

STRATEGIC DEFENCE POLICY STATEMENT

2018

Principles

For the first time, this policy statement introduces a set of principles to describe expectations of Defence and how it operates.

Defence is combat capable, flexible and ready

Defence personnel are highly trained professionals

Defence has the resources to meet operational and strategic priorities

Defence operates in ways that maintain public trust and confidence

Defence embodies and promotes New Zealand's values

Defence is a credible and trusted international partner

Strategic environment

- Challenges once perceived as future trends have become present realities
- New Zealand's security outlook, and its expansive maritime environment, may be shaped most powerfully by a combination of forces putting pressure on the international rules-based order, which will play out in newly potent ways close to home
- The impacts of climate change are being felt acutely in the Pacific as well as in New Zealand itself

Defence provides value to the

Community, Nation, and World



Community

Defence supports New Zealand's community and environmental wellbeing and resilience.



Nation

Defence promotes a safe, secure and resilient New Zealand, including on its borders and approaches.

Defence contributes to maintaining New Zealand's prosperity via secure air, sea and electronic lines of communication, and secure access to space-based services.



World

Defence contributes to the maintenance of the international rules-based order.

Defence contributes to New Zealand's network of strong international relationships.



Defence Force roles

These principal roles of the Defence Force are enduring and are also calibrated to the Government's priorities and New Zealand's changing strategic environment.

- Defend New Zealand's sovereignty and territory, and contribute to protecting New Zealand's critical lines of communication
- Contribute to national, community and environmental wellbeing and resilience, and whole-of-government security objectives
- Meet New Zealand's commitments to its allies and partners
- Support New Zealand's civilian presence in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica, and work with other agencies to monitor and respond to activity in the Southern Ocean
- Conduct a broad range of operations in the South Pacific, including leading operations when necessary, to protect and promote regional peace, security and resilience
- Make a credible contribution in support of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region, including in support of regional security arrangements
- Protect New Zealand's wider interests by contributing to international peace and security and the international rules-based order
- Contribute to advancing New Zealand's international relationships
- Work with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand's strategic environment
- Be prepared to respond to sudden shifts in the strategic environment

Capability challenges

Increasing demands for Defence operations in New Zealand and our neighbourhood will present a capacity challenge, while maintaining interoperability with security partners presents a capability sophistication challenge.

- Managing the introduction of replacement capabilities is, and will continue to be, a major focus
- Three particular areas require attention:
 - Maritime domain awareness and response, in New Zealand's neighbourhood and further afield
 - A Defence contribution to New Zealand's secure access to space-based systems
 - Enhanced Defence cyber capabilities to provide military commanders with a broader set of tools to achieve military objectives

We will face compounding challenges of a scope and magnitude not previously seen in our neighbourhood.