



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5430.56

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHY POLICY, RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Ref: (a) United States Navy Regulations, 1990  
(b) SECNAVINST 5430.7N  
(c) COMFLTFORCOMINST 5490.98  
(d) Deputy SECDEF Memo, Responsibility for Oceanographic Services

1. Purpose. To provide Naval Oceanography related policy and objectives, to establish organizational relationships, and to assign responsibilities for Naval Oceanography.

2. Introduction. Reference (a) defines the Department of Navy organization and assigns responsibility for research, development and acquisition, including oceanography and closely related matters to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) (ASN (RDA)). Reference (b) assigns the Chief of Naval Research (CNR) as the Navy's science and technology executive through ASN (RDA). CNR responsibilities include the assessment, promotion, and coordination of naval basic research, applied research and advanced technology development with regard to oceanography. Within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Oceanographer of the Navy (N7C) implements the CNO responsibilities with regard to naval oceanography and performs functions relating to external interfaces with national and international operational and research and development oceanographic organizations and activities.

3. Definition. Naval Oceanography encompasses the areas of Oceanography and Meteorology, Geospatial Information and Services (GI&S), and Precise Time and Astrometry (PTA) under the sponsorship of the Chief of Naval Operations. Naval Oceanography includes operational oceanography and the ocean science and technology (OS&T) program under the sponsorship of the Chief of Naval Research.

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a. Operational oceanography encompasses real-time oceanographic influences as they apply to naval and joint operations. Operational oceanography is planned and executed by Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (COMNAVMETOCOM) under oversight of Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (COMUSFLTFORCOM).

b. OS&T includes the Ocean, Atmosphere, and Space programs sponsored by the Chief of Naval Research (CNR) and various programs under other sponsors related to activities such as ocean engineering, deep ocean technology, deep submergence operations, salvage, diving, diving biomedicine, and environmental satellites. Ocean science is defined to include oceanic, atmospheric, and space environment related portions of the Navy's Research and Development Test and Evaluation - Navy (RD TEN) budget activities (Basic Research (6.1) Program, the Navy's Applied Research (6.2) Program, and the Navy's Advanced Development (6.3) Program).

4. Statement of Policy. The basic policy of the Department of the Navy is to provide the oceanographic information, services, and the related oceanographic technological base necessary for the Department of Defense to fulfill its assigned mission.

5. Objectives

a. Primary. To advance the military application of oceanographic knowledge and technology by:

(1) Advancing and applying knowledge of the atmosphere, the oceans, the ocean floor, and the coastal areas to enhance the effectiveness of fleet operations, weapons systems, and sensors.

(2) Providing direct support during the design, development, and testing of military weapons, sensors, and platforms.

b. Secondary. To provide ancillary benefits to the national effort by:

(1) Advancing knowledge of the atmosphere, the oceans, the ocean floor, and the coastal areas for economic, social, scientific, and political gains.

(2) Cooperating in those national and international programs and projects that contribute to military oceanography.

(3) Monitoring national and international oceanographic activities and programs that relate to Naval oceanography.

6. Special Provisions. The following points form the basis for Department of the Navy actions related to Oceanography:

- a. National defense takes priority over other goals.
- b. Oceanographic efforts must be responsive to military needs and identified capability gaps.
- c. The Navy recognizes its position of leadership in and its obligation to support related non-military national objectives.
- d. In order to meet national, military, and other requirements, the Navy must maintain an independent, comprehensive, and responsive Naval Oceanography effort including surveys, research, application, and development, and adequate supporting ships, instrumentation, facilities, and development of personnel.
- e. A large portion of the oceanographic information of interest to the Navy is not classified and may be releasable. The Navy encourages and cooperates in the continued mutual exchange of appropriate unclassified oceanographic data and knowledge commensurate with national and international organizations for Naval goals and priorities.
- f. Consistent with its own established oceanographic effort, the Navy will cooperate with national organizations which attempt to provide a national focus to describe, understand, and predict oceanographic, atmospheric, and space weather phenomena. The Navy will coordinate with all military departments to avoid duplication in satisfying these requirements.

7. Responsibilities and Relationships

a. Within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, the Oceanographer of the Navy will:

- (1) Direct and coordinate the Naval oceanography program, including the long-term validation of ocean survey resource requirements for the Department of Defense as tasked in references (c) and (d).

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(2) Serve as the Naval Deputy to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) Coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, (RDA) and CNO in national, international, and interagency operational Oceanography matters.

(4) Coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (I&E) and CNO for installation and environmental concerns.

(5) Coordinate with the DON CIO and DASN (C4I and Space) to ensure oceanographic, atmospheric, and space weather needs are fully integrated within the C4ISR architecture, and the overall network-centric framework.

(6) Coordinate with the Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and other activities to ensure near-term plans and long-term goals mesh to form a continuum.

b. The Chief of Naval Research:

(1) Manages and coordinates the Navy ocean science and technology program.

(2) Collaborates with the other appropriate program sponsors on ocean science and technology requirements and projects.

(3) Ensures the appropriate ocean science and technology programs are conducted to support naval warfare capabilities, weapon systems development and operation, and fleet safety.

8. Action

a. The Chief of Naval Operations (through the Oceanographer of the Navy acting in coordination with Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and the Chief of Naval Research) shall ensure that the operational oceanography and ocean science and technology programs are balanced, appropriately integrated, responsive to the needs of the Joint services, make maximum use of available assets, and fulfill Department of the Navy objectives.

b. Program sponsors within the Navy who do not report to the Oceanographer of the Navy or the Chief of Naval Research shall keep the Oceanographer and/or Chief of Naval Research

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informed of those aspects of their programs that contribute to or are impacted by the Naval Oceanography Program as defined in paragraph 3 of this instruction.

c. The Oceanographer of the Navy will issue directives, or delegate the responsibilities as required, to implement the provisions of this instruction.

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