

From: HQJFNZ MCC
Sent: Monday, 15 June 2020 10:24 a.m.
To: @NAVY.ALL
Subject: UNCLASSIFIED: MCC response to recent media articles on RNZN



MARITIME COMPONENT COMMANDER
Commodore M.C. Williams MNZM
Royal New Zealand Navy

You will have seen the recent news reports about a group known as Auckland Peace Action in reference to our ships. They have recently released a statement based on their misunderstanding of a force protection exercise taking place at Kauri Point as part of HMNZS OTAGO's work up. This exercise is in absolutely no way related to the Black Lives Matter protests taking place around the world, nor is the RNZN practicing 'killing protesters' – in the words of Auckland Peace Action.

As you know, ship work-ups are planned well in advance of the activity taking place and are designed to prove the ability of both the ship and the ship's company to handle a wide variety of situations in an operational environment. In this case, it is the ability of HMNZS OTAGO and her ship's company to ensure the safety of the ship and themselves in the event of docking in a country where unrest is occurring, evacuating civilians from harm's way, refuelling and resupplying, or taking part in security operations. This is an essential function of our Offshore Patrol fleet.

As is the practice of the NZDF, the RNZN gave notice of this exercise to the local community through both traditional and social media in order to inform locals of what they may expect to hear during the exercise, e.g. loud noises.

Auckland Peace Action have also launched a petition to demand that our government withdraw from Exercise RIMPAC 2020, including HMNZS MANAWANUI's participation.

HMNZS MANAWANUI is scheduled to take part in Exercise RIMPAC 2020; this offers her the opportunity to work alongside partner navies to prove her ability to operate in partnership. Operating with others is an incredibly important capability of our fleet, particularly during humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations, which HMNZS MANAWANUI will undertake during her lifetime.

You can be confident that the great work that our ships and sailors do is in the best interests of New Zealand and in support of our mission *"to advance New Zealand's interests from the sea"*.

Commodore Mathew Williams, MNZM, RNZN
Maritime Component Commander, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Royal New Zealand Navy | Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa

M: s. 9(2)(k) | P: s. 9(2)(k)
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