



From:
CIO-CI-AccessOps
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB.

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|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Telephone | (Direct dial) | 020 7218 4848 |
| | (Fax) | 020 7218 5471 |
| Email | CIO-FOI@mod.uk | |

Date: 22 February 2011

Dear Cairistiona Russell;
Amy Carson;
Ross McKaulay;
Craig Barclay;
Calum McKay;
Kristofor Hall; and
Liam Turbett

Requests for Information About Human Intelligence and Information Operations Issues

Thank you for your recent emails of 11 February; 14 February; 14 February; 15 February; 17 February; 17 February; and 18 February 2011, respectively. You have made some 46 requests for information in seven pieces of correspondence as detailed in Annex A, attached. Your requests have been handled under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 (The Act).

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004, public authorities are entitled to aggregate two or more requests for information for the purposes of determining whether the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Aggregation is only appropriate provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and
- relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information.

We assess that your FOI requests do meet these criteria: you appear to us to be acting in concert; your requests were all received within a period of six working days, between 11 February 2011 and 18 February 2011; and your requests do relate to similar information. Your requests all relate to human intelligence and information operations issues and would all require a response from the same small group of specialists.

Your requests have, therefore, been aggregated. In line with Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them. Efforts to determine whether or not MOD holds any information in scope of each of your FOI requests have already exceeded the appropriate limit without reaching conclusion. Therefore, the cost of complying with Section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act (to determine whether MOD holds any information of the description specified in each request) for any of these requests exceeds the appropriate limit. We are not obliged to comply with these requests and refuse them under the terms of Section 12. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days determining whether the department holds any information within scope of a request, and then locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The motivation for the application of Section 12 is not to withhold information which would not otherwise be exempt. It is because the Department has a responsibility to prevent requests imposing excessive burden on the Department. We assess that complying with your requests would impose such a burden, because of the large number of requests you have made within a short period of time.

Under Section 16 of the Act, we are obliged to offer you advice and assistance as to what information we can provide to you under the cost limit. The MOD may be able to provide some of the information you have requested if you reduce the number and scope of your requests. You could do this by identifying which of your original requests you would like us to answer. Alternatively, you could choose to send us a single collated list of your requests in priority order, and we will then process your requests in that order until the £600 limit is reached. Please contact me if you would like to refine your requests in this way or by another means, or require further advice on doing so. If, after you refine your FOI requests, the appropriate cost limit is still exceeded, we are not obliged to comply with any further attempts to refine these requests for 60 working days, in line with Section 14(2) of the FOI Act.

You are entitled to make, and we will be happy to respond to, further requests in the future regarding these issues. However, we do recommend that you leave 60 working days from the date you made the most recent of these requests (18 February 2011), and from the date of any refinements you may now choose to make to them, before you submit further requests on this subject. Any similar requests that you send during the next 60 working days are also likely to be aggregated for the purposes of assessing the cost of compliance and may, therefore, be refused. In general, you should avoid making a large number of similar FOI requests on a subject in any 60 working day period, as the MOD is unlikely to be able to comply with these within the £600 cost limit.

If you choose to refine your FOI requests to fall within the cost limit, information you request that is held by MOD will be considered against the full range of exemptions specified in the FOI Act, to determine if it should be released. You may want to bear in mind that information is likely to be exempt from disclosure under Section 40 of the Act if, when read together with information that is already publically available, it can be identified as the personal data of individuals, including MOD staff. It is Government policy to withhold the personal data, including names and contact details, of Civil Servants in grades below SCS pay-band 1 (Head of Group) and Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen below 1* rank (Brigadier; Commodore; Air Commodore).

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 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 Head of Corporate Information, 2nd 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 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

FOI Operations Team
CIO-CI-Access

Annex A – Aggregated FOI Requests About Human Intelligence and Information Operations Issues Received by MOD from Cairistiona Russell; Amy Carson; Ross McKaulay; Craig Barclay; Calum McKay; Kristofor Hall; and Liam Turbett.

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| Case Number: 18-02-2011-160515-003 |
| Requester: Liam Turbett |
| Date Received: 18/02/2010 |
| Title: Information on the Directorate of Targeting Information Operations |
| <p>Dear Ministry of Defence,</p> <p>Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information regarding the Directorate of Targeting Information Operations (DTIO).</p> <p>-Please confirm the dates of service, names and rank of each of the directors and any senior staff above the relevant level for disclosure back to 2001. Please note that the names of Robert Judson, Graham Wright, Ian Dugmore and Mike Heath are already in the public domain and thus any possible DPA exemption seems superfluous.</p> <p>-Please provide details of any correspondence between the TIO branch and the Joint Capability Branch including emails, letters, and any other documents that may have been sent between the two bodies in 2010.</p> <p>-Please provide details of any correspondence between the Cross-Government Implementation Group (CGIG) and DTIO including emails, letters and any other documents that may have been sent between the two bodies.</p> <p>-Please provide details of any staff that have undertaken the Information Operations course run by the Defence Academy including the number of people who have taken this course and their position within DTIO.</p> <p>-According to the Select Committee on Defence (Third Report: Information Operations, Defence Committee Publications, Session 2003-2004), DTIO "has contacts with a variety of experts in the United Kingdom in universities and other institutions". Please release the names departments, disciplines, subject expertise and Universities of such experts.</p> <p>-Please provide a full list of the backgrounds of 'specialist staff' as noted in the Defence Select Committee Report including "a psychiatrist, an anthropologist, and other specialist staff"; specifically the list should include the academic discipline of the relevant staff.</p> <p>If this request exceeds the cost limit please work through the requests in the order presented above until the limit is reached.</p> <p>Additionally, I would like to request that this information be provided in digital form.</p> <p>Yours faithfully, Liam Turbett</p> |

Case Number: 17-02-2011-122202-007

Requester: Kristofor Hall

Date Received: 17/02/2010

Title: Information on the 15 (UK) Psyops Group

Dear Ministry of Defence,

Subject: 15 (UK) Psyops Group

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request under FOI Act 2000

I request, under the FOI Act 2000, the following information. I would appreciate the information - where possible - to be provided in digital format. By 'correspondence' I make reference to any emails, letters, written notes, and / or minutes of meetings relevant to the information requested. Throughout my request, the term 'The Group' refers to the '15 (UK) Psyops Group'.

I request kindly the following information:

1. I request a list of staff numbers and complement including ranks and civilian occupation of the Group for each year from 1998 to present.

2. I request any correspondence between the Group and the Research and Information Communications Unit, the Home Office, since the beginning of 2010.

3. I request any correspondence between the Group and the Iraqi Media Network since the beginning of 2010.

4. I request any correspondence between the Group, the BBC and Al Jazeera, since the beginning of 2010.

If any further clarification related to my request is needed, please contact me via email.

I look forward to receiving a response within 20 days, as provided by statute.

Yours faithfully,

Kristofor Hall

Case Number: 17-02-2011-144651-001

Requester: Calum McKay

Date Received: 17/02/2010

Title: Re: Joint Service Intelligence Organisation

Dear S Appleton,

Many thanks for your guidance with my request for information. I have amended my request accordingly:

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request information on the Joint Services Intelligence Organisation, operating out of the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC), based at Chicksands.

a. In 2005/2006 the JSIO was disbanded. I would like to request full details of the successor body which now carries out the training previously provided at JSIO.

b. I would like details regarding which branches of DISC have taken on roles previously performed by JSIO and which roles specifically they have taken on.

c. I would also like to request information on why the Templar Training Coy is so named. For example, did it derive its name from a previous unit or location or is it named after General Templar.

d. In addition to this I would like to request the full name of the ISTAR Training Wing be provided.

e. I would like to receive full details on the military unit 'F Branch', previously part of the JSIO, including the number of staff and their roles.

f. I would also like to request the equivalent information on any other sub-unit or branch categorised by letter. E.g. A Branch, B Branch, C Branch and so forth.

g. I would like to request details of all correspondence between staff at the Joint Services Intelligence Organisation (JSIO) and/or its successor body and the staff of the Directorate of Targeting and Information Operations within the past 6 months, including emails, written letters and any documents which have been sent between the two bodies. I would particularly like to receive emails between heads of department and concerning military operations abroad.

h. I would also request details of all correspondence between the staff at the Joint Services Intelligence Organisation (JSIO) and/or its successor body and the staff of the 15(UK)Psychological Operations Group within the past 6 months, including emails, written letters and any documents which have been sent between the two bodies. I would particularly like to receive emails between heads of department and concerning military operations abroad.

Again, I would ask that the information be provided in digital form and should you find my request reach the expense limit then I kindly ask that the request be worked through in this order until said limit is reached.

Yours sincerely,

Calum McKay

-----Original Message-----

From: Calum McKay [mailto:request-xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx]

Sent: 11 February 2011 12:41

To: CIO-FOI (MULTIUSER)

Subject: Defence Intelligence and Security Centre operating out of Chicksands PF 11-02-2011-125237-008 McKay

Dear Ministry of Defence,

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request information on the Joint Services Intelligence Organisation, operating out of the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC), based at Chicksands.

In 2005/2006 the JSIO was disbanded. I would like to request full details of the successor body which now carries out the training previously provided at JSIO.

I would like details regarding which branches of DISC have taken on roles previously performed by JSIO and which roles specifically they have taken on.

I would also like to request information on why the Templar Training Coy is so named. For example, did it derive its name from a previous unit or location or is it named after General Templar.

In addition to this I would like to request the full name of the ISTAR Training Wing be provided.

I would like to receive full details on the military unit 'F Branch', previously part of the JSIO, including the number of staff and their roles.

I would also like to request the equivalent information on any other sub-unit or branch categorised by letter. E.g. A Branch, B Branch, C Branch and so forth.

I would like to request details of all correspondence between staff at the Joint Services Intelligence Organisation (JSIO) and its successor body and the staff of the Directorate of Targeting and Information Operations, including emails, written letters and any documents which have been sent between the two bodies.

I would also request details of all correspondence between the staff at the Joint Services Intelligence Organisation (JSIO) and its successor body and the staff of the 15(UK) Psychological Operations Group, including emails, written letters and any documents which have been sent between the two bodies.

Additionally, I would kindly request that the information be provided in digital/electronic form.

Yours faithfully,

Calum McKay

Case Number: 15-02-2011-154305-007

Requester: Ross Macaulay

Date Received: 15/02/2010

Title: information on the 15 (UK) Psyops group

Dear Ministry of Defence,

Subject: 15 (UK) Psyops Group

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request under FOI Act 2000

I request, under the FOI Act 2000, the following information. I would appreciate the information - where possible - to be provided in digital format.

By 'correspondence' I make reference to any emails, letters, written notes, and / or minutes of meetings relevant to the information requested. Throughout my request, the term 'The Group' refers to the '15 (UK) Psyops Group'.

I request kindly the following information:

1. In terms of structure, I request an organisational chart / layout, indicating exactly where the Group fits into the 1st Military Intelligence Brigade and, from there, the wider structure of the MoD.
2. Please release all correspondence between the Group and The United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, including the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) since the beginning of 2010. Similarly, please release all correspondence between the Group and the NATO Psychological Operations Working Group - of which the US Military is represented by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – since the beginning of 2010.
3. The Group runs student training programs incorporating students and servicemen from NATO, the European Union, and other partner nations – might I have a list of those who have attended and their titles, regiments, origins, ranks, etc., since the beginning of 2010.
4. Does the Group teach or access any classes at Canfield University? If yes, I request all correspondence and information relating to these classes and the Group's role since the beginning of 2010.

If any further clarification related to my request is needed, please contact me via email. I look forward to receiving a response within 20 days, as provided by statute.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Macaulay

Case Number: 14-02-2011-172503-004

Requester: Craig Barclay

Date Received: 14/02/2010

Title: Information on the 15 (UK) Psyops Group

Dear Ministry of Defence,

Subject: 15 (UK) Psyops Group

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request under FOI Act 2000

I request, under the FOI Act 2000, the following information.

I would appreciate the information - where possible - to be provided in digital format.

By 'correspondence' I make reference to any emails, letters, written notes, and / or minutes of meetings relevant to the information requested. Throughout my request, the term 'The Group' refers to the '15 (UK) Psyops Group'.

I request kindly the following information:

1. Stephen Jolly trained as a special operations reservist/officer cadet with 15 (UK) Information Support Group, the UK military's tri-service psychological operations unit, around 1999 / 2000.

Jolly notes the following in an essay describing the 15 (UK) Information Support Group – 'Wearing the Stag's Head Badge: British Combat Propaganda since 1945', cited at

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010108170000/http://www.kcl.ac.uk/orgs/icsa/Old/jolly-stag.html>:

'Up until March 1999, the Unit was known as 15 (UK) PSYOPS Group. However, following a Ministerial directive received in late 1998, on 13 March 1999, the title changed to 15 (UK) Information Support Group (15 (UK) Info Sp Gp). The main reason for the change was to distance the Unit from the term psychological operations which some associate with 'black' and 'grey' propaganda activities that are not practised today (Jolly, March 2001).'

I request a copy of the ministerial directive issued in late 1998, cited above, regarding the decision to change the name of the Group to the 15 (UK) Information Support Group.

By the same token, around 2005, it seems the name changed back to the 15 (UK) Psyops Group – I request therefore any correspondence or ministerial orders pertaining to the decision to change the name back to its precursor.

2. I request a historical account / report of the Group, and its specific role within the MoD. This should include any reports produced for internal purposes which review the function, role, or activities of the Group.

3. Copies of the most recent Group Annual Reports – I have been able to locate a copy of the 2007/08 Annual Report, and thus copies of the 2008/09 and 2009/10 Annual Reports are specifically requested, where available. If these are not available, please explain why they were not produced and what, if anything, replaced them. If anything has replaced them, I request copies of such documents.

4. As per the 2007 /08 Annual Report, Psyops external training courses fall into three categories: Military PSYOPS Planners Course (MPOPC); Target Audience Analysis Course (TAAC); and Tactical Psyops Team Training (TPTT). As such, I am requesting information on what individuals, external bodies, groups, companies, organisations, and / or other Military Units, have taken part in any of the above external training courses during 2010.

Can I request that list include the name of the organisation, division, regiment, etc., and ranks and function of those undertaking the courses.

5. Please release also course module descriptions and copies of any handouts, PowerPoint's, reading lists and / or other material given to students. Please release the ranks and regimental origins of the staff who teach the courses (or details of the external organisations for which they work) for the calendar years 2008, 09, and 10 (or academic or financial years, if data held in that way).

If any further clarification related to my request is needed, please contact me via email.

I look forward to receiving a response within 20 days, as provided by statute.

Yours faithfully,

Craig Barclay

craig.barclay@strath.ac.uk

Case Number: 14-02-2011-101446-002

Requester: Amy Carson

Date Received: 14/02/2010

Title: Request for information on the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre, Chicksands

Dear Ministry of Defence,

I kindly request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to request the details of all Navy, RAF and British Army personnel who have undergone Human Intelligence training courses at the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC), Chicksands, in the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, including the number of individuals who have taken courses, as well as their rank, regiment area of service e.g. infantry, number of years service, length and nature of training modules undertaken.

I would like to ask for the equivalent details of individuals who have received Resistance to Interrogation (R2I) training at DISC.

I would like to request details of any preliminary assessment made of prospective trainees prior to the commencement of any R2I training module. Prior to commencing training, do trainees undergo any psychological/psychiatric assessment or any medical assessment from a medical professional?

If so, I would like to request that the results of any assessment be included with the information already requested on trainees.

I would also like to be provided with a comprehensive list of all military forces and units which are designated as 'prone to capture' and therefore assessed as requiring R2I training.

I would like to request a full list of all activities and methods of interrogation which are proscribed by the Geneva Convention that trainees are exposed to during the course of their training. Former Armed Forces Minister, Adam Ingram told parliament in 2004: "In order to give those military forces who are designated 'prone to capture' an indication of the stresses and pressures that they may face if they are captured by an enemy, JSIO are authorised to conduct R2I training. During the course of such training, certain activities proscribed by the Geneva Conventions (GC) are employed."

Source -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/vo040628/text/40628w39.htm>

Rather than a list of what individual trainees are exposed to, I would ask that this be provided as a comprehensive list of each and any activity or method that a trainee may be exposed to as part of the R2I training.

I would like to request a diagrammatic chart updating the one previously disclosed here:

http://www.powerbase.info/index.php/File:Chicksands_organisational_chart.jpg,

I would also like to request a diagram indicating the organizational structure of JSIO itself and its position within the overall structure of the military and MoD. See above – Also a breakdown of the sub units of DISC

Please also supply a full organisational chart for the Defence SERE Training Organisation (DSTO), including a breakdown of the SERE (Survive, Evade, Resist, Extract) training unit and an explanation of what it does together with the number of staff based there and their ranks, previous regiments etc.

Additionally, I would kindly request that all information be provided in digital form.

Yours faithfully,

Amy Carson

Case Number: 11-02-2011-145231-002

Requester: Cairistiona Russell

Date Received: 11/02/2010

Title: Information on the Directorate of Targeting Information Operations

Dear Ministry of Defence,

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 200 I would like to request the following information, in preference order regarding the Directorate of Targeting Information Operations (DTIO);

-The annual budget of the DTIO between 2001-2010

-Copies of any reports on or by the DTIO between 2001-2010 which give an account of any of the following; history, structure, activities, performance, staffing (if there are a lot of these please supply those giving an overview and a list of others held.)

-Please confirm whether the DTIO has had any contact in 2010 with the Human Terrain System or Human Terrain teams in Afghanistan and Iraq or with their commanding officers either in theatre or in other military or civilian locations. if there has been contact please release copies of any correspondence.

-How many DTIO people have been seconded out in the past three years and where?

-How many people have been seconded in and where from in the past three years?

-I would like details of any correspondence between DTIO and 15 Psyops including emails, letters and any other documents that may have been sent between the two bodies in 2010. if there is too much a list of documents would help.

-I would like details of correspondence between Information Operations and Media Operations, including emails, letters and any other documents that may have been sent between the two bodies in 2010. if there is too much a list of such documents would help.

-A full list of the backgrounds of "specialist staff" as noted in the Defence Select Committee Report including "a psychiatrist, and anthropologist, and other specialist staff"; specifically the list should include the academic discipline of the relevant staff.

If this request exceeds the cost limit please work through the requests in the order presented above until the limit is reached.

Additionally, I would like to request that this information be provided to me in digital form.

Yours faithfully,

Cairistiona Russell