



# NZDF SOLDIERS TRAINED ON NEW BARRETT RIFLES

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**The NZDF has selected two new individual weapons for its land forces – the M107A1 anti-materiel rifle (AMR) in .50” calibre and the Multi Role Adaptive Design (MRAD) in .338” and 7.62mm calibres (switchable barrels), both made by US manufacturer Barrett Firearms.**



*From top: MRAD sniper rifle in .338 configuration and suppressor fitted, Mk 4 Leupold spotting scope with tripod.*

*AMR fitted with Nightforce ATACR 5x25 scope and 10 round magazine.*

*Soldiers from 2/1st Bn RNZIR demonstrating the use of the Vector laser range finder with the AMR to identify and range targets.*

Forty M107A1 and forty-two MRAD weapons have been procured, including day optics, suppressors, ballistic computers and other auxiliary equipment to complement a total weapon system.

Soldiers from across Army have recently completed train the trainer course on both weapons in Waiouru under very testing conditions. Before the courses began the training teams under WO1 Rodger Moana (MRAD) and SSGT Lance Weaver (M107A1) from Capability Branch Training Delivery Team went to Waiouru with the weapons and their team of instructors and finalised all the lesson plans to ensure maximum use of the time available.

SSGT Weaver ran two 5-day courses for the M107A1 and included soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, RNZIR, 2/1<sup>st</sup> Bn, RNZIR, Combat School (TRADOC) and NZSAS. For those familiar with Waiouru zones, they utilised ‘Fingers’ which made for an ideal range to use the full capability of this new system across a variety of targets. The NZDF requirement for this system is a second shot hit at 1500m on a 1 x 1 m<sup>2</sup> target. All soldiers trained were able to meet this requirement, testament to the system and the training provided.

WO1 Moana ran a six-day course for the MRAD which also included soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, RNZIR, 2/1<sup>st</sup> Bn, RNZIR, Combat School (TRADOC) and NZSAS. They used Russell Range which gave them a clear view out to beyond 2000m, and also used a variety of targets some of which are specifically designed for long range shooting. The initial configuration had the MRAD fitted with the 7.62mm barrels. During the shoot they worked their way up to the longer ranges (1000m) then conducted a quick barrel change with the .338”, utilising match grade ammunition. The shooters were

able to effectively engage targets at 1500m, which is the requirement of the new rifle.

Both systems come with their own Pelican case that allows for all essential components to be contained in one place for ease of transport and security. The larger items such as the new Leupold Mk 4 spotting scopes and the Cruxord tripod systems also have their own carry case.

The new LabRadar systems which digitally capture muzzle velocity were also used for the first time during the activity and proved to be very effective, especially for the snipers. The muzzle velocities captured from by the LabRadar are recorded for use in the new Kestrel 5700 ballistic computers that provide the firer their required elevation and windage.

The next stage of the process is to gain approval to release the weapons into service with units, which is scheduled for the end of July 2019. This will provide units with the opportunity to conduct training up to December 19 for the remainder of the operators.