Birds Eye View Of The Planned Formation

Due to the uncertainty of combat operations, the passing down of command started with Able 11 (Dufour) to Able 12 (Pollard) then down to Dog Flight. Dog 11 Yanney, then to Dog 12 Howell. This was done so that succeeding planes could just move forward in a straight line. You will note that the designated command positions were assigned "Mickey" ships. These special aircraft could bomb by radar if clouds obscured the target.

\[\text{Diagram of aircraft and command positions}\]

\[\times\] Aircraft that did not take off or returned early.

As can be seen mechanical problems alone on this mission drastically reduced the size of the attacking force.