



# Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat  
Spitfire Block  
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Royal Air Force  
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Ref. 2020/04244



11 May 2020

Thank you for your email of 31 March 2020 asking for details of personnel stationed at Creech Air Force Base. You requested the following information.

- 1. The number of UK personnel stationed or otherwise present at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, for each year between 2016-2020. If possible use the same census date for each year (e.g., 1 January), unless this would be overly-burdensome;*
- 2. A breakdown of which squadron/wing/unit these forces are assigned to, with numbers per unit, again broken down by year;*
- 3. The number of these forces which are considered 'embedded', and the units to which they are attached, again broken down by year;*
- 4. A breakdown of the rank and role of UK personnel at Creech, again by unit and year.*

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 number of personnel stationed at Creech by unit is given in the table below:

Unit	1 Jan 16	1 Jan 17	1 Jan 18	1 Jan 19	1 Jan 20
39 Sqn	69	74	101	102	105
Embedded	1	3	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	70	77	102	103	106



The number of personnel stationed at Creech is given by rank in the table below:

Rank (Including equivalents)	1 Jan 16	1 Jan 17	1 Jan 18	1 Jan 19	1 Jan 20
Wg Cdr	1	1	2	1	1
Sqn Ldr	5	4	7	8	7
Flt Lt/FO	25	29	39	37	39
WO/Flt Sgt	8	8	11	12	13
Sgt	11	13	16	16	17
Cpl/SAC	20	22	27	29	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>106</b>

The information you have requested about units RAF personnel seconded to the United States Air Force (USAF) as embedded personnel falls within the scope of the following qualified exemption under the Act: Section 26 (Defence). This exemption is a qualified exemption and, as such, it has been necessary to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

A Public Interest Test has been conducted and there is a very strong public interest in withholding the name of the units UK personnel are embedded in with the USAF. Releasing such information would provide the public with greater transparency on the embedding arrangements with USAF and would promote openness and transparency about such matters. However, if we were to provide the details it could enable identification of personnel and could, potentially, be used by those with hostile intent to put the safety of UK armed forces personnel at risk.

We do hold recorded information on the rank and role of individuals. However, this has been aggregated under Section 40(2) (Personal Information) of the FOIA. This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that 39 Squadron personnel at Creech undertake the following roles:

- Pilot
- Sensor Operation
- Intelligence Analysts
- Comms Analysts
- Flight Operations
- Personnel Support

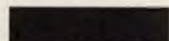
If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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](mailto: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