

THE BUGLE

Issue 146 | December 2010



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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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Disclaimer

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

Cover Photo:

Messages of goodwill and festive greetings are added by children, to the banners accompanying service personnel to Timor-Leste. The contingent were farewelled from Burnham Camp in November.

GUEST EDITORIAL



Christmas Message from Chief of Defence Force

This will be my last message for "*The Bugle*" as Chief of Defence Force. I want to express my gratitude for the contribution and sacrifice made by all Defence Force people and their families, but especially by you, the families of our deployed people.

When soldiers, sailors, and air men and women sign up to serve New Zealand, they know the commitment they are making. They also know the risks that come with that commitment. Families on the other hand have not 'signed-up' as such, yet the Defence Force will from time-to-time also test your commitment and ask sacrifices of you. Families will experience separation from loved ones, as well as the associated worries and anxieties about the well being of their deployed person. This year my own family will be observing Christmas and celebrating the festive season while my son is deployed overseas.

While we make every effort to keep our people safe, perhaps in no other year in my past four as CDF have the risks of service been made so plain. In August, Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell was killed in Afghanistan, which affected us all deeply. This holiday season my thoughts are with the O'Donnell family and the families of all those who have died in the service of our country.

So as Christmas approaches, I want to acknowledge the patience, support and concern of Defence Force families as a kind of 'service' in itself. Our success as a Defence Force is inextricably linked to your ongoing support.

As Chief of Defence Force, I say thank you, and I wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year, wherever you may be.

CHRISTMAS 2010 MESSAGE TO DEPLOYED PERSONNEL

WAYNE MAPP
MINISTER OF DEFENCE



Military service calls heavily on the core values of the Defence Force: courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity.

These values are very much on display in our overseas missions. I have met many of you in our deployments since becoming Minister and those core values are always to the fore.

I have also met family members, waiting at home. They too are sustained and strengthened by those values.

This year I have visited Defence Force people all over the globe – in Afghanistan, the Middle East and a number of cities where our people are posted.

I have enjoyed every minute of my time in your company. In every instance I have been proud of the very high standards you are meeting and how well you represent our country in your dealings overseas.

Sadly, there have been several tragedies this year. The death of Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell DSD while deployed in Afghanistan was a savage blow; a tragic reminder of the dangers you face. The whole country suffered with you.

Other serving staff have died in the course of their duties this year. They were not deployed at the time, but they were your colleagues and mates. I know their loss weighs heavily upon you. In these cases too, the whole country feels your loss.

Now Christmas is upon us. For those at home, it is chance to draw breath and enjoy the company of family and friends. Overseas, that pleasure is denied you, and them, this year. Rest assured that we are thinking of you and we are deeply grateful for your service.

I wish you all and the families that support you so well a happy Christmas, wherever you are, and a safe return home when your deployment ends.



Chief of Army Christmas Message



Major General Rhys Jones

As another year winds down and we prepare to celebrate Christmas I would like to thank all of our serving personnel and their families for their loyalty, support and dedication throughout what has been a particularly busy and challenging 12 months.

We have achieved much throughout the past year. Changes are ahead and there is still much to be done. It is important however that as we in New Zealand prepare to enjoy the festive season we remember the many New Zealand Service people who are deployed overseas on different missions throughout the world. They are a long way from their family and friends, and in very different and often arduous conditions.

But the people I want to especially mention are our families who provide us serving military personnel with the support we need to achieve our tasks.

I am immensely proud of what our Servicemen and women are achieving both overseas and in New Zealand. But they could not do what they are doing without the support of their partners, children and other loved ones. Sacrifices are being made by those who deploy, and the families left behind. I truly appreciate your efforts, and am proud of what we as an Army have achieved this year.

Merry Christmas, and I hope you all, wherever you are, have an enjoyable and restful festive season.

COMJFNZ Xmas Message

Air Vice Marshal Peter Stockwell, Commander Joint Forces New Zealand

It's been another busy and at times very difficult year for the Defence Force, not only for the people who wear the uniforms, but also for the wider Defence family.

Operational tempo has been high, with support to all our operational missions as well as to the Christchurch earthquake response, the Cook Islands after Cyclone Pat, to Police, Customs and Fisheries tasks, as well as a large number of search and rescues, and of course the very recent tragedy at Pike River Mine.

The NZDF suffered tremendous loss with the deaths of six personnel, which was felt deeply throughout the country and overseas. My thoughts are especially with the Forster, Cree, Madson, Gregory, Carson and O'Donnell families this Christmas.

I am incredibly proud of the people we have in our Defence Force who are always prepared to tackle hard tasks and jump at the opportunity to help those less fortunate than themselves. I am also equally proud of their families and friends who are right there to support them while they do this important and at times dangerous work.

For those with loved ones overseas at this time, the gap left by them being away from home is always felt more keenly as Christmas draws near. Just remember that they are not forgotten, and the work they do is appreciated not just by us in New Zealand, but by the people of the places in which we serve - Bamyán, Iraq, Timor-Leste, South Korea, Solomon Islands, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Sudan and the Sinai. And that's what makes the sacrifice worthwhile.

I wish you all the very best for the festive season and 2011, and thank you again for your support for the work that the NZDF does at home and overseas.





Christmas message for overseas Personnel from RA Tony Parr, MVO Chief of Navy



A busy year is drawing to a close and it's reassuring to know the holiday season is now not far away. The Christmas holidays are a chance for deployed Navy personnel to enjoy a celebration with their colleagues of a job well-done.

The distance from friends and family at a time like this can be difficult, but it's also a reminder of how much we value our loved ones and the way of life we have in New Zealand. Ultimately it is to protect these things, that we serve our country, and those serving overseas can be doubly proud of their contribution at this time of year.

For Navy as a whole we can reflect on a year with a fair mixture of success, and some challenges. We've had homecomings for HMNZS OTAGO and WELLINGTON. The Inshore Patrol Vessels have been well set to work around the coast, delivering substantial value to the Government and people of New Zealand. The ships of the Littoral Warfare Support Group and Naval Support Force have been busy around the coast and far overseas. Both TE KAHA and TE MANA have gone through the first stage of their Platform Systems Upgrade (PSU), and TE KAHA and ENDEAVOUR completed a very successful deployment to North Asia, Canada and the United States.

Next year the operating tempo will remain high, with some added milestones to celebrate, including our 70th Birthday and winning the Rugby World Cup! In the year ahead the pace of change within the Defence Force will increase as the recommendations of the Defence White Paper begin to take effect.

In these challenges, and whatever else we are called upon to do, Navy's core values of courage, comradeship and commitment will hold us in good stead. In closing, I wish you the spirit of a Kiwi Christmas wherever you are, with best wishes for you and your families in 2011.



Chief of Air Force Christmas Message

**Air Vice-Marshal Graham Lintott
Chief of Air Force**



As the holiday season draws near and we look forward to spending time with family and friends, I am mindful of our people who are deployed overseas at this time. It is a difficult time to be away from loved ones, so your commitment to the Defence Force is particularly valued.

I would also like to acknowledge the special role of the families of our deployed people. The sacrifices you make are greatly appreciated, and the support you provide to loved ones overseas is a valued and recognised asset to NZDF operations.

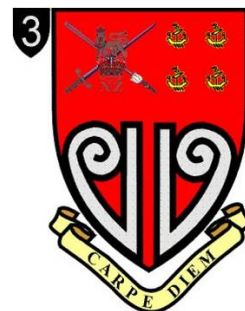
Undoubtedly 2010 has been a year of significant change within the organisation. With the challenges there have been highlights, including the arrival of upgraded aircraft that will enhance the Air Force's ability in providing military air operations.

I am proud of the commitment of the Defence Force's men and women on our overseas missions, and know that you conduct yourselves with professionalism, integrity and teamwork.

On behalf of the Air Force, I wish you and your families a happy holiday season.

Christmas Message from Commander 3rd Land Force Group

Colonel Roger McElwain



As Commander 3rd Land Force Group I feel that it is appropriate that I provide the opening remarks to this Bugle because this Formation is currently providing the bulk of the NZ Army's operationally deployed forces and has done so successfully over the past 12 months. The workload associated with each operational deployment is large and there has been a significant burden placed on the Formation in meeting Army's operational requirements. However next year the Formation will have some respite because 2 Land Force Group will in the main meet Army's operational requirements.

At this time, 3rd Land Force Group is providing CRIB (Afghanistan), GYRO (Timor-Leste) and RATA (Solomons). These deployments entail significant work both during and after normal work hours and I commend all those involved in them for their work and their approach which have individuals going a little further in an effort to better meet the requirement. As with all deployments there is a risk and although we endeavour to reduce the risk by solid preparation and training we cannot remove the risk in its entirety. We are in a profession that entails risk but as always we will endeavour to ensure that risk is managed and minimised.

We here in New Zealand are about to enter the end of year holiday period and as always it will pose some additional challenges, particularly for those of you who have a partner, son or daughter serving overseas. Obviously they will be missed but I would ask that you remember them during the holiday festivities and endeavour to contact them at a time when they will be seeking such contact and remembering past holiday periods together as family and friends.

For those of you serving overseas, please remember the challenges that your family and friends back here are facing and be supportive of them. Again I do ask that you contact them and express your understanding of their situation and thank them for their patience and understanding while you are away. Remember that operational tours are an essential part of the business that we are in and that they do not go on for ever, even though they might seem to.

Finally to all readers of this article, please take the opportunity to thank those around you for their commitment and good work over the past year. We as a nation and as individuals are quick to criticise and slow to praise. Moreover, when we do praise someone we tend to be very parsimonious in our praise. Take the opportunity this month to say to someone "well done" and "thank-you" for a job well done. Individuals respond so much better to praise than criticism.

Finally it only remains for me to thank you all for your efforts over the past year and wish you all well over the holiday period.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the Festive Season.



Christmas Message from the Commander 2nd Land Force Group

Colonel H.V. DUFFY



Ready to Act

Kia ora katou,

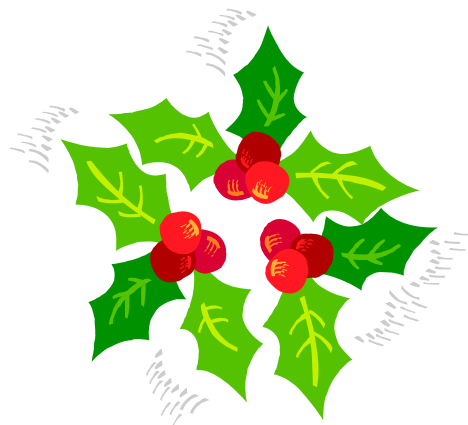
Well another year has passed by, and once again I have been asked to say a few words to deployed personnel as well as dependents back here in NZ. Despite the many changes occurring with DTP and White Paper outcomes there has been one constant throughout the year - that is the requirement to support current operations around the world. Early next year, 2 LFG will be taking up the responsibility as the mounting formation for operations. We will soon be preparing CRIB 18 and GYRO 11 for deployment! This means that many personnel from 2 LFG have served us well on operations, and many more will do so in the future.

To those of you currently on operations, I thank you for your commitment and hope you can join with other Kiwis and make the most of the Xmas period, wherever you are in the world.

To those folk back at home, thank you for allowing your loved one to serve overseas and especially over the Xmas period. Please be assured that the work your loved ones are doing is appreciated and making a difference to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Wherever you are at this time of year, have a safe and happy Xmas.

No reira, ma nga hua tu-tangata.





2/1ST BATTALION, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INFANTRY REGIMENT CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2010

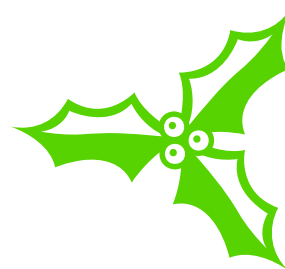
Another year has seen the unit extensively deployed. It has been a busy training year for both collective groups and individuals on progression courses. Coupled with this, the Canterbury earthquake “which continues to remind us of its presence” on a thankfully not so regular basis now, we as a Unit laid to rest a fellow Soldier “Lt T. O'Donnell, DSD”.

We have seen our soldiers deploy to the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Sinai, United Kingdom, Brunei, Waiouru and of course all over the South Island.

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, Soldiers and Officers of 2/1 RNZIR, a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year is wished to the following personnel currently deployed on operations and their families.

We trust you are representing your families and Unit with pride. Your sacrifice.

ZR	ADAM	TJ	FRELAN	DS	LONG	CJK	ROURANGI
MJ	ANDERSON	LTK	GRIFFITHS	LJ	MACDONALD	DW	RYAN
MH	AUSTIN	JRD	GUNNING	F	MAFI	SP	SACREE
JEN	BAKER	C.N	GUY	FJ	MAIAVA	SK	SALMON
ABD	BALAWAKULA	JB	HAMILTON	HGT	MAILAU	T	SALMON
SD	BEBARFALD	EJ	HARDIE	JAJ	MAKARA	JH	SAYERS
K	BLUMERS	B.G	HARNETT	TH	MAKARA	JC	SCHUURMAN
LJT	BOSCH	PJK	HARRISON	MD	MANNERING	MA	SMITH
MH	BOTHA	JF	HARVEY	DJ	MATCHETT	T.R.H	SMITH
NR	BOYD	JW	HOERA	JR	MATEPARAE	S.F	SOLA
KJ	BROWN	CM	HOHEPA	CR	MCGINTY	JR	TAIPARI
JJ	BUSH	TD	HOLT-PEDERSEN	CF	MCLELLAN	D.N	TAKA
RF	CAMPBELL	ZHL	HONGARA	EJ	MCMUTRIE	TF	TALI
JS	CANTWELL	MA	HOUSTON	K	MILA	ET	TEEPA
C.F	CHEANG	RJ	HUDSON	C.D	MUNNS	GD	THOMAS
AN	CHRISTIE	TT	HUIA	TD	NORTH	SL	THOMPSON
JH	CLENDON	TP	HURIWAI	JB	O'BRIEN	PC	TOGIA
ADT	COWAN	RP	HUTSON	SG	OTTLEY	JC	TUAITI
AP	COX	JB	IRVING	AJW	PANIRAU	DR	TUCK
TN	CROONEN	BJT	JENKINS	GP	PATUWAI	RWO	TWINE
TJ	DAMPNEY	B.S	JOHNSTON	FL	PEHI	LJ	VAUGHAN
JR	DARBY	TP	KARAURIA	JTB	PETERO	CR	VIGUS
JA	DENTICE	P.J	KATOA	K.A	PITTMAN	CS	VIGUS
SJ	DEVANTIER	S.V	KAUHALA	R	RAMEKA	DHJ	WALLACE
PJ	DIROU	SR	KEENE	DJ	RANGIIHU	RJ	WATI
LB	DIXON	HC	KEPKA	TT	RASTON	RB	WEST
PJ	DOUGLAS	DNP	KLARICICH	GR	RAYMOND	BR	WHIBLEY
JW	DUDLEY	LP	LAGAN	MI	REINSFIELD	DR	WOOLFORD
ML	FERGUSON	JH	LAWSON	MD	ROBERTSON	R	YAGISHITA
FS	FESILI	BJ	LAWTON	NZ	ROBINSON-O'BRIEN	PJ	BUTTERWORTH
K	FOSTER	EL	LODOVIKO	EH	ROCHE		



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



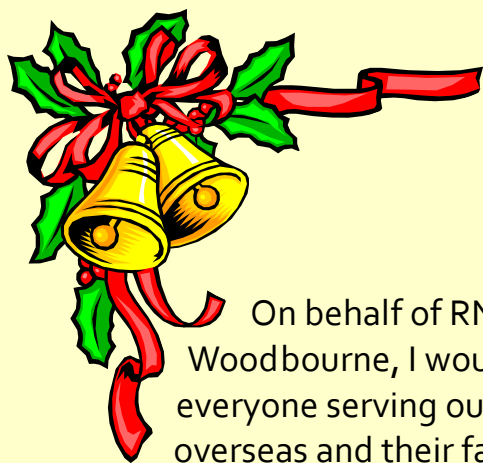
To the Families of deployed QAMR personnel,

On behalf of All Ranks at Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles in Burnham Military Camp, I wish all the families of our personnel deployed on Operations overseas a happy and safe Christmas season. The QAMR personnel who are deployed to Timor Leste will no doubt be keeping themselves busy with their operational responsibilities however I'm sure they will find time to phone/email/write home to pass on their holiday greetings as and when they can. The tasks they are achieving overseas will be challenging them mentally and physically; we appreciate the fact that they are serving their country away from you at a time of year which traditionally sees families and friends gathered together.

To the personnel from QAMR who are currently serving overseas, we wish you a safe and professionally rewarding remainder of your tour. We look forward to seeing you back in New Zealand in 2011.

Ake Ake Kia Kaha

Major Scott Cordwell, Officer Commanding, QAMR



On behalf of RNZAF Woodbourne, I would like to thank everyone serving our country overseas and their families for making the sacrifice of being separated during this season. May the "reason for the season" create a deep bond between you across the miles! Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas, and a good start into 2011!

Claudia Baker
Welfare Facilitator
RNZAF Woodbourne



From your
"Bugle Team",
Best Wishes for
a Safe, Happy
and Prosperous
Christmas
and New Year!



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



Christmas Message from 3ANR

Seasons greetings to all NZDF personnel serving overseas, in particular SGT Meynell (Afghanistan) and SGT Neilsford-Jones (Solomon Islands).

It is at these times when your sacrifice is hardest to bear, but your service means the most. May these next few weeks be a time of joy and celebration for you all.

Commanding Officer
and all ranks of 3 Auckland Northland BN GP



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER 2 CANT NMWC BN GP

Iwould like to extend my best wishes to those members of the Bn Gp who are deployed overseas during this festive period. I appreciate the sacrifice you have made in order to serve your country and that you are unable to be with your families in order to rejoice and celebrate Christmas. Similarly I wish to thank your families for their commitment, patience and support.

I know that you will all continue to conduct yourselves in a professional manner and you should take pride in what you are doing. We all look forward to your safe return home.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ake Ake Kia Kaha.

LT COL Grant McMillan,
CO 2 CANT NMWC Bn Gp



Special Greetings for the festive season. Whether you are at home or abroad, my thoughts are with you all. I look forward to seeing many of you in 2011.

Deana Lye,
Welfare Facilitator,
RNZAF Base Auckland

*On behalf of RNZAF Air Staff,
I would like to take the
opportunity to wish
our deployed personnel
and their families a safe and
Happy Christmas.
Our thoughts are with you
at this time.*

*Judy Byers,
Welfare Facilitator,
RNZAF Air Staff*



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



1ST NEW ZEALAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

K.W. Collard. Commanding Officer

As 2010 rapidly draws to a close it is a good time for us all to reflect on what we have achieved over the past 12 months. 1 NZ Sig Regt, indeed NZDF, has had yet another busy year where we have continued to enhance our operational outputs. The Regiment's commitment to overseas deployments has increased incrementally over recent years, to the degree where we now have close to 25% of our people on operations at any one time, a phenomenal achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and their families for the sacrifice and commitment they are making on our behalf. The dedication and efforts of our personnel deployed overseas, and the sacrifices made by their family and friends back home, is, in part, what the reputation of the NZ Army is built on.

With each deployment the NZ Army continues to build on this reputation. On behalf of all members of 1 NZ Sig Regt and the RNZ Sigs Corps, I would like to personally thank our soldiers and their families for the commitment they have made. Congratulations and well done to you all, soldiers and family members alike. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend this message of appreciation to all members of the NZDF serving overseas and their families.

The separation from our families is particularly difficult over the Christmas period and it is important that we acknowledge this. On behalf of the Officers and All Ranks of 1 NZ Sig Regt, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe return to New Zealand in 2011. *Certa Cito*.



Christmas Message from the Naval Community Organisation

Christmas is a time that we like to spend with our families. It is also a time that we reflect on the friends and relations that cannot be here with us and also a time to reflect on those loved ones and friends that have passed over.

The RNZN has twenty peacekeepers deployed on missions throughout the world, helping the New Zealand Defence Force meet its peacekeeping obligations. Each one of you will be sorely missed at this time by your family, wider whanau and friends who will most certainly be thinking of you as you are thinking of them.

We hope that you have some valued time to celebrate Christmas, no matter where you are, and from all of us here at the Naval Community Organisation we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a safe New Year. We look forward to meeting you in the near future and if there is anything we can do for you, please do drop us a line.

Take care.

D. Allen Mortimer

Lieutenant Commander, RNZN
Naval Community Office Manager



3rd Logistics Battalion

Xmas Message

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, Officers, Soldiers and Civilian staff 3rd Logistics Battalion, I extend our warm greetings and good wishes to all deployed personnel, and a special note to our Battalion personnel currently serving on operational deployments over this festive period.

I also extend our warm wishes to your families and know that being separated from your loved ones at this time is never easy.

We acknowledge the tremendous commitment that you have made and congratulate you on rising to the challenge.

Have an enjoyable Christmas and a safe New Year. Our thoughts are with you all and we look forward to your safe return.

WO1 R.K. Milner
RSM, 3rd Logistics Battalion



A brief note from the RSM, 16 Field Regiment

Giddy team, 2010 is almost done and she was a pretty busy year.

Stuff that happened: 350 pers qualified on various courses, Combined arms training on Ex Absolute and a pretty good placing in the Camp sports competition. We conducted our 1st Regimental Sports in 10 years – 161 Bty pretty much cleaned up, we'll see what happens next year.

All in all I give the Regt a pass with credit for 2010.

We start next year with the CDF handover parade in Auckland (100man guard and salute). I know you will be disappointed to miss it. From there we put the foot down with individual School courses and IFPS training, with mid year seeing DLOC assessments for 163 and 39 Btys.

That's about it for now, I suppose it will be a bit weird for you being away from family and friends at this time of the year. Stay in touch with them, remember you have a focus – you are "on ops" – they are in real life without you there. I know you guys are nailing it – stay focused, stay safe and look after each other.

Merry Christmas!
RSM Guns



Christmas Greetings 2010 From 5 WWCT



Seasons Greetings from All ranks 5 WWCT to all members of NZDF serving overseas this Christmas. Wishing you all a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and all the very best for 2011.

Our thoughts in particular are with Capt Richard Buchan – serving on Op Scoria – and his family left behind in New Zealand. An epic Christmas and Happy New Year to you – looking forward to your return.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including:

Thanksgiving in Bagram, Afghanistan

Sinai Plays the Nativity

The Rotation

Merry Christmas All

Seasons Greetings from Afghanistan



Dog. Timmy is one of two dogs in Afghanistan specially trained and whose mission it is to put smiles on the faces of service personnel. Averaging 300 interactions per week, Timmy is a 2 year old lab who is part of the combat stress team at the 254th Combat Outpatient Stress Clinic, 30th Medical Brigade. The Freedom Restoration Centre program is for service members who are dealing with combat and operational stresses; using dogs as part of the therapeutic program helps people relax. Timmy has been trained for the stresses of a combat environment by visiting firing ranges and practicing getting on and off helicopters with all his safety gear complete with safety goggles and ear muffs.

New Zealand comedian Mike King also arrived in Bagram on Thanksgiving. That evening he



performed live his stand up comedy routine to a captive audience of Kiwi's and Americans. While he delighted many with his 'no holds barred' jokes and an attempt to speak 'American' so he could be understood, some of the 'Kiwi' humour was lost on our American friends. Despite this, it appeared a good time was had by all with many laughs bringing to a close a memorable Thanksgiving Day in Bagram, Afghanistan.

THANKSGIVING IN BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN

FLTLT Karen Wemyss

25th November 2010, Thanksgiving in Bagram, Afghanistan began at 0500 for those keen enough to participate in the annual 10km Turkey Trot. It was -2° and SGT Kirsty Meynell, CPL Emma Roche and myself, part of the NZ National Support Element team, all braved the cold to partake in the event. With 400 people taking part, CPL Roche did the Kiwi's proud by coming in the top ten and was the first female across the line.

Thanksgiving originated in 1621 when colonists of the Plymouth

Plantation and members of the Wampanoag Indian tribe gave thanks for a good harvest. Today it is normally celebrated with families and friends in America. While those serving in Afghanistan could not be with their loved ones, the dining facilities known as DFAC's, provided the next best thing – a Thanksgiving feast of Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef, Cranberry Sauce (or jelly as they call it) and lots of other goodies for lunch and dinner. The DFAC's were decorated with amazing artwork and ornamental pieces in an effort to bring Thanksgiving to Afghanistan.

It was during Thanksgiving I got an opportunity to meet SGT First Class Timmy – the Combat Stress



SINAI PLAYS THE NATIVITY

LT COL Patrick Butterworth

Soldiers, sailors, shepherds and wise men (actually wise women too...) gather together in the Sinai desert to re-enact the traditional story of Christmas, under Holy Land stars.

The annual MFO Nativity play follows the journey of Mary and Joseph, travelling to Bethlehem and, finding no room at the inn, laying the baby Jesus in a manger in a stable. Now it takes a certain affinity with animals and machinery to make a convincing, donkey-borne virgin, Bedouin or King of the



Gabriel on a cherry picker

Orient. The angel Gabriel appears to the shepherds from behind a large wooden screen. She is lifted high into the air on a cherry picker, accompanied by clouds of diesel fumes from the mosquito fogger; and, lo, the shepherds are sore afraid. So much so, in fact, that CO New Zealand Contingent (Shepherd #3) darted off into the bushes to hide and was never seen again.

A troupe of *real* Bedouin arrived on Wednesday afternoon, in time for the dress rehearsal. Actually, it was the *only* rehearsal, since they were charging for the camels, sheep (and donkey) by the hour, and drank copious quantities of tea. The animals all had the best fodder, which led to some arguments between a small boy leading the

sheep, and an even smaller one in charge of the hay-stealing ass.

The Canadian, Scottish and Colombian players were joined by an old desert hand, the Force Commander's Military Adviser, in the camel train for the finale: the entrance of the Magi (not Maggi; that's a kind of soup). In order to mount a camel, it is necessary to persuade it to kneel. This is unpractical unless there is sand to cushion the knees. The play takes place on a tar-sealed parade square, therefore sand, surprisingly, is imported for the act of genuflection (camel-style). An adult camel stands roughly 2.3 metres tall, a Colombian substantially less than this. The first attempt to mount the ungulate desert ship by plucky Lopez ended in an unceremonious shrug of the hump and considerable loss of face on the part of the would-be Lawrence of Arabia. The prospective Kings of the Desert looked on with a new-found respect for their prospective mounts. For the thing does a kind of lurch forward, then back, before standing upright with the rider perched high above the ground. Unprepared is unseated...

So, resolved to treat the animals with reverence, the NZ MA stepped forward, in a submissive posture, to talk quietly to his mount. Now, this particular animal was in urgent need of some lingual 'nipping and tucking'; its tongue lolled in a most ungainly fashion, its craw filled with newly masticated hay. It batted its long, long eyelashes provocatively, baring a set of green molars. With no further encouragement, it lashed out with this slimy organ and left a trail of goob along the length of Balthazar's (bare) arm. This was followed by a long, deep gurgle of pre-digestive satisfaction. Maybe he wasn't such a keen camel rider after all.



Balthazar points the way

The saddle consists of a primitive wooden frame fashioned with protruding rusty nails and a coarse blanket. When the rider mounts, and the beast rises, there is a distinct risk of impalement. So when Melchior (female, Canadian air traffic controller) and Caspar (male, Aberdonian procurement officer) joined Balthazar in procession to pay homage to the Saviour, it was with some trepidation that they delivered the inevitable gold, frankincense and slightly more obscure myrrh.

A starry, cool evening blanketed the holy birthplace and over two hundred multinational people and observers started the tangible, symbolic and spiritual process of celebrating peace, hope and love in the Middle East. The celestial Fiji choir accompanied the narrator, the donkey started eating the stable and the camels delivered their wise men and women to the crib. The spirit of Christmas is upon us in the Sinai and embraces the great contribution made by our Defence Force personnel here, and around the world. Merry Christmas everybody.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D..

THE ROTATION

CAPT I.D. CRYER

As I am writing this I can't figure out where the time has gone since our warning for deployment. PDT itself was a blur with GYRO 10 elements all over the South Island assisting with Exercise Southern Musket. This period brought both challenge and excitement for us in the time leading up to the deployment. All worked vigorously during this training, but all eyes were on the end state of doing the job over here for real.

Following a long leave break that felt all too short; it was the obligatory teary farewell at the airport as we said goodbye to loved ones. Then following a comfortable two day trip to Dili, courtesy of the RNZAF and her exemplary flight stewards, the plane finally hit a steep descent to land. With the soft kiss of rubber on tarmac and full reverse thrust, the laden 757 barrelled down the short runway to a final stop.

Stepping off the plane, the 36 degree heat and the red earthy undertones of Timor-Leste brought about a short assault to the senses. Following the initial meet and greet, we boarded our trucks and while consuming numerous bottles of water, began our ponderous drive to central Dili; our home for six months.

With just enough time to grab our kit off the trucks we walked towards Kiwi Lines to receive our powhiri and welcome by GYRO 9. Clearly rehearsed, GYRO 9 did their best to intimidate the unwavering GYRO 10 contingent. Nonetheless, their impressive performance gave way to hongi and handshakes as friend greeted friend. With the inspirational speeches of both NZ and AS Commanders behind us, it was time to start the handovers to ensure that GYRO 10 had a

smooth transition and carried on the hard work of GYRO 9

After sharing the first few nights doubled up with our hosts, the days began with the standard briefings to bring everyone up to speed with the: how, what, where, when and why in Timor-Leste. Brimming with knowledge, it was off to the range to confirm with our weapons. On the way to the range in Metinaro, about 45 minutes east of Dili, we had our first taste of rural life here. As expected the local Timorese continued to be as friendly as their urban counterparts. This was so much so, that before long it became natural to smile and wave as we passed these affable people. The range at Metinaro, as warned by our hosts, became stifling by 0845. While informed deliberation went on as to the temperature by several different parties, my educated guess was, and still is, a minimum of 44 degrees. Then, still sniffing from our brief but potent brush with our CS gas capabilities, it was a jovial return to Dili for the rest of our handover.

After several days in theatre, itchy feet began compelling the droves outside the wire to sample the Dili scene. While some went to feed the locally revered crocodiles, others

perused the markets for the obligatory blanket/flag or check out the more impressive Timorese fighting cock. Most however sought to track down the numerous "recommended" eateries and savour the local cuisine.

It is at this time during the busyness of the handover, when the incoming rotation armed with enough information, begins the takeover. Eager with enthusiasm, the incoming contingent slowly takes over as the previous conducts their return administration and focuses on home. During this time, our mentors appear less as their role is slowly assumed and full responsibility is taken and the final signatures are made. Slowly, routine is built and normality takes shape from the pace and disjointed months that have lead us here.

Then as quickly as we arrived, GYRO 9 mounted their transport and gave one last cheer as they passed the gate on their journey home. During the busy week, the relative silence of the camp is welcome, yet this silence is also a pertinent reminder that we are in control. With the Tui billboard in the background, gently reminding us that "6 months will fly by..... Yeah Right!!!!", we go to work. GYRO 10 has the reins.

Contingent on PDT at the range



CPL Graham (left) and FLT LT Hill (right) enjoying a kebab in Dili



Seasons Greetings from Afghanistan



Colonel Phil McKee, HQ ISAF

Salam Alikum

To all our families and friends in New Zealand and those other NZDF personnel around the world, Seasons Greetings from Kabul, Afghanistan!

Christmas in New Zealand is less about snow and sleigh bells, and more about sun, sand and barbecues in the backyard. Here in Afghanistan the snow is likely and we certainly have enough sand, but in a land-locked country it's certainly not the sand found on beaches.

This is not the first time many of us have been away over Christmas and that certainly does not make it easier, but in good Kiwi spirit everyone makes the most of it. Around the place the decorations are already up and plans for Christmas gifts for each other less than \$5 are being planned as I write this. There are of course many guaranteed antiques dating back centuries to be found in the markets for \$5, if you believe the seller of course.

Being away from family at Christmas brings to the forefront the sacrifice that all our families and friends make for us to do our jobs. Although writing words can seem hollow at these times, we thank you for the sacrifice you make at home. We will all be thinking of our families and friends over the Christmas season.

The one thing that really is different is the build-up to Christmas day. Other than the decorations and a few presents arriving from home (not too late to send!!) we don't get the normal madness that comes pre-Christmas with functions, shopping and the associated chaos. Can't really say I miss that.

From us all in Afghanistan we hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Great New Year. Hopefully, Santa will be extra good to you. Enjoy your holidays.



Merry Christmas All

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Fox

New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team, Bamyian, Afghanistan

As I sit here writing this we are experiencing our first snowfall here at Kiwi Base and the teams are preparing to go out on patrol just like any other day. When Christmas comes around no doubt it will be the same. Don't get me wrong Christmas remains an important day in our tour (almost as important as the day we get back to NZ!) and we will all be missing home but there is still work to be done.

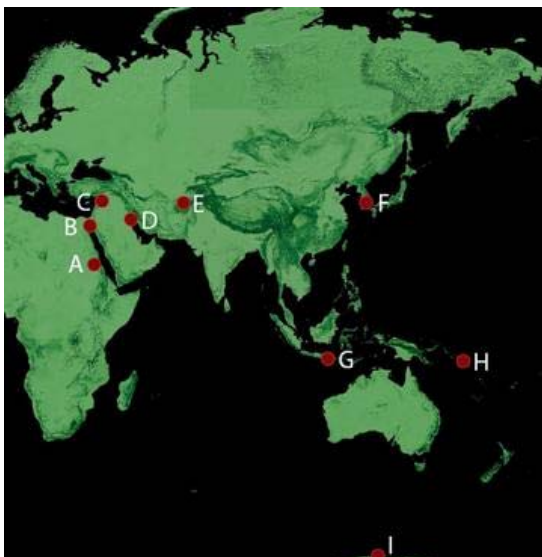
Outside the wire there are families battling the cold trying to survive without power, there are people isolated in mountain villages trying to feed their children, there are aid agencies like the United Nations distributing much needed assistance, and unfortunately there still remain a small element that are trying to disrupt these acts of humanity for their own goals. That is the reason we will be spending Christmas away from you this year. It is not only our gift on behalf of you to the people of Afghanistan, but it is also a way for us to reflect about what Christmas really means to us.

Where ever you may spend Christmas this year, know that we are thinking of and missing you as we go about our much needed work here. On your day at the beach have a laugh at us shovelling snow, and if you get the opportunity to enjoy a drink or two have another laugh at us in our dry camp. The good news for us all though, is that we are almost half way through our tour and that means we are that much closer to getting back and sharing some time with you all. Until then, take care and enjoy Christmas with family and friends.

Regards, Andrew



Overseas Deployments



Currently 793 New Zealand Defence Force personnel are deployed on 16 operations, UN missions and defence exercises in 11 countries around the world, including:

- A — Sudan (3 personnel)
- B — Sinai (28 personnel)
- C — Middle East (8 personnel)
- D — Iraq (1 person)
- E — Afghanistan (207 personnel)
- F — Korea (3 personnel)
- G — Timor-Leste (85 personnel)
- H — Solomon Islands (9 personnel)
- I — Antarctica (7 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.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

HEARTS AND MINDS

**Padre Ra, CRIB 17
NZPRT Afghanistan**

I have been pondering on what I should say in this article for "The Bugle". What I have decided to do is say something about the Basic English Classes that Mr Allan Kelly (S9) and I have been involved with. Furthermore, I want to provide you our devoted and inquisitive readers with an insight into the lives of the people the PRT work with.

The students and adults that attend these classes are keen to learn to the point that they are at times demanding of our time during classes. Speaking about my Jnr students, their enthusiasm is high to the point that they demand Homework and complete it before the next English class. How about that for enthusiasm!

Allan's classes target the LEC's (Locally Employed Civilians) who are support staff to our Engineers. The ages and command of English vary but that's ok because we try to encourage those who are better at English to help their classmates.

Observing Allan and the interaction he has with the guys, he has created a great learning environment with a lot of fun. I should add here that Allan is not a Teacher nor has he had any formal training in Teaching English. What I can say is that his heart is in the job and that he comes up with a good lesson plan that includes a humorous game of Hang Man.

I wanted to know more about my students in the senior class and so I have asked them to write something about themselves and the Province of Bamyan. I hope that this will give you an insight into the lives of the people whom we work with. Only the student's initials are used and I have not made any changes.

"There is four persons in my family, my father's name is M.N. We works in our field's and he is a farmer. I have a brother, He is a student, and he works hardly. My mother works in our home.

Our village name is "Zikiryen". It is located at the east of Bamyan city in Folladi valley and it's far around 20 km's from Bamyan city. In our village live about 2000 people. There is a high school and study about 800 students (boys and girls). There is no clinic or a hospital.

The weather is very good in spring and summer, but it is cold in fall and winter. People make fires in their stoves in winter and they burn coal and wood.

Now I am a student. I want to be a good and beneficial person to my society and my neighbors and I want to learn English language, Pashto language and this is my wish that everytime I should help people. Your friend M. A."

"My name is M. J. my father name is A.N. I have three brother his M P and M. My father job is farmer and my big brother is a mechanic. I live in Bamy and in Haiderabad vellege. I am eleven class on the Haiderabad school. My brother went to school. I want to be a engeiner on the future.

About Bamyan!

Bayman is a good place because Bamyan has a lot of picnic and for side sing place. Bamyan has 6 District. The people of Bamyan are brave and hospitable. Bamyan is a mountainous province and is surrounding by mountine.

The main export are fruit nut carpet wool and opium. the weather of Bamyan is pleasant and has a very nice spring. We the people of Bamyan love our provice and we proude of it because is our homeland."

Until next time, our thoughts and prayers are also with you all.
(This contribution submitted for Ed 145—missed the deadline)

HI FROM THE SOLOMONS

**Padre Paul Allen-Baines
RATA 13**

RATA 13 has started off well with a farewell from family and friends on Thursday at Burnham Military Camp and followed by a great flight over in the Air Force Boeing 757. We shared the flight with a contingent of NZ Police who were just as excited as our troops as most of us are experiencing our first deployment. The RNZAF personnel in charge of the flight were professional, helpful and encouraging.

We were greeted at our destination by a Haka led by Major Adam Gordon and supported strongly by NZ pers who had travelled over weeks earlier, then our reply by SGT/Major Joe Taipari followed by the platoon Haka led by SGT T.P. Karauria (KP/Chief).

There is plenty of activity happening in the camp as we acclimatize and familiarize ourselves to our new surroundings, environment and duties. At the same time we are preparing for the new surge of Australian and PNG troops, many ends to tie up for a smooth handover to take place.

The weather is what we all expected, hot, humid and as suggested at PDT briefs, we are all drinking heaps of water. The rainy season is trying its best to come as we have already had some heavy down pours. It's amazing watching the heavens open up and drop all that rain; and it does help as it cools the place off a bit.

Everyone is in good spirits, and is looking forward to the challenges and new experiences ahead. Group

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD CONT'D.

PT is compulsory three times a week and individual PT as desired, but these young men and women are very motivated and encourage one another. We have been blessed with a very modern gym facility which has encouraged those that use it.

There is a saying "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach" that is a very appropriate statement for here, as they are all raving about the quality and quantity of food. I think it will be difficult for some to hold back on what is offered in the mess as it is so desirable and good to the eye. All credit to the catering department, they have done themselves proud.

I will leave you on that tasteful note.

Blessings and all the best from the Solly's.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS FROM AFAR

**Padre Ra, CRIB 17
NZPRT, Afghanistan**

As Christmas fast approaches, there is no doubt that back in New Zealand that retailers will be making the most of the Christmas season as will many of you. The hustle and bustle of the shopping Malls is something I personally don't miss. In this part of the world Afghanistan, Christmas Day for us will not have the build up as it does back home. Whilst we will be aware of the activities that have and are taking place, our primary focus remains on our Mission and Operational requirements. There is no doubt CRIB 17 will be thinking of loved ones and perhaps giving some thought to previous Christmas' had.

It's never easy being away from whanau and friends on such occasions and what of those who will find themselves without friends and family this Christmas? I

personally don't recall feeling lonely or too sad during Christmas. In fact sometimes the solitude and peace would be a welcome guest. There were always outings that included kids and sometimes pets, all bundled into the cars and van. The laughter and chatter was almost constant.

In this article I want us to spare a thought for those who may find themselves alone this Christmas. Maybe you are reading this and it strikes a chord with you? Malls and Shopping Centres will be going crazy and yet there will be people in the masses who will be lonely and/or grieving. Maybe they have lost a loved one over the year or it maybe that there will not be any family or friends around this Christmas. I'm guessing for most people they will be so preoccupied with the frantic atmosphere that they may momentarily forget and lose sight of those who will be alone and sad.

In such situations, I guess some people may find themselves thinking about last Christmas, the sounds, the sights, the people, the surprises that brought joy and laughter into their lives. Loneliness and sadness can be scary and it will easily consume us if we allow it to happen. It takes a lot of effort and courage to rise above that sense of loneliness and grief. If you find yourself alone this Christmas then here are a couple of suggestions that may just help.

1. Try to look beyond your current situation and phone someone such as a friend or neighbour. Or if you are aware of someone who may need company and cheering up, then take the initiative to include them in your family or community celebrations.

2. Perhaps supporting a local community event before or after Christmas Day. I know that some organisations provide meals and/or

Christmas gifts for the needy. People are often looking for helpers for the Santa Parades. Thinking outside of your situation will be therapeutic and rewarding.

3. What about trying to focus on doing something new and different. Why not take that dream holiday and/or visit family members, visit a neighbour or another friend.

If you can think beyond yourself, it can be a small step to moving away from the situation of feeling sad and lonely.

So may you find someone who will walk alongside you this coming Christmas. May you know that the Christ Child came to save and be with the lost and lonely. May your loneliness be filled with the prospect that you are special and significant? May you experience a special Christmas that you haven't experienced before. Finally may we who have family and friends with us this Christmas be ever mindful of those who are dealing with loneliness and/or grief situations and include them in our celebrations.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Seasons blessings to one and all.

CHRISTMAS FACTS

- * A Christmas club, a savings account in which a person deposits a fixed amount of money regularly to be used at Christmas for shopping, came about around 1905.
- * A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD CONT'D.

GYRO 10 HAS ARRIVED

Tony Harrison
Padre, GYRO 10 Timor-Leste

Well GYRO 10 has arrived and is in place. All the hard work of PDT is behind us and now it is reality. Thanks to RNZAF for an enjoyable flight over. We enjoyed a night in Townsville which began our process of acclimatising to warmer climates - the week in Tekapo didn't do that for us. We had a delay in getting our accommodation sorted out. The time wasn't wasted. Troops were moved into line to practice our haka. The next morning another opportunity for haka practice was available as we waited to board our aircraft. This provided some distraction for the staff in the terminal building. Unfortunately there are no photographs of this taking place unless you had a spare \$1,000 to pay by way of fine.

We arrived in due time at Kiwi Lines, our home for the next 6 months. The welcome took place with a number of visitors present to be part of the formalities. After the powhiri and the speeches the challenge was set down with most impressive hakas from each contingent. The "fearsome warriors" then mingled, renewing old acquaintances and greeting each other with warm welcomes.

Then it was off to find our bags which we hadn't seen since end of PDT. It is usually recommended when traveling to lay everything out and then only take half. If only we had taken the advice! Our bags didn't seem so heavy when we lifted them from the vehicle at Burnham. But in the heat of the day in Dili I am sure they were twice as heavy and someone had put extra rocks into them.

The hand over is complete and GYRO 9 has gone home, we are



GYRO 10 perform their Haka



GYRO 9 and GYRO 10 mingle after the welcome

now finding out how things really work as we try to remember everything that was told to us..

The daily routines are under way. Yes, PT is first activity of the day. That is not because it has first priority (maybe it is in some minds) but because it is a "little cooler" at that time of the day. Still the sweat runs off. Some are becoming thinner and others of us are just in the process of re-distribution. At other times of the morning and evening the gym gets a

hammering. Photos may have to be sent home regularly so that you can recognize your people when they return in 6 months.

In the workshops, the Tui Board has been down and back up a couple of times already. It seems at the time of writing that Cpt Cryer, by the proclamation on the board, has claimed it as his own. We'll see how long that lasts, or in the words of Tui – "Yeah Right".

Soldiers are finding their way around Dili. Some of the time it is

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD CONT'D.

so that they know where to go should any problem arise, other times it is just for the sake of "finding something" in the usual Kiwi way. The roads and the traffic are something else. Sometimes a road is one way, the next day it is going the other way, and for us Kiwi drivers what is usually 2 lane traffic can quite easily become up to 6 lanes with cars passing on the footpath. On one journey we were forced to detour on our way home because the road had become blocked for some reason. Being as it is, there were no further instructions as to how to get back to the "main highway". I was advised by our CSM to keep between the sea and the hills. The positive side of the adventure was that we were able to see more of Dili than we ever intended. Not lost, we just found new places.

Sunday, 28 November, was Timor Independence Day. There was a big carnival at the President's Palace. We were not able to see much of it, but we heard the music. The road outside was busy with cars and the motorbikes that seem to breed over here. It was also the day of the second thunderstorm. Not only was the road outside camp awash from the burst banks of the some-time quiet stream nearby, but inside camp, water was in places knee deep with a number of the work places being flooded. However, it doesn't take long for the water to recede and everything dries out except for the mud. Our outgoing, or is that out-going, OC had a much richer description of the mud that remained.

Our OC, Major Ian Lattimore, has now joined us. We look forward to working with him and we will gradually let him know how things work around here. It is now known that he is a quick learner. When first parading his vehicle, he was not able to find the clutch fluid



Members of GYRO 10 gather in remembrance of the Pike River Miners

reservoir. Then the lights came on with a smack on the head when he remembered his vehicle is an automatic.

On 2 December at 1000 hours (2pm Kiwi time) we stood with all New Zealanders in 2 minutes silence in remembrance of the 29 miners who lost their lives in the Pike River mine disaster. We prayed for them and their families and their workmates. May they rest in peace.

This is my first "Bugle" article and the only one for this year. As well as being the religious festival that Christmas is, it is also a special time when families gather to share presents and also their lives as they have been lived throughout the year. It is a time to share good news as well as the sadness that occurs in families. For many this Christmas will be the first time when loved ones have not been able to be together. For ourselves here in Timor, people at home will not be far from our thoughts and prayers. We will have activities for ourselves and other activities before and after Christmas by which we can share the Christmas spirit with those here who are less

fortunate than we are.

On behalf of all of 10, I pray that you, family and friends of us here, have a holy and blessed Christmas.

Arohanui.

God bless you all.

Never worry about the size
of your Christmas tree.
In the eyes of children,
they are all 30 feet tall.
Larry Wilde



DSO'S CORNER



Carol Voyce

Deployment Services Officer
3rd Land Force Group
Editor "The Bugle"

The end of the year seems to finish with a flourish and this one is no exception. Not only are we celebrating the end of some deployments, we have been farewelling their replacements. Mix these airport visits with the last "Bugle" for the year, Operation Christmas Card, the Deployment Calendars, my 'to do' list and the big mess on my office floor! Amidst all this chaos are the many functions, the bulging shopping malls, the gorgeous sunny days and a festive air of excitement.

It has been a busy year! Thanks to the amazing support of our tri service welfare team, the dedication and support from our deployed service personnel and their loved ones and our many Units, we have much to be pleased with. So many sacrifices, by so many people, have made a huge difference worldwide. Our sincere



thanks to you all!

I am looking forward to the upcoming Medals Parades. Attending such parades is very much the final chapter of each deployment journey. To witness the presentation of medals to our service personnel who have sacrificed and achieved so much, is a very humbling experience. Every one of the medals presented signifies a soldier's job well done, the life of someone less fortunate enhanced, and I'm sure an individual sense of achievement and reward for a job well done. These medals can so rightly be worn with pride.

Every serviceperson on parade has behind them the love, pride and support from you at home and everyone currently deployed can be assured of the same. You are the ones that surely deserve the medals too!

For those separated over the festive season, my thoughts are with you all. While at times, it may not be easy for you all, we very much appreciate your sacrifices and commitment towards our endeavours to find a world at peace. While I may be on leave, please be assured that my cell phone, 0800 337 569, will be firmly tucked in my pocket. No problem will be too big or too small so I am counting on you to call if the need arises. Should the phone go automatically to message, this means I'm on it! – So please leave a message or call back. Deployment Support Services is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and we will continue to be here for you – holidays or not!

My very best wishes go to you all, wherever you may be, for a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year! I look forward to catching up again in 2011.

Kindest regards.



Janine Burton

Deployment Services Officer
2nd Land Force Group

Firstly, welcome home GYRO 9; I hope your reunions are going well and that spending time with your loved ones is high on your priority list. For those friends and families of the GYRO 10 and RATA II(13) contingents who have so recently departed NZ, I trust that your new routines without loved ones are falling into place and that you are well into your planning for Christmas. Our thoughts at this time are also with the families and friends of the CRIB 17 contingent and all the other missions we have operating all around the world.

Typically, as 2010 draws to a close, it becomes a time to reflect on the year, and what a year this has been! (Or should we be saying "where did it go?") While the larger missions have predominantly been mounted out of 3rd Land Force Group (Burnham), I have had a role to play and have been very busy supporting some of these missions while Carol was away and have enjoyed meeting many new families from around New Zealand.

Christmas is traditionally a time to be spent with family and we are always conscious that every year a number of families will have

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...



someone "missing" from their family gatherings. This year is no different and at Christmas we will have almost 900 personnel serving on overseas missions in various locations around the world. Christmas parcels should all be well on their way and I'm sure there will also be many emails, phone calls and lots of Skyping happening, keeping families connected.

This year I am taking a long period of leave over Christmas/New Year, not returning to work until the end of January. I will be diverting my phone to Carol, so if you need to ring, then please don't hesitate.

Just ring the same number and Carol will be there to answer your call. I plan lots of reading, I have two new jigsaw puzzles waiting to be opened, I have a new counted thread embroidery project just arrived and guess I will be spending a bit of time in my garden as well as spending time with family. Whether on leave or not, this role can never be left completely behind and I'm sure that periodically I will be thinking of our deployed people as well as those of you coping at home without them. Please take care of yourselves and I look forward to meeting many of you again in 2011.

I would like to wish you all a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Holiday Contacts at a Glance

Burnham:

Deployment Services Officer

Carol Voyce (03) 363 0421
027 497 565 or
0800 337 569 (toll free)
0800 deploy

Burnham Duty Complex (03) 363 0099

Chaplaincy Service:

23 December 2010 — 05 January 2011

Rev Paul Cossey 960-6878
027 288 5005

6 January 2011 onwards

Chaplain Kevin Brophy 363 0316
027 249 8967

7 January 2011

Chaplain Manu 027 249 8967

Linton:

Deployment Services Officer

Janine Burton (06) 351 9399 or
0800 6837 7327 (toll free)
0800 overseas

DSO Linton Phone Coverage

Janine will be on leave from mid December until late January. Her phone has been diverted to Carol (DSO Burnham). If you should experience any difficulties with the connection, please redial 0800 337 569.

Linton Duty Complex

(06) 351 9099

Chaplaincy Service: Duty Phone

(06) 351 9634

Waiouru:

Duty Complex

(06) 387 5599

Devonport Naval Base: First point of contact for service families:

0800 NAVYHELP

Out of Hours Social Worker:
December 2010

Jason Hallie 021 908 655

January 2011

Yvonne Boyd 027 490 2781

Chaplaincy Services:

First instance:

Chaplain Peter Olds 021 972 454

If unavailable, please call

Chaplain Bruce Thompson 021 648 467

Royal New Zealand Air Force:

Auckland Orderly Officer:

027 450 0464

DNCO:

027 450 0465

Ohakea Orderly Officer:

027 472 3495

DNCO:

021 378 003

Woodbourne Orderly Officer:

027 622 2480

DNCO:

027 496 5924

FOR YOUR INFO....

Farewell and Take Care

Last week we farewelled the contingents deploying to Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands. On both occasions, families gathered in the Burnham Camp Cinema for farewell speeches from AVM Peter Stockwell, Commander, Joint Forces HQ and for blessings from our Padres. Families took last minute opportunities to sign the goodwill banners and Christmas banners which went on each flight. Of course, each of these departures were filled with much emotion and sadness but they are well trained and dedicated personnel deploying, who will be watching out for each other. For those at home, we know that those who best manage a deployment, are those who take advantage of the resources, support and information on offer and who reach out. Your DSO in Burnham and Linton are only a phone call away and are willing and to help you along the way.



SSGT Dave Williams enjoys a precious time with his infant son



LCPL Hardie, shares a lollipop with his daughter, Taylor, during a quiet moment before departure to the Solomon Islands

Going on Holiday?/Moving House?

Please remember to keep us in the loop! If you are going away on holiday, either within New Zealand or overseas be sure to let us know if we are unable to contact you by your normal cellphone number listed. If in doubt, please call Carol or Janine to check we have your contact details. In the rare event of an emergency, precious time can be lost trying to contact Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) away from the usual work or home base. We need to make sure that our database details are always current and would very much appreciate notification of any changes that may occur.



FOR YOUR INFO CONT'D....

Christmas in Deployment Locations

Every possible effort has been made in deployment locations worldwide to ensure that those deployed will enjoy some Christmas cheer over this holiday season. Santa is scheduled to call and offer some Christmas gifts and festive goodwill.

Thanks to the Returned Services Association, deployed service personnel will receive a special gift of much loved 'Kiwiana'. Their generosity will bring a little extra Christmas cheer to the hearts of your loved ones and we thank them for their ongoing commitment to this special project.

Expecting a Christmas Phone Call?

Everyone worldwide wants to talk with family and friends over the festive season and deployed service personnel are no exception. Phone lines, worldwide are often overloaded and making calls may be difficult over peak times. Please be assured that all deployed service personnel will endeavour to be in touch with loved ones this festive season. Please be patient and understanding if calls don't quite come when you expect (or hope) they do, or are shorter than usual, given long queues waiting to use the few available phones in deployment locations.

Everyone will do their best to keep in touch and you will very much be in each others thoughts.

Holiday Coverage

All deployment and welfare support personnel for the New Zealand Defence Force will be available to assist you over the holiday season if the need arises.

We understand that this is a particularly difficult time of the year to be separated from those

you love, so if you need a listening ear, please be assured that we are all here for you.

Deployment Services Officers cell phones provide a 24-hour coverage, seven days a week (contact details on the inside cover). Please refer to our 'Holiday Contacts at a Glance' for more comprehensive coverage across the three services.

Technology lets us down

Sincere apologies to those wonderful families and individuals who sent emails with messages for the Christmas edition of "The Bugle" to Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer, Burnham (dso.cso@xtra.co.nz) if they have not appeared in this issue. We have had a major systems failure on that email account and have been unable to retrieve any messages, correspondence or emails requesting information. Janine and I have tried so hard to recontact you all and extended the deadline, but the task while overwhelming and frustrating, has had mixed success, no matter how hard we

have tried. We are extremely disappointed that we have not met your expectations and in fact feel we have all let you down.

Nothing is, unfortunately, going to change the situation and we apologise sincerely and hope that you can understand that this systems failure was totally outside our control.

A new email account has been established. Please note the address for all future correspondence:

dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz



Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself....
(Norman Wesley Brooks)

PLEASE NOTE: NEW ADDRESS FOR Solomon Islands

FORCES CONCESSION

Regimental number, rank, initials and surname
OP RATA II
PO Box R131, Ranadi Office of Exchange
Honiara
Solomon Islands
C/- International Mail Centre
Auckland 2022

FORCES CONCESSION



FOR YOUR INFO CONT'D....

Leave for Timor-Leste Service Personnel

Up to five days out of theatre leave (OTL) has been approved for service personnel currently deployed with OP GYRO in Timor-Leste. There are however, a number of guidelines and restrictions associated with leave available. In summary, these are:

- * Leave is subject to the operational requirements and therefore may not always be available and may be cancelled or postponed at any time.
- * Leave may only be taken in Darwin.
- * Operational allowances will continue to be paid during OTL.
- * Any leave taken comes off existing leave balances.

* Existing operational flights may be used by service personnel to and from Darwin.

* Leave must not incur any additional cost to NZDF.

* Travel insurance on leave is not funded by NZDF and is the responsibility of the traveller.

Major Lynne Smith
J18-Pers Welfare

Army News

Every edition of this popular publication is available on line. Our end of year deadlines may mean that the last copy for 2010 will not make it to you until our first mail out in January. You can, however, go to:
www.nzdf.mil.nz and download the latest Army News

Last Bugle for 2010

This is the last issue of "The Bugle" for 2010. We hope you enjoy our Christmas edition and the many articles, messages and contributions from abroad. Sincere thanks to all those who have helped make it yet another good read. It has been a huge task to compile and I hope not too many sleepless nights ahead in the hope that we didn't miss anything out!

The deadline for the next issue is Thursday 20th January 2011. "The Bugle" team look forward to your continued support and contributions in the New Year. It is your contributions that make the Newsletter what it is—so be sure to send in just as many great articles and messages as this issue carries.



The Kiwi Forces Radio programme has been recorded especially for our deployed personnel who are away this Christmas, but it's also available here for all their friends and family in New Zealand to listen to. You can find it on the NZDF website - www.nzdf.mil.nz/news/publications/kiwi-forces-radio.

It starts with a goodwill message from CDF, the Minister of Defence and Chaplain Jen Betham-Lang, and then goes into a couple of hours of song requests and messages from loved ones. Some of the messages are hilarious, all are heartwarming.

The song requests range from The Pogues to Shihad to Bette Midler, so there'll be something in there for everyone. Make sure you listen all the way through, because a certain Warrant Officer's family rendition of "You've Lost That Loving Feeling" is not to be missed.

Copies of the programme have been sent to the missions, and will reach the Kiwis in time for Christmas.

FROM THIS.....



The Fiu family



The Fiu family; Major Jonathan Fiu, wife Lucy and children, Blayne and Jazlyn, gathered at Burnham Camp for the farewell of CRIB 16 in April 2010.

Major Fiu was to spend the next six months with the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bagram, Afghanistan.



TO THIS.....

Last week Major Fiu stood with fellow soldiers for the first of many medal parades to be held around the country.

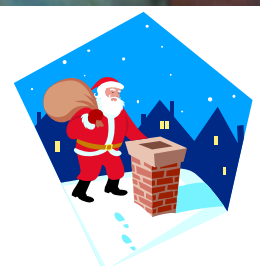
Soldiers from 2/1st Battalion were recipients of medals marking their deployment in 2010 to either Timor-Leste or Afghanistan. The medals presented were the New Zealand Operational Service Medal, the New Zealand General Service Medal East Timor, the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal, and the New Zealand General Service Medal Afghanistan.

While we congratulate all those associated with their deployment on a job well done, we must also



Major Fiu receives his medal from his Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Hugh McAslan

remember and thank the many families who supported them along the way.





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD



Carol Voyce
DSO Burnham
Editor — “The Bugle”

I was simply overwhelmed with the number of Christmas cards that found their way to my office in the past few weeks - all lovingly created to bring a little Christmas cheer to those service personnel deployed overseas this festive season. Although I finally gave up on the counting, I guess that some 2000 cards are now winging their way to all

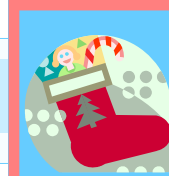
deployment locations. I wish you could have seen my office floor - completely "carpeted" with colourful cards, posters and Christmas decorations created by young and old and each containing messages that either warmed my heart, gave me a lump in my throat, or made me laugh out very loudly! There was an abundance of glitter, cotton wool and little bits of shiny paper, some which had parted company from the cards and was now firmly adhered to me and my carpet. While I have to admit that I also finally gave up on reading personally every contribution due to the huge quantity, I couldn't help but admire the hard work, creativity and special thoughts that went into the cards. You would, like me, be immensely proud of the efforts of everyone who joined in this project and for the connection they created from one kiwi to another, separated by the miles and from families, this festive season. Children wrote from the heart and shared a little about themselves, their hobbies, their pets, their hopes for the future and often for world peace. There will be some lucky recipients, a world away from us, who will appreciate the efforts of all our contributors.

While it is impossible to name all those who contributed, I would like to make a special mention to the following groups who made or co-ordinated this project, into a class activity and sent in a number of cards:

Linton Camp School,
Burnham School, Burnham Preschool and Nursery, BOOST Burnham,
Kids First Kindergarten, Burnham,
Morven School,
Palmerston Primary School, Otago,
Levin North School,
Clive School,
J Beard, Hastings

To everyone whether you sent one card or a 100 cards, sincere thanks for your amazing efforts and support! The card will be appreciated more than you can ever imagine.

(To our deployed service personnel - As lucky recipients of these gorgeous cards, a note of thanks would be appreciated. You will find the names and addresses of contributors on the back of each card - feel free to send me your letters for forwarding on).





A Special Christmas Message



T'was the night before Christmas

He lived all alone, in a one bedroom house, made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give,

And to see just who, in this home, did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought, came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary, I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor, in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in disorder, not how I pictured, a deployed soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realised the families, that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers, who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate, a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom, each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder, how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees, and started to cry.

The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered, from the cold night's chill.

I did not want to leave, on that cold, dark, night. This guardian of honour, so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,

Whispered, "Carry on Santa,

it's Christmas day, all is secure."

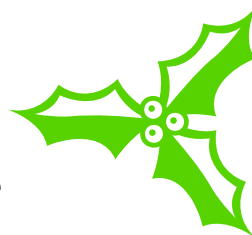
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.

"Merry Christmas My Friend,

And to all a Good Night."



Hot Tips for Christmas



Separation from our loved ones can be particularly difficult during special occasions like Christmas and the New Year, and it is not unusual for those of us at home to feel a little “out of sorts” at this time. Even when loved ones are at home, it can be a busy and stressful time – shopping to be done, pressure on the finances, kids on holidays, relatives coming to stay – some of us may find all of this a little overwhelming. If you are trying to cope without your partner, it can be more difficult.

There are some things that you can do to get by. If you do find yourself feeling stressed about separation this Christmas, there are some simple and common sense strategies that you can use to help yourself through.

Acknowledge emotions. Allow yourself to be upset at times. Christmas can be a lonely time if your loved one is away. Being lonely doesn’t just mean being alone. You might feel upset even though you’re with family and friends. It’s OK to feel this way, and it is healthy to admit to and work through your emotions. But don’t allow the separation to dominate your life.

Share the load. Try to talk about how you’re going to those that matter the most, your family and friends. Also remember that the Deployment Services Officer, Unit Point of Contact, Padres and members of the Defence Community are available to assist you. They can also put you in touch with civilian organisations if needed.



Watch out for the “shoulds”. Sometimes we tell ourselves that families “should” be together at Christmas, the festive season “should” be a time of happiness and sharing. Trying to live up to the “shoulds” can create frustration, anger or sadness. Try to accept your circumstances, and work to make them as positive as you can.

Think about yourself. It’s easy at this time of year to forget your own needs for pleasure, space and time to yourself. Try to reward yourself with little things that make you feel good, and take some “time out” from your normal routine.

Manage your time. If you feel like there are too many things to do, try making a ‘to do’ list, and set priorities in your daily tasks. Try to avoid over-committing yourself – occasionally you may need to say “No” to others to look after yourself.

Relax. There are many techniques for relaxation, from simple breathing exercises to meditation. Simply concentrating on and slowing your breathing for a minute or two can work wonders. Give it a go.

Stay Healthy. Sure it’s Christmas but remember to eat healthy food and watch your intake of alcohol, caffeine and nicotine. If you can, get out and about and be active. Take up a sport, go jogging, walking, cycling or swimming. Allow yourself to have fun.

Share your time with others. If you are going to be on your own, you will not be the only one. Think about getting together with others who might be in the same boat, or volunteer your time to help those who may be less fortunate.

REMEMBER: *It’s not unusual to feel the absence of a loved one more keenly at Christmas when everyone else is concentrating on family and friends. Try to follow these simple strategies and hopefully, you’ll enjoy your well-deserved Christmas holiday even more.*

Christmas Trivia



A recent Readers Digest survey revealed:

55% of us feel positive about the onset of the silly season.

69% expect to share their main meal with 12 other people.

47% have abandoned watching the Queen's message on television.

40% do not go to church.

20% of us don't buy a real Christmas tree.

26% of us now decorate our own houses with Christmas lights.

95% of us spend Christmas at home, 72% have a roast dinner and 68% of us expect to over-eat.

And, interestingly – Women typically expect to phone relations, cook, clean up and organise the presents,

– while men usually plan on drinking, playing backyard sport, napping.....and wearing paper hats.

Did you know?

In the Ukraine, if you find a spider web in the house on Christmas morning, it is believed to be a harbinger of good luck!

There once lived a woman so poor, says a Ukrainian folk tale, that she could not afford Christmas decorations for her family. One Christmas morning, she awoke to find that spiders had trimmed her children's tree with their webs. When the morning sun shone on them, the webs turned to silver and gold.

An artificial spider and web are often included in the decorations on Ukrainian Christmas trees.

Christmas Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect."

(Oren Arnold)

Christmas Quotes:

"Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with
quietness of mind; teach us to be patient
and always to be kind."
(Helen Steiner Rice).

"May Peace be your gift at Christmas and
your blessing all year through!" (Unknown).

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



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

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

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

Solomon Islands:

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname

OP RATA II

PO Box R131, Ranadi Office of Exchange

Honiara

Solomon Islands

C/- International Mail Centre

Auckland 2022

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

Upper Hutt 5140

or 2 Seddul Bahr Road

Trentham

Upper Hutt 5018

Sinai (Op FARAD):

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname

NZ Contingent

Multinational Force and Observers

El Gorah, Sinai

PO Box 99000, Tel Aviv

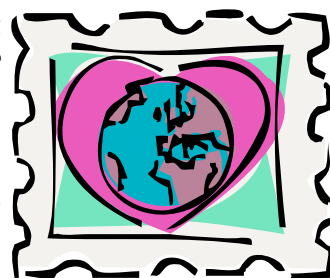
Israel

C/- International Mail Centre

Auckland 2022

A Postal Users Guide and Prohibited Items Brochure is available on the NZ Post website at www.nzpost.co.nz. Type *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 parcels 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 the entire shipment being delayed as customs remove suspect items.



PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 20 January 2011**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

The first of messages between the lines were received after the printing of our last issue and therefore missed the deadline. Sincere apologies, but we hope there is something there for you.

To Ale

For my two wee girls L & E, daddy misses you very much. To A, thinking of you all the time, love you heaps. From DOID.

To Maximus

Hope all is well, keep smiling and look after yourself. Say hi to all the family. Love J.

Amy and Maci

Missing you every day of every moment! Wish I was home with you both. Love you heaps and heaps, mwaah xoxo. John.

Danielle

Hope you have an awesome Christmas and New Years. Miss you lots. Have fun at Regga Muffin. I'll be thinking of you every day. Nate.

Mum, Dad and Whanau

Missing you all every day! Hope all is well and I'll call when I can. Nate.

Dad and Penny

Hope Ute is still in good shape. Can you give it a Christmas clean please? Miss you lots. Nate.

Tania, Jamie, Nga, Candi, Ruku and Rukus New Girl

My new whanau to be when I get back, miss you guys lots. Get the Beers chilling now and BBQ ready. See you when I'm back. Take care ALL. Give the dogs a pat, oh and Rangi. Nate.

Raharuhi and Joshua

Always thinking of you boys! I am very proud of you both. You make my days possible when things are busy. Always in my prayers and thoughts. Love, your Dad xox.

Kristal and Koia

Thank you for all your support in my absence. I love and miss you both very much. May your birthdays this month be special! I will be sending a special prayer for you both. God bless, Gawgaw xox.

To my Whanau in North Harbour, Whakatane, Taneatua and Wellington

Thank you for all your prayers and e-mails. You guys are the best. Ma te Atu koutou e manaaki, Bells (Ra) xox.

Rewai and Josie

Thanks for all your support. I love seeing your messages on FB. You guys are the best. God Bless.

Pittman KA Family

Will be thinking of you and will keep in contact as much as possible, other than that, see you soon!

To my Family and Friends

Enjoy the Christmas period and New Year. 2LT Ryan Hudson.

Kiaorana mami

Ko lelei au ko
Manatu au ya kotou
Mea kia loloma ke
Shave tana moustache. lol. P.J. Katoa.

To My Amazing Family

I hope you are doing well and have a good Christmas. Lots of love, Ed.

Pohangina Rd Farm

Keep up the good work, I appreciate it all heaps. Cannot believe I have a 15 year old

daughter already. X. Food all good, weather all warm. Enjoy your NZ summer as we live in a special place. S1 GYRO 10.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to all the Family Back Home

Eat heaps and enjoy your holidays. Jake. To all the homis stay cool, peace out - A town down ya'll.

To my Nigah Bexx

Hey baby just got on the plane and I'm watching a movie. Love you heaps, be safe and don't party too much. I'm gonna miss you.

Hope you are all doing well, keep safe and I'll be back before you know it. Merry Christmas! Love Ross.

To Shelley Anne Winika (Bubby)

Hope you aren't missing me too much (you better be ha ha). Missing you. Love you more. See you when I'm looking at you. Love Junior (BUB).

To Fran and the Kids

Stay strong and God Bless, Arohanui D xxx.

Kiaora to all the Whanau

Be safe, smile and keep it Rastafarian for the revolution. Jah.

Hey Family

I'm fine. Hopefully you guys still get me a Christmas present. Give my love to everyone. Love you and see you in 4 months. Pte Sola.

Working hard and miss you all. Have a Merry Christmas and New Year. Love Bryce.

To the Fam

Missn ya heaps! Have a good festive season without me. Drink a beer for me Col and I will continue my fishing lessons for you and the old fella when I get back. I bet little Maddy isn't too little now and Peyton is causing more trouble

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



than eva. I hope the girls are still staying busy with their sports. All the best to you all! Looking forward to catching up with everyone when I'm back. K.J.

Hello my Darling Pam

You are the best wife a husband could ask for. I will miss you immensely and I look forward to our communications. Have a fantastic Christmas with your friends, you are in my thoughts. Bless you heaps and see you in the not too distant future, the time will fly by. Love you forever. Paul.

Krull

You will have to get onto Pa and ensure he puts his pen to paper, or maybe you could put paw to paper and tell me all the haps.....Pa seems a little on the grumpy side at the moment, so what have you done? No more big holes in the vegie garden? Mmmm, have you told Pa that you too love strawberries and he had better eat them before they disappear! Just make sure you leave no stalks lying around if you do decide to partake in a treat or two. Ma is missing her walks with you and Pa big time. Lots of love Ma xxxxxx.

Kia ora Kirst & Whana

Life is just not the same here without you walking the kms with me each day, but you are here with me in spirit. I often look at the hills and think of the times we spent discussing the issues of the world and coming up with possible solutions. Boy could we talk. Ah, those times - all the memories! I miss our chats and the company of Khaliq, Nani and Shahid. Hope all is all well at home and that you are enjoying your new job? Christmas will soon be here - the first for Nani and Shahid. Now that will be something to treasure. Lots of love. Kath xxxxx.

To My Beautiful Kids Lochy and Reilly

Daddy wishes his deployment

overseas will go fast, so I can be home to be with you two once again. I hope you two have been good for nanny and mum. Soon you will see your family up north during Xmas, I hope you guys have heaps of fun with your cousins, and get spoilt by Nanny Rea and your Aunties. Daddy loves you and misses you lots... mwah xoxoxoxo.

To My Darling Jess

I miss you, can't wait to see you again. Take care and love you lots. Aaron. Xoxoxoxo.

OC NCE GYRO 9

The beers cold, the people speak English, the roads are great. Not long till you too can experience NZ. Enjoy the rest of your trip. We heard you may have to stay longer?? From: NZ CSST.

To my Beautiful Pikelet....

Merry Christmas and Merry "first" Christmas to my beautiful little Pikelet! I will be thinking of my two girls and wishing you a great day. Thank you Pikelet for the love and support you have given me. I am sorry little Pikelet for missing your first Christmas but I know your wonderful mum will make it an amazing day for you. I miss and love you Pikelet and little Pikelet xxxx.

Jared & Brock

I hope you enjoy all the prezzies Santa brings and have a great Christmas. Thinking of you both, Love Aunty.

Gerry, Shirley & Joanna

Thinking of you all over the Christmas and New Years period - sounds like you are going to have a great summer. Love you all. Please pass my thoughts to the rest of the family and friends. Love Karen.

To Steph, Squeeky, Trina and Karl

Missing you all heaps! Nearly Christmas time and I wish I was at home with you enjoying a Kiwi Summer and family times. I look

forward to hearing all the holiday stories.

I'm proud of what we are achieving and I couldn't do this without my awesome support network. Miss you guys, and love you mostest. Merry Christmas!! Xxxxxxxx.

Thanks Carol

For all the support you have already provided to the team in the short time that we have been here in Bagram. Those little parcels that just magically appear in the mail bags from NZ are really appreciated. You are just a treasure! Staff of NZ NSE, OP TROY, Afghanistan.

Merry Christmas Mrs Bearz

Love you heaps and can't wait to be back home with you. Lots of love. Mr Bearz xoxox.

Merry Christmas Wallingford Way Family

Will be thinking of you all throughout the festive season, including all those BBQ's I'm missing out on. Coopies, be good for mum because Santa knows if you've been naughty or nice! Miss you guys lots. Love you all to space and back. SMC xxx.

Dearest Poppet

Hope you're having a wonderful holiday and a wonderful Christmas, thinking about you heaps. Things are going smoothly here, nearing the half way point so I will be back before you know it. Miss you heaps, love you more, keep safe.

Van der Vliet's (Erica, Logan and Gemma)

Merry Xmas, hope you enjoy your holidays. Thanks so much for all the gifts. Miss you all heaps. Aunty Karen.

Aidan and Rodney Hall

Merry Xmas my boys!

Have a great time off for the holidays, I'm real jelly. Miss you both heaps. Karen.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



John Hockly and Diane Foster

Merry Xmas olds! Look after each other. Miss you. Karen.

To Ale, to my Honey and Two Little Girls

Hope you have an awesome Christmas break and a Happy New Year. Miss you all very much. Lots of love. Doid.

Hey Waiheke Whanau

Have a Merry Xmas! Hope you have an awesome time at the beach. Save me some fruit pies! I'll be thinking of you all. Love Juice.

Hey Mel and Bryson

Hope you have an awesome Xmas and New Year in the sun and Bryson has heaps of fun on his new bike. Miss you heaps xoxo. Cheers, Jason.

Dear Jack, Falcon, Mono, The Stupid Horse, Dumb Cow and Axle, Krystol, Mum, The McMillan Family, The Carroll Family and Fee, Zahi and the Kids.

Merry Christmas to you all and enjoy your holiday.

To The Adam Clan

Jasmine, Jessica, Hunter and McKenzie

Wishing you guys a great Christmas and an awesome summer camping holiday!! Take good care of Mum!! Look forward to seeing you guys again next year. Lots of Love Dad (Zane).

To my DG, Big L and Little C

Have a wonderful Christmas and try not to knock the tree over this year!! See you after Easter's eggs! Love daddy.

To Mary

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year for you, the kids and the grandies. All the best wishes from me for the festive season. Love from Ron xoxox.

To my Darling Smilez

I am missing you very much and thinking of you even more. And I love you more than ever. Much love, Cuddles, xxoxx.

Hi All

Well it's not quite Christmas here yet, no snow on the ground, no fairy lights, but guess we'll get organised for it in time! Staying well and cheerful even as it gets colder and colder. Thanks for the Christmas parcel, will save it for the day as it will be a good way to mark mid-tour! Looking forward to coming over soon as are Brooke and Jamie. Lots of love from Leon xx.

To Jamie (the Little Monkey)

Hey you, wish I could be there for your birthday and Christmas but I hope you like the video I sent you. By this time you are probably riding Holly - what a cool birthday and Christmas present! I hope your thumb is better now, mum said you shut it in the car door - OUCH!! Know that I am thinking about you all the time and can't wait to get home. I'll have lots of time off work so we can do heaps and heaps of cool stuff, like swimming, ice-skating, going to the park and McDonalds and anything else you want to do. Love you lots and lots, be good to mum and give her a Christmas kiss and cuddle from me, the Big Monkey xxooxx.

To the Brookster

Hey babe! Christmas is here already! The good news is that it means we're half way through. Been a long three months without you I know, but now we're on the downhill slope with so much to look forward to when I get back. I hope Jamie's birthday goes well, and Christmas too. You'll have to give her a hug and a kiss from me. Hope you enjoyed the DVD, clever aren't I? Say hi to the whanau. Love you lots, see you soon babe xxxx.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Jane, Benny and Stella

Miss you all very much. Hope you kids have been good for Santa and Mummy. Enjoy your presents and Daddy will see you soon. Lots of

Love Dad
(Kane).

Dear Buttercup

Our first Xmas huh one to remember, also it is another day and one day closer to home... Missin U incredibly 143 Yr P.... xox.

Hi Mum and Dad

Hope you guys have an amazing Xmas! I know you guys will have fun and Kauri don't open your presents until Xmas day. All my love Candy.

To B, M and S

A lot has happened since our last Xmas together and we have come along way, literally. I hope that you all have a good day and I will be thinking of you as you open your presents. The best present is, of course, is that Xmas represents roughly the mid point in the tour and so I will be home before you know it. Have a good and safe Xmas and don't spend all your Xmas money on Boxing Day. Love from S.

To Mum and Dad

Especially thinking of you at this time, I hope that you both have a good day and hope that your grandchildren will give you some peace. Be home soon. Love Stephen.

To Mel

Have a wonderful Christmas with William, Jessica, Mum and Dad. Love you - Ra xox. P.S: I'm waiting for Mum's Peanut Brownies to arrive.

To Raharuhi, Joshua, Kristal and Koia

Hope you all have a refreshing and safe Christmas. Wish I was with you but someone has to do the HARD YARDS - eh! Not long to go now. Man, I'm looking forward to a Hangi and Boil up - yeah Boy!! ALL MY LOVE, THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. Dad xoxoxoxoxo.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



To Dad and Patsy

Thinking of all the wonderful Christmas's we have had over the years. May you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas! No doubt you will eat lots and sleep it off in the afternoon. I will see you when I get back to share all the photos and jokes.

To my Brothers Puhī, Peter, Anaru and sisters Nina, Rebekah and Aroha

Have a safe and refreshing Christmas break. Wish I was there with you all to enjoy - the fishing, the picnics and singing, the videos, the noise, the eating, the eating and more eating – lol. Love you guys heaps. Your Big Brother – Ra LOVE YOU GUYS!!

Dave, Mum, Dad, Ewen and Grandma

Merry Christmas. Missing you guys. Love, Ellen.

Sharon, Tyler and Hana

Missing you heaps especially over this special time (that's the fishing season not Christmas). I am so proud of you all for getting all the exams and assignments done. Enjoy the well deserved break in the winterless north and catch a snapper or two for me. Love you always, Dad.

Wabbit

I has landed and am safe and sound and enjoying the heat - Jenny Craig Eat Ya Heart Out hehe. I miss you and our wee children very much and my heart will be heavy come X-Mass and New Years to think that I can't be there to share it with you and the family. You are all in my thoughts at all times and I miss you and Love you very much. Can't wait to come home to your arms and to play with the kids. Love Daddy.

To Mum & Family

Having a good time over here, very hot and lots of work to do. Have a great Xmas and New Year, will be thinking of you. Will hopefully be

able to Skype you on the day. Miss you all lots. Hope you enjoyed the video! Love Andrew (pies).

To my Boo

Hope you are hanging in there and enjoying the summer. I'm missing you very much there is not a moment that goes by where I don't think of you. I am finally adjusting to the heat over here.... Or maybe it's just getting used to sweating all the time. I love you with all my heart and can't wait to get home and have some alone time. J. Merry Christmas darling, and have a cracking New Years. Make sure you have a few for me. Love giant warrior.

Dear Mumage and Dadage, Jeff and Heather

Hope ya have the time to read this as I'm sure you are all swept off your feet. Remember it's a good thing to be busy, got to make your millions back. Dad "Go clean the toilet again in room 3, I think you missed a spot, Jeff go help him". I love you all very much and wish I could be there for the Festivities. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years from Timor.

From Home

To Sam

Merry Christmas! Hope you have a wonderful day and although you're not here with me, I'll be thinking of you. Can't wait for time to fly by and for you to come home, we have so much to look forward to after this! Missing you every day and love you with all my heart. Michelle and the boys, xoxox.

Ma

Pa tells me you want me to write back. Haven't done this for a wee while since the maid took me in last! Must say though I do miss her and the blonde number! Pa tells me he's too busy to visit her, he's

always too busy it seems. I think he's just getting to old, mutters to himself when we're down the beach. I must say he hasn't surfed for a while, must have something to do with the sling thingy around his arm. He often curses and carries on when the surf is going off, mutters someone's name, "Putt's" or "Joe" shouldn't have played league rady, rady raa, like I said getting too old. As for Vincent he gets a bit cocky with his new mates, but Pa puts him in his place, the odd boot usually does it. Anyway must rush, I have a bone to bury in your lovely rose garden hee, hee. Woof, sniff, Krull.

Dear Daddy David

We miss you and are looking forward to you getting home. Have a Merry Xmas and I hope Santa is kind to you. Love Riley, Isaac, Max and Logan xx.

Lawrence

You surely arrived in style - the flying carpet was perfect - in more ways than one!!! It was so good to see you and to catch up after all this time!! Thanks so much for the dinners, presents and of course the good company! Wishing you a wonderful, safe and peaceful Christmas and may 2011 bring all good things and much more. Thinking of you always, Florence xxx.

Patrick

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Thinking of you - was great to catch up. Love Abbey x.

Kath

Have a great Christmas and New Year. We will be thinking of you as we enjoy our summer sun and holidays. Hope you can enjoy a festive occasion in a new land, Take care, Carol x.

Padres Abroad

Best wishes, special thoughts and

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



prayers for a safe and festive Holy season. Thinking of you all, Carol.

Hi Toad

Writing this, thinking of you at Christmas and missing decorating the tree with you. Hope you enjoy your first white Christmas and Santa treats you well. Miss you and love you loads, Mum, Rach, Benny and Nana xoxo.

Hi Ben

It's almost 2 mths now, and Xmas is coming fast, and yr birthday on New Years Day. ..Happy 21st Petal for that day! Hope you have settled in, and getting used to life over "there". It must be getting chilly there too. We think of you when we're outside having a BBQ and drinking G&Ts. I've cleaned up the two bedrooms you took over before you left, amazing how all that stuff got squeezed in small places. Skin took yr car for a drive the other day, still goes well. Take care matey, Hope Xmas day is fill of laughter, good company, and nice food. Say hi to Ryan too, I'm very proud of you and all the boys over there. Lots of Love Mum, Vince & Milly xxx.

Hi Paris

Birthday and Christmas greetings to you from Nan, Uncles, Aunties and cussies! Parcel in the post.

My Dad FRAGAL

I wish you a safe white Christmas! I have enjoyed hearing from you this year and hope to hold more of a conversation next year when I learn more words, then I can tell you how much I miss you and want a piggy back ride around the house and have boy time playing boy things (cause mum is such a girl!) Like... mum asked me to open this book and this is what it says, "In the midst of even the worst crisis, it is possible to visualize a calm place within yourself. Give from that place. It will change what you are giving and leave you far less depleted". I didn't get it either Dad!

Have a great Christmas. Love you big real big Zharn xxx.

Dear Rob

We're thinking of you. So glad you are enjoying the Solomons. Merry Christmas and all our love from Dad, Sue, John, Polly, Johnnie, Mark, Wendy, Rachel & Alex & lots of boys frae the toon! Xxx.

Jason

Time is going fast but not fast enough...closer to Christmas now and the shopping has started! Everyone passes on their 'hellos' as usual. Miss you, keep safe xoxoxoxo.

To Dave (& Daddy to be)

Another White Christmas – no snowmen, mulled wine and coastal road trip this year. We're not together physically, but together in every other way. I hope you have got/will get in the post the reminder of a tradition we started in Wales. The start of another Voice/Johnston family tradition includes a visit to the family farm. My thoughts are with you, and on Christmas day we celebrate the half way mark and the count down to a momentous 2011. Thinking of you and loving you every moment. Love Shall (and the bump).

Roberto

Hope the Sollies are treating you well and you are not getting too worn out with all the diving. Good to be at mighty 25. Enjoy your Christmas and look forward to having a few on your return. Your mate, Rod.

Sonshine

I have to admit to eating the back end of your Christmas chocolate slab, and now I've eaten nearly all to the front. I have a reputation for this. So I hope you like the contents of your Xmas parcel anyway. We are thinking of you. P.S: I did think of sending the remaining half of the slab but it was delicious! Love Mumshine.

Nickel

John and Pipi join Suzy in wishing you the best for the Xmas and New Year; we will keep a fishing rod and a seat on the boat for you, for when you visit us when you get home again. Much love, the Golden Bay crew.

Kia ora Matt

Enjoy the goodies and hope that you and your buddies have a wonderful Xmas day. Best wishes for the New Year. Thinking of you guys always, take care. Arohanui, Mum, Dad & families.

To my Giant Warrior

So proud of you, you are a real motivator to me; I've never been so inspired to prove myself and to be the best that I can be with what I have got. I have learnt so much from you over the months and I can't wait for us to share and live our experience together. Xmas is coming up very soon, can't wait. It's definitely going to be odd without you around but I know your family will take good care of me and I will feel at home with them, hee hee, I think I'm fitting in rather well. I definitely will be blowing you my kiss on New Years so keep an eye out for it. Miss you so much baby and love you lots. Boo x.

Hi Allan

Christmas already! Time is sure going fast. We will swim in the river for you and be glad it's not frozen solid! We will toast you and feel proud of what you are doing. We will miss you but rejoice you are doing something really different. Hope you have fun, and don't eat all the doughnuts. Happy Christmas! Sarah and the Kelpies.

Hi Daddy

I am a big three year old now, yay! I had a big party and all my friends came to play, we went swimming and played on the water slide cause it was so hot. I got lots of

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



cool presents and mum made me a race car track birthday cake. Thank you for my trampoline, I LOVE it and jump on it all day! I can't wait to jump on it with you when you get back. Today is my first day of kindy and I am very excited. Mum will take some photos and we will email you and tell you all about it. And I will paint you a picture. Love you daddy and miss you lots and lots. Love Bryson xoxoxo.

Merry Christmas!

Hope all the presents make it in time and help make the day special even though we are apart. We will be thinking of you and wishing you were here with us. Next year will be an even better Christmas and something to look forward to with our new family of four! Love you lots, sending big kisses from home! Mel and Bryson xoxoxo.

Hi Da

We love and miss you heaps. Be safe and come home soon. Love you around the back and then some. Brayden and Declan.

Marts

Geseende Kersfees. Ons is so baie, baie lief vir jou. Ons sal 'n boerewors op die braai sit vir jou. Liefde. Ma, Pa, Clinton en Diesel.

Hey Jamie

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas over there! I hope you have a nice, relaxing day and eat lots of goodies. My family sends their love to you. All down hill from here and you will be home soon enough so we can start our lives together. Thinking of you always, love and miss you heaps. Margot xx.

Bebe

I hope you're having a groovy time over there. We all miss you so much, me more than anyone else!!! Not long now my darling. Enjoy the prezzies. You'll be in our thoughts over this time. Yours always and forever. Me the fambamily.

Sargent Womble

Wishing you a lovely White Xmas. Hope you have a neat day with lots of treats. Miss you heaps, wish you were here (had to fit in Pink Floyd somewhere). Love from Dad, Jen, Moos, Stace & all the Wanganui clan.

Hey Lover

Merry Christmas! I hope the weather is good so we can skype! I really hope you have a good day on Christmas and New Years, we will be thinking of you. Love Rob xxx.

Hi Matey

Catching up with all the family before Xmas at Hannah's engagement. Hayley enjoyed Ath-a-letics but was the 'Last Loser' which did not bother her. Looking forward to Xmas at the beach. Best Wishes, Lots of Love Dad.

Hey Good Looking

Hope you have a great Christmas. We will all miss you heaps. Enjoy your day! Lots of love S.

Hey Rob

Merry Christmas! Don't worry about Christmas dinner, I will eat your share and maybe even Jacquelyne's. Take care, Chris.

Merry Christmas Choppa

Thinking of you heaps, hope you like your prezzies, much love and hugs from all your family at river cottage.

To Robbo/Daddy

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year babe! Have finally convinced Mum we don't need to have a Turkey, and you won't be here to enjoy the BBQ and Ham sandwich instead! We are missing you heaps but really enjoying our own little adventure too. Myah says "Merry Christmas Dad, Santa is going to bring me lots of presents!" Stay safe and keep warm! Love you big big lots, hugs and kisses, Tamra & Myah.

To Daddy

We miss u so much, we get to go Xmas shopping this week and will go to see Santa, sorry you couldn't join us. Mum is doing real good without u here but she loves hearing your voice when you get the chance to ring. Love you lots dad, Taylor, Lucas and mummy.

Diggs

The kids and I miss you so much and Christmas just won't be the same without you. We'll make sure we eat your share, Dad will get some more bunnies in your honour and Gene can have the honour of digging the dreaded hole. We are so proud of you and love you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year honey. Love you lots, E, J & A x.

To my Almost Husband

Hope everything is going all right. By now awesome letter/package 1a, 1b, 2 and 3 should have reached you. Enjoy the chips and dip, chocolate, candy canes and mints. Make sure you share the love with your people. All is well here. I miss you lots and will keep you updated on the wedding planning. Enjoy your last Christmas pre-ball and chain. Love you, be safe. Nesslefish.

Merry Christmas my Gorgeous Soldier

Hope you have a very jolly day and you have heaps of yummy Christmas dinner, especially your favourite trifle and new potatoes (oh potatoes my fav ha). Hopefully Santa doesn't forget you and ya get lots a pressies. Missing you soooooo much, biggest kisses and cuddles to you, love you babe xxxxxxxx from your fiancé xo.

Kia ora Leon

Merry Christmas!! Just wanted to let you know we all thinking of you

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



today. Hope you have great day and an AWESOME lunch. Not the same here without you mate!! Hope you guys have some great things planned. Enjoy!! Take care, Love you heaps. Mum, Dad, Nik, Jazz xx and Nana sends her love.

Hi Daddy

We love and miss you so much. We have kept your presents to open when you get home, and can't wait to see you again. Love always Jessica, Hunter, McKenzie, Henry, Harry, Maverick and Mummy.

Merry Christmas Dillo

Hope you have a good day and that those presents stayed wrapped!!! Thinking of you and missing you heaps! Lots of love Dilly and Bug Buggins xxxx.

Merry Xmas j Dog (ice)

Thinking of you, have a great day on the 25th! Miss you heaps, hope the scratchies are a winner! love always BAD xoxoxox.

Daddy

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!
Lots of love, huggles and kisses,
Georgia & Charlotte and Mummy
xxxooxxx.

To our Dear Cuddles and Pops

Merry Christmas sweetheart, hope you enjoy your Xmas treats, we will be toasting you with our margaritas - I'll have an extra one (or two) just for you. Cos we love you and wish you were here, we're sending you our love and Christmas cheer. Hugs and Sloppy Kisses coming your way hope you have an awesome day. With all our Love - Your Smilez and the family xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox.

Hi My Paua!

Meri kirihimete! Thinking of you and wish you were here. Enjoy your

presents. Arohanui from your 2 Princess's xox.

To PRPR/Daddy

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU! It won't be the same without you this year, but we will be thinking of you lots and heaps. The argument over opening Christmas presents have already began between Dennis and Mum. NO OPENING YOUR CHRISTMAS PARCEL TIL CHRISTMAS DAY!!! Look after yourself. Love you Morest, Miss you Heaps, Steph, Ella and Rusty (woof woof).

Tena koe SON 1

He uri o Tapuika Ngati Moko me Te Whanau Apanui - We have a candle glittering for you every night. We have you swaying in the breeze amongst the sets of baubles adorning the greenery around the house. We have you sparkling amongst the stars set upon the windows. We see you in our minds eye with much love. Take care and keep well Arohanui Us who love u.

Merry Xmas D

Me and Nunu lut u and miss u. Have a great Xmas. Nunu hope's u liked ur pressie from him. Take care babe. Lut K xoxoxoxoxoxox.

Merry Christmas Pukes!

We will be thinking of you on Christmas Day, wishing you could be with us. We know you are working hard and are so proud of you babe! You are making these sacrifices so that we can have a better future. We appreciate this very much! Not long now until you are half way through. Hoping the



next few months go fast. I am so excited about our trip! Love you so much. From your girls xoxo. PS. You are going to love your Christmas Present!

For our Laura

Have a great Christmas Day. We are missing you and will be thinking about you. Will raise a glass (cause you can't) and may be lucky to get a phone call, if you get a chance - would love that a lot. Hopefully you got the presents to open on the day alright? Love you heaps & lots of kisses & hugs. Mum, Jeff & Billy.

Dear Crafty 2

Wish we could bundle up our warm & sunny days & send them to you with Xmas cheer. Will celebrate with other home-alone neighbours around our BBQ & toast you with a cold beer or 2 for the great job you're doing. Look forward to your messages and thank you. Weeks flying by! Merry Xmas.....Love, Crafty 1 & Mum.

Hi Leon

Happy Christmas to you and all the team!! We are thinking of you at this special time with our thoughts and wishes to you and the team at Bagram. I hope you will enjoy the treats in the parcels (some old fashion English sweets too!) A year on from now we will be preparing to be with you in New Zealand and can't wait. Honey said to say 'Happy Christmas to Uncle Leon' she is helping me send this message to you. She wants you to know we have had some snow



PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



already so she is hoping for a white Xmas. Everyone asks after you all the time and wants me to pass on their Xmas wishes to you, & be safe. I attach a photo which we send with all our love at this festive time especially. Thinking of you and everyone who can't be with their loved ones at this time but to say you are in our thoughts all the time. We are very proud of you, enjoy your Christmas, and keep safe. Lots of love from mum, dad and Archie and all the family over here in England. Xxxxx.

Christmas is a time for love and we are sending bucket loads your way. Hoping that even though you're not with us you'll have an awesome day. Love you to infinity and beyond!!!! Mum, Allisha, Emani and Major.

Hey Papa Ants!!

What's crackin? Not too much from this end.... same old, same old lol, just keep on keeping on. The Christmas festivities have started, and the weather is really good at the moment so can't complain. We'll be doing Chrissy breakfast at home with the kids, no doubt it will be a very early morning. Then heading out to Filly with Mum for Sero's soul food delight. They're expecting heaps of peeps for lunch so it'll be a biggie. We'll be making a mish up the coast for New Years (Me, Mum & kids) around the 29th – Pelz has to work through. Then back to the grindstone on the 5th! Hope you have a FABULOUS Christmas bro! We'll all be thinking of you and wishing you were with us, its times like these you want to be around your closest and dearest. Merry Christmas from the Aumua-Jahnke whanau xox.

Hey Densome

Xmas won't be the same this year as a special part of us will be far away. I have bought extra prezzies for the kids so I hope the distraction

works. Lol, lots to look forward to next year especially in May!! Exciting! Missing you big hugs and kisses – Pengu.

Kat Brown

I hope you have a great Christmas. Thinking of you often! Wish I could be there with you. Keep safe Jo.

Knickers

Kurt have a great Christmas! Have those American's learnt to say your name correctly yet? Busy back here. Not enjoying this being back at work stuff! Keep your powder dry Jo.

Extreme 2IC

I hope that all is going well for you. I hope that Bamiyan is being good to you and that you have had an opportunity to get out and about. Had a lovely day at Tim's Mum and Dad's on Tuesday and his plaque on the Fielding Memorial is great. Have a wonderful Christmas and look after you. Extreme S9.

Hey Robert

The Christmas tree looks real groovy bro! Hee hee. I miss you heaps Rob, hope you are having a really good time. It's hot here but not as hot as it will be there aye ha ha. Miss you Rob.xx. Jacs.

Major Oof aka Uncle Sir

Merry Christmas from all of us in Lebanon, NZ and Aus who love you! We'll miss the gifts you always spend hours mulling over, the nieces and nephews will miss the ribbings you always give. Will you miss the wood jobs and cauliflower? Be good so you get an orange in your army sock - Father Christmas is watching. xxEMDSSTJSMSCMSDxx.

Dear Dad

Have a very Happy Christmas we hope you get lots of presents and get to have some pav. We wish you were here to do a

BBQ for us. We miss you. Love from Sara Bear and Matt.

Merry Christmas Bunny Rabbit

Enjoy the snowy Christmas while we wile away our summer. Maybe Santa will find you some skis to go down PT hill? Of course we miss you, all our love lizzieloo and Bcat.

Hi Robert

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will be thinking of you when we sit down for Christmas dinner and even more so when it comes to clearing the table and do the dishes. Stay safe. Love you lots, Mum and Dad.

Hi Jeshy

Hope by the time you receive this message the festive period will be treating you kindly. Also it could be the time that you're on the upcoming holidays to your family. We love you and miss you soooo much only words can tell. However we will continue to cross the days off the calendar meaning that time will be moving much closer for you to be coming home to join us. We very much look forward to seeing you soon. Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year to come, may all your dreams come true for 2011. With lots of Love from Sara and Jaz the Bear.

Hi Riley

Sure am missing you HEAPS. Bob is cuddly, but too hairy! Silly ole cat! Skype is great. I'm so happy when I see your face. I love you very much. ONLY 175 days to go! Love, Max.

Sam

Merry Christmas babe! Missing you heaps and wish you were home to celebrate my favourite time of year with me. Thinking of you always, Love you Hols xo.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Shannon, D.G & Alex

Hope all is well over there. Wishing you a Merry Christmas, our thoughts are with you all. From the lads and lass at 1 Res Tp, ChCh & Timaru.

Hey Juice

Got a new career racing donkeys? Hoping all is well with you. We will be at Whakanewha for Christmas day - we will camp the night. I'll have a pudding for you! Much love, Chrispy.

*Lizzy my young one has left to
be brave
The hero of my heart, gone to save
At times I want to reach out
and hold
But I know her answer, "Mum
be bold."
The love of my child is part of me
So strong and good, it will
always be
Nurtured in life by a caring heart
This child to me is a work of art
Dear God you know my love is true
I've prayed for my soldier, more
I'll do
Be safe my darling, keep your head
Each night ensure you are tucked
up in bed
A Christmas without you seems
strange and undone
Without your presence to keep the
day fun
The family will be around to keep
me from fretting
But the table is missing one more
setting
We will laugh and reminisce and
laugh some more
You will be here in spirit, that's for
sure. Love Mum.*

Dearest Whapshot

Only two words... boerewors and biltong. And we are eating it. Sorry ...and enjoying Hunters Dry. You need to check out this song, it will bring back memories!! Especially for M and B

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UehprsvaWr8>

Our Christmas won't be the same without you with us, but the boerie will last longer!

But if you listen carefully you will hear us singing:



*Come they told me, pa rum pum
pum pum
A new born King to see, pa rum
pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum
pum pum pum
To lay before the King, pa rum
pum pum pum, rum pum pum
pum, rum pum pum pum,
So to honor Him, pa rum pum
pum pum,
When we come.
Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum
pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum
pum pum pum
That's fit to give the King, pa rum
pum pum pum, rum pum pum
pum, rum pum pum pum,
Shall I play for you, pa rum
pum pum pum, On my drum?
Mary nodded, pa rum pum
pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum
pum pum pum
I played my drum for Him, pa
rum pum pum pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum
pum pum pum, rum pum pum
pum, rum pum pum pum,
Then He smiled at me, pa rum
pum pum pum
Me and my drum.
Bony M's version of course. Our
love as always, Nduna and Pookus*

To my hUnl

Have a good Xmas and New Years, it's ok here still not the same without you. Miss you and love you, mwah xox. Your one and only.

Hello my hUnl

Happy birthday for the 4th of Jan. Your present is on its way, have an awesome day. Love you and miss you so much mwah xox. Your hUnl

Patrick

It was great to see you the other day and spend some time with you and Sharion. I hope that you both have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to catching up on your return to NZ. Jo.

Hey Siah

I doubt Chis will eat your pudding because I will get there first! I love you heaps xx Nico Pikachu.

Hey Son

It won't be the same without you on Waikeke for Christmas but we will be thinking of you, Hope you get a special meal for Christmas day! I love you and Merry Christmas from Waiheke Island. xxMumxx.

Dear Kath

Thinking of you with love and prayers at this Christmas time. We miss you, we love you and wish you were here, but know that you are doing a superb job in your chosen location. Lots of Love from your McDonald/Khaliq whanau. XXXXXXXXXX.

Patrick

it was such a joy to have you here in the flesh. We are all over the moon with the news. Christmas Blessings to you and yours my dear friend. May the blessing of the Holy Land surround you with love as the Christ child enters in. Much love, prayers and thoughts from Kirstie, Khaliq and the greater McDonald, Allnutt whanau. XXXXXX.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Dear Ra

My dear friend, may God bless you and keep you this Christmas tide as you go about God's work. I miss knowing that you are just there, but also know that what you are doing is for the betterment of all. Te rangimarie o te Atua kia koe e hoa.

Almas

Christmas Blessings to you my dear friend. Your passport should be there very soon. We are so looking forward to you getting here. Love and the blessing of God be with you. Kirstie, Khaliq, Nani, Shahid. Xxxx.

Dear Tony

My dear friend may you have a blessed Christmas as you do God's work in Timor-Leste. You are in my prayers and I think of you in fond remembrance and miss the jokes...with love, Kirstie.

To all NZDF Personnel on Deployment

'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ our Lord. *Luke 2:10,11.*

May Christ our infancy saviour give you joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping sages and the humility and love of the holy family. May you become as little children and may Christ the Prince of peace give you his peace.

With love and prayers as you go about your duties, Rev Kirstie McDonald.

Hi Robert

Hope you are enjoying the heat, have you had a swim yet? Sorry we missed you before you left, we had a wonderful holiday up north. We both finally went on the helicopter last week and it was really very special. Enjoy your Christmas

dinner. Merry Christmas and lots of love from Nana & Granddad.

Merry Christmas K.J.

We will be thinking off you, it's our first Christmas without you. Have a great day. See you soon. We all love you and miss you. Love from The Foster Whanau.

Hi Nic

Hope you enjoy the Xmas Cake. We will be thinking of you in the snow while we are at Nelson Lakes swatting sand flies over Xmas/New Year. Lots of love. Frank and Jenni.

Hey, Duckface

Missing you, just a little bit! Wish we were there to celebrate the special occasions that are coming up, but will have a party with lots of absinthe on your return, and you will be able to hear the wonderful story of your birthday then. Can't wait!! "Love you more than technology"! Merry Christmas AND Happy Birthday poppet. The Freak, Da, Dill, Tommo and Pop.

Hi Ben

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Christmas will not be the same without you and Mum this year .. Our thoughts are with you, take care, miss you heaps. Lots of love, Di, Sam and Adam XOXOXOXOX.

S

Wow it's December already. Happy Birthday, Happy 7 years together, Happy 1st Wedding Anniversary and Merry Christmas. Wish you were here. Thinking of you always. Love you, B xxx

Hi Daddy

Merry Christmas!! We miss you lots. Love you to space and back, Jordan, Caitlin and Cooper xx

Merry Christmas Mr J

(Best son and brother). We are all missing you and thinking of you so much – hope your day will be as special as can be. Much love and

hugs from your whole family – everyone will be here except Tori I think – even the Aussie cousins. We will be at Sal and Pete's at the beach – will have a toast to you!! Much Love and Hugs-Mike, Mel and Alex and Eli xxxxxx.

Merry Christmas Bando!

Hope you have a great time, we will be thinking of you. Looking forward to your return and Pizza Night. Love from the family xo.

Hi Roger

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2011. Hope the magazines arrived OK and you are enjoying a good read. Take care, Carol.

Hi Luke

So far away in Timor-Leste, yet so close in our hearts. This is a special Christmas message to you Luke and to your team mates etc, that are overseas at the present moment, serving our country. Well done guys. Best wishes for Xmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Take care of each other. Much love and kisses as always. Mum, Nana and family. Also can't forget your favourite (Aunty Tammy) in the whole wide world. Cheers son xxxxxx.

Hi Vandy

Hope you're enjoying your tour. Weather is brilliant here. We will be toasting a few to you over the Xmas and New Year. Take care & be safe! From your mates at 3 MP Platoon.

To his Royal Majesty the King

The Queen wishes to inform you that all is well in the Kingdom. The Duchess currently has various suitors but is yet to betroth. May the festive season bring you much joy and jubilation and the New Year be a prosperous one. From your most loyal and humble wife. ALL HAIL THE KING!!!

BOUQUETS



Janine and I have the best of jobs, but we could never never achieve even half of what we do, without the support of so many people across the three services that form the New Zealand Defence Force.

With the risk of missing someone special, we need to attempt to acknowledge and extend bouquets to some of these personnel who have made a dedicated commitment to helping us along the way during 2010:

Sharyn and Mere: The printer never stops!! Thank you so much for all the many hours you have spent printing off "The Bugle" this year. We know our deadlines are tight, but always appreciate getting our publication on time. Many thanks for your hard work.

Christine: How you put together our many pages of scribble, our many emails, messages and varied correspondence into such a first class newsletter continues to amaze us, when each edition rolls off the printing press!! We know at times we are 'fussy' and 'bossy' but truly appreciate your support, guidance and patience. "The Bugle" has become a much sought after publication, a great communication tool and one those at home and abroad are eager to receive. Much credit goes to you for a job well done!

Travel Cell, Burnham and Linton: We always seem to be on the road! Thanks to you all for making our travel bookings and for assisting our families of deploying service personnel to join us for briefings. The smiles and willingness to meet our extra demands are appreciated.

Briefing Teams: Pre-deployment briefs and mid-tour briefs are a big part of our job. We have relied on the expertise of so many to give country briefs, updates and reunion information. To all our presenters—a huge thank you. You have surely made a difference. To the Psych team, our venue 'bookers' and caterers we thank you too. Your input into the success of the briefs has been reflected in the great feedback from 'our' families. Take a well earned break—we will do it all again next year!

Service Personnel Abroad: To all of you who have contributed articles to "The Bugle" in 2010, we thank you. We know sometimes we beg and beg again, then occasionally bribe, but your news to those at home is more valuable than you can ever imagine! Writing articles is not easy when you have so many other commitments but you help us all understand your lives so far from us all and we truly are grateful—Just keep them rolling in!

Desk Officers, Watchkeepers & DPSC: Your advice and support, informing and maintaining a link with the mission areas and our families, is much appreciated. You play a vital role in helping us help loved ones achieve some peace of mind.

Lynne: With sincere thanks on bringing the Homepage to life! We appreciate your dedication to this project and for all it has achieved and will achieve in the future.

To our expert teams of Trainers, Administrators, Mov Ops, Medical & Dental Personnel and Chaplains: We extend a bouquet of thanks. Sometimes it must feel as though you are missed, often working behind the scenes, but your roles are vital and valuable and your work is much appreciated.

No Bouquets would ever be complete without a very special one:

To Families of Deployed Personnel: We acknowledge and appreciate your dedication, commitment and support to your loved ones abroad. We know firsthand of the huge family sacrifices which each deployment makes on your lives. You too, are contributing to helping others so much less fortunate than us achieve the chance of a better life and ultimately one that may be lived in peace. A very sincere thanks to you all.



***Best wishes for a safe, peaceful
and happy festive season***

***Carol and Janine, Deployment Service Officers,
Burnham and Linton***

The Night Before Christmas — Kiwi Style

T'was the night before Christmas, and all round the bach
Not a possum was stirring; not one could we catch.



We'd left on the table a meat pie and beer,
In hopes that Santa Claus soon would be here.
We children were snuggled up in our bunk beds,
While dreams of pavlova danced in our heads;
And Mum in her nightie, and Dad in his shorts,
Had just settled down to watch TV sports
When outside the bach such a hoo-ha arose,
I woke up at once from my wonderful doze.



I ran straight to the sliding door, looking about,
Jumped out on the deck, and let out a shout!
The fairy lights Dad had strung up around the door
Let me see everything down to the shore.

And what did I see, when I took a peep?
But a miniature tractor and eight tiny sheep.
With a little old driver, his dog on his knee.

I knew at once who this joker might be.
He patted his dog, and in a voice not unkind,
Cried "Good on ya, boy! Now, GIT IN BEHIND!
"Now, Flossy! now, Fluffy! now Shaun and Shane!
On, Bossy! on, Buffy! on, Jason and Wayne!
Up that red tree, to the top of the bach!
But mind you don't trample the vegetable patch."

So up on the roof those sheep quickly flew,
With the tractor of toys, Santa and his dog too.



As my sister awoke and I turned around,
In through the window he came with a bound.
He wore a black singlet and little white shorts,
And stuck on his feet were gumboots of course;
A sackful of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a postie just opening his pack.
His eyes-bright as paua shell -oh, how they twinkled!



Like an old tuatara, his skin was all wrinkled!
He had a wide face and a round, fat tummy,
That looked like he'd eaten lots that was yummy.
He spoke not a word, but got down on one knee,
And placed a cricket set under the tree,
A present for Sis, one for Dad, one for Mum,
Then he turned and he winked and held up his thumb.
He jumped on his tractor, to his dog gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, as fast as a missile.
I called out "Thanks," as he flew past the gate.

He called back:

"Kia ora to all, and good on ya, mate"