



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

N REPLY REFER TO
OPNAVINST 1601.7K
N3/N5
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1601.7K

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVY CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION

Ref: (a) CJSM 3430.01A Joint Staff Crisis Organizations

1. Purpose. To prescribe crisis management organization, responsibilities, duties, and procedures of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) and staffing requirements to support OPNAV and the Joint Staff Crisis Action Teams. Crisis response includes, but is not limited to defense support to civil authority and initiation of military operations and campaigns.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1601.7J.
3. Summary of Changes. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety. Changes include:
 - a. Creation of a permanent Navy Crisis Action Team (NCAT) within the N3 Navy Operations Center (N3NOC). The NCAT provides the human capital for an immediate response to a developing crisis.
 - b. Designation of an Extended CAT composed of Directorate and specialized Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) available on short notice to supplement the NCAT as required.
4. Background. The Navy crisis action management procedures and organization provide the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and his staff with rapid and appropriate command and control capability and coordinated military recommendations during crisis situations. With flexible staffing and augmentation from OPNAV directorates and Navy Reserve Forces, the crisis management organization provides a single point of contact to assist in coordinating actions. Per reference (a), OPNAV may also be required to provide personnel augmentation to the Joint Staff to ensure Navy liaison between both staffs.

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5. Policy. The crisis management organization includes the permanent watchstanders assigned to the NCAT and the NOC watch cell supplemented by "on call" watch team members assigned to the Extended CAT. CNO has assigned the NCAT, supported by the NOC watch cell, to provide initial response to a crisis situation. As the situation dictates, the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Information, Plans, and Strategy) (N3/N5)) may direct increased OPNAV staff participation through activation of the Extended CAT.

a. Permanent watch teams supporting the crisis management mission within N3/N5 Information, Plans, and Security (N3IPS) are:

(1) Navy Crisis Action Team (NCAT). The NCAT, as a permanent organization within N3NOC (see Table 1), coordinates with the Navy Operations Center (NOC), liaises with the Joint Staff, Component Commander staffs, and OPNAV Directorates. The NCAT leads the preparation and presentation of the CNO's Morning Meeting (CMM) operations brief, tracks Requests for Information (RFIs) and taskers, and is the primary crisis briefer. The initial phase of crisis management will be met through use of the NCAT.

(2) Navy Operations Center watch cell. During crisis response situations, the NOC watch cell will assist the CAT as required, including close coordination with Component Command Watch Centers. A close liaison between the NOC watch cell and the NCAT must be maintained to maximize both parties' overall situational awareness.

b. When a crisis or operations requires subject matter expertise beyond the capability of the NCAT and NOC watch cell, N3IPS shall activate an extended CAT sized appropriately for the anticipated nature of the crisis. The watch organization and "battle rhythm" of the Extended CAT will be tailored to manage the long-term requirements of the operation. Full manning is defined in Table 2. These watch requirements may be modified further, either by designating selected watch positions as "on call", or "virtual" (via phone, Internet, or other collaborative means).

6. Responsibilities

a. CNO (N3/N5) will direct activation/deactivation of the Extended CAT for crisis response or training/exercise support.

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b. Directorates tasked to support Extended CAT manning will provide a watchbill input for their assigned positions at the beginning of each calendar quarter. Each watch position will have 3 to 5 watchstanders assigned. The exact number of watchstanders is at the discretion of the parent directorate. Directorate's input will include name, security clearance, training status, and recall information. This data will be maintained on the SIPRNET OPNAV NOC HQ Webpage at: <http://classextl.cno.navy.smil.mil/NOC>. Directorate personnel assigned to the watchbill or their alternates if in a TAD/Leave status, must be available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Assigned personnel must be able to respond to required tasking and must be able to fully activate as NCAT watchstanders within four hours of notification.

c. CNO (N3NOC) will act as the Senior Watch Officer in all matters pertaining to the NCAT and Extended CAT.

d. Navy Reserve CNO Operations and Plans unit may provide support to man an additional NCAT action officer position as needed.

e. Each CAT member will complete regularly scheduled training in the Resource and Situational Awareness Center (RSAC). Upon notification of CAT activation, members will report for duty with minimal delay.

7. Organization and Manning

a. Crisis management organization and manning will be at the discretion of CNO (N3IPS).

b. The NCAT/Extended CAT will normally operate in the RSAC Navy CAT spaces and report to the NCAT Chief. The NCAT will also be prepared to operate at the OPNAV alternate site. Extended CAT members may be directed to stand watch in other OPNAV spaces, in either a fully operational, "on-call" or "virtual" status.

c. Navy Crisis Action Team (NCAT). Table 1 provides the NCAT manning requirements.

TABLE 1: NAVY CAT Organization and Manning

Position	Rank	N-Code	Watch Sections	Watch Rotation
CAT Chief	O-6	N3NOC	5	8-hour watches Watch Times: 0830-1630 1630-0030 0030-0830
Asst. CAT Chief	O-5	N3NOC	5	
Joint Staff Liaison Officer*	O-4 O-5	N3NOC	5	
CMM Briefer	O-3 O-4	N3NOC	5	
Action Officer	O-3 O-4	N3NOC	5	

*Per reference (a), the NCAT may be required to provide a Navy Liaison Officer (NLO) to the Joint Staff in response to the activation of a Joint Staff Response Cell (JSRC). Members fulfilling this role must have a TS-Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) clearance.

d. Additional Extended CAT Manning. See Table 2, below.

TABLE 2: Extended CAT Organization and Manning

Position	Rank	N-Code	Watch Rotation **
N3/N5 Reserve Action Officer	O-3 to O-6	NR Ops & Plans	8-hour watches Watch Times: 0830-1630 1630-0030 0030-0830
Manpower	O-4/5	N1	
Intelligence	O-3/4/5	N2	
Logistics	O-4/5/6	N4	
Knowledge Management	O-4/5	N6	
Platform Sponsor	O-4/5	N8F	
Assessments	O-4/5	N8	
Public Affairs	O-3/4/5	N09C	
Naval Medicine	O-4/5	N093	
Reserve Affairs	O-4/5	N095	
NAVSEA	O-4/5	NAVSEA	
CNIC	O-4/5	CNIC	
JAG	O-3/4/5	N09J	
Technician	E-5/E-6	N3NOC	

** Directorates may designate 3 to 5 watchstanders for each position to stand eight hour watches, subject to available manning, security clearances, TAD assignments, etc.

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8. Command Relationships

a. The NCAT/Extended CAT reports directly to CNO (N3IPS) on all operational matters and to CNO (N3NOC) for administrative support. The NCAT will maintain close contact with the Navy Operations Center for situational awareness.

b. In order to expedite Navy response to RFIs, the NCAT has RFI tasking authority within the OPNAV staff, and to Navy echelon 2 commands.

c. The Navy Liaison Officer (NLO) to the Joint Staff Response Cell shall serve as the primary point of contact, in coordination with the NCAT, for crisis related Joint Actions requiring Navy response.

9. Personnel Qualifications. All assigned NCAT/Extended CAT members must possess a minimum interim TOP SECRET clearance and must possess a broad knowledge of the Navy Staff organization. Directorate and specialized SMEs must complete required quarterly CAT training. The JSRC LNO must have a final TS/SCI clearance.



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