

# NAVY

T O D A Y

JOINT FORCES  
TURNS 20

LIFE IN  
THE 1980S

OUR MAN IN  
WASHINGTON



RNZN ASSISTS  
**PACIFIC  
VACCINE  
ROLL-OUT**

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*“It’s about going back home, giving back to our people, representing the Royal New Zealand Navy, and making our families proud.”*

– POSCS Thomas Katu, Chief Bosun's Mate in HMNZS WELLINGTON during Operation Pacific Vaccinate



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**Front cover:**  
The crew of HMNZS WELLINGTON secure the ship on their arrival in Rarotonga.

**Photographer:**  
PO Chris Weissenborn

**Back cover:**  
Sailors standing around a squid anti-submarine mortar on board HMNZS KANIERE during the Malayan confrontation, circa 1951-1954.



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# Yours Aye

Chief of the Navy



Rear Admiral David Proctor  
**Chief of Navy**

Kia ora!

As you read through this magazine you will be taken on a journey of history, whānau, celebration, maritime security, and he tangata. Having had a quick look ahead, I sense all articles have a common theme, the pride of the author and their 'ethos of service'. In this regard the magazine is a reflection, or echo, of my last month.

In the last month I had the pleasure and privilege of representing the RNZN at a number of events. One of the notables was attending the Mururoa Nuclear Veterans Group Annual Dinner. Hosted in the Rangiora RSA, the evening was great fun, with the typical banter of old shipmates swinging the lantern. The service of these sailors was nationally significant, and in amongst the merriment and mirth, I listened intently to the stories of harm, hardship and aroha for family, that were shared with me. New Zealand is better for their service and sacrifice.

Not dissimilar was my attendance at the HMNZS NGAPONA Association Formal Dinner hosted at the Birkenhead RSA. Once again I was well fed and watered and had the privilege of being included in the fun and hilarity of sailors spinning diits and remembering prior service. I am reminded at such events that our Reserve Forces and retired sailors are often the bastion and protectors of Service Tradition. From the celebration of shipmates past and present, through to reminding everyone, LOUDLY, of the 'why and how' of naval custom, I am always so proud of the passion of the sailors who preceded me. We who serve today have,

at the very least, a debt of gratitude to those who went before us – their ethos of Service is a great example to aspire to.

Other articles included in this magazine tell the story of the impact of the South West Pacific on Aotearoa. The sailors who share their story with us, give an insight to their pride in serving and representing their culture within the RNZN. They are celebratory stories about people and service. Look at their eyes in the photos – passionate, committed sailors, with fun and excitement in their eyes. Thank you for the mahi as you 'serve in ships' away from your home. This equally applies to the Stokes brothers; what a story .... lots of sea time ... pride to serve .... lots of commitment .... And undoubtedly, a little bit of mischief!

Two other things sit at the forefront of my mind at the moment. HMNZS CANTERBURY is sailing to Singapore for her five-yearly survey. She is the work horse of our Navy, her and her ship's company delivering support to those in need so many times since she joined the fleet. Albeit she has just departed our shores, I am keenly awaiting her return ... she is such an asset to maritime and human security in our region.

Secondly, Captain Brendon Clarke, RNZN, also took on the leadership of CTF 150 in the Middle East. This is the first time a Kiwi has Commanded 150. I encourage you to 'google' CTF 150 and see the global goodness this Combined Task Force has provided over the years. I have no doubt Brendon and his team will generate a new rich part of our history, confirming our commitment to maritime security and a rules-based global order.

You may have noted that so far I have not mentioned COVID-19. I was trying to avoid it, but it is just too prevalent in our lives at present to bypass. I wish to re-iterate my thanks to you all. Everyone is doing additional mahi in support of protecting Aotearoa, be it working in OP PROTECT directly or picking up extra duties to enable shipmates to work in MIFS/MIQs, etc. Also, I note we have soldiers, aviators and sailors working alongside our neighbours in the South West Pacific as they fight the virus. Thank you team – you ARE saving lives!

As I complete this article, I have just become aware of the passing of Dr Lance Beath. Lance was a well-respected and widely recognised commentator on security affairs. In relation to the Royal New Zealand Navy he was recently the RNZN Nelsonian Scholar-in-Residence and also the inaugural Editor of the Professional Journal of the Royal New Zealand Navy (Edition 2 is with the printers as I type). Additionally, he has provided regular wise counsel on multiple occasions to many of us in the Navy, including a number of Chiefs of Navy.

On behalf of the women and men of the Royal New Zealand Navy, I extend sincere condolences to Dr Lance Beath's whānau and friends.

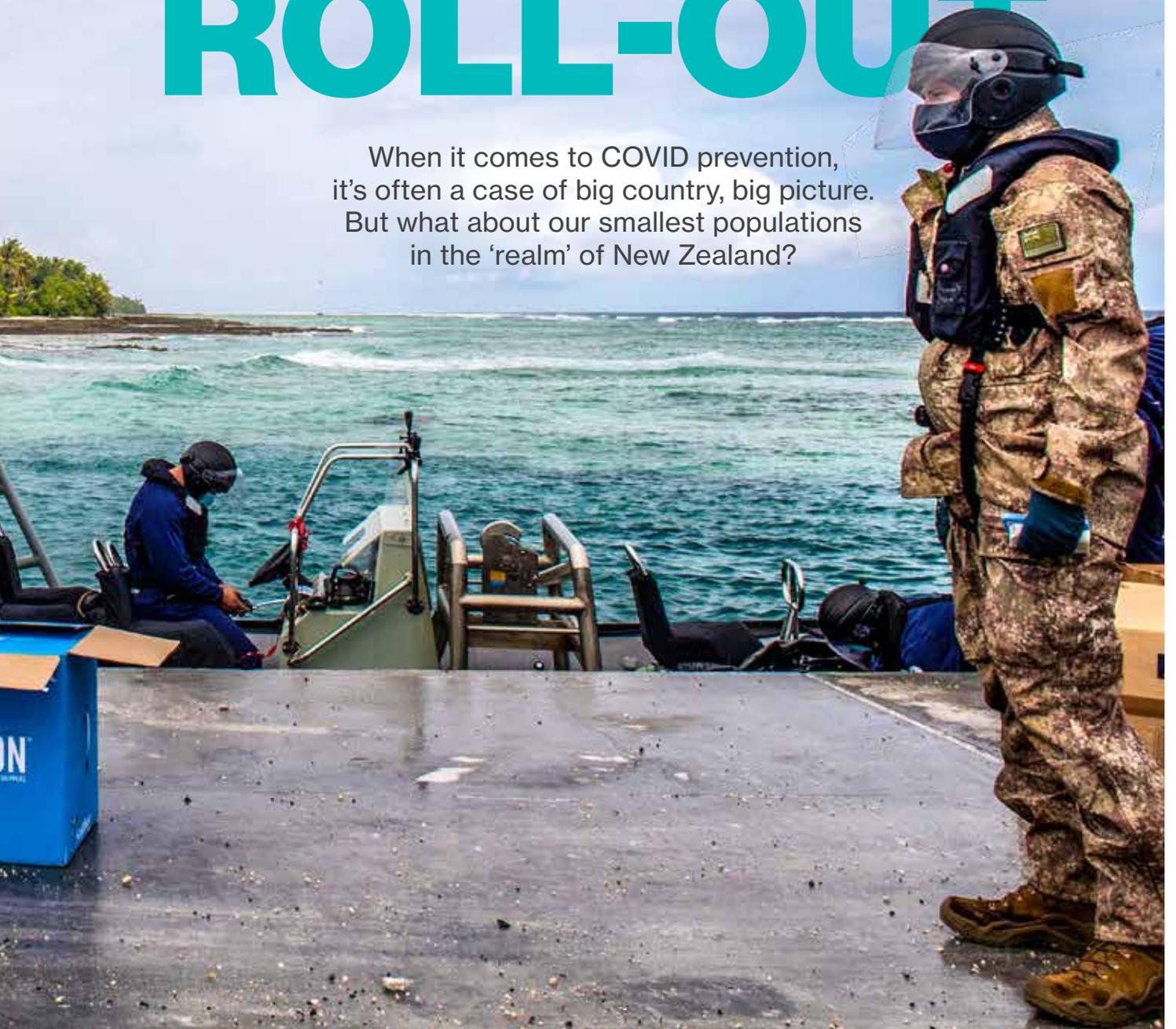
**Moe mai rā, moe mai rā, moe mai rā e te ahorangi.**

**He heramana ahau**



# RNZN ASSISTS PACIFIC VACCINE ROLL-OUT

When it comes to COVID prevention,  
it's often a case of big country, big picture.  
But what about our smallest populations  
in the 'realm' of New Zealand?





*“This is a fantastic day for Tokelau. It’s been a good eight weeks in the making and it’s certainly a day to celebrate.”*

Tokelau administrator Ross Ardern

It’s like one of those wary border exchanges you see in movies. But this is Atafu atoll, Tokelau. There’s a big welcome sign on the seawall saying “KIA ORA, AOTEAROA” and the four people waiting at the wharf, wearing protective masks and coveralls, wave happily as a Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat from HMNZS WELLINGTON pulls up.

The Army vaccine specialist, Lieutenant William Lusher, walks forward. Instinctively the islanders step forward two steps, then wait. The specialist carefully places a large blue box of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines on the ground some distance away. He gives a thumbs up and steps back to the boat. Two women walk forward and – with an almost tender gentleness – lift the box. It’s carried to a waiting ute. In the village, islanders are sitting on seats outside a building. There’s a sign on the window that says ‘Thank you New Zealand’. Inside, there’s a clinic all ready to go, with people wearing T-shirts that say “He Hoa Lava”, meaning a shared responsibility, everyone joining together. All they need are the ‘Koviti-19’ vaccines.

Tokelau’s COVID-19 vaccination programme was made possible by a 5,000 nautical mile round trip by WELLINGTON, delivering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to the Fakaofu, Nukunonu and Atafu atolls of Tokelau, as well as a remote island in the Cook Islands.

Among New Zealand’s ‘realm’ states (Tokelau, Cook Islands and Niue), Tokelau is the last to start its vaccine roll-out among its population of approximately 1,100. The residents of all three have New Zealand citizenship by law.

The mission, undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Health, required detailed planning and complex problem-solving in a multi-agency effort. The Ministry of Health, with the support of the NZ Defence Force and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade worked in partnership with Tokelau officials to ensure everything was in place for their roll out.

WELLINGTON had cold chain storage onboard, keeping the vaccines at the required temperature for the transit, and Tokelau health officials developed their own programme to roll out the vaccine across the three atolls, in order to protect their communities.

It was a far from ‘tropical’ journey, with WELLINGTON encountering rough seas on the way. Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Pip Davies said the weather certainly provided some challenges to the delivery.

“The weather hasn’t been entirely straightforward but with the flexible capabilities provided by both the helicopter and the ship’s boats, we have been able to deliver the vaccines to all three atolls safely. This 5,000 nautical mile journey is no small undertaking and demonstrates New Zealand’s commitment to our neighbours in Tokelau.”

Although a Seasprite and crew were embarked, the mission was completed using a J3 Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat. In the case of the final drop for 40 persons on Palmerston Island, unknown depths of coral meant the seaboat met up with Cook Islands Police Patrol Boat TE KUKUPA, whose zodiac transferred the vaccines through the coral and safely to shore.

The ship carried on to Rarotonga for a logistics stop before returning to New Zealand.



Kelihiano Kalolo, Ulu-o-Tokelau (head of state), said it was a feeling of relief to see the vaccines arrive. "Thank you very much. We really appreciate the help of New Zealand."

Tokelau administrator Ross Ardern, briefly on board WELLINGTON in Auckland, said it would not have been possible to undertake a vaccine rollout in Tokelau without the Navy's help.

"This is a fantastic day for Tokelau. It's been a good eight weeks in the making and it's certainly a day to celebrate. The people of these atolls are New Zealand citizens and the roll out of the vaccinations across the three atolls will give them the opportunity to travel again back into Samoa and from there internationally. Family and friends in New Zealand will be able to come to Tokelau and visit them. For the people of Tokelau, you know the vaccines are sent with love and care and we hope it meets your needs."



*“The Northern group of the Cook Islands don’t have much access. It’s about going back home, giving back to our people...”*

POCS Thomas Katu

# COOK ISLAND SAILOR PROUD TO DELIVER VACCINE SUPPORT

In 19 years and 10 months in the Navy, Cook Islander and sailor Thomas Katu had never deployed to his homeland.

Last month, the Petty Officer Seaman Combat Specialist got his chance when HMNZS WELLINGTON, with around 80 personnel, traveled to Tokelau and the Northern Cook Islands to deliver the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine supplies, on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

POSCS “Kutz” Katu is the ship’s Chief Bosun’s Mate, generically known as the ‘buffer’ and responsible for the seamanship and procedures involved when the ship undertakes gunnery, ship recovery, boating operations and boarding activities. His job was to ensure WELLINGTON’s sea boats and zodiacs were ready to go for the delivery of vaccines to shore by boat.

“I joined the Navy in September 2001, a few years ago and that’s why this is exciting. I finally get to go to the motherland. I’ve done plenty of trips overseas, but when ships were going to the Cooks, I’d be somewhere else, like Australia, Singapore, South East Asia or other Pacific nations. It’s hard case.” There are three other sailors of Cook Island heritage on board in the same position.

POSCS Katu’s parents Ioteva and Pokoina are from Aitutaki, Mitiaro, Atiu and Rarotonga and emigrated to New Zealand from the Cook Islands in the 1960’s, settling in Porirua. He attended Cannons Creek Primary, Brandon Intermediate and Porirua College, then worked as a labourer.

“I was on the end of a concrete pump up on Mt Victoria, we were working on a development site up there. As we waited for the next concrete truck to arrive, I looked down and HMNZS TE KAHA came into Wellington harbour. Everyone was dressed in their full white ceremonial rig, they fired a gun salute and looked the part, and I was sold. That same night I called the 0800 NZ NAVY recruiting number. They were recruiting pretty hard in the early 2000s and six months later, I was walking through the gates.”

He’s been to the Cook Islands on his own steam, for a family reunion. The last time was in 2009, with later reunions taking place in New Zealand or Australia to keep the costs down. His family and nieces on both his parent’s sides are currently living in Rarotonga, where the ship visited near the end of its mission. They got behind their uncle in planning activities for the ship’s company.

“There will be those fitness junkies who want to hike across the island or climb Te Rua Manga (the needle). Others just want to relax and enjoy recreation, like a fishing charter or evening events. I manage the ship’s cultural group on board, and we’ll be teaching some easy-to-learn Cook Island songs and items for our trip.”

He says the most rewarding aspect of this trip is being able to help the Pacific Islanders. “With us Pacific Islanders serving in uniform, it means a lot to us. My wife and children are of Tokelauan descent. The Northern group of the Cook Islands don’t have much access. It’s about going back home, giving back to our people, representing the Royal New Zealand Navy, and making our families proud. Any rest, recreation and reconnecting with family is always a highlight, and more rewarding when it’s a work trip.”

# VARIETY WITH 'THE TEAM' ATTRACTS FORMER CRICKETER TO NAVY



In 2018, when veteran Otago wicketkeeper Derek de Boorder told media he needed to think about life after cricket, he had set up a move to Wellington to work in finance. But by the second half of 2019 he was attesting for Junior Officer training with the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Today, Sub Lieutenant de Boorder is an assistant supply officer on board offshore patrol vessel HMNZS WELLINGTON. When *Navy Today* called him this week, he was helping prepare the ship for the deployment to deliver Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to the Tokelau and northern Cook Islands.

His move to the Navy, after working as a Relationship Service Manager for ANZ Bank in Wellington, came after he found he was missing the kind of team environment he had with sports. "I also realised that to get up to a leadership position, I'd be competing against people with a lot of banking experience. I wanted an opportunity that gave me more variety, as well as leadership training and responsibility. The Navy ticked all those boxes. You get a lot of responsibility at an early stage. Their leadership training is second to none. I'd recommend it to anyone."

His father-in-law had been in the Navy for 20 years and was able to provide some insight. The move to Auckland, to be closer to family, was also attractive.

He was 34 when he joined the Junior Officer Common Training (JOCT) 19/02 intake at Devonport Naval Base, for 22 weeks of officer training. "I wasn't the oldest but I was one of the oldest. It was really enjoyable. I hadn't long since retired from cricket and I was reasonably fit which helped. I have always liked the outdoors and we had a good bunch of people on my intake, which made it a lot of fun."

SLT de Boorder had a finance degree under his belt, thanks to part-time study and assistance from the New Zealand Cricket Players Association. "They look after you well, and make sure you have a plan for the future." When he graduated as a midshipman, his degree meant a promotion to Sub Lieutenant.

Ironically, his finance skills were put to use after graduation, working on the engineering training reform with the Navy Strategic Personnel Planning Cell. He then posted to HMNZS OTAGO in late 2020, moving to sister ship WELLINGTON this year.

*"I hadn't long since retired from cricket and I was reasonably fit which helped."*

SLT Derek de Boorder

"Right now, I'm assisting the supply officer tracking our mission-critical items for our deployment to the islands, to make sure all our stores are on board. We've just finished a 'shakedown' for a week, practising delivering the vaccines and our non-contact procedures, making sure the social distancing is maintained.

"I'm definitely enjoying this. I was working in a project role straight after training, and now I'm off on a ship for something completely different. It's the variety I enjoy about this job."



## NEW ZEALAND TAKES COMMAND OF CTF 150

Captain Brendon Clark RNZN, received the transfer of command of the Combined Maritime Forces' (CMF) Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) from the Canadian Armed Forces at Naval Support Activity Bahrain on 16 July.

CAPT Clark, who heads a 16-strong New Zealand-led multinational team, will tackle counter-terrorism operations in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, coordinating naval and air assets for potential intercepts.

It is the first time New Zealand have taken command of CTF 150.

CAPT Clark said it was an honour and a privilege to assume command and lead women and men from the New Zealand Defence Force, the Australian and Singaporean Navies and the United States Coast Guard.

He said the Canadian Armed Forces, working with Canadian and Australian ships, achieved outstanding results during their stint.

"Under Canadian leadership, CTF 150 has seized approximately \$160 million USD worth of narcotics and prevented illegal trade and activities that fund terrorism. These collective actions have undoubtedly deterred illicit activity within the area of operations, and thereby improved the overall prosperity, security, and stability within the region."

"My aim is to ensure that we build upon the Canadian successes, continuing the good work so that we too may set the conditions for Pakistan to succeed when they take command in early 2022," he said.

## HMCS CALGARY VISITS AUCKLAND

Royal Canadian Navy frigate CALGARY visited Auckland between August 4 and 10, following her work for CTF 150.

During her deployment CALGARY set a record for the number of seizures made by a single ship – 17 – and in one interdiction seized over 1,200kg of heroin, the largest single heroin bust in the history of the Combined Maritime Forces.

CALGARY's Ship's Company was not required to quarantine in New Zealand because they had been at sea for more than 14 days. All crew had to return negative COVID-19 tests and be symptom-free for 14 days before disembarking.

Rear Admiral David Proctor, Chief of Navy, said it was a chance to return the hospitality after the comradeship shown to New Zealand sailors during three years of Frigate Systems Upgrades for HMNZ Ships TE KAHA and TE MANA in Canada.

*Left: Royal New Zealand Navy Captain Brendon Clark.*

*Right: HMCS Calgary.*

# New programme to commission from the ranks

Four “not so young” ratings have benefited from a new officer commissioning programme that is entirely removed from the Junior Officer Common Training (JOCT) course.

Sub Lieutenants Stevie Winikerei, Zach Taylor, Leroy de Beer and Olivia West, previously senior rates, knew that Commissioning from the Ranks (CFR) usually involved entering the latter stages of the JOCT course to join the brand new midshipmen doing their 22-week course. It meant going back to the basics of ‘Lead Self’ and ‘Lead Teams’ study, a lot of time away from family, and plenty of running around the hills at Tamaki Leadership Centre with a MARS-L rifle.

Instead, they became the first group to complete the six-week CFR Officer Development Programme, introduced this year by the Officer Training School.

SLT West, a former Chief Petty Officer Medic and head of trade for medics, said this was something she had always wanted to do. “I wanted to work on my leadership, and this was an opportunity to develop that and stay in health.” She is now a Maritime Health Officer.

She says the programme recognised their previous experience, including the fact that they were already experienced leaders and had been doing ‘Lead Leaders and ‘Lead Systems’ as senior rates. The initial selection process remains very involved, though.

“We all went through selection at the end of 2020. It begins with Paper Selection which is your opportunity to sell yourself on paper. This is important because at this point you have no face-to-face with the CFR selectors. You are required to meet the “R Scores” for your chosen specialization, and have an Officer pro forma completed on you. You also need to submit your current CV and obtain a Commanding Officer’s recommendation to CFR. All relevant service information that might support your application is submitted for review. A few weeks later you find out if you have been successful in selection to attend the Final Officer Selection Board (FOSB).”

FOSB testing runs over several days and is rigorous, she says. “There’s a lot of testing, and the only one you can really prepare for is maths, and be proficient in essay writing. The rest of the testing is looking at your ability to learn new concepts and your personality. You meet with other officers to find out more about your chosen specialisation. The interview board day is intense, where you are presented with a number of exercises that are designed to put you under pressure while being observed by a number of Senior Officers and an Organisational Psychologist. On completion of the interviews, you wait while the board members determine success or failure for each candidate. After some time, you are called in one by one to be told you either remain under consideration or were not successful.”



In early 2021, now accepted to commission, they were told they would be the first group to do the new programme. SLT West thought the concept was awesome. “Although we didn’t know what this new programme looked like, we knew what we wouldn’t be doing. It turned out to be a bespoke programme, grounded in the Defence Excellence Green Belt system.”

SLT Taylor says the biggest benefit was being with a cohort of highly motivated and high-performing like-minded CFRs. “We were able to leverage off each other’s strengths, experiences, and networks. It also allowed it us to enhance our Lead Teams/Systems mind-sets rather than reverting to Lead Self/Teams thinking for JOCT. Our experience and competence was immediately recognised, and we weren’t re-assessed on skills we had already developed. It was a fairly efficient way to convert Senior Rating thinking to Officer thinking. It also allowed a work/life balance for people that had more responsibilities at home than your average midshipman.”

Deliverables during the course include a Maritime Strategy Essay, the development of a personal five-year Career Plan in Minute format, and defining a Leadership Philosophy and using it to turn strategy into Daily Orders. The latter was presented to key personnel within the Leadership Development Group – with the expectation of a lot of grilling and critique.

The new officers think the course will encourage more senior rates to commission, because their expertise as front-line managers is recognised. “More time is spent on preparing the CFR cohort for responsibilities they will face in the fleet rather than teaching skills that they already have and have already demonstrated,” says SLT West.

Lieutenant Jordan Markham, Fleet Personnel and Training, developed the programme. “It was an excellent opportunity to create a process of improvement that was grounded in the NZDF framework. I’m really proud of it. In short a period of time, it’s really generated something worthwhile.”

He says there has been a lot of interest from senior rates. “It’s potentially offering a future to people who otherwise might not have wanted to do it. People have families. Bodies aren’t quite what they used to be. It’s a whole new way of developing officers in a way that’s useful to their development.”

SLT West’s advice to others is to make sure you’re doing it for the right reasons and go for it. “I sat on it for so long, because I didn’t want to fail. I was ready, I had mentally prepared for it – and physically prepared for it – but I didn’t know this course was there for us. We are happy to answer any questions any budding CFR’s have and absolutely encourage people to take the leap if it’s something they are passionate about doing!”

*Left: Olivia West’s family (husband LT Brock West, mother Frances and children Aria and Hunter) help with the rank slide change.*

*Right: LT Jordan Markham awards SLT Zach Taylor his CFR ODP 21/01 graduation certificate.*



M I S S I O N C R I T I C A L

# 20 YEARS

## OF HEADQUARTERS JOINT FORCES NEW ZEALAND

Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFNZ) exists to integrate task elements generated by the Services and enabling portfolios in order to deliver outputs that meet the Government of New Zealand's required outcomes.

But it was a challenging road to raise the Headquarters (HQ) back in 2001, and with the first Commander Joint Forces NZ (COMJFNZ) Major General Martyn Dunne at the helm for the first three years, the processes put in place would develop, evolve and continue to assist the Government of New Zealand in all manner of ways for the next 20 years. We take a look back at how far the HQ has come, and where to now.

# THE N

MAJOR GENERAL (RTD)  
**MARTYN DUNNE**

## Why was the HQ created?

The NZDF realised the benefits of centralising the command of Joint Warfare and it was the actions of the late Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Carey Adamson, which led to a defining meeting in early 2000 that established the Joint HQ implementation working group.

I spent many hours in dialogue with single Service staff in designing the HQ, especially the Command and Control and Communications (C3) arrangements. I was ably assisted by Wing Commander Glen (Luigi) Toscan (ADF exchange officer), Major Shane Gilbert and Lieutenant Colonel Roger Howard from NZDF legal.

The real test of inadequacy was illustrated by the C3 arrangements for Timor-Leste. Initially the RNZAF Ops Command in Auckland was appointed the lead HQ but it soon became apparent that the largest component was to be Army supported by RNZAF and RNZN assets. While I was eventually sent as the Senior National Officer (SNO) and concurrently commanded a Brigade Headquarters (Dili Command), the role became one of coordination of national interests and reporting lines back to Land Command, which had subsequently been appointed to command the operation. RNZAF and RNZN assets were assigned to Headquarters International Force East Timor (INTERFET) independently and largely separate of the SNO. This changed as the operation matured but was not totally adequate should national caveats on deployments need to be applied.

Meanwhile in New Zealand, Land Command assembled liaison staff from the other services and essentially created a one-off Joint Headquarters. It became abundantly clear in New Zealand that this ad hoc arrangement, though workable, was inadequate for future consistency and retention of experienced staff in joint operations.

During a visit by the CDF and Secretary of Defence (the late Graeme Fortune) while I was in Timor-Leste, I was advised that on return to New Zealand I would commence work on the Joint HQ. Work started in early April 2000.

The Labour Government's view at the time signalled greater Defence jointery, in effort and equipment acquisition. Timor-Leste was a catalyst but not the only one.

## What was it like trying to pull together, especially asking the three Services to really work together?

The reality of creating the HQ in the 18 month timeframe required clear and present commitment from all services. Standing operational HQ (Maritime Command – Auckland, Land Command – Trentham, RNZAF Ops Command – Auckland) were required to disestablish their headquarters and under completely new arrangements be re-established using the Continental Staff system (J1-J8) within a matrix C3 arrangement.

There would be no single Service components within the Joint HQ although there would be single Service operational commanders at Brigadier equivalent level. This would not be easy to manage but was essential to the Joint HQ and COMJFNZ who had to rely on these senior officers for advice and at times operational deployments as much as they also worked to their single Service chiefs on raising and training.

There were many issues related to structure and rank. Preserving a viable career structure and embedding jointery into single Service education was paramount. I was fortunate that the three initial component commanders in the Joint HQ would – shortly after we were established – become their respective single Service chiefs. They understood the process and were helpful in making it work.

Everything from Standard Operating Procedures, security, intelligence, IT, global communications for deployed forces to personnel management had to be devised and implemented. We even worked up the triangle logo for the Command that endures today.

HQJFNZ opened on 1 July 2001. It was a freezing but clear day. We would have no time to rest as exhausted as we were, little did we know that we would be at war in Afghanistan three months later following the events of 9/11.

I have no doubt that with ongoing commitments, especially to Timor-Leste, of an infantry Battalion and aviation rotations, the urgent deployment of the SAS to Afghanistan along with RNZAF C-130 support, would not have been possible without HQ JFNZ. We might have muddled through but much would have been lost.

## What were you most proud of at the end of your tenure?

We managed to raise the HQ in 18 months and within three months we were handling multiple operations. I was never sure this was widely understood or that HQ JFNZ was a 24/7 functioning HQ, providing the platform for deployed operational forces who at times had urgent and dangerous situations to deal with and receive guidance on. This was often demonstrated in the early days of the Afghanistan deployment.

I often look back on the time as being a significant change in the NZDF structure and provided it was allowed to prosper, attitudes and experience would develop and provide opportunities for all Service staff to deploy into coalition combined operations.

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# N O W

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REAR ADMIRAL  
**JIM GILMOUR**

## **What is the impact that HQ JFNZ has on the NZDF as a whole?**

This is the Headquarters that gives reality to the vision of joint operational excellence, being integrated in the way we work, train and operate at home and abroad. HQ JFNZ brings the best of NZDF people and capabilities where they are needed in the quickest possible time. Having one HQ that provides NZDF operational planning means there is one source of the truth and one point of contact for both strategic and tactical elements of the NZDF and our allied counterparts.

The continuing capability development of the Deployable Joint Interagency Task Force has been one of HQ JFNZ's success stories. Having a dedicated team to provide integrated Command and Control for Joint, inter-agency and multinational operations enhances operational effects supporting Government outcomes.

## **What is the current tempo, and how have things evolved over the past few years?**

Certainly, over the last 18 months, the cadence has increased. While numbers of people deployed operationally offshore is fewer than for some years, we have domestically deployed numbers comparable with the first Timor-Leste rotations, in support of Operation Protect, the NZDF's contribution to defeating the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **What is the biggest challenge that faces the HQ?**

Due to the nature of the Headquarters and the way in which it conducts its everyday business, staying ready for the next big unexpected thing, be that a natural disaster or security challenge at home, regionally or globally, has always been its mainstay. It is clear that the challenge of COVID will be with us for the foreseeable future, and we must now plan on how we can continue to successfully conduct our missions whilst in a global pandemic.

## **HQ JFNZ has had to maintain readiness for conventional warfare, HADR and support to UN and other operational missions, whilst also facing a contemporary foe in COVID-19. What has that been like for the HQ?**

Being unable to conduct higher level training both at home and with our allies is having a big impact on operational readiness for parts of the NZDF. While some key capabilities are not part of Operation Protect and available, some are now at a much longer response time and will require regeneration before they can be considered available for operations.

## **The HQ has had significant involvement in response planning for national disasters in the past 20 years, including the Pike River Mine disaster, Christchurch earthquake, Christchurch mosque shooting and Whakaari/White Island. How has the HQ adapted due to lessons learned from these major events?**

After each response to such critical events we review our process and try to learn from any lessons. We do not get it perfect every time and the regular change of staff means we need to continually review how we do business. The Whakaari/White Island response for example reinforced just how complex

command and control can be in a multi-agency effort when time is precious. The progress HQ JFNZ has made in responding to domestic disasters has been significant over the years. Identifying specific areas where intended actions did not work out as planned, and applying corrections to operational procedures as a result has been key to ensuring the best response possible can be delivered.

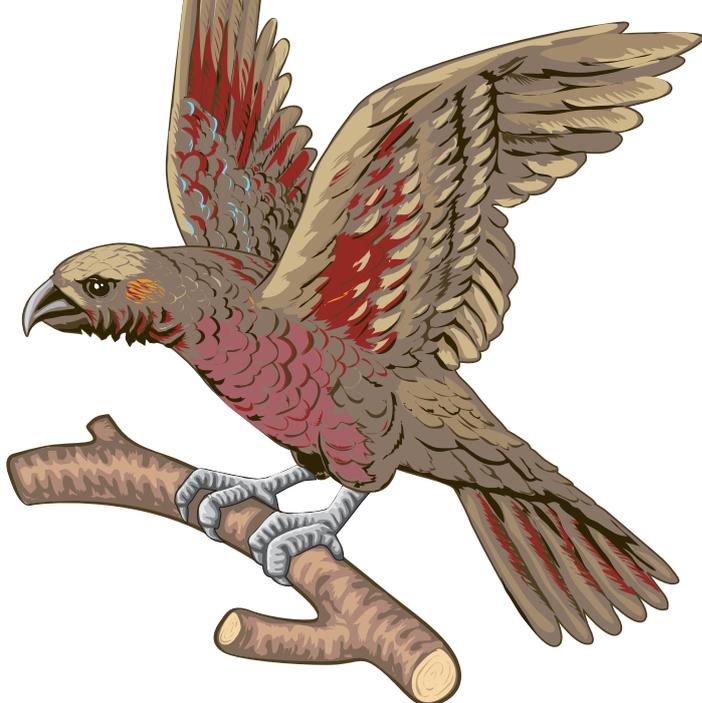
## **What is your vision for the HQ?**

My vision is to continue to build on what we do well on operations. We don't know what each day will bring, but we have a skilled workforce who can generate military responses for a wide range of challenging scenarios and mobilise joint forces whenever and wherever they're needed.

Our maritime, air and land specialist staff are involved in the day-to-day running of operations, supporting those on operations, and planning for future operations. The environment in which the NZDF works is evolving and we're always looking for continuous improvements.

## **What are you most proud of?**

Our people and their professionalism. Thank you to all the service people over the past 20 years that have been at the forefront of the planning, supporting, and commanding NZDF's operations – you are often 'un-sung' but never fail to deliver.



# NURSE FINDS NICHE WITH NAVAL RESERVES

■ **By Samantha Stevenson**  
Media Advisor – Defence  
Public Affairs



Naval Reservist  
**Krystal Sims**

Waikato nurse Krystal Sims says she enjoys the slice of military life she gets as a Naval reservist at HMNZS NGAPONA in Tauranga.

She recently took part in RESERVEX 2021 at Devonport Naval Base, which included taking on a range of community projects in Auckland. She and her fellow reservists cleaned the grounds at the Hibiscus Coast RSA and planted trees at Shakespeare Regional Park.

It's the first major exercise for Ordinary Maritime Trade Operator Sims since becoming a naval reservist in 2016. She was regular force for a year prior. The 24-year-old juggles post-graduate nursing studies and her commitment to the Naval Reserves alongside her role as a nurse for the Waikato DHB.

"RESERVEX is technically work, there's a lot to it but I really enjoyed all the different aspects," she said.

Assistant Chief of Navy (Reserves), Captain Phillip O'Connell, said that Naval Reservists provide a valued, flexible workforce of skilled professionals.

"They support Navy delivery from the front line at sea, and ashore to senior management. Modern Reservists are a blended mix of personnel who have signed up for a part-time service as an adjunct to their civilian careers and ex-Regular Force personnel who have transitioned to civilian careers or are taking time out from full-time service for reasons such as whānau needs and further education," he said.

OMTO Sims says she has begun learning the Maritime Trade Operator role, which involves interaction with merchant shipping in order to enhance the safety and security of merchant ships, and to deconflict shipping and military operations. "I have also given a couple of medical briefs – refreshers on basic first aid and CPR. Everyone is so supportive of my role within the unit but also in my civilian life. Everyone wants to see everyone else achieve.

"Joining the Naval Reserves is a good way to get a taste of military life and get involved with things that are totally different to the things we do in everyday life. For example, I really enjoy the weapons weekends that qualify us and update our skills. And as we are fitness-tested, it is also a good way to keep your fitness up."

## INTERESTED?

If you are interested in serving while maintaining your civilian career, or thinking of leaving the NZDF to start a civilian career and wanting to maintain your service links then the Naval Reserves want to hear from you. Your civilian and military qualifications, skills and experience will set you in good stead to become a Reservist and we can in most cases design and tailor a career pathway that will be rewarding for you and support Navy aims today and into the future. See [www.defencecareers.mil.nz](http://www.defencecareers.mil.nz)

*Top: HMNZS NGAPONA's crest, a kaka.*



# OUR PEOPLE



**1.** Ready for adventure with HMNZS WELLINGTON's Seasprite flight crew. From left, AHLM Tyson Turnbull, loadmaster; FTLT Cameron Day, pilot; LT Luke Godsell, pilot; and LTCDR Sarah McWilliam, observer.

**2.** Newly commissioned from the ranks SLT Stevie Winikerei with his family.

**3.** HMNZS WELLINGTON multi-cultural group members ALSS Shekania Cherrington, ACH Moana Hira, ASCS Kaharau Mendes and ASCS Jesse Grimes have a session in the Senior Rates mess.

**4.** Alexander Titmuss is promoted to Ensign at Defence House.

**5.** AHSO Ayson Collins sounds 'Wakey Wakey' aboard HMNZS WELLINGTON.

**6.** AMT(P) Bodie Butler conducts an aviation fuel quality test aboard HMNZS WELLINGTON.

**7.** Shannan James is promoted to Leading Electronic Technician while working at a Managed Isolation Facility.

**8.** Former Commander Maritime Operational Evaluation Team (MOET) CDR Martin Doolan is promoted to Acting Captain, with his family and current CDR MOET, CDR Bronwyn Heslop, changing his slides. CAPT Doolan will take on Captain Fleet Operational Readiness duties while CAPT Brendon Clark is overseas.

**9.** HMNZS WELLINGTON's chefs cooked CPL Tom Brook, No. 6 Squadron, a birthday cake, while on their mission to Tokelau.

**10.** Newly promoted LLSS Jason Morrison (centre) is Sailor of the Quarter aboard HMNZS WELLINGTON during Operation Pacific Vaccinate.

**11.** Phil Rowe is promoted to Commander, taking his position as the Fleet Seamanship and Executive Officer in the Maritime Operational Evaluation Team.

**12.** Cameron Trainor is promoted to Acting Lieutenant Commander at Defence House.

**13.** AHSO Sophie Barry receives a Commanding Officer's commendation from CO WAKEFIELD, CDR Alastair Howieson.



# Jack Rudolph 1980s

Lieutenant Jack Rudolph, NZDF Māori Cultural Advisor, shares his recollections of life at sea in the 1980s.

On 20 September 1978 Jack Rudolph walked through the gates at HMNZS TAMAKI, Devonport Naval Base. He was not happy about it.

It had been building for a while, although it hadn't immediately clicked what was in store for him. Jack was from the Hokianga but had been adopted from three months old. "I had four aunts and uncles, living in Auckland and in those days, you could be passed around. I attended seven different schools, including Massey High School and Opononi Area School. One day, under the direction of my mother, the principal took me in to do some tests in Kaikohe. I didn't know what these tests were for, but after I had done them, the guy said, congratulations, you've done enough to join the Royal New Zealand Navy. That's when I realised."

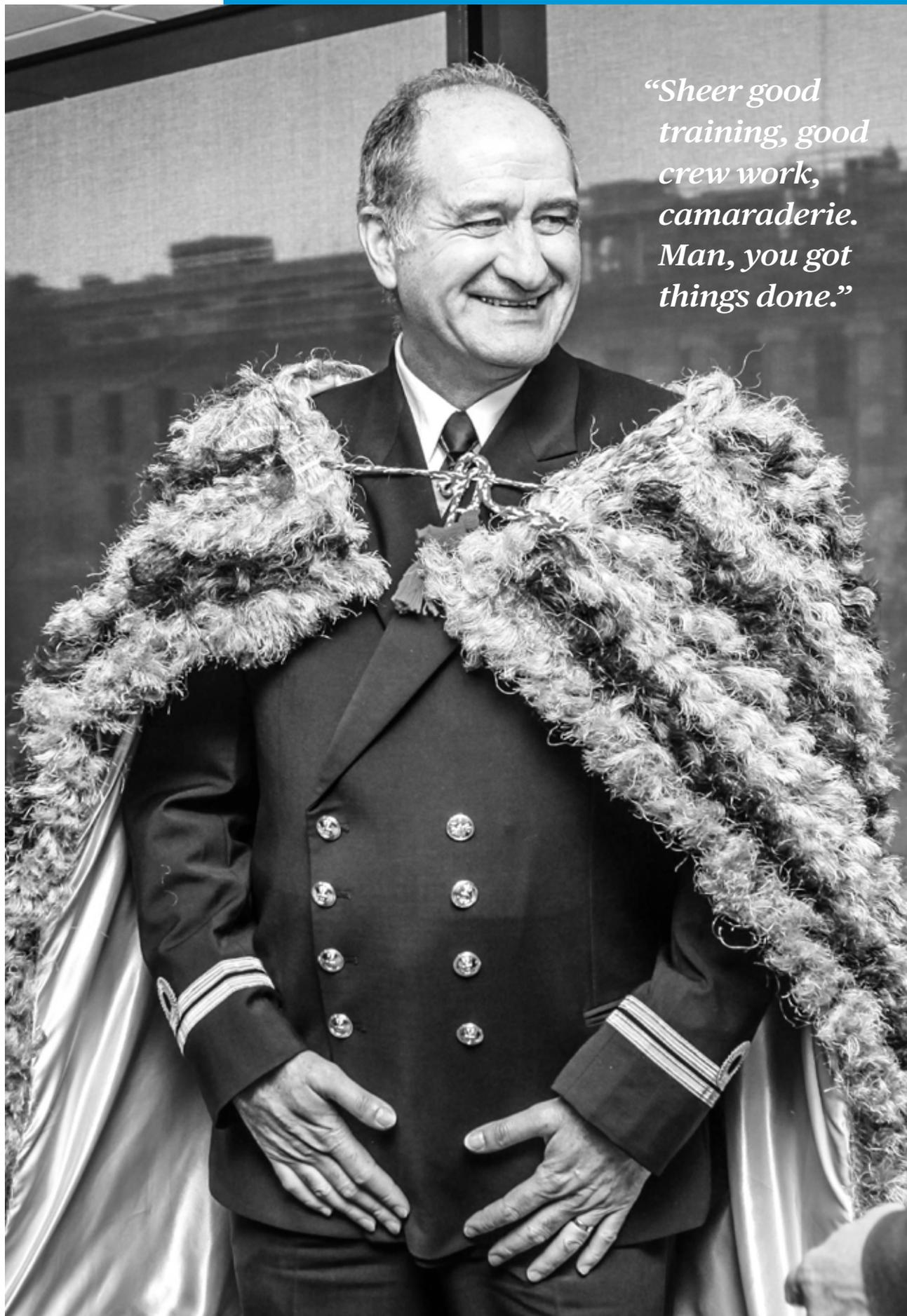
It was a bit of a tearful departure – for him – from the car at Devonport. "I was apprehensive. I didn't want to go. My uncle was sympathetic. It was Aunty that put her foot down. She told me to get out of the car and walked me up to the gates of HMNZS TAMAKI. And the rest is history."

Lieutenant Jack Rudolph has spent much of his career as a gunner, gunnery instructor, warrant officer and Navy and New Zealand Defence Force Maori Cultural Advisor. His commissioning from the ranks, from Warrant Officer to Lieutenant, happened this year.

There's a photo of Jack Rudolph and a crowd of sailors in 1980 aboard HMNZS OTAGO in Hawaii, crowded around American music legend Charley Pride. "That was my first time away," he says. "My first major deployment. I hadn't been south of the Bombay Hills and next

minute, I'm going on this trip. We ended up in Hawaii, West Coast of mainland America, San Diego, Mexico, San Francisco, Canada. I went to Disneyland. I was straight out of training, spending six months overseas, and I had only ever seen Disneyland on TV before. I was just a young lad, seeing the world. Really, that's how it was. When I came home, I tried to explain to my mates where I had been. If I didn't have the photos, they wouldn't have believed me."

Before he joined up, trips were longer than six months, he says. "When I came in, they were transitioning from one to two year deployments to six months. If you did more than six months deployment, you got more allowance. I suppose welfare was starting to be looked at. But in the early 1970s, there was no such thing. You didn't have a say in the matter. You just got on with it."



*“Sheer good training, good crew work, camaraderie. Man, you got things done.”*

*LT Jack Rudolph.*



The ships he served on in the eighties seem very dated now, and in fact were far from new even then. "Sheer good training, good crew work, camaraderie. Man, you got things done. We would achieve things that would seem impossible today."

Ships like HMNZS OTAGO (F111), Type 12 Rothesay-class frigates, were far from technological. "Everything was done manually. Even putting a boat into the water involved block and tackle and half the ship's company manning the ropes. Just to get the davits swinging out, people would get on a handle and if one went quicker than the other, the seaboard would be twisted."

Seamanship was the essence of the entire ship, he says. "Things had to be done a certain way, you were taught a certain way, and safety was paramount. When you did a jackstay (a line between two ships to transfer people or equipment), you had 40 people holding the line as tight as possible, so the sailor wasn't washed away. It could be dangerous, but you managed the danger. It was full-on rope work, and you worked a lot with wire in those days, so a lot of wire-splicing."

*Top: HMNZS OTAGO in the early eighties.*

What it created, in a ship of 260 personnel, was a high sense of camaraderie and seamanship work that was second to none. "Because of the manual training, you achieved competence quite quickly."

Gunnery could involve 30 to 40 people, with 50-pound shells hoisted up to the gun bay. "You could have guns going every 15 seconds. To get more 'bullets' in the air, you needed teamwork, and it's an example of teamwork at its finest. Chefs and Stewards would be part of the team. When you fire off 20 rounds, and there's no pause, everyone's doing their job. You can imagine the yells and screams going on from the gunhouse, gunbay, shell and magazine rooms." Jack was also a Seacat Aimer, involving a close-range missile system that was guided by hand onto the target.

This was a time when a 'mess' in a ship meant a place where a trade lived, slept and socialised. "In the Rothesay/Whitby-class, the gunnery mess was 36 people in one sleeping quarters. The dining hall was called the mess as well. The Senior Rates had their own mess. There were rules. You didn't go around the Leading Hands' mess. You would address a Leading Hand first with, 'excuse me, Leading Hand.' Officers and ranks never met, and you only talked to an officer if they

addressed you. When you're new on board a ship, trying to figure out the front end from the blunt end, these things become your everyday language."

There were no women serving back then. "Boy, you can just imagine, with 260 guys up in the tropics. When you don't have to worry about the other gender, you were pretty skimpy. You'd get out of your pit, grab your towel, throw it over your shoulder, put your sandals on and head on up, bollocking buff. You didn't think anything of it."

The Divisional System was very strong, he says. "The Leading Hand was the man in charge of those 36 men. He, or the senior Able Rate, was the first person you went to see. The gunners mess was strong, and there was lower deck law. If it could be dealt with in-house, in the trade, then it was looked after."

For other matters, a lot of things were done by request form. "It was all quite formal. If you wanted to put in for some leave, you had to get that on a piece of paper. The ship's writers would handle the administration."

The writers would also handle the payroll, and sailors were paid in cash. "Whether it was Singapore dollars or American dollars, you physically got the money. People could have half a dozen pay packets sitting in their lockers, unopened. Thieving in the mess was a big no-no. You heard stories about people losing fingers in the hatches, although that didn't happen in my time. I used to send all my money home, and lived off my allowances."

After he returned from his first trip, he bought himself a Holden Monaro for \$2,400. "It had a 307 Chevrolet motor, plush white vinyl seats, three stage auto, and it was blue with a stripe down the bonnet. I took it up north to show off to my girlfriend – who is now my wife. But yeah, I had to sell it. We needed furniture for our first flat in Onehunga."



*Top: HMNZS Waikato's Māori Culture Group in 1981, with Jack Rudolph at the back, second from right.*

*Middle: Sailors in HMNZS OTAGO crowd around country singer Charlie Pride, during a visit to Hawaii in 1980. Jack Rudolph is at extreme left.*

*Bottom: Seamanship, including the launching of seaboats, had to be exemplary.*

# AT THE CENTRE OF THINGS

In our first in a series on RNZN personnel overseas as Defence and Naval Attachés, we start with Commodore David Gibbs, Washington DC.

It's 0730 in New Zealand, 1530 the previous day in Washington DC, and two things are noticeable during the phone call to CDRE Gibbs. He sounds like he's got plenty of energy, and he doesn't say 'I' a lot.

That's probably because his work is very much a "team sport", as he puts it, whether it involves his role as Head of New Zealand Defence Staff in the Embassy of New Zealand, or his Defence Attaché role where his wife Paula plays a significant part.

He and Paula (and their two dogs) left New Zealand in September 2017, putting their entire lives into a storage unit in Auckland. "It's a traditional overseas posting," he says. "You literally up-sticks, you shut down part of your New Zealand life for your allocated three years, and you do your best to stay connected with parents and kids."

Three years? "Well, thanks to COVID, it's been extended. You have to take a positive view on that. I've had an opportunity to do a tremendous amount of things."

His job is divided into two distinct roles. On one hand, he's the Defence Attaché, New Zealand's senior military representative in the United States. He represents New Zealand and the Chief of Defence Force from a military diplomacy perspective. On the other hand, he's Head of New Zealand Defence Staff Washington. There's around 15 uniformed Defence personnel in the Embassy, plus local civilians. His team administers and supports around 40 NZDF personnel and their families throughout the United States. There are people in Hawaii, students in various War Colleges, liaison officers in Tampa, and a Defence person in the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

"A lot of our work is protecting and promoting and preserving New Zealand's interests, and it's too big a job for one person."

CDRE Gibbs and his wife rent a house an enviable three miles from the embassy, and a typical day will start with a walk or run to work. "It could be 35 degrees C, or minus 10 in the wintertime when there's snow on the ground. I could have meetings at



the Pentagon, perhaps a 'think-tank' with a variety of speakers talking about various national security issues. There's conferences, visiting US bases and facilities. There's also an active diplomatic circuit, attending receptions, celebrating national days, laying wreaths, and engaging at a high level with US military leadership." He's been to the White House just once.

At a strategic level, he has worked with former Defence Minister Ron Mark in a Pentagon meeting with the Secretary of Defence. He's presented New Zealand's position on "deterrence" at United States Strategic Command (STRATCOM), delivered a talk at Yale University and represented the Chief of Defence Force at a United Nation's Women, Peace and Security conference in New York.

"When you're in the United States, in Washington DC, you're at the centre of a lot of things. You get an amazing insight into the country."

He's been in America in some incredibly challenging times. "With COVID-19, everywhere outside of New Zealand has been challenging. Everybody has had a bloody hard time. In the United States, at its peak, over 250,000 infected per day, and over 4,000 deaths a day. That sharpens your attention up on absolutely everything. This was real, front and centre, for us."

He experienced the civil unrest and the riots after George Floyd's death. "I live in a nice area, but there were people through the area on their way to protest, or on their way back from protests. Shops were boarded up, some were trashed. We had plans to move staff. Then there was the US election, and the insurrection in January, which added a whole new dimension. That was all in addition to COVID. Someone said to me that last year was like being on an operational deployment with your wife. There were lockdowns, and it was unsafe. We joke about it now, but when you walked outside every day, people were masked up, and you couldn't engage with people. We spent nearly 430 days working from home."

He can see one positive to all of that. "I got to spend all of those days with my wife. If you can do a year living in the same house, then retirement is going to be easy."

But when asked what the most challenging aspect of the job is, he says: "I wish I had paid more attention to languages at school. English is largely the working language in DC but having another string to that bow would be incredibly valuable."

What he has really enjoyed is putting a 'New Zealand face' on things. "I've really enjoyed representing New Zealand. It's a privilege that you don't get many opportunities to do as a couple, and to share it with Paula, as a couple, that's been pretty amazing."

*Top: CDRE David Gibbs and his wife Paula with Capitol Hill in the background.*

Able Communications Warfare Specialist  
**Ashley O'Connor-Palmer**



# Celebrating Kiribati Language Week

In Kiribati we say “Te Mauri, Te Raoi ao Te Tabomoa” which means; health, peace and prosperity with ‘mauri’ which is a greeting like ‘hello’.

I am half Kiwi, i-Kiribati and also a tiny bit Fijian. I identify myself as an i-Kiribati by speaking the language, doing traditional dances when opportunities arise and celebrating our Independence Day.

Kiribati culture and language is very unique. We are very hardworking, helpful and kind people. I also used to do a lot of Kiribati dancing when I was younger. I was always happy whenever the opportunity came for me to dance. It was a way for me to represent and show pride in my culture.

Something I miss and love about home is being surrounded by my family and friends and hearing them speak the language. I miss dancing the most, it was the one thing I enjoy the most about my culture.

Growing up I've always had an interest in joining the military. I saw communications in the Navy as an interesting branch because they deal with morse code and radios which is what I grew up around with my grandfather Ganga. I also have a strong military connection in my family with relatives who fought in WWI, WWII and the Korean War.

I joined the Navy in February last year on the BCT 20/01 intake. An average day for us Communications Warfare Specialists is that we pass messages between ships and shore establishments through various methods like flags, radios, flashing light and electronically.

At the end of this month, I'll be deployed overseas for the first time. I am posting on to HMNZS TE MANA which is in Canada, and I will be there until this summer when we bring our ship back to Devonport Naval Base.

WARFARE

# THE STOKES BROTHERS



*Left: Back from left, Lyle, Shane and Wayne. Front from left, Glen and Brian. Possibly taken in 1982.*

*Right: Holding their cap tally boards are, from left, WOS (rtd) Wayne Stokes, Commander (rtd) Glen Stokes and CPOMA (rtd) Lyle Stokes.*

It's Napier in early 1970s. Lyle Stokes follows in his father's footsteps and joins the Navy as a medic. His exploits inspire his brother Wayne, followed by siblings Shane, Brian and finally Glen, as they all came of age. "It just flowed from one to the other," says Commander (rtd) Glen Stokes, who now works for the Defence Force as Manager of Honours Awards.

Last month Glen, Wayne and Lyle received their cap tally boards from Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Proctor at Defence House. Brian already has his board, while Shane's is being put together.

For five consecutive years, a Stokes brother would arrive at Devonport Naval Base to start training. "We lived in a state house in Napier. Dad was a Navy man," says Glen. "It was a case of, what is there in Napier to do?

We finished high school, we had no plans to go to university. And older brothers were coming home, talking about their sea time. Each year, as we got to 16, we all 'abandoned ship' and joined."

Sea time was huge back then. "I spent 10 years at sea just in HMNZS CANTERBURY (F421). I've been around the world three times, to all the continents apart from Antarctica and South America. Back then, you were either on leave, or you were on a ship. When a ship went into refit, you went on another ship. You did very little time ashore."

Glen was a gunner on the Type-12 Rothesay-class frigates, then the Leander-class. "With the Type 12s, everything was done by hand, even the anchor. Then it was hydraulics with the Leanders, then a digital change with the Anzac frigates. When we went to

a push button digital system, we went from 12 to 15 gunners, down to two." Glen became a Gunnery Instructor and rose in the ranks to Warrant Officer (WO), and notes it was a sad day when the Gunnery Instructor position was disestablished. "But it was inevitable. Those GIs, they were role models. You knew the art of ballistics, and you did the calculations by hand. Today, the gun knows where to aim, knows the rotation of the earth, knows how long it's going to take to reach its target."

Both Brian and Glen commissioned from the ranks (CFR). "I was a WO Gunnery Instructor and Head of Navy Ceremonial. There was a section in the MD68 form I was filling out that said, where do you see your career going? After 24 years, I felt that it was coming to an end. My Divisional Officer said, why don't you commission? I said, I'm not qualified, I don't have School Certificate."



Glen went in with a group of eight senior rates – many of them still in the Navy today – and all of them went through. “We thought just one WO would be picked. The Selection Board said, we want all of you. We used up the CFR spaces for the next two years.”

Glen says today’s CFR courses are a considerable improvement. “Why did we – four senior Warrant Officers – spend five months in Junior Officer training? It wasn’t longer after us that they developed the Warrant Officer’s course, and it was three weeks.”

He thought he’d give it two or three years as an officer. “But then doors open. I went to East Timor, then went to Joint Forces as an operational planner. Then came the advanced staff course, and with no schooling and no academic background, it was really sink or swim. But I got a degree, got

promoted to Commander, and became the Commandant of the Cadet Forces.”

Despite being a non-seagoing officer, Glen had a stint as the Operations Officer in HMNZS CANTERBURY (L421). “That ended up being 18 months, completing the introduction into service. I loved it in CANTERBURY. Amphibious warfare – it was a whole new domain.”

For Glen, the most profound change in the Navy was the Women at Sea programme. “It was an incredibly brave thing to do. In a male-dominated culture, where ship were built for single sex service, integrating females into the branches was huge.” Early on, with heavy lifting in the gunnery branch, some women had to change branch, and he thinks that was unfair. When automation came in, it didn’t matter. “Men learned boundaries. It toned down

the male culture at sea. And this is the funny thing. When you had females on a ship, there wasn’t as much pressure on men to be part of this male culture. Women brought in sensibility. Men could thrive at sea without being pushed around for not being part of the male culture. It levelled out the playing field.”

Lyle, who joined in 1971, served in East Timor twice, then in Iraq, and finished as a Chief Petty Officer. Shane was a Master At Arms who went on to serve with the Territorial Forces in Napier, finishing as a WO Class 2. Wayne, Shane’s twin brother, also became a Warrant Officer. Brian, a Petty Officer Regulator, commissioned as a supply officer then opted for redundancy during the Civilianisation Project in 2011.

# UCKERS WITH GRIP



The swell of the Southern Ocean will be no match for HMNZS AOTEAROA's brand-new Uckers Board.

Joe Bagrie, of JB Woodcraft NZ in South Auckland, was commissioned to construct an Uckers game board with steel plate inserts to support magnetic counters.

He presented the board to the ship's Senior Rates mess last month.

Uckers is similar to Ludo, but played with two dice and is far more intense and spirited. A player that gets all eight of their pieces 'home' first wins, and there are many ways to thwart and counter opponents.

Mr Bagrie says he had been working on the board, on and off, since October last year. A hobby woodworker, he started building it into contracts during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020. A sailor in AOTEAROA spotted some of his work online and asked him if he could do the board.

"He floated the idea of magnetic counters," says Mr Bagrie. "He said if vessels are pitching around, pieces move on the board, and there ends up being an argument over whose piece is where." He went with tradition, using cut-down portions of supplied .50 calibre shells, and embedded magnets in them. Steel plates have been hidden inside the board.

He was not aware that it was tradition for Navy sailors to write on the back the names of those who had shamefully lost with all eight of their pieces still on the board. But as the underside is only meant to have a basic finish, he's not worried about it, he told *Navy Today*.

# THE RNZN CHAPLAINS' CHALLENGE

## NAVY CHAPLAINS SMASH THREE FITNESS TESTS



Six Royal New Zealand Navy chaplains have smashed all three services' fitness tests in one morning last month.

Under the supervision of a Physical Training Instructor at Ngataranga Sports Ground in Devonport, chaplains Lloyd Salmon, Richard Lander, Colin Mason, Michael Berry, Glen Popata and Chris Haines tackled the Navy's Multi-Stage Fitness Test, the Army's Required Fitness Test and the Air Force's Operational Fitness Test.

Speaking to Defence Public Affairs after the event, CHAP Haines said it was one of those perfect, blue, cold – and thankfully windless – days. Everyone passed, he said. "We smashed it. We set a date to do it, we all had to push ourselves, young and old, and we ended up doing it in one morning."

The idea came up during a Chaplains' dinner, when the padres were catching up with each other and their partners. "We did think afterwards, 'what have we done', and we felt a bit nervous. We range from early 40s to late 60s. I'm 66 and Colin is 68. But we are in the Navy, we want to be fit, and we want to encourage those around us to be the best they can be."

They did the MSFT first, in the Fleet Gym, then went to Ngataranga to do the RFT and OFT. The base's Command Warrant Officer, WO Darren Crosby, joined them in the challenge.

"It was a fantastic day," says CHAP Haines. "Afterwards, we cooked up a big meal in the wharekai and then, padre-style, we went to our favourite Devonport café for coffee. It's great to be part of an amazing team of chaplains in the Navy."

# NEW NZDF MEDIC CAREER LEARNING PATHWAY



■ By Charlene Williamson

From July, New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) medics training will now be recognised with tertiary level qualifications as part of the two-and-half year training at Defence Health School (DHS) in Burnham. The NZDF is pleased to be partnering with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to deliver training that will see our medics studying towards a Level 6 Diploma in Paramedic Science and a Level 7 Graduate Certificate in Health Science.

These qualifications will part of the Military Medical Technician training, and NZDF Medic training programme delivered through learning delivered by AUT and learning delivered by DHS that is linked to AUT content. Chief Instructor, DHS Major Neil Corlett said this change for our medics will mean they leave the school with recognition of their learning.

“The two qualifications earned through ab-initio medic training opens up a range of learning pathways that can be built upon through future study, career and trade coursing into registered health professions. The relationship we have with AUT will enhance medic training providing recognised accreditation, transferable skills, and pathways to further qualifications in health sciences,” he said.

The AUT-delivered component of medic training is common to both civilian and military practice, meaning that DHS can focus on training NZDF medics in specific military contexts. It is also anticipated that this will mean DHS will be able to extend beyond ab-initio training, and deliver continuation training and training of health command and staff functions.

MAJ Corlett said NZDF Medics are highly valued and critical to healthcare delivery across Navy, Army and Air Force. “It is important to recognise the efforts and high standard of our medics’ competence, and the quality of the NZDF Medic training provided to them with tertiary qualifications that confer the external credibility they deserve.

“It is also important that medics are provided options to continue to professionally develop while remaining in the NZDF,” he said.

“Medics that have graduated from DHS since 2019 without qualifications will be provided a pathway to gain the same tertiary qualifications as those who will graduate from DHS in the future. Some extramural study will need to be completed, but assessment of medics current competence in specific areas, recognition of prior learning, and their clinical practice within NZDF will satisfy most of the qualification requirements,” MAJ Corlett said.

Ordinary Medical Assistant Sophia Spurr is just six months into her two-and-a-half years of training and said the qualifications open more doors for medics.

“It gives us opportunities to further our medical knowledge and gives us new and different experiences. It also allows us to possibly branch off into different medical pathways to have a broader knowledge and understanding to help treat our patients at a higher level,” she said.

OMA Spurr said she is very thankful for the new qualifications. “I came into medic training knowing I would not get a civilian qualification, and to now be walking away with something is amazing. I appreciate all the hard work that has gone into it to get us all a qualification,” she said.

Private Jamie Ferguson is two years into her training, but this doesn’t mean she will miss out on any qualifications.

“There is currently a plan in place post-graduation to obtain the qualifications. Having these qualifications will mean that we can continue to advance our learning through additional pathways that tertiary study provides. This will benefit not only us but the NZDF as we extend our knowledge,” she said.

PTE Ferguson said she is looking forward to having her training recognised in the civilian setting.

“In the past, we would study and graduate as a fully scoped medic however we would only have a rank and a position to show for it. These qualification are a baseline which allows for future study in a variety of different areas within the health sector. I hope these qualifications will provide more of an incentive for people to seek out a career as an NZDF Medic,” she said.

NZDF Medics are highly trained and professional. Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand Army, and Royal New Zealand Air Force medics train at DHS in Burnham. For more information on the specifics and where you might sit in the qualification process of the new Medic Career Learning Pathway, contact DHS.

# HOMEPORT

INFORMATION WHEN AND WHERE I NEED IT



## ■ By OWTR George Warner

The posters and video for HomePort talked about the app having all the info I ever needed to know about the Navy. So I downloaded it and over the past couple of months have been putting it to the test. I didn't expect to be as impressed as I am.

The Personal Administration section of HomePort is brilliant. It provides the kind of info really helpful for members of the RNZN and their families – Leave, Recognised relationships, Remuneration and Insurance & Financial benefits etc. HomePort covers a broad spectrum of queries that can normally prove to be quite difficult to access and find the relevant information through other sources.

Another really cool section I've found is the one on Careers. I can see this section providing young sailors with the ability to paint a picture of what their futures will look like, and give them assistance in building a personal plan for success. Everything you need to know about career management, courses, promotions, trade/branch changes study assistance and more is all there.

As an Operational Administrator I have access to similar databases on the Base but I'm finding more and more that I just use HomePort to get the info I need as it's all on my mobile and my mobile is always on me. The same applies when I'm outside of the office and away from the Base. HomePort is right there to give me the info when I need it no matter where I am.

I like the idea of having different levels of information available on HomePort depending who you are. While all the info is UNCLASS, Navy pers have access to everything while members of the public only get to see basic content. But it's still the type of content they would expect to find on our website – detail about our fleet, values, Haka and Creed amongst other interesting subjects.

The RNZN information in HomePort is already at an excellent level and will benefit greatly by user feedback to evolve and grow the app to its full potential. Having the Navy Facebook page on HomePort is good. Getting the NZDF one on there as well would be great.



But don't take my word for it. Download HomePort now and see first-hand how it can help you.





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OCTOBER 2021

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*80th Anniversary*

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**28 SEP**  
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[alan.kempself@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:alan.kempself@nzdf.mil.nz)

# 15 ROUNDS

## WITH LIEUTENANT ALEX PEREYASLAVETS



01

### Job title and description

Flag Lieutenant to the Chief of Navy. I provide day-to-day support in terms of executing schedules, providing background reading, and drafting communication

02

### Date joined RNZN

9 January 2014

03

### First ship posted to

HMNZS OTAGO

04

### Best deployment

HMNZS TE MANA, Op Crucible 2018. Great places visited, great exercises, and awesome shipmates.



05

### Hometown

Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, formative years in Bryansk, Russia, and adolescence in Hamilton, NZ

06

### High School

Hillcrest High School, Hamilton

07

### Favourite book

*The Cloudspotter's Guide*  
– Gavin Pretor-Pinney

08

### Favourite movie

*Trainspotting*

09

### Favourite album

*Fortunes* by Metric

10

### Favourite song

*There's a Light That Never Goes Out* – The Smiths

11

### Favourite holiday destination

Lisbon, Portugal

12

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

Listening to True Crime podcasts. *Black Hands, Morbid, In The Dark, Dirty John, Serial.*

13

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

A lot of people say they have never met a Jewish person. Now you can say you know at least one.

14

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

LTCDR Johns, CDR Bakewell, RADM Proctor are some that spring to mind. Just do what is good for the people. If you act with benevolent and generous intent, you can't go wrong.

15

### How would you describe the Navy in 10 words or less

Oggin, mahi, run ashore, oppos, salty dits. Churr the puss.



80  
1941-2021

