R 172044Z NOV 03 PSN 522590I23

FM COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA//N7//

TO EWTLGLANT NORFOLK VA//N5//
NAVSURFLANT SHIPS

INFO COMLANTFLT NORFOLK VA//N7//
COMNAVSURFOR SAN DIEGO CA//N7//
COMSUBLANT NORFOLK VA//N3//
COMSECONDFLT
COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER MD//PMA-248//
PEO IWS WASHINGTON DC//1E//
EWTGPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N5//
FACSFAC VACAPES OCEANA VA//N3/N7//
FACSFAC JACKSONVILLE FL//N3/N7//
TACTS NAS OCEANA VA//IMPASS//
CG II MEF//G3/NGLA//
CG II MEF//G3/NGLA//
CG SECOND MARDIV//G3/NGLO//
CG SECOND MARDIV//G3/NGLO//

UNCLAS //N03570//

MSGID/GENADMIN/COMNAVSURFLANT/-/NOV//

SUBJ/NAVAL SURFACE FIRE SUPPORT FIREX I UTILIZING INTEGRATED MARITIME /
PORTABLE ACOUSTIC SCORING AND SIMULATION SYSTEM (IMPASS) NUMBER 2//

REF/A/RMG/COMNAVSURFLANT/301320ZAUG2003//

REF/B/RMG/CNSF/102306ZOCT2003//

NARR/REF A IS IMPASS POLICY MESSAGE NUMBER 1. REF B IS CNSF
RE-ADDRESSAL OF NSWC PORT HUENEME DET LOUISVILLE'S MK 34 MOD 0 GUN
WEAPON SYSTEM (GWS) TECHNICAL ADVISORY 03-04.//
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RMKS/1. THIS MESSAGE IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF MESSAGES ON
GUIDANCE, POLICY, AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE
EXECUTION OF FIREX I/I EVENTS USING IMPASS. POLICY MESSAGE NR 1
(REF A) PROVIDES THE BASIC OVERVIEW AND FUNDAMENTALS REQUIRED TO
SCHEDULE AND UTILIZE IMPASS. THIS MESSAGE ADDRESSES SYSTEM CARE AND
THE USE OF BL&P AS THE PRIMARY AMMUNITION.

2. AS A RESULT OF LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE SIX FIREX I'S AND TWO
FIREX II'S ACCOMPLISHED USING IMPASS, NEW PROCEDURES WILL BE
IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE SYSTEM AVAILABILITY FOR ALL NSFS REQUIREMENTS.
3. HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

A. THE IMPASS SYSTEM REQUIRES PRE AND POST EVENT TASKS THAT ARE
MANDATORY TO GUARANTEE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONAL LIFE.
1) THE BUOYS MUST BE RINSED WITH FRESH WATER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AFTER RECOVERY TO REDUCE CORROSION.
2) THE BUOYS MUST BE SECURED IN THE CONTAINERS, AND
3) THE CONTAINERS MUST BE SECURED FOR SEA PRIOR TO COMMENCING OTHER
EVELATIONS THAT WOULD PRECLUDE THOSE MEASURES FROM OCCURRING.
B. RECENT EXERCISES THAT HAVE NOT ALLOWED SUFFICIENT TIME FOR
MAINTENANCE HAVE RESULTED IN DAMAGED BUOYS AND THE TEMPORARY LOSS OF
ONE SYSTEM FOR FLEET TRAINING.
C. STORE THE IMPASS CONTAINERS PRIOR TO AND AFTER THE FIREX OUT OF
THE WEATHER IN A PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT TO REDUCE LONG TERM
CORROSION. THE CONTAINERS WERE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE BUOYS FROM
THE ELEMENTS AND UNDERWAY DAMAGE, BUT THE CASES THEMSELVES NEED
ATTENTION TO ENSURE LONGEYITY.
1) THE LIDS ARE EQUIPPED WITH HANDLES THAT ARE ONLY DESIGNED TO LIFT
OFF THE LID, AND CAN NOT SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF THE LOADED BUOY OR BE
USED AS HANDLES FOR CARRYING THE containers. THERE ARE SPECIFIC
CARRYING HANDLES ON THE LOWER HALF OF EACH CONTAINER.
2) THE STOWAGE LOCATION SHOULD BE AWAY FROM DIRECT GUN BLAST
PRESSURE.
3) THE CONTAINERS SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNSECURED OR THE LID LEFT OFF
WHEN NOT WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THAT CONTAINER.

4. USE OF BL&P
A. IMPASS WAS ORIGINAL DESIGNED FOR USE WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVE (HE)
ROUNDS. SYSTEM TESTS HAVE PROVEN THAT WITH THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT,
BL&P HAS ADEQUATE SOUND LEVELS TO BE DETECTED BY IMPASS BUOYS
CONSISTENTLY ENOUGH TO SCORE A FIREX EVENT. HUE CITY WILL BE THE
FIRST SHIP TO IMPLEMENT THE BL&P DECISION MATRIX PROCESS IN PARA B
BELOW. OTHER DECEMBER FIRING EVENTS WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH BL&P AS
AMMO LOADOUTS ALLOW. COMMENCING JANUARY 2004, ALL IMPASS FIREX
EVENTS WILL BE SCHEDULED WITH BL&P AS THE PRIMARY AMMUNITION AND HE
ROUNDS AS THE ALTERNATE IF THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOT CONDUCIVE FOR THE
LOWER DB LEVEL OF BL&P. EWTGLANT AND THE FIRING SHIP WILL TEST
ENVIRONMENTALS FOR FEASIBILITY OF BL&P USE PRIOR TO EACH EVENT.
B. THE FOLLOWING DECISION MATRIX WILL BE USED:
1) IF SVP SUPPORTS DETECTION/DIRECT PATH AT 1800 METERS, BUOYS WILL
BE DEPLOYED IN THE DICE FIVE GEOMETRY AT A SPACING OF 1600 METERS.
2) FIRE THREE ROUNDS OF BL&P ACROSS THE BUOY FIELD (TOP, MIDDLE,
BOTTOM). IF TWO OR MORE ROUNDS WERE DETECTED, CONDUCT PAC FIRE.
3) IF BL&P WAS CONSISTENTLY DETECTED DURING THE PAC, COMMENCE FIREX
USING BL&P.
4) IF THE INITIAL THREE ROUNDS OR THE PAC FIRE DOES NOT PROVIDE
CONSISTENT SCORING OF BL&P IMPACTS, SWITCH AMMUNITION TO HE.
C. IN ADDITION TO THIS BL&P PROCEDURE, THE EMBARKED EWTGLANT IMPASS
TEAM WILL CONSULT THE IMPASS USERS GUIDE FOR BUOY FIELD GEOMETRY AND
SPACING DEPENDANT ON ACOUSTIC CONDITIONS PRESENT IN THE APPROVED
OAREA.

5. IMPASS HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL SCORING TOOL DURING ONE FIREX
DEMONSTRATION, FIVE GRADED FIREX I EVENTS AND TWO FIREX II EVENTS.
THE HIGHEST FIREX I SCORE WAS 95.9% AND THE AVERAGE WAS 93.33%. THE
USE OF IMPASS NOT ONLY APPLIES A NUMERICAL VALUE TO EACH ISE, IT
ALSO ENABLES THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO GWS ISSUES IN A SAFE AND
CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. NSWC PORT HUENEME DIV DET LOUISVILLE WILL
RIDE THE NEXT FIREX I SHOOTER TO ANALYSE THE ANOMALY DESCRIBED IN
REF B. ALL SHIPS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH AMMUNITION INFORMATION
NOTICES AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AVAILABLE AT URL:
HTTPS://WWW.NALC.NAVY.MIL/NALC/MAINPAGE.HTML//

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