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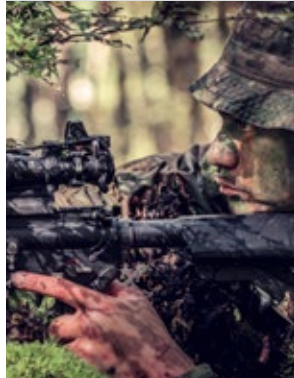


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**Letter from the editor**

This is my final issue of *Army News*. When I first began editing the paper I thought I would only be here for a maximum of a few years. I stayed in the role for 17 years though because I love what the Army does. It has been a privilege to have access to everyone in the Army and to write stories about the amazing work our personnel do both in New Zealand and overseas. Thank you for supporting me – answering my questions, explaining technical issues, and suggesting stories. It has been appreciated.

Go well, and keep up your outstanding work.

– **Judith Martin**

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA  
**NZ ARMY**

**HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA**  
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

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**army.mil.nz**

**Cover Image:** Soldiers from New Zealand Army's 16 Field Regiment and soldiers from the Royal Fiji Military force fire mortars in the Nausori highlands during exercise Cartwheel 2024.

**Photo:** LAC Andy Jenkins

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**The Sergeant Major of the Army and I feel incredibly privileged to be leading this team, and today is further proof of what an incredible whānau we are in Ngāti Tūmatauenga. It was a special occasion that we'll treasure for a long time.**

– MAJGEN Rose King

# NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA

Chief of Army, Major General Rose King, assumed official command at a ceremony held at the Army's spiritual home, Rongomaraeroa o Ngā Hau e Whā, in Waiouru in late September.

The special Army korowai was given to Major General King – symbolising prestige, mana, connection to the Army whakapapa, and the roots of the Army's cultural identity.

The new Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Class One Dave Alder, also received his taonga, 'Te Toa', a ceremonial pace-stick symbolising his role as the Army's top soldier.

Photo: CPL Naomi James



# **ARMY NEWS CAUGHT UP WITH THE NEW SMA RECENTLY**

The prospect of adventure and a life less ordinary is what inspired Sergeant Major of the Army Warrant Officer Class one Dave Alder to become a soldier.

## Why did you join the Army?

I reflect on this moment often. The inspiration for my joining the Army was an Infantry Staff Sergeant (recruiter) that came to my college during a careers night. I was sitting with my dad as he described what serving in the Army was all about – let's be honest, selling it to the parents. I was keen on adventure and a life less ordinary. After all I was an active 15-year-old who wanted an adventure rather than more schooling. Whilst initially unsuccessful due to the ceasing of the RF Cadets programme, I was successful at 17½ for an adult entry on Basic All-Arms 282.

## How have things changed most since you joined?

I joined the Army at a time towards the end of the first Gulf War (Operations Desert Storm) that saw a shift in the way war was prosecuted from an analogue approach to one that began to employ emerging technologies like GPS and digital radios.

While there remained echoes of the Cold War during my initial entry into Ngāti Tū, the global environment remained relatively stable until September 2001. Since the early 2000's global dynamics have changed considerably with the rise of an assertive China, the rise of global terrorism as well as the awakening of a belligerent Russia under President Putin, all of which has significantly changed the strategic landscape significantly and continues to challenge the post World War Two order and norms.

While the change to the strategic landscape is one part of the significant change I have seen, the other and complementary evolving is the weaponisation and use of emergent technologies. These technological advancements not only deliver lethality at range, but also operated in domains that are not visible to the human eye, like space and cyber. Both have the opportunity for kinetic effects; however, both can be used to have crippling non-kinetic impacts on a nation-state's critical infrastructure.

The final area that I will touch on is the changing demographics of New Zealanders who volunteer to service in the Army. Without a doubt they are more intelligent, are tech-natives and are seeking to be challenged through service. However, the current service members are geared to try other things in four to five year increments, this is very different from the norms of the 1990's and early 2000's. I have seen the organisation begin to shift the new norm of a more transient force to remain a credible and competent small Army.

## Why did you join the SAS?

I was posted very early in my career to the Regiment in Hobsonville and being emerged in a high performing culture that was mission focused shaped my future career. However, my journey into 1 NZSAS Regiment was not smooth by any means. The physical entry standards caught me out a number of times in which I failed two NZSAS selections courses.

In 2005 I was at a crossroad in my career. I had several operational deployments and was in an appointment that I was comfortable in, however, I knew I could be better, I knew I could do more. Fortunately, an opportunity presented itself to undergo a selection process to be part of the NZSAS' domestic counter-terrorism team. This was something that I had to have a go at and fortunately I was successful and began my Special Operations career in the first group of CTTAG Operators – later know as Commandos.

## What have been the high lights of your career so far?

I have several career highlights, but if group them together into themes they would be:

**Operational deployments.** The opportunity to deploy, to represent your nation and practise your purpose is something that you can take pride in.

**Leadership roles.** The many roles that have spanned from Section Commander to SMA have provided opportunity to shape, nurture and encourage talented New Zealanders to realise their potential. Seeing the progress and success of people I have had a small impact on is awe inspiring.

**Representing New Zealand, the Army, and its people.** As I assumed more senior roles within the Army, I could engage globally with defence allies, partners and friends. Without a doubt, the common theme is how awesome the Kiwi soldier is. This was recently highlighted by comments from the 7 (Aus) Bde's command team as a result of Exercise Diamond Run – 'the Kiwis are the exemplar we are using.'

## What are the main challenges facing soldiers today?

They range from the degradation of key infrastructure, limited operational opportunities as well as an erosion of the offer of service (a UK term that is broader than what we understand as conditions of service).

However, while there are challenges, I see opportunity. The opportunity for Army at all levels to return to its purpose – the application of controlled violence within the land domain to secure or protect New Zealand's interests.

## How will you encourage soldiers to have their say and let you know how they are feeling and thinking?

The chain of command provides an important function for Army insofar that potential solutions, concerns, or opportunities can be elevated and actioned at the right level – section through to unit and beyond.

However, to contact me as the SMA there are several options open to the Army community. The first and most well known is the SMA Blog. This platform is being reviewed to understand if it is delivering on its original design and how could it be better optimised as an informing and sharing platform – being worked on. A second option is to send an email to [sergentmajorofarmy@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:sergentmajorofarmy@nzdf.mil.nz) highlighting thoughts, options that could be considered or questions for me. Additional social media platforms are the Sergeant Major of the New Zealand Army page and the New Zealand Army Community Group that are both on Facebook and have a message option and comments sections. A final option to share what our people are thinking is to talk to me. I am a people person and like to talk, if you see me out and about either in Camps or out in public, I will have time to chat – I may not have any answers you are after, but will be available to listen.



# EX CARTWHEEL

**MORTARS AND MACHINE  
GUNS PACK THE PUNCH IN  
LATEST FIJI-NEW ZEALAND  
ARMY EXERCISE**



## Nearly 50 New Zealand Army personnel have returned from Fiji following an incredibly valuable week of mortar and machine gun tactical training exercises.

Exercise Cartwheel involved soldiers from 16th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery and 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment delivering training courses to Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) personnel, to further build their 81mm mortar and sustained-fire machine gun capabilities.

The exercise culminated with a live fire exercise in the Nausori Highlands, which was a prime opportunity for RFMF and NZ Army soldiers to not only put theory into practice, but also enhance the relationship between the two forces and their ability to work together in a jungle warfare environment.

1 (NZ) Brigade Commander, Colonel Ben Bagley, was in Fiji for part of the exercise and says these opportunities are invaluable.

“Purely on a tactical and technical level, any opportunity to get our soldiers into the field and put their skills into practice is fantastic, but Exercise Cartwheel is much more than just that. It allows us to spend some valuable time with one of our key Pacific partners in the RFMF and enhance our interoperability,” Colonel Bagley said.

“The feedback we receive from the RFMF has always been positive around this exercise, and we equally value the opportunity to come and learn from our partners – it goes both ways.”

Images: Soldiers from New Zealand Army's 16 Field Regiment and soldiers from the Royal Fiji Military force fire mortars in the Nausori highlands during exercise Cartwheel 2024.

Photos: LAC Andy Jenkins



Exercise Cartwheel is an annual RFMF-US Army Pacific bilateral exercise designed to train, assess and build light infantry and Combat Support warfighting capability. Partner nations like Australia and the United Kingdom are regular participants of the exercise, with the NZ Army involved in the past three editions.

“Getting the opportunity to link up with our partners for these exercises in the field are critical for our relationships in the region, because fundamentally we – Ngāti Tūmataunga, the New Zealand Army – are from, and of the Pacific. What happens here is of huge significance to us all,” Colonel Bagley said.

“We’d just like to thank our friends and partners in the RFMF for their continued trust and support in us, and welcoming us back here every year. The camaraderie between our people is as strong as ever, and we look forward to the next opportunity to link up.”

Commanding Officer Third Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment (3FIR), Lieutenant Colonel Atunaisa Vakatale, says the exercise marks another milestone in the defence partnership of both nations, and reflects the understanding, trust and shared vision between both armies.

“It also highlights the successful transfer of knowledge and skills, and the completion of training objectives that immensely contributes to the readiness and capabilities of both forces,” Lieutenant Colonel Vakatale said.

“I am certain the training activities over the past three weeks have not only further enhanced our cooperation and interoperability, but it has also set the conditions for more people-to-people connections and networking amongst our troops.”



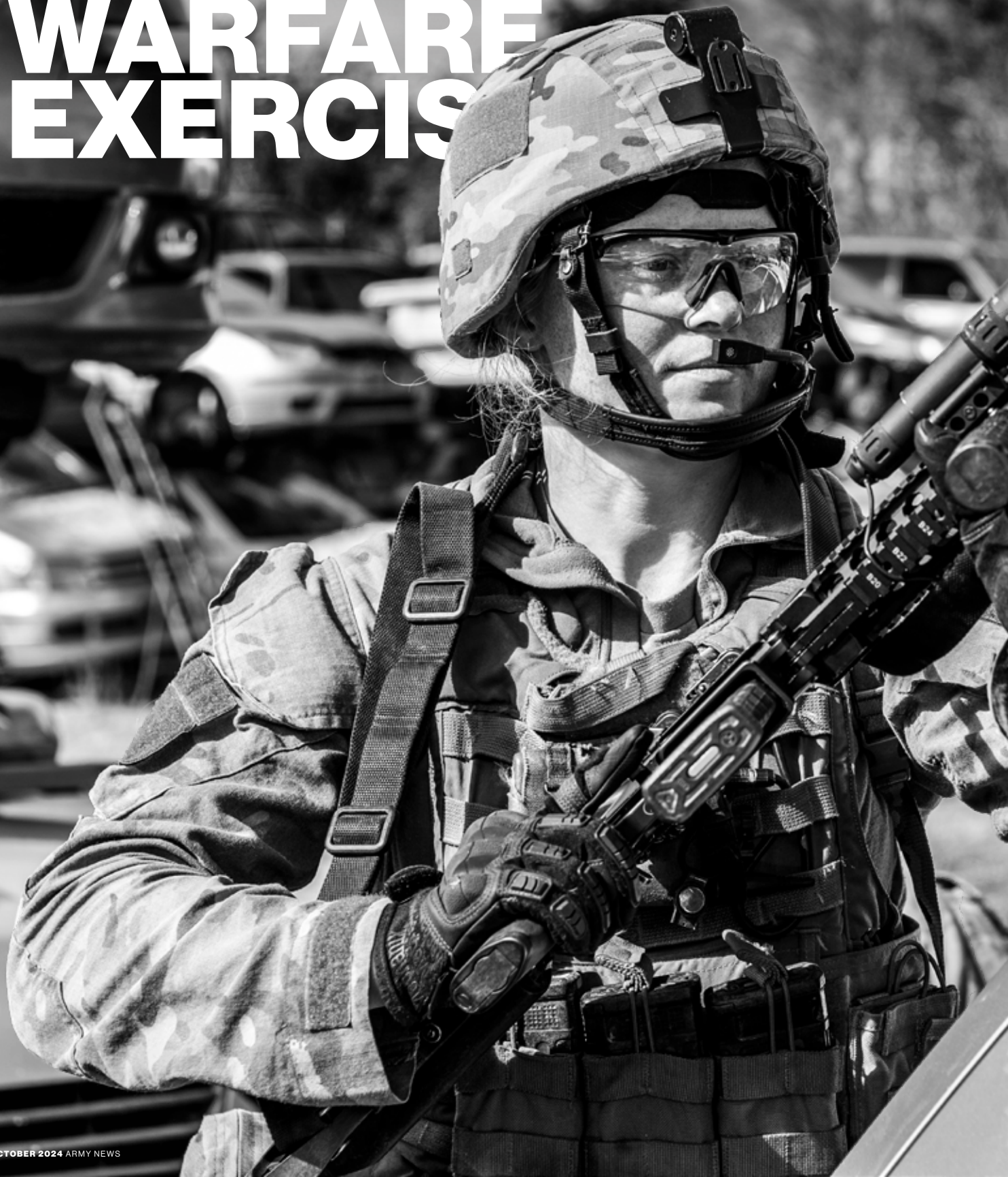
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**It also highlights the successful transfer of knowledge and skills, and the completion of training objectives that immensely contributes to the readiness and capabilities of both forces.**

- LTCOL Atunaisa Vakatale



# WAIPUKURAU HOSTS URBAN WARFARE EXERCISE





## Waipukurau recently emerged from winter to become a fictional South Pacific island where New Zealand Army Officer Cadets have been tested on their skills in urban warfare.

Designed to be as realistic as possible, the 100-strong Exercise Santici was carried out in the Hawke's Bay town late last month and featured enemy ambushes, improvised explosive devices, meeting with key leaders, aid distribution, and convoy protection for key people.

Forty cadets were assessed on their ability to command and lead sections and platoons that included infantry, engineers, caterers, signals, intelligence and Light Armoured Vehicles.

"Carrying out urban stability and support operations is very different from the close and open country fighting they had done up until now," says Lead Planner Captain Finlay Dick.

Urban security and stability operations require finesse, especially when working with key community leaders and the local community, where you rely on their goodwill and cooperation to achieve your mission," he said.

Cadets were required to conduct platoon tasks both as an independent platoon and as part of a larger company manoeuvre.

"Part of the exercise involved feedback from the platoon soldiers, who were able to report back on the effectiveness of their orders and plan of attack which is invaluable learning for cadets about to become officers," Captain Dick said.

Officer Cadets who successfully pass the NZ Army Commissioning Course will graduate in December before heading off to different sections of the NZ Army. Exercise Santici was also held in Waipukurau last year.



# EXALPHA

INTEGRATING ENGINEERS WITH INFANTRY

*Images: Alpha Company, 2nd/1st Battalion Royal NZ Infantry deployed to Springs Junction near the South Islands West Coast. The company trained in close country tactics, locating and clearing points of interest. The infantry also utilised an engineer attachment to clear any booby traps on the patrols.*

*Photos: CPL Sean Spivey*



## Set in the bush of the South Islands West Coast, intensified with torrential rain, platoon-sized fighting patrols cleared the Area of Operations (AO) for Enemy reconnaissance patrols.

Exercise Alpha, led by 2nd/1st Battalion's Alpha Company, saw the integration of Combat Engineers from Burnham's 3 Field Squadron, enabling increased threat complexity within the AO via booby trapping and cache clearances.

Combat Engineer Lance Corporal Angus Wallace said being in the close country provided unique challenges for the sappers as they didn't have the same access to equipment they would if they were on mounted vehicles.

"You had to be smart about what you were carrying. We had engineering kits that contained the basic items to help us deal with anything that we might have come across," Lance Corporal Wallace said.

This included grenades on trip wires and claymores on switches.

"If there was anything suspicious like a booby trap or a cache we worked with security to rectify the issue or provide guidance on what we could do if we couldn't deal with it then and there," he said.

"It's based on the principles of our search capability; looking for suspicious areas, ground sign awareness and taking into account the environment and threat level.

"It is a different sort of engineering for us in the bush but we just tried not to over complicate things.

"We did have to change a few things due to the tactical environment. Methods such as disrupting a device using a pull line or explosives to blow in place needed to be avoided.

"Instead we opted for a silent methodical approach to ensure the patrol would not be compromised; this consisted of hands-on methods like re-pinning grenades and removing detonators."

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**There is certainly a relationship between how tough something is, and how proud you feel at the end.**

– MAJ Mike Coom



The training was designed as a progression from Exercise Pacific Kukri conducted earlier in the 2024, again replicating a South West Pacific operating environment.

Officer Commanding Alpha Company Major Mike Coom said that realistic and unrelenting scenarios were a step up in training, forcing people to tighten up their drills.

“We employed Detachments from the unit’s Reconnaissance Platoon to operate as our enemy party, but with the view to meet their own training outputs. This meant acquiring, tracking, and on occasion, disrupting our fighting patrols, in what was a predominately free-play scenario,” Major Coom said.

“With limited scripting, both BLUFOR and REDFOR can think critically about their opposition, and seek to target each other’s respective vulnerabilities. In a free-play scenario, the force that executes their Tactics Techniques and Procedure (TTPs) to best effect is rewarded, while the opposite is also true. This amplifies the feeling of individual and collective accountability in a constructive way.”

With the addition of heavy rain throughout the exercise, for some, physical and mental limits were also tested.

“There is certainly a relationship between how tough something is, and how proud you feel at the end,” Major Coom said.

Overall the outcome of Exercise Alpha was a progression in trained state for the close to 100 personnel involved.

LAST FLIGHTS TO

# ANTARCTICA



**The New Zealand Defence Force has kicked off its summer season in Antarctica with its first ice flights for the season, in support of New Zealand and United States Antarctic programmes.**

*Photo: CPL Sean Spivey*



Images: One of the last C-130H flights to Antarctica. The new C-130J model aircraft will soon be starting their first ice flights.

NZDF personnel are an integral part of operations in Antarctica, holding a variety of roles, photographed here with Antarctica NZ staff.

Photos: CPL Sean Spivey

The New Zealand Defence Force has kicked off its summer season in Antarctica with its first ice flights for the season, in support of New Zealand and United States Antarctic programmes.

Every year the NZDF provides people power to Antarctica New Zealand by deploying personnel in a variety of roles to Antarctica. Other personnel support Antarctic operations from New Zealand.

As well, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) transports people and cargo to and from Antarctica as part of its support to New Zealand and the United States world-leading science and research programmes.

These commitments are part of New Zealand's contribution to the NZ/US Joint Logistics Pool, which supports both nations' Antarctic programmes.

From September to March, around 15 flights are scheduled to go to Antarctica, using the RNZAF's Hercules and Boeing 757 aircraft.

The first flights to Antarctica got underway recently and mark what will be among the last for the retiring C-130(H)NZ type of Hercules aircraft.

The RNZAF's first C-130H aircraft arrived in New Zealand in April 1965 and within six months of coming into service landed on the ice in Antarctica for the first time that year. This month the last flights for the C-130H aircraft will be flown – marking 60 seasons of Antarctica support.

Air Component Commander Air Commodore Andy Scott says the RNZAF's new C-130J-30 Hercules will soon take over, with its first ice flights scheduled to start in November.

"Our C-130H aircraft have provided incredible service over many years, but we're looking forward to using our newer and faster C-130J which also has a larger carrying capacity, which means it can transport more passengers and cargo to the ice."

The NZDF typically deploys around 140 personnel each year to Antarctica. That includes a team based at Harewood Terminal in Christchurch, who are responsible for moving passengers and cargo on a variety of flights operated by the RNZAF and United States Air Force.

From September 2023 to April 2024, this team facilitated 72 return flights, moving around 4,000 passengers and 1.3 million kgs of cargo between New Zealand and Antarctica.

The NZDF deploys personnel to work at New Zealand's Scott Base, including as communications operators, who keep in touch with field research teams 24/7.

At the US National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station, NZDF personnel are employed in a variety of roles, from logistics to firefighters, fuel operators, drivers, and ship offload teams. A team of NZDF tradespeople help with maintenance and building works at both bases.

Major Lucy Wright, the senior national officer who manages the NZDF deployment to Antarctica, says it is logistically challenging as personnel surge in and out depending on their role, with weather changes at times requiring quick thinking and juggling of the schedule.

"It's not uncommon for aircraft to turn back to Christchurch, known as a 'boomerang', at the start or end of the season due to weather. It pays to be prepared for a longer stay, with extra clothing just in case," she said.

"It's truly something special to be working with Antarctica New Zealand and the United States Antarctic Program helping them deliver their Antarctica operations. It's a great team effort."



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**It's truly something special to be working with Antarctica New Zealand and the United States Antarctic Program helping them deliver their Antarctica operations. It's a great team effort.**

– MAJ Lucy Wright



# RECENT KEY APPOINTMENTS WITHIN ARMY ANNOUNCED

## Deputy Chief of Army

COL Hamish Gibbons has been appointed the Deputy Chief of Army (DCA), on promotion to BRIG.

## Land Component Commander

COL Jason Dyhrberg, DSD, has been appointed as the Land Component Commander (LCC), on promotion to BRIG.

## Assistant Chief Capability

BRIG Matt Weston has been appointed as the Assistant Chief Capability (AC Cap).

## Chief of the Information Environment

COL Esther Harrop, MNZM, has been appointed as the Chief of the Information Environment (CIE), effective 16 December 24, on promotion to BRIG. COL Harrop has just completed her studies at the Eisenhower School in Washington DC.

## J4 Strategy United States Indo-Pacific Command

BRIG Jim Bliss has been appointed the J4 Strategy United States Indo-Pacific Command (J4S US INDOPACOM), Hawaii, effective 16 December 24. BRIG Jim Bliss has recently returned to New Zealand from being the Defence Attaché London.

## Commander 1st New Zealand Brigade

COL Mike Van Welie has been appointed as the Commander 1st New Zealand Brigade (Comd 1 NZ Bde), effective 9 December 24. COL Van Welie is currently the Assistant Chief of Army (Strategy) in Army General Staff.

## Assistant Chief of Army (Strategy), Army General Staff

COL Ben Bagley has been appointed as the Assistant Chief of Army (Strategy), Army General Staff (ACA (Strat), AGS), effective 9 December 24. COL Bagley is currently the Commander 1st New Zealand Brigade.

## Assistant Chief of Army (Delivery), Army General Staff

LTCOL Ian Brandon has been appointed as the Assistant Chief of Army (Delivery), Army General Staff (ACA (Del), AGS), effective 9 Dec 24, on promotion to COL. LTCOL Ian Brandon is currently the Military Advisor, London.

## Deputy Commander 25th Infantry Division

COL Aiden Shattock has been appointed Deputy Commander 25th Infantry Division (Dep Comd 25 ID), Hawaii, effective 28 February 25. COL Shattock is currently the Assistant Chief of Army (Training) in Army General Staff.

## Assistant Chief of Army (Training), Army General Staff

COL Paul Hayward has been appointed as the Assistant Chief of Army (Training), Army General Staff (ACA (Trg), AGS), effective 28 February 25. COL Hayward is currently the Deputy Commander 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii.

## Chief of Staff People Capability Portfolio

COL Ben Pitt has been appointed as the Chief of Staff People Capability Portfolio (CoS PCP), effective 30 Sep 24. COL Pitt is currently a Special Project Officer in the People Capability Portfolio.

## Principal Defence Chaplain

LTCOL Dave Lacey CHAP 2nd Class has been appointed as the Principal Defence Chaplain (PDC), effective 6 February 25, promotion to COL, CHAP 1st Class. LTCOL Lacey is currently the Principal Chaplain (Operations).

## Warrant Officer Class One positions:

- WO1 Jase Wells, RNZA to RSM LOTC; WEF 09 Dec 24
- WO1 Carlo De Negri, RNZA to RSM 16 Fd Regt, WEF 09 Dec 24
- WO1 Glen Savage, RNZIR to RSM 1 RNZIR; WEF 09 Dec 24
- WO1 Regan Cherrington, RNZIR to RSM 3/6 RNZIR; WEF 09 Dec 24
- WO1 Clint Grant, RNZIR to RSM 5/7 RNZIR; WEF Jul 25
- WO1 Ed Dore-Wright, RNZIR to RSM NZCTC; WEF 09 Dec 24.

## Deputy Chief of Joint Operations with the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

MAJGEN Hugh McAslan has been appointed Deputy Chief of Joint Operations with the ADF.

## Did you know?

Army Reserves are not able to claim for the use of a private motor vehicle for travel to and from training. Nonetheless, a Reserve is deemed 'on duty' from when they leave their residence to travel to the training location until they return to their residence at the completion of the training.

*Image left: LT Joseph Corbett outside the High Court in his civilian role working in Wellington at the Office of the Wellington Crown Solicitor, Luke Cunningham Clere.*

*Image right: LT Corbett during his Platoon Commander Training.*



# RESERVE FORCE Q&A

By WO1 Timothy Sincock

## An Army Reserve Career

In the September 2024 Army News, there was an article by Warrant Officer Career Management (Army) titled: "Comment" (page 25). The content of the article applies equally to reservists, who must build their capability and experience and be exposed to new challenges and areas for development. Clear expectations and timeframes assist with developing skills and qualifications to meet both individual career goals and Army's requirements.

There are similarities in career planning between the Regular Force (RF) and the Reserve Force (ResF), but the full-time and part-time components have different challenges:

- Reserves will not be moved around the country to take up a new posting, nor, under normal circumstances, will they deploy at short-notice on an operation, exercise, or course. As a reservist, the challenge is balancing their commitments as their career direction develops and their lives (vocation and family) demand.
- Military roles and career pathways may feel less structured than their RF contemporaries, due to the minimum training expectations (20 days per training year).
- Less time (training day priorities) is afforded to career management and limited access to modern and networked-enabled solutions that enable reservists to work and communicate with both regular and reserve colleagues remotely compounds this.

Responsibilities – As WO1 Whitelaw alluded in his article, career development is both a command and individual responsibility. You can seek advice and support from your local leadership. Although the unique nature of ResF service and training means that you may not have routine performance conversations with your leadership, you should feel empowered to initiate this discussion, especially if you have a particular career ambition or have identified an opportunity you would like to pursue.



# PIONEER BATTALION

**HISTORIC RECOGNITION FOR  
TE HOKOWHITU A TŪ, MĀORI SOLDIERS  
IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

*Image: The New Zealand  
Maori (Pioneer) Battalion  
being inspected while  
over in England. Credit:  
Alexander Turnbull Library.*

# In a significant and historic step, His Majesty King Charles III has approved a recommendation to award 22 First World War battle honours to Te Hokowhitu a Tū – the New Zealand Maori Contingent and New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion.



Image: The New Zealand Maori Contingent at No 1 Outpost in Gallipoli, Turkey.  
Credit: Alexander Turnbull Library.

“The award of these battle honours will add to the kōrero of the actions of Te Hokowhitu a Tū at Gallipoli and the Western Front in the First World War, and of their courageous service and sacrifice. They are a source of pride for all of those who have and continue to serve in Ngāti Tūmataungā, the New Zealand Army,” said Chief of Army Major General Rose King.

The tradition of awarding battle honours in Commonwealth countries dates back to the 18th Century, when they were sewn onto the flags of infantry battalions (colours) and cavalry regiments (guidons) to recognise feats of courage and steadfastness on the battlefield.

Although colours and guidons are no longer carried into battle, they continue to represent the spirit, history, service, and sacrifice of the units which carry them.

Earlier this year, a battle honours committee of senior serving and retired New Zealand Army personnel, chaired by former Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Rhys Jones CNZM, considered New Zealand Defence Force historians’ research regarding the failure to award battle honours to the New Zealand Maori Contingent and the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion. The units served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front during the First World War and were disbanded in 1919.

The research identified the main failing was in trying to adapt the historic British Army tradition of awarding battle honours to the New Zealand Army’s post-war structure. The two units were considered to have no direct links to the post-war Army, and therefore no successor units which could carry their battle honours.

“Because of this, no battle honours were ever awarded to them, despite the fact that their entitlement had been clearly established and a list of eligible battle honours placed on a file,” said Major General King.

The committee recommended that a total of 22 battle honours be granted to the New Zealand Maori Contingent and the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion. The Army then formally sought approval for the award of these battle honours, and this was supported by the Minister of Defence and recommended by the Prime Minister for approval by The King.

Major General King particularly acknowledged the work of her predecessor, Major General John Boswell, who instigated this kaupapa, and the contributions made by leaders from the wider Army whānau.

Two of the 22 honours awarded to the New Zealand Maori Contingent and the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion are unique to those battalions, which means they were not awarded to any other New Zealand infantry unit. The New Zealand Maori Contingent is the only New Zealand infantry battalion to be awarded the Gallipoli battle honour “Hill 60 (Anzac)”, and the battle honour “Delville Wood” (an engagement fought during the 1916 Battle of the Somme) is unique to the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion.

“This recognition restores to our tūpuna and to all who have served their rightful place in our shared history. It is a moment to reflect on the enduring spirit of those who served,” Major General King said.

The New Zealand Maori Contingent at Gallipoli has also joined other New Zealand infantry units in holding the battle honour “Sari Bair”, which was awarded to those who fought at Chunuk Bair in August 1915. It was on the eve of this battle, the Contingent’s first, that Chaplain Henare Wainohu delivered an emotional and now famous address to the men encamped at the “Maori Pah”:

“Fellow members of a brave family... you are the descendants of warlike ancestors, a handful of warriors amongst the many thousands of men here. The name and honour of the Māori people lies in your hands today. Therefore, my brothers, you will by your noble deeds light such a fire on the mountains that it can never be quenched. Ahakoa iti te Kōpara, kai takirikiri ana i runga i te Kahikatea. Accordingly, I desire you to reach the top of those mountains.”



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TROOPS TO

# BOSNIA



## New Zealand's 15-year long commitment to Bosnia-Herzegovina saw the first deployment of Kiwi combat troops since the Vietnam War.

In 1994, following a tenuous peace agreement in a multi-factional war, the first of three 253-strong reinforced rifle companies with supporting elements was sent from New Zealand to Bosnia-Herzegovina

Although each rifle company was attached to a British Regiment it took with it an impressive (at the time), assortment of kit with 101 major items of equipment – 26 armoured personnel carriers, 10 Unimog trucks, 23 land rovers, engineering plant, forklifts, field kitchens, and containers of equipment.

After the last of these returned home the NZDF continued to maintain a presence to encourage stability, the rule of law and good governance, and growth.

In the latter years of the mission the NZDF deployed personnel to Prijedor, a predominantly Serbian town in the north west of the country where they formed a liaison observation team which was part of a British and Dutch-led force. Three New Zealand Army personnel were also based at Banja Luka, 45 km from Prijedor and were part of a team which oversaw the dozen or so multi-lateral liaison observation teams working throughout the region.

In 2007, New Zealand's commitment to the troubled Balkan state ended. The New Zealand flag was lowered on June 29 at a ceremony in Sarajevo, officially ending the Kiwi involvement in the international peace-keeping effort in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



# NZDF CONTRIBUTES TO SOLOMON ISLANDS EXPLOSIVES DISPOSAL WORK

**Fourteen NZDF personnel joined a multinational contingent in Solomon Islands to dispose of dangerous explosive remnants of war (ERW) under Operation Render Safe recently.**

The Australian Defence Force-led operation saw up to 250 personnel from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and United States in support of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) experts from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) to dispose of the munitions left from the Second World War.

The Kiwi team was made up of seven Royal New Zealand Navy and seven New Zealand Army personnel in EOD, command, medical, logistics and catering roles, supporting the largest ever land-based Operation Render Safe.

Captain S (identity withheld) is the Senior National Officer for the New Zealand contingent and an EOD operator, and said that the operation will make a real difference to the safety of communities in Solomon Islands' Western Province.

"More than 2600 explosive remnants of war have been removed from communities in Solomon Islands' Western Province so far, and it has been a privilege to be a part of the multinational team dedicated to reducing this number and improving the safety of the local population.

"The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, as regional experts in explosive ordnance disposal, play a crucial role in this effort. We are proud to collaborate with them and our military partners to reduce the potential harm to communities here."

The Kiwis arrived in Australia in mid-August to conduct Force integration training, which gave all participating nations a good understanding of how each other work, before deploying into the area of operations in Solomon Islands last week.



# MILITARY CHEFS BATTLE IT OUT

THE 47TH ROY SMITH MEMORIAL  
TROPHY COMPETITION





## The Navy team took out the coveted Roy Smith Trophy

Five teams from the Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand Army, Australian Army and Australian Defence Force competed in the two-day competition at Devonport Naval Base, which aims to foster catering excellence in the New Zealand Defence Force and across the ditch.

Warrant Officer First Class Manu Ferguson, from the Defence Catering School, is the competition controller and said it was an honour to be part of the historic competition.

“The competition started in 1977, so it’s been a long time running. I started off in the catering school when I first joined the Army, so to have started off as a student and now being the chief instructor, is an honour and it feels like coming full circle. For me, it’s more than just a cooking competition, it’s a way of life. It teaches our people about team work, work ethic, commitment, and it gives our young soldiers and sailors a chance to be a part of history,” he said.

Each team is made up of two chefs, a front of house steward, a coach and a manager. Over the two days, the front of house is tested on stewarding, serving, setting tables, making cocktails and mocktails and their communication skills between themselves and the chefs.

“There’s a round that focuses on kitchen work, including health and safety of food preparation, team work in the kitchen and the service of plating up meals. And the competition culminates with an eight-course meal, blind-judged by Defence Force Catering School instructors and also served to diners,” he said.

Able Seaman Maritime Logistics Support Operator Harley Seckold, Personal Staff to the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia took part in the event.

“This is the second time that an ADF tri-service team has participated but it’s my first time in New Zealand and participating in the competition. It’s been great, working with foreign military teams, seeing how everyone does things, having fun, building camaraderie and international Navy relations. It’s watching how the New Zealand Hospitality sailors work and bringing any pointers from the winning back to Australia so we can be stronger competitors next year.

Warrant Officer Ferguson says working with our Anzac partners across the Tasman is vital for international engagement.

“We work with them in operations and field exercise, both land and sea and this is another way we can enhance our relationship,” he said.

Lance Corporal Storm Van Zyl from 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion (2CSSB) at Linton Military Camp competed as a chef in last year’s winning team and this year, she tried her hand at front of house.

“It’s great seeing everyone’s ideas and learning to see how other people work between Navy and Army. It’s really cool working with Australia as well. I competed at Australia Defence catering competition called Exercise Golden Plate competition last year in Brisbane. It was a competition based in the field rather than fine dining; more like adventure dining, shooting, going on big walks and then cooking, but it was great learning.”

PTE Taygon Jean-Louise won the 1st Year chef category. “I was surprised to win the award. My first Roy Smith memorial competition was a wonderful experience, the level of cooking, plating up and display of the dishes was inspiring to see. I was blown away with the level of competition especially the desserts. As a steward, it was a unique experience being that I’m a chef and front of house work is foreign to me but the chance to work with Australian Stewards was much appreciated.”

“

The competition culminates with an eight-course meal, blind-judged by Defence Force Catering School instructors and also served to diners.

– WO1 Manu Ferguson

## The following teams participated

Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand Army (2nd Combat Service Support Battalion – Linton Military Camp, 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion – Burnham Military Camp), Australian Army 17th Sustainment Brigade team, Australian Defence Force Combined team.

## The category winners for 2024

**1st Year Chef**  
PTE Taygon Jean-Louise

**2nd Year Chef**  
LCPL Emily Chamberlin

**Quizzene Cup**  
RNZN

**Murray Ross**  
2CSSB

**Harvey Bourne**  
17th Sustainment Brigade  
(Australian Army)

**Dave Murray**  
LHS Andre'a Falchi

**Fretwell Downing**  
RNZN

**Roy Smith**  
RNZN

**Te Ope Kātua O Aotearoa**  
17th Sustainment Brigade  
(Australian Army)



# INTER-SERVICE FOOTBALL

**WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS: NZ ARMY**  
**MEN'S CHAMPIONS: RNZN**



**Army women were the victors in the inter-service football competition held recently. For the first time in 38 years Navy men took the honours from their Air and Army colleagues.**



## Results

### Women's competition:

Game 1

**RNZAF 0 – RNZN 0**

Game 2

**NZ Army 5 – RNZN 1**

Game 3

**NZ Army 3 – RNZAF 0**

### Men's competition:

Game 1

**NZ Army 4 – RNZAF 2**

Game 2

**RNZAF 2 – RNZN 3**

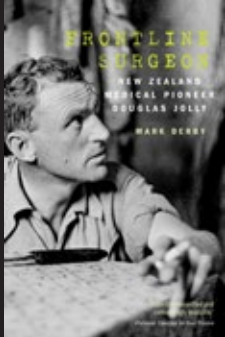
Game 3

**NZ Army 0 – RNZN 1**

*Photos: Mags Media (NZ)*

# BOOK REVIEWS

Book reviews by Jeremy Seed



## FRONTLINE SURGEON

**New Zealand Medical Pioneer Douglas Jolly**

By Mark Derby

Published by Massey University Press

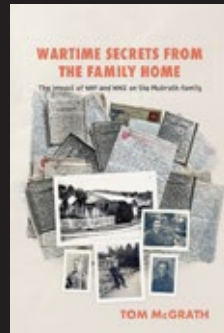
When I was a secondary student in the mid 1980s, an old boy of our school came to address the assembly. All we knew about him was that like us, he had gained his secondary education at Wellington College. He was a very good speaker and talked of the phenomenal technological change that had occurred in his life. As a boy in Wellington, he and his friends would run outside if they heard an aeroplane, so rarely seen were they, and by the time he had graduated university and started work, he was in charge of the team designing and building the first rocket to take men to the moon. This was William Pickering a man of phenomenal intellect and skill who very few New Zealanders had even heard of despite being an absolute world leader in his field. This book reminded me of Pickering because, like him, Jolly was a pioneer who achieved stunning success in his field but is largely unknown.

In the military book reviewing game, books about the medical services are a bit like the anecdotal buses...there is never one when you want and then three come at once. In 2024, I have had three medical books for review, one about a kiwi in Vietnam, one about a kiwi in Yugoslavia in World War 2 and this book, about arguably the greatest New Zealand contributor to military medicine globally.

Doug Jolly was a graduate of Otago Medical School who specialised in surgery. In 1936 when the Spanish Civil War began, there was a flood of volunteers from across the world to fight with the Communist International Brigade against the Nazi and Italian backed Fascists under Franco. The war has been described as history's first total war which enveloped the whole country and everyone in it. The medical challenges were massive and Jolly eagerly joined the International Brigade. Jolly developed a reputation as an excellent field surgeon, but his real claim to military medical immortality came after the fighting was over.

Once he had left Spain, Jolly wrote a manual called "Field Surgery in Total War", published in 1940 the manual quickly became required reading throughout the US military medical services and informed armies worldwide on how best to establish, structure and operate field surgical facilities. Jolly himself served in the British Army during the war and received an OBE in recognition of his leadership and abilities.

This is a superbly researched and written tale of a great New Zealander who was a global pioneer and who deserves to be known about and acknowledged widely.



## WARTIME SECRETS FROM THE FAMILY HOME

**The impact of WW1 and WW2 on the McGrath family**

By Tom McGrath

Published by Writes Hill Press Ltd

Tom McGrath is a Wellington man who inherited a treasure trove of letters and memorabilia relating to family military service which he has mined to produce this book.

McGrath began this project with minimal understanding of the military or the nature of operational service. He clearly put in a great deal of research (all thoroughly detailed in relevant appendices) in order to make sense of and contextualise his grandfather's and his father's experiences, and for that he is to be commended.

McGrath begins the book with an overview of his family's origins in Ireland and England before his grandfather, Frank came to New Zealand where he taught for many years at Whanganui Collegiate. Frank had served with different volunteer units in the UK and in class conscious, pre WW1 UK, he was keen to obtain a commission to boost his social standing. Eventually, during WW1 he was commissioned into the New Zealand Army as a Cadet instructor at Collegiate, but due to his age did not serve overseas.

The bulk of the narrative deals with the experiences of Hugh, Tom's Father in 2NZE and his experiences related through the regular letters he sent home. Unlike protagonists in many of these sort of biographies, Hugh was not excited or upbeat at the prospect of war. Hugh was an intelligent, career focused man, who despite his initial reluctance, volunteered for service early on to have a better chance of getting into a unit he wanted to serve with. Hugh spent most of the war as an RNZA NCO before being commissioned in 1944.

The background to major battles, troop movements and the strategic situation is generally well conveyed by McGrath who provides this 'big picture' detail as background to his father's journey. I only picked up on one minor error in this excellently written and well produced volume...Tom incorrectly states L/Sgt Manahi of 28Bn was posthumously awarded a VC in 2007, but this is one relatively minor error which is only a sidenote to his father's story.

Like many of these family stories, Wartime Secrets from the Family Home will no doubt become a family taonga as it provides a valuable, interesting and highly readable insight into war experienced at the personal level.

# OLD AND BOLD TAKE TO THE FIELD

**\$2,300 was raised for the Afghanistan families who served the New Zealand PRT, and who are now settling into life in Aotearoa New Zealand. Special thanks go to the Upper Hutt Yellow Bellies who separately contributed \$500.**

**Since 2013 an annual Golden Oldies game has been played between the NZDF and other regional teams. The first few games were between the NZDF and the Wairarapa Bush Team. However, as their player numbers reduced it was decided to invite other regional teams and to play the game each year on the Davis Field, Trentham, and to host the visiting teams in the Wellington Regional Support Sports Club.**

To ensure the success of the day the game now involves the Upper Hutt Yellow Bellies, who are the strongest team within the Wellington region. In 2023 the charity game raised funds for a container to transport hospital equipment to Timor-Leste for the Veterans Hospital. Over \$1,300 was raised and the hospital equipment was delivered to Timor-Leste in February 2023. This year the charity game was to support the Afghanistan families now living in Aotearoa New Zealand. The game was played on Sunday 29 September, which combined a beautiful sunny day, with an excellent field, and players from 6 teams. The teams included players travelling from Whanganui, Levin, Palmerston North, and the Wairarapa.

On the day the NZDF fielded a combined team against the Upper Hutt Yellow Bellies. Three twenty minute thirds were played and despite the Yellow Bellies, who play together regularly, immediately dotting down at the start of the game, both teams scored some excellent team tries to ensure that the overall result was a draw.

After the game a series of players of the day were awarded, with WO1 Jason 'Raps' Rapana being awarded the NZDF player of the day. In addition special thanks were made to Dee O'Connor, who each year provides the support that ensures that the day is a success, and to Wayne 'Rado' Radovich from Upper Hutt, and Dean 'Deano' Goodin from the Wairarapa for their support to the annual event, and to Golden Oldies Rugby in the region.

# INTER-SERVICE RUGBY

**WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS: NZ ARMY**  
**MEN'S CHAMPIONS: NZ ARMY**







## A dominant display by Army

The NZ Army rugby teams emerged as the standout players in both the men's and women's competitions at the recent Inter-Service rugby tournament. Their superior fitness, discipline, and teamwork allowed them to sweep the tournament, capturing both the King George V Cup and Tyrell Cup in the men's competition and the Women's Inter-Service 'Black Ferns' Jersey. The Navy, while showing flashes of brilliance, struggled to find consistency, ultimately finishing without a victory and taking home the wooden spoon. The Air Force, though defeated by the Army, earned a morale-boosting win over the Navy, showcasing their resilience and competitive spirit. The tournament, held at Linton Camp, once again showcased the fierce rivalry and camaraderie between New Zealand's Army, Navy, and Air Force. The teams from all three services demonstrated exceptional athleticism, discipline, and tactical expertise across both men's and women's competitions.

## Tournament structure and key matches

The tournament followed a traditional round-robin format for both the men's and women's competitions. The men's tournament consisted of three matches spread over five days, while the women competed in a Sevens tournament on Day 2, followed by a 15-a-side match on Day 5.

### DAY 1:

The Army men kicked off the tournament with a dominant performance against the Air Force, Army 31 – Air 5, setting the tone for the days to come.

### DAY 2:

In the women's Sevens competition, Army once again proved their dominance over Navy and Air with the results being: Army 19 v Air 7; Navy 10 v Air 5; Army 24 v Navy 5.

### DAY 3:

The Air Force men bounced back with a hard-fought win over the Navy, keeping the tournament alive for a dramatic conclusion. Air 22 v Navy 21.

### DAY 5:

The final day featured two standout matches. In the women's 15-a-side match, Army faced a combined Navy and Air Force team in wet and slippery conditions. Despite a strong first half from the combined team, Army pulled away in the second half, securing a comfortable 24–7 victory.

In the men's final, Army clashed with the Navy in a closely contested game. After a back-and-forth first half, Army's powerful forward pack and tactical kicking saw them take control, eventually securing a 17–14 victory over Navy to claim the King George III and Tyrell Cups.



## Match highlights

In the women's 15-a-side final, Army's Crystal May, Jokaveti Waqanivalu and Sam Spence played pivotal roles, leading their team with smart tactical play and powerful runs. Caroline Sio from the combined Navy and Air Force team also impressed with her strong individual performance, but Army's cohesion proved too much for the combined forces team.

The men's final was a closely contested affair. The first half ended 7-7, but Army's forward dominance became clear in the second half. Led by Ben Kimber and Troy Sheriff, Army's scrummaging and tactical kicking kept Navy under pressure. Navy, however, mounted a late comeback, scoring a try in the final 10 minutes, but Army's defences held firm to secure a narrow 17-14 win.

## Notable performances

Several players stood out during the tournament. In the women's competition, Crystal May was a dominant force for Army, while Hehani Kohurangi fought valiantly for the combined Navy and Air Force team.

Air Force players such as Mike Emmerson and Payton Yakas, who led the forward pack, and Desmond Tyrell, a versatile back, were instrumental in their victory over the Navy. Navy's Sione Liuanga and Jimmy Faulafo showed moments of brilliance but couldn't find consistency throughout the tournament.

## Atmosphere and support

Despite challenging weather conditions, the tournament attracted enthusiastic support from military personnel, families, and friends. Army supporters, being the home team, were particularly vocal, while Navy and Air Force fans brought a strong sense of loyalty and camaraderie to the sidelines. The tournament was played in the true spirit of inter-service rivalry, with mutual respect and sportsmanship evident throughout the week.

## Results

Women's Final:

NZ Army **24**  
RNZN/RNZAF **7**

Men's Final:

NZ Army **17**  
RNZN **14**

## Conclusion

The 2024 Inter-Service Rugby Tournament was a resounding success, with the Army firmly establishing itself as the dominant force in both the men's and women's competitions. The tournament not only provided thrilling rugby but also strengthened the bonds of camaraderie and friendly rivalry between New Zealand's military branches. The Army's victories in both the King George III Cup and the Women's 'Black ferns' Jersey highlighted their tactical superiority and physical resilience, leaving a lasting impression on all who participated and attended.

As the NZDF looks ahead to future tournaments, the 2024 edition will be remembered for its high level of competition, sportsmanship, and the celebration of military unity through the great game of rugby.





*Image: Alpha Company, 2nd/1st Battalion Royal NZ Infantry deployed to Springs Junction near the South Islands West Coast. The company is training in close country tactics, locating and clearing points of interest. The infantry also utilised an engineer attachment to clear any booby traps on the patrols.*

*Photo: CPL Sean Spivey*

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA  
**NZ ARMY**