

STAFF COLLEGE

SOs' HANDBOOK

PART VI - FORMATS FOR OFFENSIVE AIR SP

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AIR REQ MSG

Purpose

This msg is used when an army fm requests air sp in the form of close air sp, interdiction or tac recce (armed, visual or photo). It will not be used for reqs for area photo cover, for which the Req for Photo form is provided.

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (See Note 2)		MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS (See Note 3)
FROM		
TO		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 4)
INFO		ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER
<p><u>AIR REQ.</u> These will be the first words of the msg.</p> <p><u>REQ NO.</u> (See Note 5.)</p> <p>A. <u>DETAILS OF TASK.</u> Destroy, neutralise or search; tgt(s) to attk/look for (eqpt, nos, dir of mov if any); grid ref(s) of tgt(s) or of loc(s) to search. If required, state pri. (See Note 6.)</p> <p>B. <u>TIME OVER TGT.</u> Specific time or ASP and a "not after time"/"latest time" info of value. Use full date/time gp if required for clarity.</p> <p>C. <u>POSN OF FWD TPS.</u> Grid ref(s) if within 1,000 yds: if grid ref(s) not nec, state nil.</p> <p>D. <u>CON ARRANGEMENTS.</u> Any of the fol as applicable:- BASO/ALO call-sign and freq. FAC call-sign and freq. Contact or con pt. Indicator smoke. Panels. Landmarks. Any other info, eg hazards, en AA.</p> <p>E. <u>IN-FLT REPORT.</u> Give call-sign (and freq if nec) to whom In-flt Report is to be made.</p>		<p>AIR REQ 0</p> <p>3/A501 0</p> <p>A 0 DESTROY THREE TKS IN WOOD JA356464 0</p> <p>B 0 1600Z 1630Z 0</p> <p>C 0 NIL 0</p> <p>D 0 HOBO* ON TADC<sup>0</sup> AT BR JA324117 0 RED SMOKE 0</p> <p>E 0 SWORDFISH* ON TAD 1<sup>0</sup> (See Note 6)</p> <p>*Call-signs <sup>0</sup>Spec ground/air nets</p>

NOTES

1. Procedure. Reqs for immediate sp will be passed over the tac air req net to the tasking agency (ASOC in the case of the UK Joint Svcs). Reqs for pre-planned sp will normally be passed over comd channels.
  2. Precedence
    - a. Immediate Reqs. Normally up to OP IMMEDIATE, depending on tac urgency and present delays on comm circuits.
    - b. Pre-planned Reqs. As required.
  3. Msg Instrs. For UK Joint Svcs, insert TAR NET unless the msg is to go by comd channels, when the box is left blank. (NATO procedures vary.)
  4. Security Cl. For UK Joint Svcs, insert UNCLASSIFIED if TOT is within 2 hrs; RESTD or higher cl if over 2 hrs. JOC may vary the 2 hr limit according to the tac sit. When Asrex is used (eg for reqs classified up to SECRET and passed on tac air req, tac air comd or GLO nets), the radio op is responsible for encoding the essential portions of the text. (NATO procedures vary.)
  5. Req No
    - a. Req nos will be prefixed by 3/ for close sp and interdiction reqs and by 2/ for recce reqs.
    - b. The subsequent ltr and no gp will ident the requesting fmn and the serial no of its req. Identifying ltrs and blocks of nos will be allotted to fmns by the senior army fmn HQ in the theatre.
  6. Except in emergency, freqs should not be transmitted in plain language, but previously allocated circuit designators should be used in lieu as shown in the example.
  7. To assist the tasking agency, the senior army fmn in the theatre may estb a system of pris to be allotted to reqs by initiating fmns.
  8. Omission of Para Prefix Ltrs. If not required, para prefix ltrs will be omitted except in the case of C which always requires a grid ref(s) or specific NIL.
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ACCEPT/REFUSE (A/R) MSG

Purpose

This is the msg used by the tasking agency to info an army fm of the acceptance or refusal of a req for air sp.

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (See Note 1)			MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS (See Note 2)
FROM			
TO			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 3)
INFO			
A/R. These ltrs will always start the msg.			A/R 0
REQ NO.			3/A501 0
ACCEPTED OR REFUSED. Give reason for refusal.			ACCEPTED

NOTES

1. Precedence. Normally up to PRI depending on tac urgency and present delays on comm circuits.
2. Msg Instrs. For UK Joint Svcs, insert TAR NET. (NATO procedures vary.)
3. Security Cl. UNCLASSIFIED unless reason for refusal warrants RESTD.

AIR TASK MSG

Purpose

This is the standard msg used by the tasking agency to task ac for air sp mshs. (See Note 1.)

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (As required)			
FROM			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (As required)
TO			
INFO			
<u>AIR TASK/MSN NO.</u> AIR TASK will be the first words of the msg. They will be fol by the MSN NO allotted by the tasking agency.			AIR TASK 323 0
<u>REQ NO.</u> Insert req no from Air Req Msg.			3/A501 0
A. <u>DETAILS OF TASK</u>			A 0 ) As for
B. <u>TIME OVER TGT</u>			B 0 ) items A-E
C. <u>POSN OF FWD TPS</u>			C 0 ) in air req
D. <u>CON ARRANGEMENTS</u>			D 0 ) msg.
E. <u>IN-FLT REPORT</u>			E 0 ) (See Note 2.)
F. <u>SQN (OR WING)</u>			F 0 8 0
G. <u>NO AND TYPE OF AC</u>			G 0 TWO HUNTERS 0
H. <u>ARMAMENT</u>			H 0 RP AND CANNON
J. <u>ANY SPEC INSTES</u> (See Notes 3 and 4.)			

NOTES

1. Procedure. For UK Joint Svcs, ASOC will normally pass the Air Task Msg to airfids or carrs over the RAF or naval tac air comd net or equivalent line circuit. (NATO procedures vary.)
2. For UK Joint Svcs, items A-E should be omitted if the Air Req Msg has already been immediately broadcast on the GLO net by the ASOC and if no amdts are required.
3. Para prefix ltr I has been omitted to avoid confusion.
4. Items not required will be omitted, eg para prefix ltr J in the above illustration.

TIME OVER TGT (TOT) MSG

Purpose

This is the standard form of msg used by the air base or carr to info the tasking agency and the requesting fmn of the final details of the msn being despatched to meet an air req. (See Note 1.)

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (See Note 2)		MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS (See Note 3)
FROM		
TO		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 4)
INFO		
<p><u>TOT</u>. These ltrs will always start the msg.</p> <p>A. <u>REQ NO AND AIR TASK/MSN NO</u></p> <p>B. <u>TIME OVER TGT</u></p> <p>C. <u>NO AND TYPE OF AC AND ARMAMENT</u></p> <p>D. <u>CON ARRANGEMENTS</u>. Concur (or amend) arrangements in Air Task Form.</p>		<p>TOT 0</p> <p>A 0 3/A501 0 323 0</p> <p>B 0 1610Z 0</p> <p>C 0 FOUR HUNTERS RP 0</p> <p>D 0 SMOKE NOT REQUIRED</p>

NOTES

1. Procedure. For UK Joint Svcs, the msg will be initiated by the GLO/CHGLO and normally passed over the GLO net to ASOC and thence over the tac air req net to the requesting fmn. (NATO procedures vary.)
2. Precedence. Normally up to OP IMMEDIATE, but if nec may be upgraded to EMERGENCY. The precedence given will depend on tac urgency and present delays on comm circuits.
3. Msg Instrs. For UK Joint Svcs, insert TAR NET. (NATO procedures vary.)
4. Security Cl. For UK Joint Svcs, insert UNCLASSIFIED if TOT is within 2 hrs, otherwise RESTD. JOC may vary the time limit of 2 hrs according to the sit. When classified, the radio op encodes the essential portions of the text. (NATO procedures vary.)

IN-FLT REPORT

Purpose

1. An In-flt Report is the radio report by which a msn ldr passes immediate info concerning the results of the msn.
2. The In-flt Report is also used to pass details of obsns which a msn ldr considers, in the lt of his briefing, to amount to vital tac info. Such info is passed, with FLASH precedence, by the ground sta to the tasking agency, or other appropriate auth.

Content

3. The msn ldr transmits a brief verbal msg to the ground agency nominated in the Air Task Form stating:-

Req No and Air Task/Msn No, results of msn, time of  
attk or obsn, recommendation for attk/re-attk if nec.

Example:- REQ 3/A501 @ AIR TASK 323 @ TGT  
ATTACKED 1610Z @ TWO DESTROYED ONE DAMAGED @  
20 TKS MOVING WEST OUT OF HOP 1615Z

4. Info may be passed in the form of a code laid down by theatre HQ.
-

MSN REPORT (MISREP)

Purpose

This is the standard form of msg used by the air base/carr to info the tasking agency of the results of a msn. It is also added to the requesting fm when an In-flt Report has not been made to that fm. (See Note 1.)

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (See Note 2)			
FROM			
TO			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 3)
INFO			
<u>MISREP.</u> This word will always start the msg. A. <u>REQ NO</u> B. <u>AIR TASK/MSN NO</u> C. <u>TGT NO/TGT LOC/LINE SEARCH NO</u> (See Note 4.) D. <u>TIME OVER TGT</u> E. <u>RESULTS</u> F. <u>OTHER INFO.</u> Weather etc. (Omit if not required.)		MISREP 0 A 0 3/B707 0 B 0 334 0  D 0 1130Z 0 E 0 TWO ANTENNAE DESTROYED 0 F 0 HEAVY FLAK JA231262	

NOTES

1. Procedure. The msg is compiled by the ops staff or GLO/CBGL0 and is passed by the fastest means (comd channel or GLO net) to the tasking agency (ASOC for UK Joint Svcs). The msg is not used for int reports or Ph R msn compiled by photo interpreters, for which the Hot and Immediate Photo Int Reports are provided.
2. Precedence. Normally up to OP IMMEDIATE, depending on tac urgency and present delays on comm circuits.
3. Security Cl. Will depend on content of msg.
4. Para Prefix Ltr C. Tgt No and Line Search No are used in circumstances (such as in NATO) in which tgts and recce searches have been previously classified and are known to all concerned by specific nos. Tgt Loc may be of use in, for example, VR msn, or may be self-evident from the req no. This para may, therefore, not be required and should then be omitted.



FWD LINE OWN TPS (FLOT) MSG

Purpose

This is the standard form of msg used by fwd army fmns to info the tasking agency and GLOs of the posn of our own tps. (See Note 1.)

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE -- ACTION (See Note 2)			
FROM			
TO			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 3)
INFO			
<u>FLOT.</u> These ltrs will always begin the msg. A. <u>TIME FLOT ESTB</u> B. <u>LINE OF FWD TPS</u> C. <u>WEATHER CONDITIONS</u> (See Note 4)		FLOT 0 A 0 071730Z 0 B 0 JA372746- JA359631-JA361470	

NOTES

1. Procedure. To save t/c on air sp comms circuits, and in particular the tac air req net, the msg will be sent to the tasking agency by other means, whenever time permits. The tasking agency for UK Joint Svcs is ASOC.
2. Precedence. Normally up to PRI, although the initiating SO may allot higher grading if nec. The precedence given will depend on tac urgency and present delays on comm circuits.
3. Security Cl. Normally RESTD, but the initiating SO may allot a higher grading if nec.
4. Weather Conditions. Insert if required by standing orders; otherwise omit.

BOMBLINE (BL) MSG

Purpose

This is the standard form of msg used to info air bases/carrs about the current bombline. (See Note 1.)

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (See Note 2)			
FROM			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 3)
TO			
INFO			
<u>BL.</u> These ltrs will always begin the msg. <u>A.</u> <u>NO OF BOMBLINE</u> <u>B.</u> <u>TIME OF EFFECTIVENESS</u> <u>C.</u> <u>DESCRIPTION OR CODE NAME</u>		BL 0 A 0 12 0 B 0 071200Z 0 C 0 WHITE LADY	

NOTES

- Procedure. For UK Joint Svcs, ASOC passes the msg to airfds and carrs by means of RAF or naval tac air comd nets whenever possible, rather than on the GLO net. (NATO procedures vary.)
- Precedence. Normally up to PRI, depending on tac urgency and present delays on comm circuits.
- Security Cl. For UK Joint Svcs, insert UNCLASSIFIED if para prefix ltr C is a code name. If para prefix ltr C is a description, msg will be graded RESTD.

REQ FOR PHOTO (PHOTO REQ)

Purpose

This is the standard form of msg used by a fm to req area Ph R. (See Note 1.)

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (See Note 2)			
FROM			
TO	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 3)		
INFO			
<p><u>PHOTO REQ.</u> These will always be the first words of the msg.</p> <p>L. <u>SERIAL NO.</u> Abbreviated army fm title fol by stroke fol by no in consecutive series starting at beginning of each calendar year.</p> <p>M. <u>TYPE OF RECCE.</u> State vertical, oblique, continuous strip, film etc. If oblique state direction camera to face to nearest cardinal pt. If stereo pairs or pin-pts required give details.</p> <p>N. <u>MAP SERIES AND SHEET NO</u></p> <p>O. <u>DESCRIPTION AND GRID REF.</u> For verticals give description and grid refs of corners of area. For obliques also give ends of foreground line.</p> <p>P. <u>PURPOSE.</u> (To assist photo interpreters.)</p> <p>Q. <u>SCALE.</u> Large, med or small.</p> <p>R. <u>NO OF COPIES.</u> Kept to required min. If photo interpretation report will suffice, no prints will be requested.</p> <p>S. <u>DEL. ADDRESS. DATE. TIME</u></p> <p>T. <u>DEADLINE</u></p> <p>U. <u>SPEC INSTRS.</u> For example:- Degree of urgency Spec del instrs</p>		<p>PHOTO REQ @</p> <p>L @ 3BR/21 @</p> <p>M @ VERTICAL @</p> <p>N @ GSGS 4507 SHEET 6 @</p> <p>O @ CORNER OF WOOD 683971-X RDS 791972- RLY BR 791724-RD AND TRACK JUNC 691721 @</p> <p>P @ SUSPECTED MISSILE SYSTEM @</p> <p>Q @ LARGE @</p> <p>R @ TEN @</p> <p>S @ 15 JUN 1700Z @</p> <p>T @ 17 JUN 1230Z @</p> <p>U @ NIL</p>	

NOTES

1. Procedure. The msg is passed to the tasking agency (ASOC for UK Joint Svcs), either through army cmd channels or, if immediate, over the tac air req net.
2. Precedence. Normally up to PRI depending on tac urgency and present delays on comm circuits.
3. Security Cl. Normally SECRET.

HOT PHOTO INT REPORT (HOTREP)

Purpose

This is the standard form of msg used by photo interpreters at air bases/ cairs to report to the tasking agency urgent tac info which has been obtained during examination of the wet or dry negatives or the first photo prints. The info must be vital enough not to be able to wait for the Immediate Photo Int Report (IR).

Format and Content

PRECEDENCE - ACTION (See Note 1)			
FROM			
TO	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (See Note 2)		
INFO			
A. <u>HOTREP</u> . This will always be the first word of the msg.	A @ HOTREP @		
B. <u>REPORT NO</u> . Sqn no fol by stroke fol by no in consecutive series starting at beginning of each calendar year. (This report no must correspond to related Immediate Report No.)	B @ 28/11 @		
C. <u>PLACE NAME AND/OR GRID REF</u> or <u>TGT NO ONLY (IF AVAIL)</u>	C @ 3BR/21 @		
D. <u>NARRATIVE</u> . Positive statement(s) in answer to purpose given in req.	D @ CONFIRMED TWO MISSILE LAUNCHERS AND CON SYSTEM AT 721793 @ MOV OF TFS AND REFUEL- LING VEHs IN AREA @		
E. <u>DATE/TIME GROUP OF PHOTO</u>	E @ 160930Z @		
F. <u>MSN NO</u>	F @ 28 RAF 17		

NOTES

1. Precedence. At discretion of initiating offr according to est value of content of msg to the tasking agency (ASOC for UK Joint Svcs), and according to present state of comm circuits.
2. Security Cl. Will depend on content of msg.

IMMEDIATE PHOTO INT REPORT (IR)

Purpose

This is the standard form of written report completed by the photo interpreters at the air base/carr for every photo msn. It is addl to the Hot Photo Int Report if submitted. It is normally sent through int channels.

Format and Content

The report is prep as follows:-

<u>HEADING</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
A. <u>NAME OF REPORT</u>	A @ IR @
B. <u>REPORT NO.</u> Sqn no fol by stroke fol by no in consecutive series starting at the beginning of each calendar year. (This Report No must correspond to the related Hotrep No.)	B @ 303/21 @
C. <u>PLACE/NAME AND/OR GRID REF</u>	C @ KOKSLACH TL 6327 @
or	
<u>TGT NO ONLY (IF AVAL)</u>	
D. <u>NARRATIVE.</u> Positive statement in answer to purpose given in req.	D @ EAST-WEST RUNWAY 9,000 FT x 200 FT @ 28 FRESCO @ 17 BEAGLE @ CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY INDICATES RUNWAY BEING EXTENDED @
E. <u>DATE/TIME GP OF PHOTO</u>	E @ 191200Z @
F. <u>MSN NO</u>	F @ 303/574 @
G. <u>PERCENTAGE OF PHOTO COVER</u>	G @ 100% @
H. <u>PHOTO NOS AND TYPE OF PHOTO</u>	H @ 1-3 V @
J. <u>QUALITY OF PHOTO AND APPROX SCALE</u>	J @ A @ 1/12,000

NOTE

All items are repeated for each addl tgt on the same photo sortie.