

## Annual Medical Discharges in the UK Regular Armed Forces

#### 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020

Published 20 August 2020

This official statistic provides time trends for the last five years of medical discharges among UK regular service personnel with a focus on the most recent year of information, including demographic factors and the medical causes leading to the discharge.

When a medical condition or fitness issue affects a member of the UK armed forces, their ability to perform their duties is assessed. If they are unable to perform their duties and alternative employment within the armed forces is not available, personnel can then be medically discharged. Medically discharged personnel leave the armed forces prior to the completion of their contract and may be entitled to additional payments as part of their military pension.

The medical reason for the discharge is recorded and categorised. It is possible for personnel to be medically discharged for multiple reasons.

### **Key Points and Trends**

Between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 (2019/20):

# Naval Service

366 medical discharges 11 per 1,000 personnel

(No significant change since last year when rate was 12 per 1,000)

### Army

1,043 medical discharges 13 per 1,000 personnel

(Significantly lower than last year when rate was 15<sup>r</sup> per 1,000)

### RAF

169 medical discharges 5 per 1,000 personnel

(Same rate as last year)

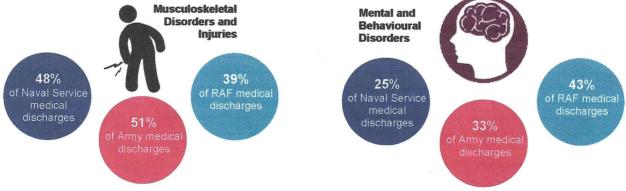
#### Groups at significantly higher risk of medical discharge:

Other Ranks
Personnel aged 30-39 years
Royal Marines

Other Ranks Females Untrained

Other Ranks Females

For all three services, the main causes of medical discharges were **Musculoskeletal Disorders and Injuries** and **Mental and Behavioural Disorders**. This was in line with findings from previous years.



2 in 5 personnel (42%) medically discharged left as a result of multiple medical conditions.

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Background quality report: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-</a>

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