



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

14 December 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 November 2015 requesting the following information:

After conducting research on military parachuting, I noticed that a number of websites state that No.2 Squadron of the RAF Regiment do not have to complete the All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection course (commonly referred to as P Company) but conduct their own course.

1. *Is this true?*
2. *If yes, what course do they conduct?*
3. *If yes, why do they conduct a different course?*

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.

I can confirm that RAF Regiment personnel do not complete the Army All Arms Parachute Selection Course. The RAF Regiment conducts the RAF Pre-Parachute Selection Course to assess the physical and mental suitability of an individual for service in parachute roles across Defence. This course is aligned with the Army All Arms Parachute Selection Course and is used to select personnel to serve in the numerous RAF Regiment parachute roles.

Under Section 16 of the FOI act – advice and assistance – I can tell you that the reason that the RAF Regiment conducts a different course is due to the diversity of the parachute roles filled by these personnel and different training requirements to that of our Army colleagues.

You may find it useful to know that Section 1 of the FOIA gives an applicant the right to recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless the recorded information is held.

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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat
Air Command