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December 2015

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This report covers military Search and Rescue (SAR) activities for December 2015. The report includes the number of incidents (the number of emergencies that military SAR units have responded to), the number of callouts (the number of units attending an incident) and the number of persons moved.

This report covers the last UK military helicopter SAR activity, as SAR has now transferred to a single civilian contract managed by the Department for Transport. This is therefore the final publication of Military Search and Rescue Monthly Statistics.

Coverage

United Kingdom, Cyprus, Falkland Islands

Key Points and Trends

- In 2015, SAR helicopter activities by UK bases ceased as part of the phased transition to a single civilian contract managed by the Department for Transport (DfT). The first bases stopped activity at the end of March 2015 with the final bases halting SAR activity at the end of December 2015.
- During December 2015 there were 58 incidents, resulting in 60 callouts and 48 persons moved. There were 54 land and 6 coastal callouts.
- Mountain Rescue Teams responded to 6 callouts during December 2015, requiring a total of 708 man hours.

Further Information

Defence Economics welcomes feedback on statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this Statistical Bulletin or about our statistics in general, you can contact us at:

- Phone Defence Economics (Price Indices) 030 679 32100.
- Email defstrat-stat-enquiries-mailbox@mod.uk

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you can submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence via the following link:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/ContactUs/FreedomOfInformationInformationRequest.htm>

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice continue to be observed.

Other contact points within Defence Economics and Defence Statistics are:

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Health Information	030 679 84423	DefStrat-Stat-Health-Hd@mod.uk

What is included in this report?

This report covers military Search and Rescue (SAR) activities for December 2015. It includes details of the activities of UK military SAR helicopters, RAF SAR helicopters operating in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands and military Mountain Rescue Teams. It also provides a summary of Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) helicopter callouts. Additionally, military SAR reports are produced on an annual basis and have previously been published on a quarterly basis. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-search-and-rescue-annual-statistics-index>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-search-and-rescue-quarterly-statistics-index>

The report includes counts of the number of incidents, callouts and persons moved in the previous month.

Incidents are emergencies attended by Royal Navy (RN) or Royal Air Force (RAF) units whose primary task is SAR, plus other military aircraft and ships that are available to the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC).

Each SAR unit attending an incident is described as a callout. An incident may result in one or more callouts.

Persons moved figures include people who are moved from a hostile environment to a safe environment, or to a medical facility to receive urgent medical attention. They also include individuals moved between medical facilities at the request of the NHS.

The data source for this report is a weekly download from the ARCC database. Every incident recorded by the ARCC is included in these tables. Incident data for Cyprus and the Falklands is provided by ARCC Kinloss but checked directly with the overseas units to ensure that there are no missing records. All data is validated and checked by Defence Economics on receipt. Further details are available in the SAR Background Quality Report. This also includes details of internal and external users of the reports, including a summary of their requirements and how well Defence Economics' reports meet these requirements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/military-search-and-rescue-annual-background-quality-report>

Following a public consultation in February and March 2015, we have made some changes to the content and format of this report. For details please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-cessation-of-military-search-and-rescue-statistics>

Introduction

Military Search and Rescue

The military SAR service exists primarily to assist military personnel in difficulty, but the majority of its work involves assisting civilians in distress, both on land and at sea. SAR coverage for the United Kingdom and a large area of the surrounding sea is provided 24 hours a day and 365 days a year by the RAF and the Royal Navy.

UK Helicopters

The UK military SAR aeronautical coverage consisted of RAF and Royal Navy SAR Sea King helicopters operating from around the UK, and was coordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) based at Kinloss Barracks. All Eight SAR units operating at the beginning of 2015 have now closed; RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015, RAF Chivenor during October 2015 and RNAS Culdrose and HMS Gannet at the end of December 2015.

The military SAR force operated 24 hours a day. It provided coverage throughout the UK, and also covered an area extending from the Faroe Islands in the north, the English Channel in the south, about half way across the North Sea to the east and halfway across the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

Mountain Rescue Teams

The RAF has three Mountain Rescue Teams (MRT) based at RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leeming and RAF Valley. The MRT units provide land rescues, primarily over the mountain regions of the UK. Military MRT units are coordinated by the ARCC, and often work in conjunction with helicopter units.

Overseas Helicopters

A SAR service is also provided by two overseas bases, at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

Further information on the UK's military SAR coverage is available at:

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafsearchandrescue/>

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Operations/Enduring-Operations/UK/Search-and-Rescue>

Other Search and Rescue

In addition to the RAF and Royal Navy, a number of non-military organisations provide SAR coverage throughout the UK. The activities of these non-military organisations are outside the scope of this report; however background information on some of the organisations involved is provided below.

Civilian Search and Rescue

From April 2015 the current mix of military and civilian search and rescue capacity will transition to a single civilian contract, managed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). By summer 2017 there will be 10 coastguard helicopter bases in operation around the UK. Statistics on the civilian search and rescue units are not included in this report.

The Department for Transport is responsible for producing official statistics on civilian search and rescue and has recently released experimental statistics and a user feedback survey here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/search-and-rescue-helicopter-statistics-april-to-september-2015>

In addition to its aeronautical coverage, the MCA provides maritime SAR coverage throughout the UK. Details of maritime SAR callouts are not included in this report. Further information is available at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue.htm>

RNLI

The RNLI is a charitable organisation providing 24 hour lifeboat SAR coverage around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, along with a seasonal lifeguard service.

<http://www.rnli.org.uk/>

Mountain Rescue Teams

A number of voluntary Mountain Rescue services operate throughout the UK. These often work in conjunction with the military SAR service. Details of non-military Mountain Rescue callouts are not included in this report. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/>

<http://www.mrcofs.org/>

Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance services operate throughout the UK, providing emergency medical assistance. Further information is available at:

<http://www.associationofairambulances.co.uk/>

UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary

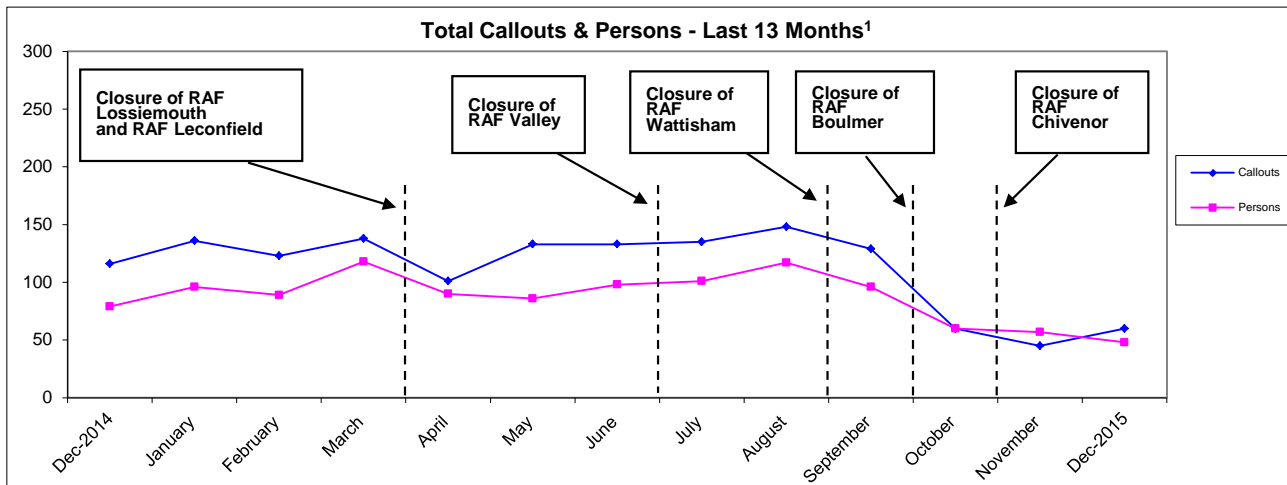
Current Month¹

2015	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team	Incidents	Persons Moved
December	60	50	4	6	58	48

Previous 12 Months

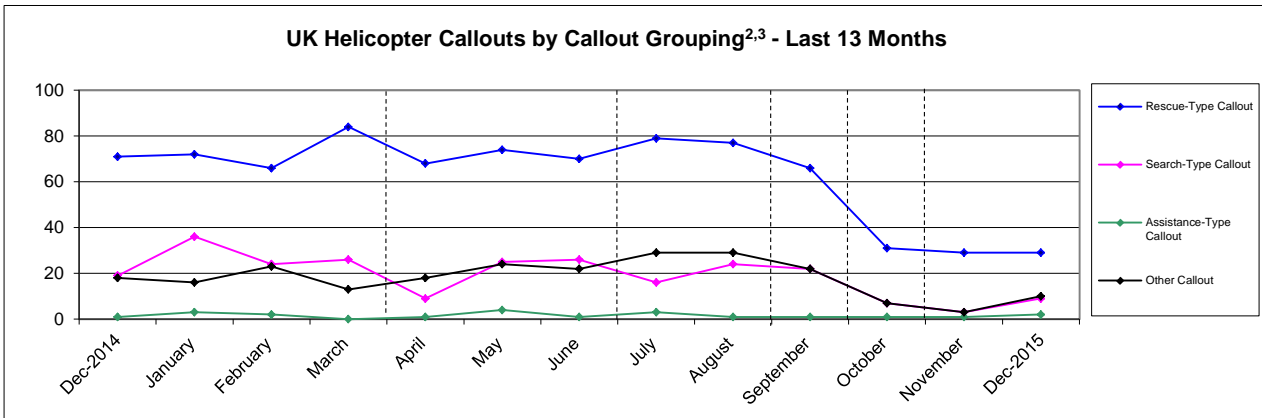
Month	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team	Incidents	Persons Moved
November	45	36	5	4	44	57
October	60	46	3	11	57	60
September	129	111	7	11	124	96
August	148	131	6	11	147	117
July	135	127	5	3	134	101
June	133	119	8	6	127	98
May	133	127	1	5	130	86
April	101	96	1	4	99	90
March	138	123	8	7	130	118
February	123	115	4	4	120	89
January	136	127	3	6	128	96
December	116	109	4	3	113	79

	ARCC Kinloss	RCC Cyprus	RCC Falklands	Total
Callouts	56	-	4	60
Incidents	54	-	4	58
Persons	44	-	4	48



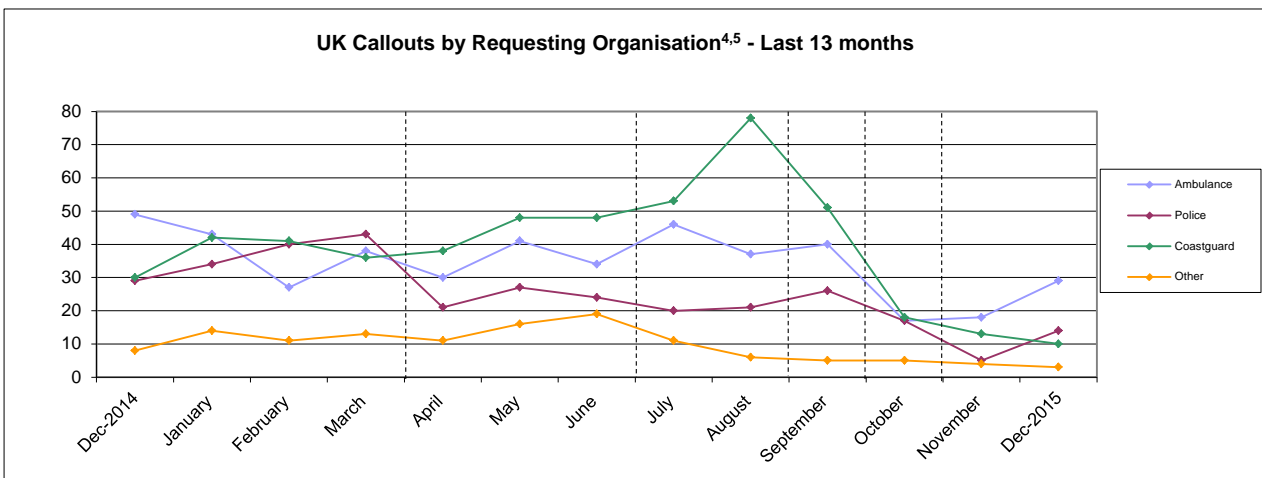
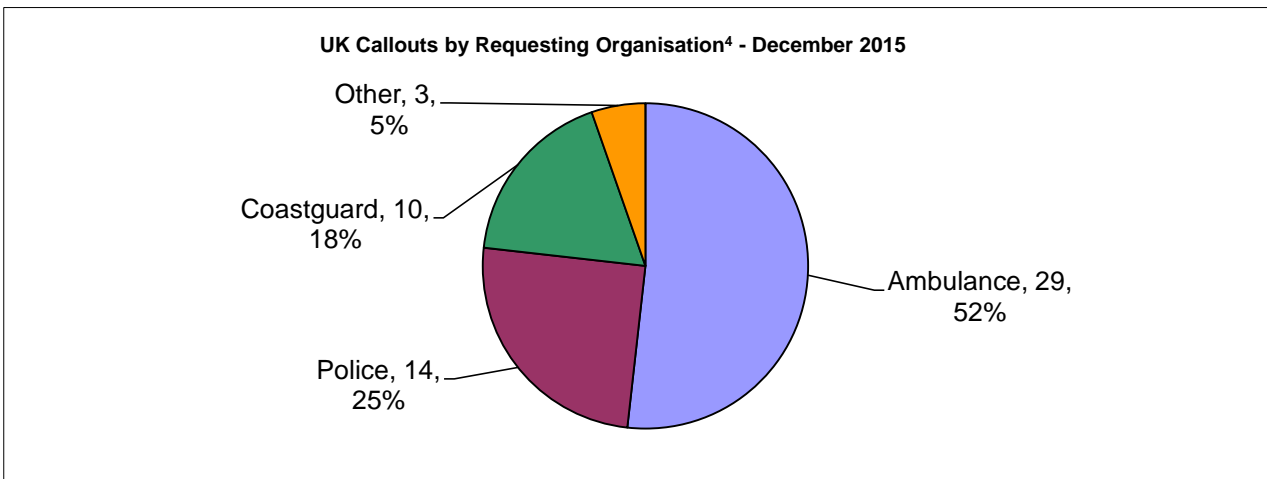
1. Six SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015 and RAF Chivenor during October 2015.

UK Search And Rescue Summary



2. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 9.

3. Six SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015 and RAF Chivenor during October 2015.

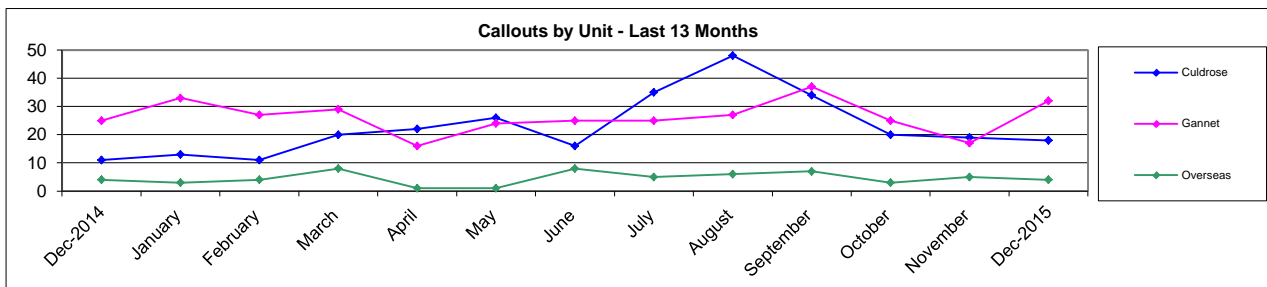
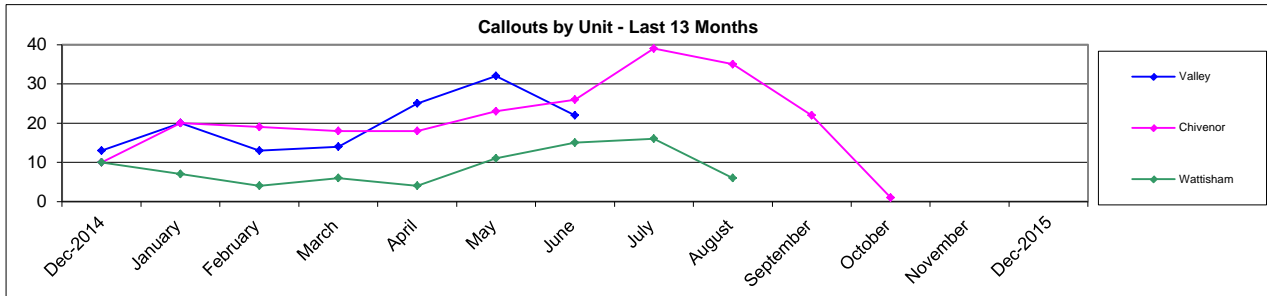
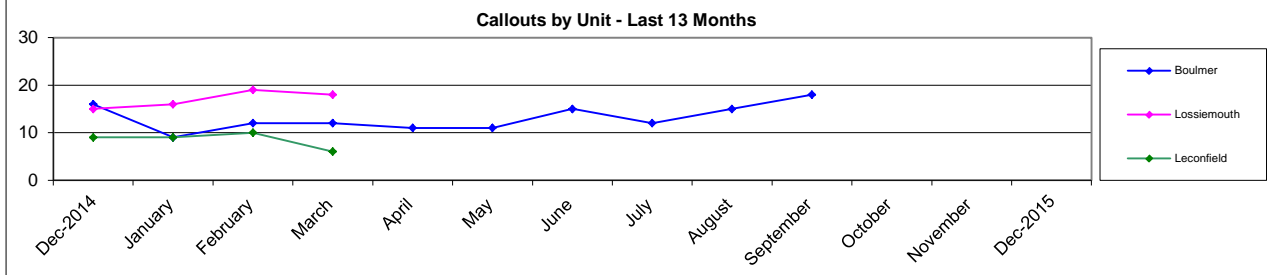


4. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

5. Six SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015 and RAF Chivenor during October 2015.

Callouts - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	15	-	15	-	3	3
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	12	-	12	-	1	1
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	-	5	-	-	-
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recalled	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	7	-	7	-	-	-
Not Required	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total Callouts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	32	50	-	50	-	4	4



Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Callouts by Location⁶

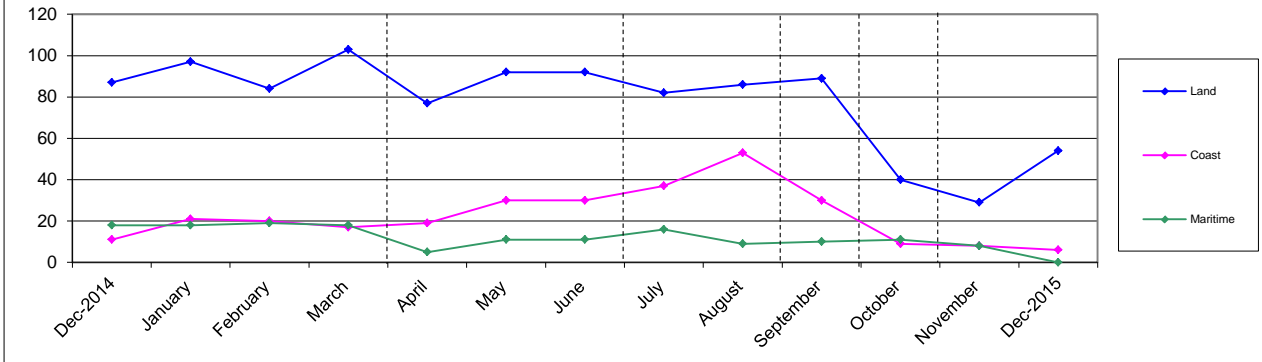
	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	2	-	-	2
Search-Rescue	1	-	-	1
Medrescue	18	-	-	18
Search-Medrescue	-	1	-	1
Medtransfer	13	-	-	13
Recovery	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	1	-	1
Transfer	-	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-
Search	5	2	-	7
Top Cover	-	-	-	-
Assist	2	-	-	2
Search-Assist	2	-	-	2
Recalled	8	1	-	9
Not Required	2	-	-	2
False Alarm	-	1	-	1
Hoax	-	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	1	-	-	1
Total Callouts	54	6	-	60

Callouts by Category⁶

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	18
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Search-Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Recalled	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Not Required	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total Callouts	-	-	-	-	1	-	59	-	60

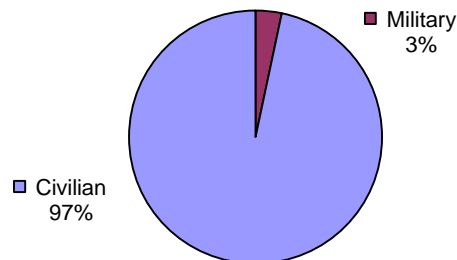
6. Five SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015 and RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015.

Callouts by Location⁷ - Last 13 Months



7. Six SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015 and RAF Chivenor during October 2015.

UK & Overseas Callouts by Civilian or Military - December 2015



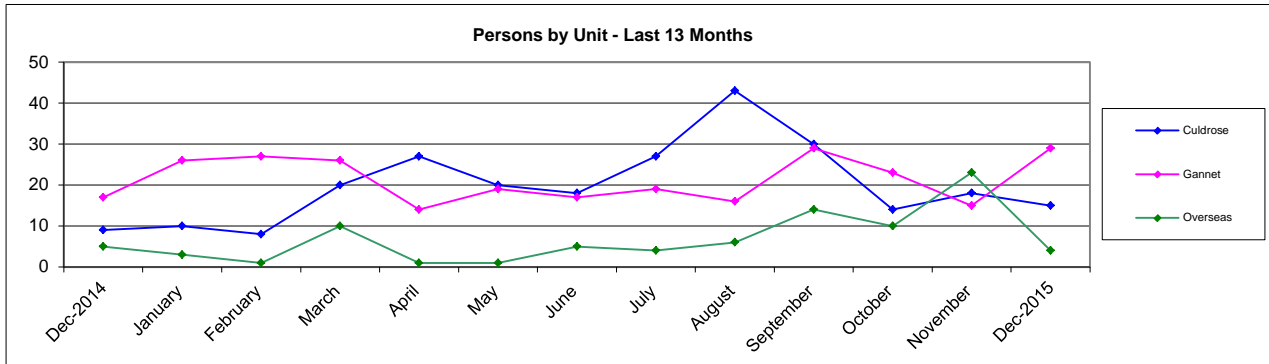
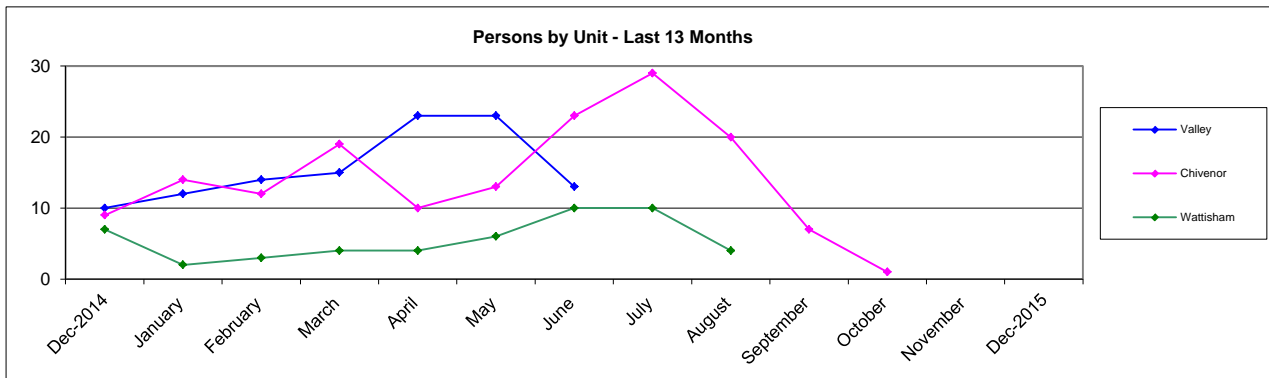
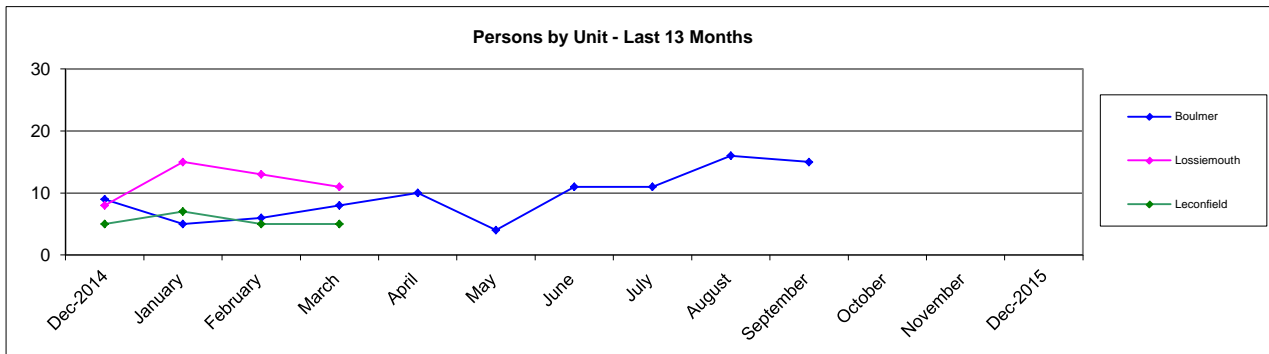
Callouts - Search and Rescue Summary

UK Callouts, December 2015



Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue							-	1	11	12	-	12	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Medrescue	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	-	7	8	15	-	15	-	3	3
Search-Medrescue	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
Medtransfer	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	Unit closed	-	6	7	13	-	13	-	1	1
Recovery	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Transfer	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	29	44	-	44	-	4	4



Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

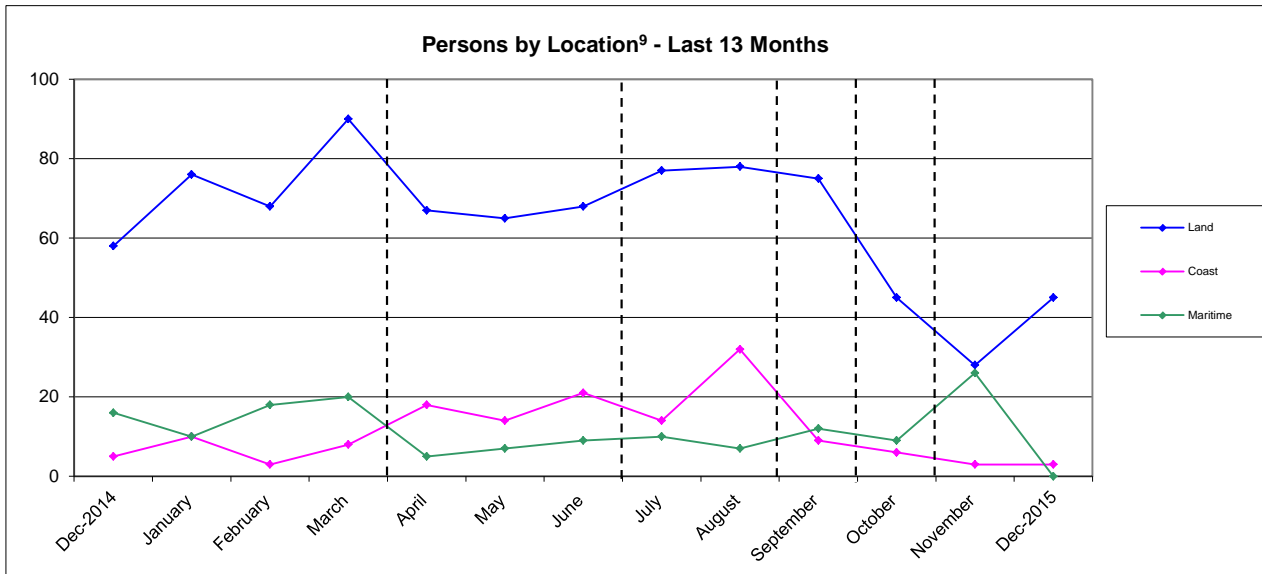
Persons by Callout Location⁸

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	12	-	-	12
Search-Rescue	1	-	-	1
Medrescue	18	-	-	18
Search-Medrescue	-	2	-	2
Medtransfer	14	-	-	14
Recovery	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	1	-	1
Transfer	-	-	-	-
Total Persons	45	3	-	48

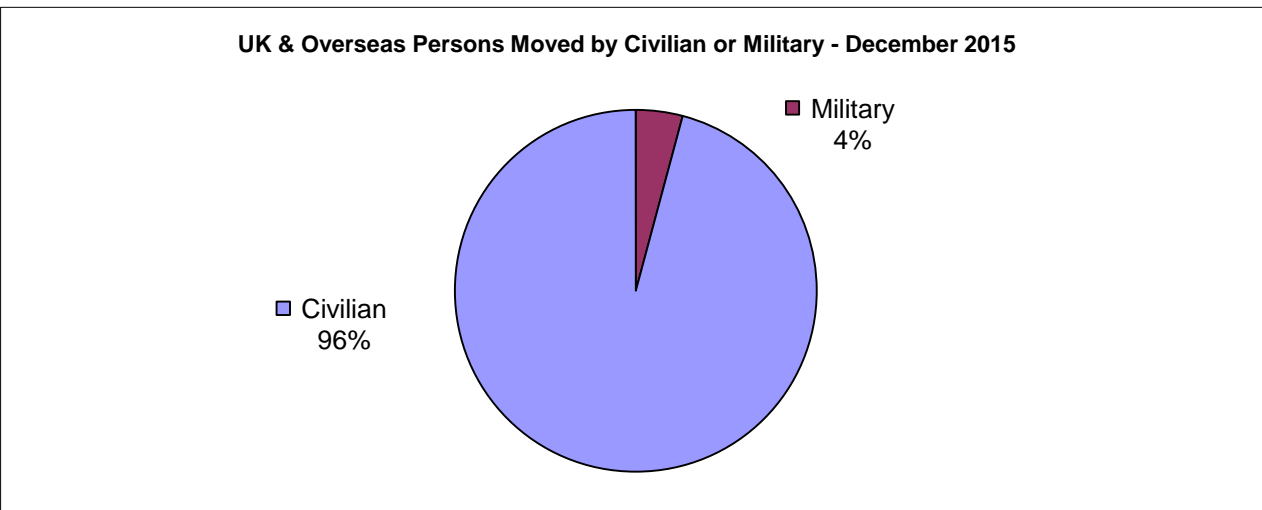
Persons by Callout Category⁸

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Medrescue	-	-	-	-	18	-	18
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Persons	-	-	-	-	48	-	48

8. Six SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015 and RAF Chivenor during October 2015.



9. Six SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015 and RAF Chivenor during October 2015.



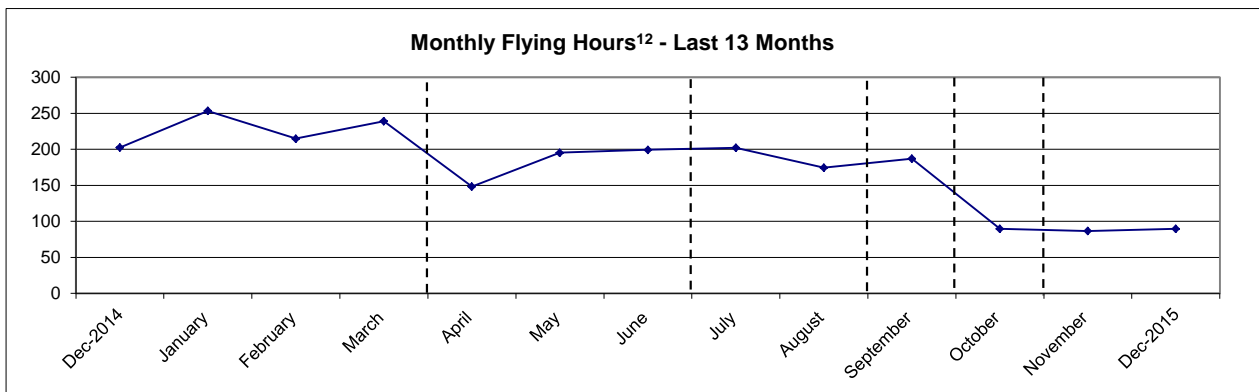
SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

SAR Flying Hours¹⁰

	Total Flying Hours	Average Flying Hours	Average Time to Casualty ¹¹	Average Distance from base (nm)
RAF Boulmer	----- Unit closed -----			
RAF Lossiemouth	----- Unit closed -----			
RAF Leconfield	----- Unit closed -----			
RAF Valley	----- Unit closed -----			
RAF Chivenor	----- Unit closed -----			
RAF Wattisham	----- Unit closed -----			
RNAS Culdrose	21.36	1.12	0.22	38.17
HMS Gannet	63.00	1.58	0.34	61.63
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-	-
Falklands	5.00	1.15	0.26	43.50
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
	89.36	1.40	0.30	52.46

10. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

11. Time to casualty is the time from departure from base to arrival at incident.



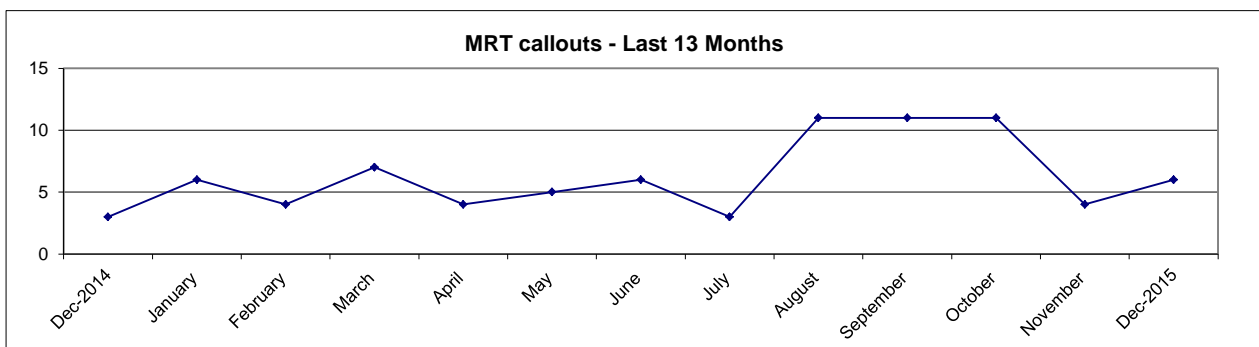
12. Six SAR units have closed: RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leconfield at the end of March 2015, RAF Valley at the end of June 2015, RAF Wattisham during August 2015, RAF Boulmer at the end of September 2015 and RAF Chivenor during October 2015.

Mountain Rescue Teams

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours ¹³
Lossiemouth ¹⁴	1	-	488
Leeming	3	-	151
Valley	2	-	69
Total	6	-	708

13. Man hours are rounded to the nearest whole hour.

14. Formerly MRT Kinloss.



SEARCH AND RESCUE DEFINITIONS

		GROUPING
RESCUE	Transfer of distressed uninjured person(s) from a hostile to a benign environment.	Rescue-Type
MEDRESCUE	Transfer of sick or injured persons(s) from a hostile environment to a recognised medical facility (eg, hospital or chamber).	Rescue-Type
TRANSFER	Transfer of military personnel, or their families, on compassionate grounds.	Rescue-Type
MEDTRANSFER	Transfer of patients or organs between medical establishments at the request of a recognised Medical Authority, i.e. NHS Trust, Hospital or Ambulance Authority.	Rescue-Type
RECOVERY	Recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Rescue-Type
SEARCH	Search for craft, person(s), etc which does not result in moving a person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of an uninjured person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – MEDRESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of a sick/injured casualty.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ASSIST	Search for craft, person(s), etc involving assistance to other SAR assets.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RECOVERY	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ABORT	Search for craft, person(s), etc during which callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Search-Type
TOP-COVER	On-scene assistance, e.g. communications relay, target identification, vectoring to target etc. for another rescue asset, or as cover for person(s) or vessel(s) in distress that does not result in further intervention.	Assistance-Type
PRECAUTION	Pre-positioning of a SAR helicopter to provide faster response to an anticipated or potential incident, eg, in response to an aircraft declaring a “MAYDAY” or a potential incident on a offshore installation.	Assistance-Type
ASSIST	Assistance to other SAR assets etc, such as moving SAR personnel or equipment (eg, mountain rescue teams, divers, pumps), shepherding of aircraft etc.	Assistance-Type
CIVIL AID	Military Aid to the Civil Community (eg fire control).	Assistance-Type
RECALLED	Asset recalled from incident whilst en route.	Other
NOT REQUIRED	Asset arrived on scene but no action required.	Other
ABORT	Callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Other
FALSE ALARM	Unnecessary callout with good intent.	Other
HOAX	Unnecessary callout with malicious intent	Other