Military Search and Rescue
Monthly Statistics
October 2012

Published: 29 November 2012

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods,
- and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.
Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Key Points

• During October 2012 there were 132 incidents, resulting in 146 callouts and 122 persons being moved. This represents a significant decrease in incidents, callouts and persons moved compared to October 2011.

• The number of callouts during October 2012 was fairly high compared with the number of incidents. This was primarily due to a single incident during the month, which resulted in seven callouts over several days searching for a missing child in Wales. A separate incident involved five callouts looking for a missing walker in Speyside.

• The unit with the highest number of callouts this month was RAF Chivenor, with 27 callouts. This is the first month since July 2011 in which Chivenor has had the highest number of callouts, although Chivenor is regularly in the top three units for monthly callouts. The majority of these callouts were Medrescues (the movement of an injured person), particularly around the north Devon and south Wales areas.

• Although overall callouts fell by 9%, the number of callouts on land during October 2012 was higher than in October 2011. This was partially driven by the high number of searches for missing persons during October 2012. This was offset by a significant fall in callouts at the coast and at sea.

• The units with the highest number of persons moved during October 2012 were RAF Valley and HMS Gannet, each with 26. These two units often move the highest number of people during the month. The highest number of persons moved in a single callout was by a unit from RAF Lossiemouth, when 12 people were rescued from a ditched helicopter in the North Sea.

• The total MRT man hours during October 2012 was 3,239 - the highest total in any month since October 2005. This was primarily due to multiple units from MRT Leeming and MRT Valley spending up to six days searching for a missing child in west Wales.

What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for October 2012. It includes details of the activities of UK military SAR helicopters, RAF SAR helicopters operating in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, and military MRT units. Details of MCA helicopters units are not included in this report. However, a summary is provided in the quarterly and annual SAR Reports, which are available at the following links:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-QTRLY
http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-ANNUAL

The report includes counts of the number of incidents, callouts and persons moved in the previous month.

Incidents are emergencies attended by Royal Navy or Royal Air Force units whose primary task is SAR, plus other military aircraft and ships that are available to the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre (ARCC).

Each SAR unit attending an incident is described as a *callout*. An incident may result in one or more callouts.

Persons moved involves moving people from a hostile environment to a safe environment, or to a medical facility to receive urgent medical attention. It may also involve moving individuals between medical facilities at the request of the NHS.

The data source for this report is a weekly download from the ARCC database. Every incident recorded by the ARCC is included in these tables. Incident data from Cyprus and the Falklands is received by email on an ad hoc basis and may be incomplete. All data is validated and checked by DASA on receipt. Further details are available in DASA's SAR Background Quality Report. This also includes details of internal and external users of the reports, including a summary of their requirements and how well DASA's reports meet these requirements.

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=2100&date=2012-01-23&type=pdf&PublishTime=09:30:00

Introduction

Military Search and Rescue

The military Search and Rescue (SAR) service exists primarily to assist military personnel in difficulty, although the majority of its work involves assisting civilians in distress, both on land and at sea. SAR coverage for the United Kingdom and a large area of the surrounding sea is provided 24 hours a day and 365 days a year by the RAF and the Royal Navy.

UK Helicopters

The UK military SAR aeronautical coverage currently consists of RAF and Royal Navy SAR Sea King helicopters operating from eight locations around the UK (RAF Boulmer, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leconfield, RAF Valley, RAF Chivenor, RAF Wattisham, RNAS Culdrose and HMS Gannet). The military SAR force operates 24 hours a day. It provides coverage throughout the UK, and also covers an area extending from the Faroe Islands in the north, the English Channel in the south, about half way across the North Sea to the east and halfway across the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

The UK SAR helicopter coverage is coordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) based at Kinloss Barracks.

Mountain Rescue Teams

The RAF has four mountain rescue teams (MRT), based at RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leuchars, RAF Leeming and RAF Valley. The MRT units provide land rescues, primarily over the mountain regions of the UK. Military MRT units are coordinated by the ARCC, and often work in conjunction with helicopter units.

Overseas Helicopters

A SAR service is also provided by two overseas bases, at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

Further information on the UK's military SAR coverage is available at:
http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafsearchandrescue/
http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Operations/Enduring-Operations/UK/Search-and-Rescue

Other Search and Rescue

In addition to the RAF and Royal Navy, a number of non-military organisations provide SAR coverage throughout the UK. The activities of these non-military organisations is outside the scope of this report, however background information on some of the organisations involved is provided below.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

In addition to the eight military aeronautical SAR units, additional aeronautical SAR coverage is provided by four Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) helicopter units. Although these are not part of the military SAR service, the MCA helicopters are coordinated by the ARCC at Kinloss Barracks, to provide integrated coverage across the UK. Details of their activities are included in the SAR Quarterly and Annual reports.

In addition to its aeronautical coverage, the MCA provides maritime SAR coverage throughout the UK. Details of maritime SAR callouts are not included in this report. Further information is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue.htm

RNLI

The RNLI is a charitable organisation providing 24 hour lifeboat SAR coverage around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, along with a seasonal lifeguard service.

http://www.rnli.org.uk/

Mountain Rescue Teams

A number of voluntary Mountain Rescue services operate throughout the UK. These often work in conjuction with the military SAR service. Details of non-military Mountain Rescue callouts are not included in this report. Further information can be found at:

http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/
http://www.mrcofs.org/

Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance services operate throughout the UK, providing emergency medical assistance. Further information is available at:

http://www.airambulanceassociation.co.uk/

UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary

Current Month

2012	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team		Incidents		Persons Moved
October	146	132	3	11		132		122

Previous 12 Months

	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team		Incidents		Persons Moved
September	157	149	1	7		147		124
August	244	237	2	5		237		204
July	209	198	1	10		199		159
June	199	196	1	2		194		163
May	178	173	1	4		170		138
April	138	128	3	7		127		119
March	109	103	3	3		105		128
February	106	96	6	4		101		78
January	123	116	-	7		114		93
December	112	98	6	8		109		108
November	123	113	3	7		112		85
October	161	149	6	6		157		139

	ARCC Kinloss	RCC Cyprus	RCC Falklands	Total
Callouts	143	1	2	**146**
Incidents	129	1	2	**132**
Persons	119	-	3	**122**
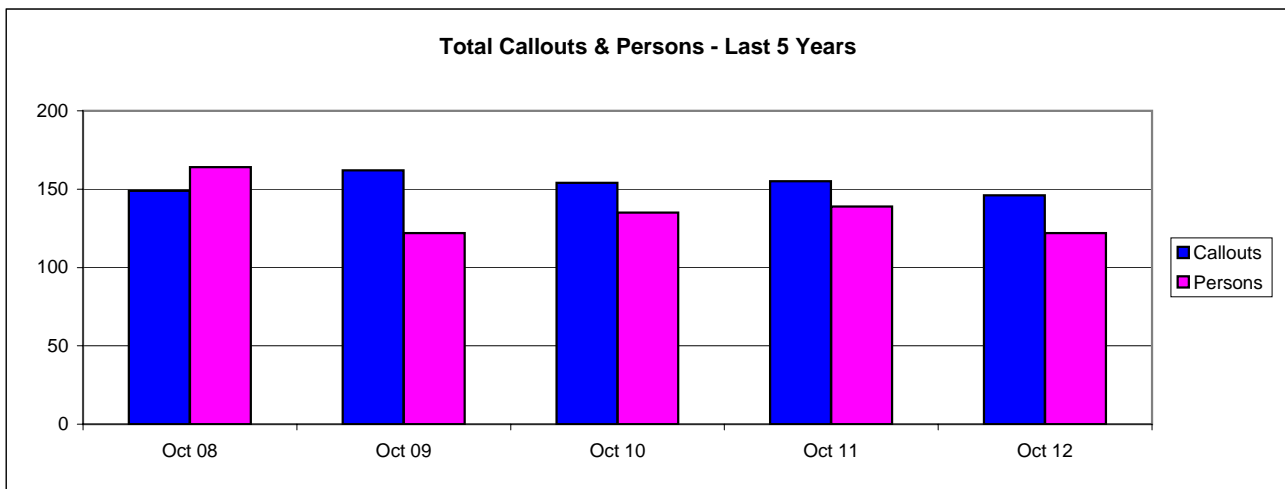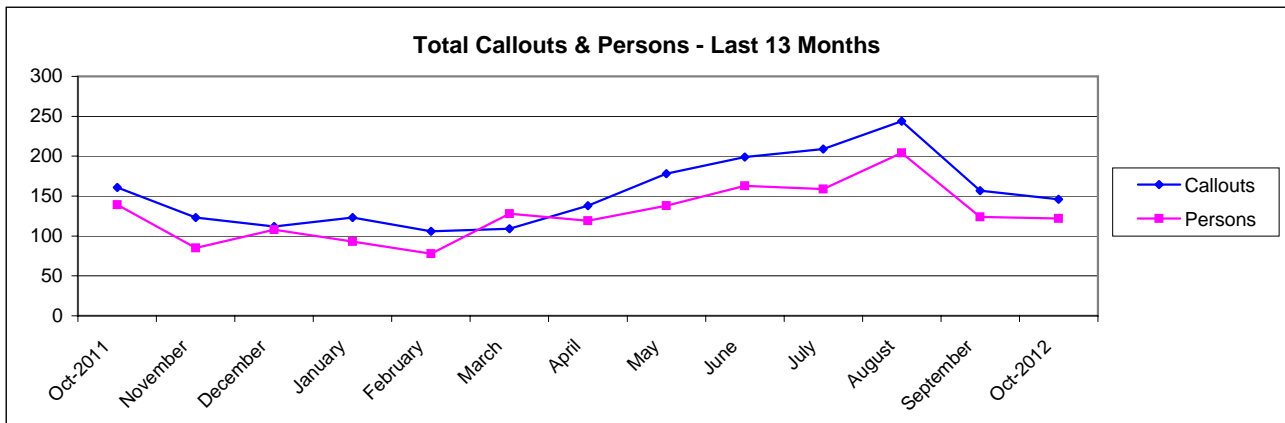
Total Callouts & Persons - Last 13 Months

Total Callouts & Persons - Last 5 Years

UK Search And Rescue Summary

UK Helicopter Callouts by Callout Grouping[1] - Last 13 Months

1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10

UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation[2] - October 2012

- Other 10%
- Ambulance 29%
- Police 29%
- Coastguard 31%
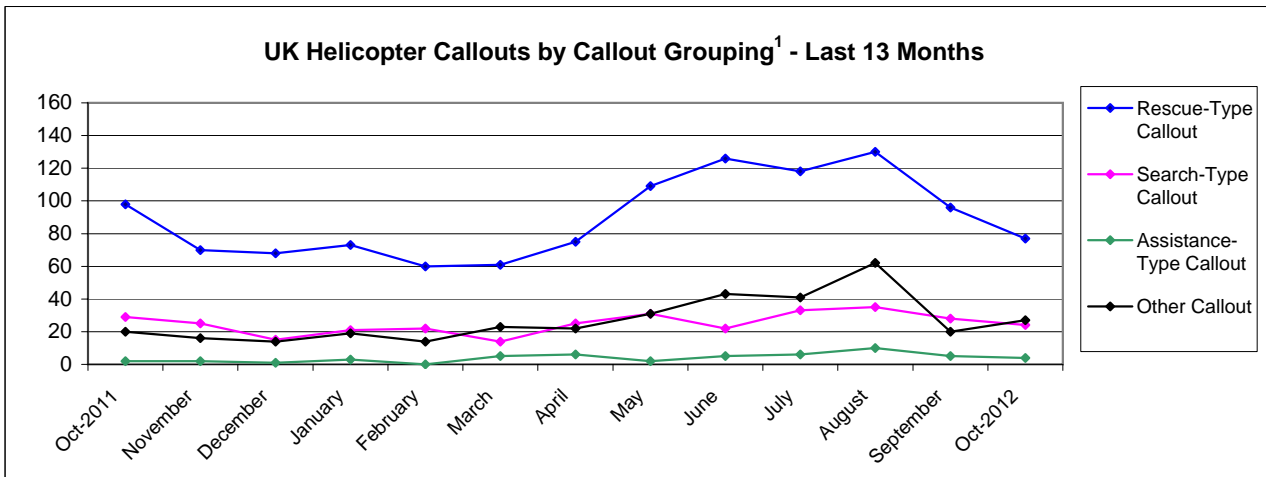
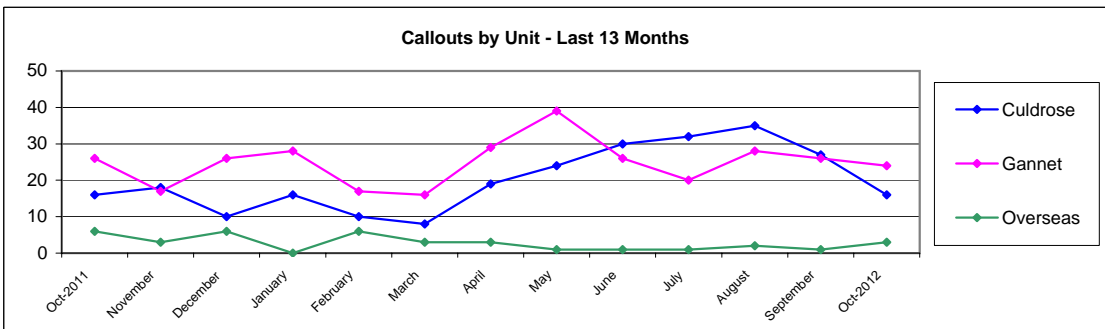## UK Callouts by Requesting Organisation[2] - Last 13 months
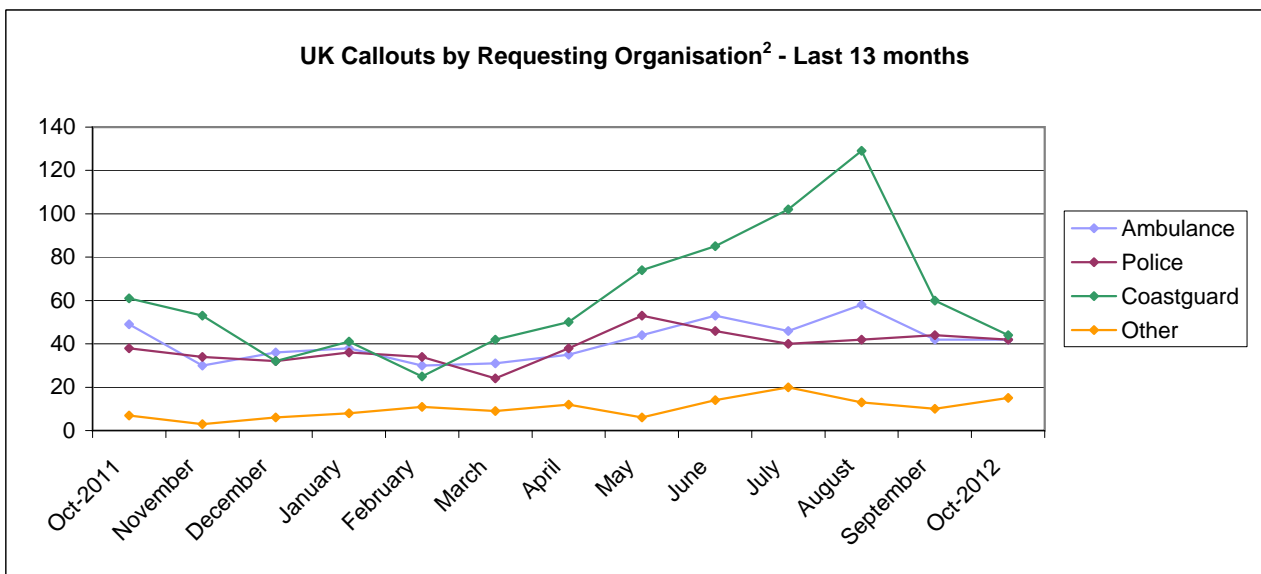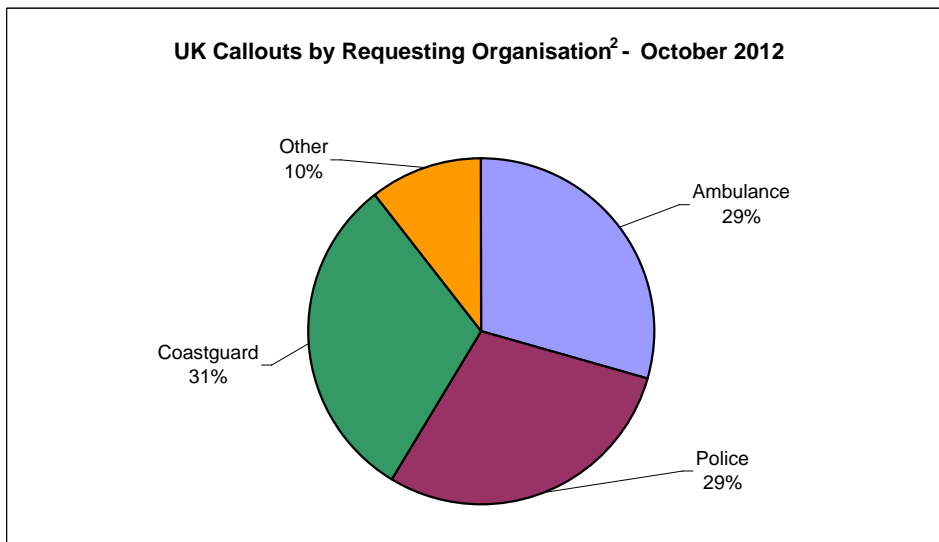
2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

Callouts - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	2	-	1	1	-	4	-	1	1	-	5	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	-	1	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	6	-	-	-
Medrescue	5	4	5	7	15	2	38	9	7	16	-	54	-	2	2
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Medtransfer	1	1	-	3	1	-	6	2	7	9	-	15	-	-	-
Recovery	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Search	1	4	1	-	2	-	8	-	1	1	-	9	1	-	1
Top Cover	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Assist	1	1	-	1	-	1	4	2	-	2	-	6	-	-	-
Recalled	-	2	1	3	4	2	12	2	4	6	-	18	-	-	-
Not Required	2	2	-	-	2	-	6	1	-	1	-	7	-	-	-
False Alarm	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total Callouts	**10**	**18**	**10**	**21**	**27**	**6**	**92**	**16**	**24**	**40**	**-**	**132**	**1**	**2**	**3**

Callouts by Unit - Last 13 Months (Boulmer, Lossiemouth, Leconfield)

Callouts by Unit - Last 13 Months (Valley, Chivenor, Wattisham)

Callouts by Unit - Last 13 Months (Culdrose, Gannet, Overseas)

Callouts - UK Helicopters

RAF Boulmer Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Lossiemouth Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Leconfield Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Valley Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months
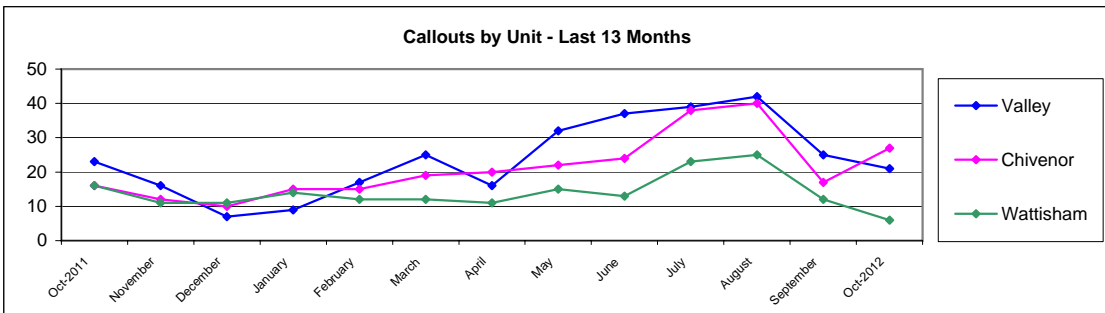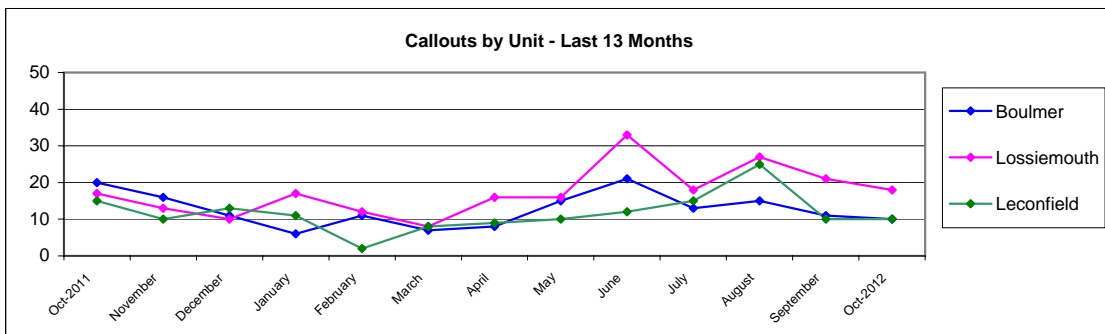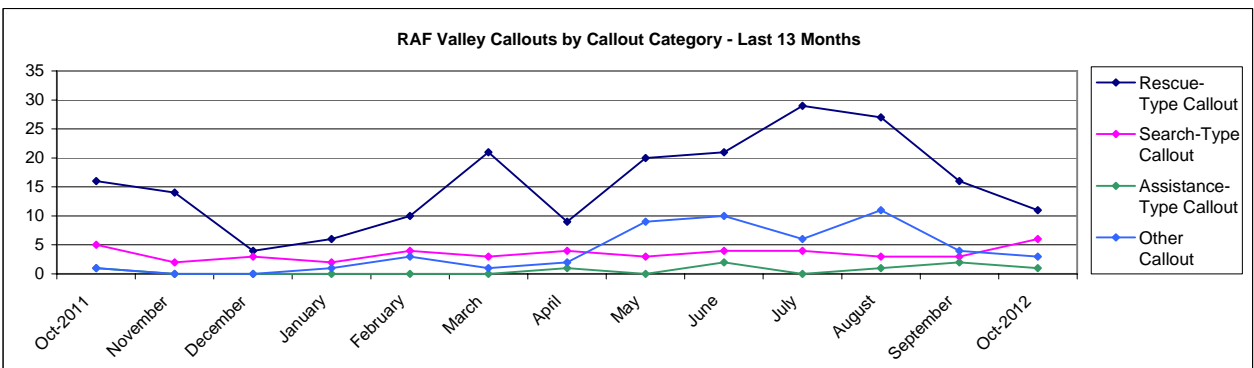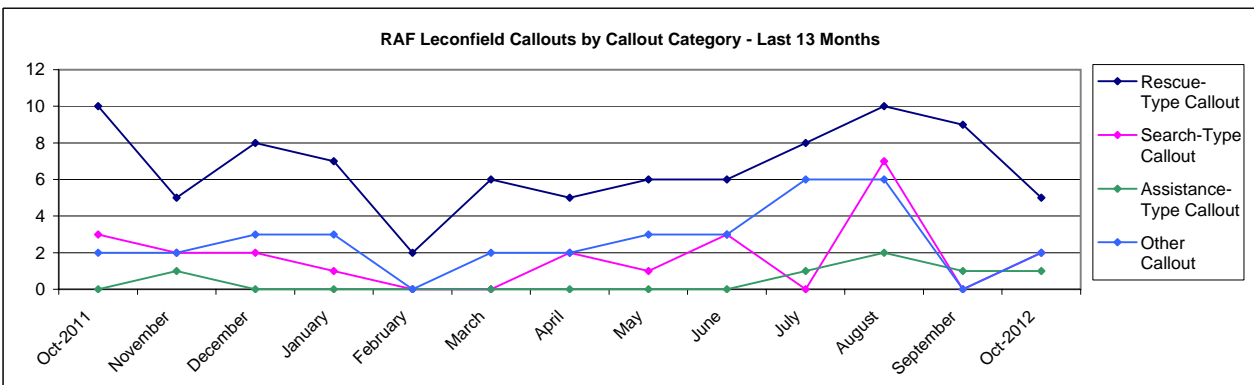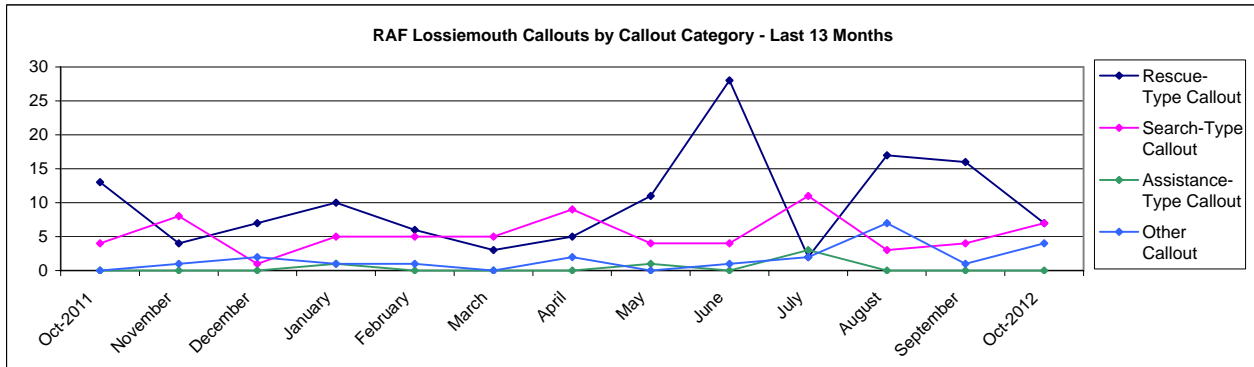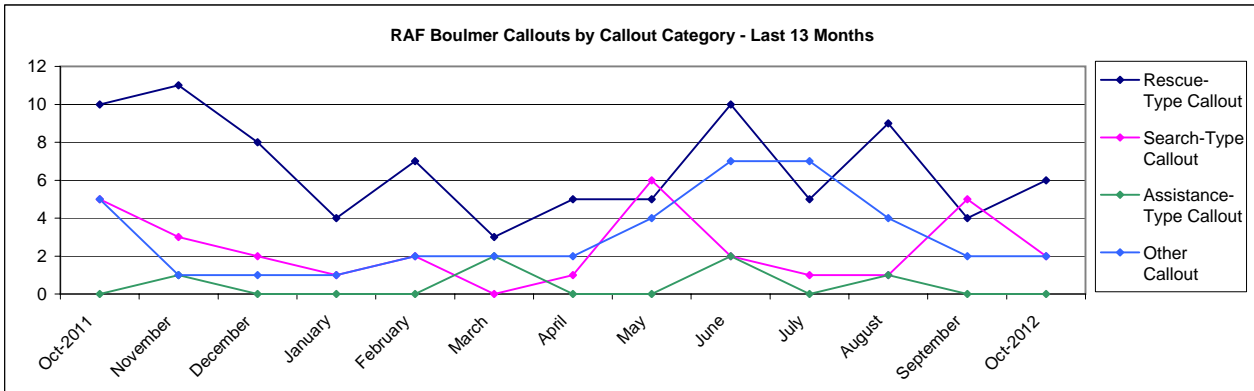

1. *For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10*

Callouts - UK Helicopters

RAF Chivenor Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RAF Wattisham Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

RNAS Culdrose Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months

HMS Gannet Callouts by Callout Category - Last 13 Months
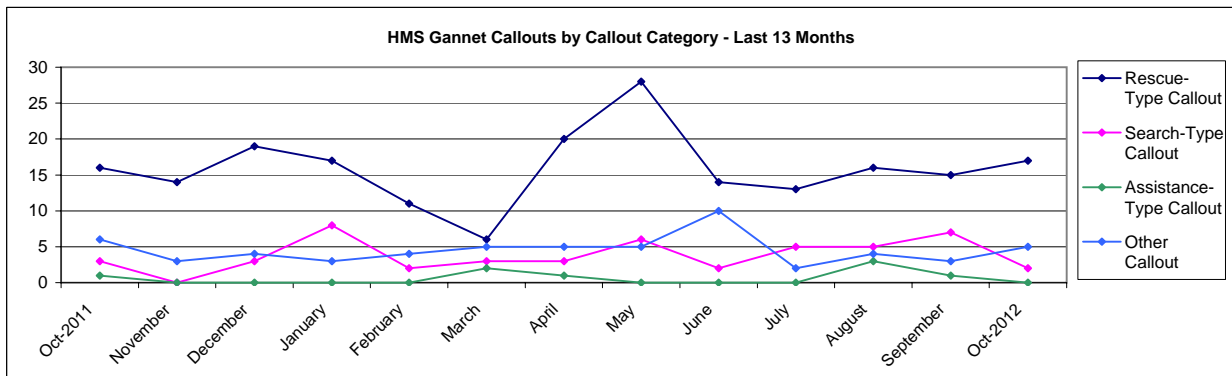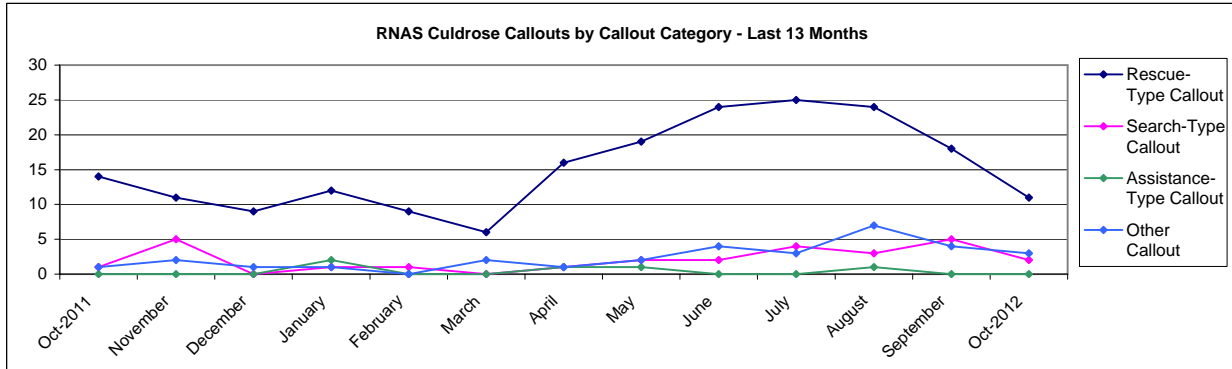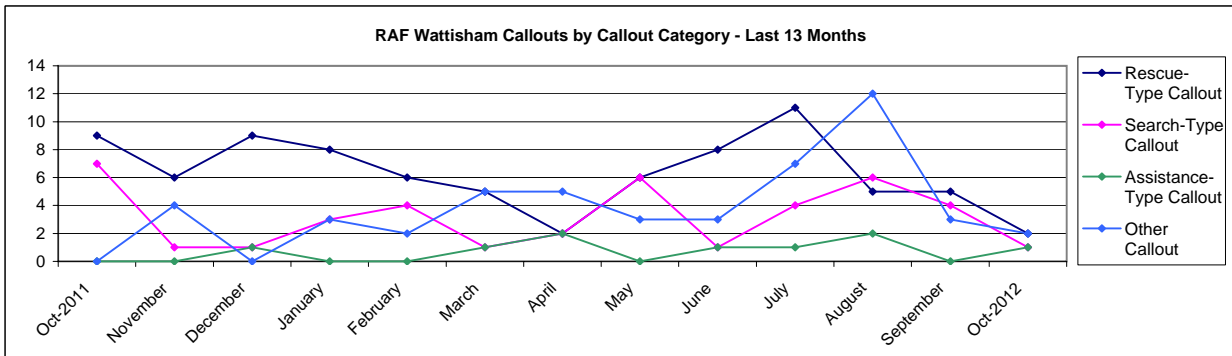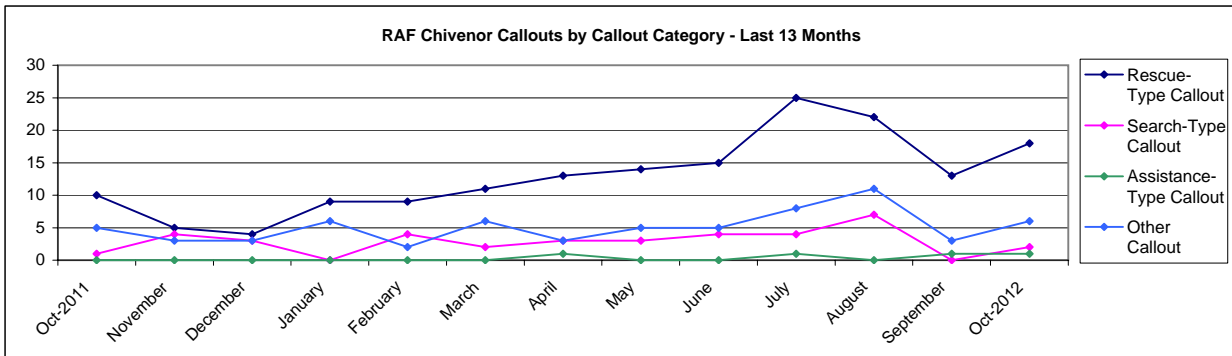
1. *For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10*

Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Callouts by Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	3	-	2	5
Search-Rescue	6	1	-	7
Medrescue	40	8	8	56
Search-Medrescue	1	-	-	1
Medtransfer	15	-	-	15
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	2	-	-	2
Transfer	2	-	-	2
Civil Aid	1	-	-	1
Search	8	3	1	12
Top Cover	-	1	1	2
Assist	-	-	-	-
Search-Assist	11	1	1	13
Recalled	11	6	1	18
Not Required	6	1	-	7
False Alarm	1	-	-	1
Hoax	-	1	-	1
Precaution	1	-	-	1
Aborted	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	1	-	-	1
Total Callouts	**110**	**22**	**14**	**146**

Callouts by Category

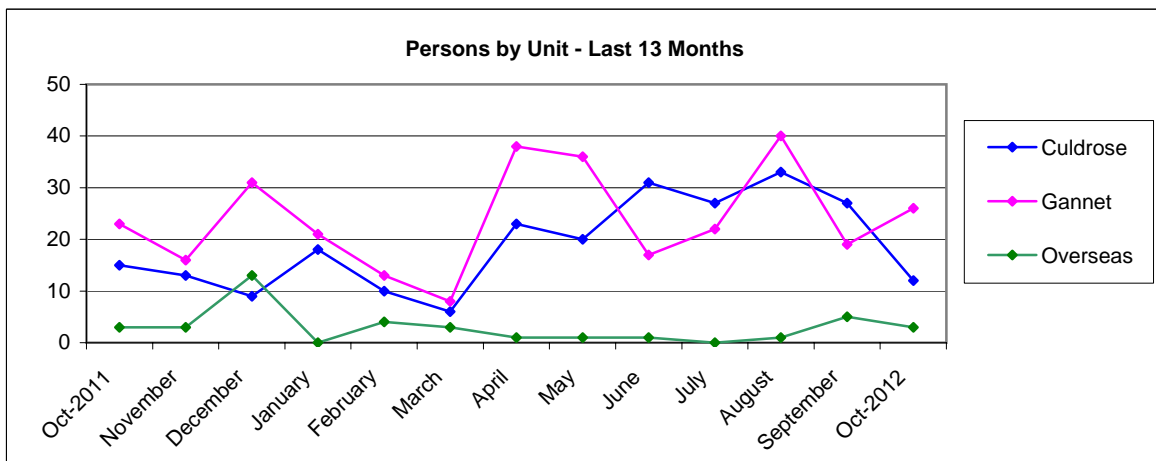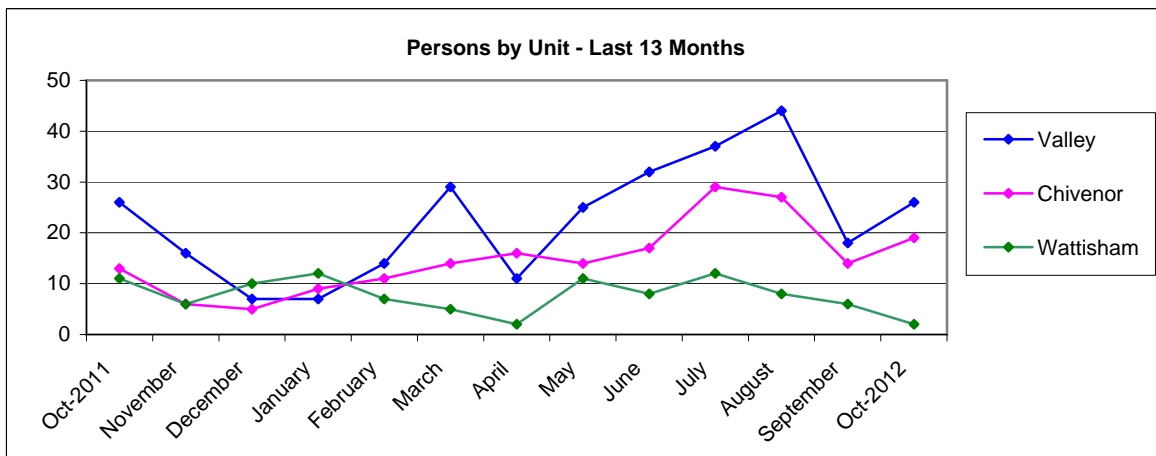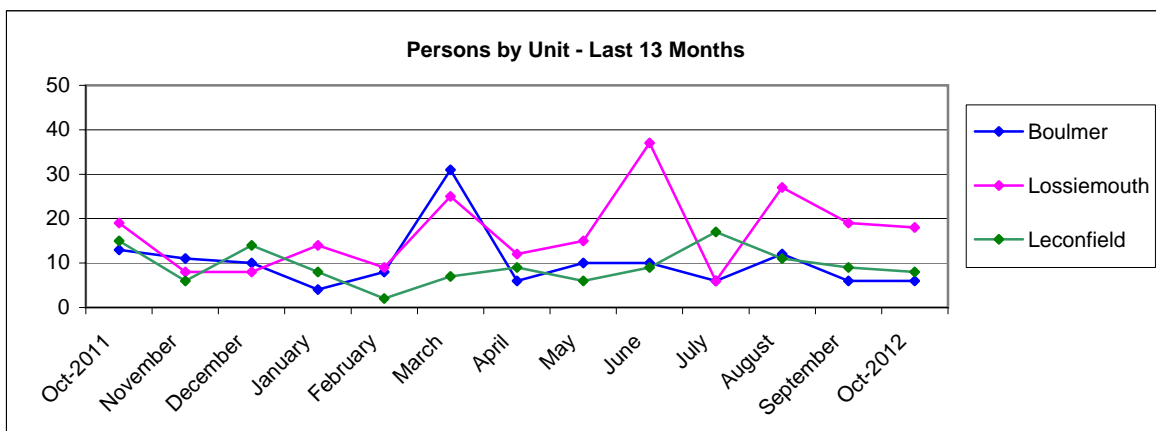|	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	5
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
Medrescue	1	6	2	2	-	-	45	-	56
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	15
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Search	-	-	1	-	-	1	10	-	12
Top Cover	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	-	2	-	-	-	11	-	13
Recalled	-	1	2	-	-	-	15	-	18
Not Required	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
False Alarm	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	**2**	**8**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**123**	**-**	**146**

Callouts by Location - Last 13 Months
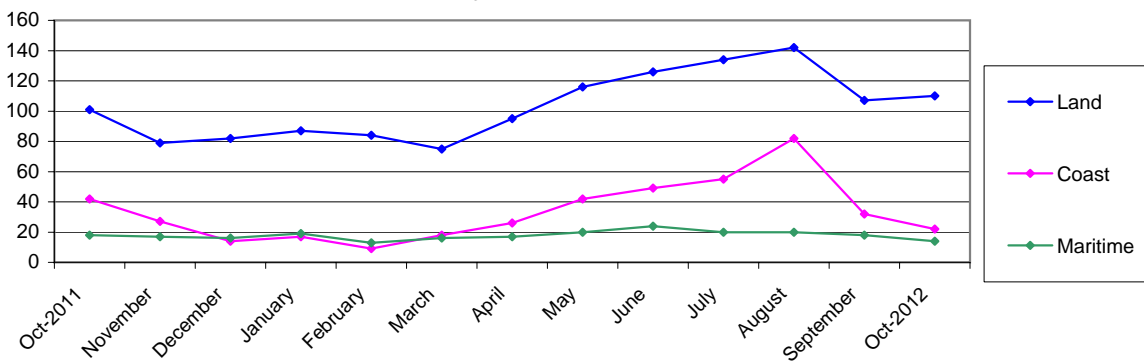
Callouts by Location - Last 5 Years
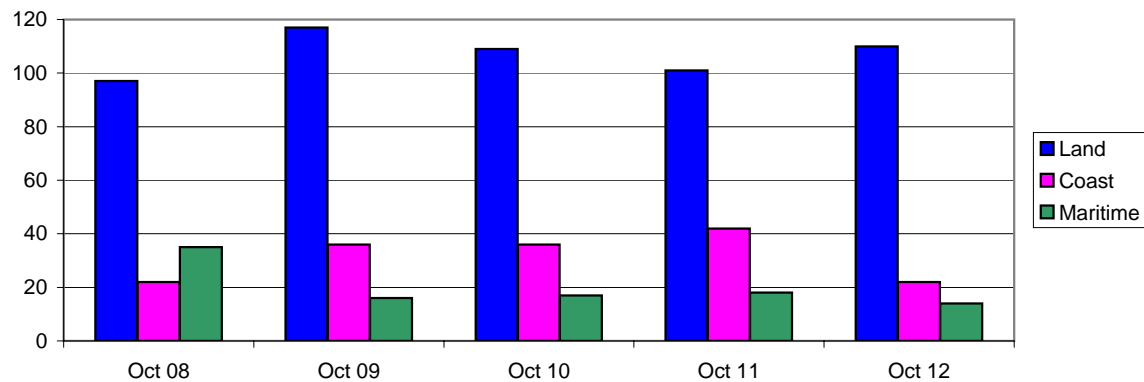
Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	13	-	5	1	-	**19**	1	3	4	-	**23**	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	-	3	10	-	-	**13**	-	3	3	-	**16**	-	-	-
Medrescue	5	4	5	7	15	2	**38**	9	7	16	-	**54**	-	3	3
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	1	-	-	**1**	-	-	-	-	**1**	-	-	-
Medtransfer	1	-	-	3	2	-	**6**	2	8	10	-	**16**	-	-	-
Recovery	-	-	-	-	1	-	**1**	-	-	-	-	**1**	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	1	-	-	-	-	**1**	-	-	-	-	**1**	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	5	5	-	**5**	-	-	-
Total Persons	**6**	**18**	**8**	**26**	**19**	**2**	**79**	**12**	**26**	**38**	**-**	**117**	**-**	**3**	**3**

Persons by Unit - Last 13 Months (Boulmer, Lossiemouth, Leconfield)

Persons by Unit - Last 13 Months (Valley, Chivenor, Wattisham)

Persons by Unit - Last 13 Months (Culdrose, Gannet, Overseas)

Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Persons by Callout Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	9	-	14	23
Search-Rescue	14	3	-	17
Medrescue	41	8	8	57
Search-Medrescue	1	-	-	1
Medtransfer	16	-	-	16
Recovery	1	-	-	1
Search-Recovery	2	-	-	2
Transfer	5	-	-	5
Total Persons	**89**	**11**	**22**	**122**

Persons by Callout Category

Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
12	2	-	-	9	-	23
-	-	-	-	17	-	17
1	6	2	2	46	-	57
-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	16	-	16
-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	2	-	2
-	-	-	-	2	3	5
13	**8**	**2**	**2**	**94**	**3**	**122**

**Persons by Location - Last 13 Months**

Persons by Location - Last 5 Years
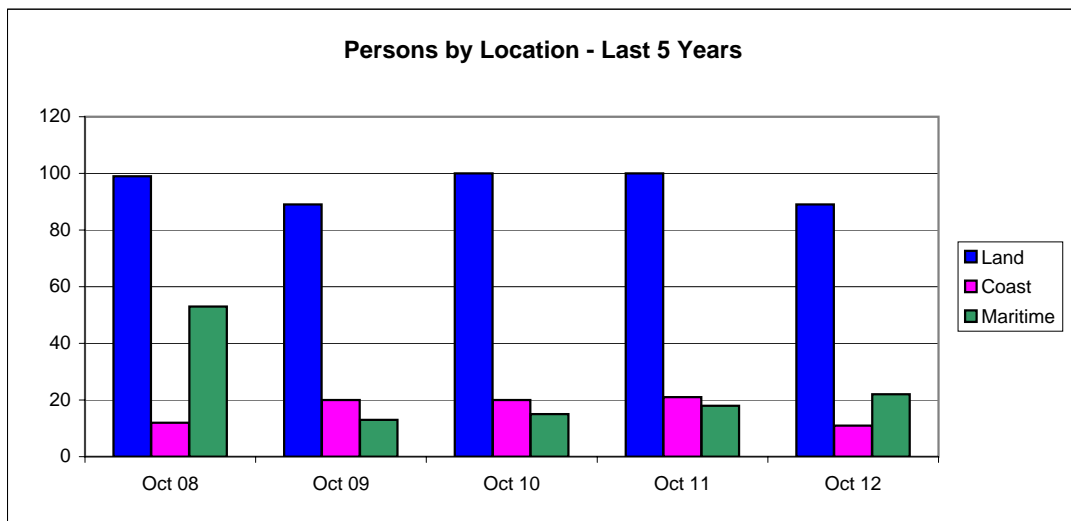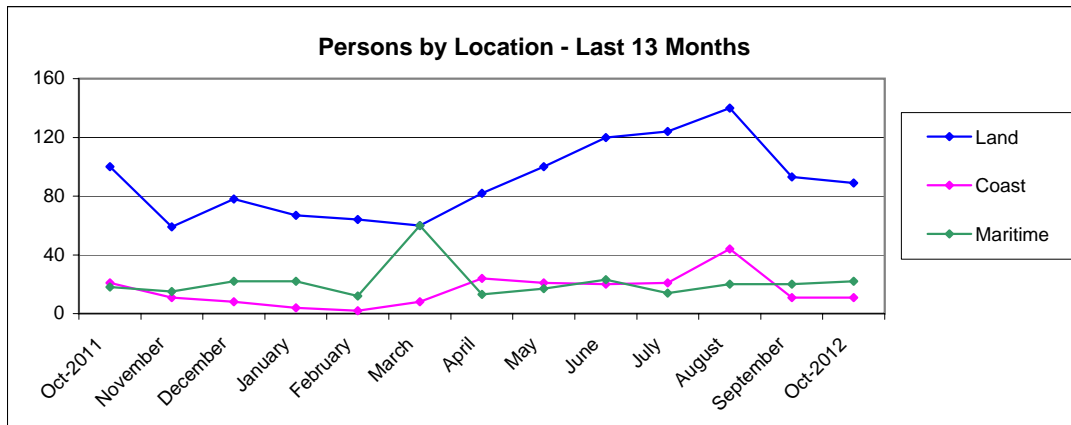
SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

SAR Flying Hours[3]

	Total Flying Hours	Average Flying Hours	Average Time to Casualty[4]
RAF Boulmer	22.40	2.16	0.41
RAF Lossiemouth	30.58	1.43	0.20
RAF Leconfield	14.05	1.25	0.20
RAF Valley	34.05	1.37	0.22
RAF Chivenor	37.37	1.24	0.19
RAF Wattisham	5.10	0.52	0.14
RNAS Culdrose	27.20	1.42	0.17
HMS Gannet	42.52	1.47	0.36
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-
Cyprus	1.48	1.48	0.10
Falklands	3.35	1.48	0.17
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-
	220.10	**1.38**	**0.24**

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

4. Time to casualty is the time from departure from base to arrival at incident.

Monthly Flying Hours - Last 13 Months
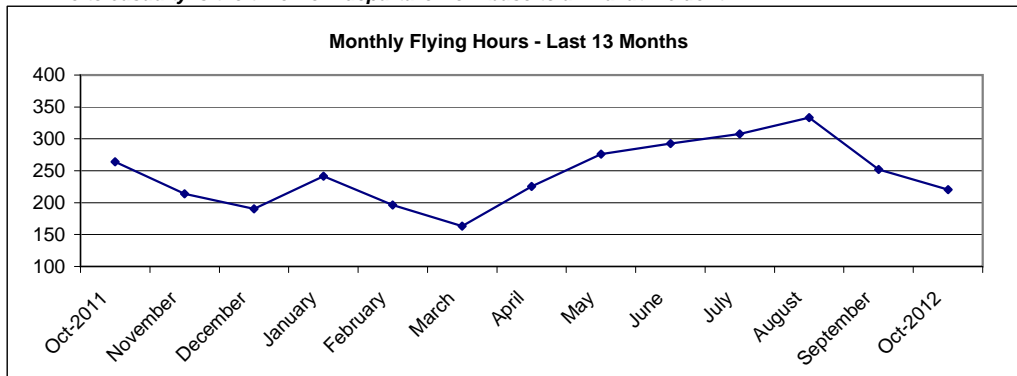
Mountain Rescue Teams

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours
Lossiemouth[5]	3	1	511
Leeming	4	-	1419
Leuchars	-	-	-
Valley	4	1	1309
Other	-	-	-
Total	**11**	**2**	**3239**

5. Formerly MRT Kinloss

MRT callouts - Last 13 Months
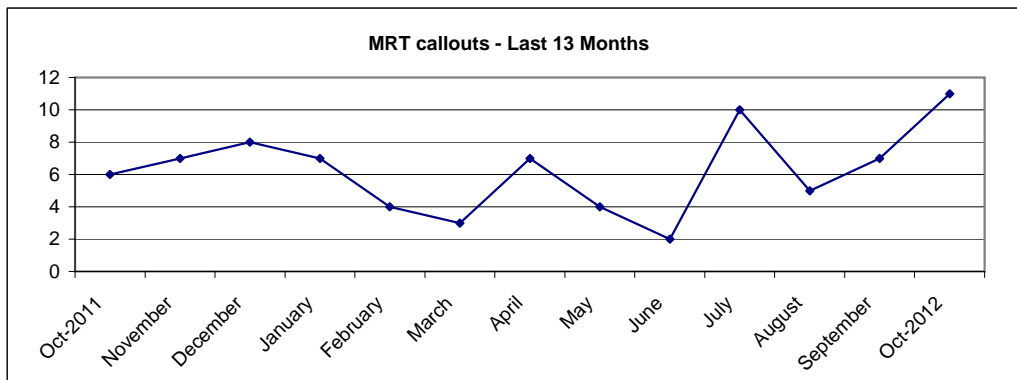
SEARCH AND RESCUE DEFINITIONS

		GROUPING
RESCUE	Transfer of distressed uninjured person(s) from a hostile to a benign environment.	Rescue-Type
MEDRESCUE	Transfer of sick or injured persons(s) from a hostile environment to a recognised medical facility (eg, hospital or chamber).	Rescue-Type
TRANSFER	Transfer of military personnel, or their families, on compassionate grounds.	Rescue-Type
MEDTRANSFER	Transfer of patients or organs between medical establishments at the request of a recognised Medical Authority, i.e. NHS Trust, Hospital or Ambulance Authority.	Rescue-Type
RECOVERY	Recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Rescue-Type
SEARCH	Search for craft, person(s), etc which does not result in moving a person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of an uninjured person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – MEDRESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of a sick/injured casualty.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ASSIST	Search for craft, person(s), etc involving assistance to other SAR assets.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RECOVERY	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ABORT	Search for craft, person(s), etc during which callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Search-Type
TOP-COVER	On-scene assistance, e.g. communications relay, target identification, vectoring to target etc. for another rescue asset, or as cover for person(s) or vessel(s) in distress that does not result in further intervention.	Assistance-Type
PRECAUTION	Pre-positioning of a SAR helicopter to provide faster response to an anticipated or potential incident, eg, in response to an aircraft declaring a "MAYDAY" or a potential incident on a offshore installation.	Assistance-Type
ASSIST	Assistance to other SAR assets etc, such as moving SAR personnel or equipment (eg, mountain rescue teams, divers, pumps), shepherding of aircraft etc.	Assistance-Type
CIVIL AID	Military Aid to the Civil Community (eg fire control).	Assistance-Type
RECALLED	Asset recalled from incident whilst en route.	Other
NOT REQUIRED	Asset arrived on scene but no action required.	Other
ABORT	Callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Other
FALSE ALARM	Unnecessary callout with good intent.	Other
HOAX	Unnecessary callout with malicious intent	Other