

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, PACIFIC AREA
FORT MASON
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

MSTSPAC 3360.2A
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19 January 1961

MSTSPAC INSTRUCTION 3360.2A

From: Commander Military Sea Transportation Service, Pacific Area
To: Distribution List

Subj: Unidentified or hostile submarine contacts; peacetime reporting procedures for (u)

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 3840.6A (Reporting of Vital Intelligence Sightings from Seaborne Sources) (Short Title - MERINT)
(b) MERINT Reporting procedure (OPNAV 94-P-3)
(c) MERINT Radiotelephone Procedure Poster (OPNAV 94-P-3A)
(d) MERINT Report Form MRF-1 (OPNAV 94-P-3C)
(e) JANAP 146 (D), Canadian-U. S. Communication Instructions for reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings
(f) ~~CENCPACFLT Instruction 03360.2E~~
COMASWFORPAC INSTR 03360.2

1. Purpose. The purpose of this instruction is to clarify procedure applicable to MSTS ships in reporting unidentified or hostile submarines in the Pacific Ocean and contiguous waters under other than wartime conditions.

2. Cancellation. MSTSPAC Instruction 3360.2 is hereby superseded and canceled.

3. Information. Pursuant to a directive in reference (a), Commander Military Sea Transportation Service distributed references (b), (c), and (d) to MSTS ships in-service (USNS). These publications provide simplified instructions and material for reporting intelligence information under joint U. S. and Canadian procedures established by reference (e). COMSTSPACAREA has obtained and will distribute additional copies of references (b), (c), and (d) as necessary.

4. Directive.

a. Commissioned ships (USS) under the administrative control of COMSTSPACAREA shall be governed by the effective edition of reference (f).

b. In-service ships (USNS) shall utilize MERINT procedures prescribed by reference (b) in reporting unidentified or hostile submarines. In addition to addressees prescribed by reference (b), Commander Anti-submarine Defense Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet (COMASWFORPAC) shall be made an information addressee on initial reports of submarine contact.

c. All ships shall use utmost care in identifying contacts as a submarine prior to transmitting a report. Erroneous reports can result in unnecessary and expensive investigative searches. It is reasonable to assume that any submarine desiring to evade closer observation can do

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so. Ship's "hull down," small surface craft in the trough of a swell, whales and floating debris frequently are mistaken for submarines. Watch personnel should be required to review recognition manuals periodically to minimize cases of mistaken identity.

d. In addition to message reports prescribed by subparagraphs a. and b. above, all ships shall submit an amplifying letter report of unidentified or hostile submarine contacts, original to COMSTSPACAREA with copies to CINCPACFLT and appropriate Sea Frontier or Naval Force Commander.

E. B. McKINNEY

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