



PERSONAL  
COVERING SECRET

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CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

2038/1/1 *←*

General David C Jones USAF  
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee  
The Pentagon  
Washington DC 20003  
United States of America

8th April 1982

*Dear Dave:*

I am most grateful for your personal message given to me today by Tony Boam, and for all the help we have already had from your people over our problem in the South Atlantic.

There are some questions which I believe should not be treated through our normal DIS/DIA link, and I have attached these to this letter in a navy/army/air format. I would be very grateful for your personal help in securing answers to these questions, and I suggest that your point of contact on our Washington side should be Tony Boam, our General who heads the BDS.

There will, I am sure, be more questions that arise as time goes on and if I may pass those through the same link I will do so. Aside from all the technical matters, we would all greatly appreciate the same forthright attitude that is being displayed by your media being reflected in some of the statements that are coming out from the Administration!

*All good wishes - enjoy a peaceful Easter!*

*Terence Lewin*  
*Terence*

Internal:

*AW*  
A/CDS  
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QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCESNavy

1. The United States Navy has recently conducted exercises with the Argentine Navy. What is the US Navy's assessment of the Argentine Navy's capability in action? What is their state of training, expertise in tactics and equipment serviceability? In particular we would like to know how they will perform in ASW operations, especially at night and in bad weather.
2. Has the US Navy ever seen the French Etendards being operated from the Argentine carrier? (The French consider the catapult cannot take the load)
3. What is the capability of the PESCADOR ASM? What aircraft can carry this weapon? (Etendard, Canberra, Sea King)
4. What is the capability of the Ex-US Guppy submarines supplied to the Argentines? Can they carry mines - if so what type? Has the US sold any mines to Argentina? What torpedoes do they carry? What sonar are they fitted with - active/passive? What is their assessed operational efficiency?
5. What is the assessed capability of the Argentine SKYHAWK aircraft?

6. How does the Argentine Navy operate their SEAKING helicopter? Is control positive or indirect? What cooperation is there between the helicopter, Trackers and Neptune?

1. Deployments. Intelligence on deployments/defences on Falklands, and on units/equipment in Argentina scheduled for deployment to the Falklands.

2. ORBAT. Confirmation of the Army and Marine orbit down to company level. To save time could be related to our 'Tom at a Glance' passed through DIALL (Satel Oct 81).

1. Equipment

a. INIF 7. Confirmation of protection levels of INIF 7 to be between 30-45mm, and that it only mounts 3x50 Browning. How many do they have? Have they re-equipped any with heavy weapons?

b. AGSV/3AR. They have HAMBRA/COBRA. Do they also hold HOT/ROLDAD and if so are they operational?

c. AAA. Any evidence of radar control? AAA?

d. Airfield Repair Equipment. Details of Argentine airfield repair capability, including task rate data appropriate to equipment used?

e. Signature Equipment. Signature equipment for HQs, AB units and Communication units.

Army

1. Deployments. Intelligence on deployments/defences on Falklands, and on units/equipment in Argentina scheduled for deployment to the Falklands.

2. ORBAT. Confirmation of the Army and Marine orbat down to company level. To save time could be related to our 'Form at a Glance' passed through DIALL (dated Oct 81).

3. Equipment

a. IVTP 7. Confirmation of protection levels of IVTP 7 to be between 30-45mm, and that it only mounts a .50 browning. How many do they have? Have they re-equipped any with heavy weapons?

b. ATGW/SAM. They have MAMBA/COBRA. Do they also hold HOT/ROLAND and if so are they operational?

c. AAA. Any evidence of radar control for AAA?

d. Airfield Repair Equipment. Details of Argentine airfield repair capability, including task rate data appropriate to equipment used?

e. Signature Equipment. Signature equipment for HQs, AD units and Communication units.

4. Special Forces. Organisation and equipment of their Special Forces and assessment of their capabilities and modus operandi.

5. Training.

a. Assessed state of training especially of engineer, anti-tank and artillery units.

b. Any known tactical weaknesses, especially with regard to the harsh Falkland terrain.

c. Concept of operations for Army helicopters.

- (1) Airframe fit.
- (2) Weapons fit/clearance - free fall, guns, missiles.
- (3) Size and type of any additional fuel tanks which can be carried.
- (4) Weapons supplied which might be carried eg Bullpup, Sidewinder, etc.

Air Force

1. What is the assessed capability of the Argentine Air Force? What is the performance envelope in Air to Air and ASVW roles in clear, foul weather and at night, with and without direction facilities? What are their operational standards and state of training - how much training per month and is there any fuel or ammunition supply problem?

2. US Aircrafta. Skyhawk

- (1) Fit of modified A4B supplied to Argentine AF as A4P (Lockheed Service Co about 1970?).
- (2) Fit of modified A4C supplied to Argentine AF as A4P (Lockheed Service Co about 1976?).
- (3) Fit of modified A4E supplied to Argentine Navy as A4Q (Douglas (Sta Monica) - date unknown).

In each case we wish to know

- (1) Avionics fit.
- (2) Weapons fit/clearance - free fall, guns, missiles.
- (3) Size and Nos of any additional fuel tanks which can be carried.
- (4) Weapons supplied which might be carried eg Bullpup, Sidewinder, etc.

- b. Neptune
- (1) Avionics fit of P2E supplied to Argentine Navy.
  - (2) Operational details of search radar and ESM receiver.
- c. Sabre Avionics and weapons fit of F86F supplied to Argentine AF.
- d. Tracker Avionics fit and operational details of S2A and S2E aircraft supplied to Argentine Navy.
- e. Helicopters Are any Sikorsky S58T, 61N or 61R known to have ASW retrofit?
- f. Boeing 707 and Hercules Any suggestion that 707 or C130 might be modified to carry a SIGINT fit?

US Radar

- a. AN/TPS 43 Capabilities and ECCM fit of the TPS 43 radars supplied by Westinghouse to Argentina.
- b. AN/TPS 44 Numbers, capabilities and ECCM fit of any TPS 44 radars which may have been supplied.