



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 5511.37D  
N3OP

JAN 30 2007

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5511.37D

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: CODE WORD, NICKNAMES, AND EXERCISE TERMINOLOGY SYSTEM

Ref: (a) CJCSM 3150.29B Code Word, Nicknames and Exercise Term System  
(b) JCS PUB 1-03.19 Joint Reporting Structure General Use/Miscellaneous

Encl: (1) Permanent First Word Assignment  
(2) Sample Request Letter

1. Purpose. To issue policy and procedures for nicknames and exercise terminology use by Navy activities.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5511.37C.

3. Discussion. Reference (a) establishes standard administrative policy for the assignment and management of code words, nicknames, and exercise terms. Reference (b) requires establishment of procedures within the Navy for issuance and control of nicknames and exercise terms. This instruction provides nickname and exercise term guidance and the points of contact for code word management.

4. Policy. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (CUSFFC); Commander, Pacific Fleet (CPF); Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (CDRUSNAVEUR) and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command (CDRUSNAVCENT) process nicknames and exercise terms through their respective Combatant Commanders. All other Navy activities will process requests for nickname and exercise term assignments through Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (N3OP). Approved nicknames and exercise terms are located in the Navy sections of the Joint Staff Code Word, Nickname, and Exercise Term (NICKA) data base at the National Military Command Center (NMCC). The system for establishing nicknames and exercise terms is authorized only by the Joint Staff.

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5. Nicknames

- a. A nickname is a combination of two separate unclassified words, assigned an unclassified meaning that is employed for unclassified, administrative, morale, or public information purposes. Nicknames may be assigned to actual, real-world events, projects, movement of forces, or other non-exercise activities. They may involve information of any classification, but the nickname and the description or meaning it represents must be unclassified. A nickname is not designed to achieve a security objective (a compilation of nicknames and representative meanings shall also be unclassified).
- b. Nicknames should not be confused with code words. A code word is a single word assigned a classified meaning by appropriate authority to ensure proper security concerning intentions and to safeguard information pertaining to actual, real-world military plans or operations classified as CONFIDENTIAL or higher once activated. Navy code words are managed by CNO, Special Programs Division (N89) per reference (b). Neither the first nor second word of a nickname may be a code word or be close in spelling or pronunciation to one.

- c. A nickname shall not be used as a substitute for an established procedure set forth in other official publications, such as voice call sign assignment, coordinate identification, or code word assignment.

6. Exercise Terms

- a. An exercise term is a combination of two non-code words, usually unclassified, used exclusively to designate that the test, drill, or exercise it is assigned to is not a real world operation. Exercise terms are used to differentiate exercise directives from actual operations directives. An exercise term and description or meaning it represents can be classified or unclassified. If using classified terms to simulate actual use of Department of Defense code words, follow code word security procedures throughout the planning, preparation, and execution of the test, drill, or exercise to ensure realism.

- b. Classified exercise terms designed to simulate the use of a code word will be used per reference (b).

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7. Procedures

a. Permanent First Word Assignment. Major users are permanently assigned first words in enclosure (1) to avoid duplication. Applicable activities shall use these for all originating nicknames/exercise terms. Authorized Navy first words are chosen from blocks of letters assigned to Navy, listed in enclosure (1). All nicknames which are exercise terms will follow the criteria for propriety given in subparagraph 7d.

b. Requests for first word assignments will be made in writing by the initiating activity (see paragraph 9a) to CNO (N3OP), who will ensure its validity. Nicknames/exercise terms must be approved before use. CNO (N3OP) is the approving authority.

c. Second Word Assignment. The second word is used in combination with the permanently assigned first word to identify a specific nickname/exercise term. Users with first word assignments can suggest a second word to CNO (N3OP) in writing. All second words must be approved by CNO (N3OP) before use. Unlike first words, second words are not restricted by alphabet. The first and second words combined must meet criteria in subparagraph 7d.

d. Criteria for Selecting First and Second Words. Nicknames and exercise terms may not contain words that are in the following categories:

- (1) Close in spelling or pronunciation to a code word.
- (2) Any two-word combination voice call sign found in either JANAP 119 or Allied Communications Pub (ACP) 119.
- (3) Exotic words, expressions, or well-known commercial trademarks.
- (4) Express a degree of aggression inconsistent with traditional American ideals or current foreign policy.
- (5) Convey anything offensive to good taste or derogatory to a particular group, sect, or creed.

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(6) Convey anything offensive to U.S. Allies or other free-world nations.

(7) The words "project," "exercise," or "operation," in combination or alone.

(8) Words that can be used as one or two words, such as "moonlight".

e. Reissuing Nicknames and Exercise Terms. A specific nickname/exercise term may not be used under a different meaning for 2 years after termination by CNO (N3OP). If a project or exercise is reactivated it may be reassigned its original nickname/exercise term upon approval by CNO (N3OP). In such cases, a Roman numeral suffix will be added to the original word combination to indicate reactivation of the nickname/exercise term.

8. Requesting changes. To initiate, cancel, or reactivate a nickname/exercise term, send a written request to CNO (N3OP), through the activity point of contact (see paragraph 9a), using the format in enclosure (2).

9. Responsibilities

a. Commanders requiring regular nickname/exercise term use may request permanent first word assignment. Activities with permanent first words must designate a single point of contact for each first word assignment. The point of contact will:

(1) Process, monitor, and update all nicknames and exercise terms originated by the represented activity. New nicknames/exercise terms will be registered with CNO (N3OP) in writing per enclosure (2), providing the nickname/exercise term, unclassified description, organization code, and a point of contact with phone number. A phone call or e-mail to CNO (N3OP) should be made initially to verify availability of proposed nickname/exercise term, followed by the written request.

(2) Maintain a record of all active nicknames/exercise terms originated by the represented activity for internal control and verification of the NICKA data base.

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(3) Answer the revalidation request initiated by CNO (N3OP) annually.

(4) Serve as the liaison between the represented activity and CNO (N3OP) point of contact.

b. CNO (N3OP) shall:

(1) Review all proposed nicknames/exercise terms, avoiding conflicts between NICKA terms and terms used in JANAP 119, ACP 119, Joint Chiefs of Staff code words and other sources.

(2) Initiate annual review/revalidation of active nicknames/exercise terms to ensure proper registration in the NICKA database.

(3) Authorize final approval for all nicknames/exercise terms.

(4) Coordinate first word assignments by checking through CNO code word officer CNO (N894) to ensure first words do not resemble code words.

(5) Register all approved nicknames/exercise terms in the NICKA data base.

(6) Provide an updated list of Navy nicknames/exercise terms from the NICKA database upon written request.

10. Requests for Meanings of Nicknames and Exercise Terms. Inquiries concerning the classified meaning of a nickname or exercise term should be sent to the office or unit responsible for the program, project, or exercise involved. Major users and their permanent first word assignments are listed in enclosure (1).

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11. Action. Upon receipt of instruction, commanders of activities assigned permanent first words shall forward the name, office code, and phone number of the nickname/exercise term point of contact for each first word, assigned to CNO (N3OP).

*S. J.*

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**PERMANENT FIRST WORD ASSIGNMENT**

<u>NICKNAME FIRST WORD</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
CHAIR	CNR	N
CHALK	CNO N89	A
CHALLENGE	CNO N83	A
CHANNEL	CNO N89	A
CHARADE	CNO N22	A
CHARGER	CNO N86	N
CHECK	NAVCRIMINSERV	N
CHEESE	CNO N2	N
CHERRY	CNO N2	N
CHIPPED	CNO N2	N
CHOCOLATE	CNO N2	N
CHURCH	CNO N095	N
CINNAMON	CNO N23	A
CIRCUIT	CNO N6	A
CITADEL	CNO N09	N
CLAMP	NAVCRIMINSERV	N
CLARINET	CNO N6	A
CLASSIC	COMNETWARCOM	A
CLAYMORE	CNO N871	N
CLIPPER	CNO N30P	A
CLUSTER	ONI	A
GUILDER	CNO N89	A
GULF	CNO N2K	A
GUSTY	CNO N89	A
GYPSY	CNO N89	A
LIBERTY	CNO N30P	A
LIGHTNING	CNO N23	A
LILAC	COMNAVSPSYSCOM	N
LIMIT	CNO N09N2	A
LINEAR	CNO N09N	N
LINK	CNO N89	A
LIQUID	COMSPAWarsyscom	N
OSPREY	CNO N89	A
OUTLAW	CNR	N
OUTPOST	CNO N098	N

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<u>NICKNAME FIRST WORD</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
OVERBID	CNO N3OP	A
OVERTONE	CNO N89	A
OXEN	CNO N87	N
OXIDE	CNO N89	A
OZONE	CNO N89	A
RABBIT	CNO N2K	A
RADIANT	CNO N6F	A
RADIUS	CNO N89	A
RAMPART	CNO NOP	A
RAVEN	CNO N89	A
REEF	CNO N24	A
REGAL	CNO N23	A
RETRACT	CNO N89	A
REWARD	CNO N89	A
RUBY	CNO N89	A

A = Listed first word is active and in use

N = Word is not in use but data can still be retrieved for review

\*Word available for assignment

FIRST WORD BLOCKS ASSIGNED TO NAVY

CG through CL  
GS through GZ  
LG through LL  
OS through OZ  
RA through RF  
RS through RZ

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From: (requesting activity)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N3OP)

Subj: REQUEST FOR NICKNAME (EXERCISE TERM) ASSIGNMENT  
(CANCELLATION/REACTIVATION)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5511.37C

1. Per reference (a), request the following nicknames (exercise terms) be (assigned, canceled, and re-activated):

Nickname (exercise) Description

2. Point of contact is (name, office code, phone number)

Enclosure (2)