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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Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marsh alc Tony Davies

My main message in this final edition for 2016 of the Air Force News is really pretty simple – thank you one and all. It has been a monumental year that started with an all-in effort supporting the people of Fiji and has concluded with an on-going presence and commitment to our fellow Kiwis in Kaikoura, with a continuous high tempo at home and abroad in between. I would like to reinforce how proud and impressed I have been with your collective efforts following the devastating earthquake. Aircraft from Auckland and Ohakea were en route within hours to conduct critical assessments of infrastructure and provide vital airlift support, not only to those in the Kaikoura region but further afield isolated from main supply routes. The incredible performance of the NH90 and crews is quickly fashioning a new benchmark in Air Force rotary lift capability. Woodbourne was hit hard yet leaders at all levels stepped up and got stuck in to help those who couldn’t help themselves; an awesome effort. The earthquake has reinforced the value of preparedness and resilience. While reacting at a moment’s notice is core business, it is equally as important to ensure we are well placed to support the next event, whether that’s something at home or in the wider region – equally as likely as we approach another cyclone season.

As those recent emergencies have again shown, the reassurance of a Kiwi Roundel and friendly Air Force faces has been a constant for 79 years of New Zealand history and I am extremely excited by the prospect of celebrating our 80th birthday next year. The Air Tattoo is shaping up well with many of our friends and allies looking forward to participating. Finally, as we reflect on another busy year and turn our mind to Christmas with our families, please do your best to take a meaningful break. Refresh the mind and body. For those who can, turn off the phone and leave the mental in-tray alone. We know there will be heaps of exciting new challenges in 2017, so I need a team well rested ready to tackle those head on.

Deputy Chief of Air Force, Air Commodore Mark Brunton

On behalf of all the Air Staff, we thank you for what has been a very busy but satisfying year and wish you and your families a happy Christmas and enjoyable and relaxing holiday period. There is no doubt the recent earthquake events have dominated and distracted many of us, but there have been many highlights throughout the year that we can very proud of. As DCAF, I constantly observe our Air Staff folk striving to support the RNZAF in many ways, often unrecognised but making a difference and working collectively to make the RNZAF a continually improving and performing organisation. Our priorities are clear and this remains the focus for Air Staff as we look forward to a busy 2017. We anticipate the Air Tattoo in February being a great showcase for our Air Force as the opening of the RNZAF Tūrangawaewae was this year.
Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Darryn Webb

Delivering Military Air Operations isn’t easy, but we often make it look that way. That is a stand out for me as I reflect on the many and varied accomplishments across the spectrum of activities throughout 2016. As I type this we have aircraft and people dispatched throughout our own shaky isles supporting the people of New Zealand. One thing is clear – in a time of crisis the operational DNA of everyone in the RNZAF kicks into gear and we just get cracking. In the Middle East, our staff have managed a near 100 per cent mission success rate into Afghanistan and Iraq over a six-month period. Closer to home lives have been saved thanks to helicopter and Orion SAR support, typically launched in unfavourable weather or late at night. It’s just what we do, and we do it well, with pride and professionalism. So as you all take a break over Christmas, please take a moment to reflect on our vast array of success stories, from small scale innovations on the shop floor right through to a full scale All-of-Government response to an emergency. Fantastic effort.”

Warrant Officer of the Air Force, Warrant Officer Mark Harwood

This last year, New Zealand has realised the importance of having a professional and effective Air Force that is able to respond at very short notice both internationally and nationally, especially when the ‘going gets tough’.

We can all be very proud of the extensive list of achievements across all of our Squadrons this last year – well done everyone!

Now it’s time to relax, recharge our batteries, share a few interesting stories with friends, but most importantly, it is also the time to acknowledge the support, commitment and understanding of our families and friends who have enabled us to deliver the Air Force’s outputs so effectively. Let’s also spare a thought for those that aren’t able to spend this time with their families while they support our 24/7 commitment.

I have no doubt that 2017 will offer us even more exciting challenges and opportunities, and I look forward to tackling these with you and your teams next year.

Base Auckland Base Commander, Group Captain Tim Walshe

Operations are CAF’s number one priority, a priority that neatly aligns with Base Auckland’s tempo. In a one-week period in October the Base had five aircraft spread over four continents along with multiple helicopters embarked at sea. It is our people who make it happen. Reflecting this, we have seen a tangible bolstering of services and support to our community that underwrites this operational tempo and our team’s commitment. And regardless of some nay-sayers, our team continue to deliver for the people of New Zealand enhancing the proud reputation of the RNZAF. Christmas will bring a well earned break, a rare opportunity to catch our breath and return in 2017 to safely deliver more of the same.

Base Ohakea Base Commander, Group Captain Nick Olney

This year Ohakea has been a hive of activity with the team going over and above their business as usual tempo. Some highlights to name a few: Start of the first RNZAF T-6C Wings Course, annual support to the NZ Police, response to Tropical Cyclone Winston, celebrating 75 Years of Women in the RNZAF, hosting 16 sports competitions, hosting NZCF SNCO, hosting Malaysian Army A109 Simulator Training, 11 Operation Respect Town Halls, welcoming home the two RNZAF wings courses that conducted their training at RAAF Base Pearce, continued the NH90’s Introduction Into Service, hosting the Air Force Leadership Forum followed by the opening of the RNZAF Tūrangawaewae, and we close the year with the RNZAF Black Falcon aerobatic team working towards their inaugural display early next year in anticipation of the RNZAF’s 80th Anniversary Military Air Tattoo – also to be held here at Ohakea….

So other than that, it’s been pretty quiet… Just the noise of extraordinary folks, doing extraordinary work, extraordinarily well. To that end, I congratulate the team at RNZAF Base Ohakea on an outstanding year. I wish you all the best for a well earned break and a great Christmas/NY holiday period.

Base Woodbourne Base Commander, Wing Commander Mike Salvador

Throughout the year the Woodbourne team has focused on three key areas; Health and Safety, promoting an adult learning environment and professional development of instructors. These areas have delivered clear benefits to the Airmen joining the RNZAF. The Smokefree NZDF campaign is progressing extremely well, Woodbourne is the only NZDF establishment to have removed all cigarette sales from the Base and has introduced a voluntary non-smoking MQ tenancy agreement. The co-location of the Base Support Team elements is providing a more cohesive and integrated approach to Base incident management. Opportunities for training staff to refresh and develop their skills through routine instructor development sessions and training days, coupled with continued development of tools to enhance the assessment of trainees, has been a worthy investment. This investment will prove beneficial for the organisation as instructional staff move back into the operational environment to work alongside those personnel they have been developing and inculcating the airworthiness culture, ethos and values we expect our people to uphold at all times.
KAIKOURA EARTHQUAKE

As dawn broke over the battered east coast of the South Island on November 14, an RNZAF Orion P-3K2 was collecting imagery of the devastation caused by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Tragically two lives were lost and the first aerial photographs chronicled the immense damage to land, homes and businesses in the area. The relief effort to follow was not only a major inter-agency collaboration, but also an international one.

Help arrived quickly for displaced locals and stranded tourists with the arrival of No. 3 Squadron’s NH90s, which began the evacuation operation. Warships from Australia, Canada and the United States, which were in the country to take part in the Royal New Zealand Navy’s 75th anniversary, were re-tasked to support the national relief effort, alongside our own ships.

Once the evacuation was complete, the focus shifted to the delivery of vital aid supplies to quake-damaged communities. The day after the quake, four NH90s rescued another 200 people, delivered about 1.3 tonnes of water, 300kg of food and jerrycans of diesel to Kaikoura, while two A109 Light Utility Helicopters assisted officials in reach outlying survivors in remote areas.

An Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft made an emergency airdrop of about 5000 litres of water to Kaikoura residents. It also flew about 24 hours on missions transporting large items such as generators, refuelling trucks and a water purification system for Kaikoura from Linton Military Camp.

Surveillance aircraft from Japan and the United States conducted surveys of quake-damaged areas two days after the quake had struck.

The NZDF mobilised about 500 personnel, at least 11 aircraft and four vessels to support the Government’s earthquake response.
In the days that followed

“It is clear from the photos taken by our personnel that the major route from Christchurch to Kaikoura is impassable. So are the roads from Kaikoura to Hanmer Springs and the one from Blenheim to Kaikoura.”

“Our immediate priority is to evacuate as many displaced people as possible from Kaikoura. This will continue today using our NH90 helicopters and, following a successful seabed survey by Wellington, Canterbury and other significant maritime capabilities we now have in the region.”

– Air Commodore Darryn Webb

“We were really honoured to be asked to help, and get involved in real-world operations to help the people.”

– US Navy Pilot, Lieutenant Ariel Baltis

“Air Force NH90 helicopters have been dispatched to deliver essential supplies and rescue hundreds of residents and tourists from Kaikoura. The earthquake has cut off land access to Kaikoura and disrupted power and water supplies. So we’ve been delivering food, water, diesel fuel and other basic necessities the entire day, and evacuating people out of there.”

– No. 3 Sqn CO, WGCDR Scott McKenzie

“It’s awesome seeing all the multinations coming in and helping us out, it’s extremely humbling and it’s great to have them here.”

– Kaikoura local

“So we’ve got the Americans, who have come down to help us out, we’ve got the Canadians, there’s also an Australian helicopter here to help us. It’s amazing to see the Americans here...they’ve brought with them a lot of kit on the ships that will be able to help. It’s really good to get the joint coalition forces working together.”

– FLT LT Glenn Blay
### By the Numbers

#### AIRCRAFT
- **NH90 medium utility helicopters (4)**
  - 134 flying hours
  - Delivered *33 tonnes* of aid and ferried about *550 people*
- **A109 helicopter (2)**
  - 38 flying hours
  - 200kg of freight
- **SH-2G(I) Seasprite helicopter (2)**
  - 38 flying hours
  - Helped offload 40 tonnes of aid supplies from HMNZS CANTERBURY in 100 underslung loads
- **C-130 Hercules (1)**
  - 24 flying hours
  - Airdropped *9 tonnes* of water and delivered *21 tonnes* of aid supplies
- **P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft (1)**
  - 15 flying hours
- **B200 King Air (1)**
  - 11 flying hours

#### SHIPS
- **Amphibious sealift vessel HMNZS CANTERBURY**
  - Evacuated some *640 people* carrying *9.3 tonnes* of baggage, *one cat*, *17 dogs* and about *30,000 bees*
- **Offshore patrol vessel HMNZS WELLINGTON**
  - Embarked the Littoral Warfare Unit Military Hydrographic Detachment that surveyed approaches for landing crafts and anchorage positions

#### NZDF PERSONNEL
- **Navy**
  - *About 410 sailors*
  - *150 soldiers*, including nine Army chefs catering for 250 volunteers assisting in the relief effort in Kaikoura
- **Air Force**
  - *55 aircrew* and some *200 support personnel* on the ground at bases in Whenuapai, Ohakea, Woodbourne, and Christchurch

#### FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
- **Australian frigate HMAS DARWIN** + 1 x S70B Seahawk helicopter + 177 sailors
- **Canadian frigate HMCS VANCOUVER** + 1 CH-124 Sea King helicopter + 231 sailors
- **US destroyer USS SAMPSON** + 2 x MH60 Seahawk helicopters + 340 sailors
- **US Navy P-3 aerial surveillance aircraft**
  - 15 flying hours
- **Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force P-1 aerial surveillance aircraft**
  - 12 flying hours

#### AID SUPPLIES DELIVERED
- **HMNZS CANTERBURY**
  - *216 tonnes*, include 13,000kg of food, 2780kg of fruits and vegetables, 200kg of potatoes, 350kg of bread, 6000kg of rice, pasta and flour, 300kg of blankets, 500kg of telecommunications equipment, four tonnes of medical supplies, 10,000kg of pet food, 80 portable toilets, 500kg of toilet paper, 30 10-litre cans of fuel, two portable pumps and four generators
  - **Army aid convoy** – 270 tonnes
  - **RNZAF NH90 helicopters** – 33 tonnes
Exposed: The Team behind the Images

By Squadron Leader Simon Eichelbaum, Public Affairs Officer (Air)

When the earthquake hit Kaikoura, the RNZAF’s response was swift: a P-3K2 Orion was first on the scene conducting surveillance of the devastated area. The images from the aircraft were quickly in the hands of the agencies that needed to see them, and this was due in no small part to the dynamic young team in the Mission Support Flight of No. 230 (Mission Support) Squadron.

The immediate product was something they call a “Quick Look”, where the image is received, quickly analysed and commented on, then forwarded to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand for onwards distribution to those agencies that urgently need to see what has happened. The responsibility for creating these lies with the team of Geospatial Imagery Specialists based in Auckland and Ohakea.

As the scale of the damage to North Canterbury became apparent, the New Zealand Defence Force’s response increased accordingly, and so too did the effort behind the scenes to support it. There is often a general perception that No. 230 Sqn only works with the Orion aircraft. In point of fact over the surge of the initial response they were providing support to 3, 5, 6 and 40 Sqns as well as the Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force Headquarters, pushing out Drop Zone and Landing Zone products for the aircraft to enable much-needed aid and supplies to be brought or air-dropped in, and evacuees safely picked up and transported. To quote the Section Commander, “the place was humming”, with the team “working long days - 6am to 10pm, but absolutely delighted to be involved in the relief efforts”. The team also supported surveillance flights by the visiting United States Navy P-3C and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force P-1 aircraft.

With a requirement to be on two hours notice to move at all times to support reactionary tasking, and deployments on operations and exercises around the globe, it is no wonder the Mission Support Flight pride themselves on being a high performance team.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 55 Quicklooks while NZ P-3K2 was inflight on first mission
- 19 Helicopter Landing Zone products
- 692 Hand-held images processed from NZ P-3K2, JMSDF P-1, and USN P-3C
- 1246 Vertical images processed

US Navy Pilot Happy to Help

For United States Navy pilot Lieutenant Ariel Baltis it is all about the chemistry.

As captain of the US Navy P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft, for her nothing beats the chemistry of a crew fully engaged in the task, and when the task was the real-time mission supporting the NZDF’s response to the Kaikoura earthquake, it just made it all the better.

After the earthquake, the aircraft’s crew flew over the affected area and provided images to allow officials to assess damage and start planning the recovery.

They were originally in New Zealand to support the Royal New Zealand Navy’s 75th anniversary celebrations and take part in a flypast for the International Naval Review.

“We were really honoured to be asked to help, and get involved in real-world operations to help the people,” Lieutenant Baltis said.

She was drawn to flying the P-3C Orion long-range aircraft because she enjoys the challenge of flying at low levels in a large aircraft.

“It is also great because the Orion has a big crew. It is like having your own family,” she said.

Before leaving, Lieutenant Baltis and her crew completed some of the originally planned exercises with the naval vessels in town for the commemorations.
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Airman of the Year

Corporal (CPL) Keisha Malone has received the RNZAF inaugural Airman of the Year Award. Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshall (AVM) Tony Davies made the announcement at Base Auckland late last month.

The new award has been established to honour the person who best typifies the core values of the RNZAF and the NZDF, demonstrating commitment, courage, and comradeship together with dedication and integrity. The Air Force judging panel were also looking for someone making a difference, and whose character and behaviour were exemplary and of the highest standards.

CPL Malone, a Logistics Specialist now working in the Logistics Support Squadron at Whenuapai, Auckland, was recognised for her abilities as a natural leader and organiser, who has consistently demonstrated a desire to identify areas of improvement in her workspace, and followed through on those ideas to see changes implemented.

She is also heavily involved in other Base activities such as sport, where she contributes as a player, manager and administrator.

“The award acknowledges her leadership and passion for improvement,” said her Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Susie Barns.

“CPL Malone was surprised but proud to receive the award. “It is incredibly humbling to get something for just doing my job,” she said.

AVM Davies said nominations were of very high calibre and the selection process had been extremely competitive.

“I’m proud to be leading such a talented, committed and professional group of people,” he said.

As Airman of the Year 2016, Corporal Malone will receive:

- The Airman of the Year Trophy, to be held at her Unit for one year as well as an individual trophy to retain
- An Airman of the Year Lapel Pin, to be worn on uniform/civilian clothing when on duty
- A Chief of Air Force’s Commendation
- Attendance at appropriate functions or events.
The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) air transport team, which deployed in June to support coalition operations in the Middle East, completed the equivalent of nine round-the-world trips during their six-month mission.

An RNZAF C-130 Hercules and a 32-member detachment clocked about 640 flying hours on 82 missions to Iraq and Afghanistan. The air transport team transported 771 tonnes of vital supplies and about 3200 military personnel whilst operating as part of an Australian Defence Force (ADF) air mobility task group.

“Our team provided strategic air support to coalition operations and their performance was extraordinary, given the demanding conditions they operated in,” Joint Forces New Zealand Commander, Major General (MAJGEN) Tim Gall, said.

The team flew almost every single mission assigned to them by the ADF task group.

“New Zealand has had a longstanding commitment in the Middle East. With this deployment, we were doing our fair share towards the air support required for various operations that seek to maintain peace and stability in the region,” MAJGEN Gall said.

NZDF Task Unit Commander, Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Blair Oldershaw, said the team maintained a high operational tempo throughout their mission.

Their rate of effort of about 85 flying hours per month was double that of a similar aircraft in the fleet conducting military
air operations throughout New Zealand and overseas. “The team exceeded all expectations. The mission’s success rate was over 96 per cent, which is phenomenal given the challenging environment in the Middle East and the fact that we are using a 50-year-old aircraft. It really is a tribute to our maintenance and support staff that we were able to achieve this level of success,” SQNLDR Oldershaw said.

Night vision goggle flights were also conducted as part of the mission since some of the airfields they operated in had no lighting or navigation aids.

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

“The strong camaraderie and our ability to work effectively and almost seamlessly with our Australian colleagues helped us achieve our mission. There was a sense of combined effort which promoted mutual respect and a willingness to go the extra mile for each other and reflected the shared values between the two countries,” SQNLDR Oldershaw said.

Members of the detachment said withering temperatures that often exceeded 45°C posed the biggest challenge, particularly to the maintenance personnel who had to work outdoors.

“Everyone involved in the operation felt honoured to represent the NZDF and our country. For me personally, the opportunity to lead the team was an absolute privilege,” SQNLDR Oldershaw said.

**BY THE NUMBERS:**

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2016  A High Tempo Year

It’s been another frantic year where the pace has not slowed for the Air Force. It started with a devastating cyclone that flattened much of Fiji. The end of the year also hit hard with the destructive force of the 7.8 earthquake, which struck the South Island’s East Coast. During both events, the Air Force was first on the scene taking surveillance photos and delivering aid. During the year we were kept on our toes with operations and exercises here and overseas and a number of search and rescue missions. Here’s a look at just some of the key moments during the year...

**JANUARY**

Exercise SKYTRAIN brought No. 40 Sqn to Napier at the start of the year. It was centred on tactical low-level flying, load dropping and night flying. The annual event includes contingency training for situations where supplies are needed to be accurately dropped by crews into disaster zones where planes are unable to land.

**FEBRUARY**

Tropical Cyclone Winston slammed into Fiji and its outer islands for 48 hours and left a trail of destruction - particularly in the country’s northern outlying islands. Tragically dozens of people lost their lives, villages were destroyed, more than 25,000 homes damaged, power lines cut and more than 55,000 people needed shelter. Less than 24 hours after the cyclone tore through Fiji, an Orion conducted aerial surveys to provide Fijian officials with a clearer picture of the damage it caused. A C-130 Hercules followed the next day with almost 13 tonnes of aid supplies funded by the NZ Aid Programme.

**MARCH**

Seventy-five years of women in the Air Force was celebrated at an event at Base Ohakea. Three generations of Air Force women - from the current RNZAF, the Women’s RNZAF and the original Women’s Auxiliary Air Force – joined to celebrate trailblazers and women rising through the ranks.

**APRIL**

Our NH90s aced their first overseas mission. The helicopters left the Fijian islands after conducting weeks of mercy missions to the cyclone-ravaged communities. The medium utility helicopters provided a critical link between the main population centres and the outlying islands that were devastated by Tropical Cyclone Winston. In some of the flights, the NH90s delivered sacks of seeds, seedlings and plant cuttings to outlying islands as Fijian communities started the long-haul task of rebuilding after the devastation caused by the cyclone.

**MAY**

The new Pilot Training Capability at Base Ohakea was officially opened by the Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies. The new purpose-built training facility at No. 14 Sqn was made up of 11 T-6C Texan aircraft, pilot training simulators, instructors, and support staff. It is intended up to 15 trainee pilots per year will go through the doors of No. 14 Sqn.
JUNE

No. 5 Sqn’s P-3K2 Orion aircraft hit the hat trick when it completed three successful search missions in the Pacific in 10 days. The first entailed a search for a 4.8-metre skiff with three Kiribati fishermen who had been missing for a week. Four days later, the Orion logged its second successful search when it found two Kiribati fishermen who had been missing for at least five days. The Orion completed its third successful search in 10 days when it found a yacht headed for Fiji which was overdue by almost two weeks.

AUGUST

An NH90 helicopter shifted a 1700kg Department of Conservation hut, which was sitting on an active slip in Mount Richmond Forest Park in Marlborough, to safer ground 300m away. No civilian helicopter could carry out the task in one lift due to the weight of the hut and the altitude of its location, which is over 1220m above sea level. The NH90 is the only helicopter in New Zealand that can lift that much weight at that altitude.

SEPTEMBER

An Orion P-3K2 successfully dropped Mark 82 bombs during a training exercise to qualify air and ground crews at the Kaipara Air Weapons Range. The bomb is used by the RNZAF for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) in littoral (inshore) waters and complements the Mark 46 ASW torpedo also carried by the P-3K2 Orion.

OCTOBER

The RNZAF Tūrangawaewae was officially opened at Base Ohakea. 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.

NOVEMBER

One of our P-3K2 Orions was called on to help find three fishermen lost in the seas off Kiribati. In a search area of about 55,000 square kilometres, our team found the men alive and safe shortly into their second day searching. The No. 5 Sqn crew spotted the men waving from their five-metre wooden fishing boat as it drifted about 550 kilometres west of Tarawa, the capital and main atoll of the Pacific Islands nation.

DECEMBER

The RNZAF’s response to the Kaikoura earthquake was immediate. Just hours after that massive rumble that tore apart earth, lifted the seabed and ripped apart homes, the Orion P-3K2 was in the air taking photos of the damage. The C-130 Hercules shortly afterwards started bringing the first aid to the area, including airdropping about 5000 litres of water. The NH90s began evacuating displaced and stranded people and the A109s flew officials to areas impossible to reach by the broken roads. It was a major HADR mission that was undertaken with success.
Keen eyes from crew of an NH90 spotted a 60-year-old hunter who had been missing for two nights in the Kaimanawa Ranges.

The man was winched on board the helicopter after crew spotted him standing on a riverbed, waving his survival blanket.

The team had been tasked to fly Police Search and Rescue teams into the area to look for the man.

“We had just dropped off the last of the Police’s search teams and were flying out of the valley when our helicopter loadmaster spotted him,” NH90 captain Flight Lieutenant Peter Familton said.

“It is a fantastic outcome and the one we had hoped for. The crew are very happy that we are able to bring the man home to his family.”

The hunter and a friend were due to return from a day-long hunting trip on Saturday evening. However, he took a wrong turn and got separated from his companion, who notified Police after he got out of the ranges on Sunday morning.

FLT Lt Familton said the hunter told them that he took shelter under a cliff and lit a fire to keep him warm the past two nights.

“We gave him food and water as he had not eaten anything since Saturday.”

An Air Force medical officer checked the man before dropping him off at Turangi, where Police had set up a command post.

Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Darryn Webb, said he was delighted the hunter had been found. “It is a relief to have such a great result – for the hunter and his family and for the entire community, particularly as we head towards Christmas when family is so important.”

The RNZAF’s NH90 medium utility helicopters and P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft have flown more than 200 flying hours on 16 search and rescue missions in New Zealand and the south west Pacific since January.
See-through Seasprite

The best way to understand how something works is to see it in action, right? But what if it's the inner workings of a Seasprite helicopter that are hidden under a steel floor? Personnel at Logistics Training tackled the problem and created a transparent solution.

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

Training the next generation of aircraft and avionics technicians is one of the focus points for the Logistics Training Squadron (LTS) at Base Woodbourne.

The maintenance section of LTS prepares retired and no longer airworthy aircraft to help in the training of junior technical trade personnel - including aircraft technicians, avionics technicians and armament technicians.

RNZAF Sergeant (SGT) Matt Calder said there were a number of projects the team had been working on recently.

“We have replaced the floor on one of the SH-2F Seasprite helicopters with a clear Perspex floor. It was turned into a “see-how-it-works” fuel system for our trainees. The Perspex floor was manufactured by Chris Pearson and Aircraftman Jared Oien in the maintenance section using the old floor stressed panels as templates,” he said.

“There has been a lot of effort put into fault finding the pitot and static systems, by Corporal Stewart Sloan (avionics technician) and Willy Wilhelmus, on the Seasprites to enable effective pilot and static training to be carried out by Avionics staff and students,” SGT Calder said.

The projects carried out by the team in Woodbourne are an extension of a continuous approach to ensuring that ground training aircraft are fit for purpose and allow the instructional staff to deliver the best training to future technicians of the RNZAF.

But there was only so much a trainee could gain from looking at components in a classroom or on a schematic drawing or sketch, SGT Calder said.

“To have a whole system right there in front of you in the aircraft to point out components and how they are connected helps to cement the theory delivered by the instructors.

“The better trained and experienced our mechanics and technicians are when they leave the school, the easier for our Aircrew to trust in the work they do and the less they need to worry about the aircraft,” he said.

Base Woodbourne is where it all starts for Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel and has been used to conduct recruit training for more than 60 years. The facilities at Woodbourne have been designed and purpose-built to support induction training and all RNZAF training accordingly.
A Merry Deployed Christmas

Most of us will be celebrating the Christmas break at home or holidaying around the country. Some NZDF staff however, will get to sing Christmas carols in places such as the Sinai, South Korea, the Sudan and the Middle East. A few, based in Afghanistan and the Antarctic, will even mark the occasion with a white Christmas. Here are plans of some of our deployed staff for Christmas Day...

**LAC AIMEE HODGE**  
**MIDDLE EAST**

Christmas Day in the Middle East will kick off with a Kiwi BBQ and the giving of secret Santa gifts from under the Christmas tree. From then on it is currently a mystery. Our contingent has decided to vote on how we will spend Christmas Day. Each person must contribute one idea and the proposal with the most votes will be our Christmas Day activity. So far our proposals are a thrilling day at the waterpark, a camel safari through the desert, dinner at a fancy hotel or a relaxing day at a beach. I am sure whatever activity wins, a great day will be had by all here.

Wishing our friends and family a Merry Christmas from all of us here.

**CORPORAL DAVE MARSHALL**  
**ANTARCTICA**

For the Air Force team on Scott Base at least half of us will have to work for some length of time on Christmas Day, as the 24 hour Comms/watch desk will still need to be manned at all times. The large Christmas meal at the base is usually celebrated on Christmas Eve in order to give our kitchen staff a light day on the actual day. Scott Base as a whole does manage to slow down for two days around Christmas in an effort to make the passing of the season away from friends and family less difficult. With the NZDF contingent here all away from our loved ones for six months it will be hard for many. All in all Christmas at Scott Base is expected to be a relatively low key affair with many thoughts of home and a chance to relax a bit before the last two months of a hectic summer season kick back off.

**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT LISA MCLAY**  
**THE SINAI**

Christmas is fast approaching, and this year I will be spending it at one of the UN Observation Posts (OP) on the Golan Heights overlooking Syria. There will be two other colleagues on duty with me – one from Bhutan and one from Slovakia. We provide observation over the area on a 24/7 basis, so while there won’t be a whole lot of time for festivities, a special Christmas dinner and sneaky glass of mulled wine will definitely be on the cards. We may be hard pressed to find Christmas decorations in this Jewish and Arab area and any kind of pine tree in the sparse landscape, but Michael Bublé never fails to set the seasonal mood. And all going well, we might even be lucky enough to get a white Christmas if the snow comes in time.
OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD:

• 106 personnel are working with the Australian Defence Force supporting the Building Partner Capacity mission in Iraq.
• 26 personnel are deployed to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai Peninsula.
• 8 personnel support the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East.
• 8 personnel are based in Antarctica supporting Antarctica NZ and the US Antarctic Programme.
• 10 personnel are mentoring and training at the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul.
• 5 personnel support the UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) in South Korea.
• 3 personnel are deployed to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

WARRANT OFFICER DARRYN WELLS  THE SINAI

The Christmas season will start off with some festive events in early December with all nations present in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) to be invited. These include a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and a nativity play. Very fitting for our geographical location in the world! These will be accompanied with choir music sung by personnel from the Fijian Contingent. The New Zealand contingent is planning a Contingent Christmas BBQ, which is likely to be in the week prior to Christmas Day. On Christmas Day there will be a special afternoon dinner held in the camp. Later that evening there will be a gathering in the Red Sea Oasis Club on camp where there will be snacks and entertainment, including the performances of skits from MFO nation contingents. Finally, on Boxing Day the New Zealand and Australian contingents will play each other in the always well contested Boxing Day cricket match.

SQNLDR KATE BREACH  SOUTH KOREA

The NZDF team deployed to the Republic of Korea (ROK) work integrally with the US Army and ROK military, along with personnel from Canada, Columbia and Denmark, as part of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) team monitoring the military armistice between North and South Korea. Both the US and the ROK observe Christmas as a holiday and so, unless rostered on essential duties, we will be lucky enough to have Christmas as a day off. With the northern hemisphere winter very much set in here by Christmas, I am looking forward to trying out a South Korean ski field on Christmas day – followed by a good traditional winter Christmas feast!
Two New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) White Ribbon torches travelled the length of the country last month, ending up in Wellington where they were displayed proudly by the Chief of Defence and the Police Commissioner. The torches were developed to shine a light on the NZDF’s commitment to stop violence against women.

Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Tim Keating and Police Commissioner Mike Bush held the torches high during the annual fun run from Parliament to Civic Square in support of the White Ribbon cause. They had been on journeys in the North and South islands to raise awareness of the campaign and to let women who have experienced violence know of the support that is available. Lieutenant General Keating became a White Ribbon Ambassador in October last year and since then the NZDF has become heavily involved in the campaign.

“As a White Ribbon Ambassador I’m proud of the efforts made by our Defence Force to raise awareness of the White Ribbon cause and to help curb violence against women,” Lieutenant General Keating said.

The torches passed through Auckland, Manawatu and Christchurch during their trip.

RNZAF pilot Flight Lieutenant Michael Williams and son Cameron, 2, got up close to a torch at Base Ohakea.

One of the torches was also carried by Navy divers Pumau Campbell and Trevor Strickland as they emerged from the water at Auckland’s Strickland Bay.

The last port of call was to Burnham Military Camp, near Christchurch.

Limited Service Volunteer Marcus Ailao, of Wellington, helped by Courtney Fowler, of Christchurch, carried one of the torches through an assault course.

Lieutenant General Keating said the NZDF needed to show leadership, not just within the NZDF but to the wider community.

“I am determined that we will do that – starting within our own organisation.”
Last year the NZDF introduced a mental health helpline for all NZDF personnel and their families, to address some of the stressors that can trigger violence towards women, as well as a range of other challenges that NZDF personnel and their families might be confronting.

Then, earlier this year, the NZDF launched Operation Respect, the culmination of two years’ work to tackle inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour in the force. That included creating a professional sexual assault response team and introducing a confidential disclosure system to provide an alternative way to report sexual assault.

“When I became a White Ribbon Ambassador I was keen to find ways for the Defence Force to make a tangible contribution to this cause,” Lieutenant General Keating said.

“Through Operation Respect we are committed to do everything possible to get rid of inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour in the armed forces.

“We want the military to be a more welcoming, engaging and safe environment for women.”

One of the torches will be held in Wellington by NZDF and the other was presented to New Zealand Police.

Meanwhile, personnel at Base Auckland and Base Ohakea, also threw their weight behind the campaign. About 200 at Base Auckland formed a giant human white ribbon, while those at Base Woodbourne joined the community Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event.

Staff at Base Auckland forming a human white ribbon

Base Woodbourne personnel joined the community Walk a mile in her shoes event

Limited Services Volunteer Marcus Ailao and Courtney Fowler carry tourch through an assault course in Burnham

Domestic violence support services

- If you are in immediate danger, call 111 and ask for the police.
- Women’s Refuge’s 24-hour Crisisline on 0800 REFUGE or 0800 733 843 anywhere in the country.
- If you’re experiencing or witnessing violence call 0800 456 450 for information about services that can help. 7 days a week, 9am to 11pm.
- Young people experiencing or witnessing violence can call 0800 456 450 for information about services that can help. 7 days a week, 9am to 11pm.
- For lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender relationships see http://www.kahukura.co.nz/information/need-help/
- Rape Crisis’s 24-hour helpline on 0800 883300.
- For information on local sexual violence services see http://toah-nnest.org.nz/get-help/find-help
- Call 0800 456 450 for information about services if you want to change your behaviour. 7 days a week, 9am to 11pm.
We all dream of having wonderful holidays. We start full of Christmas spirit. But let’s face it – life can be stressful. By the time we get the kids up, dressed, fed and organised, referee a few morning scuffles, find lost keys, field a few phone calls, make our way through morning traffic, and try to get some Christmas shopping done during our still busy work day, the good feeling is... well, gone.

The joy and magic of the season can easily be overshadowed by obligations, responsibilities, credit card spending gone mad, and, of course, relatives. Does any of this sound familiar? Well, here are some tips to make the season a little jollier – or at least less cranky.

**Ease up on the Drink these Holidays**

It’s that time of year again when we’re surrounded by good food, good wine and good company. Many of us enjoy the extra socialising that comes with Christmas and holidays, and there are many more opportunities than usual to drink alcohol with family and friends. However, it’s easy to get carried away and have one too many, undoing any good intentions you had of having all things in moderation.

**A Time of Cheer not Fear**

Family violence escalates at Christmas and New Year with Police seeing more incidents and offences than at any other time. Financial stress, alcohol and pressure to spend more than people can afford are some of the contributing factors that result in Christmas being remembered for all the wrong reasons. We can all help by taking violence seriously and offering practical help, not just in a crisis. Choose a quiet time to start a conversation. And remember, if someone is in danger, or you think someone could be harmed, call Police on 111. For more information, visit the Family Violence It’s not OK website www.areyouok.org.nz

**Holiday Driving**

The Christmas-New Year period can also be a particularly dangerous time on New Zealand roads. The following tips will help keep you and your family safe on the roads these holidays:

- Be careful of all the other turkeys on the road this Christmas!
- Avoid driver fatigue. Plan a rest break every couple of hours.
- Keep your cool, be courteous and be patient

**Be Sunsmart**

Protect against sunburn and reduce the chances of developing skin damage and skin cancer.

- Slip on a long sleeved shirt, and slip into the shade
- Slop on a broad spectrum sunscreen of at least SPF30
- Slap on a wide brimmed hat
- Wrap on a pair of wrap-around sunglasses

Yes, there will still be hectic moments and stressful events, but you control the extent to which you respond to them. Open yourself to the possibility that the holidays can be joyous, and you might just find yourself singing along with some of those Christmas carols!
Celebrate the royal New Zealand Air Force’s 80th anniversary at the spectacular air tattoo at RNZAF Base Ohakea.

2017
AIR TATTOO

Celebrate the Royal New Zealand Air Force’s 80th anniversary at the spectacular air tattoo at RNZAF Base Ohakea.

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

BOOK NOW!
www.ticketek.co.nz
A new exhibition at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand opened recently, marking 75 years of the Air Training Corps (ATC) in New Zealand.

Originally formed during World War II to help recruit young men for the Air Force, the ATC has evolved through the decades to become one of the largest, and most diverse youth organisations in the country. Once an official part of the RNZAF, since 1971 it has operated through a partnership between the NZDF and the community, under the auspices of the New Zealand Cadet Forces. Initially a male-only domain, girls have had equal opportunity to enrol in the ATC since 1978.

Constant throughout the organisation’s history has been an emphasis on fostering confident and responsible young citizens, by promoting the qualities of discipline, respect, leadership and teamwork. The ATC has always incorporated a formal training programme, including subjects such as foot and rifle drill, aviation studies, general service knowledge, bushcraft, first aid, and the safe use of firearms. In addition, there is the opportunity for cadets to attend courses on leadership, bushcraft, navigation, gliding or powered flying.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, we asked former cadets to share with us their memories and reflections of their time ‘in uniform’. This exhibition is a compilation of those shared stories, anecdotes, photos and film. Together, they provide an engaging, humorous, and inspiring insight into the experiences of those who have been part of the ATC across eight decades.

Recruiting for the NZDF is a very rewarding role. You can make a real difference to someone in their choice to join our Organisation. Please take the time to sign up as an Ambassador to help support our Defence recruiting activities. If you haven’t already done so, take a look at our intranet site: http://prj/sites/rap/default.aspx

Once you have completed your online training, you are ready to go! At any stage, if you wish to remove yourself from the Programme, simply send the NZDF RAP Coordinator an email (NZDF RAP on DIXS) and you will be removed from the RAP database.

Depending on the types of roles that Defence Recruiting are recruiting for at any one time, and the various recruiting activities we are undertaking, it could be a while before we make contact with you to support us as an Ambassador. Or, it may work out that we seek your support very soon! You can also use your skills as an Ambassador when interacting in your community and the different groups you (and your family) are involved with. Remember the influence that you can have, and if there is something coming up outside your skills that you think another Ambassador could assist with, please let us know and we’ll see what we can do to support this.

If you want more information on this programme email NZDF RAP.
SAFETY AND HEALTH POLICY

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. 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.

It matters about you, your colleagues, your families, and the people of New Zealand.

MANAGING SAFETY AND HEALTH:

The Financial Capability Programme is being run around all camps and bases in the 2016/17 financial year. It is the result of collaboration between NZDF and the Commission for Financial Capability (CFFC).

NZDF is paying for the programme facilitators and providing work time for participants to attend and we are using CFFC expertise to deliver the programme.

Squadron Leader Mike Ward presented certificates to personnel who had graduated from the programme, “Get Your Money Fighting Fit”.

“I hope you all gained some important financial skills during your nine weeks on the course and that you are now in the right place to build a solid financial future for yourselves and your families,” he told the graduates.

The programme also included a one off seminar “Financing a Home”, which targeted those interested in buying a first home or a new house in a new relationship/location.

There would also be follow up seminars at a higher level or on more targeted aspects of financial management available in the coming months.

New role a step forward in managing NZDF safety risk

The NZDF Directorate of Safety has appointed Dr Bikram Pandey as a Workplace and Safety Advocate, to collaborate with health and safety advisors and encourage good safety practice across the defence force.

Safety Director Susan D’Ath-Weston says the NZDF is committed to continuous safety management improvement and Dr Pandey will play an important role in supporting the NZDF Safety Management System (SMS).

Dr Pandey has expertise in health and safety training, monitoring, and safety reviews within New Zealand and overseas. He holds a Doctorate in Occupational Health and Safety from Massey University and a Masters in Engineering.

“Dr Pandey is the right man for the job as we move closer to finalising the NZDF SMS manual that will be made available for technical consultation early in the new year,” Ms D’Ath-Weston said.

“We want to make sure the new safety system will best support work practices throughout the defence force and that will mean consulting with our Service Safety Professionals to ensure good practice works in real life.”

A new Safety Event Management Tool (SEMT) will also be introduced next year which will support the complete risk management process, including occurrence and hazard reporting, investigation, action tracking and assurance.

A procurement process is well down the track with a final shortlist selected and vendor demonstrations completed, Ms D’Ath-Weston says.

Other recent additions to the Safety Directorate team include a Chief of Staff, WGCDDR Kelvin Read, and Manager Assurance, Mark Wagstaffe.

“We are providing resource that will support all members of the NZDF to better manage safety risk and contribute to a safe NZDF,” she says.
Leading Aircraftman Sam Durrant has been working for more than a third of his life to be a triathlete world champ, and last month that hard work paid off.

The 22-year-old won the ITU Off-Road Triathlon World Championships in the Snowy Mountains near Canberra, Australia, in his age group.

“I’ve been doing the sport for a while now and it was the big win that I had been waiting for,” he said.

He had been training in the sport for about eight years - “it seems like it’s been half of my life”.

“I also won the national title for my age group in April, so it has been a pretty big year. It’s really awesome, it’s still sinking in.”

The course was a 1.5km swim, 30km mountain bike ride and a 10km off-road run. He flew through the course in 2hrs and 50mins – 25 seconds faster than the athlete behind him.

“I had a pretty good swim, I came second out of the water in my age group.”

He made his break for the lead on the bike section and held it during the run.

The course had its challenges, the competitors had numerous bridges they needed to crab-walk under and boulders to clamber over. “It was a proper off-road run, it had everything.”

LAC Durrant works at Base Auckland’s Rescue Fire Service, which gives him plenty of opportunities to train.

“The days that I’m off I get to train, but when we’re at work obviously fitness is a big part of our job so we’re either going to the gym with the crew or we’re doing circuits with the Physical Training Instructors. I’m very lucky that for my job I’m getting to keep fit.”

The next major challenge for LAC Durrant is the World Champs in Canada next year, which he has automatically qualified for.
Ultramarathon runner
Eyes Next Challenge

By Rebecca Quilliam

Sergeant Nick Johnston came to run ultramarathons by accident. But since he started, he’s been smashing them year-on-year with spectacular wins.

The latest win for the aircraft technician from No. 5 Squadron, was the Taupo ultramarathon, where he came first place – 20 minutes ahead of the next athlete. The 100km off-road race was on the western side of Lake Taupo and followed the great Taupo cycle trail.

It’s not the first time SGT Johnston had slayed the opposition, last year he competed in the Molesworth ultramarathon. It was an 85km race near Hanmer Springs. “I won that by about half an hour,” he said.

The 28-year-old has been running the ultramarathons (about double the length of a normal marathon) for the past three years. The first one he ran was “by accident”, he said.

An athlete, Mel Law, was taking part in a mental health fundraising event and planning to run 50 mountain marathons in 50 days. In the lead-up to that undertaking, Law took on the challenge of running up and down Mt Eden 50 times.

A succession of Air Force runners were to run with Law, but SGT Johnston found himself running for the entire time. “That ended up by being 73km of just going up and down Mt Eden.”

He will take a breather in the first part of next year, but then his grueling training schedule will kick in again.

“A lot of my training is in the early morning, I get up at 4am or 4.30am to go for my training runs. When I’m on night shift it’s a bit easier because I drop my daughter off at kindy and then go out for a run for a couple of hours and then be back in time for lunch and then a kindy pick-up in the afternoon before I go to work.”

He fits in sleep where he can.

SGT Johnston reckons his running has improved with age. “You definitely need to develop your mental capacity for the ultramarathons and I’ve learnt a lot from my trail running.

“Trail running has a lot of varied terrain, so you’ll be going through mud and streams and over branches and it’s a lot slower generally and over a larger distance and you need to be self-sufficient, because you’re usually in remote areas.”

Runners need to carry their own water and food. The longest race SGT Johnston ran took 13.5hrs so he packs fruit, muesli bars, sports gels containing carbohydrates, salt tablets, water and energy drinks to keep his body fuelled.

And if 100km runs on remote New Zealand trails aren’t a big enough challenge, SGT Johnston is now looking overseas to take on 100 mile ultramarathons, which usually take place through deserts or over mountains.
NOTICES

NO. 41 SQUADRON
There will be a celebration of 40 years since its withdrawal from Singapore and the closing of the Squadron.

The reunion will be held in Tauranga 17th – 19th March 2017.
All ex-squadron members are invited to attend.
Registration forms are now available from 41 Sqn Assn secretary, email alanchung42@gmail.com

51ST WALSH MEMORIAL SCOUT FLYING SCHOOL
January 11–25 2017
Annual two-week flying school for Scouts and other young people at Matamata Airfield.
For more information visit www.scouts.org.nz/walsh, email walsh@scouts.org.nz or phone David Jupp on 021 476 676.

TAURANGA AIR SHOW
Tauranga City Airport will host the annual afternoon/evening airshow, with an associated event

Date: January 21, 2017
Time: 1pm
Featuring: static aviation and vehicle displays, food stalls, licenced beverages and children’s entertainment.
Further details are available from Classic Flyers 07 572 4000 airshow@classicflyersnz.com or www.tcas.co.nz.

AUMANGEA 2017

Only those who have enough courage to chase their potential have a chance of catching it.
To be the best you can be in today’s environment you must test your resilience, courage and self-reliance.
The Aumangea Programme is designed to let you find the psychological wherewithal to succeed on tasks and mission.

To find out more and enrol email aumangeaprogramme@nzdf.mil.nz
This photo was taken on 15 Nov – the first day the NH90’s got stuck into evacuating people from Kaikoura. The initial priority was the elderly and families with children, and the Army Movement Operators were doing their best to help everyone onto the aircraft safely and quickly. As you’d expect, it was quite a lot to take in for the younger ones, and this baby wasn’t happy at all until Private Adriana Hunt jumped in and provided a smile and bit of distraction while mum and dad got their seatbelts on.

Photographer, Sergeant Sam Shepherd
FIELD HUMINT

Are you strong willed... self motivated... and not afraid of hard work? Then take the challenge and register now!

A category of intelligence derived from information collected and provided by human sources...

TRI-SERVICE SELECTION AND COURSE 2017

Selection: 20 – 24 February 2017  Location: Trentham Military Camp

For more information:  http://org/l-smis/default.aspx  Email: FH.Recruiting@nzdf.mil.nz