

## HON ANDREW LITTLE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

### Extension Requests For Peace And Security Leadership Mandates

March 2023

This publication provides documents associated with Cabinet's May 2021 decisions on extensions to three peace and security leadership mandates: the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) Force Commander contingent; the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Force Chief of Staff role; and the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF150) maritime security Command Team:

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the Cabinet paper *Extension Requests For Peace And Security Leadership Mandates* [CAB-21-SUB-0176]
- the associated minute *Extension Requests For Peace And Security Leadership Mandates* [CAB-21-MIN-0176].

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: [www.defence.govt.nz/publications](http://www.defence.govt.nz/publications).

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document. Where information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2) of the Act, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by the Government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by any international organisation [section 6(b)(ii)]

In addition, certain information has been withheld in order to:

- protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons [s9(2)(a)]
- maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty [section 9(2)(g)(i)].

Where information is withheld pursuant to section 9(2), it is not considered that the public interest in this information outweighs the need to protect it.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Extension Requests for Peace and Security Leadership Mandates

**Portfolios** Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 24 May 2021, Cabinet:

#### Multinational Force and Observers

- 1 **noted** that on 23 July 2019, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS) approved the deployment of a Force Commander and an accompanying Military Assistant and Personal Protection Officer (the Force Commander contingent) to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai, Egypt, until March 2022 [ERS-19-MIN-0017];
- 2 **noted** that in March 2021, the Director-General of the MFO requested that the mandate of the Force Commander contingent be extended by a further year, until 31 March 2023;
- 3 **approved** the extension of the mandate for the Force Commander contingent to 31 March 2023;
- 4 **noted** that officials will provide separate advice to Cabinet on the potential extension of the MFO 28-person core contingent's mandate, ahead of that mandate's expiry on 30 September 2022 [ERS-20-MIN-0013];
- 5 **noted** that the overall unmitigated threat level to New Zealand personnel to the MFO is s6(a)

#### United Nations Mission in South Sudan

- 6 **noted** that on 23 June 2020, ERS:
  - 6.1 approved the deployment of a four-person New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) contingent to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), until 30 June 2022;
  - 6.2 agreed that officials should work with partners to seek to deploy an NZDF officer to the Force Chief of Staff role for one year, from June 2021 to June 2022, and that officials will notify Ministers if successful;

[ERS-20-MIN-0014]
- 7 **noted** that due to COVID-19 implications, the current s6(a) Force Chief of Staff was unable to begin their 12-month term until August 2021, shifting the rotation cycle;

- 8 **approved** the deferral of the Cabinet mandate for the Force Chief of Staff only (paragraph 6.2 above), to conclude by 30 September 2022;
- 9 **noted** that Defence officials will notify the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence should the New Zealand Force Chief of Staff nomination be successful;
- 10 **noted** that officials will provide separate advice to Cabinet on the potential extension of the UNMISS core contingent's mandate, ahead of that mandate's expiry on 30 June 2022;
- 11 **noted** that the overall unmitigated threat level for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan is s6(a)

### Combined Maritime Forces Combined Task Force 150 Command Team

- 12 **noted** that on 5 May 2020, ERS approved a two-year programme of maritime security commitments to the Middle East, including the deployment of a Command Team of up to 22 personnel to the Combined Maritime Forces headquarters in Bahrain for up to six months in 2021 [ERS-20-MIN-0007];
- 13 **noted** that due to COVID-19 isolation requirements, induction and handover activities, the Command Team will now be required in theatre from June 2021 to January 2022;
- 14 **approved** the extension of the mandate for the Combined Task Force 150 Command Team for up to six weeks;
- 15 **noted** that the overall unmitigated threat level for Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain is s6(a)

### Financial implications

- 16 **noted** that the estimated cost of the proposed deployment extension of the MFO Force Commander contingent to 31 March 2023 (paragraph 3 above) is \$0.277 million;
- 17 **noted** that the estimated cost of the UNMISS Force Chief of Staff role (paragraph 6.2 above) remains as previously noted (\$0.183 million) [ERS-20-MIN-0014], with expenditure now occurring across 2021/22 and 2022/23;
- 18 **noted** that the estimated cost of the Combined Maritime Forces 150 Command Team (paragraph 14 above) is \$2.453 million, and that the extension would incur an increase of \$0.439 million to that previously noted [ERS-20-MIN-0020];
- 19 **noted** that the proposed deployments referred to above can be funded within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security Stability and Interests MCA;
- 20 **noted** that the above deployment decisions are estimated to increase the value of the veterans' support entitlements liability by a maximum of \$1.6 million, and that this cost can be met from within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force Non-Departmental Other Expenses appropriation: Service Cost – Veterans' Entitlements;

### Additional considerations

- 21 **noted** that should any changes to the above deployments arise as a result of COVID-19, Defence officials will notify the Minister of Defence;

- 22 **agreed** that the NZDF may temporarily exceed the Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers for the above deployments for the purposes of command reconnaissance, rotation, and extraction of forces from theatre [CAB-18-MIN-0346];
- 23 **noted** that the Chief of Defence Force will inform the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in advance whenever Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers are exceeded.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Chair, External Relations and Security Committee

## EXTENSION REQUESTS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY LEADERSHIP MANDATES

### Proposal

1. To seek approval for extensions to three peace and security leadership mandates: the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) Force Commander contingent; the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Force Chief of Staff role; and the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF150) maritime security Command Team.

### Executive Summary

2. In April 2021, New Zealand received a request for MAJGEN Williams to extend his role as MFO Force Commander in Sinai, Egypt by an additional year. **Cabinet is therefore asked to consider extending the mandate of the three-person Force Commander contingent (comprising the Force Commander, a Military Assistant and a Personal Protection Officer) by one year until 31 March 2023.**<sup>1</sup>

3. In June 2020, Cabinet authorised officials to submit a nomination for the UNMISS Force Chief of Staff role, which was expected to start in June 2021 and to end in June 2022 and to notify Ministers if the role was secured. Due to COVID-19 implications the rotations timetable has shifted. If successful, the New Zealand candidate would now be required in theatre from August 2021 to August 2022, exceeding the initial mandate expiry of June 2022. **Cabinet is therefore asked to consider deferring the current 12-month mandate for the UNMISS Force Chief of Staff role by up to three months, to conclude in September 2022.**

4. In May 2020, Cabinet approved the deployment of a Combined Task Force (CTF) Command Team (up to 22 personnel) into the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) headquarters in Bahrain for up to six months. However, personnel are now required to be in theatre for up to an additional six weeks due to COVID-19 isolation requirements, mandatory force induction and command handover activities. **Cabinet is therefore asked to consider extending the CTF150 Command Team mandate by six weeks.**

5. The approvals for New Zealand's core contingents to the MFO and UNMISS are addressed under separate Cabinet mandates, with advice to be provided to Cabinet in 2022. Should Cabinet approve the extensions to the MFO Force Commander contingent and UNMISS Force Chief of Staff, these roles would exceed the mandates of their core contingents by between three and six months respectively. Approving these short-term extensions would not pre-empt Cabinet consideration of the broader mandates in 2022, or lock those core contingents in beyond their current expiries.

s6(b)(ii), s9(2)(g)(i)

These parameters would be clearly messaged to the MFO headquarters, the United Nations and our partners.

### **Proposed one-year extension for the MFO Force Commander**

6. In June 2019, Cabinet approved the deployment of the Force Commander and two associated positions (Military Assistant and a Personal Protection Officer; see Annex A for position descriptions) until March 2022 [CAB-19-MIN-360] with an option to extend by a further year if agreed by all parties.

7. In April 2021, the MFO Director-General issued a request on behalf of Treaty Partners<sup>2</sup> to extend MAJGEN Williams' term until March 2023 (and that of his supporting Military Assistant and Personal Protection Officer). [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

8. Cabinet is therefore asked to consider approving a one-year extension of the three-person Force Commander contingent to 31 March 2023.

#### *A high profile role in New Zealand's largest Middle East mission*

9. The MFO mission is designed to observe, verify, and report potential violations of the Treaty of Peace and to facilitate military dialogue between Egypt and Israel. The mission continues to act as an exemplar of successful regional cooperation, and a demonstration of how a border security mission can evolve in response to contemporary threats, including extremist elements on the Sinai Peninsula.

10. The NZDF has served in the MFO mission since its inception in 1982, and the current 28-person core contingent<sup>3</sup> is New Zealand's largest commitment to the security of the region.

11. The MFO Force Commander is a high-profile role which exercises command over 1,150 military personnel from 13 troop contributing countries, and local civilians.

[REDACTED] s6(b)(ii)

12. Initial advice to Cabinet in 2019 assessed that the role of the Force Commander would amplify our current troop contribution to the MFO mission, and demonstrate the ability of New Zealanders to lead in a dynamic setting. Since MAJGEN Williams has taken the post, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the complex security environment presenting a range of challenges in ensuring the mission can continue to fulfil its core functions, while preserving the safety of its personnel. [REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

<sup>2</sup> The 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.

<sup>3</sup> Comprised of a driving section, a training and advisory team, headquarters staff, an electrician, and a member of the Military Police.

### Proposed short-term extension for the UNMISS Force Chief of Staff role

13. In June 2020, Ministers agreed to renew the mandate for New Zealand's core contribution to UNMISS through to June 2022 (which today totals four personnel).<sup>4</sup> Additionally, Cabinet also authorised officials to nominate a NZDF officer to the UNMISS Force Chief of Staff role for one year from June 2021 to June 2022 [CAB-20-MIN-0311 refers]. [REDACTED]

14. The Force Chief of Staff is responsible for directing, supervising and coordinating the work of the military staff in the Force Headquarters and providing military advice to the Force Commander and Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) (see Annex A for position description). New Zealand previously held this role for a year in 2018/2019. [REDACTED]

15. Due to COVID-19 related delays, the [REDACTED] Force Chief of Staff was unable to enter theatre to begin their one-year term until August 2020, which shifted the rotation cycle. Should New Zealand fill the role this year, the Force Chief of Staff would therefore be required in theatre from August 2021 to August 2022, up to three months beyond the current mandate for New Zealand's UNMISS contribution.

16. Cabinet is therefore asked to approve the deferral of the 12 month mandate until September 2022 for the Force Chief of Staff role, should the NZDF candidate be successful.<sup>5</sup> The other core UNMISS positions will retain the original mandate expiry of 30 June 2022. Should Cabinet not approve this extension, [REDACTED] the NZDF would not proceed with the nomination.

### Proposed short-term extension for the CTF150 Command Team

17. In 2020, Cabinet agreed a two-year programme of maritime security commitments to the Middle East (to June 2022). This programme included the deployment of a Combined Task Force 150 (CTF150) Command Team of up to 22 personnel into the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) headquarters for up to six months in 2021 [CAB-20-MIN-0211 refers].

18. CTF150 reduces maritime terrorism by countering the illegal transfer of people, narcotics, weaponry and charcoal across the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and the Gulf of Oman. Support to this task force, and to the CMF more broadly, has been a staple of New Zealand's longstanding contributions to global maritime security efforts. While planning is still underway, it is likely that NZDF will deploy 11 personnel to the CTF150 Command Team, with the balance of roles offered to our partners from Australia, Singapore, and the United States.

19. In 2021, the CMF provided confirmed dates for New Zealand's six-month command of CTF150. The dates include host-nation COVID-19 isolation requirements, mandatory CMF induction, and CTF150 handover activities which need

<sup>4</sup> Note that one of these roles, the Military Advisor to the Special Representative to the Secretary-General, is scheduled to depart theatre in late June following the completion of handover duties after SRSG David Shearer's departure.

[REDACTED]

to be undertaken prior to commencing command duties. The revised deployment timeline is therefore from late June 2021 to late January 2022.

20. Cabinet is therefore asked to consider approving an extension of the CTF150 Command Team mandate for up to six weeks to cover these activities. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

## Risks

21. The unmitigated operational threat level for NZDF personnel deployed to the MFO mission s6(a)

This assessment remains under continued review. Were a further extension (until March 2024) requested, then the security assessment would again form part of advice to Ministers.

22. The unmitigated operational threat level for NZDF personnel deployed to the UNMISS s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

23. The unmitigated operational threat level for NZDF personnel deployed to the CMF in Bahrain s6(a)

24. While strict force protection protocols have minimised the immediate impact of COVID-19 on the MFO mission and to UNMISS personnel, the MFO mission is currently managing an outbreak that is affecting NZDF personnel.

25. All the personnel deploying for these roles will have received the full complement of an approved COVID-19 vaccine. Should any further changes arise due to COVID-19, the Minister of Defence will be notified.

## Next steps

26. MFO Force Commander Contingent: should Cabinet agree to this proposal, the Minister of Defence would advise the MFO Director General. Defence would also work with the MFO mission to coordinate the public announcement of the appointment extension.

27. UNMISS Force Chief of Staff: should Cabinet approve the short-term deferral of the mandate for this role, the NZDF will commence the nomination process to fill the role, and Defence will advise the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence if successful.

28. CTF150 Command Team: should Cabinet approve the short-term extension of the mandate for this role, the NZDF will confirm the dates for entry into theatre with the CMF and finalise pre-deployment planning. NZDF will also issue a press statement announcing the Command Team's deployment, in advance of the mission commencing in 2021.



## Rotations

29. In 2012, Cabinet agreed to the inclusion in all NZDF deployment papers of a provision that allows the NZDF to temporarily exceed Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers for the purposes of command reconnaissance, rotation, and extraction of forces from theatre [CAB Min (12) 10/2 refers]. In July 2018, Cabinet noted the 2012 decision and agreed that this convention will continue [CAB 18-MIN-0346 refers]. The Chief of Defence Force will inform the Minister of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister in advance whenever a rotation, extraction or command reconnaissance is planned above mandated numbers.

## Consultation

30. This paper has been prepared by the Ministry of Defence, the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Treasury, the Government Communications Security Bureau, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Policy Advisory Group and National Security Group) have been consulted.

## Financial Implications

31. The estimated costs for all proposed deployments can be funded from within the existing unallocated baselines for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA

### *Multinational Force and Observers*

32. The estimated cost of the proposed extension of the Force Commander contingent for up to twelve months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 is \$0.277M.

Vote Defence Force	NZ \$million					Total
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
Multinational Force and Observers Force Commande and two additional personnel cost estimate	-	0.114	0.163	-	-	<b>0.277</b>
Additional Funding Required	-	-	-	-	-	-

### *United Nations Mission in South Sudan*

33. The estimated cost of the UNMISS Force Chief of Staff role is \$0.183M. This is the same cost estimate as previously noted [CAB-20-MIN-0311 refers]. A change of timing adjusts the expenditure profile to now be across both 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Vote Defence Force	NZ \$million					
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
CAB-20-MIN-0311 cost estimate	0.055	0.128	-	-	-	<b>0.183</b>
Revised cost estimate for Chief of Staff to UNMISS	-	0.160	0.023	-	-	<b>0.183</b>
Additional Funding Required	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### *Combined Task Force 150 Command Team*

34. The estimated cost of the CTF150 Command Team is \$2.453M. This includes an increase of \$0.439M on the original Cabinet submission [CAB-20-MIN 0211 refers] for the extension.

Vote Defence Force	NZ \$million					
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
CAB-20-MIN-0211 cost estimate	-	2.014	-	-	-	<b>2.014</b>
Revised cost estimate for Combined Task Force 150	0.463	1.990	-	-	-	<b>2.453</b>
Additional Funding Required	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### *Veterans Affairs*

35. The Minister for Veterans has declared these missions to be 'qualifying operational service' under the Act. This means that any NZDF personnel who serve on these deployments, who do not already have qualifying operational service, will attain 'veteran' status making them eligible for veterans support entitlements. The deployments are estimated to impact the veterans' support entitlements as follows:

- a. MFO Force Commander contingent by a maximum of \$0.221M;
- b. UNMISS Force Chief of Staff by a maximum of \$0.165M; and
- c. CTF150 Command Team by a maximum of \$1.214M.

36. These expenses are able to be funded within the existing unallocated Vote Defence Force appropriation Service Cost – Veterans' Entitlements and no additional funding is required.

#### **Proactive Release**

37. A redacted version of this Cabinet paper would be proactively released should it be approved by Cabinet following any public announcement of the MFO Force Commander extension, and UNMISS confirmation of the NZDF candidate.

## Recommendations

38. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence recommend that the Committee:

### *Multinational Force and Observers*

- a. **note** that in 2019 Cabinet agreed to the deployment of a Force Commander and two additional personnel (the “Force Commander contingent”) to the Multinational Force and Observers until March 2022 [CAB-19-MIN-360];
- b. **note** that in March 2021 the Director-General requested that the Force Commander contingent extend by a further year, until 31 March 2023;
- c. **approve** the extension of the mandate for the Force Commander contingent to 31 March 2023;
- d. **note** that officials will provide separate advice to Cabinet on the potential extension of the MFO 28-person core contingent’s mandate, ahead of that mandate’s expiry in 30 September 2022;
- e. **note** that the overall unmitigated threat level s6(a)

### *United Nations Mission in South Sudan*

- f. **note** that in 2020 Cabinet approved the deployment of a four-person contingent to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and approved the New Zealand Defence Force to seek and fill the Force Chief of Staff role in the mission for the June 2021 – June 2022 term [CAB-20-MIN-0311 refers];
- g. **note** that due to COVID-19 implications, the s6(a), s6(b)(i) Force Chief of Staff was unable to begin their 12-month term until August 2021, shifting the rotation cycle;
- h. **approve** the deferral of the Cabinet mandate for the Force Chief of Staff (only) to conclude by 30 September 2022;
- i. **note** that Defence will notify the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence should the New Zealand Force Chief of Staff nomination be successful;
- j. **note** that officials will provide separate advice to Cabinet on the potential extension of the UNMISS core contingent’s mandate, ahead of that mandate’s expiry in 30 June 2022;
- k. **note** that the overall unmitigated threat level for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan s6(a)

### *Combined Maritime Forces Combined Task Force 150 Command Team*

- l. **note** that in June 2020 Cabinet approved a two-year programme of maritime security commitments to the Middle East, including a Command Team of up to 22 personnel to the Combined Maritime Forces headquarters in Bahrain for up to six months in 2021 [CAB-20-MIN-0211 refers];
- m. **note** that due to COVID-19 isolation requirements, induction and handover activities, the Command Team would now be required in theatre from June 2021 to January 2022;
- n. **approve** the extension of the mandate for the Combined Task Force 150 Command Team for up to six weeks;

- o. **note** that the overall unmitigated threat level for Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain s6(a)

#### *Financial Implications*

- p. **note** the estimated cost of the proposed deployment extension of the MFO Force Commander contingent to 31 March 2023 is \$0.277M;
- q. **note** the estimated cost of the UNMISS Force Chief of Staff role remains as previously noted—\$0.183M—with expenditure now occurring across 2021/22 and 2022/23 [CAB-20-MIN-0311 refers];
- r. **note** the estimated cost of the CMF Command Team is \$2.453M, and the extension would incur an increase of \$0.439M to that previously noted [CAB-20-MIN-0211 refers];
- s. **note** the proposed deployments can be funded within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand’s Security Stability and Interests MCA;
- t. **note** these deployment decisions are estimated to increase the value of the veterans’ support entitlements liability by a maximum of \$1.6M and this cost can be met from within the existing unallocated baseline for Vote Defence Force Non-Departmental Other Expenses appropriation: Service Cost – Veterans’ Entitlements;

#### *Additional Considerations*

- u. **note** that should any changes to these deployments arise as a result of COVID-19, Defence will notify the Minister of Defence;
- v. **agree** that the New Zealand Defence Force may temporarily exceed the Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers for these deployments for the purposes of command reconnaissance, rotation, and extraction of forces from theatre; and
- w. **note** that the Chief of Defence Force will inform the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in advance whenever Cabinet-mandated personnel numbers are exceeded for the reasons set out in paragraph 29 of the paper.

Authorised for lodgement:

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Hon Peeni Henare  
**MINISTER OF DEFENCE**

#### **Annexes:**

- A. MFO Mission and UNMISS Position Descriptions
- B. Egypt: Multinational Force and Observers Overview

## Annex A—MFO Mission and UNMISS Position Descriptions

### *Multinational Force and Observers mission*

#### **Force Commander**

Rank: Major General

#### **Job Description**

- Reports to and serves under the Director General who is responsible for the overall direction of the MFO mission in the fulfillment of its functions as per the Protocol to the Treaty of Peace.
- Exercises command responsibility over a multinational combined/joint force of approximately 1100 military members.
- Retains overall supervisory responsibility of approximately 700 civilian observers and staff and contractor personnel.
- Exercises command authority over own national contingent as home country provides.
- Provides detailed guidance on respective authorities and relationships, and on the scope of responsibilities.
- Acts as the military liaison between the Treaty Parties, one of the most important elements of the mission.
- Has overall responsibility for force protection.

#### **Military Assistant**

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

#### **Job Description**

- Managing all Force official correspondence, in co-ordination with the Chief of Staff and Force Primary Staff.
- Managing and establishing all external Force suspense items. Ensuring Force staff responses to MFO HQ Rome, Tel Aviv and Cairo have been properly coordinated, are procedurally correct and are in compliance with all MFO Directives, Policies and Orders, prior to authorized signature and dispatch.
- Supervising the Force Head Quarters staff and office administration of the Force Commander.
- Providing interface between MFO Rome, Cairo, Tel Aviv and Force staff. Being the single point of contact in the Force for current status of staff actions and policy decisions.
- Coordinates with Planning and Operations Branch to establish the long-term calendar.

**Personal Protection Officer**

Rank: Sergeant

**Job Description**

- Conducts Close Protection operations for the Force Commander (FC).
- Assists Force Protection Cell with threat assessment and mitigating measures.
- Liaise with both Egyptian and Israeli security officers.
- Assists the ADC in communication planning.
- Drives FC within the region in a variety of vehicles.
- Maintains the FC's assigned vehicles, performing all daily maintenance and cleaning tasks.
- Navigates competently in all areas regularly visited by the FC. If necessary, conducts reconnaissance of the route and venues prior to engagements. Plans contingency routes, avoidance of heavy traffic and road hazards.
- Assists the ADC in border crossings, customs requirements and travel meals for the FC and all accompanying personnel.
- In the absence of the FC's Interpreter (FCI) conducts the general tasks as listed in the FCI's Job Description, with the exception of interpreting/translating.

**United Nations Mission in South Sudan****Force Chief of Staff (FCoS)**

Rank: Brigadier

**Job Description**

- Responsible for directing, supervising and coordinating the work of the military staff in the Force Headquarters.
- Provides military advice to the Force Commander and SRSG as required.
- Represents the Force Commander on Area of Operation visits and meetings as required.
- Provides the Force Headquarters focal point for UNMISS strategy development, and engagement with other UN missions.
- Liaises with other branches within the mission.
- Provides situational awareness reporting for New Zealand.

Annex B—Egypt: Multinational Force and Observers Overview

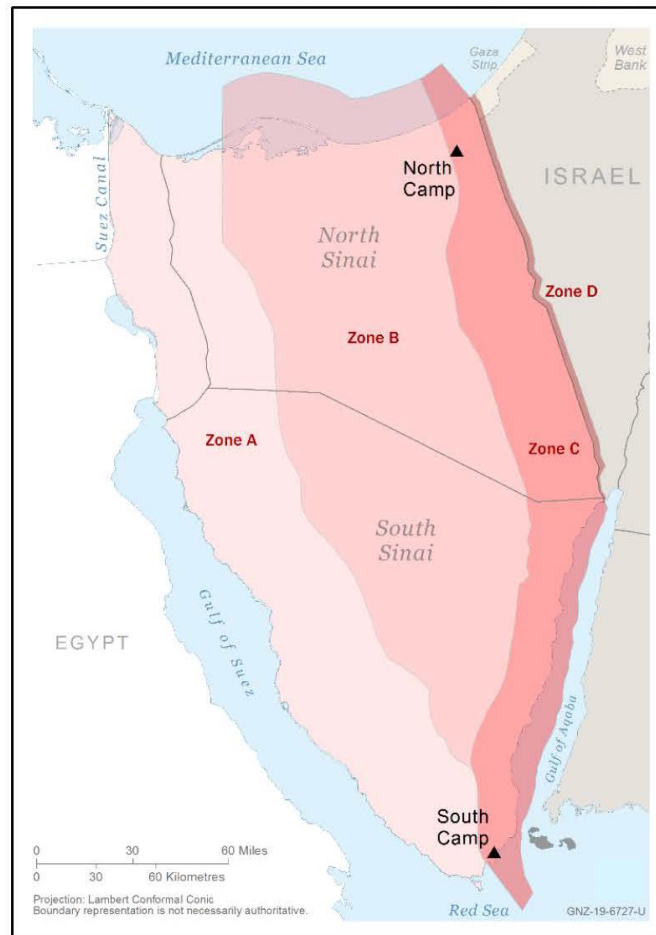
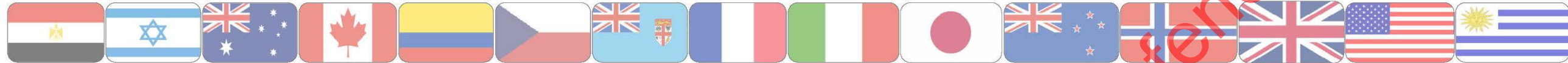


(U) EGYPT: Multinational Force and Observers overview

Information cut-off date: 25 March 2021



(U) The mission of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) is to supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace (1979) and employ best efforts to prevent any violation of its terms. Currently there are 13 force contributing nations.



**Threat to MFO**  
The security environment in the North Sinai Peninsula [redacted] s6(a)

- The overall threat level to NZDF personnel deployed to Egypt as part of OP FARAD is assessed as [redacted] s6(a)
- [redacted] s6(a)
- Islamic State-Sinai is the most prominent insurgent group operating in the peninsula [redacted] s6(a)

**Sinai**  
Zone A Egypt is permitted a mechanised infantry division with a total of <22,000 personnel.  
Zone B Egypt is permitted four border security battalions to support the civilian police in Zone B.  
Zone C Only MFO and Egyptian civil police are permitted.  
Zone D Israel is permitted four infantry battalions.

Map of Sinai, Source: GNZ

**NZDF in MFO**  
A current mandate of up to 28 personnel is in effect until September 2022. This does not include the Force Commander and two associated positions which came into effect 1 December 2019 and ends March 2022. Deployed personnel include:

- Driving section providing support for personnel movements and logistics convoys (13);
- MFO headquarters staff (9);
- Engineering team (3);
- Training and advisory team, maintaining MFO training courses and driver training (2);
- Military Police Unit (1).

**MFO Force Commander** Major General Evan Williams (pictured right) from New Zealand, exercises operational control over the Force. [redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

New Zealand has filled this role twice in the past:

- Major General Donald McIver (1989-1991)
- Major General Warren J. Whiting (2010-2013).

Source: Stuff

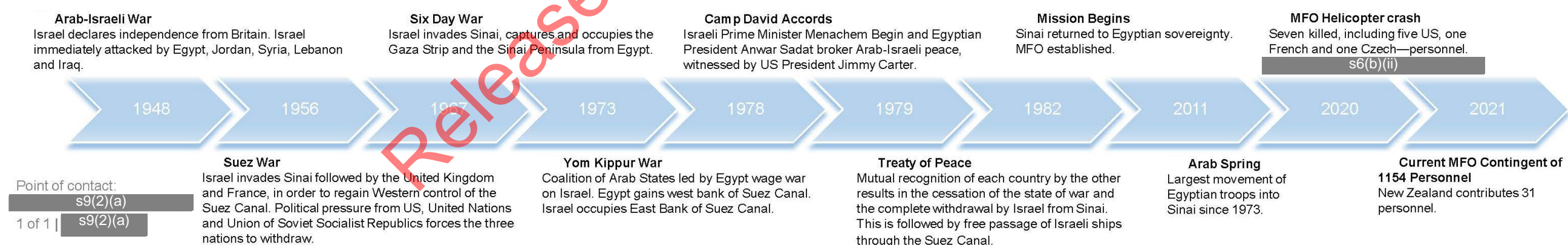
The MFO's tasks are to observe, verify and report potential violations of the Treaty of Peace and Agreed Activities, [redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

- Observe** – checkpoints, aerial observation, coastal patrol vessels, remote observation posts.
- Verify** – mobile observation teams, civilian observer unit, legal team, liaison branch.
- Report** – tactical operations centres, force operations centre, MFO HQ in Rome. [redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

**MFO Director General** Ambassador Stephen Beecroft (pictured right) is responsible for the overall direction of the MFO. This position is permanently held by the United States (US). [redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

Source: MFO

**OP FARAD** is currently New Zealand's largest overseas operational deployment. New Zealand has contributed to the MFO continuously since 1982 and as such, the mission has been an important and enduring signal of New Zealand's commitment to advancing peace and stability in the Middle East and Africa.



Point of contact: [redacted] s9(2)(a)