



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

OIA-2026-5755

4th  
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[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 7 April 2026, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) information related to the United States Navy Project Overmatch (PO). The various parts of your request are addressed below:

- *NZDF personnel spent 2 weeks last Sept in San Diego at PO planning for RIMPAC. These cooperative project personnel (CPPs) “met with key Project Overmatch members”. The US navy describes this work as “forging the foundations for allied operations against peer and near-peer adversaries in the 21st century” and enabling “resilient communication and network connectivity amongst the Five Eyes (FVEY) in a distributed environment to close kill-chains and enable long-range fires”— does NZDF agree with these descriptions of what its CPP personnel have been engaged in? Why would NZDF say they were there?*

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel are engaged in support to cooperative development of resilient communication and network connectivity amongst the Five Eyes in a distributed environment to enable command and control, including long-range fires.

- *The US navy says the FVEY partners “will demonstrate their enhanced solutions at a capstone event during RIMPAC26”. What does NZDF plan to contribute to these enhanced solutions? What does NZ get back for its contribution?*

The NZDF is undertaking command and control experimentation activities at RIMPAC 26 in support of Overmatch. This meets the NZDF's requirement to sustain contemporary interoperability with our ally Australia and other international partners.

- *“The first ever coalition lab in San Diego” was to be completed in the very near future. Please describe any ways in which NZ is helping with that lab. The US navy says it will help with testing. What sort of tech will NZDF help test at the lab?*

Initial support was provided to determine the requirements of the lab, followed by participation in the conduct of development and experimentation activities associated with resilient communications networks. Communications and information technology is being tested in the lab.

- *Speaking of PO tech, does NZDF have any engagement with either Palantir or the Maven smart system? If not currently, does NZDF have any plans to look at this as*

*part of its DCP tech expansion? If not why not, given this is the tech of choice now at the Pentagon for CJADC2 which NZ is part of?*

While the NZDF makes use of Palantir products, it has not engaged with either Palantir or Maven Smart Systems in this context.

- *PO is also setting up a a Cooperative Project Office. Does NZDF plan to either set that up? The US navy says we will have up to 2 CPPs at the CPO – is that correct?*

There have been up to two cooperative project personnel supporting the Cooperative Project Office in the United States. There are currently no permanent NZDF personnel based at that Office. One permanent position is being considered for the 2026/27 financial year.

- *How is NZDF funding its PO activities? What is being spent on this in 2025-26?*

Funding is provided through the NZDF's operational expenditure. For the current financial year, approximately \$154,000 has been spent on travel to attend development events.

In accordance with section 28(3) of the OIA, you may ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information regarding the process 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