

WATCH, QUARTER AND STATION BILL

Learning Outcome:

After the class discussion, the students are expected to:

- Recognize and discuss the importance of watch, quarter and station bill
- Know the different conditions of readiness
- Know what is the special sea detail

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. Condition 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:

1) Special Sea detail:

2) Underway replenishment:

3) Rescue and Assignment Bill

4) Landing Party

5) Visit and Search, Prize Crew, Boarding

and Capture Bill

b. 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 - collisions, grounding, explosion, storm or battle damage
- 2) Man Overboard Bill:
- 3) Fire in Port/ At Sea; and
- 4) Collision in Port/At Sea.

C. Special Sea Detail (SSD) –

- 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.
- 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.