

CB 10/02  
MAY 2010

# Communications Trade Newsletter



# The Clip Board

## **Update from the Communications Branch Champion**

It's already been four months since the Communications Branch forum and I have just about recovered from the skipping at Whangaparoa. Thanks to WO Gee for the photograph in Navy Today which clearly shows me jumping at the highest end of the rope! I feel that it is time for an update on where we are at with the RNZN Communications Branch Review that I briefed at the forum.

At the beginning of the year a number of RNZN communicators undertook training at the NZDF IT Academy at RNZAF Woodbourne. Whilst this was a valuable exercise in understanding what the academy can provide, it was determined that it did not meet the requirements of our vision for the future RNZN Communicator. It has subsequently been determined that the Information Systems Administrator (ISA) 1 and 2 courses provided by the W&E School will better meet our requirements. Some of you have already completed this training (ISA 1) so you will be aware of what it delivers. The issue we have is that the training some of you have completed has not been consolidated and built upon after completion of the course. CTO is now working on integrating the ISA 1 module into the LCO programme which will commence with the next LCO course. Where practicable (subject to workload) personnel who have completed the course will then be working alongside ETs in systems administration roles.

Whilst this is going on we will be initiating a review of what it is that Communicators and ETs actually do. This will involve a review of what is trained in the schools against what is done on the job. The purpose of this review is to determine what tasks will actually be transitioned to the Communications Trade and will also determine the current workload of Communicators. This will then initiate a graduated transition of responsibilities from the ETs to the Communicators, realistically over the period of a few years. When the review does come through to you via your supervisors I encourage you to engage where possible in order for us to gain maximum benefit.

As far as the structure of the trade goes, the current intent is to rename Communicators as the Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Branch. The structure is still under discussion and will be affected by things such as a review of fleet work and visual signalling that will need to be completed.

My initial thought is that Communicators will be CIS through all ranks with a YS or RS sub specialisation from POCIS upwards. This could well be adapted or changed as the transformation progresses.

You will notice from my article that I am taking an "evolution" rather than "revolution" approach to the Communications Trade transformation. I do not believe that it is prudent for a sudden changeover of responsibilities from one branch to the other, but rather a graduated handover is envisaged. To this end we need to identify some "Trail Blazers" who are willing to show leadership and interest

in what we are trying to achieve. If you are in a position to undertake the ISA 1 or 2 courses or to be able to work alongside the LAN administrator in your ship, I encourage you to do so. CTO or your career manager will be able to provide assistance if required.

Whilst there is a lot going within Naval Staff, the transformation of Communications Branch remains my top priority. The wheels do take a while to turn sometimes but we need to make to make sure that we get this right.

## ***Nobody asked me but....***

This month I will have been in the BCO seat a year. A lot has happened in that time, and from my perspective, the majority of it positive! When I first came into the seat, it had lain vacant for almost three years. Fortunately the OIC, CFM (CPOYS Greg Hanson) and others were able to adjust to the change, and respond accordingly in terms of financial and administrative responsibilities. On re-establishing the role of BCO, I was surprised to find that what was once a fully furnished office was now an empty and dusty shell. After a cleanout top to bottom, and sourcing the requisite office furniture, workstation and telephone, I was open for business!

The building in which the then CFM and myself worked out of, has a long and proud association with the Trade. In fact, many of you would have been hard pressed to find us, even though we were conspicuously located right next to Calliope Road. Suffice to say, we were the white three-bedroom

If the Communications Trade is to successfully make this transition we will need to work together to achieve our goals and this can only be achieved with your enthusiasm and engagement.

*Cdr M. Walker*

*Director Naval information Systems*

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house directly behind NCO and opposite the Day Care. For at least the past 20 years, that building was the focus for a lot of discussions, planning, briefings, reprimands and ribbings.

### **NCSA/TACNOC Relocation**

One of the first things on my plate when taking up the position of BCO was to review my Terms of Reference (TOR). As always, LTCDRs' Danny Kaye and Pete Dawson were able to assist and provide a wealth of knowledge and personal experience. As I write, the TORs are currently with CSC for sign-off. The next and to my mind, most exciting development to-date, was the standing up of the

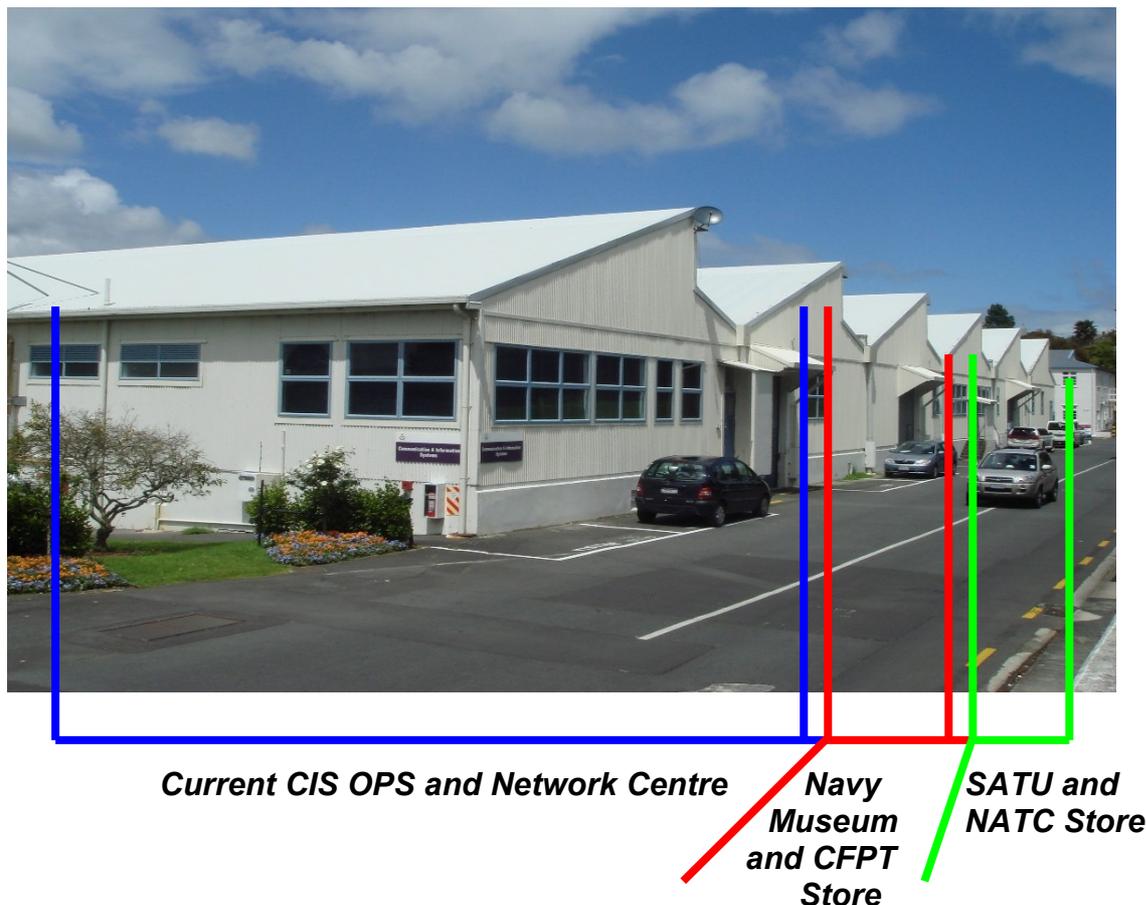
NCSA/TACNOC Relocation Project. The project is expected to be completed by the end of next year, at an overall cost of a few million dollars.

The Project has been divided into two streams; Infrastructure and Management. I am on the Project Teams for both, along with the OIC in Management. To-date, the following has taken place:

- a. Bay 2 of Building 203 is the former Naval Museum Storage Facility, and is located right next to Bay 1, CIS North. The Museum will locate to Bay 3, the area to be vacated by NATC and SATU (refer accompanying photo).
- b. NATC is to be relocated to the old Divers School site and will encompass a large garage facility and part of the PHL Boats Pontoon.
- c. SATU is to be relocated to the small grassed area behind the Drill Shed, and will encompass an armoury, lecture room, admin office and finally, ablutions.

The Infrastructure side of the project has been divided into two phases. Phase One is to encompass the building and relocation of NATC and SATU, whilst Phase Two will encompass the total refurbishment of Bay 2. Much as I'd like to show you the layout of our new facility, that is yet to be finalised.

Whilst this has been going on, the Management Team have been working to develop an agreed organisational structure for the co-location and integration with CIS Branch, for a combined Defence Communications Facility. This facility will provide Defence CIS requirements for Land, Maritime, Air and Joint operations.



Two options were developed and put to the Project Steering Committee for

approval, of which the latter won out. Actual details of this second option will

be divulged at a later date. I can assure you all that the project is on target, and the resulting facility will be a godsend and benefit to all.

### **Attached Storage Devices (ASDs)**

In recent weeks there has been much discussion wrt the use of ASDs. ASDs can introduce malicious code whether intentionally or unintentionally and may exploit vulnerabilities when connecting to another device or system.

A high percentage of all virus, trojans and worms detected on NZDF networks result from the use of ASDs. This malicious code can and has resulted in significant disruptions to users, networks and systems. As a result, strict guidelines have been imposed so that only NZDF-owned Iron Keys and USB sticks can be connected to NZDF networks. CIS 1/2010 dated 8 Mar 10 provides exact details. Suffice to say, the NZDF has been given until 30 Mar 10 to comply with these requirements. However, Navy has recently received a waiver until 30 Apr 10. This will allow for the introduction of standalone Releasing Terminals to be used as an interface between Classified and Non-Classified networks. In recent days paperwork has been submitted to FEC in order that this can happen, and the fleet advised via signal.

### **Ringfence Organisation**

Towards the end of last year the base undertook Exercise Ambergris, which is the exercise version of RINGFENCE. RINGFENCE is a requirement of the Maritime Security Act 2004, and is the codename for the NZDF Alert System that provides co-ordinated and incremental protective

security measures when required by a change in the assessed level of threat (Area Risk State). As one can imagine, there had been considerable time between exercises, and a change around in personnel, knowledge and experience. The exercise allowed key personnel like myself (2IC OPCEN) to assess and evaluate the organisation, and from my perspective, the communications resources available to sustain the organisation and its people.

Suffice to say, several key lessons resulted from the exercise, a number of which ended up on my desk for further investigation and resolution. I recently submitted a COMSTAT in the form of a Table, detailing where we currently are, where we need to be and how we get there. In addition, I updated and revised the Ringfence COMPLAN. They say "no news is good news", so let's hope that when I finally do receive some feedback, it'll be in the positive?!

### **Vetting Applications**

In the past several months, NZSIS has tried to stand up its OVR system, however due to it not quite meeting NZDF requirements; we have reverted to the tried and true paper version in the interim. In order to further smooth the vetting process, NZSIS recently promulgated the following guideline wrt the determination, requirement and justification for TSV Clearance. As a result, the following criteria were established:

- Employment involves the handling, storage, processing and destruction of COMSEC Material, or
- Requirement to post, deploy or visit a Foreign Defence Organisation that verifies in writing that the incumbent

requires a TSV Clearance as a prerequisite.

If it is determined that there is no requirement or justification for the Applicant (Candidate) to hold a TSV Clearance, then application is to be made for SV Clearance, regardless of age.

To those individuals currently awaiting SV clearance, I implore you all to keep on top of your Referees. By doing so, you ensure that your application can be processed more rapidly. To those about to fill out an application for SV clearance, ensure you have the following:

- Vetting Form Instructions
- VF1
- VF3

- MD389,
- MD390, and
- **reliable** Referees.

### **Passport Applications**

Acquiring or renewing a passport is an individual responsibility. In most cases, it is no longer permissible for military personnel to enter or leave a country on a Movement Order. Passport applications can be obtained from the Movements Office. Once you have your passport, don't forget to give the details to NAVPAC so that they can enter it onto ATLAS.

### **He Tangata He Tangata**

In closing, I would like to welcome those members of the Trade who have recently joined the Navy and are still undergoing training or have recently become members of Ships Company. At the moment we are strangers to each other, but a stranger is only a friend you haven't met.

To those of you doing the hard yards, I encourage you to voice your ideas to your Supervisors regarding improvements in the workplace, procedures or methods of task book/continuation instruction. There's no such thing as a dumb idea, and even in your short lives you may have seen something we are not or had been unaware of?

**The Armed Forces are not laboratories for social experiments. Their priority is to fight to win. Because their stakes are the protection of the nation and life itself, anything that compromises the military's effectiveness cannot be tolerated!**

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I'm currently posted to HMNZS Te Kaha and heading off to the United States, Canada and China.

I posted onto Te Kaha in July 2009. When I first arrived the comcen was an empty room. I was worried about how I was going to complete my already overdue task book. Thanks to RS Williams I would get some very valuable sea time on two trips. I was on HMNZS Manawanui for their two week trip to Nelson. In this time I completed seven tasks, learnt to Wakeboard (well to be honest probably learnt how not to wake board) and gained an appreciation for small ships.

Not long later I would find myself on HMNZS Canterbury heading to Tonga, Apia and Samoa to drop off supplies for the victims of the Tsunami. I couldn't have imagined how much damage a tsunami could make. Peoples belongings were scattered every where; that was a trip I'll remember forever.

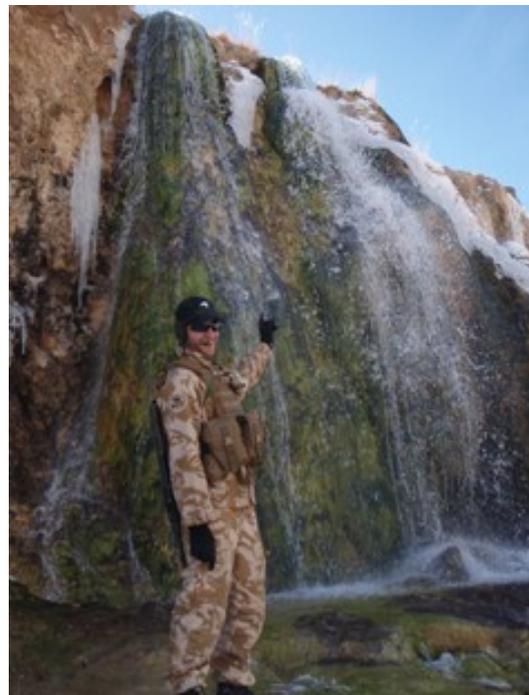
The DSRA was a very busy time for the ship. Particularly near the end when we realised how much there was still left to do. For the communicators it meant helping out on the rebuilding of the comcen and the installation of new equipment. I'm proud to say that the comcen is back up and running smoothly.

The crew gets along really well and are all looking forward to (finally) going to sea. This is the first time the NZ Navy has gone to the United States since the mid eighties so is an important trip for New Zealand. We are going to so many cool places, and may be the last time I ever go. I will be making the most of my spare time at every port. The Great Wall is right at the top of my

list of things I want to do (so hopefully I'll make it out of the pub).

### **Afghan by LCO Mark Naish.**

So far, my posting to Afghanistan has been the most interesting posting I have worked. This is not really due to the work I carry out but the extra tasks required of a communicator over here and the places and things I have seen.



As a CP-OP my basic job is really quite simple, communicating with patrols out and about in our AO (the Bamian Province) from the PRT Command Point (CP). Whilst this sounds quite mundane, it is the other jobs I have had to do that have made this an interesting and in its own, way challenging posting for me. Often, one of the CP-Ops is required to go on a patrol either locally for a day or as part of a larger task. This for me meant I have gotten to see a large part of the province, including The Bande – Amir

Lakes, which is still the highlight of my tour.

The lakes sit at about 3000m and on a clear day reflect the surrounding mountains as if from a mirror, something I will remember for a long time. While I haven't had to spend too many nights out of Kiwi Base I have had the chance to see two of the Forward Patrol Bases and the area surrounding them. It is quite amazing how different two places so close together can be.

Driving through villages made up of mud buildings, with men, women and children alike riding donkeys and women washing dishes and clothing in streams next to the road is something else. Even more out of place are the satellite dishes on these houses, used mainly for TV or internet. This country is so different to anything we experience in NZ and the contrast of old and new is stunning.

My tour has taken place through the winter months for Afghanistan, as NZ is enjoying warm weather of summer

we have been regularly getting below zero temperatures. Living in snowy conditions has been another first for me and has been something that has taken some getting used to. At first it's kind of fun but as it hangs around it gets to be a little bit of a nuisance, and as it melts it really stirs up the mud making a mess of things.

As my tour comes to an end I can't help but think that this is a posting all communicators should try to get onto. It will be one of the best experiences you could get to have.



**CERTIFIED CISCO NETWORK ASSOCIATE (CISCO) TRAINING**  
**NZDF IT ACADEMY, RNZAF WOODBOURNE**

On Sunday the 10th of January 2010, 7 Communicators from all ranks from in our branch flew down to Woodbourne to attend the NZDF IT Academy. On arrival to Woodbourne we were greeted by W/O Donald Napier who we later learned was an ex RNZN Communicator himself; he showed our class around the Airforce base and where our sleeping quarters were. First day of class had begun and as to the fact we were on a training base we had to march everywhere we went. We arrived to our class that was in a building that is quite similar to MWTC. The First week of our course we learned about PC fundamentals which involved stripping down a computer, naming the different components and installing a Operator System from scratch. Our class found that the first week of course was very exciting being able to do this kind of stuff.



*ACOs McGuinniety, Murphy, Doctor and CPOYS Dagger.*

Week 2 we started our first part of CCNA which was all about the different layers you learn in networking, and it went in depth on each individual component in the layers and what would be conducted over

the next 10 days. It also went into the basics of subnetting which we found that you need to be able to pick up pretty quick as you use it quite a lot with networking. Our instructor for the CCNA courses was F/S Conrad Ware and we also had a few Airforce personnel and a civilian who joined us for 4 weeks of CCNA we were doing. The way the Airforce run the course is quite compact and it is like that so personnel ain't away from there unit's too long. In the civi world the CCNA is run over a semester so you can see already that the course is not one to take lightly.

A few of us found that the course was very difficult but very interesting at the same time it made us find our own ways on which study techniques best suited us. Our class also passed CCNA level 1 which we were very happy about. CCNA 2 was our next course and from the instructors, they told us if we thought CCNA 1 was difficult that we would be doing more studying than that. We were not looking forward to it. CCNA 2 covered basic configurations of a router and it also went into depth on the different kinds of protocols that are used on routers e.g RIPv1, RIPv2 and EIGRP just to name a few. As we said earlier about subnetting; it does not stop in CCNA 2 - you are still needed to be able to do it. Good results came out of our course for our class and

### **Communications Training School – by LCO Hill**

The “juice” on what is happening on the 2nd floor of the “prink building”.

As always, the CTS has been kept busy, currently running ACO(Q) Phase Two, LCO(Q) and PORS(Q) courses.

The ACO(Q) Phase Two course instructed by LCO Cole is due to pass out on 28 May, so standby for seven more OCO's ready for sea service.

The LCO(Q) course which is currently in the middle of the Visual phase under the direction of CPOYS Lancaster; are putting the Fleet Work Trainer (FWT),

we are now CCNA 1 and 2 qualified. The last week we worked on servers and the different roles you can assign them. This was a pilot course for the Airforce as well but they took quite a bit of knowledge during that week as to how they could make the course a little bit better. In conclusion CCNA 1 and 2 are very difficult courses but if you put in enough effort and do the study then you will definitely get the of the course. Our time down in Woodbourne was very good; especially having the opportunity to go on a free wine tasting tour around Marlborough!

### ***CCNA One/Two QUALIFIED ACO's Murphy and Westbrook***



*End of course speech by WO Donald Napier*

Signal Training Facility (STF) and navigation aids to good use. The FWT and STF are available for use to the Fleet; please contact the CTS staff to ascertain availability and make bookings.

The PORS(Q) course instructed by CPORS Leomotu are preparing for sea riding onboard HMNZS Canterbury during a five week stint which will include Exercise Tropical Twilight. This will provide the sole course member, LCO Hoepo an excellent training platform to learn the roles and

responsibilities required of a PORS. CPORS Leomotu and LCO Hoepo will join CAN alongside DNB 25 Jun and RTNZ with the ship on 24 Jul 10.

The MWTC COMCEN is still under work by ENL. Progress has been made with rectifying the faults that occurred during installation and we look forward to it coming on line in the very near future. The COMCEN will also be receiving a hardware upgrade, enabling us to have the latest and greatest computer software for the fleet to utilise. Earlier in the year two NCSA Ordinary rates joined the CTS to conduct a ship task concentration period. The trainees were given access

into the MWTC COMCEN to conduct task book training; which was then assessed onboard HMNZS Taupo. Many thanks to the TAU Comms crew for their assistance during this time. It is the intention to assist more than 33 Ordinary rates in completing their radio ship tasks in the MWTC COMCEN when it is fully operational. More to follow.....

We have recently said goodbye to CPOYS Wiringi, who has been with the CTS since June 2007. CPOYS Wiringi has moved office to NCSA to continue

building the Learning Management System (LMS), developing the distance learning package for LCO (Q) Course and undertaking the role of Task Book Co-Ordinator. *He can now be contacted on Extn 7898.*

We will also be seeing WORS Gee (CTO) undertake the duties of FCS with MOET as of the 31 May. He will take on this position as well as continue in his role as CTO. WORS Gee will be located at the CDR William Smith building for the duration.

There is currently a vacant position at the CTS for a Petty Officer (Visual). For more information or to register your interest please contact the friendly Career Management Staff.

The CTS have three more courses programmed for the remainder of the year. With the reduction in recruitment numbers there are no more ACO(Q) Phase One courses for 2010. However another ACO(Q) Phase Two, LCO(Q) and POYS(Q) are scheduled to commence later in the year.

For further information and to make bookings to use any of the CTS facilities; please contact the CTS staff.

# Winning Comedy

## Caption

{And thanks to those who contributed worthy comments; the winner has  
and the surprise pack is in the mail}

***"Look Sir -  
you have no  
where to go -  
give me back  
the flagpack"***



# Wanted

More Comedy Caption Photographs

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[Notice from the RNZN Communicators Association.](#)

The RNZN Communicators Website has recently added the [\*\*history of Communication Centres in NZ since the 1940's.\*\*](#)

It may be of interest to some and can be found at [www.rnzncomms.org](http://www.rnzncomms.org)

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