

# A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



Let me begin this column by stating quite clearly how much of an honour it is to lead an Army of officers and soldiers who, every day, demonstrate just how good you are and who, in the execution of your duties both domestically and whilst deployed off-shore, achieve many quite remarkable things.

People at my level don't acknowledge this often enough – and we should. You are very good at what you do, and the service you provide is of the highest order.

This requirement for high performance is an absolutely critical part of everything we do, and who we are, and is reflected in not just how professional we are as soldiers but equally in how we conduct ourselves. When we represent our nation, sometimes in the most trying of circumstances, we are called upon to perform in a way that not only guarantees mission success but also enhances the reputation of our Army and of New Zealand. We can only do this however, if we treat each other with respect and our conduct is beyond reproach.

Regrettably, there are currently a small number of our people not demonstrating the high standards of behaviour required and are acting contrary to the ethos and values that are at the very heart of our Army. So, while we should always celebrate our many successes, it is equally important that we remind ourselves of the behaviours required of us 24/7.

Let me be quite clear on a couple of issues which have recently come to light. Under no circumstance will assault of a fellow soldier, either physical or sexual, be tolerated and those that offend will be held accountable. Equally, if you serve you don't 'do drugs'. If you're a user and you need help, ask for it. If you are caught either using or dealing in drugs there is a very very real chance that your career is over. I openly acknowledge that drugs are prevalent in our communities and that there is a degree of acceptance regarding their use – but be very clear, they have no place in our Army. Also, and I made reference to this in an earlier column in the *Army News*, we are an organisation that does not tolerate discrimination, harassment or bullying.

Comradeship, Courage, Commitment and Integrity, our values, are much more than just 'buzz-words'. They reflect what is important to us as an Army and they must guide us in our behaviours, both individually and collectively. Use them, hold yourself accountable to them and, when needed, call your mates out against them. Recently, 1 Bde initiated a 'Bystander Intervention' pilot which looks to give individuals the knowledge to recognise an issue, the power to take responsibility, the tools and approaches to interrupt harmful behaviour, and the confidence to do so. The outcomes sought by this programme resonate, and they have wider application.

So, in the same way we acknowledge our own failings and always look to improve our own performance, we all have a responsibility to ensure the actions of others support an environment where our people feel both safe and empowered, our teams are strong, and we continue to strive for operational excellence. Continuous improvement is key – improvement of not just our professional competency as an Army but of our conduct, as individuals and as a collective.

**John Boswell**  
Major General

Defence Minister Ron Mark with the Trentham YDU Officer Commanding Major Ian Barrett.



## NEW UNIT FOR YOUTH OPENS AT TRENTHAM

By Sharon Lundy

**Everything's new at the Youth Development Unit (YDU) Central at Trentham: the beds, the bathrooms, the desks, the drawers – and even the staff.**

Heading the staff at the 90-bed facility, opened on August 9 and ready for its first Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) intake on August 19, is Major Ian Barrett. The former nurse served in East Timor and Iraq and brings those skills, and his skills as a parent, to a role where his aim is "to do right by and for the trainees".

The trainees who will go through the facility – four courses of 90 each year – are 18 to 24-year-olds who are not in work, training or study.

The course gives these young people a structure that develops their confidence, pride, and an ability to work in teams.

LSV is a Ministry of Social Development programme, part of which is a six-week course run by the New Zealand Defence Force at three sites nationwide – Trentham, RNZAF Base Auckland at Whenuapai and Burnham Military Camp.

The programme is doubling to take up to 1600 trainees by the end of next year, enabled by two new facilities, the Trentham one and a 160-bed building at Whenuapai which offers five courses a year. Burnham will continue to cater for five intakes of 120 trainees each year.

Minister of Defence Ron Mark, who opened both new

facilities, is very clear on what is most important.

"The facilities are just the hardware that we see. What is really important with our LSV training is the development of our people, of our future leaders.

"The NZDF Youth Development Specialists who will deliver the course are not just ordinary military people, they are not just ordinary instructors. It is these men and women who are the role models and prepare the LSV trainees to take on life and all the challenges it presents."

MAJ Barrett attributed his interest in YDU and his subsequent change in career direction to his partner, Dale, who has worked within restorative justice.

"Her work stories of how she was facilitating challenging situations for families and the positive outcomes of her work sparked my interest in helping others. When I learned a position was available at YDU Central I jumped at the chance," he said.

"I see this as a fantastic opportunity to be part of a very professional team who can help develop young New Zealanders and hopefully assist them having opportunities, both within the LSV course and after, that they may have otherwise not had."

MAJ Barrett said success for him would be empowering trainees to be more confident in themselves, to



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– Hon Ron Mark

take opportunities they may have otherwise not taken and to connect them with services in their home towns that they were not previously in touch with.

"If trainees leave our course better equipped to successfully establish their place within New Zealand society, and contribute positively to it, then we have succeeded."

*Above: Former Nursing Officer and now YDU head, Major Barrett.*

*Below: Guests are shown around the facilities.*

