

China's Navy

*Ships and Aircraft
of the People's
Republic of China,
1955 - 2021*



edited by

*Larry Bond, Chris Carlson, &
Peter Grining*



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The editors of *China's Navy* are prepared to answer questions about the supplement. They can be reached in care of adtr-group@aol.com. Visit their website at www.admiraltytrilogy.com.

This 1 October 2021 printing of *China's Navy* contains all changes and corrections through 1 December 2025.

Cover: The Type 052C [Luyang II] class DDG *Zhengzhou*/151 leads two Type 054A [Jiangkai II] FFGs, *Huangshan*/570 and *Daqing*/576, followed by the Type 071 [Yuzhao] class LPD *Kunlunshan*/998 at the end of a joint exercise with Russia in 2016 (PLAN).

Introduction

Introduction

The Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) includes all branches of China's military. These are the Army Ground Forces or PLAGF (sometimes called "PLA Army," which is confusing, or "PLAA" in English), PLAN (Navy), PLaAF (Air Force), PLARF (Rocket Forces). Paratroop units are under PLaAF control, and the Marine Corps (PLANMC) is under the PLAN.

In early 2016, the organization of PLA changed, with the formation of Theater Commands in the North, East, South, West and Central regions (these are shown on the map on page 4). These Commands are a combination of PLAGF, PLAN and PLaAF forces. Only the East, North and South have fleets assigned.

The PLARF remains independent of the Theater Commands but would provide conventional and nuclear firepower as required.

The PLA Strategic Support Force (PLASSF, sometimes "SSF" but the full name is used to avoid confusion with the old "South Sea Fleet" acronym) handles cyber, electronic, psychological warfare and space operations. It is responsible for providing satellite targeting for the PLARF. The BeiDou satellite navigation system was extended from regional in 2012 to global coverage in 2020, removing the need for dependence on the US GPS network.

The PLA Joint Logistic Support Force, or PLAJLSF, does what the name suggests.

People's Liberation Army Navy

In February 2016, the East Sea Fleet, North Sea Fleet, and South Sea Fleet were renamed "Theater Command Navies."

- The Northern Theater Command Navy (NTCN) (Beihai Fleet)
- The Southern Theater Command Navy (STCN) (Nanhai Fleet)
- The Eastern Theater Command Navy ETCN (Donghai Fleet).

The main bases in the NTCN are Dalian and Qingdao; the ETCN has Fujian, Shanghai and Zhoushan; the STCN has bases in Guangzhou, Yulin and Zhanjiang. The SSBNs are based at Jianggezhuang, near Qingdao.

The aircraft carrier *Liaoning* was originally considered a training carrier, and was based at Qingdao in the North, directly under command of PLAN Headquarters. This is close to the Chinese equivalent of the Naval War College in Dalian, and was first used to develop carrier doctrine and build experience in flight operations at sea. With time and along with *Shandong*, it may have been designated an operational unit. In this case, it would be subordinated to a theater command - possibly the NTCN for *Liaoning* and the STCN for *Shandong*.

The People's Liberation Army Navy Marine Corps (PLANMC) was formed in April 1953, disbanded in October 1957, then reconstituted in December 1979. Only two of the six PLANMC brigades are equipped and trained for amphibious assaults. A Marine Aviation Brigade was formed in 2020 in the NTC with Z-8C transport helicopters. *Weyer's Warships of the World Fleet Handbook 2020/2021* gives its strength as 5 brigades and 12 companies.

The Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) is part of the People's Armed Police (PAP) in peacetime, and along with the rest of the PAP, the theater commands in wartime.

Coastal defenses originally had fixed and mobile artillery, then fixed cruise missiles like the HY-2 and HY-4, and the mobile YJ-62 in 2008 and YJ-12 in 2017.

PLA Naval Aviation was formed in 1952. The following are known units (All have MPA and AEW):

The ETCN has one J-10A, two JH-7, one Su-30MKK and one H-6 regiment. Ka-28, Ka-31 and Z-9D helicopters are carried by ETCN ships. UAVs were added in 2012.

The NTCN has one regiment of J-8F and two of JH-7A. Embarked helicopters are Z-9C/D. The NTCN is possibly the only fleet not using UAVs.

The STCN has three regiments of J-11B, one JH-7A regiment, one H-6 regiment. Ships have Z-9C/D helicopters.

The PLAN has its own air defense units - ETCN has an AAA regiment, NTCN has an air defense brigade with SAM unit and AAA regiment. The STCN has an air defense brigade which includes HQ-6 SAM and LD-2000 AAA.

People's Liberation Army Air Force

Each division typically had two operational and one training regiments, each of 24 aircraft. As part of the reorganization in 2018, PLaAF fighter and attack units are now Air Brigades, independent of Divisions. Each brigade has 24-28 aircraft. Specialized aircraft remain in regiments under divisions.

This book covers the hardware that China possessed between 1955 and the present day. Equally important is the training provided. This improved from 2017 with more realistic training and improved instructor selection. However, PLaAF training was also hindered by the training aircraft available. This problem was solved in 2019 when the JL-10 trainer entered service.

The PLaAF also operates a large number of surface-to-air missile units for area defense, including the Russian S-300 and S-400 (a second brigade was delivered in early 2020) and domestic HQ-9, HQ-12 and HQ-22 with the ballistic missile defense HQ-19.

Starting in the mid 1980s, most of the 37mm and 57mm AAA were transferred to the Army, although most of the 85mm and 100mm were retained by the air force.

From 2015, the PLaAF increased maritime training. PLaAF aircraft now carry anti-ship missiles - the J-16 with YJ-83K, and H-6K and H-6N with YJ-83K or YJ-12 missiles.

Others

The PLaAF originally flew helicopters to support the Army. The PLA Army Aviation Corps was formed in 1986. Currently each PLAGF Group Army has an aviation brigade with 3 to 8 battalions, each battalion has 12 helicopters and sometimes a UAV battalion.

The PLAGF combined arms battalions have four QW-2 SAM launchers, brigades have HQ-7 or HQ-17 and AAA. Group armies have the HQ-16 Buk. At all levels AAA remains.

The PAP have an internal security and disaster relief roles in peacetime, but would operate under the PLAGF in wartime, with a primary focus on border security. They have a number of Z-8 and Z-9 transport helicopters.

Table of Contents

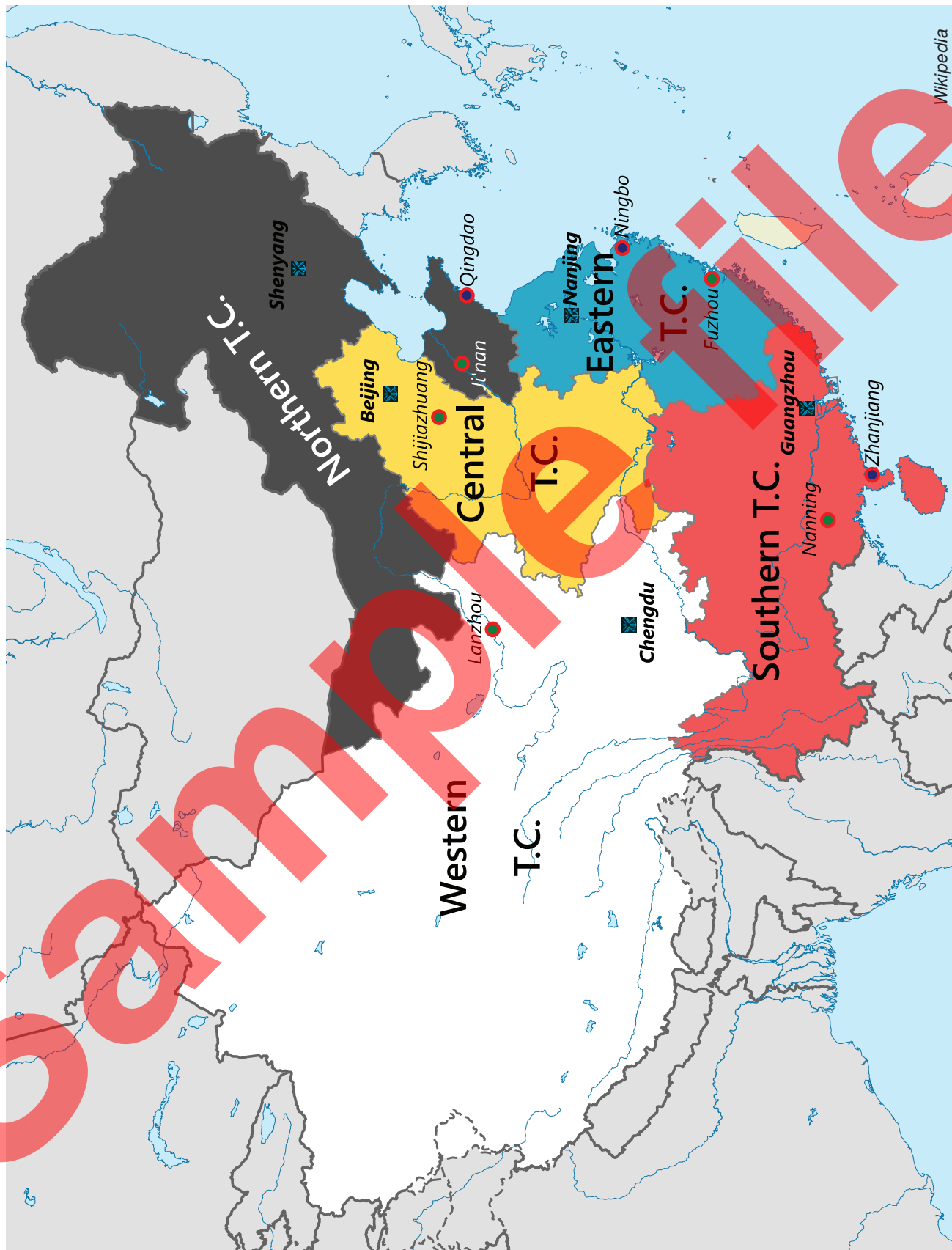
	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	2
Table of Contents	3
PLA Theater Commands	4
Theater Navy Headquarters and Areas of Responsibility	5
Abbreviations	6
Acknowledgements	6
Annex Notes	6
Index of Ship Classes	A-1
Annex A Ships	A-3
Annex B Aircraft	B-1
Annex Ba Fuel Offload Factors	B-27
Annex C Naval Guns	C-1
Annex C2a Land-Based AA Batteries	C-2
Annex D1 Surface Missiles	D-1
Annex D1a Coastal Defense Missile Batteries	D-2
Annex D2 Land-based Surface-to-Air Missiles	D-3
Annex D2a Surface-to-Air Missile Batteries	D-4
Annex D3 Antiship Ballistic Missiles	D-2
Annex E1 Depth Charges	E-1
Annex E3 ASW Projectors	E-1
Annex E4 ASW Standoff Weapons	E-1
Annex F Torpedoes	F-1
Annex G Mines	G-1
Annex H1 Unguided Air Ordnance	H-1
Annex H2 Guided Air Ordnance	H-3
Annex H3 Aircraft Guns	H-2
Annex H4 Air-to-Air Missiles	H-5
Annex H5 Aircraft Electronics Pods	H-6
Annex H6 Anti-Runway Ordnance	H-7
Annex H7 Free-fall Nuclear Weapons	H-7
Annex J1 Naval Radars	J-1
Annex J2 Land Radars	J-3
Annex J3 Air Radars	J-6
Annex K1 Search Sonars	K-1
Annex K2 Airborne Search Sonars	K-2
Annex K3 Airborne Sonar Processors	K-3
Annex L Tactical Data Links	K-3
Annex W Environment	W-1
Annex Y List of Ship Classifications	Y-1
Annex Z Conversion Factors & Scales	Z-1
Bibliography	102

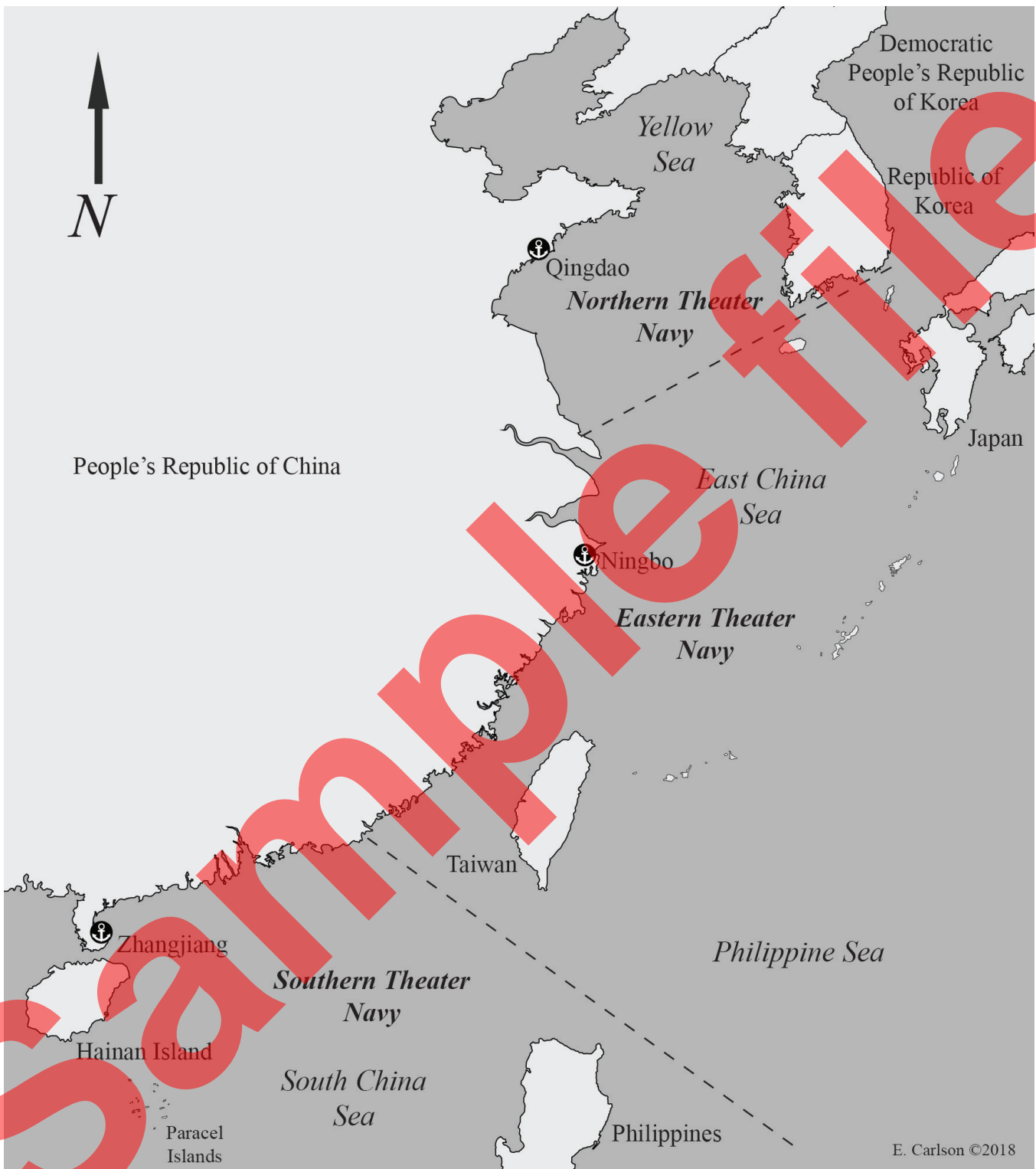
(Introduction, continued)

Jointness

Before the Theater Commands were formed, joint operations were rarely practiced. By 2017, exercises between Naval Aviation and the Air Force were routine. The jointness process is ongoing, including the joint service JSTIDS data link. For example, in mid-2020, the Western Theater Command integrated PLAGF and PLAAF air defense systems, including sharing radar contacts.

PLA Theater Commands





Theater Navy Headquarters and Areas of Responsibility

Erik Carlson

Abbreviations

Annex Y lists all the ship type abbreviations, e.g., "CV" for aircraft carrier.
The abbreviations for the ship weapon arcs are described in section 2.2 of the rules.
Other abbreviations used in this annex are:

AAA	Anti-Aircraft Artillery	PAP	People's Armed Police
ACINT	Acoustic Intelligence	PLA	People's Liberation Army
ACM	Acoustic Countermeasures	PLAAF	PLA Air Force
AEW	Airborne Early Warning aircraft	PLAGF	PLA Ground Forces
BMD	Ballistic Missile Defense	PLAN	PLA Navy
CCG	China Coast Guard	PLANAF	PLAN Air Force
COMINT	Communications Intelligence	PLANMC	PLAN Marine Corps
CTC	Central Theater Command	PLARF	PLA Rocket Forces
ELINT	Electronic Intelligence	PLASSF	PLA Strategic Support Force
ESF	East Sea Fleet (now Eastern Theater Command Navy)	QRA	Quick Reaction Alert
ETCN	Eastern Theater Command Navy	RAST	(Helicopter) Recovery Assist, Secure & Transit
FCS	Fire Control System	SAM	Surface to Air Missile
fl	Full load displacement	SIGINT	Signals Intelligence
GFCS	Gunfire Control System	SLBM	Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile
HALE	High-Altitude, Long Endurance (UAV)	SOF	Special Operations Forces
LCAC	Landing Craft, Air Cushion	SSF	South Sea Fleet (now Southern Theater Command Navy)
lt, ltshp	Lightship displacement	STCN	Southern Theater Command Navy
MALE	Medium-Altitude, Long Endurance (UAV)	std	Standard Displacement
MCM	Mine Countermeasures	subm	Submerged Displacement
MFCS	Missile Fire Control System	TBM	Tactical Ballistic Missile
Mk	Mark (version)	TDL	Tactical Data Link
MPA	Maritime Patrol Aircraft	TT	Torpedo Tube
NSF	North Sea Fleet (now Northern Theater Command Navy)	VLS	Vertical Launch System
NTCN	Northern Theater Command Navy	WTC	Western Theater Command

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The 2012 Damage Point Standard: *China's Navy* uses the "2012 Standard" to calculate a ship's damage points. This method, described in the April 2012 issue of the *Naval SITREP* (hence the name) matches historical results more closely than the older "2006 Standard" used in older ATG products.

If you are using ship data from more than one *Admiralty Trilog*y publication, make sure that the damage points have all been calculated using the 2012 Standard.

Annex Notes: The information on the platforms, weapons, and sensors in this annex has been standardized so that it is compatible and consistent with all *Admiralty Trilog*y games. Equipment that was used in more than one era will have the same statistics in all games. Information in this Annex is compatible with *Harpoon* 5th edition.

The Annex designations are standardized for all four *Admiralty Trilog*y games: *Dawn of the Battleship*, *Fear God & Dread Nought*, *Command at Sea*, and *Harpoon*. Gaps in the sequence are caused by annexes that are not applicable to that era or product.

If there is information in another *Trilog*y publication that conflicts with the data printed here, use the information in the product with the newest publication date, since new information and corrections can change statistics. If you have a question about the conflict, or about any other data listed, please contact us.

Except for Annex A, systems are listed in their annexes alphabetically, first by country, then by name. The ships in Annex A are listed in traditional order, with aircraft carriers first, then submarines, followed by major combatants, minor combatants, amphibious ships, mine warfare craft, auxiliaries, then civilian vessels. An alphabetical list of ships by class name is provided, beginning on the next page. The aircraft in Annex B are listed in alphabetical order.

Systems listed in *italics* never entered service. They existed only as hypothetical designs, in prototype or developmental form. Ships with a year in parentheses following their name have been radically altered since they entered service, and were operational in their new configuration in the listed year.