



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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New Zealand's Security Commitments to Afghanistan

Portfolios Defence / Foreign Affairs

On 20 June 2016, following reference from the Cabinet National Security Committee (NSC), Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that in March 2015, the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee agreed to extend New Zealand's commitment of eight personnel to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (the Academy) in Afghanistan to coincide with the scheduled drawdown of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Resolute Support Mission planned for 31 December 2016 [ERD Min (15) 2/1];
- 2 **noted** that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has extended the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan beyond 2016;
- 3 **noted** that the deployment is the only one where New Zealand partners with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;
- 4 **noted** s.6(a) [REDACTED]
- 5 **noted** that the United Kingdom has asked New Zealand to extend its contribution to the Academy, and to increase it by two personnel;
- 6 **agreed** to extend the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) contribution to the Academy for a further 18 months, to 30 June 2018;
- 7 **agreed** to increase the size of New Zealand's contribution to the Academy by an additional two personnel, to a total of 10 personnel, to be deployed before the end of 2016;
- 8 **noted** that the unmitigated operational threat for NZDF personnel in Afghanistan remains HIGH;

- 9 **noted** that the estimated cost to extend the NZDF contribution to the Academy for 18 months, and to increase the number of personnel from eight to 10, is assessed at \$2.009 million;
- 10 **noted** that \$1.357 million can be met from the current departmental appropriations planned for Vote Defence Force, leaving a shortfall of \$0.652 million in 2017/18;
- 11 **agreed** to the following change to appropriations to provide additional funding to make up the shortfall in 2017/18:

Voted Defence Force Minister of Defence	Smillion – increase/(decrease)				
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Operations Contributing to New Zealand’s Security, Stability and Interests MCA Department Output Expense: Military Operations in Support of a Rules-Based International Order (funded by revenue Crown)	0.000	0.652	0.000	0.000	0.000

- 12 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 11 above be a charge against the between-Budget operating contingency established as part of Budget 2016;
- 13 **agreed** that the legal arrangements for New Zealand’s participation in the Resolute Support Mission be amended to reflect the increase in personnel and the extension to New Zealand’s contribution to 30 June 2018;
- 14 **noted** that the Minister of Foreign Affairs will consider the option of extending New Zealand’s financial contribution to the sustainment of the Afghan National Security Forces beyond June 2018 in the coming weeks.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Secretary’s Note: This minute replaces NSC-16-MIN-0016. Cabinet added paragraphs 11 and 12 above.

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