

# THE ROYAL MARINES

The UK's Expeditionary Force of Choice



## Role

The Royal Marines are the UK's *Commando* Forces and the Royal Navy's own amphibious troops.

- An elite force, held at Very High Readiness, they are optimised for worldwide rapid response and are able to deal with a wide spectrum of threats and security challenges.
- Fully integrated with the Royal Navy's amphibious ships, they can be deployed globally without host nation support and projected from the sea to conduct operations on land.
- A key component of the Royal Navy's maritime security function, they provide a unique capability, expert at ship-to-ship operations.



## Tasks

- Crisis Prevention and deterrence.
- Mentoring and training.
- Crisis Response.
- Stabilisation and peace-support.
- Humanitarian operations.
- Non-combatant evacuation operations.
- Maritime interdiction operations e.g. counter-piracy.
- Contribution to enduring land campaigns.
- Nuclear protection.
- Complex Intervention.



## Our History

The Royal Marines have been part of the Naval Service for over 300 years, fighting from the decks and mastheads at Trafalgar and leading the assault in the Falklands. They are now the custodians of the *Commando* ethos and excellence forged in WW2. It is no coincidence that Royal Marines were amongst the first UK troops into Sierra Leone in 2000, Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003.



## Commando Forces at Readiness

The main deployable force of the Royal Marines is 3 Commando Brigade. Based in Plymouth, this contains combat, command and support elements all held ready for short notice deployment. The focus for force generation is the Lead Commando Group (LCG). Based around one of the Commando

units, this force remains at 5 days notice with the lead Company at 2 days. The LCG combines with RN ships at readiness to form the Response Force Task Group (RFTG), which provides the UK with a highly flexible and versatile tool for expeditionary operations of all natures, whether proactive engagement to PREVENT or rapid response to PROTECT.

## The Commando Distinction

The Royal Marines retain the ability to select their recruits and train them according to a *Commando* syllabus lasting 32 weeks. Taking place at the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, Devon, this imbues Marines with the self-reliance, adaptability and robustness of body and mind required of *Commando* Forces. This training and ethos underpin the characteristics that make the Royal Marines distinct within UK Defence.

- **Versatility:** Multi-skilled and multi-capable; adaptable and modular; deployable by sea, air or land.
- **Excellence:** Trusted and respected; intellectually nimble; providing both choice and assurance.
- **Value:** Exceptional *proven* utility from a light force; over 70% of the Corps in operationally deployable units.



## Contingency Forces

**Commander UK Amphibious Forces:** A 2-star expeditionary HQ, designed to command UK or multi-national operations.

**3 Commando Brigade:** The UK's Commando Force, it can be deployed in force packages of 8 to 5200. The Brigade contains:

- Brigade HQ - specialist command and planning staff.
- 40, 42 and 45 Commandos (700-man fighting units).
- 30 Commando Information Exploitation Group.
- 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery.
- 24 Commando Regiment Royal Engineers.
- Commando Logistic Regiment.
- 539 Assault Squadron (specialist amphibious and protected mobility unit).

**Royal Marines Reserve:** Fully integrated, Reservists serve alongside Regulars as equals.

**Royal Marines Band Service:** Renowned for the world's finest military bands, they are also trained to be medical orderlies for military operations.

## Committed Forces

**Fleet Protection Group:** Permanently on duty providing the security for the UK's nuclear deterrent and deployed RN ships. Holds specialists in ship interdiction and assault and maritime sniping.

**1 Assault Group:** Specialist unit, expert in amphibious warfare. Provides landing craft detachments to deployed amphibious ships.



## Our Vision

As a Corps and a fighting force, we have articulated our vision for our future in a new document: The Royal Marines Vision - Think *Commando*. In the context of the contemporary operating environment and the recent Strategic Defence and Security Review, it outlines how we, the Royal Marines, will maintain our world-class reputation, continue to provide exceptional value for Defence and confirm our place as the UK's expeditionary force of choice.

