



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Thank you for your email dated 26 January 2015 requesting the following information:

"Please disclose the number of accidental firearms discharges in the UK in 2014 which led to an injury/injuries;

** Please provide a breakdown showing date and location of each incident;*

** Please disclose which ended in fatalities."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is enclosed.

Section 40(2) has been applied to the information presented in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with the Defence Statistics' rounding policy, in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Deaths

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 there were **no** deaths to UK Armed Forces personnel as a result of accidental firearm discharges.

Injuries

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 there were **eight** injuries to UK Armed Forces personnel as a result of accidental firearm discharges. Due to the small number of injuries reported as a result of accidental firearm discharges, the information you have requested on date of incident has not been provided. This is to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of individual identities, under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act detailed above.

Table 1 presents a breakdown of reported injuries as a result of accidental firearm discharges between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014, by location.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel, reported injuries due to accidental firearms discharge, by location, 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014, numbers.

Location	All
All	8
Bassingbourn	~
Bastion	~
Batus	~
HMS Bulwark	~
Lympstone	~
Sennybridge	~
Unknown	~

A search was carried out on all reported incidents between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 using the keywords “rifle” “SA80” “Small Arms” “Weapon” “Shot Gun” “Machine Gun” “Negligent” and “ND” across all extracts. Defence Statistics (Health) has visually validated and checked all search returns and excluded all duplicate records and any incidents that did not relate directly to accidental firearms discharge injuries.

Background notes

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department’s authoritative deaths database for all **UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service** going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles Health and Safety statistics on behalf of Defence Safety and Environment Authority Corporate Policy and Assurance (DSEA-CPA). An Official Statistic publication ‘MOD Health and Safety Statistics Annual Report’ is released each year providing the validated numbers on major and serious injuries and is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-health-and-safety-statistics-index>.

The Top Level Budget (TLB) Incident Notification Cells maintain local databases of reported incidents. Since 2005 Service personnel and civilians report incidents to notification cells (the AINC, DINC, CINC and NSINC) with the exception of the RAF who have continued to report via their SHEF advisors on each of their sites. IRIS was introduced in December 2007 to enable the MOD to monitor and analyse accident trends in all areas of the Department and ensure compliance with current health and safety legislation.

The data presented here is compiled from a number of extracts:

- Incident Recording Information System (IRIS) data is as at 29 June 2012 (system switched off)
- Army Incident Notification Cell (AINC) data is as at 5 January 2015
- Accident and Incident Recording System (AIRS) data is as at 2 January 2015
- Defence Equipment & Support Incident Notification Cell (DINC) data is as at 5 January 2015
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIOINC) data is as at 6 January 2015
- Joint Forces Command (JFC) data is as at 7 January 2015
- Head Office and Corporate Services (HOCS) data is as at 2 January 2015
- Naval Service Incident Notification Cell (NSINC) data is as at 5 January 2015

The tables in this report have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with Defence Statistics rounding policy (May 2009), in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers fewer than five have been suppressed and presented as ‘~’. Where there is only one number in a row or column that is fewer than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering Deaths and Health and Safety in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)