



MILITARY SEARCH AND RESCUE STATISTICS



QUARTER 3 2010

4 November 2010

Theme: Other – Defence

Issued by

Defence Analytical Services
and Advice (DASA)
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood
Bristol
BS32 8JH

Enquiries

Press Office: 0207 218 5903

Statistical enquiries:

Craig Corbet
DASA Price Indices
030 679 32100
DASADESA-PI-HOB@mod.uk

Internet

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk>

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For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Customer Contact Centre:

Tel: 0845 601 3034
Fax: 01633 652747
Minicom: 01633 812399
email: info@statistics.gov.uk
Internet: www.statistics.gov.uk

INTRODUCTION

This quarterly Statistical Notice provides summary statistics on the number of Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents, the associated callouts and people moved by military units since the third quarter of 2005. More detailed information showing statistics by service, aircraft type, type of assistance and unit will be available on our website within a week of this release. Further detail for 2009 and earlier is also available in the SAR Annual Notice on DASA's website: <http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=47>.

Key points

- Between July and September 2010 Search and Rescue units attended 587 incidents resulting in 613 callouts with 501 persons being moved.
- The number of incidents, callouts and persons moved were all lower than in Q3 2009.
- The incident involving the highest number of people moved this quarter was on 1 August, when a RAF Valley helicopter rescued 11 people from a hill near Aberdovey.

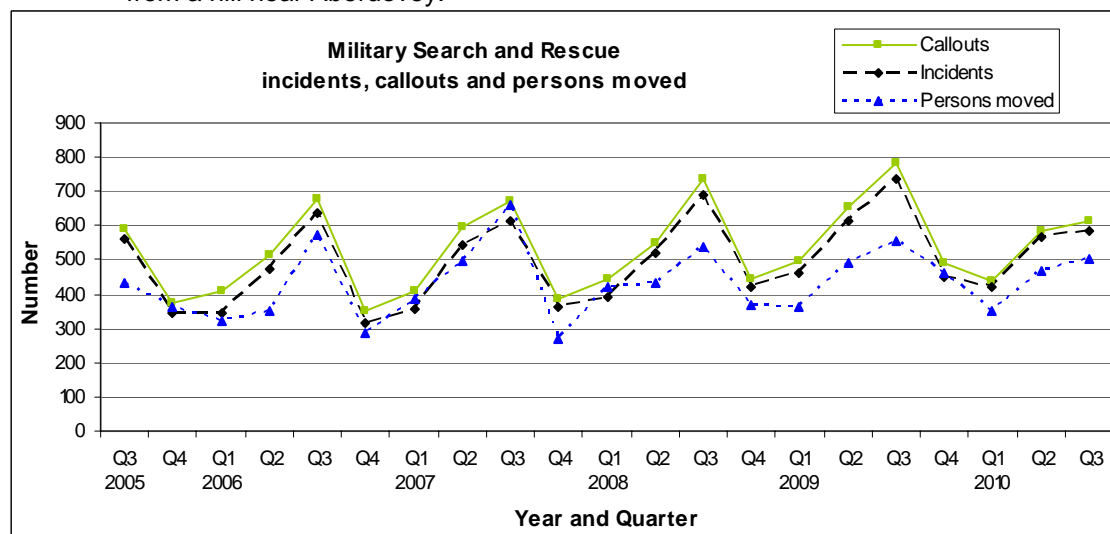


Table 1 - Military Search and Rescue incidents, callouts and people moved each quarter

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

Each Search and Rescue unit attending an incident is described as a **callout**. An incident may result in one or more callouts. An example is two callouts to a mountain incident, with a helicopter and a Mountain Rescue Team working together to assist a casualty. Callouts are for Royal Navy and RAF units whose primary task is Search and Rescue, plus other military aircraft and ships that attended incidents because they were available to Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centres.

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.

UK SAR units are coordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Kinloss (Scotland). The overseas SAR units are based at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

		Incidents			Callouts			Persons moved		
		All	UK	Over-seas	All	UK	Over-seas	All	UK	Over-seas
2005	Q3	559	545	14	590	573	17	435	425	10
	Q4	342	329	13	372	359	13	363	347	16
2006	Q1	346	334	12	407	394	13	323	310	13
	Q2	471	451	20	513	488	25	352	340	12
	Q3	637	612	25	678	651	27	575	560	15
	Q4	313	306	7	350	342	8	288	253	35
2007	Q1	359	339	20	409	387	22	386	370	16
	Q2	542	524	18	598	572	26	498	488	10
	Q3	613	588	25	673	640	33	662	650	12
	Q4	363	352	11	385	374	11	271	259	12
2008	Q1	393	361	32	447	412	35	423	304	119
	Q2	521	494	27	551	519	32	432	412	20
	Q3	691	680	11	737	724	13	537	530	7
	Q4	420	406	14	444	428	16	371	361	10
2009	Q1	461	436	25	495	470	25	365	334	31
	Q2	614	602	12	652	637	15	489	484	5
	Q3	737	725	12	781	768	13	555	552	3
	Q4	450	428	22	490	462	28	464	440	24
2010	Q1	421	402	19	437	418	19	353	337	16
	Q2	565	553	12	585	570	15	465	462	3
	Q3	587	574	13	613	597	16	501	491	10

BACKGROUND NOTES

The military Search and Rescue Service

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 cover 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 Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

The SAR force currently consists of RAF and RN SAR Sea King helicopters operating from eight locations around the UK, specially equipped RAF Nimrod aircraft based in RAF Kinloss in Scotland and four RAF Mountain Rescue Teams. Two RAF SAR helicopter units operate in Cyprus and the Falklands.

Incidents can include long range medical evacuation from ships at sea, assistance to vessels in distress, cliff fallers, swimmers, divers and surfers. On land many callouts are to search for missing persons or to rescue injured climbers, walkers, riders or those involved in road traffic accidents. SAR units are also often called upon to provide hospital-to-hospital transfers. Missions can include the rescue of foreign mariners, assistance to foreign flagged vessels or to other countries such as France.

Additional aeronautical Search and Rescue services are provided by four Maritime and Coastguard Agency helicopter units. Details of their activity are not included.

The RAF Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss controls all military aerial resources. It watches over an area extending from the Faroe Islands in the North, the English Channel in the South, about halfway across the Atlantic Ocean and halfway across the North Sea. It has direct data and voice links with rescue assets in the UK and Europe. Detailed maps and charts are combined with an intimate knowledge of UK topography to enable controllers to match resources to tasks quickly and co-ordinate the rescue operation.

For more information visit:

the RAF SAR website at <http://www.raf.mod.uk/careers/lifeintheraf/searchandrescue.cfm>

the Royal Navy SAR website at <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/operations-and-support/fleet-air-arm/sar-operations/>

Data Information

The UK SAR data source is a weekly download from the ARCC database at RAF Kinloss. 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.