tens of thousands of troops waiting to move to France.

In 1916, the New Zealand Command Depot and No 3 New Zealand General Hospital were established in the area for those soldiers evacuated from the front lines but not yet fit to return to the front.

The ANZAC personnel buried in the Codford War Cemetery died between 1916 and 1919. Pneumonia and sickness accounted for many of the deaths.

The Codford War Cemetery, which is managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is the second largest ANZAC war grave cemetery in the UK.

On their visit, the NZDF and ADF personnel joined together for a short memorial service led by chaplains from Australia and New Zealand.



Photos courtesy National Army Museum, Waiouru.



TANGIWAI DISASTER ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

The 70th anniversary of the Tangiwai disaster, New Zealand's largest rail disaster and an event in which the Army and Navy played a considerable rescue and recovery role, was commemorated on Sunday 21 January.

Sailors from Irirangi and soldiers from Waiouru assisted in immediate help, then recovery following news of the tragedy. Army engineers re-established the road bridge by building a bailey bridge, sailors established land-line communications and Waiouru was used as a location to collect the dead, provide aid, shelter, clothing, food and get people onto the relief train etc. A total of 151 perished in the disaster.

The commemoration was hosted by tangata whenua Ngati Rangi and attended by Colonel Trevor Walker and Lieutenant Colonel Mark Taylor, Mayor Weston Curtain, local MP Suze Redmayne, MP for Dept Conservation Hon Tama Potaka, Senior Lions Club representatives and various other dignitaries.

Survivor John Mahy was present was present, as were about 150 people who had along with Mr Mahy taken a commemorative train from Porirua to Waitangi. At midday the memorial train cast a wreath out of the cab at Tangiwai which was followed by blasts from the train whistle. A memorial was also dedicated to those who lost their lives in the disaster.

In a speech to those gathered COL Walker said he hoped the ceremony offered some succour to their loss and grief.

"So, Christmas Eve, 1953. The New Zealand Navy – a detachment of 40 odd sailors stationed at HMNZS Irirangi communications facility just south of Waiouru and the men and women who lived at Waiouru Army Camp were getting ready for Christmas celebrations."

A lot of soldiers had travelled away from Waiouru to take advantage of Christmas leave. But Christmas was about to be interrupted, and soon reports of the disaster and requests for help were received. The dead needed to be retrieved, survivors supported, and contact with the remainder of NZ by road, rail and radio re-established.

Soldiers, sailors and members of the community turned out to search for the dead in amongst the mud and twisted carriages.

Food, medical aid and shelter was provided and then coordination for people to get to where they needed to be.

COL Walker said while every generation has a focal point on the disaster, the Tangiwai tragedy is indelibly linked to HMNZS Irirangi and Waiouru Army Camp.

"On a personal note, my wife's grandfather, LCPL Ted Bills, was serving at Waiouru during 1953 and 54. I well remember his retelling of his experience of Tangiwai. Stories that stuck with him and with which he shared with very few – maybe his mates at the RSA and on occasion, late at night, with me. He spoke of the searches down river, through the deep mud to identify and retrieve the corpses of those washed away. Harrowing stories of reaching up into the willows to retrieve the broken bodies stuck in the branches, of the bodies of infants and adults who they would then carry back to the road for recovery by road to Waiouru.

"The troubling fact that most had lost their clothing and were exposed to the elements in death. The dark humour of knocking on a farm house door to use a phone, covered in mud and filth, only to have the lady of the house faint at the apparition of a walking corpse from the Whangaehu. Of transporting bodies back to Waiouru recovered from further down the river in a truck, and when asked by a hitchhiker at the Turakina Pub (it certainly was a different time) if he could catch a ride, telling him to jump in the back. And getting a rapid refusal of the offer when the hopeful wayfarer had looked inside the back of the truck.

"And while this may sound insensitive, these experiences were fresh in his mind, four, five decades later and stayed with him. And like many an old soldier, the chance to tell the story to someone who might understand assisted with the carrying of that burden. I hope that this memorial achieves that for others who carry a similar burden."



The Farrier Lines weapons range allows small arms to be tested after repairs.

NEW MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY

The New Zealand Army has taken a major step forward in its ability to maintain a combat-capable, well-equipped and fully prepared fighting force with the opening of the new Maintenance Support Facility at Linton Military Camp.

The 8,500-square-metre facility, named Farrier Lines, replaces Second World War-era buildings with state-of-the-art infrastructure which will allow personnel to maintain and repair current and future defence equipment.

'Farrier' comes from the Latin word ferrum (meaning iron), and the name Farrier Lines is a nod to the history of artisanal metal work in the NZ Army, which includes repairing gun carriages and artillery, tending to cavalry horse shoes and blacksmith work, particularly during the First World War.

Farrier Lines cost around \$50 million and is one of five planned infrastructure projects to be delivered as part of the NZ Army's Consolidated Logistics Programme.

Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell, said the Linton facility would improve and modernise Army logistic service delivery to better enable the force to meet the demands of the modern day operating environment.

Farrier Lines has a number of features designed to improve its environmental footprint. It has under-floor heating, humidity and temperature controls, EV charging, solar panels and rainwater harvesting.

It will allow soldiers to work in comfort with drive-through bays, hydraulic vehicle lifts, rolling roads, a gantry crane and a weapons range to test small arms after repairs.

This facility will help maintain the NZ Army's primary combat vehicle, the Light Armoured Vehicle, the recently acquired armoured Bushmaster trucks and a wide range of weapons, radios and specialist equipment.

"Farrier Lines is key to ensuring future generations are well prepared for future challenges," Major General Boswell said.

"Fit-for-purpose logistics infrastructure is fundamental to our Army being combat-ready and able to operate across the spectrum of military operations, as and when required, domestically, throughout the Pacific and around the world."

Linton Camp's biggest workshop supports several hundred vehicles and its widest range of equipment.



Linton Military Camp has opened Farrier Lines, its state-of-the-art Maintenance Support Facility, which will boost its ability to maintain vehicles and equipment.



MHOV fording depth increased showing 1200 mm the max fording water level line on the door.

MHOV HX60 FORDING DEPTH INCREASING TO 1200 MM

The fording depth for the MHOV HX60 fleet of vehicles is being increased, raising the allowable depth from 750 mm to 1200 mm. This will affect 115 vehicles over three years, with about 20 HX60s already to ford water obstacles up to 1200 mm.

Prior to fording/wading water tasks (e.g. HADR), operators will be able to conduct pre-fording maintenance on MHOV HX60s.

After fording/wading water, operators will need to drive the vehicle for at least 30 minutes, with the brakes being operated multiple times at low speed to dry any water ingress in the braking system, and any systems that may have been submerged.

The HX60 vehicles that have been upgraded are marked with a solid black line on both cabin doors, plus a 1200 mm fording capable decal above the driver's windscreen inside the cabin. OEM pre and post fording instructions have been published, and training is due to start.

A proposal to increase the fording depth capability of the HX58 and HX77 FoV will be investigated in 2024.

Warning. Before entering a water obstacle (e.g. flood water) the co-driver should always check the surface under the water is secure and safe to proceed. Fast flowing water should not be entered by personnel.

NAVIGATING RAPIDS: CSS TP'S WHANGANUI EXPEDITION CAPS OFF WITH ADVENTURE TRAINING

An adventure training exercise aimed at fostering troop cohesion, individual resilience and morale was undertaken by 2 ER's Combat Service Support Troop recently.

The three day canoeing expedition was along the Whanganui River, and required considerable stamina as the wide river provided little flow in places and only brief areas of rapids broke up the time spent admiring the natural landscape.

The expedition included a walk to the historic Bridge to Nowhere, and this detour allowed CSS Tp members to explore one of the region's most visited sites, providing a unique insight into some of the history of the Whanganui National Park.

At the end of each day the CSS Tp members participated in a leadership development activity, providing feedback on each other using the DEB and DESC format. This was designed to allow the member to gain a greater understanding of their reputation, and in turn, enhance their leadership ability.

The adventure along the Whanganui River provided a break for the CSS troop and a chance to strengthen bonds and foster personal growth. As the troop conquered the feared 50/50 rapid on the final day, there was a sense of achievement and the team returned to their roles of supporting 2ER having achieved the intent of the activity.



MENTORING WORKSHOP

Open to all NZDF personnel, military and civilian, who have an interest in being a mentor or mentee. A mentor can help developing your skills and goals, provide confidential guidance and assist with support.

WORKSHOP TIMING: 0900-1530 HRS



BURNHAM CAMP
Thursday 4 April 2024

LINTON CAMP
Tuesday 12 March 2024
Tuesday 30 April 2024

WELLINGTON
Thursday 21 March 2024
Thursday 20 June 2024

KEY TOPICS
Mentor Qualities
Active Listening Skills
Coaching Conversations
Tools and Techniques
Practical Exercises

To register, seek manager approval, then email:
NZ Army Mentoring Manager Nicola Renata, AGS

More information:
Army Mentoring Programme webpage



Corporal Toby Hutton learned the basics of soldiering on the parade ground but has since gained a raft of leadership skills and stays enlisted in the New Zealand Army despite now living in Sydney.

DISTANCE NO BARRIER FOR ENGINEER THRIVING IN RESERVE FORCE CAREER

By SGT Caroline Williams

The 35-year-old combat engineer joined the Reserve Force in 2006.

“The NZ Army is a great grounder for leadership training. One of the first things you learn at basic training is parade drill, this is to produce a soldier who is proud, alert and obedient and provides the basis for all teamwork.”

Corporal Hutton has enjoyed a successful career, topping the class in a number of courses and earning a Chief of Army Commendation at the recommendation of a foreign military.

In his role as a combat engineer (or sapper), he, as part of a Troop, uses explosives to create or remove obstacles, build temporary bridges and handle small boats to take on water obstacles so his fellow soldiers can get about the battlefield.

Corporal Hutton works for Fulton Hogan and transferred from Auckland to Sydney earlier this year, where he is a site engineer.

“Fulton Hogan have been very supportive of my Reserve Force career. They have recognised the value in the development of the skills that the Reserve Force instills in its soldiers, and that they cross over into the civilian sector.”

Although being an Army Reserve Force Combat Engineer is different than a site engineer, there are elements that are similar, and it was his love of big machinery, construction and variety that drew him to both jobs.

Corporal Hutton travels back to New Zealand for Army training when he is able.

Although it is a big commitment to travel from Sydney to New Zealand for training, he focuses on specific exercises and any courses he may be able to complete while visiting family.

He’s also able to keep his hand in through attending training online and working remotely.

Corporal Hutton’s latest leadership training was his Promotion All Corps Territorial Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Course based in Waiouru Military Camp, New Zealand.

The two-week course is designed so instructors coach students through a variety of military scenarios, primarily focused on leadership training.

Training is done both in and out of the classroom and includes drill, leadership theory, problem-solving, mentoring, practically applying

the leadership theory to achieve a mission with a cohesive team and planning a training event.

Corporal Hutton was awarded the Regimental Award, for the person who displayed the highest regimental standards, dress and bearing throughout the course.

“It’s the experience of leading people through the hard times that really puts us to the test. It’s not uncommon for your training to be tested at -4 degrees on the Central Plateau at 4am, and that’s where leadership really happens.

“If you can lead successfully there, it certainly provides skills that will hold you in good stead in a corporate environment,” Corporal Hutton said.

Early in Corporal Hutton’s career, he was seconded to the secretariat for the US Army-led Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference employed to transport VIPs.

He excelled, and it was noted that his bearing, professionalism, knowledge, courtesy and foresight into the needs of others was outstanding.

RESERVIST IMPARTS VALUABLE SKILLS TO CHILDREN

By SGT Caroline Williams

Sharing skills for surviving in the outdoors, learnt in the NZ Army Reserve Force, to his class of primary school students has been a real highlight for teacher, Private Mitchell Pettit, of Matangi School near Hamilton.

“The kids found out I served in the Reserve Force and were keen to learn some of the skills we learn in the army. So I started a Bush School with the year 3–4 syndicate, teaching them bushcraft and survival skills, that’s run fortnightly, and it has proven very popular. It’s a bit of fun for us all and they’re picking up some really valuable skills at the same time,” says the 28 year old Cambridge man.

With an average of 5.1 percent yearly deaths and over 6600 tramping injuries in NZ’s outdoors (NZ Mountain Safety Council data based on an average of the last 10 years from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2023), learning these skills could prevent the kids ending up a statistic. Private Pettit has so far taught them how to make a basic shelter and even a washing line, build fires and fire safety, knot tying, and held an activity day with an army theme.

“It’s great to be bringing something back to the classroom from my training. It’s also given me a greater understanding about Anzac Day too, and has enabled me to teach about it in much more detail.” Private Pettit has made the teachings relative to his year 3 and 4 students too.

“This year we made model trenches out of shoe boxes,” he said.

Private Pettit is an infantry soldier with 3rd 6th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, so has developed a good understanding of infantry soldiering and terminology. His improved understanding and empathy for those who fought during WW1 and in other conflicts, has enabled him to explain to others what happened and why we commemorate the fallen.

“Explaining some of the terminology to the kids in simplified terms gives them a much better



understanding around Anzac Day and the army too. Some of the students in my class are starting to talk about joining the Reserve Force to learn some of the skills that I have picked up”

Private Pettit says he is lucky that both the school principal and the School Board of Trustees have supported him to take time off work for basic training, training days, and to assist in Cyclone Gabrielle in Thames.

After basic training the students were keen to hear Private Pettit’s stories.

“We now have Tote Tray inspections, and it’s all done in a fun and relaxed way with a bit of healthy competition. At Tote Tray inspection time the kids stand behind their desk in a disciplined manner and I offer improvements, select a winner, and it’s all a bit of fun. The kids seem to thrive on it,” he says.

Private Pettit joined the Reserve Force in 2021 because he wanted to step outside his comfort zone and grow as a person. He’s been teaching for nearly six years.

“I didn’t know anyone in the military when I joined but now I look forward to catching up with my army mates at training. I’ve loved the experience so far and am looking forward to developing my military skills further,” he says.

Photo: Private Mitchell Pettit helps develop an understanding of bush craft with students from his ‘Bush School’ at Matangi School. Here they are learning to tie double knots with Harakeke plants and then turn it into a washing line.



PUSHING BOUNDARIES AS A RESERVIST

PTE Podmore training as part of exercise El-Alamein earlier this year with 3/6 Battalion, RNZIR.

Until you've been pushed through mental and physical boundaries, NZ Army Reserve Force Infantry soldier, Private Sarah Podmore, says you don't realise your capabilities.

The 31-year-old soldier is no stranger to challenges; she's a trained paramedic and competed in power lifting in her spare time while working for Hato Hone St John, where she's worked for the last ten years. Her position of Paramedic and Clinical Support Officer requires her to dispatch rescue helicopters, perform paramedic duties, and mentor and educate staff.

"One day I'm in the communications centre assessing emergency calls from throughout the Motu for any incidents that could require a helo dispatch. Another day I'll be in the classroom or simulation suite getting interns ready for their practical exams, and the next, on the road doing my regular paramedic job of treating patients and coaching staff."

Seeking a challenge is part of what drives Private Podmore in both her civilian and army roles. She relishes her time as an infantry soldier with 3rd 6th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, and the constant self-growth it offers.

"There will be training days when you'll be fighting up a hill or through some bush with the lads, and your corporal will run the drill, what feels like a hundred times. You'll be on your guts with your rifle, gasping for air and your legs burning, praying that your mates can't hear you wheezing, and you'll think there's not a chance you've got anything left in the tank, but the corporal will run it again. You get up. Every damn time, you get up. You keep going,

and you finish the job. Next thing you know you've done it several more times, and what do you know, you're still standing, still breathing, still alive," she grins.

"That lesson is the true value of infantry training. Most people stop well before they've truly gassed out. You don't get that option here, and it did me a world of good across all parts of my life to actually know that I could show up and do the hard thing."

Although it's tough training, section members encourage one another and utilise the strengths within the team to help develop self-confidence, motivation and determination.

Reflecting on similarities between her civilian job and the army, she says, "I remember a platoon sergeant once rallied us by saying to take out the enemy with 'tenacity and efficiency.' Although in a different context, I now dispatch emergency helicopters with that same concept in mind, recognising that our patients may have a limited time for survival."

"I'm really glad I became a Reserve Force infantry soldier. We build amazing friendships and I've learnt good life lessons. I've found this training has really taught me about myself and that's moved across to my civilian life and employment. The army has exposed me to leadership at a variety of levels and I've been able to reflect on those experiences and channel that into my work with Hato Hone St John."

After graduating from Paramedic training at 20, she volunteered at Hato Hone St John while working with non-verbal autistic people that had aggressive tendencies. She says she learnt a lot about reading people and situations at a young age, and not always successfully. In 2014 she started paid work with Hato Hone St John and joined the Reserve Force in 2017.

"Hato Hone St John have always been supportive of my time in the Reserve Force. The training does entwine but also offers different challenges and growth that I can incorporate into both sections of my life."



MILITARY TRAINING PAYS DIVIDEND IN COURT ROOM FOR HAMILTON LAWYER

By SGT Caroline Williams

When Captain Fraser King joined the New Zealand Army Reserve Force in 2005 he didn’t expect his Army training, which has included planning to quell an armed rebellion in Taranaki, would have such a positive impact on his civilian career.

Captain King is a partner in Hamilton-based civil litigation law firm McKenna King Dempster, where he says the military has “given him the tools to navigate complex problems to achieve the best outcome under often demanding conditions”.

“Generally my approach to a case, and achieving a successful outcome, is largely applying the military processes, leadership and problem-solving techniques that I’ve learnt in the Army,” he said.

That includes challenges such as dealing with an insurgency breaking out across the neighbouring province of Taranaki, which was one scenario on a 16-day course he recently attended through the New Zealand Army.

Captain King, as Officer Commanding, Hauraki Company, is normally in charge of 60 personnel, their vehicles and equipment.

However, the course put him in theoretical charge of up to 3500 personnel. He and his team developed options for responding to the insurgents while integrating local fledgling security forces, balancing tribal relations and reassuring locals of their safety.

They also had to deliver essential services and protect key infrastructure, alongside practical details such as ensuring enough equipment, food, and fuel was available.

Knowing both his own and the team’s strengths and weaknesses, and having the ability to communicate clearly to superiors and subordinates was paramount, he said.

In the field, he had to have a good understanding of both situational and spatial awareness to translate map-to-ground scenarios, and to translate information coming from his platoon commanders and company sergeant.

“We are consistently challenged and encouraged to learn throughout our army careers, and this has significantly and positively assisted my civilian career as a litigation lawyer over the last 15 years,” Captain King said.

“One of the skills I’ve learnt is how to efficiently and pragmatically assess strengths and weaknesses of the opposition case in a courtroom environment, and more importantly, I am aware of my own strengths and weaknesses and how I manage these in a high pressure environment.

“I have also adapted a tailored methodology to my litigation process for cases that are proceeding to trial, which has evolved from the learnings of my military training,” he said.

“If aspiring litigators were aware of the benefits of military training, I think many of them would enlist.”

Since joining the Reserve Force, Captain King has also assisted with the response to Covid-19, and National Civil Defence emergencies including the Christchurch earthquakes, Cyclone Debbie in Edgecombe, and Cyclone Gabrielle in Coromandel where he was the liaison officer in the Civil Defence office.

RESERVE FORCE Q&A

A REGULAR COLUMN ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE NZ ARMY RESERVE FORCE (RESF)

RESF PPM

New Pay Progression Models (PPM) have been implemented for ResF members with effect from 1 Jul 2023.

The purpose of the new PPM is to ensure ResF members are appropriately remunerated for the acquisition and application of relevant skills, qualifications and experience that contribute to NZDF outputs.

How Pay Progression Models work

Each PPM prescribes the criteria that must be met in order to progress vertically or horizontally across the Total Remuneration (TR) Tables.

- Horizontal Pay Progression:
 - **Step 1-2** Reserved for members under training
 - **Step 3-5** Rewards learning and development in rank
 - **Step 6-7** Recognises competency in rank
 - **Step 8** Rewards members cleared and course qualified for promotion
- Vertical Pay Progression: Members move vertically on the TR table when they are promoted.

What is new for ResF members:

- ResF members can now progress to step 8 on the TR table
- Efficiency requirements for horizontal progression along the table are replaced with seniority, aligning the ResF PPM with the RF PPM, and allowing all members to remain on automatic pay progression as they transfer between the ResF and RF.
- Pay Progression is now based on Trade Bands for JNCOs.
- Pay progression will occur every year for all ResF members who are RFL qualified (G1 or G2), or waived if applicable (G3 or G4), until the member reaches step 7 (the exception is WOs).

The ResF TR tables and PPMs are contained in the HR Toolkit under “Remuneration (Military TR)”.

TERRITORIAL FORCE (TF) ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Reference:

A. 5356/1, Office of Army Reserves Minute, Amendments to Territorial Engagements, dated 19 Oct 23.

IAW ref – to better align TF and RF engagement policy and to lessen the administrative requirements, CA has approved changes to DFO(A) Vol 3 to reflect:

- TF Members enlisted after 1 July 2023 are to be offered an initial fixed term engagement of 15 years’; and
- The removal of the requirement for TF Officer’s being offered a new engagement on promotion.

DFO(A) Vol 3 does not currently have the updated amendment inserted, therefore ref should be used in the first instance.

TERRITORIAL FORCE HIGHER DUTIES PAY 9TF HDP)

On 16 Nov 23 CDF approved DFO(T) 18/2023 Territorial Force Higher Duties Pay, which makes TF HDP available to members of the TF that are posted to and performing higher duties in a higher ranked position. DFO(T) 18/2023 takes effect retrospectively from 1 Oct 23.

The RF HDP and the TF HDP business rules differ only in that there is no minimum qualifying period for TF members, and temporary absences will not affect TF eligibility for HDP. This supports varied TF work patterns. It is intended that this alignment between TF and RF will contribute towards an integrated Defence Force.

What questions do you have?

Send queries to WO1 Sincock, ResF SM (Army) at timothy.sincock@nzdf.mil.nz

HUMAN PERFORMANCE

By MAJ (Dr) Jacques Rousseau
OIC Human Performance Cell

“OPERATION FITNESS: A TACTICAL GUIDE FOR MILITARY WARRIORS TO SURVIVE THE CHRISTMAS CALORIE ONSLAUGHT”



Attention, soldiers! The holiday season has come and gone, leaving behind a trail of torn wrapping paper, shattered gingerbread dreams, and a few extra pounds that even your toughest camouflage can't hide. Fear not, for it's time to regroup, refocus, and embark on the covert mission known as “Operation Fitness: The Christmas Counteroffensive.”

THE BELLY BULGE BATTLE PLAN

Step 1: Reconnaissance Perform a detailed inspection of your belly – Operation Jelly Belly is officially in effect. This mission requires a full understanding of the enemy territory (read: those post-Christmas dinner food comas).

Step 2: Tactical Nutrition Ditch the leftover fruitcake rations and replace them with a balanced diet that would make even a drill sergeant proud. Remember, a soldier marches on their stomach, not on Aunt Edna's fruitcake.

Pro tip: Swap the sugarplums for protein-packed snacks. It's like arming your body with the nutritional ammo it needs to face the battles ahead.

THE FESTIVE PT PARADE

Turn your post-Christmas stroll into a tactical parade. March through the neighbourhood with military precision, and don't forget to throw in a few salute-worthy lunges and squats. Bonus points if you incorporate a stealthy jog between carol-singing stops.

Note: The candy cane salute is not officially recognized by military protocols, but it sure is festive.

OPERATION JINGLE BELL JUMPING JACKS

Deck the halls with jumping jacks – 'tis the season to burn off those Christmas calories with some heart-pounding exercises. Every time you hear a jingle bell, drop and give us twenty. Santa may appreciate the milk and cookies, but he'll be impressed by your commitment to fitness.

CAUTION Beware of rogue ornaments; dodging decorations is an advanced skill not covered in basic training.

SLEIGH BELLS SPRINTS

Transform your local track into a wonderland by sprinting to the rhythm of sleigh bells. Picture yourself chasing down enemy gingerbread men in a high-stakes race. The faster you run, the further you escape the clutches of those sugar-coated foes.

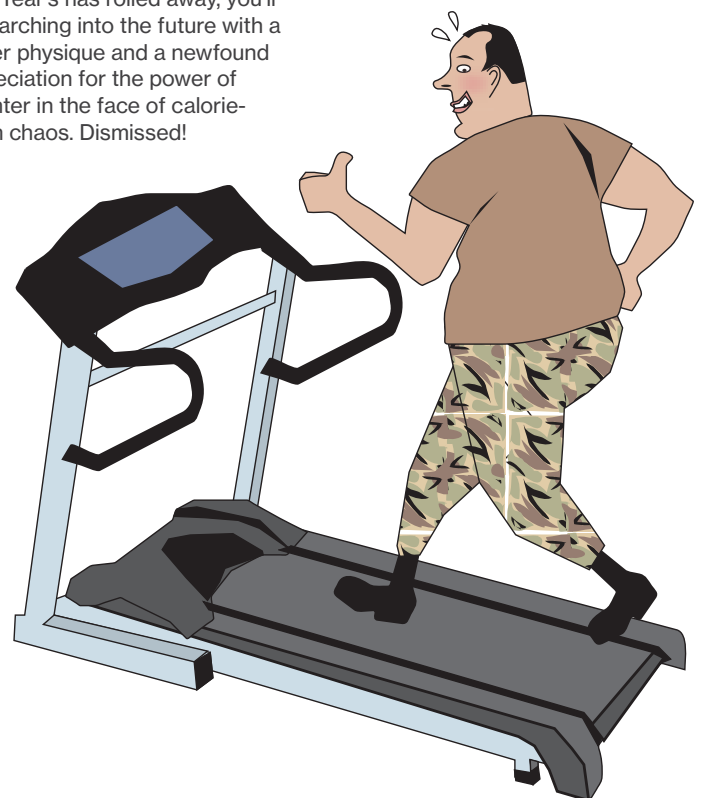
Disclaimer: This may cause bursts of uncontrollable laughter, but laughter is an excellent core workout, right?

THE MISTLETOE MANOEUVRE

Engage in strategic kissing under the mistletoe. It's not just a holiday tradition; it's a cardiovascular workout! Burn calories while spreading joy – it's the multitasking mission you never knew you needed.

CONCLUSION: VICTORY IN SIGHT

Soldiers, as you embark on Operation Fitness, remember that laughter is your secret weapon. The road to post-Christmas fitness doesn't have to be a gruelling march; turn it into a festive adventure with tactical workouts and a good dose of humour. After New Year's has rolled away, you'll be marching into the future with a leaner physique and a newfound appreciation for the power of laughter in the face of calorie-laden chaos. Dismissed!



SECOND WORLD WAR-ERA HUTS REPLACED AT WAIOURU



Waiouru Military Training Area has replaced Second World War-era huts that were built in their thousands with newer versions, which should be warmer and more weather-proof for soldiers undergoing training.

The new huts were built at Linton Military Camp as part of the School of Military Engineering (SME) Junior Carpentry course, and are being used to refresh Abbassia Camp, north of Waiouru, for the first time since the camp was constructed.

“Four new huts have been positioned at Abbassia Camp. Each year the Junior Carpentry course will construct three to four huts and these will be moved to Waiouru,” said Major Gabrielle Gofton, who was chief Instructor SME, Land Operations Training Centre last year.

“ Having lived in some of these old huts in both Linton and Waiouru, I can attest to their not being insulated, cold, draughty, leaky and of aged heritage.

Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Joe Hollander, director of the Engineer Corps Memorial Centre, whose father also trained at Waiouru in the Second World War, has researched the history of the old huts.

“Having lived in some of these old huts in both Linton and Waiouru, I can attest to their not being insulated, cold, draughty, leaky and of aged heritage,” he said.

“Hopefully the new SME-constructed huts will be a major improvement in comfort and design.”

When Waiouru camp was being established during the Second World War, the Housing Department was contracted to construct about 8,500 two-man huts (at a cost of 65 pounds each, or about \$7,000 today).

About 24,900 huts of varying sizes were built. Many of these were sent up to New Caledonia to support operations in Noumea, to the Kapiti Coast and Wairarapa to accommodate the US Marines and the remainder scattered about the many camps and bases established throughout New Zealand from 1942 onwards.

After the war, the huts were moved to satellite camps such as Abbassia, Baggush, Helwan, Home Valley, Imjim, Paradise Valley, Six Cross and Westlawn to support exercises and training.



WO1 Peffers hands the medals over to a representative of LTCOL Cyril Bassett VC's family.

On a recent Auckland morning, the legacy of one of the New Zealand Army’s Victoria Cross recipients was passed on to the next generation.

The Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals (RNZSigs), with representation from the Royal New Zealand Corps of Engineers (RNZE), presented replica sets of Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Cyril Bassett VC’s medals to his family at an intimate ceremony at Auckland War Memorial Museum’s Hall of Memories. The museum currently houses the original medals.

The family was represented by Bassett VC’s 92-year-old daughter Cherry Bramwell, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The four sets of replica miniatures presented were:

- Victoria Cross (awarded 8 August 1915)
- 1914–15 star (for Gallipoli)
- British 1914–18 War medal (WW1)
- Victory medal (WW1)
- 1939–1945 War medal (WW2)
- New Zealand 1939–45 War Service medal
- King George VI 1937 coronation medal
- Queen Elizabeth II 1953 coronation medal
- Queen Elizabeth II 1977 Silver Jubilee medal
- New Zealand Efficiency Medal (for efficient Territorial service)
- New Zealand 12 year Territorial Service medal

CYRIL BASSETT VC REPLICA MEDALS PASSED ON

The project began in September 2022 with an email from LTCOL Bassett VC’s granddaughter to the RNZSigs Corps Warrant Officer.

It simply said “Mum was wondering if it would be possible to get copies of my grand-dad Cyril Bassett’s medals.”

RNZSigs Corps Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer Class One James Peffers says discussions were had with the family on a way forward.

“It was decided that four sets of replica miniature medals were what the family wanted, to present to the four grand-children, so they had something tangible to remember their grandfather by.

These medals were sourced and mounted by former Signaller Warrant Officer Class Two Nigel Brewin, and sponsored by ANZ, Auckland RSA & Auckland District RSA,” he said.

WO1 Peffers says the occasion helped maintain the connection with the living descendants of LTCOL Bassett VC.

“He was the only Signaller ever to be awarded the Victoria Cross. It allowed us to give back to the family and demonstrate how we still hold him in high regard.

We keep his memory alive by presenting the Corporal Bassett VC Memorial Trophy to the top Corporal each year. This trophy was instigated by LTCOL Bassett VC’s widow in 1984, and has been awarded annually ever since. It gives our junior leaders something to strive for,” WO1 Peffers says.

The current CPL Bassett VC award recipient, CPL Sam McQuillan, acted as medal bearer of the original medals during the presentation.

WHO WAS CYRIL BASSETT VC?

Born in Auckland on 3 Jan 1892, Cyril Bassett was a bank worker with the National Bank when the First World War began. A member of New Zealand’s Territorial Force, he volunteered for service abroad with NZEF and was posted to the Corps of New Zealand Engineers as a sapper in the Divisional Signal Company. He saw action on the opening day of the Gallipoli Campaign, and during the Battle of Chunuk Bair he performed the actions that led to his award of the VC. Medically evacuated due to sickness shortly after the battle, he later served on the Western Front and finished the war as a second lieutenant. Bassett returned to the banking profession but was recalled to active duty during the Second World War. He served on the Home Front and by the time he was taken off active duty in December 1943, he had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was Commander of Signals in the Northern Military District. When he retired from his banking career he became a Justice of the Peace in Devonport. He died on 9 Jan 1983 at the age of 91.

NZDF LIBRARIAN ENDS LONG CHAPTER

By Dave Williams

“Are you the person who’s replacing that woman who’s been there since the Land Wars?”

That was among the greetings Carolyn Carr received when she started her job as the deputy to the Ministry of Defence chief librarian in 1983.

Now, 40 years later, Dr Carr has retired as NZDF chief librarian “and people are probably thinking the same about me”, she joked at her Trentham farewell function.

Carolyn grew up in Blenheim and studied at the University of Canterbury and the New Zealand Library School before moving to Wellington, where she was asked to take up the Defence library job.

Early on she was warned not to repeat a mistake made by chief librarian Ngaere Reeves, who was “a force to be reckoned with”.

“When getting to grips with signals, Mrs Reeves once sent a message to the NZ Army battalion based in Singapore. The ‘flash’ classification on signals was only meant to be used in extreme emergencies, such as war.

“She used it because she was chasing an overdue library book. She put the library on the map!”

During Carolyn’s career the NZDF library moved four times, survived earthquakes and flooding, and embraced computerisation.

“In my working life in the NZDF I have survived more restructures than I care to remember.

“It’s no mean feat moving 30,000 books.”

She and her team have endured two disasters; the 2016 earthquake and the Stout Street flood of 2001, when an overflowing bathroom on the sixth floor cascaded down to the ground-floor library.

“Fortunately we had a Disaster Plan and the foresight to have tarpaulins on standby which saved the magazine collection – thanks to the quick action of the security staff.”

When she started libraries were mostly paper-based with card catalogues in large filing cabinets.

She recounted her initial encounter with the library’s first computer.

“You had to sign for a key to go and interview this thing. I plucked up courage... and went into the room. I had no idea how to turn it on never mind do anything with it.

“I spent a lot of time just looking at it. If I touched it would I break it? I sat down for a bit... and then I left. I never even fired it up.

“One of my staff said ‘one day we’ll all have one of these on our desk’ and I thought ‘not in my lifetime. Now I carry one in my handbag’.”

While the library collection continues to include military and defence studies, computerisation was the biggest change she had seen.

Carolyn said she had always had talented people working around her and she would miss them, both military and civilian, and the extraordinary librarians.

She admitted she had a bias towards Army (while of course acknowledging the other two services) due to her family history and her relationships with its leaders. “In particular, in the last two years Colonel Martin Dransfield, Major Jim Maguire and Dee O’Connor have been instrumental



in securing accommodation in Trentham Camp in which to unpack the collection, which has been in storage since the 2016 Kaikoura Earthquake. There have been many other colleagues and supporters, too many to name.”

She was pleased the library was now at Trentham, where it could be unpacked and used by NZDF personnel.

“Our library service is for personnel, both military and civilian including military families, to support their work, their study and recreational reading. It serves all those functions.” In addition, it is a national taonga for military and defence historians, researchers, students and members of the public.

In retirement, Carolyn isn’t planning to slow down, and travel to Europe and visiting the Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata, at Le Quesnoy in France, is high on the agenda. She also wants to contribute to her community by expanding on the mahi in which she is already involved.

“Like any good librarian I’ve got a list.”

In her conclusion she said it had been a privilege to be part of the New Zealand Defence Force. She wished her management and many colleagues and friends in the Defence Shared Services Group and the wider NZDF whānau success in the future; which she would continue to follow with interest.

LOYALTY AND PASSION REWARDED WITH GOLD

By Charlene Williamson

When Tania Lutton joined the NZDF in 1985 she was a timid 16-year-old with not a lot of experience; fast forward nearly 39 years and she leads the Human Resources team in the South Island.

Ms Lutton was recently awarded the Gold Civilian Recognition of Services Badge. The Gold Badge is awarded to civilian personnel for thirty years of cumulative service.

Starting out as a mail clerk in registry Ms Lutton said it was a great place to learn the organisational structure of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF).

“Although my initial appointment was as a registry clerk, I transitioned through many roles within the organization. I have held positions in various administrative roles such as accounts, medical, recruiting, non-public funds, Army Leave Centre clerk, finance and payroll,” she said.

Her start within the NZDF was interesting – she didn’t get paid for the first six months of work.

“After the first six months of working for NZDF I still hadn’t been paid. As a timid 16-year-old I was too frightened to go and ask the payroll lady where my pay was.

“After finally plucking up the courage and asking her where my pay was she told me I hadn’t provided my birth certificate, but after telling her I had done this, she

checked my file and next minute a big cheque was written out for a portion of my wages and I had to be escorted down to the bank to cash it in,” said Ms Lutton.

Shortly after her payroll issue she accepted a role within the payroll department and within 20 years she was the subject matter expert for NZDF on all civilian payroll matters when they were centralised and rebranded to what the organisation knows today as HRSC.

Ms Lutton said going from registry at the entry level grading to human resources manager has been one of her greatest work achievements.

“I made it my mission that no one would have to endure what I did and I became quite the stickler for inductions and ensuring that I had an open door policy for employees to query, and discuss their employment and pay issues,” she said.

In the last 39 years there has been a number of significant changes within the organisation and the way it operates in the human resources space said Ms Lutton.

“I have witnessed manual pay systems to computer based pay systems, fax to email, the introduction of computers into normal work place routines, and now laptops and iPads.

“The introduction of cell-phones was a big one, we now can’t live without them,” she said.

Outside of her work within NZDF she has a pretty impressive sporting career, spanning over 20 years. Ms Lutton, a shotput and discuss athlete, represented New Zealand at the 1998 Commonwealth Games (5th shotput), 1990 Oceania Games (1st shotput and discus), 1998 World Cup (7th in the World) and has been a New Zealand and Australasian Champion.

And what keeps her at the NZDF? It is pretty simple – loyalty.

“I have had many people over the years ask me why I have stayed with NZDF and for me it comes down to loyalty, lifestyle and passion for the organisation, and the work I do in HR.

“Working for NZDF is like working with family, and just like with every family there are the odd challenging family member, but that makes it interesting.

“The NZDF has always encouraged and supported me with my sporting and work career and quite honestly I haven’t seen another employer that can offer the same care of their people,” said Ms Lutton.

She said it means a lot to be receiving the Gold Civilian Recognition Badge.

“It is true that time flies when you are having fun, I have certainly had some fun working here over my nearly 39 years.

“I am so grateful to my Mum who dragged me along to apply for the position all those years ago.

“If it wasn’t for her I could have become a herd tester, until I found out what that actually involved and went off the idea very quickly.”

The three badges of Gold, Silver and Bronze are awarded to the length of cumulative civil service aim to recognise and award the commitment of civilian staff members and celebrate their significant contribution to the NZDF.



A BETTER PLACE

By Stephen Daisley
Published by Text Publishing

A Better Place is the fictional story of twin brothers Roy and Tony Mitchell, raised on a Taranaki farm who find themselves in WW2. Incorporating flashbacks to their youth during the great depression we learn about their hard-scrabble upbringing.

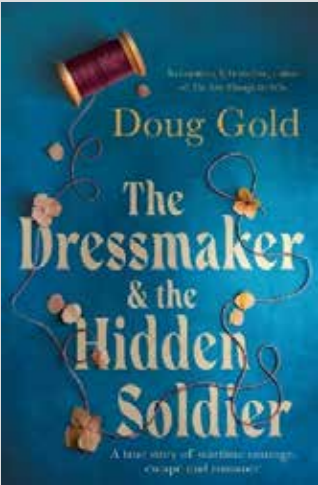
Their father was a WW1 veteran reduced to alcoholism by what he had experienced and their mother walked out when the boys were young. They adapted to life and became adept at working in the bush or on farms, and when the war came they volunteered and their backgrounds which had shaped them into practical, pragmatic and rugged individuals stood them in good stead in the Army.

The blurb on the book's jacket bills it as a story of a man who came home from the war, having lost his brother, BUT the story has a couple of surprise twists and I'm not going to say anything more about the plot except that there is more to it then the blurb on the back lets on.

The dialogue is frank and direct, the characters are portrayed as speaking as the reader would expect WW2 Kiwi riflemen to speak in times of danger and pressure – plenty of swearing and blunt language. The military action sequences and just about all of the writing rings true. At one stage Daisley has Italians referring to “Rock n Roll” in relation to US troops, but this and two references to medals which he names incorrectly are the only faults I noticed in the otherwise absorbing dialogue.

This book is not a boys own, ripping yarn, it is a work of literature and as such the story told is more visceral and realistic than you would find in a fast paced adventure novel about stoic Kiwis giving Jerry a blood nose. Alongside the bullets and bombs, it tells a deeper story of human beings and their reactions to difficult, unexpected and unprecedented circumstances and situations, both during and after the war.

As a child I was raised with older family members who had grown up in the depression, worked on remote farms and served in WW2. *A Better Place* conveys the atmosphere of those situations and the hard times, which by necessity produced hard men as I had them related to me. It is a credible, believable and very readable novel. I can only assume that Daisley also had whanau who spoke of the depression and the war, if so he has clearly remembered and conveyed it to the page, if not, he has a superb imagination....either way, he is a fantastic story teller.



THE DRESSMAKER AND THE HIDDEN SOLDIER

A true story of wartime courage, escape and romance
By Doug Gold
Published by Allen and Unwin

The Dressmaker and the Hidden Soldier tells the remarkable true story of a Kiwi soldier in Greece, hidden from the Nazis by the resistance and the local woman he falls in love with.

In 2019 Gold published his first book, *The Note Through the Wire*. This book, which enjoyed commercial success told the wartime love story of a New Zealand soldier and a Yugoslav partisan. Understandably the fact they met and were able to keep their relationship alive despite the odds being seemingly stacked against them, makes for a great story.

Like his first book, this book reads like fiction and I think this is key to its success. Gold had access to detailed accounts of the relationship from the daughters of the protagonists and others. Obviously there was no record of dialogue or day to day events, hence it is in large part fictionalised, but the overall story has stayed true to the historical facts.

Due to Gold's thorough research and variety of sources he has painted a very believable picture of life in Nazi occupied Greece. The language used is contemporary and as such, reflects the amount of work Gold put into getting the facts correct all of which makes for a very readable and believable narrative.

The book runs to just over 300 pages and has been a persistent presence on the NZ best seller list for a large chunk of the last year. I am not a regular reader of romantic fiction and to be honest, found it initially hard to get into the story but that was not due to any fault of Golds or of the story itself.

Once I sat down and engaged with the story, I was hooked. Gold has a great story telling ability and his dialogue read and flowed well. Some of the dialogue in his first book didn't read so well and I was concerned that this may have been an issue here too, but was pleased to find that was not the case this time.

There is a very interesting author's note at the back of the book in which Gold talks about the writing and research process and the resources made available to him by the daughters of the protagonists. I can't help but wonder if other, similar stories will be unearthed as a result of this book. Gold was extremely lucky that he was able to access family memoirs and historical data that made his fictionalised account of conversations etc so credible.



BACK TO BASICS FOR NZ ARMY RUGBY LEAGUE RETREAT

Developing code strategic planning was just one of the issues covered by a NZ Army rugby league retreat conducted in Waouru Camp recently.

The retreat also covered ways to kick start the women's game; ratification of code of conducts; succession planning; and enhanced interactions and interoperability with our Pacific and Tasman neighbours.

It served to also promote robust discussions on topics as identified by Code Chairman and Mentor CAPT Barrie Law and Player Captain (team spokesperson) SGT Darcy Cook for the betterment of team transparency and dynamics.

The culmination of the weekend saw endorsement of an NZ Army Rugby League 3 Year Strategic Plan that includes a tour to the Pacific Islands. It also saw the announcement of Vini Watkins of AGS who becomes the inaugural Women's NZ Army Rugby League Manager. Moreover NZ Army Rugby League is now postured with planning dates to work to given the inter services 2024 tournament in Woodbourne of March/April next year.

The annual retreat now becomes a deliberate fixture on the NZ Army Rugby League calendar for the management group committee and replaces disengagement presented through the Covid period.

If you have a passion for all things Rugby League and want to be part of a dynamic team; email Code Chairman CAPT Barrie Law at barrie.law@nzdf.mil.nz to register your expression of interest for any vacancies.

OPERATIONAL SERVICE STILL THE HIGHLIGHT

“It always re-affirms why I joined in the first place and after almost 26 years, there’s nothing more I would want to do than continue serving with the best New Zealand has to offer.



Members of the Royal New Zealand Navy, NZ Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force deployed to the Solomon Islands as part of a Joint Australian, New Zealand and Fijian Task Force (JTF 637.3) to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force for the Pacific Games, held in Honiara late last year.

The NZDF contribution saw 89 personnel led by Colonel Duncan George, Commander Headquarters Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (HQ DJIATF), embedded into the JTF HQ, as well as a Rotary Wing Task Unit with two NH90 Helicopters from the RNZAF.

“The JTF was a significant one with approximately 500 Australian Defence Force personnel drawn mainly from the 7th Brigade based in Brisbane, as well as 93 NZDF personnel (89 plus four NZDF personnel already in Solomon Islands as part of the Solomon Islands International Assistance Force) and 14 from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces,” Colonel George said.

“Myself and other members of HQ DJIATF were part of the joint coalition planning team, with the main body made up mainly of RNZAF personnel to operate and support the two NH90s arriving a few days afterwards.”

Colonel George, who was employed as the Deputy Commander of the JTF for the duration of the Pacific Games, said operational service is the highlight for any service-person.

He joined the NZ Army in 1998 and said he was “lucky to be part of a generation of officers and soldiers who joined at that time. Most of us were able to deploy almost straight away to places like East Timor or Bougainville, and thereafter to other locations such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and parts of the Middle East.”

Colonel George's own operational time saw him serve as a Platoon Commander on NZBATT 2 in East Timor, as part of the British Army's effort in Afghanistan in 2006, mentoring Afghan Special Police

(again in Afghanistan) in 2011/12, and then as an Operations Planner in Kuwait in 2015. “Having the opportunity to deploy again as a Colonel was not something I was expecting and leading young, highly motivated NZDF men and women is the biggest thrill you can get as a leader. It always re-affirms why I joined in the first place and after almost 26 years, there's nothing more I would want to do than continue serving with the best New Zealand has to offer.”

Colonel George felt the collective efforts being made by the three Services with partners in the Pacific were important and achieving operational effects that directly contribute to the security of New Zealand and the region. “The nations that we work alongside here in our own Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa region share similar challenges that we do in terms of climate change and strategic competition,” he said.

**SPILLING
BLOOD ON
FOREIGN
SOIL**

**ARMY TAKES
PART IN THE
AUSTRALIAN
DEFENCE FORCE
NATIONAL CYCLING
CARNIVAL**





Like many sports, Army cycling has suffered over the last few years due to the pandemic and our commitment to Operation Protect. However in late 2022, things looked like they would get back on track with WO2 Kurt Newlands, Army Cycling Chairperson, getting the regional cycling competition off the ground for March 2023. As the date approached it looked like all was coming together until a poorly timed Cyclone Gabrielle crashed into the Hawke’s Bay, triggering an NZ Army response to the devastation. While it looked like cycling was off the cards for 2023, WO2 Kurt Newlands was already thinking bigger, and had begun a hunt for cycling contacts in the ADF in early 2022. Some Facebook stalking and a few emails later, he was in contact with the ADF cycling committee members and the back and forth started. The rubber started to meet the road around April 2023 and his tenacious efforts began turning into a plan; getting an NZ Army team to the ADF National Cycling Carnival (NCC) in October 2023 in Canberra. All he needed was money, a team and to complete screeds of administration.

Support from LCPL Hugh Matthewman and SSGT Shane Chadwick helped lighten the load, and contributions from the Singapore Fund, CA and our own pockets got a team of seven together, with two on the road and five on the mountain:

WO2 Kurt Newlands
Mountain – Team Captain

WO2 Stephen Pickering
Mountain

SSGT Paul Dowman
Mountain

WO2 Cameron Hills
Mountain

LCPL Hugh Matthewman
Mountain

SSGT Shane Chadwick
Road

MAJ Mark Chambers
Road

All eventually made it to Canberra a few days prior, with the bikes experiencing a short delay courtesy of Qantas. Based out of HMAS Harman, the team got straight out to Stromlo Forest Park to get a feel for the trails. Bikes got battered but riders remained healthy and Pushies, the local bike shop started receiving ongoing visits for parts and repairs. The roadies got out on a recon ride to try and figure out where racing would take place but mainly just got harassed by magpies. The NCC kicked off on Wednesday 17th, running for ten days, and included a range of coaching, racing and social activities. LCPL Matthewman immediately began his campaign of trying to leave as much blood and skin on the trails as possible, riding on the limit almost every run, while the remaining contingent members soaked up constant aches and pains. Despite only bringing one bike each, everyone got involved in as many events as possible, with roadies borrowing and hiring mountain bikes to jump in events when available, and despite some events going against their preferred direction, the gravity riders joined in where they could. The coaching opportunities were valuable, and everyone made the most of what the ADF cycling had on offer.

The short circuit cross country (XCC) was the first race on the cards, with all riders encouraged to give it a go, resulting in a competitive but fun environment no matter the skill level, and set the tone for the remainder of the competition. Further racing consisted of the XCO (Olympic cross country), Enduro, Downhill, Road Race, Hill Climb, Time Trial and Criterium. A track racing and BMX activity at the local facilities was included for people to give the disciplines a go, and the Tri-Cyclathon was the final event, fought out between Army, Air, Navy and NZ Army by a team of four on the road, XC and downhill. Racing was competitive across the grades but always super supportive and enjoyable. NZ Army picked up results in the Downhill with a 3rd place for WO2 Pickering in his age group, and a 1st and 2nd place in the Hill Climb for MAJ Chambers and SSGT Chadwick in their age group. WO2 Newlands was a hot favourite but unfortunately did himself a mischief on the big double the day before the Enduro. He sat it out, hoping to come right for the Downhill the next day, only to crash heavily in practice the morning of, smashing up his helmet in the process. His drive and determination throughout the

entire NCC was awesome, powered by coffee and ibuprofen. Likewise was LCPL Matthewman, who had more crashes than we could remember but got patched up in the evenings and back on the sled each day. WO2 Hills, Pickering and SSGT Dowman all rode hard but treated their bodies with a bit more respect, managing to avoiding any big injuries. SSGT Chadwick always raced hard, but a puncture on the XCO put him out of contention for a podium spot. He also got clipped on the track event by another rider, resulting in a crash that sent an Aussie to hospital. MAJ Chambers got cleaned up by another Aussie rider in the XCO, losing some skin and paying his blood sacrifice to the trail gods in the process. But despite the hazards of riding near Australians, the team had a blast, made new friends and got to throw themselves around new terrain while representing NZ. The spirit and camaraderie shown by everyone involved, both Kiwi and Aussie was awesome, and the team left with massive smiles on their faces, invigorated to get Army Cycling back on track, and to extend an invitation to our friends across the Tasman in the near future. Special thanks to LT Monica Weir, ADF Army reservist and civilian physio who adopted the NZ team and whose efforts helped

keep us on the saddle, and LTCOL Marcus Linehan at the NZHICOM for helping organise an NZ flag for national pride. A big thanks to WO2 Newlands from the team, who was the driving force behind NZ attendance, and the man who made all the connections and administration line up to get us to the start line in the first place. The team would like to acknowledge the support of the Singapore Fund Committee for helping ensure the team made it to the start line. Without the assistance, it would have been much more challenging to field a team on the ANZAC battlefield.



As part of skills regeneration, 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.