

THE BUGLE

Issue 204 | December 2014



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COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMRADESHIP | INTEGRITY



Chief of Defence Force Christmas Message

Looking back across 2014 I have a great sense of pride in the way we as a Defence Force have met head on the opportunities and challenges we faced.

It is all down to the efforts of you, the service people and civilians who make up the New Zealand Defence Force. And of course we couldn't do what we do without the support of our families and whanau. Thank you for your commitment, dedication, courage and sacrifice.

The end of 2014 will provide for many a much needed opportunity for respite and time with family and friends, but I know that some of you in the Defence Force will still be conducting missions or on standby in and around New Zealand.

Many of you are a long way from your loved ones, and are working in harsh climates and inhospitable places. Many others will be at work supporting the efforts of those who are deployed. Your commitment reflects the pattern of 2014 where you have served in a variety of tasks and areas that our Defence Force mission demands. These include major international exercises such as RIMPAC, assisting in many Search and Rescue efforts, including the search for MH370, and supporting other government departments and those around the world that require your unique skills to bring hope, peace, security and protection. Standing behind those at the 'front line', is of course a massive Defence Force team of Regular Force, Reservists and Civilians who make sure every aspect of our organisation runs well. It is together that we succeed in tasks like these, demonstrating our professionalism and delivering to exceptionally high standards.

Christmas and our summer holidays are traditionally a time where we try to pause from the pace of our roles, renew bonds with friends and family, relax a little, reflect on our own lives, and assess where we are and where we are going. I encourage you, if you can, to take the opportunity to have some time off.

Take some time to reflect on what you have achieved in 2014 and what 2015 holds. For those reflecting on the past year, know that your contribution is both valued and valuable. And remember that our service does not recognise the boundaries of geography, season or environment; it does not always give notice of intention nor make allowance for rest and respite. You are special people who serve selflessly and put the needs of the mission before self interest. In so doing, you serve as a *Force for Good*, for New Zealand and the world.

Together we are *A Force For New Zealand*.

Nga mihi o te wa me te tau hou

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year



Christmas Message from Rear Admiral Jack Steer Chief of Navy

Kia ora tatou

Last year in this same column, I talked about our ships at sea over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Well this year it's no different, with the crew of HMNZS WELLINGTON away patrolling the Southern Ocean making sure fishing vessels in New Zealand's area of responsibility are acting in accordance with the law.

It's a vital task. No other nation sends ships into the Antarctic to uphold the rule of law. It shows New Zealand's commitment to being a strong, trusted and reliable international citizen, and it's what our Navy's modern fleet and professional people are trained to do.

I hope the crew of WELLINGTON stay safe and well, and get a chance to spend time with friends and family upon their return. I also hope all NZDF's people posted overseas this Christmas get some time off to reconnect with family when they get back from their respective missions.

Next year will be yet another big year for our Navy with exercises and operations around the globe continuing to keep us busy.

None of these could be achieved if it wasn't for our fantastic people. I'm continually amazed at the extraordinary things you do. I'm truly proud to serve with you and to be your Chief of Navy.

I know that you all need a rest after a hectic year so make sure you get to unwind this Christmas. If you're one of the lucky few working through the Christmas break, thank you for your work, it is very much appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

Stay safe, and I'll see you all back in the New Year.

Merry Christmas.

Yours Aye

Rear Admiral Jack Steer





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

Christmas Message

It seems incredible to me that I find myself writing a Christmas message again so soon. This year has flown past, with Army personnel, here and overseas, keeping up a brisk tempo of activity.

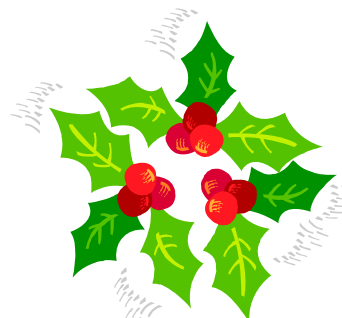
At this time of the year it's always important to reflect on what the previous 12 months have brought. We have had incredible successes. Our overseas missions continue to keep NZ's Army at the forefront of operations. We have worked alongside our friends and allies in all corners of the globe bringing peace, stability and security – learning lessons and sharing our unique expertise. These important partnerships build the reputation of our Army – and it is due solely to those personnel with boots on the ground that we continue to be viewed as a trusted partner – both within our region and further afield. We have seen innovation thrive within our organisation, and I am pleased to report that our culture of innovation grows stronger every day.

In the past year we have also focused strongly on the wellbeing of our people – and this focus will continue. While Christmas allows many of us the opportunity to spend time with loved ones and friends, it can also bring its own pressures to bear. I strongly encourage you to take time out for yourself where you can over the holiday season. Pause and reflect, find ways to ease the pressure, so that you can hit the ground running in 2015 – which is already shaping up to be another busy year.

For those of you who will be away from family and friends this Christmas, know that you have an Army of people behind you in your task. The time will soon come when you can return home and surround yourself with those important support networks the rest of us rely on daily. I am always mindful of, and incredibly grateful for the support your friends and family offer you and our organisation. Without them, we could not do our job.

All the very best for the festive season.

Major General Dave Gawn, MBE
Chief of Army





Christmas Message from Chief of Air Force

Air Vice-Marshal Mike Yardley

Merry Christmas from Chief of Air Force

2014 is rapidly drawing to a close and it has been a fantastic year for the Air Force.

We've done so much this year that we should be proud of, including the search for MH370, supporting the Royal visit to New Zealand by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince George, deploying the NH90s to Exercise Blackbird for the first time, and contributing to the NZDF and NZ's transport and logistics requirements; our commitment to operations in the Gulf of Aden continues and we supported numerous government agencies by conducting regular patrols of our EEZ, and to cap it all off, our new pilot training aircraft arrived at Ohakea.

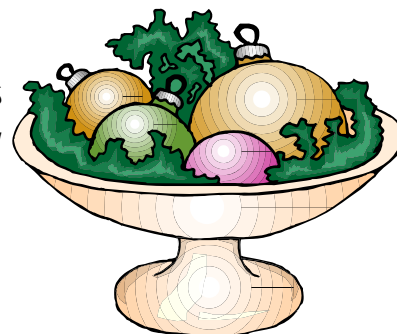
The routine, or day to day tasks that enable these contributions are extremely important. None of this would be possible without a committed and passionate workforce; working together to ensure their fellow service men and women can effectively do their job, often behind the scenes and with little recognition. Our ability to conduct operations, often at short notice and with limited resources, is proof we have a ready and resilient workforce.

The new year will start at a high tempo with our support to Antarctica underway, our reformed 14SQN, a new Base command structure and new Seasprite helicopters arriving in January. I'm looking forward to seeing Air Force leading from the front by making a valued and essential contribution both at home and abroad. We have extremely talented personnel and I know you are all passionate about being a Force for New Zealand.

Like Navy and Army, the Air Force will have personnel deployed over Christmas and I know how difficult it is to be afar from family and friends during the holiday season. Please know that your efforts are appreciated by me and all of NZDF.

I hope you manage to have some time out over the Christmas period. It is important that we all get a break, even if it is only short.

Stay safe and have a merry Christmas.





Christmas Message from Commander Joint Forces New Zealand



Once again, Christmas draws near and NZDF people are still doing great work around the globe as part of New Zealand's contribution to being a good international citizen. Some of us will have the joy of welcoming home our loved ones for Christmas, while for others there will be a Christmas without them. Both of these situations can have an impact on family life.

For those returning home, welcome back, but please remember that it takes time to assimilate back into our home after the intensity and focus of our experiences on operations. It also takes time for our partners and children to adapt to the routine of having us back home again.

It will take time for those who have just deployed to adjust to their new circumstances. Being away from our family and friends can be especially hard over the Christmas and summer holiday period. And because you will probably be busy focused on the mission, it is important to remember that it can be even tougher for your family and friends at home. The people we leave behind can also go through some hard times. Some of them may feel isolated, but no-one has to be alone.

One of the good things about being part of the wider military family is the support that is available to us, if we want it. If we need them, the Deployment Services Officers at camps and bases are there for us. They have access to a variety of support streams that can help us out, and they are there to listen if we need to talk. There are also many people around who have experienced having their loved ones deployed, and who have probably gone through what you are going through now. You can talk to them; find out what they did to cope, or how they dealt with running the family by themselves. There is no problem with asking for help or assistance and it is usually when we don't, and we try to tough it out by ourselves, that issues can get out of control.

Over the last 20 years the NZDF has been constantly reminded that contributing to missions is not just about the serviceman, it is also about our families as a part of the wider military community. If our deployed people know that their families are supported and safe, they can concentrate on their mission or task. The analogy of 'it takes a community to support an individual' rings true, and if we want to remain a world class organisation we will not shirk from this responsibility.

For those of you who can, please take the opportunity to enjoy your break and spend time with your family and friends. To those who are at home, I ask you to please spare a thought for our colleagues serving overseas, and consider giving up a little of your time for their families back here. And to those who are deployed over this time, thank you for giving up your summer holiday. That's thank you to you and a big thank you to your family for their sacrifice – we can't do our job as the NZDF without all of you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Major General Tim Gall

Christmas Message from 1 (NZ) Brigade



Colonel N.J. Gillard, MNZM
Commander 1(NZ) Brigade



WO1 C. Douglas
Command Sergeant Major
1(NZ) Brigade



To the warriors of 1(NZ) Bde deployed on operations. Remember that we serve to protect our nation and our families. For those deployed overseas on operations, and your families at home, your collective service to our nation is appreciated. On behalf of all warriors of 1(NZ) Bde, the Command Team extend our best wishes to you all over the festive season. Continue to 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 takatu – be ready.



Xmas Message

3rd Combat Service Support Battalion



This will be my final Christmas message as Commanding Officer 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion, as I take up a post in the North Island early next year. With Christmas fast approaching, our thoughts and thanks go to those soldiers deployed overseas and their families at home. I want to thank you for your support of our personnel. 3 CSS Bn is a successful contributor to the NZDF because of each of you, and I am extremely grateful for your patience and co-operation. I know it isn't easy being away from your loved one.

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

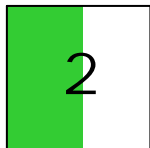
Stay safe and Merry Christmas to you all.

Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Baker
Commanding Officer

*Whirikoka ō Roto - Strength from Within
(within ourselves, our families, our unit)*



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



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. In addition to continuing to provide support to operations, we have built on the success of Exercise Vulcan Shield and Sword and have developed and practised more complex live firing activities including live Combat Logistics Patrols. We have successfully participated in and supported Exercise Alam Halfa and Exercise Kiwi Koru 14, the latter being a particularly large and challenging activity with 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion providing a large CSST component together with the Forward and Rear National Support Elements.

We have had top students on a number of regimental and development courses and had winners at various trade competitions including Worldskills Competition and the coveted Torque d'Or National Catering Competition. In the sporting arena we have had a number of sports representatives up to and including New Zealand representation. In July we had the pleasure of welcoming the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment Reserve Forces into the Battalion, our Reserves being a critical component of our CSS operational sustainment.

Overall, 2014 has been a satisfying year full of constant and changing demands, culminating in the Command handover to Lieutenant Colonel D. Neal and WO1 R. Kareko.

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!

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Neal



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



Christmas message from Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles



Serving on operations overseas is one of the most rewarding aspects of being in uniform, however we often forget that the sacrifice of being separated from loved ones at home can be challenging, in particular over the holiday season. On behalf of all ranks of Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles, we wish those deployed and their families back in New Zealand a safe Christmas and holiday season.

Ake Ake Kia Kaha ('Forever and ever, be strong')

Lieutenant Colonel Sholto Stephens, Commanding Officer

WO1 Johnny Sincock, RSM



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

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.

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 2015.

"Kura Takahi Puni"

WO1 Jason Rapana, RSM

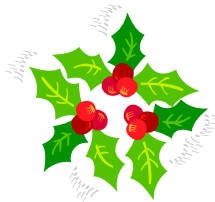


Meri Kirihimete – Merry Christmas!

Mo te Tau Hou – Happy New Year.



**Carolyn Hyland, Community Services Officer, Waiouru and
Lesley Clutterbuck, Community Services Facilitator, Linton**



Lisa McDonald, RNZAF Base Wellington
Deana Lye, RNZAF Base Auckland
Claudia Baker, RNZAF Base Woodbourne
Bridget Williams, RNZAF Base Ohakea



☆ 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 &
 ☆ Social Services Officer, Padres Darren
 ☆ O'Callaghan and Roger Lang for the Trentham/
 ☆ Wellington Region.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

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NEWS FROM OP TROY

SNO TROY

Just a short note from me to cover off on the OP TROY team's contributions to the article. A common theme from us all is the challenges of working in a desert climate – which was extremely hot during the summer months of July-September, but much more pleasant now as autumn is in full swing. The TROY team works hard to provide logistics support to force elements within the Middle East. There is never a dull day; the work is varied, and the team is all enjoying working both with our host nation folks, as well as our coalition partners. When time permits, the TROY team can get out and about a bit in the local environs to experience some host nation tourist destinations and sample the vast array of food. We are 'living the dream', as the saying goes.

2IC

In late June 14, we deployed on OP TROY. We had a very short period of time to take up the reins, understand our responsibilities and roles due to an influx of personnel arriving in our location.

We left New Zealand on the brink of winter with the temperature in

single digits and fireplaces burning. To arrive at 0330 many months ago, with temperatures already in the high 30s was a real shock to the system. In the following three months we were subjected to some of the hottest heats imaginable, with the average day ranging between 56 to 60 degrees, which apparently is a comfortable heat. Hovering in the low 60's was normal although we did reach a maximum of 67 degrees one day. It's now mid November and the weather is starting to cool down, mid 30s a far cry from the heat that hit us when we first arrived.

Although small in numbers, the team is close knit, and in the normal Kiwi manner, learnt each others roles to ensure all tasks could be achieved and completed on time. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond her control, our AIRMOV had to return home at the end of August, leaving a gap that we tried to fill. We were very thankful that our new AIRMOV arrived late September, to crack the whip and clear the backlog.

At the start of September, the SNO departed and the new SNO arrived to take up the mantle. She slotted in with ease and set about

enhancing our relationships with the Coalition partners here.

We are over five months into our deployment for OP TROY and much to everyone's disbelief back home we have been very busy with multiple support tasks and the tasks just keep increasing.

This is an interesting place to live, apart from getting used to seeing sand (lots and lots of the stuff) everywhere and only small patches of green areas, the lack of rain has been the most unusual aspect.

There is a vast array of cultures within the area and they all have their own unique styles which makes interacting with them interesting. For example, if you want to get things done over here make sure it is in the morning or that you are not in a rush. It will get done, but possibly not in the timeframe you had hoped for.

Overall the NZDF personnel deployed on OP TROY remain busy and safe. Morale is high as the end of the deployment is drawing near; the team is itching to get back home to their families and spend some quality time together after a seven month separation.

The OP TROY team would like to send a big thank you to everyone at home for keeping us in your thoughts. The parcels and support messages sent from home keep the team going and are appreciated by everyone. Another big thank you goes out to our Units for the help and support they have provided to us and our families, again very much appreciated.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and look forward to catching up on our return.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

AIR MOVER

When I first arrived as part of OP TROY, it soon became apparent that a large part of my day would be spent alone. My office, aka portacom, has enough space for me, my computer and a few shelves. My container is filled with tie down equipment, trunks and more shelves. I do have some comforts – the aircon is working, the fridge is stocked with bottled water and it took me a few weeks – but I did get my hands on a radio (thanks to our Sup Tech) so now I can sing out loud till my hearts content!

But, it's a funny ole thing about deployments. You just never know who you'll run into. This deployment I have caught up with members who I met during Exercise Longlook 2012, air load team members who I worked with

on Ex Precision Red in June 2013, and during OP Antarctica just last year. So when I asked for help from my coalition colleagues with sending mail into theatre, moving freight and passengers in and out of New Zealand and even assisting with facilitating our aircraft – they were there for me.

I dare say that in a few years time there will be a pay forward in there somewhere. If not – it's nothing that a packet of Tim Tams and Pineapple Lumps can't fix.

Have a great Xmas and New Year!

SUP TECH

Five months now and it is now we are finally starting to write up an article for The Bugle, lol. No, this is not the holiday everyone has perceived this operation to be. So for all those wondering, I am the

SNCO Supplier for Operation Troy providing logistical support.

As part of my job I get to conduct some pretty good tasks such as Local Purchasing. Getting outside the wire and engaging with the local and international population whilst sourcing various items as requested by other operations. I've taken up some other roles which include 'Macca the builder' and 'The Pool guy'; with these roles I have been able to apply that Kiwi number eight wire attitude such as integrating a pool vacuum system into the pool manifold here at Kiwi Lines.

ISOP

Kia Ora,

It's been an interesting time here on OP TROY; the weather, dealing with the locals, driving on the Highways and day to day life. We arrived in peak summer with temperatures reaching the 50s. It felt like I was trapped in a sauna and when there was a breeze, it felt like you were walking towards a hair dryer. I have to admit life here is pretty good. The food is awesome with plenty of choices at the hot press, and salad bar for those who like rabbit food, and let's not forget about the dessert fridge; I'll be coming home a few kgs heavier!! We have an awesome crew here, SNO, 2IC (Muggles) Sup Tech (The Manitou) Air Mover (Social Butterfly) and myself here as the ISOP. My primary role here is to look after the IT side of the house and to keep it operational. It has been a busy yet enjoyable tour. It's been good working with our coalition partners and helping each other out where we can. I just want to say thanks to those at home for providing support to my family.

I can see the light at the end of the tunnel!



OP TROY personnel enjoying a night out for dinner at a Mexican restaurant to celebrate a birthday

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month holds special significance for servicemen and women worldwide. As members of OP TROY, we were honoured to provide a flag orderly and catafalque party respectively. Our youngest serving member had the honour of reciting the poem, "In Flanders Field".

Today was not only a day of somber remembrance to commemorate our fallen, but also a time to remember our comrades in arms and our families at home in New Zealand, who are never far from our thoughts.



**Remembrance Day commemorations
11 November 2014**



NEWS FROM SINAI

To our families and friends

“On the whole we have settled in well and we are starting to get a better understanding of our role here.”

As you probably know by now we all arrived safe and sound, we have recently completed our handover and are now settling into a routine. We were welcomed in style with a moving haka-powhiri from the previous contingent, and also a number of other social events to mark our arrival. But largely our focus for these first few weeks has been learning as much as possible from our predecessors and building new relationships across the MFO in support of our individual missions. We are spread across the MFO in a wide range of different appointments – and as we have discovered, there isn't much that goes on in the MFO without one of us involved in one way or another.

Those amongst us that have previous experience here have been a great source of knowledge and also provided an insight into how much some things have changed, and there has been a lot of change, whilst other things have remained essentially the same.

Our drivers remain the backbone of our contingent and have all been busy racking up the miles on resupply tasks, liaison runs to the border and some even further afield into Israel. Likewise our engineers have also been busy working across a wide range of projects and site upgrades. Our training team is

flat out delivering MFO training, including driver and convoy courses as well as conducting remote site inspections almost daily. Our support, liaison and planning staff are all busy in the MFO HQ, helping either our NZ contingent or the MFO as a whole run more smoothly.

We get together as a contingent at least once a week and “download” the week's events on each other over a beverage or two and pass on any general messages. This normally also provides an opportunity for us all to catch up with our Aussie counterparts

On the whole we have settled in well and we are starting to get a better understanding of our role here.

I am sure everyone is counting down to Christmas, and I hope you are all able to take time out to relax or spend time with friends or family. We look forward to your messages and maybe even a parcel or two and I'm sure there will be enough time set aside here for us all to call or skype home. I will certainly stay in touch over the coming months and let you know about any noteworthy achievements or events.

Warm regards,

Commanding Officer,
NZ Contingent, MFO, Sinai



OP FARAD Rotation Deploys

For the OP Farad rotation to deploy to the Sinai, approximately 30 hours of flight time had to be endured. This definitely was a long 30 hours for us, however, it is nothing compared to the 73 days that the NZ Expeditionary Force took to sail to Egypt 100 years ago. NZ has had a long association with fighting for peace in the Middle East, and it is poignant that we get to serve in an Area of Operations where our previous soldiers have fought in both the World Wars.

Our journey really began back in NZ, with Pre Deployment Training (PDT) in Trentham, Linton and Waiouru. This gave the contingent a good opportunity to work together and build into a cohesive team. Some of us learnt new skills, while others were merely refreshing skills, as several members of the contingent have deployed to the Sinai previously. The upside to this was that they were able to offer some insight into what to expect. The PDT was very comprehensive and we all left New Zealand feeling prepared for what was about to come.

We boarded the Czech Casa aircraft in Cairo for the short, final flight into the Sinai Peninsula and our home for the next six months. On arrival, the outgoing contingent gave us a powerful powhiri and from there we underwent welcomes, induction briefings and individual handovers. Time out was taken of course to watch the All Blacks play England with some of the British expats. A lot of banter was thrown out about both ways but luckily the right team won.

As a contingent we have been finding ways to ensure morale is always boosted. We have an ANZAC tradition of playing sport against the Aussies – NZ is currently holder of the Cup and we intend to keep it that way! The

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Canadians host great karaoke nights – although not everyone should be in hold of the microphone...



The "Turkey Trot" Fun Run

Commonwealth PT with the Aussies and Canadians prove for an early start most mornings of the week, but it prepared us well for the "Turkey Trot" fun run – a run organized by the Americans to celebrate thanksgiving. The next big event is a Norwegian Ruck March – a 30km march carrying weapon and a back pack. No doubt in the next Bugle edition, there will be pictures of blood, sweat, tears, and blistered feet but also of great accomplishments!

We are nearly one month into the deployment already. With Christmas and New Years looming, and Waitangi and ANZAC days already on the calendar, I have no doubt that the next five months are going to go fast. It won't be long until it will be us preparing for the next contingents welcoming powhiri.



Christmas Message From OP TIKI

It's Christmas time in the Middle East, and the 'Silly Season' is upon us. While things are no doubt winding-up back home, there is little time for respite here at OP TIKI. Without the usual Christmas media bombardment, we can be forgiven for letting the festive season creep up on us unaware. Flying Operations will continue throughout the holiday season, however, plans are a foot for Christmas day. We expect it will be celebrated in the finest of New Zealand traditions, with plenty of sun, fun and a BBQ. Although we are many thousands of miles from New Zealand, the support, and hopefully plenty of presents from our family and friends, will no doubt make up for the distance. We wish every one in New Zealand a Merry Christmas, and we are all looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Detachment Commander



OP FARAD 02/14



*Us returning the Welcome Haka
with old contingent*



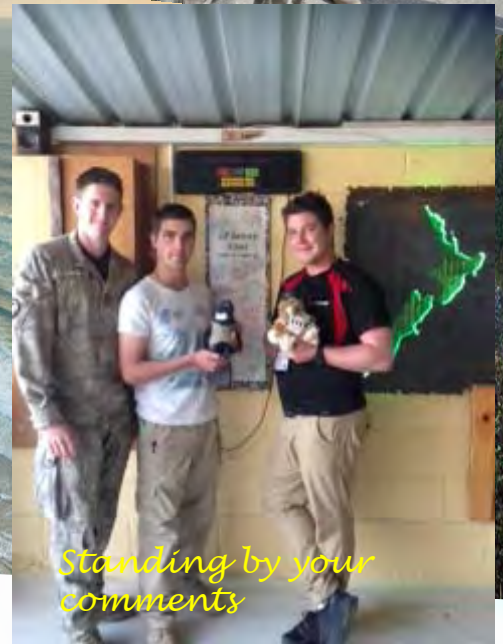
*Paying our respects on
Remembrance Day*



01/14 Challenge



*Just starting off our first 5 km
Turkey Trot run*



*Standing by your
comments*



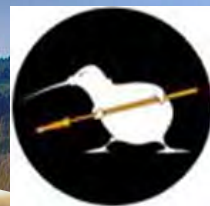
*Returning a welcome speech on
behalf of the contingent*



The Woolshed



OP FARAD 02/14



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

NEWS FROM AFGHANISTAN



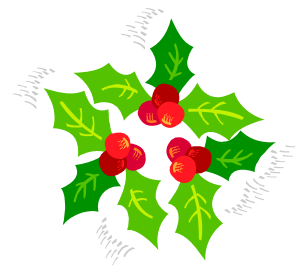
The snow is visible on the Hills around us here and the temperature is falling fast. Winter is almost upon us. Preparation for winter has construction occurring in and around camp. Just in time for New Zealand to complete our new Volleyball court. Team New Zealand squared up against our close partners (rivals) Australia on the new sand court. The competition was fierce; 1-1 in sets with NZ down 20-18 in the decider. I'm glad to say NZ finally prevailed in the first of many future international competitions on the court.

On the operational front for the team, it is business as usual. One of the units here has just returned from its field exercise and some of us were able to get out of camp and participate in the field where we were able to advise on Infantry section tactics as the exercise progressed. 1RNZIR would be proud of this contribution. Other units have continued their training on exercises, as shown in the photo to the right, progressing steadily to graduation.

Armistice day was also observed here. All contributing nations formed up the Remembrance parade. A lone Bugler playing the

last post was the pre-cursor to the two minutes of silence. The New Zealand Ambassador, alongside our partners and Senior National Officers, laid wreaths against our cross.

Xmas carols are being broadcast on UK Radio here and we are all rushing to get mail into the post.



From all the Kiwis here, have a safe and rewarding holiday period with your loved ones.

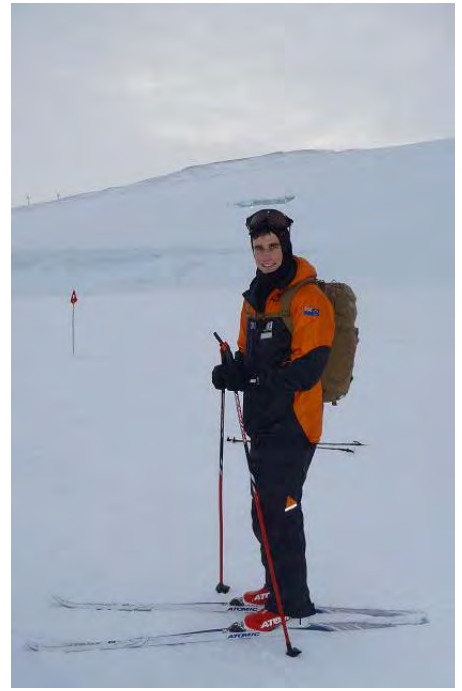




Merry Christmas from Scott Base



PHOTOS FROM OP ANTARCTICA



DSO'S CORNER



Carol Voyce

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

I am sure you ask yourself, why is it that things happen when I am home alone and there isn't a helping hand in sight? This is exactly what occurred in my household the other day.

I was enjoying the peace and quiet of my garden and pottering away with some new plants when I heard a strange noise. I couldn't quite figure out what it was and then, as it stopped as abruptly as it had started, I carried on digging. About an hour later I ventured inside only to be greeted by a large but beautiful wood pigeon perched on my stove top! My greatest fear is fluttering birds – pathetic, but yes! I went into a mild panic as it skimmed my head, while I yelled and flicked whatever I could grab. As I made my way to open two more exterior doors it seemed relentless in following me and low flying! I was surprised the whole neighbourhood didn't respond to the yipping and yelping that must have echoed near and far – but no one came to my aid! I just couldn't make it to the other doors but rather was forced to exit quickly out the already opened one as the pigeon settled down once more on

a higher cupboard. Embarrassed and with palpitations, I raced to my neighbours house exclaiming my predicament! In their kind and unassuming manner they sprung to my aid and we quickly headed indoors, to let the pigeon free. It was not without drama though and a lovely trail of poop! I am sure the pigeon sincerely wanted to have the last laugh on me and while I tried to be brave, my neighbour obviously and acutely sensed my terror and suggested kindly that I wait outside! At last the bird was free thanks to their efforts. I am not sure who was the most relieved – the pigeon, the neighbours or me. I have shared my story with a few friends who have laughed loudly and seemed highly amused, but this was an occasion when I couldn't do anything on my own.

Asking for help, sometimes as embarrassing as it is, comes to us all. I am sure you have battled your way through many a challenging moment while home alone. Taking the courage to ask for help is hard, but we need at times to do just that and be able to maintain or restore our sanity!

This festive season asking for help must be at the top of your list. Christmas is traditionally a family time and I am sure you will feel the absence of your loved one. You can't be expected to be Father Christmas, Chief cook, Peacemaker and organiser of everyone and everything. You need to look after yourself as well and to manage the day, when the absence of a loved one will be keenly felt, during what is traditionally a family time. If the going gets tough, surround yourself with those close by and if you feel unsettled remember I am only a phone call away. Many a Christmas Day I have spoken with families of deployed service personnel and I

see this year as no exception so call if you need to.

This Christmas our family will also be separated by the miles, but I have the excitement of our daughter arriving home at 5am on Christmas Day, to look forward to. That will be a much anticipated early morning dash to the International Terminal! Our Christmas will be quiet though and yes, I will send thoughts your way – to those at home and those abroad.

It has been a great privilege to meet so many of you over this past year at predeployment 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. You have given an extra special gift this festive season that can't be wrapped and placed under a tree.

**Wishing you all at home
and on deployment a
blessed, peaceful and safe
festive season and I look
forward to catching up with
you in 2015.**

**Enjoy your holidays and
watch out for those
pigeons – I will!**



DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...



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 so hopefully our families at home and service personnel abroad, will do too. One big advantage for those who are deployed or have someone deployed, is the communication that is in place which enables contact on Christmas Day (hopefully).

This year has started the commemorations for remembering where NZ was at 100 years ago – World War I. At that time the only communication available for families to be connected was the written letter – something that is not utilised very much these days at all,

superseded by technology, i.e. texts, emails, phone calls, SKYPE. Service personnel travelled by ship to the other side of the world which took weeks at sea so any letters they had written wouldn't be posted until they reached landfall, and then could take weeks or months to get home to New Zealand. Likewise, the mail leaving New Zealand would take equally as long to reach loved ones overseas.

But let's face it, the way the days, weeks and the year has flown by, we will very shortly be welcoming in 2015 when we can look forward to homecomings for those currently away! 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.

So as we move through the end of 2014, I think back to what the year has brought us and perhaps what 2015 might have to offer. There is still a lot of activity around the NZDF with handovers as personnel

move into and out of roles, postings to different locations, winding up activities for the year, planning for the next. By publication of this Bugle we will have met a number of new families as their loved ones deploy to replace those who have finished their overseas mission and also personnel who will be heading off early in the new year. Then we can do it all again in 2015.

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. For us, we now have two grandchildren which is going to make our Christmas very special. I know that there has already been some excessive Christmas shopping!

I would like to wish you all a special Christmas this year, whether at home or away, and a safe and happy 2015.

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.



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.

Janine Burton, Deployment Services Officer (Linton) will be on leave from 20 December 2014, returning on 12 January 2015. Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer (Burnham) will provide 24 hour coverage, seven days a week throughout the holiday period. Janine's cell phone will automatically divert to Carol's phone. It takes a few second for the divert to connect. Please do not hesitate to call if the need arises. (Contact numbers inside front cover). 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 2014 is 15 December. The first for 2015, will be 12 January. 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 2014

This is the last issue of "The Bugle" for 2014. 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 7^h January 2015. "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.

Operation Christmas Card

Many thanks to the many people who took the time to make cards for this project. Last week I managed to carpet my office floor and sort the cards for various locations worldwide. I had many a laugh when reading some very heartfelt messages written to our service personnel and the opportunity to admire some amazing artwork and share the copious amounts of glue, glitter and cotton wool that managed to separate from the cards to me!

Cards were made by young and old. Little ones managed to scribble some colour onto a card, while those older, coloured carefully and added their personal touch and note. The Totara Club in Nelson made a large number of cards all with very personal touches. I am sure all cards will be admired and enjoyed by our service personnel abroad. We are hoping that those who have included their names and addresses on the back will be fortunate in getting a reply.

FOR YOUR INFO CONT'D...

I have chosen a few comments from some of the cards to share with you all. They will warm your heart and bring a laugh or two!

"Dear Soldier

I have a cat who is a girl called Rosie. I have blonde hair and blue eyes. Thank you for being a peacekeeper." From Anna.

"I am going into the Army when I leave school." Regan.

"I hope you have a great Christmas and get a day off from Peacekeeping." Gavin.

"Thank you to the Peacekeepers. My poppa works part time in the Army and lost 2 fingers. Every night I pray for you and your friends. I hope you are safe. Seasons Greetings and Merry Christmas from all of New Zealand." Lily.

"To all the Peaeckkeepers. I love horses. I have 17 horses. My favourite is Cookies and Cream. Love from Emma."

"You do a great job peacekeepers. I think you will get lots of medals for helping people and making their homes safe. I hope I can do that one day too." Love from Gemma.

"Merry Christmas to all the Peacekeepers. Some of you will be hot and some of you will be cold. Some of you will get great food and some of you will get just noodles. I will think of you when I have my turkey and strawberries. I hope you get to save lots of people." Michael

"If there are any girl peacekeepers I hope you have a happy Christmas and get to put some lipstick on for Christmas day. I love make up but my Mum says I am too young yet."

"To all the Peacekeepers – Merry Christmas. I hope you are safe. I hope you have a Christmas Tree and some presents. You will miss your family. I hope you get decent food to eat and don't have to sleep in a tent or jeep. You do a great job. Goodbye." Dennis.



"Hello Peacekeepers. I met a soldier once and he had lots of tattoos and was strong. He told us about his job and he was very brave and got to go all around the world. I am sure you miss your Mum when you have to go away. I would. Have a safe Christmas." Michael.

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING



*D*ave arrived home last week - yay, our deployment is over. I told Timmy and Katie a couple of days before "the day" that their dad was on his way home. As expected, they were very excited and especially as they only had a short time to wait. We marked the calendar, made plans for a special dinner, etc. Luca had picked up on the kids' excitement and was yapping and bounding about as well; I'm convinced that that dog is more human than canine!

Dave's flight wasn't until the end of the day so the kids went to school, and they weren't too happy with that as I didn't go to work; but in my defence, I spent the day giving the house a quick clean and prepping dinner and just for me, went and had my hair cut and coloured. It had to have been one of the longest days ever! And we left for the airport way too early, but there is always things to see. The kids had planned to make a Welcome Home Dad sign, but that didn't quite work out so I bought them a couple of the welcome home balloons and they were happy with those. They also had to wear their deployment dog tags that we got at the Family Day way back before Dave left. Thank goodness that they were

where I had asked the kids to put them; whew! The plane was on time and Dave wasn't the last one off the flight. It was so good to see him home at last; he looked really well but a little bit thinner than when he left - SKYPE didn't show that. The kids just hurled themselves at their dad when he came through the gate and talked one hundred to the dozen. They talked while we went and collected Dave's bags, they talked all the way to the car and all the way home, they talked all through dinner, they just had so much to share and they forget sometimes that they have already talked to their dad on SKYPE and told them most of the news, but telling him again in person just had to be I love my kids, I really do, but it was nice when they went to sleep and stopped talking!

Luca was really funny when we got home. He went absolutely berserk, jumping and yapping, and then running in circles. But I guess that's doggy excitement. Dave was really happy to see him too.

So our deployment journey has ended but for others it has just begun - like for Dave's replacement. I can't quite believe that the time passed so quickly. Easy to say now, but it did and I think

we did really well. But in saying that, I'm not in a hurry for him to deploy again!

As this will be my last contribution to the Bugle and the time of year, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

From Denise, Dave, Timmy, Katie and Luca.

I was really impressed with how Denise has written these accounts for the Bugle each month. I know that she didn't let on that at times it was harder than she said and there were a few challenges. But she is amazing and I am very lucky that she is so supportive of me and the job that I do. So I would like to say a very special thank you to a very special person, my lovely wife.

Dave.



KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING

(Submitted December 2013, reprinted for your information)



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!

*T*he 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

All personnel on deployment and their families have the support of the Deployment Services Officers (DSOs). In addition there is support from Unit Points of Contact (UPOC) 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

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:

Lisa Macdonald

Ph: 04 498 6773

Base Auckland:

Deana Lye

Ph: 09 417 7035

Base Woodbourne:

Claudia Baker

Ph: 03 577 1177

Base Ohakea:

Bridget Williams

Ph: 06 3515 739

Naval Community Organization:

Ph: 09 445 5534, 0800 NAVYHELP
nib@nzdf.mil.nz

Local Chaplaincy Services

Unit Point of Contact

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 2014.

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. Congratulations on your '3 CSS Bn Civilian of the Year Award 2014'. Well deserved.

Sharyn, Mere and Sue: 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 2015.

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 2015 is 7th January, 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.

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 2014. 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!

HOLIDAY CONTACTS AT A GLANCE



Burnham:

Deployment Services Officer
Carol Voyce (03) 363 0421
027 4497 565 or
0800 337 569
(toll free) 0800 deploy
Burnham Duty Complex (03) 363 0099
Chaplaincy Service:
Duty Phone (03) 363 0463

Linton:

Deployment Services Officer
Janine Burton (on leave 20 Dec-
12 Jan (Contact Carol Voyce
DSO Burnham (numbers as above)
Linton Duty Complex (06) 351 9099
Chaplaincy Service: Duty Phone (06) 351 9634

DSO Phone Coverage

Carol will 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). Carol, DSO Burnham, 0800 337 569 or 027 449 7565.

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.

Waiouru:

Duty Complex (06) 387 5599

Devonport Naval Base:

First point of contact for service families:
0800 NAVYHELP
All general enquiries: (09) 4455 999

Chaplaincy Services (including Northern Region)
Chaplain Peter Olds
(23 Dec 14 — 9 Jan 15) 021 972 454
or (09) 445 5326

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



PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Wednesday 7 January 2015**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

Hi Penny, Jessica and Kaleb

It is always great to talk to you guys on Skype and see how things are going back home. Kids, you need to keep helping your mother with the jobs around the house, but don't worry about when you can stop as you will still be doing them when I get home. Not much longer now and we will be back together and sorting out where we want to go on holiday. Thanks for the awesome parcels and the letters, it's always great to get a parcel when the mail comes in and open up a little piece of home. Take care of yourselves and enjoy that daylight savings playing all your sports. We will talk soon. Love Leon/Dad.

Hello Mum and Dad

Well what a scare you gave us all Dad but I am glad you have pulled through it and are on the road to recovery. It has been great talking to you both on Skype and seeing how things have been going at your place. Thanks for having the kids over the holidays, they really enjoyed it. Time has been flying over here and we are not that far away from returning. Well mum I know you are busy over the next couple of weeks looking after the big guy, but we will talk again soon. Love your son Leon.

Hi Nana

Hope all is well with you and you have been managing to get out and about. It was good to hear that the family got around to see you when they were up your way and I look forward to seeing you when I return. Look after yourself. Love Leon.

Kia Ora Takbratz

Have an awesome Xmas and New Year!! Will be thinking of ya's. And Fams - miss you guys like crazy!! Thank goodness for Skype is all I can say. Have a great day Mum and don't rush round like you always do, you're supposed to be retired. Tylah, Lincoln and Mia, love you to pieces xxx s.

To Mr G

You're amazing! Thank you so much for helping to make my transition away from home manageable. It's incredibly comforting knowing that you and the pups are happy and well. I especially love the new trick that you've taught Koi. Now, do you think you could teach yourself that? Hee hee. You may need to slow down with the house and grounds, I'd like a job to do when I come home. Am blown away with everything you've done and keep doing, gold hun, gold. Talk soon (pats & cuddles for the pups), I love you. Mrs G.

Kia Ora Moana and Kopa whanau (Pariha, Onerahi, J Rd and Masteron inclusive)

Just a quick message to one and all to have a Merry Christmas and a good but safe New Year. Hope all is well back home and all my Christmas presents have been purchased and have either been sent or will be waiting for me when I get home? Arohanui. Noema.

Mole Mate

Hi all. Hope you are all doing well and missing me as much as I am missing you. To the village, miss all your faces and the bax chats. To the kids, Dad misses you lots and is keeping busy. Love you all and I need some pictures for my wall. Lastly my darling, I am staying safe

and Skype is a god send. Love you more each day and the time will fly by. Hope you sleep better soon and kids help you. If not I'll send a wasarr via post haha. Love you darling so much xx.

Mole Mate, Sprogs, Village and Family

Merry Xmas all, I'm doing well and missing you all so much. I hope that you are eating enough for me..... I know you will, you buggers, haha.... Oh well better make this short, I love you all and a very special 'love you' to my awesome kids and beautiful fiancé, much love of your faces xxx.

Hi Whanua

Hope all is going well back home. All is going well here and enjoying the experience. Miss you all very much. I am keeping myself safe and busy with work and sports during the week. Looking forward to doing a bit of travelling while I'm over here. Just remember I'm always happy to chat on FB or Skype. Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Love you all. Chad.

To my Awesome Family

Thanks for all your support, I love reading all your messages and your photos are on my wall here. Is Nans lolly jar still surviving? Mum, where is my fudge cake? Haha. Have an awesome Xmas and New Year. Love you all. Kayley xxx.

Hello everyone, Sam C here

Thanks very much for writing on the scroll. Everything's going good over here. We get out on the road most days which keeps us busy. It rained a lot more times than you would think being in the desert but still warm. Hope you have trained K.T up in the cow-shed so she can do

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



all the Xmas milkings and T & J getting cows up in the yard. Merry Christmas everyone and have a happy New Year. Sam.

To Mum and Dad

I wana wish you all a big Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a fun Christmas in Mohaka and an enjoyable New Year's camping at Okitu. Love you all and the other Whanau and miss you lots. Love Dagmar (Dags) Eriha.

Hey Pooks

I hope you have an Awesome Xmas and that you get spoilt. I wish I could be there to give you and baby a Xmas hug but I will give it to you when I get back. Give Bibbidy a kiss and hug from her Dad. Miss and Love you lots Matt xoxoxo.

Merry Christmas to the Jago and Frankiln Family and Te Meiz.

Thinking of you all, have a wonderful day wherever you are. Give my best wishes to all the families. Tracey xxx.

To Timmy, Mary and Anna

Thinking of you! Hope everything is going well at home. Sending much love and Xmas wishes from the desert. Love Lisa.

To Jen & Sophie

I'm sure we will be well looked after for Christmas here, but it would be still be better to be at home with you guys. Enjoy yourselves & don't forget to pull all the Garlic out on the Longest day of the year! Love you guys, Dad.

To Superwoman and Batpup

Hope the Wayne Manor is going well? Talk to Alfred about the weedeater. Take the Batmobile for a spin if you wish. Looking forward to getting back and spending time in Batcave. Batman.

Merry Christmas Mum and David.
Happy Anniversary.

Dear Hunter and Lily

Merry Christmas. Love Dad xx.

Abigail, Luke, Trev and Isabelle

Have a great Christmas. Lots of love Daddy xx.

My darling Janet

Lots of love Ed x.

To my darling wife Belinda and our awesome kids, Ariana, Samara, Kataraina, and Miriama

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. I will miss you immensely this Xmas time especially with all the presents you will get to open. I promise to wait until Xmas to open mine – hopefully I can do that at the same time but that's only if you all can wait eh!!! Ariana and Samara, enjoy your break away and have a good holiday. Kataraina and Miriama, have fun and keep growing up but try to give Mummy a rest – she's the best. To my beautiful wife, thank you for all your love and support. Love you my wonderful family. Hubby (H'Dawg), Daddy.

Rach

Love you lots babe, so proud of you. Keep up the good work. James xx.

Mum and Dad

Love you guys, hope all is going good at home. Love James.

To the Haywood Clan

Living the life in the sun and sand! No beach party here but plenty to keep me busy. Have a great Christmas and New Year, and enjoy the long summer nights with a beer and BBQ. Keep don't forget to send a food parcel and look after the 2 wee girls. From the Gippos.

Luke, Josh & Tegan

School will be finishing soon so have a great holiday break. You can have my share of Christmas lunch.

Hope you get to Chch to see Kaye and Grandma.

Have a great Xmas and look after each other over the holidays. Uncle Lloyd.

To Kaye

Missing you heaps. No doubt you are keeping busy spoiling Taya and Mila. Enjoy the warm days and long nights as it getting a bit cool here and no twilight, so no twilight cricket in the streets. Hope the garden is getting plenty of water, and the spuds make the pot for Xmas. Have a great Xmas with the family and will call on Xmas day.

Lloyd

8-3-1

Lloyd.

To my Family

I know you will all have days of excess; laughter, food, beer and spirits and extended family, time with each other and friends on the 25th and over the holidays. I'm thinking of you all during this time. To Lachy, Nick and Aly I consider myself incredibly blessed to be your father. I am extremely proud of you all, for what you have achieved and all you will be!! To my Jen, my partner for life I love you. Always Yours.... Kev.

To Kimberley

Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas. –Tubbs.

Rusty

Finally I have found somewhere I can get to enjoy a White Christmas! Miss you. Gil xox. P.S. Dogs: Woof, Woof, sniff, butt wiggle, bark, bark ,bark, sniff.

Hi Folks

Hey at least I am not getting into trouble, right?!? See you next year. Frill. Xxx.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D..

To my loved ones

I'm thinking of you all, and hope you make the absolute most of the Kiwi summer (and you get one!). Life is good in the bright white south, seems like the further south you go the better things get! Elijah, Luke and Eb's -the thought of Christmas eve and Christmas morning excitement with you three makes me warm inside. We'll be together soon – looking forward to it with much joy. Love, BG.

Hi Mum and Dad

Merry Christmas. Ben.



From Home

Dear G.I Jane

I hope you have a wonderful day off for Christmas, and even though we are not there to experience it together, you are in our thoughts. All the extended family are forever asking how you are? I know you will be kicking yourself that you won't be up early with sis opening your presents! (yeah rite). But you know how we are with Christmas. Nan of course will be the angel. As for Aunty Margaret.... she will get coal. Lol. Yes us girls will be trying to purchase the most embarrassing presents, and I will be there snapping the photo's on my new fon, for you to see. Merry

Christmas! Love you heaps. Mama Bear xoxoxo8.

Hi SPM

Just want to let you know that we are all well. The kids have been behaving themselves and adapting to your absence incredibly well! They are enjoying the sticker chart, jellybeans and blowing kisses to Daddy each night, to travel in the wind to you. Still not sure when you're coming home, but when you do please bring some sunshine with you! This deployment has taught me a lot about resilience, perseverance, my own strength and not sweating the small stuff. No doubt you've gained lots from it too! Looking forward to you coming home, whenever that may be! Love from Wifey, Spamburger and Zozo xoxoxox.

Hey my Love

We are missing you so much.... especially one particular fur baby. Christmas won't be the same without you but I'm sure you guys will have a wonderful time. Henry is growing up fast and he is looking forward to having you home safely. Thinking of you always xoxoxoxo.

To Chad

Merry Christmas from Mum, Alysha, Tru and Uncle Kevin and the rest of the whanau, we will all be thinking of you on Christmas day. We all miss you very much and although you are far away, you are very close in our hearts. It certainly will be a lot quieter here without your laughter, lol. Hope you get spoiled over there with Xmas lunch and treats! Enjoy your Xmas parcel. Love you to the moon and back. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Arohanui. Mum and Whanau.

Hi Eggy

Merry Xmas and have a Happy New Year baby, Sucky you can't be

here, hope you have a great day. Stay safe & we love you heaps, miss ya from wifey & the girls xoxo.



Hi Coach

So I have discovered soccer isn't really my thing. I can't wait until rugby season comes around again. I will make sure I get my rips and run straight. I've been a good boy looking after Mum and can't wait to get my new Star Wars glasses and sunnies. I love you and can't wait until March. Love Hunter. X.

To My Handsome Prince

It's not the same dancing by myself. Luckily I have lots of princess dresses to twirl in. My ballet is good and I am excited about the concert. Hunter has introduced me to Pokemon which is okay but Barbie Dream House is better. I am getting taller. I love you Daddy. Love Princess Lily the First. X.

James

Wow just going on a month already. Time is starting to pick up a bit. I hope you start receiving your parcels soon so you can have a bit of home with you. Sounds like you're into a good pattern already and making the most of your time there. Merry Christmas! Enjoy some down time, and Max and I will be sure to Skype you. Also Happy Birthday Boy for January!! Won't be much longer and I'll be on my way over, with lots of fun times to have. Take care. I'm so proud of you. Keep smiling. Love you, Rach & Max xxx.

Mac

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 2015 is going to bring many wonderful and exciting

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...

new things your way. Take a well earned break and remember your support and understanding is always appreciated. Carol.

Janine

Wishing you and your family a very happy festive season! 2014 has been a year full of challenges. Your hard work and willingness to share the 'load' is sincerely appreciated. Let's do it all again in 2015. Carol.

Uncle Lloyd

Merry Christmas! We hope you have a big Christmas tree over there and that you can help with the decorations. Give Hec the Duck a Christmas kiss and cuddle from us! Don't forget to sing lots of Christmas carols. We can't wait to open presents. Love Glen, Leanne, Josh, Luke & Tegan.

Charlie

Thinking of you. God bless. Amanda.

Dear Aunty Keri

Did you like the present we sent you? Do you want us to send you some more pineapple lumps? Are you having a Christmas tree? What are you going to put on your tree? I am getting a Christmas tree and I'm going to put cookies and carrots under the tree. The carrots are for the reindeer and the cookies are for Santa. I'm going to give Santa a glass of milk too. Last year daddy drank santa's beer. Have you found any golden treasure? Did you have fun riding the camel? Where is your camel? Have you been inside a pyramid? Is it very big? Is it hot or is it cold at night? Merry Christmas Aunty Keri. I love you. Lots of love from Kayla. Xxoo.

Dear Aunty Keri

There's a digger outside granddad's house. It's digging up the road. Tomorrow I'm going to watch the man on the digger. I'm getting you a Christmas present.

It's going to be a fire truck. Do you like fire trucks? Or police cars or ambulances? I like police cars and ambulances and fire trucks. And fire men. Happy Christmas, Keri. I love you lots and lots. Kalen xoxo.

Gippo

Merry Christmas, across the miles. Although we're apart, thinking of you at this time of the year, sending you love-filled wishes from my heart. K xxx.

Smurf

Merry Christmas, we'll have your drinks for you this year and you can make up for it next year. Keep safe and we'll see you in the New Year. Love the Craig's.



BOUQUET

Mike and Lise - Vodafone

Sincere thanks Mike and Lise for all your help during 2014. 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 2015.

Kind regards, Carol and Janine.

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





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."

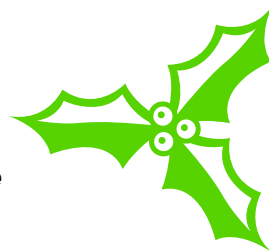
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.

"Merry Christmas My Friend,

And to all a Good Night."



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.*

The Night Before Christmas — Kiwi Style

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



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



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

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

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



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



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

He called back:

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