



# Ministry of Defence

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

**Our Ref: FOI2015/07148**

Email: [REDACTED]

8 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 August 2015 requesting the following information:

*“The title of my essay is “Account for the Decline of Long Range Bombing since the Falklands War”. I was looking for information upon whether this theory is valid and is there any information that you could provide which would substantiate this theory.”*

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 absolute exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA gives that information is exempt if it is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. In this case the request is theoretical and doctrinal in nature. Consequently the information in scope is contained in the following doctrine document JDP 0-30 MOD UK Air and Space Doctrine particularly in section two which describe our doctrine for projecting power.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/223495/jdp\\_0\\_30\\_uk\\_air\\_and\\_space\\_doctrine.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/223495/jdp_0_30_uk_air_and_space_doctrine.pdf)

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following weblinks which provide recent examples of how RAF fast jet aircraft have projected power by conducting bombing missions over long range utilising air-to-air refuelling and in some cases our inventory of Storm Shadow stand-off cruise missiles.

During Operation Ellamy in 2011, RAF Tornado aircraft undertook a 3,000 mile long range mission direct from their home base at RAF Marham to launch Storm Shadow cruise missiles at targets deep inside Libya.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-uks-contribution-to-freeing-libya--2>

[https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/image\\_data/file/4379/The\\_UK\\_s\\_contribution\\_to\\_freeing\\_Libya-02.jpg](https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/image_data/file/4379/The_UK_s_contribution_to_freeing_Libya-02.jpg)

RAF Tornado and Voyager Air-to-Air refuelling aircraft are currently deployed to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus alongside Reaper remotely piloted air systems based in the Middle East undertaking long-range missions against ISIL in Iraq, as given in these links.

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/news/archive/raf-tornado-jets-fly-ready-for-attack-role-over-iraq-29092014>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-air-strikes-in-iraq>

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](mailto: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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

[Original Signed]

  
Secretariat 3a  
Air Command