



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: 11-10-2013-100150-006 [REDACTED]
11-10-2013-113822-009 [REDACTED]

Date: 1 November 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 10 October 2013 requesting the following information:

- a) The number of UK Armed Forces commissioned officers admitted to field hospital with combat wounds in Afghanistan since Operation Veritas in 2001 (i.e. on UK operations in Afghanistan since 2001)*
- b) The number of UK Armed Forces commissioned officers admitted to field hospital with combat wounds in Iraq during Operation Telic (2003-11)*
- c) The number of UK Armed Forces commissioned officers who died as a result of deployment to Iraq during Operation Telic (2003-11)*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Casualties

Defence Statistics use the term 'wounded' when the circumstances that resulted in the injury were the result of direct or indirect hostile action. The term 'injury' is a generic term which includes both battle and non-battle injuries. Therefore we have interpreted your question to relate to UK Service Personnel wounded as a result of direct or indirect hostile action on Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, which are classified as 'Battle Injuries'.

The UK Operational Field Hospital opened in Afghanistan in March 2006. UK Service Personnel injured before this point may have been treated at another coalition medical facility in Afghanistan, however this information is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

Between 1 March 2006 (date field hospital admissions data starts) and 30 September 2013 (latest casualty data available), **725** UK Armed Forces Officers have been admitted to a field hospital in Afghanistan and of these, **166** were admitted with Battle Injuries.

Between 1 January 2003 and 22 May 2011 (the end of operation TELIC), **831** UK Armed Forces Officers were admitted to a field hospital in Iraq. Of these, a minimum of **32** were admitted with Battle Injuries. Please see background notes for more information on why the number of Field Hospital admissions in Iraq should be treated as a minimum.

Deaths

Between 1 January 2003 and 22 May 2011 (the end of operation TELIC), **178** UK Armed Forces personnel died as a result of operations in **Iraq**. Of these **36** were Officers and **142** were Other Ranks.

Background Notes

Casualties

The figures on the number of casualties presented are sourced from Defence Statistics field hospital admissions. It does not include personnel who attend a UK or Coalition Medical Field Hospital Facility but who are not admitted. These figures also do not include those who are seen in primary health care.

Field Hospital Admissions

- a) The EpiNATO J97 returns are used to identify field hospital admissions for UK personnel treated at the UK field hospital as well as those treated at coalition medical facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- b) Defence Statistics also received information on admissions at the UK Field Hospital from the electronic Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR).
- c) In addition Defence Statistics have sourced the UK field hospital admission books for the early phases of operations in Iraq. Over 30,000 patients have been entered into a database. The data holds minimal information on the casualty, but in some cases does give an indication of the numbers of patients treated for battle injuries (WIA), non battle injuries and disease; these include UK Armed Forces, coalition forces, Iraqi civilians and detainees.

Deaths

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.

Figures are for tri-Service regular and reservist personnel and for all causes of death; Hostile action, accidents, natural causes, assaults, coroner confirmed suicide or open verdicts and cause not yet known.

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 Casualties 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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)