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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 4857.1D  
Op-902B  
Ser 09/101164  
10 May 1979

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 4857.1D

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Department of Defense Master Urgency List (MUL)

Ref: (a) DODINST 4410.3 of 4 Apr 78  
(b) SECNAVINST 4857.4 of 14 Dec 78

Encl: (1) MUL Procedures Organizational Diagram

1. Purpose

a. Implement references (a) and (b) as they pertain to the Chief of Naval Operations responsibilities with respect to the MUL.

b. Designate the Program Appraisal and Information Branch (OP-902) as the cognizant office for overall coordination of DON MUL responsibilities.

c. Delegate responsibility for certain MUL activities to the Chief of Naval Material.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 4857.1C

3. General. The MUL is published and maintained by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USDR&E) for the Secretary of Defense. It is classified "SECRET" and is distributed by a cover letter, separately from reference (a) but under the same DOD file number, preceded by an "S", i.e., S-4410.3. It is a priority list of programs, items, or projects selected because:

a. They are most important, nationally and/or militarily, to support currently approved strategic plans,

b. They are or will be experiencing difficulties in obtaining material or production equipment during the fiscal year for which listed,

c. Their difficulties in obtaining industrial resources to meet schedule requirements can be minimized through application of priority preference established by the MUL listing.

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4. Background. The MUL is used as a guide by the DOD, the GSA/Federal Preparedness Agency, the Department of Commerce, and certain other Federal agencies for the purpose of expediting the assignment of materials and production equipment in support of the listed programs.

a. Reference (a) sets forth Department of Defense criteria for developing the MUL and explains its use and significance. Reference (b) makes more extensive distribution of reference (a) and provides broad guidelines concerning responsibilities and procedures for developing and amending the MUL. It assigns the Chief of Naval Operations responsibility for the development, coordination, implementation and administration of MUL policies, procedures and actions within the Department of the Navy.

b. The MUL is a DOD-sponsored priority list used as a production bottleneck solving device. Its purpose is to establish the relative urgencies of the most important military and national production programs to provide guidance for priority preference in the allocation of industrial resources whenever program conflicts exist for the same resources. IT IS NOT A PRIORITY LIST OF ALL WEAPONS SYSTEMS, NOR A LIST OF ALL CURRENT MILITARY PRODUCTION. The assignment of an item to the list (and/or relative position within the CUE-CAP category) is a function of its relative military importance and its production justification.

c. If the MUL becomes overloaded, its effectiveness as a realistic and workable priority list of urgent production items is correspondingly diminished. Nomination of items for the MUL must be based on a critical requirement for assistance in solving production problems. Nomination for "prestige" purposes is not acceptable. MUL status should in no way be used as a substitute for timely scheduling, prompt letting of contracts and purchase orders, and other sound production management.

#### 5. Urgency Categories

a. BRICK-BAT is the higher of the two MUL categories currently used. This category carries with it the overriding DX industrial priority and a Force/Activity Designator I. Programs listed in the Brick-Bat category are each Presidentially approved.

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b. CUE-CAP is the second MUL category currently used. This category carries a DO industrial priority. Programs listed in the CUE-CAP category are each approved by the Secretary of Defense.

c. Two other categories, DRY-DAY and ELK-EAR, exist but will be used only if emergency conditions require.

d. Reference (a) should be consulted for further definition of the MUL categories and rules for relative urgency and resource utilization among the various categories.

## 6. Responsibilities

a. In accordance with reference (b) the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics (ASN(MRA&L)) has the responsibility of approving Department of the Navy programs nominated for inclusion in the MUL and for recommending their order of priority ranking to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USDR&E).

b. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) is responsible for:

(1) Overall development and coordination of MUL policies and procedures within the Department of the Navy.

(2) Approving or disapproving military justifications for nominations for the MUL submitted by commands and offices of the Department of the Navy, including those incorporated in the periodic review.

(3) Coordinating military urgency matters with the Commandant of the Marine Corps as required.

(4) Determining the relative urgency of the Department of the Navy nomination.

(5) Submitting the following for the approval of the ASN(MRA&L):

(a) Interim Department of the Navy nominations to the MUL.

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(b) Periodic review of the Department of the Navy portion of the MUL.

(c) Comments and recommendations on the Secretary of Defense proposed MUL when reviewed for update.

(d) Comments and recommendations as requested by Secretary of Defense on nominations submitted by other departments and agencies.

c. The Chief of Naval Material (CHNAVMAT) is responsible for:

(1) Implementation and administration of MUL policies, procedures, and actions within the Department of the Navy, to include a periodic review of DON items in the MUL.

(2) Approving or disapproving production resource justifications for Navy and Marine Corps MUL nominations, including those incorporated in the periodic review.

(3) Furnishing to the Chief of Naval Operations the following:

(a) Approved production resource justifications for all nominations.

(b) Comments and recommendations from a production resource aspect on the Secretary of Defense proposed MUL when reviewed for update.

(c) Comments and recommendations from a production resource aspect as requested by the Secretary of Defense on nominations submitted by other departments and agencies.

d. The Commanders of the Systems Commands and the Commandant of the Marine Corps are responsible for:

(1) When requested by CHNAVMAT, conducting a review of applicable parts of the MUL and providing updated fiscal and production progress information to CHNAVMAT.

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(2) When required, submitting new MUL nominations, with complete military and production resource justifications, to CHNAVMAT.

(3) Taking prompt action to recommend the removal from the MUL of any item which no longer requires special attention to reach and maintain the established production rates or quantities, or fails to meet the criteria of reference (a).

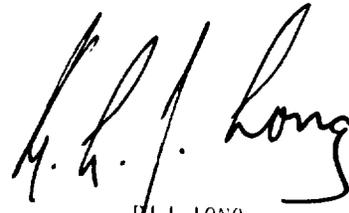
(4) Utilizing the Master Urgency List according to prescribed MUL rules for resource utilization.

e. Enclosure (1) is a functional diagram illustrating these responsibilities and procedures.

7. Action

a. The Head, Program Appraisal and Information Branch (OP-902), under the Director, Navy Program Planning, is assigned responsibility for overall coordination of MUL matters under the purview of CNO.

b. The Chief of Naval Material is designated as the primary action agent for DON MUL matters.



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VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

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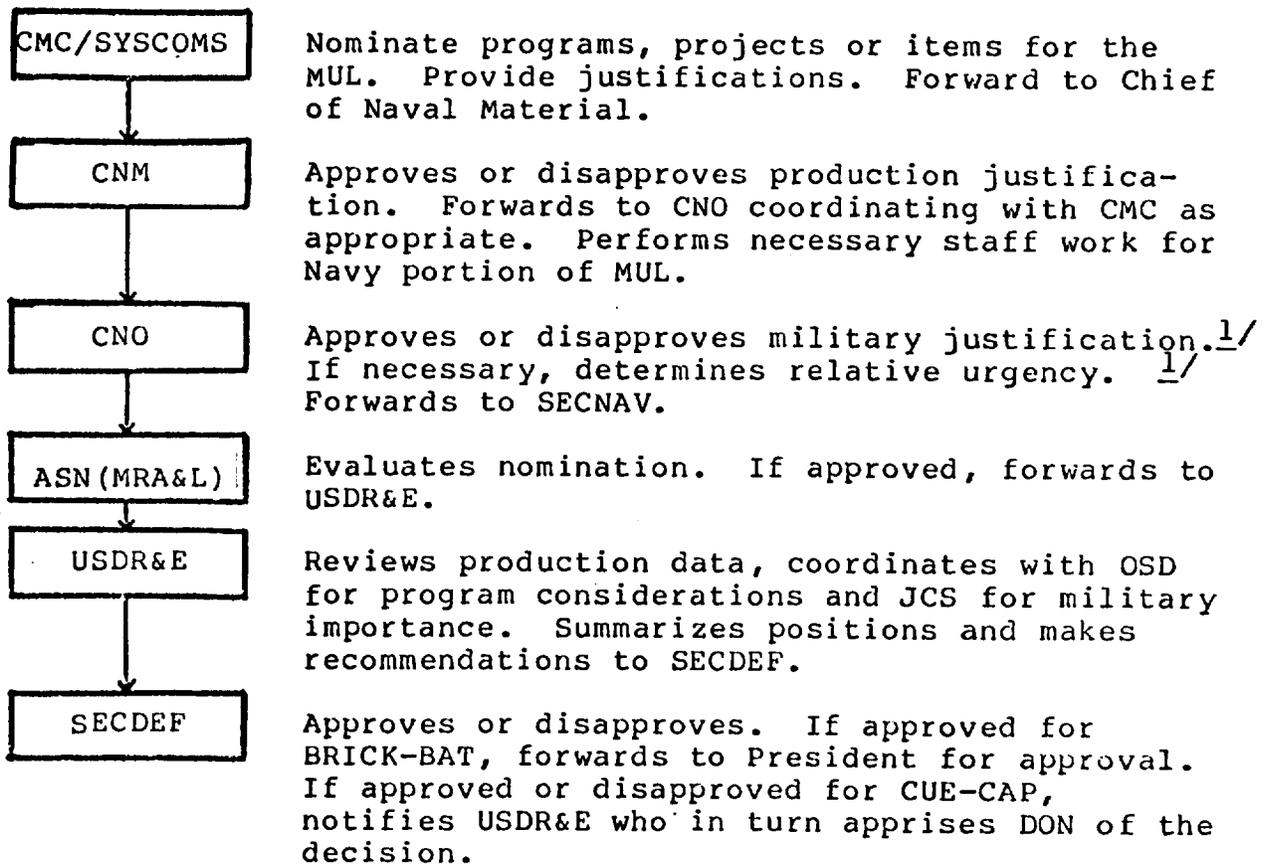
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MUL PROCEDURES ORGANIZATIONAL DIAGRAM

PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF MILITARY PROGRAMS/ITEMS

NOMINATED FOR

DOD MASTER URGENCY LIST (MUL)



<sup>1/</sup> Coordinates military urgency matters with the CMC as appropriate.