

Hon Ron Mark

Minister of Defence

Minister for Veterans



15 June 2020

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Thank you for your invitation for New Zealand to submit on the inquiry into Australia's Defence relationships with Pacific Island Nations.

Australia is a critical like-minded partner for New Zealand in contributing to the security and stability of the Pacific. Close coordination across the breadth of our Defence efforts in the region is fundamental to best supporting and enabling our Pacific Island partners.

New Zealand and Australia have worked closely together in the Pacific for decades, both bilaterally and through multilateral groupings such as Pacific QUADs, FRANZ, the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Forum Fisheries Agency. Recent responses to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief events, such as Tropical Cyclones Harold, Winston and Gita have shown how interoperability and well-established people-to-people links have helped the ADF and NZDF coordinate engagement with, and provide support to, Pacific Island partners. We continually work to de-conflict our efforts and to complement each other's different strengths in this region.

Likewise, the historical ties and personal connections we both have with our Pacific neighbours mean we have a natural familiarity when working alongside Pacific militaries. We have worked alongside Pacific partners in contributions to peace support operations, for example with Fiji in Bougainville, with Tonga in Iraq and Afghanistan, and with Papua New Guinea in the Solomon Islands. Most recently, in early 2020, New Zealand was pleased to be able to support the RFMF in providing resources to help the ADF battle bush fires in Australia. We are fortunate to have these regional connections, and that we can rely on each other during difficult times both at home and abroad.

New Zealand re-emphasised the importance it places on the Pacific region through the Pacific Reset and our 2018 Strategic Defence Policy Statement, which elevated the priority for the New Zealand Defence Force to be able to operate in the Pacific, on par with our own territory.

Following the Reset, the Government launched the Advancing Pacific Partnerships Defence Assessment, which elaborated on how New Zealand works in partnership with the Pacific to counter the drivers of regional instability, and to reinforce the regional security architecture.

The Assessment reflects a heightened urgency to work together, with Pacific and other likeminded partners, given the range of security challenges and opportunities in our region. It articulates that New Zealand Defence aims to be a reliable, trusted, long-term partner to Pacific countries.

Partnership and people-to-people ties have long been the hallmark of the New Zealand Defence approach. We are focused on listening and understanding the security priorities of our partners and we seek to build approaches together based on recognised strengths.

This assessment lays out the type of region we want to be a part of—a secure, stable and resilient Pacific—and identifies partnerships and strengthened regional architectures as the vehicles to get us there, as part of an enduring, long-term approach.

A copy of the Assessment is enclosed with this submission and can be also be found at: <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/publication/advancing-pacific-partnerships-2019>.

As COVID-19 continues to impact the security and resilience of our region, we look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with Australia to best support our Pacific partners and uphold security in the Pacific region.

Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Government to make a submission and we look forward to seeing the outcome of your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence





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The Ministry of Defence leads Defence Assessments, with support from the Defence Force and other agencies. The Defence Assessment process enables Defence to identify changes in the strategic environment and consider their possible implications for New Zealand's Defence policy, capability, and ultimately funding. In this assessment, "Defence" refers to both the New Zealand Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force.

Advancing Pacific Partnerships: A Framework for Defence's Approach to the Pacific

October 2019

PRINT – 978-1-98-851510-6

ONLINE – 978-1-98-851511-3

Cover photos from top:

SQNLDR Libby Reardon speaks at the WPS Summit, Samoa and New Zealand co-hosted a Women, Peace and Security Summit, 22–23 August in Apia to support the visibility and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in the Pacific, as well as action under the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, August 2019.

View from the Royal New Zealand Air Force C130 Hercules cockpit flying over Penrhyn, Cook Islands during Exercise Tropic Twilight 15, September 2015.

A Lamen Bay resident greets then Deputy Commander of Joint Forces (now Chief of Navy) and the New Zealand High Commissioner to Vanuatu during the Tropic Major 2018 closing ceremony, May 2018.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

New Zealand is a Pacific nation through geography, culture, identity, historical and economic linkages, and valued people-to-people ties. New Zealand is both in and of the Pacific, and our security and wellbeing are intrinsically bound to the peace and stability of the region, in all its dynamism and diversity.

The Pacific is evolving, with increasing connectedness to the broader world bringing both opportunities as well as security challenges, including transnational crime, resource competition and a contested strategic environment. The Pacific is also disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.

The year 2018 featured pivotal developments in approaches to counter these challenges and bolster Pacific community resilience. At the Pacific Islands Forum, leaders endorsed the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, which affirms that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the Pacific, and recognises an expanded concept of security that prioritises human security, with a focus on environmental and resource security, transnational crime, and cyber security. The Declaration also reflects on the region's increasingly dynamic geopolitical environment. It recognises the importance of regional cooperation and represents a significant opportunity to elevate the region's security cooperation.

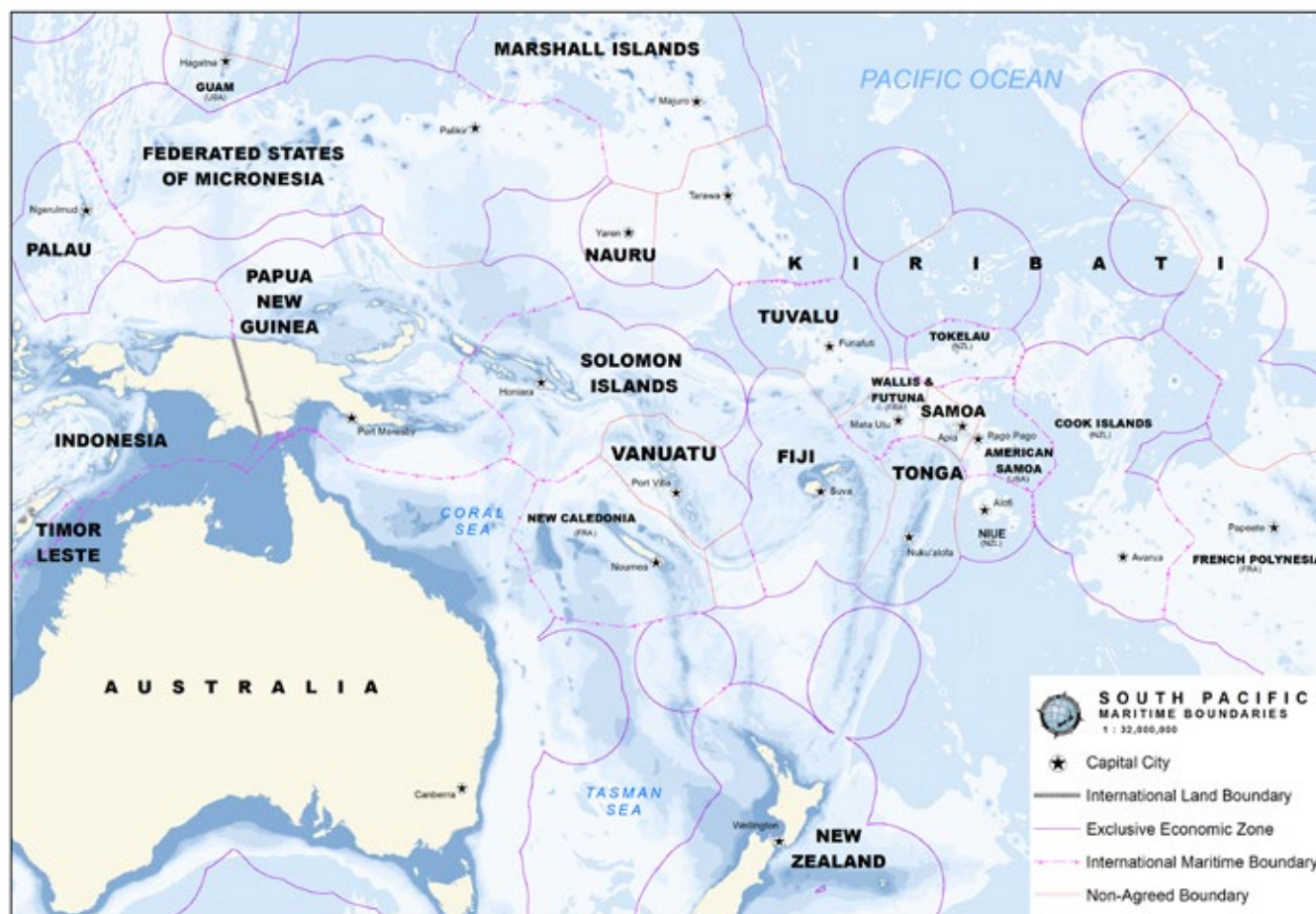
New Zealand's Pacific Reset, announced in March 2018, responds to regional challenges with a lift in our strategic ambition and investment in the Pacific. Recognising the erosion of our influence and the need to continue to strive to have a positive impact in line with our values, the Reset underscores the importance of our enduring partnerships in the region. It represents a commitment to building deeper partnerships with Pacific Island countries and other key partners and institutions in the region.

Defence's strategic policy settings and capability plan are aligned with the Government's Pacific Reset. The Strategic Defence Policy Statement 2018 ("Policy Statement") increases the priority for the New Zealand Defence Force to be able to operate in the Pacific to the highest level of priority, on par with New Zealand's own territory, Exclusive Economic Zone, and the Southern Ocean and Ross Dependency. New Zealand Defence's commitment to the Pacific is non-discretionary, and Defence maintains a robust programme of engagements across the region.

This Defence Assessment translates the high-level strategic policy of the Pacific Reset and the Policy Statement into a Defence regional approach. Advancing Pacific Partnerships puts forward a vision for an inter-generational investment in a secure, stable, and resilient Pacific, achieved foremost by advancing partnerships and supporting existing regional security architectures.

This approach centres on New Zealand Defence's longstanding emphasis on partnership, responsiveness, and people-to-people ties, is in line with our values, and is the most effective platform for working together with Pacific countries to realise our shared security interests. New Zealand Defence aims to be a reliable and valued defence and security partner and to be present to maximum effect.

Core to our concept of partnership is the assurance that our engagement will be sustainable, focused on Pacific priorities, and underpinned by respect for Pacific countries' sovereignty. We support the Blue Pacific identity as "one oceanic continent".



In partnering with the Pacific, our Defence people are our single greatest asset. It is their cultural intelligence, be they Māori, Pasifika, or other New Zealanders, that have built the genuine bonds and strong people-to-people connections that provide the foundation of our Pacific engagement. We work side-by-side, together with Pacific partners, to build on our respective strengths to mutual benefit.

Together with other government agencies, our Pacific partners, and likeminded partners, New Zealand Defence aims to contribute to the maintenance of our collective values and interests, including open access, freedom of movement, and transparency. New Zealand's refreshed approach in the Pacific is an important contribution not only to our region but also to the international rules-based order.

A range of partners maintain special relationships and constitutional obligations in the Pacific, and undertake efforts to support democratic values and the rules-based order throughout the broader Indo-Pacific region. New Zealand Defence seeks to work with these partners, alongside our Pacific partners, to make positive contributions to Pacific security, recognising that we can achieve more together than any of us can manage on our own. Cooperation among this constellation of countries will be most successful when it leverages respective strengths and accounts for complementary approaches to meet Pacific security priorities, as defined by Pacific partners, with the shared goal of fostering a secure, stable and resilient region.

The nature of the region's challenges, as well as the Boe Declaration's broader concept of security, demand more concerted cooperation efforts within bilateral partnerships and at the regional level.

As the Policy Statement recognises, the Defence Force will have to act in new ways and at new levels to protect New Zealand's interests. In order to meet our Pacific commitment and to address the impacts of climate change and other challenges, the Defence Capability Plan 2019 delivers a significant lift in capability and capacity for operating in the Pacific. Defence is also undertaking a range of new initiatives, including in the areas of climate, leadership building, gender equality, and collective Pacific empowerment.

Advancing Pacific Partnerships articulates Defence's approach to meeting our elevated commitment to our region, and the enduring principles that underpin this approach. Its essence can be found in the assessment's Vaka Tahi ("one boat") Pacific Partnership Model, which recognises our shared Pacific identity and our intrinsic links. Where we face security challenges, they are shared challenges and we have shared responsibilities – he waka eke noa ("we are all in this boat together"). We will journey together.

ANDREW BRIDGMAN
Secretary of Defence

K.R. SHORT
Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force

CHAPTER

1

Regional Developments and Security Implications

A child greets a woman of the Royal New Zealand Navy during the Tropic Major closing ceremony. May 2018.

1. New Zealand and Pacific Island countries are confronting a series of complex disrupters, which include (but are not limited to) climate change, transnational organised crime, and resource competition.
 - 1.1 The impacts of climate change are being felt acutely in the Pacific as well as in New Zealand itself. This will necessitate more Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations and potentially stability operations in our region. Local communities and response agencies alike should prepare for larger-scale disasters, shorter recovery periods between disasters, and the possibility of communities' reduced resilience. Maritime domain awareness will be increasingly important in helping to assess how climate change is intersecting with other regional security trends, including the movement of fish stocks and the fleets that pursue them around the region and into New Zealand's expansive maritime search and rescue zone.
 - 1.2 The transit and transshipment of narcotics and other commodities through the Pacific, as well as the growing threat of transnational organised crime groups from Asia and the Americas, are increasing the need for information gathering, information sharing, and better awareness through to interdiction operations.
 - 1.3 The ability to monitor, deter, and protect maritime interests will become increasingly important in the context of resource competition and resource scarcity projected to intensify in the maritime domain.
2. More will be expected of New Zealand Defence on all of these challenges. Countering these disrupters is significant for the maintenance of regional security, especially as their compounding nature may exacerbate state fragility and present challenges to governance.
3. Greater competition for influence in the Pacific will intersect with this suite of complex disruptors. External actors seeking to enhance their regional presence may leverage these issues as vectors of influence.
4. More broadly, the pace, intensity, and scope of engagement by external actors, who may not always reflect our values across their activities, are at the heart of a growing sense of geostrategic competition that is animating many nations' renewed focus on the Pacific.
5. The Boe Declaration (Annex A) recognises a "dynamic geopolitical environment leading to an increasingly crowded and complex region", with leaders upholding that they "respect and assert the sovereign right of every Member to conduct its national affairs free of external interference and coercion".
6. The year ahead is likely to see further intensification of these challenges. It is forecast that up to eleven cyclones could hit the Pacific before the end of 2019, with some areas still recovering from major natural disasters of last year.
7. Heightened diplomatic and security engagement overall is likely as a range of nations continue efforts to enhance engagement in the region – a dynamic that may not take into account Pacific capabilities.
8. New Zealand Defence has a clear priority to align our approach more fully with the Boe Declaration's expanded concept of security and its Action Plan, as well as with the priorities of our diverse, individual Pacific partners. We will continue to operationalise the imperatives to be more responsive, more coordinated, and more innovative in our approach to a range of non-traditional security issues, in the context of whole of government approaches to these cross-cutting issues.
9. The Pacific is evolving as complex disrupters intensify and the increasing presence of external actors comes to bear. New Zealand Defence and our approach must also evolve. We have an imperative to continue to safeguard New Zealand and Pacific security interests, and to be present – to be a source of stability and a reliable, valued partner, as our region undergoes change and adapts to new realities.

CHAPTER 2

The New Zealand Defence Approach

Leading Hand Ngarongo Porima performs the NZDF haka with the HMNZS Canterbury Kapa Haka group at the Tropic Major closing ceremony, May 2018.

10. Evolutions in the challenges facing the Pacific and the Government's renewed priorities in the region are requiring Defence to act with new urgency and at new levels in the Pacific, as part of whole of government efforts to protect the interests of New Zealand and our Pacific partners. The ability to act alone when required and together with partners who share our interests and values will remain fundamental.
11. This Defence Assessment, Advancing Pacific Partnerships, builds upon the Pacific Reset's imperative for deepened, mutually beneficial partnerships, as well as the Strategic Defence Policy Statement 2018 principles, roles, and priorities relevant for the Pacific (Annex B). It also aligns with New Zealand's commitments under the Boe Declaration.
12. New Zealand seeks a secure, stable, and resilient Pacific region, in which:
 - 12.1 Pacific states are stable and resilient in the face of complex disrupters – from climate change to cyber threats, and from corruption to external interference.
 - 12.2 Strong and effective regional architectures capably address security issues of concern and prevent coercion.
 - 12.3 Partners are constructively engaged and coordinated, and activities are transparent and in line with Pacific interests.
 - 12.4 Pacific sovereignty and unhindered access to safe, open waterways and marine resources are preserved, in line with the international rules-based order.
 - 12.5 New Zealand Defence is a reliable and valued defence and security partner.
13. Advancing Pacific Partnerships is a long-term approach that focuses on partnership and people-to-people ties as its foundation. This framework guides us in steady state and also provides grounding for immediate responses to potential shocks and fast-moving events.
14. The concepts of strengthened partnership and regional security architecture are at the centre of this enduring approach. Focus on these concepts leverages New Zealand Defence's traditional strengths in cooperation and people-to-people ties, is in line with our values, and is the most effective platform for working together with Pacific countries to realise our shared security interests.
15. Strong partnerships and regionalism afford New Zealand Defence opportunities to continually enhance our understanding of the region, promote transparency, limit strategic surprises, and work together with Pacific partners to meet Pacific security priorities.
16. We seek, together with likeminded partners, to be present in bilateral relationships and regional security architectures to maximum effect, in order to positively contribute to regional security.
17. Alongside our work with Pacific partners, prioritising cooperation with likeminded partners is fundamental to the Advancing Pacific Partnerships approach. We can achieve more together than any of us could on our own. We must work in concert, bolstering our coordination efforts, to provide good partner options to Pacific countries, maximise contributions to regional security, and encourage transparency from all partners engaged in the region.
18. This approach best positions us to proactively engage across the region, counter complex disrupters, assist upon request when internal stability is at stake, and oppose developments that may pressure the rules-based order in the Pacific.
19. Geostrategic competition is not simply a consequential trend playing out among great powers. If external powers establish a greater regular presence, it could materially affect the Pacific and our own strategic circumstances.
20. New Zealand is in and of the Pacific, and our security is intrinsically tied to that of Pacific Island countries. Delivering strong partnerships and supporting effective security architectures are the best ways to safeguard and promote regional security as well as our own security. The Advancing Pacific Partnerships approach is designed to benefit our security as well as that of the Pacific.
21. This assessment examines how to enhance the New Zealand Defence approach to partnerships and regional security architectures, as well as the optimisation of Defence policy, organisation and capabilities to deliver on this approach. In each of these three areas, the assessment offers a tool and highlights or recommends enhancements.
22. This approach is grounded in our values, our Pacific identity, and whole of government efforts under the Pacific Reset. New Zealand Defence maintains commitments to be resource smart and undertake enduring, sustainable activities, in line with our ambition to be a reliable and valued partner. We will act to reinforce the international rules-based order, the foundation of our collective security.



Constable Nicole Takumu, of the Vanuatu Police Force looks over a map with Private Hammond (left) and Second Lieutenant Luiten (right). May 2018.

ADVANCING PARTNERSHIPS

23. In an increasingly contested environment, Pacific Island countries have more choices in partnership. It is incumbent on us to ensure our partnership is valued – that New Zealand Defence is a reliable, trusted, long-term partner.
24. A Pacific approach anchored in partnership and people-to-people ties underscores what New Zealand Defence has long valued: we seek to understand and be responsive to the defence and security priorities of our Pacific partners, and we build approaches together based on recognised strengths.

The Vaka Tahi Pacific Partnership Model

25. The Vaka Tahi (“one boat”) Pacific Partnership Model represents an effort to draw together our cultural linkages, practices, and key principles and policies into an accessible tool that will allow us to be more deliberate in our efforts to be a reliable and valued partner across the Defence organisations.
26. The model’s *Vaka Tahi* name recognises our shared Pacific identity and our intrinsic links. Where we face security challenges, they are shared challenges and we have shared responsibilities.
27. The model also stands as an enduring commitment to the values and standards of partnership Pacific countries can expect from New Zealand Defence. It is grounded in key cultural and policy concepts, including the Pacific tradition of *talanoa*, the Māori proverb *he tangata, he tangata, he tangata*, the concept of *kotahitanga*, and the five principles of the Pacific Reset – understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, collective ambition, and sustainability. The model has two principal components:

- 27.1 Partnership in Context:** Just as we conceptualise Defence's value across New Zealand's community, nation, and world, we also think broadly about our Pacific partnerships and security concepts. We seek to build valued, sustainable partnerships across Pacific communities and Pacific nations, and support Pacific collective empowerment and contributions to the world. This context defines the contours of our engagement, from protecting our environment and assisting when natural disasters strike, through to support for Pacific sovereignty, leadership building, gender equality, and collective empowerment.
- 27.2 Partnership in Action:** Through reflection on past engagements and shared cultural traditions, Defence has distilled a series of actions important to building reliable, valued partnerships, and has considered that they only form a whole when they are woven together. Defence will operationalise these elements through Ministry engagements, Strategic Military Engagement Plans, and Defence partnership programmes.

Likeminded Partners

28. Working with likeminded partners is critical to enhancing Pacific security, stability, and resilience. From different national vantage points, likeminded partners share our concern about intensifying complex disrupters and competition. We have seen new whole of government efforts from several partners seeking to enhance their contributions to Pacific regional security.
29. Our consultation and cooperation with likeminded partners gives us the opportunity to deliver outcomes for the Pacific consistent with our values in ways beyond our resource base. New Zealand Defence should take the initiative in engaging likeminded partners, including in suggesting activities, where appropriate. We should also actively shape discussions on regional initiatives to focus on strengthening existing formal architectures and their underlying mechanisms in ways consistent with Pacific capacities.
30. Whereas in the past geography and longstanding ties lent themselves to certain patterns of engagement in different areas of the Pacific by different countries, technology, greater connectedness, and transnational challenges are broadening engagement. Like many close partners, New Zealand Defence will pursue a broader, more consistent approach across the Pacific community.

Lifting our approach to partnership

Pacific Partners

31. New Zealand Defence will continue to put partnership and people-to-people ties at the centre of our approach. The Vaka Tahi Pacific Partnership Model and a more deliberate partnership approach renew and refresh this commitment.
32. Building on a strong slate of existing efforts, including through the Defence Partnership Programme and the Mutual Assistance Programme, which improves priority partner militaries' skills and professionalism, new Defence efforts grounded in Pacific partnership and featuring strong people-to-people elements include:
- 32.1 The Pacific Defence Gender Network advances Women, Peace and Security and gender empowerment in the Pacific. The network was formally launched at a summit in Samoa in August 2019.



Community

- We value Pacific people and our people-to-people ties. We will look to explore new relationships with local communities and increase New Zealand Defence's cultural capacity.
- We support Pacific environmental resilience. Our land and our ocean are valuable resources. Protecting our environment, including confronting the impacts of climate change and responding to assist Pacific communities when natural disasters strike, is fundamental to community sustainability and security.
- We think broadly about security and the wellbeing of Pacific communities.

Nation

- We support the sovereignty of Pacific nations. We respect Pacific nations' rights and abilities to chart their own futures, and we are committed to supporting them when requested.
- We support a capable and stable Pacific through capacity building, organisational optimisation and technical support to ensure strengthened sustainable systems and security.
- We support leadership building. Pacific security and defence leaders are represented at all levels of the community, the nation and the world. We are committed to fostering professionalism, enhancing leadership capacity, and supporting gender equality in Pacific security and defence sectors.

World

- We support the Blue Pacific identity as "one oceanic continent". The Pacific region values collective empowerment. We promote the idea that with its diverse and resourceful states, we can do more together than alone.
- We support Pacific regionalism and active, innovative, transparent regional security collaboration to promote resource protection and broader maritime security, and respond to threats within the region.
- The Pacific makes a valuable contribution to the world using our unique Pacific approach. The world can learn from the Pacific approaches, including on climate change and resource management.

Planning and
acting together

Partnership in Action

Understanding
and elevating
strengths

Valuing people-to-
people ties and our
interdependence

Building
resilience
together

Thinking broadly—
about an expanded
concept of security
and the broader
community

Respecting
tradition, culture
and mana, and
the collective
will of Pacific
regionalism

Understanding
unique
perspectives
and challenges

Using inclusive,
participatory
dialogue and
understanding
Pacific stories

Building trust,
reciprocity and
transparency

Openly addressing
challenges
to develop
approaches for the
collective good

Partnership in Action elements

Planning and acting together

A shared end point is not enough. We are committed to consultation and planning together through every process and every initiative. Our collaboration is most beneficial when it is conceived together, planned together, and executed together.

Understanding and elevating strengths

While our challenges are consequential, Pacific countries have significant strengths that are vital to recognise and from which others may learn. Good strategic thinking begins with leveraging strengths.

Valuing people-to-people ties and our interdependence

There is no replacement for personal relationships and shared experiences. Our challenges are shared, our security is intrinsically linked, and we are stronger together.

Building resilience together

We invest in strengthening our individual, mutual and collective capacities to withstand disruption and to recover faster. Resilience is our first line of protection from myriad challenges.

Thinking broadly – about an expanded concept of security and the broader community

A broad range of issues impact security and community wellbeing, and we must challenge ourselves to understand these intersections and think more comprehensively and innovatively about challenges and our responses.

Respecting tradition, culture and mana, and the collective will of Pacific regionalism

Our consideration of and respect for cultural traditions is fundamental to our partnership approach. We value our collective will – from the community level to the regional level – and shared Pacific ambitions.

Understanding unique perspectives and challenges

We recognise and value the diversity of the Pacific. We invest in building local knowledge and refrain from misplaced region-wide assumptions.

Using inclusive, participatory dialogues and understanding Pacific stories

We come to engagements on equal terms and with respect. We value stories about personal experiences and what has worked in the past as a basis for charting mutual approaches.

Building trust, reciprocity and transparency

We invest in relationships on the principle of mutual benefit and are committed to fostering openness and earning trust.

Openly addressing challenges to develop approaches for the collective good

The regional community benefits from discussing our challenges transparently and directly, with a focus on moving forward constructively and in collaboration.

Key Cultural, Regional and Partnership References underpinning the model	Policy	
	Pacific Reset Principles	Strategic Defence Policy Statement
The Pacific tradition of Talanoa Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling.	Understanding We must develop and demonstrate a depth of understanding of the Pacific	Increased Priority The Government's highest priority for the Defence Force is its ability to operate and undertake tasks in New Zealand and our Pacific neighbourhood
"He tangata, he tangata, he tangata" Māori proverb: [What is the most important thing in the world?] <i>It is the people, it is the people, it is the people</i>	Friendship We must exhibit the values of friendship, including honesty, empathy, trust and respect	Pacific Identity New Zealand has strong cultural and historic ties to South Pacific countries, and enduring interest in the security and prosperity of the region
Boe Declaration Recognises an expanded concept of security and a dynamic geopolitical environment leading to an increasingly crowded and complex region. Respects and asserts the sovereign right of every Member to conduct its national affairs free of external interference and coercion	Mutual Benefit We must actively identify win-win opportunities and avoid negative consequences	Values & Partnership Defence embodies and promotes New Zealand's values, and is a credible and trusted international partner
Kotahitanga Unity, togetherness, solidarity, or collective action in Māori culture "Engage early, be inclusive, think broadly" Crown engagement with Māori	Collective Ambition Ensure interagency coordination to deliver on Government's collective ambition for the region	Shared Challenges New Zealand and Pacific Island countries face intensifying complexity and disruption in our neighbourhood, including through the security implications of climate change
Kapasa Ministry for Pacific Peoples & The Policy Project Encourages a strengths-based approach Common Pacific cultural values: family, collectivism and communitarianism, reciprocity, respect Pacific cultures tend to emphasise: spirituality, rank/authority, conformity, interdependence, others' feelings, blood ties, restraint	Sustainability Focus on contributing to the region's long-term goals	Pacific Role An enduring principal role for the Defence Force is to conduct a broad range of operations in the South Pacific, including leading operations when necessary, to protect and promote regional peace, security and resilience

- 32.2 The Pacific Leader Development Programme will provide professional leadership training to embed the fundamentals of ethical and effective leadership among Pacific security personnel, drawing on the New Zealand Defence Force Leadership Framework. Over the next four years, this programme will be rolled out to Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu, and may expand to other Pacific partners in future years. This is a significant undertaking for New Zealand Defence – it will require new infrastructure as well as people to support this initiative, which aims to make an inter-generational investment in Pacific leaders, strong Pacific security sectors, and bolstered people-to-people ties.
- 32.3 Recent enhancements to the Fiji-New Zealand Defence Partnership Programme demonstrate our commitment to long-term sustainable institutions and arrangements. This includes assistance on military justice reform and legislation as well as close work on a programme of professional development and leadership training.
- 33. Further, New Zealand Defence will:
 - 33.1 lean into Pacific partners' visions and priorities, where they align with our values;
 - 33.2 undertake more deliberate efforts to enhance our cultural awareness;
 - 33.3 make efforts to enhance information sharing with Pacific and likeminded partners, across the range of our activities; and
 - 33.4 be responsive to partner requests, such as recent support for elections and major events in the region.

Likeminded Partners

- 34. Likeminded partners have the resources, capabilities, and convening power to significantly enhance Pacific security. Their investment in the region is critical.
- 35. New Zealand Defence is committed to working closely with likeminded partners to ensure our approaches are complementary, cooperative, and make best use of available resources.
- 36. Where our partners are pursuing initiatives that meet Pacific security interests and are in line with our values, we will actively assist them in realising these visions.
- 37. New Zealand Defence will discuss our approach and the Boe Declaration with our partners, and consistently raise the importance of maintaining Pacific security priorities at the centre of Pacific engagements.

Other External Partners

- 38. New Zealand Defence also acknowledges new actors in the region, and welcomes all partners that take account of the Pacific's security priorities and act transparently. We work with a range of partners in the Pacific and will continue to do so on those terms.
- 39. In all cases, we will convey clear and consistent messages about expectations for constructive behaviour consistent with the international rules-based order in the Pacific.
- 40. In line with New Zealand's independent foreign policy, New Zealand Defence's operations and activities in the Pacific will reflect the interests of New Zealand and our Pacific partners



Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern visits Niue as part of the Pacific Mission. March 2018.

ADVANCING REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

41. The Policy Statement recognised that, in the context of an increasingly complex strategic environment in the Pacific, enhancing defence relationships and resilience, and active engagement in support of regional security architecture will increase in importance.
42. Regional architecture is a key part of the rules-based order, on which we rely for our security. Transnational security challenges, including resource protection, climate change, and transnational crime all require regional approaches. Where it operates effectively, regional architecture may also help guard against coercion of small states by large states, and preserve regional autonomy for countries to collectively chart their futures.
43. Regional organisations – from the preeminent Pacific Islands Forum and its new Forum Officials Subcommittee on Regional Security (which will guide the implementation of the Boe Declaration), through to the defence-focused South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting – are important to New Zealand's multilateral approach and addressing regional security challenges in line with shared Pacific interests and values.
44. The Boe Declaration is an opportunity to elevate the region's security cooperation. The Declaration outlines Pacific security priorities as articulated by Pacific leaders, which will assist in setting the agenda for our own engagement, as well as those of other partners. Across the region, Defence and other security agencies have important roles to play in addressing these issues, alongside foreign ministries.

Regional Security Architecture Arrangements

45. The diagram on page 18–19 depicts the principal current regional security architecture elements. The security nature of these groupings has been considered both in the context of the Boe Declaration's expanded concept of security and in organisations' own descriptions of their purposes. Constitutional and political arrangements with states that have historic ties to the region have also been included where these arrangements include security aspects.
46. This diagram demonstrates the complexity of current security arrangements. This is an important consideration as we – and other partners – seek to lift our engagement in the region, especially as an increased tempo of engagement will need to take into account Pacific countries' capacities.
47. This complexity of current arrangements also underscores that we should temper inclinations to create entirely new bodies and should – in the first instance – investigate how we might invest in existing structures to maximum effect. There may also be opportunities to gain efficiencies and strengthen coordination among organisations.
48. This formal security architecture benefits from links with a series of less formal mechanisms, including security-related partnerships and networks that bolster people-to-people ties in the security sector and across the Pacific regional community. Development of structures that underpin and strengthen formal regional security mechanisms may represent one of the best avenues for innovation in strengthening regional security structures. Indeed, it has been an area of significant recent activity, from consideration of new gender-focused networks to information fusion centres.
49. The formal security architecture is also reinforced through Pacific countries working in collaboration with:
 - 49.1 related regional groups, including the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
 - 49.2 broader Asia-Pacific regional organisations, such as the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering; as well as
 - 49.3 international organisations, such as those associated with the United Nations, Interpol, the International Maritime Organization, and the International Civil Aviation Organization.
50. Finally, further critical underpinning for formal regional security arrangements is also provided by bilateral arrangements, including the alliance between New Zealand and Australia, and individual nations' cooperative capacity building efforts, such as Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program.
51. This diagram may be a useful tool in building awareness and understanding the complexity of principal regional security arrangements. It may also be a basis for engaging with Pacific partners, and informing our consideration of ways to strengthen regional security cooperation.

Pacific Regional Security Architecture

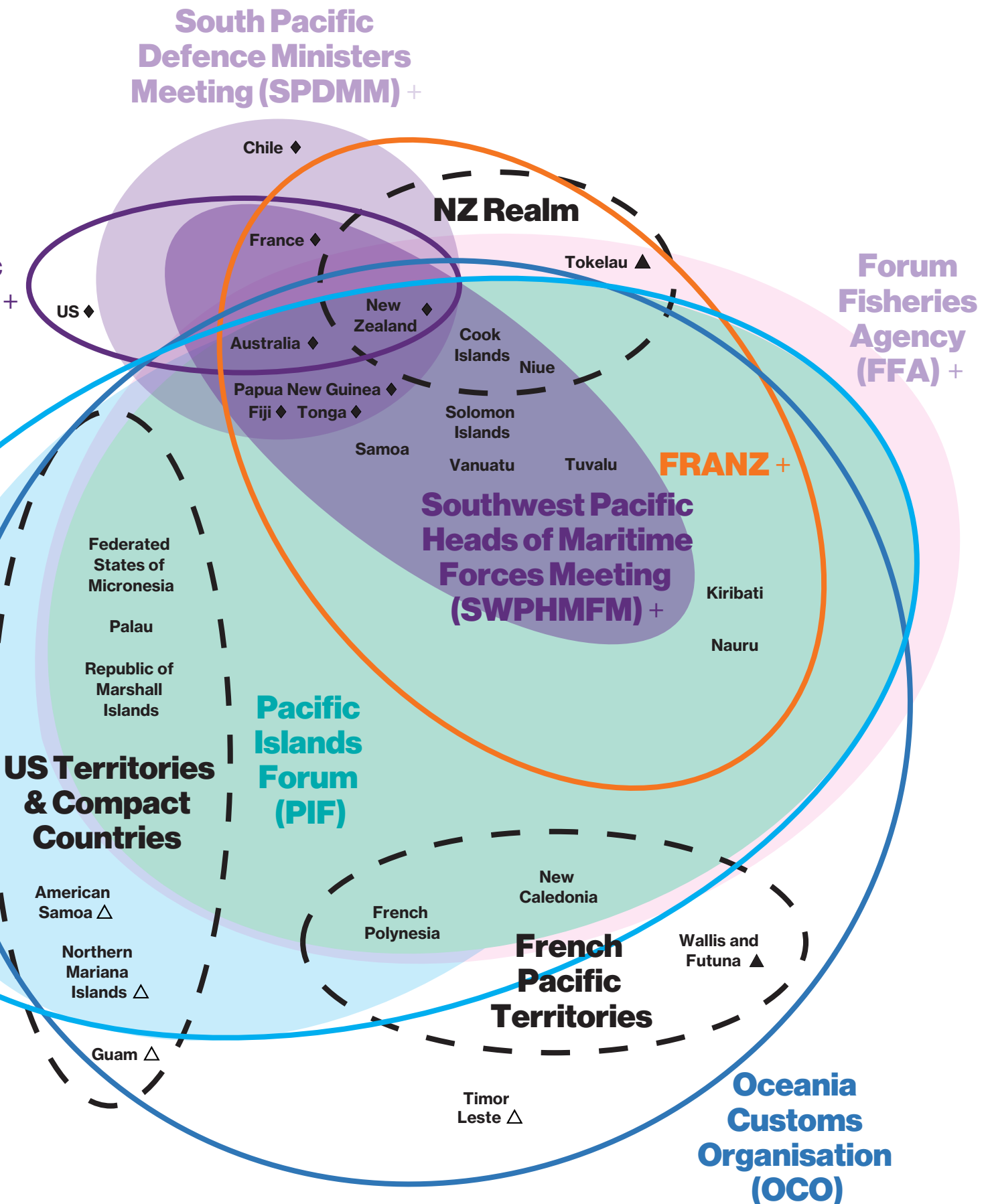
Many Pacific security organisations maintain links with international organisations such as United Nations organisations and Interpol. Several of these formal security architectures are also supported by or connected to other security-focused forums and networks, including the Pacific Police Training Advisory Group; bilateral arrangements including the alliance between New Zealand and Australia; and individual nations' security capacity building efforts including the Australian Pacific Maritime Security Programme.

**Pacific
QUADS**

**Pacific
Transnational
Crime Network
(PTCN)**

**Pacific Islands
Chiefs of Police
(PICP)**

- ▲ Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna are associate members of PIF.
- △ American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Timor Leste are PIF observer countries and territories.
- ◆ Countries maintaining defence forces
- + Organisations that include defence participation



Capstone

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation. Founded in 1971, it comprises 18 members whose leaders have long recognised that security and stability underpin sustainable development and economic growth. The 2018 Boe Declaration reaffirms the importance of the rules-based order and recognises an expanded concept of security, which emphasises environmental security, transnational crime, cybersecurity, and human security. A Forum Officials Committee Subcommittee on Regional Security Cooperation will guide implementation of the Boe Declaration. Several additional Pacific Island countries are observers, and PIF has 18 dialogue partners, including Canada, China, France, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States.

▲ Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna are associate members of PIF.

△ American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Timor Leste are PIF observer countries and territories.

Maritime Security & Defence

South Pacific Defence Ministers Meeting (SPDMM) + is the only ministerial-level Pacific defence meeting, with South Pacific countries with defence forces comprising the core membership. SPDMM is an annual forum focused on addressing common security challenges and coordination on regional defence issues, particularly maritime security, HA/DR, and peacekeeping. The US and the UK attend as observers.

Southwest Pacific Heads of Maritime Forces Meeting (SWPHMFM) + is an annual meeting focused on establishing enduring relationships among the heads of maritime forces in the region, in order to facilitate better cooperation and coordination within the Southwest Pacific maritime domain.

The forum also provides an opportunity for the heads of maritime forces to forge a collective relationship to enable the respective maritime forces to work together more effectively for the benefit of all nations, as seafarers and guardians of the Pacific.

Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) + was established to help its 17 member countries sustainably manage the fishery resources that fall within their Exclusive Economic Zones. FFA members have sovereign rights over the tuna resources in their EEZs and participate in harmonised regional decision making on tuna management, including minimum terms and conditions for vessel access. FFA is an advisory body providing expertise, technical assistance and other support to its members.

Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group ("Pacific QUADS") + brings together defence and security agencies from Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States to promote security and stability through multilateral activities to counter and respond to human security, environmental security, transnational and organised crime, and humanitarian assistance.

Disaster Response

FRANZ + is an agreement among France, Australia, and New Zealand to coordinate disaster reconnaissance and relief assistance in the Pacific when requested by partner countries. Established in 1992, it is a civilian-led arrangement supported by defence forces.

Customs & Law Enforcement

Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) focuses on assisting members' administrations in aligning with customs international standards and best practice through information sharing, training, and development of core capabilities, including intelligence-based risk and information management, to support regional outcomes. Its priority areas include customs leadership, law enforcement and border security, trade management and facilitation, revenue mobilisation, and institutional strengthening of small member administrations. The OCO secretariat is located in Suva, Fiji.

Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) works to improve policing in the Pacific by providing a common voice on law enforcement, providing a forum to share ideas and information on crime and policing, and coordinating training and development activities for members. The PICP Secretariat maintains a relationship with the Pacific Island Law Officers Network (PILON), and in 2018 signed a Declaration of Partnership with the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) and the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) to enhance cooperation among the three organisations.

Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN) has been working collaboratively since 2002 to combat transnational crime across the Pacific region. The PTCN's role is to provide proactive operational criminal intelligence and investigative capability through a multi-agency and regional approach – involving Police, Customs and Immigration with links to other agencies as required. The PTCN consists of the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC; based in Apia, Samoa) and 25 Transnational Crime Units in 17 Pacific countries. The US Joint Interagency Task Force – West provides the infrastructure for the network.

Political & Security Arrangements

The Realm of New Zealand reflects constitutional relationships with Tokelau, Niue, and Cook Islands, which includes New Zealand citizenship. New Zealand is responsible for the foreign relations and defence of Tokelau, whereas for self-governing states Niue and Cook Island, New Zealand acts on an 'as requested' basis on these matters.

French Pacific Territories France maintains responsibilities to protect its sovereignty and obligation to guarantee the security of its citizens in the Pacific. This commitment includes permanent military basing in the Pacific.

US Territories and the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands are US territories, and their residents are US citizens or nationals. The Compact agreements endow the United States with responsibility for security and defence matters in and relating to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau. These agreements give the United States the authority to potentially deny access by other countries' militaries and their personnel. The United States can also establish and use military areas and facilities or defence sites under Compacts and their subsidiary agreements. Citizens of all three countries can volunteer to serve in the US Armed Forces and do so at per capita rates higher than most US states. Each country has the capacity to conduct foreign affairs in its own name and right, as provided in the relevant Compact.

Lifting our approach to regional security architecture

52. New Zealand Defence will continue to be a strong supporter of the South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting, the Pacific QUADS, the Forum Fisheries Agency, and other regional organisations, both through defence diplomacy and operations. In enhancing our approach to regional security architecture, Defence will:

- 52.1 Consider how we might build and strengthen connections among architectures, including through better information sharing, in order to promote efficiencies and in recognition of Pacific countries' capacities for engagement. The 2019 South West Pacific Heads of Maritime Forces Meeting made positive strides in this regard, articulating its intent to report its outcomes to other regional organisations, including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting, and the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police. This will ensure alignment with current regional security priorities, and will be facilitated by New Zealand Defence's commitment to provide a new standing secretariat for the meeting going forward.
- 52.2 Where appropriate and working closely with Pacific partners, carefully consider whether scopes of current organisations are fit for purpose. The expanded scope of Pacific QUADS is a positive example of a well-consulted adjustment to more accurately reflect regional challenges and the parameters of our response.
- 52.3 Support people-to-people initiatives at the regional level, which play an important role in underpinning and supporting formal architectures. This includes New Zealand Defence work to establish the Pacific Defence Gender Network. This also includes well-placed ad hoc events such as the March 2019 Pacific-Australia-New Zealand senior leader meeting, in which the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force hosted his counterparts from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Australia in a forum that deepened relationships among senior leaders.

- 52.4 Be guided by the Boe Declaration, which is a compass for Defence efforts to further security regionalism. Alongside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other security agencies, Defence has an important role to play in the Boe Declaration's implementation, including in the Forum Officials' Committee on Regional Security. Defence has been proactive and responsive to Pacific leaders' affirmation of climate change as the top security challenge impacting Pacific peoples' wellbeing.
- 52.5 In line with the Boe Declaration, Defence has undertaken a range of efforts to promote discussion on the security implications of climate change in the Pacific, including:
 - 52.5.1 issuing a new strategic policy that forecasts climate change as a driver of operations in the Pacific, and publishing a Defence Assessment, *The Climate Crisis: Defence Readiness and Responsibilities*, that offers a model for better understanding the relationship between climate change impacts and security implications, and may serve as a basis for engagements in the region;
 - 52.5.2 issuing an updated Defence Capability Plan that lifts New Zealand's capability and capacity to respond to severe weather events in the Pacific;
 - 52.5.3 establishing a climate change portfolio in the Ministry of Defence's Policy Branch that involves significant Pacific regional engagement;
 - 52.5.4 cooperating to advance a South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting study focused on climate change and security in the Pacific; and
 - 52.5.5 playing a major role in supporting the co-hosting of the Pacific Environmental Security Forum in Wellington in 2019, with US Indo-Pacific Command. In addition, the Ministry has further supported the forum's evolution, which will work to complement regional architecture and help forge stronger networks between countries and across the Indo-Pacific on environmental security matters.
- 52.6 Further consider how Defence will account for an expanded concept of security across activities in the Pacific and support stronger interagency coordination efforts in Wellington.

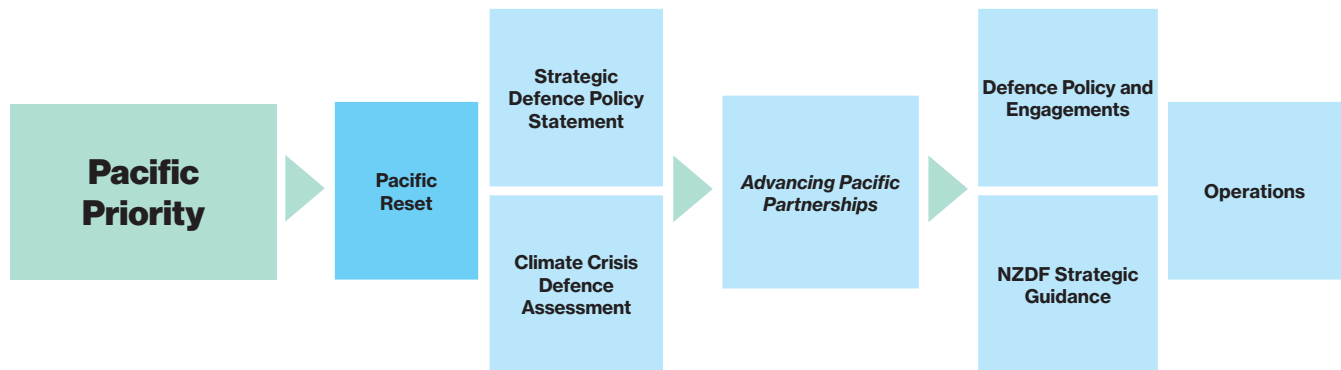


OPTIMISING DEFENCE TO DELIVER

53. In order to deliver on this enduring approach, with the concepts of advancing partnerships and regional security architectures at its centre, and to make longstanding values into more deliberate and structured practice, Defence must ensure it has the right structures, capabilities, policy, training, and resource arrangements in place.

A Framework for the Defence Approach

54. To this end, this assessment helps to establish a sequential, nested series of policy and guidance, from the high-level Pacific Reset and the Strategic Defence Policy Statement, flowing through to this assessment, and the documents within Defence that the assessment will support and inform, including on policy, engagements, strategic guidance, and operations.
55. This assessment also offers a framework that features clear, mutually reinforcing objectives and activity areas to better organise our approach across the Defence enterprise. In seeking to foster a secure, stable, and resilient Pacific and to be a reliable and valued partner, these New Zealand Defence objectives are:



- 55.1 Promote strong Pacific partnerships and architectures, and shape constructive engagement in concert with likeminded partners;
 - 55.2 Work with Pacific partners in building resilient, capable security systems;
 - 55.3 Enhance regional security by countering complex disrupters; and
 - 55.4 Maintain open access and freedom of movement, and promote transparency.
56. The activity areas span the range of Defence activities across various parts of our organisations:
- 56.1 **Activity Area 1 – Understand** focuses on enhancing understanding through increased cultural aptitude and assessments; understanding our capability and policy requirements; and promoting transparency through information sharing and other mechanisms.
 - 56.2 **Activity Area 2 – Engage** involves defence diplomacy and Key Leader Engagements with Pacific partners, our ally Australia, other partners, as well as regional engagement.
 - 56.3 **Activity Area 3 – Cooperate** features a range of capacity building activities, including around professionalisation and leadership, organisational optimisation, peacekeeping, technical advice, maritime surveillance and fisheries operations, and exercises.
 - 56.4 **Activity Area 4 – Be present & respond** involves regular operations and contingency response, including maritime domain awareness patrols and presence operations, ship visits, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, security and stability operations, search and rescue operations, unilateral training opportunities and responsiveness to emergent requests from Pacific countries.
57. Three elements bridge across these four activity areas, emphasising that in all activities, New Zealand Defence should place at the forefront:
- 57.1 **Responsiveness.** Hearing Pacific priorities and acting to support is central to our aim of being a reliable and valued partner to Pacific countries.
 - 57.2 **Communication.** Partnership, every activity we undertake, and our overall effectiveness are all premised on good communication.
 - 57.3 **Coordination.** Effectively executing our approach involves coordination on a variety of levels, including within Defence, with the whole of government, Pacific partners, our ally Australia, other partners, and regional organisations.

Vision

Advancing Pacific Partnerships is an inter-g...
achieved by advancing par...

Its framework connects the high-level policy of the Strategic Defence

Objectives

Promote strong Pacific partnerships
and architectures, and shape
constructive engagement together with
likeminded partners

Supp...
partne...
resili...
secur...

**New Zealand seeks a
secure, stable and resilient
Pacific, in which:**

- Pacific states are resilient in the face of complex disruptors—from climate change to cyber threats, corruption to external influence
- Strong and effective regional architectures capably address security issues of concern and prevent coercion
- Partners are constructively engaged and coordinated and activities are transparent and cooperative
- Pacific sovereignty and access to safe, open waterways and marine resources are preserved, in line with the international rules-based order
- New Zealand Defence is a reliable and valued defence and security partner

Responsiveness

Communication

Coordination

Activity Area 1 – Understand

Activity Area 2 – Engage

Defence D...

Activity Area 3 – Cooperate

Activity Area 4 – Be present and respon...

Foundations

For the Defence approach

Values

Pacific
Identity

Su...

**generational investment in a secure, stable and resilient Pacific,
partnerships and regional security architectures.**

the Policy Statement and cross-government Pacific initiatives to a Defence regional approach

**Support Pacific
partners in building
resilient, capable
security systems**

**Enhance security by
countering complex
disrupters and
instability**

**Maintain open
access, freedom
of movement, and
transparency**

Enhance Understanding & Transparency

Diplomacy with Pacific and Other Partners & Regional Engagement

Capacity & Resilience Building

Operations & Contingency Response

New Zealand's stepped up efforts in the Pacific are an important contribution to the international rules-based order, regional security, and maritime security.

Defence focuses on building and sustaining people-to-people ties.

The concepts of partnership and strengthened regional architectures are at the centre of Defence's enduring, long-term approach.

Sustainable

**Resource
smart**

**Whole of
government**

**Rules-based
order**

Defence's Pacific Reset

58. New Zealand Defence aims to optimise our delivery of the Advancing Pacific Partnerships approach. The framework described above will assist in guiding our more deliberate approach and ensuring unity of purpose.

Capability and Capacity

59. In accordance with the Policy Statement, we aim to increase New Zealand's capability and capacity to deliver operations and other activities in the Pacific. Our ability to be a reliable and responsive partner means that we must be able to act independently or lead when necessary, maintain high readiness contingent capabilities and appropriate sustainment levels, and invest in capabilities tailored to operating in the Pacific, as part of a broader suite of capabilities that enable our contributions to the international rules-based order, both in the Pacific and further afield.
60. The Defence Capability Plan 2019 delivers on the Pacific priority of the Policy Statement. It refocuses and improves Defence's airlift and sealift capabilities, to better support our responses to challenges in the region, including the increasing number of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions associated with climate change.
61. A second, enhanced sealift vessel, to be acquired in the late-2020s, will operate alongside HMNZS Canterbury, more than doubling capacity and increasing effectiveness in this area. With greater lift capacity, it will be able to transfer people and equipment ashore in a wider range of weather and sea conditions, significantly increasing our ability to respond to humanitarian and security events. The enhanced sealift capability will improve the New Zealand Defence Force's amphibious operations and will provide support for the deployment of a range of capabilities, including Special Forces, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and helicopters.

62. Similarly, the C-130H Hercules are among the most Pacific-focused capabilities of the Defence Force, crucial to transporting New Zealand Defence Force people and equipment to operations around the region, including areas of high risk, or those which have limited accessibility for other aircraft. Immediate, high readiness responses in the Pacific, from humanitarian and disaster relief to potential conflict or security incidents, require this type of flexible and versatile tactical airlift capability. The Capability Plan provides for these aircraft to be replaced within the next five years. Government has announced the selection of the C-130J-30 Super Hercules as the preferred option, ensuring that this capability is maintained for decades to come.
63. The Capability Plan also provides for the growth of the Defence Force by 1500 service personnel. To focus on providing better and more sustainable services to New Zealand and the Pacific, this figure includes an increase in the size of the Army to 6000 personnel.
64. Further, the Plan's addition of a dedicated Southern Ocean Patrol Vessel in the mid-2020s will allow the Otago Class offshore patrol vessels and their eventual replacements to focus on the South Pacific and the changing requirements of New Zealand's expansive maritime domain.
65. New Zealand will acquire four Boeing P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to replace the ageing P-3K2 Orion fleet. The P-8A will bring enhanced capability to the roles performed by the Orions such as contributing to the international rules-based order through peace and security operations, search and rescue, disaster response, resource and border protection, and environmental and marine resource monitoring in New Zealand, the Pacific, and beyond. In addition, the Government is also considering options, such as smaller crewed aircraft, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and satellites, for an air surveillance capability to complement the P-8As.



The Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt Hon Winston Peters inspects the damage from Cyclone Gita in Tonga on the Pacific Mission. March 2018.

Enhancing Presence

66. Consistent with our imperative to be present – together with likeminded partners – in the Pacific, Defence must undertake efforts to enhance our presence in the region in a variety of ways. Our concept of presence is broad and considers many levels, including people-to-people ties, official representation, secondment positions, regional security architectures, and operational presence.
67. Key to delivering on partnership is the presence of Defence Attachés and Advisers. Defence representation in-country is the bedrock of partnership and bilateral people-to-people ties. These officers enhance New Zealand Defence understanding and cultural awareness, as well as heighten our responsiveness and reliability for Pacific partners. They fundamentally multiply our effectiveness across all our activities with partners. Enhancement to the Defence Force's current regional footprint may be considered, in consultation with our Pacific partners.
68. The Pacific Leader Development Programme represents a positive lift in presence and will have positive impact within partner militaries and security forces.

Deepening Understanding

69. Another essential ingredient for this partnership approach includes more deliberate efforts to enhance and consistently refresh our cultural awareness and acumen and knowledge about our region, including its regional arrangements, comprehensively across the Defence organisations, from junior personnel through senior leaders, military and civilian.
70. Continually improving our understanding of the strategic environment in the Pacific is also fundamental. Since the publication of the Strategic Defence Policy Statement 2018, all Defence Assessments have included considerations around Pacific security, together with New Zealand security, and this should continue.
71. Defence Intelligence has focused efforts with Pacific partners in the intelligence domain to deepen relationships and build capacity. This includes enhancing the regional intelligence and security architecture while also improving partner capability through training. Defence Intelligence continues to work closely with likeminded partners and New Zealand government agencies to coordinate efforts and ensure optimal outcomes are achieved for partners to enhance understanding of common security challenges in our region.



CHAPTER 3

Conclusion

New Zealand Minister of Defence Hon Ron Mark and former Papua New Guinea Minister of Defence Solan Mirisim sign a Status of Force Agreement at Murray Barracks, Port Moresby, March, 2018.

72. An array of challenges facing the Pacific, from climate change to geostrategic competition, requires more from us and our likeminded partners.
73. This assessment has presented a vision for the secure, stable, and resilient Pacific region to which we aspire. It has set out priorities to advance our approaches to partnerships, invest in regional security architecture, and optimise Defence's ability to deliver on these approaches.
74. While the Advancing Pacific Partnerships framework is designed to be long-term and enduring, our approach is also informed by a sense of urgency, as transnational challenges and competition intensify.
75. Pacific priorities must remain at the centre of our approach. We have a strong stake in contributing to regional security and cooperation with likeminded partners is critical in this regard. A material lift in our approach to the Pacific requires material investment that is sustained and enduring over time.

ANNEX A

Boe Declaration on Regional Security

Forum Leaders:

Recognising and reaffirming our endorsement of the Biketawa Declaration in the year 2000 and recalling the principles underpinning the Biketawa Declaration such as commitment to good governance, belief in the liberty of the individual under the law, upholding democratic processes and institutions and recognising the vulnerability of member countries to threats to their security;

Recalling our vision and values for the Pacific under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, as a region of 'peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives';

Recognising our endorsement of the 'Blue Pacific' identity to drive collective action in support of our vision under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism;

Recalling our agreement at the 48th Forum Leaders' Meeting in Apia, Samoa, to build on the Biketawa Declaration and other Forum related security declarations and agreements as the foundation for strategic future regional responses;

Recognising the importance we placed on an expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritising environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change, including through regional cooperation and support;

Respecting the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of Forum Members and Boe Declaration on Regional Security; and

Recognising the need to strengthen regional security cooperation and collective action through the assertion of Our Will and the voices of Our Pacific Peoples.

Hereby declare as follows:

- (i) We reaffirm that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific and our commitment to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- (ii) We recognise an increasingly complex regional security environment driven by multifaceted security challenges, and a dynamic geopolitical environment leading to an increasingly crowded and complex region;
- (iii) We affirm our stewardship of the Blue Pacific and aspire to strengthen and enhance our capacity to pursue our collective security interests given our responsibility to sustain our Pacific peoples and our resources;
- (iv) We respect and assert the sovereign right of every Member to conduct its national affairs free of external interference and coercion;
- (v) We reaffirm the right of Members to individually and collectively address security issues and concerns;
- (vi) We reaffirm the importance of the rules-based international order founded on the UN Charter, adherence to relevant international law and resolution of international disputes by peaceful means;
- (vii) We affirm an expanded concept of security which addresses the wide range of security issues in the region, both traditional and non-traditional, with an increasing emphasis on:
 - a. Human Security, including humanitarian assistance, to protect the rights, health and prosperity of Pacific people;
 - b. Environmental and resource security;
 - c. Transnational crime; and,
 - d. Cybersecurity, to maximise protections and opportunities for Pacific infrastructure and peoples in the digital age
- (viii) We recognise that national security impacts on regional security, and therefore commit to strengthening our respective national security approaches by:
 - a. developing our national security strategies; and,
 - b. strengthening national security capacity including through training.
- (ix) We commit to strengthening the existing regional security architecture inclusive of regional law enforcement secretariats and regional organisations to:
 - a. account for the expanded concept of security;
 - b. identify and address emerging security challenges;
 - c. improve coordination among existing security mechanisms;
 - d. facilitate open dialogue and strengthened information sharing;
 - e. further develop early warning mechanisms;
 - f. support implementation;
 - g. promote regional security analysis, assessment and advice; and,
 - h. engage and cooperate, where appropriate, with international organisations, partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- (x) We commit to continuing regular Leaders level discussions on the expanded concept of security as part of securing our Blue Pacific

ANNEX B

Strategic Defence Policy Statement 2018 Principles, Roles and Priority for the Pacific

Principles

- 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

Roles

- 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
- Conduct a broad range of operations in the South Pacific, including leading operations when necessary, to protect and promote regional peace, security and resilience
- Protect New Zealand's wider interests by contributing to international peace and security and the 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

Elevated Pacific Priority

- The Government's highest priority for the Defence Force is its ability to operate and undertake tasks in New Zealand's territory (including in its EEZ) and its neighbourhood, from the South Pole to the Equator

