

TOP SECRET

Talking Paper for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the meeting,
7 Nov 62

Subject: Exercise for Forces Assigned to CINCLANT
for OPLAN 316-62

Background - The present situation has required the grouping of forces, under the operational control of CINCLANT, in the southeastern United States. The Army and Air Force forces are essentially on a minimum-reaction time standby for implementation of CINCLANT OPLANs 312-62 and 316-62. Navy forces are either actively engaged in quarantine operations or with Marine troops embarked and at sea.

Training above the unit level will become an increasing problem as time goes on. Proficiency will undoubtedly suffer if forces are not properly exercised. However, the four component Services have varying problems as regards capability to engage in large-scale or even medium-scale exercises.

Discussion - Some factors which should be given consideration are:

a. Army. Forces are on alert but are generally not prevented from engaging in airborne or ground training. Combat forces are, for the most part, situated in areas where brigade or combat team training can be carried out. Major difficulties which act in opposition to effective training and which exist in varying degrees are (1) lack of available sealift, (2) unit equipment which is packaged or prepared for quick loading and thus not available for training, and (3) the separation of some support units from assault units.

Specifically, the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, can engage in a program of training at their present stations without change in their reaction time. Similarly, the 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga., can engage in convoy training and in precision marshalling as well as in ground maneuver at home station without change in reaction time. The 1st Armored Division at Fort Stewart, Ga., can engage in ground maneuver at Fort Stewart without change in reaction time; however, amphibious training (assuming ships can be made available for training in the Savannah area) could only be carried out with certain loss in reaction time estimated as 24 to 36 hours. The three battle groups of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas, can exercise at their home station without loss of reaction time. Support units can engage in training in the execution of their operation mission without change in reaction time with the exception of ship loading and unloading; actual training in these phases would introduce varying changes in their reaction times.

b. Air Force. Strike forces are on a rigid alert posture. This cannot be relaxed greatly under the current situation. The airlift aircraft are on alert, but not at the staging bases as yet. Such airlift components could be utilized in exercises to a reasonable degree. CINCONAD forces (not under CINCLANT operational control) are on an alert status similar to that of the CINCAFLANT strike forces. However, CINCONAD forces are able to exercise effectively without change in reaction time.

Air Force forces assigned to CINCLANT for implementation of OPLANS 312-62 and 316-62 can only engage in effective training if alert posture is relaxed. The amount of relaxation to accomplish effective training is a matter for CINCLANT to determine as appropriate.

c. Navy. Naval forces in the area are essentially performing quarantine assignments. Thus strike, cover and close escort forces are not readily available for training exercises above the small group (about 4-ship) level. The naval amphibious forces are in a ready status, with Marine troops embarked.

CINCLANT has stated that he plans to carry out battalion landing team exercises in the Vieques area with ships carrying elements of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, without change in reaction time. A similar schedule of amphibious training without change in reaction time could be planned for ships carrying elements of the 2nd Marine Division, though beach conditions along the coast of the United States are poor this time of year.

Since fire support ships are, for the most part, engaged in quarantine duties, actual additional training in fire support could pose a problem to CINCLANT. Rotation of available ships not engaged in quarantine on the range at Culebra could be carried out without change in reaction time.

d. Marine. Assault Marines are embarked in amphibious shipping or at Guantanamo on base defense duties.

Comments in applicable parts of subparagraph c above apply insofar as Marine elements are concerned.

For the present Marine elements at Guantanamo are receiving sufficient training to accomplish their mission. Lack of sufficient area to exercise is a deficiency but one that must be accepted at this time.

Recommendations - It is recommended that the following position be taken:

a. CINCLANT (with the cooperation of CINCSTRIKE, CINCONAD and the Services) should be encouraged to formulate a program of training which would maintain combat effectiveness and yet cause minimum degradation to the current reaction posture. In the event that relaxation of readiness posture is required to obtain reasonably effective training, CINCLANT should be requested to state the amount of relaxation required after due study.

b. No large scale (division or larger) exercises should be attempted during the present situation.

c. CINCLANT should consider the requirements for amphibious training of Task Force Charlie and determine the feasibility of providing shipping to accomplish this action in the Savannah-Charleston complex.

d. Consider the desirability of planning an exercise test of CINCLANT OPLAN 316-62 in the southeastern area of the United States for execution at such time as the resolution of the Cuban situation would permit redeployment of forces to their home stations.

Opinion as to Recommendations:

Director, J-3 _____ **R** _____ (Concurs) (~~Nonconcur~~)