

Hutt City Council 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912 Lower Hutt 5040 New Zealand

www.huttcity.govt.nz

T 04 570 6666 F 04 569 4290

3 August 2021



Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 10 July 2021 for information regarding the army exercise conducted at the Wainuiomata Airsoft facility on 10 July 2021.

The information you have requested is enclosed.

1. Who authorised the use of the site for an Army exercise involving prolonged and repeated discharge of semi automatic military weapons with a few hundred metres of residences and livestock?

Response: Janet Lawson authorised the activity which involved blank firing within the bush area behind the airsoft site and other activities nearby.

2. How, when and where was the Army exercise communicated to the community? What sort of lead time was given between communication to the community and the exercise being undertaken?

Response: Communication is the responsibility of the event organiser.

As is normal procedure for any training event in the vicinity of residential areas, Wellington Company placed a notice with information about the exercise in the local paper. A copy of the notice is included in the release documents. Additionally signage noting that an exercise was being undertaken was placed at road entrances. Staff visited adjourning properties prior to any blank firing taking place to ensure neighbours were aware of the training, although nobody was home when staff visited.

3. Given HCC's almost constant engagement with residents in the section of Coast Road from around 190 Coast Road down to 361 Coast Road regarding noise concerns related to the HCC Clean Fill operation on Coast Road, why was a direct communication not sent to known affected parties?

Response: Please see response to question two.

4. In addition to responding to the above questions, please provide all communications between Council and the Army (regular forces or the reservist organisation) related to the exercise.

Response: Please find this information attached as Appendix 1. Certain information has been withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act to protect the privacy of named individuals. In doing so, we considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

Please also provide all documentation regarding the exercise that HCC has which I
expect should include at a minimum a Health and Safety plan, a range plan (as per
normal shooting range operations), a Risk Assessment document and a
communications plan

Response: All information is included as attachments to the emails in Appendix 1.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā

Janet Lawson

Assets Manager Reserves

Parks & Recreation

From:

Sent:

02 July 2021 14:44

To: Cc: 1 Bde 5/7 RNZIR Ops and Trg hanet Lawson

Subject:

[EXTERNAL] Advert and police Notification 10 July 2021 Training day in Wainuimata

airsoft facility UNCLASSIFIED

Attachments:

NZ Police Event Number Request. Ex Thorndon Wainuimata air soft facility21.xlsx;

10 July Wainuimata Advert.doc

Afternoon Training wing

Can we put this through. We have permission to use the Airsoft are in Wainuimata by the Hut City council POC Janet Lawson

Any issues let me know

Thank you

Regards

S7 Training NCO 5/7 BN Cadre 5/7 BN Wellington Company

Email:

New Zealand Army | Ngāti Tūmatauenga



A FORCE FOR

The information contained in this Internet Email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information, but not necessarily the official views or opinions of the New Zealand Defence Force. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please Email or telephone the sender immediately.



Advisory Notice

Exercise 5/7 RNZIR

The New Zealand Army's 5/7 RNZIR,
Wellington Company will be conducting an
exercise over the period 10 July 2021. The
exercise area encompasses the
Wainuimata Airsoft area at 203 Coast
Road, Wellington

Military Vehicles and Soldiers with weapons will be operating in these areas.

Blank firing activities will be conducted within these areas.

Queries regarding the exercise should be directed to:

The duty Officer on

027 497 1265

Police Notification. Army training in Public.

(Area covering Wgtn to Taupo)

To be submitted by Unit Trg Cells ONLY.

E-mail to centralcomms@police.govt.nz

1BdeHQS7Branch@nzdf.mil.nz is to be CC'd. (save in Collaborative by activity start Date)

Police Notification. Request Event Number

(Set out as per the Police Comms 'Alert' Register page)

0900 10 July 2021- 1500 10 July 2021 Date/Timings

Area 1:Wainuimata Airsoft Lower hutt Street Name

203 Coast Rd Wainuimata

Suburb Wainuimata Lower Hutt

Area 1: Wainuimata airsoft facility Location

Between Camp Wainui and Landsfield on Coast road

Comments Section Patrol, Radio comms training and medical training

and Blank firing in the bush line only.

Uniformed soldiers and weapons in public conducting Headline

training and blank firing by day.

Name

(POC to have Police Event Number in their pocket)

Address 5/7 HQ TRENTHAM MILITARY CAMP

Phone

090010 July and departing 150010 July2021 Remarks

> Area 1: Using the airsoft facility to conduct Platoon training. The bush line will be the blank firing area. The open area will be used for dry section assault training, medical training and radio communication training.looking at arriving around.

Other info

Adverts will be in local paper and radio. Activity will be on Defenceand private property. Army Exercise signs will be displayed at entry and exit points. Liaison with local Police to be conducted.

A Police Event number means your activity is on the Police Alert system. So any 111 calls to Police about your activty will not mean an interuption by Police or an Armed Offenders Squad call out.

DFO(A) Vol 7, Bk 1, Chap 5, para 5781.e. still applies.

From: Dana Aaifou <Dana.Aaifou@downer.co.nz> on behalf of HCC Bookings

<HCC.Bookings@downer.co.nz>

Sent: <u>07 July 2021 16</u>:30

To:

Cc: Janet Lawson

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Attachments: ProMAster_Key_Issue_Form_20200519.pdf

Talofa lava

Apologies for the delayed response, I have been on leave and have just come back into the office today.

HCC charge a \$100 grounds hire fee, an invoice will be sent once you confirm your booking. There is also a \$100 refundable bond for the key issue (cash only, payable upon collection of the key).

If you are happy to go ahead with the booking, please complete the attached form and send it back to me by Thursday afternoon. The key will be ready for you to collect on Friday, any time after 9am.

Kind regards,

Dana Aaifou Contract Administrator New Zealand



M | +64277427078

E | Dana.Aaifou@downer.co.nz

26 Bracken Street, Petone Lower Hutt 5012

www.downergroup.co.nz www.downercareers.co.nz



Think before you print

From:

Cc:

Sent: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 3:17 PM

To: Dana Aaifou <Dana.Aaifou@downer.co.nz>

<Janet.Lawson@huttcity.govt.nz>

'Janet Lawson'

Subject: RE: UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation - be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 3:02 p.m.

To: Dana Aaifou < Dana. Aaifou@downer.co.nz>

Cc:

'Janet Lawson'

<Janet.Lawson@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Talofa, Malolelei and Afternoon Dana Aaifou and hope all is well

Can you give me a time when to uplift the keys for the Wainuimata Airsoft facility.

I would like to uplift he keys on Friday so I can set the area up for Saturday if that is possible.

Am I expecting any other pers besides Army using the facility on Saturday 10 July 2021??

Attached is the <u>Land consent form can I have that filled out and signed</u> either from yourself of from MS Janet Lawson.

Thank you

Looking forward in hearing from you

Regards

S7 Training NCO 5/7 BN

Cadre 5/7 BN Wellington Company

Emai

New Zealand Army | Ngāti Tūmatauenga



A FORCE FOR New Zealand

From: Janet Lawson [mailto:Janet.Lawson@huttcity.govt.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 11:50 a.m.

<Dana.Aaifou@downer.co.nz>

Dana Aaifou

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Kia Ora

To:

Thanks for your email. Apologies for not responding sooner. I am happy with the plans and for you to hold this training.

Dana, can you please get this booked in and organise key access.

thanks

Janet Lawson

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, 5040, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand

T, M 027 443 5224, W www.huttcity.govt.nz



From:
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 10:56 AM

To: Janet Lawson;

Subject: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Kia ora Janet,

My name is _____, myself and _____ have taken the planning of training for 5/7 RNZIR, Wellington Company. I believe _____ was in communication with you in regards to our planned training inside the Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds.

I've attached the Consent form for your approval and an aerial photo of area that we will be using. Below are details of our planned training.

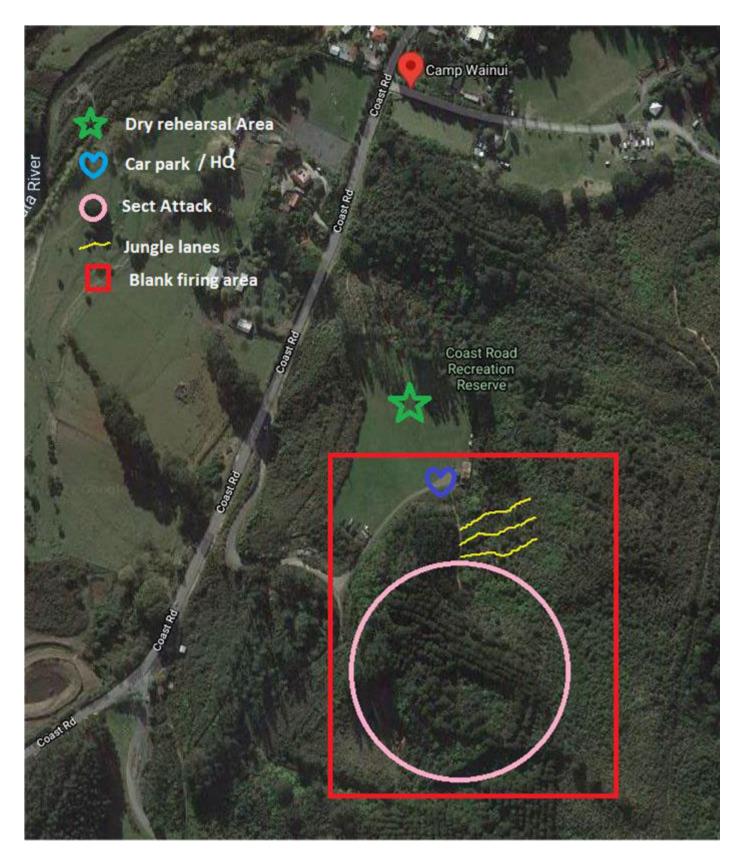
Who: 5/7 Battalion RNZIR, WGTN COY (NZ ARMY), approx. 30 – 40 reserve soldiers

When: 10 Jul 2021, 0700 - 1700

<u>Where:</u> Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds (between Camp Wainui and landfill site). We won't require the use of the land fill site, we will only use the Airsoft grounds

<u>What:</u> Soldiers will be conducting blank firing training focusing on close country (bush) tactics. Training on how to manoeuvre and fight in bush environment. We will also be doing med and communication training and dry (no firing) training in the car park / open grounds. We will travel in 1 x unimog, 4 x 12 seater vans and a 4WD ute. All vehicles will only use formed tracks.

Why: To improve our soldiers ability to operate in close country environment.



Thank you for your support, please let us know if there's any issues.

Kind Regards

Trg Non Comm Offr (Cadre) - 5/7RNZIR, 5TH/7TH BN ROYAL NZ INFANTRY REGT Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

Internal:

www.nzdf.mil.nz



A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

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CHARGES



Downer New Zealand

Key Pick up/drop off hours

8:00am to 5:00pm - Hutt City Council Reception, 30 Laings Road Lower Hutt 8:00am to 3:30pm - 26 Bracken Street, Petone, Lower Hutt

Hutt City Council Telephone: 04 570 6666 Downer Telephone: 04 568 0853

Email: <u>HCC.bookings@downer.co.nz</u>

Hutt City Council Key Issue Form

NB: Please allow one full working day for a key to be issued

MUST HAVE PHOTO ID i.e. DRIVERS LICENCE, PASSPORT, FIREARMS LICENCE Applicant to fill in: ACCESS AREA(S): DATE FROM: TO: **REASON/WORKS:** DATE KEY(S) RETURNED: **KEY HOLDER (Name):** SIGNATURE: I understand that by signing this form I will use the keys only as per the conditions over - PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING ORGANIZATION: ADDRESS: **EMAIL:** CELLPHONE: **OFFICE PHONE:** Hutt City Council use only **AUTHORISED FOR ISSUE:** TOTAL BOND CHARGE: KEY NUMBER(S) ISSUED: i.e. RN 42 PERMANENT KEY CHARGED TO? APPROVED BY: PRINT NAME: RETURN FORM TO DOWNER WHEN KEY ISSUE AND KEY RETURN

ONE COPY FOR KEY HOLDER AND ONE COPY FOR DOWNER/HCC

Bond for keys: Permanent key issue \$30 per Key - Casual Key \$100 per Key

Hutt City Council Key Use Conditions

- 1 This form shall be returned to Downer 'HCC.Bookings@downer.co.nz' at least one working day prior to picking up the requested key.
- ² The keys issued remain the property of the Hutt City Council (HCC) at all times
- 3 HCC can recall the keys at any time HCC sees fit
- 4 The keys shall be used to access only the areas identified on the Key Issue Form
- ⁵ Vehicles shall be driven at a safe speed, less than 20km/hr within parks and reserves
- 6 Vehicles shall stay on access roads and tracks at all times, unless express written consent has been given to drive off roads and tracks.
- ⁷ A bond may be required for access off roads and tracks; the bond may be used to cover any damage to any turf areas or any other HCC additional charges that may apply, for which the hirer is responsible for, if the extent of the damaged is greater than the value of the bond assets.
- 8 The key hirer shall be responsible for all damage to any HCC owned assets, including any damage to turf and/or trees
- ⁹ The 'Organization' or 'User' (as highlighted) will be liable for the full cost of replacing the HCC key system if the key(s) are not returned by the agreed date (as highlighted), or lost or stolen.
- 10 Gates are not to be left open at any times without the express consent of the relevant HCC Parks & Gardens asset manager or the HCC Divisional Manager, Parks and Gardens
- 11 The key hirer indemnifies the HCC in respect of all claims for compensation or damage in consequence of any act or omission of the key hirer or their agents or invitees.

I understand that by signing this form I and the Organisation/Users will use the keys only as per the conditions above

KEY HIRER (Name):	
ORGANIZATION:	
•	
SIGNATURE:	

PLACE
DRIVERS LICENCE
FIREARMS LICENCE
PASSPORT HERE
AND PHOTOCOPY / SCAN

From:

Sent: 14 June 2021 17:42

To: Janet Lawson

Cc:

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Army reserve training, Wainui Airsoft area and adjoining rehabilitated

landfill site

Follow Up Flag: Follow Up Flag Status: Flagged

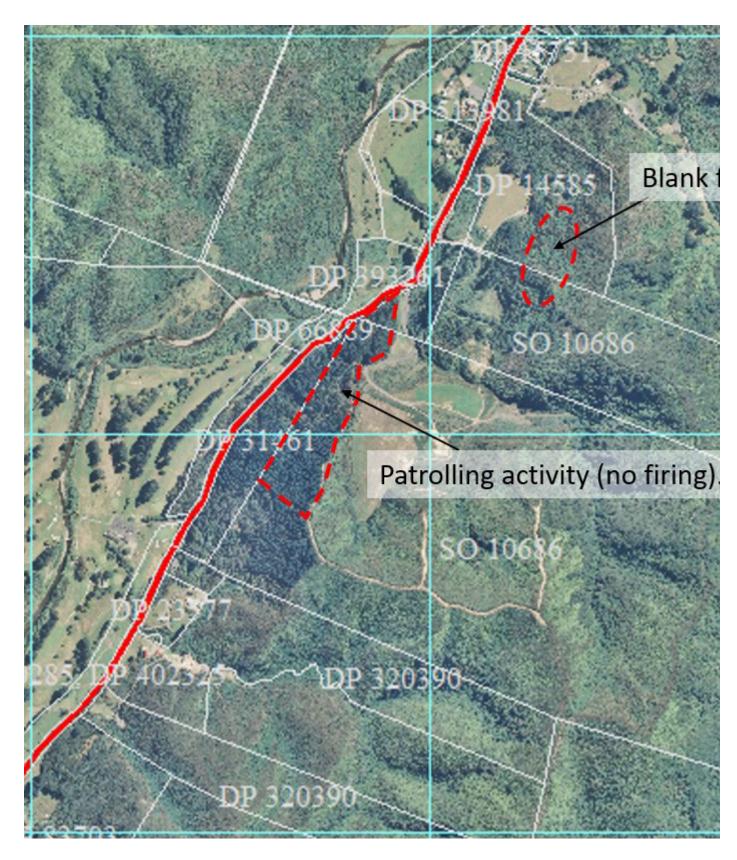
Good afternoon Janet,

Thank you for your time on the phone earlier. As discussed we would like to use the airsoft site and some of the land to the south (rehabilitated landfill area) for a training day on 10 July this year. The key activities we will be conducting in the area will include medical training, blank firing and patrolling.

With regard to the blank firing, we will be using 5.56 mm blank with blank firing adapters, for which the sound emission levels are about 95 dB at the muzzle. The firing will be in the bush well above the airsoft clubrooms (as indicated on the map below) so it will attenuate rapidly – while the neighbours may hear it, it will not be loud enough to startle any horses/livestock. We will not be using our machineguns, which are a larger calibre and significantly louder.

Regarding the use of the land to the south, I have indicated roughly where we intend to run a patrolling activity on the map below. It will use the pines to the right of the track leading up the spur from the gate. The soldiers will be carrying rifles but there will be no blank firing in this area. Would it be possible to gain vehicle access to this site please? This would allow the soldiers to be driven between the airsoft site and the old landfill, preventing a scenario where armed soldiers are seen walking along the road!

If the request outlined above sounds acceptable could you please let me know and I will email you an NZDF land clearance form to formalise access to both sites. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Regards

Platoon Sergeant - 5/7RNZIR, 5TH/7TH BN ROYAL NZ INFANTRY REGT Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

www.nzdf.mil.nz



A FORCE FOR New Zealand



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: Dana Aaifou < Dana. Aaifou@downer.co.nz>

Sent: 30 June 2021 11:50 **To:** Janet Lawson

Subject: Automatic reply: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata

Airsoft grounds

Hi,

I am on leave and will be back in the office on Wednesday 7th July.

For all bookings related enquiries, please email bookings@downer.co.nz. Please contact Grant.Cooper@downer.co.nz, if you require an HCC key. For RFS enquiries, please email Confirm@downer.co.nz

I will respond to all other matters, when I am back in the office.

Kind regards, Dana

Police Notification. Army training in Public.

(Area covering Wgtn to Taupo)

To be submitted by Unit Trg Cells ONLY.

E-mail to centralcomms@police.govt.nz

1BdeHQS7Branch@nzdf.mil.nz is to be CC'd. (save in Collaborative by activity start Date)

Police Notification. Request Event Number

(Set out as per the Police Comms 'Alert' Register page)

Date/Timings 0900 10 July 2021- 1500 10 July 2021

Street Name Area 1:Wainuimata Airsoft Lower hutt

203 Coast Rd Wainuimata

Suburb Wainuimata Lower Hutt

Location Area 1: Wainuimata airsoft facility

Between Camp Wainui and Landsfield on Coast road

Comments Section Patrol, Radio comms training and medical training

and Blank firing in the bush line only.

Headline Uniformed soldiers and weapons in public conducting

training and blank firing by day.

Name

(POC to have Police Event Number in their pocket)

Address 5/7 HQ TRENTHAM MILITARY CAMP

Phone

Remarks 090010 July and departing 150010 July2021

Area 1: Using the airsoft facility to conduct Platoon training. The bush line will be the blank firing area. The open area will be used for dry section assault training, medical training and radio communication training.looking at arriving around.

Other info A

Adverts will be in local paper and radio. Activity will be on Defenceand private property. Army Exercise signs will be displayed at entry and exit points. Liaison with local Police to be conducted.

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DFO(A) Vol 7, Bk 1, Chap 5, para 5781.e. still applies.

From: Dana Aaifou <Dana.Aaifou@downer.co.nz> on behalf of HCC Bookings

<HCC.Bookings@downer.co.nz>

Sent: 07 July 2021 10:43 **To:** Janet Lawson

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Hi Janet,

I'll get this booked today and will organise a key for

Did you want to charge a booking fee, and a bond for the key?

Kind regards,

Dana Aaifou Contract Administrator New Zealand



M | +64277427078

E | Dana.Aaifou@downer.co.nz

26 Bracken Street, Petone Lower Hutt 5012

www.downergroup.co.nz www.downercareers.co.nz



Think before you print

From: Janet Lawson < Janet.Lawson@huttcity.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 11:51 AM

To: HCC Bookings < HCC.Bookings@downer.co.nz>
Cc: Grant Cooper < Grant.Cooper@downer.co.nz>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation - be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Janet Lawson

Assets Manager Reserves

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, 5040, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand



From: Janet Lawson

Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 11:50 AM

To: Dana Aaifou

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Kia Ora

Thanks for your email. Apologies for not responding sooner. I am happy with the plans and for you to hold this training.

Dana, can you please get this booked in and organise key access.

thanks

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 10:56 AM

To: Janet Lawson;

Subject: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Kia ora Janet,

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I've attached the Consent form for your approval and an aerial photo of area that we will be using. Below are details of our planned training.

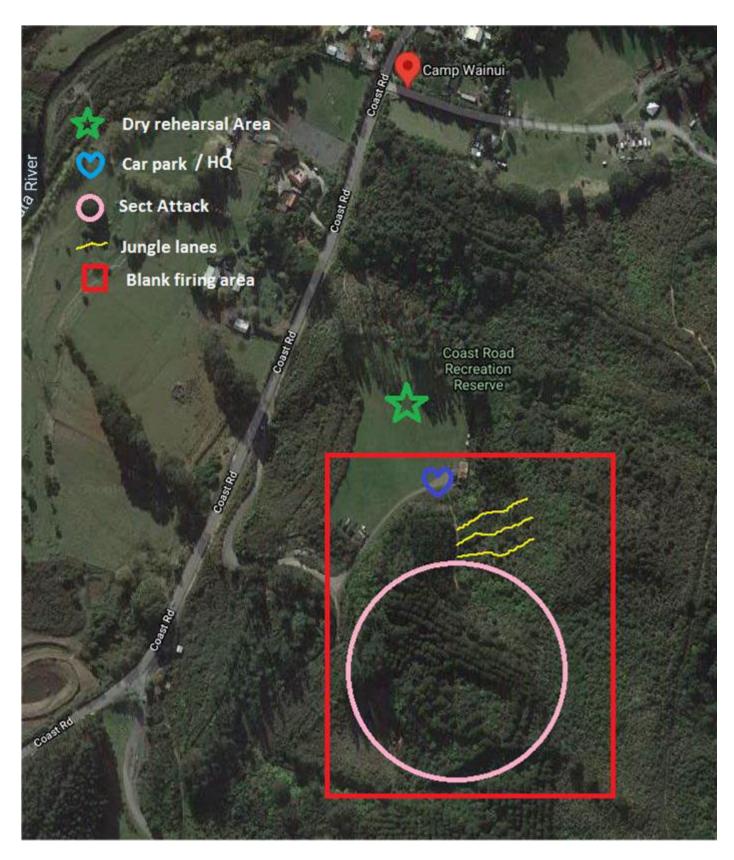
Who: 5/7 Battalion RNZIR, WGTN COY (NZ ARMY), approx. 30 – 40 reserve soldiers

When: 10 Jul 2021, 0700 - 1700

<u>Where:</u> Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds (between Camp Wainui and landfill site). We won't require the use of the land fill site, we will only use the Airsoft grounds

<u>What:</u> Soldiers will be conducting blank firing training focusing on close country (bush) tactics. Training on how to manoeuvre and fight in bush environment. We will also be doing med and communication training and dry (no firing) training in the car park / open grounds. We will travel in 1 x unimog, 4 x 12 seater vans and a 4WD ute. All vehicles will only use formed tracks.

Why: To improve our soldiers ability to operate in close country environment.



Thank you for your support, please let us know if there's any issues.

Kind Regards

Trg Non Comm Offr (Cadre) - 5/7RNZIR, 5TH/7TH BN ROYAL NZ INFANTRY REGT Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

Internal: www.nzdf.mil.nz



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From:

02 July 2021 14:25

Sent:

Janet Lawson;

Cc:

To:

; Dana Aaifou

Subject:

RE: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

Attachments: Land Clearance Form - MD797_Wainui._2doc.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Afternoon Janet and hope all is well

Thank you for giving us permission to use the facility.

Can I please have the land consent form signed and sent back as I need the address and a signature

To make the document legal for me to process and send adverts and police notification

This would be appreciated

Thank you

Regards

S7 Training NCO 5/7 BN

Cadre 5/7 BN Wellington Company

Email:

New Zealand Army | Ngāti Tūmatauenga



From: Janet Lawson [mailto:Janet.Lawson@huttcity.govt.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 11:50 a.m.

<Dana.Aaifou@downer.co.nz>

Dana Aaifou

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

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Janet Lawson

Assets Manager Reserves

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, 5040, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand

T, M 027 443 5224, W www.huttcity.govt.nz



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To: Janet Lawson;

Subject: [EXTERNAL] UNCLASSIFIED: NZ ARMY training at Wainuiomata Airsoft grounds

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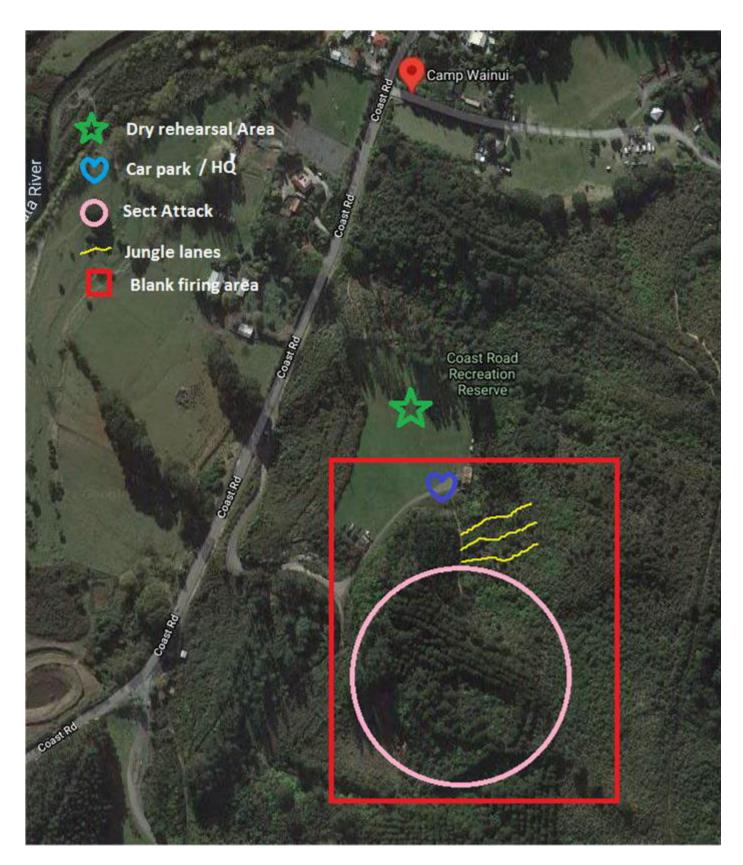
Who: 5/7 Battalion RNZIR, WGTN COY (NZ ARMY), approx. 30 – 40 reserve soldiers

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Interna

www.nzdf.mil.nz



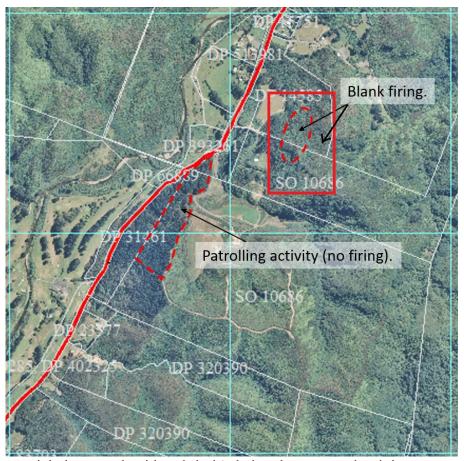
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

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NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE CONSENT AS TO THE USE OF PROPERTY

l,	the *Owner / Occupier / Controlling Authority of		
I, the *Owner / Occupier / Controlling Authority of the property situated at and known as Wainuiomata, Lower HUtt			
hereby authorise personnel of 5/7 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment of the New Zealand Army (members of the Defence Force) with or without vehicles of any description to enter onto the property and carry out any or all of the activities specified below (see notes) during the period 10 July 2021, subject to the following conditions:			
a)	The members of the Defence Force will exercise reasonable care while on the property.		
b)	That members of the Defence Force will immediately on passing through, close all gat opened by them so as to prevent the escape of stock.		
c)	Any damage caused as a result of the failure of members of the Defence Force to take reasonable care while on the property is to be made good or repaired to my reasonable satisfaction or the reasonable cost of making good or repairing the damage will be paid by the New Zealand Defence Force.		
d)	The New Zealand Defence Force is not to be held liable to pay rent for use of said property.		
e)	That the New Zealand Defence Force has acknowledged the restrictions imposed by the *Owner / Occupier / Controlling Authority of the property caused by: lambing or other farm activity or earthworks.		
f)	Use of said property is subject to the restriction of access to the following areas:		
Blank firing only is permitted. All firing is to be confined to bush areas and prohibited on grazing land.			
Conduct of activities will be restricted to the red-dashed area shown in Enclosure 1 Danger boards will be posted at visible locations to warn public users of the area of the exercise in progress			
			Descri
a)	Soldiers operating individually or in small groups.		
b)	Soldiers operating military 4wds on established roads, tracks and limited grassed areas		
	only. Care will be taken to avoid pasture damage.		
c)			
d)			
e)	Soldiers firing blank rounds during the day.		
f)	Participants will be thoroughly briefed on all restrictions as mentioned in ser f) above.		
,	ueries regarding activities should be directed to 2LT Eugene O'Connor on (0210 220 6448)		
Dated	thisday of 20		
Signatu	re of *Owner / Occupier / Controlling Authority		
Signatu	re of Witness		



Aerial photograph with red-dash's being the proposed training areas.