

WATCH, QUARTER AND STATION BILL

It shows the personnel duty assignments for a division as specified in the ship's Battle Organization and Regulation's Manual.

Its purpose is to inform division personnel of their assignments.

It is arranged in tabular form.

Column are provided for entering data from the battle organization manual and for the duties assigned under certain condition of readiness of the ship's Bill. Some ships have additional columns too suit their special needs.

A. Battle Organization Manual:

- 1) It is a special organization and a special system of communication for battle conditions in order for the CO to fight the ship to the best of their abilities.
- 2) It contains four chapters describing the following:
 - a) Battle Organization Chapter - discusses chain of command; control of ship, armaments, communications, aircraft, casualties, etc. and the doctrines to fight the ship.
 - b) Conditions of Readiness Chapter - Covers the consideration affecting the selection of the proper condition of readiness and the measures that individual ships take to comply with the specified condition.

Conditions of Readiness:

1. Conditions Watch I - the maximum state of readiness for battle, with the entire crew at battle stations prepared for imminent action. Modified version:
 - a) Condition Watch IE - a condition to provide temporary relaxation from the first degree of readiness and to permit designated personnel to draw and distribute meals at their action stations.
 - b) Condition Watch IA - frees enough personnel from their assigned GQ stations to carry out the ship's mission in amphibious assault operations.
2. Condition Watch II - a special watch applicable to gunfire support ships for situation such as extended period of shore bombardment.
3. Condition Watch III - Normal wartime cruising condition when surprise attack is possible. Part of the armament is manned and ready for immediate action.

4. Condition Watch IV - that condition to provide effective ship and aircraft control during peacetime cruising. No armament is manned.
 5. Condition Watch V - ship in port peacetime, no armament manned.
 - c) Battle Bill Chapter: Lists the stations, which must be manned under battle conditions and for various conditions of watches and indicating the personnel requirements for manning those stations.
 - d) Chapter 4 - Provides descriptive information on the various interior communication systems which include alarms and warning devices, battle announcing system, sound powered telephone circuits, ship's service telephone systems and voice tubes.
- B. Ship's Organization and Regulations Manual:
- 1) It is a general directive, but it has the force and effect of regulations.
 - 2) It is necessary to provide for almost any contingency. Routine work and other details or duties to be performed by or assigned to the several divisions are set forth in the manual.
 - 3) This book outlines in a specific manner the following:
 - a) Administrative Bills - these bills set forth procedures for the everyday administration of the ship's company where a specific assignment of each member of the crew is required and include the bills listed:
 - 1) Special Sea detail:
 - 2) Underway replenishment:
 - 3) Rescue and assignment Bill - sets up procedures for the rescue and assistance detail in case of a plane crash close aboard, distress of another ship or distress ashore and rescue of survivors:
 - 4) Landing Party Bill - Provide a nominal force equipped and organized to perform functions ashore to police during an emergency and to take part in parades or ceremonies; and
 - 5) Visit and Search, Prize Crew, Boarding and Capture Bill - it involves sending party of armed officers and men aboard a ship to determine her nationality, type of cargo and nature of employment. A prize crew is organized to take over a seized and captured ship and take her to port. A boarding and capture party is organized to perform the same duties as prize crew and it is also able to control prisoners.
 - c. Emergency Bills - detailed procedures and specific assignment of men to perform an evolution on short notice when there is danger of loss of life or of the ship itself.

- 1) General Emergency Bill - organizes the crew to handle the effect of a major emergency such as collisions, grounding, explosion, storm or battle damage. It also provides for an ordinary process of abandoning ship if feasible. It is set up to assign men to necessary duties whether full crew or partial crew is on board:
- 2) Man Overboard Bill:
- 3) Fire in Port/ At Sea; and
- 4) Collision in Port/At Sea.

4. Make-up:

- a. Each man's billet number and his name appear in the two left hand columns on the watch bill.
- b. A billet number is made up of a series of four numerals indicating in sequence:
 - 1) A man's division (Ex. 1204)
 - 2) Section:
 - 3) Seniority on his section

C. Special Sea Detail: (SSD)

1. It is set whenever a ship gets underway from a pier or anchorage and goes to sea or returns from sea to an anchorage or mooring.
2. Men assigned to the SSD must be well trained and experienced. Moving a ship into or out of a crowded harbor can be difficult and at times, dangerous operation.
3. In particular, helmsmen and men taking bearings, ranges or soundings must be highly competent. There is no time or room for a mistake.
4. It is set about a half-hour before getting underway and continues until the ship clears the harbor and is also set before entering port until the ship is docked or anchored.

D. Regular Underway Watch Detail:

Once the ship has cleared the harbor. The SSD is relieved and the regular underway watch is stationed: that is the cruising watches begin and the regular sections of the watch take over their prescribed duties.

