



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

OIA-2025-5338

29th

May 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to the response to you of 12 May 2025 in which you were notified on an extension of time to make a decision for the following part of your request:

- *All briefings and reports arising from New Zealand participation in Project Convergence Capstone 5 (PCC5).*

A copy of all relevant information is enclosed. Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with: section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; section 6(b)(i) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence; section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect privacy; and, section 9(2)(k) of the OIA to avoid the malicious or inappropriate use of staff information, such as phishing, scams or unsolicited advertising. Annex A and B of Enclosure 2 and Annex A and Enclosure 1 of Enclosure 5 are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) and section 6(b)(i) of the OIA for the reasons explained above. The "complete exercise PAR" as noted at paragraph 3 of Enclosure 5 is yet to be completed.

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

Enclosures:

1. Support Request: Project Convergence Capstone Five, 24 April 2024
2. Project Convergence Capstone 5 MPC Outcomes, 5 July 2024
3. Project Convergence Capstone 5 Update, 25 February 2025
4. Post-Visit Report: Chief or Army Visit to Project Convergence Capstone 05: 12 – 15 March 2025, 31 March 2025
5. PAR: 16 FD REGT Project Convergence, FT Irwin USA, 03 April 2025
6. PCC-5 SITREP 001 – 006, February – March 2025

Headquarters New Zealand Army
Chief of Army **MINUTE**

24 Apr 24

2900/Comd (0)

See Distribution List

SUPPORT REQUEST: PROJECT CONVERGENCE CAPSTONE FIVE

Reference

- A. Chief of Army Minute 2900/Comd (0) dated 10 Nov 23

Purpose

1. The purpose of this minute is to request support to enable the successful planning and execution of Project Convergence Capstone Five (PC C5) in early Feb/Mar 2025.

Project Convergence Capstone 5

Background

2. Project Convergence is the premier US Army experimentation campaign of learning, s. 6(a)

3. At Ref A, CA requested support for the conduct of PC C4. NZDF personnel (NZ Army, NEA and RNZAF) deployed on PC C4 over Feb/Mar 24 and achieved significant milestones focused on C2 and sensor interoperability. At the completion of PC C4 the US Army confirmed PC C5 would take place over Feb/Mar 2025.¹

4. For the NZ Army, PC C5 will further our ability to assess our Network Combat Force and its ability to integrate with FVEY partners s. 6(a)

Further to the FVEY line of effort, ABCANZ Network interoperability and capability integration underpins experimentation of sensor, processor, and effector technologies supporting the activity outcomes.

5. The activity includes significant Air, Maritime and SOF assets from FVEY nations, and as such, provides an opportunity to expand experimentation beyond simply NZ Army.

6. Army GS and OLCC determined the importance of Project Convergence to FVEY interoperability milestones and experimentation was such that it needed to be included on the MAS. The focus for PC C5 will be on experimenting with NZ Sensor and Fires systems, enabled by networked C2 systems.

¹ NB. The AAR for PC C4 is due for completion early-May.

7. The major milestones for PC C5 which have been confirmed as of 24 Apr 24 are as follows:

- a. 13 May 24. Australian pre-MPC Planning Conference. s. 6(a) If experimentation options are identified prior to 13 May 24, then they will be raised in this forum to enable interoperability planning;
- b. TBC. NZ led pre-MPC Planning Conference. This will consolidate options for experimentation presented by stakeholders to inform the MPC planning.
- c. 20 – 23 May 24. MPC in Fort Bliss Texas. G7/J7 led contingent to inform more detailed planning around options for experimentation during PC C5 (NB. the US are currently determining whether to delay the MPC until 24 – 28 Jun 24. NZDF has supported these dates as the preferred MPC option);
- d. The US led FPC (Sep 24 – exact date TBC); and
- e. PC C5 evaluation (Feb – Mar 25, exact dates TBC).

8. All funding for NZ Army involvement in PC C5 will be included on the MAS (L).

Support Requests

9. In order for the NZDF to maximise the benefit gained from the planned experimentation on PC C5, the following support is requested:

a. **NEA.** NEA is requested to:

- (1) Advise the lead planner on the process for establishing NEA input into the planning process and activity delivery.
- (2) Identify potential NEA aligned experimentation lines of effort which PC C5 could enable to inform MPC planning to the lead planner by 16 May 24 (NB. this does not constitute a commitment but will enable further planning).
- (3) Contribute experimentation and evaluation subject matter expertise support the planning of PC C5 requirements to enable the development of the NZDF experimentation framework and inform future NEA involvement.
- (4) Contribute CUBS, MCTS and BMS subject matter expertise to support the planning of PC C5 requirements, with a focus on network, tactical LitN radio and sensor interoperability with FVEY partners.
- (5) Based on the planned experimentation framework, provide the following:
 - (a) Applicable planning POCs to the Lead Planner.
 - (b) Applicable subject matter expertise to support the continued conduct of planning.
 - (c) s. 6(a)
 - (d) Applicable equipment required to meet experimentation outcomes.
- (6) Engage the Lead Planner if support requirements threaten the efficient delivery of NEA outcomes.

b. **CN.** CN is requested to:

- (1) Identify potential experimentation which PC C5 could enable NLT 16 May 24 (NB. this does not constitute a commitment but will enable further planning).
- (2) Based on applicable planned experimentation framework, provide the following:
 - (a) A planning POC to the Lead Planner.
 - (b) Subject matter expertise to support the continued conduct of planning.
 - (c) Subject matter expertise to support the deployment, conduct and evaluation of PC C5.
 - (d) Applicable capabilities/equipment required to meet experimentation outcomes.

c. **CAF.** CAF is requested to:

- (1) Identify potential experimentation which PC C5 could enable NLT 16 May 24 (NB. this does not constitute a commitment but will enable further planning. RNZAF feedback from attendance on PC C4 can inform RNZAF options).

(2) s. 6(a)

- (3) Based on applicable planned experimentation framework, provide the following:
 - (a) A planning POC to the Lead Planner.
 - (b) Subject matter expertise to support the continued conduct of planning.
 - (c) Subject matter expertise to support the deployment, conduct and evaluation of PC C5.
 - (d) Applicable capabilities/equipment required to meet experimentation outcomes.

d. **DST.** DST is requested to:

- (1) Provide support to the evaluation of the experimentation on PC C5 based on NZDF experimentation priorities. Support requirements will most likely be identified once capabilities and experiments are confirmed post the MPC.
- (2) Identify applicable experimentation which PC C5 could enable NLT 16 May 24 (NB. this does not constitute a commitment but will enable further planning).
- (3) Based on applicable planned experimentation framework, provide the following:
 - (a) Applicable planning POCs to the Lead Planner.
 - (b) Subject matter expertise to support the continued conduct of planning.
 - (c) Subject matter expertise to support the deployment, conduct and evaluation of PC C5.
 - (d) Applicable capabilities/equipment required to meet experimentation outcomes.

- e. **DPA.** DPA is requested to:
 - (1) Provide NZDF content to US Public Affairs to enable PC C5 messaging.
 - (2) Provide coverage of PC C5 through US Public Affairs, noting the security classification of PC C5 participation.
- f. **AGS.** G7 is to:
 - (1) Provide s. 6(a) [REDACTED] as the NZDF Board member on the Combined Joint Board of Directors for PC C5.
 - (2) Provide s. 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] as the lead planner for PC C5.
- g. **LCC.** LCC is to:
 - (1) Identify applicable forces and capabilities for experimentation on PC C5 NLT 16 May 24 (NB. this does not constitute a commitment but will enable further planning).
 - (2) Based on applicable planned experimentation framework, provide the following:
 - (a) Applicable planning POCs to the Lead Planner.
 - (b) Subject matter expertise to support the continued conduct of planning.
 - (c) Subject matter expertise to support the deployment, conduct and evaluation of PC C5.
 - (d) Applicable capabilities/equipment required to meet experimentation outcomes.
 - (3) Be prepared for LCC to represent NZDF as the SNO for NZDF backbrief to Comd Army Futures Command s. 6(a) [REDACTED] Timing TBC.
 - (4) Be prepared for LCC to attend the DV day for PC C5 (should CA be unable to attend).
- h. **SOCC.** SOCC is to:
 - (1) Identify applicable forces and capabilities for experimentation on PC C5 NLT 16 May 24 (NB. this does not constitute a commitment but will enable further planning).
 - (2) Based on applicable planned experimentation framework, provide the following:
 - (a) A planning POC to the Lead Planner.
 - (b) Subject matter expertise to support the continued conduct of planning.
 - (c) Subject matter expertise to support the deployment, conduct and evaluation of PC C5.
 - (d) Applicable capabilities/equipment required to meet experimentation outcomes.

10. The PC C4 team delivered some excellent outcomes for NZ Army. In particular, the NZ Army appreciated the excellent support provided by NEA, RNZAF and HQ JFNZ to enable PC C4. The combined efforts have provided NZDF with significant momentum to enhance our

experimentation in the FVEY space. Your collective assistance in enabling the success of this significant FVEY activity is greatly appreciated.

11. POCs for the planning of PC C5 are:

- a. Lead Planner: s. 9(2)(a)
- b. Lead Activity Coord: s. 6(a) Exercise & Activity Planner (Land).

s. 9(2)(k)

J. R. BOSWELL, DSD

Major General
Chief of Army

Distribution List:

For Action:

CN

CAF

AC Cap (Attn: MoD NEA Programme Lead s. 9(2)(a))

DST

DPA

LCC

SOCC

For Information:

DCA

ACA-T

NEA Board

File

Army General Staff

G73 MINUTE

5 Jul 24

2500/1

LCC

For information
NEA Programme Delivery Manager
G7
COMD 1st (NZ) BDE

PROJECT CONVERGENCE CAPSTONE 5 MPC OUTCOMES

Reference

- A. CA 2900/Comd, Support Request: Project Convergence Capstone Five, dated 24 Apr 24

Purpose

1. The purpose of this brief is to provide feedback on the PCC5 MPC held in FORT BLISS OTP 24-28 Jun 24 and considerations for continued involvement IOF LCC to provide direction. This direction will allow timely notification of allocated force elements and the conduct of risk reduction activities that meet US DoD requirements and support positive NZ Army participation outcomes.

2. **Recommendations.** LCC is requested to:

- a. **Approve** the proposed purpose statement at para 10a
- b. **Approve** technology inputs contained in para 10c (in whole or part), IOT allow detailed personnel planning and commence US approvals process.
- c. **Note** that the personnel input at para 10e is indicative only and relies on the technology input to be confirmed IOT confirm personnel requirements.
- d. **Note** the Risks contained in para 10h.

3. **Timing.** The relevant PCC5 timings are:

- a. 22 Jul 24. Recommended cut-off for NZ Army input decision IOT allow US approvals process and confirm to CJBOD next day. This would also serve as an appropriate go/no-go cut-off for NZ participation.
- b. 23 Jul 24. Next programmed CJBOD (force element refinements)
- c. 30 Aug 24. Deadline for tech inclusion into network
- d. 1-4 Oct 24. NTC recon, FORT IRWIN
- e. 7-10 Oct 24. FPC, FORT BLISS
- f. s. 6(a)
- g.

h. s. 6(a)

4. s. 6(a)

5. Due to the benefit gained on PCC4, MNP participation, in terms of personnel and capability, will be significantly greater for PCC5 and all have a clearly stated aim of ensuring interoperability with the other MNP and not just the US.

6. s. 6(a)

7. s. 6(a)

a. s. 6(a)

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

8. s. 6(a)

a. s. 6(a)

(1) s. 6(a)

(2)

s. 6(a)

b. s. 6(a)

(1) s. 6(a)

(2)

9. **PCC5 SOM.** PCC5 is to be conducted more like an operation as opposed to the previous iterations, which were isolated experiment-based events.

a. s. 6(a)

b.

c. Detailed enemy will be built across tactical and strategic activities. s. 6(a)

d. s. 6(a)

e. Will be echeloned out from Corps level down to Coy and even specific platoon level as required for experimentation.

f. Counter-sense, including C-UAS is a main focus.

g. Employment and integration of UAS as part of a system that includes effectors.

h. s. 6(a)

10. **NZ Army PCC5 Participation (conceptual, as briefed to MPC)**

a. **Participation Purpose.** In the absence of any known NZ Army purpose statement for participating in PCC5 and based on the information gained on the MPC, the following is proposed: "to enable the deployment of a Day Zero Interoperable MIBG, primarily within an AS Bde but also within a FVEY centric MND or coalition".

- b. **Experimentation Objectives.** Overall PCC5 Objectives and mission threads that are relevant to NZ Army are contained within Scenario A (Annex B). The approach taken is that any input from NZ Army must support existing outputs and goals, such as MIBG generation within an AS Bde and supporting the delivery of NEA solutions that satisfy Army requirements. The following NZ objectives were briefed to the MPC attendees, and they incorporate residual PCC4 objectives and new, additional ones to address development changes made since then (not limited solely to NZ):

- (1) s. 6(a)
- (2) Utilise the extensive participant and technology presence to expand on progress achieved in more limited specialised activities s. 6(a)
- (3) Contributing to a combined targeting process by the:
 - (a) Integration of NZ Army tactical sensors into NZ MIBG, AS Bde and MND COP's
 - (b) Integration of NZ Army tactical sensors into NZ MIBG, AS Bde and MND effector networks, including for C-UAS.
 - (c) Data lake¹ proof of concept in a Data Centric Security and Zero Trust environment.

- c. **Potential Technology Input.** The MPC was briefed that the NZ Army consists of an operational Bde in a resource constrained environment. Any coalition contributions must not present a burden to be borne by our partners and we must look to maximise the value of our input by trying to supplement critical, high demand capabilities, such as sensors within the combined targeting process. Based on potential contribution to PCC objectives, MIBG readiness milestones, and the maintenance of broader relevance and currency, the specific technologies that have been considered ideal for participation are:

- (1) s. 6(a)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

- d. NEA provided technology that has not yet been issued will be required for deployment. Risk reduction activities will need to be conducted on these technologies prior to being deployed, and it must be conducted with the personnel who will be employing it. These activities will include but are not limited to:

¹ A centralised repository that ingests and stores large volumes of data in it's original form, which can then be processed and used as a basis for a variety of analytic needs. (Microsoft)

- (1) User training
 - (2) Configuration standards compliance
 - (3) Internal interoperability achieved.
- e. **Personnel Input.** The intent is to identify essential technology operation requirements and build the minimum personnel input out from that as opposed to identifying a personnel number and trying to fit capability into it. Noting that experimentation is only conducted between 0800-1600 hours daily (planning, briefs etc conducted out of these hours) and that we would be essentially static in an artificial FOB type set-up, we are able to employ a degree of 'double-hatting' to keep numbers down. Based on the potential technology inputs identified, the following force elements are considered appropriate:
- (1) MIBG HQ (-). 3-6 pers
 - (2) BCP/JFT (-). 6-12 pers
 - (3) UAV Det. 0-2 pers (possibly incorporated within BCP/JFT in whole or part)
 - (4) EW Det. 2-4 pers (possibly minimum pers if incorporated with BCP/JFT)
 - (5) 1 CSR Technical. 10-16 pers
 - (6) NEA Experimentation. 1-2 pers
 - (7) NEA Technical. 1-2 pers.
 - (8) DST. 1 per.
 - (9) Logistics - real time. 1 per
 - (10) Electrician - real time. 1 per (based on PCC4 requirements)
 - (11) Lead Planner. 1 per.
- f. These personnel numbers provide a minimum (27) and maximum (48) based on initial consultation with stakeholders (1 CSR and 16 Fd primarily). Once the technology inputs have been confirmed a multi-tasking activity will occur to identify efficiencies.
- g. **Deployment Duration.** Subject to detailed planning and the PCC5 FPC, it is anticipated that the deployment will be conducted in two phases. Planner, real-time support and some technical roles will deploy immediately s. 6(a) [REDACTED] The remainder will deploy prior to the experimentation proper commencing on 10 MAR 25.
- h. **Risks.**
- (1) Failure to meet US timelines for equipment authorisation. This involves the provision of tech and production data for assessment.

(2) s. 6(a)

(3) NEA sourced equipment. If NEA is unable or unwilling to supply the required intended for issue technical equipment, there is little value in participating as it would not provide an accurate representation of capability or current status. This equipment includes but is not limited to 16 Fd Regt radio fit-outs and appropriate CAN's.

(4) s. 6(a)

If unable to participate meaningful (maximise experimental benefits realised), it is recommended that NZ Army signals early that it is unable to participate in PCC5, but would like to rejoin for PCC6.

i. **Consultation.** To date, consultation has been conducted with the following primary stakeholders:

- (1) NEA Programme Delivery Manager. Ascertain NEA requirements and ability to support.
- (2) Comd 1st (NZ) Bde. Provide initial back brief following PCC5 MPC to ascertain potential 1st (NZ) Bde support concerns and considerations.
- (3) CO 16 Fd Regt. Scope potential involvement that builds on PCC4 s. 6(a) and supports incoming technology interoperability. Experimentation threads and personnel numbers and composition provided.
- (4) CO 1 CSR. Scope potential involvement that builds on existing specialist activities and understand potential CSR support concerns and considerations. Support options approved in principle, pending commitment detail and direction.
- (5) SO1 MILOPS (Operations Research Analysis, AS Army HQ). Ascertain participation focus and commence alignment between both parties' experimentation outcomes.

Summary

11. The FVEY+ intent for PCC5 in terms of execution and outcomes presents an opportunity for NZ Army to conduct experimentation in support of MIBG interoperability and NEA delivery that would be difficult to replicate internally. Additionally, it provides a high-profile platform for Army to demonstrate commitment to adding value on coalition operations.

12. Given Army commitments and constraints, it is acknowledged that there will likely need to be a prioritisation assessment conducted IOT ascertain relevant benefit and therefore the resource that could be committed to PCC5. Army should be prepared to withdraw early from PCC5 if appropriate resources cannot be allocated and properly prepared prior to deployment. s. 6(a)

withdrawal would likely be understood – but it should be declared early.

s. 9(2)(a)

Annexes

- A. PCC5 Scenario A Overview
- B. PCC5 Scenario A Experimental Objectives & Mission Threads

25 Feb 2025

2500/1

DOT-POINT BRIEF FOR CA

PROJECT CONVERGENCE CAPSTONE 5 UPDATE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this brief is to update CA on the NZ Army participation on PCC5 at the NTC, Fort Irwin, California OTP 21 Feb – 19 Mar 25.

NZ Army Participation

2. Pers Commitment.
 - 30 uniformed pers deployed for the duration of the activity (28 participants and two log support).
 - One uniformed NEA MAJ (Experimentation Manager) will deploy OTP 8-17 Mar.
 - Two Hirtenberger Defence Technology contractors will deploy OTP 9 – 19 Mar (TBC). Attendance funded within contract and supporting IIS of Fire Control System.
3. Original NZ PCC5 Objectives, as previously briefed to LCC & CA:
 - **Obj 1.** Validate NEA delivered C4 ISREW networks and capabilities and NZ BG HQ information exchange within a MND s. 6(a)
 - **Obj 2.** Utilise the extensive participant and technology presence to expand on progress achieved in more limited specialised activities s. 6(a)
 - **Obj 3.** Contribute to a combined targeting process by the:
 - Integration of NZ Army tactical sensors into NZ MIBG, AS Bde and MND COP's
 - Integration of NZ Army tactical sensors into NZ MIBG, AS Bde and MND effector networks, for C-UAS.
 - Data lake proof of concept in a Data Centric Security and Zero Trust environment.
 - **Obj 4.** Achieve wider application of progress achieved in more limited specialised activities s. 6(a)
4. Actual NZ PCC5 Objectives:
 - **Obj 1.** Validate NEA delivered C4 ISREW networks and capabilities and NZ BG HQ information exchange within a MND s. 6(a)
 - This continues and builds upon progress made on PCC4.
 - **Obj 2.** Utilise the extensive participant and technology presence to expand on progress achieved in more limited specialised activities s. 6(a)
 - s. 6(a)
 - **Obj 3.** Contribute to a combined targeting process by the:

- Integration of NZ Army tactical sensors into NZ MIBG, AS Bde and MND COP's.
 - Integration of NZ Army tactical sensors into NZ MIBG, AS Bde and MND effector networks, including for C-UAS.
 - s. 6(a)
 - s. 6(a)
 - s. 6(a)
 - Cross Domain Solution to enable data movement between network classifications required for NEA development to enable fielding during OT & E.
 - Data lake proof of concept in a Data Centric Security and Zero Trust environment.
 - Sufficient funding unable to be secured buy NEA or G6 in time to confirm availability for experimentation.
 - **Obj 4.** Achieve wider application of progress achieved in more limited specialised activities s. 6(a)
 - s. 6(a)
5. Additional NZ PCC5 Objective.
- Identify and quantify gaps in capability, process and technical ability that prevent integration and interoperability in part or whole.
6. Future PCC Intent:
- Priority for experimentation is highly likely to remain focussed on sensor integration and data sharing/availability – including those objectives not satisfied for PCC5.
 - Discussion has been held with ACA(S) regarding Strategy assuming PCC 'sponsorship'. To be considered a deliberate milestone activity for NZ Army experimentation requirements. It will also allow Army to ensure interoperability is retained as coalition forces modify existing/implement new technologies and requirements.
 - NEA has been advised to deliberately incorporate PCC6 into its development programme to leverage potential Army input and confirm that intended deliverables are fit for purpose.
 - Broader NZDF participation to support greater C4ISREW network deployability.

s. 9(2)(a)

NEW ZEALAND ARMY
Chief of Army
MINUTE

31 Mar 25


See Distribution List

POST-VISIT REPORT: CHIEF OF ARMY VISIT TO PROJECT CONVERGENCE CAPSTONE 05: 12 – 17 MAR 2025.

Summary

1. My visit to Project Convergence Capstone 5 (PCC-5) emphasised the following points to me:
 - a. Army's Strategy must have an Experimentation plan to lead priorities and resourcing.
 - b. In the short-term Army needs to clearly prioritise what experimentation and modernisation needs to occur in the next 18 months to best utilise PCC-6.
 - c. That the development of effective Service strategies fundamentally requires a robust NZDF Military Strategy.

Actions and Recommendations

2. It is recommended the following items are taken for action:
 - a. **CDSM:**
 - (1) Prioritise the development of an NZDF Military Strategy in the next 3-6 months, with surged support from Services as required (refer para 7).
 - b. **COMINFO:**
 - (1) s. 6(a) 
3. The following items are to be taken for action:
 - a. **CA:**
 - (1) As Co-Chair of the NEA Governance Board, in light of the changing strategic situation and other nations' capability developments, we need to re-consider how we best deliver effect and seize opportunities for 'fast following'.
 - b. **DCA:**
 - (1) Confirm experimentation and modernisation priorities for the next 18 months, and issue direction through a FRAGO to CA Command Directive 02/2024.

- (2) Develop a deliberate experimentation plan as part of the NZ Army Four-Year Strategy, and how training activities integrate with the Army Engagement Plan.
 - (3) BPT support the development of the NZDF Military Strategy with SQEP.
 - (4) Consider whether ABCANZ is focused on priority areas of modernisation and interoperability.
- c. **LCC:**
 - (1) Deliberately consider what Force Elements (FEs) on PCC-6 will best advance NZ Army Experimentation priorities (see paragraph above) and provide good value for money.
- d. **SOCC:**
 - (1) Co-ord with LCC to consider whether SOCC FEs should participate on PCC-6.
- e. **Director Army Strategic Engagement:**
 - (1) Provide a recommendation of CA attendance at Talisman Sabre and IPAMS 25 considering AIEP and counterpart schedules.
 - (2) Provide a recommendation on a formal invite to UK CGS visit to NZ.
 - (3) Through MA NZDF London, and ICW Capability Branch explore training or integration opportunities with UK RAS ETG BG.
- f. **Director Land Domain:**
 - (1) Explore current use of Computer Aided Design (CAD) in Land Capability projects and, if necessary, engage with US Army POC to explore further.
 - (2) Continue to explore the use of 3-D printing, noting legal and H&S considerations.

Visit Overview.

- 4. The visit took place the US Army National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. On 12 March CA attended a no-host social, on 13 March CA received general briefs on NZ, AS and US involvements, a capability demonstration, and attendance at a UK dinner hosted by CGS. 14 March was specific capability briefs and a bi-lateral meeting with US Army Futures Commander, General Rainey.

No-Host Social (12 March).

- 5. CA and SMA attended a social event which allowed them to reinforce their relationships with UK CGS (noting this was CA's first in person meeting with CGS), Commander Canadian Army (CCA), and Canadian Command Warrant Officer.

PCC-5 (13 March).

- 6. The NZ Army Brief outlined the NZ Army's contribution and focus for PCC-5 which centred on validating the NEA C4 ISREW networks in a MND s. 6(a) and contribution to a combined targeting process. The brief covered some of the successes of both systems but also challenges around the

integration of various networks s. 6(a)

It reinforced to me that the Army needs to:

- a. Ensure that lessons learnt in experimentation and trials are disseminated broadly across all capability introduction programmes.
- b. Ensure that network software utilised for the NZ Army s. 6(a) is developed in a prioritised fashion to support operational effects and outputs, and can effectively interface with ABCANZ partners (particularly the ADF).
- c. Have a more deliberate approach to experimentation, and leverage opportunities through partners where possible.
- d. s. 6(a)

7. A bilateral with CGS outlined the following key points:

a. s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)

b.

c.

d. This bilateral re-emphasised the importance of an effective NZDF Military Strategy leading the under draft NZ Army Strategy and Concept of Employment.

e. s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)

8. The US Army overall PCC-5 brief was broad but the two key points from my perspective were:

a. s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)

b.

9. PCC-5 also included capability demonstrations, two of which had particular relevance for the NZ Army:

- a. s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)
 - b.
10. PCC-5 capability demonstrations also allowed for brief 'pull-asides' with:
- a. US Chief of Staff Army – General Randy A. George;
 - b. US Army Forces Commander – General Poppas; and
 - c. US Army Future Concepts Director – Lieutenant – General Hodne.
11. UK CGS hosted a dinner on 13 March which allowed for and honest and frank follow-up conversations from that morning's bilateral meeting. The discussions were broad and covered several topics but of relevance to NZ s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)

14 March Briefs

12. The US Army Artificial Intelligence Integration Centre brief focused on their training and capability development. They provide training through Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh including Masters Courses (2 years), Certification (1 year) and 3-5 day Senior Leader Awareness courses. s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)
13. The ADF and UK provided a brief on their autonomous logistics programme and sustainment modernisation.
14. The UK RAS BG s. 6(a) provided a detailed brief. The RAS BG s. 6(a) is focused on delivering autonomous systems at a scale and cost that is particularly relevant to the NZ Army. This could be an excellent area to increase our commitment to PCC-6.
15. The PCC-5 visit concluded with a bilateral with General Rainey, US Futures Commander. He emphasised the value of land power, interoperability, s. 6(a) Gen Rainey reiterated the importance of industry experimenting alongside soldiers in order to accelerate the transformation loop.

16th Field Regiment,
1 (New Zealand) Brigade, New Zealand Army
Post Activity Report

03 Apr 25

D0-0638/10

CO



For information

CO 1 CSR

CI SOA

CAP BR s. 9(2)(a)

NEA s. 9(2)(a)


PAR: 16 FD REGT PROJECT CONVERGENCE, FT IRWIN USA

Reference

A. LCC Directive 333/2024 - PROJECT CONVERGENCE CAPSTONE FIVE 2025

Introduction

1. Project Convergence Capstone 5 (PCC5) was held in Fort Irwin, USA OTP 24 Feb to 25 Mar. PCC5 is the premier US Army experimentation campaign of learning, seeking to define s. 6(a)




2. 16 Fd Regt deployed a detachment of 8 pers to support integration s. 6(a) with our
This included:

- a. Battery Commander/OPSO;
- b. Battery Guide;
- c. 2x CS Sergeants;
- d. 4x FCS Operators

3. This PAR focuses on the deployed fires element of PCC5 and should be read in conjunction with the complete exercise PAR.

Observations

4. s. 6(a)



5. 16 Fd Regt has reached the limit of what is able to be achieved in terms of fires integration and we require further development s. 6(a) to enable meaningful

integration with our partners. s. 6(a)

6. s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)

7. s. 6(a)

8. s. 6(a)

9. s. 6(a)

10. In future iterations of PCC, there is no requirement for 16 Fd Regt pers to attend the s. 6(a) phase of the exercise as this is focused on establishing MPE and higher networks.

11. If the output and/or exercise objectives remain unchanged an appropriate ORBAT is:

s. 6(a)

Continuity/User Learnings

12. Enclosure 1 is the deployed CS Sgt's report to support future integration s. 6(a) with our ally and partners.

Summary

13. PCC5 was a successful exercise for 16 Fd Regt s. 6(a)

Recommendations

14. s. 6(a)

15. 16 Fd Regt and SOA lead prioritisation of s. 6(a) future development and CAP BR resource, coordinate, and deliver.

s. 6(a)

16. NEA support 16 Fd Regt through delivery of interim data radios through existing NZDF holdings.

17. s. 6(a)

s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(k)

MAJ /
BC 163


Enclosure

1. Ex Project Convergence - s. 6(a) Notes and Findings (TBI: 11 APR 25)

Summary

16. An extremely worthwhile visit that provided two broad benefits. Firstly, it allowed me to deepen my personal connections with key FVEY counterparts and meet UK CGS. Secondly, it reinforced the value of deliberate, prioritised experimentation for the NZ Army.

s. 9(2)(k)



~~RT KING~~
~~MAJ GEN~~
~~CA~~

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PCC-5 SITREP

HEADER

1.	<i>To (Action Addressee)</i>	XO LCC
2.	<i>From</i>	SNO PCC5
3.	<i>Info</i>	1 BDE Ops
4.	<i>Classification</i>	
5.	<i>Precedence</i>	ROUTINE
6.	<i>DTG</i>	270600FEB25

BODY

7.	<i>SITREP Number</i>	001
8.	<i>Activity Last 72 Hours</i>	<p>s. 6(a)</p> <p>16 Fd systems are also integrating with partners and are increasing connectivity s. 6(a)</p> <p>HQ staff have sought opportunities to employ NZ FE's with/or have them observe experimentation activities in the next phase.</p>
9.	<i>Activity Next 72 Hours</i>	<p>NZ FE's will continue to achieve objectives of the phase and don't foresee any issues in establishing networks/systems s. 6(a)</p> <p>NZ FE's have been invited and will participate in the AUS Army birthday celebrations on the 28th.</p>
10.	<i>S1</i>	<p>PERSTAT: 6:23 (+ attached: 1 HDT contractor)</p> <p>s. 6(a)</p> <p>Camp and work area passes have been collected for NZ participants yet to arrive (1x Mil 1x Contractor).</p> <p>Local Leave will be coordinated through SNO when activity allows.</p>
11.	<i>S4</i>	<p>Due to an error with the car rental contractor there are no vehicles for the contingent until 28 Feb. AUS Army contingent and the US JMC have provided two loan vehicles to enable NZ acty.</p> <p>s. 6(a)</p> <p>A changeover of sanitation contracts has led to there being significantly less portaloos and showering facilities than planned. This is looking to be rectified by the US in the next 7 days.</p>
12.	<i>Public Affairs</i>	SNO has established comms with DPA and AUS POC to enable PA.
13.	<i>Issues / Risks</i>	Nil
14.	<i>Remarks</i>	s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)



RJ APPLETON

SNO

LTCOL

PC-C5 SITREP

HEADER

1.	<i>To (Action Addressee)</i>	XO LCC
2.	<i>From</i>	SNO PC-C5
3.	<i>Info</i>	1 BDE Ops
4.	<i>Classification</i>	
5.	<i>Precedence</i>	ROUTINE
6.	<i>DTG</i>	01 0600MAR25

BODY

7.	<i>SITREP Number</i>	002
8.	<i>Activity Last 72 Hours</i>	s. 6(a)

9.	<i>Activity Next 72 Hours</i>	
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10.	<i>S1</i>	PERSTAT: 6:23
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11.	<i>S4</i>	Car rental issue has been rectified.
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RTNZ planning has commenced with the S4 and MOVOP working to understand exercise area clearance requirements, RNZAF movement timings and associated support requirements. This will lead to a recommended COA (with costs) for XO LCC approval.

12.	<i>S6</i>	s. 6(a)
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13.	<i>Public Affairs</i>	Nil.
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14.	<i>Issues / Risks</i>	Nil
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15.	<i>Remarks</i>	s. 6(a)
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Planning continues for CA visit OTP 12-14 MAR 25. This includes US CSA DV Day (13 MAR 25).

NZ observers have received several briefs on technology and systems that may be of interest or at least prove concepts that the NZ Army are scoping/developing.

All partners are welcoming of NZ FE and opportunities continue to be presented to participate or observe experiments or demonstrations daily.

RJ APPLETON

SNO

LTCOL

PC-C5 SITREP

HEADER

1.	<i>To (Action Addressee)</i>	XO LCC
2.	<i>From</i>	SNO PC-C5
3.	<i>Info</i>	1 BDE Ops
4.	<i>Classification</i>	
5.	<i>Precedence</i>	ROUTINE
6.	<i>DTG</i>	06 0900MAR25

BODY

7.	<i>SITREP Number</i>	003
8.	<i>Activity Last 72 Hours</i>	s. 6(a) [REDACTED]
9.	<i>Activity Next 72 Hours</i>	Focus of the next 72 hrs for the contingent is supporting the vignette rehearsals. s. 6(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
10.	<i>S1</i>	PERSTAT: 6:23
11.	<i>S4</i>	S4/Movop conducted a RTNZ movement COA back brief to the SNO. With guidance from the SNO they have deployed today to March AFB to answer RFIs and confirm costs. A recommended COA with costs will be sent to XO LCC for approval. Initial estimates on cost are within the amount budgeted by the exercise planner.
12.	<i>S6</i>	s. 6(a) [REDACTED]
13.	<i>Public Affairs</i>	SNO has established comms with the AUS Public Affairs team who arrive 10 MAR 25.
14.	<i>Issues / Risks</i>	Nil
15.	<i>Remarks</i>	NZ FE have achieved all requirements s. 6(a) and are postured for Experimentation phase. NZ observers continue to engage with partner technology sponsors to gain insight into technology and to answer RFIs from across NZ Army. Preparation for CA's visit to PCC5 is tracking well and coordination with commonwealth partners is progressing. Programme for CA's visit to be promulgated once complete.

RJ APPLETON
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LTCOL

PC-C5 SITREP

HEADER

1.	<i>To (Action Addressee)</i>	XO LCC
2.	<i>From</i>	SNO PC-C5
3.	<i>Info</i>	1 BDE Ops
4.	<i>Classification</i>	
5.	<i>Precedence</i>	ROUTINE
6.	<i>DTG</i>	09 0900MAR25

BODY

7.	<i>SITREP Number</i>	004
8.	<i>Activity Last 72 Hours</i>	Vignette rehearsals are underway with support being provided by 1CSR and 16FD. s. 6(a) [REDACTED]
9.	<i>Activity Next 72 Hours</i>	Focus of the next 72 hrs for the contingent is supporting the remaining vignette rehearsals and vignette 1 s. 6(a) [REDACTED] 16 Fd pers will continue to conduct fires integration.
10.	<i>S1</i>	PERSTAT: 6:23
11.	<i>S4</i>	Nil
12.	<i>S6</i>	s. 6(a) [REDACTED]
13.	<i>Public Affairs</i>	SNO has established comms with the AUS Public Affairs team who arrive 10 MAR 25.
14.	<i>Issues / Risks</i>	Several of the contingent members are sick with cold and flu symptoms. There is nothing serious but pers are being monitored and mitigation in place.
15.	<i>Remarks</i>	US government budget funding expires on 14 March. s. 6(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I have asked the US to share their plans IRT a shutdown and expect to hear back tomorrow.

RJ APPLETON
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LTCOL

PC-C5 SITREP

HEADER

1.	<i>To (Action Addressee)</i>	XO LCC
2.	<i>From</i>	SNO PC-C5
3.	<i>Info</i>	1 BDE Ops
4.	<i>Classification</i>	
5.	<i>Precedence</i>	ROUTINE
6.	<i>DTG</i>	13 0900MAR25

BODY

7.	<i>SITREP Number</i>	005
8.	<i>Activity Last 72 Hours</i>	Vignette rehearsals are complete and vignette 1 (JFEO) is underway. s. 6(a) 16 Fd pers are not involved in vignette 1. s. 6(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
9.	<i>Activity Next 72 Hours</i>	Focus of the next 72 hrs for the contingent is supporting vignette 2 s. 6(a) 16 FD have a role in the DIV fireplan s. 6(a) [REDACTED] There is unfavourable weather expected for the next 72hrs which will affect the vignette, CA's visit and the US Chief of Staff of the Army visit.
10.	<i>S1</i>	PERSTAT: 7:23 (NEA Experimentation Manager has arrived)
11.	<i>S4</i>	RTNZ accommodation near MARCH AFB has been booked. The same hotel has availability should the s. 6(a) [REDACTED] US Govt shutdown.
12.	<i>S6</i>	Nil
13.	<i>Public Affairs</i>	SNO and OPSO are working with AUS PAO to develop a short public messaging product for NZ DPA.
14.	<i>Issues / Risks</i>	Several of the contingent members are sick with cold and flu symptoms. There is nothing serious but pers are being monitored and mitigation in place.
15.	<i>Remarks</i>	US government budget funding expires on 14 March. The Budget Bill passed in the house last night and will move to a Senate vote shortly. s. 6(a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Due to the unfavourable weather over the next few days there has been significant disruption to CA's visit schedule. I will continue to work with the US and FVEY partners to ensure her visit is as productive as possible.

RJ APPLETON
SNO
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PC-C5 SITREP

HEADER

1.	<i>To (Action Addressee)</i>	XO LCC
2.	<i>From</i>	SNO PC-C5
3.	<i>Info</i>	1 BDE Ops
4.	<i>Classification</i>	
5.	<i>Precedence</i>	ROUTINE
6.	<i>DTG</i>	16 0900MAR25

BODY

7.	<i>SITREP Number</i>	006
8.	<i>Activity Last 72 Hours</i>	Vignette 1 s. 6(a) is complete with limited NZ participation. NZ Chief of Army visit was successful with MAJGEN King able to receive several briefs from the contingent, contributing nations, and contractors. Chief of Staff of the US Army visit day was successful for the US however, this was severely affected by weather conditions. Vignette 2 s. 6(a) is now underway s. 6(a) and 16 Fd pers directly supporting the vignette with fires.
9.	<i>Activity Next 72 Hours</i>	Focus of the next 72 hrs for the contingent is supporting Vignettes 2 and 3 s. 6(a) 16 FD have a role in the DIV fireplan and s. 6(a)
10.	<i>S1</i>	PERSTAT: 7:23:1 (HDT contractor has arrived)
11.	<i>S4</i>	Nil
12.	<i>S6</i>	Nil
13.	<i>Public Affairs</i>	NZ CA did a short interview with the AUS PAO which will be sent to NZ DPA. AUS PAO also captured NZ activity and will also pass to NZ DPA.
14.	<i>Issues / Risks</i>	Nil
15.	<i>Remarks</i>	US government budget funding expires on 14 Mar 25. The resolution looks that it will pass Senate vote evening 14 Mar 25 (Local). s. 6(a) Alongside CA's visit the NZ contingent has supported several DV visits. NZ Contingent has largely completed the experimentation it is able to undertake, with some final fires threads to be resolved.

RJ APPLETON
SNO
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