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

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

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C-130 AT DAWN AT WHENUAPAI BEFORE REDEPLOYMENT TO EX HAMEL.
PHOTOGRAPHER: SGT JAE EKMAN

CONTENTS

03 First Word
04 NH90 Flexes Muscles with Container Lift
06 P-3 Fisheries Mission
08 Tunex Astra
10 Ex Sari Bair
11 50 Years of Naval Aviation
14 Ex Pitch Black
16 50-Year Vietnam War Commemoration
18 A Week in the Life of Base Auckland
20 Marae Update – the Countdown Begins
26 Our People
28 Keeping Mentally Fit
32 Sport – Fight Night
35 Photo of the Month

New Zealand Government
"Over the last few editions of Air Force News I selected a range of people to give their perspectives on various leadership topics. This month I invited LAC Chantelle Ramage to provide the ‘First Word’ and tell her story about Exercise Tropic Twilight ‘16. Somewhat modestly, she has downplayed the vital role she had in the success of a deployment in which she was singled out by her peers as the person who best epitomised the team spirit and professionalism of the whole contingent. LAC Ramage, and LAC Ben Gow on page 8, are just a couple of examples of the many junior leaders in the Air Force who typify the values and spirit that are so important to us."

Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies

By Leading Aircraftman Chantelle Ramage

A
n 80-strong multinational Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise led by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) deployed recently to Pangai, a small community on the Ha'apai Island group in Tonga. The 41 NZDF personnel from the NZ Army and the RNZAF worked alongside fellow American, Australian, British, Chinese and Tongan comrades. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to deploy overseas as a medic, being able to work alongside other NZDF personnel, as well as personnel from the other countries.

Our mission was to build two toilet blocks, install nine 10,000-litre water tanks and make improvements to the local infrastructure. Despite this being the main mission we achieved much, much more. While in Tonga we made friendships and formed relationships with multiple nations that will tie us together for a lifetime. I can still see the friendly smiles and sheer gratitude that poured off the people of the Ha'apai community as they farewelled us, on our last day in Pangai.

As part of the medical team, which comprised of a doctor, a nurse and four medics, my main role was to provide medical support to the TROPIC TWILIGHT Contingent. Secondary to this we also provided the local hospital, fire brigade and police force with basic medical training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and basic first aid. For the medical staff at the hospital we provided more in-depth training on the management of burns, traumatic brain injuries, cervical spine injuries, drowning and the primary and secondary survey. We also provided an active presence amongst the community, inspiring the children with words of encouragement during visits to the local schools.

While in Tonga I was selected by the senior leaders and enthusiastically endorsed by all members of the task group, as the person that best epitomised the team spirit and professionalism of the whole contingent. I was given the award for the initiative, hard work, humour and approachable manner I portrayed while in Tonga. In recognition of this I was invited to deliver the final thoughts of the task group at the exercise closing ceremony. This was an extremely daunting task initially speaking to the VIP audience, which included our NZ High Commissioner, the Australian High Commissioner, a senior diplomat from the People’s Republic of China, Tongan politicians, the Ha’apai Governor and senior military representative from His Majesty’s Armed Forces – not to mention the crowd of several hundred people and my own comrades. After the nerves died down I saw this as a true privilege to be able to speak on behalf of such an awesome group of people who I had thoroughly enjoyed working alongside for the past month.
An NH90 has airlifted a 2.4-tonne shipping container to volcanic White Island near Whakatane, to provide visitors with an emergency shelter in case of an eruption. The container will not only provide shelter for visitors to the island, but store vital equipment in ever disaster strikes.

“A task like this allows us to conduct more complex tasks when we go on operations, whether it is humanitarian assistance and disaster relief or stability and support operations.”

NH90 Helicopter Airlifts Volcano Shelter to White Island

An NH90 helicopter, from No. 3 Squadron, airlifted the 6m container from Whakatane Airport to the island, a 50km trip, Air Component Commander Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Darryn Webb said. The container was placed on an old mining site on the island to provide a natural protective barrier in case of a volcanic eruption.

“We are pleased that we have been able to help address what has been a longstanding concern of communities, as well as police and emergency management authorities in the Bay of Plenty and Whakatane areas. The airlifting of the container is the latest example of how the NZDF assists our communities and other government agencies,” AIRCDRE Webb said.

NH90 captain Flight Lieutenant James MacKenzie said the airlift task gave the crew an opportunity to enhance their training and adaptability.

“The task was fairly manageable for us, although it really stretched the range capability of the NH90, with the 50km to White Island. It is important to our training that we get to lift large and heavy loads that challenge the range and lift capacity of the aircraft. A task like this allows us to conduct more complex tasks when we go on operations, whether it is humanitarian assistance and disaster relief or stability and support operations,” he said.

“It also gives us a fresh opportunity to operate with personnel from the New Zealand Army’s 5 Movements Company, who assisted in preparing the load.”

White Island is an active volcano that is visited by more than 10,000 tourists every year. It fluctuates through periods of increased activity and quiescence, and last erupted in April.
Emergency Management Bay of Plenty Director Clinton Naude said the shipping container would help ensure people had a safe area to go to in the event of a volcanic eruption or an emergency event.

“The shipping container will also be used to store safety gear, safety clothing, food supplies and emergency and rescue items.

“We have been working closely with GNS Science, New Zealand Police, other partner agencies and tour operators for some time to improve the safety of visitors to White Island. The placement of a container is another step towards ensuring we are better prepared for an event that may impact visitors,” Mr Naude said.

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 passengers or undersling Field Artillery in support of combat operations in a medium-threat environment.

The RNZAF has used 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. In June, it lifted a 1.7-tonne Department of Conservation hut sitting on an active slip in Marlborough to safer ground.

The helicopters confirmed their ability to support a humanitarian aid operation on their first overseas mission to 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 throughout the seven-week operation.
The Royal New Zealand Air Force’s (RNZAF) P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft conducted fisheries patrols in several south-west Pacific countries recently, further cementing their crucial role in these operations.

Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Jason Skeggs, P-3K2 Orion staff officer in the Joint Air Operations Centre at Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand, said the patrols covered the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of several countries including Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau and Tonga. Information gathered from these patrols has been passed on to the Pacific Island countries and the Forum Fisheries Agency.

“By conducting these patrols, we support the Pacific-wide campaign to improve compliance with existing laws and regulations and provide direct support to Pacific nations,” FLTLT Skeggs said.

Further patrols by the Orion are being planned for the rest of the year, either alone or in tandem with vessels from the NZDF or Pacific Island countries.

On average, the RNZAF Orions conduct up to 250 hours of surveillance patrols in the south-west Pacific and more than 200 hours in New Zealand’s EEZ annually. The patrols
are conducted in support of Pacific Island countries and in collaboration with New Zealand agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), and the National Maritime Coordination Centre.

“The Orion provides a great platform for being able to locate fishing vessels and determine their activities across inshore high seas not only within the New Zealand EEZ but also in the Southern and Pacific oceans,” MPI Manager for Compliance Operations Gary Orr said.

With their unique long-range air capability, “the aircraft provides MPI with the ability to respond quickly to any detected activity of interest”.

“The Orion is able to provide forward air support to New Zealand offshore patrol vessels and the Pacific patrol boats. This support provides these assets situational awareness of their area of operation so they can prioritise boarding and inspection operations in a more efficient manner,” Mr Orr said.

In 2014 and 2015, when two Russian-flagged fishing vessels AURORA and MYS MARII, were suspected of fishing on the Louisville Ridge in the south-west Pacific Ocean, an RNZAF Orion was dispatched to gather evidence of their activities. This resulted in the two vessels being listed for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation.

“At the time of the listing, our international partners commended New Zealand on the high quality of the evidence collected. This left no room for the flag state to question the evidence that resulted in the IUU listing,” Mr Orr said.

For several years, the NZDF has been deploying its ships and aircraft to conduct maritime patrols to assist south Pacific Island countries in protecting their fishery resources. Offshore patrol vessels HMNZS OTAGO and WELLINGTON conducted fisheries patrols in the south-west Pacific from June to August this year.
Calling Home from an Island Jungle

By Leading Aircraftman Ben Gow

When you are breaking down pallets in the tropical heat and humidity of Faleolo, Samoa, and looking like you have gone for a swim in your uniform as a result of the sweat, it is hard to remember that you are there contributing towards NZDF’s 2035 strategy, but that is what Exercise TUNEX ASTRA 16 (TA16) was all about. The RNZAF Communications and Information Systems (CIS) trade needed exposure to operations in the uniquely challenging environment of the South Pacific region, in order to be prepared to support the NZDF’s Force Elements when required, and TA16 certainly provided that.

The devastating Tropical Cyclone Winston that slammed into Fiji earlier this year showed us the need to be ready for any eventuality, and with that in mind, 23 Air CIS personnel were deployed to Samoa. Our mission was to practise long-range tropical High Frequency (HF) radio propagation and satellite system rear links back to New Zealand, simulating the provision of CIS support to Rotary Wing and Airborne Surveillance and Response Force Elements.

Arriving at Faleolo late in the day, it was quickly realised hydration was key in this environment; luckily exercise planning budgeted for each of us to drink up to 8L of bottled water a day. The delayed start meant we had to march on and quickly set everything up; from domestics and bedding to the Information Systems (IS) infrastructure. We managed to get systems up that night and had the Deployed Local Area Network fired up the next day so personnel could log into their work accounts.
Over the next fortnight we split into three teams which rotated through three different environments for four days each. At Faleolo airport the team slept in what was basically a large garage, with air-conditioning and makeshift facilities - definitely no five-star accommodation for this squadron. This team was required to be the Network Control Station for all the radio circuits, as well as set up various antennas. Communication was to be established with the other two teams in Samoa and also back to the Air Operations Communications Centre (AOCC) in Whenuapai, 2880km away.

At Asau airport teams operated out of a Pinzgauer Light Operational Vehicle, and set up antennas with a more experimental focus. Flight Sergeant Conrad Ware guided teams through some interesting lessons and showed them how it all worked. Unfortunately the heat and humidity was too much for the poor router switch combo because it blew up on the last day.

The last site was “Survival”. There were two jobs: the first to expose teams to operating with limited equipment in tropical jungle conditions. It was awesome to see communication established back to Auckland on just a man-pack and a piece of “Don-10” wire strung between two trees. The other task was to emulate a potential crash situation and teach teams the priorities of survival with a very limited supply of tools. The teams constructed individual shelters from the forest one night and a group shelter another night. The lack of mosquito nets for the group shelter meant we had to get cosy with the local insects – including 10cm venomous centipedes!

Each rotation was concluded with half a day of R&R at a local resort. This was a welcome treat after days of hard labour and shift work in the heat. Once the rotations were done the teams got back together for some serious cleaning up and debriefing. They also got the chance to go to Apia to grab souvenirs for friends and family back home and a cheeky dip in the spectacular To Sua Ocean Trench. To top it off, the trip home was made on one of our B757s passing through, and we managed to make it back two days early.

I found TA16 to be a great experience. Learning how to work in a challenging environment will no doubt be invaluable for many of our future careers, as AIR CIS provides its services throughout the globe. It was also a good chance to have a solid length of time working with both radio and IS in order to make us more competent operators. Being the first overseas trip with the RNZAF for many of us, we now have a thirst for travelling with the NZDF and are eager to see what opportunities will arise in the future as we work as a Force for New Zealand. 🌐
By Rebecca Quilliam

No. 3 Squadron and 1 (NZ) Brigade joined forces at Waiouru recently to take part in a live-fire exercise, SARI BAIR. While the battles might have been mock, the action was very real, with live firing throughout the complex scene.

The crews were literally flying into a scenario that as closely as possible emulated a real battle, NH90 pilot Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Christopher Ross said.

The key involvement for the No. 3 Sqn personnel was to covertly insert large numbers of troops to the scene. Two NH90s were part of the exercise and the crews’ role were to carry out tactical insertions of troops into the live-firing battle field. The troops varied from snipers, reconnaissance, infantry and the Fire Support Group.

“Most teams required us to drop them into areas using a Concealed Approach and Departure, meaning we couldn’t be seen throughout the entire evolution. They needed to be close enough to the battle to provide precise firepower if required but far enough away to remain unseen,” FLTLT Ross said.

The live bullets added a different dimension to the exercise, which was both exciting and technically challenging, he said.

An RNZAF Tactical Air Coordination Party was embedded at Army Headquarters, where they planned and coordinated the air elements of the exercise with precise detail. The role was vital considering the real danger the personnel faced during the exercise.

“With regards to air space control, you’ve got artillery shells, mortars, and snipers all live firing, with aircraft flying and an Army Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (drone) flying around as well, so there’s a bit there to coordinate. Our ability to send people up there and be involved in the planning and coordination was a key output and training opportunity for the squadron.

“A lot of planning went into the exercise, with No. 3 Sqn supporting 1 (NZ) Brigade. There’s a bit of coordination there and a lot of trust that everyone has listened to their briefing and they’re not in the wrong place.”

In the heat of the battle, it was difficult to know how people would react, but the Army was great at drilling in procedures, so when the time came troops would be acting almost on instinct, FLTLT Ross said.

“When they start firing the live rounds, it becomes so much more real for them and for us. It’s as close as we would get to an actual event. Training like this is great, because when we are there in the real deal then at least we’ve had the best possible training.”

Assets and capability have come a long way since the days of the Huey, because the guns used to have to be dismantled for the Hueys to carry, he said.

“The NH90 capability is brilliant. We did not lift the Artillery’s 105mm light guns during this year’s exercise, but the NH90 has lifted and manoeuvred the guns in the past. With two NH90 helicopters we can insert a complete gun, its firing team and ammunition.

“We can, within a minute, have the gun and the team on the ground...and within a few minutes they are firing, which is an awesome capability for the Army. The other advantage is if there was no road access there was a limitation where they could place the guns, but with the NH90 they can put them on a high point, which in terms of their capability and their range is a big step up,” FLTLT Ross said.
Today the naval helicopter operations are supported by No. 6 Squadron, operating the Kaman SH-2G(I) Seasprite from the New Zealand Navy ships.

Events to mark the five decades of naval aviation are planned to take place this month, including a parade at No. 6 Sqn, an informal gathering at Whenuapai and a formal function at Devonport Naval Base.

The reunion and celebration are aimed at all past and present Service personnel who have had a connection with naval helicopter operations.

The Commanding Officer of No. 6 Sqn, Commander Owen Rodger, said the Wasp was great in its day, but the SH-2G(I) Seasprite was a state-of-the-art helicopter.

“It’s a bigger, more capable helicopter that can be operated off the OPVs, HMNZS CANTERBURY and the ANZAC frigates. With the range of sensors you have, we significantly increase the ship’s awareness of what is around her, and this can be done without giving away the ship’s position.”

The anniversary is a great opportunity to reconnect, he added.

“We’re all really busy, and I think we have lost some of that opportunity to get together with people who have gone before, to swap stories, reminisce and share.”

It is also a good opportunity to showcase the squadron today, CDR Rodger said.

“So it’s not just the opportunity to see the old pilots, but also to mix it up with some of those from the fleet today,”

It’s been 50 years since New Zealand took delivery of several Westland HAS Mk1 Wasp helicopters, which served on all the RNZN Leander Class frigates over the next 32 years.
RIMPAC, an “Unqualified Success”

The world’s largest international maritime exercise finished last month and has been hailed as a roaring success. Twenty-six nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel participated in Rim of the Pacific 2016 (RIMPAC) – more countries and personnel than in any previous years.

“RIMPAC 2016 was an unqualified success,” said Vice Admiral Nora Tyson, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet. “The collaboration and cohesiveness between participants proved that we can operate effectively with our partner nations and that we will be ready in the Pacific if or when we’re called upon.”

To safely and effectively execute an exercise of this scale and scope was a tribute to the leadership and skill of every participating unit, she said. “I could not be more proud of everyone who took part, and I value the friendships that we built.”

Commanding Officer of No. 5 Squadron, Wing Commander (WGCDR) DJ Hunt, said there were tangible benefits from participating in such a huge exercise.

“However, there are some intangible benefits we often forget,” he said.

“At the squadron level it allows plenty of opportunities to engage with like-minded operators from a myriad of nations. The aircrew is able to discuss tactics and procedures with other nations as well as interact with them within a war-like scenario or mission. This is an excellent way to increase their tactical level knowledge and understanding as well as develop relationships with other airborne surveillance and reconnaissance operators.”

The maintenance team also had the opportunity to work alongside other P-3 engineers and discuss how they would go about their business as well as offer and receive advice on unserviceabilities, WGCDR Hunt said.

The Mission Support team learned how to integrate within a multi-national Tactical Operations Centre, and gained great insight into how to best support the aircrew and provide them with the information they required to be successful with the mission.

“For me personally, it is rare to have so many COs of similar squadrons in the same place with time to discuss challenges, successes and system capability. You are also able to make personal connections with these individuals, something that is really useful for future exercises and operations together,” WGCDR Hunt said.

Air Component Commander Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Darryn Webb said Output Five operations and specifically the ability to project air power was a key role for all RNZAF Squadrons.

“An exercise such as RIMPAC where we demonstrate our ability to deploy two aircraft and two aircrews plus all the support personnel and equipment required to effectively conduct our combat roles is a great way to identify our strengths and weaknesses, AIRCDRE Webb said.

“These can then be fed into our continuous improvement cycle and ensure we are as prepared as we can be for future operational deployments.”

Being able to conduct a deployment to RIMPAC with effectively twice the number of personnel and resources as we did for the previous TAKAPU rotations and have it run pretty smoothly from end to end was a good indicator of where the Airborne Surveillance and Response Force capability sits, AIRCDRE Webb said.

“This, coupled with the successes we had in the air and during our missions, shows the P-3K2 scrubs up pretty well when benchmarked against other nations.”
A 34-strong air transport team deployed to support coalition operations in the Middle East is doing the hard yards in extremely demanding conditions.

“Our team has been performing so well in hot and dusty conditions. They manage a high operational tempo, flying about 85 hours per month. They also have to contend with air temperatures in the mid-40s, with the metallic surfaces of equipment well above that,” said Air Component Commander Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Darryn Webb, who visited the team recently.

By August 22, a C-130 Hercules and had clocked more than 200 flying hours on 32 missions to Iraq and Afghanistan since they deployed to the Middle East in early June. Night vision goggle flights have been conducted as part of the mission.

The NZDF air transport team has been operating as part of an Australian Defence Force (ADF) air mobility task group transporting freight and personnel in support of New Zealand, Australian and coalition operations in the region.

“The team has flown every single mission assigned to them by the ADF Joint Task Force. Their rate of effort of about 85 flying hours per month is about double that of a similar aircraft in the fleet conducting military air operations throughout New Zealand and overseas. I am very proud of their achievements.”

AIRCDRE Webb said.

The NZDF contingent includes aircraft technicians, logistics specialists, maintenance personnel, and an Air Movements Load Team that is working as part of the Royal Australian Air Force’s (RAAF) Air Movements Unit to support coalition aircraft in the region.

“It’s a challenging work environment. The temperatures exceed 45C here and it is both physically and mentally demanding at times when we are wearing body armour,” a C-130 Air Loadmaster said.

He said that working as part of a coalition force meant “we have to learn, adapt and incorporate foreign processes and procedures into our own and make it all work as harmoniously as possible”.

The NZDF contingent is deployed for six months until December 2016.

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

RNZAF Team Does Hard Yards in Middle East
Ex Pitch Black
Combat Training in the Outback

Sixty-four NZDF personnel recently participated in a multinational air combat training activity in the Northern Territory of Australia. Here’s what some of the team thought about it...

Exercise Pitch Black 2016 (PB16) involved 110 aircraft and more than 2200 personnel from Australia, Canada, France (New Caledonia), Germany, Indonesia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and the US. Operating from the Royal Australian Air Force Bases Darwin and Tindal and utilising one of the largest training airspace areas in the world, it ran between 29 July and 19 August.

The exercise, commanded by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Air Commander, allows participating nations to exercise deployed units in the tasking, planning and execution of Offensive Counter Air and Offensive Air Support.

Air Commodore Christopher Sawade, RAAF Head of Special Events, said, “The training and integration of forces that occurs during these exercises directly supports the Air Force’s ability to conduct operations, such as current missions in the Middle East against Daesh.”
Exercises

AIR MOVEMENTS
Leaving New Zealand on a cold winter’s day, my Air Movements team was ecstatic, ready for an adventure and eager to support the Australian Defence Force through PB16.

There have been so many highlights of this exercise: watching the jets take off, watching my team’s expressions when marshalling a C17 or a KC30 for the first time, watching the Hurricanes win, having a bunch of laughs with the Darwin Air Movements team, and getting to know the strengths of my team members. We have been given plenty of opportunities to see the sites, assist with unloading and loading different aircraft frames, and meet some great people.

CPL Josie Ayers

MEDICS
In a land where everything is out to kill you, good medical support is vital. Venomous snakes, massive spiders, acid-filled bugs, disease-carrying mosquitoes, deadly man-eating saltwater crocodiles – the Northern Territory of Australia has it all. If the wildlife isn’t trying to ruin your day, the weather picks up the game – 32C tropical heat might sound nice, but when you are fully kitted up and working on the heat-reflecting tarmac, it is a recipe for disaster. In these conditions, preventative measures are vital – especially keeping hydrated and protected from the beating sun.

LAC Joshua Sherwood

GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS
PB16 exposed the GSE team to a number of capabilities and Air Force assets yet to be seen in New Zealand. These included the RAAF’s new aircraft cargo loaders, Rosenbauer Panther Crash Fire Trucks, specialist fast jet ground support equipment and equipment for operating large unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs. One of our more exciting roles was working alongside, maintaining and operating the Aircraft Arrestor Cables on the runway.

The team was split up into two groups – supporting Number 17 Base Support Squadron and Number 75 Fighter Squadron. The Barrier Crew – as it’s known – was kept busy throughout the exercise, with F-18 Hornet fighters making arrested landings both day and night.

CPL Doug Watt

AVIATION REFUELLERS
Three weeks before the main body arrives for PB16, RNZAF aviation refuellers lead the charge and heat things up at RAAF Darwin. With jets arriving early, the opportunity for extra training and familiarisation with the Australian refuelling fleet helped make the delivery of fuel to aircraft as fluid as possible. The exercise involved a variety of challenges but thanks to solid communication and unrivalled operator skill and experience, obstacles were easy to overcome.

LAC Joel Goodman

TASK UNIT HEADQUARTERS
The Task Unit Headquarters supports all the flying missions on PB16, which means being open 21 hours a day, but that didn’t stop us enthusiastically exploring Darwin and the Outback every chance we got.

In our down time, we explored tunnels under the city, and poured our own drinks at a bar built from the rubble of a bank destroyed by ants during the 1800s and then Cyclone Tracy in 1974. We had five-metre-long crocodiles jump against our boat, walked the stunning Katherine Gorge, found thermal hot springs, and relaxed with fireworks over Parliament, then movies under the stars.

FGOFF Mary Cordery

CATERING
The 12 soldiers from 21 Supply Company’s Catering platoon worked extremely long hours during PB16, with little time for play, but we enjoyed supporting different nations with our wonderful culinary delights. We were working under the RAAF which does things a little bit differently, but as Kiwis we just get on with the mahi. A highlight of our tour was assisting the RAAF chefs with a buffet dinner catering for the PB16 International Night, which fed more than 1200 defence personnel.

SGT Nate Turfrey

SECURITY
Our Force Protection (FP) Operator Course 16/01 jumped into PB16 with an abundance of enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Our FP team was augmented into RAAF’s 2 Security Forces Squadron and assisted with the security of multimillion-dollar air assets and the protection of personnel. Working with our Australian counterparts gave our FP course a valuable insight into how the RAAF carries out security operations.

AC Ronald Benton
Nearly 40 New Zealand Vietnam War veterans travelled with NZDF staff to Canberra recently to commemorate 50 years since the war. Old mates caught up, new friendships forged, tall tales told, memories shared and some tears shed during the week-long trip.

The delegation of 39 veterans, who flew to Australia’s capital on a Royal New Zealand Air Force B757, attended an early morning ‘Stand To’ service at the Australian National War Memorial and the national service at the Australian Vietnam War Memorial on Anzac Parade.

During the national service memories of the 20-year war were evoked with a simulated firing exercise carried out by personnel from 16 Field Regiment Royal New Zealand Artillery, with batteries from the Australian and United States armies, and a fly past featuring C-130s, Iroquois helicopters and a B-52 bomber.

Dennis Searle was a loadmaster with No. 40 Sqn during his time in Vietnam in 1970. Mostly he was involved with picking up and dropping off troops into the country from Singapore.

He believed at the time fighting the war against communism was the right thing to do.

“We won some battles, like Long Tan, but in the end we lost. But later I thought, we didn’t lose really – the way Vietnam is now, there’s a thriving economy and people are happy and that’s what we wanted to achieve in the first place. Whether we helped or not, I don’t know, but they got there themselves.”

The scars of war were evident everywhere, Mr Searle said. Fringes of jungle lining roadsides were all that was left from lush bush, bullet holes riddled fences that surrounded baseball pitches and buildings were deserted.

“It was like looking at the Somme.”

Gerald Gaston was part of No. 41 Squadron and flew in the Bristol Freighters from Singapore into Vietnam, carrying medical supplies, extra troops, mail and food.

“We used to carry huge amounts of sausages – evidently you couldn’t get a decent sausage in Vietnam.”

His flights took him inland over the country – flying from Saigon to different bases with a medical team and supplies - which at times was perilous.

“I was sitting in the back of 5909 and I noticed this sunlight coming through the aeroplane I suddenly realised they were bullet holes and they were shooting at the roundel – it made a perfect target.”

The military very quickly learned to reduce the roundel’s size and paint it with matte paint rather than high gloss, which made it a tougher target, Mr Gaston said.

During his flights, Mr Gaston would study the land below him. Some of the countryside looked like “the surface of the moon”, he said.

“Some of it there was not a tree standing – there was no foliage at all. It was just all brown and red dust, with big bomb craters full of dirty brown water. The country was decimated. That Agent Orange defoliated the jungle and what that didn’t do the big guns did the rest.”

Mr Gaston felt “very privileged” to have been able to go on the commemorative trip and he believed coverage of it would have helped to educate the public on New Zealand’s involvement in the conflict.

Contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Ben Bagley said the trip provided an opportunity for the current serving NZDF personnel and New Zealand public to recognise the service of those who served in the Vietnam War 50 years ago.

“The contribution the soldiers and airmen made to the Vietnam War effort was huge. Many of the battles New Zealanders participated in were not acknowledged at the time.
and the commemoration was a chance for the public to learn about our involvement with the other allied nations.”

Joining the national events were New Zealand’s High Commissioner to Australia Chris Seed, Chester Borrows representing the New Zealand Government, and Chief of Army Major General (MAJGEN) Peter Kelly, who represented the New Zealand Defence Force.

MAJGEN Kelly said it was humbling to be with the veterans in Canberra.

“To be amongst our veterans from Vietnam and those who fought in the Battle of Long Tan and those who served in Vietnam, it’s special to them and it’s special to us. I’m very conscious of the legacy that we’ve inherited and it’s our challenge to always live up to that legacy.”

Mr Seed said it was important for the veterans and their families to know their contribution and service and the sacrifice they made was recognised by the current generation, the political leadership and by their fellow citizens.

“It’s a good opportunity to be reminded about some of the consequences of the decisions of sending people to war, the reasons we do it, and the obligation that we owe to the people who are sent in the Government’s name.”

Mr Borrows said it had been fantastic for those who had won the ballot to come to the Canberra commemoration and to meet up with their Australian mates. “It’s great to see too, the full recognition from Australia of New Zealand’s contribution.

“We knew we sent people, we knew we lost 37 military and two civilian lives, but the understanding of what Kiwis did, what their specialities were, how they were regarded by the other fighting forces – I don’t think we understand that very well at all, nowhere near as much as other theatres of war, like the two global wars, for instance.”

“We won some battles, like Long Tan, but in the end we lost. But later I thought, we didn’t lose really – the way Vietnam is now, there’s a thriving economy and people are happy and that’s what we wanted to achieve in the first place.”
Up Tempo at Base Auckland

By Squadron Leader Simon Eichelbaum, Air Force Public Affairs Officer
Photo credits: SGT Jae Ekman

Last month was a particularly busy one for the Air Movements Section at RNZAF Base Auckland. No. 40 Squadron was running up to three flights a day for Ex TACEX, getting crews up to speed with tactical flying.

At the same time there was support activity for the visit of the United States Vice President Joe Biden parked on the flight line, with a couple of United States Air Force C-17s, as well as RNZAF helicopters.

Around that there were several B757 and C-130 arrivals and departures with VIP and exercise personnel.

Not only Air Movements, but a large number of other base staff worked long hours to make it all happen and keep it secure. Great effort all round!
NH90s arrive at Base Auckland to support the United States Vice President visit

LAC Moran drives the TASLU for loading the TACEX flight

Firefighters performing a pre-dawn runway inspection
Air Force Marae Update: Te Turangawaewae O Te Tauaarangi

By Wai Wallace, RNZAF Marae Manager

WHAKAPAPA OF OUR MARAE
– GENEALOGICAL CONNECTIONS

Ko Taikorea te maunga
Ko Rangitikei te awa
Ko Pakapakatia te whenua
Ko Te Tauaarangi te marae-atea
Ko Ohakea te turangawaewae
Ko Te Ara Wheturangi a Kai te wharenui
Ko Te Hounuku a Hine te wharekai

Taikorea is the mountain
Rangitikei is the river
Pakapakatia is the land
Te Tauaarangi is the sacred courtyard
Ohakea is the standing place
Te Ara Wheturangi a Kai is the meeting house
Te Hounuku a Hine is the dining room

Continuing on from the articles in previous Air Force News issues, we explore the names of the Wharenui (meeting house) and Wharekai (dining room) that complete the marae whakapapa above.

The name of the Wharenui is ‘Te Ara Wheturangi a Kai’. Te Ara Wheturangi means ‘pathway to the stars’ and is the name of the Ohakea Māori cultural group taken to link it to the Air Force motto Per Ardua Ad Astra or ‘Through struggle to the stars’. ‘Kai’ is short for ‘Kaitangata’, a descendant of Maui renowned for taking great care of others. He introduced the use of barbed hooks for fishing which allowed him to provide many a fish for his family and guests. Kaitangata had a link to the heavens through his wife Whaitiri. The Wharenui name, which translates as ‘The pathway to the stars of Kaitangata’ is in reference to both his connection to the sky and his affinity for looking after others.

The Wharekai name is ‘Te Nukuhōu a Hine’. Nuku means ‘to shift’ and hōu means ‘new’. Te Nukuhōu refers to the fact that in its lifetime the building has moved around Ohakea to several new locations in several different roles (including its time as the base museum) before coming to rest in its current position as the genesis of a marae facility. ‘Hine’ is short for Hine Whaitiri, the maid of thunder who lived in the heavens. She had a taste for human flesh so when she heard about a man named Kaitangata (kai = eat, tangata = people) she mistakenly believed him to be a cannibal like herself. She sought him out and eventually became his wife. However, she soon discovered that her husband did not eat human flesh after all. In fact, he had quite the opposite reputation as a very caring man. Consequently she left him and returned to the heavens to reign once again over thunder.

The Wharenui and the Wharekai are forever connected to one another through the reference in their names to Kai (Kaitangata) and Hine (Hine Whaitiri). The caring nature of Kaitangata is bestowed upon the Wharenui as its reference to the Air Force motto and the heavens. The history of the buildings’ many relocations and its connection to the heavenly elements of thunder and lightening are carried in the name of the Wharekai.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE AIR FORCE MARAE

In the last update I touched on the 7 key Marae Principles that will guide Air Force Marae policy. In no particular order of importance they are:

1. WHANAUNGATANGA: One Team, One Family – An Iwi Philosophy
2. WHAKAPAPA: Historical Connections
3. MANAAKITANGA: Putting People First
4. MAHI TAHI: Working Together – A Shared Resource
5. TIKANGA RUA: Integrating Māori and RNZAF Culture
6. KAWA: Māori Cultural Protocols
7. MANA: Honour and Reputation
GETTING A LITTLE DEEPER

The first four principles above were explained in previous issues. Today we take a look at the last three...

KAWA:
Māori Cultural Protocols

Kawa is a set of defined cultural protocols specific to an iwi that are strictly adhered to. Ours will align as closely as practicable to that of the local iwi Ngati Apa because it is upon their ‘traditional ground’ that our marae sits. Accordingly, whaiākōrero protocol is ‘Paeke’ in that those from the host side who are delivering whaiākōrero stand first, after which all those from the visiting side may stand.

Our marae will operate under protocols specific to, but not limited to:
- Pōwhiri (welcomes)
- Poroporoaki (farewells)
- Tangihanga (funerals)
- Kawe Mate (remembrance)
- Huihuina (general meetings and gatherings)

Anyone with a formal role in proceedings may speak and in any language but only after traditional whaiākōrero are completed and only from appropriate designated positions. This is to ensure that the Māori culture (specifically the pōwhiri process) can be practised at the marae, over a small period of time, with no compromises to its integrity. The marae will pay appropriate respect to all its visitors while maintaining the integrity of traditional Māori protocols.

TIKANGA RUA:
Biculturalism – Integrating Māori and RNZAF Protocols

Many of our Service ceremonials already have a Māori cultural element integrated into them in a way that maintains the mana of, and respect for, both.

There is no place more appropriate to conduct a pōwhiri (cultural welcome) than a marae. Our marae being located adjacent to the Cadet Forces parade ground means that they can be used together to enhance the welcome of our visiting dignitaries.

From an operational perspective, the marae can also be used to farewell and welcome back deployed personnel in a way that also provides spiritual cleansing. This may not be of importance to everyone but many will find it of great comfort especially if it was a particularly traumatic tour.

Using the marae for tangi (funerals) offers families a means to farewell a loved one in an environment where the Air Force family can assist and support directly and pay due respect within ‘our own house’.

The marae will allow integration of Māori and RNZAF protocols that mutually benefit both and respect the sanctity and enhance the mana of both.

MANA:
Honour and Reputation

Our bicultural policy is founded on organisational pride and operational effectiveness. We have a unique image and the ability to engage in theatre with different cultures that no other Air Force can match. These afford us mana both within and outside New Zealand.

The marae will be the show piece of our biculturalism and can only enhance our mana and reputation further. It will be a visible indication of how we have embraced biculturalism and of our acceptance of diversity, thus paving the way for other cultures to emerge. Maintaining the mana of our marae and thus that of our Air Force is a key principle of the marae. Consequently it will overlay everything that is carried out at the marae and will be inherent in how its business is conducted.

The marae will enhance the mana of both Māori and Air Force and uphold the values of both in doing so.
The Defence Health School (DHS) deployed to West Melton in the middle of winter to conduct an exercise putting to use their medical and military skills. And they discovered that just like the real thing, patients don’t keep gentlemen’s hours.

Exercise LIGHTSABER started after the sun had set and the cold started to creep in. We were separated into two Medical Detachments (Med Dets), with one group playing the part of patients while the other was treating them.

Our first task was to set up a Company Aid Post (CAP) - a medical treatment centre. Once set up, the scenarios began, with treatment locations for patients of varying priorities should we encounter them.

Med Det 2, the ‘patients’, started to arrive with a range of medical and trauma cases, from vehicle accidents to primary health care conditions. In all the scenarios we had to deal with multiple patients as well as managing the security threat in the area. We had to assess if the patients were coalition, enemy, civilians or military, bystanders or accompanying the patient; if there was an improvised explosive device (IED) threat, as well as treating and managing all who came through appropriately and on time.

The scenarios continued for 18 hours until midday the following day when the teams swapped. Every six hours the location of the CAP was relocated, which involved setting it up in the dark promptly because patients could arrive at any time.

Med Det 1 had the pack up down to 15 minutes and the set-up down to 20 minutes - even with the added complication of treating patients while setting up at midnight.

The variation of injuries and illnesses kept everyone on their toes as fatigue set in.

The dropping temperatures also played a part and we temporarily stopped operating the CAP over Tuesday night when temperatures dropped to -5C.

The week-long training also included dealing with a multiple casualty scenario where resources were exhausted while dealing with the number of casualties.

The variation of skills and training conducted throughout the week at West Melton were thoroughly enjoyed by the students at DHS and we’d jump at the opportunity to be exposed to more medical field time throughout the completion of our training and during our careers.

We also appreciated of the instructors we have at DHS for sharing their knowledge and skills with us in the field environment and for organising the exercise, providing us with the opportunities we had.
For the first time in 30 years, Military Police members last month attended and successfully completed the CIB induction course at the Royal New Zealand Police College (RNZPC). Lessons were learned and friendships were forged between the like-minded agencies.

Flight Sergeant (F/S) Murray Griffiths, Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Aidan Thomas and SSGT Simon Bamfield are members of the Serious Investigation Branch (SIB), which investigates serious offending within the NZDF at home and overseas. They attended a three-day pre-induction course at the RNZPC to ensure they were adequately prepared for the rigorous induction course. Additional assistance was provided throughout the course.

Detective Superintendent Tim Anderson said the training focused on awareness and treatment of victims, identification of prevention opportunities and raising investigation standards.

F/S Griffiths found the course “challenging”. “The content was familiar and easy to understand but the quantity of information that needed to be known verbatim was impressive and at times seemed an impossible task.”

The group received lectures from outside agencies such as pathologists and ESR (think CSI) who gave them a run down of their capabilities and how they could help catch criminals in a manner that would hold up to legal scrutiny in a court of law.

“The course content improved our knowledge of the more serious offences under the Crimes Act 1961, but the biggest take away for me was the connection made with the next generation of detectives who we attended the course with,” F/S Griffiths said.

“The relationships fostered on this course will provide the SIB and the CIB with closer working ties for the future.”

SSGT Thomas said many laughs were shared throughout the course as well as some anxiety over the exam results. “But in the end all members of Police and MP passed the course with a sense of achievement and looking forward to the next chapter of their careers.”

“For our bosses the course was yet another great example of interagency support and cooperation between NZ Police and NZDF, which will ensure that we are all operating on the same page for future joint activities,” he said.

Detective Superintendent Anderson said cooperation between Police and the Defence Force allowed them to “create better networks and assist them further”.

The head of Military Police is the Provost Marshal, Group Captain Peter Cowan - a former Wellington Police Inspector.

“Given the potential for SIB investigators to be deployed anywhere in the world to conduct complex investigations it was important to ensure they were provided the best possible training to prepare them,” he said.

“While we had the opportunity to send them overseas for training, there was never any doubt in my mind that the NZ Police CIB Induction Course would give them the best possible training experience.”

- additional reporting Ten One/NZ Police
Cadets’ World Tour

By Squadron Leader Rob Foley, NZ Cadet Force International Liaison Officer

Every year in July, cadets and escort officers from 19 member nations take part in the International Air Cadet Exchange.

Some 500 cadets aged between 17 and 20 travel almost simultaneously around the globe to their host countries for 16 days for a trip of a lifetime, meeting likeminded cadets and finding out how similar or different their cadet organisations are to ours as well as sampling what their respective Defence Forces have to offer along the way.

This year New Zealand exchanged with Canada, the Netherlands, the UK and the US, for both in and outbound exchanges. We sent eight worthy cadets and four escort officers who went through a rigorous selection process nearly 12 months before. This enabled the lucky cadets to save for their portion of the travel and spending money while overseas.

While in country, the host country picks up all costs associated with the programme, cadets need spending money only for souvenirs or items not associated with the programme.

Work really started for my inbound team two days out from cadets and escorts arriving in Auckland, travelling to Auckland, finishing all those little pre-arrival tasks and also some time to see off our cadets and escorts travelling to the Netherlands and Canada in the evening.

With the arrival day allocated as time to settle into RNZAF Whenuapai and rest following almost two days of travelling for some, we got into the programme early the following day.

Our programme started with a great tour of Whenuapai and various units who enthusiastically showed us their day jobs – Rescue Fire, Refuellers, Military Working Dogs, the No. 40 Squadron simulator and a look around a Hercules C-130 aircraft followed by some time with Base Commander Group Captain (GPCAPT) Tim Walshe. Day one for our guests was just a sample of things to come throughout the North and South islands, sampling our young history of our Defence Force, Cadet Forces, Kiwi hospitality and stunning scenery.

Additional tour location highlights were Rotorua, Waiouru, Ohakea, Trentham, Wellington which included meeting Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies and an exchange of gifts, Woodbourne, Kaikoura, Burnham, Tekapo, Wanaka, Alexandra, Queenstown and Christchurch for a great programme thanks to the Christchurch ATC Squadrons, the Air Force Museum, Antarctic Centre and an end of tour farewell dinner.

Departures for the majority of travellers started at 2am on August 3 for a weary group of travellers with most vowing to return to see the rest of the country at a more leisurely pace.

New Zealand is seen by many lucky enough to be selected as the premier destination in the programme.

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NZ INBOUND PROGRAMME

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New Zealand is seen by many lucky enough to be selected as the premier destination in the programme.
The NZCF outbound tour parties comprised of the following Cadets:

**UK (Scotland and Wales) and attended Farnborough air show**
- SqnLdr Peter McIntosh
- UO Adiraj Gupta
- F/S Izrael Lim-Muir

**Netherlands**
- Flt Lt David Keane
- F/S Leon Graham
- F/S Emma Catto

**Canada**
- SqnLdr Craig Piner
- F/S Logan Holden-Boddy
- W/O Michaela Conlon

**USA (Washington & Arizona)**
- Flt Lt Karen Stevens
- F/S Stacey Russell
- W/O Aidan Drummond

The UK and Netherlands-bound cadets not only got to do their IACE Tours but also spend an additional week in the UK as hosts of the UK ATC to take part in their official 75th Anniversary.
Pilot Officers (PLTOFF) Jack Barnett and Callum Johnston have been presented their Air Warfare Officer (AWO) brevets at a ceremony held at No 1 Flying Training School (1 FTS), RAAF Base East Sale in Victoria, Australia.

Their brevets were presented by Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Anthony Forestier of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Air Combat Officer brevets were also presented to the three RAAF students who had graduated. The NZDF was represented at the parade by Wing Commander (WGCDR) Chris Andrew, along with the RNZAF instructors and students.

The award of their AWO wings represented the culmination of 14 months of intense training. This included a ground school phase, Air Battle Management (fighter controller), simulations, and two flying phases - Initial and Advanced. The advanced phase comprises of overwater and overland mission command focused flying. The maritime phase finished with the students deploying to Hobart to put their search and rescue, direct support, and track surveillance skills to the test over Bass Strait. The course culminated with the air combat phase, where students were required to command missions involving time on target and simulated threat avoidance.

WGCDR Andrew said with the retirement of the Andover, the RNZAF ceased to have an aircraft suitable for navigator (subsequently AWO) training, so it was outsourced to the RAAF and for a period of time the RCAF.

“The RNZAF has a core staff of Qualified Aircrew Instructors (QAI)s who are seconded to 1 FTS and work alongside their RAAF colleagues to train RNZAF and RAAF AWO students alike.

“The students benefit from being part of a large organisation and gaining the cross pollination of working alongside our close ally.”

PLTOFF Barnett was awarded both Dux of the course and the RNZAF Astrolabe Trophy for maintaining a Distinction average on course, a noteworthy achievement.

Both the Kiwi graduates will be posted to No. 5 Squadron where they will undertake conversion onto the P-3K2 Orion. While initially concerned that the rate of effort required, PLTOFF Barnett said he was excited to start what will be an exciting and rewarding career.
Chief of Air Force Air Vice-Marshall Tony Davies has presented awards and medals representing several significant achievements and milestones by the recipients.

AVM Davies was also pleased to promote Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Richard Deihl to the rank of Wing Commander, he has recently taken up the appointment of Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence.

A Commissioning Parchment was presented to Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Stephen Ansell and a Warrant Officer Parchment to Warrant Officer (W/O) Thomas Kelly together with his NZ GSM 2002 (Counter-Piracy) medal. SQNLDR Tim Costley was awarded the New Zealand Armed Forces Award, watched by his wife and family and the final two awards were made to W/O Mike O’Sullivan and Flight Sergeant (F/S) Danny Van Kan who both received the Clasp to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
Meeting the Mark on Mental Health

It can creep up on you stealthily, leaving you scared, angry, exhausted or confused. Or all of the above. And it can leave those who care about you confused, hurt and worried.

We’re talking mental health issues, and they can range from depression and anxiety, right through the spectrum to losing the will to live.

“Mental health is important, for our wellbeing as individuals and how we perform as a team. We need the right tools and support to keep us healthy and able to do our job well, and also to contribute fully at home and at work,” says Defence’s Chief Mental Health Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Claire Bennett. “Being mentally healthy is not necessarily about being free from problems. Everyone feels worried, anxious, sad or stressed at various times in their lives – this is perfectly normal. However, sometimes these thoughts and feelings do not go away, and are severe enough to interfere with daily life.”

How we are going at a point in time is influenced by life’s circumstances and our resilience levels, she says. “While we are a predominantly healthy population, sometimes the nature of our role or what is going on in our broader life can place extra demands on us. And sometimes it is the cumulative impact of events (our relationships, personal experiences, finances, job demands and family wellbeing) rather than just one thing, even in circumstances where we have previously thrived. Over time, and left unchecked, this can start to affect our health, including the way we think, feel and act. Even positive events like a promotion can sometimes be stressful and have an impact on things like our mood, sleeping patterns, confidence and interactions.”

LTCOL Bennett says how people react depends on the range of things going on in their lives, their prior experiences, resilience and coping skills, and levels of support. “The NZDF Mental Health continuum shows how mental health can shift over time in response to life events and other factors, and that at any point in time everyone will sit somewhere along the continuum between peak performance and mental illness.

“None of us are immune to mental health issues – according to the Ministry of Health one in five New Zealanders will experience mental illness or addiction in any one year, and one in six will report a diagnosis of anxiety or depression in their lifetime. So that probably means that you or someone you know isn’t on the top of their game right now.”

So what can you do to keep on the top of your game, what should you do if you notice one of your mates is not tracking so well, and what kind of support is available if you need it?

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

Talk to someone - your boss, a mate or a family member, or pop in or make an appointment for a chat with your local camp chaplain, psychologist, Community / Defence Support Officer or member of the Health support team. There’s also a list of help lines and support resources you can go to if you don’t feel comfortable approaching the NZDF for help. You can find these on the Mental Health website or check out the Mental Health Foundation website.

0800 NZDF4U is a confidential helpline service 0800 NZDF4U (0800 693 348 or 0800 189 910) that offers telephone support for all members of the NZDF, veterans, and their families. It’s available 24/7 and is staffed by trained (external) health professionals. If the help you need can’t be provided over the phone, follow up support is arranged using an external provider for up to three funded confidential sessions.

SUPPORT TOOLS:
Mental Health Pocketbook
Mental Health Website
http://orgs/sites/nzdf-mh/default.aspx
Leaders’ toolkit on the Mental Health website
and HR toolkit
Resilience training
James’ Story: Walking the Black Dog
Ex-RNZAF Pilot

If I’m honest I think the Black Dog has kind of always followed me around from time to time over my career. I mean, I have better language to put around that now, but the first couple of times I think I just did whatever I had to in order to get through it.

The first time I’d just been through a break-up that really affected me, and I did what everyone around me did at the time and that was to hit the bar. I think I took it too far though and before long I discovered I had a reputation for drinking too much, and I started getting in trouble for ‘hijinks’ and crossing the line of what I could get away with. I was just covering up what was going on for me with a socially acceptable coping mechanism, albeit an unhealthy one. That’s how I would explain it today. Back then, I was just getting through.

Another time I remember thinking “should I go on this flight or should I go see the psych”. It was really a toss-up, I was so conflicted. Looking back on it now it’s an easy decision but back then, amongst all these high-performing people all around me who all had it together I’m there thinking “Why am I the only one who is struggling to get it together?”

Years later I caught up with a mate and he had gone through something similar and I just really admired his courage in telling me, because here I was having had this experience but he had the guts to tell me first.

I don’t think I’m done with the Black Dog, but I think I’ve got it on a tighter lead, and I know when things are starting to feel wobbly and I can course-correct. That’s the benefit of having come through a few dark patches and seen what works and what’s just all talk.

When I was drinking too much, I remember being worried about being judged by some of the boys who clearly thought I was over-doing it. I could have really used their help back then, I just didn’t know how to ask.
Each school holidays about 270 cadets from the Northern, Central and Southern regions spend one of their two weeks on a Junior or Senior Promotion Course. These courses are typically run in Whangaparaoa, Ohakea and Burnham and incorporate theory and practical lessons and assessments on leadership, presentation techniques, and of course plenty of drill. Participants on these courses are selected from the Sea Cadet Corps, New Zealand Cadet Corps and Air Training Corps.

This July we were fortunate enough that the RNZN Physical Training Instructors were able to spend some time with our Northern Senior NCO course, which meant that the cadets were able to test themselves against the Naval Confidence Course. This gave the cadets the opportunity to work as part of a team and challenge themselves in a series of obstacles that previously they had only been able to dream of undertaking.

Cadets were not compelled to participate as the whole ethos of the NZ Cadet Forces is based on voluntary participation so cadets did as much or as little as they were comfortable with. However the majority gave it their all and learned that doing things alone is so much more difficult and less rewarding than joining in as part of a team. The effort expended was matched by the width of the smiles on the faces at the finish line.

Support to the New Zealand Cadet Force is provided by the NZDF so if you are a Regular Force Senior NCO with a passion for youth development and are looking for a new challenge then we may have a position for you.

The New Zealand Cadet Force has almost 100 units spread across the country and is looking for cadets between the ages of 13 and 18. The organisation can’t operate without adult support so if you are not a current serving member of the NZDF, are over the age of 21 and think you have something to add or would just like to get involved as an officer in the NZCF please check what units are operating in and around your location.

For more information www.cadetforces.org.nz/welcome/unit-locator/
The New Zealand Air Training Corps (ATC) was created in response to a need to supply aircrew and personnel to the RNZAF during WWII and was first paraded on September 13, 1941. Squadrons quickly formed nationwide and 75 years later are still going strong.

Squadrons recruited young males 16.5 to 18-years-old, preparing them to join the RNZAF. Later the School Cadets had ATC sections (with a lower joining age), and a correspondence option was also available for out-of-town cadets.

The New Zealand ATC peaked in 1944 with more than 9000 cadets. By the end of the war, ATC had supplied some 3500 recruits to the RNZAF. These ex-ATC recruits also had a higher success rate in training.

The Air League, and then later the Air Cadet League, were key players with the ATC. The supporting body today is the Air Training Corps Association of NZ (ATCANZ).

In 1950 the ATC was officially made part of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) primarily because of the recruiting impact the ATC had on the RNZAF.

Through the Defence Act 1971 the New Zealand Cadet Forces (NZCF) was created and remains to today. A key element is the community acting in partnership with Defence to support cadet units. All cadet units (Sea Cadets, NZ Cadet Corps and ATC) have a parent support committee, which in turn is supported by SCCANZ, CCANZ, or ATCANZ.

All NZCF units assist with Anzac Day tasks such as providing wreath layers, flag duties and cenotaph guards as well as cadets forming up for the various parades and selling poppies.

The ATC motto ‘We Train to Serve’ is relevant to serving the community and for those who go on to join the NZDF. During 2015, of the former Cadets older than 18 who had left Cadet Forces, 25% joined one of the NZ Services. NZ Cadet Forces continues to be the country’s leading youth development service-based organisation.

Central Area NZCF is planning Exercise Silver Sparrowhawk 75 (14 – 16 Oct) at Ohakea to celebrate the milestone of the 75th anniversary of the ATC. Contact SQNLDR Grant te Tau grant.te.tau@cadetforces.org.nz. Southern Area NZCF has Exercise Southern Falcon 9 –11 Dec 2016. Contact SQNLDR Michael White michael.white@cadetforces.org.nz.

DID YOU KNOW?
- The first ATC squadrons were formed in Wellington, followed by Auckland, then quickly throughout the rest of the country
- Now there are 49 ATC units out of 100 NZCF units
- 88 SQN ATC in Rangiora is the latest
- It was officially recognised by the Minister of Defence in May
- There are about 1500 ATC cadets spread throughout New Zealand.

Celebrating 75 Years of the Air Training Corps in New Zealand
"Fight night was nothing short of impressive. A massive amount of recognition needs to go to the people who organised it, ran it and participated (far too many names to mention). It was just like being in Vegas! The most overwhelming thing for me was the guts and determination shown by the boxers, many of whom had never set foot in a ring before. Their professionalism and dedication was inspiring." Base Commander Ohakea, GPCAPT Nick Olney
“Awesome occasion, well done to all involved – RNZAF Base Auckland looks forward to hosting a return leg once our new gymnasium is in place!” BCDR AK, GPCAPT Tim Walshe

As an Auckland Fight Crew, all we had to do was train our butts off, fly into Ohakea, soak up the well-organised event, dominate our opponents, then fly back to our Auckland oasis the next day.

No script ever goes to plan.

We left Ohakea humbled by a slick event run by a meticulous and precise OH PTI crew. We left Ohakea humbled by defeat even with a few victories up our sleeve, humbled by our super-supportive whanau, friends and our Air Force family that were encouraging all fighters on the night. Humbled by our unrelenting trainers willing us to perform well for our own personal pride.

The journey to get to the Fight Night was simply amazing for all personnel involved, fighters and trainers. Once you commit to fight, then you better put in the effort because once you get to the event, there is nowhere to hide in that ring!! I personally give huge kudos and much respect to all people, male and female, who get into the ring to fight. Boxing is a science, boxing is an art, boxing is a true test of high-intensity endurance.

Whether you win or lose, the charity you support must be acknowledged. The charity the Auckland crew supported was Cystic Fibrosis, which is very close to one of the fighter’s heart as his twin grandchildren suffer from this debilitating illness. Everyone hates losing but if you give it your best effort and leave it all in the ring, then that’s all that anyone can ask.

Before we even set one foot in the ring we are all warriors, physically and mentally, it’s the Air Force way.

Congratulations for stepping up and toughing it out to the end:

**TEAM OHAKEA BOXERS**
- CPL Kerry Cane
- F/S Forrest McLeod
- AC Ethan Hyndman
- FGOFF Tasman Marshall
- CPL Jess Williams
- Team Captain – CPL Brendon Davies

**OHAKEA TRAINERS**
- F/S Hutch Hutchinson
- SGT Brendon Pugh
- SSGT Errol Tutauha
- Johnny Sula

**TEAM SECOND:**
Laura Smidt-Robinson

**AK FIGHTERS:**
- FGOFF Sylvie “Crea Crea” McCrea
- LAC Fahad “The Sandman” Hassan
- Big Bad A/CPL Brad Stevenson
- “The Shannon Savage” AC Shenea Whakarau
- The Niuean Slayer Destry “Two Guns” F/S Tumataiki
- Backup Fighters: CPL Richard Graham, CPL Ali Pene.

**AK TRAINERS:**
- Mr Gavin “By the Book” Rolls
- CPL Donte “Nosebreaker” Kelly
- CPL Louie “Smiling Assassin” Nicholas
- LR Albie “Follow Up, Follow Up” Roebeck

**RESULTS - CORPORATE BOUTS:**

**Bout 1:** Kerry Cane v Bradley Stevenson  
Result: Win to K. Cane by KO2: 10/9, 10/9, 10/9

**Bout 2:** Bryan Ousey v Nigel McLeod  
Win to N. McLeod by Unanimous Points: 29/28, 29/28, 30/27

**Bout 3:** Kristen Krawczyz v Sylvie McCrea  
Win to S. McCrea by Unanimous Points: 29/28, 30/27, 30/27

**Bout 4:** Ethan Hyndman v Conor Spice  
Win to E. Hyndman by Unanimous Points: 30/27, 30/27, 30/27

**Bout 5:** Chad-Warner (OH) v Tasman Marshall (OH)  
Win to T. Marshall by Unanimous Points: 30/26, 29/27, 29/27

**Bout 6:** Brad Cate (AK) v Shaquille Brain (AK)  
Win to B. Cate by Unanimous Points: 30/27, 30/27, 30/27

**Bout 7:** Jeremy Glasier v Fahad Hassan  
Win to F. Hassan by TKO2: 10/9, 10/9, 10/9

**FIGHT OF THE NIGHT**

**Bout 8:** Jessica Williams v Shenea Whakarau  
Win to J. Williams by Split Decision: 30/27, 28/29, 30/27

**Bout 9:** Arthur Tulafiso v Destry Tumataiki  
Win to A. Tulafiso by Unanimous Points: 29/28, 30/27, 30/27
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 March 17 - 19, 2017**

All ex-squadron members are invited to attend. Further details regarding registration will be released at a later date.

NO. 17 (CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH) SQUADRON

AIR TRAINING CORPS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The unit will be celebrating its 75th anniversary over the **weekend 24-25 March 2017**, commencing with a meet and greet on Friday evening, a lunch and combined Wing Parade on Saturday afternoon followed by a Dine and Dance with the Air Force Band on Saturday night. All functions will be held at venues at the old Wigram Air Force Base including the Museum.

Total function cost for weekend $100 per person.

Please register your interest at www.17squadronatc.com/?reunion or go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/events/1744533662434248/

COME AND CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR TRAINING CORPS AT A SPORTS DAY AND A SOCIAL EVENING AT BASE OHAKEA.

When: October 14-16

For more details, please contact SQNLDR Grant te Tau or FGOFF Sophie Walker via silversparrowhawk@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ExSS75/

This photo was taken on Samoa’s Apolima Strait as Exercise Tunex Astra 16 came to an end. We were returning from our detached location at Asau (Saval’i) to our main location based at Faleolo airport (Upolu). I was inspired to take the photo because it shows one of Samoa’s main modes of transportation for the local community. In the distance a thunder storm was brewing, we were sitting in 30degree heat, 100% humidity and cruising through calm seas.

Photographer: AC Gareth Schieving
Registrations are now open for the official opening of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Marae at RNZAF Base Ohakea

Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9, 2016

For more info on events over the weekend, please see: http://bit.ly/2bKzR2M