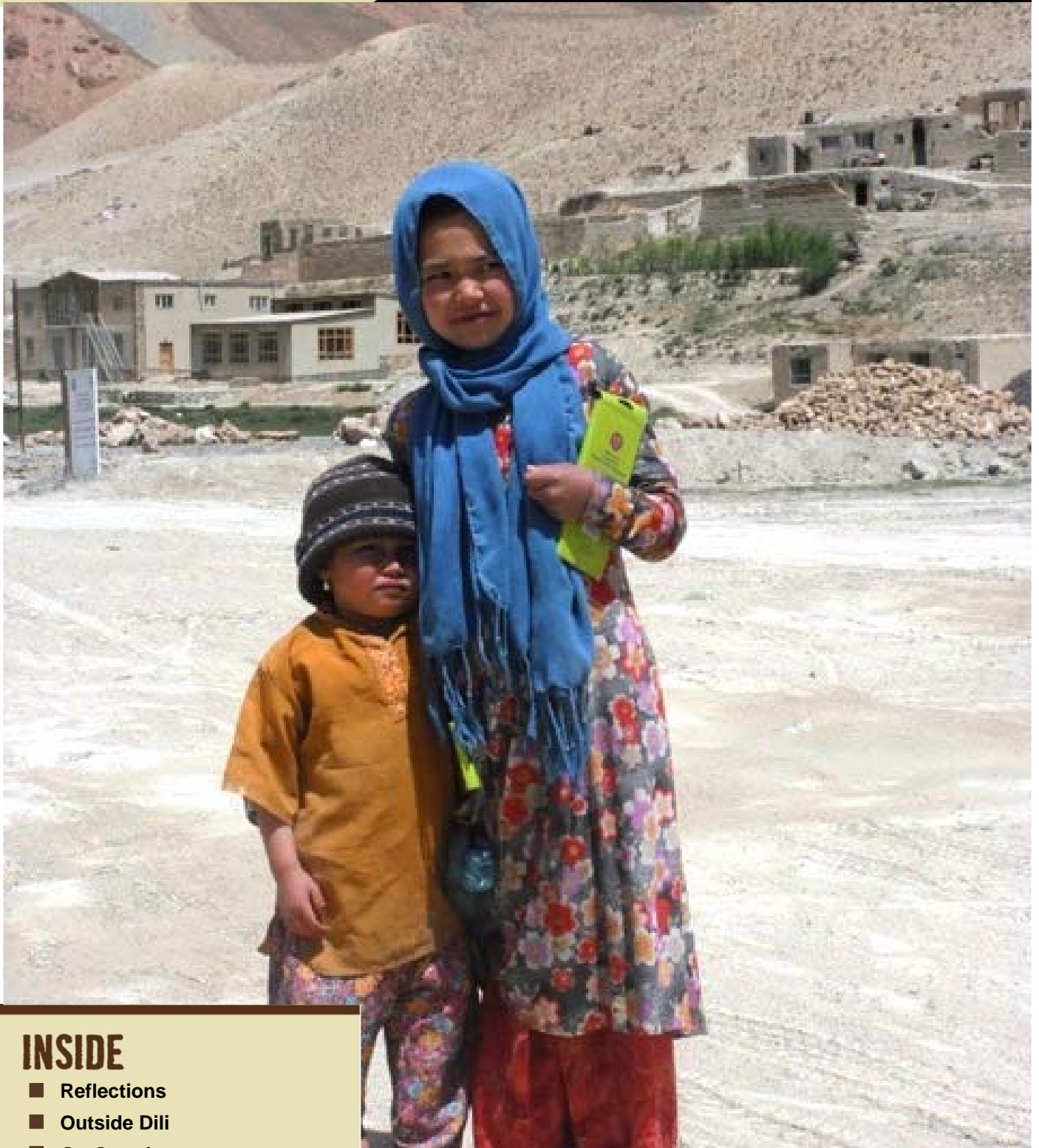


THE BUGLE

Issue 157 | August 2011



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COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMRADESHIP | INTEGRITY

"THE BUGLE"

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

Deadline

The deadline for Edition 158 is
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Bugle contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor.

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Disclaimer

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

Cover Photo:

Children at Band e Amir
*Photo taken by Captain A. Campbell
who is serving in Bamiyan*

GUEST EDITORIAL

For most this is not just a job



Major General Dave Gawn, MBE
Commander
Joint Forces New Zealand

I write this as a soldier thinking about what it is that I can say and what assurances I can give to loved ones left behind, that will help alleviate the fears and apprehension we all have whenever the services deploy to theatres on the other side of the world – and I come to the realisation on the eve of Corporal Duggie Grant's death in Afghanistan – that there isn't a lot I can say.

As a soldier, sailor, airman or woman we accept that this job for which we have an absolute passion for, has a degree of risk. It is one of the attractors that make what we do so special, and our eyes are open to it. Casualties are part of the reality of conflict. We acknowledge that no matter how good our training and no matter how good our equipment, there is always the potential to be injured or killed. Sometimes it's because our luck runs out; sometimes it is because the enemy is wily, determined; good at what he does and prepared to die for his cause.

I believe we have the right equipment, the right training and that our leaders are world-class. The conduct of the missions that we undertake sets the benchmark for other nations to aspire to... but that doesn't eliminate the risk. So I cannot assuage the fear and apprehension that anyone who has loved a soldier carries with them while their loved one is deployed. That is the burden and sacrifice of every parent, family, or partner so that their soldier, sailor or airman or woman, can follow their passion.

It has been a year since Tim O'Donnell was killed in an ambush, and six months since Kirifi Mila died in a vehicle accident...and now I have a son about to enlist...

NEWS UPDATE



MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD IN BAMYAN PROVINCE



The plaques for Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell and Private Kirifi Mila on the Kiwi Base Memorial Cairn

The Defence Force has paid tribute to our fallen colleagues Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell and Private Kirifi Mila during a memorial service in Bamyan.

The first anniversary of Lieutenant O'Donnell's death was also marked by NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) members based at the Forward Operating Base Romero in the Kahmard district.

NZPRT Padre Chaplain Rewai Te Kahu opened the Bamyan service by reminding those assembled how New Zealanders awoke to the news

one year ago that Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell had been killed in action whilst leading his patrol in Kahmard District in the north east of Bamyan Province.

Padre Te Kahu went on to add how in February this year, Private Kirifi (Cliff) Mila was killed in a vehicle accident in the same district. A plaque for Private Mila was unveiled during the memorial service to join Lieutenant O'Donnell's plaque on the Kiwi Base Memorial Cairn.

NZPRT Senior Military Advisor Lieutenant Colonel Hugh McAslan, who personally knew Lieutenant O'Donnell and Private Mila as their Commanding Officer from 2/1st Battalion in Burnham, Christchurch, paid tribute.

"Tim and Cliff were both professionals who believed in what they were doing here in Afghanistan. Today we honour their service, their commitment and their sacrifice as we carry on their work. Both men made a significant contribution and impact on our mission and the people of Bamyan. Our thoughts are with their families and their friends back in New Zealand."

The service was also attended by NZ Ambassador Justin Fepuleai

and the Senior NZ Defence Force Officer in Afghanistan, Colonel Grant Motley, as well as Defence Force personnel from other locations within Afghanistan who came together with members of the NZPRT in Bamyan. United States and Malaysian military and civilian personnel also stood by the Kiwis remembering their fallen comrades.

Mr Fepuleai read a statement on behalf of Defence Minister, Hon Dr Wayne Mapp, drawing attention to the leadership, courage and professionalism of Lieutenant O'Donnell and his patrol.

"Whatever the area, fulfilling one's potential requires worthwhile goals, ruthlessness in setting standards and the courage to avoid the soft options that constantly present themselves."

He added that Lieutenant O'Donnell exhibited all those qualities and called upon those present to adopt a similar zest for life.



The New Zealand flag is raised to half mast on the 25mm Bushmaster cannon on the NZLAV at the Romero Forward Operating Base



Two wreaths were placed on the Kiwi Base Memorial Cairn

NEWS UPDATE CONT'D.....



KIWI SOLDIERS INSPIRE BAMYAN RESIDENTS TO DONATE BLOOD

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

New Zealand soldiers participated in a blood drive organised by the Malaysian Armed Forces on 16 June at the Foladi Health Centre, about 10km from Kiwi Base in Afghanistan.

As part of the capacity building of Bamyan Hospital, the blood donation campaign was arranged to encourage local people to donate blood. Donated blood will be used mostly for maternity patients who arrive up to two days following the onset of labour, already with a low blood count prior to going into labour, and who may

require an emergency caesarean section.

Bamyan Provincial Hospital suffers a chronic shortage of blood products as it is not a usual aspect of Afghanistan's culture to donate blood.

The blood donation was performed by a local phlebotomist with local equipment and under the eye of NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team Medical Officer, Captain Matt Miller, to ensure the safety of the soldiers and a maximum extraction of 350mls.

The reason a smaller volume of blood taken is that at an altitude of 7500ft, the effects of low oxygen can be exaggerated with a greater blood loss. The NZ donors still need to be well enough to be

soldiers at the end of the day. Despite eight soldiers volunteering to donate blood from the NZ PRT, only three were able to donate due to time constraints (Sergeant Trevor King, Captain Sheree Holmes, and Sergeant George Alexander).

However, after watching the Kiwi soldiers donate, four locals volunteered to be next in line. By the end of the day, 12 local people had donated blood, up from zero for previous years, making this campaign a resounding success.



Sergeant Major of the Army, WO1 D. Broughton (right), talks to a Defence Force soldier during a recent visit to the Solomon Islands

NZ TROOPS RETURN FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS DEPLOYMENT

Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

35 NZ Defence Force personnel have arrived back in Christchurch after completing a four month deployment supporting the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

The contingent, made up mostly of personnel from 2nd/1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry

Regiment (2/1 RNZIR) and supporting units, were met by family, friends and Colonel Phil McKee, Commander of 3rd Land Force Group.

The fourteenth rotation of troops worked alongside the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), the Participating Police Force and the Australian, Tongan and Papua New Guinean military personnel to maintain security and stability. This allows the people and Government of the Solomon Islands to lay the foundations for long term stability, security and prosperity.

The Kiwis have handed over to an Australian contingent who will man the next two rotations. During this period a small number of NZ Defence Force personnel will be based with the Australians working in headquarters roles.

Senior National Officer, Major Al Mitchell, said the contingent worked on a mixture of operational tasks

and training and were highly respected by the local population.

"The contingent established excellent relationships within RAMSI, particularly with the military and police forces from throughout the Pacific. The team has also been well received by locals whenever they have been out and about.

"While the security situation has improved dramatically since 2003, the military and police together act as a deterrent, ready to back up the RSIPF when needed. This means they have to train in-country to maintain high readiness and interoperability with police.

"If we're going to be focused on operating in the Pacific region, as the Defence White Paper has directed us to, these are the types of scenarios we'll likely encounter, and we have been developing this capability during our deployment," said Major Mitchell.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including:

- Commemoration of 69th Anniversary of Guadalcanal Landings
- The mail must get through
- Focused on our Tasks
- Personnel on my Tour
- Saint Catherine on Mount Sinai
- Reflections
- An Exercise to Remember, Tubaraun 2011
- Outside of Dili
- Soccer - An International 'Language'

NEWS FROM OP RATA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

COMMEMORATION OF 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUADALCANAL LANDINGS

Lieutenant Jimmy Russell

On Sunday 07 August, members of OP RATA II, the NZDF contribution to RAMSI, attended the 69th Anniversary commemorations of the Guadalcanal Landings by the USMC in 1942. The commemorations were held at the US War Memorial in Honiara, and were attended by US and local veterans, the Solomon Islands Governor-General, the Prime

Minister, dignitaries and other ADF and PNGDF members of CTF 635.

The 07 August landings were the beginning of the Allied campaign to retake the Solomon Islands from Japanese control. In particular, the airfield which the Japanese had begun building was considered to be decisive terrain as it was able to directly influence Allied shipping routes to Australia and New Zealand. This airfield came to be known as Henderson Airfield after it was captured and completed by the Americans.

There was significant New Zealand involvement in both the Guadalcanal Campaign and the subsequent Solomon Islands Campaign. The 1st Marine Division sailed from Wellington, where they had been based. The RNZAF No. 3 Squadron deployed to Henderson Airfield in November 1942, and the 3rd New Zealand Division then continued the campaign in the Solomon Islands by taking Vella Lavella in October 1943, staging from Guadalcanal.

Particularly important to the commemorations were the attendance of United States and Solomon Islander veterans. The US veterans were from legendary units such as Carlsons' Raiders and the US 1st Marine Division, and the local veterans were from the Coastwatcher units.

After the US War Memorial commemorations, a memorial was unveiled in Honiara to the Coastwatchers and Scouts, the first such dedicated memorial. These Coastwatchers and Scouts were deployed throughout the islands and provided vital intelligence to the Allies about Japanese movements and dispositions. Sir Jacob Vouza was an especially famous Scout within the Guadalcanal Coastwatchers, awarded the Silver Star for his heroism during the initial stages where he scouted behind enemy lines and provided vital intelligence. His daughter attended the commemorations and assisted in the unveiling.

Next year will be the 70th Anniversary of the Guadalcanal landings. Planning is already underway, and there will be a very large US involvement. The NZ OP RATA II soldiers and officers felt honoured to be a part of the 69th Anniversary Commemorations.



Private Simon Hollingsworth lays a wreath in memory of the fallen with HE Mark Ramsden (Centre), NZ High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands

NEWS FROM CRIB 18, AFGHANISTAN

FOCUSED ON OUR TASKS

LT COL Hugh McAslan
Senior Military Advisor
NZ PRT, Afghanistan

The 3rd and 4th of August were significant days for CRIB 18. On the 3rd, we held a memorial service for Lieutenant Tim O'Donnell who was killed in action in Bamyán Province a year ago while deployed with CRIB 16. As part of the service, a plaque was unveiled on the memorial cairn in Kiwi Base for Private Kirifi Mila, who died as a result of a vehicle accident earlier this year while serving with CRIB 17. The service was attended by the NZ Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dr Justin Fepuleai, the NZ Senior National Officer, COL Grant Motley, and LT COL Paul King who holds a senior staff appointment in ISAF HQ in Kabul. The US military and civilian component of the NZ PRT was also in attendance. The service provided us with the opportunity to reflect on two mates who have lost their lives while serving their country in Bamyán. Many of us currently deployed knew Tim and Kirifi well, so the opportunity to pause and remember their service and commitment, as well as take time for thoughts for their families and friends back home was poignant and appropriate.

On the 4th of August, we conducted our first medals parade where the NATO ISAF campaign medal was presented to those personnel who are on their first deployment to Afghanistan. The medals were presented by Ambassador Fepuleai, COL Motley, and our US Brigade Commander, COL Bruce Antonia.

As far as our operations go, all components of the PRT continue to be focused on their tasks as we head into the final quarter of our tour. Our logistics staff are working hard to ensure all key equipment and stores are ready for the next contingent's arrival, while our patrol teams continue to deliver excellent results around the Province building the capacity of the Afghan Police as part of our Transition Plan.

Today it is around 30 degrees, brilliant sunshine, and a clear day in the central highlands of Afghanistan. Having just logged onto stuff.co.nz, I see NZ is currently in the throws of a 50 year winter storm, with snowfalls throughout the country including Auckland. We look forward to bringing some better weather with us when we return to NZ. Stay warm.

THE MAIL MUST GET THROUGH

Flying Officer Bees Dent

As the S1 TU CRIB, my primary role is personnel issues. However, the most important part of my job (according to many), is the STOL flights. These come up to Kiwi Base twice a week, and bring with them the hordes of mail that we get from New Zealand, as well as Amazon.com and other American websites. Mail is a huge morale boost here at the PRT, with mail day being a much anticipated event.

The NZ NSE at Bagram receives our kiwi mail once a week, and from there it is bagged up ready to

be delivered to Bamyán. STOL flights come in when they are available, at any time of the day. So it's not uncommon that I get asked, "what time the flight is coming?", around 10 – 20 times in one day from expectant soldiers. We have had a couple of incidents where the flights have not been able to make it up to Kiwi Base for certain reasons, which is not a popular occurrence. However, we have been pretty fortunate to make up for these on most occasions with NSE arranging other flights to deliver our precious cargo.

Seeing the amount of packages coming in from New Zealand each week is a really gratifying experience, as it reminds you how much support we are getting from back home. We might not be able to get on the phone or the internet all the time, but it's great to know that our family and friends are still thinking about us back home. Seeing the excitement on the faces of everyone when the mail comes in makes up for the constant badgering about when the STOL's are coming in!!



The tour is quickly coming to an end, with just over a month to go, and it is at this time when our troops are really starting to think

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

about home and seeing their friends and families. So mail is a great way to be closer to everyone and help us get through those last few weeks, while remaining operationally focussed. You can never get enough mail!!



PERSONNEL ON MY TOUR

Hone Taurua, S1/S9

Bagram remains dusty, all individuals remain busy, the demands keep flowing and our routines keep us going.

The past five bugle articles for NZ NSE have seen articles on NZ NSE's experiences, our work, the PT, the visits, the routines, the re-supplies, the activities within camp, the temperatures and the history on the area.

Personally, I would like to take a different angle and acknowledge the personnel that I work with.

We are a small contingent that works closely together in meeting the needs of our Kiwi counterparts within Afghanistan. Although we go through our ups and our downs, in the end we stick together and always meet our requirements.

Noting this, I would like to share my views on my peers.



CAPT Calder (Two-ick)

CAPT Calder:

He is our 2IC, the Scotsman, the talker, the news man, the wardawg and the tiki tourist. He's a man who has lost a lot of weight and is very well known and heard around camp, (hoorah!).



WO Hebbard (CSM)

WO Hebbard:

"Ahakoa he iti, he pounamu" – Although small he's a keeper. Lloyd has got to be the hardest working Kiwi in Afghanistan. Some mornings he is up at 0200 hrs getting ammo and personnel up and down the country and still in the office at 2130 hrs at night. Special K is his special diet. I guess that is how he stays under 50kgs.



CPOET Watt (Jeff the Maori)

CPOET Watt:

He's our local geek, mail man and most recently muscle man. Jeff keeps himself busy doing geeky computer work. I guess without him we wouldn't have our Satellite and Internet. He has become a regular at the gym in his extra small sweaty muscle tees. Although he tells us "I'm not sweating, it's just my body crying".



SGT Woodhead (Woody)

SGT Woodhead:

He's our Guy Smiley, League expert, chippy monster and the youngest in our contingent. Woody has had a hard job dealing with the many demands within theatre, but he has held his own. Not to mention the two scarecrows that work for him (sorry girls, ha ha).

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



LSA Ngawaka (*Dom the sheen "Machine"*)

LSA Ngawaka:

Dom is a staunch Navy girl who is always keen to get the job done and is not shy to speak her mind. Dom is another that has hit the gym a lot. We are regularly reminded of how she doesn't use machines in the gym. She makes them. (toot toot).



CPL Albert (*Alby*)

CPL Albert:

He's the NSE posterboy, ex-grunt and bikey enthusiast. He arrived drinking protein shakes and lifting spaghetti tin weights, this eventually turned to drinking fizzys and puffing ciggies. 15 hour days are a minimum for Alby as he gets

stores and personnel in and around the country. I could see him back as CSM of NSE 30.



LCPL Wright (*Ata mai Sulia*)

LCPL Wright:

She's our little island girl. Sulia has many valued attributes. From forklift driver to mail lady to Wedding Planner, and most importantly Dietician. If you ever need tips on dieting or chocolate tasting, then she's your girl.



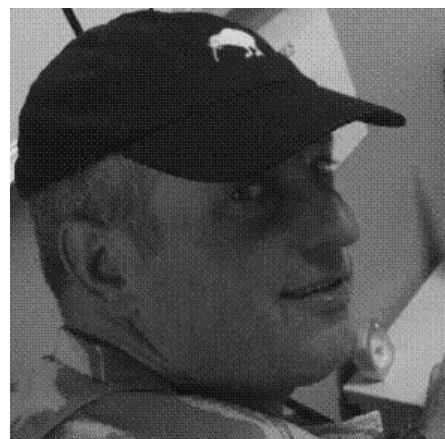
MAJ Hawthorne (*"The Boss"*)

MAJ Hawthorne:

All will agree that the Boss has been exactly that for us, "THE BOSS". We all know who's in

charge and do not dispute anything he says.

He is another person that has hit the gym. A very keen crossfitter and burpee specialist. Although an adopted Kiwi, he is a leader that all have had no hesitation in following.



SGT Duurentijdt (*Dutchy*)

SGT Duurentijdt:

Dutchy is located in Kandahar. We know he keeps himself busy wheeling and dealing with the Australians/Canadians/Brits and Americans. He's the adopted Australian. He has told me why he loves his job so much, I will leave it to you to ask him (something about he shares his office with some good eye candy).

Well this is my shared views on the awesome team that I work with.

We have started the countdown for home and I will assume that it will be about four weeks until we are home by the time this goes to print.

To all our families at home, be strong, it's not long now, God bless, and thank you for all your support.

Ma te Atua tatou katoa e manaaki!

NEWS FROM OP FARAD, SINAI

SAINT CATHERINE ON MOUNT SINAI

Corporal Rachel Martin
MFO Liaison Clerk

Life in the Sinai is not all about work, during the working week which is from Sunday to Thursday there is time to socialise with the other contingents, playing the weekly inter-contingent sport which is run by the gym or going to Pizza Night where you get to make your own pizza for \$3. Or, if you are feeling lucky you may like to try your hand at bingo.

So the week goes by pretty fast by the time you factor a few of these events into your schedule.

You may get the opportunity to participate in a Duty Tour. This is a subsidised tour, which is organised by the MFO, with the intent to offer a cheap weekend away to visit one of the many wonders that are within or around Egypt and neighbouring countries. Whether this be visiting the Pyramids in Cairo or travelling around Egypt visiting many religious sights on the Holy Land Tour.

I have been in the Sinai for three months, half way through a six month deployment, and was lucky enough to get on the Mount Sinai Tour. The two day tour started at 0700 hrs on Friday morning, I climbed aboard the bus and embarked on a 6-7 hour bus ride to Mount Sinai which is located in the South of Sinai. We arrived at the bottom of Mount Sinai; I know I definitely didn't know what to expect, although we were told to pack at least 4 x 1.5 litres for the hike.

On commencement of the hike we

were given two choices, the first was to pay 125 Egyptian Pounds for a three and a half hour camel ride around the camel track of the mountain, or to go the quickest most direct route by foot which would take approx two and a half hours. We opted for the quickest route.



We started the climb which consisted of 3,450 steps, of what were very steep for the majority of the hike. After numerous pit-stops up the mountain we finally arrived at Elijah's Basin where we quite happily dumped our backpacks. This was the spot where we were to overnight and have a Bedouin feast around the campfire.

After an hours rest, we hiked further up the Mountain again, this time only 700 steps to the peak of Mount Sinai and the alleged spot where Moses received the Commandments. We patiently waited for the Sunset which was well worth the wait.

Then we descended down the steps which took us under half the time than it did to ascend. By this time we were all ready for the feast that was served up, a nice soup and a delicious chicken meal,

followed by a Rock melon and grape platter.

After the meal everyone was pretty shattered and went to sleep instantly as we were to get up at 0330 hrs to climb up again for the sunrise. Breakfast was served at the basin at 0700 hrs. Following this, we hiked down the Mountain in preparation for the opening at 0900 hrs of Saint Catherine's Chapel. Once again we climbed aboard the bus ready for the arduous six hours bus ride back to North Camp.

We arrived back in North Camp, ecstatic about the fact that we could have a shower. What an experience this tour had been, challenging but very rewarding.

I can't wait to see what the next three months in Sinai entails and what adventures I may embark on.

I'd just like to say hi to Jayde, Quin and Liam. Mum misses them very much and can't wait to get back to see them.

REFLECTIONS

Sergeant Jae Ekman RNZAF
NZCON CQ

The sun was bearing down hard on us. I could feel the sweat slowly soaking through my shirt, making it cling uncomfortably. We had only been standing here for 15 minutes. Sweat was beading above my brow and trickling down my face. I could feel sweat running down my back. The heat rose in waves off the roads tar seal surface. I looked either side of me to see NZCON stretched out, lining one side of the road. Across from me, the Australian and Canadian contingents had done the same. Their faces just as sombre as ours as we reflected on the events of the past few days.

My six months on North Camp in Sinai have flown past. I really do feel like I have just got here. As the

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

contingent quartermaster, I don't have many reasons to go off camp. In fact, for my first two months I had left the camp only twice. The camp is like my bubble I stay in. It's easy for me to forget how harsh the driving conditions or the security state outside the gate can be, yet every day drivers from NZCON and other contingents are facing them daily.

Unfortunately a Staff Sergeant from the Fiji battalion paid the ultimate price when the vehicle he was in left the road and rolled. It was a timely reminder that on these roads you must stay vigilant. There's everything from cattle, camels, children who come out to wave, sand drifts, massive potholes to other road users who will avoid all of the previously mentioned by driving on your side of the road, forcing you to slow down and avoid

them. Sometimes those kids may not wave but throw rocks instead.

I have really enjoyed my time here. The workload is steady and plentiful. It varies from sending mail and freight home to NZ to helping to organise MFO level events like the stores and food for the Force Skills Competition (which NZ won!). There are a lot of challenges in my job. My bosses encourage using initiative and I like to be creative with my solutions.

It isn't always fun. Early morning after early morning of opening the armoury for the drivers, can get tedious, as much as driving the same routes every day is for them.

Working with so many nationalities, there can be details lost in translation but there is very little that can't be solved by turning up with a smile and a handshake.

The people are what made the trip for me. The different cultures, languages and accents around the camp keep things interesting, whether we're talking for work or play. We are always comparing the way we do business, lifestyles, politics and more. We have all made very good friends here, which is what makes leaving tomorrow, a day earlier than planned, even harder.

After six months in my bubble, I will miss my workmates and friends very much, but when I leave here, life in the MFO will keep on going, seeing new rotation after new rotation from all the contingents like it has the last 29 years. If you have the chance to deploy this mission, I whole-heartedly recommend it. It has its highs and lows, like any other mission, but it's a choice you'd never regret.

NEWS FROM GYRO 11, TIMOR-LESTE

AN EXERCISE TO REMEMBER, TUBARAUN 2011

Lieutenant Ross Bidlake

Last week the GYRO Infantry Platoon conducted a multi-national, joint exercise in Timor-Leste, known as Exercise Tubaraun (Shark in Tetum). The Timorese defence force (F-FDTL) came to the party with two sections, one of infantry and the other of marines along with Sub Lieutenant Soares as a Headquarters element. NZDF as a part of the ISF contributed four NZLOV, two sections from the infantry Platoon, and the Platoon Headquarters to lead the team. The ADF contributed a pair of infantry mobility vehicles for the land

component, a helicopter from army aviation and initially had provided two landing craft for a seaborne invasion to a fictitious land known as Cholchis.

The Exercise began on Monday with the Timorese learning about the NZLOV and Aus IIMV, the two vehicles that they would be using during the exercise. The look on the Timorese faces when they learnt they would soon be leaving HPOD to go on a Blackhawk helicopter was priceless. Ending the day with some friendly sports, with the Australians deciding they want to play too, was a good way for the soldiers from each country to get to know each other. The following days would be a test of patience and show the skill of both

forces as interpreters desperately tried to give both points of view with room clearance.

We learned the day before that there was now only one landing craft that was coming to conduct the exercise, nothing major and we dealt with it. Both forces stepped into unfamiliar territory when we started learning about the 35 year old Australian landing craft HMAS Betano, and its capabilities. Day three of the exercise, and we went to the docks to conduct some dry landing rehearsals. After the rehearsals we went out to sea to have a BBQ on board. On Day four, the Platoon conducted beach rehearsals. The locals swarmed around the ship cheering every time a vehicle came off the ramp

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

and jumped in the air. Unfortunately, when it came time to load the vehicles on the ship again, one of the NZLOV didn't start, I was beginning to think this was an omen of things to come.

The climax of the exercise was the cordon and search of a building after getting up at 4am to board the HMAS Betano. We left the port at 0530 hrs and landed at 0900 hrs. It started with a beach assault, then moving on to the cordon and strike. Two sections dismounted and did the infantry job moving over what looked like solid ground but turned out to be a swamp. The NZ section did well keeping up with the Timorese considering that the Kiwis were wearing body armour and the Timorese weren't.

The highlight of the infiltration was turning around to watch the Kiwis jump over a 2 metre water filled



Private Ratana with Private Maya, a Timorese counterpart

ditch with mud either side and realising the Padre was with us, he made a solid attempt but just didn't quite clear it as well as the grunts. Once the cordon was in place the assault teams came storming in and it all went off without a hitch.

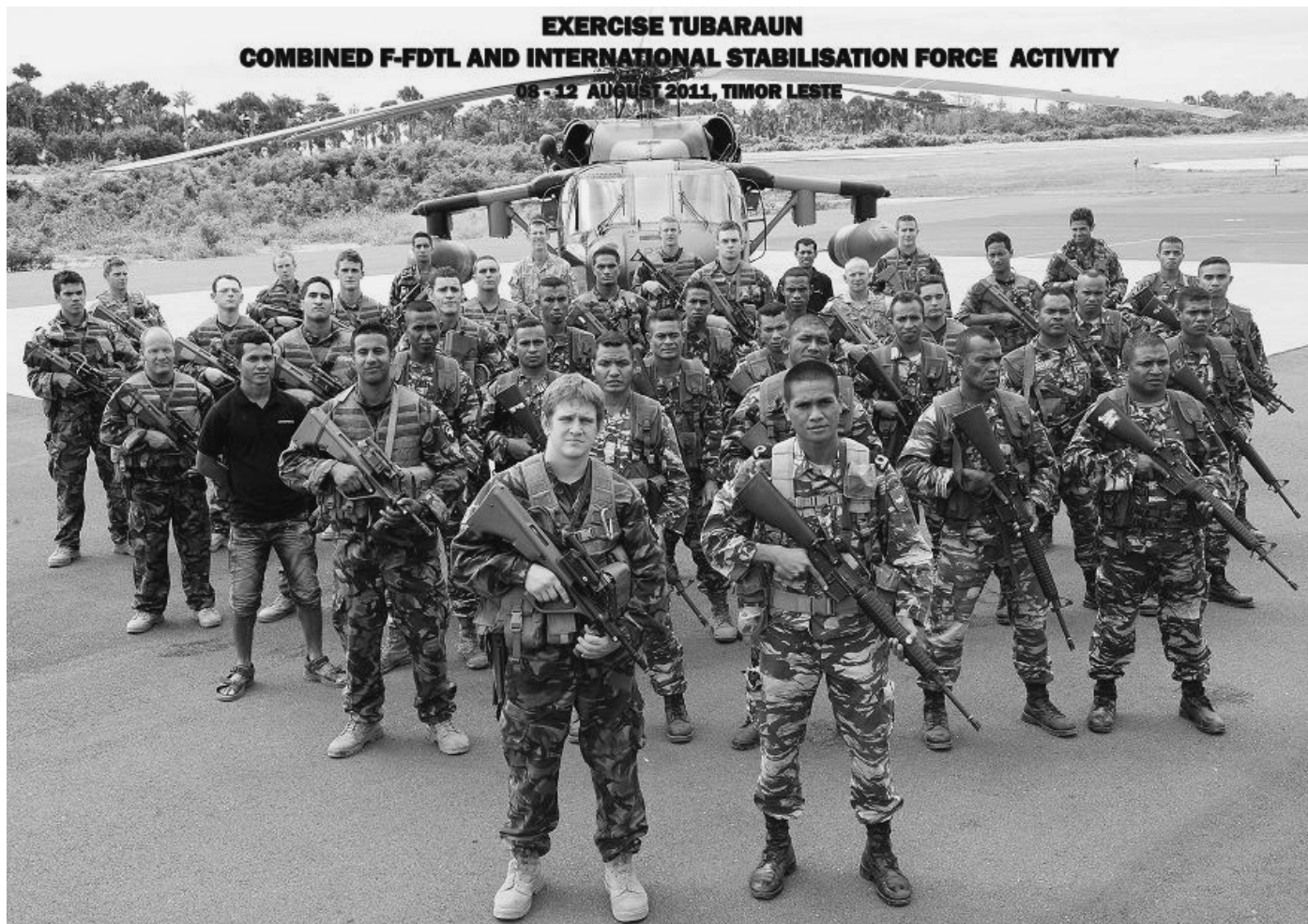
In the end, I learned that the F-FDTL is a very capable force with professional soldiers that could work with our forces, without major



Private Mangino (left) and Private Wikiriwhi (right) on board the HMAS Betano

issues. It was a once in a lifetime experience that I would leap at the opportunity to do again.

I would like to give special thanks to the HMAS Betano and her crew for the amazing hospitality that they provided you have left a very good impression of the Australian Navy.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

OUTSIDE OF DILI

SIG Leon Hood

INTRODUCTION: SIG Leon Hood is a member of the GYRO S6 cell, whose task is to manage the communication requirements for Task Unit GYRO. The S6 Cell are based at Kiwi Lines, and every now and then they may be required to travel outside the lines for work.

Some of the members of GYRO 11 might be a little jealous when they read of all the things I have had the privilege of doing in our first three months in Timor. Whereas, some members of the contingent haven't even left Dili, I am currently looking forward to my fourth outing in September. Within the Communications Cell there are a lot of fun jobs that come up every now and then. In particular, due to us supporting the NSE in Darwin, I have been lucky enough to get two trips away to do some work at their Headquarters at the RAAF Base Darwin. It was a good chance to unwind and get away from it all. Even if it was only for a day and a half.

It would sound quite bad if I said the highlight of my trip to Timor was getting away from Timor, but luckily a few weeks ago I was given yet another opportunity to get out and about. Following a recce patrol to the province of Cova-Lima to inspect the memorial sites of those who have died in Timor, it was outlined that some maintenance would need to be done to preserve the sites if they were to withstand the test of time. A team of eight of us loaded up our paint brushes and a few planks of wood and nails ready for a four day trip across the island. When travelling on the roads out of Dili, you could be forgiven for thinking you were in New Zealand. As soon as you are clear from the smell of the city you're faced with a rugged array of mountains and luscious greenery;



The GYRO S6 Cell at Kiwi Lines – L to R: Flight Lieutenant Jen Ross, AC Mark Cooper, SIG Leon Hood, CPL Vanessa Pollard

surprising due to the amount of sunlight and bush fires we see in Dili. My favourite part, however, had to be the drop in temperature; just heading up into the mountains dropped the temperature by at least 10 degrees closer to what we were used to back home – in Summer that is.

About half way across the island we stopped for lunch where a group of about five children were playing nearby. Padre, being the nice guy he is, thought he would hand out some lollies. This was of course a nice gesture, but by the time I looked back that group had turned into 10. In the back of our vehicle there was a bag of kids soccer jerseys that we had brought along to hand out to kids. I don't know how the word was spread, I definitely didn't see any of them with phones, but when those jerseys came out the group swelled to at least 25. Now this wouldn't be surprising at all in the middle of a town, but we weren't in a town. We were in the middle of nowhere with no houses in sight.

There were about five memorials we were scheduled to visit, the first being a Nepalese soldier who was killed in a contact. No maintenance needed to be done; however, we met up with a Nepalese officer that day to conduct a memorial service

before continuing on to the City of Suai for the night. The next day was work day; we attended the Memorial sites of two New Zealanders, one killed in a vehicle accident, and the other of Private Manning who was killed in a contact. We attended to some maintenance on his Memorial site because the next day the Commander of the ISF, along with dignitaries from Australia and New Zealand, would be there for a service of the 11th Anniversary of that day.

The Service was a very solemn affair. Padre led us in prayer and our Officer Commanding, MAJ Mackenzie Everitt, told a story of his experiences serving with Private Manning back in 2000. From all accounts, it sounds like things now really don't compare to their experiences back in the days of the BATTs. With the services done, it was time for the long drive back to Dili. Although it was only a few hundred kilometres away it takes about 10 hours to drive across to the other side due to the conditions of the roads and there was even enough time for a stop off at the thermal pools.

All in all, I consider myself very lucky for all the opportunities I have had in the short time we have been here!

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

SOCCER – AN INTERNATIONAL 'LANGUAGE'

Sergeant Carl Gray

INTRODUCTION: In the last issue of "The Bugle", mention was made of a soccer game between the Aussies, Kiwis and local community players. Sergeant Carl Gray reports about the games.

The military runs on timings. The Army uses 'five minutes before place of parade', this means that you are to be at the designated position five minutes before the official meeting time.

The Air Force talk of 'time on target,' they may not be early to a timing but they will be there exactly when required (bird strikes notwithstanding). The soccer playing public of Timor-Leste, however, show up to timings whenever they want. And so it was, that on a typically scorching Sunday afternoon, that us Kiwi's and Aussie's from HPod were standing around at 1620 hrs waiting for our Timorese opponents who were due to meet us at 1530 hrs for a soccer tournament.

As part of the Community

engagement focus here in Timor, a soccer tournament was hosted just outside of HPod. This was a chance to interact and form relationships with the locals that live near to the HPod, and was also a chance for aspiring Ronaldo's to show their skills. Four teams entered; two local sides, an Aussie team, and an all-conquering Kiwi side. The tournament was played in a round robin with games of 15 minutes on a condensed pitch. The Kiwi side played a local side to start with and came away with a 2-1 win.

The highlight of the game being a screaming back heel goal from the contingent Medic, Sergeant Carl 'Arms' Gray. The second game we played was against our old nemesis, the Aussies. It was a hard fought game and it was only due to the superior fitness, strength, intelligence, and general good looks of the Kiwi's that we came away with a 1-0 win, the team Captain, AC Dave 'Beckham' Burrows, scoring a log range goal from the side-line. The third game was the final of sorts against the other, undefeated, local side. By this point us Kiwi lads were pretty shattered and thought it best to let them win. The score, 2-0 to the local side. This was yet another

great event co-ordinated by the contingent PTI, Sergeant Dors Drylie, and helped to strengthen the ties the ANZAC's have with the people of Timor-Leste. The day ended with a lolly scramble for the kids (both young and old) and the presentation of some soccer goals and shirts to the local village.

A special thank you should go to the CSS-T boys who made the goals, the locals loved them and they will be well used in this soccer mad country.

Facts and Figures Timor-Leste

Source: www.asserteasttimor.com

Timor-Leste is one of the youngest countries in the world; and also one of the poorest (per capita GDP US\$450).

In rural areas, 63% of people over the age of 15 cannot read or write.

There are at least 6,000 people in Timor-Leste who need prostheses (artificial limbs) and orthoses (orthopaedic braces), including many people affected by leprosy.

Timor-Leste has one of the highest rates of leprosy infection in the world: 1.89 in every 10,000 people—and as high as 4.8 in 10,000 in some communities—compared to a regional average of .89 per 10,000.

As in most low income countries, disabled people are the poorest of the poor, excluded from all aspects of society. In Timor-Leste, cultural beliefs also play a part; disability is seen as a curse and parents of disabled children often keep them hidden.



Sergeant Carl 'Arms' Gray moments after scoring the match winning goal to win the World Cup for NZ ... correction ... during play with a local community soccer team

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

Padre Katene Eruera GYRO 11

By the time you read this, GYRO 11 will be halfway through its Tour of Duty. It has been a very busy time in Timor-Leste for all, so much so that the general consensus is that the past three months have flown by. One of the important factors that sustains us in that 'busy-ness' is the excellent communications we have to family and friends back home. Although it will have been a very different experience for you these past few months, I hope that the ability to communicate effectively has helped in easing the absence of our not being there, as it has helped us here. Your contribution through a word, a caring thought, makes an enormous difference.

In time, and not too far from now, our and your thoughts will be turning to our homecoming. We are not there just yet, but we are slowly but surely getting closer to that day, and when we do I am sure that there will be many stories we will need to tell each other from our time apart and the life we have been leading during it, until that time when our stories become one again. But in the meantime, we remain focused on our mission here and on you back home.

I have written previously of the care packages we receive from home. They are a great morale booster. I should write of them again to explain why they are so. We receive our mail Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and everybody looks forward to checking their mail on those days for their 'care packages'.

Sergeant Vicki Hansen is in charge of the mail, and she has an important role in announcing whether the mail has arrived (or not) on that particular day. It can take up to three weeks for the mail to arrive, much of it depends on

timings for delivery to various places in New Zealand and Australia before it is sent onwards to us in Timor-Leste.

Another factor seems to be the size of the package. Larger packages may take a bit more time to reach us than the smaller ones. The quickest mail I have seen get through to us has been four days.

Once the mail arrives, it will be distributed, and the word soon gets out that care packages have arrived, so a steady line of people moving in and out of the 'lines' to check for their mail begins. It is a great name to give to our mail: 'care package'. I am surprised we have not shortened it, in true military fashion, to something like 'c-pack', but then again it would be in danger of losing its true inner meaning if we do so. What I mean by this is that a care package is something more than 'stuff' in a box wrapped in paper and with a stamp and address on it. The dictionary defines 'care' as *to look after and provide for the needs of [someone/ something]*. This is a good starting

point to think on.

At one level it is important to us that our care package contains food or clothing or toiletries because they give us those basic Kiwi necessities not readily available in Timor-Leste. But even if these items were readily available, it doesn't matter, because a care package connects us at a much deeper level - to home and to you, our loved ones. Receiving our mail means at a very deep level that there is someone who wants to look after and provide for our needs - someone who cares. With a mission to complete, and all with our particular jobs to do within it, we are doing it well, and effectively. Showing how much you care by taking the time to find that 'stuff' for our care package, the box to pack it in, to wrap it, to write a name and address, to take it to the Post Shop, to buy the stamps, and to send it, means you are making your mark in making sure we do so.

Thank you for your effort, love and care. God Bless and *Boa Tarde* from Dili.



The mail has arrived! L to R: AC Mark Cooper, SSGT Peter Dee, SSGT Josh Hill, PTE Sebastian Gibson, LAC Reece Gutsell

ON GUARD AROUND THE WORLD

Printed in "The Press", Saturday, July 16

There are 688 New Zealand Defence Force personnel on 18 peacekeeping operations, United Nations missions and defence exercises across Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea and The Solomons. Our peacekeepers share their experiences.

IRAQ

Lieutenant Colonel Rob Krushka, 40, from Whangarei
Deployed to Iraq in April

"In Baghdad alone, there are between 55 and 75 security and conflict-related incidents every week – things like improvised explosive devices, small arms shootings, indirect fire and assassination attempts. As a result, security needs to be carefully managed and the risks mitigated, making it difficult for people to achieve what they want in the timeframe they expect.

I'm the sole Kiwi deployed as a United Nations military advisor assisting with the stabilisation and reconstruction of Iraq. I travel around the Baghdad area and other main centres including Basra, Mosul, Kirkuk, Erbil and Camp Ashraf.



LT COL Rob Krushka
IRAQ

One of the challenges is managing the range of expectations. Everyone wants to assist the people of Iraq, but they don't all have a good understanding of the difficulties that exist as a result of the security situation. I find the Iraqi people friendly and professional. Most are genuinely thankful that the UN is assisting in rebuilding their nation. My highlight so far was travelling to an Internally Displaced Persons camp on the outskirts of Baghdad. These camps don't meet the standards and expectations we would have, but it was great to see children, with so little, playing football and having fun in the way that all children deserve. It left me feeling sad for families that have no other option, but it makes a positive impression because of their resilience and determination to live a normal and happy life. When I get home, I'm looking forward to seeing family and having the freedom to go for a walk, run or drive without having to take a range of security precautions."

MIDDLE EAST

Captain Anika Tiplady, 30, from Christchurch

Deployed to the Middle East in January (Other NZDF deployments in the Middle East are Lebanon and Israel)



Captain Anika Tiplady
MIDDLE EAST

"Syria has so much to offer, but unfortunately it's going through such unrest. It's very interesting to be here but so frustrating to witness what's happening within its borders.

The coming months will be interesting with regard to how the political situation develops. One of the highlights of my deployment has been learning and experiencing life in an Arab country. Syria is full of contrasts. The Golan Heights and the Mt Hermon range are stunningly beautiful but they're littered with remnants of the previous wars, and rubbish. As part of Observer Group Golan in Syria, I'm responsible for reporting activities that are or could lead to a violation of the 1974 Agreement of Disengagement.

We man observation posts, make formal inspections of Syrian military positions and conduct patrols throughout the Golan Heights. When you introduce yourself and shake hands with the locals they will be incredibly friendly and you'd better say 'yes' to the cup of tea that is invariably offered."



LT Chris Mills
KOREA

KOREA

Lieutenant Chris Mills, 31, from Hamilton

Deployed to Korea in April

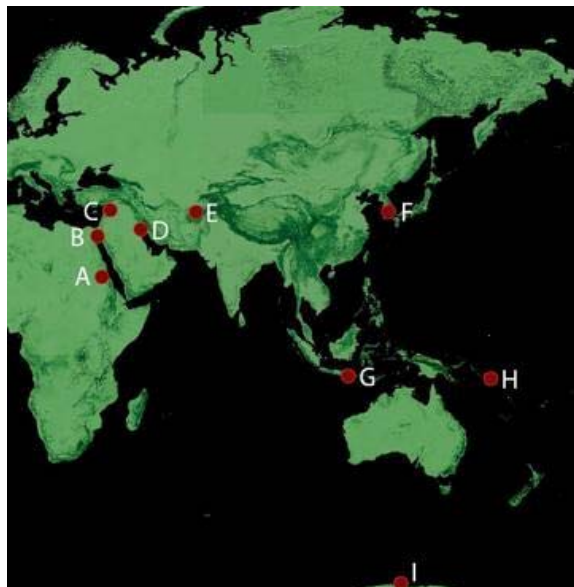
"I'm based in Panmunjom, only 20 metres from the Main Demarcation Line within the Demilitarised Zone, where the United Nations monitors the Armistice Agreement between North and South. No two days on the job are the same. There might be activities across the line, such as troops amassing or explosions in extreme cases that require close observation. I receive or pass messages from the Korean People's Army, escort tours for visitors and run the office.

Within two weeks of being here, I met senior colonels from the Korean People's Army while we successfully discussed repatriation of an English airman's remains from North Korea. I've flown twice in a US UH-60 Black Hawk, once while returning Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard to Seoul – a great opportunity to see Seoul from the air. As part of the job I must become an "expert" on Korean history, specifically regarding recent incidents with the Korean People's Army. There is a lot of information to learn in a short amount of time. Koreans are an industrious, hard working and respectful people. They give everything their best and it is easy to see how they have exponentially increased their economy from 1953,

OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS

There are currently 688 New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed on 19 peacekeeping operations, UN missions and defence exercises across 10 countries, including:

- A Sudan:**
(3 personnel)
- B Sinai:**
(28 personnel)
- C Middle East:**
(7 personnel)
- D Iraq:**
(1 person)
- E Afghanistan:**
(196 personnel)
- F Korea:**
(3 personnel)
- G Timor-Leste**
(80 personnel)
- H Solomon Islands**
(44 personnel)
- I Antarctica**
(0 personnel)



when it was very low, to become the 12th largest economy in the world. This work ethic extends to sports, particularly hiking and baseball. The Korean social structure is highly respectful of inter-personal relationships, especially to the elderly. The food is quite different from New Zealand. It tastes good, but if something is listed as spicy, they mean "Korean spicy" and it can do some serious damage to your tastebuds."

SOLOMONS

Private Victor Anderson, 29, from Christchurch

Deployed to the Solomon Islands in March

Our role is to provide assistance to the people of the Solomon Islands under the banner of the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI) as well as providing support to Police Operations.

Essentially we help to ensure stability is maintained within the country.

"Guadalcanal has many historic World War II sites. It's been a highlight to visit some of these places and appreciate the history that has gone before. Even though we're acclimatised now, the heat is one of the biggest hurdles here, especially when doing physical work. At times, it reaches 40 degrees Celsius, with high humidity. The



PTE Victor Anderson
SOLOMON ISLANDS

culture is vastly different to anything I have experienced.

People don't have a lot and it certainly makes me appreciate what we have at home. People make do with what they have and live off the land. They are all very friendly and they seem to love Kiwis."

SUDAN

Captain Aldis Malskaitis, 39, from Auckland

Deployed to Sudan in March

The language barrier has been tough. As the only native English speaker at the team site, and possibly the state, I have not been able to hold a conversation, in other than basic terms, or over a poor phone connection, for over a month. But people are people wherever you go. It can be quite humbling to be



**CAPT Aldis Malskaitis
SUDAN**

given something as important as a sheep to welcome you by people who literally own nothing. My role in Sudan is as a United Nations Military Observer. The role is defined in the peacekeepers' manual as being an "expert on mission". In the Sudan, this boils down to monitoring and verifying that the ceasefire agreement is adhered to by both the South Sudanese People's Liberation Army in the south and the Sudanese Armed Forces in the north. Observers are also involved in monitoring and verifying other situations that may develop, like clashes with rebel groups. These sorts of situations are too dangerous for the UN civil authorities to investigate on their own. We find the patrols that have the biggest positive effect on our work are the long-duration patrols, as we can stay on task for a considerable amount of time, and are more flexible to respond to developing events, such as the Murle and Nuer clashes in Jonglei.

This deployment has allowed me to really apply what I learned on previous missions and courses I've taken with the army. In a way, seeing it all come together has been one of the big highlights of the trip so far.

EGYPT

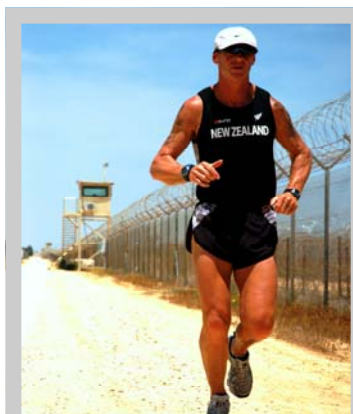
Staff Sergeant Alexander McKenzie, 50, from Wellington
Deployed in February

I'm training to represent New Zealand in the ultra-distance

marathon (200km) Commonwealth champs in Wales in September. So, even though I'm restricted to running inside the camp's perimeter fence, which is a flat seven-kilometre loop, I'm keeping the fitness up. Every weekend I run between 50km and 70km but during the week, my day starts at 0445 so I run between 20 and 25km before starting work. I'm lucky there are lots of highly motivated people willing to run a lap or two to keep me on target.

There are even some local Bedouin who, from outside the wire, wave and give me an encouraging clap. This country is so different from any other place I've been. I enjoy learning the history of the area and its people. Also working with all the other countries that are deployed here.

North Camp is like a little country of its own where everyone is working to maintain the peace. There are several different countries and cultures in this area, all with their own challenges. One group may shake hands and the other may kiss you on each cheek. The main thing is to remember we are guests in their country. Egypt is going through major changes, which makes planning and conducting some activities very challenging. I'm part of the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai, maintaining peace between Egypt and Israel. I believe this mission has been a great success story for all those countries that have taken part in maintaining the peace over the last 30 years."



**SSGT Alexander McKenzie
EGYPT**



**SQN LDR Murray Simons
TIMOR-LESTE**

TIMOR-LESTE

Squadron Leader Murray Simons, 43, from Auckland
Deployed in May

"In addition to my official duties as a United Nation's military liaison officer, I am also involved in voluntary work teaching English to locals and international UN staff. You make new friends from the diverse nationalities here in Timor and the local Timorese. Seeing the enthusiasm and excitement of young kids in the schools is a real highlight. They are the future of this country and seem desperate to get an education. I'm here to be the UN's eyes and ears on the ground. That includes border patrols and routine meetings with village chiefs to assess any security threats. Finding my way around in the jungle with only large-scale maps has been trying.

With the impending 2012 elections, this country will continue its road to transition. The international community has done a great job in nurturing this fledgling nation. There are a lot of reasons to be excited about Timor's future and it is an honour to be a part of this historic nation-building process."

AFGHANISTAN

Lieutenant Colonel John Barclay, 52, from Patea
Deployed in March

"I'm a United Nation's military advisor, liaising between



LT COL John Barclay
AFGHANISTAN

multinational forces and Afghan authorities. In the second week of my deployment here we lost one of our UN staff, Lieutenant Colonel Siri Skare from Norway, who was killed as a result of a violent demonstration. It made me very aware of how vulnerable we are, wearing a uniform and being unarmed, as is the requirement for this mission. Driving in Kabul is an interesting experience. Think about driving fast in peak hour traffic without traffic lights and taking away all the rules. I've been to Afghanistan several times and progress seems very gradual, which is understandable given the challenges. I feel great sympathy and admiration for the Afghan people – they have a history of turbulence and violence yet continue with determination and courage. Regardless of our mandate, we are visitors to their country.... So we respect the host country's culture through understanding.

Obviously, I miss my wife, who is also in the army, and family. I also miss Super Rugby. Every week my parents-in-law send a *Sunday Star-Times* and a packet of Raro."

GULF OF ADEN & SOMALI BASIN

Commander Mat Williams, 40,
from Levin
Deployed in June

"Our job is to disrupt piracy at sea.

I'm the deputy commander and chief of staff for Combined Task Force 151. It's one of three taskforces operated by the Coalition Maritime Forces, a 25-nation coalition based in Bahrain. Embarked in a United States cruiser (the flag-ship), we have an eclectic international staff. My job is to bring all these people together in a short space of time and build a team capable of commanding a taskforce of international ships. Our area encompasses 1.1 million square miles in the Gulf of Aden and Somalia Basin. The work we are doing is meaningful; 23,000 boats transit through this area every year with a very real

danger of piracy. Since the establishment of CTF 151, there has been a significant reduction in the number of successful piracy attacks.



Commander Mat Williams
GULF OF ADEN & SOMALI BASIN

The complexity of the environment, with so many participating nations, partners and coalitions, communication and understanding the environment is the biggest challenge. Regular and extended absences from home are a fact of life in the navy, and I will miss my wife and both children's birthdays. My own is also while I am away so, particularly for the girls, they normally end up having two birthdays: one with dad, and one without.



Cultural Values

The Defence Force will achieve its vision through shared cultural values among its people based on the following four core tenets: Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity.

Courage

Courage means being brave enough to do what one believes is right.

Commitment

Commitment means loyally serving the interests of the NZDF and the New Zealand Government. Commitment requires personnel to work together as one team in serving the interests of all New Zealanders. This requires individuals putting others before self when necessary. The CDF, single Service Chiefs and Joint Force Commander are committed to working together for the well-being of all Defence Force personnel.

Comradeship

Comradeship means embracing the bonds of friendship as both a necessity and a benefit of the job.

Integrity

Integrity means acting honourably to bring credit to the NZDF and New Zealand. This requires all individuals within the New Zealand Defence Force to be transparent in their dealings with each other and consistent in the performance of their duties. The CDF, the single Service Chiefs and the Joint Force Commander will lead with integrity.

DSO'S CORNER



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

Greetings to you all!

When I wrote my contribution to the last edition of "The Bugle", I was tucked up at home – snowbound! I can't believe that this is history repeating itself and so soon after the last episode! The whole country has had the most atrocious weather and we have all been shivering in the cold temperatures and the challenges the snow brings! While the first glimpses are "gorgeous" the novelty soon wears off. I am still waiting for a major melt up to occur so I can get safely off the Port Hills. It seems somewhat slow in coming, with snow still falling this morning and mixed in with it, a fairly decent shake up! I am always relieved to hear that it is in fact an earthquake and not my somewhat fragile house moving a little further. My mind was put to rest somewhat quickly as the radio announcer commented, and with a degree of wit, that "Mother Nature was multi – tasking!!"

It was a pleasure to meet with some of you at the tour updates for CRIB in Burnham recently and then next week, I will have the chance again, to join with Janine, and the briefing team, to meet with those

families who have loved ones heading off to Afghanistan on the next rotation. These "briefs" are all so valuable and are always supported by those who have been there and done that! Our recent Burnham group was filled with people actively seeking out that first-hand information and learning from the experiences of others. It can be difficult to speak up or ask questions in such a forum but our aim is to see you all leave any of our briefs (or gatherings) with a degree of peace of mind! I am sure this was very much achieved recently. Amongst the seriousness of our discussions, we found time to laugh and there was evidence of people wanting to support each other. There is this great saying that there are others far worse off than ourselves. To a degree, this is true, but if you have a problem, or nagging concern or worry, it is important that we try to lighten the load for you. Reaching out is truly difficult for many of us, but once you have done it, you often find, that with the relief of a problem solved, is that feeling that you should have done it sooner!

In my role as DSO, I see it as a privilege to share with many of you, a little part of your lives and to be able to admire your commitment, resilience and selflessness. While you at home, may feel that you are out of the "limelight", your contribution to any deployment is more vital than you could ever imagine. Let me assure you, that your role is very much the "keypin" in any success achieved abroad! Ask yourself – "Would your loved one be able to fulfil their role abroad, if it were not for the love and support extended from home?" Every little gesture makes a huge difference. Your mail is a huge morale booster, and the phone calls, emails (and Skype where possible) are valued. With that, goes the pride you feel, in the

difference your loved one can make to the lives of those so much less fortunate than us and that this sacrifice, no matter how hard it is for you all, is worthwhile. It is not about who has it the hardest! It's about it being hard for everyone! For those who parent alone, for those who come home to an empty house and for those Mum's and Dad's who will always worry about their kids – no matter how old they are, we say thank you! You too deserve the medals!

For those just embarking on the deployment journey, be assured that we are here for you all and to those anticipating reunions, we wish you happy homecomings and look forward to meeting with you again in the future – but not too soon I hear you say!

Best wishes to you all.



Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
2nd Land Force Group

The last few weeks have certainly called into action all my time-management skills aided by my most trusty diary, and lists, lists, lists! First we were able to hold a small, very informal dinner in Linton, hosted by the Commander 2LFG. An opportunity to have someone else cook and do the dishes – always tastes better when someone else is in the

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D

kitchen! The Mess provided us with a wonderful meal and those who were able to attend had the opportunity to mix and mingle with other families.

We were out and about meeting with CRIB 18 families a couple of weekends ago and had really great support at all our four briefing locations. CAPT Kelvin McMillian presented an excellent view of life on deployment for our families and we were able to share the DVD that the contingent had put together for us, which made us smile, and even by the time I had seen it for the 5th/6th time, it was still worth watching.

A huge thank you to Kelvin for giving up his precious weekend time for accompanying me, your insight was hugely valuable to us all, informative and very entertaining. Thank you also to the contingent for putting the DVD together as well; Padre Te Kahu (who featured more than once) as your name was on the front, guess this was much of your work – thanks heaps to you and your team.

We have tentative dates for the return of the contingent. For security and safety reasons we are not able to print specific information but if Primary Next of Kin would like to give me a call, I can share that information with you.

We have conducted the briefings for the CRIB 19 contingent as well. Again, have had outstanding support at all the briefing locations. The Linton briefing was one of the largest we have ever held for any of the current deployments – very impressive attendance. As this was the last day of pre-deployment training for this mission, we were able to combine the briefings with the Poroporoaaki (Farewell), something that is usually conducted on a week-day and therefore no family attendance. But this time

around, everything came together, including the weather, and we had a wonderful day. I hope that families we met in Linton got a lot out of it as well. Auckland and Burnham briefings were also really well supported and it was great to be able to meet so many of you. LTCOL Brett Wellington and Chaplain Darren O'Callaghan, CO and Padre respectively for CRIB 19, enjoyed the opportunity to meet families as well as we travelled around. Thank you to you both for giving up your precious family time prior to deployment.

So with three events in as many weeks, you will see where the lists came into their own!

This is the first mailout to the families of the CRIB 19 contingent. I hope you will enjoy receiving it over the months to come. Remember that we will be looking for messages for each edition (and especially the Christmas one) so keep an eye on the deadline for each coming issue – on the inside front cover and at the top of the message section – to have your messages to us in time. They can be emailed to either Carol or myself for inclusion in the issues.

I am looking now at the tour update briefing for the GYRO 11 contingent. We have the additional

challenge of coping with the Rugby World Cup events as well at the same time. As the majority of attendees at the Auckland pre-deployment briefing were from out of town (and we aren't able to offer travel assistance for these "additional" briefings), and with the extra activity within the Auckland area throughout Sept/Oct, we won't be briefing in Auckland this time around. However, the contingent are currently working on our DVD and although we won't be out to share it personally, once it has been security cleared we will be able to send out a copy to anyone who would like to view it. This is a valuable way to see what the team are up to. We will, however, be briefing in Linton on Saturday 24 September at the Community Centre and Carol will also run a tour update briefing in Burnham on Tuesday 27 September, timings to be confirmed. More details will be available in the next "Bugle".

There seems to be an awful lot to share this issue but I have to stop somewhere. Hope all is well with you. For our CRIB 18 families – look forward to catching up with many of you at homecoming; for the CRIB 19 families – will see many of you at the farewells. And for our GYRO 11 families – just a little bit longer

Your DSO is only a phone call away

If you are worried about media reports, please be sure to give the Deployment Services Officer a call. We are kept informed of happenings within deployment locations and are able to pass to you firsthand, information as we receive it. Of course there are times when we don't have all the answers but know where to find them and can get back to you. The DSO cell phones on the 0800 numbers operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. If the phone lines go directly to message, it more than often means that we are on it!! Please leave a message or call back. Our aim is to keep you well informed, so if there is a situation causing you worry, then please ring. We have fielded an increased number of calls lately and are happy to talk with you, so please don't feel that you are being a nuisance. Peace of mind is what this is all about.

Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham: 0800 337 569 and
Janine Burton, DSO Linton: 0800 683 77 327

FOR YOUR INFO...

Welcome to New “Bugle” Readers

A warm welcome is extended to all those who are receiving “The Bugle” in their mailbox (or via email) for the first time. “The Bugle” is our informal deployment newsletter and is sent to all Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) and families associated with all overseas missions. This is our main way of keeping in contact with you all, and up to date with news and views from deployment locations. There is also an opportunity for you to contribute to the ‘Personal Messages’ column and to submit articles and photos which may be of interest to our many readers. You will notice in the content, that “The Bugle” is written for people on all stages of the deployment journey and we hope that in each issue you find something of interest that will help you along the way! It is our aim to help you achieve some peace of mind and urge you to call us if there is something we may help with or if you have any concerns. (Carol, DSO Burnham, 0800 33 7569 or Janine, DSO Linton, 0800 683 77 327). While we may not always know the answers to your queries, we know how to navigate the system and find them.

Mail to Current TG CRIB 18, Afghanistan

As the return to New Zealand is imminent for those deployed with TG CRIB 18, we ask that you do not send any more mail after 26 August 2011.

It is a huge task to return to the sender any unclaimed mail so we do appreciate your help in adhering to this request. Last parcels and letters could contain cards, especially from children, reflecting the excitement of homecomings. You might like to include the latest popular magazine or paperback

book and some lollies to help pass time on the long journey home. Your mail has been a huge morale booster for your loved ones while they have been away and we thank you all for the great efforts you have all made in sending valued letters and parcels. You have made a huge difference.

Goodwill Banners

Colourful goodwill banners, full of wonderful messages from loved ones, to loved ones deploying with TG CRIB 19, has been travelling around the country with the briefing team, gathering many great contributions. The first banner will hang in Kiwi Base for the duration of the deployment and will be a constant reminder that they are always in your thoughts. The second banner is full of Christmas greetings and will be hung over the festive season for all to see.

The Banners will be available for signing at airport departures and will travel on the last flight into Afghanistan after being blessed by the Padre. If you have not had the opportunity to sign the banner and will not be at the airport, but would like your message added, then please call Janine on 0800 683 77 327. Messages can be serious, “I love you, take care” or as someone wrote recently “John don’t forget to wash your socks and leave your boots outside.”

Messages for Father’s Day

Don’t forget to send you messages in for Dads at home or Dads abroad for Father’s Day.

The deadline for the next Bugle is:

8 September at 4.00pm

Please send all messages to Carol at: dso.burnham@extra.co.nz.

“The Bugle” is emailed into most deployment locations and is a

wonderful opportunity to keep in touch!

Return to New Zealand TG CRIB 18

At the time of “Bugle” writing, we have not had permission to publish the return dates and timings for the return of service personnel currently deployed to Afghanistan. This information is however available to the nominated Primary Next of Kin, from Janine (DSO Linton on 0800 683 77 327) or Carol DSO Burnham 0800 33 75 69).

Homecomings are an exciting time and we ask that you keep in contact with us for regular updates. Dates and timings are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control, so be sure to check in. If you are planning to fly to meet service personnel at one of the given NZ destinations, it would be wise to cover your travel with insurance in the event of any late changes needing to be made.

You will recall our previous discussions and information on OPSEC (Operational Security). This very much applies to all flight detail – it is for the safety and security of all that you do not discuss this information with loved ones abroad, by phone, email or facebook, etc. I am sure that you have all now learned to talk in “riddles” and we ask that you treat this information with the respect that is needed.

Loan DVD CRIB Tour Update

If you were unable to attend the tour updates for the current rotation to Afghanistan, a copy of the DVD is available for loan. Please contact Janine on 0800 683 77 327.

Please remember that DVD’s are strictly for home viewing.

ACCESS TO RNZAF BASE AUCKLAND



RNZAF Base Auckland welcomes the opportunity to host families who are welcoming home or saying farewell to loved ones who are involved in overseas deployments. However, security of the Base is important and therefore advise the following:

- ✱ If your family member has indicated to you that they are on a flight which will be landing at Whenuapai, please contact your DSO (Janine or Carol) at least two days before the flight is due, so they can advise Whenuapai that you will be wanting access to the Base.

Please note that you will be required to give us the names of all people wanting access and that you will also be required to show your driver's licence or similar identification on entry.

- ✱ If you are accompanying your deploying service person, their military ID will be sufficient to allow you access to the base.

2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOUR UPDATE—TG GYRO 11 - TIMOR-LESTE

Tour Update

Planning is now being looked at for the tour update briefings for the GYRO 11 contingent. As this has coincided with the Rugby World Cup events, we will only be holding two update briefings, one in Linton and one in Burnham. With additional activity within the Auckland region over the period of the Rugby World Cup, and with so many of our families needing to travel or navigate the traffic, we have decided not to visit this location.

LINTON

Saturday 24 September

Community Centre, Puttick Road, Linton Camp

BURNHAM

Tuesday 27 September

Burnham Camp Conference Centre, Burnham Camp

Timings and all other details will be confirmed and advised in the next "Bugle", but please note your calendars for the update briefings. Invitations will also be sent out with the next "Bugle" mailout.

We encourage Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), extended family members and friends to come along to gain a further insight into the day-to-day lives of your loved ones and to receive valuable tips on reunions and readjusting to family life.

We appreciate that by not briefing in other locations some of you may feel disadvantaged, we trust that by taking up our offer for home viewing of the contingent DVD, once it has been security cleared of course, that this may help

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

Can you help spread some Christmas cheer?

The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (Inc) have asked us to assist with Christmas Cards for Deployed service personnel. You may or may not be aware, that every year, Christmas packages of truly loved and much longed for Kiwi food items and other goodies, are boxed up and sent to all New Zealand Defence service personnel and New Zealand Police deployed, as a Christmas treat. This annual project has, over many years, brought much joy to those separated from loved ones over the festive season. (Please note that this project is not to be confused with the DSO's OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD, which will happen later in the year!)

We have been asked to enlist your help for handmade Christmas cards to be included in these Christmas parcels. It has been suggested that the greeting cards are about A5 in size and made from cardboard where possible. This is a great project for children to contribute to. We ask that you encourage children at your local schools, preschools, clubs and groups to help spread a little Christmas cheer abroad. While cards cannot be sent to named individuals, any contributions to Kiwis serving overseas would be much appreciated. Names and addresses of the "card creator" may be included on the back of cards—in case they are lucky enough to get a reply!

I know Christmas seems some months off but we need to receive cards for this project no later than 12 September 2011.

Please send all contributions to:

Carol Voyce,
Deployment Services Officer
Burnham Regional Support Centre
3rd Land Force Group
Powles Road
Burnham Military Camp
Burnham 7600



**We thank you in anticipation of
your valued contribution**



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

HELPING CHILDREN COPE DURING DEPLOYMENT



Commonly asked Questions from Parents about Deployment

Q: What is the best way to prepare children for deployment?

A: Parents must be honest, and focus on their children's safety, security and continuity of routine. If deployment will change the child's lifestyle such as moving, living with grandparents, or changing childcare, school or community activities, the child needs to hear of these things in advance.

“It is important to remember that while deployments can be a stressful time, they also provide opportunities for families to grow closer and stronger”.

Q: How else can we reassure our children about a deployment?

A: First, parents should digest the information *before* they communicate it to children so they can deliver it in a calm and reassuring manner. Second, children worry about the *safety* of the deployed parent. It is important to let children know that the deployed parent is trained to do their job. Third, it is important to communicate in a way that your child will understand based on their age.

Q: How do children signal their distress?

A: Stress affects children like it does adults. Children may complain of headaches, stomach distress and sleep disturbances. They may display moodiness, irritability, low energy, and have more dramatic reactions to minor situations such as stubbing a toe. It can be difficult sometimes to sort out normal distress and more serious problems. If in doubt, seek medical advice.

Q: Are there ways to reduce stress on children during the separation?

A: Yes, one very positive way is emphasise to your children that they have a job that is as **REAL** as that of the deployed parent. Stress is often the result of feeling helpless or unsure or unclear about a new role or situation. It is important to reinforce that doing well in school, helping out at home and being co-operative is a skill set that is part of *their* job, one that is valued and unique to being a military child. When children do their job they help support their parent's mission.

Q: How should school problems be handled?

A: If there is concern about a child's behaviour at home, parents should notify the school. It is important for the school to be alert to any unusual changes.

General Tips for Communicating with Children

- Be careful about sharing your emotions with children. Some parents share too much or share too little. Children take their cues from you.
- Keep up the routine. Activities, such as games, schooling, bed times, are important to keep regular.



HELPING CHILDREN COPE DURING DEPLOYMENT

Continue to celebrate birthdays or other special occasions with enthusiasm.

- Have your spouse before or while deploying record chapter books on a cassette recorder to be played back to young children. This helps with separation and attachment issues. Likewise, help your children create scrapbooks, video or journals to send or share upon return.
- Listen to your children and their concerns. Children may think a lot and have worries/concerns about their parents that are difficult to express. Be available when they are ready to communicate.
- Limit television and other media coverage of the world's 'trouble spots'.
- *Take care of yourself!* Find time to rest, see a movie or do something just for you. Accept help from family or friends if feeling overwhelmed or in need of time out. We are all more vulnerable to stress when we are tired, and can manage better when we are rested and in tune with ourselves.
- Seek professional help from your military or civilian community for support and information. Help is available from people who are experienced in deployments.

Source: www.usubs.mil (Abridged)

Positive Aspects of Separation

Many parents worry about the negative impact of deployments on children. However, deployments offer many positive growth opportunities. Several psychological studies show that despite the distress during separation significant developmental gains are made by many children. Some positive aspects of separation include:

- * **Fosters maturity:** Military children encounter more situations and have broader and more varied experiences than children from non-military families. **Induces growth.** Military children learn more about the world and how to function within a community at an earlier age. Taking on additional responsibilities in a parent's absence provides a chance to develop new skills and develop hidden interests and abilities.
- * **Encourages Independence:** Military children tend to be more resourceful and self-starters. In a life-style filled with greetings and farewells from deployments and relocations, it helps for future farewells and building new friendships.
- * **Strengthens family bonds:** Military families make emotional adjustments during a separation which often lead them to discover new sources of strength

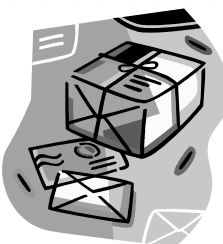


and support among themselves. A major function of families is assuring that the family is aware of all support services available to them and how to access these services. It is imperative that they realize that they are not alone and, chances are, whatever problem or situation they encounter has been addressed before or can be solved.

Source: www.military.com (Abridged)



DEPLOYMENT MAILING ADDRESSES

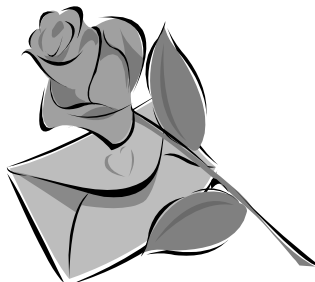


Letters and parcels (up to 1kg in weight) may be sent to deployed personnel at the following addresses, at internal NZ Post rates. When mailing your parcels, please retain the receipts given to you by your Post Shop so the item can be traced, if required. A green Customs sticker must be attached to any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

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

Afghanistan:

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



Israel (Op SCORIA):

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

Timor-Leste:

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

Solomon Islands:

Regimental Number, Rank, Initials and Surname
 Op RATA 14
 P O Box R131, Randi Office of Exchange
 Honiara
 Solomon Islands
 C/- International Mail Centre
 Auckland 2022

Antarctica (Op ANTARCTICA):

(No requirement for "Forces Concession Rate")

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

Sinai (Op FARAD):

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

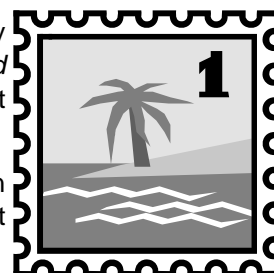
Other Deployment Locations:

(No requirement for "Forces Concession Rate")

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

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

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



PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 8 September 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

To Jackie and Pearly Gates

Reasons why Jackie and Pearl made my trip a whole lot better:

- I ask for chewing gum, I don't expect 1 packet of juicy fruit
- Telling me the price for the warrant after the 1,600.00 payment
- Sending me animals kissing because she misses me!
- Telling me how the dog is going to be affected because it won't be able to sleep in my bed when I get back.

But the one thing that kept me going was knowing that no matter what, you were always there in my heart from the moment I left. Thank you for being there when I needed you. The most big hugs, love you. P.S: Don't forget to bring the plasters to the airport because this man is cut. And bring a cage for these SICK PUPPIES! LOL, from you know!

TK Boys

Hi sons - missing you all heaps. Will be home soon to be with you all. Love your mum and help her out, as I know you are doing. Caleb, have a good birthday next week!

MULU Girl

Hi mate, not long now and we will be back together. Thanks for the birthday package too. Love BOBO.

Dear Family and Friends

Thank you for all your letters and support in this time! To Sam and Lucas, Happy Birthday to you both this month. I love and miss you all, and look forward to seeing you upon my return. Love, Greg xoxo.

Hi Taff, Jordan and Tamara

Not too much longer until I get

home, so exciting! Started training to do a half marathon here in September, fingers crossed I start and finish in one piece and don't die of the heat. I really enjoyed seeing the little video clips and photos of you playing in the snow. Looks like it was a lot of fun, and a bonus day off school! The snowman was awesome too, part of the family. Keep up the good work at school Jordan, and make sure you keep doing your chores. Big hugs and kisses to you all, love Mum. xoxoxoxoxoxox.

Hey Spunky Monkey!

Half way through already and not many sleeps to go till I see you! Can't wait! Hope the adventures are keeping you busy. See you real soon! Hugs to the boys!! Love Genevieve xxx.

Dearest Rachel Cecilia

Happy Birthday for the 20th! Hope your gift has made it there in time and that you like it! Keep up the good work on the teaching front! Looking forward to catching up when I get back....keep smiling. Have a drink or two for me along with cake! Will give you a call on your special day! Loads of love, Jen and Chris xxx.

To my dear wee Niece Ashley

Have a wonderful birthday on the 29th! Hope you like the wee gifts that I have sent you from both Uncle Chris and I. Thank you for all the lovely letters you have written me, they are proudly on display in my room. Keep up the good work in your rugby games and at school. Look forward to having a chat to you on your special day. Loads of love from Aunt Jen and Uncle Chris xxx.

To my Dear wee Nephew Caleb

Hope you liked the wee surprise I sent you! Keep scoring the tries at Rugby! Thank you for all your cool letters you have sent me – they are AWESOME!!! Love Aunt Jen and Uncle Chris xxx.

Hey Mum and Dad

Happy Fathers Day Dad, Love you lots and lots xx. Everything is going well over here, same old really. On the downhill slope now! Can't wait for Xmas! Finally might get to get out in the bullet!! Love me, xox.

From Home

Hi Dad!

Me and Mum are missing you heaps but Mum says you're going to be home soon so we're really excited!! I'm doing really well! Mum says I'm really clever just like you. I love having cuddles so can't wait till you come home so you can have cuddles too. You're such a hard worker Dad! Mum and I are so proud of you and what you're doing over there. Hey Dad...Guess what?...I LOVE YOU! Love from Jaxson (& Hendrix) xoxo.

Hi Love Bag!

Not long now until you're home! I can't wait, I miss you so much. You are such a ray of sunshine in my life, as is our son - I can't wait till we can be a family again. Thank you for all your hard work over there love, I know it can't be easy but I appreciate all that you do for us, I'm so proud of you. KH4FC!! Love you so much love. Love from Towna xoxo.

Hi Suraj

Happy 22nd Birthday on 27th August! Looking forward to your

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

return - we'll celebrate then. Love Dad and Linda.

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.

Hey Tony

Hope you're all good. See you when you're home for a bevvie! Miss ya love Ben.

Hey Boy

Grumpy is driving your sister and I mad! Come home safely. Love sabk's.

To Dad

I miss you. I can't wait until you get home. I can't wait until the present comes. Today I was playing in the sandpit and I got friends now, wasn't that quick at getting friends? I nearly know all the people in my class. We learnt about shapes today, I had a great day today. Love from Kaea xoxox.

To Dad

Its 50 sleeps today, Mahoe got the letters; they really liked them, especially the pictures. Well, going to Kaeas rugby now, Love you, Dione.

Hi Walle

Are you still lost? We're still waiting for your letter!!! Uncle Bruce enjoyed the Bledisloe game – thought Oz were rubbish – ground was great. Ask Gran how good her cheesecake was!!! Love B B M & A.

Hi Walle

Grandma's only kidding about the shopping list – I'm not! But no more cigarettes! Take care ... see you soon. Love Mum.

Hey A

Miss you heaps, keep being awesome. Love you! – Lu.

Dear Christian

Really stoked to see what you and the lads are doing. Looking forward to you coming home mate! Be safe & take care. I love you son. Arohanui, Dad. P.S: If you can squeeze the donkey we saw on the DVD into your luggage for mum, I'm sure she'd be eternally grateful.

Hi Zach

Not long to go until you can lie in bed all day – and you have a speeding ticket. Mum & Dad.

Hi Walle

Shopping list for home journey too long for Bugle! Loved the video. You & your mates are doing a great job. Looking forward to seeing you; family is not the same without you. Matt has his L Licence. Love Gran.

Hi Greg

Looking forward to seeing you soon - Lucas and Same also. Hope Lucas will be walking by then. He knows his Dad Dad by your photos, hope he recognises the real thing! All our love, enjoy your next few weeks. Love Mum & Dad.

Hi Aunty Fluff

We miss you soo much, can't wait till you come home and have nanny naps with me. I love you. Kia kaha. Love lil Miss fluff Hayley bubu xxx.

Hi Vasillis (Theo)

Skype Dad before you land in NZ, because he thought every second person in DVD was you. Luv Mum.

Hi Baley

NOT LONG TO GO NOW!! Can't wait to see your Smiley face at the airport, missing you so much. Love always, your little leopard xx.

Tony

Just at the briefing, learnt lots!

Can't wait till you are home, very proud of you bro. Love Kimmy xxx.

Hey Tony

Yay, not long now, let the countdown begin! Will put some beers in the fridge and make sure the dogs have been walked so they won't bowl you over with happiness like I might! Love you with all my heart. Cat, xoxo.

Tyson

My Darling, I love & miss you; can't wait to see you again. Not long to go. Love Erin.

Thomas Lady Bug

Patricia, Peter & Anne lady bugs are really excited about you coming home. Can't wait for our road trip! Love you heaps, take care & keep safe, from us.

Hey Bubi

Miss ya hepas. C ya soon., luv, ya girls J & R xxx.

Hey Ua

We are all thinking of you and can't wait to have you home safe. Saw you on video – cried. Love, Mum, Kel, Luke, Jaz, Kez & TJ.

Khromie

S'up nig?! We alguds ... Hurry home so you can put down the 'umu' & we can do it Island stylz. Much alofa's – da famz.

Hi 'G' Gareth

You're onto the count down home ... we're looking forward to seeing you heaps. xx Mum, Dad, Adam.

Hi G Hand

Can't wait to see you and hear all your story's. Miss you heaps a. Love Dad.

Hi Pic

Keep the camera rolling & bring them home safe with you. C-U-soon. (Maybe in Dubai a catch up) if it can. X us.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Hey Mat

See you managed to stay out of the DVD. You all look like you are doing a great job for NZ. We are all proud of you. Will see you again later this year. From M and E.

Hay Nathan

Can't wait for you to come home! We have missed you and can't wait for our family to be complete again. Stay safe. Shelley (aka Medicated Mum), Chiaynne, Markhus & Alexys-Jordyn. Xxxx.

Hi Nathan

Can't wait to see you and be home safe and we know where you are (LOL). Keep safe Nath, take care and see you soon. Sharron & Becky (crazy lady) xxx.

Geoffrey

Looking forward to you coming home and celebrating with you and Libby. Love Mum & Dad.

Hi Oscy

I'm so proud of you. I miss you every day and I can't wait to see you again. I'm super excited for all our sweet camping trips ... and hopefully I'll be fit enough to keep up with you! I love you, I always will. Xoxo. Rustle.

Hi Dad

7 weeks now! Hope you have a grate time ... love Ryan.

Nige

Chuff Chart started. See you soon, love Maggie.

To Dad

We didn't see your photo on the DVD but it was fun to watch anyway. They told us you will be home soon so that is great news. We can't wait to go camper-vanning with you when you get home. Love Joshua xxx.

To Dad

We miss you so much, we can't

wait for you to come home so we can all go to Australia. Love forever, Kayla & Bailey xxx

There is an old man in the Stan Who loves to follow through a good plan He works hard in the heat And we miss him a heap That good old man in the Stan Love from Kiddo, Melron and YT xoxo.

From Home to the Bamyar Province where my little Bro D.C.J Hanson is hiding in a sand pit! Wow, home next month. We're all well excited so hang in there and I'll see you soon. Much love, Brian.

Hiya Mate – Dad here

Can't wait for ya to get home. Rugby & Roger Waters. Sweet as. Love ya Daniel. xxx

Hey my Huny Bear

Hope you're still having a good time. I miss you lots and can't wait to see you home again soon. Lots of love, your Bubbu.

Hi Keiran

Not long now. Your family and friends are looking forward to you coming home. Saw the photos of "Dave" but don't bring him home with you. Enjoy your relaxation in Dubai. Plans underway for your 21st. Lots of love Mum, Dad and Dylan.

Kia roa Uncle Ben

We had great time in Taupo, we need to book it again so I can beat you at the snow on the sled, all out on the extreme course, no beginning lessons for you. Love Brianna, Simon & Tara, xoxo Kia Kaha See ya soon.

Hi Dale

Counting the days now, min dae, can't wait (vasbyt). Love Mum xxx

JTM

You would say its late, but you're not American, so Happy Father's Day. Can't wait to see you. Love Carlie, Katie & Jack xxx J

Alex

A BIG day – 3 Sept. Happy 21st from us all at home. Xxx

Hey Ben (BJ)

Motel is booked, so does that mean Dad and I can still go with you? hehe. Count down is on. Love you xxx. Mum L.

Sooky Bubba

Wow three months down today! Can still see your plane disappearing behind the clouds hoping you would turn around and come home! Can't say I am finding today any easier than what I was the first day you left. But I'm being strong for our BABY GIRL!. I'm sorry for everything that has happened while you have been away. But I love you and can't wait for the day you tell me you're coming home. Hope you're doing okay. I miss you baby love your sooky bubba and baby girl xoxoxo.

Smirky

Yay, you are on the homeward stretch, we are really missing your face now! I even smile now when I get the milk from the fridge and see your artwork....which won't come off.....anything. We are all sick of the cold and can't wait till Summer, and you come home so the fun can begin. We will have belated birthday celebrations as soon as you are back, though I reckon you will be a cheap drink now. Even Ryan will be able to drink you under the table. Big love from Sarah, Madi, and Kya xxx.

MULU

Watching you climb the stairs to the plane all those months ago, it seemed like it would be forever... but here I am writing my last

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

message, and looking forward to your safe return. The boys feel the same way too and they are looking at doing lots of fun things with their dad. It snowed here in Linton. It's perfectly natural in Waikouaiti, but here it's just plain weird. We've really hibernated this winter and we are looking forward to some time together as a whanau and just enjoying being with each other and hopefully enjoying warmer weather. Take care for the rest of it and thank you for keeping regular contact with us. I think it made all the difference J Love you...MULU

Dear Dad

I went to school. School is fun and when you come back, come and see my school. I took my koala bear to school because we are learning about Australia. The koala is cute. The weather is not fine. It is snowing in Palmy and now it is raining. Thank you, Dad. I love you and I miss you miss you miss you really much. Love Joshua.

Hi Dad

I have exams coming up. It's snowing as well. I had my first accounting tutorial today. For youth this week, we've got the sports night on and we've also got the youth alpha this weekend. Other than that, we're fine. We're missing you. Come back soon. Love Nui.

Hey

How's it going? Not too long now!. Hope you're having a good time. We lost our last game. School is going alright. It's nearly my birthday. It will be my first birthday without you here. Youth and youth is going good. Can't wait till you get home. Love, Caleb.

Hi Daddy

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY mum says you are finally coming home! I can't wait to see you again and show you everything I have learnt and how big I have grown! I will try to be

walking properly when you get home so I can walk to you when we pick you up. Sorry we didn't get to spend your first Father's Day together but once you are home we can do lots and celebrate my first birthday again. Miss you heaps, love you lots, Kiara xxx.

Hey Huni

Yay not long now and we will have you home with us again (damn a messy house too!!!) We have missed you so much and I know you have missed your little girl a lot too. We will celebrate her first birthday together when you are home. Miss you heaps and love you lots and don't forget the pretty box with something inside. Xxx.

Hey there Love

Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You. Sad we can't be there with you on your special day but I know you will have a great day none the less. Enjoy your parcel and we will be thinking of you. Looking forward to seeing you in a couple of months! Hope you got some great ideas for Xmas, lol. Take care, Miss you and Love you Heaps. Mum, Dad and Trine xoxoxoxox.

BOUQUETS

Captain Kelvin McMillan

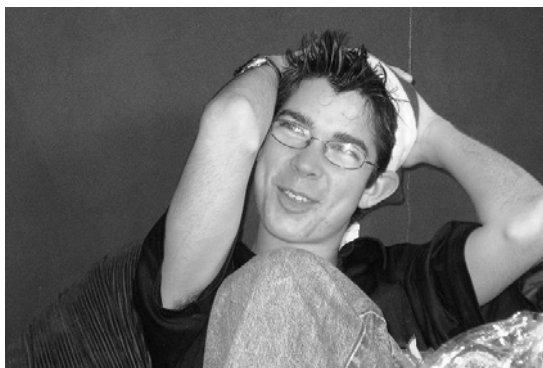
Sincere thanks for your valuable contributions to the tour update briefs, for all those associated with the current deployment to Afghanistan. Your wisdom, knowledge, experiences and great presentation were appreciated by us all. (And we loved the DVD!) *Janine and PNOK and families CRIB 18.*

CRIB 18

You excelled! Many thanks for the great DVD you sent for the tour updates. We so much appreciated the time, thought and energy you put into giving us a glimpse of your day to day lives so far from us all. Sincere thanks to you all, Safe travels – we look forward to seeing you all. *Janine and PNOK and families of CRIB 18.*

Dear Alex

Your 21st Birthday - will certainly be a memorable one for us also as you are not here with us to celebrate! I hope you party up large and cook makes you a cake. We love you and miss you every day.











HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY!!!

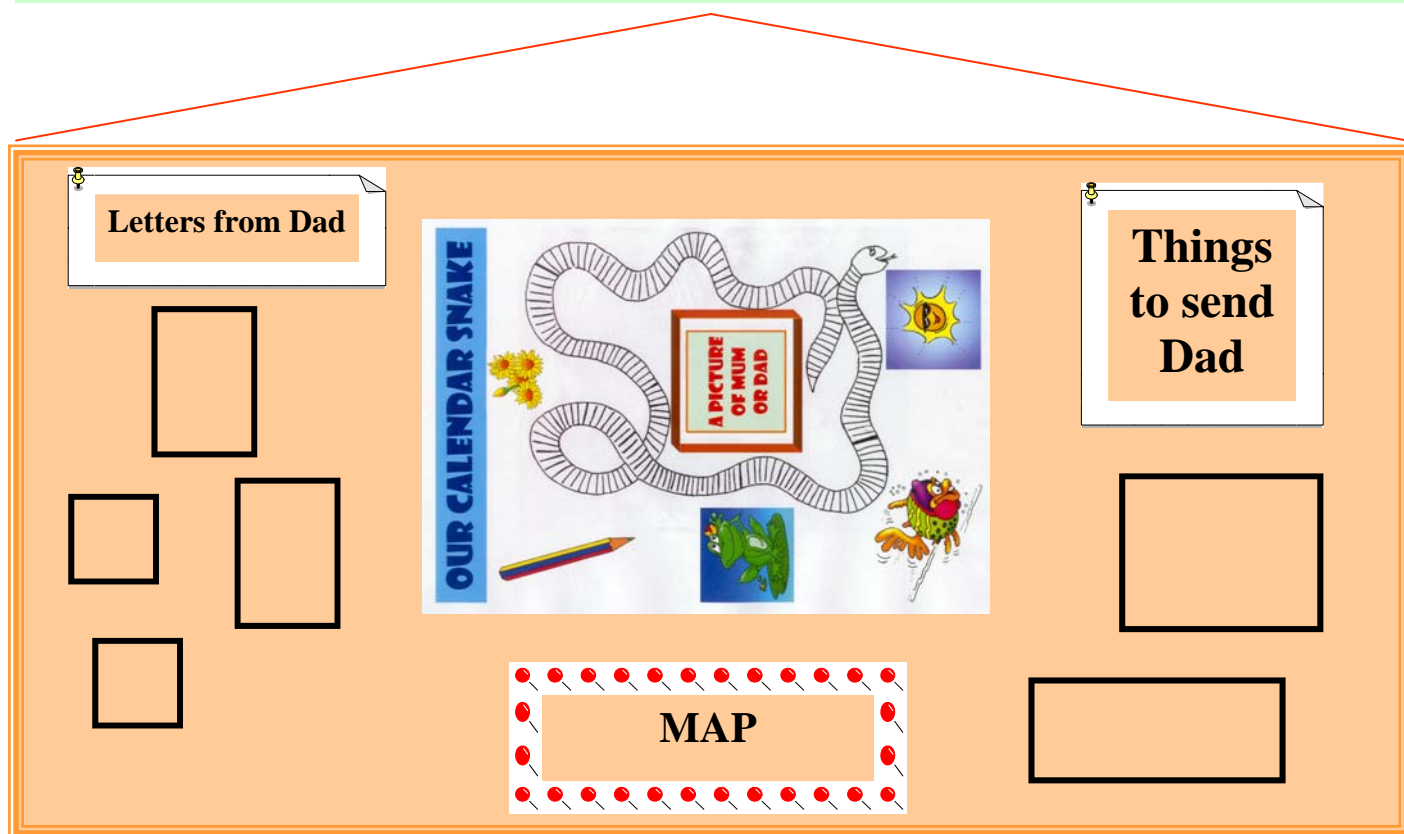
Mum, Pete, Tracey and Cara x xx.

Our Calendar Snake






INSTRUCTIONS:

(For Calendar Snake — See back page)

-  Enlarge the snake up to A3 size if desired.
-  Get the children to draw some pictures of their own around the snake.
-  Fill in the number of 'sleeps' to go, '1' being the day before Dad or Mum, Brother or Sister gets home.
-  Write in the months around the 'snake' and every so often write in the date in case you lose your place!
-  This 'snake' is designed for a seven-month deployment. For shorter deployments colour in the area you don't require at the start. Remember to leave a few extra segments as return to New Zealand dates can change.
-  Laminate the sheet so it will last the distance.
-  Hang on the wall in the busiest room in the house.
-  Colour off the days with a whiteboard marker.



Here's some extra ideas.....

-  Place the 'snake' in the centre of a large noticeboard (the Warehouse has them).
-  Place a map of the deployment location below it.
-  Have an area for letters, postcards and photos from Dad or Mum.
-  On the one side have a large envelope to hold letters, pictures, etc, to send with your next letter or parcel.
-  Don't forget to put a photo of Dad or Mum in the centre before you laminate it.

Design & Layout: Christine Muir

Our Calendar Snake

