



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

OIA-2025-5391

24 June 2025

[redacted]
[redacted]@afp.com

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 7 May 2025, to the Ministry of Defence, requesting *[a]ll briefings/memos/reports or similar provided to relevant ministers regarding this missile [the September 2024 test firing of an ICBM missile by China], and the implications of the test (including, but not limited to, briefings that discuss its capabilities, the implications of the test firing, and New Zealand's response to the test)*. The Ministry transferred your request to the New Zealand Defence Force in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Enclosed is a copy of a briefing document provided to ministers. Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA as its release would likely prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand and/or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand. Three other documents provided to ministers are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a), for the reasons explained above, and section 6(b)(i) of the OIA as release would likely prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country of any agency of such a Government.

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. Briefing – China: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles



CHINA: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

On 25 September, China launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) approximately 11,200 kilometres (based on a notional trajectory) into a high-seas area between Kiribati and French Polynesia (see map on page three). s. 6(a)

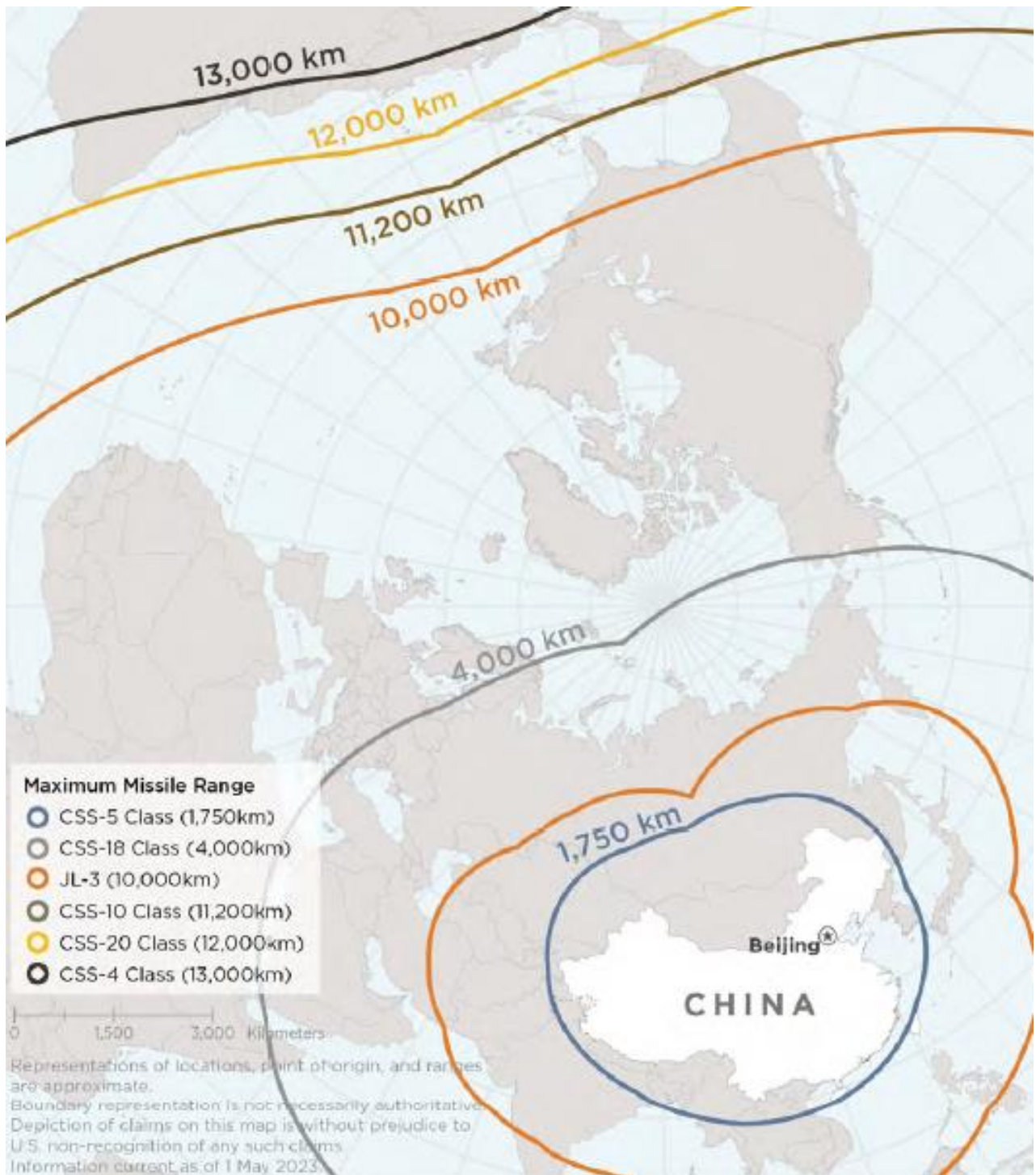
- The last time China launched an ICBM into the south Pacific was in May 1980.
- s. 6(a)
- s. 6(a)
- China's Ministry of National Defense stated 'the missile test was part of the PLA Rocket Force's annual training plan and was intended to examine the weapon's capability and performance as well as the training level of the troops.'
- China said the missile was fitted with a dummy warhead. It did not identify the type of ICBM.

s. 6(a)

The PLA's ICBMs can be launched from silos or mobile transporter erector launchers.

- China has multiple classes of ICBM which can range almost all of the world, and include variants capable of delivering multiple warheads on one missile.
- s. 6(a)
- Officially, China has a 'no first use' policy and claims it will never be the first to use nuclear weapons. It also claims it will never use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear state, or against a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Information cut-off date: 27 September 2024



Maximum missile range of China's fielded ballistic missiles
Source: United States Department of Defense



s. 6(a)

