



DEPUTY CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS

Headquarters Joint Operations Command

AM3003400

Senator Linda Reynolds, CSC

Chair of the Defence Sub-Committee

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

GPO Box 6021

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

I am writing in response to three questions which arose during the private briefing with the Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade on 28 March 2017. As an outcome of the briefing, the committee requested greater detail on the integration of the Australian Defence Force approach to UNSCR 1325, Women Peace and Security, on Operation FIJI ASSIST, details of other contributing nations' assistance to Tropical Cyclone Winston and any suggestions as to how the Sub-Committee could assist with whole-of-government synchronisation of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief planning, exercises and operations in the future.

I have enclosed three documents. The first expands on Women Peace and Security information provided in the private briefing. The second and third documents provide two useful snapshots of Australian and New Zealand commitment to Fiji following the devastation wrought by Tropical Cyclone Winston. In addition to the New Zealand snapshot, I can report that France provided one C-212 transport aircraft for the delivery of medical supplies and food from New Caledonia and a patrol boat, India delivered 48 tonnes of aid using a C-17 Globemaster and Tonga provided assistance using one Pacific Class patrol boat and a logistics barge.

In response to your third question, Dr Alan Ryan and Major General Stuart Smith would welcome the Sub-Committee's support in promoting whole-of-government coordination and planning for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and possibly, the conduct of a biannual planning and coordination desktop exercise to promote and practice rapid and effective response.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Winchester, AM

Air Commodore

Acting Deputy Chief of Joint Operations

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Enclosures:

1. Women Peace and Security during Operation FIJI ASSIST 2016
2. Australia's Response to Help Fiji Recover from Tropical Cyclone Winston
3. NZDF Assistance to Fiji's Disaster Recovery Efforts

Women Peace and Security during Operation FIJI ASSIST 2016

Operation FIJI ASSIST 2016 was the first Australian Defence Force operation to integrate United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 – Women Peace and Security and a gender perspective in the operational order and the first Australian Defence Force operation to deploy Gender Advisors.

The operational order directed that one Gender Advisor was to be appointed to the Commander of the Joint Task Force. This duty was undertaken as a dual role by the Joint Task Force Legal Officer. The Commander of the Joint Task Force decided to appoint an additional two Gender Focal Points based upon humanitarian assistance and disaster relief tasking and the dispersion of Joint Task Force elements. The Gender Focal Points were both female logisticians and were not appointed to their roles until approximately day nine – post the initial emergency response.

The main tasks undertaken by the Gender Advisors were as follows:

- Provided advice to Commander Joint Task Force and staff on applying a gender perspective to all operational activities;
- Attended the Protection and Gender Based Violence cluster meetings on a weekly basis;
- Provided cluster meetings with verbal briefings on Australian Defence Force involvement and capabilities, to better focus efforts and resources;
- Identified and engaged with local women's networks to coordinate and establish appropriate Australian Defence Force relief activities;
- Delivered 200 dignity packs from the United Nations Population Fund to the women of Tavenui Island;
- Engaged and coordinated International Women's Day activities with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade gender and humanitarian advisors, and;
- Attended Head of Mission gender/engagement activities.

Operation FIJI ASSIST 2016 was also the first time that the Australian Defence Force conducted an operational gender analysis to compliment the intelligence process, focussing on the affected population within the operating environment. The analysis identified vulnerable groups and the key leaders and influencers in the community as well as agencies and organisations who would be able to assist the affected population. This was particularly important noting that the vulnerable are often exploited in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster, with the levels of gender based violence generally increasing until societal structures and law and order is restored.

Through the conduct of the Australian Defence Force lessons collection activity in April 2016, the Australian Defence Force received an invitation from the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Colonel Litea Seruiratu, to return to Fiji to share lessons identified with the women of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. She also requested that the Australian Defence Force provide an overview on how the Australian Defence Force was implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions into operations.

The following international engagements focussing on Women Peace and Security and humanitarian assistance planning have occurred between the Australian Defence Force and Republic of Fiji Military Forces since the invitation was extended by Republic of Fiji Military Forces Chief of Staff:

- 3 Jun 16. A workshop was conducted to share lessons on the national and international response to Tropical Cyclone Winston. The Australian Defence Force representative presented on how United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions are being integrated into the planning and conduct of Australian Defence Force operations. The Australian Defence Force, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Non-Government Organisations and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had personnel in attendance (predominantly women).

- 18 Aug 16: HMAS Canberra Port Call into Fiji. A Women Peace and Security workshop was conducted with representatives from the Australian Defence Force, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Non-Government Organisations and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in attendance.
- 21-23 Nov 16: The Australian Defence Force was invited by UN Women [who co-lead the Pacific Humanitarian Protection cluster] to send personnel to attend the annual Gender and Protection in Humanitarian Action training within the Pacific. The training was conducted in seven Pacific countries to prepare for the upcoming high risk weather season. One Gender Advisor from Joint Operations Command attended the training in Fiji.

The relationships established between the Australian Defence Force Gender Advisors, Department of Foreign Affairs and humanitarian actors during and post Operation FIJI ASSIST 2016, has resulted in improved civil-military cooperation, coordination and understanding. In particular, Non-Government Organisations have been willing to share their Gender Analysis with Australian Defence Force Gender Advisors to plan future crisis response.

Following the Australian Defence Force's experience on Operation FIJI ASSIST, Women Peace and Security is now a formal planning consideration for all Headquarters Joint Operations Command planning groups.

Phase

1

\$5 MILLION to NGO partners for immediate relief supplies



Improving food security



Access to water, sanitation and hygiene



Access to shelter

Access to immediate and reproductive health services

Australia's response to help Fiji recover from **Tropical Cyclone Winston**



\$5 million LIFE-SAVING RELIEF

Phase 1

Approximately **1000** ADF personnel deployed

7 MRH-90 helicopters facilitated personnel and supply movements

520 TONNES of humanitarian supplies and equipment delivered by C-17 and C-130 aircraft

ADF Operation Fiji Assist

60 TONNES of emergency relief and humanitarian supplies delivered by HMAS Canberra

P3 ORION aircraft conducted early surveillance assessments



ADF engineers assisted with early recovery through repairing schools, medical centres and critical infrastructure in affected communities

\$10 million EARLY RECOVERY

Phase 2

\$35 million HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Australian Defence Force support FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2016

\$3 MILLION

to replace damaged biomedical equipment



rebuild health facilities



and restore community water and sanitation systems to prevent disease outbreaks

Phase

3

Phase

2

OVER 1700 people treated by Australian Medical Assistance Teams



Support to restore Fiji's cold chain system for vaccines



60 Australian Government civilian personnel deployed



Temporary learning spaces and educational materials



Improving food security



Essential medical equipment and supplies



\$20 million RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

Phase 3

\$14 MILLION to 'build back better' schools destroyed by the cyclone



\$3 MILLION to strengthen agricultural livelihoods and women's economic empowerment by rebuilding destroyed marketplaces



NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

ASSISTANCE TO FIJI'S DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS



AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS USED FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATION

HMNZS CANTERBURY

The maritime hub of New Zealand's humanitarian aid operation in the northern outlying islands.

380 TONNES

Of aid supplies and construction materials for distressed communities in Vanuabalavu and Yasawa islands.

180

Transfers on her landing craft to support the aid operation

HMNZS WELLINGTON

Offshore patrol vessel HMNZS WELLINGTON - operated in northern Lau for almost three weeks before returning to New Zealand on 15 March.

70 TONNES

Of aid supplies delivered to communities in northern Lau.



Identified routes and anchorage into Vanuabalavu lagoon that HMNZS CANTERBURY used and became her landing craft operations.

P-3K2 ORION

Conducted aerial surveys less than 24 hours after category five Tropical Cyclone Winston pummeled Fiji on 20 February.



Information from the aerial surveys provided Fijian officials with a clearer picture of the damage it caused, saved them days of on-site damage assessments and enabled them to immediately secure international aid for relief efforts.

C-130 HERCULES

120 TONNES

Helped deliver close to 120 tonnes of aid from New Zealand.

BOEING 757

1050

Brought the advance group of 37 combat engineers and 1050 water containers to Fiji on 24 February.

KING AIR B200

Supported the humanitarian aid operation for about three weeks before returning to New Zealand on 28 March.



The King Air transported Fiji government staff and civilian volunteers from non-governmental organisations such as the Red Cross to remote islands devastated by the cyclone so they can assess the outstanding needs in those communities. It also conducted aerial reconnaissance flights for Fiji Roads Authority, among other Fiji government agencies.

NH90 x2

160 HOURS

The helicopters flew almost 160 hours of relief missions on their first overseas operation. They delivered essential aid supplies, shelter kits, water purification equipment, food and sacks of seeds and plant cuttings to cyclone-ravaged communities. They also transported New Zealand medical volunteers, NZ Defence Force personnel and Fiji government staff to Fiji's remote communities and far-flung islands.

SEASPRITE

70 HOURS

CANTERBURY's Seasprite helicopter completed around 70 hours of relief missions, transporting aid supplies as well as New Zealand medical volunteers, NZ Defence Force personnel and Fiji government staff from Vanuabalavu to outlying islands in northern Lau.

MILITARY VEHICLES x45

Used to support the NZDF's humanitarian aid operation in northern Lau.

LANDING CRAFT x2

Aid supplies were offloaded from CANTERBURY using her landing craft and distributed to the affected communities in northern Lau.



NUMBER OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED FOR THIS OPERATION

530

About 530 engineers, carpenters, electricians, plant operators, plumbers, sailors and aircrew were deployed to Fiji, making it one of the NZDF's largest peacetime deployments to the Pacific.

AID SUPPLIES FUNDED BY THE NZ AID PROGRAMME THAT WERE DELIVERED BY NZDF AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS

- classroom desks
- generators
- tools
- tarps
- food
- water
- concrete
- steel building
- lamps
- mosquito nets and blankets
- beds
- gender tools
- toilets
- water tanks
- building materials, including corrugated iron
- medical supplies
- drinking water
- school supplies
- emergency kits and food rations

WHAT THE FIJIANS SAY



"We've been left with nothing and we don't know what the future holds. So we are grateful that New Zealand and other countries are helping us."

23-year-old Ekeke Nakuti from Nausori village on Naitasaga Island, 100 km north of the Fijian capital of Suva.



"All this rebuilding is helping bring back smiles and hope to people in affected areas. The pace of work is quite fast. Those schools that were repaired by the NZDF are among the first to reopen."

Republic of Fiji Military Forces Commanding Royal Advisor Willem Naurois



"We were overwhelmed and our resources were stretched. And with inadequate capabilities, it's hard to imagine how we would have coped with demands for relief without New Zealand's assistance."

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Disaster Management and Security



"I was happy and excited to go back to school again. The New Zealand soldiers did a good job in fixing our classrooms."

Lynette Eriqo, Year 6 student at Nausori District School in Nausori, a coastal village 42 km north of Suva.



"Without the Orion, we would have to physically visit the heavily affected areas to assess the damage. That is how we did it in the past and that took days to carry out in a scattered archipelago like Fiji."

Commander Colonel Kai 'Cowsey' Croft of Operations Planning for the Republic of Fiji Military Forces

TIMELINE

