

COS(Misc) 19 7/1 Copy No ... of 19 copies

OPERATION COI SPECIAL FORCES DEPLOYMENT

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1. COS(Misc) 19 7/1 dated 4 May 1982 is superseded and should be destroyed.

2. The attached Note by ACDS(Ops) will be tabled for consideration by the Chiefs of Staff at their meeting at 10.30 am on Wednesday 5 May 1982.

Attachment:

Note by ACDS(Ops) (4 pages).

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- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
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- 15
- 16
- 17 - 19

OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF  
- 5 MAY 1982  
AND  
FIRST SEA LORD

5 May 1982

COS S25(9)

Covering SECRET  
RESTRICTED

D.S. 5  
RECEIVED  
- 7 MAY 1982  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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 in support of Op CORPORATE or elsewhere. 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 8 May. An extended range Hercules is already available with a radius of action of about 2500 miles.
3. CTF 317 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 am Thursday 6 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 local 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 18 May when the Group reaches the Falklands. Its specialist parachute capability could not be used.

AIR TROOPS NOT TO GO

5. If the Air Troop was retained in the UK, flexibility of deployment to CORPORATE (or elsewhere) using parachute insertion would be available to meet unforeseen tasks.

The Troop could also be parachuted to the Carrier Group earlier than if it moved with the Amphibious Group by using the extended range Hercules or the in flight refuelled Hercules if trials are successful. The option to parachute SAS onto the Falkland Islands is also available using an extended range Hercules should a military target of such high importance arise that we were prepared to risk landing 14 SAS in Chile.

#### OTHER FORCES

6. In addition to the Air Troop, two SAS squadrons remain at Hereford. One is dedicated to counter terrorism (Northern Ireland, OP PULPIT and OP MINSTREL) whilst the other is available to cover Joint Theatre Plans such as Belize. If any part of these squadrons is used for OP CORPORATE, the SAS could become dangerously overstretched, leaving us with no ability to react to the unexpected.

#### CONCLUSION

7. It is concluded that on balance greater flexibility would be achieved if the Air Troop remained in the UK. CTF 317 should be informed accordingly.

#### RECOMMENDATION

8. It is recommended that the Chiefs of Staff:

- a. Take note of this paper.
- b. Agree to the Conclusion.

#### Annex:

- A. MGRM CDO FORCES AAA/I9N 011215Z MAY 82 (2 pages)

Line 5 DE

Line 4

Precedence action  
PRIORITY

Precedence-Info  
Routine  
/ PRIORITY

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

Cancellation-DTG  
ZFW-

Routing  
Indicators

Addressee column

From MGRM CDO FORCES TAC NORTH  
To MOD UK  
Info CTF 317  
HQ DSAS

Signature block for COMMCEC use

Routed by \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
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Classification SECRET EXCLUSIVE

SIC AAA/I9N

OP SUTTON. A. MODUK AAA/I9N of 30200CZ APR 82. FOR ACDS OPS FROM MIL DEP.

JUSTIFICATION OF BID FOR 24 TROOP SAS AND POSSIBLE TASKS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. JUSTIFICATION.

A. RESERVE. CURRENT RESERVE IS D SQUADRON SAS WHO ARE PARAPACKED 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 SF ACQUISITION EFFORT.

C. ATTRITION. THIS IS OVERRIDING REASON. I REQUIRE INTELLIGENCE FOR MY MAIN FORCE LANDING COME WHAT 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

Signature

A-1

R

Time Intls

Page 1 of 2 Pages

3 DE

Line 4

Precedence action	Precedence-Info Routine	Date time group - Month-Year	Cancellation-DTG ZFW-
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Classification \_\_\_\_\_

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

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. NCS. ADDITIONAL PATROLS COULD BE REQUIRED EITHER TO DIRECT NGS OR TO ESCORT PARTIE 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.

Refers to classified message yes  no  Message Instructions

Drafter short title MGRM OPS Tel. No 559

Releaser short title MGRM MDI

Signature *Thorne* A - 2R Time Incls Page 2 of 2 Pages