Ngā mihi ki te
Kaitohutohu
O Te Tauaarangi
O Aotearoa

Meeting our new Māori Cultural Advisor
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.

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New Zealand Government
It has been another busy start to the year with a high work tempo keeping everyone’s schedules full. With that, this year is fast disappearing and another Anzac Day has been commemorated. Anzac Day gives us a chance to take a breather in our busy schedules and reflect on the past and the reasons why we are all here doing what we do. It is a chance for us all to remember the sacrifices of those who have served before us and share in their experiences as we parade throughout the country and reminisce at the local RSA. Also, to remember those who did not return home to loved ones.

For me, it is an honour to put on my Service Dress every Anzac Day and march in a parade at dawn to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live the lives we do today. My family has a strong service affiliation starting with a great, great uncle in the 22nd New Zealand Cyclist Corp, who fought and died in WWI. In his steps have followed my father in the Police, my brother as an officer in the NZ Army and an uncle who served in the Navy. Most years for Anzac Day I try to go back to the Hawkes Bay for the dawn parade in Waipukurau and spend the day with those closest to me.

Although you are reading this in May, I am writing it in April (prior to Anzac Day). I am just about to depart for Turkey to experience Anzac Day on the Gallipoli Peninsula. I feel incredibly privileged and proud to be given this opportunity and am already picturing all the emotions I will have on Anzac Day knowing the history and bloodshed at that site all those years ago.

To simply be standing where so much pain and suffering occurred will be a very sombre experience and give me more understanding of the sacrifice those men made in order for me to enjoy the freedom I have today.

I have also spent previous Anzac days in small rural New Zealand towns where the sense of community is strong and the loyalty to those who served remains as if it was yesterday that the soldiers came home.

It is a day to reflect on the relationship between New Zealand and Australia and remember that we are not alone, they are experiencing the same nostalgia, pride and commemoration that we are. They too have families who lost their loved ones and veterans who sacrificed their youth for their country. It is also a day for us to be proud of what we do and what we contribute to New Zealand as a whole.

The year ahead continues to be full of exciting opportunities and events for us all to focus on so it will no doubt fly by. Throughout it, we will continue to be thankful for the sacrifices of those who have gone before us while also looking out for those around us and look forward to what lies ahead.

“To me, Anzac Day is a chance to reflect on the past as well as the present and it is a good opportunity to remember who we are and where our roots lie.”
Behind the Scenes at the Solomon Islands’ Elections

Air Force personnel recently departed to Solomon Islands to assist in the country’s general election. Working as part of a Combined Task Group led by the Australian Defence Force, about 400 officials and more than 10 tonnes of voting materials were transported around the country. Air Force News hears from some of the personnel who kept the work running smoothly behind the scenes.
We flew more missions than we were expecting with our aircraft serviceability permitting our flying rate to exceed planned rates of effort. It was fantastic to see the aircraft perform well in the challenging environment.”

It was “magic” working with the Australian Defence Force, he said.

“They were so accommodating with hosting us. We have been working so much together lately that the whole operation was seamless. “We were welcomed everywhere we went. All the locals came out with smiles and wanted to help unload the helicopters and find out what was going on,” SQNLDR Adair said.

“It was incredible to be operating in the Solomon Islands where No. 3 Squadron has so much history.”

Corporal Brian Jamieson was part of the deployed team that helped to set up and maintain a communications system during the election period.

“We provided networks, both for work and welfare. Our work networks are to make sure everyone has communications with people back home and our welfare networks are to make sure that people can have
a phone line and internet, so they can keep up with their families and news.”

The best part of the exercise was being able to provide internet to people, he said.

Aviation refueller specialist Corporal (CPL) Mitchell Taylor was part of the refuelling team during the operation.

His role was to ensure a fast turnaround for the NH90 and Royal Australian Air Force’s MRH90, so they could continually fly missions. Working with the helicopters, CPL Taylor and his team created turnaround times of about 10 minutes with the helicopter running – as opposed to 45–60 minutes if it had to shut down.

The operation had been a great experience, he said.

“I’ve been going out to the remote islands and doing a lot of fuel testing to extend the NH90’s range. I will test the fuel and then release it for use and then refuel the frame when it comes back from its mission and fly home again with it. It’s been 12 years of training to get to this point.”

Aircraft Maintainer Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Byron Marshall said his role involved ensuring the mechanical side of the helicopters, including the engines, gear boxes and landing gear was maintained to a high standard.

There was a team of about 10 aircraft technicians, avionics technicians and an armourer working each of the shifts, he said.

The New Zealand team had been working alongside members of the Australian Defence Force during the operation and both militaries had worked well together, LAC Marshall said.

“We’ve been helping each other out, it’s been good. It’s a good experience seeing how they do things compared to us, it’s been good to compare processes.”

BY THE NUMBERS:

400 officials
Were transported around the country

10.5 tonnes
Of voting material was delivered around the country

1,200 stations
Received voting material

47 missions
Flown by NH90 helicopters covering 21,000 kilometres

55 personnel
Deployed by NZDF
Forty young women have been given a taste of what an Air Force career looks like after completing the School to Skies programme at Base Woodbourne.
STUDENTS LOOK TO THE SKIES

BY EDITOR REBECCA GUILLIAM & SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER KATHRYN RUGE
The best day is the last day when they realise they can achieve whatever they set their minds to. Just because an aviation career hasn’t been thrown in their faces as an option for the future, doesn’t mean it can’t be,” School to Skies technical lead Corporal (CPL) Reiner Angelo said.

This year’s School to Skies programme was held at Base Woodbourne during the Easter school holidays. The week-long course encourages the Year 13 female students to consider a career in science, technology, engineering, maths (STEM) or aviation.

“We’ve found that a lot of girls don’t see the military, or even a technology or engineering-based career as a viable option for them,” CPL Angelo said.

“The course exposes them to hands-on maintenance, building a plane, maintaining an engine, welding and aircraft structural repair work. We run them through some resilience and personal developmental courses with our Air Force psychologists and they get to plan and fly a mission in either a Hercules or an NH90.”

By the end, the participants rebuilt an aircraft, plotted a flight path and flew the course they had worked out. It’s a tough week, but the results are extraordinary.

The course has been run since 2017 and the feedback from the participants had been “overwhelmingly positive”, he said. It was important to target females only for the course as there was never any problem with recruiting males, CPL Angelo said.

“Boys are signing up in droves – we can’t get all of them through. There’s no problem, so we’re not fixing it.”

One of the programme’s founders, Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Rebecca ‘George’ Magdalinos said one of the most rewarding aspects was watching the young women thrive on their chosen path – “irrespective of whether it’s us or whether it’s industry”. By the time the students had finished, they understand the essence of what a military lifestyle and career was all about and had found their “cohort”, she said.

“Depending on their background, they could be the only girl in their technology class and all of a sudden they are finding lifelong friendships. Building cohorts is one of our objectives, but to see it in real time is really quite special.”

**BY THE NUMBERS:**

The Air Force is pleased on the return on investment noting the following statistics:

- **10%** Offers of service awarded
- **18%** Currently in the recruiting pipeline
- **22%** Registered as prospects
- **3%** Joined our industry partners

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“The enthusiasm of the girls is contagious and it’s hard not to be as excited as them for the activities. The confidence they take from doing activities like flight planning, taking apart engines and doing some PT is massive, and proves to the girls that they can achieve anything they put their mind to.”

- Leading Aircraftman Sarah Hayden
Watching the young women grow in confidence was a particularly enjoyable part of the programme, she said.

Scientist and advocate of making STEM courses accessible for all young people, Dr Michelle Dickinson visited the students taking part in the programme.

The best part was finding a young woman who might be the only “techie” in her rural region and suddenly finding a place where she fits in, Dr Dickinson said.

“I see these girls grow in confidence and when they meet amazing role models like female pilots and female engineers, not only do they realise they fit, but they can see a pathway that they’ve never seen before – it is so powerful.

“I’ve spoken to girls today who have said to me ‘I’m so glad that this is single-sex, if there were boys here I would take a step back naturally let them do things, but I’m able here to try things and not be afraid of failing’ – so the whole package of experiences is really empowering for these young girls.”

Participant Joanna Maoate, from Auckland, said she had learned about a number of different Air Force trades she had not considered before.

“It opened up doors to other options and gave me a taste of different trades – like Air Warfare Officer, for example. I never expected to be interested in something like that – just the sound of it might put some people off, but when you get to know and understand and actually experience it, you get a whole different perspective.”

Summer Pizzato from Greymouth said she “definitely felt more knowledgeable” about the range of opportunities and careers available to her.

Another participant Danika Holland, from Kawakawa, said the course had built up her confidence.

“We’ve just seen so many opportunities about what’s on offer here. One of the reasons I wanted to come to School to Skies was so I could get some insight about what it’s like to live on base ... and although it’s only been one week, it’s been an amazing way to experience what I could possibly be doing for the rest of my life.”

Personnel who help with the programme also found the experience rewarding, SQNLDR Magdalinos said.

“They have an understanding of the need to enhance gender diversity without sitting through a Diversity 101 brief and they all rave about the relationships that they’ve formed and how great the students are and how much fun they had.

“It’s extraordinarily rewarding from their perspective – particularly our young flight commanders, they’ve stayed in touch with these girls for years afterwards.”

Camp flight commander Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Sarah Hayden looked after 10 of the students during the week and said she built a close relationship with them.

“For me, the best part of being a camp flight commander, is the downtime with the girls at the end of the day. When I’m out of uniform and talking informally with them, you get to answer a million of their questions that they may have been too nervous to ask during the day, and get to know them on a personal level.”
“Bringing Something Different to the Table”

The best indication of the success of the School to Skies programme is the number of participants who go on to enlist in the Air Force or look for careers involving STEM subjects.

The numbers are so far stacking up and some are crediting the course for inspiring them to look to a military career.

Aircraftman (AC) Madeleine Scott completed the inaugural 2017 Schools to Skies programme, after her friend signed her up.

“I’d never considered the Air Force and I knew nothing about it, but I ended up being chosen and when I was there I thought, wow, this is the career I want,” she said.

The Year 12 student was so encouraged by her success she considered leaving school and sign up straight away, but was convinced by recruiters to stay until the end of Year 13.

AC Scott is currently going through the recruitment course and after she finishes, will begin her role as an aircraft technician.

“The School to Skies programme is the sole reason I’m here now. I see myself staying in the Air Force for a long time. I would really like to eventually become an engineering officer.”

Samantha Glanfield also signed up for the 2017 programme and is now studying cybersecurity at Victoria University in Wellington, with thoughts of enlisting with the Air Force after graduation.

With her sister in the Royal New Zealand Navy, Ms Glanfield started looking into the services as a career while she was in high school.

“I did consider that the military was a male dominated area, but it doesn’t bother me. I’ve always done engineering, maths-based courses which are predominantly male – so I’m used to it.

“I definitely think it’s important to have more females join the Air Force. I think it’s important to have the diversity – not only that, but females bring something so different to the table.”

Ms Glanfield said the School to Skies programme was one of the best experiences she had ever had.

“It was really amazing to be on base and get that first-hand experience of what the Air Force is like – meeting all the different people who are like-minded individuals, and also all the activities we did like going on a flight in the Hercules. Probably the most valuable part of it for me was to be able to talk with lots of personnel and asking them about their trades.

“I would advise high school students to take up the opportunity. It’s the most incredible experience, such a unique experience and you should definitely take the opportunity.”

LEFT: Samantha Glanfield, participating in the 2017 School to Skies.

RIGHT: AC Madeleine Scott, participating in the 2017 Schools to Skies.
Māori Cultural Advisor, Career Pinnacle

Warrant Officer (W/O) Kathleen Nikau says she has reached the pinnacle of her career in becoming the first female Māori Cultural Advisor (MCA) for the Air Force and the first across the three Services.

“It impacts young female Māori airmen hugely. As a stepping stone moving forward – I think that’s a platform where they can see they have the ability to do the same.”

In a recent ceremony held at the Air Force’s Tūrangawaewae at Base Ohakea, W/O Nikau took over the role from W/O Patrick Smith. Just a few weeks later, she is mentoring upcoming NZDF kaikaranga to perform the karanga at the dawn service in Gallipoli.

The 30-year Air Force veteran was inspired to join after her brother, a firefighter in the service, told her he didn’t think she would enjoy it.

“He was having a fantastic time – his career was taking off, he was playing sport, he was travelling around the country and representing the Air Force in sport. I thought, if he can do it, surely I can too.”

She first joined as a motor transport driver and, with the demise of the trade, she became an aviation fuel specialist, culminating in heading the trade in 2016.

The change to aviation fuel specialist saw an increase for W/O Nikau in international deployment. Her first was to Bougainville during a period of violent unrest in the late 1990s.

W/O Nikau was recently invited to attend the premiere of the New Zealand documentary about the Bougainville crisis, Soldiers Without Guns.

“To see the country 20 years later and see the impact that New Zealand had on the country is amazing. At the time we were pretty scared – we didn’t carry weapons and there was civil unrest – but the outcome was fantastic, they have enduring peace now.”

Over the past 30 years, W/O Nikau has had three children and is now grandmother to two grandchildren.

The support of family members plays an important role in the careers of most service personnel, and W/O Nikau was able to include hers in a tangible way at the ceremony welcoming her to her role as MCA. Even though W/O Nikau is a long-standing member of the Air Force whānau, she was awarded the honour of a pōwhiri to mark her new appointment.

Her grandson, Whetu-Kura, blew the putātara, her 15-year-old son Autahi picked up the taki for her as part of the wero – the challenge – and her 16-year-old daughter Te Haeata performed the karanga for W/O Nikau’s whānau group.

“It was a really emotional day. For me it was about my children and mokopuna, the next generation’s understanding of what their roles are – how I’ve got there and how important it was for me that they supported me.”

“‘It’s hugely important to have more Māori and Pacific people in the NZDF. We’re so adaptable, I think we are a hands-on type of people and if we can show them there was an opportunity to join the NZDF, they have an opportunity to have a great career and to succeed.”

- Warrant Officer Kathleen Nikau
Anzac Day – Lest we forget

Every Anzac Day New Zealanders gather to remember those who have fallen in past wars and conflicts. Air Force News finds out what the day means to some of our personnel.

“I am humbled to have a role in the commemorations here at Gallipoli. Being able to visit the grave of my relative Private Spence means a lot to my family back in New Zealand.”

– Leading Aircraftman James Fuller

Leading Aircraftman James Fuller

Ari Burnu Cemetery lies between Anzac Cove and the Anzac Commemorative Site where the annual Dawn Service occurs on April 25 at Gallipoli. The Aegean Sea laps at its edge and large purple-flowered Judas trees provide shelter to people paying respects at the graves of First World War soldiers.

It is here that Leading Aircraftman (LAC) James Fuller walks slowly through the headstones seeking the grave of his relative Private James McKenzie Spence.

LAC Fuller, a Royal New Zealand Air Force drummer, is a member of the New Zealand Defence Force contingent conducting the Anzac Day services at Gallipoli. On April 25, he will keep the beat as the catafalque parties’ march into position at both the Dawn Service and the New Zealand National Service at Chunuk Bair later that morning. Having taken part in commemorative activities in New Zealand, including the Armistice Day Sunset Ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park, LAC Fuller knows how special this opportunity is.

Private James McKenzie Spence of Whangarei served at Gallipoli with the Auckland Infantry Battalion. Prior to enlisting he was a journalist with the Northern Advocate. His journalistic skills would’ve aided him when he was appointed a signaller within the battalion.

The task of maintaining open communications could be a difficult and frequently dangerous job. He died of a gunshot wound to the head on November 16, 1915, just a few weeks before the evacuation.

Standing in the peaceful cemetery in the shadow of the impossible hills his relative would have fought and lived on, LAC Fuller places a poppy on Private Spence’s headstone.

“To walk the battlefields and gain a better understanding of what happened here really hits you emotionally,” LAC Fuller said.
Anzac Day is a special day of remembrance and reflection. For me it is a time to remember the service and sacrifices that all people have made in the interests of peace, and in particular this year, members of my family.

My Grandfather Cuthbert Peart fought in the trenches in WWI in France and Belgium as a Sapper with the NZ Field Engineers. He survived both being gassed and a shell exploding in a crater he was sheltering in. The shell killed everyone in the crater but him. He had shrapnel embedded in his legs for the rest of his life and was significantly affected psychologically by his experiences.

My father’s three brothers all served in the Air Force during WWII. Lindsay served as a radio technician in the Pacific. Roger served as a flying instructor at Taieri Air Base. After the war Uncle Roger became an Engineering Officer and for a time was Base Commander at Ohakea. Roger’s identical twin brother Alan served in Europe, North Africa, India and Burma as a Spitfire pilot in the RAF. He was awarded a DFC and when he passed away in September, at the age of 96, was one of NZ’s very last remaining WWII fighter aces. He endured very difficult conditions during the war, at times sleeping in ditches, having to scrounge for rations, and suffered from mosquito-borne illnesses such as dengue fever, jungle sores and dysentery. When he arrived home from the war my father and Grandmother hardly recognised the frail man stepping off the bus in Raglan. Being only 11 at the time, my father was expecting to see a dashing war hero returning with exciting tales of his adventures as a fighter pilot. The reality was very different.

I will be attending the Anzac Day service in Halcombe with my husband Jacob and children Archie and Grace. We will be thinking of these members of our family, and the sacrifices that they made, as we lay our poppies.

I joined the Air Force with a sense of wanting to contribute to something bigger than myself. My parents immigrated to New Zealand from Northern Ireland when I was very young and I had opportunities in New Zealand that I wouldn’t have had in Ireland. I wanted a career that was out of the ordinary and was drawn to the adventures and challenges that many soldiers, sailors and airmen had faced before me.

I’m proud to have served in Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Lebanon and Israel; working as a part of a larger international team that aimed to bring stability to the South Pacific and more recently as a Military Observer for the United Nations in the Middle East. I’ve always felt a sense of responsibility to conduct myself in a way that reflects the values of the New Zealand Defence Force. Military Service includes deploying overseas to represent New Zealand, but it is also includes the training and preparation required to represent New Zealand overseas and to support others in their roles.

This Anzac Day I’m grateful for all the opportunities I’ve had with the NZDF. I’m proud to serve the NZDF for my family, and it’s a privilege to serve my team and the personnel I am responsible for at Base Ohakea, and to be serving in the New Zealand Defence Force.
A Material Future

From World War I through until the 1950s, cotton and Irish linen fabrics were the coverings of choice for airframes. The light weight of fabric was its major advantage over other materials, but it did have two main disadvantages: flammability and lack of durability. The flammability was due to the multiple layers of dopes that were required to keep the fabric taut and weatherproof. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from sunlight meant that fabrics had a limited life of about 5–10 years on active aircraft. UV radiation passed through the dope and degraded not only the fabric, but also the aircraft structure beneath. This fabric panel is from an ex-RAF Fairey Gordon biplane, which was stationed at Wigram with No. 1 Service Flying Training School in 1940.

From the collection of the Air Force Museum of New Zealand
Identifying aircraft over the decades has always been a simple matter of checking out the details displayed on the aircraft. But did you know how much the technology of what those details are written on has changed? Find out how the materials have advanced in the past century.

**NH90 PANEL**

**YEAR: 1990s**

Helicopters produced since the 1990s increasingly have relied upon the use of glass fibre, composite fibre and aramid sandwich composite technologies. The NH90 comprises 90% composite materials which makes for a considerable reduction not only in structural weight but also in the number of components used during construction. The NH90 has better endurance and increased resistance to battle damage compared to a metallic fuselage.
Sinai Deployment –
A Role Unlike Any Other

I volunteered to write this piece just two days prior to the attack on the Christchurch mosque that has taken the life of 50 New Zealanders. Given the events, it is now not an easy task to figure out just what to say to readers that have, until now, been concerned with our safety here in the Middle East, when real danger was also back home. So, I begin by offering New Zealand Contingent 18/02’s heartfelt condolences to those grieving loved ones, to those hurt and to a nation healing.

As I reflect on the events of 15 March, I am proud to be serving on a mission that at its heart, seeks to prevent unnecessary bloodshed. In a region synonymous with instability and volatility, as of 26 March 2019, Egypt and Israel have been at peace for 40 years – after a bloody 30 years that saw five wars.

A key contributor to such a significant achievement here in the Sinai, is the mission that I have been a part of since November last year. The Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), was formed following the signing of the Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. This mission, aims to help the two nations abide by the ‘rules’ they agreed to, as part of the Treaty, without having any direct power as an organisation to enforce or punish violations.

A second mission is to promote and facilitate dialogue between the two nations, which I believe is a vital factor.

I am Flight Lieutenant Nachiket (Nash) Alur, and I am an Aide-de-Camp to the senior ranking Military Officer responsible for leading this mission: the Force Commander. I am an Aerospace Engineer by background but here, my core role is to manage the logistics, planning and execution of the Force Commander’s day-to-day and medium-term activities.

It is a role unlike any other in the Kiwi contingent. It offers a very strategic and high-level view of the MFO, its mission and the issues in this region. What really excites me about this role is the window into the world of international relations it has offered me and a first-hand exposure to the culture of these two nations – by far one of the highlights of my career with the NZDF.

Here in the Sinai, I serve alongside hard working Kiwi drivers, trainers, planners, clerks and logisticians, to name a few, and it is all in support of keeping these two great nations working towards everlasting peace and subsequently, a better life for the people in this region.

No role is insignificant and in our own way, we form the building blocks that help maintain that 40-year history of peace in this region. It also highlights to me that peace does not just happen. It needs to be carefully managed, thought out and most importantly, it needs to be shaped so that it is resilient to adapt to the environment and conditions as they are today.

Despite the events in New Zealand, my time here has made me realise that New Zealand has a lot that the world can learn from, in terms of our emphasis on fairness and values, and the strength of our character as a nation. Our example of a society that promotes being a good human above all, and strong-will to fight for what is right, does make a difference, despite how far we are from the typical centre of world attention.
Air Force Helps Police Seize Thousands of Cannabis Plants

About 9500 cannabis plants were seized during a recent joint operation between the Air Force and New Zealand Police. The mission was just one of many the Air Force undertake helping Government agencies.

Detective Senior Sergeant Scott McGill said the three-week operation, supported by a No. 3 Squadron NH90 helicopter, covered areas in the Tasman and Central Police Districts.

“Police will continue to target and disrupt the networks of organised crime groups which continue to profit from the supply and distribution of cannabis,” he said.

“Continued support from the New Zealand Defence Force has enabled us to sustain our longstanding campaign against the illicit cultivation of cannabis.”

Air Component Commander Air Commodore Tim Walshe said helicopter support for the operation was important because cannabis plants were grown illicitly in remote areas.

The Air Force contributes to a number of operations led by different Government agencies every year. Earlier this year it also teamed up with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to survey the spread of wilding pines in the North Island.

Wilding pines have invaded more than 1.8 million hectares of land from Northland to Southland, according to MPI. They are estimated to spread at about five per cent of that land, or 90,000 hectares, a year.

If left unchecked, they compete with native plants and animals for sunlight and water, and can alter the natural landscape.

An A109 helicopter surveyed about 500,000 hectares covering Tongariro National Park, Kaweka Range, Ruahine Range, Kaimanawa Range, Waiouru and Turangi.

MPI Recovery and Pest Management manager John Sanson said the survey aimed to assess the severity of infestation in sensitive, high-country areas invaded by the pines and spot new hotspots that might require control or further investigation.

“Results from the survey gave us useful insights on the scale of the problem in the central North Island and will enable us to determine future priority areas for wilding conifer control,” he said.

“For years, we have been contributing to police efforts to prevent the social harm caused by the illicit cultivation and supply of cannabis.”

– Air Commodore Tim Walshe
A Warkworth sailor who was rescued in the Pacific Ocean in November 2017 has met Air Force personnel involved in the successful search and rescue mission to thank them.

“\textbf{A}ll I want to say is a big thank you to the NZDF – an excellent job done. I’d like to apologise that it has taken me so long to make the connection,” Phil van der Mespel said.

Accompanied by his wife Jenny and their son Joel, Mr van der Mespel met personnel from No.40 and No.5 Squadrons to express his gratitude.

The experienced yachtsman was battling stormy conditions about 650km northwest of New Zealand on his way home from Vanuatu, when his boat Waimanu’s mast broke about 4am. One of the support blocks for the mast was catapulted out of the boat, ripping a large hole in the deck.

Buffeted by 40-knot winds and five- to six-metre swells, Waimanu, which had been with Mr van der Mespel’s family for 43 years, began to take on water.

Initially he thought he could pump the water out but the boat was filling up too fast, so after making three mayday calls on his VHF and firing three parachute flares, he got ready to abandon the vessel.

“I winched the life raft right next to the boat and tossed in everything I needed – grab bag, food, bottles of water, first aid kit, clothes, duvet, and a satchel containing my passport, wallet and ship’s papers. I was expecting to be in the raft for three or four days.

“The deck of Waimanu was a foot or so above the sea when I stepped off the stricken yacht and into the life raft. As soon as I got the life raft ready, I activated my emergency radio beacon.

“And as soon as I had cut the raft free of the sinking yacht I turned around to take a photo of the boat in her last moments but she was gone.”

In New Zealand, the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand picked up the distress call and sent a search and rescue request to the NZDF about 7am.

A C-130 Hercules, with a crew comprising personnel from No.40 and No.5 Squadrons, left Auckland about two hours later.

With up-to-date information on Mr van der Mespel’s location from Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand, the crew found the yachtsman within a few minutes of arriving on-scene at 10:46am.

“When you are floating around in the sea hundreds of miles from anywhere, to see an aircraft come for your rescue is the most reassuring thing in the world.”

After reporting the good news to Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand, the crew then contacted the nearest ship, commercial vessel MV Norfolk Guardian, to arrange Mr van der Mespel’s rescue and dropped a smoke flare to help it locate him.

The Hercules remained at the scene until he was safely on the rescue vessel about 2:30pm.

Squadron Leader Brad Scott, the aircraft captain of the Hercules, said meeting Mr van der Mespel was a special experience for the crew.

“It’s very rare for the team to have any further contact with the various people we assist,” he said.

“We feel valued and rewarded just by completing the job. The largest satisfaction comes from helping those in need, particularly when someone’s life is in danger.”

“I thought it was another crashing wave but when I peered out I saw the Hercules flying right over my raft.”

– Mr van der Mespel

Shipwrecked Sailor Thanks Air Force Rescuers
Kiwi Expertise Rates Well in Decontamination Exercise

A multinational aircraft decontamination exercise has taken place recently at Base Auckland, involving a number of agencies and more than 100 military personnel.

The event was co-hosted by Operations Squadron with the New Zealand Army and the United States Army and included visitors from Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and the USA.

The Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) exercise also involved Government participants including Fire and Emergency New Zealand, the Auckland Council, St Johns and the Ministry of Health.

“The exercise allowed the NZDF to interact with a number of experts in the CBRN and health fields as well as sharing knowledge and experience,” says Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Ivan Green, the Commanding Officer of Operations Squadron at Base Auckland.

“Some of the US participants had been involved in helicopter decontamination at Fukushima after the melt down of the nuclear reactors, and other personnel were health experts who have faced large outbreaks of disease in austere locations.

“Participants like the RNZAF benefitted from the opportunity for across country and agency interaction and development and having NZDF aviation personnel exposed to US aircrew CBRN protocols and experience.” The NZDF participants were rapidly able to integrate with United States methods of aircraft decontamination and decontamination lines, SQNLDR Green said.

“From this exercise we developed skills and knowledge to enhance the survival skills of our personnel if they find themselves facing this hazard.

“It was also an opportunity to showcase the NZDF and our Government agencies. We performed well, we displayed how competent we are and that we are able to contribute in this area if required.”

Overseas participants were positive about the exercise and any trip to New Zealand was seen as a highly desirable activity, he said.

“They were impressed by the knowledge of our personnel in CBRN matters and the ability of NZDF members to rapidly assimilate new knowledge and develop their skills.

“On the first day there was a cultural welcome from the Maori Cultural Group and on the last day we facilitated a group of personnel (not involved in the pack-up) going north to Waitangi. They were in awe of the importance of culture in what the NZDF and New Zealand does,” he says.
Some of our base firefighters and reservists were given the opportunity recently to train in a world class facility in Australia. The team encountered the worst-case real-life scenario of an aircraft in flames. The training enabled the firefighters and instructors to keep up to date with the latest tactics in firefighting with our partners.

“It was great having the opportunity to deal with a situation that’s as close to what we would get in real-life, so operating around an air frame that is actual size and with fire as well,” Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Anton Riefler said.

The senior firefighter from Base Woodbourne said it was a privilege to be able to use the state-of-the-art facility as there was no comparable one in New Zealand.

He joined a group of 22 Air Force firefighters, instructors and active reservists for the foam compliance training at Melbourne Airport's Hot Fire Training Ground operated by Airservices Australia.

The state-of-the-art facility contained an A-380 Airbus/Boeing 767 mock-up for firefighters to practise and train on.

It was also beneficial to train alongside the reservists, many of whom work fulltime with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), he said.

“Also working alongside colleagues from Whenuapai and Ohakea, who we don’t always get to operate with, was great too. It was good to see the training integrate and get different ideas from everyone.”

Sergeant (SGT) Michael Shepherd, from Base Auckland’s Fire Flight said the firefighters were required to undertake annual competency of foam application and the Australian facility was “easily the best facility in the South West Pacific for that type of training”.

“All the people who went over were pretty impressed.”

The team practiced fighting ground fires, wheel assembly fires, engine fires, underwing fires and foam application from the fire appliance via roof and bumper monitors.

“In a nutshell we protect the fuselage and where people come out - then we’ll go into extinguishing the fire.

“The firefighters were also given the opportunity to drive vehicles around the burning aircraft frame. For some of the reservists it was their first exposure to Aircraft Rescue firefighting and by the end of the day they were operating at the required level of competence.”

The type of training was modern and evidenced-based, SGT Shepherd said.

“They were all really impressed with the facility and that we are doing things at that next level.”

“The training was hugely beneficial to us to be in a world class facility with professional instructors and state-of-the-art equipment – you just can’t beat it. I took a lot away from it,”

- Leading Aircraftman Anton Riefler
The training was hugely beneficial to us to be in a world class facility with a professional instructors and state-of-the-art equipment – you just can't beat it. I took a lot away from it,
“I am grateful to have a really supportive chain of command that has enabled and allowed me to participate in so many different sports and at different levels, both within and outside of the RNZAF.”

- Leading Aircraftman Hayley Hutana

Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Hayley Hutana is an airman with many sporting skills, particularly in her chosen sport of rugby.

Her sports involvement last year included Inter-Base, Inter-Service, New Zealand Defence Force, Club and Provincial level – and that commitment has seen her win the title of Air Force Sportsperson of the Year.

The logistics specialist, based at Base Woodbourne, said she was inspired by her two sporty older brothers.

“I always wanted to be like them and be playing the sports they played. All throughout primary school and high school I was always getting involved and playing sport whenever there was an opportunity. I guess that carried on since enlisting into the Air Force.”

When she enlisted, LAC Hutana did not realise how many sporting opportunities were available in the military.

Having been selected for the Black Ferns Sevens Development Squad, LAC Hutana’s long-term goal is to play for the New Zealand Sevens team again, having previously been a contracted player.

“I aim to keep playing rugby provincially and stay injury-free. Long-term, my goal is to play Sevens for New Zealand.”
Sarcoma Supporters – Relay for Life

At the recent Relay for Life my cousin Sergeant Tomina Apiti and I entered some family members as a team in the Selwyn event to raise funds for the Cancer Society.

We have a family member combating one of the rarest forms of cancer - alveolar soft part sarcoma. Like many families impacted by this disease we wanted to support each other in a positive and meaningful way. We want to raise awareness and encourage anyone with lumps in their muscles or on their bodies to seek a second opinion, and not just assume it’s a strained muscle, we want others to try and catch the diagnosis early.

Each year in New Zealand 23,000 people are diagnosed with cancer, and of those, 9,500 lose their battle to the disease.

The event was held in Rolleston, after it was postponed because of the Christchurch terror attack in our city. On that weekend we ended up swapping our Relay for Life uniforms for our military ones.

The event was cut down to a six-hour event, so my wife Kirsty Gouman and her sister Nicola Sutton stepped up for the team, and walked the entire time, collecting a bead for our team necklace every lap. They finished the event with a total of 67 laps, covering 27km.

Our team also won the prize for the best decorated tent site which was a real bonus. It was a chilly day but an awesome event with a total of 30 odd teams. The Sarcoma Supporters raised $6,300, which contributed to the total raised by the Selwyn district of $50,000 plus. To all our military whanau and our family from around New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and Scotland who donated to our team we wanted to say “Thank you”.

A huge thank you goes to Cory’s Electrical & Classic Apparel Levin for the sponsorship of our shirts, and to all our team members who showed up on the day to support and run with us, for their massive efforts during the relay.

It was a great cause and I highly recommend personnel from other bases to get teams together for next year’s events and do your bit to raise funds to help cure this disease.

Our objective is to increase awareness of sarcomas. What is sarcoma? It is a rare cancer of the connective tissues, such as nerves, muscles, fats, joints and bone. Sarcomas are less than 1% of adult cancers and are more common in under 25-year-olds. There are over 50 sub types of sarcomas.
Integrated Wellness & Mental Health

New support services

NZDF4U Helpline and Wellbeing Counselling Support

Our confidential NZDF4U Wellbeing Support Service provides seamless wellness support services, spanning both telephone and face-to-face support. New services will be fully in place by the end of April 2019 offering a full range of support through multiple contact points, including the NZDF4U helpline (0800 693 348). This means that users won’t have to search around for the service they need. So what happens when you call?

Callers can currently access phone support and face-to-face counselling, and from late April these new services will be available:

• Contact NZDF4U via text: 8881
• Access NZDF from overseas: +64 9 414 9914

A health professional (outside of the NZDF) will assess what’s going on and discuss support options. You can call about any issue you want help with. This can include anything from general stress/depression/anxiety, relationship troubles, financial worries, post-deployment problems, to transitioning out of NZDF. The health practitioner will help direct you towards the best support for you. If it’s an emergency, dial 111.

You can also request counselling support services (up to six sessions) through this service. This is available to Regular force and civilians for any issue, and is also available for Reserves and families of NZDF members for Defence-related issues.

Where this service isn’t the best fit to support your needs, you may be referred on to community support and health services, and/or Veterans Affairs. Regular Force will be encouraged to use the internal NZDF health services and support systems as their first port of call for support, however, if you do not feel comfortable using the internal NZDF health services, this service is in place to ensure you get the support you need.

Over the next couple of months, we will also be investigating new ways to get in touch, including web chat and email. Keep an eye out for updates on the Defence Health website www.health.nzdf.mil.nz and check out the FAQs for more information.

It has been a busy start to the year for the Integrated Wellness & Mental Health team with lots of exciting new projects underway to support the Defence Community. Maintaining our health and wellbeing is important for all aspects of our life and with the pace of the year picking up now, this serves as a timely reminder to reflect and check in with ourselves, our mates and our families to see how we’re doing. We have some great tools and resources available to support your health and wellbeing – check them out on our Defence Health Website.
NZDF Health Self-assessment Tool – How Am I Going?

You can also complete a quick assessment of how your health is tracking across the four domains of health in the Te Whare Tapa Whā model of health using our new Health Self-assessment tool. This tool is available for all members of the Defence community (including families) so you can anonymously check how you are going. You will receive a short summary of how your health is tracking, health tips for staying at the top of your game, and tools and resources that include where you can go for help and additional information. https://nzdf.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GdPNF6MlputDxj

ResCo app

We’ve just released our new Resilience Coach app (search NZDF ResCo). This app has been developed and adapted for us by the Canadian Defence Force based on their resilience app (R2MR). It has a range of tools designed to complement our NZDF resilience training, as well as links to local support services (NZDF and broader community). The app is currently only available for iPhone users but we hope to have a version for android phones available in the next few months.

Annual Flu Vaccinations

We are just finishing up our annual flu vaccination programmes for both military and civilian staff. Our clinics ran throughout April and May to ensure our people were vaccinated in time for when the flu is most likely to hit. Did you miss out? There’s still time – military personnel are encouraged to contact their health centre as soon as possible, and civilian staff can get in touch with Millie Thompson amelia.thompson@nzdf.mil.nz to request a vaccination voucher. We encourage all our staff to get immunised as the more people vaccinated in our community, the lower the risk of the flu virus successfully spreading.
Men’s Inter-service Rugby

After an unfortunate end to services last year, all sights were set on taking home the King George Cup for the 100th Year anniversary.

The first game vs Navy started dominantly by Air. We soon found ourselves up 10-0. But, Navy played smart, used their size well and came away with the win 29-17. It was a very physical game, full of big hits and some good individual performances. Captain Sam Cadman led by example, taking out player of the day.

The final game saw us play the curtain raiser for the Hurricanes vs Brumbies match. Chris Lynch led the boys out for his final stint in the Air colours, a career to be proud of! This was a high intensity and fast tempo game. Air looked good with the ball, but just couldn’t quite get over the line. Instead, Army made the most of their opportunities and secured the King George Cup with a 23-0 win. A big impact off the bench saw Shane McGregor pick up player of the day.

My personal highlight is the culture that rugby has grown. This year we visited the Tongariro Sports Club and helped clean up their grounds. Another part that makes me proud to be a part of Air Force Rugby. I can’t wait to do it all again next year!

Finally, I would like to thank CAE, Bece, SG Fleet, Mitre 10 Westgate & Henderson, Marops, Heathcote Appliances and Panasonic for their ongoing support of RNZAF Rugby.

Women’s Inter-service Rugby

Rugby services 2019 was a blast to say the least! We were among a great bunch of players, and supported by an incredible management team who sorted everything out behind the scenes.

During our week-long preparation our coach’s passion for the game helped us learn as much as possible before we faced two great teams; Navy and Army.

After a great training week, we arrived in Ohakea ready to compete. Our first game was against the Navy. Despite them putting up a fight the final score was 38-5 to Air. This was a great first game, it confirmed that our past week of training was all worth it, and helped us build more confidence in ourselves and the team.

Unfortunately, in the next game we weren’t so lucky. We lost 43-10 to Army. Result aside, we definitely left it all out of the field and excelled when compared to last year.

We had amazing support throughout the tournament, especially from our coaches, staff and the guy’s team who came and supported us during every match. I can’t wait for another amazing tournament at next year’s rugby services. If you are interested in joining the amazing RNZAF Rugby team, please contact Pilot Officer Holly Shaw.
Men’s Army vs Air Force game held at the Manawatu Arena in Palmerston North as a ‘curtain raiser’ for the Hurricanes vs Brumbies game.

An A109 helicopter delivered the ball and ball boy before the Hurricanes vs Brumbies game at the Manawatu Arena in Palmerston North.

The Air Force women’s team running out for their inter-service game.
Pilot takes to the Water in King’s Cup

Flying Officer (FGOFF) Connor Broughton chose flying over rowing when he left school, so he’s rapt to be combining the two as part of the NZDF King’s Cup squad.

It’s been 100 years since six nations – New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and France – competed for the Cup as troops waited to return to their home countries after World War I. This year those six nations will be joined by Germany and The Netherlands to race for the Cup as part of the Henley Royal Regatta (HRR) at Henley-on-Thames in the UK in July.

The event will honour the past, cement the international relationships and alliances of today, and build towards the future of the competing nations.

It will be the first time men and women have raced in the same boat at the elite, international event – something FGOFF Broughton is embracing.

“I think it’s fantastic that it’s a mixed boat. You need a balance in all organisations, men and women. Times are definitely changing for the better, and rightfully so,” he said.

FGOFF Broughton joined the Air Force after completing his education at John Paul College, in Rotorua, where he was a rower and a prefect.

“I talked to a few coaches in the United States with a view to getting into study over there and getting into rowing,” he said.

“But I’ve always wanted to be a pilot so that took precedence over rowing.”

He hasn’t done any rowing for the past three years, focusing solely on becoming a pilot, so jumped at the opportunity to try out when he found out about the King’s Cup.

“It’s not just joining a rowing team – it’s joining a rowing team for a big event. I don’t think it’s really sunk in yet as there’s so much work to do between now and then. I’m going to put the work in and hope for the best once I get there,” he said.

“Both the Regatta and the race are rich in tradition and to be in the place of the original crew, well, there’s no excuse for not training.”

NZDF SQUAD

JULY 5–32 [PGS7]

EVENT:

AC Alex Hill (coxswain)
MAJ Emily Hume
LTCDR Jules MacLean
CPL Rebekah Salt
FGOFF Connor Broughton
SLT Rob Creasy
LT Ricky Daniel-Nield
LCPL Mark Evans
PTE Ryan Flintoft
2LT Ashton Lovell
LCPL Jack Proudfoot
OMT(L) Cathan Tamarapa
Rachel Gamble-Flint (coach)
WGCDR Rhys Taylor (OIC/manager)
Notices

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION FUND ARMED FORCES SCHEME

If you were a member of the Government Superannuation Fund (GSF) Armed Forces Scheme and elected to receive a lump sum and defer receipt of your retiring allowance to age 55 or 60 and are not yet in receipt of your retiring allowance and have not been in contact with GSF in the last 2 years, you should update your contact details with GSF.

If you go to the GSF website, http://www.gsf.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/ you can download and complete a Change in Personal Details Form, confirming your current contact details, and send it direct to the GSF Scheme Administrator, Datacom. You must sign and date the form and post it to Datacom.

If you have any other enquiries regarding your GSF entitlement, please call Datacom direct on 0800 654 731.

ANNUAL RAF BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL SERVICE

Remembering those who served and gave their lives in Air Force Service

A formal service will be held in the:
Hall of Memories
Auckland War Memorial Museum
10.30 June 9 2019

This annual service is held throughout the Commonwealth during June. All those who served in the RNZAF, RAF and Allied Air Forces are invited to attend. Medals shall be worn.

Service veterans please make yourself known to the ATC ushers who will assist with seating.

There is under cover parking and lifts available.

Contact:
P J Wheeler QSM, NZ Bomber Command Ass Exec Officer
P: 09 416 5302 or
E: spirits@xtra.co.nz

Air Power Development Centre Quiz

1. What was the role of a Master Bomber during WWII?
2. What NZDF helicopter type did the Seasprite replace?
3. When did the first attempt to aerially bombard a city take place?
4. During WWII, Japanese reconnaissance aircraft flew over NZ cities. True or false?
5. What is the definition of space power?
6. The RNZAF deployed Andover aircraft to UNIMOG in 1988. What were they sent to help monitor?
7. The AHRLAC is a versatile, rugged, multi-role manned platform. What is it, and where is it made?
8. The RAF operate six types of aircraft in the ISTAR role. Name three of them.
9. What does ISTAR stand for?
10. What air power role includes the tactical capability to support land operations, special operations forces, aeromedical evacuation and joint personnel recovery?

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

Answers

1. True. During 1942 two Japanese submarines sailing NZ waters, each equipped with a float plane flew reconnaissance missions over Auckland and Wellington.
2. True. The AHRLAC is an Advanced, High-performance, Reconnaissance, Light Aircraft, designed and built in South Africa.
3. True. In the 1840s, the Austrians tried to control Italy using balloons to drop bombs, but the bombs had limited effect.
4. False. During WWII, Japanese reconnaissance aircraft did not fly over NZ cities.
5. True. Space power is defined as the total strength of a nation’s capabilities to conduct and influence activities to, in, through and from space to achieve its objectives.
6. True. The RNZAF deployed Andover aircraft to UNIMOG in 1988, likely for surveillance or reconnaissance purposes.
8. True. ISTAR stands for Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting and Reconnaissance.
9. True. Air mobility includes the tactical capability to support land operations, special operations forces, aeromedical evacuation and joint personnel recovery.
Working with No. 3 Squadron while deployed to the Solomon Islands during their general election was a privilege and involved a combined task group consisting of the New Zealand Defence Force and Australian Defence Force offering logistical support. This photo was taken flying over the coast of Makira Island which lies to the South East of Honiara, where No. 3 Squadron was tasked with collecting ballot boxes post-election through some beautifully rugged and mountainous terrain.
What is it?
Voluntary Education Study Assistance (VESA) is a discretionary fund centrally managed by New Zealand Defence College 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.

Applications for semester two, 2019 are to be made within 60 Days of the official start date of study.