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New Zealand Defence Force
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OIA-2024-5085

15 August 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 17 July 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information:

The threat assessment for those who served with the FESR especially during my service from the time Blackpool arrived in Singapore just after the Indonesian Confrontation agreement was signed and up until I completed my service on Otago 1972.

The threat assessment for those of 3 Squadron with their support to the Solomon Islands during the 2023 Pacific Games.

The report titled *The Reassessment of the Recommendations of the Medallie Recognition Joint Working Group on NZ Military Service in South-East Asia 1955 – 1989 March 2021* addresses the existence of threat assessments on pages 20-22. As a result of the destruction of intelligence files the decision was made to accept the entire period up to 31 January 1974 as having a low threat level.

Threat assessments for New Zealand Defence Force deployments to the Solomon Islands in 2023 and 2024 (for the Pacific Games and the elections respectively), are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the security and defence of New Zealand and the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

Was 3 Squadron awarded Operational Service during this short period they were in the Solomon Islands. (I cannot find this anywhere on Veterans Affairs List of Qualifying Operational Service last updated 17 January 2024) the only reference I can find is on service in the Solomon Islands from 1 April 2000 to 31 July 2019 as Qualifying Operational Service.

The aforementioned deployments to the Solomon Islands are not considered Qualifying Operational Service.

In the Reassessment of the Recommendations of the Medallie Recognition Joint Working Group on NZ Military Service in South-East Asia 1955 – 1989 March 2021 it states in Sect 1 Para 4 "The reassessment found that the MRJWG final report was missing some potentially critical information which may have reshaped some of its conclusions." What did they consider missing?

This is discussed in detail in Section 7 of the report.

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