



A map showing the main operating bases of FEAF P-51s throughout New Guinea, the Philippines and the Ryukyu islands in 1944-45.

Mustangs were delivered too late to see service during the main New Guinea campaign, but they served from late 1944 with the Combat Replacement Training Center at Nadzab. The first Mustangs to serve in the Philippines were offloaded at Finschhafen. After assembly these fighters were flown via Morotai to Tacloban on Leyte island.

In January 1945 American forces invaded the key Philippine island of Luzon and were soon in control of Floridablanca, Mangaldan, Lingayen and Clark Field air bases. Prior to the end of the war P-51 units were based as far north as Ie Shima in the Ryukyus from where they flew missions over Japan.