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OIA-2026-5958

16th September 2026

Graeme Doull
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Dear Graeme Doull

I refer to your email of 26 August 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *information relating to the air transportability of the New Zealand Army's Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles aboard the RNZAF C-130J-30 Hercules.*

- 1. Can a Bushmaster in its normal operational configuration be driven directly onto a C-130J-30, transported, and driven off at its destination ready for immediate operational use? If not, what work is required before the vehicle can be used operationally?*
- 2. What preparation is required before a New Zealand Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle can be transported aboard a C-130J-30?*
- 3. Does this preparation require the removal of the engine, or any other major vehicle components, equipment or fittings?*
- 4. Approximately how long does the required preparation take before loading and, following unloading, how long does it take before the vehicle can be returned to an operationally deployable condition?*
- 5. What equipment, tools or support are required to return the vehicle to a fully operational condition after unloading, and can all of this equipment and support be transported aboard the same C-130J-30?*

I am particularly seeking to clarify whether, although the Bushmaster may technically be described as "C-130 air-portable" or "C-130 transportable", significant preparation or reassembly is required before and after air transport.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle is capable of being transported aboard a Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130J-30 aircraft. Prior to air transport, vehicles must be prepared in accordance with approved safety, air mobility, and transport procedures to ensure they can be safely loaded, secured, transported, and unloaded. The preparation undertaken will vary depending on the vehicle configuration and the requirements of the particular deployment.

Following arrival, personnel conduct the necessary checks and activities required to return the vehicle to service. These activities are undertaken by appropriately trained personnel

using approved procedures and support arrangements. The time required to do this will vary depending on the circumstances of the deployment.

When deploying vehicles by air, the NZDF ensures that the personnel, equipment, and logistic support required to operate and sustain those vehicles are available at the destination.

Further information regarding vehicle preparation requirements, loading configurations, deployment procedures, timings, technical processes, and operational capabilities is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

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