

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

**SECRET**

Op-36C/dn  
Serial 00559P36

26 October 1950

REGISTERED SECRET

From: Chief of Naval Operations  
To: DISTRIBUTION LIST

Subj: Classification of Navy Capability for Atomic Weapon Delivery

Ref: (a) CNO Secret ltr Ser 00255P36 of 17 May 1950  
(b) CNO ltr Ser 3288P32 of 19 Apr 1948 (48-297)

1. The existence of the Navy capability for use of atomic weapons is classified Secret. The principal hazards to maintenance of this security are loose talk on the part of personnel who have unavoidably become aware of or have made a guess as to this capability and the unmistakable association of well-known atomic weapon activities with specific operating units.
2. By observation or rumor, a fairly large body of personnel, particularly in ships' companies, may become aware of a unit's capability in the atomic weapons field. Intelligence leaking from such sources can only be stopped by proper security briefings. It is desired that all commanding officers take appropriate steps to apprise their commands of the seriousness of unguarded talk regardless of whether based on fact or fancy. Reference (b) is pertinent and should be reviewed by all addressees.
3. Because of the Navy's confirmed interest in the many phases of the atomic energy program, it is impractical to classify the association of all Naval activities with atomic energy activities or installations. The intelligence disclosed in pin-pointing the capability of specific operating units by linking them with atomic weapons activities would, however, be of great value to a potential enemy. Accordingly, the association of major operating commands and shore establishments with the atomic weapons program is classified Restricted. Association with the atomic weapons program of specific ships or aircraft squadrons that have atomic weapon delivery or storage capability is, however, classified Secret.
4. Care must be exercised that units which have a classified association with the atomic weapons program are not linked to known atomic energy installations such as the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Sandia Base, or facilities of the Atomic Energy Commission through use of improper communications procedure.

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Correspondence, bills of lading, invoices, visitors lists, etc., which disclose the relationship of these units with the atomic energy program must be classified Secret. The denial of this intelligence to enemy sources without reducing operational effectiveness will require the close attention of all commands.

5. Units having a classified association with the atomic energy program will continue to use special security forms (OPNAV 36-101) for personnel for access to Restricted Data. Such forms may be transmitted so as not to reveal an association with the atomic energy program and in such an event may be classified Restricted.

6. This letter supersedes reference (a).

7. Wide dissemination to appropriate units under your command is directed.

8. Transmission by United States registered mail or registered guard mail is authorized in accordance with article 7-5, United States Navy Security Manual for Classified Matter.

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AUTHENTICATED:

G. W. MURPHY

Secretary to CNO (Administration)

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