

Ref: 25500

D. D. 1500-I-2

Letter from Admiral J. O. Richardson to Admiral H. R. Stark  
7 January 1941.

UNITED STATES FLEET  
A16/ U.S.S. NEW MEXICO, Flagship

Serial 022.

Pearl Harbor, T.H.,  
January 7, 1941.

CONFIDENTIAL

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
Com 14 Conf. Ltr.  
C-A16-1/A7-2/ND14  
(629) of 30 Dec. 1940.

From: Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
To : The Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Situation Concerning the Security of the Fleet  
and the Present Ability of the Local Defense  
Forces to Meet Surprise Attacks.

1. Forwarded. The Commander-in-Chief has conferred with the Commandant Fourteenth Naval District and the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department. As a result of the conference with the Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, and an inspection in company with him, information was furnished the Commandant Fourteenth Naval District who prepared the basic letter. The Commander-in-Chief concurs with the Commandant Fourteenth Naval District in the opinion that the present Army Pursuit Squadrons and antiaircraft batteries are inadequate to protect the Fleet and Pearl Harbor against air attack. When established the proposed pursuit strength will be adequate. The proposed total of 68 mobile three-inch guns for this area is not considered adequate. With the almost continuous high ceiling prevailing in this area a materially greater number of larger and longer range antiaircraft guns are necessary to counter high altitude bombing attacks on Pearl Harbor.

2. As neither the increased antiaircraft batteries nor the augmented pursuit squadrons will be available for an extended period the defense of Fleet units within Pearl Harbor will have to be augmented by that portion of the Fleet which may be in Pearl Harbor in event of attack by hostile aircraft. Plans for co-operation with the local defense forces are being made. At present the continuous readiness of carrier fighter squadrons or antiaircraft batteries is not contemplated. The improbability of such an attack under present conditions does not, in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief, warrant interrupting entirely the training required by Fleet Air Units which would have to be largely curtailed if constant readiness of a fighter squadron were required.

3. There does not appear to be any practicable way of placing torpedo baffles or nets within the harbor to protect the ships moored therein against torpedo plane attack without greatly limiting the activities within the harbor, particularly the movements of large ships and the landing and take-off of patrol squadrons. Inasmuch as Pearl Harbor is the only operating base available to the Fleet in this area

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any passive defense measures that will further restrict the use of the base as such should be avoided. Considering this and the improbability of such an attack under present conditions and the unlikelihood of an enemy being able to advance carriers sufficiently near in wartime in the face of active Fleet operations, it is not considered necessary to lay such nets.

4. The defense against submarines and mines are considered adequate under present peace time conditions, but early installation of underwater sound-submarine detection system should be made. Also the delivery of the required ships to the Fourteenth Naval District Defense Forces should be expedited, particularly ships for sweeping magnetic and anchored mines.

5. In this connection, it is urgently recommended that Local Defense Forces, adequate for the protection of naval installations at Pearl Harbor and the Fleet units based thereon, be provided the Commandant Fourteenth Naval District. In order to provide freedom of action for the United States Fleet, and further, to avoid the necessity for detailing important Fleet units (because no other ships are available) to tasks requiring only part of their full capabilities, it is considered that the forces provided should be sufficient for full protection and should be independent of the presence or absence of ships of the U.S. Fleet. It is further considered that the provision of adequate Local Defense Forces for the Fourteenth Naval District should be given higher priority than continental Naval Districts, where both the possibilities of, and objectives for, attack are much less.

J. O. RICHARDSON

Copy to:  
Com FOURTEEN

ヂェー・オー・リチャードソンヨリエイチ・アール・スタークヘノ手紙

一九四一年一月七日

合衆國艦隊

旗艦 U.S.S ニューメキシコ

連續 ○二二

布哇・眞珠灣 一九四一年一月七日

極 秘

第一裏書送先

第十四海軍區司令官極秘書翰

C-1616-17A7-27ND14

一九四〇年十二月三十日 (六二九)

差出人ハ 合衆國艦隊司令長官  
名宛人ハ 海軍作戰部長



題目ハ艦隊防禦ニ關スル態勢及審襲ニ對スル地方防衛軍ノ現在ノ能力  
 一 轉送 司令長官ハ第十四海軍區司令官及ハワイ地區總司令官トノ會談  
 及彼トノ共同調査ノ結果第十四海軍區司令官ニ情報ガモタラサレ彼ハ  
 手紙ノ原文ヲ作成シタ。司令長官ハ現在ノ陸軍追撃隊及高射砲陣テハ  
 艦隊及眞珠灣ヲ空襲ニ對シテ守ルノニハ不充分デアルトイフ意見デ第  
 十四海軍區司令官ト一致シテキル、モシ今建築ノ追撃軍ガ確定出來タ  
 ラ充分デアラウ。コノ地域ニオイテ總數六十八ノ三インチ移動高射砲  
 デハ足りナイ。コノ地域ノ殆ンド連續的ナ高空ノ狀況下ニ於テハ口徑  
 大ノ着弾距離ノヨリ遠イ高射砲ガ多量ニアルコトガ眞珠灣高空爆撃ニ  
 對抗スルタメニ必要デアル。

ニ 高射砲陣ヤ追撃隊モマダ當分増強スル事ガ出來ナイカラ敵機ニヨル攻  
 撃ノ場合ニハ眞珠灣ニ居アハセノ艦隊ノ一部ニヨツテ眞珠灣内ノ艦隊  
 護衛ハ増強サレネガナラヌデアラウ、地方防衛軍トノ協力計畫ガ今作  
 成サレツ、アル。現在ノトコロ空母戰鬥機隊又ハ高射砲陣ヲ常時使用  
 デキルヨウナ準備ハ企圖サレテイナイ、司令長官ノ考デハ現狀下ニカ

カル攻撃ハナイデアラウト云フコトハ艦隊航空隊ニ必要ナ訓練ヲ全ク中止シナクテモヨイト云フコトデアアル。ソレ等艦隊航空隊ハ常ニ戦闘機ノ待機準備ヲ必要トサレルナラバ大中ニ削減サレルノデアアル。

三 灣内ニオケル行動ヲ待ニ大型船舶ノ行動及偵察機ノ離着陸等ヲ大中ニ制限シナクテ水雷機攻撃ニ對シテ灣内ニ碇泊中ノ船ヲ守ルタメ灣内ニ水雷妨害装置ヤ網ヲ仕掛ケル實用的ナ方法ハナイヨウニオモワレル、眞珠灣ハ艦隊ニトツテコノ地域ニオケル唯一ノ作戰基地デアアル以上コノヨウナ基地使用ヲヨリ以上制限スルヨウナ受動的防衛手段ハ避ケルベキデアアル。コノ點ヲ考慮シ又、現在ノ状態ニ於テハ斯ノ如キ來襲ノ先ヅアリ得ベカラザルコト、且ツ敵ガ戰時活潑ナ艦隊作戰ヲ犯シテ充分距離マデ空母ヲ進メ得ルダケノ實力ヲ有シテキルトハ思ハレヌコト等ヲ考慮スル時カクノ如キ防禦装置ヲ敷設スルコトハ必要トハ思ハレヌ。

四 潜水艦ヤ機雷ニ對スル現在ノ防衛施設ハ今日ノ平和状態ニオイテ十分デアアルガ、水中音測對潛組織ガ速カニ設置サルベキデアアル、又第十

四海軍地區防衛部隊ニ入用ナ艦船特ニ掃海艇ヲ早速派遣セネバナラヌ  
 共コレニ關シテ眞珠灣内ノ海軍設備及同灣ヲ基地トスル部隊ノ防衛ニ當  
 リ得ル防衛軍ヲ第十四海軍地區司令部ヘ急イデ送ルコトガ望マシイ。  
 合衆國艦隊ニ必要ナ行動ノ自由ヲ確保シ又重要ナ部隊ヲソノ能力ノ一  
 部シカ發揮シ得ヌ職務ニ（他ニ船ガナイカラトイツテ）分派スルガ如  
 キコトノナイヨウニ、上述ノ防衛部隊ハ充分ナ防衛力ヲ有シ合衆國艦  
 隊ニ屬スル艦船ノ在不在ニハ關係ナク行動出來ルモノデアルベキデア  
 ル。又第十四海軍區ハ有力ナ防衛部隊ヲ專屬ニ對シテ攻撃サレル可能  
 性モ又目的物モ遂カニ少イ大陸海軍區ヨリモズツト優先權ヲ與ヘラレ  
 ネバナラナイ

ジエー・オー・リチャードソン

寫シ送り先 第十四海軍區司令官