

NAVY T O D A Y

REBREATHING
LIFE INTO DIVING

COOK ISLAND
LANGUAGE WEEK

GERRY WRIGHT
1950'S REFLECTION



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“They look for people with their own personality. They look for people who are real. So be yourself, and just believe in yourself.”

- AHLM Josh Sorensen, loadmaster graduate



Navy Today is the official magazine of the Royal New Zealand Navy. Established to inform, inspire and entertain serving and former members of the RNZN, their families, friends and the wider Navy Community.

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Front cover:
A diver from HMNZS MATATAUA emerges from the surf during an exercise in Northland.

Photographer:
PO Chris Weissenborn



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Yours Aye

Maritime Component Commander



Our lives continue to be affected by COVID-19. While New Zealand still enjoys significant freedoms relative to other nations, we all know that our international freedoms – by sea or air – are constrained; and our work in support of the all-of-government response to COVID-19 (NZDF OP PROTECT) continues to be our first priority. Be under no illusion, while we are stopping and reducing a range of activities, we are evolving to work in our new environment – and continue to deliver.

This month's *Navy Today* is very much about our people and training; it's "graduation season", as we welcome BCT and JOCT from their initial training... it certainly supports the adage that we are a people organisation. But this month I'd like to talk about the reason we are here: operations.

As the operational commander my role is to prepare ships, aircraft and people to be ready for operations – or Force Generation, to use the correct lingo. I've previously written about the importance of all aspects of the Navy: training, logistics, personnel support, the band, the marae; to name a few. And we can't operate without all of

these contributions. But now, on top of those who support the fleet (and as we know, the line between those at sea and those ashore is a thin one) and our new joiners, I'm going to outline what the "fleet" is up to.

As I write this introduction, I am flying to Auckland to farewell ten of our colleagues as they deploy to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in Bahrain. Led by Captain Brendon Clark, they will be away until January 2022, and will lead Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) which conducts Maritime Security Operations outside the Arabian Gulf to ensure legitimate commercial shipping can transit the region, free from non-state threats (ie. criminals and terrorists moving people, weapons, drugs, money etc). While some of us have been involved with CMF at sea and ashore (including leading the anti-piracy task force CTF 151), this is the first time we have had leadership of CTF 150.

WELLINGTON has just returned alongside from a week at sea undergoing a readiness evaluation. For the remainder of this year she, with embarked Seasprite, is the "go to" ship for contingencies in New Zealand and the Pacific. This month she is delivering vaccines into the Pacific, and on her return we will be keeping her "ready" for the remainder of the year.

CANTERBURY will shortly deploy to Singapore to conduct a docking for Survey and maintenance. She will be back in November and spend six weeks preparing for the Cyclone Season, where regrettably her capabilities are far too often needed. CANTERBURY is deploying with a smaller crew than normal, to reflect the wider needs of the Navy, but will need to resume normal crewing levels when she returns later this year.

AOTEAROA and TE KAHA are preparing to deploy to South East Asia. It has been a number of years since we deployed a "task group", and together with a Seasprite, these ships will be advancing

New Zealand's interests from the sea, and demonstrating to our friends the importance of the region. While I won't go into too many details here, there is enough information in the public domain to confirm plans to participate in a Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) exercise alongside Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and the UK; and the intent to work with the UK Carrier Strike Group (HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH) who will be in the area at the same time.

At home, MANAWANUI is undergoing the largest maintenance and capability upgrade programme that we have undertaken in New Zealand for some time. Key activities (all planned) include upgrading two of her diesel engines, a full blast and paint job with X7 biofouling, and major overhaul of her crane. Once complete, she will continue with the final stages of her operational release programme, which includes underwater crane operations.

MATATAUA, our Littoral Warfare Force, continue a heavy introduction into service and exercise programme, and continue to deliver when required those domestic operations, including for Explosive Ordnance Disposal and underwater search and recovery.

With the important OP PROTECT mahi we have had to turn some things off, and reduce some activity levels, but we continue to do our job – and deliver outputs; and each of us contributes to this, irrespective of where we serve, and so we should all be justifiably proud.

So, in closing, can I again say Bravo Zulu (well-done) and thank you for your continued contribution; without you, at sea or ashore, we wouldn't be able to do the work we do, and advance New Zealand's interests from the sea.

He heramana ahau.

Maritime Component Commander
Commodore Mat Williams





HONOURING OUR TIME TOGETHER

It is not often you see a departing Commanding Officer return a haka, but considering the time – and the miles – Commander Andy Mahoney and HMNZS MANAWANUI's Ship's Company have put in, it's not surprising.

From the announcement of the purchase of MV EDDA FONN in August 2018, CDR Mahoney was soon on board as the ship's Commissioning Commanding Officer and off to Denmark to be part of the ship's fit-out. He crossed half the world via the Panama Canal with the delivery crew, arriving in New Zealand on 12 May 2019. On 6 June the ship was commissioned as HMNZS MANAWANUI at Devonport Naval Base.

Navy Today has enjoyed following CDR Mahoney, his crew, and the technological package that makes MANAWANUI a fascinating addition to the fleet. In just over two years, MANAWANUI has ticked off most of her operational to-do list, as well as representing New Zealand internationally at Exercise RIMPAC off Hawaii last year.

It now falls to her new Commanding Officer, Commander John McQueen, to carry on the good work. *See page 11.*





An amphibious advance force, facing a hostile beach, has a lot of unknowns in front of them. Land obstacles may be visible in daylight, but what's below the surface? Using 'rebreather' technology, it's the job of HMNZS MATATAUA's clearance divers to answer that question.

“A Zodiac is launched from a mother craft and brings divers to a designated point. They silently enter the water, do a REA underwater, checking the beach gradient and find out if there’s any obstacles or explosive ordnance there and dispose of it.”

The dive teams of HMNZS MATATAUA are enjoying a vigorous tempo in 2021.

Hard on the heels of the release of HMNZS MANAWANUI’s Surface Supplied Breathing Apparatus system (*Navy Today June 2021*) was the testing of their Dräger LAR 7000 Very Shallow Water rebreather equipment at a beach beside a remote motor camp at Tauranga Bay, Northland, last month.

Rebreather diving equipment is commonplace with military dive specialists and Special Forces throughout the world, although recreational divers use versions of them as well. Closed circuit rebreathers take the gas a diver exhales and retains it within the diving apparatus in a closed loop. The exhaled gas is filtered, refreshed, and recycled back to the diver to breathe again.

For recreational divers, they offer longer dive times and less ‘noise’, because the diver’s air isn’t exhaled directly into the water, creating clouds of bubbles. For the same reason, the system is “stealthy”, without the tell-tale trail of bubbles, and ideal for military operations. Pure oxygen or Nitrox, a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen, is used to give a maximum dive depth of 24 metres.

Lieutenant John Duncan, Officer in Charge of Clearance Dive Team 1, was at Tauranga Bay for two weeks, with 21 personnel, including two chefs and three members of the NZDF’s Capability Branch.

“It’s a good bay for this time of year, with an ideal gradient. Quite a few campers as well, who would swing by for a chat as we went in and out.”

The team use a Zodiac inflatable boat to take the divers to a pre-assigned drop off point to practise silent water entry techniques. “This is to simulate a Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) of a beach. It’s done as a precursor to advance force operations, going in to search what could be a hostile beach. A Zodiac is launched from a mother craft and brings divers to a designated point. They silently enter the water, do a REA underwater, checking the beach gradient and find out if there’s any obstacles or explosive ordnance there and dispose of it.”

LT Duncan says the exercise ticked the boxes for the operational test and evaluation of the rebreather, setting it up for operational release. “We achieved all the aims up in Northland, and it was an opportunity to work up for our upcoming mine counter-measures Exercise DUGONG in Australia later this year. We’ll also be sending a team to Iceland for an international exercise this year.”

Photography: PO Chris Weissenborn





Medic in the making

A mother's lifesaving decision to keep up her first aid skills was all the spark Adam Armstrong needed to seek a career as a medic in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

He has just graduated from Defence Health School based at Burnham Military Camp following two-and-a-half years of study.

Able Medic Armstrong, 22, from Lower Hutt, said he decided to join the Navy after he left school. He wasn't interested in university but wanted to study a trade.

"I chose to join the Navy because I have been around the ocean and boats my whole life and being able to be paid while in training also sparked my interest."

He said that the decision to become a medic was pretty easy, as when he was younger his mother saved an elderly man's life.

"My mother was involved in an incident where she had to do CPR on an elderly man who had a heart attack. She had done yearly refreshers of first aid training and she was able to save his life.

"This inspired me to learn medicine so that if a similar situation presented itself, I could also provide lifesaving treatment and care," AMED Armstrong said.

It was hard to choose just one highlight of his time at Defence Health School, but he enjoyed the practical aspect of training.

"The field exercise was a great experience for me and getting lots of exposure to intense scenarios that push you right outside your comfort zone.

"Doing stretcher carries and drags and getting covered in fake blood was good fun."

AMED Armstrong said he found the academic side of things a challenge, but the study paid off.

"There is a lot of class work and study that needs to be done in order to understand the human body, having to sit down and study every night was a challenge for me."

He will be now posted to Devonport Naval Base where he will be working at the medical centre and hopes he will get to go to sea soon.

"Hopefully in the next year I will be posted to a ship and get some sea time as getting on a ship is one of the reasons I joined the Navy."

For those wanting to join Defence, AMED Armstrong said you will be getting access to limitless opportunities and experiences that you just don't get with other jobs.

"One day you could be out at the range on a field exercise and the next you could be on a ship halfway to Antarctica or the Pacific Islands."

Since 2010, NZDF medics have trained in a tri-service environment at the Defence Health School. The training is a mixture of academic and practical and trainees earn a Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences (Paramedic).

They also experience on-the-job training at Health Centres across Defence Force camps, ships and bases around New Zealand. On graduating, medics are deployable and able to operate independently within Defence Medical Treatment Protocols.



Outgoing Commanding Officer, CDR Andy Mahoney (left) with new Commanding Officer CDR John McQueen, holding HMNZS MANAWANUI's symbol of command.

New CO for HMNZS MANAWANUI

On a sunny Auckland day aboard HMNZS MANAWANUI, officers, families and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, gathered for the special occasion to hand over command.

On the ship's cargo deck, Evey saw her father Commander John "JJ" McQueen receiving the change of command and realised it was a special day for her dad. She rushed over to be part of the photo opportunity and applauded her dad with big smiles and clapping all the way back to her seat.

Ship Sponsor Ms Ardern, Chief of Navy and Commander McQueen didn't seem worried about being upstaged by the bright-eyed toddler.

Over Commander McQueen's 21-year Royal New Zealand Navy career, he's served as the Executive Officer of HMNZS CANTERBURY and as a Bridge Watch Keeping Officer on HMNZ Ships TE MANA, TE KAHA, ENDEAVOUR and RESOLUTION, just to name a few.

But Commander McQueen says although he's had some exciting postings, such as the Fleet Operations Officer at HQJFNZ and over the years, spending more than 18 months in the Middle East, this posting is unique.

"The opportunity for me personally is an exciting challenge in taking command of what is arguably the most diverse Ship we have in the Royal New Zealand Navy," he says.

And as with any ship, there is a lot more work to do.

"We have a planned docking to future proof capability and platform systems well into the future. In assuming command, the Chief of Navy signaled that my responsibility is to leave the ship that little bit better than when I took command. I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead with a return to sea to carry on with its introduction into service," says Commander McQueen.

Even with the challenges ahead, the Commander is the recipient of the hard work of outgoing Commander Andy Mahoney.

"My comrade CDR Andy Mahoney has worked tirelessly over the past two and a half years. He's significantly increased the NZDF combat

capability by reintroducing shipbourne hydrographic surveying, and Surface Supplied Breathing Apparatus diving, and has continued to enhance New Zealand's reputation with our military partners overseas," he says.

With so many people supporting HMNZS MANAWANUI, Commander McQueen says the most vital people are his Ship's Company.

In his speech to his Ship's Company he said, "I have inherited a great team and have much knowledge to absorb from you. I take solace in recognizing the faces in front of me that I have served alongside with many of you previously. However, more notably there are a greater many younger sailors and officers that I have not. Our diversity is testament to the great naval system and continual growth of the Navy and I'm looking forward to the multiplicity of thought and experience in moving forward and I embrace you all as my whānau".



QUALIFYING TO DIVE

■ **By Simone Millar**
Senior Communications
Advisor (North)

It all starts with the historic initiation – a five-kilometre run through mangroves followed by a one-kilometre swim in the cold, murky Manukau Harbour. And the tradition of the Navy's Diver's Mud Run is only the warm-up for the day for the six recent graduates of the Defence Dive Course.

“It's fun, it's scary, but you'll never grow if you don't get out of your comfort zone.”

- LCPL Petra Dye-Hutchinson



The course is five weeks in duration, run from the Dive Training School at Devonport Naval Base. Students who complete the course are qualified under Australian Diving Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) Part 1 diving, which gives the students a civilian occupational diving (SCUBA) qualification to 30 metres.

The course attracts people from all services in the Defence Force and it was a real dream for Petty Officer Physical Training Instructor Māhia Morton and Lance Corporal Petra Dye-Hutchinson.

“When I first posted in as a firefighter, I was told of this course about five years ago by my superior. He knew I was passionate about the water. I'd never dived before but it was the best challenge for me to do. I thought why not take the opportunity the Defence Force gives?” says LCPL Dye-Hutchinson.

The course teaches skills such as searching for lost objects, body recovery and ship hull searches.

“We did all of these exercises in the day and night. I thought I was brave but the night diving was a bit scary,” says POPTI Morton.

“The coolest thing was using hand tools underwater. We had to cut through metal objects with a hacksaw.”

Originally from Tairāwhiti and of Ngāti Porou and Rongowhakaata, POPTI Morton says there were a lot of challenges, including training for core strength.

“It was a challenge being in the water as it's a different kind of fitness. But you can push through it, it's not impossible to achieve. It's a challenge, but it's awesome.”

The 29-year-old was initially a hydrographer then trade-changed to a physical training instructor. She's always loved the ocean, obtaining her PADI dive qualification, and she's a big advocate of females getting into the dive trade.

“The dive trade is male dominant and that in itself pushed me to do the course. Some women are afraid to take the step. It's fun, it's scary, but you'll never grow if you don't get out of your comfort zone. My advice is just do it, girls!”

LCPL Dye-Hutchinson loves her job as a firefighter but was up for the challenge.

“I loved the course. I love my job as a firefighter. But the diving is just like firefighting under water. It's the same skill set, but now we have the element of just being under water,” she says.

“That’s what the Defence Force is about. I’ve never worked with the Navy before, but we’re all talking the same language, with a slightly different lingo. It was good to learn from each others’ skill set.”

- LCPL Petra Dye-Hutchinson



The 29-year-old Aucklander says the highlight of the course was how the team worked together, regardless of what Service they were in.

“It was like finding a long-lost family. I definitely made some great friends out of that course,” says LCPL Dye-Hutchinson.

She says the risks that come with diving make teamwork all the more important.

“We’re all individuals but you can’t just dive by yourself. We have to work together and it’s about achieving the outcome together. The technical search techniques were a cluster at the beginning but then the second time we got it. It was pretty cool hearing that we did well from the instructors,” she says.

Currently posted to 2nd Engineer Regiment at Linton, LCPL Dye-Hutchinson says she’ll be pushing to get posted to HMNZS MATATAUA to be part of the dive team in the future, but for now she’ll be fighting fires above the water line.



Above: From left, AWTR Dione Taurua, POPTI Māhia Morton and LCPL Petra Dye-Hutchinson.

Photography: PO Chris Weissenborn



80
1941-2021

“Once you joined,
the navy owned you.”

*Navy historian
Gerry Wright,
author of 25
books, shares his
recollections of
the 1950s.*

Gerry Wright, with Dixie, a Blind and Low Vision breeding female that he fosters. Mr Wright walks dogs in training for the Blind Foundation.

Gerry Wright joined the Navy in 1955 as a Seaman Boy, 2nd Class, and served in the Loch-class frigates HMNZS KANIERE and HMNZS PUKAKI and the cruiser HMNZS ROYALIST before commissioning as an officer. After 26 years of service, when informed that he was too old for further sea service, Gerry retired in the rank of Lieutenant Commander.



“In KANIERE we went away in February, 1956, to South East Asia for a 16 months’ deployment, which was typical at that time. I can remember the food in the Far East not being very good. It was full of fat, certainly very unhealthy. The meals were cooked in a galley, served up in a tray, and the ‘mess duty cook’ carried it down to his mess of 6–10 men. If you slipped and fell, tough luck. Or you swept up the food back onto the tray and carried on. You ate in the mess deck and you would clean up afterwards. Often the cutlery would get left in the buckets and get dropped over the side, so people started hoarding their own cutlery. It was just a way of life. You got used to it.”





Morale was reasonable, he says. “I remember the two seaman Lieutenants were both Royal Navy officers on exchange. One of them was okay because he was next to useless. The other was a real disciplinarian. When they would come back at night from ashore, they would look at me, the Bosun’s Mate on gangway, and ask ‘Where’s the Quartermaster?’ I would reply, ‘Doing rounds, sir.’ Then I would race down and shake awake the Quartermaster who had returned to his hammock. You played these cat and mouse games sometimes.”

There wasn’t much room on the frigates. “Most slept in hammocks but some had stretchers on the deck. Eventually, I slept on a long mess seat form. Someone else slept on the mess table.”

Runs ashore were a chance for relief. “The favourite place to go was the China Fleet Club in Hong Kong. Cheap accommodation, cheap beer, and there was always a shore patrol there to make sure everyone kept the peace. In Singapore, you could walk to the nearest village, but things could be rough. In Subic Bay, in the Philippines, we were warned, leave the prostitutes alone. Venereal disease was a big problem there. Onboard some toilets were reserved for ‘CDA’ – Caught Disease Ashore.”

They would spend a lot of their time chipping and painting. They chipped the upperdeck rust spots and repainted them. Frequently, a chipping hammer would go through the steel structure. Gerry would step in, clean the rust and apply a thick coat of paint over the area. He would then slap a patch of canvas over the wet paint

and apply another coat of paint. Those simple patches never leaked even in the worst weather, he says.

“Today’s sailors don’t do any of this. Everyone walks off, the cleaners come on board. Painting is all done by the dockyard today.”

As a Basic Radar Operator Gerry was then posted to PUKAKI in February, 1958, which was employed as a weather reporting ship in Operation Grapple; Britain’s hydrogen bomb testing off Christmas Island.

“I saw five bomb tests but I’ll never forget that first one. The bomb had a yield of 3 megatons; the Hiroshima bomb’s yield was only about 15 kilotons. We were dressed in full Action Working Dress with our trousers tucked into our socks and wore Anti-flash head gear and gloves. When the bomb was released by the RAF Valiant bomber, everyone was ordered to sit down on the deck facing inboard away from Ground Zero and cover our closed eyes with both hands. It took 45 seconds for the bomb to fall and when it detonated the flash was so intense that everyone could see the bones of their hands like an x-ray. Then came the heat; it was like lying on one’s stomach on a cloudy day, then the sun comes out and you can feel the increasing heat. After 15 seconds we stood up and turned around. The bomb was a big fireball. You couldn’t look straight at it as it was so bright; just like the rising sun on a clear morning. Then it was enveloped in a dirty grey smoke and a plume of smoke and bright red flames rapidly rose up to the heavens. There was utter silence only to be broken by the crying of the seabirds who had been blinded.” [1]

Gerry joined ROYALIST in November, 1958. It was built in 1943 for a crew of 500, but after her modernisation she needed a crew of 550. There was no extra space to sleep. Despite now being a Leading Seaman and in charge of a mess of 48 under the quarterdeck, he had to sling his hammock on the deck. “It was under the twin Bofors mounts. The waves would break on board underneath me. And down on the mess deck, God, it stank with the amount of body odour.”

Thinking back on the conditions they served in, he wonders if today’s sailors would be resigning. “But you couldn’t resign in those days. You signed on for eight years from the age of 18. I had joined at age 16½ so my contract was for 9½ years. That was it. When my father dropped me off to join the Navy, he said, ‘If you change your mind, I will get you out’. Little did he know! The only way to get out was feet first, or by committing some heinous crime, with 90 days’ detention and then dismissed from the service. Once you joined, the Navy owned you.”

[1] *Extracted from an interview with Denise Baynham for Operation Grapple – We were there 2020–2021.*

Main Photo: Denise Baynham Photography

Top left: HMNZS PUKAKI

Top right: HMNZS ROYALIST

Opposite page:

Hammocks slung in a mess deck aboard HMNZS ROYALIST.

HMNZS ROYALIST at sea.





Our People

1. LTCDR Tim Johns gets around Devonport Naval Base on his electric bike.

2. HMNZS MANAWANUI personnel pipe Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and partner Clarke Gayford on board.

3. In Canada, AET Metui Talilotu, HMNZS TE MANA, is promoted to Leading Hand by Commanding Officer CDR Mike Peebles.

4. LHLM Jesse Turi and AHLM Josh Sorensen graduate from the Basic Helicopter Course with their Loadmaster classmates at No. 3 Squadron Ohakea.

5. Members of BCT 21/01 show off their course certificates and division photos the day before their official graduation.

6. The Defence Divers' course at Devonport Naval Base. From left, POPTI Māhia Morton, AWTR Dione Taurua, AMT(L) Daniel Bowler, LCPL Petra Dye-Hutchinson, SPR Scott Smyth and AMT(L) Brayden Lowe.

7. CDRE Mat Williams, Maritime Component Commander (at right), visits HMNZS MATATAUA divers during Exercise Nautilus at Tauranga Bay, Northland.

8. Parade Commander of the graduation for JOCT 21/01, Midshipman Jett Hunia, receives her Parade Commander Award from Defence Minister Peeni Henare.

9. SLT Jennifer Dive is promoted to Lieutenant, with her wife LTCDR Amanda Green (left) and her mother-in-law Carol Green changing the rank slides.

10. OLSS Steven Wereta is promoted to Able Rate on board HMNZS AOTEAROA.

11. A sailor hugs a graduate from Recruit Regular Force Course (RRF) 401 Rafah Company, who marched out at Waiouru Military Camp.



Infectious joy and the power of ritual

What I learned this weekend from the Navy

■ **By Emma Bartlett**
Leadership Development Coach
and Devonport local

The Auckland suburb where I live is the home of the Royal New Zealand Navy. June 12 was the graduation parade of the Junior Officer Common Training course 21/01 and Basic Common Training course 21/01.

My eight-year-old daughter, having heard the band practising this week, was desperate to see if we could watch some of the ceremony. So on Saturday morning we walked down the road to see what we could see.

The sun was shining and families were gathered around the parade ground to see their loved ones accomplish this milestone. We were on the other side of the chain link fence looking in.

The Minister for Defence, Peeni Henare, addressed the crowd in Te Reo then English. The band played. Awards were presented.

At one stage a uniformed sailor approached us. I thought he was going to ask us to move on. We were on Navy land after all. But he smiled and said we were very welcome. He gently warned my daughters that there would be some blanks fired and that they might want to cover their ears. No way, my daughters said. We're not scared.



25 years ago (in another life) I had the privilege of attending the graduation of a then-boyfriend from Officer Training at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. My memory is sketchy but I recall it as a serious and solemn occasion. The Queen was there. Family and friends stood in the sun on the parade ground for what seemed like a very long time. I remember it mattered to my then-boyfriend that I wore something suitably demure and conservative (I was 21 and had spent the past six months pulling pints in the local pub... my wardrobe was not bursting with demure and conservative options!) There was a very formal dinner. The Royal Marine Drum Corps played outside as the sun set. Their precision was astonishing and I remember being moved. There were a great many protocols to adhere to, including a particular doorway where you had to bow reverentially on the way through. I was told I would not be permitted to leave the table to use the

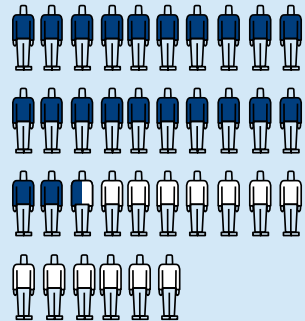
bathroom for the duration of the (long) dinner and speeches. I sipped my water nervously. There was a sense that these hallowed rituals had been unchanged for tens if not hundreds of years. I felt very aware of my northern accent and that there was a language and 'way of being' in this place that I did not understand. I spent the whole time being very careful about what I said and how I acted. I had the feeling that nearly everyone else was too.

The entire occasion was magnificent and flawless. In looking back it occurs to me now that the event was intentionally designed to instill awe and reverence for the institution it was showcasing. It did it extremely well. It was also sending a message to, and asking a question of, the loved ones gathered there... 'this is their life now... are you prepared to be a part of it? And apart from it at the same time?' Turned out I was not. But that's a whole other story.

STATISTICS

Basic Common Training 21/01

72 graduates

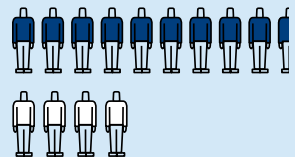


45  men (62.5%)

27  women (37.5%)

Junior Officer Common Training 21/01

27 graduates



19  men (70.4%)

08  women (29.6%)





Emma and her daughters have since been invited to see more of Devonport Naval Base. Scroll forward 25 years...

After the formal awards ceremony the graduates did a PT demonstration to *Mambo No. 5*. The line between exercise drills and dancing became blurred. The impeccably precise rifle drill was conducted to AJR's *Bang!* One new sailor sang a soul classic whilst the band jammed behind him. The crowd cheered. On the other side of the fence my girls and I danced. My daughters beamed when one group of graduates sang a beautiful version of *We Know The Way from Moana* as family members came up and placed leis around their necks. The 200-strong haka was jaw-dropping.

Discipline. Pride. Strength. Comradeship. Mana.

It was all there in abundance. So was joy. Oodles of it, mischievous and uplifting. And plenty of aroha too. It was utterly, gloriously Kiwi.

Whereas 25 years ago I felt awe and was intimidated. Here I felt pride and was inspired. My girls and I were on the other side of the fence but felt part of it. It's moments like this that make

me feel at truly at home here, even while home can sometimes feel very far away.

It also reminded me that discipline and respect and service and leadership can absolutely coexist with (and be strengthened by) delight and joy and warmth and vitality. And that when they do the buzz is contagious.

In any organisation (or society) rites and rituals say so much. They create cohesion, belonging and a sense of stability for those on the inside. They send an irrefutable message about what is valued and what is not. Who is welcome and included and who is not. It's important that we all, leaders especially, pay attention to the rituals we live by and to what they, intentionally or unintentionally, create. What do the rituals in your organisation convey to those on the 'inside' and to those on the 'outside'?

My daughters were mesmerised on Saturday morning... "mum there are so many girls in the Navy, and everyone is having fun together". Yes there are, and they are, and they have worked really, really hard for that.

Congratulations to all of the weekend's graduates. You shone brightly! And you showed two young girls what work and service can look like.

Reprinted from Emma's LinkedIn page with permission.



Photography: CPL Dillon Anderson

Carrying on the core values

Midshipman Isaac Wade

■ **By Simone Millar**
Senior Communications Advisor
(North)

He's the third generation in his family to serve in the military and Midshipman Isaac Wade is holding up the Navy virtues for the future generation.

After graduating from Hamilton Boys' High School, MID Wade studied mechanical engineering at Waikato University. But the call of the past was strong and now he is one of 28 to graduate from JOCT 21/01 this month (June).

The family history started with his grandfather, Mervyn Wade, who served with the Royal New Zealand Air Force and was attached to the RAF's 159 Squadron during the Burma Campaign near the end of World War Two.

"I started basic training on the week it would have been his 100th birthday," he says.

"My grandfather was 18 years old when the war broke out. He originally volunteered to join the Air Force, but while the paperwork was being processed he was drafted and joined the Waikato Mounted Rifles. He was transferred to the Air Force in July 1942," says MID Wade.

"Grandad had had no secondary education and attributes much of his subsequent achievement to the education he received with his initial training in the Air Force. He passed out second in his course and was offered the opportunity to train as a pilot, but as the rest of his intake were off to Canada as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan he elected to stay with them. Originally Grandad was in signals but his Morse wasn't fast enough, so he trained as a gunner instead. After training in Canada he joined No. 11 Operational

Training Unit flying Wellington bombers in the UK. Around the time of "D Day" Grandad's squadron was involved in deception exercises which involved throwing tinfoil ("window") out of the aircraft in order to confuse German radar. Following that he was promoted to Flight Sergeant and transferred to India where he underwent conversion training to Liberator Bombers, after which he joined the 159 Squadron. Just before Japan surrendered Grandad was promoted to Pilot Officer."

The next generation to join the forces was Dr Clyde Wade who served in the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps.

"While at Medical School Dad joined the Otago University Medical Company and served as a Warrant Officer Second Class with the New Zealand Services Medical Team at Bong Son and Qui Nhon in Viet Nam, from late 1970 to early 1971," says MID Wade.

After graduation, Dr Wade spent six years with 2 General Hospital (2GH) in Wellington. Dr Wade left 2GH to further his Specialist training as a Cardiologist in the UK. He spent 34 years as a cardiologist at Waikato Hospital where he was responsible for setting up the Cardiac Surgical Unit."

"I have been really impressed by the practical leadership training the JOCT have received," says Dr Wade. "As many health professionals end up in leadership positions after zero leadership training, I think it is something which would be beneficial as part of our professional training."

MID Wade's dream is to be a marine engineering officer on one of the Navy's ships.

The highlight of his training so far has been Exercise Storm.

"It's the part of training where we get taught leadership skills. It's a really big part of our training and is



about balancing the mission and the team. It's about how you cope when something changes, to manage the safety of your team and complete the exercise without injuring any of your team. It put all of our theory and hard work into action and challenged us to think and deal with situations that most people in the civilian world would never have to deal with," he says.

And it's the core values of the military that he wants to carry on.

"The core values have remained the same but the presentation and the way we do things has changed. There's been fundamental changes in the Defence Force as it has modernised and become more aligned with a modern world. But our driving principles and what we do hasn't changed," he says.

"My time at Frankton Primary School in Hamilton was a real foundation for how I've come into the Navy life. My teacher introduced me to the virtues programme. Every week we would have a different virtue and they have stuck with me and become values.

"When I joined the Navy I realised these line up with the Navy's core values of courage, commitment, comradeship, and integrity which are the same as what my Grandfather and Father committed to. It's given me the grounding I've needed to go this far."

From School to Seas to Officer

Midshipman Charli Thomas

■ **By Simone Millar**
Senior Communications Advisor
(North)



Nearly 30 years of marriage and a fair amount of healthy competition has built a solid foundation for the Thomas family.

It was the Royal New Zealand Navy officer intake of 1992 where Jamie and Rebecca met, and the Auckland couple were proud to see their daughter Charli carry on the tradition.

"My Mum joined the Navy as a Supply Officer and Dad as a Navigational Officer on the same intake. That's how they met. And they're still married," says 18-year-old Midshipman Charli Thomas.

"I think just growing up in a military family, I've always had the sense of doing something for my country," she says.

In her final year of high school, the Kristin School student went through the Royal New Zealand Navy School to Seas programme.

The week-long programme is for young women with an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths to find out if a career in the Navy is for them.

The programme focuses on navigation, mechanics, electronics, life skills, teamwork and partnerships, so women can learn what life is like on a ship.

"I was accepted into School to Seas and that just really confirmed this is what I want to do.

"I remember calling my Mum one night and saying 'yep, I definitely picked the right job', it was just an awesome experience," she says.

MID Thomas was one of 27 midshipmen to graduate from the Junior Officer Common Training (JOCT) course in June, which focuses on leadership, 'followership' and operational service at sea. It's just the start of her journey with the Navy.

"There's a bit of rivalry between me and my parents. I was in Royalist Division of JOCT and my parents were in Bellona Division.

"Also, my Mum left the Navy as a Midshipman and my Dad as a Sub Lieutenant. I want to outrank my parents and become Commanding Officer of a ship!" she says.

"I've chosen the warfare officer role mainly because my Mum didn't have much choice, but I can choose any role; it's a big step to prove the Navy has changed for women over this time."

MID Thomas will be posted to HMNZS CANTERBURY to see what life is like on a ship. She will then learn about navigation, and learn how to become an Officer of the Watch and Bridge watchkeeper.

MID Charli Thomas with her parents Rebecca and Jamie Thomas following her graduation.

Employee backs reservist for mission south



A Navy reservist can be a great asset on a civilian expedition to Antarctica, whether it involves duties as a government observer or being steady enough to cook apple crumble for dessert.

Petty Officer Electronic Technician Fiona Millington, a communications technician with KiwiRail, took part in a Heritage Expeditions voyage to the Sub-Antarctic islands and several Antarctic bases before lockdown in 2020.

Last month KiwiRail were awarded third place in the Minister of Defence Reserve Employer of the Year Awards for the support they provided to POET Millington.

She says she received “incredible support from her team” at KiwiRail for the four-week expedition with Heritage Expeditions, a Christchurch-based firm who run conservation awareness trips to the deep south.

As well as paying guests, Heritage Expeditions take several observers who report to the Government on the company’s activities. As an observer, POET Millington travelled in Russian-crewed Polar Research vessel *Spirit of Enderby* (*Professor Khromov*), visiting the Auckland Islands and Macquarie Island before heading to Antarctica.

“Navy personnel are usually quite good at this,” she says. “We can tell how a ship is running. We understand shipboard routine. And I’ve been to Antarctica before and know the conservation procedures.”

The *Enderby* can take up to 50 guests, as well as 14 expedition staff and a crew of Russians. POET Millington was in shared accommodation, and initially helped out in the galley after one of the two chefs became ill. “For the first two days, because I had reasonable sea legs, I got stuck in the kitchen. I helped get the dinners out and I made 52 apple crumbles.”

The trip, essentially a conservation sight-seeing tour and a chance to visit Antarctica, was “awesome”, she says. “We went to an Italian base and they really welcomed us there. They even broke out the piano-playing.”

KiwiRail manager Alan Gilbert, speaking at the award ceremony hosted in HMNZS AOTEAROA in Wellington, said he enjoyed the energy POET Millington brought back to the workplace after her trip to Antarctica. “She was full of the sights she had seen down there – it was so enjoyable just listening to her!”

POET Millington nominated KiwiRail for the award, saying the organisation had the structures in place to allow leave for this kind of thing.

“If I encounter a door, I open it and walk through it. I’m not afraid of taking that step. It’s about more development and new experiences. I don’t shy away, I just go for it.”

KEEP IT REAL

Able Helicopter Loadmaster Josh Sorensen



Josh Sorensen, from Palmerston North, says he needed a change of scene. His future as a Navy helicopter loadmaster will definitely deliver that.

Able Helicopter Loadmaster Sorensen, 20, along with Leading Helicopter Loadmaster Jesse Turi, graduated as a loadmaster at No. 3 Squadron RNZAF in Ohakea last month. Unlike LHLM Turi, who changed trade from a medic, AHLM Sorensen is a 'direct-entry' loadmaster, thanks to a scheme introduced in 2018. After more training, he will post to No. 6 Squadron in Auckland, who fly the Navy SH-2G(I) Seasprite helicopters.

"After I finished at Palmerston North Boys High School, I travelled for a year and then applied to be a loadmaster in the Air Force. At the review board, there was an offer to do Navy, and I had no clue the Navy had loadmasters. So being given that opportunity was awesome."

His father had been a helicopter engineer in the Air Force before he was born, then continued the trade with civilian companies.

"I'd always considered the military. When you get to Year-13, not many know what they are going to do. I was juggling between the military and university."

He enjoyed Basic Common Training. "I wanted a change of scene, to move away from my home town. It was a good experience, a good challenge, and you get to know people pretty well when you are struggling together. It taught me how to iron! Mum struggled to teach me before I left."

In contrast, the Loadmasters' course is tough. "It's meant to be six months, but it can take eight or nine months. Weather can be a factor. There's a lot of stress, but it's worth it. It's a really unique job."

He says keeping an eye on the end goal kept him focused. "You are always looking to get it done, even when you don't feel one hundred percent confident, you learn to deal with it. It gets easier when you know you are moving on to something different."

He's got another six months or so at Ohakea, building up his qualifications, before being posted to Auckland. "I've never been on a Navy ship, and I'm really excited to be doing that at some point."

His advice to others is to not be afraid to be yourself. "You don't have to build yourself up as some other military person and act like that. The assessors can tell if you are trying to be someone you're not. They look for people with their own personality. They look for people who are real. So be yourself, and just believe in yourself."

DID YOU KNOW?

Readers may spot AHLM Sorensen wearing the Australian Meritorious Unit citation above his name badge.

The Citation is awarded to a unit for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations. In 2002 it was awarded to No. 3 Squadron RNZAF in recognition of the service the unit provided during the conflict in Timor Leste.

While the original citation contains a silver Federation Star in its centre, any member of No. 3 Squadron is entitled to wear the award as a dress embellishment – minus the Federation Star.

Because LHLM Turi and AHLM Sorensen were attached to No. 3 Squadron for training, they are entitled to wear it. When they depart No. 3 Squadron for a posting with the Navy crews of No. 6 Squadron, they will have to remove it.

AHLM Josh Sorensen receives his brevet after graduating from his Helicopter Basic Course (Loadmaster) at Ohakea.

BEACH INTELLIGENCE

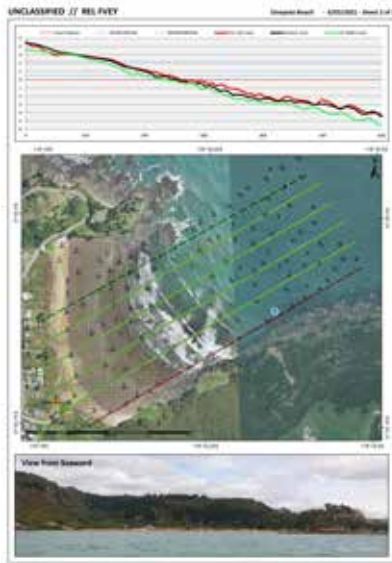
A sound understanding of the littoral environment has long been recognised by militaries around the world as advantageous in the execution of amphibious landings. A new geospatial data management system, developed by GEOINT New Zealand (GNZ) in collaboration with the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation, now looks to bring the collection, storage and distribution of the information that provides that understanding into the twenty-first century.

Beach intelligence data is regularly captured by the hydrographers of HMNZS MATATAUA when undertaking surveys or Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) activity, to identify potential hazards and plot safe routes for an amphibious landing force. Previous methods for storing and presenting this data were ineffective. In line with the New Zealand Defence Force's 'Networked Combat Force' concept, the Littoral Environment Information System (LENS) was developed to address that weakness.

LENS uses the NATO Additional Military Layer schema to codify data in a standardised format, rendering it machine-readable and easily exploitable. It combines a geospatial database and a number of tools developed by GNZ that expand the functionality of software and systems already in use within the NZDF. Together they allow the rapid collection and distribution of that data.

Hydrographers can now deploy with tools that reduce the time needed to compile a beach intelligence data set and, while still in the field, create products that visualise critical environmental information. The time saved gives hydrographers more time to assess the data and provide valuable insights to command.





Collected data is sent to the Hydrographic Shore Support Unit of GNZ for quality control and addition to a master database. This data can be pushed to NZDF Command and Control systems, contributing to a Recognised Environmental Picture which can inform future operations and exercises.

Following successful trials with MATATAUA in early 2021, LENS has been adopted by the hydrographic trade as the primary method for collating, storing and disseminating beach intelligence. Work is underway to integrate LENS training into key career courses for trade personnel.

The development of LENS was led by the Naval personnel of GNZ's Hydrographic Shore Support Unit, but relied heavily upon the technical expertise of GNZ's civilian staff. The mixed military and civilian team was well suited to the task, establishing equilibrium between the military requirements of the project and the limitations on development imposed by NZDF Communication and Information Systems (CIS).

LENS is an example of translating strategic intent into meaningful output in a resource-constrained environment. It furthers the NZDF strategic goal of a 'Networked Combat Force' by enabling improved flow of critical information both within the NZDF and with our international partners.



Celebrating Cook Island Language Week

**Kia Orana
Ko Jordi Kotuhi-
Brown tōku ingoa.
I am 24 years old
and currently
serving in the Royal
New Zealand Navy.**

When and please describe why you joined the Navy?

I joined and passed out of the intake of 19/1. At high school I always knew I wanted a job that would take me out of my home town, a job that could take me all over the world, a job that I can continue to play sport and a job that wasn't the same every day. My one and only goal was to eventually join any of the services of the Defence Force. The RNZN ended up working out the best at the time and I don't regret it one bit.

What is your role?

I still laugh thinking of the time my recruiter said I would make a good communicator. Two and half years in I'm still trying to figure it all out. I specialise in Communication. My trade focuses on radios, satellites, visual communication and ship to ship or ship to shore communication. Every trade just like mine are qualified in first aid, sea-survival and fire-fighting in order to continue in ship duties.

What are some of your experiences?

In the short two and a half years served in the RNZN I've posted to two different cities (Auckland and Wellington), sailed up and down New Zealand on HMNZS CANTERBURY and this month I will be deployed over in Vancouver Island, Canada on HMNZS TE MANA. With the pandemic across the world a lot of operations and exercises change on a daily basis; however I am very grateful to still be able to travel.

As a competitive sport player growing up I didn't want to stop the older I became. Before the pandemic cancelled all the tournaments I got the opportunity to represent the Navy in both touch rugby and basketball. I had an awesome chance while I was posted in Trentham, Wellington to play softball alongside the Army girls and had a muck around playing Turbo touch throughout the winter season.

Another main highlight is the friends and relationships gained throughout. Experiences like Basic Training (BCT) and living with 18 other peers in one room can make you appreciate the girls that little bit more. There's a saying that "In the military you make life-long brothers and sisters" which I strongly believe in. The short two years I've been in, I still love seeing all my friends from our intake. I work with two Petty Officers who both joined together in 2009 and hearing their banter and stories makes me excited for the near future.

How do you identify your ethnic background?

A very proud Cook Island Māori.

Where did you grow up?

Te Awa O Whanganui.

What makes you proud about your language and culture?

Just like the RNZN, being a Māori Kūki 'āirani holds values that we live our every day by. Being both Cook Island and Māori, my siblings and I grew up learning the importance of family, traditions, humility and to prioritise our people and land. I'm most proud of the type of person I am because of the beautiful combination of being Cook Island and Māori. I pay tribute to our ancestors for holding the mana of our language and culture and preserving it for our future Tamariki.

Do you have a special Cook Islands proverb, saying or message you'd like to share?

Fortunately enough my 88-year-old great-grandmother is still with us today. She was born in Aorangi, Rarotonga and I passed this question on to her.

***“Kia akameitaki
ia te Atua no to
tatou ora anga.”***

***“Blessings to the
Lord for our
well-being.”***

The message is to always be grateful for everything the Lord has blessed us with.



The NZDF Provost Marshal

The New Zealand Defence Force Provost Marshal is a unique modern-day role that reflects a long history of an ancient office.

The English records of the first appointed Provost Marshal refer to an individual who was given the responsibility of maintaining good order and discipline within the English armies, together with the King's personal security and was described as "the first and greatest gaoler of the Army". Many centuries later and a world away, these basic tenets continue to underpin the role of the Provost Marshal, but naturally the position is much enhanced and very different in scope, form, function and output.

In the New Zealand Defence Force, unlike most of our partner nations, the Provost Marshal neither commands the Military Police nor are they the Provost Marshal for a single Service. Instead, the appointment sits at the strategic level, within the Office of the Chief of Defence Force, with the Provost Marshal acting as a key advisor to senior leadership in relation to the Military Police, criminal and disciplinary investigations and custodial matters in the NZDF.

As the senior technical advisor, the Provost Marshal exercises Technical Control and provides technical direction to the NZDF Military Police and in relation to policing, custodial matters and the conduct of criminal



and disciplinary investigations throughout the NZDF. It follows that one of the most important roles of the NZDF Provost Marshal is setting the professional standards for and maintaining independent oversight and governance of these functions.

In a particularly niche role, the Provost Marshal also works with the Vice Chief of the Defence Force as the lead in responding to fraud and corruption allegations.

The current Provost Marshal is Colonel Kate Hill, notably the first woman to be appointed to the position in New Zealand. Colonel Hill was appointed to the role during COVID lockdown in March 2020. We asked her some questions about being the NZDF Provost Marshal:

What is your background and how did you become the NZDF Provost Marshal?

Well, I have been in the military for 33 years this year, a combination of Territorial (Reserve Force) service and Regular Force service. Serving in the Army initially in the Royal New Zealand Signal Corps, followed by the New Zealand Intelligence Corps and about 15 years as a legal advisor in the New Zealand Army Legal Service.

I served as a Police Officer with the New Zealand Police for 11 years as well, in a variety of roles including as a frontline officer, investigator and intelligence officer. I think it was a combination of my service, experience and qualifications that led to my selection by the Senior Appointments Board for the role of Provost Marshal.

What do you like best about your role?

The networking and relationship building that is critical to working as an advisor at the strategic level. I have to work every day to develop and build relationships within the NZDF, with partner agencies and with my professional counterparts in other militaries. In the COVID environment we are having to learn to do this differently and although it is sometimes a big effort, the relationships that result are genuinely worth it.

What are the challenges in your role?

Overcoming a widespread lack of understanding about what the Office of the Provost Marshal does and accessing information from across the NZDF that allows me to provide technical support and guidance or policy direction where it is needed. I hope this article might help with that.



ON TRACK WITH THE LSV PROGRAMME

■ **By Simone Millar**
Senior Communications Advisor
(North)

Substance abuse, poor mental health, poverty of experience and a lack of life skills are just some of the barriers facing young people trying to find employment.

But over the past three decades, the Limited Service Volunteers (LSV) Programme has helped turn young peoples' lives around.

This six-week residential course supports 18 to 24 year-olds who are at risk of long-term unemployment, and recent graduates are already reaping the benefits.

Bay of Islands local (Motatau), Trainee Renee Cooper-Paraha, ended up on the unemployment benefit as a result of COVID-19 last year.

"Before last year I was studying at university, then COVID hit and I failed the course. I got really embarrassed and didn't go back. So I thought I can either do six weeks of something or six weeks of the same old nothing."

And it's paid off, with what Trainee Cooper-Paraha calls a 'real job'.

"While I was on the course I got a job offer from the expo that was held here on base. I'm going to work at Auckland DHB as an Optometry Technician. It's a real job."

The LSV course offers young people life and employment skills, social skills, values, training and nurturing confidence. Wrap-around services are also on-site at the Youth Development Unit, such as social workers, police mentors, registered nurses, trained Youth Development Specialists and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

Trainee Astra Brill was unemployed in her home town of Te Awamutu but she's experienced the benefits of having support.

"I wasn't really doing much. I wasn't being proactive. I had been unemployed for nearly four months, so I was like what else am I going to do?" she says.

"The course has kind of built a foundation for me. I didn't realise how many opportunities there were for me here. And just the way the experience can change your wellbeing."

"I've applied for a job within the contact centre for the Ministry of Social Development. The staff from MSD here are so amazing. They've helped me with my application and interview tips. I'd like to come and work here. I really, really love it here, it's my second home."

Part of the success of the programme comes down to a structured military environment, being drug and alcohol free with a focus on fitness and nutrition.

Corporal Jordon Waerea leads the trainees' physical training. He says the trainees often start the course with a low level of physical ability, but by the end of the course there is a huge improvement not only physically, but mentally as well.

"The physical training includes cardio, strengthening, respiratory and muscular endurance. The fitness improvement is outstanding. It's ten-fold," says Corporal Waerea.

"The trainees also take part in physical challenges such as a sandbagging scenario, fire hose run, a six kilometre cross-country run and a 10 kilometre orienteering course," he says.

With their military-styled graduation parade approaching, both Trainee Cooper-Paraha and Trainee Brill, look back on their six-week experience with pride and gratitude.

Both graduates will receive continuing support from the Future Leaders programme, which has supported more than 650 youth since 2014, and continually achieves more than 80 per cent sustainable career outcomes for our rangatahi.



WE WANT YOU!

The Naval Reserves are currently recruiting for:

- MTO officers
- Legal Officer
- Public Affairs Officers

For the first time in over a decade the Naval Reserves are actively seeking recruits with no previous military experience.

Also for the first time in many years, these recruits can now follow one of two different paths. The first is to join Maritime Trade Operations (MTO), a specialised military capability within the Information Warfare domain. The alternative, for recruits with the right qualifications and experience, is to join in a role which puts those civilian skills to use for the NZDF's benefit. In many cases, those skills are too scarce or expensive for the NZDF to maintain in sufficient numbers full-time.

The Naval Reserves are currently recruiting for MTO officers, Legal Officers and Public Affairs Officers. Recruiting for MTO ratings will also begin soon. The objective for the future is to continue to broaden the range of roles available in the Naval Reserves, in order to provide a greater surge and flex capability to the NZDF as a whole.

Naval Reserve officers and ratings will undergo initial training which mirrors

the content of Junior Officer Common Training (JOCT) and Basic Common Training. But, because Reservists can rarely take long periods off work for training, initial training will be delivered in a modern, blended format. This will combine some shorter residential periods with weekend and weeknight training in Reserve units, distance learning and self-study. Initial training will occupy most of the first year of a Reservist's career in the Navy. MTO officers and ratings will then begin branch training, while those in roles leveraging their civilian skills will be available to start contributing to outputs straight away.

The Naval Reserves also accepts lateral recruits – those with prior experience in Commonwealth or allied armed forces – as well as transfers from the Regular Force. The Reserves provides a way of maintaining a connection to New Zealand's military environment and maintaining core skills and qualifications. As a Reservist you can also volunteer for ad hoc, recurring, part-time, or fixed term employment in the NZDF.

So, if you are leaving the Regular Force, apply to transfer to the Naval Reserves. And if you know someone who is interested in a part-time career in the Navy, then encourage them to contact Defence Recruiting now, for JOCT(R) commencing January 2022. We want you!

See www.defencecareers.mil.nz

15 ROUNDS

WITH COMMANDER JOHN MCQUEEN



01

Job title and description

Commanding Officer
HMNZS MANAWANUI

02

Date joined RNZN

25 January 2000

03

First ship posted to

Inshore Patrol Vessel
HMNZS KIWI –
I was also the last
Commanding Officer
and decommissioned
her in 2006.

04

Best deployment

CTF 150 deployment to
the Middle East, with the
RAN in 2012.



05

Hometown

Auckland

06

High School

Westlake Boys
High School

07

Favourite book

George Orwell's *1984*

08

Favourite movie

The Right Stuff (1983)

09

Favourite album

Dakota (Stereophonics)

10

Favourite song

Sam's Town – The Killers

11

Favourite holiday destination

Tawharanui Peninsula
(I was a devastated teen,
when my uncle sold his
bach).

12

Outside of work, what's the one thing you enjoy doing?

Reading to Evey, our two
year old daughter

13

What's something about you that not many people know?

I was born in Medan,
Indonesia.

14

A person that taught you a valuable life/Navy lesson was... and the lesson was?

My father, and the lesson
was and always is

"Do unto others,
as you would have them
do unto you."

15

How would you describe the Navy in 10 words or less

Nothing less than the
best job in New Zealand!



Photo: Adeli penguins perch near HMNZS ENDEAVOUR in Antarctica, circa 1950.



NAVY

80

1941-2021