



# Ministry of Defence

## J9 FOI Secretariat

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Reference: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

8 October 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 9 September 2018 requesting the following information:

*"I would like to know the chain of command that initially led to the emblems being worn, and the chain of command that led to them being removed."*

Your correspondence has been treated 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 the information in scope of your request is held. This information can be found below.

The Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) issued the order directing that UK armed forces personnel deployed on Operation ALTHEA, the European Union (EU) led operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), are to wear EU Force (EUFOR) patches. Since deploying, UK personnel have worn patches supplied to them by the EUFOR Headquarters. For those UK forces operating within the EUFOR Multinational Battalion, the EUFOR Headquarters patches were changed to those of that Battalion shortly after arrival in theatre. No decision was taken to remove EUFOR badges completely.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), I would emphasise the importance, not only to military commanders and other nations' troops, but also to the civil authorities and population, that those soldiers deployed on Op ALTHEA are clearly identified as such. All Nations' troops deployed on the operation wear the EUFOR badge, including those that are not EU members. Our armed forces routinely wear badges representing the missions or multilateral organisations they are contributing to, and the same practice is adopted where UK personnel are deployed on the UN and NATO operations.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.



If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J9 FOI Secretariat