

leadership and its relationship to the overall efficiency and readiness of naval forces. A commander shall exercise positive leadership and actively develop the highest qualities of leadership in persons with positions of authority and responsibility throughout his command.

(c) Subject to orders of higher authority, a commander shall issue such regulations and instructions as may be necessary for the proper administration and operation of his command.

(d) A commander shall hold the same relationship to his flagship, or to a shore activity of his command in which his headquarters may be located, in regard to its internal administration and discipline, as to any other ship or shore activity of his command.

§ 700.603 To announce assumption of command.

Upon assuming command, a commander shall so advise appropriate superiors, and the units of his command. When appropriate to his command he shall also advise the senior commanders of other United States armed services and officials of other Federal agencies and foreign governments located within the area encompassed by his command, concerning his assumption of command.

§ 700.604 Readiness.

A commander shall take all practicable steps to maintain his command in a state of readiness to perform its mission. In conformity with the orders and policies of higher authority, he shall:

(a) Organize the forces and resources under his command and assign duties to his principal subordinate commanders.

(b) Prepare plans for the employment of his forces to meet existing and foreseeable situations.

(c) Collaborate with the commanders of other United States armed services and with appropriate officials of other Federal agencies and foreign governments located within the area encompassed by his command.

(d) Maintain effective intelligence and keep himself informed of the political and military aspects of the national and international situation.

(e) Make, or cause to be made, such inspections as necessary to ensure the readiness, effectiveness, and efficiency of the components of his command.

§ 700.605 Observance of international law.

At all times a commander shall observe, and require his command to observe, the principles of international law. Where necessary to fulfillment of this responsibility, a departure from other provisions of Navy Regulations is authorized.

Subpart G—The Commanding Officer

§ 700.701 Applicability.

In addition to commanding officers, the provisions of this chapter shall apply, where pertinent, to aircraft commanders, officers in charge (including warrant officers and petty officers when so detailed) and those persons standing the command duty.

§ 700.702 Responsibility.

(a) The responsibility of the commanding officer for his command is absolute, except when, and to the extent, relieved therefrom by competent authority, or as provided otherwise in these regulations. The authority of the commanding officer is commensurate with his responsibility. While he may, at his discretion, and when not contrary to law or regulations, delegate authority to his subordinates for the execution of details, such delegation of authority shall in no way relieve the commanding officer of his continued responsibility for the safety, well-being, and efficiency of his entire command.

(b) A commanding officer who departs from his orders or instructions, or takes official action which is not in accordance with such orders or instructions, does so upon his own responsibility and shall report immediately the circumstances to the officer from whom the prior orders or instructions were received.

(c) The commanding officer shall be responsible for economy within his command. To this end he shall require from his subordinates a rigid compliance with the regulations governing