

Op-38-E-EMW
VZ/A3-1(310501)

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of Naval Operations
Washington, D. C.

26 October 1931.

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To: All Bureaus and Offices, Fleet, Aviation Units
and Stations Concerned.

SUBJECT: Naval Aeronautical Organization - Fiscal Year 1932 -
Modification of.

Reference: (a) Naval Aeronautical Organization - Fiscal Year 1932 -
Op-38-E-EMW VZ/A3-1(310501) Of 1 May 1931.

1. Reference (a) is modified as follows:-

(a) Paragraph 14, sub-paragraph 3, under Commander
Aircraft, Battle Force, add :-

VS-14M with 6 VS planes to SARATOGA.
VS-15M with 6 VS planes to LEXINGTON.

(b) Under U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Aviation
(Page 10) make following changes:-

1st Dist. Squantum	from 9VN-8VO	to 9VN-7VO
3d Dist. New York	from 9VN-7VO	to 9VN-6VO
5th Dist. Hampton Roads	from 3VN	to 3VN-1VO
7th Dist. Miami	from 3VN-3VO	to 3VN-1VO
9th Dist. Great Lakes	from 9VN-8VO	to 9VN-7VO
Anacostia	from 3VN-3VO	to 3VN-4VO
Quantico	from 3VN	to 3VN-3VO

(c) Under U. S. Marine Corps, on page 11, change

VO-6M from 12 VO to 6 VO
VO-8M from 12 VO to 6 VO

and add

Aircraft, Battle Force

USS SARATOGA	VS-14M	6VS
USS LEXINGTON	VS-15M	6VS

W. R. Sexton
Acting

Departmental Distribution:-

I, II, III, IV (for VI, VIII and VII)
V, IX and Xa

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From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To: All Bureaus and Offices, Fleet, Aviation Units,
and Stations Concerned.

SUBJECT: Naval Aeronautical Organization - Fiscal Year 1932.

1. The following assignment of Naval Aircraft, Naval Vessels, and Aviation Details will become effective on 1 July 1931 and will constitute the "Naval Aeronautical Organization" for the fiscal year 1932.

2. The Bureau of Aeronautics is responsible for the supply of aircraft in accordance with this organization. Unless otherwise noted 50% spare planes will be supplied operating units for maintaining the operating strength. Where indicated in this organization no spare airplanes are required.

3. Except as indicated herein, no planes in excess of the number appearing in the column headed "Authorized Operating Strength" shall be operated without specific authority of the Chief of Naval Operations. The Bureau of Aeronautics is authorized to assign obsolete or experimental planes for utility purposes provided such planes are in safe flying condition. These may be operated in excess of authorized operating complements, but no increases in personnel nor flight orders will be allowed.

4. In order to provide for regular major overhaul, spare planes supplied will be used for the replacement of squadron planes that are in need of major repairs. Operating units will at no time be equipped with planes in excess of the allowed operating complements except in the case of obsolete planes. This may result in temporary reductions in planes available for squadrons operations at such times as minor repairs, inspections, and overhauls within the capacity of squadron repair forces are found necessary.

5. Whenever a squadron or unit cannot be kept at authorized operating strength, a report will be submitted by the Commanding Officer to the Chief of Naval Operations.

6. The Naval Aeronautic Organization is administered in the following subdivisions:

- I. Fleet Aviation.
 - A. U. S. Fleet.
 - (a) Battle Force
 - (b) Scouting Force
 - (c) Base Force
 - B. Asiatic Fleet.
- II. Naval Districts.
- III. U. S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Aviation.
- IV. U. S. Marine Corps.
- V. Details for Administration, Training and Development.

I. FLEET AVIATION

7. Aircraft are organized into squadrons and units and assigned as hereinafter stipulated. Such assignment of aircraft does not prohibit the temporary reassignment by the Commanders of Fleets and Forces of any aircraft unit, including surface vessels, as a part of a task group organization for tactical or special purposes.

8. The Commander Aircraft, Battle Force, U. S. Fleet, in addition to his regular duties as a subdivision commander of the Battle Force is the technical advisor to the Commander Battle Force and the Commander Base Force with reference to all aviation in those forces. In this advisory capacity he will take the initiative in the matter of recommendations concerning personnel, material, operation, and in furnishing technical information, as conditions may warrant, for any and all aviation of those forces.

9. In the same manner, the Commander Aircraft, Asiatic Fleet, and Commander Aircraft, Scouting Force, in addition to their regular duties as subdivision commanders of the Asiatic Fleet and the Scouting Force, are the technical advisors to the Commander-in-Chief, Asiatic Fleet, and the Commander Scouting Force with reference to all aviation in those forces.

10. Fleet aircraft units not assigned to the Commanders of Aircraft are under the command of the subdivision commander of the unit to which they are attached. These subdivision commanders are directly in charge of and responsible for such aircraft assigned to vessels of their command in the same manner and degree as they are for surface vessels comprising the subdivision which they command.

11. Planes destined for service in fleet aviation units ordinarily will be assigned by the Bureau of Aeronautics to pools under the control of the Commander Aircraft, Battle Force the Commander Aircraft, Scouting Force and the Commander Aircraft, Asiatic Fleet. Under the general direction of their superior commanders these officers will assign planes to specific units as may be required. Planes from fleet units requiring major overhaul will be turned over to these officers at such bases or to such vessels as they may direct. For better coordination in the overhaul of airplanes, the Bureau of Aeronautics will not assign to Fleet Pools the aircraft normally stationed at the Fleet Air Bases Pearl Harbor and Coco Solo, but will assign them directly to the commanding officers of those stations.

12. Squadrons may be temporarily based ashore or on other ships at the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet, the Commander Battle Force, the Commander Scouting Force, and the Commander-in-Chief, Asiatic Fleet.

13. The Naval Air Stations at San Diego and Hampton Roads, the Fleet Air Bases at Pearl Harbor and Coco Solo, and the Naval Station at Cavite, are the overhaul and repair bases for all aircraft normally operating in the areas adjacent to those stations and bases.

14. Assignment of Aircraft and Vessels in the Aeronautical Organization of the U. S. Navy:-

A. U. S. FLEET

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>:Authorized Operating Strength:</u>	<u>Assigned</u>
Flag Unit	: 3 VO	: CinC, U. S. Fleet

Note: Pilots assigned to Flag Units will be ordered to report to the Commanding Officers of the Flagships for duty and to the Flag Officer for additional duty involving flying with the flag aviation units.

(a) BATTLE FORCE

Squadron	: Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
Flag Unit	: 1 VJ	: Comdr. Battle Force
Ship Unit	: 3 VO	: CALIFORNIA

(1) Commander Battleships, Battle Force

VO-1B	: 6 VO	: Batdiv. One
VO-2B	: 3 VO	: Batdiv. Two
VO-3B	: 9 VO	: Batdiv. Three
VO-4B	: 12 VO	: Batdiv. Four

The Commander, Battle Force, normally will assign the CALIFORNIA's planes to one of the observation squadrons for administrative, gunnery and tactical purposes.

When IDAHO begins modernization VO-2B will be placed in an inoperative status.

(2) Commander Destroyers, Battle Force.

Flag Unit	: 2 VS	: Comdr. Destroyers, B.F.
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(3) Commander Aircraft, Battle Force.(Carrier Division Two)

SARATOGA - Aircraft Carrier, 1st Line
 LEXINGTON - Aircraft Carrier, 1st Line
 GANNET - minesweeper for plane guard and tender service.

Destroyers as may be detailed from time to time under command Battle Force for plane guard service.

Squadron	: Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
Flag Unit	: 2 VJ	: Comdr. Aircraft Batfor.
VF-1B	: 18 VF	: SARATOGA
VF-6B	: 18 VF	: "
VS-2B	: 12 VS	: "
VT-2B	: 18 VT	: "
Utility Unit	: # 4 VJ	: "
VF-2B	: 18 VF	: LEXINGTON
VF-5B	: 18 VF	: "
VS-3B	: 12 VS	: "
VT-1B	: 18 VT	: "
Utility Unit	: # 4 VJ	: "

(4) Commander Minecraft, Battle Force

Fleet Air Base, Pearl Harbor

PELICAN - Minesweeper for plane guard
and tender service.

Squadron	:Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
VP-1B	: 6 VP	: Operated from Pearl Harbor.
VP-4B	: 12 VP (25% spares allowed)	: Operated from Pearl Harbor
VP-6B	: 12 VT	: Operated from Pearl Harbor
VP-12B	: 12 VP (25% spares allowed)	: Operated from Pearl Harbor.
Utility Unit	: *2 VJ - *1 VR	: Operated from Pearl Harbor.

(b) SCOUTING FORCE

Squadron	:Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
Flag Unit	: 4 VS	: Comdr. Scout.Force

(1) Commander Cruisers, Scouting Force

Squadron	:Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
VS-5S	: 8 VS	: Crudiv Two
VS-6S	: 8 VS	: Crudiv Three
VS-9S	: 12 VS	: Crudiv Four
VS-10S	: 12 VS	: Crudiv Five

(2) Commander Destroyers, Scouting Force.

Flag Unit	: 2 VS	: Comdr.Destroyers,S.F.
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(3) Commander Aircraft, Scouting Force.(Commander Carrier Division One)

Fleet Air Base, Coco Solo

LANGLEY - Aircraft Carrier, 1st Line
 WRIGHT - Aircraft Tender.
 SANDPIPER - Minesweeper for aircraft tender service.
 TEAL - Minesweeper for aircraft tender service.
 SWAN - Minesweeper for aircraft tender service. (Operated from Coco Solo).
 AKRON(ZRS4)- Rigid Airship

Squadron	:Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
Flag Unit	: 1 VJ	: Comdr. Aircraft Scout. Force
VS-1S	: 9 VS	: LANGLEY
VF-3S	: 18 VF	: "
Utility Unit	: #2 VJ	: "
VJ-2S	: 6 VJ - *1 VR	: WRIGHT
VP-8S	: 6 VP	: "
VP-10S	: 6 VP	: "
Utility Unit	: #* 1 VJ	: "
VP-2S	: 12 VP (25% spares allowed)	: Operated from Coco Solo
VP-3S	: 12 VP	: " " " "
VP-5S	: 12 VP (25% spares allowed)	: " " " "
Utility Unit	: #*2 VJ - #*1 VR	: " " " "
AKRON Unit	: 1 VO - 4 VF	: AKRON

Commander Aircraft, Scouting Force, is authorized to operate not more than three (3) additional planes in VJ-2S if fleet work is such as to warrant the use of extra planes. Such operation will be arranged so as not to interfere with the overhaul schedule nor with the supply of planes for other use.

(c) BASE FORCE(1) Commander Train Squadron Two.

Squadron	:Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
VP-7F	: 6 VP	: ARGONNE
VP-9F	: 6 VP	: ARGONNE
VJ-1F	: 6 VJ - *2 VR	: ARGONNE

Commander Base Force is authorized to operate not more than three (3) additional planes in VJ-1F if fleet work is such as to warrant the use of extra planes. Such operations will be arranged

so as not to interfere with the overhaul schedule nor with the supply of planes for other use.

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B. ASIATIC FLEET

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>:Authorized Operating Strength:</u>	<u>Assigned</u>
Flag Unit	: 4 VS	: CinC Asiatic Fleet

(1) Commander Aircraft

- JASON - Collier for aircraft tender service.
- AVOCET - Minesweeper for aircraft tender service.
- HERON - Minesweeper for aircraft tender service.

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>:Authorized Operating Strength:</u>	<u>Assigned</u>
VT-5A	: 6 VT (100% spares allowed):	JASON
VS-8A	: 6 VS	: JASON

For Ships' and squadrons' service; no additional personnel complement allowed.

* Spare planes included.

II. NAVAL DISTRICTS

<u>Naval Air Station or Naval Station</u>	<u>Squadron or Unit Attached</u>	<u>Authorized Operating Strength</u>
<u>First Naval District</u>		
Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.	VX2D1	* 2 VJ and such other planes for experi- mental purposes as may be assigned.
Naval Air Station, Chatham, Mass.	Inactive	-
<u>Fourth Naval District</u>		
Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N. J.	Lighter than Air Training and Exp. Unit	1 ZR - LOS ANGELES 2 ZN - J-3, J-4 1 XZM32 1 ZK 2 Free Balloons *1 VJ
Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, Pa.	H.T.A. VX3D4	*5 VJ and such other planes for experi- mental purposes as may be assigned.
Naval Air Station, Cape May, N. J.	Inactive	-
<u>Activities on Severn and Potomac</u>		
Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C. (Under Bu.Aer. and Comdt. Wash. Navy Yd.)	VX4D5	*18 VJ - *2 VR and such other planes for experimental and other special pur- poses as may be assigned.
Naval Proving Ground Dahlgren, Va.	VX5D5	*4 VJ and such other planes for experi- mental purposes as may be assigned.
U. S. Naval Academy Annapolis, Md.	VN8D5	6 VP) One spare VP *2 VJ) allowed

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Fifth Naval District

Naval Air Station,
Hampton Roads, Va.

VN-6D5
VJ-4D5
VX-1D5

*14 VN
* 4 VJ - 1 VH
* 3 VJ and such
planes for
experimental
purposes as
may be assigned
Personnel will
not exceed 6
officers and 30
men.

Eighth Naval District

Naval Air Station,
Pensacola, Fla.

VN-1D8
VN-2D8
VN-3D8
VN-4D8

*40 VN
*40 VN
*27 VC-S
(* 9 VO-S
(* 2 VP
(16 VT
*27 VF

USS ALLEGHENY Ocean Tug for Air-
craft tender service

Eleventh Naval District

Naval Air Station,
San Diego, Calif.

VN-7D11
VJ-5D11

*21 VN
* 5 VJ *1 VR

*Spare planes included.

Special Assignments

When specially authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations airplanes will be supplied for the use of naval aviators detailed as Inspectors of Naval Aviation, Assistant Naval Attaches abroad, and other special duty.

III. U. S. NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE AVIATION.

The following is the approved plan for the assignment of Naval Reserve Bases, operating squadrons and divisions, together with the allowance of aircraft for the training of Naval and Marine Corps Reserves. The squadrons and divisions listed indicate the personnel organization of Reserves in each district. The personnel of squadrons and divisions listed below will maintain their proficiency by operating such aircraft as the Commanding Officer of their respective bases may assign.

Dis- trict:	Base	Authorized Operating Strength	Squadron:	No. of Div.	Remarks
1	NRAB Squantum	9 VN - 8 VO	VN1RD1 VN2RD1 VF4MR	3 3 2	
3	NRAB Valley Stream, L.I.	9 VN - 7 VO	VN3RD3 VN4RD3	3 3	
4	NRAB Philadelphia	3 VN - 3 VO	VN5RD4	1	
5	NRAB Hampton Roads	3 VN	VN7RD7	1	
5	Quantico, Va.	3 VN	USMC		For active duty training.
7	NRAB Miami, Fla.	3 VN - 3 VO	VN8RD7	1	
8	NAS Pensacola	25 VN			For advanced training.
9	NRAB Great Lakes	9 VN - 8 VO	VN10RD9	2	
9	NRAB Grosse Ile	3 VN - 7 VO	VN9RD9 VO7MR	2 2	
9	NRAB Minneapolis	3 VN - 6 VO	VN11RD9	2	
9	NRAB St. Louis	3 VN - 3 VO	VN12RD9	1	
11	NRAB Long Beach	3 VN - 6 VO	VN13RD11	3	
11	NAS San Diego	3 VN	USMC		For active duty training.
12	NRAB Oakland	3 VN - 6 VO	VN14RD12	2	
13	NAS Seattle	9 VN - 8 VO	VN15RD13 VO8MR	3 2	
D.C.	NAS Anacostia	3 VN - 3 VO	VN6R	1	

Spare planes are included in the above allowances.