



**3 Commando Brigade Royal  
Marines**  
**Op RUMAN Newsletter**  
**Sep 17**



This letter has been created in order to inform and re-assure all the families of 3 Commando Brigade personnel who are currently deployed to the Caribbean on Operation RUMAN.

**The situation:**

Over half a million British nationals – either residents or tourists – have been in the path of Hurricane Irma which has caused devastation across an area spanning well over a thousand miles.

3 Commando Brigade are doing everything possible to help in an extremely challenging situation. They have been well received by the local population and are having a positive effect across a vast area of operations.

Since 7 Sep, the Government has met every day to co-ordinate the UK's response – corralling military, aid and consular effort.

The Prime Minister has authorised £57 million of assistance for the Overseas Territories.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson travelled to the Caribbean on 12 Sep to visit those areas devastated by Hurricane Irma.

Mr Johnson witnessed the UK's huge relief effort at first hand, meeting with governors, military personnel and local communities who are working together to repair major damage.

**From the Brigade Commander:**

3 Commando Brigade are one of the UK's Very High Readiness forces, who are well trained and capable of delivering a wide spectrum of tasks as required by the Government.

The short notice deployment of Brigade personnel to the Caribbean in response to the devastation caused by hurricane Irma is one of those tasks and one that we are ideally placed and trained to deliver. The upheaval of family time and the inconvenience this causes is well recognised, and I thank you for your continued support to your loved ones whilst they are deployed during this time.

I hope you find the information contained in this letter useful and please do not hesitate to contact the Royal Navy/Royal Marines Welfare Services should you have any enquires whatsoever.

Brigadier *Gwyn Jenkins* OBE  
3 Cdo Bde Commander



### What are 3 Commando Brigade personnel doing:

There are approx. 1000 military personnel in the area of operations of which half are from 3 Commando Brigade. They are distributed across the islands of British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Turks and Caicos Islands where they have been assisting local authorities with security, aid distribution and repairing vital infrastructure and services. In addition to this there are over 50 Police Officers in the Caribbean region as well as RFA Mounts Bay, 2 aircraft and 2 helicopters capable of transporting aid and personnel between the islands. Over the next few days more personnel from 3 Commando Brigade will be deploying to the area along with additional equipment and HMS OCEAN is currently in transit to the area loaded with personnel and UKAID supplies, including 2,608 shelter kits, and 2,304 solar lanterns which can provide shelter and light for approx. 13,000 people.

### Our relief effort is making a difference

On the British Virgin Islands:

- Royal Marines and Commando Engineers from RFA Mounts Bay got the airfield operational to enable the arrival of more aid and personnel.
- 120 troops - including engineers, medics, Royal Marines and UK Police Officers are working with the local Police Force to provide security and deal with the most urgent tasks.
- Consular and FCO staff have also arrived to provide additional support.
- Our teams have worked with mobile communications providers to restore services.
- An expert from the UK Hydrographical Office got the radio station operational to allow vital mass communication to the population across the islands.

We are receiving reports of further advances and successes in our efforts on a daily basis and this will only continue to grow.

### On Anguilla:

- RFA Mounts Bay got the airfield operational; delivered 6 tonnes of aid; secured the Emergency Operations Centre; and restored power to the hospital.
- Military personnel, Police and FCO staff are deployed with equipment and raw materials to repair the hospital.
- A further nine tonnes of aid, food and water, will be distributed over the coming days.
- More military personnel have been arriving as this week progressed.
- Having received supplies and personnel from 40 Cdo at St Croix in the US Virgin Islands over the weekend, RFA Mounts Bay returned to Anguilla to assist further in rebuilding homes, key infrastructure and supporting the relief efforts.



### USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS:

- Joint Casualty Compassionate Centre:

Tel - 01452 519951

E-Mail - [dbsjccgroupmailbox@mod.uk](mailto:dbsjccgroupmailbox@mod.uk)

Web:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/joint-casualty-and-compassionate-centre-jccc>

- Unit Welfare Point of Contact:



