



This biannual release provides statistical information on the number of UK armed forces personnel and UK entitled civilians who were injured, became ill or died on Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) led operations. This is the sixth in the series where MOD is reporting casualties on further PJHQ led operations from 1 January 2006, with the time series presented from 1 January 2015 following the cessation of combat operations in Afghanistan (Op HERRICK).

Key points and trends

Since 1 January 2006 there have been **17,758** UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations¹.

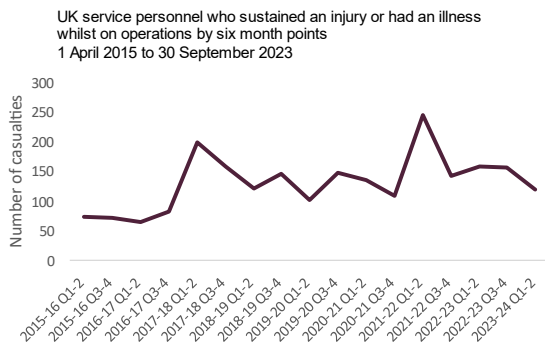
Latest trends (1 January 2015 to 30 September 2023): there were **2,331** UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations².

2,312 casualties:
3 battle injuries
1,137 non battle injuries
1,172 natural causes (including disease)

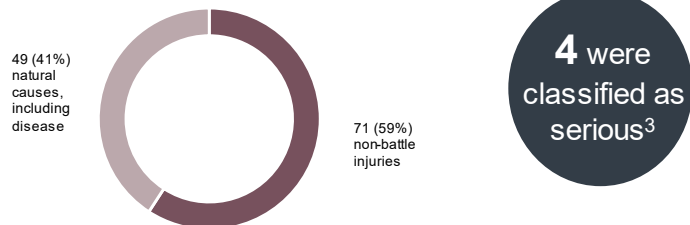
19 fatalities:
18 died on operations
1 killed in action

In the same period, **57** UK entitled civilians sustained an injury or illness on operations, of which **1** was within the latest six-month period (Q1/Q2 of 2023/24). The majority (**77%**) of civilian casualties since 1 January 2015 were **Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)** personnel.

In the latest six-month period (1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023) there were **122** UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations. Of these service personnel, **120** were casualties and **two** died on operations.



UK service personnel who sustained an injury or had an illness whilst on operations by type of casualty, numbers
1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023



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Background Quality Report: Available via the following link alongside the latest publication: [Operational casualty and fatality statistics](#)

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-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

¹ Includes Operations PERCIVAL, TOSCA, TELIC, ELGIN, HERRICK, KIPION, VOGUL, NEWCOMBE, TURUS, SHADER, GRITROCK, TORAL, BRANTA, ORBITAL, CABRIT, TANGHAM, TRENTON, FORTIS, PITTING, WOODWALL, ROCKSTAFF and ACHILLEAN.

² Includes Operations PERCIVAL, TOSCA, ELGIN, KIPION, VOGUL, NEWCOMBE, TURUS, SHADER, GRITROCK, TORAL, BRANTA, ORBITAL, CABRIT, TANGHAM, TRENTON, FORTIS, PITTING, WOODWALL, ROCKSTAFF and ACHILLEAN.

³ Casualties with a severity of 'serious' include those with a NOTICAS casualty severity of very seriously or seriously injured/ill (VSI/SI)

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Introduction

This biannual report provides statistical information on the number of UK armed forces personnel and UK entitled civilians who were injured, became ill or died on overseas joint operations led by PJHQ. This statistical bulletin replaces the casualty and fatality statistics previously reported.

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. Release of these statistics prior to 20 May 2021 was limited to UK armed forces personnel on Operations KIPION (Middle East), SHADER (Iraq and Syria), TORAL (Afghanistan) and GRITROCK (Ebola crisis in West Africa). Reports have been previously published for Op TELIC (Iraq) and Op HERRICK (Afghanistan).

In agreement with Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) who run overseas joint operations, the statistics have been expanded to include further PJHQ led operations to improve the coverage and clarity of reporting. The following operations have been added to the statistics: Op BRANTA (Egypt), Op CABRIT (Poland and Estonia), Op ELGIN (Bosnia), Op ORBITAL (Ukraine), Op TOSCA (Cyprus), Op NEWCOMBE (Mali), Op PERCIVAL (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Op TANGHAM (Somalia), Op TRENTON (South Sudan), Op TURUS (Nigeria), Op VOGUL (South Sudan), Op PITTING (Afghanistan), Op FORTIS (Middle East), Op WOODWALL (Indo-Pacific region), Op ROCKSTAFF (Poland) and Op ACHILLEAN (Mediterranean and North Sea). **Figure 1** presents the time series by operation to show the data presented in this report.

Operations that have now ended (Op GRITROCK, which ended in November 2015, Op TRENTON, which ended in March 2020, Op TORAL, which ended in August 2021, Op FORTIS, which ended in December 2021, Op TELIC, which ended in July 2009 and Op HERRICK, which ended in November 2014) have been included in the overall numbers presented from 1 January 2006 onwards. Further breakdowns for casualties and fatalities on these operations can be found in the following historic publications:

[Op TELIC casualty and fatality tables](#)

[Op HERRICK casualty and fatality tables](#)

[Biannual operational casualty report 31 March 2020 \(Op GRITROCK Tables A1, A1a, A1b, A2\)](#)

[Biannual operational casualty report 31 March 2021 \(Op TRENTON Table 10\)](#)

[Biannual operational casualty report 31 March 2022 \(Op TORAL Table 7\)](#)

[Biannual operational casualty report 30 September 2022 \(Op FORTIS Table 10\)](#)

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

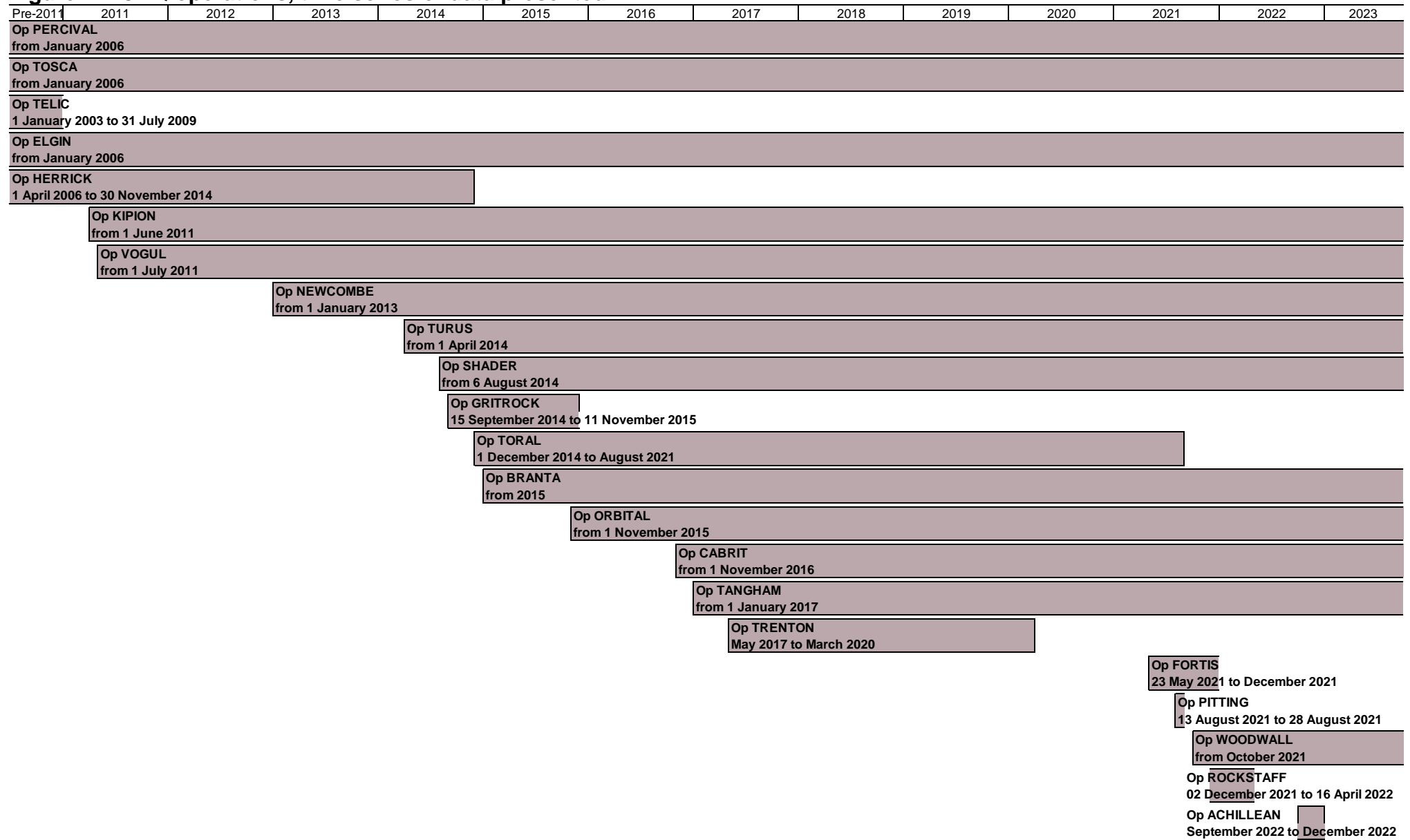
Please note that the figures presented are based on casualties that meet the reporting criteria for this Official Statistic, i.e., casualties resulting in an initial NOTICAS being raised, admission to a UK led field hospital (where data are available) or an aeromedical evacuation. The report does not include numbers seen at primary healthcare or numbers referred to secondary healthcare in the UK following their return from an overseas operation.

In 2009 the former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, announced an Inquiry to identify the lessons that could be learnt from the Iraq conflict, chaired by Sir John Chilcot (known as the Chilcot Inquiry). Following the publication of the Chilcot report¹, the MOD committed to include in this bulletin reporting on *all* civilian casualties² who were admitted to UK led field hospitals on combat operations (to include local civilians). Since the commitment in 2017, the UK armed forces have not deployed to a combat zone with a UK field hospital. However, we will continue to monitor the status of overseas operations and expand the civilian casualty reporting to include these numbers when required.

¹ <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20171123123237/http://www.iraqinquiry.org.uk/>

² https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20171123123908/http://www.iraqinquiry.org.uk/media/246676/the-report-of-the-iraq-inquiry_section-170.pdf

Figure 1: PJHQ operations, time series of data presented^{1,2}



1 Data is only centrally compiled from 1 January 2006.

2 Due to changes to Op ORBITAL it is no longer possible to update the casualty numbers in line with previous releases; therefore this data will no longer be updated in the bulletin.

Overall results

Data are presented from 1 January 2006 (the commencement of centrally held collated data) to 30 September 2023 (the latest data available) with recent trends presented from 1 January 2015 (marking the first full quarter of data following the end of combat operations in Afghanistan).

Further operation specific breakdowns are available in the supplementary tables accompanying the report for ongoing operations where more than 50 casualties have been reported in total, and in the historic official statistic reports for Operations TELIC¹, HERRICK², GRITROCK³, TRENTON⁴ and TORAL⁵ and FORTIS⁶.

Table 1: UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations by theatre and injury classification, numbers^{7,8,9,10,11,12}

1 January 2006 to 30 September 2023

Theatre	Date ¹⁰	All					Survivors		
		All	fatalities	survivors	BI	NBI	D	NK	
All theatres	1 January 2006 to present	17,758	550	17,208	2,644	6,120	8,183	261	
Op PERCIVAL (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	Unknown to present	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	
Op TOSCA (Cyprus)	1974 to present	121	2	119	0	65	54	0	
Op TELIC (Iraq)	1 January 2003 to 31 July 2009	4,252	81	4,171	322	1,419	2,223	207	
Op ELGIN (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	December 2004 to present	9	0	9	0	6	3	0	
Op HERRICK (Afghanistan)	1 April 2006 to 30 November 2014	10,831	449	10,382	2,319	3,386	4,623	54	
Op KIPION (Middle East)	June 2011 to present	860	3	857	0	417	440	0	
Op VOGUL (South Sudan)	July 2011 to present	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	
Op NEWCOMBE (Mali)	January 2013 to present	112	0	112	0	44	68	0	
Op TURUS (Nigeria)	April 2014 to present	18	0	18	0	4	14	0	
Op SHADER (Iraq and Syria)	9 August 2014 to present	384	7	377	3	197	177	0	
Op GRITROCK (Sierra Leone)	15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015	59	0	59	0	11	48	0	
Op TORAL (Afghanistan)	1 December 2014 to August 2021	214	3	211	0	92	119	0	
Op BRANTA (Egypt)	2015 to present	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	
Op ORBITAL (Ukraine) ¹¹	November 2015 to present	18	0	18	0	8	10	0	
Op CABRIT (Poland and Estonia)	1 November 2016 to present	525	4	521	0	335	186	0	
Op TANGHAM (Somalia)	January 2017 to present	19	0	19	0	10	9	0	
Op TRENTON (South Sudan)	May 2017 to March 2020	149	0	149	0	25	124	0	
Op FORTIS (Middle East)	23 May 2021 to 10 December 2021	124	1	123	0	66	57	0	
Op PITTING (Afghanistan)	13 August 2021 to 28 August 2021	4	0	4	0	2	2	0	
Op WOODWALL (Indo-Pacific Region)	October 2021 to present	26	0	26	0	17	9	0	
Op ROCKSTAFF (Poland)	2 December 2021 to 16 April 2022	5	0	5	0	2	3	0	
Op ACHILLEAN (Mediterranean and North Seas)	September 2022 to 10 December 2022	24	0	24	0	13	11	0	

Source: Initial NOTICAS (JPA), field hospital admissions data and Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) database

⁷ Figures presented are based on casualties that meet the reporting criteria for this Official Statistic, i.e. casualties resulting in an initial NOTICAS being raised, admission to a UK led field hospital (where data are available) or an aeromedical evacuation.

⁸ Data is only centrally compiled from 1 January 2006.

⁹ Figures for Op TELIC and Op HERRICK do not include casualties with a NOTICAS injury classification of natural causes, or those with a severity of incapacitating injury/illness (III) or unlisted casualty (UL), in line with previously published reports.

¹⁰ The date column presents the dates that the operations started, but data is only available and presented in this table from 1 January 2006.

NK refers to records where the injury classification was not available.

¹¹ Due to changes to Op ORBITAL it is no longer possible to update the casualty numbers in line with previous releases; therefore this data will no longer be updated in the bulletin.

¹² Continuing with the improved methodology from the November 2021 report to identify the location of an incident more accurately, an additional 21 casualty records have been identified for the period January 2006 to September 2023 (14 NBI and 7 D records).

r indicates a revision due to improved methodology and/or additional data being received since the last publication.

¹ [Op TELIC casualty and fatality tables](#)

² [Op HERRICK casualty and fatality tables](#)

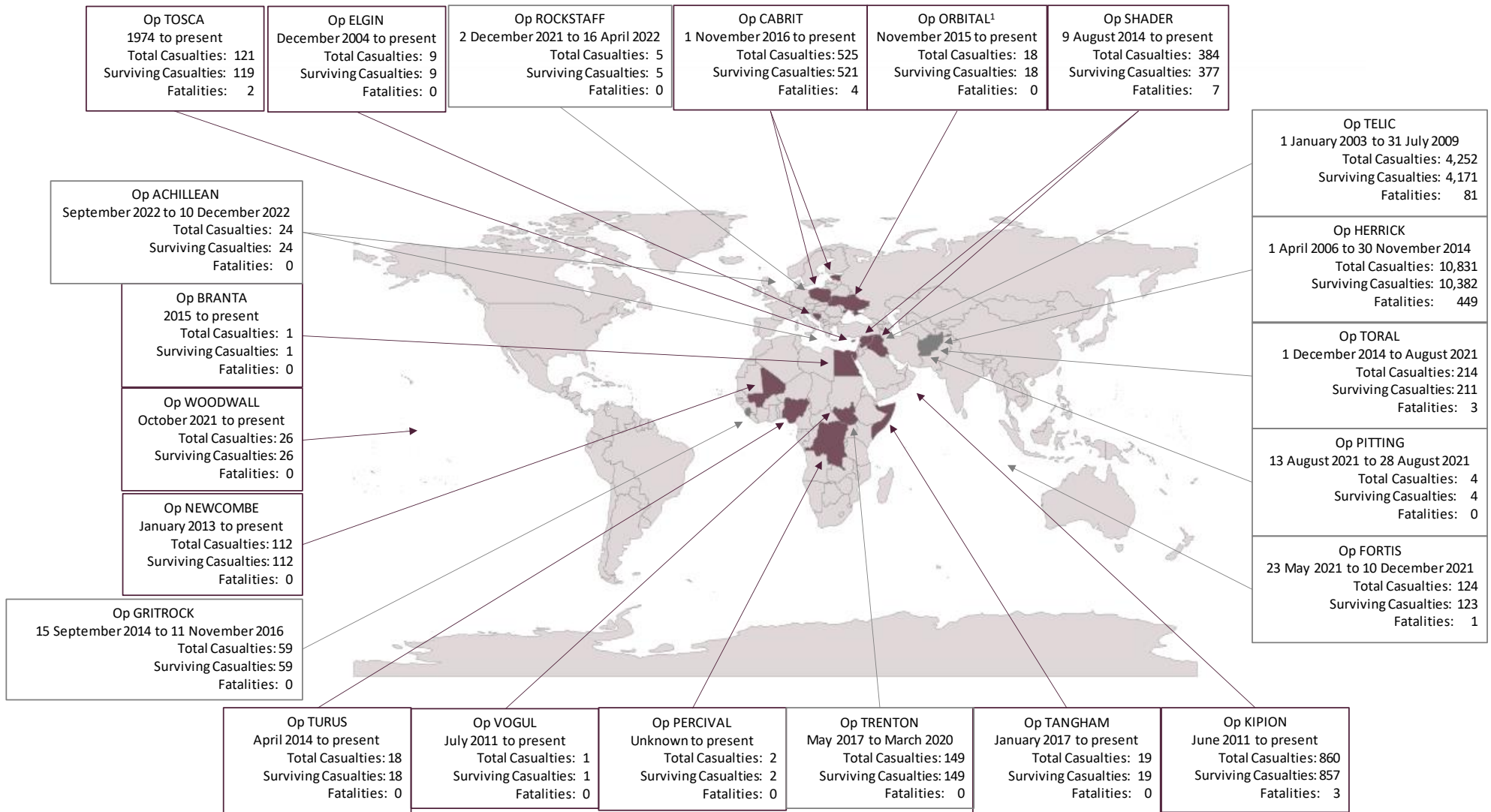
³ [Biannual operational casualty report 31 March 2020 \(Op GRITROCK Tables A1, A1a, A1b, A2\)](#)

⁴ [Biannual operational casualty report 31 March 2021 \(Op TRENTON Table 10\)](#)

⁵ [Biannual operational casualty report 31 March 2022 \(Op TORAL Table 7\)](#)

⁶ [Biannual operational casualty report 30 September 2022 \(Op FORTIS Table 10\)](#)

**Figure 2: UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations by theatre, numbers¹
1 January 2006 to 30 September 2023**



¹ Due to changes to Op ORBITAL it is no longer possible to update the casualty numbers in line with previous releases; therefore this data will no longer be updated in the bulletin.

UK service personnel

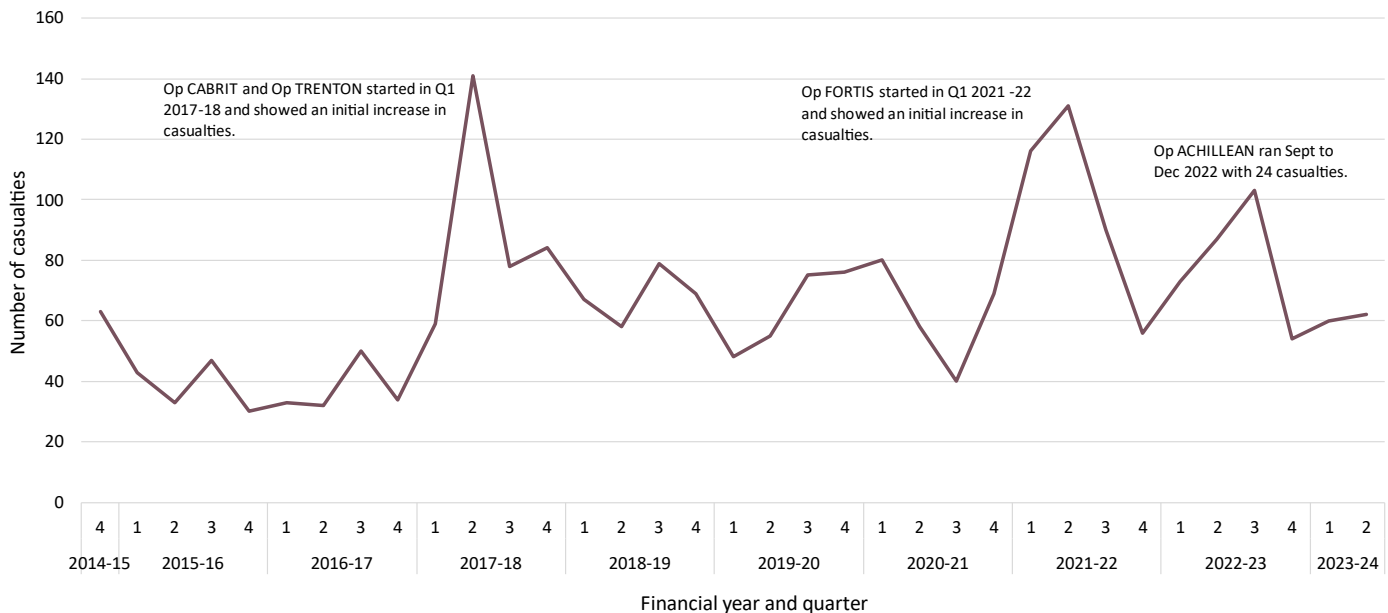
During the latest six-month period, 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023 (Q1/Q2 of 2023/24), there were **122** UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness or died whilst on operations^{1,2}. Of these service personnel, **two** died on operations, **71** were non-battle injuries and **49** were natural causes (Table 3).

Between 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023:

- Of the **71** non-battle injuries, **one** was very seriously injured (VSI), **one** was seriously injured (SI), **six** had an incapacitating injury (III), **16** were unlisted conditions (UC) and **47** had no severity recorded³.
- Of the **49** natural causes, **none** were very seriously ill (VSI), **two** were seriously ill (SI), **one** had an incapacitating illness (III), **13** were unlisted conditions and **33** had no severity recorded³.
- **98** UK service personnel were aeromedically evacuated out of operational theatres for injuries or illnesses sustained between 1 April 2023 and 30 September 2023⁴.

Figure 3: UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness or died whilst on operations by financial year and quarter, numbers

1 January 2015 to 30 September 2023



Source: Initial NOTICAS (JPA), field hospital admissions data and Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) database

¹ Includes Operations KIPION, SHADER, BRANTA, CABRIT, ELGIN, TOSCA, NEWCOMBE, PERCIVAL, TANGHAM, TURUS, VOGUL, WOODWALL, ROCKSTAFF and ACHILLEAN.

² Figures presented are based on casualties that meet the reporting criteria for this Official Statistic, i.e., casualties resulting in an initial NOTICAS being raised, admission to a UK led field hospital (where data are available) or an aeromedical evacuation.

³ Not all casualties will have a NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is not recorded.

⁴ There was also 1 aeromedical evacuation between 1 April 2023 and 30 September 2023 where the injury or illness occurred before 1 April 2023. Table 4 in the supplementary tables presents the total number of UK service personnel aeromedically evacuated by the financial year and quarter when the aeromedical evacuation occurred.

Table 2 presents the number of UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations from 1 January 2015 to 30 September 2023. For survivors, the overall numbers are also broken down to show casualty severity (for those where a NOTICAS was raised), the number who were admitted to a UK led field hospital (where data are available) and the number who were subsequently aeromedically evacuated. The methodology section provides further information on these data sources.

Table 2: UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations¹ by financial year, quarter, casualty severity^{2,3}, and outcome (hospitalisation⁴/aeromed⁵), numbers^{6,7}

1 January 2015 to 30 September 2023

Quarter/Year of injury/death	All Casualties														
	All	Fatalities ²	Survivors ²	Casualty Severity ³						Hospitalisation ⁴		Aeromed ⁵			
				VSI	%	SI	%	III	%	UL	%	No. of Personnel	%	No. of Personnel	%
All	2,331	19	2,312	13	1	58	3	86	4	858	37	71	3	1,895	82
2014-15 (Q4)	63	1	62	0	0	3	5	1	2	47	76	0	0	29	47
2015-16	151	3	148	2	1	2	1	5	3	68	46	0	0	127	86
2016-17	149	1	148	0	0	8	5	5	3	98	66	0	0	125	84
2017-18	362	2	360	3	1	8	2	17	5	159	44	66	18	218	61
2018-19	273	3	270	1	0	3	1	15	6	90	33	5	2	236	87
2019-20	254 r	3	251 r	3	1	7	3	9	4	85	34	0	0	224 r	89
2020-21	247 r	1	246 r	2	1	7	3	7	3	76	31 r	0	0	214 r	87
2021-22	393 r	3	390 r	0	0	5	1	11	3	135 r	35 r	0	0	341 r	87 r
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	90 r	1	89 r	0	0	0	0	1	1	33 r	37 r	0	0	77	87 r
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	56	1	55	0	0	3	5	2	4	17	31	0	0	48 r	87 r
2022-23	317 r	0	317 r	1	0	12	4	9	3	71	22 r	0	0	283 r	89
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	73 r	0	73 r	0	0	5	7	3	4	18	25 r	0	0	60 r	82 r
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	87 r	0	87 r	0	0	3	3 r	2	2 r	19	22 r	0	0	78 r	90 r
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	103	0	103	1	1	1	1	4	4	18	17	0	0	96	93
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	54	0	54	0	0	3	6	0	0	16	30	0	0	49 r	91 r
2023-24	122	2	120	1	1	3	3	7	6	29	24	0	0	98	82
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	60	2	58	0	0	2	3	3	5	12	21	0	0	51	88
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	62	0	62	1	2	1	2	4	6	17	27	0	0	47	76

Source: Initial NOTICAS (JPA), field hospital admissions data and Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) database

1 Includes Operations KIPION, SHADER, TORAL, BRANTA, CABRIT, ELGIN, ORBITAL, TOSCA, NEWCOMBE, PERCIVAL, TANGHAM, TRENTON, TURUS, VOGUL, GRITROCK, FORTIS, PITTING, WOODWALL, ROCKSTAFF and ACHILLEAN.

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. For each incident, casualties are presented in each of the categories where they have data recorded (e.g. NOTICAS, hospitalisation and aeromed) and only once in the total.

3 Not all casualties will have a NOTICAS raised and therefore the severity classification is unknown.

4 The number of hospitalisations is currently only available for Operation TRENTON.

5 Personnel aeromedically evacuated from theatre are presented in the year (or quarter) that the injury or illness occurred – please note the aeromed may have been in a subsequent year or quarter.

6 Figures presented are based on casualties that meet the reporting criteria for this Official Statistic, i.e. casualties resulting in an initial NOTICAS being raised, admission to a UK led field hospital (where data are available) or an aeromedical evacuation.

7 Continuing with the improved methodology from the November 2021 report to identify the location of an incident more accurately, an additional 21 casualty records have been identified for the period January 2015 to September 2023 (2 UL records and 19 records where the severity classification is unknown).

r indicates a revision due to improved methodology and/or additional data being received since the last publication.

Table 3: UK service personnel who sustained an injury, had an illness, or died whilst on operations¹ by financial year, quarter, and injury classification, numbers^{2,3,4}

1 January 2015 to 30 September 2023

Quarter/Year of injury/death	All Casualties	Fatalities ²				Survivors ²			
		All Fatalities	DOP	KIA	DOW	All Survivors	BI	NBI	D
All	2,331	19	18	1	0	2,312	3	1,137	1,172
2014-15 (Q4)	63	1	1	0	0	62	0	19	43
2015-16	151	3	3	0	0	148	0	68	80
2016-17	149	1	1	0	0	148	0	67	81
2017-18	362	2	2	0	0	360	0	149	211
2018-19	273	3	3	0	0	270	0	144	126
2019-20	254 r	3	2	1	0	251 r	3	128	120 r
2020-21	247 r	1	1	0	0	246 r	0	114 r	132 r
2021-22	393 r	3	3	0	0	390 r	0	206 r	184
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	90 r	1	1	0	0	89 r	0	38 r	51
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	56	1	1	0	0	55	0	33	22
2022-23	317 r	0	0	0	0	317 r	0	171 r	146 r
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	73 r	0	0	0	0	73 r	0	38 r	35 r
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	87 r	0	0	0	0	87 r	0	52 r	35 r
1 October - 31 December (Q3)	103	0	0	0	0	103	0	54	49
1 January - 31 March (Q4)	54	0	0	0	0	54	0	27	27
2023-24	122	2	2	0	0	120	0	71	49
1 April - 30 June (Q1)	60	2	2	0	0	58	0	35	23
1 July - 30 September (Q2)	62	0	0	0	0	62	0	36	26

Source: Initial NOTICAS (JPA), field hospital admissions data and Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) database

1 Includes Operations KIPION, SHADER, TORAL, BRANTA, CABRIT, ELGIN, ORBITAL, TOSCA, NEWCOMBE, PERCIVAL, TANGHAM, TRENTON, TURUS, VOGUL, GRITROCK, FORTIS, PITTING, WOODWALL, ROCKSTAFF and ACHILLEAN.

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 Figures presented are based on casualties that meet the reporting criteria for this Official Statistic, i.e. casualties resulting in an initial NOTICAS being raised, admission to a UK led field hospital (where data are available) or an aeromedical evacuation.

4 Continuing with the improved methodology from the November 2021 report to identify the location of an incident more accurately, an additional 21 casualty records have been identified for the period January 2015 to September 2023 (14 NBI and 7 D records).

r indicates a revision due to improved methodology and/or additional data being received since the last publication.

UK entitled civilians

Between 1 January 2015 and 30 September 2023, there were **57** UK entitled civilians who sustained an injury or illness whilst on operations. Of these, **1** was sustained within the latest six-month period (Q1/Q2 of 2023/24). The majority (**44, 77%**) were Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) personnel. 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.

Of the 57 entitled civilian casualties between 1 January 2015 and 31 March 2023, **42 (74%)** were on Op KIPION. More information about the entitled civilian casualties on Op KIPION can be found in **Table 11** of the accompanying supplementary tables.

The number of entitled civilian casualties by operation and financial year can be found in **Table 10** of the accompanying supplementary tables.

Methodology

This section provides a brief summary of the data sources and methodology; more detailed information is available in the background quality report (BQR) for this bulletin which can be found via the following link alongside the latest publication: [Operational casualty and fatality statistics](#).

Data sources

Data on operational casualties are compiled by Defence Statistics from the following data sources:

Initial Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS)

Notification of Casualty (or "NOTICAS") is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. NOTICAS information was centrally compiled from January 2006.

As the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK armed forces the quality of NOTICAS data is good. Enough information is provided within the NOTICAS to inform the individual's next of kin. However, the remarks field, which indicates the nature of injury, is free text and on occasions, there is little, or no information provided. Therefore, the cause of injury can sometimes be recorded incorrectly. For example, a casualty may be recorded as natural causes but once the data is compared against other records such as aeromedical evacuation data, it may be identified as a non-battle injury.

Aeromedical Evacuation

Aeromedical Evacuation is the medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical facilities by air transportation. Defence Statistics receive aeromedical evacuation records fortnightly from the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) at RAF Brize Norton for operations.

The quality of aeromed data is reasonable; the data fields that are critical to ensure medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical facilities by air transportation are fully populated and accurate. However, there are some fields that are not critical for the movement of the patient that occasionally require validation with other data sources to ensure higher data quality. For example:

- The operation name is not always provided, and it isn't until the record is compared with other casualty data that it can be determined as an operational record.
- The diagnosis code in the aeromed dataset is used to determine whether the casualty has a battle injury, non-battle injury or natural cause. There are some codes that can cover both injury and illness, making it hard to categorise the casualty. On these occasions cross-validation with other casualty data or from speaking to the AECC team would normally provide the correct categorisation.

Field hospital admissions - Medical audit forms (MAF)

Defence Statistics received Medical Audit Forms (MAF) for all patients treated at the Kerry Town Treatment Unit (KTTU) in Sierra Leone, and UK service personnel admitted to the UK led field hospital on Op TRENTON.

The MAF form was based on the World Health Organisation case record form. It was used to collect baseline presentation data (e.g. demographic and symptom details when they first arrived at the facility), daily data (e.g. laboratory and clinical data as it occurs) and outcome data (e.g. final diagnosis, discharge, death). The level of detail completed on the MAF forms varied greatly, with some records only containing basic details about the field hospital admission. Therefore, some records required validation with other data sources to ensure accuracy.

Operational fatalities

Defence Statistics receive weekly notifications of all regular armed forces deaths from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell (formerly the single service casualty cells). Defence Statistics also receive cause of death information from military medical sources in the single services. At the end of each calendar year, Defence Statistics cross-reference the medical information it holds against publicly available death certificate information available from NHS Digital and The General Registrar's Office Scotland.

Methodology

The overall figures for the number of casualties and fatalities on operations are compiled from the multiple data sources described above. Further details of the processing and validation of the data can be found in the Background Quality Report (BQR).

The injury, natural cause (including illness) or death is presented in the time period in which it occurred. If a UK service person or UK entitled civilian has more than one casualty incident reported, each will be presented in the time period in which it occurred.

A casualty or fatality will only be presented once per incident in the total number of casualties, even if they appear in multiple data sources (e.g. a casualty who has NOTICAS, field hospital and aeromed records for the same incident would be presented in each separate category but only once in the total).

A casualty will only be presented once per incident, either as a surviving casualty or an operational related death. If a casualty who was previously recorded as a surviving casualty subsequently dies from their wounds/injuries, they will only be presented in the fatalities section.

Operation details

Op TOSCA (1974 to present) - is the UK contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Military Component mission is to prevent a recurrence of fighting, maintain a stable environment to enable a just and lasting political solution to be found.

[United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus \(UNFICYP\)](#)

[British troops keep the peace in Cyprus](#)

Op TELIC (March 2003 to May 2011) - UK Forces were deployed to Iraq to support the Government's objective to remove the threat that Saddam Hussein 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. There was a drawdown of troops in July 2009 and Op TELIC finished on 21 May 2011.

[Op TELIC casualty and fatality tables](#)

Op ELGIN (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (December 2004 to present) - in support of/UK contribution to Op ALTHEA / EUFOR. Op ELGIN (B) was the codename for the UK contribution to Op ALTHEA until 31 December 2020 when the UK left the European Union and EU CSDP Missions. Op ELGIN (B) remains a UK operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo providing UK support to NATO activities and presence within the region.

[European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina \(BiH\)](#)

[UK troops train for Balkans role](#)

[Transfer of responsibility on Operation Althea](#)

Op HERRICK (1 April 2006 to 30 November 2014) - UK Forces were deployed to Afghanistan in support of the UN authorised, NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission.

[Op HERRICK casualty and fatality tables](#)

[Operations in Afghanistan](#)

Op KIPION (June 2011 to present) - 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.

[Operation KIPION](#)

[UK military presence in the Gulf](#)



Type 45 destroyer HMS Dragon pictured in the Middle East during Op KIPION 2013.

Source: Royal Navy

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Op VOGUL (July 2011 to present) - is the UK commitment to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

[United Nations Mission in South Sudan \(UNMISS\)](#)

[UK medical support to largest UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan continues after hospital handover to Vietnam](#)

Op NEWCOMBE (January 2013 to present) - MINUSMA is the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation mission in Mali. Established in 2013, the mission was asked to support the transitional authorities of Mali in the stabilisation of the country. Op NEWCOMBE is the UK commitment to that mission.

[MINUSMA](#)

[300 British troops deploy to Mali on UN peacekeeping mission](#)

[Mali deployment](#)



A French Véhicule de l'Avant Blindé (VAB) armoured vehicle being unloaded from a UK C17, which landed at Bamako airport, Mali in support of Operation NEWCOMBE.

Source: RAF

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Op TURUS (April 2014 to present) - was established following the abduction of the Chibok girls in April 2014. It is the deployment of the UK commitment to the French Sponsored multi-national Liaison and Coordination Cell (LCC) to N'Djamena, Chad in order to advise and assist the Lake Chad Basin Accord nations to more effectively counter Boko Haram (BH).

[UK team deploys to train Nigerian forces fighting Boko Haram](#)

Op SHADER (9 August 2014 to present) - 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. The number of UK military and civilian casualties and fatalities that occurred on operations in Iraq between 1 January 2003 and 31 July 2009 is available via the national archive website [Op TELIC casualty and fatality tables](#).



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

Source: RAF

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Op GRITROCK (15 September 2014 to 11 November 2015) - The Ebola crisis in West Africa was beyond the capacity of national authorities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) alone. The MOD assisted the Department for International Development (DfID) in providing a key component in the UK's response. MOD involvement enabled western standard medical care for Ebola and non-Ebola (disease and non-battle injury) patients, whilst taking the necessary measures to contain a wider outbreak. Following the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring Sierra Leone free from Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on 7 November 2015 and given that the 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.

[First British Ebola treatment facility opens in Sierra Leone](#)
[Military support to the fight against ebola comes to a close](#)



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

Source: Royal Navy

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Op TORAL (1 December 2014 to August 2021) – was 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 [Op HERRICK casualty and fatality tables](#).

[Operations in Afghanistan](#)



An RAF Puma deployed on Operation TORAL in Afghanistan

Source: RAF

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Op BRANTA (2015 to present) - The mission of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) is to supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace and employ best efforts to prevent any violation of its terms.

[Multinational Force and Observers \(MFO\)](#)

[Defence Secretary announces UK support to peacekeeping mission](#)

Op ORBITAL (November 2015 to present) is the UK's bi-lateral commitment to Ukraine; the UK's capacity building support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF).

[Defence Secretary welcomes Ukraine receiving NATO enhanced opportunity partner status](#)

On 20 July 2023, the then-Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, wrote the following in a written ministerial statement (HCWS987) to the House of Commons:

“We continue our longstanding Operation ORBITAL, which before Russia’s invasion on the 24th February 2022 had delivered training to more than 22,000 Armed Forces of Ukraine Personnel in Ukraine. It now includes Defence Medical Personnel, who are delivering training and mentoring in Ukraine to the Armed Forces of Ukraine Medical Services.”

The full text of the statement can be read at the following link:

[Written Ministerial Statement: Military Support to Ukraine, HCWS987](#)

Op CABRIT (1 November 2016 to present) is the UK's contribution to NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in Estonia and Poland. The 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw set the conditions for the establishment of an EFP in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to strengthen Euro-Atlantic security. UK Armed Forces have a leading role to enhance Euro-Atlantic security, reassure our Allies and deter our adversaries. About 900 British personnel will rotate on a continuous basis alongside Danish, French, and host nation Estonian forces.

[enhanced Forward Presence \(eFP\)](#)

[UK troops arrive in Estonia for major NATO deployment](#)



Image taken in 2018 of 19 Regt, The Royal Regiment of Artillery (in Bulldog vehicle) during the British Army deployed on operations supporting NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) forces located in Estonia and Poland.

Source: Army

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Op TANGHAM (January 2017 to present) is the name given to the over-arching operation in Somalia. UK Armed Forces are currently deployed in Somalia to support three organisations; the UN, the AU Mission in Somalia, and direct support to the Somali National Army as part of international efforts to restore security and stability in the region.

[African Union Mission in Somalia \(AMISOM\)](#)

[United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia \(UNSOM\)](#)

Op TRENTON (May 2017 to March 2020) was the contribution of the United Kingdom in support of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). As one of the UK's largest operational deployments at the time, the deployment comprised over 300 military personnel. The operation began winding down in January 2020 and the UK engineering task force completed its final tour of duty in March 2020.

[United Nations Mission in South Sudan \(UNMISS\)](#)

[UK medical support to largest UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan continues after hospital handover to Vietnam](#)

[UKs largest UN mission draws to a close after four successful years](#)



The UN Compound in Malakal, South Sudan where members of the UK Engineer Task Force deployed on Op TRENTON. Pictured are local boys playing football as the sun goes down.

Source: Army

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Op PERCIVAL (unknown to present) - United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO – based on French acronym) aims to reduce Armed Groups to a 'manageable degree', protect civilians and stabilise Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) through state security institutions and democratic order.

[MONUSCO](#)

Op FORTIS (23 May 2021 to 10 December 2021) - was the name given to the deployment of the UK-led Carrier Strike Group in 2021 (otherwise known as CSG21). Led by HMS Queen Elizabeth, the deployment primarily centered on regenerating the UK's Carrier Strike capability. The CSG comprised of two RN destroyers; HMS Diamond and HMS Defender, and two RN frigates; HMS Richmond and HMS Kent and an astute-class submarine. The CSG21 was supported by two Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ships; RFA Fort Victoria and RFA Tidespring. The CSG also had integrated escorts from the USA (USS The Sullivans, an Arleigh Burke Class destroyer) and the Netherlands (HNLMS Evertsen, an air defence frigate). HMS Queen Elizabeth also hosted F35B jets from the RAF's 617 Squadron, "the Dambusters", and the US Marine Corps' VMFA-211 as well as Wildcat helicopters from 815 Naval Air Squadron and Merlin helicopters from 820 and 845 Naval Air Squadrons. Royal Marines from 42 Commando were also deployed.

The Strike Group set sail on 23 May 2021, and was tasked to navigate through the eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific regions and operate and exercise with allies and partners in order to strengthen and reaffirm the UK's commitment to global maritime security.

Op PITTING (13 August 2021 to 29 August 2021) - was the evacuation of British Nationals and former British staff eligible for relocation under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

[Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement](#)

Op WOODWALL (October 2021 to present) – Two Offshore Patrol Vessels, HMS Spey and HMS Tamar, have been deployed to the Indo-Pacific region where they are expected to spend the next five years or more. Their patrol area covers from the eastern seaboard of Africa to the western coast of the Americas, and they will be working with partners and allies during their operations, including the USA, Australia, Japan, and Singapore.

Op ROCKSTAFF (2 December 2021 to 16 April 2022) – was the deployment of a Royal Engineers Squadron to Poland to provide support for specific military engineering tasks to Polish military deployed on the Poland-Belarus border. The specific engineering tasks included the maintenance and enhancement of border infrastructure; Engineer Planning and Joint Force Engineering coherence; Road improvement work; and Observation Post improvement work.

Op ACHILLEAN (September to 10 December 2022) - was a maritime deployment of assets to the Mediterranean and North Seas, to undertake defence engagement and diplomacy activities with allies, provide reassurance to NATO partners and demonstrate UK leadership and support to the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF). It was an opportunity to undertake Carrier Qualification serials, necessary for continued operation of air assets from the ship.

The operation saw two distinct deployments. The first was the Littoral Response Group North (LRG(N)), comprising HMS ALBION, RFA MOUNTS BAY and ARGUS. This sub-operation deployed on 15 September 22 to the Mediterranean Sea to enable defence engagement in the Aegean, Western Balkans and North Africa. The operation was due to recover to the UK on 10 November 22. The second was the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) comprising the aircraft carrier HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, HMS DIAMOND, HMS KENT, HMS RICHMOND, and RFA TIDE SURGE. The CSG deployed on 10 November 22, and focused on Carrier Deck Qualifications, Task Group Integration, and training with other force elements. There was a high profile port visit to Oslo, Norway, from 21-24 November. The CSG recovered to the UK in December 22.



One F35-B prepares to take off from the deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth, as another lands on Op ACHILLEAN. Flying day and night, F35-B jets of 617 Squadron conduct flying sorties, working in pairs.

Source: MOD

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Glossary

Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) - 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.

Casualty – A casualty is an injured or ill person categorised with a Battle Injury, Non-Battle Injury or Natural Causes.

Battle Injury (BI) - 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’.

Non-Battle Injury (NBI) - 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.

Natural Causes (D) - natural causes include illness, disease, and pregnancy.

Commander of Joint Operations (CJO) – responsible for the completion of UK military objectives for joint overseas operations and exercises including deployment, command, sustain and recovery of all UK Armed Forces.

Died on Operations (DOP) - 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.

Entitled civilian - Entitled civilians include patients eligible either without special financial authority or on a repayment basis for aeromedical evacuation. These patients include Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) personnel, MOD United Kingdom Based Civilians (UKBC’s), MOD Contractors, MOD Welfare Organisations and other Government Departments.

Hostile Action (HA) - Hostile action includes deaths categorised as Killed in Action or Died of Wounds.

Killed in Action (KIA) - A battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.

Died of Wounds (DOW) - 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.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) - JPA is the personnel administration system used by the UK armed forces. It is the single authoritative source for demographic information for personnel.

Kerry Town Treatment Unit (KTTU) - The Kerry Town complex included a 12-bed centre staffed by British Army medics specifically for health care workers and international staff responding to the Ebola crisis.

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) - a non-profit organisation that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) - also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries. The organisation implements the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949.

Notification of casualty (NOTICAS) - Notification of casualty is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK armed forces.

Very Seriously Injured/III (VSI) - Where the patient's condition is of such severity that life or reason is imminently endangered.

Seriously Injured/III (SI) - 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.

Incapacitating Injury/Illness (III) - Any illness or injury (including battle casualties) which does not warrant classification of VSI or SI but renders them physically and/or mentally incapacitated.

Unlisted casualty (UL) - An individual whose illness or injury requires hospitalisation but whose condition does not warrant classification as VSI, SI or III.

Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) - PJHQ is responsible for planning and executing UK led joint and multinational overseas military operations; commanding UK Forces which have been assigned to multinational operations led by others; and providing policy aware military advice to the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Primary care - healthcare provided in the community for people making an initial approach to a medical practitioner or clinic for advice or treatment.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) - 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.

Secondary care - medical care that is provided by a specialist or facility that requires more specialized knowledge, skill, or equipment than the primary care physician can provide.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) - UNMISS' objective is to consolidate peace and security, and help establish conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically and establish good relations with its neighbours.

United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) - UNFICYP is one of the longest-running UN Peacekeeping missions. It was set up in 1964 to prevent further fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island and bring about a return to normal conditions and maintain a buffer zone between the lines of the Cyprus National Guard and of the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces.

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

r Revised

Revisions

There are no regular planned revisions of this bulletin. Amendments to figures for earlier years may be identified during the 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:

[Op TELIC casualty and fatality tables](#)

[Op HERRICK casualty and fatality tables](#)

[Types of injuries sustained by UK service personnel on operations in Afghanistan Op HERRICK 1 April 2006 to 30 November 2014](#)

[Improvised explosive device events involving UK personnel on Op HERRICK in Helmand province Afghanistan](#)

[UK Armed Forces operational deaths post World War 2](#)

Further Information (cont.)

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