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INTELLIGENCE PREPARATION OF THE BATTLEFIELD IN THE CONTEMPORARY OPERATING ENVIRONMENT:

A GROUNDED THEORY OF THE NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCE

A THESIS PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS AT MASSEY UNIVERSITY, MANAWATU NEW ZEALAND.

GERALD (JOSH) WINEERA
2011
Disclaimer

The views expressed in this thesis are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the New Zealand Defence Force.
Abstract

The past decade has seen the New Zealand Defence Force operate in a diverse range of land-environment missions. From the low-risk efforts bringing support to civil authorities in the Solomon Islands, through peacekeeping operations in Timor Leste, to the contribution to the counterinsurgency war in Afghanistan; New Zealand forces are experiencing the complexities of the irregular nature of the contemporary operating environment (COE). While accolades are forthcoming for New Zealand’s contribution, some operational difficulties, particularly in intelligence exist. A key problem that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency is the utility and understanding of the Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB) process in the COE. The reason is clear - Countering Irregular Threats (CIT) will be the main form of activity for at least the next decade with complex missions predicted to be the regular, contemporary form of military operations for New Zealand out to 2020.

This thesis discusses the perception of the IPB by 17 participants from the New Zealand Defence Force. The participants included personnel who deployed on operational missions as well as training staff. By analysing their experiences the grounded theory just getting by emerged as a research-based explanation of the New Zealand approach. Just getting by consists of six categories: ambivalence, short of expectations, recognising the need to adapt, risk, professional optimism and satisficing. The theory concluded that difficulties in applying the traditional IPB in the COE were the result of three key elements. First, most of the training was perceived as still grounded in the Cold War era conventional environment. Second, the small Intelligence Corps was considered overstretched and barely holding on as an effective military force. Third, the doctrine of intelligence-led operations appeared to be ignored, causing much angst and frustration. The overall feeling was the IPB was not operating as expected, however in lieu of any other process it was suffice. Just getting by provides an opportunity for the New Zealand Defence Force to consider modifications to optimise the current process.
Acknowledgements

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I was lucky to receive encouragement for the research from Brigadier Dave Gawn, and Colonel Roger McElwain from the New Zealand Army. As Commander of the Army’s Land Training and Doctrine Group, Colonel McElwain offered further support with members of his Training Branch, in particular Major later Squadron Leader Simon O’Neill.

I would especially like to acknowledge the senior Defence Force officers that granted me approval to undertake personnel research interviews with serving military members. Without the approval of Rear Admiral Anthony Parr, Major General Rhys Jones and Air Vice Marshall Peter Stockwell the research would not have been possible. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the Massey Ethics Committee who endorsed the Low Risk Notification of the research.

Support from Professor Emeritus Graeme Fraser and Wing Commander Rory Paddock is gratefully acknowledged. Their honest and candid review of the thesis was immensely beneficial.

I would like to sincerely thank the 17 participants whom gave freely of their time to share with me their very personal thoughts. Each was forthright, open and extraordinarily frank about their experiences and perspectives of the research topic. In some cases I felt the participants were quite grateful to have an opportunity to tell their story. The result was a rich collection of narratives and insights, of which this thesis presents the analysed material. While the full transcripts are not offered in this thesis I am very appreciative that all of the participants have allowed their interviews to be lodged on public record. This is an extremely generous decision, for I expect future researchers will find
valuable data within the transcripts. I am therefore hopeful that this thesis does justice to the contribution of the participants.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family. To Carmen, Finnley and Bella, your missing husband and dad is finally back - no longer “working on my thesis”.

Josh Wineera
Palmerston North, April 2011
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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABCA</td>
<td>ABCA Armies Programme, America, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Chief of Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIT</td>
<td>Countering Irregular Threats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Chief of Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMJFNZ</td>
<td>Commander Joint Forces New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COIN</td>
<td>Counterinsurgency</td>
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<tr>
<td>COE</td>
<td>Contemporary Operating Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIB</td>
<td>The operational code name for the New Zealand Defence Force mission comprising the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTC</td>
<td>Collective Training Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>EARLLS</td>
<td>Electronic Activity Reporting Lessons Learned System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GYRO</td>
<td>The operational codename of the New Zealand Defence Force mission to Timor Leste</td>
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<tr>
<td>HQ NZDF</td>
<td>Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ JFNZ</td>
<td>Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPB</td>
<td>Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J1</td>
<td>Joint Personnel Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J2</td>
<td>Joint Intelligence Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNCO</td>
<td>Junior Non-Commissioned Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTDG</td>
<td>Land Training and Doctrine Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAP</td>
<td>Military Appreciation Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDMP</td>
<td>Military Decision Making Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNF-I</td>
<td>Multi-National Forces - Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZ P86</td>
<td>New Zealand Army Publication: Staff Officers Handbook</td>
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<td>NZDDP-D</td>
<td>New Zealand Defence Force Publication: Foundations of New Zealand Military Doctrine</td>
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<td>NZDDP-3.0</td>
<td>Joint Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>NZIC</td>
<td>New Zealand Intelligence Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRT</td>
<td>Provincial Reconstruction Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>RATA</td>
<td>The operational code name of the New Zealand Defence Force mission to the Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMIS</td>
<td>School of Military Intelligence and Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNCO</td>
<td>Senior Non-Commissioned Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEWT</td>
<td>Tactical Exercise Without Troops</td>
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