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LIFEBOAT LAUNCHING PROCEDURES

This pamphlet is an excerpt from COMSTSINST 12410.1A (Lifeboat Training Guide). It has been prepared as a handout for all shipboard personnel, to stress the importance of following boat commands and knowing the step-by-step procedure for launching lifeboats.

Only by following the proper procedure may lifeboats be launched quickly and safely.

INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR LAUNCHING LIFEBOATS UNDER GRAVITY DAVITS

Signal - More than six short blasts followed by one long blast on the ship's whistle and the same signal on the general alarm bells, followed by PA announcement in ships so equipped.

LIFEBOAT LAUNCHING PROCEDURES

<u>COMMAND</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>KEY POINTS</u>
PA announcement: "All hands report to boat stations. All passengers don life jackets and report to their abandon ship stations."	Crew and passengers muster at abandon ship stations; boat commander inspects life jackets and attire; a supply of six to eight blankets is delivered to each boat by steward department personnel.	Crew members muster at the location of their duties at assigned boat station, as at forward davit, frapping line tenders on embarkation deck, etc.
"Prepare for launching"	<p>a. Bow and stern tenders board boats, remove boat covers and strongbacks, hand test release hooks by pulling on fall links, check release hooks and lever, check and clear suspension and tricing pendants and trip hooks, let go top gripes, assist in clearing main gripes, close boat drains, and free manropes.</p> <p>b. Davit men aid in removing boat covers, let go and clear the main gripes and stopper bars.</p> <p>c. Rail and ladder tenders lower embarkation ladder.</p>	<p>The release hooks and lever must be in their closed and locked position and the suspension pendants and their trip hooks properly secured in the top boat. Boat Commander must assure himself that release hooks and lever are properly secured before letting go main gripes.</p> <p>Gripes are generally lowered to the deck to keep boats clear for passengers.</p> <p>In some ships, davit men also handle this duty.</p>
"Lead out the sea painter"	Bow tender passes it to the sea painter tender, who leads it well forward and secures it.	It is led outboard of everything but the boat falls.

"Swing out boats"

Boat commander first orders the bow and stern tenders of the bottom boat of nested boats out before lowering. They remain in single boats. Winchman slowly raises brake lever to let the davits and boats roll down the trackways and ease up to the outboard stoppers in full outboard position. Bow and stern tenders of single of top boats drop manropes over inboard side.

Bow and stern tenders leave bottom boats of nested boats before lowering in order to avoid injury if the boats swing as they separate during lowering. The davits must not be permitted to hit the outboard stoppers but should be eased up to them and stopped momentarily.

"Lower to embarkation deck"

Winchman again raises brake lever to lower boat to embarkation deck. Bow and stern tenders of single boats clear and tend tricing pendants. Winchman follows boat commander's orders to stop the boat within a foot of the ship's side.

Slacking the falls too much would put the boat's full weight on the tricing pendants.

"Frappin in"

Bow and stern tenders of bottom boat of nested boats board and assure that the wire frapping lines are shackled or hooked onto the falls, with sister hooks moused where used, and frapping line tenders haul taut and secure.

If not taut, boat will swing excessively.

"Trip tricing pendants"

Bow and stern tenders sit down and trip tricing pendant hooks one at a time.

Tricing pendant trip hooks must be arranged so they can be tripped from within the boat.

"Close boat drains"

If not previously closed, boat drains are now closed. In any event, they are checked.

Boat drain tenders board the boat, check and close drains. Where not designated, this is done by bow and stern tenders.

"Boat crew, man your boat"	Boat is prepared for passengers. Steering oar is shipped, thwarts are adjusted, and propeller gear pulling handles inserted.	Thwarts must be properly adjusted so they will not collapse.
"Passengers embark"	Passengers are assisted aboard and directed to seats.	All must sit down promptly.
Signal - A short blast on the ship's whistle directs boat commanders to lower their boats when ready for launching.		
"Lower away"	Boat is lowered to water. Winchman raises brake lever and follows boat commander's lowering instructions. Frapping lines are kept taut; a strain is kept on the sea painter, and crew members fend off.	Boats are lowered in order, according to a prearranged plan - generally with the after boats first then the boats next forward, etc. in order to avoid fouling. The stern tender guards the release lever to avoid accidental dropping of the boat.
"Release the falls"		
	Stern tender removes safety toggle pin, lifts releasing lever and rotates it to the opposite side, releasing the fall blocks. Frapping line tenders haul falls in to ship's side quickly to avoid the blocks hitting persons in the boat.	This command is given as soon as the boat is waterborne in calm water or before fully waterborne in a seaway.
"Cast off"	The sea painter is cast off, the bow is shoved off, boat commander gives necessary oar commands to get underway, and uses steering oar to clear ship's side.	The boat is gotten clear of the ship's side as soon as possible. With way on, the sea painter is used to sheer off.

LAUNCHING TOP BOAT OF NESTED BOATS

"Heave up the falls"

The winchman turns the emergency disconnect switch to "ON" and the operating switch to "HOIST" to bring the falls up with the winch to a position slightly below the release hooks in the upper boat.

Before turning power on, make sure the winch is clear. The quick return hand wheel may be used to recover the falls in event of a power failure. Don't raise the falls too high or they will have to be hauled down manually.

"Hook on the falls"

The bottom chain link of each fall block is hooked onto the boat's release hooks by the bow and stern tenders.

Carefully check the release hooks and lever for normal closed and locked position.

"Take up the slack"

The slack in the falls is taken up by means of the quick return hand wheel on the winch.

In event of a power failure the load can now be transferred to the falls by tripping the suspension-pendant trip hooks.

"Trip suspension-pendant trip hooks"

Bow and stern tenders pull the safety toggle pins and trip the suspension-pendant trip hooks to transfer the load to the falls.

Suspension pendants are tripped one at a time to lessen the boat's jerking.

"Let go suspension pendants"

Bow and stern tenders unshackle the bottom shackle on each suspension-pendant trip hook to cast off the suspension pendants and their trip hooks.

With power on the winch, the falls may be hove up until the suspension pendants are slack enough to unshackle, thus avoiding the necessity for tripping the suspension pendant trip hooks.

"Attach tricing pendants"

Bow and stern tenders attach the short tricing pendants to the tricing pendant trip hooks on the boat fall blocks.

Where a new single tricing pendant is used, attachment is made to a ring at its middle.

"Lower to boat deck"

Same as for the bottom boat except the frapping line tenders secure their frapping lines and board the boat before it is lowered and sea painter tender and winchman board via the embarkation ladder.

The top boat is triced in to the boat deck.

Signals - Two short blasts on the ship's whistle - stop lowering boats.

A short, a long, and a short blast of the ship's whistle (international code signal "R") - recall and recover boats.

Three short blasts of the ship's whistle and the same signal on the general alarm bells followed by PA announcement in ships so equipped - dismissal from any or all drills.