

COMMUNICATIONS WARFARE SPECIALIST NEWSLETTER

Head of Trade Welcome



The CWS Steering Group offered me the opportunity to provide an article for the Trade newsletter that will be hitting the streets soon, how could I resist! My first input since assuming the role of Head of Trade.

So here we are in July 2022 already, wow the time seems to be flying past at an incredible rate of knots.

January saw HMNZS WELLINGTON, HMNZS AOTEAROA, HMNZS CANTERBURY and MATATAUA being tasked to provide support to Tonga as part of OP PACREL after a volcanic eruption. These RNZN platforms were joined by HMAS ADELAIDE, USS SAMPSON, USCGC STRATTON and HMS SPEY in addition to two of the Tongan Guardian class patrol boats, all providing essential support to our neighbours.

After departing Tonga, HMNZS AOTEAROA headed south, very South! HMNZS AOTEAROA conducted their first Southern Ocean deployment, carrying out a resupply and berthing at McMurdo Station.

A few months ago we held a virtual CWS Hui, where CAPT Brendon Clark, who is our Category Captain, took the opportunity to address the trade. CDR Vanessa Brown, recently appointed as our Trade Champion, also spoke during the Hui. The remainder of the Senior CWS Leadership group also took the opportunity to introduce themselves. There are plans underway to hold a face to face Hui towards the end of the year.

Exciting times are very much on the horizon for the CWS trade, with the following upgrades to our capabilities being introduced into service: Fixed HF refresh Project, JRCS replacement, CMX replacement, CAN/OPV/ANZAC comms upgrades.

I thought I would also use this as an opportunity to highlight the fact that the NZDF now has an Information Warfare branch, which aligns the NZDF with our 5 Eyes partners. The big question is, how will this look for the CWS trade future?

The way that we “do business” has changed drastically over the past few years, technologies and capabilities have increasingly changed and will continue to change, hence there will also need to be changes to the way that the CWS trade trains, to ensure that we can confidently and competently do our jobs. This is not going to happen overnight and so I will continue to keep you updated as we move forward.

If you have any ideas on what can be done to improve our trade, please feel free to raise these through the CWS Steering Group/Senior CWS Leadership Group or directly to me. We have some great people within the trade, giving us the opportunity to take ownership and accountability for our actions. Being part of a solution, involves raising ideas, submitting courses of action and providing recommendations. We now have the forum to do this.

I will continue to work out of Devonport for 1 week each month. This gives me the opportunity to get around our ships and most importantly meet with the CWS teams. I look forward to catching up with you all soon.

Yours aye,
WOCWS Al Kempzell

ROA off to The Ice



Sailing earlier than expected on January 15th 2022 (as opposed to 27th Jan) for Op Pacific relief HMNZS AOTEAROA had to go through a hectic 24 hours to prepare for sea not only to conduct HADR operations in Tonga but also to conduct OP TIO (the RNZN's ongoing commitment to Antarctica).

After completing our duties in Tonga the ship started sailing south for the journey to the Ice. It didn't take long for the temperature to drop. We went from 35 degrees and 100% humidity to sub-zero temperatures and snow over 10 days. There were a couple of days of roughers but overall the trip down South wasn't too bad. Once AOTEAROA entered Antarctic waters we were all greeted by massive icebergs, whales, 24 hour sunlight, and scenic views.

Visiting Antarctica has always been on my checkoff list since joining the RNZN. Finally after almost 10 years of service I made it down to the Ice. This was a long time coming as in 2014/15 I was posted to HMNZS WELLINGTON when they conducted fisheries patrols in the Ross Sea. But despite being within 10 NMs of land we were never allowed to step ashore due to Operational requirements.

This time though all of ship's co managed to get a run ashore and have a good look around.

The people working down in McMurdo station were great to us. It was the first time in my career where the Navy pulled into a port and the locals were genuinely happy to see us there (not just the owners of the local pubs). Everywhere we went people wanted to give us tours, or have a chat with us. The locals were also just as interested in our ship as we were in Antarctica. The base had set up guided tours and excursions for us to do around the base and surrounding area.

The highlight of the trip was seeing the awesome sights down South.

We travelled to the Ross Ice Shelf and stood on Ice hundreds of metres thick, we trekked to the top of Observation hill and could look out over the whole of McMurdo Station, Scott base, Mt Erebus, and the Ross Sea, we also went out and got to see the wildlife up close on the ice.

The only 2 downsides to the trip was the that we were only allowed off ship over 2 days and that due to Covid a lot of McMurdo Station and Scott's Base were off limits to us but we managed to smash all of the main activities out that we wanted too before leave expired. We even managed to clock in 40,000 steps in one day because we were on our feet so much.

The trip was so successful from an operational and PR perspective that the RNZN has lined up another visit at the start of 2023 (something that we had originally not planned to do) if anyone wants to see the Southern Continent up close make sure you post on HMNZS AOTEAROA!

By LCWS Hayden Maxwell



A WHOLE NEW experience CTF 150



Over the period Jul 21 – Jan 22, a New Zealand contingent deployed to command CTF 150 based out of The Kingdom of Bahrain.

The mission was to manage the conduct of maritime security operations through the disruption of the illicit activities undertaken by criminal and terrorist organizations, and, therefore, ensure the safety of legitimate commercial shipping.

The focus of the team was primarily on illicit narcotic interdiction. Throughout the deployment the task force subsequently intercepted narcotics that equated to over \$NZD1 billion in illicit narcotic street value.

The success of the operation was dependent upon communications as a key enabler. The management and use of coalition systems to manage the flow of information was a primary responsibility of the communications staff.

CPO Chris Lawson and I deployed as part of the CTF 150 staff. Although our roles differed throughout the deployment, we were both provided the opportunity to consider how we could manage the infrastructure that existed, whilst also improving it to extend the capabilities of the task force.

This wasn't always just for the use of CTF 150 staff, but often extended to the staffs of CTF 151 and 152 who were co-located as well as foreign naval vessels that requested assistance to utilize the coalition networks effectively. For myself, this challenged the knowledge that I had of the systems and how I could establish efficient and effective solutions within an unfamiliar environment.

The deployment also created plenty of networking opportunities and a greater exposure to allied networks and operating procedures. The experience assisted in building a broader understanding of the NZDF's influence in coalition missions and it was great to experience this mission from a strategic standpoint.

Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss further. Please also feel free to reach out if you are considering CFR or any other opportunities that may be available to you.



HADR for Tonga



On 15 January, the undersea volcano in Tonga erupted. On 18 January, AOTEAROA deployed to Tonga with 1 days' notice for sea. It was a mad a rush for ship's company to prepare to go up to Tonga knowing that we would be heading straight down South to Antarctica after this deployment. However once we set sail, the crew and myself were feeling proud, excited and hopeful to be able to deploy to one of our fellow Pacific island nations and assist them with support in there time of need.

We arrived in Tonga on the 20 January; it was very hot and humid. The island of Nuku'alofa did not look tropical as everything from the buildings in the town to the coconut trees were all covered in grey ash. You could see the ash floating in the water too. It was very sad to see.

While alongside Nuku'alofa AOTEAROA helped by supplying the island with 70,000 litres of fresh water, HADR stores and F76 Diesel. The ship then went back out to sea to RAS with USS SAMPSON who were also there to give relief to Tonga. The Comms crew were still very sharp coming off our previous deployment last year to the South China Sea and it felt good to be back on the bridge doing what we all do best.

After the RAS we went back in alongside and rafted up with CAN, WEL, AND HMS SPEY. The ship passed stores and fuel for the other ships to take around the surrounding Tongan islands.

This deployment was a very important to me considering my Pacific Island heritage. It was a great feeling to help our brothers and sisters up in the Pacific. The ROA Comms team did a great job working under quick changing timeframes and remained flexible with the unknown schedule of the deployment.

It is a great crew on AOTEAROA and I look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for us.



Promotions January to July 2022

SLT Simeon
MID Kingi-Miki
CPOCWS Lawson
A/CPOCWS Owens
POCWS Taitua
POCWS Taua
LCWS M. Moore
LCWS Wyeth
LCWS Chapman
LCWS Miller
LCWS Stanley
A/LCWS Hardy
A/LCWS Eden
ACWS Harvey
ACWS Maguire
ACWS Meyer
ACWS Wharekura
ACWS O'Connor-Palmer

Discharges January to July 2022

WOCWS Williams
CPOCWS Dagger
POCWS Fox
POCWS McGuinniety
LCWS Davis
LCWS Morgan
LCWS Rapana
LCWS Wotton
LCWS Wetere-Song
LCWS Sail
LCWS Holotau
ACWS Butler
ACWS Ruri
ACWS Bowers
ACWS Parker
ACWS Hughes
ACWS Sixtus
ACWS Campbell

Thank you for your service



PHOTOS

- 1 LT Leeks & CPOCWS Lawson as part of CTF 150
- 2 LCWS Hardy's surprise promotion on-board HMNZS Wellington by flashing light
- 3 The CWS team on-board HMNZS TE MANA following their MOET assessed SARC in Canada
- 4 Ex-LCWS Simeon participates in the Navy haka at her recent graduation of JOCT, now SLT Simeon

