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OIA-2022-4565

13th December 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@odt.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 16 November 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Copies of all correspondence entered into as a result of the 'questions' function from Instagram stories from NZDF social media channels in the past 6 months.

Please provide copies of all questions posed with dates

Please indicate why the questions function is being used, how long it has been used for, and how the decision was made to use it

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has used the questions function on Instagram Stories on an ad hoc basis since the function was introduced by Instagram in July 2018. The NZDF uses the questions function as a community engagement tool and to gather insights from our audiences. No correspondence was generated as a result of the questions asked via Instagram, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

The three questions posted by the NZDF on Instagram during the time period you requested, and their responses from the public, are enclosed. Responses concerning particular individuals are withheld to protect privacy under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

PP
AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Instagram questions

14 September 14:11 - What do you want to know about our NZSAS?

What is the main role of the NZSAS

What's their role in the Army?

What roles do they play when not deployed?

What does the NZSAS stand for?

What is a normal work week like, and what does it consist of?

A day in the life would be great

Can you join the navy and then decide to join the sas

What's it like day-to-day for you guys?

Can they tell people about their job, or do they have to lie?

What sort of missions are they trained for?

When is the next selection course? Mauri ora

Training etc 24hr jerry can run?

How often are the intakes?

How often and what time of year is selection?

What do they enjoy about being in the NZSAS?

When was the NZSAS founded?

Can I join the NZSAS with glasses/contacts or will I have to get corrective eye surgery to get in?

What rifles do the nz snipers use?

What firearms are used? Are they still the MARS-L?

What weapon platform do you use?

Are they allowed their own rifle setups, if yes are there any 'interesting' ones to show?

5 day selection course, 6 month training after that, 3 types of units. WHO DEARS WINS.

What is their loadout?

How do we apply and is there an age limit?

What sort of equipment are they using?

Sorry I got a lot of questions about these guys lol

Do you have to be born in NZ or can you have NZ parents

Dog hanger?

Is NZSAS compatible with family life?

How would you convince your commanding officer let you have a go at selection

Why did the commandos get disbanded?

What gear do they use?

Weekday weapons you use?

What weapon systems do they use? Do they run suppressors on their small arms?

What does the helmet setup look like for NZSAS?

Can we see their uniform and gear?

How hard is it to become an NZSAS soldier?

How many NZSAS operators are there?

How many are there

How many are there?

How many SAS soldiers are there?

Where is the selection course held?

Do you get to try out one time or can you give it as many goes as you want?

Who can apply?

Do you have to be NZ born or can you have NZ parents?

How do we apply and is there an age limit?

Can anyone member of the defence join?

Can Air Force Pilots apply?

Average age of joining?

Can you join if you have a criminal record?

What are the major differences in the application process compared to standard infantry?

Are you allowed tattoos?

Do you get to grow your hair long?

What sort of requirements are there?

Requirements?

What do you need to do to apply / training for qualifications

What are the minimum physical requirements?

What are some key skills that will aid in selection?

What are the fitness requirements?

Application process?

What kind of skills do the SAS need to know before they go onto selection?

What are the requirements if I'd want to join?

What are the fitness requirements and things to take into consideration before joining

What does it take to join the NZSAS, what qualities should a person have to succeed in advancing?

How often do you accept applications for pilots

How do you join?

What sort of requirements are there?

What does it take to become one?

Best way to get prepared for selection and what to focus on?

What are the minimal standards to be considered for entry?

Is there different health and fitness standards compared to the rest of the force?

How hard is selection and training?

Do you actually deploy overseas or is it solely humanitarian

Is it true that they have to stay awake for a week?

When was NZ's last candidate selected for NZSAS? And what are the odds of being chosen?

Who is the youngest soldier to pass the cycle?

How old is the oldest successful candidate?

What are the best and worst bits of selection course?

What's one thing that got them through the 9 day selection?

How long is the training?

How long is training, and what do you guys do fully?

How long is selection?

You're allowed to disclose info about them?

How long is training and selection?

How long is the training?

How long is the training?

How many spaces do you have open for new people to join each year?

Are there any females that have passed recruitment phase?

Are there females in NZSAS and what race holds the most SAS soldiers

Can women be part of the SAS not just the female group?

Can women join?

Any females?

Women?

How do you become part of the FET?

What do you need to become a member and what prior experience

Can I join SAS straight from civi street. Or is prior training a requirement?

Can those from civi street apply?

That it is the SAS in the world (in my opinion)

Wha do the NZSAS do day to day?

How many have made it from civilian world?

Also can civilian's apply for the course?

Can civillians go for selection?

Can civilians join straight into the SAS or do you have to join the Army first?

Can civilians apply?

What is the completion rate?

Out of how many people take on selection how many make it through?

What's it like going through the intense training? And how does it feel to accomplish your training?

How did it feel when you got selected after training?

What are common tasks an SAS member may perform after completing selection?

Do they get any perks? If so, what?

If my dream is to be deployed would I be better off in regular forces or SAS?

How often are they deployed?

What is the deployment like? In other words do they go overseas more?

How often are NZSAS involved in operational deployments?

How often are they deployed? Can we see some training footage please?

Do the SAS get deployed on combat missions?

How often are our NZSAS boys deployed overseas, or is it only when necessary?

Are they regularly deployed?

What is the cutoff age for selection?

Does NZSAS have more opportunity than RF?

Can women join?

How did you find selection?

Are NZSAS tasked with black role domestically, or is domestic black role exclusive to the STG?

Would specific skills help my chances? (Rock climbing, Foreign Language Skills etc)

How many types of SAS do we have in NZ?

What does a recruiter typically look for in potential candidates before training?

How different is the schedule to other forces?

Is it better or worse than the British SAS and Australian SAS (can't be the same level)

How do they match up to other countries special forces? Eg. Australian SAS and Navy Seals

Deployments

Do the NZSAS do missions or deployments around the world regularly?

Any other countries where you regularly operate

Do they get the opportunity to train with and work with other tier 1 groups such as CAG, Devgru?

Would SAS or STG respond to a terror attack situation?

Exercise with another country

Officers and Captains

Can you live in the South Island and still be SAS active?

What's the difference between being a commando and being SAS?

Why're they combining with the commandos?

How close does the SAS work with the NZSIS?

What is the sniper school like?

Do you have to be a sniper in the Army to be a sniper in the NZSAS?

How often do the NZSAS wear formal kit? E.g. SDAR or mess dress

Is a NZSAS job compatible with family life?

What is the work life balance like? After selection, would I get much time to spend with my family?

They have cool hats

What roles do they play when not deployed

Can civilians apply?

Just the basics please: Name, home address, family members, passport number. Is this a good idea??

How many Maori are fighting in the Ukraine war at the moment

How often are you away from family and friends?

How do you deal with leaving family?

How has it changed over the years? 1NZSAS - 1NZSASR

Are you ready to fight if we had an onshore threat?

When are the NZSAS needed and are they ever needed in civil matters?

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If war did break out, would NZ be required to fight by Britain or would it be an independent decision?
What is deployment like, and how does the counter terrorism team work with the police?
How often does the SAS work with Police STG?
Who is their favourite special forces to work with from another country?
What's it like training with partner nations? What do we bring to the table?
Can you be a medic in the NZSAS?
Are certain roles like medics, sharp shooters or engineers jobs that exist within the NZSAS?
What specialisation roles are there in the NZSAS?
Where is the selection course located?
What's your main transportation?
What vehicles do they operate?
What vehicles and weapons are used?
Do they have reserve roles?
Where are they seconded to?
What is the biggest non classified op you guys have done?
Is it true that each personnel has a beeper/ringer to notify them when it's time to go?
Are you considering ever deploying to Ukraine as a war aid?
Have they been on a combat deployment since Afghanistan? Or do you just train?
Any training programs?
Are you needing more EOD operators? Super interested in the trade.
How close are the EOD and SAS to each other?
Does EOD get embedded with them?
How easy is it for those currently serving in the NZDF to make the switch if accepted?
Do commandos deal with organised crime like drug operations etc in NZ?
Recent operations or training
What are the jobs they usually attend? (Domestic or international)?
Are they a globally recognised tier 1 unit?
What is their daily routine like?
Does the anti-terrorist commandos do parachuting?
Is parachute training absolutely requires, does the antiterrorism commandos do parachuting
How many courses would an experienced NZSAS do on average?(e.g. parachute or radio courses)
Why is the NZSAS' stable belt blue?
If you get into the SAS as an officer, on average how long can you serve in the unit?
How long on average do NZSAS operators stay on active duty before retiring?
Is the SAS the highest level NZDF has?
What type of support they receive coming off of combat operations overseas?
Who orders you guys, and what jurisdiction do you guys have?
Do they have a badge?
What's the coolest thing they've done in the last 12 months?
How often do operators do HALO/HAHO jumps?
How often do you use flight suits during training, is it only CQB and range?
How many operators form a team/ operational detachment within a squadron?
Do you get any free time to yourself?
What is the hardest part of the training and how many people passed out last intake?
What is it that you do?
What does the SAS do differently compared to the commandos and selection and cycle
How hard is it mentally to get past training?
Are they currently deployed on operations
How young can you be to join the nzsas
Is it true that someone straight off the street can sign up?
What is the main differences of going into the Air Force vs Army as a doctor/ med student
Are there any women whom have passed selection?

How often does the sas go into live combat?
Will there still be a commado gate?
How many females passed NZSAS selection
Deployment occurrences
Their training and what they do daily
What orders you guys and what jurisdiction do you have and you guys have a badge???
Have the standards changed since the first amoung equals doco
What's one thing that got them through the 9 day selection?
What do I have to do to be eligible to join
That it's cool
What key attributes do you need to join
What's the coolest thing the SAS did in the last 12 months?
What do you do day to day
What is a normal day for a SAS soldier
What qualities do you look for when recruiting for sas
What's life outside of deployment like
How often are deployments
When does the SAS selection take place and when do you need to apply?
Are they really badass!?!
Do operators use M4's or MARS-L Rifle
If we go independent from britain will we still have an SAS
Why is selection shorter for D squadron than A/B Squadron
How many civilians have made it into our SAS
Do they still have a base in papakura and a training area in Ardmore?
Is it worth it?
What does the NZSAS get up to (both during day-to-day and on deployment)
how often are they deployed
Is there an age limit for selection?
How offen do you get deployed
Is it all training or do they actually deploy nationally and/or internationally
What are the primary weapons systems
Everything
How much time do special forces spend away from home compared to the regular force
what is it
When is he next intake
How long is cycle?
What do you learn in basic SAS training?
The camp and how tough the selection round is, and what training should you do before
How mnay recruits trying to become NZSAS to get in?
fastest rlf time
Can you be an officer in the SAS?
Everything
any training advice for the physical standards?
What's the process like to join?
What is the experience like? Being in uniform, on base, during trainings
Any involvement in Ukraine
Do they go on overseas missions often?
How hard is the intake process
How long is training and how much experience do you need?
what is the worst part of there job
Best advice and pathway to becoming a commando
Everything

Are there woman? Is no why not?

Selection fitness

What's their cycle process like and how long is it

What is the application process?

Do you take females?

How much work experience they have before being selected?

Is the recruitment any different from other jobs such as infantry

What is the maximum age to enter?

How do you get in?

When is the next selection for the commandos

what is the salary and what are the other job opportunities you can get after leaving Kiora

Where does it take you?

Whats the toughest situation you've been trained for?

What is some cool equipment you use?

What vehicles do the NZSAS use?

What is the NZSAS' role within our NZDF?

What is the entry process

Is the rate of deployments going to improve now that countries open?

Does the NZDF have something similar to MOS? (Military Occupational Specialty Codes)

How often do you get sent out in response to things

A day in the life would be great. Also how long does it take to become a SAS member

How many intakes do we have each year

Trips?

Are they fighting in Ukraine

Are you guys looking for builders to join the army?

What does the selection board / process look like?

What are the chances that an individual passes the training for the SAS

How many candidates are able to go through the initial training of our NZSAS

Do they deploy

What specialities are there / in depth in the role?

How many applicants would they roughly get each year

Can Army reserve join SAS

What's the mission set and capabilities of the NZSAS

How many members does the SAS have?

NZSAS - do they get perks if so what?

When is the next intake?

Can you still become a commando?

How many recruits pass the training

What is the standard issue weapon for the SAS

Do they get to grow their hair long?

What is the biggest difference in the STG and SAS

Any preparation tips?

What does it take to become a member?What is it like one you're in!

Is NZSAS he highest level NZDF has?

Do you need to be picked internally at basic training to go on the Path?

What is it like going through the intense training? And how does it feel to accomplish your training?

How regular are deployments?

How many members are there and is it hard to get in?

What is the difference between sas and nz commando

Can you serve to be a medical officer and then trial to be part of NZSAS?

Do you only get to try out one time or can you give it as many gos as you want?

Once you're in can you move around jobs

Can civilians still trail for it?

How do I build resilience?

I'm moving from England to new Zealand what do I need or learn the most to join nzsas

Sand coloured beret

How often do you deploy soliders overseas

Is their recruit course harder than the airforces? I heard the airforces the hardest

How come the change in difficulty with aptitude tests recently

Best Fitness advice to someone applying?

Best advice to give to someone trying to apply

Do they get paid more than regular army?

What's the requirements to get in and how different is it the regular soldier and officer

Im already in the Army but can I come back and visit my old instructors haha

Can you sign my first fifty years NZSAS book?

When was the last mission?

What is the requirement to get into it?

Are you allowed tattoos?

Whos the best out of all the SAS branches world wide?

Can you be gluten intolerant and join

What is the physical fitness requirements

What does NZSAS stand for?

What's the toughest situation you've been trained for?

5 September 10:38 - We're heading Waiouru Military Camp to see our #NZArmy recruits on Recruit Course.

What would you like to know?

Why does the app process take so long?

If I apply soon, when can I join?

What Army roles do you need the most?

How often do you recruit?

If I apply for Army> Infantry, how long am I forced to serve before being able to leave?

What ncea requirements must I have to join the NZ Army?

How much sleep do they get?

Is training recruits a rewarding experience and something you are proud to have done?

How much does all the gear you carry around weigh?

More about the training proses

How long do they spend out in the field all added up?

How many times a year does the army do intakes? Cheers <nz flag emoji>

How long does it take to become a dog handler?

Could you give us a tour <sad big eyes emoji>

What is the average of service of a soldier?

Where do they sleep?

Is their recruit course harder than the airforces? I heard the airforces the hardest

Is it a hell couple of weeks or are they going to be memorable (in a good way)?

IS it what you expected?

Is it worth it?

Do recruits train in rainy/stormy weather

Best school subjects to take for a future in the army

How much free time do you have to polish your boots, get uniform ready, etc

How long does the course take?

Why are soldiers paid so little?

What gun do you use?

Infantry requirements?

Why did you decide to join the Defence Force in the first place

Why did you choose to join the Army as oppose to the Navy or Air Force

Are those who are about to do medic training get use fire arms

Do the recruits get to use pistols

What classes do you have to take to make it into the air force as a pilot

How old to join??

Do you still dig on basic?

How have they enjoyed it so far

Is it cold out there?

What is life like at training?

Is it hard to pass the aptitude test?

How many week is basic training

How many more pictures u gonna take?

What has been the biggest challenge and how has it been overcome?

How's the food?

How old do you have to be to join?

How cold is it?

First thoughts when starting an intake?

What gear do you carry and what is come fitness to improve on the 2.4km run?

what part of basic are they up to

Why do rid of urban training package

How much free time do the recruits get?

Would a pilot licence help the recruitment process for well a pilot

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Can you get medical waivers for eyesight when applying for reserves
Is there classroom training?
What gear do you carry?
Are recruits with allergies treated differently than other recruits?
How hard would it be to join the air force as a load master then transfer to being a pilot
How the recruits are finding the course so far
What happens once you pass the basic training? (what paths can you take?)
How old do you need to be to apply?
How much weight is each soldier carrying in total and what's distances would they be covering
Can we see early morning exercise on recruit course
Best and worst bit
Are we able to apply more than once?
Is there a possibility to join the army reserves on medication if you live nearby. I.e Rolleston Burnham.
What kind of training did you do prior to basic training
How long do you sign up for
What is the view like
How many hours of sleep every night during basic training
About warrior
About warrior
EVERYTHING
What grade you need to pass aptitude test?
Any tips on how to make basic training easier
Can we see update of recruits
Infantry info
What are they up to at the moment
How many undies did the avg recruit pack. I know the kit says 7 but 7 ain't enough
Once you finish your basic training do you get to choose which base you deploy to?
Please ask a recruit their motivation to join?
How do we stay in touch with our family while training?
Best part so far? Highlight?
Do you get to choose your trade or do you get put into one?
How long does training go for? What happens at the end?
Keen to see the kit! What's in everyone's bags?
What kind of food do you eat out in the field?
Can recruits take their phone on training?
Has anyone lost the a class yet?
What's the food like?
When does basic training take place each year?
How many march on basic per day is there on avg
Favourite experience so far?
The day in the life of our New Zealand SAS?
Officer Cadets
Can I see those two indian fellows
What stage they at
A day I the life of a soldier
How the recruits have handled being away from friends and family
What does a normal day consist of
What does a normal day consist of as a recruit?
How do you get in
Officer Training?
Favourite part of training so far
What type of watch's are recommend. Are we allowed to bring a book.

When can I join
Why are all the soldiers leaving the Army
How many wild horses up there
What has the Army gone soft on guys going their intake?
What are they gonna be doing after basic
Have they shot anyone up?
What's the food like?
Is there any foreign nations that are current recruits?
how long does it take to apply?
how many personal are station in Waiouru Military Camp?
How many recruits are there
Eod
What's the hardest thing they have to do
Officer Training?
What the barracks and lifestyle looks like
What are the intake dates for 2023
Is the minimum age to join exactly 17 years old
Yes
Barrack and Elliot platoon
How long is the basic training
How are the combat specialist's doing
Do they still train urban
What skills do you need to get into basic training
Team building
Best part of recruit course so far and why? :)!!!
Morning pts
Can you post cassino company
How cold does it get?
While in basic training do they still have regular contact friends and whanau?
Do they have to cut their hair?
Do they lose their phones?
Is it cold?
Why did they choose the defence force instead of another job
Do army recruits need to do any swimming?
Biggest tip for those joining
What's the best way for a young person to choose which selection they would like to enter
Hardest challenge they've had to overcome
What's life like during basic training? Are recruits able to see or call family?
How heavy are their packs when marching??
So much! How did you prep? What are interviews like? And how are you? Good luck
Who films your socials? I want to be part of you team!
One of the recruits to tell us the hardest thing they've had to overcome so far on the course

24 May 12:40 If you were on board HMNZS Te Mana, what would you like to check out first?

Engine room
Captain's room
The bridge I am an able cadet at ts achillies and recently went on te kaha and the bridge was awesome!
Weapons?
The bridge
The sick bay?
Weapons systems

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The cap. & lowest rank quarters
The galley and what it's like to be a chef in the Navy
The weapons guidance system
engine room
probably the food tbh
officers areas
The bridge
Medical room / equipment
Combat information centre upgrade
The whole ship from top to bottom
I wanna see the beds
The engine room & the fly deck for sure!! Rooms would be a bonus too
The kitchen
The 5-inch 54 calibre Mark 45 gun
the medics
The sleeping cabin
How big the cannon is
Holes
galley
The cafeteria
Ops room
Air defence system for sure!
Weapons systems
Sleeping quarters
The port
bridge
The engine room
The MISSILES
The morale of the ships co and the who is willing to remain in the navy post returning to NZ
The bridge
the bridge
Sleeping quarters
The bridge!
The 5 inch gun
Weapons systems
The exit
The navigation systems always interested me!
Weapons Systems
The bridge
The kai
Main cannon
The bridge
Engine room
Engine room!!!!!!
Mess hall
The gunnery
Weapons systems
The 5 inch gun
Phalanx CIWS
Where's Aotearoa, need to know where in the we are going
The weapons systems
New defensive weapons systems

Helicopter pad
Tough question, the views first
The update to weapons systems and sonar
The bridge
Pew Pew and missiles
The bridge
Any new tech?
The mess
Engine
Cafeteria
Cabins
Helo bay
The Galley, the food and the chefs
Bridge
How and where the Seasprites are stowed when not flying and just the helicopters in general
where people sleep
The bridge
Captain's quarters
heli deck
The bridge
NH90!!
The machinestop!
The bridge views
Missiles
The Bridge
Living quarters pls
The anchors
bedrooms
Medial Bay
Sea sceptor system
The mess
The slide
The galley
Firing the gun.
The new CAMM launchers
The cannons
The guns
The bar
primary batterys
The swell
The CO
The bridge
GUNS
Food
The toilet
The bridge !! Can we have a peek?