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Our mission
To carry out military air operations to advance New Zealand’s security interests with professionalism, integrity and teamwork.

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New Zealand Government
First Word

By Air Commodore Andrew Clark, Assistant Chief Capability - Capability Branch

A lot can change in five years. Take information technology for example: the first iPad hit the market in 2010; five years later a survey found more than half of New Zealanders had access to an iPad or tablet. People adopted and adapted. Little wonder then that the latest Defence White Paper, five years on since the last one, emphasises the need for the NZDF to adapt to operating in the information domain.

By now you’ll know from the White Paper that cyber capabilities are not the only developments that affect us. Changes within our region mean that we need to lift our game in the Southern Ocean, and also adapt to the evolving challenges within the South Pacific and our own EEZ. Further abroad, the “goalposts” of our UN and coalition operational playing fields are not staying static either, so neither can we.

That’s why the White Paper signals the investments that it does: ships with broad utility from the Southern Ocean to the South Pacific and beyond, vehicles and information systems to equip our deployed land forces in today’s threat environments, the capability to operate in today’s complex cyber domain, and a commitment to delivering air transport and air surveillance capabilities out beyond the retirement date of current aircraft types.

What does this mean for the RNZAF? It means that the roles and capabilities that we deliver now will, with some adaptation, continue to be the right fit for New Zealand. And it means we can have the confidence to plan longer term about how we do that, whether it’s through planning aircraft retirements and acquisitions, or through improvements to our procedures, training and infrastructure.

It also allows us to re-tune our thinking to what’s really important. Readiness for deployed military operations in a modern threat environment? Yes, but also the delivery of daily operations within our own region. The Government wants utility as well as capability, and we are the one-stop shop, both defence force and coastguard, for the capabilities we provide. We also need to think Joint: new RNZN ships will be operating helicopters supported by the RNZAF, our network enabled army will be moved by us and supported in the field by us. The surveillance we provide will support the intelligence needs of everyone, so we need to understand them.

So where to from here? You’ll now see more detailed plans take shape as the White Paper is implemented: a Capability Plan with more information about the capability investments, a Workforce Plan to ensure we have the people we need, an Estate Regeneration Plan to put in place fit-for-purpose infrastructure, and of course the individual projects themselves for investing in new aircraft and systems.

The way I look at it, the White Paper is the start of a process rather than the end of one. A lot will happen in the next five years.
An RNZAF NH90 medium utility helicopter has shifted a 1700kg Department of Conservation (DOC) hut sitting on an active slip in Mount Richmond Forest Park in Marlborough to safer ground.

The helicopter, from No. 3 Squadron, lifted Mt Fell Hut about 300m to its new location last month, Air Component Commander Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Darryn Webb said.

“No civilian helicopter can carry out the task in one lift due to the weight of the hut and the altitude of its location, which is over 1220m above sea level. The RNZAF NH90 is the only helicopter in New Zealand that can lift that much weight at that altitude,” AIRCDRE Webb said.

“This is another great example of how the NZDF assists our communities and other government agencies. The range of capabilities inherent in the NH90 enables it to perform a wide range of tasks, including airlifting heavy loads such as this.”
Our Collective Purpose

NH90 captain Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Chris Ross said the RNZAF helicopter also transported two loads of concrete and other construction materials that weighed a total of 1800kg and piles of timber that were used for the hut’s new foundations. Personnel from the Army’s 5 Movements Company also helped in preparing the loads.

“We are pleased to have been able to assist DOC and the local community by relocating the hut and flying DOC staff, volunteers and construction materials to the site,” FLTLT Ross said.

Built in 1964, the six-bunk hut is situated below an alpine meadow a kilometre south of Mt Fell’s summit. The ridgeline above the hut, which is a popular stop for people climbing Mt Fell, offers scenic views of the Wairau Plains, Nelson Bay, Tasman Bay, the Pelorus Valley and Wellington.

DOC, which manages the hut, said it had to be moved because it was sitting on an active slip and was in danger of sliding into the mountain bush. It had been closed since March last year.

The hut’s relocation was made possible by the Federated Mountain Club and the Marlborough, Nelson and Waimea Tramping Clubs, which secured $16,000 funding from the Outdoor Recreation Consortium. The consortium received $500,000 from DOC’s Community Fund to help maintain and enhance backcountry facilities.

After the move, the hut will remain closed until Christmas. This will allow volunteers from the tramping clubs time to complete work on the foundations and gain code compliance certification to ensure it is safe for accommodation once again.

“It is great to work with the NZDF on projects such as this as we get to achieve more for conservation. Staff from both organisations learn new skills and experience different ways of working,” said Matt Flynn, Supervisor Recreation and Historic in DOC’s Wairau-Renwick office.

The RNZAF introduced the NH90s into service in 2013 to perform a wide range of roles in New Zealand and overseas. With sophisticated systems and greater capacity, the NH90 is able to carry up to 19 soldiers or undersling field artillery in support of combat operations in a medium-threat environment.

The RNZAF uses the NH90 helicopters for search and rescue missions, transport for military and government personnel and lifting of equipment while also maintaining a counter-terrorism response.

The helicopters also confirmed their ability to support a humanitarian aid operation on their first overseas mission in Fiji early this year, when they provided a critical link between the main population centres and the outlying islands which were devastated by Tropical Cyclone Winston. Almost 160 hours of relief missions were flown by the NH90s during the seven-week operation.
Instructor Trainees
Conquer South Island Challenge

By Rebecca Quilliam

A small group of trainee pilot instructors flew out of their backyard around the Manawatu plains to fly low and fast through the unfamiliar mountainous terrain of the South Island. And they loved every second.

Mainlanders could be forgiven for scratching their heads if they looked towards the sky recently and spotted unfamiliar aircraft buzzing the mountains.

Five T-6C Texans were being taken on a week-long flight around the South Island in order for their pilots to be trained as instructors. The small high-tech planes are a common sight around the central North Island, but in order for their pilots to be put through their paces, they had to master the challenging terrain of Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

“For us to be able to teach the pilots course we had to get experience and exposure to flying in a mountainous environment,” one of those pilots, Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Matt Hansen said.

“Landing in different airports was also part of the challenge, he said.

During the training, the group of five pilots and five instructors flew as low as 250ft above the sides of the valleys. “It can be challenging depending on the environment and the weather. The weather can change quite dramatically in the mountains and a lot of the winds can get funnelled down the valleys, which makes it a lot stronger and more turbulent. But it was pretty amazing to think we get paid to do this kind of flying.”

“lt’s been an awesome experience, that week in the South Island was pretty amazing for us.”

LT Matthew Hansen at Dunedin Airport
Photo supplied Otago Daily Times
we were quite lucky, we had some decent weather – but it is a challenge, it keeps you on your toes. It’s great training for us. “We were flying about 240 knots, which is pretty fast as well.”

The Texans handled the extreme flying well and were not as affected by the turbulence as a bigger aircraft would have been, FLTLT Hansen said.

“It seems to punch through the turbulence a little bit smoother and it’s a lot more agile and fun.”

The easily changeable weather was the most challenging part of the training FLTLT Hansen said.

“Low cloud and drizzle can force you to turn around or divert.”

During one flight where the group was heading from Dunedin to Invercargill, they were forced back because of the weather.

“There was just a line of showers and low cloud. We tried to fly down the coast over the water, but the showers and low cloud forced us to turn around. For us it was a black and white decision.”

But for most of the week the weather was stunning and the group flew with a backdrop of snow capped mountains and blue skies.

“Then the instructors will graduate and begin the job of training the RNZAF’s future pilots – “which will be quite fun” FLTLT Hansen said.

WHY IS THE T-6C TEXAN A GREAT AIRCRAFT FOR TEACHING OUR PILOTS?

- All the aircraft in the RNZAF fleet have a ‘glass cockpit’ layout which means that the students will be familiar with the aircraft instruments when they progress on to their new aircraft.
- The glass cockpit allows the pilots to fly in Instrument Meteorological Conditions which involves flying in cloud with sole reference to their flight instruments.
- The T-6C has high operating performance, which enables students to develop and refine their pure flying skills and make them better pilots.
- The students will also be taught close formation flying 15 feet away from other aircraft. This requires extreme concentration and flying discipline. Formation leading also develops great situational awareness, which improves decision making and captaincy.
- The enhanced performance of the aircraft will help us to push the students so we can teach them to a really high standard.
The Team Behind the Aerial Search and Rescue Missions

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

As the Duty Air Component Commander’s Staff Officer (DACCSO), FLTLT Skeggs initiated the Search and Rescue response that led to hunter Matt Whiti’s eventual rescue by an RNZAF NH90 helicopter about noon the following day.

“The DACCSO’s role is quite critical. As the Air Component Commander’s out-of-hours representative, they deal with aviation issues such as aircraft maintenance and the planning and managing of search and rescue (SAR) operations in New Zealand and overseas,” said Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Peter Jackson, one of eight aircrew-qualified staff officers at HQ Joint Forces rostered for the role.
“The DACCSO has delegated authority to initiate a SAR response. This is important in time-critical situations where a SAR operation needs to be launched before formal approval could be obtained from the Air Component Commander.”

Once a request for SAR assistance is received – either from NZ Police or the New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre – the DACCSO gets as much information as they can about the object of the search. They then seek expert advice from one of the squadron executives on the best way to conduct the operation – what tactics the crew will likely use, how long it will take to carry out an effective search, and their preferred landing zones or airfields.

After obtaining approval for the operation, the DACCSO requests Base Operations in Auckland or Ohakea to initiate the SAR call-out. The call-out takes the form of a text message that is sent to a range of people including aircrew, squadron executives, aviation refuellers, mission support personnel and maintainers.

“About 30 people are on call to support a SAR involving the P-3K2 Orion aircraft, and about 20 for a SAR using an NH90 helicopter.”

“About 30 people are on call to support a SAR involving the P-3K2 Orion aircraft, and about 20 for a SAR using an NH90 helicopter,” SQNLDR Jackson said.

Once the SAR operation is initiated, the DACCSO prepares detailed information to assist the aircrew in their search. And after the operation is launched, they continue to monitor with the lead agency and manage it until it is completed.

If the SAR is being conducted overseas, such as in the south west Pacific, the DACCSO also liaises with the RNZAF flight facilitation personnel to ensure necessary arrangements such as diplomatic permission to land, fuel, air traffic control and accommodation for the aircrew are made.

Aside from the DACCSO and squadron support staff, the Air Operations Communications Centre (AOCC) and No. 230 Sqn are two other supporting units that play an important role in SAR operations.

The AOCC provides the communications link between the aircraft and HQ Joint Forces. However, the use of satellite phone calls is becoming more common, particularly for time-critical situations. No. 230 Sqn supports SAR missions by analysing and distributing any photos or video that are taken by the crew.

The P-3K2 Orion has completed seven SAR operations since January, including six to the Pacific. The NH90 maintains a national contingency cover which includes events such as SAR, counter-terrorism and the Kawerau shooting incident in March.
Enhanced Capability, Upgraded Platforms

Enhanced capability and personnel for surveillance, intelligence-gathering, and electronic protection, and upgraded platforms are key outcomes from the 2016 Defence White Paper. Most of NZDF’s existing mix of capabilities will be retained, and there will be new capabilities to ensure we are able to respond to future security challenges, including a heightened ability to engage with partner nations.

The Defence White Paper is planned to be produced every five years to ensure the New Zealand Defence Force is fit for purpose and ready to meet rapidly evolving regional and international security and defence challenges. White Papers provide the Government’s view on New Zealand’s strategic outlook as it relates to Defence, ensures NZDF has a capability plan to meet its roles and tasks and sets NZDF’s roles and tasks in supporting defence and security objectives within the overall national security system.

The 2016 version signals a modernisation plan to ensure NZDF meets those challenges in the decades up to 2040. It describes the security threats, challenges and opportunities New Zealand is likely to face, and outlines the roles and tasks NZDF should undertake in responding to these challenges, as well as the capabilities needed.

The Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating says the White Paper “provides NZDF with the strategic guidance and the capability path we need to be a Force for New Zealand now and into the foreseeable future”.

“It’s about reinforcing the importance of what we’re doing today and enabling us to fine tune that so we can continue to do that into the future. It gives a sharper focus on emerging trends so we will be as well prepared as we can be to meet the possible threats and challenges that will emerge.”

IN PARTICULAR, THE 2016 DEFENCE WHITE PAPER:

- Confirms NZDF’s path to 2020 Ready, including the Better Support backing of our personnel
- Signals the Government’s commitment to providing our personnel the platforms and capabilities we need to do our job by replacing and upgrading ships, aircraft and ground vehicles
- Adds capability and invests in enhancements and replacements around surveillance and intelligence across all our platforms. This
- Adds a cyber support capability to improve protection of our networks and electronic lines of communication, and provide dedicated support and specialist equipment for our deployed forces
- Enhances our maritime capabilities to operate more effectively in the Southern Ocean and Antarctica
- Provides a littoral operations vessel to increase the range of operations we can independently undertake in the South Pacific, and add depth to our maritime surveillance and sea transport capabilities
Advanced attacks are becoming more common as technological progress makes them cheaper and easier. In 2015 the National Cyber Security Centre, a division of GCSB, recorded 147 incidents. This was expected to go past 200 in 2016.
Maintenance Support Squadron Ohakea was tasked by MUH Technical cell with developing a repair that would weld cracks on the NH90 primary exhaust. These exhausts are an expensive asset at around $25k each and have very restrictive in-service crack lengths before they need to be replaced.

The exhausts are made from a heat treated titanium alloy that the RNZAF has not used before, so Defence Technology Agency (DTA) was tasked with analysing the material and to provide their expert guidance during the trial repair and evaluation process. These exhausts were prone to cracking between 20 to 200 flight hours as a result of being subjected to harsh operating conditions of prolonged dynamic vibration and temperature cycling.

A special mention to Mr Glenn Stephens and his team at DTA for their valued technical input. This is another example of where RNZAF units are working in conjunction with an external defence agency to provide a robust and timely solution.

Over the last year, seven exhausts have been weld repaired with a saving of $175K to date. If the demand remains similar over the service life of the NH90, it will continue to provide significant and ongoing savings well in to the future. Well done to the technicians in the Ohakea Metalshop notably LAC Brendon Kitching and CPL Jale Lal.

Weld Repairs to the NH90 Helicopter

By Flight Sergeant Martin Hair, Maintenance Support Squadron (Ohakea)
Night vision capability has been recently introduced to No. 40 Squadron’s C-130 Hercules, which meant a trip for some of the Loadmaster section to a Royal Australian Air Force Base to learn how to use the capability.

Four loadmasters travelled to No. 285 Sqn at the Air Base at Richmond, north west of Sydney, to develop new skills in the Virtual Terrain Board (VTB) and the Tactical Airlift Crew Trainer (TACT).

No. 285 Sqn Warrant Officer Sam Lacey led the training, providing some fantastic insights into our new equipment and passing on his experiences working with night vision goggles (NVG) in an operational environment.

We learned techniques for the use of NVGs including their limitations and advantages in high and low light conditions. There was great discussion about physiological considerations, illumination and contrast effects, working in testing operating environments, how easy it is to misinterpret what you’re seeing and how to identify illusions created by the night vision equipment.

The VTB takes advantage of state-of-the-art PC-based graphics systems and advanced digital projection to create extremely high fidelity images of the NVG environment. It provides a fantastic, highly realistic, training platform to develop skills and learn lessons from our neighbours across the ditch.

In theatres of war, ground based missile systems and gunfire pose a significant risk to our aircraft and crews. Loadmasters are the eyes looking out the back of the aircraft when we are transiting through areas of high enemy activity.

The TACT offered us the opportunity to observe and recognise simulated Surface to Air Missiles, Anti-Aircraft Fire and practice the threat calls and scanning techniques that we use during real time operations.

This facility was a mock-up of the aft section of the C-130, with projection onto t-cup domes integrated with virtual reality goggles, which provides a realistic threat-filled virtual environment that we are immersed into.
Our Collective Purpose

Smooth Sailing for the NH90s

By Rebecca Quilliam

The RNZAF’s NH90s were first operationally deployed overseas earlier this year after the devastating Tropical Cyclone Winston flattened many parts of Fiji. The NZDF-wide response was immediate and cooperation between the services to get assets to the battered nation swiftly was paramount. The NH90s played a major role in conducting mercy flights and it was thanks to the team on HMNZS CANTERBURY the aircraft arrived in such a timely manner.

Flight Sergeant (F/S) Jason Jeffs, No. 3 Squadron has had some practice being at sea with the NH90s when they were deployed to Exercise TALISMAN SABRE last year. He credited the lessons learned from then with the success of the helicopters’ first deployment offshore.

“A lot of that comes back to the work that we carried out prior to Talisman Sabre. Basically it was just a rerun of what happened there. During Op PACIFIC RELIEF we gained some good contacts with No. 6 Sqn, utilising their knowledge and expertise – giving us a few pointers.

“They helped make us aware of procedures that made our lives easier.”

It was a great experience, he said.

“It was good to come back on CANTERBURY with the aircraft. It was a new experience for some of the guys and I think they all enjoyed their time on board.”

It was helpful experience working with a different service, he said.

CANTERBURY’S Commanding Officer, Commander Simon Rooke said the ability for the ship to embark the NH90s, transport them to an area of operations and then lodge them afloat to a forward operating base (FOB) to operate were now well proven.

“This should be achievable, certainly from a ship perspective as the MRH90 (the ADF’s version of the NH90) already has that capability with CANTERBURY.”

Seasprite Helicopter pilot Lieutenant Commander (LTCDR) Alex Trotter said the crew from No. 3 Sqn and No. 6 Sqn all knew each other and were mates – “so that helps”.

He was the flight commander in the Air Aviation department and echoed F/S Jeffs’ sentiment that practice had made perfect.

“Most of the work was done during the trial phase last year, so embarking them and disembarking them during Operation PACIFIC RELIEF was relatively straightforward because we had all the documentation from when we did it before,” LTCDR Trotter said.

Having the helicopters on board the naval ships was becoming more and more frequent as the NZDF moves towards an amphibious capability, he said.

The NH90 crew were “great fun”.

“It’s always nice to interact with No. 3 Sqn.”

It took a while for some to get their sealegs though – “a few of them looked pretty green”, he said.
Personnel Join Largest Humanitarian Mission in Asia-Pacific Region

Nine NZDF personnel have embarked on the US naval hospital ship USNS Mercy as they take part in the largest multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) mission to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Wing Commander (WGCDR) Michelle White, who is the Senior National Officer of the NZDF contingent and Chief of Staff for this year’s Pacific Partnership, said the US-led mission will see them visiting Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam over the coming months.

“We will be engaging in various partnering efforts designed to develop disaster response preparedness and strengthen relationships with other nations,” WGCDR White said.

The NZDF contingent join over 600 military and civilian personnel from Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States on board USNS Mercy. As part of the mission, Japan will also visit Palau.

During each stop in Pacific Partnership 16, NZDF personnel and other participants will partner with host nations for civic-action projects, community health exchanges, medical symposiums, engineering projects, and HADR training.

“One of the distinctions of this year’s mission is that it highlights the role of women in HADR efforts in line with the UN Women’s programmes on Women, Peace and Security (WPS),” said Commander Karen Ward of the Royal New Zealand Navy, who is leading the mission’s WPS team.

“Women and children often make up the majority of displaced populations in the aftermath of disasters and conflicts. We recognise that women’s participation in disaster recovery efforts or peacebuilding is vital if we are to have more inclusive societies and increase the survivability for women and children,” she said.

As with previous Pacific Partnership missions, various surgeries will be performed aboard USNS Mercy in coordination with host nations.
Sergeant (SGT) Lyle Wooller changed his trade to become a Helicopter Loadmaster two years ago so he could be closer to the action and that is where he has been since.

“I changed my trade to loadmaster for the challenge. Being in the door of a helicopter, flying close to objects and landing in small areas seemed like a great choice,” he said.

SGT Wooller finished his helicopter basic course on the A109 light utility helicopter in September 2014 as a qualified Helicopter Crewman. Following this, he began his conversion training on the NH90 medium utility helicopter.

As Helicopter Loadmaster, he helps ensure passengers, troops and cargo are all on board and secure.

“We regularly winch people in and out of the helicopter. Ensuring their safety and that of the aircraft is top of the list,” he said.

“We also carry underslung loads that are anywhere between 20ft and 120ft or more under the aircraft. We monitor the load at all stages of the flight and update the pilots as appropriate.”

Loadmasters also play a crucial role in helicopter operations that require the aircraft to manoeuvre into and around confined areas.

“Since pilots have restricted vision around the frame, it is the Loadmaster’s responsibility to maintain clearances to objects. In complex terrain, we assist the pilots with takeoff and landing. Some terrain will allow us to land with one wheel touching the ground, which lets us load and unload as required,” SGT Wooller explained.

“We regularly winch people in and out of the helicopter. Ensuring their safety and that of the aircraft is top of the list,”
Encouraged by his father, a former member of the New Zealand Army, SGT Wooller joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 2004, six months into his undergraduate course at Waikato University.

The New Zealand Defence Force’s aid operation in Fiji early this year marked the first time SGT Wooller was deployed on an overseas mission. One of about 530 personnel involved in the humanitarian aid operation, he said the Fijians’ cheerful outlook and sense of gratitude impressed him the most.

“The most rewarding part of the deployment was seeing the Fijians smile when we dropped in to hand out aid. The locals were awesome; they were all very keen to help and really appreciative of any help they received,” said SGT Wooller, who hails from Morrinsville, 33km east of Hamilton.

“Everywhere we went to deliver aid supplies, people came out to shake hands with us and wave us goodbye. In one of the highland villages on the main islands of Viti Levu, residents formed a line to shake hands with the entire crew.”

Two NH90 helicopters assisted in Fiji’s disaster recovery efforts on their first overseas mission. The helicopters delivered essential aid supplies, water purification equipment, and sacks of seeds and plant cuttings to cyclone-ravaged communities. They also transported New Zealand medical volunteers as well as Fiji government staff to remote communities.

SGT Wooller said his deployment to Fiji gave him the opportunity to use his skills to help people in need. “We moved tonnes of aid and flew people to remote areas to deliver medical treatment and conduct damage assessment. Some areas were not acceptable to land so we either had to winch some people into these remote places or land with one wheel on to hover offload people. Beaches became a great place to land and added in a factor of tide times.”

“Since pilots have restricted vision around the frame, it is the Loadmaster’s responsibility to maintain clearances to objects. In complex terrain, we assist the pilots with takeoff and landing. Some terrain will allow us to land with one wheel touching the ground, which lets us load and unload as required.”

It takes a special person to be a loadmaster. If you think you are up for the challenge, go to: http://www.defencecareers.mil.nz/air-force/jobs/helicopter-loadmaster
RNZAF gets Down to Work in the Middle East

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

Unfazed by the withering 40 degree-plus heat, a detachment of 34 personnel from the RNZAF integrated with colleagues from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) early last month to form part of an Australian-led air task group supporting coalition operations in the Middle East.

Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Rhys Evans, Commander Task Unit, said the detachment, which consists of personnel from No. 40 Squadron, No. 230 Sqn, Operations Sqn – Ohakea, Material Support Wing and CIS branch, “got straight down to work in typical Kiwi fashion”.

“Everyone is excited about doing the job they have trained to do and we are enjoying the operational tempo. It is great to finally get on the ground, and in the air, over here. Many of the people have been deployed here previously and have taken the newbies under their wing to show them the ropes.”

Major General (MAJGEN) Tim Gall, the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, said the RNZAF personnel and a C-130 Hercules aircraft were operating for the next six months as part of an ADF Joint Task Force that had been transporting freight and personnel in support of Australian, New Zealand and coalition operations in the Middle East.

“The first flights into Afghanistan were dynamic. The crew managed to achieve the tasks, displaying the New Zealand Defence Force’s agility and flexibility to adjust to changing situations at short notice.”

New Zealand has had a longstanding commitment in the Middle East. With this deployment, we are doing our fair share

>>
towards the air support required for various operations that seek to maintain peace and stability in the region,” MAJGEN Gall said.

“The operation also seeks to improve cooperation and enhance our ability to work alongside Australia and our coalition partners. We work with the ADF, the United States and other partners in Afghanistan, Iraq and other parts of the world and this deployment of the C-130 and the detachment marks our latest contribution,” he added.

The RNZAF Hercules completed its first set of sustainment flights to Afghanistan in mid-June. Future taskings would likely include flights to Iraq and other parts of the Middle East region.

“We have seamlessly integrated with our ANZAC counterparts and we are operating together as part of the Air Mobility Task Group. Our air load team has been working shifts loading both New Zealand and Australian aircraft, and our intelligence officer has been briefing both New Zealand and Australian crews,” SQNLDR Evans said.

“The first flights into Afghanistan were dynamic. The crew managed to achieve the tasks, displaying the New Zealand Defence Force’s agility and flexibility to adjust to changing situations at short notice.”

He said the crew used the flying techniques they learnt and practised during recent training exercises in the United States.

“The training we undertook prior to being deployed on this mission has been invaluable and gave us a good understanding of coalition processes,” SQNLDR Evans said.

“The terrain is interesting and varies from seemingly endless deserts to snow-capped peaks. It’s different from our usual training grounds in New Zealand so it has been a great learning experience for the entire crew.”

The soaring temperatures pose the biggest challenge to the NZDF contingent, according to SQNLDR Evans. “The temperature inside the aircraft, whilst on the ground, often exceeds 50C. To minimise exposure, our maintenance personnel wear ice vests and work in short shifts.”

The ADF Joint Task Force consists of a number of groups including the Air Mobility Task Group (AMTG) and around 1800 personnel. The AMTG operates the RNZAF Hercules aircraft and two C-130J-30 Hercules and C-17A Globemasters from the Royal Australian Air Force.
The RNZAF is leading the way in helping to achieve a Smokefree NZDF following the launch of a Base-wide Smokefree Strategy.

The strategy for Woodbourne Air Base was launched on May 31 on World Smokefree Day, and helped support the transition to a Smokefree New Zealand Defence Force by 2020.

RNZAF Occupational Health Nurse Advisor Sally Tringham, who is based at Woodbourne, said the strategy had been several years in the making and was about protecting our staff from harm.

“There is no benefit to smoking, it causes harm to our personnel, their families and to those around them, both via second and third hand smoke. It contains several class one carcinogens as well as being highly addictive, and now very expensive.

“The Occupational Health Nurses have been working on the Smokefree strategy for several years and just like anything there is often resistance until things become aligned and the path to change is easier,” Miss Tringham said.

Base Auckland launched their strategy on January 1 this year and Base Ohakea aimed to launch theirs within the next couple of months.

The process for the three Air Force Bases to become Smokefree will be one of gradual implementation rather than a complete ban.

“We have set up designated smoking areas that are no more than two to three minutes from any work area. These areas will be removed, several at a time each year, for the next four years. This gives people time to make a decision about their smoking habit before a complete ban in 2020,” Miss Tringham said.

There is smoking cessation support available on all Bases where nicotine replacement products such as lozenges, gum and nicotine patches are available, and also includes champix, a drug which blocks the effect of nicotine and helps to reduce withdrawal and craving symptoms.

“These products together with one on one support from a health professional have been shown to be the most effective way to give up long term.

“Each Base has the advantage of having a captive audience and therefore it is easy to keep in touch with people who are giving up and check on how they are managing with their quit attempt.”

Miss Tringham was not aware of the smokefree initiative being undertaken before in the Defence Force and hoped the other single services would consider following suit.

“The Command team at Woodbourne have been very supportive and proactive in taking the first steps towards being Smokefree. By looking after our personnel while in the service, we are also assisting them from developing respiratory diseases such as emphysema and lung cancers once they have retired,” she said.
Operation ANTARCTICA is the NZDF’s ongoing commitment to provide annual air transport and logistic support to the New Zealand Antarctic Programme (NZAP) and the United States Antarctic Programme (USAP).

We have roles on the ice for:
- Plant Operators
- Drivers
- Operations Clerk/Radio Operator
- Riggers
- Terminal Operators
- Field Engineers
- Plumbers
- Carpenters
- Electricians
- Air Drop Rigging Assistants
- General Assistants (Fuel/General Hand)
- Marine Technician (P/L)

And at Harewood Terminal (Christchurch) for:
- Air Cargo Handlers
- Air Cargo Handler Team Leader
- Documents Clerk
- Deputy NCO i/c ANT PAX terminal

Operation ANTARCTICA is one of the coolest missions on Earth. If you are interested in operational experience on the ice next summer, talk to your career manager now!
Engagement is about how we, the Air Force and the NZDF as a whole, connect with our people. Our people are at the centre of what we do every day. It’s through them that we will be able to achieve our goal of enhanced combat capability by 2020, so it’s important that our people are positively engaged and connected with our organisation.

When our people are positively engaged, they are more enthusiastic about their work, invested in the outcomes of what they do, and committed to looking after themselves and their work mates. These are the qualities that we need in order to deliver excellence in our service of security and defence to New Zealand.

Within the Air Force, our leaders have been looking carefully, and in detail at the results from the first Census, and making targeted changes in areas of engagement across our Service. In early April the NZDF took the ‘Pulse’ of our organisation, to check in and see how we were progressing. The results are in, and they’re looking pretty good.

We’ve made some progress, lifting our results across four of the five questions, which means we are tracking in the right direction. Particularly positive to see is the increase in number of you who believe that communication in the NZDF is open and honest. This is a good start, but still needs focus and improvement. The way to improve this further, along with other areas of engagement, is to focus on taking action and making a commitment to improve in all of our work areas. We really want to see an increase in the number of people who have had engagement conversations in their units, only a third of us have so far, which isn’t enough.

The Census, our organisation’s full engagement survey is coming in July, and we’d like to see Air Force’s response rate much higher. We need to hear your voice in order to know where to target our focus for change. The Census is a longer, more detailed survey, but it’s important that we ask a range of questions to get a full picture of how you feel about working in the Air Force and NZDF. When the Census takes place, please take time to answer the survey, do your part, have your say, and help us make the NZDF a better place to work and serve.
GEARING UP FOR CENSUS16

Our first ever NZDF engagement survey known as the Census was launched about a year ago and it’s getting ready to kick off again. Here is why it’s important you take part...

CENSUS16

This year’s Census is fast approaching - in late July we will be asking you all to complete the Census16 survey. As this is our full engagement survey, it is longer than the short Pulse16 survey completed in April.

WHY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Engagement scores are important because among other things, they measure two things of concern to us – the performance of our leaders and people, and our people’s well being. These are paramount for everyone who works in the NZDF given we take pride in a reputation of ‘punching above our weight’ and also caring for our people.

The use of the recent Pulse16 survey in April allowed us to check-in and track our progress on achieving improvements on the Census15 results. The Pulse16 results showed us that we are generally moving in the right direction in areas of the Census15 that you told us we needed to improve on. Pulse16 results reports can be found at http://ref/sites/Census/LP/reports-p16.aspx

CENSUS SUCCESS STORIES

A number of leaders across the NZDF acted on the results of the Census15 and sat down with their teams to discuss the results and what they thought it meant for their team and them as a leader. Approaches to this varied from running formal workshops, holding ‘town halls’ or simply sitting down with the team informally to chat about the results. In the end, the method didn’t matter that much, but what did matter was that these leaders had a discussion with their teams to listen to their concerns. Outcomes from these efforts were consistent in terms of the leader and team members identifying what each could do to improve their engagement before the next Census.

CENSUS16

WHAT
The Census16 survey measures how we’re performing as a Defence Force. It takes around 15–20 minutes to complete.

WHY
To gather information that will help NZDF build an even better workplace, improve the working lives of personnel, and further increase our ability to provide a Force for NZ.

WHO
Census16 is for ALL who work at the NZDF, including Reserves and those who are deployed.

WHEN
Census16 will run in late July for TWO weeks.

HOW
For Regular Force and civilians the survey will be online and a link will be emailed to all members/employees. Hard copies will also be sent out to camps and bases for people who may not have access to a Defence computer, including people on an exercise or those who are deployed. For Reserves, the survey will be advertised on The Hub and completed via direct email.

RESULTS
We expect the reports to be made available for all NZDF personnel in early September.
Air Force Museum communications officer Michelle Sim has been honoured for her efforts in founding and chairing the Emerging Museum Professionals (EMP) network after receiving the Individual Achievement Award at the National Museum Awards.

Michelle created and initiated the highly successful network in 2013 and has been its inaugural chair and champion. The EMP network now numbers some 300 young professionals and is providing an essential platform for leadership growth, engagement, and development in the sector.

Air Force Museum Director Thérèse Angelo said it was well-deserved recognition.

“The number of younger and newer members attending Museums Aotearoa conferences has grown exponentially, and their involvement is essential to the preservation and growth of the sector. Michelle has contributed an enormous amount of her own time to managing the demands of growing the EMP, alongside work, the birth of her first child, and more recently a more senior role at the Air Force Museum,” she said.

The Assistant Chief of Air Force (Support), Group Captain Colin Marshall, said that the award reflected the outstanding calibre of the museum staff.

The museum has now had two individual achievement awards presented to current staff, as well as a unique special award to the institution as a whole for the work done as part of the Christchurch earthquake recovery.

Michelle is not resting on her laurels: she is now busy looking at new ideas for supporting mid-career museum professionals.

The Air Force Museum of New Zealand was recognised for its earthquake recovery work at the prestigious Canterbury Heritage Awards, held in the newly-restored Great Hall of the Christchurch Arts Centre last month.

The nomination reads: “In the wake of the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes the Air Force Museum provided free, secure space to 38 local heritage organisations and their collections. It raised significant funds and in-kind support to assist participating organisations with material costs, equipment and specialist training. Their collaborative approach is a fine example of privileging community needs above private enterprise to ensure the safe housing of our cultural heritage in the wake of disaster. The benefits were both immediate and long-term.”

The Canterbury Heritage Awards are held biennially and recognise excellence in heritage retention and conservation, heritage tourism and heritage education within the public and private sector.

For more on the Recovery Centre project, see the June 2016 edition of Air Force News.
More than 120 children from Riverlands School in Blenheim have learnt all about survival thanks to NZDF personnel.

Defence Physical Education and Recreation Training School (DPERTS) Chief Instructor Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Brett Maraku and Air Force Instructor Sergeant (SGT) Kieran Eades spent time teaching and demonstrating basic bush survival skills to the children, aged 7-12 years old.

Riverlands School teacher Tracy Null said this was the first exposure the children had to the topic of survival.

“The team talked to our children about the survival rules including the three threes. Three hours without shelter, three days without water and three weeks without food. “Not many of the children thought they could survive three weeks without food, no matter what the team told them,” she said.

SGT Eades said the types of skills and education for students was important as technology became more dominant in young children’s lives.

“The knowledge learnt from these types of exposures could one day help them or it could be a draw card to join the military at a later stage.

“This was made more apparent when students were asked what they would do if they were lost in the bush and the typical response was ‘use Wi-Fi’ or ‘use my phone to call someone’,” said SGT Eades.

Ms Null said that it was a great introduction to the topic of survival and will help the children in formulating questions to investigate the topic further.

“It was awesome for the children to learn these new things from people other than their teachers as the guys gave an authentic perspective on it. They also encouraged the children to think about careers in the armed forces.

“All the teachers and children really enjoyed the enthusiasm and experiences the team shared. The planning and execution of this day was fantastic, the RNZAF were obliging and helpful, which was fantastic,” said Ms Null.

SGT Eades said it was nice to get out into the Marlborough community and teach and inform children about what they did as the military and what they learned as part of their training.

“It was very refreshing. Seeing the children enjoy aspects like eating ration packs, lighting fires and wanting to get involved in new skills was very satisfying.

“Showing what we do in the military and what we learn is a good way to promote the New Zealand Defence Force and also to show New Zealanders why we are an important part of the country,” he said.
May 17th marked the 73rd anniversary of the famous Dam Busters bombing raid of World War II. Sadly, it also marked the first anniversary since the passing of Kiwi Dam Busters pilot Les Munro. It was also a big day for The Missing Wingman Trust, our Air Force charity, as they ran a series of events across all five bases, raising over $11,000!

In Auckland there were heart-shaped cookies, a bake sale and a collection taken across base. An amazing effort and it raised over $1500. AC Elese Russell from medical helped out on the day and was delighted to see “how many people are willing to support such a great trust, and do their part to help”. AC Callum Wilkie said: “I am honoured to do my part in supporting a trust established to provide a helping hand when our defence families most need it.”

At Ohakea, the base team and A109 flight ran their second Shakedown (collection) on the main gate as people arrived in the morning - raising almost $900. FGOFF Chris Fon-Lowe helped on the gate: “Nearly everyone who came through the gate made a donation. I think it shows what a worthwhile and respected cause this is.” CPL Byron Hodge agreed. “It was great to be able to support an organisation that helps our workmates and colleagues, where I can see a direct impact.”

At Joint Force Headquarters, a mufti day was held and Air Component Commander AIRCDRE Darryn Webb hosted a morning tea, raising over $260. At Defence Headquarters in Wellington, AC CAP hosted a morning tea, which along with a raffle and sales of the first edition Missing Wingman Trust cufflinks raised over $900. “It was great to see everyone support the Missing Wingman Trust by making time to come to the morning tea and purchase a raffle ticket,” coordinator Linley Williams said. “We also sold a good number of the new Missing Wingman pins and cufflinks.”

In Woodbourne, a special mufti day and collection raised almost $550. The current course of Officer Cadets ran the collection, and speaking afterwards, OCDT Amit Balasubramanian said it was “an amazing opportunity to support a trust that delivers so much to our RNZAF families.”

“The Missing Wingman Trust 
“Looking After Family”

A little further south at Joint Force Headquarters, a mufti day was held and Air Component Commander AIRCDRE Darryn Webb hosted a morning tea, raising over $260. At Defence Headquarters in Wellington, AC CAP hosted a morning tea, which along with a raffle and sales of the first edition Missing Wingman Trust cufflinks raised over $900. “It was great to see everyone support the Missing Wingman Trust by making time to come to the morning tea and purchase a raffle ticket,” coordinator Linley Williams said. “We also sold a good number of the new Missing Wingman pins and cufflinks.”

Denise Liddell from Airstaff thought it was “great to see everyone getting behind a good cause and the new Missing Wingman merchandise”.

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“I am honoured to do my part in supporting a trust established to provide a helping hand when our defence families most need it.”

AC Callum Wilkie said

YES! I WILL SET-UP AN AP TO:

THE MISSING WINGMAN TRUST

BANK: Westpac
ACCOUNT: 03 0774 0642082 00
CHARITY NUMBER: CC50067
AMOUNT: $1 weekly/fortnightly
We had an overwhelming number of volunteers wanting to be part of such a great cause." Command and Recruit Training Squadron Warrant Officer, W/O Dave Lark, spoke of the importance of the trust in supporting our Air Force family. "Ahakoa whati te manga e takoto ana anoo te koohiwi: Although the branch is broken off, the trunk remains. For me this means even though we may lose one of our people, the support network for the wider whanau will be enduring."

The day culminated at Park Road Post Production in Miramar, at film studios designed and built by Sir Peter Jackson. Following drinks and nibbles and music from the RNZAF Band, the original Dam Busters film was screened in the exclusive cinema. SQNLDR Hilton Baker, MFC No. 5 Sqn, thought it was "a fantastic evening for a fantastic cause ... the service and sacrifice portrayed in the film more than aptly drove home the Trust's message and purpose in supporting our Air Force family and remembering those we've lost".

SQNLDR Paul Cockerton, who served on 617 'Dam Busters' Squadron in the RAF found the connection to his former-squadron to be a particularly special of way of getting behind the trust, encouraging more of us to get involved. "Supporting the Missing Wingman Trust is something that is important to me and something that I do through my fortnightly pay. One thing that separates the RNZAF from my previous service in the RAF is the real feeling of family and of belonging that we have in the RNZAF. In this regard, the Missing Wingman Trust is family, looking after family."

The day was summed up well by CPL Nicky Logan from Auckland: "The collection provided a great opportunity to shine some light on the great work the Missing Wingman Trust is already doing. While the funds we raised are greatly appreciated, spreading awareness was the real win for me during this fundraiser."

Dam Busters Day was also the launch of a new initiative, the Wingman Brunches. The idea is that people (and they don’t have to be in the Air Force) will host a meal in their homes or at their work, and guests make a donation to the trust to attend. Chief of Air Force will be hosting a special breakfast in Wellington on August 19, with the Wingman Brunches running nationwide from August 15 – 21. This is a great opportunity for some inter-unit rivalry or hospitality! Sign up details are online at www.missingwingmantrust.org.nz, including decorations, games and recipes.

As always, you can find out more about the trust on our website, including who we've helped, how we've helped, and how you can help. If you haven’t set up your AP yet for $1 per pay, now’s a great time, and check out our new pins and cufflinks either on our website or through your local base rep.

"I encourage everyone in the RNZAF to join me in setting up an AP for $1 per pay. When we all make this very small contribution, it makes a big difference for the families who need help the most," WOAF Mark Harwood said

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Two ways. Firstly, our goal for 2016 (a special year for Defence) is to get 2016 people who are willing to set up an automatic payment of $1 per pay to the trust. $26 per year. That’s all. Westpac account number 03 0774 0642082 00

Secondly, contact your base rep to see if there are any fundraising or support projects (like the recent working bee in Woodbourne) that you can help with. They’d LOVE to hear from you. And if you’ve got a fundraising idea we’re always keen to hear about it.

BASE EREPRESENTATIVES

- Auckland – W/O Phil Webley
- Ohakea – SQNLDR Ron Thacker
- Wellington – W/O Jake McPhee
- Woodbourne – FLTLT Jules Gilligan and W/O Dave Lark
The scary fact is that those ‘what ifs’ can easily turn into reality – maybe not this time but what about the next time?

“It’s never usually one big thing that causes accidents or safety incidents,” Director of Safety, Susan D’Ath-Weston said. “It’s the little things all coming together at the wrong time.

Being aware of near-misses, minor safety events and safety concerns gives us the opportunity to learn about problems and take action before those problems have the chance to cause harm.

It’s up to all of us to not only look out for ourselves but also for our colleagues and friends. By reporting risks and concerns, we make our Defence Force stronger.

In the Solomon Islands, I made a bad decision.
I was on a task in Auki when we had to use drum stock to refuel the aircraft. As per unit SOPs, we tested the fuel prior to taking it. There were existing concerns with the quality of the fuel in the Solomons, but we had robust procedures to manage this. While the drum stock tested serviceable, insofar as water contamination was concerned, we noticed small black particles in the test sample. We suspected this was black paint off the inside of the drum and discussed the issue as a crew.

As aircraft captain, I had two options. If we didn’t take the fuel, we were stuck on Auki. Daylight hours were running out. We’d have to source some alternative drum stock from Henderson Field and this could take a while.

If we took the fuel, we’d probably be okay...I mean, we knew the fuel in the Solomons was average and we’d been fine up until now...what were the chances? We fuelled up, taking a sample of the fuel with us so the MFC could analyse it on our return.

Then we headed home... thankfully, safely. But, 'what if’...

The RNZAF has been building on its safety management system (SMS) for many years but it’s been doing this in isolation, and without higher level policy and supervision. To ensure safety continues to be at the forefront of everything we do, an NZDF-wide SMS is being implemented through the Directorate of Safety.

An SMS is a framework put in place to improve safety and minimise the risk of harm. It means the organisation has systems in place to identify, assess and control safety risks, and also provide assurance that those risk controls are effective. An SMS also has mechanisms for open and honest reporting, and structures for effective safety governance and worker engagement.

The NZDF SMS will provide the Defence Force with a collective and consistent way to manage safety. This will help us learn from each other and give our leadership team a single source of truth for understanding the big risks that affect our combat capability and ability to operate effectively.

Ms D’Ath-Weston is very clear about the role of the NZDF SMS. “We’re not reinventing the wheel. Risk management is already a crucial part of how the Defence Force operates, and we’re not going to ask you to avoid doing something just in case it’s dangerous.

“What we are asking of our people, in particular our leaders, is to ensure we understand our risks and that we manage them appropriately.”

A core component of the SMS is empowering our people by giving them the ability to freely report safety concerns, no matter how big or small they might seem. The RNZAF Just Culture policy of shared responsibility supports honesty and shows a positive step towards a generative safety system where safety is a part of everything we do.

“By speaking up and telling us about your safety concerns, no matter how unimportant you think they may be, you give us an opportunity to break a link in the accident chain and prevent a serious injury or worse,” explains Ms D’Ath Weston.

“Safety is everyone’s responsibility, and we all need the courage and opportunity to speak up.”
Obituary

F/S McGlone
1918 - 2016

By Flight Sergeant Pat Davies

One of the RNZAF personnel who was part of a small group of New Zealanders to save the lives of a ship’s crew and troops after it was damaged by a Japanese aircraft during WWII, has died.

Flight Sergeant (Rtd) Phillip McGlone’s life and career was recently celebrated at his funeral in Rotorua. He was 98.

F/S McGlone enlisted with the RNZAF on April 13, 1939 from the ranks of the army territorials, where he had already served a year as an infantryman in the Auckland Regiment. He was trained as an Equipment Assistant and served at Hobsonville and Rongotai before embarking for overseas service in August 1941.

He served in Malaya and Singapore building airstrips, posted to No. 1 Aerodrome Construction Squadron and was one of the servicemen who barely escaped the fall of Singapore to the Japanese, sailing to Batavia on the damaged ship Darvel.

F/S McGlone’s time on board SS Darvel is like something from a ‘Boys Own’ adventure book. On leaving Singapore the ship was attacked by Japanese bombers and although was not hit directly ended up riddled with holes from bomb splinters and was leaking badly. The steering was damaged as were all of the lifeboats, a number of fires had broken out and many of the troops on board were killed and injured.

The captain ordered the ship to be abandoned but the state of the lifeboats made this impossible, so working parties made up of New Zealanders went below to fill in the holes and repair the lifeboats and rigging and clear the decks of debris. They managed to fix the steering and a Royal Navy officer took command of the ship. The next morning the ship was listing so badly all of the passengers and baggage were crowded to the starboard side while men from F/S McGlone’s Squadron once again went below to plug more holes. The ship managed to limp to Batavia and the passengers were saved.

Senior officers who had travelled in the SS Darvel reported afterwards that, although the New Zealanders formed only a small proportion of the troops on board, it was entirely due to their work and initiative that the Darvel reached Batavia safely.

F/S McGlone was later posted to No. 14 Squadron where he served in Espiritu Santo and Guadalcanal before returning to New Zealand in 1943. For the next nine years he was posted in the Hamilton area and then Whenuapai before transferring to the reserves. He was reactivated a year later and served primarily as an Equipment Assistant/Supplier in the Hamilton/ Te Rapa area until his discharge from the Air Force in 1953, having served for 13 years and 11 days.

Decorations/Medals:

- The 1939-45 Star
- The Pacific Star
- The Defence Medal
- The War Medal 1939-45
- The New Zealand War Service Medal
- The New Zealand Defence Service Medal with clasp “Regular” had remained unclaimed. This has lately been urgently rectified and presented to F/S McGlone’s family at his funeral service.
NZDF Participates in World’s Largest Maritime Exercise – RIMPAC

The NZDF is sending ships, aircraft and personnel to take part in the world’s largest international maritime exercise.

Twenty-seven nations, 45 ships, five submarines, more than 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise scheduled to take place from June to August, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.

The RIMPAC amphibious task force will be led by Royal New Zealand Navy Commodore (CDRE) Jim Gilmour.

“Roughly 70 per cent of the world is water, 80 per cent of the world’s population lives on or near a coast, and 90 per cent of international commerce moves by sea. Capable maritime forces help ensure stability and prosperity around the world, and RIMPAC helps participating nations develop these capabilities. Our role is to protect our interests at sea.”

The NZDF’s participation includes the RNZN frigate HMNZS Te Kaha, Littoral Warfare Unit (shallow water operations), Air Surveillance and Reconnaissance Force (Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 Orion and supporting elements), Command Task Force 176 (command staff onboard USS America), New Zealand National Support Element, and the New Zealand Army Light Rifle Platoon.

This year’s exercise includes forces from Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People’s Republic of China, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Former RNZAF Chief Honoured

Five current and former NZDF personnel, including former Chief of Air Force Air Vice-Marshall (Rtd) Mike Yardley, have been named in the Queen’s Birthday 2016 Honours List.

Mr Yardley was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to the NZDF, lately as Chief of Air Force.

As Chief of Air Force, Mr Yardley led the successful introduction into service of enhanced military air capabilities for the RNZAF, including the Seaspire, A109 and NH90 helicopters and upgrades to the Orion and Hercules fleets.

He also led the significant improvement in the safety of Defence Force air operations, and was recently instrumental in ensuring the early deployment of Orion aircraft to the Middle East in support of New Zealand’s interests in the region.

He held a number of roles and had risen through the ranks of the RNZAF since his enlistment in 1981 as a General Duties Navigator. In the 2000s he was the Project Manager for the P-3 Orion Systems Upgrade Project, for which he was recognised with the award of the Distinguished Service Decoration in 2007.

Other Recipients of the Queen’s Birthday Honours were:

- Dr Ralph Marrett, ONZM for services to the Defence Technology Agency
- Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Clinton Childs RNZIR for services with the headquarters of the Multi-National Force and Observers and as commander of the New Zealand Contingent in the Sinai
- “Serviceman J” and “Serviceman C”, both of whom demonstrated distinguished service while on deployment in Iraq in 2015, making significant contributions towards the success of multi-national operations.
The next step in a series of support processes for members of the NZ Defence Force was delivered at the beginning of July, with the stand-up of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and the appointment of regionally-based Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Advisors (SAPRAs).

The SAPRAs were brought on board to provide victim-focused care to Defence personnel who have been harmed by inappropriate sexual behaviour. The SAPRAs, who bring with them a range of skills from across the New Zealand sexual violence sector, will operate in a victim-centric manner to deliver best-practice support to those harmed, as well as those who are supporting them.

The SAPRAs will not only be responsible for supporting commanders and managers, as well as victims/survivors – but will they also administer the new Restricted Disclosure and Unrestricted Disclosure response systems – ways of reporting inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour that best supports the victim/survivor and their wishes.

Full information about the SART, the SAPRAs and their contact details, and the Restricted and Unrestricted Disclosure response systems are available on the ILP at http://www.nzdf.dixs.mil.nz/sart and on the internet at http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/sart

If you or anyone you know needs help urgently, call 111 or you can contact a SAPRA on 0800 693 324.

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### REPORTING SEXUALLY HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

**What to do when you want help or witness sexual violence**

** Restricted disclosure = No Investigation**

- **What is Restricted Disclosure?**
  - Only a victim/survivor can make Restricted Disclosures. With Restricted Disclosure you will receive the help and support you need. The information you give to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Advisor (SAPRA) will not be passed on to anyone*, and no investigation will take place.

- **Who can I go to for help?**
  - Talk to a SAPRA and tell them you want to make a Restricted Disclosure.

- **Unrestricted Disclosure made to SAPRA or ANY Military Personnel**

- **What is Unrestricted Disclosure?**
  - Victims/survivors or witnesses can make Unrestricted Disclosures. With Unrestricted Disclosure you will receive the help and support you need. The information will be held sensitively, shared ONLY with those who need to know, and a full investigation will take place.

- **Who can I go to for help?**
  - Talk to any member of the NZDF, including your Regional SAPRA, commander/manager, someone you trust in the NZDF, a Chaplain, any medical person, or NZDF MP and tell them you want to make a report and have it investigated.

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*There are some circumstances where a disclosure will not be able to be restricted. These include:
- When keeping the information in confidence would present a serious risk to the life or safety of you or another person.
- If an investigation is already underway.
- Where the incident is already in the public domain.
Recruits are Now on the Way to Being Financially Fit

By Charlene Smart, Senior Communications Advisor (South), Defence Public Affairs

Being financially aware and capable is the focus for a number of sessions now delivered to all new Regular Force recruits to the NZDF.

Each recruit course – Navy, Army and Air Force – contains a five-hour presentation about financial wellbeing. This includes information on KiwiSaver, the two new NZDF savings schemes, buying a first home, wills and insurance and the NZDF financial advisory service. Also included is a two-hour introduction to financial capability concepts.

The financial capability sessions also introduce recruits to the NZDF Force Financial Hub, which is the gateway to a range of information about the financial services available to members of NZDF. The Force Financial Hub provides NZDF members, their families, as well as former members and their family with access to a range of products, tools, benefits and services aimed at building financial capability.

NZDF Benefits Manager Mark Williamson said the session gave recruits an introduction to the range of benefits offered to them.

“It encourages recruits to start thinking about saving for retirement and for buying a first home. It is also intended to whet their appetite for learning more from the financial capability programme offered by NZDF.”

There were a number of reasons as to why it was important that recruits learn the benefits of being financially fit, Mr Williamson said.

“Managing your money effectively makes for a happier and less stressful life and helps set you up for a financially secure retirement. A key message is the sooner you start saving for retirement the better.

“In many respects young recruits face an ideal environment in which to save. If you start saving in that environment life is less of a struggle financially later on when you have a partner, mortgage and a family,” he said.

NZDF was committed to the financial wellbeing of members and their families.

“We are not making financial decisions for recruits, only they can make the decisions that best meet their needs and those of their families. We want to give them the best tools to make the best financial decisions. Financial wellbeing is linked to personal wellbeing,” he said.

Starting from August NZDF is also rolling out a comprehensive financial capability programme across all camps, bases and HQNZDF.

“The programme on offer is voluntary but we hope as many personnel as possible will take up the opportunity to attend,” Mr Williamson said.

Details on this will be published shortly.
Well done to team Auckland for taking out this year’s RNZAF Interbase water polo tournament! Four teams took part from the three Air Force bases, and an invitational fourth team sourced from Blenheim’s local league. The tournament was held this year at Blenheim’s Stadium 2000 and was an ideal facility to host it owing to the generous pool size - allowing for some exciting water polo action.

Water polo is a sport which any skill level can play and all are welcome. The myth that water polo is only for fit professionals is far from the truth in the RNZAF! Generally the more experienced players mark each other, allowing complete beginners to square off against each other in the pool. If you feel like getting involved, the base teams usually play in a social league and in their respective base pools. As it is a relatively small sport any newcomers, regardless of skill level or swimming ability, are eagerly welcomed into the teams. Contact your local OICs if you wish to take part.

By Flight Lieutenant Sam Bradley

The RNZAF water polo swimmers

LAC Garrod Irvine aiming up a shot

LAC Brehan Lennie under pressure

**RNZAF Water Polo Interbase Tournament**

Well done to team Auckland for taking out this year’s RNZAF Interbase water polo tournament! Four teams took part from the three Air Force bases, and an invitational fourth team sourced from Blenheim’s local league. The tournament was held this year at Blenheim’s Stadium 2000 and was an ideal facility to host it owing to the generous pool size - allowing for some exciting water polo action.

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**RNZAF WATER POLO INTERBASE TOURNAMENT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Player of the Tournament:</th>
<th>FLTLT Sam Bradley</th>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Player of the Tournament:</td>
<td>Ms Jodie Lovell</td>
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<td>Rookie of the Tournament:</td>
<td>AC Vaughn Friedrich</td>
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<td>Sportsperson of the Tournament:</td>
<td>FLTLT Sam Bradley</td>
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<td>Men’s RNZAF Swim Champ:</td>
<td>AC Mike Grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s RNZAF Swim Champ:</td>
<td>AC Mahima Seth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notices

NO 8 (CITY OF NEW PLYMOUTH) SQN AIR TRAINING CORPS 75TH ANNIVERSARY
Labour Weekend 2016
Facebook: No 8 Squadron ATC 75th Jubilee
Email: 8sqn75@primowireless.co.nz
Phone: (06) 2811681
Contact us and register for further details and remember to please share with your friends

19 BOY ENTRANT SCHOOL INTAKE (1962) REUNION
Where: Classic Flyers, Tauranga
Date: 17 - 19 February 2017
Contact Ian Young for details.
Phone: (07) 542 2107
Email: ispcuryng@xtra.co.nz

POSITION VACANT

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

EMAIL: FH.Recruiting@nzdf.mil.nz
I took this image of the procession to the nearby village of Longueval following the National Service at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery this year in France. After the service I hustled ahead and spied a cross on the side of the road nearly half way along which marks a high ground and tried to tie it into a photo. The day was bitterly cold and grey but the sun broke through for a brief moment while I was up on the bank and I took this shot. The cemetery in the background of this photo is an important place for New Zealand as this is where many of our ancestors who died in the Somme are buried. My Great Great Uncle’s name is on the wall there.

Photographer
CPL Brad Hanson
WINGMAN BRUNCHES
15 - 21 AUGUST 2016

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