

Op-38-E-EMR  
VZ/A3-1(370507)

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

7 May 1937.

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

SUBJECT: Naval Aeronautic Organization - Fiscal Year 1938.

1. The following assignments constitute the Naval Aeronautic Organization for the fiscal year 1938 and are effective 1 July 1937.

2. The Bureau of Aeronautics is responsible for the supply of aircraft in accordance with these assignments. The supply of spare airplanes for maintaining authorized operating strengths shall be governed by the following general provisions:

- (a) Fleet Aviation
  - (1) Carriers and ship based - 50% spare airplanes
  - (2) Patrol Planes - 25% " "
  - (3) Fleet Marine Force - 50% " "
  - (4) Naval Air Station,  
Pensacola - 20% " "
  - (5) Flag and Small Units - No spare airplanes
- (b) Other Squadrons and Units - No spare airplanes.

3. The Bureau of Aeronautics is authorized to assign, for utility purposes, such experimental, obsolescent and obsolete airplanes as are in safe flying condition. These airplanes may be operated in excess of authorized operating strength, but only authorized operating strength will be considered in determining personnel allowances and flight orders of squadrons and units concerned.

4. Squadrons and units shall not be equipped with airplanes, other than experimental, obsolescent or obsolete, in excess of authorized operating strengths. Spare airplanes will be supplied as replacements for those expended or undergoing major overhaul. Temporary reductions in authorized operating strengths are necessary for minor repairs, inspections and overhauls.

5. Responsible officers shall see that the Chief of Naval Operations is informed when other than temporary reductions in authorized operating strengths are necessary.

6. Designations of aircraft organizations which follow are in accordance with Chief of Naval Operations' letter Op-38-E-EMR VZ1/S28-2(370309) of 9 March 1937 on the system of naming aircraft squadrons.

7. Detailed assignments are arranged in sections as shown below. No section is provided for special assignments. These, when authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations, may be made for naval aviators detailed to duty as inspectors of naval aircraft or assistant naval attaches and to other special duties.

- Section I. Fleet Aviation.
  - (A) U. S. Fleet.
    - (a) Battle Force.
    - (b) Scouting Force.
    - (c) Base Force.
  - (B) Asiatic Fleet.
  - (C) Special Service Squadron.
  - (D) Fleet Marine Force.
- Section II. Naval Districts.
- Section III. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve.
- Section IV. Summary of Operating Airplanes.
- Section V. Details of Aviation Personnel for Administration, Training and Development.

8. All aircraft allocated to the Battle Force, Scouting Force and Base Force are assigned to Pools. Commander Aircraft Battle Force, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force and Commander Aircraft Base Force will control the allocation and overhaul of all planes assigned to their respective forces. Commander Aircraft Battle Force will coordinate the fleet overhaul schedule at the Naval Air Station San Diego and the transcontinental ferry schedule.

SECTION I. FLEET AVIATION

Squadron or Unit	: Authorized Operating Strength :	Assigned
<u>A. U. S. FLEET</u>		
Flag Unit	: 1 VOS	: CinCus, U.S. Fleet
Ship Unit	: Will operate with VO-1	: PENNSYLVANIA.
(a) <u>BATTLE FORCE</u>		
Flag Unit	: 1 VOS	: Combatfor
Ship Unit	: Will operate with VO-2	: CALIFORNIA

Squadron	:	Authorized Operating Strength	:	Assigned
or	:		:	
Unit	:		:	

(a) BATTLE FORCE, (Contd.)(1) Commander Battleships, Battle Force.

Twelve three-plane units.

VO-1	:	9 VOS	:	Batdiv One
VO-2	:	9 VOS	:	Batdiv Two
VO-3	:	9 VOS	:	Batdiv Three
VO-4	:	9 VOS	:	Batdiv Four

(2) Commander Cruisers, Battle Force.

Eight two-plane units.

Six four-plane units.

VCS-2	:	8 VSO	:	Crudiv Two
VCS-3	:	8 VSO	:	Crudiv Three
*VCS-8	:	16 VSO	:	Crudiv Eight
*VCS-9	:	8 VSO	:	Crudiv Nine

\*Ship units will be organized as of dates indicated.

PHILADELPHIA	1 July 1937	NAF Philadelphia
BROOKLYN	1 July 1937	NAS Norfolk
BOISE	22 Nov. 1937	" "
SAVANNAH	3 Jan. 1938	NAF Philadelphia
HONOLULU	1 Feb. 1938	NAS Norfolk
NASHVILLE	1 Apr. 1938	NAF Philadelphia

The first four above units will form VCS-8, the last two will form VCS-9. Squadrons will be commissioned when the Cruiser Divisions are formed.

(3) Commander Destroyers, Battle Force.

Ship Unit	:	2 VSO	:	DETROIT
-----------	---	-------	---	---------

(4) Commander Aircraft, Battle Force and Commander Carrier Division One.

SARATOGA	-	Aircraft Carrier, 1st Line
LEXINGTON	-	" " " "
RANGER	-	" " " "

\*\*Commander Carrier Division Two.

YORKTOWN	-	Aircraft Carrier, 1st Line
ENTERPRISE	-	" " " "

\*\*Carrier Division Two will be formed on or about 2 August and, less attached squadrons, will operate directly under

(4) Commander Aircraft, Battle Force (Contd.)

the Chief of Naval Operations until directed to report to the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet, in the Spring of 1938. After the division is formed the Commander Carrier Division Two will report by despatch to the Commander-in-Chief for additional duty in connection with the training and operations of the attached carrier squadrons.

Squadron or Unit	Authorized Operating Strength	Assigned
Flag Unit	: 3 VM	: Comairbatfor
VB-3	: 18 VB	: SARATOGA
VF-3	: 18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	: "
VS-3	: 18 VSB	: "
VT-3	: 18 VTB 2	: "
Utility Unit	: 3 VSO - 1 VJ	: "
VB-2	: 18 VB	: LEXINGTON
VF-2	: 18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	: "
VS-2	: 18 VSB	: "
VT-2	: 18 VTB	: "
Utility Unit	: 3 VSO - 2 VJ	: "
VB-4	: 18 VB	: RANGER
VF-4	: 18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	: "
VS-41	: 18 VSB	: "
VS-42	: 18 VSB	: "
Utility Unit	: 3 VSO - 2 VJ	: "
Flag Unit	: 3 VM	: ComCardiv Two
VB-5	: 18 VB	: YORKTOWN
VF-5	: 18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	: "
VS-5	: 18 VSB	: "
VT-5	: 18 VTB	: "
Utility Unit	: 3 VSO - 2 VJ	: "
VB-6	: 18 VB	: ENTERPRISE
VF-6	: 18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	: "
VS-6	: 18 VSB	: "
VT-6	: 18 VTB	: "
Utility Unit	: 3 VSO - 2 VJ	: "

\* VMs assigned squadrons equipped with single seater airplanes will be provided for instrument flying. No additional personnel authorized.

(b) SCOUTING FORCE.

Squadron : Authorized Operating Strength : Assigned  
 or : :  
 Unit : :  
 -----

Ship Unit : Will operate with Crudiv Six : INDIANAPOLIS.

(1) Commander Cruisers, Scouting Force.

Flag Unit : 1 VSO : Comcruscofor.

17 Four-plane units.

VCS-4	: 16 VSO	: Crudiv Four
VCS-5	: 16 VSO	: Crudiv Five
VCS-6	: 16 VSO	: Crudiv Six
VCS-7	: 16 VSO	: Crudiv Seven
*Ship Unit	: 4 VSO	: WICHITA

\*To be organized 2 Feb. 1938 at N.A.F. Philadelphia.

(2) Commander Destroyers, Scouting Force.

Ship Unit : 2 VSO : RALEIGH

(c) BASE FORCE.(1) Commander Aircraft, Base Force.

WRIGHT	-	Aircraft Tender
LANGLEY	-	" "
SANDPIPER	-	Seaplane Tender, Small
GANNET	-	" " "
THRUSH	-	" " "
OWL	-	" " "
<u>Fleet Air Base, Coco Solo</u>		
TEAL	-	Seaplane Tender, Small
LAPWING	-	" " "
<u>Fleet Air Base, Pearl Harbor</u>		
PELICAN	-	Seaplane Tender, Small
AVOCET	-	" " "
SWAN	-	" " "

(c) BASE FORCE (Contd.)(1) Commander Aircraft, Base Force (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
Flag Unit	: 2 VSO	: Comairbase for
Ship Unit	: 1 VSO - 1 VJ	: WRIGHT
Ship Unit	: 2 VSO - 1 VJ	: LANGLEY
<u>Patrol Wing</u>		
VP-7	: 12 VPB	: WRIGHT (San Diego)
VP-9	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-11	: 12 VPB	: LANGLEY (San Diego)
VP-12	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Utility Wing</u>		
VJ-1	: 6 VJ - 9 VJR	: WRIGHT (San Diego)
VJ-2	: 6 VJ - 9 VJR	: " " "
<u>Patrol Wing</u>		
*VP-14	: 12 VPB	: OWL (Norfolk)
*VP-15	: 12 VPB	: " "
<u>Patrol Wing</u>		
VP-16	: 6 VPB	: THRUSH (Seattle)
VP-17	: 6 VPB	: " "
**VP-19	: 6 VPB	: " "
<u>Patrol Wing</u>		
VP-2	: 12 VPB	: F.A.B. Coco Solo
VP-3	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-5	: 12 VPB	: " " "
***Utility Unit	: 2 VF - 2 VJR - 3 VJ	: " " "
<u>Patrol Wing</u>		
VP-1	: 12 VPB	: F.A.B. Pearl Harbor
VP-4	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-6	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-8	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-10	: 12 VPB	: " " "
****VP-18	: 12 VPB	: " " "
Utility Unit	: 3 VF - 1 VJR - 4 VJ	: " " "

\*May be operated at reduced complement during a portion of fiscal year, dependent upon new plane deliveries.

\*\*To be commissioned 1 October 1937.

\*\*\*One of the transport airplanes assigned to the utility unit at Fleet Air Base, Coco Solo, is for the use of Commander Special Service Squadron and shall be employed for no other purpose without his authority.

\*\*\*\*To be commissioned 15 December 1937.

B. ASIATIC FLEET.

Squadron or Unit	Authorized Operating Strength	Assigned
------------------------	----------------------------------	----------

Ship Unit	4 VSO	AUGUSTA HERON - Seaplane Tender, Small.
-----------	-------	--

Utility Unit	2 VJ	HERON
--------------	------	-------

C. SPECIAL SERVICE SQUADRON.

Ship Unit	1 VSO	ERIE
" "	1 VSO	CHARLESTON

D. FLEET MARINE FORCE.

VMB-1	12 VB	Aircraft One (Quantico)
VMF-1	18 VF - 1 VSB	" " "
VMS-1	12 VSO	" " "
VMJ-1	6 VM - 4 VR - 1 VJR	" " "
VMB-2	12 VB	Aircraft Two (San Diego)
VMF-2	18 VF - 1 VSB	" " " "
VMS-2	12 VSO	" " " "
VMJ-2	3 VM - 3 VR - 1 VJR	" " " "
VMS-3	6 VOS - 1 VR - 1 VM	St. Thomas, V.I.

II. NAVAL DISTRICTS

Squadron or Unit	Authorized Operating Strength	Assigned
<u>First Naval District</u>		
VX-2D1	4 VM - 1 VJ and such other planes for experi- mental purposes as may be assigned.	Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.

SECTION II. NAVAL DISTRICTS (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	Authorized Operating Strength	Assigned
<u>Fourth Naval District</u>		
VX-3D4	4 VM - 1 VJ and such other planes for experimental purposes: as may be assigned	Naval Aircraft Factory, Phila., Pa.
VX-4D4	3 VM and such other planes for experimental purposes as May be assigned.	" "
L.T.A.	4 ZN and such other ZN's for experimental purposes as may be assigned.	N.A.S. Lakehurst
H.T.A.	1 VM - 1 VJ	" "
<u>Activities on Severn and Potomac.</u>		
VX-4D5	18 VM - 4 VR - 1 VJ and such other planes for experimental purposes as may be assigned:	Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D.C.
VX-5D5	3 VM - 1 VJ and such other planes for experimental purposes as may be assigned.	Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Va.
VN-8D5	7 VM 1 VJ	U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
<u>Fifth Naval District</u>		
VJ-4D5	4 VM - 1 VJ and such other planes for experimental purposes as may be assigned.	Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va.
<u>Eighth Naval District</u>		
VN-1D8	52 VN	NAS Pensacola
VN-2D8	84 VN	" "
VN-3D8	48 VSO	" "
VN-4D8	15 VPB - 18 VTB - 8 VSO	" "
VN-5D8	50 VF - 27 VN	" "
Utility Unit	1 VR - 1 VM - 3 VJ	
<u>Eleventh Naval District</u>		
VJ-5D11	5 VM - 1 VR - 1 VJ	N.A.S. San Diego

SECTION II. NAVAL DISTRICTS (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	: Authorized Operating Strength :	Assigned
-----		
	: <u>Twelfth Naval District</u>	
*VJ-6D12	: 2 VM - 1 VR - 1 VJ	: . Alameda
-----		
	: <u>Thirteenth Naval District</u>	
Utility Unit	: 2 VM - 1 VJ	: N.A.S. Seattle
*Prospective.		

SECTION III - NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE.

(a) ASSIGNMENT OF AIRCRAFT TO NAVAL RESERVE AVIATION BASES.

	:Authorized Operating Strength:			District
	VN	VSO	VJ	
Boston (Squantum), Mass.	: 6	: 10	: 1	: 1
New York (Brooklyn), N.Y.	: 6	: 10	: 1	: 3
Philadelphia, Pa.	: 3	: 7	: 0	: 4
Miami (Opa-Locka), Fla.	: 7	: 10	: 1	: 7
Chicago (Glenview), Ill.	: 4	: 7	: 1	: 9
Detroit (Grosse Ile), Mich.	: 4	: 7	: 1	: 9
Minneapolis, Minn.	: 4	: 7	: 0	: 9
St. Louis (Robertson), Mo.	: 3	: 4	: 0	: 9
Kansas City, Kansas	: 4	: 10	: 0	: 9
Long Beach, Cal.	: 7	: 10	: 1	: 11
Oakland, Calif.	: 4	: 10	: 1	: 12
Seattle, Wash.	: 4	: 10	: 1	: 13
Washington (Anacostia) D.C.	: 4	: 7	: 0	: D.C.
-----				
Totals	: 60	: 109	: 8	

Note: Name in parenthesis is only for the purpose of indicating exact location.

SECTION III - NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE.(Contd.)(b) ORGANIZATION AND DESIGNATION OF NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS  
RESERVE AIRCRAFT SQUADRONS.

<u>N.R.A.B.</u>	<u>: N.R. Squadrons</u>	<u>: M.C.R. Squadrons</u>
Boston (Squantum), Mass.	VS-1R	VMS-1R
	VS-2R	
New York (Brooklyn), N.Y.	VS-3R	VMS-2R
	VS-4R	
Philadelphia, Pa.	VS-5R	
Miami (Opa-Locka), Fla.	VS-7R	VMS-4R
Chicago (Glenview), Ill.	VS-9R	
Detroit (Grosse Ile), Mich.	VS-8R	VMS-5R
Minneapolis, Minn.	VS-10R	VMS-6R
St. Louis (Robertson), Mo.	VS-11R	
Kansas City, Kansas	VS-12R	VMS-10R
Long Beach, Calif.	VS-13R	VMS-7R
	VS-14R	
Oakland, Calif.	VS-15R	VMS-8R
Seattle, Wash.	VS-16R	VMS-9R
Washington (Anacostia), D.C.	VS-6R	VMS-3R

Note: Aircraft are assigned to Reserve Bases as indicated in preceding paragraph and not to individual squadrons. For this reason no aircraft are shown in above table.

SECTION IV - SUMMARY OF OPERATING AIRPLANES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1938.

Afloat - Total 927.

<u>Type</u>	<u>:U.S.Fleet:</u>	<u>Batfor:</u>	<u>Scofor:</u>	<u>Basefor:</u>	<u>Asiatic:</u>	<u>Speron:</u>	<u>FMF</u>	<u>: Total</u>
VOS	1	37					6	44
VSO		57	71	5	4	2	24	163
VSB		113					2	115
VF		90		5			36	131
VB		90					24	114
VTB		72						72
VPB				198				198
VR							8	8
VJ		10		21	2			33
VM		16					10	26
VJR				21			2	23
Totals:	1	485	71	250	6	2	112	927

SECTION IV - SUMMARY OF OPERATING AIRPLANES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1938 (Contd.)

Ashore - Total 553 (Including Reserve).

Type	Details	Training	Reserve	Total
VN		163	60	223
VSO		56	109	165
VPB		15		15
VF		50		50
VTB		18		18
VR	7			7
VM	54			54
VJ	13		8	21
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>553</b>

Regular Establishment

Reserve Establishment

H.T.A. Afloat  
" Ashore  
L.T.A.

927  
376  
4

Ashore

1307  
177

1307

1484

SECTION V. DETAILS OF AVIATION PERSONNEL FOR  
ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND  
TRAINING.

Details for aviation personnel for administration, development and training are as follows:-

- (a) Bureau of Aeronautics.
- (b) Details to other bureaus and offices of the Navy Department.
- (c) Naval Aircraft Factory.
- (d) Naval Air Stations.
- (e) Fleet Air Bases.
- (f) Naval Reserve Aviation Bases.
- (g) Naval Academy, Annapolis.
- (h) Naval Air Detail, Newport.
- (i) " " " Dahlgren.
- (j) Postgraduate detail.
- (k) Naval Training Station Norfolk.
- (l) Material inspection force.
- (m) Special details.
- (n) Details abroad.

WILLIAM D. LEAHY.

Copy to:

Dept. Distribution:

I, II, III, IV (for VII (a) (b) (c)

VI, , and VIII),

V, IX, X

All Naval Reserve Aviation Bases.

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
Office of Chief of Naval Operations  
Washington, D. C.  
Op-38-E-EMR  
VZ/A3-1(370310)  
Serial No. 38712

**DECLASSIFIED**

10 March 1937.

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

SUBJECT: Naval Aeronautical Organization - Information  
Regarding.

References:

- (a) General Order No. 33, System of Designating Aircraft Squadrons.
- (b) CNO letter Op-38-E-EMR, VZ1/S28-2(370309), System for naming Aircraft Squadrons, dated 9 March 1937.
- (c) Naval Aeronautic Organization, Fiscal Year 1938.

1. The Navy Department has approved a re-assignment of aircraft squadrons among the various carriers. Also, reference (a) has been cancelled and replaced by reference (b). This re-assignment and reference (b) will not be effective until 1 July 1937. For information and guidance of those concerned, the following results of the re-assignment and the new naming system are published.

2. Classes of Airplanes Assigned to Aircraft Carriers.

SARATOGA, LEXINGTON, YORKTOWN and ENTERPRISE are each to have one fighting squadron, one dive bombing squadron, one scouting squadron and one torpedo squadron. RANGER, and WASP when commissioned, are each to have one fighting squadron, one dive-bombing squadron and two scouting squadrons. In meeting these requirements, scouting planes capable of carrying 1000-lb. bombs may be classed as dive bombers. This involves some re-assignment of squadrons among carriers in addition to the transfer in June, already ordered, of VF-3 from RANGER to YORKTOWN and VF-1 from LEXINGTON to ENTERPRISE. Table I, attached hereto, shows the other changes in carrier squadron assignment, which will involve only local transfers and will become effective on 1 July 1937. For information and convenience, models of airplanes at present allocated to the various carrier squadrons and those models which are to be allocated by the Bureau of Aeronautics as new aircraft, now being built, become available, are shown in parentheses.

Op-38-E-EMR  
VZ/A3-1(370310)  
Serial No. 38712

DECLASSIFIED

- 2 -

Subject: Naval Aeronautic Organization - Information  
regarding.

---

3. System for Naming Aircraft Squadrons

Application of the principles of reference (b) will result in the changes in names of Fleet squadrons which are indicated in Table I. Name changes for other than Fleet squadrons, which are of less immediate interest, may be deduced from reference (b) pending issuance of reference (c).

WILLIAM D. LEAHY.

Dept. Distribution:  
I, II, III, IV (for  
VI, VII, and VIII),  
V, IX, X  
All Naval Reserve  
Aviation Bases.

Op-38-E-EMB  
 VZ/A3-1(370310)  
 Serial 38712

**DECLASSIFIED**

TABLE I

Aircraft Carrier	: Present : Assignment : of Squadron : and Planes	: Re-assign- : ment of Sqds : and Planes	: : Remarks : (referring to second column)	: : New Squad- : ron Names : as of : 1 July 1937
SARA-	:VF-6B(F3F)	:VF-6B(F3F)	:	: VF-3
TOGA	:VB-2B(BFC)	:VB-2B(BT)*	:Becomes 2-seater squadron	: VB-3
	:VS-2B(SBU)	:VS-2B(SBU)	:	: VS-3
	:VT-2B(TG)	:VT-2B(TBD)*	:	: VT-3
	:VS-4B(SU)	:	:Transferred to RANGER	:
LEX-	:VF-2B(F2F)	:VF-2B(F2F)	:	: VF-2
INGTON	:VB-5B(F4B)	:VB-5B(BT)*	:Becomes 2-seater squadron	: VB-2
	:VS-3B(SBU)	:VS-3B(SBU)	:	: VS-2
	:VB-3B(BG)	:VB-1B(TBD)*	:Transferred from RANGER :(VB-3B to RANGER)	: VT-2
	:VF-1B(F4B)	:	:Transferred to ENTERPRISE	:
YORK-	:	:VF-3B(F2F)	:Transferred from RANGER	: VF-5
TOWN	:	:VB-7B(SB2U)	:New Squadron	: VB-5
	:	:VS-7B(SBC)	:New Squadron	: VS-5
	:	:VT-7B(TBD)	:New Squadron	: VT-5
ENTER-	:	:VF-1B(F4B)	:Transferred from LEXINGTON	: VF-6
PRISE	:	:VB-3B(SB2U)	:New Squadron	: VB-6
	:	:VS-6B(SBC)	:New Squadron	: VS-6
	:	:VT-3B(TBD)	:New Squadron	: VT-6
RANGER	:VF-5B(F3F)	:VF-5B(F3F)	:	: VF-4
	:VB-1B(BM)	:VB-3B(BG)	:Transferred from LEXINGTON :(VB-1B to LEXINGTON)	: VB-4
	:VS-1B(SBU)	:VS-1B(SBU)	:	: VS-41
	:VF-3B(F2F)	:VS-4B(SBC)*	:Trans.fr.SARA.Becomes 18- plane sqd.(VF-3B to YORKTOWN:	: VS-42

\*Indicates change in model of airplane assigned squadron already in commission.

Cruiser Divisions	: Present : Squadron : Names	: New Squadron : Names as of : 1 July, 1937	: : Marine : Corps	: Present : Squadron : Names	: New Squadron : Names as of : 1 July, 1937
Crudiv Two	: VS-5	: VCS-2	: Aircraft 1	: VO-7M	: VMO-1
Crudiv Three	: VS-6	: VCS-3	:	: VF-9M	: VMF-1
Crudiv Eight	: VS-16	: VCS-8	:	: VB-6M	: VMB-1
Crudiv Four	: VS-9	: VCS-4	:	: VJ-6M	: VMJ-1
Crudiv Five	: VS-10	: VCS-5	: Aircraft 2	: VO-6M	: VMO-2
Crudiv Six	: VS-11	: VCS-6	:	: VF-4M	: VMF-2
Crudiv Seven	: VS-12	: VCS-7	:	: VB-4M	: VMB-2
	:	:	:	: VJ-7M	: VMJ-2
	:	:	: St. Thomas	: VC-9M	: VMO-3

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

Op-38-E-MTU  
VZ/A3-1(370507)

16 February 1938.

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
To: All Bureaus and Offices, Fleets, Forces,  
Aviation Units and Stations concerned.

Subject: Naval Aeronautic Organization, Fiscal  
Year 1938 - Change in.

Reference: (a) CNO letter, Op-38-E-MTU VZ/A3-1(370507)  
of 24 September 1937.

1. Reference (a) is modified as follows:

"(a) On page 2, under Patrol Wing Four,  
add the following:

Fleet Air Base : :  
Sitka : : Compatwing Four

"(b) On page 3, under Base Force, add a  
paragraph as follows:

"(2) Commander, Fleet Air Base, San Pedro

Fleet Air Base : :  
San Pedro : : Commander Base Force"

2. The above changes become effective on 1 March  
1938 for the Fleet Air Base, San Pedro, and on 1 June 1938  
for the Fleet Air Base, Sitka.

/s/ J. O. RICHARDSON,  
Acting.

Dept. Distribution:  
I, II, III, IV (for VII(a) (b) (c)  
VI and VIII),  
V, IX, X  
All Naval Reserve Aviation Bases.

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

Op-38-E-MW  
VZ/A3-1(370507)

31 December 1937

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

Subject: Naval Aeronautic Organization,  
Fiscal Year 1938 - Change in.

Reference: (a) Naval Aeronautic Organization,  
Fiscal Year 1938 Op-38-E-EMR  
VZ/A3-1(370507) of 7 May 1937.

1. Reference (a) is changed as follows:

(a) Page 3, after VCS-2 change 8 VSO to 6 VSO.

(b) Page 5, under (b), and just preceding the  
Ship Unit allowance for INDIANAPOLIS, add  
the following:

Flag Unit : 1 VSO : Comscofor

(c) Page 7, strike out paragraph C. Special  
Service Squadron.

(d) Page 7, in place of C - Special Service  
Squadron insert the following:

C. Submarine Force

Ship Unit : 2 VSO : RICHMOND

J. O. RICHARDSON  
Acting

Copy to:  
Dept. Distribution:  
I, II, III, IV (for VII (a) (b) (c)  
VI, , and VIII),  
V, IX, X  
All Naval Reserve Aviation Bases

MW

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

Op-38- E-mtu  
VZ/A3-1(370507)

24 September 1937

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
To: All Bureaus and Offices, Fleets, Forces,  
Aviation Units and Stations concerned.

Subject: Naval Aeronautic Organization,  
Fiscal Year 1938 - Change in.

Reference: (a) CNO letter Op-38-E-EMR VZ/  
A3-1(370507) of 4 Sept. 1937  
same subject.  
(b) Aeronautic Organization, Fiscal  
Year 1938, VZ/A3-1(370507) of 7  
May 1937.

1. Reference (a), which changed reference (b),  
is modified, effective 1 October 1937, as follows:-

Paragraph 2(c)(1) of reference (a)  
(paragraph c(1) of reference (b)), will be  
replaced by the following:

(c) SCOUTING FORCE

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force.

Squadron or Unit	:Authorized Operating: : Strength	: Assigned
Flag Unit	: 2 VSO	: Comairscofor
Patrol Wing One	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-7	: 12 VPB	: WRIGHT (San Diego)
VP-9	: 12 VPB	: " " "
	:	:
*VP-11	: 12 VPB	: LANGLEY(San Diego)
*VP-12	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Tenders</u>	:	:
WRIGHT	: 1 VSO - 1 VJ	: Patrol Wing One(Flag Comairscofor)
	:	:
LANGLEY	: 2 VSO - 1 VJ	: " " "
SANDPIPER	:	: " " "
LAPWING	:	: " " "

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	:Authorized Operating: : Strength :	Assigned
<hr/>		
<u>Patrol Wing Two</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-1	: 12 VPB	: F.A.B. Pearl Harbor
VP-4	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-10	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-6	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-8	: 12 VPB	: " " "
**VP-18	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Tenders</u>	:	:
SWAN	:	: Flag Compatwing 2
PELICAN	:	: Patrol Wing Two
AVOCET	:	: " " "
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>	:	:
Pearl Harbor	:	: Compatwing Two
Utility Unit	: 3 VF, 1 VJR, 4 VJ	: F.A.B. Pearl Harbor
<hr/>		
<u>Patrol Wing Three</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-2	: 12 VPB	: F.A.B. Coco Solo
VP-3	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-5	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Tenders</u>	:	:
GLANNET	:	: Flag Compatwing 3
**TEAL	:	: Patrol Wing Three
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>	:	:
Coco Solo	:	: Compatwing <del>2</del> 3
#Utility Unit	: 2 VF, 2 VJR, 2 VJ	: F.A.B. Coco Solo
<hr/>		
<u>Patrol Wing Four</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-16	: 6 VPB	: THRUSH (Seattle)
VP-17	: 6 VPB	: " "
##VP-19	: 6 VPB	: " "
<u>Tender</u>	:	:
**THRUSH	:	: Flag Compatwing 4
<hr/>		
<u>Patrol Wing Five</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VPL-14	: 12 VPB	: OWL (Norfolk)
VP-15	: 12 VPB	: " "
<u>Tender</u>	:	:
OWL	:	: Flag Compatwing 5

\*May be operated at reduced complement during a portion of fiscal year, dependent upon new plane deliveries.

\*\*THRUSH and TEAL will interchange during the second quarter 1938.

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force (Contd)

\*\*\* To be commissioned 15 December 1937.

#One of the transport airplanes assigned to the Utility Unit at Fleet Air Base, Coco Solo, is for the use of Commander Special Service Squadron, and shall be employed for no other purpose without his authority.

##To be commissioned 1 October 1937.

(d) BASE FORCE

(1) Commander Utility Wing, Base Force

Squadron or Unit	: Authorized Operating Strength	: Assigned
<u>Utility wing</u>	:	:
VJ-1	: 6 VJ - 9 VJR	: USS RIGEL
VJ-2	: 6 VJ - 9 VJR	: USS RIGEL

J. O. RICHARDSON,  
Acting

Dept. Distribution:  
I, II, III, IV (for VII(a) (b) (c)  
VI and VIII),  
V, IX, X  
All Naval Reserve Aviation Bases.

Op-38-E-EMR  
VZ/A3-1(370507)

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

4 September 1937.

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

SUBJECT: Naval Aeronautic Organization,  
Fiscal Year 1938 - Change in.

Reference: (a) Aeronautic Organization, Fiscal Year  
1938, VZ/A3-1(370507) of 7 May 1937.

1. The change in reference (a) contained herein pertains to the organization of the Aircraft Base Force. It provides for the following:-

- (a) Five Patrol Wings are established, each a separate administrative command to be commanded by a regularly assigned Patrol Wing Commander,
- (b) Aircraft Tenders are placed under the Commander of the Patrol Wing which they serve,
- (c) Fleet Air Bases become separate commands, but will be administered under the Commander Patrol Wing concerned.

2. The change is as follows:-

Pages 5 and 6, Delete present paragraph (c)(1) and substitute the following:-

(c) BASE FORCE(1) Commander Aircraft Base Force.

Squadron or Unit	:Authorized Operating: :Strength	:Assigned
Flag Unit	: 2 VSO	: Comairbasefor
<u>Patrol Wing One</u>		
<u>Squadrons</u>		
VP-7	: 12 VPB	: WRIGHT (San Diego)
VP-9	: 12 VPB	: " " "
*VP-11	: 12 VPB	: LANGLEY (San Diego)
*VP-12	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Tenders</u>		
WRIGHT	: 1 VSO - 1 VJ	: Patrol Wing One (Flag Com- airbasefor)
LANGLEY	: 2 VSO - 1 VJ	: " " "
SANDPIPER		: " " "
LAPWING		: " " "
-----		
<u>Patrol Wing Two</u>		
<u>Squadrons</u>		
VP-1	: 12 VPB	: F.A.B. Pearl Harbor
VP-4	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-10	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-6	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-8	: 12 VPB	: " " "
***VP-18	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Tenders</u>		
SWAN		: Flag Comatwing 2
PELICAN		: Patrol Wing Two
AVOCET		: " " "
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>		
<u>Pearl Harbor</u>		: Compatwing Two
<u>Utility Unit</u>	: 3 VF, 1 VJR, 4 VJ	: F.A.B. Pearl Harbor
-----		
<u>Patrol Wing Three</u>		
<u>Squadrons</u>		
VP-2	: 12 VPB	: F.A.B. Coco Solo
VP-3	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-5	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Tenders</u>		
GANNET		: Flag Compatwing 3
**TEAL		: Patrol Wing Three
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>		
<u>Coco Solo</u>		: Compatwing Two
<u>#Utility Unit</u>	: 2 VF, 2 VJR, 2 VJ	: F.A.B. Coco Solo
-----		

(1) Commander Aircraft Base Force (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	: Authorized Operating Strength :	Assigned
<hr/>		
<u>Patrol Wing Four</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-16	: 6 VPB	: THRUSH (Seattle)
VP-17	: 6 VPB	: " "
##VP-19	: 6 VPB	: " "
Tender	:	:
**THRUSH	:	: Flag Compatwing 4.
<hr/>		
<u>Patrol Wing Five</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-14	: 12 VPB	: OWL (Norfolk)
VP-15	: 12 VPB	: " "
Tender	:	:
OWL	:	: Flag Compatwing 5.
<hr/>		
<u>Utility Wing</u>	:	: Comairbasefor
VJ-1	: 6 VJ - 9 VJR	: WRIGHT (San Diego)
VJ-2	: 6 VJ - 9 VJR	: " " "
<hr/>		

\*May be operated at reduced complement during a portion of fiscal year, dependent upon new plane deliveries.

\*\*THRUSH and TEAL will interchange during the second quarter 1938.

\*\*\*To be commissioned 15 December 1937.

#One of the transport airplanes assigned to the Utility Unit at Fleet Air Base, Coco Solo, is for the use of Commander Special Service Squadron, and shall be employed for no other purpose without his authority.

##To be commissioned 1 October 1937.

William D. Leahy.

Dept. Distribution:  
I, II, III, IV (for VII(a) (b)(c)  
VI and VIII),  
V, IX, X  
All Naval Reserve Aviation Bases.