

TOP ACCOLADE FOR LCPL NUI

New Zealand Army chef Lance Corporal Amber-Lee Nui has been named the 2016 New Zealand Defence Force Person of the Year.

Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating said the Person of the Year Award celebrated civilian and military members of the Defence Force who embodied its values of courage, commitment and comradeship.

“Our Defence Force’s greatest strength does not come from the numbers of people and equipment we can put in the field, but from their quality,” Lieutenant General Keating said.

“Lance Corporal Nui has made living the Defence Force values and displaying high standards a hallmark of her career and she is a worthy recipient of the NZDF Person of the Year Award.”

Lance Corporal Nui excels at her chosen trade, having been selected to represent the NZDF at the Torque D’or National Culinary Competition. In her current role she is in charge of a shift at the Combined Mess in Linton.

Her Person of the Year citation says she sets an exceptional example to all those around her and her enthusiasm and caring nature rubs off on her peers, creating a positive work environment wherever she may be tasked.

Lance Corporal Nui completed the Junior Non-Commissioned Officers Course in 2015 and was awarded the Regimental Trophy. Her commanders singled out her strong “moral compass” and courage to challenge contrary behaviour as a vital aspect of her leadership.

Discovering the high level of respect her peers and commanders hold for her and the fact she has won the NZDF Person of the Year Award was still sinking in, Lance Corporal Nui said.

“I’m shocked to be honest and seeing all the things people have said and written about me is quite humbling,” she said.

Lance Corporal Nui grew up as the only girl in a family of six children. One of those brothers, already a serving member, encouraged her to join the New Zealand Army.

“He said it was a great life and he’s right,” she said. “The friendships you make here are very special.”

This year, Lance Corporal Nui spent two months in Fiji after Tropical Cyclone Winston and on return had just one week to prepare before deploying as part of the contingent for the 75th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Crete.



LCPL Nui

In Crete her maturity and professionalism shone through and she forged strong bonds with some of the local people in Galatas, in particular a nine-year-old girl called Christina.

“She was very sweet and was trying to teach me Greek, but I admit I wasn’t that good at it. Their whole family pretty much adopted the entire contingent,” Lance Corporal Nui said.

A very focused soldier, she is looking ahead to 2017 and the Senior Chefs Course she will complete. She also intends to expand her mentoring skills.

“I want to help people to achieve their goals and improve their mind-set,” she said.

“OUR DEFENCE FORCE’S GREATEST STRENGTH DOES NOT COME FROM THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT WE CAN PUT IN THE FIELD, BUT FROM THEIR QUALITY.”

– LIEUTENANT GENERAL KEATING

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



What a busy year it has been for our small Army. A year book-ended with two large natural disasters in Fiji and Kaikoura, which required significant support from our Army, Navy and Air Force. Furthermore, we continued to sustain our current operations and deployments in Iraq, Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, Israel and South Lebanon, Afghanistan, South Sudan, U.A.E. and Korea, while at the same time conducting many courses and exercises both here and off-shore. Throughout all of this the soldiers (all ranks) of 1 Brigade have been unstinting in their commitment to supporting this operational tempo.

As an Army, we have grown in number, which is really positive and the standard of our new soldiers and officers coming in this year has been excellent and testament to the hard work of our dedicated team within The Army Depot, Army Command School, Land Operations Training Centre and Headquarters Training and Doctrine Command.

Though the positive leadership of our NCOs, Warrant Officers and Officers we are retaining more of our soldiers longer, with the rates of those leaving our Army across most ranks continuing to be held at very low levels. However, one area of attrition that is creeping up is our junior soldiers. I need your full support to help address this.

We have also continued to modernise our Force and examples of this are; the new Battle Training Facility in Ardmore which is world class; the Medium and Heavy Vehicles now being fully embedded and very much in evidence during the Fiji and Kaikoura responses; equipment from the Network Enabled Army programme starting to turn up to be trailed and tested; new pistols introduced and the Lewis Machine Tools Modular Assault Rifle Light being selected as the new Individual Weapon for our Army and Defence Force. The MARS-L will be introduced into service throughout 2017.

Sadly, all too often throughout the year we lost some very good soldiers, through illness and accidents, mates to many of us. It will be especially tough for their loved ones left behind to deal with the loss during this Christmas period. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them all during this time.

In closing can I thank you all for your continued dedication and support. Our Army exemplifies our values of courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity. It is an Army that the SMA and I are very proud to lead. Please take the time to have a break with family and friends, stay safe over Christmas, and for all of you on operations or deployment look after yourself and your mates.

My family and I wish you all a very safe and Happy Christmas and New Year wherever you are.

Yours aye

Major General Peter Kelly
Chief of Army

NZDF INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Major Stuart Tylee has won the New Zealand Defence Force Innovation of the Year award for implementing an acoustic/electronic target system for New Zealand Army small-arms training.

NZDF Joint Defence Services Chief Charlie Lott said Major Tylee’s innovative thinking had led to greater range safety, significantly reduced range staff stress and drastically improved training outcomes for soldiers undertaking small-arms training.

“Major Tylee’s commitment, from identifying the issue through to testing and implementing a pragmatic solution to the project has had real benefits for our soldiers and the NZDF and I am pleased to name him the NZDF Innovator of the Year,” Mr Lott said.

The theme for this year’s Innovation of the Year Award was using resources effectively to enhance combat capability.

Major Tylee identified issues with the quality of coaching and development of recruit small-arms training. A competitive shooter in his own time and having been trained as a practising shooting coach as a non-commissioned officer, he looked to implement an acoustic target system, which would allow individuals to easily review their shooting data and decrease the amount of hands-on staffing, while increasing safety on the shooting range.

The system is also portable, meaning that it can be used in a variety of training circumstances.

Major Tylee said he was very grateful for the recognition entailed in the award and also for the support he received



Major Tylee

from colleagues in the development of the system.

“As a keen shooter and proud soldier, I am very happy this minor innovation has gained traction and has been a positive step forward for our training,” he said.

“I am looking forward to future opportunities to support the development of our people, which I am passionate about.”