

# AVIATION

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## PC-12 Hot rod turboprop

Pilatus Ltd envisaged a market for a high speed, large cabin, pressurised single engine turbine aircraft in the aviation marketplace. This vision has paid off with over 400 PC-12's being delivered around the world to date. In Australia the aircraft has found its niche as an air ambulance with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It is a role which it would fill more than adequately in New Zealand. *Aviation News* reports on some of the capability of the type on pages 10 and 11

Avnews photo



An RNZAF UH-1H Iroquois sweeps along a tropical shoreline on a routine NZDF support sortie in the Solomons.

## RNZAF returns to Solomon Islands

Currently serving in the Solomon Islands as part of New Zealand's commitment to the Australian lead combined police and military stabilization force are four Royal New Zealand Airforce (RNZAF) UH1 H Iroquois helicopters and supporting personnel. The Iroquois formed the nucleus of the initial New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) contribution to the Solomon's force.

As well as the four helicopters and associated personnel, the NZDF's commitment includes headquarters support staff, logistics and communications personnel, an engineering element and a small medical group.

With the end of the arms amnesty and operations in the Solomons entering a more proactive phase as well as the addition of a 125 strong infantry company to the NZDF commitment the Iroquois' are flying daily tactical air transport missions ferrying Police, military personnel and supplies to outlying areas.

For the RNZAF this is a return to the Solomons with the RNZAF conducting extensive operations on and from the Solomon Islands during the Second World War.

RNZAF photo

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