

OP C/ARMY OPS/105

DNCT
DNAW
DOMS
AF Ops

HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR 5 INF BDE

At a meeting held by Army Ops on 3 May on the subject of helicopter support for 5 Inf Bde the following points were made:

a. No support helicopters (SH) would be able to move on Ro Ro ferries as had previously been planned. However, each of the vessels NORDIC FERRY and BALTIC FERRY would have 2 x SEA KING size helicopter spots.

b. Only 26 of the 36 SH previously identified by CINCFLEET as being necessary would be able to move in conjunction with the remainder of 5 Inf Bde shipping due to space limitations.
Details are:

(1) ATLANTIC CAUSEWAY: 12 x WESSEX
10 x SEA KING

(2) ENGADINE: 4 x WESSEX

c. It was agreed that DNAW would confirm with CINCFLEET the requirement for the remaining 10 WESSEX. If required alternative arrangements would have to be made for their movement. They would not arrive at the Falkland Islands at the same time as the other SH.

d. RN helicopters were more readily available and, being "marinised", would withstand a sea passage more successfully than RAF SH. It was therefore agreed that the 26 SH moving in ATLANTIC CAUSEWAY and ENGADINE would be RN. Of these, 10 would be dedicated in support of 5 Inf Bde and the remainder be available as Force assets.

e. RAF SH elements would continue preparations for deployment until CINCFLEET decided on the requirement for them.

(Afternote: CINCFLEET agreed RAF elements may be stood down).



P J DURRANT
Maj
Army Ops

3 May 82