



Ministry of Defence

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Ref: FOI2022/05107

Charles Ghose
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24 May 2022

Dear Mr Ghose,

Thank you for your email of 25 April requesting the following information:

"This is my Freedom Of Information Request.

- 1. How many military bases and installations are operated by the United States military, that are located in the United Kingdom and British territories and what are their names and locations?*
- 2. Are US military bases and US installations that are located in the United Kingdom considered US territory or US property?*
- 3. What are the names of the US military units that live and work in the US military bases and US military installations, that are located in the United Kingdom?*
- 4. Is there a treaty or Parliamentary Act that gives the United States permission to operate US military bases and US Military Installations on British territory?*
- 6. Which branches of the United States military operate from the US military bases and US military installations that are located in the United Kingdom, for example, the US air force, US Navy, US Army, etc?*
- 7. Is the land that the US military bases and US Installations situated on, that is located in the United Kingdom, owned or leased to the United States?*
- 8. How many US service men/women live and work at the US military bases and US installations that are located in the United Kingdom? If possible please give the total number by each individual US military base and US military installation that is located in the United kingdom.*
- 9. In which year was the first US military base or US installation constructed in the United Kingdom and what was the name of the US military base or US installation?*
- 10. Are US military soldiers/air men given permission to hold military exercises out of the US military bases and US installations that are located in the United kingdom, in other parts of the United Kingdom or British airspace?"*

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

I will answer each of your questions in turn.

Q. How many military bases and installations are operated by the United States military, that are located in the United Kingdom and British territories and what are their names and locations?

Please see table below.

Name	Location
RAF Mildenhall	Suffolk, United Kingdom
RAF Lakenheath	Suffolk, United Kingdom
RAF Feltwell	Norfolk, United Kingdom
RAF Alconbury	Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom
RAF Molesworth	Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom
RAF Croughton	Northamptonshire, United Kingdom
RAF Barford St John	Oxfordshire, United Kingdom
RAF Fairford	Gloucestershire, United Kingdom
RAF Welford	Berkshire, United Kingdom
RAF Menwith Hill	North Yorkshire, United Kingdom
Blenheim Crescent	Middlesex, United Kingdom
Naval Support Facility	Diego Garcia
RAF Ascension Island	Ascension Island

Q. Are US military bases and US installations that are located in the United Kingdom considered US territory or US property?

United States (US) installations overseas from the United States of America (USA), are not considered either US territory or US property.

Q. What are the names of the US military units that live and work in the US military bases and US military installations, that are located in the United Kingdom?

- 48th Fighter Wing
- 100th Air to Air Refuelling Wing
- 501st Combat Support Wing
- 352nd Special Operations Wing

Q. Is there a treaty or Parliamentary Act that gives the United States permission to operate US military bases and US Military Installations on British territory?

The original agreement allowing the US presence in the UK is loosely defined per the Churchill Truman Accord (post WWII). The US Visiting Forces (USVF) based in the UK are governed by the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951 ('the SOFA'). The NATO SOFA governs the activities of the Force but is not a Treaty that authorises access.

Q. Which branches of the United States military operate from the US military bases and US military installations that are located in the United Kingdom, for example, the US air force, US Navy, US Army, etc?

The following branches operate within the United Kingdom (UK).

- US Air Force
- US Space Force
- US Army
- US Navy
- US Marine Corps

Q. How many US service men/women live and work at the US military bases and US installations that are located in the United Kingdom? If possible, please give the total number by each individual US military base and US military installation that is located in the United kingdom.

Please see table below.

It should be noted that figures shown are made up of US Space Force, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Army, US Air Force and Civilians working for the US Department of Defense.

<i>Base and Parent Org Feb 21 2022</i>	<i>Permanent Personnel</i>	<i>Temporary Assignment</i>
ALCONBURY		
501st COMBAT SUPPORT WING (CSW)	575	
CROUGHTON		
501 CSW	345	
FAIRFORD		
501 CSW	16	303
LAKENHEATH		
48 th Fighter Wing	5164	240
MENWITH HILL		
501 CSW	1000	
MILDENHALL		
100 Air Refueling Wg/352 Special Ops Wg	3688	151
MOLESWORTH		
501 CSW USAF	205	
501 CSW USA	106	
501 CSW USN	119	
LONDON (Embassy and Liaisons)		
US Embassy	52	
501 COMBAT SUPPORT WG	48	
Others in UK (multiple locations)		
501 CSW	135	

Q. In which year was the first US military base or US installation constructed in the United Kingdom and what was the name of the US military base or US installation?

The earlier bases constructed by the US were ten airfields on which construction began in September 1942 (Chipping Ongar, Debark, Eye, Glatton, Gosfield, Great Dunmow, Great Saling, Matching, Nuthampstead, and Stansted). More information on these is available in:

Roger Freeman (1978) Airfields of the Mighty Eighth Then and Now, After the Battle, Battle of Britain Prints International, London

and in the 'Action Stations' series of books published by Crecy Publishing.

Q. Are US military soldiers/air men given permission to hold military exercises out of the US military bases and US installations that are located in the United Kingdom, in other parts of the United Kingdom or British airspace?

The NATO SOFA governs the activities of the Force. US Forces frequently conduct training exercises both within and outside the installations made available to the US Forces. The type of exercise or training being done and its location will normally determine the level of coordination required with the MoD or other UK Gov agencies involved.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. 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). 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 review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed Electronically)

Air Command Secretariat