



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

OIA-2026-5878

September 2026

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 14 July 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all post activity reports supplied to executive leadership, and all briefings produced to support New Zealand Defence Force participation in Exercise Valiant Shield 2026.*

Below is an excerpt from the Defence Weekly Report (18-24 June 2026) to the Minister of Defence concerning Exercise Valiant Shield. Where indicated, information relating to partner nations is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

Exercise VALIANT SHIELD – AGM 84 Harpoon firing, Guam, 19 June – 2 July

Exercise VALIENT [sic] SHIELD will involve the deployment of a RNZAF P-8A aircraft to Guam to join a multilateral anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare activity with participants from Five Eyes countries and Japan.

The exercise will involve the first RNZAF firing of an AGM 84 Harpoon anti-ship missile against the USS *Juneau*, a decommissioned amphibious support ship.

This element of the exercise will take place on Saturday 27 June [6(a)].

In addition to the above, enclosed are copies of a briefing presented to Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, and a dot point brief to the Chief of Air Force that was also shared with the Chief of Defence Force (CDF). No additional update brief or one pager was provided to CDF.

Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA, to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand and the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

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. Briefing to Commander Joint Forces New Zealand
2. Email to Chief of Air Force and CDF



HQJFNZ
Op Design (Scoping & Framing)
J53 GLOBAL -Air
ARDENT 2/26 (Ex Valiant Shield)

References:

s. 6(a)





- **Note** Ex Valiant Shield is out of scope for the JCP Joint Collective Training Framework (assessed by J7 @ ICP).
- **Note** Air Component commitment of 1 x P-8A ASTU for ASW and SINKEX (subject to transfer of Harpoon).
- **Note** KLE and messaging amplification opportunity.
- **Note** SINKEX intent advised through CAF to CDF (CDF Update Brief 7 NOV 26).
- **Endorse** Campaign tasks for ARDENT 2/26.
- **Endorse** Air Component planning lead.
- **Endorse** Independent HMNZS MATATAUA planning for dive serials.



Campaign Objectives

s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)

Facts
Funded by Air Component
CDF, CAF and AC SCE informed of SINKEK intent.
Harpoon transfer subject to UOR, export licensing,
funding, FMS case for range use.

Planning Time Assessment
MPC 5-8 Dec.
FPC Feb 26
Execution 22 Jun – 01 Jul 26

ROM Resources
1 x P-8A light detachment s. 6(a)
C-130 deployment and redeployment
RAAF support to be defined (GSE & SQEP)

Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2026 10:19 a.m.
To: s. 9(2)(a)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Ex VALIENT SHIELD

Hi Jo

Here is the DPB regarding the Harpoon Firing.

Kind regards

s. 9(2)(a)
Senior Executive Assistant - CAF, Air Staff
Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa | Royal New Zealand Air Force

s. 9(2)(a)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Scott, Andy, AIRCDRE s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 18 June 2026 4:14 pm
To: Webb, Darryn, AVM s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Ex VALIENT SHIELD

s. 6(a)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid grey fill, covering the main body of the email.

Andy

From: Scott, Andy, AIRCDRE
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 6:34 pm
To: Webb, Darryn, AVM s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Ex VALIENT SHIELD

Boss,

As discussed earlier the team are all either tied up on Ex KIWI COMMAND or enroute to Guam but here is a DPB as requested.

Ex VALIENT SHIELD

Exercise outline

- P-8 has arrived in Guam yesterday (16 June) and C-130J with pack up 17 June.
- The exercise is a multi-national activity including USN, RAAF and JSDF participation (may be others but will need to confirm)
- Exercise sortie dates are 22, 23, 24 June for ASW and 27 June for SINKEX s. 6(a)
- This exercise was budgeted as part of our planned RTA for FY2526.

s. 6(a)

SINKEX

- Target for SINKEX is USS Juneau (LPD-10) s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)



I also note that although a lot of people have been involved in this, s. 9(2)(a) has been a standout and we would not be here without his efforts.

A one pager is being prepared for CDF but as he is now away on Friday, I suspect he will not get it until next week. Please let me know if you want anything else in the mean time

Andy