



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
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NAVSEAINST 8550.1B
Ser PMS407P
19 Mar 98

NAVSEA INSTRUCTION 8550.1B

From: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command

Subj: EXPLOSIVE CHARGE LIMITATIONS WHEN RECOVERY OF NAVAL MINES
IS REQUIRED

1. Purpose. To limit the size of explosive charges that are used in naval mines which are intended for recovery during test programs.

2. Cancellation. NAVSEAINST 8550.1A of 7 October 1985.

3. Background

a. During the lifetime of a naval mine, from the inception of mine development to ultimate use or disposal, it is necessary to conduct many tests to prove the mine design, to assure its readiness, and to train people in its use.

b. A service or exercise and training mine used in a test program (e.g., development test, operational evaluation, in-water reliability evaluation, mine exercise) may use one or more explosive components to perform essential functions after the mine has been launched from its delivery vehicle. Tests in which recovery is required often must duplicate the complete functioning of the mine as nearly as possible without the use of a main explosive charge.

c. To afford maximum safety to people involved in the recovery and handling of recoverable test mines, it is considered necessary to limit the size of explosive charges that are used in these mines.

4. Action. The following applies to mines used in test programs in which mine recovery is contemplated:

a. Limit use of explosive components to those which have small explosive charges such as explosive drivers, explosive fittings, explosive leads, primers and signal ejectors.

b. Use large explosive charges such as those in boosters, sub-boosters (usually a part of arming devices and extenders) and main charges only after specific approval of the Naval Ordnance Center (N71).

c. Establish proper procedures for recovery and handling of mines which may have unexploded components. There is always a possibility that a test mine will actuate during the recovery-



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handling process and detonate part or all of the explosive components in the mine.

5. Security. Security classification and declassification markings for the mines and mine components shall be governed by OPNAVINST S5513.7C, enclosure (13), and the appropriate distribution statement D as follows:

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G. R. STERNER

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