



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference : FOI2016/04495

19 May 2016

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 20 April 2015 requesting the following information:

"I am currently a student at the University of Oxford, am planning my thesis. I am hoping to map what influences public opinion regarding foreign policy attitudes (specifically during the period of the Iraq War, 2003-2010). I am hoping to map casualty rates, and see if these, along with other variables impact public opinion levels.

I have previously requested a Freedom of Information and have currently collected monthly British fatality rates for 2003 - 2010, and monthly casualty rates 2006-2009. However, I would also like access to monthly casualty rates 2003-2006 to include in my analysis and was wondering if you could help me with this?"

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

Following further correspondence for FOI2015\11240 we understand you require Operation TELIC Casualty and Fatality numbers, rather than rates.

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

Op TELIC Casualty and Fatality numbers for 1 January 2006 to 31 July 2009 were reported in your previous FOI request (FOI2015/11240). Please note that the Fatality table presented in FOI2015/11240 does include Ministry of Defence Civilian fatalities.

Table 1 provides a monthly breakdown of Op TELIC casualty numbers between 1 March 2003 and 31 December 2005. The table presents the number of Aeromedical Evacuations and the number of UK Armed Forces and Civilian Personnel that were admitted to the Field Hospital.

Table 2 provides a monthly breakdown of the number of UK Armed Forces and Civilian Personnel fatalities for Op TELIC by cause of death between 1 March 2003 and 31 December 2005.

Table 1: Op TELIC UK Military and Civilian casualties by year and month of admission/evacuation, numbers ^{1 2}
1 March 2003 to 31 December 2005

Year	Month	Field Hospital Admissions ^{3 4}	Aeromed Evacuations ⁵
2003		4,928 p	1,535 p
	Mar	761 p	0 p
	Apr	1,513 p	526 p
	May	511 p	288 p
	Jun	447 p	150 p
	Jul	502 p	198 p
	Aug	360 p	130 p
	Sep	185 p	54 p
	Oct	352 p	55 p
	Nov	195 p	67 p
	Dec	102 p	67 p
2004		2,006 p	707 p
	Jan	88 p	59 p
	Feb	70 p	38 p
	Mar	237 p	68 p
	Apr	244 p	61 p
	May	179 p	65 p
	Jun	169 p	103 p
	Jul	148 p	72 p
	Aug	150 p	77 p
	Sep	112 p	44 p
	Oct	313 p	46 p
	Nov	202 p	39 p
	Dec	94 p	35 p
2005		1,161 p	600 p
	Jan	103 p	60 p
	Feb	66 p	37 p
	Mar	174 p	42 p
	Apr	259 p	52 p
	May	79 p	49 p
	Jun	17 p	65 p
	Jul	8 p	40 p
	Aug	4 p	52 p
	Sep	66 p	29 p
	Oct	207 p	62 p
	Nov	111 p	53 p
	Dec	67 p	59 p

Source: Field Hospital data (Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR) and J97 returns), Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC)

p – These data are provisional and subject to change (See Advice and Assistance provided under Section 16)

1 – Individuals could appear in each dataset, for example an individual may appear as admitted to the Field Hospital and as Aeromedically Evacuated.

2 – These numbers exclude individuals who later died of their injuries; these individuals are captured in Table 2.

3 – If an individual was injured/ill on multiple events they were counted for each event where the injury/illness was not linked to a previous event.

4 – The data contains UK Military and Civilian personnel that were admitted to the field hospital. Individuals who attended the Field Hospital but who were not admitted have been excluded.

5 – These numbers includes all aeromedical evacuations where the theatre was recorded as Operation Telic, this includes connecting flights and reverse aeromedical evacuations.

**Table 1: Op TELIC UK Military and Civilian¹ fatalities by year and month of death, numbers^{2,3}
1 March 2003 to 31 December 2005**

Year Month	Fatalities			
	Total	Killed in Action	Died of wounds	Other
2003	53	39	1	13
Mar	25	21	1	3
Apr	8	6	0	2
May	4	0	0	4
Jun	6	6	0	0
Jul	1	0	0	1
Aug	6	5	0	1
Sep	1	0	0	1
Oct	0	0	0	0
Nov	2	1	0	1
Dec	0	0	0	0
2004	22	10	0	12
Jan	5	0	0	5
Feb	1	0	0	1
Mar	0	0	0	0
Apr	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0
Jun	1	1	0	0
Jul	1	0	0	1
Aug	4	3	0	1
Sep	3	2	0	1
Oct	2	0	0	2
Nov	4	4	0	0
Dec	1	0	0	1
2005	23	18	2	3
Jan	10	10	0	0
Feb	0	0	0	0
Mar	1	0	0	1
Apr	0	0	0	0
May	2	1	1	0
Jun	1	0	0	1
Jul	3	3	0	0
Aug	0	0	0	0
Sep	3	3	0	0
Oct	2	1	0	1
Nov	1	0	1	0
Dec	0	0	0	0

Source: Defence Statistics Deaths Database

1 – These data includes Ministry of Defence Civilians.

2 – Some deaths may not have clearly defined cause information and could be subject to change depending on the outcome of Boards of Inquiry and/or Coroners' Inquest.

3 – These data include all deaths occurring as a result of accidental or violent causes while deployed and deaths due to disease related causes during the deployment.

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

Operation TELIC is the name for UK operations in Iraq which started in **March 2003**. There was a drawdown of troops in July 2009 and Operation TELIC closed on 21 May 2011. UK Forces were deployed to Iraq to support the Government's objective to remove the threat that Saddam posed to his neighbours and his people and, based on the evidence available at the time, disarm him of his weapons of mass destruction. The Government also undertook to support the Iraqi people in their desire for peace, prosperity, freedom and good government.

Please note that Operation TELIC casualty data is undergoing a large validation process, therefore the numbers in this release should be treated as provisional and subject to change. Once the validation is completed Operation TELIC casualty figures will be re-released.

More information on the cause of deaths from Operation TELIC can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/fields-of-operation/iraq>

If you would like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering Operation TELIC casualties and fatalities, you can subscribe by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

Background notes

Field Hospital Data

The number of UK Service personnel with an injury or illness has been compiled from the Field Hospital data (J97 Field Hospital returns and Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register). The figures previously released are from the J97 Field Hospital Returns only.

The numbers include UK Armed Forces and Civilian personnel with an admission record. Individuals who attended the Field Hospital but who are not admitted have been excluded.

For each event only the initial admission was included, no follow up admissions have been counted.

The numbers in Table 1 exclude UK Armed Forces and Civilian personnel who were admitted to the Field Hospital but later died of their injuries, these individuals are captured in Table 2.

J97 Returns

Defence Statistics received information on the patients who were admitted to or attended the UK Field Hospital from the J97 Returns.

Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR)

Up until 31 December 2011, the OpEDAR database recorded all patients who had attended or been admitted through the A&E department of the UK operational field hospital. The data included all patients including UK Service personnel, other NATO forces, civilians (both UK and nationals) and detainees. This register was replaced with a new IT system; Whole Hospital Information System (WHIS).

Aeromedical Evacuation

Aeromedical Evacuation (AE) is the medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical facilities by air transportation. The RAF Aeromedical Evacuation Service provides the worldwide patient air movement capability for Defence 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Patients are risk assessed prior to flight, and when necessary, trained medical teams are provided to deliver care in the air.

Defence Statistics receive aeromedical evacuation records fortnightly from the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) at RAF Brize Norton for operations. The numbers presented in this response include the number of all aeromedical evacuations where the theatre is recorded as Op TELIC, this includes connecting flights and reverse aeromedical evacuations.

Deaths

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

Figures are for Tri-Service regular and reservists personnel and Ministry of Defence civilians.

- **KIA** is a battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.

- **DOW** is a battle casualty who dies of wounds or other injuries received in action, after having reached a medical treatment facility.
- **Other causes** include deaths due to; accidents, natural causes, assault, coroner confirmed suicide or open verdicts and cause not known.

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>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)