

THE ROYAL NAVY

SUPPORTING THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES



539 ASSAULT SQUADRON ROYAL MARINES

539 Assault Squadron provides an integral tactical surface waterborne manoeuvre capability in the littoral and riverine environment to enable and support Brigade Landing Force operations. It is a digitised, specialist amphibious Assault Squadron capable of conducting independent expeditionary and force protection operations in all environments. It is manned by some 100 highly trained coxswains and crews responsible for the operation of Hovercraft, Rigid Raiders and Inflatable Raiding Craft as well as Vehicle and Personnel Landing Craft. The Squadron is based at Turnchapel just outside Plymouth.

539 Assault Squadron Royal Marines is a vital link in the Corps' chain, allowing 3 Commando Brigade to transfer onto land from the sea or river. It can operate amphibious Viking vehicles to deliver force into territories, something which the unit has done several times since it was created in the aftermath of the Falklands War. The unit has operated around the world with the Royal Navy's amphibious ships HMS Albion and HMS Bulwark and the helicopter carrier HMS Ocean.

Assets

Inflatable Raiding Craft (IRC)

Inflatable rubber raiding craft are small enough to be dropped by air or stowed and deployed from a submarine acting as a mother ship.

These boats are fitted with compressed air cylinders so that they can be inflated rapidly. A rigid deck can be fitted into some models. Inflatable craft are usually powered by an outboard diesel motor. Paddles are also carried, not just in case of engine failure but also to allow a much quieter approach to the shore.

- Crew of 1
- Max 6 passengers

Offshore Raiding Craft - ORC (TCV)

Troop Carrying Variant: The 9 meter-long ORC is designed for commando insertion/extraction and fire support missions along coastlines and river networks.

- Crew of 3
- Maximum 8 passengers

Landing Craft Vehicle/Personnel (LCVP)

- Crew of 3
- Maximum 30 passengers

