

# KIWI SERVICE PEOPLE HELP OUT IN NEPAL

**Three New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) members helped to train future United Nations peacekeepers from about 30 countries at a three-week exercise in Nepal recently.**

Lieutenant Colonel Jane Derbyshire, a subject matter expert on the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security, gender mainstreaming and protection of civilians, was one of the instructors for the Global Peace Operations Initiative Capstone Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise.

The exercise involved about 120 participants from 30 countries and was held at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre (BPOTC) in Nepal.

“My role was to assist in training the operational planners

and the tactical troops on how to integrate a gender perspective in order to bring about a more sustainable peace,” Lieutenant Colonel Derbyshire said.

“New Zealand supports regional efforts to increase the capacity of Asia-Pacific nations in undertaking peacekeeping operations. We have also contributed to the UN’s campaign to raise global awareness of the integral role that women play in peace and security.”

Flight Sergeant Joe Regan from the Royal New Zealand Air Force was involved in the field training exercise,

which simulated different scenarios and was conducted at both the operational and tactical levels to ensure the troops are ready to deploy as UN Military Observers and Staff Officers. Lieutenant Commander Andrew Wells from the Royal New Zealand Navy helped conduct the staff training exercise.

The BPOTC, which was established by the Nepalese Army as a peacekeeping training camp in 1986, conducts training according to the guidelines of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

## NZDF ENGINEERS HELP SHORE UP SECURITY FOR MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SINAI

by Luz Baguioro, Public Affairs Manager –  
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**A 34-member engineering team from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has built a new entry control point and helped construct a 3.3-kilometre perimeter fence to shore up security for a multinational peacekeeping force in the Sinai Peninsula.**

Lieutenant Tom Gilbert, the Troop Commander of the NZDF engineering team, said both projects were a big boost to security at the Multinational Force & Observers’ (MFO) South Camp.

“Our engineers have done our country proud with their work. I felt humbled every time I heard comments

commending their work and their dedication to get the job done,” Lieutenant Gilbert said following the contingent’s return from their six-month deployment to the Sinai in mid-June.

He said members of the NZDF engineering team, comprised of combat engineers, carpenters, plumbers, maintenance fitters and electricians from the New Zealand Army’s 2nd Engineer Regiment, considered their deployment “a very rewarding experience”.

“The MFO plays a vital role in maintaining peace in this area of the Middle East and being a part of it is hugely satisfying. The team can be proud of what they have achieved here,” Lieutenant Gilbert said.

The NZDF engineers left in late January to build the entry control point and support the perimeter fence project for the MFO, an international organisation with peacekeeping responsibilities in the Sinai. After operating at North Camp for over 30 years, the mission’s headquarters and a number of troops from the 12 nations that make up the MFO’s Force moved to South Camp in mid-2016 due to the deteriorating security situation in North Sinai.

The MFO has been building new facilities to accommodate the influx into South Camp and had requested assistance from New Zealand and other countries with some of the infrastructure projects.

“Our sappers are sought after by numerous external partners for their skills,” said Brigadier Mike Shapland, the Land Component Commander.



“We regularly send our engineers on missions overseas, including in Iraq, the Sinai and Antarctica, as well as on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the South West Pacific.”

The NZDF has been contributing a transport section, a training and advisory team, and a number of key staff positions to the MFO since it was established in 1982. At present, 26 NZDF members form part of the MFO Force of around 1700 personnel.

The NZDF holds two key positions in the MFO Force Engineering Office – Project Management Officer and Engineer Warrant Officer. Major Gabby Gofton, who was the Project Management Officer until last May, played a key role in planning and coordinating the MFO’s infrastructure projects during her 12-month posting in the Sinai.



The contingent gathers after completing its work