

HON RON MARK, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Proposed Ongoing Military Contribution to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition – Release of Cabinet Material

July 2020

This publication provides documents on Cabinet's March 2020 decision to maintain an ongoing military contribution to the Global Coalition to Defeat-ISIS from July 2020 to 30 June 2022.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the 23 March 2020 Cabinet minute *Proposed Ongoing Military Contribution to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition* [CAB-20-MIN-0097] and the 10 March Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee minute *Proposed Ongoing Military Contribution to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition* [ERS-20-MIN-0002]
- the redacted Cabinet paper: *Proposed Ongoing Military Contribution to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition* [CAB-20-SUB-0097].

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. Where information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2) of the Act, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

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)]

Information is also withheld in order to:

- maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty [section 9(2)(g)(i)]



Cabinet

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.

Proposed Ongoing Military Contribution to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 23 March 2020, following reference from the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS), Cabinet:

Background

- 1 **noted** that New Zealand's current mandate in support of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS for the four roles in Coalition Headquarters and [redacted] s6(a) expires on 30 June 2020;
- 2 **noted** that the mandate for [redacted] s6(a) in the Combined Air Operations Centre, which provides support to the Coalition, also expires on 30 June 2020;
- 3 **noted** the ongoing threat posed by ISIS globally and to New Zealand;
- 4 **noted** that:
 - 4.1 the legal basis for New Zealand's military presence in Iraq rests on the invitation and consent of the Government of Iraq;
 - 4.2 [redacted] s(6)(a), s(6)(b)(i)
 - 4.3 all New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) operations in Iraq are carried out in accordance with domestic and international law, including the Law of Armed Conflict;
- 5 **noted** that:
 - 5.1 the unmitigated operational threat to NZDF personnel deployed to Iraq [redacted] s(6)(a) ;
 - 5.2 in Kuwait, the assessed threat level is [redacted] s(6)(a) ;
 - 5.3 in Qatar, the threat is assessed [redacted] s(6)(a) ;

Proposal

- 6 **agreed** to maintain a New Zealand military contribution to the Coalition by extending the mandate for the four New Zealand roles in Coalition Headquarters, [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] in the Combined Air Operations Centre until 30 June 2022;
- 7 **agreed** that the NZDF may temporarily exceed the Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers for this deployment for the purposes of command reconnaissance, rotation, and extraction of forces from theatre [CAB-18-MIN-0346];
- 8 **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 for the reasons set out in paragraph 7 above;
- 9 **noted** that due to the changing nature of the Coalition Headquarters, and ongoing review of structures, two roles in particular (G73 and CJ4) may also change as Operation Inherent Resolve evolves and that, if this occurs, the Minister of Defence will be advised;
- 10 **noted** that officials will monitor the regional security situation and the scope for any additional or alternative New Zealand contribution, and that the Minister of Defence will report back to Cabinet as appropriate;
- 11 **noted** that the total estimated cost of this deployment from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022 is assessed as \$3.622 million;
- 12 **noted** that the estimated cost of \$3.622 million is able to be met within the existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests;

Other considerations

- 13 **noted** that a Movement Operator role filled by the NZDF [REDACTED] s(6)(a) [REDACTED] will remain in place in Iraq until its current mandate expires on 30 June 2020 and will then be withdrawn from Iraq, in line with Cabinet's decision in June 2019 [CAB-19-MIN-0265];
- 14 **noted** that United States Central Command has subsumed the CJ7 Training Branch of the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve Headquarters into the CJ3 Operations Branch, establishing a new CJ37 Operations Training function;
- 15 **noted** that this restructure has seen the Deputy Director Training role held by New Zealand moved to the new CJ37 role;
- 16 **noted** that NZDF's assessment is that the CJ37 role is substantially similar to the Deputy Director Training, and that the new role is compliant with the intentions of the original mandate and remains within government settings.

Confirming related ERS decisions

17 **confirmed** the related ERS decisions contained in ERS-20-MIN-0002.2 [Non-CabNet item].

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

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



Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Ongoing Military Contribution to the Defeat-ISIS Coalition

Portfolios **Foreign Affairs / Defence**

On 10 March 2020, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee **referred** the submission under ERS-20-SUB-0002 to Cabinet on 16 March 2020 for further consideration.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon David Parker
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Ron Mark

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ERS
Ministry of Defence
New Zealand Defence Force
Government Communications Security Bureau

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Defence

Chair, External Relations and Security Committee

PROPOSAL TO MAKE AN ONGOING MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFEAT-ISIS COALITION

PROPOSAL

1. This paper seeks Cabinet agreement to an ongoing military contribution to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS from July 2020 to 30 June 2022. The current mandate for New Zealand's military contributions is set to expire on 30 June 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARYs

2. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is currently planning to withdraw from the Building Partner Capacity Mission in Taji, Iraq, in early April in accordance with Cabinet's decision in June 2019 to withdraw by the end of June 2020.
 3. ISIS remains a serious threat to regional and international security, meaning there is a continuing role for NATO and the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS (the Coalition). While changes to the regional geopolitical and security environment across Iraq, Syria and with Iran have created uncertainty, and the Coalition has shifted its focus to providing support to Iraq to stop an ISIS resurgence (recognising, too, the longer-term challenge of Iraq and Syria addressing the root causes of extremism), partners have now reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing military contributions to the Coalition's mission.
 4. Because of the fluidity of the situation on the ground, officials are not proposing additional New Zealand contributions at this time. Instead, Cabinet is presented with two options:
 - Option 1: maintain a New Zealand military contribution to the Coalition by extending the mandate for New Zealand's nine remaining Coalition Headquarters, intelligence, and CAOC roles beyond June 2020 for 24 months, comprising: the four New Zealand roles in Coalition Headquarters in Iraq s6(a) s6(a) and s6(a) in the Combined Air Operations Centre in Qatar until 30 June 2022;
- OR
- Option 2: full withdrawal of New Zealand's military contribution to the Coalition by 30 September 2020.
 5. Option 1 is recommended based on New Zealand's strategic and national interests in maintaining a military contribution to counter the ongoing threat that ISIS presents to New Zealand, both directly and to our broader defence and foreign policy interests.
 6. If Option 1 is accepted, officials would continue to monitor the regional security situation as well as the scope for any additional or alternative New Zealand contributions, and Ministers would report back to Cabinet as appropriate.

7. Costs associated with Option 1 would be met within existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests.
8. In addition to the nine roles mentioned above, a Movement Operator remains s6(a) [redacted] in Iraq until the mandate expires on 30 June 2020.
9. Separately, the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) has been reconfiguring the training function of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) as the mission evolves - a common process within the Coalition structure. This has affected the Deputy Director Training role held by New Zealand (now the CJ37).

BACKGROUND

10. Cabinet last considered New Zealand's contributions to the Coalition in June 2019 [CAB-19-MIN-0265 refers]. At that time, Cabinet agreed that the joint Australia-New Zealand Building Partner Capacity (BPC) training mission at Taji Military Complex in Iraq was reaching a successful conclusion, and that New Zealand would withdraw all NZDF personnel from Taji by the end of June 2020, along with four of the eight positions held by NZDF personnel in Coalition Headquarters¹. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) are now able to assume full responsibility for their own training in Taji, and remaining NZDF personnel will have fully withdrawn by early April.
11. At the same time, Cabinet also extended the mandate for four NZDF personnel in Coalition Headquarters s6(a) [redacted] until 30 June 2020².
12. In a separate decision on the Maritime Security Support Operations mandate, the previous Government extended the mandate for s6(a) [redacted] in the Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) in Qatar until 30 June 2020³ [CAB-17-MIN-0346 refers]. These roles are not a direct military contribution to the Coalition but the activities undertaken now more closely align with the focus of the Coalition mandate and are therefore included in this paper.
13. New Zealand also contributes to countering violent extremism through the provision of NZDF s6(a) [redacted] personnel to the information-sharing platform Operation Gallant Phoenix (OGP). This sits under another mandate, which expires on 31 December 2020. Officials will provide advice to Cabinet on an OGP mandate renewal later this year.

New Zealand's non-military contributions to the Coalition

14. The Coalition's structure has always recognised that military efforts alone would be insufficient to defeat ISIS, with Coalition members working across five lines of effort: military, stabilisation, foreign terrorist fighters, financing and communications. In addition to our military commitment to the Coalition, we have also contributed to these other lines of effort:

¹ These four positions were withdrawn from Iraq in November 2019.

² Full position descriptions are included at Annex A. Refer paragraph 31 for further details.

³ Full position descriptions are included at Annex A. Refer paragraph 31 for further details.

- Provision of stabilisation funding and development assistance to Iraq, including through contributions to the United Nations Development Programme's Funding Facility for Stabilisation, provision of technical demining support to assist the United Nations Mine Action Service in Iraq, and funding to other demining specialists (Hazardous Area Life-Support Organisation (HALO Trust) and Quality Solutions International (QSI)). In June 2019, Cabinet agreed to contribute NZ \$3 million of stabilisation funding to Iraq for the next three years.
- Participation in Coalition working groups on foreign terrorist fighters and financing.
- New Zealand is also contributing to the Coalition's effort to disrupt ISIS's social media campaigns and to develop counter-narratives, principally through work by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in developing and sharing social media analysis on the impact of the Coalition's online campaigns.

COMMENT

ISIS remains a serious threat to regional and international security

15. Since its territorial defeat, ISIS has been operating in Iraq and Syria as an insurgency and is reconstituting. [REDACTED] s6(a)

[REDACTED]

16. The geographies of Iraq and Syria are permissive spaces for insurgency, and the drivers for extremism remain, including religious, social, political and economic divides and tensions, limited infrastructure and resource scarcity. [REDACTED] s(6)(a)

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

18. International efforts are crucial to ISIS's containment. Combating ISIS as an insurgency presents significant challenges, including maintaining counter-terrorism operations, increasing security force presence in isolated terrain and combating the drivers of the insurgency through humanitarian development and addressing political grievances.

19. These challenges will likely take longer to resolve than defeating ISIS as a military entity. Work across the Coalition's five lines of effort, including through military contributions, is therefore likely to be required for some time into the future.

Changes to the regional security environment have created uncertainty

- 20. [Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted]
- i. [Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted]
- ii. [Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted]
- iii. [Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted]
- iv. [Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted]
- v. [Redacted] s6(a)
- vi. [Redacted] s6(a)

21. [Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted] In short, the result has been a more complex strategic environment for the Coalition and increased opportunity for ISIS.

There is a continued role for the Coalition and partners have reaffirmed their commitment

- 22. [Redacted] s6(a), S6(b)(ii)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted] s(6)(a), s(6)(b)(i)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted] s(6)(b)(i), s(6)(a)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]

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

- [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

23. [Redacted] s6(a), S6(b)(ii)

24. Although there is recognition of the potential for the ISIS threat to spread further in Africa and Southeast Asia, the Coalition effort remains focused on the core of the problem in Iraq and Syria.

The case for New Zealand’s continued military involvement in the Coalition

25. This paper recommends that Cabinet agree to maintain a military contribution to the Coalition. Doing so would align with the following key strategic objectives:

- i. *To counter a direct threat to New Zealand and New Zealanders, nationally and globally.*

Preventing the resurgence of ISIS and maintaining access to accurate information on this threat is in New Zealand’s national security interests. While few New Zealanders in Iraq or Syria are directly affected, the threat of ISIS’ influence in the region is multi-faceted and may manifest in different forms.⁴ New Zealanders could be caught up in terrorist attacks overseas by individuals and groups acting in ISIS’ name and there remains a risk of an ISIS inspired attack in New Zealand.

- ii. *To advance New Zealand’s broader national and international security interests in the campaign against terrorism.*

Through participation in the Coalition, New Zealand stands alongside our international partners in the global counter-terrorism effort against an ongoing and serious threat. Participation also contributes to the NZDF’s capabilities and provides valuable experience in a multinational military coalition. The skills learned, people-to-people links forged and the information received due to our Coalition membership also help to inform New Zealand’s ability to respond to events at home and in our near region.

- iii. *To support the maintenance of the international rules-based order, institutions and arrangements that reinforce global security norms on which New Zealand relies.*

The emergence of ISIS threatened both the territorial sovereignty of the countries where the Caliphate was established, as well as democratic processes where these are taking root. ISIS continues to represent a significant challenge to peace and stability in the Middle East. A continued military contribution to the Coalition effort provides a tangible demonstration of New Zealand’s commitment to addressing this shared challenge to international peace and security.

⁴ [Redacted] s6(a)

OPTIONS

26. Conditions on the ground, which present opportunity for an ISIS resurgence, coupled with Coalition partners' reaffirmation of their commitment to the objectives of the Coalition's mission, highlight the desirability of an ongoing New Zealand commitment to the Coalition's military efforts.

27. However, the fluidity of the situation [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] also complicates provision of advice on potential adjustments to New Zealand's current roles or any further niche New Zealand military contributions to the Coalition at this time.

28. Therefore, we are presenting Cabinet with two options:

- **Option 1** Maintain current Coalition Headquarters, intelligence, and CAOC roles beyond June 2020, by extending the deployment of the four positions in Coalition Headquarters, [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] in the CAOC for 24 months;

OR

- **Option 2** Full withdrawal of New Zealand's military contribution to the Coalition before 30 September 2020.

Options analysis

Option 1: Maintain the Coalition Headquarters, intelligence, and CAOC roles beyond June 2020 by extending the deployment of the nine positions for 24 months (recommended)

29. This option would see New Zealand maintain its current Coalition Headquarters and intelligence roles, while exploring other possibilities. This option is based on the benefits of maintaining a military contribution, including its alignment with New Zealand's strategic interests, but recognises that there may be future opportunities to reshape New Zealand's contribution. This option would send a clear signal of continued commitment to the Coalition.

30. Maintaining the nine existing roles would support the strategic objectives outlined in paragraph 25. It would also preserve flexibility, allowing officials to provide advice on any additional or alternative options for New Zealand's future contribution once next steps for the Coalition become clearer. [REDACTED] s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

31. The value to New Zealand of each of these nine remaining roles is presented below.

<i>Coalition Headquarters</i>			
Role	Location	Role Description	
CJ37 Chief Operations Training	Kuwait/ Iraq The Coalition Headquarters roles have primarily been based in Iraq. s6(a)	Formerly Deputy Director Training. Further comment is provided at paragraph 47. ⁵	s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) s(6)(a), s(9)(2)(g)(i)
G73 Training Warrant Officer		Provides assistance to the Chief Current Operations Training Officer	
CJ4 ISF Sustainment Development Team Coordination Officer	Two NZDF personnel have since relocated back to Baghdad in early March 2020.	Maintains overview of the ISF Sustainment Development Team functional area.	s(6)(a), s(9)(2)(g)(i)
Operational Law Advisor		Provides advice and training on Law of Armed Conflict, Gross Violation of Human Rights allegations.	s(6)(a), s(9)(2)(g)(i)



⁵ The four Coalition Headquarters roles do not have any involvement with operations conducted in Syria, and are not directly or indirectly linked to targeting operations.

s6(a)

Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC)

s6(a)

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33. If Cabinet agreed to Option 1 then further opportunities open to New Zealand could be developed for consideration if they are assessed to be in New Zealand's interest and once there is greater clarity around the situation in Iraq, the future of the Coalition [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence would report back to Cabinet on any emerging opportunities for further New Zealand contributions.

34. Due to the changing nature of the Coalition Headquarters, and ongoing review of structures, two roles in particular (G73 and CJ4) may also change as the mission evolves. If this occurs the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence will be advised.

35. This paper is requesting a two year mandate extension. Each deployment is assessed to determine what length of mandate is most appropriate. [REDACTED]

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

36. [REDACTED] s(6)(a), s(6)(b)(i)

37. In all deployments, the security situation, any changes to capability/personnel requirements and how the deployment measures up against New Zealand's values and interests is continuously monitored. If circumstances on the ground or in the region were to change significantly officials would provide advice to Ministers. At any time over the course of a deployment's mandate, Cabinet can take a decision to revise New Zealand's commitment

38. This option is recommended.

Option 2: Full withdrawal by 30 September 2020

39. The second option for New Zealand would be to fully withdraw NZDF personnel from the four roles in Coalition Headquarters [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] in the CAOC, also in Qatar.

40. [REDACTED] s(9)(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED] However, as outlined above, officials do not recommend *total* withdrawal of all military contributions to the Coalition due to the ongoing threat that ISIS presents to New Zealand directly and to our defence and foreign policy interests.

41. [REDACTED] s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

42. Should Cabinet select this option, then it is recommended that the mandate for all of New Zealand's remaining roles be extended until no later than 30 September 2020 to provide Coalition partners with reasonable notice to fill the roles.

43. Option 2 is not recommended.

s(6)(a)

44. In addition to the nine Coalition Headquarters, intelligence and CAOC roles, a Movement Operator role filled by the NZDF remains s6(a)

45. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

46. This role will remain in place in Iraq until its current mandate expires on 30 June 2020 and then be withdrawn from Iraq, in line with Cabinet's decision in June 2019.

Change in Deputy Director Training Role

47. New Zealand currently holds the position of Deputy Director Training (Combined Joint 7, or CJ7) in the Coalition Headquarters in Baghdad. This role is the most senior position held by the NZDF in Coalition and, as with the other roles, is mandated until 30 June 2020 [CAB-19-MIN-0265 refers].⁶

48. s6(a), S6(b)(ii)

49. s6(a)

⁶ The other positions within this Branch (Training Warrant Officer, Operational Law Advisor and Iraqi Security Forces Sustainment Development Team Coordination Officer) currently remain unchanged.

Revised role responsibilities

50. The CJ37 role substantively retains the same responsibilities as the Deputy Director Training, but with some additional responsibilities as a result of the movement. [REDACTED]

s6(a)

51. The change in responsibilities mean that the C37 will now also:

- [REDACTED] s6(a)
- [REDACTED] s6(a)
- [REDACTED] s6(a)⁷

52. [REDACTED] s6(a)

53. Should Cabinet not agree to the amended role, New Zealand would withdraw from filling this role before 30 June 2020 when the existing mandate expires.

Closure of New Zealand's embassy in Baghdad

54. Cabinet is concurrently being asked to consider closing New Zealand's embassy in Baghdad. Neither of the options in this paper would require an ongoing diplomatic presence in Iraq.

Implications for New Zealand's ability to still deploy to our immediate region

55. Neither of the options would prevent New Zealand from independently deploying to the Pacific should an emergency arise. All deployment numbers identified are sustainable and would also not impact negatively on our increasing training support to the Pacific. The New Zealand Defence deployment A3s are attached to this paper (Annex C). These include a map depicting global NZDF deployment numbers.

Risks to the safety and security of New Zealand personnel / Threat assessment

56. The current deployment involves having NZDF personnel located in Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar. Some locations have a different threat profile. The unmitigated operational threat to NZDF personnel deployed to Iraq [REDACTED] s6(a). In Kuwait, the assessed threat level [REDACTED] s6(a). In Qatar, the threat is assessed [REDACTED] s6(a).

⁷ Additional detail is provided in the position description at Annex A.

Legal basis for the deployment and consistency with international law

57. The legal basis for New Zealand's military presence in Iraq rests on the invitation and consent of the Government of Iraq. [REDACTED] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

58. The Iraqi Parliament passed a resolution on 5 January 2020 calling on the Government of Iraq to expel foreign troops. The resolution was non-binding, however should the Government of Iraq decide to give effect to this resolution, this would rescind the invitation and consent for New Zealand's military presence in Iraq. If this occurred, the NZDF would withdraw its personnel from Iraq.

59. [REDACTED] s6(a)

60. All NZDF operations in Iraq, Qatar and Kuwait are carried out in accordance with domestic and international law, including the law of armed conflict. Rules of Engagement for NZDF operations in Iraq, which comply with all relevant international and domestic legal obligations, have been previously issued by the New Zealand Government which remain fit for purpose. The nature of the activities in Qatar and Kuwait mean that they do not require Rules of Engagement.

61. If any of the missions change, requiring a change in Rules of Engagement, this will be the subject of a separate submission from the Chief of Defence Force through the Minister of Defence to the Prime Minister.

Rotations

62. 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.

CONSULTATION

63. This paper has been prepared jointly 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), [REDACTED] s6(a)

[REDACTED] and the Treasury were consulted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

64. The estimated cost of **Option 1** is \$3.622M;

65. The expenditure to be funded from Crown Revenue is \$3.622M and the estimated costs are able to be met from the existing funding for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA.

66. The following table sets out the estimated 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	-	1.811	1.811	-	-	3.622
Total funded from existing appropriation: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests	-	1.811	1.811	-	-	3.622
Additional Funding Required	-	-	-	-	-	-

67. The estimated cost of **Option 2** is \$0.347M;

68. The expenditure to be funded from Crown Revenue is \$0.347M 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;

69. The following table sets out the estimated expenditure for the commitments through to 30 September 2020.

Vote Defence Force	NZ \$million					Total
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Estimated cost of proposed deployment	-	0.347	-	-	-	0.347
Total funded from existing appropriation: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests	-	0.347	-	-	-	0.347
Additional Funding Required	-	-	-	-	-	-

PUBLICITY

70. It is recommended that the announcement on the future of New Zealand's military contribution to the Coalition be in the form of a joint press release between the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Defence. A communications plan has been developed. s(6)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PROACTIVE RELEASE

71. A redacted version of this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following the public announcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. **Note** that New Zealand's current mandate in support of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS for the four roles in Coalition Headquarters and [redacted] s6(a) [redacted] expires on 30 June 2020;
2. **Note** that the mandate for [redacted] s6(a) [redacted] in the Combined Air Operations Centre, which provides support to the Coalition, also expires on 30 June 2020;
3. **Note** the ongoing threat posed by ISIS globally and to New Zealand;
4. **Note** the legal basis for New Zealand's military presence in Iraq rests on the invitation and consent of the Government of Iraq. [redacted] s6(a) [redacted]
[redacted] All New Zealand Defence Force operations in Iraq are carried out in accordance with domestic and international law, including the Law of Armed Conflict;
5. **Note** that the unmitigated operational threat to New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Iraq [redacted] s(6)(a) [redacted]. In Kuwait, the assessed threat level [redacted] s6(a) [redacted]. In Qatar, the threat is assessed [redacted] s(6)(a) [redacted];

Options

6. **Agree** to Option 1 (recommended): maintain a New Zealand military contribution to the Coalition by extending the mandate for the four New Zealand roles in Coalition Headquarters, [redacted] s6(a) [redacted] and [redacted] s6(a) [redacted] in the Combined Air Operations Centre until 30 June 2022;
7. **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;
8. **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 62 of the paper;
9. **Note** that due to the changing nature of the Coalition Headquarters, and ongoing review of structures, two roles in particular (G73 and CJ4) may also change as Operation Inherent Resolve evolves and, if this occurs, the Minister of Defence will be advised;
10. **Note** that officials will monitor the regional security situation and the scope for any additional or alternative New Zealand contribution and Ministers will report back to Cabinet as appropriate;

11. **Note** that the total estimated cost of this deployment from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022 is assessed as \$3.622M; and
12. **Note** that the estimated cost of \$3.622M is able to be met within the existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests.

OR

13. **Agree** to Option 2 (not recommended): full withdrawal of New Zealand's military contribution to the Coalition by 30 September 2020;
14. **Agree** to extend the mandate for all of New Zealand's remaining D-ISIS roles until 30 September 2020 to provide Coalition partners with reasonable notice to fill the roles;
15. **Note** that the total estimated cost of this deployment from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020 is assessed as \$0.347M; and
16. **Note** that the estimated cost of \$0.347M is able to be met within the existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA.

Other Considerations

17. **Note** a Movement Operator role filled by the NZDF [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] will remain in place in Iraq until its current mandate expires on 30 June 2020 and will then be withdrawn from Iraq, in line with Cabinet's decision in June 2019;
18. **Note** that United States Central Command has subsumed the CJ7 Training Branch of the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve Headquarters into the CJ3 Operations Branch, establishing a new CJ37 Operations Training function;
19. **Note** that this restructure has seen the Deputy Director Training role held by New Zealand moved to the new CJ37 role; and
20. **Note** that the New Zealand Defence Force's assessment is that the CJ37 role is substantially similar to the Deputy Director Training, and the new role is compliant with the intentions of the original mandate and remains within government settings.


Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Annex A: Position Descriptions

Operation Inherent Resolve Headquarters Roles

Position	Rank	Duties
Chief Operations Training (CJ37)	Colonel (Equivalent)	<p>s6(a)</p> 
Training Warrant Officer (G73)	Warrant Officer (Equivalent)	
Iraq Security Forces (ISF) Sustainment Development Team Coordination Officer (CJ4)	Major (Equivalent)	
Operational Law Advisor	Major (Equivalent)	

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s6(a)

Roles

Position

Rank

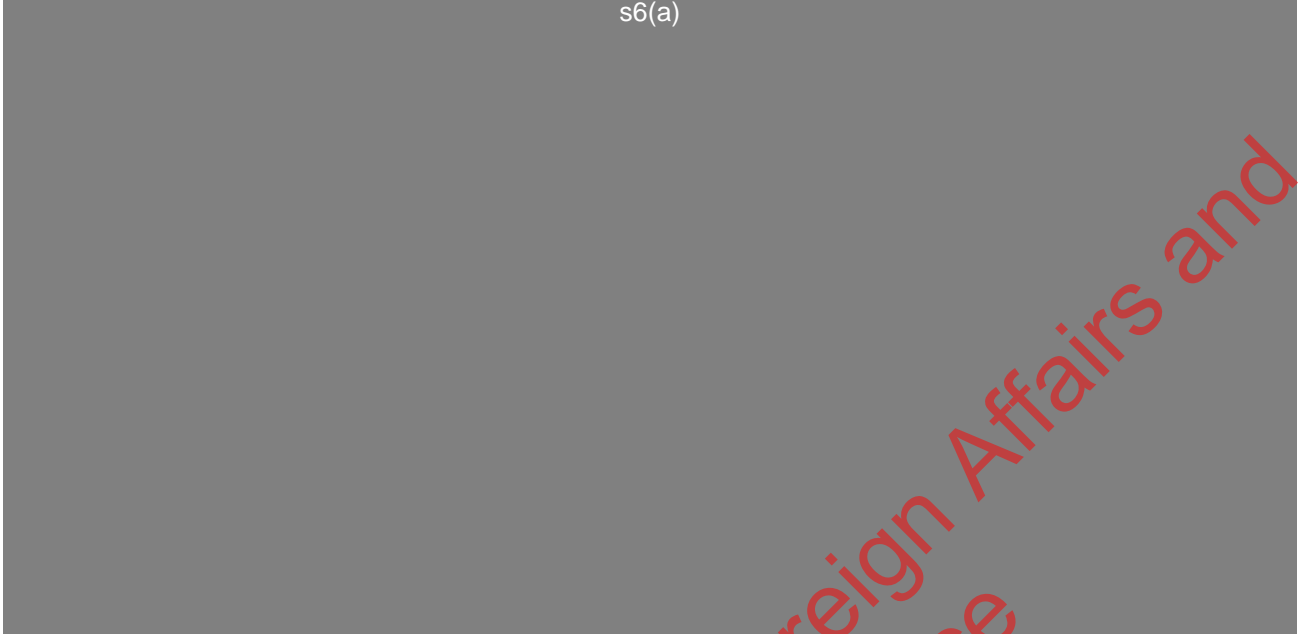
Duties

s6(a)

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Combined Air Operations Centre Roles

s6(a)



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the Minister of Defence

Annex B: Central Command and Operation Inherent Resolve Area of Responsibility

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

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the Minister of Defence

s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)

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the Minister of Defence

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the Minister of Defence

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the Minister of Defence