

Defence and Peacekeeping: Armed Services Policy

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Definitions

NZDF: New Zealand Defence Force

EEZ: Economic Exclusion Zone (our international boundary, including territorial waters)

Terrorism: "any action, in addition to actions already specified by the existing conventions on aspects of terrorism, the Geneva Conventions and Security Council resolution 1566 (2004), that is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act". *(from the UN High level panel on threats, challenges and change)*

Vision

In accordance with its charter principle of non-violence, the Green Party will work towards a goal of a world without armed conflict where there is a just distribution of global resources, governments respect human rights and disputes are settled peacefully. Armed disputes cause much suffering, social and economic dislocation and environmental damage. All countries should be secure from environmental, economic and armed threats.

Until this is achieved, the Green Party supports:

- A New Zealand secure from external threat, working to promote peaceful conflict resolution across the globe.
- A New Zealand working closely with Pacific nations, and enhancing collective security across the region.
- New Zealand Defence forces operating ethically, in accordance with international law and actively working to avoid environmental damage and civilian casualties.
- A professionally competent, well equipped, trained, and supported NZDF complemented by a civilian population trained in basic defence capabilities.

Key Principles

1. Priority must always be given to non-violent means of resolving conflict between countries.
2. If armed force is necessary to protect New Zealand citizens and public resources, or to help other countries protect their citizens, the use of that force must be sanctioned by the people of New Zealand and international law.

3. The New Zealand government has a responsibility to ensure that the NZDF does not engage in training or joint military operations with nations who are using their military to suppress human rights or unjustly seize natural resources in their own or other countries.
4. The NZDF must not maintain or use weapons that create long lasting risks to civilian populations and/or the environment.
5. The NZDF must conduct themselves in an ethical manner and be respectful of the local cultures that they may have to engage with in a way that is safe and practical and consistent with internationally accepted human rights.
6. New Zealand should ensure that its armed forces are capable of performing across a range of operations: from peacekeeping, disaster relief and resource protection through to defensive combat operations.
7. New Zealand should develop an independent defence policy, but remain capable of cooperating with neighbouring countries as appropriate as well as being familiar with key operational areas (such as in the South Pacific).
8. The nature of the work carried out by the armed service personnel, and the sacrifices they are required to make even in peacetime, must be recognised and respected both during and after their terms of service.
9. Enlistment in the armed forces must always be on a voluntary basis and the right of citizens to conscientious objection to serving in the armed services on the basis of personal beliefs must be respected.

Specific Policy Points

1. The Roles of the NZDF

In order to be effective and maintain preparedness, the roles and responsibilities of the NZDF need to be clearly spelled out.

For the Green Party, the roles for the NZDF comprise the following:

- a. The promotion and protection of peace, justice and the environment throughout the Pacific and the world through our peacekeeping and peacemaking roles.
- b. The protection of the territories of Aotearoa/New Zealand, including policing of our Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ) and supporting the security of the territories of our Pacific neighbours.
- c. Assisting in civil defence emergencies, disaster relief and search and rescue both within New Zealand and overseas.
- d. Working alongside other agencies such as Immigration, Customs, Police, Conservation, Agriculture and Fisheries in maritime border protection work.
- e. Explicitly exclude participation in the ANZUS Treaty, the Five Power Defence Arrangement and the UK/USA intelligence agreement from the NZDF mission. (See [Global Affairs](#) and [Security Services](#) policies for additional information)

2. Reviewing and Transforming Our Capabilities

In order for the NZDF to fulfil its roles properly, the Green Party believes that New Zealand should ensure its armed forces can operate across a range of operations, from peacekeeping through to more conventional defence operations, with a clear strong focus on peacekeeping, disaster relief and resource protection.

New Zealand should also continue to develop an independent defence policy, but be prepared to operate multilaterally with other countries if appropriate. This means having a well trained and appropriately equipped core of professionals and territorials with appropriate equipment, logistic support and transport.

In order to achieve these aims the Green Party will:

1. Review the structure and governance of the NZDF, looking at which functions can be carried out by civilian agencies or put under joint military/civilian control. For example, oceanographic and hydrological survey work can be done by a civilian agency. Investigations should be undertaken as to whether some maritime patrol planes and ships could be operated by a civilian agency, like customs, or whether we establish a separate, integrated coastguard for sea border control purposes.
2. Ensure that our armed forces retains and further develops the organisational structure and processes to use their various capabilities in cooperation with civilian agencies, personnel and equipment in civil defence tasks, search and rescue, disaster relief, fisheries monitoring, and sea border control work. This means cooperating closely with the following agencies: police, immigration, customs, agriculture and fisheries, environment, conservation and civil defence.

A. Peacekeeping

New Zealand has played, and can continue to play, an important role as a specialist international peacekeeper. This is in keeping with the Green Party principle that priority must always be given to non-violent means of resolving conflict between countries. It is now a major role of the NZDF in missions abroad. There is an international shortage of skilled peacekeepers and New Zealand forces have shown aptitude for this work. The Green Party supports our focus being in the Asia/Pacific region, while making personnel available for other missions. Such specialisation makes financial sense in that a niche peacekeeping force is less expensive than having our forces geared for major air, naval or land combat. Many of the assets required for peacekeeping (eg: transport planes and ships, helicopters and land vehicles) are also essential for other purposes, such as disaster relief, resource protection and search and rescue.

The Green Party supports New Zealand continuing to have our regular and territorial forces well prepared for peacekeeping missions, as well for their other roles.

In addition to the measures outlined in our [Global Affairs](#) policy the Green Party will:

1. Support developing a centre for the training of international peacekeepers in New Zealand which will help strengthen regional capabilities in countries working together for peacekeeping.

B. Ensuring appropriate equipment

The Green Party will:

1. Ensure that New Zealand has sufficient maritime surveillance capabilities, including airplanes, to properly monitor the waters around New Zealand, and to assist South Pacific island states.
2. Ensure that New Zealand has sufficient capabilities for peacekeeping, search and rescue, disaster relief, fisheries and border control tasks. We should phase out any equipment that are not optimal for such tasks.
3. Ensure that New Zealand has sufficient naval capacity to conduct appropriate patrols: around our coasts, into Antarctic waters, and to assist South Pacific islands states. The capacity could include some sea transport capacity, but from multi-purpose ships, not specialised transport ships. We welcome the introduction into our navy of a multi- role ship and new patrol boats as they will be useful for our border protection and South Pacific and Antarctic work. We will continue to ensure that New Zealand has adequate naval capacity for these tasks.
4. Ensure that New Zealand has special forces sufficient for rapid action in crisis situations, including terrorist actions in New Zealand and Pacific nations. The Green Party also recognizes that the SAS, while part of the NZDF, has a unique

role in the response to terrorism, as it is defined above. This is covered in the Greens' [Security Services](#) policy.

3. Subordinate Capabilities

The NZ armed forces should dispense with capabilities gained to enable New Zealand to operate as a subordinate part in a combat task force led by the United States, Britain or Australia. There are several reasons for this. New Zealand is a small country that should focus its expenditure on assets in areas where it can make a special and much needed contribution. Internationally, this is in helping our Pacific neighbours with maritime surveillance and disaster relief, and in peacekeeping. Most modern combat vessels and airplanes, and army equipment for major combat, are now hugely expensive in their capital, maintenance and upgrade costs. Maintaining our two frigates, with periodic technological upgrades, consumes an inordinate proportion of our defence Budget, and these two ships are much less useful for performing the tasks the Green Party envisages for our navy than multi-purpose vessels and patrol boats. Phasing out assets designed for major combat in a larger task force is also consistent with New Zealand's more independent role in the world, reflecting the changed world situation in a post-Cold War world as demonstrated, for example, in our refusal to participate alongside America, Britain and Australia in invading Iraq.

The Green Party will:

1. Phase out the ANZAC frigates as soon as possible and replace with more appropriate equipment.
2. Not install specialist anti-submarine detection and fighting capability on our maritime surveillance airplanes.
3. Reinforce our established role as a leader in new ways of looking at and dealing with conflicts around the world
4. Investigate ways of reducing the environmental impact of the training of our armed forces through mechanisms such as the appropriate use of simulators. This should not be done to the exclusion of live training, but as a tool to minimise environmental damage.

4. Human Resources

The Green Party acknowledges the men and women who serve in our armed forces. These are people who face extraordinary risks and sacrifices. They deserve fair remuneration, quality training, career advancement and health services appropriate to the risks they face.

The Green Party will:

1. Ensure that veterans who have served in conflict and emergencies receive adequate, fair and appropriate support, including income support and treatment and compensation for injuries, psychological and emotional health problems and occupational diseases acquired as a result of their service.
2. Ensure that the NZDF can provide for any eventuality arising from service. (Such as death allowances for partners, family and descendents, and ongoing health provision including those arising from exposure to toxins and DU radiation)
3. Work to retain skilled service personnel by ensuring fair compensation and ensuring that there is appropriate support for families that may be separated for long periods of time.
4. Support and actively promote a policy of equal opportunity within the armed services, so that advancement is not limited by issues of gender, race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

5. Investigate the feasibility of exempting NZDF personnel serving on overseas operations from the obligation to pay income tax on allowances paid to personnel while they serve on such operations. We acknowledge that NZDF personnel serving on active operations are fulfilling their obligations to Aotearoa/ New Zealand, often at the risk of their lives.
6. Support the right of individuals to refuse to serve based on deeply held beliefs on the morality of war or the illegality of operations under international or domestic laws.

5. Armaments

The Green Party believes that the NZDF preparation should include only the capabilities required to accomplish the roles acknowledged above. Nevertheless, there are many weapons systems that the Green Party does not support as they create particular long lasting risks to civilian populations and/or the environment.

The Green Party will:

1. Prohibit the development or use of nuclear, cluster bombs, depleted uranium weapons, landmines and biological weapons by the NZDF.
2. Prohibit the development or use of lethal or long term harmful chemical weapons.
3. Ensure that NZDF has the capability to operate in chemical and/or biological warfare environments.

Please see our [Global Affairs](#) policy for more detail.

6. Civilian based defence

The Green Party believes that the NZDF is best qualified to create and maintain the armed forces required to fulfil the proposed roles spelt out in section 1.

However the Green Party also acknowledges that as we are a relatively small country with limited resources, we will never be able to counteract overwhelming force by military means alone. This means that we must work on alternative methods of defence.

The Green Party supports:

1. Investigating extending the reserve forces and reserve training to a wider section of the population as appropriate to individual abilities and inclinations.
2. Investigating the development of civilian based defence where some citizens are trained to resist aggression or usurpation by withholding cooperation and by active non-cooperation rather than military force.