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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2026-5782

12th May 2026

Valerie Morse

fyi-request-34564-b72ba38a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Valerie Morse

I refer to your email of 29 April 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2026.

what countries will participate in RIMPAC 2026 -what troop/sailor numbers, Navy vessels or other NZDF materiel will be sent to RIMPAC 2026 -what date is the NZDF deployment for RIMPAC 2026 -has any legal advice been sought about the participation of NZDF in RIMPAC 2026

The following nations are expected to participate in RIMPAC 2026: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Observer nations are: Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Ecuador, Norway and Vietnam.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will be represented by: HMNZS Matataua (49 personnel), HMNZS Aotearoa (approximately 101 personnel), and HMNZS Te Mana (approximately 178 personnel). In addition, three national support personnel and 20 staff officers will attend.

NZDF participants are scheduled to arrive in Hawaii from 21 to 23 June 2026, with the closing ceremony on 31 July 2026. An NZDF Legal Officer has been involved in planning for the exercise.

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.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF