

He Taua! Te haka mō Te Ope Kātua

NZDF Haka

Torona kei waho!

Kei waho!

He taua!

He taua!

Mā wai e tū ake?!

Taua Moana!

Tūmatauenga!

Taua-a-Rangi e!

lahaha!

Ko te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa e!

He toki nā Tū

He toki nā Rongo e, lahaha!

Mate atu he toa...

Ara mai rā he toa!

Ngā rau e toru o te patu kotahi e!

Ana! Ana! Ana! (Ksss aue hi!)

Prepare!

Arms outstretched!

Warriors, alert!

Warriors, alert!

Who will stand to?!

Navy will stand to!

Army will stand to!

Air Force will stand to!

lahaha!

We are the NZ Defence Force!

We are the instruments of Tū

We are the instruments of Rongo

lahaha!

If a warrior should fall...

Another shall rise to take his place!

We are the three edges of the blade
of a single Patu

Ana! Ana! Ana! (Ksss aue hi!)

He Taua! Te haka mō Te Ope Kātua

NZDF Haka explained

He taua is a haka taparahi; a haka that is performed without weapons. It was written by WO (ret'd) Wallace RNZAF in response to a request from a NZDF sports team. Although each of the Services have their own haka, our Defence Force frequently comes together for many activities including operational deployments. This haka could be used on such occasions as and when more than one Service combines.

“He taua! He taua!” is a call to arms. Once issued in this haka the kaea or leader asks who will stand to. It is an assessment of our resources and strengths & enables us to acknowledge the contribution from each of the three services (regardless how small that contribution may be).

The warriors then identify themselves as a collective i.e. as NZDF - Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa. They go on to point out our two key roles as servants of the nation. In times of aggression we are fighters (as instruments of Tūmatauenga). Other times we go with peaceful intentions (as instruments of Rongomatāne) such as peace keepers, aid bringers, disaster relievers, search and rescuers, maritime patrollers etc.

This is followed by a well known proverb that speaks of our commitment to one another and to our cause. It says that NZDF is such that when a warrior falls another is ready to take his place, to carry his load, to finish his fight etc.

Finally it speaks of the three edges of the blade on a Patu (close combat weapon). These are the leading edge, the trailing edge and the blade tip. It uses this analogy to represent that although we are three Services, we are one Force!

If used on the sports field perform it once only. Off the field it can be repeated if so desired.