

NEW ZEALAND

DEFENCE UPDATE

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More New Zealand help on its way



Lance Corporal Dean Ken Long says goodbye to his wife Dorothy and son Kenneth.

Additional New Zealand Defence Force personnel are to be deployed to Afghanistan and the Gulf region.

Announcing the deployments, the Prime Minister Helen Clark said they underlined New Zealand's commitment to supporting both nation-building and reconstruction in Afghanistan and the international campaign against terrorism.

She said there was a clear need in Afghanistan for assistance to improve stability.

"Without stability, efforts to reconstruct this war-torn country cannot proceed effectively. There is

a particular need for support during the next few months, as voter registration takes place for the elections scheduled to be held in June, but which may be postponed if security does not improve.

"When I visited Kabul last October, President Karzai expressed to me his deep appreciation for New Zealand's assistance. These latest deployments will contribute further to the achievement of nation-building objectives and help to extend the effective reach of the Afghan Transitional Authority into all regions of the country. This in turn will enable the more effective delivery of international humanitarian and development assistance to the regions of Afghanistan.

"The period ahead is crucial for the future peace and stability of Afghanistan and in the international effort against terrorism. New Zealand can make a real difference."

The Prime Minister said that ministers had confirmed the following additional deployments:

- Re-deploy around 50 New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) personnel to Afghanistan. The main body of this contingent will be deployed for up to 180 days in April.
- Extend the commitment of two NZDF non-commissioned officers to provide command and leadership training to the Afghan National Army to June 2005.
- Re-deploy one Royal New Zealand Navy frigate to the Maritime Interdiction Operation for four months from April 2004. The frigate will operate within the Gulf region as far west as the Horn of Africa.
- If required, re-deploy one Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion aircraft to the Maritime Interdiction Operation for six months, from July 2005. The Orion will operate in the same region as the RNZN frigate. New Zealand Defence Force personnel have already had experience in each of the areas of deployments.



New Zealand Army engineers at work in Iraq.

Defence Minister Mark Burton said the government knew that the NZDF contribution in each of these theatres had been greatly respected and valued, and that "our forces will again acquit themselves with distinction.

"Obviously none of these deployments is without risk. Nonetheless it is the government's assessment that further New Zealand contributions are warranted to support both Afghanistan and the international campaign against terrorism at this time."



The Prime Minister, Helen Clark, chats with Corporal James Whitworth and his wife Fiona shortly before the engineering detachment's departure for Iraq.

Meanwhile, a 50-strong contingent of Defence personnel left New Zealand for Iraq on March 5. The Light Engineer Group flew out from Ohakea, and will continue the humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction work in South East Iraq that began in September 2003 when the first group of NZDF personnel deployed to the region.

Seventy-one NZDF personnel, who have spent the past six months on duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, arrived home in New Zealand on March 10. Among those waiting to welcome home the personnel were the Prime Minister, Mr Burton, and the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Vice-Marshal David Bamfield.



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These are available on request.

COVER: RNZAF officer cadets return from an endurance march in Marlborough's Wither Hills. Photo: Cpl Eve Welsh. Inset: OCO David Marama, of the Royal New Zealand Navy, prepares to perform a wero on HMNZS Te Kaha. Photo: Nikki Payne.

NZDF personnel began working in Afghanistan following United Nations resolutions adopted after September 11 2001.

- The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) consists of three liaison teams supported by infantry, engineers, staff officers, communications and logistics staff. The PRT is made up of 91 personnel in total - 75 Army, 12 Royal New Zealand Navy, four Royal New Zealand Air Force.
- New Zealand took over command of the PRT in Bamian (200 km north west of Kabul) on 23 September 2003. The deployment has been extended for a further twelve months until September 2005.
- The SAS contingent will be commanded by a New Zealand officer and will specialise in the planning and execution of long-range reconnaissance and direct action missions inside Afghanistan. It will operate with other special forces from coalition countries. With an increase in regional stability, more Provincial Reconstruction Teams, like the New Zealand one in Bamian province, will be able to be established.
- Two NZDF non-commissioned officers have been working with British forces in providing command and leadership training to senior and junior non-commissioned officers of the Afghan National Army since June 2003.
- The New Zealand units will at all times be under the command of their senior officer. That officer has the right to refuse any command that is outside the parameters of the deployment as authorised by the New Zealand government.

Solomon Islands stability improving

A 32-strong New Zealand Army infantry platoon is working in one of the more remote areas of Solomon Islands this month, and they're "in their element", says NZDF Senior National Officer WGCDCR Steve Goodman.

The infantry platoon, as well as the Air Force personnel from No 3 Squadron who keep two Iroquois helicopters in the air over Solomon Islands are as busy as ever, says WGCDCR Goodman.

"The stability of the area is improving markedly, but the New Zealanders still have an important job ensuring this stability is maintained and word gets around the various communities that they are safe, and that they can go about their lives as normal."

The infantry platoon is this month based in Atori, a remote police outpost on the island of Malaita. The soldiers are patrolling the rugged jungle terrain in support of police there, some of whom are also from New Zealand.

"I was out with them recently and morale was very high - they enjoy the kind of work they are doing," says WGCDCR Goodman.

The wet season has arrived, and while the ground where most of the 3 Squadron helicopter detachment is based can at times be deep in mud, air transport tasking continues as normal. The 93 NZDF personnel in Solomon Islands are part of an Australian Federal Police-led



Spreading the word: New Zealand Air Force (left) and Army personnel at work in Solomon Islands.

Combined Task Force mission to restore stability to the area.

Meanwhile, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Sir Allan Kemakeza visited RNZAF Base Ohakea earlier this month to thank 3 Squadron for their work in Solomon Islands.

Prime Minister Kemakeza met with members of the helicopter squadron who have served in Solomon Islands, before being given a tour of the base.

The squadron detachment has been deployed since the stabilisation mission began in July last year.



Rain watch: the wet season has arrived.



Thanks: Prime Minister Sir Allan Kemakeza is greeted by Flight Lieutenant Owen Rogers at No.3 Squadron

The Singapore connection



Royal Singapore Air Force maintainers prepare aircraft at their Singapore base.

When the six artillery guns owned by the Singapore Armed Forces arrived in Wellington recently, it was but one sign of a relationship that is developing rapidly and positively.

The Singapore Armed Forces and the New Zealand Defence Force are vastly different in terms of numbers and annual budgets, but there is much each organisation can gain from the other, says NZDF Head of International Defence Relations, Paul Sinclair.

The relationship between the two defence forces has changed over the years, to being a much more mature partnership, he says.

New Zealand has already hosted a large number of Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) personnel this year, including 475 soldiers who travelled to Waiouru for Exercise Thunder Warrior, bringing with them six 155mm self propelled artillery guns. The soldiers used the New Zealand Army's training grounds to fire the weapons as well as twelve 155mm howitzers, several of which are stored in New Zealand.

Thunder Warrior is an annual exercise providing the SAF with artillery live firing training. Thirty-four members of the Royal New Zealand Artillery (16 Field Regiment of Linton Camp) worked with the Singaporeans to provide training and logistical support throughout the exercise.

The exercise enabled 23 Battalion from the Singapore Artillery to train and validate their soldiers' tactics, techniques and procedures in using the self-propelled howitzer. They also used their visit to Waiouru to train in the use of a newly acquired weapon locating radar.

The pride and joy of the SAF, the self propelled howitzer is a new weapons system, manufactured in Singapore and publicly launched in November last year. Known as the Primus, the gun is the lightest and most responsive self-propelled howitzer of its class.



Training: Singapore's 155mm Howitzers train at Waiouru.

The Singaporean Minister of Defence, Rear Admiral Teo Chee Hean and Singapore's Chief of Army, Major General Desmond Kuek visited the exercise, held talks with their New Zealand counterparts, and toured several camps and bases during their visit.

Following the exercise, the Chief of the Singapore Armed Forces, Major General Ng Yat Chung made a formal visit to New Zealand as a guest of CDF, Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson.

This month the Republic of Singapore Navy trained alongside the Royal New Zealand Navy during Exercise Lion Zeal. Based out of Devonport Naval Base, the exercise had a sea and shore phase, and was designed to allow both navies to develop closer ties and improve interoperability.

HMNZS *Te Kaha* was involved, and personnel from the two navies worked together at the RNZN Damage Control School and bridge simulator, as well as conducting a one-day planning and tactical exercise. The sea phase allowed the RSN to observe some of the RNZN capabilities, including the New Zealand Navy's SH-2G Seasprite helicopter at work.

Mr Sinclair says Singapore sees New Zealand as a friend and partner within the region. The defence



Working together: Soldiers from the Singapore and New Zealand armies training alongside each other.

relationship is just one section of a longstanding and still growing relationship New Zealand has with Singapore as a whole, he says.

The majority of Singapore's 50,000-strong Army are reservists, many of whom are professional people in their civilian life.

"There will be inevitable spin-offs when those who train New Zealand on defence exercises return home and discuss the positive aspects of visiting New Zealand."



A Singapore Army howitzer on exercise in Waiouru.



Well equipped: Singapore Armed Forces personnel (above and below).



Closer ties: New Zealand's Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson (left) and Singapore's Chief of Army, Major General Desmond Kuek.



Timor Leste: a military observer's impressions

Life in an impoverished nation is proving an eye-opener for Navy psychologist Lieutenant Commander Mariane Millar, who is posted to a remote area of Timor Leste lacking even basic facilities.

For four years Lt Cdr Millar debriefed troops returning from deployments to Timor Leste, one of New Zealand's most extensive peacekeeping missions.

Now she is working as a military observer based in Oecussi, an enclave of Timor Leste. Her job involves liaising with the Indonesian soldiers and the Timor Leste authorities, as well as visiting villages to collect information on the security situation and current political opinion.



Village friends: Lieutenant Commander Mariane Millar with Oecussi village women and children.

"I had heard so many stories about Timor Leste, but there is nothing like being here to see for yourself. The people here are so used to having nothing, and not being able to do much for themselves for such a long time during and before the conflict. They are now in a position to do things for themselves, but it will take time for their mindset to change."

The NZDF tri-service mission in Timor Leste began in 1999 with large numbers of peacekeepers. As the country stabilised, those numbers were reduced, and there are now 12 NZDF personnel based there, four of whom are military observers. Other members of the contingent work either with the Peacekeeping Force Headquarters in Dili, or with New Zealand's National Support Element.

The United Nations maintains a significant presence in Timor Leste, which has been an independent nation since May 2002. The security situation is relatively calm, with occasional incidents happening that are a reminder of the difficulties the country has had in the past.

Unemployment, opposition to the Government, and the threat of returning militia, as well as the spread of youth gangs, are now considered the main threats to internal security.

Lt Cdr Millar spends most of her time on patrol with military observers from other countries, visiting local villages and schools, and collecting information from the locals.

She also liaises daily with the Timor Leste Border Patrol Units and the Indonesian soldiers on the West Timorese side. "The people of Timor Leste and the Indonesians are very different personality-wise, but they have a good working relationship with each other. Although many

political issues surface here in Oecussi, both sides fiercely protect their working relationships with each other."

While much of Timor Leste is beautiful and unspoilt, there is real poverty in some of the villages she visits, says Lt Cdr Millar. "Some of the communities eat only once a day because there is so little food, whereas others have to walk for three hours just to get drinking water. It's certainly a very different way of life."

Lt Cdr Millar says life in the Oecussi enclave is now peaceful and calm. "But the isolation and poverty in the area ensure that it will be many years before these people will enjoy a quality of life that resembles anything like what New Zealanders take for granted. Despite this though, the people of Oecussi are happy and contented."



Awards: Lt Cdr Millar helps distribute scholarships to 25 children from Palaban School, Oecussi. The money for the scholarships was raised by donations from United Nations Military Observers in Timor Leste.



LAV training

The NZ Army's 1st NZLAV Platoon has begun training to operate its newly acquired light armoured vehicles (NZLAV).

LAV Company, 1st Battalion, RNZIR in Linton, is where the first 51 NZLAVs, and the personnel who will maintain and operate them, are based.

Canterbury back at sea

HMNZS *Canterbury* is back at sea following the completion of repairs to its switchboard damaged in a fire last year.

The frigate completed sea tests to verify the safe and correct operation of its main switchboard, which distributes electrical power to the ship from two of the ship's four generators.



Ready to serve: HMNZS *Canterbury*.

Air swoop on Southland

Nine black and yellow Airtrainers, two King Air and a Sioux helicopter took to the skies over Southland earlier this month during Exercise Wiseowl. An Invercargill airfield was home to 100 personnel throughout the exercise, which is run twice a year and aims to extend the skills and experience of student pilots in unfamiliar territory.



Cemetery cleanup

Arches built to commemorate the lives of servicemen and women killed during the two world wars are to receive a spruce-up, courtesy of Wellington-based Defence personnel and civilian staff.

The decorative marble arches, at Karori Cemetery, which is one of the largest in New Zealand, list the names of Wellingtonians killed during the wars. They are to be cleaned as a team building exercise and in time for Anzac Day.

US Admiral visits

Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander US Pacific Command (PACOM), visited New Zealand earlier this month. He is the senior commander of US military forces in the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, as well as the US military representative for collective defence arrangements in the Pacific.

Admiral Fargo's visit to New Zealand was part of a programme of regular consultations with regional partners, and allowed officials to hold a wide range of discussions on defence and security issues affecting the region, including terrorism and transnational crime. Admiral Fargo took part in a series of briefings and discussions in Wellington before visiting defence facilities in the North Island. Admiral Fargo previously visited New Zealand in November 2000 as Commander in Chief of the US Pacific Fleet.

THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD



The RNZN vessel, HMNZS *Manawanui*, with government officials on board, is undertaking a variety of surveillance and enforcement activities off New Zealand's coastline. Above, *Manawanui* commanding officer Lieutenant Commander Garin Golding, and Fishery Officer Harvey Fergusson.



The NZDF has two Army officers based in Sierra Leone where they work as United Nations military observers, patrolling villages, monitoring and reporting on illegal mining, and overseeing non-governmental organisation activities. New Zealand has had military personnel in the country since the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) began in 1998.



RNZAF P3 Orion aircraft continue to patrol New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone, and Ross Sea, to protect fisheries resources. One Orion and crew is always on standby for search and rescue missions, or any other contingency within New Zealand or overseas.

NZ DEFENCE FORCE OPERATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN MISSIONS	LOCATION	DEPLOYED
UNMISSET	Timor Leste	12
UNMIK	Kosovo	1
UNTSO	Middle East	8
UNAMSIL	Sierra Leone	2
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MINE ACTION MISSIONS	LOCATION	DEPLOYED
MADP	Mozambique	2
CMAC	Cambodia	2
UNMACA	Afghanistan	1
UNMAS	New York	1
CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL MISSIONS	LOCATION	DEPLOYED
Regional Assistance Mission	Solomon Islands	93
Op Antarctica	Antarctic	41
CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FORCES	LOCATION	DEPLOYED
SFOR Staff Officers	Bosnia	6
SFOR Officer	U.K	1
ISAF Staff Officers	Afghanistan	3
MFO	Sinai	27
OEF Staff Officers	Afghanistan	2
OEF Provincial Reconstruction Team	Afghanistan	94
OEF	The Arabian Sea	6
Iraq Reconstruction Team	Iraq	61
TOTAL DEPLOYED		363