

# ARMY

NEWS



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ALL ABOUT**

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NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA  
**NZ ARMY**

 HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA  
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

 Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

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**Cover:** NZ Army Queen  
Alexandra's Mounted Rifles  
conduct Exercise Hill in the  
Waiouru Training Area. The day's  
activity saw the crews conduct  
an overhead firing manoeuvre.

**Photo:** CPL Naomi James



## Turning challenge into triumph

The upcoming Innovation of the Year Awards were announced recently. With a challenge to showcase creative and problem-solving thinking for the benefit of our organisation, I want to discuss the importance of adaptability, excellence, and innovation during the contemporary operating environment.

In the face of challenging times, Army stands at a crossroads where our resilience, adaptability, and commitment to excellence will be tested. While this is not the first time we have experienced issues of this nature, and while daunting, they provide us with a unique opportunity to innovate, seek efficiencies, and strengthen our core values.

Adaptability is our greatest asset. We must optimise our focus to training for operations and core functions, ensuring we remain effective and ready. This is not about doing more with less, but about finding smarter, more efficient ways to achieve our goals. Every officer, and soldier, can contribute to this mission by seeking out efficiencies and embracing innovative solutions.

Constraints may limit certain approaches; they also compel us to think creatively and explore new methods or tactics. Innovation, therefore, should be at the vanguard of our efforts, turning challenges into opportunities for personal and professional growth and improvement. Whether it is new training methods, cost-effective technologies, or efficient processes, innovation will be the key to thriving in these times.

Our core values are foundational to Army, guiding our actions and decisions. Now more than ever, it is essential to uphold these values, maintaining high standards and morale. By holding to our principles, we ensure our actions reflect the integrity and excellence of Army.

Clear communication and mutual support are vital as we advance. We must be transparent about challenges we face, and the steps we are taking to address them. This includes supporting our personnel. Taking care of our people is paramount to maintaining a strong, cohesive force.

Despite these tests, and trials, I challenge each of you to identify an area in your daily operations where you can innovate, improve, and advance. Share your ideas, implement changes, bring them to the Innovation Awards and inspire your peers. Discover what steps can be taken today to ensure Army remains resilient, relevant, and connected to our purpose, now and for years to come.

# JOINT SUPPORT GROUP – OPERATING AND ENABLING

By Colonel Anthony Blythen



**The role of the Joint Support Group (JSG) is to deliver multipurpose health and military policing for the NZDF. JSG has dual responsibilities, both operating and enabling the NZDF; providing operationally prepared force elements and supporting the Services across the camps and bases.**

JSG is a formation under the authority of the Land Component Commander. Personnel are from all three Services with a mixture of Regular Force, Reservists, and civilians needed to deliver the formation's outputs. The formation is comprised of a Headquarters and three major units with elements dispersed across the country. The units are; the Force Health Organisation (FHO), Deployable Health Organisation (DHO) and Joint Military Police Unit (JMPU).



## FHO

FHO primarily delivers daily support to camp and base operations, including training, as well as providing a number of force elements. Support is provided via the network of Defence Health Centres (DHCs), the Dental Squadron (Sqdn), and the Physical Performance Sqdn (PPS).

From the DHCs, NZDF civilian and military doctors, nurses, and medics assisted by complex care coordinators and administration staff provide a multitude of health services including; medical boards, treatment and rehabilitation to enable readiness for deployment and keep the wider NZDF delivering. On the RNZAF Bases this also includes the conduct of Aviation Medicine and the provision of Aeromedical Evacuation, in conjunction with RNZAF platforms, to support NZDF or wider Government directed tasks.

The Dental Sqdn provides emergency and comprehensive oral health care to maintain dental fitness; with teams comprised of military and civilian dentists, oral health therapists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and administration staff. The Royal New Zealand Dental Corps (RNZDC) represents the military component of Defence Dental Services. Additionally the Dental Sqdn supports the NZDF and wider government in forensic odontology. They also contribute to activities with domestic and multinational agencies via a deployable capability, which can operate effectively in both routine and austere environments.

PPS is comprised military and civilian physical training instructors from each Service, delivering the specialist training required for all three Services. The primary responsibility of PPS is to provide physical training, conditioning, and rehabilitation services across the NZDF. Additionally, the sqdn manages the deployable physical training element to ensure the effective delivery of support during operational deployments. Essentially, PPS work to make sure that we are fit to deliver when we are called upon.



## DHO

DHO provides operational medical and preventative health capabilities to support domestic and expeditionary operations—in both the land and maritime domains—as well as supporting training activities. DHO consists of three primary Health Sqns and a Role 2 (R2) element; as well as a Logistics Sqdn, Training Wing, and unit Headquarters. The sqns are:

- Northern supporting Auckland region including maritime medical clinicians and a Role 1 (R1; a team comprised of medics, nurses and doctors to provide primary healthcare, specialised first aid, triage, resuscitation and stabilisation).
- Central supporting R1 in the North Island, Role 2 (R2; a team comprised of medics, nurses and doctors to provide advanced resuscitation and damage control surgery), evacuation teams and Force Health Protection.
- Southern supporting R1 in the South Island, including evacuation teams.
- Logistics supporting all DHO and FHO health elements providing health logistics (Class VIII pharmaceuticals and equipment/stores).
- Training Wing supporting all CTC-lead predeployment training, delivery of tactical combat casualty care training, combat life-saver courses, and support to DHO individual and collective training.

DHO elements are focused on health mastery to provide health care at differing levels of support. This can include individual medics on land or a ship supporting an exercise or deployment, task unit aid posts supporting units, or R1 medical detachments deployed to sustain the force during offshore activities, HADR events, or major exercises in New Zealand. The R2 is regenerating its capability aiming to achieve milestones, including Vipers Walk 25 and Talisman Sabre 25; to confirm its ability to conduct surgery in the field environment, and also aboard HMNZS Canterbury.



## JMPU

Joint Military Police Unit (JMPU) has personnel from the Royal New Zealand Military Police (RNZMP), Naval Police and RNZAF Police; together their primary aim is to protect NZDF personnel, resources, values and reputation. JMPU delivers outputs in both the domestic and deployed environments.

The Police the Force functions are the everyday general policing activities you see on camps and bases, delivered by the JMPU Provost Sqdn. Police the Force also includes the provision of specialist investigation capabilities, delivered by the Serious Investigations Branch, focusing on the more serious offending which harms or impacts our people. The Services Corrective Establishment provides the NZDF with a detention and rehabilitation capability.

The Police for the Mission functions support the Army's deployed operations; providing key capabilities such as site exploitation, movement and mobility support, internment and detention support, and stability policing. Regeneration of these capabilities is underway, as is the redevelopment of the Close Protection (CP) role; all which see JMPU leveraging opportunities provided through their long-standing relationship with the ADF 1MP Bn, and other MP FVEY partners.

# HILL

**Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles (QAMR) were put to the test recently in the NZ Army's first armoured troop-level fire and manoeuvre exercise in five years.**

*Image: NZ Army Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles conduct Exercise Hill in the Waiouru Training Area. The day's activity saw the crews conduct an overhead firing manoeuvre.  
Photos: CPL Naomi James*

An aerial photograph of a dry, brown landscape with a winding road and a large white number 60 overlaid. The landscape is characterized by dry, brown vegetation and a winding road that curves through the terrain. The number 60 is large and white, dominating the center of the image. A small white rectangular box is visible on the left side of the image.

# 60

By LT Luca Vignolini



**The feeling of charging down to assault, while having the crack of 25mm tracer flying overhead from fire support and having our own turret firing, is something I will never forget.**

– LCPL Kane McKenzie

Armoured troops from QAMR achieved key live-fire training objectives on the Road to War for Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 in Australia. Exercise Hill 60 saw NZLAV troops from QAMR complete 24-hour live firing BHE (battle handling exercises), testing their ability to operate effectively in the Waiouru Military Training Area.

The aim of the exercise was to stretch commanders and crews, and ensure that they can successfully deliver Army's motorised combat capability within the joint land combat operating environment. The exercise tempo was enhanced by the requirement to provide accurate and lethal direct fires from the NZLAV's 25mm main, and 7.62mm coaxial armaments. The culmination of the exercise saw each troop conduct an assault onto an enemy position, applying advanced firing angles and overhead fires from a support by fire position. Soldiers and officers rose to the challenge and were able to provide deadly and precise fires with 25mm rounds landing in front of assaulting forces as they destroyed targets position by position.

"The feeling of charging down to assault, while having the crack of 25mm tracer flying overhead from fire support and having our own turret firing, is something I will never forget," said LCPL Kane McKenzie.

Due to a number of factors, Ex HILL 60 was the first time since 2019 that QAMR has completed a troop level live fire FMX. Being able to achieve the required proficiency to apply both advanced angles, and overhead fires, as near to operational standard as can be achieved in training, is testament to the tactical and technical proficiency of the soldiers and officers of the Regiment. It also provides the Regiment with an opportunity to develop and maintain an experienced nucleus of unit training staff in order to evolve live field firing activities into the future.

"The challenging weather added to the scenario by adding in multiple vehicle recoveries that had to be completed whilst maintaining security and safety," said CPL George Lynch.

Exercise Hill 60 is a key activity in progressing QAMR's generation of Battle Group BLACK. This composite unit from across 1(NZ) Brigade will make up the deployment of a Motorised Infantry Battle Group (MIBG) minus to Australia to take part in Exercise Diamond Strike, a brigade-level combined-arms live firing exercise embedded within the Australian Army's 7th Brigade. This will be followed by Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 which will see Battle Group BLACK participating in one of the largest training events in the Southern Hemisphere with approximately 30,000 personnel, and an abundance of military capability operating within the multi-domain operating environment, in order to build and maintain coalition combat capabilities within the Indo-Pacific region.

Activities like EX Hill 60 are critical to QAMR in order to maintain combat proficiency that is the foundation of the effectiveness of the primary combat vehicle capability within the joint land combat environment. Fire and manoeuvre exercises (FMX) are a crucial step towards conducting combined arms live field firing training that is essential to the NZ Army's ability to win on operations. Achieving the advanced angles component demonstrates that the Army's primary combat vehicle crews are highly trained and can coordinate actions with mobile assets without degrading the tempo or safety of the forces involved.

"The BHE was very complex with multiple movement boxes and safety arcs to consider, but my crew commander managed to keep it together and make it work within our wagon," said TPR Rawiri Ellison.





# MARCHING OUT WITH FIJIAN RECRUITS

**For the first time, New Zealand Army instructors have participated in the marching out of Republic of Fiji Military Force (RFMF) recruits.**



Sergeant Andrew Shaw, Corporal Darby Taunoa and Corporal Laura McFadzien took the Platoon Sergeant places for the march out of 192 recruits, performed in front of Fiji's President Wiliame Katonivere in Suva recently.

The three are instructors at The Army Depot (TAD) in Waiouru and have been in Fiji since April instructing the Basic Recruit Course.

Military training is an integral part of the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) Mutual Assistance Programme, which supports interoperability, standardisation and all arms progression across partner courses between the NZDF and RFMF.

It was the first time Sergeant Shaw had instructed on a course outside of New Zealand and he appreciated the opportunity.



“  
**We met as  
 strangers  
 and they now  
 depart as  
 close friends.**

– LTCOL Jerry Waqanisau

“It’s been a significant honour and a privilege for us all to instruct alongside the officers and non-commissioned officers of Fiji’s Force Training Group (FTG), especially given our strong history between both Defence Forces,” he said.

RFMF FTG Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Waqanisau, says the RFMF relationship with the NZDF is one that is deep and always cherished.

“It is steeped in a joint history developed during the Solomon Islands campaign in the Second World War and continued through to permanent training staff posted to the RFMF until the late 1980s.

“These exchanges are a reinvigoration of our past and will help us reflect and develop an intimate future that adds value to both forces.”

The three NZ Army instructors had been great ambassadors and would be sorely missed, LTCOL Waqanisau said.

“We met as strangers and they now depart as close friends. We often say, ‘ke vakarau vei keitou na lako ke dou sa tiko madaga’, which translates to ‘if it were up to us, we would not let you leave’.

The NZ Army’s Brigadier Matthew Weston says the exercise and instruction schedule with the RFMF is busy.

There are 116 NZ Army personnel in Fiji for the Officer Cadet School Exercise Veitokani and in September, 50 personnel will take part in multinational Exercise Cartwheel in the Nausori Highlands.

Back in New Zealand, the RFMF has an instructor at our Officer Cadet School with another having completed the Senior Non Commissioned Officer Promotional Course in Waiouru, now training recruits at TAD.

“With our RFMF friends we’re sharing world class instruction, strengthening relationships and supporting best practices and interoperability in the Pacific,” Brigadier Weston said.

*Image left: Corporal Laura McFadzien marches with the RFMF graduates.*

*Image right: The New Zealand Army’s Corporal Darby Taunoa marches with the graduates of the Republic of Fiji Military Force Basic Recruit Course.*

*Photos: RFMF media*

# KIWIS HELPING OUT WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

By Judith Martin

**A rapidly growing emergency response group led by New Zealand veterans is making its mark in disaster zones both in New Zealand and overseas.**

Taskforce Kiwi was instigated by Christchurch-based Richard Adams who has served in the British and New Zealand Armies. While living in Australia he was involved with Disaster Relief Australia, formerly Team Rubicon Australia, a veteran-led group that helps out wherever it can when disaster strikes.

"After moving back home to New Zealand it quickly became apparent to me we needed something similar here, but with a unique Kiwi approach. When disaster strikes the emergency services step in with the immediate response, but what happens after that, or if the disaster is of a massive scale, like Cyclone Gabrielle? There is a large group of veterans and those still serving who are willing to step up, with the ideal set of skills and the experience to help."

The group has close to 600 volunteers and has helped out after Cyclone Gabrielle, the Port Hills fires, the Auckland and Wairoa floods, the New South Wales floods, earthquakes in Morocco, and bush fires in Nova Scotia, Canada, to name just a few areas affected by natural disasters.

The work varies – it could be debris clearance, co-ordination and aid delivery, impact assessment or community engagement. The team liaises with the likes of Civil Defence and the National Emergency Management Agency, as well as community groups and local iwi. They have partnered with US-based NGO Airlink to transport Taskforce Kiwi volunteer overseas, and to bring in international assistance when required. This included the 65 international volunteers who travelled to New Zealand from Australia, Canada, the US and UK to join Taskforce Kiwi's efforts following Cyclone Gabrielle.



Photos: Heather Joy Photography





“

**“It’s really humbling to be part of someone’s lowest time and to be able to help, and make a difference.**

– Gina Eccersall

This week Taskforce Kiwi is sending a team of six to Maui, Hawaii, to assist a US partner NGO in repairing homes damaged by last year’s wildfires, in order for residents to return home.

“We are entirely voluntary, and our members have a host of experience ranging from their time in the defence force, to the emergency services, and to land search and rescue, to name just a few. Our people have a wide variety of skills, and like most service people just want to help out and find a way to continue serving their country and community.”

Gina Eccersall has recently returned from Wairoa, where in June hundreds of properties were flooded and roads in and out of the town blocked. Taskforce Kiwi deployed two rotations to support the impacted community, with Gina leading the second rotation. A reservist engineer who also has Search and Rescue, Civil Defence and Surf Lifesaving experience, she says the two groups definitely made a difference.

“We just arrived with our existing skill sets and got stuck in. None of the work we did was glamorous – it ranged from shoveling silt and ripping out damaged house linings, to delivering and stacking firewood. It was really useful work in the aftermath of a disaster. A lot of people affected by a disaster don’t have the mental capacity or physical ability to do these tasks themselves – that’s where we can step in.

“They liked having a group that was police-vetted, professional, with PPE and high standards. They felt safe about letting us into their houses.”

Gina says it doesn’t matter if volunteers have past injuries and are not as strong or fast as they once were.

“This organisation is very much come-as-you-are. If someone can’t lift heavy objects they can be given another task. Maybe they are a whizz at spreadsheets, or training, or managing people. There is genuinely a role for everyone.”

**Anyone interested in joining Taskforce Kiwi, can find out more and sign up on their website**

**taskforcekiwi.org**

# RESERVISTS HONE TACTICAL OPERATION SKILLS

By SGT Caroline Williams

Reservists from 2nd/4th Battalion, RNZIR recently congregated in Invercargill to train. Exercise participants travelled from Invercargill, Gore, Dunedin, Cromwell, and Christchurch.





*Image top: In this training scenario, a soldier has been injured walking on a mine during a routine patrol. The section is firstly clearing their personal area of any mines then creating a path for the patrol to retreat back with the casualty.*

*Image bottom and right: Soldiers practising close country patrolling.*

*Photos: SGT Caroline Williams*

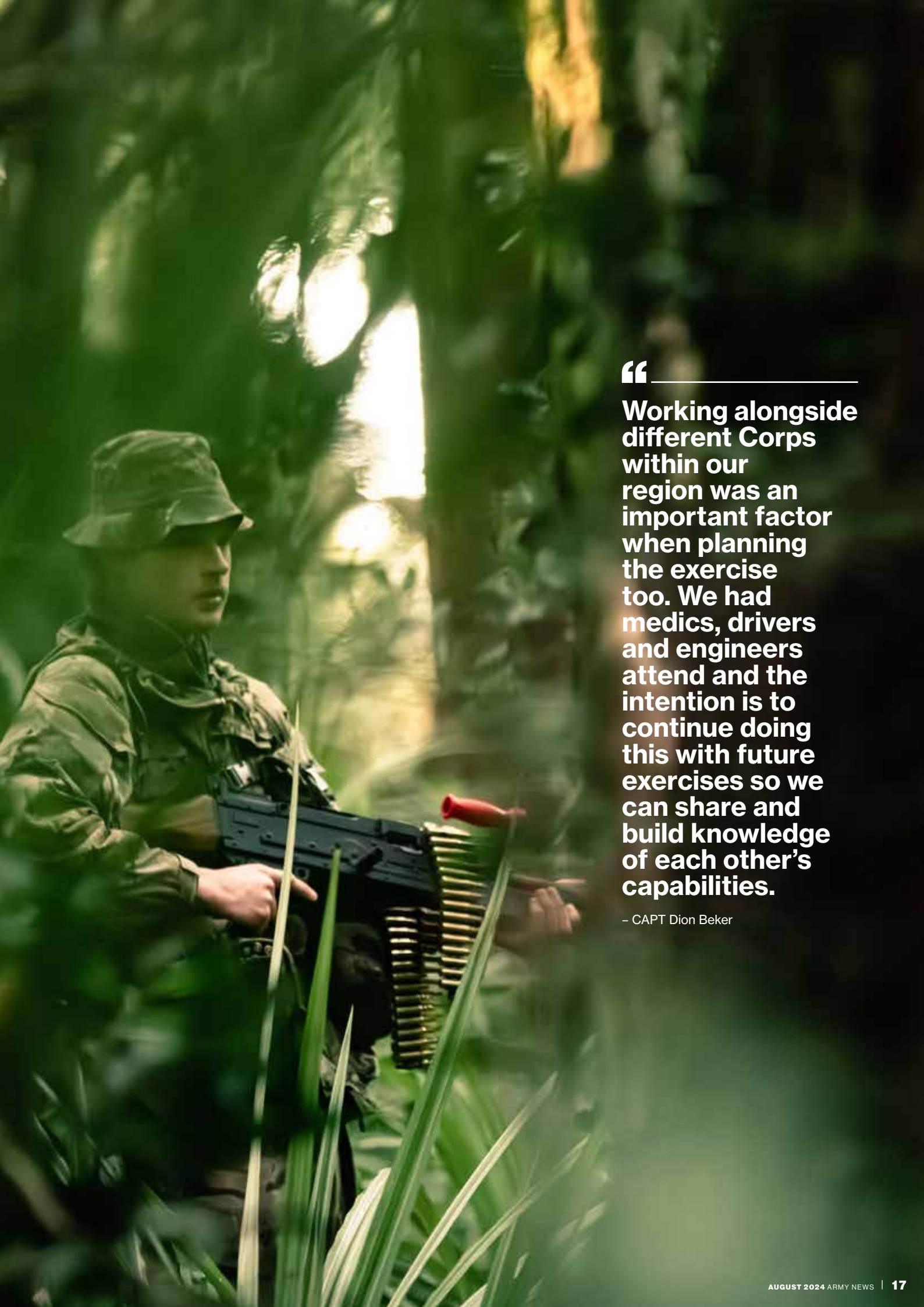


“The exercise was designed to help practise our soldiers in night and day tactical operations,” said Captain Dion Beker, Officer Commanding Otago Southland Company.

“Working alongside different Corps within our region was an important factor when planning the exercise too. We had medics, drivers and engineers attend and the intention is to continue doing this with future exercises so we can share and build knowledge of each other’s capabilities.”

The exercise was based in Invercargill to raise the profile of the NZ Army and was well supported by Defence Recruiting with a number of candidates in the recruiting pipeline attending. This gave them a first-hand look at the training and a chance to see soldiers train.





“

**Working alongside different Corps within our region was an important factor when planning the exercise too. We had medics, drivers and engineers attend and the intention is to continue doing this with future exercises so we can share and build knowledge of each other's capabilities.**

– CAPT Dion Beker

# BUILDING CONFIDENCE WITH PLENTY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

By SGT Caroline Williams

**Army Reserve Force Infantry soldier Lance Corporal Avana Pohe, who is an Ag Research animal technician, says the Reserve Force has enhanced her team development, leadership skills and resilience in both her civilian and Army roles.**



Attending a junior leadership development training weekend in Whanganui recently had her working in a small team with varying levels of leadership experience, learning skills on quick decision making under demanding situations, then adapting those decisions when under pressure.

“The diversity of leadership levels that attended the training meant we had quite a few different experiences to draw on under demanding situations,” says the mother of two from Palmerston North.

The aim of the training was to have junior personnel from 5/7 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, pushed outside their comfort zones, and to encourage quick decision making when situations changed.

“We had different activities to complete within a group. For example, we created a raft with things we might find either on the ground or in our field kit like an E-Tool or hoochie cord then we had to raft across the lake in our creation. At the end of every scenario we were debriefed and given other options we could consider. It was a really great learning experience.

“I think one of the stand out things that I learnt over the training weekend was making a decision and sticking to it. If this decision needed adjusting along the way, I needed to think clearly and quickly to make a conscious decision with the safety of my team mates at the forefront.

“This type of decision making directly affects my civilian job and has given me confidence in accessing a situation then acting on it confidently with my team.”

It was the mountain biking phase that had Lance Corporal Pohe sitting on the edge of her seat feeling nervous though.

“The track was points based and increased in difficulty as you went along. I’d never done mountain biking before so I really felt challenged. What was cool was how everyone encouraged each other.

“One of the activities, creating a pulley system to get a stretcher across a lake, was something that was used during Cyclone Gabrielle when 5/7 Battalion soldiers and Regular Force engineers transported food and medical supplies across rivers to isolated communities. So that was really relatable too.”

At the conclusion of the training, a history brief on Taranaki Pā sites and Titokowaru’s War was given including learning about Riwaha Titokowaru’s war strategies.

“I found this really interesting, and it was good to learn about the local history.”

# RESERVE FORCE Q&A

By WO1 Timothy Sincok

## NZDF Territorial Force Medical Grading Processes

(Extract from DHR 37 Applied Health Care: Occupational Medicine, Part 3 – Occupational Medical Grading, Version 2.02, 04 June 2024.)

### Context

- NZDF health are not the primary healthcare providers for TF personnel. TF personnel should be registered with external (to the NZDF) primary care healthcare providers (Primary Health Organisations), and their continuity of care is facilitated by these civilian health services.
- As a result, NZDF health visibility of current and past medical history for NZDF TF personnel is limited, and the recorded health status and operational medical grading in the Defence Health Information System (Profile) may not reflect the current health status of the individual, or be matched to future expectations of duties.

### Purpose

- The purpose of this rule is to prescribe:
  - the processes for:
    - assigning a baseline operational medical grading for NZDF TF personnel;
    - conducting operational medical grading assessments associated with transferring from RF to TF;
    - declaring relevant health issues; and
    - conducting health-based risk assessments of NZDF TF activities that require an operational medical grading above baseline; and
  - the requirements for any subsequent health assessments, from which the determined risk will inform the operational medical grading.
- As a result of the above processes, this rule enhances command visibility of operational medical fitness to deploy NZDF TF personnel.

See Part 3, Chapter 2 for more detail.

## Provision of Oral Health Primary Care – Territorial Force Personnel

(Extract from DHR 32 Applied Clinical Practice – Oral Health, Part 2 – Provision of Oral Health Primary Care, Version 2.02, 04 June 2024.)

- Territorial Force personnel are individually responsible for maintaining good oral health.
- Territorial Force personnel who have been identified for operational deployment are to have access to NZDF oral health care facilities in order to ensure that they meet the required health standards for deployment. Territorial Force personnel on exercise may be treated by Defence Oral Health personnel:
  - in the event they require urgent care; and/or
  - as part of the official exercise outputs.
- Where oral health centre facilities are not available, the services of a private general dental practitioner may be utilised. Urgent oral health care in this respect is restricted to the immediate relief of pain, bleeding or acute infection only. Thereafter, any further care is the individual's own responsibility.

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## Did you know?

Force for Families is the brand which NZDF services and benefits are grouped under. This includes a range of NZDF support and services such as the Force Financial Hub and the Discount Scheme.



# NEWLY MINTED SOLDIER MARCH OUT

**Congratulations to our newest graduates from Recruit Regular Force 414! 161 recruits marched out in front of whānau and loved ones at Waiouru Military Camp and have now graduated as soldiers. This intake included soldiers set to become medics, combat engineers, automotive technicians and more. They're now set to embark on the next stage of their journey with Corps Training.**



## **AWARD WINNERS**

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**Top Recruit**

PTE Te Rahui Pene, RNZIR

**Leadership Trophy**

Cpl G Dewes, RNZIR

**Top Warrior**

Sig Nathan Edge RNZSigs

**Top Recruit each Platoon**

Crichton VC Pl, Sig Anton Aslund, RNZSigs

Forsyth VC Pl, Pte Slade Burrows, RNZIR

Ngarimu VC, Pte Kynan Hopper, RNZIR

Brown VC Pl, Pte Pene, RNZIR

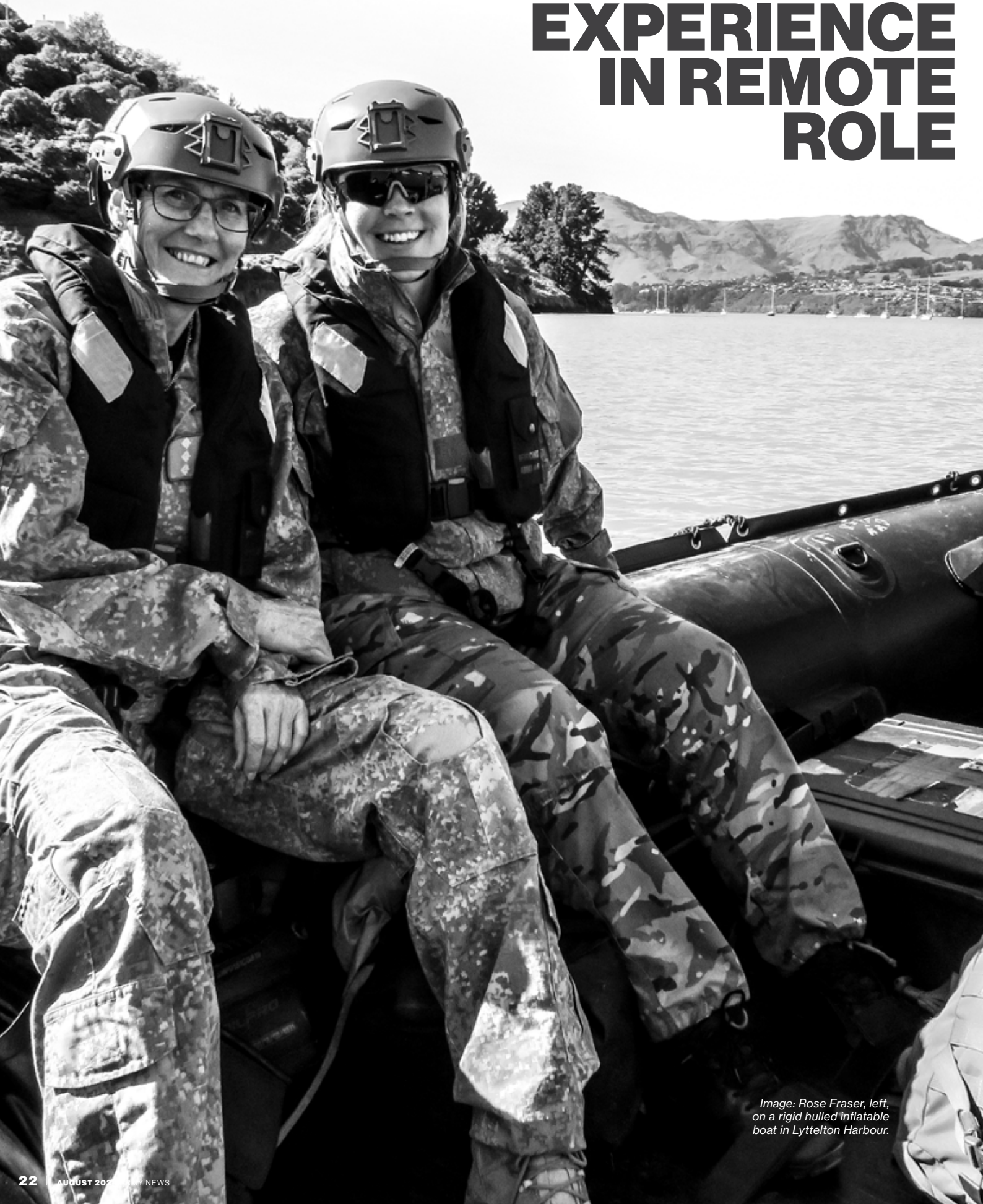
**SMA Award**

Spr Hannah Alsop, RNZE



*Photos: CPL Maddy Butcher*

# WEST COAST NURSE DRAWS ON NZ ARMY EXPERIENCE IN REMOTE ROLE



*Image: Rose Fraser, left, on a rigid hulled inflatable boat in Lyttelton Harbour.*

## On the remote West Coast community of Hari Hari, with its population of a nudge over 200 people, is where registered nurse Rose Fraser now serves her community.

It's a far cry from the highlands of Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the devastation following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in Indonesia where she's previously worked. But the Reserve Force officer still draws on experience and the lessons learned in those hotspots during her three-decade career with the New Zealand Army.

Captain Fraser studied nursing in Christchurch before joining the NZ Army in 1991, where recruiters told her that her rural Hawarden background would give her the steel to be a perfect candidate for the army. Her resilience was put to the test through multiple deployments in the Pacific.

"I went on patrol with soldiers in Papua New Guinea and East Timor, climbing over hills and through forests," she said.

"During one 10-day patrol in Bougainville, we were warned it was too dangerous for us to leave the village we were staying in so we had to organise for a helicopter to come get us the next day."

Captain Fraser was also deployed to Banda Aceh, Indonesia, to aid with disaster relief after the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. While she had a solid foundation of knowledge and experience, she often found on deployment it was her communication skills that proved invaluable.

"You had to show empathy even if you couldn't speak the language. It was about your facial expression, body language and respecting the culture that you were in.

"It's also about how we portrayed ourselves. When we were in uniform, we were representing our unit, we were representing nursing and were representing New Zealand."

She stepped back from full-time service in 2013, joining the reserves for the New Zealand Defence Force's Deployable Health Organisation.

## Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps day celebration

*The Nursing Corps, like any other Corps, is only as good as its members make it.*

Principle Matron Mary Wilson, RRC QHNS RNZNC

The Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps celebrated its annual birthday earlier this year. Nursing Officers are posted throughout the New Zealand Defence Force, most often working independently of other Corps members and integrated into a variety of units. This year, Corps day was an opportunity to come together to share knowledge, experiences, understanding and support for one another.

As part of this year's celebrations the Corps organised activities and a dinner at Government House Wellington. The RNZNC were hosted by The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro The Governor-General of New Zealand and her husband Dr Richard Davies. This provided an opportunity for Her Excellency Dame Cindy to acknowledge the roles nurses have played in the New Zealand Army – Ngāti Tumatauenga, from heroic efforts in First and Second world wars, giving life changing medical treatment in isolated places in the Pacific, and recently assisting with natural disaster responses both domestically and globally.

Corps day allows a time to reflect on the history of the Corps and the positive attributions of military nurses. Nursing is an art and a science, the nurse embodies the attributes of care, compassion and empathy as well as holding the knowledge to make sound clinical decisions. RNZNC members including Colonel Commandant (HON) COL Maree Sheard joined the nursing officers in a professional and facilitated reflective forum.

# SOLOMON ISLAND DEPLOYMENT CONCLUDES

*Image: A member of the NZDF contingent lowers the New Zealand Ensign at the completion of the New Zealand and Australian support to SIAF.*



The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) contribution to the Solomon Islands Assistance Force (SIAF) has ended, with the four deployed NZDF personnel having recently returned to New Zealand.

The SIAF deployed to Honiara from late November 2021 after a request from Solomon Islands Government to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force in restoring peace and stability following a period of civil unrest.

The contingent has continued to support Solomon Island police to maintain peace and stability including through community engagement and reassurance. Over the course of the operation, the NZDF personnel have worked alongside New Zealand Police, Australian Defence Force, Australian Federal Police, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Fiji Police Force and Royal Solomon Islands Police Force personnel.

In September 2023 the mandate for this deployment was extended through to mid-2024. Senior National Officer, Major Stephen Challies, has held the role of Chief of Staff/Operations Officer for the Multinational Police Support Group. A veteran of Angola, Bosnia, Timor-Leste, Kosovo and South Sudan, he has enjoyed the challenge and variation of the work.

“One of my personal highlights has been working with the Australian 7th Brigade to provide security support as part of the National General Elections.

“The Commanding Officer specifically tasked myself and the Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Adam Orlowski, as his ‘eyes and ears’ on the ground during the elections. This was an honour and highlighted our particular skills and access to the community and with Solomon Island police.

“Other highlights included gaining a greater understanding of our very deep historical and family links to the 13,000 strong 3rd (NZ) Division that served here during the Second World War, and working on the RNZAF Camp tunnel project at Bloody Ridge.

“There were up to 5000 Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel serving here in Honiara during the Second World War.”

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Rear Admiral Jim Gilmour, said the NZDF has been proud to work with Solomon Islands Government on the SIAF mission.

“This has been a key example of the value of Pacific-led solutions to Pacific challenges.

“The NZDF stands ready to partner with our Pacific neighbours when the need arises. We look forward to working with Solomon Islands Government again.”



# SOUVENIRED RELIC TO BE RETURNED TO MONTE CASSINO MONASTERY

**A religious souvenir taken after the Cassino monastery in Italy was bombed is to be returned by the nephew of the war hero who brought it home.**

New Zealand troops had significant involvement in the Battles of Cassino, the 80th anniversary of which were commemorated earlier this year. On 15 February 1944, 255 aircraft dropped a total of 576 tons of high explosive on or near the monastery.

Lower Hutt based Malcolm Sime had always heard about what his mum called a chalice that had been brought home from the bombed monastery by her brother, Military Cross recipient Robert Knox. The "chalice" is thought to be more an aspersorium, the vessel priests use to hold holy water that is sprinkled during religious ceremonies.

It was held by a relative, along with Knox's medals and other special war-time memorabilia such as the silk maps of Italy he wore under his uniform. The items were given to Mr Sime as he was Major Knox's closest living family member.

Mr Sime, 75, plans to travel to Italy in September with his son and return the vessel to the Monte Cassino monastery. The medals and other items will be loaned to the National Army Museum. "It's going back to where it rightfully belongs," he said.

Major Robert Reid Knox was a member of 2nd Company of the 22nd New Zealand Motorised Battalion. In December 1943 2 Company was leading the advance of the battalion along the road from Castelfrentano to Guardiagrele in Italy. Then a Captain, Knox had been wounded two days previously but remained with the unit.

On reaching a demolition covered by enemy fire the acting OC was killed. Captain Knox moved from the rear of the column and took command. Accompanied by one man he reconnoitered forward along the road, located a minefield, destroyed an enemy motorcycle patrol, and located and killed an enemy patrol of four men. He continued his reconnaissance until he made contact with the main delaying enemy forces on a further demolition.

Captain Knox remained in command of his Company until it was relieved, during which time it was subjected to continuous and heavy shelling and machine gun fire. He was invalided home because of ill-health. He died in 1985, aged 74.





TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA  
**DEFENCE FORCE**



# NZDF SAFETY AWARDS 2024

Let's recognise those who have improved health and safety in the NZDF this year.

Nominations close 6 September.  
Visit the Safety page on the ILP,  
or email [NZDFSafety@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:NZDFSafety@nzdf.mil.nz)

# SOLDIERS JOIN WARFIGHTING EXERCISE IN QUEENSLAND



**Around 100 New Zealand Army soldiers have joined 2,500 of their Australian counterparts in a major Australian Army exercise in central Queensland this month.**

Exercise Diamond Run, which runs for nearly three weeks, is one of three major warfighting exercises for both armies in the lead up to Exercise Talisman Sabre, also in Queensland, next year.

Australia's 7th Brigade, from Brisbane, have been joined by soldiers from NZ Army's 1st Brigade to test combat and combat support capabilities.

The exercise simulates a conflict between allied and enemy forces in a fictional Asia-Pacific area.

It is being held north of Rockhampton at Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area, a massive 454,000-hectare area around seven times the size of Waiouru Military Training Area and which provides a variety of terrain including hills, mountains, wetlands and sand. The training area includes two big airfields and an Urban Training Facility that simulates a town.

Major Tamaroa Wawatai says it's vital New Zealand soldiers take part in large and complex military exercises with allies and partners as it puts interoperability and sharing of resources "into action".

"Our shared commitment to this initiative enables both armies to share situational awareness and develop a common understanding of tactics, doctrine, and operational concepts," Major Wawatai said.

Commander of Australian Army's 7th Brigade, Brigadier Giles Cornelia, DSM, CSM, says combined exercises under Plan ANZAC – the bilateral agreement between the two armies – increase organisational and operational interoperability between the two armies.

"Australia and New Zealand are the best of mates. Together we are generating readiness for land combat operations, security and stability missions and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

"As allies we have a mutual commitment to support each other's security, coordinate our efforts in the South Pacific, and maintain a combined focus on the security and stability of our broader region."

A shared

journey

of recovery



# ART IN RECOVERY EXHIBITION

Selected artworks will go on display in the Pumanawa Art Gallery in Christchurch from 1–6 October 2024.

For more information, please email [artinrecovery@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:artinrecovery@nzdf.mil.nz)

# OP TIEKE



*Image: OP Tieke personnel conduct urban training through a Language Assistant to simulate lessons they will deliver while deployed.*

Operation Tieke is the NZDF contribution to the United Kingdom's Operation Interflex: the British-led multinational military operation to train and support the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Interflex's purpose is to provide training and support to enable Ukraine's military to stop Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine territory. For the last two years the NZDF, at the NZ Government's direction, has provided various training teams to support Interflex. The most recent pre-deployment training at Linton Camp for Op Tieke occurred in June with more than thirty Regular and Reserve Force personnel conducting a two week training package.

The pre-deployment training focused on trainers delivering lessons in tactical combat casualty care, field craft, explosive hazard awareness, marksmanship, and offensive and defensive operations through a Ukrainian Language Assistant.

The pre-deployment training is a collaborative learning environment in which Reserve and Regular Force personnel work closely together. Previously deployed Op Tieke members provided feedback and mentoring to support the training.

## WHAT IS QUALIFYING OPERATIONAL SERVICE?

Qualifying Operational Service (QOS) is a term used to describe service that has been carried out in areas that have been assessed as having environmental or operational risks to NZDF personnel that is significantly greater than those of peacetime activities. It recognises service that goes above and beyond the normal duties of military personnel and exposes them to significant risk of harm. Typically QOS would include deployments to war zones, peacekeeping missions, and international disaster relief operations, but not all, as there still needs to be the significant risk of harm. After a decision to deploy NZDF personnel has been made, the Chief of Defence Force (CDF) reports to the Minister for Veterans about the threat level of that deployment. The CDF assesses the operational and environmental threats and if the threshold for a significant risk of harm is met or exceeded, then the CDF will recommend that the Minister makes a qualifying service declaration on that deployment.

If the Minister for Veterans agrees then he or she will declare the deployment as Qualifying Operational Service. Those who deployed on an operation that has a Qualifying Operational Service declaration, will get QOS. While serving in the NZDF, all primary health and wellbeing support is provided by the NZDF. However after leaving the NZDF, ex-service personnel with QOS are automatically eligible for some support from Veterans' Affairs, and have the ability to apply for additional support if they have or develop a health condition that can be attributed to their service on that deployment.

Not all of New Zealand's overseas military deployments meet the required threat level of QOS. If a serving person is deployed overseas, it does not automatically mean that they get QOS. The Veterans' Support Act 2014 allows for deployments to have their threat status reviewed if new information about threats on a deployment becomes available.

All Qualifying Operational Service declarations are published on the Veterans' Affairs website, but we have made it easy for you to check your eligibility for support and whether you have Qualifying Operational Service because we have created an online Eligibility Tool for you to work through.

If you have QOS and a medical practitioner confirms specific conditions which may be related to your qualifying deployment then you can make a claim to Veterans' Affairs for support.

To be eligible for support from Veterans' Affairs you need to be serving or have served, and you need qualifying service.

You can check your eligibility on the Veterans' Affairs website, [www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/eligibility/check-your-eligibility/](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/eligibility/check-your-eligibility/)

# FAREWELLING A TRAIL BLAZER



**The first female Warrant Officer in the New Zealand Army, Signaler WO1 (retired) Henrietta Redshaw (nee Matahiki) died on 12 July, in Tokomaru Bay.**



A contingent from RNZSigs provided the military component of the tangi for WO1 (Rtd) Redshaw. The esteem in which she was held was apparent when all serving and retired service personnel present formed an honour guard flanking the exit ramp of the wharenuī, saluting as WO1 Redshaw made her way to the hearse. Upon arrival at the family cemetery just out of Tokomaru Bay, WO1 Redshaw was carried by both RNZSigs and whānau bearers, to be laid to rest in the same grave as her late husband, WO1 (Rtd) Warren “Red” Redshaw, RNZIR.

The padre for the tangi was Reverend Jack Papuni – himself a former RNZSigs. He delivered a short but poignant service, which ended with the Last Post and laying of poppies. After the tangi, all attended the hakari back at the marae, enjoying some great kai with the whānau, said WO1 J Peffers RNZSIGS Corps WO.

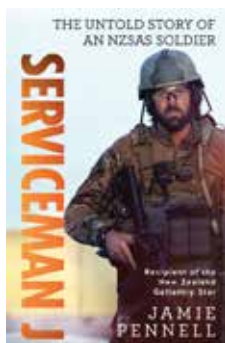
“Overall it was a very humbling experience to be part of, to acknowledge WO1 Redshaw’s past, share the aroha for her, and to farewell one of our own.”

When WO1 Redshaw married, she set the precedent for women to continue serving after marriage, as it was compulsory at the time for one partner to leave (usually the wife). She was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One on 17 September 1984.

“She showed everyone that gender should not be a barrier to having a successful career or to achieve higher rank,” said WO1 Peffers. “She was also a leader in the sporting arena, playing softball, basketball and tennis for the Army. Today we have the Wahine Toa programme, but WO1 Redshaw was role-modelling those very ideals way back then. Through her dedication, perseverance, professionalism, leadership and personal mana, WO1 Redshaw paved the way for others to follow.”

Lest we forget.

Certa Cito / Kia tere, ka pono



## SERVICEMAN J

The untold story of an NZSAS soldier  
By Jamie Pennell NZGS  
Published by Harper Collins

In 2011, NZSAS pers based in Kabul training Afghan security forces were heavily involved in an incident at Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel. Terrorists attacked the hotel and guests were killed or trapped. Jamie Pennell and his team defeated the attackers and ended the siege. Ultimately Pennell and colleague the late Steve Askin were awarded New Zealand's second highest award for operational gallantry, the NZ Gallantry Star, becoming two of just five NZDF pers to have been awarded the NZGS.

Jamie Pennell joined the Army at 19 and had always had an eye on getting badged. After basic he was posted to 1RNZIR and like a lot of young men, full of testosterone and seemingly bullet proof, he embraced the "work hard, play hard" ethos of Battalion life, got into his share of minor scrapes and ended up passing selection on his second attempt. Pennell had been an avid martial arts fighter since a young age and qualified as an APTI not long before his second selection, so it's pretty fair to assume he was physically squared away for whatever the team at Hobsonville could throw at him.

Jamie tells his story in a direct, matter of fact style. There is no need for embellishment, florid language or anything similar, he has a fantastic story to tell and that's what he does. Jamie spent 18 years in the SAS, undertook numerous deployments and fired his weapon in anger on more than a few occasions. He has done all that anyone wanting to live the true warrior life could do. It would be easy for him to write himself up as a hardman and hero, but Pennell clearly has plenty of intelligence, self awareness and humility, all of which means he is frank, open and tells the whole story....warts and all.

Jamie's story involves intense challenges, combat, the loss of a close mate and more, a real emotional roller coaster, all of which means that when he leaves the Army, all those physical and emotional things don't necessarily leave him. Jamie is remarkably frank and open about his struggles both prior to and after he got out, how he got on top of his demons and the way he stays on top of his game as a decorated combat veteran, a husband and a father.

Jamie has a great narrative style and sense of humour, as such his story flows seamlessly. What he has seen and done makes this an engrossing read. Like most highly decorated people you meet, he is humble and modest, but through his story provides fantastic insights into some of the most intense operational activity that NZDF has experienced in a long time. Serviceman J is a cracking good yarn, thoroughly recommended.



## GUERRILLA SURGEON

By Major Lindsay Rogers MBE  
Published by John Douglas Publishing

Lindsay Rogers was a New Zealand Army Surgeon with 2NZE, who following service in the Western Desert volunteered to work with the SOE in support of partisan resistance fighters in Nazi occupied Yugoslavia.

Originally published in 1957, this book was widely read and acknowledged at the time as a great account of unconventional service. Over subsequent years it faded into obscurity but now this book has been republished for a new generation of readers. This new edition is an exact reprint (with a new cover) of the original which included a foreword by Lord Freyberg who is fulsome in his praise of Rogers.

The partisans had established a number of small hospitals in secret locations which they kept very well hidden. There was no shortage of patients but there was a shortage of qualified medical personnel. Rogers travelled from hospital to hospital within the partisan AO performing surgeries, and helping establish medical facilities. He clearly enjoyed his work and was well regarded by the partisans and even got to meet with Tito himself to discuss medical support.

It was clearly very dangerous work and the Nazis were a ruthless enemy. Equally, the partisans were hard, tough men and women prepared to make any sacrifice required to rid their homeland of the invader. The Balkans, as anyone who has deployed there knows, is riven by factionalism, the origins of which go back centuries, and on a number of occasions, this presented obstacles which Rogers had to carefully negotiate to avoid becoming tainted by perceived favouritism for one group over another.

The longer he spent in Yugoslavia, the more frustrated Rogers became with the partisans and their politics. Only Britain and America provided logistic support to Tito's partisans who were heavily indoctrinated communists with a strong loyalty to "Mother Russia". The partisans fervently believed that any and all logistic and material support came from Russia. They were fulsome in their praise of Russia, and much to Roger's annoyance, ignored the allies who were arming, clothing and equipping them.

Despite the dangers and the politics, Rogers enjoyed his work and time amongst the fighters, he was decorated by the Yugoslavs and the British for his work. Guerilla Surgeon is a very well written and engaging story, it is very readable and provides a great insight into one New Zealander's contribution to the fight against the Nazis.



# ARMY BODY BUILDERS SHOW THEIR FORM

Image: CPL Craig O'Keefe and  
CAPT Brooke Watson pose.  
Image right: CAPT Brooke  
Watson (centre).



**The recent ICN South Island Classic event gave body builders the chance to compete within their expected 'prep' timeframe after the Armed Forces and Emergency Services (AFES) Championship was cancelled due to low numbers.**

The iCompete Natural (ICN) federation prides itself on being a natural federation, so regular and random testing of banned substances amongst the athletes competing, as well as those current ICN members spectating is mandatory. The expectation is you are natural 365 days of the year, so should be able to pass a test at any time.

Three NZ ARMY athletes and one RNZAF athlete took to the stage, achieved some outstanding results and are setting their sights on Nationals in mid-September in Hamilton. Army's CPL Craig O'Keefe is the current ICN Men's Bodybuilding Overall National Champion.



## Results

**CPL Craig O'Keefe,  
Physical Training Instructor, FHO**

Men's Bodybuilding  
Overall Men's Body Building Winner  
1st Men's Body Building 30+  
1st Men's Body Building Open

**SGT Tango Smith,  
All Arms Instructor, 3RTW ACS**

Men's Classic Physique  
Overall Men's Classic Physique Winner  
1st Classic Physique Open  
1st 40+ Classic Physique

Men's Physique  
Overall Men's Physique Winner  
1st Men's Physique Open

Men's Bodybuilding  
2nd Men's Body Building Open

**CAPT Brooke Watson,  
Regional Recruiting Officer South, DHR**

Wellness  
1st Wellness Open  
1st Wellness Novice

**FLTLT Mark Mierement,  
Reserve Psychologist**

Men's Fitness  
Overall Men's Fitness Winner  
1st Men's Fitness Open  
1st Men's Fitness 30+  
1st Men's Fitness Novice

# ARMY SHINE AT INTER SERVICE BASKETBALL



**In some stunning performances Army aced the Inter Services basketball tournament recently. This was the first Army double (men and women) win since 2009, which is also the last time that Army Women won the Inter services tournament.**



## Results

### Womens

1st	Army
2nd	Navy
3rd	Air Force
MVP	Navy
Rookie	Army – PTE Sophie Davis
3pt Shoot Out	Air Force

### Mens

1st	Army
2nd	Air
3rd	Navy
MVP	Army – PTE Quinn Lavery
Rookie	Army – PTE Ethan Mitchell
3pt Shoot Out	Army – PTE Ethan Mitchell

### Skills Comp (mixed) Air

Note that this is the first Army double (men and women) since 2009, which is also the last time that Army Women had previously won services.

*Image: NZ Army Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles conduct Exercise Hill in the Waiouru Training Area. The day's activity saw the crews conduct an overhead firing manoeuvre.*

*Photo: CPL Naomi James*

