

CmC Fleets views on 5 Infantry Brigade

Ref: OPC/ARMY OPS/105 of 30 April 1982

1. He is happy about the Staff Tables for the 5th Infantry Brigade with the exception of the H/c support.
2. Helicopters
CmC points out that not only for disembarkation but also for operations ashore in Falklands helicopters are necessary both for tactical ^{mobility} and logistic lift. There are no land L.O.C.
3. He believes that 10 Pumas (all the RAF can provide) are not enough and that balance of F.A.A. helicopters would be needed. In view of support problems introduced by another type of helicopter and the fact that PUMA is unsuitable for operating in maritime environment. CmC considers that lift advantages of Puma are outweighed by disadvantages.
4. He therefore proposes a force of 10 SKS (with rotor removed) and 26 WXS from FAA

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STAFF

This would mean an increase in the Staff tables, but initial, and necessarily incomplete, consultation with FOF3 indicates that air & ground crews could be provided.

Two Star HQ

5. The need for this is agreed. But CnC does not consider it will be required in Theatre of Operations until 5 Bde begin to disembark and does not favour embarkation in Intrepid.
6. He proposes Maj Gen Moore as Commander with Staff of RM Air Force HQ augmented by Supporting Arms Staff & Communications elements from UKLF. UKLF have been consulted & problems appear soluble.
7. The preferred plan would be for the HQ Staff to join QE 2 at Ascension. Gen Moore would fly out after initial landing & also join QE 2. He and his staff would transfer to HMS Fearless on arrival Falklands. By this time HQ 3 Cdo Bde should be established ashore.

8.

Factorless is preferred to Intrepid as...

- a) COMAW is embarked
- b) Ship is better worked up
- c) SCOT is fitted
- d) It leaves Intrepid free for landing/support operations without a gash staff embarked.

9.

The Staff is estimated as about 80 strong.

There would be 8 signal vehicles for use as a Tac HQ ashore

- a) when military situation demanded
- or b) if Factorless was required elsewhere.

10.

On completion of the initial landing it is proposed that Major Gen Mike Gray (late Pass) CdY GOC SW District relieve Gen Moore as Military adviser to Cmc Fleet. CmcUKLF agrees this.

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