



Ministry
of Defence

Quarterly UK Armed Forces and UK Entitled Civilians Contingent Operational Casualty and Fatality Statistics 6 August 2014 to 31 March 2016

Published 14 April 2016

This quarterly release provides statistical information on the number of UK Armed Forces personnel and UK Entitled Civilians, who died, were injured or became ill on Operations SHADER (Iraq and Syria), GRITROCK (Ebola crisis in West Africa) and TORAL (Afghanistan).

Operation GRITROCK closed on 11 November 2015. The numbers of casualties from Operation GRITROCK are included in the overall results. Statistics for this operation have been included in Annex A.

Key Points and Trends

Between 6 August 2014 and 31 March 2016 there were **128** UK Service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Operations. Of these **two** died on Operations, **none** were Battle Injuries (BI), **44** were Non Battle Injuries (NBI), **82** were Natural Causes including Disease (NC). **Nine** of these were sustained within the latest quarter (Q4).

Of the injuries/illnesses recorded within this quarterly statistical release:

- **Four** UK Service personnel sustained an injury or illness on Op TORAL in Q4 2015/16.
- **11** UK Service personnel had an injury or illness on Op SHADER between Q3-Q4 2015/16.
- **No** UK Entitled Civilians had an injury or illness whilst on any Operation mentioned above.
- **Eight** were aeromedically evacuated out of the operational theatres during Q4 2015/16.

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Background quality report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-personnel-nhs-commissioning-quarterly-statistics-financial-year-201516>

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk

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Introduction

MOD is committed to publishing casualty and fatality information on all medium scale operations and any which are deemed to be of high interest to the public.

This statistical bulletin replaces the Casualty and Fatality statistics previously reported.

This quarterly report provides statistical information on the number of UK Armed Forces personnel and UK Entitled Civilians, who died, were injured or became ill on Operations SHADER (Iraq and Syria), GRITROCK (Ebola crisis in West Africa) and TORAL (Afghanistan). This report covers the time period 6 August 2014 (the start of Operation SHADER) to 31 March 2016 (the latest data available).

2014					2015								2016							
August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	
Op SHADER from 8th August 2014																				
Op GRITROCK from 16th September 2014															to 11th November 2015					
Op TORAL from 1st December 2014																				

This report has been provided in response to the increasing number of requests for information about UK Service personnel deployed on current operations. The MOD are committed to making information on operational Casualties public but have to draw a line between how much information is provided regularly in the public domain and information which compromises operational security of UK Armed Forces personnel or which risks breaching an individual's right to medical confidentiality.

This report has been published to support the MOD's commitment to release information wherever possible.

Numbers for Operation TORAL will be updated quarterly, numbers for Operation SHADER will be updated bi-annually.

Please note: Operation GRITROCK came to an end when remaining UK Service personnel had returned to the UK on 11 November 2015. Statistics for this operation are provided in Annex A.

Overall Results

UK Service Personnel

During the latest quarter, 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 (Q4 2015/16) there were **nine** UK Service personnel who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Operations¹. Of these, **three** were Non Battle Injuries and **six** were Natural Causes (Table 1).

Between 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016:

- The three Non Battle Injuries were Unknown².
- Of the six Natural Causes, **one** was Seriously Ill, **one** was Incapacitating Illness and **four** were Unknown².
- **Eight**³ UK Service personnel have been aeromedically evacuated from Operations.

Table 1: UK Service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Operations¹ by Financial Year and Quarter, Numbers²
6 August 2014 to 31 March 2016

Quarter/Year of Injury/Death	All Casualties and Fatalities	Survivors				Fatalities			
		All	Battle Injury	Non Battle Injury	Natural Cause	All	Killed in Action	Died of Wounds	Died on Operations
All	128	126	0	44	82	2	0	0	2
2014-15 ³	71	71	0	20	51	0	0	0	0
6 August - 30 September (Q2)	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	28	28	0	10	18	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	42	42	0	10	32	0	0	0	0
2015-16	57	55	0	24	31	2	0	0	2
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	16	16	0	9	7	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	14	14	0	4	10	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	18	16	0	8	8	2	0	0	2
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	9	9	0	3	6	0	0	0	0

Source: Initial NOTICAS (JPA) and Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) database

¹ Includes Operations SHADER, GRITROCK and TORAL.

² In the survivors section, the year refers to the financial year in which the injury occurred. In the fatalities section, the year refers to the financial year in which personnel died. It is therefore possible for an individual to be injured in one financial year and die in a subsequent financial year. If a casualty previously recorded as a surviving casualty subsequently dies from their wounds/injuries, they will only be recorded in the fatalities section.

³ From 6 August 2014 (start of Op SHADER)

UK Civilians

During the latest quarter, 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 (Q4 2015/16) there were **no** UK Civilians who died as a result of deployment on Operations.

During the latest quarter, 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 (Q4 2015/16) there were **no** UK Entitled Civilians who sustained an injury or illness whilst on Operations.

¹ Includes Operations SHADER, GRITROCK and TORAL.

² Not all casualties will have an Initial Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS) raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

³ The injury/natural cause for which a casualty is being aeromedically evacuated may have occurred in a previous quarter.

Operation SHADER

The MOD is providing military support to the US led Coalition to defeat Daesh in Iraq and Syria. This support includes training Kurdish forces, beginning with the use of UK gifted machine guns, and gifting and delivering over 320 tonnes of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment. Since the Parliamentary vote, the RAF has flown successful strikes and provided valuable intelligence and surveillance.

UK Service Personnel

Between 1 October 2015 and 31 March 2016 (Q3-Q4 2015/16) there were **11** UK Service personnel who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op SHADER, **five** were Non Battle Injuries and **six** were Natural Causes (Table 2).

During the 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016:

- **None** died as a result of Op SHADER (Table 2).
- The severity classification for the five Non Battle Injuries were Unknown⁴.
- Of the six Natural Causes, **one** was Seriously Ill, **one** was Incapacitating Illness, **one** was Unlisted Condition and **three** were Unknown⁵.
- **Nine**⁵ UK Service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Op SHADER (Table 2b).

Table 2: UK Service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op SHADER by Financial Year (Bi-Annual) and Quarter, Numbers 6 August 2014 to 31 March 2016

Bi-Annual/Year of Injury/Death	All Casualties and Fatalities	Survivors				Fatalities			
		All	Battle Injury	Non Battle Injury	Natural Cause	All	Hostile Action Killed in Action	Died of Wounds	Died on Operations
All	35	35	0	19	23	0	0	0	0
2014-15	10	10	0	7	3	0	0	0	0
6 August - 31 March (Q2/Q3/Q4)	10	10	0	7	3	0	0	0	0
2015-16	25	25	0	12	13	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 September (Q1/Q2)	14	14	0	7	7	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 March (Q3/Q4)	11	11	0	5	6	0	0	0	0

¹ In the survivors section, the year refers to the financial year in which the injury occurred. In the fatalities section, the year refers to the financial year in which personnel died. It is therefore possible for an individual to be injured in one financial year and die in a subsequent financial year. If a casualty previously recorded as a surviving casualty subsequently dies from their wounds/injuries, they will only be recorded in the fatalities section.

² From 6 August 2014 (start of Op SHADER)

UK Civilians

During the time period 1 October 2015 and 31 March 2016 there were **no** UK Entitled Civilians who died as a result of Op SHADER.

During the time period 1 October 2015 and 31 March 2016 there were **no** UK Entitled Civilians who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op SHADER.

⁴ Not all casualties will have an Initial NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

⁵ The injury/illness for which a casualty is being aeromedically evacuated may have occurred in a previous quarter.

Operation TORAL

The UK's post 2014 contribution to operations in Afghanistan under the NATO RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION. Casualty and fatality statistics for Operations VERITAS and HERRICK in Afghanistan (Oct 2001 to Dec 2014) have been published by MOD on a monthly basis since 2006, these are available on Gov.uk.

UK Service Personnel

During the latest quarter, 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 (Q4 2015/16) there were **four** UK Service personnel who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op TORAL. Of these, **two** were Non Battle Injuries and **two** were Natural Causes (Table 3).

During 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016:

- **None** died as a result of Op TORAL (Table 3)
- The severity classification for the **two** Non Battle Injuries were Unknown⁶.
- The severity classification for the **two** Natural causes were Unknown⁶.
- **Four**⁷ UK Service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Op TORAL (Table 3b).

Table 3: UK Service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op TORAL by Financial Year and Quarter, Numbers¹
1 December 2014 to 31 March 2016

Quarter/Year of Injury/Death	All Casualties and Fatalities	Survivors				Fatalities			
		All	Battle Injury	Non Battle Injury	Natural Cause	All	Hostile Action Killed in Action	Died of Wounds	Died on Operations
All	34	32	0	14	18	2	0	0	2
2014-15 ²	10	10	0	3	7	0	0	0	0
1 December - 31 December (Q3)	5	5	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	5	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
2015-16	24	22	0	11	11	2	0	0	2
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	5	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	3	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	12	10	0	4	6	2	0	0	2
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	4	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0

Source: Initial NOTICAS, Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) database and JPA

¹ In the survivors section, the year refers to the financial year in which the injury occurred. In the fatalities section, the year refers to the financial year in which personnel died. It is therefore possible for an individual to be injured in one financial year and die in a subsequent financial year. If a casualty previously recorded as a surviving casualty subsequently dies from their wounds/injuries, they will only be recorded in the fatalities section.

² From 1 December 2014 (start of Op TORAL)

UK Civilians

During the latest quarter, 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016 (Q4 2015/16) there were **no** UK Entitled Civilians who died as a result of Op TORAL.

During the latest quarter, 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016 (Q4 2015/16) there were **no** UK Entitled Civilians who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op TORAL.

⁶ Not all casualties will have an Initial NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

⁷ The injury/illness for which a casualty is being aeromedically evacuated may have occurred in a previous month.

Methodology

This section provides a brief summary of the methodology and data sources; more detailed information is available in the background quality report for this bulletin.

Overall Operational Casualties:

The Overall figures for the number of casualties and fatalities on operations are compiled from multiple data sources used to report on operational Casualties and deaths.

A Casualty will only be counted once for their injury or illness in this section, even if they appear in all datasets. If a casualty was previously recorded as a surviving casualty subsequently dies from their wounds/injuries, they will only be recorded in the fatalities section.

For each Operation:

The overall figures for the number of casualties and fatalities from the multiple data sources used to report on operational deaths and casualties. A Casualty or fatality will only be counted once for their injury or illness in this section, even if they appear in all datasets.

Data series on (i) Initial Notification of Casualty (ii) Number of UK Service Personnel Aeromedically Evacuated are provided in the supplementary tables.

UK Entitled Civilians

This section provides the number of UK entitled Civilians who have sustained an injury or illness on operations and the number of UK entitled Civilians who have died as a result of Operations.

For Operation GRITROCK:

An additional section was provided on the number of patients treated at the UK military treatment facility within the Kerry Town Treatment Unit in Sierra Leone. The number of UK Service Personnel and the number of UK Civilians admitted to the Treatment Unit were also presented.

Operational Casualty and Fatality Data (see Background Quality Report for more information on each data source)

Data on operational Casualties are compiled by Defence Statistics from the following data sources: Initial Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS), Aeromedical Evacuations and Medical Audit forms from the Kerry Town Treatment Unit (KTTU).

Data on Operational Fatalities are compiled by Defence Statistics from the following data sources: Initial Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS), weekly notifications of deaths for UK entitled civilians on Operations and all regular Armed Forces deaths from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell; Notification from Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) at the time of death for all Operational deaths; Additional information on cause of death from military medical sources in the single Services.

Glossary

BI	Battle Injury	A Battle Injury includes those wounded as a result of hostile action. This includes injuries sustained whilst avoiding direct or indirect fire. Also described as 'wounded in action'.
NBI	Non-Battle Injury	A Non-Battle Injury is any injury that is not caused by a hostile act and includes any accidental injuries such as sports injuries, road traffic accidents etc.
NC	Natural Causes	Natural Causes includes illness, disease and pregnancy.
NOTICAS	Notification of Casualty	Notification of Casualty (or NOTICAS) is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. The NOTICAS reports raised for casualties contain information on how seriously medical staff on operations judge their condition to be.
VSI	Very Seriously Injured/III	Where the patients condition is of such severity that life or reason is imminently endangered.
SI	Seriously Injured/III	Where the patient's condition is of such severity that there is cause for immediate concern, but there is no imminent danger to life or reason.
III	Incapacitated Injury/Illness	Any illness or injury (including battle casualties) which does not warrant classification of VSI or SI but renders then physically and/or mentally incapacitated.
UL	Unlisted casualty	An individual whose illness or injury requires hospitalisation but whose condition does not warrant classification as VSI, SI or III.
HA	Hostile Action	Hostile action includes deaths categorised as Killed in Action or Died of Wounds.
KIA	Killed in Action	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	Died of Wounds	A battle casualty who dies of wounds or other injuries received in action, after having reached a medical treatment facility. This only includes those who have died of wounds whilst under the care of Defence Medical Services.
DOP	Died on Operations	A casualty who died whilst deployed on, or as a result of operations but is not KIA or DOW. Includes operational accidents, road traffic accidents, assaults, suicides and deaths as a result of natural causes.

AECC Aero-medical Evacuation Control Centre

Aeromedical Evacuation (AE) is the medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical treatment facilities by air transportation. See Background Quality Report for further information on Aeromed Evacuations.

JPA Joint Personnel Administration

JPA is the personnel administration system used by the UK Armed Forces. It is the single authoritative source for demographic information for personnel.

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

KTTU Kerry Town Treatment Unit

PJHQ Permanent Joint Headquarters

Permanent Joint Headquarters is the British Tri-Service Headquarters from where all overseas military operations are planned and controlled.

Further Information

Symbols

- || discontinuity in time series
- * not applicable
- .. not available
- Zero or rounded to zero

Italic figures are used for percentages and other rates.

Revisions

There are no regular planned revisions of this Bulletin. Amendments to figures for earlier years may be identified during the annual compilation of this Bulletin. This will be addressed in one of two ways:

- i. where the number of figures updated in a table is small, figures will be updated and those which have been revised will be identified with the symbol "r". An explanation for the revision will be given in the footnotes to the table.
- ii. where the number of figures updated in a table is substantial, the revisions to the table, together with the reason for the revisions, will be identified in the commentary at the beginning of the relevant chapter / section, and in the commentary above affected tables. Revisions will not be identified by the symbol "r" since where there are a large number of revisions in a table this could make them more difficult to read.

Occasionally updated figures will be provided to the editor during the course of the year. Since this Bulletin is published electronically, it is possible to revise figures during the course of the year. However to ensure continuity and consistency, figures will only be adjusted during the year where it is likely to substantially affect interpretation and use of the figures.

Useful Links:

As referenced on page 5, the link to the Op HERRICK casualty tables is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/op-herrick-casualty-and-fatality-tables-index>

An official statistic on the medal received for Operations is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2016>

Further Information (cont.)

Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

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If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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RAF Manpower	01494 496822	DefStrat-Stat-Air-Hd@mod.uk
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Annex A

Operation GRITROCK

Following the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring Sierra Leone free from Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on 7 November 2015, and given that the Department for International Development (DfID) had requested military support only until Sierra Leone had reached zero cases plus 42 days, there was no further requirement for military support to DfID, and Operation GRITROCK came to an end when remaining UK Service personnel had returned to the UK on 11 November 2015. This information was previously released on 14 January 2016 (date of final publication for Op GRITROCK) and has not been updated in this release.

UK Service Personnel

Overall, 15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015 there were **59** UK Service Personnel who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op GRITROCK (Table A1).

During the 15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015:

- **None** died as a result of Op GRITROCK (Table A1).
- **Five**⁸ were listed as Very Seriously Injured/III or Seriously Injured/III (Table A1a).
- **19** UK Service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Op GRITROCK (Table A1b).

Table A1: UK Service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op GRITROCK by Financial Year and Quarter, Numbers
15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015

Quarter/Year of Injury/Death ¹	All Casualties and Fatalities	Survivors				Fatalities			
		All	Battle Injury	Non Battle Injury	Natural Cause	All	Hostile Action Killed in Action	Died of Wounds	Died on Operations
All	59	59	0	11	48	0	0	0	0
2014-15 ²	51	51	0	10	41	0	0	0	0
15 September - 30 September (Q2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	20	20	0	6	14	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	31	31	0	4	27	0	0	0	0
2015-16	8	8	0	1	7	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	6	6	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
1 October - 11 November (Q3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Initial NOTICAS (JPA) and Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) database

¹ In the survivors section, the year refers to the financial year in which the injury occurred. In the fatalities section, the year refers to the financial year in which personnel died. It is therefore possible for an individual to be injured in one financial year and die in a subsequent financial year. If a casualty previously recorded as a surviving casualty subsequently dies from their wounds/injuries, they will only be recorded in the fatalities section.

² From 15 September 2014 (start of Op GRITROCK)

UK Civilians

Between 15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015 there were **no** UK Entitled Civilian who died as a result of Op GRITROCK.

During the latest quarter, 15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015 there was **one** UK Entitled Civilian who sustained an injury or illness whilst on Op GRITROCK.

⁸ Numbers from the data sources will not sum to total number of personnel who sustained an injury or illness for a number of reasons including: individuals may appear in more than one of the data sets and will be counted in each data source but only once in the total; not all personnel will have an initial NOTICAS raised.

Annex A continued

Kerry Town Treatment Unit

An Ebola treatment facility opened on the 5 November 2014 in Kerry Town, near the Sierra Leone capital Freetown. This facility was run by UK Military until 30 June 2015 when it was handed over to Aspen Medical by the deployed military team. The Kerry Town complex included an 80 bed treatment centre managed by Save the Children and a 12 bed centre staffed by UK military medics specifically for health care workers and international staff responding to the Ebola crisis. This section focuses only on those patients that were admitted to the 12 bed Health worker treatment centre run by the UK military.



Figure 1: The Kerry Town Treatment Centre in Sierra Leone near the capital Freetown.

Source: Royal Navy
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Table A2: Patients admitted to the Kerry Town Treatment Unit in Sierra Leone by Type of Disease and Financial Year and Quarter, Numbers 5 November 2014 to 30 June 2015

Quarter/Year Admitted	Number of Patients Admitted	Type of Disease		
		Ebola Virus	Other ¹	Unknown ²
All	125	43	55	27
Alive	104	23	54	27
Deceased	21	20	1	0
2014-15 ³	108	42	43	23
5 November - 31 December (Q3)	43	24	13	6
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	65	18	30	17
2015-16	19	1	13	5
1 April - 30 June (Q1) ⁴	19	1	13	5

Source: Kerry Town treatment Unit (KTTU), Medical audit Form (MAF)

¹ 'Other' diseases for example include Malaria, Shigella and E Coli.

² Type of disease not identified.

³ From 5 November 2014 (date KTTU opened)

⁴ KTTU was handed over to Aspen Medical by the deployed military team on the 30 June 2015