

## Fact Sheet: Exercise Southern Katipo 15

- ❖ Exercise Southern Katipo 15 (SK15) is the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) major military exercise. It is held every two years in various areas of New Zealand.
- ❖ The joint exercise involves naval, land and air assets and more than 2000 personnel from New Zealand and eight other countries, namely Australia, Canada, Fiji, France, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ❖ SK15 runs from 19 October - 27 November, with the primary area of operations centred in the Buller, Tasman and Marlborough districts in the South Island.
- ❖ The exercise aims to test and evaluate the NZDF's ability to plan and conduct joint operations involving naval, land and air assets. It also offers the NZDF another opportunity to work with its international defence partners, particularly those in the Pacific region.
- ❖ The training scenario is set in a fictional South Pacific country called Becara, which is fighting for its political survival after being beset for years by rising poverty, massive unemployment and low foreign investor confidence. Two hostile groups are exploiting the government's vulnerabilities and are jockeying for power. Following a request for assistance from the Becaran government, New Zealand has deployed a military contingent to lead a multinational Combined Joint Task Force that will help restore law and order in the South Pacific country. The multinational task force will be conducting stability, support and humanitarian operations, including the evacuation of internally displaced persons, as they strive to set the conditions for Becara's economic and social recovery.
- ❖ Aircraft involved in the exercise – 3 X NH90 helicopters, 2 X A109 helicopters, 1 X King Air twin-turboprop aircraft, 6 X C-130 airlift aircraft, 2 C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft, 1 X P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft
- ❖ Vessels – HMNZS TE KAHA, CANTERBURY, WELLINGTON, MANAWANUI and HAWEA; French frigate PRAIRIAL
- ❖ Military vehicles – Light Armoured Vehicles, Medium and Heavy Operational Vehicles and Pinzgauer High-Mobility All-Terrain Vehicles

- ❖ New Zealand agencies supporting the exercise include the New Zealand Customs Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Police, Ministry of Primary Industries, New Zealand Transport Authority, Immigration New Zealand, Ministry of Health, District Health Boards New Zealand and St John New Zealand.
- ❖ Photos, video and updates on the progress of the exercise are available on the NZDF website ([www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)) and on SK15's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SouthernKatipo](http://www.facebook.com/SouthernKatipo)).