

The following Order issued earlier this year made a a major change to the organization of 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines

Extract from DIN 2007 09-027. i.e. Defence Instructions and Notices, 2007, category 9 (Honours Awards, Royal and Ceremonial events) no 27.

The Resubordination of 1st Battalion The Rifles to 3 Commando Brigade RM on 1 April 2008

1. 3 Cdo Bde will take 1 Rifles under command from 1 Apr 08 as the fourth manoeuvre unit within the Bde. This will improve Defence Capability and provide a new challenge for 1 Rifles.

- 3 Cdo Bde currently has 3 manoeuvre units (40, 42 and 45 Commandos) which limits its ability to support the Army's Operational Commitments Plot. The addition of 1 Rifles will enhance 3 Cdo Bde's operational capability and represents a new and exciting challenge for 1 Rifles.

- 1 Rifles' permanent base will be Beachley Barracks, Chepstow, from where it will deploy with 3 Cdo Bde to Afghanistan in late 2008.

- Specialist amphibious training will enable it to be used in a secondary assault role and in subsequent manoeuvre. Initial Operating Capability will be achieved by Apr 2008, with Full Operating Capability by Apr 2010.

- All members of the wider Rifles Regiment will be eligible to volunteer for service with 1 Rifles .

- Members of 1 Rifles will be able to apply for the All Arms Commando Course.

2. The Rifles is a national and integrated regiment that facilitates cross-posting between all its Battalions, enabling a variety of career opportunities to Riflemen. These include this commando based role, armoured, mechanised and light infantry roles in other deployable brigades in the Army.