“Combat capability is delivered by people, it comes from the parts that all of you play, regardless of where you work.”

As Chief of Defence Strategy and Governance, one of my jobs is to ensure we have a strategic view of where we are going as a Defence Force. We are all doing a lot – whether it be in Air Force, Army or Navy or within a portfolio like Capability, Finance or Logistics – we’re working on projects and exercises, operations and activities. As CDSG, my role is to make sure all of that work is coherently pulling in the same direction.

To help us do that we set a strategy called Future 35 and the first milestone in that strategy was to demonstrate a Joint Task Force capability by 2015. Our joint response to Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu recently was a real-world example of that capability in action. Later this year, exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO 15 will further test that capability.

It’s now time to look ahead to the next milestone in our strategy – that of achieving Enhanced Combat Capability by 2020. We’ve recently released our vision of what that really looks like, of what we mean when we say we want to be ‘2020 READY’.

Being ‘2020 READY’ is about having better tools, better support, better information and working better together. You will see from the vision that there is ‘real work’ and ‘real things’ behind the strategy, it isn’t just a bumper sticker. (For example, NH90 and the new Pilot Training Capability are about having better tools. The Force 4 Families initiatives are about providing better support). There is also coherence to all of this work we are doing – it is coordinated and aimed at an end state.

By having a picture of our next strategic goal, having a clear vision of what we want to look like as a Defence Force in 2020, we’re better able to focus and prioritise what we are doing today. That prioritising is what we do in our Four-Year Plan and our Annual Plan. When we plan our activities, we should always be looking ahead and asking ourselves: ‘Does this project or initiative or exercise move us towards our 2020 vision?’ If it doesn’t, maybe our priority should be somewhere else?

So if 2020 READY is the vision of what we’re aiming for in 2020, our Four-Year Plan is how we’re going to get there and our Annual Plan is the first step along the way.

One of the key messages of 2020 READY is that it’s relevant to everyone – it doesn’t matter if you work in a hangar, an aircraft flight deck, a workshop or an office. Delivering Enhanced Combat Capability is more than just having new aircraft. Combat capability is delivered by people, it comes from the parts that all of you play, regardless of where you work. That is why our vision for 2020 is about how you are trained, supported and informed as individuals, and how you work together as teams. Because we know that if we produce a stronger you, we produce a stronger force for New Zealand.
The RNZAF’s 5 SQN located a missing vessel near Manihiki (Cook Islands) in June, enabling the rescue of a man and a six-year-old boy on board.

The pair were rescued at night, after the Orion crew coordinated a rendezvous with local sea vessels using on-board infrared systems to direct the rescue vessel to the survivors. The two were safely located, after spending more than 24 hours adrift, and were taken aboard the rescue vessel and returned to Manihiki. The Orion subsequently returned to Samoa.

The rescue was one of two search and rescue missions undertaken by the NZDF in the Pacific in June, both requiring P-3K2 Orion aircraft to search the areas.

Head of Air Operations Air Commodore Kevin McEvoy says the missions demonstrate the flexibility of an aircraft and crew that is equipped and trained for multiple roles.

“Although this rescue appeared straightforward, it was a complex activity, involving coordination between Cook Islands Police, Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand, NZDF, Air Traffic Control, the aircraft and the rescue vessels – all working together at short notice for a 10-hour mission to achieve a successful outcome.”

The first Orion was in Samoa on routine tasking when it was diverted to the search and rescue operation. A second Orion departed Base Auckland on June 8 to search for two missing men aged 26 and 28, in the vicinity of Kiribati. While en route to the search area, the National Rescue Coordination Centre advised both people, who had been missing since 3 June, had been located.

The RNZAF aircraft was then retasked and used the opportunity to conduct a maritime patrol of New Zealand’s Exclusive Economic Zone near the Kermadecs. The aircraft returned to Whenuapai on Monday evening.

The Orion is a specialist maritime surveillance aircraft ideal for at sea search and rescue missions. The Air Force is on standby 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week to quickly respond to search and rescue. The Air Force undertakes search and rescue missions with the Orion, the C-130 Hercules and the NH90 helicopter.
NZDF: A FORCE FOR GOOD AGAINST DRUG SMUGGLERS

An RNZAF P-3K2 Orion and frigate HMNZS TE KAHA recently dealt drug smugglers in the Western Indian Ocean a blow, by helping to seize almost 260 kilograms of heroin worth NZ$235 million.

HMNZS TE KAHA has been working with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a US-led naval partnership that aims to prevent drug and people trafficking, piracy and terrorism, since May.

Early on 8 June, a boarding party from TE KAHA uncovered 139 one-kilogram bags of heroin in hidden compartments on a medium-sized dhow the ship had monitored overnight. In a second interception on 13 June, TE KAHA’s crew boarded another dhow spotted by an RNZAF P-3K2 Orion. After a seven-hour search, TE KAHA crew discovered 118kg of heroin.

The total drugs cache recovered by New Zealand forces was 257kg. In the same operation, Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Newcastle netted 724kg worth an estimated NZ$660 million.

NZDF Maritime Component Commander Commodore John Campbell says the haul was a great outcome for international security and a massive achievement for the NZDF.

“New Zealand may be a relatively small nation but as good international citizens, we do play our part in maintaining global security. The seizure of these drugs has also contributed to the CMF’s efforts to staunch the flow of funds for terrorist activities in the Middle East region and internationally. These drugs were bound for Africa and eventually Europe. Our contribution thus assisted the security of both of these regions.”

CDRE Campbell paid tribute to the hard work and perseverance of the crews from TE KAHA and the P-3K2 Orion, many of whom have been away from New Zealand and their families for several months.

“Our people underlie the success of every operation,” CDRE Campbell says. “NZDF has some outstanding people and the success in this globally-significant counter-narcotics operation is proof of that.”

TE KAHA intercepted and searched seven other dhows during patrols off the Horn of Africa and Madagascar in the past five weeks. Her drug haul represents a quarter of the 981 kilos of illegal drugs that have been seized and destroyed since May.

“The deployment of both the Orion and TE KAHA to the CMF demonstrates the cooperative effort that our Navy and Air Force can achieve on operations as well as with other nations. It is a significant contribution to enhance maritime security in the Middle East,” says CDRE Campbell.

NZDF & THE COMBINED MARITIME FORCES (CMF)

What is the CMF?
The CMF is a 30-nation naval partnership led by the United States that promotes maritime security and seeks to defeat terrorism, prevent piracy and the illegal trafficking of people and drugs. It conducts maritime security operations across 2.5 million square miles of international waters in the Middle East.

What does the NZDF do for the CMF?
Both TE KAHA and the Orion have been deployed to support counter-terrorism and maritime security operations. TE KAHA, in particular, conducted maritime security operations including counter-narcotics operations to support the CMF’s efforts to staunch the flow of funds for terrorist activities in the Middle East region and internationally.

What has the NZDF contributed to the CMF operations in the past?
Officers from the Royal New Zealand Navy commanded Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151), one of three task forces operating under CMF, in 2011 and 2014. TE KAHA’s sister ship TE MANA conducted counter-piracy patrols in the Indian Ocean region in late 2013 as part of CTF 151 and NATO’s Operation OCEAN SHIELD. A RNZAF P-3K2 Orion, together with the Royal Australian Navy, helped seize around $280 million worth of hashish off the coast of Somalia last year.
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED
BY OUR DEFENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

WHAT’S THE VISION FOR NZDF?

Last month, the NZDF launched a four-year organisational vision called 2020 READY. Its purpose is to clarify the organisation’s strategy to the 14,000 personnel of the NZDF and their families. As part of that process, a Defence Leadership Team has been set up to answer questions about 2020 READY.

Here are just a few of your questions answered. If you have more, email them to 2020READY@nzdf.mil.nz

IS THIS A NEW THING – WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Yes, it’s new, but it’s linked to our big picture strategy Future 35, which has been around since 2010. To me, it’s a great way to explain the next step on the journey to Future 35 in plain terms. Summed up, 2020 READY has four key themes – better tools, better support, better informed and better together. Each of these themes has something tangible for Air Force people. My suggestion is talk to your commander or manager for more information. You can also go online to the F35 webpage and read the latest Force 4 New Zealand magazine.

ANSWERED BY:
AVM Kevin Short,
Vice Chief Defence Force

WHY DOES THE VISION TALK ABOUT ‘A STRONGER YOU’ – WHAT’S THAT ABOUT?

We talk about ‘A Stronger You’ because all the investments and initiatives we’ve got under way will have a personal impact on everyone. Added up, they’re about supporting individuals – and by doing that – creating ‘A Stronger Force for New Zealand’.

ANSWERED BY:
Debra Francis,
Chief People Officer
WHAT’S 2020 READY ALL ABOUT? WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

It takes Future 35 – the NZDF’s big picture strategy launched in 2010 and spells out what’s happening and what we want to achieve over the next four years. The ultimate goal, by 2020, is to achieve Enhanced Combat Capability. That’s why we’ve invested in combat-ready platforms like the NH90s and why we’ve launched support initiatives like Force 4 Families. The new governance structures we’re setting up will improve our decision making. Meanwhile, investing in multi-national interoperability is part of our push for better integration across units, our three services, with local agencies and with our international partners.

ANSWERED BY:
CDRE Alan Martin,
Assistant Chief Capability

HOW IS 2020 READY RELEVANT TO AIR FORCE?

It’s relevant to everyone in Air Force because it sets out how the NZDF plans to equip you with better tools to operate now and in the future and how you’ll receive better support over the next four years. By 2020, you’ll be better informed – thanks to the range of new information tools and processes in development. There’s a Joint Intelligence Programme under way, which’ll mean we can understand our environment better and respond appropriately. There’s also emphasis on improving our partnerships within the organisation, across services and externally. Our people are already known as great partners. 2020 READY sets out how the NZDF will improve its structures and processes to make that more effective.

ANSWERED BY:
Air Vice-Marshall (AVM) Mike Yardley,
Chief of Air Force

WHAT’S IN THIS FOR AIRMEN AND AIRWOMEN – AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL?

Firstly, I think people are going to notice some pretty positive changes at the individual level. Thinking about tools, for example, Air Force personnel are going to be better equipped with the right kit – new personal weapons are on the way. They’ll have access to modern training technology, the new pilot simulator training is an example. Thinking about support, there’s a range of initiatives of interest to Air Force personnel. Resilience training, health and safety and leadership development. When it comes to being better informed, the revised operational level command and control is a biggie. Finally, there’ll be more integration in the way we work and come together as a Defence Force. This will mean getting better at operating Joint Task Forces – improving the ways we work with our government partners – all that important partnership stuff the Air Force is really good at.

ANSWERED BY:
Major General Timothy Gall,
Commander Joint Forces
AIR FORCE AND ARMY TEAM UP

The Air Force’s annual two-week tactical flying exercise for C-130 crew took place in June.

The training exercise, called Exercise SKYTRAIN, was held from 2 to 12 June, based out of Whenuapai. The exercise involved 40 SQN, Air Movements personnel from Ohakea and 5 Movements Company from Linton.
Exercise SKYTRAIN is an important activity for 40 SQN personnel to either obtain or maintain currency in tactical flying and air drops. SGT Gareth May was one of the flight engineers qualifying for the first time in low-level tactical flying and airdrop.

“My role as a flight engineer involves pre-flighting the aircraft and while in-flight I monitor the systems and engines, as well as provide back-up to the pilots on data such as speed and altitude. Maintaining a look out for terrain and obstacle clearance while flying low-level is also very important. “This type of flying is the last qualification I needed to get before I’m fully qualified in all the types of flying we do on the squadron. Tactical flying involves flying at a low-level of 250ft and following the contours of the terrain. We use this type of flying for air drops and for evading potential threats to the aircraft,” says SGT May.

Tactical flying is a more military type of flying compared to some of the other flying 40 SQN does. In a tactical role the aircraft would complete short flights from the airfield to deliver supplies to troops in the field. To practice the air-drop aspect, the C-130 and crew dropped a variety of loads at the Kaipara Air Force Weapons Range. These loads were prepared and collected by 5 Movements Company.

For SGT May, learning a new way of flying is challenging but the effort is definitely worth it. “I really enjoy working on 40 SQN and gaining my tactical flying qualifications was a great feeling.”

The exercise also involved practising threat reactions to simulated surface-to-air threats at the Kaipara Range. This is when a flare is fired up in front of the aircraft leaving a visible smoke trail through the air to simulate surface-to-air fire. This training helps the crew coordinate their reactions during a threat on operations.
TALISMAN SABRE

NH90 coming in to land on HMNZS CANTERBURY.

NH90S ON INTERNATIONAL EXERCISE

By Luz Baguioro, Public Affairs Manager – Joint Forces
June 11, 2015 was a typical winter morning in Wellington. A cold brisk southerly was blowing and grey stormy clouds loomed threateningly in the sky. Just after 8am, as the whirr of a helicopter drew near from the east, a posse of journalists trained their cameras on the shiny and sleek NH90 as it glided smoothly onto the flight deck of HMNZS CANTERBURY.

In less than an hour, maintenance crew from the RNZAF 3 Sqn, assisted by Navy personnel, had safely stowed the NH90 into the ship’s hangar and were waiting for the second one to arrive at midday.

Although the NH90s were introduced into the Air Force two years ago, that June morning was their first big outing prior to deployment to TALISMAN SABRE, the largest warfighting exercise that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) conducts with the United States military.

“This is the first time the NH90s have been taken offshore and is a great opportunity to showcase their capability and effectiveness in a coalition environment,” says Chief of Air Force Air Vice-Marshal Mike Yardley. “The crews are looking forward to taking the helicopters offshore and demonstrating their effectiveness in a challenging, testing environment.”

Exercise TALISMAN SABRE will be the culmination of a significant amount of planning and development around the first maritime deployment for the NH90. Following the transfer of responsibility for Search and Rescue and Counter-Terrorism response from the Iroquois, this is the next significant milestone for the introduction into service, which will then allow the aircraft to be considered for offshore deployments Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief efforts.

“The NH90s provide a capability that meets the New Zealand Defence Force’s contemporary needs,” says Air Component Commander Air Commodore Kevin McEvo. “They are highly capable helicopters used for a wide range of tasks including troop movement on the battlefield, casualty evacuation and disaster relief,” he says.

“These medium utility helicopters are versatile and can be deployed in many environments, from the tropics to the mountains – and they can be transported by HMNZS CANTERBURY.”

AIRCDRE McEvo says the aircraft are a quantum leap from the capability offered by the Iroquois with their significant

Previous page: Navy personnel checking over the NH90 (left), while military vehicles head towards the HMNZS Canterbury (right).
internal and external cargo capacity and have already demonstrated their capability and versatility in supporting everything from New Zealand Police on search and rescue through to the heavy lifting of debris from the Pike River ventilation shaft.

Apart from the two NH90s, the NZDF is deploying two ships, one Seasprite helicopter, a C-130 transport aircraft, more than 40 military vehicles including 22 Light Armoured vehicles and 620 personnel for TALISMAN SABRE.

RNZAF personnel and assets are operating as part of the ADF’s 16th Aviation Brigade based in the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area in central Queensland.

“In TALISMAN SABRE, our people are working as part of a large force led by the ADF and our military assets will be integrated with those of the Australians and the United States armed forces,” says Commodore (CDRE) John Campbell, Acting Commander Joint Forces New Zealand.

“Exercises such as TALISMAN SABRE offer relevant and effective training to further hone our people’s warfighting capabilities and their ability to respond to a wide variety of contingencies.”

“It is also an opportunity to train with key partners – Australia and the US – so we can enhance our ability to operate alongside them,” says CDRE Campbell.

“For our NH90 helicopters, our land forces and our maritime forces, this is an opportunity for them to operate seamlessly with their Australian counterparts. From a strategic perspective, the NZDF can use what they learn to inform our efforts to develop the Joint Task Force,” says CDRE Campbell.
An MH-90 V being loaded onto HMAS CANTERBURY prior to deployment to Australia for TALISMAN SABRE.

Securing an NH90 on board HMAS CANTERBURY.

Military vehicles lining up to board HMAS CANTERBURY.
FACTS AND FIGURES

AUSTRALIA  NEW ZEALAND  UNITED STATES

Training in:
- Amphibious Landings
- Parachuting
- Land Force Manoeuvres
- Urban, Air and Maritime Operations
- Coordinated Firing of Live Ammunition
- Explosive Ordnance from Small Arms, Artillery, Naval Vessels and Aircraft

First time for New Zealand

NZDF’s contribution
- 1 C-130
- 1 Seasprite Helicopter
- 1 Combat Tractor
- 2 Ships
- 2 NH90
- 3 Services – Navy, Army, Air
- 11 Pinzgauers
- 10 Unimogs
- 22 Light Armoured Vehicles
- 620 Personnel

International team
- 3 Submarines
- 21 Ships
- 200 Aircraft
- 30,000 Personnel
- 20 Countries as international observers

Benefits
- Train with key partners (think: 2020 READY & Better Together)
- Joint Task Force learning opportunity
- Hone our warfighting capability
- Complex, challenging multinational environment
STAY ALERT TO SPIES

By the Directorate of Defence Security

HUMAN INTELLIGENCE (SPYING) IS ALIVE AND WELL

With allegations of global spy programmes run by the NSA, GCSB and stories of foreign cyber spies hacking networks, it’s easy to think spying is the sole preserve of super-powered nations with high-tech capabilities. But the more traditional and personal form of spying, known as Human Intelligence, is alive and well today – and has been for thousands of years.

ROLE OF MODERN-DAY AGENTS

A Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS) agent’s day-to-day life is far less glamorous than the movies make out. A spy has to live a double life. Unlike James Bond, they try to blend into normal life. They seek invitations to wider society, with influential groups or individuals. They make ‘friends’ not just with the targets, but wider communities, hoping to gain introductions into particular sports clubs, schools or workplace gatherings.

They have to flatter egos and build relationships with their sources, often exploiting individuals’ personal vulnerabilities, all the time hiding their true thoughts and feelings. They live in constant fear of the dreaded 3.00am knock at the door from security services and can be separated from true friends, family and country for decades.

The reward is often not much more than an average government salary, but this is a job they have chosen either for the adventure and travel, or a sense of purpose and duty. The best will remain covert for years and climb to positions of influence in governments and militaries.

BE ALERT TO:

- A stranger knowing personal information about you
- Intense questioning about your job
- Repeated encounters with a foreign national.

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER

If you’re thinking spies won’t be interested in you, you are very much mistaken. While senior staff officers are the obvious target, it is often more worthwhile to target the assistants, drivers and even the bag carriers.

Seemingly innocuous information gathered from different sources can provide a spy with a much clearer picture of events, operations, capabilities or vulnerabilities.

COUNTERING SPIES – WHAT YOU CAN DO

Identifying and countering spying is challenging. Some FIS agents will be known to security organisations through prior counter-intelligence activities, others will not.

That is why the Directorate of Defence Security (DDS) relies on you, as NZDF personnel, to report security incidents and pass on information about anyone you know who has been the target of FIS activity.

Be aware in social settings, while travelling and when you are online. Trust your instincts when something seems a bit strange. Please let DDS know of any unusual incidents or behaviour. Security organisations prefer to be deluged with hundreds of false leads than miss a chance to identify a spy or security concern.

HOW AND WHEN TO REPORT SPYING

Report anything you feel is strange or weird. Use the reporting forms on the DDS intranet website, contact DDS directly, or contact your Unit Security Officer.

FORCE PROTECTION TRADE REVIEW

A review of the Force Protection (FP) Trade has resulted in a refocus into protective security to meet the RNZAF developing and future needs.

At the end of last month Chief of Air Force Air Vice-Marshal Mike Yardley said while good work was being done by the trade across a range of outputs, it was evident that the operational environment had changed and there was a need to refocus.

FP will refocus and expand the role of Specialist Protective Security. It will also retain an Individual Readiness role, in relation to Core Military Skills delivery and the centre for Drill and Ceremonial oversight and training.

Physical Education and Recreational Training roles will be removed from FP trade roles and will be incorporated into the new Joint Operational Health Group in December, and Policing criminal investigations and functions will be trained and delivered under NZDF MP.

The FP will continue its emphasis on delivering competent and effective instructors.

The changes will take place between July 1 and December. This will ensure a staged transition period and the option to test and adjust in the first half of next year.
In June, FLTLT Andrew Day and FLTLT Byron Wagstaff completed the P-3K2 Orion conversion course – a training programme that started in September last year. The training programme has seen the pair spend a week in Hawaii learning emergency flight training procedures and two months learning about aircraft systems. They’ve completed 10 general handling flights and a combined flying phase where all the trades learn to operate the P-3K2 fly together to learn the specific roles of 5 SQN. In this article, we catch up with the pilots to reflect on their recent achievement and to find out what next.

**FLTLT BYRON WAGSTAFF, 5 SQN**

Q: Congrats on completing the conversion course. What’s it been like?

It’s been great to return back to Squadron and fly with old mates. The training itself has been rewarding and challenging along the way. The course is well structured to cover a lot of content in a short timeframe, so within a few months we effectively get a taste for what to expect on Squadron.

“Learning to apply your specific trades role in a large crew environment has its difficulties, especially with the wide range of tasks 5 SQN carries out. However, by the time first voyage (a patrol around the Pacific) comes around at the end of course, you’re all working well as a crew.”

Q: Now you’re qualified – what next?

We’re all now part of the operations flight at 5 SQN. My first role involves spending a few months in the Middle East, joining the crew who have been up there for the past five months – it’s great to be deployed so early after course. After that, I have a number of trips scheduled before some more training.

**FLTLT ANDREW DAY, 5 SQN**

Q: Congrats to you, too, Andrew. What have been some of the highlights of training?

Meeting a bunch of new people has been great. There’s a lot of talented individuals at 5 SQN and getting to know and learn from them has been good value. The P-3 itself is a cool platform, for a big aircraft it has plenty of grunt and is surprisingly manoeuvrable. Light load dropping practice was good fun and always cause for a bit of banter up front. Also I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention the galley – the on-board oven is probably the P-3’s single most important feature!

Q: What’s on the cards for you now?

I’ve joined the operational side of 5 SQN now and, among other things, I take turns being on standby for short notice tasking like Search and Rescue. New Zealand’s SAR region covers eight percent of the world’s surface – so the work is fairly regular. Recently, I participated in a rescue in the Cook Islands looking for a man and a six-year-old boy lost at sea in a 16-foot dingy. Ultimately, it was a very close run thing and required lots of hard work by the entire crew, but it was by far the most satisfying flight I’ve ever had.

Now I’m deploying to the Middle East for a few months, which will be a great experience before heading back to New Zealand ready for any patrols or exercises and to complete my upgrade to C Cat in the New Year.
On June 21, the RNZAF brought an eight-year-old Asian elephant home to her new enclosure at Auckland Zoo in a C-130 Hercules – earning high praise from the Director of Auckland Zoo, Jonathan Wilcken.

He says working with Air Force personnel to relocate the Sri Lankan elephant was an extremely positive experience for zoo staff.

In a letter to WGCDDR Richard Beaton, he says: “It has been a huge privilege for our zoo staff to work with the flight and ground crew of the squadron in the planning and execution of this challenging and unusual initiative.

“I would like to make particular mention of SGT David Cresswell, FLTLT Nicola Durie and F/S Chris McMahon. From our initial planning meetings with Chris through to the successful culmination of the project yesterday, they have provided an incredible level of enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment to ensure the safe and comfortable delivery of Anjalee to Niue and then to Auckland.

“I am sure that New Zealanders now better appreciate that in a complex and time critical task like this they are well served by dedicated service personnel.”

Anjalee touched down at Whenuapai after three months in quarantine in Niue before heading to her new home at Auckland Zoo. Anjalee is now settling into her new home with Burma and was visited by RNZAF personnel on 29 June.
Right now, a combined NZDF and Ministry of Defence team is busy working on the 2015 Defence White Paper (DWP). This high-level policy paper is due for release by the end of the year and will incorporate input from a wide variety of sources ranging from NZDF and Ministry of Defence personnel, wider government agencies, industry, academia and the New Zealand public.

WGCDR Pete Franken is the Air Force representative on the team. He says:

“Our next step is to analyse the inputs and to consider them alongside an assessment of the ever-changing global strategic environment. The goal is to accurately articulate the government’s desired Defence outputs, roles and capabilities over the next two decades. We will also work out the funding required to achieve these goals – it’s big, exciting work. And a great opportunity for the NZDF.”

In this article, Pete tells us more about his role and the public consultation process recently undertaken by the DWP team.

Q: What’s the NZDF role in the Defence White Paper?

At the top level, CDF will support the Secretary of Defence in the development of this high-level policy paper. In support of this effort there’s a combined NZDF Ministry of Defence project team, whose role it is to help research, analyse and develop the final DWP. Beyond this team, many NZDF personnel have been involved in a range of other ways. Several of us have run internal NZDF consultation workshops on the Camps and Bases, seeking their informed input. At the same time there have been public workshops up and down the country, hosted by local MPs and with senior NZDF and Ministry of Defence representation. These activities have enabled NZDF personnel and the wider public to get involved in the process by encouraging them to share their views and make written submissions.

I’m the Air Force representative on the team that, among many other roles, will soon turn its attention to analysing these submissions.

Q: Have you ever done anything like this before? What’s your impression so far?

Preparing a Defence White Paper is new to me. But it’s great to be part of the project team. Ultimately our role is to help determine the best mix of NZDF capabilities to meet the Government’s desired strategic effect. If we get it right, every person, plan and piece of equipment in the NZDF inventory will be able to be aligned (and funded) to collectively achieve what the Government expects of us.
Q: What have you enjoyed most so far?

It’s been great to get out on the camps and bases and see the pockets of knowledge out there. As members of the NZDF, we’re New Zealand’s military capability experts in many ways. Our view of the world is unique. And I think sometimes we don’t always see ourselves that way, because we live and breathe it every day. I think it’s really vital we have input into national defence policy because we have that real-world understanding of how policy, funding and capability all work in together. It’s been exciting to see that unique perspective come forward at the workshops, especially from our younger personnel working at the coalface. They can see the changing face of the global environment as clearly as anyone, and tend to have a refreshing way of identifying opportunities for the NZDF in the future. It’s been gratifying to observe – after all, our younger personnel will inherit the future capabilities introduced by this White Paper.

Q: What ideas have come up in workshop discussions?

So often we focus on capability and assets when it comes to policy talk – the big, expensive stuff. But I’ve been really struck by some of the fresh, new ideas about people and how important it is to have the right people who can think, interpret and communicate in an agile way. It’s one thing to have equipment that can accumulate data, imagery and various forms of information. It’s quite another to turn this data into meaningful knowledge that can be acted upon in a constructive manner. Setting our sights on generating an agile, smart and coordinated workforce is arguably more important than introducing top-end military capability. In the end, we require a synthesis of both of these elements to generate the combat capabilities the public of New Zealand expect us to deliver.

Q: What will the final paper actually say? Will it be a good read?

This White Paper will set out the NZDF’s contribution to the country’s security, resilience and prosperity. It will provide direction on the roles and tasks the Government expects the NZDF to be able to carry out, what military capabilities we’ll need to invest in – including our people – to carry out those tasks and the funding needed to implement these plans. This is a complex task. It will definitely be a good read, I’d say.

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION 2015
FACTS AND FIGURES

- Number of public DWP workshops: 12
- The approximate number of submissions received: 350
- Number of NZDF DWP workshops: 12
- Total number of personnel on the 2015 DWP team (comprising eight NZDF personnel): 18
Nine NZDF personnel are hard at work in the annual United States Navy-led Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission Pacific Partnership (PP15).

Personnel from New Zealand, the United States, Australia, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste are in the mission and will visit seven host nations and engage in a variety of local outreach efforts. The host nations this year are Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, the Philippines and Vietnam.

New Zealand’s Senior National Officer on the mission, WGC DR Jennifer Atkinson, is embarked on the hospital ship USNS Mercy as the mission Chief of Staff, working under the United States mission Commander and Australian deputy commander.

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

PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 2015 – A FISH OUT OF WATER

By WGC DR Jennifer Atkinson

In this article, we catch up with WGC DR Atkinson after just a month in the role – and as she’s about to dock in Fiji to help provide a range of medical, dental, veterinary, engineering and community engagement programmes.

PP15 – opportunity to join a United States Navy-led mission to the Pacific

NZDF nominations for Pacific Partnership 2015 (PP15) were sought at the end of last year – a very brief email providing minimal information other than it was preferable if you were comfortable climbing ladders on a Navy ship! However, this was enough to peak my interest and I soon learnt that PP15 was an annual United States Navy-led mission that engaged with nations in South-east Asia and the Pacific.

For PP15, there would be both a hospital ship (‘Mercy’) and a smaller joint high-speed vessel (‘Millinocket’), providing the opportunity for nine NZDF personnel to join. New Zealand would be part of a multilateral PP15 team that would include a range of other nations, military services and various non-government organisations.
The engagements between PP15 participants and local communities would focus on strengthening regional relationships, improving host nation capacity and exercising collective ability to respond to a natural disaster. It essentially began in response to the catastrophic 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of South East Asia – and 2015 would be the tenth Pacific Partnership mission.

**Putting my hand up for Chief of Staff role**

Armed with this knowledge and enthusiasm, I put in my nomination for the Chief of Staff role where I would report directly to the United States Mission Commander and work alongside the Australian Deputy. Admittedly, I did wonder what an Air Force psychologist could know of a United States Navy-led mission like PP15 and how well I would cope with life at sea for four months. However, this was overshadowed by the desire to be a part of something meaningful and a willingness to learn.

While I had deployed several times as a psychologist, it was never longer than three weeks at a time, so I was also aware that it would be significant for my family as well. When I got the call in December that I had been selected, my command was supportive and my family was excited for me – although towards my departure date my two children (aged 5 and 7) would change their minds!

**Departure time – four months at sea**

As my departure with PP15 became more real, I realised I needed to draw on what I knew about deployments. As a military psychologist, I’d frequently conducted the family pre-deployment training briefs – emphasising the potential positive effects from the experience for all, the roller coaster of emotions that could ensue and the resiliency of our children. It was the last point that I took to heart – reminding myself that four months away was long but achievable.

I had the usual looks of disbelief from friends outside the military – often with the comment of how could I be away from my children. However, I trusted the research that I’d so often quoted to others in Defence – to have faith in both ourselves and our families to adapt. This, in combination with the incredible support I’d had from my husband and wider family provided me with the peace of mind I needed to deploy. Closer to my departure, my children became more tearful and in particular my five-year-old got increasingly upset, the outbursts usually directed at me and over the smallest thing. Probably the most helpful thing I did was visit their classrooms where they both helped me talk about PP15 and the hospital ship, Mercy. There was a sense of pride and feeling ‘special’ that softened the anxiety over my departure.

The day arrived for my flight out to San Diego and tearful goodbyes followed, but there was also some relief the time had finally arrived for the deployment to start. Thankfully things quickly fell into place for both me and my family with routines providing the much-needed familiarity and stability.

**A month in – a steep, but enjoyable learning curve**

I have now been on board the ship almost a month and it continues to be a steep but enjoyable learning curve. I have found some routine on board, the language and abbreviations seem less foreign and friendships have grown. I’ve even had time to graduate from Pollywog status to a Shellback during an eventful ceremony (ask a sailor to explain this one!).

**Arrival in Fiji – first port of call**

Soon we arrive in Fiji (our first port) where we will participate in tailored medical, dental, veterinary, engineering and community engagement programmes – we’re all very excited to see our planning come to fruition!
WELL DONE TO OUR AERONAUTICAL PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to the RNZAF personnel who earned New Zealand Aeronautical Trust awards at the annual ceremony held in May.

GORDON WATT AWARD GOES TO CPL AARON MCLEOD

Corporal (CPL) Aaron McLeod, an Avionics Technician at Base Ohakea, won the New Zealand Aeronautical Trust’s prestigious Gordon Watt Award.

CPL McLeod, a former Christchurch Boys High School student, joined the RNZAF in 2006 because working with aircraft and electronics, and receiving free technical training was an attractive career option.

CPL McLeod says he is privileged to win the award and believes it is a direct reflection on the high-calibre of training he has received in the Air Force.

“In the Air Force there is always something new and different for you to get involved with, anything from refuelling an aircraft to manufacturing a state-of-the-art piece of test equipment,” says CPL McLeod.

About the Gordon Watt Award.

The award is for technical innovation and excellence with the Royal New Zealand Air Force and the selection is determined by Air Staff, with endorsement from the Royal Aeronautical Society. The award consists of a silver medal, a certificate and a sum of money.

IAN DIAMOND AWARD WINNERS

Flying Officer (FGOFF) André Budel and CPL Hadley Tweedie both took away the Royal Aeronautical Society Ian Diamond awards.

The Ian Diamond award is given to young aviation professionals wishing to embark on a course of higher academic study leading to a degree in an aviation-related subject and with the firm intention of participating in New Zealand aviation. The award gifts $4,000 to go towards further professional study, a medal and a certificate.

The award was set up as a memorial to Ian James Diamond – General Manager of Engineering at Air New Zealand.
**CPL Hadley Tweedie**

CPL Tweedie received the award in recognition of his consistent and continued education since joining the RNZAF.

He completed his New Zealand diploma in electrical engineering with an A+ average in 2011 and is now studying towards a Bachelor in Information Sciences, majoring in Information Technology.

Now half-way through his study, he has achieved an A-grade average and is on track towards becoming an engineering officer, specialising in aviation software.

CPL Tweedie’s awards presentation also noted: “His results and goals are most impressive and he has chosen a new and exciting field of study that few others currently serving have a grasp of. His dedication to aviation is outstanding and he is currently seen by his peers as a role model that many wish to emulate. As well as being a highly motivated and professional technician and student, Corporal Tweedie has also been recognised for his contribution to the administration of NZDF sport.”

**FGOFF André Budel**

FGOFF André Budel, a former student of Rosmini College in Auckland, joined the RNZAF in 2008 as an Avionics Mechanic. He was later accepted into the Bachelor of Engineering under the Air Force’s University Officer Scheme, a career highlight for the young officer.

FGOFF Budel says winning the award is an honour and he will be putting the $4,000 prize towards further professional studies in aerospace engineering.

“Receiving this award has motivated me to seek out more opportunities to learn and excel in engineering. I’ve put a lot of effort into my professional development and it is very rewarding to be a recipient of the Ian Diamond award,” says FGOFF Budel.

As an engineering officer FGOFF Budel supervises the day-to-day management of a team of avionics technicians who work on the Air Force’s fleet of P-3K2 Orion aircraft. These aircraft are the mainstay of New Zealand’s airborne surveillance and response force and are used to patrol and protect our Exclusive Economic Zone, the Pacific region and Southern Ocean, and conduct search and rescue missions.

“In 2010, I was an avionics mechanic working on the Orions and we deployed on a search and rescue mission to Rarotonga. This was a great experience as I was able to see how the work I do directly contributes to a tangible outcome, in this case we saved a person’s life,” says FGOFF Budel.

**230 SQN RECEIVES KESTREL TROPHY FOR 2014**

The Royal Aeronautical Society has awarded the 2014 Kestrel Trophy to 230 SQN for “excellence in the provision of deployed mission support to RNZAF P-3K2 Orion operations”.

The Society’s citation says: “The operational deployment of the Airborne Surveillance and Reconnaissance Force in July 2014 required 230 SQN personnel to develop, procure and test a Mobile Tactical Operations Centre and a Deployable Air

**Ground Gateway capability to support P-3K2 flying operations.**

“Not only was the timeframe available deemed extremely short, there were very challenging operational, technical and security requirements that required a high level of flexibility, initiative and drive from a wide range of squadron personnel.

“Through their work with various RNZAF units and their high levels of commitment, ownership and dedication, 230 SQN personnel delivered on the mission support aims and raised the bar for pre- and post-mission support provided to the expeditionary deployed NZDF capabilities.

“Since its inception in 2008, 230 SQN has proven itself on the world stage, demonstrating true professionalism and team work. Furthermore, the small team have shown that by taking great pride in their work and embracing the skills and strengths of squadron personnel, the output from the team has increased exponentially.”

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD WINNERS**

Former RNZAF engine specialist Warwick Jones and Air Commodore Graeme Gilmore OBE, FRAEs, RNZAF (Rtd) received Meritorious Service Awards in May.

Warwick Jones for contribution to the RAEs Hamilton branch

Warwick followed his two older brothers Barry and Owen into the RNZAF when he left school in 1965, completing his engine mechanic’s course and getting posted to Ohakea where he initially worked in the Power Plant Bay. After completing his engine specialist training as an engine fitter, he was posted onto 75 SQN at Ohakea, performing servicing and maintenance of De Havilland Vampires and later Douglas A4 Skyhawks. He remained on 75 SQN until he completed his eight-year contract with the RNZAF.

AIRCDRE Graeme Gilmore for contribution to C-130 Hercules Life Extension Project

Graeme spent 33 years in the RNZAF, retiring as an Assistant Chief of Defence staff. His subsequent civil career has included roles as General Manager of Safe Air, Engineering Operations Manager of Air New Zealand and others – all of which he discharged with distinction. Following his retirement, Graeme took on the management of the production phase of the C-130 Hercules Life Extension Programme (LEP) at Woodbourne.
National Maritime Coordination Centre

EYES IN THE SKY

The NZDF is a major provider to the National Maritime Coordination Centre (NMCC) for domestic security operations to protect the nation’s sovereign and economic borders. This support includes operations related to fisheries protection, illegal immigration, terrorism, smuggling, quarantine evasion, protection of offshore territories, security of offshore installations, protection of resource exploration activities and other border security tasks.

The NMCC is responsible for the planning and coordination of government and other agencies collective needs for information on maritime activities and for the compilation of the New Zealand maritime picture. The all-of-government areas of interest also cover those nations for which New Zealand has constitutional obligations (Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau), the Southern Ocean and the Ross Dependency.

Kaye Shepherd is the Operations Officer at NMCC based in headquarters Joint Forces in Trentham. She is responsible for coordinating many of the taskings the Air Force do with other government agencies.

As well as coordinating maritime patrols, the NMCC is also mandated to provide a maritime picture on what is happening in this space and which vessels are operating in our area of interest. This includes New Zealand’s Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as the Southern and Pacific Oceans.

Kaye says her team look for activity that appears to be unusual or for specific types of vessels located in positions where you wouldn’t normally expect to see them such as a tanker loitering reasonably close to the coast on its outward leg from New Zealand or vessels operating in closed areas like marine reserves. In some cases it has been necessary to send a patrol to investigate.

“Every day is different and there are so many variables you can’t predict how your day will pan out. One of the first things we do in the morning is check our programmed patrols for that day and see if we need to make any adjustments due to an urgent search and rescue, adverse weather conditions or a mechanical issue. We also check our inbox for any notifications of new patrol requests or events happening on the water.

“We spend a lot of time working for agencies to progress the planning of their patrol requests. The Defence Force is our biggest provider of platforms but often other agencies have little understanding of what these platforms can do, so we help work through what they want, what is viable and what will return the most value to New Zealand,” says Kaye.

The NMCC works with six core agencies: Customs, Police, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industries, Maritime New Zealand and NZDF. There are about another 10 agencies that use the NMCC from time to time.

“The Air Force makes the P-3K2 available for agency tasking hours, which enables us to undertake three vital pieces of work; the routine New Zealand maritime surveillance flights of which we task three or four a month, about 10 patrols annually in the South Pacific and one or two patrols in the Southern Ocean.

“With the South Pacific patrols we try to time these so the Air Force and the agency involved can get the most out of the
operation, this might be working around Forum Fisheries Agency operations as well as diplomatic engagements or support to the Navy’s Patrol Vessels operating in the area,” says Kaye.

In recent times NMCC has noticed a growing number of requests for rotary wing platforms from agencies, particularly Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industries and New Zealand Customs who see the helicopters as a great asset for achieving their inshore patrolling and logistical tasking requirements.

Recently the Air Force deployed an A109 helicopter to the far north in support of New Zealand Customs monitoring activities off the Bay of Islands. Kaye says New Zealand Customs asked for support with a surveillance tasking. This was the first time an A109 had been used and feedback shows the helicopter was extremely useful in getting the job done.

“One of the interesting tasks we carry out is collecting data and images for scientists and Land Information New Zealand. Whenever there is an earthquake near the Kermadec Trench, the next time a P-3K2 flies over on one of our taskings they will collect images and information on the submarine volcanoes that are deep underwater. This allows Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) and Land Information scientists to assess whether there have been any changes in the area,” says Kaye.

The NMCC and Defence work closely together on a daily basis especially in the planning phase for operations and taskings.

Kaye says the NMCC acts as a central coordination point for Defence Force planners and is the one entry way for agencies who want to use Defence platforms.

“Working with the Air Force is great because everyone has the attitude where they want to find a solution to the agencies’ requests. The cooperation between the Air Force and NMCC means very rarely do we turn down taskings. I have such a good relationship with the planners at Joint Headquarters, which makes my job a lot easier,” says Kaye.

The value NMCC provides is clear to Headquarters Joint Air Operations Commander WGC DR Rodger Pringle, who works closely with NMCC to provide air support.

“Having the NMCC coordinate and help manage Defence’s support to these taskings is vital to the efficient use of our assets. Without NMCC support we would have to maintain the link with all other agencies ourselves and inevitably have to prioritise one agency request over another. By having an independent body prioritise what is best for New Zealand in a transparent manner is an enormous advantage and significantly streamlines our tasking process.”

It’s not just surveillance and monitoring of maritime activity, the NMCC is also involved in coordinating air drops to New Zealand’s offshore islands and subterranean volcanic observations – two tasks that also use Air Force expertise.
Aidan Smith was one of 25 youth ambassadors who travelled to Gallipoli this year to experience the 100-year commemorations of the ANZAC landings. In this story, he reflects on the experience and what it meant to him.

I was lucky enough to be selected as a New Zealand Youth Ambassador as the New Zealand Cadet Force Air Training Corps representative. The experience of the 40-something hours on the peninsula is hard to put into words. Feeling the emotions, seeing the terrain and hearing the waves crash onto the beach was a very moving experience for all of us. And the experience did not stop there.

**Media and community – our role**

As youth ambassadors, we were interviewed by local newspapers, gave speeches and talked at various community groups like RSA’s, Lions and Rotary clubs, local cadet units and youth groups. The response was great, with a lot of young people wondering how they could get involved in various organisations and advice on how to make the most of opportunities like mine.

As youth ambassadors we talked a lot about our experiences with one another and found many of us had a similar experience of the public. They were interested to ask us questions and respected our role as youth ambassadors.

In a number of presentations, question time went longer than the presentation itself. Those of us from smaller communities went back to our old primary schools and shared our experiences with younger people, which made many of our past teachers extremely proud of us and our achievements.

Over at the Gallipoli peninsula, news crews were extremely interested in what we had to say and what Anzac Day means to us, as the youth of New Zealand. Throughout the trip, we were the voice for New Zealand Youth and kept people at home updated of our trip through social media.

Our social media campaign was a huge success – and came down to talented individuals who put in some long hours posting and regularly updating content during and after our
Our Facebook page gained almost 4,000 likes and still gives us, as Youth Ambassadors, a means to communicate our reflections and stories.

Capturing the Kiwi spirit through music
Something that brought us all together was music – and I was impressed by the talent among us. In Auckland at the Concentration before deploying, we were tasked with singing six Kiwi songs for entertainment. One of the most memorable songs (that still brings me chills) was ‘Welcome Home’ by Dave Dobbyn. The meaning of the song when he wrote it was to capture the mood of the country and what New Zealand is to us, as Kiwis.

There were a few times when we were waiting for the bus or just waiting for the next timing when we had a moment to practise our songs. We sang and sang, till by the end of it we were pretty good.

The Turkish locals gave us plenty of smiles and good vibes.

We also performed songs to entertain the attendees before the Chunuk Bair service and the reaction was great, with tears and smiles all round – it was extremely humbling and instilled a sense of pride among the group.

My pivotal moment
A pivotal moment for me personally was the first day in Canakkale, our home in Turkey for the duration of the trip. A group of us went for a walk along the waterfront where we came across a basketball court with a couple of local young people playing basketball. We didn’t know how to speak Turkish, but as soon as we said “Yeni Zelanda”, which is New Zealand in Turkish, they invited us to play ball and so we did for about 30 minutes. Locals and tourists began to fill up the surrounding seats and by the end of it there were smiles, laughter and cheering for both sides. It was humbling to say the least. Looking back on this single event was quite a surreal feeling that I believe set the tone for how homely Turkey felt to us.

Our relationship with NZDF
Throughout the trip as a group, we became a closely knit team with Defence Force personnel. We interacted, shared experiences, and made some awesome memories together. Over the whole trip, we gained a better understanding and insight into the NZDF. A number of us were keen sign up and see what the Defence Force has to offer.

Documenting and recording what we saw, heard, felt and tasted was high on our priorities, but gaining experiences and making some amazing memories is what we did. Travelling to the other side of the world was an amazing experience on its own, but getting to do that with a bunch of like minded people was second to none. Being a part of something truly unique, for me, is something exceptionally special.

Youth Ambassadors on Facebook: LIKE US ON FACEBOOK to see photos from our trip – search ‘NZ Youth Ambassadors - The Gallipoli Story’.
The national president of the RNZAF Association retired Air Commodore Terence Gardiner is challenging young air force members to support the association or risk losing it altogether.

AIRCDRE Gardiner has led the association for the past four years. He says the 70-year-old organisation is unlikely to survive much longer without the infusion of new members.

The challenge, he says, is for the organisation to evolve to the point where it can attract the younger generation.

“We need our young servicemen and women to care about this organisation, see a need for it and to get involved. The reality is that the survival of the association is in their hands, not those of us approaching our sunset years. It can survive, but only if sufficient numbers of young people want it to.”

He says young people need to get in touch and tell him what they want from the organisation. “Contact me or your branch representative – we need to hear from you.”

The RNZAF Association is the overarching representative body for air force veterans set up in 1945 with more than 21,000 founding members. Today membership has fallen to about 1,000.

“The reality is that we’re in steady decline despite the fact that the NZDF is creating veterans of operational deployments at an almost unprecedented rate. I think a lot of people associate the word ‘veteran’ with old timers, particularly those of a World War Two vintage. But the RNZAF Association defines a veteran as any serving or former air force serviceperson – not just those personnel who have earned operational service medals,” says AIRCDRE Gardiner.

He believes there are probably several reasons for the organisation’s membership decline.

“I know we’re not alone – most representative bodies like ours, such as the Brevet Club and the RSA, are struggling to maintain numbers. Our challenge is to be relevant to the younger..."
Our Heritage

Organise regular social gatherings
Focus on the welfare of members
Represent Air Force veterans at important events such as Anzac Day and Battle of Britain commemorations
Foster youth development through support for Air Training Corps squadrons
Promote air power and military history
Keep abreast of RNZAF developments and maintain links with the RNZAF through the Chief of Air Force

WHAT WE DO

WHERE TO FIND US

WHO ARE WE?

CONTACT US

generation who’re not attracted to traditional clubs and associations like generations before them.”

“The age gap between existing members and the ones we’re trying to recruit is probably a factor – most young men and women naturally prefer to socialise with their friends. That’s true for most of us. Though, when we do all come together, it seems to me that both groups enjoy the experience. There are undoubtedly other factors at play, too. There are tighter drink driving laws and the overwhelming array of options for spending our time outside work in this day and age.”

“We’re aware of the barriers and the problem – we just need people to come forward with some opportunities and solutions.”

Members who share the values of camaraderie and friendship; mutual care and respect; remembrance; and service to the community and nation.
To mark World Environment Day, the Ohakea Sustainability Committee with support from Horizons Regional Council held an opening ceremony at the historic native bush remnant at Gate Pa Avenue on RNZAF Base Ohakea.

Gate Pa Bush is five acres of bush featuring nearly 50 types of native tree species, including a significant number of totara, and is one of the last areas of its kind in the Manawatu.

Base Commander GPCAPT Nick Olney officially opened the new entranceway to the remnant saying everyone involved had done a stellar job to get the bush to the point where the biodiversity in the area can start to flourish again.

“Convincing people to help out was easy, there are so many people who are keen to protect and enhance this area,” says GPCAPT Olney.

The Gate Pa restoration project started earlier this year when the Committee got together with representatives from Massey University, Horizons Regional Council and Spotless Facility Services (NZ) Limited to identify the types of foliage present and to clear the area of noxious weeds.

Volunteers from Ohakea have become Guardians of Gate Pa where they each look after a 30 metre by 30 metre plot. The Guardians have to be Ohakea personnel because the bush is located within the Base itself.

Horizons Regional Council’s group manager environmental management Craig Mitchell says there is not much of this type of bush left now so to discover it at Gate Pa was very exciting.

“Together with NZDF, Massey University and Spotless we intend to work to enhance and sustain this valuable piece of bush. Plans include developing walking tracks through the bush, creating educational signs around the flora and fauna and eco-sourcing native plants for restorative planting.

“The great thing about this project is there will be a real community benefit for those at Ohakea and we expect it to become a highlight for everyone there. It’s been fantastic to work with the other stakeholders on this project as by sharing expertise, resources and working together we can achieve more.”

---

**OPERATION GREENLEAF PLANTS A MILESTONE**

*Ohakea Base Commander Group Captain Nick Olney and Spotless Facility Services NZDF Regional Environmental Sustainability Manager Cameron Burton plant a kowhai tree.*

*Spotless Facility Services NZDF Regional Environmental Sustainability Manager Cameron Burton championed the project.*

*Left to right: Horizons Regional Council Group Manager Biodiversity Craig Mitchell; Ohakea Base Commander Group Captain Nick Olney; Spotless Facility Services NZDF Regional Environmental Sustainability Manager Cameron Burton; Land Management Officer for Defence Properties Group Alison Pickett.*
A big congrats to our own Air Force Museum director, Thérèse Angelo, whose outstanding contribution to the museum sector has been acknowledged by Museums Aotearoa.

In May, Mrs Angelo became a fellow of Museums Aotearoa – the national body for the sector – at an awards ceremony held in Dunedin. Mrs Angelo is now one of 11 people awarded a fellowship from Museums Aotearoa – and the latest since 2009 to receive the title.

Museums Aotearoa chair Roy Clare says: “The award acknowledges an outstanding contribution to the museum sector in New Zealand. Thérèse was instrumental in the development of museum qualifications, support and professional development. She has served as chair of Museums Aotearoa over a number of years and shown leadership in the Christchurch heritage sector following the 2010/11 earthquakes.”

Mrs Angelo has been director of the Air Force Museum since 2002.
Our Community

MAY WORKING BEE AT OHAKEA MARAEBY Wallace Douglas

On a brisk May Saturday – at the site of the future Air Force Marae in Ohakea – a small group gathered for a marae fence painting working bee. Giving up the weekend sleep-in, wrapped in overalls and gumboots, a team of volunteer DIY painters set to work slapping paint on what seemed like endless stacks of fence posts, railings and palings. It was certainly a brisk day but the cool Ohakea weather was no match for the warm hearts and high spirits. Marae naturally encourage whānaungatanga (kinship and unity). It was therefore no surprise to see it flourish among our small army of volunteers beavering away amid the buildings of our own future marae. Our awesome team ranged in rank fromGPCAPT to LAC, was comprised of various trades and included civilian personnel, partners and kids. As the saying goes – many hands make light work. It doesn’t matter how much paint you have or how many brushes or pairs of paper overalls.

All the gear and equipment in the world means nothing without willing hands to wield them! He aha te mea nui o te Ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata! What is the most important resource of all? It is people! It is people! It is people! Tihei mauri oral! Behold!

RAF BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD IN JUNE

The annual RAF Bomber Command memorial service was conducted in the Hall of Memories, Auckland Museum early in June. Along with veterans, senior officers from the RNZAF, RAF and RAAF attended together with diplomatic representatives from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Poland. The service was conducted byRNZAF Chaplain SQNLDR Stuart Hight and the New Zealand Bomber Command Association Hon. Chaplain, the Venerable Neville Selwood, an aircrew veteran serving as a navigator on 75SQN Lancasters. In total, approximately 200 attended the service, with similar memorial services held in Canberra, Toronto and London the same week. Each year the New Zealand Bomber Command Association is assisted by the RSA and cadets from 3 SQN ATC.
Our Community

INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING COURSE (IOTC) HEADS TO NELSON

In June, our Initial Officer training course (IOTC) 15/01 headed to Nelson to tell students in Years 5 and 6 about what it’s like to work for the RNZAF – as part of their community engagement programme. OCDT Mikaela Christian, who was part of the team who visited Hope and Brightwater Primary Schools says:

“It was a lot of fun – and a huge boost for us to see the kids get so excited about the things we do every day. I think we inspired them too. One girl was particularly excited because she could see the Air Force isn’t just for boys. Other kids got our signatures – like we were famous.”

GOT A GREAT COMMUNITY PROJECT UNDER WAY?

Email the Air Force News with your story and to order RNZAF promotional materials. airforcenews@nzdf.mil.nz
I took this photo as part of the TALISMAN SABRE coverage. This image of Elliot, our videographer, was taken as a quick test shot to prepare for a group photograph of our three service chiefs with the NH90 on the deck of HMNZS CANTERBURY. Everyone we worked with on the day, from the ship’s company, to the New Zealand Army personnel and Air Force personnel, were all great at helping us achieve the best vantage points for photography and video.

Exercise TALISMAN SABRE is my fifth trip away this year. I’ve been privileged to work on HMNZS Wellington in the Southern Ocean and the Auckland Islands, cover the NZDF ANZAC commemorations in France, and have flown on the mighty Huey around the South Island as part of their farewell tour.

Years ago my Corporal said we should cover: “Cool people doing cool things in cool places,” which to me sums up why it’s important to document these kinds of events. The NZDF has a number of talented individuals who do a wide range of interesting and unique jobs in challenging environments. It’s great to be able to capture this and celebrate our people and our capabilities.
Photograph of the Month
RNZAF PHOTOGRAPHER
CPL AMANDA MCERLICH
A STRONGER YOU  A STRONGER FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND