

**TSP 7**

**ANNUAL PUBLICATION**



**UK RESERVE FORCES STRENGTHS  
AT  
1 APRIL 2010**



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**Revised 22 September 2010:**

Revisions were made to Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5. Details of the reasons for these revisions can be found in the footnotes of the relevant tables.

Originally published 10 June 2010.

Lisa Eyers  
DASA (Quad-Service)  
Ministry of Defence  
Floor 3, Zone K  
Main Building, Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Tel: **020-7218-4050**  
Fax: **020-7218-0969**  
Mil: **9621 84050**  
E-mail: [quadservice@dasa.mod.uk](mailto:quadservice@dasa.mod.uk)  
Web site: [www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk)

**DASA**

## Contents

Page:

	Introduction, Key Points, Sources and Data Quality Notes	1
<b>Strengths</b>		
Table 1	Strengths of all Services Reserves	3
Table 2	Strengths of Naval Service Reserves	4
Table 3	Strengths of Army Reserves	5
Table 4	Strengths of Royal Air Force Reserves	6
<b>Relative Strengths</b>		
Table 5	Relative Strength of Reserve Forces by Type	7
<b>Historical Strengths</b>		
Graph 1	Strength of Volunteer Reserves by Service 1990 – 2010	8

**Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, Naval Service Reserves data for 2008 onwards have been obtained from an alternative source. Army Reserves data for 2008 onwards and RAF Reserves data from 2007 onwards are provisional and subject to review.**

Due to the rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

p denotes provisional

r denotes revised

.. denotes not available

\* denotes not applicable

- denotes zero or rounded to zero

## **Introduction**

This is an annual publication containing information on the strength of UK Reserve Forces, including Regular and Volunteer Reserves, broken down by Service. It uses data from the Ministry of Defence Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) and single Service systems.

The tables provide information about the patterns of change in the composition of the UK's Reserve Forces for the three most recent years. Historic 5-year, 10-year, and 20 year figures are also presented to provide context.

## **Key Points**

- The strength of the UK Volunteer Reserve forces was 39,420 at 1 April 2010, a decrease of 2,110 on 1 April 2009.
- The strength of the Naval Service Volunteer Reserve, comprising the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marine Reserve, and University Units, was 3,590 at 1 April 2010, a decrease of 40 on 1 April 2009.
- The strength of the Army Volunteer Reserve, including University Units was 33,130 at 1 April 2010, a decrease of 2,190 on 1 April 2009.
- The strength of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, including University Units was 2,700, an increase of 130 on 1 April 2008.

## **Background**

The overall strength of the Reserve Forces has been steadily decreasing since 1990, across all three Services. The Volunteer Reserves strength overall and in the Naval Service and Army has also decreased. However, the Volunteer Reserves strength in the RAF has increased.

## **Key Changes in 2010**

In accordance with an agreement made between DASA and the UK Statistics Authority, from 2010, Cadets strengths are no longer published. This enables DASA to publish Reserve Forces data alongside DASA's other annual Tri-Service publications. Cadets data can be found in DASA's UK Defence Statistics publication, which is due to be published on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## **Sources and Data Quality Notes**

### **Regular Reserve**

Data on Naval Service Regular Reservists at 1 April 2007, 2009 and 2010, Army Regular Reservists, and Royal Air Force Individuals Liable to Recall at 1 April 2008, 2009 and 2010 are not included in this publication. Tri-Service Regular Reserve data were not migrated across from legacy systems onto the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, and any data subsequent to its introduction have been sourced from the single Services where available. The absence of Naval Service Regular Reserve data in 2006 and 2007 was caused by the disestablishment of the secretariat responsible for the compilation of Naval Service Reserve data. In 2008, data were compiled by a reorganised secretariat, however concerns over the quality of the source data prohibited publication of the 2009 and 2010 Naval Service Regular Reserve data.

Due to discontinuity in time series data, no graphs for Regular Reserve data are presented.

## **Volunteer Reserve**

Volunteer Reserve data appear on the JPA system, however there are known issues with the quality of the data. Naval Service Volunteer Reserve data at 1 April 2008 onwards were therefore sourced directly from the Naval Service. Army and Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve data for 2008 onwards were sourced from JPA, however validation is ongoing and as such the figures presented here are provisional.

DASA have initiated a major review of all historic JPA data and aim to revise provisional data (if necessary) during the course of 2010. No further data will be finalised until then. Revisions to strength figures are likely to be small. In addition, the Ministry of Defence is undertaking to improve the quality of Army Reserves data, with a view to correcting the recording of Contract Types and Assignment Types as referred to in Table 3, footnote 4.

DASA welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about DASA statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

Telephone Lisa Eyers on 020 7218 4050

Email: [DASA-enquiries-mailbox@mod.uk](mailto:DASA-enquiries-mailbox@mod.uk)

Complete the feedback form on our website.

**Table 1 - Strengths of All Services Reserves<sup>1</sup>**

1 April 2010

Number

	All Services	Naval Service	Army	Royal Air Force
<b>Total Reserves</b>	..	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	..	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserve Forces</b>	..	..	..	5,420 <sup>P</sup>
Male Officers	..	..	..	250 <sup>P</sup>
Female Officers	..	..	..	60 <sup>P</sup>
Male Other Ranks	..	..	..	4,280 <sup>P</sup>
Female Other Ranks	..	..	..	830 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Individuals liable to Recall</b>	..	..	..	..
Male Officers	..	*	..	..
Female Officers	..	*	..	..
Male Other Ranks	..	..	..	..
Female Other Ranks	..	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves</b>	39,420 <sup>P</sup>	3,590	33,130 <sup>P</sup>	2,700 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Volunteer Reserve (excluding University Units)</b>	33,390 <sup>P</sup>	2,930	28,960 <sup>P</sup>	1,500 <sup>P</sup>
Male Officers	4,780 <sup>P</sup>	740	3,900 <sup>P</sup>	130 <sup>P</sup>
Female Officers	1,090 <sup>P</sup>	160	900 <sup>P</sup>	20 <sup>P</sup>
Male Other Ranks	23,980 <sup>P</sup>	1,740	21,110 <sup>P</sup>	1,130 <sup>P</sup>
Female Other Ranks	3,550 <sup>P</sup>	290	3,040 <sup>P</sup>	220 <sup>P</sup>
<b>University Units</b>	6,000 <sup>P</sup>	660	4,140 <sup>P</sup>	1,200 <sup>P</sup>
Male	4,180 <sup>P</sup>	370	3,020 <sup>P</sup>	780 <sup>P</sup>
Female	1,820 <sup>P</sup>	290	1,120 <sup>P</sup>	420 <sup>P</sup>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

<sup>1</sup> Includes trained and untrained personnel. Includes Mobilised/Activated reservists but excludes personnel serving in an FTRS role. For more information see tables 2-4.



**Table 2 - Strengths of Naval Service Reserves**

1 April

Number

	1990	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
<b>Total Reserves - Naval Service<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>34,210</b>	<b>28,980</b>	<b>26,550</b>	<b>23,150</b>	..	..
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	<b>27,180</b>	<b>24,160</b>	<b>22,180</b>	<b>19,560</b>	..	..
<b>Royal Fleet Reserve</b>	<b>13,630</b>	<b>10,150</b>	<b>10,530</b>	<b>8,010</b>	..	..
Officers	6,780	5,920	5,700	4,080	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	-	-	10	-
Other Ranks	6,850	4,230	4,830	3,930	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Recall Reserve</b>	<b>13,550</b>	<b>14,010</b>	<b>11,650</b>	<b>11,560</b>	..	..
Officers	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Ranks	13,550	14,010	11,650	11,560	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>7,020</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3,590</b>
<b>RNR and RMR (excl URNU)</b>	<b>7,020</b>	<b>4,080</b>	<b>3,610</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>2,970</b>	<b>2,930</b>
Officers	2,260	1,050	1,100	920	930	900
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	-	30	50	40
Other Ranks	4,770	3,030	2,520	1,960	2,040	2,030
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	10	150	170	110
<b>University Royal Naval Units<sup>1</sup></b>	..	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>660</b>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

RNR = Royal Navy Reserve; RMR = Royal Marine Reserve

<sup>1</sup> University Royal Naval Unit data are only available from 1997. Totals before 1997 do not include URNU.

**Table 3 - Strengths of Army Reserves<sup>1</sup>**

1 April

Number

	1990	2000	2005	2008 <sup>2</sup>	2009 <sup>3</sup>	2010 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total Reserves - Army</b>	<b>265,330</b>	<b>221,130</b>	<b>171,440</b>	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	<b>183,450</b>	<b>175,530</b>	<b>134,190</b>	..	..	..
<b>Army Reserve</b>	<b>65,750</b>	<b>34,530</b>	<b>31,420</b>	..	..	..
Officers <sup>4</sup>	10,600	9,980	9,050	..	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	30 <sup>r</sup>	20	-	-	-
Other Ranks	55,150	24,550	22,370	..	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	290 <sup>r</sup>	150	40	30	30
<b>Individuals liable to Recall<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>117,700</b>	<b>141,000</b>	<b>102,760</b>	..	..	..
Officers	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Ranks	117,700	141,000	102,760	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves Total</b>	<b>81,880</b>	<b>45,610</b>	<b>37,260</b>	<b>35,020<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>35,320<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>33,130<sup>P</sup></b>
<b>Volunteer Reserves<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>80,940</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>31,410</b>	..	<b>28,730<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>27,410<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	8,320	5,890	5,550	..	4,350 <sup>P</sup>	4,250 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	120 <sup>r</sup>	260	200 <sup>P</sup>	230 <sup>P</sup>	210 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	72,610	33,610	25,860	..	24,380 <sup>P</sup>	23,160 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	640 <sup>r</sup>	1,200	1,160 <sup>P</sup>	1,190 <sup>P</sup>	1,170 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS)</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,080</b>	..	<b>1,590<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,550<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	390	430	210	..	570 <sup>P</sup>	550 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	550	960	870	..	1,020 <sup>P</sup>	1,000 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Officer Training Corps (excl. NRPS)</b>	..	<b>4,710</b>	<b>4,760</b>	..	<b>4,980<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>4,140<sup>P</sup></b>
Group A	..	160	50	..	..	..
Group B	..	4,550	4,720	..	4,980 <sup>P</sup>	4,140 <sup>P</sup>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

1 Officer figures from April 1998 to April 2004 are provisional estimates which include FTRS personnel.

2 2008 Army Reserves data are as at 1 June.

3 Since the introduction of the Joint Personnel System, there have been inconsistencies within TA personnel records and the subcategories are estimated using the information available. This has meant that a number of Cadet Force Adult Volunteer personnel are recorded as having an Assignment Type of Volunteer Reserve (20 in 2009 and 31 in 2010). These personnel are included in the Volunteer Reserve total but are not included within the individual sub-populations. The MOD is undertaking work to rectify this anomaly; see commentary for more details.

4 Excludes RARO V.

5 Comprises the Army Long Term Reserve and Army Pensioners.

6 Comprises Territorial Army, Ulster Defence Regiment (before 1993) and Home Service Force (1983 to 1993 inclusive).

The UDR merged with the Royal Irish Rangers on 1 July 1992 and became the Home Service element of the Royal Irish Regiment. Volunteer Reserve figures before 1989 include OTC and NRPS, before 1995 include OTC, and from 1998 exclude NRPS and OTC.

r Due to a processing error, these figures originally appeared in this publication as 'not available'

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, all Army Reserves data from 2008 onwards are provisional and subject to review.



**Table 4 - Strengths of Royal Air Force Reserves**

1 April

	Number					
	1990	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
<b>Total Reserves - Royal Air Force</b>	<b>41,860</b>	<b>44,660</b>	<b>37,600</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	<b>40,140</b>	<b>41,930</b>	<b>35,160</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Air Force Reserve</b>	<b>10,090</b>	<b>14,330</b>	<b>8,440</b>	<b>6,110<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>5,600<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>5,420<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	550	630	590	330 <sup>P</sup>	300 <sup>P</sup>	310 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	10	10	10 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	9,540	13,700	7,840	5,780 <sup>P</sup>	5,300 <sup>P</sup>	5,110 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	-	10	10 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Individuals liable to Recall<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>30,050</b>	<b>27,600</b>	<b>26,720</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Officers	8,440	8,610	8,030	..	..	..
Other Ranks	21,610	18,980	18,700	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>2,290<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>2,580<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>2,700<sup>P</sup></b>
<b>Royal Auxiliary Air Force<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,340<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,440<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,500<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	240	360	290	200 <sup>P</sup>	180 <sup>P</sup>	160 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	10 <sup>r</sup>	- <sup>r</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>	20 <sup>P</sup>	20 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	1,480	1,440	1,190	1,140 <sup>P</sup>	1,260 <sup>P</sup>	1,350 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	30 <sup>r</sup>	20 <sup>r</sup>	90 <sup>P</sup>	160 <sup>P</sup>	100 <sup>P</sup>
<b>University Air Squadrons (UAS)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>..</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>950<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,140<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,200<sup>P</sup></b>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

AWO = Adult Warrant Officer

1 Comprises Retired Officers and Airmen pensioners.

2 Includes RAF Volunteer Reserve which was subsumed into the Royal Auxiliary Air Force on 1 April 1997.

3 University Air Squadron data are only available from 1994. Totals before 1994 do not include UAS.

<sup>r</sup> Due to a processing error, these figures originally appeared in this publication as 'not available'

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, all RAF Reserves data from 2008 onwards are provisional and subject to review.





**Table 5 - Relative Strength of Reserve Forces by Type**

1 April

Index for 1990 = 100

	1990	2000	2005	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2010
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Naval Service	100	83	75	66	..	..
Army <sup>2</sup>	100	86	67	.. <sup>r</sup>	..	..
Royal Air Force	100	104	88	.. <sup>r</sup>	..	..
<b>Regular Reserve Forces</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Naval Service	100	74	77	59	..	..
Army <sup>2</sup>	100	53	48	..	..	..
Royal Air Force	100	142	84	61	55 <sup>P</sup>	54 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Individuals liable to Recall</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Naval Service	100	103	86	85	..	..
Army <sup>2</sup>	100	120	87	..	..	..
Royal Air Force	100	92	89	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>46<sup>P</sup></b>
Naval Service <sup>3</sup>	100	58	51	41	42	42
Army <sup>2,4</sup>	100	63	51	48	49 <sup>P</sup>	46 <sup>P</sup>
Royal Air Force <sup>5</sup>	100	104	86	78	84 <sup>P</sup>	87 <sup>P</sup>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

1 2008 Army Reserves data are as at 1 June.

2 Army Officer figures from April 1998 to April 2004 are provisional estimates which include FTRS personnel.

3 University Royal Naval Units data are unavailable before 1997, so are excluded from all the above figures.

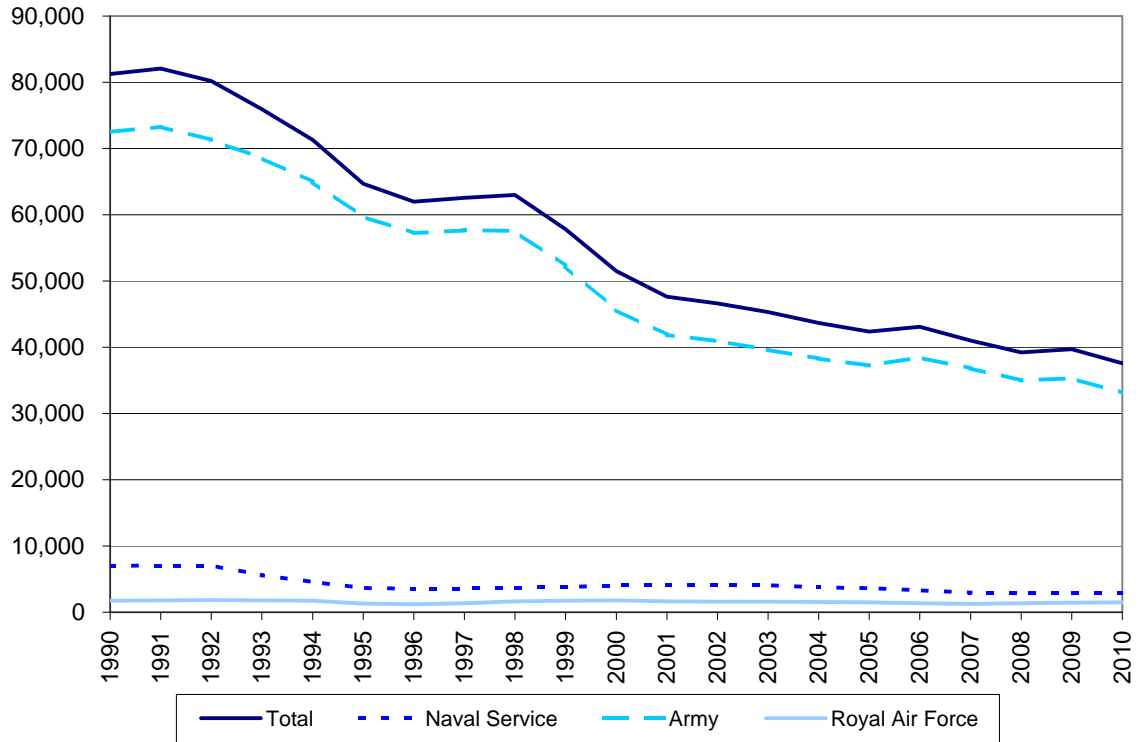
4 Includes Non-Regular Permanent Staff and the Officer Training Corps. Excludes the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), which merged with the Royal Irish Rangers on 1 July 1992.

5 University Air Squadron data are unavailable before 1994, so are excluded from all the above figures.

<sup>r</sup> Figures were originally published due to a processing error. Data underlying these indices were not available for 2008.



**Graph 1 - Strength of Volunteer Reserves by Service, 1990 - 2010**



Royal Air Force and Naval Service figures exclude University Units because data are only available for these units from 1994 and 1997 respectively.  
 The Ulster Defence Regiment and Home Service Force ceased to exist from 1993 and are excluded  
 2006 Naval Service data are unavailable and have been interpolated.

