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OIA-2026-5796

4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Joshua Riley  
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Dear Joshua Riley

I refer to your email of 6 May 2026, seeking additional information following the response of 5 February 2026 (OIA-2025-5622).

As noted in that response, the NZ Army decided in 2021 to adopt information from the Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE), and actors from the Indo Pacific<sup>1</sup> were used for the Junior NCO Course. The reason why DATE was adopted was explained in that response. The Junior NCO Course is not directly related to New Zealand's national security threat architecture.

In live training environments there is a necessary mix of real and fictional place names as part of an exercise scenario. These can be readily adapted to the real world training environment for practical and safety reasons (for instance, navigation). The training was approved by the Army Command School.

The review that is referred to in the 5 February 2026 response was conducted by the New Zealand Army G7 Training Branch, Army General Staff. It was initiated on 19 December 2025. The terms of reference were the eight parts of the request from S.E. Shaw. The findings of the review were communicated in the response of 5 February 2026, there is no report.

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.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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<sup>1</sup> <https://odin.t2com.army.mil/Region/Indo-Pacific>