



ROYAL MARINES ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Lieutenant General Sir Robert Ross KCB OBE
Commandant General

INTRODUCTION

1. Among the "Front Line First" series of initiatives announced on 14 July 1994 by the Secretary of State for Defence, a proposal was published for the relocation of the RMSM from RM Barracks Deal to HMS NELSON, Portsmouth. Following consideration of the responses to the Consultative Document, which set out the rationale for the proposal, Minister (AF) confirmed in the House of Commons on 25 May 1995 that the RMSM would relocate to Portsmouth by 1 April 1996. No alternative Defence use having been identified for the Barracks, Deal will be closed and prepared for disposal. Concurrent with this is the final stage of the rationalisation of the Band Service which is due to take place on 1 April 1996.

AIM

2. The aim of this RMRO is to promulgate the details of these activities.

KEY DATES

3. The following dates are to be used for planning purposes.

25-29 March 1996 RMSM moves to HMS NELSON.

29 March 1996 RM Barracks at Deal Closes. Closure
Party takes over.

1 April 1996

Rationalisation of the Band Service complete.

1 April -

30 September 1996

Closure Party returns stores and hands Barracks to DLS.

15 April 1996

Training commences at RMSM in HMS NELSON

IMPACT ON THE ROYAL MARINES BAND SERVICE

4. Relocation of the RMSM impacts to a marked degree on the separate process of restructuring and reducing the Band Service and its personnel which has been occurring over the last two years. This is because members of the Staff Band of RMSM Deal will be redeployed to the overall Band Service, which will then settle into its long-term 5 Band structure. This process will be complete by 1 April 1996.

MOVE OF RMSM TO HMS NELSON

5. General. On the closure of the RM Barracks at Deal, the Principal Director of Music (PDM), his staff, Supply Officer Music and his department and the Higher Training function will move to Eastney Block HMS NELSON. The School of Music (initial and M3/B3 training) and Military Training staff will move to the former RNDQs. Should the conversion work not be completed on time, temporary facilities in HMS NELSON will have to be used.

6. Command. On arrival at HMS NELSON, PDM will assume the title of Commandant, Royal Marines School of Music and Principal Director of Music Royal Marines. All RM personnel will be under the command of the Captain, HMS NELSON, with the Staff Officer, RMSM, being delegated powers of an Executive Officer under the Naval Discipline Act.

7. Training. M3/B3 training will cease at RM Deal on 21 March 1996 and recommence in Portsmouth on 15 April 1996. BM 1/95 will end on 28 March 1996 and BM 1/96 will commence on 6 May 1996.

8. Personnel. A new scheme of complement for the School of Music at HMS NELSON has been issued and drafting action is taking place.

9. Advance Party. A small Advance Party will form at HMS NELSON on 4 March 1996 to arrange the details of the reception of the main body in March/April 1996.

10. Service Funds. Those funds which are transferring with the RMSM are to be audited by the CPRI in February 1996. Those which are to be closed are to be audited by the CPRI in May 1996. The CPRI will continue to be responsible for auditing funds at 6 monthly intervals after the move of the RMSM to HMS NELSON.

11. Pay and Records Documentation. The responsibility for RMSM pay and Records Documentation is as follows:

a. Pay. All matters relating to pay and allowances will be the responsibility of the Supply Officer, HMS NELSON.

b. Records. All Service Certificates and Company documentation will be the responsibility of the RMSM. Company documentation will continue to be inspected annually by the CPRI.

c. Closure Party Pay and Records. These are to continue to be the responsibility of the Closure Party until dissolution.

COMMUNICATIONS

12. With effect from 29 March 1996, the postal address for the RMSM will be as follows:

The Commandant
Royal Marines School of Music
Eastney Block
HMS NELSON
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3HH

13. Telephones will be extensions of the Portsmouth Naval Base and numbers will be published when known.

14. The signal address will be RMSCHMUS PORTS.

CLOSURE OF RM DEAL

15. The closure of the RM Barracks at Deal will be conducted by a small Closure Party commanded by the Unit Supply Officer. They are to de-store the Barracks and hand them over to DLS for disposal by 1 October 1996.

16. The Closure Party will be accommodated in RAF MANSTON and will travel to the Barracks at Deal daily.

17. Service Stores. All bids for service stores at the RM Barracks at Deal are being made to the unit but final allocations will be made by HQRM.

18. Service Funds Property (Officers/Sergeants Mess Property). All bids for Service Fund property currently at the RM Barracks, Deal are being made through the Corps Secretary.

19. Correspondence concerning the closure of the Barracks at Deal should be addressed to:

OC Rear Party
South Barracks
Canada Road
Deal
Kent CT14 7EH

20. After 1 April 1996 the telephone exchange will not be manned. The Closure Party can be contacted on civilian numbers which are to be signalled by RMSM prior to closure.

POINT OF CONTACT

21. The initial point of contact at HQRM for all matters concerning the move of RMSM and the closure of the RM Barracks at Deal is Maj (Retd) A R LADE RM, HQRM, Ext 7630.