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7K December 1990

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10/12/90

Dear Charles,

BRITISH FORCES IN THE GULF

As requested during the Prime Minister's talk with the Defence Secretary on 3rd December, I attach some notes about British forces deployed to the Gulf area. We have included the standard summary of forces which we use for internal briefing here. If you would find it convenient to have a copy, perhaps weekly, please let me know.

I also have some highly sensitive notes on operational planning prepared by the staff here. We have not had an opportunity to show these to the Defence Secretary (because of their sensitivity they cannot go out of the office), but I expect to let you have them early next week and well ahead of the planned presentation.

Yours sincerely
[Handwritten signature]

(S WEBB)
 Private Secretary

Charles Powell Esq
 10 Downing Street

BRITISH FORCES IN THE GULF - OPERATION GRANBY**Military Tasks**

- UK military tasks in the Gulf, in conjunction with allies:
 - to deter and, if necessary, to repel further Iraqi aggression;
 - to maintain an effective embargo on shipment of goods to or from Iraq and Kuwait;
 - to prepare for offensive operations.

UK Force Levels (see attached table)

- Some 33,000 UK forces are committed to the Gulf, from all three Services. About 17,000 are already in theatre. Around a further 16,000 Army personnel are being deployed to form 1st (British) Armoured Division (total personnel around 26,000), which will be fully operational in Saudi Arabia by the end of January.

Command and Control

- British forces in the Gulf are under operational command of the UK Joint Commander at RAF High Wycombe and operational control of British Forces Commander in Riyadh, who may delegate tactical control of British forces to US commanders for specific missions.

Locations (see attached Map A)

- Royal Navy vessels operate in the Persian Gulf and just outside, in the Gulf of Oman.
- 7th Armoured Brigade is situated alongside the US Marines in north-east Saudi Arabia, with its supply depot at Al Jubayl on the coast (see attached Map B).
- The RAF has air-defence aircraft at Dhahran in north-west Saudi Arabia, ground-attack aircraft at Tabuk in north-west Saudi Arabia and at Muharraq in Bahrain, and maritime reconnaissance aircraft at Seeb in the north of Oman.

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Details of forces already in the Gulf

Royal Navy

- Four destroyers and frigates, equipped with air-defence and anti-ship missiles, guns and multi-purpose helicopters;
- Three mine counter-measures vessels with one command ship;
- Six support ships carrying fuel, food, stores, repair facilities and support helicopters;
- Two light logistic support ships.

Army

- 7th Armoured Brigade (around 10,500 personnel) comprising:
 - Two armoured regiments with total of 117 Challenger tanks;
 - One armoured reconnaissance squadron with 16 light armoured vehicles;
 - One infantry battalion with 52 Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicles;
 - One artillery regiment with 24 self-propelled guns;
 - Air-defence, engineer, transport and other support.

Royal Air Force

- 18 air-defence Tornado aircraft equipped with medium- and short-range anti-aircraft missiles and cannon;
- 27 ground-attack Tornado aircraft with range of anti-tank, anti-personnel, anti-radar and runway-cratering weapons;
- 11 ground-attack Jaguar aircraft with range of weapons;
- 3 Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft;
- 7 refuelling tankers;
- 15 support helicopters.
- Anti-aircraft and airfield defence detachments.

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Details of additional forces to be deployedRoyal Navy

- Two mine counter-measures vessels;
- 12 Sea King medium support helicopters.

Army

- Divisional troops (around 11,000 personnel) comprising:
 - Three armoured reconnaissance squadrons with 32 light armoured vehicles;
 - One artillery regiment with 12 self-propelled guns and 12 self-propelled howitzers;
 - One artillery regiment with 12 Multiple-Launch Rocket Systems;
 - One air-defence regiment with 24 surface-to-air missile launchers;
 - One engineer regiment;
 - One Army Air Corps regiment with 18 anti-tank helicopters and 18 reconnaissance/liaison helicopters.
- 4th Brigade (around 5,000 personnel) comprising:
 - One armoured regiment with 57 Challenger tanks;
 - One armoured reconnaissance squadron with 16 light armoured vehicles;
 - Two infantry battalions with 106 Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicles;
 - One artillery regiment with 24 self-propelled guns;
 - Air-defence, engineer, transport and other support.
- Additional medical support.

Royal Air Force

- 4 reconnaissance Tornado aircraft to Tabuk;
- 12 Chinook large support helicopters;
- 4 Puma medium support helicopters;

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OPERATION GRANBY - UK FORCES COMMITTED AS AT 060700Z DEC 90

CLASSIFIED FIGURES

(a) In theatre	16698
(b) Outside theatre	16792
Total UK Forces committed	33490

PUBLIC FIGURES

(a) In theatre	About 17000
(b) Outside theatre	Over 13000
Total UK Forces committed	Over 30000

ROYAL NAVY

DD/FF in theatre			MCMVs in theatre			RFAs in theatre			Outside Theatre			
Ship	Personnel		Ship	Personnel		Ship	RFA	RN	Ship	ETA/Loc	Personnel	
HMS CARDIFF	297		HMS ATHERSTONE	47		RFA FORT GRANGE	158	72	HMS DULVERTON	Rosyth	50	
HMS LONDON	305		HMS CATTISTOCK	48		RFA OLNA	95	64	HMS LEDBURY	Rosyth	50	
HMS BRAZEN	249		HMS HURWORTH	48		RFA DILIGENCE	44	136				
HMS GLOUCESTER	283		HMS HERALD	135		RFA ORANGELEAF	58	5				
Ashore (inc. FSU)	101					RFA RESOURCE	159	5				
						RFA ARGUS (PCRS)	85	294				
Total RN personnel in theatre									2090	Tot RN pers outside theatre		100
Total RFA personnel in theatre									599	Tot RFA pers o/s theatre		0

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Vessels (not included in totals)

Ship	Personnel	Destination	ETA	Replacing/by	Ships taken up from trade	LSLs in use
					35	2

ARMY

1st (British) Armoured Division - in theatre						1 (BR) Armd Div - outside theatre			
Divisional Troops		7th Armoured Brigade		4th Brigade		Personnel	ETA/Loc	Total	
Personnel	Total	Personnel	Total	Personnel	Total				
Divisional HQ		Fighting Echelon	4547	Fighting Echelon		4th Bde (incl. 458 BCRs)		10879	
Fighting Echelon		2nd Line Support	4400	(Support elements of 4 Brigade included in Divisional Troops totals)		Equipment	ETA/Loc	Total	
2nd Line Support		3rd Line Support				Challenger MBT		59	
3rd Line Support		Battle Casualty Repl	205			Warrior AFV		142	
Battle Casualty Repl		Additional support elms	1303			Scorpion/Scimitar/Striker		93	
Total Divisional Troops	0	Total 7th Armd Bde	10456	Total 4th Brigade	0	M109 155mm SP gun		42	
Equipment Total		Equipment Total		Equipment Total		M110 Howitzer		13	
	Tot *	Fgt Str	Tot *	Fgt Str	Tot *	Fgt Str		13	
M109 155mm SP gun		Challenger MBT	140	117	Challenger MBT			20	
M110 Howitzer		Warrior AFV	128	101	Warrior AFV			20	
MLRS		Scorpion	22	17	Scorpion			20	
Rapier		Scimitar	25	20	Scimitar			14	
Lynx helicopters		M109 155mm SP gun	28	24	Striker			76	
Gazelle helicopters		Javelin	47	35	M109 155mm SP gun				
					AVLB, AVRE, CET				
Total other Army support personnel in theatre (signals, medical, engineers, Javelin deta (Armilla), miscellaneous)						806	Sigs/Int deta	Cyprus	13
Total 1 British Armd Div in theatre						10456	Tot 1 Div pers o/s theatre		15775
Total Army personnel in theatre						11262	Tot Army pers o/s theatre		15788

ROYAL AIR FORCE

In Theatre						Outside Theatre			
Unit	Loc	Pers	Unit	Loc	Pers	Unit	ETA/Loc	Personnel	
18 x TORNADO F3	Dhahran		10 x TORNADO GR1	Tabuk		4 x F4 Phantom + sup	Cyprus		
HQ 33 Wg + LAS	Dhahran	548	4 x TORNADO GR1 (ALARM)	Tabuk	497	1 x RAPIER sqn	Cyprus	695	
11 x JAGUAR GR1	Muharraq		HQ 3 Wg RAF Regt	Tabuk		1 x RAF Regt LAS	Cyprus		
13 x TORNADO GR1	Muharraq		3 x NIMROD MR2	Seeb		HQ BF Cyprus	Cyprus	9	
4 x VC10 TANKER	Muharraq	872	3 x VC10 TANKER	Seeb	189				
RAF Regt (RAPIER and LAS)	Muharraq		3 x C130	Riyadh	80	4 x Tornado GR1A	EDM	200	
15 x Puma	Al Jubayl	393	1 x HS 125	Riyadh	8		14 Jan 91		
Jaguar support	Thumrait	15	Miscellaneous	All locations	144				
Total RAF personnel in theatre						2747	Tot RAF pers o/s theatre		904

Total US force in theatre
as at 060700Z Dec 90

242763

Total Reservists employed on Regular duty
Total personnel in HOBFME177
205
Tot Reservists deployed to theat
Tot medical personnel in theatre
Total female personnel in theatre

20

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339

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IN THE GULF
DESTROYERS/
FRIGATES

IRAN

BAHRAIN
MUHARRAG
TORNADO GR1/AGUAR

KUWAIT

RIYADH
HQBFME

SAUDI ARABIA

AL JUBAYL
7 ARM'D BDE
(1(BR) ARM'D DIV)

DHAHRAN
TORNADO F3

UAE

OMAN

SEEB
NIMROD

SYRIA

IRAQ

**UK FORCES
DEPLOYED IN GULF AREA**

TABUK
TORNADO GR1

