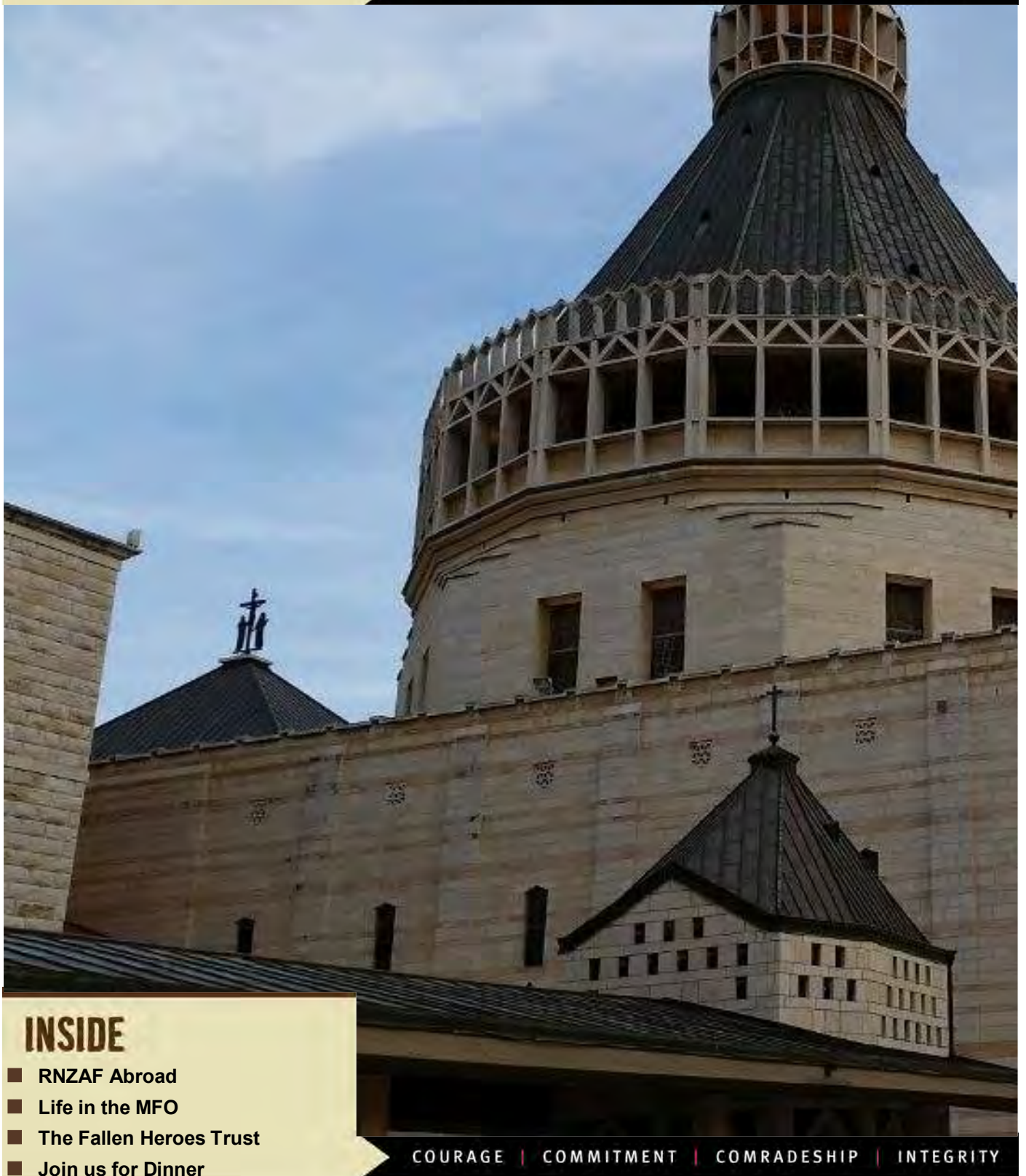


THE BUGLE

Issue 211 | July 2015



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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.

Deadline

Deadline for Edition 212 is
5 August at 4.00pm

Bugle contributions are welcome and should be sent to Carol Voyce.

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Disclaimer

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

Cover Photo:

One of the many religious sites visited on our Holylands tour of Israel (June 2015 (OP FARAD)).

GUEST EDITORIAL

Group Captain Tim Walshe Base Commander RNZAF Base Auckland

RNZAF Base Auckland is home to both the Orion Airborne Surveillance and Response Force and the Seasprite Naval Helicopter Force. Both these capabilities are currently deployed on operations supporting the US led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), which aims to prevent drug and people trafficking, piracy and terrorism. The Seasprite operating off HMNZS Te Kaha will return in early August while the Orion deployment is due to return in December after an 18 month period of operations.



The deployment of these two aircraft is predominantly supported by personnel from across the Base Auckland community including members of our RNZN and RNZAF teams, but on occasions, also including wider defence contributions including Army specialists. Supply and engineering, intelligence, communications information systems and mission support along with enabling units such as Force Protection make up the teams. While most view the Air Force as all about aircraft the reality is that contributions of many skilled people across many trades deliver these capabilities. This is no better described than by the words of the current Detachment Commander, in the accompanying article that outlines the efforts of the whole team.

The nature of the task is such that we see little of the great work that the team is delivering for New Zealand. The recent media coverage of the work of the two Whenuapai based aircraft in company with *HMNZS Te Kaha*, and the interception of a large drugs shipment, demonstrated one public aspect of the operations the team is delivering. They are a Force for New Zealand.

For all those that have loved ones deployed, I would encourage you to remain in touch with our community here at Whenuapai. The Base's Family Support Services Committee welcome feedback on how we can better engage with all those on their 'tour of duty' here at home while their partners, mother, fathers, sons, daughters or mates are deployed.

GUEST EDITORIAL CONT'D...

Detachment Commander OP TAKAPU

He aha to mea nui o te o? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

It is now some five weeks since the final members of our rotation arrived in-theatre and rotation two was completely in place from a personnel perspective. In the time since rotation two personnel arrived in-theatre, one thing hasn't changed, which is the fact we go about our business with little visibility to you back home. Noting I'm not in a position to elaborate on what it is we do, I want the focus of this article to give all of you back home an idea of how we go about our business, which I hope will stir feelings of pride and satisfaction in knowing the person you miss so much is doing such a great job.

Five weeks ago, when the rotation of personnel occurred, the key challenge I put to the incoming personnel was to ensure we did not lose momentum. I needed every member to make the most of their handover, take the opportunity to understand not only their own job but the job of others, and to find ways of not only meeting the current standard, but to better it. To go back to my rugby roots, it is

much easier to lead and get the right results when you've got the very best members in your first XV. I have that luxury! As a Commander, you rely on people doing as you ask and it is no surprise, and with immense satisfaction, I look back and see how every single member of the detachment did what was needed to be done in order to ensure we did not lose momentum. I am also pleased to report we have gained momentum, and the attitudes of many, mean we own this rotation and they do their very best to ensure it is memorable for the right reasons.

I have witnessed from the most junior to most senior member of the detachment, people have taken up the challenge to analyse what we do, what can we improve and present ideas and solutions. This doesn't apply only to the core day job each person is doing on the deployment, it encompasses an overall holistic view of how we make the most of our opportunities. The bright, talented and motivated people on this deployment are not prepared to accept status quo if an improvement can be made. They get the importance of what it means to be deployed on operations with the NZDF.

I'm impressed with personnel who ask the "so what" question in order to address issues and implement change. I'm impressed with the interaction between units who make up our detachment and most notably

the key component of communication is understood and utilised. I'm impressed with the personnel who willingly took on a role to stand up an entertainments committee. I'm impressed with the detachment personnel who get on board with the activities planned by the entertainments committee and make the most of opportunities for team unity. I'm impressed with the way in which the detachment accepts change and gets on with doing what needs to be done. I'm impressed with the fact, irrespective of how much water we need to drink on a daily basis, the glass is always half full.

While I could give more examples, I hope the message outlines the person you are missing is doing an important job and they are doing it well. When your loved one gets home, they won't tell you what they did, and being the people they are, they probably won't tell you how well they did their job. So let me tell you, they are doing themselves, the NZDF and you proud. Our ongoing success is due to a lot of hard work calling on courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity. Another big part, which I sincerely thank you all for, is all the support you've given and continue to give from back home, which is a key enabler to our success.

No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

A MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER JOINT FORCES NEW ZEALAND



Major General Tim Gall, Commander
Joint Forces NZ

1 July 2015

HEADQUARTERS JOINT FORCES NEW ZEALAND TURNS 14

14 years ago, the New Zealand Defence Force established HQ Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFNZ) at Trentham.

Since then, HQ JFNZ has planned, commanded and supervised numerous operations and missions both in New Zealand and overseas – the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission dispatched to Thailand following the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004, peacekeeping in Timor-Leste, our decade-long commitment in Afghanistan, and the delivery of tonnes of aid to Philippine cities devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, to name a few.

HQ JFNZ is responsible for virtually all NZDF operations and major exercises. The Headquarters, which is comprised of around 160

military personnel and 30 civilian staff, supports me as Commander, plus the Component Commanders in carrying out that mandate.

When disaster strikes in the Pacific, like it did in Vanuatu in March this year, HQ JFNZ immediately mobilises and deploys our people and assets to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

If we look at the month of June alone, HQ JFNZ oversaw two drug busts in the West Indian Ocean by our frigate *HMNZS TE KAHA*. Our P-3K2 Orion deployed to the Seychelles on Op TAKAPU. Operations continued in the Middle East. We deployed two ships, four aircraft, 22 Light Armoured Vehicles, 23 other military vehicles, and 620 personnel to Ex TALISMAN SABRE - Australia's largest warfighting exercise. When major flooding occurred in the Whanganui and the Manawatu regions, HQ JFNZ assigned around 100 Army engineers and soldiers to do sandbagging, help evacuate people from low-lying areas, and support police cordons. We tasked an Air Force NH90 helicopter to fly

the Prime Minister for an aerial survey of flood-hit areas, and dispatched Orion's for a number of search and rescue missions in the Pacific. We also tasked No.40 Squadron to bring home Auckland Zoo's newest resident, eight-year-old Sri Lankan elephant, Anjalee.

As of today, around 1200 personnel or 13 percent of the NZDF's Regular Force are deployed overseas on operations or exercises. Our people and the work they do – humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, counter-piracy, anti-drug trafficking, and peacekeeping – are making a valuable and respected contribution.

In the Headquarters, we display photos from our overseas operations under a sign that reads "We make it so." That line essentially captures what we do here at HQ JFNZ. We are a Force for New Zealand. We are a Force for Good.

It may sound like a cliché, but HQ JFNZ truly has come a long way in 14 years.

Overseas Operations

New Zealand has a history of contributing to international efforts to resolve conflict. The NZ Defence Force (NZDF) is a valued international coalition partner committed to peace and security, and regularly works alongside international partners on operations and exercises throughout the world.

It is in New Zealand's interests to play a leadership role in the South Pacific, acting in concert with our neighbours, helping to maintain stability, enhance regional security capabilities, and promote good governance and economic and social development.

The NZ Defence Force supports a number of major operations around the world. There are currently 228 NZDF personnel deployed on 17 operations and UN missions across twelve countries, including:

Afghanistan (8 personnel), **Antarctica** (1 person), **South Korea** (3 personnel), **Middle East** (8 personnel), **Sinai** (27 personnel), **Combined Maritime Force (CMF)** (52 personnel), **Iraq** (140+ personnel), **South Sudan** (3 personnel)

There are 665 Defence Force personnel on other overseas deployments and exercises.

NEWS UPDATE



Source: www.nzdf.mil.nz

NZDF TAKES PART IN AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST WARFIGHTING EXERCISE

For most of July, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will take part fully for the first time in Talisman Sabre. The exercise is the largest that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) conducts with all four services of the United States armed forces. Like the NZDF, the Japan Self Defence Force is also joining the biennial exercise for the first time.

We are deploying two ships, four aircraft, around 45 military vehicles including 22 Light Armoured Vehicles, and 620 personnel to

Darwin and the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area near Rockhampton. Every year, we lead or take part in dozens of exercises here and overseas. So you may well ask, what makes Talisman Sabre different?

By sheer breadth of the training alone, Talisman Sabre is a great opportunity for our people. From 5 – 21 July, our people will undertake training in land, air and maritime warfare, including amphibious operations. By operating in a uniquely complex and challenging multinational environment, they will be able to further hone their warfighting capabilities and their ability to respond to a wide variety of contingencies.

The exercise also provides us an opportunity to train with key partners – Australia and the US – so we can further enhance our ability to operate effectively alongside them. Our people will be working as part of a large force led by the Australian Defence Force and our military assets will be integrated with those of the Australians and the US armed forces.

From a strategic perspective, we can use key learnings from Talisman Sabre to inform our efforts to develop the Joint Task Force (JTF) which can deploy, operate and sustain combat forces away from New Zealand. The JTF positions the NZDF as an expeditionary force, and exercises such as Talisman Sabre are a fantastic opportunity to prepare us for that.

Major General Tim Gall
Commander Joint Forces
New Zealand

DEFENCE FORCE INVOLVED IN PACIFIC AID EXERCISE

21 June 2015

Nine New Zealand Defence Force personnel are hard at work in the annual United States Navy-led Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission Pacific Partnership (PP15).

As well as New Zealand and the US, Defence personnel from Australia, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste are in the mission. The combined PP15 team will visit seven host nations and engage in a variety of local outreach efforts.

The host nations this year are Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, the Philippines and Vietnam. PP15 medical, dental, engineering and veterinary personnel team will assist each host nation with a wide variety of projects designed to improve their capability and ability to respond to natural disasters, and build regional relationships.

New Zealand's Senior National Officer on the mission, Wing



Two NH90 helicopters were flown onto HMNZS CANTERBURY while she was docked in the Wellington harbour this morning

NEWS UPDATE CONT'D...



Medic Corporal Kirsty Beddis demonstrates correct CPR technique to student teachers at the Kiribati Teachers College. This was part of wider medical and health training given over the course of a two-day Remote Island Medicine for Teachers course. Many of these teachers will work in isolated regions of Kiribati, where community-based medical training is very limited.

Commander (WGCDR) Jennifer Atkinson, is embarked on the hospital ship USNS Mercy as the mission Chief of Staff, working under the US mission Commander and Australian deputy commander.

The other eight NZDF personnel comprise a chaplain and a seven-strong medical team, including a dentist and dental hygienist, embarked on the high-speed vessel USNS Millinocket, which has spent the past fortnight in Kiribati.

"While in Kiribati the team were involved in medical, dental, and community relations tasks focused on improving the expertise of local providers, so they can better support local communities and respond effectively in times of crisis," WGCDR Atkinson says.

"Unfortunately the Pacific region is very familiar with cyclones, earthquakes, typhoons, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis.

"This is an amazing opportunity to be part of something so positive and useful with our friends and partners in the Pacific," she says.

Millinocket has now left Kiribati and arrives in the Federated States of Micronesia today. Mercy is also on the move and bound for Bougainville.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES MARCH OUT

30 June 2015

Soldiers of the Iraqi 76th Brigade are the first to graduate from New Zealand and Australian Defence Force training, with the group leaving Taji Military Camp to join the fight against Daesh.

More than 700 soldiers from the brigade, which is part of the 16th Division of the Iraqi Army, marched out on Sunday at the conclusion of its training, the first cohort in the Australian/New Zealand Building Partner Capacity training mission at Taji.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Major-General (MAJGEN)

Tim Gall said the eight-week training programme has been well-received by the Iraqi troops.

"Our trainers have covered a range of individual and military skills, including basic weapons handling, small group tactics, urban operations as well as the planning and conduct of operations; including medical and logistics support.

"The aim from the start was to get these soldiers to a standard agreed by the Iraqi Ministry of Defence and we have achieved that."

MAJGEN Gall said he was both proud of the training outcome, and the work New Zealand Defence Force personnel had undertaken to establish themselves at Taji Military Camp.

"Working with the other coalition partners and getting this training delivered within just a couple of months is a testament to how well-trained, adaptable and professional our personnel are."

MAJGEN Gall said New Zealand trainers and support staff had learned quickly and were coping well with the environmental conditions including 40 degree heat, a dry wind and plenty of dust.

"Taji is an established military camp but it is a tough austere environment. Early support by an advance party of NZ and Australian soldiers meant critical infrastructure was developed prior to the main contingent arriving.

"Personnel are making themselves as comfortable as they can be – the food is good, the accommodation is basic but comfortable, there is a great gym for keeping fit – our people are settled enough to be playing touch rugby, which is great to see.

"It's also encouraging to watch the confidence of the Iraqis grow as

NEWS UPDATE CONT'D...

they receive the training, and to hear from them that they are feeling confident and motivated to take on Daesh."

A comprehensive pre-deployment training strategy was designed by a team of specialists including linguists, security force assistance, training evaluation, coaching and mentoring, and irregular warfare. The design team also looked deeply into cross-cultural adult training and cross-cultural adult learning.

As well as formal training, the New Zealand contingent is modelling the behaviours and values of a professional Army, demonstrating how a modern and professional defence force operates.

The Government announced in February the deployment of up to 143 New Zealand Defence Force personnel on a combined mission with the Australian Defence Force

to help build the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces, in order for the Iraqi Security Forces to tackle the threat of Daesh.

The Building Partner Capacity mission is a non-combat mission for a two year period, with a review to be conducted after nine months.



Soldiers of the Iraqi 76th Brigade are the first to graduate from New Zealand and Australian Defence Force training, with the group leaving Taji Military Camp to join the fight against Daesh



CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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

Service Person's Name:

Deployment Location:

Name:

Old Address:

New Address:

Postcode:

Phone Number: Email address:

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

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NEWS FROM SINAI



Life in the MFO

The MFO is an independent international organization with peacekeeping responsibilities established in 1982. It was set up to ensure that Egypt and Israel comply with the Treaty of Peace set out from the 1979 Camp David Peace Accords. The mission of the MFO is to Observe, Verify and Report alleged violations of the Treaty of Peace. New Zealand has been sending members of the NZDF to the MFO for the last 33 years.

There are two main camps (North Camp in Northern Sinai near the border with Israel), and South Camp, a smaller outpost on the edge of the Red Sea near a popular tourist resort called Sharm El-Sheik. There is also over 30 Check Points or Remote Sites throughout the Area of Operations. The New Zealand Contingent (NZCON) is based in North Camp.

Despite the relentless dry heat there is always time for PT, which is run in the mornings by the PTIs from the Australian Contingent (AUSCON). The 25m pool here is

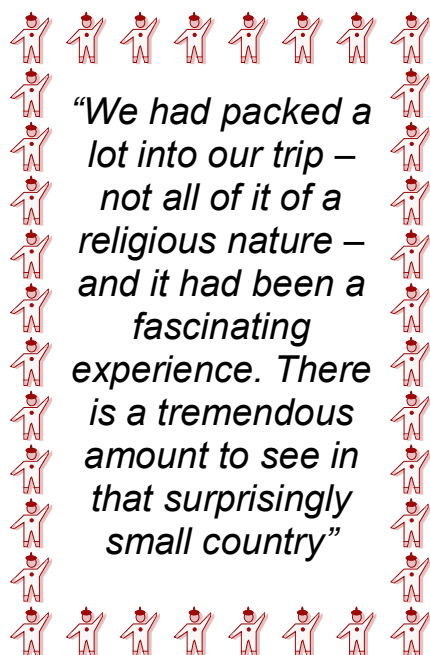
always a favourite with the PTIs (“just a relatively short session”) and to cool down in the weekends. We have a dedicated bunch of gym bunnies on this rotation that, in their quest to “Get Massive” have been working hard and putting in the extra hours where they can. This week sees the first few games of the annual MFO Volleyball Competition, first up we are playing Fiji (they will surely thrash us), but the game that anyone really cares about is NZCON vs AUSCON.

What do I miss about NZ? The ski season, and strangely enough, being cold! The hottest it has got so far was 48 degC one day, but averages around 35-ish most days. Contact from home is great, with skype and social media it makes it very easy. But what is far better is mail and packages from family and friends. So if I can encourage Bugle readers to do anything, it's to send your loved ones stuff in the post! It's such a morale boost, even if it's something small like photos or food from NZ (thanks for the lollie cake Mum, it was such a massive hit with everyone. You need to send more asap!).

What do I like about the MFO? First and foremost it's the people. Meeting like-minded military personnel from all over the world, learning about their culture, traditions and food is by far the best part of being here. We are always invited to celebrate National Days (Norwegian Day and Canada Day were the highlights so far) and to discover new food and drink (imported Norwegian lobster anyone?). Soldiers share similar values the world over and it's great that the MFO brings everyone together for a common purpose. Our time here has gone very quickly so far and it will come to an end too soon..... don't make me go home just yet!

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Holylands Tour of Israel, June 2015



"We had packed a lot into our trip – not all of it of a religious nature – and it had been a fascinating experience. There is a tremendous amount to see in that surprisingly small country"

Originally a three-day tour of religious sites in Israel, this trip was extended – almost at the last minute – to four days to avoid a congested weekend border crossing. This made for a slightly more leisurely-paced tour, as well as allowing the addition of a couple of extra visits to places of interest.

We crossed into Israel at about midday, transferring to a local bus and picking up our Israeli tour guide. He would accompany us for most of our trip, and was a terrific source of knowledge, not only about the places we visited, but about the history of Israel (ancient and modern), and the way of life of the various cultures and faiths who inhabit that small country.

We were 39 in number, plus our own two tour organisers who did a remarkable job of making sure we kept to schedule and didn't lose anyone. (Frequent head-counts.)

From the border we travelled up through the Negev Desert, past large patches of green here and there where crops have somehow

been induced to grow in that harsh climate. Our first stop was – bizarrely, for a tour of religious sites – the Israeli Tank Museum at Ladrin, on the road between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The museum boasts examples of all the Armoured Vehicles the Israeli Army has used in its various wars since independence in 1947, even its most up-to-date tank. Our guide here was a young Israeli soldier. At each significant place within the museum he would deliver his spiel for three or four minutes, always concluding with, "Any questions? ... No," before moving on to the next place. The pause between "Any questions?" and "No." was about a quarter of a second, so if there was something you really wanted to ask you had to get in quick.

From the Tank Museum we continued on to Jerusalem where we spent the first night. It is quite an ascent to this ancient (and modern) city which sits on several steep hills at 3000 feet above sea level. This altitude makes it pleasantly comfortable at this time of the year – certainly compared to the heat of the Sinai. We stopped at a vantage point to look out over the city – the air was beautifully clear, no haze – and enjoyed the view it offered. All the houses and other buildings are of local limestone and, although they are of different shapes and sizes, this gives an overlay of uniformity to an otherwise chaotic sprawl.

The first evening - indeed all our evenings – was our own to explore our surroundings as we wished. Israel, we were told, is a very safe country in which to travel, with pickpockets about the worst there is to fear. Our hotel was not far from the Old City, and there was a beautiful light show playing across the walls of the Old City that evening.

After breakfast we headed off to the Galilee, stopping on the way to explore the impressive Roman ruins at Caesarea. Pontius Pilate governed here during the time of Jesus. Notable ruins include an amphitheatre, hippodrome and aqueduct. They may have had their short-comings, the ancient Romans – not least a predilection for savage blood sports – but, boy, could they build an aqueduct. The one supplying Caesarea, which has no natural source of water itself, carried water several miles from the nearest mountain range at a consistent descent of one inch every thirty yards.

From Caesarea we drove up to Mount Carmel, a largely Druse town, where we stopped at a restaurant for lunch. As we entered the car-park we were amused to see a small pre-school child happily playing with a ball on top of the restaurant roof. It's wonderful to realise that there are still parts of the world where OSH has yet to penetrate.

Our next stop was Nazareth, where Jesus is said to have spent his childhood. An Arab town nowadays, and largely Moslem, it has a Christian quarter in which the inhabitants seem very westernised: in their dress (women especially) and, for example, sitting outside a café having some refreshment. At Nazareth we visited the beautiful Greek Orthodox church and the Catholic church of St Joseph, which was built over a 1st century carpenter's shop.

We descended from there toward the Sea of Galilee – a freshwater lake really – and the temperature increased noticeably as it is 700 feet below sea level. We visited a museum housing the preserved hull of an ancient boat, dredged 30 years ago from the lake-bed, which is dated to the time of Jesus. It is

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

the type of boat in which he and his disciples would have sailed and fished on this lake. We enjoyed an hour-long boat ride ourselves across the lake from the museum to the town of Tiberias, including a spot of Jewish-style singing and dancing as we went. Much of the ministry of Jesus took place on the shores of Lake Galilee, and there are numerous sites there associated with the New Testament.

Tiberias itself is pretty much a resort town nowadays and, although Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath) began at dusk after we arrived, there seemed little concession to it that evening as most people went about enjoying themselves. I did see one family of Orthodox Jews, in their distinctive attire, on the streets early the next morning, but that was all.

The next day we visited a possible site of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, now the location of a Franciscan chapel, the Mount of the Beatitudes. Its remarkable acoustics account for the belief that it is the only place in the area where Jesus could have spoken to such great numbers of people, at any rate without a megaphone. Nearby is Tagbha, where Jesus is said to have performed the miracle of feeding the five thousand. The view from the Mount across the Sea of Galilee is magnificent. Here we had a little time to peruse the wares on sale at the chapel's gift shop, where I was quite taken with a Loaves and Fishes beer bottle-opener. (Bridging the gap between deep religious significance and down-home practicality and commercialism is something that church souvenir shops seem effortlessly to achieve).

From the Mount we next stopped off at Capernaum, a once-flourishing town on the Galilee

shore, where Jesus is said to have lived as an adult and where he is said to have preached in the synagogue, the ruins of which remain.

Heading back now toward Jerusalem, we crossed over the surprisingly narrow River Jordan, in which Jesus is said to have been baptized by John The Baptist.

After lunch we headed back up to Jerusalem to explore the Old City. There we passed through the Room of the Last Supper - rather rapidly as the tourist throngs simply carried us along - before moving on to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This church, where Jesus's body is said to have been laid after his crucifixion, embraces five Christian denominations (Greek Orthodox, Coptic, Franciscan, Armenian and Assyrian), each jealously guarding its own "turf" against encroachment by the others. They have been known to resort to 'fisticuffs' during disputes, and the police have been called on occasions to separate brawling monks. Disappointingly, they were well-behaved while we were there.

The COTHS is a busy place, very crowded with tourists and pilgrims, and quite noisy with the monks' chanting and general tourist babble. It's not a church to go to for a quiet moment of prayer and reflection. It does, however, offer people the opportunity to have their most cherished religious artifacts blessed there, and many were queuing up with their crucifixes, bottles of River Jordan water, rosary beads, Loaves & Fishes beer bottle-openers, etc.

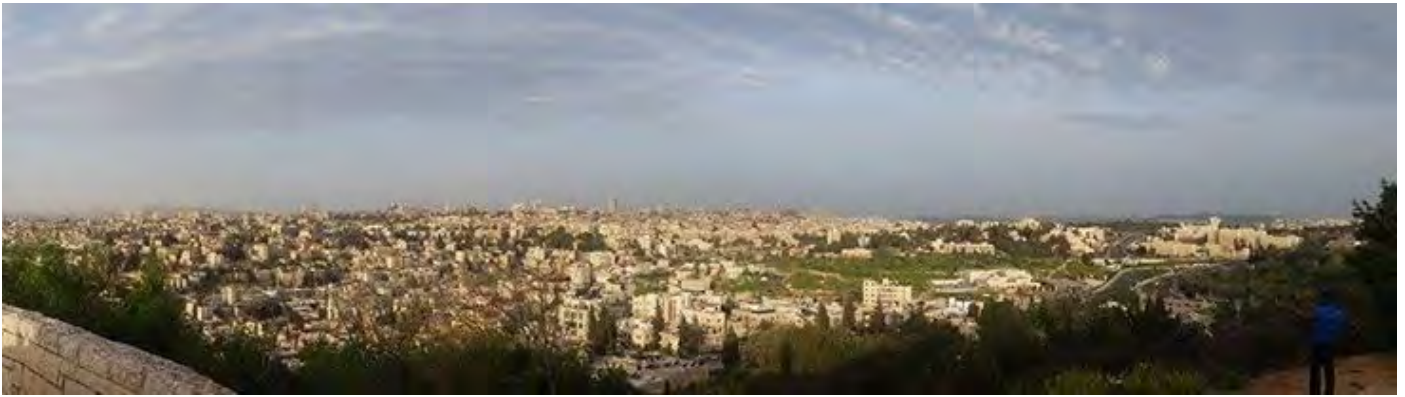
From the COTHS we stopped off for a period of shopping in the narrow, crowded alleyways of the Old City, a place in which it would be all too easy to get hopelessly

lost. Then, gathering our group together (yet another head count) we made our way to the Via Dolorosa or "Path of Tears", along which Jesus is said to have carried his cross to Calvary. This we followed - at a pace bordering on the sacrilegious - in order to get to the Western Wall before access closed for the day. Also known as the Wailing Wall, it is the only remaining section of the Jews' ancient Holy Temple, and pious Jews go there to pray. Security is very tight around the site, but not obtrusive. The wall, or what remains of it, is very tall, but is actually only a tiny portion of the original Holy Temple (destroyed by the Romans after a Jewish revolt), which was apparently a colossal and splendid building, a wonder to behold.

We left Jerusalem next morning (day four), farewelling our excellent guide, and we drove down to the Dead Sea. At 1300 feet below sea level, the Dead Sea (really a saltwater lake) is the lowest lake in the world. We stopped at a resort beside the lake to have a swim in the incredibly salty water, and to experience the strange sensation of floating effortlessly - indeed being completely unable to sink at all. After a shower - the water feels quite oily - and an early lunch, we headed back to the border and the Sinai, our Holylands Tour over.

We had packed a lot into our trip - not all of it of a religious nature - and it had been a fascinating experience. There is a tremendous amount to see in that surprisingly small country, and our four-day tour still left us with a lot to explore on (hopefully) a future visit.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...



COLLAGE OF PHOTOS — TRIP TO HOLYLANDS



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Salam 'Alaykum (Peace be upon you) from MFO in Sinai Egypt

The sun is steaming through my bedroom window onto my face, the sound of my fan purring from the corner of the room, glancing over at my alarm clock, **it's only 4am Tuesday**, and I'm now wide awake with PT (physical training) at 6am. Do I try to go back to sleep for an hour or so? Or do I get up and try to skype home? Surely at this time of the morning, with everyone here asleep and with the limited broad band available here, it will be free and getting through to NZ will be easy. "YEAH RIGHT!" Everybody in North camp must have woken up this morning and thought the same thing. Darn, no dial tone again. PT in 30 minutes, can't wait.

NZCON PT is conducted by an Aussie Physical Training Instructor and we are joined by the Aussie and Canadian contingents, making it more of a Commonwealth PT session. This morning it's the confidence course, and it's already 30 degrees; I expect it should be a good workout. No one wants to be beaten by an Aussie, so most put in a good effort and enjoy the workout. PT is different each day and it could be circuit training, swim training, battle PT or minor games.

Breakfast for me is a cigarette and a coffee most mornings, in order for my body to cool down naturally before having a cool shower, but for some it's a healthy breakfast in the mess (cereal, fruit and fruit juice) for others every morning it is Fat boy Friday (bacon, sausages, eggs, toast, beans and chocolate milk). PT is hard enough, combined with the heat, but I don't think anyone is putting on any weight.

Working as part of the Force Training Team and being responsible for the training and development of all the other

contributing nations with their different nationalities, cultures and languages makes the daily work routine a challenge. An average day could consist of any of the following:

- Conducting lessons on one of the many courses we run.
- Travelling out to the remote sights and conducting site inspections (checking to make sure they are doing what they are meant to be doing e.g.: correct procedures etc).
- The mentoring of junior convoy/escort commanders.
- Conducting weapon training on the range.
- Developing and implementing new training packages that meets the ever changing needs of the MFO.

I have to admit the meals here are pretty good; there is plenty for everyone with plenty of choice. There is a Salad bar with 8-10 different salads and all the dressing you can think of. The grill is where you can have a double meat bacon and egg burger with extra cheese every meal if you wished including fries, 3-4 different choices of meat, chicken or fish with the normal compliment of vegetables, 5-6 different types of fresh baked bread (no NZ butter though) and if that isn't enough 5-6 different desserts as well as 12 different flavours of ice cream and then there's the coke machine. And every day there is something new to try, be it a traditional dish from Uruguay or a spicy dish from Columbia.

Dinner time is much the same as lunch. BUT — Tonight is Tuesday and pizza night. One of the Contingents hosts the night and introduces their culture and

traditions. The contingent gets the opportunity to sell their contingent's T-shirts and coins, etc., and for those that attend, it is only \$3 to make their own pizza's the way they like them.

It is now 7pm and the sun has gone down. It's time to relax and think about loved ones back home, maybe watch TV (if I can find something interesting on one of the 23 English speaking channels available over here) or catch up with a newly made friend or for some it is back to the gym for another workout.



Twelve nations (Australia, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Republic of the Fiji Islands, France, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay) contribute personnel to make up the MFO's Force. It is the largest element of the MFO and is a joint organization with army, air and naval components. As of April 2015, the MFO's Force numbered 1,667 personnel.

Contingents in the MFO rotate in and out of the Sinai using a system of progressive personnel changeover, with the exception of the United States Infantry Battalion which rotates as a unit. Length of tour of duty varies but most contingents spend from six to twelve months in the Sinai.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

Pizza Night Egyptian Style

Each Tuesday night, contingents gather in MFO North Camp Sinai to participate in 'Pizza Night'. Pizza Night has been a long standing tradition within North Camp, with each contingent taking turns to run a pizza night.

Contingents are responsible for selling Pizza tickets (\$3 a pizza) and announcing pizza numbers as

they come out of the ovens. Pizza Night is also the opportunity for contingents to sell their contingent merchandise, including contingent T Shirts and contingent coins.

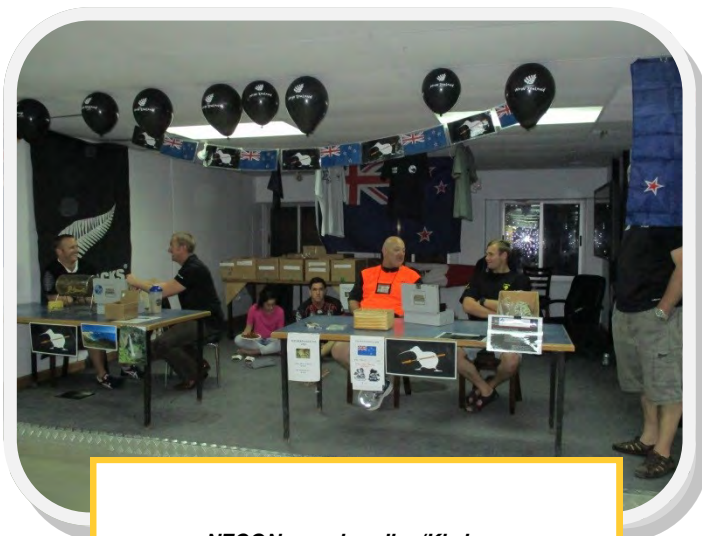
Each Contingent will oversee 2 – 3 Pizza nights during their deployment. NZCON had setup merchandise stands, a rugby passing game, and played tourism videos of New Zealand, backed by some Kiwi music.

NZCON Kiwiana merchandise is very popular with the other contingents. Most weekends it is common to see several Americans, Columbians and even the odd Australian wearing Kiwiana T-shirts.

Pizza Night is an enjoyable, relaxing activity which facilitates networking with other contingents to build professional relationships, whilst promoting New Zealand.



NZCON preparing Pizzas for the oven



NZCON merchandise/Kiwiana



Kiwis demonstrating their skill level with a rugby ball

Call to other Missions

SUPPORT THE FALLEN HEROES TRUST

OP FARAD Rotation 2/14 (6 Nov 14 – 14 May 15) followed on from Rotation 1/14's efforts of almost US\$2,000, by also trying to raise money for the Fallen Heroes Trust while deployed in the Sinai for six months.

Money was raised by selling Fallen Heroes wrist bands, charity auctions, raffles and donations, and they managed to present the Trust with US\$700 (approx NZ\$1,000).

FARAD 2/14 also presented the NZ President of the RSA with US\$250 (approx NZ\$350) from poppy sales and donations that they collected while in theatre over the 100th ANZAC Day period.

WO1 Mumm hopes that FARAD 1/15, and all the other missions will continue, start and/or grow this initiative as we are all mindful of when we are away on Operations it may very well be us that needs help from this Trust.

***It's a great initiative, the Fallen Heroes Trust,
and every effort should be made to support
it, not just back home but even on
Operations if you can.***

Photo: Warrant Officer of the Defence Force, WO1 Danny Broughton receives US\$700 from WO1 Paul Mumm for the Fallen Heroes Trust, that personnel from OP FARAD 2/14 raised on their tour while in the Sinai.

Website: fallenheroes.org.nz



DSO'S CORNER



Carol Voyce

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

Greetings to you all! I hope this past month has gone well.

Mail does magical things! It makes a connection.

As I write this, my daughter is in San Juan, Puerto Rico. It sounds and looks fabulous and I am feeling somewhat envious! But she is there all because of a simple letter. Some 23 years ago she advertised in a girls' magazine for a penfriend – something we wouldn't even entertain these days! All replies were sent to her Dad's work – some 240 of them which came from all corners of the world and from people from all walks of life who not only wanted a penfriend, but a partner or financial help! I remember at the time that we all laughed at letters supposedly written to a 7 year old! But one letter stood out from the rest - from Buffalo – upstate New York. Over the years my daughter has formed an amazing bond with her American penfriend and letters developed into emails, parcels were exchanged, Skype chats had, and finally meeting up some

10 years ago for the very first time and many times since. Three years ago I travelled with my daughter to the States where she was bridesmaid at her penfriends wedding! These two are inseparable. They share their life's adventures and now with their partners are lazing in the sun and catching up again! We think it's great that this connection developed from a simple pencil written letter from a 7 year old and has developed into a truly valued friendship over many years.

We don't receive many letters now days and our connection with those we love and are separated from, is often maintained by electronic means! How exciting it is to clear the letterbox and see that familiar handwriting on the envelope and to eagerly get inside to catch up on the news. I have told the story a number of times of an elderly lady who was a life long friend of my late mother. She, now at 94 years of age, often writes to me. I am excited to hear from her, to catch up on her news and her still busy life! She makes one feel very guilty as she writes about her daily swim and visits to the gym! It's a bit of a ritual when the letter arrives. I quickly read it, make a cuppa and read it again. After that, I ring my sister and share the news. It is a perfect connection that has survived many years. It too is truly valued.



These two scenarios clearly illustrate that the art of letter writing, while lost to many, still can play a valuable role in our lives. Deployments are clearly the time to re-invent the lost magic! While the mail may take time to get from A to B, it is surely worth the wait. At times, the speed or lack of it, at a snails pace, seems all too slow! We are constantly looking at the processes for all missions and how we might do better. You can help by ensuring that anything you send meets the requirements of NZDF and carry's the correct address and personal details using the guidelines we have shared with you all and are also in your deployment guide. If in doubt, please talk with myself or Janine. I know that many of our editorials contain information and thoughts on mail. I don't think we can emphasise too much the importance of mail and the affect it has on one's morale!

Last weekend when I was briefing in Trentham and talking with families of those soon to go on other missions, one Mum said she was glad to hear about the mail service and what it means to those deployed. Her son had been one of the many who say - "Don't send me anything – I can get it all there." – And is then the sad one when nothing is forthcoming over the months ahead! She will quite rightly ignore his advice!

While it is -3 degrees here this morning, I can't help but think of the gorgeous photo of my daughter horse riding along the beach in a foreign land. Sadly my connection this time will have to be by email but she will home soon! Time for your reunions will be quicker than you think! Just create a little magic meanwhile!

DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...



Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
1 (NZ) Brigade

With writing for every edition of the Bugle, sometimes inspiration for the columns takes a while to show itself. Past Bugles are always a great source and I have come across the following one which I wrote a couple of years ago which is still appropriate.

I have always considered myself to be a resourceful and self-sufficient person. I have been associated with the military for over 30 years; firstly as the wife of a service person, since 2001 as an employee of the NZDF (Army) here in Linton, and for the past almost 14 years as the mother of a service person. Both my husband and my son have been away on deployment (not at the same time though, thank goodness). When I think back to the times when these two very important people in my life were away, my memories tell me that I coped with our separations really well. I certainly don't remember these periods in my life as being particularly stressful, after all my husband had been part of a unit which was always away on various exercises and by the time my son deployed, he had been living away from home for some years and I

was the DSO working with and supporting family members through their own deployment journeys. However, when I read the journal I wrote (the only time in my life I have ever kept a journal) when my husband was away on his first deployment in the mid 1990s, the words tell me a very different story. My last personal deployment journey was in 2012 when our son was in Afghanistan and again I thought that I had managed my journey really well – until he got off the plane in Ohakea that is! That was when it all got the better of me; thankfully my son is very accommodating of his very emotional mother! And it was dark!

At the time of 'my' first deployment we were living in Waiouru and what I remember is the cold weather, winter snow, stacking firewood, Mt Ruapehu erupting a couple of times, laundry hanging in the lounge (because there certainly wasn't much drying outside and I refused to have the clothes dryer running all the time), involving myself in community activities – we had Playcentre and Kindy, a weekly craft group which was very active – and lots of friends I could call on and who I could support in return.

It has taken a while but this final point is where I was leading. I'm sure that we all have our own ways and strategies of dealing with deployments and the stress that comes with the separation. Communication is certainly much more advanced now than it has ever been, access to welfare phones, emails and Skype being amazing tools for keeping in contact with loved ones in various parts of the world. So that's one major improvement over the letters I had to wait for from someone who found this method of communication as foreign as the country he was working in!

But basic strategies like knowing yourself best and whether when things get on top of you, that you:

- have someone to have coffee with,
- weeds to pull in the garden,
- retail therapy (within reason),
- long walks in the rain, or on the beach,

or whatever helps you through.

Each day down is a day closer to your loved one completing their deployment and returning home. Along this deployment journey, if you need someone to coffee with (if you are in the Palmerston North area), someone to let off steam with, or someone to share some special wonderful news with, we are here with you and for you. Asking for help is not a sign of vulnerability or weakness, it is a strength in that you recognise what is happening and that you have a coping strategy for the situation.

As we head further into our winter months, I hope you are all well and happy, and have your firewood stacked.

If you are in the Palmerston North or Christchurch areas, don't forget our deployment dinners are on

28 July, Burnham

and

29 July, Linton

(Please note change of date for Linton, as originally printed). Hope to see many of you there – please RSVP with the names of all family/friends attending so we can provide these to the front gate for Camp access.

FOR YOUR INFO

Are your contact details correct?

Recently the Deployment Services Officers had to make contact with families of deployed service personnel following an incident overseas. The reason for the contact was to clarify a situation that had occurred, and to inform everyone that their loved ones were safe and well. This is the process that we discussed with you all at the predeployment briefings and while it not only gives you peace of mind, it stops unnecessary worry if you hear a news item on the radio. It is our aim to where possible beat any news broadcast that may occur. It was during that latest need to make contact with our families, that we found some of the contact details given to us or/and recorded by deploying personnel, were incorrect. While we did manage to get in touch with everyone, there were a couple of delays in getting the correct contact information – something which we do not want to happen again should it be necessary to use the process.

If you change your address, phone number (home, work or cell), your email address, WE NEED TO KNOW! If you have changed any details, please complete the form on page 7 and return it promptly. If you would like to just check that we have your details entered correctly, please phone Carol or Janine on the 0800 numbers and we will check with you.

Deployment Dinners

Carol and Janine are hosting "Dining In" for families associated with current deployments on Tuesday 28 July at Burnham Military Camp, and Wednesday 29 July at Linton Military Camp. These dinners are open to all families and are a chance to have a night off cooking, and dishes, and to join

with like people in a like situation. There is no fuss, no speeches, just a time to share a meal. Please RSVP for catering purposes. We look forward to meeting with you all. Visitors to the regions are welcome too.

Mail

Over the past weeks we have had some 48 calls about the mail service abroad. The common theme, being problems encountered at NZ Post Shops country wide for those trying to send mail through HQ JFNZ. They too are getting used to a change in the mail protocols which they have followed for many years. Our team at HQ JFNZ have communicated with NZ Post and a process to better educate Post Shop staff on our requirements is underway. Just as a reminder, mail should be addressed as follows:

Joseph E Bloggs (i.e. Christian Name, Middle initial and Surname)
Box (and the mission box number you have been given)
c/- DPSC
HQ JFNZ
Private Bag 900
Upper Hutt 5140

All parcels must have a green customs sticker attached clearly and honestly identifying the contents. Sender details should be included inside the parcel, not on the outside! Do not write Forces Concession rate on any items posted and ensure the packaging is plain with no identifying features. If questioned by Post Shop Staff, please inform them that you have a family member/friend overseas and that HQ JFNZ will be forwarding the parcel for you, hence the requirement for a green sticker. You do not need to disclose the location. If there is a problem, please let us know so that we can talk with NZ Post again.

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

Papakura—John Furey

Ph 09 296 5744

Defence Community Co-ordinator:

Burnham—Lynne Price

Ph 03 363 0322

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:

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

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING



I have enjoyed a few past copies of *The Bugle* and have been encouraged to write for this column for the months ahead. I am no writer, but I feel that if I can share my deployment journey with you, it might be useful for you all and for me to reflect upon in times to come.

Like previous writers, I have changed our names and location. I am sure my partner has no problems with this contribution but just in case I get a little out of line in the future, better to play it safe!

So we are the Brown Family: I am Jules and my partner is Simon. We have two children, Michael who is 11 and Fiona is 8. We have one large Golden Retriever, Fido, and live on base. Simon has been in the Army for 15 years and has deployed three times in the past. However, this is the first deployment in the last four years. It all came as a bit of a shock really but he was so keen to go and who am I to hold back his career, just because life is "comfortable" here. We waved him off about six weeks ago and so have had time to settle down and get our own routines working for the time he is away. Of course we all miss him but we have to do our part too, and if he is happy and we are happy, then no one needs to worry!

We have made the adjustment relatively well. I remember hanging on every word the psychologist said at the predeployment briefing and knew just after Simon left that we might struggle along and even feel angry that we were left alone and with winter coming! Sure enough, we had some early challenges. I got a puncture about Day 3 and was grateful that we have two vehicles here so I could deal with it in the evening (well the neighbour could deal with it!). Then Fiona fell over at school and broke her arm and just to top it off, Fido needed stitches in his leg from wondering off somewhere and returning home rather worse for wear! I was kind of glad when that was three things that went wrong and now feel that they are done and we can move on! I feel tired already but I think that's the lack of Vitamin D and the cold weather! We do have school holidays coming up so that will be a time to recharge our batteries and have some fun too.

Michael plays soccer and has been lucky to be taken with a friend's family, to a couple of the World Cup games. It was exciting for him and something special to tell his Dad about. Fiona likes to go dancing and so we go to lessons every week and sometimes on Saturdays when

my "taxi" is busy getting from Michael's soccer game to the dance studio. Our friends here are great already - I hope they don't get sick of us! They have helped with the school run and sports practice and that has meant I don't have to be in two places at once. I am one of those people who won't ask for help but rather exhaust myself in being the "perfect" mother, so the fact that they offered, means heaps to us and Simon is pleased - even if I do wonder if he secretly planned and asked them to help out.

I have always lived in a Defence Community and have many friends both here and outside. I recall times when I have helped others in a similar situation and remember the difference that made to someone coping or not, so I must accept all that's offered and comes my way! I will be the first family to line up for the "Dining In" in Camp which the DSO's organise. Anytime I don't have to cook is great and it's even greater that I don't have to do the dishes either! Michael and Fiona have been great at helping with extra tasks - be it organising the wood or getting the washing

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING CONT'D...



in and folded. We are all in this together and they know their help keeps their mother happy. We have the holidays in a few weeks and have been planning some special treats and outings not too far from home. Sleepovers for friends and a short visit from the grandparents all sound perfect.

Simon has been in touch by phone and we have managed to Skype a couple of times. Fiona was keen to show her

Dad her plaster before it comes off. We have been taking turns at writing letters and the kids have done some art work for their Dad's wall. I know the mail is slow but he will enjoy it all when it arrives.

So early days but no dramas. I hope it will stay that way!

Kind regards and good wishes to you all. We are all in this together!

Jules

Quotes:

*Tough times never last,
but tough people do.
(Dr Robert Schuller)*

*Love is missing someone
whenever you're apart, but
somehow feeling warm inside
because you're close in heart
(Kay Knudsen)*



Friendship Day

Sunday 2nd August 2015 will be Friendship Day

Friendship day was originally founded by Hallmark in 1919. It was intended to be a day for people to celebrate their friendship by sending each other cards, but by 1940 the market had dried up, and eventually it died out completely. However, in 1998 Winnie the Pooh was named the world's Ambassador of Friendship at the United Nations (believe it or not!), and in April 2011 the United Nations officially recognised 30th July as International Friendship Day; although most countries celebrate on the first Sunday of August.

According to the Friendship Day declaration, we are invited to "observe this day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with the culture and other appropriate circumstances or customs of their local, national and regional communities, including through education and public awareness-raising activities".

LETTERS FROM ST MARY'S SCHOOL, GORE

Last week the Deployment Services Office in Burnham received a wonderful bundle of letters written to be forwarded to soldiers in Iraq.

These amazing letters from 9 and 10 year olds, not only introduce themselves as the writer, but record their stories associated with the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings and include special messages of support to those currently deployed. The letters are now enroute to our contingent abroad, but I have included some snippets I thought you all might enjoy.

"We made our own trenches and ate Hardtack, jam, spam, creamed rice and ANZAC biscuits. I thought the spam tasted like cat food. I liked the hardtack and ANZAC Biscuits. I didn't like the cream rice or cheese. I don't know how people can eat that food."

"You are very brave to help our country to be safe."

"I have been wondering where you might have come from and about your name. You probably miss your family and home."

"Years 3's and 4's dug two trenches with a HUMONGUS digger. They dressed up in camo gear. They fought with water balloons, flour bombs and dye bombs."

"We made poppies out of red paint, white paper and black paper. We also sketched soldiers standing to attention."

"Thank you for your bravery."

"Thank you for risking your life for us and saving us from the forces of evil. If I went to war I would cry like the girls at my desk."

"We are thinking about you and every other soldier. I hope you've had a fun time travelling to different places. St Mary's School is praying for you and we are sending our best wishes."

"You're the best. We believe in you so you should believe in yourself."

"I hope you stay in good health and good spirits."

"Thanks for protecting New Zealand. And remember St Mary's School is thinking of you."

2015

WHAT'S ON - NAVY MUSEUM

4-19 JULY

NATTY NAVY KNOTTER — BEING HELD AT THE NAVY MUSEUM, TORPEDO BAY, 4-19 JULY

SESSION TIMINGS: 10:30AM, 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 2:30PM,
DURATION OF EACH SESSION 40 MINS. COST \$3 PER PERSON

Join us at the Navy Museum to learn a few knots and make your own Natty Navy Knotter. We will use the reef, half-hitch and thumb knot to make a cool Natty Navy Knotter to hang from your bag.

To book call 09 445 5186 or email education@navymuseum.co.nz

Suitable for children aged 4 years and over. Adult assistance may be required.



2015

WHAT'S ON IN LINTON

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR DINNER? MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR — 29 JULY (NOTE: NEW DATE)

A warm invitation is extended to you and your family to join us for dinner in the Junior Ranks Mess, Linton Military Camp on Wednesday 29 July at 6.00pm. This is your opportunity to have a night off cooking, a night off dishes and a chance to meet up with other New Zealand Defence Force families associated with current overseas deployments. This informal dinner is low key, with no speeches, no presentations, no pressure, no mess and no fuss. It would be just great to see you. As we need to confirm numbers for catering purposes, please RSVP for adults and children attending, no later than Monday 20 July to Janine Burton, Deployment Services Officer, Linton on Toll free 0800 68 377 327, (06) 351 9009 or dso.linton@xtra.co.nz

2015

WHAT'S ON IN BURNHAM

TUESDAY 28 JULY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR DINNER? MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR — 28 JULY

A warm invitation is extended to you and your family to join us for dinner in the Burnham Military Camp B Block Mess on Tuesday 28 July at 5.45pm. This is your opportunity to have a night off cooking, a night off dishes and a chance to meet up with other New Zealand Defence Force families associated with current overseas deployments. This informal dinner is low key, with no speeches, no presentations, no pressure, no mess and no fuss. It would be just great to see you. As we need to confirm numbers for catering purposes, please RSVP for adults and children attending, no later than Monday 20 July to Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer, Burnham on Toll free 0800 33 75 69, (03) 363 0421 or dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz

**Special
Guest**



PERSONAL MESSAGES

The deadline for contributions and personal messages for "The Bugle" is the first Wednesday of each month (**the next edition deadline is 5 August at 4.00pm**). Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

Hello Grace and Marc

I was very impressed with your school reports – well done! I hope you like the presents I sent you, and thanks for being such good children for Mummy. Over here work is keeping me busy, and I am eating lots of good food. The weather is hot, and sometimes I go for a swim in the pool. I love you very much, from Daddy.

To Jordyn

Dad wants to thank you for your letter that you wrote last month in the family page, makes dad happy and I also miss you and the rest of the family. Glad to hear the Aussie trip went well and you enjoyed your 10th birthday. Say Hi to the rest of the tribe. xxxx, Dad.

Hi Helen Melon

It's always good to talk to you on skype and you are all looking so well. I have found my dream job, Sinai weather forecaster. It would be so easy, all you have to do is tell everyone the weather tomorrow will be the same as today DRY, SUNNY with a light Wind. Anyway that's all for now. Love and Kisses Gary the Half Hungarian Goat Herder xxxxxxxx.

Dear Aussie

I hope you are having a great time in Hawaii, under the great pretense of being "on exercise". No cam paint or ratpacks for you! I'll wait patiently for my postcards.... I am really looking forward to our holiday in August, even though I am swapping one hot and dry country for another hot and humid country. Plenty of time for cocktails and beaches, I can't wait. Love Kiwi.

Hi Sam Abby and Mia

I hope you are looking forward to holidays coming up. I have been keeping track of how good the snow looks so far, outside my window there is no chance of snow or rain for that matter. Enjoy your snowboarding. Love Nick.

From Home

Hi Dad

It was great to talk to you on Skype. Just rushing off to soccer practice with Tom! Our team is doing really well and our coach is great. Glad I made the change! School is ok. Lots of homework though but Mum helps even though she is not as quick as you with the Maths! Fido has been pretty good. He sure likes it when the fire is going and gets pretty close. Mum says he is old and feels the cold. Can't wait until we talk again soon! Love from Michael xo.

Dear Dad

This is Fiona. I had a good day at school and then went to Jasmines house to play on her X Box. I am pretty good at some of the games. We should get one. Ballet has been ok. We are going to have a mid year concert but you won't be here to see it. I will get Mum to take some photos for you and then I can send them over for you to show everyone there. I have quite a few dances to learn. Granny and Pops are coming to stay in July. I can't wait to see them and let them spoil me. I miss you Dad. Be careful. Don't eat too many chips. Lots of love, Fiona xxxxx.

Si

Missing you! Things are good here but cold in the mornings! We think of you being warm. Maybe you will get sick of it and long for a decent frost and some snow! Kids are great – you would be proud of them and the help they give me. They will surely deserve some holiday treats. Always thinking of you and sending lots of love from us all. Jules xxx.

Aragorn/Daddy

Yay, we are so excited that it is nearly time for you to come home, we have been missing you a lot and have been busy working on some special things for you. We are very proud of everything you have done during your time over there and cannot wait to meet you when you come home and go on our holiday together! We love you lots!!! Arwen and Little man xx.

Aunty M

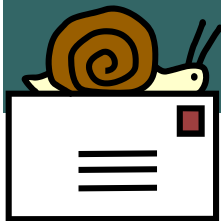
She sent the substitute! I was not impressed. Treats were rationed, biscuits less than adequate and fuss and chatter just not what I am used to. Guess a girl's just got to be grateful, but hard when one is used to being spoilt and treated by and like royalty. Hoping you and your chariot might be here again soon. I always miss you! BRV.

Hi Floss

Just thinking of you and the enormous contribution you are making over there. We miss you so much and will look forward to your safe homecomings. Lots of love, Brian.

Junior B

You might be complaining about the heat, but we are complaining about the cold. Keep up the good work. Cheers. Percy.



PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D

Hi Dad

Me and Mum had a great time in Australia, Thank you so much for all the spending money, we brought lots of stuff. I hope you liked your league top ☺. We have a school production on the 1 July we are doing the Grease dance. When you skype us I can show you ☺. I have been good doing my homework and listening to mum. We are missing you like crazy Dad! It's very cold here. I don't want to get out of bed in the morning, LOL Love you all the way to the moon and back Dad. J and Mum xox.

Dear JC

The little guy is growing every day and we both miss you heaps. Super cold here, trying to keep busy and make time pass quicker. Don't forget to check the calendar for birthdays and bills! Very proud of you and think of you always! Love you. xx CC.

Kev

Everyone in the HQ says hi. We are busy as usual. I have sent you our Newsletter so you can see what we have been up to. Not sure how long it will take to get to you though as it has gone by snail mail! Getting very cold here, and at present I

have the radiators going, three heaters going (one of them yours), promise you can have back when you return. Envy you in the heat! Take care of yourself. Would send you some pineapple lumps, but know that they will melt before getting there. How about some sour teddy bears? Christine and HQ staff.

Benji

Thinking of you with love. Keeping busy here. Work has been good and I'm happy with the promotion and back pay. Oh — what will I buy with it? Hugs always, J.T.C.

BOUQUETS:

FLTLT Karina Chipman

Thank you for the amazing work you do in Whenuapai and for the co-ordination of the Family Support Services Committee. We enjoy meeting with you and your team and admire from afar the difference you make! Carol and Janine.

St Mary's School, Gore

What great letters you wrote to our service personnel deployed abroad. I enjoyed reading them all and learning more about your studies. They will be enjoyed by many of our service personnel too. The letters are now on their way to the deployment location. Thank you so much for thinking of them all. Your kind words will surely bring smiles to many. Carol and Janine.

Marie Lotz, Trentham

Sincere thanks Marie for organising and hosting the "Sunday Roast" in Trentham recently. I know local families enjoyed the opportunity to get together with others facing a deployment and very much appreciated your hospitality. Carol and Janine.

To our Knights

A couple of weeks ago when we were in Whenuapai for a Family Day briefing, and arrived at the location, we discovered that we had a hissing sound coming from a tyre on our rental car. So a bouquet is due to our knights, Moks and Tim. A huge thank you from two damsels – very capable of changing a tyre and not in distress, but very grateful that you stepped in to save our day – if not our clothes and high heels. Janine and Carol.

INVITE FOR DINNER

Having a loved one away on deployment has many challenges, including keeping up with household routines, the most regular of which will be meals.

So how would you like a night off from cooking the dinner and doing the dishes? Previously we have had some very successful dinners in Burnham and Linton so thought we would do it all again. So

Would you like to join us for dinner?

**Low key, no speeches or presentations,
no pressure, no mess, no fuss.**

Bring your family.

BURNHAM: Tuesday 28 July 2015, 5.45pm
B Block Mess, Burnham Military Camp

LINTON: Wednesday 29 July 2015, 6.00pm
(**NOTE:** *This is a different date to previously advertised*)
JRs Mess, Linton Military Camp

We will need to confirm catering numbers to the Mess, so please **RSVP** names of all adults and children attending by **Monday 20 July 2015** to either:

Carol Voyce (Burnham)
0800 337 569 or 03 363 0421
Call or text 027 449 7565
dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz

Janine Burton (Linton)
0800 683 77 327 or 06 351 9399
Call or text 021 649 903
dso.linton@xtra.co.nz