

ARGENTINAStrengths and Weaknesses

1. The strengths of the Argentinian position are:
 - a. Possession. They hold the Islands; their morale and confidence is riding high.
 - b. Time. They have time to dig-in and carefully prepare their defences, thus reinforcing their grip on the island.
 - c. Short Lines of Communication (Lof C). Their sea L of C are relatively short, ample shipping and a 'window' before they assess the arrival of our first SSN to build-up; probably to a full brigade group with some tanks, artillery and air defences.
 - d. The Garrison. Their occupation force consist of their best and most professional troops.

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2. There are, however, weaknesses in the Argentine Armed Forces, namely:

a. Navy. Their Navy has mainly very elderly ships, and although there are a few modern units, overall it cannot match the RN force which will be deployed. Argentina is especially vulnerable to the SSN and lacks an effective counter.

b. Air Power. Argentine offensive air power, particularly at the ranges it would be forced to operate in the vicinity of the Falklands, is severely limited. The nearest airfield is 420 miles from Port Stanley, the winter is starting with poor weather and the Argentinian aircraft are limited to making visual attacks. Their air defence capability over the Falklands is negligible.

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c. Inexperience of Joint Operations. The Argentine Armed Forces rarely work together and they lack practical experience of joint operations. Thus the command and control arrangements are likely to be strained.

d. Limited Reconnaissance. The Argentinian's open ocean surveillance capability is very limited.

Four small submarines, two of which are very old and unreliable. Four ancient Neptunes which are difficult to keep serviceable, when airborne they are ponderous and unimpressive. 12 Trackers, which will probably be needed for ASW, and are anyway of limited endurance. These assets will be sorely stretched increasing the chances of tactical surprise even if we do not achieve strategic surprise.

e. Air Re-Supply. If air re-supply is forced on the Argentinians the limitations of the small, inadequate airfield at Port Stanley will seriously restrict its effectiveness.

f. Coverage. The Argentinians will be forced to deploy their forces to cover all the likely avenues which could be exploited by the attacker. Thus his defences must always be somewhat stretched giving us the opportunity to achieve numerical superiority at the point of attack.

3. Conclusions. It is concluded that the Argentine Garrison would be difficult to dislodge. The task becoming increasingly formidable with the time Argentina is allowed to build-up her strength without disruption. If we can disrupt her sea Lines of Communication we will sap her ability and confidence to sustain his occupation.