

FACT SHEET

NZDF DEPLOYMENT TO PROTECT RED SEA SHIPPING

- Freedom of navigation is an integral part of New Zealand's national prosperity and trade security. New Zealand has contributed to maritime security efforts in the Middle East and elsewhere continuously since 2013 to protect not only our vital national interest but also the international rules-based order.
- The decision to deploy a team of six NZDF personnel to uphold maritime security in the Red Sea has been made with these same goals in mind: defending lives, de-escalating tensions, and restoring stability to the Red Sea.
- The deployment will be separate from, but complementary to New Zealand's longstanding contribution to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a multinational maritime partnership based in Bahrain. NZDF has contributed to the CMF since 2013 and currently has 12 personnel deployed in a range of roles.
- The NZDF has been a longstanding contributor to wider international security efforts in the Middle East since 1954. Our current deployments, comprise:

Operation Name:	Description	Since	Current personnel
SCORIA	UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)	1954	8
FARAD	Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) mission	1982	31
TROY	NZ Defence Support Unit, Middle East	2003	6
PUKEKO	Maritime Security efforts in the Middle East	2013	12

The Houthi were given numerous formal warnings to end their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, including:

- 1 December 2023: The [UN Security Council issued press statement](#) condemning Houthi attacks
- 18 December: US and partners establish [Operation Prosperity Guardian](#)
- 19 December: US State Department issued a joint [statement](#) condemning attacks with 44 partner nations (including New Zealand)
- 3 January 2024: White House released a joint [statement](#) condemning attacks with 14 nations (including New Zealand)

- 10 January 2024: UNSC condemned Houthi attacks in adopting [Resolution 2722](#) (2024)

Additionally, in December and January, the UK and US frequently publicly condemned the attacks and made clear their willingness to act to protect shipping, statements included:

- 6 December: A [White House press statement](#) following a virtual G7 meeting condemned the Houthi attacks.
- 31 December the UK Defence Secretary Shapps [said](#) the UK was “willing to take direct action” to protect the shipping lane.
- 4 January: the State Department issued a press statement condemning Houthi attacks and saying “[We urge the Houthis to immediately release the ship and crew unharmed and to cease all violence that sets back the political process to end the war in Yemen.](#)”
- 10 January: US Secretary of State Blinken publicly [warned the Houthi of consequences for their attacks.](#)