New Zealand’s Military Contributions to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

Summary Points (Points in RED have NOT been released publicly)

- **Scope:** The Defeat-ISIS coalition is a general, not specific, frame of reference for military deployments. The overall NZDF contribution is comprised of different NZDF operations (Manawa, Mohua, Pukeko, Troy). The military line of effort is only one of a number of lines aimed at defeating ISIS. Others include counter-financing, messaging, stabilisation, addressing foreign terrorist fighters.

- **Numbers:** There are approximately 136 NZDF personnel currently deployed in roles primarily associated with the Defeat-ISIS coalition and activities (the precise number fluctuates according to staff rotations and leave).

- **Locations:** The Defeat-ISIS coalition is primarily focussed on Iraq and Syria, and has various locations in the Middle East region. The NZDF personnel are located in: Iraq (115), Qatar (3+3), Jordan and Kuwait (2).

- **Authorities:** The NZDF personnel are currently deployed under two different Cabinet paper mandates, and modifications have been made to the deployments by Ministerial decisions under a delegated authority set out by Cabinet.

- **Timeframes:** The NZDF personnel deployed to Iraq following a Cabinet decision in February 2015. The Cabinet reviewed and renewed the Iraq mandate in June 2016, with an expiry in November 2018.

- **Activities:** The majority of NZDF deployed are focussed on training, while some are focussed on planning, logistics, intelligence or legal issues. Most are deployed in Iraq. **None** of these NZDF personnel are authorised to engage in a direct targeting role, or directly participate in offensive operations.

- **Mandate developments:** The mandate developments since 2015, mostly Ministerial decisions identified and delegated by the Cabinet, include:
  - mobile training in coalition bases beyond the Taji Military Complex;
  - training of police, emergency response and border guards (not just the army);
  - deployment of [s6(a)] and a legal adviser;
  - mentoring to Iraqi Security Forces in the Taji Military Complex at the North Baghdad Operational Command; and
  - an expanded force protection role in Taji.

- **Separate mandates:** The Cabinet has also made separate but related mandate decisions for:
  - logistics and support personnel [s6(a)];
  - staff officers to the Combined Air Operations Command in Qatar; and
  - a Deputy Commander in Baghdad and support staff (completed August 2017).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Cabinet Mandate / Minute</th>
<th>Mandate expiry</th>
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<td>Pukeko</td>
<td>CAB decision July 2017 (on Middle East Maritime Security and Support Operations)&lt;br&gt;ERD-17-MIN-0020&lt;br&gt;CAB decisions Feb 2015 / March 2016 (on Iraq and D-ISIS)</td>
<td>Jun 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. See classified annex.
2. Part of a mandate with multiple components, with expiry across the full range of those components.
3. As above.
4. This operation has not been publically released.
Background

How did the coalition come about?

Similar to many countries during 2014 and 2015, New Zealand noted ISIS’s unprecedented success, brutal tactics and harm to civilians, and ability to recruit, fund and carry out sophisticated combat, terrorist and information operations.

2. Following a request from the Iraqi Government for assistance to counter ISIS, the major response was through the United States-led global coalition to Defeat-ISIS. Many of New Zealand’s partners contribute significantly to the coalition, including the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, and countries such as France, Germany and Norway. There are 74 members of the coalition, of which, a smaller number are significant military contributors.

3. President Obama’s Administration developed and led the coalition response up to January 2017, and under President Trump’s Administration it has not significantly changed in objectives, membership or activities.

How did New Zealand initially decide to deploy?

4. In February 2015, Cabinet decided to deploy a training mission to Iraq with staff officer support in the Middle East (the Iraq deployment mandate). This mission had two main components. First, up to 106 NZDF personnel for a joint Australia-New Zealand Building Partner Capacity (BPC) Mission at Taji Military Camp in Iraq (Operation Manawa). The training covers a broad range of individual and organisational military skills in order to prepare Iraqi units for combat and stabilisation operations. Key training activities include:

- basic weapons skills;
- individual and unit military skills to prepare for combat operations;
- laws of armed conflict and women, peace and security;
- training on the planning and conducting combat operations;
- training related to the medical and logistics to support operations; and
- officer and junior personnel leadership development.

5. Secondly, Cabinet agreed to deploy up to 37 personnel to staff officer roles in coalition headquarters in Baghdad and Kuwait, and to logistics roles in Baghdad (Operation Mohua) and .

6. The Cabinet paper of February 2015 noted that these overall numbers included . There are also three NZDF personnel deployed to Qatar under the Cabinet mandate for staff officers (see classified annex for more detail). These three positions all support military operations of the coalition to Defeat-ISIS.

7. The Cabinet mandate for , as well as for three NZDF personnel deployed to the US Air Force Command Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) in Qatar (Operation Pukeko), is the Maritime Security and Support Operations Cabinet paper approved in July 2017.
What decisions could be taken under Cabinet’s authority?

8. The 2015 Cabinet mandate for the Iraq deployment provided a delegated Ministerial authority. The Minister of Defence, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was authorised “to make adjustments to the deployment in response to operational requirements, provided the adjustments did not significantly change the numbers, cost or intent of the mission”.

9. The 2015 Cabinet mandate for Iraq also provided that Chief of Defence Force with authority to increase the BPC contingent by in response to operational contingencies. This operational contingency buffer is included in the total mandate of 143 personnel. It was agreed that advice to relevant Ministers would be prepared on these occasions.

When did Cabinet first review the Iraq deployment?

10. In March 2016, following approximately nine months on the ground in Iraq, a Cabinet mandated review of the deployment was carried out. The review confirmed that the deployment was meeting its objectives contributing to the coalition and positively impacting the ability of the Iraqi Security Forces to combat and ultimately defeat ISIS.

11. Following consideration of the review, in June 2016 Cabinet approved the extension of the Iraq deployment and BPC Mission to 30 November 2018. The extension was (and remains) contingent on four factors:
   - developments in the security situation in Iraq;
   - a reasonably stable political situation in Iraq;
   - Australia’s continued partnership in the BPC mission; and
   - the ongoing invitation of the Government of Iraq.

12. Cabinet was further informed that New Zealand and other BPC contributors had been asked to allow their trainers to deliver training at alternative secure sites within Iraq (i.e. outside Taji). This would provide the coalition with the flexibility to meet the ebb and flow of Iraqi training audiences, and optimise the use of scarce coalition resources. At the time, Australia and New Zealand had received a specific request from coalition headquarters to deploy a team to the nearby BPC site of Besmaya (led by Spain) to carry out advanced heavy weapons and unit tactics training to Iraqi Army units as part of their instruction programme.

13. Cabinet agreed that NZDF trainers could train outside of Taji at other BPC sites by supporting this training delivery at Besmaya, and authorised the Minister of Defence to consider future requests for New Zealand to conduct training in other BPC sites on a case by case basis.

14. The coalition also identified that as more territory was recaptured from ISIS, professional and well-trained stabilisation forces (also known as holding forces) would have a critical role to play. The training of wider elements of the Iraqi Security Forces likely to be involved as stabilisation forces – such as the Federal Police, local police forces and border forces – was identified as a priority.

15. Cabinet agreed in principle that NZDF personnel were able to provide training to stabilisation forces within the Iraqi Security Forces. It also agreed that further advice on changing the training audience would be provided to the Minister
of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister for their approval (see paragraph 12). Any decision to do so would be contingent on Australia also agreeing to broaden its training audience.

**What evolutions have there been for the mandate?**

16. In accordance with the permissions set out in the 2015 and 2016 Cabinet decisions, the Minister of Defence and Chief of Defence Force have made some further adjustments to the Iraq deployment since June 2016. This has been in response to the evolving security situation and request from coalition headquarters.

**Training Locations**

17. In October 2016 the Minister of Defence agreed, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister, that NZDF personnel (as part of a joint Australia-New Zealand training team) conduct short-term BPC training to Iraqi Security Forces personnel at **Al Taqqadum Air Base** on an ongoing basis. This base is home to the Iraqi Army 8th Division, the Anbar Operations Command and the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service, and is located approximately 70km west of Baghdad.

18. In January 2017, the Minister of Defence agreed, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister, to NZDF personnel providing training to Iraqi Security Forces at **Qayyarah West airfield**. The Minister was informed this would involve a small team of up to 25 Australian Defence Force and NZDF personnel (10-20 from NZDF) travelling to Qayyarah West for up to four weeks on each occasion. As Qayyarah West is located 60km south of Mosul where operations were still ongoing and due to the need for operational security, the decision to expand training to this location was not made public at the time. It has subsequently been released via an Official Information Act request. No NZDF personnel have conducted training at Qayyarah West as of yet.

**Training Audiences**

19. Following Cabinet’s agreement in principle to expand Iraqi training audiences in June 2016, the **Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs** agreed in September 2016 that the NZDF could provide training at Taji to the **Iraqi Federal Police, local Police Service, Emergency Response Division and the Border Guard** (all part of the Iraqi Security Forces). The purpose of the training is to enable law enforcement agencies to conduct stabilisation functions in liberated areas. Kurdish forces, the Popular Mobilisation Forces and other militia are still excluded from training by the NZDF. To date, NZDF have trained Iraqi Federal Police and Energy Police (national level police force subordinate to the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior). The change in training audiences was announced in a press release.

Mentoring to Iraqi Security Forces at Taji

20. In July 2017, the **Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs** authorised NZDF troops already deployed to Iraq to participate in Australia’s efforts to provide **mentoring support to Iraqi Security Forces** units in the North Baghdad Operational Command (also located at Taji). The primary function of this headquarters is to plan and control the conduct of security operations in the area immediately north of Baghdad, which includes protection of the Taji Military Complex.
from hostile forces. This mentoring is conducted within the confines of the headquarters, and they do not accompany Iraqi Security Forces.

21. Ministers noted that this task was the only line of effort at Taji in which New Zealand forces were not integrated with Australia, and that the mentoring support would assist with coalition efforts to train and upskill the Iraqi forces as the focus shifted to stabilisation. The decision was made pursuant to Minister of Defence’s permission, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to make adjustments to the Iraq deployment based on operational requirements, provided these did not significantly change the mission’s costs, numbers or intent. It was released via an Official Information Act request.

Expanded Force Protection

What other deployment decisions have there been since June 2016?

Deputy Commanding General of Coalition Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command

23. In August 2016 Cabinet agreed that a senior NZDF officer would fill the position of **Deputy Commanding General of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command** – Operation Inherent Resolve for nine months from November 2016 (i.e. to August 2017). It is a rotational role so far held by [redacted]. The position is based in the coalition headquarters in Baghdad, which is also the location of several other NZDF officers.

24. The Deputy Commander role included duties that support all aspects of the broader military campaign to defeat ISIS rather than working solely on issues related to the BPC line of military effort. The Deputy Commander is the principal deputy (there are other Deputy Commanders) for the Commanding General of the Coalition Land Component Command (a US Major-General). Specific work areas included:

- control of headquarters functions including campaign measures of effectiveness;
- maintaining coalition cohesion by engagement, relationship management and ensuring efficient information flow;
- oversight of the advise and assist efforts within Iraq;
- [redacted]
25. The NZDF officer in this position provided New Zealand with valuable situational awareness on coalition planning and enabled positive national influence within the operation. A NZDF legal adviser and military assistant deployed in support of the Deputy Commander including to ensure a New Zealand perspective on legal advice. All three have since returned to New Zealand. The deployment of the Deputy Commanding General announced in a press release and his identity subsequently entered the public domain, as he engaged with media on behalf of the coalition.

International Law Legal Adviser to Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command Headquarters

26. In July 2017 the Minister of Defence agreed under the Cabinet mandate for Iraq to deploy a NZDF legal officer to the Headquarters of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command in Baghdad. This deployment finishes November 2018. It is distinct from the legal adviser deployed to the Coalition Land Component Command to provide national support to the NZDF officer in the Deputy Commander role.

27. The international law legal adviser was deployed to Iraq in December 2017, and is responsible for providing advice on the legal basis for conducting operations, the use of force, and intelligence operations. This person is not involved in the targeting process. They also advise on the application of international law affecting military operations, and provide training and advice on the Law of Armed Conflict to Iraqi Security Force Units within the Headquarters environment. The NZDF has not taken steps to publicly announce this role.

28. The Minister of Defence had also agreed under the Cabinet mandate for Iraq to deploy to the Canadian All-Source Intelligence Cell based in Kuwait from January to August 2017. These intelligence products were provided to coalition headquarters to support and protect future operations. Canada made the request to New Zealand, as it provides no-cost training of New Zealand. The fact of this deployment has been released via an Official Information Act request.

29. A similar process and range of issues was addressed in deploying additional staff officer to Central Command’s Forward Headquarters in Qatar in August 2017 (see classified annex). Also deployed to Qatar in October 17 was one additional staff officer who oversaw and co-ordinated the efforts of the. The details of this deployment are classified and have not been released to the public.

Operation Gallant Phoenix

30. In March 2017 Cabinet approved the deployment of up to NZDF personnel to the intelligence fusion centre Operation Gallant Phoenix (OGP) in Amman, Jordan. OGP is a intelligence fusion centre based out of Amman, Jordan. The operation
The Operation has now evolved to provide a platform for coalition partners to collect, monitor and process material regarding potential and existing terrorist threats and trends at home and globally. While OGP is a publicly disclosed operation, New Zealand’s contribution has not been publicly announced.

2017 Maritime Security and Support Operations Cabinet Paper

31. In March 2017 Cabinet approved a set of NZDF Naval and Air Force contributions to both maritime security and support operations to the Middle East region out to June 2020. This included an agreement to continue the deployment of two staff officers to the US Air Force’s Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) in Qatar, which was first approved in 2014, and to increase this by one officer. There are currently three NZDF personnel deployed to the CAOC under this mandate: two are responsible for the planning and coordinating of air assets in support of coalition operations; the three officers have been noted in the response to an Official Information Act request.

Afghanistan and deployments in the region

32. The NZDF Provincial Reconstruction Team conducted activities in the Bamyan province between September 2003 to April 2013, before returning to New Zealand. Concurrently, in February 2013, Cabinet approved the deployment of eight trainers to the United Kingdom-led Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) in Kabul, as a component of the NATO Resolute Support Mission. Following a subsequent request from the United Kingdom, in May 2016 Cabinet agreed to extend the NZDF contribution to 30 June 2018 and increase personnel numbers from eight to ten at the ANAOA. The last mission change occurred in August 2017, in response to a United States’ request, when Cabinet approved a further increase of one NZDF trainer to ANAOA (total now 11), and the separate deployment of two Staff Officers to the Resolute Support Missions Headquarters, mandated until 30 June 2019.

33. The NZDF also has a number of other long-standing deployments in the Middle East Region mandated by Cabinet. These are 28 personnel in the Multinational Force Observers (MFO) mission on the Sinai Peninsular in Egypt, and up to eight personnel supporting the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in Israel and Lebanon.

International Branch, Ministry of Defence
Strategic Commitments and Engagement Branch, New Zealand Defence Force
February 2018

Annexes
A. NZDF Defeat ISIS Timeline
B. Current NZDF Defeat ISIS Deployment Footprint
C. Classified Deployments (issued separately)
D. Summary of Information Release
Annex A to New Zealand’s Military Contributions to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

NZDF DEFEAT ISIS TIMELINE

2015
- Joint NZDF/ADF Reconnaissance Team deployed to TMC
- 3 Staff Officers to CJTFC-OIR, Kuwait
- NZ and Australian BTC mission established at TMC, additional personnel deployed to support NZDF support unit

2016
- NZDF deployed to the Canadian ASC in Kuwait
- NZDF deployed to support USCENTCOM Forward in Qatar
- NZDF deployed to support USCENTCOM Forward

2017
- NZDF deployed to USCENTCOM Forward
- NZDF deployed to support USCENTCOM Forward

2018
- NZDF deployed to support USCENTCOM Forward

Depolyments
- March 2015 – Op MANAWA: Joint NZDF and ADF Reconnaissance Team deployed to Taji Military Complex (TMC).
- April 2015 – Op MOHUA: 3 Staff Officers deployed to Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTFC-OIR) Headquarters in Kuwait. 2 Staff Officers deployed to CJTFC-OIR Baghdad.
- May 2015 – Op MANAWA: Combined NZ & Australian Building Partner Capacity (BTC) mission established at TMC, additional personnel deployed to support NZDF support unit.
- November 2015 – Op MOHUA: Brigadier McAlister deployed to CJTFC-OIR for nine months as Deputy Commanding General (DCG). The DCG was accompanied by a Military Assistant and a Legal Advisor.
- January 2017 – Op MOHUA: An officer is deployed to the Canadian All Source Intelligence Cell (ASIC) in Kuwait.
- October 2017 – Op MOHUA: 1 officer deployed to support USCENTCOM Forward.
- December 2017 – Op MOHUA: 1 Legal Officer deployed to CJTFC-OIR as Legal Advisor (LEGAD)

Amendments to training operations
- August 2016 – Op MANAWA: BTC personnel permitted to provide training to Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) at Basmaya Military Complex if requested by CJTFC-OIR.
- September 2016 – Op MANAWA: BTC training audience widened to include Iraqi Federal Police, Iraqi Border Guard Forces, and local Police service personnel – collectively known as Hold Forces.
- October 2016 – Op MANAWA: BTC personnel permitted to provide training to ISF at Al Taqaddum Air Base (ATAB) if requested by CJTFC-OIR.
- January 2017 – Op MANAWA: BTC personnel permitted to provide training to ISF at Qayyarah West Air Base (QWEST) if requested by CJTFC-OIR.
- July 2017 – Op MANAWA: BTC personnel permitted to provide mentoring support to Baghdad Operations Command – North (NBOC) staff.

Glossary
- ASIC: All Source Intelligence Cell
- ATAB: Al Taqaddum Air Base
- BTC: Building Partner Capacity
- CJTFC-OIR: Combined Joint Force Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve
- CJTFC-OIR: Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve
- DCG: Deputy Commanding General
- LEGAD: Legal Advisor
- NBOC: Baghdad Operations Command – North
- QWEST: Qayyarah West Air Base
- TMC: Taji Military Complex
- USCENTCOM: United States Central Command

Released under the Official Information Act 1982
Annex B to
New Zealand’s Military Contributions to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

NZDF DEFEAT ISIS DEPLOYMENTS
As at 19 February 2018

Iraq
OP MANAWA
Combined NZ & Australia Building Partner
Capacity Mission
Mandate: International Response to the Threat of ISIL. Possible NZ Contribution
Cabinet Paper [CAS(15) 5/6 dated 23 Feb 2015]
Personnel: 108

OP MOHUA
Combined NZ & Australia Building Partner
Capacity Mission – Staff Officers at
Combined Joint Force Land Component
Command Headquarters
Mandate: International Response to the Threat of ISIL. Possible NZ Contribution
Cabinet Paper [CAS(15) 5/6 dated 23 Feb 2015]
Personnel: 7

OP MOHUA
Support to USCENTCOM Forward HQ
Mandate: International Response to the Threat of ISIL. Possible NZ Contribution
Cabinet Paper [CAS(15) 5/6 dated 23 Feb 2015]
Personnel: 3

Released under the Official Information Act 1982
Annex C to

New Zealand's Military Contributions to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

See Classified Annex
### Annex D to New Zealand’s Military Contributions to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

#### Summary of Information Release

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Publicly released via redacted Cabinet Paper.</td>
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<td>5 x staff officers in logistics, planning, training, and information roles &lt;br&gt;1 x legal advisor &lt;br&gt;1 x movement specialist</td>
<td>Mohua</td>
<td>CAB decisions Feb 2015 / June 2016 (on Iraq and D-ISIS)</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Publicly released via redacted Cabinet Paper – location &amp; description of roles only. No details of personnel numbers. &lt;br&gt;Not publicly released. Refer Serial 18 below. Could be considered for release</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>3 x staff officers in Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) in planning and intelligence roles</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>2 x <em>s6(a)</em> and staff officer</strong>[^5]&lt;br&gt;<strong>Pukeko</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>CAB decision July 2017 (on Middle East Maritime Security and Support Operations) ERD-17-MIN-0020</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jun 20</strong>[^6]&lt;br&gt;Referred to in public release document (NZDF Annual Report 2017). Confirmed via media enquiries.&lt;br&gt;Not publicly released [CLASSIFIED]. Refer Serials 14 &amp; 15 below.</td>
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[^5]: See classified annex.

[^6]: Part of a mandate with multiple components, with expiry across the full range of those components.

[^7]: As above.

[^8]: This operation has not been publically released.
## Changes to Mandate / Additional Personnel Deployments

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<th>Release Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>Permission to provide training to ISF at Besmaya Military Complex</td>
<td>Manawa</td>
<td>Publicly released via Press Release.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Sep 16</td>
<td>Change in training audience to include Iraqi Hold Forces</td>
<td>Manawa</td>
<td>Publicly released via Press Release.</td>
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2. Released in response to OIA. |
| Iraq     | Oct 16     | Permission to provide training to ISF at Al Taqqudum Air Base                 | Manawa         | Publicly released via Press Release.                |
| Kuwait   | Jan 17 – Aug 17 | [censored] deployed to Canadian ASIC                                       | Mohua          | Released in response to OIA.                      |
| Iraq     | Jan 17     | Permission to provide training to ISF at Qayyarah West Air Base               | Manawa         | Released in response to OIA.                      |
| Iraq     | Jul 17     | Permission to provide mentoring support to NBOC                              | Manawa         | Released in response to OIA.                      |
### Annex D to
New Zealand’s Military Contributions to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

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<td>14</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Aug 17</td>
<td>2 x Officer deployed to US CENTCOM Forward</td>
<td>Mohua</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>1 x Officer deployed to US CENTCOM Forward</td>
<td>Mohua</td>
<td>Not publicly released [CLASSIFIED]</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>1 x Legal Officer deployed to CJFLCC-OIR</td>
<td>Mohua</td>
<td>Released in response to OIA.</td>
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