

ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 532
MAY 2022



ANZAC DAY
Lest we forget

**THE ARMY'S
COMBAT DRIVERS**
Honing skills in the WMTA

**DEFENCE'S NEW
HEALTH WEBSITE**
All you need to know

NEWS

- NZDF support for Ukraine 02
- Sustainability challenge 03
- New NZDF health website 18

PEOPLE

- The mystery of the missing medal 04
- Anzac Day 05
- A Kiwi footprint in Israel 08
- PTE Aishah-Louise Leitner – the woman behind the drum 15
- Sinai celebrations 16
- SAPRAS 17
- 28 (Māori) Battalion honoured 17

TRAINING

- Combat drivers 10
- Sappers in the water 12

SPORT

- Hockey 20

Cover: NZDF Person of the Year Corporal Nori Lee in Gallipoli on Anzac Day.
Photo: CPL 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

From The Army Depot (TAD)

Kia ora koutou all, this month we hear from another key Regimental Sergeant Major within the Army's Training and Operational systems. WO1 'Wai' Cross, RNZSigs has been in the TRADOC role for almost two years and shares some insights on her unit's role, challenges and outcomes during OP PROTECT.

What was TAD doing during OP PROTECT? Why do our Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) at TAD need to be good at training delivery?

Most of us are aware of the core tasks of a Defence Force, one of which is to conduct combat operations in order to protect our national and political interests. In September 2018, Major General John Boswell, was appointed Chief of Army and duly outlined his vision for the NZ Army. This took the form of Army25.

Army25 was divided into four themes – People, Information, Relationships and Capability enhancement. The Army Depot under a banner of 'People' was directly responsible for training the future force increasing the strength of Army from 4,500 to 5,150 people by 2025.

But by late-2019 our world was put 'on notice' by the coronavirus

threat and by early 2020 the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared it an official global pandemic. On 13 March 2020, the NZ Government announced everyone entering the country would self-isolate for 14 days and by April of the same year that declaration had transformed into a task that would become NZDF's largest sustained domestic operation since East Timor.

So where was TAD and what were we doing during Op Protect? Following CDF's Defence Force priorities, TAD continued training to sustain the force. With the exception of infection control measures and the triage of recruits, ab-initio training very much continued at TAD.

Since the start of Op Protect, TAD has trained and graduated approximately 406 Regular Force (RF) and 130 Reserve Force (RES) recruits to a small but complementary total of 536. This was achieved by the introduction of Recruit Regular Force 402, an Infantry Combat Corps intake that included a surge of an additional 30 staff. RRF402 resulted from CA's intent to grow an additional Rifle Company by 2025. Very soon the unit would have trained and graduated an additional 160 recruits for a new total of 696 new recruits.

Why do TAD's NCOs cadre need to be good people, skilful at delivery and overall good instructors?

In order for TAD to train the future force it's paramount that NCOs posted to TAD be highly trained, professional, motivated and committed soldiers. They also



need to be diverse of thought, flexible, empathetic, and accepting of an individual's growth and development. Above all else they must be able to uphold the ethos and values of the NZ Army. This means having our public's interests in mind, a clear understanding of the Profession of Arms, and the safety and welfare of our recruits top of mind. This is what 'right' looks like.

It is no secret that NCOs are the general pulse of the Army. They are a form of connective tissue without which, the NZ Army would likely fail to achieve mission success. TAD is without question a unit that depends on its NCOs having the skillsets to deliver quality instruction. If they don't have all of these attributes, then they MUST have the desire to develop and modify their shortfalls.

Without this training, incidents (involving live ammunition), incorrect drills, harm, and the uptake of poor habits becomes more prevalent. Simply put, when we fail to put the 'right' NCOs in front of impressionable recruits we fail the future of this military institution.

In closing, with the recent draw-down of the NZDF from Operation Protect and the realignment of NZ Army to a regeneration phase, TAD is very aligned and focussed on supporting CA's strategic direction of generating the future force.

Ngā Mihi.
RSM TAD

If you think you fit the profile to be an Instructor at TAD fill in an AFNZ49 Posting Preference Notification Form

NZDF SUPPORT TO UKRAINE'S SELF-DEFENCE UNDERWAY

New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Europe have quickly integrated with international partner militaries and commenced supporting Ukraine's self-defence.

NZDF logistics personnel are working within the International Donor Co-ordination Centre (IDCC) in Germany assisting multinational efforts to coordinate the movement of donated military aid to Ukraine.

The personnel are working as part of the IDCC ensuring equipment donations are in accordance with Ukraine's operational priorities, coordinating the logistics for donations, and matching transport to aid consignments.

The first Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) C-130 Hercules flights transporting military aid between staging centres in Europe happened in late April.

The Hercules is based at the Royal Air Force base at Brize Norton, in the United Kingdom. It flies to centres in Europe to load and transport military equipment consignments to forward staging points from which the equipment is moved into Ukraine.

Lieutenant Colonel Vanessa Ropitini, the commander for the logistics detachment, based in

Germany, said her team was in the international coordination centre, working with partners to get donor supplies to Ukraine.

The work of the logistics team had been essential to ensuring the most appropriate tasks for the Hercules were identified and confirmed, and the team was proud their efforts to secure the first tasks had been successful, she said.

"Everyone is pleased they're doing tangible work to get military aid to the Ukrainians."

The deployment of the Hercules, air transportation and logistics personnel is in addition to the deployment of NZDF intelligence staff to the United Kingdom, an officer to the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters and a liaison officer to work at a NATO headquarters in Belgium.

The NZDF's open source intelligence capability is also being utilised, and a consignment of helmets, body armour, radios and other equipment was sent earlier to support Ukraine's self-defence.





A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY

At Gallipoli on Anzac Day I spoke of the uncertainty that the New Zealand soldiers would have felt as they prepared to land. Of not knowing how they would respond to the overpowering stress and fears of battle. Of the hope they had, that when the time came, they would be brave enough to endure what was ahead and, above all, not let their comrades down.

In addition to grappling with these personal fears the officers and NCOs, many of whom were seeing action for the first time, had to deal with the additional responsibility of leading men in battle. Knowing that, no matter how well they planned and executed the attack many of the men who were often relatives, friends and neighbours, would die.

It was incredibly humbling to be given the opportunity to pause and reflect on the tragedy that played out at Gallipoli some 107 years ago. The intense and close quarter fighting that took place, and of the many acts of bravery, devotion to duty and initiative that occurred – and, as sobering as it was, on the futility of the campaign.

What also struck me was just how many times I had seen the qualities that were displayed by the ANZACs all those years ago in today's soldiers. No circumstance is ever the same and, of course, the issue of scale is clear but equally so is the character of the New Zealand soldier, both then and now.

As we look to reposition as a force, and then regenerate our capabilities following Op Protect, there are a couple of key considerations that must frame how we approach the challenges ahead.

Firstly, and too often, we downplay just how capable the New Zealand soldier is and the importance of the Service they provide to our Army, indeed our nation. Our people are quality. And, when called upon to do so, as they were at Gallipoli, they respond with courage and devotion to duty.

We now have the opportunity to invest significantly in our people. To provide them with the skills and attributes to not only develop professional and personal excellence, but to excel. At the core of this must be a recognition of the need to prepare our people for operations. To prepare them to enter into harm's way and perform physically and mentally demanding tasks at the highest levels of proficiency.

Equally, we must continue to develop leaders at all levels in Army who understand the challenge of command and who, in both garrison and when deployed, perform credibly. Mission Command is, and will continue to be, at the core of our command environment. Everything we do should look to enhance our ability to decentralise execution, empower subordinate decision-making, and build trust.

We must also acknowledge the complex and changing nature of the contemporary operational environment and adapt our training accordingly. The infusion of technology into nearly every aspect of military operations, the introduction into service of new capabilities, and an understanding of how warfare is evolving requires us all to be forward thinking, innovative and agile in our approach to regeneration.

My final comment is about attitude. About how, when our Army has been through an incredibly challenging period and has seen a significant attrition in capability including our people capability, we must approach regeneration over the next 2–3 years. In this we can't sit back and expect things to happen, we must take advantage of every opportunity that is presented, and we must be proactive, positive, aggressive and smart. As we get after the challenges ahead be guided by the approach of French General Ferdinand Foch at the Battle of Marne: 'Hard pressed on my right. My centre is yielding. Impossible to manoeuvre. Situation excellent. I am attacking.'

Major General John Boswell
Chief of Army



Last call for ideas to make the NZDF greener

Militaries are renowned for coming up with great ideas in the field, and the New Zealand Defence Force is picking the brains of our people on how to make it a little lighter on the planet.

The Defence Excellence (Dx) Sustainability Challenge has already been receiving ambitious ideas such as harnessing wave power from beneath the wharves at Devonport to introducing compostable zip-lock bags to replace plastic ones.

But the deadline is looming. The Challenge suggestion box is open until World Environment Day on 5 June – and Dx will implement at least one of the ideas at each camp, base or ship.

Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Andrew Clark, who is the Sustainability Challenge champion, said the NZDF was a complex organisation that presented both large and small sustainability challenges.

"None of us can afford to be ignorant of the environmental challenges facing our country and our world in the coming decades, and we all can play a part in securing a sustainable future for the generations to come.

"I challenge you all to think about how individually, and collectively within your teams, units, and the NZDF as a whole, you can contribute to the Sustainability Challenge in an enduring way.

"I encourage you to focus on what can be achieved rather than on what might seem too big or too difficult; lots of small initiatives can be as valuable as one big one.

"Set lofty top down goals that may be aspirational as well as

smaller and more practical bottom up ones; using less paper, recycle more bottles, suggest more sustainable working practices. Your ideas could be implemented across Defence, saving time, money and ultimately our planet."

Personnel, their friends and family can submit any suggestions: to innovation@nzdf.mil.nz or via the Dx Sustainability Challenge intranet site.

Innovative excellence recognised

A private soldier has been presented with two major Army Innovation Challenge (2021) Awards, for her solution to what is a health-related issue for service personnel who menstruate.

She recognised that menstruating outside of the garrison environment can be a challenge. Tampon use comes with the risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS), particularly if left in for long periods of time or inserted with unclean hands. Pads are a problem if worn in wet environments, and over time can fall apart or become uncomfortable as a result of exercise. Both items are single use, are unusable if they get wet, noisy to open and result in rubbish which is awkward to carry around and dispose of.

The proposed and approved solution was the issue of menstrual cup, reusable period underwear, reusable pads and dry bags to menstruating soldiers.

Army Innovation manager Captain James Firestone said the soldier's success was due to both the significance of

the innovation and how she carried it forward. She showed initiative, courage and grace in championing a soldier need that both improves NZARMY combat effectiveness and helps normalise diversity within the Service. She has also remained involved in the implementation of her idea, which is now a reality. She won the Culture of Innovation Award and was the overall Army winner of 2021 Innovation. As well as certificates marking the awards she was presented with two precious stone taonga.

NZDF TRACKS DOWN RELATIVES TO RETURN WWI MEDALLION

In 1944, Boer War and World War I veteran Sergeant William George Cooper placed a lost and found classified ad in Wellington’s Evening Post. He’d lost his silver Returned Services medallion and hoped the finder would “kindly return” it to his home in Petone. He was 72 years old, and he died 16 years later, his ad unanswered.

But earlier this year, when an Upper Hutt family chanced upon the medallion in the back of an old writing desk of a deceased uncle, they wondered if there was a descendant that would welcome its return.

The small silver medallion, with Birmingham hallmarks, appears to be an unofficial soldier’s keepsake, a memento of service, detailing “SGT WG Cooper 628456, 47th Hardlot, 1918”.

The Upper Hutt family had no connection to the soldier, and turned to the New Zealand Defence Force’s Public Affairs arm for help. NZDF historian Matthew Buck made the breakthrough by searching in the National Library’s ‘Papers Past’ newspaper archive, using the name W. G. Cooper and the number 628456, and getting an instant hit on the poignant 1944 advert.

From there, two things needed to be solved. Who was W. G. Cooper and did he have any descendants? An internet search using forces.co.uk revealed a

Sergeant William George Cooper 628456, originally from London, had emigrated to Canada and joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in 1915 to fight in France with the 47th Battalion. His attestation forms and military record were available from Library and Archives Canada. The ‘Hardlot’ reference is unknown, but may have been an unofficial moniker coined for the battalion.

At the same time, findagrave.com located a Sergeant W G Cooper (Middlesex Regiment) 5567 at Taita Lawn Cemetery, but the date of birth between the ‘Canada’ Cooper and the ‘Taita’ Cooper didn’t appear to match.

But next of kin did. The ‘Canada’ Sergeant Cooper detailed his next of kin as younger sister Mrs Emily Tibbitts in London. Her address on Sergeant Cooper’s Canadian attestation form matched London census addresses obtained using [Ancestry.com](https://ancestry.com), which also identified another sister – Fanny. The death certificate for ‘Taita’ Sergeant

Cooper matched his Petone address in the lost and found ad and revealed his parents – the same parents as Emily and Fanny, according to Ancestry. It also listed the funeral home that buried him, which still exists today. A call was made to obtain his file, and it detailed his two service numbers – 5567 and 628456 – and that he had been living with his sister Fanny Knight and her husband Edward Knight, as well as being the “dearly-loved” brother to Emily.

The birth discrepancy is likely because Sergeant Cooper, clearly a patriot and brave man, had been around 41 or 42 when he volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He had made himself younger – around 35 – on his form. It was not uncommon to do so.

The death certificate also revealed he hadn’t married and had no children. Fanny and Edward were also childless. So the English family line of Mrs Emily Tibbitts seemed the only likely option.



Defence Public Affairs had relied considerably on a particularly thorough Tibbitts family tree in [Ancestry.com](https://ancestry.com) that detailed the Tibbitts line, but Ancestry records generally only show dead relatives – the living are usually displayed as anonymous.

A social media appeal followed, with a summary of research and a request for help from the public. In a matter of days, the administrator of the Tibbitts family tree made contact, and as it turned out, they lived in New Zealand.

Karen Tibbitts-Williams says her husband is the great-grandson of Emily Tibbitts. She and her husband immigrated to New Zealand from Cambridgeshire in 2008. She was amazed to discover that ancestors of hers had lived in New Zealand.

“It’s incredibly emotional to see such a wonderful piece of family history and we very much appreciate you making contact – thank you so much!”

Defence Public Affairs has put the medallion finders in contact with Mrs Tibbitts-Williams, for a handover this month.

The find has spurred Karen to fine-tune her family tree, refreshed with research from Defence Public Affairs. She has discovered that Sergeant Cooper was badly wounded in the thigh during World War I, involving repeated surgery. He came to New Zealand around 1930, while the Knights had been in New Zealand from at least 1911, with Edward surviving WWI and influenza. A member of the public has written to Defence Public Affairs, describing how she grew up near the Knights and Mr Cooper, describing them as a “tight-knit three”, always friendly but self-contained.

Karen says it is precious to have those memories – now added to her tree – from people that really knew them.

“I like to think that Fanny was looking after both men, and it’s lovely they all had each other.”

She and her husband will travel to Wellington to visit Sergeant Cooper’s grave in Taita.

“We’d like to bring the medallion with us, to let Sergeant Cooper know it has been found, and to reunite them in a sense.”

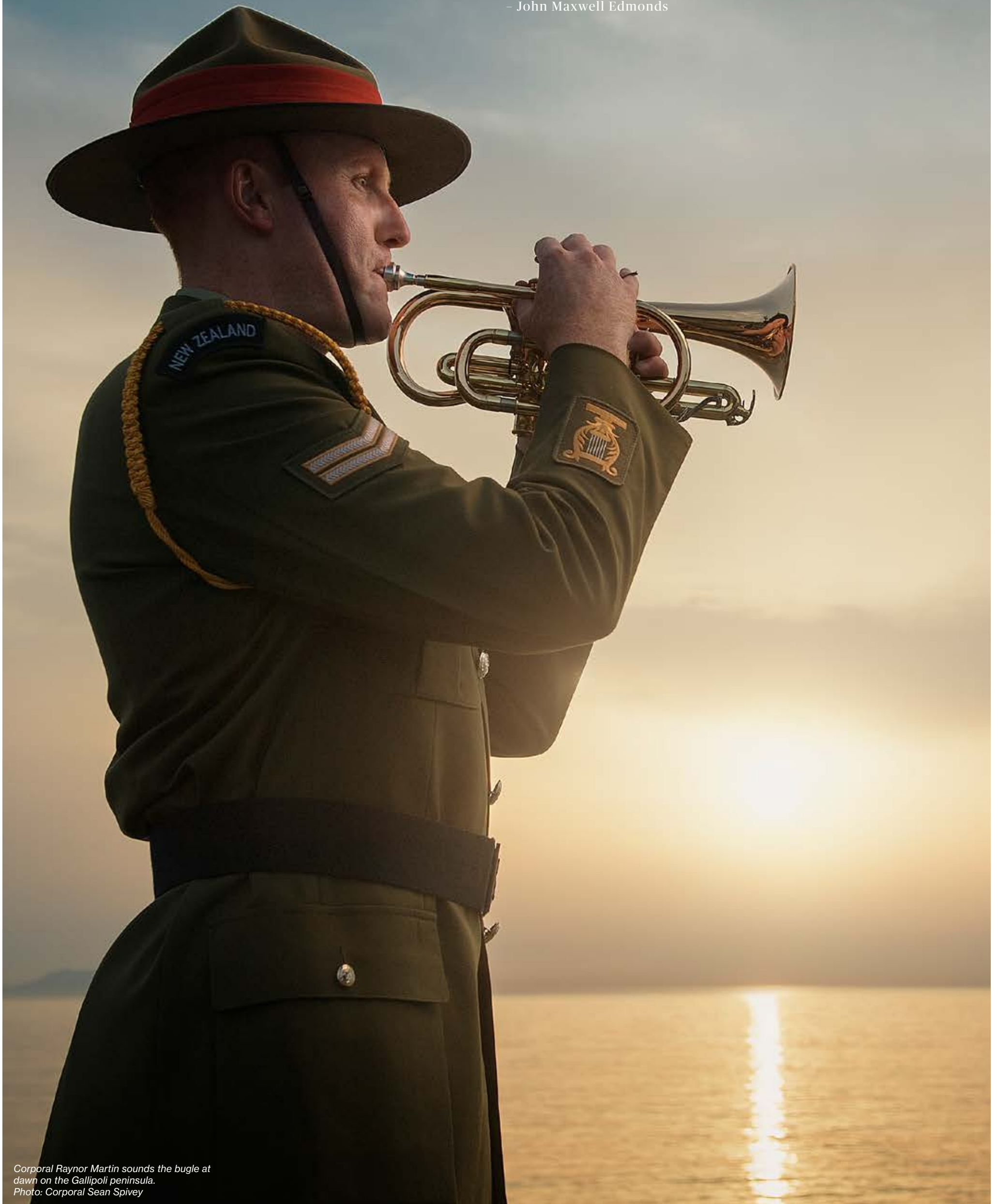
Thanks to:

- Ancestry.com
- [Forces-war-records.co.uk](https://forces-war-records.co.uk)
- [Findagrave.com](https://findagrave.com)
- NZ Electoral Rolls
- Canada Library and Archives
- National Archives
- National Library
- Gee and Hickton Funerals
- Ministry of Internal Affairs / Births Death and Marriages

Anzac Day 2022

*“When you go home, tell them of us and say
For their tomorrows we gave our today.”*

– John Maxwell Edmonds



Corporal Raynor Martin sounds the bugle at dawn on the Gallipoli peninsula.
Photo: Corporal Sean Spivey



The Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell greets Corporal Lee at Gallipoli on Anzac Day.

Brotherly link draws on emotions at Anzac Service

For Corporal Nori Lee, the realities of war hit close to home when taking part in this year's Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli.

The 2021 NZDF Person and Soldier of the Year was moved to tears when delivering a reading about Private Donald Ferris at the Chunuk Bair ceremony on April 25.

A Ngāti Porou sheep farmer turned machine gunner, Ferris was killed on 8 August as he fought as part of the Māori Contingent.

His brother, James, witnessed Don's death and wrote in letters home of the pain in having to carry on fighting through the tears of grief for his brother.

"I saw the whole thing," he wrote. "...if there is a thing I want to forget it is the advance of the 8th [of] August, and my poor brother lying dead..."

For Corporal Lee, visiting Don Ferris' gravesite as part of the battlefield tours ahead of Anzac Day led to reflection on what Ferris and others likely experienced as part of the fateful battle.

"When I sat at the gravesite, it all became real. What I have to talk about, his story that I am telling, it hit home for me in that moment because I have a brother serving in the Army too," he said.

"Don Ferris' brother watched him get killed and then had to carry on fighting through his tears. I can't imagine that pain."

When Corporal Lee, originally from Auckland, delivered his reading at the ceremony, the crowd of around 250 people hung off his words as he paused at moments when emotion almost overcame him.

Contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Sheree Alexander said she was extremely moved by Corporal Lee's commitment to authenticity in sharing Don Ferris' story.

"Corporal Lee has shown exceptional maturity and leadership during this journey to Gallipoli and

his connection to his reading is proof of the characteristics we've come to know about him."

She said many of the guests approached her following the ceremony to share their admiration of Corporal Lee's speech.

- James Ferris is the great-grandfather of Brigadier Lisa Ferris, the NZDF's head of legal services. He and his brother Donald Ferris were from a large and prominent Ngāti Porou family.



Lance Corporal Alexi Austin said she felt privileged to be named runner up soldier of the year to Nori Lee, and to get the "amazing opportunity to be a part of Gallipoli 2022."

"I didn't have any ties to Gallipoli personally so I didn't really know how I was going to feel going onto the peninsula, aside from being immensely proud to be there.

"Gallipoli was an intense experience and I just had this flood of emotions that you didn't realise would affect you. Sadness, devastation, pride – it was overwhelming.

"It's an opportunity I will never forget and I recommend it to everyone, just because I saw how different each personal experience was.

"My favorite part of the journey was the end of Chunuk Bair. We all finished up an emotional service and we went round and gave each other a hug and it was so amazing to have a group of strangers

become a tight family. I think that's what made the service so special as we all felt the emotions together and stood by each other through that. That's what I will value the most from this trip, we were one big family the whole time."



Lance Corporal Alexi Austin, Lieutenant Colonel Sheree Alexander, and Staff Sergeant Mata Oltaches Tagavaitau.

New Zealanders at home and abroad gathered in significant numbers to mark Anzac Day, and remember the sacrifice made by all those who have served in times of conflict.

About 600 people joined the NZ and Australian High Commissions in remembering Anzac Day at dawn at the Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore. It was the first, full public Anzac event since 2019.

Service is in the blood for plant operators Lance Corporal Laochailan McGregor and Lance Corporal Liam McGuire. LCPL McGregor's great-grandfather served in WWI in Africa, his grandfather was in the RNZN for many years, and his father in the New Zealand Army. LCPL McGuire's great-great-grandfather was in Gallipoli and his great-great-uncle died at Monte Cassino, Italy.



Jemma Grant was just seven years old when NZSAS Corporal Doug Grant was shot dead trying to rescue hostages at the British Council in Kabul, Afghanistan on August 19, 2011.



Now 18 and a Victoria University psychology student, Jemma says Anzac Day now means family, whether that be biological or chosen. "I spend every Anzac Day with my family, and this year was my first away from home. Luckily this year I had the opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of youth in NZ with VC Willie Apiata at the Wellington National Anzac Day service.

"I spent Anzac Day remembering my dad (CPL Douglas Grant) and his chosen family who he served with. It is important to me to remember those who served and died for us because they have made the world safer for our future. They chose to risk their lives for a better future for their loved ones. This year I organised the watching of the National Anzac Day ceremony in my hall of residence. I believe this is the first step in getting young people to remember the fallen.

"I believe reasons why we have Anzac Day need to be taught more in schools, and in doing this young people will learn how important it is to commemorate and remember our fallen and the sacrifices they made. Getting people to talk about the importance of Anzac Day means a lot to me because I can see it slowly dying out among people in my generation and that's painful to see.

"Anzac Day is one of the most important days of the year for me and my family. My dad's birthday is the day after Anzac Day and my family try to come together to remember my dad on his birthday. We celebrate his life and what he did rather than what he didn't do and I believe that is what he would have wanted. My mum organises a remembrance ride for my dad every year and I look forward to hearing stories

and making memories with his mates and comrades.

"Unfortunately due to Covid we haven't been able to do too many big things to celebrate my dad and his amazing life however we do the simple things like eat chocolate cake and share memories. This year was the first year I spent by myself on dad's birthday. I spent his birthday remembering him and all the memories I have or have heard.

"I also went down to the waterfront in Wellington after dark and just looked at the stars. I love looking at the stars whenever I get a chance because I remember when I was little dad would take me outside and show me all the constellations he knew. Every time I look at the stars I remember my dad. I believe he is the brightest star looking down on me and keeping me safe (and maybe laughing at me a little). Looking up into the stars makes me feel safe and closer to my dad."

Corporal Grant was shot and killed while trying to rescue hostages at the British Council in Kabul in August that year.

"The action that he was killed undertaking was highly reflective of his motivation for being in the Army," Jemma added.

His actions saved lives that day and following his death, the family was presented with the New Zealand Memorial Cross in recognition of Corporal Grant's sacrifice.

Every year since, on Anzac Day, the Grant family has gathered to remember their "Dougie."



A LITTLE BIT OF NEW ZEALAND AT ROSH HANIKRA

By Brian Dodds

As a New Zealander who had lived and worked many years in Europe, I have always been interested in New Zealand's contributions in both World Wars. When I made aliyah to Israel, I already knew about the ANZAC First World War contributions against the Ottoman Empire, and especially the liberation of Beer Sheva in 1917.

However, I was not prepared to find, on a visit to Rosh Hanikra, a series of grottoes in the cliffs at the Israel Lebanon borders, a New Zealand Army symbol on what was most likely a buttress on the bridge over the grottoes that supported the coastal railway to Beirut. I knew the railway was constructed in the Second World War but nothing of its history.

The bridge was destroyed by the Palmach 21st Battalion in February 1948, the sole purpose to disrupt shipment of arms and materiel to the Arab forces fighting the Israelis. Wikipedia tells us "the northern part of the coastal line from Acre (Akko) to Remez Junction (located south of today's Caesarea-Pardes Hanna Railway Station) was built by the British during the 1920s and operated by Palestine Railways. In 1941-42 engineers of the South African Army and New Zealand Army extended the line north to Beirut and Tripoli, Lebanon through railway tunnels at Rosh HaNikra grottoes."

More research led me to discover a book "*The Desert Railway*" by Brendon Judd. Although published in 2003, copies are not easy to find with my favourite book sources. An exhaustive internet search finally found two copies in New Zealand and I was able to get one mailed to Israel. In this book I found that a New Zealand Railway Group was formed from volunteers in the New Zealand Railways to operate and maintain railway lines, originally in Europe. However, by the time they were assembled, trained and shipped out, their operating area became the Western Desert. As a specialized group they were not part of the New Zealand Division and an official war history has never been published. This book appears to be the only record of their achievements.

The writer managed to source two copies in New Zealand. Most of the book details the Railway Group's efforts in maintaining tracks and equipment and services in the Western Desert where they effectively took over the operation of the lines from the Egyptians. This support was vital in providing supplies to the allied forces and the ultimate defeat of the Germans in North Africa. In total 40 officers and 1368 other ranks left New Zealand with the Railway Group.

Only one chapter, "Railway Construction in the Levant", deals with the Railway Group operations in what was then British Mandate Palestine. Apparently the intention was to extend the wide-gauge line that ran from the Canal Zone to Haifa along the coast to Beirut and ultimately to Tripoli (Lebanon). The thought was that a Middle East rail line could facilitate transport of supplies to Russia and relieve pressure on the Murmansk convoys. The book says two Railway Construction Companies, the 10th and 13th, were sent to work on the line in June 1942 but I believe from other sources that this is a misprint and should be 1941. The strength was 11 officers and 833 other ranks. The coastal tunnels were dug by a South African Tunneling Company which was comprised of men from the Witwatersrand gold mines. One of the Railway Construction Companies' tasks was lining the tunnels with precast concrete arches and beams. The concrete was mixed at the top of the cliffs and delivered by gravity down a flexible rubber hose. Most likely this was the source of the concrete for the buttress I found with the New Zealand Army symbol.



The two construction companies began by building marshaling yards by the village of Achziv and then continued laying track, building culverts, installing drainage, and station yards for the 87 miles of line from Haifa to Beirut.

Unfortunately, the book does not tell what happened to the men of these two companies after they finished the line in Beirut. Because of manpower shortages in New Zealand, a decision was taken to return the Railway Group to New Zealand. They left from Port Tewfik on June 15, 1943 and arrived home in New Zealand July 12, 1943. So ended their contribution to the war effort and they were assimilated back into the New Zealand Railways.

Living now in Nahariya, I can't help but think about the contribution these fellow Kiwis made during the Second World War, and I am saddened to think that the politics of the region has not allowed their railway line to remain in operation after their extensive efforts and hard work.

• *Brian Dodds is a former New Zealand Army officer now living in Israel.*

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA
NZ ARMY



9 MAY

Submissions open

22 JUL

Submissions close

26 SEP

Finals

ENTER NOW:

ILP >

NZ ARMY >

ARMY INNOVATION >

SUBMIT NEW IDEA



HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND



DRIVERS POLISH SKILLS IN TACTICAL ENVIRONMENTS

Soldiers and junior non-commissioned officers from the combat driver trade (CDVR), RNZALR, have been honing their skills both in the classroom and in the field during the conduct of their respective trade courses.

Photos by CPL Maddy Butcher and CPL Shayne Avery



Soldiers on the CDVR junior course have been learning the requirements of being a Quad member in an operational environment. Students have undergone instruction and assessment on all trade requirements ranging from general mechanical principals, vehicle navigation, and night driving, to firing a vehicle-mounted weapon.

JNCO's attending the CDVR CPL course have spent time in the classroom learning the intricacies of commanding a transport quad on operations, along with time in the field putting their new found knowledge into practice. Students are assessed on their ability to command and control (C2) a quad in a tactical environment which includes planning road movement, supervising fleet management, developing tactical vehicle driver training, and conducting tactical night driving tasks.

For those attending the CDVR Sergeant's course, while the period of the course is a little less, the intensity of the course makes up

for the shortened period. Students spent the first two weeks in the classroom undertaking instruction on fleet management, transport sergeant responsibilities, and requirements when commanding and controlling a Tactical Transport Section (Brick). The students agree that one of the most enjoyable areas of the course was the conduct of road movement calculations, staff checks and dumping programmes.

Exercise Wagonners was the culmination of all three courses as troops came together to form 1 Medium Transport Platoon (1 MDM TPT PL) as part of the 2 CSSB CSST operating within the LOUISVOA scenario. 1 MDM TPT PL was deployed from Linton to the Waikouru Military Training Area (AKA the Central Plateau of WELLINGTONIA) where they operated from a Forward Operating Base. 1 MDM TPT PL deployed to areas within the WMTA providing CSS Distribution support to 1 (NZ) Bde Battle Groups assisting WELLINGTONIA in their fight

against forces from WAIKATISTAN.

Distribution was conducted by day and night through the use of Distribution Points and section tasks moving notional defensive stores and troops.

Following the good work by 1 (NZ) Bde BG's seeing fighting elms from WAIKATISTAN defeated, the exercise concluded with two days of live field firing activity in Zone 1, where on day one students from both CDVR JNR and CPL courses were assessed on their weapon skills during a stage one day and night shoot. The following day the CPL course students were assessed on C2 during a Stage Two shoot. Once this was completed 1 MDM TPT PL went into an exercise reconstitution run by the CDVR transport Sergeant's course where all the vehicles, weapons, stores and equipment were cleaned, refurbished, bagged and tagged and returned.

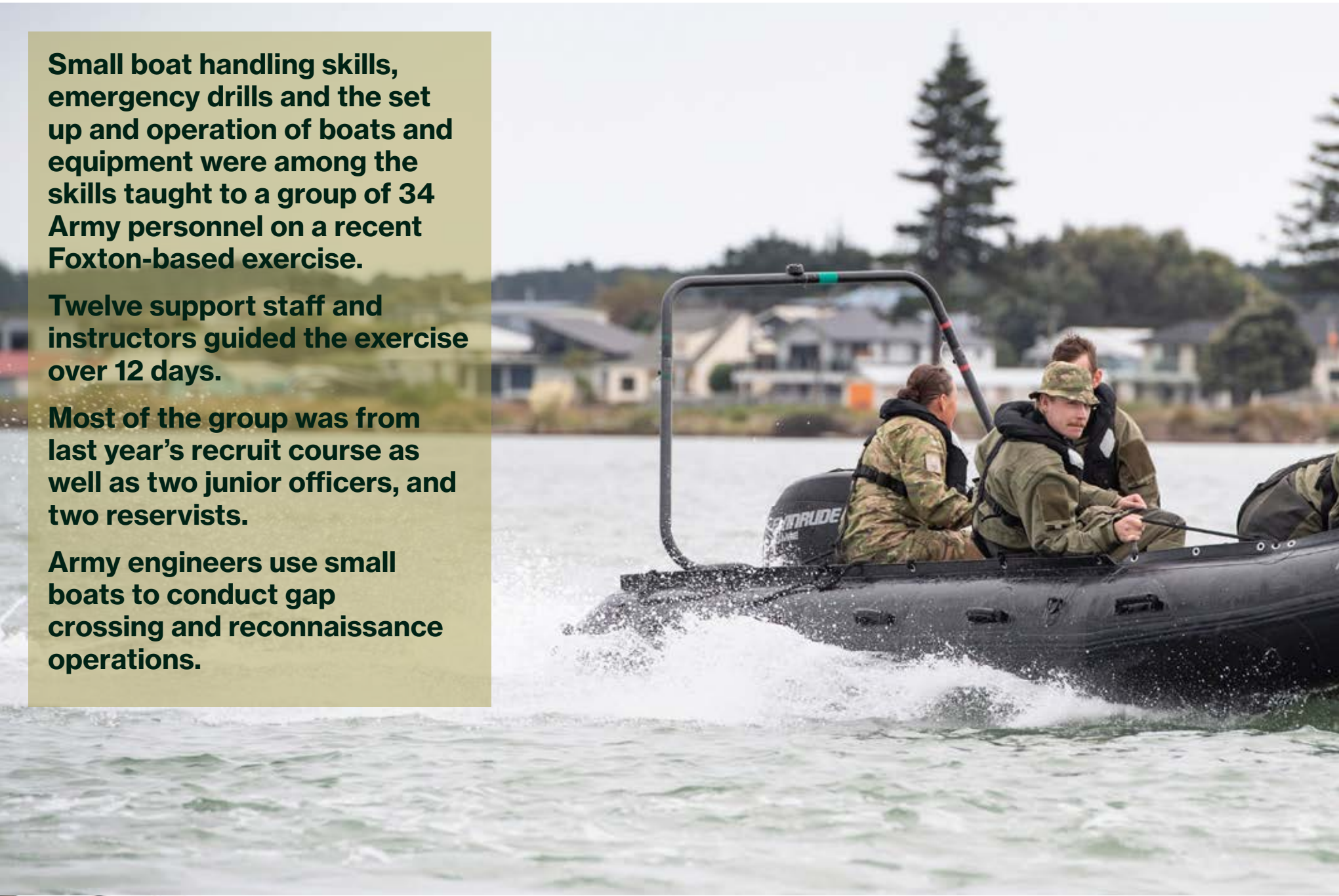


Small boat handling skills, emergency drills and the set up and operation of boats and equipment were among the skills taught to a group of 34 Army personnel on a recent Foxton-based exercise.

Twelve support staff and instructors guided the exercise over 12 days.

Most of the group was from last year's recruit course as well as two junior officers, and two reservists.

Army engineers use small boats to conduct gap crossing and reconnaissance operations.







LIFE IN UNIFORM

Private Leah Miles, 2/4 Battalion, RNZIR shares her experiences

By Sergeant Caroline Williams

PTE Leah Miles, 2/4 Battalion, is a person who enjoys a challenge and says recruit and Reserve Infantry Corps training gave her that every single day. PTE Miles is no stranger to challenging herself, and if you are a women's rugby follower you might well recognize the name Leah Miles from Otago Spirits Women's Rugby Team.

PTE Miles is in her final year studying a Bachelor of Science majoring in Psychology and minoring in Sports and Exercise Sciences at Otago University, and also works part-time at the university gym where a few of the women identified PTE Miles as being a good contender for joining ResF. They had also joined and loved the training, the challenges and the friendships formed.

During lockdown in 2021, PTE Miles and a fellow Spirits team member were locked down together in Dunedin and rose every morning at 0600h to train. PTE Miles confesses it was the

mornings that were a struggle during her Army training.

"Even getting out of bed at 0530h every morning after a long day was a challenge. I'd never done anything remotely like what I did on recruit training. I ended up loving it and thriving on the challenges."

She reminds potential recruits to arrive with a mindset of being comfortable with being uncomfortable, enjoy every day and expect the unexpected. There are times when you are going to feel out of your depth but it's all worth it in the end, she says.

"On Corps training we were

critiqued every day. This was my biggest mental challenge. In the beginning I became flustered but with repetition it built my confidence," says PTE Miles.

She says people are now shocked with what she can accomplish in a day. Everything from organization strategy, self-confidence, communication and tolerance towards others have all been unexpected life skills she has come away with from her short time in the ResF.

"Graduation Day was pretty special and meant a lot to many of us. I was super sad to leave all my friends. I am so grateful about

what has come out of my training and for everyone who I met.

"My parents were super proud of me. They thought some of the stories sounded funny and couldn't believe I had lived this whole different life over the summer!"

RNZE REUNION 2022

120 years of service

14–16 October Palmerston North



For more information email: RNZEreunion@gmail.com

Private Aishah-Louise Leitner, the soldier often seen behind a large drum on parades, plays a vital role at many formal Army occasions. The New Zealand Army Band musician talks to Army News about her role.

What is your musical background?

My dad was very musical and he got me started on piano when I was six years old. From there I picked up the drums when I was eight, trombone at ten and cello at 13 and carried all these instruments up until my last year of high school. The reason why I stopped is because I decided to progress further with trombone and went on to complete a Bachelor of Music on trombone performance at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. I've played with many different groups including orchestras, jazz bands, and brass bands which have shaped me into the musician I am today. Not only am I a member of the Army Band but I am also a member of the National Band of New Zealand, Canterbury Brass, and a Casual Musician with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (all on trombone). There has been a lot of progress but I still have much more to come!

What interested you in being in the Army band?

When I found out about the Army Band I was right at the end of my degree and was looking for the next opportunity. There were quite a few reasons that sparked my interest in joining the Army Band including that the job was a full-time musician position; I got to live in New Zealand; and that I got to travel the country and the world playing music with likeminded people!

Do you play more than the 'bass' drum in the band?

I definitely do! My main instrument is actually the trombone. At concerts you'll usually see me bopping in the trombone section with my colleagues or up the front of the band doing a solo. Playing bass drum is quite a rare occurrence for me but I picked it up after I joined the Army Band to help out given the amount of parades our drummers get asked to do. It's always handy to have more drummers on hand to help out! And also I love a trip to Waiouru!

What is it like being in the band? Lots of practice? Camaraderie?

There is a saying in the band... 'This job is the best in the world' and they aren't wrong. When we have lots of events scheduled it is extremely busy with hours of practice and rehearsals to get under our belts. One of my favourite things about the band is that no matter what curve ball we get thrown, we always manage to see the light in a situation and have fun regardless. So yes, there is plenty of camaraderie and a strong sense of family. For me, I moved from Australia and the band became my family. We have a lot of trust in each other and that becomes extremely apparent when we are on stage in that high level performance scenario. It is so much fun! There's lots of practice that go into our performances. We practise as a group for concerts, parades and marching displays but then also do our own practice on top of that to keep improving as musicians. Sometimes I can easily clock up 5-6 hours on my instrument in a day.

Why is it important to have a drum at graduations?

The bass drum has a very central role in keeping a parade or graduation together. When marching it keeps the soldiers in step without constant verbal command as the main strike of the bass drum falls on the left foot and the side drums is a flourish to keep the momentum going when moving on the parade ground. As well as keeping time in marching, the drum is also used to cue certain movements including: step-offs; about-turns for the officers once they fall in to their platoon; General Salutes; Advance in Review; and Final March Past.

Is the drum heavy?

Surprisingly no! We are very lucky to have ergonomic drums which are quite light. The harnesses also allow for the weight to be distributed along the shoulders and front of the body. The only real problem is that after a while, having a large object in front of you does



make the lower back a bit sore but having some muscle does help! My main problem is just seeing in front of me over the drum!

What do you like best about playing music?

Playing music is a massive part of my life and I love it because it constantly challenges me mentally, artistically and physically. I get to express myself and also make deep connections with people that last a lifetime through playing in groups. It's also wonderful to inspire younger generations of musicians as a female brass player and seeing them grow through the industry. It's like any sort of hobby, some days everything will work and playing your instrument will be easy but some days it will suck or you're tired but you just have to push through and stay consistent. That's when the hard work pays off. So it's hard to say... it's hard to say what's hard when it doesn't feel like work!



HAVE YOU VALIDATED YOUR CAPES LOANS REPORT YET?

Reminder – All NZDF uniformed personnel have until 30 June 2022 to print, update and email through their CAPES Loans Report to get validated. After this date your record will be considered an accurate reflection of what you currently hold and are accountable for. If you enlisted after 01 July 2021 you do not need to submit CAPES – if unsure refer your Chain of Command. For further information and help please refer to the CAPES announcements on the ILP.



The 40th anniversary commemoration of the MFO operating in the Sinai fell on Anzac Day, but was officially marked by a MFO parade on April 28.

The parade consisted of civilian observers, staff and approximately 250 troops representing Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Fiji, Italy, New Zealand, United States of America, and Uruguay. New Zealand had 'Right of The Line' and led the Force in a march past. Following the march past were prayers, speeches from Egyptian, Israeli, and US representatives, the MFO Deputy Director General, and the Force Commander, and wreaths were laid on the MFO memorial wall. As the parade took place during Ramadan, an Iftar dinner was held afterwards for VIP's and selected members of the MFO. On 26 March 1979, the Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel was signed by President Sadat of

the Arab Republic of Egypt and Prime Minister Begin of the State of Israel and was witnessed by President Carter of the United States of America. On 25 April 1982, the date specified in the Treaty of Peace, representatives of Egypt, Israel, and the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) met at North Camp. After brief, cordial conversation, Israel's Star of David was replaced with the red, white, and black banner of the Arab Republic of Egypt. At that significant moment in the turbulent history of the region, the Sinai was returned to Egyptian sovereignty, and the MFO took up its mission of peace. April 25, 2022 marked the official 40th Anniversary of the MFO

assuming its mission of peace in the Sinai Peninsula. New Zealand was one of eleven countries that contributed troops to the original MFO Force and has maintained a troop contribution throughout all 40 years that the MFO has been operating. Major General Evan Williams, the current MFO Force Commander, took up his role in December 2019 following his appointment as the New Zealand Deputy Chief of Army. The current New Zealand Contingent Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Williams, was MAJGEN Williams' Military Assistant in 2019. "The MFO is one of the most successful commitments to peace in the Middle East. Forty years of

peace between Egypt and Israel is an amazing achievement, and New Zealand has maintained a continual role within the MFO throughout this whole period," said LTCOL Williams.



Have you met your local SAPRA?

These are the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Advisors for your camp:



Daniel Letham-McGrath
Burnham (beginning June 2022)
021 913 691



Yasmin Elsedfy
Trentham/NZDF/HQ/Joint
021 913 673



Taihore Mātaki
Linton
021 940 242



Delia Snell
Waiouru
021 913 645

Our role has some key components, including:

- To provide support to those affected by harmful sexual behaviour
- To provide advice/guidance to Command on unit culture and trauma-informed practice
- To provide educational opportunities that are tailored to the settings you work in, and to deliver prevention activities, such as the Sexual Ethics and Respectful Relationships (SERR) training workshop.

Please get in touch with us if you wish to chat about anything SAPRA-related, or simply to meet your local SAPRA. We will also be making further appearances in *Army News* to provide more information about what we do, how we can support, as well as some stories we think you may find interesting.

The NZDF is committed to ensuring that we have a safe workplace for our whānau and that effective mechanisms are in place for anyone who seeks help and/or support.



Sir Robert (Bom) Gillies, the last remaining member of 28 (Māori) Battalion lays a wreath at Pukeahu National War Memorial in Wellington, to honour his battalion. He was assisted by Willie Apiata, VC.

CAREER MANAGEMENT CORNER

DACM Staff changes

DACM is seeing a number of PDRs prematurely moved to End of Year Review before they should be. PDRs should not be moved by the 1 Up to End of Year Review unless they meet the certain criteria:

- Changes to roles during a member's PDR Cycle.
- If a member is posted but their Rank stays the same.
- If a member's posting date is 91 days or more from their cycle end date, the member (or the 1 Up) is to reassign their PDR to the new 1 Up and add the original 1 Up as an Additional Participant. The original 1 Up is to comment on the member's performance and development for the time they were the 1 Up. They should do this immediately.

- If a member's posting date is less than 91 days from the cycle end date, the 1 Up of the original position is to manually move the PDR to the End of Year Review process and complete accordingly.
- If a Member is going on LWOP or Parental leave over 91 days, the 1 Up is to manually move the PDR to End of Year Review and then complete the PDR. The 1 Up should generate a new PDR on the date of the member's return.

Key Dates

27 June 22
Kippenberger Scholarship Scheme Board

10–14 July 22
Commissioned From the Ranks Board (CFRB) and Officer Selection Board 1 (OSB 1)

For more information:

Army Career Management Intranet Site:
<http://orgs/sites/armint/I-0001/>

Contact us at:
DACMRegistry@nzdf.mil.nz



A HEALTHIER NZDF COMMUNITY

We all know that maintaining good health, and recognising and getting on top of health concerns early, help us to thrive and perform at our best.

Now a new Defence website, Pūtahi Hauora (Health Hub) (health.nzdf.mil.nz), will support our NZDF community to achieve this. As an external website it's accessible to our whānau and entire community and is both phone and PC friendly.

This 'one-stop-shop', has been developed by Defence Health, to provide a wide range of information for NZDF personnel, their families and veterans. It significantly expands on the old site to include more tools and information to empower people to maintain good health, while also helping visitors to the site recognise and manage common health concerns.

Director Integrated Wellness, Defence Health Directorate, Colonel Clare Bennett says Pūtahi Hauora has something for everyone. Alongside tools, self-checks, resources and handy information on facilities and services relevant for all, there's also information on fitness standards, medical gradings, and how the NZDF health system works for serving members; community connections and support services across camps and bases for families and external connections for retired veterans.

"We've designed the Hub so you can get all the health information you need in one place. From general health information that applies to everyone, to information specific to defence community groups, the Hub has it all," she said.

"But we're not stopping here. The Hub will be updated with new and useful information and tools continuously so keep checking in regularly," she added.

The Defence Health Directorate also want to hear from personnel who are happy to share their personal stories with the NZDF community on Pūtahi Hauora. Get in touch by emailing defencehealthhub@nzdf.mil.nz or putahihauora@nzdf.mil.nz.

What if I need support beyond the website?

There are a range of services and facilities available to personnel and their families and you can learn more about these on the site. These include social workers, chaplains, community facilitators, sexual assault prevention and response advisors, psychologists, nurses and medical officers and health professionals. There are also links to external support services groups and specific veteran support organisations such as Veterans' Affairs and the RSA.

Our NZDF community can also access 0800 NZDF4U—a 24/7 confidential wellbeing support line and text service for all members of NZDF and the Defence community, including families.

Alternatively you can contact the NZ Healthline 0800611 116 for general health concerns or 1737 for mental health support.

For further information, visit: health.nzdf.mil.nz

Please note that to view video contact on this site it's recommended you access this from outside of the DIXS network.

.....

More information

Visit Pūtahi Hauora outside of DIXS for information on:

- Physical, mental, spiritual, and social/whānau health
- Health at work including: workload and burnout, fitness standards, transition, deployments, injury rehabilitation to peak performance, nutrition
- Women's and Men's health
- Relationship tips, parenting, finances, mental wellbeing
- Self-assessment tools
- Resources and tips for self-management, goal setting and action planning
- Where to go to get help and support
- NZDF facilities and providers by region
- Finding your local RSA, gym and library
- Videos, webinars, shared stories and links to additional resources



**By LCPL Isaac Barclay
CSS Coy, 1 RNZIR**

On a scorching hot day on the Kapiti Coast CSS Coy began their climb of the Paekakariki escarpment.

A karakia was given before departure, and, with a handful of Signals platoon personnel we arrived near the walking track around 1000hrs. A quick toilet and pie stop preceded what was a time-consuming and sluggish hike along vertical stairs, narrow tracks and multiple swing bridges.

As part of the CSS Coy training year, a variety of exercises are conducted in order to develop team cohesion across the diverse trade groups. The Paekakariki escarpment walk was the fourth exercise, with the Tongariro Northern Circuit and trade competitions planned for later this year.

The Paekakariki escarpment walk is a 9km track that runs from Paekakariki to Pukerua Bay. The track is part of the Te Araroa Trail that runs from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

The initial part of the hike was covered in trees and bush which kept everyone's morale high before being exposed to the elements and profusely sweating during the endless amounts of stairs. We made it to the top for our break with some of the lads topping up their energy levels with good old classic ration pack chocolate.

After our group photo and Sar Major's famous selfie we headed on down the other side of the ridge to the van. Workshops quickly fired up the bbq at the bottom and started cooking lunch. While the bbq was being prepared and everyone was relaxing the OC decided he wanted more training and ended up doing the track twice.



Hunting and gathering

By LCPL Cameron Hally

Five deer and a dozen turkeys were among the haul when members of CSS company, 1st Battalion, RNZIR conducted an overnight Hunters and Gatherers exercise based in the Wairarapa.

The exercise was a good opportunity to get most of the company, including civilians together following the continuous commitment to Operation Protect. The focus of the exercise was team dynamics, resilience and new experiences with hunting and gathering.

We were based out of a woolshed on a farm about 40 minutes from Castlepoint. This was a prime location for hunting, diving, and fishing.

Captain Jones took charge of the hunting group and he was able to pass on his wealth of knowledge to those of us who had little-to-no

experience. Hunts were conducted in high deer traffic areas, such as crop paddocks. That's where we came back with the deer and turkeys.

The diving and fishing crew travelled out to Castlepoint to do their dives and fish. Major Tom Kelly (on loan from Alpha Coy) led the diving group as he was familiar with the area, and he was able to pass on ideal locations to dive along the coast. Unfortunately, due to the weather and water conditions, we were unable to dive while we were there. As an alternative, a dive trip was organized for the week after down around Wellington

with Sergeant Major Ruha. Not to waste a good opportunity we fished and also visited the Castlepoint lighthouse.

The farm location used provided a great opportunity not only for hunting, but also for eeling. After two attempts at eeling we came back with 3 good size eels that were smoked on arrival back at Linton Military Camp

We finished the activity with a good amount of meat and seafood, which was either used on one of the numerous unit BBQs or divided up and taken home. It was also a good chance for pers to learn something new, whether it be out hunting and diving or back skinning or shelling. Overall, it was a great experience and a testament to the time and effort the current leadership at CSS puts into the company.



HONING HOCKEY SKILLS AT NZDF ACADEMY

By Lieutenant Callum Wilkie

Current New Zealand Blacksticks defender Dane Lett temporarily joined the ranks of Defence hockey players to coach and deliver a range of training recently.



The clinic involved two days of high intensity training designed to improve the individual skills of hockey players across the NZ Army, Navy and Air Force. It was comprised of four two-hour sessions which covered a spectrum of skills from individual techniques to team based attacking and defensive strategies.

Lett's experience from his 88 international caps and Olympics campaign, brought a wealth of knowledge that enabled all attendees, regardless of their experience level, to learn tips and

tricks to take to the upcoming Inter-services Hockey Tournament. The training event became tri-service in an initiative to not only improve the quality of hockey across Defence, but also to enable networking and comradeship between players from all three services. This combined training is invaluable toward creating exciting and closer matched Services hockey tournaments and allows new players to improve and make the NZDF team.

Army Hockey will be looking to host and encourage more events

such as this in an effort to grow the sport and regenerate the skills lost and competitions missed throughout the Covid-19 pandemic period. If you're interested in playing hockey please contact NZ Army Hockey Chairperson Captain Myles Houlahan.

