ANZAC DAY 2016

CAF COMMAND CEREMONY

NEW BATTLE TRAINING FACILITY UNVEILED
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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New Zealand Government
First Word

By AVM Tony Davies

I write this First Word while WOAF and I travel back from Turkey having represented you all at the 101st commemorations of the Anzac battles on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The courage, commitment, and comradeship displayed by our forefathers was an overwhelming theme throughout. They would be honoured to know that 100 years on, we hold these same values near and dear in everything we do. We also reflected on the other qualities they exhibited and their continued relevance today; bravery, sacrifice, teamwork, leadership, discipline, initiative and resilience.

The harsh conditions and extreme brutality experienced by the Anzacs might seem a world away from our modern day operations, but we must still train and be prepared to face the toughest of conditions as we conduct our operations to secure New Zealand and our interests at home and abroad. This is why we need the best people, the best training, the best equipment, and to rely on our values in everything we do.

The RNZAF has never been a better place to be a part of. We have modern fleets, excellent training systems, committed leadership, a plan for the long-term sustainability, and a high tempo across operations and exercises. We are very busy - TAKAPU, TEAL, tropical cyclone disaster responses, SARS and Antarctic support to name a few - this is what we’re here for.

It’s about delivering military air operations today, and at the same time being ready to meet the NZ Government’s next tasks tomorrow. We are great at this.

To ensure we keep it up, we need to look after ourselves in and around the workplace. I am committed to the new Health and Safety in Employment Act which will ensure that our workplace is safer for us all. Similarly, the Operation RESPECT initiatives will ensure our workplace is totally free from discrimination and unacceptable behaviours that undermine our values.

I am looking forward to the next three years, and working closely with the new DCAF, Air Commodore Brunton and ACC Air Commodore Webb, W/O Harwood, and the Air Force Leadership Team, and building on the excellent leadership and foundations provided by the previous CAF, AVM Mike Yardley. Every CAF had a different set of focus areas during their tenure. It is important that you know what mine are.

I am intent on delivering military air operations. To do this we need to grow the number of people we need to sustain our military outputs and surge capacity when needed. I want to see empowered leadership, decision making and responsibility right down to the most junior levels possible. We will have a workplace that is as safe as it can be, and one that embraces diversity, is free from harassment, and ensures that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed to their desired level. Finally, it is fundamental to me that the RNZAF continues to be trusted and well-respected by all who rely on us.

You will see more about our priorities in the coming months. But for now I conclude by saying it is an honour and privilege to serve you as the Chief of Air Force. I am proud of us and what we do.
Scores of RNZAF personnel turned out at Base Auckland last month for the official ceremony confirming the appointment of Air Vice-Marshal (AVM) Tony Davies as the new Chief of Air Force. Airmen and women lined up for a review and parade for the man affectionately known as TD.

A C-130 Hercules captained by Squadron Leader Matt Rieper from No. 40 Squadron, marked the auspicious occasion with a flyover at the parade ground.

“As the new chief, I’m sure no-one will disagree with me that that’s one of the best sounds you will ever get to hear,” AVM Davies said.

An impressive powhiri, organised by Sergeant Ray O’Brien, was performed for the new chief at the start of the ceremony. AVM Davies said it was the first time he had been the object of the challenge and he described it as “awe-inspiring”.

“It was a magnificent honour,” he said.

“I am very excited to be the Chief of the Air Force. It’s an immense feeling of ‘the buck stops here’ and it’s a huge responsibility that I don’t take lightly – even for one moment.”

There was no better time to be in the RNZAF, AVM Davies said.

“Every flying squadron has new or recently upgraded equipment. The Defence leadership is in an excellent space with the combined efforts of the Chief of Defence Force and the Secretary of Defence. And the Government has committed to the future air mobility and air surveillance capabilities in less than a decade.”

He outlined recent operational highlights, including the rescue of two stranded tourists by crew on board an NH90; the relief effort in Fiji by six different aircraft types; and work in the Middle East.
“This operational tempo is what we thrive on – it’s what we do.”

Chief of Defence Lieutenant General Tim Keating told the large crowd who gathered for the ceremony that AVM Davies was his primary advisor for all matters relating to the air domain.

“He is responsible for the delivery of the people, the platforms, the systems that ensure the achievement of our defence mission as a force for New Zealand, as a force for good.”

The most important aspect of AVM Davies’ new role related to the responsibility he had to the people under his command, he said.

“Air Vice-Marshall Davies is appointed by Government, through me to lead. Leadership is that difficult and intangible quality that I demand of my service chiefs and this is why Tony Davies has been chosen to lead the Air Force.”

It was “no small thing” to be a service chief, LTGEN Keating said.

“It takes a leader of skill, energy, intelligence and a person with passion, conviction and empathy for the people under his care. I’m in no doubt that Air Vice-Marshall Davies will do an excellent job.”

A NEW LOOK FOR THE AIR FORCE LEADERSHIP TEAM
- Chief of Air Force: Air Vice-Marshall Tony Davies
- Air Component Commander: Air Commodore Darryn Webb
- Deputy Chief of Air Force: Air Commodore Mark Brunton
Mental Health Info Made Easier

Maintaining good mental health is important. Over the past few months, Defence Health has launched a range of initiatives, and provided broader health information to better support our people and their families.

Our confidential helpline, 0800 NZDF 4U (0800 693348 or 0800 189910) has been launched, the Mental Health in the Workplace toolkit released, and the Mental Health Pocketbook and other print resources have been circulated across camps and bases.

Invictus Games Under Way

This year’s Invictus Games are under way in Orlando, Florida with the New Zealand team of 18 taking up the challenge.

The Games provide an international stage that unites wounded, ill and injured Service men and women from around the world. They enable both active duty personnel and veterans to learn and share through their common experiences.

Team captain, Air Force personnel David Sherriff, said the competition was “much more than a sports event”.

“While some individuals/teams will be awarded medals, the true reward of these games is the effect it has on the lives of those who compete.

“I believe the Invictus Games encapsulate sport at its purest. We will compete with a fierce determination, but whatever the result when we leave the field, track, court and pool, we will bond with team mates and opponents alike.”

Adaptive sports competitions like the Invictus Games aid in holistic healing throughout the recovery and rehabilitation process: mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically and socially.

“Whether you’re an athlete, staff member, official or spectator this will be a memorable event for all, for some it will be life changing,” Mr Sherriff said.

In 2014, the NZDF sent a contingent of 12 athletes to compete against over 400 athletes from 13 countries – bringing back six medals for their efforts.

This year more than 500 competitors from 15 countries will compete in 10 adaptive sports – including archery, road cycling, power lifting, indoor rowing, athletics, swimming, wheelchair tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and sitting volleyball.

The NZDF Invictus Games team is proudly supported by the Auckland and Christchurch RSAs, BLK Sports, Fulton Hogan NZ, the OffLimits Trust, and the Fallen Heroes Trust.

Follow the team’s progress on facebook.com/InvictusGamesNZ
No. 6 Sqn: Naval Aviation Reunited

By Lieutenant Sarah McWilliam, RNZN

After two years of separation the Naval Aviation component of the NZDF is now reunited as No. 6 Sqn, with Commander Owen Rodger taking the helm. Coinciding with both the official retirement of the SH-2G(NZ) Seasprite and its replacement by the SH-2G(I) model, the Change of Command marked the completion of a long pathway for Naval Aviation. While No. 6 Sqn has traditionally worked as a single unit, separating the aircrew, maintainers and support staff throughout the 'I' models’ introduction into No. 6 Sqn and the Seasprite Transition Unit (STU) proved highly effective, ensuring that the skills, knowledge and intricacies associated with each airframe were kept distinct and the chance of erroneous cross-over minimised.

Under the watch of the outgoing Commanding Officer No. 6 Sqn, Commander Brendon Clark, this period also allowed No. 6 Sqn to stay solely focussed on the operational outputs of the ‘NZ model’ Sprite. As described by CDR Clark, this focus ensured that “even in the face of adversity, with minimal resources and serviceability challenges, we met every embarkation” - facing challenges from anti-piracy and counter-narcotic taskings to emergency humanitarian assistance. “Even as we marked the official retirement of the NZ model, the final two aircraft remained at sea aboard HMNZS CANTERBURY at the core of the Cyclone Winston recovery mission. After 15 years of operating these frames and a total of more than 15,000 flying hours, their retirement is a significant milestone for the squadron.”

Outgoing Commanding Officer STU, Commander Jason Haggitt, has now handed the I models to No. 6 Sqn as the operational platform, one which will offer significant capability developments on the NZ model. With the Squadron now operating as one and the incoming Commanding Officer having vast experience with the I model through his significant role in its introduction, the Squadron is poised and ready for the future challenges, both planned and unplanned, that our strategic and geographical position will present.

“We work in one of the most challenging environments on earth,” CDR Rodger said, highlighting the inevitability of these future challenges before stressing the need for patience, diligence and trust as we address them.

“Naval Aviation is truly a team sport and one that cannot work without everyone doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right place.”

The last two NZ model crews on the tarmac at Whenuapai.
NZDF contingent members pay respects at the NZ war graves near Mesen/Messines.


Governor General Lieutenant General Sir Jerry Mateparae receiving the Royal Salute and inspecting the Guard of Honour at the Wellington service.
Le Quesnoy Nga Tapuwae sign blessing and wreath laying. Le Quesnoy, France

(L-R) RADM John Martin, MAJGEN Peter Kelly, AIRCDRE Darryn Webb at the Last Post Ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park

Anzac commemorations in South Korea

NZ and Australian soldiers, along with coalition forces mark Anzac Day at Taji Military Camp, Iraq
Service Of Remembrance – Mazargues War Cemetery

A service of gratitude was held in Marseilles to commemorate the arrival of the main body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) in France a century ago.

Flight Lieutenant Karen Josephs was at the service, which was held at Mazargues War Cemetery.

“The service was well-attended with a vast mix of dignitaries and representatives, military personnel (previously serving, and serving) and the general public, with many having travelled a significant distance to be there,” she said.

“Wreaths were laid at the Stone of Remembrance, poignant speeches were made and floral tributes were placed at each of the New Zealanders’ graves.”

THE HISTORY

In the first weeks of April 1916 the New Zealand Division left Egypt bound for France and the Western Front. Their journey took them by ship from Alexandria across the Mediterranean Sea to Marseilles where they boarded trains, which took them north to a new theatre of war.

The first ship to arrive in Marseilles was the Minnewaska, which pulled into port on April 11. In the following two weeks 13 other ships made the journey across the Mediterranean.

Alexander Aitken was aboard the Franconia, one of the first ships to arrive. He later recalled the pleasure aroused by the first sight of France with its markedly different scenery to that of Egypt.

“No land was sighted, not even a remote cape of Sicily, before we entered the Gulf of Lyon; and so all the more paradisal, to eyes that had forgotten the colour of grass, was the green of certain low hills rising behind Toulon.”

The first New Zealand soldiers were met with an excited welcome by the locals of Marseilles when they disembarked onto French soil. Cecil Malthus described the scene:

“We got an amazing welcome. I dare say the people had some queer ideas as to where we had come from, but anyway it was from the ends of the earth and we had come to save la France. So they milled around in the wildest excitement and made our progress difficult. Our Captain Gray was heartily kissed by a fat businessman, to the joy of the troops, and a number of the said troops broke ranks to do some kissing and hugging on their own behalf. Decidedly we found Marseilles to be a gay and friendly place.”

As the troops travelled to the battlefields of northern France, few of them could have imagined the ordeal that lay in store. For the next two-and-a-half years the Division would fight on the Western Front, the most decisive theatre of the war, and one that would ultimately cost the lives of more than 13,000 New Zealanders.
A Living Taonga for the NZDF

By Rebecca Quilliam

After a year in the making, a new NZDF kahu – a magnificent living taonga – was worn for the first time at the Anzac service at Gallipoli. The cloak was created by weaver Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1) Robert Jobe. It is intended to be worn by both men and women who work in military or civilian roles at the NZDF.

The story of the kahu, named Nga Tapuwae, began at the centenary commemorations of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli. The kahu will be regarded by all members of the NZDF with the same reverence reserved for traditional military battle flags and emblems such as regimental and Corps Colours, guidons and banners.

Second Lieutenant Nicholas Hill, last year’s NZDF Reservist of the Year, wore the cloak at this year’s service at Chunuk Bair. When he first heard he was to be the first recipient of it he was “pretty overwhelmed”.

“It’s a pretty massive honour to wear it. I really can’t put it into words.”

When he heard the meaning behind the design, he felt “torn up”. “It’s a spiritual reflection of what’s gone before,” 2LT Hill said.

Nga Tapuwae means “in the footsteps” and the kahu has been woven as a symbolic link between those who have gone before us in the service of our nation and those who serve today and tomorrow.

WO1 Jobe explained the meanings behind the stunning feather and stitch work on the kahu.

“The story starts back in New Zealand [in the bottom right corner] with the blue travelling over different seas, going into the lighter shores as you go into Gallipoli.

“When we got to Gallipoli, the beauty of the sea really struck me - I thought ‘this is such a beautiful place’ - so that’s why I used a lot of vibrant colours.”

Small green feathers dotted across the blue represented different lands the soldiers travelled across to reach the Gallipoli shoreline, he said.

The cloak is dominated by a rich tapestry of red feathers, which represents the vast amount of blood spilled on those shores.

“There was so much blood that the soil turned red,” WO1 Jobe said.

The white portrays the memorials and graves that are lined up across the land. There are 15 different white panels and just recently, WO1 Jobe discovered there were 15 nations involved in the Gallipoli campaign.

Pockets of green by the graves indicated tunnels and trenches where the soldiers fought and died, he said.

At the top and bottom are 2721 stitches in differing patterns to represent the number and the way the ANZACs and Turks fell as they died.

“Lastly, on the back, I decided that I’d put some poppies on it. There’s three poppies, it doesn’t say it, but it’s Lest We Forget.”

One of the hidden meanings behind the cloak, was that, while it was based on Gallipoli, it could relate to other wars where soldiers and civilians had left New Zealand and gone overseas and died and not returned home, he said.

John McLeod from Heritage, Commemoration and Protocol said they wanted to create something that recognised the people who had fought and died.

“And so the idea of the kahu is that it recognises an achievement.”

Information about applying to wear the Nga Tapuwae Kahu Huruhuru will be made available on the Heritage, Commemorations and Protocol ILP

http://col/sites/nzdf-hcp/kahu/default.aspx
The Last Post: A Magical Tribute

When Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Kieran Smith played the bugle on Anzac Day he wanted the music to be a fitting tribute to those who had served in military conflicts in the past and those deployed now.

“Anzac Day is a reminder of the sacrifice made by those servicemen and servicewomen, and the sacrifice that’s still made today. It really makes me appreciate the freedom that we have now. What if they hadn’t done what they did?”

As the bugler for the national commemorative services in Wellington, LAC Smith played the Last Post and also the Reveille, which came after the silence at a dawn service.

The Last Post is a difficult piece of music to play and it’s also so well known. With thousands watching him play live and also watching and listening to live television and radio broadcasts, LAC Smith could be forgiven for experiencing nerves before the big event.

The trick, he says, is to clear his head and focus.

“I just try and clear my head and think about the music; the quality of the production and the quality of the notes.”

LAC Smith grew up playing music. His mother plays the piano, and he’s played in a brass band since he was eight-years-old. He plays classical music and jazz.

“Music has always been a big part of my life.”

He’s a member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band and highlights of his time with the band include playing with the brass ensemble at Gallipoli last year and at the Edinburgh Tattoo in Wellington this year.

He’s been a reservist for about four years and by day works for a tax consultancy firm.

Air Force News caught up with Kieran shortly before Anzac Day, and had the privilege of hearing him play the crystal notes of the Last Post on his cornet on a clear, windless evening in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. Passers-by stopped to listen to magic being made.
Brightlingsea ANZAC Tribute

The small coastal town of Brightlingsea in Essex, UK, may be 17,000km away from the Antipodes but this year ANZACs are especially close to the residents’ hearts. This year the town will host a special tribute to the young men of Australia and New Zealand who came to Brightlingsea to train and support Great Britain in the dark days of the Great War.

Thousands of ANZACs were stationed at a Brightlingsea training depot between 1916 and 1919 and 100 years later there are still descendants of the WWI ANZACs living in the area.

The troops were trained in bridge, pontoon and road building, trench and tunnel digging and front line military tactics. An Australian Engineers Training Depot (AETD) was established in Brightlingsea and between 1916 and 1919 nearly 5000 ANZACs were stationed in the town and surrounding areas - leaving behind a significant social and sporting legacy which has not been forgotten. The centenary of their arrival gives an opportunity to commemorate them.

To know more about the ANZAC Memorial Weekend or if you have information about a relative please visit: www.brightlingseaanzacentenary.org

TRIBUTE PROGRAMME:

Friday 17th June, 7pm – 10pm
A ticketed Reception to be held on the Recreation Ground with canapes, champagne and a preview of the Art Show, including the Museum’s WWI photographs and ephemera.

Saturday 18th June
• AFTERNOON: ANZAC-themed Carnival Procession and Fete with entertainments, stalls, food outlets and live music.
• EARLY EVENING: Family music event, with food outlets or bring your own picnic.

Sunday 19th June
• MORNING: Service of Commemoration and laying of wreaths at War Memorial, Victoria Place, Brightlingsea.
• AFTERNOON: Cricket match between Brightlingsea and a team with Australian connections.
New Pilot Training Takes Air Force into the Future

By Rebecca Quilliam

The new Pilot Training Capability at Base Ohakea has officially opened. Dignitaries, personnel and trainee pilots gathered for the celebration and watched as the T-6C Texans took to the sky in formation - showing off their capabilities.

The new purpose-built training facility at No. 14 Squadron is made up of 11 T-6C Texan aircraft, pilot training simulators, instructors and support staff.

After being officially opened by the Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal (AVM) Tony Davies, attending guests from the Ministry of Defence, Beechcraft, and CAE Australia witnessed a flying display given by pilot instructors selected from No. 14 Sqn and the Central Flying School.

The new pilot training capability encompassed training, training development, simulation, mission planning and logistics support “to an extent we have never seen before in our RNZAF”, AVM Davies said.

“This is a very exciting time for the RNZAF with new and upgraded platforms and capabilities, entering service and becoming operational.

“Across the board, the RNZAF has gone from a force of 20th Century analogue aircraft to operating modern, state of the art equipment in a very short time,” he said.

The first group of trainee pilots is already getting to grips with the Texans and it is intended up to 15 trainee pilots per year will go through the doors of 14 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Andrew Sledger is one of those students to go through the first training courses with the Texans.

He is two months into the 15-month course and is still doing the theoretical work. However, he has been up for one flight in the aircraft – “which was incredibly exciting and a taste of what’s to come”.

After the groundwork is completed, the students will move to the Texan simulator before practicing in the aircraft themselves.

It was a quick progression for the students who start with taxiing about on the runway to take-offs and landings, PLTOFF Sledger said.

“Before you know it, you’re doing aerobatics or cross-country navigation and flying through clouds using just instruments.”

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The 19-year-old dreams to eventually end up flying a C-130 Hercules.

“I reckon it would be awesome being a captain flying all around the world and I would love to go down to Antarctica.”

The digital computerised instruments made the Texans an “incredible training device”, PLTOFF Sledger said.

“That’s really exciting, to bring the capability in line with everything else in the Air Force fleet – from the new helicopters through to the upgraded fixed wing fleet up in Auckland.”

Squadron Leader Brett Clayton has been involved in the project for the past five years and is now an instructor with the training programme.

The Texans were “easy to fly but hard to fly well”, he said.

The aircraft have a glass cock-pit, which is made up of three screens with all the information a pilot would need. During initial training, the instructors can turn off some of those screens so pilots can work with, and master, the minimum amount of information before more screens are turned on when they are ready to increase their knowledge, SQNLDR Clayton said.

“As the students’ capability grows, we can release more capability of the airplane.”

As well as teaching new pilots to fly the Texans, SQNLDR Clayton is also the leader of the Black Falcons Formation Team.

“I was hoping to be part of the team, and to be given the nod to lead it, is a huge honour and will definitely be a career highlight.

“I feel so privileged to do what I’m doing right now. At the moment I’m waking up in the morning and I can’t wait to get to work.”

Commanding Officer Flying Training Wing, Wing Commander Chris Andrew said the mettle of the Texans had been proved during their flights from Wichita in the United States across the Pacific Ocean to New Zealand after they were purchased.

“It was a long journey made by 11 black aircraft more than half way around the world.”

He wished the new students and instructors “smooth air and greasy landings”. ✈️

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**BY THE NUMBERS:**

On their journey from the United States to New Zealand, the 11 aircraft: 21 flights covered more than 27,000km through 15 different countries.
Operation RAI BALANG 2016

By Corporal Alex McLean

Operation RAI BALANG 2016 was a monitor, control and surveillance operation in the South Pacific coordinated by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). No 5. Squadron regularly deploys on this type of operation to support Pacific Island nations in ensuring the sustainability of highly migratory fishery resources across the Territorial Waters, Exclusive Economic Zones and High Seas of the Pacific Ocean. The operation was a true multi-national effort with forces from nine countries working together to locate, board and inspect as many fishing vessels as possible throughout the vast Pacific Ocean. Over the course of the mission the crew determines if the vessels are licenced and acting according to their licence conditions. Vessel information and imagery is then sent back during the patrol to the FFA Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre in Honiara, enabling assessments to be made in near real time, that can prioritise boarding and inspection activities.

Illegal fishing is a real issue in the Pacific; a recent study has calculated the cost of illegal fishing to Pacific Island nations at over $700 million each year. One of the aims of the operation was to detect, report and/or apprehend potential Illegal, Unregulated or Unreported (IUU) fishing activity.

The P-3K2 flew for four days to support the mission; day one was an early rise for a departure out of Whenuapai to a patrol area in the EEZ of Vanuatu. The aim of the first day was to ensure all vessels were licensed to fish there.

>> Volcano imagery Tinuka Island

Fishing vessel surveillance
Following an overnight stay in Port Vila, the crew departed to patrol the Solomon Islands EEZ. En route, several volcanoes were surveyed to help GNS Science who are working with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop better volcano monitoring throughout the volatile Pacific Rim. The aircraft’s heat-detecting infrared camera was an invaluable tool as it was able to detect hot spots in volcanic craters even if no other visible signs of activity were present. Following the days patrol the crew landed in Honiara, on the island of Guadalcanal.

Day three started with a visit to the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre in Honiara, where the crew was briefed on the upcoming sortie to patrol an area comprised of the EEZ of Nauru and international waters, before returning to Honiara for the night. The fourth and final day of the mission saw the crew depart Honiara to the east for a patrol of international waters. Despite no countries having rights to international waters, this area of the ocean is bound by a convention requiring all fishing vessels to be registered. Following the completion of the patrol area the aircraft turned for home and landed at Whenuapai having covered a total area greater than 1.2 million km² over the four day deployment.

The P-3K2 will continue to be a regular sight in the islands as the NZDF works to halt the illegal fishing threatening the eco-system of the Pacific Ocean and depriving Pacific Island nations of income.

Last month a P-3K2 was deployed to the South Pacific to support Operation RAI BALANG. No. 5 Squadron’s fleet of six of the aircraft comprise the Airborne Surveillance and Response Force of the New Zealand Defence Force. The P-3K2 fleet has recently been upgraded with state of the art sensors including a multi-mode surface search radar, electro-optics turret, and electronic surveillance systems. These sensors provide information to the aircraft’s data management system which enables the information to be shared with government and defence agencies in near real time.

Originally designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare, the P-3K2 is a highly versatile aircraft with a long range and the ability to shut down one or two engines to preserve fuel and enable extended flight times. An aircraft like the P-3K2 typically patrols at around 450km/h, giving it an ability to travel large distances quickly. Additionally, by patrolling at altitude the P-3K2 can detect vessels at much greater ranges than a surface platform which is limited by the horizon. These attributes of speed, endurance, and large detection ranges make the P-3K2 a potent asset in the surveillance and control of the open ocean.

**Quick Facts**

- **Aircraft deployed:** 1 x P-3K2
- **Max Speed:** 750km/h
- **Cruising Speed:** 610km/h
- **Range:** Up to 8500km
- **Endurance:** Up to 16 hours
- **Combat Radius:** 2500km with up to three hours on station

- **Crew deployed:** 16 x Aircrew, 2 x Technicians
- **Length deployed:** 4 days
- **Area Searched:** over 1.2 million square kilometres
- **Vessels Located:** 105
- **Volcanoes Surveyed:** 5
The New Zealand Defence Force’s (NZDF) new Battle Training Facility (BTF) was officially opened by Prime Minister John Key at a ceremony in Auckland last month. The $46 million modern purpose-built facility in Ardmore took two years to build and replaces outdated and obsolete training facilities for Special Air Service (SAS) personnel in Papakura.
The Prime Minister, Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee and Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General (LTGEN) Tim Keating spoke about the importance of having the right training facility to help prepare our SAS personnel.

Mr Key said that when SAS were deployed “we absolutely owe it to them and their families” to ensure they were fully prepared for the situations they would be placed in.

The BTF was at the “top of the range for what they’re doing”, Mr Key said.

“... I think that at this facility (the SAS) should be able to do everything that would allow them to be as prepared as you ever can be for the sorts of circumstances they are put into from time to time.”

The New Zealand SAS were extremely well thought of by other militaries, he said. That was because “they know they have great capability, they’re tremendously well trained, they’re just very, very good people” who could make the “right calculated” decisions.

LTGEN Keating said the facility was “world-class” within a New Zealand scale and would provide a training environment to help prepare people for the complex environment they would be operating in.

The BTF included facilities for all-weather training, live firing, use of helicopters, and scenario training based on specific environments and structures such as aircraft fuselages, ship’s bridges, and public transport.

In the previous facilities SAS personnel could not fire their primary operational weapons, however the new BTF allowed for live firing and up to advanced full-mission rehearsals.

LTGEN Keating, said the BTF would primarily be used by the SAS; however it was an important resource for the whole of NZDF.

“As a Defence Force our primary role is to protect our nation therefore we need to be equipped to succeed. This means providing our men and women with the means and equipment to do their job in an effective, efficient, and safe manner.

“Security threats have become more complex, so it’s vital the NZDF have modern facilities to train SAS personnel who are required to operate in high risk and complex environments.”

The BTF would also be used by other government agencies with a security role, including the NZ Police Special Tactics Group.

“This is a capability that is of significant benefit to the whole of the NZDF and it is futureproofed in its design and built to a world class standard,” LTGEN Keating said.
## AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS USED FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATION

### HMNZS CANTERBURY
- The maritime hub of New Zealand’s humanitarian aid operation in the northern outlying islands.
- **380 TONES** Of aid supplies and construction materials for distressed communities in Vanuabalavu and Yacata islands.
- **180** Transfers on her landing craft to support the aid operation.

### HMNZS WELLINGTON
- Offshore patrol vessel HMNZS WELLINGTON – operated in northern Lau for almost three weeks before returning to New Zealand on 16 March.
- **70 TONES** Of aid supplies delivered to communities in northern Lau.
- Identified route and anchorage into Vanuabalavu lagoon that HMNZS CANTERBURY used and beaches for her landing craft operations.

### P-3K2 ORION
- Conducted aerial surveys less than 24 hours after category five Tropical Cyclone Winston pummelled Fiji on 20 February.
- Information from the aerial surveys provided Fijian officials with a clearer picture of the damage it caused, saved them days of on-site damage assessments and enabled them to immediately secure international aid for relief efforts.

### C-130 HERCULES
- Helped deliver close to 120 tonnes of aid from New Zealand.

### BOEING 757
- Brought the advance group of 37 combat engineers and 1050 water containers to Fiji on 24 February.

### KING AIR B200
- Supported the humanitarian aid operation for about three weeks before returning to New Zealand on 28 March.
- The King Air transported Fiji government staff and civilian volunteers from non-governmental organisations such as the Red Cross to remote islands devastated by the cyclone so they can assess the outstanding needs in these communities. It also conducted aerial reconnaissance flights for Fiji Roads Authority, among other Fiji government agencies.

### NH90 x2
- **160 HOURS** The helicopters flew almost 160 hours of relief missions on their first overseas operation. They delivered essential aid supplies, shelter kits, water purification equipment, food and sacks of seeds and plant cuttings to cyclone-ravaged communities. They also transported New Zealand medical volunteers, NZ Defence Force personnel and Fiji government staff to Fiji’s remote communities and far-flung islands.

### SEASPRITE
- **70 HOURS** CANTERBURY’s Seasprite helicopter completed around 70 hours of relief missions, transporting aid supplies as well as New Zealand medical volunteers, NZ Defence Force personnel and Fiji government staff from Vanuabalavu to outlying islands in northern Lau.

### MILITARY VEHICLES x 45
- Used to support the NZDF’s humanitarian aid operation in northern Lau.

### LANDING CRAFT x 2
- Aid supplies were offloaded from CANTERBURY using her landing craft and distributed to the affected communities in northern Lau.

## TIMELINE

- **FEBRUARY 20** Tropical Cyclone Winston pummels Fiji
- **FEBRUARY 21** A RNZAF P-3K2 Orion aircraft conducts aerial surveillance of cyclone-hit areas
- **FEBRUARY 22** Almost 13 tonnes of NZ aid supplies and a joint inter-agency response team arrive in Suva on board a RNZAF C-130 HERCULES
- **FEBRUARY 24** An advance group of 37 NZ Army engineers arrive in Suva
New Zealand Army carpenters, electricians, plumbers, plant operators and engineers worked alongside soldiers from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces to repair dozens of schools, medical centres and community buildings on the main island of Viti Levu and in the remote northern Lau archipelago.

**NUMBER OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED FOR THIS OPERATION**

About 530 engineers, carpenters, electricians, plant operators, plumbers, sailors and aircrew were deployed to Fiji, making it one of the NZDF’s largest peacetime deployments to the Pacific.

**AID SUPPLIES FUNDED BY THE NZ AID PROGRAMME THAT WERE DELIVERED BY NZDF AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS**

- chainsaw packs
- generators
- toolkits
- tarpaulins
- food
- water
- containers
- solar-powered lamps
- mosquito nets and blankets
- latrines
- garden tools
- tents
- water tanks
- building materials, including corrugated iron
- medical supplies
- bottled water
- electrical supplies
- ladders
- emergency supplies
- insect repellents

**WHAT THE FIJIANS SAY**

- "We’ve been left with nothing and we don’t know what the future holds. So we are grateful that New Zealand and other countries are helping us."
  - 23-year-old Eseta Kaitani from Nasau village on Koro Island, 106 km north of the Fijian capital of Suva.

- "We were overwhelmed and our resources were stretched. And with inadequate capabilities, it’s hard to imagine how we would have coped with demands for relief without New Zealand’s assistance."
  - Minister for Agriculture and National Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu

- "All this rebuilding is helping bring back smiles and hope to people in affected areas. The pace of work is quite fast. Those schools that were repaired by the NZDF are among the first to reopen."
  - Republic of Fiji Military Forces Commander Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto

- "I was happy and excited to go back to school again. The New Zealand soldiers did a good job in fixing our classrooms."
  - Lynette Emline, Year 8 student at Navunisea District School in Silana, a coastal village 62 km north of Suva.

- "Without the Orion, we would have to physically visit the likely affected areas to assess the damage. That is how we did it in the past and that took days to carry out in a scattered archipelago like Fiji."

**NZDF ships and helicopters delivered hundreds of tonnes of aid supplies to disaster-struck communities across Fiji, from northern Lau in the east to the Yasawa islands, which make up Fiji’s western border.**

**AROUND 60**

**New Zealand Army engineers also set up a water desalination station that converted seawater into drinking water at Lomaloma village on Vanuabalavu Island. Up to 10,000 litres of potable drinking water were produced each day to support the New Zealand contingent and villages on Vanuabalavu.**

**Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters – liaised and engaged with the National Disaster Management Office and the Republic of Fiji Military Forces; managed relationships with Fiji government agencies; supported the New Zealand High Commission.**

**Around 300 members of the NZDF sail back to New Zealand on board HMNZS CANTERBURY.**

**HMNZS WELLINGTON brings more aid and personnel to Fiji**

**HMNZS CANTERBURY arrives from New Zealand with 106 tonnes of aid, 2 NH90 helicopters, 1 Seahorse helicopter and 45 military vehicles**

**HMNZS CANTERBURY anchors off Lomaloma village on Vanuabalavu Island in the remote northern Lau archipelago**

**Residents of Vanuabalavu Island farewell NZDF personnel**

**HMNZS CANTERBURY**

**04 APRIL**

**03 MARCH**

**28**

**17**
When Tropical Cyclone Winston crashed into Fiji leaving a trail of destruction and dozens dead, Air Force personnel at Base Auckland raced to action loading supplies to get aid quickly to the stricken nation.

Here are some of the amazing people who helped make that vital work happen:

**SGT JAE EKMAN, SNCO SHIFT 1, AIR MOVEMENTS AK**

All the hard work in the day-to-day grind of training, maintaining currencies and competencies, and working regular Air Movements duties was realised during the high intensity period of Op Pacific Relief. The Auckland Air Movements shifts, augmented with staff from Logistics Support Squadron AK and other Air Movements Sections, rose to the occasion to accept and document freight, and build them into C-130 and B757 loads for Fiji. The trucks with aid would roll in through the day, the freight would be built up through the night to be loaded the next morning. The shifts were like ships in the night. Often the only sign of each other was the paperwork and built pallets in their wake. Personnel were rested whenever possible to reduce the effects of fatigue and staff changes were common, as holes in the teams were plugged. With morbid fascination we noted the pallets we worked on being unloaded in Fiji on the news. The aid coming in seemed never ending then it eventually dried up to a trickle and then so too did the flights. The section was rested and the augments were dismissed. Another job well done!

**CPL JULIA ANDERSON, LOGISTICS SPECIALIST, NO. 40 SQN**

My role at Air Movements included building aid freight that was delivered daily into pallets to be shipped the following day to Fiji. We would work throughout the night and into the early hours of each morning to prioritise freight and prepare all of the paperwork needed for shipment.

I really enjoyed my part in Op Pacific Relief, we had an awesome team of people and it was wonderful knowing the aid was delivered to those who needed it.

**F/S CHRISTOPHER MCMAHON**

I was responsible for running the night shift which was building up the freight to fly out the next day.

This involved receipting the freight from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and working with MFAT officials to prioritise what was heading out on the next day’s flight.

During the operation I was part of a seven person shift.

**LAC REBEKAH RICHARDSON**

Our main job was to build all the pallets up with relief equipment ready for the day shift to then load the aircraft. Each night we would have truck loads of stuff to be built up with a prioritised list of what was needed to go first. We also saw to the returning flights, which brought back empty pallets.

The experience for me was awesome, I am fairly new to working in an Air Movements section so the exposure to work in a busy environment helped me put the things I learnt on course to practice. It was such a humbling atmosphere knowing that everything you were building into pallets was going to be helping families live a bit more comfortably once the aid arrived.
A Sustainability Committee has formed at Whenuapai to promote awareness of environmental issues and foster a culture of sustainable behaviour at the Base. And they are hoping to get their environmental message out to the NZDF and beyond.

The main goal for the committee is to set up processes where waste is reduced and energy is saved, Whenuapai Sustainability Chairman Leading Aircraftman Dave Page said.

“Ultimately there will be a reduction in waste and the environmental impact on the base,” he said.

“Hopefully we can include the community as well. It’s our obligation to do our best to reduce our environmental impact.”

LAC Page pointed to the NZDF Environmental Awareness Course that personnel are required to undertake as a means to emphasise the reasons for us all to become more environmentally responsible and what our individual responsibilities are.

He hoped the committee would bring together all the key stakeholders and get them to all talk to one another, which would result in a cohesive approach to sustainability.

The reaction from the base to the formation of the committee had been largely positive, LAC Page said.

“You’re always going to get sceptics when you start to talk about environmental sustainability; you’re always going to get some who are quite resistant to change. But I’ve been quite surprised, because for the most part it’s been quite positive.”

The committee’s next step was to try to make its voice heard and gather support around other bases by creating a website and inviting representatives from every squadron and unit to join the committee.

“The biggest thing for us is to get the word out there. At present we’re looking at making recycling easier for people and promoting energy management for the hangars and workplaces.

“A lot of it comes down to reduce, reuse, recycle. Reducing our waste is the biggest issue. If we can lose less then we’re going to have less of a problem to start with.”

Another committee member Sergeant Robert Kesby said actions spoke louder than words.

“We all talk about New Zealand being ‘clean and green’, well we actually are not as Kiwis – we’re really a long way behind. We’re not doing that well per person. So we need to improve. And we need to adhere to all the protocols we’re signed up to.”

New Zealand has undertaken an unconditional target under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce emissions to 5 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020. This translates to average annual emissions over the 2013 to 2020 period of 96.8 per cent of 1990 emissions.

The Ministry for the Environment reports that New Zealand is projected to meet its 2020 target with a surplus of 93.6 million units.

“We, at Whenuapai, are trying to lead by example and hoping the local population will follow our lead,” SGT Kesby said.

They also hoped to recruit representatives from all the squadrons so the word would get out “more forcefully.”
Recruitment

Getting a good RAP

Have you ever told people what you do in Defence and they say “that’s cool!” Your story could change someone’s future. A new recruiting initiative has been developed that puts you at the centre. What’s your story?

The NZDF Recruiting Ambassador Programme (NZDF RAP) is all about connecting our uniformed personnel with our future recruits to help answer their burning questions and give them the information and encouragement they need to steer them towards a career in the NZDF.

The best person to explain to a potential recruit what the NZDF is really like is someone who has marched a mile or two in the same boots as they will. You can make a real difference.

The RAP is not a replacement for our Defence Recruiters, who remain our recruiting subject matter experts (SMEs). As a Recruiting Ambassador, you will be part of our fantastic support crew who can talk peer to peer with future recruits. As we strive to recruit more quality people into specific roles and encourage more diversity into the NZDF, we need your story.

As a Recruiting Ambassador you may be called upon to be part of a school visit or help out at an information evening or Expo. You might like the opportunity to support one of our Defence Careers Experiences or simply make a phone call to a future recruit to help answer their questions.

The most important part of being a Recruiting Ambassador is to just be yourself. Our future recruits want to talk to someone who they can relate to, someone who they can see themselves becoming.

For the NZDF RAP to work well it needs to have a large and varied pool of people from all services, ethnicities, ranks, trades and genders. And your involvement with the NZDF RAP will not be time-consuming. Ambassadors may get called upon as little as once or twice a year to step up and tell someone why being in the Defence Force is the best decision they will ever make.

Warrant Officer of the Defence Force WO1 Danny Broughton believes the Recruiting Ambassador Programme is an ideal way of building on the strong foundation of NZDF personnel.

“Everyone should play a part in recruiting our next generation of the Defence Force and in doing so build a Force 4 New Zealand we can continue to be proud of. The NZDF Recruiting Ambassador Programme is an excellent way to make a real difference within our organisation.

“I encourage everyone to support the RAP in whatever capacity you can either as an Ambassador or as a Manager or both.”

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Meet Your Ambassadors

Life gets pretty busy in the Defence Force and while two young Air Force personnel are in the thick of it, they have decided to take up the challenge of being Recruiting Ambassadors so they can tell people who are interested in a career in the Air Force just what a great place it is to work.

Aircraftswoman Katelin Bell is based in the Logistics Support Squadron 6 SQN Flight Store and says her decision to be part of the RAP was an easy one.

“It’s a chance to be able to tell people about the trade and what it’s all about. Many people don’t know the different things they can do in the Air Force.”

“I’m really looking forward to future opportunities I will have in engaging with future recruits.”

Katelin says she wishes she had had someone at the end of the phone to give her advice when she joined up.

“There are always those questions you want to ask but feel they might be a bit stupid. But then you realise other people want to ask those questions too.”

Katelin says many people have the wrong idea of what goes on in the Air Force and how it works.

“This is a great opportunity to be able to dispel the myths.”

At RNZAF Base Ohakea Aircraftsman Corey Bennett spends his days in the Life Raft Bay at Maintenance Support Squadron.

A keen rugby man, Corey understands how important it is to make a connection with people thinking about joining the Air Force.

“It’s good for them to know they can still do the things they enjoy doing, like rugby when they join up.”

He is also keen to promote his trade and show people that even if they don’t want to be a pilot there are some amazing careers in the Air Force.

“There is a huge team of smart people working hard to make sure the Air Force has the capability to do its job. I’m looking forward to telling people about what I do and helping them make a decision whether the Air Force is for them or not.”

Katelin and Corey are just two people that have signed up for the NZDF Recruiting Ambassador Programme, ready to make a difference and make recruiting more personal and tailored to an individual than ever before.
The Wigram tarmac was a hive of activity last month, as the Air Force Museum’s technical section had the big job of moving the reserve collection from the old storage hangar (3 Hangar), across to the new building complex.

As part of this move, a number of the aircraft previously housed in 3 Hangar, including the Bristol Freighter, Devon and Seaspire, received a much-needed clean. Cleaning a museum artefact the size of the Bristol Freighter requires a considerable amount of work, and some specialist equipment. A soft-bristled brush and microfibre cloth was used first, to dislodge loose dust and dirt. This was followed by a damp wipe-down with Triton-X solution, a conservation-grade cleaner for large objects, which adds a dust-repelling protective layer. The team was lucky to get two full days of sunshine to complete most of the major cleaning work, and their attention then turned to moving the Freighter across to the new building and manoeuvring it into position. This was always going to be the trickiest part of the whole process, as due to the aircraft’s large wingspan, it needed to approach the building on an angle, then be adjusted once one wing was inside so that the other could clear the doors.

With the Bristol Freighter now in position in the new space, all that was left to complete the move was to fit the remaining aircraft and other large objects in around it. To aid in this, the team had a precise plan which accounted for the position of each aircraft, vehicle and engine. The process was a bit like a giant 3D jigsaw puzzle, with sometimes only a few inches between the pieces. Thankfully it all came off without a hitch, and visitors can now explore the new space on our free guided tours, leaving 3 Hangar vacant in anticipation of the next big project – moving the contents from our off-site store.

CAF Commendation for Air Force Museum Director

Earlier this year our outgoing Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Mike Yardley, paid his final official visit to the Air Force Museum of NZ in Christchurch, where he sprung a special surprise, presenting our Director, Thérèse Angelo, with a Chief of Air Force Commendation.

The CAF Commendation is awarded to “all ranks and civilian employees of the RNZAF for outstanding zeal and devotion to duty”. The transcript reads that during her 13-year tenure as Director, Thérèse has been “instrumental with developing the museum into a premium tourist attraction which showcases the RNZAF – both past and present – to a wide and diverse audience”. Despite “all of the challenges presented” during her time as Director (not least of which included the 2010/2011 Christchurch earthquakes), “she has worked tirelessly for the museum staff ensuring their wellbeing was the top priority”. The transcript also states that “the ongoing success of the museum is a direct reflection of [her] significant efforts”, which she is able to achieve “with minimal staff and stretched resources through the investment of her own time”.

None of our team would argue any of this, and we all heartily congratulate Thérèse on this well-deserved recognition of her dedication and service to the RNZAF and its Museum.
NO.6 SQUADRON WINS KESTREL AWARD

By Paul Harrison

No. 6 Squadron’s Seasprite Transition Unit is the recipient of a prestigious Royal Aeronautical Society New Zealand Division (RAeS(NZ)) Award.

The Kestrel Award was presented to members of the unit at a dinner hosted by Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae at Government House last month.

The dinner was to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the RAeS, and the 70th anniversary of the formation of the New Zealand Division of the RAeS.

The Transition Unit received the Kestrel Award for demonstrating the highest levels of efficiency, discipline and innovation for the previous year. Accepting the award on behalf of the squadron were: Commanders Jason Haggitt and Owen Rodger, Squadron Leader Steve Hunt and Warrant Officer Steve Douglas.

RNZAF Personnel
Conquer Aumangea

Three RNZAF personnel, AC Dylan Coombes, AC Kenneth Dowd, and LAC Simon Allen, recently completed the challenging Aumangea course. The programme is designed to test the resilience of all those who take part. Here is how it has been described:

“You will receive the most comprehensive physical, mental, emotional emotional and social assessment experience possible. You will destroy your perceived boundaries and pursue new ones executing at a level higher then you previously thought possible. You will understand that the pursuit of excellence is not just a tenet of the NZSAS, but an aspiration for every person serving in the NZDF. The Aumangea Assessment Programme is simply the most accurate measure of your full spectrum performance available.”

For more information visit http://org/l-tad/SPubPages/aumangea/index.html

LAC Simon Allen being ‘tabbed’ by COL James Bliss
Clothing

There have been some changes to the RNZAF uniform. This article is part two of a two-part series keeping you up-to-date on the new kit. Here’s what you need to know...

PROJECTS UNDER ACTION – Tri-service

All tri-service projects are championed by one of the clothing managers or equipment managers, but input and approvals are formally given by each service.

- **PT Branded T-shirt** – Tri-service project championed by Army. Standardise style of Dri-fit t-shirt, but with individual service colours and branding – male and female style.

- **PT Shorts** – Tri-service project championed by Army. Minimise amount of shorts we currently hold in the NZDF inventory. Look at range of options and styles to suit all three services.

- **Court Shoes** – Tri-service project championed by RNZN – to provide better options for all females but more importantly for our aircrew that fly at altitude.

- **Overcoat** – Tri-service project championed by Army. Black woollen overcoat – male and female style - for personnel in colder environs, to be worn with working dress (not GPU). Order of dress will be discussed by the RCB and promulgated accordingly.

- **Socks** – Tri-service project championed by Army – project to look at sock range to provide better options when it comes to the different environments socks are worn in. Air has added a natural fibre component to the project documents.

SD TROUSERS AND SKIRTS – Tri-service project, championed by the RNZAF

Over the past few years, there have been many comments and complaints around the fit and design of the male and female trousers and the skirts. This warranted a tri-service project to be initiated to review the current design across all three services and to find a more suitable solution.

There have been a number of focus groups run in Whenuapai, Trentham, Papakura and Freyberg House, asking for feedback on some designs as recommended by WWG. Air is now ready for these new designs to be trialled and there will be a trial run from May 2016 over 6–8 weeks, with 45 personnel from each service taking part.

Some design changes include:

- **Male trousers** – Location and quantity of the belt loops, width of the leg, better fit in the seat.
- **Female trousers** – Location and quantity of the belt loops, width of the leg, better fit in the seat.
- **Skirt** – Increase in the hip and decrease in the waist (many found the current shape to be too square), design change to make it easier to adjust length (keep kick pleat to a standard length).

After the trial has concluded, changes (if any) will be made and rollouts of the new designs are expected at the end of 2016.
SPORTS BRAS

All new recruits and officer cadets will now receive an entitlement to two white sports bras and one black sport bra. Yes, there are black sports bras! We have also recently had a change of suppliers for the sports bras – from Berlei to Bendon.

Whilst many of the sizes are similar, all female personnel are encouraged to go into their clothing stores and try on the new style before placing an order on SRM. Should you have any problems, please contact F/S Shar Carson in the first instance.

BLACK RAINCOAT VS NYLON BLUE RAINCOAT

Many of you have probably seen a few different raincoats around the bases. There has been a new tri-service raincoat introduced which is now issued to all new recruits and officer cadets. All RNZAF personnel are entitled to order these at unit expense and they are available to order on SRM.

For those of you that still have your nylon blue raincoat, could I ask that you take it into your clothing store, so it may be re-homed!

OTHER PROJECTS UNDER ACTION – RNZAF

• **3SQN HLM wet weather uniform** – Introduce a suitable protective layer for the HLM to replace the Woodland DPM uniform (no longer available).
• **Dual layer uniform options** – as approved by the RCB, introduce base and mid layer protective clothing options for aircrew in light and middle weight options.
• **Tan two-piece flying uniform** – introduce a tan version of the flying two piece uniforms.
• **Hot weather and wide fitting flying boots** – introduce these as additional options for aircrew.
• **CIS trade badge** – as approved by the RCB, introduce a trade badge to be worn on all uniforms.
• **Headwear review** – to look at current headwear worn by the RNZAF.
• **Publication and scale of entitlement (SOE) updates** – SGT Joncey Young is working with the RNZAF CM to bring all clothing publications up to date.

Your input and involvement in RNZAF clothing is important for all present and future RNZAF personnel, and the re-formed RNZAF Clothing Board has been structured to support that. So if you would like to submit a suggestion or you have a new idea, please contact the RNZAF Clothing Manager through the “RNZAFClothingManager” inbox or to F/S Shar Carson, who will be able to point you in the right direction. ✈️
Re-Establishment of Physical Training Instructor Trade

The RNZAF Physical Training roles have been moved to the Joint Operational Health Group (JOHG) Joint Enabler Project. To aid in the transition of the 22 Physical Education and Recreational Training positions to JOHG, the RNZAF Physical Training Instructor trade has been re-established.

This change reinforces the importance PTIs have in delivering physical fitness activities in order to sustain high levels of health and wellbeing for our personnel.

This change coincided with the graduation of four RNZAF personnel as Physical Training Instructors (PTI). A/CPLs Luke Cowie, Ruaiti Everitt, Wairakau Grieg and Brodie Taylor completed the intense 17-week Defence PTI Primary course alongside Army and Navy personnel. They are now contributing to the essential role of instructing Air Force cadets at RNZAF Base Woodbourne.

STAFF OFFICER FORCE PROTECTION AND SECURITY – SQNLDR Rod Gwyn

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A/CPL Ruaiti Everitt descending the rope using the “Swallow technique” during the PT Display

A/CPL Wairakau Greig as part of a formal class demonstration during the PT Display (A/CPL Brodie Taylor in the background)

RNZAF PTI SME PERSPECTIVE - F/S Samantha Marra

The re-establishment of RNZAF PTI trade only bodes positives from my perspective. It provides a much better platform to move into the future of NZDF health as part of JOHG. We will work alongside NZ Army and RNZN PTI trades with their longstanding history, structure and command support. RNZAF PTIs can now do this unreservedly and be represented...
equitably. The trade will refine its focus in Physical Education and Recreational Training, one which is common amongst our civilian and military physical training staff and with a military focus to fulfil the JOHG vision. Some examples of this are the development of rehabilitation capability, integral input to the NZDF Resilience package and maintaining specific skills for our Force Protection comrades. Being a trade improves our sustainability through quicker recruitment, more specific selection criteria and training timelines. For each RNZAF PTI, the decision of senior command to re-instate the trade is significant. It represents a regard for the work that we do to assist in the establishment of a high standard of health and physical ability, through well planned exercises and activities to enable all RNZAF personnel to perform their duties more efficiently and with minimal stress and fatigue.

RNZAF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATIONAL TRAINING ADVISOR – WGCDR Kelvin Read

I am excited by the reinstatement of the PTI trade at this time as this ensures that the RNZAF can provide a complete contribution to a broader Defence Health Strategy, which importantly has the wellbeing of our people as the single key factor. The overarching guiding principle for Defence Health of “a complete state of physical, mental and social wellbeing and a positive concept emphasising social and physical resources as well as physical and mental capacity”, cannot be achieved without the dedicated PTIs within the new JOHG organisation. This will ensure true collaboration across the single services in supporting the RNZAF and NZDF in developing and maintaining physical wellbeing. This new collaboration will additionally provide an enhanced rehabilitation service in returning personnel to deployable effectiveness. I am proud to be able to continue to see PTIs out on the sports fields and in the gymnasiums providing outstanding programmes for our people.

AIR FORCE CRICKET TAKES OUT BILL MORLEY CUP – AGAIN

By Merven Parr, OIC RNZAF Cricket

RNZAF Men’s Cricket team started their defence of the Bill Morley Cup (Interservices champs) with a non counting game against the NZDF Barbarians. FGOFF Simon Matthewson, with a magnificent 173, led the way ably supported by SGT Kim Bevins (88) and CPL Marlo Bowyer (72*) making an imposing 402/4. FGOFF Richard Raven 4/19, Mathewson and AC Mike Parfitt both with 2 wickets ensured a commanding 300 run win.

Next up was Army which delivered a thrilling high scoring 9-run win over Navy. Batting first on a seaming wicket CPL Adrian West (38), and AC Parfit (45), ensured a competitive 223.

Army then took on Air and were making a good fist of the chase at 38/0 but the introduction of SGT Chris Turkington dramatically changed the game by taking 5 wickets for 2 runs in his first 3 overs. Late hitting got them to within 44 runs, but overall a comfortable Air win.

Air were cruising to a big total against Navy thanks to SGT Turkington (75) and SGT Bevins (27), but the game was in the balance until FGOFF Raven’s whirlwind 78 off 32 balls and good lower order support from AC Ben Roborgh, 26 not out off 7 balls, meant we finished at 302/9.

After a brief early flourish, in his last game for the RNZAF SGT Bevins led the way by taking 5/22 and ably assisted by AC Parfitt and AC Roborgh, both with 2 wickets, sunk Navy to be all out for 152, so a comprehensive 150 run victory.

This meant the retention of the Bill Morley Cup for the 16th consecutive time.
“CPL Greg Anderson caps off big RNZAF Softball year by winning RNZAF Sportsperson of the Year.”

The annual RNZAF Sportsperson of the year (SPOTY) awards was held in Wellington recently where a change in format was instituted to better recognise the talents of our personnel across all RNZAF sports codes. The awards additionally recognised outstanding sporting achievement and longstanding service to RNZAF Sports in the award of the RNZAF Sports Gold Badge.

This year all RNZAF sports codes, along with the award winners from Base SPOTY awards, were given an improved opportunity to recognise and reward the efforts of sports code players and administrators. Codes recognised their player of the year, administrator of the year and U23 player of the year along with all the usual SPOTY awards.
These award winners were then narrowed down into winners for the RNZAF SPOTY awards. The winners were:

**RNZAF SPORTS CODE OF THE YEAR:**
**RNZAF Touch**

**RNZAF SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR:**
RNZAF Men’s Cricket. The RNZAF Men’s Cricket side has been the dominant force at Inter-services Cricket for some time. In 2015 the team won Inter-services for the 15th consecutive year. The RNZAF teams also participated in the IDCC tournament in Australia. The tournament was attended by 10 single service teams with many teams containing first class cricketers and full time teams. The RNZAF team eventually finished 3rd at this tournament being the first placed amateur team.

**RNZAF 141 FLIGHT TROPHY FOR OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT:**
CPL Amy Hatcher. Amy finished 16th at the National Rifle Long Range championships (Ballinger Belt) and was selected for the NZ Rifle Team competing at the Long Range World Championships in USA. Amy was the 16th placed woman at these World Championships.

**RNZAF SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR:**
**CPL Greg Anderson**
Greg was a member of the RNZAF Softball team winning Inter-services Softball, hitting the most home runs for the tournament, attaining the Top Pitcher award and overall tournament MVP. The RNZAF Softball team additionally participated in an ANZAC Softball tournament in Australia with Greg winning the tournament MVP award.

**RNZAF SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR:**
**AC Cole Waaka**
Cole represented the RNZAF Rugby Team at Inter-services and was subsequently selected into the Defence Blacks Rugby team for their tour of UK and France. Cole was additionally a member of the RNZAF Open Men’s Touch team for Inter-services, selected as Open Men’s Player of tournament and selected into the NZDF Team.

**RNZAF SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR:**
**SGT Josey Orum**
Josey was the Manager of the RNZAF Rugby League Team for 2015, is the Secretary of the NZDF Rugby League executive and is also the NZDF Rugby League Team Manager. Josey was additionally the Manager of the Ohakea Women’s Netball team and is part of the RNZAF Netball executive. Josey was also responsible for organising an RNZAF Netball team attendance at the National Police Sports tournament.

**THE RNZAF SPORTS GOLD BADGE**
The RNZAF Sports Gold Badge is the ultimate recognition of consistent outstanding sporting achievement and long standing service to RNZAF Sports. The 2015 recipients were:

- SGT Norb Thaler
- SGT OB O’Brien
- W/O Bruce Madeley
- SQNLDR Mark Waters
Notices

75 SQN Reunion

75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

BIENNIAL REUNION
30 SEP - 2 OCT 2016
TAURANGA
Celebrating 100 years since 75(HD) SQN RFC was formed in 1916.
For information and registration contact the Secretary, Glen Turner.
Email: 75sqn.assnz@windowslive.com
Mob: 021732835

No. 41 SQN Reunion

41 SQUADRON
There will be a celebration of 40 years since its withdrawal from Singapore and the closing of the Squadron.
The reunion will be held in Tauranga 17th -19th March 2017.
All ex-squadron members are invited to attend.
Further detail regarding registration will be released at a later date.

No. 7 SQN Reunion

NO. 7 (CITY OF HAMILTON) SQUADRON
Air Training Corps Is Turning 75
A shout out to all ex-cadets and officers of the Unit who are serving in the NZDF!!
The Unit will be celebrating its 75th birthday on Saturday 17 September 2016 with a formal parade and march through Hamilton City followed by a formal dinner and ball at the Distinction Hotel, Garnett Ave, Te Rapa, Hamilton.
If you are interested in attending then please contact us by email at 75years@7squadron.org.nz or Log on to our facebook page to register your interest at www.facebook.com/7SquadronAnniversary/
Registrations of interest close on Friday 01 July 2016.
Indicative cost for dinner and ball is $70 per head. We Hope to see You There!

“Photo was taken during OP PACIFIC RELIEF as a second Tropical Cyclone Zena was bearing down on Fiji, and rapidly intensifying to a Category 3 storm. A persistent heavy downpour of rain lashed Nausori airfield from the leading edge of the storm, although the winds at the time remained eerily calm. Racing against the clock, the maintenance team worked to stow the main rotor blades on NZ3302, in order to squeeze all six NH90s and ADF MRH90s into the one available hangar for protection.”

Photographer
Squadron Leader Ben Pryor
The Missing Wingman Trust is the charity that supports our Air Force family when someone is killed, injured, wounded or ill. Over the last six years the trust has provided tertiary scholarships, sent kids on sports trips, helped with funeral and other expenses, paid medical expenses, replaced roofs, cleaned up sections, and helped families shift house.

Wingman Brunches are a fantastic opportunity to join with family and friends and share good food. Host a brunch in your home or at work, invite your friends, and raise money to help us support our Air Force family.

**HOW IT WORKS**

You host a brunch (or meal) in your home or at your work. Invite family and friends along to share the time with you. You choose the meal and the menu. You ask guests to make a donation to the trust in order to attend. We suggest $20 per person.

We provide you with tips, fun ideas, and other resources to help make it a fantastic time together. Sign up online for your FREE Wingman Brunch kit: [missingwingmantrust.org.nz/brunch](http://missingwingmantrust.org.nz/brunch)