

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

Op-38-E-MTU  
VZ/A3-1(370527)

31 March 1938.

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

Subject: Naval Aeronautic Organization - Fiscal Year 1939.

1. The following assignments constitute the Naval Aeronautic Organization for the fiscal year 1939 and are effective 1 July 1938.

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% " "
- (b) Naval Air Station, Pensacola - 20% " "
- (c) 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) Submarine Force.
  - (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. Aircraft of the Submarine Force will be considered a part of the Battle Force Pool. Commander Aircraft Battle Force, Commander Aircraft Scouting Force, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force, and Commander Utility Wing, Base Force will control allocation and overhaul of all aircraft assigned them. Commander Aircraft Battle Force will coordinate the Fleet overhaul schedule at 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
<u>(a) BATTLE FORCE</u>					
Flag Unit	:	1 VOS	:	:	Combatfor
Ship Unit	:	Will operate with VO-2	:	:	CALIFORNIA

Squadron	:		
or	:	Authorized Operating Strength:	Assigned
Unit	:		

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(a) BATTLE FORCE, (Cont'd.)

(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.

Seven two-plane units.  
Eight four-plane units.

VCS-2	:	6 VSO	:	Crudiv Two
VCS-3	:	8 VSO	:	Crudiv Three
VCS-8	:	16 VSO	:	Crudiv Eight
VCS-9	:	12 VSO	:	Crudiv Nine
*Ship Unit	:	4 VSO	:	ST. LOUIS

\*Ship units will be organized as indicated:

PHOENIX	1 August 1938	NAF Philadelphia
ST. LOUIS	2 January 1939	NAS Norfolk

Of the above, the PHOENIX is expected to join VCS-9 prior to end of fiscal year and is shown therein.

(3) Commander Destroyers, Battle Force, Commander Flotilla One, and Commander Flotilla Two.

Ship Unit	:	2 VSO	:	RALEIGH
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	-	" " " "

\* Until directed to report to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S.Fleet, will operate directly under the Chief of Naval Operations with additional duty under the Commander-in-Chief 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 VSB	SARATOGA
VF-3	18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	"
VS-3	18 VSB	"
VT-3	18 VTB	"
Utility Unit	3 VSO - 2 VJ	"
VB-2	18 VSB	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	"
VB-7	18 VSB	WASP #.
VF-7	18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	"
VS-71	18 VSB	"
VS-72	18 VSB	"
Utility Unit	3 VSO - 2 VJ	"

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

# WASP squadrons may be commissioned as early as 1 April 1939. Delay beyond this date, corresponding to delay beyond 1 July 1939 in commissioning WASP, is likely. Definite information will be issued separately.

(b) SCOUTING FORCE.

Squadron or Unit	:	Authorized Operating Strength:	:	Assigned
Flag Unit	:	1 VSO	:	Comscofor
Ship Unit	:	Will operate with Crudiv Six:	:	INDIANAPOLIS
(1) <u>Commander Cruisers, Scouting Force.</u>				
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

\* INDIANAPOLIS Ship Unit included herein.  
 \*\* To be organized 1 October 1938 at NAF Philadelphia.

(c) SCOUTING FORCE.

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force

Flag Unit	:	2 VSO	:	Comairscofor
<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 Comair- scofor
LANGLEY	:	2 VSO - 1 VJ	:	" " "
SANDPIPER	:		:	" " "
LAPWING	:		:	" " "
<u>Patrol Wing Two</u>	:		:	
<u>Squadrons</u>	:		:	
VP-1	:	12 VPB	:	FAB Pearl Harbor
VP-4	:	12 VPB	:	" " "
VP-6	:	12 VPB	:	" " "
VP-8	:	12 VPB	:	" " "
VP-10	:	12 VPB	:	" " "
VP-18	:	12 VPB	:	" " "

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force. (Cont'd.)

Squadron or Unit	:Authorized Operating: Strength	: Assigned
<u>Tenders</u>	:	:
SWAN	:	:Flag Compatwing Two
PELICAN	:	:Patrol Wing Two
AVOCET	:	: " " "
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>	:	:
<u>Pearl Harbor</u>	:	:Compatwing Two
<u>Utility Unit</u>	: 4 VF, 2 VSO, 1 VJR, 4 VJ	:FAB Pearl Harbor
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<u>Patrol Wing Three</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-2	: 12 VPB	: FAB Coco Solo
VP-3	: 12 VPB	: " " "
VP-5	: 12 VPB	: " " "
<u>Tenders</u>	:	:
GANNET	:	: Flag Compatwing Three
THRUSH	:	: Patrol Wing Three
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>	:	:
<u>Coco Solo</u>	:	: Compatwing Three
<u>Utility Unit</u>	: 2 VF, 2 VSO, 2 VJR, 3 VJ	: FAB Coco Solo
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<u>Patrol Wing Four</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-16	: 6 VPB	: TEAL (Seattle)
VP-17	: 6 VPB	: " "
VP-19	: 6 VPB	: " "
*VP-20	: 6 VPB	: " "
*VP-21	: 6 VPB	: " "
<u>Tender</u>	:	:
TEAL	:	: Flag Compatwing Four
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>	:	:
<u>Sitka</u>	: 1 VJ	: Compatwing Four
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<u>Patrol Wing Five</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-14	: 9 VPB	: OWL (Norfolk)
VP-15	: 9 VPB	: " "
<u>Tender</u>	:	:
OWL	:	: Flag Compatwing Five

\* VP-20 and VP-21 probably will be commissioned about  
1 September 1938.

(d) BASE FORCE

(1) Commander Utility Wing, Base Force

<u>Squadron or Unit</u>	<u>: Authorized Operating: : Strength</u>	<u>: Assigned</u>
<u>Utility Wing</u>	:	:
VJ-1	: 8 VJ - 9 VJR	: USS RIGEL
VJ-2	: 8 VJ - 9 VJR	: USS RIGEL

(2) Commander, Fleet Air Base, San Pedro

<u>Fleet Air Base San Pedro</u>	:	:
	: 1 VSO	: Commander Base Force

B. ASIATIC FLEET.

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

Utility Unit	: 2 VJ	: HERON
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C. SUBMARINE FORCE.

Ship Unit	: 2 VSO	: RICHMOND
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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 - 1VJR	: " " "
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 VJ- 1 VJR	: St. Thomas, V. I. -

II. NAVAL DISTRICTS.

First Naval District

VX-2D1	: 9 VM - 1 VJ and such other	: Naval Torpedo
	: planes for experimental	: Station, Newport,
	: purposes as may be as-	: Rhode Island.
	: signed.	:
	:	:
	:	:

Fourth Naval District

VX-3D4	: 6 VM - 1 VG and such other	: Naval Aircraft
	: planes for experimental	: Factory, Phila.,
	: purposes as may be as	: Pa.

II. NAVAL DISTRICTS (Continued)

Fourth Naval District (Cont'd.)

Squadron or Unit	Authorized Operating Strength	Assigned
VX-4D4	: 3 VM and such other planes for : experimental purposes as : may be assigned.	: Naval Aircraft : Factory, Phila., : Pa.
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 VG	: N.A.S. Lakehurst

Activities on Severn and Potomac

VX-4D5	: 18 VM - 3 VR - 2 VJR - 1 VJ - : 1 VG and such other planes : for experimental purposes : as may be assigned	: Naval Air Station, : Anacostia, D. C.
VX-5D5	: 4 VM - 1 VJ and such other : planes for experimental : purposes as may be as- : signed.	: Naval Proving : Ground, Dahlgren, : Va.
VN-8D5	: 7 VM : 1 VJ	: U.S. Naval Academy, : Annapolis, Md.

Fifth Naval District

VJ-4D5	: 4 VM - 1 VG - 1 VJR and such : other planes for experi- : mental purposes as may : be assigned.	: Naval Air Station, : Norfolk, Va.
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Eighth Naval District

VN-1D8	: 44 VN	: NAS Pensacola
VN-2D8	: 70 VN	: " "
VN-3D8	: 34 VSO - 40 VSB	: " "
VN-4D8	: 15 VPB - 8 VOS	: " "
VN-5D8	: 8 VN - 20 VN (Advanced) - : 30 VF - 16 VTB	: " "
Utility Unit:	1 VR - 1 VM - 2 VJ - 1 VG	: " "

Eleventh Naval District

VJ-5D11	: 8 VM - 1 VR - 1 VG	: NAS San Diego
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Thirteenth Naval District

Utility Unit:	4 VM - 1 VJ	: NAS Seattle
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SECTION III - NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE

(a) Assignment of Aircraft to Naval Reserve Aviation Bases.

	: Authorized Operating :			: District
	: Strength :			
	: VN	: VSO	: VJ	:
Boston (Squantum), Mass.	: 6	: 10	: 1	: 1
New York (Brooklyn), N.Y.	: 6	: 10	: 1	: 3
Philadelphia, Pa.	: 3	: 7	: 1	: 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	: 1	: 9
St. Louis (Robertson), Mo.	: 3	: 4	: 1	: 9
Kansas City, Kansas	: 4	: 10	: 1	: 9
Long Beach, Calif.	: 7	: 10	: 1	: 11
Oakland, Calif.	: 4	: 10	: 1	: 12
Seattle, Wash.	: 4	: 10	: 1	: 13
Washington (Anacostia) D.C.	: 4	: 7	: 1	: D.C.
Totals	: 60	: 109	: 13	:

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

(b) Organization and Designation of Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Aircraft Squadrons.

N.R.A.B.	: N.R. Squadron	: M.C.R. Squadrons
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 1939.

Afloat - Total 1030.

Type	U.S. Fleet	Batfor	Scofor	Basefor	Asiatic	Subfor	FMF	Total
VOS)	1	105	79	1	4	2	24	216
VSO)								
VSB		204					2	206
VF		108	6				36	150
VB		54					24	78
VTB		72						72
VPB			204					204
VJR			3	18			3	24
VJ		12	10	16	2		6	46
VR							7	7
VM		18					9	27
Totals:	1	573	302	35	6	2	111	1030

Ashore - Total 553 (Including Reserve).

Type	Details	Training	Reserve	Total
VN		142	60	202
VSO		42	109	151
VSB		40		40
VPB		15		15
VF		30		30
VTB		16		16
VR	5			5
VM	65			65
VJ	7		13	20
VG	6			6
VJR	3			3
Totals	86	285	182	553

Regular Establishment

H.T.A. Afloat 1030  
 " Ashore 371  
 L.T.A. 4

1405

Reserve Establishment

Ashore

182

1583

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) Naval Air Detail, Dahlgren.
- (j) Postgraduate detail.
- (k) Naval Training Station Norfolk.
- (l) Material inspection force.
- (m) Special details.
- (n) Details abroad.

/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-mtu

VZ/A3-I (370527)

Serial 38821

28 October 1937

**DECLASSIFIED**

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
All Bureaus and Divisions of Office  
of Chief of Naval Operations, Major General Com-  
mandant.

Subject: Proposed Assignment of Aircraft and Naval  
Aeronautic Organization, Fiscal Year 1939 -  
Change in.

Reference: (a) Aeronautic Organization, Fiscal Year 1938,  
VZ/A3-I (370507) of 7 May 1937.  
(b) Proposed Assignment of Aircraft and Naval  
Aeronautic Organization - Fiscal Year 1939,  
of 3 June 1937. (Restricted)

1. Reference (a), as a result of recent changes,  
differs from reference (b) in the organization and assignment  
of the patrol plane squadrons. In order to bring reference  
(b) into agreement, the change contained herein is issued.  
This change involves only the organization and assignment  
of the patrol planes, the number of these to be operated as  
shown in reference (b), is not changed.

2. The change is as follows:

Delete paragraph (c) (1), pages 5 and 6 of  
reference (b), and replace by the following:

(c) SCOUTING FORCE

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force

Squadron	Authorized Operating Strength	Assigned
Flag Unit	2 VSO	Comairscolor
Patrol Wing One		
Squadrons		
VP-7	12 VPB	" (San Diego)
VP-9	12 VPB	" (San Diego)
VP-11	12 VPB	" (San Diego)
VP-12	12 VPB	" (San Diego)

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force. (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	:Authorized Operating: : : Strength	: : : Assigned
<u>Tenders</u>	:	:
WRIGHT	: 1 VSO - 1 VJ	: Patrol Wing One (Flag Comair- scofor
LANGLEY	: 2 VSO - 1 VJ	: " " "
SANDPIPER	:	: " " "
LAWWING	:	: " " "
-----		
<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 Two
PELICAN	:	: Patrol Wing Two
AVOCET	:	: " " "
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>	:	:
<u>Pearl Harbor</u>	:	: Compatwing Two
<u>Utility Unit</u>	: 4 VF, 1 VJR, 4 VJ	: F.A.B. Pearl Harbor
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<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 Three
THRUSH	:	: Patrol Wing Three
<u>Fleet Air Base</u>	:	:
<u>Coco Solo</u>	:	: Compatwing Three
<u>*Utility Unit</u>	: 2 VF, 2 VJR, 3 VJ	: F.A.B. Coco Solo
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<u>Patrol Wing Four</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-16	: 6 VPB	: TEAL (Seattle)
VP-17	: 6 VPB	: " "
VP-19	: 12 VPB	: " "
<u>Tender</u>	:	:
Teal	:	: Flag Compatwing Four

(1) Commander Aircraft Scouting Force. (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	:Authorized Operating: Strength	: Assigned
<u>Patrol Wing Five</u>	:	:
<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
VP-14	: 12 VPB	: OWL (Norfolk)
VP-15	: 9 VPB	: " "
<u>Tender</u>	:	:
OWL	:	: Flag Compatwing Five
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<u>Squadrons</u>	:	:
**VP-20	: 12 VPB	:***AVP (NAS ALAMEDA)
**VP-21	: 9 VPB	:***AVP (NAS ALAMEDA)
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\* 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.

\*\* If Alameda is not in condition for basing squadrons thereon, they will base elsewhere, probably at Norfolk. No wing assignment is made for the present.

\*\*\* AVP to be designated later.

(d) BASE FORCE

(1) Commander Utility Wing, Base Force

Squadron or Unit	:Authorized Operating: Strength	: Assigned
<u>Utility Wing</u>	:	:
VJ-1	: 8 VJ - 9 VJR	: USS RIGEL
VJ-2	: 8 VJ - 9 VJR	: USS RIGEL
-----		

/s/ J. O. RICHARDSON,  
Acting.

Op-38-E-EMR  
VZ/A3-1(370603)  
Serial 38722

*mail clerk*

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

**DECLASSIFIED**

3 June 1937

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
To: All Bureaus and Offices and Divisions of  
Office of Chief of Naval Operations,  
Major General Commandant.

SUBJECT: Proposed Assignment of Aircraft and  
Naval Aeronautic Organization - Fiscal Year 1939.

1. The following proposed assignments in the Naval Aeronautic Organization for the fiscal year 1939 have been prepared for use in connection with the 1939 Budget.

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% " "
- (b) Naval Air Station, Pensacola - 20% " "
- (c) 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.

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- 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
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A. <u>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	:		:	

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(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.  
Nine four-plane units.

VCS-2	:	8 VSO	:	Cruidiv Two
VCS-3	:	8 VSO	:	Cruidiv Three
VCS-8	:	16 VSO	:	Cruidiv Eight
VCS-9	:	12 VSO	:	Cruidiv Nine
*Ship Unit	:	4 VSO	:	ST. LOUIS
*Ship Unit	:	4 VSO	:	HELENA

\*Ship units will be organized as indicated:

PHOENIX	1 August 1938	NAF Philadelphia
ST. LOUIS	2 October 1938	NAS Norfolk
HELENA	16 February 1939	NAS Norfolk

Of the above the PHOENIX is expected to join VCS-9 prior to end of fiscal year and is shown therein.

(3) Commander Destroyers, Battle Force.

Ship Unit	:	2 VSO	:	DETROIT
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(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	-	" " " "
WASP	-	" " " "

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	"
Utility Unit	3 VSO - 2 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	"
VB-7	18 VB	WASP**
VF-7	18 VF - 1 VSB - 2 VM*	"
VS-71	18 VSB	"
VS-72	18 VSB	"
Utility Unit	3 VSO - 2 VJ	"

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

\*\*Commissioning dates WASP squadrons and utility unit dependent on progress on WASP.

(b) SCOUTING FORCE.

Squadron	:	Authorized Operating Strength	:	Assigned
or	:		:	
Unit	:		:	
<hr/>				
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	:	20 VSO	:	Crudiv Six
VCS-7	:	16 VSO	:	Crudiv Seven

\*INDIANAPOLIS Ship Unit included herein.

(2) Commander Destroyers, Scouting Force.

Ship Unit	:	2 VSO	:	RALEIGH
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(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	:Comairbasefor
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	: 8 VJ - 9 VJR	:WRIGHT (San Diego)
VJ-2	: 8 VJ - 9 VJR	: " " "
<u>Patrol Wing</u>	:	:
VP-14	: 12 VPB	:OWL (Norfolk)
VP-15	: 9 VPB	: " "
<u>Patrol Wing</u>	:	:
VP-16	: 6 VPB	:THRUSH (Seattle)
VP-17	: 6 VPB	: " "
VP-19	: 12 VPB	: " "
<u>Patrol Wing</u>	:	:
*VP-20	: 12 VPB	:AVP** (NAS Alameda)
*VP-21	: 9 VPB	:AVP** (NAS Alameda)
<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	: 4 VF - 1 VJR - 4 VJ	: " " "

\*To base at Norfolk if Alameda is not in condition for basing there.

\*\*AVP to be designated later.

\*\*\*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.

B. ASIATIC FLEET.

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

SECTION II. NAVAL DISTRICTS (Contd.)

Squadron or Unit	Authorized Operating Strength	Assigned
<u>Fourth Naval District</u>		
VX-3D4	4 VM - 1 VG 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 VG	" "
<u>Activities on Severn and Potomac.</u>		
VX-4D5	18 VM - 4 VR - 1 VJ - 1 VG and such other planes for experi- mental 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 VG 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	N.A.S. Pensacola
VN-2D8	94 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 - 2 VJ - 1 VG	" "
<u>Eleventh Naval District</u>		
VJ-5D11	5 VM - 1 VR - 1 VG	N.A.S. San Diego

SECTION II. NAVAL DISTRICTS (Contd.)

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

Twelfth Naval District

\*VJ-6D12 : 2 VM - 1 VR - 1 VJ : Alameda

Thirteenth Naval District

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	: 1	: 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	: 1	: 9
St. Louis (Robertson), Mo.	: 3	: 4	: 1	: 9
Kansas City, Kansas	: 4	: 10	: 1	: 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	: 1	: D.C.
Totals	: 60	: 109	: 13	: :

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. Squadron</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 1939.

Afloat - Total 1048.

<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	:	: 72	: 71	: 5	: 4	: 2	: 24	: 178
VSF	:	: 150	:	:	:	:	: 2	: 152
VF	:	: 108	:	: 6	:	:	: 36	: 150
VB	:	: 108	:	:	:	:	: 24	: 132
VTB	:	: 72	:	:	:	:	:	: 72
VPB	:	:	:	: 222	:	:	:	: 222
VJR	:	:	:	: 21	:	:	: 2	: 23
VJ	:	: 12	:	: 25	: 2	:	:	: 39
VR	:	:	:	:	:	:	: 8	: 8
VM	:	: 18	:	:	:	:	: 10	: 28
Totals:	: 1	: 577	: 71	: 279	: 6	: 2	: 112	: 1048



SECTION IV - SUMMARY OF OPERATING AIRPLANES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1939 (Contd.)

Ashore - Total 569 (Including Reserve).

Type	Details	Training	Reserve	Total
VN		173	60	223
VSO		56	109	165
VPB		15		15
VF		50		50
VTB		18		18
VR	7			7
VM	54			54
VJ	8		13	21
VG	6			6
Totals	75	312	182	559

Regular Establishment

Reserve Establishment

H.T.A. Afloat 1048  
 " Ashore 387  
 L.T.A. 4

Ashore

1439  
 182

1621

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.