

25. In areas where major engagements involving interception operations are planned, an interception disposition will be established in advance for each area and orders will be issued concerning it. Preliminary orders will be issued concerning the following matters, which constitute the essentials of an interception disposition:

- a. Operation policy
- b. Forces participating in the operations and outline of the operations
- c. Division of operations and standards for operational movements of the various forces
- d. Designation of principal area of operations and basic disposition of forces in case there are several areas of operations.
- e. Other essential matters

Pago
14/16

ii. Major Fleet Engagements Centered Around Operations of Base Air Forces

26. The strength to be concentrated for a major fleet engagement centered around operations of base air forces varies with the general circumstances, the enemy situation in the area, terrain, etc. Usually strength will be determined by special order in each situation. Sometimes, however, preliminary orders dealing with the interception disposition outline will cover it generally.

27. The Commander in Chief, Combined Fleet will be ashore at the main area of operations or aboard his flagship; he will be in over-all command of operations and will prescribe the standard procedure regarding execution of operations by the various forces; and particularly regarding control of operations of air forces, surface forces and submarine forces.

28. The outline for major fleet engagements centered around operations of base air forces is as follows:

- a. When it appears that the enemy is coming to attack, the necessary forces will be quickly concentrated and the interception disposition perfected.
- b. Airplanes, submarines, picket boats or detached scouting units will discover enemy attack forces promptly. They will ascertain quickly the composition of the enemy forces and continue tracking the main enemy forces.

Pago
14/17

c. First, enemy convoys or carrier forces will be destroyed by the air force; then all forces will be used to annihilate the enemy convoys and fleet. Priority for attack as regards enemy convoys and carrier forces will be decided in the light of the general operational situation.

d. Enemy base air forces will be destroyed at their bases. Or else they will be intercepted on their way to a raid or annihilated in the vicinity of our bases.

e. Task Force air forces will operate from land bases or, if condition requires, will operate so as to destroy enemy attack forces from one flank by means of carrier surface movements.

f. The principal aim is to annihilate enemy landing forces in the open sea or in their anchorages. If they come in for a landing, every effort will be made to annihilate them during the first stage of the landing operations in co-operation with the Army. By engaging and destroying enemy fleets whose movements are restricted by their relation to landing forces, the reinforcement and supply of the enemy landing forces will be cut off and ultimately the enemy will be forced to withdraw.

g. Depending on circumstances, the Main Body, Battleship Force, interception forces (when 2 Fleet is operating as the Task Force), there will be no interception force, but the same will apply) and other surface forces will conduct diversionary feinting movements to split up enemy strength, particularly air attack forces. Enemy fleets or convoys will be subjected to pressure and annihilated or driven off by exploiting our air operations or weather and terrain conditions.

h. Except in cases of special necessity, surface forces normally will not move within the range of strong air attacks. When it appears that the enemy fleet is about to attack in full strength and to attempt a landing in a vital area, enemy plans will be thwarted by close-quarters combat methods on the part of surface warships.

Page
14/18

i. Submarine forces will intercept enemy attack forces at strategic points en route or will attack enemy transport convoys or fleets in the vicinity of their anchorages. Sometimes, however, enemy areas of movement will be determined in advance so that sea areas in which our surface forces are expected to operate can be avoided.

j. The outline for air operations, in addition to the above, is prescribed in I, D.

29. Standards for the unified command of and co-operation between the various forces in major fleet engagements centered around the operations of base air forces are as follows:

a. The operations of various forces in the same area normally will be under unified command. Whenever especially expedient, combined operations with related forces will be under the over-all command of the senior commanding officer.

b. Base air forces of area forces in charge of areas, for major engagements, base air forces reinforced from other area forces, and Task Force base air forces normally will be under unified command. However, when circumstances warrant, base air forces of area forces and Task Force base air forces sometimes will carry on combined operations.

c. Base air forces and Task Force base air forces normally will carry out combined operations. However, when circumstances warrant, a unified command will be set up or a part of each of the various forces will be put under the operational command of another officer.

d. Submarine forces of area forces assigned to an area of major engagements and submarine forces which have been borrowed from other area forces or from the Advanced Expeditionary Force (SEMAKSI BUTAI) to reinforce the area normally will be under unified command.

e. Submarine forces under the command of area force commanders and submarine forces under the command of the Advanced Expeditionary Force Commander (SEMAKSI BUTAI) normally will divide operational areas and carry on combined operations.

f. The various force commanders who engage in combined operations may place their forces under the operational control of other commanders as necessity dictates, except when otherwise ordered by the senior commanding officer.

Page
14/19

g. Related air forces and submarine forces will maintain close liaison during operations, except when otherwise ordered by the senior commanding officer.

h. When the Task Force is moving on the open sea, base air forces and submarine forces will take charge of scouting and protection of flanks and of the routes of advance and withdrawal necessary to the movement of the Task Force. (This will be done in combined operations or at the command of the senior commanding officer.) Therefore, the Task Force Commander, insofar as possible, will report to the commanding officers of related forces the movement schedule of the Task Force.

i. The co-ordination of surface forces with air forces and the co-operation of air forces with surface forces will conform to the demands of related forces, except when otherwise ordered by the senior commanding officer.

j. When Commander in Chief, Combined Fleet, is directing operations from shore, the ships of units under his direct command normally will proceed under the command of the Battleship Force Commander or Diversion Attack Force Commander.

iii. Major Fleet Engagements Centered Around Operations of the Task Force

30. In case the enemy fleet attempts to invade our islands in force, the Combined Fleet will concentrate the greater part of its major surface units and its base air forces while checking the enemy invasion force. The enemy fleet and invasion force will be annihilated in operations centered around the Task Force.

31. Commander in Chief, Combined Fleet, will proceed to the scene of battle leading the Main Body, assume over-all operational command and prescribe the standards for operational movements of the various forces. When circumstances warrant, Commander in Chief, Combined Fleet, will direct the action from his flagship, maneuvering appropriately. Sometimes he will direct the action ashore. In this case, a part or all of the squadrons and divisions (or ships) under his direct command normally will operate under the command of the Battleship Force Commander or Diversion Attack Force Commander.

Page
14/20

32. The outline for operations to be carried out by the various forces in major fleet engagements centered around the operations of the Task Force is as follows:

a. Airplanes, submarines, picket boats or detached scouting units will discover enemy attacking forces promptly. They will ascertain quickly the entire composition of the enemy force and track the main enemy forces.

b. First, enemy aircraft carriers, and then enemy convoys or fleets, will be destroyed by the main strength of our air forces. Sometimes, however, when circumstances warrant, enemy convoys will be attacked and destroyed first.

c. Enemy fleets and convoys will be annihilated by concentrating all our strength and exploiting the results of air attacks.

d. Enemy landing forces will be doomed by being isolated and cut off from reinforcements.

33. The outline for the operations to be carried out by the various forces in major fleet engagements centered around the operations of the Task Force is as follows:

a. Task Force

(1). While maintaining a strict defensive alert and concealing its whereabouts, it will move to take the enemy task force by surprise from the flank. After the enemy aircraft carriers have been disabled, enemy convoys or fleets will be destroyed. Sometimes, when particularly necessary or advantageous, enemy convoys will be attacked first.

(2). Enemy task forces will be attacked at the discretion of the Task Force Commander, who will choose the most propitious time.

Page 14/21 (3). If necessary to facilitate co-operation with Army forces, movement schedules will be reported.

(4). The outline for air combat, in addition to the above, will be as prescribed in I, D.

b. Base air forces

(1). They will patrol and scout extensively in sea areas where the enemy is expected to appear. By closely tracking the enemy they will aid the Task Force to take him by surprise and will protect the flanks and course of the Task Force.

(2). They will attack the enemy when opportunity offers and will first disable the enemy aircraft carriers.

(3). They will attack and annihilate enemy convoys.

(4). Even when dividing responsibility for an area of operations with the Task Force, normally they will use an element of their strength to co-operate with the Task Force.

(5). The outline for air combat, in addition to the above will be as prescribed I, D.

e. Submarine forces of the Advanced Expeditionary Force (SENKEN BUTAI) and area forces

(1). They will participate in operations of the Task Force, be responsible for reconnaissance, observation, tracking, patrol, etc, and will attack the enemy when the opportunity arises.

(2). On receipt of special orders, they will be responsible for clearing the course of the Task Force, protecting its flanks and rear, investigating weather conditions, rescuing crashed planes, etc.

(3). Sometimes operational areas will be demarcated in order to prevent confusion between surface forces and submarine forces.

4. Main Body

Same as outlined for movements of the Battleship Force, except when taking advantage of an opportunity to direct the action for annihilating the enemy.

e. Battleship Force and Diversion Attack Force

Page
14/22

They will make expedient movements in conjunction with the Task Force and carry out diversionary feinting movements. Standards for diversionary feinting movements are as follows:

(1). Diversionary feinting movements will usually be made in sea areas on the periphery of the enemy scouting range or outside the attack range of enemy carrier-borne planes.

(2). Within the range of visibility of enemy patrol planes, by suitably choosing a standard route or an area for deployment it will be made difficult for the enemy to judge the direction in which the Task Force is proceeding.

(3). When beyond the range of visibility of enemy patrol planes, expedient movements will be made and, if necessary, deceptive communications will be transmitted.

f. Surface forces will co-operate in the air attacks of the air forces, proceed toward the enemy in full strength, smash the enemy with all-out attacks and pursue him until he is annihilated. The outline for combat by surface forces will be as prescribed in I, E.

24. The outline for major engagements which result from a clash of opposing task forces when an attempted air attack by an enemy task force on a vital point is being thwarted will be based insofar as possible on the provisions of i.

D. AIR COMBAT

1. General Rules

Page
14/23

25. The essentials of air combat are to clarify the enemy situation, to seize the initiative by swift maneuver and concentration and to destroy the enemy by repeated attacks. By co-ordination of land and sea combat the objective of the operations will be quickly attained.

36. Clarifying the enemy situation and the over-all situation, is of fundamental importance not only to the area concerned but also to the execution of the entire Combined Fleet operations. Therefore, air scouting, reconnaissance, tracking or patrolling will be carried out in close relation with other intelligence functions. By means of a thorough plan based on Combined Fleet operation orders and on the plan and execution of operations, for the area concerned, the situation will be clarified to the extent necessary. The enemy situation will be followed closely and quick, accurate reports issued.

37. Even where the principal elements of a force are surface vessels, as in transport operations, antisubmarine operations, etc, success or failure largely depends on the outcome of related air operations. The participation of airplanes will not be limited to simple co-operation or cover. Air combat will be made the most important element in battle. The scope of action of airplanes will be further expanded and thorough execution provided for. Thus air combat will contribute to the over-all execution of operations.

ii. Base Air Combat

38. The general outline for interception (YŌGEKI) zone air combat is as follows:

a. A strong group of bases and forward bases will be prepared. At the appropriate time the necessary forces will be deployed.

b. Control of the battle situation will be maintained; at the proper time an all-out air attack will be made and the enemy crushed.

c. Fighter plane units and antiaircraft forces will be used to intercept and destroy the attacking enemy airplanes.

d. Night attacks will be stressed. At the same time night fighters and antiaircraft forces will be kept in readiness and the night attacks of enemy airplanes repulsed.

e. In interception (YŌGEKI) zone attack operations and operations designed to check enemy attacks, patrolling and reconnaissance will be stressed and the enemy situation will be clarified. During combat the base air forces will play the dominant role. Through their co-operation with surface forces and land forces the enemy will be attacked and destroyed.

f. When the Task Force is maneuvering at sea, the base air forces will co-operate with each other and develop their own attacking power, at the same time increasing the strength of the Task Force.

g. Escorting transports, providing cover for engagements in narrow waters and other operations aimed at replenishing strength in interception (YŌGEKI) zones or at improving our situation will be stressed. On such occasions attacking enemy airplanes will be destroyed.

h. When necessary, operations involving attacks on important points, co-operation in land warfare, etc, will be carried out.

i. The maintenance and replenishment of air fighting power will be provided for.

39. The preparation of a group of bases or a base will be in accordance with the outline for the establishment of an interception (YUGE-I) zone. Antiaircraft trenches, shelters, storage points for military stores, etc, at forward bases will be especially strengthened in areas where fierce, all-out air combat is expected. In addition to protecting personnel against enemy attack, a plan for the emergency repair of runways will be prepared and every effort made to maintain the capacity of the bases.

40. The essence of deployment is that it be swiftly and secretly carried out in accordance with the plan of operations.

a. Therefore, each air force commander will establish beforehand an allocation which will permit the swift concentration of the strength necessary for anticipated operations.

b. Especially in deploying before an all-out air engagement our plans must be concealed. Detailed knowledge of the enemy situation, and weather and terrain conditions will be obtained. A plan for the interception of and defense against enemy attacks made during or directly after deployment will be kept in mind and will be put into effect at the opportune time.

41. In all-out air combat the enemy situation will be clarified, battle opportunities skillfully seized, our strength concentrated and surprise attacks planned. A suitable combat method will be used and at the appropriate time the enemy destroyed. Weather and terrain conditions will be constructively utilized. New weapons and methods of combat will be devised. The tactics used by the enemy will be turned against him. In all-out air combat the destruction of enemy flying personnel will be stressed.

42. The outline for the interception of attacking enemy airplanes and matters to be given attention are as follows:

a. Preparations for and carrying out of lookouts, radar search and antiaircraft patrols will be made suitable. Fighter planes will intercept enemy airplanes at the proper time and will destroy them. Allocations will be established so that interception operations may be skillfully carried out. As the occasion demands, patrol planes will be used to observe enemy bases, enemy planes will be tracked or submarines will be used to observe enemy bases.

b. Antiaircraft forces will be readied; through their power enemy planes will be shot down. When our air forces are inferior to those of the enemy, since the prime idea is to destroy enemy airplanes, powerful antiaircraft forces will be prepared and plans of attack devised which take advantage of the customary tactics of enemy airplanes. Strength will be replenished and operations carried out with every means possible.

c. Enemy airplanes will be lured on by transport convoys and decoy convoys and then destroyed.

d. Efforts will be made to capture the personnel of enemy airplanes which have been shot down.

43. Since the success or failure of an offensive operation depends primarily on the outcome of the air combat, an especially thorough reconnaissance of the enemy situation will be carried out during the operations. While preparations for attack are being made, our plans will be carefully concealed. At a suitable time deployment will be made and the enemy air and surface forces rendered ineffective.

As the invasion army advances, key points will be occupied. Bases will be hurriedly established and air forces and antiaircraft forces brought up.

44. In operations designed to repulse enemy attacks, the enemy situation always will be clarified and concentrations at advanced enemy bases attacked and destroyed at the appropriate time. When the enemy attacks, he will be engaged immediately on the open sea and his ships destroyed. When the enemy has anchored or is landing, his vessels and debarkation points will be attacked vigorously. The reinforcement convoys will be destroyed and the establishment of enemy air bases prevented. In this way, through co-ordination of sea and land combat, the enemy will be repulsed.

When an enemy attack is made by special landing craft from an opposing area, there will be close co-operation with the vessels used to check them. Rigorous scouting will be carried out and the enemy persistently attacked. Preparations will be made against night attacks by the enemy and for our own night attacks. The necessary seaplane units, etc, will be assigned.

The enemy air offensive will be repulsed as outlined in 41 and 42. Operations conducted when the enemy uses large convoys, a task force etc, will be as in I, C.

45. Attacks on key points will generally consist of attacks on enemy concentrations and on important points on the enemy line of supply leading into the forward area. Depending on the circumstances, other militarily strategic points of governmental, economic, industrial, raw material centers, etc, will be attacked. Both material and spiritual blows will be delivered against the enemy.

46. In all-out air combat a suitable plan is necessary for the replenishment and maintenance of air strength. In this regard consideration will be given to the following points:

Page
14/27

a. Personnel and materiel must be quickly replenished. Damage other than that incurred in combat must be prevented whenever possible.

b. A system for relieving front-line forces or flying personnel will be established. Periods of strenuous duty will not be extended excessively.

c. In the interval between active operations the necessary reconnaissance plane units and fighter plane units will be assigned to bases in forward areas. The greater part of the forces will be transferred to rear area bases and their fighting power replenished and raised by training, equipping, rest and rehabilitation.

d. Relief of the ground staff will be properly considered.

iii. Task Force Air Combat

47. The Task Force is usually divided into a main unit and a vanguard. The main unit is generally composed of a carrier group and its screening forces. It may be further subdivided. The vanguard generally consists of battleships, cruisers and destroyers. Occasionally aircraft carriers may be added. When submarines or flying boats are part of the Task Force, normally the Task Force Commander commands them directly.

48. In the approach the Task Force will scout ahead and on the flanks in co-operation with the base air forces and submarine forces. A strict defensive alert will be maintained through scouting by the vanguard and, if conditions warrant, by the main unit. The force will advance in the direction of the enemy, continually concealing its movements. In the approach the following points are to be especially noted:

Page
14/28

a. Proceeding directly in the direction of the enemy will be avoided. Dispositions in depth or on a wide front will be used and a concentrated attack by the enemy avoided. The attack will be concentrated against one flank of the enemy or will be one of envelopment.

b. The vanguard will proceed in the direction of the enemy and will scout. Depending on circumstances, an element will be dispatched as a detached scouting unit or assigned the mission of destroying enemy patrol plane bases, etc.

c. When information on the enemy situation has been obtained, a strong tracking unit will be dispatched. Scouting will be conducted over other areas and a complete picture of the enemy gained.

d. Submarines or flying boats will scout and patrol or cover the flanks and clear the path of approach.

e. When contact with the enemy is anticipated, an order of approach will usually be taken. The order of approach of the Task Force will be proscribed by the Task Force Commander.

49. The outline for deployment of the Task Force is as follows:

a. When contact with the enemy is imminent, the Task Force will complete its attack dispositions. When the enemy situation has been ascertained, the air attack will be begun immediately.

b. The main unit will take position at a suitable interval from the enemy. If circumstances require, the enemy attack will be avoided by maneuvering in a lateral direction. At the same time the carriers will disperse suitably.

c. In its maneuvers the vanguard will act jointly with the main unit. When the air attack begins, at the order of its commanding officer the Task Force will advance in the direction of the enemy and begin the surface engagement.

50. The general outline for Task Force air combat is as follows:

Page
14/29

a. When engaging an enemy task force, the enemy aircraft carriers present will first be disabled and then destroyed. When an element of the enemy aircraft carriers has been discovered, scouting will be conducted over a wider area and preparations made for the appearance of other aircraft carriers.

b. Air combat will be at the discretion of the Task Force Commander. Depending on battle opportunities, dawn, day, dusk or night air combat will be used.

19 -

g. In dawn air combat the enemy will be approached at high speed during the night; before dawn scout planes will be sent out. The enemy will be attracted at dawn and then destroyed by day air combat.

When dawn scouting yields no information of the enemy, the main unit and vanguard will reverse course and combine. Preparations for the next action will then be made. Depending on circumstances, a second scouting may be undertaken and day air combat begun.

When dawn air combat is carried on in continuation of night action, airplanes or ships will track the enemy aircraft carriers during the night. At dawn these carriers will be attacked and sunk. At the same time action will be taken to prevent the other enemy forces from escaping.

e. In day air combat airplanes will be used for scouting. In particular, the complete disposition of the enemy aircraft carriers will be ascertained. First the enemy aircraft carriers will be eliminated. Then all forces will attack and destroy the enemy.

g. Dusk air combat is used either where it is a continuation of day air combat or where it is advantageous because of the time at which the enemy was discovered or because of other conditions. Until sundown, airplanes will be used to track the enemy and attack units will engage him. The vanguard will endeavor to proceed in the direction of the enemy before dusk and resolutely begin a night engagement in continuation of the air attack. The force will maneuver so as to avoid the night operations sea areas. Preparations will be made for night air combat or for a dawn engagement to take place on the following morning.

f. Night air combat is carried on in continuation of day or dusk air combat or in an initial attack. Enemy aircraft carriers or other ships will be attacked utilizing meteorological conditions or artificial illumination. Night air combat may also comprise tracking the enemy in preparation for dawn combat or co-operation in night actions of surface forces.

Since the chances of success in a night raid are good and since it is difficult for the enemy to concentrate great strength for attack or to use anti-aircraft fire, aggressive night attacks will be attempted whenever the situation is suitable. Normally the vanguard will carry out a night action in co-operation with the air attack. If necessary, the targets and times of the air attack and of the night surface action will be coordinated. A conspicuous means of identifying friendly forces will be employed.

g. As far as possible, the main unit will bring down the enemy tracking planes and will avoid the enemy attack units. It will maneuver so as to facilitate repeated attacks by the attack units.

h. When all the enemy aircraft carriers have been destroyed, the whole force will immediately switch to pursue the task air flotilla (TASK FLOTILLA) and aircraft carrier repeatedly will disrupt its available attack units and endeavor to destroy the enemy. At this time the key to victory lies in attacking repeatedly regardless of cost.

Page
14/20