SOUTHERN KATIPO UNDERWAY

AID FOR VANUATU VOLCANO RESIDENTS

MEET THE NEW BLACK FALCONS
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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Cover: Ex Southern Katipo, Photographer LAC Vanessa Parker
The first 100-odd days of being Base Commander at RNZAF Base Auckland have flown by – especially when looking back at what I have been up to. High on the priority list was getting around to the sections and units on Base, talking to people and explaining my focus areas. There were about 50 areas to visit and, to date, I have seen almost all of them. All of them have an important part to play in what Base Auckland does – we are a military air base and we make aircraft fly.

During this time I have found smart and committed people who are doing good things and often when I say, “Wow, I didn’t know you did that, excellent”, the reply is invariably a humble and modest “Oh yeah, it’s our job”. It also leads to the most enjoyable part of my job, attending promotions, parades and medal and awards ceremonies. Excellent people are doing excellent work and being recognised for it.

What are the focus areas for me as RNZAF Base Auckland Base Commander? Well, there are three:

Operations: It is what we are here for, it is what we are judged on and it is what is expected of us by the Government and the people of New Zealand. This is about being ready and prepared to represent New Zealand’s interests through the conduct of military air operations. This encompasses the “here and now” requirements, such as delivering aid to Vanuatu as part of New Zealand’s support for the recent volcanic event. To achieve this we need to generate and maintain capability through exercises and training. It is also about having a Tactical Operations Centre that can exercise tactical level command and control over Base Auckland assets – be they aircraft overseas, unit level exercises or Civil Defence Response Group activities. Part of this is having a robust Base Incident Management Plan that can respond to a range of events, such as an aircraft crash, a fire on base or a fuel spill. Every unit and person, military or civilian, has a part to play.

Safety and Airworthiness: This is about making sure we are complying with legislation, orders and best practice. Our airworthiness systems and approach to safety has improved dramatically over the past 10 years. We now have enough experience and understanding of these systems to be able to look at them and make them work for us, to be proactive and calculative. But more importantly it just makes sense and is the right thing to do. We need to make sure we are preserving resources and making best use of them. If we are degrading, injuring, destroying or breaking any of these it is a waste and we cannot deliver our outputs. Especially when it comes to the people part – we recruit, train and employ smart people and it seems stupid to me to expose them to unnecessary risk. Safety also encompasses the environment and culture we create within the workplace, a workplace where people feel valued, where they can grow and develop and where they feel safe.

Infrastructure: This is about being a military air base that can effectively support military air operations. This includes maintaining what we currently have and replacing or introducing new infrastructure. Examples of this are the taxiway strengthening project, the flight line fence project, the new 25m range, new barrack blocks and of course a new gym. But it is not just about bricks and mortar, it is also about having the correct support structures in place for our people to ensure they are physically, mentally and spiritually healthy. This support extends to whānau and loved ones, especially when we are deployed frequently and for varying amounts of time throughout the course of our normal operations. If we don’t get this right then making aircraft fly becomes harder.

Why are these focus areas important? Aren’t they what we already do?

Yes they are, but there are areas we can improve and areas we need to keep a watchful eye over to ensure we are ready and prepared to make aircraft fly when we need to. But more importantly, sharing these with Base Aucklanders allows us to use this knowledge to guide our actions and decisions – it is intent-based mission command. As Base Commander I can’t and don’t want to tell people how to do their job – they are the experts who know what to do and I trust them to do it. Having a mutual understanding of what we are trying to achieve makes it so much easier for us all to head in the same direction and continue to make aircraft fly.
International Contingent Arrives for Southern Katipo

Exercise Southern Katipo has kicked off and at the time of printing, international military contingents were starting to arrive in the country. The exercise, held at the top of the South Island, aims to test and evaluate the NZDF’s ability to plan and conduct joint operations involving a range of naval, land, and air assets.
The large-scale event involves military personnel from Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Malaysia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Timor Leste, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Platoons from Brunei, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga had been training at Burnham Military Camp near Christchurch in the run up to the exercise and many will be based at Base Woodbourne during the duration.

The Southern Katipo 2017 (SK17) exercise scenario is a continuation of that used in Southern Katipo 2015, in which New Zealand deployed a military contingent to lead a multinational combined joint task force to help restore law and order in a fictional South Pacific country called Becara. The multinational task force conducted stability, support and humanitarian operations, including the evacuation of internally displaced people.

However, the exercise director, Lieutenant Colonel Martin Dransfield, said in SK17 higher threat levels are being used to create more challenging training environments across the spectrum of operations.

“Opposition groups and challenges presented are allowing for a range of military and non-military responses to be exercised, both individually as NZDF and collectively with other government agencies, non-governmental organisations and international partners.”

The exercise will build on the cooperation achieved between the NZDF, other government agencies, non-governmental organisations and regional defence partners during recent humanitarian aid operations such as in Fiji after Cyclone Winston and the Kaikoura earthquake last year, Lieutenant Colonel Dransfield said.

Platoon Commander Lieutenant Dick Roy, of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, said the exercise is providing a valuable opportunity for his personnel to interact with New Zealand and international counterparts to prepare for future stability and support operations.

“It is greatly improving our knowledge and skills. Training incorporating all platforms – air, sea and land – will be a new experience. We normally concentrate our training at company level.”

Platoon Commander Jason Vi, of His Majesty’s Armed Forces of Tonga, said the exercise is providing an opportunity to build on relationships with other allied forces and nations and would expose his soldiers to a new environment, including learning to operate in cold weather.

“It will also give our personnel exposure to more urban-based operations, whereas back home it is more jungle warfare,” he said.
Our Collective Purpose

No 6 Squadron

In preparing for our SH-2G(I) Seasprite naval helicopters for embarkation, the maintenance team at No. 6 Sqn are busy carrying out the required routine checks and servicing to ensure everything is ship-shape before the aircraft are flown on board. These checks are generally time-based, and will ensure the frames are able to fly the hours required for the exercise.

Behind the Scenes in the Build-Up to Southern Katipo

Our bases have been buzzing in the build-up to Southern Katipo, ensuring preparations are up to scratch before the exercise kicks off. Take a sneak peak behind the scenes into what some of our teams have been up to in the weeks leading up to the start of the exercise...

Hot fuelling trial for Southern Katipo

The ability to supply fuel to an unsupported airfield was put to the test at RNZAF Base Auckland recently. This training was part of the preparation for Exercise Southern Katipo in October, where a C-130H Hercules will be required to defuel into an aviation refuelling vehicle.

De-fuelling an aircraft on the ground with the engines running can be done from a C-130H if shutting down is undesirable due to operational or environmental conditions.

The training, led by the Staff Officer for Fixed Wing Transport, SQNLDR Greg Pryce from the Air Force Directorate of Operating Airworthiness, included aviation refuelers, fire fighters and C-130H crews from the Base at Whenuapai.
Our Collective Purpose

CIS

The Communications Information Systems Flight crew at No. 230 (Mission Support) Squadron is busy preparing for the exercise and checking their equipment is ready to go. Teams from Auckland and Ohakea will deploy into the field alongside air elements to provide vital communications links between the aircraft and the field headquarters, and set up critical IT systems to maintain command and control for the operation.

Helicopters on Ships

Two NH90s and a Seasprite were shipped down to the exercise, tucked snuggly in HMNZS Canterbury’s hangar. The crew has the routine running like clockwork, taking only between half an hour to an hour to pack a helicopter inside. It’s washed down before the main rotor blades are folded in, followed by tail folded around to make it small enough to fit. HMNZS Canterbury can fit four NH90 helicopters inside its hangar. Once inside the helicopters are tied down with strops to stop them sliding in heavy seas.

Photo: Michael Burt

Force Protection

Contact! Our Force Protection teams have been getting out and going through their drills in preparation for Southern Katipo. Teams from Ohakea and Whenuapai will be deploying into the field to provide security and protection for the air assets and personnel.
When a volcano on Vanuatu’s Ambae Island began to show alarming signs of activity recently, one of our P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft made a sweeping flight past it to see what was happening. The photographs taken by the crew depicted Monaro Voui volcano spewing huge columns of smoke and ash from its crater and prompted authorities to begin an emergency evacuation of the island.

Infra-red imagery of the volcano helped the Pacific island country’s National Disaster Management Office determine if a large eruption was imminent, Acting Air Component Commander Group Captain Nick Olney said.

“We are pleased that we were able to help Vanuatu authorities with our Orion and our highly skilled crew,” he said. “The NZDF always stands ready to support our Pacific neighbours, especially in times like this.”

The aerial survey found huge columns of smoke, ash and volcanic rocks billowing from Monaro’s crater.

The New Zealand Defence Force has conducted aerial surveys of volcanoes in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Tonga in recent years, in response to requests from those countries. This latest aerial survey, which included the Ambrym and Lopevi volcanoes, had been planned before Monaro’s recent activity intensified.

The volcano had been rumbling since September and Vanuatu authorities raised the official alert level recently to four, as its eruption intensified. Alert levels range from zero to five, with level five indicating a large-scale eruption.

About 11,000 residents live on Ambae and following the survey Vanuatu authorities began evacuating the island. As residents fled their homes, a C-130 Hercules made the first of two trips to Vanuatu, loaded with 12 tonnes of supplies.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Major General (MAJGEN) Tim Gall said the aircraft delivered its load to Luganville, Vanuatu’s second-largest city, about 65 kilometres west of Ambae Island.
The supplies included 800 tarpaulins, 800 family-hygiene kits, 200 mother-and-infant kits and five diesel generators.

“These supplies will help meet the basic needs for power, sanitation and shelter of the people who have fled for the safety of surrounding islands,” MAJGEN Gall said.

“We have been working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and are ready to provide further assistance if required.”

The Hercules made a second trip to Vanuatu to deliver two tonnes of sanitation equipment to help the thousands of evacuees who had been displaced.

“We always stand ready to assist our Pacific neighbours at times like this,” MAJGEN Gall said.

“Supporting the South West Pacific has always been a key focus for the NZDF because of its geographical proximity and cultural links with New Zealand.”

The supplies included 100 mother-and-infant kits, 200 family-hygiene kits and 15 portable toilets.

Monaro is one of the most active volcanoes in the world and last erupted in 2005, prompting the relocation of about 5000 people across the 400-square-kilometre island.
No. 5 Squadron has been kept busy recently, scrambling together Orions in two successful search and rescue missions within two weeks.

In the most recent rescue, an Orion crew found three Kiribati fishermen who had been missing for four days in the Pacific Ocean.

Crew on board the P-3K2 Orion aircraft spotted the men shortly after starting their second day of search west of Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati.

"Search and rescue missions aim to save lives, so we are pleased to achieve another successful outcome," Air Component Commander Air Commodore Darryn Webb said.

"While this brings relief to the men and their families, we hope that this incident reinforces our longstanding message about the importance of having communications and emergency equipment and supplies on private fishing vessels."

The Orion dropped a radio and bottles of water to the men and passed on their boat’s location to a local patrol boat, which was also involved in the search.

The men were last seen leaving on a five-metre boat at 6am on 14 October from Betio Island, the largest township of Kiribati’s capital city, South Tarawa. The men, who had been due home that afternoon, had no emergency equipment or supplies.

Two weeks earlier, Orion crew members found a Tongan fisherman who had been missing for two days, adrift on his six-metre boat in the Pacific Ocean.

Acting Air Component Commander Group Captain Nick Olney said the man was found shortly after the Orion arrived in the search area.

The crew gave the boat’s location to a patrol boat from Tonga’s armed forces and the man was picked up a short time later, he said.

“We are pleased that we were able to help bring about this successful outcome. This is great news for the fisherman, his family and friends. When they flew past the crew saw the man standing on the canopy of his boat, waving a flag.”

The NZDF took part in the searches after requests from the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand.

The NZDF flew 234 hours on 19 search and rescue missions in New Zealand and the Pacific in 2016, up 59 per cent from the 147 flying hours recorded the previous year. Since January, it has flown 70 hours on six search and rescue missions.
Woodbourne SAR Success

By Rebecca Quilliam

When a 17-year-old tramper became ill in the Marlborough mountains, Woodbourne personnel were called in to help. Low cloud had prevented an immediate air rescue so an Air Force team prepared to walk in and stretcher her out.

The tramper was with a group of 16-18-year-old students and three instructors when she became ill. They had left White’s Bay, near Blenheim and were tramping up Mt Robertson at the time. The plan was to get to Picton.

“It’s a fairly long trek. The biggest thing is there is quite an elevation to climb – it’s a steep track in parts,” RNZAF rescue team member Sergeant (SGT) Mark Atkinson said.

“The conditions had improved by the time we arrived, but it was still very wet and slippery terrain.”

The mission would have taken the team about three days to complete, so the lead rescue agency, LandSAR made the decision for one of their staff members and an instructor to wait with the tramper until the clouds had cleared enough for a rescue helicopter to fly her out. “They only had to wait a day for the conditions to clear,” SGT Atkinson said.

However, there were still eight students and their instructors on the mountainside who needed to get down the mountain safely.

“They had been out for a while and were a bit worn out, so we went up the mountain to escort them off,” he said.

“Coming down, there were a number – especially the students – who slipped in the terrain. Our presence was one of reassurance for the students and to ensure their safety as best we could. We were also on hand in case something worse happened, or the weather closed in again, we were there to support them.”

The trip took about six hours. The group had a lot of good equipment, including communication devices, which made it easier to find them, SGT Atkinson said.

“In the end everyone who went up the hill came down the hill, safe and sound. That is a positive result and something we like to see.”
The first group of Air Force personnel have been trained on the new MARS-L rifle, which is replacing the Steyr, and training will be rolled out soon across Ohakea, Whenuapai and Woodbourne.

Six Force Protection personnel, three each from Ohakea and Whenuapai, completed recently a week’s training at the Old Classification Range in Waiouru.

The first section of the training programme involved drills including how to strip the MARS-L, how to clean it and how to fire it. The second section was the shooting practice, which covered all ranges from 50-600m.

CPL Gaz Havill said the MARS-L was a great step up from the Steyr and was much more user-friendly.

“You can adjust the stock to make it longer or shorter and you can place your fore-grip or other weapon attachments anywhere on the rail system to suit how you wish to operate the rifle,” he said. “This flexibility allows each service person to customise their set-up, including if they are left- or right-handed.”

LAC Mark Howard was impressed with his first interaction with the MARS-L and found it easy to retrain on the new weapon after years of using the Steyr.

“The MARS-L is much more effective at longer ranges,” he said. “It also has better-managed recoil, making it easier to shoot accurately.”
Everyone who stays for a long time on Scott Base attends a two-day field survival course that teaches how to stay alive, should we get stuck out in the harsh environment of Antarctica.

It begins with standard briefings about gear, survival bags, how to use them, how to stay warm, how to do field cooking and, of course, because we cannot disturb the environment, how to do deal with everything coming out of our bodies – and, ladies, how to do number 1s fully clothed and into a bottle.

The trip started with a drive in an all-terrain Hagglund vehicle to our camp on the Ross Ice Shelf. We had perfect conditions, with a light wind and a warm day of -15°C, which was a vast improvement on the -50°C when we arrived 14 days ago. We set up our field camp of Antarctic tepees and built our kitchen/dining area out of snow blocks to fit all 20 of us.

Our day was packed with walks, talks and tips on Antarctic survival. We learnt what to do if we got lost and what happened if it all went very wrong. Although we hadn’t physically done much, everyone was ravenous and fatigued from just being out in the cold. This was not a place to forget to take snacks!

We discussed the best way to get out of the four layers of extreme cold weather gear and boots and into the three-layer sleeping bag without freezing body parts. Also, we had to work out which layers of sleeping bag to store wet clothing in that you didn’t want to freeze overnight, as well as drink bottle, pee bottle, camera and extreme cold weather boots. Basically, if you don’t have it close enough for body heat it will freeze.

Even in our rather mild night I was glad to have filled my drink bottle with hot water, but it still took me two hours to regulate my body heat to stay warm. Morning brought the dread of getting out of our cocoons to reverse the process and see what had failed to stay defrosted overnight. However, that thought lasted only as long as it took to get outside and see the beautiful world of Antarctica.

We have been here 17 days and every second I am thankful to be here. It might be counted as one of the most hostile environments in the world, but it is spectacular to say the least. During our 17 days here we have had a blizzard, sun dogs, diamond dust, sunrises and sunsets like you can’t explain and even a faint aurora. Bring on the next 17 weeks of last sunrise, seal pups, and the melting of the sea ice.
The fictitious scenario is the basis for Exercise Suman Protector, a Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) exercise played out every five years between Singapore, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand (Suman). This year’s exercise, held in Malaysia, involved about 180 participants. Members of the FPDA are committed to coming to the aid of Singapore or Malaysia in the event of an armed conflict, and the exercise, designed to enhance the interoperability of the member nations, plays on that theme.

For the first time in the Suman series, voices of “conscience” are heard, with countries bringing along legal and political advisors to consider the ramifications and risks of proposed targeting by the exercise’s Combined Joint Task Force. A police superintendent, representing the Royal Malaysia Police, stresses what he needs from military to regain law and order. Representatives from the International Committee of Red Cross, Malaysia Red Crescent and Mercy Malaysia campaign on the growing humanitarian crisis. The Australian contingent’s gender advisor reminds the generals of the United Nation’s moral imperative towards the protection of women and children.

On paper, the combined military resources of the FPDA are considerable but the DRP, which has overspent on military equipment, packs a punch as well. Malaysia, with New Zealand as supporting host, uses a Joint Military Appreciation Process (JMAP) to map out the critical pathways and tasks from a mission statement to an end state. Essential tasks become decisive points, the milestones that have to happen. Syndicates form to break the problems down. Air and land are in their element – it’s ship versus ship, aircraft versus aircraft, missile ranges, fuel, speed and ranges. The Navy officers are worried about an enemy corvette with a Russian missile capable of significant range. An impact on a British or Australian landing helicopter dock ship will be a massive game-changer. Refugees seem somewhat remote to the sailors and pilots. Not so for the land. The humanitarian assistance advisors stay close to the Australian Major plotting the army’s

A growing humanitarian crisis, with more than 60,000 internally displaced persons and refugees, is playing out on a fictitious South China Sea island country, the Democratic Republic of Plainchants. The situation has escalated with an ill-tempered territorial grievance over historic sovereignty and oil drilling into an all-out land grab, a move the DRP president hopes will appeal to nationalistic elements of his population. Meanwhile, in the DRP’s province of Nainai, on the Malaysian peninsula, DRP troops and loyal militia advance north, claiming the boundary is historically wrong and the DRP is justified in taking its “territory” back. The troops and militia run riot, burning villages and committing human rights abuses.
capabilities, reminding him of the humanitarian situation and the media.

Operations, in the meantime, are working out how to rescue the tourists on the resort island, and Logistics is calculating how to supply and sustain the Combined Joint Task Force. The Effects syndicate, combined with political and legal advisors and public affairs officers, develop the rules of engagement and start preparing a target list. Public Affairs begin developing the strategic messaging to be used if anyone has to make public comments.

Major General (MAJGEN) Dato’ HJ Mohd Asghar Khan Bin Coriman Khan judges that he has sufficient resources to simultaneously rescue the resort island and push back the DRP forces in Nainai, relieving the pressure on the ISPs and refugees. The move nicely addresses Malaysian sovereignty while protecting civilians.

Lieutenant Colonel (L TCOL) Martin Dransfield, NZDF and the deputy exercise director, said Exercise Suman Protector was 18 months in planning, resulting in two weeks as a definite validation and refinement of FPDA operational doctrine. Including other governmental organisations and aid agencies that helped build awareness, “there are far more players than just ourselves. We ensure humanitarian and laws of armed conflict are included, and we regain the moral high ground”. FPDA, and the countries within it, were becoming increasingly important today, he said. “The air, land and seascape is constantly changing, the threats are increasing within our region. We have to remain relevant.”

In a real-life scenario, the NZDF would send C-130 Hercules, P-3K2 Orions, NH90s and Boeing 757s into theatre.

MAJGEN Asghar said L TCOL Dransfield had done a great job. “The political advisors, legal, Red Cross, inclusion of you in this whole exercise has given us new insight and knowledge. It’s going to be very important for us.” He asked the nations to keep the momentum going. “The knowledge shared between us has been invaluable.” He joked that the New Zealand contingent’s haka, performed on the Goodwill Night event to all nations, was probably enough to provoke a DRP defeat in itself.
Defence traditionally has led the way in technological research and development but in this, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, there has been a paradigm shift. Innovation has globalised, democratised and accelerated, and the way we do things and who does them has to change.

Technology is now advancing so rapidly that it is revolutionising our approach to national security and military operations, and defending our nation will require many roles that will involve advanced skills in software, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, bio-engineering and advanced manufacturing methods.

The inaugural NZDF Engineering and Technology Conference held in Auckland recently and sponsored by Chief Joint Defence Services (CJDS) was an opportunity for commercial organisations and international guests to challenge the thinking of about 500 engineers and technicians from across the Defence Force, and to provoke their professional curiosity in those emerging technologies that will shape their future as professional engineers. RNZAF attendance consisted of engineering officers, technicians, CIS officers, logisticians, and representatives from New Zealand’s aviation sector.

During the conference, a selection of high-class international speakers challenged our need to be more agile and adaptable, not only in our adoption of technology but in our approach to the development of the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding.

We were reminded of the tenets of what it is to be a professional engineer, which echoed the core values of the Services.

Our biases were challenged and provoked us to question the nature of diversity within engineering. We were asked to hone our “inner ninja” and to adapt to the environment in our approach to our educational development.

The power of the human mind was demonstrated to be capable of controlling everything from artificial limbs to flight simulations and vehicles, and we were challenged to think carefully about how this kind of advancement in technology is adapted and utilised by the Defence Force.
raised ethical issues that we will need to address.

There was an opportunity to interact and get hands-on with the technology and for some heads-on experience of the current and emerging technologies – with demonstrations in augmented and virtual reality, synthetic training, a live remotely piloted air systems (RPAS) demonstration and interaction with an artificial intelligence engine.

Innovations in modern manufacturing techniques were demonstrated – the full capability of which was truly put into context by Rocket Labs, with their ability to 3D-print an entire rocket engine within 24 hours. It really was rocket science.

The event was an overwhelming success and could not have been possible without the hard work of the tri-Service planning team, led by NZDF Defence Industry Engagement Manager Debbie Howarth, who is blessed with never-ending energy and enthusiasm.

The event put into context the role of technology in the challenges facing NZDF in the future: namely, how do we reposition the role of NZDF engineering, and use of technology, to be the key enabler of NZDF capability? Only time will tell, but we are now one step closer to making this old institution adapt to a new reality.

We were reminded of the tenets of what it is to be a professional engineer, which echoed the core values of the respective Services.
THE BLACK FALCONS’ NEW LINE-UP

The Black Falcons aerobatic team has welcomed two new members to the fold – one, an experienced instructor, and the other in New Zealand on exchange from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Air Force News had a chat with them shortly before they performed their first display with the team.

The challenge of being in an aerobatic display team was the only incentive Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Alexander Joel needed to apply for the position.

“I was fortunate enough to do a formation aerobatics qualification in New Zealand before the offer came out for anyone to join the Black Falcons and I really enjoyed it. So when the offer came out, I asked if I was eligible and they said yes, so I thought I would put my name in the hat to see if I could do it. It’s extending the grey matter and making me think – which is great.”

The Australian national is with the RNZAF on exchange from the Royal Australian Air Force. He arrived last year and after completing his aircraft conversion course, began instructing at No. 42 Squadron.

FLTLT Joel, who flies in the second position in the team, said the most challenging part of display flying was “station maintenance”.

“It’s easy to get into position, but to stay in position and be symmetrical with your teammates on either side is probably the most difficult thing to get right. It is fairly physically taxing, but it looks good in the end.”

His teammate, also new to the team, Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Barry “Patch” Nelson, flies the spare Texan aircraft as well as organising a lot of the administration work.

“We will normally take six aircraft away to a venue, so if we have a problem with a plane, there’s a spare ready to go. I will also sometimes end up as the display director – so providing some oversight to the smaller displays.”

He flew the A-4 Skyhawk as Red 2 in the Kiwi Red aerobatic team in 1989–90 where he was part of the team that performed displays around New Zealand and for the opening and closing of the Commonwealth Games that were held in Auckland in 1990.

The T-6C Texans were an impressive aircraft to work with, he said.

“They are modern, manoeuvrable and powerful – they’re able to take our students from zero to having their wings and provide enough challenge to keep them interested until right to the end of the course.”

The display team was an important aspect of the service as the Falcons will be the face of the Air Force and will demonstrate the professionalism and skill of our Air Force pilots to the people of New Zealand, SQNLDR Nelson said.

“I see being in the Black Falcons as the pinnacle for an Air Force pilot once you go into the instructional path. For me, it’s something to aspire to and I think it’s important that we have those things that people can aspire to and that not everyone gets to do – for those who do want to stretch themselves and put themselves out there and do the extra work.”

Once all the display approvals are ticked off, the team hopes to put on its first display at a reunion of the previous RNZAF display team, the Red Checkers, later this month in Christchurch.
The rest of the team:

**Squadron Leader Brett Clayton**

Brett was born in Napier and has been a pilot since 2000. He was posted to No. 3 Squadron and deployed to East Timor and the Solomon Islands. He was an instructor at Pilot Training Squadron on the CT-4E Airtrainer before instructing on Sioux and Iroquois helicopters.

Brett spent two years on an exchange posting with the RAAF in Perth instructing on the PC/9A and was part of the RNZAF acquisition of the new pilot training aircraft, the T-6C Texan II. He is currently the Officer Commanding of Central Flying School.

**Flight Lieutenant Daniel Pezaro**

Dan grew up in Wanaka and joined the RNZAF in 2003. He was posted to No. 3 Squadron flying the UH-1H Iroquois. Dan completed two deployments to Timor-Leste and finished his time in No. 3 Squadron as a Search and Rescue captain, before being part of the introduction for the NH90 helicopter. As an instructor, he taught on the CT-4E Airtrainer prior to working on the T-6C Texan II introduction and now works as a Flying Instructor at No. 14 Squadron teaching RNZAF Ab-initio pilots.

**Squadron Leader Hayden Sheard**

Hayden hails from Katikati, joined the RNZAF in 2001 and has completed two operational deployments in the South Pacific flying the UH-1H Iroquois helicopter with No. 3 Squadron.

He has displayed both the UH-1H and A109 helicopters and flew in the Checker Two position with the Red Checkers. Hayden is Flight Commander Central Flying School, and is an A-Category Qualified Flying and Helicopter Instructor. He flies in the Falcon Four position with the Black Falcons and is the Synchro Pair Leader.

**Squadron Leader Sean Perrett**

Sean was born in England and joined the RAF in 1985. He flew the Harrier on No. 1 (F) Squadron, instructed on the Hawk and was part of the Red Arrows from 1994 to 1997.

He flew operational missions in Bosnia and Kosovo and in 2001 was posted to No. 20 (R) Squadron to instruct on the Harrier. He joined the RNZAF in 2003 and has flown the CT-4E Airtrainer (including two seasons with the Red Checkers), Aermacchi, Harvard, Tiger Moth and B200 King Air. He is currently an instructor on CFS, flying the T-6C Texan II.
The CAF Kakahu (cloak) “Te Pokairewa”

The latest taonga has been handed to the Air Force – a handmade Kakahu. The intricately designed cloak was presented to the current chief, Air Vice-Marshall (AVM) Tony Davies, during the recent celebration of the Air Force Tūrangawaewae’s first anniversary. Its name is Te Pokairewa, which means “High soaring flock of birds” and refers to Air Force’s unity of purpose and mastery in the air. It will be worn with pride by all future Air Force chiefs.

Leanne Wallace began weaving the Kakahu more than a year ago. She collaborated on the design with Tūrangawaewae manager and husband, Doug ‘Wal’ Wallace.

“I started the cast on in May last year, I cast off in May this year and finished the last few tweaks in June,” she said.

Thousands of feathers were individually plucked, cleaned, sorted, sized, and bound before being woven into place. It was indeed a labour of love, patience and dedication.

More than 7000 feathers from pukeko, pheasant, turkey, albatross, kea, kotuku and kiwi help make up the Kakahu, which were collected from a variety of groups around the country. Feathers were also donated to the weaving group Leanne belongs to.

It was a special moment to present the cloak to AVM Davies on the Tūrangawaewae’s first anniversary, she said.

“Everything about the day was special. The pattern on the inside of the Kakahu was modelled from the design on the Tūrangawaewae, so it was all significant.”

After spending so long working on the piece, Leanne had become attached to it.

“You end up knowing each feather and which one is playing up and twisting around. But it got to the stage when I’d finished it, I was happy to hand it over.

“Because it had been in the house it became part of our life. Our granddaughter would come in and pat the feathers, which was lovely. It is sad, when you’ve finished something so personal to hand it over – but to see the response from everybody has been very humbling and I am thrilled it will be well cared for.”

“Kakahu” is the correct term for Māori cloak of which there are several types. The often misused term “korowai” applies to a specific type of kakahu decorated with hukahuka (strands of cord or rolled flax fibre). In comparison, kakahu decorated primarily in feathers of various types are called “kahu huruhuru”. The newly dedicated CAF Kakahu is therefore a kahu huruhuru rather than a korowai.
The Kakahu

The general theme of the taniko (top and bottom weaved bands) is based on our core values Courage, Commitment and Comradeship.

The Star
The stars represent the seven stars of the Matariki constellation, that heralds the traditional Māori New Year. They also depict the seven bases that we had when our bicultural journey began - Whenuapai, Hobsonville, Te Rapa, Ohakea, Wellington/Shelly Bay, Woodbourne, and Wigram.

CAF Commendation
The CAF Commendation is recognition of the exemplary performance of one’s duties and can only be awarded by CAF. Its inclusion here thus serves to remind CAF of the need to remain connected to his Air Force people and it also reminds us that hard work and integrity do not go unnoticed.

The Poutama
Referred to as the ‘stairway to knowledge’, the Poutama pattern represents the continuous struggle for betterment. The filled Poutama has the added red blocks and the white edges. Alongside the dark blue they depict the ribbon of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The Wings
The mountains, clouds and ocean depict the land, the sky and the sea in testament to the fact that there is no place that Air Force will not fly. Thus is the domain of the RNZAF. The Wings logo is self-evident as the symbol of flight.

The Lining
The cloak’s lining has a Kowhaiwhai pattern embroidered across which is echoed within the rafters of the RNZAF Tūrangawaewae and is unique to Air Force. It is called “Matikara Kia Mau” (Claws grasping) and refers to the Hawk grasping a branch, perched on high, waiting to be called into action.

The Feathers
The bottom feathers are Turkey, moving into blue Pukeko, then Pheasant with a few orange Kea tufts. Then we have Kotuku (heron) followed by Toroa (Albatross) which are trimmed with Pukeko. Among the Pukeko trim are seven tufts of Kiwi feathers to connect the feather work with the seven stars of Matariki.

By the Numbers:
13 MONTHS TO CREATE
50,000 + WEAVED STITCHES
7000+ FEATHERS
14 KIWI FEATHERS
The Games were the most successful so far for the Kiwi team, with 11 medals being brought home. However, NZDF Invictus team captain Jason Pore said for the team it had been about doing the best each individual could do for themselves and their families.

“It wasn’t about the medals for the team – making the finals was an added bonus to the success of their individual achievements and making it on to the podium just added to their personal successes,” Pore said.

“The medals won have been for the team, their families and for New Zealand.”

The team won three gold, four silver and four bronze medals during the eight-day competition.

The team’s vice-captain, RNZAF Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Jules Gilligan, said it was hard to describe how proud she was of the team.

“Everyone has given their all, regardless of the huge challenges they face. Each person will be changed from this experience,” FLTLT Gilligan said.

“This team’s members are some of the strongest and most determined people I have ever met. They have such heart. They are the epitome of what the word ‘team’ means to me. This is why I re-joined the Defence Force and it is a true privilege to watch their victories.”

Royal New Zealand Navy Lieutenant (LT) Dan Crawford stole the show on the second day of competition, winning two bronze medals in less than an hour in the Men’s IT7 1500m and the Men’s IT7 400m events.

Those medals were the first track medals won by any NZDF Invictus team member. LT Crawford went on to gain two more – a silver and a bronze in the indoor rowing.

He said before the Games he had no idea how well he would perform in his events.

“It wasn’t until I rounded the final bend of the 1500m that I knew I’d be leaving with a medal. It felt incredible to hear all the Kiwi supporters as I was sprinting down the final 100m.

“I was truly humbled when Victoria Cross recipient Willie Apiata did a haka after my medal ceremony. It was a special occasion.”
feeling I won’t forget – as well as seeing the smiles on my
team members’ faces as we congratulated each other. It is
a testament to the positivity of the Invictus Games.”

The Invictus Games were created in 2014 by Prince Harry.
The first took place in London and the second in Florida in
last year.

Prince Harry told a crowd of more than 19,000 at the
closing ceremony that the Games were not about gold, silver
or bronze medals.

“They are about the journey you and your families have
made to the start line,” he said. “Our world needs your
dedication and passion like never before and you never know,
this may just be the missing piece of the puzzle to help you
regain that satisfaction of serving others once again.”

The Invictus Games are the only international adaptive
sporting event for wounded, injured and ill active duty and
veteran service men and women. This year they brought
together 17 nations and 550 competitors from around the
world to compete in 12 adaptive sports.

New Zealand Army’s Major Craig Wilson won double gold in
indoor rowing, winning both Men’s IR3 events. He was glad
the hard work paid off.

“Invictus to me represents getting over setbacks,
difficulties and barriers,” he said. “It takes the core resilience
that is at the foundation of the NZDF. Many of my team and
my fellow competitors have adapted, overcome and are going
from strength to strength.

“Learning from my team and other people here has been
even better than winning gold.”

The 2018 Games will take place in Sydney, Australia.
In the words of Prince Harry: “Game on Down Under, I’ll see you
in Australia.”

The team was proudly sponsored by the Auckland RSA,
Christchurch Memorial RSA, Fulton Hogan, BLK and
Offlimits Trust.
Tena koutou katoa,

Most of you will, I hope, have heard of Predator Free 2050. It’s an ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of the introduced animals that have devastated the unique and largely defenceless birds, reptiles and plants that are native to this country. Rats, stoats and possums are the main targets and the objective is to be rid of them by 2050 – just 33 years from now.

Clearly Predator Free 2050 is no five-minute project and the tools and resources we need to do it are not in the supermarket. Some of the technology we want in our artillery has yet to be developed. This will be a long campaign and we will need a whole bunch of allies if we are to achieve it.

In the meantime, we have to hold the line protecting the things we have already got on life-support.

For the moment that’s where you guys come in. Providing the Department of Conservation with support to service our work on Raoul Island in the Kermadec Group and the Subantarctic Islands, including helping eradicate mice from Antipodes Island or doing the heavy lifting with a hut relocation in Kahurangi National Park, is just the tip of the iceberg in the list.

On the West Coast, remote islands and elsewhere, surveillance flights by the RNZAF’s P-3K2 Orion are undertaken to provide details of fishing vessel locations in response to concerns about illegal fishing activity or smuggling of endangered species.

In the North Island’s Central Plateau, management and mustering of wild Kaimanawa horses to protect the sensitive sub-alpine ecosystem is undertaken alongside the New Zealand Army.

In our big blue backyard, Defence Force personnel eyes contribute to our understanding of marine mammals through reporting of Bryde’s whales and southern right whales, among others.

During February the armed forces mucked in alongside our staff at the Port Hills fires, which destroyed decades of community conservation work and cost millions of dollars as the fires raged across thousands of hectares above Christchurch.

In Arthur’s Pass military support meant we could fly in a portable hut, toilet cylinder and base, as well as fencing supplies, and fly out the remains of a burnt hut.

As can be seen, even just a few highlights makes an impressive list of the meaningful contributions made to protecting nature.

In dollar terms alone the value is enormous but it is your contribution towards the long-term goals of protecting the things that define us as kiwis and shooting for a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050 that has the real value.

What we do today benefits hugely from your involvement. Where we get to tomorrow and in the more distant future will be thanks in large part to the work you do.

Thanks for being on our side.

Lou Sanson – Director General, Department of Conservation

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Thanks for being on our side.
More than 50 female high school students recently spent time at Base Woodbourne taking part in a programme that gave them a taste of what a career in the Defence Force was like.

The Defence Careers Experience was designed to give participants the opportunity to gain first-hand experience and exposure to some of our many diverse trades. The aim of the programme was to provide the young women with a positive, engaging and challenging experience that showcased what a career in the Defence Force was like.

They were also able to speak to female personnel, who talked about their personal career experiences and the positive aspects of life as a female in Defence.

The students were introduced to early mornings and late nights, drill, physical training, barrack routine and discipline to gain an understanding of some of the aspects and challenges associated with initial training.

They practised a variety of military skills, including navigation and weapon handling. Students also received an introduction to military leadership, as well as plenty of opportunities to develop their teamwork skills, with a view to building their foundation as future Service women.

Presentations by senior women officers gave the students an insight into their career experiences, highlighting the unique opportunities offered by the Defence Force.

Student feedback has been extremely positive and from a staff perspective it was rewarding to see the evolution from quiet and uncertain individuals to actively engaged and functioning team members.

The ultimate goal was for the students to finish the programme having identified a potential career path, where they could pursue their passions in an organisation that would value their skills, ideas and potential.

Delivering Future Talent

By SQNLDR Joss Smillie and CAPT Chris Buerkeman, Directorate of Recruiting

"I enjoyed the presentations done by the different people about their trades. The best way to learn was to talk to these people individually and ask whatever questions we could. I enjoyed this the most because we learnt information you can’t find on the website."

"I have been left with a very positive impression towards the Defence Force and this camp has only made me want to join more. It also allowed me to expand my interest in other trades and become more knowledgeable about the trades on offer! I only wanted to join the Army before I came to this camp, although throughout the week I have been persuaded to look into joining other Services, such as the Air Force, in force protection – I wasn’t aware of this role previously."
Andover Trophy – a bit of a surprise

By Rebecca Quilliam

A budding Air Warfare Specialist is this year’s recipient of the prestigious Andover Trophy. Acting Corporal (A/CPL) Hailey Gill completed the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Aircrew Course after having achieved at least a 97.5% average mark in her theory tests.

A/CPL Gill’s marks placed her in the top 10% of the historical graduate population.

But winning the trophy was unexpected.

“I got a couple of 100% marks and the rest were in the 90s, but I wasn’t really tracking the results. So it was a total surprise on the very last day during our last brief and they presented me with that. They made me do a speech and everything.”

During the course 14 trainees spent five weeks learning basic aviation-related subjects relevant across all aircrew trades in the RNZAF.

The subject that resonated most with A/CPL Gill revolved around the science of flight.

“It was also the part I had most trouble with, just understanding how everything comes into play – such as lift, drag, speed and the wind,” said. “Also gaining an understanding of how much can go wrong. But in the last week, during our familiarisation flight, it all came together.”

A/CPL Gill, 26, will be qualified as an Air Warfare Specialist in about a year and once she is breveted, she is looking forward to having a “range of experiences”.

“Last week I was lucky enough to go on a search-and-rescue mission over Tonga and it was awesome. I’m pretty excited that I will get to do that sort of stuff in the future.”

The Andover Trophy was presented initially to the top student from the pilot Multi-Basic Course during streamed pilot training. With the advent of all-through pilot training, the trophy is awarded now to the top student to graduate from the NCO Aircrew Course, which is conducted by No. 42 Squadron at Base Ohakea.

Based on the prerequisite criteria, the Andover Trophy has not been awarded to an NCO Aircrew Course student since 2013.

A/CPL Gill has been posted to No. 5 Squadron at Base Auckland and will begin her Orion Conversion Course in January.

THE DRIVERS OF TOMORROW’S AIR POWER

Pilot Training

The T-6C is a high-performance training aircraft used to prepare pilots for military flying duties. Further training is undertaken on operational aircraft to prepare pilots for tactical roles in the conduct of air operations.

Air Power in Action
75th Birthday for Historic Flight Harvard

By FLTLT Stuart Anderson, Historic Flight Commander, Central Flying School

The Historic Flight Harvard NZ1015 achieved a notable milestone recently, having served the RNZAF continuously for 75 years.

Two former RNZAF Harvards (NZ1065 and NZ1076) returned to Ohakea for the celebration and the occasion was marked with a busy flying programme, familiarisation flights, formation flypasts of local town centres and a gathering of personnel closely associated with RNZAF Harvard operations over the years.

Manufactured by North American Aviation in Dallas, Texas, “Harvard 15” was delivered to RNZAF Base Hobsonville on 22 September, 1942.

The T-6 Harvard was the airborne classroom for the majority of Allied pilots who flew in the Second World War. In all, the Harvard trained several hundred thousand pilots in 34 countries over more than half a century.

Of the almost 20,000 aircraft made, 202 Harvards were allocated to the RNZAF under the Empire Air Training Scheme. During 36 years of service (1941-1977) the Harvard was operated primarily as a basic and advanced pilot trainer. It also had service as a forward air control platform, bombing and gunnery trainer, communications aircraft and, most recognisably, when displayed by the RNZAF aerobatic team, the Red Checkers, in the 1960s and 1970s.

While most of the fleet were sold when the type was replaced in the primary training role by the CT-4 Airtrainer, the RNZAF retained Harvard 15.

The last remaining Harvard operated by the RNZAF, it is proudly flown and displayed by the RNZAF Historic Flight to commemorate the notable contribution of the aircraft type to RNZAF history.

It is fitting that approaching this milestone in Harvard 15’s service life that maintenance work provided the opportunity to restore it to pristine condition, including reversion to the original wartime delivery paint scheme, which it wears today. Because of the outstanding effort by many individuals there is confidence that the New Zealand public will continue to enjoy Harvard 15 in the air well beyond 100 years of RNZAF service.

Fun Fact: Because it was manufactured in Dallas, Texas, the North American T-6 Harvard became widely known as the “Texan” in the US, and that designation lives on today in the form of its familiar namesake, the Beechcraft T-6 Texan II.

RNZAF Journal Volume 4: Call for papers

The RNZAF Air Power Development Centre (APDC) is calling for air power related papers written in an academic style of 2000 to 5000 words length for inclusion in the RNZAF Journal. Papers may be submitted in Microsoft Word format at any time from now until 31 January 2018 to the following e-mail address: ohapdc@nzdf.mil.nz.

Papers must be the author’s original work using the Chicago referencing style including footnotes and bibliography. Dual authored papers are acceptable. Submitted papers should not have been previously published in any Journal. Only unclassified material is to be used when writing papers. The RNZAF Journal Review Board will consider papers for publication.

The APDC is also calling for military aviation book reviews. Contemporary or historical book reviews are acceptable of 300 to 500 words length for inclusion into the RNZAF Journal.

The RNZAF Journal Volume 3 may be found at: http://www.airforce.mil.nz/about-us/who-we-are/apdc/ APDC Phone: 368-7780 or 06 3515780
This scenario brings into play the principles integral to the Use of Force outside of Armed Conflicts. Standing Orders for the NZDF regarding graduated responses require personnel to only use the minimum force necessary, that any use of force must be reasonable, necessary and proportionate, and that the response should be graduated.

But there is a lot of room for interpretation when it comes to “minimum force” and “reasonable”, especially when allegations of excessive force are made and you have to explain your reasoning and actions.

To aid the decision-making process around Use of Force, and the justifications after the fact, a Use of Force model called the Tactical Options Framework has been devised for the NZDF. The author is Flight Lieutenant Geordie Fisher, a former police officer from Canada with a Special Tactics background. His knowledge and experience, especially in Use of Force modelling, has previously been invested in the New Zealand Police, NZ Customs, and now the New Zealand Defence Force.

It started with the Navy, he says. “Amendments in the revised Crown Minerals Act gave powers of arrest to NZDF ships’ Commanding Officers against vessels and persons breaching non-interference zones around offshore ships or platforms involved in exploration.” This meant the Navy could be involved with arresting or detaining people under New Zealand legislation and needing the necessary skills associated with overcoming any resistance to arrest or detention.

In 2015 FLTLT Fisher trained members of the boarding parties and Force Protection Teams on board HMNZS TE KAH. Instruction included information on graduated responses, communication techniques, and the application of tactics in determining a use of force response. This was done in preparation for drug interdictions in the Indian Ocean as part of the anti-piracy patrols conducted by the RNZN.

The Tactical Options Framework provides practical guidelines to assist our people with making good decisions.

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By Andrew Bonallack

You are securing an outer perimeter with orders to keep out all unauthorised people. You notice someone moving towards you. You challenge them and they stop. They are wearing a T-shirt and shorts with no weapons visible. They move closer and insist they need to enter the area you are guarding. What do you do?
concerning the use of force. It provides information on the importance of communication, the various levels of force, threat assessments and practical suggestions on reasonable response options. When reasonable actions are taken in response to a use of force situation the alignment can clearly be seen within the overlapping elements of the Tactical Options Framework.

“How you form your decision, and the subsequent reporting that may be required to explain your actions, is every bit as important as what you actually end up doing,” says FLTLT Fisher. “We want people to do the right thing, and for the most part people want to do the right thing. The question is, what does the right thing look like? If I’m talking about a situation like this, something way down here,” pointing to the area representing situations involving “passive resistance”, “then this doesn’t look right,” he says, pointing to the red colour band representing a high degree of force response.

Use of the model can help individuals and the organisation in assessing whether a response appears to be appropriate. “What was the person facing, what options were reasonable. It gives the organisation confidence that everyone is thinking along the same lines. Any questions come back to the framework, and it becomes objective, rather than an opinion-based, ‘I don’t like what you did’ response. If someone has done an action, and is wondering, ‘what are they going to say to me now’, well, from this model, you’ll know. There’s no great mystery.”

The model has been in consultation for over two years, and has been signed off, now appearing in NZDP 0.33.01. “It’s consistent with other government agencies, NZ Police, NZ Customs, MPI. It’s about Better Tools, Better Support, Better Understanding and Better Together, for all three services.”

Training on the Tactical Options Framework will be rolled out in a tiered approach, with all personnel involved in relevant tasks receiving Tier 1 training as a starting point.
Commonwealth Gold for Cadet Top Shots

For the second consecutive year, eight teenage Cadets from Mt Albert-based No. 19 (Auckland) Squadron Air Training Corps, New Zealand Cadet Forces have been awarded Commonwealth Gold Medals in the Ffennell .22 target shooting competition.

The event is an international competition run by the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting, in which the best teams from each Commonwealth country compete for top honours.

The Auckland team shot their competition targets at the Waitakere Smallbore Rifle Club Range in Swanson and the target results were then posted to England, where the Commonwealth competition closed in April 2017.

Results were posted earlier this year and the medals arrived recently in the country. Commandant of the New Zealand Cadet Forces, Lieutenant Colonel Grant Morris, RNZALR presented the eight gold medals to the team.

The No. 19 Squadron Shooting team has won the NZ division for seven consecutive years, with Commonwealth podium finishes for the past six years, three of which were first placings.

“Our Cadets trained really hard leading up to the competition, and I couldn’t be more proud of them – this is a fantastic result,” Unit Commander Cadet Force Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Liz Martin said.

Training under coach Unit Officer Flying Officer Matt Mills is well underway for the next season’s competition, with the team hoping to bag a hat trick.

“Rifle shooting is a big part of our training syllabus, as it is a great way for Cadets to learn discipline, self-control and attention to detail,” FLTLT Martin said. “Firearms safety and marksmanship are definitely one of the highlights for a lot of our Cadets. Being a member of our competition shooting team is what a lot of them aim for.”

No. 19 (Auckland) Squadron holds the National title for all NZCF Shooting Competitions, as well as the Davy Memorial Trophy for National Drill Champions, a competition supported by the Air Force Association of NZ.

Air Training Corps cadets take part in a wide range of training, including aviation, first aid, camping, tramping and outdoor survival skills, teamwork, and leadership, along with firearms safety and marksmanship training.
Snowboarding on The Wild Side

By Flying Officer Jozef McGurk

Snow, ice and gravel crunched underfoot as 40 of the RNZAF’s finest alpine warriors hauled their slope-sailing gear to the lodge. Freshly waxed and sharpened, these exquisite examples of finely crafted sporting equipment were simply begging to kiss the powder of Mount Ruapehu’s western face.

We were on Tukino Ski Field, otherwise known as The Wild Side. With the sun setting warmly behind the imposing hulk of the mountain, the entire Desert Road was bathed in a deep burgundy. To the north, Mount Ngauruhoe stood proudly, painted vibrant peach. So serene.

Inside the lodge, the fire was roaring and the hot chocolates were flowing. The weatherman foretold three days of clear sky and splendid sunshine and we were chomping at the bit to capitalise.

And boy, oh boy, were the forecasters right – the sun was so bright we were skiing in t-shirts.

The first day’s event was the slalom. The track was affectionately named The Pole Bender, and featured a punishing start. Times were tight and with brand new timing gear, we were able to record down to one hundred thousandth of a second. This proved invaluable, because there was very little between second, third, fourth and fifth places in the snowboard slalom. First place winner, Squadron Leader Jude Rushmere, was three minutes ahead of everyone else – a wonder in itself because the course was only 30-40 seconds long.

The second day of competition, featuring The Boardercross and The Skiercross, was a nail-biter. Using start gates designed and built by one of our club members, we were sent hurtling down the mountain in groups of four. Elbows were thrust into ribs, knees into shins and helmets into boots as we fought for the honour of the title. The racing was brutal and the competition fierce, but nothing less was expected. No love was lost on the snow, but all ferocity was left between the gates.

The RNZAF Alpine Sports Club is a unique club – one that is welcoming, outrageous fun and rewarding. If you are interested, join us.

Facebook – RNZAF Alpine Sports Club
Email SQNLDR Jude Rushmere: iainrushmere@nzdf.mil.nz
Top-level international basketball players are being pulled into line by an RNZAF diesel mechanic based at Whenuapai. Ryan Jones has worked his way up the ranks of referees and next year will be officiating at the Commonwealth Games. He tells Air Force News about fitting in his sporting passion with his career.

Jones began refereeing junior games when he was 12. “I was always at the gym and then one day they handed me a whistle and said, ‘You might as well start refereeing’. It was a good way to earn some pocket money.”

He continued refereeing and playing through his teenage years and ended up competing at representative level for Waitakere Basketball, where he counted future Tall Blacks players Houston O’Reilly and BJ Anthony as his teammates. “I was never really the athlete that they were but I still loved the game, so refereeing was a way to stay with it,” he said. “At that time it didn’t require the same amount of training, so I still had time to study. It gave me the freedom to do both.”

Jones was selected to referee in the New Zealand National League when he was about 21 – at the time one of the youngest to referee at the top national level. Since then
he has become a FIBA (International Basketball Federation) referee and has been chosen to referee at major games, including at the United States NBA Summer League in Las Vegas, the FIBA Asia Men’s Championships in Lebanon, and the FIBA Under-19 World Championships in Italy where he was appointed to referee the Bronze medal game.

“A few of my experienced international colleagues have said I am one of the first referees from New Zealand to referee a medal match at a World Championship,” he said. “I was humbled by the appointment. The opportunities I have gained from refereeing and being part of the game are pretty amazing. Refereeing at the Olympic Games is my ultimate goal, there is a lot of hard work in front of me to achieve that, but I’m up for the challenge. I have recently been appointed to the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane next year – something I have been working on for a long time and it’s going to be a huge moment in my career.”

His sporting passion takes up a lot of time, but he has been able to fit it around his work at Ground Support Equipment Maintenance Flight.

“With the Air Force the work/life balance is really good on the whole. I use mostly annual leave for all of my competitions.”

Jones has also been able to apply for sport representation leave when he goes away for World Championship competitions.

“Being able to take part in the competitions comes down to the support of the trade that I work in and the RNZAF as a whole. It is something I am very grateful for. I really hope other young people are inspired to get involved in the sport – either refereeing or playing.”

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**RNZAF Society Golf Tournament 2017**

**RNZAF BASE AUCKLAND**
**GOLF COURSE WHENUAPAI**
Monday 04 December – Thursday 07 December 2017
Entry Fee $110  Entries Close 10 November 2017

Application forms on www.societygolf.nz
or Facebook RNZAF Society Golf

For more information contact:
**AUCKLAND** – raewyn.ansell@nzdf.mil.nz
**OHAKEA** – roger.perkins@nzdf.mil.nz
**WELLINGTON** – isaac.hastings@nzdf.mil.nz
**WOODBOURNE** – brent.davidson@nzdf.mil.nz
Whenapai gets its fair share of rainbow meteorological events thanks to a clear view Eastward, and Auckland’s habit of having ‘four-seasons-in-one-day’. You may philosophise all you like about how nobody really sees the same rainbow; that communication is key when working together, because everybody has a different perspective. But of course the main takeaway from this force of nature is: always wear your high-vis vest on the flightline.

Photographer
A/CPL Dan May

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**Notices**

**80TH AVIONICS & NO 2 TTS REUNION**

We are holding the 80th Avionics Reunion on the 23rd – 24th March 2018 at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand in Wigram, Christchurch.

All serving and ex-service Avionics and related trade personnel are invited. The reunion involves a meet ‘n’ greet on the Friday night and a dinner on the Saturday night. Please go to http://www.nzafavionicsreunion2018.co.nz to register your interest.

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**Air Power Quiz**

Q1: What is the maximum underslung load weight an NH90 can lift?

Q2: In aircraft maintenance terms, what is fatigue?

Q3: What did Douhet mean by having “command of the air”?

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A8: Jus in bello are the set of laws that come into effect when a war begins. It regulates how wars are to be fought.

A9: DEFENSIO PER VIVES, Defence through strength.

A10: To intervene in the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo by coercing the withdrawal of troops and war crimes to be brought.

All information on this page was last check 11th October 2017.
Q4: How many aircraft can operate from the USN Ford Class aircraft carrier?

Q5: What were 'Queen Bee' aircraft?

Q6: What is the main air power role of the RNZAF 757?

Q7: When did RNZAF Base Wigram close?

Q8: In international law, what is jus in bello?

Q9: What is the motto of RNZAF Base Ohakea?

Q10: What was the purpose of Operation Allied Force in 1999?
WHAT IS IT?
Voluntary Education Study Assistance (VESA) is a discretionary fund centrally managed by NZDC to provide financial assistance to members of the NZDF undertaking part-time study.

WHO’S ELIGIBLE?
Regular Force or permanent civilian members of NZDF who have been employed/served continuously for 52 weeks. Reserve Force members in some circumstances.

WHAT ASSISTANCE CAN I RECEIVE?
VESA provides assistance with study costs up to a set maximum in any financial year. There are different limits for postgraduate and undergraduate study.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?
You can study a subject area that interests you, provided it’s on the New Zealand Qualification Framework (NZQF).

HOW DO I APPLY?
Contact any Defence Learning Centre for advice on the application process. Alternatively, check eligibility, your obligations etc. by logging on to the ITD Learning Toolkit for more information or DFO 3/2016.