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NAVY OPERATION PLANS AND ORDERS

1941 - 1944

RECOVERED FROM CA NACHI

PART II

NIGHT OPERATIONS FORCE DOCTRINE

B 11

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Page
6/58

2 FLEET ULTRASECRET STANDING ORDER 1

Flagship CHOKI (a1)

1 Jan 44

KURIDA, Takao (+2)
Commander in Chief, 2 Fleet

(TX Seals:) OKAZAKI (+3),
KOIZUMI (+4),
KATSUOTO (+5),
SHINIZU (+6),
KITAMURA (+7)

Night Operations Force Doctrine is established as in the
Separate Volume. (The Separate Volume will be distributed to the
proper authorities.)

Page
6/59

2 Fleet Ultrasecret Standing Order 1 (1944)

Separate Volume

Night Operations Force Doctrine

2 Fleet Hq

168 of 400 copies

To be returned after using or when detached from the fleet.

Date of Compilation: 1 Jan 44	
Contents	Number of pages
Cover and table of contents	2
Text	19
Total	21

1) other -

(1) 島海 (2) 栗田健男 (3) 國崎 (4) 小泉 (5) 松本 (6) 清水 (7) 三田和

B12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page
6/61

- I. Combat Policy
- II. Organization of Night Operations Force
- III. Night Operations on the Open Seas
 - A. General provisions
 - B. Types of night operations
 - C. Scouting
 - D. Tracking
 - E. Attack
- IV. Night Operations in Narrow Waters
- V. Combat Regulations

I. COMBAT POLICY

Page
6/62

A. Effective reconnaissance on the open seas will be carried out in co-operation with airplanes of the unit, friendly air forces and submarine forces. The over-all enemy situation will be ascertained quickly and clearly by use of communications intelligence, and contact will be maintained once the enemy is discovered.

*Good!
faking!*

B. The enemy will be destroyed by combining all forces and concentrating offensive power on his flank. If conditions permit, he will be encircled and annihilated at one blow.

Page
6/63

C. In the event the enemy disperses his strength, his newest and most powerful units will be destroyed first, and then his other units will be engaged. In certain situations our forces may also be disposed to annihilate the enemy swiftly. The objective of night operations is generally the enemy task (support) force (carriers, battleships and large cruisers in that order). However, in interception zone (YUGENI TAI) operations, the main attack may be first directed against enemy transport groups.

D. After routing the powerful enemy screening force in the manner outlined in paragraph B above, the enemy main strength will be engaged. Destroyer squadrons, however, will avoid being drawn in and will advance quickly in an endeavor to catch the enemy main force. In certain situations, they may secretly swing around and avoid the enemy screening force.

B 13

II. ORGANIZATION OF NIGHT OPERATIONS FORCE

TYPE	ORGANIZATION 1 (METHOD NO)		ORGANIZATION 2 (METHOD NO)		ORGANIZATION 3 (METHOD NO)			ORGANIZATION 4 (METHOD NO)			ORGANIZATION 5 (METHOD NO)				ORGANIZATION 6 (METHOD NO)			
Organisation (Distribution of Forces, Commanding Officer)	1 Night Operations Unit	2 Night Operations Unit	1 Night Operations Unit	2 Night Operations Unit	1 Night Operations Unit	2 Night Operations Unit	Support Unit	1 Night Operations Unit	2 Night Operations Unit	Support Unit	1 Night Operations Unit	2 Night Operations Unit	3 Night Operations Unit	Support Unit	1 Night Operations Unit	2 Night Operations Unit	3 Night Operations Unit	Support Unit
	CruDiv 4	DesRon 2	CruDiv 4	CruDiv 5	CruDiv 4	DesDiv 10	BatDiv 3	CruDiv 4	CruDiv 7	BatDiv 3	CruDiv 4	DesDiv 10	CruDiv 5	BatDiv 3 (plus the OYODO)	CruDiv 5	CruDiv 7	Sec 1 of CruDiv 4	BatDiv 3 (plus the OYODO)
	CruDiv 5		One Des- Div Group DesRon 2	DesRon 2 (less one DesDiv Group)	CruDiv 5	DesRon 2	(plus the OYODO (+1))	CruDiv 5	DesDiv 10	(plus the OYODO)	CruDiv 7	DesRon 2 (less one DesDiv)	One DesDiv of DesRon 2	BatDiv 3 (plus the OYODO)	Sec 2 of CruDiv 4	DesDiv 10	One Des- Div of DesRon 2	DesDiv 3 (plus the OYODO)
	CinC Night Operations Force	Com DesRon 2	CinC Night Operations Force	Senior CO	CinC Night Operations Force	Senior CO	Com BatDiv 3	CinC Night Operations Force	Senior CO	Com BatDiv 3	CinC Night Operations Force	Senior CO	Com CruDiv 5	Com BatDiv 3	Senior CO	Senior CO	CinC Night Operations Force	Com BatDiv 3
Remarks	(Method OTSU) Adding one DesDiv of 2 Night Operations Unit to 1 Night Operations Unit		(Method OTSU) Adding one DesDiv of 1 Night Operations Unit to 2 Night Operations Unit		(Method OTSU) Adding one DesDiv of 2 Night Operations Unit to 1 Night Operations Unit			(Method OTSU) Assigning Support Unit to the support of 1 Night Operations Unit (Method HEI) Assigning support unit to the support of 2 Night Operations Unit (Method TEI) Assigning Ship 1 of BatDiv 3 and the OYODO to the support of 1 Night Operations Unit, and Ship 2 of BatDiv 3 to the support of 1 Night Operations Unit			(Method OTSU) Interchanging CruDiv 5 with Sec 1 of CruDiv 7; and one DesDiv of DesRon 2 with one DesDiv of DesRon 10				(Method OTSU) Assigning support unit to the support of 1 Night Operations Unit (Method HEI) Assigning support unit to the support of 2 Night Operations Unit (Method TEI) Assigning Ship 1 of BatDiv 3 and the OYODO to the support of 1 Night Operations Unit, and Ship 2 of BatDiv 3 to the support of 1 Night Operations Unit			

- Notes
1. Destroyer divisions which are dispatched from a night operations unit or from DesDiv 10 or DesRon 2 will be designated by the senior commanding officer or by each commanding officer.
 2. EO, OTSU, HEI and TEI Methods are to be indicated by adding A, B, C or D flags (code) to the designated signal. However, in the case of EO Method, this is customarily omitted in signals and dispatches.
 3. Special orders will be given concerning the MOGAMI (#2)

(#1) etc:-

(1) 大波 (2) 最上

III. NIGHT OPERATIONS ON THE OPEN SEAS

Page
6/68

A. General Provisions

1. The results of night operations largely depend upon the timely and co-ordinated action of each unit and upon the independent action of each commanding officer. Therefore, each commanding officer will strive to obtain the greatest results for the entire night operation by the combination and improvement of ordinary tactical ideas and by achieving a complete harmony of ideas.

2. Since the basis for success in night operations is a planned surprise attack, endeavor must be made to maintain an excellent lookout, to take advantage of weather and geographical conditions, to use smoke and illumination equipment and to make proper use of direction finders, radar ranging gear, hydrophones, etc.

Page
6/69

3. Although our force will strive to make a surprise attack, an attack in strength will be made when circumstances permit.

4. Battleships (battleship divisions) will participate actively in the night operations, making full use of their speed and superior fire power to destroy the enemy screening force and to cover and support our advance.

Besides scouting and tracking, cruiser divisions will, in conjunction with the battleships (battleship divisions), destroy the enemy screening force and cover the advance of the destroyer squadrons. When the destroyer squadrons advance, cruiser divisions will destroy the enemy by O HASSHA¹ and by firing with the aid of star shell illumination, thus facilitating the assault by the destroyer squadrons.

Page
9/70

The destroyer squadrons will seek to advance undetected. In concert with the battleships (battleship divisions) and cruiser divisions, they will rush upon the enemy main force and destroy it. In this action the destroyer squadrons will be aided by tracking planes (units). After destruction of the enemy screening force, the destroyers may, in certain situations advance with the battleships (battleship divisions) and cruiser divisions.

If the situation permits, aircraft carriers (forces) will not become involved in the night operations. However, at moonrise and at other times when visibility is good, they will carry out night attacks in concert with the Night Operations Force and will aid in scouting (tracking). Generally, submarine forces will not participate directly in night operations, except to co-operate in scouting when conditions permit.

5. If each unit is fully informed as to its position relative to enemy and friendly forces, there will be no danger of firing at friendly forces, and the complete safety of the co-ordinated action may be anticipated.

¹ Editor's Note: A prisoner of war, formerly a gunner, explained O HASSHA as the firing of Type 4 Projectiles, used for interference with enemy radar. Cf chart "Night Operations Disposition", paragraph 1 of column "Outline of Combat" for Night Operations Disposition - 1 on page - 14 following.

B 15

Page
6/71

6. Provisions will always be made to have at hand signals for identification of friendly forces. These will be employed without fail immediately after preparations have been made to open an attack.

7. In a night operations force sortie, the units will first get into position; next they will check relative position, and then, to prevent mistakes in giving position reports, they will include the appropriate location code and the bearing and range vis-a-vis the enemy. In the absence of special orders, the location designation method will be Location Designation Method 4. The base point will be the Night Operations Force Commander when he is in position.

8. When night operations are completed, special orders will indicate subsequent actions, formation at time of assembly and assembly point. Units not able to assemble at the designated time will endeavor to re-form near the main body of friendly forces and to join with them quickly.

9. Standard reports in night operations will be as follows:

Page
6/72

TIME OF REPORT	ITEMS OF THE REPORT	ITEMS TO NOTE
When the enemy is discovered	Strength, position, course, speed, disposition, position relative to own forces, action to be taken by own forces (when necessary)	The discovery of the enemy will be quickly reported, and then the foregoing items will be reported in succession.
When the enemy disappears from sight	Conform to the above	
(a) When there is a change in the situation (b) When help from friendly units is requested (c) When the occasion requires	Enemy situation - course, speed, location, strength, disposition (formation), and changes in the foregoing	Even when there is no extensive change in the enemy situation, it is permissible to report to that effect.
(a) When dispositions have been made (b) When the situation requires	Station of own unit (ship), including location and range and bearing from the enemy	
When preparations for the attack have been completed	Organization of preparations for attack (include station of own unit when necessary)	
When proceeding to the attack	Proceeding to the attack when necessary, arrangements for attack, attack course, direction of torpedo action and whether on same or opposite course	

B.16

TIME OF REPORT	ITEMS OF THE L.O.T.	ITEMS TO NOTE
Page 6/73 Moment when attack is completed	Attack completed	
After attack is completed	Combat situation (results) of the attack, losses, station and movements of own unit	

Page 6/74

B. Types of Night Operations

TYPE	OUTLINE OF COMBAT
Night Operation KO	All forces combine and carry out night operations against a single objective.
Night Operation OTSU	In the event the enemy is dispersed, generally our entire force will be used first to destroy his newest and most powerful units and then will engage other units.
Night Operation HBI	When the enemy is dispersed, our force will also separate and carry out night operations.
Page 6/75 Night Operation TEI	When the enemy is making a disorganized retreat, he will be pursued and annihilated, using the outline for daytime pursuit action as a guide. One element will be assigned to destroy damaged enemy ships.
Night Operation EO	When there is an enemy screening force, it will be bypassed unobserved and night operations will be carried out against the enemy main body.

Page 6/76

C. Scouting

1. Scouting is mainly the task of the airplanes. When airplanes cannot accomplish this mission, or when the expected results have not been achieved, scouting will be performed by surface vessels. Surface vessel scouting is carried out principally by cruiser divisions. However, when it is difficult to cover the assigned scouting sector with cruiser divisions alone, destroyer squadrons and battleships (battle-ship divisions) will be added.

2. In scouting, when the enemy is likely to be encountered at any moment, a destroyer division (destroyer) will be sent with cruiser divisions.

Page 6/77

3. A unit which has encountered the enemy while scouting will avoid an engagement. It will seek to track secretly, to report the enemy situation quickly and to assemble friendly units. However, when the enemy counterattacks, the unit will first deliver an attack and then track.

4. In scouting, a cruiser division will generally not be broken up into units smaller than a section (two ships).

5. When scouting is about to begin, orders on scouting disposition, basic course and speed will be given. In the absence of special orders, the Night Operations Force Commander will serve as the base point for scouting.

(Key to conventional symbols and abbreviations)

↑ Naval force including capital ships

↑ Naval force excluding capital ships

P Fleet commander

P Squadron (division) Commander

28d DesRon Two

$\frac{1}{33}$ Ship 1 of BatDiv Three

$\frac{2}{33}$ Ship 2 of BatDiv Three

33 BatDiv Three

43 CruDiv Four

53 CruDiv Five

73 CruDiv Seven

103 DesDiv Ten

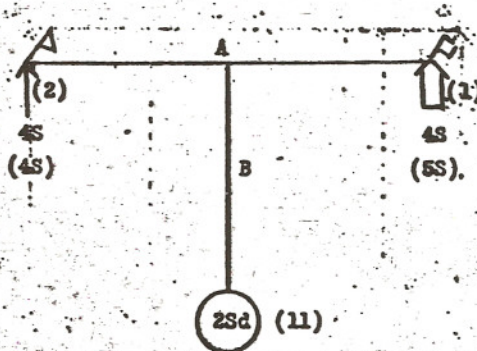
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6/78
6/79

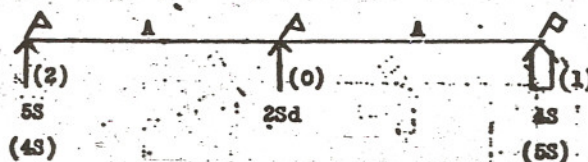
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SCOUTING DISPOSITIONS

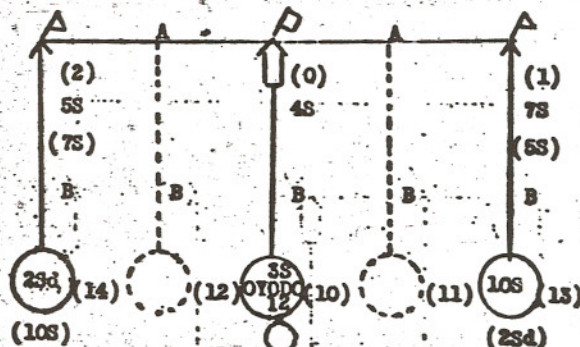
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Scouting Disposition - 2 (Method K0)



Scouting Disposition - 3 (Method K0)



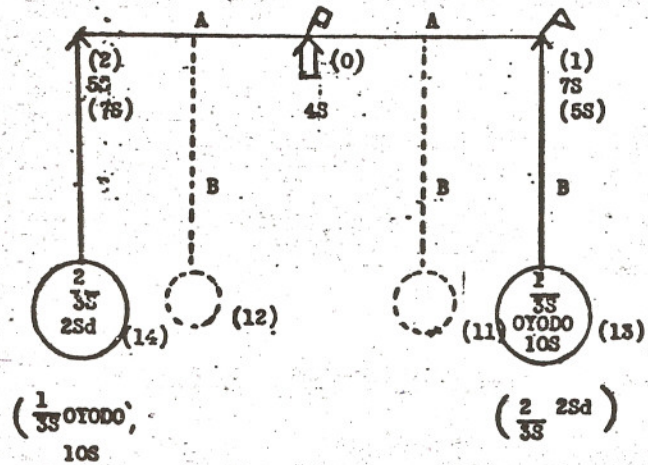
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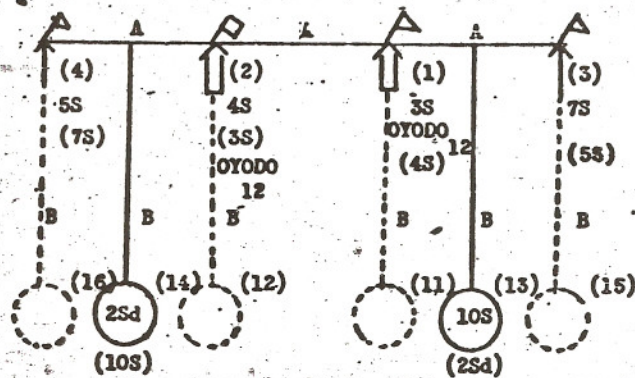
6/79
3/80

278/245/des

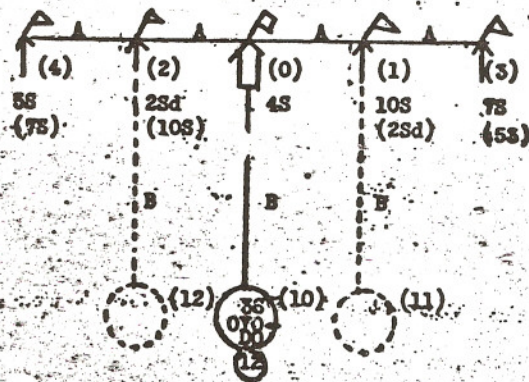
Scouting Disposition - 4 (Method KO)



Scouting Disposition - 5 (Method KO)



Scouting Disposition - 6 (Method KO)



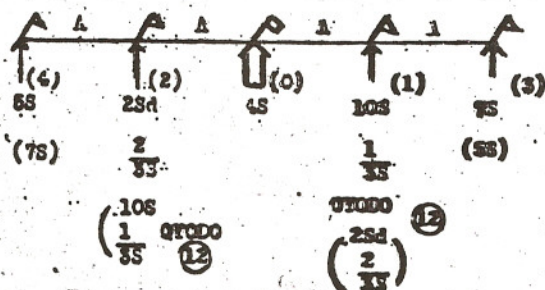
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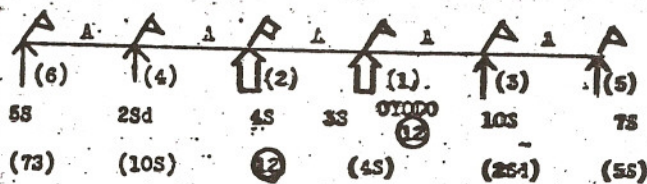
4/81
6/82

273/243/400

Scouting Disposition - 7 (Method 10)



Scouting Disposition - 8 (Method 10)



(TH Exact tracing from original document.)

Scouting Disposition - 9 (Method 10)

Scouting course and speed will be as ordered. Each unit (ship) will commence scouting from present position on a designated course and at a designated speed.

OYODO

B 21

Notes:

Page
6/83

1. The interchanging of dispositions left and right (indicated within the parentheses) will be designated as Method OTSU. Destroyer divisions may be attached to cruiser divisions and battleships (battleship division) in the first line of search (standard station - about 5 km in front). This will be known as Method HJI and will be designated by adding B and C flags (code) to the specified signals. Destroyer divisions which are to be attached to cruiser divisions or battleships (battleship divisions) will usually be dispatched from DesRon Ten for CruDiv Seven, CruDiv Eight and BatDiv Three, and from DesRon Two for CruDiv Four and CruDiv Five. They will be designated by each force commander.

Page
6/84

2. In the absence of special orders, A will be 15 km and B will be a suitable distance within the field of vision. However, units which find it difficult to come abreast of the guide unit will operate on the designated course and at the designated interval.

3. The line of search will be at right angles to the basic course.

Page
6/85

D. Tracking

1. Tracking is chiefly the duty of airplanes. However, since effective tracking is a vital element in determining the success or failure of night operations, cruiser divisions may also be assigned to tracking depending upon conditions.

2. Outline of tracking with surface forces is as follows:

a. In tracking, enemy is generally followed from a station close to the limit of his rearward field of vision (effective radar range). Depending upon the situation, a station may be taken on the enemy quarter.

b. In order that a secret and accurate estimate of the situation can be made by use of skilled lookouts, radio direction finders, radar ranging and underwater ranging gear, every effort will be made to avoid being engaged by the enemy before the completion of the disposition of friendly forces.

Page
6/86

c. If attacked by the enemy during tracking, the unit in question will temporarily take evasive action by sharp maneuvers and will cover its trail with smoke. As soon as the enemy attack ceases, the unit will immediately return to the original course and resume tracking. However, if the opportunity presents, the unit will take advantage of the strategic situation and counterattack.

d. If enemy is lost during tracking, this fact will be reported without delay, and the tracking unit will immediately begin scouting.

Page
6/87

E. Attack

1. In making the disposition of the squadron for night operations, it will normally proceed beyond the enemy's field of vision. Dispositions will be based upon the reports of the enemy situation from the tracking airplanes and tracking cruiser divisions.

2. A preliminary report on O HASSEA by the cruiser divisions will be made as soon as possible. This report will also give information of the advance of the destroyer squadrons and the enemy situation. It will generally be the practice to attack with all forces in order to make the most of the effect of O HASSEA.

B 22

3. The commander of the Night Operations Force will issue the order for the attack. However, when presented with a good opportunity, each commander may attack independently.

Page
6/87

4. When two destroyer squadrons make a co-ordinated attack, they will generally launch their attacks simultaneously. However, when there is fear of over-concentration, successive attacks will be made at short intervals.

Page
6/88

5. In the case of a sudden encounter with the enemy, and in certain other circumstances, the deployment will be that for day operations, and dispositions for night operations will not be used. Night operations may then begin.

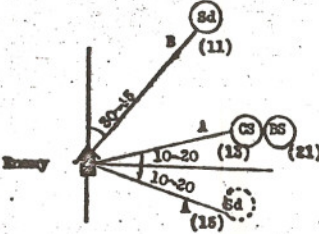
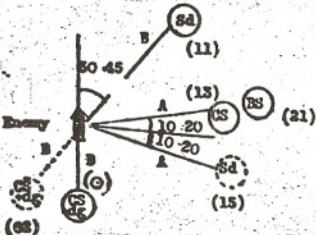
6. When the attack begins, units will make a fierce close quarters attack in close co-operation with one another.

7. Measures after the attack

Units which have completed an attack will take appropriate action so that they will not hinder the movements of friendly units. Continuing to track, they will speedily make preparations for a second blow and return to the attack if the opportunity presents.

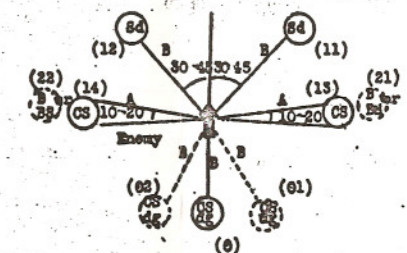
8/59
6/90
6/91

NIGHT OPERATIONS DISPOSITION

TYPE	DISPOSITION	STATION OF EACH UNIT	OUTLINE OF COMBAT														
Night Operations Disposition - 1	 (IX Exact tracing from the original document.) A Limit of visibility or effective limit of radar search. B A + 3 to 7 km. <table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">(IX Translation of conventional signal and abbreviations in this table.)</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>Battleship.</td></tr><tr><td>BS</td><td>Battleship division.</td></tr><tr><td>CS</td><td>Cruiser division.</td></tr><tr><td>dg</td><td>Destroyer division.</td></tr><tr><td>Sd</td><td>Destroyer squadron.</td></tr><tr><td>⚓</td><td>Naval force including capital ships.</td></tr></table>	(IX Translation of conventional signal and abbreviations in this table.)		B	Battleship.	BS	Battleship division.	CS	Cruiser division.	dg	Destroyer division.	Sd	Destroyer squadron.	⚓	Naval force including capital ships.	1. In Organisation 1 (11)→2 Night Operations Unit. (15)→1 Night Operations Unit. 2. In Organisation 3 (11)→2 Night Operations Unit and depending on the situation (15). (15)→1 Night Operations Unit. (21)→Support unit.	1. Cruiser divisions will concentrate their strength as much as possible. When they have proceeded close to the desired disposition point of the tracking destroyer squadron located near the limit of visibility (beyond effective radar range), they will O HASSEA. Then, closing in (They must be careful not to come too soon within the enemy's effective radar-controlled firing range.), they will carry out a full-scale attack. 2. Battleships (battleship divisions) will take up stations on the disengaged side of the cruiser divisions, or, at some other suitable stations. Co-ordinating their attack with that of the cruiser divisions, they will fire upon the enemy with the aid of searchlight illumination and star-shell fire of their own and other ships. 3. The destroyer squadron will proceed with the utmost secrecy to a point off the enemy's bow and will endeavor to carry out a surprise attack, taking advantage of the effects of the O HASSEA by the cruiser division and the effect of the bombardment by the battleships (battleship divisions) and cruiser division. Generally, the units stationed to the rear will attack in concert with the units stationed to the fore. 4. In accordance with orders, the enemy will be destroyed at one blow by an all-out attack. 5. When the full-scale attack begins, tracking planes will endeavor to drop flares continuously over the enemy and will promptly report enemy movements.
(IX Translation of conventional signal and abbreviations in this table.)																	
B	Battleship.																
BS	Battleship division.																
CS	Cruiser division.																
dg	Destroyer division.																
Sd	Destroyer squadron.																
⚓	Naval force including capital ships.																
Night Operations Disposition - 2	 (IX Exact tracing from the original document.)	In Organisation 5 (11)→2 Night Operations Unit and depending on the situation, at (15). (15)→1 Night Operations Unit. (G) or (G+)→3 Night Operations Unit. (21)→Support unit.	1. One part will track at the enemy's rear or off his bow and will report the enemy situation. 2. Same as Outline of Combat for Night Operations Disposition - 1. 3. When tracking units see friendly units going over to the attack, they will fire star shells and play searchlights, and will promptly report enemy movements.														

6/22
6/93

NIGHT OPERATIONS DISPOSITION (Continued)

TYPE	DISPOSITION	STATION OF EACH UNIT	OUTLINE OF COMBAT
Night Operations Disposition - 3	 (TN Exact tracing from the original document.)	In Organisation 2 (11)(15)→1 Night Operations Unit. (12)(14)→2 Night Operations Unit. In Organisation 4 (11)(13)→1 Night Operations Unit. (12)(14)→2 Night Operations Unit. (21) or (22)→Support unit. In Organisation 6 (11)(13)→1 Night Operations Unit. (12)(14)→2 Night Operations Unit. (21) or (22)→Support unit. (0)→3 Night Operations Unit.	1. The greater part of the force will attempt to encircle the enemy from both sides. One part of the force will track to the rear or off the quarter. 2. In accordance with orders, the units on both sides will carry out a simultaneous attack. If a good opportunity presents, the tracking unit will attack with those units. 3. The outline of combat for each unit will conform to Night Operations Dispositions - 1 and 2.
Night Operations Disposition - 4	↓ Enemy Scouting disposition or other disposition at the time. (TN Exact tracing from the original document.)		When encountering the enemy, units in scouting disposition or other disposition will attack quickly and then become tracking units. Other units will attack in conformity with Outline of Combat for Night Operations - 2 or 3.

Remarks:

Taking a station on the opposite side to that shown in the sketch of each disposition and interchanging left and right will be an alternate method and will be indicated by adding numeral flag (code) to the designated signal.