



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5518

18th September 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 21 August 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- All post activity reports, and all briefs provided to executive leadership and/or ministers arising from Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025.
- All briefs provided to executive leadership and/or ministers arising from Operation Calypso 2025 as of 21 August 2025.

Post Activity Reports (PARs) for operations and exercises require time to produce after the completion of the relevant activity. No PARs currently exist for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 and Operation Calypso remains ongoing.

Briefing material regarding Operation Calypso is therefore withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA. This is to avoid prejudice to the security and defence of New Zealand, and the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

A 4 August 2025 briefing on all current NZDF Exercises and Operations was produced by Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand for the Commander Joint Forces, and Chief of Defence Force. Slides relevant to Talisman Sabre from that briefing are enclosed. Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) for the reasons given above. Since the response provided to you on 21 August 2025, a further Defence Weekly Report was produced relating to Exercise Talisman Sabre. An excerpt from this report is below.

From Defence Weekly Report 7-13 August 2025

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025- Exercise wrap up

The Australian Defence Force (ADF), supported by US Indo Pacific Command, hosted exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia over the period 14-27 July. With the recent conclusion of the exercise most NZDF personnel have now returned to New Zealand with the remainder of NZDF heavy equipment due to return over the next two weeks. Talisman Sabre 2025 was a tactical-level field training exercise featuring multinational forces rehearsing contemporary high-end, multidomain warfighting tactics, techniques and procedures.

The exercise, from deployment to re-deployment, was a success demonstrating: The NZDF capacity to project force and integrate into tactical-level multinational forces. NZDF multi-

domain warfighting capability. NZDF delivery of theatre-wide sustainment. NZDF enhanced interoperability with partner nations.

The exercise involved participants from the US, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, UK, Japan, Canada, Philippines, Netherlands and- for the first time - Papua New Guinea. The NZDF total footprint was approximately 750 personnel across the three services. A summary of key activities as follows:

Maritime: *Eight ship amphibious operations organised in two amphibious task groups. Aerial stores delivery by a Royal Australian Air Force C27 aircraft to HMNZS Te Kaha (this was an ADF first with a partner nation). Live firing practices of naval gun and missiles systems.*

Land: *18 multi-national combat teams operating (approximately 250 personnel each). Three brigade-level attacks (approximately 3,000 personnel each). Two multinational airborne insertions. One Divisional attack (approximately 10-12,000 personnel). Discreet Special Forces operations. All activities were spread over 14 days of continuous activities, including live firing.*

Air: *279 participating aircraft. Air operations from 23 airfields, practicing multinational, flexible basing and carrier operations.*

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

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Slides from 4 August 2025 briefing

Current and Past 7 Days:

s.6(a)

2. 27 Jul – 27 Aug : RTNZ of Ex TALISMAN SABRE (AUS)

s.6(a)



Roles.

Maritime

8 ship Amphibious operation across 2 x ATG's.

NZ Maritime Aerial delivery RAAF C27 to HMNZS Te kaha (ADF first with PN).

Live Firing practices of Naval gun and missiles achieved.

Land

18 x combat teams, 3 x Bde, 1 x Div sized attack (14 days of continuous land operation).

2 x multinational airborne insertions.

2 x multi amphibious task group.

Live Firing of Rocket systems and supporting fires achieved.

Air

Max aircraft in Ex – 279.

Sorties planned 2041 with ^{s.6(a)} completion.

Multi-national aircraft practicing flexible basing and carrier ops.

Commitment. The NZDF total footprint was **approximately 750 personnel**



NZDF Exercise Objectives.

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- Demonstrate NZDF capacity to project and force integrate into multi-national tactical level forces
- Practice NZDF multi-domain warfighting capability
- Practice delivery of Theatre-wide sustainment
- Enhance interoperability with partner nations.

Mission: Designated NZDF FEs are to deploy to Australia and conduct Ex TS25 over the period 7 – 28 July 25 in order to demonstrate NZDF warfighting capability within a multinational force