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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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IN REPLY REFER TO
OPNAVINST 9096.1
OP-03C
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12 November 1985

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 9096.1

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: WEIGHT AND STABILITY LIMITS FOR NAVAL SURFACE SHIPS

Ref: (a) NAVSEAINST 9096.1 (NOTAL)
(b) NAVSEAINST 9096.3A (NOTAL)
(c) OPNAVINST 9010.300A (NOTAL)
(d) OPNAVINST 4720.93 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To establish policy regarding weight and stability limits of naval ships, service life growth allowances for new ship designs and for control of weight and moment in commissioned ships.

2. Background. Naval ships have been designed to include inherent survivability features necessary for safety in extreme weather conditions and to make them resistant to battle, collision or grounding damage. These features provide sufficient stability, buoyancy and hull girder strength to withstand hazards such as underwater damage, beam winds and heavy seas. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command weight and moment control policy in these areas can be found in references (a) and (b). Inadequate service life growth allowances have resulted in expensive corrective alterations to ships or in the inability to modernize ships through installation of new weapons systems. It is important that the fundamental survivability features be included in the design of Navy ships and maintained throughout their lives.

3. Policy. The Navy's ships will be kept within naval architectural limits to ensure that essential survivability features are maintained. Service life growth allowances will be established and incorporated in the Navy's new ship designs. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command will incline ships provided by the fleet to determine adequately the weight and stability status of naval ships.

4. Action

a. DCNOs (OPs 02, 03 and 05) will:

(1) Ensure that funding is provided for:

(a) Weight and moment compensations or other actions required to adhere to established limits; and

(b) Required inclinings.

(2) Submit for review by the SCIB and approval by the CNO any planned deviation from the approved service life growth

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allowances; and

(3) Submit for review by the SCIB and approval by the CNO any alteration which will cause a ship to exceed naval architectural weight and stability limits. These alterations must be reviewed and recommended by Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command.

b. The Ship Characteristics and Improvement Board (SCIB) will:

(1) Review service life growth allowances established by Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command and recommend approval/disapproval to the Chief of Naval Operations; and

(2) Will report to the CNO the weight and stability status of the fleet and the necessary actions required to maintain a satisfactory condition of weight and stability.

c. Fleet Commanders will:

(1) Stay aware of ship vertical center of gravity and stability limitations at deployment.

(2) Take appropriate action to control unplanned weight growth (i.e., personal effects, stores, etc.).

d. The Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command will:

(1) Establish naval architectural limits.

(2) Establish service life growth allowances for weight and height of center of gravity to be included in new ship designs and ships in service life extension programs (SLEPs) for approval by CNO.

(3) For each ship class keep track of the weight and stability status, limiting draft and other limitations including:

(a) Maintenance of ship configuration records;

(b) Performance of all necessary inclinings and surveys to establish current ship condition; and

(c) Identification of weight and moment compensation necessary to adhere to the established limits.

(4) Provide to Fleet Commanders:

(a) Information necessary for maintaining their ships within established limits and the implications of not doing so; and

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(b) A standardized method of reporting their inability to do so.

(5) Ensure that the Warfighting Improvement Program (WIP) established by reference (c) addresses all actions and funding required to maintain the established limits and allowances for each ship class. Ship alterations are to be strictly controlled as required by reference (d).

(6) Report annually to the Ship Characteristics and Improvement Board (SCIB) on the status of weight and moment control in Navy ships.



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