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To: Submarine Squadron Commanders, SubPacFlt

From: ComSubPac

Date: December 1942

Subject: Mission Orders Cycle 5

RMKS: 1 Heavy losses at the "Battle of Santa Cruz" has left the Pacific Fleet with only two carriers, the Enterprise and Saratoga, both of which suffered damage. With the loss of the carriers Hornet and Wasp, control of the Guadalcanal area is in doubt. Our marines continue to hold Guadalcanal and several Japanese attacks by major surface combatants have been beaten off, with known enemy losses including two BB's, and a CV. The enemy surface fleet activity has been reduced to high-speed night runs by DD's off loading supplies ashore.

RMKS: 2 ONI believes that Admiral Yamamoto is determined to retake Guadalcanal at 'All costs'. All Troop Transports headed south from Empire waters are to be considered as "TOP PRIORITY" targets. Expect these convoys to be heavily escorted.

RMKS: 3 Air support by the Japanese has been increased, all boats are to be on the highest alert when running on the surface, even at night when the moon is up the IJN airforce are flying patrols. "KEEP ALERT"

RMKS: 4 Orders received from Admiral Nimitz, CinCPac, call for the submarine force to continue pressure in Alaskan waters in anticipation of a move Westward toward the Gilberts, The Mariana's, Truk and the Marshal's.

RMKS: 5 With stores of torpedoes on only a slight rise, the amount of replacement torpedoes compared to the number expended remains at an uncomfortable level. It has been calculated that we are expending torpedoes at a 3 to 1 ratio, meaning that for every three torpedoes expended we are receiving one replacement from BuOrd. Torpedo conservation measures are to be continued with the MK VI exploder depth settings remaining in force.

RMKS: 6 Submarine Squadrons are assigned to the following areas, where SubRons are assigned more than one Patrol Zone the squadrons boats are to be split equally between PZ's:

SubRon1M:	PacFlt –	Mariana Islands & Southern Japan
	SubSoWesPac –	Philippines & Malaysia

SubRon3A:	PacFlt –	Formosa & Yellow Sea
	SubSoWesPac –	Solomon Islands

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SubRon7A:	PacFlt –	Palau Islands & Caroline Islands
	SubSoWesPac –	Sulu Sea & South China Sea
SubRon8A	PacFlt –	Aleutian Islands & Northern Japan
	SubSoWesPac –	Indochina & Java Sea

RMKS/7. All Submarine Squadron Commanders are to acknowledge these orders immediately upon receipt.

Good luck and good hunting!

Robert H. English

Robert H. English
Rear Admiral
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