

## BIO

### **GRAEME A. TODD (LTCOL RNZA, Retd - SQNLDR RNZAF, Retd)**

On 15 Dec 73 I graduated from Portsea along with another 9 distinguished gentlemen of which 6 are also attending this auspicious gathering. I graduated into the RNZA and underwent young officer and Corps training in both New Zealand and Australia.

After spending several months as the RNZA Met Officer in Waiouru I was posted as a Tp Ldr with 161 Bty in Papakura. In Aug 76 I participated in the first Ex Longlook Exchange with the British Army and spent four months with 40 Fd Regt, RA and served with the British Army on the Rhine. Throughout this period 161 Bty exercised frequently in Fiji and also with the US Army Artillery in the Pohakuloa Training area on the in Hawaii.

In Dec 77 my escapades were discovered and for my sins I was promoted to and posted to Army General Staff as Staff Captain RNZA Corps Directorate where I served until returning to 16 Fd Regt as Adjt in Dec 80. During this posting I was also an active member of the 16 Fd Regt Parachute Pegasus Troop and as with several others still carry the scars from a late airdrop into the Moawhanga Valley in Waiouru. In Feb 82, along with three other Majors represented the NZ Army on the 25<sup>th</sup> US Inf Div Ex Team Spirit's mobilisation and exercise from Hawaii into South Korea.

Another highlight came in April 83 when I Commanded the Royal Guard at Government House, Auckland for the duration of the Royal visit by the current King Charles III, Princess Diana and baby Prince William and in May 83 was posted to HQ NZ Force South East Asia as Staff Captain Personnel. I must have done something right as in Oct 84 I was surprisingly promoted to Maj and posted within theatre as the OC Admin Company 1RNZIR where I served until returning to NZ in Nov 85.

On return to NZ I was posted to HQ Spt Comd in Palmerston North as Staff Officer Trg where I served until attending Staff College at RNZAF Base Whenuapai in 1988. Upon graduation back to AGS as Staff Officer Overseas Training during which time I represented the NZ Army as an umpire on an Ex with the Canadian Army in Alberta, Canada. In Sep 89 I was posted on active service to the United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) for a 14 month tour where I served initially as a UNMO and then as the Snr Ops Offr on the UN HQ until repatriation to NZ in Nov 90.

I was promoted to Lt Col with effect repatriation and posted as the Deputy Director Joint Operations and Training in Def HQ, Wellington from where I sought my release on 28 Apr 92 at the completion of 20 years' service.

For the next 15 years I occupied my time with Massey Aviation in Palmerston North and then the Import Vehicle trade travelling between NZ, Japan and the UK.

In Jan 07 I received a phone call from the Comd Op Spt Gp, RNZAF Base Ohakea, whom I had served with in Iran, and he offered the position of XO of the Group. How could I resist and reenlisted in Jun 07 in the rank of Squadron Leader. Awesome job from which I retired from in 2 Dec 11 and returned as a civilian to the NZ Army as the Adjutant/Executive Advisor at the HQ Land Operations Training Centre. (LOTC)

So overall a varied and exciting Military career from which I fully retired from in Jan 22.

I am married to Jo and have two daughters, Amelia who is an Occupational Therapist with a Degree from AUT, and Rochelle, who is the NZ Head of Sales and Operations for Bachcare(NZ) and six grandchildren f, m, m, f, m, f.