

# Chinese Navy Escort Formation

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## Chinese Navy Escort Fleet in the Gulf of Aden

The Chinese Navy Escort Formation is a fleet of ships escorted by the Chinese Navy overseas . It is a military operation of the Chinese Navy to escort Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden since the end of 2008 .

This military operation was carried out by the Central Military Commission of China in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations , with reference to the practices of relevant countries, and with the consent of the Somali government.

The main content of the Chinese navy's escort operations is: to protect the safety of the personnel of Chinese ships sailing in the waters; to protect the safety of ships transporting humanitarian supplies by world organizations such as the World Food Program . Usually, after the escort mission ends, the escort task force will also conduct ship visits to some countries along the route for the purpose of strengthening military cooperation between the two sides.

On January 27, 2019, the 30th escort formation of the Chinese Navy sailed 30,000 nautical miles in 175 days. <sup>[4]</sup> According to the statistics of the Naval Staff Department, the Chinese naval escort fleet has escorted more than 6,600 Chinese and foreign ships in 1,207 batches, more than half of which are foreign ships or World Food Program ships, which not only protect the escorted ships and crews from pirate attacks This has effectively guaranteed the safety of important international trade routes, protected the safety of humanitarian supplies destined for Somalia, and enabled the people in distress to receive timely relief. <sup>[5]</sup> As of June 2022, the Chinese navy has completed 1,500 batches of escort missions in the Gulf of Aden. <sup>[81]</sup>

On the morning of January 10, 2023, the 43rd escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy departed from a military port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong, and set sail for the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. <sup>[88]</sup>

### Chinese name

Chinese Navy Escort Formation

### rotation time

about 4 months

### number of ships

3 ships

### mission area

Gulf of Aden

## Table of contents

## Background

### broadcast

In 2009, pirates in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia became increasingly rampant, and the number of crimes increased year by year. From the beginning of 2009 to November, more than 40 ships were hijacked by Somali pirates , involving more than 600 crew members. In the first 11 months of 2009, 1,265 merchant ships in my country passed through this route, and 20% of them were attacked by pirates. Frequent pirate attacks in this sea area have seriously endangered the safety of our passing ships and personnel, and constituted a major threat to our national interests. In response to piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia, the UN Security Council has passed four resolutions, calling on and authorizing countries around the world to fight piracy in the waters of the Gulf of Aden.

The escort mission of our naval fleet to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia is an action taken in accordance with relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and a measure for my country to fulfill its international obligations and maintain international and regional peace and security. The main task of the task force is to protect the safety of Chinese ships and personnel sailing through the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia, and to protect the safety of ships transporting humanitarian supplies by international organizations

such as the World Food Program . Escort operations will be carried out in the form of accompanying escort, regional escort and ship escort, and will not go ashore to perform tasks. <sup>[7]</sup>

## Fleet Profile

### broadcast

Fleet composition: 2 main naval warships, the ship type combination includes destroyers , frigates , dock landing ships ; 1 comprehensive supply ship . There are three ships.

Strategic significance: (1) Undertake international humanitarian obligations and enhance my country's international influence. (2) Visit countries around the Indian Ocean to promote political, economic, cultural and military exchanges between China and countries around the Indian Ocean. (3) Take the escorted waterway as the battlefield for actual combat training, sharpen the sword in the Gulf of Aden, and practice martial arts. <sup>[8]</sup> (4) To enable the Chinese navy to increase its navigation experience in the Indian Ocean and other waters, and to be familiar with the hydrological conditions there.

Warship model: As of the 14th batch of escort formations, the destroyer model includes 052, 051B, 052B, 052C , a total of 4 types; the frigate model includes 053H3, 054, 054A, a total of 3 types; the landing ship model is 071 type; the comprehensive supply ship model includes 908 type, 903 type, a total of 2 types.

Capital ships not yet involved in escort operations:

As of the 28th batch of escort formations, there are still many capital ships in active service that have not participated in escort operations. Among them, in addition to 2 Type 051C destroyers and 4 Type 956 Modern-class destroyers or due to certain important duties, they cannot be incorporated into the escort fleet, there are 7 Type 052D destroyers , 2 Type 052C destroyers , and 5 Type 054A frigates , 1 Type 071 dock landing ship , and 2 comprehensive supply ships have not had time to get training opportunities because they have recently entered service.

The fleet composition of previous escort formations:

escort formation	Battleship A	Participate	Battleship B	Participate	integrated supply ship	Participate	Fleet to which capital ships belong	sailing time
Batch 01	Haikou 171	first	Wuhan 169	first	Weishan Lake 887	first	South Sea Fleet	2008.12.26
Batch 02	Shenzhen 167	first	Huangshan 570	first	Weishan Lake 887	2 times	South Sea Fleet	2009.4.2
Batch 03	Zhoushan 529	first	Xuzhou 530	first	Qiandao Lake 886	first	East China Sea Fleet	2009.7.16
Batch 04	Ma On Shan 525	first	Wenzhou 526	first	Qiandao Lake 886	2 times	East China Sea Fleet	2009.10.30
Batch 05	Guangzhou 168	first	Hengyang 568	first	Weishan Lake 887	3 times	South Sea Fleet	2010.3.4

Batch 06	Kunlun Mountain 998	first	Lanzhou 170	first	Weishan Lake 887	4 times	South Sea Fleet	2010.6.30
Batch 07	Zhoushan 529	2 times	Xuzhou 530	2 times	Qiandao Lake 886	3 times	East China Sea Fleet	2010.11.2
Batch 08	Ma On Shan 525	2 times	Wenzhou 526	2 times	Qiandao Lake 886	4 times	East China Sea Fleet	2011.2.21
Batch 09	Wuhan 169	2 times	Yulin 569	first	Qinghai Lake 885	first	South Sea Fleet	2011.7.2
Batch 10	Haikou 171	2 times	Yuncheng 571	first	Qinghai Lake 885	2 times	South Sea Fleet	2011.11.2
Batch 11	Qingdao 113	first	Yantai 538	first	Weishan Lake 887	5 times	North Sea Fleet	2012.2.27
Batch 12	Yiyang 548	first	Changzhou 549	first	Qiandao Lake 886	5 times	East China Sea Fleet	2012.7.3
Batch 13	Hengyang 568	2 times	Huangshan 570	2 times	Qinghai Lake 885	3 times	South Sea Fleet	2012.11.9
Batch 14	Harbin 112	first	Mianyang 528	first	Weishan Lake 887	6 times	North Sea Fleet	2013.2.16
Batch 15	Jinggangshan 999	first	Hengshui 572	first	Taihu 889	first	South Sea Fleet	2013.8.8
Batch 16	Yancheng 546	first	Luoyang 527	first	Taihu 889	2 times	North Sea Fleet	2013.11.30
Batch 17	Changchun 150	first	Changzhou 549	2 times	Chaohu 890	first	East China Sea Fleet	2014.3.24
Batch 18	Changbai Mountain 989	first	Yuncheng 571	2 times	Chaohu 890	2 times	South Sea Fleet	2014.8.1 <sup>[9]</sup>

Batch 19	Weifang 550	first	Linyi 547	first	Weishan Lake 887	7 times	North Sea Fleet	2014.12.2
Batch 20	Jinan 152	first	Yiyang 548	2 times	Qiandao Lake 886	6 times	East China Sea Fleet	2015.4.3
Batch 21	Liuzhou 573	first	Sanya 574	first	Qinghai Lake 885	4 times	South Sea Fleet	2015.8.4
Batch 22	Qingdao 113	2 times	Daqing 576	first	Taihu 889	3 times	North Sea Fleet	2015.12.6
Batch 23	Xiangtan 531	first	Zhoushan 529	3 times	Chaohu 890	3 times	East China Sea Fleet	2016.4.7
Batch 24	Harbin 112	2 times	Handan 579	first	Dongping Lake 960	first	North Sea Fleet	2016.8.10
Batch 25	Hengyang 568	3 times	Yulin 569	2 times	Honghu 963	first	South Sea Fleet	2016.12.17
Batch 26	Huanggang 577	first	Yangzhou 578	first	Gaoyou Lake 966	first	East China Sea Fleet	2017.4.1
Batch 27	Haikou 171	3 times	Yueyang 575	first	Qinghai Lake 885	5 times	South Sea Fleet	2017.8.1
Batch 28	Yancheng 546	2 times	Weifang 550	2 times	Taihu 889	4 times	North Sea Fleet	2017.12.13
Batch 29	Binzhou 515	first	Xuzhou 530	3 times	Qiandao Lake 886	7 times	East China Sea Fleet	2018.4.4
Batch 30	Wuhu 539	first	Handan 579	2 times	Dongping Lake 960	2 times	North Sea Fleet	2018.8.6
Batch 31	Kunlun Mountain 998	2 times	Xuchang 536	first	Luoma Lake 964	first	South Sea Fleet	2018.12.9

Batch 32	Xi'an 153	first	Anyang 599	first	Gaoyou Lake 966	2 times	East China Sea Fleet	2019-4.4
Batch 33	Xining 117	first	Weifang 550	3 times	Hoh Xil Lake 968	first	North Sea Fleet	2019-8.29
Batch 34	Yinchuan 175	first	Yuncheng 571	3 times	Weishan Lake 887	8 times	North Sea Fleet	2019-12.23
Batch 35	<u>Taiyuan</u> 131	first	<u>Jingzhou</u> 532	first	<u>Chaohu</u> 890	4 times	<u>East China Sea Fleet</u>	2020-4.28
Batch 36	Guiyang 119	first	Zaozhuang 542	first	Dongping Lake 960	3 times	North Sea Fleet	2020-9.3
Batch 37	Changsha 173	first	Yulin 569	3 times	Honghu 963	2 times	South Sea Fleet	2021-1.16
Batch 38	Nanjing 155	first	Yangzhou 578	2 times	Gaoyou Lake 966	3 times	East China Sea Fleet	2021-5.15
Batch 39	Urumqi 118	first	Yantai 538	2 times	Taihu 889	5 times	North Sea Fleet	2021-9.26
Batch 40	Hohhot 161	first	Yueyang 575	2 times	Luoma Lake 907	2 times	South Sea Fleet	2022-1.15
Batch 41	suzhou	first	Nantong	first	Chaohu	-	-	2022-05-18 <sup>[80]</sup>
Batch 42	Huainan	first	sunshine	first	Hoh Xil Lake	-	-	2022-9.21
Batch 43	Nanning	first	Sanya	-	Weishan Lake	-	-	2023-1.10

Composition of previous escort formations

## make an achievement

### broadcast

On December 26, 2008, the first escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from Sanya to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to perform escort missions. Since then, there has been a Chinese force to maintain peace in the internationally recognized dangerous waters.

In 2013, we cut through the waves, and in 2013, we moved forward by relay. So far, the Chinese navy has sent 37 batches of escort formations to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia. In thirteen years, the Chinese navy escort formations have carried out more than 1,400 batches of escort missions, helping this "most dangerous sea area" in the world become a "golden waterway" again. It has demonstrated the Chinese military's role as a major country with practical actions <sup>[17]</sup>.

## Previous formations

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### The first escort formation

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"Wuhan", "Weishanhu", "Haikou"

On December 26, 2008, the first escort fleet set sail from Sanya Military Port, Hainan. The formation is composed of guided-missile destroyer Wuhan, guided-missile destroyer Haikou and comprehensive supply ship Weishanhu, with two shipboard helicopters.

Ship 169 ( Type 052B guided missile destroyer ) —Wuhan guided missile destroyer : Captain Tornado, Colonel, Political Commissar , Colonel Yang Yi

Ship 171 (Type 052C guided missile destroyer) —Haikou guided missile destroyer : Captain Zou Fuquan , Captain, and Political Commissar, Colonel Liu Jianzhong

Ship 887 (Fuchi-class comprehensive supply ship) - Weishanhu supply ship : Captain Xi Feijun , Colonel Xi Feijun, Political Commissar Yuan Zehua, Colonel

Commander of special warfare: Lieutenant Commander Xie Zengling , there are more than 880 officers and soldiers on the 3 warships, including some naval special warfare members.

Wu Shengli , member of the Central Military Commission and commander of the Navy, attended the farewell ceremony and delivered a speech.

Wu Shengli said that the naval fleet's escort mission is the first time that China has used military force to go overseas to safeguard national strategic interests; it is the first time that our military has organized maritime combat forces to go overseas to fulfill international humanitarian obligations; Transport line safety.

The formation passed through Xisha and Nansha , crossed the Straits of Singapore and Malacca , crossed the Indian Ocean , and arrived at the mission sea area, with a total voyage of more than 4,400 nautical miles.

### The second escort formation

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The Second Escort Fleet of the Chinese Navy Departs

On the morning of April 2, 2009, the second batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy set sail from Zhanjiang , Guangdong , and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to perform escort missions. The second escort formation consisted of the guided-missile destroyer "Shenzhen", the guided-missile frigate "Huangshan" and the integrated supply ship "Weishanhu" left over from the first escort formation, as well as two ship-borne helicopters and some special operations personnel. The entire formation consists of more than 800 people. The main task is to protect the safety of China's ships and personnel sailing through the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia, and to protect the safety of ships transporting humanitarian supplies by international organizations such as the World Food Program. The "Shenzhen" guided missile destroyer and the "Huangshan" guided missile frigate are both modern warships designed and manufactured by China with advanced weaponry and equipment.

Ship 167 ( Type 051B destroyer ) - guided missile destroyer Shenzhen

Ship 570 ( Type 054A guided missile frigate ) —Huangshan guided missile frigate

Ship 887 ( Fuchi-class supply ship ) —Weishanhu supply ship

The second batch of escort formations sailed through the Xisha, Nansha, Singapore Straits, and Malacca Straits , crossed the Indian Ocean, and arrived in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia, with a total voyage of 4,600 nautical miles.

The second escort formation

On April 13, 2009, after 11 days and nights of sailing, the second escort formation of the Chinese Navy successfully joined forces with the first escort formation that had just completed the 40th escort mission in the eastern Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia .

The second formation consisting of the guided-missile destroyer "Shenzhen" and the guided-missile frigate "Huangshan" will take over the task of escorting Chinese and foreign merchant ships in the waters. According to the plan, the two formations jointly performed two escorts, and then the first formation returned.

### The third escort formation

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Escort officers and soldiers accept escort missions

On the morning of July 16, 2009, the third escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from a military port of the Shandong Sea Fleet in Zhoushan, Zhejiang, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort mission of the second escort formation. There has been a new development in the operation of the system.

The third formation consists of missile frigates Zhoushan, Xuzhou, comprehensive supply ship Qiandaohu, 2 shipborne helicopters and dozens of special operations personnel. The entire formation has more than 800 people.

Ship 529 ( Type 054A guided missile frigate ) - Zhoushan guided missile frigate

Ship 530 (Type 054A guided missile frigate) - Xuzhou guided missile frigate

Ship 886 ( Type 903 comprehensive supply ship ) —Qiandaohu comprehensive supply ship

The combat ships "Zhoushan" and "Xuzhou" serving as the third batch of escort missions are both domestically produced new missile frigates with relatively small tonnage. The comprehensive supply ship "Qiandaohu" is a second-generation ocean-going comprehensive supply ship designed and manufactured by my country. It has high speed and strong seaworthiness. It can accompany the fleet of destroyers and escorts to implement horizontal dry and liquid cargo replenishment, vertical liquid cargo replenishment, and helicopter dry cargo vertical replenishment. It can also implement early medical treatment and evacuation of the wounded and sick at sea. Task.

Faced with the long duration, large cross-region, complex environment and other situations, the third batch of formations will accept more severe tests.

During the mission of the third batch of escort formations, they regularly organized ships to dock at the port for replenishment and rest, carried out friendly mutual visits with foreign militaries as appropriate, and actively participated in international humanitarian rescue activities.

Liu Xiaojiang, political commissar of the navy, presided over the farewell ceremony, and Wu Shengli, member of the Central Military Commission and commander of the navy, attended the farewell ceremony and delivered a speech. Relevant leaders from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, Zhejiang Province, and relevant personnel from the Fourth Headquarters of the People's Liberation Army attended the farewell ceremony.

On August 1, 2009, the second batch of escort formations and the third escort formation of the Chinese Navy successfully completed the escort task handover on the "Shenzhen" ship.

Mo Zhilou, commander of the second batch of escort formations, and Wang Zhiguo, commander of the third batch of escort formations, signed and delivered speeches on the task handover letter. <sup>[18]</sup>

### The fourth escort formation

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Frigate Wenzhou

At 10 a.m. on October 30, 2009, the fourth batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy set sail from a military port of the Shandong Sea Fleet in Zhoushan, Zhejiang, and headed for the open sea to perform escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia, completing the third batch of escort formations with the Chinese Navy. The normal succession further shows that our escort operation has entered a new stage of orderly succession and normal operation.

The fourth batch of escort formations consisted of two domestically-made new missile frigates "Ma'anshan" and "Wenzhou" from the East China Sea Fleet of the Navy, and the comprehensive supply ship "Qiandaohu" in the third batch of escort formations, as well as two carrier-based helicopters, dozens of The entire formation consists of more than 700 special forces members.

Ship 525 ( class 054 frigate ) - guided missile frigate Ma'anshan

Ship 526 (054-class frigate) - guided missile frigate Wenzhou

Ship 886 ( Type 903 comprehensive supply ship ) —Qiandaohu comprehensive supply ship

On November 12, 2009, the fourth and third escort formations of the Chinese Navy joined forces at point A of the escort route in the eastern Gulf of Aden. The third escort formation "Zhoushan" and the fourth escort formation "Wenzhou" held a brief joining ceremony on behalf of the two formations. The two warships whistled their whistles for 1 minute at the same time, and each hung out their greeting flags. The two formations Some officers and soldiers stood on the starboard side of the ship and saluted each other.

On November 27, 2009, the third and fourth escort formations of the Chinese Navy successfully completed the handover of escort missions in the western waters of the Gulf of Aden and separated their voyages at sea. The "Ma'anshan" ship, the "Wenzhou" ship and the " Qiandaohu " ship that belonged to the third escort formation will undertake the escort missions of the Chinese Navy in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. <sup>[19]</sup>

## **Fifth Escort Formation**

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On March 4, 2010, the fifth escort formation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy set sail from a military port in Sanya, Hainan, to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort mission of the fourth escort formation.

The escort formation will be composed of the "Guangzhou" guided missile destroyer, the "Hengyang" guided missile frigate, the "Weishanhu" comprehensive supply ship, 2 carrier-based helicopters and dozens of special forces members. Among them, the "Chaohu" guided missile frigate has arrived in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia in advance, and is carrying out the fourth batch of escort missions.

Ship 168 ( Type 052 destroyer ) —Guangzhou guided missile destroyer

Ship 568 ( Type 054A guided missile frigate ) —Hengyang guided missile frigate

Ship 887 ( Fuchi-class supply ship ) —Weishanhu supply ship

## **The Sixth Escort Formation**

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The dock landing ship "Kunlun Mountain" unmoored and set sail.

On June 30, 2010, the sixth escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from Zhanjiang, Guangdong, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort mission of the fifth escort formation. The sixth batch of escort formations consists of the South China Sea Fleet's " Kunlun Mountain " dock landing ship, the "Lanzhou" guided missile destroyer, and the "Weishan Lake" comprehensive supply ship that is performing the fifth batch of escort missions, as well as 4 carrier-based helicopters and some special operations personnel. Composed of more than 1,000 people in the entire formation.

Ship 998 ( Type 071 amphibious landing ship ) —Kunlun Mountain dock landing ship

Ship 170 (Type 052C guided missile destroyer)—Lanzhou guided missile destroyer

Ship 887 ( Fuchi-class supply ship ) —Weishanhu supply ship

## **The Seventh Escort Formation**

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see off

On November 2, 2010, the seventh batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy set sail in Zhoushan , Zhejiang Province , and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to perform escort missions.

The seventh escort formation of the Chinese Navy is composed of the "Zhoushan" and "Xuzhou" domestically produced new missile frigates, the "Qiandaohu" comprehensive supply ship, and two ship-borne helicopters. There are more than 780 people in the entire formation, including dozens of special forces members and 25 female crew members who are responsible for medical rescue, psychological consultation, and communication duty.

The three warships in this formation are all performing escort missions for the second time.

## **Eighth Escort Formation**

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salute



On February 21, 2011, the eighth naval escort formation composed of Chinese guided missile frigates "Wenzhou" and "Ma'anshan" set sail from a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang. The "Qiandao Lake" ship on the mission will meet up and jointly carry out the eighth batch of escort missions.

The "Wenzhou" ship and the "Ma'anshan" ship are the second to perform escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. After the eighth batch of escort formations arrived in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia, they joined the "Qiandaohu" ship, which was performing the seventh batch of escort missions, and jointly carried out the eighth batch of escort missions.

## The Ninth Escort Formation

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On July 2, 2011, the ninth batch of escort formations and the tenth batch of naval escort formations set sail from a military port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the eighth batch of escort formations to perform escort missions. The formation consists of the Wuhan, Yulin and Qinghai Lake ships of the South China Sea Fleet.

Ding Yiping, deputy commander of the navy, went to the pier to see off the escort officers and soldiers. In his speech, he asked the escort officers and soldiers to continue to create punctual, continuous and continuous achievements on the new journey with a courageous fighting will, a fighting style of continuous combat, a fighting spirit of daring to fight tough battles, and a firmer, more confident, more responsible, and more open attitude. , A new record for safety escort.

The ninth batch of escort formations has a total of 878 officers and soldiers, carrying 2 helicopters and dozens of special forces members. The "Wuhan" ship and the "Yulin" ship arrived in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia after going to Brunei to participate in the International Defense Exhibition. They joined the eighth batch of escort missions and began to carry out the ninth batch of escort missions.

## Tenth Escort Formation

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The tenth batch of escort formations set sail

On the morning of November 2, 2011, the 10th escort formation of the Navy set sail from a military port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort task of the ninth escort formation. Deputy Navy Commander Ding Yiping, on behalf of the Central Military Commission, Navy Commander Wu Shengli and Navy Political Commissar Liu Xiaojiang, saw off at the pier. Commander Jiang Weilie of the South China Sea Fleet , Political Commissar Huang Jiaxiang , relevant leaders of the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and relatives of some officers and soldiers attended the farewell ceremony.

The tenth escort formation consists of the "Haikou" ship, the "Yuncheng" ship and the "Qinghai Lake" ship which is carrying out the ninth batch of escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia, with a total of more than 800 officers and soldiers. Among them, the "Haikou" ship once performed the first batch of escort missions. <sup>[20]</sup>

## The Eleventh Escort Formation

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On February 27, 2012, the 11th escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from a certain military port in Jiaozhou Bay, Qingdao, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort task of the 10th escort formation. This is the first escort mission organized by the North Sea Fleet since the Chinese Navy launched an escort operation in December 2008.

Ding Yiping, deputy commander of the navy, said that since the first batch of escort formations carried out escort missions, the navy has continuously dispatched 11 batches of escort formations, which have carried out safety escorts for more than 4,500 Chinese and foreign ships. More than 50 Chinese and foreign ships, the vast number of naval officers and soldiers have completed one task after another, making important contributions to ensuring the safety of passing ships and personnel and maintaining the smooth flow of strategic maritime channels. <sup>[twenty</sup>

## The Twelfth Escort Formation

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On July 3, 2012, the twelfth escort taskforce of the navy set sail at a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, and rushed to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort task of the eleventh escort taskforce. Deputy Navy Commander Ding Yiping , on behalf of the Central Military Commission, Navy Commander Wu Shengli and Navy Political Commissar Liu Xiaojiang, saw off at the pier and delivered a speech. The navy's twelfth escort formation is composed of guided missile frigates "Yiyang", "Changzhou" and comprehensive supply ship "Qiandaohu". The formation carries 2 ship-borne helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and nearly 800 mission officers and soldiers .<sup>[twenty two]</sup>

### **The Thirteenth Escort Formation**

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On November 9, 2012, the thirteenth escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy set sail from a certain military port of the South China Sea Fleet stationed in Zhanjiang, Guangdong, and rushed to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to take over the twelfth escort taskforce to continue its escort missions in the region.

The thirteenth escort formation consists of the guided-missile frigates Huangshan and Hengyang of the South China Sea Fleet, the comprehensive supply ship Qinghai Lake, two ship-borne helicopters and some special operations personnel. The formation has nearly 800 officers and soldiers. According to public information, the three ships dispatched by the formation have all performed escort missions before.

### **Fourteenth Escort Formation**

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On February 16, 2013, the 14th escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from Qingdao on the 16th, and rushed to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to take over the escort mission of the 13th escort formation.

The 14th batch of escort formations consisted of the guided-missile destroyer Harbin, the guided-missile frigate Mianyang and the integrated supply ship Weishanhu. Both the Harbin ship and the Mianyang ship have performed escort missions for the first time, and the Weishanhu ship has previously carried out 6 batches of escort missions.<sup>[twenty three]</sup>

### **The 15th Escort Formation**

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On August 8, 2013, the 15th escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from a certain military port in Zhanjiang , and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to perform escort missions. The 15th escort formation consists of the amphibious dock landing ship Jinggangshan of the South China Sea Fleet, the missile frigate Hengshui, the comprehensive supply ship Taihu of the North Sea Fleet, three ship-borne helicopters of the South China Sea Fleet and some special operations personnel. The entire formation has more than 800 people. All three ships are performing escort missions for the first time.

The fleet arrived in the eastern waters of the Gulf of Aden in late August, joined the 14th escort fleet and took over the escort mission.<sup>[twenty four]</sup>

After 169 days and nights, the 15th escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy arrived at a military port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong on the morning of January 23, 2014 after successfully completing the escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia.

Since its sailing on August 8, 2013, the formation has successfully completed 46 batches of escort missions for 181 Chinese and foreign ships, escorted a United Nations Food Program ship, and 5 times with the EU 508 formation, the American alliance 151 formation, NATO 465 formation, etc. Escort ships of the foreign military carried out friendly exchanges. For the first time, they conducted mutual visits and joint military exercises with Ukrainian naval escort ships, and successfully completed missions to Tanzania, Kenya, and Sri Lanka.<sup>[25]</sup>

### **Sixteenth Escort Formation**

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On November 30, 2013, the 16th escort taskforce of the Navy set sail from a military port in Qingdao, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort task of the 15th escort taskforce.

The sixteenth escort formation consists of the missile frigates Yancheng and Luoyang , and the comprehensive supply ship Taihu . The formation includes 2 ship-borne helicopters and some special operations personnel, with

a total of more than 660 people. It is a naval fleet that performs escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and Somalia. The lowest number of people ever. Li Pengcheng, deputy chief of staff of the Beihai Fleet, and Sun Jian, political commissar of a destroyer detachment, served as the formation commander and political commissar respectively. Ship No. 546 Yancheng and Ship No. 527 Luoyang ready to go

### **The two formations jointly escorted**

The 16th batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy and the 15th batch of escort formations began their first joint escort mission on the 21st.

On December 21, 2013, four foreign merchant ships, "Maersk-Manufacturer" from Singapore, "Ocean Gem" from Panama, "Yongming" and "Songjia Jade" from Marshall Islands, were in the 15th batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy Jinggangshan ship, Under the joint escort of the Hengshui ship and the sixteenth escort formation Yancheng ship, Luoyang ship, and Taihu ship, they sailed from the west of the Gulf of Aden to the eastern waters. This is the first joint escort mission performed since the two escort taskforces met.

On the morning of May 5, 2014, the sixteenth escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy arrived at the port of La Goulette, Tunisia, and began a three-day friendly visit to Tunisia <sup>[26]</sup>.

On the morning of May 20, 2014, the 16th escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy arrived at the port of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and started a three-day friendly visit to Côte d'Ivoire. Since November 30, 2013, the task force has gone to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to perform escort missions. On April 24, 2014, after successfully completing the task of escorting the Gulf of Aden and the shipping of Syrian chemical weapons, the formation embarked on a voyage to visit eight African countries. Côte d'Ivoire is the third stop of the task force's visit. The task force will leave the port of Abidjan on May 22 as planned, and continue its mission to Nigeria <sup>[27]</sup>.

On the morning of June 2, 2014, the 16th escort formation of the Chinese Navy and three ships of the Cameroon Navy conducted a joint anti-piracy exercise. This was the first joint anti-piracy exercise between the Chinese and Cameroon navies. As the ships of both sides sailed into the predetermined waters of the Gulf of Guinea, the joint anti-piracy drill between China and Cameroon officially started. The Chinese participating forces are the Chinese Navy's Yancheng guided missile frigate, Luoyang guided missile frigate and Taihu ocean-going comprehensive supply ship, one Z-9 carrier-based helicopter and 10 special forces members; the Cameroonian participating troops are three patrol boats and There are 10 special forces members. The anti-piracy joint exercise mainly includes formation movement, communication exercise, joint search and rescue, and joint boarding and inspection <sup>[28]</sup>.

### **Seventeenth Escort Formation**

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On March 24, 2014, the 17th escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail ahead of schedule from a certain military port in Zhoushan, and headed to the Indian Ocean to search for the missing Malaysia Airlines passenger plane. After that, he went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort task of the 16th escort formation.

The Navy's 17th escort formation consists of the guided missile destroyer Changchun, the guided missile frigate Changzhou, and the integrated supply ship Chaohu. The formation is equipped with two shipboard helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 810 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Changchun ship and the Chaohu ship are the first escort missions. <sup>[29]</sup>

On May 6, 2014, the 17th escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy successfully rescued the Italian merchant ship "Aladina" in distress.

The formation escorted a total of 4 merchant ships this time, and the "Aladina" was one of them. At about 2:30 am on the 6th, the engine room of the "Aladina" caught fire, and all the crew members abandoned the ship and left the ship in lifeboats. The formation quickly dispatched small boats to safely rescue 16 crew members to the Chaohu ship, performed medical examinations on them, and treated a crew member who had difficulty breathing.

After the China National Maritime Search and Rescue Center communicated with the Italian Coast Guard, the Italian side ordered the Italian merchant ship "Giamanti" near the ship in distress to be responsible for picking up the crew members in distress <sup>[30]</sup>.

The 17th batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy have successfully dealt with the harassment of five batches of suspected pirate ships. On the morning of May 14, 2014, the Changzhou warship, which was performing the 716th batch of escort missions, discovered three small boats towing small boats to maneuver towards the escorted merchant ship. The formation adopted steering and high-speed maneuvers to successfully get rid of suspicious targets. On April 28, during the execution of the 711th batch of escort missions, the Changzhou ship found two groups of suspicious pirate mother ships towing small boats to move towards the merchant ships, and fired flash bombs and signal flares continuously to drive them away. As of May 15, the 17th escort formation had successfully carried out 10 batches of escort missions for 29 ships, found 5 batches of 21 suspected pirate ships, and successfully drove away the harassment of 2 batches of 9 suspected pirate boats <sup>[31]</sup>.

## **Eighteenth Escort Formation**

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At 9:00 on August 1, 2014, the 18th escort taskforce of the Navy departed from a military port in Zhanjiang and set sail to take over the 17th escort taskforce in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. <sup>[9]</sup>

The eighteenth escort formation is composed of the amphibious landing ship Changbaishan, the missile frigate Yuncheng, and the comprehensive supply ship Chaohu. The formation carries three ship-borne helicopters, nearly 100 special forces members, and more than 800 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Changbaishan ship is performing escort missions for the first time, and the Chaohu ship is currently performing the seventeenth batch of escort missions and will continue to perform the eighteenth batch of escort missions. Zhang Chuanshu, deputy chief of staff of the South China Sea Fleet, and Zhou Minggui, political commissar of a destroyer detachment, served as the fleet commander and political commissar respectively. <sup>[9]</sup>

## **The 19th Escort Formation**

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On December 2, 2014, the 19th Chinese Navy escort taskforce set sail from a certain military port in Qingdao to perform a new escort mission in the Gulf of Aden.

The nineteenth batch of escort formations consisted of guided missile frigates Linyi, Weifang and comprehensive supply ship Weishanhu. Among them, Linyi and Weifang were performing escort missions for the first time.

At noon on March 29, 2015, the 19th naval escort fleet, the Linyi Ship, safely evacuated the first batch of 122 Chinese compatriots stationed in Yemen and 2 Egyptian and Romanian foreign experts hired by Chinese companies from the port of Aden, Yemen. After nearly 8 hours of high-speed sailing, they successfully arrived at the port of Djibouti, the Republic of Djibouti in eastern Africa. All the evacuees were properly accommodated by our embassy in Djibouti.

As the second batch of more than 400 people left Yemen's Hodeidah port on the 30th on Chinese naval warships, all Chinese personnel who need to be evacuated have been evacuated from Yemen. The first batch of 122 people was evacuated on the 29th and arrived safely in Djibouti. According to the Chinese ambassador to Yemen, the evacuation mission has been successfully completed. Navy spokesman Liang Yang stated on March 29, 2015 that according to the order of Chairman Xi and the Central Military Commission, the Chinese naval fleet went to Yemen to carry out the task of evacuating Chinese citizens.

According to Liang Yang, in view of the sharp deterioration of the situation in Yemen, the Navy requires the 19th escort task force that is performing escort missions in the Gulf of Aden to make preparations for the evacuation of Chinese citizens in Yemen. In the middle of the night on March 26, 2015, after receiving the order from the superior: the navy immediately organized the Linyi ship, the Weifang ship, and the Weishanhu ship to maneuver to the waters of Aden Port, Yemen. At the same time, the fleet deployed the ships overnight and quickly shifted from the escort state to the evacuation mission preparation state, and improved the plans for ship berthing, personnel approval to board the ship, ship safety alert, life support, sanitation and epidemic prevention, etc., and completed all preparations in the shortest possible time. The first evacuation tasks were successfully completed. <sup>[32]</sup>

## **The 20th Escort Formation**

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The Chinese Navy's evacuation operation in Yemen on the 3rd has attracted the attention of the world. The 19th escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy evacuated more than 500 Chinese nationals and more than 200 nationals from more than 10 countries from the war-torn Yemen. The Navy's 20th escort fleet, which took over from the 19th escort fleet, set sail from a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang, and headed for the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia.

According to China Navy.com, at 10 am on April 3, 2015, the Navy's No. Twenty batches of escort formations set sail from Zhoushan, Zhejiang, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to perform escort missions. Among them, the Jinan ship just joined the People's Navy's battle sequence on December 22, 2014, and it was the first time to perform an escort mission in the Gulf of Aden.

Deputy Navy Commander Du Jingchen, on behalf of the Central Military Commission member, Navy Commander Wu Shengli and Navy Political Commissar Miao Hua, went to the pier to see off the escort officers and soldiers. <sup>[33]</sup>

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## The 21st Escort Formation

On August 4, 2015, the 21st escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy set sail from a certain military port in Sanya and headed for the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to take over the 20th escort taskforce. The twenty-first batch of escort formations consisted of the guided-missile frigates Liuzhou and Sanya of the South China Sea Fleet, and the comprehensive supply ship Qinghaihu. The formation carried two shipboard helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Sanya ship and the Liuzhou ship are the first escort missions, and the Qinghai Lake ship is the fourth escort mission. Rear Admiral Yu Manjiang, deputy chief of staff of the South China Sea Fleet, served as the commander of the formation, and Senior Colonel He Qingfeng served as the political commissar of the formation. <sup>[34]</sup>

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## The 22nd Escort Formation

On December 6, officers and soldiers of the guided-missile frigate Daqing participating in the 22nd batch of escort bid farewell to the crowd. At 10:00 a.m. on the same day, the 22nd batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy set sail from a military port in Qingdao, Shandong, and rushed to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to replace the 21st batch of escort formations to perform escort missions.

Daqing guided missile frigate 576

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## The twenty-third batch of escort formations

On the morning of April 7, 2016, the 23rd batch of escort taskforces set sail from a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, and went to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters to perform escort missions. Deputy Navy Commander Wang Hai, on behalf of Central Military Commission member and Navy Commander Wu Shengli, and Navy Political Commissar Miao Hua, went to the pier to see off the escort officers and soldiers and delivered speeches.

At 9:30 in the morning, the military band played "Farewell Song". The commander of the 23rd batch of escort fleet, Wang Hongli, deputy chief of staff of the East China Sea Fleet, and Qin Wei led the formation slowly away from the military port. On the deck, the officers and soldiers lined up neatly, solemnly saluted and waved goodbye to the motherland and the people.

The formation is composed of missile frigates Xiangtan, Zhoushan and comprehensive supply ship Chaohu, carrying 2 ship-borne helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Xiangtan ship is the first escort mission; Zhoushan ship and Chaohu ship have carried out two batches of escort missions. <sup>[36]</sup>

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## The 24th Escort Formation

On the morning of August 10, the Navy held a farewell ceremony at a certain military port in Qingdao to send off the 24th naval escort task force consisting of the guided-missile destroyer "Harbin", the guided-missile frigate "Handan" and the ocean-going supply ship "Dongpinghu" to Somalia. , Gulf of Aden escort set sail. Military and local leaders and family members of escort officers and soldiers saw off the formation. <sup>[37-38]</sup>

The 24th escort formation consists of the guided missile destroyer Harbin, the guided missile frigate Handan and the comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu, carrying two ship-borne helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Handan ship and the Dongpinghu ship are the first escort missions, and the Harbin ship is the second escort mission. <sup>[39]</sup>

On the morning of January 13, Saudi Arabian time, the twenty-fourth escort fleet successfully completed a five-day friendly visit to Saudi Arabia and left Jeddah Port . The staff of the Chinese embassy and consulate in Saudi Arabia, the staff of Chinese-funded institutions, the overseas Chinese and representatives of the Saudi navy officers and soldiers saw off at the pier.

Supply Ship No. 966

During the visit, fleet commander Bai Yaoping called on Rear Admiral Saeed al-Zahrani, Commander of the Western Fleet of the Saudi Navy, and led some officers and soldiers to visit the warships, naval tactical center and maritime fire simulation center of the Saudi Navy. Senior officials and representatives of the Saudi Navy visited the Harbin ship and the Handan ship. During the exchanges, the officers and soldiers of the two sides deepened their friendship and enhanced mutual trust. Officials from the Saudi Western Military District and the Navy's Western Fleet, ambassadors to Saudi Arabia from 9 countries including Albania , Greece , and Iraq , consul generals from 19 countries to Jeddah, and military attaches from 5 countries to Saudi Arabia were invited to participate in the deck reception held by the formation, which effectively promoted the level of interaction. During the ship's berth at Jeddah Port, the formation insisted on organizing the raising of the national flag and playing and singing the national anthem every day, which inspired my visiting officers and soldiers to honor the country.

After the friendly visit to Saudi Arabia, the twenty-fourth escort fleet will conduct friendly visits to Qatar , the United Arab Emirates , Kuwait and other countries. <sup>[40]</sup>

On the morning of March 8, the Navy's 24th escort taskforce returned to a certain military port in Qingdao after completing the missions of escort, overseas visits and Chinese-foreign joint exercises.

## **The twenty-fifth batch of escort formations**

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Frigate 577

On the morning of December 17, the 25th batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy set sail from a certain military port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province on the morning of the 17th, and went to the Gulf of Aden to take over the escort task of the 24th batch of escort formations.

The twenty-fifth batch of escort formations is composed of the South China Sea Fleet of the Chinese Navy , including the guided missile frigate Hengyang , the guided missile frigate Yulin, and the ocean-going integrated supply ship Honghu . More than 700 people. Zhao Jicheng , deputy commander of the South China Sea Fleet Aviation, served as the commander, and Yang Zhiliang , deputy director of the Political Work Department of the South China Sea Fleet, served as the political commissar.

Among them, the Hengyang ship has carried out three batches of four escort missions in the Gulf of Aden. In 2009, the escort mission lasted 276 days, setting a number of records such as the longest escort time of a combat ship. The Yulin ship carried out the ninth batch of escort missions in the Gulf of Aden in 2011, which lasted 176 days. As a newly listed comprehensive supply ship, the Honghu ship went to the Gulf of Aden for the first time to undergo actual combat tests in the open sea <sup>[42]</sup> .

The 26th Escort Formation departs

On April 9, 2017, the Chinese navy rescued a hijacked foreign cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden. This is the first time that the Chinese navy has rescued a foreign ship attacked by pirates boarding in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia .

The vessel boarded and attacked by pirates was the cargo ship OS35 of Tuvaluan nationality. At that time, the ship was sailing in the northwest waters of Socotra Island in the Gulf of Aden. It was hijacked by an unknown number of pirates, and a small pirate boat berthed the cargo ship. In the early morning of the 9th, the 25th Chinese escort formation, which was performing escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia, successfully rescued the cargo ship. 16 Chinese special forces members boarded the ship in small boats and rescued 19 crew members from the safety cabin .

## **The twenty-sixth batch of escort formations**

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578 Yangzhou frigate <sup>[45]</sup>

On April 1, 2017, the 26th escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy set sail from a certain military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort task of the 25th escort taskforce. Navy Deputy Commander Su Zhiqian, on behalf of Navy Commander Shen Jinlong and Political Commissar Miao Hua, went to the pier to see off the escort officers and soldiers and gave a speech <sup>[10]</sup>. The twenty-sixth batch of escort formations consisted of the missile frigates Huanggang and Yangzhou, the comprehensive supply ship Gaoyouhu and ship-borne helicopters. All three ships of the formation entered service after 2015, and they are all performing escort missions for the first time. Among them, after the Huanggang and Yangzhou ships were commissioned, they spent an average of more than 130 days in various combat readiness exercises at sea each year, and the Gaoyouhu ship participated in the "Pacific Rim-2016" exercise less than half a year after it was commissioned <sup>[46]</sup>.

On August 28, 2017, the escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia was successfully completed.

On October 3, 2017, the twenty-sixth escort fleet arrived in London, the capital of the United Kingdom, and began a five-day goodwill visit to the United Kingdom. Rear Admiral Wang Zhongcai, commander of the formation, said that during the visit to the UK, the formation will hold a series of colorful activities such as open days, deck receptions, and business exchanges between the Chinese and British militaries, in order to showcase the style of the Chinese navy and enhance the understanding of the Chinese navy from all walks of life in the UK. Promote the development of Sino-British and military-to-military relations. <sup>[47]</sup>

On October 15, 2017, the 26th escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy arrived at the Naval Port of Toulon in southern France, starting a four-day friendly visit to France. <sup>[48]</sup>

## The 27th Escort Formation

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### Yueyang missile frigate

On August 1, 2017, at a certain military port in Sanya, the 27th batch of escort formations set sail and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to perform escort missions. The escort formation is composed of the guided missile destroyer Haikou, the guided missile frigate Yueyang and the comprehensive supply ship Qinghaihu, carrying two shipboard helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. Except for the Yueyang ship, which is the first escort mission, the Haikou ship and the Qinghai Lake ship have performed escort missions many times. The Haikou ship that participated in the first batch of escort missions was awarded the honorary title of "Escort Pioneer Ship" by the Navy in September 2015. <sup>[49]</sup>

On the morning of August 23 local time, the 26th and 27th escort formations of the Chinese Navy met in the western waters of the Gulf of Aden and held a mission handover ceremony on board Huanggang. The 27th batch of escort formations will take over the 26th batch of escort formations and continue to perform escort missions.

At the handover ceremony, the 26th escort task force introduced in detail the escort situation, experience and practices, and the characteristics of piracy activities in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia. The two sides handed over relevant documents, materials and equipment. The professional counterparts of the two batches of escort formations also exchanged their escort experience over the past four months in the form of group discussions and counterpart handover. It is understood that after the handover ceremony, the two escort formations will jointly perform escort missions. Subsequently, the 26th batch of escort formations will start their visiting voyage, and the 27th batch of escort formations will start independent escorts. <sup>[50]</sup>

On the morning of September 6, local time, the 27th batch of escort fleet Haikou ships of the Chinese Navy arrived at the port of Djibouti, the Republic of Djibouti, and began a five-day port rest. This is the first round of the Navy's twenty-seventh escort fleet to dock for supplies and rest since it set sail on August 1.

At 8 o'clock in the morning, under the guidance of the pilot of the local port, the Haikou ship slowly sailed into the port of Djibouti, and the officers and soldiers of the formation were in strict order guided missile destroyer Haikou

, full of energy, lined up on the deck and waved to the pier. Chinese Ambassador to Djibouti Fu Huaqiang, military attache Ji Mingzhou, leaders of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Support Base in Djibouti and representatives of Chinese-funded institutions greeted them at the pier. They boarded the ship to visit the escort officers and soldiers, and had discussions and exchanges. <sup>[51]</sup>

## The twenty-eighth batch of escort formations

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On December 3, 2017, the Navy's 28th escort task force set sail from a military port in Qingdao , Shandong Province , and went to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters to perform escort missions. The formation consists of the North Sea Fleet missile frigates Yancheng, Weifang and comprehensive supply ship Taihu, carrying two shipboard helicopters and dozens of special operations personnel. All three ships have previously performed escort missions.

Zhang Wendan , Commander of the North Sea Fleet , attended the farewell ceremony and delivered a speech. Relevant leaders of the Fleet Administration, Shandong Maritime Safety Administration , Qingdao City , Yancheng City , Weifang City , and relatives of the escort officers and soldiers went to the pier to see him off. <sup>[52]</sup> On June 11, 2018, the 28th naval escort taskforce arrived at the port of Douala and began a three-day friendly visit to Cameroon. This was the second leg of the taskforce's visit. <sup>[53]</sup>

On the morning of August 9, 2018, the Navy's 28th escort formation consisting of the naval missile frigates Yancheng, Weifang and comprehensive supply ship Taihu in the northern theater successfully completed the escort in the Gulf of Aden, visits to four African countries, After going to Nigeria to participate in international maritime conferences and regional maritime exercises and other tasks, he returned to Qingdao smoothly. <sup>[54]</sup>

### **The twenty-ninth batch of escort formations**

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On April 4, 2018, the 29th naval escort formation composed of the Binzhou ship , the Xuzhou ship and the Qiandaohu ship set sail at a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to perform escort missions. The 29th escort formation of the navy carries 2 shipborne helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. <sup>[1]</sup> Leaders of the Eastern Theater Command Navy, Binzhou City, Xuzhou City, and Chun'an County, as well as representatives of the families of officers and soldiers of the mission, went to the pier to see off. <sup>[1-2]</sup>

### **The 30th Escort Formation**

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On the morning of August 6, 2018, the 30th naval escort taskforce set sail from a military port in Qingdao, and went to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters to perform escort missions. The relevant leaders of the theater naval agencies, Qingdao, Wuhu, and Handan, as well as relatives of the escort officers and soldiers, went to the pier to see them off. <sup>[55]</sup>

The 30th batch of escort formations consisted of missile frigates Wuhu, Handan and comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu. They carried two shipboard helicopters and dozens of special operations personnel. The entire formation consisted of nearly 700 people. Among them, the Handan ship performed the escort mission for the first time. <sup>[55]</sup>

On January 17, 2019, the Chinese Navy's 30th escort task force, consisting of guided missile frigates Wuhu, Handan and comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu, arrived in Manila, Philippines, and began a five-day friendly visit to the Philippines. <sup>[56]</sup>

### **The 31st Escort Formation**

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Xinhua News Agency, Guangzhou, December 9 (Reporters Tian Yuan and Zhu Hongliang) On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Chinese Navy's escort, the 31st naval escort taskforce set sail from a military port in Zhanjiang on the morning of the 9th, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to perform escort missions. Task.

The escort formation is composed of the amphibious dock landing ship Kunlunshan, the guided missile frigate Xuchang, and the comprehensive supply ship Luomahu, carrying three ship-borne helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and a total of more than 700 officers and soldiers in the formation. In addition to the Kunlun Mountain ship that has performed escort missions, the Xuchang ship and the Luomahu ship are both performing escort missions for the first time.

Since the escort began on December 26, 2008, in the past 10 years, the Chinese navy has dispatched 31 escort formations, 100 sub-ships, 67 helicopters, and more than 26,000 officers and soldiers to carry out escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia. Escorted 1,191 batches of 6,595 Chinese and foreign



ships, rescued, received and rescued more than 60 ships in distress, and continued to maintain the record of "two hundred percent safety" for the escorted ships and the formation itself, and successfully completed the evacuation of overseas Chinese from Libya and Yemen, and the Malaysia Airlines Missions such as search and rescue of missing passenger planes, emergency water supply to the Maldives, and maritime escort of Syrian chemical weapons have comprehensively improved the Navy's ability to perform diverse military missions. [3] [57]

On June 7, 2019, the 31st escort taskforce of the Chinese Navy, consisting of the Kunlun Mountain Ship, the Xuchang Ship and the Luoma Lake Ship, completed a friendly visit to Australia and set sail in the afternoon of the same day, leaving the Sydney Garden Island Naval Port Wharf [6] .

On the morning of July 11, 2019, the 31st batch of escort formations successfully completed the escort and visit tasks and arrived at a certain military port in Zhanjiang. [58]

## **The 32nd Escort Formation**

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The People's Liberation Army News, Zhoushan, April 4th reported by Li Hao and reporter Liu Yaxun: In the morning, the 32nd batch of naval escort formations set sail from a certain military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the 31st batch of escort formations to perform escort missions. The Navy of the Eastern Theater Command, relevant leaders of Xi'an, Zhoushan, Anyang, and Gaoyou, as well as representatives of the relatives of the escort officers and soldiers went to the pier to see off.

"The escort formation is ready, please set sail!" At about 9:00 in the morning, formation commanders Zhao Weidong and Zhou Jianming reported to the naval leaders of the eastern theater, and the formation ships unmoored and left the dock in turn. Accompanied by the "Farewell Song" played by the military band, officers and soldiers of the mission lined up neatly, solemnly saluted and waved goodbye to the motherland and the people.

The 32nd batch of escort formations consisted of the guided missile destroyer Xi'an, the guided missile frigate Anyang, and the comprehensive supply ship Gaoyouhu, carrying two shipboard helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and a total of more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. Except for the Gaoyou Lake ship that performed escort missions, the Xi'an Ship and Anyang Ship performed escort missions for the first time.

During the mission preparation period, the formation focused on the requirements of the core capabilities of the escort, focusing on the characteristics of the mission's diverse force composition, carefully planned and deployed, successively refined and improved dozens of programs and plans, compiled 4 categories and 9 kinds of information manuals, and carried out armed rescue. Targeted training on hijacked merchant ships, anti-terrorism and anti-piracy, and the actual use of weapons has further improved the coordination and coordination of mission forces and the command and decision-making capabilities of the command post, effectively testing the feasibility of the plan and the reliability of equipment. [11]

On April 11, 2019, the 32nd batch of escort formations carried out horizontal liquid cargo replenishment in a certain sea area. The ocean-going comprehensive supply ship Gaoyouhu adopts a horizontal supply method to supply fuel and fresh water to the Xi'an and Anyang ships. After the replenishment, the formation continued to maneuver towards the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. [59]

On April 28, 2019, the 32nd escort taskforce of the Navy arrived at the scheduled waters in the eastern Gulf of Aden and successfully joined the 31st escort taskforce. [60]

## **The thirty-third batch of escort formations**

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On the morning of August 29, the 33rd escort taskforce of the Navy set sail from a certain military port in Qingdao, Shandong Province, and headed to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to take over the escort task of the 32nd escort fleet. The Navy of the Northern Theater Command, relevant leaders of Qingdao City and Weifang City, as well as representatives of the relatives of the escort officers and soldiers went to the pier to see off.

It is understood that the escort formation this time is composed of the guided missile destroyer "Xining", the guided missile frigate "Weifang" and the ocean-going integrated supply ship "Kokexili Lake". More than 600 people. In addition to the "Weifang" ship that has performed two escort missions, the "Xining" ship and the "Kokexili Lake" ship are both performing escort missions for the first time. During the mission preparation period, the escort formation conducted targeted training on multiple subjects such as accompanying escort, ship escort, and armed rescue, which further consolidated and improved the ability of officers and soldiers to carry out missions in the open sea, and tested the feasibility of the plan and the coordination between forces.

The Chinese navy has successively dispatched 33 batches of 106 ships to carry out escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia, and completed more than 1,200 batches of escort missions with more than 6,700 Chinese and foreign ships, ensuring 100% safety of the escorted ships and the fleet itself. <sup>[12]</sup>

The Hoh Xil Lake ships of the 33rd escort formation of the Navy used escort missions to guide combat readiness training, organized and carried out multi-subject specialized training, and the rapid response and emergency response capabilities of officers and soldiers have been effectively improved. <sup>[61]</sup>

On March 25, 2020, the navy's 33rd escort task force, composed of the guided missile destroyer "Xining", the guided missile frigate "Weifang" and the ocean-going comprehensive supply ship "Kokexili Lake", successfully completed the escort and follow-up visit in the Somali waters of the Gulf of Aden Mission, successfully arrived at a certain military port in Qingdao. Since it set sail on August 29, 2019, the 33rd escort fleet of the Navy has lasted 210 days, with a total voyage of more than 110,000 nautical miles, and safely escorted 24 batches of 41 Chinese and foreign ships. <sup>[62]</sup>

### The thirty-fourth batch of escort formations

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On the morning of December 23, 2019, Navy Formation 175 set sail from a certain military port in Sanya to carry out the 34th batch of escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia.

The formation is composed of the guided missile destroyer Yinchuan, the guided missile frigate Yuncheng and the comprehensive supply ship Weishanhu, carrying two shipboard helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 690 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Yuncheng ship and the Weishanhu ship have performed escort missions many times, and the Yinchuan ship has performed escort missions for the first time.

It is reported that during the preparation stage of this mission, the formation focused on the requirements of the core capabilities of escort, based on dangerous, dangerous, and difficult situations, accurately analyzed the characteristics of the situation, carefully formulated plans and plans, and meticulously maintained equipment. It successively refined and improved dozens of programs and plans, sorted out and compiled dozens of information manuals, and focused on carrying out targeted training such as actual use of weapons, anti-terrorism and anti-piracy, and navigation supplies, which further improved the level of mission force coordination and command posts. The command and decision-making ability has effectively tested the feasibility of the plan and the reliability of the equipment.

The Chinese navy has successively dispatched 34 batches of 109 ships and more than 29,000 officers and soldiers to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to perform escort missions, ensuring 100% safety of the escorted ships and formations themselves, and comprehensively improving the navy's ability to carry out diversified military missions. <sup>[13]</sup>

From February 9 to 12, 2020, the 34th escort formation of the Navy took advantage of the mission gap to carry out 72 consecutive hours of real-case targeted training in a certain sea area in the eastern Gulf of Aden. The escort formation conducted comprehensive attack and defense, joint anti-submarine, emergency rescue, etc. The intense battle alarm sounded again and again on the Gulf of Aden... <sup>[63]</sup>

### The thirty-fifth batch of escort formations

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Jingzhou guided missile frigate <sup>[14]</sup>

On the morning of April 28, 2020, the 35th escort taskforce of the Navy set sail from Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province to perform escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. The escort formation this

time is composed of the guided missile destroyer Taiyuan, the guided missile frigate Jingzhou and the comprehensive supply ship Chaohu. Among them, the Taiyuan Jingzhou escorted the Gulf of Aden for the first time. <sup>[14]</sup>

At 3 o'clock on July 17, 2020, as the Russian merchant ship "Lada" safely arrived at the release point in the western Gulf of Aden, the 35th escort task force of the Navy successfully completed the escort mission of the 1319th batch of ships. <sup>[64]</sup>

### **The thirty-sixth batch of escort formations**

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The 36th naval escort taskforce set sail from a military port in Qingdao on the 3rd and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to perform escort missions.

At 9:00 am on September 3, 2020, the Navy of the Northern Theater Command held a departure ceremony for the escort formation at the pier. Accompanied by loud military music, the fleet ships slowly left the dock. On the deck, the officers and soldiers lined up in high spirits and waved goodbye.

The 36th batch of escort formations consisted of guided missile destroyer Guiyang, guided missile frigate Zaozhuang and comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu, carrying two shipboard helicopters and dozens of special operations personnel. After the formation arrives in the Gulf of Aden, it will take over the escort task of the 35th escort formation.

During the mission preparation period, the formation strictly implemented the relevant requirements for epidemic prevention and control, scientifically planned, carefully organized, refined and perfected the plan, and carried out targeted training on subjects such as rescuing hijacked merchant ships by force, anti-terrorism and anti-piracy, and actual use of weapons to further refine and improve The ability of the formation to perform missions has been enhanced. <sup>[65]</sup>

### **The thirty-seventh batch of escort formations**

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On the morning of January 16, 2021, the Navy's 37th escort taskforce set sail from a military port in Sanya, and went to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters to perform escort missions. 021

At 9 o'clock in the morning, accompanied by the sound of military music, the ships of the formation unmoored one by one and slowly left the dock. On the deck, the mission officers and soldiers lined up in high spirits and waved goodbye.

The Navy's 37th escort formation is composed of the guided missile destroyer Changsha , the guided missile frigate Yulin and the comprehensive supply ship Honghu , carrying two ship-borne helicopters, dozens of special operations personnel, and more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Changsha ship is the first escort mission.

During the mission preparation period, the formation strictly implemented the relevant requirements for epidemic prevention and control, scientifically planned and carefully organized, kept an eye on the risks, challenges and actual threats that escort operations may face, and organized multiple targeted trainings in accordance with the requirements of joint combat training and actual combat training , tempered and improved the ability of the formation to perform tasks, and effectively tested the feasibility of the plan and the coordination of the task force. <sup>[66]</sup>

On June 29, 2021, the 37th escort formation of the Chinese Navy successfully completed the escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia, and returned to a military port in Zhanjiang on the morning of the 29th. The mission lasted 165 days, with a voyage of more than 90,000 nautical miles, without stopping at the port for rest. <sup>[70]</sup>

### **The thirty-eighth batch of escort formations**

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Chaohu

On the morning of May 15, 2021, the Navy's 38th escort taskforce set sail from a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, and headed to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the 37th escort taskforce to perform escort missions. <sup>[67]</sup>

The Navy's 38th escort formation consists of the guided-missile destroyer Nanjing , the guided-missile frigate Yangzhou , and the integrated supply ship Gaoyouhu , carrying two ship-borne helicopters and dozens of special operations personnel. Among them, the Nanjing ship is the first escort mission. <sup>[67]</sup>

Taiyuan ship

At 10 am on June 7, 2021, the 37th escort formation composed of the Chinese Navy's Changsha, Yulin, and Honghu ships, and the 38th escort formation composed of the Nanjing, Yangzhou, and Gaoyouhu ships arrived at the rendezvous respectively. Place. Subsequently, the two batches of escort formations organized task handover on the 37th batch of escort formation command ship Changsha as planned <sup>[68]</sup> .

On June 9, 2021, the Navy's 37th and 38th escort formations held a separation ceremony in the Gulf of Aden and a certain waters in western Somalia. After the separation, the 37th escort formation of the navy set off to return to China, and the 38th escort formation of the navy officially took over the 37th escort formation to perform follow-up escort missions. <sup>[69]</sup>

On the morning of November 15, 2021, the 38th naval escort formation successfully completed the escort mission and returned to a certain military port in Zhoushan. The Navy of the Eastern Theater Command held a welcome ceremony for the triumphant return of the escort formation, and representatives of officers and soldiers came to the dock to greet them. <sup>[79]</sup>

### **The thirty-ninth batch of escort formations**

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On September 26, 2021, the 39th escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from Qingdao, and went to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia to take over the escort mission of the 38th escort formation.

The formation consists of the guided missile destroyer Urumqi , the guided missile frigate Yantai and the integrated supply ship Taihu, equipped with 2 ship-borne helicopters and dozens of special operations personnel. Among them, the Urumqi ship is the first escort mission. <sup>[71]</sup>

On October 17, 2021 local time, the 38th and 39th escort taskforces of the Navy held an escort task handover ceremony in a certain waters in the western Gulf of Aden. This marks the 39th batch of escort formations to take over the 38th batch of escort formations to officially perform the escort mission. <sup>[72]</sup>

At 2:00 p.m. local time on January 4, 2022 in the Gulf of Aden, the 39th escort taskforce of the Navy escorted 8 Chinese fishing boats to the safe waters at the southern mouth of the Mandeb Strait, successfully completing the first escort mission of the new year. <sup>[73]</sup>

On the morning of March 9, 2022, after 165 days and nights and a voyage of more than 90,000 nautical miles, the Navy's 39th escort task force, consisting of the guided missile destroyer Urumqi, the guided missile frigate Yantai, and the comprehensive supply ship Taihu, successfully completed the mission in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. The escort mission successfully docked at a certain military port in Qingdao, and the navy of the northern theater held a ceremony to welcome the formation's triumphant return. <sup>[78]</sup>

### **The 40th Escort Formation**

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On January 15, 2022, the 40th escort formation consisting of the guided missile destroyer Hohhot, the guided missile frigate Yueyang and the comprehensive supply ship Luomahu, equipped with 2 ship-borne helicopters and dozens of special forces personnel, departed from Zhanjiang, Guangdong. Set sail and go to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia to perform escort missions. <sup>[74]</sup>

On February 14, 2022 local time, the 40th escort fleet of the Navy, Hohhot, successfully escorted the cargo ship "Voyager" to the release point in the western waters of the Gulf of Aden and separated from the escorted ships. This is the official responsibility of the 40th escort fleet. The first escort . <sup>[77]</sup>

According to the news on June 10, 2022, the 40th escort formation and the 41st escort formation successfully completed the task handover in a certain sea area in the Gulf of Aden, and the 40th escort formation returned.

On July 5, 2022, the 40th escort formation of the Chinese Navy successfully completed the escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia, and returned to a certain military port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong. <sup>[82]</sup>

### **The 41st Escort Formation**

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On May 18, 2022, the Navy's 41st escort taskforce set sail at a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang, and went to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters to perform escort missions. The 41st batch of escort formations consisted of the guided-missile destroyer Suzhou, the guided-missile frigate Nantong and the integrated supply ship Chaohu. [80]

According to news on June 10, 2022, the 40th and 41st batches of escort formations of the Chinese Navy recently held a separation ceremony in a certain waters in the Gulf of Aden. The 41st escort formation consisting of the Suzhou ship, Nantong ship and Chaohu ship has officially entered the escort stage. [81]

## The 42nd Escort Formation

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On September 21, 2022, the 42nd batch of escort formations of the Chinese Navy set sail from a military port in Qingdao, Shandong. The 42nd batch of escort formations were mainly composed of naval forces in the northern theater, including the guided missile destroyer Huainan, the guided missile frigate Rizhao and the comprehensive supply ship. The Hoh Xil Lake ship carries 2 ship-borne helicopters and dozens of special forces members. In addition to the Hoh Xil Lake ship that performed escort missions in the Gulf of Aden, the Huainan ship and the Rizhao ship both performed escort missions for the first time. [83] According to news on October 1, recently, the 42nd naval escort formation successfully completed its first maritime replenishment in the South China Sea. [84] On the morning of October 15, 2022 local time, the 41st and 42nd batch of escort formations of the Navy held an escort task handover ceremony in a certain waters of the Gulf of Aden, which marked that the 42nd batch of escort formations officially took over from the 41st batch of escort formations and began to implement Aden. Gulf, Somali waters escort mission. [85]

On October 25, 2022 local time, the 42nd escort formation of the Navy safely escorted the Panamanian oil tanker "Emilys" to the scheduled release point in the Gulf of Aden, successfully completing the first escort missions under the independent command of the formation. [86]

On November 15, 2022, the 41st escort taskforce of the Navy successfully completed the escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia, and returned to a military port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang. [87]

## The 43rd batch of escort formations

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On the morning of January 10, 2023, the 43rd escort formation of the Chinese Navy set sail from a military port in Zhanjiang, Guangdong, and headed to the Gulf of Aden and the waters of Somalia. The Weishan Lake ship is composed of two ship-borne helicopters and more than 700 mission officers and soldiers. Among them, the Nanning ship is the first escort mission. [88]

## Cumulative completed

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broadcast

As of June 2022, the Chinese naval escort fleet has completed 1,500 batches of escort missions for more than 7,000 Chinese and foreign ships in this sea area. [81]

## References

### 1 Establishment Background

### 2 Fleet Profile

### 3 achievements

### 4 previous formations

The first escort formation

The second escort formation

The third escort formation

The fourth escort formation

Fifth Escort Formation

The Sixth Escort Formation

The Seventh Escort Formation

[Eighth Escort Formation](#)

[The Ninth Escort Formation](#)

[Tenth Escort Formation](#)

[The Eleventh Escort Formation](#)

[The Twelfth Escort Formation](#)

[The Thirteenth Escort Formation](#)

[Fourteenth Escort Formation](#)

[The 15th Escort Formation](#)

[Sixteenth Escort Formation](#)

[Seventeenth Escort Formation](#)

[Eighteenth Escort Formation](#)

[The 19th Escort Formation](#)

[The 20th Escort Formation](#)

[The 21st Escort Formation](#)

[The 22nd Escort Formation](#)

[The twenty-third batch of escort formations](#)

[The 24th Escort Formation](#)

[The twenty-fifth batch of escort formations](#)

[The twenty-sixth batch of escort formations](#)

[The 27th Escort Formation](#)

[The twenty-eighth batch of escort formations](#)

[The twenty-ninth batch of escort formations](#)

[The 30th Escort Formation](#)

[The 31st Escort Formation](#)

[The 32nd Escort Formation](#)

[The thirty-third batch of escort formations](#)

[The thirty-fourth batch of escort formations](#)

[The thirty-fifth batch of escort formations](#)

[The thirty-sixth batch of escort formations](#)

[The thirty-seventh batch of escort formations](#)

[The thirty-eighth batch of escort formations](#)

[The thirty-ninth batch of escort formations](#)

[The 40th Escort Formation](#)

[The 41st Escort Formation](#)

[The 42nd Escort Formation](#)

[The 43rd batch of escort formations](#)

**[5 cumulative completed](#)**

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