



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
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New Zealand

OIA-2024-4912

23 February 2024

Mohammed Khan  
[fyi-request-25592-729878ba@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25592-729878ba@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mohammed Khan,

I refer to your email of 1 February 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*On 23 January 2023, it was announced that NZDF personnel, reportedly six in number, were to be deployed to assist in the American and British operations that target Yemenis, which while not directly named in press releases I understand is referred to as 'Operation Prosperity Guardian' by the bosses in America/Israel. As this is a matter of public interest, I am requesting, for each of the personnel assigned to this operation:*

- their current rank
- current and immediate former ship or unit assignment
- current and immediate former trade or role

The requested details concerning the six deployed personnel are withheld in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(d) of the OIA; this is to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand and not endanger the safety of those deployed respectively.

The Cabinet Paper regarding the decision to deploy NZDF personnel will be proactively released on the Ministry of Defence website at <https://defence.govt.nz/publications/>.

Recognising the high degree of public interest on this subject, information on the recent decision to deploy NZDF personnel to the Red Sea region has been made available online<sup>1</sup>. This includes the Minister of Defence's press release and Ministerial Statement.

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](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

**AJ WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-deploying-nzdf-team-protect-red-sea-shipping>  
[https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/combined/HansDeb\\_20240130\\_20240130\\_16](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/combined/HansDeb_20240130_20240130_16)