



## VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE



MC21-002267

**Mr Nick Deane**

[homishdu@yahoo.com.au](mailto:homishdu@yahoo.com.au)

Dear Mr Deane

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2021 to the Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, regarding Exercise Sea Breeze. Your correspondence has been passed to me for response.

I can confirm that Australian forces did not take part in Exercise Sea Breeze 2021. An Australian Defence Attaché currently working in Europe did join a hosted visit of the exercise, which is a routine practice in the diplomatic community.

The 2020 Defence Strategic Update identifies Australia's strategic focus being in the Indo-Pacific, as such the majority of our exercise activities are undertaken within this region.

I thank you for your interest in Defence and security matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Johnston".

**David Johnston, AO, RAN**  
Vice Admiral  
Vice Chief of the Defence Force

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**OFFICIAL**