

at Wake is 10 days. Imagine a vessel moored 10 days off Wake Island to transfer freight and provisions to the men working there and to the garrison. This would appear to the undersigned as being a submarine picnic. Accordingly, it is believed that at that place it will be necessary to have several of the craft indicated in paragraph 1(a).

6. Summarizing, the object of this letter is to invite attention to the weakness of the local defense forces in protecting the vital communication lines at Oahu and the island bases and to recommend that every effort be made to supply this district at the earliest possible time with the necessary implements to combat the most probable form of attack.

C. C. RHOEN.

Copy to: Cincpac

(At this point in Exhibit No. 41 there appears a routing slip, bearing Cincus Routing No. 04122 and date of 7 May 1941. This routing slip will be found reproduced as Item No. 10, EXHIBITS-ILLUSTRATIONS, Navy Court of Inquiry. These illustrations are bound together following the printed exhibits of the Navy Court of Inquiry.)

EXHIBIT No. 42

CinC File No. A16/(038W)

UNITED STATES FLEET

U. S. S. PENNSYLVANIA, Flagship

PEARL HARBOR, T. H., 20 May 1941.

Secret

From: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Fourteenth Naval District—Local defense forces.

References:

- (a) Comdt. 14 ND conf. ltr. A16-1(WP) (4)/ND14(0430) of May 7, 1941.
- (b) Comdt. 14 ND secret ltr. A16-3/A4-3(1)/ND14(177) of May 13, 1940.
- (c) Comdt. 14 ND secret ltr. A16-1/A7-3(3)/ND14(510) of Oct. 31, 1940.
- (d) Comdt. 14 ND conf. ltr. A16-1/A7-2/ND14(629) of December 30, 1940.
- (e) CinCus conf. 1st end. A16 (022) of January 7, 1941.
- (f) CinCus secret ltr. A16 (0129) of January 25, 1941.
- (g) CinCus rest. ltr. A4-3/OP (499) of February 17, 1941.

Enclosure: (A) Table of assignment of forces to the Fourteenth Naval District.

1. In reference (a), the Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District, has again invited attention to the serious weakness of the local defense forces of his district, particularly in antisubmarine types. This continues to be a matter of grave concern to the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet. In case of war it seems certain that the Commander-in-Chief must divert important units of the Fleet from their proper function with the Fleet to supplement the inadequate local defense forces now available, or must accept the risk of serious losses to combatant ships, naval auxiliaries, and merchant ships. If the Fleet should be shifted from the Pearl Harbor area, or be temporarily absent, the local defense forces would be lamentably weak for carrying out their assigned tasks.

2. This situation has been the subject of considerable correspondence during the past year. The Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, in order to lend further emphasis to its critical nature, and to clarify [2] the picture, will briefly review that correspondence:

(a) In reference (b), the Commandant recommended the assignment of 36 vessels, including DD's, PG's, XPG's, PC's, and XPC's, for escort and antisubmarine duty; as well as other vessels for harbor patrol, inshore patrol, mine-sweeping, etc. The Commander-in-Chief concurred in those recommendations.

(b) In reference (c), the Commandant, in response to the Chief of Naval Operations' request of September 23 for his estimate of requirements of certain patrol types, replied with a list by classes, numbers, and contemplated general employment.

(c) W. P. L. 42, when issued, assigned to this district, including the outlying advanced bases, only seven vessels that were at all suitable for escort or anti-submarine work, viz: four destroyers and three Coast Guard vessels—a most inadequate number.

(d) W. P. L. 44 made no change in the assignment.

(e) In reference (d), the Commandant invited the attention of the Department to the weakness of the local defense. The Commander-in-Chief, in reference (e), strongly concurred and pointed out the importance of providing adequate forces that would be independent of the presence or absence of ships of the Fleet.

[3] (f) In paragraph 7 (c) of reference (f), the Commander-in-Chief again expressed his concern over the situation, particularly as to its effect on the security and operations of the Fleet.

(g) In reference (g), the Commander-in-Chief recommended the assignment of six PT's and eight PTC's to the Hawaiian area.

3. The net accretion to Fourteenth Naval District forces to date, except for the arrival of Destroyer Division 80, is almost negligible, and in so far as the Commander-in-Chief is aware, suitable arrangements have not been made to build those forces up to an adequate state.

4. The tabulation of enclosure (A) shows:

Column 1.—allocation of vessels by W. P. L. 42 (W. P. L. 44 gives the same allocation) plus the number allocated otherwise;

Column 2.—the total requirements considered necessary by the Commandant and the Commander-in-Chief;

Column 3.—the vessels present in the Hawaiian area, whether or not now under naval control;

Column 4.—the additional number of vessels needed;

Column 5.—remarks.

5. The requirements are indicated for specific types of vessels. Where the particular type can not be made available, some other type of more or less similar characteristics should be substituted.

6. Column 3 of the aforementioned tabulation shows the extreme paucity of antisubmarine, escort, and patrol types. The Commander-in-Chief strongly reiterates his previous representations as to correction of this situation and requests that he receive early information in the premises.

7. The exigency of delivery of this document is such that it will not reach the addressee in time by the next available officer courier. The originator, therefore, authorizes the transmission of this document by registered mail within the continental limits of the United States.

H. E. KIMMEL.

Copy to: Comdt. 14 ND.

Enclosure (A).

	Allocated	Total required	Present	Additional required	Remarks
DD	4	8	4	4	Notes (1) (2).
PG & XPG	1	8		8	
PC & XPC (165')		8		8	
PC & XPC (110' or 125')		12		12	
PTC		8		8	Coast Guard. 2 CGC, local sampans & Yachts.
PYc & XPYc	2	2	2		
YP & XYP	27	28	27	1	
PT		8		8	
AM & XAM	8	8		8	4 expected end of May.
AMc & XAMc	6	8		8	
AMb & XAMb	3	3		3	
CMc & XCMc	1	1		1	
YMS	2	2		2	2 being built.
YN	8	8	2	6	2 being built 1 fitting out.
YNg	1	1		1	Being built.
VP	84	84		84	15,000-plane program.
VSO	48	48		48	15,000-plane program.

NOTE: (1) Assigned XPG is U. S. C. G. TANEY, now on West Coast and C. G. District Commander Honolulu believes she will not return to Honolulu.

(2) PG-19 (SACRAMENTO) designated for special duty, Maui Range, is also assigned.