



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref. 2016/08667



3 October 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 September asking for the curriculum for training provided to UK Reaper pilots undergoing training in the USA. You requested the following information:

"Any training curriculum provided to UK RPAS pilots who participate in the MQ-9 Reaper-specific conversion training and qualification in the USA

This phase of training was referred to in the following terms by the Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence in answer to a written parliamentary question on 26 July 2016:

"Specialist flying training for RAF Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) pilots who are not previously qualified and experienced military pilots starts with a bespoke version of Elementary Flying Training on the Tutor aircraft. All pilots then conduct MQ-9 Reaper-specific conversion training and qualifications in the USA. Once this training is completed pilots in the RPAS Pilot branch are awarded their wings."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is not held.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may wish to note that the training courses provided to RAF Reaper aircrew are all based on a written course syllabus to meet specific defined training objectives. In the case of US delivered training courses, the syllabus and training objectives are generated and managed by the USAF as the course provider and are not held by the RAF.

You may also wish to note that initial conversion training to qualify personnel to fly Reaper is provided to UK Reaper pilots by USAF personnel at Holloman Air Force Base. Classroom based training covers aircraft systems, engine, communications links, weapons and aircraft limits. Live flying and simulation based training covers operation of the aircraft, general handling, emergency handling, basic tactics, basic mission sets and weapons employment.

Launch and Recovery training covering all aspects of launching and landing the Reaper is provided at Creech Air Force Base by both US and UK trainers for those crews assigned to this task. US delivered training for Reaper aircrew is limited to Holloman and Creech Air Force Bases. A small number of RAF instructors are embedded with the US forces and assist in delivering the curriculum. However, the RAF has no ownership or control over the courses, their contents or materials.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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, 2nd 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



Secretariat 3a1
Air Command