



Ministry of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2015/06501

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12 August 2015

[REDACTED]

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I am writing further to your e-mail dated 20 July 2015. Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and for ease of reference I have repeated your request in full:

“What arrangements cover a) the presence of US Air Force personnel and equipment at RAF Mildenhall and b) the use of RAF Mildenhall by the US Air Force. Please provide me with a copy of all the arrangements. If it is not possible to provide me with copies, please provide me with a) the official titles of the arrangements, b) the date at which they were agreed upon and c) the date(s) on which they were amended (if any)”.

RAF Mildenhall is made available for use by the United States Visiting Forces (USVF) under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) of 1951. The presence of USVF personnel and equipment at the base are covered by the NATO SOFA and also the Visiting Forces Act of 1952. I have withheld the NATO SOFA and Visiting Forces Act under the absolute exemption at Section 21 of the Act, which relates to information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. These documents are readily available in the public domain at:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_17265.htm - NATO SOFA

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6and1Eliz2/15-16/67/contents> - Visiting Forces Act

The USVF are responsible for the administration of RAF Mildenhall and this is set out in the attached letter dated 13 November 1951. RAF Mildenhall is also a designated En-Route Mobility Operations Hub base and this was agreed in an exchange of letters between the UK and US in 2004, copies of which are also attached.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal

review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely

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