

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
RAILWAY BOARD**

No. 2019/Sec.(Spl.)/200/24

New Delhi, Dated **02**.07.2019

**Directive No.53**

**Sub: Comprehensive policy regarding Commando Units in RPF.**

In exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 28 of the RPF Rules, 1987 read with Section 8 of the RPF Act, 1957 (as amended from time to time), the following guidelines are issued with respect to formation, training, deployment, uniform, equipment, transport and communication, incentives, etc. for RPF/RPSF Commandos.

This Directive is being issued in Supersession of Standing Order No. 107 issued vide No. 2010/Sec/(Spl)/6/7, dated 29.04.2011.

A commando unit consisting of trained RPF/RPSF commandos is being raised which will be known as **CORAS (Commandos for Railway Security)**.

**A. Vision Statement:**

- To develop world level capabilities of specialized responder for any situation pertaining to damage, disturbance, disruption of train operations, attack/hostage/hijack, disaster situations in railway areas.
- Following the doctrine of graded response, minimum effective force shall be used for providing fool-proof security to Indian Railways and its users.

**B. General:**

- With ever increasing threat to railway system from Left Wing Extremists, terrorist/subversive elements, it is imperative that Railway Protection Force remains in prepared state to face growing challenges to railway security by carving out separate Commando units.
- There is a large pool of trained Commandos and experienced trainers, who underwent Commando training in some of the premier training centers of the country like Greyhounds, NSG, CRPF, Force One, CTJWC(Kanker), NEPA, etc, besides scores of staff and officers on deputation to NSG, SPG, etc. But there is no comprehensive policy guidelines regarding Commando in RPF.

### C. Selection:

- There shall be no direct recruitment to the Commando units. They shall be drawn from RPF/RPSF. Constable/SI Commandos shall be below 30 years of age while HC Commandos shall be below 35 years of age. Only willing personnel will be drawn into the Units.
- The tenure of Commandos will be of 3+2 years and they shall not continue in Commando units or be recalled for any Commando duty beyond the age of 35 years in case of constable/SIs and 40 years in the case of other ranks. On completion of tenure, they shall be replaced by a new group of young personnel.
- Only highly motivated and willing Commandos will be retained for longer periods and that too on their own request, after approval of competent authority.
- Notwithstanding the tenure above, a person can be relieved and moved out of Commando unit, if his/her performance has not been found satisfactory or on the administrative grounds.
- To continue in Commando units, it will be necessary for each officer/staff to pass the annual validation test to be conducted by a specialist Board of Officers, to be constituted by the DG/RPF. Those who fail to meet the standards will be given three months to clear the validation. In case one fails to clear the validation, he will be sent back to his parent unit. Brief of tests to be conducted for yearly validation is attached as **Annexure-A**.
- The Non Commando staff (office staff, ancillary staff, etc.) of Commando units, shall be posted following the rules applicable to their normal posting in the RPF/RPSF.
- To determine general suitability, screening of the willing and eligible staff shall be carried out by a team to be constituted by the DG/RPF. Brief of the criteria for selection is attached as **Annexure-B**. Those selected during screening, will be called for Commando training.

### D. Training:

To maintain uniformity in standards of Commandos, training shall be organised in either of the following Commando training centres, with prior approval of DG/RPF:

- i) NSG- located at Manesar.
- ii) AP police- Greyhounds- located at Vishakhapatnam.
- iii) Telengana Police- Greyhounds located at Hyderabad.

- iv) Maharashtra Police -Force One at Pune.
- v) North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA) at Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya.
- vi) Chhatisgarh Police-Counter Terrorism and Jungle Warfare College (CTJWC)located at Kanker.
- vii) Assam Rifles Training Centre and School located at Diphu, Assam.
- viii)CoBRA School of Jungle Warfare and Tactics (CSJWT) located at Belgaum, Karnataka.
- ix) Any other training facility of national repute.

- The Commando training shall be of four types :
  - Basic Commando course.
  - Advance Commando course (Specialization) - Handling of urban crisis like hostage rescue, etc.
  - Advance Commando course (Specialization) - Jungle warfare.
  - Advance Commando courses (Super-specialization)-Breeching, sniping, handling landmines, IED, etc
- The training shall include physical endurance, Unarmed Combat including Krav Maga, weapons training of the latest weapons at par with other Commando forces.
- Regular firing practice with different weapons on different types of targets, preferably on reflex shooting range shall be organized.
- Training of identification and handling of explosives, hand grenades and landmines, map reading, jungle warfare techniques, storming of terrorist hide-outs/locations, rescue operation, climbing, storming a building, train intervention, observation techniques (identification of friends and foes drill), etc. sniping, breeching, Bomb detection and disposal, tackling CBRN attacks, First aid, crime scene management, etc.
- Detailed syllabus for the training is attached as **Annexure-C**.
- The Commandos shall undergo two months refresher training every year, or as decided by the competent authority, and shall also be detailed for further specialized courses at other training centres, etc. keeping in view their job requirements and perceived future challenges.
- Every platoon of the Commando Coy must have at least one-third of its strength trained in countering CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) threats.
- MoU with specialized institutes for specialized training and standardization, like for tackling CBRN, MoU with NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority), for first aid training, MoU with St. John, etc, will be required to be signed for excellence.
- All the recruits (Constables, SIs) and directly inducted GOs (ASC probationers) will undergo at least 30 days Commando course as part of initial training, to be conducted at the end of initial training.

- Commandos will also be trained to deal with different kinds of disasters on railways.
- Efforts will be made to have full-fledged commando training centre for RPF in future for imparting all types of training. Till a dedicated RPF commando training centre is established, 9<sup>th</sup> Bn at Jagadhari, having basic facilities regarding Commando training, shall be proposed to get the status of All India or zonal training centre, to attract the motivated good trainers for quality training. This centre will be utilised for screening, validation and refresher courses.

CO/9<sup>th</sup> Bn will be responsible for **Design of Training, Evaluation of Training and Management of Training.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Bn shall :**

- Act as a premier Centre for organizing and coordinating for Commando courses for all RPF and RPSF personnel.
- To act as a store house of case studies on various aspects (related to naxalism, terrorism and insurgency) affecting railway security and other allied subjects.
- Develop training curriculum as per the special requirements of the area of deployment and updating the same on regular basis.

**Training of trainers: -**

- A Pool of trainers will be required to develop quality training capabilities for RPF commandos.
- Trainers will be utilised at 9<sup>th</sup> Bn, for screening to select personnel for commando training, for conducting annual validation tests and running various commando refresher courses.
- Initially SI Commandos and well experienced constables/Head Constables will be sent for TOT course in premier Commando training centres, who may be utilized as instructors for training RPF Commandos. For specialized courses, guest lectures and demos may be arranged.
- Trainers can also be brought on deputation from CAPFs, Armed Forces and other state police forces, provided they are experienced and trained in dealing with terrorism or extremism.

**Training Aids: -**

- For use of latest weapons, gadgets and equipments, CO/9<sup>th</sup> Bn, will keep himself abreast with latest developments to make required latest training aids available for the quality training. A suggestive list of items required as **training aids, is attached as Annexure-D.**
- As there is basic commando related infrastructure and training aids at the 9<sup>th</sup> Bn, these training aids will be placed in 9<sup>th</sup> Bn and will be utilised for various commando related training courses including refresher courses.

- Proposal for supply of such weapons, equipment, etc. can be moved only after approval of DG/RPF.

#### E. Formation and Deployment –

- To start with, 9<sup>th</sup> battalion/RPSF headquartered at Jagadhari, shall be designated as Commando Bn and CO/9<sup>th</sup> Bn shall be in charge of the Commando battalion.
- After studying Commando set up of various police forces and CAPFs, it has been decided that 'Company' will be basic Commando unit on RPF. All coys of the Commando Bn will have 03 platoons.
- Commando battalion shall consist of 05 operational Coys, out of which 04 will be deployed for operational duties and 01 Coy will be utilized as training reserve, besides 01 HQ coy.
- Every Commando Coy will have a bomb detection, **armourer** as well as a wireless cell as its integral part.
- Commando wing in RPF shall be carved out by redeploying the existing trained manpower.
- Zones from where staff will be taken to form commando companies, initially shall be compensated by same number of RPSF staff.
- Salary and service record RPF staff who joins Commando wing, shall continue to be maintained by the parent unit.
- Gradually RPF Commando units will consist of all RPSF personnel, to be carved out of eligible RPSF staff, who shall be given basic Commando training before induction into Commando battalions.
- Commando Coys shall be deployed in LWE/insurgency/terrorism affected areas.
- To cater to security challenges faced by critical urban centres like Railway installations of western and southern areas, including lines connecting to ports, 1 or 2 coys of 12<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> battalions shall be converted into commando 'Coys after impact analysis of Commando Bn Coys.
- Deployment of the Commando coys shall be decided keeping in mind the history of left wing extremism, insurgency, terrorist activities in the area, current threat perceptions, etc.
- **Area specific SOP shall be prepared in consultation with concerned RPF and police officials before deployment of Commando coys in a particular area.**
- The Commandos will also be deployed for duties as assigned to them from time to time, which will include guarding of stations, train escorting, railway area domination, etc.
- In every coy, 02 Platoons out of the 03, shall be deployed for operational duties and 01 platoon will be on standby/engaged in FAMEX (familiarization exercise). Impact analysis after 1 year of deployment will be done to assess as to how many threats/dangers were thwarted by the team.

