

Marham serviceman targeted in 'attempted abduction' - armed men on the loose

This happened yesterday but it is now being treated as a very serious incident. From local newspapers the [Norfolk Constabulary](#)

Detectives investigating an incident in which a serviceman was threatened with a knife near RAF Marham yesterday have confirmed they are treating it as an attempted abduction.

Descriptions of two men, both said to be of Middle Eastern origin, have been issued this afternoon as the investigation continues.

Detectives say they cannot rule out it being an attempted terrorist attack, but say they are also looking at other possibilities.

The serviceman, who is said to be in his late 20s, was approached while out running on Squires Hill shortly before 3pm yesterday. Police say one of the men shouted at the serviceman and attempted to grab him before falling to the ground. The second assailant, who was armed with a knife, went to his accomplice before they both fled. The men fled in a dark people carrier and remain at large.

The road from the junction of Marham Road to Squires Hill remains closed today while investigations continue. . . personnel who work at the airbase, which is home to the famous squadron of Tornados and is soon to be home to Lightning aircraft, were being advised to be vigilant following the incident.

An internal memo seen by the EDP (Eastern Daily Press) sent to

staff from Rich Curzon, in Protective Security at the MoD, said: "Following a security incident at RAF Marham, it is directed that all personnel keep a low profile and not make themselves vulnerable. Specifically, until the threat subsides, no-one is to be on their own on foot, or on a bicycle, within the local area in uniform or clothing which might identify them with the military."

A further information note to all personnel described the incident as an "alleged attempted abduction" and explained the incident occurred when a serviceman had been running "approximately one mile outside of RAF Marham's main gate".

Detective Superintendent Paul Durham, from the Norfolk and Suffolk Major Investigation Team, said: "I can confirm we are treating this as an attempted abduction and detailed enquiries are being carried out at the scene to establish the full circumstances.

"The motivation for the attack remains unclear at this time, and whilst we are currently unable to discount terrorism, there are a number of other possible hypotheses. We are therefore carrying out a thorough investigation to understand what has happened, why and who is responsible.

"Visible patrols continue in the area and officers will be carrying out house-to-house enquiries and detailed searches of the scene in Squires Hill, which remains closed for the time being."

Police have released details of the suspects known to be involved:

- Suspect 1 is described as between 20 and 30 years old, approximately 6ft tall, of athletic but stocky build, with dark hair which was long on top and had a well-groomed beard. He was of Middle Eastern origin in appearance with a dark skin tone and wore dark casual clothing.

- Suspect 2 is described as between 20-30 years old but younger than the first suspect and of a slimmer build. He was approximately 5ft 10, clean shaven with short dark hair. He was also of Middle Eastern origin in appearance and wore a white t-shirt and dark shorts.

Det Supt Durham added: "I'm keen to hear from anyone who may have seen the vehicle described above in the King's Lynn area but particularly towards Marham between midday and 6pm yesterday and would urge anyone with information, no matter how insignificant it may seem to them, to call police on **101** or call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111.**"