



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2024-4923

13 March 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 13 February 2024 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

I am writing to request official information regarding exercises conducted by the HMNZS Southland, specifically focusing on activities starting around 1987 and the subsequent years.

I am particularly interested in any documented history, voyage logs, findings, experiments, recordings, photos, videos, or other relevant information pertaining to HMNZS Southland's exercises that involved leaving the Hauraki Gulf and venturing into the Pacific Ocean. Specifically, I am keen to learn more about instances where the vessel executed turns to ascertain if it was being followed during these exercises and what the outcomes were.

To assist you in locating the specific information I seek, I would appreciate any relevant documents, reports, operational records, or media materials related to the mentioned exercises, events, and sightings. Additionally, any details regarding the objectives, outcomes, or significance of these maneuvers would be highly valuable.

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the OIA.

The NZDF no longer holds operational information regarding HMNZS Southland. All surviving records are now held at Archives New Zealand, many are open access and some are restricted access. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) 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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF