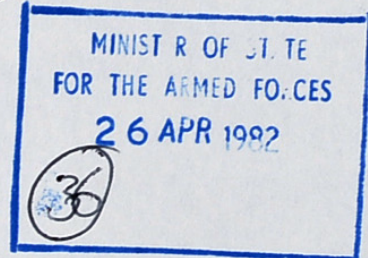


E24

LOOSE MINUTE

Air Cdre Int/1031/4/154

VCASCopy to:
ACAS(Ops)ASSESSMENT OF ARGENTINIAN AIR FORCE

1. Attached is a very hurriedly prepared brief on the Argentinian Air and Naval Air Forces. We are lacking in detailed information.
2. The DIS is initiating a major study into the Argentinian competence at both Naval and Air warfare, its ability to sustain operations, the likely attitude of neighbouring states and the economic implications. I would hope that this will be available early on Monday 5 April.

R G ASHFORD
Air Cdre
Air Cdre (Int)

2 Apr 82

Att.

Stanley is 800 nm from Pt. Arenas (Chile)
 Nearest point on ~~750~~ nm - Rio Gallegos.
 Falkland Is is 410 nm.
 Stanley is about 600 nm from ...

BRIEF FOR VCASARGENTINE AIR CAPABILITY AGAINST SURFACE VESSELS

1. Argentine Naval Air. The carrier 25 de Mayo is capable of operating with fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Her embarked aircraft complement is usually about 14 including 4-6 Tracker aircraft, 4-6 fighter ^{Skyhawk.} strike aircraft and up to 4 Sea King A/S helicopters. The present aircraft complement on the carrier is not known. Other Naval aircraft could operate from shore bases in Southern Argentina. An outline of Naval aircraft is shown in Annex A.
2. Argentine Air Force. An outline orbat of the Argentine Air Force is at Annex B and should be read in conjunction with the map of dispositions at Annex C.
3. To provide air support to the Argentine Navy or Army in the Falkland Islands their aircraft need to be based at Rio Gallegos, an airfield in Southern Argentina. ^{On previous occasions} To date, we have seen only 10 Mirage and 10 Skyhawk aircraft deployed simultaneously to that airfield. We are not able to assess the maximum capability for Rio Gallegos but believe the present facilities will be most unlikely to support many more fighter bomber aircraft. There would, of course, be the usual attendant logistic problems, mainly fuel and weapon resupply but we do not know their present total holdings of these two items. At present we have no evidence to say what is currently at Rio Gallegos.
4. Canberra, Mirage and Pucara aircraft could provide ground attack force. A range of weapons can be carried by these aircraft. For example, cannon, rockets, iron bombs, and the AS30 missile. The Mirage can provide an air defence capability using the Sidewinder missile.

*Harrier wd have superiority
over Skyhawk Harbours.
? Etardard - can be used
on carrier.
Mirage - ground based
only.*

*Can be 20
Mirage.*

5. Although the Argentines have Skyhawk aircraft, we do not believe that it has the range capability for use in operations over the Falkalnd Islands.

Air to Surface Weapons

6. Air to surface weapons known to be in the inventory include those shown at Annex D.

Naval Aircraft

9 Super Etandard (to replace A-4Q)	14 A-4Q Skyhawk ✓
10 Aeromacchi MB 326 GB	10 S-2A/S-2E Tracker
5 SP-2E/P-2H Neptune	9 Alouette III Helicopter
6 Hughes 500M (Cayuse) (PNA)	4 Sikorsky S-61D (Sea King)
2 Sikorsky S-61 NR	3 Sea Lynx
3 Puma	3 Fokker F28-3000
1 HS 125 SrB 400A	3 Lockheed L - 188 Electra
5 Short Skyvan (PNA)	8 Beech Super King Air 200
5 Beech B80 Queen Air	15 Beech T-34 C-1
3 Fairchild-Hiller Porter	

Note: Super Etandard unlikely to be operationally deployed.

Naval notes.

ANNEX B TO
Air Cdre Int/1031/4 list
Dated 2 Apr 82

Outline Aircraft Orbat

1. Bombers	-	11 Canberra (9 x B62; 2 T64)	<i>Range of 500 low level.</i>
2. Fighters	-	* 19 Mirage III	<i>Range of 700</i>
	-	* 26 Mirage V (Nesher)	<i>Range of 4000</i>
	-	60 Skyhawk	<i>Probably can't reach F.I.</i>
* With 2000lb bombload RQA - 650nm.	-	48 MS 760A Paris	
	-	18 F36F	
	-	45 1A 58A Pucara	<i>(COIN) Range of 1000 mi but only has guns. (Cessna Cannon)</i>
3. Helicopters	-	14 Hughes 500	
	-	8 UH 1H	
4. Recce	-	20 1A35 Huanquero	
5. Transports	-	1 Boeing 707	
	-	7 C130	
	-	2 KC 130	
	-	6 F28	
	-	10 F27	
	-	13 C47	
	-	Some 40 various light aircraft	
6. Comms	-	14 Strike Commander	
7. Trainers	-	12 Paris	
	-	35 T34C	
	-	37 Cessna 182	
8. SAR	-	12 Lama helos	
9. Antarctic Sqdn	-	2 DHC2	
	-	3 DHC3	
	-	1 LC47	
	-	28 Helicopters inc 3 Chinook CH4 and 3 61R	

NOTE: 8 Mirage V, 20 Pucara, 16 Turbo Commander, 9 Puma, 2 KC130, 8 Bell 212 on order

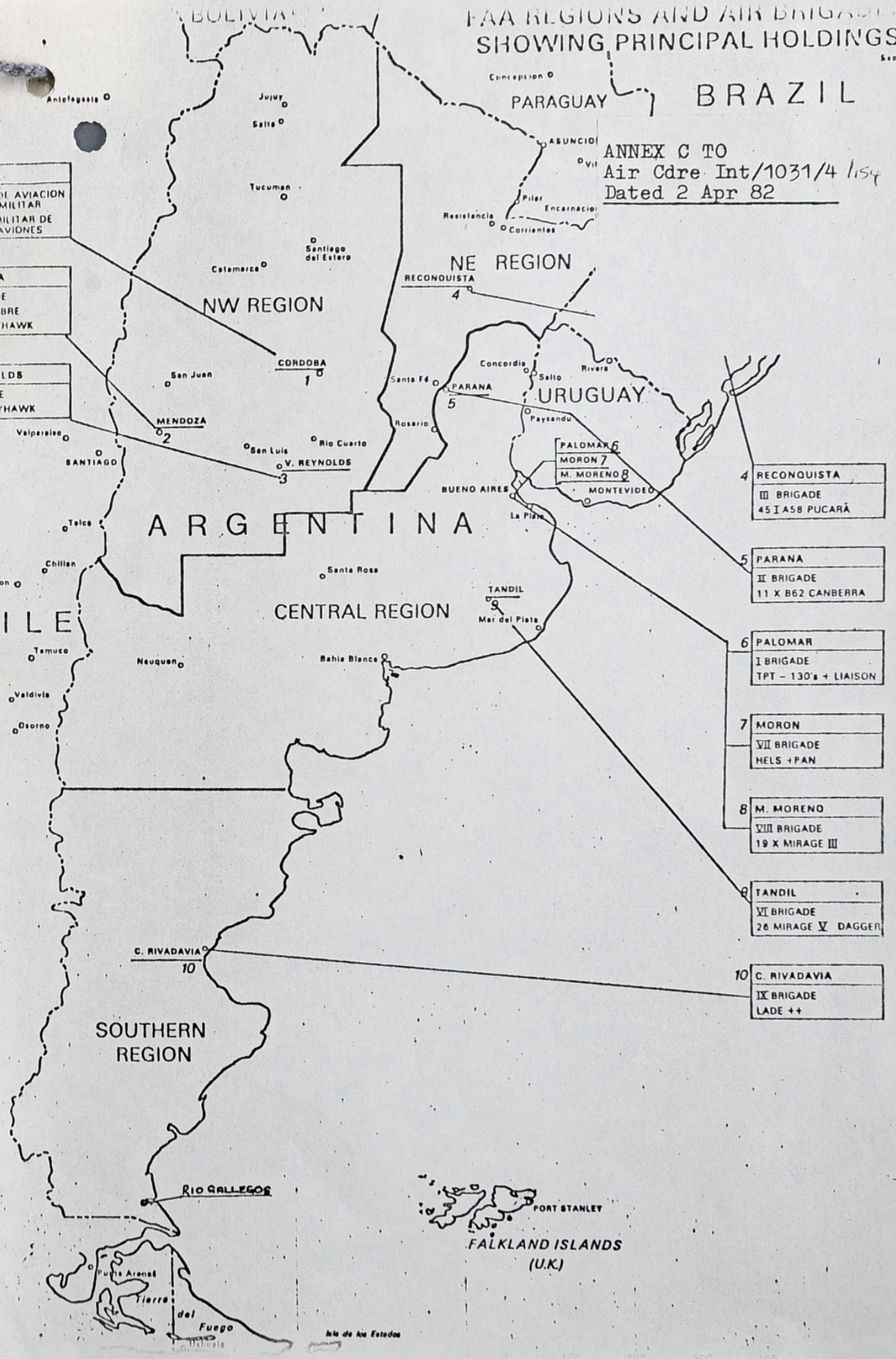
FAA REGIONS AND AIR BRIGADES
SHOWING PRINCIPAL HOLDINGS

500 P

ANNEX C TO
Air Cdre Int/1031/4 lisy
Dated 2 Apr 82

- RODOBA
- CUOLA DE AVIACION MILITAR
- BRICA MILITAR DE AVIONES
- ENDOZA
- BRIGADE
- F B6 SABRE
- A4 SKYHAWK
- REYNOLDS
- BRIGADE
- A4 SKYHAWK

- CHILE
- Temuco
- Valdivia
- Osorno



- 4 RECONQUISTA
III BRIGADE
45 I A58 PUCARÁ
- 5 PARANA
II BRIGADE
11 X B62 CANBERRA
- 6 PALOMAR
I BRIGADE
TPT - 130's + LIAISON
- 7 MORON
VII BRIGADE
HELS + PAN
- 8 M. MORENO
VIII BRIGADE
19 X MIRAGE III
- 9 TANDIL
VI BRIGADE
26 MIRAGE V DAGGER
- 10 C. RIVADAVIA
IX BRIGADE
LADE ++

FALKLAND ISLANDS
(U.K.)
PORT STANLEY

Tierra del Fuego
Isla de los Estados

ANNEX D TO

Air Cdre Int/1031/4/154

Dated 2 April 1982

AIR TO SURFACE WEAPONS AVAILABLE

2.75 MM rockets (ZUONI).

Conventional gravity bombs to 500 K.

Martin Pescado - Air to surface guided missile locally produced with 40K head.

20 and 30MM cannons fitted respectively Pucara and Mirage aircraft.

Grenade dispensers - anti personnel.

AS 11/12 missiles in helicopters.

Additionally Shagui in air to air missiles held.

AS 30.