



**CANTERBURY  
FLOODS**

The Army steps in

**BRIGADIER  
ROSE KING**

First General List female  
officer in the rank

**SIGS CELEBRATE**

100 years of service



NEWS

- Honours for bomb squad men 02
- Canterbury floods 03

PEOPLE

- BRIG Rose King 05
- Innovation – a winning idea 08
- Army Sigs celebrate 100 years 18

TRAINING

- Regeneration of Charlie Coy 06
- Fire Support Group 10
- Joint Fires for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century 12
- PT for women in uniform 17

OPERATIONS

- Life in the Hamilton MIFS 09

SPORT

- Rugby League 27

Cover: PTE Josh Ley helps a canine flooding victim to safety.  
Photo: Corporal Sean Spivey



The Army News is published for the Regular and Territorial Force and civilian staff of the New Zealand Army.

Editor: Judith Martin  
Ph: 021 240 8578 E: armynews@nzdf.mil.nz  
www.army.mil.nz  
Printing: Bluestar, Petone.  
Design: Vanessa Edridge, DPA, NZDF

Editorial contributions and letters are welcomed. They may be sent directly to Army News and do not need to be forwarded through normal command channels. Submit them to The Editor, Army News, DPA, HQ NZDF, Private Bag 39997, Wellington, or by email.

Deadline instructions: Army News is published on the third Tuesday of each month, except January. Please have all contributions to the editor by the first of the month. Nothing in the Army News should be taken as overriding any New Zealand Defence Force regulation. Readers should refer to the relevant service publication before acting on any information given in this newspaper. ISSN 1170-4411  
All material is copyright, and permission to reproduce must be sought from the editor.



SMA.NET

PEOPLE:  
Giving chance a go

Tena koutou all. I would like to acknowledge my extension as your SMA. Chief of Army recently invited me to continue during his tenure as CA. There's a real privilege leading at this level and staying in the role provides me continuity to see some things through. I'm humbled by the gesture and appreciate the chance to continue serving you. Being given this opportunity also provided a focus for this month's column.

"One chance is all you need"  
– Jesse Owens

Last year I wrote about four SMA drivers – one was about our people. There was an underlying plea to inspire soldiers, sustain energy and balance busy work-life demands. These are temporal challenges, but one thing that really energises people is the opportunity to show ability and competence, and when they do it always inspires you.

When I think back to my origins as a young soldier I recall at least two occasions where someone went beyond a process and gave me that chance. I still remember Recruiting SGT Rosser, a tall and venerable Infantryman looking at my R-tests at high-school, squinting his eyes at my likely incorrect answers. On paper I probably didn't look like potential – but after a talk, he understood my passion to be a member of the Army. Later in my career I'd be given opportunity for promotion, helped through a period of 'wayward' actions, and be shaped for further leadership. This all came from being given a chance.

This story is shared by many in our force. Whether it was at the Recruiter's office, a difficult practical or a terminal, a timely mentoring-moment by a respected leader, or the kind word following disciplinary action. This is not a story of lowering standards or breaking procedures – it's about giving people a break at the right time in their careers

that will get them to the next place. The opportunity to give people a chance starts with the little things. Listen to people, enquire about their desires and future goals and ask yourself – how do I create that opening?

GEN George Patton had a saying – "Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results". Our Army is full of activators. If we're to see their full potential then we should provide them windows of opportunity and the resource to see it through. Sometimes those means are just time, space and vision. As an Army-brat raised on rugby and small-town adventure – I would not be the senior-soldier without a break somewhere along the journey. I can see all my past 'break makers', from that first SNCO encounter, an Army foster-family in Waiouru to a great '90s era Section Commander, to a humorous but firm CSM, and a CFR Officer with knowledge beyond his years. Ask where your



breaks were made – and pay it forward it by giving someone a chance.

WO1 Wiremu Moffitt  
16<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Major of the Army

BOMB SQUAD MEMBERS  
RECOGNISED IN QUEEN'S  
BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The courageous work of two Army personnel who have spent years dealing with bombs, explosives and highly volatile situations was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours earlier this month.

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Modd and "Serviceman M" have both been awarded the Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) for their careers, during which the pair have worked in some of the most dangerous and extreme situations imaginable.

Serviceman M, who cannot be named for security reasons, was

responsible for leading the ground recovery team from E Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)) involved in the body recovery operation from Whakaari/ White Island after the eruption on 9 December 2019, which killed 22 people and injured another 25.

He and his team worked in extreme conditions of heat and lethal gases, and through his role as a leader, Serviceman M liaised with all agencies involved, providing technical guidance to ensure the most effective and safest course of action was established.

"Being recognised in this way is still sinking in, I am proud and incredibly grateful. I believe I have worked hard, put myself at risk, and been challenged many times in my career," he said.

"I understand also that I've been recognised as the team leader. I am really grateful and humbled to be placed in a leadership position like this; especially considering the calibre of people we have throughout our unit.

"I still have a really strong sense of pride in the team and my unit. It was a tough job and I remain satisfied that we did our job well. I am also incredibly proud that we managed to continue our unit's

reputation of delivering mission success in complex and novel situations."

Serviceman M said he believed it was important that people know the team continues to put itself into harm's way on a daily basis dealing with bombs, explosive ordnance, and a variety of other hazards.

"They do this because of their sense of commitment to the community and public and their love of the job," he said.

"Working with my team, and with the Navy, Air Force and Joint Forces staff made the operation successful; their professionalism got us on and off Whakaari safely. I think as we face the risks from further earthquakes, and natural disasters resulting from increasing climate extremes, we will see more need for people who can solve problems and provide effective solutions. It's very reassuring knowing that the training and the people we have are up to the job."

Serviceman M, who has served in the New Zealand Defence Force for more than 17 years, said his family was proud of his efforts, especially his wife because of her connection to the Whakatane area.

"My children think it's awesome – mostly that certificate from the Queen is amazing."

The second DSD recipient in 2021, Lieutenant Colonel Modd, has had a career dedicated to the development of domestic and expeditionary EOD capabilities.

After serving with the British Army, he joined the New Zealand Army in 2007 as an Ammunition Technical Officer in the Royal New Zealand Army Logistics Regiment.

He set up a New Zealand-led international explosives research and training programme that resulted in a higher level of understanding helping reduce chemical and explosive related risks.



LTCOL Modd, who left Regular Force last year and is now in the Reserve Force, said he was surprised and humbled to receive a Queen's Birthday honour.

"I received a George Medal award from the Queen in 2002 and now to be honoured by the Queen a second time but in my new home of New Zealand is something really special," he said.

"I have made many sacrifices, and am proud of 'our' achievements as I have been part of a team of teams. So I will accept this award feeling it is also for the brave men and women I have served with and continue to serve with."

LTCOL Modd said his career had very much involved risking his life to save others and to try to restore normality for anybody who was put at risk by explosive hazards and chemicals.

"So receiving the DSD is something that adds to the honour but in a way that complements the main core of our role to save lives which is the most important thing."

LTCOL Modd is now the Deputy Director Emergency Management at the Ministry of Health and is currently the Deputy Mission Lead on the Ministry of Health New Medical Assistance Team which is providing support to the Cook Islands.

"I am very happy I could go from a job saving lives to another role that also seeks to reduce the risk to people and infrastructure with a focus on the health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders."





# A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



In this column in the last edition of the *Army News* the Land Component Commander spoke about our on-going commitment to Op Protect and the very clear impact that our support to New Zealand’s border security is having on our individual training system, combined arms capabilities and our families.

In presenting his four lines of effort: sustaining operations; preserving core military capabilities; remediating the Army Training (Safety) System; and, capability introduction into service, he was clear in the need to both sustain mandated domestic and regional high-readiness military response options, and of those areas where “readiness risk” could be accepted.

The focus and direction the LCC is giving to our Army’s day-to-day activities will ensure that we continue to balance the requirements of the mission our Government has given us, with the needs of our Army – including those of our families.

Equally important though, as ensuring we effectively manage the “here and now”, is the need to continually look to how we position our Army for the future. One day our commitment to Op Protect will end. Not as quickly as most of us would hope – but it will end. And when it does, we need to be positioned to immediately refocus our efforts, regenerate capability, and prepare for the future fight.

Work currently being undertaken in a couple of key areas is critical to this challenge.

Firstly, the LCC spoke to the development of a deliberate, measured regeneration plan. Of the need to understand both our competence levels following an extensive and continuous commitment to Op Protect, and what our future trained state needs to be. How we are going to overcome this competency gap through clearly focused training both here in New Zealand and alongside our partners and allies, will become clearer over coming months.

At the strategic level the vision and direction provided by Army25 continues to frame our efforts towards becoming a modern, agile, highly adaptive, light combat force. What we can’t ignore though, is that our strategy is being influenced by a number of environmental factors that are outside our control: the global impact of Covid-19 on areas such as international engagement and supply chain management; our commitment to Op Protect; government’s funding priorities; and an evolving geo-strategic environment within our region, to name a few. To better understand the impact of these factors, and there are others, a small team at Army General Staff have commenced an Army25 ‘refresh’ to ensure our strategic plan remains fit for purpose. This refresh will be concluded over coming months and it is my intention to communicate to Army our revised

strategy towards the end of this year. It’s important that we all understand both the direction our Army is taking and our respective roles in achieving Army25.

Looking further ahead, it is right that we regularly refresh our conceptual thinking regarding future land operations. In previously developing FLOC 35 Army undertook a horizon scan and brought together a range of thought pieces, including future environmental capability statements of our partners and allies, to develop a future looking capstone operating concept. This year’s Chief of Army’s Seminar, to be held in September, will look to build on the great work undertaken to develop FLOC 35 and inform our thinking on the future operating environment out to 2040. Developing these concepts allows Army to better contribute to forum examining the future employment, capabilities and resourcing of the NZDF.

**A critical, and quite separate piece of work being undertaken right now, is a review of how we can better support the families of our soldiers. Two months ago the Commander of the 1st Brigade briefed me on the housing, financial and social challenges currently impacting our people – challenges that were made equally clear to me during my recent visits to all our camps and bases.**

The assurance I give you is that, having had these issues raised at the highest level in Wellington we are not ignoring them, we are actively looking at how we can get after them, indeed for some we already have. Some are easier than others, some are simply a realignment of resources within defence whilst others will require major, quite complex policy changes and will take longer to implement. Equally though, there will be others that are simply outside of the ability of the Army/ NZDF to either resource or effect. Regardless, the reality of the current environment has been clearly accepted by your senior leadership and an immediate review of our support to families is currently being undertaken by the three Service Deputy Chiefs. You have been heard – more to follow.

The final piece of work I want to discuss, and unquestionably the most important, is the work being

done to ensure that Army’s culture remains fit for purpose. We have a strong culture, it is our competitive advantage, and it is at the absolute foundation of who we are as individuals, and as a collective. But it must evolve. In particular, it must evolve to better meet changing societal demands and the future operational environments to which we will be required to deploy and operate. We need to widen the aperture. Our identity as Ngāti Tūmataunga must be more than a conversation about our ‘warrior spirit’ and ‘war-fighting ethos’. We need to look increasingly at our behaviours towards those with whom we engage, both here in New Zealand and whilst deployed. We need to look at the power of a diverse and fully-inclusive team, and how that power can be better harnessed to deliver operational effects. To help us remain both prepared for, and responsive to, the future operating environment we will shortly establish a Cultural Development Programme to look at these issues and others. A separate communique regarding this programme will be released shortly.

Our Army’s main effort right now is Op Protect. It is the mission that has been given to us by government, and the LCC and his team have worked hard to balance its delivery alongside the maintenance of core skills and critical short-notice response capabilities. Equally though, it is essential that we keep an eye on the future – on life after Op Protect.

We need to ensure Army25 remains relevant and drives Army forward. We need to develop our thinking regarding culture and the future operating environment, and doing all we can to provide the best possible environment for our soldiers and wider whānau will be critical to the future of our Army.

So, whilst we currently lack freedom of manoeuvre and there are constraints on what we can do, this won’t continue. Eventually we will come through to the other side and, when we do, know that preparations are already well in hand to fully exploit that moment.

Major General John Boswell  
Chief of Army



## Canterbury floods

See page 4 for the full story.

*“I was part of the Civil Defence Emergency Operations Team during the recent flood event here in Timaru District. The military personnel who arrived from Burnham to help us out were simply outstanding. It’s not often that one is afforded the privilege of working with people for whom nothing is a problem. They all played an essential role our collective emergency response, and in many cases reached members of our community that we would otherwise have not; we simply couldn’t have done without them. I would like to convey a sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful soldiers who helped us out over those few frantic days. They are all a great credit to the Battalion.”*

– Robert Coleman  
Timaru District Council







# ARMY SUPPORT TO CANTERBURY FLOODS

By Charlene Williamson

**When the rivers rose and the rain kept pouring down soldiers from Burnham Military Camp quickly leapt into action.**

Despite the heavy commitment of soldiers to Operation Protect around the country, 3<sup>rd</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion (3CSSB) was able to stand up a headquarters command and control team when called upon by Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM).

A transport team and Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Liaison Officer with seven vehicles, including Unimogs, HX58s and a LOV Ambulance were deployed to Ashburton within two hours of the call.

As the situation developed, liaison officers and teams were in place with EOC's in Ashburton, Timaru, Selwyn, Waimakariri and at CDEM in Christchurch as well.

Captain Jake Faber, who was the Liaison Officer in Ashburton, said the team was busy as soon as they got to Ashburton and they worked closely with the EOC controller and other emergency response agencies to establish essential tasks.

"The first tasks for us were evacuations of people who were inaccessible to Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and New Zealand Police."

He said personnel worked late into the first night to ensure residents affected by the floods were brought to safety, and were continuing to provide support where needed.

New Zealand Defence Force assets were critical in evacuating residents from inaccessible locations and adverse conditions where residents were deemed not safe.

"Seeing the community overnight pull together and support the displaced residents who were evacuated from their homes was heartening.

"NZDF trucks were perfect for the job as most people took their animals with them and Police and Fire did not have the ability to do what we could with our trucks, and to the scale we did," he said.

CAPT Faber said decisions were made which meant "we were able to get people to safety away from their flooded properties".

"It was very tense but I was so happy to hear that everything went smoothly to get people out of some really bad situations."

One soldier who was on the front line was Private Joshua Ley, Combat Driver from 3<sup>rd</sup> Transport Company. He helped with the evacuation of people and pets in flood-stricken Ashburton.

"A team of five were deployed to Ashburton area where we were put to the test with our driving skills.

"We conducted a dismounted foot reconnaissance before we drove through some areas to get residents who were in locations that some vehicles couldn't get to," PTE Ley said. He said it is the goal of most Army personnel to help out New Zealanders.

"Hearing the sigh of relief when helping people out of the floods and getting them back to dry land was the best part of the operation," he said.

CAPT Faber said the efforts of soldiers and the support provided was noted by the Civil Defence community.

"It felt great helping out the community. Everyone from FENZ, Police, various rescue teams, and Ashburton District Council were doing their bit to make things better for the residents.

"When you are working as part of a team who are all going down the same path you feel included and

that any and all support you provide is helping people," he said.

3CSSB Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Linehan said there were a number of key things that made the flood support a success.

"The Unimog performed well during this flood response. Its ability to ford 1.2m meant that it was the go-to vehicle for us to use for evacuations of residents who were hard to reach.

"Another success was how we were able to utilise MS Teams to coordinate our military response across the region.

"It proved invaluable for maintaining wide situational awareness across the command group, and therefore enabled us to make rapid decisions and execute tasks," LTCOL Linehan said.

In addition to the Army Support, two NH90 crews from the Royal New Zealand Air Force's No. 3 Squadron provided assistance in the air through rescues, evacuation, critical resupply to remote areas and transportation council staff to assess infrastructure and rivers.

.....

## How we helped during the Canterbury Floods:

- Enabled response planning at the Regional Coordination Centre and district operation centres
- Provided Army Liaison Officers in five Emergency Operation Centres around Canterbury
- Had more than 40 Army personnel on the ground
- Evacuated more than 50 civilians across the region
- Evacuated six dogs and six cats
- Assisted St Johns in evacuating several medical patients from inaccessible locations using LOV Ambulance
- Delivered more than 10,000 litres of drinking water to schools and residents in Mid-Canterbury
- Delivered food supplies to remote locations in Mid-Canterbury
- Carried out reconnaissance to determine road conditions





# FIRST FEMALE GENERAL LIST OFFICER PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER

**Following more than three decades of dedicated service to the New Zealand Army, Colonel Rose King has become the first General List female officer to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier.**

During her promotion ceremony Brigadier King said she was proud to have reached this milestone in her career.

“I acknowledge all of the wāhine toa who have gone before me and laid the foundation for the remainder of us to continue to build our success upon. I’m grateful to all of them who in their own right have helped me achieve this success.”

Originally from Whanganui, Brigadier King said it was humbling to be acknowledged for the skills and attributes she has gained through her career.

“Others have told me ‘If you can see it, you can be it’ and I hope that this achievement inspires other women to continue to strive in all aspects of their lives,” she said.

Previously, two female specialist officers have reached the rank of Brigadier, a doctor and a lawyer by trade. Brigadier King is the first General List officer, meaning she is a career soldier who has risen from Officer Cadet training to her current role.

“Authenticity is so important to me and I’m proud to bring a different approach to how I lead. Women bring a unique perspective

to leadership that should be celebrated and embraced,” Brigadier King said.

Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Kevin Short personally requested to be involved in the promotion ceremony of Brigadier King, and said her achievement was well-deserved and a signal of change.

“Rose is a highly competent leader and role model for those around her and we, as a Defence Force, need more leaders like her to highlight the diversity of thought that women bring to our organisation.”

Air Marshal Short acknowledged the large number of family, friends and colleagues who turned out to support the promotion as a sign of the respect Brigadier King has gained throughout her career, which has included deployments to Croatia and Afghanistan, and roles across the Defence Force covering training, staff and command in a variety of areas.

She enlisted into the New Zealand Army in July 1991, and attended the Officer Cadet School in Waiouru and graduated into the Corps of Royal New Zealand

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

In addition to her New Zealand awards, Brigadier King has also been awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, the United States Meritorious Service Medal and the United States Army Commendation for her services in Afghanistan.

Chief of Army Major General John Boswell said he was delighted to have been there to help promote Brigadier King.

“I have known Rose for most of her career. She’s an outstanding officer and a fantastic role model to people of all ranks across our organisation. This promotion is a significant occasion; not just for Rose, but for the NZ Army also.”



.....

**“Authenticity is so important to me and I’m proud to bring a different approach to how I lead.”**

– BRIG Rose King

*Above: Colonel Glenn King (left) attaches his wife Rose’s new rank slides, helped by the Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Kevin Short.*





# REGENERATION OF CHARLIE



By Charlene Williamson

**The regeneration of Charlie Company in the South Island has many benefits not only for our Reservist units, but also our Regular Force.**





2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) have stood up their Reserve Support Company again and they completed Exercise Kleidi Pass in Tekapo recently.

The company mirrors that of its South Island colleagues 2/1 RNZIR Support Company, with a skill set of reconnaissance and surveillance, snipers, Regimental Signal and Fire Support Group (FSG) elements.

Officer Commanding, Charlie Company Major Chris Allan said the company allows previous and former serving Regular Force infantry soldiers the opportunity to re-engage and use their skill sets.

“Furthermore, it provides soldiers who are releasing from Regular Force the opportunity to remain engaged and involved with the Army in a Reserve role.

“Exercise Kleidi Pass has been Charlie Company’s first opportunity to work with 2/1 RNZIR, with 2/4 RNZIR providing two gun teams and safety staff to support this exercise,” he said.

The integration with both Infantry Battalions in the South Island is a significant.

Commanding Officer 2/4 RNZIR Lieutenant Colonel Tim Tuatini said Charlie Company is manned by former Regular Force qualified personnel.

“The FSG personnel offer 2/4 RNZIR the ability to build the manoeuvre support section capability to meet Reserve Army25 outputs.

“This allows 2/4 to provide a short notice commitment to 2/1 RNZIR’s Task Group Red and meet Chief of Army’s intent, as well as establishing a Support Company capability within the limited resources available to a Reserve battalion,” LTCOL Tuatini said.

“The long-term plan is to post Reserve soldiers from Alpha and Bravo Companies to provide growth in qualified gun teams, R&S dets and Regimental Signals through coursing and integration into Charlie Company.

MAJ Allan said the knowledge gained from working with their Regular Force counterparts is invaluable for soldiers returning to the unit.

He said building a new company has had it challenges, but the buy-in

from former Regular Force and stand-by Reserve soldiers has been heartening.

“Being able to offer a Regular Force soldier an opportunity to transition outside of the Army with an opportunity to maintain links and a sense of belonging to the New Zealand Defence Force is powerful.

“Our aim is to build a well-trained, proficient and competent unit with individuals who are able to take their place and round out Regular Force counterparts within 2/1 RNZIR seamlessly,” MAJ Allan said.

.....

**“Being able to offer a Regular Force soldier an opportunity to transition outside of the Army with an opportunity to maintain links and a sense of belonging to the New Zealand Defence Force is powerful.”**

– Major Chris Allan





# EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY AIM OF INNOVATION

The desire for greater efficiency when it came to moving ordnance was behind the latest innovation the Army has adopted.

Explosive ordnance technician Thomas Plummer, who is based at the Defence Ammunition Depot in Kauri Point, Auckland, thought there could be a better way than constantly hand-writing documents describing hazardous goods before they were transported. He has designed a fully electronic system that makes handling hazardous goods

documentation safer and easier. It is a legal requirement that all details of hazardous goods, such as ordnance, be detailed if the goods are to be moved. The NZDF collects most of its ordnance from the Ammunition depot where Mr Plummer is based. "There was a tiny bit of laziness behind the idea, but really more a desire to make things more

efficient, safer, and less repetitive," he said. He has established an Excel spreadsheet-based system that does all the calculations for the user, including telling them and the transporter the type of hazards presented and how to deal with them in an emergency. The old paper-based system was time-consuming with a large margin

for error if not frequently used. The electronic solution reduces the risk of error and saves time, as well as makes filling in a hazardous document easier for those who don't use it regularly.

## Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Class One Wiremu Moffitt talks about innovation with Army News.

In simple terms what is innovation to you?

To me it's about getting the job done better.

What's your definition of innovation?

Innovation is an idea, practice or action which has yet to have a user requirement.

Why is it so important to innovate?

Innovating is a method of survival. As humans we evolve and improve, and therefore extend our potential length of existence. In military ethos – we must innovate and adapt to be a step ahead of our adversary. In relative peace, this means efficiency and effectiveness. On the battlefield – it means survival!

But is innovation in peace time still important?

Our greatest opportunities come through winning time and access to resources, this is a constant. War forces us to be focussed and determined, while peace time affords us

complacency which then becomes our enemy.

Doesn't the army already innovate?

Most certainly, every day, but change doesn't sleep, nor the opportunity to discover and get better.

Whose job is it to innovate in the army?

Everyone.

Why do you say that – surely this is more of a leadership responsibility?

Innovating is not just about "adapting to overcome". It is also about the hunt for quality and the journey toward excellence. Soldiering is striving to become the best you can be in everything you do. But you are right, our commanders of any rank have a duty to foster and support the initiatives from their teams.

How do soldiers contribute something they believe is innovative or think can make a positive contribution?

They share it – first with their peers, then with their command. "Two heads are better than one," and "many hands make light work!" So I expect through this collaborative approach these types of ideas will mature into action. However, sometimes there's an opportunity to bypass and direct ideas into the centre – and that is the reason we have the Army Innovation Portal (on the ILP). I encourage our soldiers and officers to submit ideas there.

What excites you about innovation?

It's an open door to what's possible. Whether it's a process, a platform or people – there is always room for improvement. In Special Forces we have a tenet known as Hiranga Riranga – in the pursuit of excellence. Regular Army often mistook this for the objective, but it's actually the journey of seeking but never finding ultimate excellence – and this continues a culture of getting and being better. It's a pathway every soldier can seize. It is constantly learning and expanding your insight and foresight – it's inspired living!

**NZ ARMY**  
NGATI TUMATAUENGA

**19 MAY**  
Submissions open

**23 JUL**  
Submissions close

**28 SEP**  
Finals @ Messines Conference Centre

**ENTER NOW:**  
ILP>

NZ ARMY>

ARMY INNOVATION>

SUBMIT NEW IDEA





# ARMY JOINS IN THE WAIKATO WAY OF MANAGED ISOLATION

**Hamilton’s three managed isolation facilities regularly have more than 70 Army personnel supporting their operations and their unique iwi partnership with Waikato Tainui.**

Strong friendships have been built across those involved in the facilities at Distinction Hotel, Ibis Tainui and Jet Park Hotel Hamilton Airport. “In Hamilton we have passed the 5,000 mark for returnees going through our hotels and are about to transition to Rotation 8 which means some of the troops will be on their fourth plus rotation. That equates to nearly six months on duty,” says Major Steve Challies, one of the region’s rotating Officers-in-Charge. The facilities have a dedicated cultural wellbeing team, supported by the Waikato District Health Board and Tainui, supporting an approach to caring for staff and returnees that has been dubbed ‘the Waikato Way’.

He says Defence staff actively participate in staff activities including ‘hiki wairua’ wellbeing sessions, and waka ama on the Waikato River. Focused on manaakitanga (uplifting the mana of others), mahi tahi (demonstrating collaborative action) and kawea ake (being prepared for what is ahead), the Waikato Way is bringing together Tainui values for the mahi with the Operation Protect mission of protect the border, the community and our people. Ibis Tainui Hamilton Manager Niraj Kumar says Defence personnel have developed strong connections to hotel teams. “The ones that stand out for us are those single parent soldiers juggling not only their career but the

families that are stationed at home. A lot of these soldiers have become not only colleagues but friends, and in many cases they have become our extended whānau,” he says. “The guests appreciate them and the children adore them. Some children have spent so long talking with NZDF staff, that they say they want to be just like them one day.” Appreciation and respect for the soldiers is often shown through farewells at the end of each rotation. “They are given gifts that are handmade and tailored to their personalities by hotel staff,” says Niraj. Hamilton’s managed isolation hotels carry out returnee surveys before people finish their 14-days in managed isolation.

One returnee at Jet Park Hotel Hamilton wrote: “The management of the process with leadership from the Army and involvement of police, security, and hotel staff was very impressive and gave confidence that quarantining would be safe. All those involved seemed confident and in control, while being kind at the same time.” Another wrote: “Just like the Waikato River, we will keep on going despite what the pandemic has brought. The dedication of our frontlines in MIQ is something I admire and will always be reminded of when I go out to the world. Thank you so much for all your efforts in keeping New Zealand safe. We all owe you big time. I felt so safe inside the facility, couldn’t fault it.”



Soldiers are now an intrinsic part of the Waikato MIF community.







# FIRE SUPPORT GROUP

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Fire Support Group (FSG) got some classic and well appreciated hands-on weapons time in Waiouru in May.**

It was a good opportunity for soldiers to train.

While many of 1 RNZIR have been supporting OP Protect as the main focus, there is a need to maintain DLOC and this was a great opportunity for soldiers in the platoon who may not get as much time on the weapons as others to be able to train on and fire all the weapons available.

“The training is part of the crawl, walk, run cycle of our annual training programme, building up to a culminating activity later in the year,” said LT Matthew Wall.

Taking up training opportunities when they could was vital to be able to stay current and even when the activity is smaller than normal it has its benefits.

“It’s been very beneficial to be able to let everyone have that opportunity whereas normally only number one and number two will get that.”

LT Wall said it was also a good opportunity to be able to promote FSG within the unit, so other soldiers can aspire to join the platoon.

FSG trained with multiple weapons, including M107A1 Anti-Materiel Rifle, HK 40mm Grenade Machine Gun, FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Missile, MAG-58 Sustained Fire Machine Gun.





Private Christian Lemalu

“During the most recent FSG exercise, I was put into a separate course with a couple of fellow FSG members to qualify us on the new 50CAL Anti-Materiel Rifle and the equipment associated with it. It is a very new weapon system, especially to the FSG unit. There was a limit to how many rounds you could fire a day and also a 24hr stand down period from when you finish shooting which limited our shooting to three days within the week the course was run. Overall it was a great experience and a privilege to shoot.

“The course standard included how to assemble/disassemble the weapon, cleaning and maintenance, immediate actions while shooting, how to operate a kestrel (this holds the gun profile of the shooter and gives you the elevation and deflection needed based on the direction of fire and the wind) and operation of a spotting scope which is mainly used by the spotter (person not shooting but watching for fall of shot to then provide adjustments). Near the end we brought that all together and learnt how to use it in a tactical scenario.

“Being in the field with FSG is different from being in a Rifle Company. First of all we had a vehicle with us which was pretty helpful and also our sections were split into two detachments providing two different gun lines. In relation to the last exercise/course, Waiouru is brutal. The weather forecast is never trustworthy and we would be lucky to get over 10°C during the day. It was good to



get some sunlight as it helped to see the fall of shot for our rounds. In general, going out into field is hard both on the body and mind, especially when you're in a tactical situation.

“There are many things that are great about FSG. I could say it's the comaraderie we have as a support unit and from experiences shared together in and out of the unit. It could also be just the step up from Rifle Company, not being

monitored all the time and actually being trusted to take care of your own admin in your own time. But then again, I would have to say the best thing about being in FSG is the reputation of the unit. I respect those who I have met while being in FSG and feel privileged to be part of the unit so early within my military career.”

Lance Corporal Hunter Anderson

“The exercise was a good opportunity to shake out and reaffirm some of my skillsets, outlining what skills have faded and which have been retained. I enjoyed actually doing my job in between supporting MIQF tasks and getting behind the guns again.

“I was more in a teaching role during the exercise. It was a very good opportunity for some of the newer FSG personnel to get some hands-on exposure to the weapon systems they will be expected to

operate in the future. It was good to see all our newest members cycling through our more advanced number positions (Number 1 and 2) which are usually the most senior soldiers.

“Refining their confidence and proficiency to a standard in which they could live fire safely was sometimes a challenge. The most rewarding part was showcasing to the new members of the platoon the effect our weapons have down range on targets. Getting behind the guns is always a blast.”



Private Simon Witt

“At the beginning of the week the FSG conducted a shoot with the GMG (Grenade Machine Gun) and the SFMG. This allowed us to shake out any cobwebs built up over long periods and lulls due to our role in Operation Protect.

“As the week went on, we progressed further into our training conducting occupation drills and SBFLs (Support By Fire Line) right up until the end of the week when we carried out multiple full occupations and tactical engagements as a DFSW section.

“As a section, this helped us all to understand our roles, responsibilities and to remain flexible and fluid in all roles within the section.

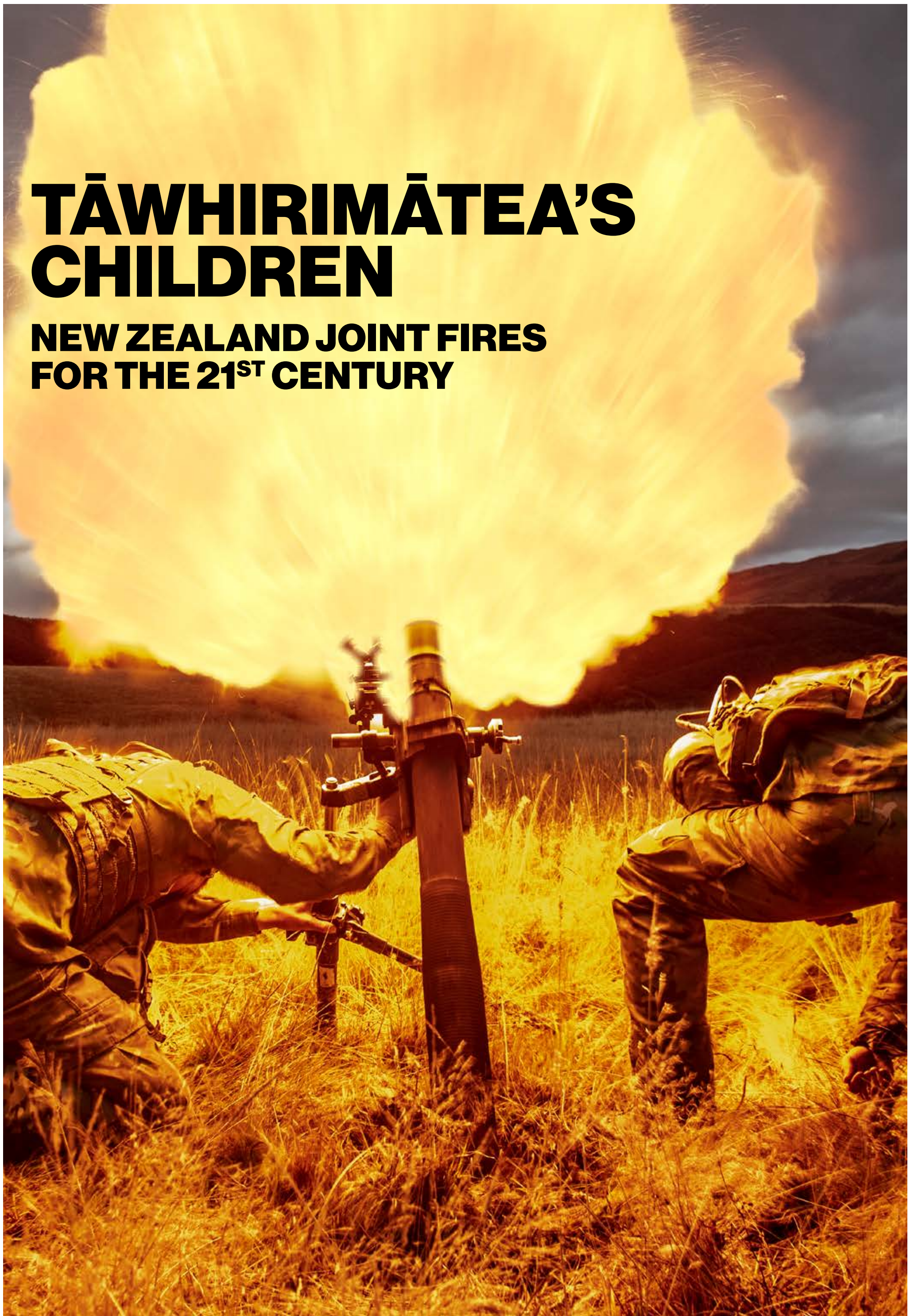
“Part 1 and 2 were challenging in that we had to meet constantly developing standards. Each year new soldiers join FSG platoon and need to be brought up to speed. Through repetition and following the example of the more senior soldiers within the platoon, this can be done quickly and efficiently.

“Personally, I enjoyed being “back on the tools” so to speak. For most soldiers, live field firing is an exciting part of being in the infantry. It was a good refresher on all skills learnt in the past with room to broaden my knowledge and skills on operating within a DFSW section.”



# **TĀWHIRIMĀTEA'S CHILDREN**

**NEW ZEALAND JOINT FIRES  
FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**







Gunner Braden Marsh prepares mortar rounds for firing.



USMC launching Switchblade.

By Major Ollie Lynn,  
Capability Manager Joint Fires

**The Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA) is at the threshold of generational capability enhancement.**

**This will re-assert the RNZA’s ability to make decisive, innovative and valuable contributions to future NZDF operations; specifically precise, lethal fires and counter fires protection which will allow ground forces to win at close combat. This article provides a brief summary of key fires capabilities planned for delivery and operational release in the next 24 months. This will include enhanced Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) systems, a networked Fire Control System and experimentation with long range precise, lethal effects.**

**Weapon Locating Radar**

2022 will see the RNZA receive four AN/TPQ-49a Weapon Locating Radars (WLR). In service with partner nations and operationally proven, this lightweight radar is able to be set up in under 20 minutes and is designed to support a variety of missions and functions. These include sense, warn and locate, counter-fire acquisition and Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) detection and tracking when upgraded with the required software.

With UAS consistently increasing in range, capability and proliferation, the requirement for a Counter UAS (C-UAS) capability is critical. In the current and future operating environment, the NZDF should expect to be under constant surveillance for the purpose of observing, disrupting or attacking our activities. Being able to deny an adversary’s ability to do this is therefore imperative. Availability of counter UAS software for AN/TPQ-49a is currently being examined.

When operated in a sense, warn and locate capacity, the radar is designed to detect, track, classify and warn of incoming rocket, artillery and mortar threats while determining Points of Origin (for counter-fires or physical/visual clearance) and Points of Impact for UXO clearance. Early warning, if only a matter of seconds, provides enough time to drop to the prone position which drastically reduces the probably of becoming a casualty.

WLR will contribute to the ‘decide’ and ‘detect’ function as part the Land Targeting Process shown in the diagram below. Under ‘decide’, WLR will directly contribute to the development of the Effects Guidance Matrix and the Surveillance and Target Acquisition Plan (STAP) at Task Group level. WLR will support the ‘detect’ function through the use of its sensor to identify and track indirect fire. The full operational release of WLR is planned for late 2022.

**Fire Control System**

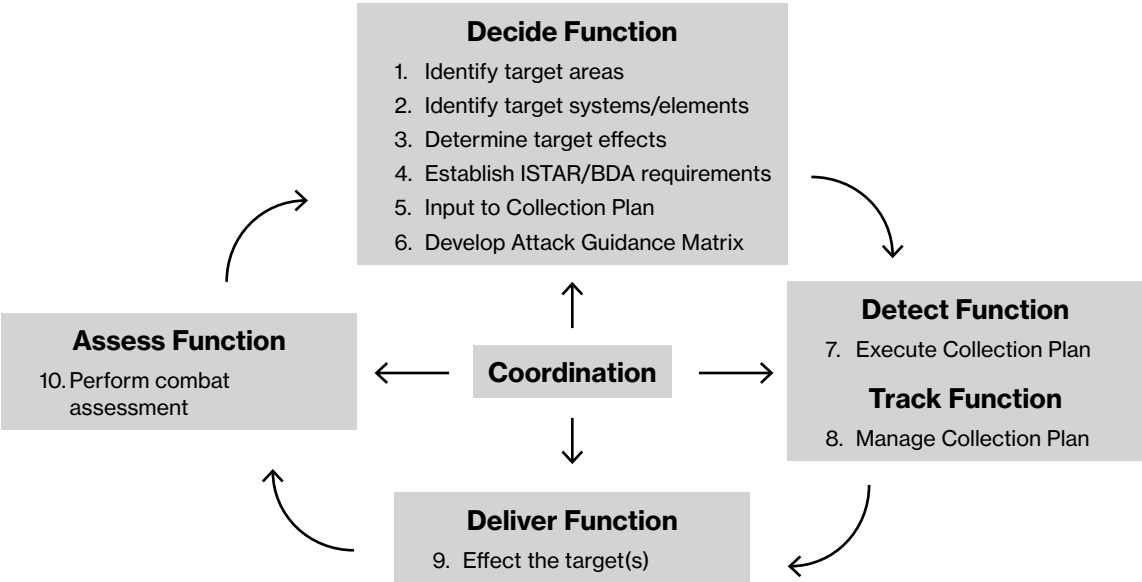
2021 will see the delivery of a modern, digitally-enabled Fire Control System (FCS) for the RNZA. This system will enhance the ability of fire units to command, control and coordinate Joint Fires and Effects on the battlespace in support of operations. This system will be interoperable with the Army’s Battle Management System. It will conduct ballistic computing, facilitate the accurate exchange of adversary and friendly force locations, Fire Support Coordination Measures and targeting data. Utilising Network Enabled Army (NEA) provided Combat Net Radios, FCS will employ a direct data communications links between the observer, Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre (JFECC), Battery Command Post and weapon delivery platform. This has traditionally been done via voice communications. The FCS will be interoperable with partner Fire Control Systems, and will be the first system to introduce Variable

Message Format (a military standard data communications method) to the NZ Army. A contract is expected to be awarded soon, with the equipment planned for delivery in late-2021.

**Close Air Support**

Delivered by the NEA Programme, NZDF Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) will soon field a Digitally-Aided Close Air Support (DACAS) system for dismounted operations. JTACs are qualified soldiers who, from a forward position, direct the action of combat aircraft engaged in Close Air Support. This system will deliver radios, devices, cables, hubs, software and video downlink receivers. Whereas traditional Close Air Support procedures rely on map, compass and protractor work to plan the mission and voice commands to execute, DACAS will allow JTACs to plan and execute Close Air Support missions on a ruggedized device and dispatch targeting information to the combat aircraft via specialised data radio. NZDF JTACs will however remain prepared for ‘old school’ voice only communications with minimal digital aids. When coupled with the Laser Target Designator (Leonardo Type 163) fielded in 2020, NZDF JTACs will remain formidable and in high demand for today’s complex operating environment.

**Commander’s Mission Direction and Intent**



Tāwhirimātea is the Māori god of thunder, lightning and storms.





Switchblade 600 Loitering Munition

.....

**81mm Mortar**

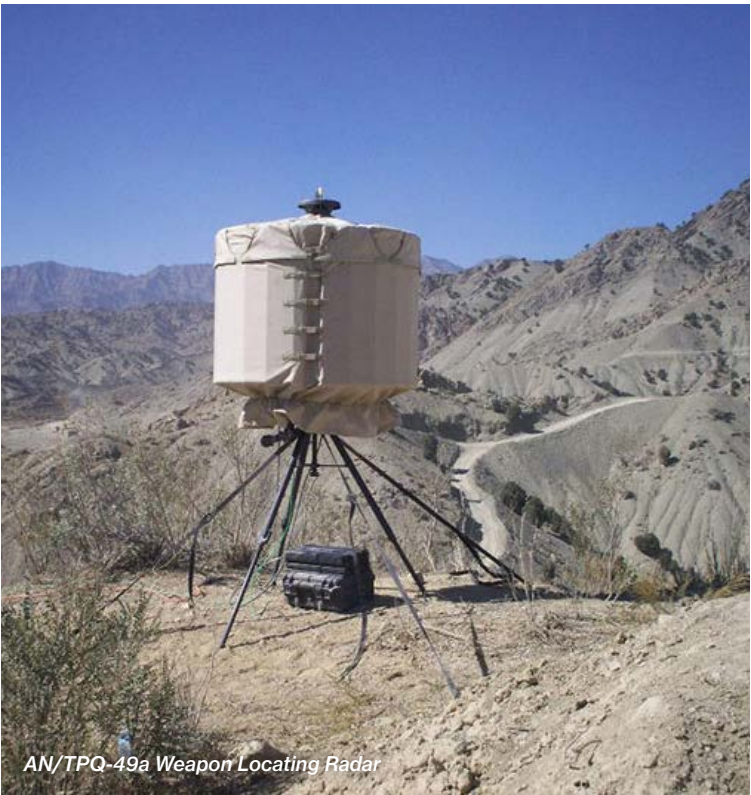
The Austrian made Hirtenberger Defence Technologies (HDT) 81mm mortar has been purchased as a replacement for the aging L16 mortar, introduced into service in 1975, as it is no longer supported for spares. With an effective range of 6.7km, the HDT mortar brings an extra kilometre of range over

the old L16, and when fitted with a Blast Attenuation Device, better directs the blast energy away from the crew, thus increasing its safety in operation. In conjunction with the L119 Light Gun, the 81mm mortar ensures the NZDF can mass fires, both of a lethal and less lethal nature in support of manoeuvre. The HDT 81mm mortar has arrived in the Project Store and is planned for issue in the second half of 2021.

.....

**Long Range Precision**

NZDF force elements lack the ability to engage targets beyond visual line of sight with organic, precise, low collateral damage kinetic effects. They are a small unmanned aerial system designed to engage targets with an explosive warhead and are equipped with a high resolution electro-optical and infrared camera



AN/TPQ-49a Weapon Locating Radar

that enables the operator to locate, identify and direct the munition onto target. The 'loiter' capability of these munitions allows the system to remain in orbit, allowing the operator to detect, recognise and identify a target thoroughly before a strike. Current systems come fitted with an anti-armour warhead, have a loiter time of 45+ minutes and a range greater than 40km.

A joint battlelab with the RNZN is planned for 2022. Dependant on the selected vendor, there is the possibility to include an unmanned teaming serial with the Puma UAS currently under experimentation with 16th Field Regiment. This would allow sensor-shooter software to be explored, effectively extending sensor-shooter cueing out to 20+ km. This period of capability investment will address a number of capability gaps within the NZDF. While the introduction of new capability will bring forth new challenges, it will nonetheless result in a fires capability that is more capable, potent and agile.



Gunner Clark receives orders from Lieutenant Zane Larkin during the recent Exercise Hellfire.



A soldier uses the sight to orientate the mortar during Exercise Hellfire.



Work has begun on the construction of the new Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles Headquarters building at Linton Military Camp.

Due to be completed in February 2022, the building includes a new Squadron Headquarters and Q-Store.

A small breaking ground ceremony was conducted by the QAMR Regimental HQ, overseen by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Craw and the RSM, Warrant Officer Class One Shannon Brears, which saw a New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicle blade variant ‘break ground’ for the construction to begin.

The HQ is a major milestone for the Regiment as the QAMR Regimental Headquarters has been housed within the 2 Engineer Regt museum since 2014, and the now-demolished Linton Administration Centre before that. The Regiment’s Troop HQs have been housed in the NZLAV hangars in the smoko rooms, and the Squadron HQs have been housed in a repurposed classroom that was built for Combat School. The QAMR Workshop was built in 2012 however with the return of QAMR to Linton there was no purpose-



built Q-Store, so the regiment was given a temporary home within the Workshop.

The new QAMR HQ is being constructed at the south-western end of the existing QAMR hangars at Linton and will house the Regimental HQ, NZ Scots Sqn HQ and Troop HQs. On the south-eastern end of the QAMR hangars, Wellington East Coast (WEC) Squadron and Troop HQs, and the QAMR Q-Store will be housed.

This will also see the relocation of the RNZAC memorial. It is being moved to the south western end of the NZLAV hangars close to the current QAMR sign. In its new position it will be in view of soldiers as they come to work, and be front and centre of the Regiment lines to show respect to

those who have fallen.

The construction of the HQ will provide a modern, state of the art, and fit for purpose facility for QAMR HQ to provide C2 to the Squadrons, including the Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) Squadron HQ to be established in preparation for the capability Intro Into Service (IIS) in late 2022.

The inclusion of a dedicated, purpose built Q-Store in the new HQ building will greatly enhance the logistical support provided by QAMR Support Squadron and allow expansion of the existing QAMR Workshops in preparation for the arrival of PMV.



VOLUNTARY EDUCATION STUDY ASSISTANCE (VESA)

Semester Two, 2021 applications are now being accepted

You may submit your request for funding within 90 days of your study start date. Apply online at NZDC, Defence Learning Toolkit VESA Application (e-form)

Please note there are some changes to the policy to improve accessibility to VESA. The changes will be promulgated on ILP.

A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

Applicants should be aware of their responsibilities prior to making an application IAW DFO 3/2016.

Prior to starting the application process, applicants are to:

- Confirm the level of study is right for them with NZDC DLearn
- Advise their 1-UP of their study intentions
- Provide supporting paperwork including study documentation from the official learning provider website (ready to attach to your e-form application)

Contact your local DLearn Adult Learning Tutor who can assist you with your application. If you have any further queries, please email our Tertiary Services & Support Advisor at [nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz)

POLICY (terms and conditions) SADFO 3/2016 VESA Policy  
SADFO 3/2016 VESA Policy (terms and conditions)





The Royal New Zealand Military Police welcomed their newest members to the New Zealand Defence Force recently. The graduates of the New Zealand Military Police Basic investigators’ course paraded at Trentham Military Camp.

The parade was reviewed by the Provost Marshal of the New Zealand Defence Force Colonel Kate Hill.



The Provost Marshal COL Kate Hill presented awards at the march out.

# CAREER MANAGEMENT CORNER

## Promotion Board Feedback

The Directorate of Army Career Management (DACM )have now completed the 2021 promotion boards and is finalising the feedback letters. The intent is for officers’ and soldiers’ letters to be released by mid-July.

## 2021 Posting Cycle

DACM’s focus will next turn to confirming the December 2021 posting cycle. To achieve this DACM will be engaging with individuals and Command over the next few months. Your career and personal objectives are an important part of the discussion so please ensure you take the time to discuss them with Command and DACM. To facilitate this career managers will conduct another interview round at camps and bases in August to discuss postings in more detail. Further information will be provided in the next *Army News*.

## Career Management Survey

Pulse and Exit surveys consistently provide direct feedback that career management is a major dissatisfier and this theme has been in the top three reasons for staff to voluntarily leave their Service. It has been identified that service personnel continue to have the perception that Career and Talent Management (CTM) often apply bias, irrespective of the effort expended in communicating both methodology and application. An NZDF wide survey on career management will

be conducted in the near future to provide information to support the improvement of the CTM process. Please take the time to provide feedback to this survey.

## Key Dates

11–15 July 21  
OSB and CFRB

## More information

Army Career Management  
Intranet Site:  
<http://orgs/sites/armint/1-0001/>  
Contact us at:  
[DACMRegistry@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:DACMRegistry@nzdf.mil.nz)





# PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN UNIFORM

**A group of female soldiers in Linton Camp is participating in a study investigating a physical training programme designed to meet the specific needs of women in uniform.**

The study is led by Major Jacques Rousseau with Captain David Edgar as the training programme guide. Both are from the JSG Human Performance Cell. Linton Physical training instructor CPL Catherine Luzak is running the training programme, and collaborating with the study is Ms Helen Kilding, a Human Performance Scientist from DTA.

In the New Zealand Army, approximately 13% of total Regular Force personnel and all soldiers are women. Regardless of their gender, women are required to serve under the same conditions and to participate equally in all duties as their male counterparts. The main objective of this research is to determine whether female soldiers are able to improve their physical fitness and operational (physical) readiness through a gender-specific physical conditioning programme, more so than with regular PT, and whether this translates into an improvement in the NZ Army Land Combat Fitness Test (LCFT), thus improving combat fitness and operational readiness.

The LCFT is NZ Army's combat fitness test with a single standard every soldier is required to achieve regardless of age or gender.

Current data highlights that more females fail the LCFT than their male counterparts (more so with the lifting components). In addition, NZDF Accredited Employee Programme (AEP) data reveals that, proportionally, significantly more females are injured annually than males, with the majority of injuries occurring during physical training.

Gender-specific training is warranted given the accepted anthropometric and physiological differences between males and females, said Dr Rousseau. "Females have less muscle mass, more body fat, lower red blood cell counts, lower haemoglobin levels and smaller cardiac outputs which affects oxygen consumption. As a result, aerobic and anaerobic fitness levels are generally lower in women than in men and most women must exert themselves more than most men to achieve the same output.

"Also, when working at a higher percentage of their maximal capacity to achieve the same performance levels as men, women tire earlier and are at increased risk of overuse injuries. In addition, lower body weight but higher body fat of women is associated with lower muscle strength and

endurance, again placing women at a disadvantage compared with men in carrying out military tasks such as lifting and carrying weights, or marching with a load.

"Furthermore, an increase in circulating oestrogen levels in females plays a role in the response to exercise and recovery. Research suggests that oestrogen may play a protective role in minimising exercise-induced muscle damage. However, exercise induced muscle damage, characterised by inflammatory cell infiltration which is higher in males than females, is the inflammatory response that triggers muscle regeneration. The protective effect of oestrogen lessens the inflammatory response which reduces muscle regeneration, therefore delaying muscle recovery in females," said Dr Rousseau.

"The aim is not to segregate females or deliver an entirely separate training stream, but by working smart we can implement and deliver specifics required by females that are simple regressions or progressions of the current PT syllabus such as

- Strength training (appropriate level targeting)
- Range of motion (ROM)
- Prescribing percentage of fitness intensities (appropriate intensity level)
- Accurate targeting of rep ranges, weight and intensity
- Targeted periodisation and recovery."

All soldiers must be able to perform the same core tasks and achieve the same minimum level of combat fitness, regardless of age or gender. A study conducted with the British military demonstrated that by training male and female recruits separately (gender-specific training), recruits can train at a pace that is optimal for their different levels of aerobic fitness, thereby providing the potential to reduce the risk of injury and optimise fitness gains.

The marked physiological difference in upper and lower body strength between men and women, combined with the need to complete military tasks that require the same absolute mission requirements, has sparked a renewed emphasis on the importance of including upper body power and strength activities for female soldiers.

Gender-specific training incorporating such activities has not been investigated in the NZDF. Doing so has the potential to increase the number of females in uniform, and in specific roles, and reduce attrition. To date there are very few published studies regarding the effects of military physical training on females post-recruit training, indeed no New Zealand specific information on this topic exists. This will be a leading study in the field of females in uniform.

The aim of this research is to determine whether gender-specific physical conditioning produces significantly better improvements in fitness compared to gender-free training and whether this translates into an improvement in both physical and operational fitness (e.g. performance on the NZ Army RFL and LCFT).

This work will identify gender differences in the response to military physical training which will inform strategies to improve combat effectiveness, increase the number of personnel available for deployment, and reduce injury in the NZDF.







# ARMY SIGNALLERS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF HISTORY & SERVICE







**The New Zealand Army's Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals has celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

Marking a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday during a global pandemic has meant the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals had to review its planned centenary celebrations while helping to keep the New Zealand border safe from Covid-19. Planning for the anniversary started in June 2019 for the corps that can count several names that

are marked in military history within its ranks, most notably Lieutenant Colonel Cyril Bassett, who won the Victoria Cross at Gallipoli. It was intended the anniversary year of when the Corps was formed would be marked in March 2020, but the global Covid-19 pandemic and the New Zealand Army's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations meant the anniversary date was pushed out to 1 June 2021. However this did not dampen the keenness to mark the occasion and a heart-warming message from the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal was received to mark the occasion. The Princess Royal said the Corps has had a distinguished service record over 100 years and the past year has been a reminder of the importance of keeping New Zealand secure. Regimental Colonel, Colonel Kate Lee, said it was important that even though the ability to mark the milestone had been delayed it was still vital to ensure it was suitably noted. "This year is our 100<sup>th</sup> year of the formation of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and it is only right to commemorate, celebrate and connect with past and present members of the corps and acknowledge the importance of signallers within operations over the past 100 years."

Colonel Lee said the Corps will mark the significant occasion towards the end of the centenary year with a formal parade. Military signals became a component of the New Zealand Army in the early 1900s and in 1911 Post and Telegraph Corps was formed and then in 1913 it was absorbed into the NZ Army Engineer Signal Service along with the NZ Signal Corps formerly known as the Cycle and Signalling Corps. On 1 June 1921 the Post and Telegraph Corps became the New Zealand Corps of Signals. There were nine signal units that operated during the Second World War and on July 1947 King George VI gave the Royal prefix to the unit and it became the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals. From climbing telegraph poles to utilising state of the art equipment as a network enabled Army the corps has come a long way from its inception, and is an essential part of a military operation. The Corps prides itself on being able to improvise and adapt in order to overcome the challenges of getting the message through, from Lieutenant Colonel Bassett VC at Gallipoli to the present day providing support by delivering reliable military communications during natural disasters and when deploying to the South West Pacific and throughout the world.







By Major Grant McCarroll

**Operation Mohua is New Zealand’s contribution to the ‘Combined Joint Task Force, Operation Inherent Resolve’ (CJTF-OIR).**



Inherent resolve is a United States-led international coalition effort based in the Middle East to defeat ISIS, ensure there is no resurgence and help bring stability and peace to the Middle East by building the Iraq Security Force (ISF) capability. New Zealand currently has four personnel deployed on Op Mohua based in Kuwait and Baghdad, Iraq where WO2 Harrison and myself are currently located.

Why is the Combined Joint Task Force here? To militarily defeat ISIS and set the conditions for follow-on operations to increase regional stability in the Middle East.

The operational environment is complex, complicated by the after-effects of a prolonged period of conflict, sectarianism, corruption, poverty, the slow pace of reconstruction, absent or intermittent essential services, a porous border and the actions of malign actors. The operating environment has evolved substantially over the campaign and is likely to remain fluid and challenging to the end of the mission.

WO2 Harrison and I work as part of the ‘Military Advisor Group’ (MAG). And we are co-located with the ‘Joint Operations Command – Iraq’ (JOC-I). The role of the MAG is to assess ISF capability and capacity towards campaign objectives and desired end states.

We work with around 1,200 personnel from the US and coalition forces from 33 different nations. It certainly is an amazing opportunity to work with fellow officers and soldiers from other nations with such varied backgrounds and experiences.

Life is busy on deployment. Everyone works seven days per week, with Sunday morning the only time you have off. We work, we do PT, we eat, we sleep and that is pretty much life here. Temperatures are starting to soar with most days

in the mid-40s. I was speaking with one of the interpreters and made the comment “It is so hot and humid” the interpreter smiled and replied “Grant, we are only in spring, in June, July and August it will be over 50 degrees Celsius everyday.” Something to look forward to!

In my role at the Military Advisor Group, there is lots of interaction with the Iraqi forces as we are the interface between the coalition force and the Iraqis. This provides a unique opportunity to work with the Iraqi forces, understand what they are doing, what they need to be better at and then do your best to help them, and in my job win materials and resources for them.

WO2 Harrison works in the Assessments office, with a Coalition Force Major. Having never worked in assessments before the experience has all been new for her. This hasn’t been an issue, however WO2 Harrison uses the good old Kiwi ‘Can do attitude’ and as a result has picked up the role very quickly.

The role itself is to assess outputs of the ISF. The role requires WO2 Harrison and her colleague to read reports from the different Operational Commands across Iraq and attend different briefs with many high ranking Iraqi Officers. WO2 Harrison has found the job to-date very interesting, challenging and rewarding.

A highlight for WO2 Harrison so far has been the people, being able to communicate, listen and learn about new languages and cultures, an experience she will remember for the rest of her life. WO2 Harrison has found the operational environment complex and crazy to say the least, however when you look around at your coalition brothers and sisters, there is always someone in the group that will make you laugh. This helps make you forget about the craziness that is happening around you outside the base.

Celebrating Anzac Day and representing New Zealand on operations for Anzac Day in a country like Iraq has certainly been a highlight for us both. WO2 Harrison and I gathered with our fellow Anzacs from Australia for a Dawn service that was attended by the senior leadership of the Combined Joint Task Force. Delivering the Anzac address on behalf of New Zealand to many coalition force personnel, including six Generals from different countries is certainly an experience I will cherish for many years to come.

In closing, being part of a large coalition force and representing New Zealand in the Middle East is an experience we both will never forget. Iraq is a complex and complicated country with many challenges, but a country from what we can see has many good people who are working hard to improve the situation and make things better for their people.

Above: WO2 Lisa Harrison at the Anzac Day dawn ceremony in Iraq.  
Left: WO2 Harrison and Major Grant McCarroll with the Commanding General of the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, Lieutenant General Paul Calvert.



# RE-DEDICATION OF GRANT’S GROVE

By Charlene Williamson

**Grant’s Grove at Burnham Military Camp has been officially re-opened and restored.**

The grove has a long and interesting history. Established in the 1950s, the gardens were constructed in the day of Compulsory Military Training (CMT). Prior to its construction it was an open space between barracks and was used as a project to occupy what little spare time CMT soldiers had.

Fast forward more than 30 years and Colonel (Rtd) David Grant was posted into the Camp Commandant Headquarters Burnham Military Camp in the mid-1980s. He was walking around camp during his first few days in the job and noticed the gardens, and thought to himself “what a mess”.

COL Grant spoke with Jim Colenso, Ministry of Works Burnham at the time, about tidying up the place and making the area a bit nicer to look at.

“At the end of 1986, on my last day as Camp Commandant, I did my usual walk around and Jim passed me in his ute and told me to jump in.”

He took COL Grant to the Grove where two of his gardeners were waiting, and where they revealed a finished garden, and a sign that read ‘Grant’s Grove’.



“The flowers were out, the garden was looking lovely,” COL Grant said.

Again, 35 years later the grove unfortunately became overgrown. This is when, with consultation between units in camp, Southern Region Support Centre started the final transformation of Grant’s Grove.

The area has been created to acknowledge and honour the service of all New Zealand Defence Force personnel and their families who have served at Burnham Camp.

The different spaces in Grant’s Grove are planned to be a modern memorial garden and reflection area. The spaces in the grove can be used to remember fallen comrades and to reflect on the past.

While it doesn’t replace any other memorials in camp, it will serve as a place where people can remember together. A re-dedication of the area took place just before Anzac Day.

“The place we are dedicating is a bit special, and not because it bears my name.

“But, because for what it is for the future, this will be a peaceful place for the soldiers in camp to come, think, remember, contemplate and feel at home,” said COL Grant.

He said the name given to the grove doesn’t matter, it just makes it immediately identified and recognised.

“Its purpose does matter, and for that purpose I commend the grove

to you all and hope and trust you will help to maintain its place and purpose in the future.

“Thank you for giving me the honour to re-dedicate the grove,” he said.

The work to get the grove to where it is today has been a team effort and will remain ongoing.

Those involved include Southern Regional Support Centre, Goom Landscapes, Brailsfords Ltd, Defence Estate and Infrastructure Burnham, Spotless and staff from Service Correctional Establishment.

## Entitled to support

**NZDF provides parental support to enable operational effectiveness and wellbeing to retain members of the NZDF (Regular Forces, Territorial Forces and Civil Staff) who are primary carers. Defence Human Resource (DHR) entitlements includes, but is not limited to:**

- LEAVE**
  - Parental Leave or Negotiated Carer Leave**

Up to 52 weeks of leave (unpaid). Inland Revenue facilitates parental leave payments.
  - Special Parental Leave (Paid)**

Provided for reasons connected with pregnancy, birth or when assuming the permanent responsibility for the care of a child. Where an entitlement to special parental leave has been exhausted compassionate leave or sick leave provisions are to apply.

**For more info refer to:**

DFO 3, Part 8, Chapter 8 Leave (Military)

DFO 3, Part 8, Chapter 8A Leave (Civilian)

DFO 3, Part 12, Chapter 10 The Employment and Support during Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Inland Revenue website

- ENGAGEMENT OR EMPLOYMENT**

Keeping in touch days. Provided for members on parental leave to stay connected with their employer. Up to 64 hours will be paid.

Continuation of career, training, and promotion opportunities.

Protected seniority while pregnant, for periods of parental leave and during the breast feeding support period.

Job protection. A member returning from parental leave is entitled to resume work in the same or a similar position as held at the time of commencing parental leave.
- CHILDCARE**

Early childcare facilities at camps and bases.
- FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

Members can apply for varied hours, varied work location, and/or reduced hours.

- PARENTAL RETURNING INCENTIVE PAYMENT**

Paid as one payment of up to six weeks salary. Applicable for members of the Armed Forces (Regular Forces or Territorial Forces).
- ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE**

(Only applicable for members of the Regular Forces)

Continuation of NZDF accommodation assistance while on parental leave including Operational Enabling Allowance – Posting Readiness.

Members can apply for NZDF housing. This includes members that have a dependant child normally living with them for at least six months of any year.



New Zealand  
**DEFENCE FORCE**  
Te Cōri Kōwhiri O Aotearoa

# Report serious wrongdoing



- Fraud**
- Corruption**
- Intimidation**
- Breach of safety and hazardous material regulations**
- Drug use**



## 0800 OUR NZDF

(0800 687 6933)

**A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND**



# Protecting Our Comms

One of the greatest threats to a military on the battlefield is having its communication cut or compromised.



*New Zealand is not immune to attacks on its global satellite systems but thanks to a joint project with the US, the NZDF will soon have access to one of the most sophisticated protection systems there is. It will protect communications in the field and ultimately save lives.*

Not being able to send or receive SITREPs or instructions can have devastating effects. These comms failures can either be unintentional, such as technical faults or human error, or deliberate. As technology has developed so too have ways of sabotaging it and one of the most common forms of sabotage is that of radio jamming. Jamming devices are easy to build, widely available and can be deadly effective.

New Zealand is not immune to attacks on its global satellite systems but thanks to a joint project with the US, the NZDF will soon have access to one of the most sophisticated protection systems there is. It will protect communications in the field and ultimately save lives.

Trials are being held to incorporate the Protected Tactical Waveform (PTW) system into the communications capability that Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) constellation provides. Currently the WGS has no such protection. The PTW is a highly sophisticated waveform or frequency which is based around the same systems used by US forces. It will be introduced as part of a wider Protected Anti-Jam Tactical SATCOM capability and will eventually be incorporated

into commercial and future MILSATCOM Protected Tactical Satellite (PTS) systems.

Defence Technology Agency (DTA) Research Leader Dr Branislav Jovic has been co-ordinating the trials with help from the US. “Ensuring our forces are safe against jamming attacks, unintentional and intentional, in a theatre of operations, is at the very core of our work,” he says. “An investment in PTW today will continue to provide benefits beyond WGS.”

After carrying out the necessary literary studies on whether the PTW modems could be integrated into the Cubic-GATR WGS terminals (see image 1), scientists from the US Space and Missiles Systems Centre (SMC) and DTA conducted the first experiment. The results were encouraging with the PTW merging with relative ease.

“This is an important step in ensuring our communications are adequately protected against interference in an increasingly contested and congested radio frequency environment,” said Dr Jovic. “Furthermore, the integration of PTW modems across all our defence partners will not only help protect our communications in friendly and non-friendly

environments, it will also ensure all our partners can work together collaboratively and effectively.”

The experiment, which would otherwise have cost several hundred thousand dollars, came at no cost to NZDF due to its collaborative nature.

The timeframe for integrating PTW into service is set for between 2024–2030.

## NZDF SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021/22

Are you a serving Reservist about to complete your university studies or preparing for a break between semesters?

Do you want to learn more about what the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does in your area of study?

The NZDF Summer Reserve Force Internship Scheme (RIS) will provide selected NZDF Reservists with an internship at a NZDF base across New Zealand. Interns will be placed where their individual skills can best be used while the intern will be exposed to opportunities to further a military or civilian career with the NZDF.

At the end of the placement, applicants will receive a final report/reference from their Sponsor Branch. The report is detailed and covers Position Title, Position Description, Experience Gained, Task/Projects completed, Skills Acquired, Strengths Displayed and a general comment from the supervisor.

### Eligibility Criteria

- 10 internships are available to current tertiary students who:
- a. are junior rank or junior officer Reservists from either the Navy, Army or Air Force,
  - b. have completed more than two years' undergraduate studies or are undertaking post-graduate studies,
  - c. are available between 14 November 2021 to 18 February 2022 (individual start and finish dates are able to be negotiated to suit academic commitments), and,
  - d. are not in paid full-time civilian employment.

### Remuneration

- Interns will be paid in accordance with DFO 7.3.36 Reserves Full Time Duties noting:
- e. Interns are not to work in excess of five days/40 hours per week but may attend additional duty activities at Unit expense,
  - f. All public holidays are unpaid as holiday pay is a component of Reserve daily pay,
  - g. Interns are offered rations and quarters at the nearest military base to their place of employment at public expense. Packed lunches may be sourced through the mess but not subject to reimbursement if unavailable.
  - h. Interns are offered a travel pass from their military accommodation to their place of work, if not located on a camp or base, and,
  - i. Travel expenses to and from either university or home locations will be met by NZDF at the beginning and end of the internship.

### Administration

The Reserve Force Internship Scheme is managed by Defence Reserves, Youth and Sport (DRYS), 34 Bowen Street, HQNZDF, Wellington.

For all queries please email [reserves@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:reserves@nzdf.mil.nz).

### Selection Criteria

- Applicants from any academic discipline will be considered.
1. **Security Clearance**  
Interns must have a NZDF (CV) security clearance prior to application.
  2. **Application Process**
    - a. Applications will be made available from 11 June 2021 by email request to [reserves@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:reserves@nzdf.mil.nz)
    - b. Applications are to be endorsed and sent to [reserves@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:reserves@nzdf.mil.nz) by the applicant's Chain of Command (OC/CO). Unit Commanders can endorse applications via email or by signature on the application form.
    - c. Applications are to include:
      - Completed application form available from 11 June 2021 (by email request to [reserves@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:reserves@nzdf.mil.nz)),
      - Covering letter, outlining why you would like to work at NZDF on a Reserve Internship,
      - CV – current, to include all academic, sporting and cultural achievements.
    - d. Final day for applications: 27 August 2021.



# CANINE FIRST AID COURSE HELPS NZDF PERSONNEL WORKING WITH DOGS

**Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) Handler, Sapper Luke Martin, joined the New Zealand Army straight after high school in search of a career that would enable him to help people.**

He started his journey as a Combat Engineer in the Royal New Zealand Engineers Corps before specialising as a military dog handler. Working by his side today, you can find EDD Rita, a lively four-year-old Labrador-heading cross. The pair have just become licensed to work together. As part of his role and responsibilities, SPR Martin recently completed the Canine First Aid Course delivered by Massey University in partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). The 25-year-old from Ashburton, described his learning experience at Massey as 'world-class'.

"Nowhere else in the southern hemisphere allows us to come in and do what we do, it's a really good experience. With the knowledge and skills I've gained from the course, I'm more confident that I could help Rita if she received a life-threatening injury. Knowing I can look after her when she's ill, or if something more serious happens on deployment, is critical." The Canine First Aid Course was designed by the university's Working Dog Centre, using United States military training material and is delivered by a specialist surgeon and an emergency and critical care specialist. The course provides handlers with broad theory and practical skills, from how to recognise signs of ill health, to treating injuries such as bleeds, breaks, burns and exposure to toxins, before the dog can receive veterinary care. The calibre of the course has also seen dog handlers from the New Zealand Police dog unit attend as well. SPR Martin says he can apply these skills to any situation and more widely than just at work, like when his pet dog was recently attacked. "Attending to his injuries quickly was like second nature."

He enjoys the challenges and variety that comes with working with the New Zealand Defence Force's explosive detection dogs and says no two days are the same. "Dog handling is a role where you really have to brainstorm what you're going to do – for example, you might think of something that seems so basic (to you) to do, but the dog will struggle to comprehend what you're actually trying to teach it, like getting them to run in a straight line. "What works for one dog might not work for another, and a lot of the time you're going back to the drawing board to think things out. It won't always work, but you get there eventually. Adaptability is key." The Canine First Aid Course is delivered to NZDF dog handlers under the New Zealand Defence Force-Massey University partnership. The partnership offers opportunities and benefits to NZDF personnel, their families, ex-serving personnel and veterans. For more information about the partnership see <https://force4families.mil.nz/massey-university>



Sapper Luke Martin, and EDD Rita.



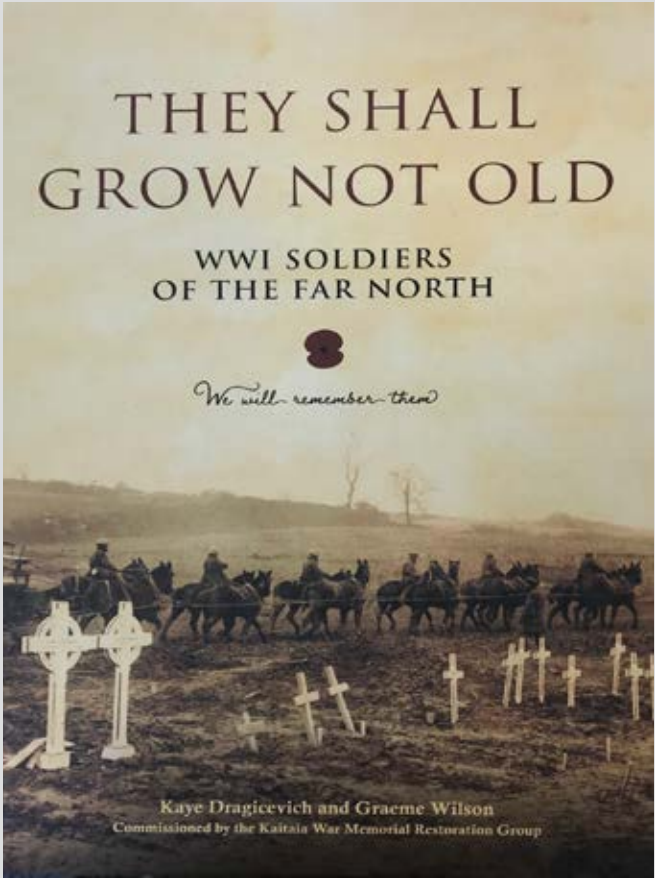
## New medics graduate

**The ability to both think on his feet while also being fit was a drawcard for William Wallace to join the New Zealand Army as a medic.**

He has just graduated from Defence Health School based at Burnham Military Camp following two-and-a-half years of study where he earned himself the Peers Choice Award and Top Trainee Award. PTE Wallace, 22, from Riverton, tried university but it wasn't right for him so he enlisted into the Army. "I joined as a medic as I wanted a job that required physical challenges as well as academic ones. "It seemed to fit what I wanted in a job the most, requiring a lot of thinking, as well as being physically fit," he said. PTE Wallace said he has enjoyed the operational phases of training, particularly the parts based around trauma. "Along with that, I have really enjoyed getting a taste of the different services medicine, including the aeromedical evacuation course." He is looking forward to the next part of his New Zealand Defence Force journey. "I am looking to further my understanding of military and clinical medicine, and ensuring that any patients I treat in the field, on operations, or at the Health Centre are given the best care. "In a medical sense, I will also be furthering my study through a Bachelor of Paramedicine." PTE Wallace is posted to Southern Health Support Squadron in Burnham where he is putting his medic training into practice.



# BOOK REVIEWS



## They Shall Grow Not Old WWI Soldiers of the Far North

By Kaye Dragicevich and Graeme Wilson  
Commissioned by the Kaitaia Memorial Restoration Society

**There's nothing like picking up a book where every page holds you spellbound, whether it be by old photos, new photos, maps, descriptions or well-put words.**

"*They Shall Grow Not Old, WWI Soldiers of the Far North*" by Kaye Dragicevich and Graeme Wilson is one such book.

The cover is the first thing that grabs you – a sepia-toned photo of horses and soldiers trotting through mud behind stark white crosses standing askew in churned ground.

*They Shall Grow Not Old* is about the men of the Far North who volunteered for WWI, and also about the women – mothers, sister, sweethearts – who supported them. The stories of more than 100 individuals are told, and they somehow manage to almost bring the dead alive as they detail their family connections, where they farmed or worked, photographs from their era, and sometimes the letters they wrote home.

The soldiers hail from all over: Mangatete, Mangonui, Waiharara, Te Puna, Te Kao, Takahue, Rawene and the likes. Tiny settlements that willingly offered their sons to the cause.

*They Shall Grow Not Old*, as well as providing extensive information about the battles themselves, reproduces the letters sent home by soldiers, as well as those sent to the battlefields by their anxious parents.

"Dearest Mother  
Again I convey fond respects to you all at home. I am keeping splendid, and so are all the other boys. What a quiet place old Pukenui must be nowadays that all the old boys are gone..."

Hohepa Waaka, also known as Job Walker was born in Te Kao in March 1896. His father was a farmer, and the family, as did many at the time, worked gum digging. The land was very poor and desert-like, although there were gardens of kumara, potato, taro and maize. Cattle and sheep grazed free, and wild pigs caused havoc. Hohepa and his cousin Hapi entered Narrow Neck Camp together and were posted to the Maori Contingent to train. Three months later Hohepa left New Zealand on the troopship HMNZT 67 Tofua with the 9<sup>th</sup> Maori Reinforcements and the 18<sup>th</sup> NZEF Reinforcements. He served with the Maori (Pioneer) Battalion in the disaster that was Passchendaele. He survived that, only to be shot in the thigh and face in the German Spring

Offensive. He was admitted to the Canadian Stationary Hospital in Doullens where he died the following day.

*They Shall Grow Not Old* details horror and heartache, but also happiness and honour. It describes the mores of the day, the fun that could be had with almost nothing, and the esteem in which those who fought for their country and never returned were held.

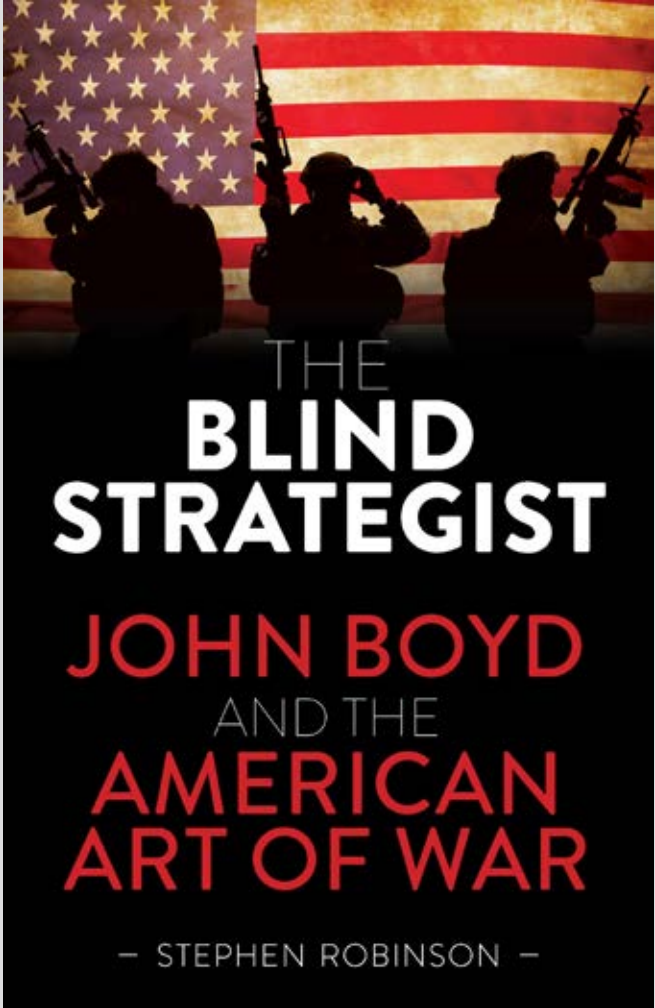
The book, at more than 600 pages, is a marathon effort, and obviously the result of years of painstaking research and devotion to the subject.

It is a perfect tribute to those men and their families from New Zealand's beautiful Far North.

Reviewed by Judith Martin

Army News has a copy of *They Shall Grow Not Old* to give away.

If you have a connection to the Far North and would like to own the book send an email to [armynews@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:armynews@nzdf.mil.nz) by June 30.



## The Blind Strategist John Boyd and the American Art of War

By Stephen Robinson

Published by Exisle Publishing

**If you know what the OODA Loop is and you have an even passing familiarity with the basic tenets of manoeuvre warfare, then it's a fair bet you know who COL John Boyd (USAF 1927–1997) was. If you do, this tome will probably interest you, if you don't, you'll be on a steep learning curve!**

In *The Blind Strategist* Australian Army Reservist and historian, Stephen Robertson puts forward a very clear and well argued case that the whole theory of manoeuvre warfare as developed by Boyd was based on lies. Robertson doesn't contend there is anything fundamentally wrong with manoeuvre warfare, just that because it is built on lies, it will never deliver what its historical proponents believed it can and he does it in a riveting and very readable way.

Post-WWII, the allies spent a lot of time talking to Wehrmacht (German Army) commanders about their combat experiences, particularly with the Cold War looming, those who had fought

the Russians. Many of those Nazi stooges (is my bias too obvious?), keen to avoid a trial at Nuremberg or a noose around their necks spent a lot of time outlining how the Wehrmacht were purely soldiers and had nothing to do with atrocities. If you've read a few of the key autobiographical texts about the Wehrmacht in WWII, you'll be familiar with the standard lines: "We were just doing our job... Hitler was a tactical ignoramus who kept interfering...what atrocities? It was all the SS's fault etc."

The guts of Robertson's thesis is that Boyd was deceived by all this and developed manoeuvre around the idea that the Wehrmacht were tactical geniuses who used Blitzkrieg to devastating effect. The Nazis were only beaten by the Russians because there were so many of the latter and because non-military 'political' forces focused too many resources on non-military operations, thus diluting the impact of the Wehrmacht. Ergo the Wehrmacht approach offered the best way to defeat the Russians.

So far so good, right?... well, it WOULD be if it wasn't for the fact that Blitzkrieg had never actually existed as Wehrmacht doctrine and was in fact a word and

concept unknown to Wehrmacht commanders.

There is also plenty about the way manoeuvre warfare was employed successfully in the first Gulf War and not so successfully against an insurgency. The debate about whether political considerations have any place in war planning is explored and Boyd's contention that it doesn't is found wanting.

I simply don't know enough about the historical ins and outs to rule definitively on how credible, or otherwise, this all is, but it reads bloody well and makes a lot of sense. Let's just say it certainly seems to stack up. So if you are a fan of manoeuvre, think Boyd was theoretically the way, the truth and the light, or just have an interest in modern warfare and how people came to think the way they do, then grab a copy of this and hunker down.

Reviewed by Jeremy Seed

Army News has two copies of *The Blind Strategist* to give away.

Send your details in an email to [armynews@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:armynews@nzdf.mil.nz) by June 30.



# HUMINT Career Opportunities

In the last 20 years, the Kiwi attitude and psyche on operations has proven to be a winning combination when working amongst the local population. NZDF has established a reputation for effective engagement in all environments from the Pacific to the Middle East; conducting activities ranging from patrol questioning, liaison and intelligence collection.



.....

## What is HUMINT?

HUMINT provides a unique perspective on what people do and the motivations and intentions of an adversary. In the NZDF, HUMINT is trained at the School of Military Intelligence and Security (SMIS), part of the Mission Command Training Centre (MCTC), Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

.....

## HUMINT Training Opportunities:

### A06012 Defence Source Operations One:

SMIS has recently delivered the Defence Source Operations One (DSO1) Course. The course builds on the core skills taught on the Tri-Service Debriefing Course; focusing on advanced debriefing skills with an emphasis on establishing and enhancing interpersonal relationships. The DSO1 trains and qualifies learners as HUMINT operators capable of undertaking a wide range of tasks. The course is open to all uniformed personnel across the NZDF. If you are interested in training in HUMINT look for the following prerequisite courses:

### A06003 Defence Source Operations Assessment (DSOA):

The DSOA is a four-day assessment designed to identify personnel from across the NZDF who are suitable for specialist HUMINT training. HUMINT operators will interact with a wide range of individuals from an array of different backgrounds, cultures, religions and values; the ideal HUMINT team should reflect this diversity and as such, NZDF service personnel of all ages, ethnicities, genders, and trades are encouraged to apply. The purpose of the assessment is to identify individuals that are both likely to enjoy the role and succeed in training. Candidates will be assessed on their mental agility and verbal communication in role play scenarios, written communication, problem solving as an individual and also as a team. Those that are identified as suitable for further training are invited to progress to DSO1.

### A0635 Tri-Service Debriefing Course:

Debriefing is the formal and systematic questioning of selected, willing individuals by specifically trained personnel in order to gather information of relevance. SMIS regularly delivers the five-day Tri-Service Debriefing Course, which qualifies students to conduct debriefing operations. This training is an all Corps skill and does not require any previous experience.

.....

## Interested?

SMIS is seeking a diverse range of people to attend some of their many courses. If you want to be part of a challenging, exciting and growing capability, then this could be you! Look for upcoming courses on the New Zealand Defence College Toolkit or contact the Senior Instructor of Specialist Wing, SMIS on [DSO.Recruitment@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:DSO.Recruitment@nzdf.mil.nz)





# DEFENCE FORCE JOINS RACE TO THE TOP OF AUCKLAND'S SKY TOWER

**It's no easy task navigating more than 51 flights of stairs wearing more than 25kgs of firefighting kit, but that's what Defence Force firefighters took on recently.**

Eleven firefighters competed in the 2021 Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge, all in the name of giving back to the community, with much-needed funds going to support Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand.

The three teams represented the Waiouru Fire Brigade, Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Fire Brigade Ohakea and the Royal New Zealand Air Force Whenuapai Rescue Fire Service.

It's the first time Lance Corporal Cameron Turner, a repsonder from the Waiouru Fire Brigade, competed in the race to climb to the top of the Sky Tower.

"Raising funds and participating in the challenge is very personal for me as my Mum was diagnosed

with a rare form of leukaemia and struggled with the illness. Thankfully she is now in remission, however so many others in New Zealand are not as lucky," says LCPL Turner.

"While firefighter training can be challenging at times, I would definitely say that climbing the Sky Tower is going to be more challenging. Normal fire training consists of structural, rural and aircraft firefighting, motor vehicle crashes, medical emergencies and hazardous substances. In Waiouru there are no high-rise buildings with stairs suitable so climbing stairs in our full firefighting kit is not common. However we have all been doing specific training using stairs to condition ourselves for the

event, in addition to fundraising to generate donations for the cause," he says.

Royal New Zealand Air Force Sergeant Michael Shepherd is no stranger to the event, competing for the tenth time, with what he calls a "slow and steady" approach.

"My approach is slow and steady, and like the tortoise I usually pass the hares that bolt out the gate at around the tenth floor. It really is a matter of controlling your breathing, using a bit of resilience and just keeping moving forwards, this is ingrained in every firefighter when they go through their training. In saying that, yes it is definitely harder than day-to-day compliance training around the station," says SGT Shepherd.

Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand is the national charity dedicated to supporting patients and their families living with a blood cancer or a related blood condition.





# Celebrating life and remembering the fallen

By Staff Sergeant Tina Grant, liaison officer for Families of the Fallen

After being diagnosed with a brain tumour, having a seizure, pneumonia, hysterectomy and finally my appendix removed all in one year, I decided to make good of my fortunate outcome! This experience has changed my view on how I live my life now, what is important to me and my family. I was given a second chance.

Once I could stand on my own, I started walking as part of my recovery and decided to walk a half marathon in Rotorua. The walk was to continue with my recovery, health and wellbeing but I also wanted it to be in memory of our fallen soldiers and to recognise what the families have been through.

All families grieve no matter how their loved one dies, so it's my job to bring 'like-minded' people together to share stories of their journey and loved ones with those who understand. I used this opportunity to raise funds for these people.

I started out with a hiss and roar but four kilometres into the walk I was wondering if I had made the right decision. There was a bit of hill work but mostly through the beautiful Redwoods Forest. We were blessed with an overcast day with light showers so it was perfect for a long walk. Nearing the last five kilometres I started to seize up so I began to run. At this stage the rain was extremely heavy and we were absolutely drenched but I finished it and was proud to say I did my first half marathon walk in 3.32hrs and I could still walk to the car.

Twice a year we have a gathering of the families of the fallen so they can meet, greet, share and remember their loved ones. The venue varies and depends a lot on cost hence why I raised funds so these events can be continued for our families. All money raised goes towards supporting these events, financial struggles, education (uniforms, books, fees) and any other requests are considered by the Trust to financially support these families.



## Dive the Poor Knights and the sunken Navy Leander HMNZS Canterbury

Trentham Dive and Fishing Club with Dive HQ Wellington have a trip departing Wellington on Saturday 17 July and returning to Wellington on Sunday 25 July.

.....

### Trip includes:

- Two days diving with Northland Dive, local sites and HMNZS Canterbury (4 dives) (fills included)
- Three days, two nights with Tutukaka Dive at the Poor Knights (7 dives) (meals and fills included)
- Goat Island dive on the way home

**Cost** \$1500 + accommodation, food while travelling and share of fuel  
**What do you need?** Advance Diver qualification, all your dive kit including a tank, camera recommended

Secure your position on the trip with a deposit of \$500

Contact Chris Fitzwater for more information – [chris.fitzwater@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:chris.fitzwater@nzdf.mil.nz)

# NZ ARMY RUGBY LEAGUE

## Women’s Manager and Assistant Manager Vacancies

New Zealand Army Rugby League (NZARL) is calling for expressions of interest in the role of team manager and assistant team manager of the women’s rugby league team.

A management portfolio is an important role which not only facilitates all administration matters relating to the team but also serves as a role model for both players and other executive position holders.

There is an expectation that our management team will adhere to the NZARL pledge and live these values. A successful applicant must be able to travel, and will require a current NZ passport and driver’s licence.

For a copy of the Position Description please contact NZARL Team Manager SSGT Mark Anderson via email: [mark.anderson@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:mark.anderson@nzdf.mil.nz)

Applicants should submit their CVs (work and sports and rugby league management experience) with a covering letter for the above role to NZARL Team Manager SSGT Mark Anderson by 5pm Friday, June 18, 2021.





Soldiers from 2 ER conduct Explosive Method of Entry training at Waiohuru Military Camp's urban container village.  
Photo: Corporal Naomi James