



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

OPNAVINST 3120.20B<sup>IN REPLY REFER TO</sup>  
Op-952C  
09/3U00620  
29 Jun 1983

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3120.20B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Navy Policy in Antarctica and Support of the U.S.  
Antarctic Program

Ref: (a) Presidential memo on U.S. Antarctic Policy and  
Programs dated 5 Feb 1982 (NOTAL)  
(b) DOD Directive 2000.6 of 3 Jun 1980 (NOTAL)  
(c) SECNAVINST 3160.2A  
(d) DOD and National Science Foundation Memorandum of  
Agreement for "Logistic Support and LC-130R Aircraft  
Operations for Antarctic Program" dated 28 Nov 1975  
(NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To provide guidance on Navy support for the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) and to disseminate Navy policy in the Antarctic region.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3120.20A.

3. Background. By reference (a), the National Science Foundation (NSF) is given responsibility for budgeting and managing the U.S. national program in Antarctica. To ensure the U.S. has the necessary flexibility and operational reach in the Antarctic area, the Departments of Defense and Transportation are charged with continuing to provide, on a reimbursable basis, the logistic and operational support requested by the NSF. The Antarctic Treaty, contained in reference (b), to which the United States is a party, stipulates that Antarctica may be used for peaceful purposes only. It provides for international inspections of signatory bases to ensure Antarctica remains demilitarized and free for cooperative scientific research efforts. The Antarctic Policy Group, chaired by the Department of State, reviews the national program in Antarctica and related policy and program considerations.

4. Discussion. The Antarctic Treaty applies to all areas south of 60° South Latitude, including ice shelves. However, the Treaty does not prejudice or affect any states' rights, or their exercise, under international law with regard to the high seas within that area. The Treaty area may be used for peaceful purposes only. Each treaty party is required to give the others advance notice (1) of all expeditions to and within Antarctica by its ships or nationals, (2) of all stations in Antarctica occupied by its nationals, and (3) of any military personnel or equipment intended for introduction into Antarctica. All stations, installations and equipment in Antarctica, and all

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ships and aircraft at points of discharging or embarking cargo or personnel in Antarctica, are at all times subject (1) to on-site inspection by foreign observers designated as such by other treaty parties and (2) to observation from aircraft of treaty parties.

R) 5. Policy. References (b), (c) and (d) provide guidance on DOD and Navy management authority and policy for Navy support of the U.S. Antarctic Program. Due to the demilitarized nature of the Antarctic, Navy operational interests remain focused in the Arctic; however, the ability to perform military operations in the Antarctic will not be compromised. The logistic support functions of the Naval Support Force, Antarctica fulfill this requirement within the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty. The Director, Naval Oceanography Division (OP-952) will act as the OPNAV sponsor for Antarctic matters.

6. Applicability. This instruction is applicable to all components of the Department of the Navy.

7. Action.

A) a. Addressees planning deployment of ships, aircraft or personnel south of 60°S latitude will notify the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-952) at least 60 days prior to deployment. U.S. Naval operations in Antarctica will be conducted for peaceful purposes only.

b. Commanding officers and masters of units proceeding south of 60°S latitude will be prepared for inspection by foreign observers. Preparation will include the removal of any classified material that might be compromised by inspection.

c. Commanding officers, officers in charge, and masters of all U.S. Naval activities in Antarctica, and of all ships and aircraft proceeding to Antarctica for discharge or embarkation of cargo or personnel will prepare their activities, ships, or aircraft for possible aerial observation or on-site inspection by foreign observers designated by other Treaty parties.



RONALD J. HAYS

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