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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SECNAVINST 5030.8D
ASN (RD&A)
28 Jun 2022

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5030.8D

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF NAVAL VESSELS
AND BATTLE FORCE SHIP COUNTING PROCEDURES

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §231
(b) OPNAVINST 4700.8L
(c) OPNAVINST 4770.5J
(d) SECNAV M-5214.1

Encl: (1) Combatant Ship Category
(2) Auxiliary Ship Category
(3) Combatant Craft Category
(4) Unmanned Maritime Platform Category
(5) Support Craft Category
(6) Special Instructions

1. Purpose. To identify naval ship categories, classifications, type, and type designations and to provide the official counting procedures of Navy battle force ships.

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 5030.8C.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and all U.S. Navy (USN), U.S. Marine Corps installations, commands, activities, field offices, and all other organizational entities within the Department of the Navy.

4. Background. Enclosures (1) through (5) issue guidance for establishing naval ship and craft categories, classifications, type, and type designations. Enclosure (6) provides special instructions for the application of letter prefixes and symbols in ship classifications and type designations.

5. Policy

a. Battle Force Inventory. Battle force ships are commissioned United States Ship (USS) warships built or armed for naval combat and capable of contributing to combat operations or other naval ships including United States Naval Ships that contribute directly to Navy warfighting or support missions. The battle force inventory will be maintained in the Naval Vessel Register (NVR).

b. Battle Force Counting Procedures. An accurate battle force count is necessary to support the reporting requirements in reference (a). The battle force ship count will only include combat-capable ships and ships that contribute to warfighting missions, specified combat support missions, or service support missions.

(1) Specifically, the battle force ship count will include:

(a) Ship types listed in enclosure (1) that are classified as active. Military Sealift Command (MSC) ships assigned a reduced operating status of 45 days or less may be counted on a case-by-case basis, as recommended by the CNO, with SECNAV approval.

(b) Ship types, not included in enclosure (1), which have been routinely requested by a combatant commander and are allocated via the Global Force Management Allocation Plan (GFMAP), may be counted on a case-by-case basis as recommended by the CNO and approved by SECNAV. This will be a temporary authorization to include these ships in the ship count and will remain in effect until the ships are no longer requested in the GFMAP or are retired (whichever occurs first). Recommendations for action under this rule will be prepared by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy Manager in coordination with Director, Operations and Plans.

(2) All other auxiliary ships and craft listed in enclosures (2) through (5) are not included in the battle force ship count.

(3) Ships entering and leaving the battle force inventory.

(a) Battle force ships are counted as part of the Navy's active inventory effective on acceptance by the Navy's accepting authority. On acceptance, the CNO will be notified immediately via naval message pursuant to reference (b).

(b) Ships will no longer be counted as part of the battle force inventory effective on a ship's official date of decommissioning, being placed "out-of-service," or if a nuclear vessel, on commencement of the ship's inactivation availability. The CNO will be notified of a ship's retirement via naval message pursuant to reference (c).

(4) For the battle force count in the Annual Long-Range Plan for Construction of Naval Vessels, ships will be counted for the fiscal year they are accepted by the Navy and not counted the fiscal year they are removed from service.

6. Responsibilities

a. CNO

(1) Maintain the battle force ship inventory.

(2) Enter vessels into the battle force ship inventory on delivery to a Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYS COM) representative as described in paragraph 5b (3) (a).

(3) Delete vessels from the battle force ship inventory on the ship's official date of retirement as described in paragraph 5b(3) (b).

b. COMNAVSEASYS COM. Support the CNO's daily ship count and notify CNO, via naval message, within 24 hours of a ship's delivery announcing acceptance by the USN. Distribution should include Standard Naval Distribution List address "CNO WASHINGTON DC//N00/N09/DNS/N1/N2/N6/N3/N5/N4/N42/N8/N80/N83/N9/N9I/NXX//", copy "COMUSFLTFORCOM NORFOLK VA//N01F/N3/N4/N8//", "COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N00F/N3/N4/N8//", "NAVSURFWARCENDET NORFOLK, VA", and "NVR NORFOLK VA". "NXX" represents the respective OPNAV ship resource and platform sponsor.

c. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Pursuant to reference (c), notify CNO and copy all appropriate support activities via naval message when a non-nuclear, battle force ship has officially retired and on the start of a nuclear ship's inactivation availability in support of later decommissioning.

7. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned according to the records disposition schedules found on the Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page:

<https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local Records Manager or the DRMD program office.

8. Information Management Control. The reporting requirement contained in paragraph 5b is exempt from information collection control in accordance with reference (d), Part IV, paragraphs 7h and 7q.



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COMBATANT SHIP CATEGORY

1. Warship Classification. Any commissioned ship built or armed for naval combat. These ships will be counted in the battle force inventory.

a. Aircraft Carrier. All ships designed primarily for the purpose of conducting combat operations by aircraft which engage in attacks against airborne, surface, subsurface, and shore targets.

b. Conventional Take Off and Landing Aircraft Carriers. Multi-purpose aircraft carrier (nuclear-powered) (CVN).

c. Surface Combatant. Surface ships that are designed primarily to engage in attacks against airborne, surface, subsurface, and shore targets.

(1) Cruisers. Guided missile cruiser (CG).

(2) Destroyers. Guided missile destroyer (DDG).

(3) Frigates. Guided missile frigate (FFG).

(4) Littoral Combat Ships. Littoral combat ship (LCS).

d. Submarine. All self-propelled, submersible types regardless of whether employed as combatant, auxiliary, or research and development vehicle, which have at least a residual combat capability.

(1) Attack Submarines. Submarine (nuclear-powered) (SSN).

(2) Ballistic Missile Submarines. Ballistic missile submarine (nuclear-powered) (SSBN).

(3) Guided Missile Submarines. Guided missile submarine (nuclear-powered) (SSGN).

e. Amphibious Warfare. All ships designed with organic capability to engage in all the doctrinal types of amphibious operations across multiple domains and having characteristics

that enable long duration, inter-theater, distributed maritime operations.

- (1) Amphibious assault ship (LHA).
- (2) Amphibious assault ship (multi-purpose) (LHD).
- (3) Amphibious transport dock (LPD).
- (4) Dock landing ship (LSD).

2. Other Combatant Classifications. Ships which have the capability to contribute directly to Navy warfighting or contribute directly to other combatant operations and support missions.

a. Mine Warfare. All ships whose primary function is mine warfare: Mine countermeasures ship (MCM).

b. Combat Logistics. Auxiliary ships which have the capability to provide underway replenishment to fleet units.

- (1) Fleet replenishment oiler (AO).
- (2) Fast combat support ship (AOE).
- (3) Light fleet replenishment oiler (AOL). See paragraph 4.
- (4) Dry cargo and ammunition ship (AKE).

c. Fleet Support. A group of ships designed to operate in the open ocean to provide direct support to combatant forces or operations.

- (1) Command Ships. Command ship (LCC).
- (2) Material Support Ships. Submarine tender (AS).
- (3) Surveillance Ships. Surveillance ship (AGOS).
- (4) Salvage Ships and Fleet Ocean Tugs.
 - (a) Salvage ship (ARS).

(b) Fleet ocean tug (ATF).

(c) Towing, salvage, and rescue ship (ATS).

(5) Expeditionary and Seabasing Support Ships.

(a) Dry cargo and ammunition (AKE). See paragraph 5.

(b) Expeditionary fast transport (EPF).

(c) Expeditionary sea base (ESB).

(d) Expeditionary transfer dock (ESD).

(e) Medium Landing Ship (LSM).

3. The ships in this enclosure will be maintained in the NVR.

4. AOLs are part of a Next Generation Logistics Ship program which could develop additional ship types beyond a medium oiler (e.g. stores resupply).

5. AKEs designated to support the maritime prepositioning force.

AUXILIARY SHIP CATEGORY

1. Auxiliary Classification. Any naval ship designed to operate in the open ocean in a variety of sea states to provide indirect support to combatant forces or services to shore-based establishments and infrastructure. The ship classes identified in paragraph (a) below are not part of the battle force inventory.

2. Support Type Ships. A grouping of ships designed to provide indirect support to combatant forces or services to shore-based establishments and infrastructure. Those auxiliary ships that provide support to naval operations, but are not involved with combatant forces, Navy warfighting, or combat support missions are listed below.

- a. Crane ship (ACS).
- b. Auxiliary, General (AG).
- c. Missile range instrumentation ship (AGM).
- d. Oceanographic research ship (AGOR).
- e. Surveying ship (AGS).
- f. Hospital ship (AH).
- g. Cargo ship (AK).
- h. Vehicle cargo ship (AKR).
- i. Transport oiler (AOT).
- j. Cable repairing ship (ARC).
- k. Aviation logistics support ship (AVB).
- l. High speed transport (HST).
- m. Submarine escort ship (AGSE).
- n. USS Constitution (None). See paragraph 4.

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3. The ships in this enclosure will be maintained in the NVR.
4. SECNAV directed the reclassification of USS Constitution to "None" effective 1 September 1975.

COMBATANT CRAFT CATEGORY

1. Combatant Craft Classification. Combatant craft are specifically designed to meet various combat-related mission roles, including amphibious warfare, insertion, patrol, over-watch and enemy denial-of-use, and mobility of riverine and littoral areas. Combatant craft are not part of the battle force inventory.

a. Patrol Combatant. Combatants whose mission may extend beyond coastal duties and whose characteristics include adequate endurance and sea keeping providing a capability for operations on the high seas without support. Patrol Ships such as the Patrol coastal ships (PC) are in this category.

b. Amphibious Warfare Type Craft. Craft that have the organic capability for amphibious operations and are intended to operate principally in coastal waters or may be carried aboard larger units.

(1) Landing craft, air cushion (LCAC).

(2) Landing craft, utility (LCU).

c. Patrol Boats. Craft of various sizes and design used for missions including patrol, over-watch and enemy denial-of-use and mobility of riverine and littoral areas including high-value asset escort.

(1) 36-foot patrol boat (36PB).

(2) 64-foot patrol boat (64PB).

(3) 87-foot patrol boat (87PB).

d. Special Warfare Type Craft. Special Operations Command combatant craft operated by Naval Special Warfare (NSW).

(1) 36-foot dive support boat (DSB).

(2) Combatant craft assault (CCA).

(3) Combatant craft medium (CCM).

- (4) Combatant craft heavy (CCH).
- (5) NSW Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boat (NSW RHIB).
- (6) Seal delivery vehicle (SDV).
- (7) Shallow water combat submersible (SWCS).
- (8) Surface support craft (SSC).

2. The Craft and Boat Support System Database (CBSS) must be referred to for current combatant craft inventory with the exception of combatant craft operated by NSW. CBSS is maintained by Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, Detachment Norfolk, Combatant Craft Division (NSWCCD Det Norfolk, CCD).

3. Except for patrol coastal ships, the combatant craft in this enclosure will not be maintained in the NVR.

UNMANNED MARITIME PLATFORM CATEGORY

1. Unmanned Maritime Platform Classification. Unmanned maritime vessels and vehicles are platforms designed to operate remotely, independently or integrated with manned platforms. These systems may possess varying degrees of autonomy, as specified by the platform and system level requirements. Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs) and Unmanned Undersea Vehicles (UUVs) are categorized according to specifying characteristics. Certain unmanned maritime vehicles may, in the future, be part of the battle force inventory (see paragraph 4 of this enclosure for further information).

2. USV Type. USVs are classified by length.

a. Large Unmanned Surface Vessel (LUSV) (see paragraph 4 of this enclosure). The LUSV is classified as greater than 210 feet in length and is pier-launched.

b. Medium Unmanned Surface Vehicle (MUSV) (see paragraph 4 of this enclosure). The MUSV category ranges from greater than 45 feet to 210 feet in length and is pier-launched.

c. Small Unmanned Surface Vehicle (SUSV). The SUSV category ranges from 23 feet to 45 feet and is capable of being launched and recovered from a host combatant or other larger vessel as well as from a pier.

d. Very Small Unmanned Surface Vehicle (VSUSV). The VSUSV is classified as a USV that is less than 23 feet and is capable of being launched and recovered from a host combatant, other large vessels or from smaller platforms as well as from a pier.

3. UUV Type. UUVs are classified by diameter and can be launched or recovered from a host platform or from a pier.

a. Extra-large unmanned undersea vehicle (XLUUV) (See paragraph 5). The XLUUV is classified as greater than 84 inches in diameter.

b. Large unmanned undersea vehicle (LUUV). The LUUV category ranges in diameter from greater than 21 inches to 84 inches.

c. Medium unmanned undersea vehicle (MUUV). The MUUV category ranges in diameter from greater than 10 inches to 21 inches.

d. Small unmanned undersea vehicle (SUUV). The SUUV category ranges in diameter from 3 inches to 10 inches.

4. Unmanned platforms are not currently counted in the battle force or maintained in the NVR.

5. The specific unmanned platforms annotated above are not counted in the battle force. Testing of these platforms and their concepts of employment continue to evolve. When these platforms are deemed capable of contributing to combat operations, the CNO will recommend their reclassification and inclusion in the battle force count for SECNAV approval.

SUPPORT CRAFT CATEGORY

1. Support Craft Classification. Support craft are non-commissioned vessels and watercraft designed to provide support for naval operations or shore-based establishments and are not part of the battle force inventory. Support craft are command managed assets.

2. Service Type Craft. Service craft (including non-self-propelled) are utilitarian craft designed to operate in coastal and protected waters and provide general support to either combatant forces or shore-based establishments.

a. Dry Docks (Non-self-propelled)

- (1) Small auxiliary floating dry dock (AFDL).
- (2) Medium auxiliary repair dry dock (ARDM).
- (3) Medium auxiliary floating dry dock (AFDM).

b. Tugs (Self-propelled)

- (1) Harbor Tug (YT).
- (2) Large harbor tug (YTB).
- (3) Small harbor tug (YTL).

c. Lighters and Barges

- (1) Open lighter (YC).
- (2) Aircraft transportation lighter (YCV).
- (3) Covered lighter (YFN).
- (4) Lighter (special purpose) (YFNX).
- (5) Large covered lighter (YFNB).
- (6) Fuel oil barge (YON).
- (7) Oil storage barge (YOS).

- (8) Water barge (YWN).
- (9) Waste oil barge (YWO).
- d. Other Craft (self-propelled)
 - (1) Fast sea frame (FSF).
 - (2) Mobile radar platform (SBX).
 - (3) Ferry boat or launch (YFB).
 - (4) Patrol craft, training (YP).
 - (5) Seaplane wrecking derrick (YSD).
 - (6) Diving tender (YDT).
 - (7) Torpedo trials craft (YTT).
- e. Other Craft (Non-self-propelled)
 - (1) Barracks craft (APL).
 - (2) Floating crane (YD).
 - (3) Dry dock companion craft (YFND).
 - (4) Floating power barge (YFP).
 - (5) Floating workshop (YR).
 - (6) Repair and berthing barge (YRB).
 - (7) Repair, berthing and messing barge (YRBM).
 - (8) Floating dry dock workshop (hull) (YRDH).
 - (9) Floating dry dock workshop machine (YRDM).
- f. Unclassified Miscellaneous. Unclassified miscellaneous unit (IX).

3. Sealift Support Craft. Sealift support platforms include waterborne systems and craft designed to enable logistics over the shore in support of combatant forces. See paragraph 7 of this enclosure for further information.

- a. Improved Navy lighterage system (INLS).
- b. Landing craft, mechanized (LCM 8).
- c. Lighter, amphibious resupply, cargo 5 ton (LARC V).
- d. Maritime prepositioning force utility boat (MPF UB).
- e. Offshore petroleum discharge system utility boat (OPDS UB).

4. Boats. Navy boats are self-powered waterborne craft not otherwise specifically designed as combatant craft, service craft, or sealift support craft, which are suitable primarily to be carried aboard ships and to operate in and around naval activities or other safe havens. Boats are of various types and sizes ranging from small outboard engine powered boats to large non-commissioned watercraft (e.g., support craft for training, warfare centers and offshore ranges). Large boats are a subcategory of boats with lengths of 85 feet and greater. Shore-based boats include mission specific boats which may be embarked on ships yet are not included in the ship's boat allowance (e.g. Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) rigid inflatable boat (ARG/MEU VBSS RHIB). The following vessels are items of supply and are not centrally managed:

a. Ships boats. Other Combatant-Type Craft in this category are craft that are intended to operate principally from combatant ships.

- (1) 5-meter rigid-hull inflatable boat (5MRB).
- (2) 7-meter rigid-hull inflatable boat (7MRB or 7MRX).
- (3) 11-meter rigid-hull inflatable boat (11MRB or 11MRX).

b. Shore-based boats. Patrol-Type craft in this category are surface patrol craft intended for use relatively near the coast or in sheltered harbors or rivers for the purpose of harbor security, force protection, and transit escort vessel. Harbor security boats:

- (1) 27-foot harbor security boat (27HS).
- (2) 28-foot harbor security boat (28HS).
- (3) 32-foot harbor security boat (32HS).
- (4) 33-foot harbor security boat (33HS).
- (5) 11-meter harbor security boat (11MHS).
- (6) 35-foot harbor security boat (35HS).
- (7) 36-foot harbor security boat (36HS).

5. The CBSS database contains the current service craft, sealift support craft, and boat inventory except for boats operated by NSW. CBSS is maintained by NSWCCD Det Norfolk, CCD.

6. Service Craft will be maintained in the NVR. Navy boats will not be maintained in the NVR.

7. Craft designated to support the maritime prepositioning force.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The objectives of the grouping of categories and subcategories are to provide a means for valid comparisons and accounting of naval forces.
2. Letter prefixes will be used in conjunction with classification symbols listed in subparagraphs 2a and 2b:
 - a. T - to indicate that a government-owned or bareboat-chartered ship is assigned to MSC as a type commander.
 - b. F - to show that a ship is being constructed for a foreign government.
3. The letter "N," when used as the last letter of a ship classification symbol, denotes nuclear propulsion. When used as the last letter of a service craft classification, it shows a non-self-propelled version of a similar self-propelled service craft.
4. Parentheses will not be used to separate any letters in classification symbols except for future ships being developed in the design and concept phase.
5. Hyphens will not be used in the hull number of any ship or craft.
6. Periods must not be used to separate any letters in a ship's name.