



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

P Personnel: Up to 3

South Sudan is one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, and violent conflict continues to occur. The United Nations plays an important role in the protection of civilians, peace-making and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid. UNMISS was established in 2011 to consolidate peace and security and enable the newly-established Government of South Sudan to assume its functions. The mandate of the mission has since shifted to focus on the protection of civilians. Prior to South Sudan's independence and the creation of UNMISS; New Zealand contributed personnel to the United Nations Mission in Sudan from 2005 to 2011. Our participation in UNMISS contributes to our collective security responsibilities, addresses humanitarian concerns, and provides a small but tangible demonstration of New Zealand's commitment to peace and security in Africa.

The New Zealand Defence Force currently contributes three personnel to UNMISS, including the Deputy Chief of Plans, and two Military Liaison Officers. The Deputy Chief of Plans is based in the capital Juba, and the Military Liaison Officers are based in the regions on an as required basis.

The mandate for this deployment expires on **30 September 2024**.

For more information about UNMISS go to: <https://unmiss.unmissions.org> (external link).

Copies of Cabinet papers and the associated minutes of decision regarding the contribution are linked in the Deployment Articles section below.

DEPLOYMENT ARTICLES

Deployment to United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Portfolios	Foreign Affairs / Defence
On 23 June 2020, the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS):	
1	noted that at its meeting on 23 June 2020, ERS will be considering the deployment papers (the proposals).
2	noted that the proposals contribute to multiple of peace support operations, enable New Zealand contributions in the Middle East and Africa.
3	noted that New Zealand's mandated deployment numbers are currently at their lowest point since 2013.
4	noted that the proposals can be undertaken without affecting the ability of the New Zealand Defence Force to meet its obligations within the Pacific, or emergency responses.
5	noted that all costs could be met within existing baseline for Vote Defence Force: Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests, and that no funding is being requested.

Janine Harvey
Cabinet Secretary

RENEWAL OF MANDATES FOR NEW ZEALAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE SUPPORT DEPLOYMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Release to Continue New Zealand's Contribution to Afghanistan Army Training

Portfolios	Foreign Affairs / Defence
On 17 September 2018, following reference from the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS), Cabinet:	
1	noted that New Zealand's deployment to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 advances New Zealand's national security interests by playing its part to ensure that Afghanistan is not used again as a safe haven for terror groups to plot, launch and inspire global terror attacks; 1.2 supports international efforts to achieve a long term peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan; and 1.3 supports the maintenance of the international rules-based order.
2	noted that the legal basis for New Zealand's involvement in Resolute Support Mission is through the Arrangement between New Zealand and NATO and the Status of Forces Agreement between NATO and Afghanistan, and that the Mission is endorsed by UNSCR 2185.
3	noted that the investigated operational threat for the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel in Afghanistan and the Operational Risk Management Strategies applied to the mission;
4	approved to continue NZDF's contribution of 11 personnel to the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy out to 30 September 2019.

RELEASE OF CABINET DOCUMENTS REGARDING SEPTEMBER 2018 DECISIONS TO EXTEND DEPLOYMENTS

Deployment to United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Portfolios	Foreign Affairs / Defence
On 20 February 2018, the Cabinet National Security and External Relations Committee:	
1	noted that the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is a high profile and challenging peacekeeping mission that has played an important role in stemming the conflict and humanitarian suffering in South Sudan;
2	noted that New Zealand currently has four New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel deployed to UNMISS, with a mandate until November 2018;
3	noted that the United Nations (UN) have requested that the NZDF deploy a Brigadier (or equivalent rank) to the role of Chief of Staff in UNMISS Headquarters in South Sudan;
4	noted that a positive response to the UN's request would be well received by the UN and key defence partners, and making a small increase to the New Zealand contribution to UN peacekeeping operations.
5	
6	noted the volatile nature of the security situation in South Sudan, and that the operational risk is mitigated through continual monitoring of operational risk, NZDF force preparation, and UN force protection measures;
7	approved the deployment of an NZDF officer at Brigadier level to the Chief of Staff role in UNMISS for one year, from May 2018.

DEPLOYMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)