



## MILITARY SEARCH AND RESCUE STATISTICS



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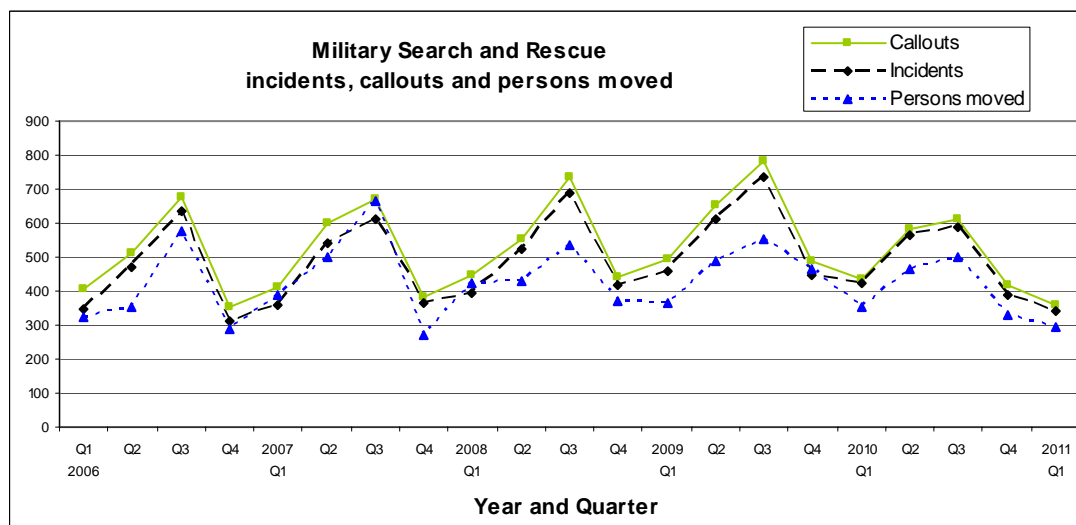
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### INTRODUCTION

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 first quarter of 2006. 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 2010 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 January and March 2011 Search and Rescue units attended 339 incidents resulting in 358 callouts with 295 persons being moved.
- The number of incidents and callouts were the lowest since Q4 2006, and the number of persons moved the lowest since Q4 2007.
- The incident involving the highest number of persons moved this quarter was on 4 February, when a unit from RAF Lossiemouth rescued 44 people from a ship in the North Sea.



**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.

		<b>Incidents</b>			<b>Callouts</b>			<b>Persons moved</b>		
		All	UK	Over-seas	All	UK	Over-seas	All	UK	Over-seas
2006	Q1	<b>346</b>	334	12	<b>407</b>	394	13	<b>323</b>	310	13
	Q2	<b>471</b>	451	20	<b>513</b>	488	25	<b>352</b>	340	12
	Q3	<b>637</b>	612	25	<b>678</b>	651	27	<b>575</b>	560	15
	Q4	<b>313</b>	306	7	<b>350</b>	342	8	<b>288</b>	253	35
2007	Q1	<b>359</b>	339	20	<b>409</b>	387	22	<b>386</b>	370	16
	Q2	<b>542</b>	524	18	<b>598</b>	572	26	<b>498</b>	488	10
	Q3	<b>613</b>	588	25	<b>673</b>	640	33	<b>662</b>	650	12
	Q4	<b>363</b>	352	11	<b>385</b>	374	11	<b>271</b>	259	12
2008	Q1	<b>393</b>	361	32	<b>447</b>	412	35	<b>423</b>	304	119
	Q2	<b>521</b>	494	27	<b>551</b>	519	32	<b>432</b>	412	20
	Q3	<b>691</b>	680	11	<b>737</b>	724	13	<b>537</b>	530	7
	Q4	<b>420</b>	406	14	<b>444</b>	428	16	<b>371</b>	361	10
2009	Q1	<b>461</b>	436	25	<b>495</b>	470	25	<b>365</b>	334	31
	Q2	<b>614</b>	602	12	<b>652</b>	637	15	<b>489</b>	484	5
	Q3	<b>737</b>	725	12	<b>781</b>	768	13	<b>555</b>	552	3
	Q4	<b>450</b>	428	22	<b>490</b>	462	28	<b>464</b>	440	24
2010	Q1	<b>421</b>	402	19	<b>437</b>	418	19	<b>353</b>	337	16
	Q2	<b>565</b>	553	12	<b>585</b>	570	15	<b>465</b>	462	3
	Q3	<b>587</b>	574	13	<b>613</b>	597	16	<b>501</b>	491	10
	Q4	<b>387</b>	372	15	<b>415</b>	398	17	<b>328</b>	315	13
2011	Q1	<b>339</b>	319	20	<b>358</b>	337	21	<b>295</b>	283	12

## **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. 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.