



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2017/00253

[REDACTED]

30 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 09 January 2017. You requested the following information:

"I am researching into how land rovers in military service were carried suspended under helicopters in the late 1960s and early 1970s any information on what was used and how the vehicles were attached to the helicopters, pamphlets drawings and such would be of great help, I have tried the air despatch association and as yet no luck."

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 held.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, you may wish to search/contact the National Archives where testing records are now held.

Up to 1968, underslung loads were tested and configured by the Joint Helicopter Development Unit based at Old Sarum. Basic techniques detailed below remain extant up to the current day:

- Initial assessment of the load by a specialist and an engineer.
- Design of a suitable rigging scheme using specialist slinging equipment.
- Flight trial by a suitable helicopter.
- Publish an underslung load clearance in a military document.
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The method of slinging Land Rovers has changed little since the 1960s with the only major change being the introduction of textile slinging equipment due to the introduction of the Chinook in 1981. Prior to that date most slinging equipment was metal and steel wire rope.

The link below is on the internet and details how similar equipment is carried.

http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafbrizenorton/rafcms/mediafiles/97DF34AE_5056_A318_A89C7FCF7C82438A.pdf

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, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Air Command