

File 4-16

U. S. COAST GUARD (1)

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NAVY DEPARTMENT



In reply refer to Initials and No.

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Op-30W/wah OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

23 OCT 1946

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard.

Subject: Employment of the Coast Guard Under the Navy in Time of War.

1. For the purpose of assisting the Commandant in formulating realistic plans for the employment of the Coast Guard under the Navy in time of war, the Chief of Naval Operations believes that it would be beneficial at this time to establish a definite policy in this matter which can be utilized as a basis for war planning.

2. After weighing the various possibilities for efficient use of the Coast Guard establishment in time of war under the Navy, it appears that the Coast Guard should be employed as follows:

- (1) a. War time functions and duties assigned should be those which are an extension of normal peacetime tasks.
- (2) b. Coast Guard personnel, ships, aircraft, and facilities should be utilized as organized Coast Guard units rather than by indiscriminately integrating them into the naval establishment.
- c. Peacetime planning for wartime employment of the Coast Guard should envisage fulfillment of the following specific tasks:

- (1) Continue to fulfill responsibilities for Federal Law Enforcement relating to navigation, water borne shipping and customs laws.
- (2) Continue to fulfill the duties and functions of the former Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation.
- (3) Render services for search and rescue and assistance at sea, including operation of coastal lifesaving stations, beach patrol, mid-ocean weather vessels and HF/DF stations. Naval and AAF Task Forces will normally provide this service for their own personnel in combat areas.
- (4) Establish, operate and maintain aids to navigation, including Loran stations or other electronic aids as required.

Classification cancelled ~~SECRET~~ by authority of COMDT (G-015) on 5 Dec 25 (Date)

(Signature) T. A. Campbell (Rank) _____
T. A. CAMPBELL Ship or Station
Chief, Security Branch
Security Manager



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Subject: Employment of the Coast Guard Under the Navy in
Time of War.

(5) Provide Captains of the Port for U. S. Ports and provide harbor master units for the port director components of advanced naval bases.

(6) Assist the Navy in ice breaking and in Frigid .. Zone operations.

(7) Provide inshore and offshore patrols under Naval Sea Frontier Commanders for the security of harbors and harbor approaches.

(8) Provide such salvage and fire fighting vessels as can be made available for operating with fleet units.

(9) Provide for own administration of personnel.

(10) Provide for own communications to carry out assigned tasks where navy communication facilities are inadequate.

3. Before crystallizing the above conclusions into a formal expression of policy, the concurrence or comments of the Commandant would be appreciated.

D. C. Ramsey

D. C. Ramsey
Vice Chief of Naval Operations