

1999
Victoria Cross for NZ
awarded for the first time

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Object: Programme, 'Ceremony to Honour the Gallantry of Corporal Bill Henry Apiata VC'

Title / object name Programme, 'Ceremony to Honour the Gallantry of Corporal Bill Henry Apiata VC'

Maker Role Date
New Zealand Government commissioner 2007

Materials paper, ink, metal

Dimensions

Overall 296 (Height) x 210 (Width) x 4 (Depth) mm

Classification programmes

Technique printing

Registration Number GH023180

Credit Line

Gift of Puawai Cairns, 2012

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Te Papa, n.d. [f]

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Made in:

New Zealand

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New Zealand

Te Kaha

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Part of:

History collection

Made of:

paper

ink

metal

Technique used:

printing

About:

Rites & ceremonies

awards

Type of:

programmes

This programme is significant because it commemorates the ceremony for Corporal Willie Apiata VC, New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS), held at Te Kaha Marae, Te Kaha, in August 2007, after he was awarded the Victoria Cross on 2 July 2007.

The programme is very detailed and features speeches from the Prime Minister the Rt Hon Helen Clark, Minister of Maori Affairs the Hon Parekura Horomia, and Governor-General the Hon Anand Satyanand. Also included is information on Te Kaha Marae, the Citation itself, the Victoria Cross, Willie Apiata and his whakapapa, other Maori VC recipients, and a message from Willie.

Corporal Apiata's family settled in Te Kaha in the late 1960s, and Te Kaha Marae became his home marae. The ceremony was a significant event, and was recorded in the television documentary, 'The Reluctant Hero'.

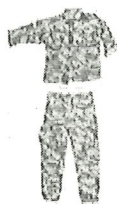
Corporal Apiata was awarded the Victoria Cross for New Zealand for displaying the highest order of personal courage under fire during a period of duty in Afghanistan in 2004. His VC is the fourteenth awarded since the Second World War, and the first to be awarded to a member of the SAS anywhere in the Commonwealth. It is the first VC to be awarded to a New Zealander since WWII, and the first Victoria Cross for New Zealand to be awarded.

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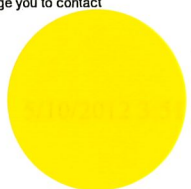
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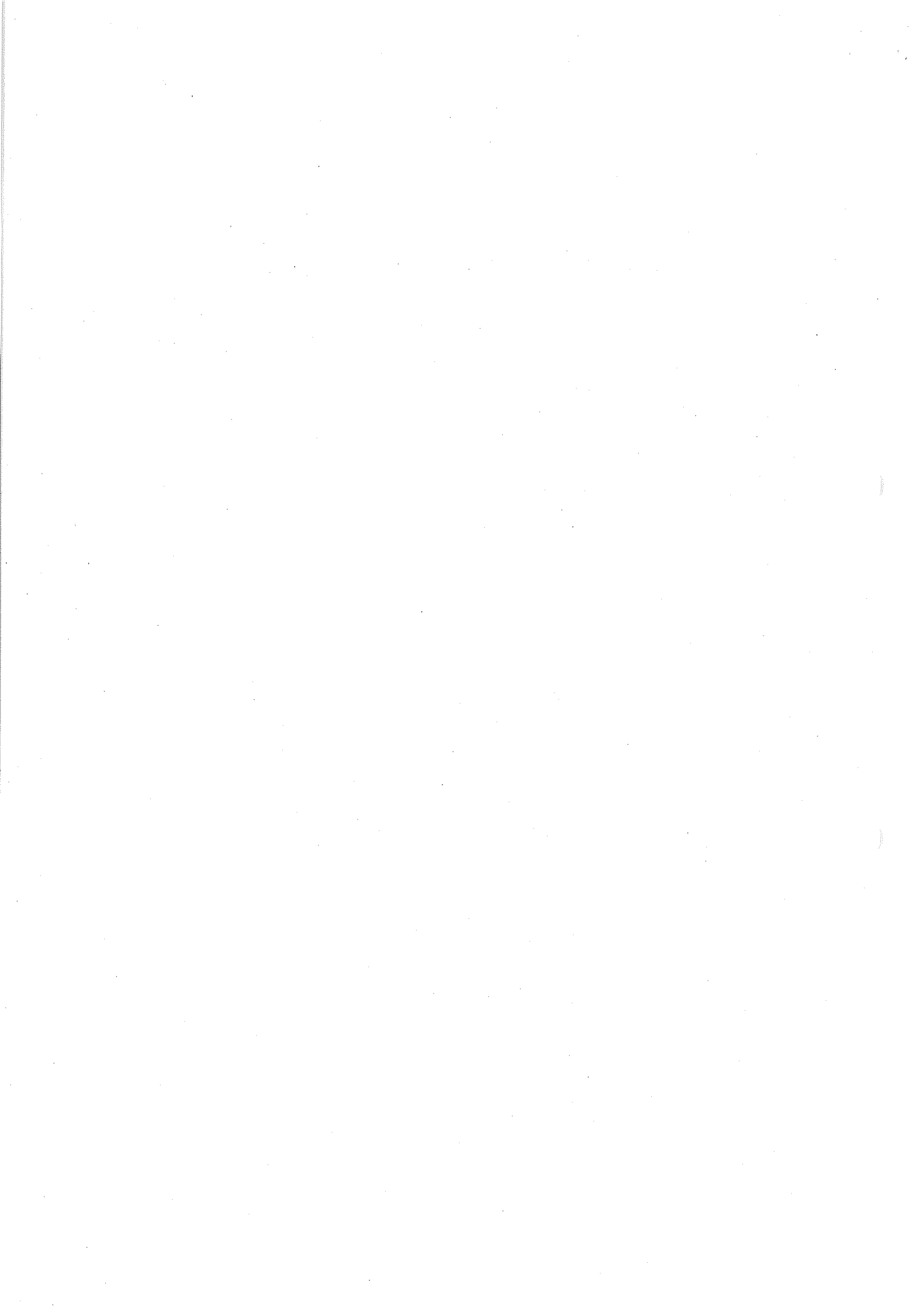
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Desert Disruptive Pattern Material uniform
New Zealand Defence Force
early 2000s

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