



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 3540.6C  
N86

27 OCT 1998

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3540.6C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: UNDERWAY TRAINING FOR PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICERS

1. Purpose. To provide information to facilitate planning the underway training phase of the Prospective Commanding Officer's Course (PCO) and PCO Shipboard Fundamentals Course. This instruction is a complete revision and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3540.6B.

3. Discussion. At the culmination of 8 weeks of classroom training for PCO Students and during week 3 of the 4-week PCO Fundamentals Course, 5 day operational ship visits are required to afford students an opportunity to apply the principles learned during PCO training. For this reason, ships actively engaged in their training cycle serve best to familiarize PCOs with the ship type they are assigned.

4. Procedures

a. Fleet services for each PCO class will be requested by the Commanding Officer, Surface Warfare Officers School Command (SWOSCOLCOM) from the type commanders (TYCOMS) in sufficient time for these services to be addressed at TYCOM scheduling conferences. SWOS will request a ship class match for each PCO student. In cases where operations scheduling does not permit an exact match, a suitable substitute ship, matching as closely as possible the propulsion plant and combat systems as the PCOs assigned ship, should be nominated.

b. Following the TYCOM scheduling conferences, the TYCOMS will advise SWOSCOLCOM of the specific ships nominated to support PCO training, usually no later than the second week of the course. Ships nominated need not be dedicated solely to support SWOSCOLCOM; however, ships actively engaged in the training cycle are desired. If it becomes necessary to substitute one ship for another following the initial assignments, the TYCOM will advise SWOSCOLCOM and the respective immediate superior in command (ISIC) and ship.

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c. Prior to the ship visit, SWOSCOLCOM will advise all interested activities of ship assignments and the names, security clearances, and the itineraries of PCO students and staff.

d. Since the underway week of the PCO course is a practical exercise for the PCOs and not an inspection of the assigned ships, no documentation in the form of notes or other data will be removed from the ship. Summary notes and copies of the ship's directives and logs may be retained by the students for the purpose of debriefing lessons learned or as instructional material. PCO instructors and students are directed not to provide the results of their visits to the chain of command of the visited ship. The CO, SWOSCOLCOM may provide non ship specific synopses of recent visits to the TYCOMS when requested. Reports of PCO visits, other than internal PCO staff trip reports, are not required. Internal PCO staff trip reports shall not be provided to outside commands.

5. Review. The Director, Surface Warfare Division (N86) is responsible for periodic review and updating of the contents of this instruction.



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Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Director, Surface Warfare

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