

Argentine Ground Forces in the Falklands War of 1982

Orders of Battle & TO&Es v1.3 for *Battlefront: Modern*

By R Mark Davies

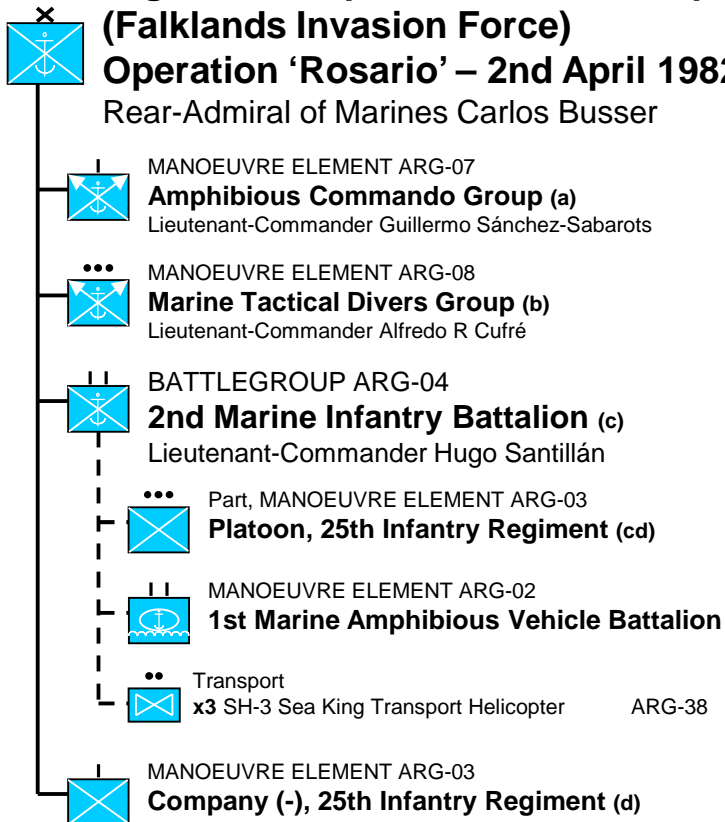


Argentine Amphibious Task Group 40.1

(Falklands Invasion Force)

Operation 'Rosario' – 2nd April 1982

Rear-Admiral of Marines Carlos Busser



(a) The Marine Amphibious Commando Group was a mixed group of Marine Commandos and the Army's 601st Commando Company. They were landed by rubber boat from the destroyer *ARA Santísima Trinidad* and the force was then split into two – the main body under Lt Cdr Sánchez-Sabarots was to assault the Royal Marine barracks at Moody Brook, while a small party, under Lt Cdr Pedro Giachino, was to take Government House. Sources conflict as to whether the total force comprised 40 or 85 men.

(b) These frogmen swam ashore from the submarine *ARA Santa Fe*, to secure Port Stanley Airport, where they were relieved by a platoon of the 25th Infantry Regiment and went on to secure the lighthouse.

(c) 'D' & 'E' Companies of 2nd Marine Infantry Battalion, with a platoon of 25th Infantry Regiment, were landed from the LST, *ARA Cabo San Antonio*, by means of the LVTP-7 and LARC-V amphibious vehicles belonging to 1st Marine Amphibious Vehicles Battalion. 'F' Company was flown from the *ARA Almirante Irizar* by SH-3 Sea King helicopters to Port Stanley Airport once that location had been secured by the Tactical Divers Group and the platoon from 25th Regiment.

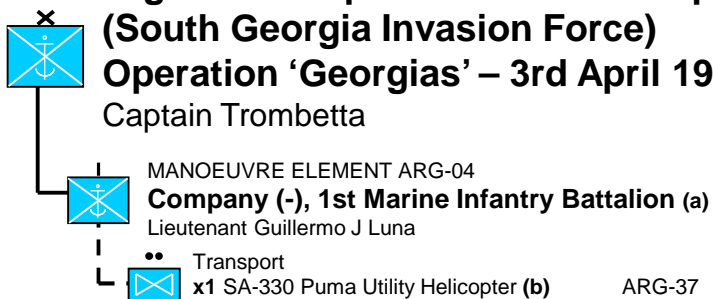
(d) The platoon from 25th Infantry Regiment was detached, with x1 LVTP-7 under command, to reinforce the Tactical Divers Group at Port Stanley Airport. The platoon consists of x3 Infantry (designate one as the commander). The remainder of their company was then flown in by C-130 Hercules from Argentina.

Argentine Amphibious Task Group 60.1

(South Georgia Invasion Force)

Operation 'Georgias' – 3rd April 1982

Captain Trombetta



(a) Lieutenant Luna's force, landed by helicopter from the *ARA Bahía Paraíso* amounted to around 60 men, including LMGs and 60mm mortars. I would therefore use ME ARG-04, but delete x3 Infantry, x1 Super Bazooka and x1 FN MAG SFMG. Luna also had fire support from the corvette *ARA Guerrico*, armed with a 20mm, 40mm and 100mm gun. However, upon opening fire, the *Guerrico* suffered failures in all three weapons and then suffered considerable damage from Royal Marine 84mm and small-arms fire. However, the 100mm gun was made operational again and this forced the Royal Marines to surrender.

(b) The force actually had two helicopters in real terms – an Army Puma and a Navy Alouette. I have reduced this to a single Puma for game purposes. The Puma was actually shot down while bringing the second lift ashore.





Argentine Garrison of the Falkland Islands April-June 1982 (a)

Brigadier General Mario Menendez (Governor)



BATTLEGROUP ARG-01
3rd Mechanised Infantry Brigade
(Coastal Sector)

Brigadier General Omar Parada



BATTLEGROUP ARG-02
10th Mechanised Infantry Brigade
(Port Stanley Sector)

Brigadier General Oscar Jofre



BATTLEGROUP ARG-04
5th Marine Infantry Battalion
(Mt Tumbledown, Mt William & Sapper Hill)
Commander Carlos Hugo Robacio



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT ARG-01
3rd Artillery Group
(Port Stanley & Goose Green)
Lieutenant Colonel Martín A Balza



BATTLEGROUP ARG-05
601st Engineer Battalion
Major Jorge L A Etienot



Command
x1 Commander



Transport
x1 MB 230 or Iltis Jeep (no MG)

ARG-07

ARG-04



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-09
9th Engineer Company (c)
Major Oscar M Lima



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-09
10th Engineer Company (c)
Major Carlos R Matalon



BATTLEGROUP ARG-07
601st Combat Aviation Battalion



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-05
601st Commando Company
(Port Howard & Murrell River, West Falkland)
Major Mario Castagneto



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-05
602nd Commando Company
(Mt Kent)
Major Aldo Rico



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-06
601st Gendarmerie Special Forces Company
(Split into four 'Squadrons' across the Falklands)



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT ARG-04
4th Airmobile Artillery Group
(Port Stanley) (a)
Lieutenant Colonel Carlos A Quevedo



BATTLEGROUP ARG-06
601st Air Defence Artillery Group
Lieutenant Colonel Héctor L Arias



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT ARG-04
1st Marine Field Artillery Battalion
(Stanley Common) (a)
Lieutenant Mario R Abadal (b)



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-10
1st Marine Heavy Machine Gun Company
(Stanley Common)
Lieutenant Commander Sergio Dachary



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-09
1st Marine Amphibious Engineer Company
(Stanley Common) (c)
Lieutenant Commander Luis A Menghini



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-11
1st Marine Anti-Aircraft Company
(Stanley Common)
Lieutenant Commander Hector E Silva



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-12
FAA Stanley Airfield Defence Group



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-12
FAA Goose Green Airfield Defence Group

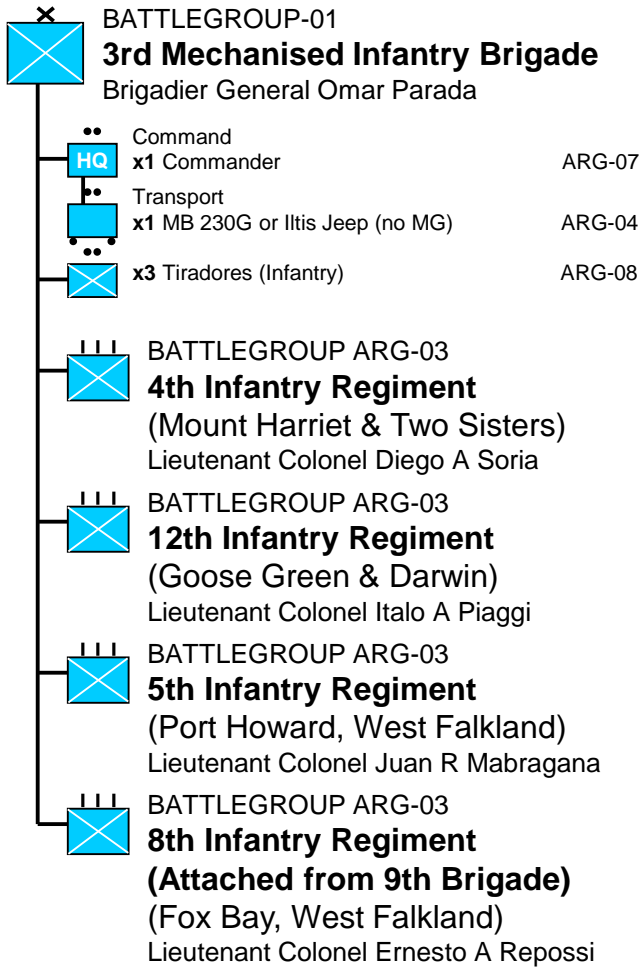


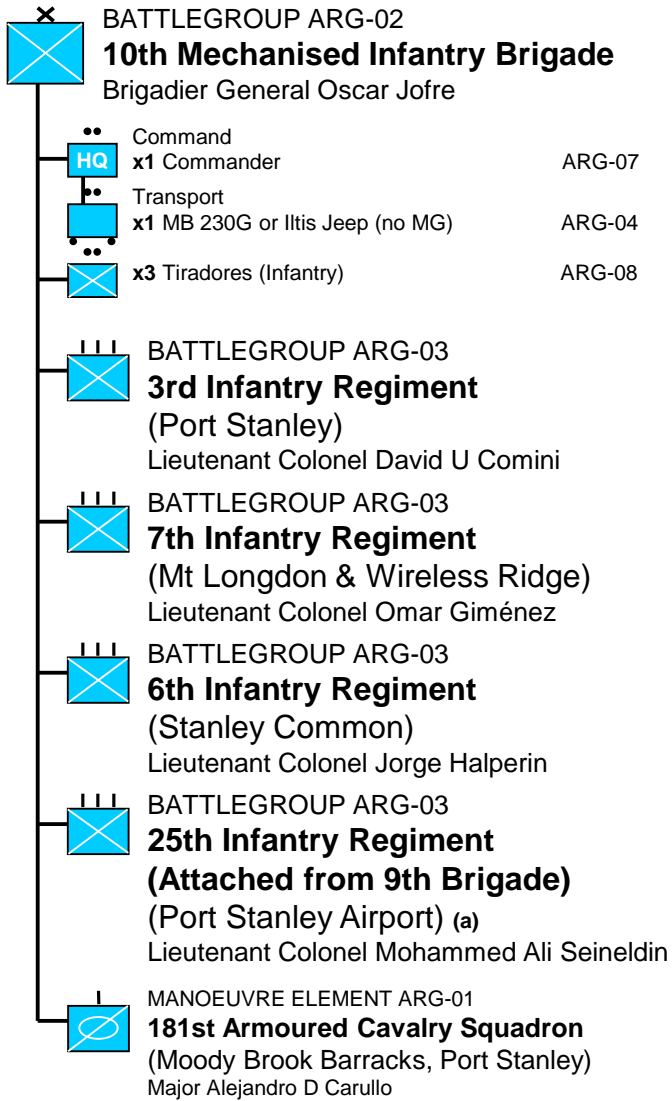
MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-13
FAA Special Operations Group

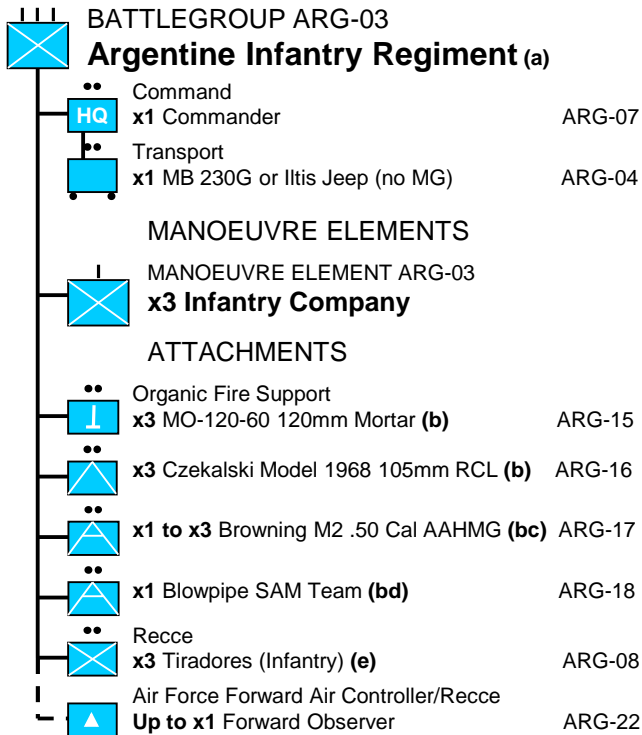
(a) The Airmobile and Marine Artillery are organised identically in game terms (FSE ARG-04).

(b) It seems curious to have a Marine Lieutenant (equivalent of an Army Captain) commanding a whole artillery battalion. I suspect that this may be a mistake in the source material.

(c) The Army and Marine Engineer Companies are organised identically in game terms (ME ARG-09). There may also have been a 3rd Engineer Company present in the Falklands, but I can't find evidence that it actually deployed with the rest of the 601st Battalion.







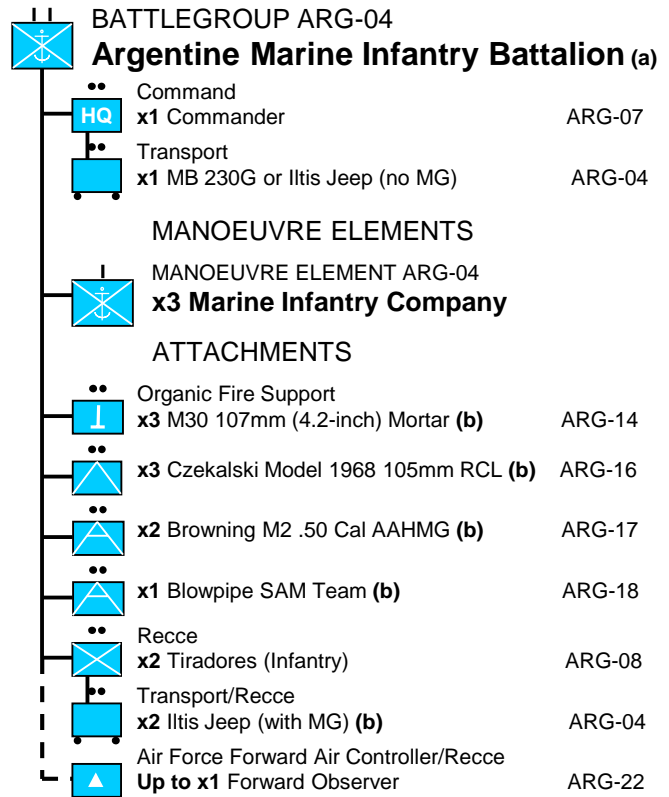
(a) Argentine Infantry 'Regiments' in the Falklands consisted of a single battalion. Note that the majority of these were mechanised units, but were air-lifted to the Falklands, having left the vast majority of their transport in Argentina.

(b) Transport elements were almost non-existent and were frequently targeted by British air power once the war got underway. Heavy weapons and the like might get moved into position by vehicle, but they were essentially static once they got there.

(c) It has been suggested that the .50 Cal HMGs were attached from an independent MG unit. However, the fact remains that they were dispersed among the infantry positions, so it makes no difference in game terms.

(d) Some units received Soviet SAMs from a shipment delivered by Cuba. In which case, replace with:
 SA-7B 'Grail' SAM Team ARG-17

(e) Some regiments created an ad hoc 'Mobile Company' from the Recce Platoon and selected men from the three rifle companies. May therefore create a Mobile Company by adding x1 Commander unit to the Recce Platoon and taking up to x3 Infantry units from the other companies.



(a) While the Argentine Army referred to battalions as 'Regiments', the Argentine Marines designated them as Battalions.

(b) Transport elements were almost non-existent and were frequently targeted by British air power once the war got underway. Heavy weapons and the like might get moved into position by vehicle, but they were essentially static once they got there. The Marines did take their recce Jeeps with them to the Falklands, though found it impossible to deploy them in the mountains and consequently operated dismounted.



BATTLEGROUP ARG-06

601st Air Defence Artillery Group

Lieutenant Colonel Héctor L Arias



Command
x1 Commander ARG-07



Transport
x1 MB 230G or Ittis Jeep (no MG) ARG-04

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-14
'A' (SAM) Battery



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-15
'B' (ADA) Battery

ATTACHED



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT ARG-15
'B' Battery, 101st ADA Group
Major Jorge Monge



BATTLEGROUP ARG-07

601st Combat Aviation Battalion



Transport
x3 SA-330 Puma Utility Helicopter (a) ARG-37

Transport/Attack
x1 A-109A Hirundo Utility Helicopter (b) ARG-36

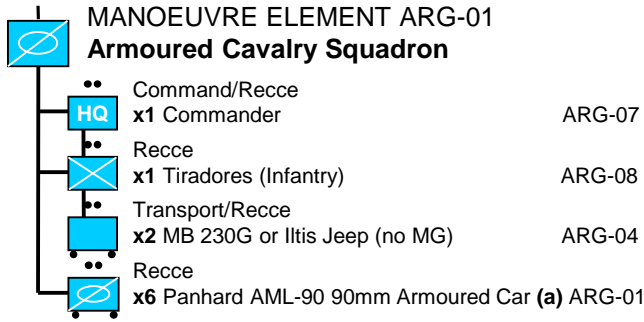
Transport
x4 UH-1H Iroquois Utility Helicopter ARG-35

Transport
x1 CH-53 Chinook Transport Helicopter ARG-39

(a) This includes the single Argentine Coast Guard Puma that was also based in Port Stanley.

(b) The Agusta A-109A unit may be fitted for attack or transport, but may not conduct both tasks in the same mission.



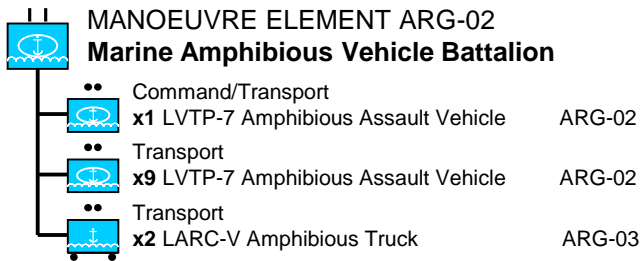


(a) As the armoured cars were limited to the metalled roads in the immediate vicinity of Port Stanley, the armoured car crews were sent into battle as an infantry company. May therefore replace the armoured cars with:

x6 Tiradores (Infantry) ARG-08



(a) M20 3.5-inch Super Bazookas and FN MAG LMGs were held as separate teams in each platoon's heavy weapons section. Hence they are listed here as separate teams, rather than being incorporated into the Infantry fire factors.

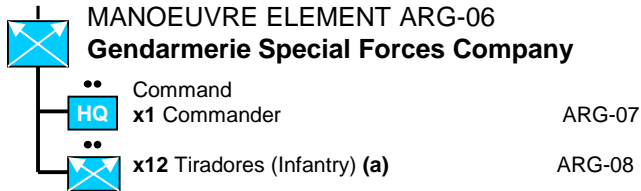


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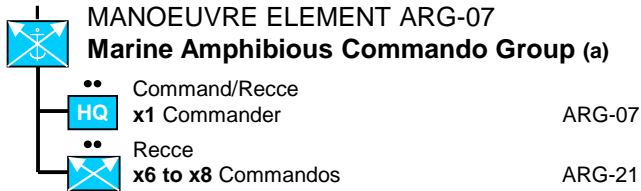
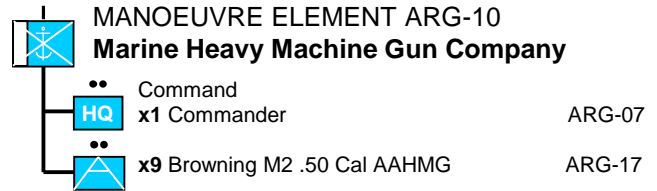


(a) Due to the high potential for elite units to get involved in coups, Argentina had no permanently-established commando units. They therefore tended to be very short-lived units, brought together for operations and then immediately disbanded. 601 & 602 Commando Companies were formed at very short notice in 1982 from commando-trained personnel, plus Gendarmerie SWAT-type units. They wore camouflage uniforms and green berets.





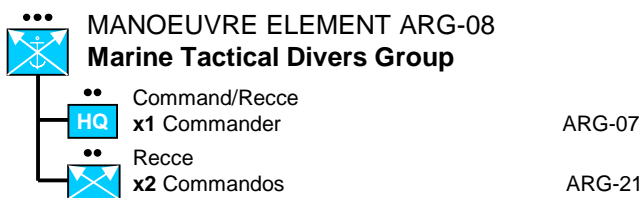
(a) Although called 'Special Forces', this unit was usually employed in throwing nuns out of C-130s over the Atlantic. It was split into four 'Squadrons', each of x3 Infantry. Designate one unit in each Squadron as the Squadron commander.



(a) The Marine Amphibious Commando Group was a mixed group of Marine Commandos and the Army's 601st Commando Company. Sources conflict as to whether the total force comprised 40 or 85 men.

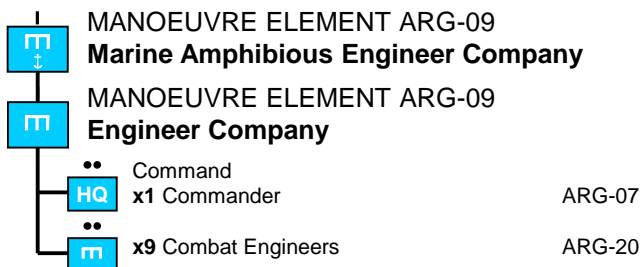


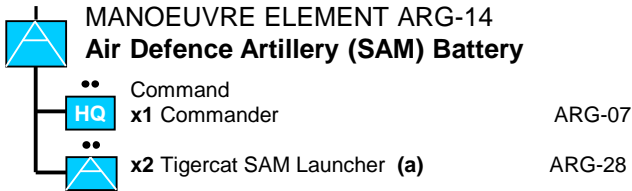
(a) The number of SAM teams is a guess, based on the numbers delivered to the FAA by Cuba.



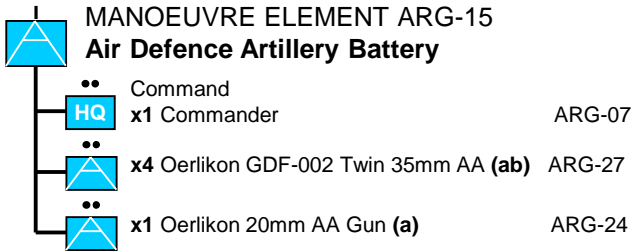
(a) The number of SAM teams is a guess, based on the numbers delivered to the FAA by Cuba.

(b) x2 Rh-202 Twin 20mm AA Gun units were detached to Goose Green Airfield.





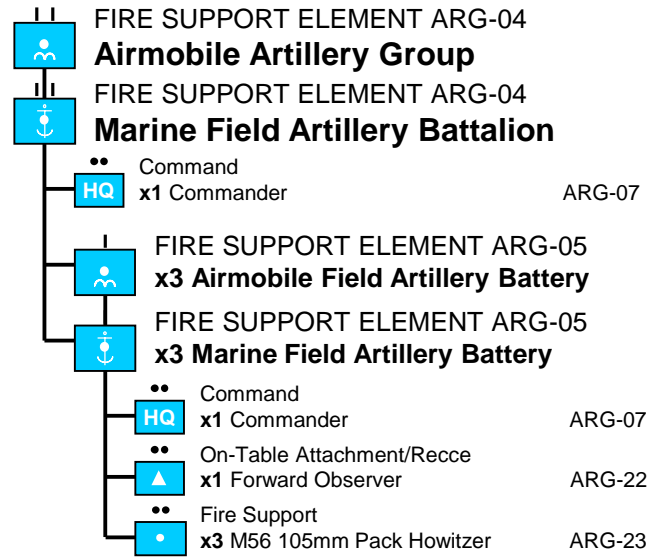
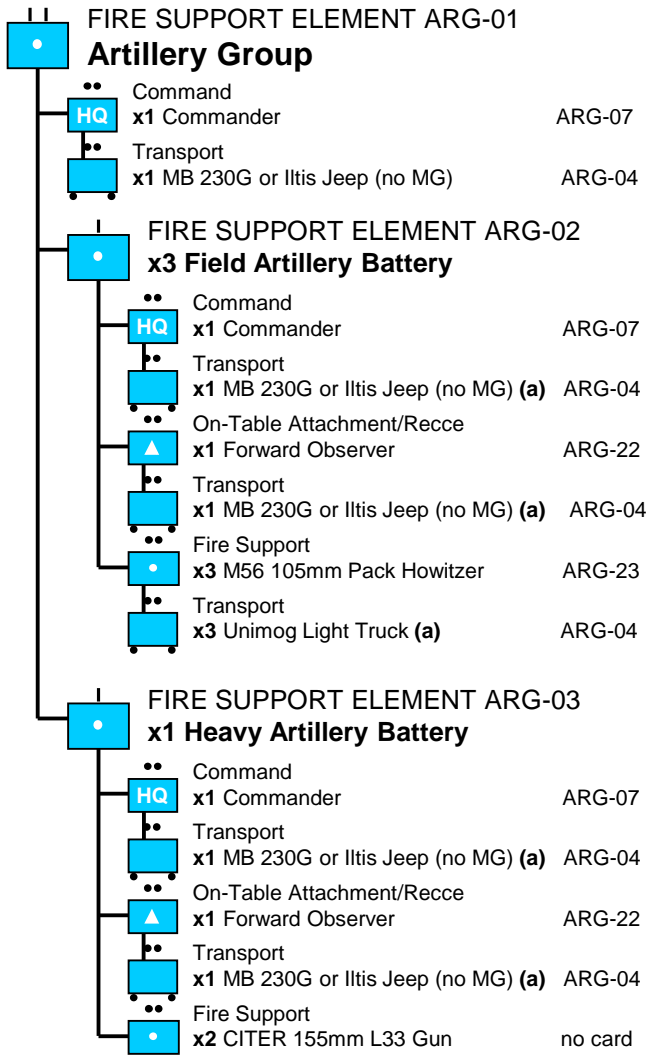
(a) There was also a single Roland SAM launcher, but in game terms this is not sufficient to warrant including it as a unit.



(a) In 'B' Battery, 101st ADA Group, replace all AA guns with:
 x4 Hispano HS-831 30mm Anti-Aircraft Gun ARG-26
 x5 Browning M2 .50 Cal HAAMG ARG-17

(b) x1 Oerlikon GDF-002 Twin 35mm AA Gun unit was detached to Goose Green Airfield.





(a) It is highly unlikely that the unit had its full scale of transport.



Argentine Air Support

I have only listed those aircraft that were based in the Falklands and those Argentina-based aircraft that took a direct part in supporting the ground campaign.



Argentine Air Force (*Fuerza Aerea Argentina – FAA*)

2nd Air Brigade	- x4 Canberra B Mk 62 Light Bomber (ARG-34) (a)
3rd Air Brigade	- x12 IA 58 Pucará Counter-Insurgency Ground Attack Aircraft (ARG-30) (bc)
4th Air Brigade	- x7 A-4 Skyhawk Ground Attack Aircraft (ARG-32) (ad)
5th Air Brigade	- x17 A-4 Skyhawk Ground Attack Aircraft (ARG-32) (ad)
6th Air Brigade	- x15 Dagger Ground Attack Aircraft (ARG-33) (ade)
8th Air Brigade	- x8 Mirage III EA Fighter-Bomber (ARG-40) (adf)

Argentine Naval Aviation (*Comando de Avación Naval Argentina – COAN*)

1st Naval Air Attack Squadron	- x3 MB-339A Close Support Aircraft (ARG-31) (b)
2nd Naval Air Attack Squadron	- x4 A-4 Skyhawk Ground Attack Aircraft (ARG-32) (ad)
4th Naval Air Attack Squadron	- x2 T-34C-1 Turbo Mentor Light Close Support Aircraft (ARG-29) (bg)

Notes

(a) Based in Argentina.

(b) Based in the Falkland Islands.

(c) The Pucarás were split between Port Stanley, Goose Green and Pebble Island. **x1** Pucará (in game terms) was lost to bombing on 1st May 1982 and a further **x3** were destroyed during the SAS raid on Pebble Island on the night of 14/15th May and thus were not available to counter the British landings at San Carlos on 21st May.

(d) The Argentina-based fast jets were mainly concerned with attacking the Royal Navy. However, they did launch the occasional strike in support of ground troops.

(e) The FAA Daggars were also supplemented during the war by a number of Mirage Vs supplied clandestinely by Peru. The Dagger was an Israeli-built version of the Mirage V, so they are the same in game terms.

(f) The Mirage III EA was nominally an air defence fighter, but lacked the range to do effective escort work over the Falklands, so was often employed in the ground attack role, while the longer-ranged Daggars sometimes performed escort duty.

(g) The T-34C-1 Turbo Mentors were all based on Pebble Island and were all destroyed in the SAS raid during the night of 14/15th May.



Argentine Troop Quality

Raw

Air Force Airfield Defence Companies
601st Engineer Battalion

Trained

Argentine Infantry Regiments
Air Force Air Defence Artillery Units
181st Armoured Cavalry Squadron
Gendarmerie Special Forces

Experienced

Marine Infantry Battalions
Marine Support Units
602nd Commando Company
1st Company, 25th Infantry Regiment
601st Air Defence Artillery Battalion
Field Artillery Units
Air Units

Veteran

Marine Amphibious Commando Group
Marine Tactical Divers Group
601st Commando Company

General Note

The Argentine Army and Marines used a curious system for conscription. Instead of fully integrating them into the unit as a whole, the youngest and worst conscripts (mainly 17/18 year-olds, straight out of school) would be placed in a regiment/battalion's 3rd Company, while the older and better recruits (those in their early 20s who in the main, had been to university) were placed in the 1st Company. This, allied to poor leadership, severely hampered unit cohesion.

Therefore, downgrade all 3rd Companies and some 2nd Companies in Argentine Infantry Regiments and Marine Infantry Battalions by one Discipline grade.

The 1st Company of 25th Infantry Regiment was a special case, having received some specialist Commando training. The 25th Regiment therefore has one company each of Experienced, Trained and Raw troops – most unusual.

Argentine Card List

- ARG-01** – Panhard AML-90 90mm Armoured Car
- ARG-02** – LVTP-7 Amphibious Assault Vehicle
- ARG-03** – LARC-V Amphibious Truck
- ARG-04** – MB 230G G-Wagen or VW Iltis Jeep (.50 Cal HMG option)
- ARG-05** – Unimog Light Truck
- ARG-06** – M35 Medium Truck
- ARG-07** – Commander
- ARG-08** – Tiradores (Infantry)
- ARG-09** – FN MAG General Purpose Machine Gun
- ARG-10** – FN MAG Sustained Fire Machine Gun
- ARG-11** – M20 3.5-inch Super Bazooka Team
- ARG-12** – Brandt 60mm Mortar
- ARG-13** – Brandt 81mm Mortar
- ARG-14** – M30 107mm Mortar
- ARG-15** – Brandt MO-120-60 120mm Mortar
- ARG-16** – Czekalski Model 1968 105mm Recoilless Rifle
- ARG-17** – Browning M2 .50 Cal AAHMG
- ARG-18** – Blowpipe SAM Team
- ARG-19** – SA-7B 'Grail' SAM Team
- ARG-20** – Combat Engineers
- ARG-21** – Commandos
- ARG-22** – Forward Observer
- ARG-23** – Oto Melara M56 105mm Pack Howitzer
- ARG-24** – Oerlikon 20mm AA Gun
- ARG-25** – Rheinmetal Rh-202 Twin 20mm AA Gun
- ARG-26** – Hispano HS-831 30mm AA Gun
- ARG-27** – Oerlikon GDF-002 Twin 35mm AA Gun
- ARG-28** – Tigercat SAM Launcher
- ARG-29** – T-34C-1 Turbo Mentor Light Close Support Aircraft
- ARG-30** – IA 58 Pucará Counter-Insurgency Ground Attack Aircraft
- ARG-31** – Aermacchi MB-339A Close Support Aircraft
- ARG-32** – A-4 Skyhawk Ground Attack Aircraft
- ARG-33** – IAI Dagger Ground Attack Aircraft
- ARG-34** – Canberra B Mk 62 Light Bomber
- ARG-35** – A-109A Hirundo Utility/Attack Helicopter
- ARG-36** – UH-1H Iroquois Utility Helicopter
- ARG-37** – SA 330 Puma Utility Helicopter
- ARG-38** – SH-3 Sea King Transport Helicopter
- ARG-39** – CH-53 Chinook Heavy Transport Helicopter
- ARG-40** – Mirage III EA Fighter-Bomber

