

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY

An update on the upgrade of our Army camps and training areas

In my travels around the country recently I have spoken to many people who are interested in what the Army regeneration, and in particular, future postings to Waiouru Camp and further afield mean for them. I do understand the need for a degree of certainty in the posting cycle now and going forward, particularly for those of you who have partners and families.

I want you to know that TRADOC Headquarters and the Army Command School is not expected to move from Waiouru until some time after 2020. Where they will go to is yet to be finalised, but rest assured as soon as it is known we will inform everyone. This is because the Defence senior leadership is looking at the feasibility of co-locating similar institutions into one geographical location. The consequence of that decision, which is expected to be made towards the end of this year, will determine the exact location of TRADOC Headquarters and Army Command School.

The Army Depot (TAD) which runs our All Arms Recruit Courses currently conducted in Waiouru Camp, is planned to move to Burnham in the 2021–23 timeframe.

As was highlighted in the March 2016 edition of *Army News*, over the next few years improvements will start to be seen to the places where the Army works, lives and trains as a major upgrade of the infrastructure in camps, bases and training areas gets underway.

We're not closing any of our main camps, bases or large training areas. There will however be some internal reorganisation and rationalisation where it makes sense to do so.

The new medical centre and dental facilities in Papakura

will be ready for use from July 2019. Additional barrack accommodation is currently under construction and will be ready by mid 2018 as will some additional working and storage facilities. Accommodation at the Ardmore Training Facility is the next priority so that sub-units from outside the Auckland region can spend time training there.

Over the next decade Waiouru Military Camp will be transformed from a standing static camp into a mounting base for collective training activities by combined arms groupings carried out in the Waiouru Training Area. It is intended the first stage of the mounting base will be ready for occupation before December 2019 and the Training Areas communications safety network is to be upgraded over the same period.

The new headquarters for QAMR at Linton is scheduled to be ready for occupation by June 2019. The new workshops, warehousing and vehicle shelters for support requirements to replace the old 2 Combat Service Support Battalion facilities, in partnership with the Consolidated Logistics Programme are scheduled to be ready for occupation by December 2019. The new multi-purpose camp headquarters hub, which will incorporate both the formation headquarters and those required to run the camp on a day to day basis is currently programmed to be ready for occupation in December 2020.

In Burnham the first noticeable improvements will be new workshops, warehousing and vehicle shelters to replace the old 3 Combat Service Support Battalion facilities. These are scheduled for completion by December 2020. The energy centre will be replaced so reliable heating and hot



water can be provided throughout the camp by December 2019. The Army Depot barracks are currently scheduled for completion over the period 2023 as are the balance of the facilities needed to support all arms recruit training. All should be ready by December 2023.

So you can see planning and work is well underway to provide better, more functional administrative and operational facilities for you all, to train and work. As always I would be really interested in your own thoughts and ideas on any of this and would welcome your input either directly or through the SMA blog. When the planning teams come around the various camps and bases we will also be actively seeking your input.

Onward,
Major General Peter Kelly
Chief of Army

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOU – BUY A MEDALLION

Families/whanau provide crucial support to Army personnel but their role is typically private and ‘behind the scenes’, and their efforts often go unseen – officially, at least. To help change this, Force 4 Families has created a “NZDF Supporters Medallion”.



Sergeant John Hills and daughter Grace with the NZDF Supporters' Medallion.

The medallions were officially launched on 15 May, to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families. This year focusses on the role of families in promoting the education and wellbeing of their members. Families Day is of special significance to Force 4 Families – not only does it promote family wellbeing, but this was the day it was launched back in 2015.

“The NZDF Supporters Medallion is a tangible recognition of the huge contribution that family members play in supporting you, and NZDF operations,” says Brenda Keating, the Chair of the Force 4 Families Project Team.

“Family” means something different to everyone, says Mrs Keating.

“Family could be your best friend, your spouse or partner, children, a parent, an in-law – or anyone else in your life that you feel especially close to, who has supported and stood by you in the work that you do,” she says.

The medallions are available to purchase from the National Army Museum, www.armymuseum.co.nz/shop. They cost \$21.50, plus postage.

Personnel can gift them to their family members to recognise their continued, ongoing support, or to recognise, for example, the extra efforts and sacrifices required during a deployment. The medallions can be personalised, as they have space on the back for engraving.

The NZDF Supporters Medal recognises the NZDF values mirrored in Defence families/whanau: courage, or bravery; commitment: being proud of you and your job, even when it has been tough; and comradeship: being a good friend, or supporter. Wear your medallion on the right-hand side to show your support for NZDF.

Force 4 Families is dedicated to improving communication and welfare for the NZDF families/whanau, and to build a stronger sense of community. For more information, visit www.nzdf.mil.nz/families