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## Toxic storm for Royal Marines in major chemical exercise

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Royal Marines donned gas masks for three weeks as they tested Britain's ability to fight in the event of a chemical - or, worse, nuclear - attack.



40 COMMANDO

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Troops from 40 Commando, based at Norton Manor, near Taunton, joined the country's leading experts in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear warfare to make sure they could cope in a worst-case scenario.

The Corps trained extensively for the threat of chemical warfare in both Gulf wars - thankfully they were not used by Saddam Hussein's forces against British troops in either conflict.

Fifteen years later, and the threat remains - though not in Iraq. But the conflict in Syria has shown that some nations not only possess weapons of mass destruction, but are prepared to use them.

Which is where Exercise Toxic Dagger - the largest of its kind in the UK - comes in, involving Public Health England, the Atomic Weapons Establishment and the government's military labs, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

While the commandos have kept up with the latest developments and tactics on the battlefield, the scientists have monitored CBRN progress - and how to defeat them.