G27 (Amended)

## PHOENIX NBCD AND FIRE FIGHTING SCHOOL

Today's Daily Mirror (28 May) carries a piece stating that Phoenix - which houses the RN School of Damage Control and Fire Fighting along with NBC training facilities at HMS EXCELLENT, Portsmouth, will close down in 1984, "even though it may have saved hundreds of British lives during the Falklands crisis".

## PR Line

"We have no plans to cease the damage control function at present carried out at Phoenix. Although Phoenix will cease to function as an independent unit under the policy outlined in the White Paper "The United Kingdom Defence Programme" (Omnd 8288) its individual training responsibilities will all continue to be carried out".

## BACKGROUND

Phoenix is scheduled to close in 1984. Plans are not yet finalised but it is likely that the Damage Control School will remain on site until it is due for re-equipment before moving elsewhere.

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Source: P J Carpenter DS4