Military Search and Rescue Monthly Report August 2011

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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defence analytical services and advice

Introduction

Military Search and Rescue

The military Search and Rescue (SAR) service exists primarily to assist military and civilian aircrew in difficulty, although a large proportion of its work involves assisting shipping or people 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 currently consists of RAF and Royal Navy SAR Sea King helicopters operating from eight locations around the UK (RAF Boulmer, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leconfield, RAF Valley, RAF Chivenor, RAF Wattisham, RNAS Culdrose and HMS Gannet). The military SAR force operates 24 hours a day. It provides coverage throughout the UK, and also covers 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.

The UK SAR helicopter coverage is coordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) based at RAF Kinloss.

Mountain Rescue Teams

The RAF includes four mountain rescue teams (MRT), based at RAF Kinloss, RAF Leuchars, 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-and-support/fleet-air-arm/sar-operations/

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 is outside the scope of this report, however some background information on some of the organisations involved in provided below.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

In addition to the eight military aeronautical SAR units, additional aeronautical SAR coverage is provided by four Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) helicopter units. Although this are not part of the military SAR service, the MCA helicopters are coordinated by the ARCC at RAF Kinloss, to provide integrated coverage across the UK. Details of their activities are included in the SAR Quarterly and Annual reports.

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 lifeboat SAR coverage around the coast of the UK, 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 conjuction 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.airambulanceassociation.co.uk/

What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for the previous month. It includes details of the activities of UK military SAR helicopters, RAF SAR helicopters operating in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, and military MRT units. Details of MCA helicopters units are not included in this report, however a summary is provided in the quarterly and annual SAR Reports.

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

Incidents are emergencies attended by Royal Navy or Royal Air Force units whose primary task is SAR, plus other military aircraft and ships that are available to the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

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

Persons moved involves moving people from a hostile environment to a safe environment or medical facility to receive urgent medical attention and 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 ARCC is included in these tables. Incident data from Cyprus and the Falklands is received by email on an ad-hoc basis and may be incomplete. All data is validated and checked by DASA on receipt. Further details are available in DASA's SAR Background Quality Report

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=2100&date=2011-06-16&type=pdf&PublishTime=09:30:00

Key Points

• During August 2011, military Search and Rescue units attended 228 incidents, resulting in 230 callouts and 168 persons being moved.

• The number of incidents and callouts were higher than in August 2010, although the number of persons moved fell. The number of persons moved in August 2010 was unusually high due to a number of large single incidents which partly explains the fall in numbers this year.

• The callouts types with the largest annual increase since August 2010 are Not Required (111% increase) and Recalled (75% increase). The number of callouts where no people were moved was higher than normal this month, particularly at RAF Boulmer and RAF Valley, which partly explains the fall in the number of persons moved since last August. There was little change in the number of callouts that resulted in a person being moved since the same time last year.

• There was a small drop in the number of callouts between July 2011 and August 2011. However, August was the second busiest month of 2011 so far in terms of the number of callouts, reflecting the general increase in SAR callouts during the warmer summer months.

• The unit with the highest number of callouts this month was RAF Valley. This included a high number of rescues of people walking in the North Wales area.

• The majority (55%) of this month's military SAR callouts were requested by the coastguard. There was a 28% increase in the number of callouts requested by the coastguard since last month, whilst the number of callouts requested by the ambulance and police services fell. This reflects the increase in coastal SAR during summer months.
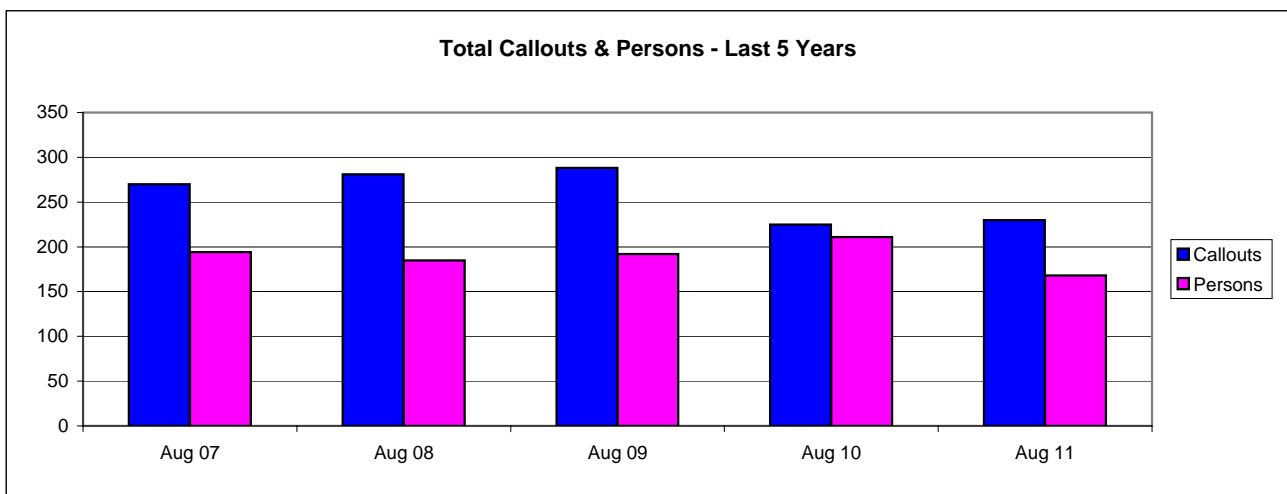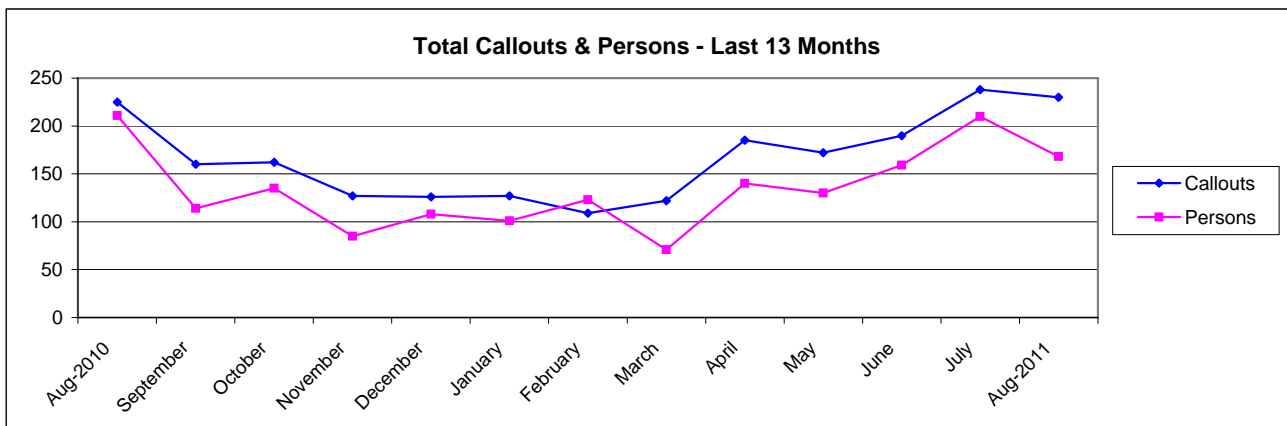
DASA

UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary

Current Month

2011	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team		Incidents		Persons Moved
August	230	223	5	2		228		168

Previous 12 Months

	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team		Incidents		Persons Moved
July	238	229	3	6		232		210
June	190	183	5	2		185		159
May	172	160	6	6		167		130
April	185	180	3	2		184		140
March	122	111	9	2		118		71
February	109	100	3	6		103		123
January	127	111	9	7		118		101
December	126	119	4	3		121		108
November	127	114	9	4		114		85
October	162	150	4	8		152		135
September	160	147	8	5		153		114
August	225	216	6	3		216		211

	ARCC Kinloss	RCC Cyprus	RCC Falklands	Total
Callouts	225	4	1	**230**
Incidents	223	4	1	**228**
Persons	167	-	1	**168**

Total Callouts & Persons - Last 13 Months

Total Callouts & Persons - Last 5 Years

UK Search And Rescue Summary

UK Helicopter Callouts by Callout Grouping[1] - Last 13 Months

1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10

UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation[2] - August 2011
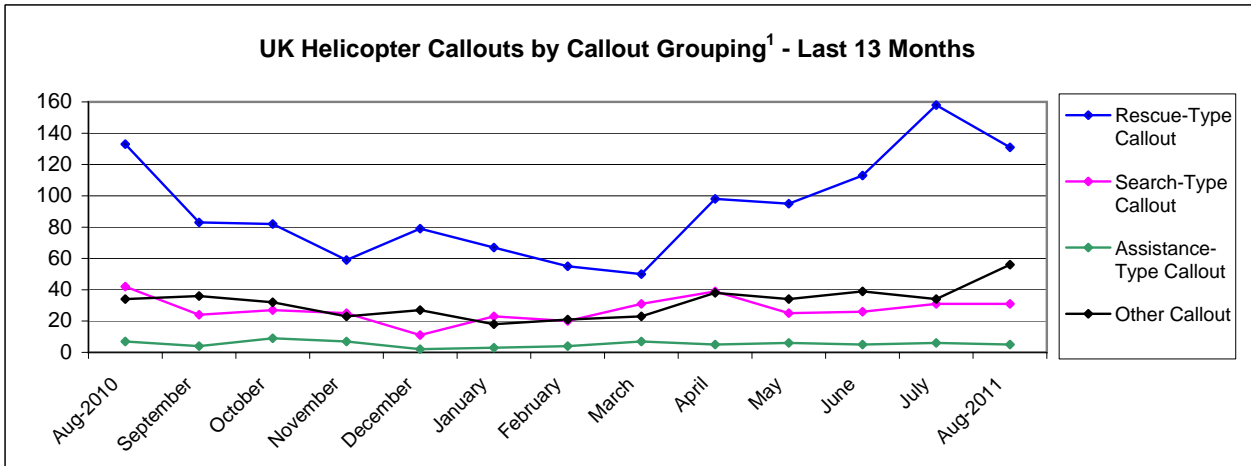
UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation[2] - Last 13 months
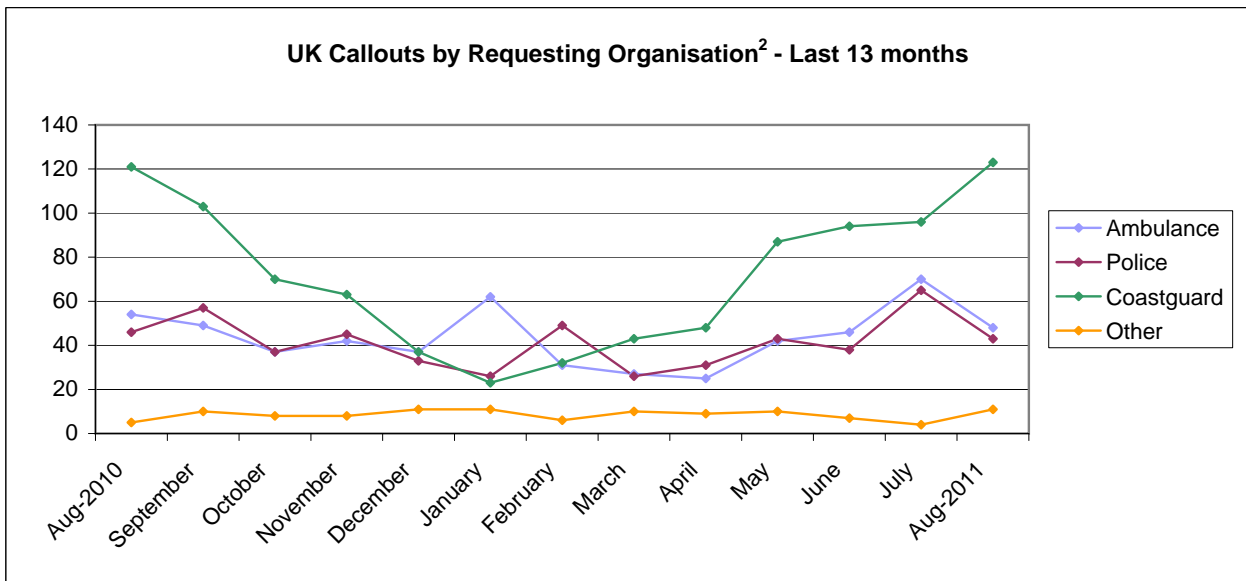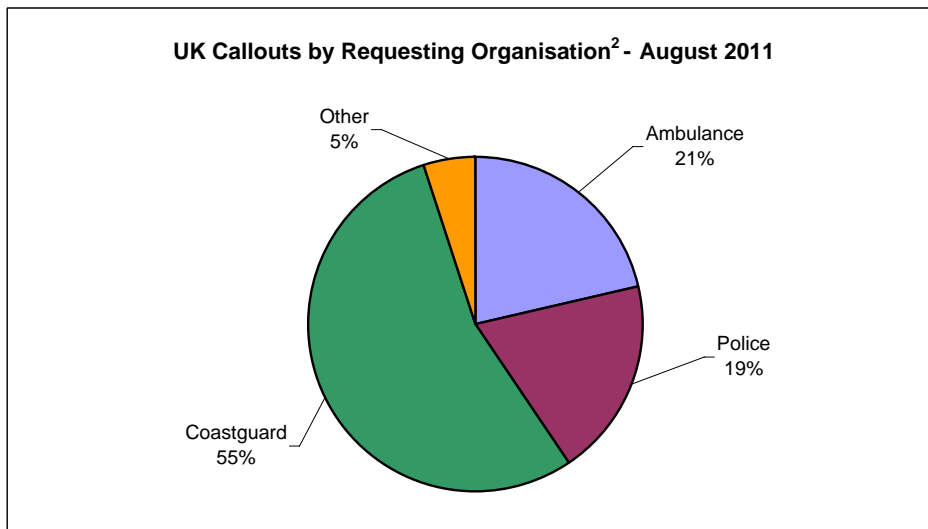
2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

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	1	1	-	3	3	-	8	1	-	1	-	9	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Medrescue	10	12	11	16	15	9	73	20	14	34	-	107	-	-	-
Search-Medrescue	1	2	-	3	-	-	6	-	2	2	-	8	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	2	2	1	-	6	2	5	7	-	13	-	1	1
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search	-	4	1	-	3	4	12	3	2	5	-	17	1	-	1
Top Cover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4	-	4	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Recalled	9	1	4	5	5	6	30	-	3	3	-	33	2	-	2
Not Required	4	-	1	5	4	-	14	3	2	5	-	19	-	-	-
False Alarm	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Callouts	**26**	**24**	**19**	**36**	**32**	**21**	**158**	**34**	**31**	**65**	**-**	**223**	**4**	**1**	**5**

Callouts by Unit - Last 13 Months

Legend: Boulmer, Lossiemouth, Leconfield

Callouts by Unit - Last 13 Months

Legend: Valley, Chivenor, Wattisham

Callouts by Unit - Last 13 Months

Legend: Culdrose, Gannet, Overseas

Callouts - UK Helicopters

RAF Boulmer Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Lossiemouth Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Leconfield Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Valley Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months
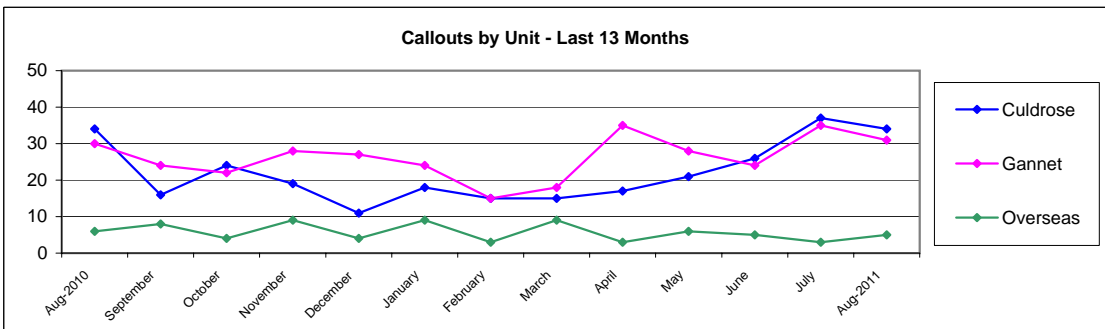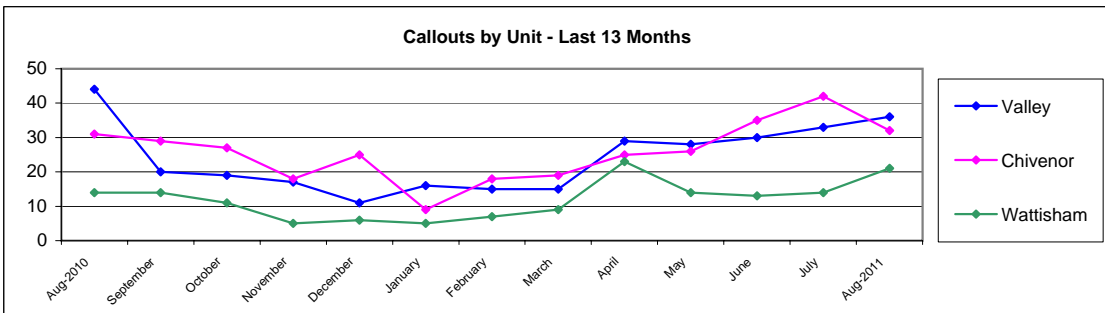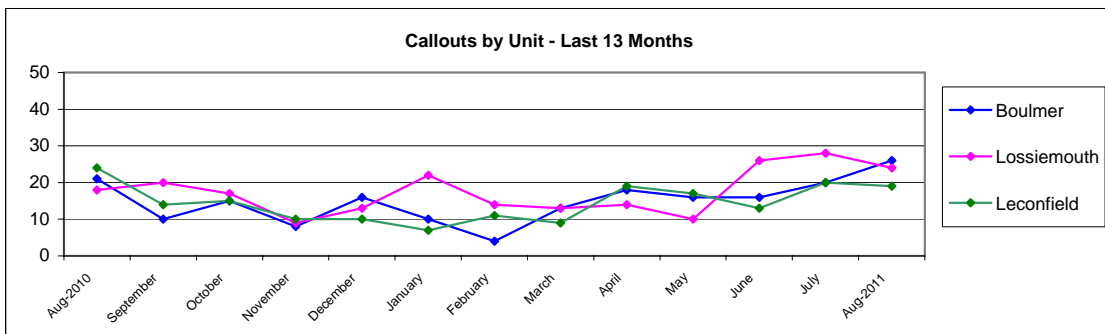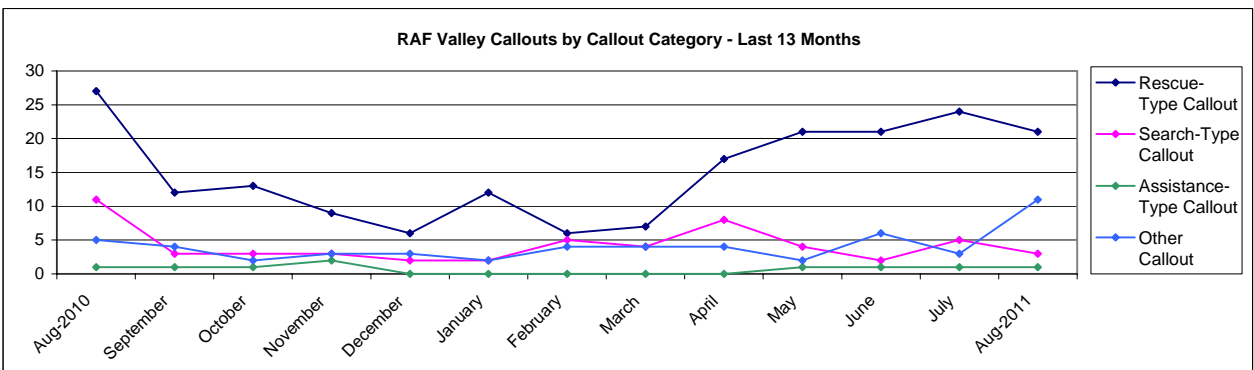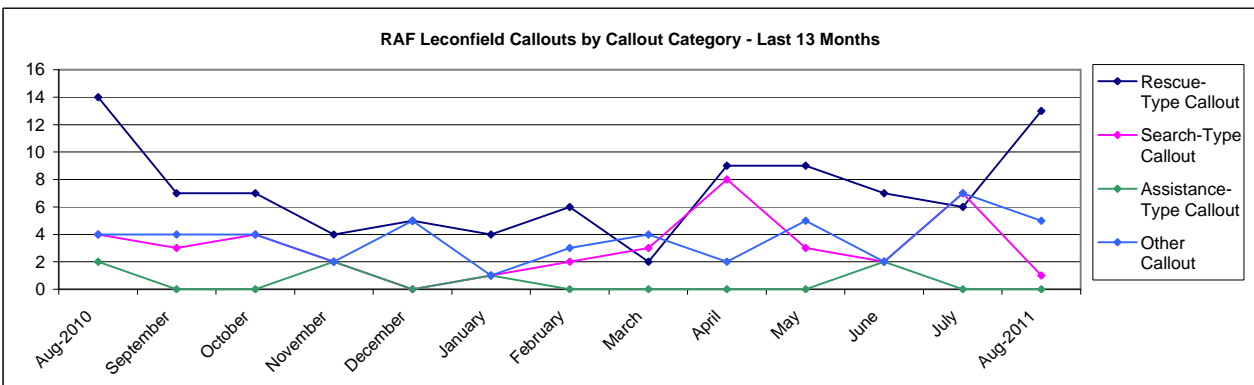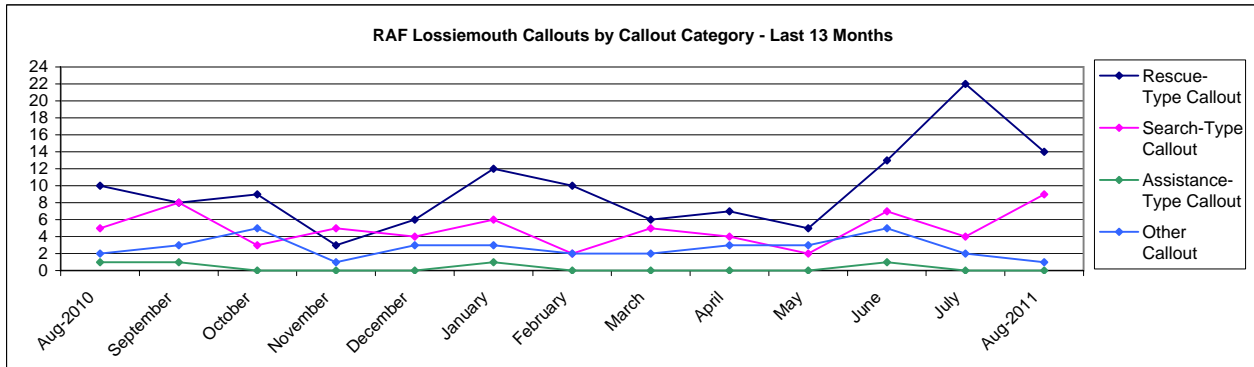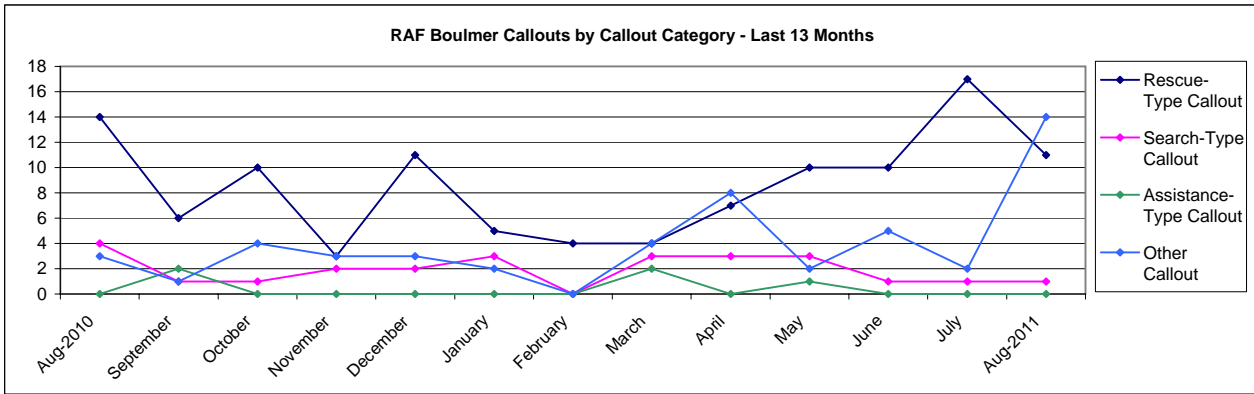
1. *For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10*

Callouts - UK Helicopters

RAF Chivenor Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Wattisham Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RNAS Culdrose Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

HMS Gannet Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months
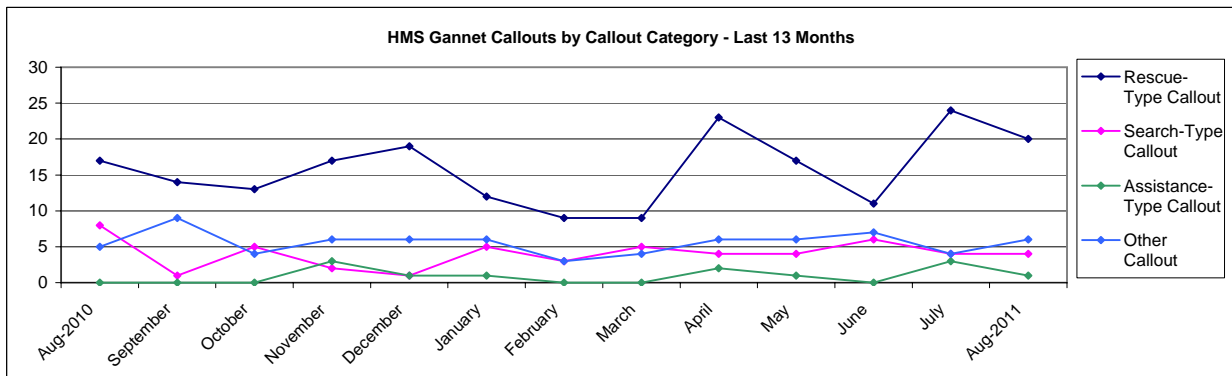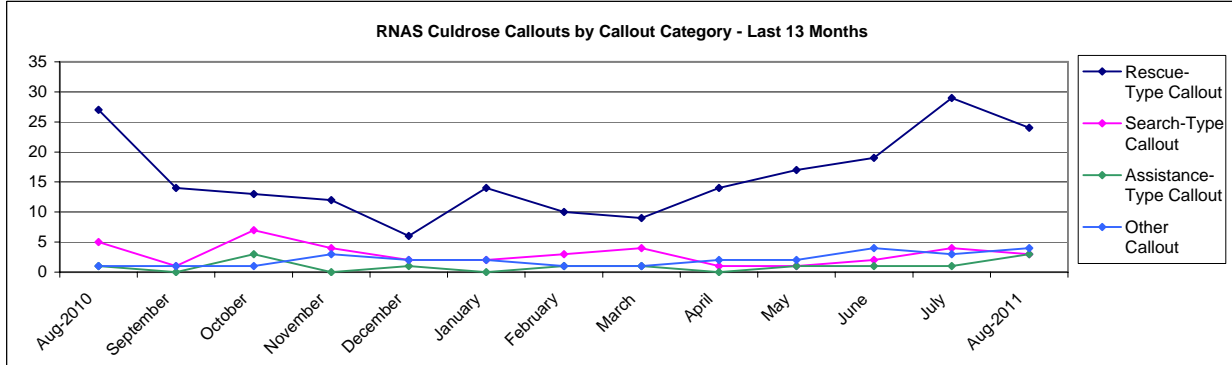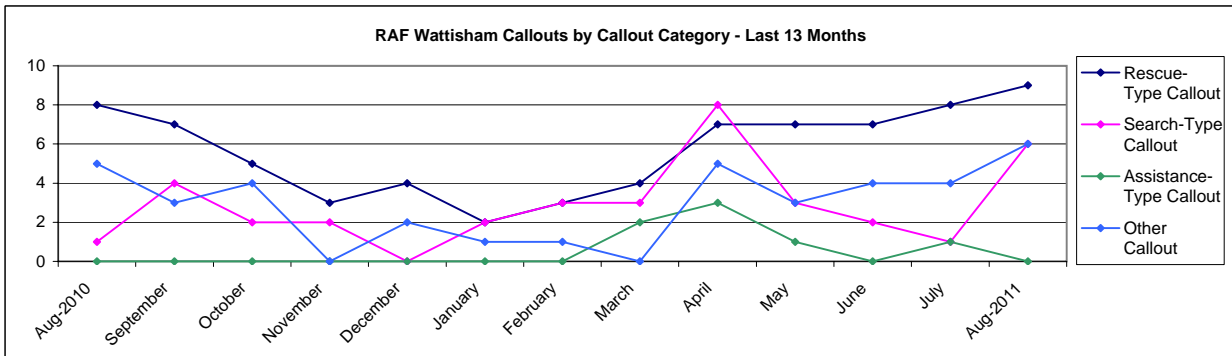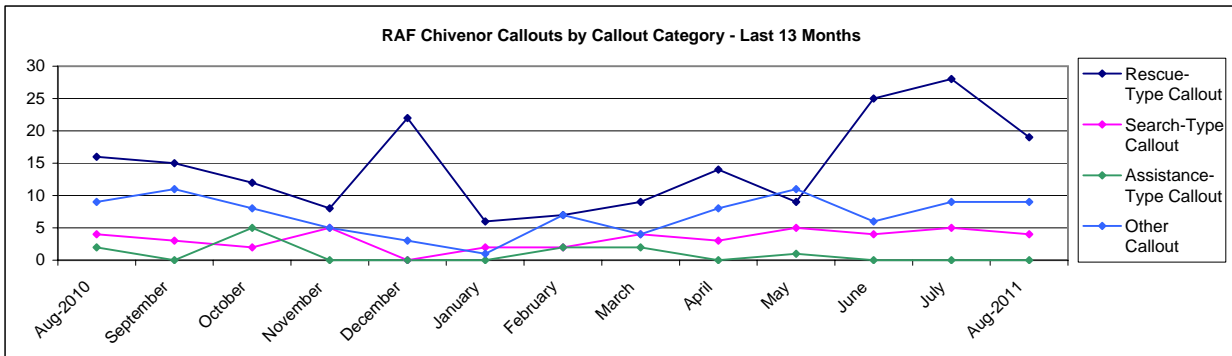
1. *For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10*

Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Callouts by Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	6	3	-	9
Search-Rescue	3	-	-	3
Medrescue	73	18	16	107
Search-Medrescue	6	2	-	8
Medtransfer	14	-	-	14
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	1	1
Civil Aid	1	-	-	1
Search	12	4	2	18
Top Cover	1	3	-	4
Assist	1	1	-	2
Search-Assist	3	1	-	4
Recalled	13	19	3	35
Not Required	3	15	1	19
False Alarm	-	3	-	3
Hoax	-	1	-	1
Precaution	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-
Total Callouts	**137**	**70**	**23**	**230**

Callouts by Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Medrescue	-	11	3	4	-	-	89	-	107
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Search	1	1	1	-	1	-	14	-	18
Top Cover	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	4
Assist	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Search-Assist	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4
Recalled	4	4	3	-	-	-	22	2	35
Not Required	-	1	-	-	-	-	18	-	19
False Alarm	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3
Hoax	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Callouts	**7**	**19**	**11**	**4**	**1**	**-**	**185**	**3**	**230**

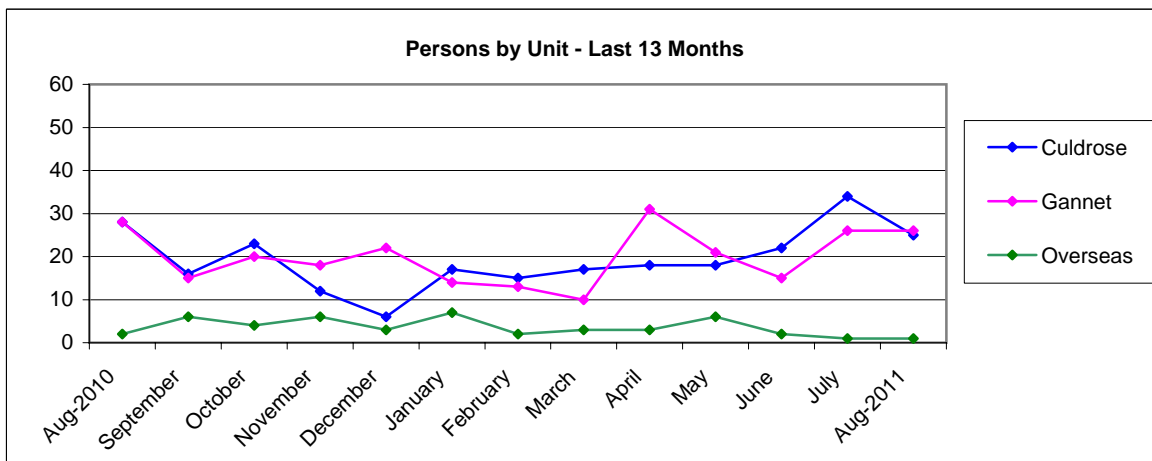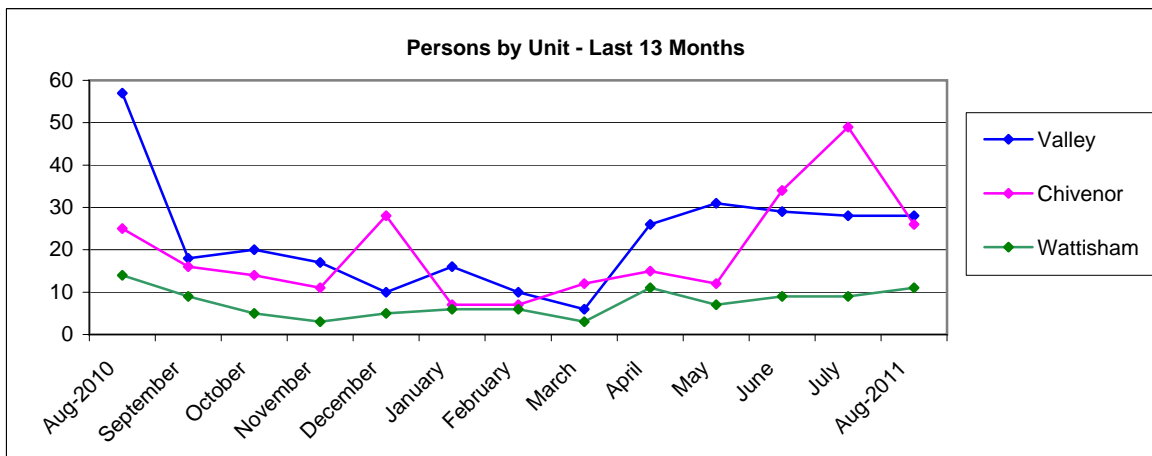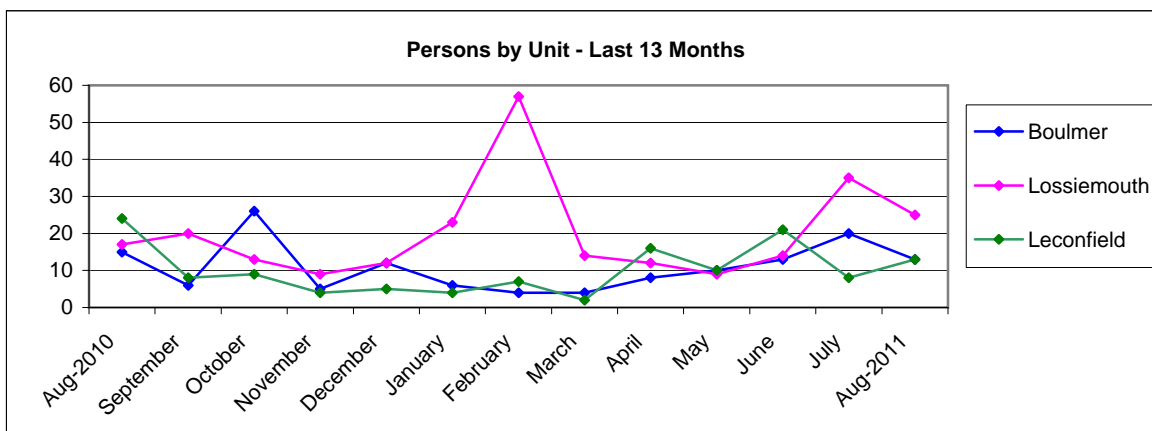### Callouts by Location - Last 13 Months
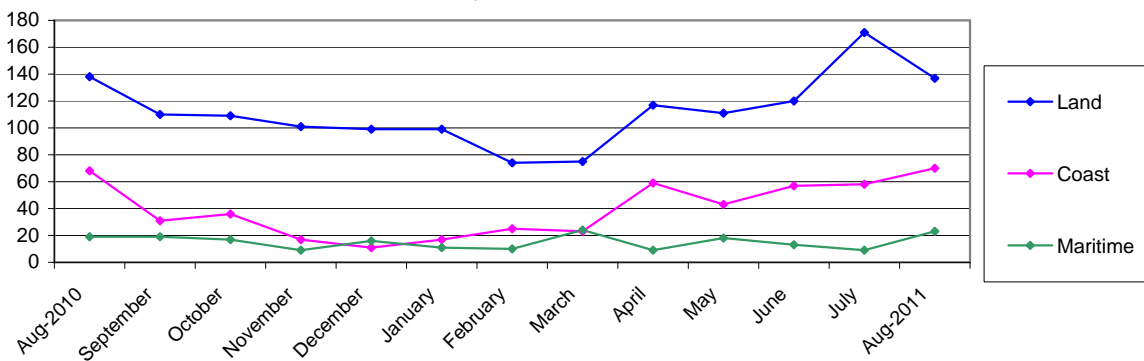
Callouts by Location - Last 5 Years
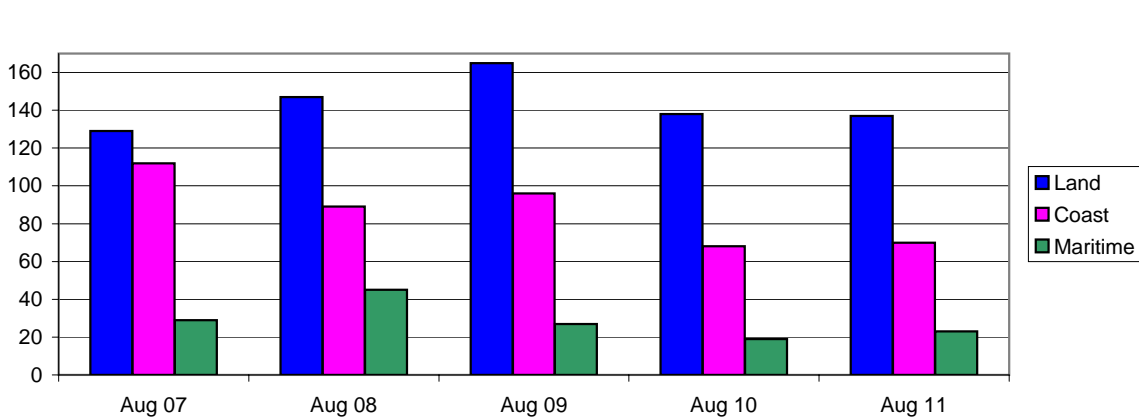
Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	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	2	4	1	7	9	-	23	2	-	2	-	25	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	5	-	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Medrescue	10	13	11	16	16	9	75	19	16	35	-	110	-	-	-
Search-Medrescue	1	2	-	3	-	-	6	1	3	4	-	10	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	1	2	1	-	5	2	6	8	-	13	-	1	1
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total Persons	**13**	**25**	**13**	**28**	**26**	**11**	**116**	**25**	**26**	**51**	**-**	**167**	**-**	**1**	**1**

Persons by Unit - Last 13 Months (Boulmer, Lossiemouth, Leconfield)

Persons by Unit - Last 13 Months (Valley, Chivenor, Wattisham)

Persons by Unit - Last 13 Months (Culdrose, Gannet, Overseas)

Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Persons by Callout Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	21	4	-	25
Search-Rescue	7	-	-	7
Medrescue	76	19	15	110
Search-Medrescue	6	3	1	10
Medtransfer	14	-	-	14
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	1	1
Total Persons	**125**	**26**	**17**	**168**

Persons by Callout Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	-	-	-	25	-	25
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
Medrescue	-	11	2	4	93	-	110
Search-Medrescue	-	-	1	-	9	-	10
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
Recovery	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total Persons	**-**	**12**	**3**	**4**	**149**	**-**	**168**

Persons by Location - Last 13 Months

Persons by Location - Last 5 Years
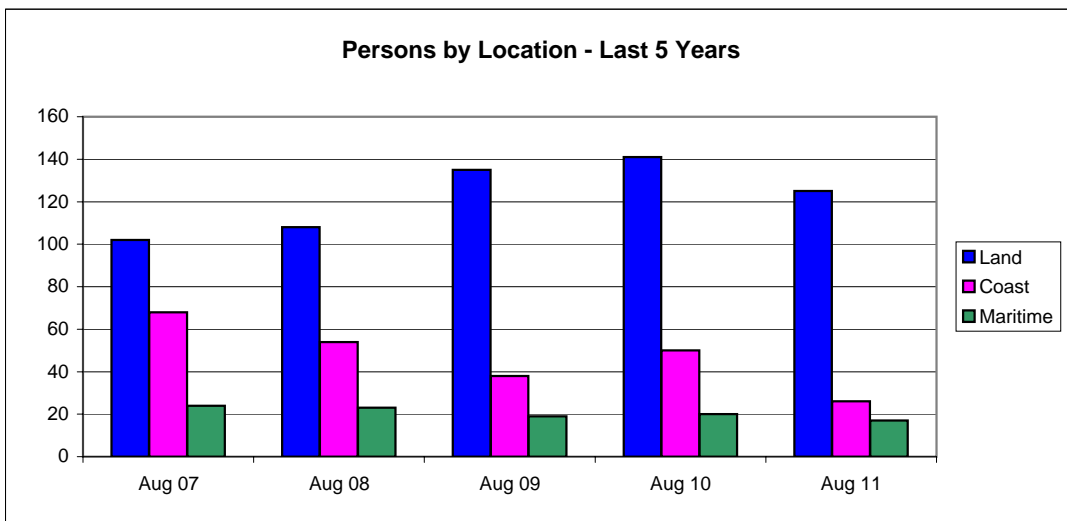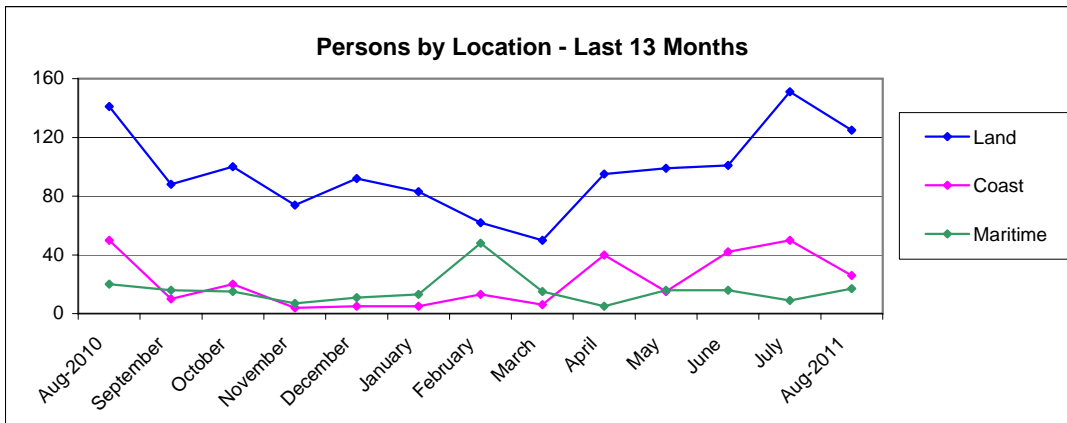
SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

SAR Flying Hours[3]

|	Total Flying Hours	Average Flying Hours	Average Time to Casualty[4]
RAF Boulmer	25.10	0.58	0.15
RAF Lossiemouth	53.30	2.14	0.29
RAF Leconfield	24.50	1.18	0.24
RAF Valley	45.14	1.15	0.15
RAF Chivenor	29.15	0.55	0.12
RAF Wattisham	24.00	1.09	0.22
RNAS Culdrose	41.51	1.14	0.14
HMS Gannet	42.55	1.23	0.28
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-
Cyprus	3.05	0.46	0.15
Falklands	1.00	1.00	0.01
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-
	290.50	**1.17**	**0.25**

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

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

Monthly Flying Hours - Last 13 Months
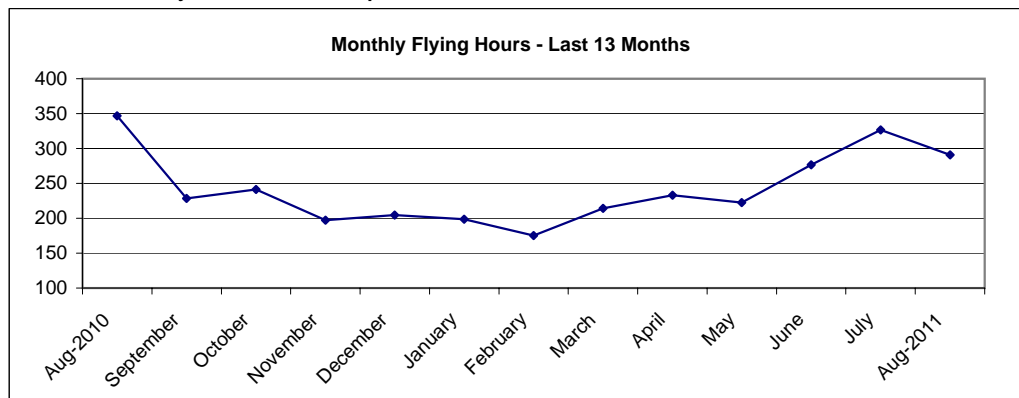
Mountain Rescue Teams

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours
Kinloss	1	-	38
Leeming	1	-	242
Leuchars	-	-	-
Valley	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Total	**2**	**-**	**280**

MRT callouts - Last 13 Months
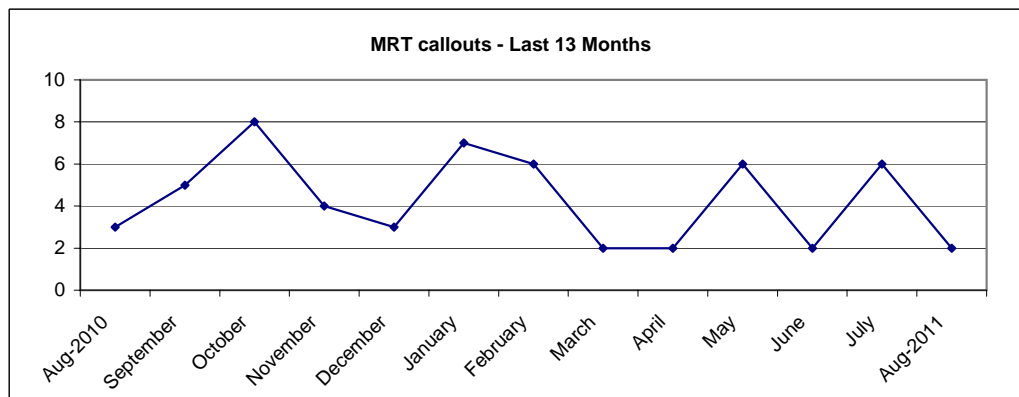
SEARCH AND RESCUE DEFINITIONS

		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

DASA