

Headquarters Royal Marines



ROYAL MARINES ROUTINE ORDERS

by

**Major General D A S Pennefather CB OBE
Commandant General**

058* ROYAL MARINES ELECTRONIC WARFARE BRANCH (EW BRANCH).

1. In recent years there have been significant developments in the structure, selection and training of RM Communications Technicians (RM CT). This has led to the decision to restructure the RM CT Branch and to retitle it the EW Branch.
2. Annex A to this RMRO gives the new rules for Other Ranks who wish to apply for EW selection, together with the service conditions appertaining to career progression through the EW Branch. These rules are effective from the date of publication of this RMRO, except for individuals currently undergoing selection, for whom they are effective from the date they commenced training.
3. The contents of this RMRO will be incorporated into BR 1283 Royal Marines Instructions (RMIs) and BR 1066 in due course. Until this time a copy of Annex A to this RMRO is to be placed into BR 1283 (RMIs) as Annex 35E, and the content of Appendix 1 is to be added to page 35A-11 of BR 1283 (RMIs). The current entry for CTs in Annex 35A of BR 1283 is to be deleted.

ROYAL MARINES ELECTRONIC WARFARE BRANCH (EW BRANCH)

1. General. The aim of this RMRO is to promulgate the regulations concerning the selection, training, promotion and terms and conditions of service for the EW Branch. Volunteers, who must be below the rank of Sgt, will be selected primarily from the Signals Branch, although exceptionally, other branches may apply; the selection criteria are at Appendix 1.

2. Applications. Applications from men meeting the criteria are to be forwarded on a Form C233 to HQRM.

3. Selection. HQRM will select suitable volunteers to attend a 3 day selection course conducted at RMB Stonehouse. On completion of the selection course a Selection Board will be convened to select suitable volunteers for EW training. The Board will consist of:

OC HQ & Sigs Sqn RM - Chairman

OC Y Troop - Member

PSO - Member

DO(3) HQRM - Member

On completion of the selection board all ranks will return to their units. Names of those ranks selected for further training are to be forwarded by signal to HQRM (for attention of the Manning Office) who will instigate DV clearance action. Once this action is completed successful ranks will be called forward for the commencement of Part 1 Training.

4. Qualifications Required for EW Training. Volunteers for EW training must fill the following criteria:

a. Passed Selection Board.

b. Normally have passed JCC.

c. Four years return of service remaining on completion of EW2 training, or be willing to sign on to give 4 years return of service on completion of training.

d. Appropriate DNSy clearance (actioned by HQRM).

e. Below the rank of Sgt on commencement of training.

5. Training. Training will consist of 3 phases as detailed below:

a. Initial Training. Initial training consists of Basic and Specialist Training courses, these can be completed in any order. Initial training consists of:

To be attended by all ranks:

(1) Basic Course. To be attended by all ranks:
Traffic Analyst Course 16 weeks

On successful completion of this training the Adqual EWO will be awarded.

(2) Specialist Training. There are 2 Specialist Courses, detail is as follows:

(a) Language Course 36/52 weeks
(Arabic/Russian/Spanish)

On successful completion of this training the Adqual EWL will be awarded. Ranks with the Adquals of EWO and EWL will be awarded the SQ of EWL2 and will be employed in an EWL2 complement billet.

(b) Specialist Operator Course 40 weeks

On successful completion of this training the Adqual EWA will be awarded. Ranks with the Adquals of EWO and EWA will be awarded the SQ of EWA2 and will be employed in an EWA2 complement billet.

Ranks who hold the Adquals of EWO, EWL and EWA will be awarded the SQ of EWS2.

b. Advanced Training. Advanced training will comprise of either:

(1) Language Upgrading 20 weeks

or,

(2) Specialist Operator Upgrading 9/16 weeks

This can be completed by EWL2s, EWA2s and EWS2s. On successful completion of the relevant course EWL2s will be awarded the SQ of EWL1, EWA2s will be awarded the SQ of EWA1. EWS2s will be awarded the SQ of EWS1 and may be employed in any EWL1 or EWA1 complemented billet.

6. Current Qualifications. With effect from the date of this RMRO those men who currently hold the qualification of RM CT will automatically be awarded the SQ of EWS1. Amendments to Service Certificate (R138) are to be effective from this date.

7. Promotion.

a. All Marines will be promoted Local Corporal before commencement of EW training.

b. On commencement of Specialist Training all Local Corporals who have passed JCC will be promoted Acting Corporal.

c. Acting Corporals will be promoted to substantive Corporal on completion of Specialist training.

d. Corporals passed SCC who have been selected for promotion before beginning EW training will be required to forego their promotion to Sergeant. On being awarded the SQ of EWL1, EWA1 or EWS1, Corporals who are otherwise qualified for promotion will be promoted to Sergeant as branch vacancies occur.

e. Those Corporals who are unable to attend and pass a SCC within 1 year of being awarded the SQ of EWL1/EWA1/EWS1, due to service reasons will, providing a minimum of 3 years has elapsed since promotion to substantive Corporal, have their seniority as a Sgt backdated to the award of the SQ EWL1/EWA1/EWS1, following successful completion of SCC.

f. Promotion to Colour Sergeant. Existing CTs will be promoted to Colour Sergeant iaw RMRO 13/89. All other EWS1s will be eligible for promotion to Colour Sergeant 4 years after being awarded the SQ of EWS1 as vacancies occur in accordance with the EW Branch structure.

g. Eligibility for promotion to Warrant Officer 2 will be based on the EW Branch promotion structure. Normal promotion criteria apply.

h. Failure or Withdrawal from Course. Ranks failing or withdrawing from training in either the Basic course or during Specialist Training will be returned to their source Branch with their original seniority date. Those having forfeited promotion due to retention on course will be promoted when the next vacancy occurs. Their seniority will be adjusted to reflect this deferred promotion.

i. Rates of Pay. On being awarded the relevant EW SQ, ranks will be entitled to Technicians rates of pay as appropriate to their level of SQ (BR 1950 Article 1025 refers).

TRANSFER WITHIN THE RMC

10. Medical/Welfare. In medical or welfare cases when the man may be temporarily unemployable through no fault of his own, and it is not known whether a transfer back to General Service is required, the man will retain his SQ and be held against the EW Branch margin.

11. Non-Permanent Loss of DV. Men who lose their DV clearance on a temporary basis will be drafted to another GS billet for the duration of loss or until the loss is declared permanent (when the provisions of para 13b apply).

12. Once qualified, should an individual be transferred out of the EW Branch due to unsuitability, the following rules will apply:

a. Within 3 years of qualification - the individual is to be assessed as to their suitability for employment within their previous SQ/TQ by HQRM in consultation with the relevant Branch Advisor:

- (1) If re-employable their previous SQ/TQ is to be restored.
- (2) If unemployable they will revert to the General Duties Branch and granted GD1/GD2 status.

b. Three years or more after qualification - all ranks will be re-mustered into the GD Branch and granted GD1/GD2 status.

13. The following will apply to individuals who are transferred out of the EW Branch for reasons other than unsuitability:

- a. In disciplinary cases the normal rules on deprivation of rank and SQ will apply.
- b. Permanent loss of DV - as for paragraph 12.
- c. In cases where the individual is deemed to be unemployable through no fault of his own (including medical or welfare reasons) the rules at paragraph 12 will apply, however in exceptional cases, a case may be put to HQRM for retention of their existing rates of pay for a transitional period. It should not be assumed however that such a request will be successful.

14. Men who voluntarily return to a previous SQ/TQ, or the GD Branch, will forfeit Technical rates of pay on the date of transfer. In the case of ranks who may take up an appointment in the GD Branch, the requirement to have passed the Rifle Troop Sergeants (RTS) course on the SCC, or Rifle Troop Section Commanders Course (RTSCC) on the JCC remains extant.

BRANCH SPONSORSHIP

15. EW Branch sponsorship is as follows:

Branch Sponsor - CSO Cts HQRM.

Training Sponsor - OC 3 Cdo Bde HQ & Sigs Sqn RM.

Branch Advisor - WO2 Y Troop.

BRANCH STRUCTURE

16. The projected Branch structure is as follows:

1 WO2
2 CSgts
4 Sgts
6 Cpls/Mnes

DOCUMENTATION

17. OC/WO2 Y Troop via the Pay and Records office at 3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn RM, is responsible for the timely and accurate input of all relevant information via C form, signal or letter to NPP(Acs)/HQRM, relating to changes of status and SQ covered in this RMRO.

Appendices:

1. EW Branch Specialist Qualifications.