

PART II

ORGANIZATION OF THE AREA FLEETS

(Digitized by Joseph Ed Low, September 2005)

NOTE

Although Part II deals with Area Fleets, the complete organization of each is not presented. (See Frontispiece: Chain of Command). The Fleets and Air Fleets, the integral components of Area Fleets, have been purposely omitted (except First, Second Third and Fourth Southern Expeditionary Fleets) as they are categorically presented in Parts I and III respectively. All other units assigned or attached to Area Fleets have been noted in Part II.

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941												1942												1943												1944												1945																		
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG																						
10th Special Base Force	10th Special Base Force (10)												44th Converted Minesweeper Division (20)																																																						
	W5 (Minesweeper No. 5) (10) To 1st Minesweeper Division (10) W7 (10)																																				(10) Removed W54 (10) Removed (10) Removed (10) Removed (10) W5 (10) W4 (10) Removed (10) Removed																														
	11th Subchaser Division (10) To 9th Base Force/First Southern Exped. Fleet (20)																																				(7) CH63 (Subchaser No. 63) (10) Removed																														
	CHOSA MARU (10)																																																																		
	10th Communications Unit (10) To 3d Combined Communications Unit (1) Removed (10)																																																																		
	1st Guard Unit (10) (3) Deactivated																								9th Guard Unit (1) (20)																																										
	10th Harbor Master's Office (10)																								11th Submarine Base Unit (1) (20) To 15th Base Force/First Southern Expeditionary Fleet												7th Guard Unit (15) 101st Guard Unit (1)																														
																									(1) 22d Anti-Submarine Detection Station (20) Deactivated																																										
	11th Special Base Force																																																																		
													Ch19 (20) Ch20 (20) Ch21 (20)																																				(1) (1) (1) To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet																		
South-West Area Fleet	EIFUKU MARU (15) Ch41 (15) Ch43 (15)																																																																		
	HARUTA MARU (10) (30) To 11th Salvage & Repair Depot																																																(10) Removed (1) To 11th Base Force																		
	81st Communications Unit (10) 11th Communications Unit (10) (1) Deactivated																																																																		
																																																	11th Guard Unit (10) 10th Guard Unit (1) 110th Guard Unit (14)																		
12th Special Base Force	12th Special Base Force (15) KARI (15) KOSHO MARU (15) (10) Deactivated																																																																		
	12th Communications Unit (15)																																																																		
													12th Guard Unit (1) (15) To 13th Base Force																																																						
													13th Guard Unit (1) (1) 14th Guard Unit (5) 25th Guard Unit (10)																																																						
12th Converted Guard Div.	41st Converted Minesweeper Division (15) Deactivated																																																																		
													21st Antisubmarine Detection Station (1) (5) Deactivated																																																						
													22d Antisubmarine Detection Station (1) (5) Deactivated																																																						
13th Base Force																									13th Base Force (1) 12th Guard Unit (1) 14th Guard Unit (1) 17th Guard Unit (1) 12th Comm. Unit (1)												To 13th Special Base Force (15) To 13th Base Force (10) Deactivated																														
15th Base Force																																					15th Base Force (20) 11th Subchaser Division (20) 9th Guard Unit (20) 11th Submarine Base Unit (20)																														

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941												1942												1943												1944												1945											
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG															
24th Special Base Force																																																												
25th Special Base Force																																																												
South-Second West South- ern Area Fleet Exped. Fleet																																																												
26th Special Base Force																																																												
Attached																																																												

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941	1942												1943												1944												1945							
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
		Third Southern Exped. Fleet (Combined Flt.) To Southwest Area Fleet																																											
		(3) KIMA (10) (25) To 16th Cruiser Division/Second Southern Expeditionary Fleet																																											
		(3) YAEYAMA (10) (20) To First Southern Expeditionary Fleet																																											
		(1) TSUGARU (10) Removed																																											
		3d Converted Gunboat Div. (3) (1) To 31st Special Base Force/Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet																																											
31st Special Base Force		(3) 31st Special Base Force (15) Deactivated																																											
		(1) 3d Converted Gunboat Div. Deactivated (10) W-23 (10) Removed																																											
		(1) KISO MARU (15) } To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet																																											
		(1) ASO MARU (15) } To First Escort Fleet																																											
		53d Converted Subchaser Div. (1) (25) Deactivated (10) Ch-19 (5) } To First Escort Fleet																																											
		(1) W-17 (25) Deactivated (10) Ch-20 (5) } To First Escort Fleet																																											
		(1) W-18 (25) } To Yokosuka Nav. Dist. (10) Ch-21 (5) } To First Escort Fleet																																											
		(1) 31st Subchaser Div. (1) To Kure Nav. Dist. (10) 31st Communications Unit (5) } To First Escort Fleet																																											
		(1) 31st Air Group (20) To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet																																											
		(1) 31st Communications Unit (5) To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet (10) 31st Harbor Master's Office (1) Ch-53 (10) Removed (1) Ch-50 (5) To First Escort Fleet (20) 35th Guard Unit																																											
South- west Area Fleet		(3) 32d Special Base Force																																											
		1st Converted Gunboat Div. (1) (10) Deactivated																																											
		51st Converted Subchaser Div. (1) (25) Deactivated																																											
		(1) 32d Air Group (20) Deactivated																																											
		(10) BUSHO MARU (1) To Supply Unit/Southwest Area Fleet																																											
		(10) KEIKO MARU (20) Removed																																											
		12th Antisubmarine Detection Station (10) (5) Deactivated (15) W-30 (10) Removed																																											
		(18) W-41 (1) To 21st Minesweeper Division																																											
		(28) Ch-35 (10) Removed (1) Ch-26 (5) To First Escort Fleet																																											
		(5) 33d Guard Unit (5) 36th Guard Unit (20) To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet (25) 32d Communications Unit (20) 10th Transport Group																																											
32d Special Base Force		(18) 30th Base Force																																											
		(18) W-21																																											
		(18) W-22 (10) Removed																																											
		(18) 31st Subchaser Division (5) To First Escort Fleet																																											
		(18) SOKUJEN (10) Removed																																											
		(20) 45th Guard Unit																																											
		(18) 46th Guard Unit																																											
		(18) 3d Communications Unit																																											
		(18) 30th Harbor Master's Office																																											
		(18) 6th Transport Group (18) West Carolina Airfield Unit (8)																																											
30th Base Force		(5) 33d Special Base Force																																											
		(5) 36th Guard Unit																																											
33d Special Base Force																																													

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941	1942	1943	1944												1945												
				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG					
South- west Area Fleet	Third Southern Exped. Fleet																											

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941	1942	1943												1944												1945						
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
South- west Area Fleet	Fourth South- ern Exped. Fleet														Fourth Southern Expeditionary Fleet																		
															(30) ITSUKUSHIMA												(10) Deactivated						
															(30) 24th Base Force												(10) Removed						
															(30) KASASAGI																		
															(30) KIJU																		
															(30) 4th Guard Unit												To Second Southern Expeditionary Fleet						
															(30) 6th Guard Unit																		
															(30) 25th Special Base Force												25th Base Force						
															(30) WAKATAKA												(10)						
															(30) 125th Converted Subchaser Division												(15) Removed						
												(30) 7th Guard Unit																					
												(30) 20th Guard Unit												(15) (To 26th Special Base Force/Fourth Southern Exped. Flt.)									
												(30) 21st Guard Unit												(10) To Tenth Area Fleet									
												(30) 24th Communications Unit												(20) (To 26th Special Base Force/Fourth Southern Exped. Flt.)									
												(30) 25th Communications Unit												(1) Deactivated									
																								(20) 3d Transport Group									
																								(10) 26th Guard Unit									
																								(10) 27th Guard Unit									
												(30) 26th Special Base Force												(10) To Tenth Area Fleet									
												(30) AOTANA												(10) Removed									
												(30) w-4												(1) To 10th Special Base Force/First Southern Exped. Fleet									
												(30) w-5												(1) To 10th Special Base Force/First Southern Exped. Fleet									
												(30) 18th Guard Unit												(1) To 28th Base Force/Fourth Southern Expeditionary Fleet									
																								(1) 19th Guard Unit									
																								(5) 91st Guard Unit									
																								(23) Ch-53									
																								(7) Ch-60									
																								(15) 20th Guard Unit									
																								(20) 24th Communications Unit									
																								(20) KIJU									
																								(1) 28th Base Force									
																								(1) Ch-26									
																								(5) Ch-34									
																								(5) Ch-35									
																								(1) 18th Guard Unit									
																								(1) 19th Guard Unit									
																								(1) 91st Guard Unit									
																								(15) Deactivated									

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941	1942	1943												1944												1945									
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG		
South- west Area Fleet	Fourth South- ern Exped. Fleet	Attached																																		
				</																																

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941	1942	1943	1944												1945	
				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
Central Pacific Area Fleet	3d Rest. Sq.																
5th Base Force																	
30th Base Force																	
Attached																	

~~(4) Central Pacific Area Fleet/Combined Fleet (18)~~

~~(1) 3d Destroyer Squadron (18)~~
~~(1) YUBARI (10) Removed~~
~~(15) NATORI (18)~~
~~(1) 22d Destroyer Division (18)~~
~~(1) 30th Destroyer Division (18)~~

To Combined Fleet

~~(4) 5th Base Force (18)~~
~~(4) SOKUTEN (18)~~
~~(4) 21st Subchaser Division (18)~~
~~(4) 60th Converted Subchaser Division (18)~~
~~(4) 54th Guard Unit (18)~~
~~(4) 55th Guard Unit (18)~~
~~(4) 56th Guard Unit (18)~~
~~(1) 44th Guard Unit (18)~~
~~(4) 5th Communications Unit (18)~~
~~(10) 5th Transport Group (18)~~

To Third Southern Exped. Fleet

To Fourth Fleet

Deactivated

~~(4) 30th Base Force (18)~~
~~(10) W-21 (18)~~
~~(10) W-22 (18)~~
~~(20) 31st Subchaser Division (18)~~
~~(4) 45th Guard Unit (18)~~
~~(15) 46th Guard Unit (18)~~
~~(10) 30th Submarine Base Unit (10)~~
~~(25) To Sixth Fleet~~
~~(20) Harbor Master's Office (18)~~
~~(10) 6th Transport Group (18)~~
~~(4) 3d Communications Unit (18)~~

To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet

~~(4) ISUZU (18)~~
~~(20) NAGARA (15) To 11th Destroyer Squadron/Combined Fleet~~
~~(20) NATORI (15) To 3d Destroyer Squadron/Central Pacific Area Fleet~~
~~(1) 23d Boat Group (18)~~
~~(15) 59th AA Unit (18)~~
~~(15) 60th AA Unit (18)~~
~~(15) 91st AA Unit (18)~~
~~(1) 82d AA Unit (18)~~
~~(1) 83d AA Unit (18)~~
~~(30) 90th AA Unit (18)~~
~~(30) 122d AA Unit (18)~~
~~(5) 87th AA Unit (18)~~
~~(3) 126th AA Unit (18)~~
~~(5) 124th AA Unit (18)~~
~~(5) 125th AA Unit (18)~~

To Combined Fleet

To 11th Destroyer Squadron/Combined Fleet

To 3d Destroyer Squadron/Central Pacific Area Fleet

Deactivated

To Fourth Fleet

Deactivated

Deactivated

To Yokosuka Nav. Dist.

To Fourth Fleet

To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet

Deactivated

To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet

To Fourth Fleet

To Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet

To Fourth Fleet

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945							
					JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
					<u>Tenth Area Fleet/Combined Fleet</u> (5)							
5th Cruiser Division					<u>5th Cruiser Division</u> (20) Deactivated (5) <u>HAGURO</u> (20) Removed OYODO (5) (10) To 4th Carrier Division/Combined Fleet (5) <u>ASHIGARA</u> (20) To Tenth Area Fleet							
4th Carrier Division				4th Carrier Div (5) (10)	ISE (5) (10) } To Combined Fleet HYUGA (5) (10) }							
25th Base Force					<u>25th Base Force</u> (5) (10) <u>WAKATAKA</u> (5) (10) <u>KIJI</u> (29) (5) (10) <u>7th Guard Unit</u> (5) (10) <u>20th Guard Unit</u> (5) (10) <u>21st Guard Unit</u> (5) (10) <u>26th Guard Unit</u> (5) (10) <u>27th Guard Unit</u> (5) (10) <u>29th Guard Unit</u> (5) (10) <u>24th Comm Unit</u> (5) (10) <u>3d Transport Group</u> (5) } To Second Southern Expeditionary Fleet							
26th Special Base Force					<u>26th Special Base Force</u> (5) (10) (29) Deactivated (10) <u>KIJI</u> (29) To 25th Base Force/Tenth Area Fleet							
27th Special Base Force					<u>27th Special Base Force</u> (10)							
28th Base Force					<u>28th Base Force</u> (5) Deactivated (10) <u>18th Guard Unit</u> (5) To 25th Base Force/Second Southern Expeditionary Fleet							
Attached					<u>ISUZU</u> (25) (20) Removed <u>ASHIGARA</u> (20) <u>NANKAI</u> (5) <u>HAKUSA</u> (20) (10) To Tenth Area Fleet Supply Unit (10) <u>33d AA Unit</u> (15) (10) <u>103th AA Unit</u> (15) (10) <u>26th Cons. Unit</u> (15) (10) <u>201st Cons. Unit</u> (15) (10) <u>202d Cons. Unit</u> (15) (10) <u>203d Cons. Unit</u> (15) (10) <u>224th Cons. Unit</u> (15) (10) <u>232d Cons. Unit</u> (15) } To Second Southern Expeditionary Fleet							

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941												1942												1943												1944												1945																								
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG																												
CHINA Area Fleet	(Imperial General Hqs.)																																				(25) (Navy General Command)																																				
First CHINA Expeditionary Fleet	First CHINA Exped. Fleet																																				(20)	Deactivated																																			
	ATAKA																																				(20)	To SHANGHAI Area Base Force																																			
	UJI																																				(20)																																				
	SETA																																				(20)																																				
	KATATA																																				(20)																																				
	HIRA																																				(20)																																				
	HOZU																																				(20)	To YANGTZE Area Special Base Force																																			
	ATAMI																																				(20)																																				
	FUTAMI																																				(20)																																				
	FUSHIMI																																				(20)																																				
	SUMIDA																																				(20)																																				
	HANKOW Guard Unit (15)																																				(20)	Deactivated																																			
	KIUKIANG Guard Unit																																				(20)	To YANGTZE Area Special Base Force																																			
CHINA Area Fleet	HANKOW Area Sp. Base Force (15) Deactivated																																																																								
Second CHINA Expeditionary Fleet	Second CHINA Exped. Fleet																																				(10)	Removed																																			
	SAGA (10)																																				(10)	Removed																																			
	HASHIDATE (10)																																				(10)	MANJU (1)																																			
	HIYODORI (10)																																				(1)	To 2d Surface Escort Division/Fourth Fleet																																			
	KASASAGI (10)																																				(1)	To 24th Special Base Force/Second Southern Exped. Fleet																																			
	SUMA (1)																																				(20)	To YANGTZE Area Special Base Force (15) 327th Cons. Unit																																			
	HATSUKARI (20)																																				(1)	To 1st Surface Escort Division/Southwest Area Fleet																																			
	TOMOZURU (1)																																				(15)	MAIKO (15)																																			
	NANYO (1)																																				(5)	Removed																																			
	W-102 (Minesweeper No. 102)																																				(25)	To OMINATO N Guard Dist.																																			
	15th Escort Sq.	15th Escort Squadron (10) Deactivated																																																																							
		ISUZU (10) To 16th Cruiser Division/Second Southern Exped. Fleet																																																																							
		SAGA (10)																																																																							
HASHIDATE (10) To Second CHINA Exped. Fleet																																																																									
HIYODORI (10)																																																																									
KASASAGI (10)																																																																									
KOSHO MARU (15) To 18th Special Base Force/First Southern Exped. Fleet																																																																									
4th Converted Minesweeper Div (20) Deactivated																																																																									
HONGKONG Area Sp. Base Force	HONGKONG Area Special Base Force																																																																								
	HONGKONG Harbor Master's Office (10)																																																																								
	CANTON Guard Unit (10)																																																																								
AMOY Area Sp. Base Force	(15) Deactivated																																																																								
	AMOY Area Special Base Force (Deactivated) (1) Deactivated																																																																								

UNIT DESIGNATION	1941												1942												1943												1944												1945							
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG											
Third CHINA Expeditionary Fleet	Third CHINA Exped. Fleet (10) Deactivated																																																							
	IWATE (15) To KURE Nav. Dist.																																																							
Third CHINA Expeditionary Fleet	KIJI (15) (10) To TSINGTAO Area Special Base Force/CHINA Area Fleet																																																							
	11th Torpedo Boat Div. (5) Deactivated																																																							
Third CHINA Expeditionary Fleet	SHURI MARU (10) To TSINGTAO Area Special Base Force/CHINA Area Fleet																																																							
	NIHONKAI MARU (15) (10)																																																							
Third CHINA Expeditionary Fleet	TSINGTAO Area Sp. Base Force (5) Deactivated																																																							
	TSINGTAO Guard Unit (5) Deactivated																																																							
CHINA Area Fleet	HAINAN Nav. Guard Dist.																																																							
	OTORI (10) (1) To 2d Surface Escort Division/Fourth Fleet																																																							
	HAYABUSA (10) (10) To 1st Surface Escort Division/Southwest Area Fleet																																																							
	1st Torpedo Boat Div. (10) Deactivated																																																							
	HAINAN Guard Unit																																																							
	YOKOSUKA 4th Sp. Nav. Landing Unit																																																							
	MAIZURU 1st Sp. Nav. Landing Unit																																																							
	SASEBO 8th Sp. Nav. Landing Unit																																																							
	15th Guard Unit																																																							
	16th Guard Unit																																																							
	HAINAN Com. Unit (15) Deactivated																								(1) 254th Air Group																								(1) Deactivated							
																																																	YULIN Air Group (1)							
SHANGHAI Area Base Force	SHANGHAI Area Base Force																																																							
	TOBA																								ATAKA (20)																															
																																					WU (5)																			
																																					OKITSU (1)																			
	KURI																																																							
	TSUGA																																																(10) Removed							
	HASU																																																							
	CHUSHAN 1st Guard Unit																								(20) SHANGHAI Sp. Nav. Landing Unit																								(10) To CHINA Area Fleet							
	NANKING Guard Unit																																																							
	13th Converted Gunboat Division																																																(20) Deactivated							
	14th Converted Gunboat Division																																																							
	NIHONKAI MARU (15) To Third CHINA Exped. Fleet																																																(10) Deactivated							
1st Converted Motor-Gunboat Division																																																								
2d Converted Motor-Gunboat Division																																																(2) Deactivated								
SHANGHAI Harbor Master's Office																																																(2) Deactivated								

