Communications Trade Newsletter

The Clip Board
**Team Communications**, welcome to the first online edition of the Communications Trade Newsletter for 2010.

It is the intention to promulgate a newsletter every two-three months, or on those occasions which deem it necessary to put out the good stuff.

Relevant points of contact will be identified at each unit over the next few weeks to enable articles and imagery to be forwarded for publishing in these newsletters. At any time anyone can submit articles and photos to the editor (CTO) with explanatory captions for publishing.

This inaugural ‘Clipboard’ newsletter summarises the most recent Communications Activity - The Communications Forum, held over the period 18-19 January 2010; with Day One consisting of Team Building activities held at the Tamaki Leadership Centre (TLC) at Whangaparoa; and Day Two being the formal presentations by key personnel at PHL Seminar Centre.

ED

FCS (CPORS Ikenasio) conducting Visual Readiness Inspection checks with DNIS (CDR Walker)
Day One - Tamaki Leadership Centre

75 Comms personnel attended; a massive achievement considering the sacrifices made and release-ability issues associated with the only 24/7/365 trade. On arrival personnel were divided into four teams, and rotated around the different activities throughout the day. These activities included:

1. Roaming through the tunnels aided by a single red glow stick to find clues (and puddles) before coming back into the daylight to record all the clues and word-smith the letters into the maximum number of words possible. Special thanks to the Club Swinger for not providing our team with all the rules until the last minute!

2. Playing Ninja and sneaking up on your blindfolded partner without being caught; there were plenty of imitations of the Pink Panther to be seen amongst some of the stealthier operators.

3. Group skipping with the aim of getting all team players skipping on one rope for the maximum time before legs and arms started flopping around.

Group skipping in progress
4. Shooting with .22 rifles at the dirt banks on the 100m range; obviously there were no snipers there on the day of the race since the majority of the targets surviving to see another day of shooting! The Top Gun award was given to OCO Rangihuna.

5. Co-ordination and team movement around the low rope and wire courses, including the 20 man balance board.

Despite the humid weather, the threat of rain in the air, and the bagged lunches provided; it was a day of enjoyment for all which had a great entertainment factor, and brought all ranks together through teamwork and good morale.

In the final event of the day, the Junior Comms team hotly contested the Tug-O-War, but the Senior Comms team dug deep and held out for a 2-0 win.
Who said Communicators weren't a friendly lot...
Good one Cl;ubs – you want us to go where?

Chief Waho demonstrating her finely honed rope swinging skills.
Day Two - Philomel Seminar Centre

Day Two kicked off on a beautiful, crystal clear typically sunny Auckland day and consisted of briefings from key speakers representing various organisations. With over 90 Comms personnel in attendance, it was a great opportunity to commence the day with a formal introduction of the ‘Champion of the Communications Trade’ - CDR Walker. There was also an opportunity to present the 2009 Communicator of the Year Award, and to have the biggest trade photo of many years taken.

Below is a synopsis of topics covered (not in any particular order of presentation).

**J6:**

- The NZDF C2 Environment - identifying the various lines of communications utilised to achieve information exchange with force commanders and force elements.

- CIS Priorities - from a C2 perspective COMJFNZ is only interested in whether or not he can achieve information exchange with his deployed commanders, force elements and when necessary higher coalition or multi-agency commanders that have NZDF forces assigned to them.

- Joint CIS Training Transformation - The potential for rationalisation of CIS training has been recognised for a long time. There have been numerous initiatives to progress over time but limited appetite from a number of areas.

However, the HRM DTP Stream has provided strategic direction to encourage bold steps in training delivery. The CIS Education and Training Transformation Team was established in Jun 09 and consists of recognised SME’s representing the customer, service provider and training delivery organizations.

Progress to date includes:

- Development of the Charter and Rules of Engagement
- Development of a Common Training Language
- Competency Mapping and Framework workshop
- Investigation of options for training delivery
- Development of the Six Levels of Competency, those being:
  1. Junior Operator,
  2. Senior Operator,
  3. Supervisor,
  4. CIS Specialist,
  5. Junior Manager, and
  6. Senior Manager.
- Detailed analysis of Levels 1-3 (up to PO) Competencies which has shown and 80% commonality between courses conducted by individual services, course lengths being 52 weeks (+ or - one week) for CIS training between the services and the Logical Lead Agency or Centre of Excellence for most of the identified competencies.

- The identification of 15 Competencies:
  1. CIS Planning
  2. Communications Principals
  3. Information Systems
  4. Network Engineering
  5. Systems Engineering
  6. Military Messaging
  7. Frequency Management
  8. Security
  9. Service Management
  10. Line cabling
  11. Field Communications
  12. Maritime Communications
  13. Air Communications
  14. Electronic Warfare, and
  15. Information Management

This will lead the NZDF to:

1. An immediate improvement in training quality and efficiency between the services.
   A. Better Training,
   B. Recognized Qualifications,
   C. More students per course,
   D. Higher quality recruits, and
   E. Limited reduction in instructor numbers.

2. Improved Operational Efficiency
   A. Common understanding across CIS community, and
   B. Alignment to NZDF IM and Network Strategic Goals which will lead to better networks and information sharing.

3. Reduced Long Term Training Costs
   - HQ JFNZ J6 Branch - the outline of the structure of the Six Shop within HQ JFNZ.
   - Joint CIS Job Opportunities - see your Career Manager (CPO A. Moa)
**DDNIS:**

- **FFNEC** - The Fleet-Focused Network Enabled Campaign (FFNEC) is a strategic initiative to support the regeneration of Maritime Military Capability. The Naval Patrol Fleet (NPF) presents an unparalleled opportunity to address inefficiencies in processes inherited from the existing Fleet. The campaign is split into four distinct phases, with Phase III already underway. Capabilities have been designed to support the introduction of the NPF. However, all capabilities are being developed to be scaleable to the entire Fleet and ultimately, across the whole of Navy.

- Joint Communications Modernisation is a review of NZDF requirements and Resources. The Planning Team is now well established with Charter under development and a proposal underway to set up a full time project.

- **LMS** - The Learning Management System (LMS) has been set up to run off DIXS in order to assist in overcoming training gaps which have been Experienced. Testing is underway at this time with staff working through the complex issues involving enrolments, study, course content, examinations, results and accreditations.

ACO Hayden Bradford being awarded the 2009 RNZN Communicator of the Year Award by Mr Arthur Venus from the RNZN Communications Association
The Future of the RNZN Communications Trade.

Current situation as it stands:
1. The Communications Operator covering both Radio and Visual.
2. Split at the PO level into sub specialisations.
3. Still maintaining significant training overheads.
4. Heavy focus on legacy skills.
5. No formal IS training/competencies provided (still undertaken by WE branch).
6. IS training has recently commenced at the NZDF IT Academy which currently adds to the training burden.

Drivers for change:
1. MCC’s User Requirement for the RNZN CIS Personnel.
2. NAVCOMMSTA Auckland/TACNOC NZ relocation.
3. CPORS Brown’s submission
4. DTP and the Joint CIS Working Group.

Where do we need to go?
1. Retention of some current skills.
2. Incorporation of IS skills to meet MCC’s User Requirements.
3. Redefine the RNZN Communicator and the branch structure to meet the MCC User Requirements in order to “future proof” the branch.
4. Ensure the survival and prosperity of the Branch.

What needs to be done?
1. Redefine the requirements of the RS and VS trades.
2. Confirm IS requirements.
3. Determine how technology can help us.
4. Define training.
5. Adjust our recruitment standards to assist.

Where to from here?
1. Confirm the branch structure – four options:
   A. Three specializations (RS/YS/IS),
   B. Two specializations with (RS and VS) with IS skills additional at all ranks up to CPO,
   C. Incorporate skills into one specialization (RS or YS), or
   D. An additional skill after LH based on interest and competence.
2. Present recommendations to CNWAC and NLB.
3. Undertake competency and training review.
4. Review MRS based on new competencies.
5. Investigate Branch name change??
ACMO: Your postings within the Communications Trade.

- Key points which came through from CPO Moa:

  1. Everyone develops a career path through a process of consultation.
  2. You submit a realistic course and posting preferences list to your Career Managers and ACCEPT liability for sea service, when appropriate.
  3. Career Management team considers professional development, career aspirations and personal circumstances for every individual.
Think you know what is being said here??
Submit your opinion to the Editor on what these two ancient Yeoman are talking about. All submissions will be judged by our panel of jokers and the winning quip placed in the next edition of the Clip Board.

If you have a photo for the next Comedy Caption; send it in.

Communicators to undertake ships familiarisation and taskbook training in the CTS Comcen

New members for the RNZN Communications Association—check out the following website for more information www.rnzncomms.org