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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2022-4583
OIA-2022-4586

16 December 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request of 25 November 2022 to the Ministry of Defence regarding a United States military aircraft and other matters. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) on 5 December under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). On 8 December 2022 you made a further request regarding another United States military aircraft. These requests are addressed below.

Who were the senior officers (name, position and rank) who travelled on the aircraft ["Department Of The Army, Priority Air Transport 63 (PAT63)"] and what was the purpose of their visit to New Zealand?

General Randy George, Vice Chief of Staff US Army.

Who did they meet in Wellington and where else did they travel in New Zealand? Around the same time, two Army helicopters flew together to and from Wellington airport a number of times over a few days. Who were they transporting, on what dates, and where and to what activity were they flying? If these visits were associated with a meeting, what was the name and purpose of the meeting and the list of participants.

The purpose of the visit was the annual America, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (ABCANZ) Executive Council Meeting (ECM). The Executive Council is the highest governing body of the ABCANZ program. The ECM is the medium for ABCANZ Executive Council Members to provide strategic guidance and areas of priority for interoperability. It was attended by: General Randy George, Vice Chief of Staff US Army; Brigadier General Mark Clingan, Deputy Commanding General Combat Development Command US Marine Corps; Lieutenant-General Sharon Nesmith, Deputy Chief of the General Staff British Army; Major General Conrad Mialkowski, Deputy Commander Canadian Army; Major General Natasha Fox, Deputy Chief of Staff Australian Army; Brigadier Rose King, Deputy Chief of Army New Zealand Army. There were a total of 44 personnel in attendance at the meeting from the participating nations. On 15 November 2022, the ECM members travelled to Waiouru Military Camp via NH90, returning to Wellington on the same day.

Around the same time at least two other foreign government aircraft visited Wellington. For each aircraft, which country were they from, what were the plane

numbers, who were the senior officers (name, position and rank) who travelled on the aircraft and what was the purpose of their visit to New Zealand?

Who did they meet in Wellington and where else did they travel in New Zealand?

Who were the passengers (name, position and rank) who travelled to New Zealand on the aircraft [US C-40 military aircraft was at Wellington airport, registration number 50932] and what was the purpose of their visit to New Zealand?

Who did they meet in Wellington and where else did they travel in New Zealand?

What is the name of the meeting(s) they attended?

The NZDF does not hold information on all visits by foreign aircraft to New Zealand. Information that is held, however, is withheld in full in accordance with section 6(b)(i) of the OIA as the NZDF has not been authorised to release information that was provided in confidence. With respect to the US C-40 aircraft, you may wish to contact the US Embassy for information.

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



AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF