



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 3590.18F  
N863C  
3 Apr 00

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3590.18F

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: ANNUAL SHIP-HELICOPTER SAFETY AWARDS

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3750.6Q (NOTAL)  
(b) OPNAVINST 5100.19D

1. Purpose. To issue policy and procedures for selection of winners of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Annual Ship-Helicopter Safety Awards.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3590.18E.
3. Policy. Safety awards described here will be presented annually to air-capable ships in recognition of outstanding helicopter safety records. Ships selected must have proven safety performance records and aggressive helicopter safety programs which promote safety consciousness and contribute new and constructive ideas in mishap prevention.
4. Type Award and Award Period. Each award will consist of a CNO citation, temporary custody of a large Ship-Helicopter Safety Award plaque, and a plaque replica for permanent custody. One award each will be made annually to a LAMPS, CLF and Amphibious Air-Capable Ship. The annual award period will be 1 January to 31 December. Recipients of Annual Ship-Helicopter Safety Awards will retain the large plaques until the end of the next award period.
5. Selection Criteria. The awards will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of the following:
  - a. Embarked detachment and ship safety record versus flight activity. Class A, B, and C naval aircraft mishaps, as defined in reference (a), must be included in award submission.

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Class A and B naval ship mishaps, as defined in reference (b), must also be included.

b. Contributions to ship's aviation safety program submitted by either ship's company or embarked detachment personnel. Contributions may include, but are not limited to, ideas or recommendations for any of the following:

(1) Changes to operational procedures or techniques concerning the total ship and aircraft system, NATOPS, NWP-3-04.1, Fleet and Type Commander Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), and other pertinent documents.

(2) Improvement of the helicopter type embarked, ground/deck handling equipment, or their utilization.

(3) Upgrades to ship's facilities, such as the flight deck, hangar, landing aids, firefighting system or procedures, or survival equipment.

(4) Helicopter safety articles and ideas for safety posters submitted to the Commander, Naval Safety Center, or other cognizant organizations will also be weighed (indicate whether the submission has been published).

(5) Safety initiatives that have had a proven impact on the overall safety program for that specific unit or the Fleet.

c. Near-mishap reports, explosive mishap reports, safety surveys conducted, and safety improvement items brought forth during the ship's safety council and committee meetings will be considered.

d. The following operational data:

(1) Inclusive dates helicopter detachment embarked and number and type aircraft.

(2) Days underway with detachment embarked.

(3) Days that embarked detachment operated aircraft.

(4) Total day flight hours.

(5) Total night flight hours.

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(6) Total day landings made by all helicopters on reporting ship.

(7) Total night landings made by all helicopters on reporting ship.

(8) Total cargo transferred, expressed in tons.

(9) Total passengers transferred.

(10) Total number of tasked operational flight hours (list by mission area).

(11) Total number of training flight hours.

Inclusion of operational data should not be construed to mean that selection of the safety award is based upon an accumulation of flight hours, etc. However, operational experience of the ship-helicopter team provides the context of successful safety programs.

6. Eligibility. All air-capable ships configured for vertical replenishment operations and operated with helicopter(s) embarked during the award year will be eligible for award consideration. If a ship transfers between Type Commanders during the award year, the ship will be eligible for the award under the purview of the Type Commander wherein the majority of the ship-helicopter operations occurred. Three awards will be issued, one each for a LAMPS capable, a CLF ship and one for an Amphibious air-capable ship (other than those eligible to compete for the Flatley Award).

#### 7. Action Required

a. Ships. Commanding officers of eligible air-capable ships may initiate nomination for the Ship-Helicopter Safety Awards. Commanding officers shall submit nominations and complete documentation based on the suggested Selection Criteria, paragraph 5, to their respective Type Commanders for consideration.

b. Type Commanders. Type Commanders will forward their top three choices for each category (LAMPS, CLF and Amphibious Air-Capable Ship) for the Ship-Helicopter Safety Awards. Type Commanders shall forward nominations with complete documentation based on the suggested Selection Criteria,

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paragraph 5, and endorsements to the Commander, Naval Safety Center by 15 February each year.

c. Commander, Naval Safety Center

(1) Convene a Ship-Helicopter Safety Awards Committee and forward recommendations with award packages for all categories to the Chief of Naval Operations by 1 March.

(2) Provide engraved replicas of the Ship-Helicopter Safety Award plaques for the award ceremonies.

(3) Provide appropriate publicity.

(4) Provide plaque exchange guidance as necessary between current holders and new winners.

d. Chief of Naval Operations. The Chief of Naval Operations will select and announce the winners based upon the recommendations provided by the Commander, Naval Safety Center. Awards will be presented at suitable ceremonies by the CNO or his designated representative.

8. Report. The reporting requirement contained in paragraph 7 is exempt from reports control by SECNAVINST 5214.2B.

Distribution:

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29A (Guided Missile Cruiser (CG) (CGN))  
29E (Destroyer (DD) 963 Class)  
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41B (Area Commanders, MSC)  
41C (Sub-Area Commanders, MSC)  
41J (Military Sealift Command Military Departments  
(USNS KILAUEA (T-AE 26), only))  
42E (Type Wing Commanders (COMHELTACWINGLANT,  
COMHELTACWINGPAC, COMHSLWINGLANT, COMHSLWINGPAC,  
only))  
42U (Helicopter Combat Support Squadron (HC))  
42CC (Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron, Light (HSL))  
OPNAV (N09, N08, N09B, N86, N863C, N88)