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**ABSTRACT  
 FORM**

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| TITLE     | <b>Developing Oral Health Care Capability in the South Pacific</b>  |
| Author(s) | LT COL Trish Leabourne, Defence Dental Services New Zealand   |
| Abstract: | <p>The New Zealand Defence Force Oral Health Care System comprises a Deployable Oral Health Capability embedded within an Operational Enabling Oral Health Capability.</p> <p>Deployable Oral Health Capabilities are in the three key areas of combat oral health support, oral health training &amp; education and forensic dentistry. Each of these deployable elements is capable of responding to a rapidly changing environment, not only across the full spectrum of military operations but also to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) programmes.</p> <p>The flexibility in response arises from the utilisation of a 'shopping basket' of resources that is variable in terms of both personnel and equipment. Utilisation of resources in each of the capability areas is dependant upon the operational environment, the output definition and skill set requirement.</p> <p>The application of this structure in the current environment is discussed with emphasis on the Oral Health Training and Education Capability. Examples are taken from recent activities and exercises in the South Pacific including those conducted in co-operation with the United States and other nations.</p> |