



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

OIA-2024-5059

12 July 2024

Valerie Morse  
[fyi-request-27297-1f0383d2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27297-1f0383d2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Valerie Morse

I refer to your email of 19 June 2024 requesting *any information or advice to the Minister regarding NZ participation in RIMPAC 2024*. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The following information was provided by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to the Minister of Defence regarding Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024. The information is provided as excerpts because other content in the documents in which this information was provided is out of scope of your request.

**1. Excerpt from briefing provided to the Minister of Defence on 7 June 2024 prior to the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee hearing on 18 June 2024:**

**RIMPAC**

***Key Messages***

- *The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has been involved in the RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) exercise since the 1970s 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. The RIMPAC exercise supports the international rules-based system.*
- *This year's exercise, running from June 26 to August 2, will be hosted by US Pacific Fleet and led by Commander US Third Fleet and involves approximately 29 nations, and includes 40 surface ships, three submarines, the land forces of 14 countries, and more than 150 aircraft. Approximately 25,000 personnel are involved.*
- *The NZDF is deploying the Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) maritime replenishment vessel HMNZS AOTEAROA, which will have an embarked Seasprite helicopter, 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. RNZN personnel will be commanding Combined Task Force 173, a task force of eight ships and embarked helicopters. This is only the second time this task force has been commanded by a country other than the US.*

- *The exercise is 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 a range of operations, such as maritime interdiction operations in the region.*
- *Questions about Israel's involvement in RIMPAC should be directed to the US military.*

## **2. Weekly report items submitted to the Minister of Defence:**

### *Defence Weekly Report (8-14 February 2024)*

#### *Operations and Training*

#### *Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)*

#### *List of 3 items*

*1. RIMPAC continues as the world's largest joint and combined maritime exercise. This exercise remains vitally important for the development of integrated, interoperable and well-prepared partners who have shared interest in enduring peace and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific Region. The exercise provides an opportunity for social and professional interactions with like-minded partners across the air, land and maritime domains.*

*2. A major event in the RIMPAC 2024 planning process is the Commander's Conference. The conference provides an opportunity for the RIMPAC 2024 Executive Steering Committee and key staff to review major aspects of the exercise such as concept of operations, operational risk management and environmental issues.*

*The conference also provides an appropriate setting to interact socially in support of establishing solid working relationships and friendships prior to the exercise.*

*3. The Commander's Conference will see over 100 delegates converge on Wellington over the period 19-23 February. The Commander's Conference will be hosted by the Commander Third Fleet, Admiral Boyle with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) represented by Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Rear Admiral Jim Gilmour.*

### *Defence Weekly Report (6-12 June 2024)*

*Operation CRUCIBLE: Further to the submission of 29 April, Operation Crucible 2024 will commence this month with participation in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise, spanning all maritime based warfare disciplines. It is set in a coalition environment that includes live firing and specialist serials, such as amphibious training and integration with advanced littoral (ship to shore) capabilities.*

*Exercise RIMPAC 24 includes a series of combined live Field Training Exercises, conducted in the operating areas of the Hawaiian Islands. The exercise will be hosted by the United States Navy during the period 27 June-1 August. (U)*

*2. The objective of New Zealand participation in RIMPAC 24 is to enhance New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) interoperability through the deployment of NZDF force elements and the augmentation of key headquarters staff positions to improve overall individual and collective readiness. The NZDF contribution to RIMPAC 24 will include HMNZS*

*Aotearoa, an operational dive team from HMNZS Matataua, a national command and support element, a range of staff augmentees and a P-8A Poseidon aircraft detachment. Aotearoa will deploy on 13 June. (U)*

**3. Operational update on HMNZS Aotearoa dated 29 April 2024, provided to the Minister of Defence on 1 May 2024:**

*3. Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. It is held biennially and hosted and administered by the United States Navy's Third Fleet. There are 30 nations planned to participate in RIM PAC 2024 including our close partners Australia, Canada, the US, the UK and Tonga.*

In addition, please find enclosed copies of email correspondence between the NZDF and the Office of the Minister of Defence. Where indicated, personal information is withheld to protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA; and information concerning the provision of advice is withheld to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of 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. Email correspondence between NZDF and Office of the Minister of Defence

## 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.

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**CONTACT DEFENCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS:**

021 487 980 or [media@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:media@nzdf.mil.nz)

**Ministerial Services**

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**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](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



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**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](http://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.

|

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.



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**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](http://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

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From: [johnminto@orcon.net.nz](mailto:johnminto@orcon.net.nz) <[johnminto@orcon.net.nz](mailto:johnminto@orcon.net.nz)>

Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2024 4:28 pm

To: [johnminto@orcon.net.nz](mailto:johnminto@orcon.net.nz) <[johnminto@orcon.net.nz](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:Chair@psna.nz)

## Ministerial Services

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**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.*

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

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**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](mailto:Media@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** RIMPAC 2024

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to [spam@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:spam@nzdf.mil.nz) and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

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



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**Ministerial Services**

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**From:** s. 9(2)(g)(i)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 June 2024 9:22 a.m.  
**To:** 'Sharon Lundy'; s. 9(2)(a)  
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)  
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)  
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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