

22. ROYAL MARINES PILOT SELECTION PROCEDURES

1. A critical examination has been made of the Pre-Aptitude Test Course, at ~~present~~ included in the selection process for potential Royal Marines Light Helicopter ~~pilots~~.

because of the current shortage of trained pilots and the recent high failure rate during training.

2. Volunteers for flying duties are trained by the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop, having been initially selected by the Military Secretary (officers) and DODAR (NCOs). Candidates will then undergo Flying Aptitude Tests at RAF Biggin Hill and attend the AAC Aircrew Selection Board at Middle Wallop, with their Army counterparts. This process is to continue unchanged.

3. For several years Royal Marines candidates have attended a 2 week Pre-Aptitude Test Course at CTCRM, the aim of which was to ensure that they approached the Army Selection Board at an academic standard comparable to Army candidates. Gradual development of this course has tended to produce students whose artificially high aptitude test scores often belied the ability they showed during subsequent flying training. Therefore, while the aims of the Pre-Aptitude Test Course remains valid, several changes are to be made.

4. The Corps Instructor Officer is to remain responsible for conducting the Pre-Aptitude Test Course at CTCRM. It is to be reduced to one week, and its content is to be confined to the provisions of Annex K to Chapter 43 of Army General and Administrative Instructions, an outline of which is as follows:

a. Military Knowledge.

(1) Organisation of armoured, armoured reconnaissance, artillery, engineer, signals, infantry and Army Air Corps units down to squadron/battery/company level, including quantity and types of armoured vehicles and weapons.

(2) Soviet combat equipment and aircraft.

(3) Conventional symbols and abbreviations.

b. Mathematics. Arithmetical, angular, algebraic and graphical processes.

c. Map Reading. A written test which covers 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scale maps.

d. Basic Engine Theory. This includes the Otto cycle and principles and functions of the engines concerned.

e. Radio Communications. Practical voice procedure and a written test.

The syllabus will include these subjects, and also a one day visit to 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron RM, in order to give students an insight into the Squadron's roles and the training cycle at Middle Wallop. However all preparation for IQ tests and Flight Simulator familiarisation is to be specifically excluded from the Pre-Aptitude Test Course. This should result in a more accurate assessment of a man's aptitude for flying.