

CORE CAPABILITIES OF THE LEAD COMMANDO GROUP:

- **Scalable:** the Lead Commando Group can deploy assets proportional to the situation, from 6 men in a boarding team to 1800 personnel for tasks as wide ranging as humanitarian disaster relief operations to warfighting.
- **Flexible:** the Lead Commando Group can conduct operations at sea or on land and can be deployed, supported, sustained and recovered by sea. It is inherently a joint force, but can operate alone or with other agencies.
- **Very High Readiness:** the Lead Commando Group is able to deliver a rapid, tailored response to emerging situations, providing a key element of the UK's responsive capability. With its own high readiness command HQ, it can lead joint and coalition operations.
- **Self-Supporting:** the Lead Commando Group contains scalable support, including logistic, medical, intelligence, artillery and reconnaissance capabilities, making it a sustainable and resilient force capable of expeditionary operations.

THE COMMANDO DISTINCTION

The trusted quality of the Royal Marines Commandos is internationally renowned. Their distinction as a military force is the product of 3 key characteristics:

Versatility

The ability to project a Commando force provides a mosaic of political options, operating freely without need of host nation support and are able to operate in urban, desert, arctic and jungle environments. Once embarked, Royal Marines exploit the unique, potent naval capability of latent sovereign British presence off any coast, anywhere; they can reassure, partner, contain, pressurise or coerce, without actually setting foot ashore.

Excellence

The quality of Royal Marines Commandos ensures an effective first response and dynamic, ethical adaptation to unforeseen world events. Once deployed, their Commando training ensures that they thrive in complex, confused situations. Where necessary, Commandos will fight ferociously but regard focused violence as a last resort.

Value

As a Maritime Force trained to deploy anywhere and at very High Readiness to do so, Royal Marine Commandos are regularly the first British ground forces committed to operations. They retain an exceptionally lean 'tooth to tail' ratio, with over 70% of the Royal Marine Corps committed to operationally deployable units. They routinely innovate to enhance effectiveness and efficiency, in such areas as: Trauma Risk Management, Enhanced Urban Combat Training, and Rehabilitation.



LEAD COMMANDO GROUP

The integrated amphibious force of the RFTG



What is a Lead Commando Group?

SDSR 10 confirmed the requirement for the Royal Navy to generate a **Lead Commando Group** drawn from 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines to be maintained at Very High Readiness to respond to crises around the globe.

The **Lead Commando Group** is a scalable force of highly trained Commandos able to deploy at very short notice, utilising the Response Force Task Group (RFTG), including headquarters and other key supporting assets. It is a specialist amphibious force that, if required, can poise at sea for extended periods of time and, using the helicopters and landing craft of the RFTG, can be delivered ashore and be supported from the sea-base, influencing and effecting events on land. It can deploy as few as a team of 6 people for training or boarding operations, or as many as 1800 personnel for a range of tasks from disaster relief to military intervention.

...It is a unique capability, providing political choice and decisive action.

...a flexible force. The Lead Commando Group can concurrently deliver a range of political and military effects. This can include: contributing to conflict prevention, developing military partnerships, conducting international diplomacy and helping countries to build the capability to deal with crises themselves. The RFTG with the Lead Commando Group also aids the UK economy by protecting sea lanes, supporting exports and safeguarding trade.

...able to operate in the harshest conditions. Not only are Commandos trained to work in all environments, they are also issued with the latest personal protection equipment and VIKING armoured vehicles. With a high standard of medical services provided by specially trained doctors and medical professionals, both at sea and ashore, the Lead Commando Group is a resilient force able to succeed in the most austere of environments.

...efficient and effective. The Lead Commando Group generates for operations through a cycle which includes preparation, 12 months at readiness (including periods forward deployed) and a period of training support and delivering to other Defence outputs. This inherently efficient cycle, in which more than 70% of Royal Marines are committed to very high readiness operational units, allows the units of 3 Commando Brigade to deliver high calibre, multi-skilled and operationally ready forces as part of an integrated RFTG.

...a Commando force. Royal Marines Commandos are at the heart of the Lead Commando Group. They are able to conduct tasks as wide ranging as **defence engagement, humanitarian assistance and warfighting** and can deploy by sea and air. Versatile and resilient, they are entrusted with delivering smarter effect on the battlefield.

...a tailor-made intervention force. The Lead Commando Group is a scalable and adaptable intervention force which can be customised for a particular operation. The HQs (both at strategic and operational level) provide the specialist Command and Control for: amphibious planning and execution, Intelligence and Information Exploitation, Targeting, Influence, Communications and Information Support. With a proven record in Joint and multinational operations, the Lead Commando Group is capable of taking allies under command or operating as part of a larger joint or coalition force. The Commando mindset breeds success, even in adversity and ambiguity, this being key to maintaining a nimble and highly effective force.

...sustainable. As an integrated force, the RFTG delivers both strategic mobility and sustainment to the Lead Commando Group and any other land forces deployed. Once committed ashore, the ability to draw upon supplies held at sea, including fuel and ammunition, reduces the burden on lengthy and costly joint supply chains and delivers a truly expeditionary force.

... a Joint Force with real cross government utility. The Lead Commando Group offers our nation strategically and diplomatically agile options to deliver results at sea, on land and, most critically, where these environments overlap ('the seams'). It is a Very High Readiness force and, as part of the RFTG, is forward deployed in areas of the globe that are of national interest. The Lead Commando Group is seeing increasing recognition across Government as well as by allies, partners and our sister services; its importance to the UK's responsive capability post Afghanistan is clear.

