

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2004

MR ANGUS ROBERTSON MP(MORAY) (SNP)

34

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the functions of the (a) Mk98 Mod 5 Fire Control System and (b) SLBM Retargeting System. (179692)

27

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when the Mk 98 Mod 5 Fire Control system for Trident is due to enter service; and if he will make a statement. (179685)

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the total cost of acquiring the (a) hardware and (b) software for (i) the MK98 Mod 5 Fire Control System and (ii) modifications to the Trident system under the SLBM Retargeting System was; and if he will make a statement. (179684)

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP

The Mk 98 Fire Control System is an important part of the equipment fitted on board a VANGUARD class submarine. It draws together all the information needed to calculate the flight data required by a Trident missile prior to launch. The MK98 MOD 2 Fire Control System was installed on the submarines at build. The MK98 MOD 5 programme was undertaken to update hardware to

overcome obsolescence and is now complete. Initial Operating Capability was achieved in September 2002 and all SSBNs had been modified by February 2003. The update programme, for hardware only, cost \$39.810M (including the costs of fitting) and \$6.987M for initial spares. Information on the costs of the related software modifications is not held separately from that relating to other software costs in this area. The UK has no requirement for a SLBM Retargeting System on Trident submarines, and has no plans to acquire that capability.

Monday 28 June 2004

PQ Ref Nos 3058P/3059P/3056P

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2004

MR ANGUS ROBERTSON MP(MORAY) (SNP)

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when the last transfer of nuclear material between the United States and the UK under the Mutual Defence Agreement took place; and if he will make a statement. (179691)

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP

The 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement makes provision for the transfer of special nuclear materials. Such transfers are in connection with nuclear warhead assurance and stockpile stewardship matters. I am withholding precise details of such transfers under Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Monday 28 June 2004

PQ Ref No 3061P

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2004

MR ANGUS ROBERTSON MP(MORAY) (SNP)

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how much his Department has spent per annum since 1993 on modifications to the shore-based target planning system for Trident; and if he will make a statement on the functions of these modifications. (179686)

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP

The shore-based target planning system for Trident has not changed significantly since 1993. The purpose of the modifications has been to update hardware and operating system software in accordance with good industry practice. In broad terms we spend around £250,000 per year (at current prices) on hardware updates, although this did peak at £584,000 in Financial Year 2001-02 when a more significant investment was made.

Monday 28 June 2004

PQ Ref No 3062P

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2004

MR ANGUS ROBERTSON MP(MORAY) (SNP)

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans his Department has drawn up for the use of satellites for EHF communications with Trident nuclear submarines; which satellites his Department plans to use for EHF communications with Trident nuclear submarines; and if he will make a statement on his Department's assessment of the importance of EHF communications with Trident nuclear submarines. (179687)

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP

Maintaining the effectiveness of Trident submarine communications is vital and these are kept under constant review to ensure that they support national deterrent policy.

Trident submarines use, and will continue to use, as many different systems as is required to assure reliable communications.

EHF is one of many technical solutions. It will continue to be considered as one choice available for submarine communications capability.