

NZDF ROLE IN NZ FOREIGN POLICY¹

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The NZDF's contributions to New Zealand foreign policy are significant. Ranging from large scale HADR responses, to peacekeeping and peace enforcement in Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands, to small but potentially vital roles in Iraq and Afghanistan, to increasing defence diplomacy commitments, the NZDF is in fact over-used as part of New Zealand's foreign policy. This overreliance on the military instrument as part of foreign policy requires 1) a clear redrawing of the NZDF's role (either a drawing back to more traditional limits or to a complete revisioning of the force as a whole) as well as 2) a vision for and a commitment to ensuring increased OGA and NGO engagement in foreign policy to enable that redrawing to occur, whichever option is chosen.

Key findings

The NZDF is a key player in supporting New Zealand's foreign policy objectives.



