

COS(Misc) 188/742/1

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OPERATION CORPORATE - SPECIAL FORCES DEPLOYMENT

The attached Note by ACDS(Ops) will be tabled for consideration by the Chiefs of Staff under Any Other Business at their meeting at 10.15 am today, Sunday 2 May 1982.

Attachment:

Operation CORPORATE - Special Forces Deployment (4 pages).

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2 May 1982

COS S26(6)

OPERATION CORPORATE - SPECIAL FORCES DEPLOYMENTBACKGROUND

1. CTF 317 has 208 SBS and SAS with the Carrier Group which can produce 44 patrols for reconnaissance and offensive tasks. A further 17 SAS are with the Amphibious Group as part of an HQ element and as liaison officers.
2. An Air Troop of 14 SAS from one of the squadrons with the Carrier Group has been specially trained and retained in the UK for parachute insertion into the Falklands or elsewhere in support of OP CORPORATE. Trials are in progress on a Hercules converted for in flight refuelling which if successful could be used in support of the Air Troop by late pm 6 May.
3. CTF 317 has now requested (Annex A) that the Air Troop should join the Task Force and be sent to the Amphibious Group at Ascension Island. To meet the Amphibious Group sailing date the troop must leave the UK on Monday 3 May. This paper considers whether this request should be supported.

AIR TROOP TO GO

4. The principle reasons for the request are to cover attrition, as a reserve and to provide some flexibility. If the Air Troop joins the Amphibious Group, 3 further patrols will be available to CTF 317 to meet his requirements but not until about 16 May when the Group reaches the Falklands. Its specialist parachute capability could not be used.

AIR TROOP NOT TO GO

5. If the Air Troop was retained in the UK flexibility of deployment would be retained. The troop would be available for any OP CORPORATE task which emerged requiring parachute insertion.

It could also be parachuted to the Carrier Group as soon as the flight refueling Hercules is available. This could be earlier than if it moved with the Amphibious Group.

OTHER FORCES

RETAINED UNDER SECTION 1(1)

CONCLUSION

7. It is concluded that on balance greater flexibility would be achieved if the Air Troop remained in the UK. This is particularly so if the Hercules in flight refueling trial is successful. CTF 317 should be informed accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

8. It is recommended that the Chiefs of Staff:
- a. Take note of this paper.
 - b. Agree the Conclusion.

MESSAGE FORM

Revised June 61

ANNEX A TO

ATTACHMENT TO

COS(Misc) 133/742/1

Line 3 DE

Line 4

Precedence action
PRIORITY

Precedence-Info
Routine
PRIORITY

Date time group -- Month--Year
011215Z MAY 82

Cancellation-DTG
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Routing Indicators

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From MGRH CDO FORCES TAC NORTHWOOD
To MOD UK
Info CTF 317
HQ DSAS

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Classification SECRET EXCLUSIVE

SIC AAA/I9N

OP SUTTON. A. MODUK AAA/I9N of 302000Z APR 82. FOR ACDS OPS FROM MIL DEP.

JUSTIFICATION OF BID FOR 2A TROOP SAS AND POSSIBLE TASKS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. JUSTIFICATION.

A. RESERVE. CURRENT RESERVE IS D SQUADRON SAS WHO ARE MARKED FOR OFFENSIVE SQUADRON OPERATIONS AND WHOSE BALANCE AND COMMAND STRUCTURE I AM LOTH TO TAMPER WITH. ALSO DESIRABLE IF RESERVE IS FOUND FROM SAME SQUADRON AS INTELLIGENCE GATHERING PATROLS.

B. REINFORCEMENT. FRESH INTELLIGENCE ON ARGENTINE DEPLOYMENTS CONFIRMS THREAT TO HAVE INCREASED AND INTELLIGENCE TARGETS TO HAVE MULTIPLIED AND IN SOME CASES HARDENED. THIS IS LIKELY TO DEMAND MORE ST ACQUISITION EFFORT.

C. ATTRITION. THIS IS OVERRIDING REASON. I REQUIRE INTELLIGENCE FOR MY MAIN FORCE LANDING COLE NEXT MAY. VERY SPARSE COVER COMBINED WITH GREAT EN STR INCREASES RISK OF COMPROMISE AND REPLACEMENT PTLS FOR ANY LOST IS A HIGH PRIORITY.

2. TASKS. TASKING WILL BE DECIDED BY CTF 317.0 BUT POSSIBLE ARE AS FOLLOWS.

A. RESERVE, REINFORCEMENT AND BATTLE CASUALTY REPLACEMENT AS ABOVE.

Refers to classified message

yes no

Message Instructions

Drafter short title

Tel. No

Releaser short title

MDI

SECRET

Line 3 DE

Line 4

Precedence action

Precedence-Info Routine

Date time group -- Month--Year

Cancellation-DTG ZPW-

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B. QUICK REACTION FORCE. A FORCE FOR EXTRACTION OF COMPROMISED PATROLS OR FOR DIVERSIONARY OPERATIONS TO FACILITATE EXFILTRATION.

C. RECOVERY OF AIRCREW. HARSH WEATHER AND LACK OF COVER WILL REDUCE ENDURANCE OF DOWNED AIRCREW AND 24 TROOP MAY BE USED TO LOCATE AND EXTRACT.

D. NGS. ADDITIONAL PATROLS COULD BE REQUIRED EITHER TO DIRECT NGS OR TO ESCORT PARTIES FROM 148 BATTERY RA. THIS COULD BE CONCURRENT WITH RECCE PHASE.

3. CONCURRENT ACTIVITY. THE NEED FOR INTELLIGENCE IS PARAMOUNT AND EFFORTS TO GAIN IT MUST CONTINUE DESPITE OTHER CONCURRENT TASKS. DIVERSIONS AND PLANNED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS MAY ALSO WELL BECOME NECESSARY DURING THIS PHASE. 24 TP WOULD IMPROVE MY FLEXIBILITY TO REACT TO THE SITUATION WITHOUT DEGRADING INTELLIGENCE ACQUISITION.

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