

Statistical Notice





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Theme: Other - Defence

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MILITARY SEARCH AND RESCUE STATISTICS: 2010

INTRODUCTION

This Statistical Notice provides summary statistics on the number of Search & Rescue (SAR) incidents, the associated callouts and people assisted, by military units and type of assistance from 2000 to 2010. It also presents the number of callouts and people assisted by UK region from 2000 to 2010.

Key points

- In 2010 there were 1,960 UK and overseas incidents resulting in 2,050 callouts of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force helicopters, Nimrod aircraft and Mountain Rescue teams. A total of 1,647 people were moved.
- The numbers of incidents fell by 13% and the number of callouts by 15%, compared to 2009. The number of persons moved fell by 12% (Table 1).
- 97% of callouts in 2010 were in or around the UK. The others were in or around Cyprus or the Falkland Islands (Table 1).
- 98% of callouts in 2010 were to civilian incidents (Table 2).
- 63% of callouts in 2010 resulted in people being moved. Of these, callouts resulting in a Medrescue were the most common, representing 44% of all callouts (Table 3).
- 24% of callouts in 2010 were to Scotland, 16% to the South West and 15% to Wales. A further 25% of callouts were to incidents at sea (Table 4).

Symbols

- zero

r revised

Table 1: Military Search and Rescue incidents, callouts and persons moved: 2000 - 2010

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 the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

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 co-ordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Kinloss. The overseas SAR units are based at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

Callouts

ΑII UK Overseas 2000 1827 1 781 2001 1 645 1 608 37 2002 1 577 1 544 33 2003 1 677 77 1 600 2004 1 564 1 504 60 2005 1 641 1 584 57 2006 1 767 1 703 64 2007 1 877 1 803 74 2008 2 025 1 941 84 2009 2 262 71 2 191 2010 1 960 1 901 59

Incidents

All	UK	Overseas
1 990	1 941	49
1 800	1 763	37
1 718	1 684	34
1 809	1 714	95
1 711	1 638	73
1 766	1 702	64
1 948	1 875	73
2 065	1 973	92
2 179	2 083	96
2 418	2 337	81
2 050	1 983	67

All	UK	Overseas
1 356	1 316	40
1 207	1 182	25
1 251	1 224	27
1 333	1 273	60
1 449	1 412	37
1 431	1 384	47
1 538	1 463	75
1 817	1 767	50
1 763	1 607	156
1 873	1 810	63
1 647	1 605	42

Persons moved

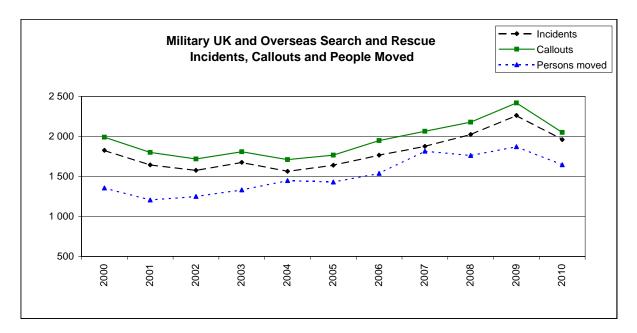


Table 1a - Military Search and Rescue incidents, callouts and persons moved each quarter 2006 - 2010

		I	Incident	s		Callouts	8	Pe	Persons moved			
		All	UK	Overseas	All	UK	Overseas	All	UK	Overseas		
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		
	Q4	387	372	15	415	398	17	328	315	13		

Table 1 shows that the number of callouts was fairly constant throught the early part of the last decade. From 2004 onwards the number of callouts consistently increased each year. This trend was halted in 2010, with a fall in the number of callouts of 15% compared to 2009.

The number of persons moved shows a similar pattern to the number of callouts. Between 2001 and 2009, there was a 55% increase in the number of persons moved each year. However, in 2010 the number of persons moved fell by 12% compared to 2009.

Table 1a shows that the number of callouts is consistently highest in Q3 for any given year. This corresponds to the summer months, coinciding with an increase in civilian outdoor recreational activity. In 2010 there were notably fewer callouts in Q3 than in the same quarter in 2009 (a decrease of 22%). The number of persons moved fell at a lower rate (10%).

Table 2: Callouts and people moved by UK Military Search and Rescue units: 2000 - 2010

The primary role of Search & Rescue units is to recover military aircrew from crashed aircraft. However the vast majority of callouts are to assist the general public. In 2010, 98% of callouts were to civilian incidents.

Royal Navy Search and Rescue helicopters: The Royal Navy's SAR units are 771 Squadron based at the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose (HMS Seahawk) in Cornwall and the HMS Gannet SAR Flight located at Glasgow Prestwick International Airport.

Royal Air Force Search and Rescue helicopters: RAF Sea King rescue helicopters of Nos. 22 and 202 Squadrons operate from six locations - RAF Boulmer, RAF Valley, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leconfield, RAF Chivenor and RAF Wattisham.

Other helicopters: SAR callouts attended by contractors or other military helicopters.

RAF Mountain Rescue Service: The Mountain Rescue Service HQ is based at RAF Valley and coordinates the RAF's four Mountain Rescue Teams (MRT) based at RAF Kinloss, RAF Leuchars, RAF Leeming and RAF Valley.

RAF Nimrod: Specially equipped Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft were based at RAF Kinloss. These were withdrawn from service in March 2010.

Callouts

- and and										
	UK		Helicopte	rs	<u>MRT</u>	Fixed wing a	ircraft	<u>Ships</u>		
	total	<u>RN</u>	RAF Other			Nimrod	<u>Other</u>		<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Military</u>
2000	1 941	499	1 278	-	92	71	1	-	1 819	122
2001	1 763	502	1 115	-	91	54	1	-	1 660	103
2002	1 684	436	1 122	-	79	46	1	-	1 586	98
2003	1 714	424	1 173	-	80	37	-	-	1 618	96
2004	1 638	453	1 079	-	67	37	2	-	1 538	100
2005	1 702	478	1 114	-	73	37	-	-	1 610	92
2006	1 875	497	1 258	1	86	32	1	-	1 785	90
2007	1 973	592	1 258	-	102	21	-	-	1 892	81
2008	2 083	586	1 377	-	91	29	-	-	2 028	55
2009	2 337	758	1 479	-	86	13	1	-	2 268	69
2010	1 983	639	1 282	-	59	3	-	-	1 944	39

	UK		Helicopters			Fixed wing a	ircraft	<u>Ships</u>		
	total	<u>RN</u>	RAF	<u>Other</u>		<u>Nimrod</u>	<u>Other</u>		<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Military</u>
2000	1 316	360	934	-	22	-	-	-	1 267	49
2001	1 182	386	781	-	15	-	-	-	1 139	43
2002	1 224	314	900	-	10	-	-	-	1 181	43
2003	1 273	320	922	-	31	-	-	-	1 206	67
2004	1 412	416	978	-	17	-	1	-	1 355	57
2005	1 384	380	907	-	97	-	-	-	1 315	69
2006	1 463	479	968	-	16	-	-	-	1 409	54
2007	1 767	507	1 219	-	41	-	-	-	1 710	57
2008	1 607	516	1 062	-	29	-	-	-	1 565	42
2009	1 810	656	1 135	-	19	-	-	-	1 761	49
2010	1 605	539	1 047	-	19	-	-	-	1 575	30

Table 3: Callouts and persons moved by UK Military Search and Rescue units by type of assistance: 2000 - 2010

The types of assistance that involve moving people are as follows:

Medrescue (including Search-Medrescue): Moving an injured casualty from a hostile environment to a medical facility.

Rescue (including Search-Rescue): Moving an uninjured person from a hostile to a benign environment.

Recovery (including Search-Recovery): Moving people declared dead on scene or confirmed dead on arrival by a qualified doctor.

Medtransfer: Moving a sick person between medical facilities such as a hospital, or occasionally to move transplant organs.

Transfer: Moving military personnel, or their families, on compassionate grounds.

The types of assistance that do not involve moving people are as follows:

Search: Search for craft, people, etc which does not result in a recovery or rescue.

Not Required: Arrived at the scene of an incident but no action needed.

Recalled: Recalled from an incident whilst en route.

Assist:Transporting personnel or equipment to the scene of an incident, or providing on-scene assistance.

Top Cover: On-scene assistance, e.g. communications or monitoring, that does not result in further intervention.

Other: Includes False Alarm, Hoax, Precaution, Aborted, Search-Aborted and Civil Aid.

Callou	ıts	Type of	Type of Assistance involving moving people									
	UK	Med-	Rescue	Med-	Recovery	Transfer		Search				
	total	rescue		transfer								
2000	1 941	607	135	230	24	16		366				
2001	1 763	562	121	218	35	7		316				
2002	1 684	583	112	198	21	5		311				
2003	1 714	669	123	174	25	14		280				
2004	1 638	593	122	186	29	15		271				
2005	1 702	670	119	141	31	22		283				
2006	1 875	736	102	175	37	23		328				
2007	1 973	724	138	197	20	15		312				
2008	2 083	779	139	208	40	10		322				
2009	2 337	947	174	213	38	14		305				
2010	1 983	880	148	202	19	10		194				

Other Ty	pes of A	<u>Assistance</u>			
Search	Not	Recall	Assist	Top	Other
	Req			Cover	
366	173	131	95	87	77
316	116	173	91	75	49
311	101	171	61	65	56
280	94	180	48	55	52
271	60	192	58	64	48
283	105	188	39	65	39
328	89	238	49	48	50
312	123	225	87	52	80
322	88	289	100	31	77
305	106	293	115	38	94
194	91	246	77	23	93

Persons Moved

UK		Med-	Rescue	Med-	Recovery	Transfer
	total	rescue		transfer		
2000	1 316	713	276	241	29	57
2001	1 182	629	281	228	36	8
2002	1 224	654	343	201	21	5
2003	1 273	779	280	174	25	15
2004	1 412	672	494	195	33	18
2005	1 384	778	408	143	31	24
2006	1 463	830	384	175	43	31
2007	1 767	872	658	198	22	17
2008	1 607	869	450	219	40	29
2009	1 810	1 064	445	224	44	33
2010	1 605	964	379	219	21	22

Callouts by type of assistance: 2010

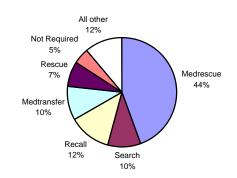


Table 4: Callouts and persons moved by UK Military Search and Rescue units in each region: 2000 - 2010

The statistical regions of the United Kingdom are the Government Office Regions for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Callouts are allocated to regions using coordinates provided by the Search and Rescue Units. The regions on this table are calculated using Microsoft MapPoint 2004 software. The At Sea figures are dependent on the algorithm used in MapPoint to define the coastline. Further information on the UK Government Office Regions can be found at :- http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/gor.asp

Callouts

	UK	North	North	Yorkshire	East	West	East of	London	South	South	Wales	Scotland	Northern	At
	total	East	West	& Humber	Midlands	Midlands	England		East	West			Ireland	Sea
2000	1 941	60	102	46	40	9	65	2	33	185	206	473	15	705
2001	1 763	30	62	54	32	11	55	4	39	253	197	438	16	572
2002	1 684	48	88	61	27	13	52	2	19	209	213	375	14	563
2003	1 714	54	82	61	25	9	76	5	30	182	243	397	11	539
2004	1 638	60	96	35	22	8	62	10	29	196	207	371	11	531
2005	1 702	48	96	62	20	8	57	7	13	234	221	383	15	538
2006	1 875	50	109	48	34	6	78	15	19	259	253	433	8	563
2007	1 973	49	84	103	46	21	57	11	25	227	239	475	9	627
2008	2 083	67	108	116	43	6	64	7	27	242	237	571	6	589
2009	2 337	67	134	103	37	14	58	5	30	360	357	593	13	566
2010	1 983	55	130	80	30	2	57	11	18	312	299	484	18	487

Persons moved

	UK total	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	At Sea
2000	1 316	44	86	22	23	1	26	2	15	158	162	311	4	462
2001	1 182	22	49	41	18	6	22	3	48	159	149	276	10	379
2002	1 224	32	71	28	10	4	22	2	9	146	172	235	15	478
2003	1 273	29	72	35	12	3	48	2	9	163	223	314	6	357
2004	1 412	39	124	34	15	3	24	9	15	179	180	318	8	464
2005	1 384	39	128	61	10	6	36	6	6	183	193	366	12	338
2006	1 463	46	63	33	25	3	47	11	14	204	204	404	3	406
2007	1 767	41	81	155	15	97	24	11	9	283	205	348	6	492
2008	1 607	67	102	81	14	3	28	7	5	214	192	457	4	433
2009	1 810	48	142	54	13	7	22	2	21	351	305	452	11	382
2010	1 605	44	111	60	10	2	28	7	20	244	287	415	13	364

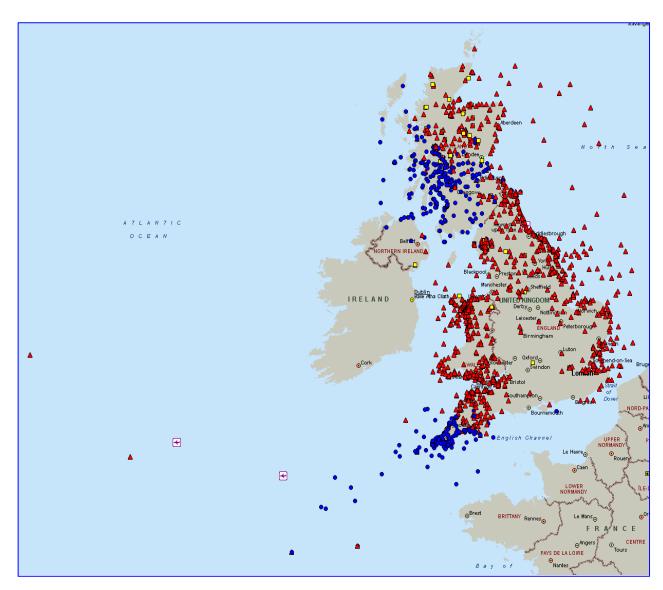
Table 5: Map of UK Military Search and Rescue callouts in 2010

RN helicopters

RAF helicopters

RAF Mountain Rescue Teams

RAF Nimrod aircraft





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 and four RAF Mountain Rescue Teams. The RAF Nimrods based at RAF Kinloss were withdrawn from service during 2010. Two RAF SAR helicopter units operate in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands.

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.raf.mod.uk/careers/lifeintheraf/searchandrescue.cfm
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.