

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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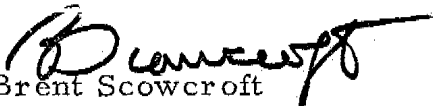
March 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

John A. Wickham, Jr.
Major General, U.S. Army
Military Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Defense

SUBJECT: Significant Military Exercise ARENA EXCHANGE

The significant military exercise ARENA EXCHANGE is approved.


Brent Scowcroft
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DOS REVIEWED 21 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

OSD REVIEWED 22-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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ACTION
March 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

Mr. Clift 

SUBJECT:

Significant Military Exercise ARENA EXCHANGE

With the memorandum at Tab B, the Department of Defense requests approval of the significant military exercise ARENA EXCHANGE. The decision is requested by April 1, 1975.

ARENA EXCHANGE, scheduled to be conducted from April 20 to May 1, is a small scale joint/combined SACEUR land reconnaissance "command post" exercise (CPX) designed to test NATO contingency plans for the employment of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force. The exercise will be conducted on the Zealand group of islands in southern Denmark and participants include army and air force headquarters units from the U.S. European Command, and similar units from seven other NATO nations. The exercise does not call for the maneuver of combat units.

The exercise has been coordinated with the Department of State and the U.S. Information Agency. They have raised no objections.

I do not see any policy problems and recommend that ARENA EXCHANGE be approved. If you agree, the memorandum for your signature to General Wickham at Tab A would approve Exercise ARENA EXCHANGE.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

22 MAR 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Significant Military Exercise ARENA EXCHANGE

Three copies of a brief on the significant military exercise ARENA EXCHANGE are forwarded for approval in accordance with NSAM 316. This exercise has been coordinated with the State Department and the U.S. Information Agency. They have raised no objections.

A summary of the politico-military scenario for this exercise appears at paragraph 8 of the brief.

The recommended general public information policy is set forth in paragraph 14 of the exercise brief.

Please note that the critical date for Presidential cancellation is 1 April.

W

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL, USA
MILITARY ASSISTANT

Enclosure
a/s

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WHEN WITH ATTACHMENTS

0018

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25 February 1975

UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND

BRIEF OF A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE

By _____
As per instructions on document
SPS / DAD
DECLASSIFIED
Date 3/84

1. (U) Name of Exercise: ARENA EXCHANGE
2. (C) Type: A small scale joint and combined SACEUR/ACE Mobile Force (Land) reconnaissance CPX and study period to be conducted between 20 April and 1 May 1975.
3. (C) Aims: To exercise Headquarters ACE Mobile Force (Land), battalion headquarters and elements of companies/batteries in the Southern ~~Denmark~~ and Zealand Island area of Denmark in accordance with contingency plans to demonstrate NATO solidarity.
4. (C) Dates: 20 April to 1 May 1975.
5. (C) Critical Date for Presidential Decision to Cancel Exercise: 1 April 1975.
6. (C) Political Implications:
 - a. US commitments to allies for conduct of exercise:

USAREUR:	Headquarters Company ACE Mobile Force (Land) Provisional National Support Element Engineering Company Aviation Detachment Augmentees (1 Officer, 6 Enlisted)
USAFE:	Airlift Control Element Deploy/redeploy airlift of Headquarters ACE Mobile Force (Land)
 - b. Date commitment made: 29 May 1974
 - c. Other political implications: None

Classified by USCINCEUR
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1981

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7. (C) Geographical Area: The exercise area includes the Zealand group of islands and Denmark, south of a line between Copenhagen, Roskilde, Ringsted and Korsøer.

8. (C) Politico-military Scenario Summary:

a. A simulated intelligence background will picture a deteriorating political situation between Denmark and the Orange Bloc progressing to subversion, initial raids, and aggression.

b. The exercise will be conducted in four phases:

Phase I (13-19 April) -- Intelligence Lead-in and Warning Period.

Phase II (20-24 April) -- Deployment including Reconnaissance.

Phase III (24-28 April) -- Employment.

Phase IV (29 April-1 May) -- Redeployment, PXD and Study Period.

9. (C) Directing Headquarters: COMLAND Zealand.

10. (C) Participating Commands, Headquarters, and Forces:

a. US:

(1) USAREUR:

1st Support Brigade	4 Officers, 75 Enlisted
11th Aviation Group	4 Officers, 6 Enlisted
VII Corps	8 Officers, 65 Enlisted

Two UH-1 helicopters will participate in the exercise.

(2) USAFE:

Airlift Control Element	5 Officers, 13 Enlisted
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Deployment/redeployment airlift (13 C-130 missions each way.)

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b. Allied:

Denmark
Germany
Italy
Belgium

Canada
United Kingdom
Luxembourg

c. Total approximate number of personnel participating: 1200 soldiers from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, and 1000 men from Danish staff elements.

11. (U) Scope of Anticipated Participation:

- a. Other unified or specified commands - None
- b. Unassigned forces of the US Military Services - None
- c. Other Federal agencies or departments - None
- d. Allied nations - See paragraph 10b

12. (C) Simulated Use of Nuclear Weapons: None

13. (C) Coordination Effected with Other Unified, Specified, or Service Commands, Governmental Departments, Agencies, or Representatives Thereof: Coordination for participation of USAREUR Forces has been effected with Headquarters ACE Mobile Force (Land).

14. (C) Recommended General Public Information Policy:

- a. The public information policy will be active.
- b. When dealing with press queries the following should be stressed:
 - (1) The role of the ACE Mobile Force as a demonstration of NATO solidarity.
 - (2) The importance of outside assistance.
 - (3) The importance of ACE Mobile Force training in cooperation with host nation forces.

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c. An initial press release will be issued on 1 April 1975 simultaneously by CINCNORTH, CINCENT, and COMBALTAP. Following is the proposed text:

"A small-scale joint and combined NATO Command Post Exercise will be conducted on the Zealand group of islands from 20 April to 1 May 1975. The exercise has been nicknamed ARENA EXCHANGE. The aim of ARENA EXCHANGE is to exercise participating elements of the ACE Mobile Force in their Danish contingency area in accordance with plans. Furthermore the purpose of the exercise is to demonstrate NATO solidarity and to familiarize the participating staff elements of the ACE Mobile Force with the contingency area and the host nation forces. Only elements of the ACE Mobile Force land component will take part in the exercise. They consist of a total of approximately 1200 soldiers from the UK, US, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. They will be transported by rail, road, sea and air to Zealand and will be deployed in the Naestved area. Up to 1000 men from Danish staff elements and units in Zealand will also participate. This figure will include some members of the home guard and home defense battalions. ARENA EXCHANGE is scheduled by SACEUR and will be conducted by CINCNORTH, CINCENT and COMBALTAP."

15. (U) General Policy Concerning:

- a. Diplomatic information: None
- b. Security restrictions: None
- c. Psychological elements: None

16. (C) Additional Remarks:

- a. To reduce fuel consumption, the majority of deployment and redeployment operations will be accomplished by rail. 13 C-130 missions will be utilized to airlift directed units, Airlift Control Element and Airlift Control Element-support equipment.

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b. Taken in isolation it is estimated that the Soviet could derive no specific perception based on the exercise OPORD. However, taken in the overall context of US/NATO exercises, it is possible that the Soviets might perceive that we expect any future attacks against NATO to be generated using the declaration of an exercise as a cover to mask combat preparation.

Prepared by:

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Extension 74064

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