



Ref: FOI2023-048

[REDACTED]

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

*I would like to make a Freedom of Information request under the relevant legislation, pursuant to an earlier FOI, ref FOI2023-026.*

*In this release you listed 150 documents held at AWE. I would like to request a copy of the one titled: 'CAFO 81 - nuclear weapons trials parties - blood examinations'. It is dated 1/8/58.*

*I understand this will be an instruction of some sort, so should include no personal data or national security concerns that may trigger an exemption.*

*Please could you also provide, whether or not the above file is released, what CAFO stands for.*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the requested information within the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has now been completed, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held, and we are able to attach a redacted copy attached.

Under Section 16 Advice and Assistance, it might be useful to note that the document has been redacted to remove the original classification.

In your last point, you enquired about the acronym CAFO; AWE does not hold any information to be able to confirm, but we believe it to be 'Confidential Admiralty Fleet Order'.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to [information.requests@awe.co.uk](mailto:information.requests@awe.co.uk) or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team

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GS 2109/2/1  
W0028/006

(E4)

EXTRACT FROM C.A.F.O. ISSUE 17/58 dated 1st August, 1958.

C.A.F.O. 81 - NUCLEAR WEAPONS TRIALS PARTIES -  
BLOOD EXAMINATIONS.

(D.P.S. 174/57/M; T.P.S. 46/58 - 1 Aug. 1958)

All Naval personnel appointed or drafted to parties carrying out tests of nuclear weapons and likely to be exposed to radiation, are to have a blood examination made BEFORE leaving the United Kingdom.

2. The reason for this is to provide a base line against which to assess the results of possible future blood examinations in the event of accidental exposure of personnel to radiation levels in excess of the maximal permissible dosages.

3. Commanding Officers of establishments and ships from which officers and men are drafted to the trials parties or ships are to ensure that these blood examinations are to be carried out at the nearest Naval hospital or sick quarters or other equivalent Service or civil establishment BEFORE they take up their new appointments. The reason for requesting the examination should be given as "routine blood examination prior to joining nuclear-weapons trials party".

4. Each blood examination is to include a full erythrocyte count, haemoglobin estimation, leucocyte count and differential leucocyte count. A platelet count is not required.

5. This regulation applies to all personnel detailed for duties at Maralinga Range, South Australia, at Christmas Island and with ships attached to Grapple Squadron.

(C.A.F.O. 121/57 is cancelled) E.I.

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