



# DEFENCE RESPONSE TO CHRISTCHURCH TERROR

## The New Zealand Defence Force played a significant role in the response to the March 15 Christchurch terror attack.

About 340 Police personnel were accommodated at Burnham Military Camp. Bomb detection teams from E Squadron, 1 NZSAS Regiment, assisted in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

A team of NZDF Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) experts deployed to Christchurch, as did a specialised Army Mortuary Support team.

A total of about 550 NZDF personnel deployed or were on standby to support the terror attack relief effort. RNZAF aircraft transported personnel and equipment around the country.

Army engineers built temporary mortuary facilities and privacy screens at the hospital for the DVI teams and coroner. Engineers also deployed throughout the country to help police with defensive searches.

The Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell, who is from Christchurch, said he wanted to thank his officers and soldiers for their agility, flexibility and commitment during the operation.

"I was proud to see how our people, both military and civilian, wanted to be involved and stepped up at short notice. They were tireless in their support of other government agencies, particularly the New Zealand Police, putting all family commitments aside to do whatever they could following the events of Friday, 15 March.

"Their professionalism and training meant they could step up at very short notice and provide critical support at our nation's time of need. It was a real team effort and one we can all be proud of.

"I'd also like to thank our partner ESS who absorbed all of the significant extra catering and accommodation costs incurred in supporting the NZDF and the New Zealand Police in Burnham Camp."

