

# **Background Quality Report**

## **Statistical Series 5 - Activities**

### **Bulletin 5.02 - Operation HERRICK Redeployment Data for Vehicles, Major Items of Equipment and Materiel (October 2012 to September 2014).**

## **1. Introduction**

### **Overview**

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is responsible through the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) for the redeployment of UK Armed Forces from Afghanistan (Operation HERRICK) to the UK.

This Bulletin will only contain information on Operation HERRICK redeployment and will now be released as its own publication (Bulletin - 5.02).

The statistics on Operation HERRICK redeployment are published monthly and provide the details of Vehicles and Major Equipment (VaME) and Materiel (expressed as Twenty foot Equivalent Units) redeployed from Afghanistan to the UK. All tables in this publication are Official Statistics.

### **Methodology and Production**

Operation HERRICK redeployment statistics are extracted from PJHQ managed data sources, which are provided principally by the military logistic headquarters in Afghanistan (Joint Force Support (Afghanistan) (JFSp(A)) and Defence Supply Chain Operations and Movements (DSCOM)). Through adherence to robust MOD procedures and accounting practices, an auditable trail of supply chain movement has been maintained. It is this record that is used to calculate the number of VaME and TEUs of materiel that have been redeployed each month.

The statistics extracted from JFSp(A) and DSCOM data sources are collated by PJHQ and Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Logistic Operations) (ACDS(Log Ops)) staff to give the figures in Bulletin - 5.02.

### **Contact details**

Head of Defence Statistics (Web Development & Surveys) is the point of contact for Bulletin - 5.02.

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Defence Statistics welcome feedback on this Background Quality Report or any of the statistics mentioned. Statistical outputs produced by MOD can now be found on the [Statistics at MOD page](#) of GOV.UK.

## 2. Relevance

Bulletin 5.02 is the primary means by which statistics on Operation HERRICK redeployment are made widely available.

The information in this Bulletin may have a range of users including the media, politicians, academic researchers and the general public who might use the information to generate a better understanding of Operation HERRICK redeployment.

The MOD must manage its assets appropriately. Although internal accounting systems are sufficient for internal use, publication as a Statistical Bulletin makes information on Op HERRICK redeployment available publicly, regularly and as a time series. The bulletin includes definitions and other information, so that the data is set in context and can be understood by a lay audience as well as those with a professional interest.

## 3. Accuracy

VaME have been defined within policy and are individual items that can be accounted for and tracked using Defence's Logistic Information Systems. Whilst a TEU is not an accurate measure of materiel, for redeployment purposes it is used as a common high-level reporting metric with a clear definition. For redeployment purposes, a TEU of materiel has been defined as 3 aircraft pallets or an ISO container of materiel. The loads leaving theatre have been tracked, accounted for, and where necessary converted into TEUs.

Statement of source, reliability and checking remain reliable; this is due to the logistic assurance procedures in place, which are conducted and confirmed through internal audit processes including Army Logistic Support Technical Inspections. These statistics are sense-checked by PJHQ / MOD staff who have carried out the data extraction and collation. The data in these tables has also been sense-checked by Government statisticians.

## 4. Timeliness and Punctuality

As an Official Statistic, the release date for Bulletin 5.02 was pre-announced in the Releases section of GOV.UK and on the [Hub](#) in accordance with the guidance set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Each month the bar charts, graphs and tables in this Bulletin are updated to include the most recent retrospective redeployment data.

## 5. Accessibility and Clarity

Bulletin – 5.02 is published on the [MOD Activities page](#) on GOV.UK as a PDF document. The tables are available as an Excel file to enable the figures to be reused.

The Statistical Bulletin provides a summary of key points, a link to this Background Quality Report, and the contact details of the point of contact for statistics. This is followed by a key findings section which includes graphical representation of some of the statistics, provides further detail about the trends in the data and draws attention to contextual information that has affected these trends.

The background information section assists with the accessibility and clarity of this bulletin by setting out the context of the statistics, providing definitions and explanations of the terms used and giving information on methods and data quality.

Owing to the lack of statistical analysis in this report, there are no estimates or potential for bias. The potential sources of error within the report sit in the source data itself. MOD has no other sources to validate the data against and will assume it has been entered correctly at source.

## 6. Coherence and Comparability

ACDS (Log Ops) provide the definitive statistics within the MOD on Operation HERRICK redeployment. There are no other publicly available publications on the redeployment of VaME and materiel with which to ensure coherence.

## 7. Trade-offs between Output Quality Components

The main trade-off is between the level of detail that can be provided in an open source document and operational security. In order to maintain operational security, the data provided is all retrospective. Additionally, there is no indication of the total size of the redeployment challenge, monthly redeployment targets or an end date for redeployment.

## 8. Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions

Defence Statistics has previously held regular consultation meetings with users of Defence Official Statistics, which provided a forum for user feedback on their needs and perceptions. Proposed changes were set out at the consultation meetings in order to gain feedback from both internal and external users.

Defence Statistics invites users to provide feedback on any of their publications and reports using the contact information on the front of the statistical bulletin.

## 9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden

The development of each Statistical Bulletin takes approximately 0.1 FTE. The burden on the data providers is low as the upkeep of the various logistic databases forms part of their daily routine and assurance regimes. The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided to MOD and PJHQ by JFSp(A). The benefit of the MOD publishing information on Operation HERRICK redeployment is that this data is placed in the public domain, and as Official Statistics, in a way that ensures their independence from political interference and adherence to quality standards. The small burden that this places on the data suppliers is considered to be worthwhile to achieve this, and the consequent public accountability provided by their publication.

## 10. Confidentiality, Transparency and Security

In accordance with legislative requirements, all Defence personnel involved in the production of statistics should have completed the Government wide Protecting Information Level 1 training and therefore understand their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and the Official Statistics Code of Practice. The data is stored, accessed and analysed using the MOD's restricted network and IT systems. The databases supplied by external sources are password protected. Bulletin - 5.02 does not contain any identifiable personal data and is in compliance with the Official Secrets Act and current codes of practice regarding Information Management.

All MOD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to. All data are stored, accessed and analysed using the MOD's restricted network and IT systems.

We adhere to the principles and protocols laid out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The [Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists](#) are available on GOV.UK. This bulletin is subject to the pre-release access arrangements for UKDS as a whole.

## 11. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Statistics at MOD Homepage	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics</a>
2	MOD's Timetable of Future Releases of National and Official Statistics	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-timetable-for-future-releases-of-national-and-official-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-timetable-for-future-releases-of-national-and-official-statistics</a>
3	Bulletin 5.02 – Operation HERRICK Redeployment Data - Homepage on GOV.UK	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-national-and-official-statistics-by-topic">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-national-and-official-statistics-by-topic</a>
4	Code of Practice for Official Statistics	<a href="http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf">http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf</a>
5	Defence Statistics Pre-release Access lists	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list</a>

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