



New Zealand
DEFENCE FORCE
Te Ope Kātua O Aotearoa



New Zealand
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga

Submission to the Minister of Defence

**CURRENT NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE DEPLOYMENTS:
PROPOSED PUBLIC RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

MoD ref: 34/2018

NZDF tracking: 123/18

Type of submission:	Issue	For action by:	Routine
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Purpose:	To provide advice on the public release of information relating to New Zealand Defence Force deployments
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Recommended actions:

- a) **Note** that Annex A contains information on current deployments that is proposed to be used to update the Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force websites; Yes / No
- b) **Note** that for reasons of operational security and diplomatic relations, some deployment information is proposed to be withheld from public release; Yes / No
- c) **Note** that Annex B contains questions and answers if Ministers are asked further information about deployments by the media; Yes / No
- d) **Agree** to the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force updating their websites with the agreed information; Yes / No
- e) **Recommend** to the Prime Minister that she note the updated information as part of the UNMISS announcements; Yes / No
- f) **Refer** a copy of this note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister Responsible for the GCSB and NZSIS for information; and Yes / No
- g) **Refer** a copy of this note to the Prime Minister for concurrence. Yes / No

MINISTER OF DEFENCE
Date:

T.J. KEATING
Lieutenant General
Chief of Defence Force
Date:

HELENE QUILTER
Secretary of Defence
Date:

NZDF contact:	s6(a)	Ph:	s6(a)	A/H:	s6(a)
MOD contact:		Ph:		A/H:	

Agencies involved: Ministry of Defence, New Zealand Defence Force

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Secretary of Defence
Ministry of Defence

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Freyberg Building, Wellington, New Zealand



Chief of Defence Force
New Zealand Defence
Force

Reference

29 March 2018

Minister of Defence

CURRENT NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE DEPLOYMENTS: PROPOSED PUBLIC RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Purpose

1. To provide advice on the public release of information relating to New Zealand Defence Force deployments.

Background

Release of information

2. The government has signalled a desire for greater transparency from all departments. In line with this, the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) have worked to provide advice on the public releasability of information on current NZDF deployments (Annex A). This information contains some suggested exclusions based on reasons of operational security and diplomatic sensitivities.

3. While information is provided on both MOD and NZDF websites, there are some gaps and inconsistencies. In the past small changes to deployments or minor deployments have not always been updated on these websites.

Deployment decisions

4. New Zealand's ability to mitigate security threats in an increasingly turbulent international environment relies on strong international partnerships, shared sense of collective security and the maintenance of a rules-based order. Subscribing to these goals means New Zealand has an obligation to shoulder a share of responsibilities associated with them. This includes supporting the prevention or resolution of conflict within and between states, as well as the maintenance of any peace agreement that may result.

5. MOD and NZDF lead a multiagency process to develop advice to government on the deployment of the NZDF on operations.

6. As part of this process a wide range of agencies are consulted in preparing advice for government. This includes MFAT, the Treasury, and DPMC.

7. Advice to Cabinet on deployments considers factors such as:

- Foreign policy and national interest considerations
- Non-military response options such as funding for humanitarian assistance or stabilisation
- Nature of the mission (whether the deployment is in accordance with international law, participation of key security partners)
- Safety and security of deployed personnel
- Implications for NZDF including whether the deployment of NZDF personnel and assets is the best use of New Zealand expertise and capabilities.

8. Following the drawdown of a number of major deployments (Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan) the Government undertook a stocktake in October 2013 of the guidelines for future peacekeeping deployments (this is publicly available on the MOD website).

9. Funding for New Zealand's deployments is through the Vote Defence Force appropriation: Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests. As part of Budget 2017, a Tagged Contingency Fund was established for Military Operations in Support of a Rules-based International Order.

Exceptions to release

10. The presence of foreign troops on their soil can be a sensitive issue for countries for reasons of both domestic and regional sensitivities. Some of the NZDF deployments fall under this category. When there is a specific request from a host country not to disclose our presence we make every effort to comply with their wishes.

11. In addition to diplomatic sensitivities, information on certain aspects of NZDF deployments is particularly sensitive or classified. This is generally for two reasons. Firstly, the successful functioning of the mission would be compromised if information was released publicly; and secondly, the risk to New Zealanders or others would be increased with the release of certain details. Ultimately the safety of New Zealand personnel remains the utmost priority. In these cases officials will not release this information publicly; however they can provide advice directly to Ministers on the reasons for this decision.

Timing and means of release

12. The upcoming announcement of New Zealand's contribution to UNMISS would be a logical point at which to release the information prepared. Officials believe that a 'soft launch' of this information would be the best way forward, as opposed to a standalone public release. This could be achieved through the updating of the MOD and NZDF websites and a reference to this action as part of the UNMISS announcement. Due to the nature of the web based information presentation, it is recommended that the information contained in Annex A is inserted into the relevant web pages, rather than released as a single document.

13. MOD's and NZDF's current policy of releasing redacted versions of Cabinet Papers, in line with the State Services Commission intention for all departments to proactively release Cabinet Papers within six weeks of consideration by Cabinet, and

an intent to update Defence web pages when deployment information changes, will provide additional assurances to the New Zealand public regarding ongoing transparency around Defence Force deployments.

Next steps

14. MOD and NZDF will update their respective websites with the latest deployment information (with agreed exclusions) in advance of the UNMISS announcement.
15. The MOD and NZDF will be putting in place procedures to ensure their websites will be updated whenever any new deployments or major changes to deployments occur.
16. MOD and NZDF will prepare a redacted version of any deployment cabinet papers for release within six weeks of consideration by Cabinet.

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that you:
 - a. **Note** that Annex A contains information on current deployments that is proposed to be used to update the Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force websites;
 - b. **Note** that for reasons of operational security and diplomatic relations, some deployment information is proposed to be withheld from public release;
 - c. **Note** that Annex B contains questions and answers if Ministers are asked further information about deployments by the media;
 - d. **Agree** to the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force updating their websites with the agreed information;
 - e. **Recommend** to the Prime Minister that she note the updated information as part of the UNMISS announcements;
 - f. **Refer** a copy of this note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister Responsible for the GCSB and the NZSIS for information; and
 - g. **Refer** a copy of this note to the Prime Minister for concurrence.

T. J. KEATING
Lieutenant General
Chief of Defence Force

HELENE QUILTER
Secretary of Defence

Annex A: Summary of NZDF Deployments

Note: *Red text* is explanatory and is proposed to be removed from the public release version of this information

MIDDLE EAST

Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

Up to 143 NZDF personnel are deployed to the Middle East in roles associated with the Defeat-ISIS Coalition.

The majority are based at the combined NZ and Australian Building Partner Capacity mission at Taji Military Complex in Iraq. The purpose of the BPC mission is to prepare Iraqi Security Forces units for combat and stabilisation operations. Training includes basic weapons skills, individual and unit military skills to prepare for combat operations as well as other skills like medical support, logistics and training on the laws of armed conflict.

Adjustments to the Mission

There have been some approved adjustments to the deployment since Cabinet first agreed to deploy NZDF troops to Iraq in 2015. These changes have been in response to the evolving security situation and coalition headquarters requests and include:

- providing mobile training in coalition bases beyond the Taji Military Complex (approved training sites are the coalition base in Besmaya, Al Taqqadum Air Base and Qayarra West airfield, although no NZDF personnel have conducted training at Qayarra West as yet);
- training of police, emergency response and border guards (not just the army);
- deployment of three intelligence personnel to Qatar and one to Kuwait¹, and one legal adviser to the Headquarters Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command in Baghdad; [REDACTED] s6(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- deployment of a NZ Army Brigadier as Deputy Commanding General of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command, Operation Inherent Resolve for nine months¹.
- NZDF personnel already deployed to Iraq have been approved to provide mentoring to Iraqi Security Forces inside the Taji Military Complex at the North Baghdad Operational Command (likely a team of one to two personnel at a time, providing specific mentoring to staff on planning and coordinating operations; planning and conducting logistics functions; integrating coalition resources into missions; conducting training needs analysis and training design & delivery). The Command is primarily responsible for planning and controlling the conduct of security operations immediately north of Baghdad, including the protection of Taji Military Complex; and

¹ This deployment has now concluded.

- an increase in the NZDF's quick reaction force protection responsibilities inside the Taji Military Complex. [Comment: we don't publicly disclose the numbers of NZDF personnel involved in the quick reaction force for operational security reasons as this would provide enemy forces tactical information that would advantage them].

Current Commitment

In support of the main deployment to Taji, a number of NZDF personnel are deployed to other roles related to the Defeat-ISIS coalition around the region which include:

- 108 personnel at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq.
- Seven staff officers at the Coalition Joint Forces Land Component Command in Baghdad, conducting roles in training planning, support of ongoing planning and logistics, public information and the provision of legal advice;
- Two staff officers at the coalition headquarters for Operation Inherent Resolve² in Kuwait supporting intelligence and planning; [Comment: It is anticipated that NZDF personnel deployed to Kuwait will be re-located to Baghdad by mid-April 2018, s6(a) Minister of Defence will be formally advised of this move once it is complete.]
- Three personnel supporting intelligence functions within the US Central Command Forward Headquarters in Qatar;
- Up to six personnel deployed to the region providing logistics support for our deployment in Iraq.

s6(a)

[Redacted text block]

The mandate for the deployments to Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar expires in **November 2018**.
For more information on Operation Inherent Resolve go to: www.inherentresolve.mil

Inc link: previous Cabinet papers

s6(a)

[Redacted text block]

² The US name for the military component of the Defeat-ISIS Coalition.

NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan

New Zealand has made a military contribution to Afghanistan since 2001. Since 2013, the New Zealand Defence has contributed personnel to the Afghan national Army Officer Academy just outside of Kabul to mentor and support the development of Afghan National Security Forces. The Academy is led by the United Kingdom and forms part to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. In August 2017 the Government announced an increase in personnel at the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy to eleven personnel, whilst also deploying two personnel to the Resolute Support Mission Headquarters.

The eleven personnel at the Academy provide mentoring and support designed to help train future Afghanistan military leaders, and give them the skills to enable Afghanistan to take responsibility for its own defence. This includes training in conventional warfighting skills and counter-insurgency training. Examples of training include tactics, war studies, physical education, English language, communication skills, and Information and Communications Technology training. One of the officers based at Headquarters is responsible for overseeing planning to coordinate training activities across Afghanistan prior to their implementation. The other is a subject matter expert on training and instruction who provides advice to the head of the Resolute Support Mission's training branch.

The mandate for the deployment of personnel to the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy expires in **June 2018**. The mandate for the deployment of personnel to Resolute Support Mission Headquarters expires in **June 2019**.

For more information on Operation Resolute Support go to: <https://www.rs.nato.int/>

Latest news: NZDF Supported Programme Trains More than 3000 Afghan Cadets

Inc link: previous Cabinet paper

United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)

UNTSO is the oldest peacekeeping operation, and is an important and visible mission to help preserve peace between Israel and its neighbours. The New Zealand Defence Force has been a longstanding contributor since 1954 through the monitoring role played by up to eight military observers based in Israel and Lebanon. Their tasks include patrolling and monitoring ceasefires and military activity within the region. New Zealand is continuing to support conflict prevention through the mission. It is our largest current contribution to a United Nations-led peacekeeping mission.

The mandate for this deployment expires in **September 2018**.

For more information about UNTSO go to: <https://untsounmissions.org/>

Multinational Force and Observers (MFO)

New Zealand has participated in the MFO since it was established in 1982 to ensure compliance with the commitments of the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. The Mission remains important to regional stability. New Zealand contributes up to 28 personnel which cover a number of roles including drivers, driver trainers, electricians, engineers and a command team. Last year the Defence Force sent a 33 member engineering team to build the perimeter fence at South Camp.

The mandate for this deployment expires in **July 2018**.

For more information about the MFO go to: <http://mfo.org/en>

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

New Zealand's economic prosperity depends upon open sea, air and electronic lines of communication. The CMF is a multinational naval partnership of 31 nations, which exists to promote security, stability and prosperity within international waters. The mission's main focus is to defeat terrorism, prevent piracy, encourage regional cooperation, promoting a safe maritime environment and preventing drug and people trafficking.

New Zealand currently provides two staff officers to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Headquarters in Bahrain who undertake strategic planning and operational watch-keeper roles. New Zealand also embeds officers on an ad hoc basis within Command Task Forces (CTFs) in CMF. An example is the deployment of a Chief Petty Officer embedded in the Japanese Self Defense Force Command Team for CTF 151 in February 2018 for three months.

The mandate for this deployment expires in **June 2020**.

Deployment of NZDF Aircraft and Support Staff to the Middle East

New Zealand periodically deploys P-3K Orion aircraft air surveillance detachments to conduct maritime security missions, and C-130 Hercules to provide air logistics support to the Middle East.

From 12 February 2017 to 9 March 2018 a P-3K2 and 55 personnel were deployed to United States Naval Forces Command and the Combined Maritime Forces to support maritime security surveillance. Cabinet has agreed that NZDF will repeat this deployment in 2019

From early May 2018, a C-130 Hercules and support staff will be deployed to the Middle East for eight months to provide air mobility and logistic support flights in support of New Zealand and Australian operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan and the Sinai Peninsula.

In order to support the deployment of these aircraft, three staff officers are currently deployed to the US Air Force's Combined Air Operations Centre at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which coordinates air tasking in support of the Combined Maritime Forces, Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq) and Operation Resolute Support (Afghanistan).

Additionally, New Zealand maintains a small logistic contingent in the region to support all New Zealand Defence Force operations in the Middle East and Africa. s6(a)

The mandate for these deployments expires in **June 2020**.

Africa

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

South Sudan is one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, and violent conflict continues to occur. The United Nations plays an important role in the protection of civilians, peace-making and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid. UNMISS was established in 2011 to consolidate peace and security and enable the newly-established Government of South Sudan to assume its functions. The mandate of the mission has since shifted to focus on the protection of civilians. Prior to South Sudan's

independence and the creation of UNMISS; New Zealand contributed personnel to the United Nations Mission in Sudan from 2005 to 2011. Our participation in UNMISS contributes to our collective security responsibilities, addresses humanitarian concerns, and provides a small but tangible demonstration of New Zealand's commitment to peace and security in Africa.

The New Zealand Defence Force currently contributes five personnel to the Mission, including a staff officer in Mission Headquarters, two military liaison officers, the Military Advisor to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the Chief of Staff. These people are based in Juba, Yambio and Malakal. Cabinet has recently approved New Zealand filling the Chief of Staff position, which is a key leadership position in the mission. [REDACTED] s6(b)(ii)

The mandate for the deployment of the military liaison officers, staff officer and Chief of Staff expires in **November 2018**. The mandate for the Military Advisor expires in **July 2020**.

For more information about UNMISS go to: <https://unmiss.unmissions.org>

Latest news: link press release.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali (established in 2013) is an international effort that focuses on ensuring security, stabilisation, the protection of civilians, and the promotion of human rights. MINUSMA also has an important role in monitoring the peace process. A New Zealand Defence Force officer will fill a key intelligence leadership role in the mission for a 12 month period from 25 March. New Zealand's participation in MINUSMA demonstrates New Zealand's commitment to international peace and security, and our efforts to address humanitarian concerns.

*For more information about MINUSMA go to:
<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma>*

Latest news: link to press release

ASIA

United Nations Command & Military Armistice Commission

The NZDF deploys six personnel to the Republic of Korea. The United Nations Command is a multinational body established in 1950 to defend South Korea.

New Zealand has five personnel deployed to the United Nations Command and Military Armistice Commission, which is responsible for monitoring the armistice agreement signed at the end of the Korean War.

Three of these personnel are based at UNCMAC Headquarters in Seoul. One officer leads the Armistice Education programme, while another is responsible for coordinating and planning inspections and other activities in the Demilitarised Zone. A senior non-commissioned officer supports the Demilitarised Zone operations section.

The remaining two New Zealand Defence Force officers are based within the Demilitarised Zone. One is an assistant Operations Officer primarily responsible for

conducting inspections. The other facilitates communication between the United Nations Command and the Korean People's Army and supervises high level visits to the Joint Security Area.

One NZDF staff officer is deployed to the United Nations Command Headquarters. The Headquarters has a broad role in contributing to the maintenance of the Armistice through activities such as strategic messaging to North Korea, and conducting multinational exercises designed to enhance the Command's readiness to defend South Korea from a North Korean attack. The officer is employed within the Multinational Co-ordination Centre. [REDACTED] s6(a)

The mandate for this deployment expires in **August 2019**.

REGIONAL

Antarctica

Each year the Defence Force provides support to Antarctica NZ and the US Antarctic Programme over the summer season (October to March). The NZDF provides approximately six C-130 Hercules flights and four Boeing 757 flights (weather dependant) but also support to Terminal Operations at Harewood (Christchurch International Airport) and McMurdo (load and passenger processing, fuel delivery, ship off-load teams), light engineering teams for Scott Base, and Scott Base support personnel (plant operators, cargo handlers, communications & administration staff). Up to 220 personnel are typically involved in this support in a season.

For more information go to: <http://www.antarticanz.govt.nz/>

Latest news: NZDF Upload Supplies for Scientists in Antarctica

Mutual Assistance Programme

The Mutual Assistance Programme (MAP) is an integral component of NZ's contribution to peace and security in the Asia Pacific. MAP activities include the provision of training, technical and other support to South Pacific and Southeast Asian security and defence forces.

The objectives of the programme are:

- to support NZ foreign policy by maintaining and strengthening bilateral relations in the defence field with countries with whom NZ has a common interest in regional security;
- to contribute to the effectiveness and self-reliance of the forces of cooperating countries without entering into any operational commitments;
- to facilitate opportunities for the NZDF to gain experiences in training and operating in tropical environments;
- to facilitate visits to NZ by elements of the security forces of the MAP countries for the purpose of exercising and training with the NZDF.

This assistance is provided by providing training to personnel (both police and military) from MAP partner countries on a range of NZDF courses with an emphasis on leadership, professional development and skills training.

The MAP also provides a number of Technical Advisers (TAs), currently eight across the South Pacific including the Cook Islands and Timor Leste. The NZDF will shortly be posting two TAs to Fiji. Significant TA roles include the Deputy Chief of Staff (Colonel) serving in the HQ PNGDF, and a Strategic Adviser (Lieutenant Colonel) to the Chief of Staff in the Headquarters of the Timor Leste Defence Force. One of the TAs in the Cook Islands serves as the Maritime Surveillance Adviser as part of Australia's Pacific Maritime Surveillance Programme, and demonstrates one aspect of Closer Defence Relationships between NZ and Australia.

Fiji

The New Zealand Defence Force will deploy two Royal New Zealand Navy Patrol Vessels in support of Fiji's programme of maritime and fisheries surveillance between May and September 2018. This follows on from a similar deployment of a Royal New Zealand Navy Inshore Patrol Vessel in 2017.

[Comment: This will be added to the MOD and NZDF websites once the deployment commences.]

Support to Other Government Agencies

In addition to these mandated deployments, the NZDF works with other government agencies such as New Zealand Police, the Department of Conservation, New Zealand Customs Service and the Ministry for Primary Industries. Together with these agencies, the NZDF conducts activities within New Zealand, the Pacific and the Southern Ocean to protect our resources, enforce protected areas, build experience and capability, and provide lifesaving aid when required.

Annex B: Defensive media Q &A

Iraq

Why does the government not release all information on deployments at the time they are made?

- Being a military, our people are often called upon to go into situations which may involve danger. There are some limited circumstances where for various reasons, including the safety and security of our people or where release would prejudice our international relationships, where information is not publicised.
- Given the dynamic nature of the environments in which NZDF personnel are deployed, information is sometimes not made public where the deployment or change in deployment is very minor in nature.

Are NZDF personnel now involved in “advise and assist” missions?

- In July 2017 the Government authorised NZDF troops already in Iraq to mentor Iraqi headquarters staff at North Baghdad Operational Command, a facility that sits within Taji camp – the same location where the Building Partner Capacity Mission is based. This headquarters contributes, amongst other things, to the security of Taji camp.
- New Zealanders serving in Iraq do not advise, assist, or accompany any Iraqi security forces involved in combat operations.

Has New Zealand Defence Force operated at the Qayyarah West airbase?

- The Government gave approval for NZDF personnel to provide training to the Iraqi Security Forces at Qayyarah West in early 2017, although due to the changing situation in Iraq, NZDF has not actually done any training there. The training envisaged would be similar to what NZDF has done at the secure Besmaya and Al Taqaddum facilities, which were publicly announced.

Has New Zealand’s deployment in Iraq expanded in scope?

- No, the mission has not expanded in scope. All activities are within the mandate of the Building Partner Capacity mission which is to train Iraqi forces to defeat ISIS. The environment we are operating in is fluid, and some additional decisions have been made – for example training of Iraqi Security Force personnel at other secure coalition locations, mentoring at the North Baghdad Operational Command, or training Federal and local police – but this is within the mission mandate.

Why did NZDF collect biometric data from Iraqi Security Forces?

- Biometric data is collected from Iraqi Security Forces personnel undergoing training. This process is carried out by all the coalition forces as a standard security measures to ensure the safety of coalition personnel – including New Zealanders.

What will happen to New Zealand's deployment now that Iraq is liberated from ISIS?

- Liberation does not mean defeat. Despite losing its physical 'caliphate', ISIS survives as an insurgency and continues to conduct asymmetric attacks in both Iraq and Syria. The ongoing need for a military coalition presence is widely acknowledged.
- Building Partner Capacity remains an integral part of coalition efforts, including training of stabilisation forces like the Federal police. These forces will have a critical role to play in stabilising and rebuilding parts of Iraq, and in ensuring that ISIS does not regroup.
- New Zealand continues to support these efforts, at the ongoing invitation of Iraq. We will continue to consider our contribution to the fight against ISIS to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

How long will New Zealand stay in Iraq?

- New Zealand's contribution to the Building Partner Capacity mission at Taji has a mandate that goes out to November 2018.
- Our ongoing presence in Iraq within this mandated timeframe will continue to depend on the security and political situation, a continued invitation from the Government of Iraq, and an ongoing partnership with Australia. Any significant changes in these areas would require us to reconsider our presence in Iraq.
- We know from the Iraq's feedback that New Zealand makes an important contribution to building their capability to counter ISIS.

Have any coalition partners made requests for further involvement in Iraq, whether that be an extension beyond November or a change in NZ's role in any way?

- There are regular discussions with coalition partners on all aspects of operations.
- A number of coalition partners have indicated an intention to remain in Iraq until 2019 and hope New Zealand will remain too. This will be considered by the Government later in the year.

What if New Zealand-trained units commit violations, or what if Iraqi forces or militias do so?

- All Iraqi security personnel trained by the NZDF go through the US-led 'Leahy' vetting processes to ensure recipients have not committed gross human rights abuses.
- In addition to basic military training, New Zealand delivers training modules on the law of armed conflict, human rights, and women, peace and security. This provides the trainees with a solid understanding of responsibilities expected in armed conflict.
- New Zealand is in Iraq to provide capacity building training to the Iraqi security forces. We do not have involvement with Iraqi personnel once they leave the Building Partner Capacity sites.
- New Zealand condemns any human rights abuses committed by armed personnel. It is important that all security forces uphold the laws of armed conflict and respect the rights of detainees. We have spoken to the Government of Iraq about this through our Ambassador in Baghdad and at Ministerial level.

What if Iraq no longer wants the coalition?

- Our deployment in Iraq is contingent on a continued invitation from the Government of Iraq.

Will New Zealand get involved in coalition efforts in Syria?

- New Zealand is not involved in coalition operations in Syria combating ISIS. The New Zealand Government's response to the conflict in Syria is focused on supporting political efforts to end the conflict and improve the humanitarian situation.

South Sudan

How is the war in South Sudan relevant to New Zealand and why are we increasing our deployment there?

- South Sudan has one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world, with an estimated 1.9 million internally displaced people, approximately 204,000 of whom are currently living in UN protection of civilians sites. 2.4 million are estimated to have fled South Sudan and are living as refugees in neighbouring countries.
- New Zealand's participation in the UN mission in South Sudan contributes to our collective security responsibilities, addresses humanitarian concerns, and demonstrates our commitment to international peace and security.
- The Chief of Staff is a role of significant influence in the Mission – our New Zealander in the role will be able to build on the positive work achieved by the Mission.

Can the UN Mission actually contribute to a meaningful solution to the conflict in South Sudan?

- The Mission in South Sudan plays an important role in stemming the conflict and humanitarian suffering.
- The Mission also does important work monitoring the peace agreement and human rights violations.

Can you guarantee the safety of the NZDF personnel in South Sudan?

- The NZDF has looked very closely at issues of safety and security for NZDF personnel in South Sudan.
- The risk is being managed by the UN Mission, the NZDF, and other force contributing nations. A comprehensive review was conducted following the violence in Juba in 2016, and led to changes in security and response measures for both the UN and NZDF. This included augmenting the UN's medical services, and more coordination with key partners on evacuation planning.

What is New Zealand doing about the accounts of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers in South Sudan?

- New Zealand has consistently and strongly advocated for zero tolerance against sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers for over a decade. We have done so at the highest level, including during our recent term on the UN Security Council, as well as the UN General Assembly.

The UN Mission in South Sudan has been criticised for its performance – what is New Zealand doing to address some of the concerns?

- The UN commissioned a special investigation into the performance of the Mission following the violence in Juba in 2016. Some great work is being done to implement the recommendations that came out of it.

Is New Zealand involved in any offensive operations in South Sudan?

- The UN does not conduct offensive operations in South Sudan. The mandate of the UN mission in South Sudan is to consolidate peace and security, protection of civilians, monitoring and investigating human rights, and supporting the cessation of hostilities agreement.
- The UN deters violence through the presence of forces, and protects civilians under imminent threat of physical violence.

Mali

How is the conflict in Mali relevant to New Zealand?

- The UN mission was established in 2013 following a security crisis in Mali and deteriorating humanitarian situation. It plays an important role protecting civilians including through stabilising areas where civilians are at risk and supporting the implementation of the peace accord.
- New Zealand's participation in the mission contributes to our collective security responsibilities, and demonstrates our commitment to international peace and security.

Can you guarantee the safety and security of our personnel in Mali?

- The NZDF has looked very closely at issues of safety and security for NZDF personnel in Mali.
- While the security situation remains highly volatile, the risk is being managed by the UN Mission, the NZDF, and other force contributing nations.

Does this deployment signal a broader New Zealand commitment to Mali?

- The one-person deployment is a discretionary contribution and is mandated for one year. It does not signal a broader New Zealand involvement or commitment to deploying personnel in Mali or the region.
- Any future consideration given to strengthening New Zealand's contribution would be done with full awareness of risk and security arrangements, and in close consultation with partner nations.

Is New Zealand involved in any Counterterrorism activities in Mali?

- The UN Mission in Mali does not engage in counterterrorism activities.
- Other international security forces in Mali are working to fight terrorism in Mali including a significant French deployment and a regional deployment from neighbouring countries known as the G5 Sahel Joint Force.

Is New Zealand involved in any offensive operations?

- The UN does not conduct offensive operations in Mali.
- The UN Mandate in Mali focuses on creating stability, supporting the peace process, and preventing humanitarian suffering.

- The UN Mission in Mali is mandated to deter violence through the presence of forces, and protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence.

Why is New Zealand assuming an intelligence role in Mali?

- Timely and accurate information is crucial for increased safety and security, and mission effectiveness. Increasing access to information in peacekeeping operations has been a priority for New Zealand including during our UN Security Council term.
- The role contributes to enhanced safety and security of civilians and the UN mission.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Afghanistan

Has New Zealand been asked to provide additional personnel to Afghanistan?

- New Zealand remains in close contact with the United States and NATO on New Zealand's support to the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. We have not received a formal request for additional personnel since New Zealand made a small increase (of three personnel) to its contribution in August last year.

- In the event New Zealand receives a formal request for additional support in Afghanistan, Defence would provide advice on this to the Government. Cabinet would then consider this advice and decide how it would like to respond to the formal request.

Why would New Zealand be considering deploying extra personnel to Afghanistan?

- [REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Officials are yet to formally engage with the Government on the Afghanistan deployment. The mandate for the current deployment of eleven NZDF personnel to the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy ends in June 2018. The Government will be provided with official advice on possible next steps in this area in the lead up to mandate expiry.
- Due to the success of NZDF personnel in training Afghanistan Army Officers and equipping them to contribute to Afghanistan's security, official advice may recommend extending the timeframe for New Zealand's deployment of eleven personnel to the Academy.

What do the New Zealand personnel in Afghanistan actually do?

- The eleven personnel at the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy contribute as mentors and support staff at the United Kingdom-led effort to train future Afghanistan military leaders, and give them the skills to enable Afghanistan to take responsibility for its own defence. In total, over 3000 Afghanistan Officer Cadets have been trained through this effort. There has been growth over recent years in the number of female graduates from the Academy, currently sitting at 116.
- The two personnel at Resolute Support Mission Headquarters support NATO's training activities across Afghanistan, particularly in terms of planning and designing future activities.

Multinational Force and Observers

How many troops are deployed to the MFO in Sinai?

- New Zealand has 27 NZDF personnel deployed as part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. The MFO deployment is one of New Zealand's longest running peacekeeping deployments with a continuous New Zealand presence since the Mission began in 1982.

Are NZDF personnel at risk given the Egyptian Armed Forces' campaign against Islamic militants in Sinai Peninsula?

- NZDF is consistently monitoring the Egyptian Armed Forces' campaign against Islamic militants in Sinai Peninsula. The safety of NZDF personnel remains paramount.
- NZDF has taken steps to mitigate risk to personnel, and has encouraged the reconfiguration measures by MFO to actively protect forces on mission.

Have there been any recent changes to the MFO deployment?

- MFO has undergone a reconfiguration process, which included implementing a number of measures to ensure greater force protection, including exploring using remote, unmanned sites and moving personnel. This allows MFO to fulfil its mission, using different methods.
- On 27 November, two NZDF electricians deployed to the MFO for 12 months to support reconfiguration efforts (conditional on the mandate being renewed in July 2018).
- In January 2017 New Zealand also supported work to enhance force protection by temporarily deploying 34 engineers to support perimeter fencing activities. The contingent returned to New Zealand in June 2017.

Why is the deployment to MFO relevant?

- MFO plays a key role in **supporting the** Treaty of Peace between Israel and Egypt. [REDACTED] s6(b)(i)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] s6(a)
[REDACTED]
- New Zealand has supported the MFO since 1982; our longest running significant deployment. It is a key pillar in our engagement in the Middle East, and one of our most significant commitments to regional peace and security.

Is there an endpoint to this mission?

- The security environment in the Middle East remains unstable, and the Sinai Peninsula is an area which continues to be under scrutiny by the global community, particularly with counterterrorism efforts in recent times.
- New Zealand's deployment mandate is due for renewal in July 2018. New Zealand will continue to assess the risk and review the mandate prior to its completion.

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United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation

How many troops are deployed to UNTSO?

- New Zealand has 8 NZDF personnel deployed to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Golan Heights. UNTSO is the UN's oldest peacekeeping mission, established in 1948 to supervise the negotiated cessation of hostilities between Israel and its Arab neighbours. New Zealand has had a continuous presence in UNTSO since 1954.
- New Zealand's contribution consists of a staff position in the UNTSO Headquarters, and seven Military Observers.

Why is the deployment to UNTSO still relevant?

- UNTSO is an important and visible instrument to help preserve peace between Israel and its neighbours.
- New Zealand's continued presence on this mission demonstrates a tangible commitment to peace in the Middle East, and is valued by our partners in the region, and the United Nations.

Is there an endpoint to this mission?

- The instability of the security environment is well known, and the requirement for the preservation of peace in this area has continued relevancy.
- New Zealand's deployment mandate is due for renewal in September 2018. New Zealand will assess our contribution and review the mandate prior to its completion.