



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 4740.2F
N86

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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 4740.2F

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: SALVAGE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3150.27A
(b) OPNAVINST 8027.1G
(c) OPNAVINST 5100.8G
(d) OPNAVINST 5090.1B (NOTAL)
(e) OPNAVINST 4441.12B (NOTAL)
(f) OPNAVINST 3040.5C (NOTAL)
(g) NWP 37A and Navy Addendum thereto (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Definitions of Types of Salvage and Recovery
Operations And Command Relationships

1. Purpose

a. To revise policy for the Department of the Navy's salvage and recovery programs, and to reassign responsibilities previously assigned to the Chief of Naval Material.

b. To provide implementation procedures for salvage and recovery operations involving U.S. government and privately owned ships, cargo, aircraft, and other objects, such as space vehicles, nose cones, and weapons.

c. To assign to appropriate commanders within the naval establishment the responsibilities for effecting this policy.

d. This is a major revision and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 4740.2E and report symbol OPNAV 4740-2.

3. Scope. The policies, responsibilities, and procedures given here apply to all salvage and recovery operations conducted by the Department of the Navy.



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4. Background. The basis for the Navy's Salvage Program stems from Public Law 513 (80th Congress, 2nd Session, 10 U.S.C. 7361, et seq) (commonly referred to as the Salvage Facilities Act) which authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to provide, by contract or otherwise, necessary salvage facilities for both public and private vessels upon such terms and conditions as he may, in his discretion, determine to be in the best interests of the United States. It further authorizes the Secretary to settle any claim for salvage services rendered by the Navy to other than U.S. naval vessels. The Salvage Facilities Act allows for the maintenance of a national salvage capability in the event of war or national emergency. To this end, the Navy, in peacetime, shall have a nucleus of ships and personnel trained in combat salvage which can be expanded in time of war or national emergency. Salvage operations pose unique tasks which require specialized equipment and systems as well as highly trained personnel. These operations may range from routine dive tasks at shallow depths to more demanding missions such as refloating sunken or stranded ships, raising submarines, clearing wrecks and recovering objects from the deepest depths of the oceans.

The accomplishment of these tasks requires that the Navy:

- a. Maintain adequate Navy salvage and recovery facilities to meet the Navy's own peacetime needs.
- b. Maintain a school for training divers and salvors.
- c. Maintain realistic plans for expansion of the Navy salvage and rescue tow facilities through government and civilian augmentation in time of war or emergency.

5. Information

a. Reference (a) defines the Navy Diving Program, and shall be adhered to for all salvage and recovery operations which require Navy divers.

b. Operational safety, material, administrative and readiness inspections of salvage and recovery commands shall be aggressively pursued and shall include evaluations of systems, procedures, and personnel proficiency.

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c. Reference (b) defines Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) responsibilities.

d. Reference (c) assigns training and support area responsibilities for the Navy Safety and Occupational Health Program.

e. Reference (d) defines the Navy Environmental and Natural Resources Program, and provides guidance on response to oil and hazardous substance (OHS) releases incident to salvage operations.

f. Enclosure (1) defines the types of salvage and recovery operations, and gives guidance on the operational control of these operations.

6. Policy. The principal consideration when conducting salvage and recovery operations is mission accomplishment in a safe, efficient and environmentally responsive manner. The successful conduct of these operations is dependent on the availability of experienced personnel. Responding to casualties in peacetime provides critical experience that can enhance wartime readiness. In consideration thereof, it is Department of Navy policy to respond to all U.S. government requests for salvage and recovery assistance with Navy assets. Should those assets not be available or practical to meet the requirements of a particular operation, then contract civilian assets may be employed. The authority granted the Navy under the Salvage Facilities Act to salvage other than Navy shipping and to settle any claim for such salvage does not imply a Navy commitment to maintain salvage facilities in excess of Navy requirements. It is, however, Department of the Navy policy to assist, within existing capability, in the salvage of other than public ships or recovery of aircraft when such assistance is requested and where adequate privately owned salvage facilities do not exist or are not reasonably available.

7. Procedure

a. Requests for Salvage and Recovery Assistance

(1) Requests for salvage and recovery assistance from within the Naval Establishment shall be directed for operating forces to the cognizant Fleet Commander in Chief and for all

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other activities through the chain of command to Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (N312). Requests should be made by message and provide the information identified in the appropriate Fleet Commander in Chief's or Type Commander's instruction. As a minimum, CNO, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYSKOM), and the cognizant Fleet Commander in Chief, numbered Fleet Commanders, and Naval Surface Force Commanders will be included as information addressees.

(2) Requests for assistance from other federal agencies and/or commercial interests shall be directed to CNO (N312). Insofar as practical, requests shall be made by message or letter with COMNAVSEASYSKOM and appropriate Fleet Commander in Chief as information addressees.

(3) Technical advice/assistance with respect to the conduct of salvage and recovery operations and information on the general capabilities of both Navy and commercial assets may be obtained directly from COMNAVSEASYSKOM.

b. Commercial Salvage Assistance in Remote Areas. Fleet units operating in remote areas may occasionally require salvage assistance that may be available only from foreign commercial sources. Foreign salvors generally operate under the so-called "Lloyds Open Form (LOF) Contract." Alternative agreements can be made at the naval headquarters-salvor home office level. However, lacking specific instructions to the contrary, the commercial on-scene salvor will likely require signature on a LOF by the local commander/commanding officer prior to commencing work. The local commander/commanding officer neither has contracting authority nor is he or she empowered to commit the U.S. Government to arbitration in foreign courts, or posting of security and provision of a lien, all of which are elements of the LOF. Consequently, when employment of foreign salvors appears probable or imminent, the local commander must advise CNO, Judge Advocate General, Office of General Counsel, and COMNAVSEASYSKOM, as well as the appropriate operational chain of command, by the most expeditious means possible, of the complete circumstances. Specific guidance and authorization, if necessary will be provided the local commander/commanding officer while appropriate arrangements are being made with the salvor's home office.

8. Responsibilities