



Ministry of Defence

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10 June 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 24 May 2016 requesting the following information:

The number of operational military fatalities on a month to month basis from 1990-2014

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.

Between 1 January 1990 and 31 December 2014, **1,009** UK Armed Forces have died as a result of operations. A breakdown of these deaths by month as requested can be found at **ANNEX A** accompanying this document.

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 operations in: Cyprus (United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP)), Northern Ireland, Gulf, Air Operations Iraq, Cambodia, Balkans, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. Descriptions of these operations can be found in **ANNEX A**.

Figures are for tri-Service regular and reserve personnel

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering suicide and open verdict deaths in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely
Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)

Table 1: UK Armed Forces¹ operational² deaths³ by year and month, numbers

1 January 1990 to 31 December 2014

Source: Defence Statistics (Health)

Year and month	Number of deaths
All deaths	1,009
1990	45
January	2
February	3
March	5
April	4
May	2
June	5
July	2
August	2
September	5
October	6
November	6
December	3
1991	73
January	13
February	23
March	6
April	3
May	6
June	2
July	1
August	4
September	3
October	3
November	7
December	2
1992	36
January	2
February	0
March	1
April	3
May	5
June	3
July	1
August	8
September	2
October	4
November	6
December	1
1993	26
January	1
February	3
March	4
April	0
May	3
June	3
July	2

August	0
September	1
October	1
November	3
December	5

1994 32

January	0
February	1
March	2
April	9
May	4
June	1
July	5
August	2
September	6
October	0
November	1
December	1

1995 33

January	3
February	2
March	1
April	1
May	1
June	4
July	3
August	5
September	1
October	5
November	4
December	3

1996 21

January	3
February	1
March	1
April	1
May	3
June	1
July	2
August	1
September	3
October	2
November	2
December	1

1997 12

January	0
February	2
March	2
April	0
May	0
June	1
July	2
August	1
September	2
October	2
November	0
December	0

1998	22
January	4
February	0
March	0
April	1
May	1
June	5
July	1
August	1
September	2
October	3
November	0
December	4

1999	12
January	1
February	0
March	0
April	1
May	1
June	2
July	1
August	0
September	2
October	1
November	1
December	2

2000	15
January	1
February	1
March	3
April	3
May	2
June	0
July	0
August	2
September	2
October	0
November	0
December	1

2001	15
January	1
February	0
March	0
April	3
May	1
June	1
July	1
August	2
September	1
October	1
November	1
December	3

2002	12
January	4
February	1
March	0
April	1
May	3

June	0
July	0
August	2
September	0
October	1
November	0
December	0

2003	61
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January	2
February	0
March	26
April	9
May	3
June	6
July	1
August	7
September	1
October	0
November	4
December	2

2004	29
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January	6
February	2
March	0
April	2
May	1
June	1
July	1
August	4
September	3
October	3
November	4
December	2

2005	27
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January	10
February	0
March	3
April	0
May	2
June	1
July	3
August	0
September	3
October	4
November	1
December	0

2006	73
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January	2
February	3
March	2
April	2
May	9
June	6
July	4
August	9
September	22
October	4
November	6

December 4

2007 91

January 6
February 5
March 6
April 13
May 8
June 11
July 14
August 10
September 9
October 2
November 4
December 3

2008 55

January 1
February 3
March 3
April 3
May 3
June 13
July 4
August 2
September 4
October 1
November 7
December 11

2009 109

January 6
February 7
March 3
April 1
May 12
June 4
July 22
August 19
September 8
October 6
November 12
December 9

2010 103

January 6
February 15
March 12
April 3
May 8
June 20
July 16
August 7
September 6
October 4
November 3
December 3

2011 48

January 2
February 7
March 6

April	1
May	5
June	6
July	4
August	3
September	2
October	1
November	7
December	4

2012	44
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January	3
February	1
March	9
April	3
May	5
June	4
July	3
August	3
September	8
October	4
November	1
December	0

2013	9
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January	2
February	0
March	1
April	3
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	1
November	1
December	1

2014	6
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January	0
February	0
March	1
April	5
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	0
December	0

Notes:

1. Figures are for tri-Service regular and reservist personnel.
2. Figures are for operations in: Cyprus (UNFICYP), Northern Ireland, Gulf, Air Operations Iraq, Cambodia, Balkans, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.
3. Figures are for all causes of death: Hostile action, accidents, natural causes, assaults, coroner confirmed suicide or open verdicts and cause not known.

Operation descriptions

Source: Defence Statistics (Health)

Cyprus (UNFICYP)

UN Security Council Resolution 186 recommended the formation of UNFICYP on 4 Mar 1964 following inter-communal fighting between the Greek and Turkish communities on Cyprus. The Force became operational on 27 Mar 1964 as a joint civilian/military security corps and remains ongoing today.

Northern Ireland

Operation Banner was the operational name for the British Armed Forces operation in Northern Ireland from August 1969 to July 2007. British troops were initially deployed at the request of the Unionist government of Northern Ireland to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). After the 1998 Belfast Agreement, the operation was gradually scaled down. Its role was to assert the authority of the Government of the UK in Northern Ireland.

Gulf

The first Gulf War (2 Aug 1990 to 28 Feb 1991), codenamed Operation Desert Shield, encompassed operations leading to the build-up of troops and air power for the defence of Saudi Arabia. Operation Desert Storm (17 Jan 1991 to 28 Feb 1991) was a war waged by coalition forces from 34 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Air Operations Iraq

1991 witnessed the start of coalition air patrols over the Northern Iraqi No-Fly Zone designed to protect Iraq's Kurdish minority. The RAF contributed detachments of Jaguars, Harriers and Tornados to this operation over a period of nearly twelve years. In August 1992, the RAF based a detachment of six Tornado GR1s at Dhahran in Saudi Arabia to contribute to the maintenance of the Southern No Fly Zone, which was created to protect the Iraqi Shiite community. This detachment was later moved to Prince Sultan air base, Al Kharj.

Cambodia

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was a United Nations peacekeeping operation in 1992-93. The UN deployed to Cambodia to help maintain the ceasefire and provide experience in training the civilian population in how to avoid injury from land mines and booby traps.

Balkans

The NATO intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina comprised of a series of actions undertaken by NATO to establish and then preserve peace during and after the Bosnian War. NATO's intervention began largely as political and symbolic, but gradually expanded to include large-scale air operations and the deployment of approximately 60,000 soldiers under Operation Joint Endeavour.

Sierra Leone

The UK began a military intervention in Sierra Leone in May 2000, codenamed Operation Palliser, following the outbreak of the Sierra Leone Civil War. The Civil War had erupted in early May 2000 when the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) advanced on the country's capital, Freetown, which prompted the British government to dispatch an Operational Reconnaissance and Liaison Team to prepare to evacuate foreign citizens. On 6 May 2000 the RUF blocked the road connecting Freetown to the country's main airport Lungi. The next day, British soldiers began to secure the airport and other areas essential to the planned evacuation.

Afghanistan

NATO and Allied forces intervened in the ongoing Afghan civil war following the September 11 attacks, with the aim of dismantling al-Qaeda and preventing it having a safe base of operation in Afghanistan by removing the Taliban from power. This includes the UK operations Op VERITAS, Op HERRICK and Op TORAL.

Iraq

A joint resolution of the US Congress, known as the Iraq Resolution, led to the 2003 invasion of Iraq under the authority of the UN Security Council Resolutions 678 and 687, essentially to use all necessary means to compel Iraq to comply with its international obligations. Prior to the invasion, the US and UK indicated that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction,

which presented a world-wide threat. As a consequence, on 8 September 2002, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1441, which effectively provided Iraq with a final opportunity to comply with its obligations and disarm. Resolution 1441 strengthened the mandate of the UN Monitoring and Verification Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and led, ultimately, to a combined NATO invasion on 19 March 2003.

Libya

On 19 March 2011, a multi-state coalition began a military intervention in Libya to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which authorised the creation of a No-Fly Zone in response to the Gaddafi regime's efforts to suppress the mass uprising sparked by the so-called Arab Spring. The British contribution, codenamed Operation Ellamy, principally consisted of RAF air power and naval forces, which enforced the accompanying arms embargo. All operations were conducted under NATO command from 31 March 2011. The conflict in Libya ended in late October 2011, following which NATO confirmed it would end operations on 31 October 2011.