



Ministry
of Defence

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13 December 2016

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15 November 2016 in which you requested the following information:

Please can you provide me with the details of the current uses of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the Army?

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

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

The relevant Army unit uses ArcGIS and ERDAS Imagine software. The majority of the support provided by this unit to other units is simple points and lines to enhance base mapping, completed in quick time. Other hasty uses of Arc software is to prepare intervisibility traces, dead ground studies and slope analysis.

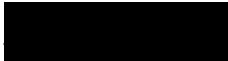
When more deliberate Army operations are conducted and more time is available to prepare information, analysts create 3D models in ARC Scene so that infantry soldiers can visualise the built-up area they are going into (Town or Village). More in depth analysis using GIS Systems is normally conducted prior to operational deployment where studies of census data help set the scene as to the human element of an operational area to which soldiers will deploy.

The British Army has conducted an increasing number of humanitarian type missions (including the likes of support to flood relief in the UK). The Army ties in to other Government agencies, charities, and the Police to provide them with situational awareness using imagery and intelligence feeds to help coordinate relief effort. This has included bespoke products such as showing imagery on maps to highlight worst hit areas or verifying information on maps that have been created by mapping charities in support of disaster relief.

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, Ground 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,



Army Secretariat