

# THE BUGLE

Issue 164 | February 2012



## INSIDE

- Twin Peaks Challenge
- Challenges and First Impressions
- Sharing Memories
- On the Golan Heights

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 165 is  
**16 February 2011 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  
1 (NZ) Bde  
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  
Southern 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:

A community procession in Baucau, Timor-Leste, for the ordination of a local priest.

## GUEST EDITORIAL



*Judith Martin*

### By Judith Martin Editor, Army News

When I first began writing stories about Defence personnel and their deployments and activities, I never imagined I'd still be doing it nearly 20 years later.

I had a young baby and a toddler and while I loved my job it was hard to imagine life more than five years ahead.

But nothing stays the same in Defence, as you probably well know, and writing about Defence personnel and their many and varied activities is one of the best jobs a journalist can have.

In the time I have been with Defence I have visited and written stories about our personnel in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Bougainville, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Australia – nearly all of the places where our skilled and enthusiastic people have served.

I have had the easy part: my visits are relatively brief while our service people commit to long stints in often harsh and dangerous environments, and are away from their families and friends for months at a time.

It is great to be able to tell their story, whether they are patrolling villages in Afghanistan, tending the injured and rebuilding after a tsunami, or helping make peace between factions in some South Pacific nation.

As an editor it is always good to meet the families behind the soldiers and officers – they are the support crew that are vital for our personnel to operate effectively.

Our aim in writing about our deployments is to let the public know about the work our people are doing, and the effort they are putting into the missions the Government decides the Defence Force should undertake.

We try to ensure as many deployments as possible are regularly covered in Army News, so that anyone who is interested can keep up to date, and know about the sacrifices and hard work that is going into these missions. So if you have ideas for a story you think may be suitable, please let me know.

Our Service people are their own best advocates; the work they do speaks for itself and it's our job to ensure as wide an audience as possible know about it.

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Including:

- New Zealand Element serves as Logistical Gateway
- Twin Peaks Challenge
- First Tour—Challenges and First Impressions
- Private Brown's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday
- Visits to Samar Orphanage
- Padre's Day out to Baucau

## NEWS FROM THE NSE, AFGHANISTAN



*The New Zealand National Support Element TU CRIB 19, based at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan*

*(Photo by US Army Sergeant William Begley, Task Force Maverick Public Affairs)*

### NEW ZEALAND ELEMENT SERVES AS LOGISTICAL GATEWAY

*Source: 'Freedom Watch'*

#### **US Army Sergeant William Begley, RC-East**

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan—At the Soldier Support Centre, there is a unique door called a Pare, which is symbolic of a Maori, or a

mythological gateway between two worlds. One world is the realm of Tumatauenga, the Maori god of war, and the other is the realm of Rango, the Maori god of agriculture and other peaceful pursuits. Thus, the Pare serves as a gateway between hostility and conflict outside, and calm and peace inside.

The door is the entrance to the

New Zealand National Support Element, which serves as the gateway for logistical support in Afghanistan through which equipment and supplies must pass to their fellow Kiwi brethren in theatre.

"In effect what we do is provide logistical support for our element here," said New Zealand Navy Lt. Cmdr. Wayne Burtton, officer-in-charge of New Zealand NSE. "We are just a very small cog in a very large machine."

The small cog Burtton refers to is his nine-member team in the New Zealand NSE on BAF. The "Kiwis," as they are affectionately nicknamed after their national bird, consists of about 160 personnel spread around various forward operating bases in Regional Command-East. They've had boots on the ground since 2001 and plan to remain until 2014.

New Zealand Army Sergeant Major Leslie Baker, NCO in charge of NSE, serves as an aerial delivery rigger as well as a movement control planner. He said that with a total army size of only 5,200 people, the Kiwis have to be multi-talented.

"Because we have a small army, you can't really specialize in just one area. You usually fill the roles of many specialties," said Baker. "We have to be able to do all these things because we have to be able to do all the things the American army does, but with far less people."

**"The support  
we have here is  
fantastic, we  
couldn't ask for  
much more."**

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan —**

***New Zealand Army Sergeant Fal Smith and Lance Corporal Kieran Wilson unload and organize mail packages at the New Zealand compound, 14 January. The New Zealand Support Element provides logistical support with a small but effective element.***

***Photo by US Army Sergeant William Begley, Task Force Maverick Public Affairs***

Another multi-tasker for the Kiwis is New Zealand Army Staff Sergeant Oonagh Taru, senior supply technician for the New Zealand NSE. Her job is to purchase supplies that are required for Kiwi troops and also to manage accounts. Since Taru is working in a small element, she is learning to take on new roles.

"I'm used to managing troops and equipment," said Taru. "But here I'm learning to do a lot of new things. I'm managing accounts and purchasing equipment and supplies."

New Zealand Army Captain Michael Mist, NSE executive officer, said that because they only have nine people in their unit, everyone here has their own functional role and each person here is pretty much their own manager and worker.

"We are a small team so everyone here has to crank out a lot of work to accomplish the mission," said Mist. "They pretty much look after the whole show all by themselves."

Mist added that it's a challenging mission with a small team and they

rely heavily on the Coalition Forces, especially the Americans.

All of the Kiwis acknowledged their gratitude to be working with the American forces.

"The support we have here is fantastic, we couldn't ask for much more," said Burton.

Just as the Pare serves as a unique gateway between two worlds, the New Zealand NSE's unique team serves in the Coalition effort to bring peace to a nation that has so long been at war.

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

## NEWS FROM CRIB 19, AFGHANISTAN

### TWIN PEAKS CHALLENGE

**Dr John Molloy**  
**CRIB 19 MO**

Sometimes, the hardest part is getting to the start line. Things take care of themselves once you get there. A total of 16 teams and 57 participants lined up for the start of the CRIB 19 Twin Peaks Challenge.

At 2800m above sea level, PT Hill is a gut-buster and oxygen thief. To follow this up with the ancient fortified city of GHOLGHOLA is a formidable challenge indeed. However, this did not deter teams of the NZPRT, EUPOL (Police), MALCON 3 (Malaysians), and the local elite NDS (National Directorate of Security) who sought out to claim the title of 'King of the Mountain' (first team up PT HILL) and 'King of the Peaks' (overall winner).

The Engineers were favourites from the NZ contingent to take the event out. Surely all those three sets of 10 and one repetition maximums would see them through? Besides, they had the secret weapon – 'supps'. They were closely followed by the workshop boys who were to be inspired by the 'man in the gas mask'. Legendary or crazy? Word was he had had enough of smelling man mines and 'flipped'.

The medical team also gave it a good push but fell short. Possibly because the Padre felt compelled to keep the 'breath of life' all to himself. With that much real estate on oxygen, the medical team were never in the running. Rounding out the NZ contingent were CSS and the Q-store who may have confused enthusiasm with ability. At least their supply and distribution chain is more efficient.



*The Engineer Team led by LT Pannett storming the summit of PT Hill during the Twin Peaks Race*

However, at the end of the day, it was the NDS who dominated the field. No one could foot it with them. Based on a foundation of hard work, geep stew, and choi, the NDS were run away winners. Honourable mention must go to the Malaysians who performed admirably in completely foreign conditions. Also to EUPOL, who were surprise place-getters. The many years of chasing crims in the Bay of Plenty had put them in good stead.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable and challenging event. It seemed fitting that the last finishers were greeted by warm smiles and a sprinkling of snow. And the Q-store also made it in time for lunch (seriously, was that ever in doubt?).

For now, honours must go to the NDS. Whether CRIB 20 can add to the proud history of previous CRIB contingents remains to be unknown. After all, the hardest part is getting to the start line.

**It's up to CRIB 20  
to break their  
dominance of the Twin  
Peaks. And the NDS  
won't be easy beats!**



*Corporal Illingworth, Corporal Kreegher and Lance Corporal Haerewa at the start line for the Twin Peaks Race*

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



## FIRST TOUR — CHALLENGES AND FIRST IMPRESSIONS

**PTE Phill White**  
**EOD Team Member**

This is my first tour with the Army, my first time outside of New Zealand in fact. I'm an Ammunition Technician by trade and have been in the Army six years. In September I deployed as the junior member of TU CRIB 19's two-man Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

Flying into this country in the Herc I couldn't see much through the tiny window across the cabin from me, and when we finally set foot on Afghan soil I was slightly disorientated. From the airfield I could see immense cliff faces across the valley pockmarked with innumerable caves; I didn't yet realise what they were – the empty housings of the Bamian Buddha's. It was really hot for the first few weeks here, though the locals seemed not to notice, and the outgoing CRIB 18 personnel thought it was slightly cold. Must have been a good summer.

As an EOD operator I've had the chance to interact with a number of locals. Most of the people I deal with have made a living off co-operating with the NZPRT and a lot of the time all they seem to care

about is cash and "baksheesh" freebies. But dodgy as some of them may be, they all seem to enjoy working with us and are usually not far from a laugh and a broad smile, and every once in a while I've met some really good people who are just trying to make the best living they can in the safest, most honest way they know.

My first impression of the people here was that they must be some of the toughest anywhere, and that impression has endured. They've lived through decades of warfare and tyranny for a start. But, politics aside, the land here is incredibly harsh. Rainfall is scarce and brief. When we first arrived you could pour half a bottle of water onto the ground and it would be instantly absorbed into the dust, without leaving any apparent trace of moisture on the surface. As the weather has cooled it has occasionally rained enough to turn the dust into a thick, gluey mud, but it is still rare.

Even assuming that the rainfall is high enough to support life, in most places the dust is barely an inch or two thick before it gives way to solid rock. We are at the same altitude here as the summit of Mt Taranaki, and, apart from the skin cracking lack of moisture, the environment seems much the

same. Temperatures range from the high thirties in the summer, to negative twenty in the winter.

Yet somehow the people here manage to eek a living, growing potatoes and breeding cattle, "geep," and donkeys in the "fertile" valleys beside snow fed streams, lugging drinking water up ridiculous inclines to mud-brick housing; surviving.

COP Romero is nestled in one such valley. Where Kiwi Base has water trucked in several times a day, Romero actually has a creek running through it. Drinking water is still in the form of bottled water delivered by old Russian Kamaz's (or occasionally parachute), but at least the showers never run out of water, even if they are cold after only three uses in a row.

So far I've spent most of the tour in COP Romero. Being in the Northern AO, Romero is easily the best place for an EOD operator to be. It is not only the hotspot for conventional military operations, but also the key area for illegal weapons trading and smuggling.

I went up there a month into the tour with the senior EOD op, and we worked together for a couple of weeks receiving ammunition caches from local contacts, and carrying out controlled detonations to destroy the hoards we were collecting. After not very long though, EOD Senior went back to Kiwi Base and I was left to my own devices. This presented its challenges for me. We had never planned to split up so early in the tour, but we quickly realised that our two man team needed to cover both ends of the AO at the same time.

While technically I was capable and confident, I was required to learn fairly quickly to overcome the personnel challenges that come with running EOD operations on



# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

foreign soil. I have sometimes been required to work closely with patrols who have had their own goals to accomplish, but at least they all speak English.

Negotiating the handover of caches took some getting used to. Speaking through an interpreter, trying to be diplomatic and use words that will translate well, while ensuring that we remove large amounts of ordnance from circulation can certainly be a challenge. At times it's been frustrating, but I've gained more experience in the last few months than I could have gained in a year,

or even two back in NZ, with its lack of land-mined hills and stockpiled caves.

With all of this it may seem as though I have had a busy tour. That wouldn't be an entirely accurate impression. One of the great things about being on operations is that work is on an as required basis, and for EOD that means a fair bit of downtime. Enough downtime that while in Romero I was able to give myself a small taste of other peoples' challenges, which has led to a renewed respect for other trades on the tour. Like the challenges

of assisting workshops with maintaining a Humvee fleet, or cooking for fifty plus people when the food trucks don't make it through, or pumping 3000 gallons of fuel for extended periods of time.

Even with helping out when I feel inclined though, I've still had plenty of time to thoroughly test drive my new Kindle E-Reader. Perhaps my greatest challenge has been finding ways to read in the sun without someone deciding that the young private needs a job to keep him occupied. It's a skill I'll continue to work on.

## NEWS FROM GYRO 12 TIMOR-LESTE



*Lance Corporal Hemmingsen presents Private Brown with his 21<sup>st</sup> key*

### PRIVATE BROWN'S 21<sup>st</sup>

**SURPRISE!!** Happy birthday. Yes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2012, Private Arapeta Brown turned 21 here in East Timor on OP GYRO 12. It was pretty much a normal day for him until he came back off task to the HPod at 16:45 and was strongly asked to step inside the Sally Hut (our meeting room). To

his surprise most of the contingent had gathered and his platoon had done a great job decorating the room with balloons and had got in two cakes and a BBQ for him and the contingent. As tradition has it, he was also given the key which some of the guys made - a large aluminium key on a Perspex board. Something special from us to you - Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Brown!



# CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

## VISITS TO SAMAR ORPHANAGE

**Padre Darren O'Callaghan  
CRIB 19**

Tena Koutou Katoa, Greetings from a snow covered Kiwi base in Bamian. Lately the temperatures have been fluctuating between minus 19 and minus 16, very makaariri (cold). However, some days the sun shines and there are blue skies and the views of snow covered mountains are stunning.

On Fridays, fortnightly, a small group has been visiting the Samar Orphanage. Fridays is a good time because the children are not away at school. At present they are on winter school holidays for 3 months. There are 65 children along with staff and caregivers. The

ages of the children range from 2 to 15 years. Sadly, some children have been orphaned by the conflicts, others because mothers cannot afford to care for them. The children can remain at the orphanage until they are ready to attend university.

The Orphanage is supported by a Doctor Sima Samar (Humanitarian Rights) and her husband.

Our visits are a continuation of visits by past CRIB rotations that have been well received and appreciated. Some rotations have completed a number of small projects in the orphanage such as additions to the kitchen and painting.

Our group has enjoyed the interaction with the children, playing

sports, soccer and volleyball, doing art work and generally spending time talking with children and staff. Our catering team members also supplied a fish n' chip lunch on one occasion which was a real treat. We have been able to supply some stationery, some warm clothing from items sent from families back home and from American families. On another occasion we were able to outfit over fifty children with shoes that had been donated.

These visits have been a highlight for our members. Sharing a small time with these children has been rewarding in itself. I'm sure something the children will remember, hopefully building good relations for their future and memories of some Kiwi soldiers who visited them when they were young. Salaam / Peace.



*Lance Corporal Fogden fitting shoes to children at the Bamyar Orphanage*



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

## PADRE'S DAY OUT TO BAUCAU

**Padre Chris Purdie**  
**GYRO 12**

Late last year I was asked to attend a service of ordination of a priest, as the representative of the Commander ISF at the Cathedral in Baucau. This day was to be one of the best days I have had in Timor to date.

Firstly, it meant I needed to take a helicopter a third of the way down the country on a bright and clear day. I was able to witness a significant moment in the formation of a man of God – an ordination, in a different culture, from a different faith tradition and to celebrate with him and his family in their hometown of Baucau. And of course fly home again. It was a pretty special day.

Key memories of that day were; the community procession, which led the, soon-to-be priest, down the road leading into the church. A slow moving welcome with dancers and traditional music which led him and his family to the Cathedral. Then there was the service itself with the prayers and ceremony of it, all in a language which I didn't understand; however the action and movements nevertheless were incredibly moving and powerful. After the service it was great to meet the priest's extended family and friends and to talk with some of the 60 odd priests who gathered to bear witness to the commitment of the brother in the church and Christ. Of course there was lunch to follow which was much more familiar ground with long tables covered in food; it was very much like being at any sort of large celebration in New Zealand and quite similar to a Pacific Island feast, with the whole roast pig and the sweet taro and bread, fruit and the raw fish in coconut cream. Then to fly home to



*The community procession*



*Padre Chris and Friends*

Dili down the coast in the afternoon sun, which danced off the cobalt blue sea and coral reefs and the coast line of both sandy beaches and then sloping cliff faces. As we came into Dili, a fitting end to the

day, was to fly once around the Jesus Statue before coming in to land.

For me this was a great day to be a Padre and one which live with me for a long time. Blessings.

# DSO'S CORNER



**Carol Voyce**

Deployment Services Officer  
Southern Regional Support Centre  
Editor "The Bugle"

**D**o you sometimes feel when you read the front page of the morning paper or watch the evening TV news that you are surrounded by tragedy? Is there anything good happening in the world? I felt just this last week. It seemed as if we were surrounded by doom and gloom and that there was little to be cheerful about! But it's important to put things in perspective or otherwise one would be entirely miserable dwelling on the fate of others or on misfortunes that may come our way. Sure, we feel for those affected by war, illness, accidents and the effects of nature – sometimes we can't change things, but at other times we can make a difference to the outcome. We can lend our support, give a dollar or two, pray, volunteer or make a sacrifice for the good of others.

I like to think (in fact I am sure!) that the sacrifices our New Zealand Defence Force families make, day after day, year after year, do make an incredible difference to those so much less fortunate than ourselves. We always have something to be thankful for – it is just, that sometimes when the going gets tough, it is hard to identify. This can

be true for both our own family and work commitments. Our service personnel are committed to effecting change, to making things better, to lightening the load and to ensure that we contribute to working towards a world of peace and at peace, wherever it may be needed.

Every day I get to witness, sometimes experience and often hear of, the most amazing sacrifices. I understand how difficult it is to wave loved ones off for an extended period of time, to have this underlying fear of being alone, of where they are going and what they are going to be doing, of managing a household, a job, a family and all without the support of your nearest and dearest. But then I see the most amazing resilience, the commitment and dedication of those at home to manage a difficult situation, to enlist the support of a wider circle of family and friends and to set up their own support systems. All, almost making me redundant! I know I have said this many times, but it is much easier to measure the achievements of those abroad, to see the difference they make, to witness the presentation of medals for a job well done, but how much harder it is to measure the difference that you as families make.

On rare occasions I know that you don't always get the thanks from loved ones for that special parcel you sent or that long newsy letter you wrote, but I can tell you that on a visit to Timor-Leste, I witnessed the sheer joy your thoughtfulness gave to such gestures. And while you may get little in return, you have made a difference in keeping that relationship alive, giving your loved one that connection with home, allowing him or her to know you are safe and well and thus allowing them to concentrate on the job in hand.

Deployments are not about who had it the hardest – things are hard for all, but your joint sacrifices do bring good news that we so often yearn for. People in a far away land are able to begin to forge a way clear thanks to your efforts from home and abroad.

**We understand and  
we thank you all.**

## Heroes come in all sizes



**because being  
left behind takes  
bravery, too.**

## Quote of the Day

**Treasure every moment!**

**Yesterday is history**

**Tomorrow is mystery**

**Today is a gift.**

**That's why it's called  
the present!**

*Source: Unknown*

# DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...



**Janine Burton**  
Deployment Services Officer  
1 (NZ) Bde

**T**omorrow is "Bugle" deadline – second day back at work and outside my window the sun is shining and there is just the hint of a breeze to keep the temperatures reasonable. On a day like this while on leave, I would be out and doing something relaxing, not sitting in front of a computer. Where do I find some inspiration?

Inspiration didn't come yesterday and Bugle deadline is today! – third

day back at work and the weather is now overcast and not quite as warm as yesterday. Surely I should be back in work mode by now? OMG, is this what you would call a "blog"?

Now that the "big" milestone (Christmas) is out of the way and January is coming to an end, schools will have resumed and routines will be re-established. Now many will be in the "waiting for family members to return from their deployment" mindset, and that's okay. Someone said to me just yesterday "only 11 months until Christmas". If 2011 is anything to go by .... well, we won't go there!

Numbers are steadily coming in for the CRIB tour update briefs and I am really looking forward to catching up with many of our families around the country. The DVD is well into production and we are looking forward to being able to share it with family members and friends at the briefings. It seems a long time since we were out and about pre-deployment, but this

rotation is a month longer than previous ones, so perhaps that's why. If you are planning to come along and haven't contacted me yet, it would be really helpful to assist with our catering arrangements. Even if you won't know until the last minute, or don't RSVP, and find that you are able to attend, will be great to see you.

The GYRO tour updates are still in the planning stage so while I don't have any firm dates to share with our Timor families, I am looking at 23-25 March in Burnham, Auckland and Linton. I should be in a position to confirm dates and venues by next publication of the next "Bugle".

I have had a number of queries about mail into CRIB. Our Desk Officer tells me that the winter weather conditions has impacted on the delivery of mail up to Bamyang. Please be assured that as soon as it is possible to do so, the mail will get through to those eagerly awaiting their letters and parcels.

Take care all.

## **ATTITUDE — (A reading to ponder on)**

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

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

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

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

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

*We can't change the inevitable.*

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

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

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

**We** have the choice for the day. **We** have control of our attitude! Make the most of your day today!

# A SURPRISE IN EVERY PACKAGE

## Ideas on what to put in the packages to your loved one

Everyone on deployment likes to get a package from loved ones. It is a sure way of lifting spirits and enhancing morale. The challenge is thinking of what to put in them.

These ideas are just ideas! They have been gathered from various sources: personnel at home and abroad, partners, personal experience and a few brainstorms.

Please remember that all mail is restricted to 1 kg only. This goes by Forces Concession Rate, which means you only pay to get it from your home location to the Auckland Mail Centre or to the address you were given. Postage costs now not only depend on the weight, but also the dimensions of the parcel so may vary every time you send something.

### Drinks

**Instant Coffee/Tea Bags**  
**Flavoured Teas**  
**Powdered Gatorade or similar**  
**Raro/Refresh powdered drink**  
**Hot chocolate**  
**Milo**  
**Plunger coffee**



### Fun Stuff

Board games  
Magnetic games  
Playing cards  
Favourite magazines  
Disposable cameras  
Theme packages  
Pocket games  
Knuckle bones  
Pick-up-sticks  
DVD's: Movies and home made  
Videos of favourite TV programmes  
Scratchie tickets  
Newspapers/clippings  
Junk mail  
Poker chips  
Word puzzle books  
Paperback books

### Every day

**Self addressed stamped envelopes**  
**Stamps**  
**Writing paper**  
**Posting bags**  
**Letters or cards**  
**Children's drawings**  
**Wall posters**  
**Postcards**  
**Photos, photos & more photos**



### Theme Package—Movie in a Box

**DVD/Video**  
**Popcorn**  
**Powdered drink sachets**  
**Lollies**  
**TV Guide/Listener/Entertainment page**

### Theme Package: A Good Read

★ **Book**—Latest release,  
★ favourite author  
★ **Bookmark**  
★ **Book**—light  
★ **Coffee/Tea sachets**  
★ **Snacks**





# A SURPRISE IN EVERY PACKAGE CONT'D...

We know that small packages sent frequently, rather than the occasional larger one, have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of your loved ones. Be sure to attach a green customs declaration sticker and address very clearly with the Regimental number, Rank and Name of the recipient. Senders details should be included on the back. Please make sure that you wrap carefully any food items so that they “survive” the journey.

On rare occasions parcels have gone missing. In order for us to track any items which don't reach their destination you need to keep the carbon copy of the customs declaration and the receipt from the Post Shop or agency. This helps in the search and offers insurance protection.

Have fun creating your packages and be sure to share with us any ideas or hot tips you may have. The best ideas come from you!! - And we can continually update our lists.

## Toiletries

Shaving gel/stick—non aerosol  
Foot powder  
Lip balm  
Wet wipes  
Shampoo/conditioner  
Moisturiser (for the men too!)  
Soaps  
Spectacle cleaner  
Razor/blades  
Shaving brush  
Talcum powder  
Tissues  
Deodorant  
Toothbrush/paste

## Other

Holiday decorations  
Birthday decorations  
Shoe/boot laces  
T-shirt (dark colours)  
Towels  
Socks (Merino possum for winter)  
Inflatable seat cushion  
Rugby/soccer balls  
Darts  
Table tennis bat  
Ping pong balls  
Frisbee  
Kiwiana  
Twister  
Kiwi bird self inking stamps



## Food

Noodles  
Breakfast/muesli bars  
Scroggin  
Pop tarts  
Crackers/biscuits  
Chips  
Lollies  
Licorice  
Chocolate  
Chewing gum  
Nuts—cashews, peanuts  
Onion soup/reduced cream  
Tomato sauce  
Breakfast cereals (NZ made)  
Microwave popcorn  
Instant soups/snacks  
Watties Baked Beans

## Twelve days of Coffee

Purchase 12 different flavours of plunger coffee — add a little extra to share around. Carefully wrap each one. Attach a card to give a clue with each, to guess the name of each coffee type. Be adventurous — e.g. Get Pina Colada ground coffee — your clue could be “*I can't wait to take you on holiday so you can savour one of these on the beach with me!*” Have fun thinking up the clues. You could apply this idea to confectionery too.

## My Favourite Hot Tip:

Bake some nice biscuits. Pack them in a sealing Glad Bag. Fill the bag with popcorn and seal. The biscuits will arrive fresh and unbroken and they can eat the popcorn too!

# FOR YOUR INFO...

## Operation Christmas Card

Our 2011 project OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD was truly a great success. We expressed our thanks to our many contributors in the December issue of "The Bugle" and I am sure you will recall the delight we had in sorting and sending the gorgeous cards and letters to various deployment locations worldwide.

Over the Christmas/New Year period I received bundles and bundles of letters of thanks from service personnel worldwide. Many took the time and made the effort to send personal replies for those cards received and forwarded them to me to send on.

I have to say I was really grateful to those who took on this task and the sheer joy some of our contributors

got from your responses, photos and small gifts is too, simply overwhelming!

A very simple project that spans the globe, costs little, but time and time again has proven that we must keep this project ongoing!

To our service personnel - please accept our sincere thanks for taking the time to write to many Kiwi children - your efforts are appreciated more than you could ever imagine.

## Change of Address Details:

You will find included in the edition of "The Bugle" a form for you to complete if you have changed addresses over the festive season or/and if your contact details have altered due to job changes. It is important that we know where to

find you in the rare event of an emergency.

Please don't presume that your loved one abroad has informed us of any changes - sometimes they simply forget. Your help is much appreciated.

## Army Leave Centres

The Ballot for allocation of Army Leave Centres for Easter 2012 closes on Thursday February 9.

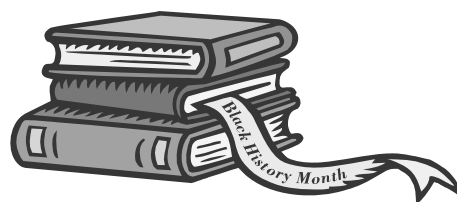
For further information or to register your interest please contact the Leave Centre on: (04) 527 5823 or [army.leavecentre@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:army.leavecentre@nzdf.mil.nz) Please note that the Mount Manganui Leave Centre is to be redeveloped this year and all 4 units will be unavailable until mid July 2012.

# RECOMMENDED READING

## "In the Sea there are Crocodiles

*The story of Enaiatollah Akbari*

*Author: Fabio Geda*



One night before putting him to bed, Enaiatollah's mother tells him three things: don't use drugs, don't use weapons, and don't steal. The next day, the ten-year old Afghan boy wakes up to find she has gone. He is on the border of Pakistan, and he is all alone.

In this remarkable true story, Italian novelist Fabio Geda describes Enaiatollah's five-year journey from Afghanistan to Italy. His ordeal takes him through Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece, enduring unimaginable hardships and challenges. Enaiatollah's engaging voice is brilliantly captured by Geda, and his search for a place to call home becomes a universal story of courage in the face of fear.

# SHARING MEMORIES



**Trevor Stone**  
**Welfare Facilitator**  
**Wellington Air Staff**

**H**i once again from the Welfare office at Air Staff and best wishes to you all for a great new year. As an avid car enthusiast and motorcyclist I have recently read a rather amusing story in a classic car magazine about the life story of an early motor racing driver in New Zealand and the only known surviving race driver from the first Lady Wigram Trophy race in 1949.

After many interesting escapades in cars and motorcycles during the 1930's he joined the Territorial's which led to him becoming a dispatch rider serving in the desert in the 1940's. In amongst his many memories he recalled how he was riding his motorbike from Alexandria to Maadi Camp when he was passed by an open car travelling in the same direction carrying a Brigadier and three other officers. The car pulled up ahead and one of the officers flagged the dispatch rider down and told him "I'm sorry old chap but you didn't salute the Brig, so you will have to push your bike for the next quarter mile as punishment". The road was

sand, so the dispatch rider put the bike in low gear with just a touch of throttle and made out that he was pushing the just moving bike, honour for the Brigadier was therefore satisfied. (True story, the Brigadier was 'Whisky Bill' Inglis).

I can't imagine a similar situation occurring on deployment today with the highly professional personnel engaged, however, I can't help but wonder with the more professional approach to Defence Force tasks of today do similar amusing stories still occur and are these being kept for posterity? To some extent these stories describe our unique nature as Kiwis and are very much part of our living history as it develops.

This leaves me wondering how deployments will be considered by people 70 years from now, as memories to pass on to your own family and your friends. Over my career, I have had some really weird things happen, some funny, some sad, and some really scary moments – it's healthy to share these memories with whoever you choose to do so.

Hopefully you are all good communicators and let your family and friends know about your unique experiences. As much as people back home may read about your achievements overseas, it's always better to hear it from someone who has been there.

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

## Deployment Support Services

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

## Deployment Support Services are here for you

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

### Army:

#### Deployment Services Officers:

**Linton**—Janine Burton

Ph: 0800 683 77 327

**Burnham**—Carol Voyce

Ph: 0800 337 569

#### Community Services Officers:

**Waiouru**—Carolyn Hyland

Ph 06 387 5531

**Linton**—Lesley Clutterbuck

Ph: 06 351 9970

**Burnham**—Cherie Mansell

Ph 03 363 0322

#### Family & Social Services Officer:

**Trentham**—Marie Lotz

Ph 04 527 5029

### Air Force:

#### Welfare Facilitators

#### Air Staff Wellington:

Trevor Stone

Ph: 04 498 6773

#### Base Auckland,

Mrs Deana Lye,

Ph: 09 417 7035

#### Base Woodbourne:

Mrs Claudia Baker,

Ph: 03 577 1177

#### Base Ohakea:

Ph: 06 351 5640

#### Naval Community Organization

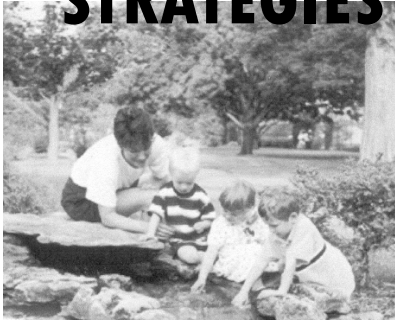
Ph: 09 445 5534,

0800 NAVYHELP

nib@nzdf.mil.nz

#### Local Chaplaincy Services

#### Unit Point of Contact



# STRATEGIES *for* HELPING CHILDREN WITH DEPLOYMENT

**Deployments are a fact of life for New Zealand Defence Force families. Children will all react to the separation in different ways. The following are some tips to assist parents.**

*Source: [www.army.hawaii.com](http://www.army.hawaii.com) (abridged)*

- Remember that you are the “expert” on your child. You know what is normal behaviour for him/her and will be the best one to notice when things are out of sync.
- Reassure your children often that they are loved by those at home and by their deployed parent. Give lots of hugs.
- As appropriate, be honest with your children. Trying to hide things from them will only lead them to imagine the situation is much worse than it really is.
- Understand your child’s level of development. Know what is normal behaviour for your child’s age. Be aware of changes and seek assistance early.
- Listen to your children and help to clear up any misunderstandings they may have. Be with your child when watching/reading news so you can answer questions. In times of crisis, limit their exposure to media so that it does not increase their anxiety.
- Expect regression, changes, and stress due to separation.
- Talk about your child’s feelings and allow him or her to do the same. Accept those feelings even though they may be very different from your own.
- Encourage your children to talk. Let them share options, suggestions, and solutions for problems. Encourage them to express anger verbally, not physically.
- Provide additional adult relationships for your children, which may include grandparents, neighbours, friends, teachers, religious leaders, coaches, scout leaders, etc.
- Inform your child’s teachers/guidance counsellors about the deployment so they are better able to provide assistance to the child if necessary.
- Remember, a picture is worth a thousand

words. Children learn their coping skills from those around them. How well you cope with the deployment will have a significant influence on how your children will react.

- Take care of yourself. You need to eat well. Get sufficient rest and exercise, and spend time doing things you enjoy. If you don’t take care of yourself, you won’t be able to care for your children.

## **Let’s look for the positives!**

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

**Fosters maturity:** Military children encounter more situations and have broader and more varied experiences than children from non-military families.

**Induces growth:** Military children learn more about the world and how to function within a community at an earlier age. Taking on additional responsibilities in a parent’s absence provides a chance to develop new skills and develop hidden interests and abilities.

**Encourages Independence:** Military children tend to be more resourceful and self-starters. Prepares for separations. In a life-style filled with greetings and farewells from deployments and relocations, help for future farewells and building new friendships.

**Strengthens family bonds:** Military families make emotional adjustments during a separation which often lead them to discover new sources of strength and support among themselves. A major function of family readiness is assuring that the family is aware of all support services available to them and how to access these services. It is imperative that the Reserve family realise that they are not alone and, chances are, whatever problem or situation they encounter has been addressed before.



## CRIB 19 Tour Update

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

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

Light refreshments will be served at the commencement of the Burnham briefing and afternoon tea in Auckland and Linton.

### BURNHAM

Burnham conference Centre, Friday 10 February, 6.00pm

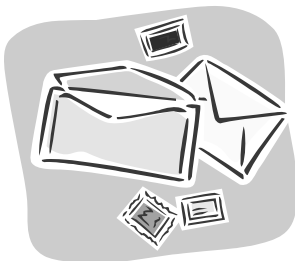
### AUCKLAND

204 Great North Road, Grey Lynn, Saturday 11 February, 1.00pm

### LINTON

Linton Conference Centre, Sunday 12 February, 1.00pm

Invitations were included with the mailout of the last edition of "The Bugle" or attached to the email, depending on how you receive your Bugle. For more information, and to confirm your attendance, please contact Janine (DSO Linton), ph 0800 683 77 327.



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

If your address or contact details have changed, or are changing, could you please complete this form and return it to your DSO, in Burnham or Linton.

Service Person's Name: .....

Deployment Location: .....

Name: .....

Old Address: .....

New Address: .....

.....

.....Postcode: .....

Email address: .....

# Comforts for the Troops

---

During the Second World War, the National Patriotic Fund Board was responsible for the supply of comforts to New Zealanders on active service. The Board issued a booklet in 1940, which included advice on the nature of items that could be sent overseas by the relatives and friends of servicemen. Parcels, which weighed less than 5kg were generally free from Customs duties, although tobacco, cigarettes and alcohol attracted heavy duties, especially if sent to Egypt. The following list of 'suitable gift items' for parcels was accompanied by the advice that '**a small parcel sent frequently is more appreciated than a large one occasionally**'. How many of these items would be appreciated by the New Zealand soldier on active service today?

## LIST FOR SELECTION OF CONTENTS FOR ADDRESSED GIFT PARCELS

Handkerchiefs (khaki if possible, but not white).  
Small writing pad and envelopes.  
Plain postcards (unstamped).  
Ink pencil.  
Black leather bootlaces.  
Dental cleansing block.\*  
Tooth brush or Dental Plate brush.  
Razor blades.

Shaving soap (stick, not tubes).  
Soap, in tins.  
Penguin series book, or similar.  
Pipe (if pipe smoker).  
Socks, hand knitted (correct size).  
A small quantity of Condyl's crystals  
and boracic powder.

\*Tubes of toothpaste or shaving soap frequently burst in transit or in soldiers' packs.  
Powdered cleansers are also liable to spill over other contents of parcels and soldiers' gear.

## CANNED GOODS

(Must be packed in airtight tins, with lids soldered on or bound by adhesive tape)

Condensed milk  
Honey  
Coffee and milk  
Chocolate (block, plain)  
Fruit salts  
Barley sugar (wrapped)  
Blackballs (wrapped)  
Minties or Throaties\*  
Toffee or butterscotch

Paste (fish or meat)  
Tongues, Oysters  
Soup  
Cocoa or "Bournvita"  
Ovaltine or Milo\*  
Malted milk  
Canned fruit (about 1lb. [.45 kg])  
Cake, or small cakes, biscuits (in tin)

\*or similar preparation.

**NO CIGARETTES, TOBACCO OR LIQUOR SHOULD  
BE INCLUDED TO EGYPT.  
REMEMBER: NO GLASSWARE OR PERISHABLE GOODS.**

The booklet concluded with the message that it was '**Not Possible to do enough!** – Those who have some knowledge of the possible rigours of Active Service know that it is not possible to do enough to provide comforts for these men... as more men go overseas, the greater our task will be to provide for our men in camps, to maintain a constant flow of comforts to our men in distant countries and finally to rehabilitate them when they return to civil life. This worthy objective challenges all to bend to the task.'

Further reading: National Patriotic Fund Board, *Comforts for men in the Armed Forces*, New Plymouth, 1940.

# PERSONAL MESSAGES



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

## From In-Theatre

Miss you a lot my honey bee.

### To my darling in Woodville

Take care, I love you so much! Missing you heaps! I'll be home soon to look after you. I love you so much! XXXX. Larrikin Mike.

### To my Beloved Big Boy

I'm missing you like Crazy. Can't wait to give you a big hug! Hope you haven't been into much trouble Hee hee. Looking forward to seeing your beautiful face in 4 months. I count down the hours till we are together. Love your Man Regina XOXOXO.

### To S.K.M.

Hope you're having fun back at work. Can't wait until I can enjoy a streetwise meal with you again! Always thinking about you! Love you a lot. H.M. XXXOXXXOXXO. P.S: May isn't far away.

### Dear Melissa

Happy Valentines my Babe. I love you with all my heart and wish I could be with you for Valentine's Day. Love Bobby.

### Hello Deeariah my Lovely Princess

How are you? I hope you had a fantastic Christmas and are enjoying all the cool presents you got! I got your Christmas card and pictures you sent me, they made me smile! I hope you are enjoying the school holidays and having fun with your friends and family. I love you very much and can't wait to give you a big kiss when I get home hee hee. Lots of love from dad.

### Hello tari-man-banana

How are you? Did you have an awesome Christmas and eat lots of goodies? I hope your tummy doesn't get too fat hee hee! Thank you for the Christmas card and pictures you drew. Some very cool pictures — they made me happy! I hope you're having lots of fun running around with your friends and family and playing lots of cool games! I love you lots and lots and wait to give you a big big hug when I get back hee hee. Lots of love from dad.

### Hello Galatia

I hope your doing well, I miss you a lot. I'm having heaps of fun over here, seeing new things and having a lot of new good experiences. I really want to travel somewhere with you in the near future. It would be ten times more fun with you! I love you and miss you a lot. Can't wait to see you when I get home! Love Tito.

### Hi Mum, Dad, Nana, Grandad, Maloa, Brosnen, Ling Ling, Deypeh, and B-rad

How's things at home? Did dad behave himself during Christmas? Silly question I bet! Hope your not working too hard mum, don't forget time to relax. How's the business running Maloa? Need a bigger venue yet? Hee hee! How's your house Brosnen? Done any new things? How's your new course Deypeh? Learning heaps of new stuff? Enjoying it? How's school B-rad? Get off the xbox and get some sun aye mate! And how are youR nana and grandad? Hope all is well with you. I love you all and can't wait to get home. Love t.j. Thank you Mum for putting an awesome birthday on for me. It was much appreciated. Love ya Fred.

### To K

It seems that time here is quickly running out and shortly I should be coming home. You say my parcel for you has yet to arrive (or has it?) so here's a short poem to make you smile instead. When we're together or when we're apart you're first in my thoughts and first in my heart. Happy Valentine's K, Love J.

### Tena koutou e te whanau

E toru marama kei te toi, a ka hoki mai matou. Kei te pehea korua Tai me Kobe. Kua hoki korua ki te kura inaianei. E pehea ana nga hararei? Kei te makariri tonu i konei, e nui ana te hukapapa. Arohanui ki koutou e te whanau, e mokemoke tonu tenei Papa. Ma te Atua tatou e manaaki e tiaki e nga wa katoa. Na Dad.

### To B1

Hey babe - Hope you're all ok and having fun. Hope your holiday goes well too. Didn't get a white Christmas but oh well it happens, maybe next time. I love and miss you so much xoxo. B2.

### To the Pollards

Hope you have a great holiday away and plenty of sun. Can't wait to get back and see everyone, catch ya. Michael.

### To Noel

You're a Dk, but cheers. Michael.

### Warhogs

A new school year and a new school! I hope you enjoy your time at Rangiuia Borough. Not long until I get home and then off to the Gold Coast Yay. U, I'm sure you will make the most of the I.T resources, on your way to becoming the next Peter Jackson. P, nearly time for rugby and remember to work hard

# PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

at school. If you are going to be naughty remember not to get caught. Miss you heaps. Love Dad.

## **To my Darling Wife KC**

Remember I love you so very much. I'm incredibly proud of you and how well you are doing. Not long until we are together again. Until then look after Alf for me. Your husband A.

## **Jonty**

A big month for you, 5 years old and starting school. I'm sure you will enjoy both. Hopefully your presents have arrived after a few hold ups. Make sure you take some tissues for your mum on you first day of school. Love Skerty.

## **Paddy**

Happy 10th birthday for the 22nd, young man! Hope there is no shakes this time. Sorry I'm overseas for another birthday but can't wait till I'm home in a couple months. Looking forward to seeing you again. Miss you. Love Dad.

## **Smootchy**

I'm sure you're not too thrilled about celebrating the 5th by yourself but will try and be there next year. Maybe save the festivities' for Raro eh. Still enjoying it here but coming home is definitely on my mind. Counting the days. Xxx.

## **To Lisa and Clyde**

Hi Guys! Hope all is well back there in Titirangi. Can't wait to see you both, just a couple of months left, It's a chilly minus 18 here at the moment. Take care. Lots of Love C Bass.

## **Mum and Dad**

It there! Thanks for the letters and packages. Hope your South Island bike ride goes well. You should stop in and see Alison. Not long now. Miss you both Love C Bass.

## **To Alison**

Hi Dear, hope work hasn't been too hard. Not too much longer. Missing you Lots, see you soon. Love C Bass.

## **Nana and Poppa**

Hi there! Great to get your packages over here. Thanks so much. Looking forward to seeing you both again! Love C Bass.

## **Toni and Ed**

Another month down 3 to go! It has been good chatting with you lately. Toe, you will have to come visit me at home when I get home, so we can have a dangerous sister/girls weekend!! Take care. Lots of love Gumby xxoo.

## **Nana**

Another month down Nana, past the half way point now, so not long until I'm home! Weather has been a tad cold here lately. I hope you have been getting some sun at home. Take care. Lots of love Gumby xoxo.

## **Mum and Dad**

Well another month down only 3 to go. Be warned Dad I have been doing lots of research for the house renovations. So you will be put to good use when I get home. Don't worry you will love it, father-daughter time!! I'm sure we can put Mum to good use too. Take care. Lots of Love. Gumby xxoo.

## **To Pearl**

Happy Valentines Sweetheart, Have a wonderful day and ill make it up2 you next year, Love you forever xoxoxo, Hey Melakai, Mya, Jamie and Keanu. Hope u being good for your mum today. Love you all, Your Loving Husband and Father.

## **Silv**

You are my dear friend and the most wonderful person in my life. I thank you for your unwavering

commitment and care for us. For your life, your love and your laugh! I feel I am truly blessed to have you walk with me on this journey of our lives. I love you and I thank you. Chris.

## From Home

## **Hi Gumby**

Hope you are sitting down, finally a message from us! All's well here, had 12 days at the lake of which it rained 10 so a lot of books were read. Only got the boat out twice! Abbie passed NCEA with Merit and the maximum 40 credits to take through to Year 12, so she did really well. She is finally back to school on the 31 Jan after more than 10 weeks hols, will be a shock. Must be getting pretty cold there by now - mind the frozen hair! Off to the lake for 4 days for Anniversary weekend with friends, hoping for sun this time. Take care and keep safe. All our love, Sue, Martin & Abbie XXXXX.

## **To Babyboy**

Should be Valentine's Day by time the next issue comes out so, Happy Valentine's Day hun. Been a while since we spoke but just know we do think of you always (especially mummy). The kids talk about you around the house, your funny antics, your cheeky comments and best of all your wise words and hugs. It's well over half way now, so blimmen exciting aye. We love you, miss you, and we are throwing a bunch of kisses and hugs your way...Julia, Keisha, Blade, Nana and Babygirl oxoxoxoxoxox.

## **Hi Dad**

I'm back at preschool and loving it, all my friends are in room1 now. I have been a good boy for mum, 3 months of no accidents at night times and sleeping all night in my



# PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

own bed 99% of the time. Our new bunny is cute. Thank you for the letter. Love you...Love you more xx.

## Hey Babe

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary for the other week. I hope you are having a good time at Kiwi base and weather warming up for you. All good here, uni is back into full swing, we didn't even hit the ground, just went straight into flying, ha ha. Animals are all good. Guess we are on the countdown now. Chat later. Love ya xx.

## J

Look up to the sky, and know that earlier today, I saw the same moon. Observe its phases, and realise, that with each change, we are brought closer to the day we will be back in each others arms. See you soon. Love K.

## Dear MUCSCLES a.k.a MU mU

To my wee paua.. I can't wait to see you. Only a few days to go. Just want to say HAPPY VALENTINE'S Day - you know I love you too much, hee hee.... Just to think when you get this it'll be only 3 months to go - I must say time has gone by fast which is awesome. I'm being a bit long winded now so LOVE YOU LOADS from aurora and you know who xxxooo. P.S: Don't get me anything for Valentine's - I really don't want anything, waste of money xx.

## To C Bass

Hope all OK with you. Thinking about you as always! Not long before you head home. Will be great to see you again! Will get some near beers for you! And some lovely tender steaks! Will try to order you some warm weather! Don't think it will be snowing in April. We will be away on our bake trip as of the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. Will send some snaps of our travels. Thanks so much for all the emails and phone calls. Always great to hear

from you! Stay safe. Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Atom, XXX. Nana Poppa XXX and all the family XXX.

## Kieran

Hey honey, Happy Valentine's Day! Missing you so so much, cannot wait to have you home! So much to look forward too, love you more! Kerry xxx.

To the sexiest mainlander ever so wish I could have a hug and one of your amazing kisses, you are my best friend, I love you and wish you were here for just for a moment so I could look into your eyes and tell you how special you make me feel. I am starting to count down to the day I can see you again. All my love this Valentine's Day babe. Your frustrated Waikato girl xxxxxx.

## Hi Baby

Happy Anniversary for the 5<sup>th</sup> February, do you think 2 years is still considered the Honeymoon phase? Lol. I'll have a Steiny for you, & a Chard for me to celebrate ... and maybe a Lamb Saag. Are you sure you don't want the DVD sent over?!! We'll have to do something special next year, maybe another weekend in Kaikoura. The kids are still in Perth so it's pretty quiet on the home front, just gyming & work but it's all good, I don't mind the alone time at night. I hope the nasty Feb weather isn't too bad & you get out & about doing 'stuff', good luck with the rug buying ... no purple please! Have fun, talk to you soon. Love your Smootchey. P.S: Happy Valentines for the 14<sup>th</sup> XXX.

## Hey Honey

Only a couple of months to go, hooray! This time has passed so much quicker than I thought. Little miss is finally sleeping properly and wee man is looking forward to you coming home. Got lots to keep us busy until you get home which is great. We love you so much. Love A, E and A xoxo.

## Dearest Gumby

Thank you so much for the lovely phone call, it was nice to hear from you and not have too much delay, the phones must be improving. I hope you are well and it's not too cold. Time is certainly flying by. I hope you are well. Miss you lots. Lots of love Nana xxxx.

## Dear Gumby

Well time is flying by now, can't believe we are over half way. Not going to start counting yet! We are off to Piha again this weekend (Auckland Anniversary Weekend), so hope the weather stays fine, yeah, we have had a few days of normal summer weather - can't believe it, things are definitely looking up. Hopefully lots of swimming in the pool, definitely not the sea, not to my liking at all. Still a change is as good as a rest and it is definitely a big change of scene for us, so three days will be a good break and like a holiday for Dad as we don't do much there at all, mainly watching the view and walks for bread and coffees and along the beach too. I am certainly using my Kindle all the time, so much easier than a heavy book to read and I can see it without my glasses on too, which is great, so once again a big thank you. I have to come back on Tuesday morning as the carpets are being laid on my renovation project, so hopefully all finished then.

School starts back on Tuesday so Dad not looking forward to all the rubbish, etc. Still as he says it's a job, not long now till the pension starts - ha ha. We'll be rolling in the money then - NOT!

We have just had fish and chips for dinner down at Campbells Bay, nice to have a change from cooking. It was a nice evening to sit there with a glass of wine and watch all the comings and goings and chill out. Turned nippy about 8pm so we headed home. Certainly

# PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

not a normal summer that is for sure! We miss you heaps. Take care and stay safe.. With lots of love Mum & Dad xoxoxoxo.

## **Hello my Eskimo**

Wow, I can't believe we have greeted the New Year in and already January is on the way out the door, with February soon to be upon us. I wish we could be spending Valentine's Day together; we will just make next year's one even more special. Together we may not be on Valentine's Day this year but I'll be thinking of you and hopefully your gift gets to you in time, I look forward to opening the one you sent me. Not long to go and you'll be home before we both know it. Till then take care of yourself Love your Blue Eyed Angle XOXXOXOXO.

## **Dear Daddy Feraru**

We are missing you heaps! It is now over halfway and we can't wait to have you home!

Mummy is always telling me that you will be home soon, so please hurry up ha ha.

I have been playing out in the sun and splashing around in my pool! I have new things in my room which I can't wait to show you! We love you. Hope you like what we send you. Love always your girls xo.

Happy three year Wedding Anniversary for the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and Happy Valentines Day for the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Love you today, tomorrow and forever. Mrs Feraru xox.

## **BOUQUET**



## **Wendy Steele and the Blenheim Knitting Circle**

Again many thanks to you all for the wonderful bags of knitting that recently arrived in my office. Such talented and clever people you are! The beautiful assortment of socks, beanies, mittens, slippers, booties and hats are now on their way to Afghanistan for distribution by our Patrol Teams. Your efforts are so much appreciated. Carol DSO Burnham.

# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

## **Check out these curious cornages**

*Source: Richard Glover, Readers Digest June 2002*

There are so many things for which there are simply no words, despite a clear and crying need.

### **Barbequeue:**

The line of men at a BBQ trying to tell the host when to turn the chops, and trying to get a go at the tongs.

### **Billge:**

The pile of unpaid bills that accumulates on the corner of the kitchen bench.

### **Despairs:**

All the trousers in the wardrobe that you hope to one day fit into again—but secretly know you never will.

### **Liebry:**

A pile of unread but fashionable books, placed on a coffee table in order to impress visitors.

### **Manjar:**

The jar or cup or bowl full of coins that is located somewhere in every man's bedroom.

### **Passportism:**

The tendency for everyone's passport photo to look like that of a drug runner.

### **Snock:**

A sock that has lost its partner.

### **Snockpit:**

The pile of unpartnered socks at the bottom of the laundry basket, kept just in case the partners turn up.

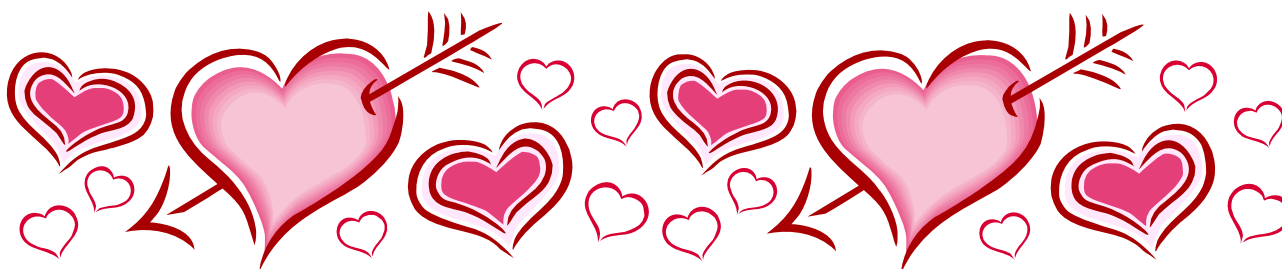
### **Vegemate:**

A pal who sends you supplies of vegemite while you are overseas.

## Valentine's Day — Fact or Fiction?



- \* Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those who were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in the hope of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.
- \* Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', words still used on cards today.
- \* Perhaps we will never know the true identity and story behind the man named St Valentine, but this much is for sure ... February has been the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating back to the Middle Ages. In fact, Valentine ranks second only to Christmas in the number of greeting cards sent.
- \* Another Valentine gentleman you may be wondering about is Cupid (Latin cupido, "desire"). In Roman mythology Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love. His counterpart in Greek mythology is Eros, God of Love. Cupid is often said to be a mischievous boy who goes about shooting people with his bow and arrows.
- \* A young girl was supposed to marry, eventually, the first eligible male she met on this day. If a girl was curious and brave enough she could conjure up the appearance of her future spouse by going to the graveyard on St Valentine's Eve at midnight. She would then sing a prescribed chant and run around the church twelve times.
- \* In England little children went about singing of St Valentine and collecting small gifts. It was also customary to place valentines on their friends' doorsteps.
- \* It was thought that birds chose their mate for the year on February 14. Doves and pigeons mate for life and therefore were used as a symbol of 'fidelity'.



# ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS!

*Source: Air Force News, December 2011*

**BY FLT LT Warren Snalam,  
United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation**

**M**y current UN Mission (and my second such deployment) is in the Middle East, but this time my job is to be a United Nations Military Observer (UNMO). I am one of eight Kiwi Peace Keepers of 153 with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). This role means that I have spent the last seven months on the Golan Heights, monitoring a section of the border between Israel and Syria.

Since the 1973 war there has been a cease fire agreement between Israel and Syria, but no final peace settlement. I arrived here in April 2011 and my job is to record and make reports about possible breaches of the cease fire agreement, for UN Headquarters in New York. If the breaches in the cease fire agreement are deemed serious enough the issues are raised with the appropriate nation and, if possible, resolved. If the problems are not able to be resolved, other steps are taken such as referring the problem to the UN Security Council who then have the options of sanctions or other action.

Being on the Golan meant I was able to make several trips into Syria and Lebanon. With the current situation in these countries the visits were very interesting and gave me a chance to talk with some of the local people and see some of the many historic sights. At times, we have to be careful where we go and what we say, but so far, there has been no immediate danger—apart from some of the ‘creative’ driving techniques displayed by some local drivers!

I first enlisted in the RNZAF during 1984, and my first UN Mission was only five years later when I deployed with the RNZAF to Iran, as part of the UN Iran Iraq Military Observer Group. On that deployment I was part the Aircraft Maintenance Team that supported the RNZAF Andover aircraft.

One of the highlights of being on deployment in Israel and Syria is the opportunity to experience people from diverse cultures. However, I have found we have much in common. No matter where people are from or what their circumstance, most want the same out of life, i.e. a positive future for their kids and a safe and secure place to live. I now realise how much I took for granted the relative peace and freedom we experience back home in New Zealand.

The biggest challenge for me of this deployment is the time away from my family. I was born in Waihi and went to school at Waihi College, then to Colenso College in Napier. My family are now mostly based in Blenheim, but I live in the Whenuapai area with my two children and my partner. My deployment is a year long, and I get home in mid-April 2012.

Being able to Skype home has made the distance easier to overcome, but nothing can take the place of a hug from your kids. Of course, missing

my family is made all the more poignant with Christmas approaching—and the memories of Christmas roast dinners has my mouth watering already.

None-the-less, working in the Middle East with the UN is a great experience and one that I will always remember, for the friends I’ve made from all over the world, as well as the places I’ve seen. I feel very proud to represent the NZDF and the more time I spend here the more I realise just how lucky I am to be a Kiwi. In the words of Fred Dagg: “We don’t know how lucky we are, mate”!

Merry Christmas to all in NZ!



FLT LT Snalam at Syrian Air Force Museum in front of an Mi 8 helicopter



Israel and its neighbours