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

IN REPLY REFER TO
OPNAVINST 5450.182
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5450.182

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Naval Construction Force Underwater Construction Capabilities; support and utilization of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5450.46D of 12 Mar 1962
(b) OPNAVINST 04040.2B of 30 Oct 1961
(c) NAVMATINST 5460.2 of 20 Aug 1969
(d) BUPERSINST 1500.54A of 1 Feb 1967

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Instruction is to provide information and guidance regarding continuing action necessary to maintain, support, and further develop Naval Construction Force (NCF) capabilities in underwater facilities engineering, construction and repair; and to provide guidance for the utilization of NCF underwater construction capability.

2. Definition. For the purposes of this Instruction an underwater facility is defined as a fixed or portable waterfront or ocean structure located at or in the ocean surface, sub-surface, bottom or sub-bottom. It includes all utilities systems associated with the basic structure. This definition specifically excludes mobile structures and vehicular transportation systems such as diving systems and submersibles which may be moored in fixed locations for extended time periods so as to constitute a facility for support of personnel and operations.

3. Background. Underwater facilities engineering, construction, and maintenance is important to the support of the Navy's ocean engineering programs and fleet operations. The construction, emplacement, operation, and maintenance of many of the possible undersea warfare and support systems envisioned or under development depend upon the refinement of existing techniques and the innovation of construction methods and their effective utilization. Current and projected developments in riverine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, amphibious warfare, undersea logistics, floating bases, and portable ports require advances in underwater construction technology and capability to support them. A construction force which is highly specialized in underwater construction techniques is required to assure project success and to minimize costs.

4. Discussion. The Naval Construction Force has a demonstrated capability for the performance of construction operations on land and within the ocean in support of ocean construction projects. The NCF is actively involved in many Navy Programs requiring ocean construction. In support of Project TEKTITE I, Seabees performed all surface and underwater construction work including site excavation, habitat emplacement, support systems installation

and testing, support equipment operation, maintenance, repairs, and habitat recovery. The NCF assembled and installed a large acoustic communications antennae array in deep water in the AUTEC Range and cabled this array to a shore installation. The NCF also installed and stabilized the surf zone and shore cables for the Azores Fixed Acoustic Range. The use and further improvement of NCF capability to accomplish underwater facility construction is consistent with the NCF mission to provide responsive construction support to Naval and Marine Forces as noted in reference (a).

5. Action

a. The mission of the Naval Construction Force, reference (a), is further defined to provide specifically for the establishment, improvement, and maintenance of an underwater facility construction capability. This includes the establishment (within priorities and capabilities) of special detachments as are necessary to meet assigned underwater construction requirements in support of Naval and Marine Corps operations.

b. Fleet Commanders in Chief will take necessary action to achieve and maintain within the NCF the capability to perform underwater facility construction and repair to depths commensurate with current and foreseeable utilization requirements and to exercise this capability on Fleet Commanders in Chief projects or other projects as discussed in paragraph 5.f.

c. The funding and provision of initial outfitting, replacement of unit allowances, and other material support will be in accordance with references (a), (b), and (c).

d. The development of underwater facilities components and construction equipment is the responsibility of CNM and NAVFACENGCOM. Responsibility for development of diving equipment and submersibles used in support of underwater construction is the responsibility of CNM and NAVSHIPSYSCOM. Both are specifically excluded from the NCF mission.

e. Training requirements for underwater construction shall be identified and satisfied as prescribed by reference (d). Diving training for NCF Construction Divers will continue to be the responsibility of BUPERS. Training in specialized underwater construction skills will be the responsibility of the Fleet Commanders in Chief.

f. Naval Commands and Offices whose programs require underwater facilities engineering, construction, and repair support shall, to the maximum extent practicable, utilize the capabilities of specifically trained elements of the Naval Construction Force. These services include, but are not limited to underwater facility project planning, testing, site surveying, and inspection, site preparation, emplacement, assembly, erection, and repair.

g. Requests for NCF support from other than the Fleet Commanders in Chief chain of command are to be forwarded to CNO via the chain of command.

6. Effective date. This Instruction is effective immediately.

R. L. SHIFLEY
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics)

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