

**Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
MP 1-4, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
PO2 8BY**

FOI 2018-02462

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]

Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

20 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2018 in which you requested the following information:

'The attached photograph has been posted on social media recently.

Can you confirm the accuracy of this post and, if inaccurate, detail the actual statistics.

Picture (in attached request) reads:

Separation from family is part of military life

5,260 Navy Personnel

310 Army Personnel

25 RAF Personnel

spend more than 1900 days away from their families over the course of their careers'

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. I should advise you that the figures you refer to in your request, taken from the Royal Navy Royal Marines Charity social media post, were sourced from a speech given in January 2017 and were a snapshot taken at that time. "Separated Service" statistics, along with other UK Armed Forces personnel statistics, are officially routinely published in a prescribed format on the MOD gov.uk website. The current statistics on Separated Service can be found at page 11 of the "UK Armed Forces Quarterly Statistics, Personnel Statistics 1 January 2018" and at Table 10 of the accompanying Excel spreadsheets via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-service-personnel-statistics-2018>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section