1. **Policy.** As outlined in reference (a), an operational hold (OPHOLD) is a personnel action which impacts a member under orders from a sea duty command, serving in any type 4 duty unit (overseas sea) or type 2 duty (continental United States sea). An OPHOLD can significantly disrupt the lives of Sailors and the efficiency of the distribution system. It shall be reserved for extraordinary circumstances at sea duty commands only.

   a. Commanding officers (COs) of type 2 duty units may request OPHOLD for members with orders for up to 12 months.

   b. COs of type 4 duty units may request OPHOLD for members with orders for up to 2 months beyond the Department of Defense (DoD) area tour applicable to the member. Per reference (b) and on a case-by-case basis, Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), Career Management Department (PERS-4) may also involuntarily extend members up to 180 days if their presence is required to meet critical and immediate operational needs.
2. **Guidance**

   a. COs may request OPHOLD status for members in the following circumstances:

      (1) When loss of the member results in or exacerbates a degradation of personnel operational capability on a type 2 or type 4 duty unit.

      (2) When, in the opinion of the CO, other appropriate justification exists.

   b. COs should not request OPHOLD in the following circumstances:

      (1) If the services of the member can be spared without affecting mission accomplishment.

      (2) Members may not be involuntarily extended beyond their expiration of active obligated service (EAOS) without specific approval. MILPERSMAN 1160-050 refers.

   c. During the OPHOLD decision process, the member’s orders will be evaluated by Commander, Navy Personnel Command (COMNAVPERSCOM) for potential cancellation.

      (1) If the orders are cancelled, the member will be required to re-negotiate via Career Management System-Interactive Detailing (CMS-ID). No adjustments to the member’s current projected rotation date will be made, unless directed by COMNAVPERSCOM and agreed to by the manning control authority.

      (2) OPHOLDs submitted for personnel under orders issued to honor a reenlistment incentive shall note this fact and contain comment concerning the member's desire to delay, cancel, or request an alternate incentive.

   d. Premium pay for being held past an EAOS, under certain conditions, which is authorized under reference (c) and implemented in MILPERSMAN 1160-050, is triggered by holding someone at an afloat command, in foreign waters, involuntarily, for operational purposes, in the public interest (as determined by the senior officer afloat), past his or her EAOS. Reference (d), chapter 1, section 010304 also gives specific eligibility criteria.
3. **OPHOLD Reporting.** COs who wish to delay execution of orders, per this article, shall request such action by message to COMNAVPERSCOM MILLINGTON TN//PERS4013// with a copy to:

- unit commander,
- type commander,
- fleet commander,
- Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command (COMUSFLTFORCOM) NORFOLK VA
- Commander, United States Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) PEARL HARBOR HI
- COMNAVPERSCOM MILLINGTON TN (appropriate detailer), and
- receiving command.

This report is to be made as soon as the necessity for an OPHOLD is determined.

a. Except in emergency situations, this report should be made at least 90 days prior to transfer month.

b. This report will indicate the month and year to which orders are requested to be delayed.

c. Request will indicate if the member is a volunteer or not.