

GENERAL

1. The Army Air Corps has now adopted a policy of 2 pilot manning for helicopters, with the consequent reduction of the aircrewman branch. In Royal Marines this will eventually mean the complete demise of Army-trained aircrewman. Current aircrewmen will be given an opportunity to be selected for pilot training, normally when on a ground tour, but unsuccessful will remain as aircrewmen until their engagement ends. They will either serve in 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron RM, or be trained as Naval aircrewmen, or serve on a ground tour.
2. The Corps still has a requirement for six Naval aircrewmen to serve with 845/846 Naval Air Squadrons. These aircrewmen will also be considered for pilot training, but because they do not handle the controls of an aircraft during their training or subsequent service they will be graded in the same way as non-Army aircrewmen trained applicants.
3. Officers, warrant officers and non commissioned officers will in future on successful completion of flying training at the Army Air Corps Centre initially fly as pilots (P2) with 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron RM, although selected officers may undertake RN flying training prior to first tours with Naval Air Squadrons. After a period of continuation training in 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron RM, selected pilots will return to the Army Air Corps Centre for an Aircraft Command Course (P1). Successful completion of Aircraft Command Course will qualify the officer, warrant officer or non commissioned officer to command one or more aircraft and operate the aircraft weapons system and observation aids.
4. This instruction sets out the rules and procedures relating to eligibility, applications for training, selection, flying tours and administration of RM (light helicopter) pilots.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PILOT TRAINING

5. Officers. All RM officers may apply for training as pilots provided that they:
  - a. Are able to start the Army Pilot Course before their 24th birthday.
  - b. Will have completed 2 years commissioned service before starting the course.
  - c. Will have extended, or agreed to extend, their service to ensure a minimum of 4 years return of service on successful completion of the course.