**Massey ergonomics graduate lands key job in Defence**

**Stephven Kolose has recently graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Ergonomics (PGDipErg) from Massey University’s Centre for Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Health in the College of Health, and has landed a key job in Defence**

Stephven has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He studied for a Postgraduate Diploma in Ergonomics (PGDipErg) and Postgraduate Diploma in Aviation (PGDipAv) in 2006. After a short period overseas he returned to NZ and recently completed the PGDipErg.

While overseas on a Loughborough University (UK) scholarship he completed a Master of Science in Human Factors/ Ergonomics. He subsequently worked as a Human Factors consultant on projects in the UK rail (including London Underground) and medical device industry, and also briefly for the UK Ergonomics Society.

One of his career highlights was working on the 2007 UK Ergonomics Society Conference Secretariat Committee for their annual conference in Nottingham. Stephven was one of only five people who were chosen from around the UK for the secretariat, “being accepted was one thing, but rubbing shoulders with world experts in my field was a new and great experience”.

Stephven has landed a key job as a Human Factors Scientist in the Human-Systems Integration Group of the Defence Technology Agency (DTA) – the agency responsible for NZ Defence Force’s research, science and technology. His role includes: assessing the usability/ergonomics of light support weapons; assessing hearing protection devices; providing input into HF training; providing input in control room design; and investigating the future role of automation and glass cockpit technology in the RNZAF. Stephven is DTA’s project lead for human factors research for the Air force, and New Zealand’s representative on the Human Systems Performance in the Air panel within the Technical Co-operation Program (TTCP). The TTCP is an international defence science collaboration amongst [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia), [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada), [New Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand), [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) and the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States).

Stephven credits much of his employment success to the PGDipErg programme at Massey “the skills I learnt from Massey set me up pretty nicely for my studies at Loughborough and subsequent employment. Professor Stephen Legg and all the PGDipErg lecturers were professional, patient and most of all passionate about ergonomics, and that enthusiasm definitely rubbed off on me”.

Stephven is very proud of his Samoan heritage and is possibly the first Human factors/Ergonomics professional of Pacific Island descent. “I highly recommend the PGDipErg course at Massey and ergonomics in general as a career path for young Pacific Islanders”. One day he hopes to give back these skills and experiences to his community. His current interests are usability, ergonomic product assessments and human anthropometry.