

JMSDF Order of Battle 1985

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Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force

Notes about the JMSDF-

At this time, JMSDF ships used the prefix JDS (Japanese Defence Ship). Example- JDS Haruna (Haruna class helicopter destroyer)

In the event of war, the JMSDF planned to conduct strictly defensive ASW and sea lane protection operations with a fleet consisting of eight ships and ten aircraft. The 1st Escort Flotilla and 2nd Escort Flotilla were capable of using this doctrine, but the 3rd and 4th Escort Flotillas never received enough ships to be able to carry it out effectively. The fleet would consist of the following-

- 2x Helicopter destroyers (Haruna or Shirane class), each carrying 3x HSS-2B
- 2x Guided missile destroyer (Amatsukaze or Tachikaze class)
- 4x Destroyer (Takatsuki, Yamagumo, Minegumo or Hatsuyuki class), each carrying 1x HSS-2 or HSS-2A

It should be noted that in 1985, it was impossible for anything other than a helicopter destroyer to operate the HSS-2B.

The 8 ship 10 aircraft system was found to create problems. The destroyers were unable to provide advanced maintenance for their aircraft and it was difficult to maintain stores of spare parts for both the HSS-2/A and the HSS-2B on the helicopter destroyers. The JMSDF decided to transition to an 8 ship 8 aircraft system and began procuring the necessary ships in 1982, however there were not enough new ships to actually use the new system by 1985.

The JMSDF and the JASDF had “discussed” joint operations, but by 1985 there was little framework in place for such operations. The JMSDF was “on its own”- it would focus entirely on defending Japan’s territorial waters. Air defence assets were intended for the protection of the fleet, while maintaining control of Japan’s airspace was the job of the JASDF. Thus, the JASDF **did not** plan to protect any JMSDF formations by flying combat air patrols over them. At the same time, the JASDF had extremely limited strike capabilities, mainly intended for CAS in the event of an invasion of Hokkaido, and maritime strikes would likely only be conducted against an enemy amphibious fleet, not in support of standard ASuW operations.

Due to the nature of the JSDF, it would have been limited to strictly defensive action in the event of war. Although some novels have described the JSDF retaking the Kuril Islands in the event of World War III, such an operation would be unconstitutional. In 1985, Japan's civilian politicians and the officers of the JSDF were extremely nervous about excessive use of force. Thus, unless Soviet ships or aircraft were clearly conducting an offensive action against Japan (such as crossing into Japanese waters or airspace), the JMSDF was expected to not fire upon the enemy. Likewise, in the United States, much of the political and military establishment had been alive when the Attack on Pearl Harbor happened, and thus were extremely keen to ensure that Japan did not acquire any offensive military capability or move towards anything resembling offensive operations. This has been described as "defence through denial, rather than defence through punishment".

Another effect of Japan's pacifist laws following World War II was that mobilization of the JSDF was greatly hampered in the event of a sudden attack. Little detail is available, however there is a major bureaucracy that any order to mobilize must go through before actually being issued.

From April 25th, 1985, to July 13th, 1985, DDH-143 Shirane, DDG-169 Asakaze, and DDG-170 Sawakaze were conducting training with the USN in American waters

Maritime Staff Office

Self Defence Fleet

Self Defence Fleet HQ- Yokosuka Naval Base

Fleet Escort Force

If a ship has no base name next to the ship name in parentheses, it is located where its parent formation is

Color coding of each ship represents its class

If no color is present, the ship is the only ship of its class (and thus can be found by its name in the DB)

Haruna class (DBID #1574) **Blue**

Shirane class (DBID #1573) **Dark Orange**

Akizuki class (*Not present in the DB*) **Green**

Takatsuki class (DBID #1123) **Orange**

Tachikaze class (DBID #8) **Dark Red**

Murasame class (*Not present in the DB*) Light Blue

Yamagumo class (DBID #1565) Red

Hatsuyuki class (DBID #1566) Light Purple

Minegumo class (DBID #1572) Light Magenta

Chikugo class (DBID #1571) Magenta

Under direct control of the Fleet Escort Force-

- AOE-421 Sagami (Kure)

Fleet Escort Force Flagship (Yokosuka)- DD-161 Akizuki (on March 27th, 1985, the Fleet Escort Force Flagship became DD-118 Murakumo, and Akizuki became an auxiliary assigned to the Yokosuka District Force)

Escort Flotilla 1 (Yokosuka)-

- Under the direct control of Escort Flotilla 1 command- DDH-143 Shirane
- Escort Division 22 (Kure)- DD-116 Minegumo, DD-117 Natsugumo, DD-118 Murakumo (Murakumo became the Fleet Escort Force Flagship on March 27th, 1985)
- Escort Division 61 (Yokosuka)- DDG-163 Amatsukaze, DDG-169 Asakaze
- Escort Division 41 (Yokosuka)- DD-125 Sawayuki, DD-123 Shirayuki, DD-122 Hatsuyuki
- Escort Division 43 (Yokosuka)- DD-128 Haruyuki, DD-127 Isoyuki

Escort Flotilla 2 (Sasebo)-

- Under the direct control of Escort Flotilla 2 command- DDH-144 Kurama, DD-129 Yamayuki
- Escort Division 1 (Kure)- DD-165 Kikuzuki, DD-164 Takatsuki (Takatsuki was being outfitted with a FRAM, it did not re-enter service until October 31st, 1985)
- Escort Division 62 (Sasebo)- DDG-168 Tachikaze, DDG-170 Sawakaze
- Escort Division 42 (Sasebo)- DD-126 Hamayuki, DD-124 Mineyuki

Escort Flotilla 3 (Maizuru)-

- Under the direct control of Escort Flotilla 3 command- DDH-141 Haruna, DD-162 Teruzuki (Teruzuki was based at Ominato)
- Escort Division 10 (Maizuru)- DD-109 Harusame (On March 5th, 1985, Harusame became an auxiliary)
- Escort Division 21 (Sasebo)- DD-113 Yamagumo, DD-121 Yugumo
- Escort Division 2 (Maizuru)- DD-167 Nagatsuki, DD-166 Mochizuki

Escort Flotilla 4 (Yokosuka)-

- Under the direct control of Escort Flotilla 4 command- [DDH-142 Hiei](#)
- *Until March 27th, 1985*- Escort Division 35 (Sasebo)- [DE-218 Tokachi](#), [DE-225 Noshiro](#)
- *From March 27th, 1985*- Escort Division 38 (Kure)- [DE-218 Tokachi](#), [DE-225 Noshiro](#)
- Escort Division 23 (Ominato)- [DD-115 Asagumo](#), [DD-119 Aokumo](#), [DD-120 Akigumo](#)

Regional District Forces-

- Escort Division 37 (Yokosuka)- [DE-220 Chitose](#), [DE-216 Ayase](#)
- Escort Division 33 (Yokosuka)- [DE-221 Niyodo](#), [DE-222 Teshio](#)
- Escort Division 34 (Sasebo)- [DE-215 Chikugo](#), [DE-217 Mikuma](#), [DE-219 Iwase](#)
- Escort Division 36 (Kure)- [DE-223 Yoshino](#), [DE-224 Kumano](#)

Fleet Air Force

JMSDF ships do not have integral helicopter units. The helicopter units listed below deploy their helicopters on board ships whenever they sail, but otherwise are located at their bases. There does not appear to be any ammunition facilities at their land bases when viewed from things like Google Maps (the bases have not changed much since the 80s), and thus they presumably only conduct ASW operations when aboard ships. Aerial torpedoes, sonobuoys, etc. are kept at naval bases

Use the 1984 version of the P-3C Orion (DBID #350)

Fleet Air Force HQ- Atsugi AB

Under direct control of the Fleet Air Force command-

61st Kokutai (Atsugi AB)- YS-11M x 2, YS-11MA x 2 (transport planes, a standard civilian YS-11 works fine as a substitute)

111th Kokutai (Iwakuni AB)- V-107A x 10 (minesweeping helicopters, not be present in the DB at this time)

1st Kokudan

1st Kokudan HQ- Kanoya AB

1st Kokutai- P-2J x 9

2nd Kokudan

2nd Kokudan HQ- Hachinohe AB

2nd Kokutai- P-2J x 9 (from July 20th, 1985, P-2Js were replaced by P-3Cs on an airframe by airframe basis)

4th Kokutai- P-2J x 9

4th Kokudan

4th Kokudan HQ- Atsugi AB

3rd Kokutai- P-2J x 1, P-3C x 9 (on January 10th, 1985, the 3rd Kokutai received its last P-3C and the P-2J was retired)

6th Kokutai- P-3C x 6

5th Kokudan

5th Kokudan HQ- Naha AB

5th Kokutai- P-2J x 11

21st Kokudan

21st Kokudan HQ- Tateyama AB

101st Kokutai (Tateyama AB)- HSS-2 x 55 (A detachment is deployed to Iwo-to AB)

121st Kokutai (Tateyama AB)- HSS-2A x 28, HSS-2B x 27

122nd Kokutai (Omura AB)- HSS-2B x 15

Komatsushima Kokutai (Komatsushima AB)- HSS-2B x 14

31st Kokudan

31st Kokudan HQ- Iwakuni AB

31st Kokutai- PS-1 x 6

Fleet Submarine Force

If a ship has no base name next to the ship name in parentheses, it is located where its parent formation is

Color coding of each ship represents its class

If no color is present, the ship is the only ship of its class (and thus can be found by its name in the DB)

Yushio class (DBID #315) **Blue**

Uzushio class (*See below*) **Green**

Asashio class (*Not present in the DB*) **Orange**

The Uzushio class is made up of different projects/variants-

For Uzushio and Makishio, use DBID #14 Uzushio

For Isoshio, Narushio, and Kuroshio, use DBID #16 Isoshio

For Takashio and Yaeshio, use DBID #15 Takashio

Fleet Submarine Force HQ- Yokosuka Naval Base

Submarine Flotilla 1

Submarine Flotilla 1 HQ- Kure Naval Base

Under the direct control of Submarine Flotilla 1 command- **SS-565 Arashio** (from March 27th, 1985)

Submarine Squadron 1- **SS-573 Yushio**, **SS-574 Mochishio**

Submarine Squadron 5- **SS-568 Isoshio**, **SS-569 Narushio**

Submarine Squadron 6- **SS-571 Takashio**, **SS-572 Yaeshio**

Submarine Squadron 2- **SS-564 Michishio** (On March 27th, 1985, Michishio was decommissioned), **SS-565 Arashio** (On March 27th, 1985, Arashio came under the direct control of Submarine Flotilla 1 command)

On March 27th, 1985, Michishio was decommissioned, and Submarine Squadron 2 was transferred to Submarine Flotilla 2

Submarine Flotilla 2

Submarine Flotilla 2 HQ- Yokosuka Naval Base

Directly under control of HQ- [SS-578 Hamashio](#) (On March 27th, 1985, Hamashio was transferred to Submarine Squadron 2)

Submarine Squadron 3- [SS-575 Setoshio](#), [SS-576 Okishio](#), [SS-577 Nadashio](#) (on March 27th, 1985 Nadashio was transferred to Submarine Squadron 2)

Submarine Squadron 4- [SS-566 Uzushio](#), [SS-567 Makishio](#), [SS-570 Kuroshio](#)

On March 27th, 1985, Hamashio and Nadashio were transferred to Submarine Squadron 2, which itself was transferred from Submarine Flotilla 1

Submarine Squadron 2- [SS-578 Hamashio](#), [SS-577 Nadashio](#)