HARRY ON TOUR
FORCE 4 FAMILIES LAUNCH
FOND FAREWELL TO THE HUEY
Our mission
To carry out military air operations to advance New Zealand’s security interests with professionalism, integrity and teamwork.

Air Force News is the official magazine of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) — established to inform, educate and entertain its personnel and friends.

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- photos provided separate from the text – at least 300dpi.

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE HARRY TOURED THE COUNTRY IN MAY.
First Word

By Air Vice–Marshal (AVM) Mike Yardley,
Chief of Air Force

Successfully delivering combat capability is the very reason New Zealand has an Air Force – and we have some excellent recent examples of our people doing it well.

In the Middle East recently, the P-3 clocked up its hundredth sortie on deployment – an amazing achievement. Coming up in July, our helicopter force will reach an important milestone when the NH90 and A109 take over the counter terrorist role from the Huey.

The C-130 has just returned from providing support in Afghanistan and, in Vanuatu, 42 SQN supported the NZDF disaster relief effort in a way that was atypical – we haven’t been called on to support an effort like that since the days of the Andover aircraft. Yet our contribution was highly successful. We were able to deliver, in part, because we applied a comprehensive risk management process to the operation and, as a result, were able to safely and effectively deliver a critical capability.

These examples highlight the importance of championing combat capability delivery within the RNZAF.

As a Service, delivering combat capability must be our mantra. We must make sure everything we do is directed at improving our ability to employ military force.

When it comes time to prioritise our work, the tasks that will enhance our combat capability must come top of the list. Training is another important part of the picture. But we must focus on what we can achieve with training, rather than the training itself.

We need the right assets. And we need an organisation structured to deliver our combat capability, which is what my recent command and control changes within the Air Force are about.

‘Every day, Air Force combat capability is delivered by our aircraft, our equipment and you – our talented people.’

These changes aim to see tasks completed across Base in a more coordinated and unified way and to ensure our people in Joint Force New Zealand are used to best effect for planning operations. A unified Base structure also means we have a single point of accountability to coordinate our efforts and produce the desired strategic effect.

Every day, Air Force combat capability is delivered by our aircraft, our equipment and you – our talented people. Successful delivery relies on several key elements – your skills and training, championing capability and putting in place an organisational structure that enables us to engage in armed conflict when we’re called on. These are just a few key elements.

As an Air Force, we must focus on the continuous improvement of our combat capability. That’s what I mean when I talk about successfully delivering combat capability for New Zealanders. It’s this focus that will mean we’re ready to deliver for New Zealanders and ensure our success.
RNZAF HELICOPTERS ON TRAINING OPERATIONS

Throughout May, the NZDF conducted routine flying operations training of Air Force and Army personnel in RNZAF NH90 and A109 helicopters. The training occurred in and around Palmerston North, the Kaipara Air Weapons Range and Auckland Central Business District. Head of Air Operations Air Component Commander (ACC) AIRCDRE Kevin McEvoy says the training was essential to maintaining Defence Force readiness for emergency situations. “The NZDF is always on standby to respond to any crisis or emergency situation in New Zealand. By training regularly in different environments our people are well-equipped to deal with any situation.”

Training involved day and night time flying, as well as flying in an urban context. All Defence Force flying operations are undertaken in accordance with Defence and New Zealand Civil Aviation regulations.
Kiwi contingent settling into Taji task

ZDF trainers and supporting Force elements are now established in their base in Taji and have begun the task of training Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in a range of military skills to help in the fight against ISIS.

The training focuses on basic operational skills such as planning, weapons training, basic manoeuvres and the profession of arms. NZDF Land Component Commander BRIG Peter Kelly says that our officers and soldiers are now settled in and getting on with the job.

“Australia and New Zealand share a long and proud tradition of providing training and partnering with foreign military forces,” he says. In Iraq, we’re building on decades of experience. It goes right back to the 1950s when the NZDF was sent to Malaya to help train the Malay forces. More recently, we have had forces training in places like East Timor, Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands, again working very closely with our Australian colleagues.

“Many of those in Taji have several deployments under their belts, but for some of the younger people this is their first. They are all highly motivated by the challenge and the professional experience that they will have in the coming months,” he says.

The Government announced in February the deployment of up to 143 NZDF personnel on a combined mission with the Australian Defence Force to help build the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces to tackle the threat of ISIS. The Building Partner Capacity mission is a non-combat mission for a two year period, with a review to be conducted after nine months. For reasons of operational security, NZDF will not be releasing exact numbers or locations of personnel.

A C-130 Hercules played a key role in confirming the NZDF’s ability to load and transport a St John ambulance in an RNZAF aircraft in May.

The trial took place at RNZAF Base Auckland at Whenuapai. Head of Aviation Medicine SQNLDR Andy Campbell says the trial confirmed the Air Force can carry an ambulance without presenting any danger to the aircraft.

“The safety of everyone aboard and the aircraft is always our number one priority. One of the most important aspects tested was the ability to secure the ambulance in the Hercules to the standards required for it to withstand any turbulence or rapid changes in altitude while in flight,” he says.

The trial was part of our contribution to the all-of-government Ebola response, led by the Ministry of Health.

The Hercules regularly carries military vehicles and large loads but this was the first time a St John ambulance had been loaded and secured in compliance with aviation load procedures.
CDF Lieutenant General Tim Keating launched a new NZDF-wide programme for families at Whenuapai in May.

The programme, called Force 4 Families, features a new discount card and online information hub – part of a range of initiatives supporting NZDF families.

CDF joined Defence families at Base Auckland in Whenuapai on 14 May, where he reiterated his priority of ensuring Defence families are backed, particularly when their loved ones are deployed.

“The website and discount card are the first in a range of initiatives aimed at providing better support services to Defence families and ensuring they’re as resilient as possible,” says LT GEN Keating.

All the initiatives come under the Defence Force’s new Force 4 Families banner. These first two projects are important in that they have been developed by a team of volunteers made up of NZDF partners, including the CDF’s wife Brenda Keating.

“We came together with the shared purpose of identifying practical improvements that will make a difference to Defence Force families,” says Mrs Keating. 

“Our belief is that when we are stronger as families, and are well connected with the Defence Force, we make it easier
for our partners to be successful carrying out their important roles for the Defence Force and for New Zealand.

“The Defence Discount Card brings together a group of fantastic retailers who have for some time offered discounts to people with Defence Force IDs. Now those same discounts are available to the immediate family, so they can access discounts even when a partner might be deployed or away from their families.

“The new website brings together all the support that’s on offer to Defence Force families – everything from camp and base contacts, to holiday accommodation, to advice to families with deployed partners.”

Also speaking at the launch was Suzy Griffiths, the wife of HMNZS TE KAHA’s Commanding Officer, who is currently deployed off the coast of Africa as part of an international maritime task group.

“Traditionally, many years ago, the captain’s wife used to host lunches where she’d communicate to the other Navy wives any news from the ship and this is how they all stayed in the loop. How times have changed,” says Mrs Griffiths.

“In this digital era there is no excuse to no longer be connected, in fact it’s expected. The Force 4 Families initiative will see us all better connected to the Defence Force’s welfare and wellbeing services available to us. It’s great that they are focussed on strengthening communications with us, and it’s a real show of commitment to families working the home-front, which goes a long way to making us feel valued.”
Prince Harry arrived at Linton Army Camp in an NH90 and left in an NH90, taking a quick tour of the South Island before heading to Ohakea Air Force Base, where he spent the night.

Between flights, Prince Harry, who has spent the past decade in the British Army and the past month training with the Australian Army, spent the day in Linton Army Camp. He took a Polaris all-terrain vehicle (ATV) for a drive across the camp, learned and performed the Army’s Ngati Tumatauenga haka in the camp’s gymnasium and helped New Zealand soldiers lift out a hangi (that later became lunch).

Later, he checked out a range of NZDF military equipment, including light-armoured vehicles. He visited the Nursing Corps, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary and played touch with local school children.
COLOUR PARADE FOR HARRY

Prince Harry’s visit Down Under gave FLTLT Rebecca Cosford the opportunity to take on the role of Queen’s Colour Bearer for the second time in just a few months.

In April, FLTLT Cosford was one of five women who paraded the colour as an all-women team for the first time in history at the RNZAF’s 78th anniversary service in Wellington.

On 9 May, FLTLT Cosford was part of the State Parade that welcomed Prince Harry into the country. She paraded the colour alongside W/O Kerry Williams (the current QCP W/O), F/S Wendy Tohu and F/S Christopher Wilson. The Queen’s Colour Flag Orderly was SGT Aaron Taylor. The Air Force parade was part of a tri-service Royal Guard of Honour, involving Army and Navy.

She says: “I’m excited every time I get the opportunity to parade the Queen’s Colour, but I’ll admit it was a bit nerve wracking parading for His Royal Highness – the weather conditions on the day weren’t exactly conducive, but the team did a fabulous job. There were about 30 seconds of terror when I thought I might not be able to live up to the standard (given the wind) but fortunately I kept it together.

“And he did stop between Wendy and I and talked at length with Wendy during the inspection. They chatted about her length of service, whether or not she was still enjoying it, whether we’d been waiting long for him to arrive, her range of medals and the places she’d been deployed to.

“He struck me as quite the gentleman – he was ultimately at ease and very genuine. I particularly enjoyed the way he interacted with the school children on his departure from the parade formation.”
In May, a number of veterans flew in RNZAF Iroquois, as part of a national farewell tour of the iconic helicopter. For almost 50 years, the Iroquois have played a vital role in search and rescue missions in New Zealand, assisted New Zealand Police annually with operations and regularly served in war zones around the world.

MIGHTY IROQUOIS: END OF AN ERA FOR DEFENCE STALWART
There is nothing quite like the sound of an Iroquois in full flight. It is a sound loved by the general public as much as it is by those who have served.

May was a special month for the Iroquois and 3 SQN as the Air Force took three Hueys to locations around New Zealand, giving veterans the opportunity to take one last flight before the Hueys are withdrawn from service.

The Iroquois went to Blenheim, Christchurch, Napier, Tauranga, Auckland and Wellington. At each location the large turnout of veterans was proof of how much the Huey means to them. In some cases this was the first time since the early 1970s that the veterans had flown on the aircraft and for many veterans it was an emotional experience.

FLTLT Micko Shaw says the opportunity to engage with the veterans was very rewarding.

“You could see how thrilled they were to be able to go flying and it was a pleasure for us to be able to take them up. They had the biggest smiles on their faces and it brought back lots of memories for them. It was great to hear their stories.”

The fine weather meant many residents were able to see the Hueys flying over their town. It was a sight that was much talked about on the Air Force Facebook page and reinforced how iconic the helicopters are in New Zealand.

SQNLDR Stu Pearce was pleased to have the opportunity to meet up with veterans of past operations to Vietnam, Borneo, Malaya, as well as more recent operations to East Timor.

“For members of the Iroquois section to be able to talk with these veterans and hear their stories gave us all a sense of the importance of the Huey, its legacy and what it means to New Zealanders. The overall feeling amongst the maintenance team was one of pride in being able to give something back to past servicemen and women and pride in the contribution the Huey has made to New Zealand over the years.”

Perhaps most well-known for their role in the Vietnam War, the Hueys have been a stalwart of Defence Force operations for almost 50 years. The helicopters have played a vital role in search and rescue, the Canterbury earthquake recovery, assisted with the New Zealand Police annually and regularly served in the Pacific, Antarctica and war zones around the world.

An official retirement function for the Iroquois was held at Base Ohakea at the end of May. The aircraft will stop flying on 1 July, with the roles and duties previously carried out by the Iroquois undertaken by the NH90 and A109 helicopters.
The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) 9 SQN flew Hueys in the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1971. Sixteen RNZAF pilots joined 9 SQN and worked alongside the Australians, creating an enduring friendship that has lasted over 45 years. The seventeenth pilot, FLTLT Bill Waterhouse, was killed in 1969 while he was training with RAAF 5 SQN ahead of joining 9 SQN.

The main objective of 9 SQN was to support 1 Australian Task Force (ATF), including the insertion and extraction of long range reconnaissance patrols. Bob Redman is one of the Australian pilots who flew with the Kiwis from 1970 to 1971, he says it was the first time he’d ever been out of the country.

“It was the first time I’d worked with the Kiwis and we got on great. There was no divide between us, unless there was a rugby game on. I’m proud to still be able to call many of them my friends.”

9 SQN had a vital role in the war. As well as support for ATF, they provided medical evacuations, fire support for troops in combat and brought essential supplies of water, food and ammunition to those on the ground.

Terry Culley, former NZSAS troop commander, spent all of 1971 in Vietnam. He says 9 SQN were one of the few groups his unit could call on for help when needed.

“We operated in smaller contingents and covered more ground than other patrols. We relied on 9 SQN to drop us into locations, pick us up and when needed perform emergency extractions. Often we had to protect the Hueys as much as they protected us because many of our extractions were done under fire.”

Under-fire extractions were called ‘hot extractions’. The crew in the Huey would lower weighted ropes from the helicopter down into the jungle canopy, soldiers would clip onto the ropes with carabiners, then the Huey would lift them through the canopy until a suitable open space was found to land and the soldiers could get into the helicopter.

“We often had a special attachment when we saw a Kiwi or Aussie in the front seat. We had a close relationship and we knew we could trust them to get us to safety. Even when the Hueys became fitted as gunships we felt safe. I remember the back door gun crews being incredibly accurate with their shots.

“Many times our patrols owed their lives to the professionalism of the 9 SQN pilots and crews,” says Mr Culley.
UH-1H IROQUOIS HELICOPTER: TECH SPECS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Bell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power plant</td>
<td>One Lycoming T53-L13B engine (1,400 SHP derated through the transmission to 1,100 SHP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>17.27 metres (57 feet) with rotors turning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>2.8m (9 feet, 3 inches) fuselage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>4.4m (14 feet, 4 inches)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic weight</td>
<td>2,600 kilograms (5,800 pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross weight</td>
<td>4,300 kilograms (9,500 pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max underslung load</td>
<td>1,045 kilograms (2,500 pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruising speed</td>
<td>195 kilometres per hour (105 knots)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical performance</td>
<td>Maximum range of 370 kilometres (200 nautical miles), 682 kilometres (370 nautical miles), with auxiliary fuel tank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew</td>
<td>2 pilots, 1 helicopter crew (normal operations) 2 pilots, 1 helicopter crew, 1 crew or gunner (tactical operations) 2 pilots, 2 helicopter crew (night vision operations).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CPL LOUISE BURNNAND ON THE FAREWELL HUEY TOUR:

“I was involved with the tasking of aircraft and was lucky enough to join the South Island leg of the tour. I met veterans from all over the South Island, as well as students from Villa Maria College in Christchurch. I’ve been with the RNZAF for six years now, with the last three as a helicopter crewman on the iroquois. I’ve flown over 450 hours on the iroquois since 2012, ranging from training flights to search and rescue flights, Department of Conservation tasks, army troop movements, fire fighting, airborne gunnery and tasking with special forces.

“Like everyone, I’ll definitely miss the iroquois. Not only has it become a national icon (as the ‘sound of freedom’), it’s enabled me to take part in a range of amazing activities and meet some incredible people. Saying that, I’m really looking forward to crewing on the NH90 — it’ll be a whole new and different challenge.”

WGCDR (RET) TREVOR BUTLER RECEIVES DFC CITATION

Air Component Commander AIRCDRE Kevin McEvoy presented WGCDR (Retired) Trevor Butler with a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) citation in May. WGCDR Butler was awarded the DFC on 23 March 1970 for gallantry and distinguished service while piloting iroquois helicopters on exchange with 9 SQN RAAF during the Vietnam War.

He went on to command 40 SQN RNZAF between 1984 and 1987.

WGCDR Butler and his wife Gael flew in an iroquois, as part of the helicopter’s national farewell tour.
The 9 SQN RAAF Association held its first reunion in New Zealand in Auckland on 15 to 17 May. Previous reunions have been held in Australia. To commemorate the event 3 SQN RNZAF conducted a three ship flypast at the Auckland War Memorial. With over 150 Vietnam veterans in attendance, a few eyes watered hearing the familiar rotor sound again.

Ted Creelman, an RNZAF pilot who flew for 9 SQN from 1968 to 1969, was thrilled with the turnout of attendees.

“It is great to have so many former servicemen make the journey to Auckland, also seeing the wives and widows has been great. I’m pleased a number of engineers could make it because they did a superb job in Vietnam maintaining the Hueys; they were definitely a point of difference in the New Zealand and Australian contingent compared to the contingents from other countries.”

For Terry Culley seeing everyone again was the highlight: “You couldn’t have kept me away from this reunion. The whole weekend has been a stand out.”

“My lasting memory of the Huey is anxiously waiting for them to arrive and hearing the thump, thump, thump of the blades. It was a sign we were going to be airlifted to safety.”

Terry Culley, Troop Commander of the first detachment of 4 Troop NZSAS to serve in the Vietnam War.
WHERE TO NEXT FOR THE HUEY?

1. An airframe will be transferred to the Army Museum at Waiouru.
2. An aircraft will be transferred to the Air Force Museum in Christchurch.
3. A partial airframe will be loaned to Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology for ongoing technical training of future aircraft technicians.
4. T53 gas turbine engines will be transferred to the RNZAF Ground Training Wing at Blenheim for training purposes.
5. Iroquois airframes and holdings have been listed for international sale.

Representatives from the New Zealand SAS Association, 9 SQN RAAF Association, the RNZAF and the Australian SAS Association – as well as grandchildren of Mr Bob Redman (9 SQN RAAF Association).

AVM (Ret) Robin Klitscher CBE DFC AFC RNZAF.

Veteran Mr Rocky Dalmolen in the cockpit of an Iroquois helicopter.
Five newly-qualified pilots celebrated a significant career milestone in May, graduating at Air Force Base Ohakea and receiving their ‘Wings’ (pilot brevets).

The Commanding Officer of Flying Training Wing, Wing Commander (WGCDR) Chris Andrew says reaching the milestone represents a moment of personal and professional pride for each graduate.

“Earning your ‘Wings’ is the reward for a very demanding period of training. The road to graduation is long and challenging and it can be easy to lose sight of the end goal – a flying career with the New Zealand Defence Force,” says WGCDR Andrew.

To graduate as pilots, the five trainees completed an officer commissioning course at Base Woodbourne and training in aviation medicine, survival and basic parachuting at Base Whenuapai.

They underwent 130 hours of basic phase flying instruction on the CT-4E Air Trainer and completed advanced phase flying instruction at 42 SQN, learning the more complex systems of the King Air B200 aircraft and flying as single-pilot captains for more than 70 hours.

They will go on to fly the A109, NH90 and Seasprite helicopters and the C-130 Hercules, P-3K2 Orions and the B757.

“The brevet, they each received, is a symbol of achievement and provides visible recognition of the standards our newly-qualified pilots have reached. Sharing the achievement with family, friends and peers at the graduation parade was an emotional experience for each of them,” says WGCDR Andrew.

The graduating pilots are:

- FGOFF Michael Craies – Auckland
- LT Sam Williams RNZN – Wellington
- FGOFF Gareth Evans – Auckland
- FGOFF Mark Chapman – Havelock North
- FGOFF Hamish Park – Havelock North.
LT SAM WILLIAMS, 3 SQN

Q: You’ve finished the course – how do you feel?
A: Amazing – partly because of the time and hard work it’s taken to get here. I also feel relief – the Wings course is demanding. You spend a long time under pressure knowing that at any stage it can all be taken away from you if you get behind the level required.

Q: What’s been your favourite aspect of training?
A: The variety – from formation flying to low-level navigation and getting out-and-about around the country from Kerikeri to Gore. Obviously, I’m excited about applying all this to the Seasprite. I’m a Navy pilot, so it’s always been the end goal for me.

Q: What’s next for you? What are your goals for the year?
A: Next up is the Helicopter Basic Course on the A109 at 3 SQN starting in July.

FGOFF GARETH EVANS, 3 SQN

Q: You’ve finished the course – how do you feel?
A: Relieved! Exhausted, excited, but mostly relieved.

Q: What’s been your favourite aspect of training?
A: The support I’ve received from my course mates and wider aircrew family.

Q: What’s been the biggest challenge of training?
A: Juggling family life with training hasn’t been easy. Having three young children, it’s been hard to explain to them why I’m at work all the time. Saying that, I’d definitely recommend it. I’ve found training both challenging and rewarding – and the support you get is amazing. I would say you need to be prepared for long hours studying and preparation. It’s a lot of hard work, but it’s also a lot of fun.

FGOFF MARK CHAPMAN, 42 SQN

Q: You’ve finished the course – how do you feel? What did you enjoy the most?
A: It still hasn’t really sunk in yet. It’s been a long journey, so there’s a bit of a sense of relief that our dream is now a reality. What have I most enjoyed? Experiencing flying that is unique to the Air Force has been pretty incredible. Formation and low-level flying at 250 feet above the ground is pretty mind blowing.

Q: What aircraft are you most looking forward to flying?
A: The P-3K2 Orion or the C-130 Hercules. I like the idea of a large crew working in unison in challenging conditions to get a job done. The chance to see the world on one of these fleets will be amazing.

Q: What’s been the biggest challenge of training?
A: Staying resilient. On this course, you suffer a lot of disappointments – things like failing a flight, experiencing delays or dealing with a course mate being removed from training. Through all of this, you have to remind yourself why you’re here and why the training is so difficult. When you’re not having a good day, it can be a struggle to keep this in mind.

I’d also say if you’re passionate about being a military pilot, then it’s all worth it. Looking ahead, our training never stops, so passion is vital to staying motivated. I’m only at the beginning of my career and I expect many more challenges ahead.

FGOFF HAMISH PARK, 3 SQN

Q: You’ve finished the course – congrats
A: It is taking a while for it to sink in, but now we know where we are going, it is very exciting. It is such a relief to come out the other side of the training system after being a student for so long. I guess we’re always students to some degree but, pretty soon, we’ll be achieving something for the NZDF, not just ourselves.

Q: What aircraft are you most looking forward to flying?
A: I can’t wait to get onto the A109, I just want to get into chopper flying.

Q: What’s next for you? What are your goals for the year?
A: I’ll take a break with my wife and daughter, let the dust settle, then get ready to start the next round of training. My goal is just to get stuck into life at 3 SQN and do as well as I can on the Helicopter Basic Course.
Q: Tell us your initial response to the NZDF’s new talent management system?
A: My first response was: thank goodness. Seriously, the old system was okay but its interim replacement was challenging. I was more than ready to try something new.

Q: With HRMIS, there are four online courses all NZDF personnel have to complete and an additional five for commanders and managers. Have you done them all?
A: Yes and no. I did the training for each step of the process. With online training, you do it in your own time, which helps. I’ve completed two staff reports (now with my boss for comments). But I’ve not done the Annual Remuneration Review training for managers yet or the Performance and Development Review (PDR) Final Review training.

Q: Are you always this conscientious?
A: Absolutely, as long as you define conscientious as doing the right thing for the right reason. This new Talent Management System is absolutely the right thing and doing it properly gives appropriate respect to the individuals that I have the privilege and responsibility to report on.

Q: What do you like about the new system?
A: As a member, this new system allows you to discuss your personal and work-related goals with your boss at the start of the year. As a manager, the number one benefit is that we now use a single system. Our people are now being assessed at the same time under the same conditions. The RNZAF previously ran three separate systems for civilian staff, for airmen and airwomen and another for officers – a crazy place to be. Another big plus for managers is that it is now clear when each report is due as all reports are aligned by rank and the promotion boards. Also, all the data I need to manage my people is in one place. Once we managers have got our heads around this new system, we will be able to do our jobs a lot more effectively.

Q: Is it better than the old one?
A: The new system has most of the best bits of each of the three systems, but now there is only one system to learn. It felt overwhelming trying to learn the new system before I started. But just like eating an elephant, you need to swallow small bits so it all goes down in the end. It’s definitely better than trying to eat a rhino, a hippo and a buffalo at the same time like we used to do.

Q: Within your Directorate, what is the take-up rate of the online training?
A: It’s very high. When the new system was being Beta-tested, I encouraged two members of my team to join the testing phase. This gave me an inside view on how it works and helped me to bring my team with me on our journey. All my military staff have PDRs at the appropriate stage and they all did the training to make it happen. I am very proud of them.

Q: What is your advice about the online training?
A: Clear your desk and start with your own talent profile. When that is sorted, move onto ‘Initiate PDR training’ and get it done. It seems daunting but it isn’t hard and it’s much better than what we used before. You can run each training module alongside your HRMIS screen to help you through it. Also, the HR Toolkit is constantly being updated and there are some really good resources available.
SECURITY AND USING ELECTRONIC MEDIA

By Seth de Reus, Directorate of Defence Security

Security within NZDF
When we talk security, or rather when you hear us talking about security, it is easy to shrug it off and think we are being paranoid. I think a better way to think about security is planning for the worst case scenario. That is what insurance is all about.

Good security practices involve simple and convenient things like locking away documents and ID checks at the gate – to alleviate the most commonplace security concerns. But good security also involves less convenient things such as complicated passwords (P@ssw0rd or qwertyuiop really don’t cut it any more) and restrictions on what we tell others about our work. And, importantly taking care in what we post on social media.

Rise of electronic communication
We live in an increasingly electronic age, with ever-increasing amounts of information available to the public through the internet. We have new ways of staying in touch and can inform our friends and family about our lives almost instantly. Communication has been enhanced in a diverse variety of ways.

We all know the benefits of social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter to name just a few, as well as many phone apps).

However, it is worth considering some of the downsides of publicly-available electronic information.

- Once published, we lose control of what we post. Even when deleted, copies invariably remain stored in cyberspace. From personally embarrassing moments to unauthorised details about a deployment, there is no guarantee you can turn the clock back.
- Information posted openly is able to be accessed by almost anyone, anywhere in the world.
- Single pieces of information about personnel or activity can be put together and used to form a bigger picture of our activities in New Zealand or internationally.

Being careful about what you share electronically is important to protect our personnel. From ISIL militants in Iraq to pirates around Indonesia or even home-grown extremists – there is great potential for harm to the NZDF if we post operational information in a public forum.

Good security practices protect you in the event something goes wrong. Taking a few moments to reflect on what you are posting is simple wisdom to keep NZDF personnel – and your family and friends – safe from the consequences of ill-considered comments in public forums.

LinkedIn case study
A recent example illustrates what can happen when people are thoughtless in what they post online. In the United States, a group searched the career-focused social media site LinkedIn and created a database of 27,000 intelligence professionals, based on what they posted to LinkedIn. Details listed by United States intelligence personnel included codenames for surveillance programmes, as well as detailed personal information.

By putting together details of what these people posted, the researchers were able to uncover details of classified programmes and identify new ones not already disclosed. Personal details of intelligence professionals were collected into a publicly available and widely advertised database. This was a windfall for the media and intelligence services worldwide and left 27,000 individuals vulnerable to unfriendly attention.

You may not work in the more sensitive areas of NZDF, but we all have occasions where we have knowledge that shouldn’t be broadcast – deployments, details of operations and information about our work that would make us targets of protestors, spies or criminals.

Facebook case study
In early May, more than a dozen Army personnel received identical Facebook spam messages from the same unknown woman. This was likely an attempt at building a relationship for the purpose of exploiting people for fraud and was generally ignored by the targeted soldiers, but some had accepted a friend request from the woman. This illustrates the need to be careful when interacting on social media and only making connections with known individuals. An unknown person attempting to make contact could easily be a fraudster, an anti-NZDF protester, an intelligence collector or a criminal wanting inside information.

Summing up – how to use social media
Before posting on social media about your work with NZDF, stop and think: ‘Will this post put someone at risk? Will this post make me a target? Have I put too much detail down?’

If in doubt, ask someone else.

And as with any security matter, if you need advice, or need to report a security concern, contact your USO or the Directorate of Defence Security at securitynzdf@nzdf.mil.nz
Our Heritage

Every year, the RNZAF is involved in a wide range of activities from operational deployments throughout the world, exercises in the Antarctic and the South West Pacific, humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts in New Zealand and overseas and search and rescue missions, to name just some of our work.

Every mission, every deployment and exercise has a story to tell about who we are as a Defence Force, what we did and our impact on the lives of others. These stories are important stories for us, as an organisation, and for New Zealand as a whole.

They need to be collected and told.

That’s where the Air Force Museum can help. We are set up to tell these stories, but we need your help. We need our people – as individuals and as members of formed units – to help us by offering material from activities for our collection. If you think you have something that may be of historical value, please contact us. We are only too happy to offer advice.
Our Heritage

YOUR THINGS, YOUR OBJECTS: THE MUSEUM’S HEART

The heart of any museum is its collection, and those who work in museums are dedicated to building their collections over time in order to enrich them and to be able to present and interpret these treasures for the public.

This is reflected in the mission statement for the Air Force Museum of New Zealand: ‘To preserve and present the history of New Zealand military aviation for commemoration, inspiration, learning and enjoyment.’

Many of the objects in our collection have been donated by families and individuals over the years and we have some amazing material. Not only do we draw from our collection to support the exhibitions we create and develop, but the objects themselves are frequently the subject of external research.

The RNZAF, of which the Museum is a part, also helps to build our collection through the gratuitous issue of material that is either surplus to requirement or is being removed from service. Obvious examples that spring to mind are the Skyhawks and Aermacchis, where we were able to identify the specific aircraft we wanted based on their provenance (history).

We look for which aircraft of that type was the first to fly in New Zealand, what deployments it took part in, and anything else of significance it was involved in. This allows us to tell a much more interesting and powerful story about that object to the public. But building the collection through donations from the public and RNZAF personnel is not enough.

Contemporary collecting is an essential activity for any museum. By collecting current material as it is created it allows us to preserve it and use it to tell a story in the future.

At the Air Force Museum of New Zealand our collection of World War Two material is well represented, but as we progress through the post-war period to the current day we have fewer and fewer objects to be able to use to tell the story of the RNZAF and its deployments overseas and other activities.

Thankfully, there are individuals who do pass material to us when they return from overseas (see SQNLDR Mark Brewer’s story on page 22). But what is really needed is a more formalised and structured approach.

In 2002 we sent two staff to East Timor prior to the departure of 3 SQN for New Zealand. They were able to select items and day-to-day equipment that others might have thought had no value and many were used in an exhibition in 2003 about the RNZAF’s deployment to East Timor. This was a rare opportunity and probably one that is unlikely to be repeated. However, it is a task that other NZDF agencies can assist with and will be of great value to all three Service museums.

WHAT TO COLLECT ON DEPLOYMENT

The sort of things we are interested in, as far as operational deployments are concerned, include:

- pre-deployment briefing material, theatre indoctrination guides, coalition material and memorabilia (flags, badges, brassards and signs)
- items that illustrate the local culture
- items of NZDF equipment such as survival equipment and rations, uniforms, personal support kit, specific to theatre issued and locally acquired clothing, diaries, sketches and scrapbooks
- items reflecting daily life such as menus, recreation, programmes, humour, days-to-go, art, Christmas messages, base and camp signage, audio/video/mobile phone footage and sound recordings, photographs (with supporting information)
- items crafted by deployed personnel, captured material including weapons and anything related to going home.

Examples of what to collect on deployment for the museum.
always knew a seven-month tour with the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyan during winter was going to be a significant challenge – not only because of the hostile environment, but also due to the increasing threats against coalition forces in Eastern and Southern Afghanistan.

For this reason I did something I had not done on my three previous operational tours – keep a diary. I was also going to miss out on a critical part of my first daughter’s early childhood and I wanted something tangible I could use in later years to explain the need for my extended absence. In this diary, I collected many personal thoughts and concerns, as well as details such as village visits and patrol occurrences.

On my return to New Zealand I started to realise how important this diary might be. Not just for my family but also to service personnel and historians who may in the future wish to study our contribution to Afghanistan.

I wanted to deposit it somewhere safe, where my family could access it in the future and where access would be controlled and, if necessary, restricted, due to the personally-sensitive nature of the diary’s contents. I decided to entrust it to the Air Force Museum of New Zealand at Wigram.

Discussing this option with the Museum, it quickly became clear that they did not yet have any items linked with our contribution to this operation. In fact, I discovered, there was very little in their collection related to modern conflicts.

So, I decided to also search out some of the uniform items and bric-a-brac I had collected during my tour. This included a full uniform, with personally-sourced vest webbing and the hat I wore throughout the operation.

I also collected seemingly innocuous items such as coalition-produced picture cards for communicating visually with the local people and match book covers with Osama Bin Laden on the front, as well as a DVD with over 500 photos of our operations in the Bamyan province.

The Museum made it very easy to donate the items and even provided a detailed inventory list as part of their receipt procedures. Subsequent discussions with Museum staff highlighted how little of our current operations we as members of the modern RNZAF are capturing in tangible form and preserving for future generations.

Just as we look back for inspiration to the deeds of airmen and airwomen during the two world wars, and the Malaya and Vietnam era, so too will future leaders of our Air Force look to us.

It is imperative we preserve as much of our modern history as possible. If you have any items related to our deployed operations since 1991, or even key elements of our operations here at home, then I highly recommend entrusting these to the care of the Air Force Museum of New Zealand.
ENGINEERING PROJECT PUTS RNZAF AT THE TOP OF ITS GAME

A long term engineering project focused on airworthiness has put the RNZAF at the top of its game, says head of aeronautical engineering WGCDR Graham Streatfield.

WGCDR Streatfield says the decade-long Non Destructive Testing (NDT) Regeneration Project means the RNZAF now has a world-class system for inspections that tests an airframe’s structural integrity.

The system features several components, initially developed by the Royal Australian Air Force, including NDT training, certification and Standard Operating Procedures.

WGCDR Streatfield says: “Sharing our system with the Australian Air Force gives us a set of common certification standards, which, in turn, allows for a joint or Anzac NDT capability on deployed operations – and that has benefits for both Air Forces.”

In 2012, the project also involved building a new radiation facility that meets both international and local standards.

WGCDR Streatfield says: “With the intro of the NH90 there was a requirement for radiography and a testing facility like the one we’ve developed at Ohakea fits the bill.

“It’s now one of only a few in the country that complies with the soon-to-be-adopted New Zealand radiation regulations. “Ultimately, the project represents a great step forward for the Air Force – and a reflection of our team’s long term goal. For a decade we’ve been committed to ensuring the RNZAF has an industry standard for aerospace NDT. “Our aim was to deliver a strategically relevant, airworthy NDT capability that operates in the Joint Amphibious Taskforce and Joint Interagency Multinational environments. We’ve done it. And I’m extremely proud of my team.”

WHAT IS NON DESTRUCTIVE TESTING?

Non Destructive Testing (NDT) is defined as any test or inspection applied to a component or structure to determine its properties or quality without damaging or impairing its usefulness in the process.

The RNZAF uses five methods:

1. Liquid fluorescent penetrant – use of penetrating oil impregnated with a green fluorescent dye to find defects when exposed to UV light.
2. Magnetic particles – use of AC or DC current to create localised magnetic fields. These fields attract fluorescent particles to defects that are visible when exposed to UV light.
3. Eddy currents – use of alternating current to generate magnetic fields balanced using Wheatstone bridge principles. Defects cause an imbalance in the fields.
4. Ultrasonics – use of sound waves to find defects.
5. Radiography – use of X-rays and photographic film to find defects.

WHAT’S IN THIS PROJECT FOR THE WIDER NZDF?

According to W/O Darryn Bosher, who has undergone NDT training with the Royal Australian Air Force:

“The NDT capability is a unique NZDF asset that is available to Army, Navy, Air and the Defence Technology Agency. All three Services are introducing new structural materials that need this kind of inspection, particularly as we all have to comply with more demanding airworthiness, sea worthiness and land worthiness standards.

“For Air, the introduction of the NH90 helicopter with its high proportion of composite primary structure has required us to be at the vanguard of aerospace composite structural inspections.”
Earlier this year, the RNZAF Parachute Training and Support Unit (PTSU) celebrated a half century at Base Auckland with a special one-day anniversary event. Approximately 70 people attended the event, which organisers say was open to ‘anyone who had packed a parachute, worn a parachute or gently nudged anyone out of a plane.’ The event started in the PTSU Hangar at 1000hrs and featured a parachute display and formal dinner at the Combined Mess.
PTSU: Commemorating 50 Years

“IT’S ALSO IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE OUTSTANDING SAFETY RECORD OF THIS UNIT THROUGHOUT THE LAST 50 YEARS,” SAYS KEITH.

“LIKE MANY ASPECTS OF MILITARY TRAINING, PARACHUTE TRAINING IS A CHALLENGING AND DANGEROUS OCCUPATION WITH A HIGH PROPENSITY FOR THINGS TO GO WRONG. YOU HAVE TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND SAFETY CONSCIOUS. I THINK AN IMPECCABLE SAFETY RECORD IN THIS CONTEXT COMES DOWN TO A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL DOING A LOT OF THINGS WELL. YOU HAVE THE PILOT AND OTHER AIRCrew, THE PEOPLE WHO PACK AND SERVICE THE EQUIPMENT AND MANY OTHERS. THAT’S WHAT IT TAKES FOR A PROGRAMME TO BE SUCCESSFUL.”

In 1966 Keith ran the first RNZAF PJI training course, which included both RNZAF and NZSAS personnel. In March, he was the keynote speaker at the RNZAF PTSU anniversary dinner.

KEITH ON THE VALUE OF PARACHUTING TODAY:

“PEOPLE OFTEN QUESTION THE VALUE OF PARACHUTE TRAINING WITHIN THE MILITARY IN THIS DAY AND AGE. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A NEED FOR AIRCrew TRAINING IN THE THREE SERVICES WHERE A PARACHUTE MAY BE REQUIRED IN AN EMERGENCY. BUT IT IS STILL A Viable MEANS OF ENTRY INTO MILITARY OPERATIONS AND CIVIL EMERGENCIES. WE NEED PERSONNEL WHO KEEP ABRASE OF THE LATEST TECHNIQUES AND WHO DEVELOP SKILLS SUCH AS HIGH LEVEL EXITS AND FREEFALL. IT IS, HOWEVER, ALSO IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE SKILLS OF BASIC PARACHUTING AND REMAIN FOCUSED ON GETTING SERVICE PERSONNEL AND THEIR EQUIPMENT INTO BATTLE IN A SAFE AND ORDERLY FASHION AND IN A FIT CONDITION TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION.”

KEITH ON CHANGE & ACKNOWLEDGING THE PIONEERS:

“CHANGES TO PARACHUTING EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING TECHNIQUES SINCE THE 1960s HAVE BEEN REMARKABLE. BEFORE PTSU WAS ESTABLISHED, NZSAS PERSONNEL WERE TRAINED BY THE RAAF AT CHANGI AND LATER AT THE RAAF BASE AT WILLIAMTOWN. THE ONLY PARACHUTES IN USE WERE STOCK LEFT OVER FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WHICH HAD A HIGH DESCENT RATE AND OSCILLATED VIOLENTLY, GIVING YOU LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE DIRECTION OR WHERE TO LAND. OVER THE YEARS, NZDF PJIs HAVE HELPED PIONEER DEVELOPMENTS IN MILITARY PARACHUTING AND PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIAL HERCULES C-130 JUMPS BACK IN 1965. I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO MENTION KEITH MUNDAY, THE RAAF OFFICER WHO OVERSAW THE FIRST PARACHUTE PROGRAMMES, SQNLDR BOB DAVIDSON, THE RNZAF OFFICER, WHO AT THE AGE OF 23, COMMANDED THE UNIT. THERE ARE MANY, MANY OTHERS TOO.

FORMER PJI KEITH HANDLEY LOOKS BACK

TALK TO VETERAN PARACHUTE JUMP INSTRUCTOR (PJI) AND PTSU FOUNDERING MEMBER KEITH HANDLEY AND HE’LL TELL YOU THE PTSU IS ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES OF INTER-SERVICE COOPERATION THE NZDF HAS EVER SEEN.

Keith, formerly an Army NCO serving with NZSAS, trained as a PJI at RAAF Williamtown. In 1963, he was seconded to the RNZAF to help set up the first parachute training unit within the New Zealand military.

“In my time as an instructor I trained with Air Force, Army, Navy and police personnel. There was always a lot of camaraderie and a spirit of total cooperation – albeit very competitive at times. My secondment to the RNZAF was one of the most memorable experiences of my service career.”
SGT Paul Lennox is an instructor in the PTSU Initial Training Cell. His main roles include instructing and despatching the static line modes of parachuting. He and the PTSU team also teach the initial and refresher courses for air loadmasters and pilots.

Q: How did you enjoy this year’s anniversary?

A: I’m only just starting my career at PTSU, so it was a great chance to discover the history behind the unit and meet those that came before me. It was great to hear all the stories of how it was and the similarities between then and now. And who doesn’t like a good yarn? Anniversaries provide the perfect chance to catch up with people you’ve lost contact with, to look back and to look ahead to the next 50 years.

Q: Any highlights?

A: From talking to people, I took away the fact that safety is huge this day-and-age – and I’m not sure if I’d have been as keen to jump with the equipment they had in the early days. It was also interesting to talk to past instructors about their teaching methods compared to those we use today.

Q: Thinking about your time with the PTSU, what are some of your fondest memories?

A: You can’t beat a Stand Off Patrol when the winds are high, being released at 13,000ft and transiting up to 15 kilometres.
back to Base. Then there’s any team jump where everything just goes right, you only have about 50 seconds to achieve your goals in freefall and it’s a great feeling when you nail it. However, seeing the people you train put everything into practice and qualifying is a highlight for me, ultimately, it’s what we’re here to do.

Q: What’s good about being part of the PTSU?
A: No day is the same – you need to be good at all modes of parachuting to be an instructor, so you’re always learning. And you know you’re in the right place when you can’t believe you get paid to do this.

Q: Do you think it’s changed much in 50 years?
A: I think the principles of teaching parachuting have remained the same, but the delivery has changed a bit. The parachute systems have seen the biggest change – just like aircraft, there’s always room to improve designs and safety.

THE PTSU TODAY
The unit was set up in 1965, starting out as the Parachute Training School and later the PTSU. Today, the PTSU has nine personnel responsible for teaching selected NZDF units requiring parachute training. They are Officer Commanding SQNLDR Brent Iggo; Flight Commander FLTLT Barbie Attwood; Unit W/O Kevin Pope; Advanced Training Cell personnel F/S Ian (Lev) Leatherland, SGT Mark Williams and SGT Kingston Brands; and Initial Training Cell personnel F/S Justin Tamehana, SGT Vanessa Pollard and SGT Paul Lennox.

PTSU UNIT CREST
WHAT’S THE STORY?
PTSU has a unit crest that depicts a New Zealand falcon ‘a noble bird of prey’ dropping from on high to meet its foe carrying a seax or heraldic shaped sharp-edge sword. The motto ‘Confidence Through Knowledge’ acknowledges that parachuting is both mentally and physically challenging and something that people can and do fear. However, the motto also conveys the idea that confidence in one’s training and equipment can overcome the fear.
After a very successful year in 2014, in which we reached our goal and finished in fewer than 20 hours, the big aim this year was to walk the full distance in under 19 hours. Our training began in November building up to distances of between 30 to 50 kilometre team hikes every weekend. This accustoms the body to long periods on the go and highlights problems like blisters, chafing, exhaustion and back and joint pain so they can be dealt with before they become an issue.

On the day of the event, we arrived at the start line in wet and cold conditions, greeted by a powhiri. As per our schedule, we set off at 0700 with a fast start, involving a fair amount of jogging to get in front of as many teams as possible and to eliminate hold ups on the trail. The predicted rain never eventuated, with low cloud keeping the heat at bay, which was ideal for walking. We powered through all types of terrain to make the 54 kilometre point a full 45 minutes ahead of schedule. After a quick dinner, we donned our headlamps and took off again, feeling really good. Later, as we trekked through a pine forest, we had to make room for a rescue team and an exhausted competitor on a stretcher.

At the 75 kilometre point, with about two dozen teams in front of us, we followed trail markers in the dark, hearing only our own footsteps. This is when the plan unravelled and our unrelenting pace took its toll. Our speed plummeted in the face of exhaustion, blisters and a couple of minor injuries. At the 88 kilometre point, we were 30 minutes behind schedule – time we were unlikely to get back, given our physical condition. It was time to re-evaluate. We were exhausted. We were making mistakes. So we decided we needed to proceed.
at a more measured pace. First and foremost, we wanted to complete the trailwalk as a team rather than risk further injury.

**Reaching the finish line**

Our spirits lifted once we reached Lake Taupo and passed the 99 kilometre marker. All the hard work had been done. At 0340 we were met by our amazing support crew and crossed the finish line. Our time was 20 hours 40 minutes. Our reward were hugs and well-earned beers. It was all worthwhile.

**Reflecting on our performance**

In hindsight, we overestimated our ability to keep up the pace of the first few legs. We’d been able to keep going in 2014, but the 2015 course had changed beyond our expectations. Despite not attaining our goal, we still managed a strong placing – 30 out of 238 teams. We’re immensely proud of this year’s achievement, which ironically is the same placing as last year.

**Big thanks to our support team**

A big thanks goes out to our support team. They met us at each checkpoint, mended blisters, provided food and replenished electrolytes. And they did our public relations work by handing out Air Force drink bottles, stickers, pens and caps. Again, this event provided a great opportunity to encourage esprit de corps and show how well uniform and civilian staff work together to complete a challenging goal.

**RNZAF Trailwalking Team:**

‘CAN’T STOP STEPPING UP’

**Walkers**

- FLTLT Richard Stent
- F/S Virgil Clair
- Kris de Lacy
- Kat Lawrence

**In support**

- F/S Debz Goodwin
- SGT Vic Fulton
- Lisa Lualua-Aati
- Andrea Horton
FLTLT Liana Costello-Salt has won the Outstanding Sports Award at this year’s NZDF Sports Awards. The award recognises the most outstanding individual sporting achievement for 2014.

Last year, FLTLT Costello-Salt won gold representing New Zealand at the 2014 Weihai ITU Long Distance Triathlon World Championships in China.

The championship course featured a four kilometre swim, a 120 kilometre bike ride and a 20 kilometre run.

FLTLT Costello-Salt says: “It was the toughest course I’ve ever competed on – over the course of the race we climbed a total of 180 metres on the bike, coupled with extreme heat on the run. It was challenging for every athlete out there.”

“Coming off the bike, I knew I was sitting in first place, but I didn’t know by how much, so the next 20 kilometres was all about keeping my emotions in check and running as hard as I could. I can honestly say I’ve never been so overwhelmed with emotion as I was crossing the finish line in first place.”

The former Villa Maria College student and Lincoln University graduate crossed the line an impressive 22 minutes ahead of her closest competitor in just over seven hours.

Right now, she is seven months pregnant and training every day to secure a place in the 2016 New Zealand team heading to the next world championships in America.

“I’m extremely honoured to have received this award – not just for me, but for the entire NZDF multisport community. An award like this is a great way to raise our profile – in time, I’d like to see multisport recognised on the same grounds as sports like rugby and netball.”

FLTLT Costello-Salt currently works in the J4 team at HQ JFNZ with responsibility for providing logistics support for our overseas operations.

“I’m so thankful for the ongoing support I’ve received from my various chains of command throughout my career. All my work teams have got behind my sport. I’m extremely thankful for that belief in me – and for the incredible support of my husband, too.”

NZDF SPORTS AWARDS: FINAL RESULTS

NZDF Defence Colours
- SSGT Abe Pourau for Hockey
- W/O2 Terry Miratana for Touch

NZDF Individual Sportsperson of the Year
- LT Jan Peterson, Hockey

NZDF Sports Official of the Year
- SSGT Abe Pourau, Hockey

NZDF Team of the Year
- Men’s Hockey

Outstanding Sports Award
- FLTLT Liana Costello-Salt, Triathlon

NZDF Defence Colours
- SSGT Abe Pourau for Hockey
- W/O2 Terry Miratana for Touch

NZDF Individual Sportsperson of the Year
- LT Jan Peterson, Hockey

NZDF Sports Official of the Year
- SSGT Abe Pourau, Hockey

NZDF Team of the Year
- Men’s Hockey

Outstanding Sports Award
- FLTLT Liana Costello-Salt, Triathlon
The Invictus Games is an international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick currently serving and retired members of the NZDF. Last year we sent 12 competitors – this year, we want more!

We have 20 competitor spots open for candidates who want to test their skills in sports such as athletics, archery, wheelchair rugby, wheelchair basketball, cycling, indoor rowing, lifting, swimming and sitting volleyball.

The games will be held at an international location in May 2016 (to be advised). There will be a training and selection camp for potential candidates, held at Burnham Military Camp in early July 2015. Please note spaces will be limited – so if you think you’ll qualify, get your nomination in.

**CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION**

You will have had a significant life changing event, through being wounded, or through injury or illness (mental or physical) while serving in uniform for NZDF, either domestically or operationally.

In addition you will:

- be able to travel internationally (independently or with minor assistance) in economy class (exceptions might be considered)
- be willing to participate in multiple sporting events
- have clearance from a Medical Officer
- self-manage your own medications
- ensure your attendance at training camps (July and November this year and March next year) and at the Games (May 2016) doesn’t interfere with any future surgical or medical interventions
- have unit approval to be part of the team (for currently serving personnel).

**NOMINATION FORM**

You can download a nomination form from the NZDF website. If you are an ex-serving member of the NZDF, please also include your contact details (address, email and phone number) in your nomination form.

Please send your completed nomination form to: adaptivesport@nzdf.mil.nz

**MORE INFORMATION**

www.invictusgames.org
www.facebook.com/InvictusGamesNZ

Former Air Force Safety and Surface Technician and double medal winner Dave Sherriff helped bring the Kiwi wheelchair basketball team to victory against the Aussies at the Invictus Games 2014.
NEW MEDAL RECOGNISES SERVICE IN COUNTER-PIRACY OPERATIONS

A new medal for NZDF personnel who have served in counter-piracy operations has been created.

The New Zealand General Service Medal 2002 (Counter-Piracy) recognises members of the NZDF who have served for 30 days or more in counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, Western Indian Ocean, and off the eastern coasts of Somalia, Yemen and Oman, since 1 January 2009.

New Zealand relies on the sea to transport 99 per cent of its imports and exports. Preventing piracy and deterring terrorism at sea directly contributes to New Zealand’s success and makes our NZDF a valued partner when joining international coalitions to fight piracy.

The first large NZDF deployment was the frigate HMNZS TE MANA’s service as part of Combined Task Force 151 and NATO’s Operation Shield.

In late 2014, more than 100 RNZAF personnel from 5 SQN, 230 SQN and 209 SQN served as part of the P-3K2 Air Surveillance and Response Force detachment in support of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), the European Union Naval Force (under Operation Atalanta) and the NATO mission (under Operation Ocean Shield).

Chief of Air Force AVM Mike Yardley says: “This was the first operational deployment of the P-3K2 and its associated mission support elements and was an ideal proving ground for the advanced capability.”

“The success of the detachment in supporting the counter piracy missions drew praise from CMF, NATO and European Union military commanders alike and further enhanced the Air Surveillance and Response Force reputation as a credible and effective international partner.”

More than 300 NZDF personnel will be presented with the new medal in the next few months.

NEW ONLINE ORGANISATIONAL SURVEY LAUNCHED: HAVE YOUR SAY

Defence Personnel Executive and IBM have created the first-ever NZDF Census survey to gather valuable feedback from all areas of the NZDF.

The online survey runs in June 2015 for three weeks. NZDF needs at least 80% of personnel to complete the survey to get a full picture of the organisation.

A link to the survey will be emailed to all personnel on 15 June – keep an eye on your inbox. Log on to the survey to have your say.

Assistant Chief of Personnel BRIG Howie Duffy says: “We want the NZDF to be the best place to work in New Zealand. The first step is to find out the areas we’re doing well in and the areas where we need to improve.”

“Currently our best way of measuring what our people think is through our attitude survey and word of mouth. The problem with these methods is they don’t really give us the depth of analysis we require to make meaningful decisions.”

That’s why Defence Personnel Executive have pulled together the NZDF Census survey.

“Our team will travel out to Bases to talk to managers about the survey, with more information promulgated across the NZDF to follow.”

Does your unit have a sense of where it’s going and how it’s going to get there?

Answer this question and more in our most comprehensive survey ever.

Opening 15 June – check your email for details.
Our Community

BASE MEDICAL FLIGHT AUCKLAND SUPPORTS PINK SHIRT DAY

On May 22, Base Medical Flight Auckland got in behind Pink Shirt Day to raise awareness about bullying and mental health issues. Workplaces and communities around New Zealand wore pink as a sign of their commitment to stop bullying, embrace diversity and create positive relationships. FLTLT Ash Foote says: “We thought it was a great cause to support, given the role our team plays. We’re here to help personnel dealing with mental health concerns and are just one of the many avenues available to NZDF personnel.” The Pink Shirt Day message is: Speak up. Stand together. Stop bullying. Pictured are FLTLT Foote, Mrs Tania Miller, Ms Tracey Booth, Mrs Jackie Frisbie-Moir (nurse), FLTLT Kit Boyes (doctor), CPL Rachelle Canham (medic), AC Liam Hogan (medic UT), LAC Kat Ruwhiu (medic), SGT Mike Hesketh (medic), Mr Monty Campbell, AC Cam Brock (medic UT).

GALANTRY MEDAL RECIPIENT ACKNOWLEDGES RNZAF

An airman attached to the NZDF Special Operations Task Force, who received a New Zealand Gallantry Medal in 2014, has written a letter to the Chief of Air Force acknowledging the role of the RNZAF in his career success.

In a letter to Chief of Air Force, AVM Mike Yardley, he says: “I feel the need to acknowledge the organisation and people who shaped me into who I am. Within the NZDF, I’ve learned to be an advanced Explosive Ordinance Device operator, I’ve had preparation to shoot, move and communicate in complex environments, but it was the RNZAF that laid the foundation of technical skills, problem solving and confidence to back myself to get the job done.

“Although these awards, are an acknowledgement of personal action, they should also serve to inspire and encourage other young airmen and airwomen in the RNZAF of the future, whether it be for ‘in the air’ or ‘outside the box’ operations.

“My proudest achievement was to represent the RNZAF on deployment and wear a blue uniform among the green for the investiture ceremony,” he says.

RNZAF LAC SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADES COMP

LAC Robertson has been selected for the New Zealand team travelling to Brazil in August for the WorldSkills championships. In April, he won gold at the WorldSkills Oceania competition held in Hamilton and is now part of the Tool Blacks team heading to the international competition, which will showcase a range of trades-based skills from aircraft maintenance, engineering and carpentry through to floristry, hairdressing and graphic design.
Notices

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER 2015 – HAVE YOUR SAY

Time is running out to make a submission on the 2015 Defence White Paper – the deadline is 22 June.
• Read the 2015 White Paper online.
• Make a submission using the form on the Ministry of Defence website.
• Email or send your completed form to the Ministry of Defence.

Website: www.defence.govt.nz
Email: DWP15@defence.govt.nz

NZ DEFENCE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION TO HOST NOVEMBER FORUM

17 – 18 November, 2015
TSB Arena/Shed 6, Wellington, New Zealand

New Zealand Defence Industry Association is hosting a forum in November called Expanding our Horizons and Strengthening the Trans-Tasman Relationship.
  The forum, in Wellington, will involve defence representatives from New Zealand and Australia and focus on the defence and security markets at home and in Australia.
  To register and/or inquire about trade display and sponsorship, visit the NZDIA website.
Contact: contact@nzdia.co.nz
Website: www.nzdia.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY CROSS FIT CHAMPS

HOSTED BY CROSSFIT OHAKEA 2015
Powered by Industrial Athletic

15 AUGUST 2015
Divisions: RX / SCALED / BEGINNER
Entry fee $60 / Entries close 15 July
Open to all NZDF Regular, TF and CIV Employees who are members of a CrossFit Affiliate.
For more details visit us on facebook: crossfitohakea or email: crossfitohakea@nzdf.mil.nz

“I took this photo at the request of the RNZAF Boeing crew for the Royal Tour with HRH Prince Harry, at the completion of his trip around New Zealand. I’ve never photographed any of the Royals before – so this was my first opportunity. I was there for about two minutes, because the crew were very organised and set themselves up for the photo straight after he got off the aircraft, all I had to do was take the shot – super easy.”
Photograph of the Month

RNZAF PHOTOGRAPHER
CPL MARIA OOSTERBAAN
HAVE YOUR SAY
2015 DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

The Ministry of Defence is seeking submissions on the 2015 Defence White Paper.

READ IT

Read the 2015 Defence White Paper online at www.defence.govt.nz
Get a hardcopy from the Defence White Paper Project Team at an upcoming public consultation session.

TALK ABOUT IT

Come to a public consultation session. Check out the Ministry of Defence’s website for more details about these sessions.

MAKE A SUBMISSION

Make a submission using the form on the Ministry of Defence’s website.
Send your completed form to:
• DWP15@defence.govt.nz
• Defence White Paper 2015, Ministry of Defence, PO Box 12703, Wellington 6144.

DEADLINE 22 JUNE 2015