

# THE BUGLE

ISSUE 288  
DECEMBER 2021

## THIS ISSUE

Christmas Messages 2021

Foreign Correspondence From Around The World

The Best Toy

Personal Messages

The Deployment Newsletter is produced for families and service personnel associated with current overseas deployments



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### Deadline

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Bugle contributions are welcome and should be sent to Janine Burton

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### Disclaimer

Articles and opinions expressed in The Bugle are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Defence Force.

### Cover Photo:

MAJ Dan Swale is deployed to South Sudan. Here he is patrolling in Pibor market.

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM ....

## HON Peeni Henari Minister of Defence



**T**his year the New Zealand Government asked a lot of our Defence Force. I am so proud to say that you delivered.

*When Kiwis needed to be brought home from Afghanistan, you were there.*

*When the country suffered floods in Buller, Canterbury and Otago, you helped. When we asked you to staff our Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities—something the Defence Force has never been required to do—you stepped up.*

*You support global missions and deployments of importance to New Zealand.*

*It doesn't matter if you were deployed domestically or globally this year—your contribution made a difference, and so did the sacrifice and support of your families.*

*For those of you deployed this Christmas, I hope your RSA parcel and an internet connection or a phone call to your whānau will bring some joy. For those of you at home, enjoy some time out with your friends and whānau.*

*To all of you, your whānau and friends, I say thank you.*

*Your continued service is valued by this Government.*





## AIR MARSHAL Kevin Short Chief of Defence Force

**A** special Mere Kirihimihi /Merry Christmas message to you as you celebrate the festive season, wherever you may be within New Zealand or around the world.

*It has been another very busy year for the New Zealand Defence Force with the continuation of Operation PROTECT here in NZ and our support to many offshore operations. The NZDF has responded when and wherever New Zealand has needed us; we've trained, prepared and deployed our personnel and our capabilities to do what we do best.*

*Even where the work doesn't stop, it is my wish that Christmas gives you a chance to catch your breath, and think about whānau and friends. I'm grateful for the continued contribution all members of our New Zealand Defence Force make as you carry out your duties. I'm also grateful to your families, who continue to make sacrifices and provide support to you, as you represent the NZDF.*

*Your efforts and professionalism are appreciated.*

*I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.*

*Ko tātou hei Mana mō Aotearoa—We are A Force for New Zealand*

# 2021 CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM ....

## REAR ADMIRAL David Proctor Chief of Navy



*Meri Kirihimete kotou!*

I'm very much aware that the relative Covid freedoms we'll be enjoying in New Zealand this Summer, couldn't be more removed from the places you are currently deployed in the service of our country.

As if being overseas over Christmas isn't challenging enough, the ongoing threat of Covid in the world, would certainly have placed another layer of uncertainty and stress on you and your family.

At this time of year in particular, I am thinking of all the sailors, soldiers and air personnel who are sacrificing time away from their family and friends in order to make a difference in the lives of others.

My gratitude also to your whānau for the way they are supporting you and NZDF's international efforts in these most difficult of times.

I wish you a very merry Christmas with your comrades and shipmates no matter where you are in the world. You make us all proud and our best wishes go out to you and your family.

Ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa - Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

*David & Wendy Proctor and family*



## MAJGEN John Boswell Chief of Army

**2021** *has been a challenging year for us all.*

*Here at home, we've faced lockdowns and the spread of COVID-19 in to our communities, while those of you deployed have had your ability to travel, both directly for your role and for well-earned respite, severely restricted by the Global Pandemic.*

*As the year comes to an end, thoughts naturally turn to spending time with family and mates and recharging the batteries for the year ahead. My thoughts go to you, those members of our Army who are overseas on deployments and postings, as you continue to serve our Nation's interests.*

*I know exactly how it feels to be away from those you care most about at this time, and that each of you would rather be here at home spending time with your families enjoying the 'chaos' of Christmas. I also know how good it feels to finally be reunited after time away. As hard as it may seem at times, that time will come soon enough.*

*I am incredibly proud of the significant sacrifice you are making in the service of both our Army and New Zealand. Particularly as many of you have not been able to leave your operational areas for much needed respite. The work you do matters, and we are thankful for it.*

*My sincere thanks also go to your families here in NZ. Being the partner, spouse, child or mate of a member of our Army often places an extra burden on you all as you also become a caretaker at home, and a support person for someone overseas. This commitment to your loved ones is huge, incredibly important, and never goes unnoticed. Thank you.*

*From me and my family, to you and each of yours, stay safe, and have a very happy Christmas.*

# 2021 CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM ....

## **AIR VICE-MARSHAL Andrew Clark** **Chief of Air Force**



**O**n behalf of the Air Force I want to wish all our deployed personnel and their families a happy and safe Christmas.

The Defence Force is always on duty somewhere in the world. This is who we are and it's what we do. Of course it requires commitment and at times sacrifice by our people and their families.

This is especially true at this time of year for those deployed operationally and those who are away from family and friends. While your Christmas won't be 'traditionally kiwi' I hope you get a chance to pause and reflect in whatever way fits best. For the families of those who are deployed, I thank you for your own ongoing support and commitment.

As you celebrate Christmas I hope you recognise the important part you are playing internationally and the difference you are making.

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you back home in 2022. Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Ngā mihi nui.

*Andrew, Tricia and family*



## **REAR ADMIRAL Jim Gilmour Commander Joint Forces New Zealand**

**F**irstly I want to thank all the personnel involved in the delivery of the NZDF's operational outputs through our deployments off shore and our domestic tasks.

*This year has seen our ongoing commitment to what has become one of our largest deployments of NZDF personnel on domestic soil, staffing New Zealand's Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities under Op PROTECT. We've also been deployed internationally, in Afghanistan, South Korea, South Sudan, the Middle East region, Antarctica, South East Asia, and the Pacific.*

*That's a large contribution of capability, both people and platforms, not only from a deployment perspective but also from a planning one, and I'm incredibly proud of all our Defence Force personnel for stepping up to the challenges we've faced.*

*I'm also thankful for the support of our Defence Force families, without whom it would be very difficult for our people to work so hard for New Zealand.*

*There will inevitably be challenges ahead in 2022, but I have every confidence that we'll face these head on with courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity.*

*Enjoy a well-deserved Christmas break. Stay safe and look after your loved ones.*

*Nga Manaakitanga (Best Wishes)*

# 2021 CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM 1<sup>st</sup> (NEW ZEALAND) BRIGADE



**COL Stefan Michie, DSD**  
Commander  
1<sup>st</sup> (New Zealand) Brigade



**WO1 Ray Kareko**  
Command Sergeant Major  
1<sup>st</sup> (New Zealand) Brigade

*Ka tangi te tītī, ka tangi te kākā, ka tangi hoki ahau, tīhei mauri ora*

**T**his has been yet another extraordinary year. Not only have we been decisively engaged with the largest domestic deployment of NZ soldiers in our lifetimes, but we have also needed to maintain our ongoing international commitments. Throw in there short notice responses to global emergencies, continuation of individual coursing, and the odd collective training. It would be an understatement to say there are a large portion of you who are well overdue some well earned leave with whanau and friends. When we do eventually pause and reflect on this remarkable year, be proud of what you achieved and be safe in the knowledge that you have contributed to the ongoing defence of this country that can sometimes be underestimated by our fellow New Zealanders. Over Xmas and New Year, please spare a thought for the 1000+ soldiers who will not be fortunate to spend time with loved ones, their sacrifice over this holiday period is the reason why we are able to spend time with our whanau.

*The Comd SM and I consider it an honour and privilege to serve alongside you and on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank you for your service and wish you a very Merry Xmas and a safe New Year.*

*Meri kirihimete me te tau hou ngā hōia o Te Pirikēti Tuatahi o Aotearoa*

*Kia rite kia takatū - Ready to Act*





## 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment



To the Gunners and members of other Corps currently deployed, both overseas and domestically, we appreciate your efforts and the sacrifices you have made in serving your country. Your service and commitment to the NZ Army and wider NZDF community is very much appreciated. The Regiment is proud of your commitment and look forward to your safe return home.

To the families of those deployed, being apart from your loved ones during this time of year is never easy and we thank you for the continued support and the efforts made by you to allow your loved ones to perform their duties.

On behalf of all ranks of 16th Field Regiment we would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Nga mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou

“UBIQUE”

**LTCOL Dean Gerling**  
Commanding Officer

**WO1 Aaron Taylor**  
Regimental Sergeant Major

## Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles



On behalf of all ranks of Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles, we wish those deployed and their families and loved ones back home, a safe Christmas and New Year season. We acknowledge that this has been another very challenging year. Your efforts and sacrifices in balancing Op PROTECT and maintaining your combat readiness with family and life in these COVID times is not lost on us—we appreciate your efforts dearly and acknowledge the difficulties that separation from loved ones causes, especially during the holiday period. This ultimately highlights the sacrifice made by you all and your families.

Know that the unit is here to provide whatever support we can and we look forward to seeing you back around the regimental lines in the New Year. Stay safe, reach out if you need, look after your mates and family; and continue on with the great work you're doing.

***Ake Ake Kia Kaha***

***The Mounted Trooper***

**LTCOL Edward Crow**  
Commanding Officer

**WO1 Shannon Brears**  
Regimental Sergeant Major



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment



To all Sappers serving abroad over this festive season, thank you for your commitment, professionalism and selfless service to the NZDF and New Zealand. It has been a very challenging year for all of us on account of COVID-19, and none more so than for our people deployed on operations and their families back home. Our missions overseas continue in spite of the pandemic, and in many cases you will no doubt be helping those who are less fortunate than us—this remains noble and important work. I hope that wherever you are deployed, you are able to take some time over the Christmas period to speak with your family and share some of your experiences. It is a particularly challenging time of the year to be apart. I also hope that you are able to spend time as a contingent with fellow Kiwis, and hopefully open a few pressies from home.

We all wish you well for the remainder of your tour—Merry Christmas, stay safe, keep up the great work, and we look forward to seeing you back in New Zealand soon.

***Whaia to kaupukaha, I nga wahi katoa – Follow the Sapper***

**LTCOL Michael Nochete**  
Commanding Officer

**WO1 Tom Kerekere**  
Regimental Sergeant Major

## 1st Command Support Regiment

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant Major, Officers, Soldiers and Civilian Staff of 1<sup>st</sup> Command Support Regiment we would like to extend our best wishes to all our NZDF personnel who are currently deployed on operations throughout the world during the Christmas and New Year period.

Serving on operations is not easy during this time of year for both the personnel deployed and their whanau and friends back in New Zealand. We would also like to acknowledge the families and friends of deployed personnel and wish them a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Our thoughts are with you all during this time and we look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Nga mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou

**Lieutenant Colonel Jared McGregor**  
Commanding Officer



**WO1 Noema Kopa**  
Regimental Sergeant Major

# 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment



Tena Koutou katoa,

On behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, we would like to take a moment to appreciate our soldiers and officers. This is for their commitment, courage, comradeship and integrity which they continue to display day in day out regardless of weather, season or terrain, whether it's on deployment or during training, and especially during the challenging times.

Words cannot express our gratitude enough to the families that have continued to maintain operations on the home front, and also providing that support when it is needed most. It is this very support that has enabled our personnel to maintain their commitment and focus whilst continuing the contribution to the security and wellbeing of Aotearoa.

This festive season will be no less challenging than any other, especially for our deployed personnel and their families. It is a tough time of the year to be separated, let alone all the other pressures that come with festive holidays. All of our collective thoughts are with each and every one of you no matter where you are, or what you may be doing. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in 2022.

E Tu Tika (Stand tall)  
E Tu Kaha (Stand strong)  
E Tu Nga Toa (Stand united as warriors)

ONWARD

**LTCOL Logan Vaughan**  
Commanding Officer

**WO1 Chad Hally, DSD**  
Regimental Sergeant Major

# 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Tena Koutou

Seasons greetings to all our soldiers and officers that are serving on operations away from New Zealand and their whanau at home over the Christmas holiday period. On behalf of all members of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, we wish you all the very best. Serving our country, particularly at this time of the year, highlights the sacrifice made by our soldiers and moreover your families, who will be ringing in the New Year without you. You are in our thoughts, especially in this current COVID climate, where the risk to you individually may be higher than for us all at home.



Just like this time last year, it is important to acknowledge the more than 280 soldiers and officers who will be working to secure our national border this holiday season – the second in a row. OP PROTECT remains a mission like no other and while it is regrettable we are working over the break again, it is our turn and we will continue to do what is needed to play our part. The unit leave period will be extended to ensure there is still a decent break before returning to work in the new year. During leave the RSM and I hope that all of you are able to enjoy time with your whanau, friends and loved ones. Relish this time, as we all know, the demands of the organisation can at times create tension, especially at home and I encourage all of you to maintain good lines of communication.

Christmas is about family and serving away from those we care about at this time is never easy. Still, no matter where you serve, in a hotel in Auckland or Christchurch or overseas, you can be assured that your service and sacrifice contributes to creating an environment so that all New Zealanders may enjoy the freedom to get together this holiday period.

To all who serve in our great unit, look after yourself, look after your whanau and we will see you safely back at Frickeleton Lines in 2022.

*"Kura Takahi Puni."*

**LTCOL Cory Neale**  
Commanding Officer

**WO1 John Cantwell**  
Regimental Sergeant Major



## 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion



Kia ora koutou

On behalf of all ranks of 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion, we wish all those on operations off shore and here in Aotearoa a Meri Kirihimete. It has been an odd year—supporting a significant operation at home, adapting methods to enable training to continue in the new environment, and continuing to support garrison tasks. At the same time we have had service personnel deployed offshore in Sinai, Lebanon, South Korea, South Sudan, and a couple of attachments to Antarctica—these personnel have had deployments extended or changed to conform with new COVID protocols.

As service personnel, we consider ourselves adaptable—rolling with the changes—but we can forget the impact that such uncertainties have on our families and friends. We would like to thank the families and friends of our deployed personnel for their unwavering support and resilience in these challenging times.

Respite this year is not going to be found in a collective four week closedown, instead holidays will be staggered to enable continuous support to operations. It is imperative that we look out for each other at this time, remembering that it is ok to ask for help or ask your mate if they need help. Whanaungatanga—collectively strong.

Mā te wā

**LTCOL Sheree Alexander**  
Commanding Officer

**WO1 Nick Grace**  
Regimental Sergeant Major

## 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion



Looking forward into 2022, 3 CSS Bn can see the proverbial light at the end of the Op PROTECT tunnel. The rhythm of this operation is expected to initially continue, albeit slightly reduced given recent changes here in the South, but we all know the days of MIQ are numbered and we all look forward to being a part of Army regeneration starting in 2022. As with the rest of the units within 1 (NZ) Bde, 2021 has been dominated by Op PROTECT. This has impacted our normal training and taken many of us away from home on a frequent basis, or just messed with our routines with the ongoing shift work.

Other than Op PROTECT, some highlights this year saw Unit members getting away on Op ANTARTICA, Op FARAD (Sinai), Op TROY (Middle East), Op MONITOR (South Korea) and also Op AWHINA here in New Zealand. Significant mobilisations occurred for the Canterbury Floods May/Jun and again in Westport in Jul. Our people reinforced Civil Defence and Emergency Management emergency operations centres in the districts and carried out evacuations of at risk citizens no other agency could. Assistance extended to logistics delivery and in Westport, flood damaged waste removal and highly valued catering support that always wins us friends.

As we head into this years festive season, again this Christmas many of us will remain deployed for all or part of it. On behalf of the Unit members who do get the chance of a break, we wish to express deep thanks for the ongoing commitment of our service personnel who will remain on duty to allow us that special time with family and friends. We also wish to acknowledge the families who are impacted by the absence of a mum, dad or loved one at this time. Thank you for the critical contribution you make in the service of our nation.

On behalf of all members of the 3 CSS Bn, we wish all our service personnel, here at home and abroad, and their families, a very happy and safe festive season.

Whirikoka ō roto – Strength from within

**LTCOL Marcus Linehan**  
Commanding Officer

**WO1 Patrick Dallow**  
Regimental Sergeant Major



*This has been an incredibly important year for the NZDF that has seen many of us defending New Zealand in a way we could not have guessed this time last year. To the people deployed overseas on more traditional deployments, we must now add the contribution of a large number of NZDF personnel deployed within New Zealand keeping our nation safe from an invisible but mighty enemy. Separation from friends, partners and whanau is never easy but is often felt more keenly during the festive season.*

*Whether overseas, or within New Zealand, on behalf of the Officers, Sailors and Civilian Staff of HMNZS Philomel, I thank you all for your sacrifice and wish you and your loved ones a safe and Happy Christmas.*

**Commander Phil Wheadon**  
HMNZS PHILOMEL Base Commander



**Group Captain Andy Scott**  
Base Commander

## RNZAF Base Auckland



**W/O Darren (Digby) Bentley**  
Command Warrant Officer

Kia ora koutou,

What a year this one has been! We have achieved a lot considering our challenging working environments and it is almost easier to measure success by looking at what we haven't done! This year we have maintained an exceptional level of delivery through the great work completed across the NZDF, and this is a credit to your service and sacrifice in delivering daily operations.

At this time when we have you all deployed to the four winds, it is appropriate to acknowledge your whanau and friends in their enabling role as the home guardians. With the added complexities of COVID, we know it increases the stress levels at both ends as even when we do bring people home, we know its still two weeks before you can be with loved ones. So you and your whanau's commitment being on Operations is now more than ever, a testament to your sacrifice.

With operations both here and abroad, we once again fulfil our community, nation and world responsibilities with courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity. You are all the key to this success which can only come from a team effort, something we do like no other!

On Behalf of RNZAF Base Auckland we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas wherever you are able to rest. We look forward to your safe return and thank you for your outstanding efforts during this period of global disruption. See you again soon!

Meri Kirihimete



**Group Captain Rob Shearer**  
Base Commander

## RNZAF Base Ohakea



**W/O Aaron Jeffries**  
Command Warrant Officer

Kia ora koutou,

As we near the end of 2021, RNZAF Base Ohakea acknowledges the efforts of our NZDF whanau in delivering outputs in support of New Zealand's interests over the past twelve months.

Ohakea has simultaneously delivered military air operations, operated a military air base during COVID-19, contributed people to Op PROTECT, and prepared to introduce new capabilities. It goes without saying, there is no way we could have achieved all of these outputs without our remarkable team.

We extend a sincere thank you to those of you who are deployed on missions throughout the world, but more so to your loved ones and families. We recognise this time of the year is when absences are especially felt. However, please know this; without the crucial role you play in providing a stable home front, our ability to effect mission success is lessened.

To everyone, enjoy this special time of year—relax, reflect, re-energise, and stay safe.

On behalf of RNZAF Base Ohakea, Meri Kirihimete!



To our deployed personnel all over the world, best wishes for a Merry Christmas! While you are away you are held within the hearts and minds of those closest to you at home.

To all of our fabulous families at home who will be spending this holiday season apart from loved ones on service overseas. We trust that you will gather your family and friends around you to share the day, the love and goodwill this season is all about.

Our special thoughts are with you all. A very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Your DSO

*Janine*



## Third Drug Seizure By Kiwi-Led Naval Operation Around Arabian Gulf

10 November 2021

A Royal New Zealand Navy-led Combined Task Force has achieved another successful counter-narcotics operation, with the seizure of illicit drugs that would otherwise have been sold to fund terrorist and criminal organisations.

RNZN Captain Brendon Clark, who is commanding the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF150) based in Bahrain, said a French Navy ship working as part of CTF150 had seized 378kg of heroin from a vessel in the Arabian Sea.

This seizure followed two counter-narcotics operations in September by another French Navy ship working as part of the task force.

Captain Clark said the French naval ship FS Floreal joined CTF150 recently “ready for action”.

“Her dedication has been rewarded with a high-value seizure of 378kg of heroin worth more than \$US4 million from a vessel in the Arabian Sea.

“This latest seizure is another great example of collaboration across the like-minded partner nations working together to disrupt terrorist and criminal organisations,” he said.



Prices for illicit drugs vary throughout the world. The prices tend to increase significantly once they hit the streets at their final destination.

In September, the French Marine Nationale frigate FS Languedoc, operating in support of CTF150, conducted two intercepts and seizures.

One intercept resulted in more than 1,525kg of hash and 166kg of methamphetamine with a combined value of more than \$US5.2m being seized.

Seven days later, the frigate intercepted another vessel, resulting in the confiscation of 3,600kg of hash, valued at \$US1.8m.

Criminal and terrorist organisations use the proceeds of sales of narcotics to obtain weapons, ammunitions and equipment and for training for criminal and terrorist activities.

CTF150 is one of three task forces of the Combined Maritime Forces. Its mission is to disrupt criminal and terrorist organisations and their illicit activities, including the movement of people, weapons, narcotics and charcoal.

CTF150 conducts maritime security operations outside the Arabian Gulf to ensure that legitimate commercial shipping can occur freely.

The New Zealand-led multinational team will command and staff CTF 150 until early 2022.

Source: NZDF



## NZDF Personnel Deploy to Solomon Islands as Part of Inter-Agency Stability Mission

2 December 2021

An advance party of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel left today on a C-130 Hercules from Ohakea bound for the Solomon Islands to assist with maintaining stability and security.

The New Zealand Government yesterday announced NZDF and New Zealand Police personnel would be deployed following a formal request from the Solomon Islands Government for assistance after unrest in the country.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Rear Admiral Jim Gilmour said the NZDF and NZ Police personnel would work alongside Solomon Islands partners and authorities to maintain stability, engage with communities and provide a reassuring presence for people in the Solomon Islands going about their daily lives.

“Our NZDF personnel are trained to respond to a range of contingencies. Our contribution is part of a multinational, inter-agency response. We will be working in support of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and NZ Police personnel to maintain stability and security in Solomon Islands.

“This will involve working closely with Solomon Islands authorities and with our military partners who have also deployed personnel to the Solomon Islands,” Rear Admiral Gilmour said.

An advance party deployed to Solomon Islands today on a Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) C-130 Hercules, with two vehicles and equipment on board.

A further group of NZDF personnel and New Zealand Police personnel will deploy on Saturday on a RNZAF Boeing B757.

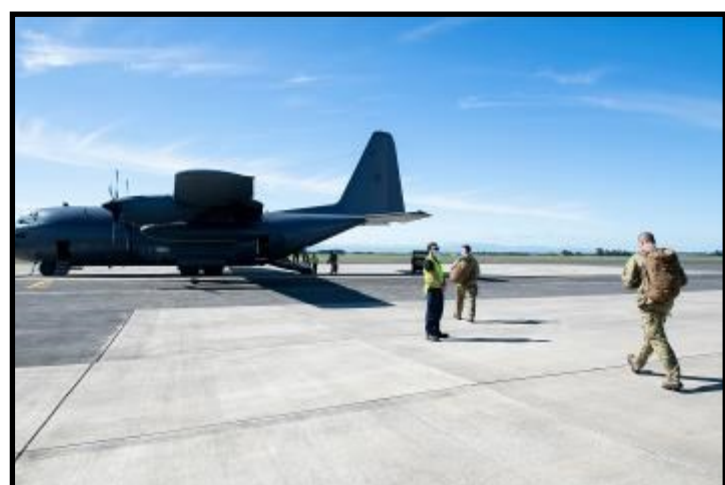
More vehicles and equipment will be transported on a C-130 Hercules. There may be further flights to take equipment and supplies to Honiara if required.

The NZDF contingent includes members of the Wellington-based Deployable Joint Interagency Task Force and Linton-based NZ Army personnel.

The contingent includes command elements, an infantry platoon group, a female engagement team who will assist with community outreach, logistics support, a medical team to support deployed personnel, and an engineer advisor.

The deployment is expected to be for up to 30 days.

All NZDF's deploying personnel are double vaccinated, will provide negative COVID-19 tests prior to departure and follow COVID-19 prevention protocols. They will complete managed isolation on their return.



Source: NZDF





## New Zealand Defence Force Deploys to Solomon Islands

4 December 2021

The main body of the New Zealand Defence Force contingent departed for Solomon Islands today as part of Operation Solomon Islands Assistance.

A Royal New Zealand Air Force Boeing B757 and a C-130 Hercules transported New Zealand Army personnel, NZ Police personnel, vehicles and other equipment from RNZAF Base Ohakea and RNZAF Base Auckland this morning..

Source: NZDF



# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

## News from South Sudan

Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are not necessarily those of the NZDF

### A Diverse Workplace

**MAJ Dan Swale**  
Military Liaison Officer

What a difference a few months make! In August, our contingent of three NZDF officers were trudging through the snow in Waiouru on pre-deployment training (PDT), preparing to deploy to the Republic of South Sudan. Fast forward a few months and as I write this it's 38 degrees outside, with clouds threatening a torrential downpour that will turn the dusty roads into a quagmire.

South Sudan is the world's youngest nation, having celebrated its tenth year in 2021. We're here as part the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the world's largest peacekeeping mission. All up there are just over 18,000 people within the organisation, incorporating military, police and civilians. These personnel hail from 73 different countries, so you would struggle to find a more diverse workplace.

For my part, I'm a United Nations Military Observer, serving in Jonglei State around 200 kilometres north-east of the capital Juba. On arriving in the capital I thought it was pretty basic, bumping along potholed roads to UN House, one of the mission's main compounds in the city. Turns out that Juba is pretty well developed in comparison to Bor, my home whilst I'm here in South Sudan.

Bor is a small town on the banks of the White Nile that saw significant fighting during the country's civil war in 2013. The degree of poverty is striking: the South Sudanese soldiers I regularly interact with earn around \$6 a month, assuming that they get paid. Slightly better off are those locals that have hit the jackpot and managed to secure a job working for the

UN or one of the numerous humanitarian organisations that operate nearby. Yet even for them, it's often a hard existence, reliant on aid from the likes of the World Food Programme and UNICEF.

Life here in Bor is relatively austere, with flooding making dirt roads impassable during the wet season. Accordingly, many of my journeys are by helicopter and I deploy with gumboots to be ready to patrol through the mud and interact with the local people. The communities I've visited have been friendly and the kids incredibly enthusiastic and ready to try out their few words of English. Seeing the simple conditions in which they live remind me of my own kids and how lucky they are to be growing up in New Zealand.

The wildlife here in Bor is pretty amazing. You need to lock your door, lest a baboon gets into your room and rummages through your fridge. Groups

of mongooses flit out from under buildings, hopefully dealing with the cobras and black mambas that live nearby. In the trees, flocks of marabou storks with two-metre wingspans add their clacks and croaks to the cacophony of the dawn chorus. It truly is wild at times!

From the three of us Kiwis here in South Sudan, greetings to all our friends and family back home in New Zealand. We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and enjoy some well-earned rest over the break.



MAJ Dan Swale on patrol in Pibor market



Bor from the air, bounded by the White Nile



The sun sets over Bor

## My Frosty First Findings

**A Briar Miller**

Communications Operator

Since landing in Antarctica on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, I have already had a lot of first experiences that I will cherish forever, and it is only the 5<sup>th</sup> week of my six-month deployment. The first week had wind chill temperatures as low as -48 degrees, so I had to learn to adjust to the climate quickly, as well as dress sufficiently.

After the first week I spent a full night outside in a tent on the snow; I gained an appreciation for the comfort Scott Base provides after that! Since then I have explored the pressure ridges outside our doorstep, visited Scott's Hut in Cape Evans, Shackleton's Hut in Cape Royds, watched an Adelie Penguin rookery, gone into a large crevasse with a small entrance, seen my first ice berg and observed a Weddell Seal pup meeting its mum for the first time. I have completed a few local hikes around Scott Base including Castle Rock Loop, Observation Hill, and Crater Hill. We have only had a couple of opportunities to mingle with the American base over the hill called McMurdo. I seized the chance to go to their famous Gallagher Bar one night and this did not fail to impress me. Although we are only ten minutes apart, the cultures of each base are vastly different, stemming from the difference between Kiwis and Yanks. It was quite the American experience.

We got the opportunity to visit one of the science camps out on the sea ice. This trip put into perspective why we continue to support science and peace in accordance with the Treaty. They have already made some remarkable discoveries about the changing world due to climate change. It felt like watching a Play Station game as they drove their \$4m submarine robot (Ice Fin) under the sea ice.

A few points I'd like to share; getting burnt by the cold has a similar effect on the skin as sunburn does, Scott Base is notorious for giving you static shocks,



you need to drink twice as much water due to the dry climate, walking on the ice sounds loud and crunchy, it is easy to forget how late it is due to the sun being up all the time, and Skua's (a scavenger seagull-looking bird) will, irritatingly so, take any opportunity to eat anything, especially foraging on leftover nutrients on the sea ice from the birthing seals pups.

Lastly, it has been refreshing not being glued to my cell phone. I have always found the older generation pester our

generation and the younger ones about having less screen time, but it is now all making sense why. I have started to read more books, engrossing myself fully into the story. The bar is full of chatter and laughs, without the constant distraction of our cell phones buzzing for our attention. I like to think I will continue to rely on my phone less when I return to Aotearoa, but we will see. Our lives rely on them greatly after all.

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

## News from Antarctica

Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are not necessarily those of the NZDF

### The Experience of a Lifetime

**LCPL Liam McGuire**  
Plant Operator

Going to Antarctica has always been on my to-do list so I was very thrilled when I was told I was going!

We arrived down here just as the winter season was ending so we experienced some very cold weather on arrival; typically around -40 degrees with wind chill. A couple of days after arrival we spent a night out in tents doing Antarctic field training and I must say it was a lot colder than Waiouru! Although it was freezing we still saw an amazing sunset from the top of Crater Hill and we all had a lot of fun experimenting with our clothing layers and building shelters!

As a plant operator I have a variety of roles such as snow clearance, moving containers on the sea ice, waste management and pretty much anything that involves heavy machines.

Being the youngest from the Defence Force, I had the privilege to lower the winter flag and raise the summer flag when the seasons changed, as part of the flag change over ceremony that is held every year. It was an absolute honour!

When we aren't working we all like to get out of base as much as we can; we have been lucky enough to see both Scott's and Shackleton's huts. It's amazing how both huts look pretty much the same way they were left by the Antarctic explorers over 100 years ago.

The favourite thing I've done here so



far would be the time myself and two others towed ten containers about 25 kilometres out on the sea ice and set up camp with a scientist's event. They were trialling a new coring drill that allows them to collect samples from the sea ice without disturbing the ice habitat.

At the moment Scott Base is bustling as the Scott Base rebuild team has recently arrived to make a start on the new base. More and more people are flying down to work on the new base; they have started testing the foundations and will begin construction later on this season.

Around Scott Base on the sea ice, there are a lot of seals that have recently given birth to their pups. It's

really cool to go check them out now and then. There aren't many animals around here apart from Skua's (an Antarctic bird) and penguins (about 30kms away) the seals seem very friendly and curious of people watching them; however, we always keep a good distance as they are known for getting aggressive, especially around their pups.

I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to come down here to work and do so many things that only very few people actually get to do! If anybody gets a chance to come down here I highly recommended it and I'll be telling my friends back at home to try and get down, it is the experience of a life time!



## A Number of Firsts

**SGT Tim Clark**  
Senior Communications Operator

It's only been a couple of months, yet Operation ANTARCTICA (Op ANT) is already shaping up to be an exceptionally humbling and cool deployment filled with many firsts. I've celebrated a birthday whilst on an Op for the first time, it's the first time I've worked with a civilian organisation—Antarctica New Zealand (ANTNZ)—being the lead agency, and it's the first time I've thought, "I hope my pinkies don't freeze." Moreover, we NZDF personnel recently shared military traditions by hosting a dining-in for all Scott Base staff and present scientists where I had the privilege of being Mr Vice for the first time.

I'm deployed as the Op ANT Senior Communications Operator. It's a high tempo role, and one to which CISTECH's like myself are well suited. In my previous section, the Tactical Data Link Cell, we communicate with numerous internal and external stakeholders to gather information to enable a situational understanding capability named Link 16.

A large part of an Op ANT communications operator's role is liaising with stakeholders to maintain situational awareness so we can safely track personnel movements, especially when they're traveling on sea ice. We maintain situational awareness at Scott Base with voice communications which operate on HF, VHF and SHF frequency bands. We also frequently receive automated positional data from

deployed science personnel via satcom devices. Furthermore, some emergency procedures we follow here at Scott Base are like those used by CIS Flight personnel who communicate with NZDF rotary and fixed wing platforms from the Whenuapai Air Operations Communications Centre.

Three RNZAF pers; F/S Laura Brown, CPL Davina King and I, are embedded into the ANTNZ Programme Support team. Similar to outputs supported by my unit back home, No. 230 (Mission Support) Squadron, which is considered the tip of the RNZAF spear, work by us three helps enable and enhance a variety of concurrent activities. Our trade skills and unique NZDF experiences have prepared us well for the challenges we're facing. Adaptability and having a high degree of prudence are essential to the smooth and safe conduct of tasks carried out by all NZDF pers, ANTNZ staff, and scientists.

It shouldn't be a surprise that the



environment poses the greatest challenges to Antarctic Ops. Weather can swiftly change. The low ambient air temperature means Li-ion batteries discharge quickly, and equipment requires extreme care since the closest hardware store is in Invercargill. Also, as a result of wearing multiple pairs of gloves at once when outside, you lose dexterity which increases the time to do what would otherwise be quick tasks.

Op ANT success is a direct result from team work. If it wasn't for 40SQN, the brilliant work conducted by the Harewood Terminal Team, HQ JFNZ, and our amazing friends and loved ones, operational outputs and life itself would be extremely tough to sustain in Antarctica. The work you're all doing is extremely important. Not only because it means we continue to receive morale boosting mail, but because what's happening on and below this awe-inspiring continent will have far reaching consequences for humanity for decades to come.



# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
South Korea*

*Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are  
not necessarily those of the NZDF*



## Op MONITOR—Veteran’s Weekend Commemorations

**Who:** Op MONITOR Contingent

**When:** 11 November 2021

**What:** NZDF representation at:

- Busan Veteran commemorations held at the UNC Memorial Cemetery, Busan
- United Kingdom Remembrance Church Service, Seoul
- French-lead Remembrance commemorations held at the War Memorial of Korea, Seoul



(L-R) WO McKeich, CAPT Geen, WGCDCR Hunt, MAJ Brosnan, SSGT Paenga, SQNLDR Magnussen at the New Zealand Memorial, UNC Memorial Cemetery, Busan



Above: COL Jones and Corinne Rivoallan (COL Jones' wife) at the Anglican Cathedral, Seoul (Sunday 14 Nov 21)



(L-R) Corinne Rivoallan, COL Jones, SSGT Allen, CAPT Gray, MAJ Garton, Ambassador Turner and CDR Marshall at the New Zealand Memorial, War Memorial of Korea, Seoul

## A Surreal Experience

**CAPT Scott Gray**  
UNCMAC-S

It's been a shotgun start to the deployment to Op MONITOR, having deployed in the middle of New Zealand's lockdown and then thrust into the working routine at United Nations Command, Military Armistice Commission—Secretariat (UNCMAC-S).

With the previous contingent departing, it saw the Kiwis in UNCMAC-S thrown straight into operations, with the Ops Team attending an inspection in the heart of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the Education Officer heading out to the east coast to conduct his first Education tour.

It is a surreal experience being up on the DMZ and seeing the desolate but beautiful landscapes that divide the two Koreas. Engaging with the Frontline units and the leaders of the Guard posts, you get a sense of the responsibility they hold on their shoulders and the pride they have in being able to serve their country right on the DMZ.

I was also fortunate enough to visit White Horse Hill with the Australian Observer team and Mine Action Staff Officer, MAJ Brosnan. White Horse Hill



*MAJ Garton, CAPT Gray, SSGT Allen with the Inspection team and Soldiers from the ROK Army.*

was a key piece of terrain during the Korean War, dominating the central movement corridor which was a key avenue for mounted maneuvers. During the war, White Horse Hill switched hands four times between the South Koreans, the North Koreans and Chinese volunteers. For the South Koreans it is their 'Gallipoli' and is very significant to their identity and military pride. It is here that the South Koreans

have been conducting demining operations and remains recovery this year to return passed loved ones to their final resting place.

As winter sets in, the team at UNCMAC-S wind down operations and start planning operations for the New Year. We wish everyone at home a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



*WGCDR Hunt delivering Armistice Education brief to ROK Army personnel.*



*MAJ Brosnan and CAPT Gray with the Australian Observer team and Officers from UNC HQ at White Horse Hill.*

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
South Korea*

Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are not necessarily those of the NZDF

## Camp Bonifas

**CAPT Joel Cox**  
UNCMAC-S

Camp Bonifas is a particularly special place to be in South Korea. It's the closest multi-national military garrison to North Korea and provides access to the Joint Security Area (JSA) and Transportation Corridor West (TC-W), two of the most active areas in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Myself and CAPT Kevin Kim have the opportunity to work day to day with people from the Republic of Korea (ROK), USA, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as providing access to key areas in the DMZ for visitors and foreign officials.

The lifestyle this far north is a lot more relaxed outside of work hours than our counterparts near Seoul, and we've definitely been making the most of seeing some of the more rural and less developed areas of this beautiful country. As well as this, Camp Bonifas has a tight-knit community due to its much smaller size, with events that us Kiwis can get involved in (sports days, welcomes and farewells, promotion ceremonies, etc.).

Although it's only been a couple of months since arriving here, we've experienced enough to make us very excited for the rest of this deployment.



Incoming and Outgoing Camp Bonifas Team.  
L-R: CAPT Deans, CAPT Cox, FLTLT Hall, CAPT Kim



*CAPT Cox taking in some local culture and the autumn colours.*



*CAPT Kim enjoying the local cuisine.*



## Continuing the Good Work

**SQN LDR Garth Magnussen**  
UNC HQ

United Nations Command (UNC) NZDF staff are now two months into their rotation. Thanks to the hard work of our predecessors, we have been busy continuing their good work by learning and contributing to the coordination of bringing in State contributions, if required, in order to ensure ongoing peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. This is the reality, particularly with staff heavily involved in training evolutions to enable the integration of forces from a number of States to the area, development of procedures which are frequently impacted by the political climate, as well as engagement with the Republic of Korea and United States Forces – Korea by the deployment Warrant Officer.

Fortunately, the contemporary environment is benign and at the time of writing there is snow falling, which is limiting the potential outdoor activities everyone is hopefully enjoying in New Zealand. UNC is led by Commanders who make every effort to ensure all personnel and their families are included in festivities heading in to the Christmas period, and NZDF personnel have a number of activities planned. During the upcoming period the work will continue, however, as well as deleting a large number of social media accounts of our friends sending us photos of the fish being pulled out of the water now that New Zealand is finally enjoying some freedom.

Thanks to all our NZDF colleagues who we are able to keep in touch with back home, who are still championing the Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities, and most importantly the families and friends for all Op MONITOR personnel, and all NZDF personnel overseas, for their support. You are all in our thoughts.



*NZ Contingent Members and one of the Australian team at the top of Songnisan National Park.*



*CDR Marshall and the youngest UNC member cutting the UNC cake for the Thanksgiving potluck.*

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
Dubai*

*Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are  
not necessarily those of the NZDF*

## Thoughts On My Deployment

**CPL Gavin Stewart**  
Op TROY ISOP

Op TROY is New Zealand's flag ship entity in the Middle East Region. We maintain only the most essential of outputs but it has had an exciting month. Over the recent period, in order to maintain a high efficacy of operational excellence, we have conducted a wide variety of tasks. Op TROY has undergone the handover processes for the Senior National Officer (SNO), Supply Technician (SUPTECH) and Operations (Staff) Officer (OPSO), ensuring Op TROY's high state of operational mindedness continues. In keeping with military tradition Op TROY attended a ceremonial event to commemorate the close of the Great War. Our team has undertaken a marked increase in coalition outreach to foster new and deeper ties with our partner nations. NZDF's number one cat, Camel, is still going strong being a sterling example of poise and grace—more on her to follow.

At the start of November Op TROY's SNO, SUPTECH and OPSO's watches were coming to an end with their bright-eyed replacements arriving to take up



*L-R: LTCOL Davis, SSGT Townsend, PO Topham, SGT Harrison, SGT Bennett  
Focussed and ready as the Handover Ceremony begins.*



*L-R: PO Topham, SSGT Townsend, SGT Harrison, SGT Bennett  
Patching in the new crew..*



*WO2 Fisher delivers his rendition of  
In Flanders Fields*

the mantle. The following week saw long hours and frayed nerves as the new personnel were brought up to speed and trained to the exacting standards demanded of all Op TROY members. To formally conclude this process a small yet elegant ceremony was held with our coalition partners in Kiwi Lines. Both the outgoing and incoming SNOs were called upon to inspire us with a few words to mark the occasion. As the incoming SNO's

rousing introductory speech came to a close we all knew the world would never be the same again and our hearts were filled with hope and optimism for the great deeds we knew we would achieve together. Following this, food was served stories were shared and we were all brought that much closer as we shared such a pivotal moment in, not only Op TROY's history, but in our own personal life experiences.

# News from Dubai

Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are not necessarily those of the NZDF



L-R: LTCOL Davis and LTCOL Woodman  
Handover complete.

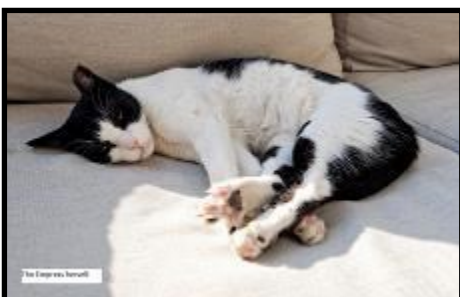
been kept up at night wondering as to her health. As both the senior and only permanent member of the Op TROY team, Camel can easily be called the glue that holds the entire enterprise together. Although it would seem that she is the most useless cat imaginable, unless waking the SNO/ WO up at all hours is considered a virtue, she actually makes the place feel a lot more like home. Looking forward she has her annual visit to the vet coming up which I'm sure will be a calm and tranquil affair as she is such a mellow character.

It has been a busy month for the Op TROY team from hand overs to ceremonies and even the odd VIP visit, with the high level of competence of our members and stalwart attitudes, we have taken it all in stride and even flourished. I think those back home can rest assured that our relations with our coalition partners are stronger than ever as we move toward the Christmas period and the challenges it may bring. Camel also expressed that we are not to worry about her and that she will be okay though she thanks everyone for their concern.

Shortly after, the Op TROY team was called to action yet again to represent New Zealand, this time as a newly founded and untested team, to attend a ceremony commemorating the abeyance of The Great War. It was a sombre crowd of American, Australian, British, Dutch and Kiwi soldiers that gathered on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to pay homage to those that were lost in one of the most horrific conflicts in our nations' histories. Our WO was called upon to recite *In Flanders Fields* to remind us all that we now bear the torch thrown from the failing hands of those lost so long ago. Op TROY's new command team then, in their first joint action, laid a wreath on the cenotaph in a manner of great care and respect proving that they are ready to face any challenge in Op TROY's future.

The following weeks saw our new team working to foster and strengthen ties amongst our coalition partners in the area of operations (AO). As the sole representative of the Royal New Zealand Signal Corp, I attended the revelries of comrades from the junior Signal Corp of the Australian Defence Force.

For those that have been through Op TROY you can rest easy knowing that Camel is thriving, as I know some have



Camel—the Empress herself



Op TROY—Kiwi Lines



# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
Sinai*

Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are not necessarily those of the NZDF

## El Alamein and Cairo Visit, October 2021

**LCPL Matherw Parker**  
Force Protection Analyst

“This looks nothing like the mummy” is the first thing I remember hearing as we got off the plane in Cairo. I couldn’t help but agree as we looked over the smoggy mess of high-rise buildings, highways, and airport. Nevertheless, we were excited to finally get off base for the first time in six months.

Over the weekend of 23 October, 14 members of NZCON had the privilege of joining our Australian and Italian counterparts in commemorating the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Battle of El Alamein. The second battle of El Alamein is one of New Zealand’s most famous engagements in the Second World War, which led to the allies throwing the German Afrika Korps and Italian armies out of Egypt and eventually being defeated in North Africa. Over 1500 Kiwi soldiers were injured in the battle and 380 were killed, most of whom remain buried in the war cemetery at El Alamein.

The trip began with an early start as we had to fly to Cairo, fit in a cheeky visit to the Pyramids and then take a six-hour bus ride from Cairo to El Alamein, way up on the Mediterranean coast. The early start was worth it. Arriving in Cairo was a bit of shock to many of us. As a city of 30 million people, the sheer amount of people and chaos was not something we were used to. The drivers were certainly happy that they were only driving on quiet Sinai roads, not the madness that is Cairo traffic, where indicators and following distances do not exist. Spatial awareness and aggression are the name of the game there.

The Pyramids were as magnificent as



expected, from the first peek over the urban sprawl to climbing the stones at the base; they did not stop being incredible. Our guide took us to the two main Pyramids, explaining the history and showing us the top photo spots. We then took a step back to the panoramic plateau to take the photos that I am sure most of the people back home have already seen. The visit was capped off with a quick stop at the Sphinx before having lunch at a local restaurant.

Friday started with a visit to the Italian cemetery and memorial. Our Italian counterparts and the guide talked to us about the Italian involvement in the battle and some of the impacts it has had on Italy. It was interesting hearing their perspective, especially as we have always just looked at them as “the enemy”. Standing with them now as comrades was a surreal experience. Next stop was the Commonwealth War graves, a large cemetery for the ANZACs, British, South African, Indian and other allied troops who fell in the battle. Having visited the battlefields in Belgium I thought I would be prepared for what entering a place like this is like, but it was still just as moving. Not

many words were shared as we wandered amongst the fallen, looking at the rows of fallen Kiwis of all ages and backgrounds. It brought home the reality of what our forefathers had to do, and the reality of what we could be called on to do if/when the time comes. After the visit Mitch, our tour organiser, sprung a surprise opportunity to visit Alexandria on us. This whirlwind trip took us on a bus tour of the city, showed us the waterfront where everyone did a bit of souvenir shopping, and had an awesome Bedouin style meal to top off the cultural experience.

Our final day gave us the ceremony itself. It was a low key affair, led by the British Embassy. As Covid and the security situation had limited commemorations in previous years, turnout was high. Delegations from the expected parties were there but there were also delegations from all over Africa and the Middle East. The contingent briefly met with the NZ Ambassador and took some photos before loading onto the bus and beginning the trip home to South Camp.

## Navy On A Land Mission

**LTCDR Josh Lord**  
Engineering Officer

The Army-heavy Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) Operation FARAD contingent of 01/21 made two points clear when I joined them at pre-deployment training (PDT) in Trentham in March 2021. The first point was since I was a Navy member on a land mission, I would do best to follow their lead, and the second point, that I'd be saying a tearful goodbye to them in six months' time. I was shocked at how upfront this group of people were who I was to be joining on my 12-month deployment, and even more shocked to realise six months later, that they were absolutely right.

My journey in getting to know the contingent started in the Sinai from the Force Engineering Office, where I work as an Engineering Officer, managing design, project development and project delivery on behalf of the MFO. Introductions to Op FARAD members, WO2 Garth Boyd (Engineering Warrant Officer) and CPL 'Mudz' Te Heu Heu (Combat Electrician), as well many other foreign military members and civilians, ensured that stepping off on the right foot was guaranteed. In a blink, I'd experienced the Remote Sites, North Camp and Israel, as well as represented the New Zealand Defence Force at the 79th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein (where my grandfather



Remote Site 2 Project Team

fought in 1942); and all the while, being proudly surrounded by the strength and the professionalism of the Kiwis.

As 01/21's journey concludes whilst mine continues, it brings both

sadness and excitement. As I say a tearful goodbye to 28 impressive and dedicated individuals who will deservedly join their loved ones in time for Christmas and New Year, I also say hello to 28 brand new members of Op FARAD 02/21.



ANZAC Cricket Team

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
Sinai*

*Articles and opinions from Foreign Correspondents are  
not necessarily those of the NZDF*

Now that I've well and truly got my land legs, I can confidently say to 02/21 – you'll do best to follow my lead, the Navy lead - which is to the Woolshed for a few yarns, a cold beer and to scheme about how we will beat the Aussies for a second time for everything from parade ground cricket to patio trivia. And MFO matters too, of course – give it your MFO best!

To my wife, family and friends, I'm halfway.



Photos:  
Above: ANZAC Navy personnel at El Alamein

Left: LTCDR Lord playing lawn bowls in North Camp

Below: 01/21 Contingent



## Superheroes!

The NZDF led Combined Task Force 150 have some new friends! Each team member has a pen pal from Mrs Coles' Year 6 class at Cable Beach Primary School in Broome, Western Australia. Their teacher, Mrs Jo Cole, who spearheaded the initiative, is sister to Commander CTF 150, Captain Clark.

The pals have been swapping letters with each other over the last few months, sharing stories from Bahrain, and in turn CTF 150 have been regaled with information such as favourite foods, hobbies, and details on how to hunt and cook goanna.

"The students have been very excited to receive letters from the Task Force, and are anticipating the next round of letters. Each student has been assigned a pen pal from CTF 150 to write to, each with a different job in the Naval Team." said Mrs Cole.

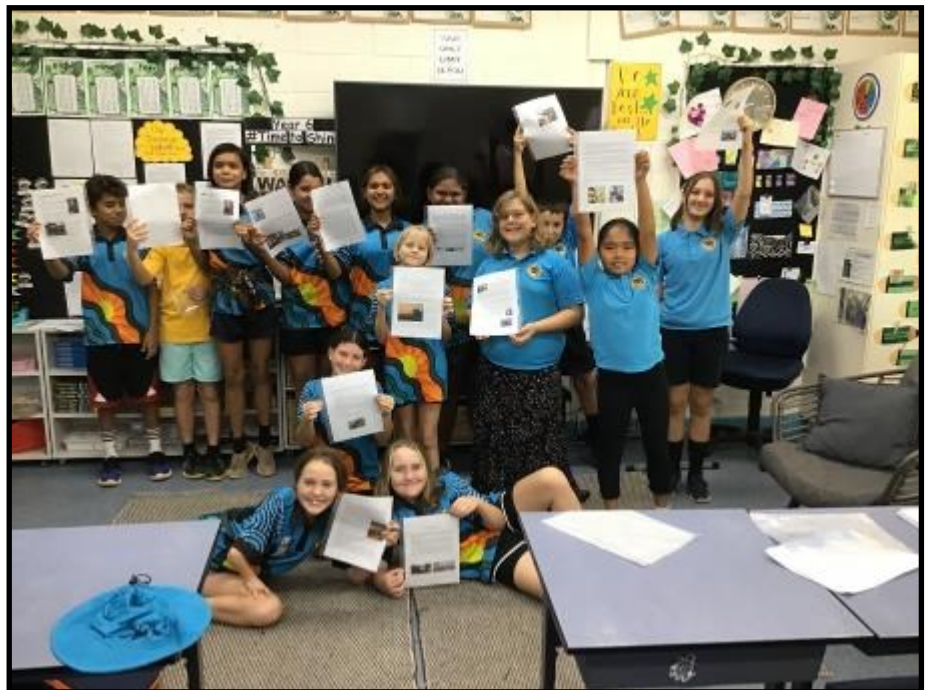
As well as Kiwis, CTF 150 includes members from Singapore, USA, Australia and Bahrain. For the pupils this meant they each received a very unique letter with different stories and perspectives and about military life.

For Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> of November, the class made a special project to remember the CTF 150 team. Two pupils wrote a report describing their Remembrance Day creations, "We made a wreath of poppies dedicated to CTF-150 and a poster including all the nationalities' flags, the names of the

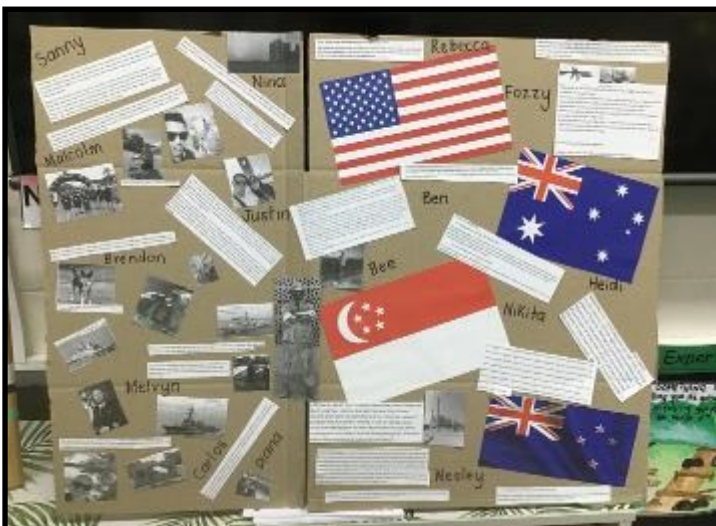
people in the unit and pieces of the letters they have sent us. We hope to continue writing to these heroes as they continue to risk their lives in Bahrain for the victims of terrorism."

The local Broome Community was so touched by the pupils' tributes and letters that a reporter visited the class to produce an article for their local newspaper.

CTF 150's sentiments were summed up by Combined Maritime Forces Command Master Chief Sanny Ramdjanamsingh, Royal Netherlands Navy, to the delight of the children when he told Mrs Cole, "Thank you so much for taking this initiative! These letters make you and your students our superheroes!"



Students from Cable Beach School in Broome display their letters received from their CTF 150 pen pals (Nov 21)



CTF 150 Remembrance Board with flags, names and parts of letters.



Remembrance Day Wreath made by students to remember their CTF 150 pen pals (11 Nov 21)

# DSO'S CORNER



**Janine Burton**

Deployment Services Officer

**I**f last month's edition was the end of an era with Carol's retirement, this month is the start of a new one. Until a replacement is appointed in Burnham, I will be manning the DSO role solo for the NZDF, with lots of support from my chain of command and others as needed. This is the advantage of working in a large organisation. The DSO Burnham phone is diverted to me so for those of you who may already have those contact numbers in your phone, when you ring your call will come to me. However, texts don't divert so if you do send your text to the Burnham cellphone number, I'm afraid it will not be responded to.

For a variety of reasons, Christmas can bring a whole raft of challenges and anxieties for a number of families and having your loved one deployed at this time and added to the mix, can increase the stresses. I hope that this will not include you this year. If you are feeling that you are sliding down into a period of holiday season gloom, reach

out to your support system—family and/or friends. I am sure that you will have people around you who are there to help you through or strategies that you can employ to help you at that time. For some lucky families, your deployed person will have returned home to NZ and in the majority of cases their period of isolation is complete and they will be home with you. As you process your way through the reintegration of your family unit, if things become stressed, take some time out, a big breath and remember that communication is the key to success in all things which includes relationships which have been tested by separation.

Our servicemen and women who are away will be celebrating the festive season in their own fashion. I'm sure that if you have sent gifts, or were very organised and managed to send your small gift with them in their luggage—and of course they will not be opened until the big day (no guarantees there)—that they will appreciate your thoughtfulness and the love with which

they were sent.

I'm sure that everyone in their respective deployment locations around the world will make an effort to make contact with those at home. Please be patient if they can't make contact until late on Christmas Day, or they ring very early. Remember the time differences so while we are already in the throws of Christmas Day here in NZ, the rest of the world comes after us. If your loved one rings you on Boxing Day here, it may still be Christmas Day there!

Regardless, I hope you have a wonderful day with family and friends to support you, and contingents make this a special time in their respective parts of the world.

Believe it or not, we are very quickly coming to the end of another year. I always feel that the months pass by in a flash but this whole year seems to have been more of a blur than others and in just a few short weeks we will have Christmas behind us and be entering into 2022. Covid continues to dictate how we live, with vaccinations, the wearing of face masks, social distancing and the restrictions of travel. Let's hope that 2022 will see us moving out of a Covid-focus and more into what we consider a more 'normal' way of life.

Over the Christmas/New Year period I am required to take a period of leave which includes not carrying the DSO phone. However, there will still be someone to answer your call, so please don't hesitate to reach out should you need to. Over the lead up to Christmas I will be ringing all Primary Next of Kin of personnel who are deployed, just to touch base. So hope to chat with most of you then.

A safe and happy Christmas and New Year to you all. Roll on 2022!

## ***We are here for you!***

Need advice, support or information to manage the deployment journey?

Contact Janine Burton, DSO Linton 0800 **683 77 327** or **021 649 903**

Email: [janine.burton@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:janine.burton@nzdf.mil.nz)



# CHAPLAIN'S PEN



## Chap James Molony

RNZAF Base Ohakea

**C**ompliments of the season to all of you doing the hard Mahi either abroad or at home, but a long way from the close connections we all come to value at this time of the year and especially in the crazy COVID environment.

We all know deployments...and military life in general, can take its toll on relationships. Largely because of the separation of time and distance but also because of the pace we work.

Being apart though can give you the opportunity to talk about things that get lost in the 'busy' of normal life, maybe even to learn something about each other you didn't know.

A powerful connector of good relationships can be your spiritual beliefs, something all of us have, but sometimes we hold those cards close to our chest; even from our most intimate partners! So below are some conversation starters just to help you out 😊

- ◆ What holidays (holy days) and rituals does your family observe? And what do you find personally meaningful?
- ◆ -How does your spiritual life affect your values and the decisions you make and to what extent do you/ would you like to integrate your faith

or spiritual life into your marriage / relationship / Children?

- ◆ -What do you believe is the meaning of life?

That last one should be real interesting... 😊



At the very first Christmas, when Christ was born the Angel's appeared to shepherds singing 'Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind' – this message was about peace between God and man. Wars will continue and the world will be still be unsettled - until God wraps it all up at the end - But peace between us and God is possible right now because of Christmas day.

May God bless you and keep you safe, wherever this message finds you this season

*Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou, Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki*

Padre



You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things; a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

Maya Angelou

A Christmas miracle is when your family doesn't get into a single argument all day.

Melanie White

What I like about Christmas is that you can make people forget the past with the present.

Don Marquis

### Kiwi Quiz Answers:

1. With a meal of 'Goose pye' (made with gannet)
2. Sticky Beak the Kiwi
3. Pōhutukawa
4. YMCA

# THE BEST TOY!



What rings true?

A Chaplain's brief contemplations on relationships.

You are the best toy a child will ever have!

Wow—what a year! Christmas is almost upon us and the little people amongst us often focus on toys. A little understood fact—did you know that Mums and Dads (and by extension grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc), are the best toys that a youngster will EVER have—you truly are.

The flashiest playground in the world soon becomes plain if you are playing in it by yourself. When you see a group of youngsters or parents and children playing in the playground—they are not playing with the playground, they are playing with their parents or friends. The playground itself is merely a tool.



Whether it be the flashiest piece of plastic wonder, a sandpit, or a water pistol, when children are playing with these things with the significant adults in their lives, then the real toys that they are playing with are the significant adults. The water pistol etc. is just a tool.

They will remember very little about the water pistol, or the sandpit, but they will remember forever the joy and laughter and the memory of playing with the best toys ever—their Mums and Dads. They will remember the feelings of what this is like. They won't remember much of what was on the menu for Christmas lunch, but they will remember what it felt like to have family and friends gathered.

Looking from a child's point of view, sometimes the Christmas gatherings are not so flash. There may be adults present but those adults have forgotten their calling to be a true toy. For those children the proverb is true, "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting and strife." No plastic toy or comfort food will fix this. The only cure is for the adults to rediscover their calling to be a true toy. By the way, few children will ever remember an encounter with adults that includes a screen.

Sometimes children need parents to make less money and more memories if children are to be wealthier. A wise man was once asked, how do you spell the word "Love". He replied, "You spell it T. I .M. E."

Have a great and safe Christmas and New Year. May you be the best toy for some little person this Christmas—and may your batteries never run flat. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Feedback directly to me or through the editor, about my articles, is always welcome.

Hold on to what rings true for you and let the rest ebb away.

Regular and Reserve Force, Veterans, Civilians and their families can access Wellbeing and Counselling support on 0800 NZDF4U (0800 693 348).

**CHAP3 Hamish Kirk**  
Linton Military Camp

# FOR YOUR INFO



## Deployment Support Services

Need information?  
Need support?  
Need a listening ear?  
Need to send an urgent message to a deployment location?

### Deployment Support Services are here for you

All personnel on deployment and their families have the support of the Deployment Services Officers (DSOs). In addition there is support from Unit Points of Contact (UPOC) and local Welfare Support Services. The nominated Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) of families of deployed NZDF personnel should, in the first instance, contact their DSO who has a responsibility for transparency into welfare issues.

#### Deployment Services Officers:

**Linton**—Janine Burton  
Ph: 0800 683 77 327 or 021 649 903

**Burnham**—  
Ph: 0800 337 569 or 027 449 7565

Added to this, there are other very valuable support networks available in your local region.

For additional support and services:

#### Army:

##### Defence Community Facilitators:

**Linton:**  
Lesley Clutterbuck—Ph: 06 351 9970

##### Trentham :

Dee O'Connor—Ph: 04 527 5029

##### Burnham:

Kathryn Hodgkinson—Ph: 03 363 0322

##### Waiouru:

Rebecca Smith—Ph: 06 387 5531

##### Papakura:

JJ—Ph: 09 296 5744

#### Air Force:

##### Defence Community Facilitators:

##### Air Staff Wellington:

Linley Williams—Ph: 04 496 0555

##### Base Auckland:

Kylie Smedley—Ph: 09 417 7000, xtn 7035

##### Base Woodbourne:

Ph: 03 577 1177

##### Base Ohakea:

Bridget Williams—Ph: 06 351 5640

#### Navy Community Organisation:

Ph: 09 445 5534, 0800 NAVYHELP  
nib@nzdf.mil.nz

#### Local Chaplaincy Services

#### Unit Point of Contact

## Christmas in Deployment Locations

Every possible effort has been made in deployment locations worldwide to ensure that those deployed will enjoy some Christmas cheer over this holiday season. Santa is scheduled to call and offer some Christmas gifts and festive goodwill.

Thanks to The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RSA), deployed service personnel will receive a special gift of much loved 'Kiwiana'. Their generosity will bring a little extra Christmas cheer to the hearts of your loved ones and we thank them for their ongoing commitment to this special project.

## Expecting a Christmas Phone Call?

Everyone worldwide wants to talk with family and friends over the festive season and deployed service personnel are no exception. Phone lines, worldwide, are often overloaded and making calls may be difficult over peak times. Please be assured that all deployed service personnel will endeavour to be in touch with loved ones this festive season. Please be patient and understanding if calls don't quite come when you expect (or hope) they do, or are shorter than usual, given queues waiting to use the few available phones in some deployment locations.

Everyone will do their best to keep in touch and you will very much be in each others thoughts.

## Mail through DPSC

Mail to deployment locations, which goes out from DPSC, will not be processed over the Festive closedown period. Your letters and parcels which have already been posted will departing NZ on **Wednesday 15 December**.

Mail for 2022 will begin processing as normal from **Wednesday 12 January 2022**.

Mail may still be sent to DPSC during the holiday closedown, to be included in the first mailout of the New Year.

## Last Bugle for 2021

This is the last issue of The Bugle for 2021. We hope you enjoy our Christmas edition and the many articles, messages and contributions from abroad. Sincere thanks to all those who have helped make it yet another good read. It has been a huge task to compile and I hope not too many sleepless nights ahead in the hope that we didn't miss anything out!

The deadline for the next issue is **Wednesday 5 January 2022**. The Bugle team look forward to your continued support and contributions in the New Year. It is your contributions that make the Newsletter what it is — so be sure to send in just as many great articles and messages as this issue carries.

# WHEN NOT TO BUY A HOME

## Eleven Quick-fire Situations When You Should NOT Buy a Home



Buying a house, especially when you're younger is still an incredibly smart financial decision in the majority of cases. Home ownership is accepted as the cornerstone of wealth for most New Zealanders, with a debt-free home by retirement being the most common life goal.

On the flipside, society is changing and there have never been more choices for Kiwis to build wealth too.

So here is a quick-fire list of eleven instances when you should NOT buy a home.

### 1. You have other life priorities.

Travel, having kids early, or just not being tied down might be your focus for the time-being.

Some people say apartments are a good choice for people who are always on the go, either due to their work or because they just like to travel. But what about body corporate fees? – the monthly payment for services that you might be hardly using. That could be a huge waste of money if you're rarely at home – shorter term accommodation, housesitting, or flatting are probably better ideas.

### 2. You have no down payment.

If you haven't saved up enough, you're not ready to buy. Staying with family or flatting with others could be the simplest way to cut expenses and save more of your pay cheque.

### 3. Everyone else is doing it.

This is never a good reason to do anything! When making any decision, it is a common impulse to look and see what others are doing. Nevertheless, it is often unclear whether the path that everyone else may be following is good

for you as well. After all, sometimes following the crowd has merit — at other times, it is simply peer pressure blinding us.

Always do what's right for you and your specific situation.

### 4. Poor credit rating, or an inability to service the mortgage requested.

A poor rating score can make it difficult to secure a mortgage. If this is the case, it is better to try and improve your rating by reconsidering your finances and the management of it.

### 5. You have high debts or other bills.

If you must borrow to live your current lifestyle, can you really afford another large debt?

You probably cannot afford to add a mortgage payment to your monthly debt if your other bills eat up 50% of your gross income every month. Lender guidelines have changed over recent years, so your cashflow management is king when it comes to obtaining a mortgage approval – the banks will “stress test” the numbers to ensure you can survive interest rates much higher than current levels too!

### 6. You're unsure about long-term commitment.

When you have 30 years of debt payments (i.e. a mortgage), you can't pack up and leave for that trip-of-a-lifetime to Thailand, presuming that Covid subsides sometime soon.

If your life plans are still 'up the air' renting is probably the best until you've figured out where you want to be, and what you want to achieve in life.

### 7. You have other investment priorities.

Owning a home might leave you vulnerable to unpredictable expenses and distractions that eat away at what's left to invest. This might not matter for most people, but if you're a small business owner who's investing all you can in your own business, then the last thing you want is unexpected house maintenance expenses, or the need to tie up large amounts of funds for a down payment – a steady rent payment is a much wiser idea.

This might apply to education too. Most medical students should focus on meeting course costs so they can obtain a medical doctorate, not a down payment on a home. Of course, after graduating the medical doctor should

soon be earning enough to afford a few homes!

### 8. Little or no job security.

Now isn't a good time to buy a home if you have a reason to believe that your job might be in jeopardy, which can lead to missed mortgage payments, and at worst, foreclosure.

### 9. Moving around most years.

Buying a home is a long-term commitment. You might find that it's impossible to sell your new home in a relatively short period of time without absorbing a big loss if you're the type who loves the excitement of new digs and you want to frequently change your environment. *That said, buying a property that can become a rental might be a great idea.*

### 10. You're just not interested.

Does homeownership align with what is important to you or are you considering buying to meet some social expectation? There is nothing shameful about not owning a home – the ideals of the 1950s are dead.

Financial success is as much about making smart financial decisions as it is about tuning in to what's important to

you. Homeownership is not the ultimate, and there are many ways to build significant sums of wealth. If you love non-property investing and are committed to it, then keep going your own way.

### 11. You're in an unstable relationship.

Single people buy homes, but a homebuying purchase is often made with a partner or spouse. What will you do if you're relying on your partner's income and support to make mortgage payments and that person leaves your life? Worse, NZ's relationship property laws mean they could be entitled to take half the house with them!



### The bottom line: when not to buy a home.

How did you go? If you've been thinking about buying a home and none of these points apply to you, then get in touch by emailing [info@milestonedirect.co.nz](mailto:info@milestonedirect.co.nz) to see the free-to-you mortgage broking and other

assistance we offer first home buyers. If you have ticked yes to more than one of the below, then right now might not be the time to jump into home ownership.

1. You have other life priorities.
2. You have no down payment.
3. Everyone else is doing it.
4. Poor credit rating, or an inability to obtain a mortgage for some other reason.
5. You have high debts or other bills.
6. You're unsure about long-term commitment.
7. You have other investment priorities.
8. Little or no job security.
9. Moving around most years.
10. You're just not interested.
11. You're in an unstable relationship.

*This article has been contributed by Joseph Darby, CEO and Financial Adviser at Milestone Direct Limited. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of Joseph Darby and not necessarily those of Milestone Direct Limited. The information contained in this publication is general in nature and is not intended to be personalised financial advice. Before making any financial decisions, you should consult a professional financial adviser.*

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#### How to get hold of us

Please get in contact with us with any questions about your financial needs. Feel free to call us on **0508 Milestone (645 378)** or email [info@milestonedirect.co.nz](mailto:info@milestonedirect.co.nz). There are no costs involved until an adviser has established your specific needs.

# HOT TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS



**S**eparation from our loved ones can be particularly difficult during special occasions like Christmas and the New Year, and it is not unusual for those of us at home to feel a little “out of sorts” at this time. Even when loved ones are at home, it can be a busy and stressful time – shopping to be done, pressure on the finances, kids on holidays, relatives coming to stay – some of us may find all of this a little overwhelming. If you are trying to cope without your partner, it can be more difficult.

There are some things that you can do to get by. If you do find yourself feeling stressed about separation this Christmas, there are some simple and common sense strategies that you can use to help yourself through.

## ***Acknowledge emotions.***

Allow yourself to be upset at times. Christmas can be a lonely time if your loved one is away. Being lonely doesn't just mean being alone. You might feel upset even though you're with family and friends. It's OK to feel this way, and it is healthy to admit to and work through your emotions. But don't allow the separation to dominate your life.

## ***Share the load.***

Try to talk about how you're going to those that matter the most, your family and friends. Also remember that Deployment Services Officers, Padres and members of the Defence Community Organisations are available to assist you. They can also put you in touch with external civilian providers if needed.

## ***Watch out for the “shoulds”.***

Sometimes we tell ourselves that families “should” be together at Christmas and the festive season “should” be a time of happiness and sharing. Trying to live up to the “shoulds” can create frustration, anger or sadness. Try to accept your circumstances, and work to make them as positive as you can.

## ***Think about yourself.***

It's easy at this time of year to forget your own needs for pleasure, space and time to yourself. Try to reward yourself with little things that make you feel good, and take some “time out” from your normal routine.

## ***REMEMBER:***

***It's not unusual to feel their absence more keenly at Christmas when everyone else is concentrating on family and friends. Try to follow these simple strategies and hopefully, you'll enjoy your well-deserved Christmas holiday even more.***

## ***Manage your time.***

If you feel like there are too many things to do, try making a ‘to do’ list, and set priorities in your daily tasks. Try to avoid over-committing yourself – occasionally you may need to say “No” to others to look after yourself.

## ***Relax.***

There are many techniques for relaxation, from simple breathing exercises to meditation. Simply concentrating on and slowing your breathing for a minute or two can work wonders. Give it a go.

## ***Stay Healthy.***

Sure it's Christmas but remember to eat healthy food and watch your intake of alcohol, caffeine and nicotine. If you can, get out and about and be active. Take up a sport, go jogging, walking, cycling or swimming. Allow yourself to have fun.

## ***Share your time with others.***

If you are going to be on your own, you will not be the only one. Think about getting together with others who might be in the same boat, or volunteering your time to help those who may be less fortunate.

# LOOKING BACK

Over the years, and over many deployment rotations, we have collected some amazing photographs. Rather than just storing them in our archives, we enjoy sharing some of these incredible images with our readers.

These images are from various missions celebrating Christmas over recent years.

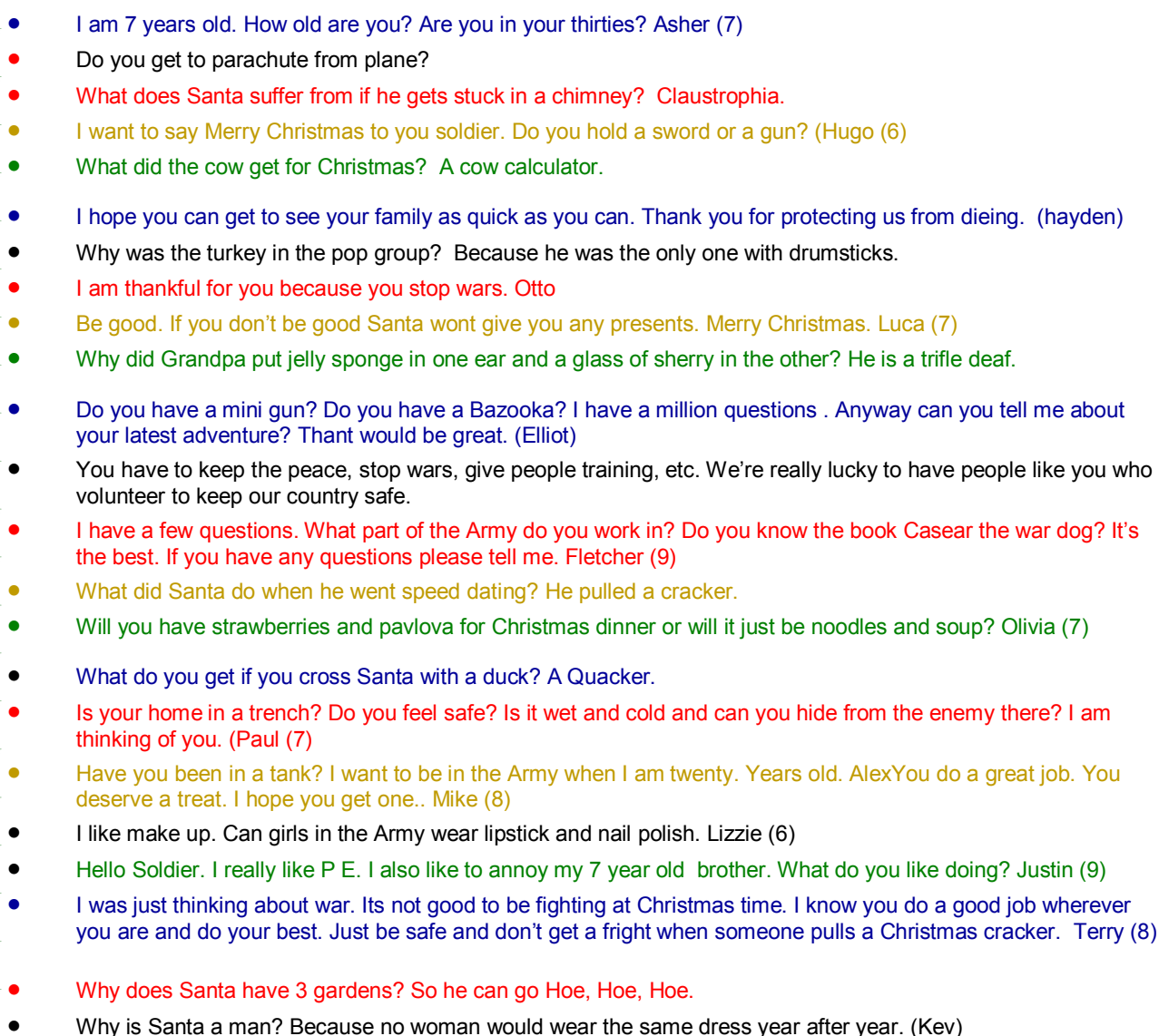


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# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD 2021

This is one of our favourite projects and makes the end of the year extra special. Over the last few months we have been gathering together bundles of letters, cards and decorations, sent from all corners of New Zealand to spread some Christmas cheer to our service personnel abroad. Several weeks ago, some 800 items carpeted the office floor – complete with glitter, glue and pom poms. Every card and letter had to be checked. We laughed out loudly at some of the things children had written so neatly and sincerely, and felt extreme pride in the heartfelt messages also written with much thought and understanding. There were so many we wanted to share with you all, so we began writing them down – but after awhile we had to abandon that plan, as every contribution deserved a place in this Bugle article.

From our attempts to record messages (and jokes) the following are shared, (unedited—including the spelling! ) for your interest and amusement.

- 
- I am 7 years old. How old are you? Are you in your thirties? Asher (7)
  - Do you get to parachute from plane?
  - What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia.
  - I want to say Merry Christmas to you soldier. Do you hold a sword or a gun? (Hugo (6)
  - What did the cow get for Christmas? A cow calculator.
  - I hope you can get to see your family as quick as you can. Thank you for protecting us from dieing. (hayden)
  - Why was the turkey in the pop group? Because he was the only one with drumsticks.
  - I am thankful for you because you stop wars. Otto
  - Be good. If you don't be good Santa wont give you any presents. Merry Christmas. Luca (7)
  - Why did Grandpa put jelly sponge in one ear and a glass of sherry in the other? He is a trifle deaf.
  - Do you have a mini gun? Do you have a Bazooka? I have a million questions . Anyway can you tell me about your latest adventure? Thant would be great. (Elliot)
  - You have to keep the peace, stop wars, give people training, etc. We're really lucky to have people like you who volunteer to keep our country safe.
  - I have a few questions. What part of the Army do you work in? Do you know the book Casear the war dog? It's the best. If you have any questions please tell me. Fletcher (9)
  - What did Santa do when he went speed dating? He pulled a cracker.
  - Will you have strawberries and pavlova for Christmas dinner or will it just be noodles and soup? Olivia (7)
  - What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Quacker.
  - Is your home in a trench? Do you feel safe? Is it wet and cold and can you hide from the enemy there? I am thinking of you. (Paul (7)
  - Have you been in a tank? I want to be in the Army when I am twenty. Years old. AlexYou do a great job. You deserve a treat. I hope you get one.. Mike (8)
  - I like make up. Can girls in the Army wear lipstick and nail polish. Lizzie (6)
  - Hello Soldier. I really like P E. I also like to annoy my 7 year old brother. What do you like doing? Justin (9)
  - I was just thinking about war. Its not good to be fighting at Christmas time. I know you do a good job wherever you are and do your best. Just be safe and don't get a fright when someone pulls a Christmas cracker. Terry (8)
  - Why does Santa have 3 gardens? So he can go Hoe, Hoe, Hoe.
  - Why is Santa a man? Because no woman would wear the same dress year after year. (Kev)





- I think you are the bravest ever. You have lots of medals to tell people you are strong and a good warrior. We need lots of people like you. Your family must love you so much. Merry Christmas too. Benjamin (11)
- I am hoping you manage to have a happy Christmas in some strange place. There probably won't be a tree or any presents but we will think of you and thank you for all you do for us and our country. You are an outstanding individual and we say thanks.
- We wish you a merry Christmas and hope you find peace. Be brave. Look after your mates and come home safely to your family. We honour you for your service. I hope that I can grow up and be the same kind decent person you are. You will earn a nice medal which you can show us all. And thanks for helping so much. We really do appreciate it and know that at times it can be hard. Fran (9)
- Thank you dear soldier for your kind work. Caleb
- I want a tattoo but Mum said no. Maybe I will wait until I join the Army. Joshua (9)
- It may not be a merry Christmas where you are but thanks for helping others who never have much to smile about. It must be sad for you to see people living in poor conditions and with not much food or money. Being scared all the time must be hard too, so thanks for helping out. You are a hero. Jacob (8)
- Dear Soldier. I think you are a miracle worker. You change lives and give things to people who suffer. We really appreciate that. It must be hard being away from your family and now that Christmas is nearly here, harder still. You deserve lots of praise for all you do and I thank you heaps. Charlie (10)
- I hope you are having fun doing your stuff. Nick.
- I really like the Navy because they have submarines. Craig (8)

Sincere thanks to the many known and unknown people who contributed to this project, including:

- Wellesley College, Lower Hutt
- Totara Club Enliven – Presbyterian Support. Nelson
- Kids First Kindergarten, Burnham
- Burnham School
- Burnham Nursery and Preschool

Your contributions will be enjoyed more than you can imagine – here's hoping you are one of the lucky ones who gets a reply.

This has been a wonderful project thanks to the many who wanted to contribute and send their festive greetings across the world. Our community spirit is alive and well and you have all made an incredible difference.

Sincere thanks

(Note: This was Carol's final Op CHRISTMAS CARD project before her retirement, something she looked forward to every year.)



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# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Are you fascinated by the origins of Christmas traditions which have been passed down in our family through the generations? A Kiwi Christmas is quite unique and vastly different from our Northern Hemisphere counterparts. There are a number of traditions which we all are familiar with and which have interesting beginnings.

**Christmas Lights:** The idea of hanging fairy lights came from the need to have a fire safe alternative to candles on trees. In 1880 Thomas Edison hung lights outside his lab – not for festivity but to try and attract an electricity contract in Manhattan. The son of a light shop owner in 1917 developed the safety conscious light bulb and by 1930's festive lights became part of our Christmas décor. That's if you can untangle them from the previous year!

**Santa:** The story of Santa starts with St Nicholas, the patron Saint of children and a Greek Orthodox Bishop from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century Turkey. He was known for his charitable work and secret gift giving. In 15<sup>th</sup> century Britain, the English icon of Father Christmas evolved. Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle or simply Santa, is truly a legendary figure known to bring gifts to the homes of well-behaved children. Always an incentive!



**Fruit Mince Pies:** The Christmas mince pie can be traced back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Originally it was filled with minced cooked mutton, beef suet, carrots, raisins and herbs and spices. The latter coming from the Middle East. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was adapted to the mince pie we know today. Not on everyone's favourites list!

**Christmas Crackers:** These originated from the sugar and almond sweet – the Bon Bon and now complete with a paper note (or silly joke), a party hat and gift have become an essential Christmas table decoration.

**Christmas Cards:** Christmas cards originated in the 1860's and were originally flat and square similar to a postcard. In the 1920's they became folded cards decorated with holly, berries or other Christmas themes. Today the sending of cards is much less of a tradition than in previous times as people choose to send their festive greetings by other means.



**Christmas Trees:** The tree is now a major Christmas tradition around the world and comes in all shapes and sizes. NZ trees are normally pine or artificial to resemble pine. The earliest photo of a family and their tree dates back to Queen Victoria and their festive celebrations. Decorating the tree is often a family activity, with Christmas music playing in the background and the eagerly awaited placing of the star or angel on the top. (It's not such a family activity taking it down though!)

**Stockings:** The history of Christmas stockings is based on a number of myths and legends. A tradition which originally began in Europe when children simply used one of their



everyday socks placed on the mantelpiece. Today stockings follow that tradition created in the shape of a sock often personalised for family members. Often a sock is replaced by a pillowcase which is easy to put wee gifts into from Santa, but a larger challenge.

**Red and green:** The red and green colours of the festive season were demonstrated in the 14-16<sup>th</sup> centuries and are said to have come from Church panels. The colours really align with the Northern Hemisphere Winter – green marking the start of spring, new life and new beginnings, while red relates to the berries on the Holly, apples used as decorations and Santa of course.

**Pavlova:** Who lays claim to this delight? We like to think it's a kiwi dessert and oh the best!!



The first Pavlova named after the Russian Ballerina Anna Pavlova, was originally a strawberry glazed desert, then a 4-jelly layered cake, and now that much loved marshmallow filling with a delicious crust. An absolute favourite!

**Christmas Dinner:** Beef and Goose were common meats in the early days until the Victorian era when turkey became common and still is. However now days it seems anything goes, with often a BBQ replacing the traditional mid-day feast of turkey and ham.

**Advent Calendar:** This was developed as part of the Advent Season when in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century



people painted their doors with the number of days until Christmas. This was replaced with candles and ultimately what we have today with small doors and a hidden treat. Another great Christmas tradition for young and not so young.

**Christmas Presents:** The three wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus upon his birth, but the exchange of present's dates back to pre-Christian days in Scandinavia where food was exchanged as gifts. Gifts as we know them today were one of the many Christmas traditions begun by Queen Victoria. In today's world, we are bombarded with advertising in various mediums, with suggested gift ideas.



**Christmas Music:** Depending where you search for the all-time favourite Christmas Songs or Hymns, you will find a number of choices. Irving Berlin's song "White Christmas" has been a favourite since 1942, recorded by a number of different artists, closely followed by Band Aid "Do They Know It's Christmas?" (1984) "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" take the top honours for the most loved Christmas Carols. For most, hearing Christmas music being played in stores or over the radio will signify the start of the Christmas Season.

**Boxing Day:** This day is often treated as the one used to recover from the festivities of Christmas day but it actually dates back to the 1830's when trades people, servants and errand boys were celebrated for their service to their "Master" with a Christmas box of food and money and a day off.

Whatever traditions you choose to follow this Christmas, enjoy your day, look forward to that contact from your loved ones who are not able to share this traditional family day with you in person, surround yourself with family and friends who are here and have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

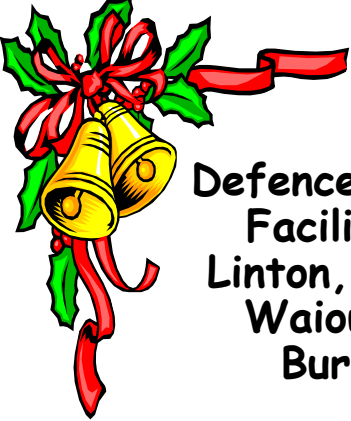
# 2021 CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM ....

From the NCO Team Members  
*Meri Kirihimete*  
Merry Christmas!

We send our best wishes to those personnel and their families that are unable to share the special day together.



*Mo te Tau Hou*  
Happy New Year



**Defence Community Facilitators in Linton, Trentham, Waiouru and Burnham**

Festive Greetings to those at home and those abroad.  
Wishing you all a Happy Christmas, Peaceful New Year and a 2022 filled with all good things.

Lesley and Manda - Linton  
Dee - Trentham  
Rebecca - Waiouru  
Kathryn - Burnham



To all of you faithful service-men and service-women, and to all you dear families enduring a Christmas apart from your loved ones, thank you for your sacrifice!

Special Season's Greetings from all of us Defence Community Facilitators (Airforce):

Kylie Smedley - Whenuapai  
Bridget Williams - Ohakea  
Linley Williams - Wellington

# HOLIDAY CONTACTS AT A GLANCE



## DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT:

**Janine Burton**

**0800 OVERSEAS** (0800 683 77 327)

**0800 DEPLOY** (0800 337 569)

**Call or Text** 021 649 903

Contact is available at all times over the holiday season.

## LINTON:

Linton Duty Complex 06 351 9099  
Chaplaincy Service 06 351 9634  
(Duty Phone)

## BURNHAM:

Burnham Duty Complex: 03 363 0099  
Chaplaincy Service: 03 363 0463  
(Duty Phone)

## TRENTHAM:

Trentham Duty Complex 04 527 5999  
Chaplain Service 027 651 349  
(Duty Phone)

## WAIOURU:

Waiouru Duty Complex 06 387 5599

## PAPAKURA:

Rennie Lines Duty Orderly 09 296 6800

## DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE:

First point of contact for service families:

**0800 NAVYHELP** (0800 628 94 357)

General Enquiries 09 445 5999

## ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE:

Whenuapai Duty Officer (DO) 027 450 0465  
On Call Officer (OCO) 027 450 0464

Ohakea Orderly Officer 027 472 3495  
DNCO 021 378 003

Woodbourne Orderly Officer 027 622 2480  
DNCO 027 496 5924

**MILITARY POLICE** 0800 50 11 22

Select the appropriate location

## Holiday Coverage

We understand that this can be a particularly difficult time of the year to be separated from those you love, so if you need a listening ear, or any assistance at all over the holiday season, we are here for you.

Deployment Services 24 hour coverage, seven days a week will continue throughout the holiday period. Over the period 23 Dec 21 to 6 Jan 22, the phone coverage will be provided by Lynne Smith (Operational Welfare, Joint Forces New Zealand).

If the phone goes to answerphone, please leave a message, but call again if you don't get a call back in a short period—sometimes the diverted voice messages are difficult to retrieve.

If you want to send a text, then please only use the 021 649 903 as text messages don't divert with the phone numbers.



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# BOUQUETS



*As Deployment Services Officers, we could never achieve even half of what we do, without the support of so many people across the three services, which make up the New Zealand Defence Force. With the risk of missing someone special we are attempting to acknowledge and extend our bouquets of thanks and Festive Greetings to the many dedicated and committed personnel who have helped us along the way in 2019.*

*Janine and Carol (retired)*

**To the Families of Deployed Service Personnel:** We acknowledge and appreciate your dedication, commitment and support to your loved ones abroad. We know first hand of the huge sacrifices that you all make during the separation from loved ones and admire the strengths you display at difficult times. You too, by letting loved ones deploy, are contributing to helping others so much less fortunate than ourselves, to achieve the chance of a better life and ultimately one that may be lived in peace. A sincere thanks to you all and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. —Another step closer to homecomings!

**Service Personnel Abroad:** To all of you who have submitted articles for The Bugle, we thank you. We know sometimes we beg and beg again, then occasionally bribe (and reward), but your news to those at home is more valuable than you can ever imagine! Writing articles is not easy when you have other commitments, but you help us all to understand your day to day lives away from us all and we are truly grateful. Just keep them rolling in! Deadline for the first edition of 2022 is 5 January, so we will be looking out for lots of articles and photos from your festive season in a far away land. Merry Christmas and New Years Greetings to you all.

**Repro Linton and Burnham—Angie and Sharyn:** Thank you so much for the many hours you have spent printing off copies of The Bugle and other resources over this past year. We know our deadlines can be are tight but appreciate you getting our publication out on time. Take a well earned break—we will be printing again early in the New Year!

**Postie Carol (Linton):** Thank you for your ongoing support, delivering our Bugles within the Linton area. Really appreciate what you do for me—Janine.

**HQ JFNZ:** Your advice and support in keeping that link with various mission areas is much appreciated. You have played a vital role in assisting us, and families in need, and have given us all much peace of mind when needed. Thank you too, to those who check the Foreign Correspondence and at lightening speed!! We look forward to working with you all again in 2022.

**To our expert teams of Trainers, Administrators, Mov Ops, Medical and Dental personnel, Chaplains, Catering personnel and all those often behind the scenes:** We very much value your support in so many ways and extend a bouquet of thanks for your vital and valued work.

**To the Wellbeing Network Team and other Support personnel:** Thank you all so much for your contributions to The Bugle and for the assistance you provide in your locations to those associated with deployments. You offer another vital link in the deployment support chain and we thank you for your hard work in 2021. Have a great Christmas and New Year break and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.

**Units, CO's, and RSM's:** Thanks to you all for the support and wise words of wisdom! We appreciate knowing you are there to support us in our role and assisting with issues that may arise. Some of you will be posted next year and we wish you well. You go with our sincere thanks for all you have done.

**Richard, Vodafone:** Sincere thanks Richard for all your help again during 2021. We very much appreciate your willingness to suspend accounts of our service personnel while they are deployed abroad and thank you for actioning the many requests we send your way. Vodafone has excelled in its service to our deployed NZDF personnel and your support has truly been valued. Best wishes for the festive season and we look forward to continuing a great working relationship with Vodafone in 2022.

**Joseph Darby and the team at Milestone Direct** Sincere thanks to you all for your regular and amazing contributions to The Bugle over this past year. Those at home and abroad have appreciated the many articles that you have submitted and the first class information which has given both food for thought or a call to action. We appreciate your commitment and look forward to continuing our relationship with you all in 2022. Best wishes for the Festive season.

# The Night Before Christmas — Kiwi Style

T'was the night before Christmas, and all round the bach  
Not a possum was stirring; not one could we catch.

We'd left on the table a meat pie and beer,  
In hopes that Santa Claus soon would be here.  
We children were snuggled up in our bunk beds,  
While dreams of pavlova danced in our heads;  
And Mum in her nightie, and Dad in his shorts,  
Had just settled down to watch TV sports  
When outside the bach such a hoo-ha arose,  
I woke up at once from my wonderful doze.  
I ran straight to the sliding door, looking about,  
Jumped out on the deck, and let out a shout!  
The fairy lights Dad had strung up around the door  
Let me see everything down to the shore.  
And what did I see, when I took a peep?  
But a miniature tractor and eight tiny sheep.  
With a little old driver, his dog on his knee.  
I knew at once who this joker might be.  
He patted his dog, and in a voice not unkind,  
Cried "Good on ya, boy! Now, GIT IN BEHIND!  
"Now, Flossy! now, Fluffy! now Shaun and Shane!  
On, Bossy! on, Buffy! on, Jason and Wayne!  
Up that red tree, to the top of the bach!  
But mind you don't trample the vegetable patch."  
So up on the roof those sheep quickly flew,

With the tractor of toys, Santa and his dog too.  
As my sister awoke and I turned around,  
In through the window he came with a bound.  
He wore a black singlet and little white shorts,  
And stuck on his feet were gumboots of course;  
A sackful of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a postie just opening his pack.

His eyes-bright as paua shell -oh, how they twinkled!  
Like an old tuatara, his skin was all wrinkled!  
He had a wide face and a round, fat tummy,  
That looked like he'd eaten lots that was yummy.  
He spoke not a word, but got down on one knee,  
And placed a cricket set under the tree,  
A present for Sis, one for Dad, one for Mum,  
Then he turned and he winked and held up his thumb.  
He jumped on his tractor, to his dog gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew, as fast as a missile.  
I called out "Thanks," as he flew past the gate.  
He called back:

"Kia ora to all, and good on ya, mate"



# PERSONAL MESSAGES

The deadline for contributions and personal messages for The Bugle is the last Friday of each month (**the next edition deadline is 5 January 2022 at 4.00pm**). Please note: All Bugle messages are to be sent to Janine Burton, DSO Linton (email: [janine.burton@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:janine.burton@nzdf.mil.nz)).

## From In-Theatre

### Hi Kelsey, Pippa and Maggie

Merry Christmas!  
I hope Santa finds his way to Nan-Nan and Opa's house this year.  
I am looking forward to our call on Christmas morning so you can show me all your new presents and we can play together.  
Give mum a BIG cuddle from me and keep being kind to each other.  
Love, Dad

### Dearest Molly, Henry and Tom

Miss you to the moon and back.  
Always in my thoughts, love Dad xox

### Dear Katie-Belle, Libby, Bede and Pippa

Merry Christmas my lovelies! I love you so much.  
Make sure you look after Daddy at Christmas—you guys will have super fun together. Don't forget the Frisbee!  
I miss you all heaps. Love Mummy  
xxxx

### Dear Josh, Zac and Mummy

Sending you all my love and missing you heaps. I hope you all have a great end to the year and have fun over Christmas and the summer holiday.  
Love you to the moon and back.  
Daddy xoxox

### Merry Christmas Jermaine and Bradley

I hope you enjoy the South Island and making new friends. I hope you have a fun holiday. Love you xoxo

### Hi Lucy

Congratulations for finishing High School. I am so proud of you xoxo



### Dear Marcus F

Merry Christmas my handsome man. I hope you are enjoying the holidays and the weather is hot. I am missing you a lot, however I will be home soon, meaning your lolly jar must be getting emptier. Merry Christmas my man. I love you lots.  
Love from Dada.

### Dear Jacob F

Merry Christmas Jacob my boy. I know you will be enjoying the holidays and be outside building things in the sun. I miss you a lot and I can't wait to get back to see you and have some fun.  
Merry Christmas with lots of love  
Dada.

### P

Merry Christmas my darling. I miss you a lot and enjoy our conversations on the phone. I am very proud of you for completing your study and the efforts you have done around the house. I am very much looking forward to getting home into my happy place with you.  
You are my treasure, my sweet, and I think of you all the time.  
Love P Squared.

### Hi Kiki moo

Daddy misses you my gorgeous girl. I love the photos mummy sends of you, you are getting bigger by the day.

### Ngakau my big boy

You are doing well looking after mum and your brother and sister for me.  
Keep working hard at school and helping mum, I miss you.

### Remi bear

I miss you son, mummy tells me you are getting really good on your scooter and your bike—that's awesome. Make sure you play nicely with your brother and sister and listen to mum. Dad is really proud of you.

### Lastly to my beautiful wife

I love you baby. Thank you for holding our family together and keeping the household running like clockwork—you're amazing!  
I miss you all, be safe, Love Dad.



### Cadence H

Merry Christmas my darling daughter, I love you and miss you millions!  
I hope you are enjoying your holidays and using your listening ears.  
Enjoy your Christmas presents darling and look after Aaron for Mum, ok?  
Mum loves you the most x

### Merry Christmas AHAME (see if you can work that out 😊)

Don't forget to put out the snack for Santa and the food for the Reindeer. Remember to go to bed early and sleep until 6am or else Santa won't get enough time to visit the house.  
Sorry I can't be there with you.  
Love Dad  
P.S. Mrs M – Don't get carried away and kiss Santa under the mistletoe!

### To a very Special 5 year old

#### Dear Ihaia

Happy Birthday!! I hope you enjoyed your special day. I am so proud of you and what you have achieved. Next year you will start school, a memory your mum and I will cherish forever. I cannot wait to see the photos. Thank you for being a good big brother and helping mum around the house. Keep up the great work and I will hear from you soon.  
Lots of Love  
Dad x

### From the Sinai with Love

#### Dear Maia, Ihaia and Kaia

This will be our first Christmas apart, however this is not a sad occasion as you will be surrounded with love from all the family. I hope Santa paid you a visit this year and left you some awesome presents. Thank you for being a big help to mum.  
I love you all from the bottom of my heart.  
Merry Christmas Whanau  
Lots of Love  
Dad x



**Merry Christmas, buddy, Beary, buggy and baby**

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful time together over the break. I wish I was there to have you take turns on my shoulders during the Santa parade and see your expressions on the morning of the 25th. I love you with all my heart and will think of you all over the coming weeks more than usual.  
X

**Rangi, Francis, and Dad**

Merry Christmas, hope you guys are keeping well. Make sure Dad doesn't eat all the treats. Francis, make sure you clean your glasses.  
From Barbie

**To Troy Ethan and Leon**

By the time you read this I should be back in New Zealand in an isolation hotel. It will only be a few days before I will be home with you. Cannot wait to be home with you to go to the park and play in the garden with you. Really looking forward to our holiday and Christmas it will be so much fun. Love and miss you so very much  
Daddy  
XXXXXX

**Baby girl**

Its been a very long seven months without you in my arms and cannot wait to hold you again. Finally all our planning for the holiday will happen—it will be a great time. Really looking forward to being home again with you. Love and miss you so very much.  
Your army man  
Xoxoxoxoxox

**Kia ora Southcombe Whanau**

Mere Kirihimete to you all and a Happy New Year.

**To my darling wife**

Thank you for your continued love and support (especially with a house move).

**To Ariana (Liam, Maihi) and Samara (Tai)**

All the best for next year and good luck with your studies.

**To Kataraina and Miriama**

I love and miss you heaps – look after Mum in the new house.  
All the best Whanau – love you all.  
H'Dawg

**To my wife Monique, and my sons Roman and Ezra**

I hope you have a really awesome Christmas this year and that you enjoy spending lots of time with family. I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person but know I will be thinking of you all and missing you tonnes!  
I love you guys, and look forward to hearing of the presents you all got!  
Take care of each other,  
Love from Dad

**Hey Rome**

I hope you're having an amazing Xmas and break. Make sure you're still training hard!  
Love, Thor.

**Kia ora Cloud whanau**

Hope everything's going well. Enjoy Christmas and I hope it's an awesome school holiday for you guys too.  
Love ya,  
Chur

**Hey Sunshine**

Hope things are going well back home and it's a good Christmas break to take the opportunity to relax and refresh after the year it's been.  
Proud of you and love you long time xo

**To my wife and two daughters**

I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Make sure you behave and help mum feed Finn and Luna, because Santa tells me everything.  
I love you lots and miss you too xo.

**Kia ora koutou whanau**

Xmas greetings to you all from the SINAI. Sending you all my warmest thoughts and Christmas spirit your way. Have a blessed Christmas.

**To Tama and Kali, Jerome and Holli**

Hope your mahi finishes well for the rest of the year and you have time to sit back rest and relax. Enjoy your camping and xmas down in ChCh.  
Tino arohanui kia koutou.

**To all my dearest darling mokes, Tyler, Marcus and Tane**

I hope you have a great xmas being with your mum, friends and whanau.  
**Aroha and Elodie**  
To our beautiful girls—I hope you have a great time with Grandma over Xmas and with other whanau. Heaps of hugs and kisses from Koro xxx



**To my darling dearest**

I miss and love you very much. I hope Xmas goes well being this will be the last time in that house. Yippee! Christmas is about love and love means you. Merry Christmas. xxx

*Nga mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hau  
kia koutou.*

**My Love, Yaya, Morgana, Jimmy and Bubble**

I hope you have the best Christmas that you can and that you get to eat lots of yummy food. I miss you guy heaps and can't wait to Skype you.  
Love Whare

**Merry Christmas Mum**

It ain't half hot. I hope you have an awesome Christmas. Hopefully we can Skype.  
Love Stuart

**Dear Baba**

I hope this message finds you well. I wish you & the buttons a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Miss you and can't wait to see you again my darling.  
Love DUSTY



# PERSONAL MESSAGES



## From Home

### Hi Thomas

Guess you won't need to dream of a white Christmas this year lol! Am sure you and your buddies will make the most of this special occasion. After all not many get to have Christmas in Antarctica!

We'll raise a toast to you all on Christmas day (by the pool hopefully!) Thinking of your Mum and how amazingly proud of you she would be. Lots of love and warm wishes to a "cool" guy. Hope to see you next year. Rita, Chris & Monique, Nik & Dave and all their families (including your doggie mate Mudgee) xxxx

### Hello darling (Sean Kerwick)

Just a small gathering this year with you and your brother being overseas; no doubt there will still be food enough for an Army or Navy 😊.

Looking forward to you coming home so I can spoil you rotten. Hope you get your box of treats in time for Christmas, son.

Give us a call when you are free so we can see your handsome face.

Love and miss you so much. Prouder every day.

Take care

Love Mummsie xxx

### To our Grandson Sean Kerwick

Wishing you a lovely Christmas.

Missing you heaps.

Love Nana and Poppa xxxxxxxx



### Walrus

We love you so much. We miss you loads over this festive time of year and although we wish you could be with us, we want you to know just how proud we are of you and what a great job we think you are doing.

We hope you manage to have a great Christmas and our parcel arrives to give you some Christmas cheer. We look forward to talking to you soon. Love squid, dugong and jellyfish xoxo

### Dear My Man

Merry Christmas my love. I'll be watching our Christmas video today!

I hope you have some time off to celebrate and enjoy yourself.

You've made it halfway—I'm so excited and very proud of you!

Thinking of you always and missing you like mad.

Love HM xox

### To Mashed potatoes

Merry xmas, have a good one. Hope you've settled in now.

Thinking of you heaps.

Love Nana and Poppa.xx

### Daddy

I love you, we all miss you. We can't wait for you to come home. If Leon could talk he would miss you too.

XXOO love Troy.

I love you with kisses xxx. And Daddy can put me to bed when he comes home. Xxx more kisses, more kisses xxx love from Ethan.

### Hey Army man!

HAPPY MIQ BIRTHDAY! Its the final countdown... We cannot wait to have you back home. This time has really flown by and draggeddddd some days. Better get rid of the empty vodka bottles, clean the garage up, and maybe try to start your car... Don't forget my duty free xoxoxo Love you lots, babygirl xo

### Merry Christmas Mulfion Dulfurray

Hope you have a good Christmas & New Year.

Miss you heaps. Cannot wait until you are home.

Longest time we have ever been apart. Love you long time.

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

*Andy Rooney*

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

*Larry Wilde*

There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Clause; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus.

*Bob Phillips*



# CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

## Celebrations Around The World

While you're running off to the beach for a swim on Christmas Day, or firing up the BBQ for some festive feasting, here are some of the things others are getting up to around the world:



In Russia, Christmas Eve is celebrated by dining on a meatless dinner – usually featuring a special porridge called kutya.



Children in China wait for Sheng dan lao ren 'Old Christmas Man', who is the Chinese version of Santa Claus.



Traditionally in Poland, to begin the Christmas Eve meal, a large wafer biscuit is passed around called an 'Oplatek', which has a picture of Mary, Joseph and Jesus on it. Everyone breaks a piece off and eats it.



In many parts of Romania, someone puts on a coloured mask and dresses up as a goat called the 'Capra', travelling round town with carol singers – jumping and dancing while they sing.



Mango or banana trees are often decorated in India as their Christmas trees.



Chicken is an expensive meat in Zimbabwe, and is often served as the centre of their Christmas feasts.

## Kiwi Christmas Quiz:

- How did Captain Cook and his crew celebrate Christmas on Board the *Endeavour* while battling heavy seas off the northern tip of the North Island in 1769?**
  - By feasting on freshly killed pork from the ship's menagerie washed down with 'extra rations of wine'.
  - With a meal of 'Goose pye' (made with gannet)
  - With a reading from the Bible
  - With a programme of Christmas carols followed by an early night
- According to a popular New Zealand Christmas song of the 1960s, who will 'pull the Christmas sleigh in the southern hemisphere'?**
  - Rudolph
  - Prancer
  - Phar Lap
  - Sticky Beak the Kiwi
- What tree did some early settlers refer to as 'Antipodean holly'?**
  - Rātā
  - Pōhutukawa
  - Kōwhai
  - Kākābeak
- Which organisation supplied free cigars, coffee and cake to New Zealand soldiers at Christmas during the First World War?**
  - New Zealand Volunteer Sisterhood
  - The Red Cross
  - The League of Nations
  - YMCA



Source: [www.nzhistory.govt.nz](http://www.nzhistory.govt.nz)  
Answers on Pg 31

*Christmas Gift Suggestions:*

*To your enemy, forgiveness.  
To an opponent, tolerance.  
To a friend, your heart.  
To a customer, service.  
To all, charity.  
To every child, a good example.  
To yourself, respect.*

*A Safe and Happy  
Christmas and  
New Year to you All!*

