



Ministry  
of Defence

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21 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2016 requesting the following information:

*Can you let me have the following information:*

*The number of all military personnel who have a diagnosis of a T Cell lymphoma*

*Their gender*

*Their age*

*Where they have served on operational tour*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is enclosed.

As at 1 April 2016, **five** UK Armed Forces personnel have had a read code for T-cell lymphoma entered into their MOD primary care (GP) medical record. This represents the minimum number of UK Armed Forces personnel with a diagnosis of T-cell lymphoma.

- All of these personnel were male.
- These personnel were aged 32, 36, 44, 49 and 54.
- Fewer than five personnel served on each of the following operational tours: Op KIPION, Op HERRICK, Op ATALANTA.
- Fewer than five personnel did not serve on any operational tour.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

The figure provided is a minimum for the following reasons:

1. A diagnosis of T-cell lymphoma is made in secondary care (NHS or private hospitals).
2. A hospital may then advise a military GP if a patient has a diagnosis in the form of a letter. A military GP can record this information in a number of ways:
  - A paper letter may be filed in a paper medical record.
  - A letter may be scanned into the electronic patient record (in a pdf format)

- The GP may make notes in the medical record as free text which cannot be searched for centrally.
  - If a more generic code for T-cell lymphoma is used, for example 'lymphoma' or 'cancer' which would therefore not be included.
3. The NHS holds cancer registries which record all cases of cancer including military personnel. However the MOD does not have access to this data and does not hold a separate cancer registry for military personnel.

From 2007 onwards the MOD introduced a new electronic patient record Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) which has a centralised data warehouse from which searches for codes can be run.

Please note that it is not possible to identify from the coded information which patients are currently experiencing a particular medical condition. The codes only show the number of people within a time frame who have had a code entered in their record for a condition.

The rollout of DMICP began in 2007 and by the end of 2010 was largely completed for the UK fixed base. Data between 2007 and the end of 2010 are incomplete. Rollout of DMICP to deployed and overseas locations is ongoing.

The following read codes have been searched for:

B62xX	Oth and unspecif peripheral & cutaneous T-cell lymphomas
BBm5	[M] Peripheral T-cell lymphoma NOS
B62x2	Peripheral T-cell lymphoma
BBr27	[M] Adult T-cell leukaemia/lymphoma
ByuDD	[X] Oth and unspecif peripheral & cutaneous T-cell lymphomas
B64y5	Adult T-cell lymphoma/leukaemia (HTLV-1-associated)
B62E3	Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma
B62E5	Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma
B62E6	Enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma
B62E7	Subcutaneous panniculitic T-cell lymphoma
B62E9	Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma

Data on deployment was derived from the JPA 'Move and Track' system which was introduced in April 2007.

#### *Op KIPION*

The UK's primary deterrence and presence patrol in the Middle East.

#### *Op HERRICK*

Operation HERRICK is the name associated to all British operations in Afghanistan. Operation HERRICK also encompasses the whole of the Joint Operation Area in the region so personnel deployed to this operation do not have to be solely deployed within Afghanistan. Not all supporting operational posts are geographically located within Afghanistan. Operation HERRICK consists of the British contribution to the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and support to the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

#### *Op ATALANTA*

Forces of Operation ATALANTA deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast. EU Naval Force protects vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering aid to displaced persons in Somalia

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)