

THE BUGLE

Issue 139 | July 2010



DEPLOYMENT NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

- 'Tinkers' in Timor-Leste
- An Unforgettable Experience
- Upcoming Events
- Messages from Abroad & Home

COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMRADESHIP | INTEGRITY

"THE BUGLE"

The Deployment Newsletter is produced for families and service personnel associated with current overseas deployments.

Deadline

The deadline for Edition 140 is
22 July 2010

Bugle contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor.

Editor: Carol Voyce
Layout: Christine Muir
Printing: Sharyn Cameron
Mere Garton

Contributions co-ordinated by:
Carol Voyce and Janine Burton

Contact Information

Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
Headquarters
2nd Land Force Group
Linton Military Camp
Linton
Ph: (06) 351 9399
Cell phone: 021 649 903
Toll free line: 0800 OVERSEAS or
0800 683 77 327
Fax: (06) 351 9019
E-mail: dso.linton@xtra.co.nz

Carol Voyce
Deployment Services Officer
Burnham Regional Support Centre
Powles Road
Burnham Military Camp
Burnham 7600
Christchurch
Ph: (03) 363 0421
Cell phone: 0274 497 565
Toll free line: 0800 DEPLOY or
0800 337 569
Fax: (03) 363 0127
E-mail: dso.cso@xtra.co.nz

Disclaimer

Articles and opinions expressed in "The Bugle" are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Defence Force.

Cover Photo:

Young boys in Timor-Leste enjoy the chance to play, share and trade cards

GUEST EDITORIAL

**By CAPT W.R.E. BURROUGHS,
Royal New Zealand Navy,
Chief of Staff,
Defence Logistics Command**

I have just completed 32 years of Service. My deployment to Timor came after a long period (17 years) of shore time. When I deployed to Timor-Leste, as the Senior National Officer for TG KORU in July 2009, my youngest child was 19. I was in a different space to the vast majority of service personnel in theatre at that time as my family was 'mature' and looking after themselves (as if they ever do).

As a naval officer I spent much of my first five years in the navy constantly deployed away from New Zealand on ships. I was young and had no children so it was a great adventure, going to some new places and developing new skills. Communications was by letter. It took a long time to get the news from home. After 10 years ashore doing logistics jobs I spent a further three years on deployed ships in the early 1990s. At this time I had three young children, the youngest being born during this period. In fact, I sailed away for five months when she was only two months old.

I have experienced the emotions of leaving my wife and a very young family behind. I have experienced the emotions surrounding the deaths of close family and friends whilst being deployed, unable to provide support and comfort to those you love. All these experiences have given me, as an individual, a particular reference point.

As I went around the New Zealand force, during my time in Timor, I was aware of the range of ages and stages of life. Every individual had a unique story and I tried to put myself in their shoes in order to understand some of the stresses they were experiencing in order to



ensure that we, the leadership, could make it a little easier to cope with the separation. Essential to that was to maximise the communication channels available to our service personnel.

The communication linkages for today's operations are fantastic, with direct phone contact, the internet system, which was capable of Skype linkages, and instantaneous news with Sky TV. You have to be realistic with what capacity you have on your particular base but maximise what you can.

I found that the regular contact was a great tool to minimise the impact of the separation, especially when stressful times were happening at home. There is no set rule for how regular the contact should be as everyone is an individual, but I have always been advised by communication gurus that you can never over communicate. Deployments are emotionally challenging but the support you receive from the NZDF is very good, so take best advantage of it, before, during, and after your deployment. In particular, ensure you plan your communications, especially to link with forecast events in your family's lives. Then have the discipline to execute your plan.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including: Tinkers in Timor-Leste
Progress, Development, Safety & Security
An Unforgettable Experience
A ship comes into the Harbour carrying...5000 US Marines
and US Sailors
Nobby the Bear Reporting
Challenges in Afghanistan

TINKERS IN TIMOR-LESTE

By Padre Hamish Kirk

Tinkers are a mysterious mischievous people, with a unique language and culture. Our tinkers on GYRO 9 are a tight knit semi-nocturnal bunch, generous with their food (especially Timor-Leste donuts) and coffee. Most tinkers can be found gathering in secret at about 2100hrs in the mess for tea and toast. They hide from the sun in the big green shed working away at their projects repairing what we have broken. Some of the more important tinkers work away in little shipping container-type grottos only emerging at feeding time. They burst through the door grinning from ear to ear eager to talk about

their latest project. Everyone who has dealt with tinkers will know that tinkers are always tinkering and the boss may issue out jobs but a true tinker always has a few extra jobs going on the side.

Our tinkers came from Auckland, Linton and Burnham and quickly became a unity. They, the true descendants of the old EME, hung their distinctive blue, yellow, red, tri-colour banner in the green shed. Apparently the Blue, Yellow, and Red, BYR, stands for BEYOND YOUR REPAIR - hence the need for a tinker.

Another way our tinkers marked their sphere of influence was to paint a large black workshop Hammer and Tongs symbol on the



SSGT J.C. Craig going hammer and tong

green shed floor. The male tinkers in particular felt much relieved to have their territory marked out so soon. To this day, no one really knows how the same large hammer and tong symbol appeared overnight on the old airport control tower roof. Being visible from the air for miles around, it lets all passing aircraft from any nationality know that true tinkers dwell here.

**Tinkers are a
mysterious
mischievous
people, with a
unique language
and culture.**

The head tinker is a giant from far, far away. SSGT J.C. Craig is a soccer crazed man who had spent most of his military life in the British Forces Germany from whence he was deployed nine times. He has been in the NZ Army for two and a half years and is with us on his tenth deployment, but the first as a kiwi tinker.

PTE Willy Lister is an artisan extraordinaire. This talented tinker can make a fashionable hand crafted lamp-stand out of anything. When Willy is not repairing air-conditioning units, he supports all the weapon systems as our Armourer. He also completely



Don't worry, six months will fly by

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

rebuilt the stand for the orphanage keyboard, painting it in the colours of Timor-Leste.

CPL Tokahaumata Oltaches, or Mata as she is known, is by far the fairest of the tinkers. This amazonian Rarotongan beauty is our Vehicle Mechanic and a lover all things PT. To behold her in mid flight, whether it is basketball, volleyball, cricket, or running is a fearsome thing. It is not surprising that they name hurricanes after women like this. There have been more than a few Australian Diggers and American Marines humbled by her ability. Despite her athletic prowess, Mata has one weakness; she is a terrible ping-pong player.

The tinkers have an auto electrician, LCPL Brady Whyte. This sensitive soul pines for his Irish girlfriend spending huge amounts of time on face-book. In between these cyber encounters, Brady loves to work on the LOV APU's. He enjoys this so much that one year soon he wants to tinker directly, employed by the manufacturer Pinzgauer.

CPL Kelvin Arthur is our EIR Tech-Electronic, Instruments, and Radio Technician. Now this is very fancy high posh type tinkering. If it has, or once had, an electrical pulse, this tinker can fix it. He has even found time to rewire an electronic keyboard for a local orphanage. His RFL times have dropped dramatically with his practice runs coming in under 8 minutes. An 8 minute run is hardly worth getting changed for! This tinker took on the Aussies at their PT a few weeks back. He beat them all, every one, even their OC in the multi-stage fitness test!

The tinkers keep up the morale of the whole FOB by regularly updating their Tui Board. Much of this humour is very specific to HPOD and the Tui Board has proved a great way of advertising



CPL Arthur and PTE Lister at the local orphanage

some hapless victim's character flaw. The last contingent welcomed us with "Don't worry; six months will fly by...yeah right". Our six months will drag slower because we are the first GYRO not to be granted any out of theatre leave.

The pick of our tinker Tui Boards so far is, "Skype Sex is safe as....yeah right." There is an absolutely innocent event behind this somewhat colourful proverb placed upon the Tui Board, but why should the truth get in the way of a really good story. For further information contact CAPT Philip Heming.

Another group of people that work in and around the green shed are the Supply Technicians or "Supplies" as they are known. These creatures are the masters of finding anything and everything. It does not matter how many shipping containers, buildings, warehouses, they know where all our "stuff" is. Incredibly, and I know it is hard to believe, they actually get paid to go shopping. Surely this must be a dream job.

They are led by SGT Rob Clark whose soccer team West Ham has

again managed to avoid relegation out of the Premier League. SGT Clark is one of those nocturnal creatures that will sneak out of bed and ninja over to the huge screen TV hut, belonging to the Australians at some ungodly hour, to watch the World Cup soccer live.

PTE Joe Kapua, who is already big enough to be Mr Universe, is found often in the gym. As a professional supplier, he was made IC of a beach BBQ the other Sunday. Apart from forgetting the gas bottle, and the BBQ tongs, he made a good fist of it. He did get a great wee fire going to place the BBQ hot plate over for cooking. Just as the plate heated up enough to no longer be able to touch or move it, the gas bottle arrived by other means.

PTE Kapua enjoys visiting the orphanage, and also took part in the Ava Maria helo flight and climb up Mount Ramelau.

LCPL Katie Penfold has a natural reserve and is quite shy. She excels in the purchasing part of a supplies job. LCPL Penfold will often join the others in the middle of

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



CPL Tokahaumata Oltaches, LCPL Brady Whyte and PTE Lister

the night to watch the World Cup but sadly she has no understanding of the off-side rule. She daily misplaces her cell phone and car keys and then daily finds them. Despite her natural reserve, LCPL Penfold has excelled in International Relations. Recently she hosted half a dozen burly US Marines for a feast of crumpets and tea. Sterling effort!

Our Fleet Manager is CPL Michael Galvin or Skinny as he is known to us. And yes-he is skinny! At the time of writing, he has just spent a week away with the US Marines. He enjoys flying his model helicopter, imitating the behaviour of the big helos outside. Sadly, unlike the real machines outside, CPL Galvin's landings are not always so happy.

CPL Galvin is the last remaining member of the NSE who smokes, not that we dwell on this point much...yeah right!

**Ate-logo
(see you later).**

PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT, SAFETY AND SECURITY

**By LT COL J. Boswell,
CO NZ PRT**

Over the past two weeks we have had a TVNZ film crew with the PRT. Mike and Blair from TVNZ were great value and spent a lot of time with the patrols travelling Bamyán province and filming contingent members doing their day-to-day jobs. Hopefully there will be good coverage of the contingent on TV in NZ and you will all get the opportunity to view their footage. Not surprisingly, part of their coverage will focus on the threat that exists in the east/north-east of Bamyán province. Before they go to air with their coverage I thought it appropriate that I put that threat in perspective.

Those of you who attended the briefs prior to our departure will remember I commented on how a small group of insurgents sometimes operate in our area. It is this group that TVNZ will report on and since our arrival we've been able to learn a lot about them. For instance, we know that they are not

physically located in Bamyán, but in the neighbouring province of Baghlán. We also know that they don't exist in great numbers and that they are very quickly losing what little local support they once had. However, they are a potential threat albeit a very small one.

At all times we remain mindful of that and, at all times, we operate with an appropriate degree of caution.

The protection measures we employ not only include our training, weapons, vehicles and US support, but also the very good relationships that have been built over many years by the NZ PRT with the local communities. All our personnel, the patrols in particular, work extremely hard on these relationships. We spend a lot of time in the communities gaining their trust, assisting them with development, and passing the key message that 'if you want progress, if you want development, then you need to help us make Bamyán secure and safe' - and there is little doubt that it is a message that is getting through.

A recent example of this was when WO1 Chris Wilson, Lt Tim O'Donnell and our patrol at Romero (KT2) organised a large community meeting (*Jirga*) between the leaders from Bamyán's northern & eastern districts, and those from the neighbouring Baghlán district - a task easier said than done.

WO1 Wilson was required to do all the negotiations with local land owners to find, and then confirm a site for the *Jirga*. He then did an outstanding job behind the scenes setting up the location itself and overseeing all the support arrangements, including catering; 'just like being on a marae,' he reckoned. Lt Tim O'Donnell had responsibility for the security of the site and its approaches. This required him to co-ordinate on the

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



LT Tim O'Donnell controlling security at the Jirga



WO1 Wilson's Afghan Marae

ground the efforts of not only his patrol but also KT3, KT5 and the ANP, all who were deployed in support of the *Jirga*.

The *Jirga* itself was held to support a major road development that crosses, in part, the east/north-east of Bamiyan. Timelines for construction, employment and training opportunities, improved

traffic ability and flow-on economic benefits were presented by the construction company – for the PRT, we linked these benefits to the need for security and took the opportunity to clearly describe to community leaders their roles and responsibilities for the provision of that security. The road construction was something tangible, where the potential benefits to the community

were significant, and the need for security obvious – the message couldn't have been clearer.

The *Jirga* we supported was a significant event for the PRT, and hopefully one that will have significant benefits in terms of development and also the continued safety and well-being of both the people of Bamiyan and of our contingent.

Footnote: Since this article was written the same TVNZ film crew was caught up in an attack on a vehicle convoy they were part of. This attack occurred well away from Bamiyan province near the Pakistan boarder.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

By Jo Baird, S9, CRIB 16

If someone had told me this time last year that I would be writing an Article for "The Bugle" from Bamiyan, Afghanistan I would have quoted that good old Tui Ad, "Yeah Right".

Why would a female civilian want to deploy to Afghanistan?

Why not! Since arriving at the NZ PRT in April of this year, the time has just flown by. What an experience, what a challenge and what an opportunity: An opportunity that I would never have experienced had I been employed anywhere other than with the New Zealand Defence Force.

Afghanistan - The contrast of the landscape surrounding us is breathtaking; the mountains behind the PRT covered in snow right down to the horizon. and then turn to the right and your eyes are met by the immense structure known as "The City of thousand Screams" - the place where Gengis Khan slaughtered thousands of Afghan people on his rampage through

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



S9 CRIB 16, Jo Baird

Afghanistan. To the front, the remains of the three Buddha's destroyed by the Taliban during their reign. Then off to the left, the rugged mountains that have been chiselled away over the centuries by harsh weather conditions that are the norm in this country.

The people, some of the warmest, most generous people I have ever met, live in this very remote part of the world. Their faces tell the story of the very harsh weather conditions here, of many years of war and hardship and of a nation of people that are not afraid of hard work. The diverse nationalities, the varying facial features, the different coloured hair, the different eye shapes, the great smiles, the really bad fashion sense of the younger generation (if you are wondering

where all Elvis's old clothes went, they are here in mass).

I have an office job back in New Zealand, I am a Financial Advisor at 2/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. My job within the PRT is also as a Financial Advisor, but here no day is ever the same. I am teaching English and Maths 6 days a week to approximately 16 LEC's (Locally Employed Civilians) who work inside the PRT. Once a week I teach English at the local Girls High School to boys who range from the age of 7 to about 11 years old. I get to visit local Orphanages and hand out toys, stationery, backpacks and soccer balls to young children who greet us with songs of welcome and thanks, whose little faces covered in dirt light up as you hand

them a small teddy bear. I work 4 nights a week at the NAAFI, a small shop where we sell Pringles, Red Bull, lollies, shower gel, deodorant, stamps and smokes to the soldiers inside the PRT.

As part of my role I need to exchange USD for the local Afghan currency so I get to go to the local Bazaar quite a few times in a week.

**Do I regret my
decision to come
to Afghanistan?
No, not one
little bit!**

Driving along the road that leads to the Bazaar on paved roads it looks like any other country, then you turn into the Bazaar road and you would swear you have entered a time warp; it is like going back in time to the 17th Century. Shops constructed of mud and timber poles, small shanty type buildings constructed along the road, people throwing buckets of water over the dirt road to help reduce the dust (note to self make sure you wind the window up on the truck when entering the Bazaar), pots and pans laying outside the shop, shelves stacked to the ceiling with produce, men walking up the street pulling homemade carts loaded with vegetables and grain. Bicycles and cars from the 1960's, motorbikes everywhere some with trays added to carry anything and everything. Large machinery utilised as a form of transport, people standing in a loader bucket as it drives along the road.

Like many people before me the nemesis known as PT Hill had to be conquered, I did give myself a few weeks leeway to get used to

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

the altitude, but honestly I don't think it would have mattered if I had waited 6 months before attempting it. What a trek, what a view, a good reason to stop many many times for photo opportunities. The complete lack of oxygen, the burning muscle, and then the young child of about 7 flying past me as if I was wearing concrete boots. The sense of satisfaction and relief, a few tears shed and then the view, the amazing view.

Inside the NZ PRT it is a melting pot of nationalities, people from many different parts of the World: Americans, Singaporeans, Nepalese, Europeans, British, German, Canadians, Afghans and of course the New Zealanders. The many characters, the different cultures, the generosity and friendship shown by these myriad of people have made this deployment an unforgettable experience for me: One that I shall never forget and will talk of for many years to come.

Do I regret my decision to come to Afghanistan? No, not one little bit!

A SHIP COMES INTO THE HARBOUR CARRYING... 5000 US MARINES AND US SAILORS

By CAPT Ange Sutton, S4

Just as the sun was setting over Dili there was the distinct sound of a chopper approaching. (American accent required): "Breaker, Breaker this is Hawk Eye, Hawk Eye, I have 48 US Marines on board, are we cleared to land?" Finally, after weeks of quiet there was some activity in the secure S6 Ivory tower, (and it wasn't the workshop lads doing their security checks). A/CAPT Sam Johnstone approved the landing and watched 48 marines disembark off the CH-46

helicopter, the first sign the Marine Exercise (MAREX) had begun. USS PELELIU had come to Timor-Leste to participate in an Exercise with the Australian, New Zealand and East Timorese soldiers. She bears her name from a volcanic coral island that saw the marines take 6,526 casualties as they overcame 10,138 Japanese defenders during WWII.

The group of marines landing at the HPOD had come ashore to participate in the Dili marathon, along with two kiwi soldiers. TPR Martin Turek; showing them all how its done coming 7th overall in the half marathon, finishing in a time of one hour 23 minutes. TPR Stephen MacKintosh finished not far behind, in a time of one hour 45 minutes. A top effort given the heat and lack of training for the event!

Once the marathon was over the marines stayed with us in Kiwi Lines. We kept them occupied by challenging them to several sporting activities. The volleyball

was a hit drawing a large crowd; it was a nail biting game, with the Kiwis taking the win thanks to some fast hands from PTE Joe Kapua and the distractions of LCPL Shannon Tate. The next challenge was a tyre moving activity, hardly a challenge for the Kiwis; PTE Willie Lister taking the record at 56 seconds. The final challenge was the 200m sprint, CPL Kelvin Arthur ran it in boots and still won by over 20m. Deflated egos aside the marines maintained a positive attitude, parting with their hard earned cash in the NAAFI and staying up late to watch the soccer with LCPL Katie Penfold, an avid Chelsea supporter.

In exchange for our hospitality some members of the NZ contingent were fortunate enough to get to visit USS PELELIU at sea. A short water taxi trip which saw LCPL Brady Whyte quite green around the gills, and we were alongside the Amphibious Assault ship. A/POCO Thomas Matoe was heard to have said that it wasn't



APOCO Matoe and Cpl Arthur overlooking the flight deck on USS PELELIU

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

much bigger than HMNZS CANTERBURY. USS PELELIU has a crew of 1200 and carries approx 3500 embarked marines (about as many people as we have in the NZ Army). Her main role is to transport the marines and their kit to an area of operations, then to sit off shore and provide logistical and medical support. USS PELELIU carries a variety of helicopters: 12 CH-46 Sea Knights, four CH-53E Sea Stallions, two UH-1N Hueys, four AH-1W Super Cobras, two MH-60S Seahawk and six AV-8B Harrier attack aircraft. Some would say she has more air power than the NZ Air Force.



WO1 Paul Kirton in the Commanding Officers chair on board USS PELELIU

Once aboard we were given the grand tour of the important parts; the bridge, the mess hall and the gym. Whilst on the bridge WO1 Paul Kirton seized the opportunity to jump in the Captain's chair, put his feet up on the desk and talk like a pirate. After a lunch of processed, deep fried goodness, it was up to the observation deck to watch

some action. We were just in time to watch three harrier attack aircraft, take off from the flight deck. Even over the deafening sound of the jets you could hear A/Capt A.J. Thornton singing the theme song to Top Gun.

With a bit of spare time in hand, some took the opportunity to visit other areas of interest; I tagged on to the back of a group led by PTE Joe Kapua. We went right down into the belly of the ship. Inside the cargo deck they have four Landing Craft, each loaded with various vehicles, from Abraham tanks, Humvees, and trucks to ambulances and LARKs (amphibious vehicles). USS PELELIU is designed to be partially sunk, to allow the landing craft to float out the rear and head for the beach. We ended our tour inside a boat, inside the ship. After lingering in the darkness for awhile we were allowed into the boat crews living area, this is where all the sneaking around in the dark became apparent. The Marines wanted to trade some of their kit for ours. PTE Joe Kapua took home a memento in exchange for some non-issue kiwi memorabilia. The group had to make a quick dash up 364 stairs just in time to catch the water taxi back. On the trip back to dry land we were able to watch the Harriers land back on board. It was a very impressive sight to watch an attack aircraft hover above the ship then land vertically. The visit gave many, especially Capt Phil Heming, some stories to share with their children and families back home.

Our Padre, Hamish Kirk (known as Aboe mane) managed to secretly wrangle his own personal visit out to the ship. In his ventures, he learnt that the US Marines have four padres, each with their own personal assistant that provides security and sets up church services, etc. After submitting a

request for his own personal assistant, he was been told that there is a difference between looking after 5000 people as opposed to his flock of 70 odd, (although not all of us are odd). He was also advised to stick to his current role, of padre, welder and giving back seat driving tips whilst being a passenger.

Whilst the marine support personnel relaxed at the HPOD the real reason they were here (the Exercise) was going on in the heat of the jungle. The MAREX started with an international section competition. The final results saw CPL Green and his section bring home the win for NZ, the US Marines came second, FFDTL third, and the Australian section came last. The NZ platoon spent some time conducting jungle training with the other three nations, building up to a combined activity. This activity went smoothly and a lot was gained from the combined operation.

Flexibility (a key principle of warfare) was dually tested as the NZ soldiers dealt with the ever changing situation, and last minute tasks. The NZ soldiers were tested in various areas; close country operations, infantry minor tactics, urban operations and their medical capability.

One of the PMV section members, CPL Morgan 'Irwin' Boyes was even fortunate enough to get a helicopter ride from the exercise area to the HPOD, after an amphibious activity.

After a week of activity with the US Marines it was time to bid farewell. As the marines departed, a few contact details were shared, along with a few more trades of valuable kiwi items brought from home. Exercise aside; it is now back to work as usual for the OP GYRO 9 contingent.

CHALLENGES IN AFGHANISTAN



The 100kg Russian aircraft bomb found by a village after heavy rain, lies in its final resting place with EOD charges attached

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

In a country that has seen decades of conflict, daily life can be challenging.

Recent seasonal heavy rains have scoured the land and dredged up many relics of the past.

For the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team, NZPRT, based in Bamyan Province this means many things from flash floods stripping roads and buildings to mud permeating every aspect of vehicles and accommodation.

For the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team, this means an increase of remnants of war washed out of the hills into villages and communal areas. One incident recently threatened both a village and a world heritage site, the Bamyan Buddhas.

After a particularly heavy rain storm a report came in of unexploded ordnance found in a village at the base of the largest Buddha. An EOD team was despatched to find a Russian 100kg aircraft bomb

exposed by the rain next to the town well. This posed some interesting problems with a very corroded, unstable bomb in the middle of a village threatening locals, a Red Cross centre, a well and one of the most famous icons of the country. The bomb was severely corroded and looked like it could have been there since the time of the Russian occupation, when the whole region was subjected to heavy aircraft bombings. Disposing of such an item has inherent risk at the best of times but with important landmarks close at hand the problem is compounded, since any damage to these surroundings represents significant disruption to the Afghan people and possibly the destruction of their livelihood.

The first thing that had to be done was gain permission from the local government to begin work on disposing of the bomb. This proved easier said than done as the whole area is designated a world heritage site and many assurances had to be given that there would be no unnecessary damage caused by our operations.

A bomb has but one purpose in life and that is to explode and cause as much damage as possible. Convincing one to do otherwise is a delicate negotiation that is not always guaranteed of success.

After four days getting the relevant permissions for various government and non-government agencies, work could begin on the preparations for disposal.

A series of large holes were dug in an area about 100m away from the bomb where protection measures were built to protect surroundings from blast and more importantly ground shock as this causes the most damage to buildings and structures that have been built out of mud, rock and without

foundations.

The plan involved the Afghan National Police evacuating some 400 families within a one kilometre radius of village, and moving the bomb remotely to a pre-dug hole where if a detonation occurred there would be no damage caused to sensitive sites or people. A special A-frame and trolley were made allowing the bomb to be lifted from the washout and transported to the disposal site using long ropes reducing the need to expose people to risk should an unexpected explosion occur during the movement of the bomb.

In a country that has seen decades of conflict, daily life can be challenging.

Once moved into the protective earthworks, specialised EOD charges were placed that are designed to fracture the casing of the bomb and expose the explosive inside for disposal by burning. The procedure is called a Low Order Render Safe Procedure. This allows for the disposal of ordnance without causing a full scale explosion.

The task went successfully and 16 hours after work started the bomb was disposed of with no damage to any of the important sites in the area.

The New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team thanks the Government of Afghanistan, UNESCO and the Local Afghan National Police for their assistance and understanding throughout the conduct of this task.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

By Padre Kevin Brophy, CRIB16

By the time you read this, "hump" day (half way) will be upon us. A busy first three months has flown by and judging by what is ahead there will be no change and we will be home before you know it. Morale is still in good fettle and there is still plenty of laughter around the traps here in Kiwi base.

A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of venturing north in our AO to visit Kiwi Team 2 in Romero Base. Our convoy departed a bit later than expected due to mechanical difficulties but soon we were on the way rolling north. I drove one of the vehicles with Captain Barrie (nurse) as my co-driver. We knew that it was going to be a long hot trip but with a few stops, plenty of fluids and awe-

inspiring scenery we made our way safely to the village of Do-Abe where the convoy met up with Kiwi Team 2. Only another hour and a half to go to reach Romero and some of the roads we were to travel would be the most challenging on the trip north. Our driving skills were certainly tested. Again the numbness of our posteriors was overshadowed by the views and vistas (and occasional close calls). We arrived at Romero in the early evening after six hours on the road. Certainly I was not going to need any rocking to get to sleep this night.

Romero base is situated in a beautiful quiet, tranquil valley with massively huge outcrops of rocks surrounding it on every side. Over the next two days I managed to chat with the Kiwi team members to see

how they were coping with life up north and dealt with any major concerns they might have had. While the nurse upgraded his mechanical skills helping "Ham" repair vehicles, I positioned myself in the kitchen to help "Butch" (the cook from Kiwi Base on loan to Kiwi 2 for a few weeks) cook meals for the troops. As there was a reasonably large influx of personnel in the camp any hand in the kitchen was a good hand.

Romero is a great little place, idyllic location, quiet and great internet speed.

All too soon our time there had come to an end and it was time to travel the long road back to Kiwi Base. All in all a very worthwhile trip. Kiwi Team Two is "doing the business" and doing it very well.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM HOME

By Chaplain Wayne Toleafoa, RNZN — Principal Chaplain (Navy & Domestic Services)

A GUINEA PIG'S VIEW OF DTP

'Transformation' is a concept which is well-known in religious circles. One of the dynamic elements in all religions is the belief that lives can be 'transformed'. A 'bad' life can be made into a 'good' life! A life without purpose can be given new hope and meaning! A new and exciting life can come out of a tired old life. A (dead) life can be resurrected!

Without this dynamic element of 'transformation', religion can become nothing more than a set of lifeless rules and rituals. Of no heavenly good and of no earthly use.

Over the last 18 months NZDF chaplaincy has been undergoing a transformation as we become re-established as, "The NZDF Chaplaincy Directorate". We are one of the first branches in the NZDF to undergo change under the Defence Transformation Programme known as, "DTP". We

are in a sense, the 'guinea pigs' of DTP.

What it has meant for chaplains at the coal face is some significant restructuring and taking on of greater responsibility within our regions and on the nine NZDF camps and bases. For example, we are now responsible for the management of our own spending and have our own cost centre. We decide how taxpayer dollars will be spent in the delivery of chaplaincy services to 'you' and your's. We are determined to do that well and ensure that you get the best service we can offer for the best value.

It has also meant the centralisation of chaplaincy training and the non-duplication of leadership roles. Chaplaincy training will now involve a lot more 'cross-pollination'. The Principal Chaplains of the three services will work across the three services, rather than serve a single service. You will see the uniforms of the other 2 services on your camp or base as chaplaincy moves toward becoming 'tri-service.' We hope that

all of this transformation process will be received by you as a 'plus'!

Some things will not change. In the true tradition of Defence Chaplaincy, we will continue to provide support and guidance at all levels. The 'Whare Tapa Wha' (Four-Sided House) Model of Well-being with its walls of 'Physical', 'Mental', 'Spiritual' & 'Whanau' (family) provides a very New Zealand framework from which to view our total well-being. When all four walls are strong – we are strong! And our Defence Force is strong! We will be doing everything we can to bolster and preserve the spiritual wall.

As we go through yet another mild New Zealand winter, let us give thanks that we have this wonderful human capacity to be transformed both as an organisation and at a deeper personal level. When we lose that capacity for change and transformation we probably need to have our pulse's read.

Every Blessing.

NOBBY THE BEAR REPORTING FROM THE WILDS OF TIMOR-LESTE



Hi, I'm Nobby, a bear, not just any bear, I'm a special football bear, NO, not a soccer bear, a football bear, like the All Whites. I've travelled a lot and moved to Linton three years ago – but who wants to live in Linton? Wish I could be like those cool Mexican bears and live on the South Island; I've heard 3 LFG is the place to be! I heard there was a trip to Timor-Leste with our Supply Sergeant, Rob Clark, so I thought I'd best go along to keep an eye on him, got to be careful with these POME imports.

Anyway, I'm bear-ly here ten minutes and CAPT Ange Sutton (slave-driver she is!) wants me, a bear, to write "The Bugle" article because she is too busy in the gym with the Padre, stretching her glutimus maximus! What are officers for if not to write magazine articles? But what's a poor pome bear s'posed to do? Hey, I mean I travelled a long way to get here, West Ham isn't just round the corner or up the 'Apple and pears' it is all the way across in London mate.

It was worth the trip though, this place has all the bear necessities, porridge, comfy beds, TV's, air con, electricity and running water, that's

better than in some places in South Auckland. But one thing we're missing is a proper football field, the ones with goals and nets, not those strange H posts. Not having a proper sports field might be a blessing in disguise because we could have found ourselves with even more injuries.

So far the Padre Kirk proved age is no barrier to pulling a calf muscle (just for a night being pampered by the nurses). Then 6'11" LCPL Chris Courtney had his ankle almost broken by 5'0" LCPL Shannon Tate, ... the medic! Three hours table tennis a day with PTE Toopi maybe weakened Chris's ankle a little. Then there's CPL Boyes who had a few nights rest after a stingray beat him up (QAMR need to take a hard pill). Even Staff JC Craig got a black eye from 'walking into a door' ... or was it a right hook?

A bear gets to see a lot of things, on his travels, there are always highs and lows, you have to roll with the punches, sadness can be a burden but it is camaraderie that lifts the spirit in these far and distant places. So on a hot and humid Saturday afternoon it was truly moving to see the real ANZAC spirit and bond, as our soldiers

joined in heart and song with the Australian contingent to commemorate the lives of two young diggers lost in Afghanistan.

But the ANZAC theme and the singing didn't end there, the Australians have given us an open invite to their big screen TV venue - yes the World Cup is upon us. It was real good of them to invite us in, especially since the All Whites managed to do better than the who are they again the kangaroos? the wallabies? Even the Pomes were cheering the All Whites, as they left the World Cup undefeated and held the current World Champions to a well deserved draw (J).

Like good football supporters, us bears stick together, well you need to over here in sunny Timor, there's other creatures to watch out for. One of the worst is those cheeky monkeys, they're clever little monkeys, they can climb and do



Clever climbing monkeys

basic cave paintings. They're hard to catch on film, especially since they come out to play at night, but with patience and a special camera we caught a glimpse of three of them on top of the old air control tower. No-ones yet been able to decipher the strange territorial marking they left behind.

Its not all been work and watching the local wildlife, there's been some fun too, like watching Rob thrash CPL Mata Oltaches at table tennis. Then there was the beach trip and



Your friendly neighbourhood bear on tour

going for my Teddy Bears picnic on the beach. That didn't turn out quite so well, PTE Joe Kapua brought the food and BBQ along, but forgot the gas bottle & utensils, obviously he was too focussed on planning for the Senior National Officers sing song in a couple of weeks.

Before I left Timor I wanted a trip in a helicopter, if pigs can fly, a bear can too. A flight to the Ave Maria monument was laid on especially. It lasted a little longer than expected as the helicopter was grounded near the hot pools, bears don't like telling tall tales, but a plastic bag in the engine intake caused the problem. PO Mutz Matoe can't imagine where a plastic bag could have come from so far in the bush, at such a convenient place to break down?

Well my time is nearly up, I've got to go and pack my bag and grab my reporters notebook, go search for some more stories and pictures to send to all our friends and family at home. I'm sure there will be lots more stories coming out of Timor-

Leste as the boys and girls settle in. Wish we were getting Out of Theatre leave, so I could have gone and reported on the World Cup. I might go and interview the SNO and see if he did anything exciting on his leave.

Watch out for more updates from your friendly football bear reporter.

West Ham for EPL Champions!!



Out and about again

Deployment Calendar 2011 Can you help?



Sounds too early to think so far ahead! No never!

Throughout the year our Deployment Services Officers create a file of photos from all deployment locations, to be considered for our annual calendar. Rather than having to find photos as we approach the deadline we would love to receive them as soon as you do.

Photos need to be preferably landscape in size, three megabytes or larger and ideally portray the work and relationship of our Kiwi service personnel within local communities.

Please send your contributions to Janine Burton, DSO Linton (contact details on inside front cover).

Submissions for the calendar close 1 August 2010.

This calendar is in its fifth year of production and is kindly sponsored by:

**Weft Knitting Co.,
Christchurch.**

DSO'S CORNER



**By Janine Burton,
Deployment Services Officer,
2nd Land Force Group**

For the majority of our personnel on deployment we are still in the first half of their rotation or approaching the half-way point, and a very long way from counting down to homecoming. For some, adapting to life without loved ones close by is more challenging than for others. Over recent weeks I have spoken to a number of partners of deployed personnel, who are struggling a little. The best piece of advice I can give in these circumstances is the old "one day at a time"; don't look too far into the future because the end of deployment is just too far away but if you look only at this day and this week, the time will surely pass. And if you need someone to just talk it all through with, I'm sure you have family and friends who will support you, but I am always happy to listen any time any one of

you want to give me a call.

The other frustration our families face is mail and the times some items are taking to arrive at their destination. On average the mail is taking approx 12-15 days to arrive in Afghanistan but I am aware that some letters and parcels do seem to take a little bit longer. There are approx 7 "hops" the mail bags make before arriving in Bagram, with the bags being processed into and out of each of the locations, so if, for example, a flight is delayed into any one of the "hops" this could sometimes delay the bag's journey. On the whole though, the mail seems to be getting through regularly but if your letter or parcel is taking a little longer than usual to arrive, please be patient, it will arrive. Once the mail arrives in Bagram it is sorted and out on the next available transport to your loved ones.

Since the last "Bugle" the tri-service Welfare team met in Trentham for three days. It is the only time each year when we can get together to discuss and review what is happening in our "welfare" world, share ideas for the future and how we can keep providing our families with support whether they are part of deployment or not. Being able to

spend time together also cements our working relationships across the three services and gives us all an insight into what is happening out there.

I have also visited Burnham, primarily to brief to the Op RATA Election Force deployment who are about to depart for the Solomon Islands. They will be providing some additional security support while that nation undertakes its general elections. As they will leave shortly, this will be the first "Bugle" for the loved ones of this group. I hope you will enjoy receiving it over the coming weeks and I will be asking the team to consider sending us articles, photos and messages for home to include in future editions – that is a hint, by the way.

My visit to Burnham was also an opportunity to do some "Bugle" work, for which I would like to say a huge thank you to Christine for her on-going support and skills in putting the editions together every three weeks. I think you will agree with us, that she does an absolutely awesome job!

I hope you are all keeping warm, dry and positive wherever you are. Summer is coming

FOR YOUR INFO....

Welcome to New "Bugle" Readers

A huge welcome to new Bugle readers – especially those who have loved ones about to deploy to the Solomon Islands. This publication is for anyone who has a family member, friend or colleague deployed on any one of the 14 deployments around the world. I hope that in the months to come you will find some support and comfort amongst its pages. We

aim to keep you informed about what is happening with our personnel around the world and also provide you with an opportunity to send and receive messages, to and from home (see towards the end pages). We look forward to keeping in touch with you in the months ahead.

Tour Updates, CRIB 16 - Afghanistan

As promised at the pre-deployment

family briefings, we are planning a series of update briefings for the current deployment to Afghanistan. We encourage Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), extended family members and friends to come along to gain a further insight into the day-to-day lives of your loved ones and to receive valuable tips on reunions and readjusting to family life. Please refer to the "Upcoming Events" for dates and locations – Invitations are included with this

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...

mail out. Can you please confirm attendance to Janine Burton (contact details on the inside cover). This is to assist with seating and catering arrangements.

Additional Copies of "The Bugle"

If you enjoy receiving and reading "The Bugle" every edition and you have someone in your life who you share your copy with, or you think would like to receive a copy, please contact us and we can add them to our mailing list to receive a copy of their very own.

Surviving A Deployment

Set a goal. Start that little project that you've been putting off. Start a course. Do something that will make you feel good.

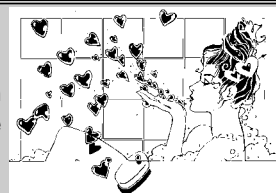
Take a break. Take time away from your normal routine. Go to dinner with friends and arrange a babysitter. Plan an outing – ring friends to join you.

Pamper yourself. Treat yourself to a special occasion. Take a long bath, have a massage or read a book.

Don't feel guilty. Separation can be a stressful time, so "time out" from your daily routine is important.

Treat yourself to some retail therapy, but don't break the bank!!

Exercise and keep fit. Find fun activities and allow yourself to have a good time. Make a list of things that you like to do and then plan time to do them. Say "No" when you have to and be kind to yourself.



2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

Mid Winter Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 21 July. All those associated with any overseas deployments are invited to a Mid Winter Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 21 July, 6-8 pm, B Block Mess, Burnham Camp. Celebrity guests, VIP's, Army Band, Entertainment, spot prizes, and delicious Christmas fare. This informal dinner is our way of saying thanks for all you do and we would love to see you there. Invitations have been sent to local Primary Next of Kin, but we know there are many families and partners who receive "The Bugle" from others and we do not know how to contact you. To make sure no one misses the chance to attend, please call Cherie Mansell, Community Services Officer, on (03) 363 0322 to confirm your interest. Open to children, assistance with childcare if you need it. RSVP closes this week!

AUGUST

CRIB 16 Tour Update Family Briefs: Planning is underway for the update briefs for this mission as follows:

Trentham:	Friday 6 August
Burnham:	Saturday 7 August
Auckland:	Sunday 8 August
Linton:	Monday 9 August

Invitations with timings and venues are included with this "Bugle" mail out.

SEPTEMBER

GYRO 9 Tour Update Family Briefs: Also planning well in advance for these briefs, so please note the following dates:

Linton:	Friday 17 September
Burnham:	Saturday 18 September
Auckland:	Sunday 19 September

Invitations with timings and venues will be sent out nearer the dates but a little advance warning for your diaries.

THE MILITARY WIFE

The Good Lord was creating a model for military wives and was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared.

She said: "Lord, you seem to be having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

The Lord replied: "Have you seen the specs on this order? She has to be completely independent, possess the qualities of both father and mother, be a perfect hostess to four or forty with an hour's notice, run on black coffee, handle every emergency imaginable without a manual, be able to carry on cheerfully, even if she's pregnant and has the flu, and must be willing to move to a new location ten times in seventeen years. And oh, yes, she must have six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head, "Six pairs of hands? No way!"

The Lord continued: "Don't worry; we will make other military wives to help her. And we will give her an unusually strong heart so it can swell with pride in her husband's achievements, sustain the pain of separations, beat soundly when it is overworked and tired, and be large enough to say, "I understand", when she doesn't, and say, "I love you", regardless."

"Lord", said the angel, touching his arm gently, "Go to bed and get some rest. You can finish tomorrow."

"I can't stop now," the Lord said, "I am so close to creating something unique. Already this model heals herself when she is sick, can put up six unexpected guests for the weekend, wave goodbye to her husband from a pier, a runway, or a depot, and understand why it's important that he leave."

The angel circled the model of the military wife, looked closely at it and sighed, "It looks fine, but it's too soft."

"She might look soft, but she has the strength of a lion. You would not believe what she can endure", he replied.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the Lord's creation. "There's a leak," she announced. "Something is wrong with the construction. I am not surprised that it has cracked. You are trying to put too much into this model."

The Lord appeared offended at the angel's lack of confidence. "What you see is not a leak," he said. "It's a tear."

"A tear? What is that for? Asked the angel.

The Lord replied, "It's for joy, sadness, pain, disappointment, loneliness, pride, and dedication to all the values that she and her husband hold dear."

'You are a genius! Exclaimed the angel.

The Lord looked puzzled and replied, "I didn't put it there."

Source: *Unknown*.



PEOPLE ARE OUR WEALTH



By Deana Lye, Welfare Facilitator, RNZAF Base Auckland

*He aha te mea nui o tenei ao What is the greatest thing of this world?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata tis people, tis people, tis people*

Congratulations to Major Lynne Smith and HQJFNZ command and a sincere thanks to you all for an exciting three days Welfare Operational Forum (WF Op Forum), held at Trentham on the 22 – 24 Jun 10. This is my third attendance in the company of the RNZAF Base Welfare Facilitators, RNZN Community Welfare, Army Community Services Officers and Deployment Services Officer, Chaplains, Medical personnel and Psychologist.

WF Op Forum was well attended and I found every presentation excellent. I found the entire forum exhilarating, with a high level of integrity, enthusiasm and the professional depth of knowledge of each presenter went way beyond expectations. The interaction of my colleagues with me only served to increase my own situational awareness, about JFNZ "single service" functions.

The transformation of HQJF, collaboratively working together, was clearly evident, prior too, during and after the forum. The sharing of information, networking and core functions delivered, have significantly embraced a greater awareness and understanding for me.

Lynne and HQJF Command, I commend you for an outstanding forum.

As a result of my three days attendance, there is a pamphlet obtained from OPSEC Operations security called "A Guide For Family and Friends" which is a guide for protecting "Critical Information" to share with your family and friends.

Examples of Critical Information: *detailed information about the mission of units, details on locations and times of unit deployments, details of unit leadership, details concerning security procedures.*

To all deployed pers families/partners, a copy can be sent to you upon request.

Here at RNZAF Base Auckland, we have numerous Welfare Support Services throughout our local and internal networks, i.e., family, friends, neighbours, Defence Support Services, communities, Base Support Team (BST), etc.

I am on call 24/7 (for emergencies) via cellphone 027 450 2001, or I can be contacted by email. If you wish, I can visit your home, or you may visit my office, or we can arrange to meet at a mutually convenient place, if preferred.

**"Being happy is an attitude about life, and each
one of us must decide".**

Deployment Support Services

- ◆ Need information?
- ◆ Need support?
- ◆ Need a listening ear?
- ◆ Need to send an urgent message to a deployment location?

Deployment Support Services are here for you

The larger missions to Afghanistan, Solomon Islands & Timor-Leste appoint a lead Deployment Support Services Officer (DSO). All other missions offer support from either the DSO, Unit Point of Contact and local Welfare Support Services. The nominated Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) of families of deployed NZDF personnel should, in the first instance, contact their DSO who has a responsibility for transparency into welfare issues. Added to this there are other very valuable support networks available in your local region. For additional support and services:

Army:

Deployment Services Officers:

Linton—Janine Burton

Ph: 0800 683 77 327

Burnham—Carol Voyce

Ph: 0800 337 569

Community Services Officers:

Waikouaiti—Carolyn Hyland

Ph 06 387 5531

Trentham—Marie Lotz

Ph 04 527 5029

Burnham—Cherie Mansell

Ph 03 363 0322

Air Force:

Welfare Facilitators

Air Staff Wellington:

Mrs Judy Byers,

Ph: 04 498 6773

Base Auckland,

Mrs Deana Lye,

Ph: 09 417 7035

Base Woodbourne:

Mrs Claudia Baker,

Ph: 03 577 1177

Base Ohakea:

Mrs Toni Nicholson,

Ph: 06 351 5640

Naval Community Organization

Ph: 09 445 5534,

0800 NAVYHELP

nib@nzdf.mil.nz

Local Chaplaincy Services

Unit Point of Contact

PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 22 July**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Janine Burton, DSO Linton.

From In-Theatre

Lil Hunter

Great to hear you're keeping busy with work and all your man jobs! Time is still going quickly over here; there is always something to look forward to. Keep smiling, stay positive – you truly are amazing and thank you so much for all your support so far. xox Forever, Your Girl xox.

Happy Az

Hey Dad, Mum, Joan, Pete, Poppa, Stella & Molly. A month down already, keeping busy & loving the experience! Keep up the hard work on the dieting Molly! Great to hear you're in good health Poppa, we can go for a run when I get back! Take care everyone; talk soon xox. Love Polly xox.

Snuffs, Peggy and CPL

Get well soon Snuffs! Peggy - thanks for being the nurse. CPL- look after the girls for me, love Trinity.

Much love, hugs and kisses to my HT Katrina Gardiner and Mel Gill. Miss you two loads, can't wait to catch up when I get back – Shari.

To my Tia and Reagan

I hope this message finds you both happy and well. I guess by the time this message is printed you will either be on school holidays or it would have just ended. Mumma tells me you have a busy week planned together, so that sounds like fun. Thank you for your lovely letters, pictures and yummy lollies. Take care girls, love you all millions... Daddy.

Hi Honey

I hope things at home are going

well. As you know we are a third of the way through so there's not too long to go now. I hope the weather is not getting you down too much. Enjoy your weekend away with the kids and moko's and send my love to them all. I will talk again soon, forever family... Me.

To the Crew at JLSO FMS

Waiouru

Hi guys, things over here are going well. I don't really have too much to complain about, I don't have to cook, do the dishes, get in firewood or put a jacket on when I go outside. Tam keeps me posted on the happenings in our office and how things are going. A big thank you to all of you guys for covering for me while I am away. I hope the 09/10 FY went well and we secured more funding for the new FY... I will send some goodies soon... God bless Muddy.

Hi Omarino

Hope things are picking up back there now we are finally out of June! Hope Scout has started behaving too - just fatten her up so she can't fit through any wee gaps like Lilly. Just about half way through, love and miss you all heaps! Dee xoxo.

Shelley!

So you would have moved by now and still no new address, can't wait to get the biscuits in the mail, yum!!! Have you seen Lilly for a play date yet? Stink Aunty eh, jokes. Thanks for the parcels and see you soon (ish). Miss you smelly, xoxo Dee.

Hi Face

All the best with your upcoming exams – I will be thinking of you. Your degree is almost half complete now so keep working

hard. Love Dad.

To Jayden, Liam and Damon

Hi my babies! Hope all is well. Jayden and Liam you will be at Nanas and Poppa's, hope you guys are being good and helping Nana out with the chores. Wee Damon hope you are having fun with Daddy and enjoying some time without your annoying brothers. I hope you have a good school holiday break and make sure you keep up with your reading and writing. I miss you guys heaps. Lots of Love Mummy.

To Arlica and Marissa

Hey guys nice talking to you on Skype the other day, it was lovely to see that you are growing up and it was nice to see that you haven't forgotten me. Jayden and Liam are at Nanas house visiting for the holidays so can you make sure that Damon isn't lonely and that he comes over for a play while they are gone. Thank you for my mail and the toys you sent over, I will make sure I give them to some little girl over here. Miss you heaps. Take care. Love Aunty.

To Mum and Dad

Hope this finds you both fit and well and I hope those boys are being good - thank you so much for having them. I know they have been looking forward to it. Make sure they help out with the chores. Hope all is well and I miss you all very much. Love Nic.

To Nana and Granall

Hi you two, hope you are all well and not getting too cold, all is well over here. I have a letter started but haven't finished it yet. I just keep adding to it, will get it in the post soon. Take care, love to you both. Love Nic.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

To Flower

Well my baby all is well at both ends by the sound of it, enjoy your break. Holiday plans are looking good, I miss you all so much and I'm counting down the days till I'm back giving you all big cuddles. Take care. Love you heaps, ROCK.

To Carla and Troy

Thanks guys for all the help you are giving to the family, with looking after them and cooking meals, we really do appreciate it and without you guys it would make this a lot harder, the boys do love coming to your house and spending time with you and the girls (even though sometimes they may not show it or say it but they are typical boys, and you should know that by now). Thank you for the parcel it was great. Troy I miss you the most and can't wait to get back and hang out with you. We should plan a night out when I get back. Well take care. ME.

Josh & Mitch

Well we are nearly half way through the Tour. Not long before I am back at home telling you what to do – enjoy the time you have left. I am missing you both very much. All my love Mummab.

Mushroom

Great to get your message in the last Bugle! Did not get your emails though? Glad to hear that you have survived the FY and that it is nearly over. Enjoy Alan's Angels Lunch. Time is flying here and we are nearly at the half way point. Workload is quite big and I am enjoying the challenges. Congrats on the new position. Don't know what life holds for me on the job front when I return. I think this great experience may have ruined me for my job back home. Will catch up again soon. Basil.

Mum and Dad

Enjoy our sporadic phone calls and

the letters that you send. Still having a blast over here! Miss you both. Lots of love, Basil.

Lawrence

Haven't heard from you for awhile, hope all is well. I am having a great deployment and enjoying the new challenges of the job. Joe.

Jamie

Half way through, not long to go now. Knowing that you and the boys are coping makes my time here easier. I enjoy our weekly phone calls and sometimes count the days until we speak again. Glad that you are all keeping busy with Rugby. All my love, Basil.

Dear Max

You are making me so proud. The way you look after mum and Mitch and how well you are doing at swimming and at school. Thank you for your awesome photo's and paintings. I love you and miss you. Dad.

Precious

It never ceases to amaze me how you do it. You are the best mum and wife in the world. Give a big hug to all the boys for me. Love Sausage.

To Mum

Hope you had a great 50th Birthday. Things are good here, miss you heaps. Thanks for the packages. I've been checking the mail every day. Take care of yourself, look forward to seeing you again and having a drink for your birthday. Love from Kev.

Nikki & Rach (AS6 & AS1)

All the girls of CRIB16 would like to pass on our biggest thanks for our 'Girls Night In!' We had a primo time and would be keen to do it again. You both did an awesome job and made us feel special for that night especially! AROHANUI – CRIB16 Girlies.

To my Baby Bu

Hope you have found a job by now. I miss you so much and wish it was me coming to visit you at the end of the month. Look forward to talking to you again. All my love xoxoxo.

To Nige, Chris and Andy

Thanks for your message and my package, really appreciate it. Hope you both enjoyed your holiday away. Miss all you guys and especially Mallarie. Take care and see you soon. P.S. I bet Nige is loving the World Cup at the moment!!

Hey Dad

Hope all is well for you and Nats. Think of you often and miss you both so much. Hope you are saving hard for my wedding when I get back. Can't wait to have my dad walk me down the aisle. Good times coming. Love always Racheal.

My Beautiful Bubbles

You make me so proud to be your mum. Keep working hard at school, but remember that you are an awesome chick with such a cool personality that you will go far in life. Stay true to yourself and know that I am thinking of you always. Love Mum.

Matty J

My dude - What can I say, you rock mate... Keep up the good work with all your sports. Try hard at school but have some fun as well. It's all about learning life's balance. I know I'm not a good example. I love you and miss you every day, Mumma.

Ann

Almost half-way through the tour now! Hope it has gone fast for you. I look forward to speaking with you on the phone when I can. It is so nice to hear your voice. Sorry if I don't talk much, but I like listening to your voice and what you have to say. Things are going well over here. We're just going into full

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

summer weather and it's starting to get hot. I know the weather hasn't been very good in NZ lately - keep the home fires burning. Can't wait to see you again in October! Absence does make the heart grow fonder! I miss you so much. Look after yourself and the animals. Lots of Love, Baz.

To the Bayly Road Gang (Incl Luke and Paddie)

All is well. The sun continues to shine here and about to get hotter. Hope all is well at home. Kev xx.

To the Foxton Gang

Hope you are managing to survive the cold until the new heater arrives. Safe travels to Aussie. Kev xx.

Sam

Pleased to hear things are going well back home, and glad things are settling down a little! You're doing a fantastic job of keeping the kids and household running (Pro 31). Love you lots, Urvok.

Dear Jeremy and Dominic

Was great to see you both the other day, your smiles are as big as ever, looking forward to seeing it close up later in the year. Jeremy, keep growing and learning new words. Dominic, work on that crawling technique, you're doing us all proud. Love Dad.

To T-Bird

I don't know if I agree with your views on things and stuff, but it will not stop me from loving ya. BDP.

A

Time is going by fast, Soon this will all be in the past, Before we know it, we will be back together, Enjoying the NZ weather J, MU, LU. WWWTRN. XXX. A.

To Raiden, T'nrya and my Beautiful Wife

Missing you all very much counting

down the days till I am home again - can't wait for awesome hugs. Lotsa love Daddy and husband xxxx.

To My Munchkin

831 EVMI, You're BLUE.

My Son Adam J Craig

Thanks for doing a grand job looking after your Mam. Speak to you soon. God Bless – Da.

From Home

Dear Kev

We are all remembering its "Your Birthday" on July 22nd, and sending you love and best wishes for a Many Happy Returns. Hope it is a lovely warm sunny day with lots of laughter, good cheer, and happiness. We will be drinking your health. Paddy and Jean, Solly, Emily and Jenkins.

Hi Fletcher

Hope the month is progressing well for you. Only another 10 days and we leave for Sydney and Melbourne. Can't wait! Damn cold here. One good thing at least you are missing the winter! Take Care and we'll be in touch again soon. Enjoy hearing from you. Love Chris, Nigel, Andy & Buddy.

Hi my Baby bu!

How are you? Hope work is going good! Hope you're not too tired and getting sick! Yay, we're nearly half way, it has gone pretty fast! I miss you just as much as when you first left! You being away like this makes me realise how much I love you! Melbourne is ok, can't say I'm loving it but it's a change from NZ! I have sent you a letter, you should get it soon, thank you for mine! Take care my amazing boyfriend! I love you forever and always xo xo xo xo.

Hi Nic

Good to get your message in "The Bugle" and to know you are ok. Time is going fast, eh? And you are near half way – We are ok, thanks again for "Shawl" (lovely). Hope to bake today – for another "Parcel". Give your "Washer man" some, and you might get your ironing done too!. Take care. Love as always, Nana & Granall. Xx.

Hi Kev

Birthday greetings! Hope the 22nd goes well for you dear. Celebrations on hold till you come home. All our love, Mum, Dad, Luke, Paddie and Heidi XXXXX.

Hi Gav

Happy Birthday for July 17th. We will have a drink for ya! Love you Mum, Chloe, Ty and Regan.

Hi Rock Star

Thinking about you always and missing you every day. Got the parcels and that was great. The kids were all smiles when I gave them their presents from you, they still miss you but it is fantastic to see and talk to you on the internet. Family is great, still got heaps of support from family and friends, so don't worry. Well not long to go now until you are home, so stay focussed and be safe. I love you. Flower girl.

Hey Mum


It's really good talking to you on the phone. We have been good but sometimes Dad gets mad because we are not listening to him (we are kids you know). Anyway mum, thanks for the letters and pictures of your adventure over there. We think you are doing a really good job and we are proud of you. We saw a picture of us and you in the "New Idea" mag. Where was Dad? (He told me to say that.) Dad said that we are going to Poppa's and Nana's for School Holiday's, so that will be cool. We have a surprise for

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Dad's Birthday too so don't tell him.... OK Mum, we miss you and love you heaps. Your boys, Jayden, Liam and Damon. XXXOOO.

Happy Birthday Kev

Happy Birthday Kev from all of us in Foxton. Enjoy your special day. We will keep the celebration until October! Love Jude. Happy Birthday from us too,

Kiskah and Jacob 

Hi BDP

Well, I am writing this at 6 weeks down, good you left on a pay day....that's three pays down!! Hope you realise how lucky you are to be missing winter...its friggen freezing here! I swear there is an extra chill in the air this winter! Anyway, love hearing from you on Skype. Hope you're enjoying the care packages.**Air Five** Love u, love T xx.

Hey Cramp

We guess you won't be needing your snorkel and goggle set but don't be too sad, just get the boys in the kitchen to whip you up one of your famous chocolate self saucing puddings. All family banter aside – we're thinking of you and hope things are going well! We miss you heaps and can't wait for your safe return- Peace out, Tonka. Lots and lots of love: I have had my rice and Yes, the parcel did weigh 3.1kgs.

Joel

Just a quick note as we are at Burnham. Coolish but dry here. Another parcel will be on its way tomorrow. Hope you got the last one. Seafood night was awesome, everyone sends their bestest wishes to you. Take care babe, we are all counting down. Loads of love from Mum, Dad and all the rest. Xxx.

Phil

Half way there now! Hope things are well. I enjoyed your letter and all our phone calls. Missing you heaps and love you more! Love Jani.

Hey Saus

Missing you lots! The boys are being fantastic! Both cars broke today, grrrr!! Ha ha, but all sorted. Lots of love precious, weeble, moodles and moof.

Hi Daddy

I now have 6 teeth. This will be our last bugle message as you are home soon, yay!! Miss you and love ya lots. Love your little toad, Ella and mummy. Xoxox.

Hi Daddy Pando

We all miss you very much. We think about you sweating away over there while the fire is roaring and it's freezing outside. We are looking forward to the school holidays. Heaps of love and hugs from Team Davis.

Zepp

Shed a tear coz I'm missing you. I'm still alright to smile. Boy I think about you every day now. B.

Chris T

Just thought I would write to you in this since we are half way. I'm missing you heaps. Keep safe. Looking forward to your emails and calls! Everything is all well at home. I love you so much. Kisses and hugs. Your girlfriend, Emma. Xx

Hi Goblin

How are you? Warmer than I am, for certain! It's amazing to think that your deployment is almost half way through. I'm really pleased that it is going so well. Missing you heaps but the lad remains good company. Take care and remember to run fast if required. Luv ya!! Bumblebee.

Tommo

Thanks for letting me sleep with Mum. It's warmer and I don't dribble anymore. Hope you are having fun. Love Savannah.

Hey Kel

Surprise!!! Keep busy, keep smiling, and keep those soldiers fit!!! Remember each day is another day down – you're gonna be home before you know it. We love the e-mails - keep them coming. Stay safe - and remember to change your socks!! Love you heaps...Mum, Dad, Claire, Pete, Molly and Stella xxxxxxx.

Hi Basil

Been thinking of you in the warm - hope your thoughts have extended to us getting up to -2degrees. Was great to catch up on this weeks diary. I see every scenario unfolding and it sounds so good and at times very amusing! Still plodding along here but trying to keep ourselves busy everyday. Just enjoyed a couple of days in Hanmer, which was a welcome change to routines. Pleased the magazines arrived safely and were enjoyed by all. Hope the exam went well and that you are not too anxious about the results. Time seems to be going quickly - you will have another summer before you know it. Just don't get too close to us lilly whiter!! Love Cliff and Flo xxx.

Lawrence

Good to catch up on the emails and to hear all is well. Nice for you to have holidays looming. Planning them is great! They will be here so quickly. Bike certificate of registration in the post today - not sure about that but will forward it on. OK here - thinking of escaping to the sun ourselves for 10 days. Polishing up the sword to loan to the Vicar for another special occasion! The romance seems to be on target and the trip looming in

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

August - all going well at this end. Essential supplies in the post - Feel as though I have spent lots of your money of late but receipts firmly attached to the purchases. (Sorry ate the wine gums again before they made it into the parcels.) Take care over there. Lots of love, Florence xxx.

Dwayne

Hi Darling, had a great weekend spending your allowances, thanks for that. So have you joined a band yet? You must be a wicked guitar player by now. Kids are being mostly good, but we are all missing your phone calls. Hope all is well. We miss you heaps. Shelley, Ella and Kale

Kia Ora Smes

I can't believe you've been gone just over a month. It's amazing how the time has flown by and the things that have happened within that month. The next 4-5 months will fly by and then before you know it, baby will be here and then you'll be home. You sound like you are having mad fun over there. Going on the black hawk with the Aussies, going out for dinner and things that you wouldn't be doing if you were back here in the Hanger. Mahi is busy and keeps me chugging along. The weekends can never seem to come fast enough and when it is the weekend you find that it's time for mahi the next day but I s'pose that's what makes the time fly by. By the time you read this I would have had my 2nd anatomy scan and know what we're having. Exciting days!! Absence really does make the heart grow fonder. Take care and all the best. Love and miss you heaps. Love Smades and Tank xoxo.

Hey Soldierboy

Hope you're keeping well. Look forward to you coming home for baby's birth safe and sound. Miss yr visits to see us in Auckland,

make sure to visit when you come home. Miss you heaps Les, keep safe and God bless. Tino Arohanui, Auntie Moana, Uncle Wally, Taniora, Brittani & Cheyne xxxx.

What's up Dad?!

We talk to you all the time but thought it would be nice to send a little message through The Bugle, the whanau's not the same without ya here especially when it comes to dinnertime ha ha but you're doing what you love doing so we are very proud of you!! Can't wait for October and the massive party we are going to have! Love you Dad and missing you everyday and every dinnertime ha ha. Love your three little princesses and your one little prince, Taine. Xoxo.

Hey my Darling

Yay!!! We are nearly half way there now!! Can't wait for our girls wee holiday in Rotorua. Exciting!! Love you to bits bub. Meme.

Hi Gumby

Hope you are well? We are all fine here - just about to grow webbed feet with all this rain, so make the most of the sunshine and the warmth. Winter has definitely arrived in our neck of the woods. I hope those parcels have finally arrived and you have enjoyed them! Ha ha! Things are busy here - lots of family get-togethers, with heaps of food and lots of noise. Two four year old birthday parties this month, so it's all go here. Slowly beginning to learn a new language. School hols starting so that will mean a few outings to help out or babysit. Sorry we missed the Lotto, went to the wrong shop for the ticket, will do better next time. Take care, stay safe. We are all very proud of you. Lots of love Mum xoxoxo.

Hi Auntie

I hope this finds you well. Mum tells us that you are half way now so we

will start counting down the days. I start my school visits this month and am looking forward to being a school girl. I helped Liam last night do his reading book it was lots of fun. Marissa is doing good she is still loving pre-school and being a good girl, even though I tease her lots, (that's what big sisters do to their wee sisters ah aunty). We are planning to have my birthday at Chipmunks so I am busy helping mum decide when and what we are going to do. I can't wait. Well I must go now and hope to talk to you soon. Love Arlica and Marissa.

Ha Big Sis

What's been happening with you? Me and Marissa have a bit of the flu so do not have much energy at the moment. 14 weeks to go now until bubs is due so just think you will be home b4 that (wont you). Your favourite bro in-law still misses you heaps not sure if it is because he really loves you or whether its because of the boys not sure. He still wakes in the night saying your name not sure if he is dreaming about love or war — the mind boggles. Well I must go and do some more house work as it never ends. Love to you, Poppey xx.

Old S1

Hope you are enjoying the experience. Couldn't resist putting the photo in of you. You look so at home and relaxed in this seat. Take care of yourself and we will see you soon.

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

Free your heart from hatred.

Free your mind from worries.

Live simply.

Give more.

Expect less.

Did you know?

This regular column features articles of interest obtained from many different sources. If you find any items, which may interest others, be sure to let us know. (Contact details on the inside cover).



The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is a partnership between the people and Government of Solomon Islands and fifteen contributing countries of the Pacific region.

RAMSI is helping the Solomon Islands to lay the foundations for long-term stability, security and prosperity—through support for improved law, justice and security; for more effective, accountable and democratic government; for stronger, broad-based economic growth; and for enhanced service delivery.

The overarching goal of RAMSI's work is for a peaceful, well-governed and prosperous Solomon Islands.

This goal will be pursued over the long term through a mutual commitment with the Solomon Islands Government, which supports RAMSI's mandate to:

- Ensure the safety and security of Solomon Islands.
- Repair and reform the machinery of government, improve government accountability and improve the delivery of services in urban and provincial areas.
- Improve economic governance and strengthen the government's financial systems.
- Help rebuild the economy and encourage sustainable broad-based growth.
- Build strong and peaceful communities.

RAMSI is helping Solomon Islanders to get their nation working and growing again. That will take years of hard work. Nothing will change unless Solomon Islanders want change and are prepared to work hard in support of a common cause.

These are the countries contributing to RAMSI:



Australia Cook Islands Federated States of Micronesia Fiji Kiribati



Marshall Islands Nauru New Zealand Niue Palau



Papua New Guinea Samoa Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu

POSTCARD FROM TIMOR-LESTE

