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Headquarters Royal Marines



ROYAL MARINES ROUTINE ORDERS

by

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References: DCI 168/97.

1. Introduction. DCI 168/97 laid down the ground rules for the introduction of a Royal Marines Aircrewman (RMAC) specialisation. The introduction of this specialisation is designed to allow for the gradual transfer of responsibility from the present Naval Cdo Aircrewman (Acmn) sub-specialisation, which will be discontinued when the transfer is complete.
2. Aim. The aim of this RMRO is to inform the Chain of Command and suitable volunteers of the process which will be followed to implement the change.
3. Applications. Volunteers from RMAC training are to be forwarded on Form C233 to the Drafting Office, NMA (WI) for consideration.
4. RM Aircrewman entry and selection requirement. The minimum entry requirements for RMAC are as follows:
 - a. Corporal, or Marine 1st Class with minimum 3 x B grade 365A's and 2 years seniority. (Mnes loaded early to JCC if successful at Air Flying Grading (AFG)).
 - b. Medical Category B1.
 - c. Qualified educationally NAMET 3:3 or better.
 - d. Passed RM Battle Swimming Test (BST).
 - e. Over the age of 19 and ideally under the age of 28 on commencement of AFG.
 - f. Successful completion of flying grading.
5. RMAC Training. On completion of flying grading, successful candidates who have passed JCC will be called forward by the RM drafting desk to commence flying training which will consist of:
 - a. Basic Flying Training (BFT). 9 weeks at the Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS), Shawbury, Shropshire.
 - b. Advanced Flying Training (AFT). 7 weeks at RNAS Culdrose.
 - c. Operational Flying Training (OFT). 15 weeks at RNAS Yeovilton.
6. Successful candidates who have not passed JCC will be loaded to JCC prior to commencement of BFT. JCC must be passed at B grade or better before loading to BFT will occur.

7. Award of Wings. On completion of Operation Flying Training ranks will be awarded the flying badge ("Wings") and the adqual "CDOAIR". Ranks will be transferred to the RM Aircrewman branch, awarded the SQ "RMAC2" and promoted to Corporal where applicable.

8. Certificate of Competence. Training will be consolidated by On the Job Training (OJT) with a front line squadron. On completion of the OJT task book, RMAC ranks will be awarded a certificate of competence (CofC) and be considered Cdo Aircrewman qualified. The award of SQ1 is dependant upon passing the special qualifying course, possession of the Cdo Acmn CofC and flying standard assessment of Average or above.

9. Return of Service. RMAC ranks will be required to give a minimum of three years return of service from completion of OFT in accordance with BR 8748 Article 0219.1e.

10. Training failures. RM students who are suspended from flying training will be referred to the Naval Aircrew Advisory Board (NAAB) in accordance with JSP 318. Confirmation of a failure will result in withdrawal from flying training and reversion to a man's source branch at the substantive rank and seniority held at the time of transfer to the RMAC branch.

11. Subsequent Suspension from Flying Duties. RMAC ranks who are suspended from flying duties for reasons beyond their control will normally be returned to their Source Branch in the rank held at the time of transfer and with their original seniority. They will cease to be eligible for SSF Pay from the date of grounding.

12. 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 the General Service is required, the man will retain his SQ and be held against the RMAC branch margin.

13. Voluntary Relinquishment. Men who voluntarily return to a previous SQ/TQ will cease to be eligible for SSF Pay from the date of relinquishment.

14. Branch Sponsorship. RMAC Branch sponsorship is as follows:

Branch Sponsor
-SO2 Avn, FONA

Training Sponsor
-Cdr FT, FONA

Branch Advisor
-Cdo Hel For, Det. CSM.

15. Branch and Promotion Structure. There is a requirement for 49 RMAC billets in FONA, and Front and Second Line Fleet Air Arm (FAA) units, including three billets in the Higher Training Quotient (HTQ). The promotion breakdown will be as follows:

- a. 1 x WO1.
- b. 2 x WO2.
- c. 5 x CSGT.
- d. 17 x SGT.
- e. 24 x CPL

16. This breakdown could be altered at the upper levels to give improved operational capability within squadron and a more varied career path for individuals.

17. Key Skills Levels. The following diagram outlines the key skills levels in the RMAC branch:

Corporal Commando Aircrewman qualified (RMAC2)

Certificate of Competence

Pass Qualifying Exam for RMAC1

Qualified RMAC1

Pass Senior Command Course

Selected by promotions board

SERGEANT

Selected by promotions board

COLOUR SERGEANT

Qualified Educationally for Warrant Officer (QEWO)

Pass Advanced Command Course

Selected by promotion board

WARRANT OFFICER 2nd CLASS

Selected by WO1 board

WARRANT OFFICER 1st CLASS

18. Documentation. WOACMN, 848 NAS is responsible for the timely and accurate input of all relevant information using C Form, signal or letter to NPP(Acs)/NMA, relating to changes of status and SQ covered in this RMRO.

19. Branch Advisor. In consultation with NMA WI, the Branch Advisor (BA) will recruit and maintain a list of volunteers for the RMAC branch. Additionally he will be the point of contact for all enquiries relating to entry and training requirements and where possible arrange aptitudes/acquaints for prospective candidates.