



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-1000

25 October 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Subject: Final Coordination on At-Sea Environmental Compliance  
Policy

Reference: (a) GC/JAG memorandum of 21 Dec 1999 for Mr. Pirie,  
VADM Natter, and MAJGEN Ayres  
(b) N3/N5 memorandum of 7 Jun 2000 to ASN(I&E)

Enclosure: (1) Draft policy dated 19 Oct 2000

The challenge of conducting realistic, challenging training at sea while ensuring compliance with environmental requirements has continued to grow more difficult. To meet this challenge, last year a JAG/GC working group developed a draft policy governing environmental protection in the conduct of naval exercises and training at sea. The draft policy was designed to facilitate compliance with the law, maintain maximum flexibility, impose a minimum burden for operational commanders, and provide a uniform approach to compliance. Reference (a) forwarded the draft policy to OPNAV and HQ USMC for further distribution and review. Fleet and Marine Corps input was consolidated and provided by reference (b). Since receipt of reference (b), an enlarged work group has worked to reconcile the input from the operating forces, with the original draft. Implementation of the revised document, enclosure (1), will reduce the risk that the Department's critical ability to train at sea could be restricted by litigation or the loss of public confidence, or that commanders will be penalized for non-compliance.

You are requested to distribute enclosure (1) for final review and coordination. Although the fleets and HQMC should be familiar with this draft policy from their previous review, it has not previously been circulated among the systems commands. Systems commands or acquisition proponents that use major training exercises to test or evaluate systems should review paragraph 3.b.(3) of enclosure (1) for its potential affect on those activities.

Please provide comments not later than 13 November 2000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Pirie, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Robert B. Pirie, Jr.