



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 22 June 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2015 requesting the following information:

“Thank you for your reply. The detail in it is factually wrong and I have irrefutable evidence to the contrary. I have to question why you are hiding this?”

I would like to ask the same question for 2005.

I am still waiting for the code names for specific operations to destroy weapons.

I will be more specific as I am looking for the code name used for classified operations in MND(SE) AOR that were run in conjunction with US agencies.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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

The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at section 27 (International Relations) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 27 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 27(1)(a) has been applied because some of the information has the potential to adversely affect relations with our allies. The balance of the public interest test concluded that, whilst release would increase public understanding and confidence in the relation the United Kingdom has with other international states in its assistance with operations the balance of the public interest was in withholding this information. I have applied the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information to the level of “would be likely to”

The information you have requested can be found below, in order of the questions asked.

Thank you for your reply. The detail in it is factually wrong and I have irrefutable evidence to the contrary. I have to question why you are hiding this?

According to our records, we can only confirm that from May 2005 to December 2006, the UK destroyed chemical weapons in Iraq on the two occasions mentioned previously.

The UK did undertake a Force Protection role for a number of US operations. However, there was no direct involvement by British Forces in the destruction of the chemical weapons.

If you want information beyond this, you will need to provide any additional information to enable us to refine our searches. We would be happy then to look at this question again.

Information regarding operations led by US is being withheld under section 27 (International Relations), including the operation names, apart from the fact that the UK provided Force Protection for a number of US operations to destroy CBRN munitions.

I would like to ask the same question for 2005.

Did the UK MoD get involved in any way with the destruction of chemical weapons in Iraq from May 2005 to Dec 2006. If so what natures and quantities?'

According to our records there were no UK led operations to destroy chemical weapons during 2005.

I am still waiting for the code names for specific operations to destroy weapons.

This was not part of the original request for information under FOI2015/02812. However, we can tell you that the names of the operations to destroy the 122mm 'Al Boraq' canister munitions, which were suspected to contain GB (Sarin), on two separate occasions in Iraq during the 2006 were as follows.

- Operation Bedouin -16 January 2006
- Operation Bedouin II - 5 May 2006

I will be more specific as I am looking for the code name used for classified operations in MND(SE) AOR that were run in conjunction with US agencies."

Information regarding operations led by US is being withheld under section 27 (International Relations), including the operation names, as above.

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,

PJHQ J8 Secretariat