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Don Hume

OPNAV 94-P-3

MERINT REPORTING PROCEDURE



THE SEA WATCH

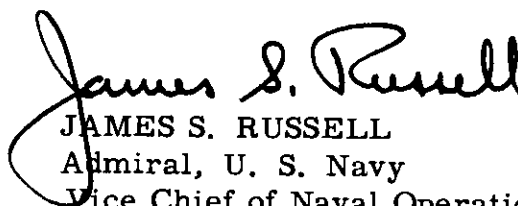
Introduction

The meaning of Wendell Phillips' words, "Eternal Vigilance is the price of Liberty", never had greater import than now, one of history's most suspenseful eras. This is especially true on the broad seas surrounding the North American continent. Over, under, and on these seas, the missiles, aircraft, submarines and surface ships of our potential enemies can carry the attack to our very shores unless we have adequate warning. Vigilance is the key to such warning. But vigilance alone is not sufficient. The word must be passed.

As a means of promoting vigilance and thus extending the early warning coverage for the defense of the North American continent, the U. S. Navy enlists your support, in reporting air and seaborne traffic headed toward the North American continent and which appears to be hostile, suspicious, or is not identified.

MERINT defines the specific types of traffic to report and when to report it--certain sightings are reported while at sea, and others upon landing.

Your report may constitute the first warning of an enemy approach. In preparing for your job, study this booklet carefully. Carry it with you and refer to it frequently.


JAMES S. RUSSELL
Admiral, U. S. Navy
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

JULY 1959

Foreword

1. This pamphlet is designed to familiarize masters of merchant ships and fishing vessels and radio officers with the procedures for reporting vital intelligence sightings. The reports are desired for early warning in defense of the North American Continent, United States and Canadian Territories and Possessions. Timely receipt of reports of sightings will enable military forces to take prompt defensive or investigative action.
2. This pamphlet is effective for peacetime use only. MERINT reporting procedures will be discontinued immediately upon a declaration of emergency and assumption of Naval Control of Shipping. The procedures for the reporting of vital intelligence sightings contained herein are essentially those being used by the military services.
3. Communication service charges incurred in handling MERINT reports through U. S. facilities will be charged to the U. S. Navy. MERINT reports so handled will be forwarded RAPID U. S. GOVT COLLECT. Communication service charges incurred in handling MERINT reports through Canadian facilities will be charged to the Royal Canadian Navy. MERINT reports so handled will be forwarded RUSH COLLECT. In no case should MERINT reports be delayed because of communication charges. Additional charges incurred in handling MERINT reports are chargeable in accordance with regulations issued for this purpose in Department of the Navy OpNav Instruction 3840.6.
4. Masters and Radio Officers of merchant ships and fishing vessels are encouraged to submit comments and recommendations pertinent to the procedures and their application, as contained herein, to the Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy, Washington 25, D.C.

M E R I N T

What is MERINT

MERINT is a procedure for reporting vital intelligence sightings from waterborne sources.

Why

To extend the early warning coverage for Defense of the North American Continent.

Who reports

1. U. S. and Canadian Flag ships.
2. Fishing vessels of U. S. and Canadian registry.
3. U. S. and Canadian government ships where civil communication facilities provide the only means of passing vital intelligence to U. S. or Canadian military authorities.
4. U. S. and Canadian military ships not covered by separate instructions.

When to report

(1) IMMEDIATELY (Unless within territorial waters of other nations as prescribed by International law. Exceptions - Canada and Greenland)

(2) When the situation changes sufficiently to warrant an amplifying report.

(3) In the event a MERINT report cannot be made by radio, the Master should report the details of the MERINT sighting to the appropriate U. S. or Canadian military or consular authorities. This report should be submitted immediately upon arrival in port by any available means.

How to report

1. To ensure expeditious transmission, radiotelephone should be used whenever practicable. Use communication procedures as described on page six of this pamphlet.

2. When transmitting MERINT reports by radiotelephone, use "MARINE FLASH" to clear circuit. The international urgency signal (PAN PAN PAN) may be used as an alternate to clear circuit. Use the priority indicator "PRIORITY 2 - EMERGENCY." Transmission of MERINT radiotelegraph reports will be preceded by "MERINT MERINT MERINT." Use the priority indicator "RAPID U.S. GOVT" for radiotelegraph messages sent to U.S. communication facilities and the priority indicator "RUSH" for radiotelegraph messages sent to Canadian communication facilities.

3. Send MERINT reports in plain language to any U. S. or Canadian military, government, or commercial radio station.

(a) When sent to a U. S. coastal station, address to one of the following nearest that station:

<u>Navy Command</u>	<u>Cable Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
COMMANDER ANTI-SUBMARINE DEFENSE FORCE, NAVAL BASE, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	COMASDEFORLANT NORVA.	NORFOLK MADISON 2-8211
COMMANDER WESTERN SEA FRONTIER, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA	COMWESTSEAFRON NAVY, SFRAN	SAN FRANCISCO, EXBROOK 2-3931

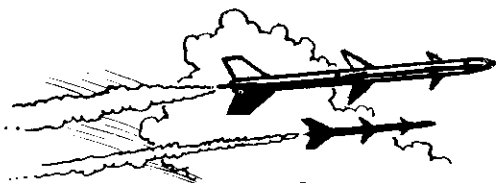
(b) When sent to a Canadian coastal station, address to one of the following nearest that station:

<u>Navy Command</u>	<u>Cable Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
CANADIAN FLAG OFFICER HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA	NAVYCHARGE HALIFAX	HALIFAX 31161
CANADIAN FLAG OFFICER ESQUIMALT, BRITISH COLUMBIA	NAVYCHARGE ESQUIMALT	ESQUIMALT 29211

Radiotelephone reports may be made by direct connection to any of the above through commercial shore radiotelephone stations.

What to report

Report all airborne and waterborne objects which appear hostile, suspicious, or unidentified. Examples:



1. Guided Missiles



2. Unidentified Flying Objects



3. Submarines



4. Surface warships positively identified as not U. S. or Canadian



5. Aircraft or contrails which appear to be directed against the UNITED STATES, CANADA, their territories or possessions.

Do not report

(a) Surface craft or aircraft in normal passage.

(b) Known U. S. or Canadian military ships including submarines.

(c) Known U. S. or Canadian Government ships.

(d) Known U. S. or Canadian Military aircraft.

Contents of Reports

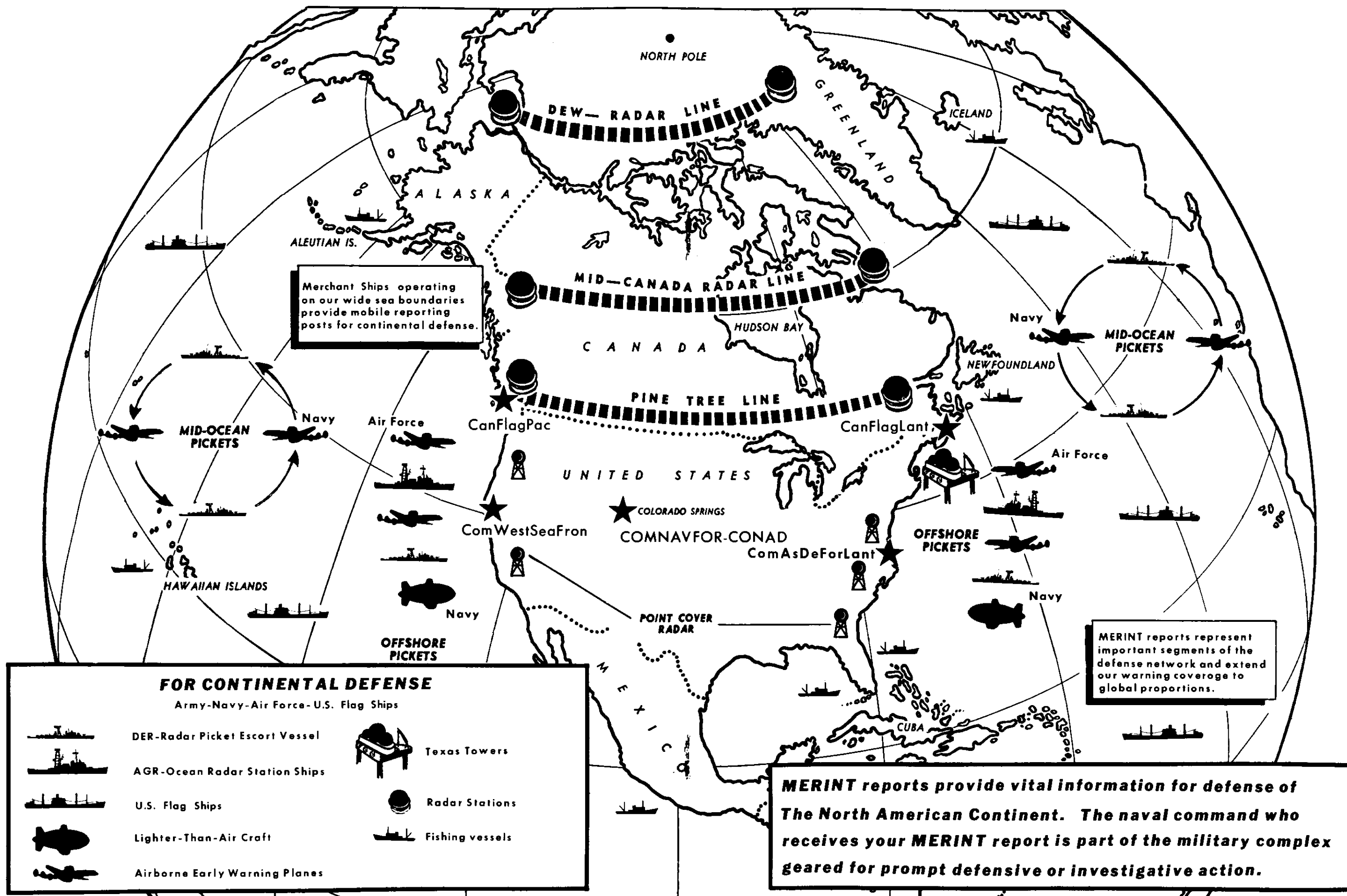
MERINT reports shall contain the following as applicable, in the order listed:

- (1) "MERINT" is always the first word of the text.
- (2) Name and signal letters of reporting ship.
- (3) Object sighted. Give brief description of the sighting which should contain the following items as appropriate.
 - (a) Number of aircraft, vessels, missiles, etc.
 - (b) Category of object, general description e.g. size, shape, type of propulsion, etc.
- (4) Ship's position at time of sighting.
- (5) Date and time of sighting (GMT).
- (6) Altitude of object expressed as low, medium, or high (if applicable).
- (7) Direction of travel of object.
- (8) Speed of object.
- (9) Any observed identification, insignia, or other significant information.
- (10) Condition of sea and weather.

Every effort shall be made to obtain a reply from receiving station to insure that message has been received.

- NOTES:
1. Do not delay reporting MERINT sightings due to lack of data for any of the above items.
 2. Pads of forms for easy reporting are furnished with this pamphlet.

M E R I N T - TEAMWORK IN DEFENSE OF A CONTINENT



Types of Reports

a. MERINT reports - Initial sighting report.

b. AMPLIFYING report - Additional information that becomes available to any "MERINT" observer and is of importance.

c. CANCELLATION report - When a MERINT report is nullified by a subsequent observation a CANCELLATION report should be made.

Examples by Type

a. Merint Report

(1) A radiotelephone transmission to U. S. commercial communication facilities:

MARINE FLASH
THIS IS WHISKEY QUEBEC UNIFORM OSCAR CALLING KILO
MIKE INDIA OVER

(WHISKEY QUEBEC UNIFORM OSCAR THIS IS KILO MIKE
INDIA OVER)

THIS IS WHISKEY QUEBEC UNIFORM OSCAR - PRIORITY 2

EMERGENCY

COLLECT CALL TO COMMANDER WESTERN SEA FRONTIER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
EXBROOK 2-3931

MERINT HAWAIIAN FARMER
WHISKEY QUEBEC UNIFORM OSCAR TWO SUBMARINES 3205N
13520W 211615GMT EAST 8 KNOTS ON SURFACE NOT
FLYING COLORS DIVED ON APPROACHING OVER

(2) A radiotelephone transmission to Canadian Department
of Transport Coastal Station:

MARINE FLASH
THIS IS KILO WHISKEY ECHO NOVEMBER CALLING VICTOR
BRAVO QUEBEC OVER

(KILO WHISKEY ECHO NOVEMBER THIS IS VICTOR BRAVO
QUEBEC OVER)

THIS IS KILO WHISKEY ECHO NOVEMBER PRIORITY 2
EMERGENCY

COLLECT CALL TO CANADIAN FLAG OFFICER HALIFAX NOVA
SCOTIA - HALIFAX 31161 MERINT SS EXMINSTER KILO
WHISKEY ECHO NOVEMBER PASSED UNKNOWN SUB DISTANCE
APPROX 4 MILES 4527N 3909 W 081440GMT COURSE NW SPEED
12 MEN ON DECK DIVED ON ATTEMPT TO CLOSE OVER

(3) A radiotelegraph transmission to U. S. commercial
communication facilities:

MERINT MERINT MERINT WSL DE KLHA K

(KLHA DE WSL K)

WSL DE KLHA
RAPID US GOVT COLLECT
COMASDEFORLANT, NORVA.
MERINT ESSO ZURICH KLHA THREE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING
OBJECTS 2626N 4510W 211513GMT HIGH HEADED WSW CIGAR
SHAPED WITH STUB WINGS VISIBILITY UNLIMITED JONES

(4) A radiotelegraph transmission to Canadian Department
of Transport Coastal Station:

MERINT MERINT MERINT VAI DE KVVH K

(KVVH DE VAI K)

VAI DE KVVH
RUSH COLLECT
NAVYCHARGE ESQUIMALT
MERINT SS SONOMA KILO VICTOR VICTOR HOTEL SIX JET
BOMBERS 45N 135W 141502GMT HEADED SE HIGH WITH
CONTRAILS SPEED ABOUT 500 MPH NO IDENTIFICATION
BROKEN CLOUDS SMITH

MERINT Report Form MRF-1

MERINT

(Name of Ship)

(Signal Letters)

Number of objects Sighted	General Description e.g. size, color shape	Type of Object (Aircraft: jet or propeller; single or multi-engine); balloon; missile; unknown object - describe; submarine(s); Foreign Warship(s)	If Submarine: Status (submerged, surfaced, snorkeling)	Own Ship's Position at time of Sighting	Date and Time of Sighting	If Airborne Objects: Altitude expressed as low, medium, or high	Objects course and speed	Observed Identification, Insignia, or other significant information	Condition of sea and weather	Special Remarks for record only	
										Date and Time Report Made	If Report not made state reason

Instructions for use of MERINT report form.

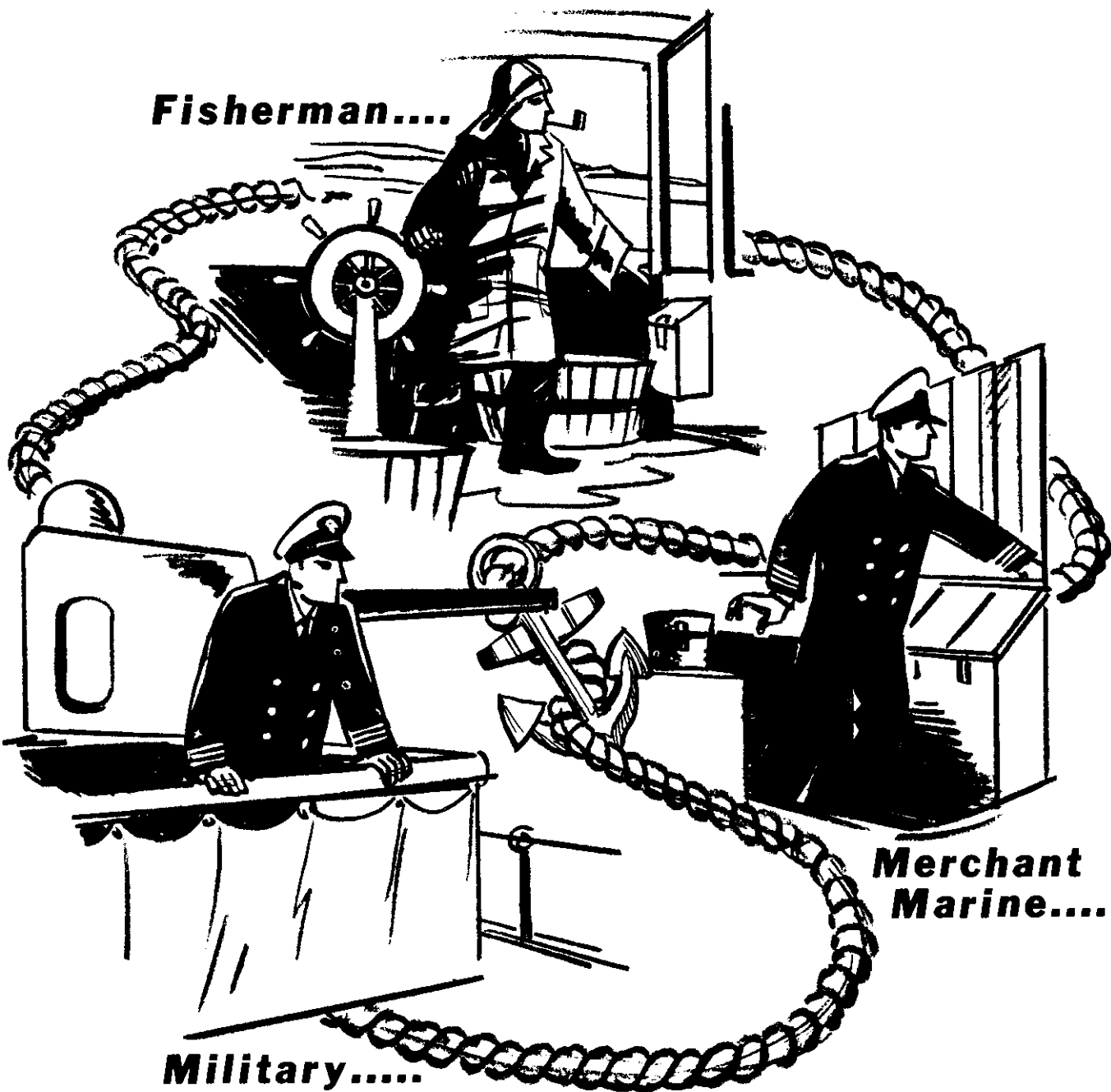
1. RADIOTELEPHONE
ALL SIGHTINGS. Call any available Marine Operator as follows:
 "MARINE FLASH - THIS IS (OWN SIGNAL LETTERS) CALLING (Marine Operator)." When operator answers, "THIS IS (Own Signal Letters) - PRIORITY 2 EMERGENCY - COLLECT CALL TO" - read off message from this form. Do not hang up until you receive acknowledgement.

2. RADIOTELEGRAPH
ALL SIGHTINGS. MERINT reports must be passed through the fastest means available to you, including the U. S. Coast Guard on 500 KCS. Your transmission will begin with the word "MERINT", transmitted 3 times. If this does not immediately clear the channel you may then transmit the urgency signal 3 times and proceed with transmission of your message. Use separate sheet for each report.

*MERINT reporting will be discontinued immediately upon a declaration of emergency and assumption of Naval Control of Shipping

The Sea Watch.....

Fisherman....



**Merchant
Marine....**

Military.....

United For Security

