



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

OIA-2025-5437

15 July 2025

[redacted]
[redacted]@afp.com

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 16 June 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), copies of the following briefings to the Minister of Defence:

Meeting Brief: United States Secretary of Defense 4/02/2025 MoD 17-2025

Event Brief - Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence Breakfast with US Congressional Delegation 18/02/2025 MoD 50-2025

Request for an Indemnity in Favour of the Airways Corporation of NZ Ltd under Section 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989 20/02/2025 NZDF 2025-035

Acceptance and wear of United States Awards for Service in Iraq 28/02/2025 NZDF 2024-342

New Zealand – India Defence Cooperation Arrangement 28/02/2025 NZDF 2025-038

On 18 June 2025, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) transferred the part of your request for a copy of *Meeting Brief: United States Secretary of Defense* and *New Zealand – India Defence Cooperation Arrangement* to the Ministry of Defence, and the part of your request for a copy of *Event Brief - Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence Breakfast with US Congressional Delegation* to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This was in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

A copy of *Request for an Indemnity in Favour of the Airways Corporation of NZ Ltd under Section 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989* is at Enclosure 1. Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with: section 6(a) as its release is likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand; section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion; section 9(2)(a) to protect privacy; and, section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege. A copy of *Acceptance and wear of United States Awards for Service in Iraq* is at Enclosure 2. Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with: section 9(2)(g)(i); and, section 9(2)(a) for the reasons explained above.

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. Request for an Indemnity in Favour of the Airways Corporation of NZ Ltd under Section 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989, 19 February 2025
2. Acceptance and wear of United States Awards for Service in Iraq, 28 February 2025



NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

SUBMISSION TO MINISTER COVER SHEET

Title	REQUEST FOR AN INDEMNITY IN FAVOUR OF THE AIRWAYS CORPORATION OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED UNDER SECTION 65ZD OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ACT 1989				
Tracking No	NZDF Tracking # 2025-035		Minister's Tracking #		
Importance of the Issue	High		Moderate	v	Routine
Urgency for Attention/Sign-off	NOT URGENT		Request ministerial response by:		
Contacts	s. 9(2)(g)(i)		Tel: s. 9(2)(a)		A/H:
	AIRCDRE Andy Scott		Tel: s. 9(2)(a)		A/H:
Purpose	The purpose of this note is to request that the Minister of Defence grant an indemnity in favour of the Airways Corporation of New Zealand Limited (Airways) under section 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989 for the Air Traffic Control Services Agreement for a period of one year (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025).				
Recommendations	<p>It is recommended that the Minister:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note that the NZDF wishes to extend, by way of a Deed of Variation, a contract with Airways Corporation for air traffic control services to NZDF aircraft. b. Note that the contract to be extended contains an indemnity in relation to military operations. c. Note the existing indemnity granted by the Minister of Finance in 2013 expired on 30 June 2024. d. Note that the Minister of Defence has been given authority by the Prime Minister to grant indemnities specifically in relation to the activity identified in para 5.c of the Note. e. Agree to grant the indemnity commencing 1 July 2024 and expiring 30 June 2025. f. Inform the House of Representatives of the grant of the indemnity in accordance with s.65ZD(3) of the Public Finance Act 1989. 				
MoD/NZDF Consultation	Required/Not required				
Minister's Comments					
Minister's Action	Signed/Noted/Agreed/Approved/Declined/Discussion required				
	Referred to:				
Minister's Signature				Date:	

T DAVIES

Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force

19 February 2025



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

NTM 2025-035

19 February 2025

Minister of Defence

**REQUEST FOR AN INDEMNITY IN FAVOUR OF THE AIRWAYS CORPORATION OF
NEW ZEALAND LIMITED UNDER SECTION 65ZD OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ACT 1989**

1. The purpose of this note is to request that you grant an indemnity in favour of the Airways Corporation of New Zealand Limited (Airways) under section 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989 for the Air Traffic Control Services Agreement for a period of one year (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025).
2. Since Airways' formation as a State-Owned Enterprise on 1 April 1987, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and Airways have had an agreement for the provision of Air Traffic Services (ATS) within New Zealand's domestic and oceanic airspace. This agreement specifically includes the provision of an aerodrome control service for the Royal New Zealand Air Force's bases at Ohakea and Whenuapai and an approach and area control service for Ohakea.
3. The most recent Agreement (11912) with Airways commenced on 1 July 2013, was extended twice and finally expired on 30 June 2024. Airways and the NZDF wish to extend the Agreement for an additional year, to expire on 30 June 2025, to enable a new agreement to then be negotiated which aligns with Airways' pricing cycle. The extension will be undertaken by a Deed of Variation which will be effective from 1 July 2024.
4. The expired Agreement contained an indemnity which was separately granted by the Minister of Finance, by a Deed of Indemnity in 2013 on behalf of the NZDF, in favour of Airways for any legal liability for any loss or damage sustained by any third person (including the Crown in the widest sense) arising out of the provision by Airways of ATS to an NZDF aircraft while it is on a Military Operation (this term being defined in the contract). This also extended to approved foreign military aircraft in New Zealand while flying and using Airways' air traffic control services. The Deed of Indemnity granted by the Minister of Finance expired on 30 June 2024, and is unable to be extended by the NZDF entering into a variation of the contract to extend its term. The time delay in seeking this new indemnity has been caused by extended negotiations with Airways.
5. Since March 2024, the Prime Minister appointed the Minister of Defence to be responsible for the administration of section 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989 in relation to the following four categories of activity:
 - a. participation of New Zealand Defence Force or Ministry of Defence personnel in operations, exercises, training and other activities with any other nation or an international body or bodies;

- b. acquisition by the New Zealand Defence Force or Ministry of Defence of military equipment and services from any other nation or an international body or bodies;
- c. acquisition by the New Zealand Defence Force or Ministry of Defence of military equipment and services essential for national security, operations and operational readiness; and
- d. tug, tow and pilotage of New Zealand Defence Force ships.

6. It is therefore requested that the Minister of Defence grant the new indemnity (enclosure 1) in relation to the agreement to extend the Airways contract under activity 4.c. above. This indemnity is required for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, because Airways is not insured for such risks. This is normal and has been required since Airways became a State-Owned Enterprise.

7. The indemnity states:

RNZAF Military Operation indemnity of Airways

Therefore in consideration of Airways agreeing to provide the NZDF with ATS, the NZ Government hereby agrees to indemnify Airways against any claim by any third person against Airways for any legal liability for any loss or damage sustained by any third person (including the Crown in the widest sense) which arises out of the provision by Airways of ATS to a NZDF aircraft while it is on a Military Operation (as defined in the Contract), except to the extent that Airways is liable for any:

- a. *Such loss or damage arising out of a loss of separation between any aircraft not on a Military Operation and any NZDF aircraft on a Military Operation; or*
- b. *Such losses arising in connection with a Military Operation or other special military procedure in respect of which standards and procedures specific to the particular operation or procedure were agreed in writing by the parties in advance, to the extent that such loss or damage arises due to Airways breach of the Contract (including such specific standard and procedure) or negligence.*

Risks of Guarantee or Indemnity

8. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

9. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

a. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

b. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

10. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

11. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

12. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

Mitigation of Risks

13. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

14. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

15. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

16. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

17. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

18. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

Benefits of Guarantee or Indemnity

19. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

20. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

a. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

b. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

c. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

d. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

21. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

a. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

b. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

c. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

d. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

e. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

f. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

g. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

h. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

22. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

Assessment of Risks and Benefits against Public Interest Threshold

23. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

24. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

25. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

26. s. 6(a), s. 9(2)(h)

Other Considerations

27. The deed of variation to formally extend the Agreement is yet to be signed by both parties pending Minister of Defence confirmation that the indemnity sought in favour of Airways Corporation will be granted.

28. It is noted that there has been some delay to requesting this indemnity which is in part due to prolonged negotiations with Airways Corporation.

Notification Requirements

29. The contingent liability created by the indemnity will potentially exceed \$10 million and therefore there is an obligation to notify the House of Representatives (Enclosure 2) in accordance with s.65ZD(3) of the indemnity and the reasons for it.

Recommendations

30. It is recommended that the Minister:

- a. **Note** that the NZDF wishes to extend, by way of a Deed of Variation, a contract with Airways Corporation for air traffic control services to NZDF aircraft.

NOTED

- b. **Note** that the contract to be extended contains an indemnity in relation to military operations.

NOTED

- c. **Note** the existing indemnity granted by the Minister of Finance in 2013 expired on 30 June 2024.

NOTED

- d. **Note** that you have been given authority by the Prime Minister to grant indemnities specifically in relation to the activity identified in para 5.c above.

NOTED

- e. **Agree** to grant the indemnity commencing 1 July 2024 and expiring 30 June 2025.

YES / NO

- f. **Inform** the House of Representatives of the grant of the indemnity in accordance with s.65ZD(3) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

YES / NO


T DAVIES

Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force

Date: 19 Feb 25


Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister of Defence

Date: 20/2/25

Enclosures:

1. Deed of Indemnity
2. Statement of Notification

DEED OF INDEMNITY

THIS DEED is made on the day of

By **THE SOVEREIGN IN RIGHT OF NEW ZEALAND** acting by and through the Minister for Defence pursuant to section 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989 ("NZ Government") in favour of:

AIRWAYS CORPORATION OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED (AIRWAYS)

BACKGROUND

- A. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) entered into a contract with Airways dated 28 June 2013 for the provision of Air Traffic Service (ATS) for a term of 11 years, which was subsequently extended for an additional year with a new expiry date of 30 June 2025 (the Contract). Airways has requested an indemnity for the extended period, in respect of certain liabilities.
- B. Under s.65ZC of the Public Finance Act 1989 the NZDF cannot grant the indemnity. Accordingly pursuant to s.65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989, the NZ Government has agreed to indemnify Airways for any legal liability for any loss or damage sustained by any third person (include the Crown in the widest sense) which arises out of the provision by Airways of ATS to a NZDF aircraft while it is on a Military Operation (this term being defined in the Contract). This also extends to approved foreign military aircraft in New Zealand while flying and using Airways' ATS.

TERMS

- 1. Therefore in consideration of Airways agreeing to provide the NZDF with ATS, the NZ Government hereby agrees to indemnify Airways against any claim by any third person against Airways for any legal liability for any loss or damage sustained by any third person (including the Crown in the widest sense) which arises out of the provision by Airways of ATS to a NZDF aircraft while it is on a Military Operation (as defined in the Contract), except to the extent that Airways is liable for any:
 - a. Such loss or damage arising out of a loss of separation between any aircraft not on a Military Operation and any NZDF aircraft on a Military Operation; or
 - b. such losses arising in connection with a Military Operation or other special military procedure in respect of which standards and procedures specific to the particular operation or procedure were agreed in writing by the parties in advance, to the extent that such loss or damage arises due to Airways breach of the Contract (including such specific standard and procedure) or negligence.
- 2. The NZ Government acknowledge that the definition of "NZDF" under the Contract includes armed forces of the countries, armed forces representing any group of countries and the United Nations, as further described in the definition of "NZDF" under clause 1.1 of the Contract. Accordingly, the NZ Government confirms that reference to the NZDF in Clause 1 of this Deed shall be reference to the NZDF as defined in the Contract.

3. The indemnity applies with effect from 01 July 2024 and expires when the Contract expires, being no later than 30 June 2025.

EXECUTED AS A DEED

SIGNED by
Hon Judith Collins KC
Minister of Defence,
for and on behalf of
the New Zealand Government
in the presence of:

]
]
]
]
]
]



s. 9(2)(a)

Witness:

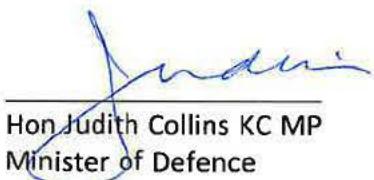
Occupation: s. 9(2)(a)

Address: s. 9(2)(a)

STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY GIVEN UNDER SECTION 65ZD OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ACT 1989

On 20 February 2025, I, Hon Judith Collins, Minister of Defence, on behalf of the Crown, gave an indemnity to Airways Corporation Limited in relation to the provision of Air Traffic Control Services to the New Zealand Defence Force which contains a contingent liability which may exceed \$10 million.

Dated on the 20th day of February 2025.


Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister of Defence





NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

SUBMISSION TO MINISTER COVER SHEET

Title	ACCEPTANCE AND WEAR OF UNITED STATES AWARDS FOR SERVICE IN IRAQ				
Tracking No	NZDF Tracking # 2024-342		Minister's Tracking #		
Importance of the Issue	High		Moderate		Routine v
Urgency for Attention/Sign-off	NOT URGENT		Request ministerial response by:		
Contacts	s. 9(2)(g)(i)		Tel: s. 9(2)(a)	A/H: s. 9(2)(a)	
	s. 9(2)(g)(i)		Tel: s. 9(2)(a)	A/H: s. 9(2)(a)	
Purpose	This submission proposes that the Minister of Defence recommend to the Prime Minister that he seeks Her Excellency The Governor-General's retrospective approval for the acceptance and wear of United States awards by eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel for their meritorious service in Iraq in 2016 and from 2019 to 2023.				
Recommendations	It is recommended that the Minister: a. Invite the Prime Minister to seek Her Excellency The Governor-General's approval for the acceptance and wear of these United States awards by the eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel listed in Annex A.				
MoD/NZDF Consultation	The Honours Unit, Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have been consulted and have no objection to the proposal.				
Minister's Comments					
Minister's Action	Signed/Noted/Agreed/Approved/Declined/Discussion required				
	Referred to:				
Minister's Signature				Date:	

T DAVIES

Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force

28 February 2025



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
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Private Bag 39997
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Lower Hutt 5045
NEW ZEALAND

NTM 2024-342

28 February 2025

Minister of Defence

ACCEPTANCE AND WEAR OF UNITED STATES AWARDS FOR SERVICE IN IRAQ

Proposal

1. This submission proposes that you recommend to the Prime Minister that he seeks Her Excellency The Governor-General's retrospective approval for the acceptance and wear of United States awards by eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel for their meritorious service in Iraq in 2016 and from 2019 to 2023. A draft letter to the Prime Minister is enclosed for your signature.

Awards Offered and the Service Being Recognised

2. The Embassy of the United States in Wellington has formally offered United States military awards for eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel in recognition of their meritorious service in Iraq in 2016 and from 2019 to 2023. The names and roles of the recipients are listed in Annex A. Seven of these awards were presented in the operational theatre, with the eighth award presented in New Zealand. The 2016 award was to be included in the April 2023 request for acceptance and approval for wear but was left out due to administrative error.

3. The meritorious service of the individuals has not already been recognised by a New Zealand honour (the New Zealand General Service Medal 'Iraq 2015' and New Zealand Operational Service Medal have been awarded). The New Zealand Defence Force will not nominate any of these persons for New Zealand honours for this service.

4. Approval for the acceptance and wear of these United States military awards is requested under paragraph 10(a) of the 'Rules relating to the acceptance and wearing of Commonwealth, Foreign and international honours by New Zealand citizens', with many of the awards also meeting the requirements of paragraph 9(a)(iii) of the Rules. Paragraph 10(a) states that approval to accept and wear a Commonwealth or foreign honour may be contemplated where, in the opinion of the approving authority, such approval is in the best interests of New Zealand. Paragraph 9(a)(iii) relates to honours which recognise 'meritorious services on the part of a New Zealand citizen or member of the New Zealand Defence Force involved in operations while on exchange, attachment, interchange or loan duties with the armed forces of the country or international organisation making the proposal'.

5. Three of the offered awards for service in Iraq are to persons whose location of service was moved from Iraq to Kuwait, or vice versa, during their deployment but who were based for at least 30 days in Iraq. The changes of location were due to the operational requirements of the international military headquarters. A precedent decision was made in August 2023 approving the acceptance and wear of six awards where the service location was changed from Iraq to Kuwait or vice versa between 2019 and 2021. Thirty days or more of service in Iraq was considered by the then Minister of Defence, the then Prime Minister

and the Governor-General as an appropriate length of service to warrant acceptance and wear under the warlike operational theatre policy.

6. United States awards received by New Zealand Defence Force personnel whose service was based in Kuwait are not submitted for approval for acceptance and wear. This is because the service was not in a warzone or warlike operational theatre. Most Kuwait-based individuals spent between three and ten days on official tasks in Iraq during their six-month deployment. This length of service in Iraq is not considered long enough to justify acceptance and wear under the warlike operational theatre policy.

Precedents

7. Since 2016, 74 New Zealand Defence Force personnel have been given approval by various Governor-Generals (in 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2023) to accept and wear similar United States meritorious awards recognising their operational service in Iraq since 2014.

8. New Zealand and the United States enjoy a significant and long-standing defence relationship. The offer of these United States awards to New Zealand Defence Force personnel is an acknowledgment by the United States Government of the high value which is placed on the contribution made by New Zealanders to coalition operations in Iraq since 2016. The New Zealand Defence Force deployment to Iraq ended in 2023.

'C' Device for Combat Conditions

9. The 'C' device for Combat Conditions, which is worn on the ribbon of the medal, was awarded to the four personnel on the final two New Zealand Defence Force rotations into Iraq in the second half of 2022 and the first half of 2023. They are the only New Zealand Defence Force personnel who served in Iraq or Afghanistan to receive awards with a 'C' device. The award of this device was due to an administrative change in the second half of 2022 by the United States military related to the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve forward headquarters in Baghdad. There was no difference in the roles and tasks undertaken by the personnel compared to previous rotations to the forward headquarters in Iraq since 2015.

Consultation

10. The Honours Unit, Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have been consulted and have no objection to the proposal.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that the Minister:

- a. **Invite** the Prime Minister to seek Her Excellency The Governor-General's approval for the acceptance and wear of these United States awards by the eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel listed in Annex A.

YES / NO



T DAVIES

Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force

Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister of Defence

Annex

- A. United States awards recommended for approval for acceptance and wear

Enclosure

- 1. Letter to the Prime Minister

UNITED STATES AWARDS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL FOR ACCEPTANCE AND WEAR

Reference:

- A. Rules for the Acceptance and Wear of Commonwealth, Foreign and International Honours by New Zealand Citizens, dated 23 July 2007.

Note: The information below is from the citations and nomination forms for each award. The nomination forms normally include four areas of achievement. Only one area is described below.

IRAQ

United States Joint Service Commendation Medal x 4 - awarded with the 'C' device for Combat Conditions - for service in Iraq

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Commendation)

1. s. 9(2)(a)
Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Logistics Planner, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from July 2022 to January 2023. He excelled at all aspects of his role, including leading the Force Readiness Logistics cell and being responsible for planning, monitoring and facilitating all Counter Isis Train and Equipment Fund divestments.
2. s. 9(2)(a)
Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Logistics Planner, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from January to June 2023. He excelled at all aspects of his role, including leading the Force Readiness Logistics cell and being responsible for planning, monitoring and facilitating all Counter Isis Train and Equipment Fund divestments.
3. s. 9(2)(a) **Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps**
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Assessment Officer, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from July 2022 to January 2023. He excelled in his role of assessing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.
4. s. 9(2)(a) **New Zealand Army Physical Training Corps**
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Assessment Officer, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from

January to June 2023. He excelled in his role of assessing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.

United States Joint Service Commendation Medal x 1 - no device awarded - for service in Iraq

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Commendation)

5. **s. 9(2)(a)**

Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps

For commendable service as the Force Readiness Assessment Officer, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from August 2020 to February 2021. He excelled in his role of assessing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces. In addition, he took the initiative to provide valuable advice to the Iraqi Security Forces Joint Operations Command – Iraq Close Protection Team, providing them the skills needed to safely transport Iraqi senior leadership throughout Iraq.

SERVICE IN BOTH IRAQ AND KUWAIT

United States Defense Meritorious Service Medal x 1 - no device awarded - for service in both Iraq and Kuwait

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Defence Meritorious Service Medal)

6. **s. 9(2)(a)**

Royal New Zealand

Infantry Regiment

For meritorious service as Sergeant Major, Training Directorate Current Operations, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve from August 2019 to February 2020. The requirements of the role required him to serve in both Iraq and Kuwait. He served for five months in Iraq and one month in Kuwait. **s. 9(2)(a)** **s. 9(2)(a)** excelled at all aspects of his role supporting the current and future training of the Iraqi Security Forces.

United States Joint Service Commendation Medal x 2 - no device awarded - for service in both Iraq and Kuwait

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Commendation)

7. **s. 9(2)(a)**

New Zealand Army Legal Service

For commendable service as the Senior Operational Law Attorney in the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve from April to October 2021. The role was mainly based in Kuwait, but she was required to deploy forward to the Tactical Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq for 40 days in June and July 2021. These changes of location were due to restructuring in the international military headquarters.

s. 9(2)(a) provided legal advice of a very high quality to the joint command staff.

Her work was also essential to the development of the processes for vetting Iraqi Security Forces recipients of Coalition funding and training.

8. **s. 9(2)(a)** **Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment**
For commendable service as as a Future Operations Planner in the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters from March to August 2016. The requirements of the role required him to serve in both Iraq and Kuwait. He served for 58 days in Iraq.
s. 9(2)(a) excelled at all aspects of his role, including as the lead planner in the Future Operations Directorate on shaping operations for the isolation of Mosul, Iraq and the subsequent planning of decisive actions to expel enemy forces from Mosul.

Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General
Minister of Defence
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister for the Public Service
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister for Space



Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Prime Minister

I seek your support, and Her Excellency The Governor-General's retrospective approval, for the acceptance and wear of United States awards by eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel for their meritorious service in Iraq in 2016 and from 2019 to 2023.

The Embassy of the United States in Wellington has formally offered United States military awards for eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel in recognition of their meritorious service in Iraq in 2016 and from 2019 to 2023. The names and roles of the recipients are listed in Annex A. Seven of these awards were presented in the operational theatre, with the eighth award presented in New Zealand. The 2016 award was to be included in the April 2023 request for acceptance and approval for wear but was left out due to administrative error.

The meritorious service of the individuals has not already been recognised by a New Zealand honour (the New Zealand General Service Medal 'Iraq 2015' and New Zealand Operational Service Medal have been awarded). The New Zealand Defence Force will not nominate any of these persons for New Zealand honours for this service.

Approval for the acceptance and wear of these United States military awards is requested under paragraph 10(a) of the 'Rules relating to the acceptance and wearing of Commonwealth, Foreign and international honours by New Zealand citizens', with many of the awards also meeting the requirements of paragraph 9(a)(iii) of the Rules. Paragraph 10(a) states that approval to accept and wear a Commonwealth or foreign honour may be contemplated where, in the opinion of the approving authority, such approval is in the best interests of New Zealand. Paragraph 9(a)(iii) relates to honours which recognise 'meritorious services on the part of a New Zealand citizen or member of the New Zealand Defence Force involved in operations while on exchange, attachment, interchange or loan duties with the armed forces of the country or international organisation making the proposal'.

Three of the offered awards for service in Iraq are to persons whose location of service was moved from Iraq to Kuwait, or vice versa, during their deployment but who were based for at least 30 days in Iraq. The changes of location were due to the operational requirements of the international military headquarters. A precedent decision was made in August 2023 approving the acceptance and wear of six awards where the service location was changed from Iraq to Kuwait or vice versa between 2019 and 2021. Thirty days or more of service in Iraq was considered by the then Minister of Defence, the then Prime Minister and the Governor-General as an appropriate length of service to warrant acceptance and wear under the warlike operational theatre policy.

United States awards received by New Zealand Defence Force personnel whose service was based in Kuwait are not submitted for approval for acceptance and wear. This is because the service was not in a warzone or warlike operational theatre. Most Kuwait-based individuals spent between three and ten days on official tasks in Iraq during their six month deployment. This length of service in Iraq is not considered long enough to justify acceptance and wear under the warlike operational theatre policy.

Since 2016, 74 New Zealand Defence Force personnel have been given approval by various Governor-Generals (in 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2023) to accept and wear similar United States meritorious awards recognising their operational service in Iraq since 2014.


New Zealand and the United States enjoy a significant and long-standing defence relationship. The offer of these United States awards to New Zealand Defence Force personnel is an acknowledgment by the United States Government of the high value which is placed on the contribution made by New Zealanders to coalition operations in Iraq since 2016. The New Zealand Defence Force deployment to Iraq ended in 2023.

The 'C' device for Combat Conditions, which is worn on the ribbon of the medal, was awarded to the four personnel on the final two New Zealand Defence Force rotations into Iraq in the second half of 2022 and the first half of 2023. They are the only New Zealand Defence Force personnel who served in Iraq or Afghanistan to receive awards with a 'C' device. The award of this device was due to an administrative change in the second half of 2022 by the United States military related to the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve forward headquarters in Baghdad. There was no difference in the roles and tasks undertaken by the personnel compared to previous rotations to the forward headquarters in Iraq since 2015.

The Honours Unit, Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have been consulted and have no objection to the proposal.

I recommend that you invite Her Excellency The Governor-General to approve the acceptance and wear of these United States awards by the eight New Zealand Defence Force personnel listed in Annex A.

Yours sincerely



Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister of Defence

Annex

A. United States awards recommended for approval for acceptance and wear

ANNEX A

**UNITED STATES AWARDS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL FOR
ACCEPTANCE AND WEAR****Reference:**

- A. Rules for the Acceptance and Wear of Commonwealth, Foreign and International Honours by New Zealand Citizens, dated 23 July 2007

Note: The information below is from the citations and nomination forms for each award. The nomination forms normally include four areas of achievement. Only one area is described below.

IRAQ**United States Joint Service Commendation Medal x 4 - awarded with the 'C' device for Combat Conditions - for service in Iraq**

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Commendation)

1. **s. 9(2)(a)**
Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Logistics Planner, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from July 2022 to January 2023. He excelled at all aspects of his role, including leading the Force Readiness Logistics cell and being responsible for planning, monitoring and facilitating all Counter Isis Train and Equipment Fund divestments.
2. **s. 9(2)(a)**
Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Logistics Planner, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from January to June 2023. He excelled at all aspects of his role, including leading the Force Readiness Logistics cell and being responsible for planning, monitoring and facilitating all Counter Isis Train and Equipment Fund divestments.
3. **s. 9(2)(a)**
Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Assessment Officer, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from July 2022 to January 2023. He excelled in his role of assessing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.

4. **s. 9(2)(a)**
New Zealand Army Physical Training Corps
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Assessment Officer, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from January to June 2023. He excelled in his role of assessing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.

United States Joint Service Commendation Medal x 1 - no device awarded - for service in Iraq

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Commendation)

5. **s. 9(2)(a)**
Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps
For commendable service as the Force Readiness Assessment Officer, Military Advisor Group, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq from August 2020 to February 2021. He excelled in his role of assessing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces. In addition, he took the initiative to provide valuable advice to the Iraqi Security Forces Joint Operations Command – Iraq Close Protection Team, providing them the skills needed to safely transport Iraqi senior leadership throughout Iraq.

SERVICE IN BOTH IRAQ AND KUWAIT

United States Defense Meritorious Service Medal x 1 - no device awarded - for service in both Iraq and Kuwait

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Defence Meritorious Service Medal)

6. **s. 9(2)(a)**
Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
For meritorious service as Sergeant Major, Training Directorate Current Operations, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve from August 2019 to February 2020. The requirements of the role required him to serve in both Iraq and Kuwait. He served for five months in Iraq and one month in Kuwait. **s. 9(2)(a)** excelled at all aspects of his role supporting the current and future training of the Iraqi Security Forces.

United States Joint Service Commendation Medal x 2 - no device awarded - for service in both Iraq and Kuwait

(This medal is approximately equivalent to the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Commendation)

7. **s. 9(2)(a)** **New Zealand Army Legal Service**
For commendable service as the Senior Operational Law Attorney in the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve from April to October

2021. The role was mainly based in Kuwait, but she was required to deploy forward to the Tactical Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq for 40 days in June and July 2021. These changes of location were due to restructuring in the international military headquarters. s. 9(2)(a) provided legal advice of a very high quality to the joint command staff. Her work was also essential to the development of the processes for vetting Iraqi Security Forces recipients of Coalition funding and training.

8. **s. 9(2)(a) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment**

For commendable service as as a Future Operations Planner in the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters from March to August 2016. The requirements of the role required him to serve in both Iraq and Kuwait. He served for 58 days in Iraq. s. 9(2)(a) excelled at all aspects of his role, including as the lead planner in the Future Operations Directorate on shaping operations for the isolation of Mosul, Iraq and the subsequent planning of decisive actions to expel enemy forces from Mosul.