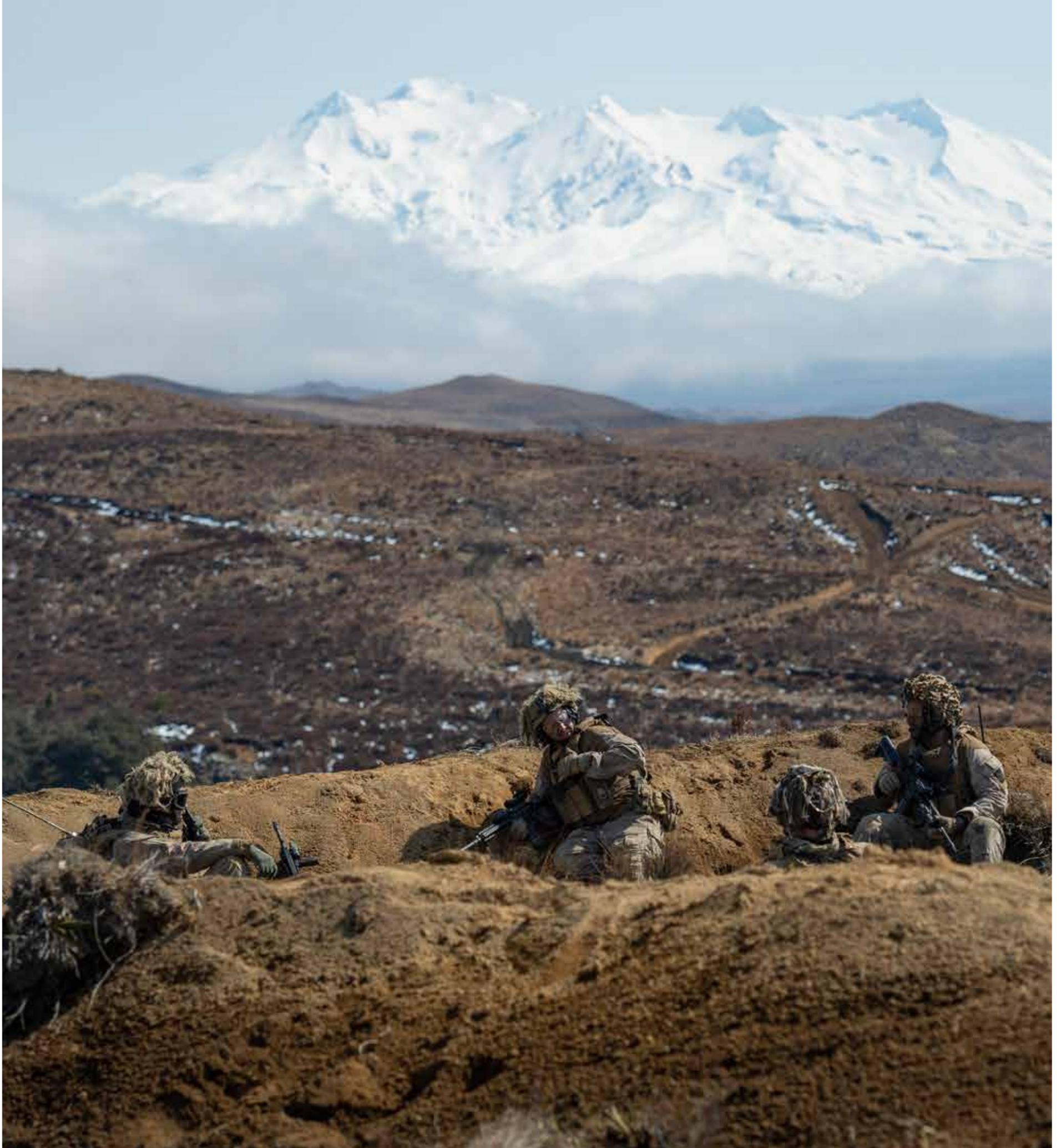


SOLDIERS TESTED IN EXERCISE SARI BAIR

Exercise Sari Bair, the largest exercise in the Army's training schedule this year, was a chance to test combat teams in the delivery of combined arms effects in a low to medium warfighting environment reflecting the skills used on operations around the world.





All 1 (NZ) Brigade units were involved with each playing a vital role in achieving mission success with support from RNZAF's No. 3 Squadron.

Multiple units from the New Zealand Army and personnel from the United States Army, US Marines and Australian and British armies converged on the military training area in Waiouru for the exercise.

Exercise Commander Lieutenant Colonel Aidan Shattock said the training was essential.

"It's imperative to safeguard our troops during training and operations, so we need to test them in live field firing with the various capabilities we have," Lieutenant Colonel Shattock said.

The terrain and weather at the Waiouru Military Training Facility added to the challenge of completing the tasks set, he said.

"Waiouru is a challenging environment, so it puts people through their paces and we need to be ready for operations in all environments, such as urban, open and closed country and mountain."

Working with international militaries was also a crucial aspect of mimicking a life-like operational scenario, he said.

"It's incredibly useful to access their knowledge and experience and working in these situations helps when we work with them on operations around the world. Having that familiarity with each other and the way we work is vital for successful operations."

The Army had been working towards exercise Sari Bair throughout the year in various exercises, he said. The exercise finished on 2 October.

"All the units coming together for Exercise Sari Bair means all our troops, including infantry, engineers, logistics, armour and medics etcetera, work in cohesion to achieve success on operations."



