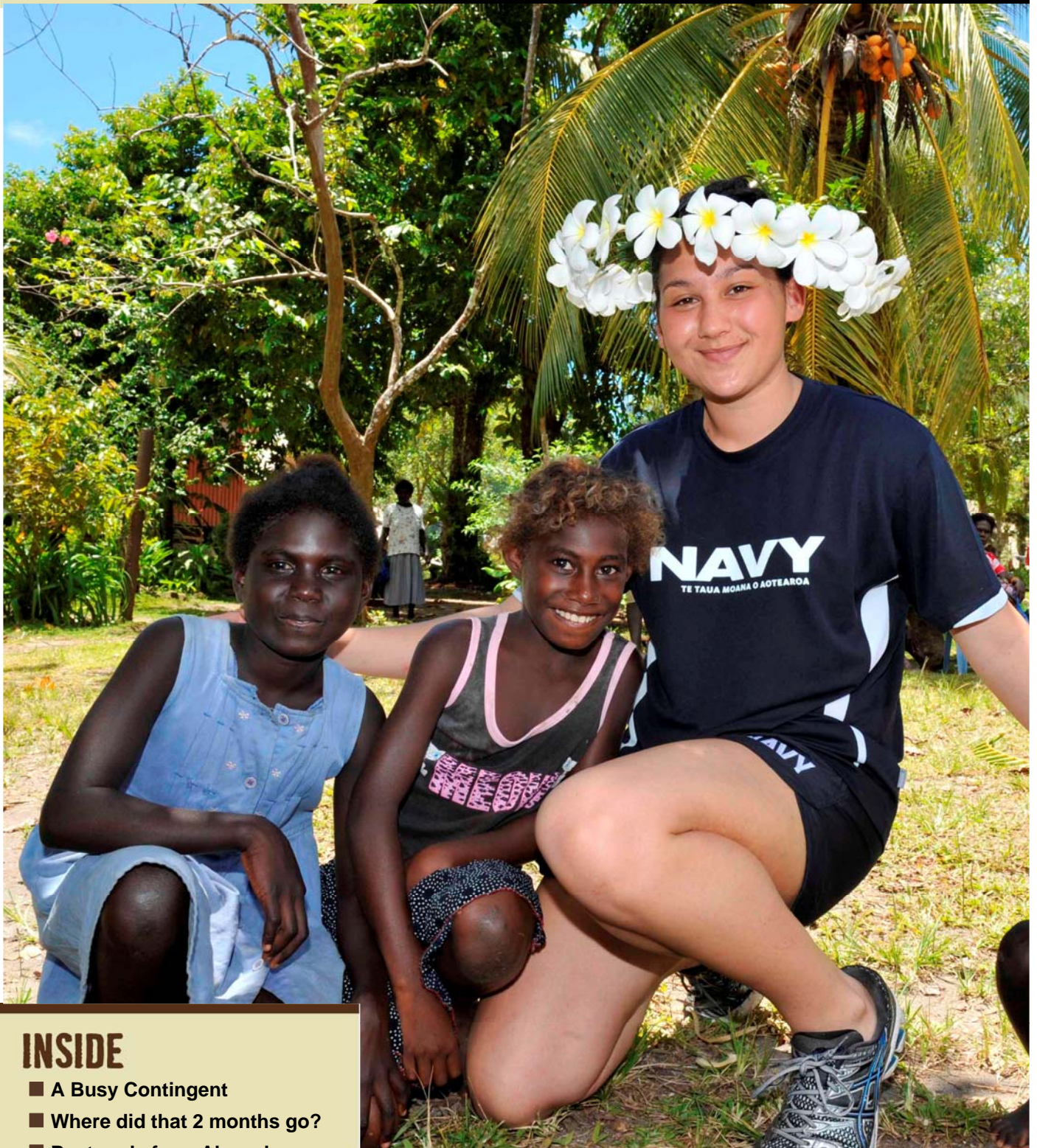


THE BUGLE

Issue 161 | November 2011



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"THE BUGLE"

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

Deadline

The deadline for Edition 162 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:

Ordinary Steward Chelsea Grace
with local children in the Solomon
Islands

HMNZS RESOLUTION IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

8 November 2011

Ordinary Steward Chelsea Grace

This is my very first trip in the Navy and I'm so excited to be going overseas to Rabaul and the Solomon Islands. The weather here is so hot and humid it takes some getting used to, but once you've acclimatised you start to love it.

So far in my adventure I've visited Mono Island in the Solomon Islands. I came across some amazing people and listened to their stories about the Second World War, and how it affected them and their people. I was blown away to hear them describe their experiences in such detail. To me, it was as if the events they described happened just yesterday.



The villages are filled with smiling people and children who love to play soccer. It made me realise how lucky we are as Kiwis to have the things we have and how we often take things for granted. These people don't come from wealthy or middle class backgrounds, they come from next to nothing, yet they make

do with what they have. They have each other and to them that's all that matters.

This trip has really been a great experience so far. Being on the same islands as our New Zealand war dead were laid and to visit the area where men laid down their lives for our freedom is also pretty special. They made the ultimate sacrifice. I know when I get home I'll have so many stories to tell my friends and family.

It makes me proud to be a part of such a tight crew here on board *HMNZS Resolution* and to see all on board working hard for these people and their communities.

We might be a small crew, but I know that we have certainly made a big difference to lots of the island people we have met.

Source: NZDF

NEWS UPDATE



SOUTHERN REAPER UNDERWAY IN SOUTH ISLAND

Exercise Southern Reaper, a military exercise involving more than 1200 personnel, is underway in the South Island.

The exercise will run until 13 November in the Oamaru, Herbert Forest, Waimate, Waitaki Valley, Danseys Pass, Hakataramea Valley and Tekapo areas.

It is designed to give essential training to Army and Air Force personnel in preparation for deployment overseas. Led by Burnham-based 2/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR) the exercise has been designed to develop the skills personnel need to operate within an urban environment, and provides experience in operating among the population of a real town.

The Commanding Officer of 2/1 RNZIR, Lieutenant Colonel Stef Michie says exercise participants are training in a contemporary operating environment, using both blank and live ammunition in the combat scenarios. No live ammunition is being used in urban areas.

"This environment requires them to face the complexities of conducting a wide range of tasks from close combat to stability and security operations, to working in a dangerous scenario, including under the threat of improvised explosive devices, while interacting with a local population still going about its daily business," he says.

Beyond its primary objective, Southern Reaper also provides an opportunity to conduct several other important activities, including allowing the current High Readiness capability from 2/1

RNZIR to be exercised. For force elements preparing for pre-deployment training and operations in early 2012, the exercise will enhance their skills in key areas such as vehicle based operations and counter improvised explosive device work.

Exercise Open Days for the public will be held on 12 November at Waimate Seddon Square and Oamaru Marist Rugby Football Club from 9am to 12 noon. Entry will be by gold coin donation with all proceeds going to the Waimate Historical Society and the Oamaru Sea Cadets.

Source: NZDF



WWII MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATED ON VELLA LAVELLA ISLAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS

A dedication service has been held on Vella Lavella Island, Solomon Islands after HMNZS RESOLUTION delivered a memorial plaque commemorating the Kiwis who lost their lives in the WWII battle to liberate the island.

15 New Zealand servicemen were killed during a Japanese bombing attack in Niarovai Bay, Vella Lavella on 1 October 1943. They were buried on the island and later

re-interred at Bourail War Cemetery in New Caledonia.

Later in the war, members of the 209th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery erected a large stone plinth at the site with a metal plaque commemorating those who had died. Over time the memorial was forgotten and it fell into disrepair.

New Zealand soldiers patrolling in the area for the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) rediscovered the memorial in 2006 and the corroded plaque was later sent to the NZ Army Museum in Waikouaiti.

NZ High Commission staff and NZ Defence Force personnel serving in the Solomon Islands began a restoration project in 2011 to have a replacement plaque erected at the site.

A new stone plaque was made in New Zealand replicating the

original wording and adding new information about the post-war history of the memorial.

"The memorial is one of the very few physical reminders of the significant role that New Zealand servicemen played during the campaign to liberate Vella Lavella from the Japanese. It is important to remember and honour their sacrifice," said Major Al Mitchell, NZ Senior National Officer in the Solomons and Deputy Commander of RAMSI.

"The Kiwi troops serving in the Solomons have helped the NZ High Commission staff to raise the funds for this restoration project.

"It's great to be able to come together with the people of Vella Lavella for a dedication service for the new memorial. We have been warmly welcomed by the locals here, who have also helped with the restoration project".

NEWS UPDATE



DISPOSAL OF WWII REMNANTS OF WAR IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Source: Korero

3 November 2011

The NZ, Australian and Papua New Guinea Defence Forces have been making Rabaul in Papua New Guinea a safer place by disposing of WWII remnants of war.

A NZ Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team and a Royal NZ Navy Operational Diving Team have helped to safely dispose of a range of WWII ordnance including unexploded bombs, shells, mortars, grenades and torpedoes.

Following HMNZS RESOLUTION's survey of Rabaul Harbour numerous wrecks of ships and aircraft were located along with vast amounts of ordnance both on the sea bed and ashore.

HMNZS WELLINGTON joined HMAS GASCOYNE and HMAS DIAMANTINA to support Operation RENDER SAFE, the ADF's enduring contribution to EOD support in the South Pacific. The two week long operation which concludes this week has involved more than 150 personnel from the three participating nations.

The operation also involved the local community in Rabaul with the establishment of a reporting system to locate the ordnance. An explosive awareness campaign was also run which will provide enduring benefit to the area.

"The operation has been a good opportunity to work alongside our Australian Defence Force and Papua New Guinea colleagues to help to make Rabaul a safer place. It has also allowed our EOD teams to enhance their skills in rendering

unexploded ordnance safe.

"The support from the local community has been a key factor in the success of the operation. The Papua New Guineans have greatly assisted our disposal teams in the location, removal and final disposal of this ordnance.

"It was good to spend time with the locals and it was fortunate that aside from EOD work the teams were also able to assist in refurbishing a local school house," said Lieutenant Commander Martin Doolan, Commanding Officer, HMNZS WELLINGTON.



Royal Australian Navy copyright. 017 - Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Clearance Divers and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Armament Technicians with the assistance of PNG Defence Force members, Royal NZ Navy and NZ Army personnel, empty a WWII Japanese Tunnel of almost 100 Type 92 15cm High Explosive Projectiles as part of Operation RENDER SAFE 2011

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including:

- GYRO 12 arrives ready for all challenges
- A Busy Contingent
- Where did that two months go?
- GBR games report from the Solomon Islands
- Communication back home
- Chaplain's Pen from Abroad

NEWS FROM GYRO 12 TIMOR-LESTE

GYRO 12 ARRIVES READY FOR ALL CHALLENGES

MAJ Steve Challies
OC GYRO 12

After a few aircraft delays which left half the contingent with a couple of unexpected days in Darwin, GYRO 12 received a very emotionally charged and extremely well presented powhiri at KIWI Lines on Thursday 3 November. The powhiri was attended by the NZ

Ambassador to East Timor, Mr Tony Fautua, Commander ISF Colonel Luke Foster and a large number of senior ISF, OP KORU and NZ Police personnel. It was an auspicious moment for 1 RNZIR, as it may well be the last time that two groups get to meet at a powhiri in East Timor, as the mission is in its last stages. This was a fine introduction to a NZDF operational deployment for our troops on their first mission and has set a very

high bench mark for us to aspire too.

Prior to our arrival, GYRO 12 had undertaken nearly three weeks of pre-deployment training (PDT) at Linton where some elements met and formed for the first time. The Rifle Platoon and PMV Troop, based mainly on V Coy 1 RNZIR, had the benefit of being together for about three months prior to PDT. Our Combat Service Support Team and Headquarters elements are made up of RNZALR, RNZSigs RNZAF and RNZN personnel from a variety of camps and bases. GYRO 12 came together well throughout this training and we aim to maintain this cohesion over the duration of our tour.

We have some operationally experienced members in our group, about 15 of which have served previously in East Timor, one in particular undertaking his 4th six month TOD. This gives us a good insight into the people and the nation and reinforces for all of us the long term commitment that NZ has made to East Timor. We are now the guardians of the work and mana of all NZ'ers who have



GYRO 12 respond to GYRO 11's challenge with their own haka which was created specifically for the deployment



Members of GYRO 11 greet GYRO 12 with a very powerful and emotionally charged wero

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



PTE Crawford WAanoa (GYRO 11) (left) greets PTE Matenga (GYRO 12) during the powhiri at KIWI Lines

served here since 1999. The challenge for us will be to live up to the standards of the 4-5,000 Kiwis that have gone before us, and in particular the reputation for professionalism that GYRO 11 has forged with ISF and the East Timorese, as we take up the reigns for the next six months.

Our tour in East Timor will cover a very interesting period for the host nation and the ISF mission. The Presidential Elections are forecast for March 2012 and the eyes of the region will be on East Timor as it hopes to prove that the democratic process has matured in the past five years. There are also changes

afoot that will affect our home in the HPOD as the mission realigns itself to meet the inevitable drawdown of forces that will happen in the future. We aim to meet these challenges, and any others that come our way in the same manner that the NZBATTs, GYROs and KORU of the past have – with a can do attitude and always maintaining the mana of our Defence Force and country as we carry out our tasks.

We look forward to maintaining contact with our family and loved ones through “The Bugle”, and you can be rest assured as OC I will do my utmost to ensure the safe return of GYRO 12 at the completion of our tour.

In closing, I would like to thank GYRO 11 for the way that you have hosted us during our command recce, advance party, and throughout our theatre indoctrination and handover here. You have set and maintained a high standard across all aspects of the deployment and have created a foundation for us to succeed. Kia Kaha – have a safe journey home and a well deserved break.

NEWS FROM CRIB 19 AFGHANISTAN

A BUSY CONTINGENT

WO1 M.P. Ropitini
Kiwi Base Warrant Officer
CRIB 19, NZ Provincial
Reconstruction Team

It's been over two months since the majority of us arrived in theatre and although it may not seem like it to our families and loved ones back home, I personally feel that the time has flown by very quickly. We have been kept very busy since our arrival with regular patrols,

providing assistance to the other key stake holders and agencies within the NZPRT, playing host to numerous visitors, both the US and Malaysian contingents have since carried out their respective handover's, and because of the way we are postured here in the Bamyān Province now, there is always something to do or going on within Kiwi Base to keep yourself busy and/or involved.

As the Kiwi Base Warrant Officer or KBWO (the appointment has

previously been the domain of the contingent CSM), I have the unenviable task of playing ‘camp mother’ to a variety of characters and personalities. Each present their own respective challenges, a work in progress that I am slowly but surely working my way through. Nevertheless, one of my key responsibilities is the management and supervision of a number of locally employed civilians (LEC's) – 20 x interpreters and 4 x general employees.

During PDT, although I did not know it at the time, the staff had purposely tasked one of the interpreter role players to constantly annoy me. Man, I really thought this particular person was a

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

down right busy-body, nosey-parker, and absolute nuisance (apologies LT). However, as I got more and more into the job, I guess you can say the penny well and truly finally dropped. At first, some of the interpreters would either turn up late or sneak off home early, and they would always start their conversations with, "The previous CSM promised me" or, "The previous CRIB said we could do this", so it took me a few days to get the measure of them. Since then, we've all been through a 're-education process' and have now established a sound mutual working relationship. But yes Hoggy, 'they certainly do keep you busy!'

Along with the Engineer LEC's, I would say the four general employees I manage are some of the hardest working personnel here on Kiwi Base. One works in the laundry, and the other three are general cleaners/rubbish detail. If one or more of them is away on leave or for compassionate reasons, the others chip in and help. Ahmed (or old man as they call him) was here during the Russian occupation, and has he got a few war stories to tell. I dread Fridays, which is their day off, because this base literally goes to pieces without them – "my predecessors know what I mean". And by the way Dave Kohere, "the real Ramazan is nothing like the role player you had on Ex Afghan Step!"

To the CO 1 RNZIR, LTCOL Glenn King, whilst the Warriors didn't win the NRL title, the All Blacks 'are' the world champions and certainly from our perspective, that was the key result – morale was very high around the base that day and for many more after.

In closing, I'd also like to acknowledge the dedicated support from our families and loved ones

back home. There is still about five months to go, so as we enter the cold winter period, I would like to thank you all in advance for your continued encouragement and support to the CRIB 19 contingent.

Before signing off, like my predecessor Hoggy, I'd also like to finish off this article with a small report from one of our interpreters. Habibi has been with the NZPRT for some time now and is a well respected individual both here at Kiwi Base and within the local community.

NZPRT INTERPRETER

Mohammad Askar Habibi
NZ Interpreter

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with all NZPRT CRIB's. Although it not a long time working with CRIB 19, they have been very friendly and respective toward us interpreters during this short period of time. We are all working as one team to help Bamyar Province. When we first begun to work with Kiwi's we had some difficulties especially with the Kiwi accent, but in course of time, through their help, our language skills have improved considerably. We have

learned a lot about New Zealanders culture, custom, and lifestyle.

The Kiwi's always respect our people, culture, religion, and customs. They don't even eat, drink and smoke in public during the month of Ramadan which makes us feel happy. We and Bamyar people consider Kiwi's are Bamyar citizens, sometimes Bamyar people host them into their houses, they eat local food and drink chai (tea) like locals.

We interpreters and the Bamyar people think that the NZPRT is one of the best security forces in Afghanistan and we will never forget their support and assistance to our country. We hope they continue their presence in Afghanistan especially in Bamyar Province. We appreciate the New Zealand Government and its people for supporting our country.

Though it is raining sometimes now and the weather has begun to get cold earlier in this year, I will hope it will not annoy my friends in CRIB 19. I wish they could accomplish their mission successfully and enjoy their time in Bamyar, Afghanistan. I wish all the best and success on their mission to CRIB 19 members.



Raufy, Aman, WO1 Ropes Ropitini, Habibi, Waseel Hassan, Ghulam

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

WHERE DID THAT TWO MONTHS GO?

LTCDR Wayne Burtton
OC NSE

Setting the Scene

As you read this article two months has passed since a very tired team stepped off the aircraft at Bagram. It had been a long trip from NZ with only an overnight stop at Darwin. For us all it was a relief to get to our final destination and our home for the next seven months.

What home turned out to be was the Kiwi Lines which are made up of 3 plywood huts, each of which is divided in half with each half being able to accommodate 3-4 people. One of the huts is configured slightly different in that half is the recreation room with TV while the other half is a transit bunk room able to sleep 10. The middle hut has a deck out the front which is the envy of the other coalition forces in our camp which is known as Dragon. But it's our location at the back of the camp against the large perimeter wall that provides us the luxury of a deck as it doesn't impede access to those conducting their day to day business.

There are no ablutions with the huts. The toilets are close by and consist of three porta loos which we share with a large group of others. To say the least these are less than satisfactory, as well as less than

sanitary. The showers are approximately 150 metres away and we share these with most of the camp. Number of people in the camp – who knows, but what I do know is that they all want to use the showers at the same time. Combine the numbers with the option of hot or cold running water (warm is rarely an option) it makes for an adventure. Imagine camping for seven months over summer and winter and you get the general idea.

Our office is in a two storey building called Motel 6 (pictured). Why is it called that? Who knows, we are at a loss to explain given that the building in front is called Motel 8 and we have yet to track down Motel 7!!! The office is on the bottom floor and is surprisingly functional. All 8 of us survive happily in this area.



What we do

We are known as the ARIKI NSE and form part of OP TROY. Broadly

our function is to provide logistical support to the NZDF elements within Afghanistan. This support generally comes in the form of 'satisfying demands' which means if any of the elements within our region require any stores support (usually clothing or equipment items), our office sources the best and most cost effective place to source the item(s). The NSE then arranges to get the item(s) to where they need to be. These activities require the SUP TECHs and MOV Ops to work together to make it happen in a timely manner. There are other activities just as important such as ensuring mail is delivered or sent home, people are paid and the cash account is maintained all of which the Clerk, as S1 & S9, controls. The computer network is maintained by the IS OP so that contact can be maintained with family and friends back home and I guess there's that ever present need to maintain contact with units back home that provide support to those of us overseas. These activities account for six of the team of nine. The remainder are made of our intrepid MOV OP in Kandahar who has a wider and more diverse role of interfacing with coalition forces to move 'stuff' to where it needs to be. Occasionally we get to see him, generally around payday, and then in a remarkable impression of 'The Phantom' he disappears for another month.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Lastly, there is the 2IC who co-ordinates this 'mish mash' of activities so that there is some form of coherence that fits a satisfactory timeline to meet the need. Then of course there's me as OC who generally marvels at the way the team put all this together while ensuring that the contractual agreements are maintained and they function according to the agreements.

So who makes up the NSE team?
Let me introduce you:

OC

Lt Cdr Wayne Burton

2IC

CAPT Mike Mist

CSM/MOV OP 1

WO2 'Beach' Baker

SUP TECH 1

SSGT Oonagh Taru

S1/S9

Sgt Fal Smith

MOV OP (Kandahar)

SGT Paul Cannon

SUP TECH 2

CPL Tawhiti Davies

MOV OP 2

LCPL Adrian Redfern

IS OP

LCPL Kieran Wilson

What's this place like?

In the opening paragraphs I touched on the porta loos and the dodgy plumbing in the showers, the less said the better. Does it get any worse you may ask. Well it possibly does is the answer and these are the things that surprisingly make the mission more interesting for some and more enjoyable for other. Such as:

Noise – this is a functioning air base that functions 24/7. We are a distance from the airfield, however, the sound of aircraft taking off and

landing is ever present. Fighter jets are of course the loudest, particularly during takeoff, and at night you can watch them disappearing into the distance with their after burners like glowing fireballs.

Fauna – a personal note here, I have been the only one to date to see a snake. I was returning early evening from dinner with my head down looking where I was going ensuring that I didn't trip or slip on the large gravel that is present in any area where there is no roadway. Suddenly within one more step a snake moved in front of me crossing over my path. Being the ever daring Kiwi where snakes are concerned, I froze as the snake carried on moving in its direction with an angry look on its face. Ok, I wasn't that close but it probably did because it picked up the pace and got out of my way. If I don't see another snake during the mission, I won't be too overly concerned. The birdlife however is a different matter.

There is surprisingly numerous birds in the area and given there are few tree's you can imagine the early morning chorus as they get up and disappear to heaven knows where only to return in the evening, all at the same time, to bed down for the night in the same few trees. It is a cacophony of noise.

BBQs – we recently hosted a BBQ where we invited a number of our coalition friends who have provided the Kiwi's with significant support. The BBQ was a roaring success and from that the NSE was able to make more contacts that we can now exploit for the benefit of those who we support in-theatre.

The BBQ is also an opportunity to eat food that is more orientated to the Kiwi palate as opposed to the traditional fried American foods

which we are exposed to in the DFAC (chow hall).

Gym – there is a very good gym which is well equipped. The weight room is generally very busy with Americans 'getting massive'. As Kiwi's (this team) we are more inclined towards endurance than strength and as such the running and cycling machines are the equipment of choice.

Fun Runs – this year marks the US Navy and the US Marine forces 236th birthday and in celebration both services conducted a 5km fun run commencing at the unseemly time of 0530.

The NSE team enjoy these occasions and to make it a challenge the run is completed wearing the 15-20kg body armour with weapon. It fascinates the Americans to see the Kiwis working as a team to complete the run. To view go to YouTube and type in '2011 bagram marine run'. There you will see a starring role by one LCPL Redfern.

Running the perimeter – just in case you think the fun stops there, it doesn't. A number of the team has taken the opportunity to run the perimeter fence which is a small run of 13km. In effect it is a trot around the runway. The trick here is that given, at one point, the road crosses the front of the runway its important to scoot quickly across the path of any fighter jets taking off. If you don't you will look awfully silly running with the fingers in your ears as the noise is deafening.

In the next article the team will all write a little 'ditty' about their personal experiences to date.

You may very well be surprised what they have been up to particularly during the rare times they get an opportunity to do things other than work.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

NEWS FROM OP RATA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

GBR GAMES REPORT FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

CPL G. Toohey
ISOP, OP RATA II Rot 14A

Over the three days of 21–23 Oct 11 the 3rd Annual Guadalcanal Beach Resort Games took place. This is a fiercely fought competition between New Zealand, Australia, Pacific Islands and The Barbarians (rest of the world).

The events were many and varied, everything from tug-of-war, closest to the pin (golf), bench-press, volleyball, swimming, netball, soccer, basketball, running events, discus, shot-put, eight ball and tennis. A real mixed bag. Although our numbers were not very high compared to some of the teams, we felt that if we put the effort in we might be able to get to the end of the weekend and not embarrass ourselves.

Our team of 14 (NZDF and NZ Police combined) were up against approx 50 Pacific Islanders, a dozen Barbarians and 200 Aussies, we loved those odds. We overheard the Pacific Island team having a talk on the 21st and they were saying that as the New Zealanders numbers were low, that it was up to them to beat Australia (good to see we have the same point of view when it comes to sport).

Friday the 21st events started with a tug-of-war. What struck us straight away was the size of the Pacific Islanders at the other end of the rope from us. We gave it all we had but came to the conclusion that it was going to be one event that we were not going to be walking away with points for 1st, 2nd or 3rd as the

Pacific Islanders had two teams and the Aussies also sent us packing.

As the weekend progressed we had success in some running events, netball, and discus and by the end of day 2, we were top of the table by a very slim margin.

Day 3 was where we had decided to really put our bodies on the line. We all entered every swimming event which gave us a tally of points that pushed us out to a comfortable lead heading into the final events. We followed our efforts at the pool up with soccer (back to back games) followed by basketball (back to back games). Although we did not place in the soccer or basketball we received praise from the other teams for our tenacity throughout the day. They were amazed that we were able to keep competing during the hottest part of

the day and not let anyone walk over us.

At the conclusion of day 3, our entire team were drained, but we had one more event to attend. The Rugby World Cup Final. As we watched, with our legs cramping up and the occasional person having to quickly stand up to stretch a hamstring, we cheered on the men in black to a hard fought win; albeit to the disgust of a few Australian's who had had T-shirts made up anticipating the All Blacks choking.

It was a great weekend of sport that was a reminder to all of us here, that it doesn't matter what the competition or what odds are against you, just put the effort in and you have a good chance of getting the desired results.

Final Points 3rd Annual GBR Games

Pacific Islands - 115

Australia – 79

The Barbarians – 8

New Zealand – 140 (including 83 from the pool).



The 2011 GBR Games Champions

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

NEWS FROM OP ANTARCTICA

NZDF LIGHT ENGINEER TEAM OP ANTARCTICA

LCPL P.K Kereama

Being away from home and family is never easy, but with the internet and school blog sites - keeping up with the go at home and kids school has never been easier. My deployment to Antarctica began 13 October 2011 – that is half way through the first week of the school holidays. To keep my boys (8 and 6) involved, they set about making a poster about Antarctica which was based around photo's and information that I am sending home.

From here, the poster was taken to school to share for news and photographed and posted onto the school blog site. My partner then alerted me to look onto the site and away we went.

Each class has their own blog site

in which they document and share their day with the school community. The first photograph was of Tuesday news day and then came my son's story.

My Dad's trip to Antarctica:

(Shayde's dad is in Antarctica so he has written a story about his exciting adventure!)

"My dad went to Antarctica. He went on a c17 plane. My dad is staying at McMurdo base which is an American Base. He took pictures of himself in the snow and one is of penguins. There were 3 penguins in the photo and an Observation tube and Pressure Ridge. The Observation tube goes under the ice, but only one person can go down in it at a time."

Shayde.

I check the boys blog sites daily answering any questions, asking some of my own or commenting on

recent photos, while also being able to know what is going on and keep up to date with up and coming events like the school Ag Day this weekend.

This is an awesome way to keep in contact with my family, the local school and community.

This week while checking the school blogs I read that they were sending me some letters.

Note from school webpage; (The children have written some lovely letters to Tai's Dad which we are sending off to Antarctica!! We hope they arrive safe and sound!!)

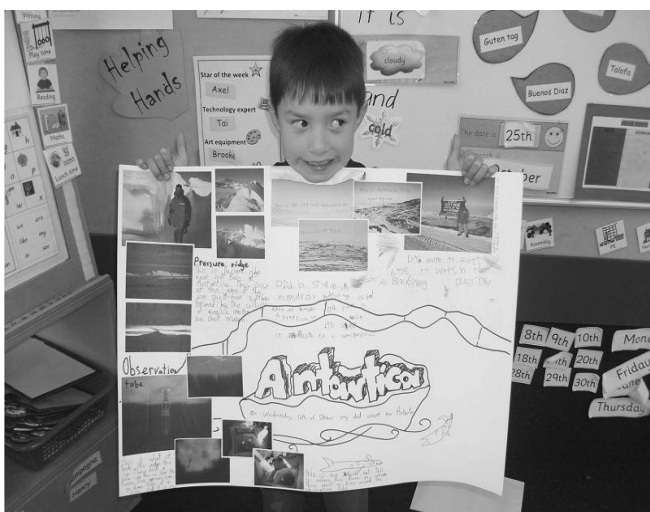
I'm looking forward to reading all the children's letters and writing back in the near future. I would also like to send a big thank you to all the children of Room One and Two Tokomaru School!! You guys are awesome!!

The Web page is:

<http://www.missbclassblog.blogspot.com/>

and

<http://mrsbizzys.blogspot.com/>



Note on schools webpage:

(Today Tai shared with us a poster he made with the help of his family about his Dad's trip to Antarctica. He was very informative and has lots of interesting facts and photos to share and made a great job displaying all of what we needed



Room One and Two of Kokomaru School wrote some awesome letters which have been sent by mail to Antarctica

POSTCARD FROM ANTARCTICA 2011



Sapper Jordan Aitchison lowers the 'storm' New Zealand ensign from the historic flagpole at Scott Base and raises the new NZ Ensign at the start of the Summer season

Eight NZDF personnel deployed to Scott Base, Antarctica at the beginning of October, leaving Christchurch on a USAF C17 Globemaster along with over 100 other people from the New Zealand and US Antarctic programmes. This was after completing two weeks PDT conducted by Antarctica NZ, including a week of Antarctic Awareness training and a week of Fire Training. This provides the opportunity to integrate with their future civilian colleagues and commence the team building, an important element of the deployment.

Temperatures so far this season have been warmer than usual for the time of year. After a few hours of temperatures in the low minus 20s, these have now settled around minus 10 to minus 20. All will undertake Antarctic Field Training, which involves being overnight under canvass on the Ross Ice Shelf. It provides an opportunity to learn how to use the equipment and clothing in low temperatures.

In the first few days at Scott Base, the NZDF personnel have to integrate with their civilian

colleagues on Base. The two Plant Operators were quickly into their work as the unusually large amounts of snow experienced this season need to be cleared before operations can commence.

The Cargo Handler was at Scott Base last season so he has been able to quickly renew contact with the personalities and counterparts at McMurdo who are important to his role, and this has been a great advantage.

The 4 Communications Operators are learning the vagaries of their unique role on the base, which is to manage all communications into and out of Scott Base, 24 hours a day. They are the voice of the Base and the link to those in field locations and New Zealand.

The NZDF has been involved in Scott Base since it was established by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1957. He originally intended building the Base at Butter Point on the western side of McMurdo Sound. However, Butter Point had no seals to feed dogs and HMNZS Endeavour struck ice trying to access the site in heavy sea conditions. The US had established their base at McMurdo, close to the site of Scott's first hut at Hut Point. The Base Commander, Admiral Dufek, offered to help NZ find a new site for Scott Base, identifying Pram Point as it had numerous seals populating the sea ice pressure ridges nearby. Admiral Dufek bulldozed a site at Pram Point and so started New Zealand's close relationship with the US in Antarctica.

Hillary built the first building, the Trans Antarctic Expedition Hut which still exists, in three days, hauling the materials over unstable sea-ice from HMNZS Endeavour, six miles northwest of Hut Point around Cape Armitage. A flagpole retrieved from Scott's Discovery Hut area, was sent to Pram Point

by Admiral Dufek and on 20 January 1957 Able Seaman Tito, as the youngest member of the party, hoisted New Zealand flag up that historic flagpole. The flagpole still exists and NZ flag has flown at Scott Base continuously ever since.

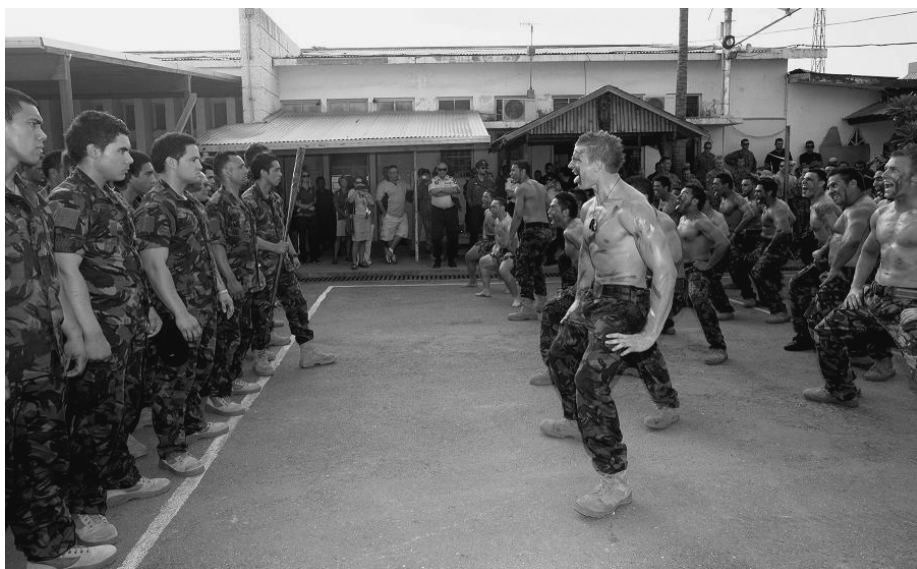
During the Scott Base winter season a 'storm' New Zealand ensign is flown from the historic flagpole. At the start of the summer season that is lowered and replaced by a standard size NZ ensign. In keeping with the tradition started in 1957 the youngest member of the party lowers the old flag and raises the new. This season that honour fell to Sapper Jordan Aitchison (Pictured).

Source: NZDF

Facts and Figures on Antarctica

- ❖ Antarctica is the fifth biggest continent and 10% of the earth's land area.
- ❖ Antarctica is the world's finest laboratory. Scientists from all over the world come to study, among others, such things as the organisms that live in this unspoiled ecosystem, the consequences of climate change and clues to the origins of the universe.
- ❖ Antarctica is the windiest place on earth with gusts up to 327 km/hr having been recorded.
- ❖ Antarctica is the driest place on earth. In some places like the Dry Valleys, it has not rained for thousands of years.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD



HAND OVER THAT THUNDERSTORM:

**Padre Chris Purdie
GYRO 12**

On Sunday the 6th of November 2011 GYRO 12 took over the mission from GYRO 11 in East Timor. By then all of the contingent were in the country and handovers were complete, welcomes and the dueling Haka's had been undertaken earlier, all that remained was for GYRO 11 to hand over the thunderstorm which would start the wet season here in Dili.

Sure enough we went from being on parade in hot sunshine and in the late 30'sC at 1300hrs, to having to dive for cover and out of the torrential rain at 1500hrs. Yep, it was a sign from God that the seasons had changed, and it happened to be on the day of the Transfer of Authority. Wow and rain it did, within 10 minutes there was a foot of water covering the compound and more in the lower lying areas. You got drenched by walking 5 metres between buildings, some of the boys decided it was just the time to cool off and treated it all like a big outdoor shower. Of course you can't change from the dry to the

wet without deafening thunder that rattles the windows and blinding lightning which cuts through the gloom and the rain.

Then the temperature cools and the rain eases and within three hours the rain has stopped, dusk is falling, stars can be seen, the water is subsiding, and everything looks and smells fresh and new and clean. All is ready for GYRO 12 to make a start on our tour. Farewell GYRO 11 your work here is done. Bless you all and your loved ones - Hand over complete!

Blessings.

TEACHING ENGLISH TO LOCALS

**Padre Darren O'Callaghan
Chaplain CRIB 19**

In past CRIB rotations the Padre has taken the opportunity to teach English to some of the locals. For me this would be something new, challenging but also a great opportunity. I had looked over some of the material and lesson plans from past rotations to help get some idea of what had been covered.

The first day was for registration

and a short assessment to get some indication, of what level students were at. I was pleasantly surprised at how much some knew. So along with CPL Robbie Skerton, we divided the group into classes – juniors and seniors. Most of the senior class had attended lessons in the past whilst the juniors were very limited. We had both groups introduce themselves, by name and where they were from. The seniors wrote a 100-200 word introduction about themselves and then read this aloud to the class. Apart from a few spelling errors they expressed themselves very well. Most of the students come from Bamian Province and range from ages 11 to early 20's. At this stage they are all males but we have had a request to run a class for females too. Most said that it was important for them to learn the English language because it is an international language. Many shared their aspirations; some wanting to be doctors, interpreters, engineers, and also one pilot. Some shared that their aim is to do well in their education so to help develop a peaceful Afghanistan. One surprise was a young boy who introduced himself in Maori, obviously taught by someone in a previous CRIB. Tena koe tama.

The classes are run Tuesday's and Thursday's for an hour, over ten weeks. We have registered 45 juniors and 30 seniors. With the juniors we have started with learning greetings, the alphabet and numbers. Each Tuesday we give them 10 new words to learn for homework with a spelling test on the Thursday. The seniors have been doing reading comprehension and spelling. It is only a short time we spend with them but the students are eager to learn as much English as they can. Hopefully what we are able to teach them may be a small part to help achieve their aspirations. Salaam.

Images from

New Zealand Defence Force

Service Personnel – making a difference worldwide

2012 CALENDAR

A 3 LFG Deployment Support Services initiative
kindly sponsored by

Weft Knitting Co.

New Zealand Defence Force personnel have been deployed on 19 peacekeeping operations, UN Missions and Defence exercises across 10 countries in the past year. They have also played a significant role in assistance to Emergency Services and provision of vital support to local communities following the February devastating Christchurch earthquake.

The role of service personnel varies in their location worldwide, but overall they have made a huge commitment to improving security and stability, contributing towards project identification and assisting or overseeing reconstruction and training activities. Our soldiers have won the "hearts and minds" of many they have met in local communities and are highly respected for their contributions worldwide.

This calendar offers a glimpse of the many locals they have helped along the way and an insight into their lives at home and abroad.

Weft Knitting Co. has sponsored this calendar in support of the role of New Zealand Defence Force Service Personnel who have deployed worldwide in the past year.

Weft is a clothing supplier to the New Zealand Army and has for many years donated humanitarian aid to children in Afghanistan and other third world countries.

Images for this calendar were chosen from those submitted by deployed service personnel and their families and is a 3rd Land Force Group Deployment Support Services initiative, kindly sponsored for the sixth year by Weft Knitting Co., Christchurch.

Submissions for this annual calendar are welcome and may be sent to the sponsor, Weft Knitting Co. Ltd, P.O. Box 7012, Christchurch. For photograph specifications, please refer to www.weft.co.nz under the "Charity" heading before submitting your photographs. Enquiries to Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer, Burnham.

Calendars may be ordered from: Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer, Burnham Regional Support Centre, Powles Road, Burnham Military Camp, Burnham 7600, Christchurch

Name:

Address:

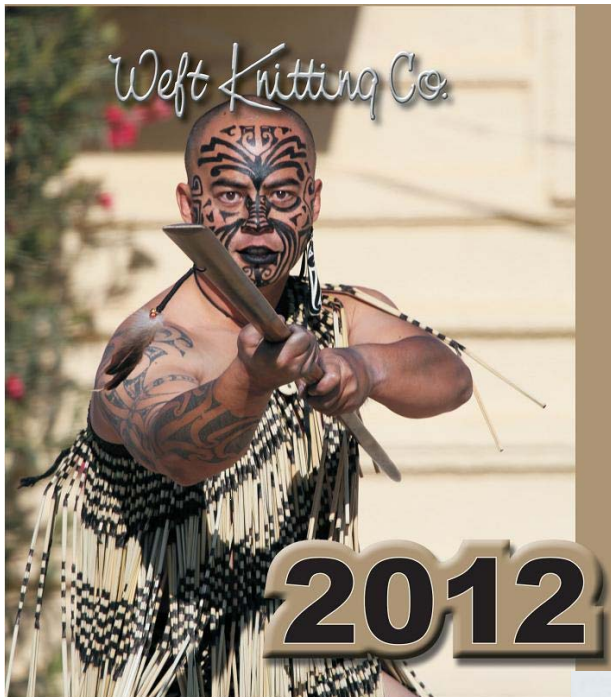
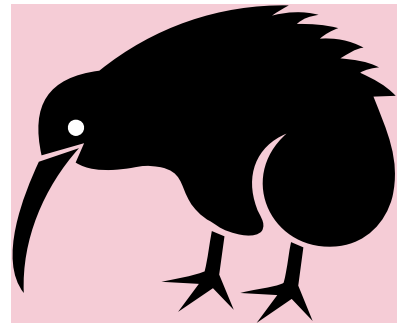
.....Postcode:

No. of copies @ \$10.00 each

Amount enclosed:

All orders must be accompanied by payment. Cheques payable to: Burnham Camp UPF Fund. Orders must be received no later than 11 December 2011. **N.B: Early orders are advised. This is a limited edition calendar.**

New Zealand Defence Force Service Personnel — making a difference



CHAPLAIN'S PEN FROM HOME

A YOKE THAT IS LIGHT

Rewai Te Kahu
Chaplain 2 CSS & 1 RNZIR

Nga mihi atu ki a koutou katoa

Well CRIB 18 has been home for two months now, welcome back to a NZ winter, I say, even if it is spring now. To those who are on deployments, kia kaha and keep well, our prayers are with you.

Since being back I've been thinking about the word 'Yoke', a yoke is a strong, heavy wooden collar that fits around the neck of an ox or bullock. For the farmer, in Bamyan at least, the yoke is a good method of controlling the ox and harnessing the ox's strength for what ever the task is. This task could be ploughing, as in getting the ground ready to plant seeds or harvesting when crops have grown.

The image of a yoke can also be applied to our lives in either positive or negative ways. As a positive, it could be the discipline needed to keep fit, medically, physically or spiritually. The negative, could be the work load people are under due to changes over this year or the stress around IMP'ing. Whatever the case we



may find ourselves at the close of 2011, we all carry a yoke of some kind. My question is, what is the yoke you're carrying doing to you, your family and the relationships around you?

In the gospel of Matthew 11:28 Jesus speaks these following words to the weary. "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and

humble in heart and you will find rest for you souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light".

May I encourage us all in these changing times, albeit, for those of us who have returned home from a deployment or on one now, to think about what these words may mean for us. What does it mean to be gentle and humble in heart towards each other?

God Bless and keep well.



DEPLOYMENT

Time to grow

*Remember that
separation can be an
opportunity for
everyone in the family
to grow*

DSO'S CORNER



Carol Voyce

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

I am sure many of you are willing the end of year to come and the chance to take a well earned break from work and the day to day routines. Of course, there is still much for us to do yet before we can put our feet up and get out the BBQ. For those overseas, many tasks are ongoing and their festive season will be a very new experience in a new land, with people of many different nations, of many different beliefs and traditions. I am sure, they will at times, be thinking of you all at home and the many things to be done and the traditions that you, as individual families, follow over the festive season. Yes, we know it is going to be hard for you whether you are here or there, but this sacrifice over our holiday period, is going to give others less fortunate than ourselves, a chance of peace and isn't that a very real message that we think of often, but especially at this time of year!

I am a great maker of lists and then a great looser of them! My "to do" list is looking somewhat full and although I am past the need to attend school prizegivings and functions, to mix in with work commitments and the shopping, there looks like a lot to do!! I do

however, have fond memories of watching ones "child" contribute to the Christmas school concert and was probably the only one who always had to cry!! I remember too, the excitement of school exam results and the celebrations of many great achievements and milestones - now all seem so long ago and so much has changed since. Make sure you enjoy all that's on offer this festive season, take plenty of photos and add them to your growing memory bank! Also be sure to add in the pride you feel, not only for your family successes here, but for the successes your loved ones are achieving overseas, and be sure to share that feeling with others. It's not about boasting, it's about telling the world that your son, daughter, partner, wife, husband, mum, dad, has achieved "greatness" in their contribution to helping others and you have too, in supporting and allowing them to do it!

As I write this editorial, there is a steady stream of Christmas cards arriving in my office for our advertised project, Operation Christmas Card. To those who have already sent in your contributions, I thank you, and for those still making theirs, they will be most welcome. I admire the efforts of so many - the lashings of glue, glitter, cotton wool and coloured paper and the thought that has gone lovingly into each creation. There will be an update on this campaign in our Christmas edition of "The Bugle".

The centre pages of this deployment newsletter, contain information on our Deployment calendar. This calendar in its 7th year of production, is kindly sponsored by Mr Hugh Douglas, Managing Director of Weft Knitting Co. From the many hundreds of photos submitted, Hugh makes the choice of content - only fair one

would say, since he is paying for it! His ongoing generosity means that every service person who has deployed overseas in this past year will receive a complimentary copy of the calendar. We have been fortunate to receive some extra copies, which we can offer to you, for a donation of \$10 per copy. The funds gathered from your contributions, means that Hugh's goodwill can be extended a little further! Overseas deployment locations will be consulted on projects they are working on (or wish they could) and the funds distributed to one of these identified. There are a limited number of calendars available so early orders are advised. This years calendar is a little different from those produced in the past and includes the work of our service personnel deployed to the Christchurch region following our February earthquake. No matter where our service personnel go, at home or abroad, they have made a difference to many lives! Hugh also has the privilege of selecting the winning photo from all those submitted for consideration and this year the cover picture, taken by Shairon Hart in Sinai, has received the honours. Shairon wins for herself a merino possum sweater of choice which comes from the wonderful array of knitwear produced by Weft Knitting Company. If you would like to view their latest stock or contribute to the calendar for 2013, you can visit the website www.weft.co.nz. One of my favourite items would have to be their socks and gloves - many which have found their way to our service personnel in Afghanistan and provided welcomed relief during harsh winters there!

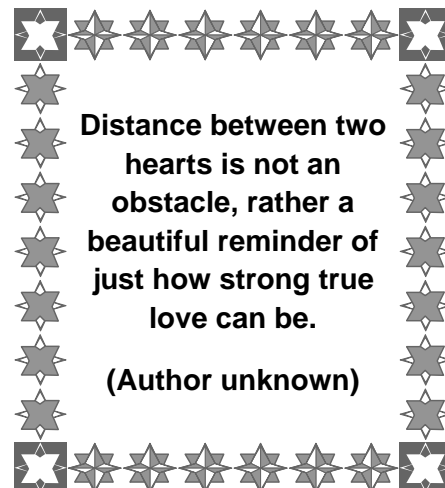
As the end of the year approaches, Janine and I will be meeting up to look at Deployment Support Services offered and to plan some activities and new initiatives for the

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...

coming year. Many thanks to those who have taken time to offer their feedback along the way on what we do, what you like and don't like, what we could do better or differently and what you would like to see in the future. We rely on you to help us help you, so if you have any thoughts that you would like us to take on board, please email us. We are committed to offering you the very best and if we can lighten the load a little, then we will surely try!

Best wishes for the month ahead and we look forward to your many contributions and festive messages for our bumper Christmas edition of "The Bugle", no later than 1 December.

We at 3 LFG, (Burnham) look forward to meeting with our local families for dinner on Tuesday 29th November. Be sure to RSVP if you haven't already.



Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
2nd Land Force Group

Since the last "Bugle", we have completed another rotation changeover – Timor-Leste. GYRO 12 have departed, handovers have been completed and, by Bugle publication, GYRO 11 will be home. I hope that reunions are going well. Sometimes reconnecting and getting settled back into "normal" routines can be even more stressful than the actual deployment – I remember that it was for me. This is all part of the deployment process, so my advice to you is don't put too much pressure on yourselves and you will be fine. I know that there were lots of families very excited about the homecoming in the week and days

leading up to arrival and although it had been delayed 24 hours (and this probably felt like the longest 24 hours of the whole deployment!), I'm sure it was worth the wait. Please remember that just because the deployment is now complete, doesn't mean that our support is finished. Over the coming weeks, if we can continue to help at all, please get in contact.

GYRO 12 are well settled in now. Was very impressed to receive Padre GYRO's article two days ahead of deadline – what a precedent for him to set! A good read.

The CRIB 19 project should be complete by "Bugle" publication (I am writing this a week ahead) and on its way. We have had a great response from families and I'm sure that it will be appreciated. Thank you all for supporting our DVD, couldn't have done it without you!

Sadly a week ago there were a series of thefts experienced in the housing area at Linton Camp. It is perhaps timely then, to remind anyone who is reading this, not to become complacent with their home security – not only if someone is away on deployment, but at all times. Unfortunately there are those in our society who take for themselves without any thought

of the impact it has on those they take from.

Responses are slowly coming in for our dinner here in Linton on 29 November. If you are planning to join us in having someone else cook your dinner and do the dishes, I do need to provide numbers, so if you haven't RSVP'd yet, just a few more days – deadline for RSVPs is Sunday 20 November. In the past we have enjoyed hosting our families, so why not come along?! We would love to see you.

Hope all is going well with you, regardless of where you are at in your deployment. Call if we can help at all.

The strength of a family, like the strength of an army, is in its loyalty to each other.

MARIO PUZO

FOR YOUR INFO...

Going on Holiday? / Moving House?

Please remember to keep us in the loop! If you are going away on holiday, either within New Zealand or overseas be sure to let us know. In the rare event of an emergency, precious time can be lost trying to contact Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) away from the usual work or home base.

We need to make sure that our database details are always current and would very much appreciate notification of any changes that may occur. Please contact the DSO.

Mail

For those families who send mail to deployment locations through DPSC, Trentham, please note that the last date for sending mail onwards is Monday 19th December 2011. Any mail that is received there after 10.00 am on that day will not be sent until 10th January 2012. Feel free to send mail ready for forwarding on that date.

General Election

All personnel currently deployed or posted overseas will have the opportunity to vote in the upcoming New Zealand general elections. Distribution of voting papers has been co-ordinated by SSGT Bruce Weastell, DPSC, JFHQ Trentham. Voting papers have been sent to all locations and will be made available to all service personnel. There is also an option for personnel to download their individual voting papers from www.elections.org.nz and return as indicated on the document.

Kiwi Forces Radio

Time is running out for your contributions to the three hour Christmas programme for deployed personnel.

For further information refer to the back cover of the last issue of "The Bugle". The deadline for contributions is 4pm Friday 18 November, with programming being completed over the weekend 19 - 20 November.

Please contact Kate Lukins at: kate.lukins@nzdf.mil.nz to add your festive greetings if you have not already done so. This is a great opportunity to keep in touch over the festive season.

Update on Afghanistan Communication Lines

In the last issue of "The Bugle" we notified you of the many problems we were experiencing with phone/internet lines within Afghanistan. As promised here is the latest update.

Our team on the ground there have worked tirelessly in identifying the many line faults and in turn making the necessary repairs. It would seem that good progress has been made and the network performance has improved significantly. This work is ongoing and will be continuously monitored and tested. We can assume from this, that you will now have better communications with loved ones, which we recognise as being vital during this time of separation. If you have any concerns please contact your nearest Deployment Services Officer so we may raise these to another level.



"The Bugle"

Bumper Christmas Issue

The deadline for contributions/personal messages for the last "Bugle" for 2011 is

Thursday 1 December

This issue will be printed on 8 December.

We look forward to your many festive personal messages and contributions from home and abroad.

All contributions should be sent to

Carol Voyce or
Janine Burton

Contact details on the inside front cover.



Deployed Families Dinner — Linton**Tuesday 29 November, 6.00pm****JRs Mess, Linton Military Camp**

How would you like a night off from cooking the dinner and doing the dishes?

Previously we have had some very successful dinner events with families of those with someone currently on deployment and thought we would do it all again. With Christmas approaching, this is the final opportunity to do so for the year.

Hosted by Commander 2 LFG, Colonel Howie Duffy, there are no speeches or presentations, no pressure, no fuss; just an opportunity to meet and chat with other families who also have loved ones serving overseas at this time. Bring your family.

We do need to confirm numbers for catering, so please **RSVP** adults and children attending by **Sunday 20 November 2011** to:

Janine Burton, Deployment Services Officer, 2 LFG

06 351 9399 or 0800 683 77 327 or 021 649 903

janine.burton@nzdf.mil.nz or dso.linton@xtra.co.nz

We look forward to seeing you there.

Deployed Families Dinner — Burnham**Tuesday 29 November, 6.00pm****B Block Mess, Burnham Military Camp**

Colonel Phil McKee, Commander 3LFG, extends a warm invitation to you and your family, to join us for dinner in the Burnham Military Camp, B Block Mess on Tuesday 29 November at 6pm.

This is your opportunity to have a night off cooking, a night off dishes and a chance to meet up with other New Zealand Defence Force families associated with current overseas deployments.

Our informal dinner is low key, with no speeches, no presentations, no pressure, no mess and no fuss. It would just be great to see you!

As we need to confirm numbers for catering purposes, please RSVP for adults and children attending, no later than Friday 18 November 2011 to:

Carol Voyce

Deployment Services Officer

3rd Land Force Group,

Burnham Military Camp

Phone 03 3630 421 or 0800 33 75 69

Email: dso.burnham @xtra.co.nz

2011

WHAT'S ON CONT'D...

XMAS GALA

BURNHAM TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS GALA

Thursday 1 December

4.30pm - 7.30pm

Burnham Community Centre

Enquiries to Cherie Mansell, Community Services Officer 03 363 0421.

GET-TOGETHER

DEPLOYMENT GET-TOGETHER, BURNHAM TWILIGHT GALA

Thursday 1 December

4.30pm - 7.30pm

Burnham Community Centre, Fryberg Road (opposite 4Square Supermarket)

All families associated with current deployments are invited to join with the Burnham community for a little pre Christmas festive cheer. A variety of free children's rides, entertainment, ice creams, food and stalls will be on offer. Arrive anytime that suits your commitments, but meet briefly in Hall 3 on your arrival for a quick update from deployment locations and to access some complimentary vouchers to food and ice cream stalls. Father Christmas arrives at 6 30pm. Look forward to seeing you all. Enquiries to Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer 03 363 0421 or 0800 33 75 69.

FAMILY DAY

LINTON FAMILY DAY

Saturday 10 December, 11.00am — 3.00pm

Gymnasium / Pool area

Amazing rides and entertainment—all free.

Bring togs and towels too, as there are activities in the pool.

CAROLS

BURNHAM CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 14 December, 7.00pm

All Saints Garrison Church, Burnham Military Camp, Powles Road

All welcome.

1 APRIL 2012

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE

The RNZAF will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on 1 April 2012. The Anniversary is a significant milestone in the history of our Service and it is also on the Government's programme of significant national events. It is an opportunity for personnel, supporters of the Service—especially ex-RNZAF personnel—the Defence Force, the wider Defence community, the Government, the general public of New Zealand, and the international military aviation community to come together and celebrate. For further information, contact: Air Force Public Relations, Air Staff HQNZDF, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand, Ph +64 4 496 0294

LEGACIES AND GIFTS TO OTHERS



Trevor Stone
Welfare Facilitator
Wellington Air Staff

Well the heading may be a bit misleading, but the reason for it is that as you all go about your jobs around the world, I have been trying to think of an appropriate message, so here goes:

It has been an amazing and colourful time back here during the Rugby World Cup, although I think all of us suffered some tense moments in the final. One of the really great observations for me has been the immense amount of goodwill and happiness generated between the communities up and down New Zealand and all the international visitors that we have had. I think the last time I experienced anything like this was the Christchurch Commonwealth Games when all of us Cantabrians really made an effort to welcome international visitors to 'The Christchurch Friendly Games' which was the theme for the 1974 event.

Friendly Kiwis really are fantastic and it makes you proud to be a Kiwi when you see this happening. Another aspect has been the amazing display of flags on cars, buildings and generally everywhere. The interesting thing is that many people had more than

one flag displaying the many different nations that make up the mixture we call New Zealanders, there were of course more silver fern/All Black supporter flags than any others. Amongst all of these celebrations, I have encountered a lot more quiet Kiwis really acknowledging and supporting their country and what it is achieving on the sports field and in so many other areas around the world. We don't usually talk about these things as it isn't our norm to boast about our achievements. We tend to just get on and do it, and I know that's exactly what all of you have been doing with a really great attitude and a typical mixture of unique Kiwi personalities.

It is this approach you all take to your work that brings me back to my title. I have just returned from the Renwick School 150th School Jubilee; many of you probably have never heard of Renwick unless you have been posted to Woodbourne. The Air Force personnel at Woodbourne have had a close relationship with Renwick School for over 60 years and many Air Force children attended Renwick School swelling its roll and resources considerably. Renwick School is a country school with mainly farmer's children and children from the small community of Renwick Town.

During the Jubilee participants were reminded of what the Air Force had contributed to the school and the great support that the School had always had from Woodbourne Base. The list is lengthy, and includes bus and other transport support, use of the Base swimming Pool, the building of a Giraffe for the playground and other equipment for the school and I recall a Harvard air drop of a canister of ice cream tubs when we were at a school camp in the Sounds. This was done with the proper recognition signals that Air

Force personnel had taught us. I suspect a fair amount of this support was creatively achieved/funded under various project or 'training opportunities' or other Kiwi ingenuity.

We Air Force kids really enjoyed this as we could give something back to the school and show them our special community. We also loved learning about farms and spending time at each others homes just being kids. The point of all this is that some 40 years later, I am learning just how much the input of professional service people was (and still is) valued by members of the community, and this has now moved to an international situation where what you are doing in your personal connections with individual local people will never be forgotten as they move on to greater achievements in their own right. In a sense, NZDF have been supporting community development in one way or another for nearly a century and you, as our current 'community development people', are the professional development of our original Kiwi helping 'can do' spirit that developed New Zealand. This is the 'legacy and gift' that you are giving through your commitment, and rest assured there are heaps of us back home that are really proud of what you are doing. And it is back home that we welfare facilitators and other welfare support staff are here to assist in using the many community strengths and supports that we are networked with, to support your families when you can't be there. So please make sure your families know we are here to help if needed.

And to end this message I still base part of my approach to life and my work on the old Renwick School motto (1861) 'Learning is strength' and in today's world the School adds to their motto: 'Be the best that you can be'. Kia Kaha.

PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 1 December at 4.00pm**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

Hey My Blue Eyed Angel

Hope you're taking care of yourself back there. I miss you a lot and think of you regularly. I will be home before you know it. Christmas isn't too far away. Looking forward to when we next talk. Lots of love, cuddles and kisses from your Eskimo xoxoxoxo.

Hey K

Nearly missed putting a msg in, was running late. Appreciate all the letters from home and the gifts as well. Hope you're still enjoying that lush green NZ bush. Take care, Love J.

To my Beloved Wife

Just a quick note to let you know how much I miss you and love you! Counting down the days, all my love. A.

Hi Moana and Hemoata

Hope you two are getting along and being nice and friendly to each other, it will make a welcome change for Papa and Hamene. All is good over here. Arohanui Mum and Auntie.

Warthogs

Yay for Skype. Brilliant to see your happy faces. Can't wait to see you again for real. U looking forward to your movie? P loved your letter, keep them coming. Miss you heaps. Dad.

Smoothy

Hope you survived Bali and your birthday. You're getting old baby! Am counting down the days until Raro.

Hello Jordan Rd

How goes life in the fast lane? I was just wondering if you need me

to send you the postal address again because it's been a while since I've received anything from you...lol. Don't be shy – hook me up! Pariha.

Dad

Will try to make it for your next birthday. Couldn't get the time off work. Will think of you on the 13th Robbie.

Hi Mum, Dad and Dawin, Craig, Nadia and Blake, Grant, Amie and Bump#2, Charles and Michelle

Hope all is well back in NZ and everyone is enjoying the new addition to the family. Charles, good luck with your new job. Grant and Amie, all the best with Bump#2. Mum, hope your foot gets better soon. Give Petra and Blake a big hug and kiss from their Uncle Al.

Te Maanihera, Paruhiterangi, Kenana

Kia ora ano e te whanau katoa. Kei te pehea koutou. Nau mai e te mokopuna Kenana ki tenei ao. Ma te Atua koe hei manaaki hei tiaki. Hari huri tau ki a koutou Ma, Auntie Kim, KC, Kat. Kei te mokemoke ahau i a koutou. Engari e pai ana te mahi i konei. Taku aroha ki a koutou katoa. Ma te wa.

Dear A, E and A

Hope all is going well back on the home front and that you guys are not driving each other insane (I'm looking at you children). I am very much looking forward to getting home to you 3 and then getting away on our holiday. Take care and have a great Xmas and New Years I love you all so so much xoxoxoxoxoxo. Love your husband to A and love your father to E and A.

From Home

Hey Papa

Em and I are missing you heaps. We always get excited when you call us. We can't wait to get our necklaces through the mail! And we're going to send you letters and pressies too. Already a month has gone by.. how crazy! So we can get through this - EASY. I miss you Dad, and love you more. Jessie Bear xox.

Ange

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday dear Ange! Happy Birthday to you! Happy 29th Birthday! Hope you have a great day and get some time off. Miss you heaps. Hopefully next year we will be able to celebrate your 30th together. Hope you cake arrived okay! With all our love Mum and Dad xoxoxox.

To mu mu

I hope mum gets me a puppy but I don't know if she will and no Xmas tree because we won't be at home. Mum and I miss you heaps and heaps and can't wait for holiday time, xxxxxx, Aurora and Mum. P.S: Mum said if you're super lucky we will do a request for a song for you to listen to over there xoxo.

To "McLovin"

Everything's going fine here at home except we all miss you so much!! I've received two letters from you so far - keep them coming as every story you tell makes me smile and for a little while you don't feel so far away. Just so you know, Mum's switched sides for the singlet debate, she just did it to make you happy but really she's with me LOL. Love always your darling wife.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

TPR KC JOB

Hey babe, the lawns need mowing so I think you should come home! Nataliah's getting big, hope you like all the photos I sent. Love you forever, love me and Nataliah xx.

Hi Daddy Corin

I'm 2 now, woohoo look out world. Mummy really has to have her running shoes on now! I'm Mum's number one helper around the farm. All that food she buys for the chickens, horses and calves tastes so good; I have no idea why she doesn't just feed me that for tea. Would save her having to clean up all the vegies off the floor! Love Talan xx.

Hi Daddy Corin

I miss you lots and can't wait till you get home. I took my teddy bear to school for show and tell today. I told everyone I cuddle it when I miss my Daddy cause he's far away. I've been very good for Mummy, helping with all the after school jobs and being kind to my brother. Love Inara xx.

Hey Babe

I miss you too! Ness xx.

To my Darling

2 years since we said, "I do". Can't believe how fast it's gone. Our 2 little monsters are keeping me very busy. We're all looking forward to Christmas but will miss not having you here. We love you heaps, forever and ever, Love A, E and A xoxo.

Hi Daddy

We are at Nan and Grandads now. I travelled so well and got to watch DVDs. WOW I'm 3 now! Thank you for my presents. Talk to you soon. Missing you and love you...love you more xxx.

Hey Babe

How are things? All good here! Glad exams are over and now time to do some work and earn my keep

in Renwick. Great drive up. Will chat later. Keep safe. Love u xx.

Teina, Tena koe

Here is hoping you are well and settling into your new environment for the next 6 months or whatever. Koro Mac and I are well - going for walks along the beach and we have not seen any signs of the oil or debris from off the "Rena" that ran onto the rocks around Tauranga - Thank goodness! There is talk of giving Richard McCaw a Knighthood - so he'll be known as Sir Richard - but that is not until the New Year. Do you know Shaun Green? He gets married in Palmerston North this month. I think he is a Corporal and he is Koro Mac's nephew. We were invited to go but we won't be going - too close to Xmas plus there are many appointments ahead of us. Well, take good care of yourself and keep safe you and all the boys - Gods Blessings upon you all; Arohanui, Nunu & Koro Mac.

Dear Gumby

Hope all is well with you and the parcels are getting through. Dad thinks a container would be way easier and probably cheaper in the long run - hee hee (not that he buys a lot to send). Hard to believe you've been gone over 2 months already, time is flying by, only about 6 weeks till Christmas. I'm looking forward to saying hello to Sydney again, its been a long time, shame its not for a bit longer, but hopefully will have time to do a bit of shopping - got a long list of wishes, drat the internet. Just hope the \$ is looking better than at present. Shame we didn't win the Melbourne Cup - my horse is still running I think. Be nice to catch up with Lynn and Abigail after all these years. Hope the phones are fixed shortly as we miss talking to you. Take care, stay safe and remember we are all very proud of you. Lots of love Mum xoxoxox.

Dear Gumby

How's it going kiddo? Your Mum has had me busy building a new garden - supposed to be only for herbs, but it is full already of everything. Shortly she will be able to supply the Army with the vegies from it, things have gone crazy - must be the worm wee I got for it, sure makes things grow fast. Certainly more than the two of us can eat at one time if it all is ready at once. My new hammer was great, a little scratched now but works well - need another building project to use it again! No doubt you will have something lined up for it when you get back, not sure when I will find time to go to work. Can't take my new hammer to work as it would last 5 seconds before it disappears! Nothing is safe. They even took my picker upper you got me in Fielding. Never mind be holidays soon. Love you, stay safe and take care. Love from Dad xxxxx.

Hi ya Nathan

Sorry has taken me awhile to send a message. Hope you enjoyed the contents of your parcel? Will get your Xmas one away shortly; try not to open till Xmas.....lol. All is fine here, by the time you get this Jeremy should have finished his exams, he has achieved level 2 NCEA. Barry is off to ChCh on 5 Nov for his 3 week paragliding course, which he is looking forward to. Jeremy has managed to land a job at the Upper Hutt Cossie Club as a part time pizza chef, was going to be full time but they felt they owed some of their existing staff the opportunity also, so is now job share - 8 hours Friday and Saturday. There will be opportunity for extra work, eg pot wolloper, etc. Is only 18 weeks but during that time he may get something more permanent, he will have to show he is keen. M is organising a babyshower at the end of November and she has asked me if

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

I would like to go so have said yes. All is going ok in that department as far as I can tell. Well son, take care of yourself, we miss you heaps. Keep in contact when you can. Heaps of love, Mum, Barry and Jeremy. Xoxoxoxox.

To Peter

Happy Birthday for Dec 11th. Take care, lots of love, Mum, Barry and George.

Dear daddy FERARU

Happy birthday for Sunday December 11th! Hope you have an awesome day! Wish we could spend it together. We miss and love you lots. Mummy is still doing an amazing job. I'm forever keeping her busy and always giving mummy BIG hugs from you and me. We are always keeping busy especially with the nice weather (sometimes hee hee). I have been going to the park, playing on the playground and also going down the slide all by my self! Yup I'm a big girl now! Hope you are enjoying all the mail you get from us. I miss you everyday. Take care and keep warm daddy! Big hugs and kisses from us. Love you always booboo and mummy xox.

Hey C Bear

It's almost the festive season....., Toby will be over 4 weeks by the time you get this, he's getting big quick. We look forward to your home coming, there's a lot of nappy changing you're missing out on, I look forward to retiring once you're back; he's a little machine, lol. BIG happy birthday for the 19th December, hope the mail man's nice to you, love and miss you loads. Mwahhhh xxx.

Hey Uncle Steve

We loved the message from you, it was awesome. I miss you so much and can't wait until I see you again. Hope you are all good over there. Our new house is so cool, we can see the beach!!! My new room is

pink and purple, Love it! My rats have gotten really big and we call Roxy 'Chunky Monkey' and Rosie 'Little Devil' because she has red eyes. OMG and the pool is awesome especially on the really hot days. Love you lots and lots. From Sasquatch xxxxxxx.

Hey Uncle Steve

How are you going? My birthday was really cool and I got lots of really cool presents, and I had a pool party at home which was lots of fun. I love our new house. It is so big and we can just walk to the beach and look for crabs which I love doing. School is good and not long to go now till we are on holiday again. The weather is starting to go hotter and we don't have any snow on any mountains here. See ya, love you lots. Sam xxxxx.

Hey Big Bro

Finally moved house.....again and loving it! It is tough spending my days lazing by the pool. No head aches from the cheap wine but Gregs B.Day is coming up and he would like a cocktail party, which I am sure will give plenty of headaches. I hope you are ok and we love getting e-mails and messages as it sets my mind at ease. Love you so much and thinking of you always. Gael & Greg. Xxooxxoo.

Hey Gumby

Have you run into Sid yet? Knowing him he will probably play the part of Santa Claus at Christmas! Ed says a big thanks for his birthday pressie. Hope all is well up there and that it is not too cold yet. Life is a little bit duller here without the RWC to keep the house full to the brim with people, but we do have our lounge back and had forgotten just how big it is minus the grandstand!! Take care lil sis. Lots of Love Toe and Ed xx

Dear Gumby

I think of you all the time. Thanks

for your letters. Hope you are good. Stay safe. All my love Nana

Dear Gumby

Hope you are surviving the start of the cold weather, ours is slowly improving with lovely warm sunshine today, but still windy. Hard to believe that 2 months have passed already! Christmas is just around the corner really and I am always organised with all your Christmas shopping, but once I have posted that I seem to lose the plot, so trying really hard this year to have everything done before the end of this month. I have picked up some extra work, so that will keep me tied to my desk for a couple of weeks. Hope all the mail has finally turned up and you have enjoyed the parcels. Miss the phone calls though. Thanks for the letter and that amazing voucher, you are very naughty. Take care and stay safe. Everyone sends their love. Lots of love Mum and Dad xoxoxo.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Daddabear Mwaaah

Hope you enjoy your gifts from all of us including crackers. The bad news is you are not here but the good news it wasn't me who got those two speeding tickets in your van, ha ha ha! Well I'm hoping. It's already been 3 months without any tickets in the mail. Fingers crossed they don't land me in it just before xmas. That would sux!! We MISS YOU SOO MUCH hun. Take care, always thinking of you and Yeeeha!! We are half way there. Come on April ha ha! Love you hun mwah. Mummabear and Babybear xoxo.

Tiger

Hope that you have put your list in to Santa - just take it if you don't get anything that you are on the naughty list. RB has obtained a habit of 'ahem ahem' - now where could that have come from??? More care packages inbound.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

Take care, be safe and miss you.
GWNN

Hey Baby

I've had a very busy few weeks getting sorted for my Bali trip and by the time you get this it will be a distant memory, hopefully I'll still have the tan though! Hope the days aren't too chilly for you. Almost time to get your Xmas pressie posted - hope you like it, no opening before the 25th! Love you lots, your Smootchey xx.

To PEN

Hey Hun missing u heaps! Hope all is well with u. Every day is a day closer to you coming home, time is moving slowly though. House has been re-painted so moving out to attack the yard/weeds/darsh's presents (ur job). Looking 4ward to hearing ur voice again. Hope you have received ur corn beef n noodles! Love and miss you my babe.....remember to.... Be COOL!

HARRYBEAR

lol, Not a day goes by where I don't think of u...u are my world!!!!...big plans when you get back.....hee hee....I love you and miss you with all my heart, MW3 waiting for you babe. Take care, be safe, lots and lots of love hugs and kisses.....from JAYPEEBEAR xxxxxx mwah.

PAPA DARREN

Kei te pehea koe? Kei te pai ahau (Kobe). Kua timata te whakataetae Pa whutuporo ki waenga i nga kura, a, e rua nga kemu i takaarohia e matou. I taku kemu tuatahi i whai piro ahau. He pai te pa whutuporo ki ahau. Kua timata hoki nga mahi omaoma. I uru au i te reehi mo nga 7yr olds. I whai tuatoru ahau mo te 100m inapo. Tino tere au. Ka kite Dad. Luv u Kobe.

KIA ORA DAD

Ka nui taku aroha mou Dad. Ko te tumanako kei te pai koe. I pehea to oma roa? I te po nei i takaro pa

whutuporo au i te taha o Papa me tona tima pakeke. I cut au i a Papa natemea ko ia te dummi half, ara i dive au mo taku try. I takaro matou i roto i te ua, he pai tera. He aha ou mahi Dad? Kei te pai matou...kare i roa ka haramai a hanakoko ne? He aha to pirangi mo te kirihimete dad? Ina ka whai moni au mo aku tries...tera pea ka hoko perehana mou. Tera pea...Luv you Dad - Tai.

Hi B2

Hey Hunny! Has it snowed yet? If it has had you made your snowman? Thanks for my beautiful flowers! They are gorgeous. Getting flowers from you made my day! Miss you heaps! Love you lots and lots and lots! Can't believe it is nearly Christmas! In less than a week I will be finished uni for the year! Scary huh?! Love you lots, B1.

Hey Big Flik TJ

Had any fires lately? Mum found a fire engine with its own station and me and Alan, (co-worker), have been playing with it. Mum said we had to share it! Take it easy son, love you heapies. The old fart.

Hey Chantelle Daughter

What you up to? Mum is keeping me in line at work but Mum likes scribbling messages on the sorting belt with lots of tongue in cheek hassle me. Take care girl and see you when you get home. Lots of love, Dad.

Dear TJ

Hope you've settled in well. We are all missing you heaps already. Dad still being naughty at work. LOL! Anyway, I hope you have a very happy birthday for the 13th. Thinking of you always, lots of love from Mum.

Dear Chantelle

It was good hearing your voice on the phone. Hopefully you should have my letter by now. Thinking of you always. Lots of love from Mum.

Oh Hi!

I lyk a talk too sum-booowdee with a happy day of being birthed bro and merry xmas * 1 x hand with water drops * lol. Luv ya. Richard.

Hey Beast!!

Miss ya heaps and can't wait to see ya wen u get back. Merry Xmas, big hugs, luv ya, Richard.

Bouquets

Wendy Steele and the Knitting Group, Blenheim

How can we thank you enough for the many parcels that come our way of the most beautiful hand knitted children's garments, hats and gloves. These gorgeous items are sent to our Padre in Afghanistan and are distributed to the local orphanage, hospital and in local communities where our service personnel are patrolling. Your hard work is appreciated so much more than you could ever image. Sincere thanks, Carol, Janine and Aynsley.

GYRO 11

Sincere thanks for the most amazing Bugle articles we received from you all during your deployment to Timor- Leste. You excelled! Extra special thanks to Major Andy MacKenzie-Everett and Chaplain Katene Eureka for your regular contributions and for keeping us so well informed. We appreciated your efforts and all your contributions were enjoyed by us all.

Best wishes for a well deserved break. We look forward to catching up again in the future. Kind regards, Janine and Carol.

POSTCARD FROM OPERATION PACIFIC DROUGHT



AC Maria Oosterbaan

It is very exciting being in Tuvalu on my first overseas deployment. It is very hot and sunny here; I have never experienced heat and humidity this intense before. As fast as I can drink water, I sweat it back out of my pores!

The local people are very friendly and relaxed. They have been kind enough to let us stay in the Tuvalu Workshop, where I'm staying with the Army on stretchers under mosquito domes.

Because of the drought, we don't have much spare water to wash, so we have our daily swim in the lagoon followed by a quick rinse off under the solar shower. Breakfast lunch and dinner are ration packs. Getting your hands on any fresh fruit is close to impossible as it all has to be shipped in from other islands because there is not enough water here for the plants to grow fruit.

I am only here for a short time, so I have been very busy getting all the photos I need before I go back home. I photographed the RNZAF Hercules loading and unloading people and supplies, the Army running the desalinisation unit, testing water and assisting the production of the island's desalinisation units. I went with the local water truck drivers to deliver water to the hospital and went to a meeting for all the parties supporting the water crisis.

It has been an awesome experience seeing our Defence Force all working together to bring water to the people in Tuvalu and using my photos to show everyone back in New Zealand all the hard work the NZDF is putting in.

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

Linton—Lesley Clutterbuck

Ph: 06 351 9970

Burnham—Cherie Mansell

Ph 03 363 0322

Family & Social Services Officer:

Trentham—Marie Lotz

Ph 04 527 5029

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:

Ph: 06 351 5640

Naval Community Organization

Ph: 09 445 5534,

0800 NAVYHELP

nib@nzdf.mil.nz

Local Chaplaincy Services

Unit Point of Contact

HANDOVER GYRO 11 TO GYRO 12

Photos courtesy of the Australian Defence Force

