



16. TACTICAL DISPLAY



The Tactical Display is used for grouping and ungrouping ships, docking, and replenishment.

THE GROUPING TEMPLATE

Most of the Tactical Display consists of the grouping template, representing a single hex, and consisting of 22 sections.

GROUPS

Surface units operate individually unless they are grouped. At the start of a scenario, most surface ships are already grouped. Submarines and air units may never group. There are three types of groups:

- Task force: Any group containing at least four surface warships and any number of non-combatant ships.
- Task group: Any group containing two or three surface warships and any number of non-combatant ships.

- **Stack:** Any group consisting of at least two ships, one of which may be a combat ship.

Non-combatant ships include amphibious assault, replenishment, minesweeper, and merchant vessels.

HOW TO GROUP

All grouping actions (forming, disbanding, combining) may only occur in the Move step of a Surface phase, **before** any ships participating in the grouping action execute any movement.

On the Tactical display, ungrouped ships appear in the VESSELS list. You may select any ungrouped ship from this list by clicking its name. The selected ship appears in the blue hex above the VESSELS list, and a large silhouette appears in the Selected Unit box.

Grouped ships appear in one of the 22 sections of the Grouping Template. Select a grouped ship by click on it on the template.

Identifying Groups

Each group has a name and number — i.e. TF 8, TG 2, or Stack 4. Each group in the hex appears in the GROUPS list of the Tactical Display. Click on a group name to examine its formation on the grouping template.

Forming a Group from Ungrouped Ships

1. Select an ungrouped ship from the VESSELS list.
2. Drag the selected ship from the small blue hex to a space in the grouping template.
3. Repeat for each ship to be added to the group.
4. When finished, click the FORM button. The computer will form the group and adjust the Tactical display lists accordingly.

Adding Ungrouped Ships to a Group

1. Select the group from the GROUPS list — it will appear on the grouping template.
2. Follow steps 1 through 4 from the “Forming from Ungrouped” procedure

above.

Disbanding Groups

1. Select the group from the GROUPS list — it will appear on the grouping template.
2. Click the DISBAND button. The computer will disband the group and adjust the Tactical display lists accordingly.

Removing a Ship from a Group

1. Select the group from the GROUPS list — it will appear on the grouping template.
2. Drag a ship in the template to any space off the right side of the grouping template. The computer will ungroup the ship and add it to the VESSELS list.
3. Repeat step 2 for each ship being removed from a group. If the group falls below the minimum requirements for a Task Force, Task Group, or Stack, the computer will automatically adjust it.

Combining Groups

1. Select one group from the GROUPS list and disband it. The ships in this group will be added to the VESSELS list.
2. Select another group from the GROUPS list and add ships from the first group (now in the VESSELS list) to the second group as in the “Adding Ungrouped Ships” procedure above.

Adjusting the Formation of a Group

1. Select the group from the GROUPS list — it will appear on the grouping template.
2. Drag any ship to an empty section of the template.

HOW FORMATIONS AFFECT COMBAT

Positions of ships within a group affect the group’s ability to defend against attacks. As a general rule, place your most important ships in the center of the grouping template (or as close as possible). If you fear torpedo attacks, place your ships with good ASW capability on the outer edges of the group. If you

fear bombing or SSM attacks, place your ships as close together as possible around the center of the template.

