



Ministry of Defence

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Ref. FOI 2018/04207

23 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2018 requesting the following information:

"JSP 464 Vol 3 Pt 1 (V6.0) explains in detail the CAAS methodology and technical sources of information that make up the UK CAAS assessment. The JSP's para 0518 specifically details the arrangements/methodology for CAAS location assessment overseas. However, subsequent CAAS grading letters to occupants detail the outcome of the methodology but do not provide the objective criteria/weighting and 'technical sources' needed for personnel to replicate/validate CAAS location (i.e. levels of broadband access, level of deprivation) outcomes.

Having requested this information from DIO they have referred the matter back to the EJSU stating the location factor was calculated by the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York using data gathered by EJSU and ICTs (local command group for Europe) and the Housing Colonels (JFC).

Therefore, for Ramstein Germany, I request full details of:

- **How, and copies of, the relevant data gathered by the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York and by EJSU and ICTs was used.***
- **The objective criteria/weighting and 'technical sources' used to derive the CAAS 'Location' factor assessment.***

*Happy to clarify request as required. It is disappointing that after several years the 'more transparent system' [1] demanded and provided to UK personnel seems to have simply not been reciprocated for many serving overseas. **So in essence I require the information that would allow UK Service personnel at Ramstein to validate the CAAS assessment 'location' outcomes.***

Lastly, as Ramstein is a major wide-body aircraft military operational airfield with a number of UK SFA properties adjacent/within the near vicinity of the airfield. I would like confirmation of how the

[1]https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464516/20150925-CAAS_FAQs_V9.pdf - CAAS FAQs.

Ramstein SFA relative noise thresholds were determined."

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 (MOD) and I can confirm that some information, in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found enclosed at annex A and B. At annex A you will find a copy of the 'CAAS WG Overseas Location Decision Summary', this was a product of the data gathering. At annex B you will find a copy of the CAAS assessment of the location factor for Ramstein.

The information requested on how the Ramstein SFA relative noise thresholds were determined, is not held. This part of the process was dealt with by a Sub Contractor.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) it should be noted that the overseas location factor are due to be reviewed this year with any changes applied from 1 April 2019.

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). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing 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,

DIO Secretariat

CAAS WG OVERSEAS LOCATION DECISION SUMMARY – AS AT 4 FEB 16

Location	Time to key amenities ¹			Average journey time in minutes	Urban (<10 mins) Intermediate (11-29 mins) Remote (>30 mins)	Broadband standard met: Drop a level if No	Deprivation: Drop a level if Yes	Overall Location Decision Intermediate = -1 Band Remote = -2 Bands
	<10 mins	11-29 mins	>30 mins					
USA	-	5	3	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Episkopi, Cyp	4	-	4	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Dhekelia, Cyp	4	-	4	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
RAF Akrotiri, Cyp	3	1	4	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Ayios Nikolaos, Cyp	3	1	4	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Nicosia, Cyp	1	3	4	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Gibraltar	-	8	-	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Falkland Islands	2	1	5	>30	Remote	No	No	Remote
Ascension Island	-	5	3	10-29	Intermediate	No	No	Remote
BATUS, Canada	2	1	5	>30	Remote	No	No	Remote
Brunei	-	5	1	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Nepal	5	2	1	10-29	Intermediate	No	Yes	Remote
Nairobi, Kenya	1	3	2	>30	Remote	No	Yes	Remote
Nanyuki, Kenya	1	3	2	10-29	Intermediate	No	Yes	Remote
EJSU								
Stavanger, Nor	1	3	3	>30	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
Eindhoven, Ne	2	2	4	>30	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
JFC Brunssum, Ne	3	2	3	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Mons (SHAPE), Be	-	3	3	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	Yes	Remote
Brussels, Bel	-	3	5	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Glons, Bel (Heerlen)	1	3	4	10-29	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
Glons, Bel (Maastricht)	1	2	5	10-29	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
Munster, Ger	-	3	5	>30	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
Ramstein, Ger	-	5	3	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Goch, Ger	-	3	5	>30	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
Wesel, Ger	-	3	5	>30	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
Geilenkirchen, Ger	-	4	4	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Remote
Lille, Fr	1	4	3	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Intermediate
Naples, It	-	3	4	10-29	Intermediate	No	Yes	Remote
Milan, It	0	3	5	>30	Remote	Yes	No	Remote
Latina, It	-	3	5	>30	Remote	No	No	Remote
Poggio Renatico, It	2	3	2	10-29	Intermediate	Yes	No	Remote

¹ Where a location does not show a total of 8 amenities, this is due to the location statement declaring that an amenity (eg Further Education) is not available at all. Equally, some commands have given multiple timings without delineation, so the mid-point has been selected.

CAAS LOCATION FACTORS – RAMSTEIN							
Amenity	CAAS DfT accessibility indicators	Travel time from SFA/hirings					Evidential commentary
		Travel time up to 10 mins	Travel time from 10-20 mins	Travel time from 20-30 mins	Travel time from 30-40 mins	Travel time >40 mins	
Food store	✓		✓				All SFA in Ramstein is within 20 mins drive of a large grocery store. Ramstein is situated in a rural location and SFA is dispersed throughout a large area. Public transport is not always available and has to be negotiated in German (no publicly-funded language training is available for spouses). Many families have to consider the purchase of a second vehicle.
GP	✓		✓				All SFA in Ramstein is within 20 mins drive of a GP.
Primary school	✓		✓				There are SCE Primary schools within 20 mins drive of SFA in SHAPE, Brunssum, Ramstein and Naples. Very few SFA locations allow children to cycle or walk to these schools. A car is essential.
Secondary school	✓					✓	There is no UK/International Secondary Schooling available at Ramstein. There is limited access to the US DODs system.
Further Education institution	✓					✓	No further education institutes available in any European location for the dependants of service personnel.
Hospital	✓			✓			Most SFA in Ramstein is within 30 mins drive of an approved hospital.
Employment centre ¹	✓					✓	Non Available.
Town centre	✓		✓				All SFA in Ramstein is within 20 mins drive of a town centre.
Broadband	<i>(assessed against ability to achieve download speed of 17.8Mbits/s)</i> Broadband is available in most SFA across Europe and Turkey but the download speeds are very variable and the connections fragile. Costs are approximately the same as in UK but installation times can be months, leaving people for up to a quarter of a 2-year tour without an internet connection.						
Deprivation	There has been an recent increase in the Ramstein area of low level vandalism and petty crime with bicycles being stolen. There are beggars (middle east refugees and eastern europeans from the roma/gypsy origin) in the area who go knocking door to door selling goods or asking for money outright.						
CO EJSU's view	This location is more challenging than first impressions. Of note is the lack of spousal employment, access to schools and language challenges. A balanced analysis of the facts above support the assessment this location is INTERMEDIATE . That said, I urge the board to consider making this location REMOTE as an incentive towards overseas service. Demonstrably showing the MOD understands the intangible challenges of serving overseas will encourage greater service with NATO.						

Note:

1. Refers to proximity to areas of employment not job centre.