TE AURAKI – BRINGING OUR MEN HOME

EXPERIENCE EX TROPIC MAJOR

GOLD STANDARD MENTORING PROGRAMME
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Our mission
The RNZAF will provide New Zealand with relevant, responsive and effective Air Power to meet its security interests.

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.

Published by
Defence Public Affairs
HQ NZ Defence Force
Wellington, New Zealand

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Design and Layout
Defence Public Affairs

Printed by
Bluestar
Private Bag 39996, Wellington

Distribution
Email: airforcenews@nzdf.mil.nz

Air Force News is governed by an Editorial Board. Views expressed in the Air Force News are not necessarily those of the RNZAF or the New Zealand Defence Force. Defence regulations over-ride all content in the Air Force News. Editorial contributions and ideas are welcomed. They can be emailed directly to the Editor and do not need to be forwarded through normal command chains.

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

Contribution deadline for the July issue
13 June, 2018

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ISSN 1175-2327

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PHOTOGRAPHER: LAC Jenn Harley

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New Zealand Government
One of the RNZAF’s highest priorities is operations – preparing and delivering military air effects. It always makes me proud to see members of the RNZAF repeatedly produce great results around the world. From the Middle East deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the Indian Ocean, South East Asia, the South Pacific, the Southern Ocean and Antarctica, all the while supporting New Zealand’s strong network of relationships and maintaining the international rules-based order. Leaders throughout our Air Force talk about the need for the whole team to work as one, and for every member of the RNZAF to be able to explain how his or her job contributes to the end result. It takes every single one of us to produce our world class capability.

The same is to be said of the way the RNZAF conducts a variety of air missions up and down our nation and out to our border, our EEZ and approaches. The way we partner with the Army, Navy and other agencies to meet our constitutional obligations and desire to be a good neighbour in our region.

The third area where the RNZAF delivers value is in and around our communities, whether responding to the Christchurch fires, the Kaikoura earthquake, the aftermath of Cyclone Gita, or the ruptured fuel line near Marsden Point. New Zealand’s well-being (our prosperity, safety, security and resilience) depends on many things, including the confidence and peace of mind the public has in knowing the NZDF is always ready to step up, to do whatever needs to be done.

The importance of what we do in the community is often understated and I urge all of us to be mindful of increasing our public engagement and taking every opportunity to talk about the RNZAF and our activities. Not only do we support the community, but the community supports us too. Many RNZAF personnel are involved in sports teams, schools, committees and community groups, which in turn help us to deliver outputs for the government. Examples over the past year include school visits with our helicopters in response to the many special letters we get from young New Zealanders, ticking off several items from young Malachi Agnew’s bucket list, door knocking in the community around RNZAF Base Auckland following the recent power loss, and giving one of the pioneers of New Zealand aviation, Sir Tim Wallis, a ride in the NH90 at the Warbirds Over Wanaka air show. It’s important that we interact with our communities in a way that shows us to be distinctly Kiwi at heart – understanding, compassionate and committed – these activities are important for New Zealand’s well-being, so we can and should do them alongside the military air effects we deliver.

As you read through this edition of the Air Force News, I encourage you to reflect on how both you and the RNZAF contribute to our community, nation and world.
TE AURAKI – THE RETURN

By Sharon Lundy

The recent repatriation of three New Zealand Defence Force personnel was more a celebration than a funeral, the family of one of the men says.

Flight Lieutenant George Beban and Leading Aircraftman Ralph Scott both died of natural causes while serving in Fiji, in 1956 and 1960, aged 40 and 28 respectively. Engineering Mechanic 1st Class Russell Moore was just 19 when he died in an accident in American Samoa in 1956.

The three were the first of an estimated 37 personnel expected to be repatriated from six countries this year following a change in government policy covering those who died in service from 1955–1971.

For Flight Lieutenant Beban’s son, Russ, the return of his father’s remains to Ohakea last month was “one of the greatest days of my life”.

“This is beyond my wildest dreams,” he said.

“He’s been on extended leave in Fiji for the last 60 years.”

Mr Beban was five when his father died while refereeing a boxing match and said he had strong and fond memories of his father.

He was at Ohakea to meet him with his wife, Helen, their three children and three of their four grandchildren. Mr Beban’s son Corran and 12-year-old granddaughter Marcella came over from Switzerland to be there for a day that the family described as being “not really like a funeral – it’s more like a celebration”.

By Sharon Lundy
The Beban family took their father, grandfather and great-grandfather home to Waikanae, where he would spend two nights with them before being reinterred at Waikanae Cemetery.

The trip home was a bit further for Engineering Mechanic 1st Class Moore, whose sister Colleen Walker took him home to Timaru, where there was to be a welcome for him.

The American Samoans had done a great good job of caring for him but she had worried, as she got older, that he would eventually be forgotten, Mrs Walker said.

“IT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED AND I'M GLAD IT HAS. IT'S THE CLOSURE THAT NONE OF US EVER GOT. IT'S THE RIGHT THING AND IT FEELS RIGHT.”

Mrs Walker was just nine when her tall, busy brother died. “We’ve never, any of us, forgotten him,” she said.

She planned to bury him next to their parents, and it would be great to be able to say to them, “He’s here”.

“I can’t believe it’s happening. I never thought it would,” she said.

THE BACKGROUND

The three repatriations are part of NZDF’s Te Auraki (The Return) project, whereby the families of personnel and their dependants buried overseas from 1955–1971 can be disinterred and returned to New Zealand at no cost to their families.

It follows a change in government policy; previously families could bring their loved ones home but had to pay for it.

Defence Minister Ron Mark said the policy had created a clear inequity, which caused a grievance.

“We’re simply, as a government, putting [it] right,” he said.

“It’s very humbling for me to be in this position.”

RNZAF Group Captain Carl Nixon said the ceremony marked a milestone in the mission to bring personnel home.

“This is a time when the inequalities and inconsistencies of the past are put right, and everyone is treated the same, regardless of wealth, rank or cause of death.”

Planning is under way for the next tranche of repatriations in August, from Malaysia and Singapore.
Bringing home the bodies of dozens of servicemen who died and were buried overseas is an unprecedented mission for the New Zealand Defence Force, but the man at the fore of the operation said it was vital it was done right.

Group Captain (GPCAPT) Carl Nixon was offered the opportunity to lead the repatriation project in July last year. “I knew immediately I was going to do it because it was such a great thing to do. It wasn’t until I was walking back up the road that I thought ‘Crickey, this is really important to so many people’.”

However, the first repatriation was completed without a hitch, he said.

“From the arrival into Fiji of all the teams and getting everyone over there in time, to the disinterment at the sites, to the pick up by the C-130 Hercules, to the on-time arrival at Base Ohakea and finally to the relief and the excitement and appreciation on the faces of the families.”

The moment the aircraft touched down was the most poignant for the families because “they told us that was the moment it had become real”, he said.

Reading the stories of those who died and how the family were treated in the aftermath was emotional for GPCAPT Nixon and he realised he needed to work with a certain amount of detachment.

“I could not possibly sustain that level of emotion in this project and what’s really helped has been the family liaison lead, Yvonne Walden, getting the liaison officers out into the field and working with the families. Because that allowed me to step back, and at times, say no to things. We could not meet all the requests of the families.

“I am a military officer, so I will naturally default to the orders of the day. But this project is not like that. This is important to the families and also, it’s important that we re-establish that trust with this group of New Zealanders that lost a lot of faith in their Government and their Defence Force at the time.”

When the last of the bodies have been brought home to their families, it will bring a feeling of relief that the repatriation issue had been resolved, GPCAPT Nixon said. “We will have contacted everyone, we will have brought everyone home that is in scope to bring home, so this issue is now closed off for New Zealand.

“Without doubt it will be very emotional for the project team, because every day I see how much work they do towards this. And that’s not just about talking with the families and hearing their stories. It’s also the straight administration of getting hundreds of people travelling and the mechanics of the project and the ceremonial aspects as well. They are engaged in it a heck of a lot,” he said.
C-130 Hercules and Boeing B757 have delivered 23 tonnes of emergency supplies for Vanuatu’s volcano evacuees after volcanic activity intensified recently.

The supplies, from the emergency stores of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), were flown in the aircraft to the main logistics hub in Luganville on Espiritu Santo Island. They included 1000 hygiene kits, 400 tarpaulins, 300 mother-and-infant kits and 200 shelter toolkits.

“We have been working with MFAT to support those affected by the ongoing volcanic eruption on Ambae Island and are ready to give further assistance should the Vanuatu Government require it,” Joint Forces New Zealand Commander Major General Tim Gall said.

“The relief supplies we have delivered seek to meet the basic needs of clean water, sanitation and shelter for people displaced by the volcano.”

The Boeing B757 was loaded to its maximum capacity with 11,325kg of aid. Bags of rice that would not fit in the aircraft holds were transferred upstairs to overhead lockers and carry-on baggage units to ensure every kilogram of aid was delivered.

More relief supplies, including water tanks, rainwater harvesting kits, food and water, were being transported to Vanuatu on Royal New Zealand Navy ship HMNZS Canterbury.

Ambae Island is home to about 11,000 people. The island’s Manaro Voui volcano began erupting last September, causing a short-term evacuation. Volcanic activity intensified in March, prompting Vanuatu authorities to raise the alert level to three of five, declare a state of emergency and encourage residents to evacuate.

New Zealand aid for Vanuatu’s volcano evacuees included:
- 1000 hygiene kits
- 400 tarpaulins
- 300 mother-and-infant kits
- 200 shelter toolkits
- 7 10-litre collapsible water containers
- Dozens of bags of rice
EX:
TROPIC
MAJOR

By Andrew Bonallack

8 HOURS TO GO

The Operations Room on HMNZS Canterbury is usually standing room only for the evening Commander’s Update Brief. This is especially true for the night of May 4. Exercise Tropic Major in Vanuatu is only hours away from its zenith, with days of preparation and rehearsal about to culminate in an amphibious assault against an armed criminal group occupying Epi Island in Vanuatu. This fictitious scenario is the basis of the biggest New Zealand military exercise ever conducted in the South West Pacific, building on Exercise Southern Katipo 17 and reinforcing the New Zealand Defence Force’s ability to conduct operations in a tropical environment.

There are over 500 personnel involved in Joint Task Force 651, under the command of Captain (CAPT) Garin Golding, the Commander of the Deployable Inter-agency Joint Task Force. He sits at the front of the operations room while representatives of the assembled forces file in. HMNZS Canterbury is the main platform and Command Headquarters, while HMNZS Wellington, containing the divers of HMNZS Matataua, lies some distance away.

Canterbury has embarked the battlefield helicopter group, No. 3 Squadron, with two NH90 helicopters. Army combat engineers and a platoon of infantry from Bravo Company are also among the embarked force. A New Zealand police officer, working with a team of Vanuatu police, sits in the meeting, plus an adviser from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The weather report comes first. Things are looking okay – a sea state of 2+, with a 1.5m swell and a southerly. “The moon rises at 2050,” says Lieutenant Commander Bronwyn Heslop, the meteorological officer. “The moon will be behind you.” This could be a mixed blessing for the zodiac crews, due to infiltrate in the early hours. “Stay low and slow, to reduce your profile, reduce the silver trail.”

A key outcome of the mission is successful prosecutions of the criminals, which only the Vanuatu Police can enable. The job of the Joint Task Force is to empower the police to do their job: process the scene, collect evidence, make arrests, and get them to court. If criminals decide to put up a fight, then it is a matter of self-defence, says a member of the legal team. In other words, the infantry can engage.

“A long and hard week,” sums up CAPT Golding. “Tomorrow is about the execution. Let’s do New Zealand and Vanuatu proud.”
D-DAY

The assault starts at 0430 hrs, with combat engineers and infantry in inflatable boats going into a quiet bay – low and slow – to secure a southern beachhead and make it safe for Canterbury’s Landing Craft to start deploying troops and vehicles to shore. Matataua’s divers have dealt with the mines, and their architect, Le Roux, has been captured – an early bonus for the Advance Force. He is later handed over to Vanuatu Police and arrested.

No. 3 Squadron began the exercise with a helicopter making a noisy feint to the north of the island as a distraction, to try and cue the enemy forces to the north. The idea is to give Bravo Company more time to establish itself at the bay to the south and start making its way north by road.

Meanwhile, the helicopter recovers a reconnaissance team, transporting them close to the village of Valesdir, a familial location for Objective Gold, the enemy’s leader, Salmai. The NH90 leaves and returns with more troops, only to come under fire from the enemy, says the squadron’s Commanding Officer Wing Commander Mike Cannon.

“We returned fire after dropping off the troops, then returned to Canterbury for the next task. We then conducted underslung loads of personnel equipment and resupplying those real-life requirements – bullets and beans. It was a pretty full-on day.”

 Bravo Company, working with Vanuatu Police, has reached Lamen Bay Village in the north and has been methodically searching houses. Gunfire, like popping firecrackers, turns everyone’s head towards the airfield. The soldiers are already running and suddenly everything seems very close, as an exchange of fire ensues between the criminals and soldiers.

Someone among the criminals has done a bit of thinking, setting up a makeshift gun emplacement at the end of the airfield. While other criminal members are scattered, three gang members, wearing yellow bandanas, are armed with Steyrs and hold their emplacement grimly.

Green smoke drifts across the grass. By now hundreds of villagers, including children, have come to watch, inching closer along the road or wandering along the beach to get a better view. In the emplacement, two of the criminals have been hit. Suddenly the New Zealand soldiers appear to fall back, sprinting away. The remaining gang member, confused and undecided, stands to look and is hit by sniper fire.

Exercise controller Lieutenant Colonel Martin Dransfield says the intense, 12-hour operation is the first of its kind and tests a whole series of capability. “The rules of engagement were if they come out firing, our forces can engage.” The leader, Salmai, has been scripted to escape to a southern village, Sara, requiring a team to go in and capture him.

“D-Day ended with Bravo Company, supported by Vanuatu Police, engaging and capturing Salmai in the village of Sara.”

Our Collective Purpose

D - DAY

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“There’s a lot of moving parts in this exercise. It’s completely Joint Forces, with Landing Craft, NH90s, infantry, engineers, boat teams, with Command HQ on CANTERBURY. It’s all the force elements, all working together.”
Husband and Wife Share Mission Together

By Andrew Bonallack

Wife and husband Nicole Brooke and Andrew Stewart are in a unique position to understand each other’s hard working day. They are both Air Force helicopter pilots in different sections of NH90 Flight, No. 3 Squadron at Ohakea.

The pair have been deployed together for Exercise Tropic Major in Vanuatu, flying NH90 helicopters from the flight deck of HMNZS Canterbury.

The pair married last year after Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Brooke’s father, who knew his daughter had an interest in joining the Air Force, introduced them in 2009. It was inside knowledge of No. 3 Squadron’s missions that helped FLTLT Stewart set up an elaborate marriage proposal. In 2015, knowing that his girlfriend would be flying past a certain ridge line in the Ruahine Ranges at a certain time, he positioned himself at the peak with a large banner saying “MARRY ME.” “But the sortie didn’t go as planned,” he says. “I had to go to plan B quickly because too many people knew about it, so I proposed to her later that night in the paddock where we planned to build our house.”

FLTLT Brooke says he definitely gets full marks for effort. “A lot of people don’t know we are married,” she says. “We stay professional – we’re not quartered together during exercise and when we are at work, we are work colleagues. It makes it easier for everyone.” The pair do not necessarily go on the same military exercises together, and can spend long periods apart. When Exercise Tropic Major finished, FLTLT Brooke went home, while FLTLT Stewart stayed with Canterbury for another Pacific exercise.

“There are a lot of pros to being in the same job in the Air Force,” FLTLT Brooke says. “We understand the stressful times. Both of us could be away, in different places, so it is pretty lucky to be together for this one. So when it’s really stressful, when you’re tired and working heaps, you understand.”

FLTLT Brooke had wanted to be a helicopter pilot since she was a teenager. She got involved in search and rescue missions, and got a ride in one of No. 3 Squadron’s earlier helicopters, an Iroquois. “I was hooked, absolutely – I wanted to be a helicopter pilot. I thought it would be an epic job, but I didn’t think I would get in, it’s so competitive. It definitely was my dream.” She was one of seven who graduated the Wings course, which started with 12 students.

“The high point for me is I work with an awesome group of people. We do different things every day. When we deploy like this, it is a really tight-knit family, with heaps of camaraderie. That’s what I saw when I was a youngster. I saw how everyone had your back.”

FLTLT Stewart, originally from Timaru, joined the Air Force halfway through seventh form in 2008. “I had a passion for aviation, and had flown solo in fixed-wing aircraft,” he says. “I was interested in search and rescue, and the military sounded like a good idea.”
Our Collective Purpose

Tropic Major reinforces No. 3 Squadron's role as a battlefield helicopter squadron, Wing Commander (WGCDR) Mike Cannon says.

“This was an important exercise for us, and it’s been very successful.

“The top priority for No. 3 Squadron was Directed Level of Capability (DLOC) training in a tropical environment.

That’s the sort of base level capability that we are supposed to be at, given that the Pacific is No. 3’s backyard, and has been for a while.”

It was important to get experience in the tropics, because it was training in an environment the squadron would not regularly experience. High temperatures and high humidity affected the density altitude, essentially meaning the aircraft uses more power to operate, WGCDR Cannon said.

A secondary outcome was to conduct activities not previously practiced while embarked before, including ship controlled approaches and low visibility approaches, to simulate bad weather and night-time landings.

“On the ship, the helicopter air controller holds the aircraft on radar and talks you around the approach profile, lining you up with the ship. It’s like flying a normal instrument approach back home, but doing it with a ship.”

It was easy to forget that NH90 operations from HMNZS Canterbury was still in its infancy, he said.

“This is the very early road to embarked capability. This is the time for us to get used to the Navy and for them to get used to us.”

“We’ve only just started on this journey. Other countries, like the Australian Defence Force, are very well established.”

Building on the “fantastic” relationship with Canterbury was another great outcome of the exercise, he said. “We are very similar. We are true joint force elements, pulled in many directions.”

He did notice a greater familiarity from Canterbury’s Ship’s Company on this exercise, building on the work of Southern Katipo 17.

“Our relationship has gone from strength to strength. When we were operating on Canterbury, a sit rep was piped, and the Principal Warfare Officer said ‘Our NH90’. We felt the ship had accepted us. That’s a combat indicator and helps our team feel some belonging to the ship.”

The View from No. 3 Squadron

WGCDR Mike Cannon
The 32-strong detachment and a C-130 Hercules aircraft are operating with the Australian Defence Force’s air mobility task group to transport supplies and personnel required for New Zealand, Australian and coalition operations in the Middle East.

In its first flight, crew on the C-130 Hercules delivered two tonnes of supplies to coalition troops operating in Iraq.

Squadron Leader Brad Scott, the Commander of the air transport team’s first rotation, said 30 New Zealand military personnel were also flown to Camp Taji in Iraq.

“The entire team has been looking forward to this mission and to work once again with our Australian partners,” he said.

“Everyone is eager to get stuck in and show why we are regarded as a reliable and trusted coalition partner.”

Deployed until December, the NZDF detachment includes aircraft technicians, logistics specialists, maintenance personnel, and an air movements load team that will support coalition aircraft in the region.

Joint Forces New Zealand Commander Major General Tim Gall said the deployment of the detachment and aircraft formed part of the NZDF’s ongoing contribution to security operations in the Middle East.

“We do our fair share in maintaining security and stability in the Middle East. For years the NZDF has been contributing ships, surveillance aircraft and personnel to various multinational operations in the region.”

On a similar six-month deployment in 2016 an NZDF air transport mission transported nearly 800 tonnes of supplies and about 3200 military personnel to Iraq and Afghanistan. A month-long mission in 2017 transported 120 tonnes of supplies and about 500 personnel supporting coalition operations in the Middle East.
New Chief of Defence Force

“The role of Chief of Defence Force is challenging, and I welcome that challenge, as well as working to ensure we continue to uphold our values of courage, commitment and comradeship as we go about our task of serving New Zealand.”

The Government has appointed the current Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Vice-Marshal Kevin Short, as the new Chief of Defence Force.

He will begin his role on July 1 for a three-year term, taking over from Lieutenant General Tim Keating. Air Vice-Marshal Short has been Vice Chief of Defence Force since March 2014.

Born in Feilding, he started his career in the RNZAF in 1976 as a General Duties Navigator. In his early career he served with No. 5 Squadron as Navigator, Tactical Coordinator and Aircraft Captain, accumulating over 5000 hours on the P-3K2 Orion.

At a senior level he initiated several major projects including the upgrades to the C-130 Hercules and Orion aircraft, and the purchase of the Boeing 757s. He has previously served as the Deputy Chief of Air Force and Commander Joint Forces New Zealand.

“IT's a privilege and honour to be appointed to this role. The stewardship of this organisation is an extremely important responsibility,” he said.

“Living the values of the organisation is very important. The Defence Force is a proud organisation with a long history of service to the country.

“I am looking forward to the release of the Strategic Defence Policy Statement, which will update the direction of the Defence Force, and the follow-on Defence Capability Plan Review.”

ABILITY THROUGH AGILITY

Agility

Agility is a blend of responsiveness, adaptability, flexibility, resilience and acuity. Air power is inherently agile, a characteristic amplified by the multi-role capability of many platforms.

Air Power in Action
By Rebecca Quilliam

On a cool brisk morning, not long after sunrise, about 60 of the Air Force’s new recruits lined up on the grounds at Base Woodbourne, signalling the start of their careers. Trades ranging from firefighting, avionics, force protection and helicopter loadmasters are ahead of the airmen. But first they have to get through 13-weeks of basic training. Air Force News will be following the Recruits of R2/18 and sharing their journey.

Powhiri led by Corporal Jessica Dornbusch and Aircraftman Te Rangiamohia Nikora-Davis rang out at Base Woodbourne last month as 61 new Recruits were led onto the grounds. They were then confronted with the Air Force haka by current airmen, led by Corporal Kelly Stewart and Aircraftman (AC) James Rowe - a challenge the group accepted.

Base Commander, Wing Commander (WGCDR) Berni Pothan greeted each recruit as they walked to the room where they would affirm and sign an oath of allegiance. The solemnness of the occasion was not lost on the recruits as they each swore to uphold the oath.

“I saw nerves, but what I mainly bore witness to this morning was pride,” WGCDR Pothan told them.

“You have done something today that not many people in New Zealand do. That takes courage and for that, I thank you.” Flight Commander Operational Flight, Flight Lieutenant Jules Gilligan told the group they were part of a special family.

“Many have gone before you adding to our proud history and now it’s your turn.”

Warrant Officer of the Air Force, Warrant Officer Toni Tate urged the recruits to draw strength from the people around them as well as those who have gone before.

AC John Yeardley said he was feeling pretty proud to have joined the Air Force.

Taking up the Challenge
“It’s only just sinking in, but I’m really proud that I’ve given my oath and signed the dotted line.”

AC Jack Everett is looking forward to starting his career as a helicopter loadmaster.

“I’ve been wanting to do this for a couple of years now. I’m feeling excited and a bit nervous – but that’s probably the anticipation of not knowing what’s going to happen.

“The biggest challenge I think will be to keep going, work through and help everyone as a team. Keep that momentum going.”

AC Rylee Fafeita is looking to getting into the firefighting trade.

“I’ve always wanted to do it – since school it’s something I’ve been interested in. I’m feeling good about today, but a bit nervous.”

AC Logan Reynolds has been interested in mechanics and for years has been pulling apart and rebuilding cars with his father in their garage. So the natural progression was towards becoming an aircraft technician.

“This morning there were mixed emotions – I was tired, nervous excited. There will be a lot of hard work, early mornings, late nights, lots of cleaning, but mostly a lot of learning.”

Welcoming the recruits to the base

Powhiri performed by CPL Jessica Dornbusch

Recruits are allocated kit needed for the course

Recruits coming onto the base, led by AC Te Rangiamohia Nikora-Davis

Recruits taking the oath as they start Day 1 of the course
Double Celebration for RNZAF Mentoring Programme

By Rebecca Quilliam

The RNZAF Mentoring Programme has had quite a year – celebrating its 10-year anniversary and being reaffirmed at Gold Standard by the European Mentoring and Coaching Council for International Standards for Mentoring and Coaching Programmes. The Gold Standard is the highest international standard and those involved say it’s easy to see why the programme has been such a success.

On Anzac Day, 2008, the programme was launched. It cut across rank and work areas, resulting in relationships between mentor and mentee being outside the chain of command and outside trade group, where possible.

Over the past decade, the programme has been refined to a model that works well in the military environment and has been rewarding for both mentor and mentee.

“We were given feedback that our programme was an exemplar programme and due to a lot hard work from some passionate and dedicated members of our mentoring teams, they really did deserve to be awarded the gold level,” Programme manager Warrant Officer (W/O) Tracey Melvin said.

Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Chad Sharman has only been with the scheme for a couple of months, but already sees the benefits it has to offer.

“It seemed like a pretty good opportunity to gather more service knowledge and to meet people.”
The programme has not let him down and he has already made a number of connections with people from all ranks and trades at a seminar the programme put on.

“You get to gain the opportunity to gather experience from someone else in the organisation who has been there for a while.

“The mentoring programme tries to tee you up with the same sort of value set – someone who will inspire you to be better within the organisation.”

W/O Paul Bates has been a mentor since the programme began.

“I was fortunate enough to be mentored throughout my career, so it was a payback opportunity.”

However, the programme surprised W/O Bates, who discovered it wasn’t just a chance to help his mentee, but the mentee was also helping him.

“The ability to learn off somebody who has a different perspective of our Air Force was hugely beneficial for somebody in my position. You develop a connection and get a sense as to what is important to those coming up through the ranks.”

Warrant Officer of the Air Force and programme sponsor W/O Toni Tate said the RNZAF was the first military organisation in the world and the first New Zealand organisation to apply for accreditation and achieve it.

“To achieve Gold accreditation, you have to get 96 per cent or higher in each assessed category. Our scheme achieved 100 per cent in every category.”

The programme has been successful for one very simple reason, W/O Tate said.

“It’s entirely voluntary to become a mentor or mentee and all the facilitation and organisation is carried out by committed volunteers of all ranks. That’s where I think it has most success, because it’s voluntary, so you’ve got buy-in from the start because people want to do it.”

“Mentoring is a key enabler to support and develop our people, to encourage innovation, and to enable people’s full potential to be reached. We currently have over 110 active mentor/mentee relationships benefiting from the programme.

“Our Mentoring Programme is run on a volunteer basis and it would not be successful without the continued effort and support of our Base Mentoring Advisory Teams, trainers/facilitators, mentors and mentees who dedicate their time to be involved.”

So what’s next for the programme?

The team will continue to focus on providing support to encourage more mentees to join the programme; they are looking at further opportunities for personal development sessions and get togethers for mentees and mentors to assist each other by sharing any lessons they have learnt from their relationships.

A big part of the programme is networking and the team has been approached by various organisations in the public and private sector, so personnel will share the programme and demonstrate what works so well.

W/O Tate said for the programme to have been enduring for a decade says quite a bit.

“It keeps going from strength to strength.”

The mentors hindsight can become the mentee's foresight

– Mohandas Ghandi
"Obviously we don’t want to get to that point, but we’ve got to be mindful of the very worst-case scenario and train for that, because if it ever does come to that then we want to be ready and prepared," Flight Sergeant (F/S) Sean Donaldson said.

The training involved suiting up in the appropriate survival gear, boarding a life raft in water and being able to use the survival equipment effectively.

"We’ve got to make sure that they are all comfortable with being able to carry out these drills in a situation where their heart rates are increasing and it’s hard to think properly – you need to make sure those drills are automatic."

"The team recently undertook Roll-Related Survival Equipment (RRSE) refresher training on an Aerolight, 10-person life raft. Once on board they needed to decide roles, including who the officer in charge was and who was going to be delegating duties.

"There’re also little things on the life raft that you need to be aware of, like if you’re in a high-sea state, how to put down the curtains to make sure water doesn’t come in and what equipment is available," F/S Donaldson said.

The life raft came with a “Type Six Pack” and in that pack was everything needed as a baseline to survive for a certain period of time.

Everyone on board also carried a locator beacon, plus one with the life-raft, to help ensure a quick rescue.

"I guess what I’m saying is the chance of you getting rescued is pretty high," F/S Donaldson said."

Plan for the Worst

By Rebecca Quilliam

Preparing for the worst-case scenario is just as vital for our crews’ training as anti-submarine warfare exercises. Recently, personnel from No. 5 Squadron have been perfecting the processes to go through if an aircraft has to make an emergency water landing.

Aircrew take to their ditching stations, complete with Quick Don Immersion Suit, ready for emergency ditching of an aircraft.
1. Aircrew simulate post-aircraft ditching water entry. They are wearing a Quick Don Immersion Suit, designed to prolong their ability to survive in the ocean.

2. Aircrew practising water entry. The orange stole inflated around the member’s head (second from left) is an MK15 Life Preserver. It has a nitrogen gas canister that inflates the life preserver. Also included is a 406.025Mhz locator beacon and limited survival equipment, including an aircraft-signalling device and ground-air codes.

3. Aircrew stabilise the life raft as personnel board.

4. The chief survival instructor checks for understanding as the crew settle in to post-boarding drills, including cutting themselves away from the aircraft (still tethered by a rope), itemising all survival equipment and designating duties such as look-out and rationing.

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**Karanga Wahine Wānanga 2018**

Nominations for the Karanga Wahine Wānanga 18/02 course is open to all female NZDF personnel for August 2018. This is an opportunity to learn the art and craft of calling guests onto the Marae and to bring essence, spirituality and power to all ceremonial occasions of Ngāti Tūmatauenga.

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

**DATES:**
16 August – 19 August 2018

**WHERE:**
Rongomaraeroa o ngā Hau e Whā Marae, WMC

**MORE INFO CONTACT:**

Marae Staff Officer:
WO2 Aaron Morrison  ph: 0279127593

Marae Educator:
Mr Steve Bethell  ph: 0276686419

Maori Cultural site:
http://communities/mcg/default.aspx
Being part of a military family can be tough. A parent can be deployed for months overseas, they can be on call to jump to action at a moment’s notice day or night, or a posting might require the family to pack up and move to another part of the country. Air Force News chats with one family about what it means to have both parents in the military.

Sergeant (SGT) Ace Lindsay, Corporal (CPL) Hayley Ireland and their two young daughters are a pretty typical military family.

Both parents need to sometimes drop everything and rush to work and deployment has meant months as a single-parent for CPL Ireland.

However, the pair are thriving in their roles and say the support given to them by the Air Force has meant they have a good work/life balance with lots of quality time for their children, aged three and one.

“Ace goes away a lot more often than I do. I would really like to acknowledge the Air Force for their support – not just with your bosses being understanding, but with other things like free créches on Saturdays if your partner is deployed,” CPL Ireland said.

“Ace went away for about five months when our first born was about seven months old – so I found that quite tough. There were also barbeques organised by base welfare teams and I’m also lucky my family is close by.”

CPL Ireland works in the Operational Logistics Store at Base Auckland and one of her tasks is to ensure emergency equipment is available if a natural disaster strikes. This means, she sometimes needs to get to work quickly to get tents and sleeping bags packed for people who need them.

“I work three days a week, which is quite good for me because of the kids. My work is on-call, but they are aware that I have kids, so if I can’t make it in for a call out, then they’ll have a back-up person. So it’s quite flexible.

“I’ve got some very good family support as well. A couple of times I’ve had to come in on a call on a day off and an aunty and nana live quite close, so a couple of times I’ve been able to drop the kids off.”
The New Zealand Defence Force has created the HQ Force 4 Families Team and the Force 4 Families Steering Group who are dedicated to supporting the NZDF whanau to make the most of the NZDF way of life.

**SOME OFFERS AVAILABLE ARE:**

- Force 4 Families Discount Card, for discounts from certain companies
- A children’s storybook to help young people work through the emotions they experience when their military mother or father deploys
- Information to make it easier for families having to move because of a posting to a different base
- Camp and base orientation books
- Family and Whanau support services
- Family support information with links to family organisations
- Financial information
- NZDF holiday houses throughout the country
- Arranging family activities during school holidays, including flying families to the Air Force Museum of New Zealand, at Wigram, Christchurch, for the day
“A Celebration of Sport” at the Commonwealth Games

By Rebecca Quilliam

Air Force diesel mechanic Ryan Jones recently took a break from his day job at Base Auckland to referee top basketball matches at the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Australia’s Gold Coast.

“I guess officials liked what they saw with me during pool play and I got to referee the women’s gold medal match alongside referees from Canada and Norway,” he said.

The match between Australia and England was played in front of a packed stadium, with the home team and crowd favourite winning easily, 99–55.

“But it was still a pretty tough game,” Jones said.

“It was a great environment – full crowds at the Gold Coast Convention Centre and they were getting right in behind the Australian team. It was quite cool that there was such a good atmosphere.”

The competition began with pool games that were played away from the main venue, in Townsville and Cairns. It was a chance for Jones to mingle with the other referees from around the world.

“They were literally from every corner in the world – Europe, Africa, Canada, South America, Asia and Australia. After the pool games we closed up camp and went down to the Gold Coast and got set up there and did some more team-building activities.”

The atmosphere at the main event was serious, but at the same time everyone was there as a celebration of sport, he said.

The mixed skill level of the teams made the job challenging, but Jones said the skills from the top four teams – Australia, Canada, England and New Zealand – was world class.

“But all the teams were really competitive. It was just a really cool environment to work in and I got to meet new people from all over the world.”

Jones has officiated at a number of international games and recently he won the 141 Flight Trophy for Outstanding Sporting Performance 2017. The next goal is to officiate at the World Championships, he said.

“We’ll see. I’ve got a lot of work to go before that point.”
Airman of the Year Sergeant (SGT) Carlin O’Neill and runner up Airman of the Year Acting Corporal (A/CPL) Shane Leaming were sent to France and Belgium as part of the NZDF contingent to the Anzac commemorations.

The contingent was involved in 14 ceremonies over 10 days. SGT O’Neill’s great-grandparents fought on the Western Front and to be walking on the same grounds was an emotional experience.

“It blew me away – especially seeing the scale. You study the history in high school and learn about it in the military, but until you see it in real life, it doesn’t really hit home with how big it was.”

The Dawn service on Anzac Day was a highlight for SGT O’Neill, who was the Catafalque Guard Commander alongside soldiers from the Australian and Belgium forces. The New Zealand service in France was also special as it had a distinctly New Zealand flavour. “There were quite a few Kiwi people there. We were so far away from home but we felt at home.”

SGT O’Neill met a little boy at the service and gave him a kiwi patch. “I had a little chat with him – let him wear my hat. He was pretty stoked.”

A/CPL Leaming said the experience was humbling and sobering.

“I have two ancestors on both sides who fought in North Africa. So I’m probably never going to get the opportunity to visit those sites, because they are just not places you can send commemorative contingents.

“But for me, going to either Gallipoli or the Western Front, they are both symbols of what we’ve done. They still symbolise that contribution for me, so it was just as much of an honour to go to the Western Front,” he said.

“The most memorable experience for me was there was an old man coming out of a souvenir shop, at Arras. He stopped next to me and he asked if I was from New Zealand and when I said yes, he burst into tears, put his hand on my shoulder and said, ‘Thank you for your grandfathers’.”

“I’ve probably never been more stumped in my life as to what to say. That was probably the heaviest moment for me.”
The word “resilient” is used to describe individuals who overcome tough situations with surprising grace. Many believe resilience to be the by-product of conscious decision making in the moment, rather than a product of adherence to a specific lifestyle. In actuality those who are described as resilient become that way because their lifestyle and habits influence the way they manage stress and perceive the world around them.

Being resilient means managing stress through preventive rather than reactive action. Resilient people maintain a positive outlook and cope with biological stress effectively. It is a mindset strategy. Resiliency is something we discuss because of its importance to success, health and fitness, work/life balance and the competition for greater opportunities, responsibilities and challenges.

Pioneering endocrinologist Dr Hans Selye stated:

“Anything that causes stress endangers life, unless it is met by adequate adaptive responses. Conversely, anything that endangers life causes stress and adaptive responses. Adaptability and resistance to stress are fundamental prerequisites for life, and every vital organ and function participates in them.”
Dr Selye essentially theorised that humans adapt to ongoing stress, albeit with negative consequences. Stress that goes unchecked will cause even the strongest to lose resiliency. The ability to adapt links nicely to our vision that CAF has reinforced this year: An agile and adaptive Air Force with the versatility essential for NZDF Operations.

Here are six things you can do today to improve your resilience:

1. **Take care of yourself, find a sense of purpose**

   When you’re stressed, it’s easy to neglect your own needs. Losing your appetite, ignoring exercise, and not sleeping are all common reactions to stress. Focus on building your self-nurturance skills, make time for activities that you enjoy. Finding a sense of purpose can play an important role. Taking care of your own needs boosts your overall health and resilience. Take time off for sport, health and fitness. Look after yourself because you’re the best person to do this!

2. **Build positive beliefs in your abilities, develop a strong social network**

   Your self-esteem plays an important role in coping with stress. Remind yourself of your strengths and accomplishments. Having caring, supportive people around you acts as a protective layer during times of crisis. Share your feelings, get support, and receive positive feedback. Use your command chain, networks, mentors, bosses and peers for this. Becoming more confident in your abilities, including your ability to respond to and deal with a crisis, is a great way to build resilience for the future.

3. **Embrace change, be optimistic**

   Flexibility is an essential part of resilience. Be adaptable – you’ll be better equipped to respond in a crisis. Resilient people use events as an opportunity to branch out in new directions. Some people may be crushed by abrupt changes, but highly resilient individuals are able to adapt and thrive. We need to stay positive – setbacks are temporary, and maintaining a hopeful outlook is an important part of resiliency. This is the type of person we need to make the organisation successful. We are trained for this!

4. **Develop problem-solving skills**

   You’ve heard the saying “don’t come to me with problems, come with solutions”. People who come up with solutions are better able to cope than those who cannot. Whenever you encounter a new challenge, list some of the potential ways to solve the problem. Experiment with different strategies and focus on developing a logical way to work through common problems. By practising your problem-solving skills regularly you will be better prepared to cope when a serious challenge emerges.

5. **Establish goals, take action to solve problems**

   Crisis situations are daunting. Resilient people are able to view these situations in a realistic way and set reasonable goals to deal with the problem. When you find yourself overwhelmed, take a step back to assess what is before you. Brainstorm solutions, and break them down into manageable steps. Waiting for a problem to go away only prolongs the crisis. While there may not be a simple solution, take steps towards making your situation better and less stressful. Focus on progress rather than becoming discouraged by what still needs to be accomplished. Working on solutions helps you feel more in control.

6. **Keep working on your skills**

   Knowing yourself is critical to elite performance! Resilience takes time to build, so don’t get discouraged if you struggle to cope with problematic events. Everyone can learn to be resilient and it doesn’t involve any specific set of behaviours or actions. Don’t underestimate the importance of mastering the basics of self-care. It’s only through adherence to the steps above that you will be able to truly discover what your body and mind are capable of. Stress must be managed to ensure the adaptation is in the right direction. Unmanaged stress can cripple your performance and drive. Go get it!
Not everyone gets to take their grandad to work. When I first started at Woodbourne, my grandfather Bob Mulligan (101-years-old) told me that he had been based here as a medical officer during WWII, in 1944. I knew then how special it would be to get him on base for a look around and recently I was lucky enough to have that opportunity.

My father brought him down from Whangarei for a weekend visit, and when I mentioned it to the Base Commander Wing Commander (WGCDR) Bernie Pothan and Commanding Warrant Officer Annette Walding, they were more than accommodating.

Our first stop on the tour was the Air Marshalling simulator at Ground Training. “I accompanied my instructor friends when testing out ‘Harvards’ for night flying at Woodbourne and Wigram, and often was allowed to take over the controls,” Bob explained while steering the digital plane straight into a control tower.

The Mulligans have a history of military service; Bob’s Aunt Daisy worked as a nurse in the Australian Army, while his three uncles served for New Zealand in WWI. Victor Mulligan falsified his age (along with many others) for the chance to serve in Gallipoli. Miraculously surviving that, he went on to fight on the Western Front with his brothers – John and George Mulligan. Although a little worse for wear, I’m glad to say that they all returned home to New Zealand alive.

Next we were greeted at the Logistics Training Squadron hanger, where Bob immediately got his squeaky wheelchair seen to with CRC. The team showed us around each aircraft and explained their use within the training context.

During coffee and cake later, WGCDR Pothan gifted Bob with a Woodbourne Crest, an RNZAF Coin, and a history of the base at Laucala Bay (Fiji). Bob was posted there in 1946 following his stints at: Bell Block New Plymouth, Number One Port Depot Auckland, Woodbourne, Wigram, and Ardmore.

It was incredible to learn more about this segment of my Pop’s long life, and piece together the stories I had heard throughout childhood. During his time here at Woodbourne he was promoted from Flight Officer to Flight Lieutenant, and went on to make his career as a surgeon. Bob has always been an absolute inspiration to me, but it’s his endearing humility that makes him so loved by everyone he meets.

After the tour was over both my father and grandfather said: “You work with a pretty nice bunch of people down here.” I had to agree, Woodbourne feels like home.
I started firefighting a couple of years ago in my local community of Te Awamutu. This is where I became passionate about helping others, the physical demands of the job and also the family vibe it gives off. The Air Force was another great opportunity to turn what I love into a career.

Getting stuck in and taking opportunities that arise leads to awesome experiences, which is why I decided to compete in the fire fighter Combat Challenge.

The challenge involves climbing a six-storey tower carrying a length of 70mm 19kg flaked hose, chopping with a 4kg shot hammer to drive a beam 1.5m, extending a charged length of 45mm hose to knock down a disc and dragging a life-sized dummy weighing 80kg more than 30m.

I was proud to break the national time record with my friend Kara Rowland, a Te Awamutu fire fighter, for the open female tandem team. We achieved a time of 2 minutes 36 seconds.

Unfortunately, our record was broken by one second in the South Island competition by Nicole Koch and Lauren Malkin.

Most recently, while on my Fire Fighter Basic Course in Linton as an RNZAF Fire Fighter I trained for the UFBA North Island Fire Fighter Combat Challenge and the National Challenge.

For the North Island Challenge I paired up with Jodi Reymer, from Pirongia, to compete in the tandem event and we smashed the record once again, with a time of 2 minutes 23 seconds. It was an awesome weekend, surrounded by some amazing fire fighters from all over the North Island.

The latest challenge at the Nationals went well and I improved my individual time by 64 seconds, completing the course in 3 minutes 13 seconds. The result made me the ninth-fastest female in New Zealand.

Challenge not for the Faint-Hearted

By Aircraftman Isabel Whitaker
The focus for the inaugural event will be building the foundation for a Defence Force career management culture and working towards developing consistent career management practice.

Forming part of a significant career operating model change, the conference aligns with the People25 Strategy and the long-term goal of meaningful career, talent and performance management.

The Directorate of Career and Talent Management and Heads of Service career management have been charged with bringing this transformation to life; leading the development of processes, programmes and resources in career management, a new Intranet site and changes to policy.

In the long-term, system transformation will mean comprehensive professional support is available to all NZDF Career Managers – Single Services, Tri-Service and Civilian, in the following areas:

- Training
- Practice Development
- Professional Standards
- Policy and Technical Processes

Professional support is founded on the premise that the Career Manager role is at the centre of every NZDF capability decision. Career Managers are the drivers and developers of the Force for NZ, and create the opportunity for meaningful career and talent management over and above the posting cycle.

With a greater focus on career practice, keep an eye out for the changes that will benefit your career, including long-term career development and reinforcement of skills and potential.

Times A-Changin’ for Career Management

Things are changing in career management. All Single Service Career Managers and Career Administrators will be meeting in Ohakea for a three day conference this month.
Innovation aligns with strategic questions of how the Air Force, and the NZDF, translates the ideas of our hugely talented workforce to tangible outcomes that make us more operationally responsive and agile.

It isn’t just about saving money, innovation is the mechanism through which we bridge the gap between current resourcing and desired capability. The new Defence Innovation Centre of Excellence (DICE) has been setup to harness Innovation across the whole NZDF. DICE’s mandate is to take the innovative ideas from our people and investigate, assess and champion them for potential implementation.

In August DICE will launch a new DIXS based Innovation Hub where ideas can be submitted digitally and tracked from submission right through to implementation. In the interim you can submit your Innovation ideas to innovation@nzdf.mil.nz. RNZAF ideas will be managed by the newly appointed Maritime and Air Innovation Manager. Warrant Officer (WO) Cory King has taken up the role for Navy and Air Force. He is well qualified with over 26 years’ experience in the dynamic world of military operations working alongside the Army, Navy and Air Force, particularly in the Joint environment.

“I am excited at the opportunity to work in an area focused on embedding a culture of continuous improvement, innovation, and organisational excellence across the Defence Force,” he said.

“All of us can see things in our workplace that need to improve and it is about encouraging and empowering our people to make improvements through innovative ideas and concepts. My focus will not be on how many ideas can be generated, but by our ability to take an idea through to implementation.”

So what does this mean for you and your team? It means WO King wants your ideas and DICE is offering Innovation Training Workshops. These are specifically designed to empower all members of the NZDF to generate, research and investigate innovative solutions to the challenges they face every day. If you would like to organise a workshop for your unit or team please email for more information.

**DICE: Supporting Innovation by, with & through our people to enhance capability.**
Following the incredible success of the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is proud to be sending a 25-strong team to the Invictus Games Sydney 2018, presented by Jaguar Land Rover.

The team is comprised of current serving sailors, soldiers, airmen and ex-serving personnel of the NZDF.

Competitors from 18 nations will compete in 11 different adaptive sports with events being held across Greater Sydney, including Sydney Olympic Park and on and around the iconic Sydney Harbour.

The Invictus Games uses the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for wounded, injured and ill active service member and veterans.

NZDF Team co-captain, New Zealand Army Sergeant (SGT) Kelly Whittle, said being involved in Invictus over the past few years has changed her life.

“Being part of Invictus has changed my confidence immensely, before Invictus I was quite happy to sit in the background and watch, now I am able to put myself out there more than ever.

“There is no judgement in this team, we are all there to help one another through some of the toughest times of our lives, by experiencing one of the best times together. Being part of the Invictus family changes your life,” said SGT Whittle.

The Invictus Games acknowledges the significant contribution made by family and friends in the recovery process – who provide the support and love needed to guide them through rehabilitation and recovery.

Sport is a huge part of our culture at the NZDF. It promotes teamwork, excellence, fitness and wellbeing – and can help in the recovery of those who have been injured, wounded or been unwell as part of their service to our country.

The team will meet for one final training camp in August before concentrating and travelling to Sydney in October for the Games.

The team could not participate without the generous support of so many, in particular that of our key sponsors – Auckland RSA, Christchurch Memorial RSA, Fulton Hogan and Jaguar Land Rover.

The team’s journey can be followed here:

facebook.com/InvictusGamesNZ

Instagram.com/NZDFInvictusTeam
Seven teams took part in the challenge, representing the three NZDF Services plus NZDF Vets, Police, SkyCity, and St John’s. The annual Challenge raises funds for Auckland RSA’s annual Poppy Day Appeal.

Teams were started at 15-minute intervals and timed over the course, with the military skills challenge performed first in front of a supportive crowd.

The military skills challenge was completed by three team members, while the other three positioned themselves up the SkyTower for a medical challenge, a climb up the Tower mast (91 metres) and an abseil down. At 180 metres, it’s the highest abseil off a building in the Southern Hemisphere.

Physical Instructor Trainer Flight Sergeant Samantha Marra, part of the Air Force team, said conditions were testing because of the rain that came through during the military skills challenge.

“Our runner said it was pretty tough going up the [1226] stairs to level 44 – he said his legs were burning towards the top. The tyre flip was the most challenging part for me – it was really big and heavy and very cumbersome. It weighed 227kg,” she said.

“We also abseiled down from level 50, so we had to clip on the flag canister and abseil down in the elevator shaft to meet the rest of the team coming down the stairs at the bottom.

Jade Washer hoists the RNZAF flag to finish the challenge

Bronze for Air Force in Tower de Force

By Suzi Phillips

It was a close finish in this year’s gruelling Tower de Force Sky Tower Challenge, with Army taking the top honours from last year’s winner Navy and Air Force third.

“I’m really proud of the team – they really came through. We had a few dramas leading up to the day with injuries and last-minute deployments, but we banded together, went out there and had a great time.”

At the end the team assembled in front of the flag-post and stood to attention while the flag was raised to finish the challenge.

All the teams assembled later in the evening for the prize-giving and results, announced by RNZN Commodore Jim Gilmour.

Sport

It was a close finish in this year’s gruelling Tower de Force Sky Tower Challenge, with Army taking the top honours from last year’s winner Navy and Air Force third.
Royal New Zealand Air Force Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Cole Waaka is living the dream of many young sportspeople, playing top-level sport with the full support of his employer.

LAC Waaka was recently named the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Individual Sportsperson of the Year. The honour came in what is proving to be a great year for the 22-year-old; he has this season been awarded a New Zealand Warrior’s rugby league contract.

LAC Waaka said it was humbling to be nominated for the award and a privilege to win, but that he could not do what he did without the support of the NZDF.

“I owe them everything. It’s really awesome to be able to play top-level sport while still doing my job.”

His talents are not confined to rugby league; LAC Waaka also plays rugby and touch rugby for the Air Force and the NZDF, and has been named the under-23 RNZAF Sportsperson for two years running.

LAC Waaka’s family moved to Australia when he was seven but he returned to New Zealand when he was 17 to join the Air Force. He had two grandfathers in the Army but joined the Air Force as he wanted to “do his own thing”.

Joining LAC Waaka in receiving awards were New Zealand Army Major Brett Grieve, who won the Outstanding Sports Achievement of the Year award for cycling, and Robert “Tiny” Graham, who was named Sports Official of the Year for his contribution to rugby.

The NZDF rugby team, the Defence Blacks, took out the Sports Team of the Year award, while the NZDF Colour award was presented to Warrant Officer Brendon Johnson, for Services to Touch Rugby.

The awards are the pinnacle of sporting achievement in the NZDF for the 2017 year.

Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General (LTGEN) Tim Keating said physical fitness and teamwork were vital components of a successful military force and were part of the military lifestyle which attracted new recruits.

“Sport is an extension of maintaining our basic physical fitness; sport showcases both individual and team excellence and contributes to building teamwork and camaraderie,” LTGEN Keating said.

“Through sport we build bridges between defence and the local community.”
RNZAF Sportsperson of the Year Awards

The annual RNZAF Sportsperson of the Year awards recently was held in Wellington, where the talents and achievements of our personnel across all approved RNZAF sports codes were recognised. All RNZAF sports codes were given an opportunity to recognise and reward the exceptional sporting accomplishments of sports code players and administrators. Of special note, this year, was the recognition of personnel who participated or supported the Invictus Games under the Adaptive Sports category.

THE WINNERS:

SPORTS CODE OF THE YEAR: RNZAF SQUASH

The significant contribution of RNZAF Squash saw the re-opening of the Ohakea Squash courts. This was due to a substantial fund-raising venture undertaken by RNZAF and Ohakea Squash committees. Playing numbers for RNZAF Squash have subsequently improved significantly as the code looks to host an un-official Inter-services tournament this year.

SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR: RNZAF RUGBY LEAGUE

The RNZAF Rugby League team started a successful year by participating in a curtain raiser to a Warrior’s pre-season match in Palmerston North and finished the year winning Inter-services Rugby League for the first time since its inception over 20 years ago. The quality of the team was evident after this victory. They displayed the highest of NZDF sporting values remaining humble as they respectfully consoled their opponents in the final earning praise well beyond the playing success.

141 FLIGHT TROPHY FOR OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT: RYAN JONES

Ryan Jones refereed various International Basketball competitions during the year including, the U19 Women’s World Cup, Men’s Asia Cup and FIBA World Cup Qualifying tournaments. He has recently returned from refereeing Basketball at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR: SGT NARE WHITTAKER

SGT ‘Henry’ Whittaker was the coach of the RNZAF Women’s basketball team competing at the ADF combined services tournament. He additionally filled the role of Women’s Manager for this tour. SGT Whittaker was the backbone for administration, co-ordination, management and coaching for RNZAF Basketball throughout the year.

U23 SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR: LAC SHENEA WHAKARAU

LAC Shenea Whakarau represented NZ at the International Taekwondo Federation’s World Championships in Dublin in the light heavy weight division. LAC Whakarau was additionally a member of the RNZAF Basketball team that toured overseas where she filled the vital play-maker role for the team.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR: LAC COLE WAAKA

LAC Waaka was a member of the RNZAF Rugby League team winning Inter-services and the NZDF team at the Defence World Cup in Australia. LAC Waaka was additionally a member of the Auckland Rugby league team winning the national provincial championships. LAC Waaka was selected into the NZ Residents’ Rugby League team and subsequently called into the Warriors’ premiership pre-season training squad.
**Photo Of The Month**

“A bystander on the streets of Ieper, Belgium, takes the opportunity to capture the NZDF Anzac contingent’s photograph after they completed the Last Post Service at Menin Gate Memorial. The service that has been held every evening since the 1928 and is a tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice of those who fell in defence of the town in World War I.”

Photographer LAC Vanessa Parker

**Notices**

**AIRWOMEN’S REUNION WAAF, WRNZAF, RNZAF**

A Reunion for all of the above is to be held at Papakura, South Auckland, NZ during the weekend of Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November 2018

If you are interested in attending please contact Wikitoria Ward-Holmes-Murcott Email: wikitoriaw@adhb.govt.nz Or m.w.adamson@xtra.co.nz Mana Kidd Email: murraykidd@xtra.co.nz Or phone Mana on 09-2995986 for further info.

**HMNZS CANTERBURY F421 REUNION (ALL COMMISSIONS) (1971-2005)**

Open invitation to ALL Ships Company and Ships Flight Members Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September 2018 Tauranga and Mount Maunganui Areas

Visit www.hmznscanterbury.com for details of Registration, Events, Functions and Venues etc. (Regularly updated)

**CORRECTION**

In the April issue of Air Force News, it was incorrectly reported in the article about the Laucala Bay memorial that Mary Barnes had been part of the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force. She was part of the Women’s Royal New Zealand Air Force. The error is regretted.

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**Air Power Development Centre Quiz**

Q1: What does UAV stand for?

Q2: What is the role of a Forward Air Controller?

Q3: How high is the Low Earth Orbit often used by Earth observation satellites?

Q4: What RNZAF trade is a MAEROMWR?

Q5: Approximately how many tonnes of relief supplies were delivered to Papua New Guinea by the RNZAF following the February earthquake?
Q6: Does Sudan have an air force?

Q7: In what decade did the first Boeing Chinook helicopter fly? The 1950’s or the 1960’s?

Q8: What is a WB-57 aircraft?

Q9: What machine gun is fitted to the NH90 helicopter?

Q10: What is the NATO codename of the MIG-25?

Think you can stump our readers?
Email quiz questions to APDC via ohapdc@nzdf.mil.nz
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