

# ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 520  
MARCH 2021

## OPERATION PROTECT

A job being very well done

## JAYFORCE VETERANS RECOGNISED IN WELLINGTON

75 years since they served

## THE FLAG IS LOWERED IN AFGHANISTAN

The end of an era



TŪ KAHA COURAGE

| TŪ TIKA COMMITMENT

| TŪ TIRA COMRADESHIP

| TŪ MĀIA INTEGRITY

**NEWS**

- Army treasures rescued **02**
- Medical Response Vehicles arrive soon **03**
- Jayforce commemoration **03**

**OPERATIONS**

- Op Protect **04**
- Afghanistan comes to an end **06**
- Ten years after the Christchurch earthquake **10**

**PEOPLE**

- Medals presented to Maori Battalion families **12**
- The importance of teams **20**
- Bill Wollerman's War **15**

**EXERCISES**

- Ex Bapaume **16**
- 2 ER take to the water **17**
- Ex Southern Warrior **18**

Cover: A sniper lines up his shot during Exercise Southern Warrior.  
Photo: CPL Dillon Anderson



NZDefenceForce

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**SMA.NET**

**Innovate, educate, incarcerate...**

This month's SMA.net covers down on two opportunities and a word of warning. Be encouraged by the former and take heed of the latter.

**Innovate.** One of our defining characters as Kiwi soldiers is being innovative. Army innovation is about having a culture of new ideas and we need to work out solutions to things without UR's. The focus here is to look for the small advantage in our platforms, procedures and mature policies. Remember that innovation is not a substitute for capability development – rather, it's an aligned part of the continual improvement process. We have a diligent team working on a revised framework and measures. Your ideas toward making innovation work is paramount. We need to acknowledge that innovation occurs at every unit and level, from tactical through the formations and upwards. Don't be discouraged. We are a comparatively large organisation for NZ, but we have fewer layers

to get to decision makers – use this. Continue to work through unit leads and contact Army Innovation where needed. <http://orgs/sites/armint/I-0003/default.aspx/-/Army-Innovation>.

**Educate.** We are approaching an exciting time in the Army and indeed across the NZDF regarding professional development. Despite the real need for smarter and sharper people for Plan 25 – our leaders care about you being trained and educated. In the future, life in the 'Networked Army' is going to be more complex, with higher demands on communications, information and relationships. Tempo is going to be faster and we need people who can 'join the dots' with the myriad of connections made. While some of this will be managed by programmes, the part about connecting is human in nature. Literacy and numeracy will become more important to your functioning – not only in intricate operational settings, but in day to day administration, people management and leadership. Additionally in the months ahead you will see greater emphasis on

academic and credential-based learning through our Kippenberger Scholarship Scheme. This is about developing critical and creative thinkers – not just deep-professionals in specialist or apprenticed trades. Some of your NCO and YO colleagues have already challenged themselves, having been approved for degree or varied study programmes. Make sure you enquire with Command and the Directorate of Army Career Management (DACM) for opportunities.

**Incarcerate.** Play the rules or pay the system!

Last week two soldiers were sentenced to considerable detention periods at the Services Corrective Facility. While I strongly support the need for fair justice and due punishment, there is frustration in the absence, and eventual loss, of two more soldiers. You serve in the profession of arms and therefore you are subject to military law. This approach attempts to maintain good service discipline and order in times of relative peace or conflict. Beyond the discipline process itself, management of those who believe



themselves to be above the law absorbs time and resources that would otherwise be used to train and develop. Remember that it impacts on us all. Commencing next month we will be publishing offences in the Army News or suitable mediums. We need to be more transparent on these things and it starts with outing those who don't observe our shared values. SMA out.

**WO1 Wiremu Moffitt**  
16th Sergeant Major of the Army

# Army treasures of pioneering soldier rescued for safe-keeping

By Helen Harvey

## A top military commander's uniform has been rescued from auction, and will have a new home at the New Zealand Army Museum.

The dress uniform went up for sale in Wellington along with three photo albums and a painting, and was spotted by a former soldier who served under the commander.

New Plymouth man Gavin Bennett said he jumped into action when he saw a listing for the memorabilia that had belonged to Major General Les Pearce.

The auction was passed in because it didn't reach the reserve set by a dealer from Auckland.

"I managed to find out who the dealer was and I saw him at another auction at Palmerston North," said Bennett.

"I expressed my desire to get hold of it because my fear was if it was left in his hands it would be lost forever."

Bennett contacted staff at the New Zealand Army Museum in Waiouru and the museum promptly purchased the items sight unseen.

A representative of the Army will collect them during a ceremony at the Waitara RSA in the next few weeks.

New Zealand Army Museum Collections manager Windsor Jones said the museum was grateful to Bennett for notifying curators that the collection was for sale.

"We're really pleased to have them... and we felt they were worthy of purchase."

Pearce was important because he was the first soldier in the New Zealand Army to go from a private to the "top of the tree," Jones said.

Major General Sir Leslie Pearce CB, CBE, 1918–2002, served in the Army in World War II in Greece, Italy and North Africa.

He rose from Private to Major General during his time in the Army, from 1938 to 1973.

Bennett, 82, served under Pearce during a tour to Malaya

from 1961 to 1963, during the Malayan Emergency, with the 1st Battalion NZ Regiment.

Pearce was a Lieutenant Colonel at the time; by the time he retired he was a Major General and Chief of General Staff.

Bennett said Pearce was a good man, and become emotional as he recounted their experiences.

"We loved him. It's very important, too, because in a couple of weeks we have a Battalion reunion in Christchurch."

Towards the end of Bennett's time in Malaya, the country became Malaysia and held the Malaysian Games.

Bennett decided to enter the 50-metre pistol shooting event.

Practising meant he had to keep making trips into town to get permission from the police to buy more ammunition, which he then had to pay for, so he asked Pearce if the Army would supply his ammunition.

"He said, 'no you can't have that. We're saving it for the next battalion'."

So Bennett pointed out that Pearce, a rugby man, spent a lot of time with the "footballers".

"I said, 'if war comes I don't want to be able to kick footballs, I want to shoot and kill the enemy.' He said 'get out ya cheeky bugger'."

As Bennett was leaving, Pearce called out and told him to go and see the Quartermaster.

Bennett got his ammunition, and won the bronze medal.



Left: Gavin Bennett with the Major General Les Pearce memorabilia. Photo: Andy Jackson.

## A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



**In the last *Army News* I discussed our Army's commitment to the national Covid response and, in doing so, emphasised the requirement, regardless of the environment within which we find ourselves, to be the absolute best that we can in all that we do. I spoke of the importance of challenge and continuous improvement, never accepting mediocrity, and the need to be masters of our profession.**

At its most simplistic, our performance as an Army can be measured in two ways. The things that we do, and the behaviours we display. Last month's article focused on the former. The great work our men and women are doing at the quarantine and isolation facilities in parallel with the effort being made to maintain core capabilities, optimise the limited training opportunities we have, and concurrently introduce into service new capabilities. These demands aren't getting any easier to balance but as an organisation we continue to get better at doing so.

With regard to our behaviours the vast majority of our people know what is expected of them and how, what they do, contributes to our success as an Army. Their service is loyal and honourable, and they not only understand our core values but they demonstrate them on a daily basis. And this is so incredibly important as our values reflect what is important to us as an Army and they [our values] guide us, regardless of the circumstance we might find ourselves in, in the execution of our duties.

A review of the more recent Court Martials that have been held does demonstrate however, that not all our people embody our Army's values. That for some their behaviour is below that expected of officers and soldiers within the New Zealand Army, that their decision making is flawed, and that they can't be trusted.

In the space of a month three JNCO's have been held accountable for using, supplying and/or procuring drugs. Two have been sentenced to lengthy periods at Service Corrective Establishment – the third, due to personal circumstances, incredibly lucky to not have suffered the same fate – and all three will be dismissed from the Army. And to be perfectly frank, having clearly demonstrated that they are unable to behave in a manner required by our Army, this is the right outcome – there is no place for these individuals in the NZ Army.

Discipline proceedings have also recently taken place where male soldiers have failed to demonstrate either self-awareness or self-control, and have indecently assaulted female soldiers. The actions of these men are unacceptable, inappropriate and, in no way reflect the behaviours required of us by our core values. There is no place in our Army for discrimination, harassment, bullying or sexual violence of any kind and all of us have a responsibility to recognise and respond to unsafe behaviours. And, when it's needed, we will hold ourselves, and those for whom we are responsible, accountable.

It is an absolute truism that we are all responsible for our own actions and consequences. Our actions are a conscious choice, a mindset, and they are an expression of our integrity. And in those instances where actions are not what we demand of our officers and soldiers we don't lower our standards of behaviour – we hold our people to account. Whenever we can we look to remediation, a lift in performance, and positive outcomes. Where a soldier's actions are of such severity however, that he/she is clearly not 'fit for service', then we will punish them, and we will dismiss them – and we will not hesitate to do so.

Our Army's reputation is founded in service to the government and people of New Zealand, and the trust that our nation places in us. We all have a responsibility to uphold and protect that reputation and we must never let the actions of a few, detract from the achievements of the majority of quite outstanding men and women who make up our Army.

We are, must be, and will continue to be, better than that.

**Major General John Boswell  
Chief of Army**

### Twelve Medical Response Vehicles (MRV) will be in use by the New Zealand Defence Force, mainly Army, by the end of this year.



They are replacing the Unimog 1300 ambulances and will be primarily going to Army camps throughout the country along with the Devonport Naval Base.

Waiouru will receive the first vehicles and then they will be progressively rolled out across the camps. The first delivery is expected next month.

The MRV are being purchased as part of the wider Garrison and Training Support vehicles project (GATS). The project is about ensuring the NZDF has enough of the right commercial line vehicles in the right places managed in the right way. This is the project that is also replacing the fire appliance fleets.

Initial vehicle familiarisation training takes place this month, with business as usual training being picked up at the Defence Health School in Burnham. One of the benefits of the MRV is that it only requires a Class 1 licence to drive on the roads, and it will not have a specific Defence Driving Permit (DDP) for it.

It will require a Military Service Vehicle (Light) (MSV(L)) or better DDP to be able to drive it off-road. For this reason only the medical people who will work inside it require specialist training and this is why training will be based at the Health school.

Additionally this training will be enhanced through the acquisition of a medical pod simulator/training aid that will be delivered as soon as the facility to house it has been constructed in Burnham later this year.

The new vehicles are being purchased with an external long term maintenance contract, reducing the burden on uniformed maintainers and support staff. It also means that Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE) or spare parts are not required to be purchased or managed by the NZDF.

The vehicles are being purchased primarily to support training along with Camp/Base emergency medical support and eventually airfield safety. Unless

an exercise or activity is using a deployable ambulance as part of its training the MRV will provide specialist medical vehicle coverage. They will be centrally managed within health facilities or Regional Equipment Pools and allocated on request for training.

Features of this vehicle include a high level of cross country performance and a very high level of roll over protection, all while maintaining the ability to provide treatment to a littered patient.

Captain Steve Bougen, Joint Support Group, says the MRVs will be a welcome addition to the NZDF's health outputs. "The vehicle is high spec and is definitely fit for purpose for us. The Unimog ambulance has been our workhorse serving us very well over the years and it has exceeded its life of type by many years. The Joint Support Group is now very much looking forward to receiving this new variant and integrating it into our health system."

## VETERANS COMMEMORATE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF JAYFORCE SERVICE

### The service and sacrifice of New Zealand Defence Force personnel in Japan was remembered at a commemoration in Wellington on 19 March to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of Jayforce.

Twenty-six Jayforce veterans were joined by their families, Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy, Japanese Ambassador Hiroyasu Kobayashi, Minister for Veterans Meka Whaitiri, Minister of Defence Peeni Henare, Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Kevin Short and Service Chiefs at the commemoration at Pukeahu National War Memorial.

After Japanese surrender ended the Second World War, an allied occupying force was established to demilitarise and demobilise Japan. Jayforce was New Zealand's contribution



*A Jayforce veteran lays a wreath at the Pukeahu National War Memorial.*

and was part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.

The first New Zealand deployment of more than 4,200 troops and 280 Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel arrived in Japan on 19 March 1946. Fifteen New Zealanders died in Japan due to accidents or disease between 1946 and 1949.

Personnel who served in the initial Jayforce deployment were from the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Italy and a company of Māori volunteers served with the Divisional Cavalry Regiment. Later rotations were comprised of volunteers from New Zealand, some of whom were

Second World War veterans, while many others had been too young to serve during the war.

Around 12,000 New Zealanders, including several hundred women, served as part of Jayforce between 1946 and 1949. About 200 New Zealand Jayforce veterans are alive today.

Medallic recognition for Jayforce, the New Zealand Service Medal 1946-1949, was issued in 1995. The commemoration last week was the first time that service as part of Jayforce had been marked at a national level.

• *Bill Wallerman's war, page 15*



# ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR OP PROTECT SOLDIERS

Over any given time the NZ Army is providing up to 240 personnel to help with the security of Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQF) in the wider Auckland region as part of the broader New Zealand Government's response to the Covid pandemic.



Apart from the normal tasks conducted during rostered shifts, personnel in the Auckland Security Group (ASG) during February also intervened to help out members of the public requiring assistance and intervened to stop the destruction of property in a number of incidents. In doing so they demonstrated their sense of community, a calm demeanour and outstanding professionalism. Three examples are captured below.

On 6 February, three soldiers from 2/1 RNZIR came across a dumpster fire on route to their duty, they alerted Fire Emergency NZ (FENZ) and controlled the area until FENZ arrived and to take control of the situation. The team, Corporal L, Privates M and R were thanked by FENZ and carried on to perform their security duties.

On 10 February, three ASG members, Corporal B, Privates T and W all from 2CSSB, saved a life. Corporal B conducted chest compressions on an unconscious civilian who had collapsed outside

the Pullman Hotel. The team called 111 and Corporal B continued to perform chest compressions until FENZ arrived and took control of the situation.

On 18 February three privates from 1 RNZIR came across a road traffic accident and helped extract a family consisting of two adults and two children under five, who were trapped in a vehicle. The parents were initially unresponsive, and the team remained calm throughout the incident. They called the emergency services, informed their command team and checked for spinal injury. The family was removed from the vehicle to a safe area and monitored until the emergency services arrived and took control of the situation. The team then conducted traffic control and cleared debris from the road. The three Privates, S, C and J then carried on to perform their rostered duty.

## What they're saying...

"I would like to commend the Army team operating at the MIQ Novotel Christchurch Airport. I was transported from Auckland to Christchurch on 24/2. The briefing we received on the plane was clear and concise. The process of getting off the plane, picking up luggage and being transported to the hotel, along with the check in process was extremely well thought through and well executed. Our supervised exits to the exercise yard were also well run. I found the Army representatives to be very polite, efficient and caring. I felt very comfortable that my safety was in good hands. I particularly would like to convey that Darcey and Stu had a memorable personal impact on me - Darcey with her personal approach and kindness shown, and Stu who took a concern and suggestion I made very seriously and followed through and reverted back to me personally. Well done team and thank you so much for making my isolation experience positive. I am grateful for your efforts, please keep up the good work."

- Mark

"Seriously, thanks for the amazing job you and all the staff do, to keep Covid out of NZ. It's an absolute mess where I have come from. It's a very large logistical operation, with zero room for error, very well done - and somehow done with a relaxed and welcoming spirit one rarely finds elsewhere for such an operation, while still making sure every t is crossed and i is dotted. Much respect to all of you."

- Julz

"I would like to thank the Defence men and women who were so helpful, kind and respectful to my family and me during our stay in MIQ. I never felt like one of the many, many thousand returnees - as we were always treated like people. It was an emotionally fraught time but our experience made us glad we had made the journey home."

- Anna, Hawkes Bay

## PPE DELIVERED TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The NZDF has made a contactless delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Port Moresby to help Papua New Guinea deal with a surge in Covid-19 cases.

New Zealand has supplies of PPE in Auckland, ready to deploy to Pacific countries as required. The delivery of PPE was based on PNG's assessment of its priorities and needs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has arranged for eight tonnes of PPE for PNG, which is enough for clinical teams to treat 1,000 Covid-19 cases.

The PPE includes hand sanitiser, goggles, biohazard bags, thermometers, gloves, gowns and surgical face masks.

RNZAF Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Shaun Sexton, said aircrew on the RNZAF Boeing 757 successfully completed a contactless delivery on Saturday 20 March.

"Our personnel have robust Covid-19 prevention procedures in place and we are well versed in

contactless delivery of essential equipment, including when taking emergency relief supplies to Pacific countries following tropical cyclones. The NZDF always stands ready to assist our Pacific neighbours in times of need."

The cargo was sanitised in New Zealand before being loaded on to the aircraft. It was offloaded from the aircraft on to the tarmac at Port Moresby International Airport, for collection by PNG workers after RNZAF personnel were clear of the site.

# OP PROTECT:

## Life on the 'Other Side of the Fence'

By Brigadier Jim Bliss,  
Head of Managed Isolation and  
Quarantine

**On 10 Dec 20,  
I relinquished the role  
as Land Component  
Commander, and with  
it responsibility for  
the provision of the  
Component's contribution  
to NZDF's Operation  
Protect in the fight against  
Covid-19.**

The following day I took over from Air Commodore Digby Webb as the Head of Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ), a diverse 'All of Government' organisation consisting, on any given work-day, a workforce of some 4,500 staff from NZDF, NZ Police, Aviation Security, the District Health Boards, hotel staff (and many others), entrusted with keeping Covid-19 at the border and out of our communities. Nothing beats a shoulder tap from Judith, the Editor, to provide an *Army News* article to drive a pause and reflect at the halfway mark of a six month secondment to the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) the 'parent' ministry for MIQ. So, a few of observations from 'the other side of the fence'.

### The numbers and the story so far...

The operations of MIQ are impressive and complex. Some days it feels like we run a national hotel chain, an airline, a hospital, and a transportation firm as well as a security company. In reality, we operate 32 facilities across five regional locations with the majority of our capacity in the Auckland region. Covid-19 will come to New Zealand in our returnees. Our job is to keep it at the border. We bring about 10,000 returnees per month through our facilities and return them (safely) to their families,

whānau and friends. This need does not appear to be abating as we head deeper into 2021 and demand for spaces remains incredibly high. Despite the odd complaint or negative news article, the majority of returnees find their experience in one of our facilities a positive one, in large, shaped by the approach and engagement by our staff, of which NZDF makes up about 25%.

### Reputation and trust matters...

Trust and confidence in the MIQ system is vital for our success against Covid-19. The reputation of the NZDF, built on our historically strong leadership, professionalism, agility, and adherence to ethos and values, is why NZDF was asked last year to assist with MIQ. Since I have joined as the Head of MIQ, I have heard from a number of people, up and down the country including public servants, community leaders, Ministers and politicians, and hundreds of returning New Zealanders about how much they have appreciated the support and leadership NZDF has provided. The efforts of each of our soldiers, sailors and airmen has enhanced not only the reputation of the NZDF but also their own mana, that of their units and services, and their whānau.

### We can thrive (not just survive) in an adverse situation...

Hundreds of NZDF personnel have rotated through MIQ since it began. This has provided our people with a chance to undertake roles they would not normally get a chance to do, work with people from a range of other agencies, as well exposure to some 'soft skills' and experiences that will hold them in good stead for future operations. I would say to any of you who may get the chance to join us in MIQ, take it and embrace it. Whether the role is in one of our 32 facilities, in one of five regional isolation and quarantine

command centres or here in MBIE MIQ in Wellington, you will get a chance to either support, lead, guide or shape our world-leading MIQ system in an all of Government environment. While working in an isolation and quarantine system was not the reason we all joined NZDF, the opportunity to serve our country on our home soil against Covid-19 is a great privilege.

### Vigilance, testing and vaccines... critical to our success

We can have all the policies in the world but if they are not being adhered to consistently across all our facilities, gaps will emerge and we know that this virus does not need much of an invitation to spread, as highlighted in the recent moves to higher alert levels demonstrate. Sometimes, we are unable to ascertain exactly what the cause of transmission has been, so maintaining vigilance is critical for all of the MIQ workforce. We have spent much of the first portion of this year strengthening three critical aspects to protect our returnees, our workforce, and ultimately our communities. These are: 1, tighter infection prevention and controls at our facilities; 2, enhanced staff testing; and 3, vaccinating our workforce, and in the near future, their households.

As we draw close to the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our MIQ Covid response, there is a lot to be thankful for, especially when we look to the situation overseas. Like any start-up organisation we have had our issues, it is a complex business and we are fighting a virus that is also rapidly evolving. Our NZ MIQ system is seen globally as a world-leader, thanks largely to our approach and the people we have working in the system, from frontline staff in our facilities to our planners and operations staff at the operational and strategic level. From a position of looking 'back into' the Army, I am immensely proud of the efforts of our people, managing their commitment to Op Protect, their careers and families. Ngā mihi nui, don't forget to contact trace!



### MIQ deployment a 'rich experience' with elite cricket teams

#### Major Oiroa Kaihau has deployed to Bosnia, Laos, East Timor and twice to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The call up for Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) was the shortest notice of them all, but is no less important, he says.

"It was confirmed in the afternoon on a Friday. On Sunday I flew to Christchurch to receive a series of handover briefs to become familiar with the roll within a Sports MIQ," Major Kaihau said.

MAJ Kaihau was unsure about what to expect but things soon became clear and he said the role was a satisfying one.

He was looking after some of the world's top cricketers, with the English women's and Australian men's cricket teams isolating before their New Zealand tours.

During their isolation, they are able to train at enclosed training facilities and grounds in Christchurch.

The teams were highly cooperative, MAJ Kaihau said.

"We are working for our mutual benefit and visiting teams know how fortunate they are to be able to play.

"They want to cooperate so they can train and play. We've worked hard at presenting a professional but friendly image

of the New Zealand Defence Force, keeping the fuss to an absolute minimum, which I think has been appreciated.

"It's interesting talking to elite sports people and watching them train. You appreciate how skilful and passionate some of these people are."

It was also the first time MAJ Kaihau had worked closely with other government agencies.

"Because we have a good understanding of systems and processes, we can be more helpful because we can rather than staying tightly in our lane," he said.

"We play an important role to a combined interagency effort. Our skills, discipline and initiative make us valuable contributors.

"Soft skills are essential in working in the inter-agency space."

MAJ Kaihau said following health protocols was vitally important.

"Given the potential for contracting and spreading Covid, we are taking all precautions and we don't want to be responsible for a system failure because we were slack.

"It's nice to say I also came into the fray to help out and share the burden. I am glad I do so for I am richer for the experience. There are others doing it harder than me and I take my hat off to them."



### The Pullman Hotel managed isolation facility reopened to returnees in February, following an intensive deep cleaning process, a thorough investigation by health officials and changes to its operating model, says Head of Managed Isolation and Quarantine, Brigadier Jim Bliss.

The carefully considered reopening follows a series of actions taken in response to recent cases who tested positive after completing managed isolation at the Pullman.

"The health and wellbeing of returnees and staff at this facility has been a top priority," BRIG Bliss said.

"That's why the facility was completely emptied of returnees while health officials investigated the recent cases, and an intensive deep cleaning process was carried out.

"We have carefully considered the findings from the investigation, the actions taken since the cases were detected and have deemed it's safe for returnees to return to what has been a very important facility for our response.

"Having the Pullman back online means the flow of Kiwis returning to New Zealand can

continue without impediment.

"Investigations into the cases are ongoing and it's possible we may never identify the exact cause of transmission but it's believed there were three separate events.

"Genome sequencing confirmed all three cases had the variant first identified in South Africa and current research suggests that this and other new variants are more transmissible than previous variants.

"There is increasing evidence people can get infected if very small droplets remain suspended in the air. The risk of this sort of airborne transmission becomes higher in closed spaces with poor ventilation.

"The reports indicate that multiple factors contributed to the cases around the Pullman. The Ministry of Health has provided advice to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and

Employment (MBIE) – who are responsible for Managed Isolation and Quarantine – on how the Pullman and its 272 rooms can safely be reopened.

"Those recommendations focused primarily on ventilation, the hotel's lifts and reducing the amount of movement around the facility. All the recommendations have been actioned and health advice is that the facility is safe to re-open."



# NZDF COMPLETES AFGHANISTAN DEPLOYMENT

## The NZDF's 20 year involvement in Afghanistan has finished.

The New Zealand Government has announced that the deployment should conclude this year.

Since 2001 the NZDF has worked alongside partners in Afghanistan, making a significant contribution to regional security and the lives of people of Afghanistan.

More than 3,500 NZDF personnel have served in Afghanistan. Ten Army officers and soldiers lost their lives serving there.

The Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell said the NZDF had made a significant contribution to regional security and development in Afghanistan over the past 20 years, including in Bamiyan province with the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team.

"The Bamiyan Provincial Reconstruction Team was our largest commitment, with over 3,500 of our personnel contributing to the PRT alone. The SAS contingents were also significant in number and contributed extensively to the coalition Special Forces effort across Afghanistan. Other missions around the country were smaller in scale but were no less valued by the Afghan people. In total, the number of Kiwis deployed to Afghanistan over 20 years was more than the sum total of the entire New Zealand Army."

Recently, NZDF personnel have been supporting the NATO-led mentoring for the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA), and working at the NATO Resolute Support Mission headquarters.

NZDF mentors have been supporting the ANAOA since its creation in 2013. They have been part of an international mentoring team together with the United Kingdom, Denmark and formerly Australia and Norway.

The academy produces about 75 percent of Afghan National Army officers. In September 2020, the academy graduated its 5,000<sup>th</sup> cadet.

At the NATO Resolute Support Mission headquarters, NZDF personnel have been supporting women, peace and security initiatives including in gender advisor roles.

Their work has included assisting in the development of Afghan National Army gender advisers and helping remove barriers for females in the Afghan army, including through the establishment of childcare facilities and education and training opportunities.

MAJGEN Boswell said NZDF personnel, working alongside international partners, had directly contributed to the development of future Afghan military leaders.

"Our NZDF trainers and mentors have made a valuable contribution to the academy which has been developing to self-sufficiency, with our support no longer needed," he said.

"We are also proud to have contributed to women, peace and security initiatives in Afghanistan, and look forward to seeing further progress in Afghanistan as this work continues."

"It has been a privilege to support our Afghan partners and serve alongside them over the years."



The flag is lowered, signifying the last of the New Zealand military leaving Afghanistan.  
Photo: Sergeant Dana Clarke, US Military.



## Ten New Zealand Army personnel died in Afghanistan:

Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell	3 August 2010
Private Kirifi Mila	15 February 2011
Corporal Douglas Grant	19 August 2011
Lance Corporal Leon Smith	28 September 2011
Corporal Doug Hughes	3 April 2012
Lance Corporal Pralli Durrer	4 August 2012
Lance Corporal Rory Malone	4 August 2012
Private Richard Harris	19 August 2012
Corporal Luke Tamatea	19 August 2012
Corporal Jacinda Baker	19 August 2012

## While a Captain, Lieutenant Colonel Dougal Barker deployed to Afghanistan from April to October 2008 and served as a patrol commander with the NZPRT in Bamyán Province.

His patrol operated in the Khamard and Sayghan districts, two of the more unstable areas of the province. As the security situation steadily declined over the summer months, he worked hard to ensure that his patrol had all the necessary force protection measures that were available to the NZPRT.

Notwithstanding the deteriorating security situation, he also implemented a robust local engagement programme with the local population and was pro-active in ensuring that development projects remained unaffected by terrorist activity in his area of operation. In early October, while on patrol, his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He ensured that all crew members from the immobilised vehicle were safely extracted.

His strong leadership and professionalism were integral to ensuring that all members of his patrol returned safely to their base.

As a Major, Lieutenant Colonel Bryce Gurney deployed to Afghanistan from April to October 2008 with the NZPRT in Bamyán Province. He served as head of the Development Group, responsible for the implementation of the development programme, including management of funding provided by NZ Aid and the United States Commanders Emergency Response Programme. He quickly set about identifying areas where

funding accountability and delivery of the development programmes could be significantly enhanced. He undertook a complete review of the funding and delivery cycle of the NZAid programmes.

His review and recommendations was subsequently adopted by NZAid. As a result of his review, funding from the United States Commanders Emergency Response Programme received a significant boost from two million US dollars to in excess of twenty million US dollars.

As a result, LTCOL Gurney needed to provide day-to-day management of over one hundred projects, ranging from digging wells for water supply to major road construction projects spread over a large and varied geographical area.

At the same time, he provided effective mentoring to a number of junior officers attached to the Development Group. He also took it upon himself to supervise and mentor Afghan contractors, who had little or no experience tendering and contract in management, again with significant success.

LTCOL Barker and LTCOL Gurney were both awarded Distinguished Service Decorations for their service in Afghanistan.

## The Land Component Commander, Brigadier Hugh McAslan, then a Lieutenant Colonel, was Senior National Officer of CRIB 18, in 2011.

"We were the first PRT to deploy with NZLAV. This provided a significant enhancement in capability, and provided much more flexibility for the conduct of our mission. CRIB 18 was fortunate to be part of Bamyán's transition, with the province being the first one to go through that process. This was a hugely significant event for the Afghans with respect to their sovereignty, whilst also signifying New Zealand's commitment and stabilising influence in the region over the previous nine years."

Lieutenant Colonel, now Colonel, Peter Hall was the Senior National Officer of CRIB 20 in 2012.

"CRIB 20 lost five fine soldiers: LCPL Rory Malone, LCPL Pralli Durrer, CPL Luke Tamatea, LCPL Jacinda Baker and PTE Richard Harris. The rest of the contingent

displayed considerable teamwork, professionalism and courage after the contact on 4 August and the IED incident on 19 August, and in dealing with our loss."

As a Major, Cory Neale was a key member of a multinational mentoring effort at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy, near Kabul.

Major Neale deployed to Afghanistan from November 2017 to August 2018 as part of the Coalition training mission that included personnel from the United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark and New Zealand.

The Academy was considered to be the premier tactical-level officer training establishment developing effective junior leaders in the Afghan National Army. It trained thousands of Afghan Army Officer

Cadets, including a large number of female officers.

His role was as a mentor, and he was also the Senior National Officer, leading a team of 10 New Zealanders.

Now a Lieutenant Colonel and the Commanding Officer of 2/1 RNZIR, his work was recognised with the award of a Distinguished Service Decoration.

His citation included the observation from the Senior Officer and Chief Mentor at the Academy who described his contribution as outstanding. His output was said to be of exceptionally high quality and it was largely through his efforts and leadership of his team that more than 600 high-quality cadets were delivered to the next stage of their officer training.



LTCOL Cory Neale

## The Kiwi contribution to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy has helped more than 5,000 Afghan cadets become fully trained Army officers.

New Zealand Army mentors supported the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) from its creation in 2013. This contribution, peaking at 12 personnel, formed part of the international mentoring team together with the United Kingdom, Denmark, and formerly Australia and Norway.

The Academy has trained about 1,000 new officers a year in three intakes, with each intake organised into three battalions. These battalions consisted of junior, intermediate and senior classes and advanced every four months, each term concluding with a graduation parade for the senior class. Until mid-2019 about 120 international mentors supported ANAOA Staff with 1 to 1 mentoring. As the confidence and skills of the ANAOA staff increased the number of international mentors was reduced to eight.

A New Zealand training advisor, Major Brendon Jones said mentoring the academy meant any day could see the team in meetings with its ANA counterparts offering advice, providing feedback on training or helping link in with other international mentors across the NATO Resolute Support mission.

“These efforts were complicated with the spread of Covid-19 amongst the Afghan population. Infection rates were under reported and this presented a difficult challenge in mentoring and advising. Whenever we departed Camp Qargha for meetings and training visits we adhered to a strict social distance protocol or conducted the meeting via phone instead. Masks, hand sanitizer, surface wipes, no physical contact and a minimum of two metres spacing was mandatory in meetings. During summer we preferred to have meetings in the open air, which was ideal to view training. To maintain force protection regular Covid screening tests were conducted for the mentors.

“Despite the difficulties posed by Covid and security threats and the limited occasions we got out to the task site and provide advice, we focused our time spent with our ANA partners, and naturally allow the ANA staff and instructors to take the lead. The academy did well with limited resources.”

Major Jones said another success for the Kiwi team was the work it had done towards integrating women into the ANA.

“The officer academy has been a leading example to other ANA institutions. It graduates about 5-10% females in each class. They are organized into a company structure called the Zarghona Tolay, which is all female and looks after all administration, including the delivery of some culturally sensitive lessons. Captain Frankie Thompson from 2 Engineer Regiment was presented with a commendation from the Commander Joint Forces Rear Admiral Jim Gilmour for the influential role she played of the ANA female success story.”

In September 2020 the 17<sup>th</sup> class of cadets graduated, which marked the 5,000<sup>th</sup> cadet to pass out from the Academy. The graduation parade was held at the Ministry of Defence HQ in Kabul and was attended by his excellence President Ashraf Ghani and international senior military representatives.



*Light Armoured Vehicles played a significant role in Afghanistan.*

# A traumatic and complex situation

Adapted from a story first published in the Army News in 2011

## August 3 2010 is a day the Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell says he will never forget.

It's the date he received the call a commanding officer dreads – there had been an enemy contact and there were casualties, 100 kilometres northeast of KIWI Base in Bamiyan, Afghanistan.

It would turn out Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell was dead, and two soldiers – Lance Corporal Matthew Ball and Private Alistair Baker – were wounded. An improvised explosive device had detonated under the lead vehicle of Kiwi Team 2 patrol as they returned from a task in the north east of Khamard district and the remainder of the patrol came under small arms and rocket fire.

MAJGEN Boswell, then a Lieutenant Colonel, was in charge of the Provincial Reconstruction Team. While his quieter moments after the incident were suffused with sadness, his pride in the way his troops reacted during and after the incident is palpable.

He was working out in the gymnasium late in the afternoon of August 3.

"I remember hearing on the intercom an escalation of calls to various people to go immediately to the command post. It became apparent that something out of the ordinary was happening. Shortly after that I was called to the CP."

The next morning he was moving, along with additional security elements and a number of specialists from within the Provincial Reconstruction Team, to the site where the contact occurred.

"The soldiers on the patrol itself did everything that was expected of them. Their response was superb, and the manner in which they conducted themselves both during and immediately after the ambush was a credit to them and the training they had received from Tim, both pre-deployment and in the rehearsals for the patrol itself. In the 30-plus minutes that the fire fight took place all members of the patrol demonstrated courage,

commitment and comradeship of the highest standard."

Equally impressive, he says, was the work that went on behind the scenes by the wider contingent. "I had to go up to the contact site and I could do that comfortably knowing that everyone in the contingent would continue to meet their requirements, and manage the situation to the best possible standards."

In the 24 hours following the contact he found himself faced with a traumatic and complex situation. The weather had closed in, preventing helicopters from accessing the site, communications were difficult and a recovery operation had to be completed in an area where there was, quite obviously, a real threat.

He was grateful for the preparation he had received on several fronts prior to the incident. "The Army prepares you to respond to complexity, and to manage issues even in the most difficult of circumstances that you may find yourself in at very short notice. It's a real strength of what we do as an organisation."

The contingent had rehearsed for the eventuality of a combat death during its pre-deployment training, and in a fortuitous twist his staff officers had observed a contact experienced by members of CRIB 15 (the previous rotation) and CRIB 16 during the handover between rotations.

"CRIB 15 managed the contact, but our staff officers were there and observed what happened. As a result they were able to implement more effectively a lot of the procedures they had learned that day."

He was eventually able to step back and let his staff officers and key commanders go about their responsibilities. "Very quickly, I was able to co-ordinate things on an as required basis and give guidance when necessary."

The contingent repositioned itself as quickly as possible.

"Tim's patrol did need time to consolidate, to regroup as a team, however they also had to get back to their duties as quickly as possible. The leadership shown by WO1 Chris Wilson who had taken over as the patrol commander, with great support from his 2IC Corporal Albie Moore, was key to this process. The patrol had lost three members and two vehicles. We immediately reinforced them from within the contingent to bring them back up to full strength while a reconstitution team deployed forward from KIWI Base within 48 hours to address their vehicle and equipment shortfalls.

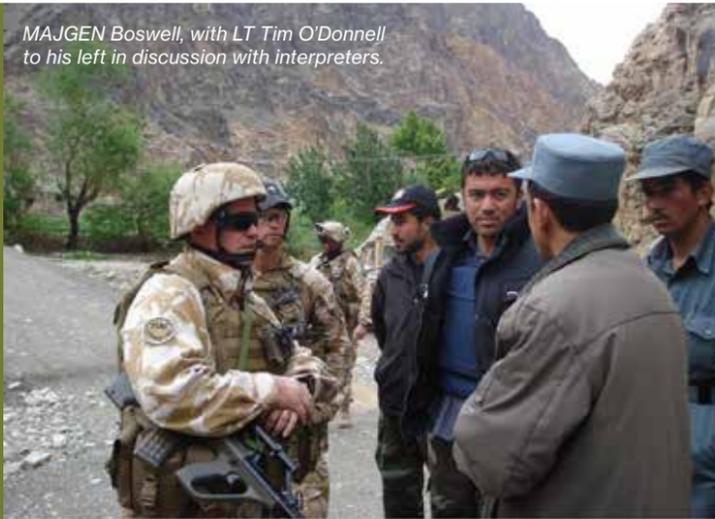
"A deliberate patrol programme slowly increasing in both tempo and complexity was implemented and in a reasonably short time frame they were back working."

The complexities of the situation didn't end there; mission focus across the contingent had to be maintained, despite the grief felt by a predominantly young team who had lost a friend and colleague.

"There was a lot of emotion at various times. It hit people, including me, in different ways. The key thing was the strength of the team, and an acknowledgement that underpinning everything we did were the requirements of the mission and how each individual fed into it. There was a clear acceptance that regardless of what had happened we had to get on and achieve our mission. And people did that.

"To a degree you had to close yourself off to what had happened. Everyone seemed to have their moments when they needed time by themselves, and we respected that. But they had their professional responsibilities too. There's a real balance to be had there, and managing it isn't easy. The strength of the individuals in

MAJGEN Boswell, with LT Tim O'Donnell to his left in discussion with interpreters.



the contingent, and the strength of the team came through, I'm proud to say. CRIB 16 was a very impressive group of people, and you could see that in the way they conducted themselves and in all they achieved."

The Army's Critical Incident Management process provided short to medium term in-theatre support.

It would be two and a half months before the tour ended, and troops could reunite with their loved ones at home.

"I found as commander you have to temper the environment if you can, and be careful about putting pressure on people when it isn't necessary. And you must make it clear when you are putting pressure on and why. You do that and our people will step up. In a way you have to massage the group through the situation. But I was lucky – our people are professional. They knew what they had to do and they just got on and did it."

What lessons did he learn? "It wasn't so much a lesson, but the whole situation emphasised the importance of training, training and training. None of us should ever underestimate the importance of training, and as commanders, as Tim quite clearly did, we must all ensure that it is focussed and effectively conducted.

"I learned to appreciate the support provided by the United States in times of crisis – they will move heaven and earth to help you out when you need it – and to have faith in the support systems we have across the New Zealand Defence Force. The support we received from Headquarters Joint

Forces New Zealand in particular was outstanding. The experience emphasised the quality of the people we have across the NZDF, and their ability, even in the most tragic of circumstances, to step up and meet the requirements of their profession."

MAJGEN Boswell says while Tim O'Donnell's death was a defining moment, it did not define the tour.

"Our people achieved so much – yes, a lot of it was security related, however the development work we undertook saw the construction of education and health facilities, roads, irrigation schemes, micro-hydro power stations, crop storage facilities and much more. The team coordinated and oversaw the delivery of humanitarian aid following the flood and instigated a large number of rebuilding programmes to repair damage. We did make a difference and, without question, I believe many from the local population have a better lifestyle as a result of our efforts."



Afghanistan National Army soldiers under training.



NZDF first responders were soon on the scene after the earthquake.



# TEN YEARS ON, WE REMEMBER

By Charlene Williamson

**Ten years ago New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel were in the South Island gearing up for the NZDF's bi-annual exercise, Southern Katipo.**

Troops were ready, air assets were on the tarmac and HMNZS Canterbury was berthed at Lyttelton Port making final preparations for the exercise.

Then, at 12:51pm on Tuesday 22 February 2011 a magnitude 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck the city of Christchurch. The earthquake killed 185 people and injured thousands causing severe damage in Christchurch and Lyttelton. The NZDF responded by undertaking its largest ever humanitarian assistance mission.

The New Zealand Army mobilised immediately by deploying soldiers into the city to help.

On that day, the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major of 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) were away. They were waiting for the body of fallen 2/1 RNZIR soldier Private Kirifi Mila to return from Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Tuatini, then Executive Officer at 2/1 RNZIR, had to make some quick decisions.

LTCOL Tuatini said the earthquake struck and after they had conducted a quick welfare check on their people, they held deployment orders at Headquarters 2/1 RNZIR.

"It was clear to all of us working together at that time that urgent action was required. We acted without formal orders from Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQJFNZ) or from Headquarters 3rd Land Force Group (3LFG). Formal tasks were issued after a few days."

With the focus on providing the immediate support need to relief operations within the first few days the NZDF response was reacting to the myriad of requests coming in within our resource limits. During this time agencies were working out exactly what they needed from the NZDF in the aftermath of the disaster.

Once this was established HQJFNZ had a better understanding of the breadth of support requirements and what the

Command and Control relationships were. They then issued more detailed orders on what was needed from the NZDF, working alongside other agencies, in the response.

"The right thing to do in that situation was to deploy and let everything else catch up," he said.

LTCOL Tuatini deployed with two 2/1 RNZIR companies into the city, where they received confirmatory orders from Police to establish the Red Zone cordon.

"Our move into the city was memorable, we had a large contingent of Pinzgauer and Unimogs which was joined by fire appliances, emergency vehicles and Police as we got closer to the central city location.

"As the unit had already been deployed on cordon duty previously, for the September 2010 earthquake, our order process was abbreviated and we manned the same or close to positions around the four avenues," he said.

Those who deployed from Burnham met up with soldiers already in town from their homes, as well as a number of 2<sup>nd</sup> Canterbury Regiment reserve soldiers out of HMNZS Pegasus. Soldiers who weren't given orders also turned up, ready to help. Further support was provided by North Island units who were in Lyttelton with HMNZS Canterbury for Exercise Southern Katipo.

LTCOL Tuatini remembers it was both frantic and eerie in the city. The devastation was "something else".

"Almost all of the roads were covered in water, mud and liquefaction, large holes opened up with trapped cars swallowed inside. People were evacuating the city, leaving so quickly that there were café tables sitting there still set with food, coats on chairs and empty streets.

"To see the damage to the city and realise the tragic loss of life that we knew would follow was sobering," he said.

"To be able to respond quickly and decisively I believe added reassurance to the many people in and around the cordon.

"I know everyone on the cordon in those initial hours felt their contribution wasn't about controlling movement, but offering a solid point to rally around, share experiences and gather collective reassurance."

Back at Burnham, 3LFG were providing the tactical coordination of the NZDF relief efforts.

Then-3LFG Chief of Staff Major Mike Duncan oversaw the approach. Having just returned from Afghanistan, he said it felt like he was on operations again.

"I oversaw the tactical coordination and dealt with the myriad of support requests that came to the agencies involved in the relief effort.



Soldiers dealt with liquefaction throughout the city.



Portable water was made...



Portable toilets delivered...



Plans discussed...



... and cordons maintained.

"I remember thinking we were so lucky we had a firm base in Burnham. We suffered very little damage and were operational throughout."

Burnham Military Camp was a secure base that allowed police and coroners to do their work collecting evidence to support their investigations.

Support requests and coordination through 3LFG included staffing for the Red Zone cordon, establishment of fresh water facilities, providing meals to all the agencies operating in the Red Zone, engineer support to Civil Defence, planning staff to support Police in Red Zone operations, and the establishment of a temporary mortuary and the staff to assist with victim identification. This was only a small slice of what NZDF teams provided during this time.

"We were very fortunate to have a big slice of the NZDF in Canterbury at the time who were there to start Exercise Southern Katipo," MAJ Duncan said. "It meant that we were able to react with a lot more support than we would normally have had in one place."

"We are good at planning quickly, and are also highly disciplined and will stand on a cordon for eight hours in all weather, or go house to house checking on how residents are faring," he said.

At the height of the response, NZDF provided more than 300 service personnel to staff three

eight-hour shifts per day until the cordon could be reduced. NZDF personnel remained on the cordon for close to two and a half years.

The Army's capability was visually evident around the central city, 77 Unimogs transported equipment and stores, and 47 Pinzgauer Light Operational vehicles were constantly on the move in the broken city. Twenty-eight Light Armoured Vehicles were also working in the area.

MAJ Duncan said one of the biggest lessons learned from the earthquake was the need to have a deployable headquarters that can rapidly get to the disaster zone and coordinate the operation.

"3LFG was only around 30 staff and we really struggled to initially coordinate the breadth of support requests we received."

"Out of the Christchurch earthquake the NZDF stood up the Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (DJIAF) headquarters owned by Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand. They are staffed and equipped to go anywhere rapidly at short notice," he said.

This was evident when NZDF responded to the Kaikoura earthquake in 2016 when DJIAF was on the ground within a day.

Colonel Stefan Michie was Commanding Officer of 2/1 RNZIR ten years ago. On the day of the earthquake he was in Auckland awaiting the arrival of the body

of Private Kirifi Mila who was tragically killed on Operation Crib in Afghanistan.

"After we helped lay Private Mila to rest, we headed straight to Christchurch and immediately into the CBD where 2/1 RNZIR had already deployed to assist," said COL Michie.

For many months following the earthquake, he worked as the cordon reduction manager, working closely with the Civil Defence Emergency Management headquarters and the national controller to bring down the size of the cordon surrounding the central city as quickly and safely as possible.

"There was a lot of pressure to let people get back to their homes and businesses." But given the damage in the central city and the loss of life in the earthquake, it needed to be carefully done.

What he remembers most is the "can-do" atmosphere among the response teams, and that everyone was keen to help others and forget the little things that didn't matter in the big picture.

"From a work point of view, we were working hard as part of a big team, some very long days where we rarely saw our families – but I always felt better walking the cordon and seeing the professionalism of our troops and their determination to do a good job," he said.

"I remain very proud to have been a part of 2/1 and the Army over

that time – the troops were quietly magnificent. The Battalion has a small memorial to the earthquake and those who served, it was designed and coordinated by a soldier who sadly lost his partner in the quake.

"I think of that every time I see that memorial," COL Michie said.

A total of 1,768 Defence Force personnel made up of 239 Navy, 1,379 Army and 150 Air Force regular and reserve personnel were directly involved on the ground in Christchurch in 2011. Behind these people were many more working in support from camps and bases around the country. The support ranged from medical, logistical, and planning, to engineering tasks, cordon maintenance, and forensic dentistry.

.....

***"I remain very proud to have been a part of 2/1 and the Army over that time – the troops were quietly magnificent."***

– COL Stefan Michie



# MAORI BATTALION MEDALS

**The families of four Hawke's Bay Maori Battalion soldiers who fought in World War II have been given their original World War II medals – 75 years after they returned home.**

*Historic photos: National Army Museum*



The extended families of James Keefe, Mihaere Karekare, Walter Rowlands and Haeata Eria were presented with the medals in what was described as an emotional and outstanding event at Hougarea Marae in Pakipaki, Hawkes Bay on 27 February.

The event was organised by lawyer David Stone from Pakipaki, but who currently resides in Auckland.

Mr Stone said he became involved after he researched his great uncle's war record. "He was killed in Italy during the war and buried there, but his family hadn't received his medals. I realised other families must be in the same situation."

The New Zealand Government's official position after World War II was that service people or their families needed to apply for their medals following their service, and they would be posted to the applicant. This was to avoid the First World War problems when more than a third of medals issued were returned because of current address issues.

Some who served did not claim their medals, for a variety of reasons.

NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals worked with Mr Stone regarding the unclaimed medals of C Coy 28 (Maori) Battalion members, where more than 900 records were checked, with 137 medals found to be unclaimed – or 15%.

Mr Stone released information of unclaimed medals via social media and helped family members complete their applications.

Colonel Karl Cummins represented the New Zealand Army at the Hawkes Bay event.

"I felt honoured to be part of the presentation. The men of the 28<sup>th</sup> played a vital role in the war. Operational medals are an important part of a person's service, and it is fitting that the families of these men receive what they earned."

Mr Henare O'Keefe, the son of 28 (Maori) Battalion soldier James Keefe (who changed the spelling of his name as was often the practice in the 1920s) attended the Pakipaki

presentation after marching from Mihiroa to the marae with his extended family.

"It was an outstanding event. Very emotional and... comforting. When the serial numbers were called out, boy it got to me. And then to hear my dad's name called out. Somehow I could just see him there fighting in the war."

He described his father as an Irish Māori. "His mum was Ngāti Kahungunu, and his dad was Irish, hence the surname. He took the 'O' off but we put it back again."

His father was born near Wairoa, and spent his life on the East Coast.

Mr O'Keefe and his whānau were presented with two medals. Their father had already received two others medals but their whereabouts is unknown.

He said the order of service was that one person would step forward to receive the medals. "But we all went up, we were so proud!"

The medals are being held by his eldest sister Kate who was not able to attend the ceremony.

Mr O'Keefe said the work put into the research by Mr Stone was outstanding and was done as a personal project.

More medals will be presented to the families of 28 (Maori) Battalion members in Gisborne on 17 April. At this stage about 65 families of the 134 identified are being presented with the medals, including three wives of men from the Maori Battalion.

Mr Stone said the Pakipaki presentation was a good example of what can be achieved when the Crown and Māori work together and that the kaupapa was always about "doing the right thing".

"My grandfather was at a conference at Massey University in the mid 90s. He told me that the hui was about the Maori Battalion and during it a photo of his brother came up on the screen. He said he got up and did a mihi but also broke down crying for his brother. This was 50 years after his brother had died in the war.

"I realised that despite the passage of time he had never had the opportunity to really say goodbye, and to let his

brother go. I also realised that if my grandfather still felt this way, then most likely hundreds of other siblings, if not thousands, still felt exactly the same way. So part of me was hoping that for those families, this presentation (and the presentations to come) may provide those families, including the wives, siblings and children an opportunity to say goodbye, and to close the book and move on."

**As part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Expeditionary Force, the men of the 28<sup>th</sup> were at the forefront of New Zealand's war effort – coming together in Palmerston North in January 1940 before embarking to war on 1 May 1940.**

The men of the 28<sup>th</sup> were posted far and wide, to Italy, North Africa, Crete, Greece and the Middle East – with their outstanding service seeing them become one of New Zealand most decorated battalions.

Bernard Freyberg, the General Officer Commanding of the 2NZEF, noted "No infantry had a more distinguished record, or saw more fighting, or, alas, had such heavy casualties as the Maori Battalion".

At his inspection of the battalion prior to their deployment, Major General Duigan noted he could not have credited the speed at which the battalion reached such a high standard, stating "I know that your heart is in your work and this standard has been reached in such a brief time because of your keenness and your enthusiasm to learn."



Colonel Karl Cummins, with Māori Battalion soldier Robert Gillies on his left, at the Pakipaki Marae.

**The Long Road Home**

When the fighting was over, Lieutenant Colonel Dyer, who had been Tainui's Company Commander at Olympus Pass on 16 April 1941, asked the Assault Pioneer Sergeant to make a plain wooden cross. The words inscribed on the cross were: "Sgt Jack Tainui – Maori Friend."

Dyer then asked Logan, Tainui's Company Commander, for a "good Maori" to accompany him to Tainui's grave... "a small mound on a rocky rise, facing the rising winter sun and the long road home."

They raised a large stone at the head of the grave and set the cross. Then with small stones they enclosed the grave, the cartridges and the patch of blood where he had fallen. Tomoana recalled how Dyer then asked to be left alone. He moved away and watched in wonderment, this lean, tall, stern Pakeha mourn the passing of a Māori soldier.

From Wira Gardiner's "The Story of the Maori Battalion."



# SEMT IS NOW LIVE – USE IT TO REPORT ALL SAFETY EVENTS

By SMA, WO1 Wiremu Moffitt

**By the time this edition of Army News goes to press, we will have just started to use the new Safety Event Management Tool (SEMT) to report safety events.**

From now on, all safety events, including where we've had near misses or done something positive, must be recorded in the SEMT, with the SRS no longer in use. As stated in my previous message a month ago, this is the first phase of the introduction of the SEMT from the Army's perspective.

Follow-on phases will see Army bring in assurance/audit coordination, Safety Investigations, Safety Risk Assessments (SRA) for facilities and Safety Risk Management Plans (RMP) for activities. Once Army has

developed proficiency with SEMT safety reporting, it will address the next objective. Planning for this is ongoing at Army General Staff and more information will come out in due course.

All SRS event history has been migrated across to SEMT so Commanders and Managers will be able to access it through the new system. However, SRS can still be accessed up until 10 June to close any SRS events opened prior to SEMT going live.

Safety personnel at every camp have had extra SEMT training and

are available to answer any SEMT questions you have.

Additionally, there is help text available from within the tool itself: fields with an information symbol provide guidance on how to fill in that field; and the 'Training & Support' tab in the top right-hand corner leads to short NZDF wide video demonstrations and guides on specific functions of the SEMT.

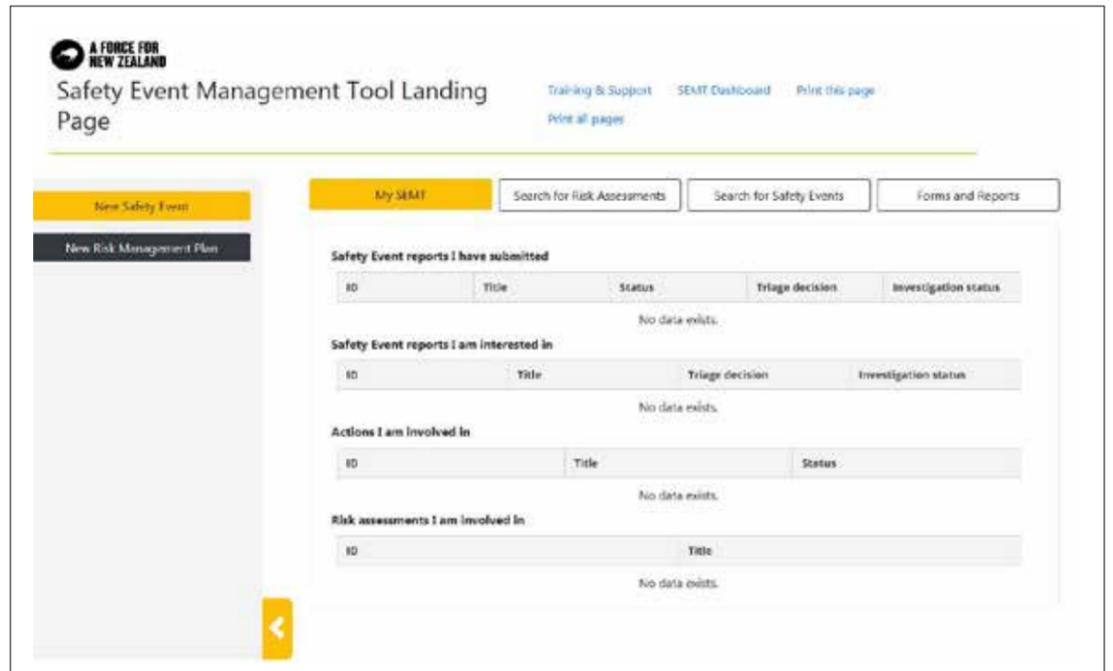
Work is also underway to create an updated LMS module about safety and safety reporting at the NZDF. Keep an eye out for publicity about this.

While the tool is new, the importance of safety reporting and safety management isn't. Safety is everyone's responsibility – I urge you to use the SEMT for reporting good and bad safety events from now on. To access the SEMT Landing Page even more easily, you could try adding it to your favourite links after reading this message.

I have no doubt that after a 'bedding-in' period, we will all get familiar with the SEMT, and it will quickly become a routine part of how we manage safety in the Army. Concurrently, we will also

soon be able to take advantage of the SEMT's analytic functionality for commanders and managers, enabling continuous improvements in the ways we keep our people safe.

If you need any help using the SEMT, speak to your commander/manager, local safety advisor, or visit the SEMT Help and Support page (click on the SAFETY button from the ILP).



## WHAT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO...

**This is the first in an occasional series about the services the NZDF provides to its uniformed and civilian staff.**

Members of Armed Forces receive a different package of support compared to civilian staff. This recognises the unique nature of military service including, but not limited to, operational service.

Defence Human Resources will be delivering an education series this year to build greater awareness regarding the range of HR support available to members. This includes:

Flexible working, parental support, allowances, accommodation assistance, posting assistance, travel entitlements, operational entitlements, leave, etc.

First up, this month, we will be covering Flexible Working.

### The NZDF supports flexible working

Flexible working is NZDF policy. Our strategy is to deliver a diverse and flexible workforce with the right people, in the right place at the right time. We know that flexible working is important to: attract and retain talent, improve morale, and increase diversity and inclusion. Flexible working supports our people to balance work commitments with: study, parenting, sports, interests, health concerns, life events, caring responsibilities, or for any reason.

### What is flexible working?

Flexible working means any changes to hours of work, days of work, place of work, how work is done, how

work is managed, or a combination of these things. It is about finding what works for the organisation, the team, and the individual.

### What types of flexible working arrangements are there?

#### Reduced Working Hours

Working less than your standard hours, e.g. five working days a week reduced to four days.

#### Varied working hours

Working outside of standard working hours, e.g. start 1000 finish 1800.

#### Varied working location

Working away from your standard work location base/camp, e.g. work from home.

### How do I apply for a flexible working arrangement?

All members of the Regular Forces who have completed initial training and all civilians may request flexible working arrangements.

Members can submit a flexible working request via Employer Self-Service (ESS) under 'Leave and Timesheets'.

#### For more information refer to:

HR Toolkit – Flexible Working Arrangements  
DFO 3, Part 12, Chapter 1 Flexible Working Arrangements



**Exercise Southern Warrior**  
More action on page 18.



Jayforce troops leave Lyttelton for Japan, 1946.  
Photo: The Press



Some of the last WAACs to leave Japan.  
Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library

# DEMILITARISATION AND MUSIC

## Bill Wollerman's memories 75 years on

By Judith Martin

**Bill Wollerman's war was something of an adventure, marked by all things military – and lots of music.**



Mr Wollerman with his friend John Jamieson at Hiroshima, 1946.

It wasn't exactly war, but more what came after WWII – Mr Wollerman, 96, was one of 12,000 New Zealanders who served in the post-war occupation of Japan, in what became known as Jayforce.

The Lower Hutt resident has vivid memories of his time as a soldier.

"I was at a loose end in 1946. I was a teacher but didn't really like my job. My friend who was also a teacher said 'Let's join Jayforce!' So off we went to Papakura to train. There were lots of route marches and basic drill."

His memories of the voyage to Japan are not fond – "The food was terrible, really awful. Sometimes it was rotten" – but once the ship arrived, life improved considerably.

He was in 22 Battalion, 2NZE, but soon changed to Intelligence Section in Battalion Headquarters. "That got me out of a lot of the parade ground stuff."

He was based at the tip of Honshu, one of Japan's largest islands.

"Our job was to demilitarise the place, look for hidden armaments, that sort of thing. The Japanese were pretty quiet, they just got on with their lives, mainly farming and tending rice fields. I don't think the average Japanese took that much notice of the aftermath of the war – they just kept their heads down."

"The New Zealanders treated the Japanese very decently, as we would, being Kiwis. I don't think the Australians did the same but then they suffered much more than New Zealanders at the hands of the Japanese."

The Commonwealth troops had two main tasks – demilitarisation and demobilisation. They oversaw repatriation centres both of Japanese returning home, and Koreans being sent back to their country. Illegal migrants from Korea were rounded up by Jayforce troops and incarcerated before being deported to Korea.

Always a keen pianist Mr Wollerman was delighted to discover there was a New Zealand military band based at Brigade Headquarters. The band was a dance/pop band and travelled to Tokyo every six weeks to do guard duty outside the Emperor's Palace.

Wearing smart blue and red uniforms the band members played a major role in the Guard changeover, and were something of a tourist attraction to other countries' troops.

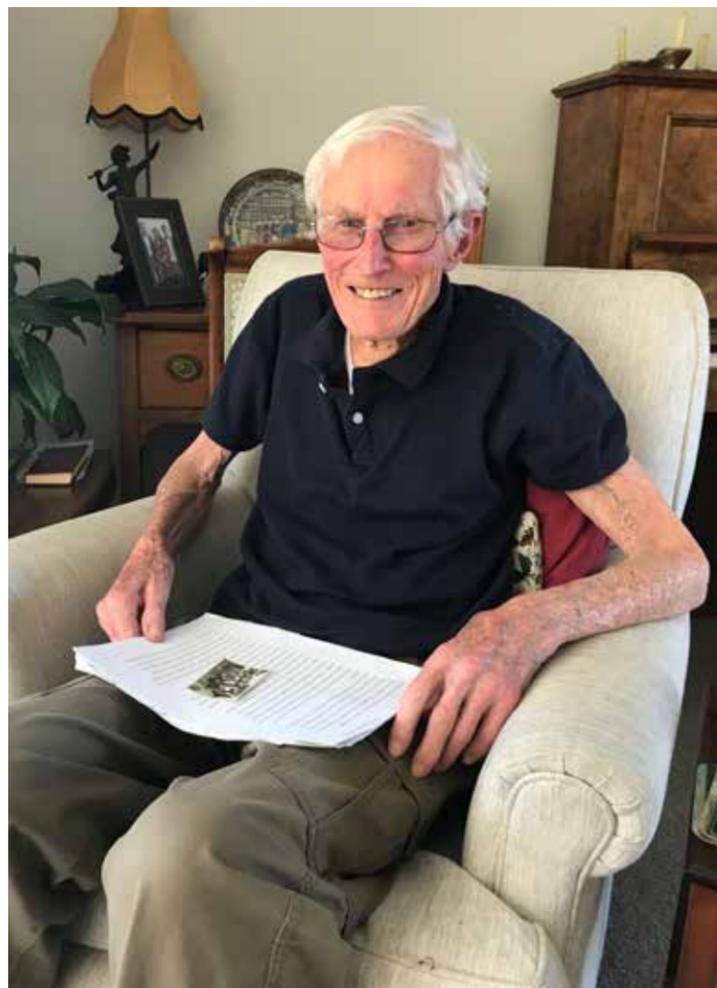
The band, complete with a requisitioned piano, played for all and sundry.

It played at much-anticipated dances attended by soldiers and members of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, and the New Zealand Army Nursing Service.

After the band's drummer became ill, Mr Wollerman was asked if he could play. "I said 'sort of' and they replied 'Right, you're in.'"

On his return to New Zealand Mr Wollerman went back to teaching but realised he still didn't enjoy it. He was offered a job in an advertising firm, and was involved in that industry until he retired.

He has kept regular contact with his Jayforce band mates over the years.





# 5/7 TROOPS PREPARE TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

**Battle preparation, orders, platoon rehearsals, and clearing enemy standing patrols were all in the mix when soldiers from 5/7 Battalion held their annual training exercise recently.**

Exercise Bapaume was conducted in Waiouru and Napier, and Reserve officers and soldiers came from the three Rifle Companies of 5/7 Bn, West Coast Company, (New Plymouth, Whanganui, Palmerston North areas), East Coast Company, (Gisborne, Napier, Dannevirke areas) and Wellington Company, (greater Wellington region areas). Between 50-70 Reserve personnel took part in different phases of the Exercise.

Training Warrant Officer WO2 Julian Watts said the exercise was conducted in three phases.

"The first focused on weapon qualifications and compliance, fitness tests and swim tests. The next phase involved a field exercise at platoon level, covering battle preparation, orders, and platoon rehearsals. The platoon then conducted an AO clearance

of enemy standing patrols in open country. They got to practise all parts of their battle procedures over the week."

After the exercise the battalion moved to Napier to prepare for the final phase which was a charter parade in Napier during Art deco weekend. "The charter parade was reduced due to Covid restrictions but there were still plenty of people who took part in the weekend activities," said WO2 Watts.

On 20 February 2021, 5/7 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, marched through the streets of Napier to cheers and applause. Following a decades-old tradition, Army Reservists from across the lower North Island had gathered to take part in the City of Napier Charter Parade – a recognition of reservists' historic role in the defence, support and maintenance of our communities.

With dozens of officers and soldiers in attendance, a practice parade took place on the nearby school grounds first. The West Coast Company Sergeant Major took charge, calmly instructing those involved on their bearing and performance. As the parade wound its way through the streets, it prompted a delighted reception from those attending

The battalion's RSM WO1 Paul Mumm and his Cadre staff helped prepare the Battalion for the charter of Napier parade, after which long service medals were presented by the mayor of Napier, Kirsten Wise and the battalion's outgoing Honorary Colonel COL Nick Thornton.

A regimental dinner was held at the end of the exercise to welcome the new Honorary Colonel Jeremy Harker and to farewell Colonel Thornton.

the festival. Another junior soldier joked that "We had bayonets, so they kind of had to clap!"

But a more serious reason was the symbolism of the soldiers' involvement. Ninety years prior, the town had been flattened by the 1931 earthquake. Many of those who helped in the immediate aftermath were Territorial soldiers – forerunners of the men and women marching through the streets in 2021. Today the Army Reserve serves a dual function – training both to support the Defence Force's work overseas, and its humanitarian and disaster relief missions at home. If another earthquake were to strike, these soldiers would be at the forefront of the response, as they were only a few weeks ago during flooding in Napier.



Photos: CPL Rachel Pugh

# TAKING TO THE WATER



## Soldiers from 2 Field Squadron, 16 Field Regiment and a detachment from 1 Combat Support Regiment honed their boating skills recently in Horowhenua.

The two day exercise involved a flotilla of four Zodiac FC530 craft and a fifth craft as the safety boat. The 2 Fd Sqn tactical Command Post also deployed.

Land and water skills were rehearsed as well as Rehearsal of Concept drills followed by three tactical battle handling exercises (BHE). The first BHE was a tactical transit in the littoral zone between Foxton Beach and Himatangi Beach and involved the tactical infiltration of a Retrans Detachment and a Joint Fires Team (JFT).

The beach at Himatangi was secured to allow a notional key leader engagement to take place and the uplift of all elements in reverse order. The second BHE was a half section riverine task to deliver the JFT at last light to enable them to move to establish an observation post over the river. The third exercise involved the tactical uplift of personnel and their covert delivery to a second location, as well as exfiltration of the JFT.

The third exercise was conducted by night under night vision equipment.

The Squadron used the Foxton Beach Boat Ramp as the main Forward Operating Base. Other key locations included the Coast line between Foxton Beach and Himatangi, the area around the Manawatu River mouth at Foxton Beach, the Foxton town boat ramp and the Manawatu River from the river mouth to the SH1 Bridge south east of Foxton.

Major Gareth Collings said the exercise consolidated watermanship training including boating revision lessons and practical revision on the Linton Lagoon, Coast Guard Bar Crossing, Coastal Medic and the Maritime Radio Operators Courses.

“Our activity was greatly enhanced by the addition of the personnel from 16 Fd Regt and 1 CSR,” he said.



Photos: CPL Chad Sharman



# EX SOUTHERN WARRIOR

By Charlene Williamson

**Point Platoon (Anti-Armour) and Area Platoon (Direct Fire Support Weapons) from 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Fire Support Group (FSG) have been sharpening their skills in Tekapo on Exercise Southern Warrior.**

In support of Combat Corps Training, this was the first opportunity for FSG to conduct live field firing outside of Op Protect duties.

Officer Commanding Support Company Captain Waaka Parkinson said it has been an opportunity for both platoons to quickly shift from a low intensity security operation, to a high intensity live fire environment.

"This exercise provided a number of opportunities for us,

from ensuring the correct build-up training is conducted, through to the change in mind-set to carry out combat tasks.

"It's a test in discipline for the modern warrior to 'flick the switch' and transition between," he said.

"It is critical that our soldiers are conducting effective, safe training throughout the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) commitment to Op Protect."

CAPT Parkinson said Support Company are working hard to balance good training opportunities and maintenance of capability against the main NZDF effort of Op Protect.

The support to Exercise Southern Warrior has given FSG the opportunity to work on their integration between support platoons including Reconnaissance and Surveillance (R&S) Platoon, specifically for upskilling on the M107A1 Anti-Materiel Rifle (AMR).

The recent rollout of the AMR capability has only strengthened the relationship between FSG and R&S as it has provided new ground for discussions and ideas between both platoons.

"Exercise Southern Warrior also exposed our Corps trainees to the latest Infantry capability within Support Company, and an insight into what a Support Company soldier does," Captain Parkinson said.

During the exercise, one section each from Point and Area Platoon were attached to Depot Company and supported their open country exercise as they carried out the phases of war.

CAPT Parkinson said this provided FSG the opportunity to preserve their capability by carrying out their own build-up training

before supporting Depot Company's culminating defensive battle.

"For FSG, we were required to provide layered effects to support Depot Company but were constrained real time with numbers of soldiers and combat service support.

"However, this played well in the scenario, testing our planning, agility and fight-light mind-set while reinforcing mission success above all," he said.

CAPT Parkinson said it is important that FSG soldiers are fit, maintain critical thinking and are able to adapt under pressure.

"We need soldiers who have a positive attitude and pursue excellence in support weapons. Being in FSG is not just about strong soldiers carrying heavy weapons, we need resilient, adaptable and smart thinking soldiers that can focus on the task at hand during a complex situation."

FSG is a force multiplying capability, being able to effectively change the battlespace through both kinetic and non-kinetic effects, either mounted or dismounted in support of rifle companies.

The weapons FSG specialise in are M2HB-QCB.50cal Heavy Machine Gun, M107A1 Anti-Materiel Rifle, FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Missile, HK 40mm Grenade Machine Gun, and MAG-58 Sustained Fire Machine Gun.



Photos: CPL Dillon Anderson



# THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAMS:

## A PERSPECTIVE FROM TRAGEDY

By Major Steve Newman, NZIC

**Our values of courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity can at times seem a bit remote from what we actually do day-to-day.**

Personally I think they are well chosen. After more than 35 years of service I believe they have influenced how I have chosen to lead my life and they underscore the moral foundation of doing what is right in any situation.

After surviving, with three others, during three hours in the storm-tossed waters off the coast of Cape Brett, in a failing lifejacket and with no liferaft, I can definitively say that our values are fundamental. They are the values that underpin teamwork. It is team effort that makes the unachievable achievable and it is teams that will see us get through adversity on operations and in our normal day to day life. "No man is an Island" goes the saying and as soldiers we intuitively know that teamwork is fundamental to us coming home to loved ones; both as an Army on the battlefield and in how we tackle normal life in our close and extended families.

At the end of last year, I was reflecting on surviving the tragedy that took the life of my brother-in-law, Stuart Pedersen and came very close to taking the life of his wife – my sister-in-law, Pamela – and new friend Bruce Goodwin. Together we were sailing the SV *Essence* from Fiji to Tauranga in early October 2019. This was Stuart and Pamela's high specification yacht purchased in 2000 and sailed around the world for seven years. Over the years it was kept in pristine condition; attested to by the Category 1 ocean going rating of Maritime NZ. As a crew, Stuart, Pamela and Bruce were highly experienced and impressively qualified ocean going sailors – with me the least experienced – but still carrying the knowledge of forty years active sailing of dinghies, catamarans, trailer yachts and race crew experience from the 1979 Fastnet Race. So how did such an experienced crew and well found boat come to be in trouble that ultimately saw the boat sink and

take the life of its skipper? And out of this tragedy what can be learned?

One thing I have learned over the years after either witnessing a tragedy or being intimately involved, is I have learned there are always positives to be found and lessons to be identified. Retrospection is an important healing mechanism and this story is part of that and part of my healing process. I think one thing that has made me deal effectively with the whole horror of the experience is the robustness that I have learned, been taught and lived in my Army career along with support from my family, friends and colleagues.

Colleagues at work commented that one thing that surprised them on my return to work was my ability to describe what happened with clarity and my determination to provide a concise record to Maritime NZ investigators that included lessons learned. They also commented on one other attribute that I hadn't even considered as unusual – planning.

Planning is one of the defining characteristics of all good militaries in the world. As a process it normally leads to good results and allows interventions to be made when things aren't going as expected. I think the link between planning and teams is often missed and when looking back at the tragedy the two now seem to be irrevocably linked and these are the lessons that I will identify to those fellow sea-farers planning their next foray on the briny.

### The team in extremis. The Crew

Three of us were close family members that have holidayed in the past together and trusted each other. We were able to speak our minds and listen to alternate viewpoints. Bruce was an unknown quantity but highly recommended as a last minute replacement by the experienced friend of Stuart

and Pamela's who was down originally as a crew member. Bruce has a wholesome outlook on life where his family are all important. Over the course of our six days' transit before the tragedy, Bruce quickly became another trusted friend who took the transit and its risks as seriously as we did. He participated in the planning meetings with collective decisions on watch-keeping, duty watches, deck discipline (tethers at all times), sleep rosters, actions on man overboard, abandon ship actions, transit routine (cooking/cleaning etc) and rationed one drink of alcohol at 1700 hrs as a daily tot.

On our sixth day into the transit we discussed a worsening weather forecast as we approached New Zealand. Forecasts were indicating winds in the 40 knot (74 kph) range with seas ranging to 8–10 metres. In the actual event these forecasted conditions are not what we encountered as the Maritime NZ report to the coroner records waves that were probably over 10–12 metres and the wind

constantly over 60 knots (112 kph). Nonetheless on the information we had at the time we decided to alter our course away from Tauranga to run for the protection of the Bay of Islands. We then planned our actions and prepared the boat for storm conditions – meaning when we struck the full force of the more savage storm all that could be done (less a fatal flaw in the boats design which saw the saloon windows unprotected and blown out) had been done. As we raced ever closer to shelter under a try sail and No3 reef we kept talking and looking after each other as best we could. Then shortly after midday on 14 October we were suddenly tumbled over with Pamela and I inside and Bruce and Stuart at the helm.

It is always with pride that I recount to people that after we were: knocked over; turned upside down; righted with a breached saloon window taking angry waves into a flooded cabin awash with splintered furniture, decking, ladder, tables and the bilge pump overwhelmed; Pamela injured;

Bruce recently recovered from the sea by Stuart and Pamela's calm decision amidst this chaos to send a MAYDAY (remarked on by Coastguard NZ for its calm delivery) with addendums from us to further report that the GPS was knocked out and the EPIRB and life raft lost in the capsize – we still had good humour.

This is to my mind the hallmark of a good team; the chips are down and all remain calm and make a joke. In our case Bruce had forgotten to take his personal locator beacon (PLB) on deck when he went on watch in the storm already engulfing us and regularly exceeding, at 60 knots, our wind gauge limit. Bruce suddenly said he was off to get his PLB from his forward cabin. He returned with it in hand (and while in the cabin closing a hatch whose handles had been torn off) and said "Got it" and asked me to check that he had indeed activated it.

As the boat settled further into the sea and the cabin filled we helped each other up and out to





The yacht's occupants are spotted.

adopt our planned standard deck routine of tethering ourselves to the boat. Tethered to the boat we gathered near the shattered steering column and sat down to eat chocolate and a swig of fresh water from supplies Pamela had grabbed floating past. Stuart asked "so what is the plan from here?"

Together we determined the plan was simply to stay together in the water and for us all to survive the minimum 2.5 hours plus transit time that I had informed them would take the RNZAF to scramble a Search and Rescue (SAR) plane once requested from the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCCNZ). As it turned out a P3 was overhead about 2 hours after we had gone down and located us.

Teamwork continued on deck for 20 minutes and continued in the water after we had to abandon the yacht as it finally dramatically tilted and headed under the waves. We had already planned our exit, our order of march and did our best to execute this – the sudden tilt of the deck saw Pamela slide down the deck out of position and towards the sea. I grabbed her and pushed her up into the hands of Stuart who took her directly over the side and virtually on top of Bruce after I said "get off... you are blocking me".

On landing in the water as planned, we quickly tethered ourselves to each other and attached the floating grab-bag and a Dan-Buoy (used for man overboard) we took over board with us. From there we went into survival mode, enduring waves that forced us as a tangled group under the sea.

We survived the sudden thump of breaking surf on our heads and the ever tugging of the sea at us and our tethers. And I survived using a life jacket that was missing its neck ties and appeared to deflate when we were forced under the sea. I emerged with a limp jacket over my head despite its crotch straps being used. This forced me to use

a mouthpiece that uncomfortably jabbed into my throat as I exhaled into it amongst the crashing waves.

Despite our abject conditions the team continued to help each other as and when we could... Stuart tried to call the waves approach; Pamela and I shared a life ring we had taken; Bruce kept smiling and asking questions as to how we were and all of us stayed positive. When we had the strength, we talked in short bursts. Invariably conversation was about how much time had passed and how cold we were getting. It was just after Stuart said he was frozen that I spotted the P3 and called attention to it. After it spotted us, on the third or fourth pass over us it dropped a raft. From there it took a team effort to get to the well positioned raft by pulling ourselves to it along its wonderfully deployed floating trailing lines. On reaching the life raft things rapidly went even more pear shaped as Bruce successfully made it in but my tethers to Pamela and Stuart stopped my ascent and their strength to assist simultaneously ran out.

In time, with Bruce's help in freeing the tethers, I got up the slide into the raft and we managed to catch hold of a now virtually unresponsive Stuart and Pamela. Suffice to say our relief at being in the life raft flew past, overshadowed by desperation as we couldn't manage to get Stuart and Pamela untangled from each other. They were unable to help us drag them out of the water in the heaving sea tossing the life raft around (the sea state was later recorded as steeply pitched between 38-53 feet). Stuart and Pamela were eventually freed by the rescue swimmer from the AHRT helicopter team. Tragically Stuart died on his lift up into the helicopter; he succumbed to drowning and the cold. He stayed with our team till we were saved.



The rescue gets underway.

#### Looking back

I feel privileged to be a member of the *SV Essence* crew despite its tragic end with the loss of life of its much loved skipper. But as a team it (we) functioned well. I saw courage, comradeship, commitment, and integrity in what we did before the transit, through the sail, through the tragedy and in the aftermath. I saw planning and I saw strength in trust we would all do our parts and that other teams would be there to save us. I was not wrong – they were and they did.

The other teams involved are a mix of civilian and military teams. The RCCNZ is a cohesive and focused team that reached out to an equally focused JFNZ to rapidly task a P3 for SAR [an outstanding team identified as Kiwi Rescue 479]. Then I believe Joint independently tasked two Sea Sprites and diverted an OPV to the search area as back-ups. The RCCNZ also reached out to the local Coastguard who deployed a team of volunteers into a raging

storm. It is great to know all involved in our SAR got awards and mentions at last year's NZ search and rescue awards. The power of teamwork is awesome. Teams can do the impossible.

**Major Newman has more than 40 years' military experience, and has been sailing since he was a child. The other crew members on *SV Essence* are and were considered equally or more experienced. The vessel has never been found.**

# Our people

## Dunedin University student Maria Costas is a crack shot, and her skills have earned her the William Robert Friar Memorial Prize.

The medal, administered by the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting in the U.K., recognises excellence in rifle marksmanship and character in an New Zealand Cadet Corps (NZCC). It is in memory of Private Friar, as well as for all round efficiency. The medal is awarded annually.

In her other life Maria is CDTWO2 Costas and is a member of the Ashburton Cadet Unit.

She has been a cadet for about five years. "I love the many opportunities to teach, mentor and pass on my knowledge and experience to the cadets around me. One of the best parts is being able to take part in activities with the Defence Force."

"At Ashburton Cadet Unit we are lucky to have such committed officers and a great unit commander who always schedule in regular shoots.

"We get the opportunity to go on the range about once a fortnight. The coaches try to help us improve our skills and are really helpful, and



Major Cezarne Rogers, NZCF with CDTWO2 Costas.

it's good to be able to use their advice and put it into practice.

"It is well and truly an honour to have received this award out of all the exceptional people who would have also have been nominated for it. Although the award, is for "all-round efficiency" and "shooting prowess", to me, it represents something else on top of that. Private William Robert Friar was someone who approached any opportunity presented to him with courage. From shooting competitions to being part of the Defence Force, he did it all to the best of his ability. And seeing as this award is in memorial of him, I feel genuinely privileged to have earned it."

The medal awarded to CDTWO2 is named after Private William Robert Friar, who was once a member of Onehunga Public

School Cadets. He was a brilliant shot and attended an international shooting contest in England in 1908 where he placed 2nd and became a household name for a period.

During World War I he took part in the advance towards Passchendaele in October 1917 and was wounded in action, subsequently dying of his wounds the next month.

The prize was presented by Area Coordinator (Southern) CPO Gerald Foote, RNZN.



**Firefighter Sapper Sian Jones with her father who is also a firefighter. The pair took part in Exercise Flashover recently. Read more on the exercise in the April issue of Army News.**

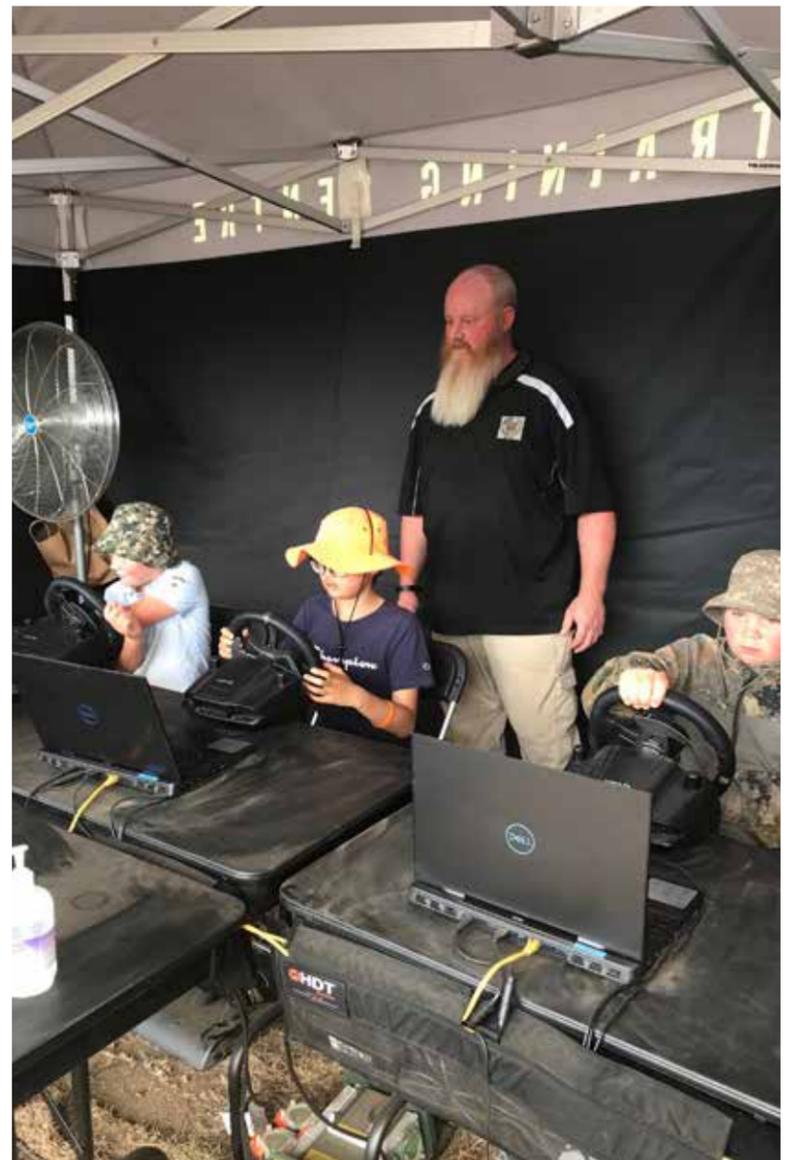
## It might have been a show based on aircraft and flying, but the Army had a significant presence at the recent Wings over Wairarapa Air Festival.

There were displays of drones and vehicles, as well as recruiting advice, and information on the Network Enabled Army. Students were encouraged to try out a simulator, see how a drone is built and watch the indoor and outdoor racing events.

Mr Red Petersen, a Burnham-based Instructor at the Command and Control Systems School administered a stand that was in constant demand by young gamers.

"Our stand was set up to demonstrate some of the simulation training we conduct at C2SS (Command and Control Systems School). We come under

Mission Command Training Centre, TRADOC. The stand consisted of four driver training stations that people could experience driving different types of military vehicles in a virtual world. We also had another computer set up to simulate firing the LAV3 armaments. The aim was to provide the public with a brief insight into some of the virtual training aspects we utilize at C2SS to enhance tactical command and control at the section and platoon level."



# FAMILY PROMOTIONS

By John Cosgrove

**Three senior non-commissioned officers (NCO's) at the Dunedin based Bravo Company Dunedin, 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) received their promotions from the Commanding Officer of the unit recently.**

Two Staff Sergeants and a Sergeant received senior promotions in recognition of their professional conduct and dedication to the New Zealand Army Reserve Forces.

The rank of Warrant Officer Class Two was bestowed on WO2 Daniel Bristow, a supervisor at Black Head Quarries, who enlisted into the Territorial service of the NZ Army in March of 2002. Over the years WO2 Bristow has deployed on operational tours of duty to the Solomon Islands and Sinai.

The rank of Warrant Officer Class Two was also bestowed on WO2 Phillip Witchall who currently works for the Otago Regional Council at the Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

WO2 Witchall enlisted into the Regular Force of the

NZ Army in May 1999 and was deployed on operational tours of duty to East Timor, Solomon Islands, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The rank of Staff Sergeant was awarded to SSGT Piripi Matthews who is the Mirror Youth Day Programme clinical team leader in Dunedin.

SSGT Matthews enlisted into the Territorial Force of the NZ Army Sept 1998 and has deployed on an operational tour of duty to Afghanistan.

The 2nd/4th RNZIR commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Tim Tuatini said presenting promotions to senior NCO's in his unit was the best part of his job.

"To the families of these senior Reserve Force soldiers it's always a hard ask for them to balance their military careers with their civilian careers. But without their support our soldiers cannot reach

the pinnacle of the soldier ranks in the Army.

"Senior NCO's are an extremely important component of the New Zealand Army as they are integral in the effective training of both junior soldiers and junior officers. The Warrant Officers are the people who are the right-hand men and women of the officers and they are there to support the soldiers with their extensive knowledge and skills.

"It is great to see these soldiers progress through the ranks and become the senior leaders at the many units we have here in the South Island," LTCOL Tuatini said.

The 2/4 RNZIR Officer commanding Bravo Company, Dunedin, Major Duncan McEwan said it is always a huge pleasure making promotions within the unit.

"We only ever promote on merit meaning anyone being promoted

is an exceptional soldier with high attendance and a positive impact on the unit.

"Over the past three years I have been able to promote 22 people.

"This is excellent in that it shows the unit is performing well and growing."

MAJ McEwan added that when soldiers are promoted it was also a good time to reflect on the sacrifices made by the soldiers' families and employers.

"Families provide a huge amount of ongoing support that allows their soldier to earn the uniform and serve our country. Every time a Reserve Force soldier puts on their uniform it is taking time away from their families and work and we simply couldn't do it without their support. This needs to be recognised," he said.

*Below: Helping their husbands attach their new senior non-commissioned officers ranks onto their uniforms were from left Jani Witchall (WO2 Phillip Witchall), Michelle Matthews (SSGT Piripi Matthews) and Kerry Bristow (WO2 Daniel Bristow). The wives all watched on as their husbands were promoted to senior soldier ranks at 2/4 RNZIR Bravo Company Dunedin, by their Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Tim Tuatini, at a small ceremony, held the Kensington Army Hall.*

*Photo: John Cosgrove*



# Lockdown no barrier to innovation for Polaris MRZR vehicle project

**Life in lockdown last year didn't stop Ministry of Defence, NZDF and Polaris personnel finding new and innovative ways to remotely train MRZR auto technicians, drivers and trainers.**

When New Zealand went into lockdown in March last year, the Ministry of Defence and NZDF team working to deliver a fleet of MRZR vehicles from the USA had to work quickly, to make sure the vehicles would be ready to roll out when restrictions eased.

Covid-19 related travel restrictions stopped Polaris technicians from the USA coming to New Zealand, to provide the specialist training needed to safely maintain and operate the vehicles.

New Zealand's lockdown restrictions also proved challenging for the team delivering the Protected Mobility Capability

Project (PMCP), forcing them to work from home, navigate new transport restrictions, and reassign some staff to the all-of-government Covid-19 response.

In order to prevent delays, the team – which included NZ Army's WO1 Dave Wise and WO1 Justin Elliott - worked with Polaris personnel in New Zealand and the USA to come up with innovative training courses for auto technicians, drivers and trainers.

"Normally, when new vehicles arrive we progress to operator training and certification quickly, so they can hit the road as soon as possible," said Ministry of Defence PMCP Lead, Gillian Rodger.

"Because we couldn't get specialist instructors out from the States, we started working with Polaris to prepare a series of remote courses, which could be taught to Army personnel as soon as restrictions reduced," she said.

PMCP team members worked with Polaris USA staff to come up with a training system that met the Army's standards.

"After the restrictions eased, we set up large monitors that use Wi-Fi signals in our Trentham Camp workshop, as well as secure video conferencing technologies and 3D CAD diagrams. This technology

meant auto technicians could work on the vehicles and get live instructions and observations from instructors in the States.

"The training covered electrical systems, mechanical systems, maintenance and services – the whole gambit. Ultimately, all the different elements of remote working came together without a hitch, and we were able to interact and learn from the instructors with ease," said WO1 Wise.

The fleet of six MRZR are now being introduced into service with the High Readiness Task Unit, 1RNZIR, based in Linton Military Camp. They have already been used by company commanders in a combat training exercise in Waiouru, undertaking a broad range of reconnaissance, screening, flank security and convoy tasks.

The MRZR are designed to drive off-road in difficult terrain, carrying up to four personnel and combat supplies, and can also be transported by the C-130 Hercules, NH90 helicopters and HMNZS Canterbury. They are replacing small Army vehicles, like quad bikes and motorcycles, which are reaching the end of their operational life.



## CAREER MANAGEMENT CORNER

### Army Career Management Boards

Over the coming months, the Directorate of Army Career Management will be conducting a number of Army Career Management Boards focusing on both Soldiers' and Officers' Careers (CPL – WO1 and CAPT/02 – LTCOL). The aim of the Boards is to gain Command and Corps decisions specifically targeting promotion grades, extensions to current lengths of engagements, current and future areas of employment, and development recommendations. The discussions and decisions made as a result of these Boards are supported by the information contained in your PDR. It is therefore essential that you have a completed PDR for the reporting period 2020. Should you be unsure of your 2020 PDR status you can check via ESS, or alternatively enquire through your 1 or 2 Up. If you were deployed during 2020, your End of Tour Report will form the basis of the Board's discussion. Additionally you need to ensure that you are RFL current.

Coinciding with the various Boards, both Officer and Soldier Career Managers will be conducting interviews. The aim of these interviews is to ensure you have an opportunity to indicate your career aspirations (five year plan), any personal considerations which may impact on future postings, and development opportunities you wish to pursue. It is also an opportunity for your Career Manager to discuss potential posting options, including your next posting. If you have not considered arranging an interview

- with your respective Career Manager, DACM recommends you do.
- Please contact the following Career Managers to arrange an interview.
- Soldier Career Managers**
- SCM Infantry**  
WO1 Matt Bedford
- SCM SAS/CDO/SIGs/INT**  
WO1 Dave Alder
- SCM Artillery and Armoured**  
WO1 Ox White
- SCM Engineers (and EOD)**  
WO1 Carl Fairbairn
- SCM Medics/PTI/MP**  
WO1 Shelley Eriksson
- SCM Transport/Catering/MovOps**  
WO1 Johnno Stevens
- SCM Material Support**  
WO1 Shaun Hancock
- SCM Supply/Ammo**  
WO1 Henry Wichman
- SCM Army Reserves/YDU**  
WO1 Dave Thomas
- Officer Career Managers**
- Specialist Officers, Health**  
MAJ Soren Hall
- Logistics, Sigs, Intelligence, MPs**  
MAJ Ben Vollebregt
- Armoured, Infantry, Artillery, Engineers**  
MAJ Jerry Mateparae
- Reserves**  
MAJ Gerard McMullen

### Vacancies

When you visit the Army Career Management intranet site, you will see that some roles are starting to be advertised for individuals to apply for. Our immediate focus is on Mission vacancies and Wellington based vacancies, with other areas to follow. Consider setting an alert to receive notification of any new listings.

### PDR Actions this month – 1 UPs

If, as a 1UP, you can't see your member's PDR in your MSS Employee Documents list, ask the member to check that the correct 1UP is listed in their PDR. Please do not raise a new PDR as this will result in duplicates.

If you need to access a member's older PDR please ask them to download and print/email you a copy – this is not a DACM function.

### PDR Actions this month – Members

You should, by now, have set your 2021 PDR objectives and commenced regular meetings with your 1UP.

How-to guides can be found in the Additional Help section on the left of your PDR screen.

### Key Dates

- 15–26 Mar 21  
Formation Promotion Advisory Boards (FPAB)
- 29 Mar – 16 Apr 21  
Career Development Advisory Board (CDAB)
- 10–11 May 21  
Career Management Board (CMB)
- 12 May 21  
Warrant Officer Employment Board (WOEB)
- 14 May 21  
Last day for Semester 2 Kippenberger Scholarship Scheme applications to DACM
- 21 May 21  
Last day for CFRB and OSB 01/2021 applications to DACM
- 31 May 21  
Last day for Staff List applications to DACM

### More information

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

Contact us at:  
[DACM\\_S1\\_Matters@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:DACM_S1_Matters@nzdf.mil.nz)

# Addressing Gender Imbalances In Retirement Savings



By SMA, WO1 Wiremu Moffitt

**Everyone, including my wife knows my level of financial understanding is limited, and the approach to saving – especially at a younger age, was inconsistent at best. This article tackles some of the realities of retirement saving and the imbalances that occur across our wider population.**

Following a successful pilot in HQNZDF in mid 2020, the NZDF Benefits cell has started rolling out a new financial capability programme for women members of NZDF. The programme is aimed at helping reduce the hurdles that women across our Force and broader society face in saving sufficient funds for retirement. External research shows that on average New Zealand women live five years longer than men,

and only have 75% of male funds at retirement. Women are more likely to end their retirement living on their own and in straightened circumstances. Women retirees are more likely than men to be totally reliant on national superannuation for retirement income.

These factors are borne out in the following data supplied by Mercer, fund manager for the NZDF savings schemes.

NZDF KiwiSaver Scheme	Average fund as at 31 March 2020
Male members	\$29,303
Female members	\$26,733

A recent ANZ survey indicates that the average woman retiring in 2017 would have \$80k less in her KiwiSaver account than the average male retiree.

There are many complex reasons for this state of affairs. However, one is that women are more reluctant than men to discuss or engage in financial management; the same research shows that when they do engage, they are likely to be more successful than many men in managing their finances. Internally, recent survey findings reflect that women members of NZDF are more concerned than their male counterparts about their level of retirement preparedness. The same surveys also show that women members are keen to do something to address their relative lack of preparedness.

The purpose of the women's programme is to encourage greater women awareness of financial capability issues, in particular

the importance of planning and investing for retirement; and to encourage participants to embrace some of the factors within their control to reduce retirement fund imbalances. We also want to encourage participants to act as role models and champions for other women members of the Defence community, including family members.

I am very excited about this new programme and encourage all women members of the NZ Army to attend the programme when they have the opportunity. This could be a significant game changer for many of you.

To find out more email [benefits@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:benefits@nzdf.mil.nz)

**There was laughter, sweat and a few spills when soldiers from 3 Signals Squadron (Electronic Warfare) tried their hand at wheelchair rugby using borrowed wheelchair rugby frames recently.**

**Defence Public Affairs photographer Corporal Sean Spivey captured the action.**



# NZ ARMY CRICKET

**Despite the significant commitment to Op Protect and the cancellation of Services Cricket for the 20/21 season, NZ Army Cricket was provided with a golden opportunity to conduct a training camp and play a few games in February.**



Of particular note was the inclusion of the NZ Army Women's Cricket Team— this was the first official gathering for team and having them involved in the training camp was a perfect opportunity to welcome them to the wider NZ Army cricket family.

The camp included two days of net sessions, skills development, coaching and team building prior to each team playing two games on the Thursday. The Men's team were selected to play the NZ Police and the Women's team were to play a Manawatu Development Selection.

NZ Army Cricket has been served very well by its Patron, John Wright, MBE and 2021 was no different. John made himself available for two days, including a full afternoon of coaching involved in coaching on the Wednesday. He stood back, observed and provided tips, tricks, guidance and advice to everyone in attendance. The highlight was the time John spent with the new comers which included teaching them the basics of both batting and bowling. Having a person with such an impressive playing and coaching pedigree was greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. One of the more entertaining moments during the training camp was watching the younger people in the room google who John Wright was and realise that the 'old guy in the room' was someone they really should listen too.

NZ Army Cricket was also lucky enough to have its Code Champion, COL Trevor Walker and his Comd SM, WO1 Jason Rapana, visit during the training camp and games on the Thursday.

Following the training camp, the Women's and Men's Army teams were named, with the successful players and officials being congratulated by COL Walker and John Wright. The new players and officials for each team were also presented their NZ Army Cricket pocket.

## **The Chief of Army's NZ Army Cricket Teams were:**

### **Womens:**

Leesa Baker (Capt)  
Carley Frederickson  
Lynne Smith  
Ingrid Taylor-Bain  
Karlene Taylor-Bain  
Sandy Mitchell  
Katie Emmett\*  
Krista Bridgeman\*  
Leanne Chambers\*  
Nadene Maraku\*  
Lennox Winitana  
Erin Buckland\* (civilian)  
Rana Stevens (Coach)

### **Mens:**

Rory Lorimer (Capt)  
Ryan Walmsley  
Mike Dower  
Jade Hamilton  
Tim Medland  
Scott MacGibbon  
James Guild-Inder  
Scott Roxburgh  
Haydn Baucke\*  
Darcy Cook\*  
Julian Graham\*  
Jossh Elton\*  
Kevin Packer\*  
Tom George (Umpire).

\* denotes new player.

## **Results for the NZ Army Women:**

Game One – Army Captain, Leesa Baker, won the toss and elected to field. They made an immediate breakthrough, with Karlene Taylor-Bain to claiming the first wicket in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over, followed shortly after with Katie Emmett taking the second. Army restricted Manawatu to 42 for 2 in the first ten overs courtesy of some tight bowling and sharp fielding. After the drinks break and some words from their coaching staff, Manawatu came out and showed their class and why they had been selected in the development squad. They finished with a solid 126 for 5 from their allotted 20 overs.

Highlights in the first innings were Leesa Baker claiming 3 wickets for 9 runs off 4 overs, Karlene Taylor-Bain 1 for 8 off 2 and Katie Emmett claiming 1 for 17 off her 3 overs.

Army's two openers, Leesa Baker and Sandy Mitchell, took to the field with the opposition bowlers keen to take early wickets, but some wayward bowling saw them give away a few more extras than they would like, but the game was still evenly poised at the 10 over mark, with Army on 47 for 2. Manawatu's second 10 overs were a little more one sided, but despite their accurate bowling and sharp fielding, Army battled through to 90 for 8 off their 20 overs.

Whilst not the ideal result, Army did manage to achieve one of their goals, which was to ensure they were not bowled out. Manawatu winning the first game by 36 runs.

Game Two started the same, with Army winning the toss and electing to field. They went into the second game with the intent of lifting their intensity and restricting the Manawatu batters by taking early wickets. However, Manawatu came out of the gates swinging and showed their class with the bat finding the boundary 16 times in their 20 overs, finishing with an impressive 142 for the loss of just 3 wickets. Standouts in the field for Army were Erin Buckland claiming two wickets, and Carley Fredrickson taking a fine caught and bowled.

With Army's second turn at bat they set themselves a number of targets to achieve, these included beating their score from the first game and building partnerships. Whilst Army lost two quick wickets, they remained composed and begun rebuilding their innings. Whilst they finished 29 runs short, it was the partnership of Katie Emmett (38 not out) and Erin Buckland (26 not out) who combined for a 66 run unbeaten partnership that ensured Army finished off on a high.

Overall, an amazing effort from a new and relatively inexperienced team. Whilst the results of the games did not go their way, they did achieve a number of goals they had set for themselves and everyone gained valuable experience. The Manawatu coaching staff and players enjoyed the games and specifically mentioned that it was pleasing to see the improvement from the team over such a short period of time.



NZ Army Women with the Manawatu Development squad.



Men's captain, Rory Lorimer with a solid forward defensive.



Jade Hamilton looking to break the Police opening stand.

**Results for the NZ Army Men:**

Game One (note there was only meant to be one 50 over game) saw the NZ Police win the toss and put Army into bat. A decision that resulted in immediate success taking 3 wickets in the first 10 overs and restricting Army to just 39 runs. Unfortunately for Army, it only got worse and by the first, and subsequently only drinks break after 17 overs, Army was 6 down for just 54. Had it not been for a 53 run partnership between Tim Medland (38) and Scott MacGibbon (21), Army's batting innings would have been significantly more embarrassing, that being said Army found themselves all out for 115 in just the 30<sup>th</sup> over. Jade Hamilton was the only other innings of significance for Army, with a hard fought 20.

The second innings saw Army restrict the Police to just 24 runs from the first 11 overs, but they were unable to take any wickets in this period and with the Police openers set, they began their journey to

chase down the low target of 116. Army only managed to claim two wickets as the Police reached the target in the 31<sup>st</sup> over. Wicket takers for Army were Scott Roxburgh with 1 for 16 from 6 overs and Ryan Walmsley with 1 for 15 from 2 overs.

Due to the short and one sided nature of the 50 over match, the Army and Police were keen to play some more cricket and the decision to play a T-20 was made.

Game Two saw the Police batting first, however this time round Army managed to take early and regular wickets up until the 14<sup>th</sup> over. The Police then managed to put on 70 runs in 6 overs without losing a wicket, to leave them with a respectful 139 for 8 off 20 overs. Wicket takers for Army were Julian Graham with 2 for 23 from 3, Rory Lorimer with 2 for 22 from 4, with Tim Medland, Scott Roxburgh and Haydn Baucke all taking 1 wicket a piece.

Despite losing an early wicket, Army were tracking well in the 8<sup>th</sup> over, on 48 for 1, with veterans Mike Dower (18) and Ryan Walmsley

(23) batting well, unfortunately Army were not able to form anymore significant partnerships. Jade Hamilton and Haydn Baucke batted well in the second half of the innings scoring 21 and 25 respectively and Joss Elton gave the Police a scare in the final over, with a couple of solid boundaries, but it was too little too late and Army fell 9 runs short.

So despite both the Men's and Women's teams losing both of their games, the opportunity to conduct a training camp, blood some new players and play against quality opposition, was not lost on those who were lucky enough to be released to take part.

Army Cricket would like to acknowledge 7 players who received their 'Baggy Red' this year. They were Leesa Baker, Carley Frederickson, Lynne Smith, Ingrid Taylor-Bain, Karlene Taylor-Bain, Sandy Mitchell and Lennox Winitana. They were presented their Baggys by COL Walker and John Wright during the break between the Women's first and second

games. Well done and we look forward to presenting many more.

Army Cricket would like to thank Rana Stevens for his hard work bringing the Women's Team into the fold, including coaching and managing the Team. We would also like to thank our Code Champion - COL Trevor Walker and our Patron, John Wright, MBE for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the training and games. In particular, their presence at the presentation of the pockets and Baggys was greatly appreciated. And finally, we would like to thank Dave Pilgrim, the NZ Army Sports Coordinator, for all of the behind the scenes work he does for Cricket and Army Sport.



Warm up session for NZ Army Men's and Women's cricket teams.



**Monday 8 March was International Women's Day. Army News acknowledges the hard-working, talented and innovative women of the New Zealand Army.**

**Next month read about Wahine Toa and what it means to the New Zealand Army.**

