



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

SECNAVINST 5030.8C
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SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5030.8C

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 4700.8K
(c) OPNAVINST 4770.5H

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

1. Purpose. To identify naval ship categories and classifications.

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 5030.8B.

3. Background. Enclosures (1) through (4) issue guidance for establishing the official counting procedures of Navy battle force ships. Enclosure (5) provides special instructions for the application of letter prefixes and symbols in ship classifications.

4. Policy

a. Battle Force Inventory. Battle force ships are commissioned United States Ship (USS) warships capable of contributing to combat operations, or a United States Naval Ship that contributes directly to Navy warfighting or support missions, and shall be maintained in the Naval Vessel Register.

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 that contribute to warfighting missions, specified combat support missions, or service support missions. Specifically, the battle force ship count will include:

(1) Ship types listed in enclosure (1) that are classified as Active, Military Sealift Command (MSC), Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force, or MSC Special Mission, with the following exceptions:

(a) 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 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) with Secretary of the Navy (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 with SECNAV approval. 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 (OPNAV N31).

(2) All other craft and auxiliaries listed in enclosures (2) through (4) 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 upon acceptance by the Navy's accepting authority. Upon acceptance, the CNO will be notified immediately via naval message per reference (b).

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

(c) For the purpose of 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.

5. Responsibilities

a. CNO shall:

(1) Maintain the battle force ship inventory.

(2) Enter vessels into the battle force ship inventory and the Naval Vessel Register upon delivery to a Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYSKOM) representative.

(3) Delete vessels from the battle force ship inventory upon the ship's official date of retirement as described in paragraph 4b(3)(b).

b. COMNAVSEASYSKOM shall 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 U.S. Navy. Distribution should include Standard Naval Distribution List (SNDL) address "CNO WASHINGTON DC//N00/N09/DNS/N1/N2/N6/N3/N5/N4/N43/N8/N80/N9/N9I/NXX//," copy "COMUSFLTFORCOM NORFOLK VA//N01F/N3/N4/N8//," and "COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N00F/N3/N4/N8//." "NXX" represents the respective OPNAV ship resource and platform sponsor.

c. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet shall, per reference (c), notify CNO via naval message when a non-nuclear battle force ship has officially retired and upon the start of a nuclear ship's inactivation availability in support of subsequent decommissioning.

6. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per SECNAV Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



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COMBATANT SHIP CATEGORY

1. Warship Classification. Any commissioned ship built or armed for naval combat. The ships in this enclosure will be maintained in the Naval Vessel Register.

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

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

b. 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. Frigate (FF).

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

c. 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).

d. Amphibious Warfare. All ships having organic capability for amphibious assault and which have characteristics enabling long duration operations on the high seas.

(1) Amphibious Helicopter and Landing Craft Carriers:

- (a) Amphibious assault ship (general purpose) (LHA).
- (b) Amphibious assault ship (multi-purpose) (LHD).
- (c) Amphibious transport dock (LPD).

(2) Landing Craft Carriers: Dock landing ship (LSD).

2. Other Combatant Classifications. Ships which have the capability to provide support to fleet units. These ships will be counted if self-deployable. Ships in this category which are not self-deployable will be counted only if forward deployed and approved by SECNAV.

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) Dry cargo and ammunition ship (AKE).

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

- (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 Support and Seabasing Support Ships:

- (a) Afloat forward staging base (AFSB).
- (b) Dry cargo and ammunition (AKE).*
- (c) Expeditionary fast transport (EPF).
- (d) Expeditionary sea base (ESB).
- (e) Expeditionary transfer dock (ESD).

*Note: AKEs designated to support the maritime prepositioning force.

AUXILIARY SHIP CATEGORY

1. Auxiliary Classification. Naval ships designed to provide support to combatant ships and other naval operations. The ships in this enclosure will be maintained in the Naval Vessel Register.

2. Support Type Ships. A grouping of ships designed to provide general support to either combatant forces or shore-based establishments. Those auxiliary ships that provide support to naval operations, but are not involved with combatant forces, Navy warfighting, or support missions, and are not part of the battle force inventory are listed below. Ships in this category which are not self-deployable will be counted only if forward deployed and approved by SECNAV.

- a. Crane ship (ACS).
- b. Offshore petroleum distribution ship (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 (blocking vessel) (AGSE).
- n. USS CONSTITUTION (None).**

SECNAVINST 5030.8C

*Note: 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. With the exception of patrol coastal ships, the remaining combatant craft in this enclosure will not be maintained in the Naval Vessel Register.

a. Patrol Combatant. Combatants whose mission may extend beyond coastal duties and whose characteristics include adequate endurance and sea keeping to provide a capability for operations on the high seas without support: Patrol coastal (PC).

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) Amphibious ready group/Marine expeditionary unit visit, board, search and seizure rigid hull inflatable boat (ARG/MEU VBSS RHIB).

(2) Improved Navy lighterage system (INLS).

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

(4) Landing craft, mechanized (LCM).

(5) Landing craft, utility (LCU).

(6) Landing craft, personnel, large (LCPL).

(7) Maritime prepositioning force utility boat (MPFUB).

c. Navy Expeditionary Craft. Expeditionary craft which are capable of mission profiles including patrol, over-watch, and enemy denial in harbor, riverine and littoral areas.

(1) Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) 11 meter rigid hull inflatable boat (EOD 11M RHIB).

- (2) Mark VI patrol boat (MK VI PB).
- (3) Multi-use EOD response craft (MERC).
- (4) 34-foot patrol boat (PB 34).
- (5) Riverine command boat (RCB).
- (6) Riverine patrol boat (RPB).
- (7) Riverine assault boat (RAB).

2. Special Warfare Craft. Special operations command combatant craft operated by naval special warfare (NSW).

- a. 36-foot dive support boat (DSB).
- b. Combatant craft assault (CCA).
- c. Combatant craft medium (CCM).
- d. Combatant craft heavy (CCH).
- e. NSW rigid hull inflatable boat (NSW RHIB).
- f. Seal delivery vehicle (SDV).
- g. Special operations craft - riverine (SOC-R).
- h. Shallow water combat submersible (SWCS).
- i. Surface support craft (SSC).

3. Other Combatant Craft. Patrol boats of various size (less than nine meters) and design used for high-value asset escort and picket duties.

SUPPORT CRAFT CATEGORY

1. Support Craft Classification. Support craft are non-commissioned vessels designed to provide support to combatant ships and other naval operations, but are not involved with combatant forces, Navy warfighting, or support missions, and are not part of the battle force inventory. The craft in this enclosure will be maintained in the Naval Vessel Register.

Note: Service Type Craft. A grouping of Navy-subordinated craft (including non-self-propelled) designed to 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).

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. 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).

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 shall be used in conjunction with classification symbols, as follows:

a. T - to indicate that a government-owned or bareboat-chartered ship is assigned to MSC as a type commander.

b. F - to indicate 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 indicates a non-self-propelled version of a similar self-propelled service craft.

4. Parentheses shall not be used to separate any letters in classification symbols with the exception of future ships being developed in the design and concept phase.

5. Hyphens shall not be used in the hull number of any ship or craft.

6. Periods shall not be used to separate any letters in a ship's name.