



Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee

ERD Min (12) 3/2

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Minute of Decision

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Deployment of KAHU Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System to Bamyan, Afghanistan

Portfolio: Defence

On 30 May 2012, the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the report of the Court of Inquiry into the death of Lt Tim O'Donnell recommended improving the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities of New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZ PRT) patrols, including the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) systems;
- 2

s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- 3 3.1 **noted** that Ministers gave indicative approval to deploy the KAHU UAV capability detachment to Bamyan for up to 90 days, from late April 2012;
- 3.2 **confirmed** the indicative approval referred to in paragraph 3.1 above;
- 4 **noted** that the current strength of the NZ PRT precludes operating the KAHU UAV system within existing personnel numbers, without compromising the effectiveness of the force;
- 5 5.1 **noted** that Ministers gave indicative approval to deploy s6(a) New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel for up to 90 days from late April 2012 to operate the KAHU UAV, consistent with the provisions of the Sustainment of Deployed Forces process [ERD Min (12) 2/6];
- 5.2 **confirmed** the indicative approval referred to in paragraph 5.1 above;
- 6 **noted** that there is an ongoing requirement for the UAV capability beyond the 90 day surge period, which ends in late July 2012;
- 7 **agreed** to extend the KAHU UAV capability and the deployment of s6(a) NZDF personnel for a further 60 days until September 2012, the end of the current Cabinet mandate for NZDF deployments in Afghanistan;

- 8 **noted** that the Afghanistan mandate renewal and PRT reconfiguration paper, which is expected to be considered by Cabinet in July 2012, could consider the permanent deployment of the KAHU UAV capability until the PRT withdraws in 2013;
- 9 **noted** that the indicative cost of the KAHU UAV deployment from late April 2012 until late September 2012 is NZ\$125,000, and that this can be met from within existing appropriations for NZDF operations in Afghanistan.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Reference: ERD (12) 11

Present:

Rt Hon John Key
Hon Murray McCully (Chair)
Hon Anne Tolley
Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman
Hon Nathan Guy

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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