



# NZ Army, 2015

## Iraq: 2003 - 2013

A 61-strong team of New Zealand Defence Force personnel, including 35 New Zealand Army engineers, deployed to Southeast Iraq to undertake humanitarian and reconstruction work in September 2003.

Their work included the repair and refurbishment of hospitals, health clinics, schools, police stations, law courts and municipal and government buildings. They also helped restore electricity and rebuild bridges and water pipelines.

The engineers were a mix of carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and field engineers. Cooks, medics, quartermaster/suppliers, electrical technicians and vehicle mechanics also provided logistic support.

The Kiwis joined soldiers from Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Norway, Portugal and Lithuania in working alongside British forces, in Basra.



Earlier in the same year three New Zealand Army officers deployed to Iraq under a United Nations mission, providing the UNAMI Assistant Military Advisor in Iraq; a NZDF Officer providing liaison between the United Nations Assistance Mission Iraq (UNAMI) and the Multinational Force and Iraqi Security Forces; and a NZDF officer providing advice on military matters to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG).

This military advisor role continues to operate and is currently located in Baghdad.

“The NZDF contribution to post-conflict Iraq was humanitarian in nature, and by international standards was modest and simple. Yet, at the time there was little obvious work of a similar nature being undertaken by uniformed forces in the Al Basrah Province.”

“By working alongside the Iraqi people to rebuild facilities and re-establish services that were important to the local communities, the Kiwis were able to make a difference for the people of Basrah.”

“It is at this community level that Kiwis seem most effective – breaking down communication barriers and closing cultural gaps through hard work and good-natured interaction with the locals, while providing meaningful and appreciated assistance.” – **Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Phil Morrison.**

### The United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) 1991 – 1995

This mission was established in 1991 to implement the process for destroying Iraq's stocks of weapons of mass destruction and long range missiles, and for the termination of its ability to produce such weapons.

New Zealand's initial contribution was a medical team that increased to a staff officer and administrative and communications staff. Teams from UNSCOM were to locate Iraq's stocks of these weapons and related material, supervise their destruction, and later institute a long-term monitoring regime to ensure that Iraq did not regain the capacity to build such weapons.

The New Zealand medical team eventually numbered six. The most dangerous part of UNSCOM's work was the inspection and destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

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