



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 5211.6A
N3N5
11 Aug 2023

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5211.6A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: CODE WORD, NICKNAMES AND EXERCISE TERMINOLOGY SYSTEM

Ref: (a) CJCSM 3150.29E

Encl: (1) Permanent First Word Assignment
(2) First Word Blocks Assigned to Navy
(3) Sample Request and Justification Letter

1. Purpose. To issue policy and procedures for nicknames and exercise terminology used by Navy activities. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5211.6.
3. Scope and Applicability. The provisions of this instruction apply to all Navy activities under the command of Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).
4. Discussion. Reference (a) establishes standard administrative policy for the assignment and management of code words, nicknames and exercise terms. This instruction provides nickname and exercise term guidance and the points of contact for code word management.
5. Policy. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Commander, Pacific Fleet; Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command; and Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command process nicknames and exercise terms through their respective combatant commanders. All other Navy activities must process requests for nickname and exercise term assignments through the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Operation and Plans (OPNAV N3). Approved nicknames and exercise terms are located in the Navy sections of the Joint Staff Code Word, Nickname and Exercise Term System (NICKA) database at the National Military Command Center. The system for establishing nicknames and exercise terms is authorized only by the Joint Staff. NICKA references can be found on the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET) <https://www.gmc.nmcc.smil.mil/jopes/nicka/>.
6. Nicknames.
 - a. A nickname is a combination of two separate unclassified words, assigned an unclassified meaning that is employed for unclassified, administrative, morale or public information purposes. The first word of the nickname or exercise term must begin with one of the combination letters of the alphabet assigned, per enclosure (1). Nicknames may be assigned to

actual, real-world events, projects, movement of forces or other non-exercise activities. They may involve information of any classification, but the nickname and the description or meaning it represents must be unclassified. A nickname is not designed to achieve a security objective (a compilation of nicknames and representative meanings must also be unclassified).

b. Nicknames should not be confused with code words. A code word is a single word assigned a classified meaning by appropriate authority to ensure proper security concerning intentions and to safeguard information pertaining to actual, real-world military plans or operations classified as confidential or higher, once activated. Navy code words are managed by Director, Special Programs Division (OPNAV N9SP), per reference (a). Neither the first nor second word of a nickname may be a code word or be close in spelling or pronunciation to one.

c. A nickname must not be used as a substitute for an established procedure set forth in other official publications, such as voice call sign assignment, coordinate identification or code word assignment.

7. Exercise Terms. An exercise term is a combination of two words that are selected using the same criteria as a nickname. Two non-code words, usually unclassified, used exclusively to designate that the test, drill or exercise they are assigned to is not a real world operation. Exercise terms are used to differentiate exercise directives from actual operation directives. An exercise term and description or meaning it represents can be classified or unclassified. If using classified exercise terms to simulate actual use of Department of Defense code words, follow code word security procedures throughout the planning, preparation and execution of the test, drill or exercise to ensure realism.

8. Procedures.

a. Permanent First Word Assignment. Major users are permanently assigned first words in enclosure (1) to avoid duplication. Applicable activities must use these for all originating nicknames and exercise terms. Authorized Navy first words are chosen from blocks of letters assigned to Navy, listed in enclosure (1). All nicknames which are exercise terms will follow the criteria for propriety given in subparagraph 7d.

b. Requests for First Word Assignments. Requests for first word assignments will be made in writing by the initiating activity (see subparagraph 8a) to OPNAV N3, who will ensure its validity in conjunction with the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and Joint Staff Support Center. Nicknames and exercise terms must be approved before use. The Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center) are the approving authority.

c. Second Word Assignment. The second word is used in combination with the permanently assigned first word to identify a specific nickname or exercise term. Users with first word assignments can suggest a second word to OPNAV N3 in writing. All second words must be approved by the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center) before use. Unlike

first words, second words are not restricted by alphabet. The first and second words combined must meet criteria in subparagraph 7d.

d. Criteria for Selecting First and Second Words. Nicknames and exercise terms must not contain words that are in the categories listed subparagraphs 7d(1) through 7d(8).

(1) Close in spelling or pronunciation to a code word.

(2) Any two-word combination voice call sign found in Joint Army, Navy, Air Force Publication (JANAP) 119, Joint Voice Call Sign Book.

(3) Exotic words, trite expressions or well-known commercial trademarks.

(4) Express a degree of aggression inconsistent with traditional American ideals or current foreign policy.

(5) Convey anything offensive to good taste or derogatory to a particular group, sect or creed.

(6) Convey anything offensive to U.S. Allies or other free-world nations.

(7) The words "project", "exercise" or "operation" in combination or alone.

(8) Words that can be used as one or two words, such as "moonlight."

e. Reissuing Nicknames and Exercise Terms. A specific nickname or exercise term may not be used under a different meaning for 2 years after termination by OPNAV N3. If a project or exercise is reactivated it may be reassigned its original nickname or exercise term upon approval by the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center). In such cases, a Roman numeral suffix will be added to the original word combination to indicate reactivation of the nickname or exercise term.

f. Requesting Changes. To initiate, cancel or reactivate a nickname or exercise term, send a written request to OPNAV N3 through the activity point of contact (POC) (see subparagraph 8a) using the format in enclosure (2).

9. Responsibilities.

a. OPNAV N3 must:

(1) Forward all proposed nicknames and exercise terms to the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center) for review, avoiding conflicts between NICKA terms and terms used in JANAP 119.

(2) Coordinate first word assignments via the CNO code word officer OPNAV N9SP, to ensure first words do not resemble code words.

(3) Provide word assignments to the Joint Staff (DISA and Joint Staff Support Center) for registration of all approved nicknames and exercise terms into the NICKA database.

(4) Provide an updated list of Navy nicknames and exercise terms from the NICKA database upon written request.

b. Commanders requiring regular nickname or exercise term use may request permanent first word assignment. Activities with permanent first words must designate a single POC for each first word assignment.

(1) Upon receipt of instruction, commanders of activities assigned permanent first words must forward the name, office code and phone number of the nickname and exercise term POC for each first word assigned to OPNAV N3.

(2) Process, monitor and update all nicknames and exercise terms originated by the represented activity. New nicknames and exercise terms will be registered with the Joint Staff Support Center via CNO N3 in writing per enclosure (2). Provide the nickname and exercise term, unclassified description, organization code and a POC with phone number. Send an initial e-mail to CNO N3 to verify availability of proposed nickname or exercise term, followed by the written request. POCs can be found on SIPRNET at <https://www.gmc.nmcc.smil.mil/jopes/nicka/>.

(3) Maintain a record of all active nicknames and exercise terms originated by the represented activity for internal control and verification of the NICKA database.

(4) Answer the revalidation request initiated by OPNAV N3 annually.

(5) Serve as the liaison between the represented activity and the OPNAV N3 POC.

10. Requests for Meanings of Nicknames and Exercise Terms. Inquiries concerning the classified meaning of a nickname or exercise term should be sent to the office or unit responsible for the program, project or exercise involved. Major users and their permanent first word assignments are listed in enclosure (1).

11. Records Management.

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy (DON) Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division

portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the OPNAV Records Management Program (DNS-16).

11. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, OPNAV N3N5 will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1.



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Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via Department of the Navy Issuances website, <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/default.aspx>.

PERMANENT FIRST WORD ASSIGNMENT

<u>NICKNAME FIRST WORD</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
CHAIR	CNO N095/NAVRES	N
CHALK	OPNAV N9SP	A
CHALLENGE	OPNAV N81	A
CHAMELEON	OPNAV N9SP	A
CHANDELIER	OPNAV N9SP	A
CHANGELING	OPNAV N9SP	A
CHANNEL	OPNAV N9SP	A
CHARADE	OPNAV N2N6I	A
CHARGER	OPNAV N96	N
CHARISMA	OPNAV N9SP	A
CHECK	CNO N09N/NCIS	N
CHEESE	CNO N2N6	N
CHERRY	CNO N2N6	N
CHIPPED	ONI	A
CHOCOLATE	OPNAV N2N6C	A
CHROMATIC	ONI	A
CHURCH	CNO N095/NAVRES	N
CINNAMON	OPNAV N2N6I	A
CIRCUIT	CNO N2N6	A
CITADEL	CNO N09	N
CLAMP	CNO N09N/NCIS	N
CLARINET	CNO N2N6	A
CLASSIC	OPNAV N2N6W	A
CLAYMORE	OPNAV N971	N
CLIPPER	OPNAV N3	A
CLUSTER	ONI	N
GUILDER	OPNAV N9SP	A
GULF	DUSN (P)	A
GUSTY	OPNAV N9SP	A
GYPSY	OPNAV N9SP	A
LIBERTY	OPNAV N3	N
LIGHTNING	OPNAV N2N6C	N
LILAC	COMNAVSUPSYSCOM	N
LIME	ONI	A
LIMIT	DUSN (P)	A
LINEAR	CNO N09N/NCIS	N
LINK	OPNAV N9SP	A
LION	ONI	A
LIQUID	COMNAVWARCOM	N
OSMOSIS	OPNAV N9SP	A

<u>NICKNAME FIRST WORD</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
OSPREY	OPNAV N9SP	A
OUTLAW	CNO N095/NAVRES	N
OUTPOST	OPNAV N84	N
OVERBID	OPNAV N3	N
OVERTONE	OPNAV N9SP	A
OXEN	OPNAV N9SP	A
OXIDE	OPNAV N9SP	A
OZONE	OPNAV N9SP	A
RABBIT	CNO N09G/NAVIG	N
RADIANT	OPNAV N2N6I	A
RADIUS	OPNAV N9SP	A
RAIDER	OPNAV N2N6C	A
RAVEN	OPNAV N9SP	A
RECONCILE	OPNAV N9SP	A
REEF	OPNAV N2N6I	A
REGAL	OPNAV N2N6I	A
REPROACH	OPNAV N9SP	A
REMNANT	OPNAV N9SP	A
RENEGADE	OPNAV N9SP	A
RETRACT	OPNAV N9SP	A
RETRIEVER	OPNAV N9SP	A
REWARD	OPNAV N9SP	A
RUBY	OPNAV N9SP	A

A = Listed first word is active and in use

N = Word not in use but data can be retrieved for review

* Word available for assignment

NOTE: COMNAVSUPSYSCOM: Commander Naval Supply Systems Command
 COMNAVWARCOM: Commander Naval Information Warfare Systems Command
 DUSN (P): Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Policy)
 ONI: Office of Naval Intelligence
 CNO N09: Vice Chief of Naval Operations
 CNO N09G/NAVIG: Naval Inspector General
 CNO N09N/NCIS: Director, Naval Criminal Investigate Service
 CNO N095/NAVRES: Chief of Navy Reserve
 OPNAV N84: Director, Test & Evaluation, Technology, Requirements
 CNO N2N6: Deputy CNO for Information Dominance
 OPNAV N2N6C: Deputy Director, Naval Intelligence
 OPNAV N2N6I: Director, Warfighting Integration
 OPNAV N2N6W: Director Crypto-Electronic and Cyber Warfare
 OPNAV N3: Director, Ops & Plans

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OPNAV N81: Director, Assessments
OPNAV N9SP: Director, Special Programs
OPNAV N96: Director, Surface Warfare
OPNAV N97: Director, Undersea Warfare
OPNAV N971: Sea Base Strategic Deterrence

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FIRST WORD BLOCKS ASSIGNED TO NAVY

CG through CL
GS through GZ
LG through LL
OS through OZ
RA through RF
RS through RZ

SAMPLE REQUEST AND JUSTIFICATION LETTER

PROJECT NICKNAME: (U), (C), (S) “NICKA NAME REQUESTED”

UNCLASSIFIED MEANING: Explain

CLASSIFIED MEANING: If applicable

PROJECT DETAILS: (e.g., Gathering intel to determine an effective way of training.)

CURRENT STATUS: “Active, re-activate, cancelled”

REMARKS: As applicable (any additional information deemed appropriate)

COGNIZANT AUTHORITY OF PROJECT: POC requesting (name, agency and phone number) (e.g., CAPT. Doas I. Say, ONI (703) 345-6789)

POINT OF CONTACT: POC submitting (name, office code and phone number) (e.g., LT. Work B. Done, N311 (703) 123-4567)

DATE: DDMMYYYY

Derived from: Multiple Sources
Declassify on: DDMMYYYY