

THE BUGLE

Issue 153 | May 2011



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COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMRADESHIP | INTEGRITY

"THE BUGLE"

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

Deadline

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

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Disclaimer

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

Cover Photo:

Elena Ngati (aged 2) of Wellington places a poppy on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at the commemoration service for the Battle of Crete

GUEST EDITORIAL

Yesterday and Tomorrow

Russ Barron

President Christchurch Returned and Services Association Inc.
(Est.1915)

Yesterday

I watched as your comrades changed duties in Christchurch around the cordons and I began tallying up the years since I was in the green uniform, and to my shock it was 20 years ago. Where has time gone and what has happened in the intervening time? Well, the short version is, set up a business and still running it, joined the New Zealand Fire Service as a volunteer in Lyttelton and still serving, joined the Order of St John, on the area committee for Banks Peninsula and still serving, and of course joined the RSA. Now that's me.

I have read and seen limited TV film about how you, our troops overseas, work within a community, but from a civvies point of view it gave no real feeling on how well the NZDF did in developing the overseas community support.

After the Christchurch earthquake in February I was able to see how well our Defence personnel supported the citizens of Christchurch.

- * To see troops hugging and comforting Kiwi citizens of all ages.
- * Helping, comforting and playing with the children.
- * Just having a smiling face a kind word and being assessable so people could just talk.
- * Assisting in manpower
- * Assisting with infrastructure and logistics.
- * Being bloody good Kiwis.

This is just a small sample of what I saw being done by our Defence Force, but what it did give me, and the citizens of Christchurch, was a better understanding on what you can do overseas in peacekeeping and on operations where you are working with the local people and just how good you are in that environment.



Tomorrow

Who knows what will happen, but based on yesterdays experiences, I believe that the NZDF is ideally placed to assist in developing long lasting relationships and community support with indigenous people of all races at the grass roots level no matter what the event is, or where it is, and for that you can be proud.

My last comment is to you who are overseas, you can be proud of the service and support your comrades in arms gave to my city and are still giving as I write this.



NEWS UPDATE

BATTLE OF CRETE COMMEMORATED

Battle of Crete veteran Charles Clemett and Crete sailor Stafnos Spartalis stood side by side on Friday as they laid a wreath in memory of the New Zealanders and Cretans who lost their lives 70 years ago at the Battle of Crete. The struggle for Crete in May 1941 was a particularly fierce battle that cost the New Zealand forces heavily, with 671 killed, 967 wounded. During the evacuation, more than 2,100 New Zealanders were captured. Some of those prisoners of war managed to escape from their captors and evade re-capture due to the assistance of local villagers.

Attendees at the wreath laying ceremony at the National War Memorial included His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Anand

Satyanand; Veterans' Affairs Minister Judith Collins; Ambassador Hellenic Republic, His Excellency Mr Dimitrios Anninos; VCDF, Rear Admiral Jack Steer; General Manager NZ/Secretary War Pensions, VANZ, Brigadier Rick Ottaway; and veterans of Crete and members of the Greek and Cretan community.

National War Memorial Advisory Council Chair Rear Admiral David Ledson (rtd) delivered the prologue about the battle quoting from the Oxford Companion to New Zealand Military History: 'There a scratch force made up largely of New Zealanders and Australians who came tantalizingly close to inflicting Germany's first land defeat of the war. It was a tragedy and serious defeat for the Allies but only by the narrowest of margins.'

Veterans had travelled from all over the country to the ceremony. The ceremony was supported by a catafalque party of New Zealand Army personnel and members of the Central Band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Battle of Crete Background

The Battle of Crete in May 1941 was one of the most dramatic battles of the Second World War. Over 12 days a mixed force of New Zealand, British, Australian and Greek troops and Cretan civilians desperately tried to fight off a huge German airborne assault. Despite suffering appalling casualties, the parachutists and glider-borne troops who led the invasion managed to secure a foothold on the island and eventually gained the upper hand. The battle ended with the bulk of the Allied forces being evacuated to Egypt.

The cost of the Battle of Crete was high for both sides. Total casualties among Commonwealth forces were 15,743, of whom 1,751 were killed or died of wounds. Of the 7,700 New Zealand involved in the battle 671 killed and 967 wounded, while another 2,180 were taken as prisoners of war. The Royal Navy endured huge losses, including the lives of more than 2,000 sailors, three cruisers and six destroyers

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS VISITS THE NZ PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM IN AFGHANISTAN

General D. Petraeus, Commander International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Commander US Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A), visited the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) in Bamyán last week.

General Petraeus was welcomed onto Kiwibase with a powhiri and rousing haka performed by the NZPRT Māori Cultural Group and personally thanked each member while presenting them with his personal commemorative coin.

General Petraeus met with NZPRT Director, Dick Newlands, NZPRT Senior Military Advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh McAslan, and other key NZPRT staff, as well as Bamyán Governor, Dr Habiba Sarabi, and Provincial Government officials. NZ Ambassador to Afghanistan, Neville Reilly, and NZ Senior National Officer in Afghanistan, Colonel Grant Motley, were also present.

Lieutenant Colonel Hugh McAslan, NZPRT Senior Military Advisor, said that the visit was very productive and General Petraeus had asked what he could do to support the NZPRT and Bamyán as one of the first provinces to move towards transition.

"General Petraeus confirmed his support for a number of initiatives proposed by Governor Sarabi and the NZPRT to support the transition process. The largely stable security environment in Bamyán has allowed the economy to develop and grow, which provides a better standard of living for the citizens of the province."

General Petraeus also briefly toured the alcoves of the Bamyán Buddhas, national treasures destroyed by the Taliban in 2001. The site remains a potential tourist attraction as the improving security situation reopens up Afghanistan as a tourist destination.

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including:

Your support is appreciated
Postcard from the LAV Commander, Bamyan
GYRO 11 settling in
NSE finds its Groove
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Bright Sparks—A 230V Electrician's adventure in Afghanistan

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Major Al Mitchell

Dear Families and Friends of the OP RATA II (14) Contingent,

At the end of April, I arrived in the Solomon Islands to take up the role of the New Zealand Senior National Officer for the Contingent. I had been fortunate to conduct pre-deployment training with the Contingent during February and March which gave me an opportunity to get to know the team. The date of handover of my

position is later than everyone else so as well as arriving later, I will be staying here longer than the rest of the New Zealanders currently deployed. While it was a pity not to be here for the first month, it was great to meet up with everyone again and find out what they've learned during that time.

From the outset of the pre-deployment training I have been impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm of our Contingent. Seeing everyone fulfilling their roles with competence upon arrival, further confirmed my initial

impressions. There are certainly challenges that come with the deployment and I'm sure some of you will have heard of these. Being away from New Zealand is a challenge in its own right, with everyone missing New Zealand in one way or another. For some that is family and friends, for others the freedoms of not being in an operational environment or perhaps even the rugby season. We are also constantly mindful of the wider environment. The military effort here supports the police and within the military, the Australians have the lead, providing the bulk of personnel and other resources. We maintain our identity with pride and enjoy the opportunity to see how others operate, but also find some of their ways of doing business 'interesting'. They also say the same about us, such is the way things are in these locations which bring together different nations and different organisations.

Your support for our team in meeting these challenges is both appreciated and crucial. No matter how small or large, or what form it comes in, every bit of support is important. Phone calls, mail, photos, magazines, emails, all help us to meet the challenges. Thank you for your support so far.

To tell you a little about myself, I grew up in Nelson, joined the Army from school and am an engineer. My wife is also in the army and soon to be deploying into another area of operations. We currently live in Lower Hutt, Wellington but upon return will be posted up to Linton, Palmerston North. If there is one message I would like to pass on other than my thanks, it is please don't hesitate to use the support groups that the Army provides.

Many of the Contingents have now passed the half-way mark, and the way time has passed so far I'm



RAMSI personnel working together

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

sure it will seem a flash before the preparations for the return to New Zealand are in full swing. But there is much to do between now and then, opportunities to seize and challenges to overcome.

All the best from myself and the rest of the team here.

POSTCARD FROM THE LAV COMMANDER, BAMYAN

Corporal Matthew Ohlson

At the moment I'm living at a Forward Patrol Base (FPB), occupied by Kiwi teams with a few other essential attached personnel who maintain our vehicles and facilities. We have a busy camp with a large number of people sharing the facilities but the atmosphere is good and everyone gets along well.

The FPB is in the North East of the Bamyán Province and is a short drive across some demanding country from the main Kiwi Base in Bamyán. Living and patrolling from the FPB is great, we have our eating facility with our own chef, recreation room, showers and wash house for laundry and also internet and phones so this is usually the place where everyone is during their down time. We maintain a large amount of vehicles and equipment out of the patrol base so the car park is pretty full of vehicles etc. We also have a good gym, not too little and not too big — it's just right with the amount of equipment we have. We also have our own accommodation with single rooms which is nice to have some of your own space. Last, but not least, the infamous long drop. Awesome set up but just got to mind the smell.

I have deployed to Timor-Leste in 2002 with Alpha Company on NZBATT6 and recently in late 2006-07 on OP GYRO 2 with Victor

Company of the 1st Battalion. I have patrolled using different types of vehicles like 4WD Non Military Vehicle, Pinzgauer and also on Unimog. But having the chance to deploy to Afghanistan and command the NZLAV was a great opportunity for myself to get the experience on operations and to lead a mounted patrol. This is the first deployment of NZLAV into Bamyán province and I felt honoured not only to command my own vehicle but also command a Troop of three LAVs. It's a big responsibility but it's a challenge I accept; with the help of the Patrol Commander and the other two LAV Commanders, the work load has been easier to maintain.

Patrolling with NZLAV is a great asset for both the patrol and the contingent. The mobility of the vehicle, the armour, the fire power and the capabilities it has to offer is vital to the patrol's safety and mutual support on the ground. Also having this great machine comes with great responsibility for maintenance and servicing of the NZLAV. Keeping our NZLAVs maintained and serviced to a high standard will keep our NZLAVs on the roads, available for patrols and ready to react to any task that is given to us.

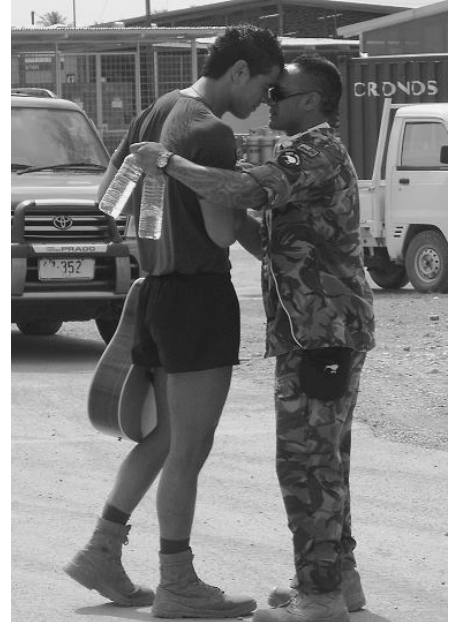
Well that's life in an FPB and it's great. You have the space, the essentials to keep you happy and your friends to keep you safe. Overall an awesome place to be.

GYRO 11 SETTLING IN Andy MacKenzie Everitt OC GYRO 11

Well, they said it was going to be hot. And it is!

Despite the heat, humidity, strange language and barking mad traffic, GYRO 11 is now firmly settled into

our new routine in Dili. Of course, we're still learning about our new role, but since yesterday's departure of GYRO 10, we are it!



And so far so good. The contingent came together from all over NZDF. We trained hard, made mistakes, learned a lot and deployed in good heart. GYRO 10 have left a strong legacy. The liaison net has been cast far and wide and Kiwi troops are well respected here. So in the time-honoured tradition, we are now busying ourselves picking up those contacts and working out just how we can do business over the next few months.

As we identified during PDT, the situation here is good. Although many of the underlying causes of recent tension remain, the atmosphere in Dili and elsewhere in East Timor is largely positive. With the Timorese *Policia Nacional* taking over primary responsibility for internal security, supported by UN police agencies, the ANZAC International Stability Force remains but a low-key deterrent. This means that we have the luxury of time to consolidate our skills without the pressure of daily operations. The focus of the next few weeks is to ensure training

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

gaps are closed. Our infantry and cavalry elements have married up with their Australian colleagues and are now training hard to ensure they can respond if required. Our loggies are equally hard at it, ensuring not only that the Force Elements are supported, but also up-skilling for their contingency security tasks. Naturally, the NCE HQ elements are also busy, working well to orchestrate all the moving parts.

As you might expect, those parts are pretty diverse. Just in the last week we have been on the range; driven (and flown) all over Dili and surrounding areas; met our Kiwi NZDF and NZ Police colleagues on other NZDF missions; got to know our new Aussie colleagues; dined with the NZ Ambassador; and started to meet our Timorese neighbours. Our *Tetum* is improving, and some of us are re-discovering a smattering of Portuguese. We have participated in a *poroporoaki* and a *powhiri*, three other parades and two church services. Early morning PT is proving popular (yeah right) and our inaugural sports day was a very sweaty success.

So, what of the next few months? For a start, we will be busy. Training is the key to successful operations, so we'll be doing just that: imaginative and innovative training is going to be critical to ensure that we remain focused on our key tasks. And for all that we will work hard, we also intend to play hard. Key to this is sports and PT, so expect your loved ones to look a bit different in a few months time! As the security situation permits, we'll also be scoping some other welfare and cultural activities ranging from memorial visits to Cova Lima to an attempt on the Ruapehu-equalling Mount Ramelau. We also have a school to look at, and our 1RNZIR drummers have been asked to train the F-

FDTL (Timorese Army) band. We'll prioritize all these potential activities, then begin to deliver over the next few weeks.

So, greetings to all our loved ones, friends and colleagues at home. Rest assured that all is well here. Everyone is getting fit and we're looking forward to the unique opportunities which will present over the next few months. If only it wasn't so hot...

(not that such a thing exists in the military).

The fitness regime continues which is just as well since LCPL Sulia Wright and LSA Dom Ngawaka have a habit of baking brownies and other such delectable delights that tantalise the taste buds. Since the last post from the OC, there has been another 5 km sponsored run, this one as part of the blood drive. More painfully though, someone

NSE FINDS ITS GROOVE

CAPT Jamie Calder, 2IC (- That Guy)

With most of the NSE having been in country for five weeks, we now find ourselves with our feet firmly planted on the ground. The team is working as a group very well in this busy environment with everyone willing to help each other out even if it's not part of the normal day job



21.5 km rowed in 1 hr 24 mins



"The crazy fools"

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

(POWTR Hone Taurua) thought it would be a good idea to ROW A MARATHON! I don't know who's crazier, Hone or those of us that spent 1 hr and 25 mins on two rowing machines helping him achieve the distance.

Talking of Hone, he turned *ahem* 33 this month and this was celebrated with some local food (which was very nice and didn't cause any upset stomachs) as well as some other fella that turned 33 a few days later which was celebrated with Pizza Hut goodies, that's right, I typed Pizza Hut.

CSM Lloyd Hebbard managed to pull some strings and arranged a visit to the US Army helicopter camp within Bagram for us which mixed fun with education. We were given a tour of the area and an explanation of the capabilities and roles of the aircraft which do some hard yards over here.

Whenever any of us Kiwis becomes seriously ill or injured, we go to the Craig N. Heathe Joint Theatre



NSE 18 on the back of a Chinook

Hospital here in Bagram. This is a US Air Force facility and they perform some outstanding work for all of the people that pass through the doors, their attention to care is awesome and professional. To show our appreciation for their work MAJ Hawthorne presented MAJ

(Chaplain) Shirley, a plaque (kindly donated by LT COL McAslan) to all of the staff, past, present and future at the hospital.



MAJ Hawthorne presenting KAJ (Ch) Shirley with the plaque



CPOET Watt trying to 'hotwire' an Apache helicopter

In order to keep ourselves sharp we have also visited the range for some practise with our pistols, rifles and C9 light machine gun. This is another part of the job that is a requirement, but other than the horrendous wind and dust it was a good shoot. Some of the team have

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



Range day



POWTR Taurua's first touch of a C9

not had the pleasure of using a C9 before but that was quickly rectified. The range warden even allowed us to try out his M4 rifle which was educational.

I also managed to go for a visit to Kandahar in order for me to check up on the "Lone Mover", SSGT Chris "Dutchy" Duurentijdt who is embedded with the Australian team in Camp Baker. It would appear that Dutchy actually is a busy man that conducts a lot of liaison with the Australians and the British forces that are there amongst others. He has had a few big projects that are still ongoing which are essential to the operation here.



Proof that Dutchy is here and busy

For the families of the team, keep sending the family photos, the care packages and the little messages, it means a lot. And if you don't think you're getting enough messages back, let me know, I'm "That Guy".

OUT AND ABOUT

LT COL Hugh McAslan

Senior Military Advisor
NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team

We are now well embedded and into our routine and getting out and about in the province as we settle into summer. Due to a relatively light winter, there has been a lot less snow melt this spring and pretty low levels of rainfall. This has resulted in better than expected road conditions across the province which has allowed the patrols to get out and about on a frequent basis.

One of the highlights of the past three weeks was the visit to Bamyān by the Commander of the International Assistance and Security Force, General David Petraeus on 9 May. We welcomed the General to Kiwi Base with a traditional wero and haka. It was the first time in his career that General Petraeus has experienced a welcome of this nature. By his own admission, General Petraeus is an incredibly competitive individual, and he certainly appreciated the competitive spirit and traditions on the wero and haka. As a sign of his gratitude and respect, he presented all members of the Maori Cultural Group with one of his personal challenge coins; a highly sort after collectable

in Afghanistan.

The purpose of General Petraeus' visit was to discuss plans for transition from international forces and agencies leading in the security, governance and development areas to Afghan lead. Bamyān has been selected as one of the provinces that will be in the first tranche for transition which is expected to commence from around July. The fact Bamyān has been selected in the first tranche is attributable to both the progress the province has made under the leadership of the local Provincial Government led by Governor Sarabi, and also the efforts of NZ over the past nine years. All that have served or contributed to building a more stable and secure environment here, can be justifiably satisfied with Bamyān being at the forefront of the transition process.

Outside of these events, the guys continue to work hard in their specialist areas and functions. Our relationships with the locals are excellent, and it is certainly good to see the countryside starting to green up as the spring crops take hold. At the same time as we are enjoying the warm weather, we are thinking of you all at home as you head into winter. Stay warm.

All the best.

BRIGHT SPARKS

A 230V Electrician's adventures in Afghanistan

Lance Corporal Donnelly



CRIB 18 has started off with a hiss and a roar, by all accounts. Handovers were sometimes done absentee because of flight schedules and created challenges of their own. No change there. Questions have been constantly raised as to where the heck 'such and such' is and how do you do 'bla bla'? Thank goodness for the LECS who have the inside scoop. Zain, the Sparky LEC, has been working at Kiwi Base for seven years, so he knows a thing or two.

Along with the natural teething problems that come with a new environment, there has also been the adventures. A couple of days after we touched down in this amazing landscape of unending mountains and valleys, I was off to one of the FOBs to rectify a generator problem. It's hard to prepare when all the info you get is 'the generator is surging and

blowing fuses'. (P.S: even over here we use circuit breakers, not fuses!) Well it turns out that it was a start up procedure problem and was fixed well before I even got there! And let's for a moment talk about getting there... We went the long way. The 8 hrs for 110 kms long way! Just massive hills and dirt tracks. The Unimogs had to carry out 3-point turns on some of the corners! (see photo on right).

We were the best part of 4 km high and not that far from the Hindu Kush and Himalayas. By the time we arrived at the FOB and I found out there was no generator problem, all these other electrical issues had suddenly come out of



the woodwork. So I was kept well and truly occupied for the next day that we were there. I particularly enjoyed patting the guard puppies. These pooches are predominantly nocturnal, as they patrol the perimeter of the FOB at night, of their own accord.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

I also went on a patrol with the Americans, to Nyak and Scott Base. It was an unusual experience working along side another nation's military. They're a special breed, but I made some good mates on that trip, none the less. We had a wee bit of rain and a 20 mins thunderstorm that created about four vehicle recoveries. The road was mostly clay on that hill, as with many others, and was super slick when wet. There was quite a bit of sideways and reverse action!

Just yesterday I went to a local military compound that the Americans mostly assisted with. There was a request for me to check out the lights, as they were

down to just one. Well, you've heard of MacGyver, right? So these guys just join cables to anything that'll give 'em power somehow. Don't even bother with proper connectors. The joins are taped if you're lucky, or just have rags around them. And if a cable needs to go across the ceiling for an extra light fixture, NAIL IT!.. right through the cable! A mouse fell foul of their 'ingenuity'

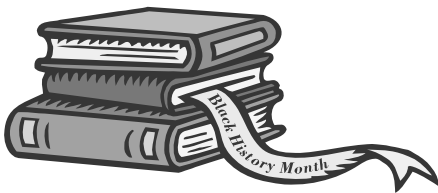
It had apparently bitten on a live cable. You know what they say about electricity - 'One flash and you're ash!'

The Workshops team have been super busy with breakages you could only dream of if you haven't

been here personally. We've also been customizing our work spaces and putting our CRIB 18 personalizing stamp on the base. Soon we'll be changing the Armourers' and Elec Techs' workshops to give them more space and the new workshop for heavy vehicles is closer to being completed.

Can't complain of a dull moment! The first month has flown by at light speed, as was expected. I anticipate the rest of the tour to bring lots more adventures and eyebrow raising situations that I won't be able to tell you about, but if I can, I'll write you another story.

RECOMMENDED READING



"The Places In Between"

Author: Rory Stewart

By Sue Forde

Just before he left for six months in Afghanistan, my son gave me a couple of books on that country to read.

The one I mostly enjoyed was by Rory Stewart who gave a particularly memorable account of his experiences as he travelled on foot through the Afghanistan winter, with only an old dog for company. His recording of that fascinating journey in 2002 follows the route once taken by the Mogul Emperor Babin the Great during medieval times from Herat to Kabul.

Rory was impressed with the hospitality he received from Kurds, Shia Hazara, Punjabi, Christians, Sikhs, Brahmin, Budhists among other cultures and religions as he made his journey. However, it was an extraordinary journey in some of the most politically unsettled and geographically challenging parts of the world.

The descriptions of the landscape, his encounters with the Afghans and the challenges of mere survival give the reader a very good insight into this hugely complex country. His knowledge of the extensive history of the country shared as he recounted his journey also contributed to a fascinating story.

It is so easy for us left behind in New Zealand not to even try to develop a real perception of places like Afghanistan. As we sit in our comfortable homes, live in safe environments and work in stable communities we have no real

interest in just what it can be like living in extremes of climate, poverty and social structures.

Rory's descriptions of Afghanistan's various cultures having been at war with a diverse number of marauding foreign powers for over 25 years gave me a far better understanding of the issues and dilemmas the Afghanistan people face to regain political stability and a common citizenship. Through his vivid accounts of his experiences and images of the physical and economic impacts of the ongoing war I am now more aware of in the issues the country is facing where suspicion and corruption continues to dominate such a magnificent landscape and its people.

I also believe I understand much more succinctly and have a far better perception of the issues my son and his comrades are facing on a daily basis as they complete their term in Afghanistan.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

**Chaplain Wayne Toleafoa,
RNZN Chaplain to
OP RATA II (14)**

'How blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called,' The children of God'. (Mathew 5 verse 9).

One of the great things about service life is the opportunity to deploy to places where the New Zealand Defence Force is actually needed. The Solomon Islands is just such a place.

The Solomon Islands archipelago has a long history of internal and external conflict. Lying beneath the idyllic blue waters of Honiara Harbour lie the wrecks of about fifty five Allied and Japanese war ships that were sunk during the Battle of Guadalcanal in WWII. This idyllic bay has been aptly named 'Iron Bottom Sound'. The remains of the HMNZS Kiwi lie among the wrecks in that silent ship's graveyard.

More recently, the inhabitants of the Islands of Malaita and Guadalcanal have been engaged in their own ethnic internal struggles. Thus our being here – along with other regional military forces and a multi-national Police Force. Our presence here has meant the scaling down of hostilities and a return to a semblance of stability for ordinary Solomon Islanders. The ideal end-state would be that point where we are no longer needed. That end-state has yet to be achieved - and so we remain.

While some at home will see our presence here as 'time out in a mini paradise' we only need to remember how it was before RAMSI became involved. In 2001, I was privileged enough to come to the Solomons onboard HMNZS Te Mana. HMNZS Te Kaha had also visited in the previous year. The scene that greeted us in Honiara was one of burned out buildings and a mood of insecurity among

the general populace. That is not the situation today.

Most of us love New Zealand. To many people living here travelling to NZ would be considered 'time out in a mini paradise'. There is no threat of volatility there and no insecurity on the scale that these islands have known.

We are grateful for the daily support we receive from our families and friends at home and we look forward to returning when our rotation is completed.

Every Blessing.

**Padre Katene Eruera
GYRO 11**

GYRO 11 has arrived safely in Timor-Leste, and after a hectic few days of handover briefs from our GYRO 10 counterparts, we are well and truly underway with our Tour of Duty.

When the day came for GYRO 11 to fly to Timor-Leste, we prayed a simple prayer - for a safe journey, for family and friends, for the success of the mission, and a safe journey home. The work of our prayer has begun. We are now getting on with the job. But also there is keenness among the young women and men of our GYRO. For many it is our first time here.

***"Physical fitness is
as second nature
to NZDF personnel
as breathing.
It is part of the
profession, and no
opportunity to
improve is to
be lost".***

A bugle call wakes us in the morning. It is 'Reveille', and we must now get up to begin our day. Routine is important, so the day starts with Physical Training.

SGT Drylie, our PTI encourages us, we encourage each other. Breakfast follows, a simple meal for some, but a wonderful variety in an excellent 'mess'. We shall not lack for quality food on this tour, and some have commented that it compares well, if not better than the 'mess' at home (Sssshhhh don't tell anyone at home who works in the mess in case we upset them!) The business of our day depends upon what kind of job we do. Some stay on Camp tending to GYRO's needs, a vehicle to be repaired, a training session to prepare and deliver, a meeting to organise and plan an activity – all designed to support the good relationships we have formed with the Timorese community. Some leave Camp to 'engage' with the community – an official term which to my mind really means going out and 'being' a friend to locals we live amongst, and who for a time have invited us to be a part of their lives, so that they have a chance of building a decent life for themselves. It is an anticipated journey into friendship with local people. The thrill of a friendly 'Kia Ora' or 'Kiwi!' as we drive or walk around Dili offers that promise. A smile and a wave remind us that there has been good work done by those Kiwi NZDF personnel who have been before us and a legacy therefore to pick up and maintain.

The city itself is a contrast to the villages and people in the hills just beyond. The hills provide a cooler climate and a more rural village life. The city is hotter, hectic. We have come to grips with the road rules – they would not work back home, and would result in quite a few fines, demerits, and possibly loss of your driver's licence if we tried them

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

at home. Patience and skill is required here, and one must admit there seems certain logic to the road, but it will be nice in time if the country were able to tidy up its give way rules!

The routine continues at the end of the day with a pause. Is there work to complete? We remind ourselves that we are not merely working 'nine to five' – some may have to wake during the night and attend to their duties around camp, others may have to return to their task after dinner in order to ensure things continue to run smoothly.

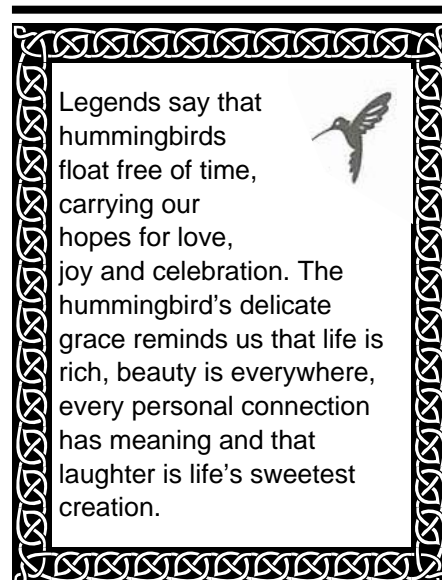
For others, the day may be over, and there is time to relax and rest. Typically, entertainment is important, and the TV room is a well visited place, together with personal laptops for all important emails home, or watching movies

or gaming. We are a young contingent, and as such technology forms an important part of leisure activities. For most too, used now to the military life, the gym and 'self-directed' PT is another leisure activity. Physical fitness is as second nature to NZDF personnel as breathing. It is part of the profession, and no opportunity to improve is to be lost.

Finally, the bugle call in the evening tells us that it is time to bed. A night prayer may well reflect the end of the day for us: It is night after a long day, what has been done has been done, what has not been done has not been done, let it be ... the night is quiet, let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn, let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys and new possibilities...

In the hills behind Dili, the lights from a few houses visible from the villages there, shine warmly down on us, welcoming us to a new land, and a new people.

Po marie. Good night from Dili and God bless you all.



Deployment Calendar

2012

Can you help?

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

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

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

We look forward to receiving your contributions (contact details on inside front cover).

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

Weft Knitting Co., Christchurch

By Major Patrick Butterworth

► Sinai: A wilderness adventure in the 21st Century

Major Patrick Butterworth deployed to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai for three years, initially as New Zealand's Senior National Officer then as a Military Advisor to the current MFO Commander, New Zealander MAJGEN Warren Whiting. He reflects on his experiences here.

1 May 2011

It's "the world's most successful peacekeeping force - that no-one has ever heard of". Unless you've been there, you're unlikely to know much about this exclusive club. It's not United Nations, but it is multinational. Even during the recent stirrings in the Middle East, the Multinational Force and Observers hardly got a mention. Those who have worn the orange beret are proud of their contribution to lasting peace between Egypt and Israel. For many years, there was freedom of movement around Northern Sinai.

Into, and out of, Gaza and Israel a benign permissive environment prevailed. Travelling in the area has been punctuated by the periodic crises of the region: the Intifadas, when Israel was off limits; the revolution in Egypt, when Cairo became the scene of popular protest, further restricted movement into and out of North Camp, near the traditional East-West Mediterranean highway.

The NZ Contingent is one of 12 nations' military teams; it has existed in several different forms

since 1982. New Zealand's contribution is 28 service men and women, plus the current Force Commander. The New Zealand jobs fall into four broad categories: Driving Team, Training Team, Engineers and Headquarters Staff, including Liaison. Age groups, ranks, sexes and services are all well represented. Our people come for six months' or a year's tour of duty. That can be a long time in the middle of nowhere.

For many, life is never quite the same after. 'A melting pot', 'a velvet prison', a stepping-off point for the rest of the Middle East and Europe; the MFO service can lead to some life altering encounters and experiences, professionally and socially. Some come for the professional development (small teams with lots of responsibility), or allowances. Some want to find something new, some are running away from something. Most are sad to leave. All seem to want to do their best, and contribute to peace. Several contributing nations have soldiers who have spent a total of more than 10 years of their lives in the Sinai. Many of the civilian workers, both local and expatriate,

have spent over 25 years working on North and South Camps.

Sights, Sounds and Smells

In November the temperature in Cairo is still in the mid-20s. Bright sunshine during the day, and foul smelling traffic, punctuated with harsh air horns. I took the opportunity to explore the sprawling city of 27 million people. Mohammed picked me up from the Hotel 'Concorde - el Salaam' (Peace, in Arabic) and took me toward the Nile. His car had once been a Lada Niva, but had long since lost any badges of identity. Even the black and white brush paint was scarce, seemingly the only element holding its geriatric frame together. We leapt into the stream of traffic, struggling to keep up. Suddenly, there was an excruciating clunk and squeal, as the final drive fell out onto the road. Not even a flicker of surprise from Mohammed, who calmly stopped in the middle of the torrent and crawled under the car, with his legs sticking out into the highway, as if protruding from the jaws of a crocodile (sadly there are no longer crocodiles in the Lower Nile). I think

► Sinai: A wilderness adventure in the 21st Century cont'd....

he used a paper clip to reattach the drive train, and we once more entered the fray. This happened six times during a 35 minute journey. We were just part of the Cairo scene; men with bread trays on their heads and women wearing six layers of black rayon did not even notice. I sat helplessly in the taxi, with no seatbelt, watching in the rear view mirror as vehicles hurtled towards us, before letting rip with their air horns, each one louder and more menacing than the last (this item of equipment being clearly more important than engine, gearbox, lights or brakes).

The journey to Sinai, marked by the symbolic crossing of the Suez in a white Chevy pickup, revealed more quaint forms of transport. A favourite is the donkey cart, with unfeasibly large loads being drawn by an emaciated creature half dead with exhaustion. This traditional mode of transport is being rapidly replaced in both Palestinian Territories and Northern Sinai with the tuk tuk, a kind of motorised commode with curtains, which does not need feeding and can carry heavy loads on a pint of gasoline.

After a tour in Afghanistan, it was sometimes hard to remember that we were in Egypt by invitation, that this was a permissive mission, and co-operation on both sides is required and expected. A map of the Sinai reveals huge river systems, but no water. This was a puzzle to me until flash floods in January 2010 swept away roads, houses and infrastructure in El Arish, the nearest city to North Camp. For a while, we were like an island, with all roads being

impassable. However, water remains a precious commodity. The Nile, the life blood of Egypt for millennia, is now being diverted in Ethiopia and Sudan, and will be a source of conflict between these neighbours in the future. Entering Israel is like stepping through a curtain to a different universe. Immediately apparent are the good roads, Western-style clothing and shiny cars. However water is just as much of an issue here. The Sea of Galilee (actually a quite modest lake) is 20 feet below its traditional level, and full of toxins, due to the lack of water. The River Jordan, which feeds into it, is but a trickle. The Dead Sea is likely to disappear over the next 30 years. Neighbours Syria, Lebanon and Jordan also struggle to share this precious asset. In the Middle East, people have plenty to disagree about.

The Job

For NZ drivers, the road is a long one, it is also the pinnacle of RNZALC professional driving. The biggest single killer in Sinai has been road traffic accidents. Sand drifts, pot holes, local drivers, heat, fatigue, and speed, all play a role. The delivery of vital supplies, such as water and rations, to remote observation posts, involves starting work at 04:30 am, and often returning to North Camp after 6 pm. Driving is restricted to daylight hours, however, a delay, a breakdown, or crossing the border, can cause teams to return in convoy after darkness has fallen.

The Force Commander is responsible for keeping open the lines of communication by liaison

between Egypt and Israel at an operational level. His job therefore involves taking issues and disputes to Cairo and Tel Aviv for resolution at a high level. We, his staff, spent many hours on the road and preparing the agendas and conditions for a successful meeting. There were notes to take, protocols to follow, and often a convivial meal afterwards - ('eating for Peace') where the real trust and understanding are forged.

The world of diplomacy is often more about what is not said, and, on occasions, the personal friendships developed here later proved invaluable during a crisis. During the floods in the winter of 2009, for example, an Israeli Defence Force patrol vehicle was swept away in the inundation. Two soldiers found themselves clinging to a tree in the middle of a 'river' 4 km inside Egyptian territory. In order for an Israeli helicopter to rescue them, the trust and understanding, which existed between the MFO and the two nations, were vital in the prompt permission, agreed between the commanders, to save lives.

Day-to-day Living

The MFO mans 'remote sites' along the international border line – 214 km from Med in the North to Red in the South. These sites are populated by soldiers from Fiji, Colombia and the US. Many of them have never seen an infringement of the Treaty of Peace. The headquarters and support services are located in El Gorah (North Camp) and Sharm el Sheikh (South Camp). Each

► Sinai: A wilderness adventure in the 21st Century cont'd....

location has its advantages, and challenges. Sharm was once a sleepy fishing village. Now it is a gold mine for the Egyptian economy, generating billions of dollars annually from tourism. Typically the temperature is hotter than hot, year round, and although there are no Kiwis stationed there permanently, it is a good place for rest and recuperation. North Camp (el Gorah) is, by contrast, cooler, more remote and not somewhere people 'pass through' on the way to somewhere else. A strong Bedouin presence, and weak Egyptian police force, has led to incidents and accidents near this old Israeli air base. For many MFO members, there is no alternative but to remain in the camp for weeks at a time. There is a pressing need to get to know one's co-workers and overcome language and cultural differences. The solution lies in sports and social activities. A working week that starts on Sunday morning and ends on Thursday evening, leads to a regulated operational tempo, although the remote sites, the 'eyes and ears' of the MFO are perpetually on alert.

The People

This is one of a few locations where Kiwis work alongside Aussies in the true Anzac spirit. Constant rotation of personnel means that friendships are forged quickly and no time is lost in formalities. We are also lucky to be able to honour our forebears in the Western Desert, Cairo, Jerusalem, Be'ersheva, and, of course, Gallipoli from the Sinai. I was lucky to go to the El Alamein commemoration in October 2010,

which was led by HRH the Duke of York. During the long coach and truck rides in this vast region of the Eastern Mediterranean, there is time to observe local customs unchanged since the beginning of history. An example is the people of Siwa, near Libya, are still untouched by modern concerns. They live in a ruined, mud-built city in the midst of an oasis, populated by a million date palms. Former MFO members from Norway, the Czech Republic, Uruguay and Canada remain friends for the rest of their lives, having visited such sites and perhaps toiled up Mount Sinai together.

Challenges

The personal rewards of this tour lie only in the limits of one's imagination. However, the work, and the dangers are real too. There is little recognition at home of the real threat to this multi national force. Since 2005, several lethal terrorist bomb attacks have occurred in Sinai, and against the MFO. Despite the historical lack of conflict between Egypt and Israel in 30 years, this is but a moment compared to the traditional enmity of these neighbours. Such a lightly armed, Western presence in these disputed lands represents a potential lever to apply pressure on governments to heed more closely the causes of local groups. Vigilance and forbearance are the watchwords in the face of provocation.

The incredible thing in this whole region is how life goes on with so few resources. Whilst the MFO

feeds 2,000 civilian and military personnel daily, the local population survives from the sale of peaches, tomatoes and other produce. A brief growing season produces a cash crop, which supplements a subsistence economy. Palestinians, Bedouin, Nile Egyptians, and Israelis all live within close proximity. As I arrived at the end of 2008, the windows were rattling to the sound of constant bombing and fighting in the Gaza Strip, just 20 km away. With this backdrop, the celebration of the Christian Christmas was rather stilted.

Rewards

For every six months of service with the 'Force', a service person is awarded an MFO medal, or subsequent numeral. I have a number '4'. I saw a number '11' on a Fijian corporal's chest. That's a lot of time away from home. He told me that many of his friends go home and buy a car, or have a baby, or get divorced. As a committed Christian, he was there purely to support his wife and children. I liked that. I did two different jobs, had the privilege of commanding Kiwis on operations, visited many new places and had the most rewarding outcome. It certainly broadened my horizons. I also felt I had done a little to help. Everyone I met at the MFO felt the same, and it outweighed all the frustrations, homesickness and uncertainty. 40 days and nights in the wilderness is, metaphorically, a life changing episode.

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

► Sinai: A wilderness adventure in the 21st Century cont'd....

A collection of photographs taken during Major Patrick Butterworth's tour of duty



Powhiri

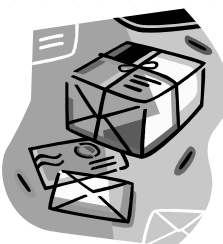


'Wool shed' refurbishment



Mount Sinai

DEPLOYMENT MAILING ADDRESSES

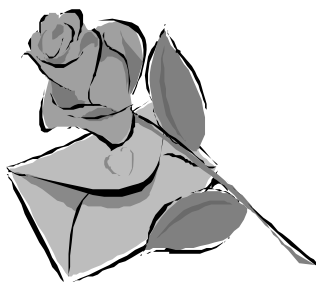


Letters and parcels (up to 1kg in weight) may be sent to deployed personnel at the following addresses, at internal NZ Post rates. When mailing your parcels, please retain the receipts given to you by your Post Shop so the item can be traced, if required. A green Customs sticker must be attached to any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

Solomon Islands:

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
 Op RATA 14
 P O Box R131, Randi Office of Exchange
 Honiara
 Solomon Islands
 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

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

Other Deployment Locations:

(No requirement for "Forces Concession Rate")

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

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

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



DSO'S CORNER



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

Greetings to you all. I hope you are well and warm.

When I have time, I love to look through the internet resources that have been developed overseas, for service personnel and their families facing the deployment journey. I often have to remind myself that they (in particular USA), have many more people deployed, to many more locations and of course seem to have a greater budget to produce some wonderful glossy publications, and to provide many services to help everyone along the way.

There are many great ideas out there that we could easily redevelop and adapt into meeting some of our needs here. I have on my office whiteboard, this wonderful wish list of things I would love to do, to create and get out there!! And I am forever impatient in wanting to bring these wishes and ideas to fruition.

Having said this, I also need to be realistic and to remind myself that Deployment Support Services have come a long way over recent years. We have been fortunate to have the most amazing feedback from many of our service personnel and

their families, who have faced many trips abroad and separations over a number of years, and who have been able to identify gaps in services and things that would have made life easier for them.

We truly value any feedback to make sure that we at least meet your needs, but our aim is to always try to exceed them! How easy would it be for us to sit here and decide what would make a difference – but it is your experiences that keep us on track and make sure that we spend every dollar wisely in providing the best possible services, information and resources, within given constraints. Probably "The Bugle" is our most successful and cost effective way of communicating with you all. Regular readers will note that over the years the format and content has changed markedly and our team of three, (Janine, Christine and me) very much enjoy receiving both your accolades and suggestions to keep it moving forward. For a small in-house publication we feel a certain amount of pride in this deployment newsletter which we bring to you three-weekly, and which seems unique to our Kiwi Defence way and not repeated by countries abroad!

One of the more recent successes in providing information and resources has been the development of the NZDF Internet website for deployed personnel and their families – www.homebase.mil.nz

Thanks to the determination and drive of Lynne Smith HQJFNZ, Homebase provides a gateway to useful information. While its development is ongoing, it is a truly valuable resource which you should use.

The ultimate goal is to reduce the number of Defence publications that are "printed" and for us all to

adapt our behaviour to learning to read on line! Some of us are better at this than others. I still have to learn that you don't always have to make the coffee and put your feet up to have a good read! You will find on Homebase, all the latest copies of not only "The Bugle", but also links to the "Army News", "Navy Today" and "Air Force News". One day I am sure we will win the paper war and become accustomed to reading so much on line.

Amongst some Australian literature I reviewed over the weekend, I found a sentence or two which I just had to plagiarize!

"Defence families are a resilient lot – not to mention smart, educated, well resourced and trained to adapt and overcome challenges that would bedevil others!"

Perfect!!! I see this everyday in my work and in the Defence Community I work within. I experience first-hand and see glimpses behind the scenes, of some wonderful individuals and families making a difference – facing the challenges deployment brings and achieving much that they often thought they were ever capable of. While it is so easy to measure the success of an overseas deployment, it is very difficult to measure the contributions you make to this success from your own backyard! While we understand and appreciate that at times things are difficult and even overwhelming, you need to take praise where it is due and acknowledge that we sincerely thank you for your part in this whole process.

Keep up the good work and remember that your support team is only a phone call away. We always look forward to talking with you.

Kind regards.

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D



Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
2nd Land Force Group

Since our last "Bugle" we have seen the departure of GYRO 11 for their deployment to Timor-Leste and the return to New Zealand of the GYRO 10 contingent – albeit a few days late.

For those families who have just said farewell to their loved ones, I hope that you have received your first emails, phone calls and perhaps even something through the post, and that life has settled down into new routines for you. I also hope that you enjoyed receiving your first edition of "The Bugle" and have been eagerly awaiting this issue! For those who have finished their six months without their family members, I hope that your reunions are going well and that your routines are settling back into normality with your loved one home again. For me personally, reintegrating my husband back into life at home was always the hardest part of deployment, so please remember that it is a process, and like all processes, there is a start, middle and normal – whatever normal means for you.

On my search for inspiration, I flicked back through some past "Bugle" issues. Again and again we have talked about the value of

receiving a letter. With our deployments we have the scenario of the mailbag arriving at the deployment location; the excitement (mostly concealed I suspect) of seeing if something has been sent from home – a letter? A parcel? And sometimes, sadly, the disappointment (again carefully concealed) that not this time, maybe next mailbag!



Likewise at home – is there something from the deployment amongst the bills and junk mail today? No? Perhaps tomorrow! With the modern technology now available to us, unfortunately the art of writing a letter has become a lost discipline; but the value of receiving the precious letter is priceless. In most cases, it doesn't have to be lengthy; just something to connect with those we love. Likewise with parcels, after all, everything needed is provided, but what about a small something – perhaps a magazine or a bag of sweets to those on deployment and coming back to NZ, well who knows what they might find? Food for thought!

I was lucky enough to be able to take a few additional days leave following the GYRO departure and would like to thank Carol for covering my phone for me. Fortunately the weather was (mostly) co-operative and I was able to spend some much needed time catching up with household chores and in the garden – how come the weeds grow faster than anything else??!! But all looking good now – for a short time anyway! Enjoy the read.

Deployment Support Services

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

Deployment Support Services are here for you

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

Army: Deployment Services Officers:

Linton—Janine Burton

Ph: 0800 683 77 327

Burnham—Carol Voyce

Ph: 0800 337 569

Community Services Officers:

Waiouru—Carolyn Hyland

Ph 06 387 5531

Trentham—Marie Lotz

Ph 04 527 5029

Linton—Lesley Clutterbuck

Ph: 06 351 9970

Burnham—Cherie Mansell

Ph 03 363 0322

Air Force:

Welfare Facilitators

Air Staff Wellington:

Mrs Judy Byers,

Ph: 04 498 6773

Base Auckland,

Mrs Deana Lye,

Ph: 09 417 7035

Base Woodbourne:

Mrs Claudia Baker,

Ph: 03 577 1177

Base Ohakea:

Mrs Toni Nicholson,

Ph: 06 351 5640

Naval Community Organization

Ph: 09 445 5534,

0800 NAVYHELP

nib@nzdf.mil.nz

Local Chaplaincy Services

Unit Point of Contact

FOR YOUR INFO...

Skype

SKYPE is a great piece of software that allows users to make video calls over the internet and is especially valuable for those in deployment locations.

Unfortunately all missions do not have this resource available, but for those who do, it provides an extra and valuable connection with home. Obviously you need to set up your SKYPE account before deployment, as it can be difficult to establish once abroad. The SKYPE call needs to come to you from the service person abroad and not the other way around.

Telecommunications and even good uninterrupted power supplies are not always reliable in some of the countries where service personnel are based. Regular SKYPE users, who talk with other family and friend abroad, will know that the quality of the call varies from time to time and often calls "drop". Patience is truly needed here!

Please remember that SKYPE is not a secure means of communication and operational and security matters CANNOT be discussed when using it. This is what we call OPSEC (Operational Security). It means that even though some information may not be secret, it can be what we call "critical information". We need to protect our operations – planned, in progress, and those completed. Please refer to your Deployment Guide or/and OPSEC Brochure to make sure that you are familiar with the rules. It is best to always be alert and careful and not to ask questions about activities, comings and goings and dates. Just enjoy the chance to see each other and for children to talk with their Mum or Dad.

(Please remember that OPSEC guidelines pertain to all communication – phone, emails, Facebook, Twitter, etc).



A Strange Lingo

Living the Defence life is not without its challenges. One that we encounter often is the use of what seems a strange and unique language full of the most amazing abbreviations. Even though I have been here for a number of years, I still find myself being tripped up by something new that comes my way. We work hard to communicate with you all in "everyday" language, but at times we too, can be found guilty of picking up a few words which we shouldn't use (and which may cause you some confusion) for something you cannot understand.

Delays do occur – Don't be Disappointed

With the recent return of contingents from Afghanistan and Timor-Leste, the unexpected happened - the flights were delayed due to circumstances beyond our control. Of course everyone at home had made a number of arrangements, to travel be at the airport, take trips abroad or have special celebrations and gatherings! All thrown into total chaos! These delays, while disappointing are part of military life and do happen from time to time. Yes, we do feel bad that you are disappointed but our aim is to have everyone back safely and if this means a delay then we all must learn to live with it. In both these latest incidents, our team contacted as many Primary Next of Kin as we could, and asked them to take the responsibility of notifying other family members and "interested parties". While it would have been great to call everyone we knew associated with each deployment, the task was simply too big. Ringing does identify gaps in our database where we have incorrect information though and that is most frustrating!

Who is the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK)?

All deploying service personnel are required to nominate a Primary Next of Kin, referred to by us, as the PNOK - This maybe a spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, friend or older sibling. The PNOK is the person that NZDF is authorised to make contact with and to provide information to, for the duration of the deployment. As the nominated PNOK, you have a responsibility for sharing information with other interested family members and friends. This is a "job" not to be taken lightly, as you play a key role in ensuring others have the same

degree of peace of mind and information that you have. While we are happy to talk with others who are not the PNOK, there is some information which we are not free to give to anyone other than the nominated PNOK.

If you are the nominated PNOK and are going to be away from your home/work location during the deployment we need to be advised on dates you will be absent and how we may best contact you in the event of an emergency. If you move house, change phone numbers or email address, please be sure to notify us of this too. Your help is much appreciated.

FOR YOUR INFO...

The reason for raising flight delays with you all is that it is always possible that this may happen again. We share your excitement of homecomings too, but ask that you look at return dates as guidelines only and then when the dates are confirmed that you remember our caution about possible late changes. We advise against planning for major events and family gatherings around the immediate scheduled homecoming dates to avoid frustration and disappointment.

Please be assured that everyone does their best to adhere to given schedules but occasionally we can't always make things happen how we would like them to.

Peacekeeper T-Shirts

A friendly reminder that orders for the children and adults peacekeeper T-shirt, as promoted in the last edition of "The Bugle", close on 3 June 2011.

Please be sure to get your orders in on time to help our manufacturer meet his deadlines.

If you have misplaced your last issue of "The Bugle", please call Carol or Janine (contact details inside front cover) for another copy of the order form.

This is the only planned opportunity this year for purchasing these T-shirts.

Away on leave

I will be away on leave from 3 June returning on 5 July. In my absence, my phone will be diverted to Janine Burton, DSO Linton. You may still call the usual numbers but you will have Janine's friendly voice at the other end. Emails may be sent as usual – this includes "Bugle" contributions/messages and these will be cleared and processed in the usual way. If you require a home visit for support or guidance and live in the greater Christchurch area this is still possible and can be arranged through Janine.

I look forward to catching up with you all on my return. Carol.

Send us your Tips and Tricks

Being a Defence Force Family can sometimes seem like a challenge, with loved ones often away or with regular postings and/or absences for courses.

"But Defence Families are a resilient lot – not to mention smart, educated, well resourced and trained to adapt and overcome challenges that would bedevil others."

So if you have a tip about encountering and meeting a challenge that is unique to Defence life, then let us know about it. Your ideas may ultimately make life easier for someone else. You too may have found a resource that helped you cope with this Defence lifestyle that you could share with us all. It could be a website, book, film, TV series, community event, outside organisation or even a person!

We welcome your feedback: Responses can be emailed to carol.voyce@nzdf.mil.nz or by phone to Carol – toll free 0800 337 569 or to Janine janine.burton@nzdf.mil.nz – toll free 0800 683 77 327. We look forward to hearing from you!



Victoria Cross: The NZ Story

Created by Queen Victoria in 1856, the Victoria Cross recognises acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy by members of the Armed Forces. Of the hundreds of thousands who have proudly served New Zealand, just 22 have received the esteemed Victoria Cross.

Note: Corporal Willie Apiata, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 2007, fully supports honouring VC winners of the past, but felt it was not appropriate for his image to be on a postage stamp at this stage. Corporal Willie Apiata is instead represented in the stamp issue by an image of the medal awarded to him.

In total 21 men won the Victoria Cross representing New Zealand from February 1864 (Captain Charles Heaphy) to August 1943 (Flying Officer Lloyd Trigg (RNZAF)). This included two awards of the Victoria Cross to Charles Upham. In 1999 the Queen of New Zealand instituted the 'Victoria Cross for New Zealand' and the only recipient to date has been Corporal Willie Apiata for his gallantry in Afghanistan. Corporal Apiata is still a serving member of 1 NZSAS Group today.

The bravery and sacrifice of New Zealand's Victoria Cross recipients are inspirational, and their stories remarkable. Sergeant James Edward Allen Ward, RNZAF, was the Second Pilot in a Wellington bomber on operations over Holland in 1941. When the bomber was hit by incendiary fire from a Messerschmitt 110, fire broke out in the Wellington's starboard engine. With the fire taking hold rapidly, Ward successfully ventured out onto the wing and put out the fire, saving his own life and those of his comrades.

Stories such as Sergeant Ward's showcase the unrelenting bravery displayed by the Victoria Cross winners, and justify its rank as the highest award in our military forces. Each of the recipients has their own valiant story, which is told in detail in the unique publication: ***Victoria Cross - The New Zealand Story***.

A truly inspiring read, it's the only book of its kind that comprehensively pays tribute to the Victoria Cross recipients of New Zealand. The 108 pages are bound within a fabric hard cover that features stunning silver foiling. Inside you'll find fascinating information, including a vast array of imagery, from photographs to paintings, citations and maps.

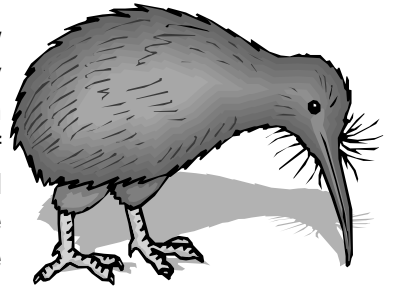
As well as telling captivating stories, the publication is your only chance to obtain some unique stamp products that are not available elsewhere. Throughout the publication, you will find miniature sheets for each of the Victoria Cross recipients, along with short descriptions detailing their acts of valour.

Also included is an exclusive stamp sheet that is different from the one available individually. Each stamp in the sheet features one of the 22 Victoria Cross winners, in the order in which they received their medal. Collectables like this are the perfect accompaniment to this high-quality publication.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Kiwi as an emblem first appeared late last century in New Zealand regimental badges. Badges of the South Canterbury Battalion in 1886 and the Hastings Rifle Volunteers in 1887 both featured Kiwis. Later, Kiwis appeared in a great number of military badges. In 1887 the new Auckland University College (opened 1883) featured on their Coat of Arms three Kiwis, symbolising the confinement of the Kiwi to the islands of New Zealand. Students of the University in 1905, began publishing a magazine called "The Kiwi" which survived until the mid 1960s.



The Kiwi symbol began to be recognised internationally in 1906 when Kiwi Shoe Polish was launched in Melbourne by a man with a New Zealand born wife. The polish was widely marketed in Britain and the USA during World War 1 and later. By 1908, Kiwis were appearing in numerous sporting, political, and other newspaper cartoons.

During the First World War, New Zealanders carved a giant Kiwi on the chalk hill above Sling Camp in England. In Flanders during the war, the name "Kiwi" for New Zealand soldiers came into general use. By the Second World War, the Kiwi was synonymous with New Zealand Servicemen overseas. During the war, the Kiwi Concert Party toured many battle areas. The Kiwi (New Zealand Army) Football Team

which toured the British Isles, France and Germany in 1945-46 also enhanced the emblem's popularity.



Today, New Zealanders overseas (and at home) are still invariably called "Kiwis". The Kiwi is still closely associated with the Armed Forces. The New Zealand dollar is often referred to as the "The Kiwi" and the kiwi fruit is known as a "Kiwi" in some countries. Kiwis feature in the coat of arms, crests and badges of many New Zealand cities, clubs and organisations.

Source: kiwi web

Hippos kill more people than any other animal

The hippo's yawn is not a sign of sleepiness or boredom but is actually a threat gesture, displaying long thick, razor-sharp canine teeth, or tusks, with which it is capable of biting a small boat in half. Being fearlessly protective of their turf and young, hippos have killed more than 400 people in Africa — more than any other wild animal.



The Remarkable Bee

Bees can be used to detect landmines. Tiny radio plates the size of a rice grain can be attached to honey bees to detect antipersonnel landmines, of which there are about 100 million in 70-war torn countries. The tiny radio plates are engraved with serial numbers to keep track of the bees, which are being conditioned to develop a preference in addition to nectar, in this case TNT, or any other material that releases methamphetamines. Special spectrometers that can "smell" TNT are placed in movable beehives to indicate landmines in specific areas. Bees that "smell" of explosives can then be tracked to the landmine. The bees won't detonate the landmines.



PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 16 June at 4.00 pm**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

Hellooo FC

Thinking of you and missing you. Lots of love, FB xxx".

Hi T-Lady

Happy Anniversary!!! Missing you! Time going really fast, will be home before you know it. Stress Less. Love you.

Dear Family

The power of thought is amazing. Even though we're separated by time and distance I only need think of you and it's as though you're here with me. I close my eyes and I can see you all. I can swap thoughts between the hot, dry, dusty hills of Bamyan and the cold, wet, muddy fields of home. But remember - the power of thought has limits. Thinking of exercising, doing assignments and chores is not quite the same as actually doing them! Look after yourselves and each other. Love you all, YT.

TK Boys

Hi sons! Missing you all heaps, keep up with all that we do, remember our goals and love your mum heaps.

MULU Girl

You are a strength to me in all that I do either at home or over here, thanks for being my wife and the mother of our son, I appreciate all that you do. Love BOBO.

2 my Darling Girls

Hope your 1st game went well. Thinking of you's heaps. Love Ya xoxo.

Ange

Hi my love. I hope you are well.

First month has gone quickly, only a few more to go. xx.

Hi Boys

Hope all is well at school and mum not ROARing too much. Do your homework, the dishwasher and tidy your rooms and maybe the ROARing will stop. See you soon. Love Rob.

Hi Mum & Gra

Thanks for the updates. Keep them coming. Hope you are enjoying your last Dunedin winter.

Hi Jord

I hope you are keeping well. Look forward to seeing you in a few months. Mike.

To my Awesome Family

Well done on the cross-country run. Jordan, you did so well! Love the video clips you sent over. Taff, Tamara is such a cute little helper – keep those vacuuming skills up!! Love you all, Mum.

Hey Grommy

Well over half way now, hope you've at least booked your restricted license by now. Gonna start running out of time before you know it! I've got your next package just about ready to send. Hope your big course is going well. Wuvvles xoxox

All Blacks to win the World Cup

Crusaders to win the Super 15.

To Bears 1 and 2

Thanx for all your support! I know I'm luvd lots and am glad I make you proud. A very special Happy Birthday to the smaller of the 2 bears with a great big hug. Lots of luv Sprinkle XOX.

Happy 5th Birthday Liam

Hope you have a cool party and like your presents. I miss you. Wish I was there. Have fun at school. Love Dad.

Brodie Miller

Happy 10th Birthday big boy! I am sad that I missed your birthday but I know you will have a good time with your friends. I'm jealous you are going to the Wanganui Boys and Girls Club and I don't get to have a play there too. Love from Dad.

The Cat & the Princess

Love you. Dog.

Hey Laura

Hope you're enjoying all the books I bought you! Say hi to everyone for me. A.

Hey my Beautiful Sweet P

Thanks for the parcels & letters – they really do brighten my week & energise me. You're the best! Missing you heaps & lots, TK.

Dear KTE

Not long now till I get to come home on leave and we can get up to some serious mischief! Can't wait to hold you in my arms again and feel like everything is Perfect. You're never far from my mind and always in my heart. I love you babe xoxox. (P.S Duty Free party...you know what I'm saying? BASEME.

To my Dearest Wife Tracey Daughter Kendall and Son Ethan

Lots of love to you all. Missing you all heaps and of course Skye man (our Dog). Hope Chil-ax-in is doing OK.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

From Home

Hey there to tha Mighty Ua

Please remember that you are thought about every day. We miss and love you loads but also know that you are in good hands, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Crossing off each day as it comes, it's already been a month, so we have scraped off the top stuff....this stuff is the hard stuff, so the rest of the time is going to fly by so quickly. Something to look forward to is our first celebration drink up, because it has been 1 year & 6 months sober for me, so you know it's going to be one of the many HIGHLIGHTS of your return: OP Aroha Nui my bro & wishing you a super special day of born - we'll eat some cake for ya, Love Smeary & Tay Tay xx.

Hay Hun

Loved my birthday present.. I was so surprised and it honestly made my Whole Birthday!!! Things are good back home, getting up my fitness and taking each day as it comes, knowing each day that passes is one closer to you being home again. I miss you so much Hun.. Stay safe and take care, love you xxx Forever and Ever xxx.

To my Daddy

I love seeing you on the computer every Sunday... I talk about you all the time afterwards. Me and Mummy look at photos of you and talk about you all the time, I'm not quite sure where you've gone.. but I know you'll be home soon. I'm being a good girl for Mummy and growing more and more each day. Love you my dada. Ruby xxx.

Hey Tony!

How's it all going? Been great being able to speak to you online! We hope you are safe and well. In the process of making up another

parcel to be sent off. We are off to Twizel to surprise Mummy for her birthday in a couple of weeks, should be fun! EEEEEEEE da Raaaatty, we miss yol heaps broda! Love you heaps, love Ben and Kimmy xxxxxx.

For Private Anthony Mangino

Have a Happy 21st Birthday Ant! All your family and friends are thinking about you. We will all celebrate when you come home in November. Love Mum and Dad.

Hey my Bro

Have an awesome birthday (even though it's been only my birthday for a few years now!) Will include you in the celebrations when me & Honey have our party; wish you could be here for it! Will have a shot & a vodka jelly for you! Love Anouska.

Happy Birthday Uncy Josh

Love from Honey Girl.

Hey Dad

Have an awesome birthday dude. Know that everyone here is thinking of you and that Nanna's frantically looking for scrap book stuff in a big pile on the floor. Love Mini Crabb.

Happy Birthday Mate

Will celebrate when you get home, but as usual I will have a vino on the 3rd. You know I gotta toast myself for all the hard work I did on that day all those years ago. LOL. P.S: Brock & me are jamming. Lots of love, Mum.

Hi Uncle Brent

Hope you have the best Birthday. Looking forward to seeing you again when you come home. You'll be able to chase me along Grandma's wall. Love Riley xoxo.

Hey Little Bro

Happy 27th Birthday, hope you having a great time & staying out of

trouble, love your big Sis.

To Brent

Happy Birthday, love Grandma.

Robyn

Hi, bright star. A lovely surprise to see Birthday message in "The Bugle"! Hope you are getting mail. All my love, Grandma Beth.

To my Loving Darling Cute Husband

Today we have spent 9 wonderful married years together. You are my world and everything in it. Everyday spent with you, is another day loved by you. Loved you yesterday, love you still, always have, always will. Yours ever Muppet.

Dear Rob

Mum has got this new thing called coupons. I get to give her coupons for choice of dinner and stuff. Anyway hope you are having a good time. Miss you. Love Jayden.

Hello Matt

Later in the year if you want another car let me know and I will start looking. Christchurch quakes seem to be settling down at last. We suppose you are seeing a lot of different things, people, customs etc. We saw in the news you had a very important visitor at your camp. Keep up the good work, we will see you later. Love Mum and Dad.

Tyson

My Darling I miss you. Everything's going good here. I can't wait to see you again. Love, Erin xox.

To my Wonderful Babe

5 years ago we gave birth to our wonderful cute boy. Thank you so much for giving him to me. Sorry you had to miss his first day of school but there will be many more special times for you to share.

Happy 5th Birthday Liam

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

To Rob

I got a mean as rugby league jacket from my team for free. From Bradley.

Happy Birthday Brent

Can't believe my baby is 27. Have a great day and I hope it isn't too hot for you. Make sure you behave yourself, Love, Mum.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Uncle Brent

Have a great day on the 13th. We miss you. Lots of love, Jenna, Lachie & Bayden. xxx (and of course Mum & Dad too.

Babe

It's only been a couple of weeks - but already feels like months. We miss you so much! Rabbit and Logie Bear are keeping me busy tho! It's getting pretty chilly here, so you're not missing too much. Think about you all the time and really look forward to your calls! I love you!! X.

Dad

I love you. I hope you will come back soon. I cuddle my photo of you at night. I miss you daddy. Love from your Rabbit.

Daddy

I miss playing with you on the floor before bed at night! So I've been giving mummy lots of hugs instead. Love from Logie Bear.

Hi Bubby

Well things are humming along ok. Winter sports make the weekdays and weekends busy. I know if you were here, you wouldn't miss any of the boys' games! So when you come back and come to next season's games – hopefully you will see how well they are playing and how much they have improved! As for me, I miss you the most! My best friend, my soul mate, my bubby! Even though we communicate regularly, there's

nothing like having you here with us! I can truly say, after 16 plus years, I love you even more. Jos xxx.

Hi Dad

School is going good and this week we have a sports night for youth group. I am practicing the keyboard almost every day. We miss you and can't wait till you come home. Love, Nui.

Hi Dad

There is nothing new to tell you since we spoke on the phone tonight, but I do miss you and love you. Love from Caleb.

Dear Dad

I went to rugby practice and I did lots of running and throwing the ball and this big boy was chasing me but he couldn't rip my tag off me. My friend, Gian plays rugby too. We miss you. All of us miss you. Bye Dad. Joshua.

Dearest Tolly

Lucky you, enjoying the sun, as we head into winter!!! Jasmine's legs are getting stronger every day, taking more and more steps each time. It's amazing how loud and strong her voice is, definitely an officer under training. We are all missing you, keep safe. Lots of Love Jen, Jasmine & Kimmy, xoxoxo.

Ken Macrae

To my darling husband - Have a very happy 50th Birthday on Saturday. I will have a drink for you out at Foxton Camp along with our friends and we will toast your special day....dirty job but someone's got to do it, lol, and I will even drink your Export for you that's sitting in the fridge, ha ha ha. The kids and I miss you so very much. Keep safe my true love. Trace, Kendall, Ethan and Skye.

The Donkey in the well

One day a farmer's donkey fell down a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided that the animal was old, and since the well was non-functional anyway, it wasn't worth trying to retrieve the donkey so he had a bright idea to kill two birds with one stone by burying the donkey in the well.

It was a big job, so the farmer asked his neighbours to come and help. They all brought a shovel and began to toss dirt into the hole. As the donkey realised what was happening with the dirt raining down on it, it started to bray terribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, the donkey suddenly went very quiet. Some assumed the donkey had decided to die quietly, or that he had been quickly buried. After a while, the farmer looked down the well and saw something amazing. The donkey was still standing and with every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey would shake it off and step on it. This carried on for some time until the donkey's head appeared over the lip of the well. A few more shovelfuls later the donkey quietly stepped up onto the surrounding grass and trotted off.

The moral of the story is that life will shovel dirt on you. All kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well of trouble is to think clearly, shake off the dirt and then use the dirt to your advantage. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the wells of trouble by stepping up, not by giving up.

Source: MASS Health Care 'Caring for You'

OPERATION ANZAC SPIRIT

A competition for Year 7 and 8 students run by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)



Operation Anzac Spirit competition winners (L to R): Jack Notting, Estee Wrightson-Beresford and Shontal Norton show off their winning entries



First prize



Second prize



Third prize

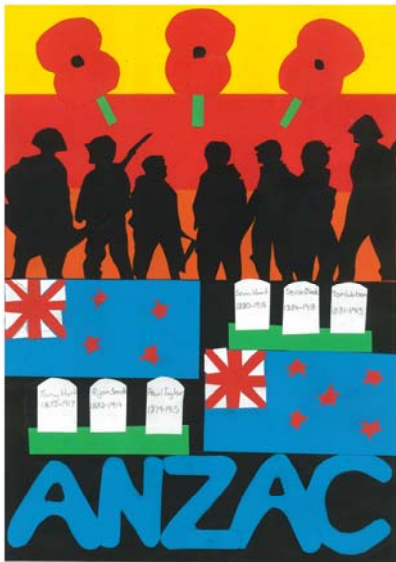
GISBORNE STUDENT'S ARTWORK WINS DEFENCE COMPETITION

A poster showing the Four Square man dressed as a soldier has won 12 year old Jack Notting, of Gisborne, first prize in Operation Anzac Spirit, a competition run by the New Zealand Defence Force as part of Anzac Day.

Jack's winning entry was chosen from around 600 entries in Operation Anzac Spirit, a competition for Year 7 and 8 students which asked students to submit a poster showing what Anzac Day means to them.

The competition was judged by New Zealand Army artist Captain Matt Gauldie who said, "Judging the competition was extremely difficult as the entries were of such a high standard. I felt Jack's artwork displayed great creativity, technical ability and a natural understanding of composition very rare in artists as young as Jack.

"This year's theme 'What Anzac Day means to me' challenged the entrants to re-think traditional Anzac Day



Runner up: Jimmy Johnstone



Runner up: Tahlia Armstrong



Runner up: Georgie Dalgety.



Runner up: Anirudh Bhatnagar



Entrant



Entrant



Entrant



Entrant



Entrant

themes and place their own personal experiences and individual family stories into their art. Like Jack's winning piece, many of the other finalists showed a high level of artistic maturity and awareness. I am pleased to see young people thinking and expressing themselves through art in this 'Playstation' generation'.

The three top winners were presented with their prizes by Vice Chief of Defence Force Rear Admiral Jack Steer at a prize-giving ceremony at Defence House.

RA Steer said that the Defence Force has been running a students' competition since 2007 to encourage students to learn about Anzac Day and its connection to the Defence Force today.

As his first prize Jack has chosen to spend a day with the Army. Second prize of a day with the Air Force was chosen by Estee Wrightson-Beresford, 12, of Henderson, Auckland and third prize winner Shontal Norton, 12, of Trentham will spend a day with the Navy.

Four runners up received an NZ Defence Force prize pack: Georgie Dalgety, 11, of Hunterville; Jimmy Johnstone, 12, of Winton; Anirudh Bhatnagar, 12, of Auckland; and Tahlia Armstrong, 11, of Tauranga.