

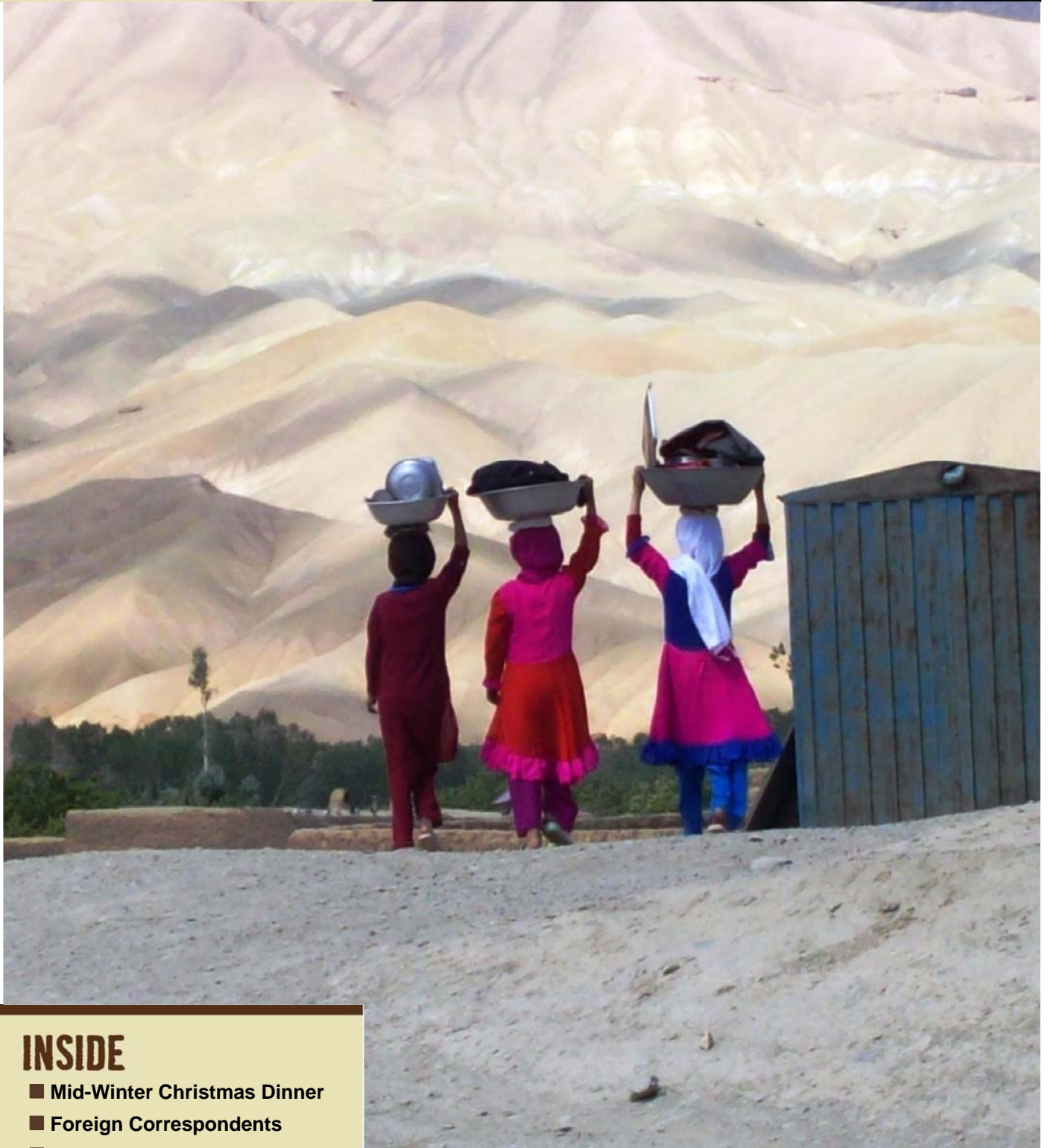
THE BUGLE

Issue 140 | July 2010

NAVY
Royal New Zealand Navy

NZ ARMY
NGATI TUMATAUENGA

AIR FORCE
TE TIAKARANGI O AOTEAROA



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"THE BUGLE"

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

Deadline

The deadline for Edition 141 is
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Bugle contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor.

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Disclaimer

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

Cover Photo:

Local girls of Bamian doing the dishes

MID-WINTER XMAS DINNER

For the second year in a row 3rd Land Force Group hosted a mid-winter Christmas dinner for the families of those soldiers and officers currently deployed.

This tri-service dinner attracted 73 adults and 41 children and was a shining example of soldiers supporting soldiers. The community - both military and wider - generously sponsored it in so many ways. Our guests were treated to an evening of fine food, music from the Army Band, a visit from Santa, free raffles and so much more. A slide show of our soldiers and officers currently overseas featured as a backdrop, and loved ones took the chance to record personal messages for us to send in return. Captain Marcus Fowler, acting as MC, did a great job in ensuring the evening went smoothly and the happy festive mood continued from start to finish!

This amazing community effort was witnessed and enjoyed by not only our valued families but also by the Chief of Army, Major General Rhys Jones.

Check out the photos below and on the back page.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including: The New Zealand Election Force arrives in the Solomon Islands
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THE NZ ELECTION FORCE ARRIVES IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

By SSGT Andy Sawyer

The current OP RATA II (12) contingent has been in the Solomon Islands since March 2010 and consists of a National Support Element. We have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of the NZ Election Force which will bolster the numbers of the NZDF in the Solomon Islands in preparation for the National General Election here.

The NZ Election Force arrived on a very warm Solomon Islands

evening in Honiara after an eight hour flight from Christchurch. At the airport they were greeted by the Commander of the Combined Task Force, LT COL D. Thompson, the New Zealand Senior National Officer and Deputy Commander, Major Ian Piercy, and the New Zealand High Commissioner, The Honorary Mark Ramsden.

On arrival in Guadalcanal Beach Resort, the new contingent were welcomed with a haka from OP RATA II (12) rotation, members of the New Zealand Participating Police Force and PTE Nico Nicholson, a Kiwi serving with the Australian Defence Force.

“As the Senior National Officer here in the Solomon Islands it fills me with pride to be joined by the New Zealand soldiers that are part of the Election Force”
(MAJ Ian Piercy)

The Election Force responded with an aggressive and passionate haka of their own. Both hakas impressed the onlookers who had got word that the haka would be taking place; a spectacle not to be missed each time there is a change in New Zealand rotations in the Solomon Islands.

The Election Force has arrived in theatre to provide support to the National General Elections along with the other stakeholders in the Mission. “As the Senior National Officer here in the Solomon Islands it fills me with pride to be joined by the New Zealand soldiers that are part of the Election Force. We are small in number, but the quality of personnel that the New Zealand Defence Force can supply to Operational Missions is always noticed by the other nationalities that are involved in the mission. We are all looking forward to contributing to a peaceful national general election and assisting in providing a better future for the Solomon Islanders.” *(MAJ Ian Piercy)*.



MAJ Ian Piercy welcomes PTE Joseph Lawson to the OP RATA II (12) family

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



"Visiting" the Bamiyan Buddhas

COMMS SUPPORT - ADVENTURES OF BAMYAN

By LCPL Angela Coyle

As members of the comms support team, we work 24/7 in an office which we call "the cave", so getting out and about is not a regular thing for us. So when CPL Kapsi and I have some down time together we make the most of our environment around us and go on what we call "adventures of Bamiyan". Here in Bamiyan we are surrounded by history and beauty, with the Buddhas and Gholgola within walking distance, therefore, we have been making the most of it. But as we are only allowed one page I will keep our adventure stories to just one, that of the Buddhas.

Our trip to the Buddhas started as a leisurely stroll to what we thought would just be a walk and a photo opportunity underneath them. Boy, were we wrong; we paid US\$7 each for a tour. Getting the tickets itself was an interesting experience; we were led to a small building through many rooms until finally we found four people there waiting to issue tickets. This is not your normal process at a tourism spot. It took four non-English speaking Afghans to give us four handwritten tickets, taking about 15 minutes, and then they couldn't work out the price from Afghani dollars to US dollars. So it was easier to do the conversion ourselves, then they had no change of course, so we had to over-pay by \$2. But to be honest it was well worth it.

We were led to the female Buddha, the smaller of the two, which is currently being preserved, though looking at the scaffolding there is no way I would be up there, very dodgy. We were led inside a door which was beside the Buddha, up a large number of stairs, which were at times half the height of our legs, so a very good workout. And of course no handrails, which at times would have been very helpful!! I should explain that surrounding the Buddhas in the cliff face are a large number of baby Buddhas, which were also destroyed by the Taliban, and hundreds of little caves that the monks, etc, lived in. Once at the top of the first set of stairs we reached a platform that overlooked the whole Bamiyan township; such an amazing view. With the wheat crops in full bloom, the landscape is

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

very green at present and surrounded by mountains with a bit of snow still left on them. The amazing redness of the cliffs and mountains surrounding Bamyan looked breathtaking in the hot sun. It was about 30 plus degrees so walking up a cliff face of stairs was rather hot. From the platform were a number of rooms/caves, where baby Buddhas used to stand and where the monks lived and prayed. In their day they would have been so colourful with the tiling inside. Only a few remain in each cave today. These rooms/caves were amazing and everywhere we went, they are so hard to describe in words and although we took hundreds of pictures they really don't do them justice. We continued up more stairs, and following corridors (hitting our heads many times) through the cliff to many more rooms/caves, before standing on top of the female Buddha's head (well where it used to be) before heading down the stairs on the other side of the Buddha.

Our tour guide spoke no English, had only worked there for five months and knew nothing about the Buddhas, which was extremely helpful, and we are sure he got very annoyed with us taking forever. We took so many photos it wasn't funny, but you had to as the rooms/caves were unbelievable and the views from them breathtaking. We must have spent two hours up in the rooms/caves of the female Buddha. Although tired by now we walked about 800m to the male Buddha which is huge compared to the female Buddha.

We stood where the Buddha used to be, and what small part (well actually huge part) remains on the ground, his foot. Once again we took lots of pictures while getting hit by small stones from on top of the Buddha. The sign stated that helmets must be worn, but in true Afghan style there were none.

From there the guide led us up beside the male Buddha (some rock climbing involved) which is difficult with a backpack and rifle, up the cliff beside the male Buddha to where the Russians had a post and many more rooms/caves were. These were much larger, very deep into the cliff face. From there we worked our way through more corridors and stairs in the cliff, to the top of the male Buddha. Parts of this climb were a tad hairy, especially when walking on some dodgy Afghan building at the very top of the male Buddha. This was not so good when you are scared of heights. The walk up was hard work, but the climb back down was worse, knees screaming in pain and slipping on rocks, left, right, and centre.

It was the most amazing, yet tiring, extremely hot adventure we have ever done. Words and pictures cannot describe or explain how truly amazing the Buddhas are. They are a work of art, and it is so sad to think they were destroyed by the Taliban; if they were still standing today they would have been remarkable. Nothing will ever top that adventure!! We are so privileged to have the opportunity while we are here to experience a slice of history like the Buddhas.

EXERCISE CROCODILE

By LT Chris Buerkeman

Exercise Crocodile, also known as MAREX, was an exercise hosted by the government of Timor-Leste, involving elements from the F-FDTL, ADF, NZDF and US Marine Corps. The aim of the exercise was to improve tactical understanding between the participating nations Defence Forces, but it also provided the F-FDTL with an opportunity to enhance their reputation as a credible and effective fighting force.

The exercise was conducted during the week 21-25 June and commenced with a section skill at arms competition. This saw an eight-man section from each nation compete for glory, completing various stands that tested individual and group military skills. The New Zealand section, led by Recon's own Corporal Green and Lance Corporal Arnott, dominated the obstacle course and marksmanship and were placed highly in all other stands. This effort gained them first place overall followed by the Marines, F-FDTL and pleasingly in last place, the Australians.

The close country jungle training was conducted over two days in secondary jungle, just east of Manatuto in an area called Vemassee. The training was facilitated and delivered by the Australian and NZ Forces and involved three platoons from the Marines with a section of NZDF, and a section from F-FDTL attached to each. The platoons deployed into small AO's (areas of operation) and were given informal lessons on Australian and NZ close country TTP (Tactics, Techniques and Procedures). These were then practiced through patrolling. From all accounts the Marines found the training interesting and beneficial as most had not touched on close country in many years, or in some cases, not at all given their current focus on combat in urban, open and mountainous terrain. The training also provided an excellent opportunity and forum for the sharing of ideas and the comparison of different methods and techniques for operating within a jungle environment.

The Marines proved to be a friendly bunch who were keen to swap rations and take advantage of the Kiwis generosity with cigarettes. They accepted the training in an extremely positive manner, being more than happy to take an

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

opportunity to enhance their limited experience of jungle training.

Before the completion of the close country training phase several of the combat veterans from the Marine Company spoke to the platoon about their experiences of combat in Iraq. It was clear by the silence of the lads as they walked away at the conclusion of the talk that the Marines had certainly given them something substantial to consider.

The exercise culminated in a mounted Company raid on the abandoned Manatuto prison compound. The platoon married up with the Marines at their beach landing site, where the landing craft (hovercraft) had offloaded the personnel and equipment, at the mouth of the Laclo River. The Weapons Company came equipped with armored Humvee mounted with Saber, AGL and 50.cal, a platoon of LAV II, and various recovery and CSS vehicles. The Marines were fascinated by the armored LOV's, which they affectionately named the "mystery mobiles". The raid was conducted at first light, with the New Zealand platoon as the assault element, our mission to kill or capture a high valued individual believed to be inside the compound. Prior to the assault, the objective was subjected to notional CAS and blank preparatory fire.

The New Zealand platoon, having followed and assumed the battle from a Marine platoon, began the assault on the compound. 1 and 2 section led the way gaining a break-in through the compounds main entrance building only to encounter heavy fire from the Marine enemy party located inside. With ammunition dwindling, the Kiwi platoon made a desperate push to the first few buildings within the compound. Once these were secured the platoon commander reinforced the platoon with a squad



PTE Atkins reaches the summit as the New Zealand section scales the net during the obstacle course event



New Zealand, US Marine, and F-FDTL soldiers take a break during jungle training

of Marines who with passionate abandon, charged daringly along the full length of the compound to clear the final stubborn enemy. Miraculously no one was seriously injured during the attack. After a clearance of the site we completed a withdrawal back to the Landing site where we said farewell to the Marines and headed back to Dili

with the QAMR PMV troop, enjoying hot meals and milk shakes as we went (care of the Marine MRE ration packs we had acquired).

Overall the exercise was a resounding success and provided an excellent opportunity for the NZ soldiers to experience first hand

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

how other nations Defence Forces operate at a tactical level.

DEATH MARCH 2010

By WG CDR Neil Taylor

"I am so over this death march thing".....only one week into the four week training programme and already WO1 Tony Wright was telling anyone he could get to listen to him, how much he was looking forward to competing in the Columbian Battalions 21km, 20kg pack march and around (and around) the perimeter of North Camp.

Despite any misgivings, 14 members of NZCON signed up to test themselves in the 2010 event. Working in teams of three, including roping in a few international stragglers to make up the team numbers, each one of the Kiwi competitors successfully completed the challenge.

Despite the blisters, sore feet and shoulders, all in all, it was a successful event with many saying they would line up again if they could....yeah right!.

Tactics applied varied between each team; of note NZCON CO, LT COL Tim Marsden, teamed up with WO1 Wright and WO Gary Clarke, thereby playing the "experience" card by creating a team with a combined age that must have been well over 150 years.

Another particularly notable achievement was that of Acting Adjutant, CAPT James Field. Despite an intensive training regime CAPT Field found himself dumped from his competitive team only moments before the start, and



LCPL Nixon, LAC Wilson and PTE Auld are pursued by death as they approach the finish line

placed with a couple of willing, but ultimately unprepared members from Uruguay. Despite being abandoned by one of them in the first half lap, CAPT Field showed incredible sportsmanship and goodwill staying with his remaining team member, including carrying his pack, for what was to become a very slow walk. CAPT Field's act of generosity did more for improving international relations than the last three gatherings of the UN general assembly.

Despite the blisters, sore feet and shoulders, all in all, it was a successful event with many saying they would line up again if they could....yeah right!.

LIFE IN BAGRAM

By SSGT Greg Roose

It's interesting reading through the July "Bugle" where individuals were talking about their experiences in and around Afghanistan....from the beauty of the landscape to its harshness and barrenness...from one extreme to another in the space of minutes.

Hi, I'm Greg and I am currently employed as the Administrator/ Finance SNCO for the National Support Element (NSE) at Bagram Air Force Base (BAF). I have been lucky enough to travel regularly to ply my trade and visit whoever will have me. Most times welcome visits...

So what happens at BAF during the week? - Not much goes unnoticed whilst surrounded by up to 30,000 coalition force personnel, mainly Americans who spit any where and every where,....you really haven't got too many places to go to get away from the noise and the multitudes, although previous NSE's have developed 'KIWI LINES', which is our little sanctuary where you can go to talk 'KIWI' with other Kiwi's.

BAF is 16 kilometres around by road. The main road is called 'Disney' and as you walk down it you are inundated with the noise of aircraft, traffic and loud speakers (a bit like peak hour traffic in Auckland sometimes). Then there is the swearing and cursing by the individuals using the sidewalk, they all seem to be yelling at you, 'How

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



You Doing?' 'Where You From?' 'Do you speak English where you come from?' and 'Where in Australia do you live?'

In saying that, they do organise heaps of daily and evening activities to keep people amused and occupied, from line dancing, movies, card games, bingo, hip hop nights, gym sessions, heaps of 5km runs, rollover training, the range and church activities, all of which I have managed to sidestep except the last five. It keeps me sane..... I think... although I seem to be having more and more senior moments, and I'm only young.

The NSE is made up of 10 personnel, nine of which are located in BAF with one mover (Benno) in Khandahar with the Aussies. The NSE is set up to assist and provide support to the NZ personnel and units located in this part of the world with stores, movements, resources, mail and money. I will talk about everyone's personalities later.

There have been several highlights to date for me, but recently I had the opportunity to spend a couple of days in Bamyar and enjoyed not being inundated with people, noise, aircraft and vehicle traffic, and eating Kiwi cooked food.

I also had an opportunity to visit one of the local orphanages' with the NZPRT Padre (Chaplain Brophy) and his small team. The Padre is trying to raise funds to complete projects which are not funded by raising money through the NAAFI etc, for carpeting, building shaded areas for the children, etc. And although I miss my family, friends and the comforts of home, it hit home that this was one of the reasons I am here. Not only to do my job, but try in some small way to make a difference in the future for this country.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have written, sent parcels, emailed, called and texted. It is awesome from friends, workmates, family members and "The Bugle" for passing messages and stories back.

Signing off and see you all in October.

The NSE is made up of the following personalities:

The OC, Mr fitness, (MAJ Ash Walker) enjoys his running and has probably run half way back to NZ by now. The 2IC, The Mexican, (CAPT Dan Eder) enjoys Mexican stories. The CSM, Bob the Builder, (WO2 John Knap) what can I say he likes sandbagging. The Senior Supplier, Mr Internet, (CPO Paul Warbrick), I'm sure he is enjoying the retail therapy more than the ladies. The mover in Bagram, Mr 300, (CPL Gerwyn Woods). Supplier #2, Mr 20" guns, (CPL Phil Taunoa). The ISOP, Miss Social Butterfly, (CPL Vin Patel). Supplier #3, Little Miss Sunshine, (ASA Steph Bell). Khandahar mover, Mr Boots, (SGT Benno Schumacher). And me, Mr Money Bags, (SSGT Greg Roose). I'm sure they've got other names for me - but I'm writing this.



***From left to right:
CPO Warbrick, SSGT Roose, CAPT Eder, ASA Bell, CPL Patel, CPL Taunoa,
MAJ Walker - After their first 5km run Apr 10***

JUST ANOTHER WEEK IN BAMYAN...

**By Lt Col John Boswell,
CO NZ PRT**

Just another week in Bamyan.....

One Ambassador, two national Ministers' of Foreign Affairs and the Commander of Joint Force NZ visited. All were welcome and all expressed their appreciation of the work that the NZ PRT continues to do in Bamyan. On each occasion however, support plans had to be put in place and security arrangements made. Just as we thought that was it for the week a Deputy Secretary of State from the US decided to pay a last minute visit and the teams were called out again in support – at this time of year, with summer in full swing, Bamyan is a pretty popular place to be.

The Kiwi Teams continued their coverage of the province. In the west and south, where KT 1 and 4 operate, the focus was very much development and a number of meetings were held with local community leaders and aid agencies. In the east and north the focus was split. The Liaison Officers for KT 2 and 3 continued their support to district and community development projects whilst the security elements of each patrol provided training to the Afghan National Police and undertook a number of combined operations – inevitably these included combined patrolling and the establishment of vehicle checkpoints. At one checkpoint a local was discovered with a shotgun and \$US60K hidden in his boot, whilst later the same day suspicion was raised by a fuel truck with a number of armed guards.

The development team under Major George Tweedy had a number of wins. Four major PRT sponsored projects were approved by our higher headquarters and are now underway. A key bridge in Sayghan



District, destroyed by the May floods, is to be replaced, a seed distribution and livestock vaccination programme in the Khamard district will commence, whilst in the Shibar District the District Governor's Office will be completed. Behind the scenes many more projects remain in various stages of development/ approval and will result in on-going work in the weeks and months ahead.

**You all remain in our
thoughts constantly
and we all look
forward to when
we are back
together again**

At Bagram Air Base our higher headquarters held a two-day PRT Conference which was attended by myself, the Director and our senior US Aid, US Department of State and the US military representatives. The conference examined the operating methods of different PRTs, identified a number of best practices and looked to enhance the civil-military co-operation within PRTs. All good stuff and, without being too smug, a good benchmark

that the processes, procedures and progress of our PRT is up there with the best.

Just today, 11 members of the Malaysian Armed Forces joined the PRT. These 11 are the advance party for a 40 strong medical mentoring and training team that will join the PRT later in the year. Structured to deploy away from Kiwi Base, for short periods, the Malays will travel throughout the districts providing mentoring and training support to the local medical practitioners who run community and district health centres – this is critical work and a tremendous addition to the capabilities of the PRT.

Most of all, most importantly, the week marked a real turning point in our time in Afghanistan. We are now well and truly into the second half of our tour and, whilst we still have plenty to do, it's difficult to not think of home and returning to our friends and loved ones. You all remain in our thoughts constantly and we all look forward to when we are back together again. There is nothing easy about separation but knowing that we have your support is great comfort as we go about our duties here in Afghanistan – thank you.

Just another week? Maybe not....

SINAI—DEFENCE FORCE DRIVING SKILLS



Photo: Driving while a simulated IED is being detonated.

The New Zealand Defence Force recently proved that we have the best Defence Force drivers — in Sinai. Competing in the annual Force Skills Driving Competition (FSDC), 'Team Kiwi' convincingly won the competition for 2010 with a total of nine points.

Source: Air Force News, Jul 10

By SSGT Paul Connor

Tasked by Force Commander, Major General Warren Whiting to conduct the FSDC, the New Zealand Training and Advisory Team (NZTAT) rose to the task and designed an innovative competition to test around the Force Standing Orders (FSO).

Participating Defence Forces included:

- United States of America.
- Hungary.
- Uruguay, and
- New Zealand.

Contingent teams of two pairs—each having a vehicle—competed over five stations. Teams were awarded points for the placements on each station, with the winners being awarded one point, the second placers two points and so forth. Each team members' results were then combined for an overall team score. The team with the least amount of points were the winners.

The competition comprised the following five stations:

STATION ONE

Theory test

The test comprised 40 questions from the Force Road Code and FSO Vol 2 Chapter 32 Vehicles and Driving. Contestants were tested on the legal requirements—for driving in Egypt and Israel—and safe driving habits.

The winner of this station was the Kiwi Team.

STATION TWO

Skilled driving circuit

This was designed to test driver's ability to manoeuvre the vehicle at slow speeds through obstacles, both forwards and in reverse.

The obstacles were:

- a parallel park,
- diminishing alley,
- traverse angled ramp,
- off set alley,
- off set garaging,
- slalom, forward and reverse,

- reverse over an angled ramp and into an off-set garage, then
- forward through another off-set garage to a forward judging distance obstacle.

The Hungarian team topped this station.

STATION THREE

Convoy Preparation and IA Drill

This station was designed to test teams in their preparation and conduct of convoy procedures which included their incident responses as detailed in the FSO. The contestants were given a task brief—to complete the required convoy request documentation and procedures. Then they were tested on their response to difference situations, which included:

- people throwing stones.
- taking photos of the Multinational Force and Observer's (MFO) vehicles, and

Improvised Explosive Devices with secondary devices..

The Kiwi team won this station.

SINAI—DEFENCE FORCE DRIVING SKILLS

STATION FOUR

Servicing and Wheel Change

Each team was asked to complete a 14:55 pre-driving inspection (First Parade) on two vehicles. The aim of this station was to identify that contestants can conduct thorough inspections on their vehicles and also 'safely' change a tyre. Generally the inspection and the wheel change were conducted well.

The Uruguayan Team won this station.

STATION FIVE

First Aid

This was designed to test the competitor's response to a vehicle accident scene.

Teams were marked on their response to:

- the accident.
- force protection.
- safety aspects, and
- knowledge and application of first aid.

The winner of this station was MEDCO (Medic's) from 1 US Support Battalion — no surprises there!

Overall, the FSDC was a solid platform to test the level of driver safety, and convoy procedure competencies within the MFO.

The 'contestants' were all assessed at a good standard, so the training 'competition' was successful.

Let's just hope that when the Kiwi contingent returns home they remember to adhere to the New Zealand road code!



Applying first aid (L to R): PTEs Farrow, Leigh and Coulter (Kiwi Team)

Results

- **1st place**
Team Kiwi from New Zealand 9 points
- **2nd place**
US HHC of 1 SB from United States of America 26.5 points
- **3rd place**
Team Elijah from Fiji 27.50 points

A solid platform to test the level of driver safety, and convoy procedure competencies.

NZ CONTINGENT MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS, SINAI, EGYPT

COLOMBIAN DEATH MARCH – MFO SINAI

By LT COL Patrick Butterworth

In order to qualify as a 'Lancero', recruits in the Colombian Army undergo special training in irregular warfare, including special emphasis in operating in small teams, typically two or three soldiers. As part of this, a qualifying test, the 'Marcha de la Muerte' or Death March, an endurance test, carrying a full combat load, is conducted over a 24 hour period.

In order to simulate the stresses of 'la Marcha', Colombian Battalion Nr 3, stationed with the Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai, challenges the Force annually to a Death March. Teams of three, men or women, carry a pack and rifle round an arduous course in the heat of the summer. Men carry 20kg plus rifle for 21km, women carry 15kg plus rifle for 14 km. Temperatures can reach 35deg Celcius by 9am. During the course of the challenge, the competitors have to carry each other (and their equipment) over a total distance of 150m. This year, NZ Contingent entered in a total of 7 teams; some of these were combined with other MFO members to make up the numbers. The teams were:

➤ **Bastardos sin Gloria:**

MAJ GEN Whiting,
LT COL Butterworth, and
PTE Medina (Colombian Interpreter).

➤ **The Diamond Geezers:**

LT COL Marsden,
WO1 Wright and WO1 Clark.

➤ **The Players:**

LAC Wilson,
LCPL Nixon and LCPL Auld.

➤ **The Beautiful Girls:**

SGT Martin,
CPL Andrew, and CAPT Barclay.

➤ **Holdfast:**

WGCDR Taylor,
WO2 Davis, and
David Russel (civilian) = FEO Team.

➤ **Holdfast 2:**

SGT Ferris,
CPT Lee (US), and
SGT Loulou (Fiji) = FEO Team.

➤ **Uruguay 2:**

CAPT Field, and
SGT Elias (Uruguay).

Amazingly, all competitors completed the challenge.

Assembling at 0400 hrs for the weigh-in and a banana breakfast, the competitors creaked under the weight of sandbags and pasta from the carb-loading session the previous evening. The air was thick and fetid at that time in the morning, perhaps due to the humid microclimate of North Camp, perhaps due to large quantities of garlic in the pasta...

There was much cheering and grunting at the off, with the competitive teams sprinting off into the distance. The more mature participants set a good pace, replicating the training of the past three months. The first lap went smoothly, with regular water stops and a cheery note. This was to be known in the BSG team as the 'shouting lap'. Major General Whiting resembled his name, with a cheery smile and wave to the groups of supporters dotted along the trail.

Lap two was after dawn, about

0530 – 0600, when the humidity level was at its peak. Small packs of dried fruit and electrolytes were a feature of the 'dig-in' phase; knees and hips started creaking under the strain, and combat uniforms started to change from pale sand to dark brown as everything became saturated with sweat. The Chief of Staff, competing in the US team, stopped to repair his badly swollen feet but continued on amongst strong encouragement. Team BSG, by this time some way off the pace, trudged on, muttering encouragement and obscenities in equal measure. The team was past half way.

A fumble with equipment (which may not touch the ground) and a practised technique for lifting heavy, sluggish bodies, made a change from the schlepp of the North Camp perimeter trail. This was a time for electrolyte and cheers, as the 'Whisper Lap' commenced. 'Only another 7kms boys' they shouted. By now the sun was burning through the haze, and the West side straight was faced for the last time. Sometime towards the end of that part, I was convinced we had turned the corner along the South Fence (travelling anticlockwise around the camp). It was inconceivable that the ammunition bunkers were still ahead... had someone moved them? No, it was true, I still had half a lap to walk. (You can tell that I was talking to myself, whilst the Force Commander's fixed grin egged me on to even greater acts of endurance). But, the end was in sight, for the last lap is actually a short one. We passed the sewage farm, the wrecked-vehicle disposals compound (I thought of stopping there, as an appropriate final resting place) and turned onto the penultimate straight. Was this the wall? No real sensation any more, just an inability to walk in a straight line. I think I said: 'Just let me

NZ CONTINGENT MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS, SINAI, EGYPT CONT'D...

amble this bit, then we'll get in step for the home run'. Well, we did turn that last corner, "By the Right", and marched in step toward the Finish line. I think I did manage a smile for an instant; it must have been as my pack came off 3cm after the line. Not an undertaking for the faint-hearted.

I saw LAC Wilson in jandals yesterday, a week after the event. His feet looked like a little Dead Sea salt would be in order... we had all done it, some, like Captain Field, carrying his mate's pack, some, like me, just glad it was all over.

But those who dare to take the challenge get to be called Sinai 'Lancers'. Will I do it again next year? Who knows?



LT COL Butterworth (MA to FCMFO); PTE David Medina and MAJ GEN Warren Whiting complete the Colombian Death March

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM HOME

CHEERING YOU ON

**By Don Parker,
Principal Defence Chaplain**

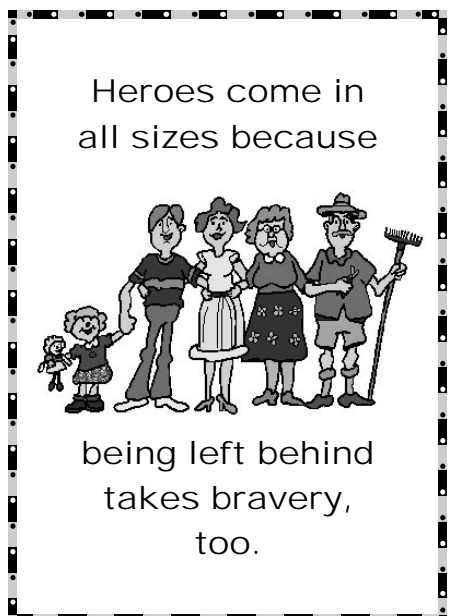
I have never had the pleasure of playing for a top ranking team in any sport, though I have certainly cheered on my share of them. It is a well-reported fact that top ranking players often say how the support of the fans makes a huge difference to their playing and overall effort.

I suspect that the enormous support that I felt from family, friends (and many people whom I have never met) while on deployment will be the nearest I come to the sporting-type experience I have described. On deployment, it made a very real difference to know that huge amounts of support existed and even though we weren't in a

stadium ('supporters' were literally thousands of miles away) you could actually *feel* this support on a day-to-day basis.

To this tremendous sense of support I boast that I can even add another layer: the prayerful support of people back home. Again, prayer is often one of those unseen things done by people whom you may not even know – but that makes it no less real or no less effective. I have often said that my time in Timor in 1999/2000 had a profound effect on me in different ways: Yes, it was physically demanding, it was character-forming but it was also a spiritual high point in my 25 years as an Anglican Priest. Not because of any particular event, but rather because of the prayerful support of others and the gracious presence of God in any number of dark moments.

So to those on deployment and those 'in support' at home: I am cheering you on in the manner that I know best: through constant prayer.



POSTCARDS FROM THE NZ NATIONAL

By MAJ Ash Walker

The 10-person NZ NSE 16 team deployed early April 2010 for their six-month tour serving the needs of all New Zealanders in Afghanistan.

Nine of this team are based in Bagram Airbase, and one SNCO lives and works with an Aussie Movements cell in Kandahar.

(The NZ NSE team are: MAJ Ash Walker, A/CAPT Dan Eder, WO2 John Knap, SSGT Greg Roose, CPOSA Paul Warbrick, A/SGT Benno Schumacher (Kandahar), CPL Phil Taunoa, CPL Vin Patel, CPL Gerwyn Woods and ASA Steph Bell).

It is hard to believe that three months has already gone by, and that we are now over the half way point. Living amongst 30,000+ Americans in Bagram (and 25,000+ British, Canadian, American & Australians in Kandahar) comes with some benefits (and some downfalls!). Both Bagram and Kandahar are as noisy, dusty, busy and hot places in the summer, with all manner of aircraft taking off and landing at all times (day and night).

There are however numerous social activities organised for the entertainment of the troops. From country line dancing, to bingo, from salsa to trivia nights, there is something for just about anyone.

From all of the NZ NSE team in Afghanistan, here are some photos of the activities we have been up to over the last 100 days. Enjoy the NZ winter!



SSGT Greg Roose

Three months in, and the NSE team at the range:

Left to right back row standing: CPL Taunoa, MAJ Walker, SSGT Roose, CPO Warbrick, CPL Woods, CAPT Eder. Kneeling Left to Right: WO2 Knap, ASA Bell



Insert: SGT Schumacher, (sorry Benno but couldn't find any other photo)

SUPPORT ELEMENT, AFGHANISTAN



CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

OUR PERSONNEL — PTI, S1 AND MEDICS, TIMOR-LESTE

By Padre Hamish Kirk

As we all know, the target audience for "The Bugle" are friends and family of those deployed and in my last piece of international correspondence, I did what all journalists do - I did not let the truth get in the way of a good story. This article, like the previous one is full of half truths and innuendo. In fact, the only bald fact in my previous piece was the fact that OTL (Out of Theatre Leave) was cancelled! Today we are looking at our PTI, S1 and Medics.

Our PTI (Physical Training Instructor) is a blond beach girl from Waipu in the far north. SGT Kelly Carter is stationed at the new flash gym in Burnham which apparently is becoming more and more popular by the week. It must be said that our PTI is no plain Jane PTI, (apologies to all Janes who read this!) While some of us, with sheer determination at the gym combined with her expert tutelage, have graduated from a mono-ab to a bi-ab, and the younger ones have rediscovered their six-pack, SGT Carter's rippling abs must rate as an eight-pack at least! She has been in the Army for nine years and has deployed to Bougainville.



*LCPL Natalia Kirwan (front) and
SGT Kelly Carter on Mount Matabain*

Now it is common knowledge that everyone secretly fears the PTI. They are a delightful mix of encourager-torturer. SGT Carter will smile at you while yelling in a feminine encouraging sort of way, words to evoke commitment, enthusiasm, and stamina while your heart and lungs are screaming out for a break and your muscles are telling your brain that you would actually be better off dead! SGT Carter might have managed to wile away the endless summer hours on a beach years ago, but over here in Timor-Leste, she is very busy.

She takes PT six days a week often rising to start setting out gear by 5.30am. Mind you, at this time of day there is still plenty of hot water in the showers. She trains everyone at our base (the HPOD) including the Australians. SGT Carter has to cope with a variety of fitness levels from the elite athletes like CAPT Sutton, right through to the big boys of the Infantry and Armoured elements and finally to the older high riding tight short wearing HQ element. All Brits on the trip should be encouraged to wear baggier shorts. At least we have persuaded them to ditch the Speedos. However, they would be useful to wear as undies underneath Army issue PT shorts – the liners of which tend to lose their elasticity pretty quickly. SGT Carter also writes individual programs to help the aged and infirm out of rehab, and improve the fitness of the already mobile.

SGT Carter is also our NAAFI lady which stands for Navy, Army, Air Force Institute and is the name we give our tuck shop. In this delightful corner of HPOD you can buy all sorts of pre-approved dietary supplements like chips, ice-cream, ginger ale, etc. As the NAAFI lady, SGT Carter is ordered to go shopping - yes I know it is hard to believe but such orders do actually exist. And she is a brilliant shopper.

Unfortunately, there is a downside to this job - reconciling the accounts after the "volunteer" running the NAAFI the previous night mucks up - like when the OC was in control. He took \$35.00 over the counter and still managed to make a \$7.00 loss! There are rumours he has been eating all the stock as he hasn't yet received a welfare parcel from home. Last week he polished off a 2kg bag of someone else's jet planes, stating he does not need mail from home as everyone else seems so generous! Lucy, please send lollies now before our generosity fails us.



Tuesday Volleyball

SGT Carter also organises our events calendar. We are about to have our second quiz night, we have volleyball on a Tuesday night, Yoga on a Thursday night, and the Workshops are about to host the HPOD on a welfare half day by organising "The Amazing Race." Such a multi- talented lady!

Our Platoon Medic is LCPL Natalia Kirwan, who is on her first deployment. As Platoon Medic, wherever the Platoon goes, she goes. She provided medical cover for a VIP trip up Mount Matabean - a four day odyssey. As the first port of call for injured platoon members, in a sense the quieter deployment, LCPL Kirwan has the better.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD CONT'D...

Thankfully all her work thus far has involved minor injuries of aches and sprains. Long may this last! There is also quite a preventative component in a Medics role. They make sure we keep popping the doxy tablets for malaria, and oversee health and hygiene. I have been informed by a reliable source that if you take the doxy at night, it gives you vivid dreams - whatever vivid dreams may mean for you!!

This chocolate loving medic misses her dog, her man and her mum. She loves animals, but not mosquitoes, nor things that live in the sea because they might bite. And after a most unfortunate incident she now loathes cats. This incident had something to do with feline urine - but the less said the better.

Now most of us sing like the native Morpork, one or two notes really well but just at the wrong time and place. LCPL Kirwan has a voice like a Tui, and a Bellbird all rolled into one. That sacred call of welcoming others or announcing the visiting of other places, the karanga, slips off her tongue with a timeless resonance that very much does justice to the ancestors amongst whose presence she stands and sings. Brilliant!



LCPL Shannon Tate

Our other medic, LCPL Shannon Tate is with us on her second deployment. She has served in Afghanistan and is our Senior

Medic. Now when I say senior, please don't misinterpret me. She is senior not in an old crusty, wrinkly way with hair growing out of ones nostrils and ears type old, but senior in some sort of medical way. She has responsibility for the health and well being of everyone.

This lass from Linton also doubles as our official photographer of VIP's. She is one of the chosen who have done the Ava Maria helo flight and climbed up Mount Ramelau. LCPL Tate also enjoys, on the last Sunday of the month, the two hour stroll up the hills behind HPOD to a village called Dare. Here there is a café set in a war memorial museum with great views over Dili. As Senior Medic, LCPL Tate was also very much involved with MAREX - the exercise when the American marines came to train with us. She is also 2IC (second in-charge) of the NAAFI. I doubt if they offer any staff discount at the NAAFI. They certainly don't offer any clergy discount - disgraceful. One of the biggest jobs the two medics have had on this deployment was cleaning up the RAP (Regimental Aid Post - sick

bay) after our wee flash flood. The water flowing through the building was up to some of our more vertically challenged personnel's knees. LCPL Tate enjoys the TV room, and has someone special in New Zealand that sends her a weekly welfare parcel, absolutely full of goodies. Lucky Medic!

Our S1 (this is flash Army talk for the administrator of matters personnel) is WO1, Mr Paul Kirton.

The WO1 stands for Warrant Officer Class 1, and the custom in military speak is to call a WO1 "Mr". Mr Kirton has grey hair (the Bible speaks of grey hair as a sign of wisdom) and looks quite youthful and vigorous despite his years. It must be seen as quite unfair that while on PDT (pre-deployment training) a half dozen of the guest speakers went up to Mr Kirton, having glimpsed his grey hair and obvious angelic face with supporting halo and said, "Hi, you must be the new Padre!" This is Mr Kirton's fourth deployment and the second time in Timor-Leste. He is responsible for all the mail coming and goings, pay, all other personnel



WO1 Paul Kirton keeping up his weapon skills

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD CONT'D...

administration and runs the bank account for local purchasing. He is also the Asian and Pacific Grand Champion at playing "Bubbles" on the computer.

This sprightly man goes for a vigorous walk most mornings contemplating the wonders of this world and the meaning of life. Last week during one of these early morning constitutions he performed a most chivalrous act. Reminiscent of a knight in shining armour, he moved as fast as if he were on a white charger, to rescue a petite wee damsel in distress. For she had stumbled upon a snake that had got through the fence. Mr Kirton placed himself between the serpent and the distressed damsel, allowing her to escape. Though she had quickly realised the snake was not poisonous she had never seen one quite so big. The contingent's St George is determined to return to 3 Log Bn at Burnham toned and tanned just in time for a Kiwi summer.

EAGER TO LEARN — ENGLISH CLASSES

By Padre Kevin Brophy, CRIB 16

Greetings from a warm and dry Bamyam!

Twice a week I wander down to the front gate to teach English class to ten of the local lads. They range in age from eighteen to twenty four. Always on time, always eager to learn, always ready to have a laugh. Even before the class starts, Hussidad and Amon, two of my students who are studying mathematics and chemistry at university, are asking me the meanings of words such as "elucidate" and "accessibility". Go figure!!! I ask them where they get their words from and they reply from the Internet or the paper.

Our class begins with the students

reading the sentences they have written as part of their homework. Most of the time their sentences are good. Perhaps their most common failing is the omission of the little words such as "the", "at", "on". And no matter how much we practice the use of these "little" words almost all of them manages to get one wrong. Competition among them is great and they are always trying to outdo one another.

A couple of weeks ago they decided that they wanted to have a debate, so after much discussion they decided on the topic and split into two teams. The topic of the debate, "That arranged marriages are better than love marriages". The debate has yet to be held as they are working on their speeches but no doubt the debate will be fiery if the pre-discussion is anything to go by.

I have also just returned from a visit to another Forward Operating Base, Chunuk Bair. It was a chance to catch up with some of the troops. Just like Romero it is another delightful place to be. Situated on a hill with the local village built up around them you would hardly notice that they are there. A magnificent view of the surrounding panorama can be viewed from the Sangars, from the village below to

the huge hills that spring up from each side of the valley.

Even though it is only eighty kilometers from Kiwi Base, it took us just under four hours to get there and the body was a tad tired after the trip. But what an eighty kms!

Between Bamian and Nayak they are building a highway and all of the eighty kms are road works. Now I expected to see a few roadwork machines along the way but was I ever wrong about that one. I lost count on the number of excavators after fifty and there was a myriad of trucks and graders all busy doing their thing. And amongst all this modern earth moving machinery there were the local Afghans, with their shovels and rakes, picking up stones and filling in little potholes. There seemed an easy cohesion between man and machine. And some of the hills they are digging through have to be seen to be believed. But I suppose if there is a will, there is a way.

Another three weeks has gone, and everyone is still busy with their noses to the grindstone, and so the return home looms closer.

Our thoughts are prayers are with you, may yours be with ours.



Padre's English Class

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information – Email Addresses / Cellphone Numbers

After the last Bugle (edition 139) was printed and posted out we were advised that TV One were going to be airing a series of articles they had filmed while on a recent visit to Afghanistan, as part of their 6 o'clock news bulletin, commencing on Sunday 18 July.

First thought - how to get this information to families?

This is a perfect example of how to use the technology available to us, to get a short message to as many of our CRIB families (PNOK) as possible so they would have an opportunity to see the coverage themselves, and also to let their extended family members know about it. What was available to us was the use of emails, texts and phone calls to contact approx 120 people. Emails and texts covered all but six families so the message was able to be shared with a lot of people in a very short space of time.

While we try to collect as much of this information as possible prior to the deployments leaving New Zealand, and we try to keep our records as current and up-to-date as possible, we rely on our families to keep us informed. If you weren't contacted by email, perhaps you would like to send me a message (dso.linton@xtra.co.nz) then I can add your email address to our records – you might like to add cellphone numbers to your message too so we can record these as well. Approximately 10 of the email messages "bounced" back as being undeliverable (texts were sent instead), so some of our information is incorrect – perhaps you have a new email address?

Look forward to hearing from you. *Janine.*



CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

If your address or contact details have changed, or are changing, could you please complete this form and return it to Janine Burton. (contact details on the inside cover).

Service Person's Name _____

Deployment Location: _____

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Phone No: _____ **Cellphone No:** _____

DSO'S CORNER



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

Since the last "Bugle", the RATA EF (Election Force) team have departed for the Solomon Islands. I hope families of this group enjoyed receiving their first copy of "The Bugle".

With the school holiday period and various military exercises underway, Linton has certainly been a little quieter over recent weeks. If you were affected by the school holidays, I hope they weren't too disruptive for you.

There is always something for the DSO to do, however, and I have continued to work on the planning for the upcoming CRIB 16 family update briefings, as well as looking even further into the future at "Bugles", CRIB 17 briefs, GYRO 9 and 10 briefs – and then it will be Christmas! I have heard from a few families (at time of writing) indicating their attendance at the CRIB 16 update briefs, which is

fantastic. While families can still attend if they haven't RSVP'd it really does help with catering and seating if we have a realistic indication of numbers coming along, so would encourage you to send me an email or give me a quick call.

Mail Issues

I wrote about mail in the last edition, well here I go again. Firstly, **packaging**. Since the last "Bugle" edition I have been contacted by one of our missions asking if we could again emphasise to our families, how important it is for anyone sending parcels into the deployment locations to ensure that items are sufficiently wrapped. In this instance, a container of something liquid was not adequately packaged and the contents leaked through and damaged the contents of the whole bag; luckily (for most) in this instance, there was mail only for one other person (unlucky for them!) in this particular bag. Please take extra vigilance with packaging of your items to make sure that only your loved one will receive the object that you have so thoughtfully chosen to send them and that it is not shared with other mail recipients! In the past tomato sauce, apple scented shampoo, and I'm sure many other liquids, have been shared via courtesy of the mail bag!

Before going to print we have been contacted by another mission location with the same issue – liquid leaking from packages and damaging other items in the mail bag. So again, please either refrain from sending liquid items or make sure that they are adequately packaged.

Also, consider that sometimes a mail bag is delayed being delivered so perhaps some of the more perishable items that you think would be appreciated, may not actually be recognisable at the other end. It is also not a good idea to send cans of drink via the post – they do get bounced about a bit.

Parcel **weight** continues to be an issue. Please remember the guide of *1kg per person per week* to make it fair for everyone wanting to send mail to loved ones. If the system continues to be abused by not following the guidelines, then there is always the danger that we may lose this service in the future which would disadvantage everyone.

Father's Day

Fathers Day is quickly approaching. The next "Bugle" edition will be the one published before Father's Day so if you want to send messages to fathers – at home or away – the next edition might be the one to concentrate on; a time to think about your father, or indeed, what it means to be a father.

2010

UPCOMING EVENT

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

If you are coming along, please contact Janine Burton with numbers to assist with seating and catering arrangements. Phone; 0800 683 77327 or email dso.linton@xtra.co.nz

ONE DAY AT A TIME



By Judy Byers, Welfare Facilitator, RNZAF Air Staff, Wellington

My husband Ged is currently deployed in Afghanistan. As a Welfare Facilitator 10 years in the job and with the experience behind me in supporting deployed personnel and their families, you may assume I have everything in hand. And to a certain extent I do, but I'm no different than anyone else on the emotional side of things of missing him. And with the kids no longer at home, even though I keep myself really busy the repetition of not having anyone at home can be a lonely existence at times. But the key thing is, not to dwell on things and stay positive in light of the challenges that deployment can sometimes present you with.

What I have found helpful is to take one day at a time and to organise my time well with regular trips away from home, something to look forward to. Take advantage of family and friends when offers come your way. I have a great support network of family and friends which is really helpful, someone you can call on anytime.

Technology is a great thing these days; skype is the way to go. Ged and I contact each other on a regular basis either through skype, email or phone. I've also found making the effort in writing letters is beneficial, not only for the fact it is therapeutic for me, but I find I tend to give more detail in a letter.

Each and every one of you will find ways in coping with separation; you will have your own strategies in managing your every day life in the absence of your loved one. Feeling emotion is being human, it happens to us all, and sometimes you may feel overwhelmed at the weirdest of times. Most importantly is to recognise when your normal routine is starting to come undone and you're finding it is affecting your health and wellbeing, this is when it's a good time to have a chat to someone close to you or seek help from a health professional, Chaplain, Psychologist, Welfare Facilitator, Deployment Services Officer or Community Services Officer.

For those at home there are times when it may not be easy, we appreciate your sacrifices and commitment in supporting your loved ones deploy. And to our service personnel, you do make a difference in the lives of those who are unable to do it themselves, keep up the good work.

"Your family and your love must be cultivated like a garden. Time, effort, and imagination must be summoned constantly to keep any relationship flourishing and growing".

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 and 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 12 August**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Janine Burton, DSO Linton.

From In-Theatre

To All those at DLC and HQJF J4

DLC Guys, thanks for covering for me while I have been away. Will I see a Helo on my Return? Celeste thanks for helping me out. I'll see you all soon.

To J4

Thanks for all your support from back home. I wouldn't have my happy campers here if it wasn't for your hard work and dedication. Thank you all, Joe, OPFARAD.

Wishing you a Very Happy First Birthday Marcus

I'm so sorry I can't be there to celebrate it with you. I hope you get some nice presents and have lots of fun with Mummy and Matt. Make sure Matt cleans up after you when you start making a mess and I hope the cats don't eat your birthday cake! Thinking of you from afar, Love Dad.

Hi Nat and Matthew

I will be thinking of you on the 13th. Hope you both enjoy the day as well. Lots of love as always, Mike/ Dad.

Florence

Your lamp is still burning brightly, your work and care is an inspiration to all. Much love to you from across the ocean in Sinai. Lawrence.

Hello Vicar

Well, your gain is their loss. Thank you for your ministry & professional leadership. You are a great minister, and will be a wonderful teacher. Good luck in the new appointment. Lots of love from North Camp, Patrick.

Jo Baird

I think of you often in the mountains of Bamyar. Hope you are having a great time. Raising my coffee cup to you this morning! Love from Patrick.

Hi Kayla

All the best over the next 4 weeks while you relax before the arrival of Joshua – I know you will make me a proud Poppa just like you have made me a proud Dad. The whole contingent is awaiting Josh's arrival...probably because it'll be my round with cigars. Love Dad.

Hey LY

Big changes at home with Bug leaving and Joshua's impending arrival. Very proud of you handling it all on your own. You'll still be a Nana before 50 though....ooops who put that comment in there? - blimin hackers I reckon. Take care and no more cattle-stop incidents eh – you scared me and that ain't easy. YLH.

To Ma

Thanks for the All Black socks and Tim Tams! I hope the wii training is going well and I appreciate everything you are doing for me. Say hi to the family! – James.

Happy Az

Poppa, Dad, Mum, Pete, Joan, Molly & Stella! Four months to go! Thanks so much for the mail and being there when I ring. Hope all is well xxx 'Polly'.

Cheesecake

Stop spending money! Lol. Great that you're keeping yourself busy. Don't forget to put some time aside to relax! Miss you lots. Love you always xxx, Your Girl.

Snuffs, Peggy and CPL

Thanks for all the treats. Peggy - the world will not run out of booze - so you don't need to try drinking it all at once. CPL - thanks for all your help with mum. Snuffs - some things are best said over the phone. Trinity.xxxx.

Hi Jayden, Liam and Damon

Well back to school, hope you had a great time down at nanas and pops and Damon you had fun with daddy. Well just over the half way mark and hopefully the time will continue to go fast. I miss you guys so much and from what I'm seeing you are growing up very fast. Big cuddles and big kisses from mummy to you all! Love you lots and lots Mummy.

Arlica and Marissa

Hello! Hope you are all good - not long now Arlica till your birthday, so happy 5th birthday and hope you have a nice day. Wish I was there to help you celebrate, but I'll make it up to you when I get back and I'll take you out to dinner, just you and me. Love you and miss you.

Dear Nana and Granall

Hope you are all well. Thank you very much for my biscuits they were very yummy, and to be honest they were so good I have not shared them this time. All is well over here, over the half way mark now, so counting the days down. I have sent a letter and some photos so you should get them soon. Take care and love to you both.

Dear Mum and Dad

Hope you are both well. Thank you so much for having the boys they both said they enjoyed their time. I know Ruks enjoyed the break from not having to sort out 2 extras each day. Hope you have fun on your

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

holiday. Take care and big kisses and cuddles to you both.

Poppey

Hope all is well and you aren't getting too fat and you aren't getting too tired. I hear you have been feeding the family again, thanks for that, they said the lasagne was really good. Well, you take care and rest up, just over the 3 month mark, so we are both on the count down. Love you to both. Big Sis.

Dear my Flower

Hope all is well and you are coping ok. Looking forward to our holiday, should be good to spend some time together. Keep up the good work and love and miss you heaps. Love the Rock.

Dear my Little Mushroom

Well done darling for getting your yellow belt in karate, I am so proud of you. I can't wait until I get home so you can show me how good you are. Thank you for being so good for mum, it makes me really happy. All my love, Dad xoxoxoxo.

Dear my Little Turtle

Hi son! I'm so happy to hear you're being good at school. I was so proud of you when you told me you were allowed something out of the "goody box". I miss you so much and can't wait to come home to see you. All my love, Dad xoxoxoxo.

Dear Wifey Toes

Hey babe, I hope you liked the flowers. I miss you every day and think of you and the kids all the time. **I Love you, I Love you!** Can I have a boat? I Love you, I Love you. xoxoxoxox.

Mum & Dad

Thanks for all the goodies you have sent. Dad, the Jaffas and bars have gone down well. Mum, thanks for taking care of little things. Another month down so not so long now

until your little girl is home again. Get ready for house hunting. The weather has been awesome, nice and hot so making the most of it when I can. Thanks again for all the parcels. Love you lots, Gumby.

To the Gumby Family

Thanks for the goodies that you have sent, it means a lot. Not long now until I'm home. Thanks again. Take care. Lots of love, Gumby.

Dearest Grandma and Grandad

Nice talking to you the other week; will ring again soon. Happy Birthday Grandad for the 16 Jun! You should have received my postcard by now. Hope everything is good back home. Take care, hopefully will get to come and see you when I get back xo, love Kev.

Dear Bubbles

I miss you so much! Mummy told me you can do Rolly Pollys now. Wow you are so clever, it seems every time your mum talks to me you have learnt something new and that you're going to be really, really clever when you get big, just like your mum. All my love, Dad xoxoxoxoxo.

Hey Nan & Buckel

Hope you guys are enjoying the winter? Take care, Leanne.

To 2/1 RAP

Really appreciated the parcel, great boost to the half way mark! See you soon, Leanne.

Hey Corbett Family

Thanks for the parcels. Hope you enjoy the finger photo's...Love you guys xox.

Sophie

Half way there now! It is all down hill from here. Cannot wait to be in your arms again! All my love, Mike xxxxx.

To Lizzie and Mike

Sorry daddy has not phoned, been very busy. Still thinking of you! You are not far from my thoughts. Will be back soon. Love Daddy.

To the Bayly Road Gang

Hope all is well. Not long now and we can celebrate. Many thanks for the parcel. All is well here. Love Kev xx.

To The Meritini Place Gang

Glad the heater is in and you are all toasty warm. Thanks for the roasted peanuts, they hit the spot nicely. Take care, love Kev xx.

Jeremy

I'm pleased to hear that you are doing a great job of looking after Mum in my absence. It was great to see how much you've grown in the last 2 months and how your vocab has expanded. Cheers to you little man. Dad.

Dominic

So many changes in such a short time, I understand that you are now crawling fully and exercising your lungs well (with mostly happy noises!). Keep up the good work and pack those solids away, it's good to see you're growing well after your stint in hospital. Love Dad.

Sam

It's encouraging to see you coping so well with the dramas that life never seems to stop throwing. You are doing really well and continue to make me proud, I am fortunate to leave from such a solid foundation. Miss you heaps, love Urvok.

From Home

Hi Daddy

We had a nice holiday with Reagan; we went to Whanganui

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

and had lots of fun at Kowhai Park. We played tag in the castle and went on the flying fox it was cool....Mamma even had a turn. I learnt to go down the fireman's pole all by myself. I am going up the mountain on the 6th of August for our school trip, I can't wait. I miss you so much daddy and although I get to see you on skype I always tell mamma that I really miss your snuggles. I love you lots and lots and lots and lots Daddy. Big Hugs and Kisses. Tia xoxox.

Hi Babe

Thank you for your message, I miss you too honey. By the time you get this message we should be down to almost 3 months until your return. Exciting aye! The weather here is pretty cold, and you know me and the cold, we don't get on at all. The girls had a lovely holiday together, but you know our baby, she's always upset when it's time to say goodbye. The moko's are good, Nga Wairiki is a chatter box but so polite and Mikaere is such an awesome little boy. I can't wait to move closer to them. Mum and the kids send their love and are always asking after you. I miss you millions babe and love you so much more. Talk to you soon honey....forever family.....Me xoxox.

Hey My Firtty Boy!

I miss you sooo much! I hope everything will start working out here soon, I start work tomorrow! Hope that work is good and that you are ok! Wish the time would go faster but we are already over half way! I can't wait till I see you again it will be the bestest! I miss buddy and I'm sure he misses you just like you miss him! Can't wait to get your letter and movies hehe yay, you will get some in return. Well I love you lots and forever and always your the bestest. Keep safe for me. Xox.

Hi Fletch

Well another month has flown by. Had a good time in Melbourne, was lovely to catch up with Mallarie. Real cold weather here at the moment, plenty of frosts. Has been lovely hearing from you, glad all is okay. Will be in touch again soon. Take Care - Love from Chris, Nigel, Andy & Buddy (who is doing fine!).

To Leighton

Happy 25th Bro!! I hope you have an awesome day. Try not to work too hard. We're all thinking of you back home and wishing you all the best. Lots of love Hinzy xoxo.

Hi Leighton

Wishing you a Happy 25th Birthday! Thinking of you! Love Mum.

To my Soldier

By the time this reaches you we will be well over half way. That's getting a bit exciting isn't it! Dreaming about the day you're home endlessly.. Probably waste a lot of time, but that's ok! Hope everything is going well over there. Keep positive and enjoy yourself; time will go so quick, it will soon be over! And will have heaps of excitement once you're home, organising the move! Kameron says hello... Brought him a little fold-out coach today, so cute! Love you forever and always. Be safe, Mwwwwaaaahhh, your woman, Chani.

Dear Gumby

Hope you are well and not too hot! You could send some warm weather to us - another cool, wet day here. This time last year we were getting ready to head to Rarotonga - time has flown by so fast. After the events of the last year we could do with another relaxing holiday in the sun. Wish that Lotto win would happen soon. Hope all the parcels and photos have finally arrived - more on the way this week. Yours are certainly

quicker than ours. School holidays are over for another few weeks, Elina is off to school this week. They are all growing up so fast you'll get a surprise when you get back. We are all well here. We all miss you, although the phone calls are good and it's great to hear your voice, you always sound so close, we can just pretend you are at home. We are all very proud of you and your chosen career and watch with pride any articles about the great work that is being done over there by you all. Makes us all proud to be New Zealanders! Take care, stay safe. We love you heaps. Lots of love Mum and Dad xoxoxox.

Hello Basil

Hope all is ticking along nicely. Always good to hear from you and to get an update on all that is happening - loved the two chests!!! Still plodding along here and keeping ourselves warm and busy. Manage to fill in the days well and wonder how I ever fitted in a job as well. We are doing ok - some days better than others but about to head off to the sun for a break and change of scenery and routine. Looking forward to that and will catch up on our return. With love, Cliff and Flo xx.

Hi Lawrence

Thanks so much for the pampering parcel - and I didn't float! Felt so spoilt though! Thinking of you over there and hope all is going to plan. Well done on the march - the photo was great - it was an amazing effort and I am sure a great sense of achievement. Nothing new to report from us - Ab on the countdown and full of excitement! We are all off to the sun soon and looking forward to that. Will enjoy a little "drop" to avoid dehydration!!! A bit slack on the shopping front of late but will make amends. Take care and lots of love, Florence xxx.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

HEY POLLY!!!

Hope the parcels are arriving - there are more on the way. Everything is ticking along here - hope it's all good for you too and that you are staying healthy and strong! Send some sun our way - I hate winter! Love the pics you have sent through - I hope you are taking heaps - can't wait to see them when you get back. Molly and Stella are missing you so much - you should have taken them with you!!! (You could have taken Peter too - he's been a bit naughty!). So - be good - enjoy your sunshine and remember Chocolate Fish Can't Swim!!!!!! Lotsa Luv, Mum and Dad xxxxxxxx.

Dear Daddy

It's my birthday Daddy on 13th August and I am turning 1, yippee. Sorry you couldn't be here with me but mummy will send heaps of photos for you to see what fun I had. Please don't send me any more singing camels. Love your little boy Marcus.

Dear Mike

Your little man is 1 this month and it is so sad you won't be here for his birthday! We will have a piece of cake for you and make you a special wish when blowing out the candles. Luv always, your wife Nat.

Hi Mike

Thinking of you every day in the heat, 41%, it is 0% here in Auckland this morning, Saturday, winter time. Lots of love from Mum and Dad.

Hi Shannon

Would like to know what the distraction was when you helped win the volleyball game? Your smile on the cover of "The Bugle" was great to see. Keep up the good work, missing you. All my love, Nana.

Hi Shannon

Hope you & your mates are enjoying the goodies & the good weather. Great to see the odd mention of you in "The Bugle", makes you seem nearer to home. Missing you heaps, lots of love from a proud Mum & Dad.

Dear Kelly

Hope you are working more than you are eating (gotta love that Timor food) Miss your smiling face, bet you are saving sunbed fees! Keep up the good work, love from Mazza.

Dear Nat

Can't wait to have you home in Medic St!! Booker didn't say how the big move went! Hope you still have lots of wardrobe space!! We miss you lots, better be taking care of yourself Miss! Love Medics-Are-Us.

Dear Pen

Hope you are fit and well and brown!! Did you buy Sherry a flying carpet yet? We are taping Season 3 of Sookie/Bill for you (it's pretty exciting!). Hope you are making lots of new friends and that you have bought a Burkah for those cold Southern winters! Much love Medics-Are-Us.

Hey Dad

Thank you for your message. Fingers crossed for good results. Hope you are okay. You are almost halfway now YAY! Missing you like crazy Dad! Congrats on doing the death march. Take care. Love always. Face xoxoxox.

Dear Jeff

We will be remembering a very important day, twenty one years ago. Who would have thought then, you would end up spending your 21st Birthday in Timor-Leste? Pip is gutted you won't be here to share the day with family and friends - and be embarrassed by all the

funny stories and photos from your past. Don't worry, we will save all of that and do it properly when you get home. Maybe missing out on another cold Mainland winter is a pretty good birthday present at any rate - it was down to -6 here last week! Keep skyping. We will all be thinking of you on your birthday and hoping you have a great day with good mates, plenty of cake and sunshine. Happy 21st Birthday!! Love Mum, Dad & Pip.

Hi BDP

1 1 was a racehorse 2 2 was 1 2, 1 1 1 1 race, 2 2 1 1 2!! All going well over here, L is keeping me company, if only she would stop sneaking out..I think I've stopped it for now!! Hope all is well with you, don't forget "choose your attitude" and have fun. **air five** P.S not long to 3 September...can't think what's happening then....Love u, love T.

Doughy

Alles Gute zum Geburtstag, Babe! Since you not allowed - I'll have a drink for you or two... Habbie baba from Soph too! Hope you having a great day and get some spare time to do some fun things...like shaving that hair off which is growing in your face! Bah! Love, Janie & Soph.

Hi Darling

Happy Birthday to you.
Happy Birthday to you.
Happy Birthday dear Dwaaaaaaaynnne,
Happy Birthday to you.
Happy Birthday for the 11th, shame we can't share it together but you know we are all thinking of you. And at last you are once again older than me..... We are on the down hill slope now, past half way, so hopefully the second half goes as fast as the first. Take care and we all miss and love you very much. Shelley, Ella, Kale xxx.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Hey Smes

Thinking of you loads and missing you even more. Another message for "The Bugle" down, another 4 to go! 2 months down, 4 more to go before you're home. 6 months down, 3 to go and baby girl will be here. Good things take time. Hope all is well, love and miss you so much. Kisses and cuddles Smades, Baby Girl and Tank xoxox.

Hey Hun

Happy 23rd birthday, I hope you have a wonderful day. Take care over there, missing you heaps xoxo. Lots of love hugs n kisses from me xoxoxo.

Hi Auntie

Well what a busy week we have had I have had my first pre-school visit today and mum and dad came with me. I was so excited to go but when I got there it was a bit scary but I soon came around and enjoyed my morning there. Only another 2 weeks and I will be going full time. Looking forward to my party at the new chipmunks in Wigram. We went to watch Jay at rugby on Saturday but it was very cold, so watched in the car until uncle got there. Marissa is all good but still a pain. Well I must go and do some more drawings. Lots of Love Arlica and Marissa xx.

Hey Mumma

How have you been? I'm missing you heaps and guess what? There is only 3 months left, yaaaaaayyy. Love you heaps Matty.J. xoxoxox .

Hey Mum

How have you been? It was great to hear from you the other night and to get your message in "The Bugle". Counting down to my sweet 16th! YAY! Me and dad have lots of ideas of what I can do. Anyway stay safe and work hard. x. Love bubbles.xoxoxoxo .

Hey My Baby

Well just over half way now. Still missing you like crazy. Doing my best to keep the house and kids ticking over. Missing our cuddles on the couch. You are my lover, my soul mate, my best friend. Stay safe and talk soon. Love forever Dan, (Your man) xox.

Dearest Gumby

I hope you are keeping well? Thank you for the phone calls, postcards and letters. I miss you lots! Good, we are at the half way point now. Been watching the TV news each night, it is very interesting to see. Haven't seen you yet! Take care of yourself. Lots of love Nana xxx.

To HT Shari Andrews

Hope you are loving it over there, we can't wait until you are home for some wines and a catch up. Lots of love from the other two thirds, Mel and Katrina.

Hi Kev

I'm wrapped up against the cold and watching the rain fall—and thinking of you in all that heat! Hard to believe it's nearly August and four months have gone. It has flown by! All are well here and eagerly awaiting your return — some postponed celebrations to have. Keep well. With our love, The Foxtan Gang.

Hey Gorgeous

Still missing you heaps! Things are pretty busy here too. Can't wait till you are home again, nearly half way now! Love ya lots, Urvos.

Hi Dad

We miss you. We are trying to be good for mum, keeping her real busy and doing lots of crazy things to make her laugh so she doesn't have time to miss you too much. We are growing heaps and learning lots of new stuff that we can't wait to show you when you get home.

Love you lots Dad, Jeremy and Dominic.

Dear Dad

Did you have a nice birthday? I hope so! Gran said I have been a brave little boy. I get my stitches out tomorrow. Take care, love Luke. XXX.

Hi Kev

Hope you had a fantastic birthday! You make a pretty picture on TV, EH! All going well here, plenty of good Rugby coming up! Hear from you soon dear, All our love, Mum & Dad XXXX.

BOUQUETS



Janine

Just a reminder that I really appreciate your care and support. (- and all the hard work!) Thanks a million - it makes a huge difference to us all. *Carol*.

Special Bouquets

What a fantastic mid-winter Christmas dinner celebration last week in Burnham for families and friends of our deployed personnel. Congratulations to 3rd Land Force Group for a wonderful event.

A special bouquet to personnel from 2/1 RNZIR, who provided the majority of support throughout the evening, to our Padre Santa, Jane for taking the photos, and especially to Cherie for all her efforts - a brilliant effort Cherie. Thank you for inviting me. *Janine*.

FOND FAREWELLS



The classroom beckons!

This week the Burnham community farewells Chaplain Kirstie McDonald as her career moves in a new direction.

Kirstie, a registered teacher, takes her many valued skills and attributes back into the school environment.

Kirstie's contribution to Burnham Military Camp and in fact to the wider New Zealand Defence Force community, will be sorely missed. We have not only been the recipients of her first class pastoral care here, but also from abroad. "The Bugle" has been fortunate to enjoy and share her many contributions. Regular "Bugle" readers will recall the "Chaplains Pen" from Afghanistan when she deployed with the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team and those submitted regularly from home. Kirstie's articles from abroad gave us a fascinating insight of the lives of those so much less fortunate than us and into the day-to-day lives of those on a deployment. This latter experience, having been on "both sides of the fence", was to prove ultimately valuable in working with both service personnel and their families.

Kirstie's wisdom, life experiences, caring and compassionate manner, coupled with her ability to laugh loudly, have been truly valuable assets to her work within the Chaplaincy service. Many of us have seen firsthand the difference she has made to so many - all richer for the service offered.

As a member of the 3 LFG Welfare team, Kirstie's vital input and genuine concern for others, has many times, been a catalyst for change, valuable intervention, and provided new directions and opportunities.

Many of us have had the good fortune to work with Kirstie, in the many and varied situations military life can bring. We will remember and miss her compassion for those in time of need and her hand extended in friendship and support.

Your new "charges" Kirstie, children and young adults, will be fortunate to be learning under your guidance and expertise, and like us, will be richer for being on your team!

Kirstie - we will miss you and your mallowpuffs.

Our very best wishes to you and your family for all the future holds. Keep in touch and we look forward to our paths crossing again in the future.

Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer, 3 LFG, Editor "The Bugle"

MID-WINTER CHRISTMAS DINNER

