

Military Camp

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Community psychologists try to redirect attention from the individual to the conditions of life for their clients (Levine and Perkins, 1997, p.3). Community psychologists examine the context within which clients are embedded and the community and support networks that surround them. The community that provides the context for this study is Linton Military Camp and the Base Housing Area. To describe the relevant aspects of this community the steps set out by Gregory (1999) will be used. These steps are: define what a community psychologist does, give a description of the context/community, engage, discover some problems, and elaborate on both the strengths and needs of the community.

Ngati Tumatauenga (the tribe of the war god), the New Zealand army, is a part of New Zealand's culture, history, and future. The largest part of the New Zealand Army is based at Linton Camp, which is a satellite community of the city of Palmerston North. This chapter will look at the significant impact these two communities have on one another. The relationships of mutual influence will be investigated in the context of political, social and economic impact.

A community perspective can take either a top down or a bottom up approach. Many of the concepts used in community psychology are taken from an ecological perspective. Ecology studies the fit between persons or organisms and their environments (Rappaport, 1977). The ecological viewpoint requires a "concern with the relationships of individuals to each other as a community; as a differentiated social grouping with elaborate systems of formal and informal relationships" (Mann, 1978, cited in Levine and Perkins, 1997, p.4). These systems and relationships have multiple layers and contexts. To study and understand a community the researcher must address the varied contexts that affect the community, including historical, social, political and economic situations. The ecological perspective views human behaviour, whether abnormal or normal, as individuals' adaptation to the resources and circumstances available to them (Levine and Perkins, 1997).

Bronfenbrenner (1979) developed an ecological approach that examines the influences that affect people at four different levels. The first level is the microsystem or immediate setting in which the individuals live their lives. The microsystem consists of the roles, activities, and relations and their proximal process between those interacting in these systems. An example of microsystems in the army camp would be home, neighbourhoods, or schools. Second the mesosystem is the system of linking or the "interlocking of various microsystems a person is involved with" (Papalia and Olds, 1995, p. 9). Mesosystems includes the linkages between home and school or between home and the church community and so on. Third, the exosystem refers to the indirect forces or influences that affect individuals. These include decisions and policies of school boards and government institutions and agencies. Government policies have an even more direct influence on government agencies like the army. The fourth system, the macrosystem, is the widest reaching and accounts for the overarching culture, values, attitudes and beliefs. These systems include attitudes, values and beliefs about religion, education and patterns of government in which communities and individuals are embedded. All of these systems have an effect on individuals within a community.

The behaviour of individuals in their environments is a product of the perceived social climate, the behavioural settings and their social roles. The social climate in which people live impacts on their lives. Murray (1938) discusses environmental presses, which characterize given settings in which a need is more likely to be facilitated or the need will be obstructed. Moos (1976) emphasizes that environments have 'personalities', which may be achievement-orientated or controlling. Albee (1980) focuses on the ways in which individuals or groups can become more competent and thereby reduce problems. Using the ideas of these three theorists, the social climate of Linton camp has changed recently. The army is actively encouraging soldiers and families to buy houses off base by providing

loans. The social climate of the camp now enables soldiers and their families to buy houses in town, changing their settings and social roles, leading the way towards fewer problems.

Behavioural settings are the concept that certain specific behaviours will consistently occur in certain settings (Barker, 1968). An army example of this is that soldiers who are stressed and drink a lot of alcohol will choose a setting such as a pub more frequently than others not so stressed. A result however, is that this consumption of alcohol is much more likely to lead to domestic violence. Social roles can be examined in the context of the army as soldiers often have a number of conflicting roles. They are not only 'one of the boys' but also fathers, husbands, partners and trained killers. Sarbin (1970) describes these environments in which individuals find themselves as differentiated "ecologies" within which people must find ways to survive. Lewin (1935) purported that all behaviour, abnormal or normal, is a function of the person and the environment. The soldiers and their families in the camp are trying to find ways to 'survive' given the social climate, behaviour settings and social roles into which they are embedded.

The ecological perspective has influenced a number of models and theories used by community psychologists. A few instances of these are labelling theory (Levine and Perkins, 1997), prevention models (Caplan, 1964), competency models (Albee, 1980) and Dohrenwend's model of stress in community settings (1978). Labelling theory places abnormal behaviour in a more social context. An example of this at the Military Camp is the social context in which excessive drinking is acceptable, although in other situations, this behaviour would be deemed abnormal. Heller (1984) notes that those who use the prevention model attempt to decrease psychologically poor adjustment before a problem reaches its peak. This model identifies the assistance and resources available at the earliest stages in the development of problems. Linton Military camp does run education programs on drinking, drugs, violence, finances, and sexually transmitted diseases (CSO). However, there are no real early prevention programs in place for the major problems faced by soldiers and their families. Competency models point out that by providing additional skills, the coping and mana-

gement ability of individuals will be enhanced, and fewer problems will occur. Soldiers with skills have fewer problems than those without skills, including broad competencies gained from education and training, and specific abilities such as knowledge of relationships. The Dohrenwend model (1978) looks at life events that cause social stress that under certain circumstances can lead to psychopathy. This theory is quite applicable to soldiers and their families who face numerous stresses concerning the military life style. The army could take a more ecological view, which would place the behaviour of soldiers and their families in a social context that would allow them to identify needs earlier and prevent the social stresses that can lead to abnormal behaviour.

Definition and Description of the Community

The ecological paradigm, which can be applied in the definition of communities, states, "environments exert significant effects on human behavior and that people can therefore explain and perhaps manage their behavior through greater understanding of specific environmental influences" (Levine and Perkins, 1997, p. 112). Kelly (1966, cited in Levine and Perkins, 1997) identifies a number of useful concepts used to describe communities. First, a population is a group of similar individuals with similar interests who can be defined by their social interests and roles. Second, a community is a population that shares a defined area. Third, the ecosystem includes both the community and the inanimate environment. And finally, there is the biosphere, which is the larger inhabited environment or planet.

Linton Military Camp is the largest army camp in New Zealand. The army plans to increase the size of both Linton Army Camp and Burnham Military Base in the South Island. This means that by 2005 both camps should have four full-sized rifle companies (Ministry of Defence, 1997). The 2nd Land Force group has its headquarters at the camp and Linton will be home to around 2500 soldiers in the near future.

Linton Military Camp is located in the centre of the North Island in the suburbs of Palmerston North, a city with a population of about 70,000. The community described for the purposes of this article, concentrates on the "housing area".

This housing is provided by the military for soldiers and their families. It is placed adjacent to and just outside the gates that secure the actual military camp. Approximately 1330 people live in the camp housing area.

The history of the camp is taken from the *Welcome to Linton Camp* (no date) booklet that new arrivals receive. The land the camp sits on once belonged to the Maori tribe, the Rangitane. Before the Second World War, Mr. C. T. Keebles farmed the land. The camp was established toward the end of 1941 because of the threat of war in the Pacific, mainly from possible invasion by the Japanese. The camp was designed to be only semi-permanent. Construction of the main camp started in 1942 and by March 1944 there were 182 permanent buildings, 521 two-man huts, 155 four-man huts and 480 eight-man huts. In 1943 the camp was named Linton Camp after the area on which it is situated. Linton is now a suburb of Palmerston North. Linton Camp has been through a number of changes in type and number of personnel. The camp is home for units from Force Troops, 2nd Land Force Group, and Army Training, and includes intelligence, an army simulation center, police, a field hospital, signallers, and engineers.

The *Welcome to Linton Camp* booklet describes the environment as a "semi-urban setting with local food outlets and fuel and vehicle repair facilities nearby" (*Welcome to Linton Camp*, p. 3). Currently 382 houses are allocated for servicemen and women with families. These have been constructed from 1949 and the most recent in 1989 when the force returned from tours of duty in Singapore.

The facilities available in the military camp include a gymnasium, weight room, swimming pool, hospital, dental program, armed forces canteen, hairdresser, rifle range, memorial remembrance wall, sports fields, confidence course, golf club, recycling centre, fire station and squash court (*Welcome to Linton Camp*, no date). To enter the military camp, a pass is needed, however when the level of security is high only military personnel are allowed into the actual army camp.

The entire population of the Linton Camp Community is involved with and deeply affected by the army. For one example, after many soldiers were deployed to East Timor a mini baby boom occurred in the housing area (CSO). The

community has 'similar interests' for resources and social toxins affect them similarly (Kelly, 1966). The population is diverse in some respects, such as culture, however the people are more homogenous than most typical communities. One of the most overriding similarities that everyone in the housing area shares is that they are employed by the same boss (Housing Officer). The military is this community's chief employer, landlord and also a key influence on the macrosystem. The army has its own culture, values and belief systems which have strong social norms to which soldiers and their families are pressured to conform.

Most of the people in the housing area are quite young with approximately 90 percent of the population aged less than 35 years (Statistics New Zealand, 2001). The majority of the population is European, however this community is more multicultural than the average with a little less than half the population being Maori. In Camp, Maori make up a little less than half the population whereas in the general NZ population Maori account for only about fifteen percent. Both the Pacific Island and Asian populations are more numerous than the average percentage found in the rest of New Zealand (Statistics New Zealand, 2001). A significant number of Asian women are wives of personnel who were stationed in Singapore. The languages spoken and religions followed are diverse with at least 13 religious affiliations (Statistics New Zealand, 1996). The majority of the people in the housing area have partners, either being legally married or in de facto relationships. The army has what is termed a 'recognised relationship', which means the partner, and family will receive "those benefits pertaining to personnel with families" (First Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Welfare Resource Book, 1997, p. 34). This privilege must be applied for and the couple will receive a short pre-relationship counselling session from the Padre or Army Chaplain. To qualify for a house in the housing area personnel must be in a recognised relationship or have family, and noteworthy, there has been a recent increase in both male and female solo parents (Housing Officer). Linton camp has a number of families with a low socio-economic status as 120 males and 201 females earn under \$15,000 a year (Statistics New Zealand, 2001). Income support considers a low income for a

single person is \$17,769 a year before tax and for a family of three no more than \$32,846 a year before tax (First Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Welfare Resource Book, 1997, p. 20). Over 200 people in the housing area depend on some kind of government-funded benefit, however the majority of the population depend on their wages or salary. Interestingly, 45 unemployed persons live in Linton Camp (Statistics, New Zealand, 1996, 2001). Nearly everyone living in the housing area is able to rent a separate house as opposed to a flat or apartment (Statistics New Zealand, 1996). This shows that the housing area has the advantage of secure housing and the disadvantage of having a number of people with extremely low incomes.

The Housing Area as Community

The camp area is set adjacent to the Manawatu River and a smaller stream, the Kahuterawa. There are a number of park areas in the camp. The houses that have been built more recently have more plants and shrubs, which reflect a change in planning by the army (Housing Officer). In the middle of the housing area the army has built a new, modern community center that is a multipurpose structure. Diverse groups use it for a variety of reasons, including workshops, dinner/luncheon functions, and marae stays. It also houses a Kohanga Reo and day care program (Editor, 2002, no page). The Linton Community produces and receives a newsletter, the *Lintonian*, published fortnightly by the Community Services Officer (CSO). This newsletter is a blend of helpful information, services available, and advertisements and is given freely to all resident in the Linton area.

In the immediate area around the Community Centre a number of services and four educational facilities for children can be found. The primary (5-12 year olds) school has 8 classrooms and takes children from the surrounding area as well as the children of army personnel in the housing area. There is a childcare centre for children from birth to school age. It is open during working hours, but currently has a long waiting list. A Kohanga Reo or Maori language nest, allows children to learn Maori as the children and teachers speak only Maori when there. A playgroup is also available three days a week for

parents and children. Older children go to secondary school in Palmerston North. They have a choice between six schools with bus services provided. School and day care facilities available to the camp are diverse and of a good quality.

The housing area has a Community Board, which has wards similar to local government. Anyone in the community may volunteer to be a member of the board. The board has a dual chair, a senior officer and a non-military person. The board also has a representative from each community group (CSO).

The services available to the community include a small commercial complex that houses two small shops and a library. A new health service in camp is part of Whakapai Hauora Best Care, which includes a part-time doctor's clinic, and a counselling service (Richardson, 2002, p. 1). This service is vital, as at least 5 percent of mothers in the camp do not drive. A number of mothers and their children use this facility and its implementation has been a bonus to the camp. A bus service that was recently introduced was not as successful. Only a few of the buses have been kept running. Especially popular were the late night buses that enable people to get home inexpensively without having to drive after drinking. At least two people were able to get jobs because of the daytime buses. This shows the impact small changes can have on families and the importance of the link to Palmerston North for the partners of soldiers (CSO).

The community is well policed. The two community constables who serve the camp and surrounding area, are based at the community center. The area is also patrolled by the military police, however they are mainly concerned with defence policing because their jurisdiction does not include the housing area (CSO). The Palmerston North City police are the major security force for the housing area and even to some extent the actual army camp.

The military or a private contracted company performs most maintenance of the housing area. The military provides routine house maintenance, which is carried out on a rotation system. The roads and fire service are primarily the responsibility of the military. The only imported services are the electric, gas and rubbish collection (Housing Officer). The private company has been contracted by the army to

provide facilities management. This is because the army wants its personnel to focus on their key job, defence. The private company also provides gate security and swimming pool staff (CSO). This company has opened up the army to more civilian employment and has recently taken over many of the jobs that the army used to perform. This change has and will continue to impact the army camp and surrounding community.

The Linton Camp is a satellite community of Palmerston North (Fig. 1). The housing area is embedded in a number of other communities and has many links to other local communities. This means that the population has access to a number of facilities that other more remote army based units do not have. The relationship between all of these communities and the military camp is one of mutual benefit. These relationships and their impacts are discussed in the next section.

The Housing Area Ecosystem

The Army is a government agency, which is heavily influenced by politics. An example is that the army found it financially unfavourable to be in the real-estate business. Soldiers are now encouraged to buy houses in the city and not rent army housing. In the future the army is

going to phase out 'army housing' and run itself more like a business. Another example of the impact of policy on the military is the phasing out of the air-powered part of defence and a focus on a more land-based force. This meant the loss of a number of jobs at Ohakea airbase, which is located not far from Palmerston North. Rolfe (1993) discusses the policy environment of the defence force and finds it is relatively complex. The major problems he finds, affecting policy are institutional jealousy, single service partiality, fixation and lack of co-ordination. Figure 2 shows the levels of bureaucracy, to which the 2nd Land Force Group based at Linton is subject. All policies concerning the camp or army community are passed through many layers as shown in Figure 2 & 3 and each unit must compete for resources with all the other forces as well as with the other areas of the army.

Interdependence: Palmerston North and Linton Army Camp

Discussed in this section is the significant impact of Linton Army Camp on several areas of the city of Palmerston North and the mutual influence that takes place between these two communities. These two communities are interdependent which means they have a dynamic interaction over time. Kelly (1966) defines interdependence as when changes in one component of an ecosystem affect changes

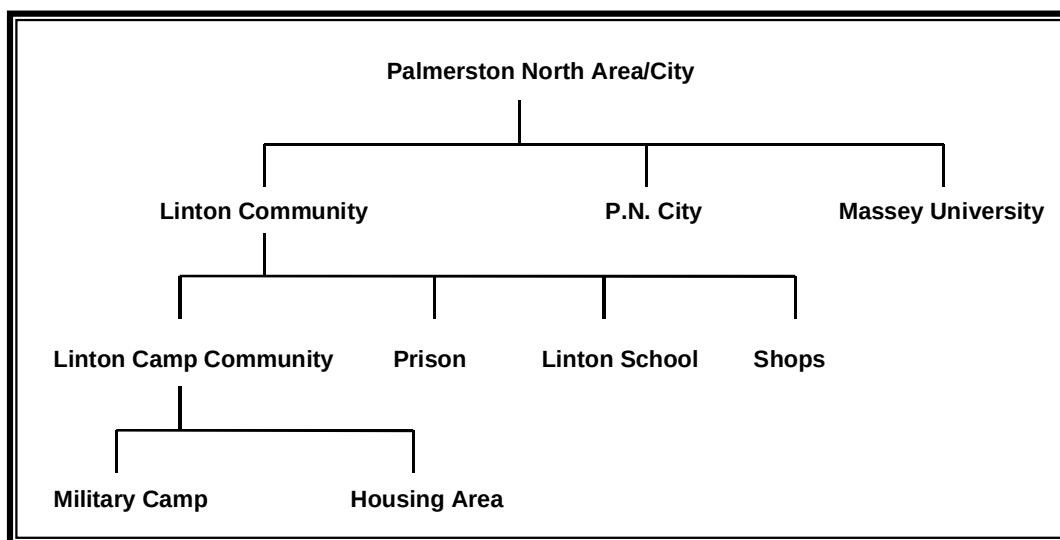


Fig. 1. Surrounding structure of Linton Camp housing area.
Source: Author, based on participant observation.

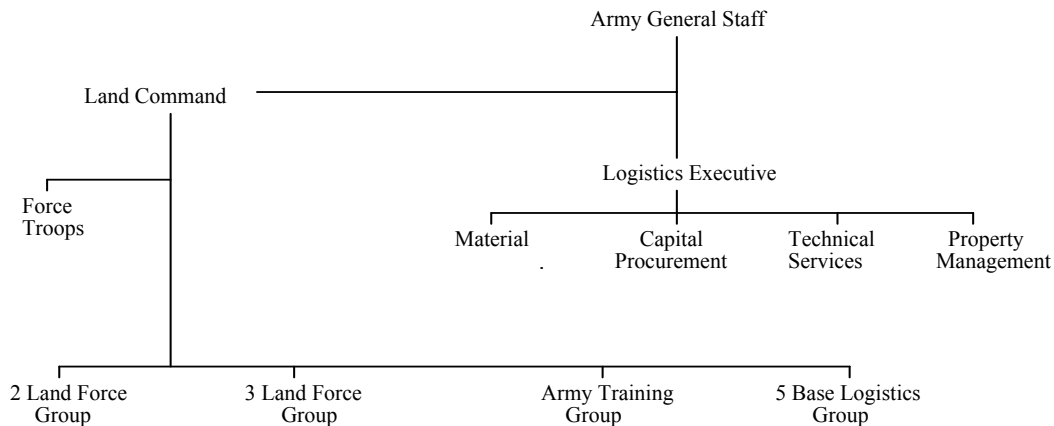


Fig. 2. The New Zealand Army Structure

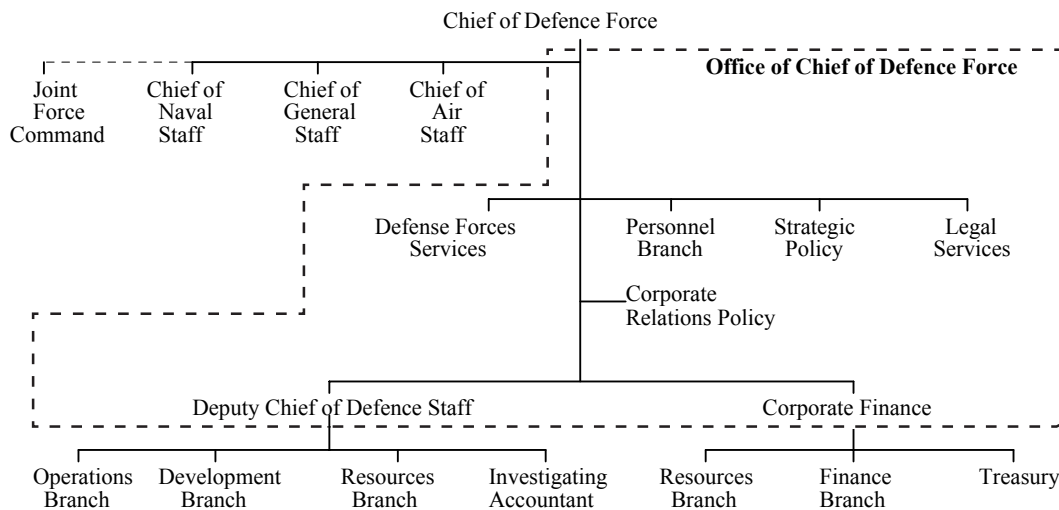
Source: Figure 6.1 p. 115, Rolfe, *The Armed Forces of New Zealand*, 1999.

Fig. 3. Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force

Source: Figure 3.2. p. 42, Rolfe, *The Armed Forces of New Zealand*, 1999

in another component of the system. These two communities have many connections and each of the areas discussed below have multiple connections and ramifications. The political and social impact of having the largest military camp in the country close to the city will be investigated. Finally, the economic importance of the Linton military camp to Palmerston North will be examined.

The political influence of the military camp on the surrounding area is largely covert. Both

the army and city council are reluctant to admit that the army has political pull in the area. The Fitzherbert ward of the city actually includes and incorporates the army camp and housing area. The camp is under the authority of the council and is part of the Manawatu area with which the city council is involved. City councillors are invited to the majority of official army events (CSO). The army also participates in many of the council's official occasions such as citizenship ceremonies and the welcoming of digni-

taries. All politics are influenced by money and since the camp contributes extensively to the city finances, the army will inevitably have some political persuasion power. Another way in which the Linton army has been affected by national politics was when the prison guards went on strike, the New Zealand government sent soldiers to the prisons to replace the striking guards. An additional example occurred when soldiers were used for extra airport security in New Zealand after the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

Socially the army camp is key to the city of Palmerston North. The army impacts on both formal and informal events in the city. A number of army ceremonies and parades are held in Palmerston North's main square. A notable instance is ANZAC day, which is celebrated when the army and civilians remember servicemen who have died. The Returned Services Association (RSA) plays a large part in this day and sells poppies to make money and to promote interest in the armed services (Taylor, 1996). A number of parades have been held recently to both farewell and welcome back the troops who served in East Timor. These formal events show the close links between the city and the army camp with both army and city council. They also show connections to the government as New Zealand dignitaries and Members of Parliament are often in attendance.

The nightlife of Palmerston North is kept alive by the army. Many of the pubs are filled with army people and their partners. They spend large amounts of money on alcohol and entertainment on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Some army people also hold a second job as security personnel at the nightclubs. Another social link is that there are many family ties between Palmerston North and the army camp. The majority of the partners, wives and girlfriends of army personnel come from the city. The army policy to enable soldiers to buy houses in town will undoubtedly strengthen family links with the city even further.

Sports are another link with the city that the army is trying to foster (CSO). They allow civilians into the camp particularly on weekends, to use their rugby fields and sports groups. The members of the swimming club can use the camp swimming pool and the army hosts the Krypton Challenge when local businesses compete on

the army confidence course. The army uses Massey University athletics grounds and lets some of their sports people play for Palmerston North city sports teams. There is also the golf course in the camp with members from all over the area. Sport is a very important social event in New Zealand with most sports fields filled on weekend mornings.

Massey University and the Manawatu Polytechnic encourage army personnel to study through the Military Studies Institute (MSI). Massey now offers a Bachelor of Defence Studies (BDefStud) that both civilians and officer cadets can take (http://study.massey.ac.nz/programme.asp?prog_code=93151). This shows the strong economic and social links between the Linton army camp and the university.

The army is involved in a number of voluntary work programs (Hewson, 2002). They run a Youth Life Skills Program at the camp for youth mainly from the city. The NZ Cadet Forces are also run at the camp, which are aspiring officer-training camps. The army contributes to the Civil Defence force and participates in search and rescue operations in the area. The fire station in the camp offers 24-hour fire services and the army provides some work for the prison. The voluntary work the army does is crucial to fostering community support from the wider civilian community.

The army has a large territorial force, reservists who are not on active duty. Linton is the headquarters for about 1700 of these individuals who can be called up for military duty at any time. Many were in fact called for active duty in East Timor. These forces have a large impact on businesses throughout New Zealand because the territorial forces have jobs they must take leave from when they are called to duty. The programs run by the army and the territorial forces both impact on a great many of the total population of New Zealand and show how enmeshed the army is within the many levels of New Zealand society.

The army, with few internal services, relies on the helping services, including health, welfare, religious and education, available in the city. The stress of the large deployments has meant that mental health services in the city have seen an increase in army personnel referrals (Mental Health Worker). The army refers all major physical and mental health problems to outside

services. Numerous services are available to the community, mainly based in Palmerston North. These are listed in the First Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Welfare Resource Book (1997, p. 64-72). On a day-to-day basis, in the camp, two Padres deal with the majority of mental health problems with military personnel and their dependents. These army chaplains are often the first point of contact when problems occur.

Economically the camp has substantial links to and an enormous impact on the city. The number of personnel based at Linton will soon grow to around 2500 (2nd Land Force Group). This includes about 100 civilians employed by Linton Camp as well. 307 army families own their own homes and 1071 rent in the surrounding area. This brings revenue and taxes to Palmerston North. The 2nd Land Force Group has an annual expenditure in Linton of around \$77,190,000, covering wages, repairs, maintenance, food and fuel (2nd Land Force Group). The local contracted firm that provides services for the camp and employs civilians from the city, receives over \$2,000,000 of the army budget. The Manawatu region has lost over 6000 people in the last four years to other areas of New Zealand or overseas. Vision Manawatu's chief executive notes "the army's consolidation at Linton had drawn about 1000 people into the region, which would cushion these figures" (Nash and Matthews, 2002). This shows the importance of the army in bringing in new people who can contribute financially to the region, as army personnel from Linton invest and spend large amounts of money in the city every week. People trained by the army such as the engineers and cooks are able to bring skills back into the wider community when they leave the army. If not for the army these people might otherwise be unskilled and unemployed.

When over 600 troops were deployed to East Timor the region felt the economic impact of this large reduction in population. However, the large sums of money they saved while in East Timor were spent mainly in the city on such items as clothes, cars, furniture, and home entertainment systems. Both the army and the individuals employed are a financial asset, which positively affects the entire Manawatu region. The Defence Cluster is an important way the army and local businesses in Palmerston North interact ([http://](http://www.defence-cluster.com/index_flash.html)

www.defence-cluster.com/index_flash.html). The cluster was formed "from recognition that the close proximity of Palmerston North to New Zealand Defence establishments at Linton, Ohakea and Waiouru presents a significant opportunity on the door steps of local businesses" (http://www.defence-cluster.com/index_flash.html). The cluster provides the opportunity for businesses to supply goods and services to New Zealand, Australian and other international defence forces. This provides a link between the army and local businesses from which they both mutually benefit.

The impact of having the army just outside the city of Palmerston North is mainly positive. The relationships between these two communities allow for new political, economic, and social opportunities. This relationship from an ecological perspective exposes the interdependence of the two systems as changes in one ultimately impact on the other.

The Linton Camp and Housing Area Biosphere

New Zealand troops have made a positive impact wherever they have gone in the world. The Kiwi troops have a good reputation overseas which raises New Zealand's international profile. Contacts made between New Zealand's armed forces and those of other countries provide training opportunities and exchanges of new technologies. This training and technology immediately benefits the military, but eventually they are disseminated into the culture. The need for military support in hot spots in the world facilitates contacts between governments, which give New Zealand a much greater presence on the world scene. At the moment New Zealand has forces stationed in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Israel, Sinai, Laos, Cambodia, East Timor, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands.

The direct effects of world politics are strongly felt in this small community. The New Zealand army contributes to the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces, which links it closely to the world scene. The world's problems impact this small community as a significant number of soldiers are sent to new hot spots around the world. News of overseas wars and disasters are watched with interest and anticipation to see if a husband, wife or partner will be deployed. There are currently 825 personnel operating in 10

different countries (http://www.army.mil.nz/nzarmy/grids/a_grid_map.asp?id=148&area=9).

The recent deployment of hundreds of troops to East Timor from 1999 on to the present has had major impacts on both the Linton community and the Palmerston North city (Harper and Crawford, 2001). The deployment also affected the lives of thousands of East Timorese who now have their own democratic government. Another contingent left in May, 2002, which again had a major impact on the Linton community. The army is becoming a 'peace keeping' force and forging closer ties with the United Nations. This means they will probably be called to service around the world more often in the future. This will have many flow-on effects for the Linton camp community and indirectly impact on Palmerston North.

Strengths of the Housing Area Community

The command plan (Chief of Defence Force, 1996, p.5) states ... *"the defence force, fundamentally, is about people; military, civil staff and families ... all these people make a unique contribution to the NZDF through their commitment and effort, through the personal sacrifices they make as individuals in the interest of the wider team of which we are all a part"*. The significance of this briefing is that without all of these people the defence force would not be able to function. The strength of this defence community is undeniably the people in it and the support they give each other.

Another strength is the feeling of security, for the level of crime is low (CSO). Lots of people are around at virtually all times, walking their dog, picking up their children from school, or engaging in other activities. The majority of people know each other. There is a definite feeling of a close-knit community (Housing Officer).

This community is lucky enough to have a Community Service Officer (CSO) who takes on many of the roles a community psychologist might perform. This person is embedded within the community and as he puts it, is the oil between the community groups, the community providers, the camp, the wider community and the housing area. He has a wide range of knowledge about the community and its strengths, needs and weaknesses. In his position he is able to implement services based on this knowledge.

An example of his work is the recent health care service, which has started in the housing area. Another is his effort to get a trial bus service to the camp. These are both examples of secondary prevention which Bolman (1969, cited in Heller, 1984, p. 12) describes as *"attempts to identify and treat at the earliest possible moment"* before there is a major problem. The community has a Welfare Liaison Officer who produces The Lintonian and takes on the role of associate CSO with jobs such as producing the school holiday program. Another Welfare Liaison officer for Deployed Personnel works with all the issues of troop deployment. These people are examples of the army taking an active interest in the well-being of the Linton Camp community.

The housing area has a number of services available even though it is a small community. One organisation that has a strong attendance is the Kapa Haka group, a Maori culture group. The childcare services are a significant asset as it allows mothers to work or have a break from their children if the fathers are away. The community is advantaged in that, although it has a number of people on lower incomes, they all have a secure roof over their heads. As employees of the army they do not have the uncertainty of losing their jobs as the private sector does.

Posting times at Linton are longer than they used to be and Palmerston North city is close. This gives the advantage of allowing army personnel to buy a house in town and the army encourages this move. Another advantage is army partners have more chance of a career, which allows other experiences and ideas back into the community. The factors of longer postings and encouragement to buy a house are allowing and encouraging stronger links with the Palmerston North community. These two factors contribute to more stability and well-being in the families and partners of soldiers.

Needs of the Housing Area Community

One of the major needs pointed out by a number of people in the community is new ideas that are not service related and that have new perspectives (CSO). Another need noted from talking to residents is more family related social events that are less alcohol oriented. In driving around camp at night, the lack of street lighting is noticeable. Even though the camp is relatively

safe, dark areas can contribute to crime. Another point is that any crime committed is probably youth crime. Perhaps more youth oriented programs would see a reduction in this problem. A final need is for the army to address the problems listed and to try to change its policies and culture.

Problems and Weaknesses of the Housing Area Community

"Housing and barrack accommodation play a fundamental part in fostering a 'community of interest' within the Services which contributes directly to the maintenance of Service values, ethos, teamwork and cohesion" (Chief of Defence Force, 1996, p. 6).

When army personnel go home to the housing area they are often still perceived as being part of the military (Housing Officer). This is one reason why many are so keen to move out of the housing area. Many long service personnel have the resources and motivation to move out of the community. This leaves a number of problems, such as little diversity in committees. The same people are on many committees (Housing Officer). A second problem is that the number of children in the school has dropped, which could mean that the school may have to down size, however the numbers going to preschool are still high (CSO). Another noticeable weakness is a lack of older people in the community. The population of the housing area is very young, therefore the community lacks the strengths older people bring to a community such as wisdom and experience.

The problems of Linton Army Camp and its housing area are similar to other army camps around the world: alcohol, violence, financial matters and stress.

Alcohol

Alcohol use is a requirement with which a soldier must cope. Many 'functions' or drinking parties are compulsory (Soldier X, 17 March, 2002). In the United States army twenty-one percent of service members admit to drinking heavily (<http://usmilitary.about.com/>). Alcohol causes multiple problems for the abuser and their families. The army does have a treatment program for personnel with alcohol problems and the military does try to manage personnel with alcohol or drug problems. The army treats the

illness but a community wide or high-risk strategy prevention program would probably have more effect. A community wide prevention effort would look at everyone in the community and a high-risk strategy would target only a focus group (Heller, 1984). Drug abuse is not as much of a problem as army personnel are tested for drugs both before they enter the army and randomly during their army career. However recent arrests of a number of soldiers at Linton Camp have occurred, and this is still an issue that needs to be addressed (The Dominion, 22 March, 2002, p. 8, & Evening Standard, 28 March, 2002, p. 3).

Violence

Family violence against both partners and children is a reoccurring topic in the community newsletter (Lintonian, 20/01, 02/02, 03/02, 04/02). This reflects a significant level of domestic violence in the military. Some of the factors that contribute to abuse are isolation, lack of social supports, social and economic dependence on husbands, alcohol and socialising, lack of acknowledgement by the army, stress, and housing (Foley, 1985). There have been some initiatives in the community to look at this problem as it can affect whether or not soldiers can be deployed. Preventive programs, anger management courses, and identification of stress factors would all constitute ecologically valid ways of attacking this problem.

Financial

The majority of the people in the housing area would be classed as having a lower socio-economic level. A low socio-economic level has been shown to correlate with factors such as ill health, mental illness, educational level, drug and alcohol abuse, violence, accidents and early mortality (Kearns et al., 1991; Thompson, 2002, see <http://www.depression.org.uk/main/pdf/thompson.pdf>). Again preventive programs on budgeting given when the soldiers first join the army would probably lessen some of the financial problems.

Stress

Many of the services available are not focused on the army so are less likely to be relevant to

and actually deal with army based problems. There is also a stigma attached to getting help, which may influence people to avoid seeking help, or seek help from other distant sources. The problem of posting turbulence is noted in the Defence briefing paper (Chief of Defence Force, 1996). Fewer postings have lessened this potentially stressful event over an army career. Longer postings offer greater stability for both the period of education for army children and to help career expectations of army spouses (Chief of Defence Force, 1996). With long-term deployments like East Timor, which last from 3 to over 8 months, a real increase in stress can be noted, and this leads to relationship break-ups (CSO). The stress also funnels down to the children of parents who are away and causes them to have their own problems. Second relationships and combinations of new families may affect children. A study on stresses of army personnel found that the most frequent daily hassles are related to having enough money, work concerns and time management issues (Alpass et al., 1996). Another study of psychological effects of deployment found that participation in a peacekeeping mission has multiple impacts on mental health and physical health. The soldier's status on anxiety, depression, psychological distress, positive psychological well-being and physical health measures was changed negatively by the deployment (MacDonald et al., 1996). The Dohrenwend (1978) model shows that recent psychosocial stress has the potential to induce psychopathy. Army soldiers and their families experience a lot of stress a great deal of the time, which has a wide ranging impact on their lives.

CONCLUSIONS

Bronfenbrenner's ecological model is applicable as it permits examination of a number of levels of influence on the 'housing area'. The macrosystem values reflect cultural values that those people in the military are strong, honourable, and ready to leave their family for extended periods of time to serve their country and even give their lives in service to their country. The exosystem effects of the conditions of military employment do not always facilitate marital harmony. Families are moved in accord with military needs, which means they do not have extended family supports and one parent

has to face extended periods of single parenting while their partner is deployed or on training missions. Mesosystem links generally occur in sometimes isolated, closed military communities. The army has a ranking system that to a degree determines who can participate in activities in certain settings, not only for soldiers, but often for families as well. The roles, relationships and activities of the microsystems or immediate settings in which army families live are embedded in other more encompassing systems. These systems are capable of limiting or facilitating their lives.

The problems and strengths of communities are interconnected and interdependent with those of many other communities. Local, national or international communities influence one another in reciprocal and multiple ways. These interactions produce system effects, which once established, are ongoing. Primary and secondary level interventions have been put in place to better link the Linton community with the resources of the city. Interventions that have positively influenced the camp community include the bus system and the health service. At a secondary or political level some of the policies the army is implementing, such as less postings and encouragement to buy a house in the city, will change both the camp community and the Palmerston North city. Albee's (1980) competency model finds goals need to be identified, any causative forces removed and the host strengthened to resist these causative forces. These are useful ideas for further interventions in the Linton camp community.

This community is a first and foremost a military community that has to deal with special problems not faced by most communities. Recently the army has started taking a more active approach to identifying and treating problems. This approach will be beneficial to many communities, both army and civilian.

The Linton Military camp community provides a good example of why the four main principles, which underpin the ecological perspective, are so important (Levine and Perkins, 1997). First, change occurs in a social system because people and settings are interdependent. This is important for the Linton army camp, as the New Zealand military must change its values and beliefs such as their covert support of heavy alcohol use. Changes in the social system of

the army will affect changes in military communities like Linton. Second the community system is defined by an exchange of resources among the people and the setting. The army by changing its housing policy is affecting the resources not only of army families but also the communities in which these people will be able to buy and rent houses. Third, the behaviour we observe in individuals is reflective of the process of adaptation between the individual and the environment. This principle is shown by the amount of 'problem' behaviour rising in both the soldiers and their families after the deployments to East Timor. This reflects the fact that they are trying to adjust to a very stressful situation and that they may not feel competent in this new situation or environment. Finally, change or redefining and reallocating resources can occur naturally or by intent. The NZ army through its peacekeeping duties creates many positive changes in world communities. If the army wants to affect positive changes in its own community, then it needs to design and implement prevention and intervention strategies. They need to take into account that the soldiers and their families are embedded in their environment and that a change in one part of the system will affect changes in other parts of the system. Using an ecological perspective the army needs to put plans into place that build on its strength and try to prevent or reduce its weaknesses. This process will benefit the Linton army camp, the housing area, Palmerston North, and possibly even New Zealand and the world.

All of the problems this community faces are interconnected and influence each other in multiple ways, which creates a hard to break cycle. However a number of interventions have been put in place such as the bus system and health service. These will undoubtedly influence the community in a positive way at a primary level. This community, defined as military, has to deal with both those issues that are particularly military, and as well, those problems faced by all communities.

KEY WORDS Military. Army Camp. Housing Area. Peacekeeping

ABSTRACT Palmerston North has a large military camp located adjacent and yet tightly linked in with the community. Military rules and structure are qualitatively different from those in the rest of society, but dependents and supporters are in-between that strict hierarchical

command so essential to ensure the safety and well-being of the country and the relative freedom of the larger community. The author observed life in the camp, including interviews with the talented community services officer who serves to bridge the demands and needs of the peace-keepers and the various civilian groupings that compose the local community of Palmerston North.

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PERSONAL INTERVIEWS (INITIALS USED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY) AND OBSERVATIONS

- D. X. X. Housing Officer, Linton Army Camp 12 March 2002.
- R. X. X. 22 year old soldier, Linton Army Camp 17 March 2002.
- S. X. X. Community Service Officer (CSO) 21 March 2002.
- Drive though Linton Housing area. March, 2002.

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