



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

OPNAVINST 10520.1
DNS-3
6 JAN 2006

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 10520.1

Subj: CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS POLICY REGARDING USE OF THE
U.S. NAVY FLAG, BATTLE STREAMERS, U.S. NAVY INFANTRY
BATTALION FLAG AND THE FIRST NAVY JACK

Ref: (a) Executive Order 10812 of 24 Apr 1959
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations 1990, Chapter 12, Section 8
(c) SECNAVINST 1650.1G
(d) SECNAVINST 10520.6
(e) NTP-13B (Flags, Pennants and Customs)

1. Purpose. To provide information concerning procurement and use of the U.S. Navy Flag, Battle Streamers, the U.S. Navy Infantry Battalion Flag and the first Navy Jack per references (a) through (e).

2. Cancellation. This OPNAV Instruction supersedes SECNAVINST 10520.2D. The SECNAV Instruction was cancelled under a separate cancellation memo.

3. Background

a. U.S. Navy Flag

(1) Reference (a) approved the U.S. Navy Flag and specified the design, coloration, and size. The U.S. Navy Flag fulfills the requirement for an official flag to represent the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Navy Reserve on a wide variety of ceremonial, parade, and display occasions. To further recognize and honor the sacrifices of our predecessors, Battle Streamers have been authorized for display on the flagstaff bearing the Navy Flag.

(2) Edging, all 2 feet 6 inches in diameter above a yellow scroll inscribed "United States Navy," in dark blue letters.

(3) Unlike the national ensign, commission pennant, union jack, and admiral's broad pennant, which fly from gaff,

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mast, or staff on board naval vessels, the flag of the United States Navy is reserved for display purposes and is carried by an honor guard on ceremonial occasions.

(4) A detailed history, policy and eligibility guidance, list of battle streamers, their accessories, and stock number information can be found at the Navy Awards website:
<https://awards.navy.mil>.

b. U.S. Navy Infantry Battalion Flag. Toward the end of the nineteenth century the Infantry Battalion flag was introduced for use by naval landing forces. This was a blue flag with a white diamond shaped device in the center and a blue fowl anchor superimposed on the diamond. For more than sixty years, the Infantry Battalion flag served as the unofficial Navy flag in drill formations and parades and at other ceremonies. The official Navy flag, truly representative of the Navy's operating forces at sea, was authorized by reference (a). However, continued use of the Navy Infantry Battalion Flag is authorized as directed in paragraph 3b below.

c. First Navy Jack. Reference (b) directs use of the Union Jack onboard Navy ships. However, reference (d) allows display of the First Navy Jack in lieu of the Union Jack for all Navy ships.

3. Policy

a. Use of the U.S. Navy Flag

(1) The U.S. Navy Flag shall represent the Navy at:

(a) Official ceremonies

(b) Parades

(c) Official Navy Displays

(d) Public gatherings in which the Navy is an official participant

(e) Other occasions when specifically authorized by the Secretary of the Navy

(2) When used for the purpose listed in sub paragraph 3a(1) above, the U.S. Navy Flag will accompany, and take the place of honor after the National Ensign. The exception is when

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other branches of the armed forces are also participating, the service flags, among themselves, will take precedence based on paragraph 1724 of reference (e).

(3) The U.S. Navy Flag shall not be used for outdoor fixed display purposes.

(4) The U.S. Navy Flag and Battle Streamers are for official Navy use only and shall not be made available to civilian groups, organizations, or individuals, except as provided for in paragraph 4c below.

b. Use of the U.S. Navy Infantry Battalion Flag

(1) The U.S. Navy Infantry Battalion Flag shall be used only as organization colors for ships' landing party battalions, for battalion organizations of Navy activities, and for inactive Navy Reserve units.

(2) When participating independently in operations, ceremonies, or parades, battalions or units may carry their own organization colors. Navy and Navy Reserve units, which use the U.S. Navy Infantry Battalion Flag as organization colors, may display their battalion name and location on the Navy Infantry Battalion Flag as authorized by reference (c).

4. Action

a. Navy and Navy Reserve activities or individual reserve units which require the U.S. Navy Flag or the U.S. Navy Infantry Battalion Flag for official use may obtain it by submitting requisitions through normal supply channels. A detailed history, policy and eligibility guidance, list of battle streamers, their accessories, and stock number information can be found at the Navy Awards website: <https://awards.navy.mil>.

b. Upon relief of officials listed below, the U.S. Navy Flag with Battle Streamers may be provided, as follows:

(1) Secretary of the Navy

(2) Chief of Naval Operations

c. Should they donate their flag and streamers to other activities, an appropriate dedication plaque or plate will be provided with the flag and streamers. A parchment certificate bearing a facsimile of the Navy Flag with Battle Streamers will

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be presented to the donor.

d. All naval ships. The First Navy Jack will be displayed on board all U.S. Navy ships in lieu of the Union Jack, per reference (d).

/s/

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Director, Navy Staff

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