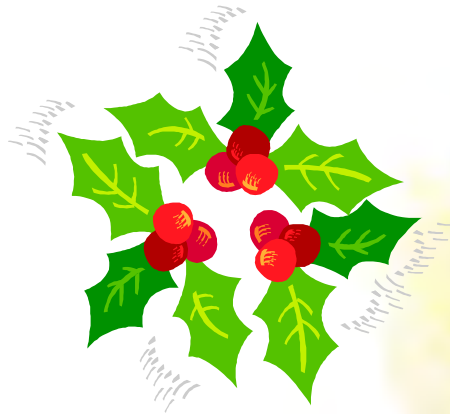


THE BUGLE

Issue 216 | December 2015



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“THE BUGLE”

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

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Disclaimer

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

Cover Photo:

Festive Greetings to you all!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Hon Gerry Brownlee

2015 has been a year where many more New Zealanders have become aware of the contribution you as members of the New Zealand Defence Force make to ensure our daily security.

Marking the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing has heightened awareness of the sacrifices made by so many young New Zealanders in World War One. This has been contrasted by the rising threat of terrorism used by Daesh which now threatens so many countries including our own.

Our contribution to the training mission at Taji in Iraq has been most impressive. The first rotation of some 105 New Zealanders have returned safely home and the second mission is in place.

I am very proud of the work our troops have done. Ever since his visit to Taji in October, the Prime Minister has taken every opportunity to speak with pride and praise for our soldiers.

From the Sinai to Sudan, Iraq to Afghanistan, the Golan Heights to the Korean Peninsula and many other places, NZDF personnel serve with distinction representing our country.

Your service is highly valued and appreciated by the Government and people of New Zealand.

I do hope you enjoy a peaceful, happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Christmas Message 2015

Chief of Defence Force

LTGEN Tim Keating

Looking back at this year, I believe all New Zealand Defence Force personnel, both military and civilian, should have a great sense of pride in their achievements.

I know I do.

I want everyone to know that their contribution to the Defence Force is valued by myself and the senior leadership team. I want to thank you all for your efforts and professionalism.

It has been a very busy year, with numerous deployments around the world, including the start of the training mission at Taji Military Camp in Iraq, the deployment of an Orion, a Hercules and the frigate to the Middle East region in support of various missions, and the continuation of other deployments.

It has also been a busy year closer to home, with various operations including the start of another Southern Ocean patrol last month, the Cyclone relief effort in Vanuatu earlier this year, and Exercise Southern Katipo, a major event in the NZDF's calendar that concluded near the end of November.

Then of course we have had the Anzac Day commemorations on the hugely significant 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

This year has also seen many other accomplishments, from the progressive introduction of full capabilities on the NH90 helicopter to the retirement of the Iroquois, to the 50th year of airlift support flights to the Ice.

A public consultation process has been carried out to help inform the Defence White Paper. This has allowed New Zealanders the chance to have constructive input into defence policy.

We've also seen a number of other initiatives within the organisation in order to improve the way we manage ourselves, including the introduction of a new human resources and performance development system, and the introduction of a new governance structure.

The end of the year will provide people with a much needed chance to wind down and take a well-deserved break. For those on deployment, it will be a time to reflect on the sacrifices you are making being away from your loved ones during the festive season.

Christmas and the summer holiday are traditionally a time when we try to pause and reflect, and to take time out with family and friends before the new year begins in earnest.

For those of you not deployed, I hope you can take the opportunity for a break and enjoy this time away with your families and loved ones.

For those who are deployed, your sacrifice at this time of year is appreciated.

Your selflessness and service ethos helps ensure that the NZDF can deliver what is expected of it.

Together, we are all a Force for New Zealand.

Nga Mihi o te wa me te tau hou.

A Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.



Christmas Message from Chief of Navy

Kai ora tatou

I write to wish you, your families and supporters, a very Merry Christmas. Christmas is a time for families, for rest and relaxation. I am looking forward to getting out the paint brushes and tidying up around our home!

Which ever Service you are associated with or whether you serve as a civilian, you will know that 2015 has been a big year for the Defence Force. Operations, exercises and strategic planning have all proceeded at pace. The Defence Force is comprised of dedicated and increasingly diverse New Zealanders, who are the unashamed experts in the delivery of military effects at sea, in the air and on land. Thank you for your service in 2015.

This has been a successful year for our Navy. Together we have commemorated the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC Day and it was great to see the RNZN involved in the various commemorations, in particular at Gallipoli in April. As always our people and ships have performed well throughout the year, from a large drug bust in the Middle East, to disaster relief efforts in the South Pacific and everything in between. Our most senior officers commanded our largest joint and combined exercise for many years. Well done.

For those of you in the Navy you are armed with competencies unique to the Navy and unique in New Zealand. You operate in the harshest parts of the planet, whether in our offshore zone, or waters from the Arabian Peninsula to Antarctica. All of you are trained to deal with the challenging environment and to use your ship to deliver the effects required. A good example of this preparedness is evident in the work that HMNZS OTAGO is doing over the holiday period.

As you read this message, OTAGO will be at sea patrolling the Southern Ocean making sure fishing vessels in New Zealand's area of responsibility are acting in accordance with the law. She will be returning before Christmas, meaning all of our ships will be home for the festive season this year. However, we have shipmates deployed over Christmas who are working shoulder to shoulder with other Navies, and with other NZDF personnel overseas during this time. Additionally, some of you will be working ashore in supply depots, staff headquarters, schools or work shops to make sure that operations continue. Thank you for your contribution to mission achievement. I hope when you return home you will have time to reconnect with your families and loved ones.

With an extended leave period, I hope that the rest of you can take time to relax with your friends and family and recharge for what will be a busy year ahead. Operation NEPTUNE, the celebration of our Navy's 75th anniversary, along with exercises and operations continuing around the globe, will make for a demanding but rewarding year in 2016. Your service will continue to build on the legacy of those who have gone before us and will help reinforce our proud heritage.

Finally, from my family to yours, have a great Christmas and New Year. Enjoy the holiday and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours Aye, John Martin

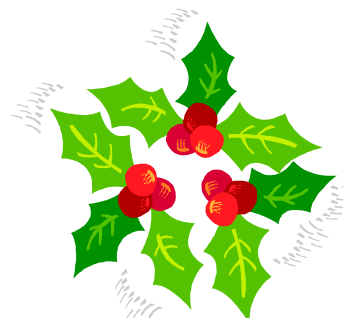




Chief of Army Major General Peter Kelly Christmas Message

To the men and women of the New Zealand Defence Force, wherever you are currently serving around the world may I, on behalf of my family, wish you a safe Christmas and New Year. I know the hardship of separation and the toll it takes at this time of year on you and your families. My thoughts and prayers are with you all and we look forward to your safe return. Please continue to look after yourself, your mates and all those others whom you are charged with protecting. To all the families and friends of our deployed soldiers, sailors, airmen and air women, as tough as it is with loved ones away, may I wish you a happy Christmas and New Year.

Peter Kelly
Chief of Army





Christmas Message from Chief of Air Force

Air Vice-Marshal Mike Yardley

As Christmas fast approaches, we can safely say that 2015 has been another great year for the Air Force. The Deputy Chief, Air Component Commander, Warrant Officer of the Air Force and I are all very proud of what our airmen and airwomen have achieved this year. And you should be rightfully pleased with everything you've done to keep our aircraft flying and our commitment to being a Force for New Zealand.

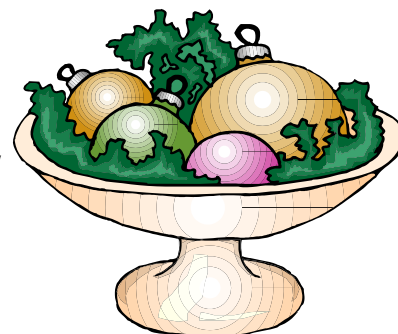
Every Christmas we have our people deployed overseas and this year is no different. For those who are away on operations and to the families who are holding everything together at home, your collective service is appreciated. I know how difficult it is to be away from friends and family at this time of year but I know you are doing us proud around the world and we'll be thinking of you.

This year has flown by thanks to the consistent tempo in the RNZAF and it has provided us a lot to reflect on including:

- Operation WISTERIA, not once but twice, with Prince Harry and then Prince Charles.
- Support to the NZDF deployment to Taji in Iraq including transporting the Prime Minister.
- Op TAKAPU finishing in December after 17 months of continued operations in the Middle East.
- We said farewell to the Iroquois, and we marked 50 years of operations of the C-130 Hercules.
- Our NH90s deployed on their first overseas exercise to TALISMAN SABRE in Australia.
- We provided humanitarian aid and disaster relief to the people of Vanuatu after Cyclone Pam.
- The introduction of the T-6C Texan II means we are ready for our first new Wings course to start in January 2016.
- We conducted our first deep level maintenance on the NH90 with much international attention.
- We graduated over 120 new airmen and airwomen who are excited about their new careers with us.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and professionalism from all of you. I am constantly impressed with the levels of dedication and innovation I see happening on our bases.

On behalf of the Air Force, I would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas.





Christmas Message to Deployed Forces from Commander Joint Forces New Zealand

Kia ora koutou

As Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who are deployed overseas for your commitment as you are deployed over this Christmas and New Year period. My thanks extends to your families, partners and friends for also serving, silently and selflessly, alongside you throughout your deployment.

You are doing New Zealand proud. Because of your deployment, New Zealand is able to hold its head up and say we are doing our share in contributing to maintaining international peace and security. At home, and in the region, both our Regular and Reserve Forces are working with other New Zealand agencies through this holiday period to ensure our country remains safe and secure.

We should also remember at this time those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country and the families they left behind. May their loved ones find comfort in the fact that their sacrifice was not in vain.

Almost 600 New Zealand Defence Force personnel are serving around the world – tackling pirates and drug traffickers off the Horn of Africa, training members of the Afghan National Army, supporting the Timor-Leste Defence Force by providing technical advice, training the Iraqi Security Forces to become better fighters and empowering them in their fight against the violent extremist group ISIL, working as part of the United Nations to monitor peace agreements or ceasefires in the Middle East and in Africa, monitoring compliance with the Armistice Agreement between North and South Korea, protecting Antarctic fish stocks, and supporting Antarctica New Zealand and the United States Antarctic Programme.

I know how hard it is at this time of year to be so far from your families and loved ones, and how hard it is for them too. I've been in that situation in the past and know how tough this time can be. So I encourage all of you to find ways to get in touch with them before or during Christmas.

Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand will not shut down over the holiday period. If you need any assistance during this period, please contact the Joint Watchkeeper at: (DTelN) 345 6333, (Direct line) + 61 4 529 6333 or (Email) HQJFNZJointWatchCentre@nzdf.mil.nz.

Most importantly, I want to wish you a Happy Christmas wherever you may be and all the best for 2016.
Meri Kirihimete me te Tau Hou hari ki a koutou.

Major General Tim Gall
Commander Joint Forces New Zealand



Colonel H McAslan, DSD
Commander 1(NZ) Brigade



WO1 C Douglas
Command Sergeant Major
1(NZ) Brigade



Christmas Message from 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 to act.



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





CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM 3rd SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)

On behalf of the Officer Commanding, Officers, Soldiers and Civilian Staff of 3rd Signal Squadron (Electronic Warfare), we would like to extend our best wishes to all our NZDF personnel and in particular our 3 Sig Sqn (EW) family who are currently deployed on Operations throughout the world during the Christmas and New Year period.

Serving on operations is definitely not easy during this time of year for both the soldiers deployed and their families and friends back here. We would like to also extend our warm wishes to these families and friends and wish them a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. Our thoughts are with you all during this time and we look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

WO2 N.L. Ruki, SSM



Xmas Message - 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion

As we come to the end of another busy year for 3 CSS Bn, our thoughts and thanks go to those soldiers deployed overseas and their families at home. We ask for a lot of support and patience from our families to allow us to undertake our chosen profession, and for that we are grateful.

As a Battalion we have had many achievements over the calendar year, from individual excellence through to group successes. 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 "*Whirikoka ō Roto - Strength from Within*". You should all be proud of your individual and our collective achievements, well done.

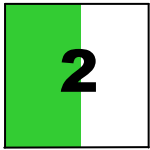
Wherever you are as the festive season approaches, please take the time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends and rejuvenate yourselves for another busy year ahead.

For those deployed, keep up the good work and we look forward to your safe return.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Emma Thomas
Commanding Officer

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



Kia ora koutou katoa

As another year draws to a close and we take part in the festive season, we would like to acknowledge those personnel who will spend Christmas on operations, and away from family and loved ones. We also need to acknowledge the friends and family, who are forced to spend the festive season without their soldier – as this is often the more difficult challenge, and one that is sometimes not fully appreciated. Without the support of friends, family and loved ones – our soldiers could not survive their ordeal.

2015 has been a highly successful year for 2 CSS Bn. We have had a large number of our personnel deployed on operations – and safely return, while earlier in the year a significant amount of our personnel also deployed to support the people of Vanuatu as part of Operation Pacific Relief. We had a quick breather during RNZALR Corps Week, with the event being an outstanding success. Once Winter hit, our men and women were called up to support the Disaster Relief effort in support of the Wanganui Flood. Once into the collective training period, the unit deployed 200 personnel on Exercise Southern Katipo and were very successful in enabling the Amphibious Operation in Marlborough, as well as joining in with our comrades from 3 CSS Bn to support the remainder of the Task Force in Murchison and Westport. The unit has also had a noticeable win in consolidating the integration of Reserve Forces into the Unit. In addition to these examples, on a weekly basis we have received positive comments regarding the performance of our people in a host of the roles and short notice tasks that we are called upon to perform.

Our athletes won the Commanders Winter Sports, while our women won the Army Touch Competition, with the men runners up in their event. We have had a number of individuals gain National Representative Honours in Rugby League, Rugby, Hockey and Football. Our caterers again won the coveted Roy Smith competition.

We thank you for your efforts while deployed on operations, and we look forward to the ongoing positive feedback regarding your performance. Above all else, stay safe and we will see you soon.

Noho ora mai.

LTCOL Dave Neal and WO1 Ray Kareko
2 CSS Bn Command Team



Christmas Greetings cont'd...



Christmas message from Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles



On behalf of all ranks of Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles, we wish those deployed and their families and loved ones back home a safe Christmas season. We appreciate your efforts and acknowledge the difficulties that separation from loved ones causes, especially during the holiday period. Know that the unit is here to provide whatever support we can. We look forward to welcoming you back in a few months time.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Hamish Gibbons
Commanding Officer

Warrant Officer Class 1 Johnny Sincock
Regimental Sergeant Major



The close of another challenging and high tempo year allows us a brief opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, set new goals for the future, and to rest and spend time with our friends, families, and loved ones.

At this time we also acknowledge those personnel deployed overseas on operations, and their families at home, particularly during the holiday season. We appreciate your service and the sacrifices that you and your families make on behalf of all of us.

On behalf of all ranks of 16th Field Regiment, we wish those deployed and their families at home a safe Christmas and holiday season.

Major Anthony Robinson, Commanding Officer

WO1 Wayne McAsey, RSM



2/4 RNZIR Christmas Message to Deployed Personnel

On behalf of the, Officers, Soldiers and Civilian staff of 2/4 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 2016.

"Kia Kaha Kia Maia."

WO1 Wayne Nepia, RSM



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

Tena Koutou

On behalf of all members of the 2nd/1st Battalion, 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.

It's a tough job being away from friends and whanau, but a necessary part of this profession. The sacrifices of you and your family over the festive period are appreciated.

Please take the opportunity to enjoy yourself over the festive season, and if you can't be good, be careful.

"Kura Takahi Puni."

LTCOL E.A. Whakahoehoe

WO1 J. Taipari





Christmas Message from the RNZAF Defence Coordinators

The RNZAF Defence Community Coordinators would like to thank everyone serving our country overseas, and their families, for making the sacrifice of being separated during this season.

May the "reason for the season" create a deep bond between you across the miles! Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas, and a good start into 2016!

Claudia Baker, RNZAF Woodbourne
Bridget Williams, RNZAF Base Ohakea
Sophie Rodie, RNZAF Base Auckland



*Festive Greetings to those at
home and those abroad.*

*Wishing you all a
Happy Christmas, Peaceful
New Year, and a 2016
filled with all good things.*

*Community Services Facilitators,
Linton, Trentham, Waiouru & Burnham*

**From the NCO Team Members
Meri Kirihimete — Merry Christmas!**

We send our best wishes to those
personnel and their families that
are unable to share the special
day together.

**Mo te Tau Hou —
Happy New Year**





NEWS FROM SOUTH KOREA

Interview with three members of Op Monitor in South Korea on how they will be celebrating Christmas

CAPT P, how will you be celebrating Christmas?

Between myself and my boss, we will be taking shifts so our NCO's can get away from the 24th to 26th. Having said that, the duty office has a kitchen so we will be cooking a mixture of Kiwi and American food on those days. We will be a few metres away from the Military Demarcation Line that separates North and South Korea and it is likely to be snowing. Although we will be working, a white Christmas, lots of food, and the occasional visitor from the security battalion mean we will be fine. We will also be able to call home.

What will you miss most about being away?

Family and friends. Christmas is a big deal for families and can be a tough time. Most of the soldiers here do a 1 or 2 year tour, and manning constraints mean only a few personnel can leave Korea during the Christmas period. I will miss my family but there are others here who have been away from home longer than my tour so I'm grateful I will be home after 6 months even if I miss Christmas at home this year. Also because its winter and freezing cold it's a bit different to a kiwi summer.

CDR P, what are you looking forward to about Christmas in Korea?

I live in a US Army Garrison in the middle of Seoul, so I'll get to experience an American Christmas

as well as a South Korean Christmas right outside the gate. I am keen to see how a big city like Seoul will decorate itself and I am hoping for a white Christmas so I can Skype my children from standing next to a snowman. They'll be stoked with that.

Do you have any thoughts you'd like to pass on to family and friends at home?

Just that I will be thinking of them and wish them all a safe and merry Christmas.

FGOFF W, how would you normally spend your Christmas in NZ?

My family usually books a bach in the Golden Bay area and we invite family friends who make up our 'extended family' in New Zealand. Christmas day involves a day down at the beach, followed by a big meal and a few drinks. In the evening we light a bonfire and get out the guitar for a few campfire songs. Being near the DMZ this year in the middle of winter will certainly be very different to my typical Christmas day, but one I look forward to.

Where and with who are you going to spend Christmas day?

I will be spending my Christmas day working within the Western Transportation Corridor between South and North Korea, inspecting vehicles crossing the MDL. My American counterpart and I will be



Passing on a Message to North Korea

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONT'D...

covering Christmas and New Year to enable the soldiers and Non Commissioned Officers to head home to see their families. This will be my first white Christmas, so I am looking forward to enjoying celebrating it with the American and Korean soldiers who work alongside me in the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine facility where the border crossings take place.

Glossary:

DMZ — *Demilitarised Zone.* Established in the 1953 Armistice the DMZ is a 4km wide area separating the two sides that spans the Korean Peninsula roughly along the 38th parallel.

MDL — *Military Demarcation Line.* The MDL is the median line of the DMZ and marks the limits of the territory held by either side at the signing of the Armistice. The MDL is the defacto national border in lieu of a political peace treaty.



The gate to Camp Bonifas near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

To the families and friends of the OP Farad 02/15 contingent

My very best regards for the festive season.

As planned our contingent is now in two separate locations and there is no shortage of challenges to tackle each day. However I am glad to see that the members of the New Zealand contingent, as expected, are working together well and getting on with our jobs in a cohesive way.

The Christmas period will be a difficult time for all of you whilst you prepare to celebrate and holiday in the summer months without your loved ones.

I can assure you that there are plans in place for the contingent, separated in two parts as it may be, to at least celebrate Christmas together here with our adopted military family. And we will certainly celebrate with all of the trappings that we can. There will be no shortage of Christmas cheer, secret Santas, present opening and meals together. Most importantly, each and every member of the contingent will take time out to call or skype their respective families and friends as it is all of you, and the question of how you are marking the occasion, that will be on the minds of our men and women here.

Stay safe and look after each other, as we will equally be doing here.

Commanding Officer OP Farad



DSO'S CORNER



Carol Voyce

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

"Wishing you all at home and abroad, a very happy, safe and peaceful festive season and a happy start to 2016. We look forward to catching up again with the first Bugle in January".

Today I went to my great niece's preschool nativity play. Little 3 year old Isabella was a star! – In more ways than one – yes - a bright shining star lighting up the nativity scene. She is the most delightful girl, full of laughter and energy. (I think great Aunts are allowed to say that!) It was a perfect occasion and the room was filled with Mums', Dads', siblings, Grandparents and folk just like me! We all had beaming smiles and a few tears of pride in the little ones efforts to bring the Christmas story to us. It also brought back many memories of the days when our daughter was part of similar preschool activities – oh, so long ago! I was always the one sniffing into my handkerchief and trying not to make it obvious. How nothing

has changed – still sniffing away!

I don't have these opportunities so much anymore but my darling great nieces and nephew give me the excuse to go to the theatre, shows and some other activities. I love the invites! I love too, the chance to reminisce and have the opportunity to do things again which I loved so many years ago when my daughter was small. If it wasn't for 3 special little ones, I wouldn't be able to see the things I loved so much and share in the delight on their little faces!

Christmas is traditionally a family time and more than ever you will feel the absence of your loved one. Many of us look forward to this time of year when often we unite with family from far away and plan great celebrations and holiday times together. It can be both joyous and sad. The sadness and burdens you may feel can be alleviated by surrounding yourself with positive people and plenty of distraction. You need too, to find a balance and share or delegate the tasks of being Father Christmas, Chief cook, Peacemaker and organiser of everyone and everything. Something different, somewhere different, may just provide the answers. That's my plan for this festive season!

With many New Zealand Defence Force personnel scattered across the world over the holiday period, they too, will be experiencing new sights, new ways of celebrating Christmas, new foods and cultures and too, that longing to be home! We will remember and appreciate their sacrifices and yours, over this time, in our efforts to help those so much less fortunate than us and to work towards a much needed world at peace.

Over many past festive seasons –

some 15 or so actually, DSO's have taken many calls over the holiday period and this one should be no exception. While Janine and I may not be in the office, we still monitor our phones and are happy to offer support, a listening ear or guidance where needed. We understand the added stresses this time of year can bring and if we can make a difference, we would like the opportunity to help you along the way. Please don't feel that you can't call or that you maybe interrupting our day. Never! Janine and I will provide coverage for each other and at times will divert our phones from one to the other. Please remember that you can not text the 0800 numbers so please call. If the phone goes directly to message, please call back, as this usually means that we are on it! Sometimes phone lines are overloaded with Christmas and New Year callers in our general communities, but be assured we are still at the end of the line.

Wishing you all at home and abroad, a very happy, safe and peaceful festive season and a happy start to 2016. We look forward to catching up again with the first Bugle in January.

Kind regards to you all..

Carol



DSO'S CORNER CONT'D...



Janine Burton
Deployment Services Officer
1 (NZ) Brigade

I know from personal experience that having a loved one away on deployment at this traditionally 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. Both my husband and son have been on deployment at Christmas (thankfully not at the same time though).

Again, from my personal experience, I always felt a bit better once Christmas Day was over. And let's face it, the way the days, weeks, and the year has flown by, we will very shortly be welcoming 2016 when we can look forward to homecomings! From deployment locations, I'm sure that our service men and women will also be thinking of family and friends at home and the traditional way they have always spent their Christmas's. But as those away will be spending their Christmas with their contingent family, they will rely on each other and work towards making this a very special time for themselves and their colleagues, and opening those special

seasonal gifts which have been making their way to their hands. With a little luck and a lot of faith, the gifts have remained unopened until the appropriate time. We're not making any promises there!

I'm sure that everyone in their respective deployment locations around the world will make an effort to make contact with those at home. Please be patient if they can't make contact until late on Christmas Day, or they ring very early. Remember the time differences, so while we are really involved in the day here in NZ, the rest of the world comes after us. If your loved one rings you on Boxing Day here, it may be Christmas Day there!

Regardless, I hope you have a wonderful day with family and

friends to support you, and contingents make this a special time in their respective part of the world.

While Carol and I will be taking leave, we will each be providing phone coverage for the other. So please do not hesitate to call us if you need to and we will assist you through whatever issue is causing you concern. No need to know which 0800 phone number you need to ring, we will divert our phones as we need to.

We know that this can be a difficult time for some, so call if you need to.

My very best Christmas wishes go to you all, whether at home or away and a safe and happy 2016.

Janine

BOUQUET

DEPLOYMENT DINNER

A huge thank you to those families who joined us in Linton on Monday 30 November for dinner. I know that there were a number of people who were able to connect with others that they knew, and to make new acquaintances with those also on a deployment journey.

Thank you to Chief of Staff LTCOL Aidan Shattock, CO QAMR LTCOL Hamish Gibbons, A/CO 1 RNZIR MAJ Gareth Seed and three of our Chaplains, Padres Chris, Paul and Hamish, for supporting us all.

So a big bouquet to all those who were able to join us, thank you for coming along. Best wishes to you and all our deployment families for the Christmas and New Year period and for 2016 when we will be able to look forward to homecomings.

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 Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RSA), 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) and Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer (Burnham) will provide 24 hour coverage, seven days a week throughout the holiday period. On occasions, Janine and I will divert our phones to each other. The divert happens automatically but takes a few seconds to connect. Please do not leave a message as these are sometimes difficult to retrieve when the divert is in place. Call back please. The message service usually only connects when the line is engaged. Text messages do not divert either, so just phone us. 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 2015 is 13 December. The first for 2016, will be 5 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 2015

This is the last issue of "The Bugle" for 2015. 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 6th January 2016. "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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD

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!

"Well done on being brave and defending us and everybody who lives in Silverstream. Come back safe." Neihara (10)

"My Dad is overseas and will be coming back next year." Jack (11)

"I hope you have a great time on Christmas Day. We hope you don't get lost." Lia

"You are amazing for our country. You are so brave for leaving your family to serve our country and that's pretty cool." Jessica (10)

"I hope you can have a break off work. I want an iPad, but I think I will give it to you." Kairan (10)

"I hope you have a great Christmas. Thank you for keeping our country safe. I hope you won't get injured. You have a warm kiwi heart" Thea (10)

"I hope you win." James

"I hope you get a really special Christmas and really special presents like a picture of your whole family." Matelina (7)

"You are great ambassadors for our wonderful country." Sheryl

"I hope there is jelly, strawberries, ice cream and turkey where you are. You need to eat a lot to be strong." Jonty (10)

"I hope it is not too hot in your tent. I hope you don't have to have noodles for Christmas dinner. I hope you get presents." Duncan (6)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD

"Merry Christmas. No beer for you, but have a great day."
Ben (10)

I hope you have a good Christmas and get all your presents and open them and play with them." Leah.

"You have served your country well. Thank you." Max (11)

"I hope you have a merry Christmas even though you are overseas. You are very brave. Thank you for serving our country."
Natalie (9)

"I am sorry you had to go overseas." Mark

"Thank you for defending New Zealand. I think you are incredibly brave. Thank you for everything you have done." Felicity (10)

"My brother got a tattoo so he could join the Army. If I was an Army nurse, would I have one? I don't like them much." Bianca (10)

**"I am sending you this card to make you happy."
Shaylee (11)**

"Will Santa be able to find you if you are hiding?"
Lizzie (5)

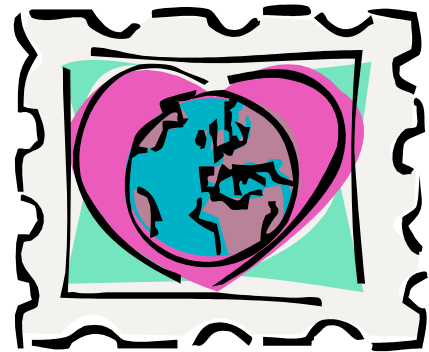
"Thank you for serving our country and all of us can't wait for you to come home." Connor (10)

**"I wonder what you are going to eat there for Christmas. Are you having fun?"
Angelo**

"Have a special cool and safe Christmas. Keep up the good work." Ieti (10)

"I hope you have a great Christmas Day. I hope you don't starve." Keziah.

MAIL TO DEPLOYMENT LOCATIONS



The mailing address for individual deployment locations are contained in the Deployment Guides which are provided to families at the family briefings or deployment roadshows. These Guides are also available on request from Janine or Carol.

Mail from New Zealand is sent by courier from Upper Hutt to deployment locations at the beginning of each week and takes, on average, 10-15 days to arrive. There is an additional mailing address via the Auckland Mail Centre for Op FARAD only, and mailbags leave Auckland every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

You will only pay for your mail from your home location to either Upper Hutt or Auckland. NZDF pays for the courier to take your mail from NZ to the deployment location.

Please remember:

There is a weight limit on parcels of 1kg per person per week.

Unfortunately over recent weeks parcels weighing from 3-12kg have been received at DPSC. This results in staff having to open and repackage the parcels into smaller parcels and holding back some parcels for the following week/s.

A green Customs sticker is required for all parcels.

Appreciate that there are some Post Shops around the country who are questioning this process. We ask that you stand firm and insist that these stickers remain attached to your parcel as they are being sent onwards to overseas locations and are most definitely required.

Let us know if the PostShop in your location is providing you some challenges re the Customs stickers or not putting a return address on the back of your mail, or anything else that is causing concern.

Janine Burton (DSO) Linton



CHAPLAIN'S PEN FROM HOME

There has been quite a trend this year in Christmas advertising especially for hot electronic items "Treat yourself!" 'You deserve it' or the classic 'because you're worth it!' So much for the season of giving! Even with giving, there is pressure to make sure the day is not a disappointment to kids especially but also for wider friends and family, It is so easy to get caught up with this, and many families can go into significant debt over this period.

Giving is important, and having nice stuff is, well... nice, but debt is a burden that destroys relationships and families. Many would have enough if they hadn't been caught up in this system that is so quick and easy to get into and so hard to get out of!

What kids need most of all in life are healthy relationships, parents who get on, who spend time with each other and with their children. They do not need many things at all, often the more things people have the less happy they become! True story!

Real giving, the kind that makes people happier, is thoughtful, often sacrificial ie; giving up something for someone else, and it meets a genuine need. It will probably involve a commitment of some kind, often time. Don't put yourself in debt this Christmas, nothing is worth it and it will rob you of happiness for the New Year. If you need some moral support for this look up Daveramsey.com and listen to a few of his podcasts.

The season we celebrate is the gift from God of Jesus Christ, a free gift involving great personal cost, offered to all regardless of wealth, background, or status. Offered first to the poor and the 'nobodies' of society and then rejected by the leaders and the elite. The best gift you can give your family this Christmas is to look deeper into this celebration, to reconsider faith and the values this brings to our culture. This is an important part of our history and has helped shape our nation.

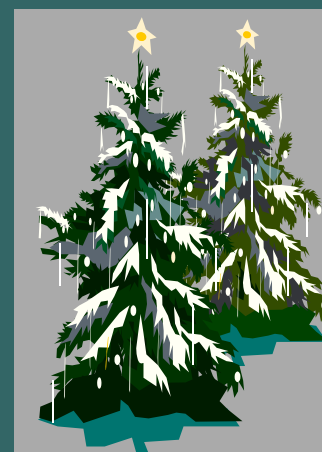
God Bless. May you have a great Christmas and New Year and build some precious memories with the ones you love.

Ka Kite
Padre James Molony



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

(Larry Wilde)



Christmas Quote:

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

(Helen Steiner Rice)



Sending 'A little piece of home' to deployed forces

Luz Baguioro
Public Affairs Manager
Joint Forces New Zealand

For New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel currently serving overseas, Christmas is the time when homesickness is perhaps most acute. Kiwi Forces Radio, which features messages and song requests from family and friends of those deployed overseas, is seeking to provide that festive fix.

"Christmas is the hardest time to be away from one's family. Through Kiwi Forces Radio, I'd like to give our people serving overseas a little piece of home and make them feel a little bit better at that time of the year," said Kate Lukins, a civilian NZDF employee and experienced broadcaster who has been the driving force behind the Christmas programme since 2010.

Started years ago by two staff members from what was formerly the Defence Communications Group, Kiwi Forces Radio is a Christmas radio programme burnt onto a CD and sent to forces deployed on missions overseas. It

also features messages from the Chief of Defence Force and the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand.

"Christmas is an emotional time for families and I feel privileged to be able to assist wives, partners and children in delivering their messages to their loved ones overseas," said Ms Lukins, who has volunteered her time to produce the show in the past five years.

"I just want to give something back to these men and women who put their lives on the line and help other people. They are giving so much for us and our country," she added.

Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand, which oversees all the NZDF's operations and missions in New Zealand and overseas, covers the cost of burning the CDs and posts them to the different overseas missions. Kiwi Forces Radio can also be downloaded from the NZDF website.

"It's an outstanding initiative," Major General Tim Gall, Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, said of Kiwi Forces Radio.

"Although they do not wear the uniform, the families of our servicemen and women sacrifice and serve our country alongside them. It takes a great deal of resilience on the part of the families and our deployed personnel to get

through long deployments. Through Kiwi Forces Radio, they gain access to another channel through which to get in touch at Christmas time," he added.

Among the most poignant messages Ms Lukins recorded in the past came from a soldier's wife who had terminal cancer and a girl who exhorted her father to "hurry home Dad".

Deployed personnel have provided positive feedback about the show and their families appreciate the opportunity to record messages and dedicate songs for their loved ones.

"It has been personally rewarding producing the show, and I don't want any accolades for my work," Ms Lukins said.

"Some kids have brought the CDs to school to share with their classmates. I've also received email messages from our deployed forces thanking me for producing the show, a bouquet of roses from Kiwi soldiers in Afghanistan and a certificate of appreciation from former Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Dave Gawn."



KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING



My name is Charlotte. My husband Mick has recently deployed and I have been encouraged to contribute to this column for the next 6 months or so. I have read some of the articles from previous writers and am not sure if I can write as well as them but I will try. Mick and I have been married for 10 years and we have 3 children Lucy (7) Josh (5) and Sam (3). Yes my household is a busy one. I am lucky to have good friends nearby, some who work for the Army and understand what deployments are like. My Aunt Joan also lives here and is retired so is like a grandmother to the children. I am sure with the support and encouragement of those around me and the access to support if I need it, I should manage ok.

Getting ready for Mick to deploy was a challenge. There seemed to be lots to do, lots to organise, people to see and things to be fixed or planned. I did go with Aunt Joan to the predeployment brief and was grateful for all the information I came home with and at least understand what is

happening over there and what life will be like for the whole contingent. I also know how to find the DSO's if I need them and how to send those important welfare parcels. It was really good.

Mick left just over 2 weeks ago so I just feel as though he is away on a course at the moment and will swing in through the door sometime soon. Obviously not to be! Lucy, Josh and Sam know their Dad is at work but I don't think they understand yet for how long or how far away. I am one of those spoiled wives whose husband takes care of everything so Mick set me up with a clear file which has everything written in it from the wireless internet code, how to record something on My Sky, who the Insurer is, when the car warrant and registration is due and even some funny little comments and messages. It is my Green folder which I have already had to delve into and know it will be so useful with all the information and contacts in one place. Thanks Mick - I thought it was unnecessary but I now agree you were right - it is perfect!

I took advice about trying to manage the deployment in smaller chunks rather than looking from now until May. This has meant that we have already planned some major events for each month and so always have something extra special to look forward to. Yes there will be other treats to help us "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and me sane, but the children have been involved too so they should be special. December doesn't need anything extra with Christmas. We are going to Auckland to spend 2 weeks with my Mum and Dad and large family and will have a wonderful gathering at the Bach near the beach. Of course Aunt Joan will come too - I will need her help with all the baggage and children at the airport. Dad will need a bus when he picks us up! It's exciting to think that Santa will have to arrive safely with his sleigh on the sand!

Mick and I are planning to Skype when we can during his time away and I am sure that will help us reassure each other that we

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING CONT'D.



are doing ok in opposite sides of the world. I have heard that the connection isn't always very good and the time difference might need planning around but we are looking forward to keeping in touch this way when we can. Lucy has made some nice decorations for her Dad for Christmas and we are getting our Christmas parcel organised this week. We have all made cards too which Mick will like to hang up and then the little presents for him to enjoy. At least I can count on him waiting till the day to open them.

We are looking forward to the dinners at the Army Camp soon. It is nice to stay connected with others too. I guess we will all have our moments, but hopefully we can laugh at them too.

I hope you have a great Christmas and happy New Year and I look forward to writing for you again in 2016. Charlotte

Hello Readers

I have been asked by the DSO's to write for The Bugle while my son is deployed. They have asked me to write from a

parent's point of view. I am not sure how well I will be able to do this but am happy to try. I don't want my son to be identified though so have given him a name he will recall from childhood days but his mates won't know - so here I am the Mum of Alf. My husband and I have 2 other adult children who live overseas and Alf has been in the Army for 9 years. He is not one of the bosses but still I think an important member of the contingent. He has great mates and a great boss so I feel confident that he will be safe and well looked after. Having said that I think it is part of a Mum's job to worry about things and I will worry if I don't hear from him or if there is trouble nearby. It's just normal I think. I will try not to stress or let it consume me but try to keep busy and with normal routines. I am looking forward to shopping for my welfare parcels to send and have already set up a corner of my cupboard and to buy things when doing the grocery shopping. You can't send much in a 1kg parcel but at least I can send them often and I know he will like whatever it is. I am just hoping that he will

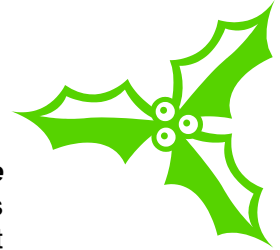
keep in touch. Any quick call or email will be well received. I know Alf can't tell us what he is doing but just that he is enjoying it all will be great! I don't think I will get a letter but you know I could just be surprised.

For many years now we have always had a great Family Christmas so this year will be so different. We have changed the routine and plan this year so that Alf's absence is not so keenly felt and the family are returning from overseas so I will have little grandchildren to keep my mind occupied and my eyes wide open! I am sure that the contingent has plans to celebrate the festive season in some way and it will be a new experience I am sure for many of them to be away from their families, so I am not the only one who will feel some sadness.

I hope you all have great plans for Christmas and holidays to look forward to as well. I will send through an update in January.

Kind regards to everyone,
Alf's Mum

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.*

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
(06) 351 9399
021 649 903
0800 683 77327
0800 OVERSEAS

Linton Duty Complex (06) 351 9099

Chaplaincy Service:

Duty Phone (06) 351 9634

Trentham:

Trentham Duty Complex (04) 527 5999
Chaplaincy Service
Duty phone 027 651 349

Waiouru:

Duty Complex (06) 387 5599

Devonport Naval Base:

First point of contact for service families:
0800 NAVYHELP

All general enquiries: (09) 4455 999

Chaplain Michael Berry
(18 December- 04 January)
(09) 445 5244
021 264 5286

Chaplain Pete Olds (05 – 18 January)
(09) 445 5326
021 972 454

Royal New Zealand Air Force:

Auckland Orderly Officer: 027 450 0464
DNCO: 027 450 0465

Ohakea Orderly Officer: 027 472 3495
DNCO: 021 378 003

Woodbourne Orderly Officer: 027 622 2480
DNCO: 027 496 5924



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) and Carol Voyce, Deployment Services Officer (Burnham) will provide 24 hour coverage, seven days a week throughout the holiday period. On occasions, Janine and Carol will divert their phones to each other. The divert happens automatically but takes a few seconds to connect. Please do not leave a message as these are sometimes difficult to retrieve when the divert is in place. Call back please. The message service usually only connects when the line is engaged. Text messages do not divert either, so just phone us. Please do not hesitate to call if the need arises. (Contact numbers inside front cover).

OVERSEAS OPERATIONS



New Zealand has a history of contributing to international efforts to resolve conflict. The New Zealand 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 interest 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 NZDF supports a number of major operations around the world. Currently there are personnel deployed on 14 operations and UN missions across ten countries, including:

- **Afghanistan**
- **Antarctica**
- **Combined Maritime Force (CMF)**
- **Iraq**
- **Middle East**
- **Sinai**
- **South Korea**
- **South Sudan**

At any time there are many other Defence Force personnel on other overseas activities and exercises.

OPERATIONAL SECURITY

It is vitally important that with all aspects of our deployments we are able to maintain Operational Security. To do our bit as families, we ask that:

- You don't discuss any aspects of your loved one's deployment in a public space, e.g. a very proud mum was overheard discussing their son's deployment with a friend in a café.
- You don't use social media to share deployment news. Any aspect of operational information on social media sites will breach our operational security rules. Facebook is not your friend!
- During conversations with your deployed person, specific details of the deployment should not be discussed – the service personnel know this and as family and friends we shouldn't be pressing for information they cannot share.
- You remember that operational security begins before the deployment starts, continues throughout the time they are away, and also when they return home. We recently had a mission return and had photos and video clips posted to Facebook which we had to ask be taken down.
- Service personnel have been asked to NOT post anything to their Facebook page that identifies them as members of the NZDF, i.e. photos of them in uniform, information connecting them to the NZDF, etc.

Maintaining operational security at all times will ensure the safety and integrity of the mission, of our service personnel and YOU.

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 the many dedicated and committed personnel who have helped us along the way in 2015.

Christine: The Bugle and iNewsletter have become much loved and sought after publications 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 these go from strength to strength. It is our main way of keeping in touch with everyone and your work ensures that everyone can have a great read! Thank you so much.

Sharyn, 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 2016.

Service Personnel Abroad: To all of you who have submitted articles for The Bugle and iNewsletter, 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 2016 is 6th 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 offer another vital link in the deployment support chain and we thank you for your hard work in 2015. 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!

Carol and Janine

BOUQUETS CONT'D....



Lise and Richard Vodafone



Sincere thanks Lise and Richard for all your help during 2015. 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 our deployed NZDF personnel 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 2016. Kind regards, *Carol and Janine.*

DON'T OPEN UNTIL XMAS STICKERS

Below are stickers you may want to use on your parcels if sending overseas, photocopy as many as you like.



Christmas Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service.

To all, charity. To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect."

(Oren Arnold)



PERSONAL MESSAGES



The deadline for contributions and personal messages for the next edition of "The Bugle" is **Wednesday 6 January 2016**. Please note: All "Bugle" messages are to be sent to Carol Voyce, DSO Burnham (email: dso.burnham@xtra.co.nz)

From In-Theatre

To Baby girl

I miss you so very very much and can not wait to be in your arms again. You are my one and only and will be forever. I will be home before you know it and enjoying our Friday night beersies. All my love from your Army man. Xoxo xoxo.

Baby Girl

Hope you both have a wonderful Christmas with the family. So sorry I cannot be there with you. Would have been fun. Just look forward to next year when we go away for Christmas, just the three of us. Love and miss you so very very much. Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Love your Army Man. Xoxoxoxoxoxoxox.

Dear "G Unit"

I hope you three have a great Christmas and New Year. We'll have a great catch up when I return. Go 'full bubbles' on Christmas Day (spa, sparkly and 'Risco!'). I love and miss you all, Dad xxxx.

Good morning from South Camp, Sinai my whanau

Hope all is well in the Land of the Long White Cloud. Life is normal here, at least by Sinai standards. Enjoying my time here and missing you all. To my son Lincoln, congratulations on achieving your Diploma of IT Management. To my Baby Girl Melissa hope you're getting better. To my Lady Rose the backbone of our whānau love you and miss you. Love me.

To My lil Princess aka Stink Bum
Mama misses you very much. There is not a day that goes by that

I don't think of you. I am glad the tooth fairy found your teeth and exchanged it for a small gift. Very lucky girl. Hanakoko will be on his way soon so I hope you have been good. Anyways my darling, be good, be kind and remember that I will always love you no matter where I am in the world. Miss you princess. Have a Merry Xmas Love from Mama xoxo.

Rach, Lei, Shayna, Jay, Bop and Maliah

Missing you all. I hope you all have a great Christmas Day and a well-deserved break. Say hi to everyone in your travels. Hugs all round. Dad xox.

To the new West-Coasters

Best regards for the festive season and please send my love to the family in Christchurch.

From Home

Hey Love

By the time you read this you will be on the other side of the world. We will begin the countdown, although I won't be counting down, because you know that will make this go a lot slower. I hope you are settled in and are feeling "at home". Wishful thinking that this will just fly by! For all we know it might just. I look forward to getting mail from you. Yes, I do expect mail from you, and gifts, lots and lots of gifts. We love you long time, and expect to be missing you and thinking of you loads by the time you read this. Have an adventure, keep safe, and we will talk soon. We love you endlessly, BabyGirl + Midget xo. *(Apologies, omitted from Ed 215)*.

Hello Mumma

It's your favourite Meow checking in. Whilst it has been great having you home I am becoming highly concerned about the "rationing" issue. I made an emergency call to Auntie M and she is going to come over and spoil me (even if you are home). Auntie M and I are so pleased you played by the rules this time!! I can't promise not to "attack." It is my favourite thing to do other than shredding the sofa! Love you Mumma. BRV xox.

Hey Love

Sending you the biggest and brightest HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! Wish we could all be together, however Midget and I will do the ice cream cake and decorating to stick with tradition! Your birthday is one to celebrate so of course I will throw a party... Of one. I hope whatever you are doing on your birthday that it is a special day there. A very MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! It is an odd feeling to know you will not be here for Christmas, but I am sure we will both be entertained throughout the day. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Guess I'll kiss my hand at midnight? I hope these packages are keeping you entertained and happy. Keep well, and we shall no doubt talk soon. We love you endlessly, BabyGirl + Midget xo.

Paije Sharne

The Bugle is another way to make contact and tell you how much we all want to say hello to you and the team. Also it's a wonderful way to wish you all a very Merry Xmas. Plus a fantastic way to say Happy New Year to you all. Love, thoughts and good wishes are with you sweet p. Love from mum and your family xx.

PERSONAL MESSAGES CONT'D...



Dear Aunty M

You are my favourite Aunty and I am so purrrfully happy to have you taking such good care of me. I love your smiling face, your special chatter and fuss, and sadly should I say, also the food! My little round belly is forever grateful for the extra treats although Mumma probably wouldn't agree. I wish you lots of joy this Christmas and look forward to seeing you over the festive season. You know the drill and the address if you want to load Santa's sleigh with a bit extra while Mumma is still out of sight. Have a bright New Year. Love you, BRV.

Dear Pop Pop

I hope you come back soon and I miss you. I'm being very good for Nana and the girls. Have a happy Christmas, love from Jacob.

Hey Daddy T

Your favourite daughter here. Missing you like crazy, more than nugget. We will be thinking about you this Christmas. Come home safe. I love you. Georgie. Xx.

Hello Fin

Don't you think you are lucky being in the Camel Corp for Christmas. What more could you ask for! We will just have to manage with sheep as usual. All the best for Hogmanay. Love from the Clan.

Hope the script for Horse of Wall Street is coming along!

You are not allowed to bring any fur critters home. From Moose.

To Dear Larchy

Sending love to you. Have a great Christmas, we will miss you. Lots of love, Dangers, Dill & Zag xxxo.

Hey there Mr

I'm gonna get a 6 pack by the time I'm 40 hahahaha. Good luck fellow Dad. ☺

Yo Stink

Hope all is well. We re rockin' and rollin' looking forward to holidays and relaxin'. Stay safe... Loveyoulotsmissumuch.

Paul Jonah Jones

Wishing you a great Christmas and all our love, hugs & kisses. See you in a few weeks.

♥ Tibbles, Evie & Harrison.

♥ Love you babes, Julia.

Hi Dad

I'm gonna give mum Monday and Sunday off this week. Anzac R.

Hi Dad

Just brought another teapot, I think

its #32. Love JR.

Hi Dad

Did you know mum said I can play with my precious, Monday, Wed and Weekends. Cool. CR your big boy.

Merry Christmas my Dear

Missing you very much. Not long to go. Love, The Rose Budds. PS and Buddy.

Merry Xmas Mum (Vanessa)

Miss you very much. We are so very proud of you. Catch you in the New Year xoxo. Thomas, Kobe, Jada & Jaxon.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD



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