

**CI**

Intelligence core for Corps

ROYAL Marines have dedicated battlefield intelligence experts with the formation of a new specialisation.

The first green berets to don the RM Combat Intelligence (CI) badge (pictured above) passed out at CTCRM in Lympstone after an intensive 17-week course.

The aim is to give the men on the ground in 3 Commando Brigade first-rate tactical (or combat) intelligence courtesy of a single team; until now, Royals from various backgrounds provided intelligence appraisals and information to troop commanders, rather than bespoke specialists.

RN and Fleet intelligence has undergone an overhaul in the past decade, and as part of that shake-up, the new CI course was introduced for Royals of marine and corporal rank.

Prospective CIs are trained initially at CTCRM – where they learn the 'nuts and bolts' of intelligence, such as collating information, writing reports, giving briefings and spotting trends.

Two weeks are spent with the Royal School of Military Survey to learn about the importance of terrain factors, while security training and interpretation of aerial photography is taught by the team at the Defence College of Intelligence.

The course returns to Lympstone with a major exercise where trainees are expected to put what they have learned into practice.

A final week of training is delivered at HMS Collingwood where the Royals are instructed in maritime intelligence and how this links in with green berets deployed on amphibious operations.

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