

SAFETY ALWAYS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAFETY DIRECTORATE



ISSUE 01 JAN 2017



NZDF Safety Person Award presentation by the Director of the NZDF Safety Directorate, Susan D'Ath-Weston, left, with safety advisor and NZDF Civilian of the Year, Selwyn Ponga-Davis, safety award recipient Major Tim Woodman, Manager Health and Safety 1Bde Linton, and, right, Commander 1 Brigade Colonel Brett Wellington

Benefits of unified health and safety system

NZDF Safety Person of the Year for 2016, Major Tim Woodman, Manager Health and Safety, 1Bde Linton, says a team approach raised the profile of safety at Linton and within the Manawatu community.

Taking up his new appointment in July 2015, Major Woodman put in place a number of safety initiatives to raise the profile of health and safety and the importance of reporting safety events.

Working with his colleague, Selwyn Ponga-Davis, who was named as NZDF Civilian of the Year for 2016, Major Woodman generated a joint Health and Safety Committee with Massey University and raised the safety message within schools in the surrounding district.

“The award was recognition of a team effort in encouraging greater appreciation of the need for attention to health and safety,” he says.

Presenting the award, Director of the Safety Directorate, Susan D'Ath-Weston, says the actions of Major Woodman and his team represented the benefit of a unified health and safety management system across the NZDF.

“Major Woodman and Selwyn have made safety and health an important part of everyday work at 1 Brigade. In doing so they have also provided an example of what can be achieved and the value to the NZDF of a consistent approach to Safety Management.



“The NZDF Safety Person award is made to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to improving safety, leadership of a significant activity, achieved qualifications, or who has made a significant contribution – Major Woodman and his team have gone far and beyond the minimum expected,” she says.

Commander 1 Brigade Colonel Brett Wellington says the award was richly deserved because of the efforts to raise awareness of health and safety, mitigate risk, and to look after our people at Linton.

Other NZDF Safety Award winners were for the Best Initiative to Address a Safety Hazard, Miss Sally Garrett, and for Best Significant Safety Initiative, Mr Malcolm Parkes. Finalists for the awards included Gerard Jackson, RNZN Devonport; WOWT Nicholas Rowe, RNZN Devonport; Lisa Ross, DASH, Ohakea.

New liaison role for safety



A Workplace Health and Safety Advocate, Dr Bikram Pandey, has been appointed to the Safety Directorate as a point of contact for camps and bases across NZDF.

“I am really enjoying my new role and already have met a number of the safety advisors and health and safety committee members. They are all doing a great job and I am here to provide a vital link to the safety directorate,” he says.

Bikram has expertise in health and safety training, monitoring, and safety reviews within New Zealand and overseas. He holds a Doctorate in Occupational Health and Safety from Massey University and a Masters in Engineering.

You can contact Bikram on 021 917 431 or Bikram.pandey@nzdf.mil.nz

Reporting events vital for safety

Safety information is the life blood of a healthy Safety Management System (SMS), says Safety Director Susan D'Ath-Weston.

While we, of course, need to know about incidents, injuries and near misses, these are all 'after the fact' reports. The value of an effective SMS is being able to prevent these incidents in the first place. When our people tell us about hazards and safety problems - the little things every day - we actually have an opportunity to assemble the pieces and prevent them coming together to produce harm.

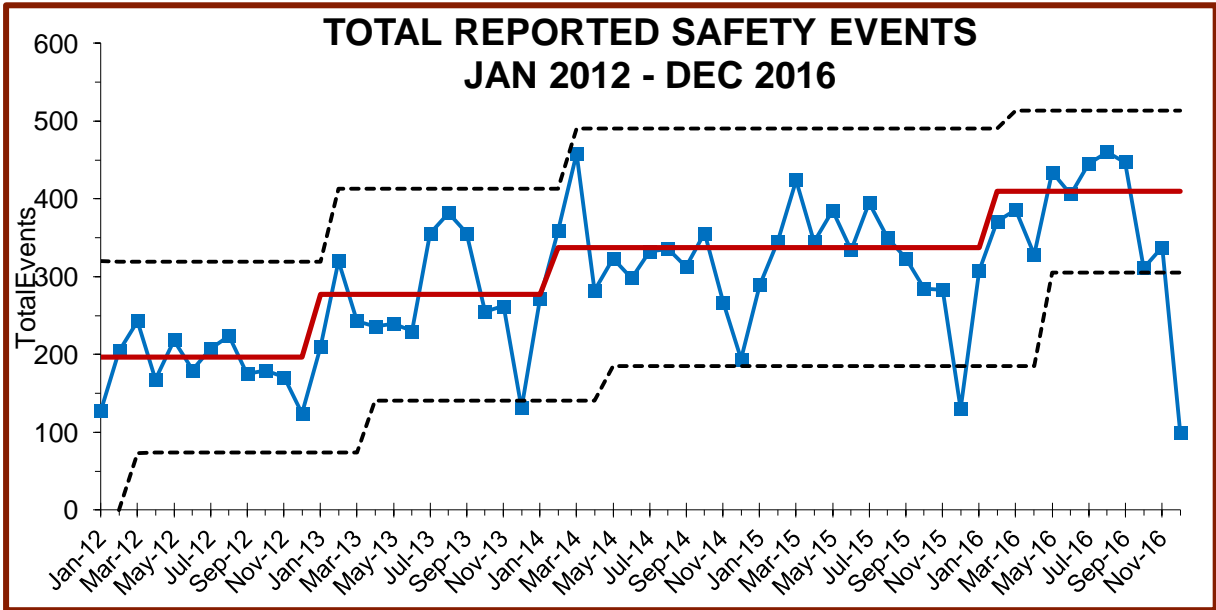
A key indicator of an improving SMS is an increase in reporting rates.

We are seeing a steady increase in the reporting of low risk safety events. This reflects an improving positive safety culture across Defence, she says.

The rise in reporting is providing a sharper picture of safety across Defence.

Monthly data on safety events over the 12 months to December 2016 showed a stepped increase with Navy leading the way with a concerted initiative to increase voluntary reporting on their ships and bases each month.

We encourage reporting of safety issues no matter how small, because a culture of reporting each event is important in making NZDF a safer organisation.



Shady spot for playing cards - Provide your safety caption and win a gift card



A great spot for keeping out of the sun – and dangerous!

We welcome your best caption suggestions and you will be in to win a gift card.

Email your entries to warren.inkster@NZDF.mil.nz.

Acknowledge someone doing a good job on safety

We want to hear your stories about our people doing good work in the area of safety.

Please include their name, unit, contact, a picture and 120 word captions telling us their story. Contact Business Information Advisor Warren Inkster 021 650195 or

email warren.inkster@NZDF.mil.nz