

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #241 April 2025

Meetings Happy Hour and meeting: Thursday 5 June 2025 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

New Zealand Scottish Squadron - ANZAC Day 2025

The squadron helped support parades in south Taranaki. Locations such as Hawera, and Kaponga. With small elements at Cape Egmount and Urenui.

The squadron also conducted community engagements helping support the local farmers in the area with jobs including firewood, fencing, cowshed maintenance and lots of hole digging.

Special thanks to Shamus, Debbie, Vaughn and Sharron for accommodating the soldiers over the ANZAC period





RNZAC Corps Review Board

Images from the CRB held yesterday.

Congratulations to SSGT Seymour on his promotion, presented by his wife Meisha and the new RNZAC Colonel Commandant, LTGEN (retd) Jones, CNZM.

We wish to acknowledge COL (retd) McComish's dedication to the corps as COL Comdt. He was a strong advocate of the regiment, who took a paternal interest in our personnel's welfare and development.

We would like to welcome LTGEN Jones as the new COL Comdt and anticipate his tenure. He brings significant experience to the role, having previously held positions as the CO QAMR, Chief of Army, and Chief of Defence Force.



Wellington East Coast Squadron SNCO Promotion

Congratulations to SGT Freeman on his promotion today, attended by his wife and mother in front of the regiment.

This well-deserved recognition acknowledges his performance over the last nine months. We acknowledge this significant accomplishment and wish him continued success in his transition as a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer.



I caught up with this young guy in Brisbane, Allen Sutton specially made the trip up from Gold Coast by train to have lunch before we got the flight to Sydney.

We had a great lunch and beer in one of the hotels both he and his father drank in The Breakfast Creek Hotel

Thanks Allen



Admin & Log

Association Mid-Winter Dinner

Richmond Working Men's Club 29th June lunch. Private room, set menu attached two course \$30 a head. Please RSVP to Lenny lennardhaynes53@gmail.com by 22 June.



Daffodil Day Parade of NZ Scots Christchurch 1939

8 May marked the 80th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe during the Second World War. We pay tribute to those who served and remember those that did not return.

Answer: USA Oshkosh M-ATV and International M1224 MaxxPro mine-resistance ambush protected vehicles

US to Withdraw Some 1,000 Troops From Syria

The United States will roughly halve the number of troops it has deployed in Syria to less than 1,000 in the coming months, the Pentagon said Friday.

Washington has had troops in Syria for years as part of international efforts against the Islamic State (IS) group, which rose out of the chaos of the country's civil war to seize swaths of territory there and in neighboring Iraq over a decade ago.

The brutal jihadists have since suffered major defeats in both countries, but still remain a threat.

“Today the secretary of defense directed the consolidation of US forces in Syria... to select locations,” Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement, without specifying the sites where this would take place.

“This deliberate and conditions-based process will bring the US footprint in Syria down to less than 1,000 US forces in the coming months,” he said.

“As this consolidation takes place... US Central Command will remain poised to continue strikes against the remnants of (IS) in Syria,” Parnell added, referring to the military command responsible for the region.

President Donald Trump has long been skeptical of Washington’s presence in Syria, ordering the withdrawal of troops during his first term but ultimately leaving American forces in the country.

As Islamist-led rebels pressed forward with a lightning offensive last December that ultimately overthrew Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, Trump said Washington should “NOT GET INVOLVED!”

“Syria is a mess, but is not our friend, & THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THIS IS NOT OUR FIGHT,” Trump, then the president-elect, wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Years of War Against IS

The 2014 onslaught by IS prompted a US-led air campaign in support of local ground forces — the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Iraqi government units.

Washington also deployed thousands of American personnel to advise and assist local forces, with US troops in some cases directly fighting the jihadists.

After years of bloody warfare, Iraq’s prime minister announced a final victory over IS in December 2017, while the SDF proclaimed the defeat of the group’s “caliphate” in March 2019 after seizing its final bastion in Syria.

But the jihadists still have some fighters in the countryside of both countries, and US forces have long carried out periodic strikes and raids to help prevent the group’s resurgence.

Washington stepped up military action against IS in Syria in the wake of Assad’s overthrow, though it has more recently shifted its focus to strikes targeting Yemen’s Houthi rebels, who have been attacking international shipping since late 2023.

US forces in Iraq and Syria were repeatedly targeted by pro-Iran militants following the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023, but responded with heavy strikes on Tehran-linked targets, and the attacks largely subsided.

Washington for years said it had some 900 military personnel in Syria as part of international efforts against IS, but the Pentagon announced in December 2024 that the number of US troops in the country had doubled to around 2,000 earlier in the year.

While the United States is reducing its forces in Syria, Iraq has also sought an end to the US-led coalition’s presence there, where Washington has said it has some 2,500 troops.

The United States and Iraq have announced that the coalition would end its decade-long military mission in federal Iraq by the end of 2025, and by September 2026 in the autonomous Kurdistan region.

thedefensepost.com/2025/04/19/us-troops-syria/

Humour

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a Schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat." "Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?", suggests the collie. "I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

Every ten years, monks in a monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he says, "Bed hard." It's the big day, a decade later. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit." "I'm not surprised," says the head monk. "You've been complaining ever since you got here."

Two friends who were playing golf on a fine morning saw a funeral procession passing by. One of the friends who was about to hit the ball, stopped mid-way, took off the cap and bowed down. The other friend was overwhelmed by this gesture and asked him, "You are kind and truly a gentleman. I have never seen such a thoughtful person. The friend replied, "Yes, I was married to her for 35 years."

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer. 'This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you.' The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, 'Which do you want, son?' The boy takes the quarters and leaves. 'What did I tell you?' said the barber. 'That kid never learns!' Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store. 'Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?' The boy licked his cone and replied, 'Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over!'

A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later there's a knock on the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says: 'What the hell was that all about?'

Reminders

RNZAC Association Web site: www.mzac.co.nz

Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.

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