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THE QUEEN'S REGULATIONS FOR THE ROYAL NAVY

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PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES



Hyperlinks within chapters/annexes will work in this publication although links outside the chapter/annex are not provided due to web browser limitations. When this icon is observed, visit the publication's Home Page to access files of interest. Files are available under the following Home Page buttons: Forms, Video, Sound.



Proposals for Changes (Forms)

Proposals for Change, using the form accessed via the home page, are to be forwarded to the Editor addressee listed on [page ii](#).

THE QUEEN'S REGULATIONS FOR THE ROYAL NAVY

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Where appropriate, the Sponsors of this publication have undertaken an Equality Analysis to ensure that the outcome does not have a disproportionate impact on those in the protected characteristics groups

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By the Defence Council

THE REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS contained in this volume (to be designated The Queen's Regulations for the Royal Navy) have been established by Her Majesty's Order in Council for the government of Her Majesty's Naval Service and of all those serving Her Majesty in association with or for the purposes of the Naval Service.

All Commanders-in-Chief, Flag Officers and other officers in command of Her Majesty's ships and vessels or in charge of naval establishments, are hereby required and directed to observe and obey these Regulations and Instructions and to take care that the officers and others under their command also pay the most strict attention and obedience thereto.

Every officer shall make himself acquainted with and shall duly observe and obey, and so far as he is able enforce the due execution of, the Armed Forces Act 2006 or other Acts in force, these Regulations, and all other regulations, orders or instructions that may be issued by the Defence Council or on their Authority, and shall in all respects act in conformity with the established customs and practices of Her Majesty's Service at sea.

Every direction contained herein is to be considered applicable to all whom it may concern, though it may appear in a chapter addressed to a particular class of officer.

By Command of the Defence Council

GOVERNMENT AND COMMAND OF THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE ROYAL MARINES

J. Government and Command of the Services

1. The government and command of each of the fighting Services is vested in Her Majesty The Queen, who has charged the Secretary of State with general responsibility for the defence of the Realm and established a Defence Council having command and administration over Her Armed Forces.
2. The Defence (Transfer of Functions) Act 1964 transferred to the Secretary of State the statutory functions of the previous Secretaries of State for War and Air and (except for certain specified functions relating to command and administration) of the former Board of Admiralty. The Act transferred to the Defence Council the statutory functions of the former Army Council and Air Council and corresponding statutory functions (including the excepted functions referred to above) of the former Board of Admiralty.
3. The Letters Patent of the Defence Council are reproduced at Annex A. The Council are given the prerogative functions of the former Board of Admiralty, Army Council and Air Council, are given administrative functions, are given command of all members of the Forces and are directed to set up an Admiralty Board, an Army Board and an Air Force Board.
4. The Directions of the Defence Council setting out the composition and duties of the Admiralty Board are reproduced at Annex B. The Board have, under the Defence Council, command over the officers, ratings and marines of Her Majesty's naval and marine forces; subject to the orders and directions of the Defence Council, they are charged with the administration of matters relating to the naval and marine forces.
5. The Defence (Transfer of Functions) Act 1964 empowers the Admiralty Board to discharge the statutory functions of the Defence Council, subject to any Directions of the Council. The effect of the above Directions is to confine this power, in the main, to statutory functions relating to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Certain prerogative functions under Orders in Council relating to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines were transferred to the Secretary of State who in practice is advised on such matters by the Admiralty Board. The Army and Air Force Boards have been empowered by Royal Warrant to exercise concurrently certain prerogative functions.
6. The regulations governing the administration of the Royal Fleet Reserve, the Royal Naval Reserve and the Royal Marines Reserve are contained in BRs 61, 60 and 63 respectively.

J. ANNEX A

LETTERS PATENT CONSTITUTING THE DEFENCE COUNCIL

ELIZABETH THE SECOND BY THE GRACE OF GOD OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND OF OUR OTHER REALMS AND TERRITORIES QUEEN HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEFENDER OF THE FAITH

To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting. Whereas We did by Our Letters Patent, under the Great Seal of Our Realm bearing the date the thirtieth day of April in the fifty-sixth year of Our Reign constitute and appoint the persons therein named to be Our Defence Council to exercise on Our behalf the functions of Our Prerogative as therein mentioned And Whereas We are desirous of changing the constitution of Our said Defence Council Now Therefore Know Ye that We do revoke with effect from the sixth day of July in the fifty-eighth year of Our Reign Our Letters Patent bearing date the thirtieth day of April in the fifty-sixth year of Our Reign aforesaid And Further Know Ye that We do constitute and appoint as from the said sixth day of July the following persons in place of those constituted and appointed by Our Letters Patent aforesaid that is to say Our Principal Secretary of State for Defence the Minister of State for the Armed Forces the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Equipment and Support the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for International Defence and Security the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans the Chief of the Defence Staff the Permanent Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence the Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord the Chief of the General Staff the Chief of the Air Staff the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff the Chief of Defence Materiel of the Ministry of Defence the Chief Scientific Adviser of the Ministry of Defence the Second Permanent Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence and the Director General Finance of the Ministry of Defence to be Our Defence Council to exercise on Our behalf the functions of Our Prerogative which have heretofore on Our behalf been exercised by Our Defence Council constituted and appointed by Our Letters Patent aforesaid and in particular to administer such matters pertaining to Our Naval Military and Air Forces as We shall through Our Principal Secretary of State for Defence direct them to execute And to have command under Us of all Officers and Ratings Soldiers and Airmen of Our Naval Military and Air Forces And Further Know Ye that Our Principal Secretary of State for Defence (or in his absence one of Our Ministers of State aforesaid) shall be Chairman of Our Defence Council so constituted and for the business of which he shall be responsible to Us and to Parliament And the said Permanent Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence shall be the Secretary of Our Defence Council Provided that Our Defence Council may appoint such other person or persons to act as Secretary or Secretaries in addition to the said Permanent Under Secretary of State as Our Defence Council may think fit And We do empower and direct Our Defence Council to establish an Admiralty Board an Army Board and an Air Force Board to be charged with the administration of such matters relating to Our Naval Military and Air Forces as Our Defence Council shall direct And to have command under Us and Our Defence Council of all Officers and Ratings Soldiers and Airmen whom Our Defence Council shall place under their command And We do grant Our Defence Council authority to give and dispose of all such Offices places and employments in Our Naval Military and Air Forces as shall become or be made vacant And We enjoin all such Officers and all others whom it may concern to be obedient to Our Defence Council and to the Boards established by Our Defence Council by virtue of these Presents in all things as becometh

And Further Know Ye that the powers of Our Defence Council and of the Boards so appointed may be exercised and their duties performed by any two of their members and any document may be signed on behalf of our Defence Council or of any of the said Boards by any two of their members or by the Secretary or person acting as Secretary of Our Defence Council or of that Board And We do further direct that the arrangements for the administration and government of Our Naval Military and Air Forces described in these Our Letters shall come into effect on the said sixth day of July in the fifty-eighth year of Our Reign In Witness &c. Witness &c.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's the sixth day of July two
thousand and nine in the fifty-eighth year of Our Reign

BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND




MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

This contains a Warrant to the Lord High Chancellor to pass Letters Patent under the Great Seal whereby Your Majesty is pleased to amend the constitution of Your Majesty's Defence Council And this Warrant is prepared according to Your Majesty's Royal Command

Received the 6th
day of July 2009



Signified by Mr. Secretary ^{Ainsworth} 

CHAKRABARTI
Clerk of the Crown in Chancery

ANNEX B

DIRECTIONS OF THE DEFENCE COUNCIL AS TO THE ADMIRALTY BOARD

THE ADMIRALTY BOARD DIRECTIONS 2000

The Defence Council, in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by the Letters Patent of Her Majesty dated 6 July 2009 and by section 1(5) of the Defence (Transfer of Functions) Act 1964, and of all other powers them thereunto enabling, hereby give the following Directions:

Commencement, Citation, Revocation and Interpretation

1. (1) These Directions shall come into operation forthwith and may be cited as "The Admiralty Board Directions 2009".
- (2) The Admiralty Board Directions 2007 are hereby revoked, without prejudice, however, to the validity of anything done by virtue of those Directions.
- (3) Any document referring to the Admiralty Board Directions 2007 or to any provision thereof shall, so far as may be necessary for preserving its effect, be construed as referring to these Directions or, as the case may be, to the corresponding provision of them.
- (4) The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the purpose of interpreting these Directions as it applies for the purpose of interpreting an Act of Parliament.

The Admiralty Board

2. (1) The Admiralty Board shall consist of the holders for the time being of the following offices:
 - The Secretary of State for Defence
 - The Minister of State for the Armed Forces
 - The Minister of State for Strategic Defence Acquisition Reform
 - The Minister for Defence Equipment and Support
 - The Minister for Veterans
 - The Minister for International Defence and Security
 - The Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord
 - The Second Permanent Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence
 - The Fleet Commander and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff
 - The Second Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Personnel & Training
 - The Controller of the Navy
 - The Chief of Fleet Support
 - The Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff.

- (2) The Secretary of State for Defence shall be Chairman of the Admiralty Board; but in his absence the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Minister of State for Strategic Defence Acquisition Reform, the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, the Minister for Veterans, the Minister for International Defence and Security or such other person as the Secretary of State shall designate may act as Chairman.
- (3) The Secretary of the Admiralty Board shall be the Second Permanent Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence provided that the Admiralty Board may appoint such other person or persons to act as Secretary or Secretaries in addition to the Second Permanent Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence as the Board may think fit.

Duties of the Admiralty Board

3. (1) The Admiralty Board shall under the Defence Council have command over the officers, ratings and marines of Her Majesty's naval and marine forces.
- (2) The Admiralty Board is hereby charged with the administration of all such matters relating to the naval and marine forces as may be administered by the Defence Council; subject always, however, to any further orders or directions given by the Defence Council.

Directions as to statutory functions

4. The functions under enactments conferred on the Defence Council by the operation of section 1 of the Defence (Transfer of Functions) Act 1964 which are to be exercisable by the Admiralty Board shall, subject to any further directions which may be given by the Defence Council, not include functions which were before the coming into effect of that Act not exercisable by the Admiralty.

Dated this 17th day of December 2009
Her Majesty's Principal S of State for Defence
Permanent Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence

Instructions for Use

J.1. The letter 'J' preceding a paragraph number [Article number in QRRN] indicates that the paragraph [Article] (apart from the number and from necessary differences in relation to ranks, cross-references, etc.) is published in identical form normally in Queen's Regulations, for each of the three Services. In the case of the Royal Navy and the Army, certain of these paragraphs appear not in Queen's Regulations but in other specialised regulations, and appropriate references are made in Queen's Regulations for the Royal Navy, and Queen's Regulations for the Army to these other publications. The text of the 'J' paragraphs [Articles] may not be amended without inter-Service agreement.

2. Amendments to QRRN are published as a matter of routine business and a change is not issued until there is sufficient material to warrant action. Amendments requiring more immediate promulgation should initially be issued as a Defence Council Instruction (DIN), Signal or Advance Information Leaflet which should be retained until the next update.

3. Amendments should be submitted where possible electronically by email to Navy Legal-Casework D6

4. Unless the contrary intention appears, words importing the masculine gender include the feminine.

5. Any errors, or queries on the contents of this publication should be referred to the sponsor of the relevant chapter, shown in the chapter heading, for onward transmission by the sponsor to NAVY LEGAL CASEWORK D6 , MAILPOINT 4-2, LEACH BUILDING, WHALE ISLAND, PORTSMOUTH, PO2 8BY, (02392 62 8894),if necessary.

6. Chapter sponsors are reminded that they are responsible for their chapters and thus the contents therein until such time as it is agreed that sponsorship should be assumed by another branch. Any transfer of sponsorship to another branch or organisation must be agreed between the two parties concerned and notified to NAVY LEGAL CASEWORK D6, as soon as possible.

Explanation of Terms

In these regulations and instructions the following terms shall have the meanings given unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Ministry of Defence: Defence Council: Admiralty Board. These terms are to be distinguished as follows. Functions of the former Admiralty resting on statute and Letters Patent were transferred from 1st April, 1964, either to the Secretary of State or to the Defence Council. The Defence Council has by Direction delegated the administration of the naval forces to the Admiralty Board. Orders and instructions to those forces (including those in this book) are issued on the authority of the Defence Council. The references to the 'Ministry of Defence' or to departments of the Ministry charged with naval matters, which for convenience frequently occur in this book, are to be read in the light of this explanation.

Superior Authority. The officer under whose immediate orders a Flag or other officer may be placed or is serving at the time. If the Flag or other officer is acting under Ministry of Defence orders and is not in the presence of a senior officer it shall mean the Ministry of Defence.

Entitlement to command

<i>Command</i>	}	See Chapter 3, Section III
<i>Military command</i>		
<i>Sea command</i>		
<i>Special command</i>		

Degrees of command and administration

<i>Full command</i>	}	See Chapter 3, Section VII
<i>Operational command</i>		
<i>Operational control</i>		
<i>Tactical controll command</i>		
<i>Operational chain of command</i>		
<i>Officer in tactical command</i>		
<i>Administration</i>		
<i>Administrative control</i>		
<i>Administrative chain of command</i>		
<i>Local administration</i>		
<i>Administrative authority</i>		

Flag Officer. An officer of the rank of Rear-Admiral or above exercising command and authorized by the Ministry of Defence to fly a flag.

Officer of Flag rank. An officer of Rear-Admiral's rank or above.

Commander-in-Chief. An officer appointed to the chief command of a station, fleet or squadron; and, in general routine duties, the officer in command of a station or squadron or on whom such command may have devolved.

Commodore. See 0323.

The Captain. The officer appointed to command the ship.

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The Commanding Officer. The officer or other person on board and in actual command at the moment (except for the purposes of the Armed Forces Act 2006-see 0336).

The Executive Officer. The officer carrying out the executive duties of the ship.

The Marine Engineer Officer. The officer in charge of the Marine Engineering Department in a ship or establishment.

The Weapon Engineer Officer. The officer in charge of the Weapon Engineering Department in a ship or establishment.

The Commander (Air). The officer in charge of the Air Department of a ship, if of the rank of Commander.

The Air Engineer Officer. The officer in charge of the Air Engineering Department of a ship or establishment.

The Supply Officer. The officer in charge of the supply and secretariat duties of a ship or establishment.

The Medical Officer. The officer in charge of the medical duties of a ship or establishment.

The Dental Officer. The officer in charge of the dental duties of a ship or establishment.

The Instructor Officer. The officer in charge of the education of officers and men to meet the requirements both of Service training and of the individual for advancement or other purposes.

The (HM) Officer. The officer who is accountable to the Commanding Officer for the delivery of hydrographic, meteorological and oceanographic advice including tactical exploitation of the environment.

The Officer Commanding Royal Marines. The officer in charge or command of the Royal Marines detachment or special parties embarked in the ship.

Officer. In relation to any of HM Naval Forces a person of or above the rank of cadet, and in relation to any other forces an officer of corresponding rank or any superior rank, except where the term 'superior officer' is used.

Superior Officer. For the purpose of the Armed Forces Act 2006, see section 374 of the Act and JSP 830, Manual of Service Law, an officer, or a rating not below the rate of Leading Seaman, or a non-commissioned officer not below the rank of Corporal who is a higher rank or rate, or senior in the same rank or rate, and who is subject to the Act.

Subordinate Officer. An Acting Sub-Lieutenant, Midshipman or cadet, or a Second Lieutenant, RM.

Senior Upper Yardman. A rating candidate for officer rank over the age of 26 but under the age of 46.

Senior Corps Commission. An RM or RM Band Service other rank candidate for officer rank over the age of 26 but under the age of 46

Initial Commission (IC). The commission in which all entrants to the officer corps join from 1 April 1999, whether recruits from civilian life or from the rating corps/ranks.

Career Commission (CC). The Commission to which officers on the IC may transfer. It extends a commission to 16 years' service from the age of 21, or date of joining if later.

Full Term Commission (FTC). The commission to which officers on the CC may transfer. It extends a career to retirement age.

Officers and ratings. Except where the context requires otherwise, the term 'officers and ratings' in these regulations is to be read as including all officers, Warrant Officers, Chief Petty Officers, Petty Officers and non-commissioned officers, ratings and other ranks of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service. .

Warrant Officers. The highest rate in the rating structure of the RN.

Petty Officers. To include Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers and ratings of equivalent status in all branches, except when used as the title of seaman ratings.

Non-Commissioned Officer, Royal Marines. To include all Royal Marines from Lance-Corporal up to Warrant Officer 1st Class, inclusive.

Commonwealth. The British Commonwealth of Nations, which includes both members of the Commonwealth (i.e., the fully self-governing countries) and the colonies and other dependent territories administered by Commonwealth governments. The expression 'other Commonwealth countries' is used to denote the fully self-governing members of the Commonwealth other than the United Kingdom.

Her Majesty's ship. The title of Her Majesty's ship (HMS) is confined strictly to commissioned ships flying the White Ensign and is not applicable to fleet auxiliaries.

Flagship. A ship flying the flag of a Flag Officer or the broad pennant of a Commodore.

Tender. A ship or vessel whose officers and men are appointed or drafted to and borne on the books of another ship being a parent ship.

Independent command. A ship whose officers and men are appointed or drafted direct to her and borne on her books, irrespective of where her accounts are carried.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary. A fleet auxiliary vessel manned by a mercantile crew, owned (or operated on long-term charter) and managed by the Ministry of Defence (Navy) for the purposes of the naval service.

Mercantile Fleet Auxiliary. A vessel, manned with a mercantile crew, under commercial management, chartered or requisitioned by the Department of the Environment for operation by the Ministry of Defence (Navy).

Ships (or vessels) in the naval service. All ships and vessels-formerly known as 'Admiralty vessels'-owned or operated by the Ministry of Defence (Navy), for naval and fleet (or port) auxiliary purposes which are not commissioned as Her Majesty's ships.

Naval establishment. Any establishment under the control of the Secretary of State and maintained for any purpose of the naval service, whether within or without Her Majesty's dominions.

Fleet establishment. Any naval establishment manned by the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, or by civilians engaged for Fleet services.

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Civil establishment. Any naval establishment manned on a civilian basis, e.g., dockyards, victualling yards, naval armament depots, etc.

Medical establishment. Naval hospital or sick quarters.

Hospital. Military hospital, hospital ship or sick quarters.

By telegram. Embraces all means of rapid communication, except in cases where it is specially desired to indicate a particular form of rapid communication (such as 'by radio', or 'by cable').

A month. For all purposes connected with pay and time, except as shown below, or as otherwise provided by statute, the following scale is to be observed whenever the words 'month' or 'months' are used:

1	month shall be equal to	30	days and vice versa.
2	months shall be equal to	61	days and vice versa.
3	months shall be equal to	91	days and vice versa.
4	months shall be equal to	121	days and vice versa.
5	months shall be equal to	152	days and vice versa.
6	months shall be equal to	182	days and vice versa.
7	months shall be equal to	212	days and vice versa.
8	months shall be equal to	243	days and vice versa.
9	months shall be equal to	273	days and vice versa.
10	months shall be equal to	303	days and vice versa.
11	months shall be equal to	334	days and vice versa.

Exceptions. Reckoning by the calendar is to be applied in the following matters:

- a. Assessing the seniority of officers.
- b. Qualifying service for advancement in rating.
- c. Date of restoration of good conduct badges.
- d. Where specifically so directed in JSP 754, Tri-service Regulations for Pay and Charges.

A year. Twelve months or one year shall be reckoned by the calendar for all purposes, except for the calculation of 'service' and 'service in a ship-of-war at sea' necessary to determine the eligibility for promotion of officers of certain ranks, which will continue to be calculated at the rate of 365 days to a year. (See Chapter 87.)

i. Care is to be taken in reckoning service by the calendar to allow for time lost as the result of punishment, (e.g., cells, detention, etc.) or absence from the Service, by adding the number of days lost to date as indicated by the calendar. When, however, a period exceeding one year is involved the year (or years) is to be reckoned by the calendar and the number of additional days added thereto.

ii. Where a period of twelve months or one year begins on the last day of February of any year, whether that date be the 28th or 29th of the month, the successive years reckoned by the calendar shall be deemed to end on the day preceding the last day of February, i.e., on the 27th (or on the 28th if a leap year) and, similarly, where the period of calculation begins on the first day of March of any year, the successive years reckoned by the calendar shall be deemed to end on the last day of February, i.e., on the 28th (or on the 29th if a leap year).

iii. Where a period of service ends within a leap year the 29th February should be included for pension and gratuity purposes only, provided:

- (a) The period of service is less than a year ending within a leap year;
- (b) 29th February comes within the total number of days outside the full calendar year.

Yearly. On 31st December of each year.

Half-yearly. On 30th June and 31st December.

Quarterly. On 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December, or by the quarters ending on those dates. Exceptionally, quarterly reports on officers (see BR 8373 Officers' Career Regulations) are to be rendered at intervals of three months from the effective date of the Ministry of Defence instruction.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SAFE CONDUCT OF HM SHIPS AT SEA (SEE 0809)

Conduct. The direction of a team or management of a series of tasks in the performance of a function, e.g., conduct of the ship, conduct of navigation, conduct of operations. Conduct includes planning and may include execution.

Charge of the ship. The authority delegated by the Commanding Officer or the officer to whom command or conduct has been delegated, to the Officer of the Watch (OOW) for the safety of the ship at sea.

Navigation. The process of planning and executing the movement of ships from one place to another. Navigation includes ocean and coastal movements and pilotage, giving due consideration to problems of ship handling and collision avoidance.

Pilotage. Navigation involving frequent or continuous determination of position or a line of position relative to geographic points, and usually requiring the need for close attention to the vessel's draught with respect to the depth of water. It is practised in the vicinity of land, dangers, and navigational hazards.

Control. The action of a functional superior in issuing instruction and guidance in a clearly defined professional field.

Planning. The predetermination of actions involving people and resources as an integral part of conduct.

Execution. The act of putting into effect (the navigation plan, Captain's orders etc).

Conning. The act of giving wheel, hydroplane or engine orders.

Advising. The act of providing information to assist the recipient in making a decision.