

GUIDANCE on CAMP SECURITY

Falkland
Islands
Government

R/DEF/FID/1#4

GUIDANCE ON CAMP SECURITY

This short pamphlet attempts to give simple guidance to Managers and all those concerned with defence in camp.

General control of weapons

Ideally, weapons should be kept under lock and key under the control, but not necessarily in the hands, of the Manager. Weapons should be handed out periodically for cleaning and training. If Managers can make one man available for an hour or so once a month cleaning can be done very easily. Ten minutes a rifle is usually adequate.

Weapons left lying about in individual hands are a danger as sooner or later someone will use one for a wrong purpose.

If Managers feel it is the general opinion on their farm that weapons are unnecessary they should consult with the Officer Commanding Royal Marines or the Colonial Secretary and arrangements can then be made for their reallocation to those places where they are wanted and where there is still a shortage.

What are these weapons for and what do we mean by defence?

The weapons have been issued for defensive purposes but this does not mean that camp stations are to fight their own battles. It cannot be emphasized enough that in the event of the arrival of undesirable persons the indiscriminate use of firearms could only make matters worse. Remember, if you open fire you can expect someone to fire back and most likely with a superior number of weapons.

The idea behind the issue of weapons is that forces coming to your aid would benefit from the support of locally based firearms in the hands of persons who know the country.

What happens if a farm is attacked?

The following courses of action are recommended:

1. Get news of the intrusion to Stanley by R/T or telephone if possible. If not, you must do your utmost to warn your outside houses and neighbouring farms by messenger. Even if you are unable to contact Stanley your neighbour should eventually be able to do so.

Speed and accuracy are all important.

2. Issue weapons and ammunition to those men entitled to them. These are purely for defensive fire and for use only in the sort of situation where an opposing force opens fire from a distance.

Never open fire first and only then in direct self defence where no other course of action is possible.

3. You may have to consider evacuating women and children out into Camp where they will be out of harm's way.

4. Warn men with weapons to be ready to act as armed guides and to meet the relieving forces at some pre-arranged rendezvous.

5. Keep listening on the R/T or telephone and the Stanley Broadcasting Service wavelengths so that you can keep Stanley informed of developments and receive instructions as to the arrival of relieving forces.

Do not clutter up the air with unnecessary chatter and advice.

This could only block the passing of important messages.

It is most important that all reports to Stanley be as accurate as possible. Try and include information on the following —

- (a) Numbers of intruders;
- (b) Direction in which moving;
- (c) Whether by boat or aircraft. If so, the size.
- (d) Any identification of dress, etc. What sort of weapons if recognizable.

Training

Royal Marine training teams will continue to visit settlements to train men in basic weapon handling and fieldcraft. The old adage that "a little knowledge is dangerous" is well worth remembering and the Royal Marines are fully aware of this. Field firing and weapon handling will continue to be taught with the aim of making men self reliant with their weapons.

This organisation is of necessity sketchy but it is based on three things:

- (1) that the Manager is in charge and interested;
- (2) that all the other men on a farm are keen enough to want to take part in a defence scheme; and
- (3) that a satisfactory response by the Royal Marines and F.I.D.F. to any aggression can only be achieved by the receipt of quick and accurate information.

Lastly; please remember that this pamphlet is not sent out to alarm you but has been put together at the request of certain farm managers who have asked for some rather more firm guidance than has hitherto been provided. It does not envisage any new situation.
