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

IN REPLY REFER TO
OPNAVINST 4680.1
N413
13 April 1993

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 4680.1

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVY CONTAINERIZATION PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 4610.8E of 20 Jun 89
(b) OPNAVINST 5000.42C of 10 May 86
(c) OPNAVINST 4620.10 of 1 Feb 79
(d) OPNAVINST 4620.8C of 15 Jul 82
(e) NAVSUPINST 4600.70 of 31 July 86

1. Purpose. To establish Navy policy and procedures for planning, developing, and controlling the Navy containerization program and controlling Department of Defense (DOD) owned or leased containers in the possession of Navy activities.
2. Scope. Applies to all Navy activities using DOD owned or leased containers. Includes control of related research, development, and reporting; procurement of containers, container handling equipment, and container handling facilities; and coordination with other logistics elements.
3. Cancellation. NAVSUPINST 10580.4 of 5 Jun 84 and NAVSUP 10580-1.
4. Background. References (a) through (e) provide policy and guidance for container control and containerization. The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (DCNO) (Logistics) coordinates Navy container policy and represents the Navy in the DOD Transportation Policy Council. The Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command coordinates the Navy container program with the Systems Commands (SYSCOMs), the Commander, Military Sealift Command, and the DOD Joint Container Control Office.
5. Definitions
 - a. Container. An article of transportation equipment which meets International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards and which is designed to transport materiel without intermediate reloading. "Container" includes modules or clusters which may be coupled in an integral unit meeting ISO standards.



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13 APR 1993

Containers may be used to transport cargo or to shelter equipment, personnel, or portable maintenance and storage facilities.

b. Cargo Offloading and Transfer System (COTS). A subsystem of the Navy's Cargo Offload and Discharge System (COLDS) designed to provide the capability to offload and backload current and future generations of containerized cargo vessels while moored offshore and to deliver the container and vehicular cargo to the beach, as required, in areas completely lacking specialized port facilities. COTS consists of the following major facilities: (1) causeway section, powered (CSP) and side loadable warping tug (SLWT); (2) causeway section, non-powered; (3) Roll-on/Roll-off Discharge Facility (RRDF); and (4) elevated causeway (ELCAS) and modular elevated causeway (ELCAS(M)).

c. ISO. The international body that establishes dimensions and specifications for intermodal freight containers.

d. Joint Container Control Office (JCCO). The Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) activity which exercises administrative control and has accountability worldwide for all DOD owned MILVAN equipment.

6. Policy. The Navy will use containers to the maximum extent practicable and will rely primarily on the commercial transportation industry to provide container service. To assure commonalty and interchangeability with the commercial sector, the containers and the supporting infrastructure will be designed to ISO specifications whenever practicable.

7. Objectives. Navy containerization efforts will:

a. Optimize container use in all practicable phases of naval operations.

b. Provide for more rapid, economical, reliable, and flexible deployment without restricting operational effectiveness.

c. Administer a coordinated, cohesive program within the Navy's logistics community.

d. Prevent duplication of effort within the SYSCOMs; ensure commonality and compatibility of assets; and, ensure efficient use of funds.

e. Identify and monitor unique naval requirements.

13 APR 1993

f. Be compatible with current and future transportation modes.

8. Responsibilities

a. Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (COMNAVFACENGCOM)

(1) Cradle to grave program management for COTS, including integrated logistics support (ILS) used in amphibious, maritime prepositioning, and advanced base environments.

(2) Containerization systems for naval construction forces.

b. Commander, Naval Air Systems Command (COMNAVAIRSYSCOM). Containerization programs for naval aviation logistics support.

c. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYSKOM)

(1) Unique ordnance/weapons systems applications including dedicated container handling facilities, explosive safety, special handling equipment, and special containers.

(2) Shipboard container handling equipment.

(3) Sealift support capabilities involving containers, containerized systems, and container ships.

d. Commander, Military Sealift Command (COMSC). Containerization efforts in support of COMSC's sealift role.

e. Commander, Naval Supply System Command (COMNAVSUPSYSCOM)

(1) Administration of transportation modes, technical guidance on transportation of Navy material, annual reporting of Navy container assets to the JCCO, and overall coordination of the Navy containerization program.

(2) Manage application of containerization for the Fleet Hospital Program.

9. Action

a. COMNAVFACENGCOM will:

(1) Serve as the principal development activity for, and monitor performance of the COTS. Support COTS maintenance efforts.

13 APR 1993

(2) Develop Advanced Base Functional Component (ABFC) containerized/containerizable modular facilities.

(3) Program requirements for equipment and facilities to support expanded contingency and wartime container operations at the Naval Construction Battalion Centers under COMNAVFACENGCOM cognizance.

(4) Develop, establish, and program requirements to support containerized naval construction force operations.

b. COMNAVAIRSYSCOM will:

(1) Acquire mobile facilities and related equipment to meet Navy and Marine Corps aviation logistics support requirements.

(2) Provide advice and assistance to naval activities on matters relating to mobile facility workspaces supporting aircraft maintenance and supply functions.

(3) Be the primary Navy technical point of contact for common DOD mobile aviation support facility development.

(4) Be the Navy's representative on the Joint Committee on Tactical Shelters (JOCOTAS). Disseminate new developments to the SYSCOMs.

(5) Coordinate research and development projects for mobile facilities and related equipment supporting naval aviation.

c. COMNAVSEASYSYSCOM will:

(1) Develop container compatible resupply systems for sealift support.

(2) Develop shipboard container handling equipment.

(3) Coordinate ordnance/weapons system applications including facilities capability, explosive safety, special handling equipment, and special containers.

(4) Serve as the primary technical point of contact for Navy and common DOD development of habitable and workspace containerized systems for non-Navy ships.

d. COMSC will:

(1) Identify requirements and acquire containers to meet DOD unique sealift needs.

(2) Administer MSC container pools.

e. COMNAVSUPSYSCOM will:

(1) Implement Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) policies and provide guidance for containerization programs.

(2) Monitor Navy participation in container and containerization research, development, and operational test programs.

(3) Manage application of containers for the Navy's Fleet Hospital Program.

(4) Monitor all Services' use of containers.

(5) Ensure communication with fleet elements on container use.

(6) Provide the working level interface with the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC), Air Mobility Command (AMC), and the Military Sealift Command (MSC) on Navy containerization issues.

(7) Program requirements for equipment and facilities supporting expanded contingency container operations at activities under COMNAVSUPSYSCOM cognizance.

(8) When requested, provide the JCCO an inventory of MILVAN equipment on loan to Navy activities.

f. All Systems Commands and MSC will:

(1) Develop containerization concepts for their areas of responsibility.

(2) Coordinate containerization efforts including technical advances developed by other government agencies and commercial companies.

(3) Ensure containerization efforts support the general objectives contained in paragraph 7.

13 APR 1993

(4) When requested, provide an annual report of container development efforts to the U.S. Army Mobility Equipment Research and Development Command (USAMERADCOM).

(5) Report all planned procurements of containers to COMNAVSUPSYSCOM (441) 90 days in advance of requisition submission.

(6) Designate a container systems coordinator by name, code, and telephone/fax number. Report to COMNAVSUPSYSCOM (441), copy to CNO N413 and all SYSCOMs, on a one-time basis and as changes occur.

10. Reports. Symbol OPNAV 4680-1 has been assigned to the reporting requirements of this instruction and is approved for 3 years from the date of this directive.



R. C. RIEVE
By direction

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13 APR 1993

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OPNAVINST 4680.1

13 APR 1993

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