



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2023/12159

[REDACTED]

9 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 October 2023 requesting the following information:

*I kindly request that you provide me with the following information regarding the elite Royal Air Force Regiments, specifically the "five mile of death" training:*

- 1. Please confirm the exact requirements for the "five mile of death" training, including but not limited to:
  - a. Weight carried by trainees during the training.*
  - b. Weapons carried by trainees during the training.*
  - c. Time allowed for completion of the training.*
  - d. Pass rate for trainees participating in the training.**
  
- 2. I would like to understand how the "five mile of death" training compares with the easier Royal Marines Commando Course and the Parachute Regiment initial courses in terms of difficulty and requirements.*
  
- 3. Please provide the exact requirement to obtain RAF Regiment "Mud Guards," which are the Royal Marines Style shoulder flashes.*

Subject Access Requests are used to obtain information held about yourself. Therefore, your correspondence is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Questions 1 and 2

I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held. The Royal Air Force (RAF) Regiment training does not include any activity referred to or known as the 'five mile of death'.

Question 3

RAF Regiment mudguards are awarded upon successful completion of the RAF Regiment Profession training (Phase 2). Please see below the assessment criteria that must be satisfied by both Trainee Gunners and RAF Regiment Officers by the end of Phase 2 training:

Attitude to course goals, performing Air Force protection tasks, handling and operating service weapons to dismounted close combat standards, fieldcraft, navigation by day and night, becoming a Competent Patrol Member, live firing tactical training, robustness (including fitness tests, tactical exercises and physical training events), and the ability to use primary and secondary weapons as part of a team in a variety of tactical Close Quarter Battle scenarios.

In addition, RAF Regiment Officers are also expected to achieve the following assessment criteria:

Commanding and leading as a Fire Team Commander, Section Commander and Flight Commander as well as administering a Flight in battle in the role performed by a Sergeant.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), the below links give further information on entry and training requirements for the RAF Regiment:

<https://recruitment.raf.mod.uk/roles/roles-finder/force-protection/raf-regiment-officer>

<https://recruitment.raf.mod.uk/roles/roles-finder/force-protection/raf-regiment-gunner>

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

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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, 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 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 normally investigate your case until the MoD internal 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,

[Original signed]

Air Command Secretariat