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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3000.15

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: FLEET RESPONSE PLAN (FRP)

1. Purpose. To set policy and establish responsibility for the execution of the Fleet Response Plan (FRP).

2. Background. The 21st Century security environment has created new demands for Navy forces, from individual units to strike groups, requiring a more agile and flexible force to respond to Combatant Commander requirements. While reaffirming the importance of the rotational base of Navy forward presence, changes in the global landscape have demonstrated the need for a deliberate process to ensure continuous availability of trained, ready Navy forces capable of a surge response forward on short notice. The FRP delivers that enhanced surge capability, while continuing to provide rotationally deployed forces to fulfill Global Force Management commitments. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) will determine limits on Personnel Tempo of Operations to balance the Combatant Commanders' forward presence requirements with our Sailors' quality of service.

3. Discussion

a. The FRP is an operational framework with four phases (maintenance, basic, integrated, and sustainment), designed to optimize the return on training and maintenance investments, maintain Sailor Quality of Service, and ensure units and forces are trained and certified in defined, progressive levels of employable and deployable capability. An FRP cycle is the time from the end of a Maintenance Phase to the end of the next Maintenance Phase. For surface combatants, an FRP cycle is nominally 27-32 months. Maintenance processes under FRP ensure the material conditions necessary to support appropriate readiness during all phases of FRP. Personnel processes within the FRP maintain appropriate unit manning levels throughout the entire readiness cycle. Training processes within FRP provide required levels of mission readiness early in the training cycle and sustain targeted readiness levels throughout the FRP phases.

In the aggregate, the FRP provides Navy forces with the capability to respond to the full spectrum of Navy roles and missions, as well as any evolving national defense requirements.

b. FRP Phases. The phases of the FRP define the certified capabilities of the units or forces to which they are applied, and the roles and missions to which those units and forces may be assigned. The phases are:

(1) Basic Phase (Unit-Level Training). The Basic Phase is normally the start of the FRP cycle, and focuses on completion of the Type Commander (TYCOM) Unit-Level Training (ULT) requirements: team training both onboard and ashore; unit-level exercises in port and at sea; and unit inspections, assessments, qualifications, and certifications. During the Basic Phase, units will maximize a range of learning options (e.g., distance learning for individual skills development). Additionally, units maximize in-port synthetic training options for teams and the entire unit. Units that have completed Basic Phase meet TYCOM certification criteria, are proficient in Navy Mission Essential Tasks (NMET) and are ready for more complex integrated training events. Units that have completed the Basic Phase may be characterized as:

(a) Independent Unit Ready for Tasking (RFT). Upon successful completion of the Basic Phase, units may be tasked with independent operations in support of Phase 0 (Shaping/Deterrence), Homeland Security, Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief, or other specific, focused operations. Additional training, if required, will be targeted to specific missions prior to employment. Based on Mission-Essential Task List achievement, RFT units may be employed in support of Homeland Defense, counter-narcotics operations, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure missions, or similar, focused, and limited missions.

(b) Amphibious Task Force (ATF) Surge. This is a special category for amphibious assault ships, which supports contingency amphibious lift requirements. The term ATF Surge applies only to shipping and does not imply any Marine Corps capability, which the Marine Air-Ground Task Force provides. ATF Surge ships can provide lift support only, and are not typically certified to conduct the full breadth of amphibious specialty tasks. These ships are capable of conducting combat and administrative loadout of ground forces in support of emergent requirements. They may support Special Operations Forces, Special Purpose Marine Air/Ground Task Forces, adaptive force packages, or provide lift as required.

(2) Integrated Phase. The goal of Integrated Phase training is to synthesize individual units and staffs into aggregated, coordinated strike groups (or other combined-arms forces) in a challenging, multi-dimensional warfare environment. This phase provides an opportunity for decision makers and watchstanders to complete, for example, staff planning and warfare commander's courses, conduct multi-unit in port and at sea training, and to build on individual/unit skills. The Integrated Phase may be adapted in order to provide training for Major Combat Operations (MCO) Surge certification and/or tailored training to support emergent Combatant Commander requirements. These units and forces may be characterized as:

(a) Maritime Security Surge (MSS). Once the Basic Phase is completed and the Integrated Phase begins, training can be tailored to meet Combatant Commander's request for a specific capability. MSS training ensures proficiency in conducting surge missions and includes live training that emphasizes multi-unit procedures and anticipated region-specific scenarios. Having received the additional readiness and training investment to meet mission essential tasks above the RFT level, the MSS unit/group can be employed by Combatant Commanders for all specified missions within their certification limitations. These missions may include, for example, Maritime Interception Operations, Expanded Maritime Interception Operations, Strategic Offensive Forces support, anti-piracy operations, Theater Security Cooperation, and Information Operations.

(b) Major Combat Operations Surge. Upon completion of the Integrated Phase, units and forces are ready for operational employment, assuming operational risk commensurate with the level of capability achieved at the time of the requirement to surge. Units and forces will have successfully demonstrated Navy core capabilities commensurate with MCO and will be certified as such. These certifications include proficiency in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, Command and Control, air operations, maritime operations, Information Operations, power projection, Ballistic Missile Defense, peacetime presence, amphibious operations, SOF support, Combat Search and Rescue, mine warfare, Sustainment/Stability Operations, and Antiterrorism/Force Protection. These units and forces will have demonstrated the capability to function as a Navy-Naval combat force, but not necessarily to the level to lead such operations.

(c) Major Combat Operations Ready. MCO Ready status is attained when a unit or group is certified through advanced integrated training. The forces are now certified as fully capable of conducting all forward-deployed operations. To achieve certification, they must demonstrate the ability to operate in joint/coalition operations and proficiency in leading (vice only participating as is the case for MCO Surge) required missions. During deployment, units and forces maintain proficiency through ongoing training, exercises, and normal operations, as directed by higher authority. During post-deployment sustainment, training events will be scheduled and conducted as necessary to maintain appropriate readiness for MCO.

(3) Sustainment Phase. The Sustainment Phase begins upon completion of the Integrated Phase, continues throughout the post-deployment period and ends with the commencement of the Maintenance Phase. Sustainment consists of a variety of training evolutions designed to sustain warfighting readiness as a group, multi-unit or unit until and following deployment. Sustainment Phase training exercises aggregated units and staffs in complex, multi-mission planning and execution and to operate in a joint/coalition environment. Sustainment training, in port and at sea, allows forces to demonstrate proficiency in operating as part of a joint and coalition combined force and ensures that proficiency is maintained in all Navy Mission Essential Tasks in order to maintain MCO readiness. The extent of sustainment training will vary depending on the unit's length of time in a MCO Ready status, as well as the anticipated tasking. Deployments in support of Combatant Commander Global Force Management requirements may occur within the Sustainment Phase after numbered Fleet Commanders re-certify groups and units.

(4) Maintenance Phase. All deployable elements of Navy forces have a Maintenance Phase. For example, Maintenance Phase for surface combatants will be about nine weeks, but can take up to 11 months for an aircraft carrier undergoing post Dry Docking Planned Incremental Availability. The Maintenance Phase is critical to the success of FRP since this is the optimal period in which major shipyard or depot-level repairs, upgrades, and modernization installations occur. In addition to the timely completion of the maintenance package, units must continue to focus on individual and team training, while maintaining a solid foundation of unit-level readiness.

4. Scope. This instruction applies to all active and reserve deployable units of the United States Navy.

5. Policy. The FRP construct will be tailored and executed for all Strike Groups and other deployable Navy units as NMETS and certification procedures are finalized and promulgated.

6. Responsibilities

a. Chief of Naval Operations


(1) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Plans, Policy, and Operations (N3/N5), is the point of contact for FRP policy oversight and development. N3/N5 is the OPNAV Personnel Tempo of Operations Program Coordinator.

(2) Director, Fleet Readiness Division (N43), is the point of contact for FRP execution. N43 will coordinate within OPNAV, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet to provide oversight and direction that will ensure the FRP is fully supported and executed.

b. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

(1) Implement and execute the FRP. Develop the performance measures for evaluating FRP. Define and collect metrics that measure the effectiveness of the FRP in achieving required readiness.

(2) Direct the development and execution efforts of Numbered Fleet Commanders and Type Commanders in the training and certification requirements necessary to implement, execute and expand application of the FRP. Consolidate lessons learned from FRP implementation and execution.


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