

FLOC 35

The NZ Army's Future Land Operating Concept 2035: Integrated Land Missions (FLOC 35) has been released. FLOC 35 is the NZ Army's capstone operating concept into the near future – providing guidance for the development of concepts, experimentation, planning, force design and capability modernisation. The FLOC 35 looks to a likely future operating environment and imagines how our Army can succeed in 2035.

FLOC 35 is an aspirational document, aiming to provide an overarching direction for the development of future capability and strategy, including:

- providing the conceptual basis to generate, sustain and employ land and special operations forces
- informing and influencing the land force requirements of the Capability Management Plan
- guiding how the NZ Army achieves the Defence White Paper 2016 and NZDF Future Joint Operating Concept (FJOC) 35 objectives.

FLOC 35 examines how the land force anticipates operating out to 2035 with Navy, Air Force, and NZDF force elements, acting as a resource for all-of-government counterparts and informing future Defence Assessments and Defence White Papers.

FLOC 35 has been in development for over a year, and has relied on input and feedback from experts and specialists and commanders inside the NZDF and academia. Future concepts and force design teams within other ABCANZ armies, especially the work being done by the British and Australian Armies future development communities, has been incorporated into New Zealand's FLOC.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- FLOC 35 has moved away from describing the future land force as a "joint" force to describing it as an "integrated" force – a concept we will need to grasp in order to be successful in the future land operating environment.
- FLOC 35 has been centred on Integrated Land Missions, rather than campaigning. This reflects the frequent nature of deployments and outputs the NZDF and NZ Army support.
- FLOC 35 is future focused, but some of the discussions and references in the document are contemporary or historical. (By learning from the past, we are better prepared to face our future.)
- FLOC 35 is a concept, not doctrine. It does not dictate or direct future tasks and capabilities, but rather illustrates and describes what might be required.
- FLOC 35 should challenge your views. As a concept, FLOC 35 should spur discussion and debate. Nothing in the document should be held to be above critical review, and the more robust the thought and conversation we have about our future the better prepared we will be as an Army. At the end of the document a 'Key Questions List for Further Research' is provided on topics arising from or linked to the writing of the FLOC. Any thoughts or discussion pieces on FLOC 35 are encouraged and should be submitted to the Army Journal or as topics for staff papers.
- A number of initiatives and concepts arising from FLOC 35 have already started, including the Mission Command Training Centre and the Wargaming Battlelab and the Force Design Project.
- FLOC 35 will be reviewed and, in the coming years, will likely be revised. All personnel are encouraged to discuss and debate the concepts and content of FLOC 35 and see how our Future Land Operating Concept – and by extension our future land force – can be enhanced.

Read the FLOC 35 online at army.mil.nz or on Command Post.

