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New Zealand Defence Force
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OIA-2025-5489

21 August 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 12 August 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

All support requests, briefs, and situation reports produced for Operation Calypso 2025.

All support requests, briefs, and situation reports produced for Exercise Talisman Sabre.

All situation reports and post activity reports produced for Exercise Diamond Strike.

The following information may help to inform future requests. When making a request for "all" documents, even when these may be a particular type of document, there are many that may be created for exercises, operations, and other activities. For instance, situation reports may be generated many times during the course of a day, depending on the activity.

With respect to this request, there are hundreds of documents within scope. As a result, your request for all support requests, briefs, and situation reports is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as this information is held across numerous systems and a substantial collation effort is required. Limiting your request to just situation reports only reduces this total by a fraction.

If you are only seeking post activity reports, or briefs to a particular level/position (e.g. executive leadership and or ministers), then please amend your request and it will be considered accordingly.

For your information, information from ongoing operational deployments may not be available and/or may not be released in order to avoid prejudice to the security and defence of New Zealand and/or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

The following extracts are provided from Defence Weekly Reports relating to Exercises Diamond Strike and Talisman Sabre:

Defence Weekly Report 8-14 May 2025

Exercise Talisman Sabre deployment preparations update

Soldiers from 1 (NZ) Brigade of the NZ Army recently completed Exercise Sangro over the period 7-28 March as previously reported. This exercise was conducted as a means of rehearsing and evaluating a Motorised Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) Infantry Company Group in preparation for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) war fighter series of

exercises consisting of Exercise Diamond Strike followed by Exercise Talisman Sabre in the period June- July 2025.

Exercise Diamond Strike is a build-up exercise to practice the planning, preparation and coordination for the employment and deployment of NZDF force elements to Australia and for their integration into the ADF's 7 (AS) Brigade as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025. Exercise Diamond Strike will be conducted in Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), Australia.

The NZ Army intent is to deploy a Motorised Infantry Company Group for Exercise Diamond Strike 2025 (239 personnel) and then Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (302 personnel) over the period 14-27 July. This is a key progression point towards the land component regeneration milestone of deploying a Motorised Infantry Battle Group for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2027. The RNZAF will also integrate 3 Squadron (NH-90 helicopter rotary wing) force elements into the exercise planning and execution.

The Motorised Infantry Company Group is currently preparing all personnel, baggage, stores and equipment to be inspected and pre-positioned in an assembly area in preparation for onward movement to Australia. The majority of personal, equipment and vehicles will be transported to Australia via HMNZS Canterbury and the remainder by RNZAF airlift.

The Canterbury will come alongside the Port of Wellington to embark 50 Army vehicles and personnel to transport across the Tasman over the period 4-6 July. This will likely involve a media engagement opportunity. The Canterbury will return to Wellington on 18 July to embark six NH90s, their crew and maintainers and transport to Australia. Exercise participants and equipment will return to New Zealand over the period 28 July- 27 August.

From Defence Weekly Report 29 May - 4 June 2025

HMNZS CANTERBURY Loading in Preparation for Exercise TALISMAN SABRE

The Australian Defence Force, supported by US Pacific Command, is hosting Exercise TALISMAN SABRE in Australia over the period 14-27 July. This is a tactical-level field training exercise that will exercise multinational forces in contemporary high-end, multi-domain warfighting.

As part of the NZDF deployment to Exercise TALISMAN SABRE, close to 35 New Zealand Army vehicles, including Light Armoured Vehicles and Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles, along with 150 personnel, will be embarked on HMNZS Canterbury in Wellington to sail as an advance contingent to Australia. Media have been invited to attend this activity.

From Defence Weekly Report 10-16 July 2025

NZDF participation in Exercise Talisman Sabre

Concluding the build-up exercise

The New Zealand Combat Team concluded Exercise Diamond Strike last week with a combined-arms attack onto a complex battle position. This position included mines, obstacles and trenches that had to be breached to enable mobility elements and dismounted troops to close with the enemy. The NZ Combat Team undertook this as part of the 8/9 Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR) Battle Group.

As previously reported (Defence Weekly Report (8- 14 May 2025)), Exercise Diamond Strike is a build-up exercise to practice the planning, preparation and coordination for the employment and deployment of NZDF force elements to Australia, and their integration into the Australian Army's 7 (AS) Brigade as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025.

Exercise Diamond Strike was conducted in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Australia.

The Commander of the 71st Australian Brigade, Brigadier Giles Cornelia, was impressed with the capability that the NZLAV Combat Team provided his organisation, and with the professionalism and conduct of the NZ soldiers.

The NZDF contingent went through a 'refit to fight' period until 11 July, which involved vehicle/equipment maintenance and administration. Deliberate battle preparations and planning for Exercise Talisman Sabre commenced. The NZ Combat Team (made up of infantry, armour, artillery, engineers, signals and logistics personnel) rejoined the remainder of 7 (AS) Brigade and other NZDF elements on 11 July.

Commencing Exercise Talisman Sabre

Exercise Talisman Sabre commenced from 16 July. The exercise involves 633 NZDF personnel. In addition to the NZ Army elements, the RNZN frigate HMNZS Te Kaha, aircraft from RNZAF No 3 and No 5 Squadrons, and other personnel and assets from both Services are also taking part.

An RNZN mine countermeasures (MCM) team from HMNZS Matataua is already at sea off the coast of Queensland on a US naval vessel. The team are returning to conduct an operational scenario with Australian and United States explosive ordnance teams and MCM teams in the strategic port of Gladstone. Both HMNZS Canterbury and the RNZAF's Boeing 757 have played vital roles in getting NZDF personnel to the exercise, which also rehearsed and tested the NZDF's ability to project forces around the region.

In total, Exercise Talisman Sabre involves 19 countries and more than 30,000 personnel. It concludes on 27 July.

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