

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #219 April 2023

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 4 May 2023 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

A Busy 1st Quarter of the Year for NZ SCOTS SQN - QAMR:
SCOTS SQN with CO QAMR started the year off in kilts at the Highland Games in Turakina, Whanganui. A festival celebrating all things Scottish.

Next task; Ex Jordan, In Waiouru for a wet range shoot, completing individual weapon qualifications, while on standby to assist with Cyclone Gabrielle, OP Awhina.
Squadron then deployed into the training area on Ex Mount Olympus for a well-needed period of Mounted Troop Training, which included replen training with our A1 Ech and a bit of SHQ vehicle recovery.

Next: Ex Gaiana Crossing: Squadron Resilience Training, 13-hour tramp over the advanced Aorangi Crossing track in South Wairarapa, 3 checkpoints finishing at the top of Cape Palliser lighthouse.

Squadron is now set for a well-deserved break over Easter, ending the week with a family afternoon BBQ and easter egg treats for the kids.

Looking forward to the next training period:
NZLAV Live firing, Kilted ANZAC day in Hawera and providing Troop support to EX TS 23.
Wishing everyone a happy and safe Easter Weekend.

"MO RIGH - MO DHUTHAICH"
"MY KING - MY COUNTRY"
NZ SCOTTISH SQN



Yesterday morning [19 April] in a small ceremony the new Regimental Flag Station was dedicated and the flag was broken for the first time. The new flag station is one of the last parts of the new Regimental Lines. The base is a M41 barrel that was recovered from Trentham. The garden will be filled with tussock and volcanic rock from Waiouru, ensuring we're maintaining those historical links.



ANZAC 2023; QAMR, Scottish Squadron paraded at Hawera & Kaponga, South Taranaki.



Kia Ora Kōoutou,

I had the opportunity, alongside the incoming RSM to head over to Hastings in order to mark and commemorate ANZAC Day. Additionally, it was a privilege to reinvigorate our support to Sandra Hazlehurst, Mayor of Hastings along with the wider community. Especially having to deal with Gabriel.

It was quite fitting upon hearing the Mayors gratitude towards our support and finally seeing the community coming together. Alongside the Mayor, it was a honour listening to Hastings young future leaders and their intentions to do with the community and its growth.

I want to close off with tomorrow at 1400hrs, in Linton I have the honour of handing over the position of RSM QAMR to WO1 Glenn (Ox) White, who I know will do a splendid job, especially with the passion and mana he brings to the unit.

Ake ake Kia kaha

RSM

ANZAC Day Christchurch

Great to see the Dawn Parade finally returning to Cathedral Square.



Later in the day there was a good attendance by current and former RNZAC personnel at the 19th Armoured Regiment Memorial at Victoria Park on the Port Hills. On a sunny day but with a cold wind, Col. (Rtd) Ian Bolton, former OC of 1 Scots, gave the address. He spoke about the valuable input of the Territorials and today's Reserves to the Defence Force. Adding some personal anecdotes about people he had served with. Col. Bolton also mentioned the sacrifices that spouses and other family made so that they could attend training.

Answer: Finland Leopard 2

Western Europe's strongest artillery and a huge reserve army: What Finland brings to NATO

Finland formally became the 31st member of Nato this week [6 March], ditching decades of non-alignment to join the military alliance in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The country has spent decades building and maintaining a fighting force to guard its 832 mile frontier with Russia and deter any invasion. With hundreds of tanks, dozens of aircraft and the ability to call on large numbers of reservists, the Finnish military has long been one of the most powerful in Europe and is now one of the most capable in Nato.

The legacy of the Winter War still casts a shadow over Finland. The conflict, also known as the First Finnish-Soviet War, saw Finland's armed forces inflict monumental casualties on a vast invading Red Army during the bitter winter months of 1939/40. The war, which resulted in territorial losses for Finland, taught the Finns the need for an army capable of deterring Russia from ever invading again.

Attack Finland, the logic goes, and its armed forces will, just like they did in the Winter War, savage your army. This is why Finland has built its armed forces on defence. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the country did not, as so many others did, pivot to establishing a small mobile army suited for expeditionary warfare. It preferred to maintain a large defensively orientated force.

"Finland's defence policy has been very conservative in the sense that unlike other European states, it has never tried to trim its forces so they can undertake international crisis management operations," said Tuomas Iso-Markku, a senior research fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. "The main focus has always been on defending Finland. So in that sense, it's definitely true that Finland is quite different from most European states."

One difference is that it kept conscription. Under the Finnish constitution, every male citizen aged between 18 and 60 is liable for call-up, and each year some 22,000 men join the army. This means that Finland's tiny standing army of around 19,000 can quickly grow to 280,000, while thousands more could also be mobilised in a time of national crisis.

Conscription also remains popular in Finland; built upon a broad societal understanding of the need to maintain national defence. A poll from December 2021, for example, revealed that 84 per cent of Finns were willing to defend their country to the best of their abilities.

In line with this defensive posture, Finland has invested heavily in big guns, giving it one of the strongest artillery forces in Europe. It now has some 1,500 weapons, including 700 howitzers and cannons and 100 heavy and light rocket launchers. It also boasts a tank force of around 650 armoured vehicles, which includes 200 German-made Leopard 2 main battle tanks, putting it on a par with any army in Europe, including Britain.

Reacting to the Ukraine war, Finland has boosted its defence budget. This year the country is due to spend 1.9 per cent of its GDP on defence, while two years ago it spent 1.3 per cent. The increased spending has allowed it to purchase F-35 fighter aircraft from the US, to complement the country's already bristling, and high-tech, air defences.

The Finnish Air Force will help defend Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Encompassing a vulnerable and narrow peninsula of Nato territory bordered to the west, for the most part, by Russia or its subservient ally Belarus, the three Baltic states have long been a source of worry for Nato planners. But Finnish membership will help ease these concerns. The Alliance's reach now extends north and east of the Baltic states, changing the security landscape of eastern Europe.

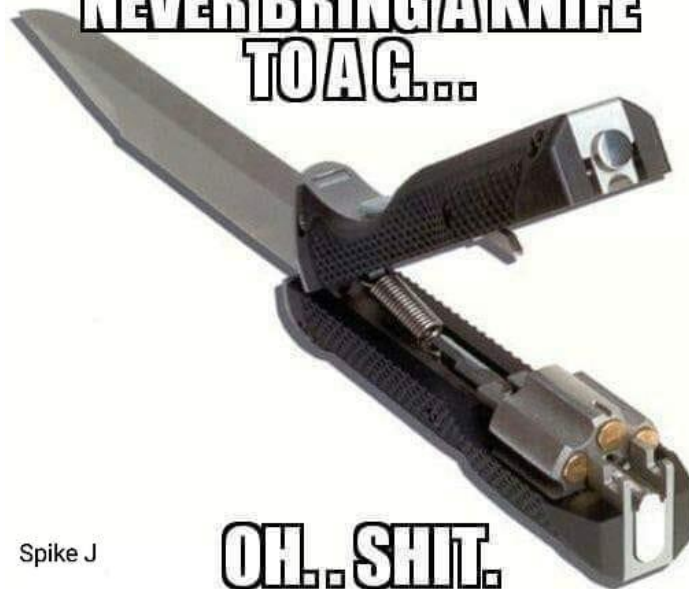
Finnish membership also enhances Nato's presence in the Baltic Sea, and, crucially, now means the entrance to the Gulf of Finland, which is just 43 miles across, is dominated by Alliance states, with Estonia to the south and Finland to the north.

Story by Matthew Day *The Telegraph* 6/04/2023

Humour



**NEVER BRING A KNIFE
TO A G...**



Spike J

OH.. SHIT.

Reminders

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