

SG 70/40

**NATO UNCLASSIFIED**

21 August 1957

Pages 1 -10, incl.

A REPORT BY THE STANDING GROUP

to the

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

on

THE INTERIM ALLIED NAVAL COMMAND ORGANIZATION IN THE BALTIC.

Reference: C-M(54)42 (Final)

BACKGROUND

1. The procedure for the activation in peacetime of international military headquarters has been established by the Council (reference above). The information below is provided in compliance with this procedure.

DISCUSSION

Military Requirement

2. It is essential for the German naval authorities to have access to NATO guidance from an Allied Commander on the spot in the early stages of the formation and build-up of their naval forces.

3. Detailed plans for the defense of this vital area must be prepared and well underway as German naval forces are assigned to NATO.

4. It is imperative that there should be an established NATO naval command to which German naval squadrons can be reassigned by SACEUR as they become available for the Baltic and for participation in NATO exercises.

IMS Control N° 0638

WEA:eh

DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION MEMO. #3

10 April 69

overlaken

DISTRIBUTION: A,B,C,D,E1,10,F,G1,2,3, J1,K1

by the  
Activation of  
BALTAP/NAVBALAD-  
See CR(62)65  
15 Jan 65

SG 70/40

**NATO UNCLASSIFIED**

per dtd 23 Aug 57

Approved by NAC 12 Sept 57

~~NATO SECRET~~

334/SHAPE/CEC/320

DECLASSIFIED-PUBLIC DISCLOSURE ISM-130-96 DECLASSIFIE-MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

~~SECRET~~ NATO

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

Interim Command Arrangement

5. An overall NATO command has not as yet been agreed, though the need for some form of organization is urgent as the first German naval units have now been assigned to SACEUR.

6. Pending the establishment of an Allied Naval Command in the Baltic, an interim organization should be established which lends itself to a smooth transition into a more formal establishment at some future date. Accordingly, the Commander, Allied Naval Forces, Northern Area, Central Europe (COMNAVNORCENT) and his personal staff should be transferred to Holtenau, Federal Republic of Germany, and with an integrated staff, he will assist and advise the German Naval Baltic Forces in all matters concerning their assignment to NATO. For this responsibility, he will come under Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Central Europe (CINCENT) through the Commander, Naval Forces, Central Europe (COMNAVCENT). In addition, under the chairmanship of COMNAVNORCENT, a North/Center Planning Group will be formed. It will be composed of members from Allied Forces, Northern Europe, and Allied Forces, Central Europe, including members from the integrated staff, and will be responsible to CINCENT (through COMNAVCENT) and the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe (CINCNORTH) through the Commander, Allied Naval Forces, Northern Europe (COMNAVNorth) for the following tasks:

a. Study the organization and command problems, and the naval strategy in the Baltic area, and make appropriate recommendations.

b. Formulate war plans for all Allied Baltic Naval Forces and undertake NATO exercise planning for this area.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~ NATO  
SG 70/40

~~SECRET~~

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

Personnel Establishment

7. Initial requirements for manning the new headquarters at Holtenau would be 10 officers, 32 other ranks and one NATO civilian. Nationalities of the military personnel are as follows:

<u>NATIONS</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>OTHER RANKS</u>
Germany	3*	22
United Kingdom	4*	7
United States	2	3
France	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	10	32

An Organization Chart, with officer assignments, is attached at Enclosure "A".

Activation Date

8. It is highly desirable that the new headquarters of COMNAVNORCENT be activated on 1 September 1957, or as soon thereafter as practical, as the first squadron of German naval forces in the Baltic has now reported to SACEUR.

Functions and Composition

9. Terms of Reference for COMNAVNORCENT, in his proposed new role, are attached at Enclosure "B". As an Integrated Allied Staff composed of German, French, United Kingdom, and United States, naval officers and other rank personnel is required, international financing is indicated.

CONCLUSIONS

10. It is concluded that:

a. Pending the establishment of an Allied Naval Command in the Baltic, an interim organization is required which would lend itself to a smooth transition into a more formal establishment at some future time.

b. In the interim, the Commander, Allied Naval Forces, Northern Area, Central Europe (COMNAVNORCENT) should be designated, in addition to his present responsibilities, as

\* See Footnote (1) at Enclosure "A".

~~SECRET~~ - NATO

SG 70/40

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET NATO~~

Chairman of a North/Center Planning Group which would be composed of members as indicated in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.

c. The Terms of Reference (see Enclosure "B") for COMNAVNORCENT and for the North/Center Naval Planning Group are appropriate and would permit:

(1) The German naval authorities to have access to NATO guidance from an Allied Commander on the spot in the early stages of the formation and build-up of German naval forces.

(2) Detailed plans for the defense of this vital area to be prepared and well underway as the German naval forces are assigned to NATO.

(3) SACEUR to reassign German naval squadrons to a NATO Naval Command as they become available for the Baltic.

(4) The participation of an integrated naval force in NATO exercises.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

11. The Standing Group recommends that the North Atlantic Council:

- approved by CR 67/59 12 Sep 57*
- a. Approve the above conclusions.
  - b. Approve the international status and financing of the interim organization.
  - c. Note the desirability of the establishment of this organization by 1 September 1957, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET NATO~~

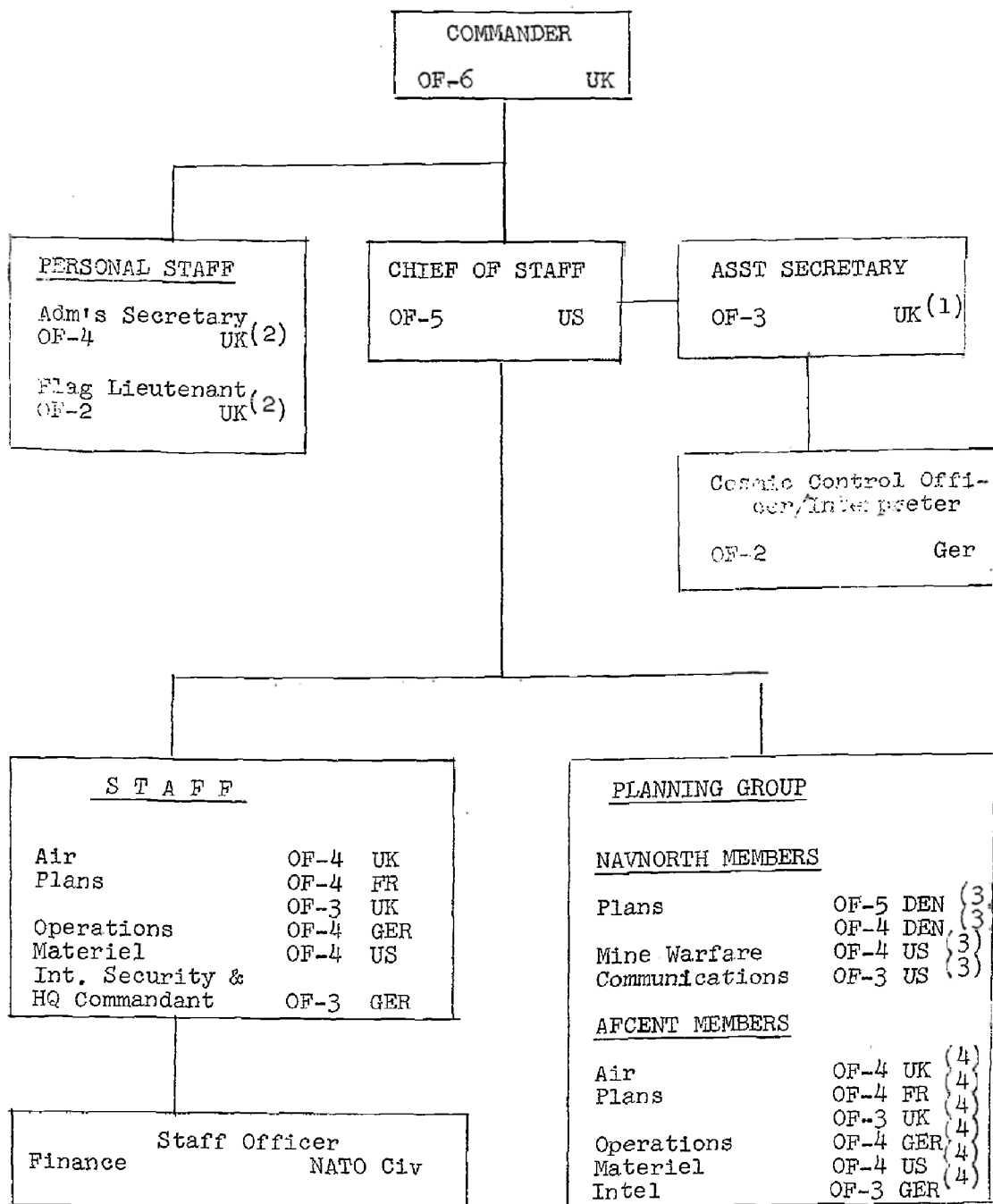
SG 70/40

~~SECRET~~ ~~NATO~~

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE "A"

COMPLEMENT FOR STAFF OF COMNAVNORCENT AND NORTH/CENTRE PLANNING GROUP



- (1) To be filled initially by an experienced British officer and then after a period of six months to review this table with a view to filling this billet with a German naval officer who shall have received job training.
- (2) Furnished on a national basis.
- (3) Internationally authorized officers from Headquarters NAVNORTH.
- (4) Officers who will fill staff posts in Headquarters NAVNORCENT.

~~SECRET~~ ~~NATO~~

SG 70/40

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE "B"

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMNAVNORCENT

1. COMNAVNORCENT is appointed as Chief of the Planning Group, Northern Area, Central Europe, at Holtenau, Federal Republic of Germany. This function he will exercise concurrently with that of his present command of the Allied Naval Forces, Northern Area, Central Europe.

2. Below are specified the wartime and peacetime missions for which COMNAVNORCENT will continue to be responsible to the Commander, Allied Naval Forces Central Europe; also defined are the new missions for which COMNAVNORCENT will be responsible within his command as head of the integrated staff which will be under his orders at Holtenau.

3. In wartime, and until such time as a final decision has been reached, COMNAVNORCENT will continue to direct the operations of the Royal Naval Rhine Squadron, the Royal Belgian Rhine Squadron and such additional forces as may be assigned to him in support of COMNAVCENT's mission. He will coordinate his operations with those of the Netherlands Rhine Evacuation Control Command and the river squadrons of the Central Army Group Area. In particular he will:

a. Deny to the enemy the ocean, coastal and inland waterways shipping on that part of the Rhine which is in the Northern Army Group Zone (and shipping in this zone arriving from the upper Rhine). Such shipping will be selectively evacuated to the maximum extent practicable, and all possible arrangements will be made to avoid disruption of evacuation by enemy action.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

b. Make provision for the destruction of such shipping and floating equipment that cannot be evacuated.

c. Support the Northern Army Group Commander to the maximum extent possible, and in particular in:

(1) The protection of bridges and prevention of enemy attempts to cross the Rhine.

(2) Emergency crossing of the Rhine, both operational and logistic.

(3) Evacuation of Allied nationals and non-combatants from the combat zone.

(4) Control and evacuation of refugees.

(5) Providing liaison with the Northern Army Group Commander for the support of the land battle by forces under his command.

4. In peacetime, COMNAVNORCENT tasks will consist:

a. In preparing, as regarding the forces assigned to or earmarked for his command, the plans necessary for the execution of the wartime missions in paragraph 3 above and in assuring that the state of training of these forces conforms to NATO standards.

b. In advising and assisting the German Naval Baltic Forces in all matters concerning their assignment to NATO. This assistance does not include any peacetime authority over the German Naval Baltic Forces which will be temporarily exercised by COMNORSEACENT.

5. To carry out his peacetime missions, he is authorized to enter into contact, whenever he thinks it advisable, with the German, Netherlands, Belgian and British military and naval authorities on territorial military command level.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED



NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET NATO~~

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NORTH/CENTER NAVAL PLANNING GROUP

1. COMNAVNORCENT will assume, at Holtenau, Federal German Republic, the functions of chairman of the North/Center Naval Planning Group jointly with his present responsibilities as Commander Allied Naval Forces, Northern Area, Central Europe.

2. The composition, methods of operation and specific terms of reference of the Naval Planning Group, the chairmanship of which COMNAVNORCENT will exercise, follow below:

AIM

3. The aim of this Naval Planning Group is to progress plans for all Baltic Naval Forces, assigned or likely to be assigned for duty and to undertake NATO exercise planning in this area.

COMPOSITION

4. The Naval Planning Group will be composed of two Danish and two United States naval officers detailed by the Commander, Allied Naval Forces Northern Europe (COMNAVNORTH) staff and an appropriate number of British, French and German naval officers as detailed by CINCENT.

METHODS OF OPERATION

5. This Naval Planning Group will function as a special element in COMNAVNORCENT headquarters at Holtenau.

6. The officers mentioned in paragraph 4 above will constitute a group of working parties responsible for the studies defined in paragraph 10 below.

7. Approximately every three months a full meeting of the Naval Planning Group will be held in Holtenau under COMNAVNORCENT chairmanship.

~~SECRET NATO~~  
SG 70/40

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED-PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MSM-130-96 DECLASSIFIE-MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE



NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET - NATO~~

8. Two officers of COMNAVCENT and COMNAVNORTH staffs will be temporarily detached by these Headquarters for the duration of these meetings in order to assure a close and harmonious coordination between the Naval Planning Group and the Northern and Central Europe Headquarters.

9. During these meetings, an order of priority will be established for studies to be undertaken during the following period and a detailed report will be provided for these studies made during the former period.

SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE

10. As Chairman of the North/Center Naval Planning Group, COMNAVNORCENT will be responsible to CINCENT and CINCNORTH for the following tasks:

a. Formulate plans to cover the following subjects:

(1) Organization required to assume operational control of naval and maritime air forces in the Baltic in war.

(2) Requirements for, and employment of, naval maritime air forces in the Baltic in war.

(3) Communications required to exercise conduct of these forces.

(4) Mining and minesweeping.

(5) Logistics requirements.

(6) Strategic studies on the Baltic approaches area.

b. To formulate recommendations for NATO exercises and training in the Baltic approaches area.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET - NATO~~

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

PROGRESS REPORTS

11. The results of these planning studies are to be presented to CINCNORTH through COMNAVNORTH and to CINCENT through COMNAVCENT, as soon as completed.

COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES

12. In order to carry out this mission, COMNAVNORCENT is directed to take national points of view into consideration at all stages of planning.

LIAISON WITH EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMANDS

13. In order to carry out his mission, COMNAVNORCENT will be authorized to come into liaison, whenever he thinks it advisable, with German and Danish naval and military and air authorities on the territorial military command level.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~NATO SECRET~~  
~~RESTRICTED~~

COPY NO. 1

23 August 1957

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

to SG 70/40

1. Holders of SG 70/40 (The Interim Allied Naval Command Organization in the Baltic) are requested to replace pages 3 and 4 with the attached pages 3 and 4.
2. Removed pages are to be destroyed by burning or reducing to pulp.
3. This cover page may be downgraded to RESTRICTED - NATO when the attached pages have been removed.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

*W. E. Abblitt*

W. E. ABLITT  
Lt Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Assistant Secretary

WEA:eh

DISTRIBUTION: as for basic paper

DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION MEMO. #3  
10 April 69  
Corrected  
26 Aug 57 HJ

SG 70/40 - Corrigendum No. 1

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~NATO SECRET~~  
~~RESTRICTED~~

DECLASSIFIED-PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MSM-130-96 DECLASSIFIE-MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

~~SECRET~~ ~~INFO~~

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

Personnel Establishment

7. Initial requirements for manning the new headquarters at Holtenau would be 10 officers, 32 other ranks and one NATO civilian. Nationalities of the military personnel are as follows:

<u>NATIONS</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>OTHER RANKS</u>
Germany	4*	22
United Kingdom	3*	7
United States	2	3
France	1	-
Total	10	32

An Organization Chart, with officer assignments, is attached at Enclosure "A".

Activation Date

8. It is highly desirable that the new headquarters of COMNAVNORCENT be activated on 1 September 1957, or as soon thereafter as practical, as the first squadron of German naval forces in the Baltic has now reported to SACEUR.

Functions and Composition

9. Terms of Reference for COMNAVNORCENT, in his proposed new role, are attached at Enclosure B. As an Integrated Allied Staff composed of German, French, United Kingdom, and United States, naval officers and other rank personnel is required, international financing is indicated.

CONCLUSIONS

10. It is concluded that:

a. Pending the establishment of an Allied Naval Command in the Baltic, an interim organization is required which would lend itself to a smooth transition into a more formal establishment at some future time.

b. In the interim, the Commander, Allied Naval Forces, Northern Area, Central Europe (COMNAVNORCENT) should be designated, in addition to his present responsibilities, as

\* See Footnote (1) at Enclosure "A".

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~ NATO

Chairman of a North/Center Planning Group which would be composed of members as indicated in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.

c. The Terms of Reference (see Enclosure "B") for COMNAVNORCENT and for the North/Center Naval Planning Group are appropriate and would permit:

(1) The German naval authorities to have access to NATO guidance from an Allied Commander on the spot in the early stages of the formation and build-up of German naval forces.

(2) Detailed plans for the defense of this vital area to be prepared and well underway as the German naval forces are assigned to NATO.

(3) SACEUR to reassign German naval squadrons to a NATO Naval Command as they become available for the Baltic.

(4) The participation of an integrated naval force in NATO exercises.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

11. The Standing Group recommends that the North Atlantic Council:

a. Approve the above conclusions.

b. Approve the international status and financing of the interim organization.

c. Note the desirability of the establishment of this organization by 1 September 1957, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

SECRET

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~ NATO

SG 70/40