

# THE BUGLE

ISSUE 289  
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## THIS ISSUE

New Year Honours  
Kia Ora From Op TROY  
DSO's Corner  
Personal Messages

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



## THE BUGLE

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### Deadline

The deadline for Edition 289 is  
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Bugle contributions are welcome and should be sent to Janine Burton

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### Disclaimer

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### Cover Photo:

Op FARAD—the Driver Section working hard in the Sinai.

# NEW YEAR HONOURS

Leadership displayed by three New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel in the face of uncertain times has been recognised in the New Year Honours List.

Air Commodore Darryn Webb has been made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his role as Head of Managed Isolation and Quarantine within the all-of-Government response to COVID-19.

In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Ant Blythen and Wing Commander Richard Deihl have both been awarded the New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) for their committed service during a tumultuous few years.

Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Kevin Short said the recognition of the three dedicated personnel reflected not only on their leadership, but the work of many across the Defence Force.

“I am incredibly gratified to see these three recognised in such a fitting way for the sacrifice, commitment and guidance they have provided through very testing times,” he said.

“They can each be proud of the achievements they have gained through their hard work, with the support and diligence of so many other teams within our Defence Force.”

## Air Commodore Darryn Webb Member of The New Zealand Order of Merit



Air Commodore Webb said he was humbled when he was told of his MNZM, and that it immediately took him back to some “very busy times”.



Having served with the NZDF for 31 years, in a range of command and leadership positions, Air Commodore Webb spent eight months in 2020

seconded to the All of Government (AoG) effort to protect New Zealand from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Along with becoming a key public face of MIQ leadership, he built a

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framework and multi-disciplinary teams that led to a world-leading, end-to-end system that provided New Zealanders with confidence.

“Keeping COVID out of our communities is certainly the most demanding role I have ever had, but there are probably two things that stand out above all others. Firstly, trying to keep up with the pace of change. The whole country was learning and our team was no different, so attempting to both stay ahead of the virus as well as fix the things that went wrong consumed more time than was available.

“Secondly, fronting up on a daily basis to describe events that posed risk and the things that needed improvement was definitely hard, and that also took a toll on my family.”

Air Commodore Webb said the medal represented the efforts of thousands of extremely dedicated people across the spectrum of MIQ.

“I am definitely proud of what we achieved together and I’m conscious that the work isn’t over yet. Despite the challenges it was an absolute privilege to be a part of such a dedicated team and this recognition certainly reflects their commitment and sacrifice.

“Friends who also provided a short word of encouragement probably don’t know how important that was, and I do want to acknowledge my family; I didn’t see too much of them for large periods but they were hugely supportive throughout.

## Lieutenant Colonel Ant Blythen

### New Zealand Distinguished Service Medal



When Lieutenant Colonel Blythen was informed of his DSD honour, he originally mistook it for something quite different.

“It was a complete surprise. When I first saw the email in my inbox at work I thought it was a request by another government agency for support, which is a bit ironic given what the honour is for. It was wholly unexpected.”

Lieutenant Colonel Blythen has been recognised for his role as the Deputy Director Strategic Commitments - Domestic which he has held since 2018.

During his tenure, he oversaw an unprecedented number of significant and complex domestic emergencies including the COVID-19 pandemic, the March 2019 Christchurch terror attack, the Whakaari/White Island eruption, bushfires in New Zealand and Australia, droughts and floods.

He was also involved in a number of proactive commitments for NZDF, and at short notice, he led the establishment of a NZDF strategic COVID-19 response cell that operated seven days a week to ensure the NZDF was responsive and effective in supporting the national Level 4 lockdown.



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# NEW YEAR HONOURS

## Continued

Lieutenant Colonel Blythen was praised for his professionalism and industriousness in covering a near-continuous series of challenging national emergencies, and said he felt proud and privileged to be nominated.

“I am grateful to receive the honour and I would like to thank those that did nominate me. However, due to the work that I know is put in by many personnel across the NZDF, I do feel somewhat like a player being praised by the coach, when the team has won the championship.”

He recognised efforts of that wider team across the Defence Force and other agencies in getting the job done; including staff at Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand to command and control operations, and the men and women of the operational units to execute the plans.

“I have also benefited from leaders that have provided both necessary guidance and freedom of action to carry out my role. I would like to acknowledge my wife, Deborah, and my children who have supported me throughout; including during many evenings, weekends, and holidays when duty has called.”

### Wing Commander Richard Deihl

#### New Zealand Distinguished Service Medal



With an eight-week old baby at home, Wing Commander Deihl answered the call to duty when he was seconded to lead the Auckland Regional Isolation and Quarantine Command Centre for the AoG response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

He led a multi-agency team for the safe and effective management of returnees arriving in New Zealand through the Auckland-based MIQ Facilities. He managed the delivery of 17 isolation facilities and the Jet Park quarantine facility, encompassing approximately 3,000 staff.

“I was working extremely long hours, which put a huge strain on my wife, but she was supported by her parents – without that it would have been very difficult for both my wife and I.”



Wing Commander Richard Deihl said he was very humbled to be receiving a DSD for his service in 2020.

“I did feel some guilt as the team’s success was a result of the collective efforts everyone put in,” he said.

“I was fortunate to step into a role where the team was already established and had gained some valuable experience developing the MIQ system. I was an absolute fish out of water, with no knowledge or experience of MIQ, so I relied heavily on the advice of the rest of the team on how best to establish effective systems and processes going forward. Without exception, everyone worked extremely hard to prevent the virus from entering New Zealand.”

Wing Commander Richard Deihl, who has recently been promoted to the rank of Group Captain, said he felt the recognition is reward for a job well done by all those involved in the Auckland regional MIQ over that period.

Source: NZDF



## Interceptions By NZ-Led Naval Task Force Seize \$US26 Million In Illegal Drugs

10 December 2021

During an intensive period of operations in November, units under the New Zealand-led Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 command completed eight successful interceptions in the Indian Ocean, which resulted in the seizure of US\$26 million of illegal drugs.

CTF 150 is one of the Combined Maritime Forces' three task forces in the Middle East and has been under the command of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) since July 2021.

Commander of the CTF 150, Captain Brendon Clark, RNZN, said successful interceptions were the culmination of coordinated efforts of personnel, ships, helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, and unmanned aerial vehicles from across the Combined Maritime Forces nations. This was a complex task but worthwhile, he said.

“By intercepting illicit drugs close to the source, we are preventing narcotics from reaching markets around the world. This stops the finances raised from illegal narcotics sales being used to fund criminal and terrorist organisations.” said Captain Clark.

The eight interceptions in November led to the seizure of 975 kilograms of heroin, 523 kilograms of methamphetamine and 4,244 kilograms of hashish, with a combined local value of \$US26 million.

Captain Clark said that the overall value of drugs seized since he took command in July was now more than \$US46m, and rising week by week. These seizures have contributed to a record breaking year for CTF 150. The total for the year is now over \$US189m of illegal drugs seized and destroyed by the many warships patrolling the region.

Captain Clark said the value of narcotics increases as they reach their ultimate destination. Around the world, street value varies, but it is always much higher than the figures reported above.

“From a New Zealand perspective, had the narcotics from all of the seizures made during NZ’s time in command made their way to New Zealand, they would have a street value of \$1.826 billion in New Zealand dollars.”

So far during 2021, CTF 150 has seized and destroyed 6,550 kilograms of heroin, 4,052 kilograms of methamphetamine and 56,834 kilograms of hashish. The success was





highlighted by the fact that this equated to more than three times the methamphetamine than in any other year since 2016, and the largest amount of heroin since the task force was established in 2002.

Captain Clark said operations were ongoing and in the last two weeks, successful interceptions by French ships working for CTF 150 had resulted in the seizure of more than 1000kg of heroin. This included 480kg of heroin being seized on 6 November.

“CTF 150’s mission is an enduring one. Operations continue 365 days a year. On Christmas Day, as every day, the staff will be on watch providing support and direction to our ships and aircraft conducting operations at and over the sea to ensure that illicit activity is suppressed, and that the sea lanes remain a safe and law abiding domain,” he said.

CTF 150 is commanded and staffed by a multinational team in Bahrain and includes New Zealand Navy personnel and personnel from the US Coast Guard, and Australian, Singaporean and Bahrain militaries.

CTF 150 conducts maritime security and counter-terrorism operations at sea, outside the Arabian Gulf, to disrupt criminal and terrorist organizations and their related illicit activities, including the movement of personnel, weapons, narcotics and charcoal.

Combined Maritime Forces is a multinational naval partnership of 34 nations that includes three task forces. It exists to uphold rules-based international order by countering illicit non-state actors on the high seas and promoting security, stability, and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters encompassing some of the world’s most important shipping lanes.

Source: NZDF





## Holiday Drug Bust By Kiwi-Led Navy Operation in Arabian Sea

31 December 2021

US Navy ships, operating in support of a Kiwi-led Combined Task Force (CTF 150), have seized USD\$4 million worth of drugs from a stateless fishing vessel transiting the Arabian Sea.

The illegal shipment of heroin, weighing 385 kilograms, was discovered by US Coast Guard personnel onboard USS Tempest and USS Typhoon while conducting a flag verification boarding in accordance with customary international law on Monday 27 December.

The confiscated drugs were destroyed at sea by US forces.

Royal New Zealand Navy Captain Brendon Clark, commander of CTF 150, said the street value of narcotics around the world varied, but was always much higher than the figures reported above.

“This latest seizure is a demonstration that CTF 150 and assigned surface and air assets are ready to conduct interdiction operations 365 days a year,” he said.

“From a New Zealand perspective, had the narcotics from all of the seizures from New Zealand’s time in command made their way to New Zealand, they would have a street value of NZD\$2.36 billion.”

CTF 150 is one of three task forces under Combined Maritime Forces, which has increased regional patrols to locate and disrupt unlawful maritime activity.

In 2021, CTF 150 has seized illegal drugs worth more than USD\$193 million (at regional wholesale prices) during counter-narcotics operations at sea.

This is a higher total value than the amount of drugs the task force interdicted in the previous four years combined. CTF 150 conducts maritime security operations outside the Arabian Gulf to ensure that legitimate commercial



shipping can occur freely. Its mission is to disrupt criminal and terrorist organisations and their illicit activities, including the movement of people, weapons, narcotics and charcoal.

The New Zealand-led multinational team took over command of CTF 150 from Canada earlier in 2021 and will command and staff the CTF 150 until early 2022.

Source: NZDF

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
Sinai*

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

## So, What Are We Doing in the Sinai?

**LCPL Charlie Hunt**  
Driver Section 2IC, NZCON

Well, despite December being the “holiday period”, it has been pedal to the metal. From the first week of December, we were all in the full swing of our responsibilities now that the previous contingent has gone back to New Zealand. So far, the driving section has been back and forth to all of our resupply areas throughout the Sharm bubble and our out of bubble missions. When traveling out of the bubble it is crazy to see how some of the different groups of people live in the desert between Sharm and our outer missions. No running water, in homes built from all different materials from tents to hard standing buildings, with thatched roofs or corrugated iron. It has definitely made me so thankful for what we have in camp and back home in New Zealand.

There has been a lot of learning on the job, but we were lucky in our driving section to have been given a great hand over. Just like every new posting, we have all been doing our best to learn where everything is in a new camp. Being attached to a Uruguayan Det has come with its own challenges and successes. The language barrier is a challenge and so most days communication is a mixture of hand gestures, terribly spoken Spanish on our behalf and broken English with thick accents that are always interesting to try and understand. Thank God for Google translate! A success is that both contingents get along so well, that we are helping each other learn our respective languages and the banter is still strong between the soldiers.

Now we have settled in, we have been able to go out and explore Sharm El-Sheikh itself. I was not sure what to expect but it has been an assault on all the senses. Some areas are very “touristy” and others you could say are more authentic. Bartering has been the biggest learning curve for most of us and the open sewerage system takes some getting used to. Most stores don’t open until the early evening which also takes some getting used to. Either



Driver Section during handover

way it is a cool experience to live in this part of the world, seeing all the different colours and hearing all the different sounds. I can hear the call to prayer off in the distance from my room, in the wee hours of the morning.

There are so many cultures here in the camp and many of us have already made friends through playing sports or participating in camp activities which has been an amazing way to meet all the different

contingents. Everyone in the camp have been so kind to us since we



The norm



# News from Sinai

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*Driver Section pre-road move*



*Hardest workers in the MFO*

arrived. You can tell that the all the kiwis before us have paved a great reputation with everyone, which has made making friends so easy—a reputation that everyone in FARAD 21/2 has already been upholding. This has included hosting our first “Pizza Night” where we got a chance to share some of our own culture and hospitality with the rest of the camp, ranging from a quiz to kiwi games, auctions, and music. It was a great success and a

great way for our crew to make their mark in the camp.

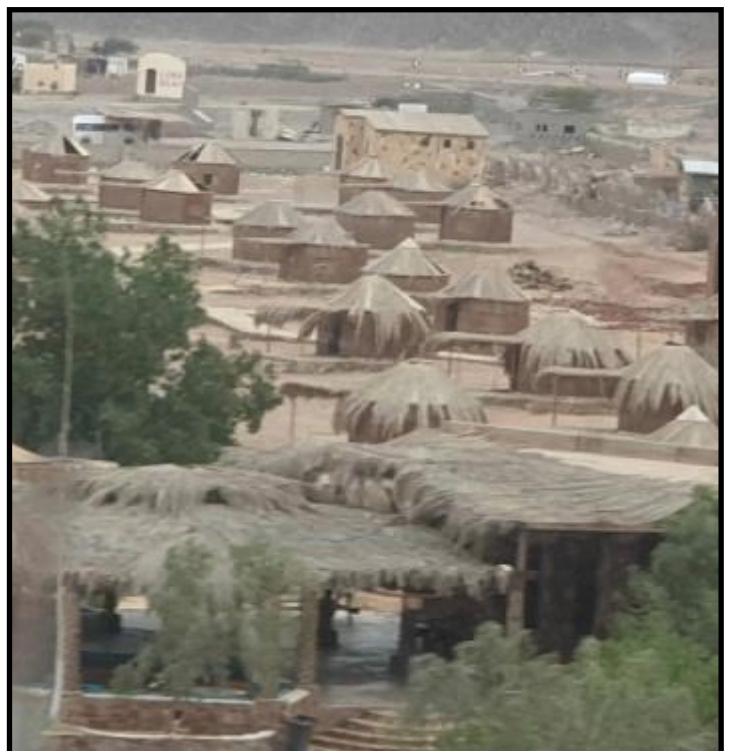
All that being said, I know that for myself, it has been hard to be so far away from home. This was my first ever Christmas away from my mum. My family has always been so close like many others in our contingent and seeing all the festive decorations pulls on the heart strings. Luckily, we are a strong group of kiwis over here and we held each

other up, being our own NZDF family. Our Australian brothers and sisters have also been a big comfort during this time, even though they do try to claim our Christmas desserts as their own.

Before I sign off, I would like to quickly say a big thank you to my partner Joph and my family for supporting me to do this mission which I have been working so hard towards. I wish you all a happy new year.



*A standard day for NZCON Driver Section*



*Deserted resort project—one of many on the route*

### Settling Into The Sinai

**LCPL Tom Taylor**  
Force Protection Analyst, NZCON

Arriving in the Egyptian winter, the newest batch of kiwis could have been fooled; highs during the day were close to 30 degrees and good weather seemed immortal. The SNO settled us into routine early with PT taking place on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 0600. Sundays are the first working day of the week with Fridays and Saturdays being low tempo days. Thursday PT is always a treat as we conduct some type of battle PT usually involving an equipment carry. The exception being for Christmas when we helped Santa deliver his presents around Egypt. Check out the NZDF Christmas video for proof.

Despite only being here a short time it certainly feels like we have been busy getting amongst the MFO activities.

The culture within the MFO is phenomenal as countries often mix and socialise together. This stems from our working environment which, for many of us, means there are few kiwis in our workspace. Learning about the other countries and their cultures is particularly interesting as for some of us it is our first time working abroad. Even western countries like the US operate very differently which creates a unique challenge for incoming personnel. The diversity amongst the MFO appears to be a key strength and is perhaps a reason the mission has been so successful for 40 years. Each country seems to offer a slightly different perspective and skillset which helps us to learn and grow as a force.

One event that has shown testament to the MFO's culture was a 100km run being completed by an Australian 'SGT I', as a fundraiser for Legacy, a charity that supports Australian families of deceased and seriously injured ADF veterans since 1923. 'SGT I' has completed endurance races in the past,



*'SGT I' in red running with the support of two Kiwis, two Aussies and an American.*

but this was going to be a whole other beast. Why? It was 31.25 laps around the MFO South Camp 3.2km perimeter fence—the same sight for more than 12 hours. What made this effort so MFO inclusive, was the support 'SGT I' received over the 100km. Starting at 0300 on New Years Eve, the ANZAC effort kicked off, a kiwi running besides 'SGT I' and a couple more at the aid station. The early start was, for some, perhaps closer to a late start... Before sunrise many had come and gone, popping down to pass on their support and dish out some banter (while it was still safe to do so). When the sun rose, it looked like a perfect overcast day was in order. Not too bright and not too hot.

Alas the Sinai was not going to make things easy. By 0730 the clouds had cleared and the sun's smile was in full view. It was looking like a tough day ahead for both runners and support crew. After completing over 50km, things for 'SGT I' were starting to get

tough. This is when the true heart of the MFO started to put in the grind. Running alongside him was a mixture of other countries including Australians, Kiwis, Americans, Canadians and Fijians. The MFO comradeship was on display at its best. By 1400 'SGT I' had few laps left and it was an all-out support effort, lap times had dropped to walking pace and so tens of people joined him to finish off the race. One Aussie even took his bagpipes for the walk which seemed to play on the emotions of many in the crowd causing not just 'SGT I' to hold back the tears. Overall, it was a long day for the MFO and especially 'SGT I' who demonstrated a heroic effort.

The day showed me what both ANZAC and MFO spirit is all about and I can't wait to see this continue into the new year. Stand by for some hearty efforts from NZCON in the coming months!

## Kia Ora From Op TROY

**CPL Frankie Murray-Birch**  
Movements Operator

I have been posted to Op TROY since June 2021 and will be going home at the end of January. Over these seven months I have learnt and have been exposed to many different experiences.

I am enlisted with the Royal New Zealand Air Force and my job here is the Air Movements Operator. My role involves moving freight from Op TROY to various locations such as New Zealand, Egypt, South Sudan, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. I am also heavily involved in passenger moves into theatre, in particular Op FARAD, Kuwait, Op MOHUA and other 'random' missions around the Middle East region. I thoroughly enjoy meeting new people who come through Kiwi Lines and get a sense of enjoyment and achievement getting them on the aircraft into their mission.

A very important role is keeping good relationships with the coalition forces, in particular the Australian Defence Force. As we only have a small footprint posted to Op TROY (a team of six), we utilise the Australian Defence Force aircraft for almost all of our passenger and freight moves. Even though we may have some big rivalry with the Australians through sport, I have found that they are very similar to us and are always willing to go above and beyond for us. Likewise, we Kiwis here are always willing to help our Aussie comrades and enjoy many social gatherings as contingents.

A highlight of my deployment was being involved in Op KOKAKO. It was really amazing to see so many nations helping out and, of course, was awesome to see the Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft here for the mission and was great to see more Kiwis in Op TROY. Even though most days were very long and very hot (some days reached above 55 degrees), it was very rewarding seeing the Afghanistan refugees walk off the RNZAF Hercules.

A humbling experience was that on one of the last nights of the evacuation, most of the Op KOKAKO contingent all

pitched in to get the Afghanistan refugees, home to New Zealand on a chartered civilian aircraft within a small amount of time. This involved passport checks, bag checks, building pallets, check in processes and ensuring all passengers were well fed before getting on to the aircraft. Most refugees only had a backpack of their belongings to take with them to start a new life; however, they were still happy and were ever so grateful. It really made me appreciate the life I live and made me think about how good New Zealand really is to live in.

There is also time here at Op TROY to enjoy the gym and various PT and recreational events. We are very fortunate to have our own gym here at Kiwi Lines as well. It gets used by us Kiwis every day and comes in handy when we do our own Op TROY PT twice a week. We also have the opportunity to use the Aussie gym which has an ample amount of weights, machines, gym equipment and accessories to ensure you always have a great workout.

Even though we were away from home for Christmas we still had a very enjoyable one. We were fortunate enough to all receive a RSA Christmas package from New Zealand and also were gifted the Australian Defence Force Christmas package as well. The mess here put on a great Christmas spread for all nations posted here and it made being away from home during the festive season a little easier.

Other activities I have really enjoyed have been going to the shooting range, eating acai smoothie bowls made by civilian workers on base, exploring the local area and meeting new life-long friends. Overall being posted to Op TROY has been a great experience and I recommend it to all!



# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
Bahrian*

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

## Christmas in Bahrain

Happy New Year from Op TIKI in Bahrain! The start of the year marks the beginning of New Zealand's last month in Command of CTF 150. An end that rounds out the team's amazing successes in disrupting the flow of drugs in the region, as we look forward to seeing our friends and families back at home.

The team has worked hard throughout the Christmas period. With ships at sea and aircraft in the skies, our operations never ceased. We did make sure to have a fun celebration that could include the whole team. So with watchkeepers and operations staff always at the ready, it made most sense to have a good ol' Kiwi Christmas Day BBQ on base, right outside the CTF 150 Headquarters. And the decision proved wise when some were called to support a boarding in the middle of the celebrations.

With our Aussie friends and teammates in attendance, alongside our Dutch, Singaporean, Bahraini and American CTF 150 members, Christmas was a real multi-cultural affair. Each person brought a plate making it a great feast



*Op TIKI staff exchange gifts, Bahrain. Christmas 2021.*



*Above: CTF 150 staff and friends celebrate Christmas Day 2021 at SA1 Bahrain*

*Left: Op TIKI staff receive their RSA Christmas Parcels, Bahrain. Christmas 2021.*



of the many cuisines.

Captain Clark, Commander of CTF 150, played Santa on Christmas Day, delivering the wonderful RSA packages to each Kiwi on the team, along with the kiwi lollies our generous DPSC support person sent to us. The treats have been enjoyed by all; the classic Maggi Onion Soup dip

particularly delighting out international guests.

We look forward to seeing what the next month will bring, both operationally and as we return home. While it will be sad to say goodbye to our international partners (and new friends) Christmas was a great opportunity to get together before we start preparing to depart.

## A Special and Sincere Thank You

Shortly, we will transfer command of the CTF 150 mission to Pakistan and then we will begin our long journey home.



On behalf of the Op TIKI whānau I would like to take this opportunity to send a very special and sincere thank you to each and everyone of you at home. As a spouse, partner, child, relative or friend you have been instrumental in enabling our mission to be so successful. Your aroha / love and support has allowed us to focus on the mission and represent New Zealand on the international stage. Our absence for so many months and the associated sacrifices that you have made, and continue to make, are not lost on anyone in the team. Please accept our sincere and genuine appreciation for all that you have done and continue to do, thereby enabling us to serve.

When we reflect on the value of narcotic seizures, we have achieved some remarkable results. In dollar terms, we have achieved the second highest value in the Combined Maritime Force's 20 year history and as you've seen in the media, had these narcotics made their way to New Zealand streets, the value would have been \$2.4billion. Results that we can all be super proud of. Thank you. Kia Kaha. See you shortly....

Ngā mihi nui/kind regards

**CAPT Brendon Clark**

**RNZN**

# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

## News from South Korea

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### Op MONITOR—Blue Bridge Area Clearance

**Who:** Major Brosnan  
UNC Engineers

**When:** 8-10 December 2021

**What:** Major Brosnan planned and facilitated the execution of an area clearance by the 11 Engineer Battalion of the US Army.

**Where:** Blue Bridge, Joint Security Area, Demilitarized Zone.

**Why:** The Ministry of Unification are planning to reconstruct the symbolic Blue Bridge that President Moon Jae-In and Chairperson Kim Jong-Un met at during the 2018 Inter-Korean Summit. The area clearance enables contractors safe access to the bridge and surrounding area.

**Endstate:** Task was successfully executed with no explosive hazards found. UNC Engineers are now postured to continue engagement with MoU for the reconstruction of the bridge.

A Sapper of 11 Engineer Battalion conducts their area clearance drill vic Blue Bridge.



Major Brosnan along with other members of the UNC Engineer staff (Col Verell, US Army and Capt Gurung, ADF) at the completion of the area clearance.

# News from South Korea

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Members of NZCON celebrate Christmas morning with a Kiwi Breakfast.

L-R SSGT Paenga, SSGT Allen, SQNLDR Magnussen, UNC Honour Guard 1<sup>st</sup> SGT (USA), WO Chris McKeich.



View from the outside of NZCON Accommodation after a fresh dropping of snow

View of the Frozen over Imjin River from Tongil Bridge, entrance to Panmunjom



# FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

*News from  
Antarctica*

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not necessarily those of the NZDF*

## Paying Homage to the Past

**CPL Davina King**  
Logistics Support Assistant

Antarctica is a land of untold wonders and I have had the privilege of tracing in the footsteps of some of the greatest explorers of the past century. Our journey began as we set out from Scott Base, venturing over the hill to McMurdo Station before embarking upon the frozen sea ice. It felt strange to be driving over what would become ocean in the coming months. The risk of falling through the ice was mitigated by drilling through the ice every few kilometres, but also as we stumbled across significant cracks. If the ice was thick enough, then we would continue on.

An hour and a half later and in the constant shadow of Mt Erebus, we arrived at our destination. Shores don't get any more remote than Cape Royds, upon which lies a monument to the past, Ernest Shackleton's hut. This historic relic offers an unparalleled glimpse into the harsh realities faced by early explorers. A team from the Antarctic Heritage Trust have worked tirelessly to preserve artefacts such as tins of spam, and restore them close to their original condition. Cape Royds is also home to a large Adelie penguin rookery. Even though it was still early in the season, I managed to spot an estimated twenty penguins. Travelling to these remote outposts today is a luxurious experience compared with the gruelling sacrifices made by the past explorers like Scott and Shackleton.

I also had the pleasure of visiting the Erebus Glacial Tongue. It wasn't long before we found what we had come all this way for. Buried behind a wall of snow drift rests a work of art that's has been millions of years in the making. The Erebus Glacial Tongue harbours a vast network of ancient ice caves. As the sun shone through thinner layers of ice, it left in



its wake a pale blue glow. A roof of snow dangled from the ceiling like a web of crystals. The floor of the cave was perfectly flat, this is a phenomenon that is native to Antarctica and is caused by the sea ice melting and reforming every year as the floor of the cave. It was incredibly slippery inside, even with ice spikes attached to our boots.

As we ventured back towards Scott

Base, we noticed an enormous iceberg that had become trapped within the sea ice. Near the iceberg we spotted a hole leading down to the seawater beneath the ice. We soon learnt that this hole was in fact created by seals who eat away at the ice until they reach the surface.

All of these amazing things make me wonder what else lies beneath the ice.





## OUR VALUES

### Courage | Tū Kaha - Taking action despite your fears

Courage is having the moral and physical strength to do what is right, even in the face of adversity. It is stepping up when things get hard. It is speaking up when you see things are wrong. Courage is enforcing our standards and discipline. It is not giving in to peer pressure

### Commitment | Tū Tika - Giving your best

Commitment is doing your best. It is always looking for ways to achieve the task, and persevering even when the going gets tough. Commitment is accepting and living our values and standards. It is serving New Zealand.

### Comradeship | Tū Tira - Respecting and looking out for each other

Comradeship is respecting the differences of the people around you and treating others as you would like to be treated. It is working together as a team, being inclusive, recognising we are stronger together. Comradeship is never an excuse for covering up other people's wrong doing.

### Integrity | Tū Maia - Doing the right thing – always

Integrity is conducting yourself honestly, ethically and to the highest professional standards—even when no one is watching. It is doing the things that you say you are going to do. Integrity is accepting responsibility for your decisions and actions.



## Operational Security

It is vitally important that with all aspects of our deployments we are able to maintain Operational Security. To do our bit as families, we ask that:

- You don't discuss any aspects of your loved one's deployment in a public space, e.g. a very proud mum was overheard discussing their son's deployment with a friend in a café.
- You don't use social media to share deployment news. Any aspect of operational information on social media sites will breach our operational security rules. Facebook is not your friend!
- During conversations with your deployed person, specific details of the deployment should not be discussed – the service personnel know this and as family and friends we shouldn't be pressing for information they cannot share.
- You remember that operational security begins before the deployment starts, continues throughout the time they are away, and also when they return home. We recently had a mission return and had photos and video clips posted to Facebook which we had to ask be taken down.
- Service personnel have been asked to NOT post anything to their Facebook page that identifies them as members of the NZDF, i.e. photos of them in uniform, information connecting them to the NZDF, etc.

Maintaining operational security at all times will ensure the safety and integrity of the mission, of our service personnel and YOU.



# DSO'S CORNER



**Janine Burton**

Deployment Services Officer

fast, I'm sure that with the busy lives we are living these days, that time will pass quite quickly for you. I mean, we are already half way through January. Work will have resumed for most, schools will be returning soon and suddenly, it will be February! We have some new readers with this issue which means that departure for deployment locations has just happened or will occur very shortly. Welcome to your first Bugle, I hope you will enjoy receiving these over the coming months. Towards the back of each Bugle you will see an opportunity to send/receive messages from loved ones. This has proved to be a great way to communicate across the miles and an opportunity for a keepsake for the future.

## ***A huge thank you to our mission contributors***

I came back to work a little earlier than most in the NZDF to get this Bugle together for you all. A huge thank you to the missions who have contributed articles for this issue. This is a great way to tell us all of the things that are happening in your location. People are always amazed to learn of all the various roles the NZDF are involved in around the world—and that includes NZDF personnel as well, who often don't know of the many deployments we are involved in and the amazing work you are doing.

I trust that you have all had a good start to the year.

**F**irstly I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I trust that you were able to spend some time with family and friends over the Christmas/New Year period. I know from my calls to primary next of kin before Christmas that this was the plan for the vast majority of you, but a few were restricted, for a number of reasons, of being able to travel or have family travel to you, and so were planning a quiet Christmas at home.

I was able to take some leave over Christmas and I would like to thank Lynne Smith, HQ JFNZ, for providing the 24/7 phone coverage. She tells me that the phone was very quiet which is unusual, but means that you all went well with no emergencies.

So, what interesting gifts were received in your household for Christmas? Let me tell you about one that my husband

ordered for himself—I certainly wouldn't have bought him this particular gift. It arrived a week before Christmas and I just knew that it wasn't going to be good! A harmonica, which of course he cannot play, but he assures me that it going to sound good—when he learns to play it. It is just the process between here and there that most concerns me. He believes, from his Google searches, that it is an easy instrument to learn to play. Thank goodness that we have a garden shed! Apart from a few huffs and puffs to give us an example of his lack of talent and an attempt to entertain, it remains in its box. Long may that last is all I can hope for!

Now that we are into 2022, the main thing to look forward to for the majority of our current readers will be the homecoming of your loved one from their deployments. These will start from as early as this month, but for a few who said farewell towards the end of last year, you will be waiting for just a little while longer. 2021 disappeared so

## ***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)

# FOR YOUR INFO

## Operation CHRISTMAS CARD 2021

Another successful Op CHRISTMAS CARD in 2021 where cards made by various organisations were distributed among our deployments.

MAJ Dan Swale is currently on deployment in South Sudan and has sent us this photo of his cards on display. He appreciated having this little bit of cheer arrive from home, and has sent some responses to the authors he could identify— Burnham Nursery and Preschool, Kidsfirst Kindergarten Burnham, Silverstream School and Wellesley College.



At the end of last year FLTLT Briony Curzon who is currently deployed in Japan also sent some responses per pupils from Wellesley College and Burnham Nursery and Preschool. These were printed and posted out with the December Bugle.

Thank you Dan and Briony to responding to some of the many card received and distributed among our missions.

## Deployment Guides

Deployment Guides are prepared for family members for each of the missions we support. While Guides are provided at Family Welfare Days, some family members who may not be able to attend will then rely on their deploying person to collect these on your behalf and pass them on. While we would like to think that this works, we are also aware that some of you may miss out.

If you do not have a copy of the Guide for the deployment your family member is on, please contact Janine to have a copy popped in the mail to you. Contact details are on the inside front cover of this Bugle.

## 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

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# EVERYONE SERVES



## The Positive Side of Deployment

### New opportunities

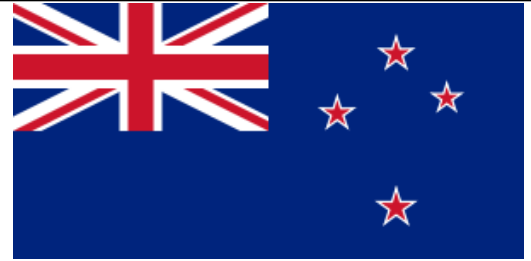
*View this deployment as an opportunity—set a goal and give yourself a chance to grow and learn new things.*

- **Set a goal with the deployment's end date in mind.** Make a list of projects that you need to complete. Clean out that wild hole you call a garage, take a course that requires focus or create a new fitness plan for you and your family.
- **Visit family.** Deployments can create an opportunity to visit family and friends who can become one of your support systems during this deployment.
- **Create new family rituals or build upon the old ones.** Consistency is important for everyone, especially children. Continue Friday game nights or Saturday pancake breakfasts and consider creating new customs to get everyone excited.
- **Set a money-saving goal.** With the extra money you get from the deployment, set up a system for saving it.
- **Plan a post-deployment vacation when your loved one returns.** This can be a fun way to count down the days together until his/her return.
- **Give yourself a chance to grow.** Try something new — a yoga class, a book club with other military families, a volunteer opportunity, etc.

### Positive changes

*Through the tears and tough times, there are positive changes happening as well. Focus on the following when you feel yourself getting stressed or when challenges become somewhat overwhelming:*

- **Watch your children grow.** Deployments can be tough on everyone, but they can also foster maturity and independence that will help your children.
- **Strengthen your family bonds.** Military families have to make a lot of adjustments during times of separation, and this can often lead to discovering new sources of strength and support.
- **Appreciate your family's ability to adapt to change.** Deployments can teach you and your family about flexibility and adapting to change.
- **Allow your "I can do this" attitude to emerge.** It is time for you to shine! You'll be amazed at what you can do when you have to versus relying on another person. See and build on your strengths.



## Handling stress

As the holidays approach, it's important to find healthy ways to deal with the stress that can come from a loved one's deployment. Here are some tips:

- **Keep busy.** Involve yourself in things you enjoy and things that make you feel connected to your service member. Think about projects such as care packages, letter-writing and taking other military children on outings or excursions with yours. This type of giving back often makes you feel better.
- **Establish a routine.** Routines can be comforting in times of change. Even if the routine is different from the one you had before the deployment, try to be consistent with it.
- **Be good to yourself.** Take time out to do something for yourself — take a long bath, cook a special dish you enjoy or find a babysitter and go out with some friends. Give yourself credit for dealing with a difficult situation.
- **Stay healthy and take care of yourself.** Exercising, eating right and getting enough rest are important ways to reduce stress and keep you feeling positive.
- **Cultivate supportive relationships.** Focus on those people who lift you up and make you feel positive. Consider finding another military family experiencing a deployment and share the good and the bad times with one another.

Source: [militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil)

## Support services

There are numerous resources available for both you and your family to assist during deployments, returns and re-integrations.

Contact the Deployment Services Officer for more information.

The following Quotes were out of the “While you were Away” – 101 tips for families:

**“If you can organise your kitchen, you can organise your life”.**  
Louis Parrish.

**“Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down”.**  
Oprah Winfrey.

**“Trouble is part of your life and if you don't share it, you don't give the person who loves you enough chance to love you enough.”**  
Anon.

**“It is not about how much time you spend together, it is about the time you do spend together”.**  
Anon.

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# SHOULD YOU MAKE EXTRA MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?

## Five reasons why you shouldn't pay off your mortgage any sooner—yes, you read that correctly

Most of us are aware of the benefits of repaying a mortgage sooner by making extra payments. These benefits include saving on interest repayments, being mortgage-free faster and obtaining a sense of security that comes with a debt-free roof over our heads.

However, on the flipside, there could be a few benefits to not making extra mortgage payments. At first this might sound like crazy talk, (though most of us might agree the world has gone a little crazy lately!) though try keeping an open mind and read on to learn more.

### 1. Paying off higher interest debts such as credit cards

Many Kiwis are still having a hard time with credit card debt, vehicle loan repayments, and other consumer debts such as store cards and the modern buy now pay later schemes such as Afterpay or Laybuy.



If this is the case, the interest rates can be ten times higher than the standard mortgage interest rates so it makes sense to tackle these 'bad' debts first.

### 2. Building up a rainy-day fund

It's smart to save enough accessible cash for the emergencies and expenses we all occasionally face. Yes 2020 and, some of 2021, has reinforced the importance of this.



Many gurus suggest a cash horde of 3-6 months' worth of living expenses just in case there's a job-loss or something unforeseen, though (as with anything in life) what any individual or family needs depends on them.

Without such financial reserves in place, anyone with a mortgage could put themselves at risk of not being able to make their repayments should something unexpected occur.

### 3. Build up cash for something 'good'

This can be broadly broken down into two categories:

#### *i. A deserved reward*

If you are fortunate enough to be in a position to, perhaps it's time to start saving for an overdue holiday to Australia or the Cook Islands? Or perhaps to save and spend on a major item, significant life event, or major experience you've thought of but not

got around too?

It doesn't make much sense to go into credit card debt or fund such a trip with additional mortgage lending. Saving up for it will probably make the reward that much better too!

**ii. To make a big move**

Aside from an emergency 'rainy-day' fund of some kind, there could be other reasons to build up cash:



- To fund a training course or qualification so you can earn more, or
- Some investments have minimum thresholds or might not make much sense with a small sum. This might include subdividing a property or another significant activity, or



- To buy in to a business or other venture, perhaps with a close friend or family member, or
- To start a business or side-hustle of your own.

**Beware**

Despite what is mentioned above, against the backdrop of low interest rates saving money as a long-term wealth building strategy is unlikely to work. Unless there is a specific short-term need, nowadays it is usually unwise to save money over the long-haul in bank accounts and term deposits. *Learn more: don't save money.*

**4. Invest into investment markets instead**

One of the biggest arguments against repaying a mortgage any faster than needed is the likely difference between long-term interest rates and long-term investment returns.

Consider the last 10-year performance of:

- The NZX 50 Index, which is the most common measure of the NZ sharemarket, which has averaged over 9% per year without even including dividends.
- The S&P 500 Index, the most common measure of the US sharemarkets, has averaged nearly 12% per year in USD, again without including dividends.

Most commentators do not expect the strong results above to last forever, but even half of those average annual rates is still significantly higher than what most expect of mortgage rates for the foreseeable future.

The difference between the mortgage interest rate and the investment return is where the long-term opportunity might be.

**Diversification and flexibility**

Aside from just a pure "interest rate



versus investment return" calculation, there are probably other benefits to this too.

For example, there are an array of highly diversified non-KiwiSaver investments available, commonly called managed funds. With low fees, the ability to access your money at any time, and no contribution or withdrawal costs, these sorts of funds might be a good choice instead of extra mortgage payments, as the benefits on offer could include:

- Start to diversify wealth away from just a home and KiwiSaver, and
- Offer greater flexibility than just paying down a mortgage. The invested funds can usually be accessed at any time without charge or penalty. This compares a lot better than running to the bank 'cap in hand' to try and get extra lending to spend on something such as a year off-work travelling (once Covid subsidies), to fund a renovation, children's education, or for any other reason.

## 5. Refinance or restructure the mortgage

Instead of making extra mortgage payments, there are several choices here which could work well if used in conjunction with the other points on this list:

- **Refinance.** Refinancing is the process of switching a mortgage from one bank to another and renegotiating the terms of the loan. In most cases, the idea is to get a better overall deal, as banks will often entice new business off competitors and offer great rates and even cash incentives.



- **Refix.** When any fixed rate mortgage is coming to the end of the fixed rate term, the bank will offer a new rate. The end of the fixed term is your opportunity to

review your needs, as well as personal and financial circumstances. As NZ mortgage rates have steadily tracked downwards for the last 10 or so years, chances are the situation can be taken advantage of by re-fixing your mortgage at a lower rate.

- **Restructure.** While the mortgage interest rate is important, it's not the only thing to consider. Mortgage restructuring is the process of rearranging a home loan into a winning combination of fixed and perhaps floating interest rates, setting the right term or terms for fixed portions of the loan, and ensuring appropriate loan repayment amounts are set. You could use your surplus income to invest into higher earning investments or to spend on something really important to you.

In many cases, chronically low interest rates and stiff competition between the big banks means that many people can drop their mortgage repayment to increase their regular surplus while still paying off the mortgage in the same timeframe (so the increased regular surplus could be used for a good reason elsewhere), or keep their mortgage repayment the same and still repay it years earlier, or another

arrangement to suit them and their situation.

*Talk with our lending team here at Milestone Direct to see if this might make sense for your situation.*

### The bottom line – should you make extra mortgage payments?

The interest rates for mortgages and bank savings accounts are at historical lows and are expected to stay somewhere near current levels for some time yet.

This means mortgage interest rates are expected to be at least a couple of percent lower than what a diversified investment portfolio is likely to earn in an average year, and that difference is where the wealth-building opportunity may lie for many people who are currently repaying a mortgage or considering making extra mortgage payments.

Of course, things are not always a clear-cut equation, so it would be the pleasure of our team to have a chat about which option or combination of them might best suit your particular situation. This includes if you'd like to explore investing, refinancing or restructuring your mortgage. If you leave your details below, we will get in touch in one working day.

*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.



# 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 the Task Group CRIB mission to Afghanistan, 2003-2013.



# PERSONAL MESSAGES

The deadline for contributions and personal messages for The Bugle is the last Friday of each month (**the next edition deadline is 28 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

### Dear Josh, Zac and Mummy

I hope you've all had a fantastic summer holiday – I wish I could have been there to enjoy it with you. All the very best for the three of you going back to school. I can't believe you're five already Josh! I'm so excited to hear about all the things you and Zac learn this term.

With all my love  
Daddy  
xoxox

### Hi K

Wishing you a happy wedding anniversary and another great year together.

Thinking of you lots over here.

All my love,  
J

### Dear Harry, Arlo, Max and Everett

I hope you all had a good time in Onemana. Well done at Colgate Games Arlo and Harry! Can't wait to be home soon. I have presents!  
Love Dad

## From Home

### To Koro

I miss you heaps and can't wait to see you when you come back! I've been doing lots of learning at kindy and with mummy and dada. I am loving my new home too. We hope you had a good Christmas and next time you see me, I'll be a big 5 year old!!

Lots of love, from Moko Maihi xx

### To Dad

Missing you heaps Dad. It's going to feel different with you not being in Palmy once you're back! We love seeing your photos and hope you're enjoying your Xmas/New Years in Sinai. See you in May!

We love you so much xx  
Ariana and Liam

### Hi Dadda

We miss you very very much and can't wait to see you when you get back. We loved our Xmas presents and are looking forward to going to Hanmer but we will miss you not being there and going in the slides with us. We loved you lots and lots.

Love Marcus and Jacob

### P Squared

Not long to go now my runner bean. I miss you heaps and am looking forward to creating more wonderful memories when you return. It's been a long wait for you to come home and I can't wait to snuggle into your arms- it's bliss! xx

### Studdles

Almost home time! We are getting ever so close now. So looking forward to you walking into OUR first home and to creating more wonderful memories with you.

Thinking of you always and loving of a face xxx



## Send your Valentine a Special Message

The next edition will be the one before  
**Valentine's Day** so if you are thinking of  
putting in an extra special message for your Valentine, make sure  
you don't miss the deadline of **28 January**

**STARTING NOW!**

**GRATEFUL  
JAR 2022**

## Grateful Jar — 2022

Starting now, write good things that happen to you on little pieces of paper and then put them in a jar:

- ♥ Memories worth saving
- ♥ Accomplished goals
- ♥ The beauty of nature
- ♥ LOL moments
- ♥ Surprise gifts
- ♥ Daily blessings

Then on 31 December, open the jar and read all the amazing things that happened to you in 2022

## New Year Resolutions

A New Year's resolution is a tradition in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behaviour to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life.

### Origins:

- \* Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts.
- \* The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named.
- \* In the Medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry.

Source: [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)



Early 20th Century New Year's resolution postcard.

# RSA CHRISTMAS BOXES ENJOYED IN OUR DEPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

ANTARCTICA



BAHRAIN



DUBAI



SOUTH SUDAN