

THE BUGLE

Issue 192 | December 2013



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COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMRADESHIP | INTEGRITY

“THE BUGLE”

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

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Disclaimer

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

A KIWI CHRISTMAS TREE



Kiwiana adorns the Christmas tree bringing some festive cheer to those deployed on OP KEA



Christmas Message from Chief of Defence Force

Lieutenant General Rhys Jones

The high operational tempo that had become the norm for us in Defence has changed this year, with the closure of some of our large and longstanding missions. We now have fewer people deployed, working in different roles and operating in other parts of the world. But just because most of these missions are now out of the glare of the media spotlight, that does not make the work they do or the things they achieve any less important.

Helping out where we can is what Kiwis are good at. This year your loved ones will not experience the family Christmas at home, the bach or the campground, because they're away doing work that is appreciated by so many people. At a time where we are gift giving, their, and your, gift to the rest of the world is their time and effort.

This will be my last Christmas as Chief of Defence Force, and I've seen some amazing work completed in very challenging circumstances in many corners of the world. As you all sit down with friends and family on Christmas Day, I will be thinking of you. I can honestly say that I am just as proud of your loved ones as you are.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone.

LTGEN Rhys Jones





Christmas Message from Rear Admiral Jack Steer Chief of Navy

Kia ora tatou

Our Navy has done New Zealand proud this year, and for many of us Christmas and New Year provides a chance for a well deserved break and some time at home with our loved ones.

But not all of our Navy will have a chance to spend this time of year relaxing at home. The men and women of TE MANA and OTAGO will be at sea on Christmas day, TE MANA patrolling the waters off the Horn of Africa, and OTAGO protecting the fish stocks in the pristine Southern Ocean.

It's this type of dedication and commitment which impresses me the most about our Navy, we are small, but our people do amazing things.

Our highlights for 2013 are numerous and I'd like to make a special mention to everyone who has worked hard to make this year a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

I hope those of you who have a chance to take leave over the holiday season do so, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe, and I hope to see you all back for 2014.

Yours Aye,

RADM Jack Steer





Chief of Army Major General A.D. (Dave) Gawn, MBE

Christmas Message

As I reflect on the past 12 months – two things strike me; that this year was incredibly busy (so the slow-down in operations certainly didn't equate to a slow-down in tempo), and that 2013 has flown past incredibly quickly.

When we are in the thick of things - completing the day-to-day tasks that make our Army run, taking part in Operations and Exercises, organising the biggest conference our Army has ever seen with PACC/PAMS 2013 – it can become difficult to focus on the other parts of our lives that also need attention: family, friends, those odd-jobs at home that just keep stacking up. I personally understand that being part of this organisation can be all-consuming – ask my wife Anna. She'll be the first to tell you a list of tasks I should be undertaking – but have yet to begin!

This is the point I want to focus on as my message – not only to those deployed overseas, but to those back here in New Zealand: finding time to focus on what lays outside of work is incredibly important, and I ask that you try to do this over the coming months.

We do, and are willing to, sacrifice so much when we take up the profession of Arms. There is an inherent quality of every soldier and officer in our Army – that of dedication, a desire to succeed, and a real passion in serving our country. We could not achieve any of what we do at home and overseas without this dedication nor without the support of our family and friends. I ask each of you to take some time from the day-to-day to really focus on this, and find a way to let the passion for your career in the NZ Army be reflected in your passion for your home-life outside of it.

To those who are deployed this Christmas I send my personal thanks for continuing to dedicate your time to working in the areas of the world that most need our help. The tangible impacts of the work you do cannot be underestimated. Being away from family and friends can be difficult – so when you return, make them as high a priority as you do your role in uniform.

To those who are here in New Zealand – spending Christmas Day talking to your loved ones via Skype, phone or email – thank you for so freely allowing us, your men and women, to complete the important work we do. It is a simple truth that we could not do our job without you.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.





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

2013

As I look back over the past year, once again it is clear that it's been a busy and demanding one, but across the New Zealand Defence Force we have achieved a great deal.

From an Air Force perspective, here are some of this year's many highlights. Operationally, we played a critical part in the extraction of forces from Afghanistan, East Timor and the Solomon's, successfully conducted a number of high profile VIP tasks, and carried out many SAR tasks with both Orion and Iroquois aircraft.

We provided a wide range of support to the other two Services and a variety of other Government departments including EEZ patrols both here in NZ and further afield in the South Pacific. Recently a NH90 successfully lifted around 35 tonnes of debris from the Pike River Mine in support of the efforts to re-enter the mine.

We have also just had a C-130 detachment doing outstanding work in the Philippines as part of the international humanitarian disaster relief effort following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. We are currently providing the annual air logistic support for the NZ and US Antarctic programs, and we have made good progress with introducing our new and upgraded aircraft into service.

We have participated in a wide range of international engagement events and exercises where we've been able to showcase our professionalism and the capabilities of our people. The recent Exercise Kiwi Flag that we've just hosted, and our involvement in Exercise Southern Katipo, one of the largest NZDF exercises hosted recently in New Zealand, are both great examples.

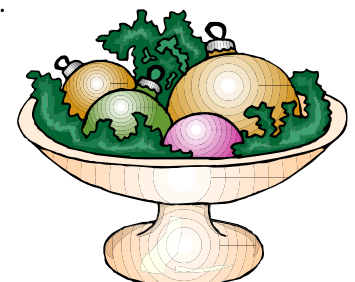
We've also enjoyed success in sporting, recreational, musical and cultural activities as well as providing support to community organisations such as the Cadet Forces and community events.

So as we approach the end of the year, we can look back with pride on our many achievements across the NZDF. You should go into Christmas proud of the part you have played throughout the year, because I am immensely proud of you all.

On behalf of the Air Force, to all personnel and their families, especially those deployed overseas over Christmas, I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication during the year.

All the best for a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable and prosperous New Year.

**Air Vice-Marshal Peter Stockwell, Chief of Air Force,
Royal New Zealand Air Force**





Christmas Message from Chris Wilson Warrant Officer Joint Forces New Zealand

Christmas is fast approaching and another year draws to an end however being a good global citizen and protecting New Zealand's borders, ensuring she remains secure, means that some in our country will not get to do what others take for granted – celebrate this time with family and friends. For them their Christmas period will be spent observing a border area, patrolling areas of operation, instructing foreign forces, patrolling sea lanes, flying support missions, manning an Operational Headquarters or standing by to respond to a humanitarian crisis in some far off land or at home. My heart goes out to those they leave behind however I know that you will never be far from the thoughts of those deployed. Now more than ever they need your support, love and understanding just as much as you need theirs. The role they fulfil is important to them and their country and we should take pride in their efforts as they strive to make our world a safer and better place. Just remember that you are not alone, as their respective Units, Mates or the Camp or Base Community Services or Deployment Services Officers are there to help you as well. For those of you who are unaware, you can also access deployment information through the Joint Forces sponsored site Homebase.mil.nz. The site will provide you with news and contacts for those who can offer support to you in your area.

Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand's focus remains in preparing, equipping, deploying, supporting and repatriating our Servicemen and Servicewomen for Missions and Exercises. It exists as a broker who works between the Politics, Bureaucracy, Strategic Vision and the Mission in order to support those at sea, on the ground or in the air. It is people that make our profession and organisation successful and therefore it is the people that deserve our full attention. It is not always plain sailing as Politics will sometimes determine how and what we can do and the Bureaucracy will often determine how long it takes us to work things through, however the focus on our people and the mission will always remain our consistent priority. 2013 has seen our Defence Force shrink in the uniformed ranks and budgets remain tight, however our values of Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity exhibited by each and every individual has meant that we have maintained the Defence Force's reputation of being achievers.

"Kotahi te kohao o te ngira, kuhuna ai te miro ma, te miro where, te miro kahurangi." There is but one eye of the needle through which is intertwined the white thread, the red thread and the blue thread. If Defence is the needle and the white, red and blue threads are Navy, Army and Air Force respectively, then HQ JFNZ is the eye through which we are intertwined. In reflection it is timely to remind ourselves that there is a fourth thread, the thread of our families and loved ones. The thread that provides the peace of mind, strength, love and support that inspires and motivates those in uniform to do what they do in order to provide a safe and stable environment for all to enjoy.

So it is to all four threads that I wish a Safe and Happy Christmas from all those who serve at Joint Forces New Zealand.



Colonel Chris Parsons

Christmas Message from Commander 1 (NZ) Brigade, Linton



*Kia hiwa ra, kia hiwa ra
Kia hiwa ra ke tenei toku
Kia hiwa ra ke tera toku
Kia tu, kia mataara,
Te hei wa mauri ora*



To the men and women of 1st (New Zealand) Brigade deployed on operations. This is the last time I write as the Commander. By the time you read this, Colonel Nick Gillard, MNZM will be leading our fine organisation. As you write the next pages of our history I ask that you serve your Nation, your families and your new Commander as we have served together.

Treat all people with honour, help the sick, protect the weak, treat your prisoners fairly and when necessary, be ferocious in battle. Stay the course. *Kia rite kia taka tu* – be ready.

Merry Christmas.



On behalf of Officers and Soldiers of 16th Field Regiment, I extend our best wishes to all deployed personnel and their families over the Christmas period. We trust you stay safe and soldier on. The challenges of operations and being separated from your loved ones never seem to ease over the festive period.

2013 has been a busy year but much has been achieved. 2014 will be no different with plenty of opportunities on the cards! For the Gunners deployed, we look forward to seeing you back home safe with plenty of tales to tell and experiences to share.

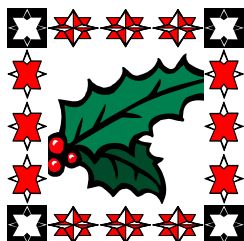
Best regards,

Ubique, CO Guns.





Christmas Message from 2/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment



From Lt Col Peter Hall

On behalf of the, Officers, Soldiers and Civilian staff of the 2nd/1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, I would like to extend our best wishes to all those NZDF personnel who are deployed during the Christmas and New Year period.

In particular to Staff Sergeant Nick Cloake and Privates Moses and Bowen. We extend our best wishes to you and 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 return in 2014.

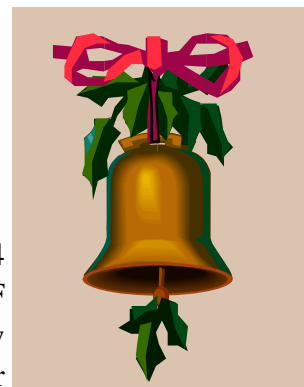
Kura Takahi Puni

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER, 2/4 BATTALION, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INFANTRY REGIMENT LT COL Amanda Jane Brosnan

On behalf of all the Officers, Soldiers and Civilian staff of 2/4 RNZIR, I would like to extend our best wishes to all NZDF personnel who are deployed overseas during the Christmas and New Year period. Have an enjoyable Christmas and a safe New Year. Our thoughts are with you. We wish you a safe and satisfying deployment.

I would also like to extend warm wishes to the families of deployed personnel. We appreciate how difficult it is to be separated from loved ones at this time of year. Yours is a particular sacrifice and we thank you for making it.

Ake Ake Kia Kaha
Kia Mate Toa



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



Christmas Message from the 3rd/6th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Kia ora koutou e nga hoa kei rawahi tonu,

Greetings to all our friends overseas – especially Staff Wilkinson serving with the MFO.

We wish you well in your duties offshore. While we battle our way through too much kai, waipiro and whanau we will pause to spare a thought for you as you serve New Zealand loyally and honourably. You're at the sharp end of our business and we are very proud of the contribution you're making, on our behalf and that of New Zealand, to make the world a better place.

Kia kaha, kia toa, kia maia. Onward.

CO, all ranks and staff 3/6 RNZIR



3rd Combat Service Support Battalion *Xmas Message*

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. We ask for a lot of support and patience from our families to allow us to undertake our chosen profession and for that we are grateful.

Wherever you are as the festive season approaches, please take time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

For those deployed -

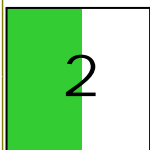
MAJ Megan Elmiger, LT Antoni Dudek, CPL Kathryn Miller-Palatchie,
LCPL Geoffrey Fosbender, LCPL Robert Brocklehurst, PTE Benjamin Markman,

stay safe!

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

LT COL Nathan Baker
CO 3 CSS Bn





Christmas Message from 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion



Here's wishing you all the best this Christmas holiday season!

As another year comes to a close I want to recognise all of our members who will be spending the festive season away from their home and their loved ones, our thoughts are with you. I would also like to acknowledge the sacrifices our families make in supporting us, without your support we could not achieve what we do.

As a Battalion we have had many achievements over the calendar year, from individual excellence through to group successes. We have built on the success of Exercise Vulcan Shield and Sword and have developed and practised more complex live firing activities. We have successfully participated in and supported Exercise Alam Halfa and Exercise Southern Katipo 13, the later being the largest exercise NZDF has conducted for over two decades. Exercise Southern Katipo included 2 CSS Bn taking lead to create Task Group Blue HQ with Health Service Support, Combat Service Support and 209 Sqn (Air Force) under command. We also provided the core of the National Support Elements, Forward and Rear, the Amphibious Beach Team and round out to other HQ's and task elements.

We have had top students on courses (including All Arms Courses), continued support to operations, had winners at civilian trade competitions, and had sports representatives up to and including New Zealand representatives.

Overall, 2013 has been a year full of constant and changing demands. To each and every one of you, your contributions have not gone unnoticed and through our collective efforts we have proven that we live by our motto - Ma Nga Hua Tu Tangata (By our actions we are known). You should all be proud of your individual and our collective achievements, well done.

For those who are able to, enjoy the well deserved break ahead, and for those of you abroad, take care and we look forward to your safe return.

Merry Christmas everyone!

R.T. KING
LT COL
Commanding Officer
2nd Combat Service Support Battalion

Ma Nga Hua Tu Tangata



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



"He toa taumata rau" - Bravery has many resting places

At this time of year when many are planning their summer holiday, bravery is found within service people who are spending Christmas apart from their families.

Bravery is also found within those servicepersons' families who are spending Christmas away from their partner, son, daughter, mum or dad.

On behalf of the CO and staff of 2HSB(NZ) please know we acknowledge your sacrifice and bravery and our thoughts are with you.

The ANZACs are known for their reputation of courage, endurance and sacrifice, and please know you (and your family) also possess this trait. Your loyalty and honourability towards NZDF service is enduring. Thank you for your service.

While ensuring the health and wellbeing of others, we can sometimes forget to take care of ourselves. For those servicepersons deployed don't forget to look after yourself and know that your family is thinking of you.

For those left at home juggling the dogs, kids, goldfish and lawns, please don't be afraid to ask for help, we all understand and have been there too. Also know that your loved one is thinking of you, even if they can't call, write or Skype as much as they would like, you are always in their thoughts.

"E te Kaihanga, ngaa reo whakamoemiti moo ngaa tini manaakitanga i tuku iho mai" *To the Creator, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us.*

"E te Atua, arahina mai maatou I a maatou e hoki ana ki oo maatous whaanau" *Lord guide us so that we may arrive safely to our families.*

LT COL W.M. TWISS, Commanding Officer, 2nd Health Support Battalion (New Zealand)



To Gareth, Steve, Oliver, Ben, and Jared (*yeah Jared - we care about you too!*)

Some of you will be almost homeward bound as this message reaches you - ready for some well deserved leave and family time. Some of you will have just arrived and no doubt feeling the chill of what is sure to be a white Christmas.

By way of a catch-up, the team here are certainly looking forward to some well deserved Christmas leave following what has been a frantic, though successful year.



Following your departure, the unit has continued its valued work with good results achieved in hosting the Military-to-Military (M2M) conference, and on Exercises DARK-RAVEN and SOUTHERN-KATIPO. Multiple broken bones in the unit (a few resulting from motorcycles!) mean a few people in the unit are hobbling around on crutches or not at all, and there will be some hot and sweaty casts this summer... On a sadder note, the sudden and tragic loss of Signaller Jonathan Hosken saw the unit band together to support each other as well as Jonathan's wider family which included a highly-fitting send off with many from 3 and 4 Sig Sqns represented.

As we look forward to BBQ's, beaches, fishing and chilling out with a good book, we know you guys continue to fight the good fight and carry the name of the unit with those you are serving with and alongside. As Santa passes overhead this year, please ensure you have thoroughly deconflicted the airspace with your many 'toys'. Millions of kiddies across the world are depending on you.

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes from the Soldiers and Officers here at 3rd Signal Squadron (Electronic Warfare) for a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to sharing a drink on your return and some patch 'upgrades'. For you guys: "*Certa Cito*". For the "others": "*Nusquam Occulto*". And as Peffs says - keep your powder dry...

Major Jay McLeary

A cartoon illustration of a Santa Claus figure with a red hat and green suit, carrying a large brown sack labeled 'SANTA MAIL' in red letters. The sack is overflowing with white envelopes and letters.



**Festive Greetings to
those at home and
those abroad. Wishing
you all a Happy Christmas,
Peaceful New Year,
and a 2014 filled
with all good things.
Carolyn Hyland, Community
Services Officer, Waiouru**



To our deployed personnel all over the world, best wishes for a Merry Christmas! While you are apart you are held within the hearts and minds of those closest to you and your NZDF mates and colleagues at home and of course all us tree hugging types in welfare and community services. Be assured your loved ones and families have our support here at home too. Go well, Marie Lotz Family & Community Services Officer, Padres Kevin Brophy and Dave Lacy for the Trentham/Wellington Region.



The RNZAF
Welfare Facilitators
would like to thank
everyone serving our

country overseas, and their families, for making the sacrifice of being separated during this season.

May the "reason for the season" create a deep bond between you across the miles! Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas, and a good start into 2014!

Claudia Baker, RNZAF Woodbourne

Trevor Stone, Air Staff Wellington

Deana Lye, RNZAF Base
Auckland



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE NCO TEAM MEMBERS

Meri Kirihimete – Merry Christmas!

This year we have two ships away for Christmas. Te Mana is operating up North and Otago is way down South. This means over 240 Navy personnel will not be with their families and loved ones for Christmas. There are plans for celebrations on both ships which no doubt will be remembered forever by the Crew.

In addition to the ships being away from New Zealand, we currently have 65 Navy people living and working overseas during the Christmas break. They are on OE16 Missions, postings or attending various courses. We have personnel working in the heat of Bahrain and in the chill of the Antarctica. The NCO team sends best wishes to you all and trust that you will also experience a memorable Christmas with the different cultures and environments wherever you are.

We look forward to seeing your families at the activities that we are holding next year. Mo te Tau Hou - Happy New Year!

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NEWS FROM ANTARCTICA



ARMISTICE DAY ON THE ICE – 2013

Chaplain Brian Fennessy, (TF Chaplain on secondment to USAP from Roman Catholic Church (On a 5-week civilian locum at McMurdo Station))

Scott Base, situated at 77.51°S, located about 3kms, over a small saddle from McMurdo Station, commemorated Armistice Day with an international flavour. The combined Kiwi-American commemoration at 1100hrs was

held for the 7th consecutive year. Even though Monday was a working day, there was a good representation from both Bases.

Monday 11 November was a cloudy day with a temperature of -15°C – however, warm enough to enable an outside Service at the Scott Base flag pole. The observance of Armistice Day was followed by the American Veterans' Day Service within the Scott Base

complex. In 1954, after the Korean War, Veterans' Day evolved from the commemoration of Armistice Day in order to remember POWs, MIAs and to acknowledge current serving military personnel. The American Remembrance Day is now at the end of May. The main feature of Veterans' Day, in addition to the speeches, is a set table. On the table are various symbolic items to represent the solitary life of a POW, who is separated from their family and country, plus the personal sacrifices of the soldier and their family. McMurdo Station will host the combined Service next year.

The American military presence in Antarctica numbers about 100 Air National Guard personnel who provide the LC-130s, the ski equipped Hercules, in support of the Antarctica Programme.

At the moment there are eight NZDF personnel at Scott Base involved mainly with communications and movements, however, on Armistice Day there were just on 20 NZDF personnel - as there was also a group participating in an outdoor survival course who had been delayed in Antarctica due to bad weather.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

F/SGT Mike Willemse was MC for the day and along with the small NZDF contingent on the ICE, facilitated the commemorations and hosting the Americans from McMurdo Station.

During the Veterans' Day Service, LTCDR Barry Holmes spoke on behalf of NZDF. Peter McCarthy of the New Zealand Antarctic Programme hosted the day in conjunction with the Commander of the American Air National Guard Unit, the National Science Foundation Director and the McMurdo Station manager.

In good Kiwi style, the staff at Scott Base provided generous hospitality and a meal for all those who attended the observances.



Photos:

*Left:
The Veterans' Day Table*

*Below:
Armistice Day at
Scott Base*



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

MY ANTARCTIC EXPERIENCE

**Lance Corporal Stacey Jones,
NZ ARMY, RNZDC**

On Wednesday 6th of November on a chilly afternoon I experienced my first time flying in a helicopter to Black Island. It was exciting, not only as my first ride ever, but in Antarctica of all places. As I write this article I can see the Island out of the Communications Office. Black Island is a 20 minute helicopter ride from Scott Base.

We landed on Scallop Hill, where there is a small hut which contains a small radio station. The importance of our mission was to turn on the high frequency channels and off load a dozen 35kg batteries. We dressed in our ECW (Extreme Cold Weather) kit and had a helo brief before we left home. There were five passengers in total including the pilot and telecom technician.

The most exciting part was the landing and take-off. It made my week and is one of the many amazing things I have completed on my deployment so far. Recently I have seen and heard a seal snoring, run the 5km Turkey Trot in a Penguin Onesie, and eaten way too much food at McMurdo for



Southern Lakes Helicopter on Black Island

Thanksgiving. One of my many important roles here at Scott Base, apart from Communications Operator, includes head of the Social Committee, so I've been organising the functions here at S.B. We have a Skirt Party coming

up and shortly Xmas. I am also looking forward to playing at Ice Stock with our Scott Base Band also involving three other Defence personnel. To those Engineers travelling in January, I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Keith Roberts working in the hut



Kate Madden (Air New Zealand) and LCPL Stacey Jones

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

THE IGLOO EXPEDITION

Corporal Adam Breetvelt

I am currently on deployment in Scott Base Antarctica as a Communications Operator. In my normal role in the RNZAF I am an Aircraft Technician on 40SQN.

With Antarctica being the coldest, driest and windiest place on Earth it's not always easy finding things to do for outdoors recreation. So when the Shop/Bar manager, Alex, asked if I would be interested in towing a sled of gear out onto the Ross Ice Shelf to build an igloo I said "YES" right away.

Alex and I packed all the gear we would need for the two nights and named ourselves "Expedition Igloo". Leaving Scott Base at around 8pm with bright sunny lights we headed into the Antarctic wilderness, towing all our gear behind us on a Nansen sled like the sled dogs of history only better. We made good time towing the sled and had covered the 5 kilometres of snow covered Ice Shelf to arrive at our campsite within an hour and a half. With the skill level of seasoned explorers we had our



polar tent up within 15 minutes of arrival.

Work on the igloo started just before ten the next morning, a little nervous about the task at hand but also excited to get stuck into it. We started off by making a nice flat surface to build on, then we quarried our snow blocks. This involves finding a reasonably large patch of deep snow that holds together well and won't just fall apart as soon as you start to saw

into it with the angriest looking saw, with teeth that would make T-Rex jealous. The snow also needs to hold together when you lift the blocks out and start to stack them. The first layer was finished in roughly an hour, it was by far the easiest layer to make. From there things started to slow down. As the igloo grew taller it became harder and harder to stabilise the snow blocks due to their size and weight. Each block also required more to be trimmed off it before it could be installed. Eventually, after 15 hours of solid igloo building under the blistering sun, with our forearm muscles burning from the lifting and heaving of snow blocks, we realised that we weren't going to get it finished. Not without more people to help us on the final layer and then the key snow block for the roof. Feeling slightly dejected but still proud of our mostly completed igloo we called it a day at 1am. The sun still high above us we took a few photos and headed to bed, our bodies spent, our faces burnt from the night time sun and disappointed to have come so close to finishing but know that we couldn't.

After a short sleep we had to get up to pack everything onto our sled and be on our way. We had a quick

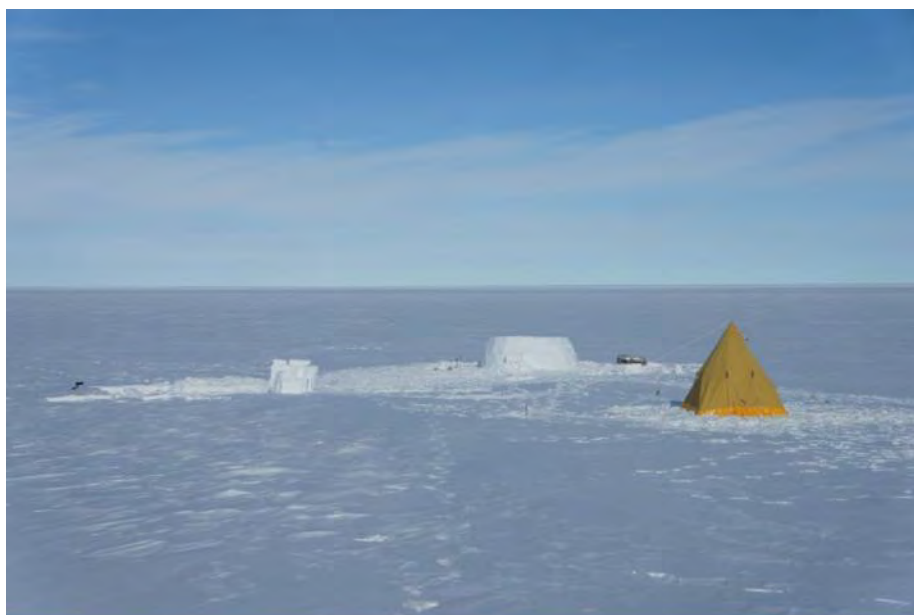


Ready to go

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

coffee and some porridge for "brekkie" then packed the last of our supplies on the sled and headed for home. Alex had to be back by 1230 to open the shop and my shift was starting at 10pm, otherwise we would have stayed and made sure the igloo was completed. We made good time on the trip home, finding slick snow to pull the sled across made it easier than on the way out. Arriving back at Scott Base to a hero's welcome, the weary explorers had returned. People did seem to like our sunburn – Alex with his blisters and myself with big Panda patches around my eyes. We headed straight inside to enjoy a nice hot lunch in the Scott Base Dining room.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable challenge. Towing gear for two people on a sled and building an igloo, even if we did



leave it with a sunroof, we were proud of what we achieved. It's not every day that you get the chance to go camping in a place like Antarctica, the last great wilderness!



Quarry, igloo and polar tent

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

POSITION ADVERT: NZDF, ANTARCTIC NEW ZEALAND, SCOTT BASE COMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR

**F/SGT Mike Willemse, Senior
Communications Operator**

Looking for a motivated organised person who is:

Willing to be involved in everyone's business - Must be able to keep track of what people are doing and who with.

Curious instincts - Must be eager to look behind every door and in every building.

Must be non - claustrophobic- Able to work an 8 hour day, in a 2.4m x 3.4m area, and share a bedroom of similar proportions.

A face for TV not necessary - Must have the soothing tones of a news reader and public announcers.

Possess parental instincts - Must maintain curfews and follow up on the ones home late.

Evel Knievel tendencies - Willing to drive your vehicle on the right hand side of the road and launch it across water.

Super hero volunteer Fire Fighter - Able to fill any position on a fire crew.

Community focused - Get involved in all community activities.

This is the life of the NZDF/Scott Base Comms Op.

The main function of the Comms Op is to maintain communications with field parties carrying out scientific work and any Scott Base personnel away from the base. This means you get to know what, where, and how people are operating. The Comms Ops room is one of the hubs of Scott Base,



In the small Comms Office (The hub of Scott Base)



The 2013 Scott Base Summer Staff Fire Training

where everyone passes through most days.

Safety is the main focus of all Antarctic New Zealand operations and ensuring communication links is vital to ensuring field parties can carry out their sample or data gathering in a timely and safe manner.

It's not all serious, one of the tasks the Comms Op get to do is put on the best Peter Williams or Hillary

Barry impersonation and play News Reader. This is a great way to have a bit of fun, add your personality and throw some humour into the start of the day.

The close community of Scott Base provides plenty of social activities from social nights, sport, and generally helping each other. It is a great place to work with motivated people, all assisting with NZ science in Antarctica.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



MT EREBUS REPORT

LAC Matt Keen, Communications Operator, Scott Base

"Still to this day, I thank my lucky reds that I have been given this opportunity to represent the NZDF in providing support for the New Zealand Antarctic programme".

Like most people here, I dreamt of going to Antarctica. I had my first (of a few) failed attempts to visit, whilst travelling broke and lost in the wild world of South America. After quite literally running out of money and failing to reach it, I deemed the last continent on my 'to visit list' as "impossible". The idea was now a mere farfetched concept that I once toiled with and I left it permanently placed in the 'beyond reach' category. After all, only 5,000 people migrate to work and live in Antarctica per year (minus the tourist's ships). If you base this on a worldwide population chance of ever going, you could say, "I

didn't have a tropical chance in Antarctica" of going.

Seven years later, a successful Antarctic application and a few goodbyes later, I found myself stepping off an Air Force B757 for a five month posting to Antarctica. Knowing that I would bear witness to the identical landscape that some of the World's greatest modern day explorers such as "Robert Falcon Scott", "James Clark Ross" and "Sir Edmund Hillary" traversed aroused me greatly.

Walking off the plane for the first time was as if Antarctica herself, delivered an almighty pleasurable wintery slap to the face. We were all red hot with a sense of excitement, as for most of us, this was our first time. Fist pumps were given to buddies, as 'big ups' to Antarctica were expressed. As I placed one foot on the crunching snow, I couldn't help but feel that this farfetched, naive attempt of mine seven years ago was now being lived. It felt even better than I had imagined.

In my Comms office window, I am able to see a rather pronounced Mt Erebus proudly perched at a towering height of 3,794m. The world's most beautiful and active smoke stack I like to think. In fact, it even reminds me a little of Mt Doom from "Lord of the Rings". Mount Erebus was discovered on January 27, 1841 by polar explorer Sir James Clark Ross who named it and its rad mountain pal, Mount Terror, after his ships, Erebus and Terror. I often gazed out towards these mountains wondering what it would be like to go up there...

Once again, a farfetched naïve idea of what it would be like up Mt Erebus plagued my thoughts. Somehow, my name was plucked from a hat and I found myself starry eyed, in a twin engine Iroquois, commonly known around here as a "Waka, topa, topa" bound for "Hoopers Shoulder, Mt Erebus". I thought of myself as the luckiest chap in the world.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

My role as a work horse, involved carrying heavy batteries from the helicopter to the repeater station approx 50m away. With a sweet gig like this, there was zero complaining on my end. Once set up, these repeaters could transmit communications all around the peninsula for the Antarctic science events.

To describe my time on Mt Erebus, I could think of a few superlatives and whisper sweet nothings to you, the readers' ear. However, my thoughts were completely taken away, as I absorbed the beauty of the 360 degree views of a cloudless, windless day that Erebus had gifted me. A bumble bee could have released gas and produced more wind than what we had. For both occasions, it was a rare sight to see.

Lugging the batteries and grinning ear to ear, I felt like the luckiest person alive. This 'grin' continued for a further 3 to 4 hours as the job for the Telecom Technician took longer than expected. I took this opportunity to grab a cheeky snap of me in my lucky red undies and boots. Why? "Because I can," I thought. It was a little chilly at -20 (with no wind-chill) so I gave an order of "take the photo from a distance".

Still to this day, I thank my lucky reds that I have been given this opportunity to represent the NZDF in providing support for the New Zealand Antarctic programme. It blows my mind at how surreal the place is. The windiest, driest, coldest place on Earth and it's all at my doorstep.

I feel a Facebook style hashtag is an appropriate way to sum up this story.
#Livinglife



NEWS FROM OP TROY

THE COALITION WARRANT OFFICERS

**WO Bernie Reihana,
Royal New Zealand Navy
OP TROY 2IC**

The development of Coalition Force (CF) relationships is important at all levels of the CF environment. None more so than at the Warrant Officer level where our main focus is on welfare and discipline and the enhancement of command direction that is relevant to the troops on the ground. Whether a simple bed for the night or a lift with your forklift, whatever needs to be done is quickly achieved through the network of the CF Warrant Officers and can make the difference of a good or bad character.

The NZDF Deployed Support Unit (DSU) on OP TROY are well tuned (but not necessarily well armed) to reciprocate the many topics of

support offered and requested by our CF partners.

The relationships that are forged with Coalition partners are vital to the success of each countries missions' and the rotations deployed to OP TROY DSU in the Middle East have contributed extremely successfully to that.

OP TROY is an area that is due to expand on its strategic importance that will become more relevant for the wider NZDF as we look to support our Ops in the Middle East region. The ability to maintain and expand our relationships with all nations will dictate the ease with which we can provide that support. As a Defence Force we are quite austere with what we traditionally provide our forces in terms of support and equipment and as such we are reliant on coalition assets and resources to aid in achieving our missions aims and objectives. The value in how these

relationships develop is key to enhancing our abilities.

Heading into the end of the year, Xmas will be a different experience being environmentally challenged and limited to the company 'issued' to us. Of course, Kiwi Forces Radio are standing up their part in sharing the Xmas cheer and naturally we will all be looking forward to touching base with home camp and our respective families on Xmas Day.

Spirits remain high in TROY as we pass our half way mark of our deployment. The camp projects are nearing completion to enhance our operational flow at AMAB and our support role is being heightened with the inclusion of the OP TIKI VI personnel for the frigate deployment in Middle East.

On behalf of all our OP TROY 23 and our OP TIKI VI Navy personnel, we wish a hearty Xmas wish to all members of the NZDF, particularly those deployed personnel, their respective families back home and of course to our own loved ones who will be looking forward to our safe return in the New Year.

Photo Left:

CFWO finishing the Al Minhad Adventure Challenge which consisted of 10 gruelling physical and mentally challenging events in a timed race. The Warrant Officers came in at 14th place from 23 teams.

Left to right:-

Chief Petty Officer Mike Martin (US Navy), Warrant Officer Sean Diamond (Royal Air Force), Warrant Officer Bernie Reihana (RNZN), Lieutenant Edwin Beunk (Royal Netherlands Air Force) and in front Warrant Officer Richard Salcole (Royal Australian Air Force).



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

DISPATCHES FROM THE DESERT

SGT Gideon Wych

With the crazy heat of the summer behind us things have settled down to a pleasant 30-35 degrees during the day, the evenings have become much cooler and people have even taken to having their evening meal outside of the mess for a touch of Al Fresco dining, all that is needed is a bit of candle light and a good imagination and we could be on any Mediterranean Riviera we choose!

With the arrival of CPOSA

Tawhiorangi (Taff) Paenga and LSA Katie Roestenburg we have boosted the permanent population of Kiwi lines by two, Taff and Katie quickly integrated themselves with the existing Troy Team so much so it's hard to remember a time when they weren't here. They have both been introduced to the National pastime of Mall cruising with Katie in particular taking quite a shine to the cheap quality sporting apparel available here, not to mention the odd coffee and doughnut!

An event that took place shortly after Taff and Katies arrival was the November 11th coalition

Remembrance Day Parade. The parade took place in front of the Coalition Flag staffs with a simple but eloquent ceremony in which SGT Ray Barber and CPL Rochelle Rowe played their parts as Catafalque guard and NZ Flag Bearer respectively. The Troy 2 I/C WOHST Bernie Reihana read the ode and the rest of the NZ contingent paid their respects amongst the mixed ranks of British, Australian, American and Dutch troops.

Kiwi Lines has had a steady stream of visitors over the past few months with one esteemed visitor being a "Capt Percy Pukeko" who came down for a brief tour and spot of R&R from his current posting in Kabul. Percy got on famously (check out photo over the page) with the other avian resident of Kiwi Lines, Kevin the Kiwi.

Kevin is most often seen accompanying SGT Gid Wych when he goes down to meet the incoming NZ passengers from the Australian A340, Kevin plays his part by acting as the beacon to incoming fellow Kiwis to guide the way through the sea of Aussie uniforms that always gathers around each aircraft.

A major event this year was the 2013 Dubai Air Show; this is actually more of a trade fair with an afternoon of flying demonstrations but for the aviation buffs amongst us it was a very enjoyable affair. There were static aircraft of all shapes and sizes both military and civilian but one of the stars of the show must've been the Emirates huge Airbus A380. A tour of the aircraft included a visit upstairs to business class then onto First class; for us mere mortals this was a glimpse of what luxury air travel really is all about, the showers in first class were better decked out than many of the show homes you'll come across. Close to the



At the Remembrance Parade

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



Percy and Kevin getting on famously

Airbus were two more attractions that seemed to gather the crowds. These were the Ferrari and Lamborghini Emirates Police cars; the small boy inside each of us quietly thought it was almost worth getting arrested for a ride like that!

Over the last few months the Kiwi team has managed to get out and about and we have been able to visit some of the surrounding areas such as Al Ain with its historic forts and oasis. On that occasion the team also drove to the highest point in the Emirates and enjoyed the spectacular views of not only the UAE but also of its neighbour Oman.

Earlier on in our tour (before it got too cold!) we had a combined Dutch/Kiwi trip to the Atlantis water park which is a part of the impressive 5 Star Atlantis Hotel. The Hotel with its enormous Arabic Archway design dominates the equally impressive Palms Resort, a man made resort made from

reclaimed land in the shape of a huge Palm Tree. The water park itself has some real adrenalin inducing rides. Truth be known there was more than one Kiwi and Dutchie who squealed like a six year old at some point!

One of the more popular events here is when the local Brit band "Tom Jones's Love Child" put on a performance. After one such performance our SNO WGCDR Leanne Woon had the great idea to invite the band to play at Kiwi Lines. The subsequent concert was a great success, so much so that the band themselves have requested to use Kiwi Lines as the venue for their farewell performance in December. We all look forward to this as they really do put on a stellar performance.

With Christmas rapidly approaching our thoughts are naturally of those we have left behind but with the availability of Skype and the internet its easier to share our

experiences with those at home. Plans are being made for how we will celebrate over this period. Most likely we will team up with our close friends and neighbours the Dutchies for a truly international experience.

Like ourselves the Dutch crew are a small contingent faced with much the same issues as ourselves. Over the last few months we have developed a strong bond and close social relationship. We often form a combined Dutch/Kiwi team for any of the numerous sporting events.

Come Christmas Day and New Year we will raise a glass of non-alcoholic Near Beer (fruit juice to the uninitiated!) and toast absent family and friends knowing that we will soon be reunited, our replacements are named and our flights are booked!

See you soon, from the
Op Troy Team

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



Group Run

**Merry
Christmas
from all on
Op Troy!**



NEWS FROM OP TIKI

HMNZS TE MANA IS CURRENTLY CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL MARITIME SECURITY OPERATIONS

Kia-ora, Salam alai kum and greetings from the Naval Support Element (NSE) OP TIKI VI here in the Middle East.

As many of you are aware HMNZS TEM is currently contributing to global maritime security operations around the Middle East and Africa. However what many of you might not be aware of is there is also a small dedicated professional logistics attachment consisting of three personnel based in Bahrain and Dubai known as the Naval Support Element (NSE), assisting TEM throughout the duration of her deployment by providing logistical support to enable her to successfully complete her mission.

The NSE team comprise of the following personnel

OIC :
LTCDR Zia Jones, RNZN;

SNR SA :
CPOSA Taff Paenga; and

LSA:
Katie Roestenburg.

The OIC, is embedded into the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Bahrain where he maintains close liaison with HQ CMF, NAVCENT agencies and others in theatre Coalition Support Agencies as well as the contracted Ship's Agent.

CPOSA Paenga and LSA Roestenburg work seamlessly

alongside the NZDF OP TROY personnel based in Dubai. This has the added benefit of enabling the NSE to make maximum use of any other resources we may require from OP TROY coalition forces to help ensure OP TIKI VI is a success.

As a collective NSE we manage all TEM's logistics requirements at sea and in port and generally our work tempo which is driven by the operational tempo and

requirements of the ship can increase significantly at short notice.

HMNZS TEM is a technologically advanced frigate and we are here to ensure she is capable of sustained operations in the Middle East and the African region. The deployment of the NSE will improve our RNZN logisticians' core skills - the NSE is a well trained team and are an asset to HMNZS TEM, OP TIKI VI and the wider CTG

The RNZN is committed to Joint Operations and the NSE OP TIKI VI is one of many overseas operational deployments that enhance the NZDF's interoperability with New Zealand's key allies and partners.



NEWS FROM SINAI

OP FARAD 03/13

CAPT Tane Robyns, NZ Army

On 07 November 2013, 27 NZDF personnel making up OP FARAD 03/13 left New Zealand for a six, and in some cases, 12 month deployment to the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. New Zealand has contributed soldiers, sailors and airmen to the Sinai since the inception of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in 1982. The MFO is a Peace Monitoring organisation whose primary job is to Observe, Report and Verify any violations of the Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. The Kiwi contingent is based in North Camp, in the North of the Area of Operations (AO).

The current rotation has personnel from both Navy and Army, making up of three main components; the New Zealand Training and Advisory Team (NZTAT), the driving section and the Staff and engineering section, comprising personnel who work at the Force Operations Centre (FOC) and for the Force Engineering Office (FEO). We also have a S1 and CQMS whose jobs are to support the Kiwi contingent as well as two pers as part of the Force Commander's Team, the Aide De Camp and the Force Commander's Driver/PPO.

The NZTAT has both driving instructors and operational instructors and their job is to train the Force. This includes everything from basic license testing, range shoots, organising and running skill

at arms competitions through to qualifying drivers on the Force's new Fully Armoured Vehicles (FAV). The driving section, as the name suggests, are responsible for driving everything from buses to tankers to FAVs. The driving section quite often works with their Uruguayan counterparts, making long trips throughout the AO. With no music in the cabs and day long trips, the lads are getting pretty good at rustic Spanish, in order to communicate with their South American colleagues. In the FOC, the CO of NZCON heads up the S5 branch (plans) with the Kiwi Adjt, with two Kiwis in the Liaison branch.

Life in North Camp can be both very similar to garrison life back home and yet at the same time, very different. There is a Hotshots equivalent, a pretty good gym, sports fields, a great mess with great healthy food and barracks. However, the dust storms, the multiple languages spoken in the



Outside NZCMFO

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

mess and the nightly machine gun fire outside the perimeter remind you very quickly you are not at home. The Contingent is working well as a team, with weekly sports competitions against the other contingents. This Sunday will see an ANZAC touch competition before the Rugby League Final. Hopefully there will be two NZ wins on the day. As Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn to home, our loved ones and our family. Christmas away from family will be hard but we'll keep busy and for most, family and friends are only a skype call away. Overall, we are settling in well, enjoying our time here and making the most of this opportunity to represent our service and our country.

LOTS TO SEE, DO, AND LEARN NOW WE ARE HERE

LCPL Scott Francis Driver, Op FARAD

I'm Lance Corporal Scott Francis and I am posted to Multinational Force and Observers as a Driver in the Sinai Peninsula, where along with NZ there are another 12 Nations including Czech Rep, Fiji, Hungary, Italy, Norway, France, Columbia and our ABCA friends, and our driving amigos Uruguay.

Tuesday 14 October was the first separation test for many families around New Zealand, when I and a handful of NZDF members undertook Pre-Deployment Training for our upcoming near seven month deployment to Sinai Peninsula, Egypt.

Pre-Deployment Training was in Linton Military Camp, and was a total of three weeks. Our NZ Contingent's first week comprised primarily of briefs which informed us about Egypt's history and culture, what we are going to be

doing over there, what type of environment it will be, and most importantly our leave on return, food and pay.

The first weekend was family brief day, where the families of soldiers, sailors and officers deploying got to fly to Palmerston North to attend. The brief was good and quite informative and gave the chance for families to ask questions that they wanted to know about, and at the end of that the families were put up in a nice hotel for the weekend.

Over the next two weeks we conducted reactive shooting on the range, tactical care and what we can do in a medical emergency, IED (Improvised Explosive Device) awareness and Mine Detection training.

We finished off our PDT with a short Field Exercise replicating our movement across the Egypt-Israeli border and other in country jobs we'll be conducting.

It took the best part of three days to finally arrive in Cairo. We then jumped on a Czech CASA C-295 and flew for an hour to the North Camp in Sinai.

We got a powhiri into our new home at the NZ Patio bar, and greeted old friends.

Our first weeks was all handovers while our ID's to get out of camp and over the border were getting sorted. The trailers here are longer than the ones at home and it took a few hours to get used to driving on the other side of the road during our training week.

Our first day out was across the Egypt-Israel border where at least one person from our driving team will go each day. There was rubbish everywhere in the middle of the desert. The roads in Egypt are unmaintained, narrow, added with sand sweeping over the top of half the road with not so good local drivers. You really have to be aware all the time. Without the years experience and courses we do as drivers back in NZ, driving heavy vehicles, these roads would test difficult. Once across the border which runs 230km north to south, it is all a different sight. The roads are straight, well sealed and no rubbish on the ground. We got the chance to stop at the local



OP FARAD Contingent

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

golden arches and got a Big Mac combo for 49 Shekels (\$17NZD).

We are all into routine now, our driving team days start at 0400 and finish at approximately 1700 Sunday to Thursday where most days there are activities like pizza night where each nation has a turn hosting, selling shirts, coins and other nation insignia, sports competition, Kapa Haka and we even had a comedian singer and country singers come to the ANZAC bar to entertain the troops.

So far I'm having fun learning more each day and meeting other people from other countries around the world. 190 days to go!

SINAI SANTA!

CAPT Steve Fisher
Senior Instructor
New Zealand Training and
Advisory Team (SI NZTAT)

Three weeks down, twenty one to go. This is by far the strangest place my military career has taken me. A few nights ago the NZ contingent was down at the sports field playing in a social competition. It was just past dusk so we were playing under lights. The grass was green, the air was cool and as usual there was a lot of banter from the side lines as the game went on. I mention these details because it reminded me so much of NZ that we could have been at home. It was just like a typical weekly touch rugby competition back in Palmerston North. "Nek minute", there is burst of machine gun fire and we watched as a tracer ripped through the night sky. Of course none of it is directed at us, it's the Egyptian Army fighting insurgents but it's a strange situation to think that while we are so close to the fighting, being "inside the wire" is like we are in another world.

Inside North Camp we have a cinema (that shows up to date movies), a great gym, a great shop, a great dining facility, 11 bars, hair salons (\$2 a cut) and a beauty salon (you'd have to ask CAPT Tane Robyns for the prices). There isn't a spec of rubbish inside camp and everyone rides around on bicycles smiling and saying hello in one of the half dozen languages that are spoken by the dozen countries that are represented here. Outside North Camp there is rubbish everywhere. As you drive through the towns close to the border most of the shops are closed. Many of the houses have been bulldozed (because inside them were tunnels into Gaza) and there are Egyptian tanks, armoured personnel carriers and soldiers on most corners. Again, these differences further highlight how different life "outside the wire" is compared to what we have in North Camp.

You'll have noted that I mentioned 11 bars. Some of these have a very informal set up (such as the NZ bar called "The Patio") and others are a more formal and serve nice meals. These are another variable that add to my perception that this is a strange place. There are darts competitions at night and concerts on in the square and functions most nights. Through all of this it can be hard to keep an operational focus; it starts to feel like it's a posting back in NZ and not an overseas operation. Then you hear another fire fight followed by explosions "outside the wire" and I'm reminded that I'm in the Sinai.

There are three main units over here and a whole lot of smaller units that support them. The three bigger units are battalions from Fiji, Columbia and the US. Each of these Battalions has a training team. The NZTAT's task is to train these training teams, so they in turn

can train their soldiers. Among a host of driving and operational courses we also train people to investigate violations in the treaty (between Egypt and Israel). We also run exercises to test the Forces response to emergency situations. As an example, last Friday we initiated one of these drills at 0400 in the morning. We like to try and stay operationally focused in the NZTAT. Tasks like these enable us to do that. It's not without more challenges though.

We did some shooting on the range today. What better way to stay operationally focused than to do some instinctive reaction shooting. After the shoot I walked back to the NZTAT. What better way to corrupt my operational focus than to find the set for the Christmas Nativity Play has been placed right across the NZTAT car park (and blocking the pathway between the two entry doors....). Of all the places in camp, I find it ironic that the set is built outside my office. Don't get me wrong, the set looks great. But while I appreciate the lovely murals, I never thought I'd place "Nativity Play" and "Operational Deployment" in the same sentence. Then we hear some more cannon fire from "outside the wire" and I am reminded yet again how strange this place is.

Christmas is a bit of a big deal over here and Op Sinai Santa is becoming the main focus of the camp. The NZTAT had to provide manpower to a work party the other day. The job was to help wrap a few hundred Christmas Presents. These presents are for the men and Women of the MFO that are on duty at the Remote Sites (Observation Points dotted along the Peninsula). Over December, these presents will be taken out for a bit of morale for those on duty over the Christmas period.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Despite how strange his place is, it's a great place to be working. We have a great contingent with some notable personalities. From the ADC, LT (Navy) Aston Talbot who always shows up wearing the wrong uniform to the Adjutant, CAPT Tane Robyns whose awesome kiwi humour creates many a laugh or embarrasses innocent and vulnerable Junior Officers from Australia.

I'd like to sign off by stealing one of our RSM's (WO1 Clive Douglas) little mantras: 6.1.1 Living the Dream – Operations First.

Kia Ora!

"CPL TILLY TUI"

Since my arrival in Sinai on the 9th November 2013 I've had quite an exciting time settling into desert life. The first few days involved being welcomed by the old contingent, then giving our own farewell to them a few days later.

Since taking over from the old contingent and getting into the rhythm of my new life, us that have stayed behind have started to make a name for ourselves. I've watched the League with some English expats, watched with bated breath the All Blacks take a close win. I'm also gearing up to take the win as captain of the NZ team in a "Turkey Bowl Tournament" or touch American football.

Also coming up for me and the NZCON will be more inter-contingent competitions; that with a little practice I'm sure we can take out.

At the moment the highlight of the working week is pizza night. Every contingent gets to host the night with pizza and cans of fizzy drink. For a regular berry eater this means extra PT to keep the pounds off the waist. Luckily for me and my

NZCON buddies our friends and neighbors the Australians have sent over their best PTI's to work off the delicious pizza.

Keep on watching for more Sinai updates and some exciting photos from my side of the world.

Below:

You will be aware of our project OPERATION BIRD. Percy Pukeko is in Kabul and Kiri Kereru in Antarctica. Tilly Tui has just arrived in Sinai. We look forward to hearing of their adventures abroad.



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)



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

NEWS FROM AFGHANISTAN

"CAPT PERCY PUKEKO" IN KABUL

SGT Ana Abraham

....Cross fit, Zumba, and Insanity..... Straight into it for "CAPT Percy 'Pukeko". Like everyone who deploys on Ops - he wants to lose a bit of weight while he is here! In saying that though, DFAC #2, (the US Dining Facility) is NOT helping him! Bagels, waffles, crispy bacon, hash browns, chips, cheese toasties, buffalo wings, praline ice-cream and cookies, to name but a few of the delectable deep fried, processed

food here. (Please note: there are salads and fruit, but it is so hard to walk past all that goodness!).

So "CAPT Percy" has settled in really well here in KAIA, Kabul. The temperature has dropped big time and there is snow on the surrounding mountains and we think, it's here to stay. From what we've been hearing, it's only going to get a lot colder too. Most days now the temperature hovers about seven degrees Celsius.

There are a couple of scheduled flights to Bagram and Kandahar for "CAPT Percy Pukeko" in the up and

coming weeks. He will be going to conduct a recce of these Bases to update some of our SOPs. There is a possibility of going via the Australian C17 and we are hoping to get him on the Americans Blackhawk helos as well. (We are currently still in discussions, as only VIPs get to ride in these!).

So since his arrival, "CAPT Percy" has been on the go! Lot's to do, places to go and things to see here and no doubt, is anxiously waiting for the mail to arrive with lots of letters from home; complete with care packages of Rashuns, Tim Tams, Pineapple Lumps and peanut slabs!! Nom, nom, nom! (Just putting it out there!).

There are definitely more adventures in store for "CAPT Percy" in the up and coming weeks! Stay tuned.



"CAPT Percy" having a chat with a Mongolian soldier upon arriving into KAIA

OPERATION BIRD



SGT Kev Hurrell, PM (our Polish friend who's Christian name we can't pronounce, but who is enthralled with Percy) and MAJ Megan Elmiger — Whittakers kindly sent over peanut slabs and santé bars to share around at smoko.

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM ABROAD

Padre Michael Berry
Ship's Chaplain,
HMNZS TE MANA

Christmas is a busy time for us all. With presents to buy, a meal to plan, the house to tidy, and Christmas functions to attend, that one day very much becomes the overriding theme for a whole month of our lives. It's probably a good thing that it only comes around once a year!

This year, I will be spending my first Christmas away from home, and away from my wife and children, as a part of the team aboard HMNZS TE MANA. In the midst of operational priorities, and the limitations placed on us by life at sea, I know that many of us will be considering the question, 'how do we capture the important essence of Christmas?'.

I hope I don't sound too clichéd when I say that the focus will be around people. It will be the messages sent and received from loved ones; it will be the chefs cooking up some treats that we can enjoy together; it will be gathering with our 'ship's family' on Christmas

Eve for a 'Carols by Glow-stick' service. Around the ship, various departments and branches are organising Secret Santas, but even these are less about the value of the gift, and more about the thought and humour that will be a part of the process. Whilst thousands of miles from home – this day will still be about family and fellowship.

The Christmas story itself demonstrates these themes. There is nothing about Christmas shopping, or cleaning the house – in fact, the main events take place in a dirty stable, surrounded by smelly animals. Yes, there are presents, from the Wise Men who bring gold, frankincense and myrrh; yet the more significant gifts come from the efforts of the people such as the shepherds, who leave their fields to witness this significant birth. At the heart of the story, we have a courageous journey by a young woman, and her husband, who work together to bring a new life into the world.

In the midst of the 'busyness' of December, I hope we can all take time to focus on the essential

elements of Christmas; in the simple gifts of love, time, and thoughtfulness that we offer each other.

'May Christ our infant saviour give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping wise men and the humility and love of the holy family. May you and those you care for, be truly blessed this Christmas'.

If you would like to read the Christmas story, find a Bible and read chapter two of 'Luke'. The part about the Wise Men is told in chapter two of 'Matthew'.



THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY, PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS 1950-2013



The Defence Communications Group has produced a booklet entitled "*The New Zealand Army, Peace Support Operations 1950-2013.*"

The 90-page publication features deployments ranging from Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands, to Angola, Rhodesia, and Namibia, and everything in between. It is fully illustrated with an array of photographs from almost every mission.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book for \$20, with all profits going to the New Zealand Fallen Heroes Trust, please contact armynews@nzdf.mil.nz

CHAPLAIN'S PEN — FROM HOME

Padre Zane Elliott
Chaplain Burnham

Merry Christmas to all Kiwi PERS serving on Ops and their families. Christmas for many of us back here is about family time, it is always hard to be away at this time of the year when we cherish gathering with those we love and care for.

On the very first Christmas Joseph was heading back to the place he was born. The Roman Emperor had decreed that everyone in the Empire had to be counted, and that extended right out to Nazareth in the Modern Day Palestinian region. So, Joseph had to head home, and with him went his heavily pregnant fiancée Mary.

This would have been a lonely time for Mary. Her family was far away, and Joseph's family probably wouldn't have been overly happy to see her – having kids before you were married was a shameful thing in that culture, even if it was a child given by God.

The first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke outline the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, who would later be called 'the Christ' (meaning saviour, or

deliverer). This is one of the most significant events in human history and it is all summed up in very simple language; Luke 2:4-7 says 'And Joseph went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.'

This is how God enters into the world, as a frail baby, far away from home, where there isn't even a bed to sleep in!

If I was writing this kind of story I'd have the King of the Universe born in a grand palace, with servants to care for the child and mother and golden fleecy diapers. But not so with baby Jesus. He enters the world humbly, in poverty, his parents are despised by those around them, because they have a child but aren't married. Jesus comes into the world to offer hope

and salvation, and he does it in the most surprising way.

This is part of the joy of Christmas. That God doesn't show up as superman, he turns up as a real person. A real person who will suffer, and weep. A real person who will be hungry and lonely. A real person who will be rejected and laughed at. A real person who spent time away from family serving the needs of others.

This is the God we worship at Christmas. Jesus is sometimes called 'Emmanuel' which means "God with us." This Jesus is the God who was born as a man so that he might live a life that was able to make a way for us to know our Creator through the forgiveness of sin. What an amazing gift for us, a baby born so that we might have a relationship with God.

This God is the God of Hope and Comfort, May you know Emmanuel, 'God with us' when you are so far from home this Christmas, and for families here, we pray your loved ones will return to you well and happy. Merry Christmas from the Burnham Chaplains!

LOOKING BACK



Contingent members of TG CRIB 9, 2006 enjoy Christmas festivities at Kiwi Base, Bagram, Afghanistan. 2006.

DSO'S CORNER



Carol Voyce

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

Festive Greetings to you all! I can't believe that this year is almost coming to a close and soon we will be welcoming in 2014. The years end always seems to fall upon us so quickly and for a short time we feel overwhelmed with all that has to be done! – Another reason why I am writing this editorial in November!

Yesterday I had the pleasure of reading, sorting and packaging the many cards received for OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD and now packed with some candy canes, they are winging their way to all corners of the world.



We didn't quite achieve the 2000 we got last year but it was still a grand effort from young and old and a great way to spread some Christmas cheer across the miles. I still managed to decorate myself

with glue and glitter in the packaging process and admire the care and creativity of so many. Many thanks to all of you who contributed to this project – I hope that you are lucky enough to get a reply!

I am looking forward to the arrival of our Deployment Calendar tomorrow which features some of our best images from the last ten years. This has also been a project which has relied on others for their contributions and has seen a wonderful partnership with Hugh Douglas of Weft Knitting Co., evolve over the time. Sincere thanks to Hugh for his ongoing support and commitment to bring this calendar to you. The calendars will be distributed in the coming weeks and there is still an opportunity for those who wish to purchase one (see last months "Bugle") by making a donation to the Fallen Heroes Trust.

In fact everything we seem to do is dependant on others to a large extent! Deployment Support Services rely on the support and

understanding of so many personnel within NZDF. With the end of the year upon us, comes a chance to reflect and to say thanks to those who help us to help you when the need arises. Sadly some of these thanks are extending to farewells too with retirement for some, and new directions for others. It is always risky to personally thank people for fear of missing others but I have four people who I feel deserve a special mention.

Our first farewell goes to the Chief of New Zealand Defence Force, Lieutenant General Rhys Jones whose tenure in this position is about to end. I have had the privilege and honour to know and work with Lieutenant General Rhys Jones for some 12 years and have always been grateful for his care, concern and compassion for family wellbeing and the importance that he has placed on Deployment Support Services. We will miss his commitment to wanting the best for service personnel abroad and their families at home and will sincerely



Lieutenant General Rhys Jones makes time for the 'young' in his commitment to family wellbeing

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...

miss his dedication to this cause. Our very best wishes are extended to Lieutenant General Jones in whatever the future may hold.

Secondly to LT COL Jim Maguire as he moves on to new opportunities – many thanks for the amazing support and insight you display in overseeing deployment welfare and for leaving no stone unturned in finding a way forward. I have really enjoyed the chance to work with you and thank you for the difference you have made in the lives of so many. Good luck in your future endeavours within NZDF and I hope our paths may cross again.

Lastly to my Unit – we farewell into retirement, Major Bill Blair and Mr Bruce Clark who have both been great advocates for the work of this office and who have provided not only great support, but many wise words of wisdom. Wishing you both a well earned retirement.

While we had hoped that the tempo of work may be a little more manageable with the numbers of deployed personnel less than that of previous years, there has been much to keep us busy. We are taking a better and bigger involvement in many of the smaller missions and looking at new opportunities supporting those home alone with loved ones absent on Exercises and other commitments. We are updating resources, planning for future possibilities and still being very active in welfare and wellbeing concerns. Those of you, who we have helped along the way, will know that it takes time and many people to sometimes resolve or manage a given situation and we will continue with that commitment.

It has been a fun but huge task to catalogue the many photos and DVD's which we have accumulated over the past 12 years but are pleased that our efforts have now been able to contribute to the

history of this great organisation. Some day I am sure we will welcome and enjoy the chance to reflect on some great footage now safely archived away!.

"The Bugle" has continued to be our main way of communicating with you all and we are always grateful to our many contributors who share their stories from home and abroad. The feedback from our many readers spurs us into action as the deadline for each issue comes around oh so quickly. We thank you for your comments and feedback on the value of this simple in-house publication in keeping you informed and offering a little peace of mind.

On a personal note, mid year, I finally managed to farewell my severely damaged earthquake house and move to a brand new home. No more water cascading down internal walls, no more wind whistling through gaps where windows once were, no more floor cracks to remember to leap over and not trip over – oh what bliss! I feel I now live in paradise and will always be grateful to those who helped make it happen and for the support and encouragement from many work colleagues. Yet despite being so settled, I can't help but think of others who are still waiting for such a lucky break!

It has been a great privilege to meet so many of you over this past year at pre-deployment briefings and on other occasions. I always admire your commitment, strengths and sacrifices in an attempt to help those so much less fortunate than ourselves, to somehow find a world at peace.

Wishing you all at home and abroad, a blessed, peaceful and safe festive season and I look forward to catching up again in 2014.

With kindest regards, Carol.



Janine Burton

Deployment Services Officer
1 (NZ) Brigade

Firstly, welcome home to the members of the recently returned Op FARAD (Sinai) deployment. I hope reunions are going well and that you are enjoying your precious family time. Being home for Christmas after being away for just over six months should make this a very special time for you all.

I know from personal experience that having a loved one away on deployment at this traditional family time, is an additional challenge and no matter how many family and friends we surround ourselves with, there is always that space where they should be. Again, from my personal experience, I always felt a bit better once Christmas Day was over. And let's face it, the way the days, weeks and the year has flown by, we will very shortly be welcoming in 2014 when we can look forward to homecomings! From deployment locations, I'm sure that service men and women will also be thinking of family and friends at home; they will rely on each other and work towards making this a very special time for themselves and their colleagues also.

For some of us, this time of year (when we take the time to stop and

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D..

draw breath) is a time to reflect on what the past year has brought us. For me, 2013 is ending quite well; the middle bits certainly had some high points – a wedding and our first grandchild – but as a family we also encountered some significant challenges that we hadn't expected. Do life's challenges make you stronger? Not sure if 'stronger' is the right terminology, but at times it can certainly call on all the resilience you can muster.

While Christmas brings thoughts of family and presents!, it can also bring the stresses of family and presents! I would like to suggest that before the hectic-ness of Christmas descends (if it hasn't already landed) that we each consciously strategise and consider what is really important and not to sweat the small stuff.



My very best Christmas wishes go to you all, whether at home or away and to a safe and happy 2014.

'See' you in the New Year!

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.

It is a British Christmas tradition that a wish made while mixing the Christmas pudding will come true only if the ingredients are stirred in a clockwise direction.



A very special Bouquet



There has been a good response to the Kiwi Forces Radio 2013 project. 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 the 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)

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.

Mail through DPSC

Mail to deployment locations, which goes by courier through DPSC, will be not processed over the Festive closedown period. The last mailout from DPSC for 2013 is December 16th. The first for 2014, will be January 13th. Mail may still be sent to DPSC during the holiday closedown, to be included in the first mailout of the New Year.

Last "Bugle" for 2013

This is the last issue of "The Bugle" for 2013. 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 Wednesday 8th January 2014. "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.

Suspension of Cell Phone Contracts

For a number of years we have had

agreements with the main network providers to suspend or "park" cell phones of deployed service personnel. Many of you will be aware that the contract we had with Telecom, under the Peacekeepers Agreement, had expired and we have been trying to re negotiate it, so this great gesture can be continued. Unfortunately at this time we have been unsuccessful. We are continuing to talk with Telecom and will let you know if the situation changes. Support from Vodafone continues and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

Mail to Afghanistan

All mail to all Deployment locations in Afghanistan will now be processed by DPSC at HQ JFNZ in Trentham. Mail bags leave DPSC every Monday and are sent by courier abroad.

Mail should be addressed as:

Regimental Number, Rank, Name
Mission Name eg OP KEA
c/- DPSC
HQ JFNZ
Private Bag 900
Upper Hutt 5104

N.B: If you have sent mail to the previous address given i.e. KAIA Compound, c/- International Mail Centre, Auckland, it will still be couriered and delivered as addressed. In the meantime, please make a note of the new amended address in your Deployment Guide.

If you need any further advice or information on Mail, please talk to the Deployment Services Officers.



KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING

*Christmas Greetings
to you all!*



I am sure I am not the only one who is facing a Christmas without my partner at home. Yes, I see it sometimes as daunting and at other times a challenge which I know will ultimately work out ok. I have a plan and am surrounded by people who will cheer me along. Of course Christmas is always fun with children about and there will be lots of excitement now they are bigger and really know who that scary man is in red!

There is going to be a change in routines and it looks like I will have to take the job of leaving out the Christmas cake crumbs and empty glass of milk and then somehow scratch out the sleigh marks on the back

lawn! These things mean so much and will be exciting to tell Dad about, when we all talk on the phone. The shopping is done and the Advent calendars will be appearing soon - yes I am organised. We are looking forward to going to the Mall and getting the Santa photos done so we can send them to Dad. This will surely mark the beginning of much building excitement and of course the promises to always be good!

I am sure on Christmas day our celebrations will be filled with some sadness but I know I have planned the day well and with family and friends supporting me along the way we will make the most of all that is on offer. If you are feeling sad, I always think that distraction is the best tonic so make sure that you have plenty!

I know my partner will be sad too that he won't see the children open their presents or be surrounded by our huge family on this special day, but this is just a small sacrifice that we are making and if it helps others then what better present could you give.

Have a safe and happy holiday,

Bindy.



*Yeah - my man
is home!*

The last few days of the countdown seemed never ending and I seemed to watch the clock tick slowly on! I didn't sleep well. I had butterflies in my stomach and was oh so nervous. How stupid of me! I had my haircut and put on my new outfit which I had agonised about for so long and then bundled the kids into the car and off to the airport. All this good planning and then feeling hopeless had me at the airport far too early and it then became a nightmare to entertain the kids in a public place without them causing havoc!

Ice cream seemed a good idea until their faces were sticky and large drips of slobber were completely splattered down the fronts of their new T-shirts! Did Dad care? Did Dad notice? Absolutely not!

The landing of the plane was exciting in itself - then that first glimpse! Yep - just as handsome as when he left, a little thinner but here he was at last! I can't put that homecoming moment into words!

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING CONT'D.

We have both made sacrifices these past seven months and it's been tough for both of us at times but we have survived. These past few weeks have been a bit like a honeymoon again but with kids in tow. We haven't had any major problems because we planned this homecoming and knew what to expect from and for each other. If we get into any strife I know we can sort it!

So that's me. I have enjoyed contributing to "The Bugle" and hope now that someone else might have a go in my place.

Merry Christmas to you all and make sure that you use the supports if you need them. They do make a difference.

Sarah.

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.



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 & Timor-Leste appoint a lead Deployment 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

Burnham—Cherie Mansell

Ph 03 363 0322

Papakura—John Furey

Ph 09 296 5744

Community Services Facilitator:

Linton—Lesley Clutterbuck

Ph 06 351 9970

Family & Community Services

Officer: Trentham—Marie Lotz

Ph 04 527 5029

Air Force Welfare Facilitators

Air Staff Wellington:

Trevor Stone

Ph: 04 498 6773

Base Auckland:

Deana Lye

Ph: 09 417 7035

Base Woodbourne:

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

HOLIDAY CONTACTS AT A GLANCE



Burnham:

Deployment Services Officer
Carol Voyce

(03) 363 0421
027 4497 565 or
0800 337 569
0800 deploy

(toll free)

Burnham Duty Complex

(03) 363 0099

Chaplaincy Service:

16 — 22 Dec

Chaplain Zane Elliott

021 634 443

23 Dec - 05 Jan

Chaplain Tavake Manu

027 2498 967

06 Jan - 12 Jan

Chaplain James Molony

027 4500 133

Linton:

Deployment Services Officer
Janine Burton

(06) 351 9399 or
0800 6837 7327
021 649 903
0800 overseas

(toll free)

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

All general enquiries:

(09) 4455 999

Emergencies only:

Out of Hours Social Worker:

Jason Hallie (until 30 Dec)

021 908 655

Yvonne Boyd (31 Dec-3 Feb)

027 490 2781

Chaplaincy Services (including Northern Region)

Chaplain Chris Haines

(21 Dec 13 — 13 Jan 14)

027 645 1437

Office 445 5034

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 available over the holiday period. Please don't hesitate to call us if we can assist in anyway. Should our phones go to answer-phone, it usually means we are on them—but will check our messages regularly. (Please remember you can't send a text message to the 0800 number. Please call, or text the alternate number given).

Deployment Support Services are here to lighten the load for you where we can. No problem too big or too small so be sure to ring us if you need to.

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 2013.

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 2014.

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 2014 is January 8th 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.



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, 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 visits again in 2014.

BOUQUETS



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 2013. 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: 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 in 2014. Keep safe.

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

Carol and Janine,

Deployment Services Officers, Burnham and Linton



Candy Canes:

Candy canes began as straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorated 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.



PERSONAL MESSAGES

The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Wednesday 8 January 2014**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)



From In-Theatre

Hello My Beautiful Family

Daddy misses the three most important people in the world and hopes that you are busy having fun! We are over half way so I am counting down the days until I get home. All my love, THE MOST.

Hello my little Darling Declan

It's hot here sweetheart, you would get too hot. I hear daddy is doing a great job looking after you, I miss you lots and lots, be brave for daddy and give him a cuddle. Love Mum.

Hello Darling (Heath)

I hope all is going well at home, and Declan is behaving. Don't enjoy that Mustang too much without me, and remind Declan he'll lose his front seat when I get home. I'll wish you and Declan a Merry Christmas and hopefully the mail gets through before Christmas Day. Kathryn.

Hey Baby

I hope you have a great Christmas and Happy New Years. Xx Tane.

Hi Honey

Have a Merry Christmas. xx A.

To HQ 3 CSS Bn

Thanks so much for thinking of me! I haven't opened my xmas pressies yet but I'm excited! Hope you and each of your families have a lovely break over xmas. See you when I get back. Kind regards, 2IC.

To Zoe, Willow, Maggie and Lincoln

Have a Very Merry Xmas with Nana and Grandad E. Hope Santa remembers where you live. I will be thinking of you. Love from Mum.

To Nana and Grandad E

Thanks for looking after the kids for us. I am very much looking forward to a beach holiday with my hubby and children! Merry Xmas. Love from Megan.

To Carol

Thank you so much for all the magazines and emails. Always brightens up the day. Have a Very Merry Xmas and enjoy your break over the holiday period. From Megan.

To Christine

Special message for you Christine - Thanks for all your hard work and the lovely little messages. Can't wait to check out your photos! Bet you're planning the next holiday already! See ya, from Megan.

To Ana the Egg

We miss you. Hope you're enjoying being back at home with the family and not thinking about us! From the biggest Egg.

Aweeeeaweeaaaaaawwh!...

To my fellow TADpoles, Greetings from the Sandpit! Some of you will be getting ready for posting cycle now or on leave, it's been an awesome near 3 years with you all. Wishing you all a mean Xmas holiday season. You deserve it - Stay safe. The ones still there next year, we will cave sesh it before I post..."

To my Dear Husband

- Are ya ready to baaattle?...Enjoy Xmas in Bondi. Have a safe holiday, take my seeds to movieworld (my shout of course!). Send my regards to everyone there. Love you - miss you xox.

Hi Heaven and Josh

Hope you are ending the school year with good reports, otherwise you'll probably hear one of many life lessons from your father and then I'll hear all about it - lol. Look after each other like you do, stay out of trouble and enjoy the Xmas holidays. Love Mum xox.

From Home

Hi Vonnie

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year! We will be thinking of you so far away and will look forward to seeing you in 2014. Love always Trev xx.

Bud

Miss you so much. Wishing you a safe and peaceful Christmas wherever you might be and thinking of you always. Budly xxx.

Cambo

Merry Christmas my friend! Have a great day and I am sure you will find some fine food to tuck into just as we will here. The day will be different without you here and we will miss your many jokes and stories and your great cricket skills. Take care and look forward to a catch up next year. Love from the Tribe xxx.

Giddy Slug

Christmas without you - Well this is a first I am sure. We will surely miss your presence and presents! The old traditions will continue never the less, but our thoughts will be with you. We hope you have resisted the temptation of opening presents early and at least have a few surprises in stall. We are planning the BBQ and have

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delegated the tasks as usual. Just need some fine weather and no wind! The bach is looking good with a repaint and some new furnishings. Plenty of room for everyone! The kids are hoping that Santa knows we are all there. I can see the mess after his visit with paper strewn for miles and the latest in games, beach accessories and toys. And lots of noise! Yes I have stocked up on batteries. Anyway have a great one doing whatever you do and keep in touch. A call would be great but I know the difficulty! So Merry Christmas old man and have a great year in 2014. Gully .

Merry Christmas Twin

Well not joined at the hip this year! I think this is only the second time we have ever been apart over the holiday season. Strange eh? We will be thinking of you and missing you. Hope you get to have a good day and have lots of presents to enjoy. Might get a call or Skype along the way! The day's plans are slowly evolving. We will all go to midnight mass then a bit of shut eye before the man in red appears. The kids will go wild, the young adults will keep the peace, the old adults will turn a blind eye and the dog will watch out for the bone. Nothing changes except you won't be here to direct the traffic! Have a good one! The bigger, wiser, two minute older of the two! Xxoo.

Bob

Festive Greetings to that far away land! Always in our thoughts, Gus.

Hello there Boy

Cup week done. Was a great time had by all! Nan managed to recycle the hat and then won enough to pay for her new outfit. The horse was unlucky but still had a good run. So now it's time to look towards Christmas. We are looking forward to having everyone together but will miss you. Our

thoughts will be going your way so hope you have a great day and keep safe. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Love Grumps and the family xxx.

Happy Christmas Ant

Have a great one! Cheers Dave.

Hi Megan

Wishing you a Very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2014! Keep in touch, Carol.

My Guy

Been up in the attic and dusted off the tree. Wasn't going to bother but changed my mind - like I always do! Need a bit of festive spirit about the place. Holiday plans are looking good and I will be busy which will help me along the way. Turkey is now in the freezer and all the jobs allocated. Going to pick the berries from our very own garden! It seems we have planned the day out well so don't worry about me. Of course I will miss you but so many people will be watching out for me. Hope you have a lovely day and enjoy the celebrations you have planned. Talk soon. Love always and Merry Christmas from kiwi land. Your Gal xx.

Jude

Have a great Christmas and all the best for 2014. Thinking of you always and keeping you safe in my heart. Wayne xx.

Have a good one Harry

The mob will be thinking of you on Christmas Day. But never fear...we will still be in the party mode! BBQ, Boat for the day and then beers at night. Safe and well planned. Camping equipment all checked out, boat A1, and new trailer, so all sweet. Sorry we can't get to talk on the phone from the whop whops but you know the routines! Hoping for good weather and lots of good cheers! See you in 2014. Des.

Grandson Number 1

Merry Christmas from the far North! Have a safe and blessed day. You are always in our thoughts, Grandad and Grandma xx.

Molly

Our first Christmas apart in 28 years! I will be thinking of you in the cold! Keep warm, have fun and enjoy the festive season. Love always, Mum xx.

To Papa Bear

Hope you are having a great holiday season over there. We are keeping busy and time seems to be flying by. We can't wait to have you home so we can start our next adventure together. Over half way! We love you to bits. Stay safe. All Yours x3.

Hello Darling!

We are all thinking of you and so proud of you and all your colleagues. It will be a very different Christmas this year, on board, though I'm sure it will be fun, different and 'interesting'! Me and Naina will have to dress the tree in your absence, I just hope it's up to your usual standard - a photo will follow! We are all well back home, missing you very much, yet pleased that you are having the experiences well - the better ones at least) and hope that you are keeping in good health and spirits. Murph is better in the warmer weather and Ali G has to get an early walk in, else it's too hot. Georgie-na is fine, no more eggs just plenty of squawking! I hope that your Christmas parcels reach you in a reasonable state and that you and your mates enjoy them. We love you very much, Cariad, have a safe and merry time when on a run ashore and we'll toast you with a rum (or three) on Christmas Day. Our love and

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prayers are with you always, love Mum, Dad and crew xxx.

"Captain Percy Pukeko"

Great to hear from you. Your talents obviously extend to writing as well which is great. I am not so sure about your diet though, but as instructed I am sending Rashuns, Tim Tams, Pineapple Lumps and Peanut slabs to your minders. Sounds as though you have many adventures planned and we look forward to hearing about them in the times ahead. Enjoy your cold and snowy Christmas and think of your friends free and roaming the highways in the summer sun! (Dodging the cars!) Have a Merry Christmas in Kabul. Carol.

Mac

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as you enjoy your new home. Have appreciated your support and understanding over this past year and admired your strengths in managing many a challenge thrown your way! 2014 is going to be your year and it will be great to have you back in the Mainland again. Take care, Carol.

Janine

Merry Christmas to you and your family. Take a well earned break and thanks for all your hard work in 2013, Carol.

L.T.J.

Have a great Christmas and the best of wishes for a successful 2014. Thinking of you with love, G. & G. xx.

Megan

You had better start going to the gym heaps!!! So jealous. (You will see why when you open your pressie). I am impressed that you haven't opened it yet! Thinking of you and have a Merry Xmas from all at 3 CSS Bn.

BOUQUET

Mike Trappitt - Vodafone

Sincere thanks Mike for your all your help during 2013. We very much appreciate your willingness to suspend accounts of our service personnel while they are deployed abroad and thank you for actioning the many requests we send your way. Vodafone has excelled in its service to NZDF and your support has truly been valued. Best wishes for the festive season and we look forward to continuing a great working relationship with Vodafone in 2014. Kind regards, Carol and Janine

Military Wife's Prayer

**Give me greatness of heart to see,
the difference between duty and his love for me.**

**Give me understanding so that I may know, when duty
calls him, he must go.**

**Give me a task to do each day,
to fill the time when he's away.**

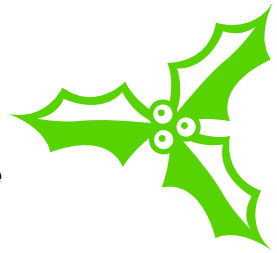
**When he's in a foreign land,
keep him safe in your loving hand.**

**And when duty is in the field,
please protect him and be his shield.**

**And Lord, when his deployment seems so long, please
stay with me and keep me strong.**

Author: Unknown

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."

