



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref. 2017/5110

[REDACTED]

9 May 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 April 2017 asking for information about RAF Typhoon jets at Red Flag 17-1. You requested the following information:

"What was the kill ratio of the RAF Typhoon jets at Red Flag 17-1, please?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held.

The Red Flag exercises held at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada provide RAF personnel with an opportunity to undertake some of the most realistic training in the world, pitting themselves against a highly trained enemy in air-to-air, air-to-ground and cyber warfare. In Red Flag 17-1, Typhoons from 6 Squadron based at RAF Lossiemouth were operating in a "swing role" capacity, simulating fighting their way to a target in a hostile air environment, attacking ground targets and then fighting their way out again. The opportunity to sharpen combat skills is key to ensuring our pilots are ready for whenever the country calls upon them to undertake actual operations.

Section 26(1)a of the FOI Act provides that we should withhold information which would be likely to prejudice the defence of the British isles or any Colony. Section 26(1) b of the Act provides that we should withhold information which would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of relevant forces. The Act requires that we have to carry out a public interest (PI) in this respect to show that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh the reasons for releasing the information.

Public Interest (PI) factors in favour of disclosing the information requested:

- To provide an indication of the capability of military equipment.

- To promote an understanding of the RAF's ability to engage in effective air combat.

Public Interest (PI) factors against disclosing the information requested:

- If precise or comprehensive information on the kill ratio of the Typhoon in simulated combat were provided a potential adversary could extrapolate tactics to defeat Typhoon.
- This in turn could place the pilot in danger and reduce the ability to complete any combat mission.

I conclude that the balance of the public interest for providing the kill ratio for Typhoon at Red Flag 17.1 is firmly in favour of maintaining the exemption under S.26(1)(a)&(b) and thus of withholding the information.

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, 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


Secretariat 3a1
Air Command