Opening Day for the RNZAF Tūrangawaewae

Anzac Coordination in the Middle East

Exercises: Bersama Lima and Red Flag
Our mission
To carry out military air operations to advance New Zealand’s security interests with professionalism, integrity and teamwork. Air Force News is the official magazine of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF)—established to inform, educate and entertain its personnel and friends.

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

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New Zealand Government
Soon after becoming CAF I wrote a First Word outlining focus areas and immediate priorities for the RNZAF – our core mission of conducting Military Air Operations, our People, our Reputation and Safety (which pervades everything we do). I also explained that in the following months you would see more detail about my expectations, goals and priorities.

In September CAF’s Command Directive for the RNZAF was released. Plenty of effort went into ensuring that it is easy to read, understand and that it succinctly spells out what we will be doing and how to all of the Air Force. It guides all of our subordinate plans, orders and activities and the way we allocate or resources.

Leaders who attended our recent and successful Air Force Leadership Forum at Ohakea were directed to go back to their units and take time to ensure their people were familiarised with the key aspects of the CAF Command Directive, as well as the broad findings of the Workload Study, and the Census 16 survey results relevant to each unit.

The Air Force’s Census 16 results showed many positive improvements, with major strides around safety, and harassment, bullying and discrimination, but also in the NZDF-wide focus areas of two-way communication and visionary leadership. The two new focus areas that have emerged from Census 16 are leadership and belief in our common purpose, as well as responding to people’s concerns around performance (more on these initiatives in coming weeks).

We’ve had many surveys this year and each highlights areas we need to improve on. At the end of the day it’s not only about making us more effective at conducting military air operations but making the RNZAF a better, safer and more enjoyable place to work in.

A great deal has been accomplished this year and I want to acknowledge and thank all of you for your efforts. In particular our team in the Middle East with Operation TEAL who are conducting air transport missions with outstanding serviceability rates (over 98%) – the result of an all-RNZAF effort. Simultaneously, we conducted rescues atop Mt Taranaki, exercises in South East Asia and Alaska, Antarctic resupply missions, EEZ patrols and support missions for the Prime Minister’s delegation to India.

We’re out there doing challenging air missions with some degree of managed risk and high rates of success. It requires an entire RNZAF team of highly trained and skilled personnel who work very hard to do some extraordinarily complex things. Recently the Air Force attracted some negative media attention because we put safety first. I know that we are suffering after criticisms were made in the media by people who are not skilled in aviation. Be in no doubt that I fully back the team who made the decision to prioritise safety above all else, they chose the correct course of action. Prime Minister Key has reiterated his confidence in our Air Force and in the team who delivered him and the delegation to India safely.

Keep your heads high and be proud of what we all achieve. You should look forward to showcasing the products of your success to the people of New Zealand, our allies and the media at our RNZAF 80th Anniversary Air Tattoo at Ohakea in February.

Before then it’s imperative that you plan a decent year-end break. Everyone, whether you feel like it or not, needs to spend some quality time unwinding and relaxing, free from the pressures of work, enjoying family and friends and recharging for what will be another busy year in 2017.
As the still and starry night faded into the cool dim first light of day, there was quiet celebration of the RNZAF Tūrangawaewae’s official opening. At a Dawn Awakening local iwi and Air Force chaplain Diana Woods blessed the facility that has been almost a decade in the making and hundreds of guests walked through the doors for the first time.
The Wharenui, named Te Ara Wheturangi a Kai, was officially opened at Base Ohakea last month. It was a culmination of about eight years’ work by hundreds of staff and volunteers. It had been transformed into the cultural meeting place from the old Ohakea Museum building.

The opening celebrated a cultural coming of age for the RNZAF and will be a focal point for all personnel and visitors to the base.

The facility is a whare wānanga (house of learning) or whare manaaki (house of hospitality).

During its opening weekend, the Tūrangawaewae was visited by more than 600 guests including local iwi, personnel, local Government ministers and members of the public.

A wero and a powhiri marked the public opening and the Navy and Army – especially No 2 Engineering Regiment which conducted the vast bulk of the renovation – were acknowledged for their role in the project.

While the early morning was calm and still during the blessings, the Maori God of wind and storm, Tāwhirimātea, depicted in the Tūrangawaewae’s carvings, invited himself to the later morning’s events, with strong winds buffeting the area.

Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal (AVM) Tony Davies, said one of his main priorities was to ensure the culture and identity of the RNZAF was strong, inclusive and celebrated biculturalism.

“The opening of our Tūrangawaewae was one of the major milestones in working towards this goal, and I am very proud to be here standing on the shoulders of all who have gone before.”

The RNZAF now had a place where our Air Force could acknowledge our Maori culture, he said. “It reflects the mana of our Air Force and is symbolic of the importance we place on biculturalism and although it has been a long journey, it was one we wanted to take and we are richer for it.

“Our Tūrangawaewae is a place where our past, present and future meet; where we may honour our past, celebrate or lament the present and look to the future. Our Tūrangawaewae will be the physical heart of our Air Force Iwi – the spiritual and social gathering place of Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa, the Royal New Zealand Air Force. It is our spiritual home,” AVM Davies said.

Deputy Chief of Air Force, Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Mark Brunton, said it was difficult to describe the deep sense of unity, emotion, gratitude and celebration that was experienced during the opening.
The following day the Tūrangawaewae was immediately put to use with a special church service, conducted by Chaplain Woods, where the Maori cultural groups from the three services “lifted the roof” with their waiata.

“The Tūrangawaewae is now ‘our’ place; warm, inviting and ready for all,” AIRCDRE Brunton said.

Doug ‘Wal’ Wallace, Tūrangawaewae Manager

For me this journey began way back in 2003, when the RNZAF Bicultural Policy first rolled out with six key objectives – the last being to establish an RNZAF Marae.

Implementing the first five objectives was merely the preliminary stage to what eventually took place in the wee hours of October 8 in a beautiful serene spot in the corner of Ohakea.

As the last ceremonial karakia was issued on the māhau (porch) and the cloak of Tuariki was placed on his majestically carved figure, I could literally feel the weight of 13 years of long hard slog lift off my shoulders.

I drew a sigh which seemed to last forever as a wave of relief, satisfaction and spiritual fulfilment engulfed me. I won’t lie, there were tears, and I wasn’t alone as the significance of what had just taken place dawned upon the hundreds in attendance.

Ceremonially speaking, that was the point that we could say that the Tūrangawaewae was open for business. The sky could open up and the elements could do their worst and even if we had to cancel everything else that followed that day, it wouldn’t matter. Our Tūrangawaewae was open. Everything that followed was a bonus.

The powhiri was amazing, featuring a fly-past of three T-6C Texans, and a 12-person wero party, which included women (something that only Air Force has ever done).

What can I say about the Air Force haka that closed the powhiri, other than it was the most powerful haka that I have ever had the pleasure of partaking in. The lines spread the entire width of the courtyard. There were Aircraftmen on my right and Air Commodores on my left and everyone was giving it their all.

“Tihei mauri ora! Behold, the breath of life!”
The Tū Rangawae Wae:

- Creates a focal point of Māoridom
  - A cultural ‘standing place’ for all
  - A place to learn
  - Where culture is protected

- Appreciates diversity and cultural identity
- Reflects Air Force mana
- Showcases our unique identity to visitors
- Is a place to meet, host, celebrate and reflect

The Tū Rangawae Wae Creates A Place Where We May:

- Stand together
- Learn and maintain traditions
- Rise tall in oratory
- Weep for our dead
- Hold our meetings
- Feast and celebrate
- Pray and reflect
- Care for others
- Feed the soul
A new Anzac alliance has been formed in the Middle East, with two C-130 Hercules detachments integrating under one task group.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) C-130 Task Unit has joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-130J Task Unit to fly personnel and equipment in operational support in the Middle East.

The two detachments integrated under the control of the Air Mobility Task Group (AMTG) Commander when the New Zealand detachment arrived in the region in early June with their C-130.

Australia’s C-130J detachment is commanded by Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Scott Harris and is made up of 33 personnel from No. 37 Squadron operating on a rotational basis.

One of the highlights for the Australians on this deployment was working with New Zealand colleagues on operations.

“It’s been gratifying working closely with the Kiwis in the Middle East. Every friendly face is a welcome addition to the team especially when you’re operating on the other side of the world away from your usual support networks,” SQNLDR Harris said.

“The Australian and New Zealand personnel working in the mission planning and operations cells have integrated particularly well to support each other’s missions, and we’ve been sharing aviation safety reports which are relevant to both task units.

“It’s been great working with the Kiwis. They maintain very high professional standards and the interoperability between our task units and between the squadrons in general has been seamless and continues at a high level.”

Commander of the NZDF Task Unit SQNLDR Rhys Evans said his 32-person team was working hard to support New Zealand and Australian personnel on the ground in the region.

“We are predominantly from No. 40 Sqn and have brought with us a team of people who can independently deploy and operate. Here in the Middle East they have seamlessly integrated into the AMTG structure,” SQNLDR Evans said.

“As of mid-August, we’ve flown 28 missions and 200 flight hours. We’ve also achieved a near 100 per cent aircraft serviceability rate, which is nearly unheard of for the H model C-130. It’s a credit to our maintainers and those people in our squadron at home who planned this mission.”

SQNLDR Evans said it was great to see his team achieve their mission, using an older aircraft.

“There’s some friendly rivalry between the Kiwis and the Aussies operating the H model and the J model Hercules, but we’re all here working together supporting the Middle East mission. It’s great to work alongside the Australian C-130 crews,” he said.

“We are very familiar working with them. We also operate together on exercises such as Talisman Sabre and Red Flag and since we’ve been here we’ve appreciated how they’ve fully embraced us into the AMTG unit.”

In a clear demonstration of its faith in the Anzac alliance in the Air Mobility Task Group, the ADF has chosen to return one of the two C-130Js for the remainder of the Kiwi C-130H deployment.

BY THE NUMBERS

The RNZAF air transport team in the Middle East has flown the equivalent of five round-the-world trips since their mission began in June.

The C-130 Hercules and a 32-strong detachment have flown 45 missions, including night-vision-goggle flights, to Iraq and Afghanistan.

There has been a 98% mission success rate.

Our air transport team includes aircraft technicians, logistics specialists, maintenance personnel and an air movements load team that is working as part of the RAAF’s Air Movements Unit.
An NH90 crew came to the rescue of a 29-year-old Dutch tramper on Labour weekend who had been stranded by heavy snow on Mount Taranaki for two days. The helicopter, from No. 3 Squadron, battled strong winds and a thick layer of cloud to rescue the tourist.

“Tt was only in our second attempt that we were able to find a nice, open area where we could land,” NH90 captain Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Chris Ross said.

“TThe man was cold and hungry but otherwise fine. He was certainly chuffed to see us and he was able to walk to the aircraft on his own. We gave him a blanket and lollies and turned on the heater as soon as he got on board,” FLTLT Ross said.

Laurens Collée had climbed the mountain on October 20 for a day’s tramping but was unable to return because of poor weather conditions, including heavy snow. He spent two freezing nights at Syme Hut, a Department of Conservation cabin, about 2000 metres from the foot of the mountain.

He had been contacted by police, who in turn sought help from the NZDF, because there were no search and rescue helicopters immediately available in the area.

“We are glad that our crew had been able to find the tramper and bring him to safety. The tracks are covered in ice and heavy snow, so there was no way he could have got out of there on his own,” FLTLT Ross said.

Mr Collée later sent a message to the RNZAF via social media to say thank you.

“Thanks a lot crew and SAR team, grateful and relieved when I stepped on board.”

FLTLT Ross said it was nice to spend Labour weekend with family and friends, but duty came first. “If there’s a successful rescue attempt, it makes it so much more worthwhile.”

Group Captain Nick Olney, the Acting Air Component Commander, said the successful rescue attempt spoke to the skills of the aircrew.

“I’d like to commend our team for getting the job done successfully. This is a positive outcome for the individual, his family and the community,” he said.

The versatility of the NH90 helicopter made it suitable for a range of missions, including search and rescue, military operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, GPCAPT Olney said.

The RNZAF NH90 medium-utility helicopters and the P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft have flown more than 170 flying hours on 20 search and rescue missions in New Zealand and the south-west Pacific since January.
Exercise BERSAMA LIMA 16 (BL16) was held over much of October, involving NZDF personnel based in Singapore and Malaysia. With the separation both geographical and philosophical in nature, the story can be split nicely into two parts: the headquarters and the aeroplane. Next issue we’ll cover the shiny metal, but first a tale of plans and pain.

BL16 is a Five Powers Defence Arrangements (FPDA) exercise involving the armed forces of those two nations, as well as assets and personnel from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

These exercises have been held since 1971, and demonstrate the collective desire to promote and sustain stability in the region. It is estimated up to a third of the world’s shipping passes through these waters, and as a maritime nation dependent on trade, New Zealand has a vested interest in contributing to this process.

The NZDF’s Malaysian team consists of those participating in the Field Training Exercise (FTX): an RNZAF P-3K2 Orion and supporting elements based at Butterworth Air Base, as well as two RNZN divers in the safety cell, while in Singapore we have had 19 staff working for the FTX headquarters, and the Command Post Exercise (CPX) combined joint task force headquarters, co-located at the Multinational Operations and Exercise Centre at the Changi Naval Base.

The RNZAF component has been spread across all parts of the headquarters: on the FTX side, watchkeepers through to the Chief Combat Plans role run by Commanding Officer No. 5 Squadron, Wing Commander (WGCDR) D.J. Hunt; and in the CPX both as elements of the planning teams and part of the Exercise Control cell. “For our personnel, working in the headquarters of exercises like BL16 is a great training
opportunity and stepping stone to participating in larger exercises such as RIMPAC, or running live operations such as TAKAPU or TEAL,” explains WGCDR Hunt.

For the NZDF, teamwork quickly became critical. Bringing five nations together to work as one group involves some breaking of the ice, and this occurred during the sports and Banyan cultural afternoon early in the piece. NZDF maintained its customary high standard by regaining the FPDA Cup for sports, clinching it with an impressive display of coordination in the tug-o-war – won convincingly but not without its share of wrenched muscles and rope-burn.

In the Banyan the team responded to what felt like a “Masterchef” challenge: cook about 50 lamb tenderloins in the galley of a Singaporean Navy frigate, and then roll out an awesome feed of lamb, cheese and mini-pavlovas to about 200 people. It was all extremely well received, and capped off with an enthusiastic rendition of the NZDF haka to the delight of the crowd. Overall it was a great effort in the face of overwhelming odds, and helped get the exercise under way on a good note.

It couldn’t have been done without the support of the team at New Zealand Defence Support Unit South East Asia, who really pulled the rabbit (or the lamb) out of the hat! Indeed, their efforts behind the scenes and the relationships they have developed are a critical part of the success of our participation in activities in this part of the world.

The social side complete, it is down to business with a serious campaign to plan in the CPX, followed by a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise, which is becoming an increasingly familiar scenario to all the players. Meanwhile, in the FTX the team have been concentrating on providing a program that will allow all the nations’ assets to achieve their training objectives, as well as practise operating together across a wide range of war-fighting serials in what is always a challenging environment.

Were they successful as far as our Airborne Surveillance and Response Force goes? You will have to wait for the next issue!
Ex RED FLAG ALASKA

A Stunning Training Field

By Flight Lieutenant Matthew West, C-130H co-pilot

Two C-130 Hercules crews from No. 40 Squadron, including maintenance and operations support personnel from the RNZAF and NZ Army, deployed to Elmendorf Air Base in Anchorage, Alaska for Exercise RED FLAG. The two-week exercise, flown in the spectacular surrounds of central Alaska, is designed to provide joint offensive counter-air, interdiction, close air support and large-force employment training in a simulated combat environment.

An RNZAF C-130 and two Republic of Korea Air Force C-130s wait on the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska flightline
Photo: Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson

Paratroopers with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, US Army Alaska, board a RNZAF C-130
Photo: Airman 1st Class Valerie Monroy

Flight Sergeant John Beere, from the RNZAF’s No. 40 Sqn, briefs paratroopers assigned to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, prior to a jump
Photo: Airman 1st Class Valerie Monroy
During the course of the exercise, the crews worked alongside C-130 and C-17 transport crews from the United States Air Force and Republic of Korea Air Force, as well as Fast Jet, Command and Control (C2) and Airborne Refuelling assets from coalition partners. Each mission profile was provided with minimal detail to ensure all elements worked together from the first stages of planning to come up with a comprehensive solution to the scenario, while accounting for the numerous air-to-air and ground-to-air threats during the mission.

Each day’s mission focus changed, providing an opportunity for crews to test their tactical flying skills while utilising their aircraft to its full extent.

Highlights included conducting a mass parachute jump in a nine-ship formation (6 x C-130, 3 x C-17) joint forceable jump entry, sequential Humvee airdrop and Opfor days where assets jumped ship to fight for the enemy and likely end up as cannon fodder for the coalition jets.

One such mission involved the ‘repatriation’ of an injured fighter pilot who had been ‘shot down’ during a mission several days earlier. This job was tasked to the RNZAF C-130, which flew at low level through the mountains of the Yukon to a challenging dirt airstrip on top of a ridgeline. After landing, the crew awaited a Blackhawk escorted by two Apache attack helicopters to land behind the aircraft with the combat recovery team and downed pilot. The pilot was then transferred between the Blackhawk and the C-130, which departed as low and fast as possible, under close escort provided by two A-10 Warthogs.

Throughout the mission, the RNZAF C-130 was being provided safe passage by the numerous fast jet assets in the airspace overhead as they fought against the advances and attacks of the opposing force.

The exercise provided No. 40 Sqn with significant training and development opportunities in a robust ground and air threat environment, while also presenting an opportunity to work with coalition partners.

It also gave maintenance personnel the opportunity to test their procedures in a deployed environment under challenging conditions - including the use of de-icing equipment after a snowstorm blanketed the aircraft.

All support personnel (including Mission Planners, Intelligence and Logistics) continued their own personal development and increased their knowledge of C-130 operations in a deployed coalition environment.

Alaska was an amazing stage to conduct a Large Force Employment exercise and the No. 40 Sqn detachment will return with fond memories of both the exercise and operating environment.

MISSION STATS:

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The exercise was a significant test of the crews’ ability to operate in a challenging environment, providing valuable training and development opportunities for all involved.
Groups of trainers from the Navy, Army and Air Force have completed their qualification shoots with the new Glock 17 Gen 4 pistol and will soon start training their units in the use of the new weapons system.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has purchased about 1600 of the new generation Glock 17 pistols to replace the Sig Sauer P226 pistol, which was introduced in 1992.

As part of the introduction into service of the new pistol, a tri-Service training team has been travelling the country “training the trainers”.

WO1 Andrew Price, training manager for the land training transition into service team, said two-day courses had been rolled out in Auckland, Waiouru, Linton, Trentham and Burnham.

The first day involved classroom-based theory and practical lessons, with the second day on the range carrying out progressive drills before a qualification shoot.

WO1 Price said there was a new feature to the training, adopting a high ready position during drills as part of operation readiness.

“For all intents and purposes in that high ready position you have an imaginary box in front of your line of sight. A pistol is a close-combat weapon and firers need to have that situational awareness. They need to be aware of what’s going on in front of them or out to the side. Conducting the drills in the high ready position achieves that.”

>>
Personnel assigned a pistol will be required to undergo weapons qualification every two years. Unit commanders may still require their units to complete annual qualification. The weapons qualification ensures a basic level of operational capability and there is subsequent training for personnel deploying on operations.

This type of tri-Service training is also likely for the introduction into service of the new individual weapon, the MARS-L, or Modular Assault Rifle System – Light. The MARS-L will be rolled out to all three Services in 2017.

As for the pistol itself, WO1 Price says it was chosen because it’s proven. A number of other militaries, as well as the NZ Police, who use the Glock 17.

“The Glock itself is great pistol. It has significantly less recoil than the P226 and as a result it’s a lot more accurate and there’s less muzzle climb,” he says. “All the trainers who have gone through have enjoyed shooting it.”

SGT Aaron McLean, Security Forces Flight Force Protection, RNZAF Base Ohakea, has experience with the Browning, the P226 and now the Glock 17.

“It’s not only a proven platform, it’s easy to get replacement parts, it’s easy to use, the functionality for the firer is simple,” SGT McLean says.

Where the P226 was fully metallic, the Glock is made of a composite material and hardened steel, making it lighter. It’s a modular weapon, so the handgrip can be adjusted to the size of the firer’s hand and it comes with magazine pouches and holsters.

“I definitely like the Glock. Having a new piece of kit to train with is a good thing. For me personally, having a weapons system that’s easy to utilise takes you away from having to think too much when having to employ it,” SGT McLean says.

“In that heated moment when you potentially have to employ that weapons system, knowing exactly where things are, knowing where you need to be drawing from, and then with the weapon itself, means you can have faith in your own ability and skills to employ that weapons system effectively.

“It’s really good to see those technological advances and equipment upgrades for the Defence Force. It all comes under that tri-Service umbrella, interoperability, making sure that we can all deploy as one and all have the same equipment.”
“If we all pull together, if we all understand our priorities, then the organisation can use all its resources for what’s really important to the organisation,” Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General (LTGEN) Tim Keating told the AFLF at Base Ohakea last month.

Empowering ranks at all levels to be trusted to make decisions and take on responsibilities not only brings out the best of personnel, it helps to develop future leaders in the organisation, the forum was told.

This message was reinforced during speeches from junior officers in a segment, ‘View from the Engine Room’.

LTGEN Keating said for the Defence Force to properly function, there needed to be greater unity of purpose, and this started with clarity from the top of the NZDF, cascading through the organisation.

“We need to be clear about our direction and purpose. When people understand what is really important, then they deliver on those things needed to make their Services and the NZDF as a whole more effective.”

Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshall Tony Davies, said there...
were a lot of decisions that were being made by top-level management, which should be resolved at lower levels.

“We’re robbing our junior leaders of their chance to grow and develop and make responsibilities that sit with them. It’s what they joined to do — to make decisions, be accountable and to lead.”

He said junior leaders would be encouraged to pitch their ideas to the top levels.

“I’m still under the impression that not enough good ideas are getting up to our level.”

Three personnel spoke on the theme ‘View from the Engine Room’. The first, Flight Sergeant (F/S) Kel Ritchie, suggested establishing focus groups and “bringing together a mix of personnel from a range of ranks and experience to discuss, debate and explore Air Force issues”.

Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Sara Potter said junior officers needed to be empowered and trusted to make the right decisions.

“We’re looking for those opportunities to develop. Grow your leaders and grow them early.”

Corporal (CPL) Matt Dawson said empowering the junior ranks was an effective way to improve their performance and their job satisfaction.

“The main form of empowerment that can be expected from lower-ranking service personnel is putting them on exercises or operations overseas. This gives the person recognition for their efforts in their job, as only a small selection are chosen to represent us.

“Give us more responsibilities and visibility, more opportunities for a chance to prove ourselves and we will surprise you.”

From the rugby field to the air field

The guest speaker at this year’s AFLF needed to be someone with a proven track record of leadership, and who better than former rugby great, Richie McCaw?

McCaw’s highly successful rugby career was built on very similar values that the NZDF holds dear — Courage, Commitment and Comradeship. And let’s not forget his love of aviation.

During his trip to Base Ohakea, McCaw, who held the rank of honorary Squadron Leader, was promoted by AVM Davies to Wing Commander.

“He excels in performance, leadership, developing diversity and commitment to serving — not just as the All Blacks’ captain, but as a Kiwi who epitomises the values we all aspire to. Because of this, I was proud to promote Richie,” AVM Davies said.

During the formal dining in after the conference, McCaw talked about his time leading our national rugby team.

It wasn’t long into his career as the team’s captain that he realised resilience and leadership went a long way, he said.

“The big thing we realised as a team was not to focus on the outcome, but to focus on the performance.

“When I started with the All Blacks in 2001, we were a slap-together team of individuals and we were all worried about how we would play on Saturdays, and we didn’t really put a lot of thought into the team.”

That attitude slowly changed so it didn’t matter if you were the newest player or the coach or the captain, it was important that everyone worked as a team, he said.

McCaw also described how he dealt with defeat.

“Back in 2007 when the All Blacks lost in the quarterfinal [against France in the World Cup at Cardiff] it was the worst experience of my rugby career. Probably I would swing that right around now — admittedly is a bit easier to do afterwards — but it was the best thing to go through.

“If I didn’t have that experience I wouldn’t have learned lessons that I did.”
NZDF Begins Annual Airlift Support Mission to Antarctica

By Luz Baguloro, Public Affairs Manager – Joint Forces New Zealand
Photos: Antarctica NZ

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) began its annual mission to bring scientists and support staff to Antarctica late last month, demonstrating again its role in the logistics chain that helps advance scientific research in the world’s harshest continent.

An RNZAF Boeing 757 recently flew 81 scientific and support personnel and about three tonnes of baggage and equipment to support the New Zealand and United States Antarctic research programmes. It was the NZDF’s first strategic airlift support flight to the continent for the 2016–17 summer season.

Lieutenant Commander Ross Hickey, the NZDF’s Senior National Officer on the continent, said two more RNZAF Boeing flights were scheduled before the end of October to bring another 100 personnel to Scott Base and McMurdo Station. Further strategic support flights will be conducted from late November by the C-130 Hercules.

“For the past 51 years, the NZDF has been contributing to the lifeline of support for New Zealand and American scientists working in Antarctica,” Joint Forces New Zealand Commander Major General Tim Gall said.

“Every year, our aircraft support the Antarctic research programmes by bringing about 330 scientists and other personnel and almost 40 tonnes of equipment needed to carry out vital research on the continent.”

Antarctica New Zealand Chief Executive Peter Beggs said the significant contribution of the NZDF demonstrated the collaborative nature of Antarctic research and logistics.

“NZDF support is an integral part of New Zealand’s strategic leadership, both on the Antarctic continent and in the Southern Ocean, and we are grateful for the level of professionalism under which these personnel operate,” he said.

The NZDF also provides search and rescue support, air transport, terminal operations at Harewood Terminal in Christchurch and McMurdo, and support for the unloading of the annual container ship.

Up to 220 NZDF personnel, including air crew and ground support staff, passenger and cargo facilitation staff, logistics staff, fuel specialists, Army engineers and heavy plant operators, cargo handlers and communications specialists are deployed during the summer season to support Scott Base and McMurdo stations.

The 2016–17 research season marks the 60th anniversary of New Zealand’s operational presence in Antarctica and the construction of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition Hut.
Airman Soars to Silver in WorldSkills NZ

The New Zealand Defence Force team won the top prize – and a large clutch of medals – at the recent WorldSkills New Zealand competition at Wintec in Hamilton.

In the NZDF’s “best year ever”, the team of 10 won six medals: four gold, one silver, and one bronze – and the Sir John Ingram Trophy for the best regional team in New Zealand.

The team competed against 57 of the best young tradespeople in New Zealand, who were finalists from the regional competitions held earlier in the year. Each competitor completed a project over two days, replicating “real-world” problems and tasks.

The Defence personnel competed in six of the 14 industry categories: aircraft maintenance, automotive technology, carpentry, cooking, restaurant science and welding.

Making up the team was a trio from the RNZAF –Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Daniel Cornwall, LAC Michael Carter and AC Harry Averill.

LAC Cornwall won a silver medal in aviation maintenance in the competition – known as the “Olympics of trade skills”.

Much of the 22-year-old’s preparation for the competition happened in his day job, as an aircraft technician based at Ohakea Military Air Base. He is posted to No. 3 Squadron, where he maintains the RNZAF’s NH90 helicopters.

“But there was also a lot of specialist training involved, for tasks that we don’t do every day,” he said.

Winning the silver medal was a good feeling, and a relief after putting in a lot of work and training and enduring a long, pressure-filled two days of work, he said.

WorldSkills NZ is held every second year, alternating with the international competitions. Next year WorldSkills Oceania will be held in Melbourne, followed by WorldSkills International in Abu Dhabi.

The competition was one of the highlights of LAC Cornwall’s four-year career in the RNZAF. He joined in 2012 after leaving Southland Boys’ High School, seeking a “career that is hands-on but still very technical and challenging”.

As an aircraft technician he is responsible for preparing and keeping the NH90s airworthy for daily flying tasks, as well as carrying out scheduled servicing and unscheduled maintenance or fault rectification. No. 3 Sqn also has a search and rescue helicopter on standby.

His training involved three months on a recruit course, nine months of initial trade training at Woodbourne near Blenheim, and then two years of on-the-job training.

“I was also attracted to the lifestyle and training package that the Air Force offers. I wanted to be able to travel with my job, and contribute in some form to our country,” he said.

He has not been disappointed.

“What I enjoy most about being in the Air Force is probably the lifestyle,” he said. “You meet loads of cool people and make a heap of good mates.

“Everyone has common interests and there are loads of opportunities within the military, such as further studies, sports, overseas travel and deployments, and events like WorldSkills.”

The medal winners were:

**Gold**
- LCPL Logan Candy – Auto Technology, 2 CSS Bn, and the Best in Region medal
- PTE Kim De Schot – Restaurant Service, 3 CSS Bn
- PTE Nic Todd – Cooking, 3 CSS Bn
- SPR Todd Hamilton – Carpentry, SME

**Silver**
- LAC Dan Cornwall – Aircraft Maintenance, RNZAF

**Bronze**
- ACHF Danielle Swart – Cooking, RNZN
The skill of the musicians who make up the RNZAF Band was showcased in a number of astonishing ways during last month’s concert in Wellington. By the end of the performance, the audience was on its feet with a well deserved ovation.

The euphonium is apparently an underappreciated instrument - usually stuck in the background, buried behind more precocious musical tools – the trumpet, saxophone and trombone. But the euphonium (in the skilled hands of Corporal Byron ‘Buzz’ Newton), showcased at the RNZAF Band Concert, was transformed into a Beat Boxing instrument of cool. This was just the first surprising performance of the two-hour show.

The next came in the form of two xylophone-playing virtuosos, Leading Aircraftman (LAC) James Fuller and LAC Jacob Randall, who not only smashed out Flight of the Bumblebees, but they did it blindfolded.

The nearly sold-out show was put together by RNZAF Director of Music Flight Lieutenant Simon Brew, and Band Master Warrant Officer Denis Spurdle. The programme was packed with pieces both traditional and modern.

Soloist LAC Barbara Graham stilled the crowd with her stunning versions of Summertime, from Porgy and Bess, and Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again, from The Phantom of the Opera. Sergeant David Fiu had toes tapping with I Wan’na Be Like You, from The Jungle Book.

We were also treated to melodies from silent movies and the golden age of film, and classical masterworks played by the band’s virtuoso musicians.

During the second half the choreographed band played music from memory, including Ravel’s classic Bolero – where the band members each came on stage separately, building up the moment until the final crescendo – before banging out the theme tunes from The Incredibles and Game of Thrones.

Alongside the traditional marches 633 Squadron, Aces High and Dambusters, there was an infusion of modern fun, with the show ending with the latest Bruno Mars hit Uptown Funk.

Such a great show – I urge you to mark it in your diary for next year.
The New Zealand Defence Force’s Photographic Unit is a window for the public to get a glimpse into military operations, exercises and humanitarian efforts. The photographers are often with the first personnel to arrive at the scene, where their photographs tell in vivid imagery the story of the military’s work. Often invisible behind the camera, their photos allow the public to see the role the NZDF undertakes at home and overseas.
At the end of 2014 the unit underwent a restructure that resulted in the team being reduced from 13 to eight positions. This year new photographers were recruited for the first time in seven years, allowing those eight positions to be filled again by the middle of next year. Not only did the numbers change, the review changed the focus of the team as well.

“Traditionally we did a lot of roles for bases like group photos, presentations and medal ceremonies. But, out of that review came a shift in focus to public affairs and the operational aspects of the military,” said Sergeant (SGT) Sam Shepherd, who is the unit head, but currently on secondment to a Public Affairs manager role.

“The review saw limited need for a professional photographer to be involved in the work we were previously undertaking and instead, became more aligned to the organisation’s priorities, and to tell the story of the Defence Force.”

Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Chad Sharman is the newest team member, joining in late August after finishing his recruit course.

Becoming an NZDF photographer combined his passion for photography with serving in the military.

“It’s a unique situation, where your imagery is the window the public looks through to see our people’s story.”

It was a diverse and interesting role, which “always keeps you on your toes”, LAC Sharman said. Already there have been events he has covered that have been memorable, including going on an NH90 during a search and rescue mission, and attending the TRADOC Change of Command, where Colonel Karyn Thompson became the first woman to head the unit.

“Same with the Tūrangawaewae opening – that was a pretty amazing experience as well.”

While the photographers are all Air Force recruits, they work in an NZDF unit, splitting their time between the three Services. They deploy with personnel to cover most missions tasked to them.

When SGT Shepherd finished his recruit course 11 years ago, deployments were few and far between.

“This year so far we’ve had 22 deployments,” he said.

The unit’s interim manager A/SGT Amanda McErlich said the team’s work was being showcased in more places than ever before.

“The work we’re doing is being used in external media and social media here and around the world.”

The role offered unique experiences from most other photo assignments, she said.

SGT Shepherd said the most fulfilling part of his role was being deployed to places such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Antarctica, where the public could not reach, and document the work done by the NZDF.

In 2013 SGT Shepherd was sent to the Philippines in the wake of the devastating Typhoon Haiyan. It flattened parts of the South East Asian country and killed at least 6300.

“Our Hercules there shifted a huge amount of cargo and after taking some photos, I put the camera down and pitched in as well. I enjoyed that I could show the rest of the world that that’s what we were out there doing. Also, I enjoyed being able to help out in that regard.”

A/SGT McErlich agreed and added the “human element” was also a highlight of her work, such as when she covered the Invictus Games earlier this year.

“I was inspired by the people, seeing the emotion on their faces and getting really attached to that emotion – you’re celebrating the wins right along with them as you take photos of them.”

However, it wasn’t all exciting work, they said. There was also time away from family and an awful lot of behind-the-scenes administration work that went on. There was an expectation that the photographers would join personnel on operations and big events more so now than there was in the past.

“I think people are getting the idea that we are specialists and we do know what we are doing – it’s a lot harder than just picking up a camera and snapping a shot,” A/SGT McErlich said.

Being an NZDF photographer wasn’t for just anyone who enjoyed taking photos. A tertiary qualification was needed before recruiting with the Air Force.

“You’ve got to expect to go out of your comfort zone,” A/SGT McErlich said.
Mike, director of MWDesign, has a close affinity with the White Ribbon message. “I have had a couple of incidences in my life where women close to me have had some hard times from men, so it is a cause that we always support,” he says.

“I felt pretty excited and quite privileged to be asked to make the torches. We volunteered our design time for it because it is such a worthy cause.”

The torches were unusual but “not the most unusual thing we have had to build”, he said. However, there were still a couple of tricky tests in making them.

“Fitting it to the brief – making it rugged enough to cope with the men and women of the Defence Force jumping out of aeroplanes, or whatever they are going to do, and yet light enough that they are not going to struggle with it. Also that it has to reflect the anti-violence-against-women message. So, just balancing all that out has been the particular challenge for this project.”

The main body of the torches feature the White Ribbon symbol and the kowhaiwhai pattern that was designed and gifted to the NZDF by Air Force Tūrangawaewae manager Wal Wallace.

The kowhaiwhai features on the walls in the foyer and executive floor foyer of the NZDF headquarters, Freyberg House, on all PAYD machines in every NZDF mess, and has been used on various NZDF publications and documents.

“It represents the whole of Defence but in a Maori medium,” Wal says.

From November 21–25 the torches will undertake a journey to Wellington from the ends of the North and South islands to raise awareness of the White Ribbon campaign and let women who are victims of violence know of the support that is available.

They will arrive in Wellington on Friday, 25 November, and will feature at the White Ribbon ceremony in the capital that day. After that one will sit in the foyer of the Defence Force headquarters in Wellington, and the other will be passed on to New Zealand Police, a symbol of the Defence Force challenging other public sector organisations to tackle domestic violence.

Chief of Defence Force LTGEN Tim Keating with one of the torches

Manager Wal Wallace.

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MWDesign director Mike Williams working on one of the New Zealand Defence Force White Ribbon torches.

The Torches

- 600mm high, weighing 2kg
- handles are each engraved with 80 kiwis, representing the 80 per cent of abuse cases that go unreported in New Zealand each year
- they are turned aluminium and the main body part is 3D-printed ABS
- inside is a 1200-lumen LED light
It’s not just ship-spotting during the International Naval Review this month.

At least eight international maritime aircraft and helicopters will arrive in Auckland, either embarked aboard their respective destroyers and frigates, or under their own power from their home base.

The SH60 Seahawk helicopter variants will probably feature with vessels from Japan, South Korea and Australia, while P3 Orions from the United States, South Korea and possibly Pakistan will join No. 3 Squadron’s P3-K2 in naval exercises.

The largest visitor will be the Kawasaki P-1 with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, their equivalent to our Orions and only three years old.
Being the partner of a service person isn’t always easy. They are often away, sometimes at short notice and it always seems to be when you’re moving house or the kids are sick! However, at RNZAF Base Auckland there’s a team of people who provide support to families and make sure nobody is left to cope alone.

Base Auckland’s five-strong Base Support Team (BST) is a multi-disciplinary group responsible for ensuring that service people and their families have the tools and support they need no matter what life throws.

Support starts before families arrive on base, assisting with schooling, helping arrange necessary items such as base passes and connecting newcomers to families on base to provide support through the uncertainty of moving to a new community.

The team’s deployment support offers help ranging from a kind ear to in-home support when a partner is away. The Saturday crèche, free for deployed servicepeople’s families is ideal for anyone who needs time out to get to the supermarket or even get their hair cut. The BST can organise access to Parent Aid Waitakere, which offers in-home support for families under more than the usual levels of stress due to illness, accident or other unplanned events. They can also arrange access to budgeting, counselling, parenting support and medical specialists when required.

Having just added a social worker to its number, the members of the team all bring different specialisations to the table, from chaplaincy to social work to HR.

“We each have our individual roles as specialists but also work closely so that we can offer multiple options for people’s wellbeing,” BST chair Chaplain Janie McPhee said.

“It’s about equipping our people to manage and be in control of their lives, not fixing them.”

Importantly, all assistance is confidential.

Along with responding to events in RNZAF families’ lives, the team is also focusing on building a more resilient community that will minimise the occurrence of families reaching a point of stress.

Defence Community Coordinator Sophie Rodie organises fortnightly coffee groups, usually on a Wednesday, so people can get out of the house for a chat and some adult company.

One Wednesday coffee group the topic of moving to Auckland was top of mind with two attendees having just relocated to the base.

“I grew up in Palmy so it’s quite scary moving to Auckland,” said Kristina Gunning, who recently moved north due to her husband’s posting.

“Where I’m from everything is literally 15 minutes away.”

The team monitors trends to see where support and education can be provided and to provide information of those trends into Command so resources can be allocated as needed.

“We meet and raise themes that we may be experiencing, for example, relationship conflicts – we utilise internal and external agencies to assist with awareness tools to help in these challenging areas. We realise that often the source of the problem can be multi-faceted and so we would investigate solutions to assist in those areas,” said Chaplain McPhee.

Command Warrant Officer, Phil Webley, who sits on the team as the Command representative said the BST has achieved phenomenal success since it was reinvigorated just over 12 months ago.

“I’m so proud of what has been achieved in just a year. Feedback has been really positive and I am looking forward to the community becoming stronger and more resilient in the next 12 months.”

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SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE BASE SUPPORT TEAM:

**Posting support on or off base**

**Deployment support preparing for and during your service person’s deployment**

**Community activities coffee group, crèche, social events**

**Accessing specialist support services counselling, budgeting, parenting support**

**Relational and spiritual needs marriage and recognised relationship course, relationship development, baptisms, weddings, confidential support**
No. 5 Squadron has recently celebrated two major milestones: the 75th anniversary of the formation of the squadron, and the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the P-3 Orion aircraft.

The occasion was marked by an open day where former members came to remember and reminisce.

No. 5 Sqn was formed in November 1941, based in Fiji. The squadron spent most of its early history in Fiji, with its flying boats providing maritime surveillance and a visible presence throughout the South Pacific.

The squadron relocated to Whenuapai in 1966 as it took delivery of five Lockheed Orion P-3Bs (the sixth joined the fleet in 1985).

The Orions have undergone a series of upgrades over the years, replacing major components and sensors, with their designation changing to reflect the improved capability, becoming P-3K (for Kiwi) in the 1980s, and most recently P-3K2 with the latest systems upgrade.

The squadron’s impressive work record has been recently recognised with a citation, which in part read:

“In mid-2014, a P-3K2 Orion was deployed to the Middle East in support of both EU and US coalition counter-piracy and maritime security operations. Initially a four-month deployment, this was extended to 16 months at short notice once in theatre and represented the first major deployment of the aircraft since testing and evaluation of a recent fleet mission systems upgrade.

Over the duration of the deployment 174 mission flights were successfully flown with only five flights missed due to unserviceability – a success rate of 97%. This achievement was cited as the best rate of any aviation unit within the theatre, which considering the number of nations and aircraft types operating within the theatre is a commendable achievement.

No. 5 Sqn (RNZAF) operates six P-3K2 aircraft, supported by a team of 70 maintainers in serving New Zealand’s national interests. For the deployment a small maintenance team of 11 personnel, comprising six different trade groups, deployed in support of the aircraft over five separate rotations.

With this small number of personnel the teams worked long hours in trying conditions to enable mission success. Flight timings meant maintenance personnel were operating in the heat of Arabian days from the temperate winter months through to the 50° Celsius-plus conditions of summer.

On three occasions during the deployment parts of this team were moved to support the aircraft out of the Seychelles with limited reach back and support, all the while maintaining a high serviceability rate in spite of these challenges.

The outstanding success achieved during this deployment is in a large part testament to the dedication and commitment of the Maintenance Flight of No. 5 Sqn. Their adaptability, innovation and resilience in overcoming the many challenges presented by the deployed environment, ageing aircraft and extended supply chains, as attested to by the first-class mission serviceability rate, is a commendable achievement and worthy of recognition in the aviation community.”

No. 5 Squadron Still Impresses after 75 Years
A vital component of the Air Force Museum’s operations is our talented Visitor Experience Team, who are responsible for helping our visitors engage with the RNZAF story through public programmes and activities.

For our Visitor Hosts, Keri and Mark, and Education Officer, Chris, a significant part of their job involves ensuring that our younger visitors have a positive association with our Air Force and its history. One way they achieve that is through creating unique school holiday programmes, which are inspired in some way by the RNZAF and wider military.

These OSCAR (out of school care and recreation)-endorsed programmes are very popular with Christchurch parents looking for quality, supervised school holiday entertainment for their children. From the number of ‘regulars’ we now have, it’s clear that the programmes are maintaining their appeal for the kids, with many reportedly “begging” their parents to let them come back to “the next one”!

The theme for the last school holidays was “Spy Games”, which included different challenges and missions each day, all based in some way around espionage and intelligence. Pictured here are some of the children putting their stealth moves to the test, as they negotiate a ‘laser field’ made of string.

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**Holiday Fun at the Air Force Museum**

*By Michelle Sim, Communications Officer, RNZAF Museum*
SAFETY AND HEALTH POLICY

The RNZAF has updated its Safety & Health policy statement to meet Government legislation requirements from the release of the new Health and Safety at work Act (2015), as well as the appointment of a new Chief of Air Force (CAF). It affirms responsibility and how the RNZAF will manage safety and health.

MY RESPONSIBILITY:

The New Zealand Defence Force mission is to secure New Zealand and its sovereign interests against external threat, and be able to take action to meet likely contingencies in our strategic area of interest. To assist in achieving this mission, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) provides professional and effective military air operations.

To be effective in producing these military outputs, the RNZAF must train its people, our best resource, to safely maintain and operate a vast array of equipment and platforms, many of which would be hazardous to health without the appropriate controls. The RNZAF conducts operations across a diverse range of environments both within New Zealand and abroad, occasionally exposing our people to harsh, potentially dangerous environments.

It is my responsibility to ensure all risks to personnel associated with air operations are managed carefully and so far as is reasonably practicable kept to an absolute minimum.

The nature of our profession means we cannot eliminate all risks and it is our job to accept some risk in certain environments. Active risk management must therefore become an accepted part of all that we do. The RNZAF must identify and mitigate risks in the workplace in order to reduce the likelihood and consequences where we can, and make informed decisions on the residual risk we choose to accept.

All personnel, including regular force, civilians, reservists, contractors and sub-contractors share the responsibility for their own safety, for the safety of their co-workers, and anyone who may be affected by their work activities. RNZAF commanders, managers and supervisors will be held responsible for ensuring that personnel under their supervision comply with this policy and I expect all personnel to comply with all applicable safety and health legislation and regulatory requirements.

Each one of us has a duty to prevent harm to ourselves and others by identifying hazards and effectively managing risks in our workplace. I require you all to make every reasonable effort to identify these risks and hazards in your workplace and report these to your command. It is not enough to be aware of the risk, you also need to ensure risks and hazards are being managed through controls and mitigation as far as is reasonably practicable. We will not always get things right first time, and as humans we will make mistakes, this is why the RNZAF has worked so hard to establish a Just Culture environment, so that we can continue to learn.

To assist you with making accurate risk assessments and reporting safety and health-related incidents we have management and reporting tools detailed in the NZAP 201. We also have a pool of trained people within the Directorate of Air Force Safety and Health and in your local flight safety offices available to provide guidance and support.

WHY DOES SAFETY AND HEALTH MATTER?

It matters because it is about you, your colleagues, your families, and the people of New Zealand. Optimising our approach to safety and health will ensure we remain ready, resilient and respected.

Air Vice-Marshall Tony Davies, MNZM
Chief of Air Force
22 August 2016
The air forces of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States working together to ensure nations are operationally interoperable

WHAT IS ASIC?
The Air and Space Interoperability Council, based in Washington DC, comprises of air force representatives from the Five-Eyes (FVEYs) nations. The Council’s purpose is to ensure that the FVEYs’ air forces remain interoperable. Our story and a list of current publications is available at: www.airstandards.org

ASIC’S STRENGTH
ASIC’s strength is its unique ability to leverage the Five Eyes’ collective expertise to develop timely, effective, and economical solutions to potential interoperability problems. In a classic case of where ‘the sum of the parts is greater than the whole’, the closely-knit network of operational, engineering, medical, and scientific staff who meet regularly, provides each of the air forces access to a more broadly capable technical community than is resident in any one of the partners alone.

WG Updates

AGILE COMBAT SUPPORT (ACS)
The ACS Working Group (WG) held its next annual meeting on HMS President, United Kingdom last month. The WG workshoped a number of initiatives, including development of the ASIC Interoperability Assessment Matrix and developing an expeditionary ACS 5-Year Roadmap. The WG also looked to close out one project and develop a timetable for the remaining two active ACS projects. It also looked to coordinate its efforts with those being undertaken by other coalition entities including NATO and ABCA (Five Eye Armies Programme) in the Agile Combat Support field.

AIR MOBILITY (AM)
The RAAF will host the AM WG this month. The group will develop validation plans for Exercise Mobility Guardian. The AMC lead exercise will be the largest Air Mobility focused activity outside direct support to operations.

AEROSPACE MEDICINE (ASM)
The ASM WG has just concluded its 2016 annual meeting at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. This year the group focused on the strategic direction of the WG by ensuring proper measures of effectiveness are identified and aligned with the ASIC Interoperability Assessment Matrix. Aeromedical Evacuation Interoperability continues to be a high priority among our five nations and was discussed in depth along with new and emerging topics in Aerospace Medicine.
AIRWORTHINESS (AirW)
The AirW WG held their mid-year virtual meeting in July in preparation for the annual meeting in the first week of November at Defence Plaza Melbourne, Australia. Some of the topics discussed by the WG include the finalisation of the AirW WG Terms of Reference, publishing of ASIC Air Standard 2003, which is used to recognise Airworthiness Authorities’ Airworthiness Systems, and progress on the principles related to maintenance organisations based on the European Military Airworthiness Requirements part 145. The AirW WG Meeting precedes the International Military Airworthiness Conference (IMARC) (http://www.defence.gov.au/DASP/IMARC/) which will be held at the Plenary, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 14–15 November. A number of the ASIC participants will attend the IMARC and present as guest speakers.

FUELS GROUP (FG)
The FG WG met in Seattle, WA in April to advance the interoperability of Fuels, Lubricants and Gases for ASIC air forces. The Fuels Group has again facilitated the exchange of significant air domain relevant petroleum, lubricant and gas information among the ASIC nations that enhances interoperability and assists with the conservation of scarce resources. While oil prices remain reduced it still consumes a significant portion of air force budgets and the forecast is for prices to rise again in the near future.

The shifting landscape of the petroleum industry, with changing sources and supply chains for the production and delivery of petroleum products, requires constant vigilance to ensure both supply and quality of product for air force operations. The Fuels Group continues to focus on alternative and synthetic fuels as an issue of interest. Although the current reduced price for oil makes the production of some alternative fuels not economically viable, national policies move forward with their development.

FORCE APPLICATION (FA)
The FA WG will hold its next annual meeting in Auckland this month. The prime FA WG focus is the project to enhance Air Operations Centre (AOC) interoperability but will also workshop a project regarding the management of Electro-Magnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) within the FVEYs coalition. Following the Five-Chiefs meeting in London, in May, the WG has been tasked with reviewing the potential to develop a FVEYs collective approach to distributed training; a specialist workshop into the topic of Live, Virtual and Constructive training will therefore also be conducted during the meeting.

FORCE PROTECTION (FP)
The FP WG will hold its next annual meeting in Auckland, this month. Building on the momentum of the 2015 meeting, ASIC nations will advance concepts such as Next Generation technology force protection requirements and the effects of Denied Cyber on FP elements. CBRN continues to be of interest to ASIC air forces and will be discussed in depth at the meeting. The group will focus efforts on development of a five-year roadmap as well as developing standing exercise objectives for validation events (exercises, war games, trials) along with an agreed list of common FP events for ASIC nations to engage with.

INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, RECONNAISSANCE (ISR)
The ISR WG held its annual meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia in September. The WG workshoped a number of initiatives including development of the ASIC Interoperability Assessment Matrix; maturing a FVEYs ISR Strategic Direction; populating the five-year Roadmap; and considering FVEYs Analyst Training and Credentialing. The WG also looked to coordinate its efforts with those being undertaken by other coalition entities i.e. NATO, ABCA (FVEYs LAND) and AUSCANNZUKUS (FVEYs MARITIME) in the specialist area of ISR data Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination (PED).

Interoperability is about relationships
At its core, Major General Walter Piatt told the defence writers, interoperability is all about relationships. Building trust and understanding each other’s capabilities and procedures are key to coalition operations – from disaster response to war. “You don’t want to meet the team on the ground for the first time,” MAJGEN Piatt said. “We saw this many times in Afghanistan, ... where you would be meeting forces from other nations for the first time when you have a real operational demand. We’re doing that now so the relationships and trust are in place before deployment.”

Sports

Alpine Sports Report

By FGOFF Andy Taylor

The conditions could not have been better; not a breath of wind, no cloud in sight, and with two metres of fresh machine-packed powder, 39 of the Air Force’s finest alpine athletes met on Mt Ruapehu hoping to be crowned the 2016 Alpine Sports Champion – the best skier/snowboarder on the mountain.

Competitors from Ohakea, Wellington and Whenuapai converged on Tukino Ski Field earlier this year. Conditions were perfect, which allowed everyone to enjoy two days of practise before the Giant Slalom began.

On the first day of competition all athletes competed in the giant slalom. Each was allowed three runs through the course. A triggered start gate and laser finish line meant accurate times were recorded from each run. Once all runs had been completed, final times were calculated from the average of each individual’s two fastest runs. At the end of the day SQNLDR Jude Rushmere and FGOFF Cam Day were on top of the snowboarders and skiers leader boards respectively.

The following day consisted of the border/ski cross competition. With the starting block dug and the course designed the previous evening, the snow had frozen overnight to give a fast turning, physically demanding, technical track. Four boarders or skiers ran in each heat, with the giant slalom results determining the seeding. Each competitor had two heats, scoring points from their placings. Those with the lowest score progressed to the semis, and finals.

As the afternoon session began, the competition had been whittled down to the top eight in each discipline. In the end it was SQNLDR Rushmere taking out the snowboarding event and FGOFF Mike Craies taking out the skiing event. Other competitors, either gutted to have missed out on the win or just happy to still be in one piece, lined the course to watch the closely fought finals. A simple rock feature later provided the basis for the ‘unofficial big-air competition’ to kick off in the afternoon sun.

Thanks to our sponsors, Boarder Town, Ballistics, West Liquor and La Pizzeria Ohakune for all the support and prizes they contributed, and to the staff at Tukino Ski Field for helping us to run such a successful event.

During the event the RNZAF Alpine Sports Club held its AGM. At
the meeting, a committee was established to streamline organisation and communication of the alpine clubs and events from across the Air Force. The code intends to move from an Interbase event to an Interservice event, looking to travel to the South Island or overseas for club trips away, and train club members to become ski and board instructors. Check out our Facebook page with all club information, trip details and photos. Search Facebook for “RNZAF Alpine Sports Club”.

**Sports**

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<td>Marlborough Trophy – Top Female Skier:</td>
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<td>Carson Cup – Top Male Snowboarder:</td>
<td>SQNLDR Jude Rushmere (WG)</td>
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<td>Top Female Snowboarder Trophy:</td>
<td>FGOFF Anna O’Callaghan (OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Love Cup – Person who contributes most to the sport:</td>
<td>CPL Thomas Goodman (AK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tankard Sportsperson Award:</td>
<td>AC Tony Peipi (AK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trophy – Winning Base Team:</td>
<td>Base Auckland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONDUCT AFTER CAPTURE**

The Collective Training Centre is responsible for the delivery of resistance training for the NZDF. The Conduct After Capture Instructors (CACI) course is open to tri-service personnel of any trade above the rank of LCPL (equivalent).

The A35001 NZDF CACI Selection will run in March 2017.

Do you have what it takes to become an Instructor?

For more information contact CAC Recruiting via email: CAC.RECRUITING@nzdf.mil.nz

You must have no outstanding discipline problems and be able to cope with unsociable hours and conditions...
**Notices**

**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/

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**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:** ispcyoung@xtra.co.nz

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**CLASSIC FLYERS AIRSHOW**

The afternoon and evening event will focus on jets in the air, alongside some of the fastest vehicles that fly on land in the Hot Rods and Dragsters show.

**When:** Saturday, January 21, 1pm  
**Where:** Tauranga City Airport  
**What:** Static aviation and vehicle displays, food stalls, licensed beverages and children’s entertainment.

Further details are available from Classic Flyers 07 572 4000, airshow@classicflyersnz.com or www.tcas.co.nz.

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**RNZAF CRICKET REUNION**

**26–27 January 2017  
RNZAF Base Woodbourne**

Anyone and everyone who has been associated with Inter-Base and Services Cricket for the RNZAF.

ROI at: http://forms.nzdf.mil.nz/airforce/reunioncricket.html

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They say a picture says a thousand words, for me this picture says many things. Most importantly it reflects our inherently New Zealand ‘can do’ attitude. The positive affects of which we can see in one happy-looking recently stranded hiker. That human interaction is what we are all here for at the end of the day, to make someone’s day a little bit brighter. Or in this case a little bit less cold and stranded on top of Mount Taranaki.

Photographer  
LAC Chad Sharman
2017 AIR TATTOO

CELEBRATE THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE’S 80TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE SPECTACULAR AIR TATTOO AT RNZAF BASE OHAKEA

25-26 FEBRUARY

For more details and news visit: www.airforce.mil.nz

BOOK NOW! WWW.TICKETEK.CO.NZ