

CONFIDENTIAL

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27 Sept. 1944

LEYTE
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CinC PAC & POA (NIMITZ)
Operation Plan 8-44

DECLASSIFIED IAW DOD MEMO OF 3 MAY 1972, SUBJ:
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Cincpoa Operation Plan No. 8-44.

Own Forces.

The Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific, has directed the forces of the Southwest Pacific to seize and occupy objectives in the LEYTE and WESTERN SAMAR areas, and to establish therein naval, air and logistic facilities for the support of subsequent operations. Pacific Ocean Areas forces which are being transferred to the operational control of the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, for this operation include:

- (a) The XXIV corps, totalling about 50,250 men and consisting of the 7th and 96th Army Divisions, reinforced, and corps troops,
- (b) Garrison forces totalling about 20,110 men,
- (c) The 77th Army Division as area reserve at GUAM,
- (d) Four Transport Groups with associated escorts, landing, control and mine craft,
- (e) A fire support group of 6 OBB, 3 CA, 3 CL and escorts,
- (f) A support aircraft group of 18 CVE's and escorts, and
- (g) Miscellaneous service units.

Units of the XX Air Force are preparing for operations against the JAPANESE EMPIRE from bases in the MARIANAS to Commence about 15 November 1944.

Air forces in CHINA will support this operation by aerial reconnaissance and bombardment along the CHINA COAST and FORMOSA, and by aerial bombardment of enemy bases in the JAPANESE EMPIRE.

2. Forces of the Pacific Ocean Areas will cover and support forces of the Southwest Pacific in order to assist in the seizure and occupation of objectives in the CENTRAL PHILIPPINES.

3. (a) Western Pacific Task Forces.

Destroy enemy naval and air forces in or threatening the PHILIPPINES Area. Protect air and sea communications along the CENTRAL PACIFIC axis.

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(b) Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.

Intercept, report and destroy enemy forces approaching the area of operations or retiring therefrom. Provide lifeguard services as ordered.

(c) North Pacific Force.

Contain enemy naval and air forces in the NORTH PACIFIC by conducting reconnaissance and harassing enemy positions in the KURILES.

(d) South Pacific Force,

(e) Marshalls-Gilberts Force.

Hold the island positions necessary for the security of lines of communication and for the support of naval, air and amphibious operations against the JAPANESE. Support operations of forces in the SOUTHWEST and CENTRAL PACIFIC AREAS. Protect essential sea and air communications.

(f) Service Force, Pacific Fleet,

(g) Air Force, Pacific Fleet,

(h) Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas.

Provide logistic support.

(x) (1) Maintain and extend unremitting military pressure against JAPAN. Apply maximum attrition to enemy air, ground and naval forces and merchant shipping, by all possible means in all areas.

In case opportunity for destruction of major portion of the enemy fleet offer or can be created, such destruction becomes the primary task.

(2) Necessary measures for detailed coordination of operations between the Western Pacific Task Forces and forces of the Southwest Pacific will be arranged by their respective commanders.

(3) Continue development of advanced bases in preparation for further operations.

(4) Operating Zones, Bombing and Attack Restrictions are prescribed in Cincpoa Standard Operating Procedure SOP-1, Addendum No. 2 to PacFleet Confidential Letter 18CL-44, Addendum No. 4 to SOP-1 and current Cincpoa Zone Notices.

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(5) Target Date for A-Day has been designated by Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, as 20 October 1944, East Longitude date.

(6) This plan is effective on receipt.

4. Provisions for logistic support will in general conform to those for the support of operations against the WESTERN CAROLINES. The current Fleet Logistic Plan (Annex B to Cincpoa OpPlan 6-44) remains effective except that service facilities will be moved forward as necessary in order to permit maximum use of the MARIANAS, KOSSOL ROADS and ULITHI for servicing the covering and striking forces. The current Logistic Plan for Land Based Forces (Annex C to Cincpoa OpPlan 6-44) remains effective except (1) that the initial support previously designated for YAP will be diverted to the support of forces of the Pacific Ocean Areas engaged in operations in the CENTRAL PHILIPPINES, and (2) that the continued support of these forces will be supplied by agencies of the Pacific Ocean Areas until the responsibility therefor is assumed by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific. Detailed modifications of existing directives will be issued separately.

5. (a) Communications in accordance with USF 70A and CENTCOM TWO.

(b) The MARSHALLS-GILBERTS AREA will be established on 1 October 1944 as a separate command directly under the Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas. The Commander Western Pacific Task Forces will exercise operational control over the forces of the FORWARD AREA, CENTRAL PACIFIC, through the established chain of command, except that (1) the development of bases and the organization and administration of defense forces assigned will conform to directives issued by the Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas, directly to the Commander Forward Area, Central Pacific, and to the Garrison or Island Commanders concerned, and (2) forces engaged in shore-based air search may be organized as a Task Group under the direct command of the Commander Western Pacific Task Forces.

(c) In despatch communications the Commander Western Pacific Task Forces will use the designation and be referred to as Commander Third Fleet.

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(d) Use Zone Zebra Time in Date-Time Group of all communications. West of 156 degrees East Longitude, use Item (-9) time for local time.

(e) The Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, at PEARL HARBOR.

C. W. NIMITZ

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