

THE BUGLE

Issue 156 | July 2011



INSIDE

- Continuing the Timor Experience
- Life in the Sinai
- Engineers in Afghanistan
- The Solly Shuffle

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"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:

Timor-Leste

Local village children pose with their new futebol jerseys donated by Marist Junior Football Club, Palmerston North.

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Vice Chief of Defence Force
Rear Admiral J. Steer, ONZM



Chief of Air Force
Air Vice-Marshal P.J. Stockwell



Chief of Army
Major General T.J. Keating



Chief of Navy
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NEWS UPDATE

NZLAV Assists US Apache Helicopter in Afghanistan

11 July 2011

In an unusual and impromptu operation, one of the NZLAV vehicles in Bamyan Province has provided assistance to a disabled US Army Apache helicopter.

The Apache experienced an engine problem on take off and had to land again.

Inspection of the engine showed extensive damage caused by ingested debris.

The helicopter was in an exposed position on Bamyan airfield and the decision was made to tow it into the safety of Kiwi Base, home of the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT).

Despite being on the wrong side of the perimeter wire and the ditch, the NZPRT workshop team manufactured a tow-bar and led the helicopter recovery team comprising US Army air and maintenance crews, NZPRT and US personnel.

The Apache had a very limited threshold for sideways tilt, requiring a lot of ground preparation and load spreading using sheets of plywood. Sergeant George Alexander from the NZPRT guided the NZLAV as it slowly pulled the eight tonne helicopter around a



A NZLAV is used to tow a disabled US Army Apache helicopter inside the wire of Kiwi Base

corner, across the ditch and up the hill into Kiwi base.

US maintenance Crew Chief, Sergeant Judy Beltowski, 10th Mountain Division, US Army, praised the ingenuity and quick action of the NZPRT personnel.

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz



Chief of Army and Sergeant Major of the Army, WO1 Danny Broughton, are welcomed into Honiara by members of the 14th rotation in the Solomons

Chief of Army Pays Troops a Visit as the Mission in Solomon Islands Turns Eight

14 July 2011

The Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) turns eight later this month. In order to mark the NZ Defence Force's ongoing contribution to the mission, the Chief of Army, Major General Timothy Keating, visited NZ troops and key RAMSI personnel this week.

MAJGEN Keating acknowledged

the work that NZDF personnel have done alongside New Zealand and Australian Police since RAMSI started back in July 2003: "It's clear to me that the security situation in the Solomons has improved significantly since 2003. Our Army personnel have been an integral part of this development."

Major General Keating was accompanied on the trip by the Sergeant Major of the Army, WO1 Danny Broughton, and together they awarded the New Zealand General Service Medal to the 39 NZ Army personnel currently serving as the 14th rotation in the Solomons.

"By presenting this medal, we acknowledge the sacrifice and commitment that our people make by choosing to serve overseas. They have represented themselves with dignity and humility, and they should be justifiably proud of their

efforts to date", said Major General Keating as he presented the medals at the RAMSI base outside of Honiara.

During the visit, Major General Keating met with the Australian Commander of the Combined Task Force and the Tongan and PNG Senior National Officers. He also met with the Special Co-ordinator and Deputy Co-ordinator for RAMSI, the Acting Commissioner of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, and representatives from the NZ High Commission.

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

"Adventure isn't hanging on a rope off the side of a mountain. Adventure is an attitude that we must apply to the day-to-day obstacles of life - Facing new challenges, seizing new opportunities, testing our resources against the unknown and in the process, discovering our own unique potential."

John Amatt

MESSAGE FROM CDF: BAMYAN LEADS AFGHANISTAN INTO TRANSITION

Lieutenant General Rhys Jones
Chief of Defence Force

It was a proud day for the Defence Force on Sunday when the first Transition ceremony held in Afghanistan to transfer provincial-level security and responsibility back to Afghan control, took place in Bamyan.

Responsibility for all aspects of Afghanistan's Government services will now begin to pass to its citizens. Responsibility for national security will move from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). The final assumption of full responsibility is likely to be in late 2014.

NZDF has played a key role in the Bamyan province (dating back to 2003) where we led the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) for seven years, and we will continue to play a significant leadership role until the Afghans assume final control.

To support the transition process, our Government has committed the services of New Zealanders through to 2014 to ensure a smooth and measured handover of responsibility. This will include training the Afghan National Police to take over the role currently performed by NZDF military patrols.

The Director of the Transition Co-ordination Commission, Dr Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, led Sunday's Transition ceremony which was attended by key Government ministers from Kabul, Bamyan Governor, Dr Habiba Sarabi, Provincial Government officials, the New Zealand Ambassador Justin Fepuleai and his counterparts from USA and Japan, as well as senior representatives from ISAF and aid agencies.

It was therefore fitting that NZDF personnel participated in this event which heralds a new phase in New Zealand's involvement in Afghanistan.

The ceremony culminated in a haka by members of the NZPRT Maori Cultural Group who addressed the Afghanistan National Security Forces and challenged them to take the lead on security matters within Bamyan Province. The national flags of Afghanistan and New Zealand were raised together, with the Afghan flag given prominence above our flag. The photo of the haka (below) tells the story.

In an interview following the ceremony, Dr Ghani was asked whether Afghanistan was ready and able to take responsibility for security. His emphatic reply was, "Yes."

He went on, "Our job is to change our institutions and to change the perceptions of our institutions." He also spoke of the need to promote good governance by eradicating administrative corruption and injustice, and

enhancing accountability and transparency at all levels of Government.

Today 196 NZDF personnel lead an international group made up of military and civilians predominantly from NZ and US, a medical contingent from the Malaysian Armed Forces, as well as civilian police including four from New Zealand operating under EUPOL authority.

Additional international support would see growth in governance capacity building, particularly in the justice sector, as well as further infrastructural development focusing on transport, agriculture, energy and water supply.

I want to acknowledge that this achievement has not been made without cost and we remember Tim and Kirifi on this day.

We can be truly proud of the contribution made by those who have served in Bamyan, both now and over the past eight years, to achieve this milestone and return peace and stability to the people of Bamyan.



Members of the NZPRT perform a haka, challenging the ANSF to take the lead on security matters in Bamyan

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including:

- CA visits Army Personnel Deployed on OP RATA II (14)
- Transition in Bamyan
- Engineers in Afghanistan
- NSE 18 — Challenges
- Continuing the Timor Experience
- Timor Rally
- NZTAT Driving Instructor One — Feb-Aug 11
- Life in the Sinai
- Chaplain's Pen from Abroad

have a familiarisation of the Honiara area; they met with key people in the Police, from the High Commission and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

That afternoon there was a CAs hour, which gave the soldiers a chance to discuss any issues that they had, and put questions to the CA and SMA on the current direction of the Army. In the evening there was an informal dinner function held with the NZ Police, Australian Army and other members attending.

The final day saw the NZ PI put into action with a 'mock' QRF callout to a riot. The CAs party followed the action from beginning to end which included the call-up, giving of orders, drive to range, marry up with the PRG (Police Response Group) and conduct of controlling and quelling the riot. The PI then put on a display of the less than lethal capabilities.

Overall, the visit was a great opportunity for the NZ Army personnel to meet the CA and SMA and get a chance to ask questions.

NEWS FROM OP RATA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

CHIEF OF ARMY VISITS ARMY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED ON OP RATA II (14)

Lieutenant Emily Hume

On the 10 July 2011, the CA, Major General Tim Keating, arrived in Honiara to visit members of OP RATA II, Rotation 14. The CA party consisted of the SMA, Mr Broughton; Major Stephens and Ms Ingrid Harder.

The group was greeted into GBR with the 2/1st Haka led by Lance Corporal Tekoi and challenged by Private Maxwell and Private Hughes. From there the group was given briefs on current ops, meeting key staff who work in the CTF HQs. That night the NZ PI cooked a BBQ in the lines and had a chance to chat with the CA and SMA about the deployment.

The next day saw the CA and party



*Corporal Matthew Goldsworthy
wearing his SI medal*



*Lieutenant Emily Hume receiving
her SI medal*



*Major Alistair Mitchell SNO OP RATA II
(14) receiving his SI medal*



*Private Waihaere Mahara receiving
his SI medal*

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



Private Keith Anthony Wilson

My job within my platoon when I first got to the Solomon Islands was section rifleman, but now I've been changed to section signaller. I check comms equipment and make sure I have communications at all times, as well as being a normal rifleman.

While I've been on deployment, my highlights during the trip would be when I got to swim with some dolphins, and in general being here on operations doing my job. Also, they have a good gym here and I like to use it often in my spare time.

I've had many challenges during my stay in the Solomon Islands. We do crowd control training often, it is very exhausting after a long period of time, but what makes it worse is the tropical heat. It is usually at least 30 degrees in temperature and often over. Sometimes we go to the rifle range and being out there during the day can be pretty hot and exhausting too. In general, it's just the heat that's pretty challenging.

During my stay here I got to see what the locals and the culture was like in the Solomon Islands. I find the locals here are friendly, they have a unique culture, their own beliefs, and it seems from my point

of view that the locals live a not too rich life. The area in general is a bit run down, but you have to realise that there has been a lot of conflict here in the past.

I am looking forward to getting back home to my friends and family. Four months overseas can seem like a long while when you're on operations because it takes a lot of freedoms away that you would be used to, like going out on weekends or driving to town to see your mates. The first thing I'm looking forward to is seeing my partner and afterwards having a few beers.

Private Waihaere Mahara

Kia Ora. From the Solomon Islands!

My primary objective or role on this deployment is as a section scout. A scout's role is to get his section from one location to another in a safe manner, a bit of navigation is required and if need be, to take his section into combat. FRONTLINE. There is more to scouting but I won't go into too much detail on that. Due to the qualifications I have, my secondary role was the section driver and combat life saver also known as a section medic and also qualified as the section shot gunner.

The biggest highlight of this deployment so far was finding out the history of the country. It was a real eye opener for me learning about World War II, where the Japanese tried to take over the Pacific using Guadalcanal Solomon Islands as a launch off point, building an air strip on the island so they could regroup before attempting to attack Australia – well that's my basic understanding of the war and history of this place anyway.

My biggest deployment challenge was to try not to think about family and loved ones whilst over here and keep focused on the job while trying to keep myself busy to avoid boredom. I didn't find out much about the culture because I was always on task and never on foot patrols, gaining that mutual respect with the locals which us, as Kiwis, are pretty good at in most countries we get deployed to. The place itself is very nice in most places, in some, a little dirty, but it has very beautiful blue beaches and a lot of shipwrecks and war sites from World War II. We have been able to dive in some of the wrecks.

I'm looking forward to getting back to New Zealand so that I can catch up with family especially the nieces and nephews – they are the ones I miss the most because I don't know when I'll be deployed again. Oh, and hopefully catch up with friends and talk about the good old days over a few beverages. Oh well, there's my little story about what I've been up to and where I've been. Hopefully I will see you around. Watch out upon my arrival N.G.A...ha ha, peace.

Corporal Matt Goldsworthy

Hi there! I have been asked to write this and to share how I have found my times serving in the Solomon Islands.

My role over here is a Section Commander, which means that I have a team of eight subordinates below me. In this role I am responsible for their training, their discipline, and in charge of them during any operational tasks that the section gets, such as security tasks and patrols in and around Honiara (capital of the Solomon Islands).

While I have been here the highlight of my deployment, I would

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

have to say, is being a part of a newly formed section at the start of the year and seeing them develop from then to now. We started off as a bunch of guys that hardly knew each other, let alone worked with before, and now they are a good bunch of guys that work, live and more importantly know. They know how to pick each other up when they are down, know how each other operate, and aren't afraid to play the odd practical joke.

Other highlights were getting to see some of the old WW II battle sites like Bloody Ridge, Galloping Horse, a few ship wrecks, and learning more about what we kiwis did over here during that time.

I have found that while over here, the biggest challenge is keeping my section motivated and focused. The theatre we are in here is pretty low tempo, we don't have guys running around the streets with guns, so we train.

There is only so much that we can do, so have ended up retraining in a lot of areas and they have become proficient at it and tend to switch off when we go it over again.

All the locals that I have met in the streets are all friendly and welcoming, giving us a wave and a big "HELLO KIWI" as we drive past.

With the clock winding down to home time, I can't help but think of all the things that I have missed while I have been over here, the freedoms of not living inside of a wire fence, not having to pay to go for a swim at a beach, having more than three meals a day (but will miss the daily buffet style meals) and sleep-in's.

But the thing I'm looking forward to the most when I get home would have to be catching up with family and friends.



Private Thomas Evans

I'm on OP RATA II (14) as part of the Kiwi Platoon, deployed here to support the RAMSI mission to the Solomon Islands.

As a member of my section, I help to deter destabilising forces and allow the people of the Solomon Islands to gain back a peaceful country through their own policing forces. One of the biggest highlights of this trip so far has been learning of the history of this country and the New Zealand soldiers that fought here in World War II, and the part they played in bringing peace back to our small part of the world. This was especially emphasized on ANZAC Day, which was spent here.

As with everything, there are challenges and one that I faced over here was learning to deal with the monotony of day-to-day life on operations, without the usual comforts you would have to fall back on; sometimes you can find yourself going a little stir-crazy.

With that in mind, there was always something new to find out about this country and its culture. I have seen some of the most untouched natural beauty and have been fascinated by their diverse culture which is focused around family and tribal unity, a likeness you would find in our own "Kiwi ways".

As much as this trip has had its ups and downs I look forward to getting home, relaxing and spending time with my family and friends and sharing a few stories over a beer or two.

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.**

NEWS FROM CRIB 18, AFGHANISTAN

TRANSITION IN BAMYAN

Lieutenant Colonel Hugh McAslan, Senior Military Advisor NZPRT

The past three weeks has been a particularly busy period for the NZPRT in Bamyán as the Province has entered the Transition process. Of significance is that Bamyán was selected as the first province in Afghanistan to hold the Transition Ceremony to mark the commencement of this process.

Transition is a process that is about the Afghan Government and its institutions assuming responsibility for security, governance and development. Since coalition forces entered Afghanistan, these functions have often been performed or provided by the Coalition. However, over the next three years, the aim is to 'transition' these functions back to Afghan responsibility. It is a process that will be gradual to ensure success, but a process that is nonetheless extremely important to the sovereignty and self determination of the Afghan people.

The ceremony was a symbolic and historic day for the people of Bamyán. It was attended by a number of senior Afghan Government Ministers, Provincial Government representatives, and prominent leaders from across the province. The international community was represented by the NZ Ambassador, the US Ambassador for Development, and senior ISAF officials. The ceremony, to mark the commencement of transition, included a haka performed by the CRIB 18 MCG. The haka was

delivered as a challenge to the Afghan Government to take on the responsibility of providing effective governance and security for the people of the province. The significance of the challenge was not lost on all who attended the ceremony and provided a uniquely Kiwi way of marking this occasion. All previous CRIB rotations can all be satisfied that in some way they have contributed to Bamyán getting to this stage in its journey to self determination. It was certainly a privilege for CRIB 18 to be a part of such a significant day in Bamyán's history.

Although we have now entered the Transition process, the day-to-day work performed by the NZDF elements of the PRT has not altered significantly. We continue to support the maintenance of security in the province so development and governance programmes can continue to be delivered. We also continue to support other partners in the PRT with capacity building programmes in areas such as improving the capabilities of the local Afghan Police Force. These are all essential elements to ensuring that the gains the province has made over the past decade, with the assistance of the NZPRT, will be irreversible and the transition process will be a success.

Importantly, the past couple of weeks has marked a turning point as we are now well and truly into the second half of our tour. Whilst we still have a lot of work to do across all the functional areas of the PRT, it's difficult to not think of home and returning to our friends and loved ones. You all remain in

our thoughts, and it is of great comfort knowing we have your support as we go about our duties – thank you.

ENGINEERS IN AFGHANISTAN

As an Engineer finishing pre-deployment training and then departing NZ for Afghanistan it's hard to know what to expect; pre-deployment training is understandably very combat focused and while we were competent in our basic combat drills, we had no idea about what our day-to-day job would be. However, it didn't take long to find out. The Engineer team deployed in Afghanistan is made up of a small group of personnel that include, an Engineer Officer, Sergeant, carpenter, plumber, electrician, and plant operator. Each of the tradesmen also have Locally Employed Civilians (LECs) that work with them. The LECs are not qualified tradesmen but most have been working in the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in their respective trades for a long time, many since the beginning of the Afghan rotations.

The NZDF has been in Kiwi Base for nine years now, however, there are still a number of new projects both underway and in the pipeline. These new projects are necessary to address the increasing numbers, and the changing of personnel and roles within the PRT, they are also the main effort of the Engineers. The responsibility of maintenance falls with an American contracting company, FLUOR, who is employed to conduct day-to-day maintenance at Kiwi Base. The working relationship the Engineers have with FLUOR is not as black and white as that though, and we often work together so as to get things done in the most efficient

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

manner possible, and for the tradesmen there has been no escaping the requests to put extra shelves in people's rooms and offices or to replace blown light bulbs.

Some of the main Engineer projects completed at Kiwi Base so far have been the new Workshop, which allows for the servicing of the NZ Light Armoured Vehicle within Kiwi Base, a new tyre repair bay, and a new conference room, which will hopefully double as the table tennis room, but we're yet to see about that one. Other smaller jobs completed by the Engineers around Kiwi Base include the construction of a metal road between the base and the airfield, construction of new defensive positions, and plumbing the Malaysian Armed Forces compound into the treated water – turns out they'd been showering in untreated water.

The Engineers have also been fortunate enough to get up to visit the Forward Patrol Bases a couple of times too. During our first trip up there the main project was the construction of a new Petrol Oil and Lubricants (POL) point. A new fuel



Engineers in Afghanistan

tank had been purchased and delivered to allow a greater amount of fuel to be stored. As space is at a premium, it wasn't as easy as just erecting the new tank. The old POL point needed to be demolished, and the design slightly adjusted to fit both the fuel tanks in without taking up too much precious space. After our first trip we returned with very distinctive boot tan lines and

were eagerly anticipating our next trip away.

A second patrol base has also received an upgrade at the hands of the Engineer cell. A perimeter fence was constructed complete with an iron gate that the workshops whipped up for us. Protective screens were also emplaced on the top storey windows, which without scaffolding, was a bit of a dodgy process.

It was an experience for the engineers to stay in the patrol base for a week, but also a lot of fun to spend some more time getting to know the patrol guys, who were keen to get amongst it and even built a veranda area. Their patrol base still remains a fairly unglamorous spot, however, the patrols now feel a lot safer being there with the added protection upgrades.

The remainder of the time to be spent in theatre is going to be just as busy for the Engineer cell, with more tasks and projects on, in both Kiwi Base and the patrol bases, as we ready them for winter and prepare for the next rotation to take our places.



Construction at Romero (FOB)

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

NSE 18 - CHALLENGES

CPOET Jeff Watt, CIS OP

Another month gone!! Time is passing quickly and it is hard to believe the deployment is over the halfway mark!!

As mentioned in the previous month's "Bugle", NZ NSE 18 is well and truly in the groove of our respective roles. In part, this has been made easier by the make up of our small contingent. Each Service has added their own flavour in an attempt to make things 'tick' along smoothly. I have to admit that the majority of everything we do is 'Green' in nature and as I am Navy, doing things 'Army styles', has sometimes been challenging!!

One of the challenges I had right at the start, even before the start of this deployment, was the terminology used by each Service. Now, as this is a 'Green' deployment, the Navy and Air Force personnel (especially Navy) have learnt a lot of new Army jargon and acronyms. Two small examples of these are 'J' hat and FSMO, which of course is a 'Jungle' hat and Field Service Marching Order - or as Navy have called it, a P.A.C.K. or pack for short!!

Now the same could be said that some Air Force and Army have found it difficult understanding 'Navy-speak'. So, whilst we have been here in Afghanistan, the Navy members of NSE have attempted to teach our Army and Air Force brethren some simple naval terminology. For example, the terms 'scrان' and 'dhobe' are used everyday, scrان is the term for meal, it could be breakfast, lunch or dinner (dependent on the time of day), and dhobe simply means to have a shower/wash. Although these words may not be used by the non-Navy NSE members, they

at least know what we're talking about!

Fortunately, terminology is only a minor challenge. For me, one of the biggest challenges was trying to comprehend how much war Afghanistan has seen in its long history and how it has affected its people. My role here is as the CIS OP or 'resident geek'. This role has allowed me to travel to Kabul every month in support of OP KEA. Every time I visit Kabul I find it difficult to believe, and at the same time, amazed at how the people of this country live - it makes you realise how some simple things in NZ can be taken for granted, for example, drinking clear water from the tap.

During my visits to Kabul, I have been lucky enough, thanks largely to LSCS Tony Mulligan, to travel through the streets of the city, where I have been able to see some places of interest (yes, Kabul

does have some!!). Two places that stuck out for me were the King's and Queen's palaces - these buildings must have been impressive in their day! Again, it is hard to believe that a city that is devastated by war can also show some beauty, which is most evident from the air or higher ground.

Now to a challenge of a different kind

NSE's fitness challenge for the month of July is a combined effort of running 444 miles. You may say that 444 miles is a random number, but there is a reason (it made sense at the time!). This number was chosen in honour of USA's Independence Day - 4 July, and thanks largely to LSA Dom Ngawaka and LCPL Sulia Wright, we are on target in achieving the 444 miles. August's fitness challenge has yet to be determined but I'm sure it will be a doozy!



The King's Palace



The Queen's Palace

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Finally, I would like to close off by thanking all our friends and family for your support. As I have already mentioned, we are over the half-way mark so it won't be long before we are back home.

Keep warm and take care.

Below:
CPOET Jeff Watt overlooking Kabul



Kabul from the air



though, and not a stretch of the 21km track was free from their cheerful smiles. Both the President Jose Ramos Horta and the Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao were obvious in their support and participation in the event, along with the SRSG (UN head in Timor-Leste) and other officials (including the NZ Ambassador). After the run, I also had the privilege to watch Xanana busting a move on the dance floor to the groovy tunes of the US Navy band!

It's not just running and biking though, I've become heavily involved with the local rugby team, and find myself in possession of the cones and ball – I guess this ensures I turn up to practice three times weekly. WO2 Moana also plays for this team, showing his try-scoring skills in a recent 7-a-side Union challenge as well as a league game against the American Navy visiting for the Pacific Partnership Exercise. We are still hoping for a game against the ISF – although the Australian paperwork is complicated! Of course I'm still managing to enjoy my work. We recently had our Level 3 Graduation in Metinaro, with the American and Australian Ambassadors in attendance as well as TMR (the CDF here). Our SNO and a range of other Kiwis also came to show their support. I even managed to watch this event aired on National Television! The graduation was an opportunity for our students to show off their English skills with poems, songs, stories and pictures outlining the activities they've been involved in over the past 12 months at our school in Metinaro. I was so proud of their achievement, and only hope that they continue to use the language they've learnt, pushing themselves forward for the opportunities offered for those with an English competency. Unfortunately, language is a tricky

NEWS FROM OP KORU, TIMOR-LESTE

CONTINUING THE TIMOR EXPERIENCE

Lieutenant Libby Reardon
OP KORU, TG Kaihanga

Less than two months until the Tour de Timor – and I'm beginning to feel afraid. Very afraid. I love getting out on the bike, but the derriere refuses to be subjected to rides exceeding a couple of hours unless entirely necessary! Although – I hear the phrase 'suck it up princess' being whispered in the distance... It's only 500km's after all (but have you seen the mountains here?!).

Timor has revealed even more of her beauty to me in this past period. I partook in the half marathon held last month – finishing with a time of 1hr 47 – being challenged on the last 7km's by a local friend who refused to let me slow or hesitate. This had the advantage of allowing me to overtake other Kiwi Military also competing in this event (I won't name names!). I was impressed with the crowds (5000 people) that turned up to run the '7km Peace Run.' The 7km, however, turned out to be over 13km due to the crowd blocking one of the corners. They were a very supportive crowd

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

topic here in Timor. The official languages are Portuguese and Tetum. Soon, all primary education will be conducted in Portuguese, which makes it complicated for those newly graduating teachers who have spent their university careers learning in Bahasa Indonesia and will now undergo a three month course to learn Portuguese before they can teach! Military training is the same – much of the training is supposed to be conducted in Portuguese, which makes it complicated for us Aussie and Kiwi advisors.

I'm still running the English Maintenance Programme throughout the camps here – now including the Naval camp. I've managed to score three helicopter rides to teach in Baucau, I joke that the Blackhawk is my personal taxi – but they have to do a weekly trip up there anyway, so we've just co-ordinated activities to save my six hour return drive on a Tuesday!! I love my students, and most of them have such an enthusiasm for learning English. Even though we only meet up once a week they are making good progress. Beyond the official uniform work, I've also started volunteering at the local university for evening English Lessons. These guys are from such a range of backgrounds and often teach me more than I feel I'm teaching them! University costs \$US30 a semester, and there are still a lot of young people who never get this opportunity. I'd love to see the government implement a student loan system like we have in NZ...the students think it would be a good idea too. There are still challenges to be overcome here in Timor, but the positive attitude evident within the wider population makes it exciting to be a part of this journey. I just hope that the role I perform here with my F-FDTL students might have a lasting impact toward the development of Timor-Leste.

NEWS FROM GYRO 11, TIMOR-LESTE

Private Elliot Brown, who wrote of his experiences on a Community Engagement Patrol with the Australian Army in the July issue of "The Bugle", writes again this month, as he was given another unique opportunity soon after, to provide support to the Timor-Leste Rally which was held in the mountainous off-road areas of the country.

TIMOR RALLY

Private Elliot Brown
GYRO 11

When I first heard about the Timor-Leste Rally that was going to be held over two days, from the 16th to the 17th July, my first thoughts were about Subaru STI's racing around the mountaintops of Timor-Leste. I was then asked if I would like to help (as I do a lot with performance cars back home) so I said yes! But then I thought more about it, and there is really no such thing in the way of Subaru's over here, and the

roads up in the mountains aren't the best, and everyone drives 4WDs. So that's what it turned out to be. It was going to be a 4WD Rally; a nice drive through the difficult off-roads of Timor-Leste!

The rally was sponsored by TLA (Timor-Leste Airlines) which will be opening up at the end of this year. This was the first time an event like this has taken place in Timor, and it was to promote TLA too. The Rally would start on Saturday the 16th with the first vehicle leaving at 0900 from Dili making their way to Umaboku, through the mountains of Timor-Leste. Each vehicle would leave at different times, and would have to make the check points in a certain time period to get maximum points.

I was part of the advance party, leaving the day before to set up the area where the competitors would stay overnight before the next leg of the rally. The drive there was slow, due to the difficult mountain



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



roads and washouts, although on the bright side there were some amazing views. I quickly learned that where we were going was the wet side of the island, with thick bush and very narrow windy roads. The conditions made the drive there all the more interesting, and with heavy rain and low clouds, it made it very difficult to see, and very muddy and slippery. This was fun and challenged our off road driving skills, as you could only see up to 5 meters in front. Once at our destination, we finally got to stretch our legs and have a breather from the roads. By this time it was getting dark and was starting to rain. So we quickly put up the tent and got the generator going for the lighting and we were "sussed".

That night just as we were heading off to bed we learned that the vehicle that had all the food in it had rolled somewhere. So, three of us jumped into a Toyota 4WD and off we went. By this time it was 2200 hrs. As I was driving back up into the mountains, the fog and rain was worse than before, and as it was at night too, it just added to the complications. After driving back up into the mountains for four hours, and it being nearly 0200 hrs, and not a sign of the rolled vehicle, we had to call it quits and try again later that day, and after a decent rest. The drive back to the night location was a little more easier as we were heading down hill. Once

there, it was around 0530 hrs, and we finally got into bed. Just before the sun started to come up!

That day one of our crew went back out to try and find them. They were around 2kms away from where we turned around. No one was hurt and some of the food was recovered. By 1300 hrs the first competitor showed up with all the others following closely behind. They showed up in their raised 4WD's and big mud wheels and tyres, staunch looking Toyota Hilux's and Land Cruisers, as well as jeeps and little Suzuki's. Once all the cars were in our night location, around 1700 hrs, the party started! Live music, BBQ fire and drinks all round. (Of course we couldn't drink) so I stuck with my V energy drink as I struggled to keep my eyes open. After going to bed and being woken up in the early hours of the next morning, the party was still going at 0500 hrs, these people were keen!, although all the drivers had crashed out.

The next day the weather gave us a break with a bit of sun. So being the car junky I am, I went over and had a chat with one of the locals with an awesome looking stripped out Suzuki, roll caged and all. I got a photo with me inside, then the owner handed me the keys and told me to go for a drive. So I couldn't say no. After asking the land owner and a few others, I showed the people how we do it back in NZ. I ripped some awesome skids and "drifted" around a muddy paddock - the locals were amazed; they had never seen anything of the sort before. Although it was a muddy grass paddock, I was still able to get enough speed to hold a drift all around the paddock. After that the locals wanted to learn. So after showing them, it was their turn. They loved it so much that they want to make it a new thing - some kind of Timor, dirt, skid, drift fest. They were slowly getting the hang

of it, but after having a fun time with the locals it was time to start the second leg of the rally.

We took part in the middle of the rally. It was cool being part of it, and driving around with the locals. Every now and then you would see a truck try and move sideways. I would laugh to myself as they were still trying to get the hang of it. The weather on the way back was good, but the rain that night had destroyed the roads. With 40 vehicles in front of you ripping up the muddy road, it made it even more fun with vehicles getting stuck all day long!

Once I got back to HPOD, I was handed a letter. It was an invitation for a dinner with the President of Timor-Leste, and the people that participated in the rally. So rushing back to freshen up for this dinner, we were soon off again. The dinner was held outside the TLA offices. It was very flash and when I mean flash — something kings would go to! We were all amazed. I can safely say the Aussies and I felt out of place in our DPM uniforms, when everyone else was in suits, etc. The dinner was nice and after that the winners were announced and the prizes were given.

Throughout the night we were all joking, "what if the Press who had been following the rally, made a video and had me drifting on it". Sure enough, I discovered they had made a video, so I hoped I wasn't on it, as it would have most likely gone on TV. But as we were watching the clip, there we go, a little red Suzuki drifting around this big paddock, all the guests at the dinner started to clap.

Once again it was another great time away, out of the wire, being able to see the other side of the island, as compared to my last CEP with the Aussies. And most importantly showing the people of Timor how we roll in NZ!

NEWS FROM OP FARAD, SINAI

NZTAT DRIVING INSTRUCTOR ONE — FEB — AUG 11

Sergeant Brent Clearwater
DI1, NZTAT

New Zealand's presence in the Multinational Forces and Observers (MFO) mission has continued since the Forces inception, in 1982. There are NZ personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force as well as the Force Commander who are currently serving in the MFO mission based in Sinai, Egypt.

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

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

The NZTAT has personnel working in the office and not all of them are Kiwis. The NZTAT is made up from 2 Operations Instructors, Senior Instructor, Training Warrant Officer and 4 Driving Instructors all from the New Zealand contingent. Also Canadian Staff Officer, Australian Training Warrant Officer and a Columbian translator.

Within the Driving Instructor team there is a Senior Driving Instructor (SDI) who holds a WO2 appointment. The role is to oversee all driver training for the MFO and provides technical advice on all driving matters. The other 3 DI's conduct all the training in various types of vehicles and equipment consisting of forklift, buses, trucks, tankers, semi trailer's, Colorado's, vans and two different type of fully armoured vehicles the Toyota Land cruiser and Ford F350.

As DI1 it was my job to plan, prepare and conduct the Unit Driver Trainer (UDT) course as well as licence testing and assist on other courses. The UDT course consists of training soldiers in how to present the licence presentation (that involved all the information in the force road code) and practical lessons on the vehicles including daily maintenance inspection, wheel changing, radio care and operation, start up, shut down procedure and correcting faults or bad driving habits. Once the students qualify from the UDT course they return to their units and prepare their own soldiers for licence testing.

During my tour, the NZTAT driving instructors are conducting licence testing on a weekly basis. Due to the NZCON rotation in May, Sergeant Simone Bourne and I dealt with the USBATT rotation down in South Camp. It was quite a challenge as Simone and I trained and tested over 300 soldiers over this period. Another notable event achievement of mine, was being a part of the NZCON Force Skills Team. I had a great time competing against the other contingents. It was tough going during the competition, however, we had an awesome support crew. Support and encouragement came from the other counties as well, such as Aussie, Canada, US, Fiji and Uruguay. It was a great event and even sweeter as our team were the overall winners.

The highlight of the tour would be the places to visit, like the Pyramids, Dead Sea, Sharm el-Sheikh, Luxor, Jerusalem and Gallipoli. On my adventure to Gallipoli, I had the opportunity to

walk the same ground that the ANZAC's fought on almost 100 years ago. My journey started at Hill 60 where New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade (Canterbury and Otago) along with other Allied Forces had the objective of capturing the highest point. From there we made our way to the coastline to a small New Zealand cemetery called Outpost 2. On arrival we stopped for a short amount of time, looked up to the long winding Sari Bair ridge line that leads up to the top of Chunuk Bair. As we found our way fighting through the rugged terrain we arrived at the bottom of Table Top. The ground from there was so steep that we would have had to crawl approximately 80 metres until reaching the top of this incredible obstacle; fortunately for us there were stairs to climb.



*Rhododendron spur from the summit
of Table Top*

Even with the stairs it was still a challenge and it made you think about the soldiers fighting many years ago – not only how they did this, but doing it with all their equipment, moving under the cover of darkness and under enemy fire. From this point we caught sight of our objective – the summit of Chunuk Bair. The Rhododendron Spur leading to the summit of Chunuk Bair was scatted with a number of ANZAC tunnels and trenches, some untouched since 1915. Finally, after two hours we reached the Chunuk Bair cemetery on the summit, with only 10 known

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



Thumbs up from Sgt Clearwater and a great win of the 2011 Force Skills Competition

graves, but with a wall full with names of unknown graves for the soldiers who lost their lives in the battle that took place.

Overall, I have enjoyed the time I have spent meeting many new friends and being presented many challenging and exciting experiences. If you are fortunate to get on this mission, take every opportunity to travel around, see some sights that some people will never see, learn more about the history of this area and how the New Zealanders have had a part in it for a long time.

LIFE IN THE SINAI

Sergeant Simon Bourne

Sinai – what a place! And being geographically located between both greater Egypt to the West and Israel to the East, as well as the Mediterranean Sea to the North, you can see how maintaining the Peace Treaty is very important for this region. My six months with the (MFO) Multinational Force and Observers is going quickly, with over five months completed.

During my tour to Sinai, as a

member of NZCON as a Driving Instructor DI3, attached to the (NZTAT) New Zealand Training and Advisory Team much has been done. I have instructed on a variety of courses, to enable those who need to drive here do so safely and without fuss. One that comes to mind is the Forklift Course down at South Camp. Sgt Brent Clearwater and I travelled to South Camp for a week of instruction for the local Egyptian workers, fondly known as the (sadiki's) or 'friend' in kiwi speak.

Unbeknown to us, most had driven the fork lifts before but had been taught the Sadiki way. This meant when we wanted them to do something they acted all surprised and wanted to show us the (short cut method). This didn't go down too well with Sergeant Clearwater, so the days dragged on and the temperature kept soaring. Eventually the lads calmed down and they learned the correct way to doing things. All in all, a good first experience working with the Egyptians.

In the Sinai, it wasn't all work as there was time to see the sights and visit the more exciting places in Egypt and Israel like the Dead Sea, the city of Jerusalem, the River Nile, Luxor, Aswan and of course the only remaining Seventh Wonder of the World, the Great Pyramids of Giza to name a few places.

My tour will be remembered mostly for the other nations that make up the MFO and how lucky I was to get to know so many different and colourful people with varying backgrounds. It's this rich source of interaction with other like-minded people that has made this tour for me one to remember.

Lastly, to my Wife Denise and my special girl, Lily Grace Bourne, thank you for your support – couldn't do it without you.

ARMY LEAVE CENTRES

Labour Weekend Ballot 2011

Applications for the Labour weekend Ballot are now being accepted. (In Friday 21 and depart Monday 24 October) - Closing date: 18 August 2011.

Christmas Holiday Ballot 2011

Applications for the Christmas Holiday Ballots are now being accepted.

Week 1: In Friday 16 and depart Friday 23 December 2011

Week 2: In Friday 23 and depart Friday 30 December 2011

Week 3: In Friday 30 and depart Friday 6 January 2012

Week 4: In Friday 06 and depart Friday 13 January 2012

Closing date September 15

Army Leave Centres are located in Mt Maunganui, Rotorua, Taupo, Turangi, Napier, Whanganui, Waikanae, Nelson, Hanmer Springs, Akaroa and Wanaka.

For further information please contact Jeanette Brosnan on 04 5275 823 or email army.leave.centre@nzdf.mil.nz

KIWIS WELCOME NEW COMMANDER OF ISF IN TIMOR-LESTE

NZ Defence Force



New Zealand Task Group GYRO 11 perform the Haka in East Timor during a traditional Powhiri ceremony held to officially welcome the newly appointed Commander of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), Colonel (COL) Luke Foster.

Photo by Corporal Melina Mancuso, 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit, ADF

Newly appointed Commander of the International Stabilisation Force, Colonel Luke Foster, was officially welcomed to East Timor by New Zealand troops in Dili on 11 July.

The official service was conducted at the Kiwi Lines of Forward Operating Base HPOD where Colonel Foster received a Powhiri, the formal ceremony for welcoming visitors and esteemed guests. The Powhiri joins hosts and their guests together under a common

understanding and unites their thoughts to support the occasion of the day.

Since 2006, the Australian and New Zealand military have served together in East Timor as the International Stabilisation Force. At the invitation of the Government of Timor-Leste, the ISF supports local security forces to maintain a safe and secure environment for the people of East Timor.

Colonel Foster thanked the New

Zealand contingent for their warm welcome and also for the opportunity to lead the multinational force, describing the ISF as a true embodiment of the ANZAC tradition.

"The bond between Australia and New Zealand forces was forged in 1915 when we stood side by side in WWI," Colonel Foster said.

"This historical bond between our two nations is as strong today as it was nearly 100 years ago. We now

KIWIS WELCOME NEW COMMANDER OF ISF IN TIMOR-LESTE CONT'D...

serve together to provide stability to the people of East Timor and allow them to move forward.”

Australia and New Zealand continue to work closely with the United Nations and the Government of Timor-Leste, ensuring that the ISF assistance continues to aid the ongoing development of East Timor

Photo: Officer Commanding New Zealand Company, Major (MAJ) Andy Mackenzie-Everitt (left), officially welcomes the newly appointed Commander of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), Colonel (COL) Luke Foster (right).

Photo by Corporal Melina Mancuso, 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit, ADF.



ACRONYMS

Source: 1FORCE, April 2011, Issue #6

It might seem like people in the military speak a different language to civilians. That's because we're known for using 'acronyms', though more often the abbreviations you're hearing aren't actually acronyms but initialisms (the latter being abbreviations made up of initial letters pronounced separately).

So why do we use them? Well, they help us work quickly and process information readily. They are often easier to remember than their full version. While the military is known for using acronyms and initialisms, their use goes back as far as the Roman Republic when Senatus Populusque Romanus was abbreviated to SPQR.

The way the Defence Force uses acronyms is not much different to the way today's teenagers use language in their text messages.

So if someone in the Defence Force asks if you've ever been introduced to DCAF—they aren't talking about the coffee, but the Deputy Chief of the Air Force!

HERE'S SOME OTHER POPULAR ABBREVIATIONS THE NZDF USES:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|--|
| CDF | Chief of Defence Force | MoD | Ministry of Defence | MAJ | Major |
| VCDF | Vice Chief of Defence Force | NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organisation | SQNLDR | Squadron Leader |
| CN | Chief of Navy | | | LT GEN | Lieutenant General |
| CA | Chief of Army | NZDS | New Zealand Defence Staff | PT | Physical Training |
| CAF | Chief of Air Force | EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone | NZPRT | New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team |
| COMJFNZ | Commander of Joint Forces New Zealand | HQNZDF | Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force | AC Dev | Assistant Chief Development |
| TS | Top Secret | IED | Improvised Explosive Device | AC SCI | Assistant Chief Strategic Commitments and Intelligence |
| SAS | Special Air Services | DMZ | Demilitarised Zone | DFO | Defence Force Order |
| SOPs | Standard Operating Procedures | CO | Commanding Officer | | |
| SAR | Search and Rescue | LT | Lieutenant | | |
| | | CPO | Chief Petty Officer | | |

A DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IN BAMYAN



**Squadron Leader Barrack with
Commander Nabi**

Squadron Leader John Barrack

I'm half way through my deployment as the NZDF's Development Officer with the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyan. My tour as the 'S5' has been different to that of my predecessor's for reasons I'll explain, but first I'll share some impressions I've gained in the short time I've been in this economically poor, but culturally and historically rich part of Afghanistan.

I'm a long way from home and at times the separation is very real, despite having connectivity with e-mail, internet and phone. Not being able 'to have and to hold' my wife and be with family and friends is a burden I accept, as I know there are others in the military for whom long separations are routine. Waiting for mail you know has been sent, accentuates the distance, but I don't lack for anything here at Kiwibase.

There's a good atmosphere here and while little frustrations get aired occasionally, we know we're all in it together. I'm surrounded by Army folk, both NZ and American, yet I don't think of them as *Army*, any more than I think of myself as *Air Force*. Even during pre-deployment training I felt part of a team preparing for a mission, and that has continued.

On the ground here in Bamyan the team is bigger than those who trained at Linton. In addition to the military personnel, there are government civilian staff, locally employed staff, and contractors. Everyone is working to make the PRT work.

I initially focused on completing projects left for me by earlier rotations. Now I've started working with Provincial Government staff, helping them manage their own projects and programmes instead of relying on the NZPRT to do this work. It takes longer helping someone do a job you're familiar with, than it does to do it yourself, but this way we leave behind the skills that assist them in the future.

The NZDF funding stream pays for a small portion of NZPRT development work. Most of the expenditure has come from the US Government via the US Army Commanders' Emergency Response Programme (CERP) and the Department of State's US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) also work in partnership with Government funding agencies to maximise the effect that can be delivered with available funds. Civil - military co-operation is evident here in Bamyan from both internal and external viewpoints.

The NZPRT's Development Group comprises half civilian and half military personnel and contracted staff working within the PRT too. Beyond the perimeter wire local government officials and staff, contractors and NGOs all work in an informal partnership that requires co-operation, tact, patience and plenty of goodwill to achieve progress for the people of Bamyan.

I have been more involved in field work than I might have been with previous CRIB rotations, dealing with community leaders in an effort to complete projects initiated by my predecessors.

This has been a rewarding part of the job as I have travelled widely and met interesting people. It's quite sobering to be introduced to "Commander so and so" who you know to have been a field commander and supporter of the Mujahideen and/or Taliban, but who is now generally supportive of the Afghanistan Government, and is working with the PRT to help their villages.

One of my lasting impressions will be of Commander Nabi (pictured), a tall, engaging man with a friendly look and hearty laugh who arrived for a meeting on a 125cc motorcycle, typical transport of individuals and families alike (the most people I've seen on one small motorbike is four). We had a good meeting where I appreciated his candour and sense of humour.

When we finished our meeting, I asked for a photo to which he agreed, and when I took my hat off to avoid shading my eyes he laughed and had no hesitation in whipping his turban off to match me, a most unusual act which amused the bystanders, who always gather at open air meetings.

I've been mindful of the difficult changes going on in the wider NZDF back home, but having to focus on Afghanistan means I'm shielded from the effects for the time being. For now this opportunity to work with fascinating people in an intriguing part of the world keeps me fully occupied.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

THE SOLLY SHUFFLE

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

One thing I've noticed about newcomers to the Solomon Islands is their walking speed. New arrivals from Western countries in particular tend to walk fast – as if they were walking in a busy Christchurch street, or a street in Sydney. In contrast are the locals and the foreigners who have been here for sometime – who walk at a much more leisurely pace and in the easy manner which I call, "The Solly shuffle".

It's quite humorous to observe some soldiers or police personnel (when they are not training of course) – who have adopted the Solly Shuffle without even knowing it. I sometimes find myself walking the Solly shuffle. You have to laugh when you see groups of uniformed

personnel walking the Solly shuffle. They are reminiscent of those old prisoner of war movies where time-wearied detainees in uniform shuffled around the POW camps waiting for the war to end.

The gradual transition from Christchurch or Sydney-speed to Solly Shuffle reflects the change in mindset we have had to make from the Western, time-driven society to 'Solomon Time' - which seems to be based on the speed of the sun! And of course it's always so hot here – over 30 degrees most days – so it makes sense to walk more slowly.

It's been great working as a Chaplain over here with the OP RATA II (14) contingent under the command of Major Al Mitchell. We have had the privilege of experiencing the cultures and the friendship of countries committed to the RAMSI mission. I'm sure there's been a lot of "cross-pollination" in the training area as

our platoon has worked with participating armies and police personnel. We have learned a lot about the Solomon Islands and its past strategic importance.

We have met a lot of interesting and memorable people. Hopefully-through this experience - we will be better prepared to serve on other NZDF missions throughout the world.

By the time you read this article we will be home with you trying to reverse and re-adjust from the mindset behind the Solly shuffle back to the speed of our lives in Christchurch, or Auckland, or Rotorua – back to the pace of New Zealand life.

As I write this final article from the Solomon Islands, I'm thinking, (as we all are): 'It will be good to be back home!'

Blessings.



NZ Contingent OP RATA II (14)

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

Padre Katene Eruera GYRO 11

Just prior to our deployment to Timor Leste, the Marist Junior Football Club in Palmerston North asked us to take a number of soccer jerseys to give to young Timorese players. So recently a community event just outside our Base, and a patrol to the south of the country, allowed us opportunities to partially fulfil Marist's wishes (partially because there is a heck of a lot of jerseys to give away!). The community event actually had its origins with the previous GYRO 10's wish for us to complete a set of goalposts they had started making to allow local children to play soccer (or should I say futebol or football). Our CSST completed the goalposts, and GYRO 11 thought it might be a good idea to celebrate it with a game against the locals. The soccer field has an interesting history. It used to be part of an airfield the Japanese used in World War II to bomb Darwin, but it is a patch of gravelly dirt now. We would not allow our children to play on that kind of field for safety's sake, but when in Rome (or in this case Dili) we do as the Romans do ... so one Sunday afternoon, along with our Australian Army mates, GYRO competed against the local community's soccer stars, (I will ask one of the players to report on the games themselves in the next issue of "The Bugle"). Members of the CSST presented the goalposts and we can happily report to our GYRO 10 predecessors, and to you, that the good work they began has been finished.

We also took the opportunity on a recent patrol to distribute soccer jerseys to children at local villages on our route. I am constantly amazed at how children can appear out of no-where in such a quick time. In New Zealand we get the

news out by text, or Facebook etc. Here I think it's a quick shout and away! As far as I can tell there is very little organised soccer in Timor Leste; clubs are few and far between, but it is a national obsession. I had control of the TV remote one afternoon in the recreation area of our Joint Headquarters (very briefly but it was a small victory) while I was waiting for a friend to finish a meeting. I received a warm smile from a couple of Timorese employees on their coffee break because I switched channels to a sports channel playing a club game in France. They sat there transfixed.

Much is made about how barriers between cultures can be broken down through sport. Most New Zealanders would think of Rugby as that sport, but when in Timor, it is soccer. Timor used to be a Portugese colony, so it is understandable why soccer is so infused within Timorese culture. We spoke a bit – What is your favourite team? Who is your favourite player? What do you think of this game? I told them I supported Barcelona – more smiles.

Empowering a people, at least in the small part GYRO makes to that whole effort, seems to me like a conversation about soccer – a willingness on our part to listen to a voice that wants to be heard, that wants to offer an opinion to the conversations and ideas for its context. What are the important issues for Timor? The rebuilding of infrastructure, health-care, education for a largely young population, economic development.....people have an opinion and genuine concern about these issues. So, in our good works, it is wonderful that GYRO is able to rely on the generosity of Kiwis willing to donate their time and possessions for the use of others – not only for their generosity, but also because it is a pathway for us to form friendships. Beyond this it is a pathway to much greater conversations, of listening to a voice that seeks to be heard, to be empowered. That is our job, and if at the end of the day we are able to withdraw from Timor having listened respectfully, and having helped in some way to supporting that voice, we will have done a great thing here.



Kiwis / Aussies / Timorese players 'posing' after a futebol game outside Kiwi Lines

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



Staff Sergeant Josh Hill hands out donated Marist futebol jerseys to Timorese children before a local community soccer game



LCPL 'Stumps' MacLachlan hands out Marist futebol jerseys to local village children whilst on patrol and enroute to Suai

DSO'S CORNER



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

As I write my "Bugle" contribution for this issue, I am reminded of the power of nature – yet again! As you will all know, we have had a heavy fall of snow in our region over the past couple of days and while it has left a picture postcard scene, it has caused more worry and things to contend with for our already troubled city. I have been out shovelling snow off my decks to reduce the weight on an already fragile structure, but abandoned any attempts to try and dig myself and my car out, to escape from the hills! Staying warm and dry is a priority and I have my work phone on divert to my cell and the computer up and running. So I think I can safely make home my work place until we get the big thaw!

In my few trips outdoors I have heard the happy laughter and chatter of neighbourhood children playing in the snow, and can in the distance, see some wonderful creations of snowmen and the occasional sledge or ski boarder whiz by. How nice it is to think that they have found some happiness and joy in all of this and some school holiday excitement too. It made me think of the recent announcement of the list of the

"Happiest Countries in the World". Not sure if you have seen it. Of course it has created much debate! In a study co-ordinated by the University of Leicester, participants were asked questions related to their happiness and satisfaction with life. The findings were based on 100 worldwide studies questioning some 80,000 people. Their responses included key issues in relation to health, wealth and access to education.

So officially, if you believe the credibility of the study, the happiest three nations in the world are Denmark, Switzerland and Austria. New Zealand came in at number 18. Notable countries that failed to make the top 20 were USA (23), France (62), China (82) and Japan (90).

The 20 most happy countries in the world are:

1. Denmark
2. Switzerland
3. Austria
4. Iceland
5. The Bahamas
6. Finland
7. Sweden
8. Bhutan
9. Brunei
10. Canada
11. Ireland
12. Luxembourg
13. Costa Rica
14. Malta
15. The Netherlands
16. Antigua and Barbuda
17. Malaysia
18. New Zealand
19. Norway
20. The Seychelles

The least happiest were given as Democratic Republic of the Congo (176), Zimbabwe (177) and Burundi (178). If you tried to find a definition for "happiness" I am sure you would find hundreds, all with a different spin and meaning. This in itself can make the study results somewhat "a bit suspect" to me.

I have this quote which says, *"Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from our own actions"...* Dalai Lama. This interpretation tells us that happiness is something that we need to work on. Easier said than done!! While it would be absolutely unrealistic to think we should be able to walk around with a fixed grin, there are ways that we can help ourselves and those around us. Deployments and separations are a huge challenge and there are times when, I am sure you feel, there is nothing much to smile about!

That is where we can help – Deployment Support Services are here to lessen the burden, lighten the load and to bring some peace of mind. If the going gets tough (and it does for many) Janine and I are only a phone call away.

While we may not be able to solve all your problems, we know how to listen, to navigate the system, to put you in touch with resources and supports in your local area and to put a little happiness into your day! Our phone lines operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Reaching out can sometimes be hard to do, but we all need a little help along the way and we are always happy to talk with you.

Until next time take extra care of yourself and I hope today, brings you something to smile at, or about!

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D



Janine Burton

Deployment Services Officer
2nd Land Force Group

Usually I have an idea when "Bugle writing time" comes around about what I want to say and generally have my column written well before deadline date. For the past week I have been stumped about what theme I want to take; when yesterday as I was rushing about it dawned on me not only how fast the week was disappearing, but the month (who stole July?!) and the year (Christmas is not that far away). I even said to my son last night about him being back at school already next week and he scowled at me!

Now this may not be the same experience for those of you who have someone away on deployment when there are days and weeks that seem to drag, but with RATA due home (should be home by the time you are reading this), CRIB not too much further away, and GYRO home before Christmas, time for the DSOs passes very quickly as we move from one mission to the next.

Why does time move so quickly? Even for the kids, time seems to pass by at a great rate of knots. I always have the impression from when I was at school, more than a few years ago now I must admit,

that the school terms moved so slowly, that Christmas took so long to get here and the holidays even seemed to be a lot longer than they are today. I appreciate that the schooling system having four terms now is probably a part of that, but mostly I think we have so much more scheduled into our lives these days that we just move from one activity to another and fit work into the bits in between!

It was fortuitous to receive overnight, the article from Padre, RATA, where he is talking about the Solly shuffle. I could do that! For a while, I would certainly enjoy the slower pace of life – throw away the diary and wall planners; discard the cellphones that so few of us seem to be able to do without these days and just shuffle. My kind of paradise – for a while!

I hope that wherever you are in your deployment, that time has been your friend.

"The Bugle" for RATA Families

This issue of "The Bugle" contains some great contributions from the team in the Solomon Islands. We know that by the time this edition of "The Bugle" reaches you, many will be reunited with loved ones, however, we wanted you to receive this copy, marking for many the end of a very successful deployment. There are a number of service personnel who will remain in the Solomon Islands for a few more months. "The Bugle" will continue to find its way to you until their return. We look forward to your continued messages and thank you for your ongoing support.

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:

Trevor Stone

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

INTRODUCING TREVOR STONE



Kia Ora from Trevor Stone the new lad on the block and Air Force Welfare Facilitator for Wellington Air Staff

I have been looking back over previous issues of “The Bugle” and note that there have been some interesting articles on the effects of deployment on families and deployed personnel and ways in which you might cope with these.

For most of my working life, I have worked as a social worker with families and children in various states of crisis and some experiences that I hope most of you will not encounter with your families. I guess we all take a lot for granted and it is some of these areas that we eventually discover as the most precious to us, when times are rough or challenging, and the separation as a result of a deployment is definitely one of those.

I have only been working for Air Staff for about a month, and I am hopefully on a rapid learning curve so that I can be of some useful support for Air Force personnel and their families. However, it is from my background that I have obtained most of my knowledge both professional and personal.

I have watched, as a civilian, with much interest and concern over the years as Defence personnel have been deployed in some very difficult situations. As a child I grew up on Air Force bases and was aware of personnel deployed to Vietnam and also to other overseas postings and the effects this had on the children (my mates) left behind.

Children may not always appear to be greatly affected by the departure of one of their parents as they have been told that their parent will be back home at a particular date. However, changes do occur because the things taken for ‘granted’ suddenly aren’t there anymore. Children are inquisitive by nature and if they can’t get the answers from within their immediate family they will look outside for understanding. By this, I mean that they will chat to their friends or extended whanau as they try to work things out. Along this journey they will discover who they feel that they can trust and who ‘makes sense to them’. At the end of the day it all comes down to communication and the relationship you have with your children. It is really important that your children feel that they can come to you and openly discuss their feelings and receive a similar feedback from you and you can then feel confident that you as parents are their first choice of clarifying issues.

So, a plea from one small boy whose Dad left home saying only that “it was his job and he was going and would be back a few months later”! I hope as parents and a society we have developed a lot more and that all deployed parents don’t take things for granted and do make sure you have a chance to talk individually and collectively as a family about any concerns that your children and partner may have. It’s not always easy to maintain open communication with your family, especially when children are being difficult, but it can be amazing when you persevere and discover just what is going on in their minds and how much better a parent you will be in both their eyes and your own self belief of your parenting, as you are often able to resolve their issues which have become ‘mountains’ for them.

And of course if you are having any difficulties with communication there are always Army Deployment Services Officers, Army Community Services Officers, Naval Social Workers, RNZAF Welfare Facilitators, Psychologists and Padres to assist.

Oh, and the small boy eventually grew up to become an Air Force Welfare Facilitator and over the years gave his Dad a hard time about how he always took things for granted and never communicated with us (children), but it was still great to have him back home safely.

EMBRACING CHANGE



Claudia Baker
Welfare Facilitator,
RNZAF Base Woodbourne



It is unavoidable, CHANGE is all around us: changes in the Organisation we are working for, changes to family life when a baby is born or a loved one dies, and, of course, a partner/ spouse / parent going on deployment – it impacts everyone involved. Change is difficult, even the change that will have a positive impact in our lives. For any change of habit to have a chance to take root, we must have a plan of action. Jumping into change for emotional reasons is not likely to produce a lasting effect. An effective plan must be rational to succeed.

In order to get through the pain of dealing with change, it is important to become comfortable with being uncomfortable. Some change you might be going through may in fact be for the better, even if you can't see it right now, and in the deployment situation, do believe, that the change will not always be as difficult as it is at the beginning, that you will settle into a new routine, and that there is an end to it.

The Welfare Facilitators and Deployment Services Officers on the Bases and Camps are all keen and prepared to help those struggling through changes. Not only do we have the time to listen, but we also have contacts with agencies and people you may need to give you a hand. For those on deployment overseas the Chaplains are, of course, always available. You are not alone - never hesitate to seek help!

A reading I'd like to leave you with to ponder on:

Attitude

The longer I live the more I realise the impact of attitude on my life.

It's more important than the past, education, money, circumstances, failures, success, what other people think or say.

It's more important than appearances, possessions and status.

The remarkable thing is, we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We can't change the past, can't change the fact that people will act certain ways, say certain things.

We can't change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that's our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

We can change our attitude, be it positive or negative.

We have the choice for the day. **We** have control of our attitude!

Make the most of your day today!

GREAT DREAM

Ten Keys to Happier Living

Source: www.actionforhappiness

Action for Happiness has developed the 10 keys to Happier Living based on a review of the latest scientific research relating to happiness.

Everyone's path to happiness is different, but the research suggests these ten things consistently tend to have a positive impact on people's overall happiness and well-being.

The first five relate to how we interact with the **outside** world in our daily activities. The second five come more from **inside** us and depend on our attitude to life.

GIVING



Do things for others

RELATING



Connect with people

EXERCISING



Take care of your body

APPRECIATING



Notice the world around

TRYING OUT



Keep learning new things

DIRECTION



Have goals to look forward to

RESILIENCE



Find ways to bounce back

EMOTION



Take a positive approach

ACCEPTANCE



Be comfortable with who you are

MEANING



Be part of something bigger

Ten Keys to Happier Living

The 10 Keys are explained in more detail below. Each key has a related question to help us think about how it applies in our own lives.

GIVING

Do things for others



Helping others is not only good for them and a good thing to do, it also makes us happier and healthier too. Giving also connects us to others, creating stronger communities and helping to build a happier society for everyone. And it's not all about money—we can also give our time, ideas and energy. So if you want to feel good, do good!

Q: What do you do to help others?

RELATING

Connect with people



People with strong and broad social relationships are happier, healthier and live longer. Close relationships with family and friends provide love, meaning, support and increase our feelings of self worth. Broader networks bring a sense of belonging. So taking action to strengthen our relationships and build connections is essential for happiness.

Q: Who matters most to you?

EXERCISING

Take care of your body



Our body and our mind are connected. Being active makes us happier as well as being good for our physical health. It instantly improves our mood and can even lift us out of a depression. We don't all need to run marathons—there are simple things we can all do to be more active each day. We can also boost our well-being by unplugging from technology, getting outside and making sure we get enough sleep!

Q: How do you stay active and healthy?

APPRECIATING

Notice the world around



Ever felt there must be more to life? Well good news, there is! And it's right here in front of us. We just need to stop and take notice. Learning to be more mindful and aware can do wonders for our well-being in all areas of life—like our walk to work, the way we eat or our relationships. It helps us get in tune with our feelings and stops us dwelling on the past or worrying about the future—so we get more out of the day-to-day.

Q: When do you stop and take notice?

TRYING OUT

Keep learning new things



Learning affects our well-being in lots of positive ways. It exposes us to new ideas and helps us stay curious and engaged. It also gives us a sense of accomplishment and helps boost our self-confidence and resilience. There are many ways to learn new things—not just through formal qualifications. We can share a skill with friends, join a club, learn to sing, play a new sport and so much more.

Q: What new things have you tried recently?

DIRECTION

Have goals to look forward to



Feeling good about the future is important for our happiness. We all need goals to motivate us and these need to be challenging enough to excite us, but also achievable. If we try to attempt the impossible this brings unnecessary stress. Choosing ambitious but realistic goals give our lives direction and brings a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction when we achieve them.

Q: What are your most important goals?

RESILIENCE

Find ways to bounce back



All of us have times of stress, loss, failure or trauma in our lives. But how we respond to these has a big impact on our well-being. We often cannot choose what happens to us, but in principle we can choose our own attitude to what happens. In practice it's not always easy, but one of the most exciting findings from recent research is that resilience, like many other life skills, can be learned.

Q: How do you bounce back in tough times?

EMOTION

Take a positive approach



Positive emotions—like joy, gratitude, contentment, inspiration, and pride—are not just great at the time. Recent research shows that regularly experiencing them creates an 'upward spiral', helping to build our resources. So although we need to be realistic about life's ups and downs, it helps to focus on the good aspects of any situation—the glass half full rather than the glass half empty.

Q: What are you feeling good about?

ACCEPTANCE

Be comfortable with who you are



No-one's perfect. But so often we compare our insides to other people's outsides. Dwelling on our flaws—what we're not rather than what we've got—makes it much harder to be happy. Learning to accept ourselves, warts and all, and being kinder to ourselves when things go wrong, increases our enjoyment of life, our resilience and our well-being. It also helps us accept others as they are.

Q: What is the real you like?

MEANING

Be part of something bigger



People who have meaning and purpose in their lives are happier, feel more in control and get more out of what they do. They also experience less stress, anxiety and depression. But where do we find 'meaning and purpose'? It might be our religious faith, being a parent or doing a job that makes a difference. The answers vary for each of us but they all involve being connected to something bigger than ourselves.

Q: What gives your life meaning?



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 18 August at 4.00pm**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

Hey MSI - or whatever you're called these days!

I realise that there are loads of changes ahead for our Corps (and our Army), but I hope that you're all remaining cheerful regardless. Looking forward to working with you all again next year under a new and improved structure. Albert Einstein says: 'No problem can be solved by the same consciousness that created it. We need to see the world anew.' Perhaps this is the intention for us? Later, Libby.

Dear Taff

Thank you for the awesome break in Brisbane, I enjoyed every moment of it. I am a very lucky girl to have you, and now to be your fiancé. Love you so much and not too much longer till I come home to you all. You are doing so well at home and I am so proud of you. Love me xxxxxxxx.

Dear Jordan and Tamara

I hope you enjoyed your school holidays Jordan and had a good break with Nana and Grandad. You are being such a good boy, keep it up! Tamara is learning to say so many new words, what a little chatter box. It is not too much longer and till we can have big hugs and kisses. Miss you and love you both. Mum. xxxxxx.

To Robby Rob

I'll miss your late night texts; I don't know how I'll sleep without them. Love - You know who?

To the Cat and Little Madame

By the time you read this I will be reading it with you. Big move ahead and another adventure. Me.

TK Boys

Hi guys! It sounds like you had a good holiday up North and learnt some new games. I miss you all heaps and will be seeing you soon, God Bless you my boys.

MULU Girl

Kia ora ra e hine kei te hari koa mau, e pa ana tau mahi I te wa e haere ana au ki taua wahi. Ka nui hoki oku aroha mau me nga whakawhetai mau mai I te Ariki, a, ka hoki matou a te wa e tu mai nei, no reira nga manaakitanga, te rangmarie o te Atua I runga I a koe me a taua tama.

To Jackie and Pearly Gates

Can't wait, not long now, Ohakea airport real soon. Here come the SHOW STOPPERS the MONEY MAKERS LOL. LOVE YOU xxxxxxxx. YOU KNOW!

Gordon Burt

Hello! I hope you are keeping warm and busy over winter. Hopefully the house goes soon, just a waiting game! I will keep an eye out for hats for you. Love you.

Dear Huktamis Fine

Hope you're enjoying your tour so far, don't worry your lawns are well trimmed. Your Ute is having some problems starting in the mornings, might need a good lube. Keep up the good work over there, looking forward to conducting a detailed handover when you get back. From Ken.

Hey Mum and Dad

Just about half way now, time to head on leave and rage up a storm! (Don't worry, i'll be good he he). Hope you actually manage to see this message this time. Oh, and if Trine sees this at some point, Hi.

Missing you all, love Me xx.

To my Spunky Monkey

By the time you read this message we should be ½ way thru the tour! Not too long to go until our catch up in Darwin – it's just around the corner. I know you are doing an awesome job back home as well as balancing your work with full time flying commitments. Hope you are starting to charge for your autograph!! Keep the red and chocolate liquorice treats coming!! In return another coffee care package will be winging its way to you shortly. Love and miss you so much, thinking of you always! Hugs to the boys!! Genevieve xox.

Hi Honey

You've done a wonderful job juggling everything whilst I'm away. You're awesome. Hello Mariah and Kobi. Keep up the good work at school Mariah. Kobi, Santa told mummy you were a good girl for Daddy. Well done. I miss and love you all. Mum xxx.

Hey Rod

How's that bracelet going mate. Not long to go ay, best you be a good boy then. Your brother.

To my little Monkeys Abby, Jack, Alex and Tim

Hope you are being good for your mum. Daddy misses you and loves you lots and lots.

Dear Teddy Bear

Missing you heaps and heaps. Much love. xx AJ.

Sooky Bubba

Halfway now babe. Thinking of you always. Love from the bottom of my heart. xxxoxxxx The King. lol.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Liam and Bailey

Hey my babies, Mum told me u'z were playing in the snow, was it cool? Dad miss u'z, Dad be home soon. Love you, Monkey's Dad (Gabe).

Muni

Hey Babe, the photos look mean, almost halfway. Won't be long can't wait to come home. Love you Huni. Gabe.

Dear "Hawk"

You are the man and also buff as hell. Stay safe.

To my Sunshine

Happy Anniversary! Know it hasn't been the longest time but the time we have spent together has been the brightest in my life. Whether in person or over the phone, you are my best friend and I love you with all my heart. AGL.

Dear my lovely sexy TODD

Still missing you heaps and you still haven't written so just want you to know that you are forever in my heart. Much love, Nick xoxoxxo.

Hi Bebz

Miss you heapz, not long now. Love you long tym my Smexi. Xox. Love from your Bebz.

Dear my True Love SLIP

I miss you not being in my bed at nights, they are cold without you, as cold as my heart when you are not around. I love you and always will until the end of time. You're the air in my lungs; without you I could not be. We make a great couple together. No one can say no to that. Much great lovely love your true love James. kiss kiss hug hug.

Hey Mum

All is well over here. Look forward to getting home. Could you please tell Gong that I'm actually favourite son so stop trying, it's getting embarrassing. Tell P Nut to stop

wasting Neil's money on wine and buy her kids some shoes! And tell Muppy to do some bum squats! Your favourite son, P.S: Hi Dad.

Hi Hon

Albert did well on patrol. I hope the weather improves and isn't too cold still? Halfway there, and I'll be back in NZ soon. I miss you heaps and can't wait to catch up soon with you and all your news. Lots of love, K.

Hi Mum

I'm glad you're spending time with the girls and they're able to keep an eye on you. It won't be too long before I'm back home, and looking for a kai in your fridge. Take care, love you heaps. Karts.

Hi Guys:

It's still hot here. Thanks for the birthday box of goodies. I'm sharing them out! I hope you guys are well, and I'll see you when I get home. Arohanui, Karts.

Hi Boys

I hope you like the movies. Behave yourselves, and don't play too much PS3. I'll see you when I get home Ok! Love, Uncle Karts.

Top 5 reasons why Hemara is a good friend in town by Lewy

5. He doesn't embarrass you with his dance moves.

4. When we have drunk 100m sprints he throws them to make u feel better (Well I hope)

3. He says he'll shout the cab back home but tries to pay in fried rice. Endstate: u end up paying.

2. He's not messy when he gets drunk.

1. U shout him all night and he will always offer you sweet & sour wontons at the end of the night....

And if he denies any of this, he's lying ...

From Home

For Michael

Stefan and I wish you a very Happy Birthday! Remember you are always in my thoughts. Looking forward to seeing you home again safe and sound! Take care, miss you and love you, Dad.

To my World

Good to hear from you last night! Not long to go now, less than two months and you're on that plane home! Very exciting! Then we can head off on our holiday to Raro! Your Shyshy misses you so much! She can't wait for her dad to come home. I get teased about the "shrine" I have of you at home and when I take your picture with me everywhere. Anyway babe, I know you're working hard over there (ha ha ha ha). We are so proud of you and remember Size R!! Ha ha. Hope you get my package soon. P.S: HAPPY ANNIVERSARY 25 Jul 11.

S-B!

Miss you sooky!! Can't wait to see you! I'll be counting down soon enough. Brooke says hello Uncle lylan, xx. Love you lots baby; it's not the same without you here. Xo. Love your hormonal gf xo.

Hey Babe, Hey Felco

Hope you're well? Me and the nogs are good though wee sooky boy has to wear his coat all the time because it's cold. Whole place is covered in snow at the moment so pretty much the opposite to you. Miss you and love you squillions. Stuffs on the way. xoxoxox Cat.

Hi Tony

Felco doesn't exist. Love Jere.

Tony

How's it all going? Missing you, not long to go now! Looking forward to your return home! It's snowing

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

today, YAY! We are going to go and make a snowman ha ha. Looking forward to the Roger Waters concert in Feb with you, going to be a blast!! Sending you a parcel tomorrow, sorry it has taken so long, so slack. Love you heaps, stay safe, lots of Love Ben and Kimmy xxxxxxxxxxxx.

Dearest Tolly

Not long to go and you will soon be on the plane home. Don't forget to bring some of that sun home with you, its cold over here!!! Jasmine and Mum are enjoying their holiday at Taupo, would be great if you were here, but not so. Even had a light dusting of snow on the hills around us, although none on the ground outside, so no photo opportunity for Jasmine. Jasmine is so talkative or should I say, very loud. Very strong on her legs and quite speedy. She knows how to run away from Mum, when she calls her, although she thinks it's a game. Maybe a little runner in the making there. You will definitely notice how much she has changed since you last saw her. Looking forward to our visit to Wellington at the end of the week and Lou's 21st. Heard that there's also going to be a hangi as well, what a pity you will miss it. Can't wait for our holiday together in Tauranga, when you get back and our move to Wellington. Lots of love, Jen, Jasmine and Kimmy.

Hi Dadlii

Ohh guess what, Mum kept her promise and finally took me to see snow!!! It was freezing cold but I had so much fun throwing snowballs at everyone. I made a snowman too it was huge, way bigger than me, mum and aunty had to help me lift his head on, it was real heavy. We put some photos up on face book for you to have a look at, there's some cool ones of me and lizzin. I love you dad hurry up and come home I miss your cuddles. Love Bailey.

Munkee Dad

Hey dad Bailey already told you about the snow, it was mean! I'm going to the Circus with Kyle and his mum and dad this afternoon. I can't wait. These school holidays have been cool I've been staying at Jo and Lees for the last two nights. It's so much fun! We made yoghurt ice blocks, and been playing on Kyles Ipod, If I'm good for mum can you get me one for Christmas? She said I had to ask you. We gave the kittens to the SPCA. One of them was really sick so they're living there until they get better then another family will look after them. They're really cuddly. I can't wait to see you again. Love you heaps. Love Liam.

Hey Muny

Well the kids have much to fill you in on so our next skype session will be real interesting. Drove out to Tiniroto to have a jack at the snow. Lee and Jo took their boys up too so it was a pretty fun drive for us The kids thought it was the coolest thing ever. A few tears when their hands got numb but they survived lol. Had to take your beloved into get cleaned. Kinda got her stuck in the mud (opps!) haha na not as bad as you think it was honest! We've bought your Christmas present. It's awesome! I'm guna have so much fun with it, lol Everyone back here sends their love to you, I hope the days are passing by super fast, can't wait for your cuddles. Love you millions babe, stay safe luv munii xxx.

Hey Bro (Tuhi)

What you up too? Attach your car got stuck in the MUDD ao!!! Ha ha ha ha ha ha. Well, it wasn't me Korina was driving LMBO! She made me get out and push, lol. It's aljud nice and clean now. Chur, see you when you get back be safe dogshirt (wink) XOXO BigSister!!!

Hey Boy (Tuhi)

Hope your being safe and working hard. Love Mum.

My Favourite Uncle Michael

Guess what? I got a certificate from school for trying hard at my work. It's the school holidays now – yeah – going to Kaitia 2moro to see Nanny Rogers – I will give her a kiss from you. Alesha says hello and so does daddy and Nane and Poppa T. Thanks for the lollies. Love u – Maddison Ross.

Hi Karyn, Sheree & Casey

Take care girls and stay safe. You're doing a good job. Hi to Jeff too. I'm praying for all of you. God bless you and all your friends. Psalm 91. Karyn's Mum.

Super Mario

Been thinking of you and missing you. Got the lawns mowed for the last time until Winter is over. Garden looks tidy, Roses pruned. You would be proud of my efforts. Looking forward to your homecoming. Trying not to countdown in case the date changes. Love you. Rosa. Xxxx.

Jed

Cousins enjoying the great snowfall here. Been up the mountain. Perfect conditions. Had great time but missed your company. Lucky you though—3 Summers in a row. No lilley white legs on your return. Keep safe. Uncle T.

Benji

Got myself a big screen TV. Loving it. Have sole charge of the remote and sound system. Should have the system mastered by the time you get home. Just remember—it's mine! Catch you soon. Madamé.

Boy

Love you. Miss you. Think of you always. Take care. Love you. The Girl. Xxxxx.

Tour Update Briefs

As discussed at the pre-deployment brief, an update family brief for those associated with the current CRIB deployment to Afghanistan is planned. This is an opportunity for family members to gain a further insight into the day-to-day lives of deployed loved ones and to receive valuable tips on reunions and readjusting to family life post-deployment. We also hope to have a DVD from the contingent to share with you.

These informal briefings are open to Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), extended family members and friends. Children are most welcome.

Light refreshments will be served at the commencement of the evening briefings and at the conclusion of the afternoon briefings.

BURNHAM

Burnham Conference Centre, Friday 5 August, 6:30pm

AUCKLAND

204 Great North Road, Grey Lynn, Saturday 6 August, 1:00pm

LINTON

Linton Conference Centre, Sunday 7 August, 1:00pm

TRENTHAM

Messines Conference Centre, Monday 8 August, 6.30pm

For more information, please contact Janine (DSO Linton), ph: 0800 683 77 327.

Families Morning Tea

TRENTHAM

Trentham Officers Mess, Tuesday 9 August, 9 30am.

Is Your partner deployed, soon to be, or recently returned to New Zealand? Annette Nickalls, founder of Addzest, Life Coach and Motivational speaker, will introduce 3 simple steps to help you balance your life and relax. Childcare available. Enquiries to Marie Lotz, Community Services Officer, Trentham Camp. Phone 04 527 5029.

NAVAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATION KIDS CAMP

AUCKLAND

Naval Community Organisation Kids Camp for 9 –14 year olds. Mototapu Island 10 – 14 October 2011.

Dependants of Naval and Civilian Personnel are eligible to attend. Register your details and interest with NCO staff on 09 445 5915 or 0800 NAVY HELP by Thursday 18 August 2011.