



Ministry of Defence

Headquarters Joint Force Development
Defence Academy of the UK
Shrivenham
Swindon SN6 8LA
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2021/02281

E-mail: JFD-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

Wenze-Albert Sterrenburg
request-732103-340dfced@whatdotheyknow.com

27th April 2021

Dear Mr Sterrenburg,

Thank you for your email of 01 March 2021 in which you requested the following information:

"I'm requesting the "Staff Officers Handbook" from 1982 if available. PDF would be great."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to confirm that the MOD holds information on the subject you have requested. Some of the information you have requested is being withheld under exemptions provided for at Section 23 (Security Bodies) of the FOIA. Section 23 is an absolute exemption, therefore the MOD is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

As discussed by email, a copy of the 1982 edition of the Staff Officer Handbook has been sent to the postal address you provided.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to locate a copy of 'Part VII – Soviet Ground Forces Aide Memoire'. I can advise however, under Section 16 of the FOIA (Duty to provide advice and assistance) that the 1981 edition of the Staff Officers Handbook, released 23 November 2020, in response to FOI2020/11918, has an identically titled part. This is available on WhatDoTheyKnow at the following link:
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/701820/response/1680348/attach/3/SOHB%201981%20Chapter%207.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1. I must advise however, that we cannot guarantee that the contents of the part, like the title, are identical.

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

JFD Secretariat