



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref. 2019/01373

[REDACTED]

11 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 31 January 2019 asking for information about the use of the term "enemy" by the RAF in relation to events at Stansted Airport. Specifically, you requested the following information:

"With regard to the term "enemy forces" classified by the RAF at Stansted,

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Farchive.is%2FghPeL&data=02%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7Ca89e38406fae41c328b008d687ae1d54%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C636845579216475540&sdata=hBpqFXZlqYYIJ0U8TmCGoVYnYPU3IRTKmfekE3nUOA%3D&reserved=0>

*Could you release the document in which this phrase first occurred with regard to Stansted?
Who used this phrase in the RAF and what rank were they, and what was the most senior rank to apporrie this term?
Is this a widespread definition of "enemy forces" and what other definitions of the term does the RAF use?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that we do not hold information within the scope of your request because Stansted Airport is a civilian airport and the RAF was not involved in Home Office flights there, although RAF Brize Norton was later used for Home Office flights following a request by the Home Office. It is these flights that the document in question refers to.

You may wish to note that terms such as 'friendly and enemy forces' are standard language used in all forms of military documentation. There is no fixed definition of either term since it is impossible to anticipate every specific situation the military might face and their use does not prejudice how any groups will be dealt with. The MOD fully respects people's right to


protest within the law and we would do nothing to prevent members of the public exercising their right to peaceful protest. However, we also have a duty to protect public property and maintain security at all defence installations to ensure that we meet our operational needs.

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.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


Secretariat 3a1
Air Command