

COS(Misc) 172/742/1

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SSN ROE WHEN CONTACT IS MADE WITH ARGENTINE  
SURFACE FORCES BY RN FORCES ENFORCING THE TEZ

1. The attached paper together with a draft submission has been prepared by the Navy Department.
2. Unless the Secretary, Chief of Staff Committee hears to the contrary by telephone (Ext 6804) by 1500 today, 29 April 1982 it will be assumed that your Principals have agreed the paper and the draft submission.

Attachments:

1. CNS Paper (2 pages)
2. Draft Submission to S of S (2 pages)

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*- 6 MAY 1982*

*Mr. [unclear] Def. Dept*

*(received at 1430)*

*[Signature]*  
*29/4*

29 April 1982

1. The Commander-in-Chief has signalled (1) requesting that the SSN ROE should be aligned with those for surface ships and aircraft should the ARA attack our forces and their CVA be assessed by CTG 317.8 as a threatening unit. You will appreciate that this is a case independent of the decision on the proposals in the paper about the CVA now under consideration by COS. The occasion could arise if the ARA decided for instance to ignore or pre-empt any warning we might issue.

2. ROE currently approved include Rule 206 for surface ships and aircraft: "Authority is delegated to assume that an attack by an enemy unit is the first in a planned multiple attack. All threatening (ARGENTINIAN) units may be attacked in order to prevent a pre-emptive attack and ensure survivability".

The ROE for SSNs outside the TEZ are currently governed by SSN Rule One - covert surveillance only - and the SSN may only take offensive action in self defence or against conventional submarines it may detect (Rule five).

3. Both the CINC and CTG 317.8 (2) point out that if the CVA was assessed to be threatening unit following an initial engagement with the ARA, or if carrier borne aircraft attack our forces, the enemy carrier may be attacked by surface ships or aircraft under the current ROE. In practice the SSN may be the vehicle

Notes:

1. CTF 317 Message 271858Z April 1982.
2. CTG 317.8 Message 262338Z April 1982.

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or  
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as in  
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(82)24.

best suited and best placed to attack the carrier but his ROE do not presently permit it. We need, therefore, to be able rapidly to change the SSN's ROE.

4. The SSNs are operated from Northwood and CTG 317.8 has no direct link with SSNs on patrol. I propose that authority is delegated to CTF 317 to authorise SSN Rule Three should CTF 317.8 report that he considers the Argentine CVA a threatening unit under the terms of Rule 206. I recommend that this should be raised with the Secretary of State as a matter of urgency; a draft minute to this effect is attached.

2. ROE currently approved include Rule 206 for surface ships and aircraft: "Authority is delegated to assume that an attack by an enemy unit is the first in a planned multiple attack. All threatening (ARGENTINIAN) units may be attacked in order to prevent a pre-emptive attack and ensure survivability". The ROE for SSNs outside the TEZ are currently governed by SSN Rule One - covert surveillance only - and the SSN may only take offensive action in self defence or against conventional submarines it may detect.

3. Both the CINC and CTG 317.8 point out that if the CVA was assessed to be threatening unit following an initial engagement with the ARA, or if carrier borne aircraft attack our forces, the enemy carrier may be attacked by surface ships or aircraft under the current ROE. In practice the SSN may be the vehicle best suited and best placed to attack the carrier but his ROE do not permit it. We need, therefore, to be able rapidly to change the SSN's ROE.

S of S

1. The Commander-in-Chief Fleet has signalled requesting that the SSN ROE should be aligned with those for surface ships and aircraft should the ARA attack our forces and their CVA be assessed by CTG 317.8 as a threatening unit. [You will appreciate that this is a case separate from those discussed in the paper about the CVA now going forward to OD(CA)]. The occasion could arise if the ARA decided to make a pre-emptive attack or any warning that we might issue in future.
2. ROE currently approved include Rule 206 for surface ships and aircraft: "Authority is delegated to assume that an attack by an enemy unit is the first in a planned multiple attack. All threatening (ARGENTINIAN) units may be attacked in order to prevent a pre-emptive attack and ensure survivability". The ROE for SSNs outside the TEZ are currently governed by SSN Rule One - covert surveillance only - and the SSN may only take offensive action in self defence or against conventional submarines it may detect.
3. Both the CINC and CTG 317.8 point out that if the CVA was assessed to be a threatening unit following an initial engagement with the ARA, or if carrier borne aircraft attack our forces, the enemy carrier may be attacked by surface ships or aircraft under the current ROE. In practice the SSN may be the vehicle best suited and best placed to attack the carrier but his ROE do not permit it. We need, therefore, to be able rapidly to change the SSN's ROE.

4. The SSNs are operated from Northwood and CTG 317.8 has no direct link with SSNs on patrol. I propose that authority is delegated to CTF 317 to authorise SSN Rule Three should CTF 317.8 report that he considers the Argentine CVA a threatening unit under the terms of Rule 206. I recommend that you seek the agreement of your OD(SA) colleagues to this proposal as a matter of urgency.

CDS

PAGE 2 OF 003 SECRET UK EYES BRAVO  
SURVIVABILITY.  
2. THE DEFINITION OF THREATENING UNIT MAY VARY WITH CIRCUMSTANCES BUT IN THE EVENT OF AN AA ATTACK THE ARG CV WOULD CERTAINLY FALL INTO THE CATEGORY. BY EXTENSION HE CAN BE TAKEN OUT, AND (HOPEFULLY) AN SSN WILL BE IN A POSITION TO PERFORM THE TASK.  
3. A NEW RULE SHOULD BE DEVISED TO COVER THIS CONTINGENCY (SEE PARA 5 FOR SUGGESTED WORDING), AND ITS APPROVAL SHOULD BE SOUGHT AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.  
4. BATTLE ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT CARRIER MAY BE ATTACKED ON RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTION FROM CTMOR OF CTG 317.8 UNQUOTE.  
5. POSTSCRIPTS HERE THERE WOULD OF COURSE GO FAR TO SOLVE RE MILITARY PROBLEMS  
BT

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CG REDWCR  
DE REDIFC 003 1171605  
ZNY 93355  
O 2/1800Z APR 82  
FM CTG 324.3  
TO MODUK NAVY  
O P 262338Z APR 82  
FM CTG 317.8  
TO REDIFC/CTG 324.3  
INFO RBDEC/CTF 317

IMMEDIATE

BT  
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SIC 19F

UK EYES B

OPERATION CORPORATE  
SUBJ: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

1. AS TG 317.8 APPROACHES THE MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE THERE IS A NEED TO EXPAND SSN ROE WHEN OPERATING OUTSIDE IT. SPLENDID AT PRESENT HAS SUBMARINE RULES-ONE, FIVE AND THIRTEEN IN FORCE TO SUPPORT HIS TASKING OF SEARCH FOR AND SURVEILLANCE OF THE ARG CV GROUP.
2. MEANWHILE TG 317.8 HAS RULE 206 (ARG) IN FORCE WHICH DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO ASSUME THAT ONE ATTACK IS THE FIRST IN A PLANNED MULTIPLE ATTACK, AND ALLOWS ALL THREATENING UNITS TO BE ATTACKED TO PREVENT A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AND ENSURE

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SURVIYABILITY.

3. THE DEFINITION OF THREATENING UNIT MAY VARY WITH CIRCUMSTANCES BUT IN THE EVENT OF AN A4 ATTACK THE ARG CV WOULD CERTAINLY FAINTO THE CATEGORY. BY EXTENSION HE CAN BE TAKEN OUT, AND (HOPEFULLY) AN SSN WILL BE IN A POSITION TO PERFORM THE TASK.
4. A NEW RULE SHOULD BE DEvised TO COVER THIS CONTINGENCY (SEE PARA 5 FOR SUGGESTED WORDING). AND ITS APPROVAL SHOULD BE SOUGHT AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.
5. QUOTE ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT CARRIER MAY BE ATTACKED ON RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTION FROM CTGURME OR CTG 317.8 UNQUOTE.
6. POSTSCRIPT: RULE THREE WOULD OF COURSE GO FAR TO SOLVE MY MILITARY PROBLEMS

BT

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SSC (NAVY OPS)

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SECRET

CO REDWOR  
DE REDECR 658 1171915

ZLY S SSS  
G 271858Z APR 82  
F. CTF 317

IMMEDIATE

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TO REDWOR/MODUK NAVY  
INFO ZEK/CTG 324.3  
ZEK/CTG 317.8  
BT

SECRET UK EYES BRAVO  
SIC AAA/19F/JEL  
OPERATION CORPORATE  
SSN ROES.

UK EYES B

REF. CTG 317.8 19F 262338Z APR 82 (PASEP)

1. IN ORDER THAT SSNS CAN PROVIDE PROTECTION TO TG 317.8 AS  
IT APPROACHES TEZ AND BEARING IN MIND RULE TWO ZERO SIX (ARG) IS IN  
FORCE FOR SURFACE UNITS, REQUEST AUTHORITY FOR CTF 317 TO ORDER  
ROE THREE/FOUR FOR SSNS OUTSIDE TEZ SHOULD CTG 317.8 REPORT  
UNDER ATTACK FROM ANY ARG FORCES.  
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*last*

*DNOT/DO*

*2115<sup>h</sup>/27*

NRNR

*DSC (NAVY OPS)*

*DNW*

UK EYES B

SECRET