

Mr. Mike Hancock (Portsmouth, South) (LD): At the beginning of the Secretary of State's speech, he made the point that, in his opinion, al-Qaeda was no longer a threat in Afghanistan and had been beaten. Where is the evidence to support that statement, and is al-Qaeda not part of the problem in Pakistan as well?

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the UK-based companies with potential to benefit from contracts if the Airbus Military Company's A400M proposals are accepted by his Department; and if he will estimate how many jobs the project would create in the United Kingdom. [104420]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which UK-based companies will be contributing towards development of the Raytheon ASTOR system. [104408]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long he expects the new Raytheon ASTOR system to be in service with the RAF. [104400]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects (a) the final delivery of the Raytheon ASTOR system to be made to the RAF and (b) the system to be in service. [104401]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the cost of the Hagglands BV206 vehicles being delivered to the Royal Marines. [106151]

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if the US authorities have determined the cause of the incident involving a US Army Chinook helicopter on 11th April 1997; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the occasions in the last 15 years when a service aircraft crashed because of an uncommanded flight manoeuvre without pilot error.

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Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on what occasions the findings of gross negligence against the pilots of a Chinook helicopter which crashed on the Mull of Kintyre in 1994 have been reviewed; by whom; and if he will publish the findings of the review.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the software design and systems integration problems experienced from February to July 1994 as referred to in a note by the Assistant Director, Helicopter Projects on 11th January 1995.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment was able to read FADEC software without the use of automated tools prior to the crash of a Chinook helicopter on the Mull of Kintyre in June 1994.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what percentage of the FADEC software was rewritten, and when, prior to the Chinook Mk 2's release into service.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reasons the RMAS 'Arrochar', based in Portsmouth, is being disposed of.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the incidents involving electrical problems on Chinook helicopters between 1992 and 1996.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what guarantees his Department received from EDS-SCICON that it found the FADEC software on the Chinook Mk 2 to be satisfactory.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the occasions when his Department discounted pilot error as a cause of an aircraft crash which involved fatalities in the last 10 years.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what reports his Department has received from the United States Army about the FADEC-equipped Chinook which crashed in the US in March 1996.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what medium-term plans there are to give the EU military staff a planning capability for crisis-management operations; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether geographic limits will be set to politico-military action by the EU for crisis-management purposes; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which targets the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre did not meet in 1997-98; and what monitoring he has undertaken of those targets in 1998-99.

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the countries which had armed forces involved in the NATO joint exercise in South Africa carried out between 1st April 1997 and 31st March 1998

