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Former CIA Chief Says Both Britain And Argentina Lost War

ANNAPOLIS, Md.

Former Central Intelligence Agency chief and retired Adm. Stansfield Turner says both Britain and Argentina lost last year's battle for the Falkland Islands.

Turner, writing in the April issue of the U.S. Naval Institute's publication Proceedings, said both countries seriously underestimated each other and that Argentina made classic military errors.

Argentina allowed its garrison on the islands to be cut off and could not resupply its troops, said Turner, also former head of the Naval War College.

Turner also said Argentina's forces were not motivated.

"Argentine military leaders, in short, were lulled into believing that because they had adequate, modern equipment, they were a fighting force _ when they were not," Turner wrote. "How effective were Argentina's multi-million-dollar weapon systems when placed in the hands of untrained men?"

Turner said the British personnel were far superior and better trained, but criticized their naval operations.

"The British 'Achilles' heel' in the Falklands was not that their carriers were too small, but there were too few," he said. "They only had two of them. Had they lost even one, it is quite possible that the Argentines might have taken back control of the seas around the islands."

Turner said that although Britain regained the islands, "The British lost because they are now paying a troublesome price of having to maintain a military force on and around the islands for the indefinite future."