

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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OPNAVINST 3120.35K N96 22 June 2012

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3120.35K

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR CAPAPABLE AND AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT

SHIPS TO OPERATE AIRCRAFT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3120.28C

(b) NAVAIRINST 3120.1C

Encl: (1) Aviation Operational Requirements for Air Capable Ships

- (2) Aviation Operational Requirements for LHA and LHD Ships
- (3) Acronyms List for Enclosures (1) and (2)
- 1. <u>Purpose</u>. To define the level, class and type aviation facilities requirements for air capable and amphibious assault ships to operate specified aircraft. This instruction has been revised in its entirety to incorporate Fast Sea Frame FSF-1 Sea Fighter, High Speed Vessel HSV-2 Swift, littoral combat ship (LCS) classes, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) maritime security cutter, large (WMSL) class, MQ-8B Firescout vertical takeoff un-manned air vehicle (VTUAV) and reflect changes in air capable and amphibious assault ships.
- 2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3120.35J.

3. Discussion

- a. The aviation facilities requirements updated by this instruction cover the full spectrum of aviation operations from the launch and recovery to personnel and stores transfer. To ensure safe aircraft operations, all afloat aviation facilities are to be certified.
- b. The variety of ship configurations which occur as a result of the unique mission requirements complicates the problem of standardization in the fleet. Reference (a) establishes the requirements for formalized ship certification

which ensures the maintenance of proper standards for afloat aviation facilities and defines the basis of the certification program. Reference (b) outlines responsibilities for certification and inspection of aviation facilities in naval ships operating aircraft.

- c. The certification of an afloat aviation facility does not constitute an authorization to conduct air operations. Authorization to operate aircraft aboard ships is the responsibility of fleet commanders, Commander, Military Sealift Command, or Commander, Naval Research as applicable.
- 4. <u>Action</u>. All air capable and amphibious assault ships shall be certified per reference (a) to operate with specified aircraft according to the levels, classes, and types of aviation facilities defined in enclosures (1) and (2). Enclosure (3) defines the acronyms cited in enclosures (1) and (2).
- 5. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.

T. S. ROWDEN

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

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AVIATION OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR CAPABLE SHIPS

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AVIATION OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR CAPABLE SHIPS (continued)

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SHIPS/CLAS	SES	E	A	E	1	3	5	5	5	Q	4	6	6	6	6	6	2	6	6	1	6	4	5	6	6	1	5	6	2
		Ē	s	_			3	3	7	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5			7	8	0	4		3	0	2
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JHSV CLA	ss	١.	4	2	×			^			×	×	×	×	×	×		×		×	^		^	X	^	×		×	
			4	SP2	^		×	Х			_^	_^	^	_^	^		×	^		^		X		^		^	×		X
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LPD 17		1	2			Х	X	^			^		Х	X	×	×		×	×										
CLASS		1	2A									×								×	×	×	×	×	Х	X	Х	Х	Х
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23D 41CEA	,00	<u> </u>	4	2	Х	Χ	Х	Х			Χ	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
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AVIATION OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR CAPABLE SHIPS (continued)

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	L	С	т		USNA	USMC		USN	USN	US	MC		US	BN		USN/ USMC	US	CG			U	BA				US	BAF	
AIR CAPABLE	E	L	Y	Н	н	н	Н	Н	M	Н	Н	н	Н	Н	Н	٧	Н	н	Н	Н	Н	Н	н	Н	Н	Н	Н	V
SHIPS/CLASSES	V	A S	P	1	3	5	5	5	Q	4	6	6	6	6	6	2	6	6	1	6	4	5	6	6	1	5	6	2
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	_	-					Ε		в		l a	BIR	F	Н	s		J								l			'
SEE NOTES>						3					4	4	4	4	4	6	4	1					4	1	l	3	4	6
		1													Х													
T	١.	2		Х	X	Х	Х			×		Х	Х	Х		×	Х	×										
T - AH 19 CLASS	'	2A									Х								Х	×	×	×	×	×	Х	Х	×	X
		4	1	X	X	Х	Х			X	X	Х	Х	X	X	×	Х	×	X		X		X		X	X	X	X
		3		Х	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	X	Х	X	Х	Х	Х	×	X	×	Х	Х	Х	Х
T - AK 3005 CLASS	II	4	1	×	×	X	×			×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×		l X		×	×	l X	X
		3		×	×	×	×			×	×	×	×	×	×	×	X	×	×	×	×	Х	×		×	×	×	×
T - AK 3008 CLASS	II	4	2	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	×	X	X	X	n	X	-	X		×	X	l x	X
		3	_	X	X	X	X			×	×	X	×	×	X	×	X	×	×	×		×	×		×	×	×	×
T - AK 3015 CLASS	II	4	1	×	X	X	X			X	×	X	X	×	X	×	×	×	×		×	<u> </u>	×		×	×	 x	×
T-AKR 300	-	3		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	n	X	X	X	×	n	×	X		X	X	X	-
CLASS	"	4	1	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	×	X	X	×	X	×	^	Х	<u> </u>	l x		×	×	X	
T-AKR 310	Ë	3		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	n	X	X	X	Х	-	×	X		X	X	X	
CLASS	"	4	1	X	×	X	X			X	X	X	X	×	×	×	×	X	×	^	×	<u> </u>	l x		×	×	l x	
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		2		×	×	×	Х			^		×	X	×	^	×	×	×										
T-AKE CLASS	١,	2A		n	n	n	n				×	n	n	n		n	n	n	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×
11112 021100	l '	4	2	×						×	X	Х	×	×	×		×	×	X	n		<u> </u>	X	n	X	n	X	n
		4	SP2		×	X	X									×					×		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	×		X
		3	9, 2	X	X	X	X			X	Х	Х	Х	×	Х	×	Х		X	×		×	X	×	×	×	X	X
T - AO 187 CLASS	ш	4	2	X						×	×	X	×	×	×		×		×			<u> </u>	×	- ''	×		X	
	l "	4	SP2		X	Х	Х							<u> </u>		×					X		<u> </u>			X		X
		1								Х					Х													- 11
		2		Х	X	Х	Х					Х	X	X		×	Х	×										
T-AOE 6 CLASS	ı	2A									Х								Х	Х		X	X		Х	Х	×	×
		4	2	Х						Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х				Х		Х		Х	
		4	SP2		Х	Х	Х									Х					Х					Х		Х
T ADDED CLASS	=	4	1	Χ														Х	Х						Х			
T-ARS 50 CLASS		5	1		Х					Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х				Х		Х				Х	
T - ATF 166 CLASS	=	4	2	Χ	Χ					Χ	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х		Х		Х		Х		Х	
1 - ATF 166 CLASS		5	2			Х	Χ																			Х		
T AVD A CLASS		3		Х	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
T-AVB3CLASS	II	4	1	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	
		1																Х										
		2		×								X	×	×			×											
WAGB 20	L	2A												<u> </u>					×	×		×			×			
	l '	4	2	Х	Х					Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		×	Х	×		×		×		×		×	
		6	-	n	×	×	Х			X	n	X	X	×	×		×	X			_ n		_ n				<u> </u>	
					n	n	n			n		n		n	n		- 11	n										

AVIATION OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR CAPABLE SHIPS (continued)

		L	С	Т		USNA	JSMC		USN	USN	US	мс		US	SN.		USN/ USMC	US	CG			US	SA.				US	AF	
AIF	RCAPABLE	E	L	Y	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	М	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	٧	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	٧
SHIF	PS/CLASSES	V	A S	P E	1	3	5	5	5	Q	4	6	6	6	6	6	2	6	6	1	6	4	5	6	6	1	5	6	2
1		-	S	-			3	3	7	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5			7	8	0	4		3	0	2
1		-	Ĭ					Ε		в		Α	B/R	F	Н	s		J											
	SEE NOTES>						3					4	4	4	4	4	6	4						4	1		3	4	6
WAG	GB 400 CLASS		1																Х										
	AR RETRACTED	II	2A		Χ	Х							Х	Х	Χ			×		×	Х		Χ			×			
- 0	WAGB 10-11)		4	2	X	X					Х	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Χ		Х		Х		Χ		Х	
			1																Х										
WHEC	HANGAR		2A																		Х		Х						
378 CLASS	RETRACTED	'	5	2	Х	Х	Χ	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		X	Х	X		Х		Х		×	Х	Х	
(715 -			6R			Х	Х	X			Х		Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х										
726)	HANGAR		5	2															Х										
	EXTENDED		6R			Х	Χ	Χ			Х		Х	Х	Χ	Х		Х	Х										
1			1																Х										
1			2		Χ								Х	Χ	Χ			Χ											
1 '	VMEC 39	ı	2A																	Х	Х		Х			Х			
1			4	2	Χ	Χ					Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ			Х	Х	Х		Х		X		Х		Х	
			6R			Χ	Х	Χ			Х		Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х										
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	CLASS		4	2	Х						X	Х	Х	Х	Х	X		Х	Х	Х				X		Х		Х	
(WN	ИЕС 615-630)	III	6R			Х	Х	Χ			Х		Х	Χ	Χ	Х		Х	Х										
MANAGE	EC 270 CLASS		1																Х										
	THHANGAR		2		Х																								
	ETRACTED	- 1	2A										Х	Х	Х			Х		Χ	Х		Х			Х			
	MEC 901-913)		4	2	Х	Х					Х	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Χ		Х		X		Х		Х	
<u> </u>			6R			Х	Χ	Χ			Х		Х	Х	Χ	Х		Х	Х										
1			1																X										
			2		X	X					Х		X	Х	Х	Х		X											
I VM	SL 750 CLASS	ı	2A									X			u					X	Х		Х	X		X		X	
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1			6	5P2		X	X	X			X		X	×	×	Х		×	×			X					Х		
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NOTES:

- IN THE AIRCRAFT COLUMNS, AN "X" DENOTES A REQUIREMENT FOR THE LEVEL, AND CLASS, OF OPERATION SPECIFIED; THE NUMBERS 2 AND 3 REFER TO NOTES THAT CLARIFY HELICOPTER DESIGNATIONS; NUMBERS 4 AND ABOVE ALSO DENOTE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND REFER TO CLARIFYING NOTES; AND THE SHADED AREAS DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE.
- 2. FLIGHT DECK STRUCTURAL CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH AIRCRAFT REQUIRED TO LAND ON A SHIP CLASS; PRIOR TO GRANTING A LANDING CERTIFICATION.
- 3. H53D APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE MODELS WITH A 72'3" DIAMETER MAIN ROTOR SYSTEM, AND SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES H53E HELICOPTERS WHICH HAVE A 79'0" DIA MAIN ROTOR SYSTEM.
- 4. H60B/F/H/J/R HAVE A 15' 6" WHEELBASE; WHEREAS H60A/G/K/L/S HAVE A 29' 0" WHEELBASE WHICH REQUIRES SIGNIFICANTLY MORE DECK AREA TO ACCOMMODATE THE TAIL WHEEL.
- 5. LEVEL III, CLASS 3 OPERATION OF THE USMC AV8 AIRCRAFT IS ALSO REQUIRED ON LPD 4 CLASS, AND LPD 17 CLASS SHIPS.
- 6. V-22 REQUIRES A FLIGHT DECK THERMAL ANALYSIS PERFORMED IN ORDER TO LAND ON A SHIP CLASS.

AVIATION OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LHA AND LHD SHIPS

		LEVE	LT - DAY AND NIGHT OPERATIONS, INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS LIF- DAY AND NIGHT OPERATIONS, VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS																									
		LEVE	LII - DA'	Y AND	NIGHT	OPER.	ATION	s, visu	AL ME	TEOR	oLOGIO	CALICO	NDITIO	NS														
		LEVE	LIII - DA'	CONLY	OPER	ATION	is, vist	JAL ME	TEOR	OLOGI	DALIC(ONDITIO	ONS															
			CLASS	1-LAN	IDING/	TAKEO	FF AN	DHAN	IGARIN	JG VITI	H FLIG	HT/HAN	NGAR I	DECK 9	SERVIC	ING FA	ACILITII	ES ANI	DAIRC	RAFT	MAINT	ENAN	CE/VE	APON	SSUPF	PORT		
			CLASS	S 1 - LANDING/TAKEOFF AND HANGARING WITH FLIGHT/HANGAR DECK SERVICING FACILITIES AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE/WEAPONS SUPPORT S 2 - LANDING/TAKEOFF AND HANGARING WITH FLIGHT/HANGAR DECK WITH SERVICE FACILITIES																								
			CLASS	3-LAI	VDINGA	TAKEC	OFF AN	JD LIMI	TED FI	LIGHT	DECK S	BERVIC	ING FA	CILITIE	ES													
			CLASS	4 - VEF	RTREP	ÆXTE	RNALI	JETEA	CILITIE	ES																		
U.S NAVY, MARINE CORPS, COAST GUARD, ARMY AND AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT (SEE NOTE 1)																												
AMPHIBIOUS	L	С	USMC		USNA	JSMC		USN	USN	US	мс		US	N.		USNA	US	ca l			US	SA.				US	AF	
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(,	III	4		X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
		1	×	Х		Х	Х			Х					Х	Х												
LHD1	١,	2			Х							Х	Х	Х			Х	Х								Х		
CLASS	l '	3									Х								Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Χ		Х	Х
(SEE NOTE 3)		4		Х	Х	Х	X			Х	Х	Х	X	Х	Х	Х	Х	Χ	Х		Χ		Х		Х	Х	Χ	Х
	III	4		Х	Х					X	Х	X	Χ	Х	X		X	Χ	Χ		X		X		Χ		X	

NOTES:

- 1. IN THE AIRCRAFT COLUMNS, AN "X" DENOTES A REQUIREMENT FOR THE LEVEL AND CLASS OF OPERATIONS SPECIFIED; THE NUMBER 2 REFERS TO NOTE 2 WHICH CLARIFIES THE H53 AND H53E HELICOPTER OPERATIONS; AND A SHADED AREA DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE.
- 2. H53 APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE MODELS WITH A 72'3" DIAMETER MAIN ROTOR SYSTEM, AND SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES H53E HELICOPTERS WHICH HAVE A 79'0" DIAMETER MAIN ROTOR SYSTEM.
- 3. THE LEVEL I, CLASS 4 REQUIREMENTS APPLY FORWARD AND AFT OF THE ISLAND ONLY. THE LEVEL III, CLASS 4 REQUIREMENTS APPLY ABEAM THE ISLAND ONLY.

ACRONYMS LIST FOR ENCLOSURES (1) AND (2)

Terms:

FWD Forward DK Deck ΜK Mark

Ship Class:

AS Submarine Tender Auxiliary Guided Missile Cruiser CG DDG Guided Missile Destrover FFG Guided Missile Frigate

FSF Fast Sea Frame HSV High Speed Vessel

Unclassified Miscellaneous ΙX JHSV Joint High Speed Vessel Amphibious Command Ship LCC LCS Littoral Combat Ship

LPD Amphibious Transport Dock Ship

Dock Landing Ship LSD

Military Sealift Command Ammunition Ship T-AET-AH Military Sealift Command Hospital Ship T-AK Military Sealift Command Dry Cargo

Military Sealift Command Vehicle Cargo Ship T-AKR

T-AKE Military Sealift Command Dry

Cargo/Ammunition

T-AOMilitary Sealift Command Oiler

T-AOE Military Sealift Command Fast Combat Support

Ship

T-ARS Military Sealift Command Salvage Ship T-ATFMilitary Sealift Command Fleet Ocean Tug Military Sealift Command Aviation Logistics T-AVB

Support Ship

WAGB Coast Guard Polar Class Ice Breaker WHEC Coast Guard High Endurance Cutter WMEC Coast Guard Medium Endurance Cutter

WMSL Coast Guard Maritime Security Cutter Large LHA Amphibious Assault Ship, General Purpose Amphibious Assault Ship, Multi-Purpose LHD

OPNAVINST 3120.35K 22 June 2012

Aircraft Class:

H Helicopter

MQ Target/Drone Recoverable

V Fixed Wing Aircraft