

Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2024 2:05 p.m.
To: 'Sharon Lundy'; s. 9(2)(a)
(Parliament External); s. 9(2)(a) Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Media Release: Five-month deployment for Royal New Zealand Navy vessel includes military exercises, operations and engagements unclassified

Planned to go at 9am tomorrow.



19 June 2024

Five-month deployment for Royal New Zealand Navy vessel includes military exercises, operations and engagements

A series of international operations and exercises in the Western Pacific, South East Asia and East Asia will form part of a significant deployment for the Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) HMNZS Aotearoa.

The RNZN's maritime sustainment vessel sailed from Devonport Naval Base last week with a Seasprite helicopter on board, and will spend the next five months at sea involved in a series of regional engagements, training exercises and operations.

The largest of these will be Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), which is held in Hawaii every two years. The US-hosted event is the world's largest multinational maritime warfare exercise and this year New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel and platforms will join 40 surface ships, four submarines, 171 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel from 30 nations.

The crew from HMNZS Aotearoa will be among approximately 250 NZDF personnel deployed to RIMPAC. The NZDF is also deploying a Royal New Zealand Air Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft and air surveillance personnel, RNZN divers from HMNZS Matataua and staff officers for headquarters roles.

RIMPAC is one part of the ship's overall five-month deployment, named Operation Crucible. The RNZN regularly makes this deployment to the Asia Pacific region, to carry out engagement activities including training with other navies and replenishing ships at sea.

Commander Joint Forces, Rear Admiral Jim Gilmour, says Operation Crucible demonstrates NZDF capability, and its commitment to the international rules-based system and security and stability in the region.

“This is a continuation of the NZDF’s work with partners to support maritime security and defence matters while enabling collective training exercises,” he said.

During the deployment, HMNZS Aotearoa will also support the NZDF’s contribution to efforts to detect and deter evasions of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions which impose sanctions against North Korea.

North Korea continues to launch ballistic missiles in violation of UNSC resolutions and to import and export prohibited goods and materials. The sanctions aim to persuade North Korea to denuclearise and abandon its ballistic missile weapons capabilities.

While on operations, HMNZS Aotearoa will maintain a presence, conduct surveillance, and re-fuel ships at sea including those from partner nations conducting maritime patrols to detect and deter sanctions evasions, such as ship-to-ship transfers of illicit material.

Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Garin Golding, says the RNZN has a long history of deployments in the Asia Pacific area.

“This is an important deployment, enabling our highly trained personnel to further upskill while working alongside partner militaries in the region, undertaking both exercises and operational missions.

“The Aotearoa’s participation in efforts to detect and deter UNSC sanctions evasions is a great opportunity, one I know the ship’s company is looking forward to undertaking,” Commodore Golding said.

For the Commanding Officer of HMNZS Aotearoa, Commander Rob Welford, the deployment is shaping up to be one of the career highlights for the crew.

“The ship’s company are really excited as this deployment is exactly the reason why they joined the Navy,” he said.

“They’ll be sailing more than 30,000 nautical miles, conducting port visits in four countries and creating bonds with their shipmates over the next 18 weeks that will last a lifetime.

“Plus they will be advancing New Zealand’s interests from the sea, one of the key reasons our Navy personnel choose to serve.”

ENDS

PHOTO CAPTION: Navy replenishment tanker HMNZS Aotearoa leaving Auckland on a five-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Asia.

FOLLOW NZDF:



CONTACT DEFENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

021 487 980 or media@nzdf.mil.nz

Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2024 7:17 p.m.
To: s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE; s. 9(2)(a)
(Parliament External); s. 9(2)(a) Ministerial Services; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a) Shaw, Andrew, BRIG
Subject: RE: [unclassified EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

s. 9(2)(a) see below.

Rgds

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

The New Zealand Defence Force has been involved in the RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) exercise for many years, and will participate again this year.

RIMPAC is the world's largest maritime warfare exercise. It is a US-hosted maritime, air and land exercise involving ships, aircraft and land forces of many countries.

This year's exercise, running from June 26 to August 2, will be hosted by the US Pacific Fleet Commander and involves approximately 29 nations, and include 40 surface ships, 3 submarines, the land forces of 14 countries, and over 150 aircraft. It will take place in and around the Hawaiian islands. Nations taking part, besides the US, include Australia, NZ, Canada, France, Republic of Korea, Chile, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

The exercise is always an opportunity for NZDF personnel to participate and gain experience with other militaries. Interoperability and familiarity with how other militaries work is an important objective of such exercises. Such familiarity can be valuable, for example, when we work alongside each other on actual operations, such as a humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR) response in the region.

Questions about Israel's involvement should be directed to INDOPACOM.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Chief Advisor Public Affairs. Office of the Chief of Defence Force - HQNZDF

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2024 6:26 p.m.
To: s. 9(2)(g)(i) s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE s. 9(2)(a)
(Parliament External)

s. 9(2)(a) [redacted] Ministerial Services
<ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Subject: Re: [unclassified EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

Thanks s. 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

s. 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

Appreciate your work on this given the late hour!

s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]
NZDF Private Secretary | Office of Hon Judith Collins

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Judith Collins MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Sent from my phone
Please excuse brevity and typos.

|

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted] s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 6:16:25 PM

To: s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Cc: Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]

[redacted]; Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]

s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Subject: RE: Fwd: [unclassified EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

I'll do my best tonight on this.

We had a stuff query this avo about same, but simply asking if we are exercising with Israel - see below.

Indopacom announced the countries participating in RIMPAC in May, it's on the IndoPacom website.

We were simply going to confirm attendance at RIMPAC (which we always go to) and refer them to the US (which runs RIMPAC). Israel was also at RIMPAC 2022.

Name

s. 9(2)(a)

Email

s. 9(2)(a)

@stuff.co.nz

Message

Kia ora,

s. 9(2)(a)

here from Stuff News.

We have received a tip that the NZDF is going to be training with the Israel Defence Force.

Is this correct? And if so could you share with me the details about this/ a press release?

From: s. 9(2)(a)

Date: Tuesday, 11 Jun 2024 at 5:52 PM

To: s. 9(2)(g)(i) s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE s. 9(2)(a)

(Parliament External)

s. 9(2)(a)

Ministerial Services

<ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

Team,

Please see the below. Can we please have something quickly.

Apologies for the late hour of the request.

s. 9(2)(a)

NZDF Private Secretary | Office of Hon Judith Collins

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government

Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

s. 9(2)(a)

Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Judith Collins MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Sent from my phone

Please excuse brevity and typos.

From: Sharon Lundy s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 5:50:04 PM
To: s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

Hi all
Please see two media queries below on RIMPAC. Could I please have a response as soon as possible tonight.
Sorry for the late request.
Thanks,
Sharon

Glenn McConnell, stuff:

- Did Israel's participation at RIMPAC 2024 cause any pause or consideration about whether New Zealand would participate at this year's RIMPAC?
- Did New Zealand raise any concern or question with RIMPAC organisers about Israel's inclusion in this year's event, given the Israel-Gaza War? If so, what form did those concerns take?
- Given the NZDF and IDF will be training side-by-side at RIMPAC 2024, does that indicate the IDF are considered "partners" (as the RIMPAC 2024 logo indicates)?
- Why is New Zealand participating in RIMPAC 2024 given Israel's participation?

From: s. 9(2)(a) <@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 5:41 PM
To: Sharon Lundy s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

Kia ora Sharon,
Apologies for the late email – I am working the late shift and looking at news for the morning.

The Palestine Solidarity Network is calling on the government to withdraw from the RIMPAC military exercises this year due to Israel being listed as a participating country. I've copied the press release below for reference.

Are we able to get a statement from the Minister in response to this call? And if she's available, would she like to do a quick phone interview on the matter?

Cheers

s. 9(2)(a)
Political Reporter
RNZ | Press Gallery
Mobile: s. 9(2)(a)
www.rnz.co.nz



From: News
Sent: Rātū, 11 Pipiri, 2024 5:25 p.m.

To: s. 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

From: johnminto@orcon.net.nz <johnminto@orcon.net.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2024 4:28 pm

To: johnminto@orcon.net.nz <johnminto@orcon.net.nz>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 - the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

11 June 2024

Media Release:

Government urged to abandon RIMPAC 2024 – the genocidal state of Israel is taking part

New Zealand must immediately withdraw from [the 2024 US-led RIMPAC military exercises](#) due to take place from June 26th to August 2nd around Hawaii.

Israel is listed as a participating country.

“We are calling on our government to withdraw from the exercise because of Israel’s ongoing industrial-scale slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza” says PSNA National Chair John Minto. “Why would we want to join with a lawless, rogue state which has demonstrated the complete suite of war crimes over the past eight months”

“It’s hard to believe the government hasn’t withdrawn already”.

RIMPAC with Israel aligns New Zealand with a pariah state and its genocidal enabler, the US. Every day Israel displays flagrant disregard for international law and international humanitarian law.

Israel has dropped more bombs on Gaza in eight months than were dropped on London, Hamburg and Dresden during the full six years of the Second World War. Israel is dropping these bombs on one of the most densely populated communities in the world.

Tens of thousands of people – the majority being women and children – have been indiscriminately killed.

Taking part in a military event alongside Israel will leave an indelible stain on this country. It will be a powerful symbol of New Zealand complicity with Israeli war crimes. It’s not on!

The killing fields of Gaza are in our faces everyday as are Israel’s flagrant abuses of the Genocide Convention and the rulings of the International Court of Justice.

Our government has been making only piteous noises in criticism of Israel.

Withdrawing from RIMPAC would be a signal of solidarity with the victims of Israeli genocide and show that New Zealand takes seriously its responsibility to PREVENT genocide under the Genocide Convention.

John Minto
National Chair
Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa
0220850161
Chair@psna.nz

Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 3:13 p.m.
To: 'Sharon Lundy'; s. 9(2)(a)
(Parliament External); s. 9(2)(a); Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: RIMPAC 2024 unclassified

Response planned to go to Stuff at 4pm.

The following can be attributed to an NZDF spokesperson:

The NZDF is deploying the Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) maritime replenishment vessel HMNZS Aotearoa, a Royal New Zealand Air Force P-8A Poseidon and RNZN divers from HMNZS Matataua. Approximately 250 NZDF personnel are deploying to the exercise. Some NZDF personnel will be based in the RIMPAC command headquarters.

From: Glenn McConnell [<mailto:glenn.mcconnell@stuff.co.nz>]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 9:38 a.m.
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RIMPAC 2024

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Kia ora,

Can you confirm how large the NZDF contingent at RIMPAC will be this year?

Keen to know if the Air Force, Army, and Navy will be attending - and which ships and planes will be there.

Cheers,
Glenn

--

Glenn McConnell
Political Journalist • Kaipūrongo Tōrangapū
Host of *He'll Be Right*, and *Tribal*

M s. 9(2)(a) PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140
Stuff Press Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Room G-045



Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 9:41 a.m.
To: 'Sharon Lundy'; s. 9(2)(a)
(Parliament External); s. 9(2)(a); Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: RIMPAC 2024 unclassified

Fyi. Unsure yet how this will be answered at this point in time, but the NZDF PR about involvement in RIMPAC with the Aotearoa (and its other activity with WHIO) is planned to go mid next week.

From: Glenn McConnell [<mailto:glenn.mcconnell@stuff.co.nz>]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 9:38 a.m.
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RIMPAC 2024

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Cheers,
Glenn

--
Glenn McConnell
Political Journalist • Kaipūrongo Tōrangapū
Host of *He'll Be Right*, and *Tribal*

M s. 9(2)(a) PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140
Stuff Press Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Room G-045



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Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 9:22 a.m.
To: 'Sharon Lundy'; s. 9(2)(a)
(Parliament External); s. 9(2)(a); Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: RIMPAC unclassified

1 News also asking (s. 9(2)(a)) so will send to them as well.

From: Sharon Lundy s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 9:16 a.m.
To: s. 9(2)(g)(i) s. 9(2)(a)
(Parliament External) s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a); Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: RIMPAC unclassified

Thanks s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Regards,
Sharon

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From: s. 9(2)(g)(i) s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 9:14:33 AM
To: Sharon Lundy s. 9(2)(a)
; Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: FW: RIMPAC unclassified

Planned response to go to Mediaworks and Stuff at 10am.

The following can be attributed to an NZDF spokesperson:

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has been involved in the RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) exercise for many years, and will participate again this year.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

RIMPAC is the world's largest maritime warfare exercise. It is a US-hosted maritime, air and land exercise involving ships, aircraft and land forces of many countries.

This year's exercise, running from June 26 to August 2, will be hosted by the US Pacific Fleet Commander and involves approximately 29 nations, and includes 40 surface ships, three submarines, the land forces of 14 countries, and more than 150 aircraft. It will take place in and around the Hawaiian islands. As well as the US, nations taking part include Australia, New Zealand, Canada, France, Republic of Korea, Chile, Israel, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The exercise is always an opportunity for NZDF personnel to participate and gain experience with other militaries. Interoperability and familiarity with how other militaries work is an important objective of such exercises. Such familiarity can be valuable, for example, when we work alongside each other on actual operations, such as a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) response in the region.

Questions about Israel's involvement in RIMPAC should be directed to the US military.

Name

s. 9(2)(a)

Email

s. 9(2)(a) @stuff.co.nz

Message

Kia ora,

s. 9(2)(a) here from Stuff News.

We have received a tip that the NZDF is going to be training with the Israel Defence Force.

Is this correct? And if so could you share with me the details about this/ a press release?

From: Grace Cocker s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 8:07 a.m.

To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>

Cc: #CI-News-Newsroom <news@mediaworks.co.nz>

Subject: RIMPAC

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Morning,

Have seen some chatter online about NZ's involvement in the RIMPAC naval drills, alongside Israel - Peace Action Wellington has been speaking out about it given the war in Gaza.

Wondering if the NZDF has a statement on this at all regarding whether it feels comfortable working alongside them currently.

Thanks

Grace

--

GRACE COCKER DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

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