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OIA-2025-5375

2nd  
July 2025

[redacted]@rnz.co.nz

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 16 April 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*All NZDF /MOD interactions (as in, an event or activity on certain date/s) or commitments (eg to attend, to play a part) in any aspect of JCADC2 (including eg by domain, or by NZ unit etc). For instance, this would include the engagement of Aust and NZ Battle Lab within the CFLBnet in Project Capstone Convergence since 2023, per year, detailing the activity per year etc*

*RNZ requests detailed info from NZDF/MOD on any and all instances of arrangements similar (in its widest interpretation) to Overmatch being made in the period since the start of 2023, with other countries' military/defence entities either directly or indirectly formal and/or informal that have either a central or secondary military purpose or application including Project Overmatch, and anything similar to it, no matter how it is defined by NZDF or others. We specifically request released in full and in fully searchable and copyable format:*

*Details of each and every such 'arrangement' for the period stated incl*

*Its name*

*Name of other party/ies*

*Its initiation date*

*Any and all subsequent significant/milestone dates regarding it, looking back and in future*

*Its aim*

*Its measured outcome so far*

*Its resourcing by NZDF – incl personnel and budget*

*Any external plan or strategy or similar that the initiative links into eg Project Overmatch is the US navy's contribution to JCADC2*

*Assessment of pros and cons*

*Details of any NZDF/MOD input into any US assessment for the period of, incl dates and requesting US party:*

*Space launch capability*

*Space capability in any other areas other than launch*

*Any capability related to JCADC2 in any of its facets and domains, incl air, sea, subsea, land and space eg Project Overmatch is one such*

As you may be aware from publicly available information on this United States Navy project<sup>1</sup>, Project Overmatch enhances the member states' navies' abilities to conduct

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.navwar.navy.mil/Media/Article-Display/Article/4077984/project-overmatch-achieves-historic-milestone-with-five-eyes-agreement/>

distributed maritime military operations. This enhances the Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) ability to remain interoperable with our military partners to directly support our strategic goals. Those strategic goals are outlined in the 2025 Defence Capability Plan<sup>2</sup>.

The NZDF is also a participant in Project Convergence Capstone and the Combined Federated Battle Lab Network (CFLBN), both of which are US Military initiatives similar to Project Overmatch and exist within the umbrella of Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control (CJADC2). The NZDF involvement in these initiatives is a function of the need to be able to work alongside our military partners. The NZDF is not a driver of the initiatives, and no NZDF project matches or mirrors the scale or nature of the United States' projects.

The NZDF began participating in Project Overmatch in early 2025, participated in Project Convergence Capstone events in 2024 and 2025 and participated in CFLBN in 2025. Some reports relating to NZDF involvement in Convergence Capstone 5 are publicly available under OIA-2025-5338 on the NZDF website<sup>3</sup>.

*As far as your request concerns detailed info from NZDF...on any and all instances of arrangements similar (in its widest interpretation) to Overmatch being made in the period since the start of 2023, with other countries' military/defence entities either directly or indirectly formal and/or informal that have either a central or secondary military purpose or application including Project Overmatch, and anything similar to it, no matter how it is defined by NZDF or others, it is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA. This is because the context of your request "in its widest interpretation" covers any and all interactions with other nations over nearly a two and a half year period. The time it has taken to inform this decision represents the effort required to simply determine the scope of information covered by your request.*

Even if the NZDF was to limit your request to just the aforementioned projects, much of it concerns NZDF combat capabilities and interoperability with partners. It is classified information and would not be made public. I do not believe consulting with you to refine the request would meaningfully change the outcome and result in information concerning the capability and interoperability of the NZDF being provided to you.

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](http://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

<sup>2</sup> <https://defence.govt.nz/news/defence-capability-plan-released/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/official-information-requests/>