

HON RON MARK, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Maritime Security Commitments in the Middle East

September 2020

This publication provides documents on Cabinet's 5 May decision to approve NZDF personnel to contribute to Middle East maritime security efforts from July 2020 to 30 June 2022

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the 5 May Cabinet minute: *Maritime Security Commitments in the Middle East* [ERS-20-MIN-0007]
- the redacted Cabinet paper: *Maritime Security Commitments in the Middle East* [ERS-20-MIN-0007]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at:

www.defence.govt.nz/publications.

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document.

Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by the Government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by an international organisation [section 6(b)(ii)].



Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Maritime Security Commitments in the Middle East

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 5 May 2020, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee:

- 1 **noted** that New Zealand's long-standing contributions to maritime security efforts in the Middle East contribute to the government's priorities for a reputation the government can be proud of, and supports New Zealand's economic resilience;
- 2 **noted** that the proposed programme of continuing New Zealand Defence Force support to Middle East maritime security efforts, as outlined in the paper under ERS-20-SUB-0007, is aligned with New Zealand's national security objectives;
- 3 **approved** the proposed programme of commitments to 30 June 2022, including:
 - 3.1 an extension of the two personnel in Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters until 30 June 2022;
 - 3.2 [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)
 - 3.3 the deployment of personnel in response to invitations for a Chief Air Coordination Element to Combined Maritime Forces for up to six months in 2020 [REDACTED] s6(b)(ii)
 - 3.4 the deployment of an International Liaison Officer to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations for up to six months in 2020, [REDACTED] s6(b)(ii)
- 4 **authorised** the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence to provide approval of up to five similar roles within the Combined Maritime Forces, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) provided those roles are broadly comparable and can be met within baseline funding;
- 5 **agreed** that, should this programme of contributions be approved, officials will advise close partners of these deployments through standard defence and diplomatic channels, [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)
- 6 **agreed** that the New Zealand Defence Force may temporarily exceed the Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers for this deployment for the purposes of command reconnaissance, rotation, and extraction of forces from theatre;

- 7 **noted** that the Chief of Defence Force will inform the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in advance whenever Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers are exceeded;
- 8 **noted** that the unmitigated overall threat to New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to the Combined Maritime Forces [REDACTED] s6(a) (Bahrain) is [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] and to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (United Arab Emirates) is [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED];
- 9 **noted** that the total estimated cost of this deployment from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022 is assessed as \$3.050 million;
- 10 **noted** that the estimated cost of \$3.050 million is able to be met within the existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Ron Mark

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ERS

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Office of the Minister of Defence
Chair, External Relations and Security Committee

MARITIME SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Proposal

1. To seek agreement for a programme of personnel contributions to Middle East maritime security efforts from July 2020 to 30 June 2022. This programme has been prioritised to ensure continuity of support to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Headquarters – the mandate for which expires on 30 June 2020 [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED], and to deploy into specific roles within CMF and United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations.

Relation to government priorities

2. New Zealand's longstanding support to international efforts to uphold the rules-based order in the Middle East maritime domain directly contributes to the Government's priority to *create an international reputation we can be proud of*. New Zealand is economically reliant on the maintenance of free and secure sea-trading lanes, and support to international efforts to safeguard these routes also indirectly contributes to the Government's priority of *creating an economy that is growing and working for all of us*.

Executive Summary

3. It is recommended that Cabinet approve a programme of personnel contributions to maritime security efforts in the Middle East. These contributions would provide continuity of support to mature coalitions with broad-based international backing and which have clear objectives, and operate in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions. These proposed contributions include:
 - 3.1. The retention of two positions within the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) headquarters in Bahrain from July 2020 to 30 June 2022;
 - 3.2. [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) [REDACTED]
 - 3.3. the deployment of personnel in response to invitations for a Chief Air Coordination Element (Chief ACE) to CMF for up to six months in 2020 [REDACTED] s6(b)(ii) [REDACTED] and
 - 3.4. the deployment of personnel in response to invitations for an International Liaison Officer to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) for up to six months in 2020, [REDACTED] s6(b)(ii) [REDACTED]
4. Authorisation is also sought to enable Ministers with Powers to Act (the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence) to approve up to five similar roles within CMF, the UKMTO, [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) [REDACTED] provided these roles could be met within baseline funding.

5. New Zealand's contribution to improving the maritime security environment acknowledges the disproportionate effect that destabilising events in the Middle East have on international security and the world economy. The flow-on effects of instability in the region – such as transnational crime, piracy, and smuggling - have a global impact, including for New Zealand.
6. Our previous commitments, including personnel and platforms, have had a tangible effect on regional and global maritime stability and have contributed to our broader understanding of security dynamics in the region. [REDACTED] s6(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The proposed programme of deployments sends a clear signal that New Zealand remains supportive of – and engaged in – multinational efforts to safeguard freedom of navigation and ensure that vital sea-trading lanes remain open, secure, and free from transnational crime. As a package, these commitments reinforce New Zealand's ongoing preparedness to preserve and strengthen the international rules-based order.

7. This proposed programme of contributions can be undertaken without impacting the ability of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to meet standing obligations within the Pacific, or emergency responses.
8. The overall threat level for the CMF [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) (Bahrain) is assessed as [REDACTED] s6(a) and the UKMTO (United Arab Emirates) is assessed as [REDACTED] s6(a)
9. Costs associated with this proposed programme would be met within existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests.
10. COVID-19 may have an impact on the proposed timing of any approved deployments. Officials continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on missions in which NZDF personnel are deployed. Ministers with powers to act will be kept notified of any significant developments or changes to scheduling.

BACKGROUND

The problem definition - challenges in the Middle East maritime domain and the need for multinational maritime security operations

11. The Middle East maritime security environment [see map in Annex A] contains some of the largest chokepoints and busiest maritime trade routes. The shipping routes between the Makran Coast¹ and the east coast of Africa are widely used by narcotic, arms and people trafficking - activities which are used to fund terrorist networks and undermine regional stability, human security and the sovereignty of states. Traffickers are also known to smuggle narcotics through the Indian Ocean, where they are bound for destinations in Asia and Oceania.
12. Piracy off the Horn of Africa was a significant transnational threat until around 2011, undermining commercial shipping confidence, and disrupting the flow of humanitarian aid. Due to the sustained efforts of multilateral coalitions the threat has now been almost eradicated in that area. However, coalition presence remains necessary to maintain this positive trajectory and ensure that piracy does not re-emerge.

¹ The Makran Coast refers to the seaward (south western) borders of Pakistan & India.

13. Dynamic shifts within the Middle East maritime domain have been punctuated by high-profile events in mid-2019, including attacks on United States (US) and Saudi tankers (both incidents attributed to Iran by the US), reciprocal tanker seizures between Iran and the UK in July, and in September, an attack on critical Saudi infrastructure. These tensions disrupted maritime trade and presented an acute threat to commercial shipping lanes.

International response to Middle East maritime security challenges

14. For decades, multinational coalitions including the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) [REDACTED] have progressed longstanding measures to stem the flow of transnational crime in the region and safeguard commercial shipping through high-risk chokepoints, in support of the security of the congested sea-trading lanes.

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

15. CMF is an established multi-naval partnership which is based out of the United States (US) Naval Central Command (NAVCENT) in Bahrain and coordinates stability activities across a maritime area of 3.2 million square miles [see map in Annex A]. A total of 33 partner nations contribute ships, aircraft and personnel to CMF Headquarters roles and a trio of subsidiary Combined Task Forces (CTF) which are commanded on a rotational basis by contributing nations and have distinct but complementary objectives:

- 15.1. CTF150 is focused on reducing maritime terrorism by countering the illegal transfer of people, narcotics, weaponry and/or charcoal;
- 15.2. CTF151 is focused on counter piracy efforts off the Horn of Africa; and
- 15.3. CTF152 undertakes maritime security engagement activities in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, and is primarily resourced by Gulf State contributors.

16. New Zealand has a significant history of contributing personnel and major platforms to the CMF [See Annex B].

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO)

17. The UKMTO was established in 2001 and is based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It functions as a conduit between commercial shipping vessels and military maritime forces, primarily providing counter-piracy advice to transiting vessels through the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman and Red Sea areas. The UKMTO is predicated on a voluntary reporting scheme, in which any shipping company – regardless of ownership or flag registry – is invited to improve regional awareness through reporting of hazards to the UKMTO.

[REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) [REDACTED]

18. [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19. s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

20. s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

21. s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

22. s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

The case for continuing New Zealand Middle East maritime security deployments

23. The Middle East region is strategically important to New Zealand given the disproportionate impact that events in the region have on international security, the global economy, and ultimately New Zealand's own economic and security interests. The Persian Gulf region is itself a significant trade destination for New Zealand, containing some of our key economic partners – as a Customs Union the Gulf countries are New Zealand's sixth largest trading partner. Beyond this, a large proportion of New Zealand's exports transit through trade routes in the region. On a daily basis over 79,000 barrels of oil (around three-quarters of New Zealand's total oil imports) are transported via sea from Gulf States to our shores. The maintenance of free and secure sea-trading lanes in this part of the world is therefore essential to New Zealand's economic prosperity.

24. In light of the above, New Zealand has a strong interest in contributing to maritime security efforts in the region, in particular to mature coalitions operating there. Doing so directly contributes to New Zealand's security and economic interests, but also serves to strengthen New Zealand's reputation as a credible contributor to global security and stability. This is further reinforced at a time in which COVID-19 has significantly diminished commercial airfreight opportunities and we are reliant on the

ability of maritime trade to operate effectively, a breakdown in regional security and reduction of safety in sea lanes could have significant economic impact.

25. New Zealand's previous commitments – including personnel and platforms - have had a tangible effect on the stability of the maritime domain. One of the more recent examples included the contribution of an NZDF-supplemented Australian Command Team of CTF150 which intercepted smugglers carrying over 11 tonnes of methamphetamine and hashish. Such contributions are a visible demonstration of New Zealand's commitment to upholding the international rules based order.

26. [REDACTED] s6(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] such contributions also help sustain important relationships and information exchange with traditional security partners operating in these coalitions – all of which strengthens New Zealand's understanding of the complex dynamics in the region.

27. The proposed programme of contributions would contribute to New Zealand's broader national security interests by:

- 27.1. Contributing to international peace and security and the international rules based order;
- 27.2. Supporting efforts to safeguard open lines of communication, freedom of commerce and navigation in an area of trade and economic importance to New Zealand;
- 27.3. Contributing to New Zealand's international relationships;
- 27.4. Supporting interoperability with security partners; and
- 27.5. Strengthening New Zealand Defence Force skills in an operational environment.

PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS

28. In 2017 the previous Government approved a programme of personnel and platform commitments to support maritime security efforts in the Middle East for the period from 2018 to 2020 [CAB-17-MIN-0346 refers]. At the same time, for planning purposes, it also provided in-principle approval for an additional set of personnel and platform commitments for the period 2020 to 2023 [CAB-17-MIN-0346 refers] which are set out in Annex C.

29. [REDACTED] s6(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

30. Additionally, some personnel components now no longer fit neatly within the mandate scope of the 2017 paper, or have been withdrawn. For example, the [REDACTED] s6(a) in the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) in Qatar (see Item 6.5 and item 6.8, Annex C), were included as part of Cabinet's decision of New Zealand's contribution to the D-ISIS campaign [CAB-20-MIN-0097 refers] due to greater synergies with that mandate. [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

PROPOSED COMMITMENTS

31. In light of the above, the revised proposed programme will instead focus on a set of personnel commitments for the period 2020 to 2022. This package provides flexibility and maintains a credible New Zealand contribution to maritime security in the Middle East. It includes:

31.1. the retention of two existing staff officer positions in CMF;

31.2. s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

31.3. the deployment of a Chief Air Coordination Element (Chief ACE) to CMF for up to six months in 2020 s6(a) and

31.4. the deployment of an International Liaison Officer (ILO) to the UKMTO for up to six months in 2020, s6(a)

32. Authorisation is also sought to enable Ministers with Powers to Act (the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence) to approve further requests for up to five similar roles within CMF, UKMTO, s6(a), s6(b)(ii), provided these could be met within baseline funding.

Retain existing two CMF Headquarter staff roles

33. New Zealand has contributed personnel and major Air and Naval platforms to the CMF since 2002 [see contributions since 2010 listed in Annex B]. The NZDF has held operational and planning headquarter staff roles in CMF since 2013 and currently maintains two positions within the headquarters [See Annex D for full position descriptions for both of these roles]:

33.1. **Chief Plans Officer.** responsible for the management and coordination of the CMF planning processes, including liaising with contributing nations, developing operational plans, and deconflicting activities with other operators in the region s6(a)

33.2. **Battle Watch Keeper:** primarily monitors activities across the CMF area of operations and ensures that the flow of information from merchant or fishing vessels, and CMF assets (including maritime surveillance aircraft or naval vessels) is adequately conveyed to the Combined Task Force for action, and assists with the coordination of responses.

34. These positions are staffed by NZDF Air Force and Navy officers, and allow for personnel to consolidate expertise and improve interoperability with a wide array of partners in a complex strategic environment.

35. The Chief Plans Officer is a senior role which develops individuals' skills in medium to long term planning, and in leading a diverse group of staff in an organisation where dynamic national considerations are constantly at play. By comparison, the Battle Watch Keeper is a junior officer role which allows the holder to gain experience in

managing maritime surface assets in real-time and the effective operation of a maritime Watch Centre in a demanding environment.

- 36. These roles offer a continuity of our longstanding support to the CMF headquarters, and provide the ability to remain abreast of developments within the Coalition, alongside other periodic deployment opportunities (such as the Command Team and Chief ACE positions).
- 37. The mandate of the current Headquarter roles currently held by NZDF officers is due to expire 30 June 2020. In accordance with usual practice, should the Government choose not to renew the mandates of these roles, then New Zealand would be expected to provide six months' notice.

[Redacted text block containing paragraphs 38, 39, and 40, with multiple lines of greyed-out content and s6(a), s6(b)(ii) annotations.]

Deployment of a Chief Air Coordination Element into CMF

41. After filling the Chief Air Coordination Element (Chief ACE) into CMF in 2017, New Zealand has once again been offered the role for a six month period from July 2020 onwards, [Redacted] s6(a) This position is responsible for coordinating CMF air operations in the region to ensure the safety of assets in a congested airspace, managing platform scheduling, and ensuring the mission aircraft are used effectively in conjunction with naval assets.

42. Personnel who undertake the Chief ACE role gain experience in medium term planning of military air surveillance operations in a congested environment of maritime assets. This experience is unlike that which NZDF aviators are exposed to in the Pacific or through multilateral exercises.

Deployment of an International Liaison Officer into the UKMTO

43. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 (for periods of up to six months at a time) New Zealand filled the position of International Liaison Officer (ILO) in the UKMTO detachment in Dubai.

[Redacted text block with s6(a), s6(b)(ii) annotation.]

New Zealand has been offered the opportunity to take up this role again in 2020 [redacted] s6(a)
The ILO position is responsible for briefing merchant vessels on the regional security environment and specific hazards.

44. The UKMTO ILO is the only operational deployment for NZDF Maritime Trade Operations personnel at this time, and therefore provides a unique professional development opportunity. The ILO operates in a diverse and busy environment of commercial maritime shipping, enhancing their skills with a broader range of nations and focusing on maritime operations best practice. Participation in the UKMTO also helps New Zealand to translate situational awareness of the maritime security environment into meaningful advice for our regional merchant shipping sector, thereby contributing to the safety and security of international maritime trade.

45. While primarily staffed by Royal Navy personnel, the UKMTO also involves international contributions from other nations, including Australia, Canada, and Brazil and therefore provides significant opportunities to exercise interoperability with partners. [redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Authorisation of Ministers with Powers to Act

46. [redacted] s6(a)

47. Authorisation is also therefore sought to enable Ministers with Powers to Act (the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence) to approve up to five similar roles within CMF, the UKMTO, [redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) provided these could be met within baseline funding.

Benefits of the proposed contributions

48. The individual components of the proposed programme for New Zealand's contributions to Middle East maritime security over the coming 24 months are relatively modest, particularly given the absence of proposed platform deployments. In their totality, however, they represent a credible contribution to multinational efforts in the region. They send a positive signal of New Zealand's ongoing preparedness to safeguard freedom of navigation and commerce – a message with global importance – and demonstrate our commitment to protect the international rules-based order in a tangible way.

49. The individual components of the programme will be valued by our traditional security partners and those in the region – they will help strengthen existing military relationships and enhance interoperability. [redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

[redacted] As a package, the contributions have the additional value of demonstrating New Zealand's broad support for multinational efforts in the region

[redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

Implications should Cabinet not approve the contributions

50. Should Cabinet elect not to proceed with contributions to maritime security efforts in the Middle East this would result in a diminished New Zealand footprint in the Persian Gulf region with a consequent impact on both our situational awareness of regional security dynamics and our ability to engage with partners on related issues of mutual concern. [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

51. New Zealand's withdrawal would negatively impact opportunities for the NZDF's to build interoperability with partners and gain experience in supporting maritime security efforts in a complex and congested environment; experience which cannot be easily replicated elsewhere.

Threat level

52. New Zealand Defence Intelligence assesses the unmitigated overall threat to NZDF personnel deployed to CMF [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(ii) (Bahrain) as [REDACTED] s6(a), and to the UKMTO (United Arab Emirates) as [REDACTED] s6(a)

The impact of COVID-19 on Middle East maritime security activities

53. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact for all nations globally, and those in the Middle East region have not been immune to its effects. Many of the nations in the Persian Gulf have implemented restrictions on the movements of people across their borders, including Bahrain and the UAE.

54. Whilst the operations of CMF Headquarters and the UKMTO continue, in an effort to maintain security and stability in the maritime space, military personnel in those organisations are now working under different routines from those a few months ago. In particular, the scheduled rotation of personnel into and out of mission areas has been significantly curtailed, in an effort to minimise the spread of the virus, and NZDF has been required to review upcoming movements of personnel accordingly.

55. Officials continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on missions in which NZDF personnel are deployed, including those covered in this submission, and officials will advise Ministers of any significant developments relating to COVID-19.

Legal considerations

56. [REDACTED] s9(2)(h)

57. [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Released by the Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs

Rotations

58. In 2012, Cabinet agreed to the inclusion in all NZDF deployment papers of a provision that allows NZDF to temporarily exceed Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers for the purposes of command reconnaissance, rotation, and extraction of forces in and out of theatre [CAB Min (12) 10/2 refers]. In July 2018, Cabinet noted the 2012 decision and agreed that this convention should continue [CAB 18-MIN-0346 refers]. The Chief of Defence Force would inform the Minister of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Prime Minister in advance whenever a rotation, extraction, or command reconnaissance is planned above the mandated numbers for specific contributions.

Ability to service New Zealand's standing commitments or deploy in an emergency

59. The proposed deployment of personnel will not impact New Zealand's standing commitments or the ability to deploy in an emergency.

Financial Implications

60. The estimated cost of the deployment is \$3.050M. The expenditure is to be funded from Crown Revenue is \$3.050M and the estimated cost is able to be met from the existing funding for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA;

61. The following table sets out the estimate expenditure for the commitments through to 30 June 2022.

Vote Defence Force	NZ \$million					Total
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Estimated cost of proposed deployment	-	0.524	2.526	-	-	3.050
Total funded from existing appropriation: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA	-	0.524	2.526	-	-	3.050
Additional Funding Required	-	-	-	-	-	-

Consultation

62. This paper has been prepared by the Ministry of Defence, the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (NAB, NSG, and PAG), GCSB, and the Treasury were consulted.

Communications

63. Should Cabinet approve the proposed programme of contributions to maritime security in the Middle East, it is recommended that close partners be advised through standard defence and diplomatic channels, including to facilitate planning, and the Ministry of Defence and NZDF websites will be updated to reflect these deployments. ■

Proactive Release

64. A redacted version of this paper would be proactively released if the proposed programme is agreed to by Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

65. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence recommend that the Committee:

1. **Note** that New Zealand's long-standing contributions to maritime security efforts in the Middle East contribute to the Government's priorities for a reputation we can be proud of, and supports our economic resilience;
2. **Note** that a proposed programme of continuing support to Middle East maritime security efforts are aligned with New Zealand's national security objectives.
3. **Approve** the proposed programme of commitments to 30 June 2022, including:
 - a) an extension of the two personnel in Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters until 30 June 2022;
 - b) s6(a), s6(b)(ii)
 - c) the deployment of personnel in response to invitations for a Chief Air Coordination Element to Combined Maritime Forces for up to six months in 2020 s6(a) and
 - d) the deployment of an International Liaison Officer to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations for up to six months in 2020, s6(a)
4. **Authorise** Ministers with Powers to Act (the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence) to provide approval of up to five similar roles within Combined Maritime Forces, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations s6(a), s6(b)(ii) provided those roles can be met within baseline funding;
5. **Agree** that, should this programme of contributions be approved, officials will advise close partners of these deployments through standard defence and diplomatic channels, s6(a), s6(b)(ii)
6. **Agree** that the New Zealand Defence Force may temporarily exceed the Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers for this deployment for the purposes of command reconnaissance, rotation, and extraction of forces from theatre;
7. **Note** that the Chief of Defence Force will inform the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in advance whenever Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers are exceeded for the reasons set out in paragraph 57 of the paper;

8. **Note** that the unmitigated overall threat to New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Combined Maritime Forces s6(a), s6(b)(ii) (Bahrain) is s6(a) and to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (United Arab Emirates) is s6(a)
9. **Note** that the total estimated cost of this deployment from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022 is assessed as \$3.050M;
10. **Note** that the estimated cost of \$3.050M is able to be met within the existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA.

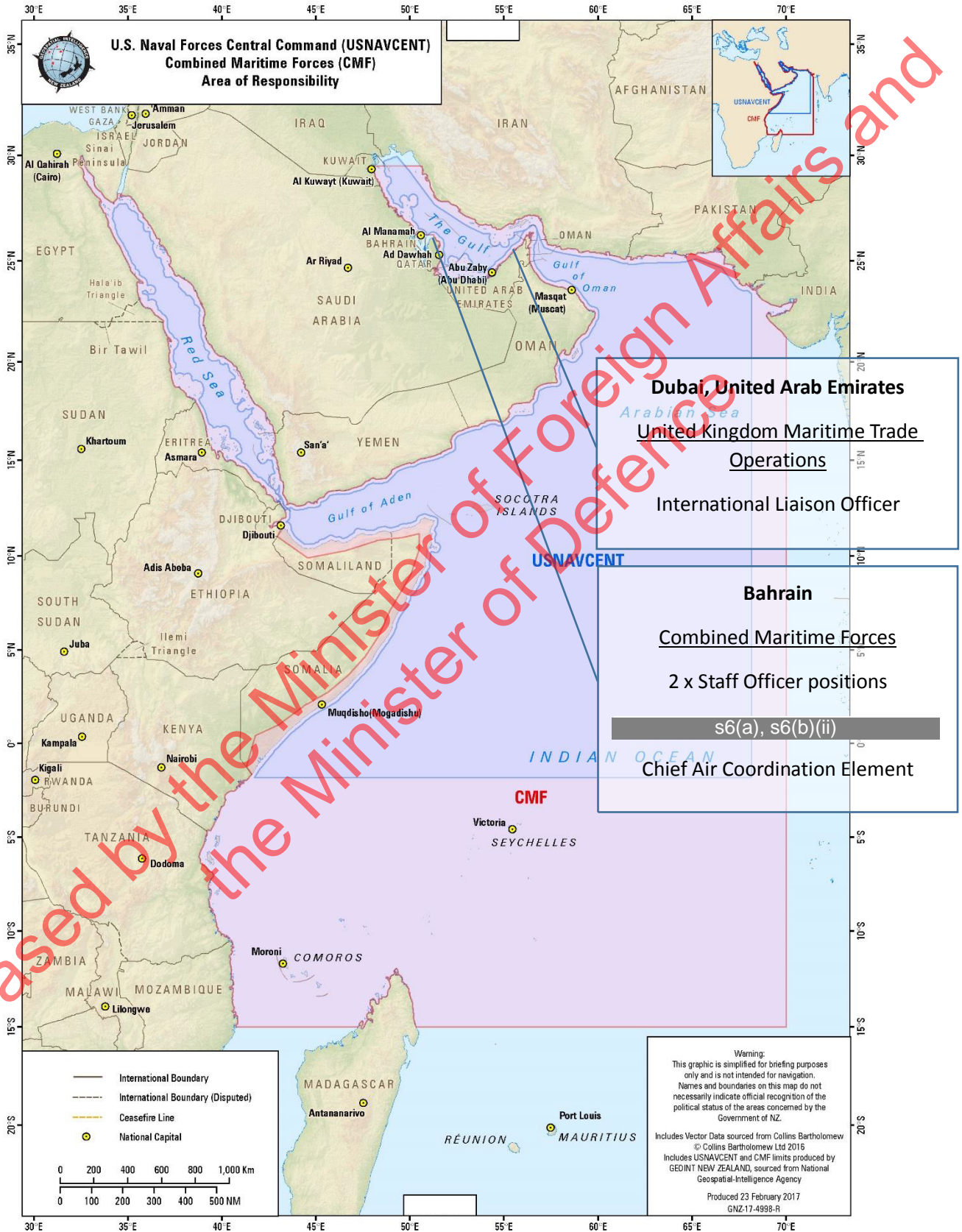
Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Hon Ron Mark
MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and
the Minister of Defence

Annex A: Map



Released by the Minister of Defence

Annex B: History of New Zealand contributions to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) [REDACTED] since 2010

The New Zealand Defence Force has previously contributed or currently contributes to Combined Maritime Forces objectives as follows:

Regular/Ongoing Contributions (2010 – present)

- Naval personnel seconded to Australian, United States, United Kingdom, or Singaporean military vessels (2010 – present).
- Naval and Airforce staff officers to the Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters (2013 – present) in planning and operations coordination roles.

Year	Contribution to	Contribution
2019	CMF	Naval staff officers to Australian-led command team CTF150
2018	CMF	Naval staff officer to Singapore-led Command Team CTF151
	CMF	Naval staff officer to United Kingdom-led Command Team CTF150
	CMF	Naval staff officer to Japanese-led Command Team CTF151
	UKMTO	International Liaison Officer to UKMTO
2017	[REDACTED] s6(a)	A P-3K2 Orion aircraft to the Combined Maritime Forces, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, [REDACTED] s6(a) and the United States Navy Central Command
	CMF	
	NATO	
	USNAVCENT	
	CMF	
	CMF	An Airforce staff officer to CMF Headquarters in the role of Chief Air Coordination Element.
	UKMTO	International Liaison Officer to UKMTO
2016	UKMTO	International Liaison Officer to UKMTO
2015	CMF	Naval staff officers to Japanese-led Command Team CTF151
	CMF	A naval frigate to the Combined Maritime Forces, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation [REDACTED] s6(a)
	NATO	
	[REDACTED] s6(a)	
2014	CMF	New Zealand Command Team of CTF151

	CMF NATO s6(a) USNAVCENT	A P-3K2 Orion aircraft to the Combined Maritime Forces, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, s6(a) and the United States Navy Central Command (2014/2015)
2013	CMF	Naval staff officers to Danish-led Command Team CTF151 (2013/2014)
	CMF	A naval frigate to the Combined Maritime Forces, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation s6(a) (2013/2014)
2012	CMF	Naval staff officer to Singapore-led Command Team CTF151
2011	CMF	New Zealand Command Team of CTF151
	CMF	Naval staff officers to Australia-led Command Team CTF150 (2011/2012)
	CMF	Naval staff officer to Singapore-led Command Team CTF151
2010	CMF	Naval staff officer to Singapore-led Command Team CTF151

Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and
the Minister of Defence

Annex C: Decisions from the 2017 External Relations and Defence Committee - ERD-17-MIN-0020

In 2017 the previous Government approved the below programme of personnel and platform commitments to support maritime security efforts in the Middle East for the period from 2018 to 2020 2020, and provided in-principle approval for a programme of personnel and platform commitments for the period from July 2020 to 2023, as provided below [CAB-17-MIN-0346 refers].

ERD Ref	Time	Asset	Proposal
5.3	2019/2020	Personnel	<p>A Task Force command team in Bahrain in 2019 or 2020</p> <p>Withdrawn; not required in this term.</p> <p>s6(a), s6(b)(ii)</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
5.4	2020	Personnel	<p>New Zealand Defence Force Staff Officers (5) in Bahrain and Qatar to June 2020</p> <p>The two positions for NZDF Staff Officers in CMF Headquarters (Bahrain) remain in place until the mandate expires on 30 June 2020.</p> <p>s6(a)</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence

ERD Ref	Time	Asset	Proposal
6.5	s6(a)	Personnel	<p>New Zealand Defence Force Staff Officers (5) in Bahrain and Qatar s6(a)</p> <p>The two positions for NZDF Staff Officers in CMF Headquarters (Bahrain) are proposed under this mandate.</p> <p>s6(a)</p> <p>s6(a)</p> <p>s6(a)</p> <p>s6(a)</p>
s6(a)			
6.9	2020 s6(a)	Personnel	<p>A Chief Air Coordination Element – Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain for 6-month periods in 2020 s6(a).</p> <p>Included in this mandate consideration</p>

Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence

Annex D: Position Descriptions

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) - Chief Plans (N5)

Rank: Wing Commander/Commander

Duties

- Manage CMF HQ and Combined Task Force (CTF) plans functions within the 60 day to three year period.
- Supervise the activities of the CMF Plans Department CTF planners.
- Liaise with CMF HQ and CTF staff elements.
- Liaise with EUNAVFOR, NATO and independent nation Liaison Officers.
- Plan and lead the CMF Force Generation Process.
- Lead CMF input to the development and review of operational documents, campaign plans and processes.
- Deliver briefings and presentations as required.
- Other tasks as directed by Director Plans.

Combined Maritime Forces – Battle Watch Keeper

Rank: Lieutenant (Navy)

Duties

- Monitor the tactical and strategic situation, and geopolitical factors, which may affect coalition operations in the CMF Area of Operations (AO).
- Take action to ensure operations are conducted in accordance with references and the orders of Commander CMF (CCMF).
- Keep informed of current operation plans and orders, intentions of CCMF and designated Task Force/Task Group Commanders, and ongoing CMF operations.
- Monitor tactical actions and operations in progress, and issue orders to assigned forces to properly execute both scheduled and contingency operations.
- Ensure appropriate forces are made available to on-scene Commanders engaged with a hostile force; a Search & Rescue evolution, action related to a contact of interest, or other operational event.
- Be aware of the national status of assigned Coalition forces that limit their ability to carry out their missions, or impacts current or future tasking.
- Be aware of the national Rules of Engagement of assigned Coalition forces that will limit their ability to carry out their mission and impact tasking and operations.
- Ensure all required watch log entries are made and logs are signed at the end of each watch.
- Make required reports to CMF Executive staff and other officers as directed by standing orders, supplemental orders and any other additional guidance.
- Ensure CMF Director Operations and CMF Current Operations Officer and appropriate officers remain informed of changes in the tactical situation, operations schedule, weather within the AO and other circumstances which may require a revision in scheduling of forces.
- Be familiar with Operational Tasking Orders, Fragmentary Orders, Daily Intentions and similar messages that relate to CMF operations or Units.

Combined Maritime Forces - Chief Air Coordination Element (Chief ACE)

Rank: Wing Commander/Commander

Duties

- Coordinate and de-conflict user Airspace requirements in order to publicise the Monthly Air Program (MAP).
- Facilitate effective information flow between all external stakeholders ensuring mutual awareness of Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) and ships organic aviation to ensure the most efficient use of assets, advising Command where appropriate.
- Act as the CMF point of contact for all Air related issues.
- Generate the accurate and timely production of the MAP based on inputs from all aircraft providers and publish updates as required.
- Prepare and brief the MAP at the CMF briefs.
- [REDACTED] s6(a)
- Liaise as CMF staff with EU, United Kingdom Maritime Component Command, CENTCOM and Africa Command Liaison Officers; Task Force (TF) 465, 150, 151, 152 and 57 Air Operations staff and all members of the ACE as required.
- Liaise with CMF Senior National Representatives in Bahrain.
- Chair regular coordination meetings with members of the ACE in order to synchronise and de-conflict all Air Operations and establish agreed procedures for Airspace utilisation.
- Provide Air input to Operational Planning Teams, CTF and CMF staff induction briefs, including Subject Matter Expert advice on the utilisation of MPA as required.
- [REDACTED] s6(a)
- [REDACTED]
- Maintain, collect and brief relevant data monthly in support of the ongoing CMF objectives.
- Facilitate appropriate information sharing between TF's as required in support of building the Recognised Maritime Picture.
- Chair the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) Air Working Seminar, held twice yearly during the SHADE conference, at which all Air Coordination and MPA planning issues are discussed.

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UK MTO) – International Liaison Officer

Rank: Lieutenant (Navy) to Lieutenant Commander

Duties

- Conduct maritime security briefings to merchant ships.
- Debrief vessel masters.
- Liaise with Port Company and Shipping Company personnel.
- Augment the watch keeping cycle at the Maritime Trade and Information Centre.
- Provide maritime industry advice and information, liaison with maritime industry and supplement emergency watch keeping if required.
- Undertake other tasks as required by the Officer in Charge of UKMTO.