

Indian Marine Commando Force (MARCOS)

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Abstract

Indian Marine Commandos are one of the best marine commandos in the world. Marine commandos are special commandos which are primarily responsible for giving a security to the nation from the maritime attack. The original name of marine commandos is Marcos but however it was changed as marine commandos.

In this paper we would discuss about that training, recruitment and qualities of the marine commandos and most important thing is important operations which are executed by marine commandos.

Keywords: Marine Commandos, Maritime Security etc.

Introduction

Marine Commandos are the special forces of the Indian navy. The Marcos were founded in February 1987, Marcos are cable of operating in all types of environments at the sea, in air and in land. The force had got acquired reputation international because of its professionalism. Time to time Marcos are undertaking the regular practices of the insurgency and counter insurgency operations in the region of Jhelum river and wular lake in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Historical Perspective

Indian military forces had established diving school at Cochin with the assistance of the British Special Boat Service in 1955 and which was began to teach combat divers skills such as explosive disposal, clearance and salvage diving.

However it was failed to achieve their desired outcomes during the Indo- Pak War 1971 and the reason behind that it was not having adequately trained for sabotage missions.

The combat divers actually taught basic underwater demolition training to insurgents from Bangladesh.

Indian Marine Commandos (Marcos) leaded by Indian Navy was assisted the Indian Army in landing operations against the Pakistani military base in Cox's Bazar

In April 1986, the Indian Navy Started planning for the creation of a special forces until that would be capable of undertaking missions in a maritime environment, conducting raids and reconnaissance and counter operations.

Three volunteer officers from the diving unit, which was created in 1955, were selected and underwent training courses with the United States Navy SEALs at Coronado.

Training exchanges with the Special Boat Service.

In February 1987, Indian Maritime Special Force (IMSF) officially came into existence and the three officers were it's first members.

The IMSF was renamed as Marine Commandos Force in 1991.

Contemporary Development

1955 – Separate Diving School at Cochin.

In April 1986 – Indian Navy Started planning for the creation of a special forces until that would be capable undertaking missions in a maritime environment, conduct raids and reconnaissance and counter terrorisms operations.

February 1987 – Marcos are activated. (36 years 7 months old)

1991 – IMSF was renamed as “Marine Commandos Force”

Facts About Marcos

- **Branch** – Indian Navy.
- **Type** – Special Forces.
- **Headquarters** – INS karna Vishakapatnam India
- **Another names** – Magarmach (The Crocodiles), Dadhiwala Fauj (The Bearded Army)
- **Motto** – The Few, The Fearless.
- **Various Operations** – Operation Cactus, Operation Leech, Operation Pawan, Kargil War, Operation Black Tornado, Operation Cyclone, Counter Insurgency, Operation in Kashmir etc.

Selection & Training

Marcos are capable to undertake operations in all types of terrain and also specialised maritime operations. As of 2012, the Marcos has about 2000 personnel though the exact number remains classified. Simple recruitment process and selection is depending upon the merit and physical strength of the candidate. Following eligibility criteria to join Marcos.

- Selection based on age limit and age of the candidate is mainly the early 20's.
- Applicants – fulfil all the physical standards as mentioned by the Indian navy for the candidates.
- Failing any one criterion immediately dismissal of the candidate.

The selection process is consisted into two parts....

- A) Physical stamina test.
- B) Aptitude test.
 - 80% candidates got rejection in the physical test
- C) The Indian Navy sailor can opt to get transferred to the special forces by clearing the internal exam like INET.

Operational Responsibilities

Marcos is responsible for conducting operations at the strategic and the tactical level.

Primary responsibilities are...

- Providing support to amphibious operations
- Special surveillance and amphibious reconnaissance operations
- Clandestine operations inside hostile Territory including diving operations and special raids
- Direct Action
- Hostage rescue Operation
- Counter terrorisms operations
- Asymmetric Warfare
- Foreign Internal Defence

Operations

The various operations Marcos commandos were conducted.

1. **Operation Pawan:** In order to capture the harbours of Jaffna and Trincomalee, Sri Lanka as part of the Indian peace keeping force by Indian peace keeping force Marcos. Against LTTE (Liberation Tiger Of Tamil Eelam), Marcos conducted successful amphibious raid.
2. **Operation Cactus Along With R&AW:** When there was defending the democratic government of president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives from the coup. The force played a supporting role in India's successful military aid, helping foil the attempted coup by Sri Lankan militants from the PLOTE and ENDLF. The role of R&AW officers was before the operation, all the information's were collected from R&AW field officers and jointly R&AW and Marcos conducted the operation to protect the president of Maldives from the militant group of Sri Lanka. One officer of R&AW was actively working in Sri Lanka especially watching on the militant groups of Sri Lanka. It was too early because R&AW was not developed properly and not more than thousands or thousands five hundred field officers were with R&AW. But despite of all such a thing, R&AW actively

participated in the actions and ultimately R&AW and Marcos commandos captured the militant from Srilanka and protected the president of Maldives.

3. **Operation Rakshak:** The Operations was conducted in the state of Kashmir by Marcos commandos. There was active role of R&AW in this operation as well. There were no mentioned about the role of R&AW in this Operation.

In the Jhelum River and wular lake, two to four teams of Marcos are deployed through the year at wular lake. The Kashmiri militants were using 250 km square (97 square miles) lake, which is surrounded by mountains, to reach Srinagar, saving them from having to travel 100 km (62 miles) through the mountains.

Some Marcos personnel were attached with Indian armed special force units conducting counter terrorisms Operations in the area.

As of 2017, the team of Marcos personnel were permanently deployed in wular lake.

Marcos also helped the Indian army to eliminate militants from islands in the Jhelum river, where militants use plantations as hiding spots.

4. **China – India Skirmishes:** in October 2020, The Marcos commandos were deployed in the Eastern Ladakh alongside the Indian army against the Chinese military. Conducting the operations by using boats.
5. **Operation Black Tornado:** Marcos stormed the trident and Hotel Taj At mumbau during the terrorist attacks on 26th November 2008 during the 26/11 Mumbai Attack.
6. **Operation Rahat In Yemen:** In 2015, The Indian Navy undertook this operation to rescue thousands of civilians from war rein Yemen. Amid intense fighting and airstrikes being conducted by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia, Marcos was tasked with ensuring the safe passage of civilians.

The Required Qualities to be Served as Marcos Commandos

- 1) Highly intellectual
- 2) Physical strength
- 3) Emotional intelligence.
- 4) Knowledge about marine law and maritime security.
- 5) Arts to handle any weapons.
- 6) Leadership qualities.
- 7) High level of courage.
- 8) Knowledge about sea law.
- 9) Alertness of mind in all conditions.
- 10) High Altitude Jump and low opening jump.
- 11) Know swimming.
- 12) Cognitive abilities.
- 13) Basis understanding about the threats.
- 14) Know how to dive the ship.
- 15) Knowledge and skills about the direction.
- 16) Sharp eyes and skills to identify the objects.
- 17) Skills of patrolling.
- 18) Combat divers and parachutists' skills.
- 19) Skill to counter insurgency and anti hijacking
- 20) Skills High weight lifting diving in the water.
- 21) No simulators or dummy cartridge in the training hence have to brave to face all kinds of injuries because it would not be friendly fire.
- 22) Requires 120 km walks with 60 kg backpacks.

Author Review

The active role of Marcos would responsible for the strengthening the internal and marine security of the country. Marcos commandos were executed many operations to secure the nation from the militants and also foreign invaders.

When we talk about the futuristic perspectives of the Marcos we could come to know about how they deploy at the time of insurgency.

The integrated combat system of the Marcos which strengthens the capabilities to carry out the special operations, the Indian navy will procure an advanced integrated combat system (ICS) that would be ensured an effective command, control and information sharing structure to enhance the Marcos capabilities while engaging targets.

The ICS will provide enhanced capabilities such as tactical awareness and the ability to fight in hostile environment and can enable group commands to remotely monitor and control the operations.

Midsize submarines.

In 2013, Vizag based Hindustan shipyards Ltd won the tender for building four 500 tonne mini submarine for exclusively dedicated to Marcos (Indian Navy Commandos)

Conclusions

Marine Commandos are the king of all the forces because they are deployed properly and highly trained along with well equipped. Indian Marcos are the best in the world because they are highly trained and they can execute any kinds of operations. They are having very hard training and fully dedicated towards their service and also deployment of any operations.

Trainee of the Marcos force would have to undergo the world toughest courses in between 2.5 to 3 years at least. The training which included counter insurgency, anti-hijacking, anti-piracy, clandestine operations, surveillance and reconnaissance, amphibious operation, unconventional warfare, and hostage rescue.

The terrorists in Kashmir are scared of the Marcos and refer to them as “Dadiwala Fauj” thanks to the beards they wear as disguise.

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