



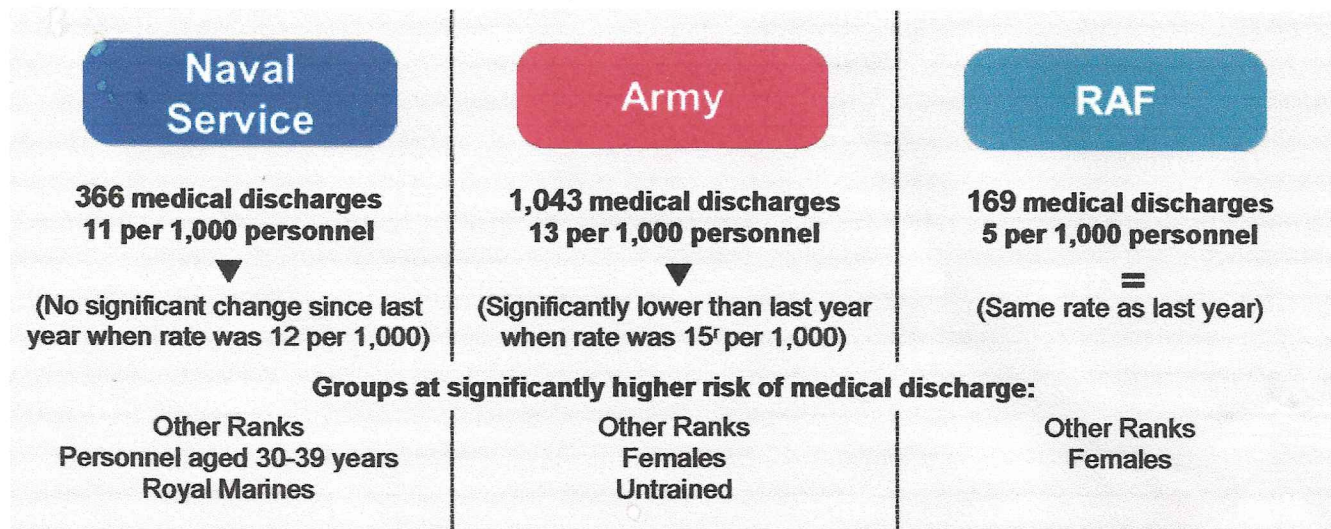
This official statistic provides time trends for the last five years of medical discharges among UK regular service personnel with a focus on the most recent year of information, including demographic factors and the medical causes leading to the discharge.

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.

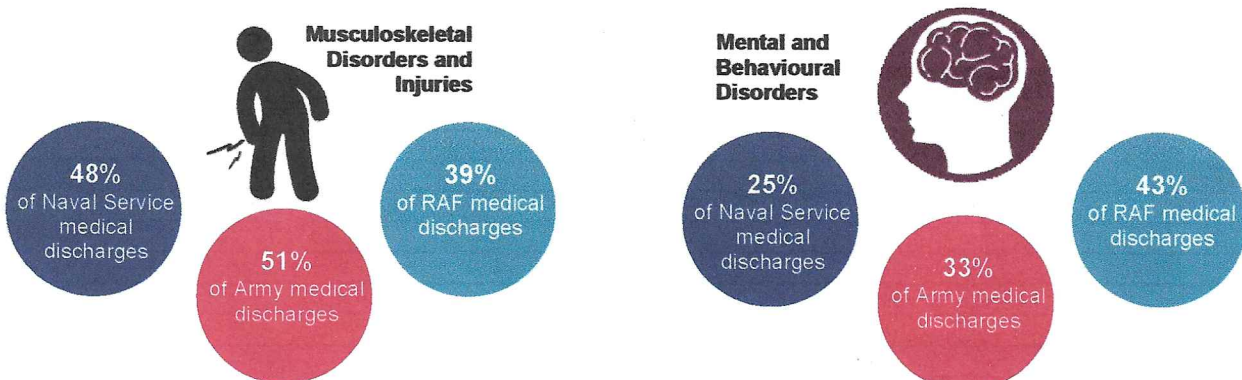
The medical reason for the discharge is recorded and categorised. It is possible for personnel to be medically discharged for multiple reasons.

Key Points and Trends

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



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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>

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