

Research study: Epidemiology of Cancer in the UK Armed Forces

Aim of the study

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is researching whether there is an increased risk of cancer among those who serve – or have served – in the UK Armed Forces since 1990.

This research study seeks to establish:

- how cancer and death rates among UK Armed Forces (Regular, Reserve and Veteran) compare to the general population in the UK
- if there is evidence of increased risk among specific groups in the Armed Forces

Findings will inform the MOD's policies, Armed Forces support and cancer research.

Who is included in the study?

- All Regular serving personnel – and Veterans – who served since 1990.
- All current – or Veteran – Reservists who served since 2013.
- All current – or Veteran – Reservists who deployed to the following conflicts:
 - Gulf – Op GRANBY¹, Iraq – Op TELIC, Afghanistan – Op VERITAS, and Op HERRICK.

What information is being used in the study?

Demographic and military information will be collected from the MOD administration systems. Confidential, patient information about cancer diagnoses or death will be provided from cancer and death registries by England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Confidential patient information is needed; the MOD is seeking approval from governing bodies to process it without consent. The MOD will only request the information it needs.

How will data about participants be kept safe?

Data from this study will be held on secure, MOD systems, with controlled access and the following additional measures for the:

1. **research database:** Personally identifiable information will be replaced with a study ID, preventing individuals from being identified on the system. This data can only be accessed by the MOD Cancer Study Research Team – all ONS-Accredited Researchers
2. **study population database:** Personally identifiable information will be held on a different system – only accessible by named individuals in the MOD Analysis Digital Team

Data will be handled in compliance with Data Protection Legislation.

Where results from this study are published, identities will remain anonymous and confidential.

If you would not like your data to be used in this study, please complete the 'opt-out from the study' form.

¹ Including a matched group who did not deploy on Op GRANBY but served at the same time