DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SECNAVINST 5030.8
N8F
21 November 2006

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5030.8

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: CLASSIFICATION OF NAVAL SHIPS AND CRAFT

Ref: (a) Defense Intelligence Agency DST-1200Z-545-90, Subj: Glossary of Naval Ships Types (GNST) (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Combatant Ship Category
(2) Auxiliary Ship Category
(3) Combatant Craft Category
(4) Support Craft Category
(5) Official Battle Force Ship Count Method

1. Purpose. To issue a listing of ship categories and classifications of naval ships and craft, contained in enclosures (1) through (4). To issue guidance for determining fleet size as contained in enclosure (5).

2. Special Instructions

a. The objectives of the grouping of categories and subcategories are to provide a means for valid comparisons and accounting of naval forces.

b. Letter prefixes shall be used in conjunction with classification symbols, as follows:

(1) T - to indicate that a government-owned or bareboat-chartered ship is assigned to Commander, Military Sealift Command (MSC) as a type commander.

(2) F - to indicate that a ship is being constructed for a foreign government.

(3) W - to indicate a Coast Guard Ship.

c. 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.

d. Parentheses shall not be used to separate any letters in classification symbols.

e. Reference (a) will be used for additional standardized ship classifications.

Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy

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COMBATANT SHIP CATEGORY

1. Warship Classification

a. Aircraft Carrier Type. 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.

(1) Conventional Take Off and Landing Aircraft Carriers (CTOL)

Multi-purpose Aircraft Carrier	CV
Multi-purpose Aircraft Carrier (Nuclear-Powered)	CVN

b. Surface Combatant Type. Surface ships that are designed primarily to engage in attacks against airborne, surface, sub-surface and shore targets.

(1) Cruisers

Guided Missile Cruiser	CG

(2) Destroyers

Destroyer	DD
Guided Missile Destroyer	DDG

(3) Frigates

Guided Missile Frigate	FFG

(4) Littoral Combat Ship

Littoral Combat Ship	LCS

c. Submarine Type. All self-propelled submersible types regardless of whether employed as combatant, auxiliary, or research and development vehicles, 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 Type Ships. All ships having organic capability for amphibious assault and which have characteristics enabling long duration operations on the high seas.

(1) Amphibious Helicopter/Landing Craft Carriers

Amphibious Assault Ship (General Purpose)	LHA
Amphibious Assault Ship (Multi-Purpose)	LHD
Amphibious Transport Dock	LPD
Dock Landing Ship	LSD

(2) Miscellaneous

Amphibious Command Ship	LCC
Joint Command and Control Ship	JCC

2. Other Combatant Classifications. Ships, which have the capability to provide support to fleet units.

a. Combat Logistics Type Ships

(1) Underway Replenishment

Ammunition Ship	AE
Combat Store Ship	AFS
Oiler	AO
Fast Combat Support Ship	AOE
Ammunition Cargo Ship	AKE

(2) Material Support

Submarine Tender	AS
Destroyer Tender	AD

b. Mine Warfare Type Ships. All ships whose primary function is mine warfare on the high seas.

(1) Mine Sweeper Ships

Mine Countermeasures Ship	MCM

(2) Mine Hunter Ships

Mine Hunter, Coastal	MHC

c. Sea Basing

(1) Sea Base Connector

High Speed Vessel	HSV

(2) Maritime Prepositioning Force

Maritime Prepositioning Ship, Aviation	MPFA
Maritime Prepositioning Ship, Cargo (LMSR)	MPFC
Maritime Prepositioning Ship, Dock (MLP)	MPFD

(3) High Speed Sealift

High Speed Sealift	HSS

d. Fleet Support Ships. A group of ships designed to operate in the open ocean to provide general support to Combatant Forces.

(1) Surveillance

Surveillance	AGOS

(2) Salvage Ships

Salvage Ships	ARS

(3) Fleet Ocean Tugs

Fleet Ocean Tugs	ATF

AUXILIARY SHIP CATEGORY

1. Auxiliary Classification - Support Type Ships. A grouping of ships designed to operate in the open ocean in a variety of sea states to provide general support to either combatant forces or shore based establishments. (Includes smaller auxiliaries which by the nature of their duties leave inshore waters).

a. Other Auxiliaries

Auxiliary Crane Ship	ACS
Missile Range Instrumentation Ship	AGM
Oceanographic Research Ship	AGOR
Surveying Ship	AGS
Auxiliary Research Submarine	AGSS
Hospital Ship	AH
Cargo Ship	AK
Vehicle Cargo Ship	AKR
Gasoline Tanker	AOG
Transport Oiler	AOT
Cable Repairing Ship	ARC
Aviation Logistic Support Ship	AVB

COMBATANT CRAFT CATEGORY

1. Combatant Craft Classification

a. Patrol-Type Craft. Surface patrol craft intended for use relatively near the coast or in sheltered waters or rivers.

(1) Coastal Patrol Combatants

Coastal Patrol Craft	PC

(2) River/Roadstead Craft

River Patrol Craft	PBR

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

(1) Landing Craft

Landing Craft, Air Cushion	LCAC
Landing Craft, Mechanized	LCM
Landing Craft, Personnel, Light	LCPL
Landing Craft, Utility	LCU
Amphibious Warping Tug	LWT
Side Loadable Warping Tug	SLWT

(2) Special Warfare Craft

Advanced SEAL Delivery System	ASDS
MK V Special Operations Craft	MK V SOC
NSW Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boat	NSW RHIB
SEAL Delivery Vehicle	SDV
Special Operations Craft - Riverine	SOC-R

SUPPORT CRAFT CATEGORY

1. Support Craft Classification

a. 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.

(1) Dry Docks (Non-self-propelled)

Small Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock	AFDL
Medium Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock	AFDM
Medium Auxiliary Repair Dry Dock	ARDM
Yard Floating Dry Dock	YFD

(2) Tugs (Self-propelled)

Large Harbor Tug	YTB
Small Harbor Tug	YTL

(3) Lighters and Barges

Open Lighter	YC
Car Float	YCF
Aircraft Transportation Lighter	YCV
Covered Lighter	YFN
Lighter (Special purpose)	YFNX
Large Covered Lighter	YFNB
Gasoline Barge	YOGN
Fuel Oil Barge	YON
Oil Storage Barge	YOS
Water Barge	YWN

(4) Other Craft

(a) Self-propelled

Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle	DSRV
Deep Submergence Vehicle	DSV
Submersible Research Vehicle	NR
Ferry Boat or Launch	YFB
Patrol Craft, Training	YP
Seaplane Wrecking Derrick	YSD
Torpedo Trials Craft	YTT

(b) Non-self-propelled

Barracks Craft	APL
Floating Crane	YD
Diving Tender	YDT
Dry Dock Companion Craft	YFND
Floating Power Barge	YFP
Salvage Lift Craft, Light	YLC
Gate Craft	YNG
Floating Workshop	YR
Repair and Berthing Barge	YRB
Repair, Berthing and Messing Barge	YRBM
Floating Dry Dock Workshop (Hull)	YRDH
Floating Dry Dock Workshop Machine	YRDM
Radiological Repair Barge	YRR

(c) Unclassified Miscellaneous

Unclassified Miscellaneous Unit	IX

OFFICIAL BATTLE FORCE SHIP COUNTING METHODOLOGY

1. Purpose. To establish the official battle force ship counting methodology.

2. Special Instructions. 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:

a. Those ship types listed in enclosure (1) that are classified in the Naval Vessel Register (NVR) as Active, MSC Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force (NFAF), Naval Reserve Force (NRF) Active, or MSC Special Mission Support. The following exceptions apply:

(1) For mine hunter ships, only forward deployed and mobilization category "A" ships will be included.

(2) MSC ships assigned Reduced Operating Status (ROS) of 45 days or less may be counted on a case-by-case basis as recommended by the Chief of Naval Operations with the Secretary of the Navy approval.

b. All other craft and auxiliaries listed in this instruction are not included in the battle force ship count.