



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 5750.13A
DNS-H
8 June 2012

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5750.13A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: HISTORICAL PROPERTIES OF THE NAVY

Ref: (a) SECNAV ltr A12-2 (300415) of 28 Apr 30 (NOTAL)
(b) SECNAV ltr ser 224313 of 28 Apr 45 (NOTAL)
(c) SECNAV ltr ser 94P29 of 30 Jan 51 (NOTAL)
(d) SECNAVINST 7320.10A
(e) DoD 4160.21-M, Defense Material Disposition Manual,
18 August 1997
(f) OPNAVINST 4770.5G

1. Purpose. To summarize responsibilities concerning historical properties of the Department of the Navy, less those of the U.S. Marine Corps, for which latter properties the Director for Marine Corps History and Museums is responsible. These include relics, memorials, tokens, paintings, documents (except official records), museum or display objects, and artifacts of historical value.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5750.13.

3. Background. In 1930, the Secretary of the Navy assigned the officer in charge of the Office of Naval Records and Library (forerunner of the Director of Naval History) additional responsibilities as Curator for the Navy, per reference (a). In 1945, the Secretary placed the functions of the curator under the cognizance of the Chief of Naval Operations, defined the responsibilities of the curator, and charged the Chief of Naval Operations with the promulgation of instructions, as deemed necessary, per reference (b).

a. Per reference (c), in 1951, the Secretary specified that "all articles of a museum nature donated to the Department of the Navy will remain the property of the Department." The

curator, under the Chief of Naval Operations, was authorized to loan materials to suitable museums. He or she was also directed to handle matters pertaining to loans or donations to other organizations (per the applicable public law) of obsolete material of historical significance classified as excess to the needs of the Navy.

b. In 1971, when the Naval Historical Center was established to encompass the Naval History Division of the Office of the Chief of Navy Operations (OPNAV) and the Naval Historical Display Center, the Director, Naval History Division, was designated as the Director, Naval Historical Center, but also continued his assignment with OPNAV as the Director of Naval History, OP-09BH, and as Curator of the Navy.

c. On 1 December 2008, the Naval Historical Center was renamed to Director, Naval History and Heritage Command (NAVHISTHERITAGECOM), with the code DNS-H.

4. Responsibilities

a. Except for specific collections permanently assigned to such activities as the Naval Academy, Director NAVHISTHERITAGECOM (DNS-H), as Curator for the Navy, is responsible for:

(1) Acquisition, custody, distribution, and exhibit of items of historical or patriotic value to the Navy;

(2) Coordination of the activities of bureaus, offices, and commands in regard to such items;

(3) Furnishing guidance on preservation and storage of historical material;

(4) Loans and donations in accordance with public law and instructions of the Secretary of the Navy; and,

(5) Maintenance of information and accountability records for the Navy's historical properties.

b. Under the Chief of Naval Operations:

(1) Per references (d) and (e), Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, is responsible for the receipt, storage, and shipment of Navy historical materials, in fulfillment of the requirements of DNS-H.

(2) The Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, is responsible for the removal and shipment of historical items from ships scheduled for disposal, per reference (f).

5. Action. All commands, bureaus; and offices will report to DNS-H items considered to be of historical importance, when such items become available as historical materials. Those selected for accessioning will be retained or shipped by the reporting organization, in accordance with instructions. Additional information on historical material is contained in instructions on property, ship, and aircraft disposals.

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

7. Reports Control. OPNAV Symbol 5750-8, "Items of Historical Importance for the Department of the Navy," is assigned the reporting requirement in paragraph 5 above.



J. M. BIRD
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director, Navy Staff

Distribution:

Electronic only, via Department of the Navy Issuances Web site
<http://doni.daps.dla.mil/>