





## The epicentre of the earthquake was northeast of Culverden, near Kaikoura, and it caused roads to collapse and buildings to topple from their foundations. Vital supply routes were cut off with roads strewn with huge slips and boulders.

A convoy of 27 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) trucks braved bad weather and risks of further landslides to bring much-needed fuel and water supplies to quake-damaged Kaikoura in the days immediately after the earthquake.

Fuel supplies in Kaikoura had been running low and with debris blocking off the main route to the town, a resupply was out of the question. It was up to the Army, driving mostly MHOVS to bring in supplies. The convoy ferried 7320 litres of diesel and 1540 litres of petrol for Kaikoura's petrol stations and emergency services. It also brought 10,000 litres of potable water for distribution and nine Army chefs who were to cater for emergency workers and volunteers as well as about 250 patients at Kaikoura Hospital.

About five of the trucks were initially used to bring in supplies to Kaikoura from Culverden in North Canterbury while the remainder stayed in Kaikoura to distribute drinking water and other aid supplies brought by amphibious sealift vessel HMNZS CANTERBURY.

More trucks continued to be dispatched from Burnham Military Camp to pick up food and other aid supplies earmarked for Kaikoura.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force's NH90 helicopters and CANTERBURY evacuated at least 160 Kaikoura residents, and went on to rescue a total of about 860 people, including New Zealanders and overseas tourists.

Driving the quake-damaged route from Culverden to Kaikoura tested the mettle of the truck drivers ferrying vital aid supplies to the seaside community.

"The damage caused by the earthquake is very evident. Fault lines have sheared the road in half in many places. There are a lot of overhanging rocks. A number of bridges have also been damaged and cannot be used for heavy vehicles so we had to find alternate routes," Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Dan Rosewarne said.

SSGT Rosewarne drove one of the 27 Defence Force trucks in the first aid convoy that reached Kaikoura. The convoy was halted for a day by bad weather, causing risks of further landslides. It ferried 44 tonnes of vital supplies including 7320 litres of diesel, 1540 litres of petrol and 10,000 litres of potable water.

Due to risks of further landslips, aid supplies for Kaikoura were prioritised over provisions for military personnel and are



placed at the front of the convoy, SSGT Rosewarne said. "That way, if we are cut off because of a landslide, the supplies for the affected communities would have gone ahead."

The trucks travelled in a single file at 30kph, about two-thirds slower than they would if the roads were not damaged. Communication was constant to ensure everyone was aware of the obstacles ahead.

"There were lots of obstacles we had to manage. The rocky and undulating terrain, and the steep drops are very similar to Afghanistan," said SSGT Rosewarne, who has deployed twice previously to Afghanistan.

He said the convoy took about four hours to cover the 100km distance from Culverden to Kaikoura, compared to only between 60 and 90 minutes before the earthquake.

Due to the heavy rains, streams burst their banks and the trucks had to cross waist-deep waters, he said.

"Our drivers and other personnel are dedicated to the task of bringing aid and other essential supplies to the community of Kaikoura. They are highly skilled and well-trained to navigate the numerous obstacles along the route," Lieutenant Colonel Rob Loftus, the Commander of the Logistics Task Group, said.

"This is the first time for many of them to be operating on this type of roads. So the fact that they have been able to do almost daily runs to Kaikoura speaks well of their skills and training."

A catering section from 3CCSB, led by Staff Sergeant Brendon Webby helped feed emergency services and volunteer agencies in the weeks after the earthquake.

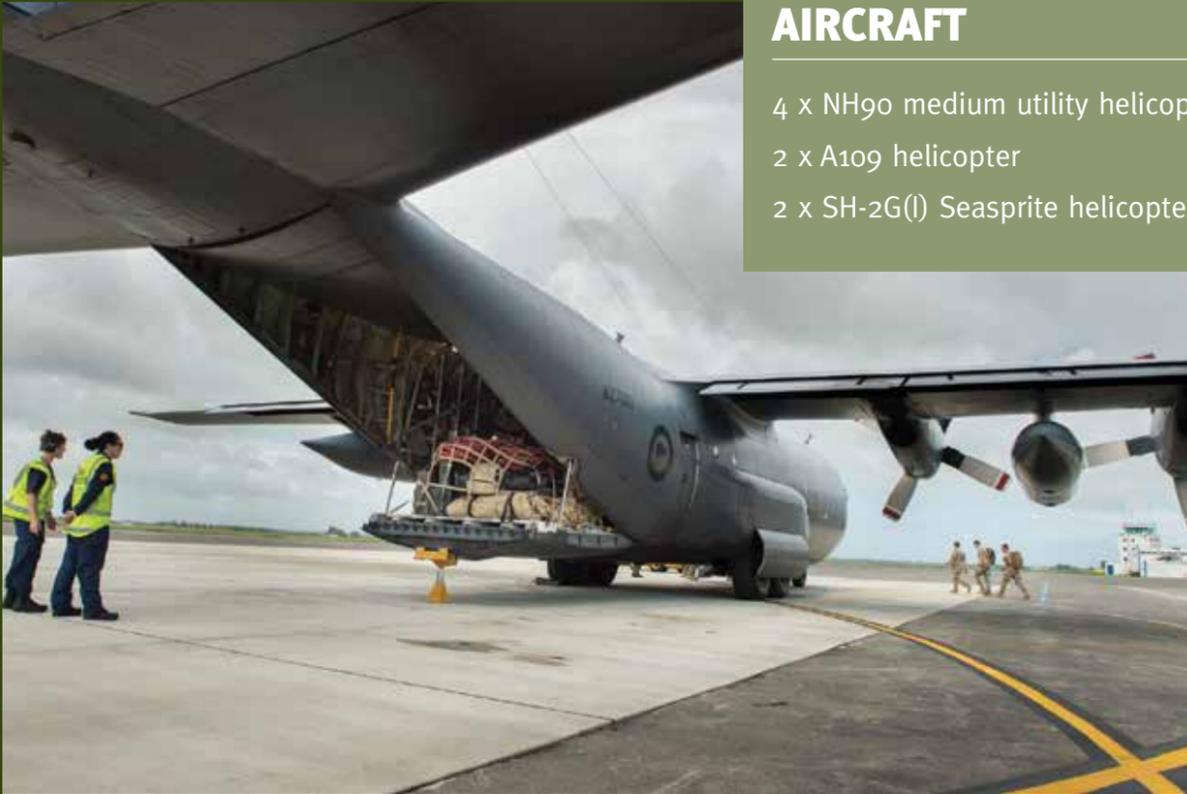
"When something devastating like this happens and we deploy it is important we can cater for our own personnel and don't put a burden on the people we are trying to help," said SSGT Webby.

The section worked in two shifts of four people as well as two volunteers. They catered for 200 people for breakfast, 250 for lunch, and about 300 for dinner each day.



## FAST FACTS

### NZDF and foreign support for the Government's earthquake response



#### AIRCRAFT

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 4 x NH90 medium utility helicopters | 1 x C-130 Hercules                    |
| 2 x A109 helicopter                 | 1 x P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft |
| 2 x SH-2G(I) Seasprite helicopter   | 1 x B200 King Air                     |



#### SHIPS

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Multi-role vessel      | HMNZS CANTERBURY |
| Offshore patrol vessel | HMNZS WELLINGTON |
| Frigate                | HMNZS TE KAHA    |
| Replenishment tanker   | HMNZS ENDEAVOUR  |

#### NZDF PERSONNEL

- NAVY** about 410 sailors
- ARMY** about 160 soldiers
- AIR FORCE** about 50 aircrew and some 200 support personnel on the ground at bases in Whenuapai, Ohakea, Woodbourne and Christchurch

#### AID SUPPLIES

(FROM THE NZDF, MINISTRY OF CIVIL DEFENCE AND RED CROSS)

**5000 kg** of food, water and hygiene items, and jerry cans of diesel



#### FOREIGN ASSISTANCE



Australian frigate HMAS DARWIN + 1 x S70B Seahawk helicopter + 177 sailors



Canadian frigate HMCS VANCOUVER + 1 x CH-124 Sea King helicopter + 231 sailors



US destroyer USS SAMPSON + 2 x MH60 Seahawk helicopters + 250 sailors + US Navy P-3 aerial surveillance aircraft



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force P-1 aerial surveillance aircraft



## 30,000 BEES AMONG THOSE RESCUED BY THE NZDF

**If calamity strikes and you had to flee your home, what would you take?**

One of the estimated 900 Kaikoura residents rescued by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) from the quake-damaged seaside town carried his most valuable possession: a hive with about 30,000 bees.

"Many people took what they could fit into a suitcase or two and this would be the things closest to their hearts. One of the evacuees just could not leave his bees behind," Commander (CDR) Simon Rooke, the Commanding Officer of amphibious sealift vessel HMNZS CANTERBURY, said.

"The ship does a meticulous count of everything we bring on board as a matter of course. Last Saturday, we evacuated 192 people together with 2.3 tonnes of baggage, one cat, 14 dogs and about 30,000 bees. They were one thing we didn't count exactly.

"I smiled when I read the cargo manifest just before we sailed. It is the type of entry you'd probably see if they did an inventory of what went into Noah's Ark," CDR Rooke said.

Until there was controlled access by road between Culverden and Kaikoura, the NZDF continued to transport the majority of aid supplies using NZDF vehicles until commercial vehicles were allowed access.

