



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

OPNAVINST 1541.5
N43
29 Jul 2011

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1541.5

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: GENERAL POLICY FOR SINKING EXERCISE APPROVAL

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 4770.5G
(b) 10 U.S.C. §2366
(c) OPNAVINST 5090.1C

Encl: (1) SINKEX Approval Process
(2) Example SINKEX Request Message

1. Purpose. To set forth the policy and procedures necessary to obtain Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) approval for sinking exercise (SINKEX) events.

2. Policy. Activities requesting use of inactive vessels designated as SINKEX assets must follow the guidance established in reference (a) as it pertains to fleet requests for vessels in support of training or target exercises. Further, SINKEX events shall be limited to those required to satisfy requirements for ship survivability or weapons lethality evaluation, major joint or multi-national exercises, or the evaluation of significant new multi-unit tactics or tactics and weapons combinations.

3. Scope. This instruction applies to all requests for SINKEX assets.

4. Responsibilities

a. CNO shall approve or disapprove all valid SINKEX requests contingent upon availability of funding to complete environmental preparations.

b. The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) (CNO (N4)) shall review all SINKEX requests and forward to CNO with recommended action.

c. Director, Fleet Readiness Division (OPNAV (N43)) shall:

(1) Chair an annual SINKEX requirements conference to determine the need for SINKEX assets across the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP), match requirements to inactive platforms, and identify funding sources. The SINKEX requirements conference will consist of representatives from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Ships); Naval Sea Systems Command Inactive Ships Program (NAVSEA (PMS 333)); United States Fleet Forces Command; Commander, Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT); and the following test and evaluation interests: OPNAV Director Test and Evaluation, Policy and Programs Division (OPNAV (N0912)); Naval Air Systems Command, Weapons and Energetics Department (NAVAIR (AIR-4.7)); NAVAIR Integrated Systems Evaluation, Experimentation and Test Department (AIR-5.1); and NAVSEA Naval Systems Engineering Directorate (SEA-05).

(2) Validate requests to conduct SINKEX events in coordination with NAVSEA (PMS 333), OPNAV Warfare Integration (OPNAV (N8F)), OPNAV Director of Test and Evaluation and Technology Requirements (OPNAV (N091)), and OPNAV Energy and Environmental Readiness (OPNAV (N45)), per reference (a). Requests by the fleet or other major claimants for vessels in support of SINKEX events will be validated only if they meet one the following criteria:

(a) The event is required to satisfy reference (b) requirements for ship survivability or weapons lethality evaluation; or

(b) The event supports major joint or multi-national exercises or the evaluation of significant new multi-unit tactics or tactics and weapons combinations.

(3) Submit valid SINKEX requests to CNO for final approval via CNO (N4). Approval is contingent upon availability of funding to complete environmental preparations for vessels newly designated as SINKEX assets through the ship disposition review (SDR) process. OPNAV (N43) will grant final SINKEX authority upon review of environmental preparation documentation.

(4) Draft and release the SINKEX approval message when authorized by CNO.

d. OPNAV (N45) will submit an annual report detailing SINKEK activity to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator, as per reference (c).

e. Fleet and other major claimants requesting SINKEK assets shall:

(1) Participate in the annual SINKEK requirements conference.

(2) Provide FYDP SINKEK asset requirements to OPNAV (N43) during the annual SINKEK requirements conference, with supporting justification. FYDP requirements may be filled using available environmentally prepared SINKEK assets, inactive ships that can be designated for SINKEK through the SDR process, and or former Navy vessels currently owned by the U.S. Maritime Administration which may be made available for SINKEK events.

(3) Identify funding sources for environmental preparation of SINKEK targets if a previously prepared asset is not available to NAVSEA (PMS 333). The user agrees to fund the ship environmental preparations per EPA requirements in sufficient time to accomplish the SINKEK preparation work.

(4) Following the requirements conference, submit a SINKEK request to OPNAV (N43) no later than 2 years prior to the planned event (copy OPNAV (N8F), OPNAV (N45), NAVSEA (PMS 333)) if a prepared vessel is not identified during the requirements conference. The SINKEK request for use of a prepared vessel shall be submitted no later than 1 year prior to the planned event.

(5) Conduct approved SINKEK event following guidance provided in reference (c) and submit after action report as per reference (a).

f. NAVSEA (PMS 333) shall:

(1) Participate in the annual SINKEK requirements conference.

(2) Present recommended SINKEK assets to the SDR panel per reference (a).

(3) Following CNO approval, coordinate contract preparation work for designated SINKEX assets requiring environmental preparation.

(4) Following conduct of the approved SINKEX event, update the Naval Vessel Register with final disposition of the vessel.

(5) Prepare an annual report for submission by OPNAV (N45) to the EPA administrator, setting forth the name of each vessel used in fleet training exercise or during a weapons effect test during the calendar year, as per reference (c).

5. SINKEX Approval Process. Enclosure (1) graphically portrays the SINKEX approval process outlined in this instruction. Enclosure (2) provides an example SINKEX request message.

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 November 2007.

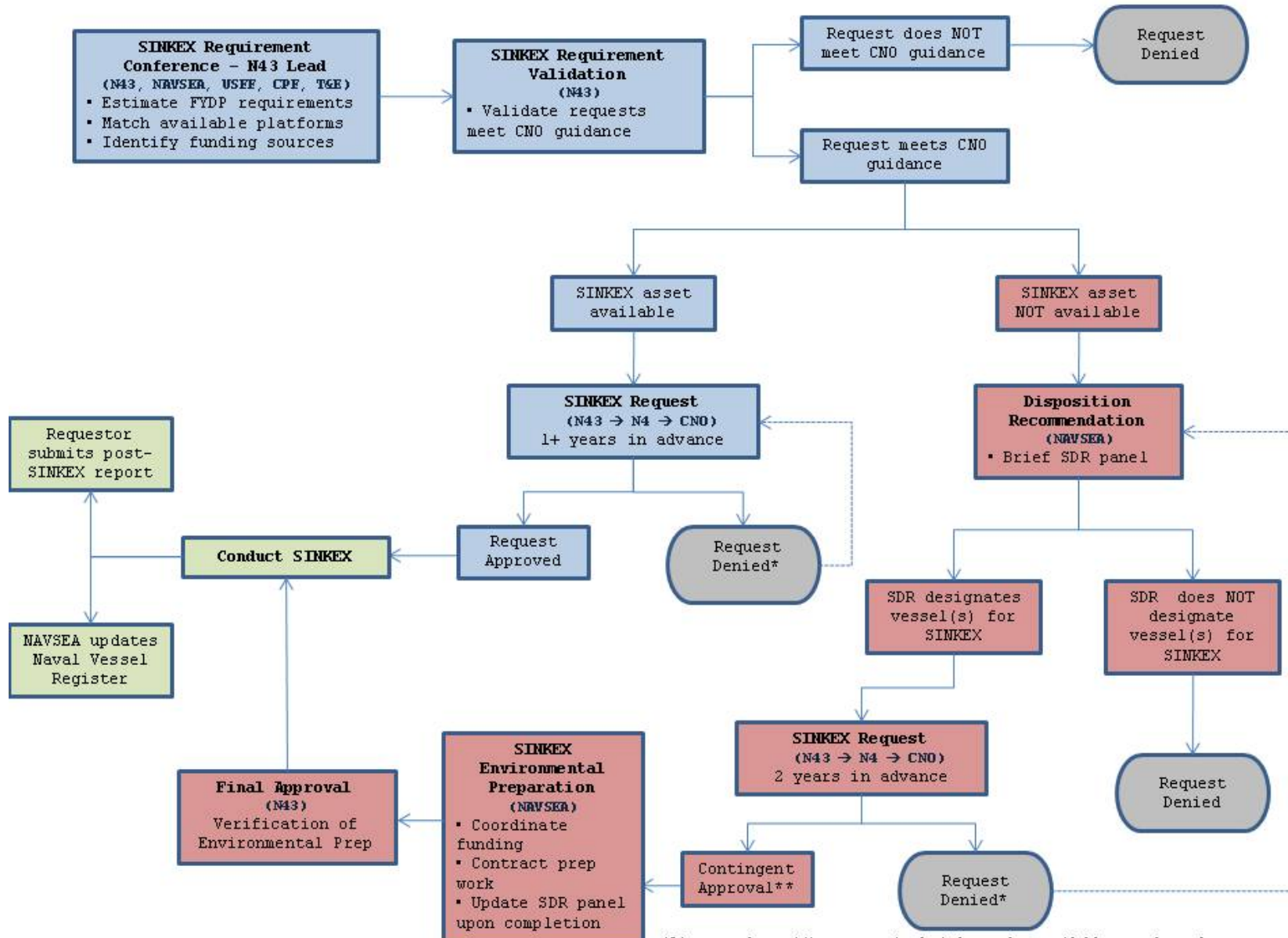


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SINKEX APPROVAL PROCESS



*If a vessel specific request is denied, another available vessel can be requested
**Contingent upon completion of environmental preparation

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29 Jul 2011

EXAMPLE SINKEK REQUEST MESSAGE

FM COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N7//
TO CNO WASHINGTON DC//N43//
INFO USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J3//
COMTHIRDFLT//J3/J7//
COMNAVAIRPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N3//
COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N3/N8/N812/N84//
COMNAVREG PEAR HARBOR HI//N3//
PEO SHIPS WASHINGTON DC//PMS333//
NAVHISTCEN WASHINGTON DC
COMSC WASHINGTON DC//N3//
COMEODGRU ONE//N3//
NAVSEA INACTSHIPMAINTO PEARL HARBOR HI//N3//
FACSFAC PEARL HARBOR HI//N31//
UNCLAS//N03120//
MSGID/GENADMIN/COMPACFLT//
SUBJ/SINKEK REQUEST FOR RIM OF THE PACIFIC EXERCISE (RIMPAC)
2010//
REF/A/DOC/CNO/XXXXX11//
REF/B/DOC/CNO/XXXXX11//
REF/C/DOC/DON-EPA/19AUG96//
REF/D/MSG/COMTHIRDFLT 312132ZAUG2009/NOTAL//
NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 1541.5. REF B IS OPNAVINST 5090.1B. REF
C IS DON-EPA ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. REF D IS COMTHIRDFLT
IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE.//
POC/KEN MACDOWELL/CTR/UNIT:CPF N77/TEL: (808) 474-8410/NIPR:
KEN.MACDOWELL@NAVY.MIL//
RMKS/1. IAW REF A, REF B AND REF C, AND IN SUPPORT OF REF D, FOL
SINKEK REQUEST IS SUBMITTED:
A.USER ACTIVITY: COMTHIRDFLT.
B.PURPOSE OF SINKEK: CONDUCT AIR, SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE
TARGETING AND LIVE FIRING TRAINING IN A MULTINATIONAL NAVAL
EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR 10-28 JUL 2010.
C.TARGET HULL: EX MARS (AFS-1).
D.TARGET PREPARATION: TARGET PREPARATION IAW REF B AND REF C IS
UNDERWAY AND WILL BE COMPLETE PRIOR TO SCHEDULED EVENT.
E.DATE/LOCATION: ON OR ABOUT 20JUL10, WITHIN HAWAII RANGE
COMPLEX; ACTUAL SINKEK POSITION WILL BE PROVIDED FOLLOWING
EXERCISE IAW REF B.//

Enclosure (2)