

HON RON MARK, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Deployment of Three Additional Personnel to the United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea

October 2020

This publication provides documents on Cabinet's October 2019 decision to deploy an additional three NZDF personnel to the existing United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission deployment in the Republic of Korea from May 2020 until 31 August 2021.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the Cabinet minute of decision: *United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea: Deployment of Three Additional Personnel* [ERS-19-MIN-0033]
- the Cabinet paper: *Deployment of Three Additional Personnel to the United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea* [ERS-19-SUB-0033].

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)]



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.

United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea: Deployment of Three Additional Personnel

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 22 October 2019, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the security situation on the Korean Peninsula remains one of the key regional and global security concerns, and that ongoing contributions to the United Nations Korean peninsula security architecture are needed to support the maintenance of peace and stability;
- 2 **noted** that New Zealand currently contributes five personnel to the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission, and one person to the United Nations Command, in the Republic of Korea, with a mandate to 31 August 2021 [ERS-19-MIN-0018];
- 3 **noted** that the expansion of this deployment aligns with the New Zealand government's priorities;
- 4 **agreed** to the deployment of an additional three New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel to the existing United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission approved deployment in the Republic of Korea, from May 2020 until 31 August 2021;
- 5  s6(a)
- 6 **noted** that the legal basis for New Zealand's involvement in the United Nations Command and its Military Armistice Commission is reliant on the *Meyer Agreement* of 1952;
- 7 **noted** that the overall operational threat to NZDF personnel deployed to the Republic of Korea is assessed as  s6(a)
- 8 **noted** that the funding required to increase New Zealand's deployment to the Korean Peninsula by three personnel is estimated to be \$1.006 million [ERS-19-MIN-0018].

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution: (see over)

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
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry of Defence

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Defence

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

Chair

External Relations and Security Committee

DEPLOYMENT OF THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Proposal

1. This paper seeks Cabinet approval to deploy an additional three New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the existing United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission deployment in the Republic of Korea (ROK) from May 2020 until 31 August 2021.

Executive Summary

2. This paper proposes deploying an additional three New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel to the existing United Nations Command (the Command) and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (the Commission) deployment in the Republic of Korea, from May 2020 until 31 August 2021. Defence has identified three roles which would add value to New Zealand's current deployment to the Korean Peninsula of six NZDF personnel. On 23 July 2019, ERS agreed to extend this current staffing commitment from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2021.

3. The situation on the Korean Peninsula remains a key regional and global security concern. The addition of three roles to the Command and Commission would be a small but worthwhile lift to our current contribution. These additional roles provide a further opportunity for New Zealand to practically demonstrate our strategic interest in the Asia-Pacific region and to strengthen our contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, which in turn, contributes to global security and to the safety and security of New Zealanders overseas. s6(a)

4. s6(a)

Background

5. On 23 July 2019, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS) invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence to report back to ERS on the proposal for the deployment of three additional personnel to the Command and Commission in the Republic of Korea [ERS-19-MIN-0018 refers]. ERS also asked

officials to provide ERS with a forward view of all other possible NZDF deployments until the end of 2020 (see Annex A).

Security situation update

6. The situation on the Korean Peninsula remains a key regional and global security concern and, [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] has not changed materially since Cabinet's consideration of earlier deployment papers this year on the Command and Commission [ERS-19-MIN-0018] and sanctions monitoring missions [CAB-19-MIN-0467].

Korean Peninsula United Nations Security Architecture

7. The Command is a multinational body established in 1950 to defend the ROK. [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8. The Commission is responsible for administering the terms of the Armistice Agreement signed at the end of the Korean War. The Commission is responsible for conducting regular inspections of the Korean Armed Forces stationed inside the Demilitarized Zone; identifying and investigating breaches of the Armistice Agreement; and conducting education activities for South Korean military Personnel.

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

New Zealand's current contributions to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula

10. The NZDF currently contributes five personnel to the Commission and one person to the Command. On 23 July 2019, ERS agreed to extend this current staffing commitment of six personnel from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2021 (for a description of roles see Annex B). ERS also agreed in principle, subject to approval by a group of Ministers (Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance and Minister of Defence), for up to two short term deployments per annum of up to four personnel for up to a total of six months, to support the Command's supervision of demilitarisation activities underway on the Demilitarized Zone between the ROK and the DPRK. These decisions were confirmed by Cabinet on 29 July 2019 [CAB-19-MIN-0360].

11. On 16 September 2019, Cabinet authorised the deployment of a P-3K2 (P-3) Orion maritime patrol aircraft [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] as part of coordinated international efforts to detect and deter sanctions evasion [CAB-19-MIN-0467]. Taken together with our current commitments to the Command and Commission, the P-3 deployment and

proposed increase to the Command and Commission constitute a step up in New Zealand's contribution to peace and stability efforts on the Korean Peninsula.

Alignment of expanded contribution with New Zealand's interests

New Zealand can make a meaningful contribution which supports the Government's priorities

12. The addition of three roles to the Command and Commission would be a small but worthwhile lift to our current contribution. In particular, the additional roles provide a further opportunity for New Zealand to practically demonstrate our strategic interest in the Asia-Pacific region and to strengthen our contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, which in turn, contributes to global security and to the safety and security of New Zealanders overseas.

[Redacted text block]

s6(a)

13. [Redacted text block]

And assists in the maintenance of peace

14. The Command and Commission are not tasked with resolving the issues that have divided the Korean Peninsula between North and South since 1953. They are, however, tasked with supporting the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. New Zealand's deployments support this effort, and also support the authority of the UN as an arbiter of interstate conflicts, and a proponent of post-conflict resolution and peace-building.

15. [Redacted text block]

The three proposed roles

16. Defence has identified three roles set out below which would add value to New Zealand's deployment to the Peninsula. These would also expand our current contribution across the Command and the Commission through enhancing our focus on demining (an area of New Zealand expertise and directly relevant to the Command's objectives to demilitarise the Peninsula), monitoring Armistice violations,

and developing future plans. They will also provide junior officers with valuable experience in a multinational mission environment – a professional development opportunity that is not readily available in a New Zealand context.

17. These roles also provide an opportunity for the NZDF to demonstrate the behaviours and values that guide the NZDF and expand profile [redacted s6(a)] within institutions that are continuing to maintain regional peace and security. Details on the three roles are provided below:

Role	Description
Mine Action Staff Officer, the Command	What is the role? Assisting the Command and ROK to establish a national ROK mine action authority and mine action coordination centre. This role works to the humanitarian goals of the removal of landmines and remnants of war from the Korean Peninsula, and facilitating the joint (DPRK and ROK) search for the remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. This role is not directly conducting demining operations, but will assist in developing the architecture and systems to allow the ROK to enhance its own efforts.
DMZ Assistant Joint Duty Officer (AJDO), the Commission	What is the role? Assisting the Joint Duty Officer in carrying out their role of monitoring and reporting Armistice violations. It also assists in: responding to emergency situations within the area; communicating with the Korean People's Army; support to North-South working level talks; and facilitation of special events. NZDF currently fills another position in the same role.
Future Operations, the Command	What is the role? Assists in the development of near-term future plans based on the strategic intent of the mission: to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. The role is important in providing the planning to direct upcoming tasks across the mission, and will provide excellent insight to the purpose and shaping of the future mission.

18. [redacted s6(a)]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted]

19. [redacted s6(a)]
 [redacted]

The implications for NZ's ability to deploy to other activities and operations

20. Deploying an additional three NZDF personnel to the Command or Commission does not impact on New Zealand's ability to deploy to our immediate region in the event of an emergency.

Legal Framework

21. The *Meyer Agreement* of May 1952 provides the legal basis for Command and Commission personnel to operate in the ROK.

22. New Zealand does not have bilateral Status of Forces Agreements with the ROK, [REDACTED] s6(a)

Threat Assessment

23. There has been no change in the threat assessment or mitigation measures that were noted by ERS when the deployment to the Command and Commission in the ROK was extended earlier this year [ERS-19-MIN-0018 refers]. Accordingly, the overall operational threat to NZDF personnel deployed to the ROK remains as s6(a)

24. The NZDF continually monitors these operational threat levels, with adjustments made according to developments in the security environment. The Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs will be notified immediately should operational threat levels change.

Rotations

25. In 2012, Cabinet agreed to the inclusion in all NZDF deployment papers of a provision that allows the 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 will continue [CAB 18-MIN-0346 refers]. As with standard practice for the NZDF deployment in the ROK, and recently approved by ERS [ERS-19-MIN-0018 refers], the Chief of Defence Force will inform the Minister of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister in advance whenever a rotation, extraction or command reconnaissance is planned in excess of mandated numbers.

Financial Implications

26. The funding required to increase New Zealand's deployment to the Korean Peninsula by three personnel from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2021 was previously noted by Cabinet [CAB-19-MIN-0360 refers]. This was funded from Vote Defence Force departmental appropriation: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security and Interests (MCA) and output expense category Military Operations in Support of a Rules-Based International Order (Output Class 5.1). The estimated cost of this is \$1.006M and is summarised in the table below:

Estimated cost of proposed deployments	NZ \$million				Total
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/2 2	2022/2 3	
Increasing New Zealand's deployment to the Korean Peninsula by three personnel	0.434	0.503	0.069	-	1.006

27. If these roles are not approved, or are approved for a lesser duration than previously planned, then the allocated funding would remain within the baseline to be used for subsequent deployments funded under Output Class 5.1.

Consultation

28. The Ministry of Defence, the NZDF, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have prepared this paper. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Treasury have been consulted.

Publicity

29. If Cabinet approves this deployment, [redacted] s6(a) the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence will issue a press release outlining New Zealand's increased contribution to the United Nations Korean Peninsula security architecture as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Our partners will be informed separately through normal diplomatic and military channels.

Proactive Release

30. A redacted version of this Cabinet paper will be prepared for proactive release.

Recommendations

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

1. **note** that the security situation on the Korean Peninsula remains one of the key regional and global security concerns and ongoing contributions to the United Nations Korean peninsula security architecture are needed to support the maintenance of peace and stability;
2. **note** that New Zealand currently contributes five personnel to the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission and one person to the United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea with a mandate to 31 August 2021;
3. **note** that the expansion of this deployment aligns with the New Zealand Government's priorities;
4. **agree** to the deployment of an additional three NZDF personnel to the existing United Nations Command and United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission approved deployment in the Republic of Korea from May 2020 until 31 August 2021;

5. [REDACTED] s6(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
6. **note** the legal basis for New Zealand's involvement in the United Nations Command and its Military Armistice Commission is reliant on the *Meyer Agreement* of 1952;
7. **note** that the overall operational threat to NZDF personnel deployed to the Republic of Korea is assessed as [REDACTED] s6(a)
8. **note** that the funding required – estimated to be \$1.006M – to increase New Zealand's deployment to the Korean Peninsula by three personnel was previously noted by Cabinet [CAB-19-MIN-0360].

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 B - Operation MONITOR UNC Abbreviated Role Descriptions

s6(a)

s6(a)

Armistice Education Officer

This officer's primary purpose is to educate the Republic of Korea military and UNCMAC staff on the history of the Armistice as well as maintaining an up-to-date knowledge of all violations and subsequent actions.

Operations Officer (OPSO)

The Operations Officer manages key activities within the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ). This includes coordination and participation of Special Investigation Team activities, support to meetings between North Korea and UNC, involvement in inspection activities, and involvement in VIP visits to the area.

Demilitarized Zone Operations SNCO (DMZ-OPS SNCO)

The DMZ Operations Senior Non-Commission Officer assists the Operations Officer (as above) with the conduct of their duties.

Assistant Corridor Control Officer (ACCO)

The *Corridor* refers to the transport links between North and South Korea. This position monitors the compliance of regulations associated with the corridor. They also assist with the management of the corridor, including activities such as the maintenance of logs, liaison between all agencies required to support corridor operations and monitoring and inspection of activities.

Assistant Joint Duty Officer (AJDO)

The AJDO works within the Joint Security Area (JSA) and assists the Joint Duty Officer in carrying out his role of monitoring and reporting Armistice violations. It also assists in responding to emergency situations within the area; communicating with Korean People's Army, support to North-South working level talks; and facilitation of special events.