



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

OIA-2024-5039

19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Chris

[fyi-request-26901-ae76c320@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26901-ae76c320@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Chris

I refer to your email of 23 May 2024 requesting information on foreign medals awarded to the former Chief of Defence Force (CDF) under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The response to your request is as follows:

*1. Citations for these medals*

The citations of the Order of Australia and the United States of America (USA) Legion of Merit presented to Air Marshal (rtd) Kevin Short are at Enclosure 1.

*2. Who approved him being awarded foreign medals?*

The Prime Minister, supported by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), provides advice to the Governor-General to approve foreign awards. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is not a part of the approval process.

*3. Has the Governor General approved him to wear those medals with his uniform? If not, has a request been made? Can I please see the paperwork that was done for this?*

As per the email of 14 June 2024, this part of your request has been transferred to DPMC in accordance with the OIA.

*4. What budget did the NZDF use for ceremonies presenting the medals?*

The awards were presented by foreign militaries. There is no budget or cost for this to the NZDF.

*4. Do soldiers have to accept medals awarded to them?*

Serving military personnel are required to accept official New Zealand awards. Foreign awards that have been approved to wear by the New Zealand government must be accepted by the serving personnel in question.

*6. Has the CDF had the medals mounted?*

Yes.

*7. How long from the time that the medals were first offered to the time they were accepted by the CDF?*

The former CDF was informed of the intention to offer the award in February 2024, through a verbal conversation. Approval from DPMC to accept the award was provided to the American embassy on 5 April 2024. The award was presented to the former CDF on 6 April 2024.

In relation to the Order of Australia, the intention to offer the award was brought to the former CDF's attention on 14 April 2022. DPMC approved acceptance of the award in June 2022 and the award was formally presented to the former CDF in March 2023.

*8. How long from the time that the CDF asked the GG for approval to wear to the time approval was granted?*

NZDF personnel are not involved in the approval process, as per the email of 14 June 2024 this part of your request was transferred to DPMC in accordance the OIA.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosure:**

1. Citations for the Legion of Merit and the Order of Australia

March 19, 2024

OSD0002312-24



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 20, 1942

HAS AWARDED THE

## LEGION OF MERIT

Degree of Commander

TO

**AIR MARSHAL KEVIN R. SHORT**

New Zealand, Royal New Zealand Air Force

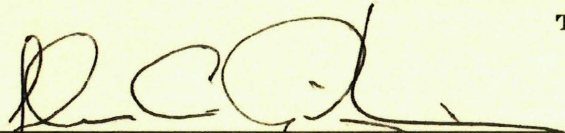
FOR

EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

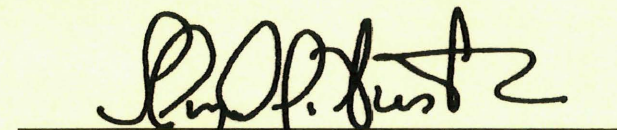
IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OUTSTANDING SERVICES

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 6TH DAY OF APRIL 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES  
INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 20, 1942, has awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to

**AIR MARSHAL KEVIN R. SHORT**  
**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE, NEW ZEALAND**

for exceptionally meritorious service as New Zealand's Chief of the Defence Force, from July 2018 to April 2024. Air Marshal Short's leadership was integral to expanding cooperation between the United States Indo-Pacific Command and New Zealand Defence Force in the face of growing multi-domain strategic challenges. Air Marshal Short's dedicated service in support of the United States-New Zealand military partnership led to a significant expansion of cooperation in operations and training, directly impacting Indo-Pacific Regional security. Through his leadership, Air Marshal Short led efforts to bolster the strength of the partnership. His efforts were instrumental in New Zealand's acquisition of P-8 Poseidon and C-130J Hercules aircraft, driving a generational upgrade of air capability and increasing interoperability. Additionally, Air Marshal Short expanded participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises across all domains including participation in OLYMPIC DEFENDER, CARTWHEEL and RIMPAC, further advancing interoperability, developing strategic planning considerations, and coordinating bilateral objectives. Furthermore, his efforts led to the participation of the New Zealand Defence Force in the frameworks built to respond to the crises in Ukraine and the Red Sea, resulting in strengthened partnership and regional security. Air Marshal Short's superior effort, outstanding leadership, and personal initiative reflect great credit upon himself, the New Zealand Defence Force, and his country.



March 19, 2024

OSD002312-24



Government House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

6 July 2022

**Honorary Appointment - Military Division - July 2022**

**The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following appointment:**

**HONORARY OFFICER (AO) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION**

**Air Marshal Kevin Ronald SHORT**

For distinguished service in fostering the military relationship between Australia and New Zealand through exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, strategic foresight and uncompromising professionalism.

**By His Excellency's command**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Singer'.

**Paul Singer MVO**

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**APPOINTED AN HONORARY OFFICER (AO)**

**IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Air Marshal Kevin Ronald SHORT**, New Zealand

For distinguished service in fostering the military relationship between Australia and New Zealand through exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, strategic foresight and uncompromising professionalism.

Air Marshal Short has actively engaged both New Zealand and Australian political and military leaders to promote and facilitate the ongoing success and progress of the Australia-New Zealand Alliance. As Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force, he has worked tirelessly to improve the bilateral relationship, align capabilities, increase cooperation and in turn, ensure a heightened ability for combined Australian and New Zealand responses to domestic, regional and global crises in the finest ANZAC tradition. Air Marshal Short has proven to be a steadfast ally, vocal supporter, and valuable friend to Australia and he has made a momentous contribution, not only to the Australia-New Zealand Alliance, but more broadly to the partnerships that exist within the Pacific defence and security community.