

## HON JUDITH COLLINS KC, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

### UNITED NATIONS COMMAND ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA: FUTURE MANDATE OPTIONS FOR THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE'S CONTRIBUTION

September 2025

This publication provides a Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision on the deployment of New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the June 2024 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *United Nations Command on the Korean Peninsula: Future Mandate Options for the New Zealand Defence Force's Contribution* [CAB-24-SUB-0046 and CAB-24-MIN-0046].

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: [www.defence.govt.nz/publications/](http://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/).

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document. Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)].

Information is also withheld in order to maintain:

- the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty [section 9(2)(g)(i)].

Where information is withheld under section 9(2) of the Act it is not considered that the public interest outweighs the need to protect it.



# Cabinet Business Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### United Nations Command on the Korean Peninsula: Future Mandate Options for the New Zealand Defence Force's Contribution

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 4 June 2024, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **noted** that New Zealand currently contributes 12 personnel to the United Nations Command and the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission the Korean Peninsula, with the current mandate expiring on 30 September 2024 [ERS-22-MIN-0021];
- 2 **noted** that the security situation on the Korean Peninsula remains a key risk to regional and global security, and that contributions to security on the Peninsula support the maintenance of peace and stability and signal New Zealand's commitment to the Indo-Pacific global collective security efforts;
- 3 **noted** that the overall operational threat to New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel deployed to the Republic of Korea is assessed by the NZDF as s6(a)
- 4 **agreed** that the strategic objectives for New Zealand's contribution to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission be as outlined in the paper under CBC-24-SUB-0046, namely to:
  - 4.1 support the international rules-based system by contributing to the maintenance of peace and security in a key area of regional and global security concern;
  - 4.2 s6(a)
  - 4.3 contribute to the regeneration of the NZDF by providing personnel with meaningful opportunities to deploy on missions overseas;
- 5 **approved** an extension of the existing deployment of 12 NZDF personnel to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea by an additional two years, from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2026;
- 6 **approved** two deployments of Tri-Service Ceremonial Squads of up to six personnel to the United Nations Command Honour Guard, for three months each, in Quarter 4 of 2024 and Quarter 2 of 2025;
- 7 **approved** two deployments of a New Zealand Army Infantry Platoon of up to 35 personnel to the United Nations Command Security Battalion, s6(a)

- 8 **noted** that the estimated cost of the decisions in paragraphs 5 to 7 above is \$4.355 million in 2024/25, \$5.823 million in 2025/26, and \$1.468 million in 2026/27;
- 9 **noted** that the decisions above can be funded within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests Multi-Category Appropriation;
- 10 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decisions in paragraphs 5 to 7, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net debt:

Vote Defence Force Minister of Defence	\$ million – increase/(decrease)				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & outyears
<b>Departmental Output Expenses: Operations contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability, and Interests (MCA (M22)(A27)</b>					
<i>Military Operations in Support of a Rules-Based International Order</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	10.000	-	-	-	-
<i>Air Force Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(3.700)	-	-	-	-
<i>Army Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(2.200)	-	-	-	-
<i>Navy Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(3.100)	-	-	-	-
<b>Departmental Output Expenses: Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Protection of New Zealand and New Zealanders(MCA)</b>					
<i>Assistance to the Civil Power and Provision of a Public Service in Emergency Situations</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.200)	-	-	-	-
<i>Defence International Engagement</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.100)	-	-	-	-
<i>Defence Support to the Community</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.100)	-	-	-	-

Vote Defence Force Minister of Defence	\$ million – increase/(decrease)				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & outyears
<i>Military Assistance to Civil Authorities in Non-Emergency Situations</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.100)	-	-	-	-
<i>Resource and Border Protection Operations</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.500)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	-	-	-	-

11 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2024/25 above be included in the Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;

12 **noted** that:

12.1 the above decisions, along with the decisions taken in the companion paper under CBC-24-SUB-0049 relating to NZDF's deployments in support of the United Nations Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the NZDF contribution to military action against Houthi targets (which is expected to be considered by Cabinet later in June 2024), mean that the available funding appropriated within Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability, and Interest Multi-Category Appropriation will be exhausted for 2024/25;

12.2 while there are no further currently mandated deployment renewals planned for 2024/25, any additional emergency or other unplanned deployments will either require additional funding or a fiscally neutral adjustment from within Vote Defence Force.

Jenny Vickers  
Committee Secretary

**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)  
Hon David Seymour  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Matt Doocoy  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Karen Chhour

**Officials present from:**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Chair, Cabinet Business Committee

## **FUTURE MANDATE OPTIONS FOR THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA**

### **Proposal**

1. To seek Cabinet agreement to extend for two years the mandate for the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF's) 12-person contribution to the United Nations Command (UNC) and the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) in the Republic of Korea (ROK) and enhance our support by making additional deployments to the UNC Honour Guard and UNC Security Battalion.

### **Relation to Government priorities**

2. New Zealand's commitment to the UNC and UNMAC supports the Government's priorities by contributing to collective security efforts and the international rules-based system. It also sees us work together with traditional partners in the Indo-Pacific. In addition, it contributes to the regeneration of the NZDF by providing meaningful deployment opportunities. This is consistent with defence policy settings and the National Security Strategy. [REDACTED] s6(a)

### **Executive Summary**

3. This paper proposes that Cabinet agree to extend the current contribution of 12 personnel to UNC and UNCMAC for a further two years, to 30 September 2026 and enhance it by approving: two deployments of up to six personnel to the UNC for Honour Guard duties (three months each); and two deployments of an Army infantry platoon of up to 35 personnel to the UNC Security Battalion [REDACTED] s6(a)

4. Approving these proposals would contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula which, in turn, would help maintain the security conditions that support our ability to trade and prosper in a peaceful Indo-Pacific region. [REDACTED] s6(a)

5. This proposal also provides a means to develop and regenerate the NZDF's operational experience in peace support missions, which bolsters morale, welfare and retention, and can be applied in the Pacific and wider contexts.

6. The NZDF has assessed the risks from this proposal (threat level and ability to operate in the Pacific) [REDACTED] s6(a)

## Finance

7. The overall cost for the recommended option (Enhance) is \$11.646M over FY24/25 to FY26/27. Alternative options are provided for an extension of existing personnel only (Maintain), at a cost of \$4.309M over FY24/25 to FY26/27, or withdrawal from the mission, at a cost of \$0.601M in FY24/25. All options are proposed to be funded within the existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA.

## Background

s6(a)

8. Since the parties signed the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has evolved into a pariah state, repressing its people and adopting an aggressive outward posture. This has frustrated attempts towards a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK continues to pursue increasingly sophisticated nuclear capabilities, missiles, and delivery systems. Its nuclear and ballistic missiles (some of which are assessed as capable of reaching New Zealand) pose a risk to key New Zealand political, security, and economic interests, and present a nuclear proliferation risk. The situation on the Peninsula therefore remains a key New Zealand, regional and global security concern.

*Korean Peninsula instability has an impact on New Zealand's security and economy*

9. New Zealand's national security relies heavily on preserving peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. A renewal of conflict on the Korean Peninsula would have global ramifications and would further undermine the international rules-based system.

s9(2)(g)(i)

10. New Zealand's economy and prosperity, as well as the economies of the Pacific, are reliant on our ability to trade in a peaceful Indo-Pacific, particularly with the large powerhouse economies of North East Asia. The ROK and Japan are two of the top ten global economies, and significant trading partners with New Zealand.

s9(2)(g)(i)

*UN security architecture continues to support peace on the Korean Peninsula*

11. In the 1970s, the post-Korean War UNC was effectively divided into three parts, all under the command of a single US General: (a) the Combined Forces Command which would command the US-ROK alliance in the event of war with the DPRK; (b) US Forces Korea; and (c) a residual UNC role supporting the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula through a multinational command tasked with maintaining the armistice and facilitating diplomacy between the DPRK and ROK. New Zealand's deployments to the UNC and UNCMAC support the latter effort. New Zealand is currently the third largest contributor behind the US and Canada.

12. The table below outlines the respective roles of the UNC and UNCMAC:

Established	Mission	Activities
<b>UNC</b>  (1950, and modified in the 1970s)	Maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula	Maintain peace and stability between the ROK and DPRK by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conducting multinational operations and exercises to enhance readiness to defend the ROK from DPRK attack;</li> <li>- communicating strategic messaging to the DPRK;</li> <li>- conducting de-escalation activities on both sides (the UNC Commander is linked in to the ROK political level); and</li> <li>- coordinating a member State response during a time of war.</li> </ul> The NZDF regularly participates in UNC-run exercises. s6(a)
<b>UNCMAC</b>  (1953–)	Administration of the terms of the Armistice Agreement	Maintain military stability between the ROK and the DPRK by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring compliance with the terms and provisions of the ceasefire;</li> <li>- managing the separation of the opposing military forces on both sides of the Demilitarised Zone between the two Koreas;</li> <li>- investigating any violations and settling disputes, acting as an intermediary in negotiations between opposing forces; and</li> <li>- providing educational services for UNC military personnel.</li> </ul>

*Current contributions to the UNC and UNCMAC*

13. The NZDF currently has approval to deploy 12 personnel to support the UNC/UNCMAC (referred to by the NZDF as “Operation MONITOR”), s6(a)

In addition, the Defence Attaché in Seoul, while not deployed under this mandate, acts as the UNC Sending State Representative for this deployment. s6(a)

**General benefits of UNC/UNCMAC contribution**

14. The following benefits exist from a New Zealand UNC/UNMAC contribution:

Benefit	Assessment
Supports the safety of New Zealanders.	Contributes in a substantial way to a well-established mission that helps to address key regional and global security concerns with consequences for New Zealand’s own security, economy, and prosperity.
Contributes to collective security efforts that protect New Zealand’s interests and values.	Signals New Zealand’s continued commitment to deploying into North Asia and the Indo-Pacific more generally.

Partner relationships and interoperability.	Strengthens New Zealand's relationships with UNC/UNCMAC partners, s6(a) by contributing to multinational coalition efforts that support stability on the Korean Peninsula.
Contributes to the enhancement of NZDF operational skills.	Enhances the NZDF's overall trained state with the technical skills that can be applied to other operations, s6(a)
Support retention of NZDF talent.	Allows NZDF personnel to conduct meaningful activities with a sense of purpose, supporting retention and morale.

### Proposed Strategic Objectives

15. Officials have proposed the following strategic objectives for any further military contributions to UNC/UNCMAC:

15.1. To support the international rules-based system by contributing to the maintenance of peace and security in a key area of regional and global security concern.

15.2. s6(a)

15.3. To contribute to the regeneration of the NZDF by providing personnel with meaningful opportunities to deploy on missions overseas.

16. This paper proposes several options by which to achieve these objectives:

#### Option One: Enhance New Zealand's contribution (recommended)

17. Option One involves extending our 12-person commitment for a further two years and adds an Honour Guard and Security Battalion.

Proposed Commitment	Personnel/Capability	Duration	Cost
NZDF personnel support to the UNC and UNCMAC headquarters	s6(a)	1 October 2024–30 September 2026	\$4.309M
UNC Honour Guard	Tri-Service Ceremonial Squad of two or six personnel	Two deployments of three months each, during Quarter 4 2024 (2) and Quarter 2 2025 (6)	\$2.725M
Infantry support to the UNC Security Battalion	New Zealand Army infantry platoon of up to 35 personnel	s6(a)	\$4.612M

*Proposals for additional NZDF support*

18. [redacted] s6(a)  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

19. The participation of NZDF personnel in the UNC Honour Guard [redacted] s6(a)  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] offers exposure to high level training and the opportunity to build networks with, and learn from, elite forces from the contributing countries. The proposal would be for two NZDF members to undertake the first deployment in Quarter 4 of 2024 to prepare the way for a deployment of up to six NZDF personnel in Quarter 2 of 2025. The Honour Guard is currently comprised of US, Thai, and Filipino forces. [redacted] s6(a)  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

20. NZDF contributions to the UNC Honour Guard would—at least for the first deployment—be operating under the extant NZDF rules of engagement (ROE) for deployment to the Korean Peninsula, as noted at para 40.

[redacted] s6(a)

Released by the Minister of Defence

1 [redacted] s6(a)  
2 [redacted]  
3 [redacted] s6(a)

*Specific benefits associated with Option One (Enhance)*

25. The following benefits are associated with the recommended option:

- 25.1 It provides a more substantial military contribution than the current 12 personnel, contributing to niche areas where New Zealand can add value.
- 25.2 The step-up in contribution responds to New Zealand, and our partners', concerns about the deteriorating security situation in our Indo-Pacific region.
- 25.3 The Honour Guard and Security Battalion are highly visible and will enhance relationships, particularly those with the defence partners we will be working alongside in these roles, s6(a)
- 25.4 These new roles would provide unique opportunities for NZDF skills development, s6(a)
- 25.5 The Honour Guard and Security Battalion are the type of challenging and rewarding roles that attract staff into the NZDF and therefore have a flow-on effect for retention of skilled and experienced personnel.

s6(a)

*Risks associated with Option One (Enhance)*

26. s6(a)

**Option Two: Maintain New Zealand's contribution (not recommended)**

Proposed Commitment	Personnel/Capability	Duration	Cost
NZDF personnel support to the UNC and UNCMAC headquarters	s6(a)	1 October 2024–30 September 2026	\$4.309M

*Specific benefits associated with Option Two (Maintain)*

27. This option would reinforce New Zealand's ongoing commitment to UNC and UNCMAC at a moderate level.

*Risks associated with Option Two (Maintain)*

28. While Option Two would not incur any additional risks, as it is a continuation of the status quo, it would represent a missed opportunity to demonstrate New Zealand's interests, values, and commitment to safeguarding peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and the wider Pacific region by stepping up its UNC/UNCMAC contribution.

**Option Three: Withdraw (not recommended)**

29. Should Cabinet select Option Three and direct the NZDF to withdraw, New Zealand would advise the UNC and UNCMAC, and provide the standard six months' notice of the intended termination. Cabinet would be requested to extend the deployment mandate for a period of three months, from 1 October 2024 until 31 December 2024, to allow the UNC time to identify replacements before an NZDF withdrawal, no later than 31 December 2024.

Proposed Commitment	Personnel/Capability	Duration	Cost
NZDF personnel support to the UNC and UNCMAC headquarters	s6(a)	1 October 2024–31 December 2024 (to enable withdrawal)	\$0.601M

*Benefits associated with Option Three (Withdraw)*

30. Should Cabinet wish to withdraw, the funding for this deployment would accrue to 'Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA.'

*Risks associated with Option Three (Withdraw)*

31. Withdrawing from the Korean Peninsula would involve risk to the credibility of New Zealand's support for the international rules-based system. s6(a)

32. Furthermore, withdrawal would remove an opportunity for the NZDF to gain operational experience across all three NZDF Services in a peace support mission within a complex multinational environment, with the loss of positive inputs into operational regeneration and personnel retention.

**Operational Threat Assessment**

33. New Zealand Defence Intelligence assesses the overall threat as s6(a) across all deployment options in this paper.

**Financial Implications**

*Option 1: Enhance the NZDF Contribution (recommended)*

34. The option to enhance the NZDF contribution for a further two years until 30 September 2026 is estimated to cost \$4.355M in 2024/25, \$5.823M in 2025/26 and \$1.468M in 2026/27. This option can be funded within the existing baseline for Vote

<sup>4</sup> s6(a)

Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA. This is represented in the table at Annex A.

*Option 2: Maintain the NZDF Contribution (not recommended)*

35. The option to extend the mandate of twelve personnel for a further two years until 30 September 2026 is estimated to cost \$1.612M in 2024/25, \$2.155M in 2025/26, and \$0.543M in 2026/27. This option can be funded from within the baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA. This is represented in the table at Annex A.

*Option 3: Withdraw (not recommended)*

36. The option to withdraw NZDF personnel from 31 December 2024 to enable withdrawal is estimated to cost \$0.601M n in 2024/25. This is represented in the table at Annex A.

37. These deployments are not declared to be "qualifying operational service" under the Act. There is no impact on veterans' support entitlement obligation.

38. If the recommended option is approved, along with the recommendation for mandate options for the NZDF's deployments in support of United Nations Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (being considered by Cabinet at the same time), and the NZDF contribution to military action against Houthi targets (being considered at FPS on 25 June 2024); then the available funding appropriated within Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability, and Interest MCA will be exhausted for 2024/25. While there are no further currently mandated deployment renewals planned for 2024/25, any additional emergency or other unplanned deployments will either require additional funding or a fiscally neutral adjustment from within Vote Defence Force.

## Legal Considerations

39. **Legal basis for presence.** The *Meyer Agreement* of May 1952 provides the legal basis for UNC/UNCMAC personnel to operate in the ROK. s6(a)

Members of the Armed Forces are at all times subject to the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971.

40. **Rules of Engagement (ROE).** There are existing NZDF ROE approved for this deployment which NZDF personnel are required to follow. s6(a)

41. **Health and Safety.** NZDF activities in the course of this deployment are 'operational activities' for the purposes of section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA). Consequently, the HSWA does not apply to any member of the NZDF while carrying out their duties on this deployment. However, the Chief of Defence Force will ensure that the purposes of the HSWA are complied with to the maximum extent possible under Defence Force Order 71 – *Defence Force Safety*.

42. **Civilian harm.** Involvement in any action leading to civilian harm is unlikely. NZDF personnel will be directed to report any observed incidents of civilian harm. They will be reported under Defence Force Order 35 – *Response to Civilian Harm*.

43. **Detainee handling.** An initial Detention Risk Assessment has been carried out under the Detention Policy Framework<sup>5</sup> which finds that there is no reasonable likelihood that NZDF personnel will be required to participate in a Detention Operation on this mission. Accordingly, the Detention Policy Framework is not engaged and a further assessment under the Framework is not required. This assessment will be reviewed regularly during the course of the mission to ensure that it remains valid.

44. **Human Rights Risk Assessment (HRR).** New Zealand is obligated under international law to not aid or assist (or be complicit in) an internationally wrongful act by another State, such as breaches of human rights. The legal standard for complicity is high. The NZDF has undertaken a HRR to assess the risk of becoming complicit in an internationally wrongful act through its contribution to this mission. The HRR was informed by the nature of the operations undertaken by the UNC and UNCMAC, its historical human rights record, and the specifics of the roles undertaken by NZDF personnel. The HRR determined that there is a negligible likelihood of the NZDF knowingly contributing to an internationally wrongful act.

### Consultation

45. This paper was jointly prepared by the Ministry of Defence, the NZDF, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (National Security Group and Policy Advisory Group), the Government Communications Security Bureau, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, and the Treasury were consulted.

### Communications and Proactive Release

46. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence will make public announcements about this deployment, in coordination with the Prime Minister's Office. The Ministry of Defence will proactively release this paper in due course, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

### Recommendations

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence recommend that the Committee:

1. **note** that New Zealand currently contributes 12 personnel to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission the Korean Peninsula, with the current mandate expiring on 30 September 2024;
2. **note** that the security situation on the Korean Peninsula remains a key risk to regional and global security, and that contributions to security on the Peninsula support the maintenance of peace and stability and signal New Zealand's commitment to the Indo-Pacific global collective security efforts;
3. **note** that the overall operational threat to New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to the Republic of Korea is assessed by the NZDF as s6(a)
4. **agree** that the strategic objectives for New Zealand's contribution to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission are as defined in paragraph 15 above;

<sup>5</sup> For New Zealand Government agencies operating overseas, approved by Cabinet in 2022.

<sup>6</sup> s6(a)

5. **agree** to:

**EITHER**

***Option One: Enhance New Zealand's contribution to United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (recommended)***

- 5.1. **approve** an extension of the existing deployment of 12 New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea by an additional two years, from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2026;
- 5.2. **approve** two deployments of Tri-Service Ceremonial Squads of up to six personnel to the United Nations Command Honour Guard, for three months each, in Quarter 4 2024 and Quarter 2 2025;
- 5.3. **approve** two deployments of a New Zealand Army Infantry Platoon of up to 35 personnel to the United Nations Command Security Battalion, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] s6(a)
- 5.4. **note** the estimated cost is \$4.355M in 2024/25, \$5.823M in 2025/26 and \$1.468M in 2026/27;
- 5.5. **note** this option can be funded within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA;

**OR**

***Option Two: Maintain New Zealand's contribution to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (not recommended)***

- 5.6. **approve** an extension of the existing deployment of 12 New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea by an additional two years, from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2026;
- 5.7. **note** the estimated cost is \$1.612M in 2024/25, \$2.155M in 2025/26, and \$0.543M in 2026/27
- 5.8. **note** this option can be funded within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA;

**OR**

***Option Three: Withdraw (not recommended)***

- 5.9. **approve** an extension of the existing deployment of 12 New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission by three months, from 1 October 2024 until 31 December 2024, to notify partners and identify replacements before withdrawing from the deployment, in line with United Nations practice to provide six months' notice;
- 5.10. **note** the estimated cost is \$0.601M in 2024/25;

5.11. **note** this option can be funded within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security;

6. **approve** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in recommendation 5 above, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net debt:

Vote Defence Force: Minister of Defence	\$ million – increase/(decrease)				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & outyears
Departmental Output Expenses: Operations contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability, and Interests (MCA (M22)(A27)					
<i>Military Operations in Support of a Rules-Based International Order</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	10.000	-	-	-	-
<i>Air Force Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(3.700)	-	-	-	-
<i>Army Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(2.200)	-	-	-	-
<i>Navy Capabilities Prepared for Joint Operations and Other Tasks</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(3.100)	-	-	-	-
Departmental Output Expenses: Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Protection of New Zealand and New Zealanders(MCA)					
<i>Assistance to the Civil Power and Provision of a Public Service in Emergency Situations</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.200)	-	-	-	-

<i>Defence International Engagement</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.100)	-	-	-	-
<i>Defence Support to the Community</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.100)	-	-	-	-
<i>Military Assistance to Civil Authorities in Non-Emergency Situations</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.100)	-	-	-	-
<i>Resource and Border Protection Operations</i> (funded by Revenue Crown)	(0.500)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	-	-	-	-

7. **agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2024/25 above be included in the Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
8. **note** if the recommended option is approved, along with the recommendation for mandate options for the NZDF's deployments in support of United Nations Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (being considered by Cabinet at the same time), and the NZDF contribution to military action against Houthi targets (being considered at FPS on 25 June 2024); then the available funding appropriated within Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability, and Interest MCA will be exhausted for 2024/25. While there are no further currently mandated deployment renewals planned for 2024/25, any additional emergency or other unplanned deployments will either require additional funding or a fiscally neutral adjustment from within Vote Defence Force.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Hon Judith Collins KC MP  
**Minister of Defence**

## **Annex**

A: Financial Tables

Released by the Minister of Defence

## ANNEX A: FINANCIAL TABLES

### *Option 1: Enhance the NZDF Contribution (Recommended)*

1. The following table provides financial estimates for the activities Cabinet has been asked to consider for Option 1:

	\$ million				
<b>Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA</b> <b>Minister of Defence</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>
Option 1 – Extend and Enhance Contribution (Recommended)	-	4.355	5.823	1.468	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.355</b>	<b>5.823</b>	<b>1.468</b>	<b>-</b>

### *Option 2: Maintain the NZDF Contribution (Not Recommended)*

2. The following table provides financial estimates for the activities Cabinet has been asked to consider for Option 2:

	\$ million				
<b>Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA</b> <b>Minister of Defence</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>
Option 2 Maintain Contribution (Recommended if Option 1 not selected)	-	1.612	2.155	0.543	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.612</b>	<b>2.155</b>	<b>0.543</b>	<b>-</b>

### *Option 3: Withdraw (Not Recommended)*

3. The following table provides financial estimates for the activities Cabinet has been asked to consider for Option 3:

	\$ million				
<b>Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA</b> <b>Minister of Defence</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>
Option 3 – Withdraw	-	0.601	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>0.601</b>	-	-	-

Released by the Minister of Defence