

158. INTRODUCTION OF MOUNTAIN LEADER (ML) SPECIALIST QUALIFICATION

1. A new SQ of Mountain Leader (ML), to replace Reconnaissance Leader (RL), has been introduced to meet the requirement for the Royal Marines to train in Mountain and Arctic Warfare. The effective date for the implementation of the new SQ will be 1 October 1972.

(continued overleaf)

INTRODUCTION OF MOUNTAIN LEADER (ML) SPECIALIST QUALIFICATION—Continued

2. There will be two standards of ML:

a. *1st Grade*

- (1) Military Ski Instructor.
- (2) Rock Climbing Supervisor.
- (3) Mountaineering Supervisor.

b. *2nd Grade*

- (1) Military Skier.
- (2) Rock Climbing Leader/Instructor.
- (3) Mountaineering Leader/Instructor.

The ML1 upgrading course will last 20 weeks and ML2 qualifying course 27 weeks.

3. Courses for the 1972/73 training year have already been notified in RMRO 97/72.

4. Some retraining may be required before men who already hold the SQ of RL1 or RL2 are remustered as ML. The length and type of training will vary considerably with individual experience. DPRORM, in conjunction with HQ Commando Forces, will publish details of individual remustering requirements. Those who do not wish to remuster in the new SQ will be allowed to retain their old SQ or requalify in another SQ or TQ depending upon their rank. Men who hold the qualification of RL3 will be allowed to retain their SQ for pay purposes but as there is no requirement for ML3 the SQ of RL3 will be obsolete from 1 October 1972, and men will not be remustered.

5. Until further notice the new authorised complements for MLs in the Corps will be:

<i>Unit</i>	<i>ML1</i>	<i>ML2</i>
40, 41 and 42 Cdo (each)	1	2
45 Cdo	4	4
M & AW Cadre	6	9
CTCRM	2	2
RMR Bristol	1	
Depot RM	1	
NP 8901		1
Manning Margin	2	3
Totals	19	25

6. Until the necessary retraining and remustering of RLs has been completed complement billets listed above will be filled by either MLs or RLs depending on availability.