



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20362

IN REPLY REFER TO
NAVSEAINST 3900.7
SEA-003B/TGH
Ser 247
4 April 1983

NAVSEA INSTRUCTION 3900.7

From: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command
To: All Offices Reporting Directly to COMNAVSEA

Subj: Naval Sea Systems Command Research and Technology Policy

1. Purpose. To establish the Naval Sea Systems Command's Research and Technology (6.1 and 6.2) policy to be effective immediately.

2. General Policy. Naval Research and Technology is the cornerstone of the future Navy. New knowledge resulting from fundamental investigations in various scientific disciplines and the subsequent conceptualizations of applications of this new knowledge will yield new technologies upon which future Naval systems of improved capabilities are based. It is the intent of this Command to foster and harness this process so that maximum benefits to the Navy will result from it. To that end, Research and Technology efforts conducted or supported by this Command should exhibit the following characteristics:

a. Excellence. The Research and Technology efforts of this Command must be of the highest quality in terms of the latest scientific and engineering practices. They must be structured in such a way that new frontiers of knowledge are explored thoroughly and expeditiously and that the new knowledge is applied in timely fashion to provide the maximum degree of innovation.

b. Pertinence. The Research and Technology efforts of this Command must be limited to those areas and disciplines which have the potential to improve our Naval capabilities. This is not to imply that they should respond directly to specific and current requirements, but they should be relevant to stated or perceived Naval needs.

c. Balance

(1) The Research and Technology efforts of this Command, in their entirety, must exhibit a balance between efforts of a generic nature aimed at raising the state-of-the-art in a particular technology area and efforts aimed at the feasibility of specific new systems concepts. The former, in general, provides the componentry and methodologies for the gradual improvements of

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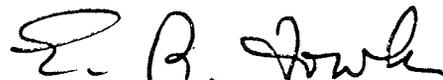
entire classes of systems. The latter yields Naval systems of a novel nature which provide greatly increased performance.

(2) The efforts in their entirety should further have such a composition that near-term and far-term payoffs are both addressed, and that the inherent technical risks of these efforts be commensurate with their potential payoffs.

d. Timeliness. The Research and Technology efforts of this Command should aim at the most expeditious and cost-effective utilization of the results as reflected by transition to systems development.

It is furthermore the intent of this Command to view Research and Technology efforts as a means towards improved Naval capabilities, rather than as an end by itself. The importance of potential payoff is paramount. Contributions to Naval capabilities will therefore be a necessary prerequisite for contributions to scientific or engineering disciplines for the Research and Technology efforts conducted and supported by this Command.

3. Action. The policy delineated herein will be used by this Command for planning, execution and assessment of the Research and Technology program. The Research and Technology Office, SEA-003, is charged to assure compliance with this policy by all elements of this Command except by the Nuclear Propulsion Directorate. The Deputy Commander for Nuclear Propulsion, NAVSEA 08, is responsible for all technical matters (including research and development) pertaining to Naval nuclear propulsion as well as administration of the program, including oversight of program support in areas such as security, nuclear safeguards and transportation, public information, procurement, logistics, and fiscal management. Nothing in this instruction detracts in any way from his responsibilities.


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