D/AF OPS/TF46

DMO

Copy to:

ACDS(Ops) 12/5

A.

DEPLOYMENT OF 5 INF BDE - RAF HELICOPTER SUPPORT

Reference: OP C/ARMY OPS/105 dated 30 Apr 82.

1. ACAS(Ops) has asked me to reply to your Reference minute requesting formal agreement to the inclusion of 10 Puma SH in the orbat of 5 Inf Bde if they are deployed on OP CORPORATE. You will have been briefed that the Puma would be prone to overbalancing, because of its high centre of gravity, if operated from rolling or pitching decks. Also, the flying controls could be damaged during rotor starting in severe conditions. Thus although the Puma can be operated from a CVA or LPH, operations from any other kind of ship would be limited since they could only be flown off in fairly calm weather. Accordingly ACAS(Ops) has directed that 10 Wessex SH be earmarked for support of 5 Inf Bde on OP CORPORATE.

2 May 82

J W PRICE
Air Cdre
for ACAS(Ops)

SECRET