EXERCISE RED FLAG

INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE RUGBY CUP

ANTS HAWES
NEW PRINCIPAL CHAPLAIN
First Word

We are now three quarters of the way through the year and one could be forgiven for thinking we have got over the ‘hump’ of 2015, but as the RNZAF prepares for a very busy final quarter, we asked the Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Kevin McEvoy, to share his thoughts on 2015 to date and to fill us in on what the key focus is for the rest of the year.

When I was a kid there was a TV ad (yes, black and white TV! And I guess now they’d be called infomercials) where they’d say something like “but wait, there’s more! Call now and you’ll get a free set of Ginsu steak knives”. I guess that life in the Air Force is sometimes a little bit like that, where there’s just one more thing...

Our successes this year have already included deploying the King Air and Seapride to support Operation TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM, deploying the NH90 offshore to Exercise TALISMAN SABRE, the inaugural deployment of our Hercules to Exercise RED FLAG, release of the Hercules Night Vision Goggle Capability, and continuing ops with the Orion in the Gulf, to name but a few. Just like the Ginsu steak knives though - but wait, there’s more!

The next big challenge for us is Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO 15 (SK15)*. The achievements so far this year have been great opportunities for us to show our enhanced combat capability, as part of 2020 Ready. While the aircraft are key to Air Force in the ‘better tools’ space, SK15 gives us a prime opportunity to operate in a joint environment and show how we can be ‘better together’ as a Defence Force. If you think we’re great at this already, I challenge you to sit through a briefing at Headquarters Joint Forces NZ without asking ‘what does that acronym mean?’ like I do!). The recent roll out of C2Core, the new command and control software, along with the embedded changes to the command and control around the bases we have made, also give us a chance to see how we are ‘better informed’. When we tie all this together, SK15 gives us a chance to show how we can make better command decisions and fight with our enhanced combat capabilities.

Here at Headquarters Joint Forces NZ we’ve been deep in the mission analysis for SK15. It won’t, however, be overly scripted. The Commander Joint Task Force will shortly be developing his own plan to meet command intent. Unlike previous years, the intent is to run SK15 ‘just like any other op’. This means that while commanders can expect to be well supported, you also have a chance to execute a plan with a high degree of realism.

SK15 isn’t about having ‘the perfect plan’. Our Air Force is renowned for flexibility so let’s take that to the fight in SK15. This is an opportunity for us to develop our people professionally in a ‘safe’ environment, grow our leadership skills, and be innovative – all while showing our enhanced combat capability. It’s exciting stuff. One last thing – don’t forget to enjoy yourself!

* see page 27 for more on SK15

AIRCdre Kevin McEvoy
AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE FORCE TO TRAIN IN NORTHEAST ASIA

T
he New Zealand Defence Force’s Airborne Surveillance and Response Force left recently to carry out three weeks of training in Northeast Asia.

Air Component Commander Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Kevin McEvoy said a P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft from the Royal New Zealand Air Force’s (RNZAF) No. 5 Sqn and mission support personnel from No. 230 Sqn have been deployed for readiness training activities in South Korea and Japan.

“Opportunities to train, work and engage with other militaries are invaluable,” AIRCDRE McEvoy said.

“These collaborations and interactions help deepen defence cooperation between our countries and enhance our ability to work with our partners. So when we operate in any part of the world, we are able to do so seamlessly alongside them.”

The first activity in the training programme is Exercise ROKKIWI 15, an anti-submarine warfare exercise that the RNZAF is conducting in the Yellow Sea with the South Korean Navy and the US Navy.

Following the exercise with the South Korean Navy, the RNZAF personnel will train with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force’s No. 1 Sqn at Kanoya Air Base as part of Exercise JAPAN AFFIL 15.

AIRCDRE McEvoy said that the exercises with South Korea and Japan were held regularly. During the exercise, the RNZAF crew will have opportunities to discuss surveillance procedures.

“We are excited about working again with the South Korean Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. This joint training is an excellent opportunity to engage with them and strengthen our defence cooperation,” he said.

DEFENCE FORCE SELLS IROQUOIS HELICOPTERS

The retired Royal New Zealand Air Force Iroquois helicopter fleet has been sold, subject to final United States and New Zealand Government approvals.

Following an international tendering process, Dakota Air Parts of the United States has been selected as the successful bidder for 10 of the 13 airframes, and spares. The total sale was in the $3–5 million range.

Three airframes have been retained for display purposes: the Army Museum has NZ3802; the Air Force Museum has NZ3801, which is already on display, and NZ3808 will remain at Ohakea. A partial airframe has been loaned to the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology as a training aid.

The Iroquois fleet was retired from service in June.
Commemoration

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain was commemorated around the country last month. Members of the NZDF gathered at the National War Memorial in Wellington for the national service.

The Battle of Britain was the first major military campaign to be fought entirely in the air. Fought between July and October 1940, the battle became one of the key turning points of the Second World War.

New Zealand’s most visible contribution was the 135 men who served in Fighter Command, the third largest national contingent after the Britons and the Poles. But many Kiwis also served in Bomber Command, including No. 75 (New Zealand) Sqn, which repeatedly attacked the German invasion barges and other craft gathering in French ports. Other New Zealanders flew supporting missions as part of the RAF Coastal Command or served in the ships and squadrons of the Royal Navy.

The most prominent New Zealander involved in the battle, however, was Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Rodney Park GCB, KBE, MC & Bar, DFC, the commander of Fighter Command’s crucial 11 Group, which covered London and southeast England. No other New Zealand-born military figure has had a greater impact on history than Park, for none have ever had such a significant role in determining the course of a major battle. Senior British Air Force commander Lord Arthur Tedder recognised this when he noted in 1947 that:

“If any one man won the Battle of Britain, he did. I do not believe it is realised how much that one man, with his leadership, his calm judgement and his skill, did to save, not only his country, but the world.”

Twenty New Zealanders serving in Fighter Command were killed in action or flying accidents during the battle.

REPRODUCTION OF BATTLE OF BRITAIN LACE PANEL

This panel was woven to commemorate the Battle of Britain and as a tribute to those who fought. Only 38 panels were woven and were presented to King George VI, Winston Churchill, various RAF units, airmen from the Commonwealth and several others. The design and weaving of the panels reputedly took over three years to complete and required 40,000 jacquard pattern cards, 975 bobbins and 41,830m of cotton for each panel.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force is recognised by the use of its insignia surrounded by silver ferns at the top left-hand side of the panel.

The image has since been reproduced at one-third of its original size.

Over the next few months, there will be two binding referenda on the future of the New Zealand flag. First, between November 20 and December 11, you’ll have the opportunity to vote in a referendum on the question ‘If the New Zealand flag changes, which flag would you prefer?’ Then, in March next year, there will be a second referendum to choose between the most preferred option from the first referendum and the current flag. The flag that receives the most votes in the second referendum will become the official flag of New Zealand. The referenda will take place by post.

This message is a reminder that to vote in the referenda you must be enrolled.

It is the individual’s responsibility to enrol and to keep personal details current.

To vote in the first referendum, you must be correctly enrolled before November 19. If you enrol after that date, you will be able to vote in the second referendum only. Your voting papers will be sent to you in the mail, so it is important to make sure that you enrol early, and that you update your postal address details if you will be away from home.

In accordance with the Electoral Act it is compulsory to be enrolled, but it is not compulsory to vote.

To enrol or check that your enrolment details are up-to-date visit www.elections.org.nz/enrol. Signed enrolment forms can be returned by post, or by uploading them at www.elections.org.nz/enrolme.

If you are on the unpublished roll you will need to call the Electoral Commission on 0800 36 56 76 to check or update your enrolment details.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information on how to enrol and vote in the referenda visit the Electoral Commission at www.elections.org.nz.

For information about the flag consideration process please visit the Flag Consideration Panel’s website www.flag.govt.nz.

As social media forums are increasingly becoming an important and convenient method to maintain connections with loved ones in the NZDF, it seems timely to remind users how to use the websites in a way that will keep themselves, their friends and family safe.

The Air Force, Army and Navy Facebook pages are popular amongst personnel and their loved ones who enjoy seeing their good work being undertaken around the world.

However, if personnel on sensitive operations are named, or tagged, in a posted photo, that action could put the named person in danger. Please ask family members and friends to refrain from identifying you.

Often the NZDF photographers capture magic images of personnel working here and around the world. If you feel uncomfortable being named in any image that could be posted online, please let the photographer know.

These simple rules should help in keeping NZDF personnel safe while they undertake their vital work.
In Focus

Building Better Mental Health

By Lieutenant Colonel Clare Bennett

Mental Health Awareness Week, which runs from October 5 – 11, is a great opportunity to think about our own wellbeing, and that of our friends, families and colleagues.

This year, the Mental Health Foundation is focusing on giving as one of the pathways to wellbeing. It feels good to give, the simplest act can have a really profound effect – both on the person you’re giving to, and on yourself. For Mental Health Awareness Week, we challenge you to give to those around you, and see what an impact it can have.

NZDF AND GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

We’ve been focusing a lot on mental health lately, and are making help and resources more available throughout the organisation. We’ve rolled out a resilience programme, and have established the After Hours NZDF Mental Health help Line for our military personnel (0800 189 910) while civilians can access Vitae (0508 664 981). We’re working on enhancing our intranet and internet resources to make information accessible to our entire defence community (including Reservists, veterans and families).

A good state of mental health is good for you and it’s good for how we perform as a team, and as an organisation. Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Tim Keating recently reinforced his commitment to maintaining the wellbeing of our people, and the families who support them.

Sometimes the nature of our role within the NZDF or what’s going on in our home life can place extra demands on us. Over time, and left unchecked, this can sometimes negatively impact our mental health. Experiences as diverse as a relationship breakdown, financial pressures, a training course, loss of a loved one or buddy, physical health problems, sustained high workload, a career change, being under disciplinary action or exposure to unpleasant events can all affect us. Even positive events like a promotion can sometimes be stressful and impact on things like our mood, sleeping patterns, confidence and interactions.

How we react will depend on the range of things going on in our lives, our prior experiences, resilience and coping skills, and levels of support. Often we don’t recognise the signs when we are in the thick of things. Make sure you access the help that’s available around you – talk to someone you trust, and get back on the road of good mental health.

We’ve developed a Mental Health Pocketbook, containing a range of useful information, including how to recognise the signs, taking action, useful contacts, free phone apps and website resources. Pick up a copy from one of our Health or Wellbeing support team, MTC or library or download from our Mental Health website.

If you have concerns about your own wellbeing or someone you know, have a chat to one of our Health or Wellbeing team, your boss, a mate, or family member. Keep an eye out for your mates and expect them to do the same for you (don’t be offended when someone asks if you are okay). Remember that sometimes we can’t go it alone and need extra help. Even if you don’t want to talk to someone at work, there are websites you can visit and numbers you can call to get the help you might need. You can find these on our mental health website.

NZDF Mental Health Help Line – After Hours
Monday – Friday 1630 to 0800  Weekends / Stat Holidays 24 hours
0800 189 910

By Lieutenant Colonel Clare Bennett

Courage
Being brave enough to ask for help
**EX RED FLAG ALASKA**

By Flight Lieutenant Timothy Leslie, No. 40 Sqn, Base Whenuapai

Exercise RED FLAG ALASKA 15-3 came to an end for No. 40 Sqn in late August after almost a year of planning, organisation, and two weeks of hard work whilst at JBER (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson) in Anchorage, Alaska.

This was the first time New Zealand had been invited to participate in Ex RED FLAG, and NZDF jumped at the chance to be involved. Other participating nations included Australia, Japan, Thailand, United Kingdom, and the United States. Nations provided a variety of air assets including airlift, AWACs, tankers, bombers and fighters.

The exercise operated out of two USAF bases, JBER and Eielson, with the fighters mainly at Eielson, and the remainder of the forces at JBER. Flying operations were conducted in a military training area 20 per cent bigger than the entire South Island. This allowed for dedicated military operations, without having to worry about civilian air traffic.

With over 70 aircraft operating in the same airspace, and with both blue (friendly) air and red (enemy) air having their own objectives, this still meant having detailed plans for each mission. Planning was a major focus of the exercise and took up a large portion of the time. The three Kiwi crews were broken up into a morning and evening flying shift, with the non-flying crew for the day dedicated to planning. The No. 40 Sqn C-130 was mainly involved in the blue air airlift flying, but occasionally got the chance to act as the enemy, and simulate a threat aircraft.

Missions involved varying threats, which were briefed to us in the planning stage by our dedicated intelligence team that deployed with us from Whenuapai.

Varying objectives were also required, and these included a mix of air drop, air land and para operations. Planning was led by a different nation each sortie, with No. 40 Sqn leading multiple sorties along the way. With a flight line of 12 C-130s alone, it made planning sometimes difficult, but successful missions were always celebrated.

Weekends were a welcome relief after multiple 4am starts and 1am finishes during the week. Alaska is a unique state and has...
incredible scenery and wildlife. Personnel took the opportunity to sample different activities including, day hikes, glacier cruises, gold panning, ice climbing, salmon fishing and even dog sledding.

This exercise provided No. 40 Sqn with invaluable experience training with other forces. Although the squadron operates an aircraft that has just celebrated her 50th birthday, maintenance flight worked extremely hard to ensure the aircraft remained serviceable. It was noted after the first week of flying that the Kiwis were the only nation who had not cancelled a sortie due to a maintenance issue. It was an extremely successful exercise and one that No. 40 Sqn hopes will become a regular occurrence on their busy calendar.
‘DEFENCE BLACKS’
NEW NAME FOR NZDF RUGBY TEAM

This month the New Zealand Defence Force’s rugby team, the Defence Blacks, will test its mettle in the International Defence Rugby Cup (IDRC), held in the United Kingdom. The Opening Ceremony is held on October 5 and the tournament finishes with the final match on October 29.

In the lead up to the tournament, the rugby team changed its name to the “Defence Blacks”. The new name came before the team’s commemorative tour in Europe.

It acknowledged the long-standing rugby tradition of the Defence Force, with the first recorded match involving New Zealand troops in December 1914, the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating said.

“After the end of the First World War, New Zealand soldiers won what is now recognised as one of the first international rugby tournaments, fielding 13 former or future All Blacks.

“It is fitting that the NZDF rugby team returns to Great Britain as part of the New Zealand Rugby family as the Defence Blacks.”

While in Europe the team will also take part in a number of services to acknowledge the sacrifice of 700 New Zealand soldiers who died in the 1917 Battle of Messines.

**INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE RUGBY CUP**

The first IDRC was played in 2011 with the intent of bringing together nations through the use of sport.

Twelve teams from 10 different countries will participate in this year’s IDRC with each of the services in the British Army, Navy and Air Force hosting a pool of 4 teams.

This year’s IDRC will be held concurrently with the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

The teams compete for the LTCDR Arthur Leyland Harrison VC Cup. LTCDR Harrison was the only England player to be awarded the VC.

The NZDF has sent a tour party of up to 30 players, and appropriate support staff to participate in the tournament. The team will be supported by team patron Wayne (Buck) Shelford and MFAT Post staff.

For game information and to find out how the Defence Blacks perform during the tournament, log on to the NZDF Rugby Defence Blacks’ Facebook page, or follow @DefenceBlacks on Twitter.
Leading Aircraftman Ben Wyness is match fit and ready for the biggest games of his rugby life.

The 23-year-old from Maintenance Support Squadron, Ohakea, is part of the NZDF IDRC team and he reckons he’s prepared for the challenge.

“I’ve never played against any of the teams, except for Australia, so it’s a bit of an unknown,” he said.

The first-five is expecting a grudge game from our Tasman neighbours after beating them in an Anzac match earlier this year.

But he said he was feeling psychologically prepared and match fit after a season playing with the Manawatu Development 15.

“It’s definitely a peak for me and for the whole team.”

Two others from the RNZAF will join LAC Wyness on the tour – CPL Danny Wanoa and AC Cole Waaka.

Aside from the glory gained at succeeding in the tournament, the team has a pretty good motivation for going far in the IDRC. If they reach the semi-finals, they will get to go to the World Cup Rugby final – if the All Blacks are playing.

“So that will be a highlight,” LAC Wyness said.

“I’ve definitely got a lot of jealous friends.”

LAC READY FOR IDRC CHALLENGE

LAC Ben Wyness

(left to right) CPL Danny Wanoa, SPR Angus White, CAPT Cameron Wright

SPR Frani Woodmass receiving the ball with SGT Jimmy Berghan (left) and ASA Hamish Pyne running behind

LMT (P) Karl Fury scoring a try, chased down by SGT Charlie Togia (left) and PTE Barney Te Kani (right)

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE RUGBY TEAM!

#GO DEFENCE BLACKS

Air Force News
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The New Zealand Army’s 2nd Engineer Regiment (2eR) is leading a multinational task group that is delivering humanitarian assistance to the Cook Islands as part of Exercise TROPIC TWILIGHT 2015.

Captain Andrew Blackburn, Senior National Officer for the New Zealand contingent, said about 30 engineers, carpenters, plumbers and electricians from 2eR were working alongside military personnel from China, the United Kingdom and the United States to upgrade a critical fuel depot and refurbish schools and clinics in the South Pacific nation. The FAPF (Forces armées en Polynésie française) are also supporting the humanitarian activity.

“Our task is to refurbish a number of public buildings including schools and clinics in the northern atolls of Penrhyn and Manihiki. The improvements we are making will address potential electrical hazards and ensure the buildings can better withstand the devastating cyclones that regularly rip through the Pacific islands,” CAPT Blackburn said.

Conducted from August 31 – October 12, TROPIC TWILIGHT is a recurring activity held to practice the NZDF’s capability to deploy alongside other militaries to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) in the Southwest Pacific.

This year’s activity is being conducted in the northern Cooks in partnership with the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Cook Islands’ Government. The New Zealand Aid Programme is funding the new fuel depot in Penrhyn and the other infrastructure improvements being delivered as part of the exercise.

“MFAT is supporting TROPIC TWILIGHT by funding the design, project management, purchase and transport of materials,” New Zealand’s High Commissioner to the Cook Islands Nick Hurley said.

The NZDF is providing skilled tradespeople and manpower to complete the light engineering tasks.

As part of the exercise, the multinational task group is upgrading the fuel depot, which is used to refuel the Australian-funded Cook Islands Pacific Patrol Boat Te Kukupa and is therefore a critical piece of infrastructure.

“Relocating and building a new depot will support Te Kukupa’s long-range maritime patrols in the northern atolls, where most illegal fishing occurs,” CAPT Blackburn said.

Mr Hurley said upgrading the fuel depot would enable the Cook Islands’ government to expand its fisheries surveillance in the northern Cooks, which was essential for the sustainable management of the resource and an increasing source of income for the Cook Islands.

Given its multinational nature, TROPIC TWILIGHT offered the NZDF the opportunity to practice its capability to conduct coalition planning and HADR operations with international partners.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Major General Tim Gall said one of the important things of working alongside other countries was not only to get to know each other better, but to understand how each country worked.

“As with dozens of other exercises that we take part in every year, TROPIC TWILIGHT is about working with our partners and building those relationships that will help us work better in the future. That is what we call interoperability.

“With the NZDF able to deploy offshore Joint Task Forces that comprise elements from the Navy, Army and Air Force, we should seize opportunities to practice our capability to deploy with other militaries and mount a combined response to disasters in the Southwest Pacific,” he added.

Personnel from China’s People’s Liberation Army
As the sole doctor for the 60-strong multinational humanitarian mission to the northern Cook Islands, Flight Lieutenant Alexandra Abelentseva, certainly has her hands full.

Up at 6am every day, she runs a ‘sick parade’ where soldiers come to see her for any medical issues and dressing changes before heading off to do another day’s work on the infrastructure projects being delivered under Exercise TROPIC TWILIGHT.

“This is the first time I’ve been in the South Pacific so it’s quite an experience working in a completely different environment,” FLTLT Abelentseva said.

“I have to watch out for new infections and creatures that may possibly be poisonous. Even simple things like putting on a plaster have become a big challenge as it does not stay on with humidity often approaching 80 per cent and temperatures in the high 30s,” she said.

At the field clinic in Penrhyn atoll that she and a team comprising a nurse and three medics run, FLTLT Abelentseva also helps out with water treatment, pest control and waste management.

“We are in a very isolated place, with the closest hospital four hours away by plane, so I have to keep a close eye on everyone and anticipate any medical problems. We see soldiers in our field clinic and provide medical cover on the construction sites. I have also been helping the local nurse, where required.”

FLTLT Abelentseva said TROPIC TWILIGHT had enabled her to gain more experience and confidence working in an isolated environment.

“As a medical team, we had to plan the equipment and medications we need to bring and draw up an evacuation plan. It was difficult to decide what to take given the limited space available but at the same time knowing that we will be working in a very isolated area,” she said.

“I’ve also enjoyed working with our Army and coalition partners.”

RNZAF DOCTOR JOINS HUMANITARIAN MISSION

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) are taking part in the exercise for the first time. So understandably, this year’s TROPIC TWILIGHT is big news in China, which had been playing an increasing role in providing humanitarian support around the world.

Major Sun Yang Yang from the PLA said as a member of the international team led by the NZDF, he would like to get their tasks perfectly done to help the locals.

“Furthermore, we want to show our friendly, enthusiastic and open attitude in the HADR operations as a responsible country in the Asia-Pacific region.”

Sergeant Alan Rothwell from the Corps of Royal Engineers agreed that TROPIC TWILIGHT offered “a great opportunity to work alongside different militaries such as the NZDF, US Army and the PLA”.

“It’s also great to travel to the other side of the world and see great places such as New Zealand and the Cook Islands. I hope future sappers can support these exercises and see these parts of the world that I have,” SGT Rothwell said.

Captain George Sablan from the US Army said it was a great opportunity that they appreciated to be a part of.

Holding this year’s activity in the Cook Islands had extra significance because it coincided with the 50th anniversary of the country’s self-governance in free association with New Zealand. The two countries have a close bilateral relationship founded on historical ties and unique constitutional arrangements.

“For the NZDF, TROPIC TWILIGHT is another way of showing New Zealand’s commitment to the region. We are a trusted and valued partner and a Force for New Zealand in the Pacific,” MAJGEN Gall said.

RNZAF Doctor Joins Humanitarian Mission
Chaplain Ants Hawes has been named the new NZDF Principal Chaplain, taking over from COL Lance Lukin in December. The 52-year-old tells Air Force News about the journey to his new role.

**Why did you join the Air Force?**

I guess, ultimately, it was a God thing – you know, a call of God to serve Him in the Air Force. The timing of the invitation to join was right and all the Air Force people I had ever met were friendly, genuine and interesting people. I have certainly never regretted signing up. In fact, most days I give thanks for the privilege of serving this great crew!

**Why did you train to be a Chaplain?**

Initially I trained to be a church minister. All NZDF chaplains have to start out gaining experience as an ordained minister. After 11 years and three churches as a minister, I became an RNZAF chaplain.

**How does the NZDF benefit from Chaplains being in the service?**

The service people know they have a friend who will hear them, keep their confidences and have a unique ability to assist them with any needs. Those needs may be relational advice, a referral to an external counsellor or working with command to sort any issues the service person may have. We are also skilled in helping during those exciting or difficult times (weddings, funerals etc) and are able to talk about things such as spiritual fitness (finding strength within, making meaning of life & resilience). We can be an experienced and calm voice when things get blurred or tough.

**When do you start your new role?**

I start as the Principal Defence Chaplain (PDC) on December 1. I am both excited and a bit overawed at the same time. But I have plenty of good advisors around me and the NZDF chaplains are a really supportive team.

**What are you looking forward to mostly in the new position?**

I think the ability to network, whether in Freyberg House in Wellington or on the Camps and Bases. I really enjoy meeting people and supporting their efforts. Chaplaincy can’t take itself for granted – we need to get out and show our faces and remind folk that we are here to help.

**What has been your career highlight to date?**

Only one? Wow. I really enjoyed the opportunity I got this year around conducting the opening of Pukeahu and the Anzac Day events in Wellington. I felt very privileged to be part of all of that. Maybe another was, I fortunate enough to attend the Advanced Staff Course last year at Trentham. A neat bunch of course mates and some awesome input. Really enjoyed it and the staff were great.

**What do you like to do in your down times?**

Catch my breath! I enjoy exercising, reading, fishing and working with my bees. We have just bought five acres out of Cambridge and we are slowly planting that up at the moment which is a real buzz.

**Is this the career you thought you would have when you were a little boy?**

Well not quite, but I did want to be in the military when I was a teenager and I have always believed in God and felt His love for people, so I guess it all makes sense eh?
Blistering heat, choking dust storms and torrential driving rain has forced the maintenance crew for the P-3K2 to be innovative while working on an operation in the Middle East. And they’ve been so successful, other countries are following their lead.

Squadron Leader Hilton Baker from No. 5 Sqn said the P-3K2 aircraft was on its first operational deployment, in conditions that were a far cry from New Zealand’s temperate climate.

“The maintenance team has to deal with conditions that are certainly challenging,” he said.

“There’s a high dust content in the air and sand gets ground into fine powder that gets into everything.”

The hottest time of the year in the Middle East was between July and September, when temperatures could reach over 50°C during the day and cool to 30°C overnight.

While the aircraft had been designed to cope with extreme heat and cold, its computer system was operating at the limit of its specified operating conditions while trying to survive such diverse temperatures, SQNLDR Baker said.

The challenge forced the maintenance team to think outside of the square to ensure the crew and equipment did not cook in the searing heat.

“We used a plug in aircraft air conditioning unit the size of a small bus,” he said.

They also invested in personnel cooling vests that were stored in freezers and worn to keep the maintenance crew’s body temperature down during the day.

Warrant Officer Russell Martin said the heat was the biggest issue, with the planes sometimes too hot to touch.

“It’s literally like working in an oven.”

But SQNLDR Baker said despite the challenges, the serviceability rate consistently reached the high 90 per cent mark.

Their maintenance success has caught the attention of international forces, with the NZDF setting the bar for other crews to meet, he said.

An Allied Defence Force, who had two maintainers in the region recently collapse from heat exhaustion, took advice on how our troops were able to cope, he said.

“So we’re not just looking after our guys, we’re also helping out the other guys from international forces too,” SQNLDR Baker said.
NH90 REACHES DEEPER MAINTENANCE MILESTONE

By Gary Dundass

A Deeper Maintenance (DM) team has been established by the Material Support Wing Ohakea to conduct large maintenance activities on the NH90 helicopter. Being a relatively new helicopter globally, these large maintenance activities are a significant challenge to bring together all the moving parts, to complete the servicing in an acceptable Time to Make Serviceable (TMS).

The team is working out of the No. 3 Sqn facilities, and has specifically configured a bay complete with necessary equipment, for the large and complex work. The first servicing was undertaken in May as the aircraft reached 600 Flying Hours, and had successfully flight tested serviceable in August.

During the DM transition period – of 12 months initially – six industry contractors from Brisbane’s Airbus Group Australia Pacific (AGAP) are working alongside seven RNZAF personnel in Manawatu. Whilst there is plenty of comment about the weather, they have assimilated into RNZAF and Manawatu life easily. They have been highly integrated into the RNZAF way of life, by being provided service numbers, work directly in DIXS, and posted to the DM Management team. This has proven highly successful and opens the door to exploring further blended workforce models.

The DM team enjoys strong stakeholder support under the Logistics Fleet Support Team construct. This sees Engineer and Supply personnel working to bring together the variety of complex moving parts of the NH90 support network. This construct extends to Maintenance Support Squadron (MSS) to ensure the benefits of excellent planning and execution of the DM performance are realised.

The DM management team recently held an event to mark the completion of the first 600 Flying Hours servicing conducted in New Zealand, under what is likely to be a unique construct globally. In attendance was AGAP representatives, as well as Base Commander Ohakea, Logistics Commander (Air) and Commander Joint Defence Services.
Celebrating 75 YEARS OF WOMEN SERVING IN THE RNZAF

Celebrating the past and embracing the opportunities of the future

REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST: RNZAFWOMEN75@nzdf.mil.nz

SAT 05 MAR – Activities on Base during the day and a chance to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Formal Dinner Function in the evening.

SUN 06 MAR – Commemorative Service

RNZAF BASE OHAKEA 5–6 MARCH 2016
Seasprite helicopters usually accustomed to operating from ships in surface warfare, or in search and rescue roles have flown out of their comfort zone and into the mountains for the annual Exercise BLUEBIRD.

By LT Sarah McWilliam, Observer, No. 6 Sqn
The mountain flying training and continuation exercise was held in the Marlborough region in late August.

It came at a time when Naval Helicopter Flight (NHF) personnel were split between No. 6 Sqn on the SH2G(NZ) helicopter and the Seasprite Transition Unit who were overseeing the introduction of the SH2G(I) helicopter into service.

Mountain flying helped to develop important skills for No. 6 Sqn aircrew and allowed them to adapt to the impact of low air pressure with altitude on aircraft performance, to easily recognise and react to the unique conditions of the alpine environment and to gain further experience landing on non-standard terrain. Such skills were then directly applicable to more challenging maritime situations such as those over high altitude atolls in the South Pacific where air pressure, humidity and differing weather systems affected aircraft performance.

With Seasprite 01 returning to Auckland briefly between major deployments on board HMNZS TE KAHA and Seasprite 02 having recently completed phase maintenance, three frames were available for the exercise. This allowed a formation flight to RNZAF Base Woodbourne that ensured the coastal towns en route were treated to some eye-catching formation flying.

Outputs also remained high during the week with the hard work of the No. 6 Sqn maintenance team ensuring all frames remained serviceable throughout the exercise. In all, the aircrew achieved multiple landings on the pinnacles, ridges and plateaus of the Inland Kaikoura Range at altitudes of up to 7500 feet and totalled more than 23 flying hours over 12 sorties, despite the standard inclement weather that this time of year brings.

Such success is due not just to the aircrew and maintainers but also the hard work and involvement of the many other trades that play a vital role, including the refuellers, both from RNZAF Bases Auckland and Ohakea, and those involved in the supply chain and administration - personnel that this time next year will be supporting No. 6 Sqn’s SH2G(I) Seasprite frames for Ex BLUEBIRD 2016.
Inter-agency Co-operation

RNZAF HELPS IN PAUA BUST

Ministry for Primary Industries’ Compliance Officers joined the RNZAF in an A109 LUH helicopter to patrol the Wellington coastline for black market fishing activity in August.

The mission was to conduct an overt patrol of the Wellington coastline to find and apprehend any poaching offenders, Wellington District MPI Compliance Officer Jamie Wilson said.

They were also on the lookout for any commercial fishing vessels to log their positions and activities.

The patrol was a useful tool to raise awareness of MPI presence and capabilities and to deter possible offending, as much of the regular patrolling is conducted in a less conspicuous nature, Mr Wilson said.

“The A109 LUH was found to be a very useful asset to cover a large area of coastline and provided instantaneous access to areas where access was otherwise difficult.

“Being a smaller aircraft it was able to land easily in rugged terrain.”

The patrol was successful with five landings and inspections on a total of 13 divers. Two of those would receive infringements for possession of excess paua.

Both of the discoveries were in areas that are difficult to patrol so are not able to be checked regularly, he said.

Three commercial fishing vessels were also found and their positions and activities were recorded.
NZDF SUPPORT ENHANCES POLICE OPERATIONS

By Luz Baguio, Public Affairs Manager – Joint Forces New Zealand

When New Zealand Police launched a massive manhunt across the central North Island earlier this year, one of the assets immediately put on standby was a Royal New Zealand Air Force NH90 helicopter. Although the operation concluded peacefully within 24 hours without having to deploy the NH90, the incident showed how the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) supported Police in resolving complex domestic policing incidents.

“The support available from the NZDF is important to our planning and operations and helps enable us to respond quickly to a range of situations,” said Inspector Geoff Jago, Commander Operations Support.

Early last month, the Police’s Special Tactics Group (STG) conducted an exercise in the Manawatu region, supported by a RNZAF NH90 helicopter, a C-130 airlift aircraft and logistics from RNZAF Base Ohakea. An A109 Light Utility Helicopter was used as heliborne fire support platform in the latter phase of the exercise. Two LAVS from Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles plus personnel from E Squadron (EOD) also supported the STG teams. In a separate exercise, E Squadron (EOD) completed a 12-day field exercise to test emergency responses to any chemical and biological attacks on civilians.

Special Operations Component Commander Colonel Rob Gillard said a range of realistic scenarios were played out in the Manawatu region and Wellington to test the preparedness of government agencies and emergency services for major contamination incidents arising from the use of chemical, biological, radiological and explosive weapons. Representatives from the Police, St John NZ, Wellington Free Ambulance and the New Zealand Fire Service also took part in the exercise.

“The purpose of training exercises such as the ones we conduct regularly with the Police is to test and improve interagency cooperation. This helps us become more effective and better coordinated to carry out our tasks in any real-world situation,” said Colonel Gillard.

Inspector Jago added that the NZDF assisted Police across a whole range of tasks – search and rescue, disaster management, security cordons and addressing complex domestic policing incidents such as armed responses.

Following the double fatal shooting at the Work and Income’s Ashburton office in September last year, RNZAF helicopters were called in to fly STG operators to Ashburton to help in the manhunt for the suspect. Before the Huey helicopters retired early this year, they were often deployed to support the Police’s cannabis recovery operations.

“The Police and the NZDF have a close working relationship owing to the fact that we often seek air, logistical and specialist support from them,” Inspector Jago said.

Under a longstanding Memorandum of Understanding, the NZDF commits to assist the Police. The NZDF’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron (E Squadron (EOD)), in particular, is often called to assist in dealing with explosive ordnance, including improvised explosives.

To enhance interagency collaboration, both organisations conduct several exercises jointly or with other agencies every year.
Our Heritage

IROQUOIS NZ3801’S FINAL JOURNEY

By Michelle Sim, RNZAF Museum Communications Officer

Another chapter of RNZAF history has been preserved at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand in Christchurch, as Iroquois NZ3801 has taken up its last posting, joining the other retired RNZAF aircraft on proud public display in the Museum’s Aircraft Hall.

The ‘01 embarked on its final journey to Wigram in late August, when it left Ohakea by road on the back of an Army low-loader from 10 Transport Company of Linton-based 2 Combat Service Support Battalion. After overnighting at Woodbourne, it arrived at the Museum the following afternoon and was reassembled onsite by a team from No. 3 Sqn. The reassembly was carried out in accordance with standard servicing procedures, as though the aircraft was being put back in the air, the only exception being certain components specified in the removal from service rules. The result is that the Museum has an airframe that is in excellent condition and as complete as it can possibly be.

To complete the transition from operational aircraft to museum artefact, ‘01 was given an all-over clean with a conservation-grade anti-static cleaning compound which inhibits dust accumulation, and the interior of the tail boom and vertical fin was sprayed with a corrosion preventative compound. Following this treatment by the Museum’s technical team, the aircraft was placed directly on display in its basic SAR configuration, becoming the first of the RNZAF’s retired Huey fleet to be available for public viewing. It has already received a considerable amount of interest, with related posts on the Museum’s Facebook page receiving over 30,000 views; a testament to the enduring popularity of this iconic helicopter.

The ‘01 was identified by the Air Force Museum for addition to its collection on account of its significant provenance – it was the first Iroquois to be received by the RNZAF, on 15 June 1966, and was also the first to fly in New Zealand, one week later. It has seen service in Fiji, Singapore, Antarctica and Timor-Leste and was based for a time at Wigram with the No. 3 Sqn Detachment, carrying out Army Support and Search and Rescue duties. It was also involved in many disaster relief operations, including the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010–2011.

The Iroquois reassembly crew at the completion of 01’s reassembly. From left: CPL Paul McCorkindale, CPL Steven Judd, LAC Tim DeRoo and SGT Cam Ayres.
No. 5 Sqn sent a P-3K2 Orion to Guam to participate in the Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise, GUAMEX, for two weeks earlier this year. It included aircraft from the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the United States Navy (USN).

We also received a little bit of help in the first couple of days from a USN Arleigh Burke class Destroyer. The ‘enemy’ was a USN Los Angeles class submarine.

The first couple of days were about exercise briefings, aircraft visits as well as a tour around a USN submarine.

Anderson Air Force Base was big – 15 minutes to taxi to our park spot past row upon row of aircraft you never see in New Zealand or any of our normal operating bases. Jets, bombers and runway as far as the eye could see - sitting in the van and watching a B52 take off was something I will never forget.

When the exercise sorties kicked off, we had some early starts and midnight wheels to the base which was not what I expected but it was certainly better than the sweaty pre-flights in 32C heat to come. Many of the crew got to experience new aspects of ASW and coordinated operations, while the new squadron members experienced seeing a real submarine for the first time.

There was something incredibly satisfying about finding the submarine yourself and getting the whole crew worked up as we relentlessly tracked it for hours and hours.

Unlike the submariners, we were able to retreat to the hotel after a hard morning of raining buoys, to experience the true beauty of Guam. We snorkelled on the local reefs and ate a vast variety of American food, but the crew was always eager to go “play” with the sub again.

Two typhoons – Goni and Atsani – passed near Guam during the exercise, forcing aircraft to leave or be battened down, windows and doors barricaded, and personnel confined to our hotel, but in the end it was only a bit of rain and some wind.

During the exercise we also had the opportunity to fly on the Japanese and USN aircraft during their sorties. Seeing other nations operate and the equipment they use in comparison was a lot to take in, especially after the submarine tour, I think I can speak for the entire crew by saying we were happy to go back to our hotel each night, with proper beds and space. In return we took Japanese and USN crews flying with us (and even some submariners!).

All in all, GUAMEX was a fantastic exercise with plenty of ASW time, inter-nation relations and consolidation on what we train for back at Whenuapai.
When a crack group of RNZAF maintainers took out the top award at an international aerospace competition earlier this year, the team was inspired to set up a similar competition in New Zealand.

The Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC), which took place in April in Miami, USA, was held over three days and comprised of 20 events ranging from Sealant application to Avionics fault finding.

The team thoroughly enjoyed their experience in the competition. Additionally, they gained an awareness of their abilities as maintainers on the world stage.

These abilities have come from their maintenance experience and training, which is world class. This, coupled with our maintenance culture within the RNZAF and the Kiwi ‘can do’ attitude, enabled the team to succeed in their first outing at the AMC.

On their return from the States, a proposition was put to senior commanders to see if holding a similar competition here was viable. The feedback was positive and talking with fellow maintainers around the ‘traps’, there was a positive, enthusiastic response to the idea.

**THE COMPETITION:**

- Will be called the ‘RNZAF Maintenance Skills Competition’ (MSC).
- Will be an inter-Squadron competition, run like the Sports inter-base.
- There will be eight teams total: Auckland – 40 SQN, 5 SQN, 6 SQN, MSS/AV SQN, and AMS; Ohakea – A109 Flight, NH90 Flight, and MMS/AV SQN.
- Each Squadron can enter a team of 5 maintainers comprising of Avionics and Aircraft trade.
- It will be comprised of 6–15 events that are no longer than 20 minutes in length. These events will be designed to either be completed by the whole team, pairs or individuals.
- It will be time based and penalties will be given for poor workmanship or for not following the correct practices and procedures.

There has always been inter-squadron rivalry: who works the hardest, which squadron has the best maintainers, which squadron is the best to work on, etc. This is your chance to prove if you have the best maintenance personnel on your squadron; to lay claim to: the best squadron (maintenance) in the RNZAF.

This competition is for us and will benefit us. Without the support of you (finger pointed at RNZAF maintainers) this competition will not get off the ground. Do you want to pit your skills against your peers to see who the best is? If the answer is “yes”, or a “maybe”, then bend the ear of your squadron W/O and let’s make this happen. $

Watch the NZ team in action changing a brake unit within 5 minutes at the AMC here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkuzuMswZql](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkuzuMswZql)

For further information on the RNZAF MSC you can contact OIC RNZAF MSC – FLTLT Josef Hargraves or F/S Brad Watson.

**DID YOU KNOW**

- The field of aircraft maintenance continues to grow every day.
- In 2010, there were nearly 50 million airplane departures; that’s a lot of planes that need to be maintained!
- It is estimated that this year the number of departures will be at 100 million
- Of the thousands of career choices, aircraft maintenance consistently places in the top 20 career lists by popular websites like MonsterJobs, Yahoo! Jobs, and Forbes.
- “I do not believe in luck. The best mascot is a good mechanic.” Record-setting aviator Amelia Earhart
- “While the Americans were one of the first to fly, it was the French that truly pioneered aviation, hence the terms for aviation components are French.”
- The average automobile engine packs about 100 horsepower.
- A racing car engine typically puts out 800 horsepower.
- A large jet engine, though, deals out at least 70,000 horsepower.
- That’s roughly 100 Lamborghinis!
For the fourth time a delegation from the New Zealand Defence Force comprising three Air Force personnel and one representative from Navy and Army, has participated in Exercise ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN in the Republic of Korea.

This is an annual Republic of Korea (ROK) Government/US Military simulation-driven Computer Assisted Exercise. The general scenario follows the defence of the Korean Peninsula and response to a North Korean offensive operation. It is the largest Command Post Exercise in existence and involves large scale mobilisation of 500,000+ ROK/US troops who are On Peninsula (ON PEN) together with an OFF PEN augmentation of a further 3000 US and UN personnel.

In order to gain a broad range of knowledge the NZDF contributed five personnel with a range of skills; a medical admin officer, two engineering officers, a logistics officer and an Army Lieutenant Colonel who was the Commander of the National Command Element in the Multi-national Command Centre in Seoul.

Flight Lieutenant Ash Foote traded in her office at Base Medical Flight in Whenuapai to join the medical planning team for the duration of the exercise. She said the experience was invaluable given the broad range of expertise at the table from the participating nations.

“Learning from other militaries is one of the best ways for us to improve how we do things back home. Most operations we undertake are done as part of a coalition so it is important we know how to work with other militaries and can adapt quickly to changing situations.”

Attending the exercise, and future exercises of this nature, are vital to continuing to build our interoperability capability in a deployed environment. Ex ULCHI is also a way for the NZDF to contribute to its UN obligations.

Seven United Nations states were involved this year – Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, New Zealand and the UK; as well as the USA which has a long standing involvement with the Republic of Korea following the US-ROK Mutual Defense Treaty formed in 1953.

Kate Lukins, a former DJ and studio engineer with NZME (Newstalk ZB, ZM/FM, Classic Hits, Coast FM etc) is once again producing the NZDF Christmas radio show for deployed forces.

She will be recording a two to three-hour programme complete with music requests and messages of support from families and friends.

Kiwi Forces Radio will be made available to our people in theatre, in time for Christmas. For people in New Zealand, it will also be available for download from the NZDF website. Download details will be advised in December.

To send a song request and record a message for your loved one, email: kate.lukins@nzdf.mil.nz with your name, phone number (cell phone is okay) and say what time during the 14 – 15 November is best for her to call you from the studio.

Final day to email your details through is Friday, 13 November. All calls will be made on Saturday (14 November) and Sunday (15 November).
While attending the commemorative service at Chunuk Bair recently, I remembered the men and women whose sacrifices projected the NZDF as a Force for New Zealand in the Great War and in subsequent conflicts overseas. At the heart of our successes are the values and standards of our individual environments – air, land and maritime – which provide the foundation upon which we serve.

Within Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFNZ), a relatively new body known as the Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (DJIATF) Headquarters has been established to project New Zealand’s operational command capability and to spearhead our response to regional and possibly global issues.

New Zealand’s increased stature on the world stage has given rise to the need for small and deployable command and control nodes to support our national, regional and wider international interests. The DJIATF staff can be deployed anywhere in the world as part of the Government’s response to any situation that requires a pan-governmental, New Zealand Inc approach. These responses need not always be purely military; they can involve providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The DJIATF HQ strives to strengthen working relationships with other government agencies so that when we deploy, we are able to work effectively together and advise our decision-makers on the severity of the situation and how we as a nation can react as a unified force for good. The DJIATF team also works with New Zealand diplomats in countries where they are deployed to help formulate our national response and to provide direct support to the host nation if required.

With Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO 15 (SK15) ramping up in a few weeks, the need to be future focussed at the Joint Task Force HQ (JTFHQ) level cannot be overemphasised. The DJIATF HQ staff will be at the core of the JTFHQ, planning, refining and executing SK15. Crucial to our success will be the augmentee staff from across the NZDF who will form part of the Joint Task Force. They will provide expertise across the different functional areas and ensure the JTF Commander has the ‘horsepower’ to win the fight.

This requires the best individuals within the NZDF to play a role within the DJIATF HQ or in HQ JFNZ. The joint environment requires leaders from various disciplines who can provide Subject Matter Expert advice but also have the ability to grasp and harness the diverse capabilities offered by all three environments and other government departments. They must also possess the strength of character to perform critical national duties, often in overseas locations that are far from centralised command and control, and be able to advise and support other government departments and non-governmental organisations in times of crisis. Most importantly, these “Joint Warriors” must possess a moral compass that they could rely on when faced with dilemmas and challenging situations.

These individuals will be our future joint force leaders and will help enhance the NZDF’s reputation on the world stage. I urge you to seize the opportunities that the wider NZDF joint environment has to offer, to further your career and personal development in addition to contributing to the strategic objectives of your respective environments. In 2020, we will be better together as one force – a Force for New Zealand.
**Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO**

Next month the Nelson-Tasman-West Coast area will play host to the NZDF’s biennial Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO.

Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO 15 (SK15), is the largest domestic exercise on the NZDF calendar, which will see all of the RNZAF’s Force Elements involved in one way shape or form working along side our Army and Navy Force Elements and a large array of international participants. SK15 will be a combined joint NZDF hosted Field Training Exercise (FTX) that will provide the NZDF with tailored activities focussed on developing, exercising and evaluating the its independent amphibious capabilities, while also providing an opportunity to evaluate the its ability to plan and execute combined, joint, inter-agency operations.

The exercise will involve forces from all three services of the NZDF as well as Australia, Canada, Forces Armees de la Nouvelle-Caledonie (FANC), United Kingdom, United States, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, as well as observers from Fiji, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Timor-Leste.

The exercise will evaluate the NZDF’s independent amphibious capabilities. It will also provide an opportunity for the NZDF to plan and execute a Combined Joint, Inter Agency and Multinational (JIM) field training exercise within the context of a South West Pacific operation - in this case based around the Nelson-Tasman-West Coast region of the South Island as part of a scenario based on a fictional country called ‘Becara.’ As part of the exercise the coalition will conduct Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), Stability and Support Operations (SASO) and Humanitarian Aid (HA) delivery to practice the types of support NZDF could be called upon to provide in an emergency situation in the South West Pacific.

Although the FTX will run from 27 October to 27 November, RNZAF personnel have been involved for some months now in the extensive planning involved in an activity of this scale and will start to see a ramp up of activities with the stand up of the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters at the start of October.

RNZAF participation will involve 2 x C-130s, B757, P-3K2, 3 x NH90, 2 x A109, multiple elements of No. 230 Sqn as well as the command and control elements at each base’s Tactical Operations Centre (TOC), the Combined Air Operation Centre (CAOC) and the Tactical Air Control Parties (TACP), which will move forward into the exercise area. In addition to troops and naval assets, international participants will bring a variety of aircraft to participate in the exercise, including C-17 and C-130 transport aircraft, rotary wing support and even some remotely piloted aircraft in a first for a New Zealand exercise.

As the Air Component Commander said in this month’s First Word, this will be where the RNZAF gets to show how we can operate in the Joint Environment and practice how we can be ‘Better Together’ as a Defence Force to deliver Enhanced Combat Capability as part of Chief of Defence Force’s 2020 Ready.
Sixty new Airmen and Airwomen have graduated from R2/15 Recruit Course. The 14-week course that started in May tested them both physically and mentally.

The challenge started on the day they first stepped onto Base Woodbourne and continued until Graduation Day.

Whether it was the gruelling PT lessons, looking out into the darkness from a sentry position in the dead of the night or simply cleaning the dust from their bed spaces, each member of the course has been out of their comfort zone and grown from it as they learned more about themselves and more about their teammates.

The graduates’ recruit course will be one of the highlights of their career, where they met friends that they will keep for a lifetime and had done things that their friends and family wouldn’t have had the chance to do.

Congratulations R2/15.

Trophies recipients for 15/02 Recruit Course are:

- Lawson Cup: AC Paul Price (1)
- Chris Black Memorial Trophy: AC Paul Price
- RI Simpson Trophy: Shared by: AC Ronald Benton (2) and AC Jesse Golding (3)
- Hawea Shield (Top male PT): AC Jonathan Fibbens (4)
- Pat Goddard Memorial Trophy (Top female PT): AC Nicki Fielding (5)

Three Royal New Zealand Air Force pilots and two helicopter crewmen graduated their Helicopter Basic Course after six months of challenging training at RNZAF Base Ohakea.

Squadron Leader Graham Burnnand, Training Section Commander for the A109 helicopter, said completing the Helicopter Basic Course was a significant milestone in the students’ Air Force career.

“The A109 is one of the most capable helicopter training platforms in New Zealand. It is a sophisticated aircraft and the students are fortunate to be able to train in such a modern and capable helicopter.

“Being able to use the simulator for the Instrument Flight Rules training is a big advantage as it means we can conduct training without being constrained by weather and create realistic emergency scenarios that would not be unachievable in the real aircraft.

“The students are trained in using night vision goggles, which is one element civilian flying trainees wouldn’t experience at this level. The training on the A109 puts the students in a great position to transition to the NH90 helicopter,” said SQNLDR Burnnand. The training was undertaken in the Air Force’s A109 helicopters and the A109 helicopter simulator. While most of the flying training occurred close to Base Ohakea, the students also operated in the Ruahine Ranges to gain competency in mountain flying. The Waiouru military training area was used for navigation and formation flying training.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW HELICOPTER CREW

Corporal Edward Garvey and Corporal Aeron Mellish – Graduating Helicopter Crewmen.

By A/CPL Cole Nordin
It has been more than 15 years since Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) set up their aviation campus within the bounds of RNZAF Base Woodbourne. The facility now has a steady state of 60 civilian students on campus at any one time, including a group from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

NMIT uses some of the spare capacity within the RNZAF’s aeronautical engineering training facilities to train civilian students to gain a Certificate in Aeronautical Maintenance Engineering (CAME) before they move into the civil aviation industry.

Base Woodbourne is hosting six students from the Air Wing of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force while they undertake training at NMIT. This is the most recent addition to NMIT’s achievements with an agreement to train up to 10 Papua New Guinea Defence Force personnel on the two-year CAME course.

Access to this training was made possible through the collaboration of NMIT and the NZDF, with NMIT providing the training for the students and RNZAF Base Woodbourne providing domestic support under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NZDF and the PNG DF.

The MOA facilitates accommodation and rationing on a cost recovery basis at Woodbourne with additional benefits being achieved through the PNG DF having their students embedded in a military environment for the duration of their training. Logistics Training Squadron manage the students (both NZ Army and PNG DF) ensuring they are integrated with the RNZAF personnel for PT, sport and parades.

The NZ Army are also taking advantage of NMIT’s training services. Last year six students were enrolled on a Basic Mechanical Engineering Training (BMET) course, which proved to be a success, and this year a further 22 students enrolled.

NMIT also provides general engineering industries with skilled personnel through a one year Certificate in Engineering course for up to 10 students a year.

The facility has also provided RNZAF technical trades with initial engineering skills training through the Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering Fundamentals course.

The RNZAF enrols up to 92 students spread over three courses a year. In addition NMIT is contracted to provide tuition in support of an eight month Ground Engineering Officers Training course, run each year for 12 RNZAF students.

The success of this NZDF/NMIT partnership sees benefits to government where two NZ government funded agencies are working together to make the best use of joint resources to benefit not only the NZDF, the Civil Aviation and Engineering Industry but also enhancing the NZDF’s and New Zealand’s’ reputation with international partners.

An NH90 played host to unusual passengers as a flock of flamingos headed to Bulls from Ohakea Air Base to help raise funds for the local kindergarten, which needs a new playground.

The colourful garden ornaments have since been turning up unexpectedly on properties in the area where “de-flockers” turn up to get rid of them – for a $25 fee which goes to the kindy.

“As Ohakea’s local kindy that base kids have attended for more than 45 years, it was great to be able to call on No. 3 Sqn’s specialist capabilities to bring in these loveable, but highly vexacious birds,” Bulls Kindergarten head teacher Kerri Osborne said.
Training

NZDF RELEASES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TRAINING

It has been three years in the making but this month will see the launch of an NZDF Environmental Awareness Course (D06003).

The aim of the course is to raise awareness of all NZDF personnel in relation to their environmental management responsibilities under the Resource Management Act, relevant NZDF policies and other relevant NZ legislation. The course will give NZDF personal a general awareness of their role in the management of any environmental effects that might arise from their everyday activities.

All NZDF personnel, both military and civilian are required to complete the course.

It is recommended that new recruits and new civilian staff complete the course as part of their NZDF induction. The course will be delivered online via the NZDF Learning Management System (LMS) and will be self-paced but should take on average 30–45 minutes to complete.

You will be happy to learn that there is no marked assessment in the course so it is impossible to fail. The purpose of the course is purely to raise the awareness of NZDF personal to our environmental management responsibilities.

If you would like to know more about the NZDF Environmental Awareness course or environmental management in general please do not hesitate to contact Kate Jack, Senior Environmental Officer, DPG Environmental Services on (06) 352 8578 or email: environment@nzdf.mil.nz

MANAGING AND GROWING TALENT

Growing Air Force personnel to their full potential will benefit both the individual and the organisation, says RNZAF Career Management Director Wing Commander Greg Burroughs.

This will be enabled by the new career management Performance and Development Report, he says.

“The report is... about identifying potential as well as an individual’s desired career path. It will allow us to close any performance or skill gaps to enable people to get where they want to be in a way that is mutually beneficial to them and the Air Force.”

The traditional annual performance appraisal was very much backward looking in that it reviewed what someone had or hadn’t achieved or done, he said. “It had very little about where that person would like to go in the future and how we could get them there. This new system addresses that. The individual can say where they hope their career will go—some may even want to be Chief of Defence Force eventually—and we can facilitate conversations with the person and command throughout the year, not just at reporting time.”

WGC DR Burroughs said the Performance and Development Report system would enable career managers to do some real and effective succession planning.

“We can now look ahead two or three rotations, or about nine years, to identify talent pools to fill key positions. We can identify potential candidates for key command roles, for example. We can look at our potential pool and come up with a number of career path options to properly prepare the candidates for the post. The system enables us to look at what that person needs in terms of experience and skills in order to fully prepare them for future roles.”
ACCharlotte Flanagan being presented the High Junior Tomkins Trophy

ACCOLADES FOR NZ AT
WORLD RIFLE CHAMPS
By AC Charlotte Flanagan and CPL Amy Hatcher

On the rifle range at Camp Perry, Ohio, USA as part of the New Zealand Rifle team AC Charlotte Flanagan and CPL Amy Hatcher competed in the American Long Range Championships, World Long Range Championships, Under 25 Team Match, and prestigious Palma Match. They did the RNZAF proud.

AC CHARLOTTE FLANAGAN

I represented New Zealand in two teams; the New Zealand Under 25 Team as wind coach (the NZ U25 team came 7th), and for the New Zealand Open Senior team where I was a selected shooter as well an assistant Master Wind Coach (the NZ team came 7th).

My highlight was winning the High Junior Tomkins Trophy Match at the American Long Range Championships. I beat a bunch of Army boys whose trade it is to shoot all day, every day.

The competition was held over four days with four 20 shot matches at 1000 yards followed by 15 shot matches at 800, 900 and 1000 yards. I scored 1236.40 points giving me first place in the High Junior competition, 4th place in Master class and 14th place overall out of 320 competitors. I also won the Canadian Cup Match and Mustin Trophy Match as High Junior.

I was ranked 172nd in the individual Long Range World Championships, 19th Woman and 17th Under 21.

I would like to thank the RNZAF, the Junior Ranks Bar & Ohakea Base Welfare for their support for my trip, it is greatly appreciated.

WELLINGTON AIR MOVEMENTS

CPL AMY HATCHER


New Zealand entered four teams in the High-Power Teams Match, each team consisting of four shooters and a wind coach. I was appointed Captain of New Zealand Alpha Squad. Our challenge was to shoot 15 shots at 800yds, 900yds and 1000yrs, against 63 other world-class teams. After a tough day and a very windy 1000yds, we surpassed our expectations by finishing amongst the top 10 countries in the world with a 7th placing! In the World Long Range Individual Shoot I placed 149th out of 402 shooters, and the 16th placed lady.

The ultimate ambition of each of our 26-member squad is to represent New Zealand in the prestigious World Long Range Teams Match, or “The Palma”. The Palma Match pits only the elite shooters from each respective country against each other in a battle for supremacy. For this match only 16 of our squad could be selected to shoot and I was proud to be selected as the Lead Shooter for Coach Anita Benbrook. Unfortunately it was not New Zealand’s day but did rank a creditable 5th in the match, with Great Britain winning and beating the world record by 70+ points. Hometown favourites U.S.A placed 2nd with South Africa and Australia finishing 3rd and 4th respectively.

I would like to thank the Wellington Base Welfare Fund, Wellington Junior Ranks Club, Wing Commander Bernadette Pothan, Sergeant Michelle Novak and all those individuals who supported me and our team. Without your assistance this would not have been possible.

Thanks also to the RNZAF who provide excellent support to Charlotte and myself in achieving the best we can for our chosen sport.
CrossFit is growing in popularity throughout the country and in particular amongst NZDF members. In recognition of the growing popularity of the sport amongst NZDF members, CrossFit Ohakea formed the Military Championships, with their first competition last year.

This year’s competition was attended by former and current NZDF employees, both uniformed and civilian who were also members of various CrossFit Affiliates from around New Zealand. The event attracted CrossFit athletes of all abilities, from those just starting in the sport to those who are regular regional competitors.

CrossFit Ohakea has been a registered CrossFit Affiliate since 2012 and is the only Military CrossFit affiliate in New Zealand. As such, any NZDF personnel outside of Ohakea tend to be members of civilian affiliates. The intent of our competitions is not only to show NZDF support to the sport, but also, provide that opportunity for NZDF personnel with CrossFit as the common denominator to assemble at a recognised Military affiliate and join in the camaraderie that events such as ours bring.

RESULTS FROM MILITARY CHAMPS 2015:

BEGINNER FEMALES
1st Kylie Warner (Unaffiliated) – ex Army
2nd Kathleen McCrory (CrossFit Hawkes Bay) – ex Army
3rd Andrea McNabb (CrossFit Ohakea) – Air Force

SCALE FEMALES
1st Alice Smith (CrossFit MANA) – Air Force
2nd Melanie Connell (Corpore Sano Crossfit) – Navy
3rd Rebecca Matthews (CrossFit Whanganui) – Civ

RX FEMALES
1st Darci Brostow (CrossFit Mana) – ex Army
2nd Katie Robertson (CrossFit Central Wellington) – Civ
3rd Jane Robertson (CrossFit Central Wellington) – Civ

BEGINNER MALES
1st Aidan Thomas (CrossFit Rolleston) – Army
2nd Zachary Thomas (CrossFit Auckland) – Air Force
3rd Murray Ehlers (CrossFit Whanganui) – Civ

SCALE MALES
1st Chris Treacher (CrossFit Hawkes Bay) – ex Navy
2nd Garry Jones (Crossfit Taumata) – ex Army
3rd James Goodall (Corpore Sano CrossFit) – Navy

RX MALES
1st Michael Gillum (CrossFit Taurus) – ex Army
2nd O’Shea Maihi (CrossFit Mana) – Army
3rd Syd Reweti (Upper Hutt CrossFit) – Army
RECORD TURNOUT FOR HALF MARATHON

By FTLT Nick Hills

More than 430 brave souls lined up in uncharacteristically atrocious weather to tackle the Woodbourne Half Marathon in mid August. It was a record turnout in the 33 years the race has been run which saw $2000 raised for the WB Adventure Sports Club.

SKY TOWER CHALLENGE BOOST FOR CANCER SUFFERERS

By CAPT Matt Cross RNZIR, Recruiting Officer, Defence Recruiting Organisation

An NZDF team raised more than $1500 when it participated in the Leukaemia and Blood Foundation Corporate Challenge. The challenge consisted of teams of five racing up the iconic Skytower’s 1104 steps to raise money to help Kiwis diagnosed with cancer. While that amount of steps is a fairly scary number, six Kiwis being diagnosed with a life changing illness everyday is an even scarier one.

The team goal was to be the fastest team up the tower, which we achieved in a total time of just over 40mins, beating the second placed team by almost 5mins. Also LAC Manson took 3rd in the individual men’s with a time of 6mins 46secs.

This was an awesome event to be a part of, and it would be great to see more teams from the NZDF participate next year and raise even more money to support this worthy cause. Thank you very much to all those from Defence Recruiting Organisation who sponsored us!

This year we also had the option for runners to donate their race entry fee to Honor Harquard, a special little girl who is battling CDKL5 – a rare genetic disorder linked to seizures and neuro-development impairment. The effort resulted in $500 raised towards the purchase of a wheelchair capable car.

The half marathon was hotly contested with Alan Bryson, Sergeant Hamish Hargest and Petty Officer Leroy De Beer neck and neck nearly the whole distance. It wasn’t until the last few hundred meters that Bryson, from Nelson, turned on the gas and finished in a time of 1:19:12 followed by SGT Hargest (1:19:23) and then PO De Beer (1:19:34). The top female finisher was Anna Archie (1:32:28) followed by Colette Read (1:33:31) and then Keren Edwards (1:34:02) in the wet and windy conditions.

It was a fantastic event with the hard work of Lindsay Norris and the Adventure Sports Club Committee paying off with many muddy grins and sore legs the order of the day.

(left to right) CAPT Matthew Cross, CPOPTI Shane Gillum, LAC Samuel Manson, POPTI Luke Woodroff, CAPT Poriwira Kahura

(left to right) SGT Hamish Hargest, PO Leroy De Beer, Alan Bryson

Men’s winner Alan Bryson

Women’s winner Anna Archie
**Notices**

**50th Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School**

The Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School marks its 50th Anniversary on January 7–22, 2016. It is an annual two-week flying school for Scouts and other young people at Matamata Airfield. This school has been supported and attended by many RNZAF personnel and has played an important role in New Zealand aviation. 

*The 50th Reunion Day will be held on January 16, 2016.*

For more information visit www.walsh50.co.nz or email walsh@scouts.org.nz

Application form, email: reserves@nzdf.mil.nz

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**1956 RNZAF Boy Entrants’ Reunion 2016**

**What:** 1956 RNZAF Boy Entrants’ 60-Year Reunion 2016

**When:** 19 – 21 January, 2016

**To register:** Contact the reunion secretary, Gray Adams.

**Contact:** F12/128 Cleghorn Street, Blenheim, 7201

03-578 5335 (phone)

graya@slingshot.co.nz

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**POSITION VACANT**

| Can you interact with people from all walks of society? | YES | NO |
| Could you assess a person’s suitability to enter into a sensitive information sharing relationship? | YES | NO |
| Could you shape these relationships to safeguard operations? | YES | NO |
| Can you work in small team under Operational conditions? | YES | NO |
| Can you identify risks and apply strategies to mitigate the risks? | YES | NO |
| Can you deal with a number of complex issues at any one time? | YES | NO |
| Do you understand the global security situation? | YES | NO |
| Are you an AC to F/S or PLTOFF to FLTLT? | YES | NO |
| Are you able to obtain a Top Secret security clearance? | YES | NO |

EMAIL: FH.Recruiting@nzdf.mil.nz

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NZDF photographer CPL Brad Hanson caught this magic moment between AC Simon Gadd and his girlfriend Sara Bloomfield, following his march out parade at Woodbourne Air Force Base.

Here’s what CPL Hanson had to say about the photo:

“Hey who’s kiddin’ who, graduation parades are rehearsed pieces of theatre. If you want something different for a photo as opposed to your classic postcard parade shot – it’s often worth waiting until the end when the actors go ‘improv’.”
Photograph of the Month

NZDF PHOTOGRAPHER
CPL BRAD HANSON
WE HELP
THOSE WHO NEED US

FORCE4NZ.MIL.NZ