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**Headquarters Royal Marines**



# **ROYAL MARINES ROUTINE ORDERS**

**by**

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056\* GENERAL DUTIES (GD) MARINES VOLUNTEERING AS COMMANDO MEDICAL  
ASSISTANTS (MAs)

INTRODUCTION

1. The shortage of commando trained RN Medical Assistants (MAs) within the RN Medical Branch has now reached such a stage that it is no longer possible to deploy sufficient commando trained ranks to the commando units.
2. In order to help meet the immediate shortfall of commando trained MAs in commando units it is intended that up to 18 GD Marines will be offered the opportunity to be trained as MAs. The men will remain as Royal Marines and will be awarded the adqual "MA". Volunteers will be loaded to courses commencing in Autumn this year.
3. The MA adqual is a high level of qualification which may prove valuable to individuals in later life.

AIM

4. The aim of this RMRO is to set out the rules and procedures for selection and training to allow 18 volunteers from the GD SQ to be, trained as MAs.

APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION

5. Volunteers from the GD SQ of the Corps should complete a DCRC (C233) and forward it to the Corps Drafting Office by 30 September 1997 at the latest. Volunteers must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be a Marine 1st class or LCpl.
- b. Have passed NAMET 5/5 or better.
- c. Medical category P2.
- d. Volunteers must be of good character with no outstanding disciplinary or welfare problems.

6. Selected volunteers will attend an aptitude selection day at the Defence Medical Services Training Centre (DMSTC) at Aldershot. Men selected to attend will be required to bring with them the following documents:

- a. R141.
- b. Individual PF.
- c. Service Certificate.
- d. Medical Certificate verifying their medical category.

7. Individuals who are considered to have the necessary aptitude will be selected in an order of merit, up to a maximum number of 18 in total. Some early volunteers could be loaded to the MA course commencing on 5 September 1997. Subsequent courses on which Royal Marines may be loaded will commence on 5 and 26 November 1997 and in January 1998.

#### TRAINING

8. Training will take 50 weeks and successful individuals will be awarded the adqual "MA". Training will be split as follows:

- a. Part 2 Training. 12 weeks Common Core Course at the DMSTC, Aldershot.
- b. Part 3 Training. 19 weeks clinical placement, (ward duties), at Royal Hospital Haslar.
- c. Single Service Training. 7 weeks single service training at the DMSTC.
- d. Part 4 Training. 12 week sick bay duties in a commando unit.

9. Men who commence training but who are later regarded as not suitable, will:

- a. If deemed unsuitable during Part 2 training they will be returned to their original unit.
- b. If deemed unsuitable at a later stage of training they may be drafted to any unit in the Corps.

#### DRAFTING PREFERENCES

10. Whilst every effort will be made to draft men to preference units this cannot be guaranteed. Individuals who commence MA training should complete a DCRC (C233) stating their:

- a. Commando unit preference if successful.
- b. Unit preference if unsuccessful at any stage after Part 2 training.

## RETURN OF SERVICE

11. On successful completion of MA training men will be drafted to a sick bay in either 40, 42 or 45 Commando, for a single 3 year tour of duty with a minimum return of service of 18 months.

## CANDIDATES FOR PROMOTION

12. Candidates for promotion will be accepted for MA training. Candidates who commence MA training will only be released to attend a Junior Command Course (JCC) after they complete their 50 week training course. Candidates selected to attend a JCC after MA training and who are subsequently selected for promotion to Corporal whilst serving in a sick bay, will be promoted. On promotion they will continue to be employed in sick bays until the end of their 3 year draft.

13. Form 365A will still be rendered for candidates during MA training, and subsequently by the units to which they are drafted.