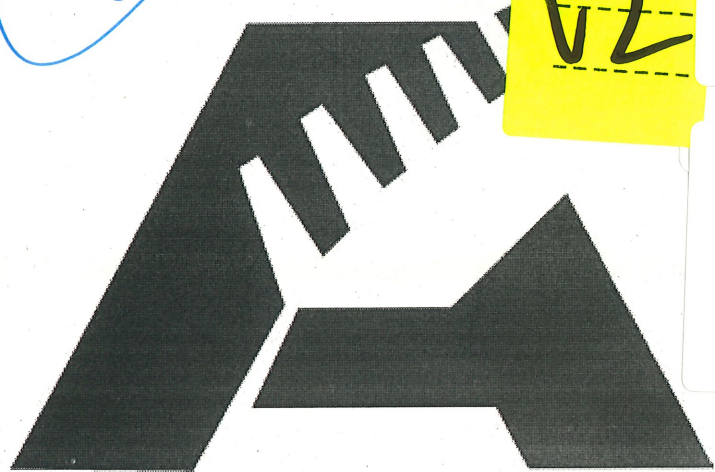


Timeline 1954-1972

Peace support operations

v2

(NZ Army, 2008c)



As at date of publication
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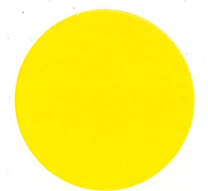


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1954 - 1972 Malaysia & The Vietnam War

3rd





1954

July

Jerusalem

In 1954 two officers were seconded to the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East.

1956

23 January

Malaya

The specially raised 133-man New Zealand Special Air Service Squadron commenced active service operations in Malaysia. It had been formed the previous year and was attached to the British 22nd Special Air Service Regiment as part of the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve for the Malayan Emergency.

1956

September

Australia

Three New Zealand Army officers were present as observers at the atomic bomb trials held at Maralinga in Australia.

1956

15 November

New Zealand

A recruiting campaign for a special force to serve with the United Nations in the Suez Canal area received 907 applications. The force was not sent.

1957

27 July

South Korea

The last Kayforce (transport platoon) was withdrawn from Korea.

1957

December

Singapore

The 1st Battalion, The New Zealand Regiment, arrived in Singapore in December 1957 and replaced the NZSAS Squadron, which returned home and was disbanded.

1958

10 March

Malaya

The 1st Battalion, The New Zealand Regiment commenced active service operations in Malaya on 10 March 1958.

1958

July

New Zealand

The Compulsory Military Training scheme was abolished in early 1958 after 63,661 territorials had

been trained. The final basic training intake finished in July 1958.

1960

February

Malaya

The 2nd Battalion, The New Zealand Regiment commenced active service operations in February 1960 on the Thai-Malay border.

1960

31 July

Malaya

The Malayan Emergency officially ended on 31 July, 1960. New Zealand infantry battalions served in the area for many years; the latter of which were spent in Singapore.

1960

The Congo

Two New Zealand Army officers were seconded to the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) when it was set up in 1960.

1962

May 10

New Zealand

The first intake of the newly instituted National Service Training Scheme marched in for training on 10 May 1962. Approximately 3000 young men were selected annually by ballot and served compulsorily on a part-time basis for three years as territorials.

1963

1-30 November

Malaysia

The 1st New Zealand Regiment moved into Terendak Camp. A total of 727 service people and 169 dependants were involved in the move.

1964

New Zealand

The Army was reorganised to fit the country's commitment to the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation. This resulted in the formation of a Combat Brigade Group, a Logistic Support Group, and a Reserve Combat Brigade Group. Territorial and Regular arms of the Service were amalgamated, with the Regular Force having an approved establishment ceiling of 6250 and the Territorial Force 11,000.

1964

29 June

South Vietnam

The New Zealand Aid Detachment of 21 men of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers and a three-man headquarters arrived in Saigon for service in South Vietnam.

1964

6 July

South Vietnam

The New Zealand Aid Detachment moved from Saigon to Thu Dau Mot, the capital of Bin Duong province. The engineers were employed on bridge building, road construction, and building construction tasks around Thu Dau Mot.

1964

6 September – 30 October

Malaysia

The 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, as part of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, took part in active service operations in peninsular Malaysia in the early stages of the "Confrontation"

between Indonesia and Malaysia.

1965

February

Borneo

In February 1965 the first of four separate New Zealand Special Air Service detachments were deployed from New Zealand to Borneo for active service during "Confrontation". They served under the operational control of the British 22nd Special Air Service Regiment.

1965

10 May

South Vietnam

On 10 May 1965 the South Vietnamese Government requested combatant troop support from New Zealand.

1965

July

South Vietnam

The New Zealand Aid Detachment moved from Thu Dau Mot to Bien Hoa in July 1965.

1965

21 July

South Vietnam

The detachment of engineers stationed at Bien Hoa returned to New Zealand and was disbanded on 21 July 1965.

1965

July

South Vietnam

In July 1965 the 161st Battery, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery, consisting of nine officers and 101 other ranks, arrived in South Vietnam and was placed under command of the United States Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa near Saigon.

1966

June

South Vietnam

The 161st Battery, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery was reassigned to the 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province. Until the battery's withdrawal from Vietnam in May 1971 it served with Royal Australian Artillery field regiments in support of Australian and New Zealand infantry units.

1967

May

South Vietnam

In May 1967 New Zealand's combat strength in South Vietnam was increased with the arrival of a 182-man infantry element, Victor One Company, from the 1st Battalion RNZIR.

1967

May

South Vietnam

In May 1967 a New Zealand Services' Medical Team was deployed into Binh Dinh Province. The 19-strong tri-Service team served in South Vietnam until being withdrawn in December 1971. By June 1969, working out of the 100-bed Bong Son Impact Hospital, the team's bed state was averaging 92 and they were treating an average of 46,000 outpatients annually.

1967

December

South Vietnam

In December 1967 Whiskey One rifle company arrived in South Vietnam and together with Victor One, formed part of an ANZAC infantry battalion. The two companies were replaced several times.

1970

October
South Vietnam

In October 1970, the 1st New Zealand Army Training Team arrived in Vietnam and was based at Chi Lang near the Cambodian border. The 25-man team trained about 8000 platoon commanders and junior leaders from Vietnamese regional units in the use of small arms and minor tactics.

1971

December
South Vietnam

The sixth Victor Company of the ANZAC Battalion was withdrawn without replacement in December 1971.

1972

February
South Vietnam

The 2nd New Zealand Army Training Team arrived in South Vietnam in mid-February 1972 and was attached to a United States Army Training Team at Dong Ba Thin near Cam Ranh Bay.

1972

5 March
South Vietnam

The 2nd New Zealand Army Training Team commenced operations on 5 March 1972. The 18-man team helped to train 12 Cambodian Army infantry battalions.

1972

October
Antarctica

During the summer months of 1972 the New Zealand Army provided 50 soldiers for cargo-handling duties in support of the United States Navy's Antarctic Operation DEEP FREEZE. The cargo-handlers were employed in Christchurch and in Antarctica. New Zealand Army support has been ongoing since this time.

1972

22 December.
South Vietnam

On 22 December 1972 the last New Zealand Army elements comprising the two training teams and the "V" Force headquarters, which had been based in Saigon since June 1964, were withdrawn from South Vietnam and returned to New Zealand. About 3890 soldiers (all of whom were volunteers) served in South Vietnam. Of these 35 five died on active service and a further 187 were wounded.

This page was last reviewed on 19 December 2008 and is current.

