



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

E-mail: DSA-enquiries@mod.uk

Ref: FOI2017/04587

16 May 2017

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter received on 13 April 2017 requesting the following information:

"Please send me all information you have with regards to accidents, fatalities and lose of vehicles due to failure of tow bars fitted to military vehicles, also any failures during the hook up process of recovery during combat or peace time. This would include commanders critical item reports from 1980 until present."

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 of the information in scope of your request is held and can be found below.

Date	Incident	Conclusions
26 Oct 07	Repair and recovery vehicle was recovering an armoured fighting vehicle. Whilst manoeuvring on a right turn the right hand leg of the tow bar assembly failed.	Factors attributable to tow bar failure: Turning too sharply increased the compressive pressure in the right hand tow bar causing it to collapse.
13 Aug 11	Tow bar motor vehicle was being used to facilitate the movement of a casualty vehicle. Whilst manoeuvring round a corner a tow bar assembly failed.	The direct cause of the failure could not be determined within the confines of the investigation.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that there were no recorded injuries or vehicle losses during these incidents. Following a search of MOD incident reporting databases and incident records, we can find no other recorded accidents, fatalities or loss of vehicle which could be attributed to the failure of tow bars fitted to military vehicles. While there have been recorded incidents of a tow bar being damaged/bent during use, this was predominately due to operator error and not failure of the bar itself. Please note that Commander's Critical Item Reports have not been included within this search as it is not a recognised term within the Department.

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,

DSA Secretariat