

HON JUDITH COLLINS KC, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

NEW ZEALAND ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE: CHANGE IN LOCATION OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE ENGINEERING TRAINING SUPPORT

June 2025

This publication provides the July 2024 joint New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and Ministry of Defence (the Ministry) briefing to the Minister of Defence seeks approval for: (a) the NZDF to deliver combat engineering training courses in Germany, as part of the NZDF's Operation TIEKE support to Ukraine, and (b) delivery of training in the Cabinet approved focus areas in a wider range of locations across Europe.

The pack comprises the following document:

- joint briefing to the Minister of Defence *New Zealand Assistance to Ukraine: Change in Location of New Zealand Defence Force Engineering Training Support*, 8 July 2024

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: www.defence.govt.nz/publications/nz-assistance-to-ukraine-change-in-location-of-nzdf-engineering-training-support

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Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

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In addition, certain information has been withheld in order to:

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TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA
DEFENCE FORCE



MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

8 July 2024

Minister of Defence

NEW ZEALAND ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE: CHANGE IN LOCATION OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE ENGINEERING TRAINING SUPPORT

Purpose

1. To seek your approval for: (a) the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to deliver combat engineering training courses in Germany, as part of the NZDF's Operation TĪEKE support to Ukraine, and; (b) to seek your approval to deliver training in the Cabinet approved focus areas in a wider range of locations across Europe.

Executive Summary

2. In February 2024, Cabinet agreed to extend the deployment of up to 97 NZDF personnel in support of Ukraine. This included extending NZDF's training support in five focus areas, including combat engineering training [CAB-24-MIN-0040]. The NZDF deployment in support of Ukraine is referred to as Operation TĪEKE.
3. Cabinet granted you authority to make changes to the training support mandate, should training needs evolve within the deployment window. Accordingly, this paper seeks your approval for two changes to the previously agreed Operation TĪEKE training support mandate.
4. This paper recommends that you approve the NZDF's combat engineering training support be delivered in Germany, as opposed to the United Kingdom (UK).
s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
[Redacted]
5. This paper also seeks your permission to delegate authority for the Chief of Defence Force (CDF) to deploy NZDF personnel to training efforts, within the Cabinet-approved focus areas, in any further locations throughout Europe (with the exception of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia).
6. To ensure that you retain appropriate oversight of the Operation TĪEKE training mandate, the NZDF will continue to seek your approval of training opportunities outside of the Cabinet-approved focus areas. The CDF will also notify you in advance of changes to the composition or location of deployed personnel.

Training Assistance Update: Delivering Engineering Training Support in Germany

7. In February 2024, Cabinet agreed to extend the deployment of up to 97 NZDF personnel in support of Ukraine, within the themes of intelligence, liaison, logistics,

training, command and administration until 30 June 2025 [CAB-24-MIN-0040]. This NZDF deployment is referred to as Operation TĪEKE.

8. As part of the renewed Operation TĪEKE mandate, Cabinet agreed to evolve the NZDF's training support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) from basic infantry training to five 'train the trainer' focus areas, namely:

- a. instructor training;
- b. combat casualty care training;
- c. combat engineering training;
- d. combat leadership training; and
- e. maritime explosive ordnance disposal training.

9. Advice provided in the February 2024 Cabinet paper noted that the majority of training in these focus areas would be delivered in the UK, except the maritime explosive ordnance disposal training which would be delivered in Denmark.

s6(a)

Germany has confirmed that it would welcome support from New Zealand to deliver this training. Indicatively, the NZDF engineering training team will train s6(a) AFU personnel over the course of their deployment.

10. s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

That paper authorised you to approve changes to the training mandate, should the training needs evolve during the deployment window. Therefore your approval is sought for the NZDF to deliver combat engineering training support in Germany.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

12. The UK continues to be the NZDF's primary partner for the delivery of training support to Ukraine, and the NZDF will continue to be closely involved in the UK's training support effort.

Future training opportunities in Europe

13. International efforts to support Ukraine are continuing to evolve. In response to these developments you have recently approved the delivery of further basic infantry training courses by the NZDF in an expansion of the Cabinet-approved 'train the trainer' focus areas; in addition to agreeing in principle for the NZDF to contribute to the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine.

14. The previous (2023/2024) Operation TĪEKE mandate provided the NZDF with certainty as to where its training support would be delivered in Europe, s6(a)

s6(a)

. However, the evolution of the NZDF's training support towards a range of specialist 'train the trainer' courses, has meant that the types of training that the NZDF is mandated to provide can occur in countries across Europe and may not be offered in the UK. It is dependent on different countries' particular expertise and their capacity at a given time to support the delivery of training in their country.

15. Ensuring that the NZDF has a degree of flexibility in where, within Europe, it can deliver Cabinet-mandated training support would be beneficial in ensuring that New Zealand remains responsive to Ukraine's needs in an evolving training and security context.
16. Consequently, officials seek your approval to delegate authority to the CDF to deploy NZDF personnel to training support efforts, within the Cabinet-approved focus areas, in locations throughout Europe (with the exception of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia). Factors that will be considered when deciding on a location include:
 - a. ongoing relevance of the training to the AFU's needs;
 - b. bilateral relationship equities in the locations where the training is being offered; and
 - c. cost-effectiveness, including the ability to keep costs within the mandated budget.
17. The NZDF and Ministry of Defence will consult the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) as part of that consideration. If training opportunities arise outside the Cabinet approved focus areas, officials will continue to seek your approval to deliver this training, consistent with advice provided in the February 2024 Operation TIEKE Cabinet paper.

Threat Levels

18. s6(a)

Legal Considerations

19. **Status of forces and application of host nation law.** The legal basis for this NZDF deployment is with the permission of the host Government. The German-New Zealand Visiting Forces Agreement provides that members of the New Zealand Armed Forces may, as a rule, temporarily stay in Germany for the purpose of the training of units for no more than 30 days. The Agreement specifies that details on the duration of a given stay shall be agreed between the competent authorities of the Parties. To that end, the NZDF will liaise with MFAT to facilitate an exchange of letters between New Zealand and Germany, with a view to permitting members of the New Zealand Armed Forces to remain in country for the duration of the Operation TIEKE deployment.
20. **Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.** As outlined in CAB-24-SUB-0040, Operation TIEKE is considered an "operational activity" under section 7(4)(a)(ii) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. As such, the provisions of the Act do not apply, but NZDF personnel will comply with Defence Force Order 071 on Safety, including taking reasonably practicable steps to ensure their place of work, and manner of carrying out work, are safe.

Financial Considerations

21. There are no changes to the financial implications approved by Cabinet in CAB-24-MIN-0040.

Next Steps

22. If you agree to the NZDF delivering combat engineering training to the Armed Forces of Ukraine in Germany, the NZDF will engage the German Armed Forces to deliver this training as appropriate.

Recommendations

23. It is recommended that you:

- a. **Note** that in February 2024, Cabinet approved the deployment of up to 97 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel in support of Ukraine, within the themes of intelligence, liaison, logistics, training, command and administration, from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025.

Noted

- b. **Note** that this deployment mandate authorises NZDF training support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine in five focus areas, including combat engineering training, and authorised you to approve changes to the training mandate should training needs evolve.

Noted

- c. **Note** that the evolving nature of international support to Ukraine has meant that training support is being delivered in locations outside of the Cabinet-mandated locations of the UK and Denmark.

Noted

- d. **Note** that the Minister of Defence has authority from Cabinet to make changes to the training support mandate, should training needs evolve within the deployment window.

Noted

- e. [REDACTED] s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Noted

- f. **Agree** for the NZDF to conduct combat engineering training in Germany, to give effect to Cabinet's approval of this training being delivered in support of Ukraine.

Yes / No

- g. **Agree** to delegate authority for the Chief of Defence Force to deploy NZDF personnel to training support efforts, within the Cabinet approved focus areas, in locations throughout Europe (with the exception of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia).


Yes / No

- h. **Note** that the Chief of Defence Force will notify you in advance of changes to the composition or location of deployed personnel.

Noted


T DAVIES

Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force
Date: 8 JUL 24



BROOK BARRINGTON
Secretary of Defence
Date: 08 July 2024

HON JUDITH COLLINS KC
Minister of Defence
Date:

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