

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #212 August 2022

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 1 September 2022 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

Good afternoon Len

Thought I'd just send you a quick Update.

Also, as for the unit birthday, I am making a slideshow of photos focusing on the soldiers that have come before us, If the RNZAC has any photos of the old lads being lads?

I think that will illustrate the culture and enforce the sense of belonging.

"Look forward" to the rest of the year:

09 Sep CBT SCH are looking at Rededicating the RNZAC Memorial, additionally the tablets will be in place with the new engravings of Brent Nixey and Carl Filmer.

Noting, majority of the Regt will be away, we'll still proceed with it IOT have it ready to go for the Birthday. (Obviously this is a Corps event hence not doing it on the Regt Birthday.)

16, 22 and 23 Sep

Unit Birthday will involve a unit function with the emphasis being for the partners.

29 Sep will be the Family day:

Concept will be similar to last year as last year was very successful, bouncy castle etc, kai will be pizzas hosted out of the Fernleaf Café.

03 – 07 Oct: Cordite

Long time no see since 2019!

Couple of court sports, field and or fun activities such as Tug O War, Fitness. Culminating in a combined function.

20 Nov Cambrai

TBA , due to Ex Torokiki (op Reset) over those dates.

05 – 09 Dec CO's HOTO Parade

TBA at this stage IRT an actual day, we'll need to de-conflict with the other unit CO HOTOs.

Nga mihi

CPL Josh Hermansen

Assistant S7 (Dismounted 2) - QAMR, Queen Alexandras Mounted Rifles RNZAC
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army



Last Post.

Ron Cone has informed us that **Euan Murchison**, 1st Armoured Car Regiment in the 1950's, has passed.

Euan (formerly of Weka Pass), passed away peacefully on August 12, 2022. Dearly loved husband of Margaret. Loved father and father-in-law of Richard and Brenda, Andrew and Jane, Hugh and Sandra, Stephen and Vivienne, Edward and Deborah. Loved grandfather of Jessica and Jonathan, Martin, Adam, Michael, Bradley, Nick and Sebastian. Loved great-grandfather of his 3 great-grandchildren. Messages may be addressed to The Family of the late ECS Murchison, PO Box 39001, Christchurch 8545. A Service to celebrate Euan's life was held on Friday, August 19, 2.00pm at Northbrook Chapel, Sparks Rd, Rangiora.

Correspondence

I read with much sorrow of John Lane's passing and grieve for a good, honest, reliable soldier from 2 Scots who joined the Army, the same year as I graduated from the Royal Military College. We were participants at the farcial Trooping of the Colour at Tekapo the next year - me as the Senior Sub (Colour Bearer Queens Colour) and he as a private. Farcical because it all went wrong - very hot windy day - the cook was drunk adding much prose from the sidelines, the wind had its own idea where the Colours would be and my kilt fell down. All in all a total farce.

I saw John as he advanced as a NCO from time to time when I was in 1 Scots In 1968. Maybe 69 I was supervising an OCTU exercise in NSTU, the CO a major like me who told me he didn't do soldiers or going out in field. So you run all the rest and I will spend the day in the office. The Officer in Charge was Capt Tubby Bennets and I was with him at the finish

of the Cross Country Run. John who was quite heavily built was last and Tubby said he would not pass the OCTU. I waited until Tubby and I were on our own and said Lane would pass because had put his all into it whereas most of the others who were much younger, it was a waltz in the park. Going that extra mile is very very important. I authorised John's elevation to 2Lt.

I was rewarded see John as a Captain when I commanded Otago/ Southland, He was always doing that extra mile, You can rest in peace now John..

Geoffrey Bowes (Lt Col Rtd, MNZM DistFInstD)

Admin & Log

RNZAC Association Canterbury Branch Mid-winter lunch – Sunday 3 July

Warning Order – Cambrai

The end of the year is closer than you think. Cambrai Day on a Sunday this year so our Cambrai Commemoration, Lunch and RNZAC Association AGM will all be held on Sunday 20th November 2022.

Cost will be \$10.00 per person for the lunch this year. Names and numbers of those attending to Lenny Haynes please: lennardhaynes53@gmail.com

Website Updated

Our website has been updated to a newer version of its operating platform. It now has a fresher look. Do visit and let us know what you think: www.rnzac.org



MG and Comm's Course at Tekapo Military Camp – January 1980

RNZAC History Project

Attached is a letter to all Serving Members and Members who have served in the RNZAC and its Precursor Organizations regarding an update on Trust activities.

Graeme Ready
Chair
RNZAC HPCT Inc
Registered Charity Number CC56897
Certificate of Incorporation RNZAC HPCT 50027200
NZBN: 9429047957329

Answer: USA MPF

MPF vehicles to be delivered to US Army in Q1 of 2024

Integrating the platform brings new capabilities for infantry.

The US Department of Defense (DoD) has confirmed that General Dynamics Land Systems will deliver an initial 24 Mobile Platform Fires (MPF) in Q1 of 2024, part of a \$1.14bn contract to supply 96 vehicles. The lightly-armoured land platform will fill a capability gap in infantry brigades for an airborne-capable tracked vehicle that can provide fire-on-the-move capability.

“The MPF programme initiated the Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP) phase...in June 2022,” said US Army spokesperson Ellen Lovett, told Army Technology, adding that LRIP deliveries were expected to occur in the first quarter of the financial year 2024.

Integrated MPF and infantry deployment

After MPF crews have established logistics and strategic practices the platform will attach with US Army Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs), where they will train together to establish a new battlefield role.

“The MPF is a new capability to the IBCTs. It provides IBCTs with mobile, protected direct fire capability to apply lethal and sustained long-range fires to armoured vehicles, hardened enemy fortifications and dismounted personnel,” said Lovett.

In a Life Cycle Environmental Assessment published by the US Army in August last year, the MPF project management team were explicit about the requirements for the vehicle, stating that “the MPF will be a highly mobile, multi-terrain, armoured tracked vehicle with direct-fire capabilities”.

“Two MPFs must be transportable in an operational, drive-on/drive-off configuration in a single C-17 aircraft and allow unrestricted highway, rail, and marine transport worldwide,” the LCEA report continued, highlighting the central requirement for mobility and airborne deployment. “Transport constraints limit the MPF’s physical dimensions and its weight to approximately 42 tons.”

A Congressional Research Service (CRS) report from 18 May 2022, was clear about the strategic niche the MPF is filling: 'Currently the Army's Infantry Brigade Combat Teams do not have a combat vehicle assigned that is capable of providing mobile, protected, direct, offensive fire capability.'

Tristan Sauer, land domain analyst at GlobalData, speaking in July of the last airborne-capable tracked vehicle the US Army maintained, said: "The capability gap left by the retirement of the M551 Sheridan light tank in 1996 has been a point of contention since the end of the First Gulf War."

The Sheridan's capabilities had been formidable, equipped with an autoloader that had been state-of-the-art when first delivered, but its technological shortfalls had been a liability for IBCTs and maintenance requirements hampered manoeuvrability.

In an Association of the US Army article published in 10 December 2021, Lt Col Ben Ferguson and Capt Lennard Salcedo point to potential criticism over how the MPF could still encumber the IBCTs mobility, with MPF maintenance and resupply adding to the list of tasks operational control units have to manage.

The authors noted that integration into an IBCT will provide "organic logistic support" for the platform, mitigating some of the drawbacks of alternative armoured assets with better communication and enhanced understanding of requirements. Managing the logistical footprint then becomes a planning factor for leadership rather than a limitation to operations.

Rapid production

By integrating existing mature technologies and components the development of the MPF has avoided challenges which would lengthen the program schedule, according to the CRS report.

The flexible middle-tier acquisition legislation granted by Congress in 2016 allowed for "accelerated prototype delivery", said Doug Bush, the US Army's acquisition executive. The middle-tier approach prioritises rapid development by exempting the programme from many existing DoD acquisition processes and policies.

A 2020 US Government Accountability Office (GAO) report into the Next Generation Combat Vehicle programme estimated for the MPF life-cycle cost was approximately \$16bn for the complete programme, comprehensive of research and development, evaluation, procurement, operations and support, and disposal. The GAO was cautious about the rapid development process being implemented: "The Army's plans for these tanks and other armoured vehicles prioritise rapid development. That can limit insight into potential risks.

"The Army took some steps to reduce the risks of cost overruns and programme delays," continued the GAO. "The Army didn't fully consider all potential cost uncertainties. It also delayed key engineering reviews for these efforts, increasing the risk of vehicle design problems."

However, the middle-tier acquisition authorities enabled the US Army to quickly move prototypes into the crews' hands for limited user testing and soldier vehicle assessment during mid-tier acquisition rapid prototyping phase, according Lovett, with soldier feedback provided to the original equipment manufacturers "in enough time for them to modify their vehicle designs and update their Low-Rate Initial Production proposals."

The CRS report also expressed concern over the integration of the MPF into service given current recruiting challenges, as each MPF company requires 64 armour crewman and 24 maintenance soldiers to maintain the platforms systems.

Furthermore, the CRS acknowledged the challenges around the MPF's central weapon. Instead of 120mm ammunition that is the standard across NATO partners, the MPF's cannon uses 105mm ordnance that is uncommon enough for "industrial base-associate munition production challenges" to be a concern in the face of the current limited quantity of on-hand, serviceable 105mm ammunition.

Andrew Salerno-Garthwaite
<https://www.army-technology.com/>

Humour





Must of been warm... he's opened his sunroof





Every family has that one kid



Reminders;

RNZAC Association Web site: www.rnzac.co.nz
Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.
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Mike Smith, Editor