

THE BUGLE

Issue 141 | August 2010

DEPLOYMENT NEWSLETTER

NZ ARMY
NGATI TUMATAUENGA



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"THE BUGLE"

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

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Bugle contributions are welcome and should be sent to Janine Burton.

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Cover Photo:

Capt Field conducts a Duty Investigation on the Egypt Israel border.

GUEST EDITORIAL

AVM Peter Stockwell Commander Joint Forces New Zealand



On 3 August 2010 we lost one of our NZDF family with the tragic death of Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell in Bamian Province, Afghanistan. Tim's loss and the injuries to Lance Corporal Matthew Ball and Private Allister Baker are a stark reminder of the risks involved in NZDF operations. We particularly acknowledge the impact of these events on the CRIB 16 team who remain in Afghanistan. Our thoughts go out to them as they carry on with the important work they are doing while coming to terms with the loss and injuries to their workmates and friends. Throughout the wider NZDF no one is untouched by these events, and across New Zealand the groundswell of support from the public as a whole demonstrates the high respect in which our Service people are held.

Although the risks involved in operational service cannot be removed, let me reassure you that they are mitigated as much as possible through good training, use of appropriate equipment, and proven operating procedures. By regularly reviewing these elements I am confident that the risks to our people are managed so that they can conduct their missions in the safest possible circumstances. We know through the reports we receive that our people achieve the highest standards of professionalism and it is also this professionalism that helps in maintaining safety.

Another aspect of managing risk to our people is through our welfare support systems. One of our priorities in the NZDF is looking after both individuals and families and ensuring that we respond rapidly and effectively when welfare issues arise. This is especially so in instances of medical or psychological need, or when repatriation is required. It is also important to remember that welfare support can be utilised any time

help is needed, not just during times of emergency. Real support can be provided through our welfare network and no problem is too big or small. Our team has responded to every situation you could imagine so there should be no reluctance on anyone's part in coming forward, even if it is just for information.

Our families play an extremely important role in making sure our personnel can do their jobs. Family support is critical, both at home and when deployed overseas, and we do not take it for granted. We welcome not only the support of families, but also your direct involvement in keeping the NZDF informed of what your needs are and letting us know what we can do better. I encourage you to use the support network that is available to you so that you can stay strong because by doing so you are helping your Service person stay strong as well.

We are a community and in difficult times we need to pull together and support each other. I think the past week or so has demonstrated just how strong our community is and I am extremely proud of the way that everyone has responded to Tim's tragic loss. For those of you who are overseas on deployment, know that your professionalism and contribution are recognised and valued. For the families and friends of our deployed personnel, be rightfully proud of the contribution you are all making to the efforts of the NZDF and our overseas missions.

X1017058 LT Timothy (Tim) O'DONNELL

Timothy O'Donnell was born on June 15 1982, and has been a member of the NZ Army for five years.

LT O'Donnell enlisted into the Army on the 5th of January 2005, where he attended Officer Cadet School, graduating in December 2005 and posting to 1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (1 RNZIR).

On the 24th May 2008, he was posted to Burnham and on to 2/1 RNZIR with effect the 19th of August 2009.

In his time with the Army, Tim deployed to Timor-Leste in November 2006 and Afghanistan in April 2010.

In Timor-Leste, Tim was recognised for his actions leading a platoon conducting a security patrol. In the 2008 New Year Honours, he was presented with a Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) by the Governor General, Sir Anand Satyanand.

LT O'Donnell was a highly competent and widely liked officer. He was awarded the following honour and awards:

- * The New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration
- * New Zealand General Service Medal (Timor-Leste)
- * New Zealand Operational Service Medal
- * Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal (Timorese Award)

LT O'Donnell was also due to be awarded the following two medals as a result of his deployment to Afghanistan:

- * NZ General Service Medal (Afghanistan) - Primary Op Area
- * NATO Medal for the Non-Article 5 ISAF Op in Afghanistan

Tim also served in the guard of honour for the funeral of Sir Edmund Hilary in January 2008.



The citation below describes the action for which he received his DSD:

"Lieutenant O'Donnell, in the rank of Second Lieutenant, served as Platoon Commander in Timor-Leste from November 2006 to May 2007, as part of the NZDF contribution to the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF). His platoon was conducting a security patrol in April 2007 when it encountered a crowd of approximately 1000 Fretilin supporters returning from an election rally in Dili.

"The crowd, escorted by UN Police officers, halted on the outskirts of Manatuto, fearing attacks from opposition political supporters. While the platoon was endeavouring to secure a safe route, the UN Police began moving the Fretilin supporters across a bridge toward Manatuto.

"The crowd was then ambushed by some 600 opposition supporters throwing rocks and firing steel darts and arrows. Under the hail of projectiles, the Police escort was quickly overwhelmed and withdrew, leaving the Fretilin convoy stranded on the bridge. He made a quick decision to intervene in the melee, which meant that his platoon also came under attack.



"Eventually, his platoon managed to push back the attackers and secure a bypass route around Manatuto for the Fretilin convoy, which safely circumnavigated the town without loss of life or serious injury. Soon after ISF reinforcements arrived on the scene to assist in restoring law and order to the town. Without the decisive intervention of his platoon, it is likely that the situation could have deteriorated resulting in a number of fatalities between the rival political supporters.

NEWS UPDATE



NZ PRT PART OF HIGHWAY SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

The people of Bamyan province, Afghanistan, will soon be able to reach their country's capital much more easily thanks to the construction of a new two-lane highway.

The provincial governor Dr Habiba Sarabi, Bamyan provincial government officials, local dignitaries including the district governor, and heads of shuras from local villages were present for the road sealing ceremony for a major section of the Bamyan-Kabul Road on 19 July.

With Dr Sarabi throwing the first shovel of 'hotmix' onto the road, the main asphalt paving machine was ready to start work.

Major George Tweedy, development officer for the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT), said that the road, the first to be paved with asphalt outside of the main Bamyan town, will open up Bamyan to Kabul in the east and enable the farmers to get their produce to market much quicker than ever before.

"Bamyan province is a rich agricultural area that produces potatoes, wheat, apricots and other fruit, but with no real road infrastructure to speak of, it's been very difficult to capitalise on these assets and most of the produce rots in the fields. This road, and others like it, will bring real prosperity to Bamyan and the farmers in the area."

The Bamyan-Kabul road is one of many large road projects the NZPRT is working on, said Major Tweedy, with the projects amounting to more than \$150 million.

Major Jonathan Fiu, a liaison officer

for the NZPRT, said that the PRT continues to focus on development and governance within Bamyan Province.

"Large-scale projects like roads connect the people to the main centres and allow for rural areas to be supported more effectively by the Afghan National Police."



Major George Tweedy walks with Bamyan Governor Dr Habiba Sarabi to the road sealing ceremony for a major section of the road connecting Bamyan Province to Kabul.

Credit: Private First Class Roy Mercon, US Army. (WN10-005-058tn)

OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS

Currently 710 New Zealand Defence Force personnel are deployed on 14 operations, UN missions and defence exercises in 10 countries around the world, including:

Sudan (3 personnel)
Sinai (28 personnel)
Middle East (8 personnel)
Iraq (1 person)
Afghanistan (206 personnel)
Korea (3 personnel)
Timor-Leste (80 personnel)
Solomon Islands (8 personnel)
Antarctica (0 personnel)

All overseas deployments are co-ordinated and run by Joint Forces New Zealand. Once deployed, NZDF personnel come under the control of Commander Joint Forces New Zealand.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

CONTINUING THE MISSION

LT COL John Boswell
Commanding Officer NZPRT

When I spoke to you all before we departed NZ I made mention of the potential threats that existed in the north east of our area of operations. All of us in the contingent were aware of their existence, we took them very seriously and we did everything we possibly could to counter them. In the back of all our minds was always the thought that something like the attack that resulted in Tim O'Donnell's death may happen.

There is no hiding it, Tim's death is an absolute tragedy for the contingent. He was an outstanding young officer with great potential. He was totally professional in everything he did and he took his responsibilities as a commander seriously. We also got to know, and occasionally suffer, from the drive, energy and enthusiasm he had for everything he did. When something needed to be said, it was inevitably Tim that would say it. When action was required it was often difficult to keep up. Tim O'Donnell was an extremely brave, extremely proud soldier, and we will miss him.

At this time our thoughts and prayers go out to Tim's family and friends, and also the family and friends of LCpl Matty Ball and Pte Allister Baker.

So, what now?

First and foremost we will ensure that Tim's service is not forgotten. I commented in my address at the Memorial Service we held for Tim on Wednesday the 11th of August that *'our challenge, Tim's challenge to us, is to also look, at every opportunity and on every occasion, to the successful achievement over the coming months of our mission. He would never take a backward*

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including: Continuing the Mission—NZPRT
The Police Officers' Lot in Bamian
Postcard from the Solomon Islands
Manning Memorial Patrol—Timor-Leste

step and nor should we. Tim would look to be the very best he could at everything he did and we must also. Tim was spirited, enthusiastic, an example.' This is the legacy that Tim left us.

We then need to very quickly rebuild. We will adjust our manning to cover the gaps that have been created, we will ensure that all elements of the PRT are brought back up to the appropriate equipment levels and we have put in place a range of measures to provide support to our soldiers in these difficult times.

We will also look to how we operate and ensure that we fully understand

the risks that exist, and that we do everything we can to minimise those risks. We constantly review and improve our procedures and we will continue to do so.

Finally, as a group, we will draw strength from each other and continue to support and look after each other. There are potentially difficult days ahead but I am convinced that, given the character of the men and women that make up the NZ PRT, we will work through them and we will prevail.

Rest peacefully Tim. Your service was honourable and loyal, and we were fortunate to share it with you.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

THE POLICE OFFICERS' LOT IN BAMIIYAN

Superintendent Ged Byers

I knew I should have kept my big mouth shut when Padre Kevin Brophy hit me up for an article in the Bugle. When 'the word' finally came, it was not a religious experience, but a terse "You've got until Tuesday Ged". But of course this is no ordinary Padre (sorry Kev) and I am thinking hard on what to write.

My team consists of Inspector Peter Steward, a long serving member of the CIB from Auckland, who has also worked in Kosovo, the Hague and the Sudan. Then there is Matt Emery, a Shift Commander from Christchurch (but wisely supports the mighty Hurricanes). He has worked twice in the Solomons. Also we have the Mighty Finn, Eemile Katila, who is my Rule of Law advisor. Finally myself, with my day job being that of the National Family Violence Co-ordinator.

We also have another New Zealand Police Officer, Derek Sarney, working in his Territorial role out of ISAF in Kabul.

When we started our process of Pre-Deployment Training, we were like others, not too sure how things would go. As Police, we were wondering how we would get on with our military brothers and sisters. Would a couple of crusty old 50-plus year olds cope with the unimagined rigours of PDT? Well we loved every minute of it, but were mighty glad we didn't have to go through everything our fellow contingent members had to do. I well remember the 'feedback' of the tough OpFit training in Burnham, which took place in oppressive heat. Of course ice breakers were important in getting to know each other and our M4's did the trick for

some who were all over them like a rash.

From my guys perspective, we have totally enjoyed our experience working with the military here in Bamiyan. In fact I could not imagine it being better. We get nothing but support from Lt Colonel Boswell, Major Paul King and all his team with a great team atmosphere that was quickly developed under the senior leadership. We also have a great relationship with the Task Force Wolverine commander, Colonel Berry, and his team. Together they have provided enormous support to many projects we have developed together.

We have developed the utmost respect for the work ethic of the team here in Bamiyan and it has been a real eye opener for us civilian types as to what being a

school with Tim's father, Mark, and both of us having joined the Police and serving together in Masterton, I had a lot to do with the family over the years, and I met Tim as a wee fellow on many occasions. Peter also worked with Mark in the Manawatu. Mark and Mary Anne can be proud of their son for the man he was and for the soldier that he had become.

"As Police, we were wondering how we would get on with our military brothers and sisters."

On a more business-like front, it has become very obvious that six months is a short period in which to achieve results in an environment



Kiwi cops, not quite on holiday in Kabul.

soldier means. But then I would be preaching to the converted – I managed to slip a religious analogy in there Padre!

Of course the tragic death of Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell was a terrible blow for everyone here as well as back home. Having been to

like we have here. We have endeavored to build on what previous contingents have developed and push on into new projects. This is very much the philosophy of the PRT, which has developed a Strategic Plan for future contingents to work towards.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Of course we have the EUPOL objectives which guide most of our work. For those that may be wondering, New Zealand Police are operating under the EUPOL (European Union Police) banner in Afghanistan.

For the future, our contingent will be increasing to a total of 13. This will be made up of both New Zealand Police and European Union based Police. To date, we have up to six Irish Garda 'ear marked' for Bamiyan and I have been told interest is high in other EU countries to get to Bamiyan.

Finally, I have to acknowledge our families and friends from whom we get the support from back home. That regular contact is so important at both ends and for a deployment the distance from home can be a challenge. I want to acknowledge my wife Judy especially, which I suppose is only natural. Judy works as a Welfare Facilitator for the Air Force, but the challenge is the same for us as anyone else. I sometimes think we are the lucky ones here, having so many people around us, while family are often at home, on their own and maybe struggling with kids and all those issues that come up in daily life. I also want to acknowledge the great team I have here working with me.

Well Padre, I have done it..

AFGHANISTAN FROM KIWI TEAM THREE GIRLS PERSPECTIVE

By LCPL Leanne Corbett

Afghan is an amazing country, from the people and atmosphere to the smells.

Between teaching the ANP (Afghanistan National Police) how to improve their job, we support our Liaison officer, WOET Mr Wall, with his projects building bridges, preparing and maintaining wells and security tasks under the supervision of Sgt Whitchell and Cpl Lorimer. Our patrol never has a dull moment — our drivers are on the ball constantly with Cpl Marvin keeping up the overall maintenance on our vehicles. The vehicle commanders are busy too maintaining their individual jobs with LCpl Hayden leading the convoy; lets not forget our Gunners Pte Pringle-Blair, Pte Tohill and Pte Hoeflich who are constantly scanning their arcs looking for something to happen. They never fail to amuse us when they retreat from their turrets with dirt all over their faces. Then there is LCpl Capper our patrol Sig and myself, the Medic.

LCpl Genna Capper is our Sig from 5 WWCT Battalion. She handles our communications with a passion that I admire and drives one of the vehicles; whenever a vehicle loses coms (*communications*) she's there without question. On refurbing/rest days she is in between the vehicles, workshops and the Coms cell experimenting with things that would improve our communications, her plans always work.

Then there's me, LCpl Leanne Corbett from 2/1 RNZIR RAP. I drive one of the vehicles and watch over the hygiene and well-being of the patrol. On refurbing/rest days I finish off paper work, restock the med kit, take PT sessions and organise events.

We ran a PRT Challenge last month within camp which was a great success, we are preparing for an outside boxing tournament soon which should get a good crowd too.

POSTCARD FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Pte Osooso Tuala

New Zealand Election Force Platoon was on a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) stint in the Solomon Islands when we got a call on the Friday night that we were possibly required to deploy off island. After quickly ensuring we were ready to go, we got given the "stand down". The following morning was spent double checking that we were good to go in case we got another call out. The mood among us was an exciting one but at the same time we were anxious to find out what we would be in store for.

We eventually left at around 1500hrs on two boats, a small but speedy Australian Federal Police (AFP) boat, the Jackpot, and on the Australian Navy Landing Craft Heavy (LCH), HMAS Wewak.

Our forward elements arrived in Auki, only then to be deployed an hour later 200km further along the island. The

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

rest of the platoon arrived in Auki at 2300hrs to a crowd of Malaitan's watching us land on the beach. From there we made our way to the local police station where we set up for our first night location.

We were greeted in the morning with good weather and another movement order. We were to move approx 11kms north to a village called Buma that had hosted previous Combined Task Force (CTF) units before us and would be our home for the next three nights. Arriving early afternoon, our accommodation was inside the local school. Our new home towered above all the other leaf hut houses in the village so our view wasn't too bad. After no further tasks were allocated to us, most of us headed towards the beach guided by at least a hundred little children. The scene before us was picturesque. Tall coconut trees framed the golden sand, with small wooden canoes in the distance lazily gliding over the crystal-clear, coral-filled water. We swam around, playing with the children who would bring us coconuts to eat and drink, taking us on their dugout canoes and breaking into impromptu song and dance for our amusement.

At dusk we headed back to our accommodation. Luckily our awesome Supply Technician, Cpl Linda Tompson, had hooked us up with barbeque rations just before we left Honiara and so our first night in Buma village consisted of a barbeque dinner. After dinner, the bamboo pipe band started up providing us with a memorable musical experience.

High visibility patrols were the agenda for the following day. Ballot boxes were being counted and the Royal Solomon Island Police Force (RSIPF) wanted us to conduct presence patrols to deter trouble



from starting during this crucial time. We pulled up to the local police station where our Section Commander, Cpl Volante, confirmed with a RSIPF officer as to the plan for the day. Our task was to conduct foot patrols throughout the Central Business District (CBD). During the first patrol, one of the RSIPF members showed us around the township. The CBD wasn't very big, so it didn't take us long to get round. We did a quick patrol of the local market also to show our presence, and see what was for sale. The donuts sold here proved to be very popular over the next few days! The patrols continued throughout the day with each section getting their chance to rest. In the evening, 3 Section returned to Auki on board the LCH Wewak after supporting the police who detained a number trouble-makers who had been making a nuisance of themselves down south.

Another swim at the beach back in Buma and an Australian ration pack dinner. The locals decided to put on another show along with the Pipe Band again, but tonight they (the locals) were about to be treated to some good old fashioned

'mana' in the form of the 2/1 Battalion haka. With the haka done and the locals pleased at our pure unstoppable awesomeness, the night slowly came to an end and so did Day 3 of our stay in Malaita.

The following day was more of the same, but mounted patrols in our vehicles this time round. We patrolled through the CBD again, drove north and south of the town and of course made our presence known in the market again.

This was our last night in the Buma village and by now most of us had befriended a few of the younger children. It was sad to wave goodbye to them but we all had a great time in village. Hopefully we can come back to visit the kids here another time but for now Election Force Platoon departs Malaita for GBR.

Another boat ride.....it's awesome!!



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

MANNING MEMORIAL PATROL

**Captain Ange Sutton
OC CSST — OP GYRO 9**

24 July 2010 marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Pte Leonard Manning, RNZIR. He was killed in action whilst serving his country in the Cova Lima district of Timor-Leste, close to the border with Indonesia. To mark this occasion OP GYRO 9 sent a patrol to the region in order to conduct, not only a service for Pte Manning, but also to visit the memorial sites of our other soldiers who died in Timor (including those of our allies who served with us at the time) and some Civil Military Assistance tasks.

The patrol consisted of two members who served in Bravo Company with Pte Manning on the second NZ rotation to Timor (known as BATT 2); Sgt Wayne Davis and Cpl Daniel Hapuku. Also present were; Capt Ange Sutton and SSgt Carl Filmer (both of whom served during the NZ BATT days), LCpl Brady Whyte, our Vehicle Mechanic (VM), and LCpl Shannon Tate our Medic.

Early on 23 July the patrol set off on the nine hour, 170 km drive, by road to Tilomar. This was the site of the Bravo Company Forward Operating Base (FOB) during BATT 2; it is now a F-FDTL (Timorese Defence Force) platoon outpost. On arrival a quick reconnaissance of the location was conducted to ensure the site was set up for the following day's official service.

At 0900 hours on the morning of 24 July two helicopters appeared out of the low cloud and landed at the former FOB for the official memorial service. On board were 14 official guests who had come from Dili for the commemoration. Amongst them were representatives from the NZ Embassy, Australia, Ireland, Fiji and Nepal - for all these nations lost soldiers in Timor during the period from 1999-2002. In addition, personnel serving with the UN Police in the Cova Lima area from the Jordanian, Indian, Malaysian and Brazilian contingents joined us and paid their own respects.

Chaplain Hamish Kirk, the contingent's Padre, conducted the service. Though short, it was an emotional experience and we will all remember Cpl Daniel Hapuku's

reading of the eulogy. This had been written by Pte Manning's friends from 2/1 RNZIR and made us all realise what a great loss Leonard's death has been. In addition, Mr Brendan Hopkinson, the NZ Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission, made a speech and Commander Tony Millar, our Senior National Officer, conducted the reading.

Once the service had been completed and the visitors had departed, the patrol headed for Belulek Leten. This was the location of one of the other Company FOBs during the BATT days. En-route a small service was held at Feature 805, the site where Pte Manning was actually killed. A candle was lit and placed at the memorial, poppies were laid and time was spent reflecting and remembering.

Over the next couple of days the patrol took the opportunity to catch up with some of the Timorese people they had known during the BATT days. We spent a night in the home of one of our old interpreters and walked through the same villages that we had visited all those years ago. There were a couple of emotional reunions; one family had a photo of one of the patrol members in their clay hut that they had taken in 2001. They said they thought about the work NZ had done often and always hoped Kiwi soldiers would return. Though there were a few tears there were many hugs and cups of coffee. Another reunion saw Capt Sutton meet up with the mother and one of her nine year old sons that Capt Sutton had helped to deliver in 2002 (before she was commissioned). Words cannot describe the feelings that come with such an occasion.

It is so satisfying to know that all our efforts during this period left such a good impression. Testament to this was the way in which the locals



Kids with the patrol in the old Air Point of Disembarkation (APOD) location.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

welcomed us back into their homes. They did this with open arms and they were so generous despite their obvious poverty. They were all very keen to practise their Maori because wherever we went we were greeted with "Kia Ora Bro". They could remember our faces and the names of many of the soldiers who had helped to make Timor a safer and better country to live in.

injured PNTL officer (Timorese Policeman). As a result of his injuries he had to be evacuated by an Australian Black Hawk helicopter to Dili hospital. No sooner had one incident wrapped up than another occurred. LCpl Tate then assisted with the treatment of a NZ UN Police Officer who was suffering from a leg infection. In return for her assistance, the NZ Police contingent provided us with much

Finally on our way back to Dili, we stopped near Zumalai and held a service of remembrance for Pte Devi Ram Jaisi at his memorial site. He was the Nepalese soldier who served with NZBATT 2 that was killed in action on the 10 Aug 2000.

On the evening of 29 Jul 10, after a 4-hour final leg, we arrived back in Dili — some three days later than expected. The week away was certainly something none of us will forget. Though it was, at times a sombre experience, it was heartening to know that the sacrifices that have been made have not been in vain. To reunite with old friends and share our stories was very special. Timor has developed significantly in the last 10 years; Kiwis are still admired and thanked for their efforts and a real sense of hope and pride abounds. A spirit that will undoubtedly ensure this young country continues to grow.



A reunion with the family CAPT Sutton helped back in 2002

At the end of one of the days, en-route back to our night location in Suai, the patrol stopped to pay its respects to Warrant Officer Class 2 Tony Wallser at his memorial just south of Tilomar.

After a night of extremely bad weather the roads out of Suai were cut off so our plans to return to Dili were thwarted. After a quick assessment of the situation we decided to take the opportunity to see more of the Suai region whilst assisting the local population after the heavy rains. LCpl Tate's medical skills were soon put to the test as the patrol came across a vehicle accident involving a badly

needed shelter, showers and helped to supplement our rations. Seventy two hours after our expected departure from Suai we finally managed to cross the key bridge at Zumalai; for the rains had washed away the approach and prevented our return to Dili. This time it was LCpl Brady Whyte's turn to put his VM skills into practice. The bad weather and subsequent land slips had caused many roads to be blocked and some drivers had clearly tried to cross rivers that were impassable. LCpl Whyte and the team assisted with the recovery of three vehicles and the fault diagnosis of another vehicle that had become stuck in a river.

OPERATION FARAD: A SNAPSHOT OF THE NEW ZEALAND TRAINING AND ADVISOR TEAM (NZTAT)

**SSgt Sean Cassidy
Ops Instructor
OP FARAD (SINAI)**

NZ's presence in the Multinational Forces and Observers (MFO) mission has continued since the Forces inception, 28 years ago. There are 29 NZ personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force who are currently serving in the MFO mission based in Sinai, Egypt.

One of the key NZ roles is providing a Training and Advisory Team (NZTAT) to the Force.

The NZTAT establishes, conducts, maintains and evaluates training courses common to the MFO, provides driver training and MFO permit qualifications testing to all of the contingents.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

The NZTAT also has a multinational flavour to it. We currently have a team consisting of 12 personnel from a range of countries and backgrounds. This article will give you a little insight into the people and their roles within the NZTAT.

Firstly there is the Canadian Staff Officer, Major Keith Laughton. His role is the principal advisor to the Chief of Operations on the training being provided by the NZTAT as well as overseeing the conduct of the Force Skills Competition (skill at arms) and Force driving Skills Competition.

The Senior Instructor (SI) is Capt Mark Weaver from Canterbury. His role is to coordinate the training for all of the contingent's requirements. He also instructs on the Duty Investigators course that prepares selected personnel to conduct investigations into any alleged violations of the Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel and make recommendations to the Force Council. Capt Weaver also assists in the planning and the conduct of Operational Readiness Checks and Snap Inspections of a variety of

sights. These checks and inspections enable Units within the MFO to evaluate their capabilities and ensure any deficiencies are mitigated.

We also have an Australian, Warrant Officer Class 1 Jim Armstrong from Hobart, Tasmania. His role is the Training Warrant Officer within the MFO and RSM of the Australian Contingent. Responsibilities include the evaluation, validation and development of courses conducted by the Force Training and Development Cell. The job involves reviewing course content for relevance in relation to the on-the-job requirement and submitting recommendations for change as required.

The office opposite is the NZ Contingent (NZCON) RSM, and Training Warrant Officer (TWO) of the NZTAT, WO1 Peter Bowyer (Christchurch) who has also recently completed his tour. The current NZCON RSM is WO1 Tony Wright (Palmerston North).

The TWO's roles include managing the Duty Investigators Course,

assisting in the planning and the conduct of Operational Readiness Checks and Snap Inspections. Additionally, WO1 Wright also provides advice to the Units and various contingents in many areas of All Arms Training as well as managing the routine administration of the NZTAT personnel and facilities.

The Operations Instructor team (OP's) consists of 2 personnel. SSgt Andy Lucas (Palmerston North) has also recently completed his tour, with his significant contribution to the NZTAT and the MFO mission being recognised through his deserved Chief of Staff commendation. SSgt Mike Dale (Napier) has recently taken over the role of an OP's instructor.

The job of an OPS instructor is diverse as well as rewarding in the fact that we conduct instruction on a range of courses for the 13 nations within the MFO. In the NZTAT you meet most of the people and places on the deployment as they require not only courses but also assistance on a variety of subject areas and through this you get a



Current NZTAT team:

*Front: SGT Ferris, WO1 Armstrong, CAPT Weaver, MAJ Laughton, WO1 Wright, WO2 Kaumaitotoya.
Rear: SSGT Cassidy, CPL Jephson, SGT Walshe, SSGT Connor, SSGT Dale, WO2 Dallow.*

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



NZTAT OP's Team and Range Familiarisation Course participants from USBATT.
Front Row: SSGT Sean Cassidy, SSGT Mike Dale, WO2 Tove Kaumaitotoya.

chance to display the Kiwi 'anything is possible' approach!

The Driving Instructor (DI) is also a diverse role within the MFO. The DI team consists of a Senior Driving Instructor (SDI) who holds a WO appointment. The role is to oversee all driver training requirements for MFO and provides technical advice on all driving matters. WO2 Henry ("Magic") Johnston (Palmerston North) was awarded the Force Commanders commendation at the end of his tour for his outstanding work on the Force skills driving competition (which the NZ driving team won). WO2 Patrick Dallow (Palmerston North) is the current SDI and also oversees the 3 other DI's.

DI1 (SSgt Paul Conner – Canterbury) is the 2IC of the driver training team. His role is to oversee and conduct Unit Driver Trainer (UDT), forklift operators course and to oversee DI2 and DI3.

DI2 (WO2 Andy Garriock (Canterbury), recently replaced by Sgt Brendon Ferris (Palmerston North) is responsible for licence testing and bus operators course.

DI3 Sgt Malcolm Walshe (Woodburn) is responsible for the SAP data entry licence testing and Fully Armoured Vehicle (FAV) courses.

Generally the DI's are kept busy with their respective courses, particularly with the contingent rotations. A major focus for the DI's is the Force driver skills competition, which is contested twice a year, which is designed to test the MFO's capabilities.

A recent initiative has been the attachment of representatives from the S3 cells (Training and Operations) from each of the 3 Battalions to the NZTAT. WO2 Kaumaitotoya (FIJI) and Capt

Ramos (Columbia) have been assisting with both DI and OP's courses and acting as the vital link between their respective Battalions and the NZTAT. At present the United States representative position has yet to be filled.

For those who have previously served on the MFO mission, you can be reassured that the current NZCON personnel are maintaining the high standard of work that previous contingents set. This is summed up by WO1 Boywer who noted in his farewell speech that "time with the New Zealand Training and Advisory team I have been very fortunate to be a part of firstly, the collaboration between the various contributing nations, and secondly, the dedication and professionalism of the New Zealand Training and Advisory team". This is always shown by the large turnouts we see during our contingents Powhiri (welcomes) and Poroporoaki (farewells) and the continual complements and recognition we receive as a contingent on a regular basis.

Finally, the competitive nature between the Operational Instructors and the Driving Instructors is still as strong as ever, with the banter and set ups continuing to maintain morale in the TAT. It should be noted however, it still takes 4 DI's to take on 2 OP's instructors – which in anyone's book is still not fair odds for the DI's to try and get one over the OP's team!

Long Distance Relationships

A few quotes of comfort, support and inspiration

"In dreams and in love there are no impossibilities."

Janus Arony

"Without rain, there could be no rainbows. Without sorrow, joy would not be as sweet."

Anonymous

"Love is the bridge that bonds the shores of two distant hearts."

Author unknown

"Distance is just a test to see how far love can travel."

Anonymous

"Absence diminishes small loves and increases great ones."

Author unknown

"Absence is to love as wind is to flame, it extinguishes the weak and feeds the strong."

Anonymous

Source: www.geocities.com

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

Padre KEVIN **CRIB 16—Afghanistan**

Greetings from Bamyan. As you are no doubt well aware, much has happened here since the last issue of the Bugle. Much has been said, much has been written. I suppose my message to you all is that CRIB 16 continues to focus on the job at hand and is carrying out the mission with determination and continues to display the professionalism that the NZDF is well known for and that you should be extremely proud of what your spouses, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters and friends are accomplishing here.

You have heard about most of the people here at the PRT but there is one group that you have not heard about. This is a group of men known as the "Fluor" group. They are gradually taking over responsibility for the maintenance of Kiwi Base. Who they you might ask? Well there is Dave (Pinky) the Supervisor, John (Bubba) the plumber, Chad (BBG) the air conditioning go-to man, Larry (Larance) the sparky, Prasad (LBG) the generator guy, Jason (grumpyass) the Chippie, Vicam (V) an administrator, Mike (the 'colonel) V's boss and Sosa (Materials Operator). This unlikely group of characters hail from Texas, Georgia, The Virgin Islands, India, Arizona, Kosovo and Macedonia. Certainly a mixture but a great bunch of guys.

Although they are civilians they are very much part of the 'Kiwi Team' as we have a multinational flavour with the Americans, the Singaporeans and the Malaysians. On encountering them you will always receive a courteous, polite greeting. They are a professional, amiable bunch however they are also very willing and able to have a chat, a laugh and I seem to always

be swapping sayings and discovering new words and their meanings when I talk to them. At the same time I am trying desperately to teach them to talk the Queen's English, (especially the guys from Georgia, Texas and Arizona) lol. It is a battle but I think I am on the winning side. They are very quick to take the 'mickie' out of someone but be reassured that what they dish out they get back in spades. I am glad that they are here with us and they add a different dimension to our already colourful base.

As usual the vagaries of life here at Kiwi Base continue to 'haunt' us whether it be "will the STOL flight come in today?" (even though the sun is shining and it is a beautiful day, the flight is cancelled for no apparent reason); whether it be "will the mail from home and mail from 'Amazon.com' arrive?"; whether it be "is there enough water for a shower today?" (lately we have had a few hiccups with the water supply and many have taken the old water bottle shower; or whether it be "can we get the Pringles (potato chips) that we want from the bazaar?" And the answer to that one is 'No' we can't.

We have also had some unseasonable weather lately with three or four days of low cloud and some rain, but things seem to be back to normal and the skies are clear and the sun shines brightly again. And as usual, there is still the influx of visitors that seem to be descending upon Kiwi Base.

All in all the days here continue to quickly pass by and we are already in the middle of another month.

We continue to focus on our work here but our thoughts are never far from you at home. I hope that this note finds all back in New Zealand well and that life is treating you kindly.

Our prayers are with you, may yours be with us.

Until next time

STEREOTYPES

Padre HAMISH KIRK **GYRO 9—Timor-Leste**

What does one think of as the stereotypical Padre? A softly spoken, angelic faced, light footed, very slightly rounded person with a dazzling halo? Well GYRO 9 certainly missed out there! Well at least they got the slightly rounded bit with their Padre. What about an OC? (Officer Commanding – the Boss). A tall, dashing, witty, high short-wearing creature with a huge smile, no hair apart from hairy eyebrows type guy, that talks with a sort of polished English accent that hasn't been polished that well, and pinches food every chance he gets? Well GYRO 9 definitely got this type of OC! Lucy, his wife, or anyone for that matter, please send him a few kgs of jet planes or wine gums before starvation sets in.



What about our "Tankies"? Those creatures that work within the nether regions of the steel green machines. They pop their heads out of hatches, wearing oversized helmets, with that goggle-eyed look of "I can park this thing anywhere I want to" type stare. Well, as it happens we have an excellent bunch of "Tankies" here on GYRO 9. They mainly hail from the QAMR

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

(Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles) in Burnham. There are two Territorial Force Troopers (Tpr) from WMR (Waikato Mounted Rifles) Their leader is a behemoth of a man, Lt Caleb Berry. Lt Berry can bench press at the weight of our more petite females in each hand — not a good mental picture I know! Lt Berry has been in the Army for five years and this is his first deployment. He is a Wairarapa lad raised on a dairy farm near Featherston. Lt Berry's title is the Protected Mobility Vehicle Troop Leader. There are 13 drivers and commanders in all in the PMV Troop. They are a part of the QRF (Quick Response Force) and they can be found living in "Armour Alley" aka Tiger Lines at the HPOD. As a QRF they have to be ready to go at a moment's notice so have a challenge maintaining this level of readiness — something the rest of the contingent doesn't envy. Apart from our NZ abbreviations such as PMV and QRF I also have to try and work out those of our Aussie brethren. The military seems to like inventing flash abbreviations for just the simplest of things. For example, in the Australian ration packs they have a can-opener-spoon type device called a FRED. FRED stands for Flipping Ridiculous Eating Device — well at least that's what they told me.

We all know things in life sometimes go a bit easier and are a wee bit more fun if a wager, a bet or a challenge is involved. Four guys in the PMV Troop, having been motivated by a genuine lament about the exorbitant cost of cigarettes, decided to quit smoking. Apparently quitting smoking is also good for your health but they did not mention this. So on 16 July, these four men set their resolve, made their pledge and gathered their will power as they sucked on their last cigarette. They quit!

They all agreed that the price they would pay, if any one of them broke their sacred pact, was to wear a bright pink, knee-length dress for a whole 24 hour period. So off one of them went to shop, at a girly type shop, and came home with a most suitable little number.

The first to crack was Tpr Sam Parsons. He only lasted to 21 July! Now this guy has a body good enough to be an underwear model, a bit like the OC's, but he is not as tall. His physique being the product of many hours in the gym and is much to the delight of several female admirers.

"We all know things in life sometimes go a bit easier and are a wee bit more fun if a wager, a bet or a challenge is involved."

The dress was a snug fit to say the least and I am not sure whether all the curves were in the right places. All I can say is that it left little to the imagination and he spent most of the day like a recluse, only venturing out to powder his nose. Sam has been in the Army two and a half years and this is his first deployment. He lives in barracks at Burnham and left a lovely sweetheart in Auckland from whence he came. She is great at sending all manner of awesome parcels and Tpr Parsons says he is equally committed, but I have seen no proof of reviving the seemingly



lost art of actually writing his sweetheart a letter. We have been very helpful to Sam making all sorts of suggestions as to the things he can put in his letter. Tpr Parsons also rings his Nana every week — now how brilliant is that!

On 22 July, Tpr Charles Kelly became the second to crack. Tpr Kelly is often just called Ned, obvious I know, but the nick name has stuck. He is from Victoria in South Africa and has been in New Zealand eight years. When not in green, this surfing tankie can be found in the wilds of the South Shore in CHCH. He quit smoking because his mum asked him to, and he thoroughly blames Sam Parsons for starting again. Apparently he is yet to tell mum that he has re-taken up the dirty habit, at least she now knows.



CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

As Kath, one of my more ancient parishioners often says, you may be born a woman but you are made a lady. Plainly, Tpr Kelly is neither — so he has never been taught how to wear and sit in a dress as a lady. I am trying to choose my words carefully, this being a family publication. Having broad, unfeminine shoulders, and a good set of pectoral muscles the dress was unnaturally tight in certain places. You can picture it, everything straining at the seams and eager to burst out. He needs to learn that ladies sit with their legs crossed or knees together. This resulted in a few giggles but I heard one of the senior ASPEN nurses rather nonchalantly saying that she had “seen it all before!”

I have learnt that Tpr Kelly is single. So any lady in need of a pink, size ten, taffeta dress, who would like to meet a sensitive guy with a very broad “dress” sense should contact me. Just send me a self addressed envelope with a photo of yourself and a \$50.00 note and I will pass on the envelope and your photos to Tpr Kelly! I will use the \$50.00 to buy some welfare cigarettes for the lads.

The third Trooper who wishes to remain anonymous for reasons of domestic bliss and Lt Berry are the two “ex-suckers” who have kept the faith. Awesome and keep it up.

Ate logo from Timor Leste.

You and Me

On the days we're not together
I want you to remember
You're braver than you believe
Stronger than you seem
And you're smarter than you think
But the most important thing
to remember is even when
we're apart, I'm with you.

Author unknown

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM HOME

Padre ROSS FALCONER RNZAF—Principal Chaplain

I went to the movies the other night and saw the movie ‘Inception’ and to my surprise, thoroughly enjoyed it.

The plot was all about this hero, played by Leonardo de Caprio, and his team who were able to enter into and influence people’s dreams and in doing so, influence their waking actions. Naturally, for it made a great plot, the team were faced with a particularly curly problem requiring them to enter and influence a dream, within a dream, within a dream. I can tell you, I had to concentrate to stay with the plot, but it was well worth the \$15 (NZDF discount included).

Anyway, the movie got me thinking about what shapes and influences our current values and actions?

Our present lives are strongly influenced by the values we absorbed during our formative years. Put another way, the dreams we had in our youth help

form the reality in our ‘now’.

All this sounds wonderful and quite mushy:

A childhood teacher encouraged us to pursue our passion and we joined the military, an Uncle was fluent in te Reo and we set out to emulate his values, or we watched a great sports person achieve their goal and we began to train to follow his/her example. But this theory has a flip side when we tackle the hard question; What if those formative ‘dreams and influences’ were destructive to self, others and relationships? What if our growing up was violent, critical or worse? What if our early role models and dreams were, if we followed them, likely to lead us down a disastrous path?

I sometimes wonder what must have happened in the early lives of those who perpetrate the horrors we see in war and what destructive influences and ‘evil’ teachings could lead a young person to strap explosives to their body and walk into a crowded market? What elements of powerlessness or

religious bigotry could corrupt the dreams of a person, leading them to justify killing or maiming a spouse or child in the name of god?

This much I do know; our troops are serving overseas in order to protect those who endeavour to bring ‘good dreams’ to their communities. Our men and women stand courageously between the forces that would destroy the very basis of peace and those who dream of and work for a better life. When the Rev’d Dr. Martin Luther King gave his great speech in Washington DC which began “I have a dream...” he was expressing his deep-held conviction that humans were capable of a better way, the way of peace. That even those whose childhood dreams had been corrupted by prejudice, abuse and violence were able to be transformed by the power of love. Our peace keepers stand in that conviction and at great cost, they endeavour to facilitate turning pure dreams into positive reality.

God bless them.

HOMEBASE — AN INTERNET WEBSITE FOR DEPLOYED

www.homebase.mil.nz

They say information is power and, if so, many of our Defence Force families and friends often feel left out and isolated. This is especially true when loved ones are deployed and family members do not have direct access to the information they need.

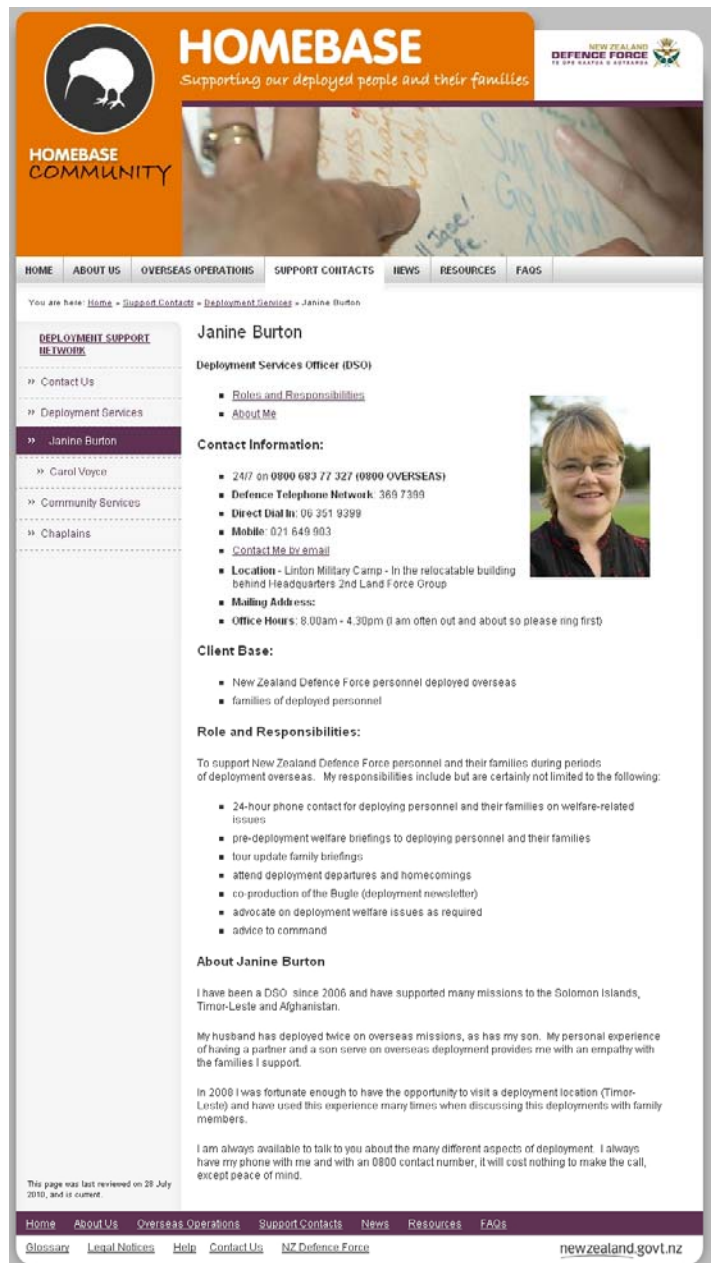
To help improve access and empower families and friends while our people are deployed Headquarters Joint Forces has created an **internet** website called **Homebase** to act as a gateway to useful information. It is intended that the whole Defence Force deployment community, including deployed personnel, families and friends, as well as the Defence Force welfare network, will benefit from its services.

Homebase is organised into several sections which includes both new material that we have created specifically for the site and existing information that has been linked to **Homebase** from other NZ Defence Force websites. Each section targets what we think will be the main areas of interest for **Homebase** users.

The **Contacts** section is a new section that includes

information pages from all our camps and bases as well as personal contact pages for our deployment, community and welfare support people. As one of our Deployment Services Officers, Janine Burton, says "Most of our families expect access to information through the internet these days so it is important we make better use of the net to support them".

Another new section for this site is the **Resources** section. Here we have linked into information and sites from around the world to give users access to the most relevant information in one place. There are vast amounts of information available so it is hoped that



PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

www.homebase.mil.nz

users will drive the content of this section through requests and suggestions about information that are wanted to be seen.

The **Overseas Operations** section on **Homebase** gives information about all our deployments so if you don't already know much about the place that you, or your loved one, is going this is a good place to look. In the **News** section the Defence Communications Group (DCG) publishes all its magazines and articles so for the latest stories and Navy Today, The Army or Air Force News have a look here. The well loved deployment newsletter, **The Bugle** will also be available here to read and or print and messages will be able to be sent to the editor for inclusion via **Homebase**.

This website will allow our deployment community to communicate and share information in a way that will both enable Defence to support you, and empower you to help yourselves.

In the words of Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Air Vice Marshall Peter Stockwell, "Working together we can offer our deployment community the best support, which in turn, will allow our people to give their best efforts while overseas".

HOMEBASE
Supporting our deployed people and their families

HOMEBASE COMMUNITY

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You are here: Home > Support Contacts > Contact Us

DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT NETWORK

- » Contact Us
- » Deployment Services
- » Community Services
- » Chaplains

Contact Us

- Deployment issues - DSO
 - Janine Burton - Linton
 - Carol Voice - Burnham
 - Contact Form
- Camp / Base / Community issues - Community Services Officer (CSO)
 - Chaplains
 - Contact Form
- Deployment Emergency - please contact your Deployment Services Officers (DSO) in the first instance
- Forms
 - Support - Deployments
 - Support - Community Services
 - Chaplains
 - Mail Issues
 - Suggestions or comment for the web site
 - General enquiries from members of the public
 - All other contact

Postal Address:

J10 - Personnel Welfare
Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
2 Geduld Drive Road
Trentham
UPPER HUTT 5010
+64 4 496 0999

This page was last reviewed on 20 July 2010, and is current.

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HOMEBASE
Supporting our deployed people and their families

HOMEBASE COMMUNITY

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RESOURCES

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- » Partners
- » Younger Children
- » Teenage Children
- » Extended Families
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- » NZDF Resources

NZDF Resources

Children and Deployment

[Children and Deployment \[pdf 1.736kb\]](#)

Having one parent absent for a long period of time, such as that required by a deployment, is a big change for children so it is not surprising if they react in some way. Some children exhibit marked behaviour changes, some display no changes in behaviour or emotional signs and others really flourish over the course of a deployment. Reactions can also vary between age groups, personality and temperament of the child, and stage of the deployment.

This information has been gathered from a number of different sources and is designed to help parents understand the range of reactions that children can have to a deployment and offer some ways of dealing with these.

Goodbyes are Hard

[Goodbyes are Hard \[pdf 1.126kb\]](#)

This ideas and activities booklet is written for young people with parents in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Having the military as part of your life can be exciting, but it can also be tough when you have to be separated from your parents because of their military duties.

This booklet gives you some information about ways military separations can affect kids your age. It also includes some suggestions for handling a separation from one or both of your parents, staying close to your parents while they are gone, coping during separation and preparing for homecoming. Feel free to pick and choose the ideas or activities that are helpful to you.

I Can Do That

[I Can Do That \[pdf 776kb\]](#)

This ideas and activities booklet is written for young people with parents in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Having the military as part of your life can be exciting, but it can also be tough when you have to be separated from your parents because of their military duties.

This booklet gives you some information about ways military separations can affect kids your age. It also includes some suggestions for handling a separation from one or both of your parents, staying close to your parents while they are gone, coping during separation and preparing for homecoming. Feel free to pick and choose the ideas or activities that are helpful to you.

My Goodbye Book

[My Goodbye Book \[pdf 1.51kb\]](#)

This booklet about military separations is a child's activity book. We hope it will help you to help your children cope with separation. Making plans for a separation from a loved one is hard for everyone. Your children know when a major family event, such as a separation, is happening, even if they don't have the words to tell you. Children need to be included when you talk about military separations. Explain in simple words why their parent will be leaving. Tell them what will happen during separation. Help them be involved with preparations for homecoming and reunion adjustment. You may be surprised how much your little one can understand.

The story and activities in this booklet were created to help you prepare your children for a military separation.

Separations Happen

[Separations Happen \[pdf 759kb\]](#)

When families are in the military, separation happens, for some families they happen a lot. Military separations can be awful, happy, exciting, frightening - or all of these. They can bring families closer together or make them more distant.

This is a booklet for teenagers whose parent or parents are in the Military. It is written with lots of help from teens who've been through Military separations. You'll find their ideas on how to cope with separations throughout the booklet.

Every teen is different, every separation is different. Use this booklet in the way that it fits your special situation. Skip parts that don't fit, use parts that do.

This page was last reviewed on 10 May 2010, and is current.

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DSO'S CORNER



Janine Burton Deployment Services Officer 2nd Land Force Group

So often, one of the first things I am greeted with when I am meeting military personnel on my various “excursions” around Linton, Burnham or wherever I happen to be is “how are our families?”. I am delighted to be able to respond instantly and confidently that “our families are great”. And you are, absolutely amazing.

I started writing my contribution for this edition while in Burnham after I had completed my Welfare brief to the next contingent to deploy to Afghanistan and took the opportunity to start writing down my thoughts while I was “in the zone” so to speak. I also like to spend at least a couple of days in the vicinity of the contingent, getting to put names to faces and to start building those important relationships with key personnel who I will be communicating with over the coming months.

Sadly, you will be aware of our first death in Afghanistan. Our thoughts and prayers are with the O'Donnell family and with the families of our two injured servicemen as they recover and recuperate from the injuries they sustained. It was devastating news to receive

and I know from the conversations I had with many family members who rang me when the news first hit the headlines and those we met at the update briefings the following weekend, that the levels of concern were (and are) raised and probably will remain so until this contingent return safely home in a couple of months. You will see from the article from Lt Col Boswell that the team are supporting each other and will continue to perform in the professional manner they have done up till now.

It was definitely a bonus that Col Martin Dransfield was available and willing – at very short notice – to be able to attend the tour update family briefings with me earlier this month. As he led the previous contingent to Afghanistan, he was able to share his passion for the country, the people and the continuing mission with our families. I know from talking with our families at the briefing conclusions that we were able to reduce concern levels just a little bit for most of you. It was very disappointing also, that the promised DVD was not available to view at the briefings. The team in Bamyar worked really hard to try to get this to us in time, but technology was just not co-operating. However, it has now been downloaded and with this issue Primary Next of Kin are receiving a copy (this is for you to keep). While not everyone has featured – some personnel are camera-shy – I hope that you will enjoy watching it and sharing it with extended family – not over the social websites though please.

You may have realised that this Bugle is reaching you a week later than scheduled. Currently I am hunter/gatherer, compiler and editor of this and the next issue – definitely a new challenge for me – so I am working hard to maintain

the high standard the Christine has set with previous editions. I delayed this edition in order to give the team in Afghanistan time to gather their thoughts and be able to contribute to this issue, but also the focus at home was definitely on supporting our families and the funeral in Linton for Tim. All said though, we have some great articles which I know you will enjoy. Padre GYRO, Hamish Kirk, has a wicked sense of humour which I'm sure will haunt many of the Timor team long after their deployment has concluded, and the team in the Solomon Islands and Sinai continue to support our newsletter with great article contributions. Thank you everyone.

We are however, still coming out before Fathers Day and you will see from the many pages of messages that our Dad's – both home and away – are in our thoughts. So I will conclude with a sincere Happy Fathers Day wish to all Dads. Have a great day.

FOR YOUR INFO

DVD NZPRT (CRIB 16)

The DVD for the CRIB 16 family update briefs finally came through the day after the briefings concluded. As promised at the briefings, all Primary Next of Kin are receiving a copy with this mailout. I have some additional copies so if haven't had a chance to view it, please give me a call and I will pop one in the post to you.

Return to NZ — CRIB 16

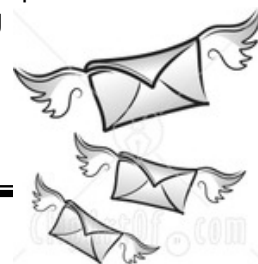
At the briefings I was able to share a date with you for the return of the current CRIB contingent. I am unable to publish this date via the Bugle but if you want to give me a call, can discuss this with you.

Janine

DEPLOYMENT MAILING ADDRESSES

Letters and parcels (up to 1kg in weight) may be sent to deployed personnel at the following addresses, at internal NZ Post rates. When mailing your parcels, please retain the receipts given to you by your Post Shop so the item can be traced, if required. A green Customs sticker must be attached to any parcels, clearly stating the contents.

Remember to write **FORCES CONCESSION RATE** at the top of your envelope or parcel.



Afghanistan:

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
Mission Name (e.g. NZPRT)
NZ NSE
Bagram Airbase
Afghanistan
C/- International Mail Centre
Auckland 2022

Timor-Leste:

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
Mission Name (e.g. TG GYRO 9, TG KAIHANGA)
NZ NSE
Timor-Leste
C/- International Mail Centre
Auckland 2022

Solomon Islands:

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
Op RATA 2
P O Box 1965
Honiara
Solomon Islands
C/- International Mail Centre
Auckland 2022



Sinai (Op FARAD):

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
NZ Contingent
Multinational Force and Observers
El Gorah, Sinai
PO Box 99000, Tel Aviv
Israel
C/- International Mail Centre
Auckland 2022

Israel (Op SCORIA):

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
Observer Group Golan - Tiberias
C/- UNTSO HQ
Government House
PO Box 490 Jerusalem 91949
Israel
C/- International Mail Centre
Auckland 2022

Antarctica (Op ANTARCTICA)

(No requirement for "Forces Concession Rate")

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
Op Antarctica
Antarctica New Zealand
Private Bag 4745
Christchurch Mail Centre
Christchurch 8140

Other Deployment Locations:

(No requirement for "Forces Concession Rate")

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
Mission Name (e.g. Op SUDDEN, TG KEA, TG IRON)
C/- DPSC
HQ JFNZ
Private Bag 900 or 2 Seddul Bahr Road
Upper Hutt 5140 Trentham
Upper Hutt 5018

A Postal Users Guide and Prohibited Items Brochure are available on the NZ Post website by going to their website at www.nzpost.co.nz and typing *Postal Users Guide* and *Prohibited Items Brochure* into the search box. These brochures give valuable information, such as what you can and cannot send, and how to best wrap your items.

Strong packaging is **essential** as these items pass through many hands, may get thrown around and have other items put on top of them. Attempts to send prohibited items may result in entire shipment being delayed as customs remove suspect items.

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:

Burnham—Carol Voyce

Ph: 0800 337 569

Linton—Janine Burton

Ph: 0800 683 77 327

Community Services Officers:

Waiouru—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

SEPARATIONS



Claudia Baker
Welfare Facilitator
RNZAF Base Woodbourne

I have recently come across a very worthwhile book called "Separated by Duty, United in Love", by Shellie Vandevoorde. Shellie herself served in the US Army, but was also a military spouse with children. In my article this month I would like to use some very interesting snippets out of the first pages of this book, and can only encourage any military spouse (male or female) to read it.

It takes two to make a happy marriage/relationship. Any relationship has got its challenges, but when we marry or enter a relationship with a service member (and I say "we", because I am a military wife myself), we will face the extra challenges of separation because of exercises, training courses and, of course, deployments. We need to understand that most of the time these things are out of the service member's control. There are times when the spouse/partner will be asked to sacrifice their career, schooling, friends, and maybe being close to family. As a military spouse/partner, you will make

these sacrifices as your part of supporting your service member in their commitment to the service.

Your commitment to stand by your service member and keep the home fires burning is not always easy to do, and it is this that keeps military spouses/partners apart. Our sacrifices may seem unfair at times, and we may feel like we are the ones doing all the giving. However, as a military spouse/partner you are and will forever be "the wind beneath their wings." Some of us will face hard times, challenges beyond our belief, but those who stay the course become the "rock" of the family.

If you have chosen to be a military spouse, you will face many challenges ahead. Some days you may feel you can't do it any more. In these times always remember that there are people around you experiencing the same, having made the same commitment to their service member; many of them will always be willing to help! You will never be alone and you will always have help. If you feel friends have no time, remember Welfare Facilitators, Community Service Officers or Deployment Services Officers and Chaplains on your Bases or Camps. They will always be available to you!

A word to the service members, as they want and need committed spouses/partners by their side:

Include your spouse/partner in all decisions and changes that affect the family. Discuss your plans with them always! There are still far too many spouses/partners out there that know very little about what

SEPARATIONS CONT'D

their service member does and is committed to.

It is vital for spouses to know of all support that is available to them whilst you are away from home. Don't assume they will simply "get by"; you never know when or for what they may need help. We live in stressful times, there is no shame associated with asking for help at any time! The author even writes that service members who decide to keep their spouses "in the dark" about important decisions and "shelter them from the unit" make it very hard, if not impossible, for their loved ones to remain committed to a military marriage/relationship and way of life.

To all of you: Kia kaha! Keep strong at this time of separation, keep in touch with one another in love!

Leaving you with a quote:

**"To love means
never to be afraid
of the windstorms
of life; should you
shield the
canyons from the
windstorms you
would never see
the beauty of the
carvings."**

2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 14 September 2010, 6.00pm—8.00pm
Sports Bar Complex, Burnham Camp

An open invitation is extended to all those associated with the current deployments to join us for a social time and opportunity to meet with 'like people in a like situation'.

Light refreshments will be served and childcare is available.

No need to RSVP, but for enquiries please phone Cherie on 03 363 0322.

SEPTEMBER

TOUR UPDATE TG GYRO 9 — TIMOR-LESTE

As promised at the pre-deployment family briefings, we are planning a series of update briefings for the current deployment to Timor-Leste. Your invitation is included with the mailout of this edition of the Bugle.

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.

WO1 Graham Sweetman who was on the last rotation will be sharing his first-hand knowledge and experiences and we will also have a DVD to view. Briefings have been scheduled as follows:

LINTON

Friday 17 September 2010, 6.00pm
Community Centre, Puttick Road, Linton Camp

BURNHAM

Saturday 18 September 2010, 1.00pm
Conference Centre, Burnham Camp

AUCKLAND

Sunday 19 September 2010, 1.00pm
Arch Hill, 204 Great North Road, Grey Lynn

Refreshments will be served at the commencement of the Linton (evening) briefing and afternoon tea at the conclusion of the Burnham and Auckland briefings.

To assist with seating and catering arrangements, please contact Janine on 0800 683 77 327 or dso.linton@xtra.co.nz to confirm your attendance. Many thanks.

PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 9 September**.

From In-Theatre

From Dad K to all of the K's, not long to go now, love you all.

To Megan and Steve Baldwin

Have fun during calving, wish I could be there.

To Chelsea, Mum, Dad and family

Missing you all and looking forward to Christmas when I am back. Love Kent.

Hey Jaxon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUNKEE!

I know it's just another day to you, but it's a remarkable one for me. Have a great day hani, treat yourself and spend all you want. lol. Today I send you 24 HUGS AND KISSES. Remember that someone is thinking of you and missing you like crazy. AROHA ATU NEI KI IAKOE. From MUNKEE!

To George and Leni

Score heaps of tries for me George, and heaps of intercepts from you Leni this week OK. I miss you guys so much. Give mum a kiss and dad a hug for me and tell Liana to stop being a bully. lol. Your BIG sister, MATA.

To my girls

Love and miss you guys heaps, talk to ya soon. Love Dad/ Carl xxx

Hi Tracy, Mork and Mindy

Hope you are all well! I loved the parcel I just received, it's great getting them and I stuck all my cards on the wall because I ran out of room on my desk! Love you all loads, say hi to everyone for me! Love from Katie. xoxox

Hey Wifey

Almost half way, good luck for the netball i know yous will do well. Love you lots and miss you heaps. Hubby xoxox

Hi Atawhai

Papa misses you heaps, your growing up so fast. Keep mama on her toes, but dont boss her around to much. Love you lots my baby, Papa xoxox

To WOD

Happy anniversary. 19 years of marital bliss. Time flies when you are having fun. Love you more than ever. Missing you and looking forward to coming home. H xxx

HAPPY AZ

Dad, Mum, Claire, Pete, Poppa! Can't wait to go for a cruise on the new ship! Hope you shoot your first deer with your bow soon sis. Thanks for the phone chats, mail and emails they are keeping me sane! Halfway WOW let the count down begin xxx Love 'Polly'

POSSUM

Hey babe, I miss you SO much. It's great that you're still keeping busy despite the weather. 3 months to go YAY! Thanks for always being there when I need you. xxx Love you always and forever xxx

Hi Babes

Thinking of you all the time. Looking forward to my return flight home. Love always, your darling husband, Robs. xxx

Hi Con & Harry

Hope you are both keeping well. Daddy is looking forward to coming home to be with you again. Love Daddy xxxx

My beautiful baby girl

You are the sun in my life that gives me the warmth to grow. I long to be reunited with you and the kids again. All my love to you and the little ones. Love from the lollie monster.

Dear Sam

It's hard to believe that 5 years have gone by already, time flies when you're having fun! One thing I am stoked about is that I am more certain now than ever that I made the right choice choosing to live life with you. I look forward to returning to NZ so that we can celebrate our anniversary in style. Love from Kelvin.

Dear Jeremy and Dominic

I'm pleased that you listened when I asked you both to take care of you mother, I'm glad that you are both doing well and feeling better. Jeremy, it's neat to hear all the extra words that you are getting a handle on every time we speak and Dominic, before long you will be walking, and to think you were only rolling over when I left. You are both growing up fast and I look forward to seeing the results in person. Love Dad.

To My Three Little Princesses

You can thank Mum for that LOL good on you Babe. Thanks for your packages (Lollies, Choc, Biscuits) but am still losing weight, love the little notes. Not too long to go when we can all sit outside on the deck and chill with a beer or three, and watch our Grandson destroy the place. Puha and Mutton Birds are first on the menu and 2nd. Bye for now. Love yous all. Dad.

Grandma

Happy Birthday for the 23rd. Hope you have a great day!! Love Kevin xoxo.

Arlica and Marissa

Hello you two. Hope you are being good for mummy. How is school going Arlica? Hope you are enjoying it and learning heaps. Hope you guys are helping mummy out too. Love you and miss you lots, Auntie Nicky.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Mum

Thanks for everything you have sent so far really appreciate it. Hope to come visit you not long after I get back. Another month down not long to go. Miss you. Love Kev.

To My baby!

So happy your home again now. Can't wait till I'm back with you! Over half way now. Good luck finding a job I've had my fingers crossed! Missing you more everyday. Love you xoxo. Say hi to the family for me give our son a hug from me xo.

Dear Nana and Granall

Hope you are all well, hope you had a good 80th birthday Granall, it was great to be able to ring you and wish you a happy birthday. Looking forward to my homemade baking and I know a few of my friends are as well. Time is flying over here. Take care and miss you heaps. Love Nicky.

To The Mighty 5 Battalion

What up!. Salam from Afghanistan! How's the best Battalion ever? Still going strong from what I hear! Looking forward to getting back into some training and hitting that "Stock Exchange"! Good Luck for Harding Cup and please, Kick All Their Butts!. Repping as always, LCpl Capper (Caps).

Dear Mum and Dad

Hope you are both well, hope you guys had a nice holiday I suppose you will be back to work by the time you get this. Everything is good over here, just looking forward to coming home. Thanks so much for my parcel the coffee is so good. Love and miss you guys heaps. Love Nic.

Mum and Dad

Well not long to go now. I am looking forward to my big home coming squeeze from you Dad. The weather has got hot again over here and I may come home with a tan. All is good, miss you lots. See you soon. Love Basil.

To my biggest niece – Moko14!

Hey my heart bubble! Man Auntie misses you so much! You wait till I get back You're gonna get spoilt! Haha. Sounds like you got all the gears atm! Styly alright! Our trip is all booked for Perth and ready to go! That's us! Get to see our little ones, your Dad and Ari and your soon to be baby brother! Give Pepelian a cuddle from her Mum and see you real soon ok heart. Love your Auntie Genna xxx

To My Baby!

Well is must be good to be home again! Hopefully you have a job by now! Can't wait till I'm back with you missing you so much. Say hi yo you Mum and Dad, Andy and Buddy for me. Over half way now! Love you always xoxo

To My baby Sister, Maia!

Kiaora my little sis! Man, I spoke to you the other day and gee you are growing up fast – too fast in fact! You are so clever, must have taken after our Mum! Can't wait to hear you sing "Baby" from Justin Bieber, Mum tells me you put on a great show! Have all your photo's on my wall, can't wait to see you at the airport and give you a big Kihi and cuddle! Miss you little sis... Thinking of you always. Love your Big Sister, Genna xox

Happy 16th Bubbles

Wow baby, I can't believe that you will be 16 when I get home. Where have the years gone. My little girl is nearly all grown up. I nearly cry every time I think back to how my life changed when I first held you in my arms. I hope you have the best day ever. When I get back, we will throw you a party!!! Love you forever and ever, Mum xox

Jamie

Not long to go now, I hope that the remaining days go as fast as the first few months did. I really appreciate the opportunity that you have given me and the way that you are coping so well at home. Miss you heaps. All my love Basil.

Hi Jayden, Liam And Damon

Hello my babies hope all is well and you are being good for daddy, mummy will bring you back a little surprise if you continue to behave. I am missing you guys so much and every time daddy sends me a photo I notice big changes not long to go now aye then there will be heaps of kisses and cuddles. Love Mummy.

Mitchell and Josh

Not long to go now until I am home again. I hope you are keeping the house clean. All is good with me, although there has been a lack of parcels from you over the last few weeks. May have to get out my Credit Card and buy myself some parcels. I know that you have both been very good and helpful to Dad, keep it up. See you both soon. I have a big squeeze for you Mitchell! Love you heaps, Mum.

To my husband to be

Thank you for all your support and understanding over the last few weeks. It has been such an emotional time. Thank you for all you do for me. Yours Forever, Me xox

Mum

"A smile is infectious you catch it like the flu, when someone smiled at me one day I started smiling too, I past around a corner and someone saw my smile, I quickly realised I'd passed it onto him. So if you see a smile don't leave it undetected lets start an epidemic and get the world infected!" Love Me x.

Poppey

Hope all is well and you are resting up, not much longer now when you think about it only 7 odd weeks. Hope the girls and your husband are letting you rest up and helping you out around the house. Hope you had a nice birthday on the 8th and didn't go down the slide too many times, well look after yourself and give the girls a kiss and cuddle from me. Love to you all Big sis.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Dear Nats

I hope you are doing okay. I am so proud of you and all that you did for mum. Missing you, but will see you again in a few short months. Thanks, your big sis Rach.

Ko Aroha ahau Chediday!

"Work as if it was your first day. Forgive as soon as possible. Love without boundaries. Laugh without control, and never stop smiling". Love you sis, Genben xxx.

Dear my flower

Hope all is well honey, my days seem to be flying and I hope yours are doing the same, not much longer to go and ill be home and then we have our holiday to look forward too. Keep up the good work, love and miss you lots. Love The Rock.

Happy Birthday Meme!

Not sure if this will make it in time but wishing you a cool day Mum! Wishing I was there with you to celebrate – so miss a quiet inu with you! Not long to go now awesome we've got some things to look forward to eh! Wicked – can't wait. Give Mike a kiss from me and wish him all the best for his dart Nationals! Rep THC hard! lol. Love him x. See you in a few months woop woop! Arohanui always and forever Bebe xxx.

Dearest Mallarie

Thank you for my movies and goodies. Not long to go now. Thinking about you all the time and cant wait to see you again. Hope work isn't too boring. Love you always, Miss you xoxo

Mum, Dad, Toni, Nana and the rest of the family

Another month down. Thank you once again for all the goodies you have sent over. You can stop sending them now, save yourself some money!. I know Dad I'm still costing you money. Take care. Lots of hugs, Love Gumby.

To the O'Donnell Family

My deepest sympathy for your loss. LCpl Coyle.

To the Bayly Road Gang

Your parcel arrived. Thanks. Great pictures of Lukie. He is looking like his old self. Not long to go now. Hope all is well with everyone. Take care. Love K xxx

To The Foxton Gang

Looking forward to seeing you all again. Hope the visitors are enjoying their holiday. Can send some sunshine from over here if you like. Not long to go. Get the B and ice ready!!! Love K xxx

A big thank you to the staff at DSS in Waiouru and Trentham (Former JLSO) who contributed and sent through the welfare packages to both WGCDR Taylor and I. The Pineapple Lumps and L&P were an awesome reminder of home... I am saving my other goodies for special occasions or to be used as bribes for the Aussies... I hope all is well in NZ and I look forward to catching up with you all on my return, God bless... Muddy

Gidday, JLSO FMS Waiouru (well that's what we were called when I left...), thank you all for the wonderful treats that you guys sent over to me.

Boss – I hope you are keeping a tight ship while I am away and the boys are not giving you too much grief?

Steve – the Warriors poster has taken pride of place above my bed. I heard the Horses made the finals again this year only to be beaten... oh well better luck next season.

Lou – I trust you are still the same, grumpy as ever and probably missing me. I have put on 15kgs and have not been to the gym once, the next RFL I do may be a walk test... yeah right!!!

Happy Birthday Nathalie!!! I hope you liked the scarf that Tia and Tam got you?

Hi John – I trust you have the Training Area under control and its not giving you too much hassle this winter?

Hello Mr Shanks – as you have probably found out by now Waiouru is not that bad after all, maybe for a single man it's a little light on talent, but that's why the town is strategically located a few hours from either Taupo and Palmy. We'll that's all I have for now... see you all in around 3 months... bye for now, Muddy

Hi babe

Only 3 more months to go and its all down hill now... I am looking forward to returning home so we can be together again... love always, Me.

To my Tia

Daddy will be home real soon, there should only be about 2 more pages left to turn over on your calendar... I hope you get your motorbike going this weekend. Love you millions, DaddyJ.

Hi Reaggie – I hope your speech went well, I look forward to seeing you real soon. I hope we can spend some time in Auckland when I arrive home and you can show us some of the sights... big hugs and kisses, DaddyJ.

Face

Good work with the exam results so keep that effort up, very proud of you. Love Dad.

Kayla

Nearly time baby...so looking forward to the message when baby Joshua is born. Enjoy the time you have to yourself before he arrives.. Life is about to get very different. Love Dad.

LW

50% has gone by, this time next month you will be ready to sing the words to your boss "my bags are packed, I'm ready to go, I'm leavin on a jet plane don't know when I'll be back again....." YLH

Hey Lois

Egypt is awaiting you....its everything you said it would be and some. I should have known not to doubt you Mi Amigo.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Hi Nat, Matt and Marcus

I will be thinking of you on the 12th. Wish I could have been there but I know we will be thinking of each other anyway This will be the last one we miss this year. Matt, make sure you have a playfight with Marcus for me, but don't pull too many moves on him lol. Love Mike / Daddy.

From Home

Rock

Sorry about the missing the last Bugle, but we did leave a message on the video from the Mid Xmas function held in Burnham. It was a great night and the kids had fun. We are all fine and the kids are doing very well with there schooling and sports, they have grown up so must. It is always great to talk to you on the phone and internet. We miss you heaps and love you more each day. Take care. Flower.

Hi Mom

We are still ALIVE (oops) safe and well...we are running Dad off his feet. We are going to Arlica's birthday party this weekend and we have a present for her and we will tell her that you said "*Happy Birthday*" too. Liam and I are doing really well at sports, Liam scored a try and kicked a conversion in his league game and I played well in rugby. We wrestled and played tackle with Dad and won, Mum I don't think Dad is very good at sports unlike you. Liam, Damon and I are getting taller (almost as tall as Dad), you know Mum I think Dad is going to be the short one in the family. OK Mum, we LOVE you and miss you heaps.

PS. we love you too Dad, keep up the good work...(Jay)...

Your sons Jayden, Liam and Damon XXX OOO

Hi Nic

Got your letter and photos, thanks. Have posted off a package – Ruks says you'll need it (baking) after your big experience over there – just so relieved you are OK.

Thoughts are with you all. Love Nana & Granall.

Happy Father's Day!

Know its not much of a fathers day with you over there and us here but what can you do really so lets make the most of it and we'll celebrate by going out for dinner on you of course!! :P Probably chinese cos its your favourite at least we'll be thinking of you and knowing your doing helpful stuff over there whatever it is your doing haha but will shout you when you get back well me (nicky) and maybe talia anyways cos you know what leesh is like haha anyways Dad your not good with the gooey crap but you know how much we love, miss, admire and think the world of you and if you don't know, now you do! We really are proud to be your daughters and we cant wait for you to get home for a big family hug. Love ya Dad, nicky, alicia and talia xoxo

Happy Grandpa's Day!

To my grandpa, time sure flies when your one and a half and not understanding why I'm only allowed to talk to you on the phone and the most I've got is hi and bye but at least when you come home I'll be two so I'll be able to have a bigger conversation that includes animal noises and the alphabet!! :) missing you alot can't wait to see you at the airport getting off the massive big bird that you flew away on not that long ago, I'm thinking I might perform my unique haka that I practice constantly while watching the All Blacks. Oh and don't forget some presents just for me, cos you know I'm your number one little man. Happy Grandpa's Day. Love Taine xoxo

To Steph

Happy Birthday for 30/8. Have a wonderful day and we will be thinking of you. Love Mum, Dad and whanau and also from "Murphy".

Hey Babe

Happy Fathers Day! You truly are an amazing father to our beautiful baby girl and everyday I am thankful for that! We can't wait till you get home so our little family can be together again. The countdowns on now! Lots of love Juey and Grumble xoxo

ST's 4 Lyfe

Hi Daddy, we miss you!! Luff from your SonSon, your Petal, and Mummy. Kiss kiss, Hug Hug See ya in the morning.

Hi Smes

How are you? Hope all is well. I cannot believe we are coming up to the halfway mark. How time has flown by specially now that there is only less than 10wks to go before Baby Girl is here. Things on the home front couldn't be better now that I finish work this month. Stay safe, love and miss you heaps. Smades, Baby Girl and Tank.

Dr Laurenson

So proud of you Andy. You are doing a great job, and holding everything together with such a clear head. However... im looking forward to you coming home and just looking after me! The countdown is officially on and the holiday is booked. And when you get home, bringing in the firewood is YOUR job. I love you. Stay safe honey, I can't wait to see you at the airport in one piece. Love Kim (and Ned).

To Dad

Happy Father's Day Dad. I'm a little sad that you're not here to take me for a good walk but am really looking forward to your return. Woof Woof from your Fur Child, Sam.

Hi Goblin (and the whole team)

You have been much in our thoughts this week, along with the remainder of the team. Thank you for the positive contribution you are all making in your respective areas of service. We are all very proud of you. Love Bumblebee.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

The work you are all doing is important and valued. Keep focussed and committed – we support you totally.

Scott – Lotsa love from Dad, Sian, Jan & Rhian & Sam, Murray, Shonagh & Sista Suzy. Mum – Grey, Cuddles Zar et al Mal & Sue say hi as does Taiapa.

To Leighton

Our thoughts are with you. Hoping you're well. Looking forward to your safe return, not long now. Missing you heaps. Stay safe. Love as always Mum and Hinzy xoxo.

To Chris T

My thoughts are with you and everyone over there. Hope you're doing ok, keep safe. I'm missing you heaps. Not long to go now, can't wait baby. Everything is well back home, the dogs still looking after me. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. I love you, always will. Kisses and hugs, Emma P.

Hey Joel

You know you are all in our thoughts. Stay strong. We will be thinking of you on Father's Day. Guess the sisters have to cook the breakfast for Dad; Yeah right LOL. As always Big hugs & lots of kisses. Love & miss you. Mum, Dad, all the gang xxxxxxxx

To Uncle Joel

Miss you and love you. Love Marita xxxxxxxx

Dear Terry/Daddy

Happy Fathers Day. Hope you are safe & well. Love you & miss you so much. See you soon. Love from Taylah Tohill & Mummy.

Sup Weege! (6 Aug 10)

Feeling very important here at this meeting! Cool to be a part of it! Went to watch Max play soccer this morn & he scored a goal for me! Woop woop! Off to the AB's game tonight, which will be neat! Stay safe & keep in touch.

P.S. Mitch is a tank!! ☐Libs.

P.S. Happy Fathers Day from Ma I love you. We are at your work, love Max

Captian Planet!!!

Hey there handsome, hope you are going ok. I still miss you lots and will do until you are safely home. Life here is busy. Ed went out on a date (shock horror), Emma & Natasha are good. I love you lots & lots ... can't wait for our holiday when you get home ... hmmm ... time for some new lingerie? I am so proud of you. Love you lots, J.

Hey Saus

Happy Fathers Day – hope it's a good one. Not long now – still trying to sort out our dirty weekend away (hehehe). Love you lots and miss the Love, Precious.

Rach

So proud of all you are doing. We love you so much, all well. Bob & Na xx.

Mike/Daddy

Wishing you Happy Fathers Day. Mikey & Lizzy thinking about you lots. Hopefully Mikey will be able to hear you when you come back. Miss you dad. Mikey & Lizzy x.

Hi Andy

Lots of your mates and colleagues from work ask after you regularly. Hope the public health is going well and you don't have to deal with any more trauma. Regards Dad.

Hey Mr Toes

Babe not long to go now, missing you like crazy. Kids are good and looking forward to you coming home. I hope you're ok. Very sad time for you all. Remember I love you 4EVA 2GETHER AS1 and no, I don't want a boat, LOL. Love you always, your girl, Wifey Toes xoxoxo

P.S. Happy birthday, hope you have a quiet day and get lots of Hugs. xoxo

To Dad

Happy Fathers Day dad. Miss you so much. 4 more sleeps and I go to Australia, I'm so excited. Love you Dad and miss you. From Mushroom xoxo

To Dad

I hope you're having a great time there. Happy Fathers Day and a huge Birthday Kiss. I am going to try real hard at rugby for you. I love you Dad. From Turtle xoxo

To Dad

Happy Birthday and Fathers Day. I miss you so much xoxo. Love from Bubbles.

Dear Mike

Happy one year Anniversary. Missing you so much. Enjoyed the briefing today, very educational! Love Sophie xo

To FAZZ and All the CRIB 16

Thinking of you all and Very Very Proud. Mum and Garry.

Hi Sam

We are at Burnham and have just seen a DVD of you arriving in Afghan, looking very new and clean-shaven. Look forward to you coming home, will be at the airport waiting for you. The thoughts of everyone in NZ are with you and all the troops. Be proud of the wonderful job you're all doing in the Kiwi name.

P.S. hope you have got your laptop.

Love you – Mum, Geoff, MJ, Amanda, Emma

Hi Sam

Hope you are getting a lot of satisfaction from the contribution you are making to the Afghan people's lives. Best wishes Geoff.

Tommo

Counting down the days now. Still missing you & it seems harder. Hope your Fathers Day is good, no kids, bonus? We will celebrate it on your return. Love always Brenda & the kids xox.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

To Ray

We are all thinking of you. We heard today about your work at the meeting in Auckland. Lots of love from Daniel and Jared and Liana and Mummy and Daddy.

To Ray

We are all looking forward to you coming home. Grandma and Poppop have moved to Matamata. Daniel and I stayed in their cottage last night. We came to Auckland today to learn about what you are doing in Afghanistan. Lots of love Tyler, Mummy and the animals.

Hey Bazza Jnr

Hope all is well, on the countdown now. Hugs from us all – Mum, Charlie, Jessica.

Happy Step Daddies Day Cameron

You will see how big I've gotten when you return. Love Kameron (and Mum) xoxox

Hey Cameron

RAWK, Can't wait for you to get home. Love you lots, little big little sis Charlie xoxo

Hi Chris

Hope all is well with you; into the final countdown now. See you soon Son, love Mum & Dad.

Dear Savish

Miss you heaps, just had the dates you'll be back, so yay! All our love as always, K & Daneer xx
P.S. Happy Anniversary, Birthday and Fathers Day!!

Hey Jan

Missing you heaps. Sunday breakfast isn't the same without your big smile. Looking forward to seeing you soon. Keep safe. Love Stephanie & Keith.

To Henry T.K.

All our love, we miss u heaps. Keep safe and see u when u come home. Love Mum & Dad, Henry, Staci, Deanne, Vivienne, Taylor, Harlin.

Hiya fatchop/my brain

Missing you heaps & thinking of you often. Hope you enjoyed your birthday and got lotsa goodies. Happy Fathers Day 2! Love you heaps & heaps. Take care. See ya soon ya big baboon. Love Pinky & Baby DEE! xox

Hi Matthew

Had a good informative day at the Army HQ in Auckland listening to how things are going over there, and everyone is working hard to ensure you are all safe & OK. We are all thinking of you at this time when danger seems to much closer. The days are getting less until your return, and looking forward to that. All the best and will keep in touch. Love Mum & Dad & Jasmine.

T Dawg HeHeHe

Hello ugly, just at your briefing, long as trip. Can't wait for you to come home, I'm strait bored, go no-one to fight with, mum and your cat Frodo gave up hahaha. Nah. Hope you get this message. Well gonna go now, I'm hungry lol. See you soon my bro, can't wait. Love and miss you heaps. xox Your Sis Shan Dawg.

Tupu

Thinking of you on your anniversary. Wishing you a happy Birthday. Loving you always. Looking forward to having you back. Will give Jack extra hugs on his birthday from you. Lee & Joe.

Giddyday Ruts

Its Cuttyface here. I'm in rainy old Auckland talking about what you guys are up to. I've sent over a movie called 'The Room' which I hope cheers you and your mates up if needs be. It's one of the best movies ever made. Anyway I can't wait to see you in a few months. You've missed the winter you lucky bugger. Let's go deer stalking and pub crawling this summer. Dan.

Spud

Just at the briefing thinking of you.

People saddened here at the loss. Hope you can find strength thru this. Love Mum & Dad. It's over ½ way.

To Matthew M

Happy Fathers Day. Love Caleb & Emily.

To Lee-anne

I'm writing this slowly because we know you can't read fast. What's black and white and read all over ... The Bugle, hehe. From Trac & Paula.

To Lee-anne

Lots of love from all the family. I'm eating carrot cake while I'm writing this ... yummy. Sweet dreams, Mum.

To Micah

Hey Bro, missing you heaps here. All my love goes out to you. I hope you're staying safe. Can't wait until you get back. I'm so proud to call you my brother and for everything you are doing to help the locals over there. Love you heaps, Eden xo.

Leanne

Happy Fathers Day Dad. Thank you Leanne, Lov me.

Hi Blue Eyes

Well we are over the ½ way and the kids are still alive and well. Wish you were home for Fathers Day so you can mow the lawns (hehehe). Miss you always, your Hot Legs.

Hi daddy

Sorry you're not home for Fathers Day so mummy will get breakfast in bed. We love you and missing you so much. Love from Samantha xxxxxxxx & Jack xxxxxxxx

Hi Dad

Happy Fathers Day. Sorry you are not home for this day. Lots of love, the awesomest Vampire ever to walk the universe besides Edward Cullen. Kaitlin.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Leanne

Thank you for the phone calls, we really do look forward to them. Hope the knickers wont fall off. My cold is gone at last, Backle is doing fine. Love Backle & Nan.

Doughy

Happy dadda-day from Soph. I'm giving mommy a hard time trying to escape crawling and eating everything. Maybe I'll eat your fishies too – yum, yum. Love Soph xx.

Sig Reweti

Murah happy fathers daddy, we love you heaps and miss you dearly. Couldn't let this day pass by without wishing you a truly blessed day. Much Love Always, Evangelis, Bella and Aniva xoxo.

Sig Reweti

Hi Daddy, Happy Fathers Day. Love you heapz and missing you heapz. Evan & Bella xox

LH

Thanks for the message in the magazine. Somehow I do not think the number 50 made it into the message in error but never mind thanks anyway. Well we must be over half way by now so its all down hill from here. Missing you, lots of love YLW.

P.S. Happy fathers day Love Face, Ways and Bug

Happy Fathers Day Dad (Mike)

For fathers day this year we will make the biggest hamburgers and eat them on your behalf (just like Wendy's burgers your favourite). Miss you heaps and can't wait for you to come home so we have someone to play fight with. Love Matt & Marcus

Happy Birthday (12th Sept) Mike/ Dad

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, you look like a monkey and mum tells us we act like one too.

Remember the older you are the wiser you are. Well that applies to most people....We hope you have a

wonderful birthday. Love you and miss you heaps. Nat and your two little monkeys Matt & Marcus.

Hi the Rock

Dam cold in this neck of the woods in NZ! Had a great time with the boys over the holidays! Now the other three want to come down, i.e.; Your No 3 and his cousins? I understand your better half got a woody from his Auntie in law for his birthday. Still yet to find out what that means. Maybe B4 my day Kid! Good to hear from you most weeks. Cannot wait to get rid of all this fog and frosts! We are looking forward to our trip to Hayman Island off Brisbane in three weeks. At least we will see the sun. Well three months has passed so you are over half way there. Kids are missing my cooking so I am told. Also your favourite Bro in law is still having Nightmares. He appears to be a little withdrawn lately. So the sooner you come home the better. Take care kid. Miss you heaps. Your ever-loving Mummy and Daddy xxxxx.

Hi Nic

Hope all is OK over there. Another month gone! Won't be long – Had the "Boys" call in on way to Nana & Pops place – All looking fit and well. 'Ruks' does a great job – look who trained him!! (Sorry Ruks). We are ok. Take care. Love Nana & Granall. xx.

Hey Genna

Your dad said that you look forward to receiving messages in this magazine. Hope you don't mind receiving one from me on here. How is it all going there? Well I hope. Well we finally bought a home and move in early Sept (just in time when he is due back from sea) We are both looking forward to it and are very excited but a bit weary about the mortgage. Your dad said I must stop buying ciggies now! Hmmmmmmmm. You are most welcome to come and stay anytime

you wish (there will always be a room for you) It would be nice to do some girly things with Andre's daughter like shopping (when money permits) LOL, zumba and even the gym!! But most of all for you to spend some quality time with your dad and to catch up with the rest of your family here in Sydney. He is so excited about the new arrival of his new grandson - Andre and your mum are so lucky and blessed to have two beautiful children and grandchildren. Bet you're excited too! I'm also going excited (my brother is getting married in Sept and he and his fiance are also having a baby boy. y dad would have been so proud! Anyway would love to write more but don't want to take up the whole page on this magazine!! LOL. Take care Genna and be safe. God bless. Love Beth (Bibi). xxoo.

Hi BDP

Well, nearly half way now, just gotta get over that hump and begin the slide down to the end! Finally starting to see some lighter mornings and evenings now and the end of winter is in sight, I wonder if we will get up to the kind of heat you have been having....i doubt it!! L, M and R are missing u, I think they are sick of me! Thinking of you lots, missing you heaps. Love T xx **Air Five**"

Dear Dad, miss you.

Don't be too sad that you are missing my 1st birthday, mum promises to take lots of photos and video clips and even to save you a piece of cake (in the freezer) for when you get home. Love Dominic.

Dear Dad

I have been really busy now that my chickenpox are all gone, been enjoying music group and because we have finally had some nice weather I can play outside too - lots of fun! I still say goodnight to your photo every night and can't wait till you get home, love Jeremy.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

To Dad /Kelvin

Happy Fathers Day, we are missing you heaps. Lots of love Sam, Dominic and Jeremy

To Dad

Happy Father Day! Love Adam

Dear Hubby

Can't believe its our 5th anniversary already, gone so fast! Life has thrown so much at us in that short time and it has only helped bring us even closer. I love you so much, bring on home time :) -Urvos

Hi Katie

Not sure if this is in time for your birthday, but HAPPY BIRTHDAY for 31st August xxx. I have my bike now and loving it. Went on a good ride with Keta. Have booked weekend off for the bike rally too!! Mork and Mindy are good. Miss you tons and tons, love you heaps and heaps. Take care darling. Love always, Mum xxxxxxxx

Hi Mike

It all sounds very exciting up their in the desert. We all love the E Mails you are sending. Marcus is one today 13th August, how exciting for you all. We are disappointed that we could not be with your family in Whakatane to celebrate this occasion. Both Mum and I have caught a bug which means we cannot travel at the moment. Take care and look after yourself. Will send another parcel next week with goodies and hope you will like these. All of our love to you from us in West Auckland. Only another 2 months approximately to go and this will not take too long for you. Love you heaps, Mum and Dad.

Hi Auntie

Well I have had my first week of school and find it boring but like going, I love lunch time the most as always wanting to eat. My birthday was lots of fun we stayed at chimpunks for a long time as it was a horrible day outside and we all just played so well. Marissa is good but I think she misses me

being at school all the time and is driving mum nuts. Well I should go now and take care and you will be home soon and I look forward to you taking me out for tea. Love Arlica and Marissa xx

Hi Sis

Hope all is well over there after the horrible loss of a soilder. My thoughts are with you all and it makes me realise on what a great job you all do for this country and I dont think enough people realise this and think that we need to be educated more on what the NZ army do. I have a belly that moves and does lots of flips and beginning to hurt as it does so. Your brother in law says hi and is so excited as the days are getting less and less as he marks each day off the calendar before he goes to work in the mornings so he is getting happier knowing you will be returning soon. Well must go and do some work. Lots of love Poppey xx

Hi Dwayne

Ummmm, I'm not sure how to tell you this BUT I have spoken with JFNZ and asked if your tour can be extended, sorry about that but I accidentally spent more money than I should have on some furnishing for the house. You cant be too upset about this because you are always telling me to buy what we need, and most of the stuff we needed (apart from the swimming pool, and the play ground for the puppies) but I know you love us and will do what it takes to keep us happy.

The back to back tour will be tough for us all but I know our relationship is strong enough for us to make it through. JOKING.....you can come home anytime you want and you wont be in any debt. We Love you lots and miss you heaps. Take care, not too much longer to go. Shelley, Ella and Kale

Hi Dad

Happy Fathers day. What a shame your not home for it, we had a special menu planned for your breakfast in bed but since we wont

be able to make it for you, we've come up with a plan for you to do instead.

All you need to do is;

Go to bed on the 4th with this bugle under your pillow

Sleep in till about 9.30 (don't worry, I have cleared this through your boss)

When you start to feel hungry, reach in under your pillow and pull out this menu.

On a wooden tray, Ella has put a nice linen placemat and in the top left hand corner of the tray is a chilled glass with Tomato Juice. Have a sip.

We were going to put a few flowers on the tray but we know your not really into those, so Kale placed a 'tool shed' magazine for you to read. In the centre of the tray is a stack of pancakes with a collection of summer berries and whipped cream (melted and dripping down the side of the pancakes). Pick up your knife and fork and have a taste. You wont be able to stop eating as they are sooo yummy. There will be a knock at the door and a man will come in with a second plate covered with a silver lid. He will remove your empty pancake plate and replace it with this next plate. He will also top up your tomato juice and give you a hot cup of tea.

Uncover the plate, you find a 'big breakfast' waiting for you, your not sure if you are able to finish this but you do anyway because you know that this was prepared with love from us.

Now that your belly is full, fold the bugle back up and place it back under your pillow and have a sleep, don't forget to set your alarm cause we could only get you out of work until 11.00.

MISS YOU DAD. Oh yeah, thanks for all the new things I have in my room (mum told us not to tell you). LOVE YOU, ELLA and KALE

Hi Basil

Always great to hear from you. Keep up the good work. We have been thinking of you all. Hope the teaching is going well and the students making good progress

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

under your watchful eye. I am sure there will be many good stories to tell on your return to life far removed from the classroom. Take extra special care. Lots of love, Flo and Cliff xx

Hello Lawrence

Was so good to talk with you on the phone and to be able to catch up on all the news from here and there. Beats the email and letters which sometimes I am not so good at getting done. Just posted a parcel today full of all those goodies you need to keep up the stamina and link with home! A little rough patch currently but tomorrow maybe better. Looking forward to November! Have a great time on safari - send me a card if you get the time, but most of all keep safe. Ab at her destination and thriving on it all!!! Thinking of you always, Lots of love, Florence xxx

Hi Daddy

By the time you get this message it will be nearly fathers day. I hope you have a really good day daddy, because you are the best daddy in the world and you deserve it. I miss you soooo much daddy, I tell mama all the time that I want to give you real snuggles and kisses. I don't want to give pretend ones on skype anymore. Mama keeps telling me to be strong because it's not long to go now. I told her I can be strong. We are going to have so much fun when you get home daddy. HAPPY FATHERS DAY DADDY, I LOVE YOU TO THE FURTHEREST STAR AND BACK. Tia xoxox

Hi Babe

Well honey each bugle we write in is another month closer to you coming home. I can't believe how fast this year is flying by. It will be father's day not long after you receive this so I hope you enjoy your day babe, you deserve it. We wish you were home with us so we can spoil you with lots of hugs and kisses. I love you lots babe and miss you even more. Family Forever xoxox

Dear Aunty Gumby

We have caught you a cool present that Mum is putting in the post to you. Ok so really it was Duke who caught it and I just kinda stole it from him and pretended that I got it first. Mum took it off us and praised us both (which was a bonus since Duke did all the hard work!) She says to keep an eye out for our present!! Lots of Love Tago and Duke

Hey Gumby

Hope all is well up there it is really wet and yucky here at the moment, so curling up on the couch watching Sky seems to be the best option for the day!! It does mean that the garden is not getting planted but you win some you lose some!!! We hope that all is well up there and that you are doing the amazing job that you all do. We are so proud of not only you but all the troops serving up there and send our best wishes to everyone, so please pass that on from us.. Miss you lots. See you soon. Lots of love Toe and Ed

Hey Bub

Well we are officially over half way now! YAY! Maybe you should look at being a Medic next time round!! Lol. Proud of your performance in helping your good friend my darling. Everybody sends their love from da Naki. Meme

Mr Brophy

Hope it is all going well for you over there. Think of you often and the support you are to everyone. Thank you. Faye - Gennas Mum

Mr Boswell

I do hope your crew are doing you proud. Im sure they are as they have an awsum Role Model to follow. Not long before you bring them all home. Can't wait!! Faye - Gennas Mum

Hi Leanne

Hope you are on the mend and Genna is standing right by your side. You are very special to her. Take good Care. Gennas meme

Hey Kev

Thanks for the birthday wishes!! Another reason to get together and celebrate when you come home – 2 carrot cakes and a couple of woody's! Time is passing quickly, or so it seems to me! Be pleased when winter has gone and Spring arrives. Take care. Love Mum xxx

To my Girl Genna

It seems like only yesterday with a tear in my eye
That you were born into this world with a yell and a cry
Every passing year went far too quick my dear
You turned out so fine I knew you would step up to the line
Its all happened so fast, a pity youthful innocents does pass
So duty calls and that's the rules
But as the years go stumbling by one thing will remain true
You'll always be my baby girl no matter what you do
Aroha - DAD

Hi Kev

Thinking of you, hope all is going well now after the sad events of this past week. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. All OK here, take care dear. Lots of love Mum, Dad and the Gang

My deepest sympathies and thoughts are with all the Defence Force personnel throughout New Zealand, and especially so with the boys over in Afghanistan. It must be devastating for them so far from home, but I know they will continue the great job they are doing. Hopefully they are aware of the enormous support and respect the people at home have for them, and that we are sending prayers, and support to them.
Regards Jeannie Paterson

We are thinking of you and the wider Burnham family especially at this time. Please be assured that the families and all soldiers are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. It must be a terrible time for all. Blessings, Bonnie & Ian

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Dearest Gumby

Hope you are well? Time is marching by so not long now till you are back home again. This tour seems to have flown by. More baking on the way, I have Dad helping me this time, so hope they turn out okay! He is driving me mad under my feet during the day, but guess I will get used to it shortly. He has been given some work next week – yeah! Everyone sends you their love and can't wait to see you. Take care, stay safe. We are very proud of you. Lots of love, Mum and Dad xoxoxoxo



Daddy I'm now a big 1 year old boy. I had a fabulous party and got lots of presents. I was so spoilt I had a second party with Nana and Granddad and even got another cake. I ate your piece. Love you Marcus

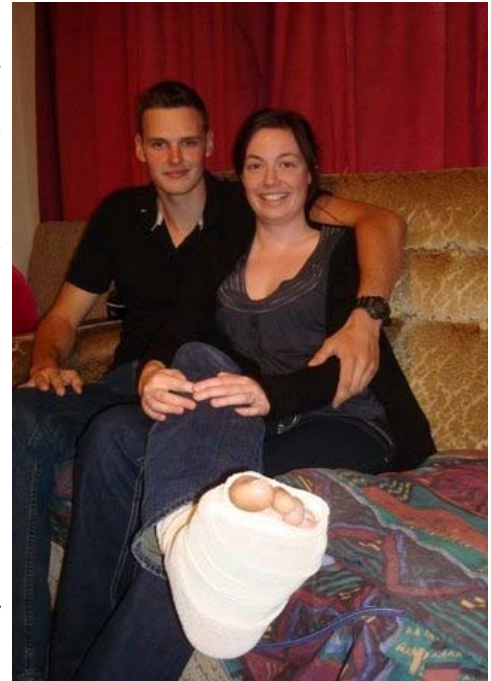
Hi Dad

Happy Fathers Day. We want you home for the next one. Things are going to the pack at home. The lawns are no longer regulation height! James, Mel, Tam and Adam.

Deepest condolences and warmest wishes to the family, friends and support network of Tim O'Donnell and his comrades. Trish Fraser.

Hi Everyone

Just wanted to let you know I'm doing well. My less severe injuries are slowly healing and I am being well looked after by my whole family and friends, so thank you all. I am due for an operation on my heel on Saturday 21 August. So by the time you read this I'll be back on my arse again being waited on hand and foot by me fiancée, as I still plan to be walking down the aisle in December. Despite my injuries I thoroughly enjoyed my tour with my crew K2 and I wish them the best and look forward to seeing them when they get back.



My thoughts go out to Tim's family, he was an excellent commander, friend and 500 player. I will miss you Boss. Bakes

BOUQUETS

Sgt Carl Williams (CRIB 16) and WO1 Lou Kirby.

Thank you so much for all your efforts in getting the DVD completed and to us. I know that the technical gremlins gave us some serious grief but we got there in the end and I apologise for all my panicky emails! All PNOK are receiving a copy with this mailout.



Col Martin Dransfield – Martin, you came through for us again and I am so grateful to you for giving up your precious family time to attend the tour update briefings for CRIB 16. Your passion for the country and the people of Afghanistan is infectious, thank you for sharing it with us. Thank you also to **Padre Leon O'Flynn** who came to the Auckland brief which Martin wasn't able to attend. Another cup of choy!

Lorraine "Mac" Aitken for your continued support of me as I run this role solo. Your phone calls are so appreciated and it is always wonderful to be able to catch up when I am in Burnham on a week day.

Cherie, Bruce and Aynsley – while I am covering for Carol, it is good to know that you are there, Thank you.

Father's Day

In New Zealand Father's Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in September. This year we are celebrating on

Sunday 5 September



Being a dad is one of the most awesome achievements in a bloke's life, but the best dads are often taken for granted as much as the mums. Father's Day is the time to let our dads (or father figure) know just how much they are loved – regardless of the number of times he punished you! It is our chance to show our dads how much their love and various parental sacrifices over the years have meant to us. This is the day to remember the times your dad supported you in your favourite sport, helped you with your homework, drove you to any number of events or to meet your friends, and every other little task which dads do for their kids.

Earliest History of Father's Day

Scholars believe that the origin of Father's Day is not a latest phenomenon, as many believe it to be. Rather they claim that the tradition of Father's Day can be traced in the ruins of Babylon. They have recorded that a young boy called Elmesu carved a Father's Day message on a card made out of clay nearly 4,000 years ago. Elmesu wished his Babylonian father good health and a long life. There is no record of what happened to Elmesu and his father but the tradition of celebrating Father's Day remained in several countries all over the world. Though fathers have been revered at all times by civilizations across the globe, ironically what was missing until the last century was the official recognition of the significance of fathers in ones life.

Father's Day as we know it today, is a time to acknowledge and appreciate the important role played by a father in raising their children.

Happy Father's Day