

**Submission**

**NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND TRADE: PAPUA NEW GUINEA ELECTION SUPPORT**


MoD ref: 041/2022

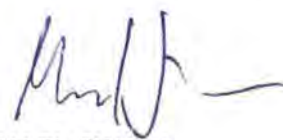
NZDF tracking: 2022-101

<b>Type of submission:</b>	Note to Minister	<b>For action by:</b>	Minister of Defence
<b>Purpose:</b>	To advise Ministers that the New Zealand Defence Force is supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to assist the Government of Papua New Guinea to prepare for its national election scheduled between 18 June and 8 July 2022.		

**Recommendations:**

- a) **Note** that the Government of Papua New Guinea has sought New Zealand's assistance to develop plans and systems in advance of the national election being held between 18 June and 8 July 2022. Yes / No
- b) **Note** that in response to a request from the Papua New Guinea Police Commissioner and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the New Zealand Defence Force intends to deploy two personnel to Port Moresby to support the Joint Security Agencies Task Force Control Center in developing plans for the national election. Yes / No
- c) **Note** the estimated cost of the deployment of up to two New Zealand Defence Force personnel to Papua New Guinea for up to six weeks from 27 April 2022 to 8 June 2022 is \$0.072M. Yes / No
- d) **Note** the proposed deployments can be funded within existing baselines. Yes / No
- e) **Refer** a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Yes / No

*for*  
  
KR SHORT  
Air Marshal  
Chief of Defence Force  
Date: 19/4/22

  
MICHAEL SWAIN  
Acting Secretary of Defence  
Date: 19/4/22

HON PEENI HENARE  
Minister of Defence  
Date:

<b>NZDF contact:</b>	s. 9(2)(g)(i)	<b>Ph:</b>	s. 9(2)(a)	<b>A/H:</b>	s. 9(2)(a)
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Minister of Defence

**NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND TRADE: PAPUA NEW GUINEA ELECTION SUPPORT**

**Purpose**

1. To advise Ministers that the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to assist the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to prepare for the national election being held between 18 June and 8 July 2022.

**Background**

2. MFAT, through its Memorandum of Understanding with the New Zealand Electoral Commission, has been providing support to the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission since 2016. The New Zealand Electoral Commission provides technical assistance, support and advice with the focus for 2022 to provide this support, alongside other partners, for the national election from 18 June to 8 July.

3. On 18 March 2022, the Commissioner of Police, Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, Commissioner David Manning requested that the NZDF provide two logisticians to support the Police Headquarters in developing plans for the national election. The request was made as a result of similar successful support provided by the NZDF in previous elections, and the positive reputation accrued by the NZDF. In 2012, the NZDF provided support with two helicopters for the movement of stores and personnel augmentation to Papua New Guinea's national election effort. In 2017 the New Zealand Defence Attaché supported election monitoring in the Highlands region.

**NZDF Support**

4. MFAT supports the request by the PNG Police Commissioner, and has asked NZDF to deploy two personnel to Port Moresby as part of a package of MFAT support to the elections.

5. The NZDF contribution would consist of:

Role	Agency	Tasking
2 x Logistics Officers	NZDF	To assist the PNG National Election 22 (NATEL22) Joint Security Agencies Task Force Control Centre. Support will assist in the development of robust plans, systems and processes prior to the operational phase of the election.

6. The duration of the deployment is anticipated to last for six weeks from 27 April until 8 June 2022.

7. The team will operate out of the NATEL 22 Joint Security Agencies Task Force Control Centre based at Mormoratau House in Port Moresby. The team will not be deployed elsewhere in Papua New Guinea for the duration of the deployment.

8. New Zealand Defence Intelligence assesses the unmitigated overall threat level for NZDF personnel deployed to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, is as follows:

s. 6(a)

9. In the event of a suspected COVID-19 case amongst the team, the team will self-isolate from one another and undertake testing. Self-isolation will occur at s. 6(a) Port Moresby where meals and other necessities can be provided safely while isolating. In the event of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, MFAT officials in Wellington and Port Moresby will be notified and further advice sought.

#### Finance


10. The estimated cost of the proposed deployment can be funded from within existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA: Output Class 5.0 at \$0.072 million.

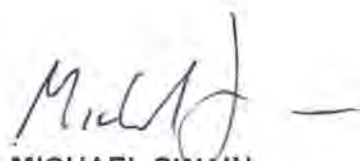
11. The Minister for Veterans has not declared these deployments to be 'qualifying operational service' under the Act. There is therefore no impact on Veterans Support Entitlements.

#### Recommendations

12. It is recommended that you:

- a. **Note** that the Government of Papua New Guinea has sought New Zealand's assistance to develop plans and systems in advance of the national election being held between 18 June and 8 July 2022.
- b. **Note** that in response to a request from the Papua New Guinea Police Commissioner and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the New Zealand Defence Force intends to deploy two personnel to Port Moresby to support the Joint Security Agencies Task Force Control Center in developing plans for the national election.
- c. **Note** the estimated cost of the deployment of up to two New Zealand Defence Force personnel to Papua New Guinea for up to six weeks from 27 April 2022 to 8 June 2022 is \$0.072M.
- d. **Note** the proposed deployments can be funded within existing baselines.
- e. **Refer** a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

  
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Air Marshal  
Chief of Defence Force  
Date: 17/4/22

  
MICHAEL SWAIN  
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Date: 19 April 2022