

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE
COVER SHEET



To accompany documents to the
Minister of Defence

Title:	ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ATTENDING TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES IN ISRAEL		
NZDF File No.	NZDF Tracking # <i>424/15</i> <i>(For OCDF Use Only)</i>	Minister's Tracking#: <i>(For Minister's office)</i>	
Importance of the Issue:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine
Urgency for Attention/Sign-Off:	NOT URGENT	Request Ministerial response by: N/A	
Contacts:	s9(2)(a)		

Sheet not to exceed one page. Please complete shaded areas.

Purpose:	To advise you that Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel will be attending technical training courses in Israel as part of the Introduction into Service of the new Seasprite naval helicopter.
Recommendations:	I recommend that you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note that 14 Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel will be attending two avionics system courses with Elbit Systems in Israel, commencing on 11 October 2015 for a duration of two weeks and four weeks respectively; b. Note that Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel have previously undertaken training in Israel; c. Note that New Zealand does not have a Status of Forces Agreement with Israel; and d. Note that the threat level in Israel is 'low' and that the health threat level is 'medium'.
MOD/NZDF Consultation	Consultation with MOD resulted in referral to MFAT for the New Zealand policy setting advice on the bilateral relationship with Israel.
Minister's comments:	
Minister's Action:	Signed / Noted / Agreed / Approved / Declined / Discussion required Referred to:
Signature:	Date:

s9(2)(a)

for T.J. KEATING
Lieutenant General
Chief of Defence Force

Date *30/9/15*

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Reference: AIR 1540/1

30 September 2015

Minister of Defence

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ATTENDING TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES IN ISRAEL

1. The Royal New Zealand Air Force is introducing into service the new Seasprite naval helicopter. As part of this process Air Force personnel will complete training in the maintenance and support of the systems on the new helicopter. The training is required to sustain the naval helicopter capability and Seasprite operations.
2. Earlier this year a contract for support was signed with Elbit Systems, an Israeli electronics manufacturing company, which includes the provision of initial training for the Elbit electronic warfare systems fitted to the new Seasprite helicopter. 14 Air Force personnel will undertake training that is scheduled to be conducted with Elbit Systems at their facility in Tel Aviv, Israel during October 2015.
3. Personnel will attend two separate training courses. The courses are for Operational Level Maintenance of the electronic warfare system and an electronic library Support Facility operators' course. Both courses commence on 11 October 2015 and are for a duration of two weeks and four weeks respectively.
4. This training is not the first undertaken by Air Force personnel in Israel. Personnel have previously received training in Israel for the radar systems fitted during the upgrade programme of the Orion aircraft.
5. New Zealand does not have a Status of Forces Agreement or Arrangement with Israel. Accordingly, the Air Force personnel will be subject to Israeli law during their stay in Israel. The threat level in Israel is 'low' and the health threat level in Israel is 'medium'.

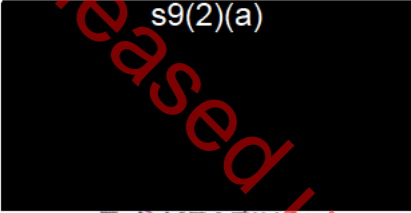
s6(a)

Recommendations

7. I recommend that you:
 - a. **Note** that 14 Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel will be attending two avionics system courses with Elbit Systems in Israel, commencing on 11 October 2015 for a duration of two weeks and four weeks respectively;

- b. **Note** that Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel have previously undertaken training in Israel;
- c. **Note** that New Zealand does not have a Status of Forces Agreement with Israel; and
- d. **Note** that the threat level in Israel is 'low' and that the health threat level is 'medium'.

s9(2)(a)



for T.J. KEATING
Lieutenant General
Chief of Defence Force

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