

COMSCINST 5090.4A	COG CODE N00EP/N3/5	DATE 20 MAY 1998
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
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WASHINGTON DC 20398-5540

COMSCINST 5090.4A
N00EP/N3/5
20 May 1998

COMSC INSTRUCTION 5090.4A

Subj: AFLOAT OIL-HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SPILL DRILL AND COMMAND POST EXERCISE PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5090.1B
(b) COMSCINST 5090.1B
(c) COMSCINST 5090.5
(d) 33 CFR Part 155
(e) MARPOL Annex II, Regulation 26

1. Purpose. To promulgate procedures for Military Sealift Command (MSC) Area Commanders to conduct an Oil-Hazardous Substance (OHS) Command Post Exercise (CPX) Program and the Program Managers to conduct the shipboard OHS Drills.

2. Cancellation. COMSCINST 5090.4.

3. Discussion

a. It is Navy policy that all commands will comply with all applicable environmental regulations to the maximum extent consistent with their public ship status and operational requirements. Reference (a) assigns COMSC responsibility for OHS spills by public ships operated by MSC. Reference (b) contains MSC requirements and procedures for response in the event of an OHS spill. Reference (c) is the full text Shipboard Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan. References (d) and (e) delineate requirements for ships' oil spill contingency planning, including preparation of OHS spill plans and training of mariners and staff. Reference (d) now requires an annual program of exercises of each ship's OHS response capabilities.

b. The overall objective is to achieve and maintain operational spill response readiness of both the ship's crew afloat, and staff support personnel ashore. This primary objective is best achieved by focusing our efforts on an organization that has the specific guidance and framework of the U. S. Coast Guard's Spill Preparedness for Response Exercise Program's (PREP), objectives and guidelines. Ultimately, all personnel within our organization have responsibility for environmental protection, and will therefore participate to the extent necessary to ensure achieving our primary goal of readiness.

COMSCINST 5090.4A

20 May 1998

4. Policy. To ensure that MSC Area Commanders and Program Managers are prepared to respond to an OHS spill, they will conduct OHS drills and exercises aboard ships in their AOR to test the staff capabilities and the response of their supporting Navy commands to a MSC OHS spill incident.

5. Guidelines. Reference (b) shall be used for guidance in developing and conducting OHS drills and exercises. Additional assets, such as the Environmental Command Action Team, Afloat Training Teams and NAVSEA 00C are deemed appropriate should additional planning and evaluating assistance be desired while conducting the required activities.

6. Action

a. COMSC N00EP will:

(1) Provide appropriate policy and governing guidance to Area Commanders and Program Managers regarding conduct of OHS drills and exercises.

(2) Monitor MSC CPX preparation by reviewing Area Commanders and Program Managers' Letters of Instructions or other documents related to the CPX

(3) Assist Area Commanders and Program Managers in developing realistic scenarios, regarding ship operating, mission related aspects, for OHS drills and exercises.

(4) Participate, as required by the Letters of Instructions for OHS drills and exercises developed by the Area Commanders, in CPXs.

(5) Provide overall coordination for subject matter experts team input and communications link between the spill incident site, Area Commanders, Program Managers and MSC Headquarters Senior Management, regarding status of specific environmental considerations and specific concerns of the U. S. Navy On Scene Coordinator(s) (NOSC) regarding events related to an OHS spill during a CPX.

(6) Promulgate final lessons learned from an OHS drill and/or CPX to all concerned.

(7) Assist Area Commanders and Program Managers in developing realistic scenarios, regarding OHS Spill Response concerns, for OHS drills and exercises.

b. COMSC N3/5 will participate in the CPX by involving the Command Center and duty personnel in the response to the drills.

c. COMSC N00P will:

(1) Coordinate with NOSCs to provide public information dissemination support to the Areas Commanders and Program Managers regarding the events related to an OHS spill during a CPX.

(2) Participate, as required by the Letters of Instructions for OHS drills and exercises developed by the Area Commanders, in CPXs.

(3) Assist Area Commanders and Program Managers in developing realistic scenarios, regarding Public Relations aspects for OHS drills and exercises.

d. COMSC N8 will:

(1) Coordinate with NOSCs to provide financial support to the Area Commanders and Program Managers regarding monetary requirements surrounding events related to an OHS spill during a CPX.

(2) Participate, as required by the Letters of Instructions for OHS drills and exercises developed by the Area Commanders, in CPXs.

(3) Assist Area Commanders and Program Managers in developing realistic scenarios, regarding the financial aspects for OHS drills and exercises (i.e., providing funding reimbursement to the NOSC for resources expended in the event of an actual spill, claims reimbursement issues, etc.).

e. COMSC N2 will:

(1) Coordinate with NOSCs to provide legal support to the Area Commanders and Program Managers regarding legal requirements surrounding events related to an OHS spill during a CPX (e.g., personal damage/loss claims processing).

(2) Assist Area Commanders and Program Managers in developing realistic scenarios, regarding the legal aspects for OHS drills and exercises

COMSCINST 5090.4A

20 May 1998

f. COMSC N7 will coordinate with NOSC's to provide engineering support to the Area Commanders and Program Managers regarding regulatory requirements surrounding events related to an OHS spill during a CPX.

g. Area Commanders will:

(1) Coordinate CPX preparation, execution and review of actions taken.

(2) Provide supervisory assistance and CPX evaluation through area staff Environmental Protection Specialist attached. Areas without Environmental Protection billets, and who desire assistance, are encouraged to contact an Area Commander which has such a billet for subject matter expert supervision.

(3) In accordance with reference (b), conduct periodic, unannounced drills to verify OHS spill response readiness and to ensure ability to demonstrate readiness for any interested inspection party/organization.

(4) Liaison with NOSC, U. S. Coast Guard, local, state and municipal government environmental officials and other Navy commands that may be involved in the clean-up effort should be made in preparation and execution of the drill/exercise. These commands should be invited to participate or observe the CPX.

(5) Prepare CPX Letters of Instruction and local command Notices.

(6) Forward lessons learned to COMSC N00EP within 30 days of the drill/CPX.

h. Program Managers will:

(1) Conduct the required shipboard drills in accordance with reference (c). Conduct at minimum, one CPX for each Area Commander annually, in coordination with MSC Area Commanders.

(2) Ensure that appropriate representatives from cognizant ships are available for CPXs.

(3) Ensure that each ship complies with the requirements of references (b) and (d). This also requires that accurate records be maintained aboard each ship of each drill or exercise and related activities.

(4) Ensure that public vessels that are contractor-operated are performing CPXs in accordance with this instruction.

20 May 1998

(5) Ensure that contracts for ships chartered to MSC require appropriate notification of oil and hazardous substance spills are made to MSC.

Distribution:

COMSCINST 5000.19

List I (Case A, B, C)

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