Military Search and Rescue Quarterly Statistics 2012 Quarter 1



# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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### Coverage

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Theme Defence

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## **Military SAR Statistics**

This report covers military Search and Rescue (SAR) activities. There is a strong seasonal pattern to SAR callouts, with the peak activity occuring in quarter 3, corresponding to the warmer summer months. The long term trend shows that SAR callouts peaked in 2009, and since then there has been a reduction in callout numbers, reverting towards the long term average. Over the past ten years, annual callout numbers have averaged 1959. During 2011, there were 1921 callouts.

### **Key Points**

• Between January and March 2012, military Search and Rescue units attended 320 incidents resulting in 338 callouts. Since 2011 Q1, this represents a 6% decrease in both incidents and callouts.

• During 2012 Q1 299 persons were moved. This is broadly similar to the number of persons moved in 2011 Q1(295). The number of persons moved in 2012 Q1 was high compared to the number of callouts in the quarter. This was the result of a number of incidents in which a large number of persons were moved. The largest number of persons moved was from an incident in March, where 49 people were evacuated from a venting oil rig in the North Sea.

• The number of callouts this quarter was the lowest for any quarter since 2004 Q4 (308 callouts). Over the past ten years, the average number of Q1 callouts has been 389. The 2012 Q1 callout number of 338 is 13% below the long term Q1 average.

• During 2012 Q1, there was an annual increase in the number of callouts requested by the ambulance service (19% increase on 2011 Q1), while callouts requested by the coastguard and police both fell. This increase in ambulance callouts is also reflected by the increase in the number of Medrescues (the transfer of a sick or injured person from a hostile environment to a recognised medical facility) since 2011 Q1 (a 16% increase).

• The unit which attended the most callouts this quarter was HMS Gannet. Over the past five years Gannet has typically been the unit that attends the most incidents. This is due to the large number of incidents occuring within the vicinity of Gannet, such as those in the Scottish Highlands.

• Callouts on land and coast both show a strong seasonal pattern with the peak callouts numbers generally falling in Q3 each year. Maritime callouts show less seasonality, with no clear peaks during the year. Over the past five years, the average number of quarterly maritime callouts has been 64, ranging from 36 to 102. The 2012 Q1 figure of 48 is therefore below the historical average.

• 95% of both callouts and persons moved during 2012 Q1 were to civilian incidents, and 5% to military incidents. Over the past five years the average proportion of civilian persons moved has been 95%. An exception to this long term average ratio was in 2008 Q1, when 90 military personnel were rescued from inclement weather in an incident in the Falkland Islands.

### What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for 2012 Q1. 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. It also provides a summary of MCA helicopter callouts. Additionally, military SAR reports are produced on a monthly and annual basis, available at the following links:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-MONTHLY http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-ANNUAL

The report includes counts of the number of incidents, callouts and persons moved in the previous quarter. It also includes time series representations of quarterly incidents, callouts and persons moved since 2002 Q1.

*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 (ARCC).

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 to a medical facility to receive urgent medical attention. It may also involve moving individuals 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 the 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. This also includes details of internal and external users of the reports, including a summary of their requirements and how well DASA's reports meet these requirements.

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=2100&date=2012-01-23&type=pdf&PublishTime=09:30:00\_

### Introduction

### Military Search and Rescue

The military Search and Rescue (SAR) service exists primarily to assist military personnel in difficulty, although the majority of its work involves assisting civilians in distress, both on land and at sea (data on the split between civilian and military callouts is presented on page 6). 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 has 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/Enduring-Operations/UK/Search-and-Rescue

### 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 most of these non-military organisations is outside the scope of this report, however background information on some of the organisations involved is 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 these 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. A summary of callouts for this quarter is provided in this report.

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 24 hour lifeboat SAR coverage around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, 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/\_

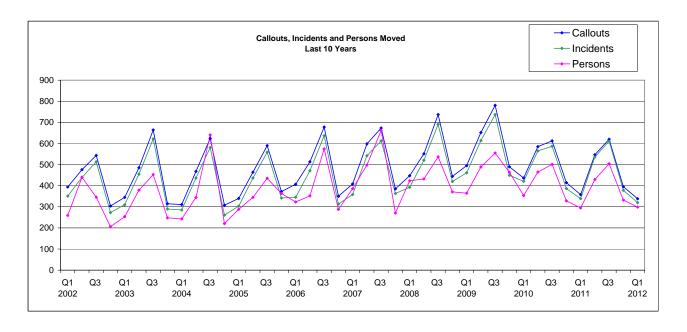
#### Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance services operate throughout the UK, providing emergency medical assistance. Further information is available at:

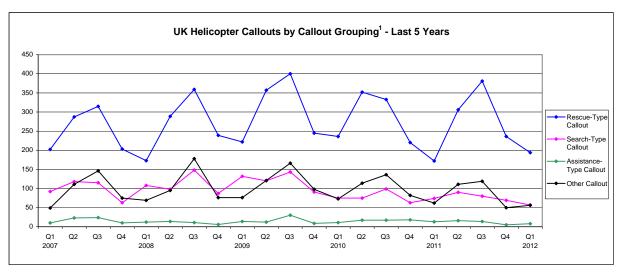
http://www.airambulanceassociation.co.uk/

### **UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary**

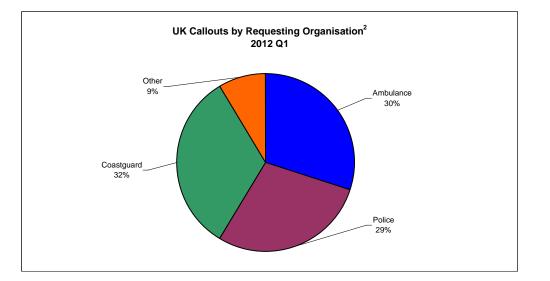
		Total Callouts		UK Helico	opters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountai	n Rescue	h	ncidents	Perso	ons Moved
2012	Jan	12	2	116		-		7		114		93
2012	Feb	10	-	96		6		4		101		78
	Mar	10		103		3		3		105		128
2012	Q1	33		315		9		4		320		299
	ά.			0.0		· ·	•	•		020		200
				Incidents			Callouts			Persons M	oved	
			All		Overseas	All	UK	Overseas	AI		Overseas	
		2002 Q1	351	341	10	394	384		25		10	1
		Q2	440	432	8	476	468	8	44	0 434	6	
		Q3	513	506	7	544	537		34	6 341	5	
		Q4	273	265	8	304	295	9	20	6 200	6	
		2003 Q1	310	296	14	345	331	14	25	3 235	18	
		Q2	455	441	14	485	467	18	37	9 370	9	
		Q3	622	603	19	664	633	31	45	3 446	7	
		Q4	290	260	30	315	283		24	8 222	26	
		2004 Q1	285	277	8	311	303		24	3 235	8	
		Q2	437	418	19	468	445	-	34	4 332	12	
		Q3	581	557	24	624	595		64		14	
		Q4	261	252	9	308	295		22		3	
		2005 Q1	303	292	11	340	328		28		13	
		Q2	437	418	19	464	442		34		8	
		Q3	559	545	14	590	573		43		10	
		Q4	342	329	13	372	359	13	36		16	
		2006 Q1	346	334	12	407	394	-	32		13	
		Q2	471	451	20	513	488		35		12	
		Q3	637	612	25	678	651	27	57		15	
		Q4	313	306	7	350	342		28		35	
		2007 Q1	359 542	339 524	20 18	409 598	387 572		38		16 10	
		Q2 Q3	542 613	524 588	25	673	572 640		49 66		10	
		Q3 Q4	363	352	11	385	374		27		12	
		2008 Q1	303	361	32	447	412		42		119	
		2000 Q1 Q2	521	494	27	551	519		42		20	
		Q2 Q3	691	680	11	737	724		53		7	
		Q3 Q4	420	406	14	444	428		37		, 10	
		2009 Q1	461	436	25	495	470		36		31	
		2000 Q1	614	602	12	652	637		48		5	
		Q3	737	725	12	781	768		55		3	
		Q4	450	428	22	490	462		46		24	
		2010 Q1	421	402	19	437	418	-	35		16	
		Q2	565	553	12	585	570		46		3	
		Q3	587	574	13	613	597	16	50	1 491	10	
		Q4	387	372	15	415	398	17	32	8 315	13	
		2011 Q1	339	319	20	358	337	21	29	5 283	12	
		Q2	536	523	13	547	533	14	42	9 418	11	
		Q3	611	596	15	620	605	15	50	4 487	17	
		Q4	378	363	15	396	381	15	33	2 313	19	
		2012 Q1	320	311	9	338	329	9	29	9 292	7	

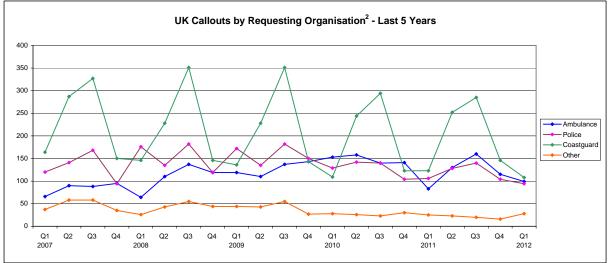


## **UK Search and Rescue Summary**



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 17

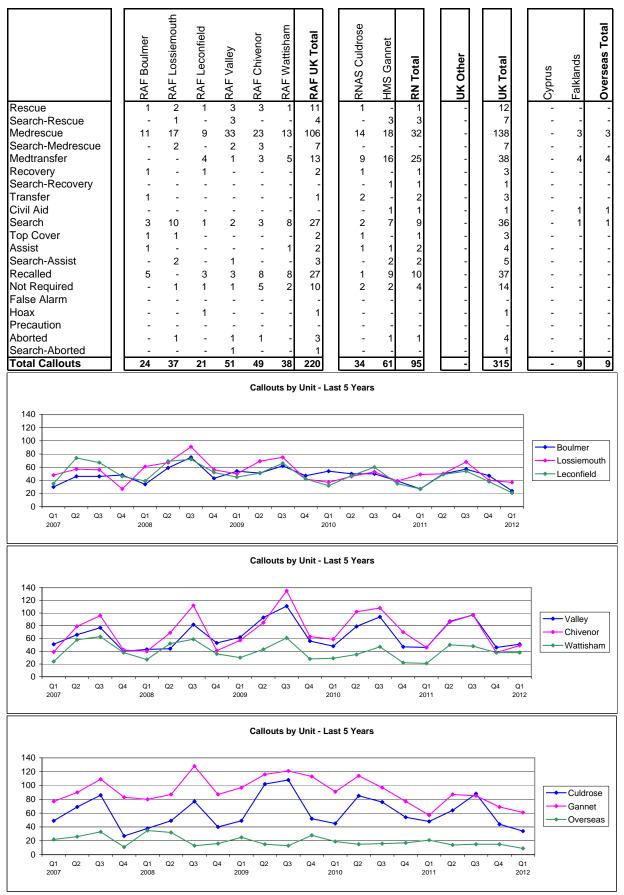




2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

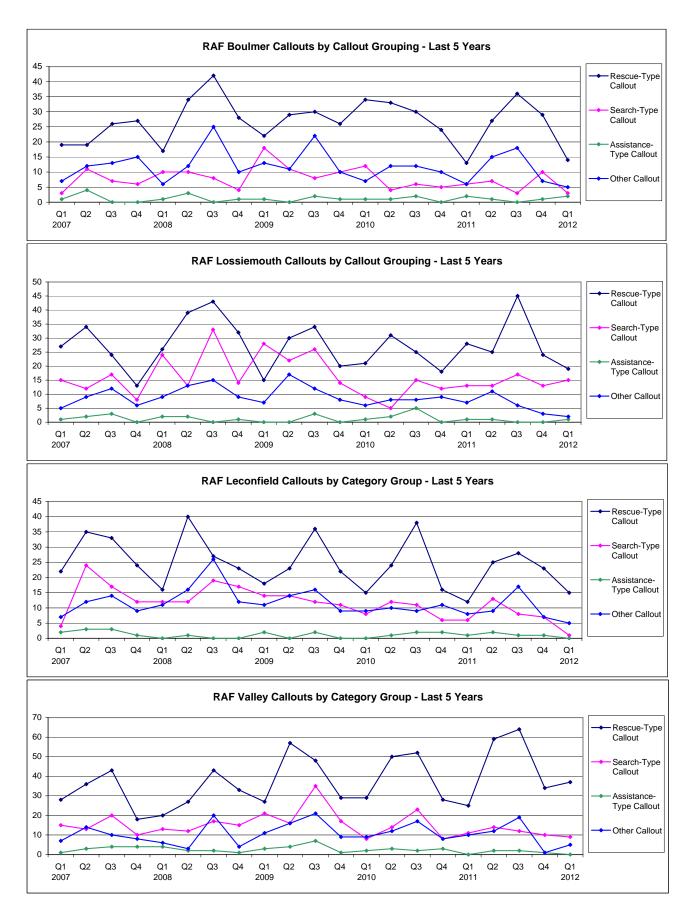


## **Callouts - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)**



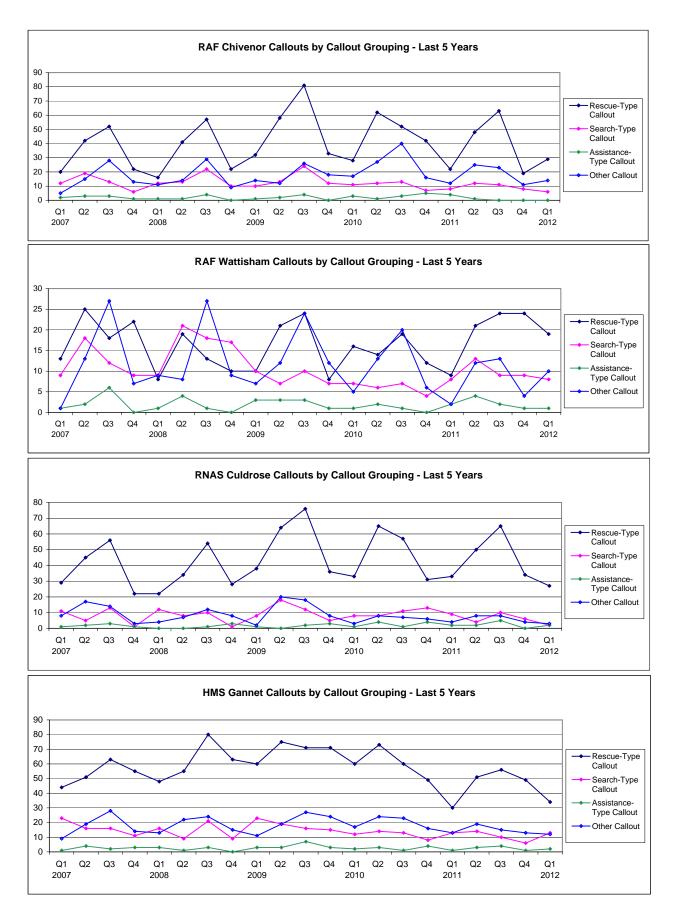


## **Callouts - UK Helicopters**





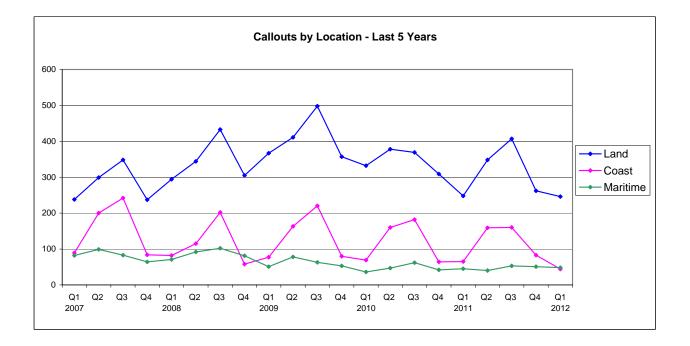
## **Callouts - UK Helicopters**

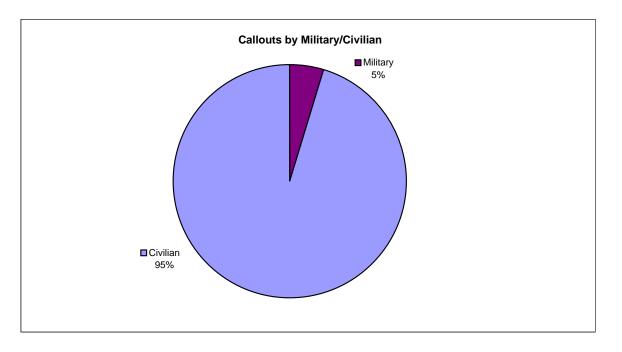


## Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Land	11	-	-	-	-	-	234	1	246
Coast	-	5	4	-	-	-	35	-	44
Maritime	-	31	3	10	-	-	4	-	48
Total	11	36	7	10	-	-	273	1	338



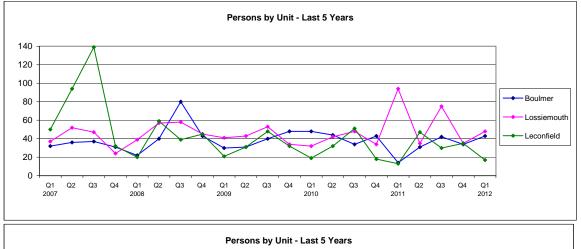


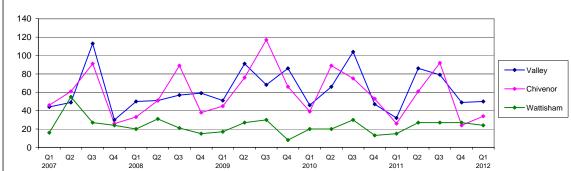


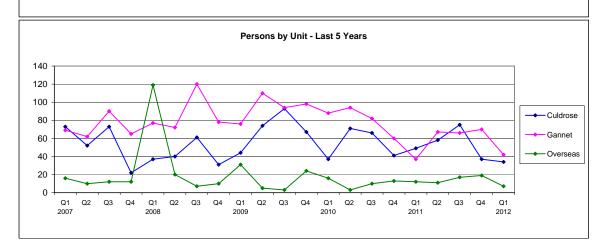


## Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	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	29	26	3	5	5	2	70	2	1	3	-	73	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	2	-	7	-	-	9	-	7	7	-	16	-	-	-
Medrescue	11	17	9	35	23	17	112	16	19	35	-	147	-	3	3
Search-Medrescue	-	2	-	2	3	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	-	4	1	3	5	13	13	14	27	-	40	-	4	4
Recovery	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Transfer	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	4	-	-	-
Total Persons	43	48	17	50	34	24	216	34	42	76	-	292	-	7	7

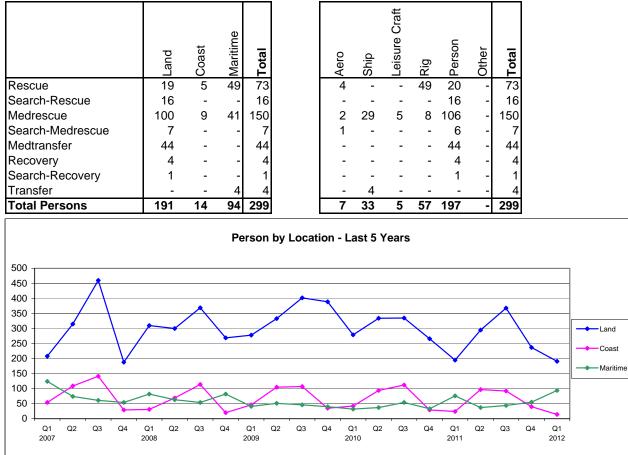




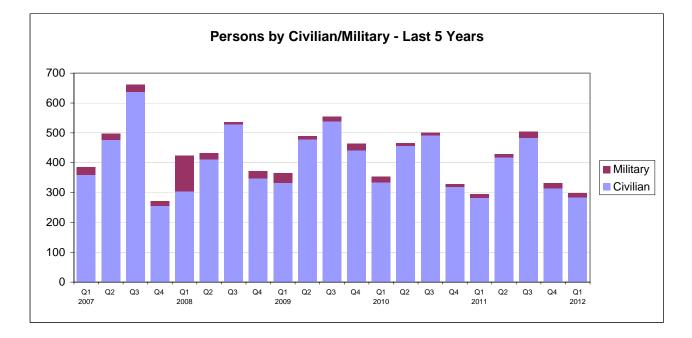


## Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)





Persons by Callout Category



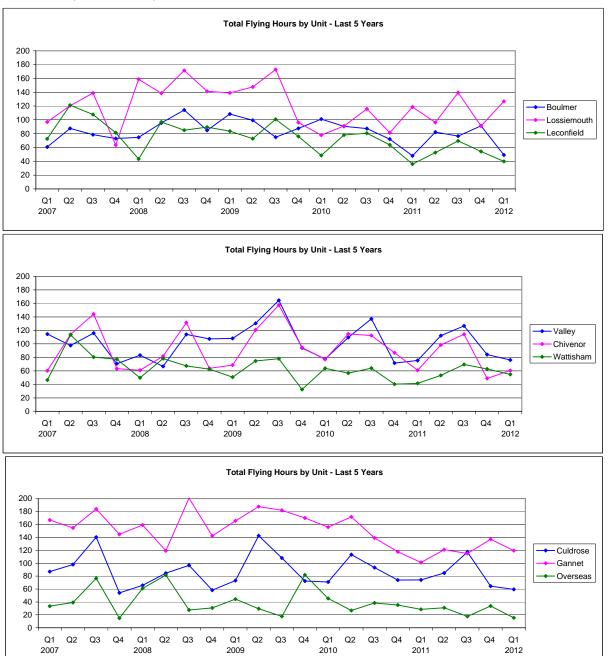


## **SAR Flying Hours**

	Total Flying	Average Flying	Average time to	Average distance
	Hours <sup>3</sup>	Hours <sup>3</sup>	casualty <sup>3,4</sup>	from base (nm)
RAF Boulmer	49.05	2.03	0.32	65
RAF Lossiemouth	126.45	3.26	0.37	72
RAF Leconfield	39.50	1.54	0.21	49
RAF Valley	76.07	1.30	0.19	31
RAF Chivenor	60.35	1.14	0.19	36
RAF Wattisham	54.50	1.27	0.29	43
RNAS Culrose	59.22	1.45	0.25	46
HMS Gannet	119.25	1.57	0.35	53
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-	-
Falklands	15.15	1.42	0.21	28
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-	-
	601.14	1.51	0.27	40

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

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



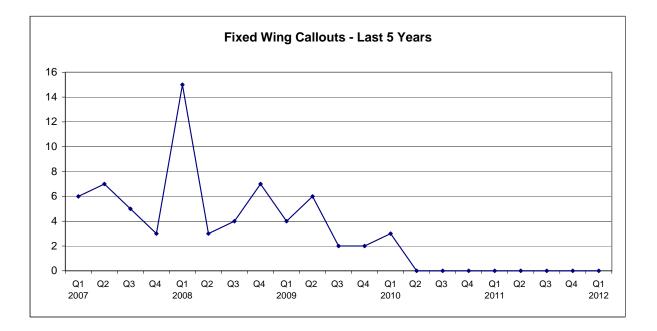


## **Mountain Rescue Teams**



## Fixed Wing Aircraft (UK & Overseas)

	Callouts	J	Average distance from base (nm)
UK Fixed Wing	-	-	-
Overseas Fixed Wing	-	-	-
	-	-	-



Historically, Fixed Wing SAR coverage was provided by Nimrod aircraft based at RAF Kinloss. The Nimrod was withdrawn from service in March 2010. The Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre can now call upon a variery of fixed wing aircraft to assist with long range rescues. Callouts for these aircraft are outside the scope of this report.



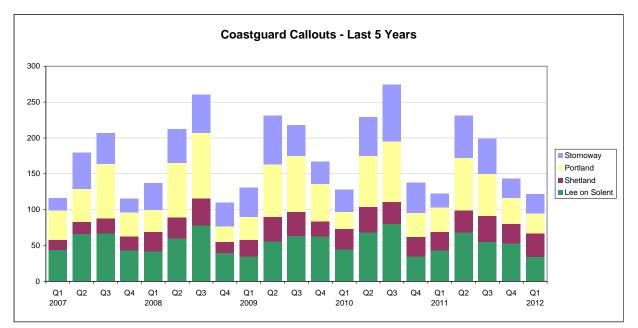
## Maritime & Coastguard Agency SAR Statistics

Source: Maritime & Coastguard Agency. Please note that these figures are provisional and subject to audit. The data in this table are outside the scope of National Statistics.

Quarterly Analysis of Incidents using CG Helicopter assistance by base for 1st Quarter 2012

1 January - 31 March 2012

	Lee on Solent	Shetland	Portland	Stornoway	Total
January	13	3	12	9	37
February	12	11	9	11	43
March	9	19	7	7	42
Total	34	33	28	27	122



# **UK SAR RAF HELICOPTER CALLOUTS**

#### 8 **RAF Boulmer** 8 **RAF** Valley 8 **RAF** Wattisham Stavang OAberdeen SCOTLAND <sup>⊙</sup>Dundee North S e a 3 0 Eanburgh ۲ Glasgow 8 NORTHERN IRELAND Belfast Newcastle upon Tyne Middlesbrough UNITED KINGDOM Preston ⊙<sup>Leeds</sup> Hull Dublin Baile Atha Cliath **Manchester** Literpool Sheffield IRELAND 💿 💿 Nottingham 🖇 on-Trento Derby . Leicester Sorwich Наагіент Birmingham ENGLAND •Cork ⊙ Northampton The Hague • Gloucester WALES Luton Bre $_{\odot}^{\text{Swindon}}$ Swansea thend-on-Sea London Caerdydd <sup>⊙</sup>Bristol ñ 8 Bruges<sub>o</sub> (" 8 8 Ghent Southampton • Brighton Bournemouth Lille <sup>O</sup>Plymouth NORD-PAS-DE-CAL

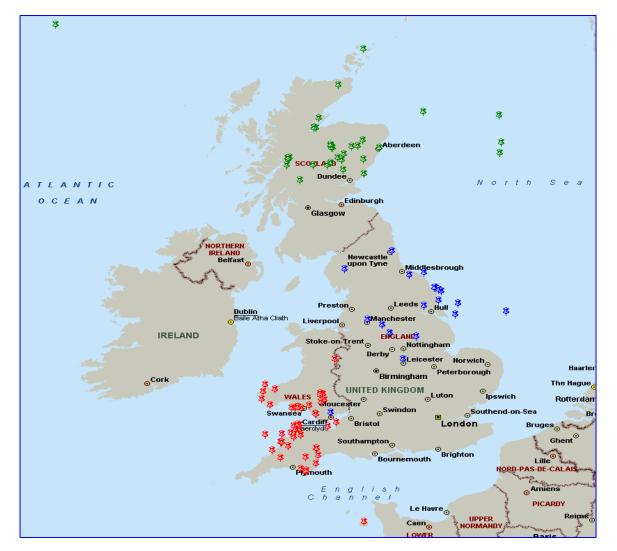
# January – March 2012

Page 13

# **UK SAR RAF HELICOPTER CALLOUTS**

# January – March 2012

RAF Chivenor	\$
RAF Leconfield	8
RAF Lossiemouth	8

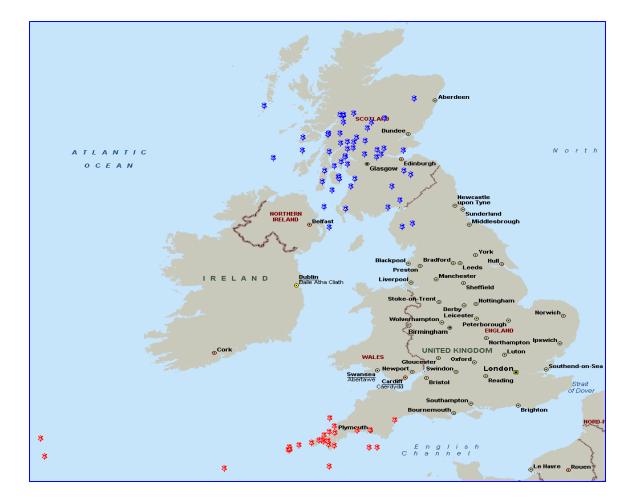




# **UK SAR RN HELICOPTER CALLOUTS**

# January – March 2012







# **UK SAR MRT CALLOUTS**

# January – March 2012

MRT Kinloss	8
MRT Leeming	8
MRT Leuchars	8
MRT Valley	\$





## 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 person(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

