



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI 2015/07226

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Via email: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

8 September 2015

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Request for Information – Final Response

Thank you for your inquiry dated 18 August 2015 requesting the following information:

“Specialist Badge Worn by Members of the Subsunk Parachute Assistance Group (SPAG)

my question is: do members of SPAG wear the same military parachutist badge as members of the Parachute Regiment? If no, why no and what badge (if any) are they ‘qualified’ to wear?”

Your inquiry is being considered as a Freedom of Information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

We have assumed that the “SPAG” you refer to is the Submarine Parachute Assistance Group (SPAG) rather than “Subsunk” Parachute Assistance group mentioned in your request. SPAG personnel did until recently wear the parachute wings badge because that was the badge awarded to unit members on passing their parachute training course. However, after recent re-evaluation of SPAG training by the Parachute Training Support Unit (PTSU) (the Army formally “own” the badge) it was deemed that the absence of an arduous training course (e.g. P Company, Commando Course) prior to taking their parachute course made the award of the military parachutist badge inappropriate. The issue is still under discussion, but currently SPAG personnel should be wearing the ‘lightbulb’ which is the parachute badge without wings.

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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section