



Ministry of Defence

Biannual UK armed forces and UK entitled civilians operational casualty and fatality statistics 1 June 2011 to 31 March 2020

Published 21 May 2020

This biannual 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 KIPION (Middle East), SHADER (Iraq and Syria), TORAL (Afghanistan) and GRITROCK (Ebola crisis in West Africa).

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

This publication reports two UK service personnel who died whilst on operations. These have been announced by the Ministry of Defence:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/fatalities/ministry-of-defence-confirms-the-death-of-lance-corporal-brodie-gillon>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministry-of-defence-confirms-the-death-of-private-joseph-berry>

Key Points and Trends

Between 1 June 2011 and 31 March 2020, there were **1,030** UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on operations. Of these, **nine** died on operations, **one** was killed in action, **three** were battle injuries, **484** were non-battle injuries and **533** were natural causes including disease. Of the **1,030** UK service personnel, **67** were sustained within the latest six-month period (Q3/Q4 2019/20). Of the **67**;

- **One** UK service person died whilst on Op SHADER.
- **One** UK service person died whilst on Op TORAL.
- **20** UK service personnel sustained an injury or illness on Op KIPION. Of these, **none** were classed as very seriously, or seriously injured or ill.
- **28** UK service personnel sustained an injury or illness on Op SHADER. Of these, **one** was classed as very seriously, or seriously injured or ill.
- **17** UK service personnel sustained an injury or illness on Op TORAL. Of these, **one** was classed as very seriously, or seriously injured or ill.
- **64** UK service personnel were aeromedically evacuated out of the operational theatres.

Between 1 June 2011 and 31 March 2020, there were **44** UK entitled civilians who sustained an injury or illness whilst on operations. Of these, **two** were sustained within the latest six-month period (Q3/Q4 2019/20). The majority were Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) personnel on Op KIPION. The civilian-manned RFA delivers worldwide logistical and operational support for the wide range of tasks the Royal Navy undertakes including warfighting, counter-piracy, humanitarian and disaster relief, and counter-narcotics operations.

Responsible statistician: Deputy Head of Defence Statistics Health **Tel:** 030 679 84424

Email: Analysis-Health-Deputy-Head1@mod.gov.uk

Further information/mailling list: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Background quality report: The Background Quality Report for this publication can be found [here](#)

Enquiries: Press Office: 020 721 87907

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 Analysis-Publications@mod.gov.uk

Contents

Summary.....	page 1
Introduction.....	page 2
Overall Results.....	page 3
Op KIPION.....	page 6
Op SHADER	page 9
Op TORAL.....	page 11
Methodology.....	page 13
Glossary & Definitions.....	page 14
Annex A: Op GRITROCK.....	page 18

Other bulletins in this series can be found and the supplementary tables containing all data presented in this publication can be found [here](#)

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 biannual 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 KIPION (Middle East), SHADER (Iraq and Syria), TORAL (Afghanistan) and GRITROCK (Ebola crisis in West Africa). This report covers the time period 1 June 2011 (the earliest date statistics are available for Operation KIPION) to 31 March 2020 (the latest data available).

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Op KIPION from 1 June 2011									
				Op SHADER from 6 August 2014					
				Op GRITROCK from 15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015					
				Op TORAL from 1 December 2014					

This report has been provided in response to requests for information about UK Service personnel deployed on current operations. The MOD are committed to making information on operational casualties public but must 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.

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

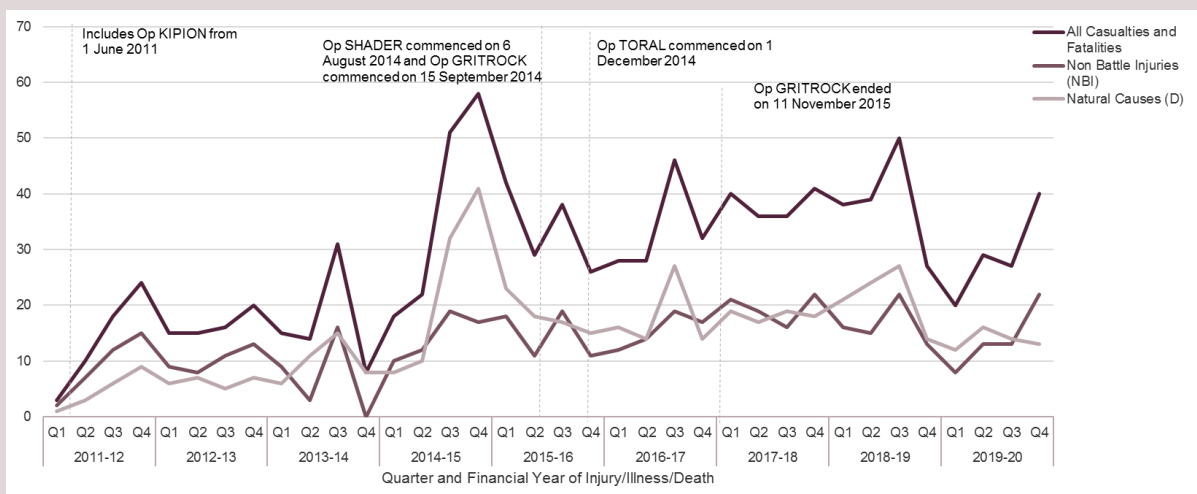
UK Service Personnel

During the latest six-month period, 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019/20), there were **67** UK service personnel who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on operations¹. Of these, **one** was killed in action, **one** died on operations, **three** were battle injuries, **35** were non-battle injuries and **27** were natural causes (Table 1).

Between 1 October 2019 and 31 March 2020:

- Of the **three** battle injuries, **one** was very seriously injured (VSI) and **two** were unlisted conditions (UC).
- Of the **35** non-battle injuries, **nine** were unlisted conditions (UC) and **26** were unknown².
- Of the **27** natural causes, **one** was seriously ill, **one** had an incapacitating illness, **11** were unlisted conditions and **14** were unknown².
- **64**³ UK service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from operations.

Figure 1: UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on operations¹ by financial year and quarter, numbers² 1 June 2011 to 31 March 2020



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

¹ Includes Operations KIPION, SHADER, GRITROCK and TORAL.

² All casualties and fatalities include 8 fatalities and 3 battle injuries. A separate line has not been provided due to the small numbers.

¹ Includes Operations KIPION, SHADER, TORAL and GRITROCK.

² Not all casualties will have a 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.

**Table 1: UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on operations¹ by financial year and quarter, numbers²
1 June 2011 to 31 March 2020**

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	1,030	1,020	3	484	533	10	1	0	9
2011-12	³ 55 r	55 r	0	36 r	19	0	0	0	0
1 June - 30 June (Q1)	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	10	10	0	7	3	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	18	18	0	12	6	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	24 r	24 r	0	15 r	9	0	0	0	0
2012-13	66 r	66 r	0	41 r	25	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	15	15	0	9	6	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	15	15	0	8	7	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	16	16	0	11	5	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	20 r	20 r	0	13 r	7	0	0	0	0
2013-14	68 r	68 r	0	28 r	40	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	15	15	0	9	6	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	⁴⁵ 14 r	14 r	0	3 r	11	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	⁶ 31	31	0	16	15	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	8	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
2014-15	149 r	149 r	0	58 r	91 r	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	18 r	18 r	0	10 r	8	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	22 r	22 r	0	12 r	10	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	51	51	0	19	32	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	58 r	58 r	0	17 r	41 r	0	0	0	0
2015-16	135 r	132 r	0	59	73 r	3	0	0	3
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	42	41	0	18	23	1	0	0	1
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	29	29	0	11	18	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	38 r	36 r	0	19	17 r	2	0	0	2
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	26	26	0	11	15	0	0	0	0
2016-17	134	133	0	62 r	71 r	1	0	0	1
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	28	28	0	12	16	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	28	28	0	14	14	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	46	46	0	19 r	27 r	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	32	31	0	17	14	1	0	0	1
2017-18	153 r	151 r	0	78 r	73	2	0	0	2
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	40	40	0	21	19	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	36	36	0	19	17	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	36 r	35 r	0	16 r	19	1	0	0	1
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	41	40	0	22	18	1	0	0	1
2018-19	154	152	0	66 r	86 r	2	0	0	2
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	38	37	0	16	21	1	0	0	1
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	39	39	0	15	24	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	50	49	0	22	27	1	0	0	1
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	27	27	0	13 r	14 r	0	0	0	0
2019-20	116	114	3	56	55	2	1	0	1
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	20	20	0	8	12	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	29	29	0	13	16	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	27	27	0	13	14	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	40	38	3	22	13	2	1	0	1

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

¹ Includes Operations KIPION, SHADER, GRITROCK and TORAL.

² In the survivor's 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 Statistics are available from 1 June 2011 for Op KIPION.

⁴ Op SHADER commenced 6 August 2014.

⁵ Op GRITROCK commenced 15 September 2014 and ended 11 November 2015.

⁶ Op TORAL commenced 1 December 2014.

r indicates a revision due to improved validation processes and data received.

UK Civilians

During the latest six-month period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019/20), there were **two** UK entitled civilians who sustained an injury or illness whilst on operations.



Figure 2: An Army ambulance is pictured next to a Royal Air Force Tristar aircraft at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, after transporting a casualty for evacuation.

Source: RAF
Crown Copyright
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

Operation KIPION

Op KIPION is the UK's primary deterrence and presence patrol in the Middle East and has been running since 2011. Op KIPION is a combination of Royal Navy operations in the Middle East patrolling the Strait of Hormuz, Suez Canal and counter piracy in the Indian Ocean, and RAF operations in the broader Middle East. Further information on Op KIPION can be found [here](#).

Due to the numbers of RFA⁴ personnel deployed on Op KIPION, a table has been included presenting the number of UK entitled civilian casualties by financial year.



Figure 3: Type 45 destroyer HMS Dragon pictured in the Middle East during Op KIPION 2013

Source: Royal Navy
Crown Copyright
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

UK Service Personnel

Between 1 June 2011 and 31 March 2020, there were **570** UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op KIPION. Of these, **three** died on operations, **277** were non-battle injuries and **290** were natural causes (Table 2).

During the latest six-month period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019/20), there were **20** UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op KIPION. Of these, **13** were non-battle injuries and **seven** were natural causes (Table 2).

Between 1 October 2019 and 31 March 2020:

- Of the **13** non-battle injuries, **five** were unlisted conditions and **eight** were unknown⁵ (Table 2a).
- Of the **seven** natural causes, **three** were unlisted conditions and **four** were unknown⁵ (Table 2a).
- **20**⁶ UK service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Op KIPION (Table 2b).

⁴ The civilian-manned Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) delivers worldwide logistical and operational support for the wide range of tasks the Royal Navy undertakes including warfighting, counter-piracy, humanitarian and disaster relief, and counter-narcotics operations.

⁵ Not all casualties will have an initial NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

⁶ The injury/illness for which a casualty is being aeromedically evacuated may have occurred in a previous quarter.

**Table 2: UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op KIPION by financial year and quarter, numbers¹
1 June 2011 to 31 March 2020**

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	Action Died of Wounds	Died on Operations
All	570	567	0	277	290	3	0	0	3
2011-12	² 55 r	55 r	0	36 r	19	0	0	0	0
1 June - 30 June (Q1)	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	10	10	0	7	3	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	18	18	0	12	6	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	24 r	24 r	0	15 r	9	0	0	0	0
2012-13	66 r	66 r	0	41 r	25	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	15	15	0	9	6	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	15	15	0	8	7	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	16	16	0	11	5	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	20 r	20 r	0	13 r	7	0	0	0	0
2013-14	68 r	68 r	0	28 r	40	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	15	15	0	9	6	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	14 r	14 r	0	3 r	11	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	31	31	0	16	15	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	8	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
2014-15	77 r	77 r	0	38 r	39	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	18 r	18 r	0	10 r	8	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	21 r	21 r	0	12 r	9	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	23	23	0	9	14	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	15 r	15 r	0	7 r	8	0	0	0	0
2015-16	79	78	0	35	43	1	0	0	1
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	26	25	0	9	16	1	0	0	1
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	15	15	0	7	8	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	21	21	0	11	10	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	17	17	0	8	9	0	0	0	0
2016-17	69	69	0	33 r	36 r	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	19	19	0	8	11	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	13	13	0	7	6	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	23	23	0	9 r	14 r	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	14	14	0	9	5	0	0	0	0
2017-18	62	61	0	26	35	1	0	0	1
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	19	19	0	10	9	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	14	14	0	5	9	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	13	12	0	5	7	1	0	0	1
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	16	16	0	6	10	0	0	0	0
2018-19	63 r	62 r	0	23 r	39 r	1	0	0	1
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	10	10	0	2	8	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	18	18	0	5	13	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	19 r	18 r	0	6 r	12	1	0	0	1
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	16	16	0	10 r	6 r	0	0	0	0
2019-20	31	31	0	17	14	0	0	0	0
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	5	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	6	6	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	12	12	0	6	6	0	0	0	0
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	8	8	0	7	1	0	0	0	0

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

¹In the survivor's 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 June 2011 (earliest date casualty data was available for Op KIPION).
r indicates a revision due to improved validation processes and data received.

UK Civilians

Between 1 June 2011 and 31 March 2020, there were **41** UK entitled civilians who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op KIPION. Of these, **14** were non-battle injuries and **27** were natural causes (Table 2c).

During the latest six-month period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019/20), there were **two** UK entitled civilians who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op KIPION⁷.

Table 2c: UK entitled civilians who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op KIPION by financial year and quarter, numbers¹
1 June 2011 to 31 March 2020

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	41	41	0	14	27	0	0	0	0
2011-12 ²	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2012-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013-14	9	9	0	2	7	0	0	0	0
2014-15	10	10	0	4	6	0	0	0	0
2015-16	3	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
2016-17	11	11	0	2	9	0	0	0	0
2017-18	5 r	5 r	0	3 r	2	0	0	0	0
2018-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019-20	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

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

¹ In the survivor's 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 June 2011 (earliest date casualty data was available for Op KIPION).
r indicates a revision due to improved validation processes and data received.

⁷ UK entitled civilian numbers are presented by financial year only in Table 2c due to the small number of injuries or illness experienced by entitled civilians on Op KIPION.

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 with over 320 tonnes of UK gifted weapons, UK gifted machine guns, ammunition and other military equipment. Since the parliamentary vote, the RAF has flown successful strikes and provided valuable intelligence and surveillance. Further information on Op SHADER can be found [here](#).

UK Service Personnel

Between 6 August 2014 and 31 March 2020, there were **250** UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op SHADER. Of these, **one** was killed in action, **three** died on operations, **three** were battle injuries, **123** were non-battle injuries and **120** were natural causes.

During the latest six-month period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019//20), there were **29** UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op SHADER. Of these **one** was killed in action, **three** were battle injuries, **12** were non-battle injuries and **13** were natural causes (Table 3).

Between 1 October 2019 and 31 March 2020:

- Of the **three** battle injuries, **one** was very seriously injured and **two** were unlisted conditions.
- Of the **12** non-battle Injuries, **three** were unlisted conditions and **nine** were unknown⁸ (Table 3a).
- Of the **13** natural causes, **one** was an incapacitating illness, **six** were unlisted conditions and **six** were unknown⁸ (Table 3a).
- **28**⁹ UK service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Op SHADER (Table 3b).

Table 3: UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op SHADER by financial year (biannual) and quarter, numbers¹
6 August 2014 to 31 March 2020

Bi-Annual/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	Action Died of Wounds	Died on Operations
All	250	246	3	123	120	4	1	0	3
2014-15 ²	11 r	11 r	0	7	4 r	0	0	0	0
6 August - 31 March (Q2/Q3/Q4)	11 r	11 r	0	7	4 r	0	0	0	0
2015-16	24 r	24 r	0	12	12 r	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)	10 r	10 r	0	5	5 r	0	0	0	0
2016-17	46	45	0	21	24	1	0	0	1
1 April - 30 September (Q1/Q2)	18	18	0	7	11	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 March (Q3/Q4)	28	27	0	14	13	1	0	0	1
2017-18	60 r	59 r	0	33 r	26	1	0	0	1
1 April - 30 September (Q1/Q2)	28	28	0	17	11	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 March (Q3/Q4)	32 r	31 r	0	16 r	15	1	0	0	1
2018-19	63	62	0	29	33	1	0	0	1
1 April - 30 September (Q1/Q2)	37	36	0	18	18	1	0	0	1
1 October - 31 March (Q3/Q4)	26	26	0	11	15	0	0	0	0
2019-20	46	45	3	21	21	1	1	0	0
1 April - 30 September (Q1/Q2)	17	17	0	9	8	0	0	0	0
1 October - 31 March (Q3/Q4)	29	28	3	12	13	1	1	0	0

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

¹ In the survivor's 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).

r indicates a revision due to improved validation processes and data received.

⁸ Not all casualties will have an initial NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

⁹ The injury/illness for which a casualty is being aeromedically evacuated may have occurred in a previous quarter.

UK Civilians

During the latest six-month period, 1 April and 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019/20), there were **no** UK entitled civilians who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op SHADER.



Figure 4: RAF Tornado GR4's over Iraq on an armed reconnaissance mission in support of Op SHADER.

Source: RAF
Crown Copyright
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

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. They can be accessed [here](#) (they are now located under Historical National and Official Statistics on the MOD National and Official Statistics by topic page of the website).



Figure 5: An RAF Puma deployed on Operation TORAL in Afghanistan

Source: RAF
Crown Copyright
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

UK Service Personnel

Between 1 December 2014 and 31 March 2020, there were **151** UK service personnel who died, sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op TORAL. Of these, **three** died on operations, **73** were non-battle injuries and **75** were natural causes.

During the latest six-month period, 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019/20), there were **18** UK service personnel who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op TORAL. Of these, **one** died on operations, **10** were non-battle Injuries and **seven** were natural causes (Table 4).

Between 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020:

- Of the **10** non-battle injuries, **one** was an unlisted condition and **nine** were unknown¹⁰ (Table 4a).
- Of the **seven** natural causes, **one** was an incapacitating illness, **one** was an unlisted condition and **five** were unknown¹⁰. (Table 4a).
- **16**¹¹ UK service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Op TORAL (Table 4b).

¹⁰ Not all casualties will have an initial NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

¹¹ The injury/illness for which a casualty is being aeromedically evacuated may have occurred in a previous quarter.

**Table 4: 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 2020**

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	Action Died of Wounds	Died on Operations	
All	151	148	0	73	75	3	0	0	3	
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	
2016-17	19	19	0	8	11	0	0	0	0	
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	6	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	7	7	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	
2017-18	31	31	0	19	12	0	0	0	0	
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	5	5	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	10	10	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	8	8	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	8	8	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	
2018-19	28 r	28 r	0	14 r	14	0	0	0	0	
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	6	6	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	6	6	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	11 r	11 r	0	7 r	4	0	0	0	0	
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	5	5	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	
2019-20	39	38	0	18	20	1	0	0	1	
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	11	11	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	10	10	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	17	16	0	10	6	1	0	0	1	

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

¹ In the survivor's 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).

r indicates a revision due to improved validation processes and data received.

UK Civilians

During the latest six-month period, 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3/Q4 2019/20), there were **no** UK entitled civilians who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on Op TORAL.

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 (NOTICAS) (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 patient's 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 them 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.
RFA	Royal Fleet Auxiliary	The civilian-manned Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) delivers worldwide logistical and operational support for the wide range of tasks the Royal Navy undertakes including warfighting, counter-piracy, humanitarian and disaster relief, and counter-narcotics operations.

Further Information

Pseudo-anonymisation

Prior to analysis the data sources have been linked using a pseudo-anonymisation process. The individual identifiers were stripped from datasets and replaced by a pseudo-anonymiser, generated by an automated sequential numbering system. The importance of the system is that it recognizes previous occurrences of a given service number and allocates the same pseudo-anonymiser on each occasion. The pseudo-anonymisation process can only be reversed in exceptional circumstances controlled by the Caldicott Guardian under strict protocols.

Symbols

~ Figure has been suppressed due to Statistical Disclosure Control
r Revised

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:

The Op HERRICK casualty tables are provided [here](#).

An official statistic providing information on deaths for each medal earning operation is provided [here](#).

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:

Defence Statistics Health

Telephone: 0306 798 4423

Email: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

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.

Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

Defence Expenditure Analysis	030 6793 4531	Analysis-Expenditure-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk
Price Indices	030 6793 2100	Analysis-Econ-PI-Contracts@mod.gov.uk
Naval Service Manpower	023 9254 7426	Analysis-Navy@mod.gov.uk
Army Manpower	01264 886175	Analysis-Army@mod.gov.uk
RAF Manpower	01494 496822	Analysis-Air@mod.gov.uk
Tri-Service Manpower	020 7807 8896	Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk
Civilian Manpower	020 7218 1359	Analysis-Civilian-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk

If you wish to correspond by mail, our postal address is:

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence, Abbey Wood (North)
#6028, Oak, 0, West
Bristol
BS34 8JH

For general MOD enquiries, please call: 020 7218 9000

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. Therefore, 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). No revisions or updates have been required since.

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). Of these, **11** were non-battle injuries and **48** were natural causes.

Between 15 September 2014 and 11 November 2015:

- **None** died as a result of Op GRITROCK (Table A1).
- Of the **11**¹² non-battle injuries, **ten** were unlisted conditions and **one** was unknown¹³. (Table A1a).
- Of the **48**⁸ natural causes, **one** was classified as very seriously ill, **two** were seriously ill, **two** were incapacitating illnesses, **39** were unlisted conditions and **four** were unknown⁹.
- **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 survivor's 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 and 11 November 2015, there were **no** UK entitled civilians who died on Op GRITROCK. However, **one** UK entitled civilian sustained an injury or illness.

¹² Numbers from the data sources will not sum to total number of personnel who sustained an injury or illness for several 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.

¹³ Not all casualties will have an Initial NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

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

Source: Royal Navy
Crown Copyright
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

Table A2: Patients admitted to the Kerry Town Treatment Unit in Sierra Leone by type of disease, 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' disease 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.