



TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA  
**DEFENCE FORCE**

**HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA  
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND**

# THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE PRIMER

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*The New Zealand Defence Force Primer* has been issued for use by the New Zealand Defence Force.



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## **Introduction**

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## PREFACE

Primers are not doctrine and do not have policy implications. They are educational documents providing readers with non-specialist information. *The New Zealand Defence Force Primer* explains what the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does to keep New Zealand safe, secure, and prosperous.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*The New Zealand Defence Force Primer* explains what the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does so that its sailors, soldiers, and aviators achieve operational success.

*The New Zealand Defence Force Primer* explains why New Zealand needs a military, its constitutional and legislative foundations, and how Government sets policy for using the Defence Force to meet its objectives. It talks about how the NZDF is organised and the way its parts work together generating, preparing, combining, and deploying forces and capabilities for delivering effects, meeting operational objectives, and achieving policy outcomes.

*The New Zealand Defence Force Primer* uses everyday language to tell the NZDF's story but specialist terminology has been used when necessary. This publication complements, simplifies, and consolidates information found elsewhere, such as in the *Annual Report*, *Statement of Intent*, and *New Zealand Defence Doctrine*. It does not deal with current defence and security policy's when, where, and why.

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CHAPTER 1:

# WHY WE NEED THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE



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Figure 1-1: The Defence Force provides the Government with effective military options for using in crises.

## Introduction

1.01 New Zealand needs to defend itself. It has security concerns and obligations as a member of the international community. Its geographic location and constitutional responsibilities also have security implications. Having a credible and effective military means the Government can honour its obligations, promote its interests, and deter threats. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) helps to keep New Zealand safe, secure, and prosperous.<sup>1</sup>

## The Security Environment

1.02 New Zealand has enduring geo-strategic interests but new ones arise, sometimes unexpectedly. The world is less secure and more unstable than any time since the end of the Cold War. Different countries are threatening the peace and stability on which New Zealand's wellbeing and prosperity depend. Terrorists and sophisticated organised crime networks are operating globally, often supported by rogue states. The Vietnam War was the last major conflict when combat operations were New Zealand forces' primary role. Even so, the Government's all-of-government approach to national security depends on the NZDF's combat capability. It provides scalable, flexible, and effective military options during crises and enables ongoing activities for deterring and averting them.

<sup>1</sup> The Defence Act 1990 instituted the NZDF by separating the Ministry of Defence and the NZDF into two organisations with different responsibilities. Under previous legislation the three Services had been part of the Ministry of Defence.



Figure 1-2: The New Zealand Defence Force is trained and equipped for combat in hostile environments.

## Partnership Abroad, Regionally, and at Home

1.03 New Zealand partners with other countries—such as its ally Australia as well as Pacific Island countries, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States—and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) promoting global peace and security. New Zealand does not have the wealth, resources, and population of some countries but it must meet its constitutional responsibilities for the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau as well as its Antarctic claim and Antarctic Treaty obligations. What happens in our shared region directly affects New Zealand’s security and well-being. Further abroad, New Zealand has a proven record as a trusted partner preventing and resolving conflict. It includes supporting United Nations initiatives in Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe, some of which have involved long-lasting commitments.

1.04 The NZDF’s unique combination of highly trained personnel and specialist equipment also provide the Government with capabilities no other Government agency can give it. Along with supporting operations overseas and resource and border protection tasks in and around New Zealand and the Pacific, the NZDF helps other Government agencies responding to emergencies and providing public services to New Zealanders. The NZDF can do demanding non-combat tasks that other agencies and organisations cannot because it is trained and equipped for combat in hostile environments.

## Combat Capable for Peace and Security

1.05 It is easy to think that global threats to peace do not affect New Zealand but in our interconnected modern world, they do. It sometimes seems that because New Zealand is a long way from most other countries, it is insulated from global problems. But

## Chapter 1

distance itself can be a vulnerability. For example, New Zealand's prosperity relies on maritime trade. Nearly all our trade by volume is seaborne so safe and secure sea lines of communication are vital.<sup>2</sup> The NZDF continually contributes to protecting our peace and security and it acts decisively when the Government directs it to respond to crises. A combat-capable Defence Force detecting, deterring, and countering threats protects New Zealand and keeps it safe and secure.

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<sup>2</sup> 99.7% by volume and 81.0% by value (Maritime New Zealand 9/01/2024).



CHAPTER 2:

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## A Military Force for New Zealand

2.01 The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is primarily a military force. It secures the country against external threats, protects its sovereign interests including the exclusive economic zone, and acts at Government's direction to meet likely contingencies in our strategic area of interest.

2.02 The NZDF makes different contributions to New Zealand's security but its primary purpose is warfighting. New Zealand's armed forces are the only state agency permitted to exercise lethal force on the Government's behalf outside New Zealand. It conducts military operations directed by Government, responds to crises, protects national interests, and fulfils international commitments. The reality of doing so frequently involves threatening or using lethal force.

### Key Terms

#### War

Armed hostilities between nations or states.

#### Warfare

Warfare is the application of lethal force using a range of combat techniques and military capabilities.



Figure 2-1: Responding to crises can involve threatening or using lethal force.

## Constitutional Foundations

2.03 The Government must maintain New Zealand's territorial integrity and the overseas territories for which it has constitutional responsibility and the security and freedom of New Zealanders. The NZDF directly contributes to meeting these obligations.

## Legislation

2.04 Legislation defines the NZDF's roles and responsibilities. It aligns the nation's military with enduring values and interests. The Defence Act (1990) states New Zealand's military forces can be used for:

- defending New Zealand and any other area for which New Zealand is responsible
- protecting national interests in New Zealand or elsewhere
- contributing forces under collective security treaties, agreements, or arrangements
- contributing forces to the United Nations (UN), for its purposes, or other organisations or states in accordance with the UN charter's principles
- assisting the Government in New Zealand or elsewhere during emergencies
- providing public services.



Figure 2-2: The New Zealand Government contributes forces to United Nations operations upholding its charter principles.



Figure 2-3: Domestic laws, international law, and rules of engagement regulate the NZDF's activities.

2.05 The first four are likely to involve threatening or using force and risk of casualties. Direct Government oversight and control, New Zealand's domestic laws, international law (such as the law of armed conflict), and rules of engagement all constrain and limit the NZDF's activities.

## Policy

2.06 Government policies are sets of coordinated intentions, decisions, and directions for framing, influencing, or changing a problem or issue. Policy can be administrative or legislative. Policy inputs include community engagement, behaviour insights, statistical analysis, futures thinking, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ Treaty of Waitangi principles.

2.07 Defence policy is a component of national security policy. It tells the Defence Force what to do but not how to do it. The Government determines the national security objectives shaping defence policy, which states how the NZDF will contribute to the Government achieving its objectives. The Government decides why, when, and where it will use the

## Key Terms

### Law of Armed Conflict

International laws regulating the conduct of states and combatants engaged in armed hostilities.

### Rules of Engagement

Directives issued by a competent military authority that specify the circumstances and limitations under which forces will initiate and continue combat engagement with other forces encountered.

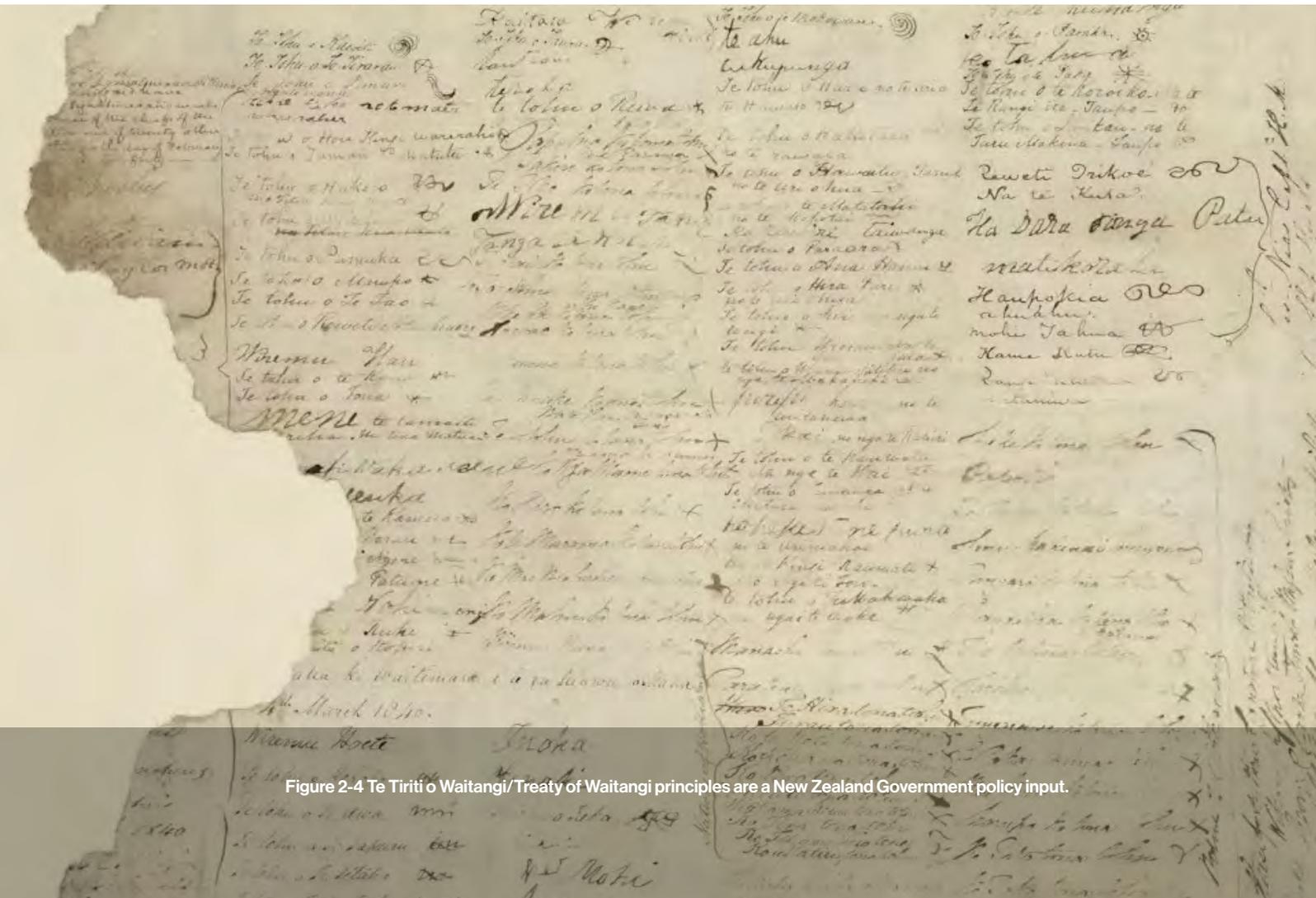


Figure 2-4 Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi principles are a New Zealand Government policy input.

Defence Force; the Defence Force decides how it will most effectively use its capabilities to meet the Government’s requirements. The NZDF also provides expert defence and security advice to the Government.

## The Ministry of Defence

2.08 How the Defence Force works also depends on its relationship with the Ministry of Defence (MoD). MoD, of which the Secretary of Defence is chief executive, is New Zealand’s lead civilian advisor on defence. Its main roles are:

- **Planning and Assessing.** MoD does long-range assessments and gives advice about New Zealand’s defence interests and challenges. It also assesses the NZDF’s performance and effectiveness.
- **Equipping.** MoD manages procurement and delivers major NZDF military capability. Military capability’s components are personnel; research and development; infrastructure and organisations; concepts, doctrine, and training; information technology; and equipment, logistics, and resources (PRICIE).
- **Partnering.**
  - **Diplomacy and Engagement.** Building stronger relationships with partner nations.
  - **Deployment Advice and Guidance.** Advising the Government about potential overseas deployments.



Figure 2-5: The Defence Force supports a wide range of multiagency operations.

- **Policy Advisor Programme.** Embedding specialist MoD staff in NZDF operational headquarters, including with deployed forces. Policy advisors (POLAD) help commanders to be aware of relevant current policy and the risks, threats, and other issues associated with their missions.

2.09 The Defence Act requires a close relationship between the NZDF and the Ministry of Defence so that they achieve effective defence outcomes. The Chief of Defence Force (CDF) and the Secretary of Defence must consult about important policy advice given to the Minister of Defence or other Ministers. Collaborating, communicating, and coordinating are essential.

## Working with Other Public Sector Agencies

2.10 The Defence Force is a crucial part of the national security system. The NZDF is part of the External Sector, which comprises four agencies: the NZDF, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the New Zealand Customs Service. They manage most of New Zealand's official relationships with the rest of the world, protect its security beyond the border, and contribute to collective security with friends, partners, and allies.

2.11 The Defence Force supports multiagency operations and the wider community. Government departments and agencies regularly supported include:

- Antarctica New Zealand
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Department of Conservation
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Government Communications Security Bureau
- Government House
- Maritime New Zealand
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Transport
- National Emergency Management Agency
- National Maritime Coordination Centre
- New Zealand Customs Service
- New Zealand Police
- New Zealand Security and Intelligence Service
- Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand
- Transport Accident Investigation Commission

CHAPTER 3:

# HOW THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE IS ORGANISED



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## Introduction

3.01 The Chief of Defence Force (CDF) commands and leads the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). CDF is supported by Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force (HQNZDF), a military strategic headquarters. The three military Services—Navy, Army, and Air Force—generate the NZDF's core outputs. They develop and sustain military capabilities such as naval combat, indirect fire support (artillery), and airborne maritime surveillance. Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQJFNZ) runs operations. It is one of three permanent joint organisations currently established under the Defence Act (1990).

## Senior Command and Leadership

3.02 Like all militaries, the NZDF is organised hierarchically. Its command chain originates from the Crown down to CDF, a three-star officer (Vice Admiral, Lieutenant General, or Air Marshal). CDF commands the Armed Forces<sup>3</sup> and is the NZDF's chief executive and principal military advisor to Ministers. CDF is responsible to the Minister of Defence for the NZDF's conduct and management. The command chain extends from CDF to five two-star officers:

- The Vice Chief of Defence Force (VCDF) (a Rear Admiral, Major General, or Air Vice-Marshal)
- the respective Chiefs of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), the New Zealand Army (NZ Army), and the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF)
- Commander Joint Forces New Zealand (COMJFNZ).

## Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force

3.03 HQNZDF has three primary functions: New Zealand's military strategic headquarters, an advisory agency to the Government on Defence issues, and public service agency's corporate head office. HQNZDF includes the three Service headquarters, three portfolios, and a number of branches.

## Portfolios, Branches, and Groups

3.04 Generating, preparing, and using forces on operations requires a lot of support and work behind the scenes. Much of it is done by HQNZDF's portfolios and branches, which are staffed by military personnel and civilian subject matter experts. Figure 3-2 illustrates HQNZDF's staff branches and groups.<sup>3</sup> HQNZDF portfolio and branch functions are as follows:

- **Vice Chief of Defence Force**
  - strategic commitments and engagement
  - intelligence
  - capability
  - science and technology
  - estate and infrastructure
  - internal audit.
- **Chief of Staff**
  - legal services
  - public affairs
  - heritage and protocol
  - provost marshal

<sup>3</sup> Does not account for changes after 1 February 2025.

- The Chief People Officer (CPO) leads the People Capability Portfolio (PCP), which includes:
  - human resources
  - organisational development
  - individual learning (Defence College)
  - reserves, youth, and sport
  - health and safety
  - Veterans' Affairs.
- Commander Joint Defence Service (CJDS) leads the Joint Defence Services portfolio, which includes:
  - information environment activities
  - logistics
  - protective security
  - commercial services
  - industry engagement.

## Key Terms

### Enabling Activities

All Defence Force activities that facilitate, support, or otherwise allow military actions and operations to be undertaken.

### Joint

Activities, operations, and organisations in which elements of at least two Services participate.

### Command

The authority a military commander lawfully exercises over subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment.

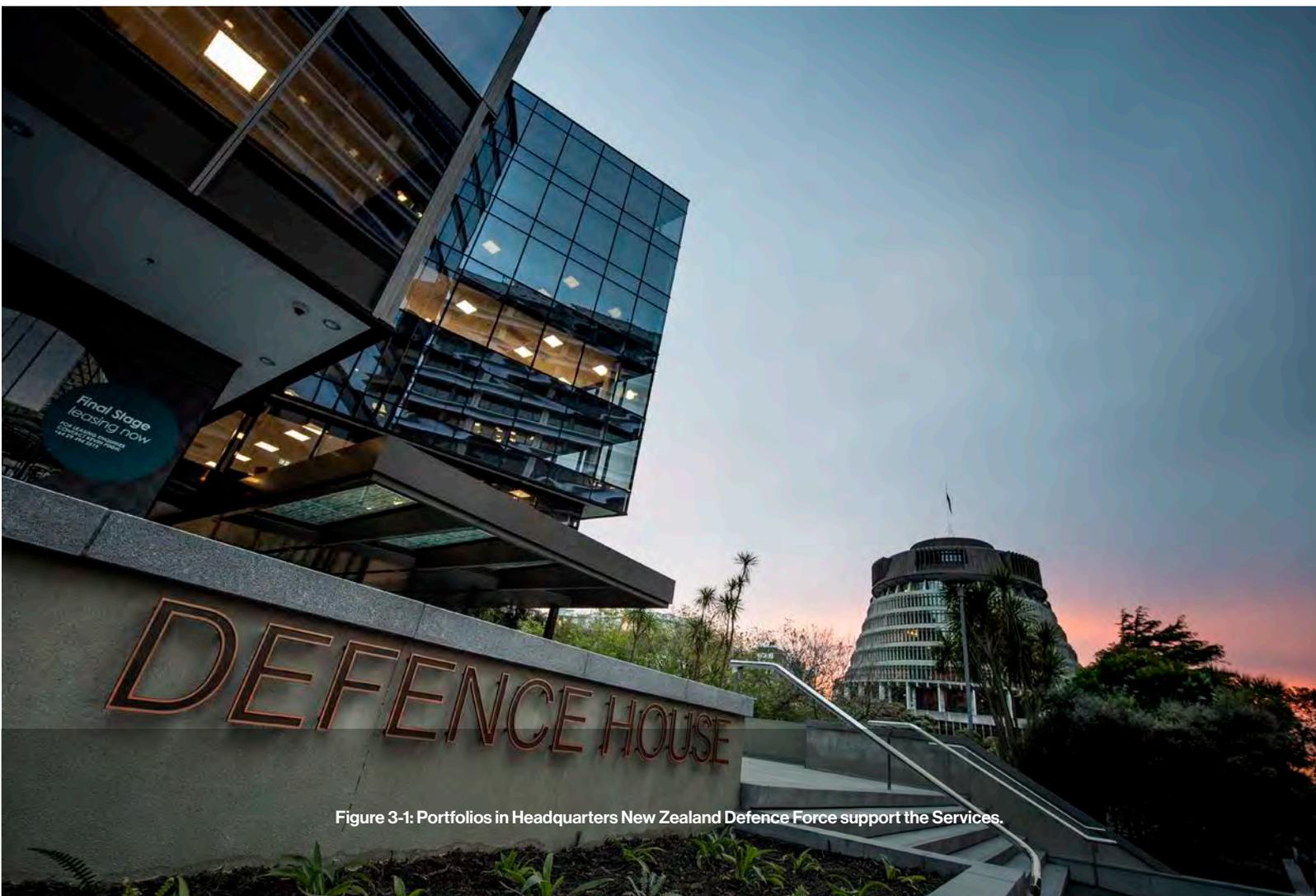


Figure 3-1: Portfolios in Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force support the Services.

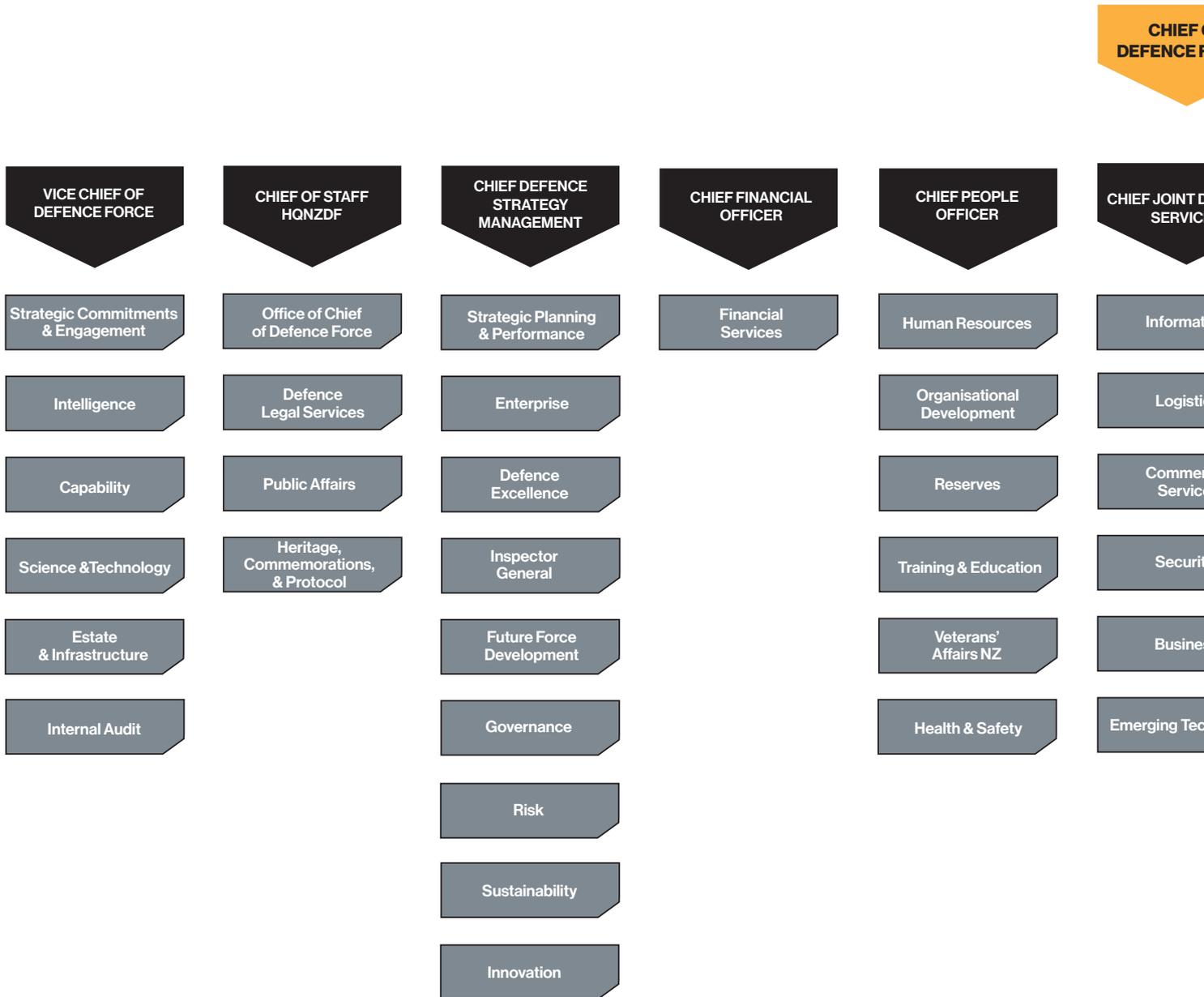
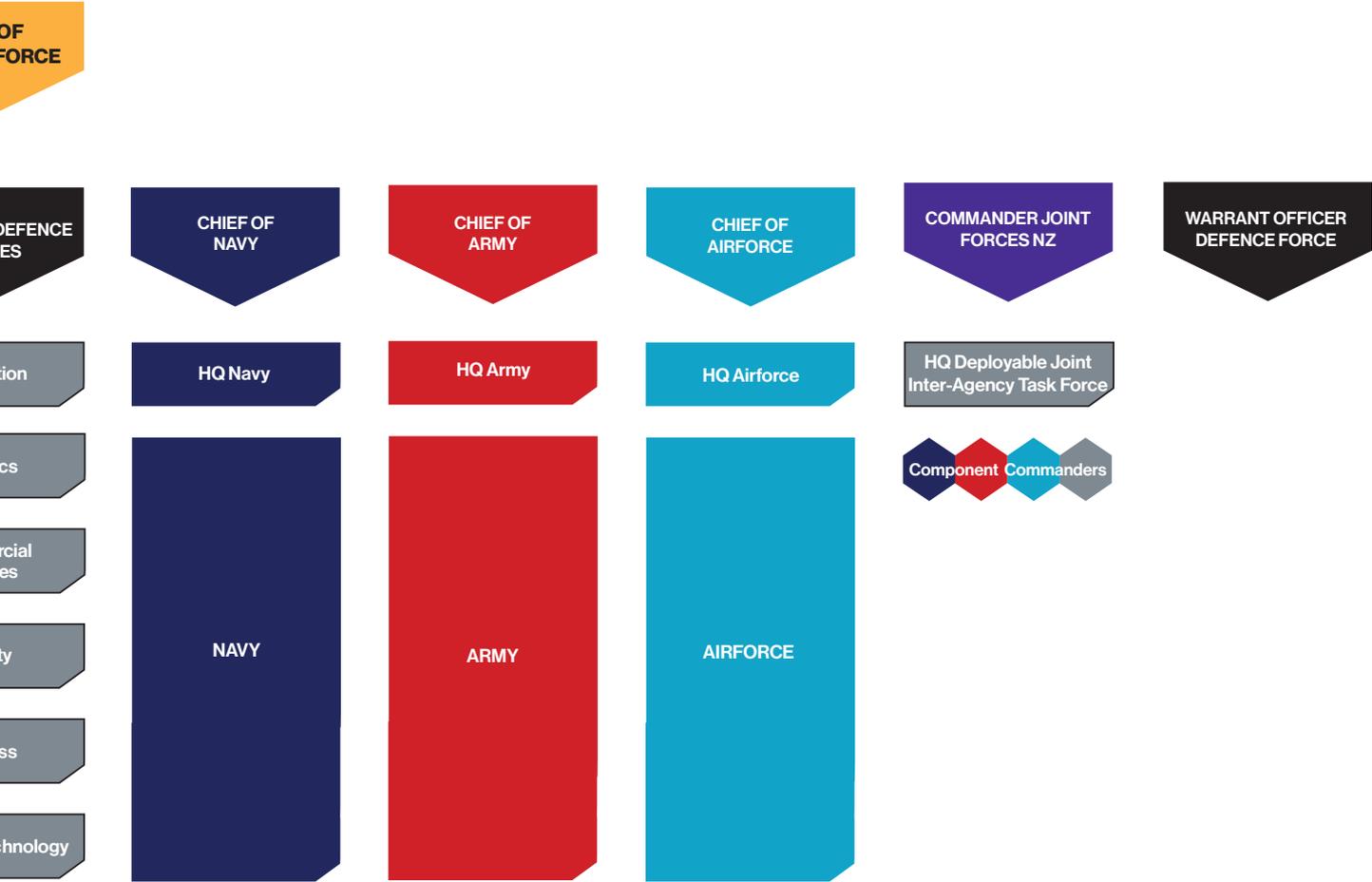


Figure 3.2: New Zealand Defence



Defence Force Organisational Structure

- Other strategic-level functions:
  - strategy planning and management
  - finance.

3.05 The NZDF's enabling activities are done in different ways. It uses shared services arrangements for general activities that are largely similar across the Services and benefit from scale and consistency: for example, finance and information technology. A joint model is used for functions like logistics because it involves commonalities and differences between the Services. Outsourcing and industry partnerships are used when there are cost, capability, and flexibility advantages. For example, a range of commercial partners support managing facilities.

## Governance

3.06 HQNZDF strategic-level bodies provide decision-making forums and advice and assurance.

3.07 **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee (EXCO) chaired by CDF is the highest NZDF decision-making body. It provides executive-level governance, strategic direction, and investment and portfolio governance; prioritises change initiatives; and sets policy.

3.08 **New Zealand Defence Force Advisory Board.** The Advisory Board gives strategic advice to CDF about specific issues. Chaired by an independent external member, the Board includes CDF and other senior NZDF leaders, the Secretary of Defence, and independent external members. It does not have a decision-making mandate.

3.09 **Risk and Assurance Committee.** The Risk and Assurance Committee advises on risk management frameworks and assurance functions such as internal control mechanisms, internal audit functions, and policies and processes. It oversees compliance with legislative requirements and Government policies. It has an external chairperson who also sits on the NZDF Advisory Board.

3.10 **Executive Health & Safety Committee.** The Executive Health and Safety Committee (EXHS) provides quality assurance for health management, safety, and wellbeing, including due diligence obligations in the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

3.11 **Outputs Committee.** The Outputs Committee, chaired by VCDF, oversees, evaluates, monitors, and analyses the NZDF's delivery of military and security-based outputs.

## Key Terms

### Operational Domain

Defined areas with discrete characteristics where manoeuvre, targeting, fires, and other military activities are performed to create effects or achieve objectives in the engagement space of the operating environment. They are maritime, land, air, space, and cyber/electromagnetic.

### Military Capability

The ability to achieve a desired operational objective in a specified environment and to sustain that effort for a designated period. Its elements are personnel; research and development; infrastructure and organisations; concepts, doctrine, and training; information technology; and equipment, logistics, and resources.

### Readiness

The capability of a unit/formation, ship, weapon system, or equipment to perform the missions or functions for which it is organised or designed.

Note: the NZDF's components of readiness are personnel, equipment, training, and sustainability (PETS).

### Deployment

Relocation of forces from a national location to an assigned area of operations.

### Component

Maritime, land, air, and special operations force elements grouped under relevant Service commanders subordinate to the operational level commander.

### Force Element

An individual or discrete military capability comprising trained personnel, major platforms, combat systems and supplies held at a directed level of readiness.

3.12 **Organisation Committee.** The NZDF's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) chairs the Organisation Committee. It provides stewardship and governance across NZDF finance, people, property, technology, and information management. It also provides governance for organisational and strategic change programmes.

3.13 **Defence Business Committee.** The Secretary of Defence and CDF co-chair the Defence Business Committee (DBC). The DBC ensures short and medium term organisational and policy priorities are understood. It also identifies and manages cross-agency and other significant issues.

## The Services

3.14 The Services generate military forces for fighting and winning in their respective operational domains: the RNZN at sea, the NZ Army on land, and the RNZAF in the air. They raise, train, and sustain skilled and capable forces that can be deployed at capability and readiness levels agreed with Government.

3.15 Each Service is commanded by a two-star Chief: Navy by a Rear Admiral, Army by a Major General, and Air Force by an Air Vice-Marshal. Each Service has a staff headquarters in HQNZDF supporting their respective Chief's management of the significant resources and infrastructure for which they are responsible. The Service Chiefs appoint Component Commanders (Maritime, Land, Air, and Special Operations) with operational responsibilities. Reservists supplement regular force sailors, soldiers, and aviators in each Service.

### Royal New Zealand Navy – Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa

3.16 The RNZN provides combat-capable, multi-purpose maritime force elements for operating independently or in maritime coalitions in the open-ocean and littoral areas. Navy can perform the following tasks:

- maritime warfare and security operations, including in multinational task forces
- domestic and regional naval patrol operations deterring unlawful activity, protecting resources, and securing borders
- amphibious and sealift operations as a lead nation or in a multinational maritime task force, including projecting landing forces and tailored air groups (helicopters) and sustaining forces from the sea
- replenishment operations in national-led military operations or multinational maritime task forces
- littoral warfare operations, including mine countermeasures; maritime explosive ordnance disposal; search, survey, and recovery; and expeditionary reconnaissance
- maritime trade operations integrated in multinational maritime shipping coordination centres and naval cooperation and guidance for shipping and naval supervision.

3.17 Government also uses Navy's maritime capabilities to support other agencies' search-and-rescue (SAR), humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), and other non-combat tasks. Its forces are as follows.

- **Combat Force.** The Combat Force comprises two Anzac-class frigates: HMNZS TE KAHA and HMNZS TE MANA. They are primarily for maritime surface combat, but they are versatile blue-water (capable of open-ocean operation) ships equipped for a variety of tasks.
- **Patrol Force.** The Patrol Force has two Protector-class offshore patrol vessels (HMNZS OTAGO and HMNZS WELLINGTON) and two Lake-class inshore patrol vessels (HMNZS HAWEA and HMNZS TAUPO). The Patrol Force polices New Zealand's exclusive economic zone, one of the largest in the world.



Figure 3-3: Amphibious sealift is an important naval capability.

- **Support Force.** There are two vessels in Navy's Support Force: HMNZS AOTEAROA, a polar-class sustainment vessel; and HMNZS CANTERBURY, an amphibious sealift vessel.
- **Littoral Warfare Force.** HMNZS MATATAUA provides deployable maritime capabilities for safeguarding access to harbours, inshore waters, and littoral zones, including mine countermeasures, hydrography, and maritime explosive ordnance disposal.

3.18 The Naval Reserve is a part-time force supporting the regular force. The four main Naval Reserve units are in Auckland (HMNZS NGAPONA with a sub-unit in Tauranga), Wellington (HMNZS OLPHERT), Christchurch (HMNZS PEGASUS), and Dunedin (HMNZS TOROA).

3.19 Navy's home is Auckland's Devonport Naval Base (HMNZS PHILOMEL). The fleet is based in the South Yard along with fleet services and administrative functions. The North Yard on Ngataranga Bay houses classrooms, trainee accommodation, research facilities, and supply depots.

### New Zealand Army– Ngāti Tūmatauenga

3.20 NZ Army generates professional combat-focused soldiers and force elements for land-based operations supporting New Zealand's interests. A modern, agile, and highly adaptive light-combat force, its primary operational role is fighting and winning on land. Its capabilities include:



Figure 3-4: The Royal New Zealand Navy's home is Devonport Naval Base in Auckland.

- designated high-readiness land combat for responding to regional crises
- combined arms land combat for security and stabilisation operations
- combined arms land combat for independent and coalition operations involving complex urban and open terrain warfighting
- special operations forces for operations across the spectrum of conflict in various operating environments.

3.21 Army's operational core is 1st (NZ) Brigade. 1st (NZ) Brigade provides combat-ready land forces. It is made up of the following operational units:

- 16th Field Regiment (surface-to-surface artillery)
- Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles (light armoured force)

## Key Term

### Special Operations Forces

Forces employed for focused, often discreet operations of an unorthodox and frequently high-risk nature, conducted in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive environments to achieve military, diplomatic, informational and/or economic objectives and employing military capabilities for which there is no broad conventional force requirement.

### Fires

The use of weapon systems to create a specific lethal or non-lethal effect on a target.



Figure 3-5: The New Zealand Army fights and wins on land.

- 2nd Engineer Regiment (combat engineers and construction)
- 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
- 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
- 2/4 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (reserve unit)
- 3/6 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (reserve unit)
- 5/7 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (reserve unit)
- 1st Command Support Regiment (communications)
- 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion (transport, logistics, and mechanical engineers)
- 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion (transport, logistics, and mechanical engineers).

### Key Term

#### Theatre

A designated geographic area for which an operational level joint or combined commander is appointed and in which a campaign or series of major operations is conducted. A theatre may contain one or more joint force areas of operations.



Figure 3-6: Light-armoured vehicles give the New Zealand Army mobility and firepower.

3.22 The NZ Army deploys task-organised force elements, usually as part of a joint force. These force elements can be as small as a platoon or as large as a battalion and generally comprise elements from different operational units. NZ Army soldiers are equipped with a range of weapons, including assault rifles, sidearms, machine guns, and shotguns as well as anti-armour and fire support weapons. The NZ Army uses 81mm mortars and 105mm howitzers for indirect fire. It uses various transport and utility vehicles and heavy equipment. Light-armoured vehicles give it mobility and firepower.

3.23 Soldiers train at the Army Training Group (ATG) in Waiouru. The ATG includes a number of schools, most of which are in Waiouru and Palmerston North. Some train officer cadets and recruits. Others train soldiers in the following disciplines:

- command, control, communications, and staff planning
- intelligence gathering and analysis
- movement, counter movement, and manoeuvre
- fires (i.e. artillery)
- influence skills
- force protection
- logistics and sustainment.

3.24 NZ Army has five camps across the country: Linton outside Palmerston North; Trentham in Upper Hutt; Burnham outside Christchurch; Waiouru in the centre of the North Island; and Papakura in South Auckland. It also has a training area near Tekapo in the South Island.

3.25 **Special Operations Forces.** New Zealand's Special Operations Forces (SOF) respond to high-priority opportunities or threats when using conventional forces is inappropriate. Special Operations Command New Zealand (SOCNZ) comprises a national strategic headquarters element located at HQNZDF, a joint operations command element at HQJFNZ, and the 1st New Zealand Special Air Service Regiment (1 NZSAS Regt). Along with combat squadrons, 1 NZSAS Regt includes an explosive ordnance disposal squadron. The Special Operations Commander (SOC) leads SOCNZ and exercises component command reporting to COMJFNZ.

### Royal New Zealand Air Force – Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa

3.26 The RNZAF is the NZDF's aviation arm. It is an agile, versatile, and adaptive air force. The RNZAF provides New Zealand with responsive and effective air power, which includes the following capabilities:

- surveillance and response for sea control supporting maritime warfare operations (including anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare)
- intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance supporting maritime security operations
- embarked naval air capability for maritime warfare and security operations
- surveillance and response supporting special operations and other land and maritime forces
- strategic air mobility for deploying, sustaining, and recovering forces
- theatre air mobility for personnel movement and cargo operations in designated theatres of operations
- tactical air mobility for supporting land operations, special operations forces, aeromedical evacuation, and joint personnel recovery.

3.27 The RNZAF is largely organised by squadrons. Some have exclusive responsibility for operating particular aircraft types and other squadrons and units provide support. The RNZAF has the following bases and squadrons:

- **RNZAF Base Auckland**
  - No. 6 Squadron (SH-2G(I) Seasprite helicopters flown by Navy crews, maintained by Air Force technicians when ashore, and assigned to RNZN ships on deployment)
  - No. 40 Squadron (fixed-wing strategic and tactical airlift—passenger (Boeing 757-200s) and freight (C-130J-30 Super Hercules))
  - No. 230 (Mission Support) Squadron (communication and intelligence units)
  - Parachute Training Support Unit.
- **RNZAF Base Ohakea**
  - No. 3 Squadron (NHIndustries NH90 and Agusta A109 utility helicopters)
  - No. 5 Squadron (Boeing P-8 Poseidon for airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance)
  - Flying Training
  - Central Flying School
  - No. 14 Squadron (Raytheon T-6C Texan II aircraft)
  - No. 42 Squadron (Beechcraft King Air 350 aircraft for domestic flight operations, VIP transport, and supporting other NZDF operations).



Figure 3-7: The Royal New Zealand Air Force provides New Zealand with responsive and effective air power.

3.28 **Air Staff.** Air Staff is the RNZAF headquarters. It advises and supports the Chief of Air Force. Air Staff is responsible for strategy management, ground training and support, safety and health, career management, engineering and technical airworthiness, and the Air Force Museum of New Zealand. It is also responsible for the following base and squadrons:

- **RNZAF Base Woodbourne**
  - Ground Training
  - Command and Recruit Training Squadron
  - Mission Support Training Squadron
  - Technical Training Squadron

3.29 The RNZAF also has an Operations Squadron on each base providing the following support:

- firefighting
- air movements
- air security
- aviation refuelling.

3.30 Defence Logistics Command (Air) provides the bases with personnel for sustaining the fleet and air operations.



Figure 3-8: No. 40 Squadron is responsible for the strategic air mobility capability.

3.31 The RNZAF has support facilities at Air Movements Rongotai at Wellington International Airport and Air Movements Harewood at Christchurch International Airport along with training areas at Kaipara, Ohakea, and Nelson Lakes.

## Constituted Joint Force Commands and Organisations

3.32 The NZDF has three standing constituted joint forces under the Defence Act (1990). These commands and organisations support NZDF operations.

### Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand

3.33 COMJFNZ commands HQJFNZ, which plans and executes all NZDF operations. It is organised by the common joint staff system. Its staff branches have specific responsibilities for planning, executing, and monitoring operations. HJQJFNZ's staff branches are designated 'J' because it is a joint rather than a Service staff.

- J0 – Command
- J1 – Personnel

- J1H — Health
- J2 — Intelligence
- J3 — Operations
- J4 — Logistics
- J5 — Planning
- J6 — Communications and Information Systems
- J7 — Training
- J8 — Evaluation and development
- J9 — Finance

### Key Terms

#### Combined

Activities, operations, and organisations in which elements of two or more allies participate.

#### Coalition

An ad hoc arrangement between two or more nations for common action.

3.34 HQJFNZ is responsible for final preparation of forces, deployment, sustaining them with supplies, equipment, and personnel, and re-deployment. COMJFNZ has operational command of deployed forces. Chapter 4 further explains HQJFNZ's roles and responsibilities.

### Defence Logistics Command

3.35 Defence Logistics Command (DLC) does strategic logistics planning, direction, management, and evaluation. This involves military and civilian personnel, strategic partners, as well as many suppliers, manufacturers and service delivery organisations. DLC includes Defence Logistics Command Maritime (DLC(M)), Land (DLC(L)), Air (DLC(A)), Defence Supply Chain Management (DSCM), Defence Equipment Management Organisation (DEMO), and Defence Shared Services Group (DSSG). These units and organisations contribute to operational readiness and delivering and sustaining outputs.

### Joint Support Group

3.36 The Joint Support Group (JSG) is a tri-service enabling formation providing timely, effective, and appropriate health and policing support during all phases of combined operations and activities. It includes:

- Deployable Health Organisation (DHO)
- Force Health Organisation (FHO)
- Joint Military Police Unit (JMPU).

### Veterans' Affairs New Zealand

3.37 Veterans' Affairs New Zealand (VANZ) fulfils New Zealand's responsibility to honour its veterans' service. VANZ delivers services to veterans and gives policy advice to the Government. There is a separate Minister for Veterans Affairs.

CHAPTER 4:

# HOW THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE OPERATES



## CONTENTS

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## Introduction

4.01 Most New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) activities and resources concentrate on operational effectiveness: having well-trained and equipped sailors, soldiers, and aviators who can do what is asked of them when and where it is required. This involves the Services developing military forces (force generation), combining force elements (force integration), and deploying forces in the operational domains: maritime, land, air, space, and cyber/electromagnetic spectrum. Military activities are done to achieve objectives, which involves creating effects in the physical, human, and information environments. Operations are commanded and coordinated by Defence leadership and supported by public sector, military, and hybrid business capabilities.

## Force Generation

4.02 The Services generate forces: they raise, train, and sustain force elements, which are assigned to Commander Joint Forces New Zealand (COMJFNZ) for operations, joint training, and other agreed activities. Force generation includes:

- recruiting personnel
- training and developing Service people
- training and preparing units for operations.

4.03 Each Service has different force generation requirements, processes, and expectations. Navy maintains and delivers ships and crews as prepared 'packages'. Army moves sub-units and units through stages of preparation before deploying them as task organised elements. Air Force trains and maintains aircraft and squadrons' ground and aircrews at different levels of operational readiness. Force elements include:

- Navy: a frigate or offshore patrol vessel (OPV).
- Army: a light task group with an infantry company supported by an engineer troop, mortars, and logistics and health elements.
- Air Force: a C-130 transport aircraft or a flight of NH90 medium lift helicopters.

## Capability Development

4.04 Force generation directly relates to capability development. Military capability is the personnel, equipment, training, doctrine, logistics support, and other materiel used for a specific aspect of military operations. Examples include air surveillance and maritime patrol, cyber security and support, protected mobility (armoured and non-armoured land vehicles), and naval combat.

4.05 The Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the NZDF's Capability Branch share accountability for the Defence Capability Management System. It includes policy, identifying delivery requirements, and purchasing, introducing, operating, and eventually disposing or replacing it. It also involves the Services providing trained personnel with appropriate skills, knowledge, and expertise for using platforms and equipment. NZDF capability development uses best practice for delivering the right capability on time and within budget.

### Key Terms

#### Force Generation

The process of providing suitably trained and equipped forces, and their means of deployment, recovery and sustainment to meet all current and potential future tasks, within required readiness and preparation times.

#### Force Integration

Planning, preparing assembled forces for deployment, maintaining and sustaining existing force levels, and returning deployed forces.



Figure 4-1: Force elements include Navy's frigates TE MANA and TE KAHA.

## Force Integration

4.06 Force integration is a continuous cycle involving planning, preparing assembled forces for deployment, maintaining and sustaining existing force levels, and returning deployed forces. Force integration has two parts: preparation and operation, both of which are done by Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQJFNZ). As the NZDF's operational-level headquarters, HQJFNZ commands and controls worldwide NZDF operations. COMJFNZ, who has the same equivalent rank as the Service Chiefs, is directly responsible for force integration.

### Preparation

4.07 Force preparation encompasses planning campaigns and operations as well as concentrating and readying generated force elements for them. It includes final collective and joint training, preparing equipment, maintenance and testing, and finalising necessary logistics and services arrangements. It is a large and complex task: planning alone is intensive and complicated because it involves all aspects of campaigns and operations. Preparation relies on expertise across the Services, operational domains, and enabling functions.

### Operation

4.08 Force operation is deploying, executing, supporting, and sustaining forces on single Service, joint (involving at least two Services), interagency (involving other Government agencies), and multinational (operating alongside partner militaries) operations



Figure 4-2: Force preparation is intensive and complicated.

followed by re-deploying them to New Zealand. NZDF operations range from combat to humanitarian assistance and it must be able to do different kinds concurrently. Operations are categorised by overall purpose, which largely depends on the area of operations. For example, if the NZDF were to contribute only medics to a multinational combat operation, the NZDF's participation would be categorised as a combat operation. The following sections explain the different NZDF operational categories and gives examples of them.

4.09 **Combat.** The NZDF emphasises its combat capability because it is the most intense, demanding, and defining type of operation it is required to do and for which it is equipped, trained, and prepared. Combat operations involve conventional force-on-force engagements of varying scale, frequency, and intensity between opposing armed forces. Different kinds of force are used for maintaining or extending freedom of action and reducing or denying it to an adversary. They often include large-scale manoeuvre by joint task forces prepared, sustained, and

## Key Terms

### Manoeuvre

Employment of forces on the battlefield through movement in combination with fire or fire potential to achieve a position of advantage over the enemy to accomplish the mission.

### Task Force

A temporary grouping of units under one commander formed for the purpose of carrying out a specific operation or mission.



Figure 4-3: Combat operations are dangerous, risky, and often involve casualties.

commanded by COMJFNZ and a task force commander. They are dangerous and casualties are common. They include:

- **Low-Intensity Warfare.** Operations including sporadic combat.
- **Medium-Intensity Warfare.** Operations during ongoing open conflict, such as civil war or war between states, including frequent regular combat between forces using conventional weapons.
- **High-Intensity Warfare.** Operations during ongoing open conflict, such as civil war or war between states, involving sustained combat over a wide area between forces using a combination of conventional, nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

**COMBAT**

- World War Two (1939-45)
- The Korean War (1950-53)
- The Malayan Emergency (1948-60)
- The Vietnam War (1965-72)
- The Indonesian Confrontation (1963-66)
- First Gulf War (1991)
- East Timor (1999-2006)
- Participating in the Defeat-ISIS coalition

4.10 **Enforcement.** Enforcement operations involve administering international laws or United Nations (UN) mandated sanctions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and internationally agreed sanctions on rogue



Figure 4-4: Stabilisation operations support host nations strengthening governance, building local capacity, and re-establishing rule of law.

nations. Enforcement tasks typically have recognised mandates for employing warfighting to achieve stated aims. They are not impartial because they involve coercing actors to take defined actions.

4.11 **Stabilisation.** Stabilisation and reconstruction (S&R) is normally a civilian-led process during or after crises in states that have lost the capacity for effective self-government. The initial NZDF contribution generally is providing a safe and secure environment for reconstruction. Later it can involve specialised policing skills, assets, and specialists controlling and securing areas under reconstruction and supporting governance, local capacity building, and re-establishing rule of law.

4.12 **Countering Irregular Activity.** Irregular activity involves adversaries—frequently ideologically or criminally motivated—using or threatening to use force to change or prevent change to established governance and authority. It comprises criminality, disorder, insurgency, and terrorism. Irregular activity includes military, political, social, informational, and economic activities by insurgent, terrorist, and transnational criminal organisations. Counter-irregular activity defeats

## ENFORCEMENT

Contributing a Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) frigate to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, and Red Sea regions.<sup>1</sup> The CMF's mission includes enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iran, conducting counter-piracy activities, and other maritime security operations (MSO).<sup>2</sup> The NZDF's commitment includes participating in Combined Task Force 150,<sup>3</sup> which it has also commanded. (ongoing)

Deploying RNZAF maritime patrol aircraft and RNZN ships to help enforce UN sanctions against North Korea (ongoing)

<sup>1</sup> The CMF is a coalition of 46 nations.

<sup>2</sup> Maritime security operations protect maritime sovereignty and resources and counter maritime-related terrorism, weapons proliferation, transnational crime, piracy, environmental destruction, and illegal seaborne migration.

<sup>3</sup> Combined Task Force 150 is a multi-national task force conducting MSO outside the Arabian Gulf to prevent criminal and terrorist organisations from operating and moving people, weapons, and narcotics.

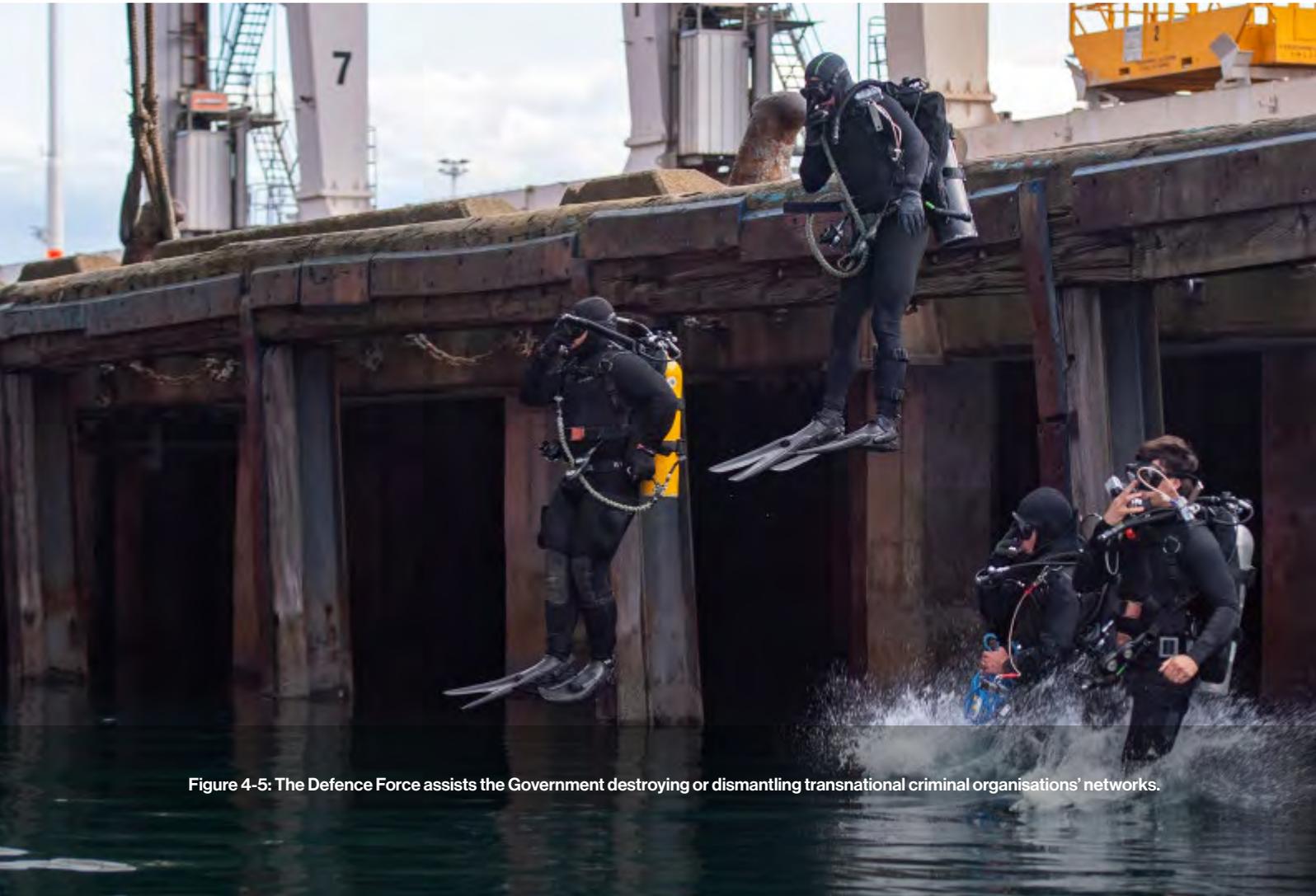


Figure 4-5: The Defence Force assists the Government destroying or dismantling transnational criminal organisations' networks.

adversaries by destroying or dismantling their networks and stopping them re-emerging. It includes the following types of operations:

- **Civilian and Military Counter-Insurgency.** The NZDF can contribute to comprehensive civilian and military counter-insurgency efforts, including security assistance programs such as military education and training programs, creating confidence, and establishing security and conditions for development.
- **Counter-Terrorism.** Counter-terrorism encompasses preventive, defensive, and offensive measures for reducing the vulnerability of forces, individuals, and property to terrorist acts and recovering after them, including protecting forces, military members, high-risk personnel, civilian employees, family members, facilities, and information.
- **Counter-Criminality.** Counter-criminality is preventing organised criminal groups from escalating their activities before they become a threat to New Zealand.

4.13 **Peace Support.** Peace support operations use diplomatic, civil, and military activities for restoring and maintaining peace. They have military, diplomatic, electoral, human rights, civilian police, humanitarian, and civil components. Peace support includes:

### STABILISATION

The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Bamyan Province, Afghanistan (2003-13)

Supporting the International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT) police elements in the Solomon Islands (2000-02)

Providing military personnel to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) (2003-17)

The Solomon Islands Assistance Force (SIAF) (2021-24)



Figure 4-6: The New Zealand Defence Force contributed to the non-combatant evacuation operation from Kabul, Afghanistan.

- **Peace Building.** Addressing conflicts' underlying causes and local people's longer-term needs
- **Conflict Prevention.** Monitoring and identifying conflicts' casues and taking timely action to prevent it occurring, escalating, or resuming.
- **Peace Making.** Bringing hostile parties to ceasefires or peaceful settlements.
- **Peacekeeping.** Maintaining order after agreements or ceasefires.
- **Peace Enforcement.** Coercing potential belligerents to avoid or stop armed conflicts and instead peacefully settle disputes.

4.14 **Non-Combatant Evacuation.** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) sometimes requests NZDF assistance for evacuating New Zealand nationals

#### PEACE SUPPORT

Deploying personnel to the United Nations Command (UNC) in the Republic of Korea administering the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement

Sending military personnel to Rhodesia to monitor disarming the militias and democratic elections (1979)

Deploying personnel to support the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) monitoring truce agreements between Israel and its neighbours (ongoing)

Providing commanders, staff, engineers, and trainers to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai (ongoing)

Providing observers and military personnel to support humanitarian efforts in Somalia (1992-4)

Sending 97 military personnel to support the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) (1992)

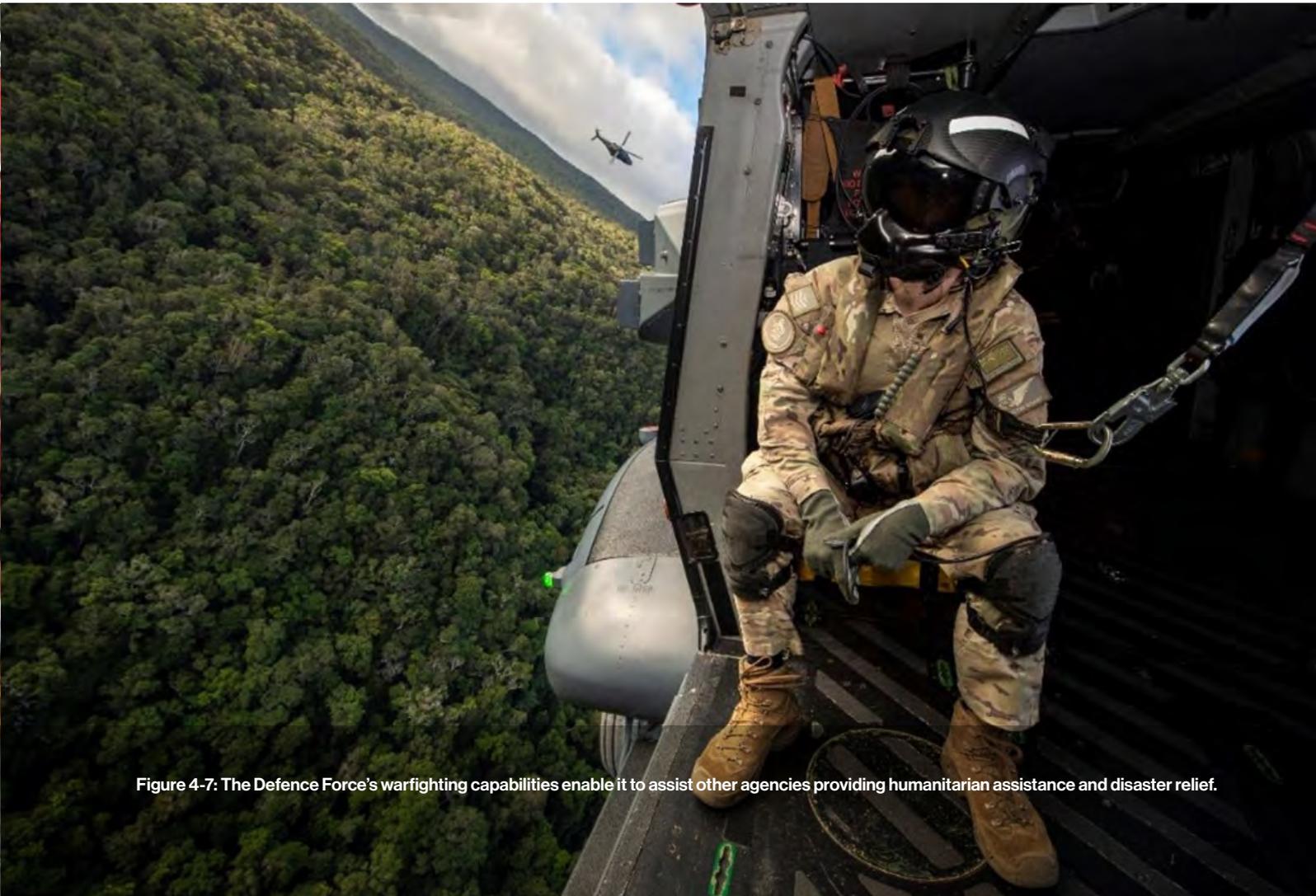


Figure 4-7: The Defence Force’s warfighting capabilities enable it to assist other agencies providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

**NON-COMATANT EVACUATION**

Assisting MFAT repatriating people from Afghanistan in a multinational operation coordinated by the United States after the Taliban regained control (2022)

Assisting MFAT repatriating 300 New Zealanders and foreigners from New Caledonia to New Zealand (2024)

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF**

The Indonesian island Aceh after earthquakes and tsunami (2004)

The Christchurch earthquake (2011)

Philippines after Cyclone Haiyan (2013)

The Kaikoura earthquake (2016)

Fiji after Cyclone Winston (2016)

Whakaari/White Island eruption (2019)

and approved foreign nationals. Non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO) are done in low to high threat environments.

4.15 **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.** Specialised civilian, national, international, governmental, and nongovernmental organisations and agencies have primary HADR responsibility. The NZDF augments and complements their capabilities, which can involve overseas deployments. NZDF HADR support includes rapid response capability, airlift assets, coordination and planning expertise, unique skills and structure, and experience operating in hostile environments.

4.16 **Defence Diplomacy and International Engagement.** Defence diplomacy involves NZDF engagement activities for reducing hostility, building and maintaining trust, and developing democratically accountable local armed forces.

4.17 **Domestic Tasks.** Domestic tasks are providing formalised planned support to Government departments and



Figure 4-8: Navy ships support scientific and environmental programmes in Antarctica.

agencies as well as unplanned emergency support during crises. They involve operations in New Zealand’s exclusive economic zone, maritime environment, and territory, including resource and border patrol operations.

4.18 **Aid to Civil Authorities.** The NZDF supports civil authorities in New Zealand and elsewhere when there are no alternative sources of assistance, such as during emergencies.

### Effects, Objectives, and Outcomes

4.19 Military actions are done to get specified, justifiable, and measureable results. Different objectives require different actions across a range of operations. Sometimes different activities can create the same effects. Tactical effects, which are the result of actions, contribute to achieving operational objectives. Operational objectives are steps towards creating Government’s national aim or strategic outcome.

#### DEFENCE DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Aircraft and ships patrolling in New Zealand waters, the Pacific, and the Southern Ocean to detect and deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing (ongoing)

Supporting scientific and environmental programmes in Antarctica with Hercules and Boeing flights and Navy ships (ongoing)

Conducting domestic explosive ordnance disposal (colloquially known as ‘bomb disposal’) (ongoing)

Conducting search and rescue (SAR) operations in New Zealand’s SAR area of responsibility (ongoing)

#### AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES

Providing two light-armoured vehicles to support the New Zealand Police during the Napier shooting incident (2009)



Figure 4-9: The New Zealand Defence Force's values are courage / tū kaha, commitment / tū tika, comradeship / tū tira, and integrity / tū maia.

- **Navy**
  - **Tactical Effect:** a Navy frigate intercepting a pirate vessel.
  - **Operational Objective:** maintaining and protecting sea-lines of communication.
  - **Strategic Aim/Outcome:** New Zealand prospers from unimpeded global supply chains.
- **Army**
  - **Tactical Effect:** an infantry platoon securing a marketplace from insurgents.
  - **Operational Objective:** increasing security in the area of operations.
  - **Strategic Aim/Outcome:** the host nation becomes stable and prosperous.
- **Air Force**
  - **Tactical Effect:** A flight of Hercules aircraft resupplying an expeditionary humanitarian and disaster relief taskforce.
  - **Operational Objective:** the host nation recovering from a crisis.
  - **Strategic Aim/Outcome:** New Zealand contributes to regional peace and security and maintains its status and influence as a valued partner in the Pacific and counters unfriendly influences.

## Chapter 4

4.20 What the NZDF does needs courage / tū kaha, commitment / tū tika, comradeship / tū tira, and integrity / tū maia. It also needs trained, equipped, and trusted sailors, soldiers, and aviators who can fight and win. Supported by civilian staff, they have chosen to put themselves in dangerous situations to protect New Zealanders. They help people across the world by fighting for peace, security, and prosperity. Conflict and war are always destructive and costly so New Zealand and the NZDF do what they can to prevent, end, and recover from it whenever and wherever possible—but sometimes it cannot be avoided. New Zealanders' freedoms cannot be taken for granted: we must be prepared to fight for them. This is what the NZDF does.

## ANNEX A: COMMISSIONED OFFICER RANKS

Royal New Zealand Navy	New Zealand Army	Royal New Zealand Air Force
Vice Admiral 	Lieutenant General 	Air Marshal 
Rear Admiral 	Major General 	Air Vice Marshal 
Commodore 	Brigadier 	Air Commodore 
Captain 	Colonel 	Group Captain 
Commander 	Lieutenant Colonel 	Wing Commander 
Lieutenant Commander 	Major 	Squadron Leader 
Lieutenant 	Captain 	Flight Lieutenant 
Sub Lieutenant 	Lieutenant 	Flying Officer 
Ensign 	Second Lieutenant 	Pilot Officer 
Midshipman 	Officer Cadet 	Officer Cadet 

## ANNEX B: NON-COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL RANKS

Royal New Zealand Navy	New Zealand Army	Royal New Zealand Air Force
Warrant Officer 	Warrant Officer Class 1 	Warrant Officer 
	Warrant Officer Class 2 	
Chief Petty Officer 	Staff Sergeant 	Flight Sergeant 
Petty Officer 	Sergeant 	Sergeant 
Leading Rating 	Bombardier Corporal 	Corporal 
	Lance Bombardier Lance Corporal 	
Able Rating 	Private Gunner Trooper 	Leading Aircraftman 
Ordinary Rating 	Sapper Signaller	Aircraftman 

# GLOSSARY

## Terms and Definitions

### Amphibious

A military operation launched from the sea by a naval and landing force embarked in ships or craft, with the principal purpose of projecting the landing force ashore tactically into an environment ranging from permissive to hostile.

### Area of Interest

The area of concern to a commander relative to the objectives of current or planned operations, including their areas of influence, operations and/or responsibility, and adjacent areas.

### Armed Conflict

Armed conflict is a situation in which violence or military force is threatened or used.

### Biculturalism

The formal recognition of the partnership between the NZDF and Māori. This is reflected in a culture which recognises the mutual obligations and responsibilities arising from the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

### Blue-Water

Open oceans and high seas.

### Campaign

A controlled series of simultaneous or sequential operations designed to achieve an operational commander's objective, normally within a given time or space.

### Chief of Defence Force

A three-star officer (Vice Admiral, Lieutenant General, or Air Marshall) who commands the armed forces, employs members of the civil staff, and is the principal military adviser to the Minister of Defence. They are also responsible for the general conduct of the NZDF and the efficient, effective, and economical management of its activities and resources.

### Coalition

An arrangement between two or more nations for common action.

### Combined

Activities, operations, and organisations in which elements of more two or more allies participate.

### Combined Joint Task Force

A multinational (combined) and multi-Service (joint) deployable task force tailored to the mission and formed for the full range of the NZDF's military missions.

## Glossary

### Command

The authority a military commander lawfully exercises over subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment.

Note: It includes responsibility for employing, organising, directing, coordinating, and controlling military forces to accomplish assigned missions as well as for assigned personnel's health, welfare, morale, and discipline.

### Commander Joint Forces New Zealand

A two-star officer exercising operational command (OPCOM) over deployed NZDF force elements.

Note: OPCOM is the highest level of operational command and it comes with the responsibility for deployments, sustainment, and recovery of NZDF elements.

### Component

Maritime, land, air, and special operations force elements grouped under relevant Service commanders subordinate to the operational level commander.

### Conflict Prevention

A peace support operation employing complementary diplomatic, civil, and when necessary military means to monitor and identify the causes of conflict and take action to prevent occurrence, escalation, or resumption of hostilities.

### Conventional Forces

Forces other than designated special operations forces.

### Counter-Criminality

Action focused on preventing organised criminal groups from escalating their activities to the point where they become a threat to allied forces.

### Counter-Insurgency

Comprehensive civilian and military efforts to isolate and defeat an insurgency, create a safe and secure environment, address core grievances, and enable the promotion of legitimate governance and rule of law.

### Counterterrorism

All preventive, defensive, and offensive measures taken to reduce the vulnerability of forces, individuals, and property against terrorist threats and/or acts and to respond to terrorist acts.

### Defence White Paper

A formal policy paper providing Defence with the direction it needs to effectively prioritise the roles and tasks it undertakes at home and overseas as well as guide the modernisation of its military capabilities.

### Deployment

Relocation of forces from a national location to an assigned area of operations.

## Deterrence

Convincing a potential aggressor that the consequences of coercion or armed conflict would outweigh the potential gains.

## Doctrine

Fundamental principles by which military forces or force elements guide their actions in support of national objectives. It is authoritative but requires judgement in application.

Note: In the NZDF, these principles are formalised in a series of official publications authorised by either CDF or VCDF, each of which deals with specific military activities, operations, or functions.

## Effect

Change in an element of the operating environment caused by actions.

## Enabling Activities

All Defence Force activities that facilitate, support, or otherwise allow military actions and operations to be undertaken.

## Environment

Aspects of the operating environment that are subject to effects caused by military activities. They exist before, during, and after military activity and taken together compose an operating environment or a potential one.

- **Human.** Relevant individuals, groups, organisations and their beliefs, values, interests, aims, and interactions.
- **Physical.** The surface, sub-surface, above surface, and space where objects and people are found and activities are done as well as relevant weather and atmospheric conditions.
- **Information.** The data, information, and media that convey information and influence actors in the operating environment.

## Exercise

A military manoeuvre or simulated wartime operation involving planning, preparation, and execution carried out for the purpose of training and evaluation.

## Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Detecting, accessing, uncovering, identification, mitigation, rendering safe, recovery, exploitation, and final disposal of explosive ordnance, regardless of condition.

## Fires

The use of weapon systems to create a specific lethal or non-lethal effect on a target.

## Fire Support

Application of fires coordinated with manoeuvre of forces to destroy, neutralise, or suppress the enemy.

## Force Element

An individual or discrete military capability comprising trained personnel, major platforms, combat systems, and supplies held at a directed level of readiness.

### Force Generation

The process of providing suitably trained and equipped forces and their means of deployment, recovery, and sustainment to meet all current and potential future tasks within required readiness and preparation times.

### Force Integration

Planning, preparing assembled forces for deployment, maintaining and sustaining existing force levels, and returning deployed forces. It has two elements: preparation and operation.

### Frigate

Escort vessel designed to provide air, surface, and undersea defence to naval forces and convoys. It is capable of conducting sustained independent operations to achieve a variety of missions.

### Host Nation

A nation that by agreement:

- receives forces and materiel of New Zealand or other nations operating on/from/transiting through its territory
- allows materiel and/or NZDF organisations to be located on its territory
- provides support for these purposes.

### Intelligence

The product resulting from the processing of information concerning foreign nations, hostile or potentially hostile forces or elements, or areas of actual or potential operations. The term is also applied to the activity that results in the product and to the organisations engaged in such activity.

### Interoperability

The ability of systems, units, or forces to provide services to and accept services from other systems, units, or forces and to use the services so exchanged to enable them to operate effectively together.

### Irregular Activity

Irregular activity is the use or threat of force by irregular forces, groups, or individuals, frequently ideologically or criminally motivated, to effect or prevent change as a challenge to governance and authority. It comprises criminality, disorder, insurgency, and terrorism.

### Joint

Activities, operations, and organisations in which elements of at least two Services participate.

### Law of Armed Conflict

The international law regulating the conduct of States and combatants engaged in armed hostilities. Often termed 'law of war'.

### Lines of Communication

All the land, water, and air routes that connect an operating military force with one or more bases of operations, and along which supplies and reinforcements move.

**Littoral**

Areas to seaward of the coast susceptible to influence or support from the land and the areas inland from the coast susceptible to influence or support from the sea.

**Logistics**

Planning and carrying out the movement and sustainment of forces. It includes

- design and development, acquisition, storage, movement distribution, maintenance, evacuation, and disposal of materiel
- transport of personnel
- acquisition or construction, maintenance, operation, and disposition of facilities
- acquisition or furnishing of services
- medical and health support.

**Manoeuvre**

Employment of forces on the battlefield through movement in combination with fire or fire potential to achieve a position of advantage in respect to the enemy to accomplish the mission.

**Military Capability**

The ability to achieve a desired operational objective in a selected environment and to sustain that level of effort for a designated period. It is the combined effect that systems of inputs have in helping to achieve a particular operational consequence.

**Military Objective**

Legitimate objects of attack comprising:

- All combatants who have a capacity and are willing to fight
- Establishments, buildings, and locations at which the armed forces or their materiel are located
- Other objects which, by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture, or neutralisation, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offer definite military advantage

Note: The presence of non-combatants in or around a military objective does not change its nature as a military objective.

**Multinational**

Activities, operations, and organisations, in which elements of more than one nation participate.

**Non-Governmental Organisation**

A private, self-governing, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to alleviating human suffering; and/or promoting education, health care, economic development, environmental protection, human rights, and conflict resolution; and/or encouraging the establishment of democratic institutions and civil society.

**Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation**

An operation conducted to relocate designated non-combatants threatened in a foreign country to a place of safety.

### Objective

A clearly defined and attainable goal for a military operation, for example seizing a terrain feature, neutralising an adversary's force or capability, or achieving some other desired outcome essential to a commander's plan and towards which the operation is directed.

### Operational Domain

Defined areas with discrete characteristics where manoeuvre, targeting, fires, and other military activities are performed to create effects or achieve objectives in the engagement space of the operating environment.

Note: The domains are maritime, land, air, space, and cyber/electromagnetic.

### Operating Environment

A composite of the human, physical, and informational conditions that influence employing capabilities and commanders' decisions.

### Operation

A sequence of coordinated military actions with a defined purpose including movement, supply, attack, defence, and manoeuvres.

### Peacebuilding

A peace support operation employing complementary diplomatic, civil, and—when necessary—military means, to address the underlying causes of conflict and the longer term needs of the people. It requires a commitment to a long-term process and may run concurrently with other types of peace support operations.

### Peace Enforcement

A peace support operation following an agreement or ceasefire that has established a permissive environment where the level of consent and compliance is high and the threat of disruption is low. The use of force by peacekeepers is normally limited to self-defence.

### Peace Making

A peace support operation conducted after the initiation of a conflict to secure a ceasefire or peaceful settlement that involves primarily diplomatic action supported when necessary by direct or indirect use of military assets.

### Peace Support

Operations that impartially make use of diplomatic, civil, and military means to restore or maintain peace carried out under an appropriate mandate. They include conflict prevention, peace-making, peace enforcement, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.

### Peacekeeping

A peace support operation following an agreement or ceasefire that has established a permissive environment where the level of consent and compliance is high and the threat of disruption is low. The use of force by peacekeepers is normally limited to self-defence.

**Policy**

Coordinated intentions, decisions, and directions for framing, influencing, or changing a problem or issue.

**Preparedness**

The measurement of how ready and how sustainable forces are to undertake military operations.

**Reconnaissance**

A mission undertaken to obtain by visual observation or other detection methods information about the activities and resources of an enemy or potential enemy or to secure data concerning the meteorological, hydrographic, or geographic characteristics of a particular area.

**Rules of Engagement**

Directives issued by a competent military authority that specify the circumstances and limitations under which forces will initiate and/or continue combat engagement with other forces encountered. Also called ROE.

**Sea Lines of Communications**

The most efficient navigable routes followed by shipping from their points of departure to their destinations. They may refer in military operations to the maritime supply routes between operational forces and their supporting bases. The term is also used to describe the major commercial shipping routes of the world. They should not be considered in the same way as lines of communication on land.

**Service Chiefs**

The highest ranking officer in their respective Service.

Note: like the Vice Chief of Defence and Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, the Service Chiefs are 'two-star' equivalent officers (Navy: Rear Admiral; Army, Major General; Air Force: Air Vice-Marshal). Their primary responsibility is force preparation.

**Services**

Navy, Army, and Air Force.

**Special Operations Forces**

Forces employed for focused, often discreet operations of an unorthodox and frequently high-risk nature, conducted in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive environments to achieve military, diplomatic, informational, and/or economic objectives and employing military capabilities for which there is no broad conventional force requirement.

**Stability and Support Operations**

Establishing security and control over an area while employing military capabilities to restore services and support civilian agencies.

**Strategic Level of Conflict**

The level of war concerned with the art and science of employing national power.

## **Glossary**

### **Strategy**

A plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim.

### **Surveillance**

Systematic observation of aerospace, surface or subsurface areas, places, persons, or things, by visual, aural, electronic, photographic, or other means

### **Sustainment**

Provision of personnel, logistic, and other support required to maintain and prolong operations or combat until successful accomplishment of the mission or the national objective.

### **Task Force**

A temporary grouping of units under one commander formed for the purpose of carrying out a specific operation or mission.

### **Theatre**

A designated geographic area for which an operational level joint or combined commander is appointed and in which a campaign or series of major operations is conducted. A theatre may contain one or more joint force areas of operations.

### **Vice Chief of Defence Force**

A two-star officer who is CDF's deputy and has such functions, duties, and powers as delegated by CDF.

### **War**

Armed hostilities between nations or states.

### **Warfare**

The application of lethal force using a range of combat techniques and military capabilities.

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ATG	Army Training Group	MFO	Multinational Force and Observers
CDF	Chief of Defence Force	MSO	Maritime Security Operations
CJDS	Commander Joint Defence Services	NEO	Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation
CMF	Combined Maritime Force	NZ Army	New Zealand Army
COMJFNZ	Commander Joint Forces New Zealand	NZDF	New Zealand Defence Force
CPO	Chief People Officer	OPV	Offshore Patrol Vessel
DBC	Defence Business Committee	PCP	People Capability Portfolio
DEMO	Defence Equipment Management Organisation	PETS	Personnel, Equipment, Training, and Sustainability
DHO	Deployable Health Organisation	POLAD	Policy Advisor
DLC	Defence Logistics Command	PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
DLC(A)	Defence Logistics Command Air	RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands
DCL(L)	Defence Logistics Command Land	RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
DLC(M)	Defence Logistics Command Maritime	RNZN	Royal New Zealand Navy
DSCM	Defence Supply Chain Management	SAR	Search and Rescue
DSSG	Defence Shared Services Group	SAS	Special Air Service
EXCO	Executive Committee	SIAF	Solomon Islands Assistance Force
EXHSCO	Executive Health and Safety Committee	S&R	Stabilisation and Reconstruction
FHO	Force Health Organisation	SOC	Special Operations Commander
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief	SOCNZ	Special Operations Command New Zealand
HMNZS	His Majesty's New Zealand Ship	SOF	Special Operations Forces
HQJFNZ	Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand	UN	United Nations
HQNZDF	Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force	UNC	United Nations Command
IPMT	International Peace Monitoring Team	UNTAC	United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria	UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated	VANZ	Veterans' Affairs New Zealand
JSG	Joint Support Group	VCDF	Vice Chief of Defence Force
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade		

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