



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2025-5303

3rd.
April 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 7 March 2025 to Hon Judith Collins KC, Minister of Defence, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the following information:

- 1. May I respectfully request a written copy of the unambiguous policy decision by the Government of the day on the deployment of NZ Forces to South East Asia.*
- 2. I further request a written copy of the independent Ministerial Review by the Chief Of Defense regarding the service in South East Asia up to 31 December 1974.*

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for response in accordance with the OIA.

With respect to your request for *a written copy of the unambiguous policy decision by the Government of the day on the deployment of NZ Forces to South East Asia*, the letter you received from Hon Judith Collins on 6 March 2025 stated the following: *The 31 January 1974 cutoff date for the New Zealand Operational Service Medal is because it marked the effective date of an unambiguous policy decision by the Government on the deployment of New Zealand forces in the region.* The policy decision is the establishment of NZFORSEA from this date. There is a large amount of supporting information that is publicly available at Archives New Zealand and the National Library. The following NZFORSEA Archives New Zealand files are open access and may be of interest:

R17293669. ABFK, 7494, W5563, Box 41, part 1. Record 107/8/3/1. Establishments – Overseas Units – ANZUK Forces – Singapore – General. 1970-1972.

R17293670. ABFK, 7494, W5563, Box 42, part 2. Record 107/8/3/1. Establishments – Overseas Units – ANZUK Forces – Singapore – General. 1972-1977.

R23567111. ABFK, 7281, W5807, Box 168, Part 3. Record 226/7/7. NZ Govt – Commonwealth Defence – ANZUK Agreement with Malaya. Sept 1971 to Dec 1981.

R17293673. ABFK, 7494, W5563, Box 42, part 1. Record 107/8/3/2. Establishments – Overseas Units – ANZUK Forces Singapore – Force HQ and Force Units. 1973-1974.

Concerning the Chief of Defence Force review of New Zealand military service in South East Asia, the report is publicly available on the NZDF website at:

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/South-East-Asia-Report-2021.pdf>

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