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18 July 1966

Com. Phil Gw-4: L.O.I 3-66, CARIB 3-66
Letter of Instruction

(U) 3296

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NAVMC HQ 3351-CMC (REV. 9-64)

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COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP FOUR
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
FPO, NEW YORK 09501

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3120

Ser 0137

18 JULY 1966

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From: Commander Amphibious Group FOUR

To: Commander Amphibious Squadron TEN

Subj: Letter of Instruction 3-66, CARIB 3-66 (U)

Ref: (a) CTG 44.9 Standard Amphibious Group OPORD 38-YR, 2

(b) COMPHIBGRU FOUR INST 003120.4A

(c) COMPHIBLANTINST 03120.20A

(d) COMPHIBLANTINST P5000.1E

(e) COMPHIBLANTINST 03900.1A

(f) COMPHIBPACINST 02360.1

Encl: (1) Forces Assigned

1. Purpose. This Letter of Instruction, with supporting directives, establishes authority for the deployment and operation of forces assigned to CARIB 3-66.

2. Mission. Units assigned will deploy to the Caribbean Area and maintain a force ready to conduct military operations, surveillance, blockade, evacuation, and show of force as directed. To support this mission, the Amphibious Ready Group (TG 44.9) will conduct training as practicable, to maintain a high degree of readiness for such operations.

3. Execution. Reference (a) provides basic guidance for the conduct of operations by the Amphibious Ready Group (TG 44.9). The Amphibious Ready Group (TG 44.9) must be prepared at all times to initiate contingency operations in the Caribbean Area. The nature and areas of possible contingency operations are defined either in current OPORDS/OPLANS or will be provided as required; see reference (b). Pursuant to the foregoing and other pertinent directives, as OCE and Commander Amphibious Ready Group (CTG 44.9) you are directed to:

a. General

(1) Conduct overall operations in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Comply with September MEBLEX directives for departure NORVA, embarkation at MHC/Onslow Beach, N.C. and transit to the Caribbean Area.

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b. Training

(1) To the maximum extent possible, carry out the provisions of reference (e). The following specific training objectives from enclosure (1) to reference (e) are assigned for the deployment:

(a) Practice landings under electronic silence and conditions of reduced visibility.

(b) Exercise in the establishment and maintenance of radio teletype blind start crypto procedures with ship/shore terminal point during EMCON or simulated EMCON conditions.

(c) Conduct at least one underway night replenishment during the deployment.

(d) Arrange for the conduct of HELO para-drop UDT/SEAL personnel and through appropriate channels, arrange for Fulton Skyhook Recovery simulating evacuation of these personnel from hostile indigenous population environment.

(e) Exercise in the handling of Nuclear Weapons (trainers) including delivery of weapons to the landing force ashore.

(f) Exercise in the laying and use of underwater wire communication system in accordance with reference (f).

(2) In addition to the above, the following exercise objectives are also assigned for the deployment:

(a) Develop and test plans for rapid emergency reembarkation of the landing force including ground support equipment of CARIB based VMA/VMF squadron. Of particular interest is the time frame required.

(b) During non scheduled off loading by helo, evaluate the capability of the LPH to handle serials called out of order.

(c) During transit at sea, evaluate the positioning of a surface radar guardship 5 to 10 miles ahead of the formation, transmitting surface contact information in the blind while strict EMCON is enforced in other ships. Of interest is whether such information is sufficient to give a complete/satisfactory surface picture and based on this, whether the formation could be maneuvered to prevent surface contacts within a minimum CPA distance.

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(d) Conduct small arms training and tests of picket boat crews to evaluate their capability to deal with sneak attack craft and to evaluate their optimum armament.

(e) Evaluate procedures/capability to set up a transfer line (Article 512.j. NWIP 22-6(A)) on short notice using LVT/LCU for the surf zone lift.

(f) Evaluate UDT capability for night beach reconnaissance against actual drill obstacles/mines with specific regard to time/personnel required.

(7) Additional training guidance is contained in Annex T of reference (a).

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) This directive is effective for planning upon receipt and for operations 120001Z September 1966.

(2) Provide COMSERVLANT with one copy of all insert pages to CTG 44.9 OPOD 38-YR prepared for CARIB 3-66.

(3) 30 days prior to deployment, request from COMPHIBLANT certification of operational necessity for an increase of RPS to four months ROB for deploying ships.

(4) Keep COMPHIBLANT, CG, FMFLANT, CG 2d MARDIV and COMPHIBGRU FOUR advised of scheduled exercise dates as far in advance as possible.

4. Command

a. COMPHIBRON TEN is OCE and is designated CTG 44.9 and Commander Amphibious Ready Group upon relieving COMPHIBRON FOUR. When COMPHIBRON TEN is relieved as CTG 44.9 and Commander Amphibious Ready Group in December, COMPHIBRON TEN will revert to CTU 44.4.5.

b. Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, 2nd MARDIV, FMFLANT is CTG 45.2 for planning and transit and CTG 45.9 upon relief of CARIB 2-66.

R. G. Anderson
R. G. ANDERSON

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Copy to:

CINCLANTFLT	2	CO, USS SUFFOLK COUNTY	
COMSECONDFLT	2	(LST 1173)	2
TYCOMSLANT	2	(each) CO, USS RUCHAMKIN (APD 89)	2
COMASWFORLANT	2		
COMEASTSEAFRON	2	COMINDIV 84 (For dist.)	6
COMCARIBSEAFRON	2	COMINDIV 42 (For dist.)	6
CO, AFWR ROOS RDS	2		
USCINCSO	2		
COMUSNAVSO	2		

MARINE CORPS COMPONENTS

CMC	2
CG FMFLANT (For dist.)	25
COMMANDANT MARCORPSCOL	2
CO BLT 3/2	5

MAIL OFFICES

FPO NEW YORK	1
POSTAL OFFICER ATLANTIC	
FLEET, BOX 100, NAVBASE,	
NORFOLK 11, VA.	1
MRCC, WASH	1
MRC, NORVA	1
MRO, NEW YORK	1
MRO, SAN JUAN	1

NAVAL STATIONS

COMNAVBASE NORVA	2
CO NAVPHIBASE LCREEK	2
COMNAVBASE GTMO	2
CO NAVSTA ROOS RDS	5
CO NAVSTA SAN JUAN	3

PHIBLANT COMPONENTS

COMPHIBGRU TWO	2
COMPHIBRON FOUR	2
COMPHIBRON EIGHT	2

COMNAVBEACHGRU TWO (For dist.)	10
COMNAVOPSUPPGRULANT (For dist.)	3
COMTACGRU TWO	3

CO, USS BOXER (LPH 4)	2
CO, USS RANKIN (AKA 103)	2
CO, USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD 29)	2

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Forces Assigned

COMPHIBRON TEN	1 PHIBRON Commander and Staff
USS BOXER (LPH 4)	1 LPH
USS RANKIN (AKA 103)	1 AKA
USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD 29)	1 LSD
USS SUFFOLK COUNTY (LST 1173)	1 LST
USS RUCHAMKIN (APD 89)	1 APD
NAVOPSUPPGRULANT	1 DET
NAVBEACHGRU TWO	1 DET
TACRON 21	1 DET
COMINDIV 84 (Until 1 Dec 1966)	1 MINDIV Commander and Staff
USS SKILL (MSO 471)	
USS NIMBLE (MSO 459)	
USS PINNACLE (MSO 462)	
USS SAGACITY (MSO 469)	4 MSO
COMINDIV 42 (1 Dec 1966 -)	1 MINDIV Commander and Staff
USS BLUEBIRD (MSC 121)	
USS KINGBIRD (MSC 194)	
USS PARROT (MSC 197)	
USS MEADOWLARK (MSC 196)	
USS SHRIKE (MSC 201)	5 MSC

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Enclosure (1)

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