TRAINING UNDERWAY ON NEW BARRETT RIFLES
Weapons due to be released next month

TRAIN HARD, TRAIN SMART, TRAIN SAFE
A message from LCC

UNIFORM IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PIPELINE
Design flaws to be addressed
**Family Readiness, your role**

To be an effective Army we need you to be healthy and we encourage our people to stay fit, and make the right choices in what we eat and drink. This applies to family readiness. Family readiness includes financial wellbeing – have you got this sorted? In recent years we have also made the step to help our soldiers look after their financial wellbeing. Why? Because we know financial wellbeing can have a direct impact on stress levels and family choices. It is hard to be the best soldier you can be if you are worrying about money or have financial worries adding stress to your everyday life. At some point in our lives all of us will worry about money so the NZDF established the Force Financial Hub in 2015 as a way of providing useful tools that we, and our families, can use.

We want you to make the best financial decisions for your situation. We’re all at different stages of our lives but it is never too early or too late to set some financial goals. Some of you will be saving for a first home and this is a great goal. Each year about 250 members of the New Zealand Defence Force KiwiSaver Scheme withdraw funds to purchase a first home. Getting married or having children changes your financial situation, and it’s also a good time to make a Will (if you don’t already have one) or appoint a Power of Attorney in case you are ever in a situation where you aren’t able to make your own decisions. Both of these documents can be accessed through the Force Financial Hub. The NZ Army wants to support your financial wellbeing, and to complement the Force Financial Hub we also run regular Financial Capability courses at our camps. These courses are delivered by the Commission for Financial Capability and cover a broad range of topics including budgeting, purchasing a home, improving your financial literacy and retirement planning.

It is also never too early to start putting money aside for your retirement. Most of you are in a KiwiSaver Scheme, which is great and a good form of long-term saving ensuring you’ll have a lump sum when you turn 65. Many of us are guilty of not checking our KiwiSaver investment portfolio often or changing our portfolio if need be. But regular checks will ensure you’re on the right track. To help you we’ve put together a Retirement Preparedness Survey so check the Force Financial Hub online to access tools and resources.

This will provide you with a snapshot on how prepared you are financially for retirement. You have until 30 June to complete the survey.

**SMA Jungle Tip:** Family readiness is important, are you sorted?

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**TOWER DE FORCE CHALLENGE – A TESTING CHALLENGE**

Despite a feisty effort the NZ Army team was pipped at the post by Navy during this year’s Tower de Force Challenge at SkyCity in Auckland.

The Navy team won the most points for the strength exercises (rope climbs, jerry can runs, tyre toss and freemans carry), the stair run, complex first aid test, mast climb and abseil.

New Zealand Defence Force teams from Army, Navy and Air Force competed in the charity event that this year was aligned with Mike King’s ‘I am hope’ campaign for the Kay to Life Charitable Trust.

Strong winds and drizzle for much of the contest did not reduce the festive atmosphere and enthusiasm from the large crowd of supporters at the base of the Tower. The Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor and the Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell, were also there to support the teams.

The introduction of a live video feed from the stairwell, the first aid station and the abseil finish to a big screen in front of the Tower was a popular innovation with the public. While the main teams were going through their paces for the TDFC, teams from each of the cadet forces also competed in strength activities (including tug of war) at the base of the Tower. This was won by the Army cadet team.

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**Cover:** Corporal Tangi Smith challenges Victor 4 Vietnam veterans during their welcome back to Burnham Camp. (See page 08)

**Photo:** CPL Sean Spivey

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Train Hard, Train Smart, Train Safe

In previous Army News articles, I have discussed how a strong and resilient force contributes to the overall culture of readiness for operations, and that culture can often create the surety for mission success. So too does realistic and multifaceted training and the culture of safety associated with effective training. Realistic and complex training is critical to prepare our officers and soldiers for the full range of military options and operations expected of us, both domestically and offshore. We are required to intentionally expose our personnel to perceived and actual physical and mental danger to mimic the operational experience and environment and grow resiliency. Realistic and complex training does not mean risky training. Well planned, controlled and executed training ahead of an operational deployment results in mission success, and reduces the chance of accidents and casualties. In the contemporary Army, live field firing is not the only activity that poses some risk to our personnel, nor should this be deemed as the pinnacle of our martial training. Some PT including running, swimming, cross-country, and a variety of other physical conditioning for the Land Combat Military driving, some PT including running, swimming, cross-country, and a variety of other physical conditioning for the Land Combat

We held Safety in Training Seminars in Linton, Burnham, and Waiouru at the start of June led by the Land Training Advisory Group and members of my staff, and attended by the majority of you at the JNCO and Young Officer level through to senior commanders and trainers. The purpose of the workshops was to be an informative, supportive, enabling and engaging seminar; not to preach, but to generate awareness and discussion in order to improve our safety in training culture. The seminars each centred around three themes; to reinforce our responsibilities towards safety in training and looking after our personnel; to reiterate the vertical alignment of commanders and trainers to risk, training design and evaluation, policy and processes; and to provide a safe forum for articulating obstacles that hinder safe (but realistic, multifaceted, and progressive) training and determine a path ahead to remove those obstacles, and to shine a light on new ideas and perspectives in training. The engagement and feedback were great, confirming my belief and trust in our commanders, leaders, and trainers as wanting to provide world-class, agile, adaptive, and varied training to better prepare our personnel for the rigours of operations. At the same time, we conducted a review of recent Courts of Inquiry to determine if there were any patterns that could inform future actions. The outcome of this was largely that our policy and doctrine is sound, comprehensive, and allows for the safe conduct of all military training. They do need to be understood, however, and otherwise they atrophy, and this is when mistakes and accidents can happen. We have occurred either by the incorrect actions of the individual under training, or by failure in executing and supervising staff and trainers. This is something we can all work on.

We had some outstanding feedback and conversations during the seminars and I acknowledge the contribution of all who attended, especially the junior commanders. We identified many work-on areas including addressing tempo, information management, better methods to access and search training doctrine and policy, use of simulation and technology, a faster lessons learned loop process, and supporting graduated training by providing resources (including time) for training to include the requisite ‘sets and reps’ to be competent before moving to more complex activities. These were but some of the many suggestions that we are working through, led by the Land Training Advisory Group, and that will help improve our cultural behaviours towards safer training.

Now what? We are all on the hook to address some of the concerns presented at the seminars, and I need all Commanders to do so in their area of responsibility and accountability. Whilst many attended the Seminar, we didn’t get the whole organisation, so the conversation needs to continue in the Regular and Reserve units. Building a positive and strong culture of safety training is more than just a mantra of ‘operations first, safety always’. We have to live it. One of the highlights of the Safety in Training Seminars was the willingness of junior commanders to offer suggestions and to identify problem areas. This takes a bit of courage in front of peers and superiors. Well done, it is that behaviour during training, putting the hand up if something is not quite right, or calling ‘stop’ that can prevent death or serious injury. We owe that to ourselves, our comrades and our mates.

Train Hard, Train Smart, Train Safe

Jim Bliss
Brigadier

The NZ Army is in the process of updating its Multi Camouflage Uniform (MCU).

The update addresses materials that can no longer be sourced and takes advantage of changes in material colours including commercial multi cam patterns. The update will also include design and material fabric enhancements to improve comfort and fit.

The camouflage pattern of the new uniform is similar to that worn by the United Kingdom Defence Force but with a New Zealand colour scheme. It is known as NZ Multi Terrain Pattern (NZMTP). The colour, camouflage pattern and material have been approved by the Chief of Defence Force. The initial production of uniforms is planned for late 2019 with distribution early 2020. NZMTP will be phased in over four years, ending 2023. Extensive operational and training use of the current MCU, in a range of conditions and environments, has identified a number of comfort and fit issues relating to the design. These include fabric fatigue issues, and the uniform cut not suiting parts of the Army team. Specifically, fit issues for female service personnel has been an on-going source of dissatisfaction.

The colour and pattern of the NZMTP is similar visually across a broad range of commercial Multi-Cam® products enabling Army to take advantage of a range of Commercial off the Shelf military clothing and personal support items. This provides opportunity to evolve the clothing and personnel support items at a quicker pace than the current MCU clothing system enables.

The initial design of the combat shirts and trousers, produced in the NZMTP will be styled on the former Disruptive Pattern Material (DPM) uniform, the predecessor of the current MCU.

In addition, a clothing sizing system review has begun using data from a 2016 anthropometric survey, with the United Kingdom Defence Force assistance. This is to ensure the NZMTP sizes are engineered to meet the body shapes and sizes of all NZDF Personnel. Alternate designs will be trialled early 2020 which will allow confirmation of the materials, design and fit. The trial will utilise participants across Army to ensure female and male feedback is available to influence the final design and sizing system.

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UNIFORM UPDATE

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The days of soldiers being side-lined because of frequent ankle injuries could be a thing of the past following the introduction of a garrison shoe worn everywhere except on operation or exercise.

The introduction of the shoe came about after a study to tackle the issue of the high number of lower limb injuries in the NZDF, with the ankle joint being the most common area for a lower limb injury, particularly in the Army. The activities causing most of these injuries were sport, running and physical training. As a result of introducing the shoe NZDF is seeing a consistent and significant decrease in lower limb injury rates among those wearing them. The study investigated the effect of long-term boot wear by performing a number of physiological and biomechanical tests on recruits before they were issued with military boots. These tests included strength of the muscles supporting the ankle joint, the amount of neural activity of these muscles while balancing and the range of movement of the ankle joint. The recruits were then re-assessed after 12 months of military service with them having consistently worn boots during this time.

Performance Health Exercise physiologist Major Jacques Rousseau said after 12 months of consistently wearing boots during military service with them having consistently worn boots during this time.

The results showed that when operating boots for a long time caused the ankle joint to rely on the boot for stability and therefore became 'lazy'. This significantly increases the chances of injury when playing sport and/ or running without a boot. A further interesting result indicated that the shock sole of the boot was reducing the sensory feedback the bottom of the foot was receiving from the ground surface. This decreased the ability of foot and ankle to prevent the joint from "rolling over" and being injured because the sensory input which informs the joint how it is positioned is weakened. Major Rousseau said the next step was finding a way to mitigate these results. "So we investigated if wearing a shoe instead of a boot (for non-combat training activities) would reverse the 'detraining' effect of the boot. A number of soldiers who had been in Service for more than two years were given a flexible Garrison shoe to see if this could reverse the effect of the boot. The soldiers wore the shoe for 10 weeks. They were put through the exact same tests as those carried out by the recruits before and after wearing boots. Initial results indicated a significant weakness in ankle function, but after 10 weeks of wearing a flexible shoe, the 'detraining' effect of the boot was significantly reversed," he said.

Improvements in strength of the muscles supporting the ankle joint, the amount of neural activity of the muscles while balancing and the range of movement of the ankle joint all improved. "What we can conclude is that wearing a shoe when in garrison assists the ankle joint in maintaining its natural function," Major Rousseau said. The Garrison Shoe can be issued at the Unit Commander's discretion for Army and Air Force personnel. The Navy is still finalising their process on who will be entitled to wear the Garrison Shoe. As a result the NZDF is seeing a consistent and significant decrease in lower limb injury rates among those wearing the Garrison shoe. There are also seeing an improvement in personnel with chronic lower limb injuries when changing from daily boot wearing to wearing a Garrison shoe. This is a worldwide military issue with multiple studies conducted over a long period of time. The success in these other studies has been limited, and therefore this study is being seen as a major step forward in resolving this issue. As a result there has been a lot of international interest in the findings from this initiative, in particular from foreign military organisations.
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.

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 1st Bn, RNZIR, 2/1st 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 m² 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 1st Bn, RNZIR, 2/1st 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.
06 armypeople

By SSGT Nick Johnson

For more than 30 years musicians from the military bands of the South Pacific and SE Asia have spent nine months each year with the Army Band’s the School of Music (SoM) as part of the Mutual Assistance programme (MAP) for musicians.

Affectionately known as ‘Mappies’, students originate from a range of countries with Tonga, Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu amongst the most regular attendees. In recent years students from Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste have also attended, as both of these nations aspire to build their military band capabilities, which are currently in very formative stages.

The first courses were coordinated by Chris Campbell and, having enjoyed recent conversations with Chris, it appears that very little has changed in the way the course is structured and managed. The musicians then, as they are now, were completely separate from the NZAB, maintaining their own training programme and timetable of events.

There certainly is a rhythm to the year where their practical instruction is constantly paired up and linked with their theoretical learning, and there is always an examination, assessment or performance to aim for. The students have the opportunity to attempt three external music theory exams where we use the syllabus of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) with the first exam taking place in mid-March.

With this exam so early in the course, initial assessments regarding the grade each student attempts have to be made quickly. Students who have experienced a good grounding in their musical studies can be successful at grade 5, which gives them the chance to reach a grade 7 standard by the end of the course. Students who have had less previous experience will attempt grade 3 or 4. However, by the end of the course most students will reach grade 6. This is a very good benchmark which includes the requirement to write pure four part harmony and analyse orchestral scores with the many complexities that this entails.

Of course all of this takes place in a foreign tongue! Being an international examination board the ABRSM is highly regarded and the students take great pride and personal satisfaction in the levels they attain, and rightly so.

Last year, PTE William Tom, a student from Vanuatu who returned to us for bandleader training, achieved grade 8, the highest theory grade attained on the MAP course, with three other students achieving grade 7.

It goes without saying that our Tongan musicians come with the benefit of experiencing a fabulous brass band tradition that is enshrined in their education and schooling.

We assess students internally, ensuring that technical aspects such as scales and studies are included. However, if there is a student that we believe can be successful at attaining the ABRSM grade 8 practical exam, they will be given this opportunity. In 2016 and 2018 we entered a euphonium and tenor horn respectively for grade 8 with both students gaining distinctions.

The course forms an ensemble regardless of the instrumentation and is exposed to a wide range of repertoire.

Away from the SoM the students spend one afternoon a week at the Defence College where they receive English tuition, written and spoken, from excellent tutors which pays huge dividends particularly in their exam preparations.

Externally many of them play a full role in local sports teams and particularly rugby, rugby league and football where with their skill and enthusiasm are warmly welcomed.

Local civilian bands have benefited from MAP students who have played for them, again a great way for the musicians to experience a wide repertoire, including contest works, as they attend both provincial and national events for both B and C grade bands.

THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

A New Zealand Army Band Institution

By SSGT Nick Johnson

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Away from the SoM the students spend one afternoon a week at the Defence College where they receive English tuition, written and spoken, from excellent tutors which pays huge dividends particularly in their exam preparations.

Externally many of them play a full role in local sports teams and particularly rugby, rugby league and football where with their skill and enthusiasm are warmly welcomed.

Local civilian bands have benefited from MAP students who have played for them, again a great way for the musicians to experience a wide repertoire, including contest works, as they attend both provincial and national events for both B and C grade bands.
Monty Montgomery has a way with weapons.

Not just firing them, but teaching others everything they need to know to get the rounds on target. Warrant Officer Class Two Montgomery is the senior Weapons Instructor for the NZDF Collective Training Centre, and he is also Captain and Coach of the NZ Army Combat Shooting Team which scored the best it has done in years in the recent international Australian Army Skills at Arms competition. Not bad for a boy who joined the Army “because it looked cool.”

**Why the Army as a career?**

I chuckle to myself when people ask me this because I have no idea. It’s either because I’m too old to remember or I just had no idea what I was actually getting myself into, apart from “it looks cool” – I think it’s the latter of the two! I joined the Army (Armoured Corps) when I was 19. My family have served in WWI, WWII and Korea, however no one ever pushed me or even mentioned that the military would be a great job. I think the part that appealed to me (and still does) is there are very few days that are the same in the Army. I enjoy the fastballs, ambiguity and challenges of military life.

**Why is shooting excellence necessary?**

Shooting excellence is important because it directly relates to operational outputs. Regardless of people’s perception of danger, there will always be a threat in any mission where soldiers do or don’t carry weapons. Excellence is not something you should hope for, or even worse disregard because it’s too hard to obtain, it is something you must have in order to win on operations.

Shooting excellence is a life-saving skill. Many soldiers I talk to envisage their shooting skills exist to one day take offensive action on operations. Although this is not unlikely, it is more likely that those shooting skills will be employed to defend themselves or their mate under critical stress, in which the adversary decides when, where and how the fight will start. If this is the most likely place shooting excellence is required it will not only save a life, it will also prevent mums, dads, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters from losing loved ones… we must be excellent when it counts the most!

Shooting is a unique skill that encompasses so many other skills. You have to be extremely organised, well prepared, alert, adaptive, and calm, composed, and have a high aptitude for learning new mental and physical skills. Therefore, what we learn in shooting can be transferred to all skills/trades/units in the military, these skills are foundation skills. After all, who doesn’t want a soldier that is organised, prepared for almost anything, alert, adaptive, calm and composed with a high aptitude to learn new skills?

**What goes into preparing soldiers to fight?**

Everything you have!

I’m no more qualified than anyone else to answer that question. However, one thing that is often overlooked is a soldier’s ability to flick those mental switches to inflict extreme violence on another human being. This defies our moral compass, values and beliefs as law abiding human beings. Yet it is a learned response that we often neglect in training for operations or conventional warfare. There is no second place in a fight, hence why a soldier’s ability to inflict extreme violence without prompting or reacting to violence is a mandatory skill in any combative environment.

**Is there a psychology to it?**

It’s all psychological. Shooting is a thinking person’s sport, hobby or job. There are no cross fit gyms for shooters or supplements that make you better… it’s all based on your ability to think through the shot.

This is often the piece of the puzzle that prevents soldiers from being a ‘great shot’, they just can’t think through the process of shooting. Shooting excellence is a unique skill that starts and finishes in the brain.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I love training soldiers, it is and always will be the highlight of my career. The enjoyment of watching soldiers grow and develop into capable, confident war fighters is what makes all the long hours in the training areas worth it. That moment when all their training culminates in that perfect movement, shot or decision (regardless of how small or big that moment may be), is what defines success to me as a trainer.

Training people to shoot has taught me more about training in general than anything else. I am still learning, and in fact at times I feel I know less now about shooting then when I started my journey teaching people to shoot. That’s great – I don’t want to stop learning.

**What are the challenges?**

The first one is there is a massive difference in soldiers that know how to shoot, and soldiers that can operate a weapon system. I frequently hear that “everyone knows how to shoot” or even worse, everyone thinks they can “teach” others how to shoot. The biggest challenge for me is to stop working. I’m not a person that leaves things for tomorrow, if I feel it should be done today – I need to do it. So this impacts mainly on my wife and kids.

Joanne is an amazing wife and mother, and has contributed more to the NZACST than most would know.
By Judith Martin

Like the gnarly old Herc they are flying in, these men – and one woman – are tough.

Some have their partners with them, and some their children and grandchildren as they tentatively climb the stairs and find themselves seats in the C-130 Hercules bound for Christchurch. They are the veterans and families from Victor 4 Company, and they’re heading south to celebrate 50 years since they arrived in Vietnam.

There’s an air of excitement as we snap shut our seat belts and prepare for take-off on RNZAF C-130 NZ7002, the very same aircraft that 50 years ago flew Victor 4 Company to Vuc Tau in Vietnam.

The men will later recollect how they were just as excited to board the aircraft 50 years ago when, Vietnam-bound and some just teenagers, they had no idea what lay ahead nor if they would return.

The flight is quick, and the crew attentive as they assist every passenger carefully down the stairs, thanking each veteran for their service. The tarmac puddles glisten, and it’s wet and windy in Christchurch, but that’s no dampener to what lies ahead.

After a bus ride to Burnham Camp the veterans gather inside to register. Some travelled together, others drove, and some flew in from Australia for this event they have been looking forward to for months.

As they recognise mates they haven’t seen for years, there are huge bear-hugs all around. No stiff armed hand-shakes for this lot. These are men who fought alongside each other, were ambushed together, heard the sputter of nearby gun fire, and carried their dead mates from the jungle.

In the warmth and safety of the Burnham mess there are yarns to be told, memories to be shared, and business to catch up on. It’s poignant they are back in Burnham where they trained and deployed all those years ago. Their ranks have dwindled since they last got together, but the days ahead are a chance for these 147 men and women to kick back, renew close friendships and remember the friends they have lost. They have a bond.

The next day the 2/1 Battalion parade ground is ringed by a carpet of golden brown leaves, and a fresh autumn wind blows as the veterans gather for their formal welcome.

Women from the battalion call them forward, and the acting 2/1 Battalion Commanding Officer Jeremy White tells them he and his battalion honour their Vietnam legacy. He reminds them they are back at their military home now, and that they are owed a debt of gratitude. “Thank you for your service. You are welcome at 2/1 any time, any day.”

Behind him 150 soldiers break into a blood-curdling haka – a challenge, but also a welcome and thank you to the men who went before them.

It’s the memorial service where the tears start to slip slowly down lined cheeks as heads are bowed, prayers said, and dead men remembered. The service begins happily enough: the opening music includes the Green, Green Grass of Home, and Mighty Quinn, a nod to the hits of the late 1960s, and also to one of the veterans, Quin Rodda. Mr Quin will later tell

“Occasions like this are great, being with the guys I served with, knowing they mostly experienced similar things. It’s emotional, but it’s healing.”

– Alan Plaisted, Victor 4 radio operator
those gathered that while Victor 4 disbanded on 8 May 1970, a bond was established that continues as strong as ever to this day. Large photographs of the seven Victor 4 men who were killed in action or died in service are displayed in front of the congregation. They look young, fresh-faced and confident, particularly Private Jack Williams who was the first to die, leaving a pregnant wife back home. He died in the first contact he had experienced in his short military career. His son John, who never met his father, is in the congregation today to honour and remember his dad.

The Roll of Honour is read, the Last Post played, and wreaths and poppies are laid. When the final strains of Whakaaria Mai are heard, the veterans slowly leave the service, some clutching the arm of their partner just a little more tightly. After lunch a return to the parade ground is in order. There, the soldiers of 2/1 are doing battle preparation, something they undertake frequently, but today their veteran visitors interrogate them about their weapons, kit and deployment history. The young soldiers are generous with their time and explanations about what it’s like to be in today’s Army.

Watching intently on the side line is Pam Miley-Terry who is 80 but belies her age. A New Zealander, she was a nursing sister with 1 Australian Field Hospital in Vung Tau. Her fellow veterans fondly remember how she would drop everything if she heard a Kiwi had been brought in, and would always ensure they had the best care she could give them. They joke how she’d shove the Australian nurses out of the way so she could look after ‘her boys’. She had been in the Army a while and already knew many of the soldiers who deployed. “It hurt when they came in wounded, shot-up or sick. Vietnam was a great learning experience. I think I learned more in a year about men under stress than I would in a lifetime anywhere else.”

After rest and recuperation a formal dinner awaits the veterans and their families. Some are still thinking of the parade ground challenge, and the war they travelled to 50 years ago. Victor 4 radio operator Alan Plaisted agrees it has been an emotional experience so far. Jack Williams (Victor 4’s first casualty) was a good friend when the pair deployed together. “Some nights I still wake up after dreaming of the faces of the mates I lost. But occasions like this are great, being with the guys I served with, knowing they mostly experienced similar things. It’s emotional, but it’s healing.”

If you’re a Vietnam veteran you’re eligible for extra support from Veterans’ Affairs

In addition to the support available to all qualifying veterans, such as healthcare and independent living support, Vietnam veterans can access additional support.

- Annual medical assessment.
  A free yearly check-up with a medical practitioner.
- Ex gratia payment.
  If diagnosed with a specific medical condition.

Your family is also eligible for support:

- Counselling for family
- Ex gratia payments for surviving spouses and partners, as well as natural born children.

You do not need to be living in New Zealand to qualify. Get in touch with Veterans’ Affairs if you’re not already registered:

- 0800 483 8372 (New Zealand)
- 1800 483 837 (Australia)
- 64 4 495 2070 (Rest of the World)
- www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz

Opposite, from top: Victor 4 veterans on the tarmac after arriving at Christchurch Airport on the same aircraft that took them to Vietnam 50 years earlier. A 2/1 soldier during the haka to welcome the veterans to Burnham. A soldier leaves the aircraft 50 years ago, complete with suitcase and weapon.

Above - clockwise from top left: A veteran and 2/1 soldier hongi; Veteran Pam Miley-Terry; a welcome from an airman; and a soldier; veterans and their families gather to be welcomed by soldiers from 2/1 RNZIR.

Left: The entourage included many veterans’ grandchildren.
The Network Enabled Army Programme (NEA) is modernising the full range of the command and control capabilities required by the New Zealand Army's Land Forces and Special Operations Forces. The programme will provide our deployed commanders with military versions of the types of digital communications services we now take for granted in everyday life. The Battalion Commander to the Section Commander will be connected to a digital network that will provide them with voice communications and data services, such as the electronic common operating picture. Networked sensors will provide them with real-time information, without the operators being exposed to detection.

The programme is being delivered in four tranches. Tranche One has been underway since 2015, and focuses on providing a Battalion Headquarters and Rifle Company with modern, digital command, control, communications and computer capabilities. The NEA C4 Integrated Project Team, led by Dean Burke, is at the forefront of delivering capability into service in Tranche One. The C4 Integrated Project Team is managing 23 separate projects of varying size and complexity. It is supported by the NEA Programme’s Technical Team and a Capability Integration Team. The C4 Integrated Project Team has made good progress delivering Tranche One, which will be completed at the end of 2021. Key systems have been acquired by the C4 Capability Integration Team and have been used successfully on exercises, in New Zealand and overseas. Major contracts have been signed for the supply of radios, battle management software, and other key communications and computer systems. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect has been the enthusiastic acceptance and use of these systems by Army. Whether it is in Tactical School incorporating the SitaWare Headquarters Battle Management Application in its promotion courses, HQ DJIATF deploying with the CCPOE Command Post set or 1 (NZ) Brigade incorporating command post exercises as part of its force generation plan, it is plain to see that Army has well and truly begun the process of transformation to a modern 21st Century military force.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capability</th>
<th>What Has Been Done</th>
<th>What’s Next</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battle Management System</td>
<td>SitaWare Headquarters 6.5 is in use at Tactical School and selected 1 (NZ) Brigade Units. SitaWare is being used by Task Group Headquarters for staff planning exercises and, command post exercises and field exercises. HQ DJIATF use SitaWare Frontline for Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief tasks.</td>
<td>Upgrade to SitaWare Headquarters v6.8 planned to occur in Quarter Four 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Group Headquarters</td>
<td>Command Post systems used on Ex Tropic Major and JWA 19. Task Group staff operated within a US Army led coalition command post exercise on JWA 19.</td>
<td>Complete the integration of generators, climate control systems and trailers with the command post set.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearer Network</td>
<td>2.4M Tactical SATCOM terminal successfully employed on JWA 19. Future Communication Access Node (CAN) computer systems delivered to TREC for integration testing.</td>
<td>Integration of computer and SATCOM systems and introduction into service of next generation communication access node.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Tactical Command System</td>
<td>CTT1 have deployed their mobile tactical command systems (MANA). The core radio fleet for the rest of Army has been selected (HARRIS radios, supplied by Harris Australia).</td>
<td>NEA and Soldier Modernisation Office are designing the C4 fits for dismounted troops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREC Engineering Centre Trentham</td>
<td>In use.</td>
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A 13-member dental team from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) deployed to Samoa in May to join Samoan health authorities in their fight against plaque and cavities and to promote the importance of good oral health.

About 440 high-needs patients, aged from 3 to 70 years old and including members of the Samoa national rugby Sevens team, were treated during Exercise Tropic Twilight, as the 12-day outreach was called.

“We are pleased that we were able to provide dental care and treatment to those who needed it most but could not afford it,” said Major Philip Worthington, who led the NZDF contingent.

Major Mark Worthington, who is a Reservist dental surgeon and the contingent commander’s twin brother, performed a number of challenging surgical extractions. “We’ve given back their smiles, their self-esteem,” he said.

“We went the extra mile, especially for the youngsters, because we know how poor oral health can negatively impact on health and well-being.”

Dentist Lieutenant Amanda Rowe said many of the patients had been in agony for years because of tooth decay and other dental problems.

“Some of them travelled for hours to get to our clinic so it felt rewarding to help them and relieve them of their pain,” she said.

The NZDF dental team also gave away toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste as they promoted the importance of self-care and a healthy diet to oral health.

“One of the reasons I became a dental assistant is to help people so it was great to deploy and assist our Samoan neighbours,” Private Liam Jones said.

Fellow Dental Assistant Lance Corporal Nadine Nitschke agreed. “It meant working long days and dealing with challenging cases, but it was very rewarding,” she said.

Major Philip Worthington said the outreach demonstrated once again the NZDF dental teams ability to deploy and operate effectively overseas.

“It was also a great learning opportunity for some of our personnel who deployed overseas for the first time,” he said.

**FAST FACTS**

**Ex Tropic Twilight**

- Patients treated: 437 aged from 3–70 years old
- Fillings: 310
- Extractions: 272
- Dental cleaning: 139

From top: Open wide: dental work underway in Samoa.

Spreading the word about dental health.

The dental team relaxes after a day’s work.
MEMORIES RELIVED BY SOUTH KOREA VETERAN VISIT

By Colonel Don Jones, Defence Attaché to the Republic of Korea

Two old soldiers and a sailor got the chance to rediscover South Korea recently when the government of that country shouted them a trip to where they once fought.

Each year the South Korean (Republic of Korea) government pay for veterans (and a family member), from all countries who sent forces to the Korean War to revisit South Korea. The Kiel veterans went in late April along with old soldiers, sailors and airmen from the UK, Canada and Australia.

The Commonwealth Revisit coincided with the Battle of Kapyong anniversary (23-24 April), where all four countries fought as part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade.

The NZ Army’s major unit in the Korean War was 16 Field Regiment, Royal NZ Artillery, but there was also 10 Transport Company and supporting loggie, sigs, engineers, armoured crewmen, and staff officers. RNZN was also very active in the Korean War sending two frigates immediately, and eventually rotating all six of our frigates through Korean waters. Some 1300 sailors and 4600 soldiers from New Zealand served in Korea from 1950.

The war mainly stopped after three hard years of fighting but a garrison force continued until 1957. Forty-five New Zealanders lost their lives in the conflict (including training, driving and sickness deaths).

The three Kiwi veterans who visited were Mr Hapi October, Penetana (Ben) Peita, and Mr Alfred Lowe. Hapi was a Private in 10 Transport Company, but used his ‘church name’ Ben Thomas. Ben also started as a private in 10 Transport Company, but told me he did a motor vehicle maintenance course in Japan, and then swapped to MPs, spending the rest of the war as a corporal patrolling the streets of Tokyo with US MPs.

Alfred Lowe was a sailor with the Royal Navy in Korea in a Commonwealth task group that included the NZ frigates. Alfred and his wife emigrated to NZ in 1962 and he is thought to be the only living holder of the George Cross in NZ, which is the medal just below the Victoria Cross for acts of bravery. Alfred won the George Cross (originally an Albert Medal) as a ‘boy sailor’ in an incident from before the war.

The veterans’ five day programme included ceremonies at Gaipyeong and Anzac Day with us. The 16 Fd personnel had been conducting some high level training in Korea with the US Marine Corps and ROK Armed Forces, and were keen to visit Kapyong where their unit had fought so tirelessly and critically, winning a Korean presidential citation. At the end of the visit the NZ veterans paid a special private visit to see a certain important marker stone at the 38th Parallel.

In 1952 Private Hapi October from 10 Transport Company, had a rare wartime photo taken of him at a marker stone at the 38th Parallel. Earlier this year his son, Hal October, contacted Mr Philip Turner, NZ Ambassador, through NZ Member of Parliament Melissa Lee, hoping to find where the stone was located and to try and visit here even though Mr October was 88 years old and not in good health. The location of the stone was found in Yeoncheon County by Mr Chul Hur from the NZ Defence Attaché Office. The Defence Attaché Office team took Mr October and other NZ veterans up to Yeoncheon County. The marker stone was partially broken but still there, along with a new marker stone. Mr October recreated the photo of him during the Korean War 67 years ago as best was possible. It was a special moment for Mr October and his son to realise this dream. It was Mr October’s first visit back to Korea since the war.

All Our Veterans, Thank You

From top: Private Hapi October in 1952, at the 38th Parallel marker stone, and on his recent trip to South Korea where the same stone was found, albeit a little broken.

Veterans gather with local staff and Defence Attaché Colonel Don Jones (rear, far left).
Eight gunners from 161 Battery, 16 Field Regiment got the chance to work with their Republic of Korea (ROK) counterparts recently during Exercise JASCO BLACK 19.

The exercise was run by 5th ANGLCO United States Marine Corps and was designed to teach selected ROK Marines how to initiate and control close air support, and continue the relationship between the three countries represented. The contingent also attended the Battle of Kapyong and Anzac Day memorial services.

Arriving in Busan after traveling for a day, the contingent headed for Camp Mujuk, an American camp situated on the outskirts of Pohang. Here USMC and RNZA Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) spent a week integrating and teaching ROK Marines the processes to initiate and control both fixed wing and rotary aircraft. Kiwi gunners also had a chance to learn to operate target marking systems held by the 5th ANGLCO observers.

The second week culminated in a live firing exercise at Pilsang Range in Taebak. The exercise was designed to integrate New Zealand soldiers, ROK Marines and United States Marines with close air support platforms. The RNZA Joint Fires Team had the opportunity to employ live and inert ordnance from USAF A-10s, FA/18s and US Army AH-64 Apaches. Two members of the Kiwi contingent are qualified JTACs and assisted the ROK Marines in co-ordinating close air support. The exercise was a great opportunity for the Kiwi JTACs to pass on their knowledge, work with Coalition Air Platforms and develop their skills in Joint Fires.

In the third and final week in South Korea the contingent moved to Seoul. Here current Gunners linked up with the Kiwi veterans of the Battle of Kapyong.

On the 23 April the contingent, along with the veterans from Australia and New Zealand, headed to the Battle of Kapyong memorial for the commemoration service. Following the commemoration services the veterans were hosted for lunch by ROK 66th Infantry division and were treated to a drill and Tae Kwon Do demonstration from the ROK Soldiers. The last event during this week was Anzac Day in Seoul. The international service was hosted by New Zealand and Australia at the South Korea National War Memorial.

16 Field Regiment Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Kristian Dunne said the exercise was extremely beneficial for RNZA Joint Fires Teams members and JTACs.

“The opportunity to employ close air support is not something easily done in New Zealand. It was also a great opportunity to work with other nations and learn from one another to develop standard operating procedures and TTPs, as well as represent New Zealand at the commemorative events.”

Above: From left, GNR Bronson Lum, GNR Ross Sanford, GNR Boulton-Voice, GNR Ruci Malanicagi, 2LT Joseph Helu-Makasini, CAPT Zacharia Turnbull, and WO2 Richard Bray.
During the ceremony Ceaser was posthumously awarded the Blue Cross medal for service and bravery during World War I. Ceaser was the official mascot of A Company, 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade during World War I. After taking part in an official parade with the troops down Queen’s Street in Auckland, he departed New Zealand for Egypt alongside his handler, Rifleman Thomas Samuel Tooman. In February 1916 when they arrived in Egypt, Thomas Tooman was assigned to train as an ambulance driver and Ceaser as a Red Cross dog. There was a special area set up to train the dogs by recreating battlefield like conditions with logs, branches, upturned wagons, bomb craters and the like. Tom, Ceaser’s handler was also taught how to look after and support Ceaser in his special role as a Red Cross dog.

After intensive training, Ceaser left Egypt for France and the battlefields of the Somme which were muddy, full of crater holes from shelling, and scattered with barbed wire – a very challenging terrain for a small bulldog. Ceaser wore a harness around his middle equipped with supplies including bandages, water and writing material. His job was to sniff out and help rescue wounded soldiers on the battlefront by helping guide them back to the safety of the trenches, or to carry messages from wounded soldiers unable to walk on their own. Dogs like Ceaser were trained to be able to tell the difference between Allied and enemy soldiers. This was of great help to the stretcher bearers who sometimes struggled to find the soldiers in the horrendous conditions on the battlefields of the Western Front. Ceaser helped save many soldiers and was successful in locating the wounded at the front, many of whom may not have survived without Ceaser’s help. One such lucky soldier was Rifleman Johnson who was knocked out and buried in earth after an artillery shell exploded nearby. He could not move until Ceaser dug and scratched an area around his head so he could breathe. Ceaser then ran off to get help from his handler Tom and the other stretcher bearers.

Sadly Ceaser was killed in action, shot in ‘no man’s land’ presumably by an enemy sniper alongside a soldier who had died with his hand resting on Ceaser’s head. Ceaser was buried with the soldier near a Casualty Clearing Station. Ceaser’s collar has been donated to the Auckland Museum and bears a name plate with the inscription “Ceaser, 4th Battalion, NZ Rifle Brigade”. It is thought that his handler Thomas Tooman misspelt his name ‘Ceaser’ or at the time did not know of the traditional spelling of the name ‘Caesar’.

Thanks to the work of Nigel Allsopp and the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation, an annual Blue Cross medal will be awarded to a deserving animal in both New Zealand and Australia. The award is based on the guidelines and work of Blue Cross in the United Kingdom who have been awarding medals since World War I, firstly to soldiers who showed bravery and compassion to animals during the war, and from 1940 to animals themselves.
TAJI 9 WELCOMED, TAJI 8 FAREWELLED

By Captain Jesse Robilliard

The strong bonds between Australian and New Zealand personnel on Task Group Taji 8 (TGT-8) was on full display when the joint membership of the ANZAC Task group performed the New Zealand Defence Force haka, to welcome the first personnel from Task Group Taji 9 (TGT-9) to the Taji Military Complex (TMC), 20 kilometres north of Baghdad.

In a rare event, Kiwi personnel from TGT-8 extended an invitation to Australian members of the Task Group to learn and perform the haka. One of the NZDF TGT-8 members to take part in the haka, Captain Jesse Lust says the tension was palpable and just be part of the TGT-9 approach the combined NZDF and Australian Defence Force members from Task Group Taji 8.

“It was our final haka of the rotation and it was a way to just release a lot of energy and to just really load the deployment on a positive note. It was a great experience to welcome TGT-9 personnel and, for most, a point in their career to look back on, and OEB and, for most, a point of reference to look back on, and think on my feet and adjust my plan to changing circumstances.”

The Board takes the form of three panels, a Brigade level tactical problem. Each panel is chaired by a Colonel and two Lieutenant Colonels. Brigadier Bliss credits much of the success of our officers serving as Coalition Headquarters staff in complex environments like Iraq, Afghanistan, Sinai or South Sudan, on both the Grade II and the OEB experience. “Regardless of the marks achieved, there is a level of resiliency gained having completed the Grade II and OEB and, for most, a point of reference to look back on, that stands our people in good stead when they are placed under pressure.”

The New Zealand Army is one of the few military forces that tests Regular Force ‘G-List’ officers across the full spectrum of operations and Warfighting Functions, regardless of their parent Corps. “This is one of our strengths or points of difference, in that NZ Army officers not only have a breadth of knowledge, but are also competent and confident in all aspects of staff planning,” said Bliss.

One of the officers who completed the OEB, Captain GabbyGotton, said afterwards that she had found it to be a “difficult but rewarding experience” and one that had been “an excellent professional development opportunity” and would put her in good stead for future employment in challenging appointments. “OEB forced me to process large amounts of information and then develop a solution under time pressure. I had to manage stress, brief coherently, and demonstrate to senior leadership that I had the ability to think on my feet and adjust my plan in accordance with their guidance”. The OEB also provides the Officer Career Management Board, collectively with Grade II and Individual Corps senior course performance, and PDR reporting, with recommendations that can assist Army with future talent management, including Staff College attendance and consideration for specific NZ and operational positions.

2019 will see two OEBs conducted for the first time in several years. Force Bliss, this not only signals that the Army has the requisite number of personnel reaching senior Captain and Junior Major rank ready and capable of conducting the OEB, but that the Army, as an organisation, also has some great talent coming through; talent that will go on to become the staff, instructors and commanders the Army needs to be successful in the future.

Officer Evaluation Board Tests Army’s Officer Talent

Twenty three Regular Force Officers recently appeared before the Officer Evaluation Board (OEB) which for most was on the heels of an intense 15-week Grade II Staff and Tactics Course.

The OEB is chaired by the Land Component Commander, Brigadier Jim Bliss, the OEB is viewed as a ‘gate’ that all Regular Officers in the profession of arms should go through. “We demand of our officers, both at home, and on operations, that they have the cognitive ability and mental resilience to generate workable plans to complex problems, based on creative thinking and critical reasoning. They must be able to brief these succinctly, and then demonstrate the mental agility to adapt to changing circumstances.”

The OEB is workable plans to complex and mental resilience to generate they have the cognitive ability home, and on operations, that demand of our officers, both at of arms should go through. “We Regular Officers in the profession OEB is viewed as a ‘gate’ that all rank level.

One of the Australian members of TGT-8 who took part in the haka, Sergeant Michael Britten was fully aware of the significance of the performance. “I found it was a very emotional experience, we put a lot of practice in with our team at logistics company headquarters and I was very nervous when we walked out to perform. I feel that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity, being an ANZAC force, being asked to participate, I felt proud to be involved,” SGT Britten said.

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Roll out the Mat

Capability Branch’s latest roll-out for 5 Movements Company is literally that – a modular aluminium roll-out mat (known as Trackway) designed for vehicle and equipment offloads from HMNZS Canterbury’s landing craft.

During the Navy’s recent Operation Hiko Aro, which concentrated on an array of professional development and taskbook exercises, 5 Movements conducted Exercise Black Termite, embarking with HMNZS Canterbury to test the roll-out mat at Army Bay, Whangaparaoa.

The roll-out capability is one part of Capability Branch’s Logistics over the Shore (LOTS) project to facilitate the transfer of personnel, equipment and material from ship to shore and then across the beach to an onshore marshalling area for distribution into the operational theatre, where usable port facilities do not exist.

The mat itself is a “quantum leap forward” from the plastic woven matting used in Canterbury for years, says Lieutenant Colonel Paul Bartlett, Capability Branch.

“When Canterbury was due to enter service in 2007, I was 2IC Weatherston, Capability Branch. As we were dismantling the ship, I was looking at robust equipment and think matting used in Canterbury for forward” from the plastic woven matting to Linton, and started practising with it. The plastic matting wasn’t designed for heavy use with heavy vehicles. It wasn’t safe or sustainable. So from 2011 Capability Branch started to look at bespoke equipment.”

The LOTS project has delivered two CAT 938K Material Handling Equipment (MHE), modified by Gough Cat, with FAUN’s dispensers attached and designed to operate in 1.5 metre deep water (plus 500mm of splash), plus 180 metres of FAUN modular Trackway matting sourced from the United Kingdom. The 938K’s modifications include unique measures to reduce the corrosive impact of seawater. The 938K can also tow trailers off the landing craft and push them back on.

Amphibious Load Team (SALT) and 5 Movement’s Amphibious Beach Team (ABT). “We got some of the matting to Linton, and started practising with it.” Kiwi “Number Eight wire” innovation came into play including a custom-built mat dispenser attached to a forklift. The matting was used for exercises, including Joint Kiwi 08.

But it was not an ideal product, he says. “The plastic matting wasn’t designed for heavy use with heavy vehicles. It wasn’t safe or sustainable. So from 2011 Capability Branch started to look at bespoke equipment.”

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The MHE, as it leaves the landing craft, is capable of rolling out 25 metres of Trackway. More Trackway can be rolled out as a second layer on the beach, or even as minor road to connect to an existing one. Additional matting can be added to the dispensed matting to increase the length of the lane and a portion can be used at 45-degrees to turn a corner. If a piece of matting gets damaged, its modular nature means a piece can be unhooked and a new piece clicked in.

The project also provided three portable diesel-fuelled lighting towers, enabling the NZDF to extend this capability into the night. Five Movements is also getting two beach preparation and recovery vehicles, intended to go ashore first to level the beach and remove debris. If any vehicle gets stuck, it can recover them. It can push the LCM if it gets stuck. By 2020, we’ll be fielding the full set. This is a big inject of specific capability, rather than making do with what we had.

Second Lieutenant Steele Bartlett, on board Canterbury for the trial, says the system is significantly stronger than the plastic matting. “The loader, dispenser and matting is about 18 tonnes,” he says. “The mat is nearly three tonnes. It makes it a lot easier for use on soft sand.”

Handily, the loaders can detach the roll-mat dispensers and be fitted with conventional forks, lifting jibs, buckets, etc, to operate as forklifts or construction vehicles.

Above: Second Lieutenant Steele Bartlett.

By Lieutenant Daniel Rosewarne

The NZDF contributed a Battle Group Headquarters to the annual Joint Warfighting Assessment (JWA) held in Washington State, US recently.

The HQ was led by personnel from 2/1 RNZIR and supported by personnel from 1 CSR, NEA, RNZAF and other 1 (NZ) Bde units. The NZ Battlegroup formed part of the Australian 3rd (ANZAC) Bde and served as a great opportunity to cultivate effective communication across all partner nations which included the UK, Canada, France, Australia, Singapore and the US.

The annual Joint Warfighting Assessment (JWA) is the US Army’s largest annual joint multinational live exercise. JWA was an opportunity for the US Military and partner nations to assess future warfighting concepts, capabilities and formations in a large scale battlefield exercise, against a conventional near peer adversary.

The JWA consisted of a Command Post Exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McCord and a live exercise at the Yakima Training Facility.

JWA’s mission was to assess Multi-Domain operations (MDO) concepts, capabilities and formations in order to provide critical insights and feedback on army modernisation efforts towards a MDO capable force by 2028.

It closely aligned with the NEA 12 year transformational programme that sees the introduction of service of a deployable, networked command, control, and communications, computers (C4), Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability for the NZ Army’s land forces.

The NZ contribution to JWA provided scope to evaluate the network gaps as they presented themselves. NEA staff were on hand to assess the gaps as they unfolded in real time and look at options for improving the network to enhance the NEA transformational programme. NEA also facilitated a review so lessons learnt could be shaped to make the most of the experience and meet the demands of operations as part of a modern coalition environment – as defined in the Defence White Paper.

For staff within the NZ Battlegroup HQ it was also an opportunity to test the more ‘traditional’ Command Post procedures as outlined in the 1(NZ) Bde SOPs. This included employing the proven staff planning process for future operations within the exercise, the conduct of immediate action drills as events unfolded within the exercise scenario and the backload of both personnel and equipment casualties.
Family and friends watched with pride as 99 recruits, 21 of them women, marched out of basic training in Waiouru recently. The march out parade was reviewed by the Commander, TRADOC Colonel James Kaio.

The Top Recruit Regular Force 392 Cassino Company was Private Luke Hill, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

Other prize winners

Top Shot
PTE Don Mokoroa, Royal New Zealand Army Logistics Regiment

Top Warrior
PTE Flynn Verhagen, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Top Recruit For Each Platoon
From Elliott Victoria Cross PL
PTE Cedric Hape-Hutana, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

From Ngamimu Victoria Cross PL
PTE Campbell McLisky, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

From Hinton Victoria Cross PL
PTE Luke Hill, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Sergeant Major of the Army Award
PTE Jamie Cottam, Royal New Zealand Army Logistics Regiment.
Major Aaron Williamson can still remember getting off the bus at the Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) Company 30 years ago, filled with apprehension at what lay ahead.

“I had a bad attitude, a criminal history, had made poor life decisions and squandered every opportunity that had come my way up to that moment. I also had no idea what to expect, but in the direction I was heading the alternative wasn’t very attractive.”

The (then) five-month course soon put him on a different trajectory. The Basic Training component made him realise he could achieve things – an unfamiliar feeling. Over the next five months, MAJ Williamson acquired life-changing skills and attributes that have served him ever since: respect, self-discipline, confidence, values, and a sense of purpose and direction.

The course progressed with field exercises, lectures, and the highlight of work placement with one of the sub-unit Q Stores in camp, all of which contributed to his decision to join the Territorial Force in Dunedin. Three years later, he joined the Regular Force and became a Supply Technician in the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment.

The career that followed included a regular supply of postings throughout New Zealand, as well as deployments to Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Today, the LSV course is a six-week Ministry of Social Development course, run by NZDF through its Youth Development Unit at three locations around New Zealand, Burnham Military Camp, where MAJ Williamson is based, caters for five intakes of 120 trainees each year.

MAJ Williamson is now back where he started – but in a different seat and with a determined vision for YDU South.

I’m incredibly passionate about the unit and what it delivers. Without it, I wouldn’t have turned my life around. I would like YDU to be the number one choice for youth who need positive change in their lives but don’t know where to start.”

For many trainees, the LSV course will be one of the greatest challenges they’ve ever faced, and each course may have one or more who are unable to complete it and withdraw for a variety of reasons. This also motivates MAJ Williamson to work towards incrementally decreasing the number of trainees who withdraw from courses so that the opportunity before them isn’t lost.

The delivery of all these life-changing opportunities relies on a team of highly trained and skilled instructors. The journey for this specialised role starts with a week-long Staff Initial Training and Evaluation course where their suitability is assessed. Successful candidates then receive an Offer of Service to become a Youth Development Specialist.

“The role is diverse and unique; there is nothing like it in the Defence Force. You get to work with the next generation and be a pivotal part of developing them as person so they can make a positive contribution to their families, communities, and ultimately the future of New Zealand.”

Seeing the trainees march out is an immensely proud moment, not just for the trainees but for the instructors from all three Services who invest so much in getting them to that point. Each trainee has a unique story and set of circumstances which leads them to the course. They will often bring complex mental health and social issues which can manifest in challenging ways when they’re in close quarters with others from similar backgrounds.

In these situations it’s the patience, compassion, skills, and resilience of YDU specialists that gets them through. With an abundance of empathy and a keen focus on unlimited human potential, they guide and mentor the young people in their charge.

It’s an investment that lasts a lifetime.

**Reflections on being a part of YDU South**

**An unexpected journey**

“I was at a crossroads in my life, looking for a challenge when the opportunity to re-enlist came along. The interview put me through my paces, but it was nothing compared to my first course which took me out of my previous comfort zone as an Infantry Platoon Sergeant. It was unfamiliar territory dealing with the complexities of the youth of New Zealand.

There’s no such thing as one size fits all, and it’s a huge challenge to come up with the right solution for each trainee. But the struggle is more than worth it as we move young people towards a positive and fulfilling future. My two years has now turned into nearly 10!”

**Staff Sergeant Shane Wootton**

**Platoon Commander, Youth Life Skills**

**The bigger picture**

“The LSV course isn’t designed to recruit or attract young people into the military, but in the short time they’re with us, trainees get an experience of being part of something much bigger than the world they’ve known up to that point. It gives them a sense of belonging that they may never have had.

As a YDU Instructor for six years, I’ve worked in the Youth Life Skills programme as well as the military-style Activity Camp with young offenders, and now the LSV course. While a lot of our overseas deployments focus on rebuilding and supporting other countries, at YDU we’re rebuilding New Zealand, starting with the next generation.”

**Staff Sergeant Jason Melais**

**Platoon Commander, 3 Platoon Command**

**Always adapting**

“After Initial Officer Training I was looking for a challenging environment where I could keep growing, and YDU delivered. After instructing four courses, I still haven’t seen the same situation twice as each course is made up of such different people with unique backgrounds and challenges. It certainly keeps you on top of your game and each course increases your ability to adapt to new situations.

Our recent deployment to Hanger Springs over Anzac Day shows the change that our trainees go through in just three weeks. From never having attended a Dawn Service before, to marching alongside veterans and helping out the local community – it really is transforming.”

**Pilot Officer William Wallace**

**Platoon Commander, Reserve Platoon Command**

**Passing the baton on**

“The combination of great working relationships and a desire to help others has kept me at YDU South since 2008. The impact of what we deal with and the transformation we see is hard to put into words. Being deployed in the community on Anzac Day is a particularly proud moment.

I hope that we can help young people see their potential, and that we’re able to affect real and lasting change in their lives. I stay in the role because I want to pass on the skills that have been invested in me. And the skills keep on coming – the trainees teach us as much as we teach them – I’m always learning and I haven’t looked back!”

**Staff Sergeant Elizabeth (Lisa) Kennedy**

**Platoon Commander, 1 Platoon Command**

**SV PAVES ALL DIFFERENT PATHS**
The 25th anniversary of the first deployment of Kiwi Company on Op Radian, a joint task force under the UN to Bosnia, is to be held in September.

Op Radian was the first major company deployment since the Vietnam conflict. The anniversary commemoration will be an opportunity for both serving and former servicemen and women to reconnect with each other and recognise the bond they share and the contribution they made. On Saturday 14th September at 1800hrs commemoration attendees will convene at The Establishment in Wellington City. Reunion tickets are available on Eventbrite.com.

The commemoration will also pay tribute to personnel who served in Bosnia and who have since died. A parade is to be held on Sunday 15th September 2019 at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. There is a private Facebook page called Kiwi Coy (Bosnia) 25th Anniversary Reunion where more information can be obtained.

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Te Karanga me te Poroporoākī
August 2019

**Ko te mana o te wahine ki runga i te marae**
(The prestige and authority of women on the sacred courtyard)

**Ko te reo tuatahi o te tuhi māreikura ki runga i a Rongomaraeroa**
(The first words uttered by the women over the sacred threshold of Rongo)

**Ko te tangi apakura o te puna roimata**
(The heartfelt sounds and emotions expressed by the springs of tears)

The aim of the wānanga is to teach the art of calling and bring the essence and spirituality to ceremonial outputs for Ngāti Tūmatauenga. This wānanga is opened to Te Ope Kaatua (NZDF), Te Taaua Moana (Navy) and Te Taaua Rangi (RNZAF) personnel. The wānanga is facilitated by Tūi Matira Ranapiri-Ransfield.

Students will learn karanga, poroporoākī, traditional movement integration and composition of traditional sounds.

Nominations can be made via the NZDF Course Plan/Course Nominations, Enrolments & Withdrawals (CNET) which can be found on the NZDF intranet site. All participants are to be female members of the NZDF (including civilian employees).

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**Course Information:**

- **Course short title:** A4014 19/02
- **Noms Close:** 11 July 2019
- **Dates:** 15–18 August 2019
- **Where:** Rongomaraeroa o ngā Hau e Whā Marae, WMC

**Enquiries contact:**
- Marae Staff Officer: WO2 Aaron Morrison ph: 0279127593
- Marae Educator: Mr Steve Bethell ph: 021914068
- Māori Cultural site: http://communities/mcg/default.aspx
Live your best life now and for the future – that was the challenge issued to the Burnham Military Camp community by nearly 50 stallholders at the inaugural ‘Living Wise Living Well’ Expo last month.

When the Camp Cinema doors opened at 10am, a steady stream of people flowed through which didn’t stop all day. Over the next eight hours, nearly 400 visitors from 36 units at camp, along with a few whānau, walked away armed with information and connections to services – not just within NZDF but also local and government agencies.

Nearly 30 external agencies participated and for some it was the first time they’d had the opportunity to visit the Camp and engage in person with personnel. Education stalls covered primary and early education options for whānau, alongside tertiary training and higher learning with NZDF providers such as the Open Polytechnic. Recreation facilities included yoga, local swimming lessons and the ever popular Adrenalin Forest. The numerous physical wellbeing exhibits included NZ Blood, Asthma and Smokefree where many personnel received resources to support family and friends as well as themselves. Veteran’s Affairs and the RSA were popular stops, alongside Families of our Fallen where people spent time hearing the stories of those who had passed. A mouth painting display by Invictus athlete Grant Philip was also a highlight, with a selection of art on display from the inaugural NZ Army Art in Recovery exhibition held at Burnham late last year.

Attendees were impressed at the quality of the expo and are already looking forward to its return in 2020, when it is planned to coincide with Command Week.

Defence Community Facilitator at Burnham, Ms Kathryn Hodgkinson, was thrilled to see such a large mix of people coming through the door and really engaging with each of the stalls.

“I was surprised that a couple of times throughout the day it was actually hard to move through the aisles due to the volume of people – a great problem to have for our first Expo!”

Having only started in her role in October, Ms Hodgkinson’s initial priority was Christmas event planning but her vision for the Expo had been growing since Day 1.

“It was amazing to see the event finally come to fruition and I’m grateful for the support of so many people around the Camp and also the wider NZDF organisation to help bring it to life. I love building relationships and bringing people together for a common purpose, whether it’s to implement a new initiative, assist people through a challenging period, or just connecting the community through having fun. We hope the Expo will get bigger and better each year, adding new exhibitors who can help people live wise and live well.”

Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Kevin Short marched in the Wellington International Pride Parade, joined by NZDF personnel from the New Zealand Army, Royal New Zealand Air Force, Royal New Zealand Navy and civilian colleagues.

The parade, part of the Wellington Pride Festival, celebrated the acceptance of diversity in New Zealand and the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) communities. The NZDF is celebrating this year Pride 25, marking 25 years since LGBT+ personnel were welcomed to serve openly in the NZDF.
When it all turns to custard, sappers are arguably the busiest – and amongst the pluckiest and most innovative – in the Army’s human arsenal.

So it’s gratifying to pick up the weighty tome, Won by the Spade: how the Royal New Zealand Engineers Built a Nation and read just how much history these industrious men and women have behind them.

Won by the Spade, by well-known military historian Peter Cooke, is all about the detail, and that’s what sets it apart.

It traces the history of our military engineers, from the work involved by Māori military engineers in the thousands of pa sites across New Zealand, through to the engineering tasks completed by our current military engineers in far-flung conflict and closer to home humanitarian assistance.

The term sapper, an early chapter explains, comes from the act of sapping, or digging a sap trench, the word coming from the Italian “zappa” or hoe.

Won by the Spade covers the rise of the New Zealand engineer, Territorial engineers and the Great War sapper, mobilised works in New Zealand, combat engineering, and sappers using their skills in both jungle and desert. It looks at all of the corps’ activities, including the demining operations where Kiwis became world leaders in countries such as Cambodia and Laos.

Their work in New Zealand over the years is highlighted too, covering numerous disasters where Army engineers have worked hard with local authorities to put things right. One of the main forces behind the production of the history is former Army engineer Joe Hollander. A Chief Instructor at the School of Military Engineering in Linton in the late 1980s Major Hollander played a major role in the relief effort when what the history describes as “the mother of all storms” Cyclone Bola struck the North Island. With police, Civil defence and local authorities he represented all the Defence assets deployed in what was called Operation Recovery.

“I lived under my desk in the drill hall at Gisborne for a week or two while the disaster was on. We set up a great little cliche, the Drill Hall was used for the logistical collection point for the water, blankets, tентage, nappies, medical supplies, bread, groceries. And once the road was opened we’d send convoys up the east coast to try and break into areas and re-supply them.”

Kiwi sappers have always been known for their capacity for hard, back-breaking graft and their ability to stay positive in the face of decidedly negative situations – witness numerous natural disasters, most recently rebuilding Southland’s Waioho Bridge, washed away by heavy rain, leaving a large community stranded.

As Won by the Spade points out New Zealand engineers relate well to their Pacific counterparts when they serve together in Southeast Asia and closer to home. A Truce Monitoring Group deployed to the troubled island nation of Bougainville in 1997. It included an engineering section, all fluent in Pidgin after many years in Vanuatu. Engineering officer Richard Cassidy was also Chief Negotiator.

The airports were unusable, so the engineers had to think creatively about how to reopen transport links. The New Zealand monitors were to land on Buka Island to the north, and move south onto Bougainville by crossing the fast-current strait between them: “The army had had a light tactical aluminium raft pontoon with outboard motor from the 1960s, which was beyond economic repair and had been sent to the scrap metal yard in Palmerston North. The engineers quickly returned it to Linton and made it “fit for purpose” with a bit of welding – using “piano wire and chewing gum”. It was on the first plane to Bougainville... it then provided a long and faithful service across the channel, endlessly carrying the JCBs, Landrovers, troops and equipment.”

By Judith Martin
Equip the Force is a concept that has been in the NZDF for some time and now there is a practical framework to help Defence purchase the right volume of new and replacement equipment.

Why Equip the Force?

Equipping the Force not the Unit allows Defence to buy the right amount of equipment to deliver the Government’s directed outputs. It provides a more standardised, sustainable and auditable way to decide how much equipment is needed. This takes into account operational and training requirements, as well as repair and maintenance regimes and supply arrangements, to ensure Defence buys the optimal volume of equipment. This in turn provides information about the whole of life costs and enables decisions to be made to fit within financial constraints. This avoids buying too much equipment, or not enough.

The Allocated Level of Entitlement (ALOE) reflected in the Table of Organisational Equipment and Entitlement (TOEE) is a direct input into the ETF tool. It’s an iterative cycle to ensure the TOEE reflects the equipment to be retained at Unit level and the equipment that can be in the Regional Equipment Pool.

ETF is now being applied by every Defence capability project. It means the right amount of equipment will be purchased, enhancing operational availability and maximising reinvestment in the Defence Capability Plan.

Deputy Chief of Army (DCA) COL Helen Cooper said ETF put scientific rigor around the procurement process. “ETF considers all aspects of Integrated Logistic Support (ILS) including failure rates, reliability and replenishment lead times. It is about ensuring that we have the right equipment to meet our needs for our operational commitments, rotational forces and training. As the TOEE defines the base number in the ETF, the TOEE becomes our key mechanism throughout Army to determine what equipment we need. By holding the equipment we need, we will ensure mission success, and in some cases, reduce compliance burdens on the unit.”

Both the Ministry of Defence Integrated Project Team (IPT) Leads and Capability Branch Project Managers will be responsible for ensuring the ETF framework is used to better inform business cases.

Performance & Evaluation

We need you to evaluate every course you undertake.

Your feedback on how well a course has prepared you is a critical part of the evaluation process.

Have your say... we are listening.

Performance and Evaluation gathers information to confirm that NZ Army individual training has successfully prepared you for operations.

Completing your survey gives you a voice... that is weighted... actioned on... and improves the course.
A curtain raiser of 10s rugby between Fire & Emergency and the NZDF provided a fitting build-up to the Crusaders v Lions game on 26 April, with a nail-biting 19-all draw.

The match was themed ‘Salute to Service’, with service men and women from St John, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, NZDF, and the RSA all recognised for the work they do throughout the region.

As part of the pre-game, nominees from each service organisation did a lap of honour around the field, joined by youth volunteers from St John. A traditional commemoration prior to kick-off honoured those who have served. The Ode of Remembrance was read by CRFU and NZDF kaumatua, Ruawhitu Pokai, and the Last Post and Reveille were performed by Sergeant Ross Yorkstone of the NZ Army Band.

Burnham Military Camp provided significant support for the event, thanks to the coordination of Camp Sergeant Major WO1 PJ Harimate.

BNZ Crusaders Chief Executive Colin Mansbridge said the club was immensely proud to offer its thanks to each organisation on behalf of the BNZ Crusaders team, board, management and staff.

“The Canterbury region has been through its fair share of adversity, and we are extremely grateful to the men and women who work selflessly every day to support our people, and make our community a better place. Celebrating their contribution at this match, alongside their families, was our unique way of saying ‘thank you’ on what was a very special night for our community.”

It was a case of first time lucky when Linton-based Major Dan Swale undertook his first marathon recently – he won the 42.2 km event with a time of two hours, 59 minutes and 27 seconds.

Although he has run a couple of half-marathons he hadn’t yet completed a full one and wasn’t sure how he would go. He trained for six months, completing a lot of big runs in that time.

He said he enjoyed the event – the Manawatu Striders’ Marathon – especially the flat course and good weather.
NZDF RUGBY LEAGUE ANZAC TEST

By SSgt Mark Anderson, NZDF Rugby League Manager

The NZDF Rugby League Team played an international test against the ADF team on Anzac Day 2019 as the curtain raiser for the NZ Warriors Vs Melbourne Storm at AAMI Park in Melbourne.

Coming together for the first time since being selected at the 2018 Interservices tournament, the NZDF team assembled at Burnham the week prior to the Anzac Test. With the entire training camp programmed for Australia, the team was accommodated at HMAS Cerberus, at least an hour’s drive from AAMI Park. The team prepared well, developing set plays and working through attacking and defensive strategies.

Prior to game day the team assisted with the NRL’s advertising campaign for the game. The Melbourne Storm and NZ Warriors teams were extremely supportive of the Defence Force’s clash, with Ryan Hoffman showing the NZDF team through the ‘Storm’ facilities.

Game Day was an eagerly awaited clash between NZDF and ADF, with both teams chomping at the bit. The first half was a clash of titans with the ADF taking an early lead and NZDF coming back strong with a half time score of 16–14 to ADF.

The halftime break saw inspiration from the coaching staff and senior players with the ‘play our own game’ message burning through the team. The second half began with a strong attack by NZDF and a strong finish by ADF resulting in a 32–22 score line, in favor of the ADF. This truly reflected the mammoth effort put in by both sides.

The NRL, who sponsored the test, was delighted by the sportsmanship displayed by both teams and was very complimentary, noting the ethos and values shown by both NZDF and ADF. The NRL has decided to hold the fixture again in 2020 with an invite due shortly. This alone shows the ambassadorship shown by both teams and the high regard that Defence rugby league is held within the NRL and Australia.

Congratulations to those players from NZDF who were selected to play for NZDF:

Position | Rank | First Name | Surname
---|---|---|---
Coach | WO | Roy | Robati
1 | AB | Andre | Singh
2 | CPL | Cameron | Nicholas
3 | LBDR | Nikolao | Ioane
4 | PTE | Logan | Afoa
5 | PTE | AJ | Duricic
6 | AC | Dante | Henry
7 | Mr | Matthew | Cole
8 | LCPL | Feitu’u | Ihahihifo
9 | CPL | Darcy | Cook
10 | SSGT | Henning | Peterson
11 | AS | Joe | Makaekae
12 | FGOff | Wyatt | Purdon
13 | AC | Gene | Roberts
14 | SGT | Henare | Te Kauae
15 | CPL | Blair | Paterson
16 | CPL | Matiu | Kaifa
17 | LH | Fa’arani | Fa’arani
A/Coach | SSGT | Jonathan | Pritchard
Trainer | CPL | Aaron | Hoeflich
Manager | SSGT | Mark | Anderson
OIC | WO | Skip | Ward
18 | AC | Poufa | Daniel

The NZDF team wishes to thank their team sponsor Watts and Hughes Construction for their sponsorship and support.

The team would also like to acknowledge all those who contributed to our successful participation, including the training camp – and units for releasing players over what was a very busy time of year for the NZDF.

With growing numbers, the future of NZDF rugby league is looking bright and tracking nicely for the next Defence World Cup, which is planned for 2021.

For anyone wishing to participate or begin playing rugby league for the NZDF, the first step is to contact your Ship, Camp, and Base sports representatives to register your interest. The next Inter-Service Tournament will be held in early 2020 with teams from across the three Services coming together for a week-long tournament.
CAPT Wayne Small (Smlth) has given 27 years to Army Softball, mostly in the coaching role, but has taken the diamond from time to time. He coached the Army Men’s Team to numerous championship wins, including successful tours across the Tasman. He has also spent over a decade on the softball committee and is currently the Coaches Chairman leading softball into the future. CAPT Small is the second Army softball representative to have been awarded the NZDF Colour for his chosen sport.

Outside of Defence softball, CAPT Small continues to manage the Junior Black Sox, a job he started in June 2013. Since taking up the Junior Black Sox manager’s role, he has gathered two silver medals and one bronze medal over the journey. CAPT Small also managed the NZ Black Sox men’s team from 2006–2010, picking up a silver medal in 2009. CAPT Small has yet to taste victory on the world stage, however hopes that this may change when the NZ Junior Black Sox compete in the Junior World Champs in Palmerston North 22 Feb – 01 Mar 2020.

Mr Dean Groves (Doon) retired from playing in the men’s team following 30 years of outstanding dedication to NZ Army, NZ Combined Services and latterly, NZDF teams. “The time has passed very quickly but being selected and wearing the Army ‘red jersey’ on the diamond is still a thrill,” said Doon.

“There is no tournament like the Inter-Services in world softball. We all play hard for our service, shake hands, mix-n-mingle post game, and getting dressed into Sports Dress #1 on the final night – is unique and special. I will miss that”, said Doon.

Doon also has a world championship silver medal in his cabinet having assisted CAPT Small in the role of assistant manager during the 2014 NZ Junior Men’s campaign in Whitehorse, Canada. Doon’s keen eye for detail meant that the small things that can sometimes manifest into big things didn’t eventuate. Doon adds that he would like to thank his team mate of 30 years, CAPT Grant McCarroll, for all he did and shown him over this time. “Grant has been a great team mate, committee member, Code Chairman, and fellow Army colour recipient, and most importantly, a good mate.”

Two stalwarts of Army and NZDF softball, Captain Wayne Small and Mr Dean Groves (WO2 Rtd), have called it a day in the coaching and playing roles. The pair have brought an end to two extraordinary long and successful eras for Army softball.

The softball year in review

The 2019 Inter-Services Softball tournament was hosted by Navy at Roodsdale Park, North Harbour in March 2019. Roodsdale Park is the home of North Harbour Softball, and is seen as a coup for the NZDF to host a tournament such as this, at what is considered by most to be New Zealand’s leading softball venue. The tournament featured the three Single Service teams, plus invitation teams from the NZ Police and the Australian Defence Force. This year’s tournament would see the end of an era for Army Softball in more ways than one. Going into the 2019 Tournament, the NZ Army Women’s team had not lost an Inter-Services Championship since 2007, winning 20 of the previous 22 Inter-Service tournaments.

This is arguably one of the most impressive records maintained by any Army Sporting code. This year was looking like it would be another title in the bag for the Army women, however the RNZAF women had a different plan that certainly didn’t involve Army owning the Prendergast Cup once again. Having convincingly beaten the RNZAF in the final of the 2018 Shake Play 7s, and continued their winning ways throughout the round Robin, it was, nearly a question of who would face them in the final. As it transpired, the RNZAF women had progressed well though the round robin and deservedly earned their spot in the final against the NZ Army Women.

Army left nothing to chance and came out firing, however a spirited team batting performance by the Air Force team, combined with superb pitching by stalwart, and ace pitcher, F/S Shar Carson, the Airforce women recorded a rare, well-celebrated and emotional victory over the Army, running out winners 9–7. The win was well deserved, and in true spirit, the Army women’s also celebrated RNZAF’s success.

The bat is not broken so doesn’t need fixing, just yet. The Army women are eyeing up some external tournaments in an effort to bring back their mojo and hit the diamond hard at the 2020 NZDF/Interservice Tournament.

The RNZAF men had conducted a lengthy build-up to the NZDF tourney and as a result came out of the dugout firing and, to coin a term, ambushed the Army men on day one, providing a good old fashioned hiding, running out winners 16–2. The surprise loss meant that there needed to be a bit of soul searching and some serious reflection. Upon reflection, a few tweaks were made and the Army men bounced back to find form at the right part of the tournament. A few wins at the right time enabled Army men to transition to the final of the NZDF tournament once again facing the RNZAF.

Army men’s skill and determination to manufacture runs when and where was key, as runs were difficult to come by with the Air Force boasting former international pitcher Corporal Greg Anderson on the mound. When runs were scored, Army’s young left handed gun-slinger pitcher, PTE Caleb White-Hodge (2CSSB) held the talented Air Force batters down. The Army’s determination to manufacture runs was a result of the Army men’s transition to the final of the NZDF tournament once again facing the RNZAF. Army men’s skill and determination to manufacture runs when and where was key, as runs were difficult to come by.

Nevertheless, mention needs to be made of an underslung RNZN team, who despite being down on numbers due to operational reasons, continued to scrap for every run scored. Led on the mound by Navy softball legend, CPO ‘LJ’ Koh, the Navy men can be proud of their performance, and whilst not going to script, provided a worthy farewell for LJ who departs the Navy for greener pastures. Fair Winds and Following Seas J.J.
Nine serving or former NZDF personnel attended the largest ever Touch World Cup tournament in Malaysia last month, with 26 nations and 117 teams participating.

This event has come a long way since the inaugural Touch World Cup held in 1998 where only five nations competed in three categories. The 2019 competition was conducted over six days with 11 playing divisions in the hot climate of Putrajaya, Malaysia. New Zealand had eight teams competing.

Warrant Officers Laurence Colvin and Greg Mildon were selected to play in the Men’s 45 Division. "The World Cup tournament was the culmination of a 12 month journey, involving initial selection, numerous trials, training camps and tournaments in the lead up. The preliminary trials and camps are a roller coaster affair where the coach gives very direct feedback on your performance and likeliness of making the tournament team and it isn’t always what you want to hear," said WO2 Colvin.

"Our tournament was full of challenges, with highs and lows. We went through the tournament, only beaten by Australia in the round robin 8–4 and then again in the final, losing 5–4. The final was full of excitement. We went into halftime leading 4–2 but Australia were too strong, scoring three unanswered touch downs in the second half. The end of the game had drama; it was halted due to the storm conditions. Australia thought they had won the game only to be told still we still had three minutes to play."

At this point the team was down by one so they all got together to devise a plan to score another touchdown. "We knew we had to defend the line first and then had one last chance at attack. The defensive players were able to defend the line and made it to the sub box to bring on the attacking team. The attacking team scored but unfortunately due to mass confusion and pressure the touchdown was disallowed because the person who scored was dummy half and in the rules of Touch, the dummy half can’t score. Tournament and Touch World Cup over!"

The presentation of the playing shirts was one of the Cup highlights. Player statistics are displayed on screen and shirts are presented by the captain or coach. All teams are present, and it’s livestreamed so families can share in the occasion. WO2 Colvin, who was selected to represent New Zealand as a referee, said another highlight was sharing the experience with all the other NZDF personnel involved in the tournament.

"In our team, we also had ex-Air Force PTE WO (Rtd) Garner Gulliver. PTE Tamatua Ropati played Open Mens for Samoa, CPL (Rtd) Jason Broughton played in the Mixed 30’s grade and SSGT (Rtd) Greg Muller was playing for Ireland in their 40 mens team. The Navy also had three personnel playing. Chief Petty Officer Aderleen Brownlie and Valerie Tiata-Seath played in the Women’s 35’s and Leading Steward Deena Ranginui Puketapu played in the Open Mixed team. CPL Paul Davis was selected to play Open Mens but had to withdraw due to injury."

The challenge to playing elite sport for those players close to 50 is avoiding injury. "Unfortunately it wasn’t plain sailing for either WO1 Mildon or myself. WO1 Mildon fractured his forearm and wrist at the 2019 Touch Nationals. Unfortunately he was forced to withdraw from the team." WO1 Mildon is the most decorated Touch player in the NZDF. He has been to numerous Touch World Cup campaigns, winning at more than one to become a world champion. Due to his extensive experience, Touch NZ looked to use his skills in other areas, employing him as a game analyst and coaching advisor.

"This was a stroke of genius that helped our team come back from an 8–4 deficit against Australia in the Round Robin only to narrowly lose in the final. For me it was an absolute pleasure gaining advice and encouragement from one of the NZDF Touch legends. Leading up to the tournament, I was forced to take some unwanted rest but tested my body by participating in the 2019 Touch Services tournament for our victorious Army Open Mens. For a lot of the Masters teams it’s about player management, avoiding attrition. The team that manage the fitness best, has the best chance of success in the final," said WO2 Colvin.

"This is a self-funded campaign so any funding assistance or help is greatly appreciated by all involved. On behalf of all the Army personnel, I would like to thank the Singapore fund, our camp welfare funds, and our commanders for allowing us to play, our comrades who continue working in our absence and our NZDF whānau who have supported and wished us well every step of the way."

"The NZDF is a unique organisation that encourages and supports personnel to participate in sport. There are few organisations in the world that offer the same level of support. Sport promotes the will to win and our values of comradeship, courage and commitment are tested every step of the way."

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In November 2018 WO2 Lawrence Colvin was selected by Touch New Zealand and the Federation of International Touch (FIT) to represent New Zealand as a referee at the Touch World Cup in Malaysia.

There were 129 international referees at the tournament with 25 representing New Zealand. At the referee dinner he was presented with his international blazer by the New Zealand coaching panel. Over the tournament he refereed 12 international matches, with his first international game being a Women’s 35’s game between Australia and Europe. “The conditions in Malaysia were very challenging especially the combination of the heat and humidity,” he said. The games he refereed included:

- **Women’s 35’s Grade**: Australia vs Europe
- **Mixed Open Grade**: Cook Islands vs Scotland
- **Men’s 30’s Grade**: Australia vs France
- **Mixed Open Grade**: UAE vs Italy
- **Women’s 35’s Grade**: Australia vs England
- **Women’s Open Grade**: Netherlands vs Wales
- **Men’s 35’s Grade**: Australia vs Fiji
- **Women’s Open Grade**: New Zealand vs Wales
- **Women’s Open Grade**: South Africa vs Japan
- **Women’s Open Grade**: Scotland vs South Africa
- **Mixed Open Grade**: Wales vs Malaysia
- **Women’s Open Grade**: South Africa vs Wales

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**PTE Tamatoa Ropati, 1RNZIR**

Private Tamatoa Ropati made the choice to play for Samoa because he wanted to “finally give back to my grandparents and my Samoan Culture.”

“I was quite nervous meeting the team for the first time. Not knowing what to expect, the unknown, was quite overwhelming. I was so wrong. The players and the management team were so welcoming, the transition into the team was quite easy. Four of us came from NZ, and the rest were all Samoa Based.

“We starting the campaign off as individuals, and finished as family. I would now consider them all to be my brothers.”

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**TOUCH RUGBY WORLD CUP 2019 - OPEN MEN’S**

**TAMATOA ROPATI**

**Nickname**: Tumz
**DOB**: 19/04/1996
**Village**: Toamua

**Position**: Link
**Club**: Wairere Touch
**Total Caps**: Debut
A member of the Army team scales the side of the Sky Tower during practice for the Tower de Force competitive race (page 2).

Photo: PO Chris Weissenborn