



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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 1551.9C  
OP-711D

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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1551.9C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: ACOUSTIC SENSOR TRAINING AIDS PROGRAM (ASTAP)

1. Purpose. To provide information concerning the Acoustic Sensor Training Aids Program (ASTAP), establish policy and responsibilities for collection of acoustic data, funding, development, production and distribution of acoustic sensor operator training materials, and establish a Naval Acoustic Training Tape Library. This instruction has been completely revised and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1551.9B.

3. Background

a. Acoustic sensor operator training material is produced from acoustic data recorded from operational acoustic equipment. Fleet-supplied acoustic data are collected on all types of surface and subsurface targets and used for intelligence analysis, documentation and production of training material. Training aids produced include magnetic tapes, annotated and unannotated LOFAR-GRAMS, texts, and other media. When required, material is also provided to research and development (R&D) centers.

b. Navy contracted Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) on-board training programs (i.e., VP Deployable Acoustic Readiness Training System (DARTS), HS/VS DARTS, Anti-Submarine Warfare Module/Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Center (ASWMOD/ASWOC) DARTS, Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Center (ASWOC), Advanced Acoustic Analysis Training (AAAT) and Automated Detection/Computer Assisted Classification (AD/CAC) validation) likewise utilize acoustic data collected by fleet units in the production of acoustic operator training material.

c. The Naval Acoustic Sensor Training Aids Department (NAVSTAD), a department of the Naval Education and Training Support Center, Pacific (NAVEDTRASUPPCENPAC), also provides and distributes operator training aids to fleet units and training activities for the purpose of initial, intermediate and advanced operator training. Data for that material have primarily been obtained from Naval Technical Intelligence Center (NTIC) and is of scientific and technical (S&T) quality, that is, of high signal to noise ratio.

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4. Scope. This instruction applies to the planning and organization necessary to meet acoustic sensor operator training material requirements for air, surface, subsurface and fixed detection systems.

5. Policy. The ASTAP will produce adequate training aids to help acoustic sensor operators achieve and maintain the highest state of proficiency.

a. Collection. The success of this program is primarily dependent on collection of active and passive acoustic data from which the various training materials are developed, produced and ultimately distributed for use in the training community and the fleet. Specific requirements for acoustic data to support prioritized projects will be determined and appropriately promulgated by the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) and fleet training activities. In addition to those identified by Commander Navy Intelligence Command (COMNAVINTCOM), where appropriate, intelligence data will be provided by NTIC to support ASTAP.

b. Production. Production of acoustic sensor training material by such activities as naval facilities, Submarine Sonar Information Centers (SSIC), Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Centers (ASWOCs), Surface Ship ASW Analysis Centers (SSAACs), and Fleet Air Special Operations Training Groups will be reported to NAVSTAD, which will act as the central cataloging agency. That is to avoid duplication of production effort, and to ensure the material is properly catalogued to promote wider usage. In addition, NAVSTAD will produce training aids from magnetic tapes received from NTIC and Forward Area Support Teams (FASTs) to meet the requirements of training activities, fleet units, contract training programs and R&D centers. NAVSTAD's production will be coordinated by CNET, based on priority requirements approved by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and fleet commanders. Special support for minor programs will be provided by NAVSTAD on a case-by-case basis consistent with resource availability.

c. Funding

(1) New Initiatives. Those include acoustic sensor operator training for initial system or equipment acquisitions and major modifications. ASTAP funding for those includes the hardware installation, initial spare parts and administrative (i.e., travel, tapes, etc.) costs. The program/resource sponsor shall provide funding for ASTAP support cost increases directly attributed to newly developed acoustic sensor equipment capabilities until CNET programs and/or budgets for these costs.

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(2) Sustaining. Sustaining funding provides for the continuation of established projects for all acoustic sensor operator training. CNET will provide resources for NAVSTAD to include funding for training aids production, routine administrative costs, travel, and reproduction equipment maintenance.

6. Responsibilities

a. Chief of Naval Operations

(1) Chair the ASTAP Steering Committee.

(2) Provide overall policy and program guidance and coordination for all platform training material production.

(3) Approve and provide program sponsorship for new projects. Ensure new acoustic sensor equipment or systems include initial funding and outfitting for operator training programs.

(4) Make appropriate programming submissions and support the budgetary process to implement ASTAP projects.

(5) Provide the Fleet Commander in Chiefs (FLTCINCs) with specific requirements for collection of acoustic data to support ASTAP.

b. Fleet Commanders in Chief

(1) Provide representation to ASTAP Steering Committee.

(2) Actively support acoustic data collection efforts requested by CNET and fleet training activities by assigning acoustic data collection requirements to appropriate units.

(3) Address requirements for acoustic and sensor training materials to NAVSTAD.

(4) Review program adequacy and effectiveness and provide comments and recommendations to CNET or CNO, as appropriate.

(5) Provide fleet units and initial post-event screening facilities (i.e., Submarine Surveillance Equipment Program (SSEP), Surface Ship ASW Analysis Center (SSAAC), ASWOC, etc.) with guidance and procedures to collect and process acoustic data in support of ASTAP.

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c. Systems Commanders

- (1) Provide representation to ASTAP Steering Committee.
- (2) Include provisions for recording acoustic data in the development of new acoustic sensor systems.
- (3) Develop requirements for acoustic data collection to support training needed for fleet introduction of new systems.
- (4) Recommend to the ASTAP Steering Committee the collection and dissemination of acoustic data from new sensor systems as they are developed.
- (5) Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWARSSYSCOM PD-80) will act as Program Technical Representative to ensure that the ASTAP is functioning in accordance with this instruction.

d. Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET)

- (1) Provide representation to ASTAP Steering Committee.
- (2) Provide a control point for coordination, production and distribution of acoustic sensor training material.
- (3) Provide sustaining funding for NAVSTAD.
- (4) Provide for periodic review of existing training aids and materials in use by CNET activities, initiate appropriate action to correct deficiencies and provide NAVSTAD with requirements for additional training aids.
- (5) Provide one full-time civilian Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT) analyst certified by NTIC to ensure continuity and technical quality for NAVSTAD products.
- (6) Provide training aids requirements and priorities for acoustic data collection.

e. Naval Education and Training Support Center, Pacific (NAVEDTRASUPPCENPAC), Naval Acoustic Sensor Training Aids Department (NAVSTAD)

- (1) Provide representation to ASTAP Steering Committee.
- (2) Produce and distribute operator training aids for fleet units and training activities for initial, intermediate and

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advanced operator proficiency training.

(3) Establish and maintain a Naval Acoustic Training Magnetic Tape Library.

(4) Maintain a catalog of acoustic sensor training materials in use throughout the Navy. Issue an update at least annually.

(5) Provide the ASTAP Steering Committee with specific requirements for collection of acoustic data to support ASTAP.

(6) Forward requirements for projects which exceed ASTAP capacity to the CNO via CNET and the chain of command for appropriate action.

(7) Provide technical assistance to fleet units as required to gather data.

f. Type Commanders

(1) Provide representation to the ASTAP Steering Committee.

(2) Actively support acoustic data collection priorities by coordinating collection efforts of assigned units.

(3) Determine acoustic sensor training aids requirements and forward to NAVSTAD.

(4) Periodically evaluate the effectiveness and timeliness of ASTAP material.

(5) Provide test/evaluation services for newly produced training material.

g. Naval Technical Intelligence Center (NTIC)

(1) Provide representation to ASTAP Steering Committee.

(2) Ensure timely release of scientific and technical quality acoustic intelligence data to NAVSTAD for the development and production of acoustic sensor training aids and material.

(3) Provide acoustic analysis of intelligence material forwarded to NAVSTAD for sensor training aids and material.

(4) Provide office space and analysis equipment time for two NAVSTAD representatives.

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(5) Provide technical evaluation of NAVSTAD civilian Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT) analyst qualifications for analysis of acoustic data.

(6) Review ASTAP training products as necessary to ensure technical accuracy.

h. Forward Area Support Teams (FASTs)

(1) Provide representation to the ASTAP Steering Committee.

(2) Review and validate the acoustic classification (target validation) of training material submitted by in-theater screening activities (e.g., SSEP, SSAAC, ASWOC, etc.) specifically for NAVSTAD ASTAP requirements.

(3) For acoustic collections received in response to Navy Operational Intelligence (OPINTEL) or S&T ACINT requirements:

(a) If forwarded on to NTIC, highlight for NTIC NAVSTAD representatives any material also satisfying NAVSTAD ASTAP requirements.

(b) If not forwarded to NTIC for further analysis, forward validated magnetic tapes and acoustic materials that satisfy ASTAP requirements to NAVSTAD.

(4) Where appropriate, include ASTAP shortfalls in FAST ACINT briefing presentations to fleet audiences.

i. ASTAP Steering Committee

The ASTAP Steering Committee will be convened by CNO (OP-71). The ASTAP Steering Committee serves as the single point of control for assigning priorities, coordination and approval of the ASTAP program. The Committee's major objectives are:

(1) Ensure that the needs of acoustic training aids are systematically identified and analyzed relative to Fleet training objectives providing for effective and efficient training media.

(2) Provide for direct feedback and exchange of information to promote cohesive planning and consistency while providing for the identification and solution of training problems.

(3) Ensure that acoustic training requirements receive appropriate emphasis and identification.

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The committee will be comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

Chief of Naval Operations (OP-71 Chair, OPs-01, 29, 39, 59, 092)  
 Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT)  
 Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT)  
 Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET)  
 NAVEDTRASUPPCENPAC, NAVSTAD  
 NTIC  
 Commander, Space and Warfare Command (SPAWAR)  
 Commander Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)  
 Commander Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)  
 Pacific Forward Area Support Team (PACFAST)  
 Atlantic Forward Area Support Team (LANTFAST)  
 European Forward Area Support Team (EURFAST)  
 SSAAC Norfolk, SSAAC San Diego  
 SSEP Groton, SSEP Pearl Harbor  
 Naval Air Development Center (NADC)  
 Naval Surface Weapons Center, White Oak Laboratory  
 (NSWC, WOL)  
 Naval Underwater Systems Command (NUSC)  
 Naval Oceanographic Systems Command (NOSC)  
 Commander Ocean Systems Atlantic (COSL)  
 Commander Ocean Systems Pacific (COSP)  
 Commander Naval Surface Force, Pacific (COMNAVSURFPAC)  
 Commander Naval Surface Force, Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT)  
 Commander Naval Submarine Force, Pacific (COMSUBPAC)  
 Commander Naval Submarine Force, Atlantic (COMSUBLANT)  
 Commander Training Command Atlantic (COMTRALANT)  
 Commander Training Command Pacific (COMTRAPAC)  
 Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific (COMNAVAIRPAC)  
 Commander Naval Air Force, Atlantic (COMNAVAIRLANT)  
 Commander Submarine Group Two (COMSUBGRU TWO)

The chair may designate other members. The number of committee participants should be limited to the minimum required to adequately address agenda items. Participants should have appropriate decision making authority.

## 7. Procedures

a. Acoustic collections containing potentially valuable operational or scientific and technical acoustic intelligence data shall be handled in accordance with existing ACINT collection guidance.

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b. All platforms collecting acoustic sonar data to be screened for satisfaction of ASTAP requirements will forward tapes as follows:

<u>PLATFORM</u>	<u>SCREEN</u>	<u>VALIDATE</u>	<u>ANALYSIS/PRODUCTION</u>
VP	ASWOC	FAST	NAVSTAD
VS/HS	ASWMOD	FAST	NAVSTAD
SURFACE SHIPS/HSL	SSAAC	FAST	NAVSTAD
SUBMARINES	SSEP/FAST	NTIC	NAVSTAD
IUSS	COSL/COSP	NTIC	NAVSTAD

(1) Screening activities will determine which acoustic collections apply to ASTAP requirements, and provide to NAVSTAD via the FAST or NTIC. Material should include raw data tapes, available operational documentation, acoustic analysis description, and hard copy illustrations of the subject of interest.

(2) The validation process will ensure that material selected for training by screening activities has been considered for its intelligence value, and that the tapes forwarded to NAVSTAD's Tape Library contain valid data.

(3) NAVSTAD will catalog, reproduce and distribute tapes to appropriate training material production activities, as security classification permits. For training aids produced by NAVSTAD, incoming raw data will be reviewed, analyzed, edited and formatted according to training product specifications.

(4) The final authority for the technical accuracy of acoustic data used for ASTAP is Naval Technical Intelligence Center. NAVSTAD will conduct liaison with NTIC for quality control, providing copies of ASTAP products for verification as necessary.

c. All activities that produce acoustic operator training materials will provide a copy of the material to NAVSTAD and indicate the validating authority. If the material is adaptable for expanded distribution or is applicable to other acoustic operator communities, NAVSTAD will catalog it and stockpile copies as required.

d. Units and commands that desire to comment on existing ASTAP projects or propose new projects should forward a letter via the appropriate chain of command to CNET (Code N-341). All requests for major new and revised projects will be forwarded via the chain of command to the ASTAP Steering Committee for approval. Minor programs and changes that may be accommodated

under existing funding and projected priorities will be forwarded to NAVSTAD for comment and determination of capability.

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