



Ministry of Defence

**Analysis (Tri-Service)
Ministry Of Defence
Main Building
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United Kingdom**

E-mail: Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk

Reference: FOI2024/22791

[Redacted]

Date: 20/12/2024

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 21/11/2024 requesting the following information:

**Please provide the number of British Armed Forces personnel who served in an active combat role in:
Operation Herrick (Afghanistan, 2002–2014)**

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have now completed a search for the information you requested, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is partially held.

Number of Unique UK Service Personnel² who served in a Combat Role³ Deployed⁴ on Operation Herrick⁵ from 1 April 2007 – 31 December 2014⁷

Total	76,377
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Source: Analysis (Tri-Service)

Notes/Caveats:

1. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) `Move and Track` system. Due to ongoing validation of data from JPA, figures provided are provisional and subject to change. **Figures have been derived from the November 2024 deployment extract.**
2. UK Forces Service Personnel' comprises UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Volunteer Reserve, Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, and Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS).
3. The Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM) and Royal Air Force (RAF) do not have a definition for 'combat roles', hence the figure includes all RN/RM and RAF personnel who were deployed on Operation HERRICK during this time period. For the Army, 'combat roles' are defined as personnel serving in the Infantry, the Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps and the Army Air Corps.
4. Deployed personnel are Military personnel who are deployed on Operations. The database records all personnel who enter a deployment theatre for over 24hrs. Each individual has a new record for each change in deployed unit, location, operation or date.

5. Operation HERRICK is the name associated to all British operations in Afghanistan. Operation HERRICK also encompasses the whole of the Joint Operation Area in the region so personnel deployed to this operation do not have to be solely deployed within Afghanistan. Not all supporting operational posts are geographically located within Afghanistan. Operation HERRICK consists of the British contribution to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and support to the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).
6. The **Date of Deployment** is the 'deployed date in' as recorded on JPA 'Move and Track' system. This is the date personnel deployed into the respective count.
7. Figures have been provided between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2014. This is because deployment dates can only be identified from April 2007 onwards. Prior to April 2007, we have no way of knowing how many times a person was deployed or for how long.

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.gov.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.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Analysis (Tri-Service)