EXERCISE SOUTHERN KATIPO 2015
2015 RNZAF HIGHLIGHTS
MIKE HEIKELL: HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARD WINNER
Our mission
To carry out military air operations to advance New Zealand’s security interests with professionalism, integrity and teamwork.

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

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Contributions need to include
• writer’s name, rank and unit
• photos provided separate from the text – at least 300dpi.

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Contents

08 SK15 personnel disembark a C-130 Hercules at Westport
09 First Word
10 News
12 In Focus
08 Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO
11 New NZDF Medical Facility
12 Profile: W/O Toni Tate
13 Dental Corps 100 Year Anniversary
14 Orion’s Mid East Operation
16 Helicopter Loadmasters
17 Graduates
18 RNZAF 2015 Highlights
22 The New Face of Recruiting
24 Health and Safety Awards
26 R4/95 Anniversary
28 Our Community
32 Sport
34 Notices
35 Photo of the Month

New Zealand Government
**First Word**

**FIRST WORD**

By Air Vice-Marshall (AVM) Mike Yardley, Chief of Air Force

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**Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO** was a fantastic way to round off the year. It was the culmination of a lot of hard work from all of our Air Force.

When I visited Westport I was extremely impressed with how seamless the operations were; from the Force Protection teams ensuring the camp security, the firefighters maintaining a ready response through to the medics keeping our people fit for duty. Everyone had a part to play and went out of their way to lend a hand when it was needed.

One example of commitment which is worthy of specific note relates to the team at Ohakea. A latent fault was identified with the Deployable Bulk Fuel Installation (DBFI) six days before it was due to deploy to SK15. The DBFI was a critical enabler for the Air Force to deliver air power in the form of rotary airlift. Sixty personnel from 14 different sections across the RNZAF were involved in resolving the issue. At very short notice the machinists from MSSOH set about manufacturing new hose couplings to make the DBFI mission-capable; this included working over Labour Weekend. About 1750 hours were dedicated to this task in 12 days including after hours and weekends. The effort from across the board was amazing, the product was fit-for-purpose and the military effect it created was priceless.

Air operations were critical to a variety of nationally important tasks throughout the year. Personnel are returning home from the Middle East after 17 months of persistent surveillance missions. The P-3K2 proved itself as a force multiplier for our coalition partners; however, it was the round-the-clock teamwork from our mission support specialists and maintenance personnel who ensured the aircraft was serviceable and that the information we gathered was analysed and delivered around the globe within hours of landing. Similarly, No. 40 Sqn pulled out all the stops to ensure the safety of the Prime Minister when he visited our land force in Taji. The C-130 night-vision goggle capability was rapidly introduced into service with the support of our systems evaluation and airworthiness teams.

Our NH90s conducted their first overseas exercise in Australia. Not only was this a great opportunity for No. 3 Sqn to enhance their battlefield competency but it allowed us to prove our ability to deploy the rotary force on HMNZS Canterbury. Whilst ship-borne aviation is not new—No. 6 Sqn were pivotal in providing timely disaster relief support in the wake of Cyclone Pam—this capability provides us another means to project and sustain our forces in the region.

Notwithstanding, frontline effects like these aren’t possible without the dedicated efforts of the ‘blue’ support team. Critical to delivering air outputs is the generation of flying hours. AMS completed 16 phase servicing this year across our Auckland-based fleets. These coordinated supply and engineering activities ensure we have mission-ready airframes when we need them. We also conducted the first NH90 deep level servicing which generated a great deal of international attention as we set the standard for this new work stream.

But it wasn’t all about operations. We bid farewell to an old friend as we retired the iconic Huey; we celebrated the 50th birthday of the mighty Hercules; we polished up the B757 for two Royal tours; and we introduced the T-6C Texan II into service ready for a new cadre of pilot trainees in the New Year. In addition to these new officers, we graduated over 120 new airmen and airwomen who are excited about their new careers with us. The instructional team in Woodbourne have primed them with our values and will shape them to be able to provide the adaptable and professional workforce we are renowned for.

This is why we are here and these are great examples of how well we do it. None of this would be possible without the commitment and professionalism from all of you. I am constantly impressed with the levels of dedication and innovation I see happening on our bases. We have managed the consistent tempo of operations throughout the year and we now have a chance to take time out with family and friends as we refresh for what will be another exciting year in 2016.

Be safe over the break and thank you for being a part of New Zealand’s Air Force.
The Manawatu skies will stage one of the biggest air shows in the country on 24-26 February 2017 at Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Base Ohakea. The show will mark 80 years of service to New Zealand by the RNZAF as an independent armed service.

The three days will be jam-packed with displays from the RNZAF fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter fleets, the newly named formation team the Black Falcons, and the Parachute Training Squadron. Joining the RNZAF are several aircraft from our international Air Force partners in what will be a top-quality event.

Chief of Air Force Air Vice-Marshal (AVM) Mike Yardley is looking forward to hosting the event, which will have something for everyone.

“Our formation aerobatic team will fly using the new T-6C Texan II aircraft and our large Boeing 757, P-3K2 Orion, and C-130 Hercules aircraft are always popular. We’re pleased to be able to host our international Air Force counterparts and we know they will bring a wow factor,” he said.

Joining the aircraft display will be a variety of ground exhibitions so people can get up close and personal with their Air Force.

“Holding an air show gives us the opportunity to showcase our skills and our people,” AVM Yardley said.

Meanwhile, the Black Falcons, will perform for the first time in the Texan aircraft at the Wings over Wairarapa Air Show 17-19 February 2017.

The person of the year was announced by Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating this month. This year the accolade went to Lieutenant Commander Janette Kingham, RNZN, of the Recruit Training Squadron.

Two new awards were presented at the event, which was held on the HMNZS Canterbury in Wellington: Innovation of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. The Innovation award went to Sergeant Aaron Wood who developed sequencing software for the maintenance of the NH90 Helicopter fleet. The Volunteer award went to Richard Hitchcock for more than three decades of volunteering with St John.
NZDF Kicks Off 50th Year of Air Cargo Missions to Antarctica

A C-130 aircraft marked the 50th year of New Zealand’s airlift support flights to Antarctica by delivering over 7000 lbs of freight to the icy continent recently.

The air cargo mission was the first of eight airlift support flights utilising a C-130 Hercules aircraft that is planned for the summer season.

“Operation ANTARCTICA is one of our major missions. The first RNZAF air cargo mission to Antarctica was in 1965 and 50 years on, we continue to support Antarctica New Zealand and the US Antarctic programmes through the Joint Logistics Pool,” Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Major General (MAJGEN) Tim Gall said.

“Our support recognises the importance of the scientific research being conducted in Antarctica.

“On a practical level, the airlift support flights are crucial because they ensure that science and operational personnel working on the continent have the necessary supplies to get through the season,” MAJGEN Gall said.

NZDF provides search and rescue support, air transport, terminal operations at Harewood Terminal in Christchurch and McMurdo Base, and support for the unloading of the annual container ship. Up to 220 NZDF personnel including engineers, heavy plant operators, cargo handlers and communications specialists are deployed during the summer season to support the team at Scott Base.

Antarctica New Zealand manages Scott Base and supports scientific research in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, particularly the Ross Sea region.
Milestone Direct has been appointed as the official provider of financial advice to NZDF members and the wider defence community.

All current and former NZDF members as well as their extended families, have access to free or discounted financial advice relating to all aspects of their finances by calling 0508 MILESTONE (645 378) or emailing info@milestonedirect.co.nz.

Three new or enhanced NZDF savings schemes - an improved DFSS, a NZDF KiwiSaver Scheme and a NZDF FlexiSaver Scheme—(refer to the Nov 15 issue of Air Force News), were introduced recently. You can find out more information on the new NZDF Force Financial Hub at www.nzdf.mil.nz/financial-hub.

Milestone Direct can provide advice on all NZDF savings schemes plus any KiwiSaver or other investment product. They can also explain why it is advantageous for most NZDF members to transfer to the new NZDF scheme, and can shop around for clients to get a better deal on their mortgage. “We can generally help NZDF members and their families put in place plans and solutions to secure a better financial future for them and their family,” says Milestone Direct chief executive Brian Cowley.

In an effort to build the financial wellbeing of NZDF members and their families, Milestone Direct will be holding financial awareness sessions and webinars throughout 2016, and producing electronic newsletters, special financial briefings and fact sheets for all NZDF camps and bases.

“We want to give NZDF members and their families the opportunity to access the skills and resources we have to identify their financial goals, or if they already know what their goals are, give them clear directions on how to achieve them,” said Mr Cowley. Milestone Direct’s ‘Smart Planning financial checklist’ and other financial information can be downloaded on www.nzdf.mil.nz/financial-hub. “The Smart Financial Planning Checklist is a great way to ensure your finances are fit for purpose. The checklist will help you identify what might have changed since you put in place those financial products and determine what might be your next course of action, which could be to contact Milestone Direct to get some expert advice.” says Mr Cowley

A Disclosure Statement relating to a financial adviser at Milestone Direct is available on request and free of charge.

Christmas can be the most stressful part of the year for some people.

It brings an expectation of gifts, holidays and feasting all of which costs money and stretches budgets. There is an expectation sometimes that friends and family will be there to offer support, but this is often not the case.

Many Air Force personnel are being posted to another part of the country and need to relocate families and property. Some have recently returned from operations, others from long exercises or courses. It has been a high-tempo year for much of the NZDF, and people are tired.

In recognition of the stresses NZDF personnel can face, the Chief of Defence Force has announced the introduction of a new 0800 helpline for members of the NZDF and their families. The confidential service 0800 NZDF 4 U (0800 693 348) is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year for a range of issues including depression, anger, anxiety, and family violence.

0800 NZDF 4 U
(0800 693 348)
is available 24 hours a day
A recent survey asking our people about their experience with the Human Resource Service Centre has revealed a result to be proud of.

The survey showed that 85 per cent of New Zealand Defence Force personnel are satisfied with the services the centre provides.

The HR Service Centre provides administration and pay support to military and civilian personnel. While there is a lot of valuable information available through the HR toolkit on the intranet, staff are also there to answer queries about an individual’s circumstances.

The centre carried out the Voice of the Customer survey to gain insights into what is working well, and also gain valuable feedback on ways to improve the level of service provided.

HR Service Centre Director Squadron Leader Marie Peters says the response rate was excellent, with 60 per cent of the 920 personnel surveyed providing answers.

``Thanks must go to all of those who responded to our survey. Their feedback is hugely important as we look to continually drive improvements in our service."

SQNLDR Peters says work is already underway to make gains in all the areas identified, however, HRSC is limited by the current technology platform. The Contact Centre Technology Project sponsored by Chief, Joint Defence Services will provide the ultimate solution.

``We’re thrilled that 85 per cent of personnel are satisfied with the service we provide, and we’re looking to do more to improve what we do to help all our personnel,’’ she says.

The survey’s key findings are

- **Effective and intuitive search engine**
  The HR Toolkit is regarded as valuable but many would like to see a more effective and intuitive search engine so they can quickly find the information they need;

- **Greater clarity**
  There needs to be greater clarity between the services provided by the HRSC and other NZDF agencies, particularly DSS;

- **Receive responses or updates by text or mobile phones**
  While most people use email to contact the HRSC, they want to receive responses or updates to their queries by text or be called on their mobile phones;

- **Receive responses or updates by text or mobile phones**
  Respondents suggested more regular communications and information distributed to the NZDF about the centre’s work; and

- **More regular updates**
  They asked for more regular updates on the status of their enquiries.

``My interactions with HRSC have always been highly professional at all levels and this is a reflection on the HRSC team aiming to deliver an outstanding service to their customers.``
For four weeks over October and November, normally sleepy South Island towns became host to military base camps, armed soldiers, militia groups, international Armed Forces’ aircraft and amphibious landings for Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO 2015 (SK15).
The towns of Westport, Murchison, Havelock, and the remote Titirangi and Okiwi Bays in the Marlborough Sounds hosted about 2500 NZDF and international military personnel. Locals were treated to dramatic air displays from giants of the air such as the USAF’s C-17 and the NZDF’s C-130 Hercules aircraft. The sound of NH90 helicopters could be heard echoing around the surrounding mountains and HMNZS CANTERBURY cast a vast shadow over the peaceful waters of the Sounds.

Southern Katipo is the NZDF’s major military exercise and occurs every two years. Personnel from New Zealand and eight other countries - Australia, Canada, Fiji, France, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated.

The exercise aimed to test and evaluate the NZDF’s ability to plan and conduct joint operations involving a range of naval, land and air assets from various nations.

“Unlike previous iterations of this exercise, we treated SK15 as one of several operations that we managed and supervised,” said Major General (MAJGEN) Tim Gall, Commander Joint Forces New Zealand. “This approach was more realistic because if an emergency arose in the South West Pacific now, that is exactly how things would play out.”
The exercise involved a scenario that required the NZDF to deploy a military contingent to lead a multinational Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) that helped restore law and order in a fictional South West Pacific country called Becara. The multinational task force conducted stability, support and humanitarian operations, including the evacuation of internally displaced people during the exercise.

“In SK15, we dealt with challenges that commanders would have to grapple with in real-world operations such as exercising command and control over units that are operating in remote areas,” said MAJGEN Gall.

During the exercise Captain Steffan Wuts was in charge of monitoring the operations, from his base in Westport, as they developed over the period – from the troops arriving, to battles against rogue highland militia, to the eventual stability of the nation and handover to the Becaran police.

He described it as a success and the missions that were tasked were completed.

They included patrols and security with the Becaran police on land and in patrol vessels, maritime liaison with HMNZS CANTERBURY and with the amphibious taskforce, as well as interaction between the military, civilians and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

“Cohesion developed between the different services - whether they were Air Force, Army or Navy and their foreign counterparts working at HQ CJTF level,” CAPT Wuts said.

“The exercise wasn’t without some small hiccups but everyone worked towards achieving mission success with the end state being able to hand over the responsibility of security to the BPF (Becaran Police Force).”

The national and international partners were open to learning from each other’s experience, he said.
A young New Zealand soldier arrives in an ambulance and enters the Red Cross tent crying out in agony after suffering serious leg injuries and minor burns from an exploding Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He needs x-rays, surgery and immediate pain relief.

That was the scenario medics participating in exercise Southern Katipo were faced with during a practice run in a new New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Deployable Surgical Hospital.

The custom-made tent structure was introduced into service in July and undertook its first tests during Southern Katipo.

“It’s like a next generation MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) unit,” Captain Matthew Savage said.

The tent can be set up virtually anywhere and help with medical emergencies in situations such as combat zones and areas devastated by natural disaster.

“It probably couldn’t cope with Antarctica – that’s too cold – but anywhere else such as our primary area in the South Pacific,” CAPT Savage said.

It’s kitted out with ‘state of the art’ equipment including x-ray machines, a fully functioning laboratory, steriliser and all the operating equipment a surgeon would need.

The facility has an emergency, or resuscitation, department, operating theatre, intensive care unit and recovery room. Everything is designed to fold up and fit into boxes for transportation – even the floor, which concertinas up to pack away, CAPT Savage said.

“It is designed to cope with traumatic combat injuries. Our aim for most of the time is wherever possible to meet civilian standards. So for example the air quality that we have in the operating theatre is compliant with the air quality standards for a civilian operating theatre in New Zealand.”

The designers ensured that the air could be filtered to catch any dust or contaminants that could be in the outside atmosphere. “It’s quite an excellent facility in that way,” he said.

Meanwhile, the injured soldier is being seen by a doctor, anaesthetist, medics and nurses. They assess his condition, administer pain relief, x-ray his injuries and hook up saline and blood transfer bags, before he is rolled into surgery.

Captain Katie Smith, who runs the Emergency Room said the aim was to get patients seen to and moved on within 30 minutes.

“This is literally a down and dirty, stop the bleeding and get them into theatre or intensive care room.”

Over the course of Ex Southern Katipo the medical staff treated “patients” with a range of issues resulting from injuries from combat, vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, as well as a near drowning and appendicitis, “just to mix it up”, CAPT Savage said.
Profile

Warrant Officer Toni Tate hoped she would get the job as Warrant Officer of Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFNZ), but it still came as a surprise when Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Major General Tim Gall rang her with the good news.

"Receiving the phone call was surreal. Afterwards, I may have had a couple of leaps of joy and excitedly told my Commander," she said.

"The reaction from my family and friends has been overwhelming and humbling. My two sons are very proud and supportive of their mum," she added.

W/O Tate, who is currently the Command Warrant Officer to the Base Commander of Base Ohakea, will take up her appointment on December 11 and will succeed WO1 Chris Wilson.

MAJGEN Gall said W/O Tate’s appointment was "a significant milestone as the first female member of the NZDF to achieve this level of Warrant Officer".

"W/O Tate is a proven leader and an outstanding role model, and I am confident that she will do a great job," he said.

WO1 Wilson said his successor was "exceptionally well-qualified for the role".

"She is held in high regard by colleagues. She is a keen listener and she knows how to bring people together around a common goal, qualities that will stand her in good stead as WO JFNZ," he said.

As the new WO JFNZ, the alumna of Rotorua’s Western Heights High School said she will build on the good work of her predecessor by driving people-focused initiatives.

"I think it is an awesome opportunity to be able to add value in the Joint environment and have a direct impact in supporting our deployed troops," W/O Tate said.

“One of the areas I want to focus on is the NZDF’s support to deployed personnel and their families. I also consider it to be my role to check in on the pulse of HQ JFNZ and overseas missions on behalf of the Commander,” she said.

W/O Tate has served in various roles and deployed overseas on both operational and non-operational missions. A posting to Nowra, Australia with the RNZAF Skyhawk detachment was a career highlight. Her deployment to Timor-Leste following the massive unrest in that Southeast Asian country in 2006 left an indelible impression on her.

"Interacting with the local population and understanding what they had to face, particularly being displaced from their homes due to political unrest, was an eye-opening experience. It made me appreciate being a New Zealander so much more," W/O Tate said.

W/O Tate has been awarded the New Zealand Meritorious Service Medal for services and leadership during organisational change. She has a diploma in Frontline Management and a New Zealand Diploma in Business. She has completed the Singapore Warrant Officer Joint Advanced Leadership Programme and the Joint Warrant Officer Advanced Course.
100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND DENTAL CORPS

New Zealand was one of the first countries in the then British Empire (second to Canada) to recognise the value of a military dental service.

New Zealand’s Royal New Zealand Dental Corps has celebrated 100 years since the first dentists put on a uniform and deployed on the troop ships as part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force sent to fight for Britain in WWI.

New Zealand Defence Force Chief Dental Officer Lieutenant Colonel Trish Leabourne said the New Zealand dentists at the time saw the value in making sure the teeth of military personnel were in good shape.

“They were turning people away from joining up because they had bad teeth. Dentists started to treat soldiers here in New Zealand, and were then deployed as part of the Expeditionary Force that went via Egypt and on to Gallipoli, and that’s how the Corps began,” LTCOL Leabourne explained.

The New Zealanders opened the first dental hospital in British military history above the beach at Cape Helles, Gallipoli and later had the idea for a mobile hospital to treat front line troops.

Those early days were described in an article written in 1918 by Capt Malcolm Ross, the official correspondent with the NZ Expeditionary Force. While he was in northern France, he wrote about how a Dental Hospital was “established in a couple of dug-outs within easy rifle range of the enemy trenches”.

“Before this time the NZ dentists had already done a good deal of work under fire. Two of their number had landed with the force in April, having with them only their forceps.”

Later, more up to date appliances were procured and the scope of work extended, he wrote. Material for the first surgery was “begged, borrowed or stolen and three Turkish prisoners helped to build it”. He reported that the surgery was quite close to Turkish lines. The day it opened, there were 40 patients.

A display of Dental Corps operations was set up at Trentham Army Camp as part of the Corps’ 100-year commemorations. The display was in a hangar, next door to a brand new, purpose-built dental facility that features state-of-the-art equipment. Ducking under nets to see the display, past and present Corps members were treated to an exhibition that showed field operations throughout the ages.

During commemorations, Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae recalled the service provided to the British military during WWII, that internees and prisoners of war were treated during WWII, and spoke about how New Zealand dentists supported local populations in theatres of operations such as in Bamiyan, Afghanistan. As well as providing services to NZDF personnel, the Royal NZ Dental Corps is active in humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and civic aid including forensic dental identification.

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Orion Completes 17-Month Middle East Operation

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

A P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft returned home in early December from a 16-month operation in the Middle East, where it formed part of an international partnership against piracy and the trafficking of people and drugs.
The deployment of the Orion and a supporting 53-personnel detachment, was one of the most significant missions undertaken by the NZDF in the Middle East region.

“The operation helped protect a vital route for global commerce and represented New Zealand’s contribution to enhance maritime security in the Middle East,” said Major General (MAJGEN) Tim Gall, the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand.

“It also affirmed New Zealand’s ongoing international commitment to global security.”

The RNZAF rotated the Orion five times since the mission began on August 1, last year. A total of 174 maritime surveillance flights, involving about 1400 flying hours, were conducted in support of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The 30-nation naval partnership promotes maritime security and seeks to defeat terrorism, and prevent piracy and the illegal trafficking of people and drugs.

A total of 306 personnel were deployed in four rotations throughout the 17-month mission. Although the majority of the operation’s detachment members were from the RNZAF, Royal New Zealand Navy and New Zealand Army personnel were also deployed as part of the mission.

The mission helped the CMF carry out multi-million-dollar drug busts, said Wing Commander (WGCDR) Brian Ruiterman, the mission’s Senior National Officer.

“Based upon feedback from the CMF, we set the benchmark for performance. We successfully operated a long way from home for a long period of time and at a high operational tempo,” he added.

“The information provided by our aircraft and intelligence personnel has helped locate and intercept vessels involved in illegal activities including piracy and drug smuggling,” Air Component Commander Air Commodore Kevin McEvoy said.

In October last year, the RNZAF Orion guided the Australian frigate HMAS TOOWOOMBA to a ship smuggling almost 6000 kgs of hashish with an estimated street value of NZ$360 million. The Orion and TOOWOOMBA were working with the CMF and had trailed a dhow from the Arabian Sea to the Horn of Africa.

WGCDR Ruiterman said that in June, surveillance work conducted by the detachment helped the Royal New Zealand Navy frigate HMNZS TE KAHA to seize 118kgs of heroin worth an estimated NZ$108 million.

The environmental conditions, particularly the extreme heat and frequent dust storms, posed the biggest challenge for the detachment. To mitigate the impact of these challenges, the detachment operated from the early hours of the morning and wore ice vests during the day.

“Being entrusted to command a contingent of personnel, including detachments from Nos 5 and 230 Sqs, has been a privilege. It has been very rewarding being able to work with incredibly talented people, to share the camaraderie and to be part of such a great team.” WGCDR Ruiterman said.
What’s in a name for helicopter crew?

By SQNLDR Paul Smillie

My mother always said to me ‘I don’t mind what you call me, as long as it’s not late for dinner’. In the next year the Helicopter Crewman trade is under going its biggest change since it was established in the late 1960s. Two key things are changing but the job itself remains dynamic and exciting. Changes are: a new trade name to Helicopter Loadmaster and the opportunity for Direct Entry recruitment.

For the past 40 years the men and women of the trade have been known as Helicopter Crewmen. In an effort to recognise the gender diversity within the trade Deputy Chief of Air Force Air Commodore Andrew Clark asked that the Helicopter Crewmen Trade Sponsor consult trade members to determine the name that better reflected our diversity. The process took two months with everyone having an opinion, resulting in 22 alternative names being suggested that followed the guidance of being gender neutral, specific to the job, and internationally recognisable covering both the Air and Naval trades. Some of the more adventurous suggestions being: Helionauts and Helicopter Utility Specialists but as few members were looking forward to being called HUSy’s, the name that polled best and subsequently chosen was, Helicopter Loadmaster. This name has been used by a number of military’s around the world; including the RAF and ADF. As a name it focuses on the role of cabin management and mastery of the effect that the aircraft is delivering.

Traditionally, the Helicopter Crewman trade has sought its trainees from within the three services. This was to ensure that when in a sole charge position, junior crewmen had the maturity and service experience to carry out the role. With the closing of Huey flight and the move to the NH90, trainees can now be directly supervised by a senior operator within the helicopter which raises the potential for us to look outside the services to the civil sector and recruit through a targeted recruitment campaign; in this respect, our Defence psychologists have been instrumental in honing our selection criteria.

What hasn’t changed is the nature of the job. The NH90 provides a larger cabin space, can carry a wider range of cargo and deliver increased operational effects. In my very biased opinion, it remains one of the service’s most exciting jobs and is a great way to earn your dinner, which you will hopefully not be late for.
The Wings course is split into two components, Airtrainer Basic Course (ABC) and Advanced Wings Course (AWC). ABC teaches the fundamentals of flying: general aircraft handling and visual navigation. It also includes formation flying and culminates in the mission phase, designed to integrate all of the skills and techniques you have developed. For the final mission flight you are presented with a scenario and certain objectives to achieve. You are given two hours to plan the flight before taking off and executing your mission as the lead aircraft. It is the most exhilarating and rewarding part of Wings course, albeit the most challenging!

Once through ABC we moved on to AWC, flying the Kingair. It is a completely different machine with its own challenges. We swapped the parachute, helmet and cramped cockpit of the Airtrainer for the air-conditioning, modern instruments and sheepskin seat covers of the Kingair. AWC was about applying everything we had already learnt to a new aircraft, while introducing instrument flying, high altitude flight and advanced navigation systems.

It was these differences which split our course on the career path we would each ultimately like to take. For three of us, we chose the A109 and NH90 helicopters of 3 Squadron. The four others elected to remain flying fixed wing aircraft, with a view to converting on to the P-3K2 Orion, C-130 Hercules or Boeing 757.

Of course, the most meaningful part of Wings course is graduation! For the past two years our sole life focus has been on our Wings brevet; we have eaten, slept and breathed flying. To finally realise this is the most amazing feeling, made particularly special by graduating as part of such a tight knit group. We will definitely be taking time to celebrate our achievement, but know that this is just the start of an exciting and fulfilling career!

Seven newly qualified Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) pilots have celebrated a milestone in their careers with the presentation of their ‘Wings’ or brevets by the Chief of Defence Force at a graduation parade at Air Force Base Ohakea. New graduate Flying Officer Christopher Fon-Lowe tells Air Force News about the achievement.
It’s been a busy year for the RNZAF and as Christmas looms let’s have a look back at some of the highlights...

**KEY RNZAF MOMENTS DURING 2015**

**JANUARY**
Key helicopter roles
NH90 takes over key helicopter roles for RNZAF.

**JUNE**
Asian elephant Anjalee
A C-130 Hercules brings 8-year-old Asian elephant Anjalee to her new home at Auckland Zoo from Niue, where she had spent three months in quarantine.

**JULY**
Anti-piracy maritime surveillance
RNZAF chalks up one year conducting anti-piracy maritime surveillance in the Middle East.

From the Museum Collections:
2015/239 - Nurse's Hussif

By Michelle Sim, RNZAF Museum Communications Officer
MARCH
Aid supplies to Vanuatu
The RNZAF’s first with aid supplies to Vanuatu following the devastating Cyclone Pam.

JUNE
10-hour Orion search and rescue mission
A successful result following a 10-hour Orion search and rescue mission by No. 5 Sqn to find a father and his 6-year-old son who had been lost in the Pacific Ocean for 24 hours.

OCTOBER
Outrace a thunderstorm
No. 40 Sqn successfully uses a six-minute gap at midnight to outrace a thunderstorm and get the Prime Minister out of Iraq’s Taji Military Camp.

NOVEMBER
Illegally poaching paua
A patrol by an A109 helicopter along 300km of Hawke’s Bay coastline is involved in helping to catch six groups allegedly involved in illegally poaching paua.

A ‘hussif’ was a small sewing kit traditionally issued to military personnel to mend their uniforms and sew on badges. It comes from the term ‘housewife’, which originated in the 18th century to describe the pocket sewing kits commonly used in English households.

This hussif belonged to a member of the British Women’s Auxiliary Air Force Bernadine ‘Bernie’ Bluett (nee Hammond), who used it while nursing in England during WWII.

Bernie’s surname and service number, “HAMMOND 2127532”, is handwritten inside. She met her husband, RNZAF pilot Roy Bluett, while she cared for him as a military nurse. The couple moved to New Zealand at the end of the war.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

FIND OUT AND THEN TEACH OTHERS

Resistance training is an unusual and interesting form of instruction that provides defence personnel with effective strategies for dealing with various capture scenarios.

The School of Military Intelligence and Security (SMIS) is responsible for the conduct of resistance training for NZDF. The Conduct After Capture Instructors (CACI) course is open to tri-service personnel of any trade above the rank of LCpl (equivalent).

The CAC course is mentally challenging and will teach you valuable survival skills.

As a qualified resistance instructor you will be able to teach all theoretical and practical aspects of Conduct After Capture. To maintain currency as an Instructor you will be required to attend live training events and continuation training.

You must be available OTP 23-26 Feb 16 for a suitability assessment. The course will be held in Canada in 2016. You must have no outstanding discipline problems and be able to cope with unsociable hours and conditions.

Interested personnel should contact the CAC Senior Instructor
Via Email: CAC.RECRUITING@nzdf.mil.nz

Nominations are open now...
Women in Defence Experience 2015

By Sergeant Suzanne Landers, NZAPTC, Recruiting NCO, Hamilton

Over the past two years, the Defence Recruiting Organisation has hosted school students as part of a week long Defence Careers Experience, to experience first hand what the Defence Force is all about. This is a chance of a lifetime, and for most, is the decider as to whether they choose the Defence Force as a career once they leave school. This year 120 schoolgirls flooded RNZNs Tamaki Leadership Centre over six days to participate in a Women in Defence Experience (WDE).

An area that Defence Recruiting has focused on recently, is maximising our talent pool and increasing capability. The NZDF is committed to more women within our ranks; thus allowing a more flexible workforce in its output and operational duties.

Throughout the week, it became evident that these girls had many different opinions, perceptions, myths and understanding of what we as a Defence Force were about. Some of these perceptions could potentially stop candidates, from wanting to join. It was our job to clarify, inform and provide an experience that set realistic expectations of what the three services were about (as well as how the Defence Force comes together as one).

The girls were given uniforms, expected to keep their kit and living area in a respectable order, ate their meals in the mess environment, learnt basic drill, and participated in leadership and team work activities.

Each day the students visited a separate service and learnt about the different trades available to them. What enhanced this experience was the support that each service gave to showcase their different trades and opportunities. The service personnel who assisted were all very engaging with the students to make their experience more enjoyable.

Included in the course was a visit to Whenuapai Air Force Base where the students interacted with the Parachute Training Support Unit, Ground Support Equipment Maintenance Flight, Safety and Surface Flight, Aeronautical Engineering Support Flight and Communication Information Systems.

The Women in Defence Experience was a long but rewarding experience for everyone involved. All of the students walked away more knowledgeable about the Defence Force and trades that we offer.

Tia Rickards – Year 13
Te Kuiti High School

The Women in Defence Course was an amazing experience. The application to apply for the course was sent to me by my careers advisor. I knew it was a once in a life time opportunity and had to take it. The Women in Defence Course gives you the full Defence experience; early mornings, three minute showers, visiting the bases, team bonding and pushing yourself to your limits. My favourite part of the three days was bonding with my syndicate members. In a short amount of time, everyone became very close as every activity depended on all nine members of the team. Overall I would advise all female students to take the opportunity. It is the only way to figure out if the Forces are really for you.
Recruiters
the first inspiration

Students are taken on a tour around Air Force units at RNZAF Base Auckland as part of a Defence career experience.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Air Force Air Warfare Specialist CPL Jared Atkinson and high school students watch an aerial surveillance video of a maritime rescue, as captured from an Air Force P-3K2 Orion aircraft during a Resilience in Women event at the ASB Showgrounds in Auckland.
All NZDF personnel remember their Recruiter. How could they not? That first contact sparks the inspiration to start a life changing journey – whether it’s in the Air Force, Navy or Army. But what happens to our candidates once they leave the trusty hands of the Regional Recruiters? Defence Recruiting Organisation (DRO) consists of a large team of dedicated people working to support the recruiting process. One of these crucial roles is that of a Candidate Coordinator (CC). CC Team Leader for Air Force Peter Quinn tells Air Force News more about the role...

A CC is the main point of contact for our candidates as they progress through the stages of application. “Providing a great experience for candidates and a high level of customer service is critical,” Mr Quinn said. “At the same time, enabling as much exposure to life in the NZDF as possible to get them excited is what it’s all about and is something I take very seriously.”

The NZDF carefully selects the best applicants for the roles available – and the number and types of positions available does fluctuate. Mr Quinn’s advice is for applicants to be prepared and to put their “best foot forward” through every stage of their application and a CC will be with them every step of the way. The vast majority of applicants are school leavers or recent graduates who come from all walks of life. Mr Quinn would normally encounter two different types of applicants – those whose lifelong dream is to be part of the armed forces and are itching to join, and those who are unsure about what they are getting into and have lots of unanswered questions that may be holding them back from committing to the NZDF.

DRO are soon to launch an initiative that aims to connect our candidates up with NZDF personnel to answer these questions and help them understand more about what to expect from their role and life in the NZDF. Keep an eye out on how you can become an ambassador for recruiting early in the New Year. 🌟
Air Force Warrant Officer Takes Top Health and Safety Award

By Kayt Robinson, Writer / Communications, Directorate of Safety

Warrant Officer Mike Heikell was awarded the NZDF Safety Person of the Year by Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating, at the second NZDF Safety Awards held at HQ NZDF in late October.

The awards celebrate individuals who show innovation and an ongoing commitment to safety in their workplaces, and acknowledge the contribution people make to ensure our Defence Force puts its people and their safety first.

“This is in no way a foreign concept for the NZDF. Our very will to fight - to knowingly venture into harm’s way - is based on a reassurance and understanding that we train to survive and that we manage risks in whatever activity we do,” LTGEN Keating told those in attendance.

“Safety is part of our core business and underpins our professionalism and core values. In these Awards we focus on the initiatives that are making a difference – initiatives by service personnel, civilians and contractors who enhance safety in the NZDF – and the people making a difference.”

W/O Heikell is not only the Squadron Warrant Officer at the Maintenance Support Squadron, RNZAF Base Ohakea, but also performs the duties of Squadron Safety and Compliance Manager – no mean feat, considering the role encompasses typical workplace safety as well as aeronautical regulatory compliance, a critical element of ‘NZDF flight safety’.

“The depth and breadth of his understanding around health and safety management far exceeds that expected of someone in his position,” Commanding Officer Maintenance Wing, Wing Commander Greg Rawson said.

And then there is the size of the squadron and type of work undertaken.

The squadron, in support of RNZAF Force Elements, employs 120 regular force and six NZDF civilian personnel working across seven specialist technical trade groups, with its infrastructure spanning four locations covering 14,000 square metres. The processes and procedures conducted by the squadron routinely involve significant workplace hazards, including operating complex machinery, working at height, radiation and explosive handling.

WGCDR Rawson believes W/O Heikell exemplifies a health and safety champion through all he does. “He has been the driving force behind the continuous improvement of all aspects of health and safety across the Maintenance Support Squadron,” says WGCDR Rawson, “successfully inspiring a cultural change towards health and safety throughout the unit that is now well entrenched”.

Having contributed over 700 hours of his own time to his role, W/O Heikell’s consistent proactive management style supports, what has been described by external auditors, as the forefront of RNZAF Safety and Compliance Programmes.

“He has been outstanding at translating the theory into practice within the workplace, creating practical and sustainable initiatives that have significantly improved overall safety to all personnel while meeting or exceeding any legislative requirements,” says WGCDR Rawson.

W/O Heikell was joined by three other Air Force personnel who were finalists in their nominated category – all of whom were commended for their effort to make working at heights, an inherently high-risk hazard for those in aviation, a safer activity.

Flight Sergeant Aaron Jeffries, No. 6 Sqn and Sergeant Trent Wyatt, No. 5 Sqn were both nominated in the Best Initiative to Address a Safety Hazards category, while Corporal Gill Lindsay, No. 5 Sqn was nominated for the NZDF Safety Person of the Year.

F/S Jeffries trialled various working at heights control, before determining that, due to the shape and maintenance characteristics of the aircraft, helmets would be the best option to prevent injury should a fall occur.

He then researched available helmets, taking into account compatibility with other personal protective equipment including hearing protection. During trials to gain feedback, personnel unanimously preferred a helmet that did not meet requirements for hearing protection. F/S Jeffries didn’t let this deter him, working with the helmet supplier to find a way of integrating effective hearing protection.
While more expensive than other options, F/S Jeffries was able to show that the helmet was the best option available, and funding for the helmet was approved.

For SGT Wyatt the recent consultation of proposed NZDF-wide working at heights guidance meant a revisit of the safety procedures for squadron aircrew while working on the wings of aircraft when deployed. Personnel are often placed in dangerous situations, including working at night and in all weather conditions, so effective and efficient policies and procedures are critical.

SGT Wyatt has ensured that legislation, the proposed guidance and NZAP 201 are incorporated into squadron procedures, keeping personnel as safe as they can be and ensuring compliance, while at the same time ensuring any policy allows enough flexibility for the squadron to continue to operate effectively.

Meanwhile at No. 5 Sqn Maintenance, CPL Lindsay has a long record of improving workplace safety, influencing the safety culture through bright ideas and reminding fellow Air Force men and women of correct safety procedures. In the working at heights space, CPL Lindsay highlighted potential issues, including wind and slips, with new stand designs, suggesting a number of modifications to address such issues – this information will be used to develop squadron SOPs and potentially modify the stands.

Her proactive attitude sees her explain to junior tradespeople exactly why personal protective equipment is required rather than simply telling them what to wear; an approach that has seen tradespeople readily accept the need to wear the required apparatus.

Congratulations to all our winners, finalists and nominees, helping to bring a healthy safety culture to life in every part of our organisation.

Remember, we manage the risk, we don’t let the risk manage us!

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Other 2015 Safety Award winners

Peter Parker, Army General Staff

*Best Significant Safety Initiative*

Loud noise is one of the NZDF’s most common hazards, especially for our service personnel, and noise induced hearing loss is a recognised risk. Peter introduced the Dangerous Decibels hearing conservation programme to NZ Army, which through practical demonstrations shows the effect of loud noise to the human ears. Since the programme’s introduction, 1,500 recruits and officer cadets have been trained.

Oliver Smith, Directorate of Land Engineering

*Best Initiative to Address a Safety Hazard*

As part of the 2014 purchase of MHOV vehicles, Oliver Smith assessed the new seating pods for the HX60 and HX58 MAN FOV, discovering concerns with the long-term safety of clamps used, despite their use by UK MoD. After testing validated his concerns, Ollie designed a new clamp then built a proto-type and arranged its evaluation, before implementing the safer design. The first 10 clamps were delivered in time for EX SK15.

Ivor Smith, Lockheed Martin

*Best Initiative by a Contractor*

To reduce the likelihood of inattention and ‘briefing fatigue’, Lockheed Martin introduced an initiative that has shortened the safety briefing process, engaging contractors and saving time.

Working with the Principle Facilities Management Contractor, Ivor simplified the induction process while maintaining its quality, and ensuring their safety briefings didn’t duplicate information and focused on specific Lockheed Martin hazard and safety information.
September 26, 1995 was a date etched into the minds of 54 young men and women, as we embarked on the first step of a service career with R4/95. We probably didn’t really have a great idea of what we would be getting into and how the recruit course and our service time would pan out. Now only seven of those 54 remain in uniform - we’ve all had our fair share of challenges and highs and lows in the last 20 years and grown beyond what we would have thought possible.

Here are some reflective thoughts from the handful of us that remain.
FLTLT Anthony “Cleggy” Clegg

Twenty years ago was a very exciting time, with lots of short term goals and adventures ahead. My first eight years flew by with a lot of training, socialising, exercises and deployments. The highlights were definitely OP Kiwi Kosaid ’99, OP Antarctica, and then within 18 months OP Troy, both very contrasting extremes in temperature. In the second half of my career to date, I had more corporate related travel and experiences, along with getting heavily involved with RNZAF Football. I have become a husband and father, furthered myself academically, gained a commission and now work in Wellington.

F/S Nathan ‘Haggis’ Harkess

I joined the RNZAF with no idea what to expect. My first memory of Recruit Course was making the tragic mistake of standing on the grass and having multiple recruit instructors vocally correct this behaviour simultaneously. Once I fully started to understand the environment and fully embraced the ethos, I was amazed by what I was able to accomplish. Since then I have focused my career on the Air Movements specialisation and this has allowed me opportunities to serve operationally in Antarctica, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan. The highlight of my career was a four-month tour to Kabul in Afghanistan with the RAF; this was a hazardous but extremely rewarding experience. Joining the RNZAF was a life defining decision, I have spent the last 20 years of my life being constantly challenged and I have achieved far more than I could have ever imagined.

F/SGT Jeremy “Jed” Lloyd

I realised pretty early on that I had joined an organisation that had similar values to my own. Early in my career I was fortunate enough to get to work on the jets before they were retired, including taking part in the final deployments for both the Aermacchi and the Skyhawk. Once the jets were retired I started working on rotary wing aircraft (UH-1H Iroquois) and got to travel extensively within New Zealand and overseas. My overseas operational deployments were to Suieti in East Timor and to Honiara in the Solomon Islands. My time on No. 6 Sqn allowed me to work with the Navy and travel extensively including but not limited to Australia, Vietnam, India, Greece and being part of the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day by sailing past Anzac cove.

F/S Simon “Marsh” Marshall

In late September 1995, I was the first off the C-130 where I was greeted by a stern looking gentleman who asked ‘Are you part of the Recruit Course?’ When I replied that I was, he then proceeded to scream at us to ‘Form up!’ we then ‘marched’ through to what would be our home for the next three months. Within two years of joining I found myself part of an RNZAF Rugby League tour of the UK and France - I have also been a coach, trainer and Club Captain. One of the highlights of my career was my first deployment to Afghanistan, where the team I was part of was the first to operate out of a US base in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I have been lucky enough to travel around the world, as far south as Antarctica, as far north as Scotland, and almost everywhere in between.

SQNLDR Russell ‘Russ’ Simons

First impression of recruit course was the ride down in the Hercules. I hadn’t even seen a Hercules before, so I hoped this wasn’t a taste of what’s to come as an AEOP. I had a great bunch of guys on my AEOP course from R4/95, which made my time on No. 5 Sqn as an AEOP and AEO so much fun. I re-mustered to Pilot in 2005 and have enjoyed every moment of it since. I am currently a QFI on 5 Squadron, which is one of the busiest, but most rewarding jobs. My highlight from a pure flying perspective would have to be taking part in the 2013 Air Safari. Meeting a lot of real friendly people in the aviation industry and getting to fly around the entire North Island.

Twenty years on, while some of us don’t see each other for many years, when we do perhaps we still look on each other once again as those twenty-ish kids. We came from all corners of New Zealand and collectively we have achieved and contributed so much which has led to the success of the NZDF in the last twenty years. Thanks to all those instructors over the years that trained us, and moulded us into the success stories we are today.

Yours,

Our Community

Base Woodbourne Connection to Community Award

By SGT Leo Wiapo

At the 2015 Marlborough Community Awards the Picton CACTUS Programme received runner up in the Education & Child/Youth Development Division recognising the positive impact the programme has on the youth in the Picton area.

What many people don’t know is that Base Woodbourne has had strong links to this programme since 2007.

At the end of 2006 the Picton police and members of the community formed a trust with the aim of addressing youth crime in their area. They wanted a programme based around military discipline and fitness that would cater for ages 13-17 year olds. The trust wanted the programme run by instructors who had experience in this type of environment so approached Base Woodbourne asking about their Physical Training Instructors (PTIs). This was the beginning of a long relationship between Woodbourne and the Picton community.

Base Woodbourne command allows the flexibility for PTIs to be involved and also supports the programme with equipment and resources for activities.

As a CACTUS instructor it is great to see the recognition for the programme in award form. However, it was obvious that this course has been doing good things for its community since 2007. The reduction in youth crime numbers in the Picton area was dramatic and the feedback from parents and community members has always been positive. Since the Picton programme started many others started up in the Marlborough region in areas such as Blenheim, Seddon and Havelock. Nelson has started to run programmes as well. I’d like to acknowledge all of the instructors from Base Woodbourne that have helped out with not only the Picton programme but the others as well.

WRSA NEEDS YOU

Fresh blood is needed for the Wellington Returned and Services Association’s (RSA) Executive Committee to ensure it can continue to provide support to service personnel, its president says.

The Wellington RSA was established 100 years ago and since then it had served the Wellington regions returned and service people and their families, President Ron Turner said.

“The WRSA is financially very stable and currently served by a lot of dedicated ex-service and associated people.

“To ensure it continues to provide both social and other support to all service people and their families, new people are needed on the Executive Committee,” Mr Turner said.

“If you are interested in continuing the traditions of the Services and RSAs, that is support to all service people and their families, why don’t you join?”

For more information call 0274 478138 or 04 3851191 or email rjturner@clear.net.nz
A new High Rate Satellite Terminal that will increase data throughput and reduce costs has been introduced into service. This is a deployable terminal, which through a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Department of Defence (US DoD), provides the NZDF with access to the Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) satellite constellation. The terminal provides strategic global network reach-back to our deployed units within New Zealand and around the world and connects back to our network via an anchor station at Ohakea.

During the project roll out the terminal has progressed to become the strategic bearer of choice on a number of exercises and operations and is used by both 1(NZ) Sig Regt and No. 230 Sqn, providing NZDF with its highest ever throughput for information exchange to our deployed Forces.

Capability Branch, through the Ministry of Defence, has acquired five of the WGS terminals to be managed as a pooled resource and allocated to Units by Joint Forces.

Behind the scenes much work has been done to develop the training, operational maintenance and sparing processes, as well as the codification and inventory control systems for the terminal and its spare components.

Directorate Logistic Equipment Management (DLEM) has worked with Capability Branch to develop new maintenance processes and for the management and movement of spare parts to and from the vendor’s storage location in Petone. By storing the NZDF owned spare parts with the vendor they can be serviced and made ready for dispatch at immediate notice and in good working order.

As well as the process for corrective maintenance, DLEM has developed a process for a full system preventative maintenance overhaul. This is a full breakdown, test and reassembly of the terminal, enabling it to be returned to the Unit in an ‘almost new’ working order every two years or following an extended deployment.

Former Logistic Command Rotables Manager, Squadron Leader Tim Scott, said the cost of the equipment had been considered particularly in the service introduction phase.

“It appears to represent good value when compared to its predecessor and the support initiatives established under the ILS phase. This capability provides versatility and sustainability for the NZDF in the operational context.”

Operating over the US DoD WGS constellation provides the advantage of guaranteed levels of throughput with greater flexibility than commercial leased alternatives.

The SBNP team is now working on the introduction into service of a smaller terminal which will also operate over the WGS network. This will use the same supporting processes and systems as developed for the existing terminal.

The project has been achieved with significant input from DLEM, Defence Logistics Command, CIS Branch, 1(NZ) Sig Regt, No. 230 Sqn, School of Signals, NZ Defence College and Defence Commercial Services to provide management and support of the FA-240 HRST throughout its complete life cycle.

Further information on WGS can be found on the SATCOM website: http://orgs/imx/cis-sus/LP/WGS.aspx
Our Community

CENSUS 15: Building on our Strengths

By Jolene Wightman Organisational Development Manager, Defence Human Resources

The NZDF ran an organisation-wide engagement survey, Census 15, for the first time this year. The results are now out. This survey asked NZDF Service people and civilians about how well we’re doing in various key areas including communication and cooperation, wellbeing, leadership, learning and development, performance and feedback, and rewards and recognition. For Air Force it’s been a great opportunity to hear from you about what you are thinking so we can begin to understand what needs to change to make the RNZAF and the NZDF a better place to work.

Around two thirds of the RNZAF responded to the engagement survey, giving us a good picture of what you are all thinking. Our top results suggest that our people are generally positive about the people they work with and their immediate work environments. Over 85 percent of you believe that the people you work with cooperate to get the job done and that the person you report to treats people with respect. A similar number understand how the work that you do on a daily basis contributes to the success of your unit and our Service.

These are encouraging and positive findings and ones that we want to make a real effort to continue to protect and develop in all our work areas.

We also have areas that require our attention and focus to improve on. Our lower scoring areas tell us that only around a third of you believe that poor performance in the NZDF is dealt with effectively, that communication in the NZDF is open and honest, or that the NZDF is making the changes it needs to be successful in the future. This suggests we’ve got some work to do in communicating the vision, purpose and priorities from the top in a way that speaks to you all at all levels. In Air Force our leadership team is committed to taking action on this and the other key focus area, improving our two way communication.

You can expect to hear from your leaders about action planning in response to the survey. Our results suggested that many people do not feel their ideas and opinions are valued and turned into action, and our challenge is to change this for the better. Leaders across the Air Force will talk with you about the results, what they might mean, and how we can take action in all areas to make improvements that are meaningful for you. We would like to see this happen at the top level as well as at a local level, involving all our people. So please again take the opportunity presented to have your say and take action to make the RNZAF a better place to work.

Scholarship generates new tablet-based app for safer skies

By lan Picken, Project Manager, Capability Branch

Funding from an aviation safety scholarship was vital to the development of a new app that’s currently being trialled in the South Island to help improve safety in New Zealand’s airspace.

Created to reduce controllers’ workload at peak times, the tablet-based app is the brainchild of Hadley Cave, Airways New Zealand’s Chief Controller at Dunedin Tower, and the recipient of the 2015 Jilly Murphy Memorial Aviation Safety Scholarship.

The 2016 scholarship is now open for applications from people, like Hadley, who are passionate about making a difference to aviation safety.

The $5000 scholarship is offered to support a project or person who contributes to improved aviation safety in New Zealand, particularly in Canterbury. It is offered jointly by Christchurch Airport and Airways New Zealand, in memory of Jilly Murphy, a member of the Airways Christchurch Tower team who died in central Christchurch during the February 22 2011 earthquake.

Hadley Cave said the scholarship was vital to the development of the app, and it offered others like him a unique opportunity to contribute to aviation safety.

“The app we’re trialling in Dunedin replaces looking through three bulky folders containing over 70 charts, with just a few taps on the tablet,” says Hadley. “It greatly reduces the possibility of misinterpreting a chart and minimises any distraction by having to find the correct folder, when the controller should have their eyes out the window.”

Applications close on 22 December 2015, and can be made via an application form on the Airways and Christchurch Airport websites.

By Jolene Wightman Organisational Development Manager, Defence Human Resources

www
Celebrating 75 years of women serving in the RNZAF

Celebrating the past and embracing the opportunities of the future

REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST:
75th Celebrations RNZAFWOMEN75@nzdf.mil.nz
Women’s Development Forum RNZAFWDF@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
We were entrusted by previous competitors from Ohakea and tasked to take on the challenge of producing a trolley for this years race to represent the RNZAF. Following in the footsteps of the Groundhawk and Chickenhawk. The Texan Speed Hawk was born. Based on the RNZAF’s new training aircraft, the T-6C Texan II, the team were looking to best show off the newly acquired aircraft, trying to be as accurate in shape as possible given the dimension restrictions. Speed Hawk competed with a respectable result, however did not place in the top 3 teams. The Speed Hawk finished just outside the top ten of 50 trolleys speed wise for the day. With very positive feedback from other teams and the general public on the trolley, the team are happy with the final product and content with the result. Thankfully Speedhawk survived the gruelling course and made it down the domain where so many trolleys became victim to the array of obstacles. A special mention to a team flying under the radar competing from Whenuapai ‘Tank you Santa’

THE TEAM
A/CPL Brent White, LAC Thomas Loft – Driver, LAC Ryan Whiteman, AC Hayden Gold, AC Shaun Dodds.

Team Texan Speed Hawk

By LAC Ryan Whiteman

November 22nd saw the 2015 Red Bull trolley grand prix in Auckland. Competing from Ohakea were ‘Team Texan Speed Hawk’ comprising personnel from 3 Sqn and MSS.
When someone mentions Hawaii we usually associate it with sun, surf and cocktails. For me, Hawaii means training through winter to compete in the holy grail of endurance triathlon - the Hawaiian Ironman, held in Kona. More than 220 kilometres of intense effort exposed to temperatures reaching 47°C and winds up to 65k/h.

Ironman was conceptualised by a navy couple John and Judy Collins and since its inception the military have been embedded in this gruelling competition.

This year was the first year that Ironman had recognised the men and woman who worked tirelessly putting in the training while carrying out the duties expected of them by their countries’ Defence Forces.

The competition is the pinnacle of my chosen sport. It is no holiday: I choose not to count how many hours a week I trained or how much it cost to get to the start line of triathlon’s most iconic event. But it was worth it.

I arrived in a sleepy town only to see it rapidly invaded by triathletes, some of the fittest people I have ever seen. The war to be the best in the world had begun.

My coach gave me some fitting advice. “This is Kona. It’s bloody hot and it’s hard. Just go out and do what you have trained to do.” He reminded me that our military training will give me the mental advantage over a lot of those relying on sheer grunt.

He was right! I went out and raced my own race. I watched people muscle up the hills on their bikes only to blow up in the last 60km of the bike leg, which was all head wind. I jumped off the bike and ran the marathon like it was a 5km run test picking people off one by one using military discipline to keep running and more importantly keep cool and hydrated.

It was an honour to race in one of the world’s greatest races representing New Zealand and the NZDF. I thank all those that supported me throughout my journey and hope I can pave the way for others to race in the world spotlight in the ultimate race they call the Kona Ironman.
Aumangea

The next Aumangea resilience building programme starts on February 20.
Duration: 35 days
Physical requirements: Personnel are required to be operationally fit (RFL or service equivalent, CFT, medically, dentally fit and injury free)

All enquiries contact:
Aumangeaprogramme@nzdf.mil.nz

Confirmed dates for all courses are:
20/02/16 – 25/03/16
30/04/16 – 03/06/16
25/06/16 – 29/07/16

If you’re deployed overseas this Christmas, don’t forget to tune in with Kiwi Forces Radio

The radio show will be sent to deployed personnel on CDs or downloaded from the NZDF website.
The two to three-hour programme will be complete with music requests and messages of support from families and friends as well as messages from the Chief of Defence Force and the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand.
Kiwi Forces Radio will be made available to our people in theatre, in time for Christmas.

"I like this image because, for me, it exemplifies the skill and professionalism displayed by the NZDF in executing a task in demanding conditions; in this case NZ infantry fast-roping from an Air Force NH90 helicopter on to a narrow ridge nearly two kilometres above sea level, amid the blinding dust and debris thrown up by the rotor wash. The event occurred near the end of the Southern Katipo 2015 exercise as a NZ-led international coalition mounted an assault upon the Rainbow Ski-field resort held by the opposing force."

— NZDF Photographer, Rod Mackenzie
2016 WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT FORUM

CELEBRATING THE PAST AND EMBRACING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE FUTURE

REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST FROM SERVING PERSONNEL:
RNZAFWDF@nzdf.mil.nz

MON 07 MAR – A day of informative, entertaining and inspiring speakers from a variety of industries. Informal dinner function in the evening.

TUE 08 MAR – ‘International Women’s Day’, another day of inspirational speakers.

RNZAF BASE OHAKEA
7-8 MARCH 2016