

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.1)

Senator Katy Gallagher asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 06 August 2021:

1. Please provide a copy of the Chief of Defence Forces' directive assigning Lieutenant General Frewen responsibility for developing a Campaign Plan to achieve the Prime Minister's objectives, as referenced in the National COVID Vaccine Campaign Plan (03/08/21).

Senator Katy Gallagher – The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Please see Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) Directive 06/2021
Lieutenant General J.J. Frewen Coordinator General, National COVID Vaccine Taskforce
Operation COVID Shield, at Attachment A.



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

EC21-002089

See distribution

CDF DIRECTIVE 06/2021

CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE DIRECTIVE TO [REDACTED] LIEUTENANT GENERAL
J.J. FREWEN

COORDINATOR GENERAL, NATIONAL COVID VACCINE TASKFORCE
OPERATION COVID SHIELD

Reference:

- A. Letter from the Prime Minister of Australia, dated 08 June 2021

INTRODUCTION

1. The Government has directed the establishment of a National COVID Vaccine Taskforce (NCVTF) to lead OPERATION COVID SHIELD, the whole-of-government effort to ensure public confidence in the national vaccine rollout and ensure the vaccination of as many Australians as early as possible, within the available vaccine supply.

PURPOSE

2. This Directive assigns you as Coordinator General OP COVID SHIELD, in accordance with Reference A.

ROLE

3. You are assigned for duty as Coordinator General OP COVID SHIELD. Pursuant to the authority assigned to you by the Prime Minister at Reference A, you will provide oversight and control of relevant assets and resources across all Commonwealth government departments and agencies to achieve the OP COVID SHIELD mission.

4. You remain accountable to me and the Secretary of the Department of Defence for the behaviour, work, health, and safety of Defence personnel seconded for duty to your headquarters.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

5. I will retain full command of all ADF forces assigned to OP COVID SHIELD for the duration of your assignment. You will exercise Operational Control of ADF personnel assigned to OP COVID SHIELD. You will be in direct support of the Prime Minister and supporting the Minister for Health.

RESPONSIBILITIES

6. You are to:
 - a. plan and implement the whole-of-government national COVID-19 vaccination program, as per guidance contained within Reference A;
 - b. lead the establishment of the interagency NCVTF;
 - c. develop the whole-of-government campaign plan to achieve the objectives of OP COVID SHIELD;
 - d. exercise operational control over Defence personnel assigned to OP COVID SHIELD;
 - e. ensure that reporting chains are established to facilitate performance reporting and other necessary reports for all Defence personnel assigned for duty and seconded to OP COVID SHIELD; and
 - f. advise me, through HMSC, on significant OP COVID SHIELD issues of strategic importance likely to affect Defence and Defence personnel.

AUTHORISATIONS

7. Your authority to control other Commonwealth department resources engaged in the national COVID-19 vaccination program is provided at Reference A.
8. As Coordinator General OP COVID SHIELD, you are authorised to engage directly with Commonwealth agencies and senior officials as required to perform your duties and achieve the task force mission, per Reference A.
9. You are appointed as an Awarding Authority for the purpose of commendations in accordance with Defence Honours and Awards Manual Volume 1 Chapter 39.

REPORTING

10. You are to report primarily to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Health. You are to report to me, through HMSC, on Defence-related OP COVID SHIELD issues.

ADMINISTRATION

11. Administrative details relating to the establishment and operation of the NCVTF will be set out in arrangements between the participating Commonwealth Agencies. Service Chiefs and Group Heads remain responsible for the administration of the Australian Defence Force and Australian Public Service personnel assigned for duty to your headquarters.

IMPLEMENTATION

12. This Directive is sponsored by the Chief of Staff to CDF, and is effective immediately. This Directive will cease on completion of your secondment and post activity report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

13. You are to acknowledge receipt of the directive by returning Annex A to the Staff Officer (Administration) to the CDF.



Angus J Campbell
General
Chief of the Defence Force

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10 June 2021

Annex:

A. Acknowledgement of CDF Directive 06/2021

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CDF DIRECTIVE

I acknowledge receipt of CDF Directive 06/2021 and will comply with the instructions detailed within.

J.J. Frewen
LTGEN
Coordinator General, National COVID Vaccine Taskforce

June 2021

Annex is to be submitted to the Staff Officer (Administration) to the CDF.