

THE BUGLE

Issue 162 | December 2011



INSIDE

- Christmas Messages
- Holiday contacts at a Glance
- News from Abroad
- Operation Christmas Card

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 163 is
5 January 2012 at 4.00pm

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

Editor: Carol Voyce
Layout: Christine Muir
Printing: Sharyn Cameron
Mere Garton

Contributions co-ordinated by:
Janine Burton and Carol Voyce

Contact Information

Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
Headquarters
2nd Land Force Group
Linton Military Camp
Linton

Ph: (06) 351 9399
Cell phone: 021 649 903
Toll free line: 0800 OVERSEAS or
0800 683 77 327
Fax: (06) 351 9019
E-mail: dso.linton@xtra.co.nz

Carol Voyce
Deployment Services Officer
Burnham Regional Support Centre
Powles Road
Burnham Military Camp
Burnham 7600
Christchurch

Ph: (03) 363 0421
Cell phone: 0274 497 565
Toll free line: 0800 DEPLOY or
0800 337 569
Fax: (03) 363 0127
E-mail: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz

Disclaimer

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

Cover Photo:

Ethan Haines, his sister Ava and Mum Amber, meet with Santa at the Burnham Military Camp, Christmas Twilight Gala. Ethan not only managed to give Santa his Christmas wish list but also took the opportunity to send his Dad a special Christmas message.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE

Lieutenant General Rhys Jones
Chief of Defence Force



*Lieutenant General
Rhys Jones*

2011 has been a year of total Defence Effort. From the back rooms to the front offices and the front lines, our entire Defence Force has performed at a high tempo.

We've called on our core values of Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity, to get us through a year of great loss. We faced the death of three fine soldiers in Afghanistan. PTE Kirifi Mila, CPL Dougie Grant, and LCPL Leon Smith gave their lives for New Zealand, and we carry on with our mission in Afghanistan honouring their sacrifice.

We've provided significant effort to support domestic and regional operations in addition to our OE16 missions.

We witnessed the destruction of the heart of Christchurch, - a truly numbing event for all Kiwis - but we were able to instantly respond to provide assistance where it was needed.

More recently we've been called on to support Operation Rena in the Bay of Plenty and provided the drought relief operation to provide potable water to Tokelau and Tuvalu.

It has been a year of change, not only within our Defence Force, but globally, with the Middle East erupting in what is referred to as the Arab Spring, and the referendum in Sudan creating the world's newest country. These events have rapidly changed the profile of longstanding UN missions, and we were able to react quickly to the change.

I was fortunate enough to make an operational visit to Afghanistan this year, and to visit with our regional partners where I heard firsthand the unstinting praise for our people deployed. The international recognition of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyán, and our Special Forces personnel in Kabul, makes me proud to be a Kiwi and to command such an outstanding Defence Force.

During Christmas it will become obvious to all of you that this is a particularly difficult time of year to be away from friends and family. Some of you will be experiencing your first white Christmas, while others will be enjoying the typical accompaniments of a southern hemisphere holiday season. Wherever you are, the separation from loved ones is not easy, and times like this can cause us to examine why we are a member of the Defence Force.

I want to tell you that the work that you do, at home and overseas, is always challenging, often difficult, but hugely rewarding. You are making a positive difference for the people where you serve.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our deployed forces, and their families at home, for your dedication to the Defence Force, and to the very important job that we have.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS 2011 MESSAGE TO DEPLOYED PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

**WAYNE MAPP
MINISTER OF DEFENCE**



This is the last time I will have the opportunity to extend Season's greetings to all our deployed personnel and their families.

A highlight of my term as Minister of Defence has been the opportunity to meet many of you overseas, and to meet also your families here at home in New Zealand.

Along with other New Zealanders, I am immensely proud of the way our soldiers, sailors and airmen and women serve our country on deployments.

I have seen at first hand how you exhibit the values of courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity, that are at the heart of the New Zealand Defence Force.

New Zealand's forces are held in high regard by our international partners. I was privileged recently to attend a medal ceremony in Wellington where 25 New Zealand personnel were honoured by the United States for their work overseas.

Our deployed forces could not continue without the support and understanding of families and friends. We are grateful for the sacrifice made by those at home and the support they give to our deployed personnel.

The past year has again brought tragedies, with three brave men killed while serving in Afghanistan. When I visited the bereaved families I was heartened to see how quickly their wider families, comrades and colleagues had rallied around to support them at that most difficult of times.

The new Minister of Defence will be honoured – as I have been – to meet our deployed personnel and see your work around the world.

I send my best wishes to you all and your families for the festive season, and for 2012 and beyond.



Chief of Army Christmas Message

Major General Timothy James Keating



Wishing you the best this Christmas holiday season!

As the year comes to a close, I want to recognise all our service men and women who will be spending the holidays away from their home and loved ones. I also want to thank you – their families – for your steadfast support.

2011 has been a monumental year of change and challenges for the New Zealand Army. We have stretched our men and women both on operations and at home. Through it all, they have performed admirably and with a level of professionalism that makes our Army what it is. I am extremely proud of our service men and women and their accomplishments this year, from responding to disasters at home and in the region, to sustaining operations overseas. Sadly, this past year, three of our soldiers, Private Mila, Lance Corporal Smith, and Corporal Grant, paid the ultimate price. To the families of these men, we mourned with you as one family. And we hold their memories dear as we pick ourselves up and press on.

Someone asked me recently what inspires me as Chief of the Army. It's when I look at our men and women on deployments who drop everything in their personal lives when the call for duty comes through. I am well aware that the demands we place on our service men and women also demands a great deal from you, their families.

On behalf of the Army, a heartfelt Merry Christmas to all of you and I wish you all the best for the New Year as we return in 2012 to serve our nation in the name of peace and security.

COMJFNZ Xmas Message

Major General Dave Gawn



It has been a busy year from start to finish, peppered with highs, lows and plenty of challenging moments. We lost massive parts of the Garden City, triggering the biggest ever NZDF humanitarian aid and disaster relief response with almost 1800 personnel involved. We watched proudly as Bamyan Province became the first Afghanistan province to transition to Afghan authority, and we lost three fine men doing their part for our country, while there. We provided beach clean up teams, ships and aircraft to the MV RENA disaster. We took our water desalinisation units to Tokelau and Tuvalu, to provide drinking water as their drought took its toll. We provided a command team to a multi-national anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden. We sent the CANTERBURY, her crew and just under 150 personnel to Vanuatu and Tonga for the US-led humanitarian exercise PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP. We surveyed WWII wrecks, and located and disposed of remnants of war in Papua New Guinea. We were there when the United Nations Mission in Sudan moved to South Sudan, the newest country in the world. We did all of this while we had more than 300 personnel deployed to Antarctica, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Sinai, Afghanistan, Israel, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, and South Korea. And we couldn't have done any of this without you. The families are the backbone of our deployed personnel, and our work overseas. This year the NZDF has made a huge difference at home and around the world, and I thank you for being with us every step of the way.



Christmas Message from Rear Admiral Tony Parr, Chief of Navy

He nui maunga, e kore e taea te whakaneke; he ngaru moana, mā te ihu o te Taua Moana e wāhi.

A big mountain cannot be moved along, but a great ocean wave can be pierced by the prow of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Kia ora tatou. As we come closer to most of us proceeding on leave over the Christmas and New Year period, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Navy people, uniformed and civilian, in New Zealand and overseas, for your work and effort over the past 12 months.

It has been a year of disaster and adversity – we need only recall the devastating earthquake that caused so much loss and destruction in Christchurch on 22 February and the aftermath of the grounding of the MV RENA on the Astrolabe Reef off Tauranga on 5 October. The NZDF was prominent in the recovery from both of these disasters and the Navy was there every time, well engaged and effective.

There have also been several notable achievements. We are now well on the way to proving our ability to deploy our OPVs to Antarctica; our IPVs have been particularly busy off our coast, including a significant contribution to Operation DEEP SEA off East Cape. We have been very prominent in the South West Pacific and our outer EEZ and our frigates and tanker have been similarly prominent in our Australian and South East Asian engagements. And let's not forget our support throughout the Rugby World Cup tournament.

Without doubt, the commemoration of the Navy's 70th Anniversary and presentation of a new Queen's Colour in Wellington in October was a great occasion well received by the people of Wellington. Most Wellingtonians now know a bit more about the size and shape of their Navy. I'm well aware of the effort it took to get almost our entire fleet to sea for this event – small as we are nevertheless there aren't many navies in the world who could lay claim to an achievement of that scale.

It's time now to ease up a bit as we lead up to the Christmas break - time to reflect on a memorable year, your part in it from a personal perspective and as part of a Navy that has done very well despite considerable challenge. There is much to celebrate this Christmas – the love of family and friends, the bonds of comradeship and the opportunity to serve our country, to name a few to acknowledge.

Have a Merry Christmas and enjoyable New Year! Above all, keep safe - I look forward to seeing you all back in January 2012.

Nō reira, kia whakamārari noa te noho. Ka hoki menemene mai, ka whakarewaina anō ai ngā waka hei te tau hou.

Therefore, let us enjoy this time of rest. Return with a smile, for our ships launch again in the New Year.

Christmas Message from Air Vice-Marshal Peter Stockwell, Chief of Air Force



Heading into Christmas and New Year is always keenly anticipated here at home as we reflect on a really busy and challenging year for the NZDF. But it is always harder for those NZDF personnel deployed overseas and away from their families, friends and loved ones at this special time, so my thoughts are with them.

The RNZAF has worked extremely hard this year to continue to support NZDF operations, exercises and other activities, even though we have had reduced aircraft fleets as we go through a demanding programme of introducing new and upgraded aircraft.

I am very proud of the role we have played in supporting and contributing to the 'joint effect' throughout the year, both in the air and on the ground. I am also very proud of the outstanding work done by the NZDF in all our overseas missions and the very professional way in which our personnel have conducted themselves.

On behalf of the Air Force, to all personnel and their families, thanks for your efforts during the year in enabling the NZDF to conduct its business, and I wish you all a great Christmas and New Year.

Christmas Message from Commander 3rd Land Force Group



Another year has flown by and with Christmas upon us our thoughts and thanks go to those soldiers deployed overseas and their families at home. This time last year I was one of those deployed and we all understand the sacrifices our families make as we do what is required of us as a soldier in the many and varied places we find ourselves throughout the world. Our soldiers really do make a difference throughout the world and every day they display that professional 'can do' Kiwi attitude that places them amongst the best in the world. We ask a lot of support and patience from our families to allow us to undertake our chosen profession and for that we are grateful. To the families and friends at home, thank you.

Where ever you are as the festive season approaches, please take time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. For those deployed, stay safe.

Merry Christmas to you all and have a great festive season.

COL PHIL MCKEE



Christmas Message from the Commander 2 LFG Colonel H.V. DUFFY

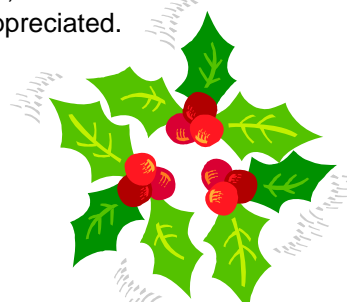
Kia ora tatou.

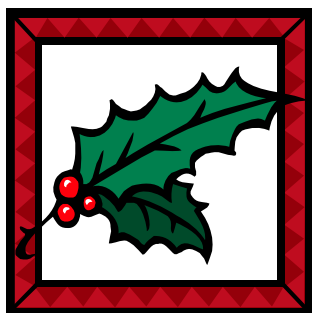
By the time you get to read this edition of "The Bugle", 2 LFG will be no longer and we would have formed 1 (NZ) Bde. This is one of many changes that was probably talked about before you deployed overseas and is now being put into action. 2011 has been a busy year for all of us and 2 LFG has been at the forefront of providing troops for operations. GYRO 11 and CRIB 18 have successfully deployed and returned and we are now supporting GYRO 12 and CRIB 19. There are also a number of smaller missions that 2 LFG personnel deployed to. Next year 2/1st Battalion, RNZIR will be the lead unit for operations, although they will need support from all the major units from both Linton and Burnham.

To those of you currently deployed, thank you for your service and I acknowledge the extra sacrifice you are making by being away from your loved ones over Christmas. Likewise, to those folk back home – thank you for your support to the Army commitments overseas; it is much appreciated.

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

No reira, ma nga hua tu-tangata.





1st NZ SIGNAL REGIMENT & RNZ Sigs Corps

George Mathews, Colonel Commandant, RNZ Sigs Corps
P.M. Dragicevich, Commanding Officer/ Regimental Colonel
RNZ Sigs Corps

As another year draws to a close the one thing that has stayed constant is the high tempo and the large amount of our personnel deployed around the world supporting NZDF outputs. The feedback continues to be great on the professional standards you are maintaining while on operations, but it is at Christmas, as at almost no other time of the year, that we reflect on the personal sacrifices from our soldiers and their families. It's also at this time that the delivery of communication systems becomes *mission critical* to ensure all deployed personnel get the opportunity to talk to family and friends. Indeed, Facebook, Skype and other social tools are likely to be the communications path of choice for many and I expect many of the corps and non-corps personnel are ensuring Internet connections are up to the task well prior to Christmas Day.

For Christmas 2011, there are a few milestones that make it somewhat different from previous years for this Corps. Firstly, the Regiment welcomes the Military Intelligence (MI) Company into our ranks on 13 Dec 11. (Deployed folks will no doubt be sad they are missing that parade opportunity) and we extend our personal best wishes to all the deployed members of MI Coy from the Regiment. Secondly, the newly formed OpSIS trade personnel coming under the RNZ Sigs Corps in Dec 11 and the role of the corps trades therefore is extending into new areas. What's happening on operations and recent exercises is the start to developing the overlaps of the current and new OpSIS trade within the RNZ Sigs Corps.

On behalf of all members of 1 NZ Sig Regt and the RNZ Sigs Corps, the Colonel Commandant and I extend a personal thank you for all your efforts over the year and wish all our deployed soldiers and their families all the best.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all safe on return to New Zealand in 2012. *Certa Cito* (RNZ Sigs Corps motto - translated as *Swift and Sure*).



From the Infantry Platoon in Timor Leste to our families and friends back home
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas Greetings cont'd...



On behalf of the men of Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles, we wish all the families of deployed personnel the very best for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Not often enough are military families thanked properly for their contributions in supporting New Zealand's operations, whether they are the months apart for overseas operations or the long hours' absence on Christchurch's cordon. Every good soldier has a support base of family and friends that props them up, and

for that effort we are grateful.

To the deployed personnel, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe return home from the remainder of your tour. It goes without saying that we look forward to the next time we see you.

Ake Ake Kia Kaha,

Major Scott Cordwell

Officer Commanding

Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles



3rd Logistics Battalion Xmas Message

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

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

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

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

WO1 G. Payton

RSM 3rd Logistics Battalion



1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment



Another year has seen personnel from the unit extensively deployed to Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and Sinai. It has been a complex and challenging operationally focused year for both families, collective groups and individuals. Coupled with this, the Canterbury earthquake in Feb 11, OP RENA, collective training activities supported, black operations with supporting NZ Police and individual trade/promotion coursing has seen the unit continue with distributed operations throughout the year.

Being part of a large operational unit will always produce leaders and have talent with skills, knowledge required by sports teams, the MCG, the Bn Band and Drum Corps. These are essential parts of growing soldier capability. It is pleasing to see many soldiers of the unit getting involved with a variety of sports. Many have been successful at Army and Defence level. For those that have volunteered their time and energy to support, either in the background or as a member of these capabilities, the Unit thanks you. Without your support the unit would not have the reputation it does and is proud of having; winning is part of our warrior ethos.

Battalion activities which remain part of the Battalion patrol programme include the Lone Pine, Bn Birthday, Unit Christmas luncheon, Smoke Concert, Bn SAAs, RSM afternoon teas/morning teas (thanks S9) and celebrating our individual Corps days. These have continued over the 2011 period.

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, Officers, Soldiers, Civilian staff of 1 RNZIR, a Very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year to all our personnel currently deployed on operations and their families in New Zealand.

We trust that you are representing your Nation, Unit and families with pride - our thoughts are with you always
- 6.1.1 - Living the Dream.

Have a good patrol.

ONWARD

Tena Koutou Katoa

To all our deployed personnel and families, you are never far from our thoughts but over the holiday season we especially think of you as the miles separate you from loved ones. Take care, and keep safe.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

***Mike Subritzky, Jen Betham-Lang (Chaplains) and
Marie Lotz (Family & Social Services Officer (Trentham Defence Area))***





Christmas Message from The Naval Community Organisation

Meri Kirihimete – Merry Christmas

During 2011, the NCO has continued to provide a communication link between those personnel serving overseas and their families. We have provided assistance through the NCO Headquarters, Motel bookings and amenities and the family liaison officer as well as encouraged new friendships and support networks for the families of land based deployed personnel with a partner's dinner and activities for the children.

The annual Navy Children's summer camp was held at Motutapu Island in the October School holidays and we are all looking forward to the Children's Christmas party on Sunday 11 December.

This Christmas we have 13 of our Naval personnel deployed overseas. As we celebrate our typical Christmas at the beach, camping or around the barbecue, we know that you will all have a unique memorable Christmas experience be it spent in the snow, ice or the extreme heat. You may be away from your families this year but you will no doubt make the celebrations enjoyable and memorable to those around you, with Kiwi humour, positive attitudes and ingenuity. Although we cannot make the journey to you physically this Christmas be assured that our thoughts and prayers are there with you.

From the NCO team - best wishes to Simon, Wayne and Daniel in Afghanistan, Jacquelyn in the Solomon Islands, Selwyn and Monique in the Sinai, Mike in Lebanon, Pete in Syria, Martin in Korea, Ambrose in East Timor and Dave, Richard and James in Antarctica.

Mo te Tau Hou – Happy New Year.

Lissa Jackson

Naval Community Organisation Manager



To all of you faithful servicemen and servicewomen, and to all you dear families enduring a Christmas apart from your loved ones, thank you for your sacrifice, and special Season's Greeting from RNZAF Base Woodbourne!

Claudia Baker

Woodbourne Welfare Facilitator

Christmas Greetings cont'd...



THE CORPS OF ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ENGINEERS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2011



Another year has passed and again 2 Engineer Regiment and our brethren throughout the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers have been extensively deployed throughout the world and continue to be deployed in a variety of missions whilst providing continued support to the rebuilding efforts in Christchurch.

In addition to your wonderful efforts, it has been a great year for the Corps deploying overseas to positions such as you are in but also to Tonga, Vanuatu, United Kingdom, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Antarctica. Special Highlights for the Corps of RNZE have been winning the inaugural Corps Rugby Tournament and winning Gold on EX Cambrian Patrol in the United Kingdom.

Your support and dedication is invaluable to help NZDF achieve its missions and your self sacrifice has not gone un-noticed.

On behalf of the Regimental Colonel, Officers and Soldiers of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year is wished to the following personnel and their families.

We know you are representing your Corps, Unit and families with pride:

H1019344 SPR R.I. CAIRNS
U1020666 SPR W.R. DUNBAR
R994305 SGT B.J. EGERTON
B1002893 CPL R.A. JAMES
K1011595 LCPL D.E. MARSH
E1004713 SGT T.R. MILLER

S1019514 SPR C.N.B. PEIPI
V997690 A/LTCOL B.W. PITT
Y1009837 A/MAJ M.P. RENDALL
F771954 CPL R.J. SKERTEN
F1019135 SPR C.W.M. SMITH
H1013226 LT L.A. PANNETT

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER 2 CANT NMWC BN GP



On behalf of all the Officers, Soldiers and Civilian staff of the Unit, I would like to extend our best wishes to all the NZDF personnel who are deployed overseas during this festive period, in particular from the Unit, LT Rachel Boulton, CPL Robert Skerten and LCPL Adam Harvey.

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

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

Ake Ake Kia Kaha

LT COL Grant McMillan

Christmas Greetings cont'd...



A Christmas message from the Officer Commanding 1st (New Zealand) Military Police Company

MAJ VANESSA HOUGHTON-DAVIES

Well another year has quickly passed by, and I have been given the opportunity to write a few words on behalf of the Military Police.

As with the rest of the New Zealand Army, 2011 has been one of tragedy and turmoil, as well as business as usual for the Military Police.

At home we lost three members of the Military Police in very quick succession, (CAPT Mark Sydney, MAJ Monique Brown and CPL Richie Pere). We were involved with Operation Canterbury Quake II and Rugby World Cup 2011, while still conducting domestic policing operations and deployed operations in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and the Sinai Peninsula.

Our small Corps of 42 soldiers and officers have managed to deploy 11 personnel on operations this year, along with several others on short deployments in support of unforeseen activities.

I would like to thank those of you who will be separated from your loved ones over the Christmas and New Year period, especially those folk at home, for allowing your loved one to serve overseas.

I look forward to working with you all in 2012. Have a safe, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



2/1ST BATTALION, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INFANTRY REGIMENT CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2011

LT COL S. MICHIE

A very busy year for 2/1 RNZIR, for reasons good and bad. Sadly we laid to rest one of our brothers, Private Kirifi Mila who was killed on operations in Afghanistan—you will not be forgotten Cliff, Rest In Peace. Collectively, all members of the unit should be very proud of what they have achieved. Your work during the earthquake assistance was outstanding and your application to training has produced very good results, putting us in a good position to return to the operational cycle in 2012. In individual training, members of the unit have again performed well with great results on the PI Comd and Sect Comd courses, the SNCO and WO courses and at the international sniper concentration. Congratulations also to PTE Spivey for being selected to attend the Warrior Leaders Course in Hawaii next year.

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



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS

Including:

- Kiwi Patrol
- The Adventures of a Kiwi Patrol
- Cooking in Afghanistan
- First Impressions Count
- How time flies
- Light Engineering Team Antarctica 2011
- Merry Christmas from the Sinai Desert
- Preface to the NSE Xmas Messages



NEWS FROM CRIB 19 AFGHANISTAN

KIWI PATROL

Troopers Jansen, Job and Jackson

Our Kiwi patrol team is derived from 1 RNZIR with all but two members from the same company. The majority of the patrol is from the same platoon and have been together a considerable amount of time so we had already gelled before this deployment to Afghanistan. We left the comforts of New Zealand on September 11th which was a strong reminder of why we were going and the history of where we were going; however, we had to stay focused on the task at hand.

Most of our patrol has previously deployed to Afghanistan, which has proven to be helpful a number of times especially with the language barrier, one of our members is nearly fluent in the local Dari language.

Our deployment has been the first to operate in the NZ Light

Armoured Vehicle (NZLAV) during the Bamyán winter which is always going to have its challenges particularly when combined with the quality of the Afghan roads – or lack of it. Although there were some doubts, the LAV has proven itself over here and we are glad we

have the extra firepower and protection it provides us.

Our deployment is set to be longer than any previous rotation due to the Rugby World Cup (we were able to watch the final via satellite TV). All this means is we have to keep each other honest, and not get complacent which hasn't been an issue so far, as our patrol is really starting to operate smoothly and with points to improve on are getting less by the week. It's always



TPR's Job, Jansen and Jackson

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



The Team



Kiwi patrol into the hills

a good feeling returning from patrols around the province and stints at "Hotel Do Abe" to return to Combat Outpost Romero to find mail on our beds from our loved ones, especially considering the time of year we are here.

With eleven 21st birthdays on our deployment, and many other birthdays, there is no shortage in cakes – it seems like once a week we all share a cake! So no need to worry, we are being well fed.

From all the soldiers of our Patrol we'd like to wish all our families and friends a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and we look forward to returning to you next year safe and sound after a successful deployment.

THE ADVENTURES OF A KIWI PATROL

PTE Cheyene Kipa

Through the eyes of a soldier we

see the world in a new light. Dim as it may be, Afghanistan has opened our eyes. Here in Afghanistan there is an almost infinite abundance of poverty and the ever lingering presence of war. As we have seen throughout the province we currently reside in, the living standards for the local civilian populace are a lot worse than we previously imagined. The Afghanistan people struggle in almost every aspect of what we would consider a healthy lifestyle. They have little to no hygiene, clean their cooking utensils and clothes in dirty streams and creeks and appear as if they have only a few or no changes of clothing. These people have almost nothing yet their will to survive is unparalleled. These are the types of a people who cannot only survive but care for a family of over 15 on around 50 dollars a week. Also it appears that even though they are struggling immensely they still seem happy.

Here in Afghanistan we do everything we can to help this struggling nation rise to its feet. Even if what we do seems insignificant, every helping hand we lend brings happiness and hope. For example, we drove a few hours out of our way to drop off stationery to a school that had literally nothing except four walls and a roof. This may be an exceptionally small gesture but it does enough to help. The children at this school were amazed. Their spirits uplifted and raised. I have never seen people happier in my life. Now that these children have the tools they need to learn, they will be more inclined to return and continue to attend school. This greatly increases the chances of them becoming doctors, teachers and more importantly future leaders. So it is easy to see how gestures of miniscule proportions can blossom into greatness.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

As a soldier in Afghanistan, life isn't always about making people happy. Every day each and every person here is potentially in harms way. However, as a combat patrol we are often forced into exceptionally dangerous places amongst very dangerous people where the probability of us being hurt is high and where a very real threat is ever present. But we will remain vigilant for we are not intimidated by thugs, criminals or terrorists. We are fearless warriors willing to fight and die for the man to our left and right. We are trained and prepared for anything. We are proud. We are staunch. We are ready.

"We would like to wish all the families back home a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"



COOKING IN AFGHANISTAN

**LCPL Fogden and
ACH Chatterton**

In early September 2011, we (LCPL Fogden and ACH Chatterton), departed NZ for Bamiyan, Afghanistan, as part of the Catering Section, CRIB 19. After a few days of travelling we arrived at Kiwi Base, Bamiyan.

So far we have been here over two months and time has gone by fast. After a handover from CRIB 18 we

are all settled in now. The kitchen is well set up with two gas ovens, one electric and two deep fryers, with a large pantry for dry store. We have two fridge reefers, two freezer reefers, four containers for dry stores, and expendables, and three chest freezers. We must be doing a good job as everyone spends time at the gym.

We get a good variety of food, but meat is the only product which is not very good quality. We get sirloin, rib-eye and T-bone beef but they can't be used as steaks – we have to braise them for eight hours. We recently purchased two pressure cookers from the local bazaar. Our local kitchen workers showed us how to use them and the beef is cooked and tender in under one hour. We purchase goods from the bazaar that we can't get from our supplier like brown sugar, baking powder and chocolate bars.

Another challenge we had was learning how to cook at altitude, for example baking rises too early and then sinks so you have to adjust the flour water ratio to get it to work properly, also water boils at a lower temp so things like frozen vegetables take longer to cook.

We have locals employed in camp who work around the place like the laundry, kitchen and doing the rubbish. We had our first snow on the 26th of November, we had a heated shed made to store our bottled water in so it doesn't freeze, during winter.

Recently we had a request from the Americans to have a 'Thanksgiving Dinner'. So, we cooked a 15kg roast Turkey and other traditional American foods like Pumpkin pie and Corn bread. This was a good practice for Christmas day as we are planning on having three roast Turkey's (biggest being 16kg) and suckling pigs for Christmas dinner.

Another activity we completed was a visit to the local orphanage with the Padre. This was an experience we really enjoyed and next time we will take fresh fruit and lunch for the kids.

In closing, we are enjoying our time here and it is interesting to see how people live here in the straw and mud huts. Finally, we would like to wish all the families back home a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**LCPL Gribben and SIG Baker in the
Bamiyan Bazaar**

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT

SIG G.W. BAKER

Well we are over a third of the way through our deployment and so far things are running smoothly. Time seems to be going by very quickly although I am told it slows down in the last few months.

This deployment has been a very rewarding experience for me, being part of a team that contributes to the safety of our people here in Bamiyan province. Although the hours we work are not conducive to participating in all PRT activities, I have still managed to venture outside the wire and experience the Buddha's, Bazaar Red City, PT Hill, which climbing up isn't as bad as people make out. Also I have just returned from the sprawling Military city that is Bagram Airbase. It was

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

an interesting experience to spend some time in the bunkers during an indirect fire impact.

What has struck me about the people of Bamiyan is their friendliness (for the most part) and hard working nature; they seem to me to be a people that just want to work hard and provide for their families in peace. It makes me proud to see the work that we have done in the province to help

facilitate this lifestyle for the people here.

Walking through the bazaar for the first time, I experienced what is probably known as 'culture shock'. Being someone from west Auckland it was a surreal experience. It was interesting to see the locals going about their daily business, like purchasing chickens with black spots hanging off strings in the sun. It appears the health authorities here have not yet

implemented sound food hygiene standards. The traffic is also quite diabolical, it's amazing there are not more accidents than there are.

We just had our first snow dump on the weekend and with winter fast approaching the thermals and gloves have started to get some use, thinking of home where summer is just beginning.

Have a good one guys!

NEWS FROM GYRO 12 TIMOR-LESTE



GYRO 12 Team

Photos courtesy of CPL Janine Fabre, Australian Defence Force



GYRO 12 CSST

HOW TIME FLIES ...

MAJ Steve Challies

We have just about completed our first month...well at least the ones who arrived on time and didn't have a couple of extra days by the pool in Darwin waiting for the aircraft to be fixed have! No seriously, we all arrived in good order and have settled into life at the HPOD in Dili. The rains have come but that has not stopped us getting out and about and getting used to our new surroundings.

For those of us who have been

here before, some things have changed, others have stayed the same. Those new to East Timor are taking it all in.

The Rifle Platoon are busy conducting Community Engagement Patrols in the local area, while the Protected Mobility Troop now know the back streets of Dili probably better than the suburbs of Palmerston North. The Combat Service Support Team and Headquarters elements are almost at full stride having had a busy month with visits, ceremonial activities, checks, stocktakes and

time at the shooting range. We are all getting used to physical training with Staff Lorrie Colvin three times a week at 0630 hours; the poor old Aussies really don't know what has hit them!

We have a busy month ahead of us in the build up to Christmas and in just 31 days will be a third of the way though our tour - how time fly's when you're having fun (and working)! Everyone looks forward to mail day and keeping in touch with family and friends though a variety of ways. There is heaps of sport and exercise to keep us

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

occupied, and everyone should come back looking a bit more buff than what we left.

Of course we will miss you all during the festive season and will be thinking of you. We will be getting into the spirit of things by looking after some local orphans on Christmas Day and having some ANZAC fun in the evening. We look forward to catching up with you all again in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and God Bless you all.



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



NEWS FROM OP ANTARCTICA

LIGHT ENGINEERING TEAM: ANTARCTICA 2011

**LCPL P Kereama and
SPR N. Mundt**

On 17 October 2011, the 17 man Light Engineering Team was welcomed to "The Ice" by Ivan the Terra Bus, Second Lieutenant (2Lt) Bloodworth and Lance Corporal (LCPL) Kereama as we embarked on our official deployment in the great continent of Antarctica 2011. Upon arrival we were quickly settled into our rooms and briefed on the kaupapa and culture of McMurdo base while being able to briefly take in the awe inspiring surrounding landscape of Ross Island.

From here we split into our two section groups led by LCPL Kereama and CPL Bristow and tasks divided accordingly.

LCPL Kereama led his team through out the demolition of 'Little House' which involved the

complete stripping out of all electrical conduits and services, interior lining, insulation, windows and stairs. LCPL Kereama then called in the big guns, using the available plant to finish the demolition of the building, considerably speeding up the task. From here, he and his team assisted the other section at T-site and minor construction task while planning and asbestos testing was conducted for the Balloon Inflation site, the next building to be removed.

CPL Bristow led his team in the deconstruction of the 'T-site' sub floor. This required the removal of the tongue and groove flooring, sub floor insulation, timber bearers and the gas axing of steel 'I' beams. While bad weather saw all of us converge onto this site and work together towards an early completion, this was only interim and within the week the site was virtually complete with only parts of the sub-floor to deal with due to



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

snow cover and waste prepped for transit to the waste site. From here, CPL Bristow and his team moved on to the Old Aquarium site.

Meanwhile, 2LT Bloodworth was able to recon more minor construction work. Sappers King and Bright began the planning and construction of stairs between two buildings and I planned and worked with several of my section to conduct a couple of construction tasks including repairs on the Waste Management Site Office and re-levelling the Fuels Department's kitchen floor. The Waste Management Office involved framing and cladding the porta-com like structure down to the ground, to prevent the wind blowing under it. We endeavoured to use recycled timber from the deconstruction sites of 'Little House' and 'T-site' as much as possible throughout all of these tasks to minimise wastage.

All of this deconstruction and minor construction has been carried out as the United States Antarctic Programme strives to reduce their overall foot print in Antarctica. An important part of this is the removal of waste from the continent. All waste is stored in tri-wall boxes or flat racks which are categorised as either recyclable or non recyclable, loaded onto a ship and taken back to America. Now this may sound like everything has gone according to plan, but while all 'professional' builders understand and plan to work through and around all four seasons of weather, down here a storm is something quite different. A storm here means complete white-out with two metre visibility and an additional wind chill of -40 degrees C on top of the already chilly -21 degrees C, meaning that even travel between buildings in McMurdo is restricted. As the initial tasks were based on the side of a

hill and were unable to be reached during such storms, new plans had to be made. Turning a negative into a positive, literally, being on lock down during these storms has made us appreciate home while also allowing us to bond together as a group socially and in the sports arena. It has given us the opportunity to share our culture with others while experiencing theirs and exploring our little part of the vast land of Antarctica.

Currently the Light Engineering teams is working on the Old Aquarium and Balloon Inflation sites as we hit the half way mark of our deployment with an eye toward getting home in time for Christmas. While everyone is having a great time down here and making the most of this once in a lifetime experience, thoughts readily turn to home, especially for those of us with loved ones waiting for us.

NEWS FROM OP FARAD, SINAI

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE SINAI DESERT

CAPT Rachel Boulton
NZCON Adjt, MFO

North Camp (where all the Sinai Desert Kiwis live) has a few events to keep us busy. Last night we had the MFO talent show, and as would be expected, our own LCPL Foiakau (Fiji) took out 1st place with a little help from SSGT Macaulay (Macca) and CPL Adamski (Frodo). I think Macca and Frodo may want to do a little more Hula practice for the next time that Fiji pulls them up on stage without any warning. Like all good military establishments they have ceremonies for everything, including the lighting of the Christmas tree. The next major

Christmas event is the nativity play. Realism is paramount as there will be actual donkeys and camels. This year the intelligence level of the wise men has dramatically improved, two are women. The animals are being supplied by the local ingenious people known as Bedouin. MAJ Rendell, the contingent 2IC, has secured the part of Joseph, hope he hasn't been type cast.

Other activities leading up to Christmas is the Norwegian Christmas party and the Aussies have performers visiting from Australia. Hopefully they'll have a bit more talent than the cheerleaders that visited us last month.

Christmas day itself will begin with breakfast at the CO's house where the officers will be cooking. The other ranks are still trying to figure out if this is a good thing or not, then it will be a Trans Tasman cricket competition where NZ plays Australia for the Sand Trophy. The Aussies think they have a chance but they fail to realise our attack weapon, LAC Thompson. In the afternoon will be Christmas dinner at the main dining hall in camp where we will be sitting with the Aussies, Canadians and Fijians. We will then have some free time to let our food digest before we reconvene with the Aussies in ANZAC Cove (our shared mess) for an evening of festivities and picking at the leftovers from dinner. It won't be the same as being with our family but hopefully our temporary multinational family will make a sufficient substitute. Mabsoot Kireesmar, Merry Christmas.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



PREFACE TO THE NSE TEAM CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Dear reader, I'm writing this preface as my contribution to the articles below that will be incorporated into the Christmas bumper edition of "The Bugle". I asked the NSE team to write, briefly and succinctly, a paragraph on some observations they have had since commencing the mission in mid September. Little did I know the literary talent that has lain dormant over these few months. So without further delay, a show case of the talent within. Firstly, a number of quotes that set the scene in so far as they quite possibly relate to all the authors of the works you are about to read.

"Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow to the dark place where it leads." Eric Jong.

"It is in the ability to deceive oneself that the greatest talent is shown." Anatole France.

"If you can't excel with talent, triumph with effort." Dave Weinbaum'.



CPL Adrian Redfern
MOV NCO, NZ NSE, BAF



Big time Mov Op (MC) reporting here from the bowels of planet earth, Afghanistan. I am without a doubt the MVP of the NZ NSE game here in Bagram. My job requires me to have a very professional persona and I am very much the face of the New Zealand Defence Force in Bagram. Which is a good thing New Zealand, because I maintain a high standard of dress and have extremely good work ethics. These qualities have also been rubbing off on my counterparts as well which brings a smile to my face, knowing I am also helping others. So, like I said, I am the Mov Op, and yes, I know it's a hard life but that's why I enjoy it. Job satisfaction.

A typical day for me begins by taking the NSE for morning PT and they are very grateful that I volunteer to take on this job. Sometimes they need a little motivation but after a few words this is corrected. After a shower and then breakfast with the CJTF commander, it's strictly business making sure people are booked on flights and freight is making its way to the correct locations. On a typical day, you might see me at the riggers tent rigging platforms and containers with ammunition, rations, water and fuel to be airdropped to units in isolated locations throughout the AO. Or maybe at the hospital saving babies lives; it brings me great joy to see those little ones pull through. I have been known to step in and pilot the F-16's when called upon.

It's not uncommon for people to come up and ask me if they can have their picture taken with me and an autograph but, unfortunately due to my job, I'm not allowed photos of my face to be taken which is fine because the ladies are more than happy with just a body shot. Some of my work colleagues find it strange but after I explain to them that these people are only human, they understand. Sometimes they say, "Adrian, why don't I get asked for a photo?" and I reply, "don't be jealous; just hang around me a bit more and they might think you are a Mov Op assistant."

Anyway, back to work, I have had to reschedule my entire deployment to make time to write this. But knowing I have let New Zealand know that they are being represented in the most professional light, then my job here is done. And you are very welcome for this message. If you need me, just shine the big wagon wheel in the sky and Ill be there.

"Accuracy under pressure".

From the OC NSE, (i.e. this man's boss),

Since writing this article, Adrian has spiralled into mental decline which I'm told by the psychologists treating him that he is unlikely to recover from despite the enormous cocktail of mind altering drugs he is now on. It was thought that these drugs would counter the drugs he clearly took prior to writing this article – regrettably this is not so. The team

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

in the Bagram NSE wish him well for the future in whatever endeavour his confused mind takes him to next.



SSGT Oonagh Taru

Interesting Experiences in BAF...

Well I've been a few places around the world.... But I doubt I will ever have some of the experiences I have had here in BAF. Like almost being hit by a bus because I heard the F15 jets take off and so I spun around with my camera to catch the second jet zap past. Click. Fantastic shot! I turn to continue walking along the road and Vrooom! I almost become a free NZDF advertising Decal on the front of the bus. I can just see it "have YOU got what it takes.... To take on a bus and lose!"



CPL Tawhiti Davies

Eye opener.....

Kia Ora, My name is Tawhiti Davies. I have been here in BAF since mid September. I have seen many interesting things since my arrival. Here's just one of my memorable encounters.

I headed off to the shower as I do every morning, still half asleep, hair looking like a bad 80's fro, not a word not even a grumble until after my shower (laugh).

So heading into the communal showers it's a normal day, I step out of the shower and I'm awake. As I walk out towards the changing area, I pay close attention to my feet and where I'm walking.

I'm changed and I walk back in to where the mirrors are and see this person ...short, solid in build, acne on shoulders, short hair, SHAVING THEIR FACE! I take a quick glance sideways as I can't believe what I'm seeing. Yip, just as I thought, shaving their face. I decided not to stare anymore, but as I am standing next to them I couldn't help myself.

Anyone who knows me will agree with my big eyes it's not hard to miss what I'm staring at. I quickly divert my stare and got out of there as a huge burst of laughter was brewing inside. Needless to say, I couldn't believe my eyes and to this day I'm not sure of what I have seen.



SGT Fal Smith

Got into BAF 14 Sep 11 and my first thought was "OMG this place is ridiculously HUMUNGOUS....its looks like an episode of M*A*S*H!!".

My first life changing experience was getting behind the wheel. I'm positive I've given at least 10 Americans the frights of their life when I decided that we should drive on the right hand side of the road..... I found it funny in hindsight that I've managed to get everyone in the NZ NSE Team to "pump the imaginary brake" at least once as well! I have met some fantastic people in the short time I've been here – especially the girls from Bagram Mortuary Affairs Collection Point. We presented them some NZ NSE memorabilia to take back to the U.S and represent. They're the closest people I've found to the NZ friends I miss like crazy back home – besides my awesome flat mate (CPL Tawhiti Davies)!!!

We are almost halfway there and time is flying! Looking forward to Xmas and the eventual return to NZ.



CAPT Mike Mist

Three-months in now, and as the WTF moments subside with the growing knowledge that I am pretty much the man and tie that binds Ariki Operations, Bagram Airbase has become home and a sanctuary to this subbie' from 2nd Logistic Battalion. The food, people and role have surpassed expectations and while challenging at times, my training and expansive military experience has set me in good stead to confront and overcome the daily tests that are thrown my way.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

I am supported by a competent team and have learnt a wealth in the short time I have worked with them. We are a small team and band together in times of need. A decisive moment in our tour has been hosting the various coalition forces through the true war in this multi-national base – Rugby World Cup 2011. Gracious hosts and ardent in victory, the Ariki NSE have stamped our mark on Bagram for the patriotism and love for our country by flying the flag of our nation (literally on the back of our Hilux) for all to see and envy. The team have served with pride and passion and the best is yet to come from the Ariki NSE.



LCPL Kieran Wilson

I am the CIS Op here in BAF. My job is to maintain all the communications links into and out of Bagram. I thought this would end up causing me to be stuck behind a computer screen for hours on end, however, to my surprise I have been able to get out and about and meeting people of many different nations, including the British, Americans, Italians and our old mates the Australians to name just a few. This has led to many friendships being formed with people of different cultures and diverse backgrounds. All in all an unexpected but beneficial outcome of the job here.



WO2 'Beach' Baker

Merry Christmas all! I am WO2 Les "Beach" Baker the CSM/MOV WO for the merry band of men and women collectively known as the NSE (National Support Element) located in Bagram Air Base Afghanistan (BAF).



By the time you receive this, we would have been here in BAF for over three months with about four more to go. As you all gear up for sun, sand and surf, we here are preparing for snow, slush and cold. Winter is approaching here, with the days getting shorter (and colder), and the snow slowly making its way down the surrounding mountains ever closer to us here on BAF itself. For those of you unfamiliar with BAF, BAF is located on a large basin surrounded by mountains and is home to some 35,000 personnel from all corners of the globe, and 8 Kiwis. It is also home to various types of aircraft, ranging from the small UAV up to the second largest in the world, the C5 Galaxy. All of which take off and land 24 hrs a day averaging one a minute. Highlights for me to date would have to be the Rugby World Cup Final, watched on the big screen rigged up by NSE personnel at our Lines, in the company of a passionate, vocal, but ultimately losing French contingent. The Blackhawk helicopter flights to and from Kabul to help out down there, and finally the NSE guys and gals here, who have made the time away fly by their professionalism and ability to retain their sense of humour and keep laughing, making for a good crew.

So for all of you back in NZ, have a great summer, enjoy and appreciate your time with friends and family. Enjoy the sun, sand, surf, food and good company. Have a few quite ales or wines (not forgetting to have one for us over here making do with soft drink and water) and generally have a good break from work ready for the challenges that 2012 will no doubt bring.



SGT Paul Cannon

The OC asked me (at short notice) to write a short paragraph on Kandahar Air Field. The place that I have spent the last three months of my life with the prospect of a further four and a half to go.



Kandahar.....dust, flies, mosquitoes and Americans. A Board Walk that could be out of an old school movie set. A Basketball court, Hockey rink, new running track and of course the new artificial turf full sized soccer field. Did I mention the dust and the Americans?

Rocket attacks and VBIEDs are all part of daily life in Kandahar. Aircraft going 24 hrs a day whether it be a C17, C130, Antanov, B747, Chinooks, MI26 and a multitude of other Aircraft that the Coalition force has at its disposal. Kandahar is the most diverse deployment that I have been involved with.

Then of course there are the Australians.....during the World Cup it was a great place to be, but they did support the ABs once their team was knocked out. All in all, 3 down, 4 to go and flood warnings are in place. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all at home.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU AT CHRISTMAS

Padre Darren

CRIB 19

In the church calendar this season is known as Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and waiting leading up to Christmas. It is a time to examine oneself and one's relationships with God and with others.

For us on deployment here on CRIB 19, this time marks three months into our tour. To date we have become more aware of the situation and environment we work in. We have built on working relationships with ourselves, other partners and agencies in Kiwi Base and in our Area of Operations with the local peoples and the environment.

And back home also with loved ones and friends I have felt personally the strengthening of relationships that I find happens when you're away. The words in Tui Teka's rendition of Mum, 'I never knew just how much you meant to me, now you're so many miles away across the sea' resound in my thoughts. Absence really does make the heart grow fonder.

For us all, this Christmas will be different because we are many miles across the sea. Normally we would be with our families and friends enjoying the festive season together. Celebrating one's beliefs of baby Jesus born on Christmas day or waiting with excitement for Hana Koko (Santa Claus) and opening presents around the Christmas tree, enjoying Christmas dinner hams, turkey, hangi, and Christmas pudding. We will still have our Christmas dinner here; our fantastic cooks will take care of that and turn it on as they do each day, as I'm sure you will too at home. We may even have a white Christmas because as I look out

the window the first snow is falling around Kiwi Base and Hana Koko (Santa Claus) will definitely call by.

However, with overseas deployments we are unfortunately separated at Christmas and other special occasions from those close to us. It is this sacrifice that we undergo. And this sacrifice should always be acknowledged.

We become a close family here on deployment and there is great support for each other. But I think of our families back home and how you are coping. As Tui Teka continues to sing and this is our prayer, 'God, please do keep my Mum.' We include you all in our prayers our loved ones, whanau and friends that God keep you all under the shadow of his wings to keep you safe this Christmas and into the New Year. Enjoy this festive season.

Ma te Atua Koutou hei manaaki hei tiaki i tenei wa i te whanau mai a Ihu Karaiti tae atu ki te Tau Hou. Tena Koutou katoa.

Salaam.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Padre Chris Purdie

GYRO 12

Away from home at Christmas? So was Jesus!

It is a little strange to talk about Christmas while you are away from home. We are in a far off land which doesn't look or smell or feel like home. It is all a bit surreal. We drove through Dili this morning first thing, the sun was just up and the streets were deserted, we drove past shanties of rusty corrugated iron, with the wood smoke, banana palms, and chickens crowing and sleepily bare-ass kids wandering around, while woman swept the dirt outside their houses. There are

empty over-grown lots surrounded by high concrete walls, an old Portuguese two-story Government building, burnt out and desolate, an old man with beetle-nut teeth walking to market with bunches of fish hanging off a pole, two boys push a hand cart with live chickens in a cage, then we are passed by a whole family on a scooter together – Dad, Mum and two kids and a baby. This isn't our home, and we know it will be a different kind of Christmas for you and for us.

For me, I am comforted by the knowledge that the Baby Jesus wasn't at home for Christmas either. In my Bible from the book of Luke, Jesus' parents had to go on a long journey to the ancestral home of Joseph so they could be registered in the census ordered by Emperor Augustus. They went from Nazareth in Galilee, to Bethlehem near Jerusalem. Joseph and the pregnant Mary travel half the length of Israel to a crowded and unfamiliar town and end up dossing down in a shanty stable / birthing suite with only the animals for company.

Like Joseph coming back to the ancestral home and meeting and celebrating with our family, whatever that looks like for us, will not be open to us this year; yet it is great to be in another place to see and engage with another culture which helps us all be reminded of what is important to us in the season of Christmas. To our families we are displaced persons at this time and that feels weird which makes the missing you all the harder.

**Bless you all and
have a Merry
Christmas and
great holiday!**

CHAPLAINS PEN — FROM HOME

HI YA BROTHER DAVID

Chaplain Hamish Kirk
2 LFG

A couple of years ago, just before Christmas, I became aware of some folk letting themselves into my parish hall late at night to “doss down”; having youngsters move through Nelson sleeping rough happens during the summer every year. We tried over three or so weeks to catch them and finally did. They had done a little bit of damage but the main reason we needed to keep them out of the parish hall is that the primary school next door uses our hall as their assembly hall and grounds for sports.

Among those caught, locked up and trespassed was Kris and his pregnant girlfriend Teresa. A young constable named Tim was OC and he dropped an email to his Sergeant, named David, whom I have known for many years. David forwarded it to me and here is some of the reply.

“Hi ya Brother David (he is a holy roller like myself)

Please assure Tim that it is very unlikely that Teresa's and Kris' baby will be the Son of God. I am reasonably sure that this baby's conception was neither immaculate nor miraculous. Although I think we can now guess where the baby was conceived.

And yes, we really do want to kick them out. Even Mary and Joseph took the trouble to knock on the innkeeper's door and ask if they

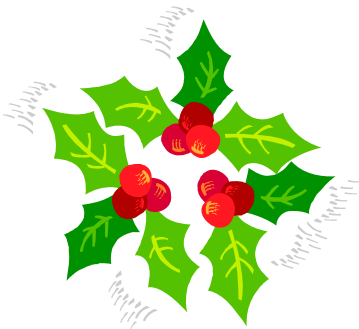
could stay! Surely you would expect no less of God's mother! There are simply too many school children using the Hall to have strangers use it for sleeping over.

Thankfully in Nelson there are plenty of State and NGO's that can help these two if they want it. Dr Hassan at St Luke's in Wimea Road heads up a team with lots of holy rollers that provide the best young mother care in Nelson. And this couple's situation is the reason St Luke's exist. Dr Hassan named his medical practice – being a good Catholic – after Dr Luke who was a medical doctor who wrote the book of Luke and Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament.

And Tim is right, that that other couple did work out well for the Church; mind you it was quite a process.

The escape into Egypt, the settling in Nazareth, all those miracles, turning water into wine (quite a popular one for a repeat performance), healings and then finally Jesus had to endure an illegal arrest, illegal trial, torture (yes, again illegal), crucifixion (again illegal), and then resurrection all done in a long weekend. Quite an effort really.

There is no doubt that Christmas is the time for “peace on earth”, “good will towards all people” to care for the lost and lonely, the hurting and the bereaved. But you can't get past the fact that you get a lot further in life if you take the time to knock and ask first!”



CHRISTMAS FACTS

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

Christmas Quote:

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

(Helen Steiner Rice).

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

Larry Wilde



DSO'S CORNER



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

Picture this:

Two year old Ebony skips into the B Block Mess at Burnham Camp with her Mum and two big brothers. The family are joining with those in the greater Christchurch area, who have service personnel deployed overseas, to an informal dinner, hosted by 3 LFG Commander Colonel Phil McKee. Ebony, totally dressed in pink and in the true style of a lady, carries her gorgeous little pink handbag, crammed full of goodies as only a lady's handbag can be! Heading for a nearby table is three year old Ethan in his finest checked shirt, another wee pink lady, Ava, and their Mum. Coming together are families who have never met before and suddenly there is much chatter and laughter. There are some festive touches to the tables and before long,



Elizabeth and little Ebony Grieve (family of Major Brett Grieve, deployed in Afghanistan) enjoy the festivities at our Burnham Dinner

Christmas crackers are being pulled and party hats adorned. We are joined by other families, partners, Mums, Dads, Brothers, Sisters and the In-laws! Our small gathering has an air of Christmas spirit - even though there are two days until December arrives and every one is treated to a wonderfully prepared selection of fine food including a great array of the ever-tempting Christmas desserts! Our Air Force family were given the honours of cutting the cake and a great few hours was had by all. While speeches



Debbie and Adrian Genefaas (parents of LAC Joel Genefaas, OP FARAD, Sinai) have the honour of cutting the Christmas Cake, kindly made by Angie Jay

were definitely not on the agenda, COL McKee was invited to speak and expressed his sincere thanks to all for their continuing commitment and support to those abroad and acknowledged the demands NZDF make on families as loved ones deploy to all corners of the world. Special thanks to COL McKee, WO1 Dave Mills (FSM), Padre Kevin Brophy and Lorraine Aitken for welcoming and joining with "our families" and for ensuring everyone had a great time. It was a privilege to meet up with local families again.

And so it's onto our next activity tomorrow, when Burnham Military Camp hosts its Twilight Christmas Gala. From where I sit, I can see much effort being put into a fun event. Santa's Grotto is taking shape and the ground area is being marked out for the many fun rides and activities. The ever popular bouncy castle, will be hoping not to be battered by the howling nor' west wind of today, when fully laden with little ones and a wonderful group of volunteers are setting up stalls - yes, ready for more food and ice-cream! Our Burnham Community both sponsors and supports this event and enjoys the opportunity to welcome those NZDF families living outside the camp, to join them for some family fun. In previous years we have hosted families with loved ones deployed and this year will be no different. While the numbers deployed from our region are currently lower than usual (but this will change next year), we look forward to hosting our visitors to this activity co-ordinated by Cherie Mansell, our Community Services Officer. I know for sure that little Ebony will be here with her family and we are hoping that Ethan and Ava can have a sneak preview of the Santa Grotto so we can get their photo to adorn the cover of this issue of "The Bugle".

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D

While there are a few more happenings around the Camp to keep us busy and entertained, after a day's work, there is our special Christmas Carol Service in the Burnham Camp, All Saints Garrison Chapel on Wednesday 14 December commencing at 7pm. If you are in the region, be sure to join us. The local school contributes with some fine singing and we are all reminded of the special reasons behind this festive season.

Over this past week I have had the pleasure of reading the many cards contributed to our OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD project. You will find more information on this in "The Bugle" but I felt I must mention again the outstanding contribution of so many children, countrywide. The effort and thought put into each card was simply amazing! It's both a pleasure and fun, to have the privilege of reading and checking each card submitted. There is a common theme from year to year where children say or ask exactly what they think - *"Do you have to have a tattoo to join the army?"*, *"It must be awful having Christmas without your Mum"*, *"Do you sleep in a jeep or a tent or on the street?"*, *"I hope you get more than 2 minute noodles for Christmas dinner"* - and many more to keep us all amused. Then there are those who send special and sincere thanks acknowledging the work of our Kiwi soldiers. To mention a few: *"I think what you are doing for our country and the one you are serving in is incredibly brave. So well done and keep up the good work. You are doing your bit to make the world a safer place"* or, *"You are making a difference, remember to keep safe and warm"*. I just have to share several extracts from some wonderful contributions from Garston School children. Definitely not wanting to single this school out from the many others, but I think you will enjoy these too -

"I am the class clown so you are lucky to get a card from me!", "One day I want to be a billionaire so I can have lots of nice things like a flat screen TV", and for All Black Fans - a young girl wrote rather a large list of her many pets and farm animals including a calf called Richie McCow! As a post script to this, I have just received an email from LT COL Jim Maguire who is with OP FARAD in Sinai. He tells me that a package of beautiful cards have just arrived in his office and that they intend to respond to each and every card! The support is truly appreciated.

Be sure to check out the Holiday Contacts at a glance.

Janine and I will both be taking leave and covering for each other, along with having the support of many personnel over that time. Please do not hesitate to call us. We know that this is a difficult time, more so than ever to be separated from loved ones, so if you need a listening ear, a problem solved or an urgent message sent to a deployment location, please be sure to use our 0800 numbers. If you wish to send a text then refer to the number listed inside the front cover as the 0800 numbers cannot receive text messages. I will be thinking of you all - as I am sunning myself in Hawaii, swimming with the dolphins, snorkelling and taking time to visit Pearl Harbour. I look forward to catching up with you all in 2012.

Very best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.



Did you know?

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

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

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

Christmas

Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect."
(Oren Arnold)

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...



Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
2nd Land Force Group

Christmas is traditionally a time to be spent with family and in our role as DSOs we are always conscious that every year a number of families will have someone missing from their family gatherings. This year is no different and at Christmas we will have over 600 personnel serving on overseas missions in various locations around the world. As many of you know, I have personal experience of having had both my husband and son away on their respective deployments (not at the same time); they were away over Christmas and I can't say I liked it very much! But it is just a day and once the day had passed, I felt a lot happier, I hope you will too. Everyone is different of course, and will make their own way, but with such a large number of personnel away, you are definitely not alone; there are other families feeling just like you. Regardless, I hope you have a wonderful day with family and friends to support you.

Your parcels should all be well on their way to "your" deployment location, suitably marked so that they aren't opened before they are supposed to be – yeah right! I hear you say. I'm sure there will be as much contact made as is possible



Kaetryan Lomas-Tane enjoying his dinner



Diners making their way through the presses

from deployment locations, but please don't be too disappointed if your family member is not able to call home, and I'm sure they will call when they can. The good news I have heard though, is that internet communication with CRIB is much improved. Yippee!

We held a very successful dinner here in Linton last week – the largest turnout we have ever had in the three years we have been holding the dinners. An opportunity

not to have to cook or do the dishes wasn't missed by diners! Thank you to all those who attended to make it such a success and a great way for us to acknowledge the "hard yards" endured with loved ones overseas. Thank you also COL Duffy, WO1 Rob McLean, WO1 Clive Douglas, Padre James Moloney for attending, and to the catering and dining room staff for a wonderful meal. We hope to do it again in the New Year.

FOR YOUR INFO...

Christmas in Deployment Locations

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

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

Expecting a Christmas Phone Call?

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

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

Holiday Coverage

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

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

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

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

Last Bugle for 2011

This is the last issue of "The Bugle" for 2011. We hope you enjoy our Christmas edition and the many articles, messages and

contributions from abroad. Sincere thanks to all those who have helped make it yet another good read. It has been a huge task to compile and I hope not too many sleepless nights ahead in the hope that we didn't miss anything out!

The deadline for the next issue is Thursday 5th January 2011. "The Bugle" team look forward to your continued support and contributions in the New Year. It is your contributions that make the Newsletter what it is—so be sure to send in just as many great articles and messages as this issue carries.

A very special Bouquet



The absolute best response ever to the Kiwi Forces Radio 2011 project; 45 families took part resulting in over 4½ hours of recordings for loved ones overseas. Thank you so much to all our families for making this such a successful project. The recordings have been loaded onto CDs and sent off to the various deployment locations. We know that our deployed personnel will really enjoy their special requests.

Putting this project together is the work of just one person – Kate Lukins; and it is all done in her own time. Kate, you are an amazing and talented individual and we are very grateful that you have chosen to utilise your very special talents in this very wonderful way. On behalf of our service personnel and their families a special bouquet to you in recognition of the KFR project and a very genuine and sincere thank you from us.

Family and friends can listen to the broadcast via the NZDF website: www.nzdf.mil.nz (Media Releases / Publications / Kiwi Forces Radio)





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD



Carol Voyce
DSO Burnham
Editor — “The Bugle”

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

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

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

Linton Camp School,
Burnham School, Burnham Preschool and Nursery, BOOST Burnham,
Kids First Kindergarten, Burnham,
Morven School,
Palmerston Primary School, Otago,
St Josephs School, Queenstown
Evans Bay Intermediate
Garston School

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

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



HOLIDAY CONTACTS AT A GLANCE



Burnham:

Deployment Services Officer
Carol Voyce

(03) 363 0421
027 497 565 or
0800 337 569

(toll free)

0800 deploy

Burnham Duty Complex

(03) 363 0099

Chaplaincy Service:

17-22 December—

Kevin Brophy

021 241 6143

23-31 December

Paul Stanaway

021 246 6747

01-04 January

Rev Mary Giles

027 431 7907

05-09 January

Tavake Manu

027 249 8967

Linton:

Deployment Services Officer
Janine Burton

(06) 351 9399 or
0800 6837 7327

(toll free)

0800 overseas

Linton Duty Complex

(06) 351 9099

Chaplaincy Service: Duty Phone

(06) 351 9634

Waiouru:

Duty Complex

(06) 387 5599

Devonport Naval Base:

First point of contact for service families:

0800 NAVYHELP

Out of Hours Social Worker:

Jason Hallie

021 908 655

Chaplaincy Services:

Chaplain Peter Olds

021 972 454

Royal New Zealand Air Force:

Auckland Orderly Officer:

027 450 0464

DNCO:

027 450 0465

Ohakea Orderly Officer:

027 472 3495

DNCO:

021 378 003

Woodbourne Orderly Officer:

027 622 2480

DNCO:

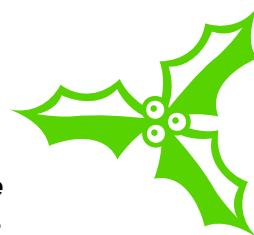
027 496 5924



DSO Phone Coverage

Janine and Carol will both be taking leave over the holiday period, but will share the coverage of calls during that time. Janine will provide coverage until January 4th and Carol will cover from then until January 16th. In the unlikely event of an emergency, Lorraine Aitken will provide additional 'on the ground' cover in Burnham and the greater Christchurch area until January 4th to support Janine. When our cell phones are diverted, they do take a few seconds to connect, so please wait, however, if you experience ongoing difficulties with the connection, please redial—refer to numbers inside front cover.

Hot Tips for Christmas



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

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

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

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



Watch out for the “shoulds”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A Special Christmas Message



T'was the night before Christmas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whispered, "Carry on Santa,

it's Christmas day, all is secure."

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

"Merry Christmas My Friend,

And to all a Good Night."



PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Thursday 5 January 2012**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

To Beyoncé, Neil Diamond, Lady Gaga, and Moo

Hello my awesome family. Well, we are over halfway before I come home – yeah!! Thanks for the parcel and presents – can't wait to open them!! Ariana, enjoy your last days at Linton School; Samara, keep up the good work; Kataraina, keep growing; and my beautiful wife, stay strong – I'm home soon. Love you all my wonderful family – H'Dawg.

To Mum, Luke and Marcus

Miss you all. For Mum - keep the KFC coming; the boys love it. To Luke, keep the wickets and runs coming, love hearing about your success after a Saturday Game. Marcus - if you are a good boy and say hello to me on the phone I'm sure Santa will bring you lots of Thomas things on Christmas Day!

To Granny and Poppa and all the whanau

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Will miss you at the gathering, but will be there in spirit. Love Steve.

To Roberta and Germaine Colvin

Germaine: Have a great Christmas and New Year holiday with Kuia and Koro in Auckland. Happy Birthday Roberta Colvin! (14th Dec 11 and Happy Wedding Anniversary 28th Dec 11). Have a great holiday with the whanau up in Gissy!!! Mean Gissy Mean!! Arohanui, Raureti XXXXX.

To my Melmel

I miss you lots my baby. I hope you're having fun back home, and I hope you have a good time back down south with your family. Say hi

to everyone for me too. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Love Bobby.

Hi there Purdies

I hope you all have a great Christmas and awesome time up the farm in the New Year. Silvia: Bless you my friend. I love and respect you deeply. Take care and I hope the transitions go well for you. Dan: Well done on your first year at High school, good on you mate. I know that you will work hard for Pete. Have fun. Aaron and Ben: Happy Birthday to you both. Ben for last month and Aaron this one. Wow 10 and 12. You guys are getting big! Awesome! I hope the Xbox is able to be fixed soon LOL. Missing you all, bless you all and have great holiday. Love Chris/Dad/Padre.

To Daard and Famor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope the feeding of the 5000 goes well and I am trying not to taste the Parska even now. Happy Birthday to you Daard and tell Rachel I will email her when she does to me. Blessings Chris/Padre.

Hi Babe

Happy 20th Wedding Anniversary for the 8th Dec. Have a great Christmas and New Year. See you when I get some leave. Love Me! XXXX OOOO.

Hi Jarryd, Keygan and Kiera Hope

Have a great Christmas and New Year. Love you and Miss you heaps. Give Jack a Pat from me. Love Dad XXXX OOOO.

Dearest Mum, Rach, Simone, Dylan Nanna and Grandad...

Exciting my first message in here for you guys... Everything is going

sweet here - it is SO HOT. I will be coming home with the most amazing tan! I think of you guys everyday, and I know I am going to miss you much more over Christmas but hopefully you send me some sweet presents, ha ha. I think Santa will have a few things up his sleeve for you guys from me. I love you all heaps. Take care. Love Libby Lulu Bells x.

Shannon and Lisa

Wishing you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope Santa finds you guys over there... Slightly jealous of your White Christmas but still enjoying working on my tan and wouldn't trade, ha ha. Stay safe over there. I miss you heaps and I can't wait to catch up when we are all back (and get extremely messy OTP). Luv Libs.

Hi Jack

Can you pass on to Abby, Alex and Tim that I will be home soon and I have missed you guys so much and I can't wait to see you. Love Daddy.

Tyler, Levi, Troy, Kaya, Riva, Heremia, and Waaka

I hope you fellas are being good to get all those pressies you want for Xmas. Aunty loves you all heaps and I will Skype to see you open your presents at Xmas time. Thank you for looking after baby Aurora when she was living up there. Love Aunty Holls XXX.

Hi to Jackie, David, Kate and Tim

Hope you are all enjoying the Festive Season. This is the first Xmas we have been apart despite our various overseas missions, so kids look after your mum! Not sure what the program will be here for Xmas Day but you can be assured that it will involve too much eating

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



and afternoon siestas - just like at home. All the very best, Dad.

Merry Christmas Ma and Father

Hope you have a good day and thinking of you. Love Fred xoxo.

Merry Christmas Nan, Grandad, Auntie Deb, Uncle Ross and Kids
Miss you all heaps. Have a good day. Lots of Love Jacs xoxo.

Hey Baby

I hope you have a great Christmas with the doggies, I will be thinking of you all (and the BBQ ribs). Have a glass of wine and relax. I will see you soon. Love G xxx.

Hi Jess

Have a wonderful Christmas; don't spend too much time in the sun. Hopefully you get to do a bit of clothes shopping in preparation for next year. Enjoy plenty of BBQ's with garlic bread of course. Love you and thinking of you always, Dad xxx.

Hi Em

Have a great Christmas; I hope you get lots of cool pressies. I will call you over Christmas and you can tell me all about them. Enjoy lots of BBQ's; I am sure there will be some yummy ribs for you. Love you and thinking of you always, Dad xxx.

My Prinny and My Hunney (K.M.R.S, R.W.K.S)

Thank-you so much for Mumma's mail. I was soooo happy when I saw it! Have all the pictures on the wall and your letters too. I read them everyday before I go to work and give your photos kisses in the morning and at night. I know your being good babies for Dad too....Mumma's really proud of you helping Daddy and looking after him. It's almost time for Santa to visit – you must be so excited. I have sent some things for you to put under the Xmas tree. I miss you

both so very much.....I'll be home just after the Easter Bunny visits. I love you bigger than all the stars in the sky....will talk to you on the Computer ok... Love Mumma XXXX.

Babe (W.D.S.)

So great to get the mail, I cannot even tell you!! Tim Tams went down a treat. It's so good to hear how happy the kids are when I talk to them.....they look so grown up on Skype, can't hardly believe it! Hope you take leave early this year and a lot of it!! You deserve just to chill with fambam and not worry for a while about anything like cooking lol.....aww man just thinking bout Mums cooking makes me jealous!! Send them all my love k. Your doing such a fantastic job bub.....we're almost at the halfway mark.....Miss you....Love you XXX.

To POM POM POO POO KITTY KITTY JELLY-BEAN FRICKLE BUTT

Just thought I'd finally send you a PDA message, well only because you will have the biggest cry if I don't. So I'll start by saying how much I miss you and can't wait to hold you in my arms again! But just think this will be over in a heart beat xo. "FOREVER STUCK ON YOU". P.S: Don't dream about me too much, xo.

Mez and Bert

I hope you haven't been worrying about me too much and sorry I haven't called you enough, (I've been busy) but all is well and not too long now until I'm back in beautiful New Zealand x. JJ.

Ki nga tamariki o Ropitini

Ko te mea tuatahi, ko tenei te mihi ki a Thomas, hari huri tau ki a koe e tama! He tekau ma rua ou pakeke – he tino pai rawa atu! Ki aku tamariki ano, koutou ko Kobe, ko Jada, me Jaxon hoki – nga mihinui ki a koutou katoa, ko taku aroha ki

a koutou katoa.
E pai ana te mahi i konei, engari i tae mai te huka papa! He tino makariri i konei. Tumeke!. No reira, ma te Atua koutou i manaaki.
Na Papa.

Kia ora Babe

By the time you get this msg we'll be 3 months into it, so almost half-way – kia kaha (stay strong) – I know I owe you big time for this so make sure you spoil our kids and yourself rotten over Xmas. Be thinking of you all on Xmas day,. Stay safe and pass on my regards to Mama J for all her help. Love you always – from 'YOU KNOW WHO?'

From C Bass to Alison

Well times flying over here, at the end of this month we'll be half way through. Thinking of you always. Don't work too hard! Hope you like your Xmas present. Love you. Xxxx.

From C Bass to Lisa and Clyde

Have a good break at Xmas, guys you really deserve it. Clyde get the CC ready for April boy! Hope you got your Xmas gift. Have a good one on Xmas day, think of me drinking a near beer on Xmas day in the snow! Ahh Bliss!!

From C Bass to Mum, Dad, Nana, Poppa, Ruka clan, Abernathy clan, Gibbs Clan

Hey guys, have a great Xmas day; I'll be at the next one (hopefully). Missing you all. Hope you all have had a good year. Will see you all when I get back. Lots of love from Afghanistan. Will call on Xmas day.

Hi Kam and Marsh-mellow

Miss you guys heaps. Have a great Xmas. Drive carefully and I'll look forward to seeing you in a few months. Lots of Love B xxx.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Kia ora ano e te whanau

He mihi ano ki a koutou mo tenei wa o te Krihimete me te Tau hou. Ki taku hoa pumau, aku tamariki, aku hunaunga, me nga mokopuna ka nui te aroha. Kia kaha koutou, kia pai ta koutou hararei. Haria taku whakaaro ki te whanau i Ruatoki e Ma. Kia pai te hui whanau, nga manaakitanga ki a koutou. Na reira nga manaakitanga o te Atua ki koutou katoa i te whakapono kua whanau mai a Ihu Karaiti. Ma te wa Na Dad. PS: Waiho nga kina me nga paua mo Dad.(lol).

Palmy/Bulls Whanau

Thank you for your mail, messages, thoughts and prayers. This is the first time we've been apart for the holiday season and I will miss both our beautiful children's birthdays. I think about you all everyday. My thoughts never too far from you all. I pray for your good health, safety and happiness.

To the Matakona/Napier Whanau

Love to you all. Thank you for your Whakamoemiti. Auntie Gloria, Uncle Paddy, thank you so much for those parcels. Xmas came early for me ha ha. Those biscuits go good with a brew on a cold day outside.

To the Matiere/Taumaranui Whanau

I can't wait to go home!! First point of call once I am back for leave is where I love the most. Auckland Whanau thank you for your love and straightening out the household while I have been away. The time here goes fast, keeping busy with work and training. Won't be long before I am back home. Have a Merry Xmas and New Year. Love you all xxxooo.

Kia Ora My Baby Moana

I've sent some Christmas pressies home for you guys at Pariha, Jordan Rd and Kirikiriroa. Can you make sure everybody gets them please? Hope you all have a cool

Christmas and Hanakoko is especially kind. Love you heaps! Mum.

Scrumptious Crumpet

Missing you heaps honey! Another Xmas apart from each other! I'll make it up to you when I get home. Will be thinking of you during the festive season. Keep aiming for our goals! Lites going to be greater than ever before come May! Love you and everything we've become. Your Monkey.

Nana

Thanks for all the bugle messages and all the goodies and birthday presents. I will put the voucher to good use once I get home. Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I wish I could be there, fingers crossed for next year at my place in Christchurch. Love you and will miss you lots. Love Gumby.

Toni and Ed

Thanks for all the bugle messages; sorry I always forget to put a message in. Thanks for my birthday present and the other goodies. Things are good here, getting colder each day, so looking forward to some sun when I get home. Just might have to escape somewhere nice and warm. I hope you have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy your time in Welly's. Love you lots. Miss you. Love Gumby.

What's up Jordan Rd?

Hope everyone is all good? Don't panic if my Christmas present is too big for the mail just hold onto it until I get home and I'll use the truck to pick it up...lol...yeah right! Hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas. Arohanui, Pariha.

Hi K

So hope all is well in green beautiful NZ. We had our first snow the other day, very cold, reminds

me of Queenstown.

One or your parcels turned up the other day; it really was a great surprise, thank you. More mail headed your way. Be well, enjoy that nice kiwi weather, I love you. J.

Mum and Dad

Another month down! Time is flying by that's for sure. A very big thank you for all the birthday presents, Xmas pressies and stuff you have sent for the orphanage. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I can't wait for you to open your Christmas surprise. I'm looking forward to it when I get home. Hopefully next year we will be able to have that Christmas at my place in Christchurch. Fingers crossed I'll be home. Love you lots, miss you. Love Gumby.

Merry Christmas Mummabear

Hope you guys got my gifts, just got to get one for Crackers, ha ha. My love to Babybear, Dad and Noose. Pay those tickets, hee hee. Love you Mumabear and Babybear MWAH. Daddy Bear xoxoxo.

Dear Astrid, Ella and Maree

Have a great Christmas! Missing you all at home and Teddy and Pice. Take the benefit of those beautiful bush walks, river walks and beach walks. I'm saving my Christmas parcels until Christmas day... maybe. Lots of Love, Mark/Dad.

Dear Mum and family

Wishing you all the best over Christmas and New Year! Have an extra dessert, beer and wine for me. Lot of Love, Mark W.

To Stacey and Malakye (Monkey)

Hi guys how are you both going? Thanks for the newspapers and realtor magazines, they are great!!

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Hope you both had fun in Blenheim. Well it's starting to snow all around us, so it won't be long until it snows on the ground. It will definitely be a white Christmas for us. I hope you both have a great Christmas, I wish I could be there with you both. Say hi to your family and wish them a Merry Christmas from me. I love you both more and miss you both heaps. Love from (Frosty/Dad).

To the Frost Family

Hi Dad, Mum and girls. I hope you are all good and getting ready for Christmas. Things are all good here, been really busy so for me time is flying. It has started snowing all around us but no snow on the ground here yet. But it will be definitely a white Christmas!!! Say hi to Nana and Granddad for me. I hope they are all good and wish Darryl and Tovaa Merry Christmas from me. I'm missing you all. Love from Daniel.

To the Southcombe Whanau

My dearest family – have a good Xmas and Happy New Year. Will be thinking of you on this special day. I love you all so much – nearly home!! Hubby and Daddy.

Hi Kezza

Miss you baby! Happy First Anniversary. Hope you like the Gift!!! Give the family my love. Can't wait to get home so we can go on our honeymoon. Love Ya, Kezza.

Tess, Joshua and Devlin

Merry Christmas from Dad. Boys, Dad is really proud of the way you are helping Mum. Love you and miss you all. Enjoy your camping and your trip. Love Daddy/Husband.

To the Wanahi Whanau

Xmas is fast approaching and once again we find ourselves celebrating it in different parts of the world.

Although there are thousands of miles separating us I will always have you all close to my heart. My time spent away from you is only strengthened by the fact I have such great support from my wife and three sons who take on so much while I am away. Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, sorry I can't be there to enjoy it with you. Love always Denis.

To Manaia

Hello my beautiful granddaughter. You have only just entered this world. I am sorry I couldn't be there to see you on your first day. I am looking forward to the day I get to see your beautiful face for the first time. I know you are too young to know what it is but I hope you get many years of enjoyment from the enormous teddy bear we bought you for Xmas. Lots of love Koro Denis.

To my Beautiful Wife

Merry Christmas my darling! I'm sorry I can't be there with you and our little man but we can make up for it once I'm home. I hope you have a great day and that Thomas doesn't go too pressie crazy. I love you with all my heart my darling. Merry Christmas, your husband, Stephen.

To my Beautiful Son Thomas

I hope you are still being a good boy for your Mummy and not waking up too early for her. Remember if you are extra good Santa might bring you some cool presents. Daddy wishes he was at home with you and Mummy but he has to be away this time. I will be thinking of you even more than usual on Christmas Day. Merry Christmas my beautiful son! Daddy loves you lots and lots.

Mum and Dad W

Merry Christmas! I hope you are all settled in your new place and can

relax a wee bit. Say hi to everyone for me and all the best. Be sure to have a wee drink for me too. All my love, Stephen.

Mum and Dad Y

Merry Christmas! I'm sure you are both looking forward to the mayhem of another festive season. I hope you two sit back and relax, I'm sure Kirsty will whip you up a Christmas dinner to remember. Love Stephen.

Gael, Greg, Sam and Saskia

Strewth mate, bloody bonza Christmas to you all. Merry Christmas guys! Have a great one and enjoy a wee three-buck-chuck for me. Lots of love, Stephen.

To my wee man Thomas

Happy Birthday for the 18th! I hope you have a great birthday and that you like your pressies. I can't wait to see some birthday photos of my big 2 year old! Lots and lots of love my beautiful son. Daddy.

Tai Te Manihera, Kobe

Paruhiterangi, Kenana Ihaka

Kia ora aku mokopuna. Akuanei, kei te haere mai a Hanakoko ne . Taku tumanako kei te pai koutou katoa i tenei wa krihimete. Taku aroha nui ki a koutou. Tukua he awhi ki a Nanny mo hau. Nga manaakitanga na Dad.

Warthogs

Have a great summer break and Christmas kids. Hope you get some nice presents. Will be thinking of you and missing you heaps. U-looking forward to your movie P-looking forward to a letter!! Love Dad.

Ella

Happy Birthday for the 23rd Squirt! Hope you get heaps of pressies on your birthday and for Christmas too. See you next year. Skerty.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Smootchy

Christmas time eh? That means hump time for my time away. Would love to be in Nelson with the gang but not to be this time. Spoil the kids and yourself and hope it's a beach summer for everyone. Thinking of you as always.

To my amazing wife and children

I am glad that time is flying by and by the end of this month we will be on the downward slope. I hope you all have a Merry Xmas and Santa was good to you all as I am sure he would have been. I can't wait to get home to you 3 and have some well deserved family time. I love you with all my heart mwa mwa mwa mwa xoxoxoxoxo. Love your husband to you baby and love your father to you my 2 babies.

Dear Daniel and Jessica

Merry Christmas my darlings. I love you more than all the stars and I miss you very much. Thank you for sending me the drawings, I have put them on the wall in my room. Have a wonderful time at the farm, and I will be home for your birthday, so you can show me all your Christmas presents then. Hugs and kisses from your Mummy.

From Home

Merry Christmas C Bass!

Thinking of you at Xmas time and hope you have an enjoyable day. We will be at Russell and will have a few for you while looking over the bay. Miss you heaps and keep up the great work. Thanks for the emails. Love you, Mum, Dad and Atom. Xxxxx.

Merry Christmas C Bass

Hope you got your parcel OK. Thinking of you! Please keep safe. Love you, Nana and Poppa and all the family. Xxxx.

Dear Spunky Monkey

Merry Christmas!! Hope you have a great day and enjoy your presents. Annnndd HAPPY NEW YEARS! We will have a belated party when you get back home. Can't wait for our holiday in the sun! The demons are keeping me busy but love and miss their daddy heaps. All our love A, E and A xoxox.

Daddy G

Merry Christmas! I'm very excited because it's my first Christmas ever and because I've been (reasonably!) well behaved. I'm looking forward to a visit from Santa Claus! I'm actually off to have my photo taken with Santa next week so I will get Mum to send you a copy of the picture. I've told Mum she has to take a lot of photos on Christmas day so you can see me opening all my presents - so I hope she doesn't forget. Merry Christmas Daddy, Lots of love, your Dancing Baby oooo. (BIG HUGS!).

Shnukie Bear

Merry Christmas! I'm busy getting organised for Christmas - you know how important that is for me, lol - am itching to put up the Christmas tree but am patiently waiting until the 1st of December! I am very excited about Christmas this year since it's Cams first one - but won't be the same without you. Hope all your parcels arrived in time and you're issuing restraint and not opening them until 25th December! We'll be thinking of you as we open our stockings (hopefully not so random this year and I'll save some mistletoe with your name on it. Love always and forever, your princess xxx.

Hi James

We are all missing you especially at this time of year! Fergus your new nephew is now growing like crazy and is doing really well. Have a fun and laugh filled Christmas Day! Thinking of you on our Christmas

Day in the sun (hopefully).

Merry

Christmas my

darling! Hannah, Sam, Fergus, Nick and lastly me Mum! XXXx.

Brada Tumate Tengu

It's me sista Vanessa. I just want to send you this message on behalf of the whanau. We all miss you very much and are proud of you & all the personnel for the sacrifices you are making for us all. We all wish you a Very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. We have been enjoying our talks with our Neph & Sista we miss them so much. Mum, Dad the brada's & lil sista Esther, Kenyah & your son son and the rest of the fam bams awl send their love. Kia kaha brada Lots n Lots n Lots of LOVE Nga Tengu / Nuet whanau. Woopsy just one last note, DON'T forget 2 vote.

Lol! Hey Daddabear

You are so lucky to get two Xmas messages ha ha ha! Merry Xmas my love! Thank you for the gifts. I love mine, hee hee! Xx. We all miss you back home hun. Crackers is itching to be roughen up, I'm too soft, nah just can't be bothered, ha ha! Missing you and love you so much hun. Take care, will see you soon Mmmwwaah Mummabear, Babybear and Crackers xoxox.

Hello Aaron

Greetings from downunder! We will be thinking of you in Coogee - fair dinkum. We will miss you. All the best for an enjoyable Christmas and a great New Year! Love M, D and M. OOO.

Hey Chatty

What's cooking? We will be thinking of you 25th December! We miss you heaps but will have a good catch up when you get home. Hope you have a fun Christmas day and the cooking goes well!! We

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



appreciate the parcels and emails, it is comforting to hear from you, keep them coming!! Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Mark and Ann Maree.

Hey Hobbit

Merry Xmas! Hope you're having fun, hope everything is going ok for you and aren't working too hard miss you heaps, xox xox from me.

Bro (Frosty)

Merry Christmas! Hope you have a wonderful day and hope you got a lot of goodies. Will be thinking of you! Can't believe how fast time has gone, not long now. Keep safe Bro. Talk soon. Love your big Sis Britts xox.

Daniel Son (Frosty)

Merry Xmas, hope your day will be a good one, and that you get spoilt! We will have plenty of drinks in Oz for you, as it will be very hot! Be thinking of you. Be safe, not long to go, we will see you soon. Love you. Hugs and Kisses, Mum and Dad xoxo.

Hi Daddio Spagettio

Your girls miss you like crazy and are counting down the months till you get back. Kaia has her list of things that she wants to do with you. Kauri will probably be a traitor to me and start being a daddy's girl. Hope you have a Very Merry Xmas and remember that when you think of us we are thinking of you!! LOVE YOU!!!!

Big Brother, Merry Christmas!!

Hope you have a good day. We will be thinking of you, while we are sitting in the hot sun or in the swimming pool! This year has gone so fast so next year will roll around quick, which means that it's not long to go till you're back home safe in ChCh! Have a jolly Christmas and a good new year over there. Love you lots your lil sis Sinead xoxox.

Kieran

Hey sugar, Merry Christmas! Miss you heaps and wish you were here to share the day with us. Looking forward to spending next Christmas with you, fingers crossed, anyway! Love Kerry. Xx.

Hey lil Bro

Hope all is going well over there – it won't quite be the same without you here on Xmas day, although there will be substantially more food for the rest of us! Miss you bro and hope you have a great day. Luv from your big bro, Jeremy.

Hey Baby Boy

Miss you heaps – who else is going to keep your sisters in line? Going to miss you much on Christmas day – but don't worry as I'll consume your share of the mandarin mousse for you. Love you heaps, Mum. Xxx.

Merry Christmas Kieran

Miss you lots, from Gabby. Xx.

C Bass

Hey baby, be thinking of you this Christmas very much. Stay safe and warm over there and I loved my pressy heaps. Miss you and love you heaps. Alison. Xxx.

Greg

Miss you heaps. The family misses you at the BBQ's. We are looking forward to getting back together. Lots of luv, Mum and Dad Morgan.

Joel

Merry Christmas and a very HAPPY New Year! Christmas pressies are on there way. We're all missing you heaps and can't wait to see you! Don't eat or drink too much on Christmas day cos you have to beat those Aussies. We'll talk to you soon. Take care, stay safe. Lots of love, Mum, Dad, the Goodleys, Krystal and Marc, the Greens, the Phillips's. xoxo.

Tom

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!

Missing you heaps! Go easy on the gym!! Birds are nesting in your truck! Will clean out when they have flown the nest. All the best! All our love, Mum, Dad and Alex. Xxxxx.

To Big Spoon

Miss you lots and lots. Will be thinking of you on Christmas day! Try not to hurt yourself while you are away! Love you lots, from little Spoon. Xxx.

Major Andrew Taylor

Hi Andrew, Alphie and I wish you a Very Merry Christmas – your first winter one – they really are the best. We will be thinking of you and will raise a glass of bubbles to your health. Take care, all the best. Love from Lesley (Mother-in-law).

Dear Andrew

Ho Ho Ho – Merry Christmas! Hope you have a festive day and are staying toasty warm. We are all thinking of you and wish you were here with us. Lots of love, Casey (and Alphie). Xxx.

Hey Bucky Smash

Have you thrown any hot chicks out the window or have you made them do the walk of shame? The Palmy girls are wondering where you are! Merry Christmas, from Greg and Sandra.

Andrew

Hope that electric blanket is keeping you warm. Christmas at Sandra and Greg's this year. Love you, Mum and John.

Tyrone

Hope you are enjoying the heat. Liam or Latasha have a big Xmas DVD order for you. All the best for Xmas. Dad and Mum.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Yo Tyrone

Gonna be a dry Xmas this year. The breweries will miss you, so will we. Luv Mummy and your little Sissy. P.S. Why are you always on facebook?

Our dear son Stephen

Our move went very well and all around us is clean and green, no liquefaction. Dogs have settled in well and are busy, on the scent of the previous owner's dog. Time is flying by and Christmas is not far away, and by then nearly 3 1/2 months will have gone by. Time to put up the tree, lights, and decorations and hope you will be doing the same. You know we love and miss you very much, especially so at this time of the year when families and loved ones are getting together, and although you are so far away, you are so close in our hearts, and near us in our thoughts. Keep well, have a good Christmas, a few drinks, (to keep warm of course), and a safe and Happy New Year. Love you always, Mum & Dad.

Hi Ange

Hope you have a great Christmas and lots of love for the New Year. I will miss you heaps. Stay safe. All my love Nana xxxxx.

Dearest Gumby

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas (well maybe not merry) but Happy Christmas! Hope it's a white one for you! We will miss you heaps on Christmas Day. I won't be able to drink at brunch this year as I don't have you to help me sort out the food for later! Might give the tiramsu a miss this year maybe. Miss you lots. Take care, stay safe and have a magical Christmas in the snow. Lots of love Mum and Dad xoxoxox.

CRIB 19

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and everyone one of

you! You will all be missed around our Christmas tables this year so far away from your family and friends. We are all so proud of the wonderful job you are doing. Love The Coyle Family.

Hi Gumby

Another month down! Hope the parcels are still getting through and snow not delaying them too much. No opening the Christmas ones early, although I believe one has already disappeared. Never mind some more on the way, they are almost the price of gold this year, not sure what is going on. Must be popular eh! Christmas shopping nearly sorted - done yours for you - aren't I a good Mum! Much easier this year so why didn't we do it this way years ago. A very quiet Christmas Day planned for Dad and I this year, saving up for next year. Hopefully I don't spend too much in Sydney and have some left over. Our garden is going berko and looks like a jungle at present, way more than we can eat, so it's been passed around the family. You want some? Great to chat to you and your emails keep us all going. Take care, stay safe and remember we love you heaps. Lots of love Mum and Dad and Tabby xxoxoxoxoxoxo.

Dear J

These "Bugle" things come around awfully quick; it must mean time is turbo-charging by! Over one third has passed already, can you believe? I just love hearing about your time over there, and look so forward to your letters, photos and videos sharing the experience. Until next time, Merry Xmas, Love from K. xx.

Matt G (Batman)

Hope the Chrissie presents arrive in time - enjoy them on Christmas Day! You will be sorely missed by us all. Hope you enjoy your Christmas dinner. Hoping for a fine

summer's day; imagine yours will be somewhat chilly! Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year; much love from us all here Mum, Dad, Chris & Alice, Emma and Michael xoxoxo.

To Maori Boy

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will miss you this Christmas and New Year but hope to have Raven here for the Festivities. Vanuatu wedding was quiet a spectacle. J.J. and Albie and everyone else wishes you the best so keep safe and God bless. Arohanui Mum, Dad and Sister.

Brada Tumate Tengu

It's me Sista Vanessa. I'm sending this message on behalf of the whole whanau. First off, Happy Birthday for the 13 Nov, we all wish we could have celebrated it with you, but we know that you are surrounded by people that love you just as much. We all miss you & are very proud of the sacrifices you and the rest of the army are doing for us all. We are keeping in close contact with Kenyah & your son. Every day is an amazing day when ever we talk. We all want to wish you a very merry Xmas and a Happy New Year & can't wait until you come home, hee, hee, hee....Oh yeah bring on your coming home date.....We've got a BIG surprise for you YEEEEAAAHHHH BUDYYYY. Much love Nga Tengu me Nga Nuet whanau.

Steve

We will be thinking of you on Christmas Day. Have a Happy Birthday for the 17 Jan 12. Love and miss you heaps, Adrienne, Justin and Brodie.

Merry Christmas Jacs

Be happy - not long now till we see you. Lots of Love, Debbie and

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Ross, Mike and Nicola, Sam and Angie, Nana and Grandad XXXX.

Hey Baby

Wow, almost Xmas time & halfway through, how cool is that? Hope you've got your Xmas box & like all the goodies. Try not to open your present til the 25th! Summer's well & truly here, BBQ season is in full swing & we're getting in lots of beach time – love it. I think of you every time I have the sand between my toes. So Merry Christmas – sending lots of festive cheer & love your way, keep up the good work, stay safe & be happy. Love you heaps & I'm counting down the days til we're together again. Your Smootchey XXX.

Merry Xmas Skerty

Wish you were here with us, enjoy your day & we'll see you soon. Love Kerry & John.

Hi Skerty

Merry Christmas, I miss you & I have a sore eye today. From Jonty.

Merry Christmas Skerty

Hope you have a good Christmas. I've gone up another swimming group. Bella's coming to my birthday party & we're going to Jelly Park. From Ella.

Hi Jac

Merry Xmas, Love Father.

Hi Fred

Have a Merry Xmas, will be thinking of you. Can't wait to see you soon. Lots of love Mum xoxoxox.

Hey Baby

Amelia and I are really missing you, not having you here is like missing the icing on a cake, the cake is still edible but would be much nicer with the icing (you). Every weekend we have eggs on toast and a milo and think of you. Christmas (and Amelias birthday) is getting really

close now and I am hoping to give Amelia a really great one even though you won't be here. I love you my honey and I think of you everyday... I can't wait to have you home so I can finally become Mrs Mcgruer =D. Merry Christmas baby xox.

Dear Liz

Hope you a have a wonderful Xmas, thinking of you always. Lots of love Mum & Dad.

Dear Fraser

Hope you have a wonderful Xmas, thinking of you always. Lots of love Dad & Judy.

To Daddy

Happy birthday for the 14th, we miss you and love you. Merry Christmas! Love always Kaelyn, Lanyah & Brooklyn xxx.

Happy Christmas Uncle Teina

Tino Arohanui. Isaiah, Zoe, Mia & Sahra xoxoxox. P.S: We are looking after Savanah xx.

To Buck

Happy 20th Wedding Anniversary on 8th! (Look after my heart.) Happy b'day for 11th – not quite the eldest LOL. Have a Merry Xmas – Jarryd's sure Santa will find you!! Lots of love, Lesley, Jarryd, Keygan & Kiera Hope.

To Daddy

I love and miss you. Have a merry Christmas. P.S: I'm keeping your side of the bed warm. Loads of love always, Kiera xxxxxxxxoooooo.

Dear daddy

Merry Christmas, we love and miss you lots. Hope you have a great day. Thinking of you always. Love Tailah, Jayd, Hunter and Mummy. Xxxxxx.

To Pen

Sup dad! We've been missing you heaps! Me and JP have been practicing Naruto on Xbox 360, so hurry up and come home so we

can kick your butt dad!

We love you SO much and can't

wait for you to come dad! We hope you have the merriest of Christmas's! May the Lord be with you and the boys dad. From Myer, Jeidyn, Darsha, Linton, Mortars and Mum! Xxxooooxxx, xxxooooxxx

To Dad

I wish if you can home home soon because I really miss you. Me and Mum and Myer have been changing the house to look way better for when you come home. I love you Dad, from JP.

Hi Rob, AKA Dad

I miss you so much. I am counting down the days until you're home. Love Damian X0X0.

To: James Bond (*currently on a mission in Afghanistan*)

Looking forward to a family tropical holiday in 2012! Keep safe, Merry Christmas and we will see you in the New Year, although it'll be a bit later than January. With warm fuzzies and love from your Loving Wife and Domestic Affairs Manager xxx.

Josh

Hey spunky monkey just a short note 2 let u know we LOVE u and miss u. Keep safe and ure focus on the job. We r so proud of the job u and ure boys r doing. Faamanuia le ATUA ia oe. Aua le galo le ATUA i aso uma. Manuia le Kirisimasi. Represent The Saua famz..

Hi Josh

It has been good to hear from you,. We look forward to your calls. Mum had a good weekend in Wellington. Nana & Granddad, Brent, Angela and all the family send their love. Work has been very busy for all of us. It is that time of the year. Dad is busy with reports and end of year stuff. Jacob is going to help Jumpie at school in the next two weeks. He

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



is looking forward to going to Tauranga to stay with Hannah during New Years. Hope you are keeping warm and looking forward to a white Christmas. We trust you have received all the parcels, from Wellington and Ireland. Thinking of you always. Keep safe. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Jake, Ome and Jazz.

Hi Daddy

Hope you are keeping safe, our Xmas tree is up but no presents yet. I've been a good girl for mum. Can't wait to see you in a few months. Not long to go now. I'm getting bigger by the day! Look after yourself Papa. We miss you but we love you a million times more!! Love Mum and Nataliah xoxo.

Kia ora Teina

The festive season is fast approaching and it is during these times that we remember whanau wherever they may be. I hope you are well and settled. Kei te pai ahau me Koro Mac. We'll be heading down to Wellington after Xmas and will call into the Hemmingsens on the way down. Our weather is rather changeable here with variable temperatures. NATIONAL will continue to govern the country in coalition following its success in the national parliamentary elections at the weekend. NZ FIRST is back in Parliament with 8 seats. The MAORI PARTY has 3 seats but lost the 1 seat in the South Island. Hone Harawira got in for Te Taitokerau for his new MANA Party. Back home last week we had a fishing trawler stranded on our shores so we have had heaps of sightseers turn up for a nosey. Fortunately there was no oil spill otherwise the locals would be down there doing the haka!!! I missed the "boat" when it came to sending you something for Xmas. We are going into town (Gisborne) tomorrow, 1st December, so better late than never. Have a Happy Xmas and

New Year. Ma te Atua koutou katoa e manaaki, e tiaki i nga wa katoa. Arohanui, Nunu & Koro Mac xxx.

To B2

Hi Hunny! Merry Christmas! I hope you are enjoying your first white Christmas! I hope you got spoilt rotten with all your presents! Love you lots! Will be thinking of you on Christmas day! Love B1 xoxo.

Merry Christmas Sonshine!

From Neill.

To My Big Bro

Missing you & sending you all of our love and special Christmas wishes. We all love you and hope that although you are far from home that you have a happy Christmas. Saskia Sam Greg & I are looking forward to when we can all finally spend a Christmas together. All our love, Gael Greg Saskia & Sam xxxxxxxxx.

Mikey

Hi pet, hope all is well at the Base and you came away from your first American Thanksgiving a whole lot more kiwified. 1st December today, first day of summer! Has been late arriving, hopefully will hang around later to still be fine when you get home for an Indian summer. Hopefully no fire bans by then down at the river. Think of you every day of course – pleased you are really enjoying it and working hard. Will toast your good health at Christmas with your bro if he can bring himself to having something a little stronger than coke or fruit juice! Presume you are all kitted out for cold and snow – just as I've put sunblock on the bathroom bench as a permanent accessory for the next few months. Much love to you and your buddies. Mum, Kerry and the rest of the clan.

Merry Christmas Michael!

Hope you get the white Christmas you want! Hope Father Christmas is kind to you. Love Helen, Ian & Tristan.

To Jebus

MERRY CHRISTMAS my homie!

Don't forget to make those you know what faced snowmen. Have fun. Love Gee

Kia Ora Matt—Merry Christmas

I want to once again wish you a Meri Kirihimete. We will be thinking of you at Koro's this year and we will toast you and your comrades serving in Afghanistan. I know you won't be able to have the traditional haangi that we normally share, but I hope you have a lovely haakari for your Christmas dinner anyway. We love you all so much and wish you lots of prayers and blessings of success whilst you are away. Not long to go now and soon you will have the greatest gift that God could gift you a beautiful son that you can take hunting and fishing. Son, keep safe and do your job 120%. Love you so much. Mum and all the whanau from Hanana. Mauri ora.

Hi my Jord

Just about missed getting my message to you in time. I just want to let you know that we love you and miss you, but nan knows wild horses wouldn't have stopped you from doing what you doing now. All is well here; I hope to have Ohaia and Ana over for xmas lunch. They finish school in two weeks time, hopefully your mum and Han's will come over if they not going anywhere, although I think Hans needs a break. That was a great picture of you in the Bugle/Army News in the haka group, all of you in GYRO 12; you's were neat alright my moko. I better hurry up bcos Janine is putting the Bugle news together now, Diane maybe coming back for Xmas holidays. Ok my moko hope it's not too cold for you. I expect everything will go well during the festive month my moko, we look forward to you coming

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



home. Big hug's and kisses from us my moko, take care and stay safe. Love you always, Nan.

To my Awesome Daddy

Merry Christmas daddy, me and mummy hope you have an awesome day. I hope you like your present too, I helped mummy pick it for you, even used a wee bit of my own money. Eat lots of food, I hope we have lots of yummy food at grandma and granddads for Christmas. Love from your ratbag son.

To my Darling Husband

We want to wish you a Merry Christmas, we hope you like your present.. we will send you more soon when we are in ChCh. Hope you enjoy Christmas being

overseas and in the snow. We all hope you have a awesome feed, lots of pav too, shame you cant just pig out at home with us.

I'll try to see your Nana and some other whanau too, will be hard being kinda big. Christmas is going to be so different without you, the first one since we have been together that's like 8 years! Only 22 weeks or so to go till we have our new wee bubba, exciting times ahead. I hope you are home in time to set everything up. Awesome Christmas present being half way thru this, hope we can find out what flavour we are having too.

Once again Merry Christmas from everyone here, that's my family. Arohanui. Love you lots my hubby bubby. Your hapu wifey! xxxxxxxx.

Xmas Trivia

More diamonds are purchased at Christmas-time (31 percent) than during any other holiday or occasion during the year.

In Britain, eating mince pies at Christmas dates back to the 16th century. It is still believed that to eat a mince pie on each of the Twelve Days of Christmas will bring 12 happy months in the year to follow.

Christmas Trivia

A recent Readers Digest survey revealed:

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

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

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

40% do not go to church.

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

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

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

And, interestingly – Women typically expect to phone relations, cook, clean up and organise the presents, – while men usually plan on drinking, playing backyard sport, napping.....and wearing paper hats.



Candy Canes:



Candy canes began as straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorate the Christmas trees. A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral decided to have the ends bent to depict a shepherd's crook and he would pass them out to the children to keep them quiet during the services. It wasn't until about the 20th century that candy canes acquired their red stripes.

BOUQUETS



We, as Deployment Services Officers, could never achieve even half of what we do, without the support of so many people across the three services, which make up the New Zealand Defence Force. With the risk of missing someone special we are attempting to acknowledge and extend our bouquets of thanks and Festive Greetings to all those dedicated and committed personnel who have helped us along the way in 2011.

Christine: The Bugle has become a much loved and sought after publication for families with loved ones deployed and for our deployed personnel. We very much appreciate your first class desk top publishing skills, in ensuring that our informal, in-house newsletter looks the very best! We know at times that we are "bossy and fussy" but truly appreciate your expertise, guidance, support and patience. While we may source the content, it is your dedication that has seen "The Bugle" go from strength to strength. It is our main way of keeping in touch with everyone and your work ensures that everyone can have a great read! Thank you so much.

Sharyn and Mere: Thank you so much for the many hours you have spent printing off copies of "The Bugle" over this past year. We know our deadlines are tight but appreciate you getting our publication out on time. Take a well earned break - we will be printing again early in the New Year!

Desk Officers, Watchkeepers and DPSC: Your advice and support in keeping that link with various mission areas is much appreciated. You have played a vital role in assisting us, and families in need, and have given us all much peace of mind when needed. Thank you too, to those who check the Foreign Correspondence and at lightening speed!! We look forward to working with you all again in 2012.

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

Service Personnel Abroad: To all of you who have submitted articles for "The Bugle", we thank you. We know sometimes we beg and beg again, then occasionally bribe (and reward), but your news to those at home is more valuable than you can ever imagine! Writing articles is not easy when you have other commitments, but you help us all to understand your day to day lives away from us all and we are truly grateful. Just keep them rolling in! Deadline for the first edition of 2012 is January 5th so we will be looking out for lots of articles and photos from your festive season in a far away land. Merry Christmas and New Years Greetings to you all.

To our expert teams of Trainers, Administrators, Mov Ops, Medical and Dental personnel, Chaplains, Catering personnel and all those often behind the scenes. We very much value your support in so many ways and extend a bouquet of thanks for your vital and valued work.



Nicole: Always helping us to navigate the system, always getting "The Bugle" articles cleared, always keeping us in the loop, always there to help us in so many ways and always cheerful! You are a vital and much appreciated link. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2012.

Lynne: Thank you so much for keeping things up to date, for looking at ways we can work faster and smarter and for your support extended North and South! Best wishes for the Festive Season.

Auckland North Regiment: A very special thanks to you all for the many times we arrive on your doorstep and take over the first floor,

BOUQUETS



for our many briefings. Your facilities are first class and you all, always go out of your way, to help us cater for our many visitors. We are so lucky to be able to use your Conference Room and appreciate the way you always make us feel welcome. Best wishes to you all for the holiday season and we look forward to our many visits again in 2012.

Tri Service Welfare Facilitators, Community Services Officers and other Support personnel: Thank you all so much for your contributions to "The Bugle" and for the assistance you provide in your areas to those associated with deployments. You provide another vital link in the deployment support chain and we thank you for your hard work in 2011. Have a great Christmas and New Year break and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Various Units, CO's, Unit Welfare Officers, RSM's, FSM's: Thanks to you all for the support and wise words of wisdom! We appreciate knowing you are there to support us in our role and assisting with issues that may arise. Some of you will be posted next year and we wish you well. You go with our sincere thanks for all you have done.

To the Families of Deployed Service Personnel: We acknowledge and appreciate your dedication, commitment and support to your loved ones abroad. We know first hand of the huge sacrifices that you all make during the separation from loved ones and admire the strengths you display at difficult times. You too, by letting loved ones deploy, are contributing to helping others so much less fortunate than ourselves, to achieve the chance of a better life and ultimately one that may be lived in peace. A sincere thanks to you all and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. - Another step closer to homecomings!!!

We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year. I'm sure we will see many of you soon at tour updates and homecomings in 2012. Keep safe.

Best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

Carol and Janine, Deployment Services Officers, Burnham and Linton

From Janine and Carol

Thank you everyone connected with our deployments, both home and away. Your support of each edition of our "Bugle" is wonderful and the end result would not be possible without your input – articles from deployment locations, and messages to and from loved ones. As we journey through until homecoming, we often receive wonderful emails and comments from our families, and would like to share this one with you:



"To Janine

I just want to let you know that our whanau have thoroughly enjoyed reading "The Bugle", especially those from Australia and New Zealand wide. 'WHAT'S ON' is very informative, our whanau is sorry that we are unable to attend any functions at this stage, maybe in the prosperous New Year 2012. Your amazing talent for getting the news, dates, events to us is very much appreciated. Once again thank you for your hard work in caring for us at home and abroad. Tena te mana o Rehua = Rehua was the god of kindness. Quoted by chiefs when making gifts. "The Bugle" is your gift to us the Ayres whanau."

The Night Before Christmas — Kiwi Style

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



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



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

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

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



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



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

He called back:

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