

Ms. Narelle Silwood is a member of the Defence Technology Agency. Her primary focus for 2018 has been to support the Royal New Zealand Navy in developing its Mission Support Capability and her performance for this task has been exemplary. Narelle's diligence, devotion to the task and passion for her work, in ensuring development of the Mission Support Capability in support of the Frigate Systems Upgrade (FSU) programme is significant not only for the Navy, but to future NZDF operational capability.

The FSU will deliver a '5th Generation' platform to the RNZN enabling safer operations for NZDF platforms and crew in medium to high threat environments. The new systems being installed into HMNZS TE MANA and TE KAHA are extremely complex and for these to be able to achieve their full operational potential a significant amount of automation is required to be pre-programmed into the Combat Management System. As the Mission Support project was very much in an embryonic state, DTA were tasked to assist with the mapping process and Narelle was made available to assist with this initiative. Narelle's expertise lies in the understanding of complex systems. With little in the way of instruction manuals or pre-existing procedures to follow she was able to extract information from individuals and other sources across the organisation and to map out the resourcing and processes that are required to achieve a specific goal. Narelle's work has been extremely valuable and influential; she has used her excellent interpersonal and communication skills to great effect and has conducted a significant number of stake holder engagement initiatives within which she was able to draw upon a vast range of knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and then map it all out into easily digestible charts.

Achieving a complete overview of what the capability should look like including all the dependencies from across the NZDF is worthy of recognition on its own. However, Narelle's positive and determined effort in turning simple maps into tangible capability that has already delivered an effect for front line units is what sets her above her peers from across Defence. Her energy and enthusiasm for this initiative has been limitless, she has coached, mentored and supported the junior members of the Mission Support team, managed to extract vital information from individuals who were resistant to change, and has not been afraid to challenge peoples pre-conceived ideas.

Narelle absolutely epitomises the Navy Core values; Courage, in the manner she has progressed such a significant project with no guide to follow; Commitment in all of her actions and work ethic to achieving the specified objective and Comradeship which included engagement across all levels, from Chief of Navy, Maritime Component Commander and other members of the NLB to SME's at all levels and also through the support she has given to all of her peers involved in the project

In June 2018 the Naval Leadership Board approved the establishment of the Mission Support Capability and in September 2018 the first set of real world system files were delivered to Lockheed Martin Canada, far exceeding their expectations of what would have been produced in such a short space of time. These achievements are as a direct result of Narelle Silwood's hard work, dedication to her role with DTA and the wider NZDF, and belief in the art of the possible and it is for this that she is recognised as the New Zealand Defence Force Civilian of the Year 2018