



Te Matataua

Issue 1, Oct 2016

RNZAF

Air Power Development Centre Bulletin



Te Matataua Concept

"We think it would be unwise to retract from the commitment of twenty squadrons. A force of smaller dimensions would not be commensurate with the part that New Zealand naturally desires to play in the Pacific war, in which air operations are of such importance."

Advice from the American Chiefs of Staff to the New Zealand Government 23 Feb 1944

Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of Te Matataua, the Air Power Development Centre (APDC) bulletin. The purpose of the bulletin is to communicate future and contemporary air power topics and relevant RNZAF history in a short 2-page format that can be read over a cup of tea or coffee.

The general concept is taken from the RAAF Pathfinder series of bulletins that enjoy a wide international readership. It is intended that Te Matataua will be produced as monthly issues and if sufficient interest is received by readers and hopefully bolstered by submissions from budding RNZAF writers, then fortnightly editions may be possible.

Te Matataua is part of the APDC air power communications initiative that includes: re-establishing the RNZAF Journal, CAF's essay contest, topical booklets and maintaining APDC intranet website resources.

Over time, issues of Te Matataua will cover all manner of air power related topics, whether looking into the future, commenting on current activities or reflecting on historical events.

The bulletin's name, Te Matataua, was suggested by the RNZAF Maori Cultural Advisors Office, which identifies the scouting party used to reconnoitre ahead of a war party.

Similarly, the APDC is exploring the concepts of air power and reporting back its findings to the wider RNZAF. Te Matataua is also fitting as surveillance and reconnaissance forms a large role in RNZAF air operations.

The idea of 'scouting ahead', or perhaps more appropriately, 'scouting overhead' in support of NZDF Joint Task Force operations is an integral part of RNZAF war fighting capability.

That is not to diminish other core roles of the RNZAF such as air mobility, maritime strike and aviation training; or historical roles such as air superiority, interdiction, strategic bombing and close air support.

All air power concepts, roles and tasks including the political or environmental basis for undertaking them and shaping them should be communicated in a clear and concise manner. Te Matataua is therefore one of a number of communication initiatives to increase professional mastery among RNZAF personnel. Hopefully, these bulletins will be of interest to the wider NZDF and members of the New Zealand public.

Te Matataua is further described by the Maori Cultural Advisors Office as follows:

Te Matataua – Warrior Scout Party

Mata = head Taua = war party

When a war party was moving through enemy territory a smaller party of warriors was sent ahead of the main body to act as scouts.

They were referred to as 'te matataua' (scout party) or 'ngā toro' (probes). Usually 2 of the matataua were sent even further ahead to act as primary feelers and they were known as 'kiore'. One kiore covered the left side & the other the right & they always kept apart so that if one was caught or killed, the other could get away to warn the rest of the matataua. The matataua would then either fall back to the main body or wait in ambush to hold off the enemy while the kiore ran back to warn and bring up the main war party.

The motif adorning this issue of Te Matataua is taken from 40 Squadron Douglas C-47, which flew in World War Two. It is quite fitting as it characterises the delivery of a new air power communication initiative and the diversity of topics we hope to publish within Te Matataua. The nose art also reflects the candid, flexible and adaptable attitude of RNZAF personnel as a whole.

The APDC may change the nose art motif from time to time, but the idea of 'anything, anywhere, anytime' will have increasing relevance as we look to introduce more technology and more capable aircraft as part of the Future Air Mobility Capability and Future Air Surveillance Capability projects.

The intent of the quote headlining this bulletin remains as valid today as when it was penned in 1944: RNZAF air operations are of vital importance in the Pacific.

The RNZAF has a proud history of war fighting and support in the Asia - Pacific region and continues to support Australasian and Asian defence arrangements and Pacific Island nations.

Defence White Paper 2016 reiterated the importance of securing New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone and monitoring the Pacific and Antarctica as a priority. The RNZAF has a pivotal role in these expansive oceanic regions by flying P-3K2 aircraft to conduct surveillance and C-130 aircraft to move people, equipment and supplies. No. 3 Squadron operates closely with the NZ Army flying out of forward staging areas. Often, we deploy at short notice, with single aircraft ahead of a larger group. In doing so, we are sending out our Te Matataua, our warrior scouting parties.

Te Matataua will provide regular snap-shots of air power updates, analysis, principles, concepts and associated factors. Collectively, the bulletins will expand our professional mastery of air power roles and concepts.

Key Points

Te Matataua is one of the APDC's air power communication initiatives.

Te Matataua is a scouting party.

The motif characterises the diverse content proposed within Te Matataua.

RNZAF Air Power Development Centre
RNZAF Base Ohakea
Private Bag 11033 Palmerston North
Ph: 06 3515781
e-mail: ohapdc@nzdf.mil.nz

Disclaimer: The views in Te Matataua are not necessarily those of the RNZAF

