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Subpart A—The Department of the Navy

§ 700.101 Origin and authority.

(a) The naval affairs of the country began with the war for independence, the American Revolution. On 13 October 1775, Congress passed legislation forming a committee to purchase and arm two ships. This in effect created the Continental Navy. Two battalions of Marines were authorized on 10 November 1775. Under the Constitution, the First Congress on 7 August 1789, assigned responsibility for the conduct of naval affairs to the War Department. On 30 April 1798, the Congress established a separate Navy Department

with the Secretary of the Navy as its chief officer. On 11 July 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was established as a separate service, and in 1834 was made a part of the Department of the Navy.

(b) The National Security Act of 1947, as amended, is the fundamental law governing the position of the Department of the Navy in the organization for national defense. In 1949, the Act was amended to establish the Department of Defense as an Executive Department, and to establish the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force (formerly established as Executive Departments by the 1947 Act) as military departments within the Department of Defense.

(c) The responsibilities and authority of the Department of the Navy are vested in the Secretary of the Navy, and are subject to his reassignment and delegation. The Secretary is bound by the provisions of law, the direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense, and, along with all Government agencies, the regulations of certain nondefense agencies in their respective areas of functional responsibility.

§ 700.102 Objectives.

The fundamental objectives of the Department of the Navy, within the Department of Defense, are

(a) To organize, train, equip, prepare, and maintain the readiness of Navy and Marine Corps forces for the performance of military missions as directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, and

(b) To support Navy and Marine Corps forces, including the support of such forces and the forces of other military departments, as directed by the Secretary of Defense, which are assigned to unified or specified commands. Support, as here used, includes administrative, personnel, material and fiscal support, and technological support through research and development.

§ 700.103 Composition.

The Department of the Navy is separately organized under the Secretary of the Navy. It operates under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense. It is composed of the

executive part of the Department of the Navy; the Headquarters, United States Marine Corps; the entire operating forces, including naval aviation, of the United States Navy and of the United States Marine Corps, and the reserve components of those operating forces; and all shore activities, headquarters, forces, bases, installations, activities, and functions under the control or supervision of the Secretary of the Navy. It includes the United States Coast Guard when it is operating as a service in the Navy.

§ 700.104 The principal parts of the Department of the Navy.

(a) Functionally, organizationally and geographically the Department of the Navy has from practically the beginning of the Federal Government under the Constitution consisted of three parts: The Operating Forces of the Navy, the Navy Department, and the Shore Establishment.

(b) The operating forces of the Navy comprise the several fleets, sea-going forces, sea-frontier forces, district forces, Fleet Marine Forces, other assigned Marine Corps Forces, the Military Sealift Command, and other forces and activities that may be assigned thereto by the President or the Secretary of the Navy.

(c) The Navy Department refers to the central executive offices of the Department of the Navy located at the seat of the government. The Navy Department is organizationally comprised of the Office of the Secretary of the Navy which includes his Civilian Executive Assistants, Offices of his Assistants, and the headquarters organizations of the Office of Naval Research, the Office of the Judge Advocate General, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Navy; the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, the Headquarters, United States Marine Corps; and, under the command of the Chief of Naval Operations, the Headquarters, Naval Material Command, and the headquarters organizations of the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. In addition, the Headquarters, United States Coast Guard, is included when the United States Coast Guard is operating as a service in the Navy.