



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2024-5077

8 August 2024

Valerie Morse

fyi-request-27582-89cd27f0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Valerie Morse

I refer to your email of 12 July 2024 requesting *all additional information held by NZDF regarding RIMPAC*. Your request, a follow-up to your earlier request OIA-2024-5059, has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As per the response to you of 3 May 2022, planning towards New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) participation in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises occurs many months in advance, and involves many areas of the NZDF. As such it is not possible to identify, gather and review all material relevant to your request within a reasonable timeframe, or without an unreasonable impact to the regular operations of the NZDF. As it stands, your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA.

As this request was made immediately after receipt of the response of 12 July 2024 (OIA-2024-5059), the following extract from a Defence Weekly Report is the only *additional information* provided to the Minister of Defence regarding RIMPAC 2024.

Defence Weekly Report (20-26 June 2024)

Operations and Training

Rim of the Pacific 2024 (RIMPAC 24) Exercise Update- Shore Phase, 24 June-8 July

Following the RIMPAC 24 entry in last weeks' report, HMNZS *Aotearoa* has completed passage to Hawaii over 13 - 24 June. The exercise is conducted in two phases: a shore phase (24 June- 8 July), and a sea phase (8 July- 2 August).

Aotearoa has been involved with integration and interoperability checks with other ships and aircraft that are attending RIMPAC. On 24-25 June a cross-deck, ship-to-ship aviation opportunity for a Replenishment at Sea (RAS) trial was conducted to 'consolidate' cargo fuel holdings in one tanker ship and free the other to leave the operational area for fuel uplift from a port. This RAS trial took place between *Aotearoa* and the MV *Allied Pacific*, and the United States Navy Ship *Pecos*' embarked helicopter.

During the shore phase of RIMPAC 24, command teams will also participate in planning activities for the sea phase based on their assigned respective Task Groups and missions. [Details of current exercise activity withheld under section 6(a) of the OIA].

Ship's companies will also be involved in social, cultural and sporting interaction with sailors, soldiers, marines and aviators from other nations through a multi-national sports day, and other Defence engagement activities and media engagement opportunities. [Details provided in confidence by our partners withheld in accordance