OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5450.332B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MISSION, FUNCTIONS, AND TASKS OF COMMANDER, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION FORCE

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5400.44A
     (b) OPNAVINST 1000.16L
     (c) 10 U.S.C.

Encl: (1) COMOPTEVFOR Functions and Tasks

1. **Purpose.** To establish the functions and tasks of Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTEVFOR), per references (a) through (c). This instruction is being revised to meet the age requirement for echelon 2 shore activity commands, per reference (a).

2. **Cancellation.** OPNAVINST 5450.332A.

3. **Applicability.** This instruction applies to COMOPTEVFOR and its subordinate commands.

4. **Mission.** COMOPTEVFOR will independently test and evaluate capabilities (weapon capabilities, platforms, networks, etc.) in the anticipated operational environment, against the anticipated threats, using anticipated procedures, and employing typical operators and maintainers. Additionally, COMOPTEVFOR will support development and validation of initial procedures and tactics, assisting developing agencies as needed in the accomplishment of their developmental test and evaluation.

5. **Status and Command Relationships.** COMOPTEVFOR is an operational command under the direction of a Commander who reports directly to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). The Commander has direct access to the CNO, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Staff, and fleet commanders as necessary to carry out assigned missions.

   a. **Command**

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<th>Echelon</th>
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   b. **Regional Coordination.** Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.
6. Commanded, Tenant, Supported and Supporting Activities, and Detachments

   a. COMOPTEVFOR is the immediate superior in command of immediate headquarters staff, COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Norfolk, Virginia; COMOPTEVFOR Staff Pacific Element San Diego, California; and COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

   b. COMOPTEVFOR does not host any tenant activities.

   c. COMOPTEVFOR supports:

      (1) CNO and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (for designated aviation capabilities) by providing recommendations for fleet release or corrective actions of new or improved capabilities, and capabilities under development. These recommendations must be based upon an independent evaluation of each capabilities’ effectiveness, suitability, and cyber survivability in achieving its present and expected mission(s).

      (2) Fleet operators by advancing the operational knowledge of the Navy’s capabilities.

      (3) Numbered fleet and designated naval component commanders by maintaining relationships with appropriate staff activities in order to continuously inform operational testing with current fleet employment; participating in large force exercises as an operational test venue; and supporting capabilities-to-force integration for new capabilities as they are fielded. When appropriate, this may include providing initial tactics guides, briefings to the fleet commanders, and recommendations regarding initial employment of new capabilities.

      (4) Warfighting development centers, by informing tactics and doctrine development via operational testing results and providing technical-to-tactical considerations.

      (5) Capability developers, by providing operational testing of new capability and improvements. This support may include identifying areas of risk where the capability may not achieve its operational mission, recommendations for risk mitigation, and identifying any latent capability that may have a warfighting application.

      (6) Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for joint test and evaluation programs.

      (7) OSD for interoperability and cybersecurity assessments executed in conjunction with combatant commander and Service exercises.

      (8) Fleet experimentation.

      (9) OSD and U.S. Navy science and technology initiatives.
(10) Other Services and agencies in the accomplishment of their testing and evaluation missions.

d. COMOPTEVFOR receives general support from:

(1) CNO, who through the Director Innovation, Technology Missions, and Test and Evaluation (OPNAV N94) provides direction regarding policy, priorities, and technical and procedural guidance, as well as financial support for matters relating to the test and evaluation program.

(2) Program managers, who provide documentation and financial support for early involvement by operational testers during program development. Early involvement is defined as support for any program-related activity (integrated product team participation, analysis, developmental test assists, etc.) that will not result in a fleet release recommendation by COMOPTEVFOR. System commands also provide mission engineering expertise in support of the annual COMOPTEVFOR warfare capability baseline assessment.

(3) Fleet commanders, who provide ship, aircraft, submarines, networks, and units from their forces to conduct operational tests.

(4) Navy shore activities, which provide information and collaboration through direct liaison with systems commanders for technical matters relating to research, development, test, and evaluation programs; with intelligence commands for matters relating to threat definition; and with other shore activities that may support COMOPTEVFOR in accomplishment of the assigned mission.

(5) Other Military Services and government agencies, through liaison and information exchange with counterparts in research, development, test, and evaluation, including science and technology initiatives.

e. COMOPTEVFOR maintains independent authority over the conduct of operational testing on any unit and receives direct support from the activities listed in subparagraphs 6e(1) and 6e(2).

(1) Air Test and Evaluation Squadron ONE (VX-1); Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE (VX-9); Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron ONE (VMX-1); Marine Helicopter Squadron ONE (HMX-1); COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Nellis Air Force Base; and their respective detachments in the planning and conduct of test and evaluation of new or improved air warfare weapon capabilities.

(2) Operational units conducting operational testing.
7. **Action.** COMOPTEVFOR will ensure performance of the functions and tasks contained in enclosure (1).

8. **Records Management**

   a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy Directorate for Administration, Logistics, and Operations, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at [https://portal.secnav.navy.mil-orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx](https://portal.secnav.navy.mil-orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx).

   b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the Department of the Navy Directorate for Administration, Logistics, and Operations, Directives and Records Management Division program office.

9. **Review and Effective Date.** Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, OPNAV N94 will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

10. **Information Management Control.** Data collections contained in enclosure (1) are exempt from information management control per SECNAV Manual 5214.1 part IV, subparagraphs 7g and 7k.

    Andrew S. Haeuptle  
    Director, Navy Staff

Releasability and distribution:
This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via Department of the Navy issuances Web site, [https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/default.aspx](https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/default.aspx).
COMOPTEVFOR FUNCTIONS AND TASKS

1. **Function.** Carry out assigned responsibilities as the Navy's independent operational test and evaluation agency. Serve as a principal advisor to CNO on all Department of the Navy operational test and evaluation matters. The tasks outlined in subparagraphs 1a through 1l are assigned:

   a. Plan, conduct, and provide data and feedback on all operational test and evaluation assigned to Navy, Coast Guard, and designated Marine Corps capabilities. Data and feedback on all operational test and evaluation will be forwarded directly to either the CNO, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, or Commandant of the Marine Corps, or combination of all three as appropriate.

   b. Provide relevant warfighting mission capabilities and limitations to the fleet for new or improved capabilities, based on operational test and evaluation results.

   c. Monitor research, development, test, and evaluation programs conducted within the operating forces, and make recommendations to the CNO and fleet commanders to enhance research, development, test, and evaluation program effectiveness.

   d. Establish early and continuing liaison with the resource sponsor and developing agent to ensure mutual understanding of respective test missions and plans. Participate in planning developmental test and evaluation that may satisfy operational test and evaluation objectives, and assist in the developmental test and evaluation efforts. Monitor developmental test and evaluation and comment on relevant operational test and evaluation issues.

   e. Review acquisition program documentation to ensure documents are adequate to support operational test and evaluation program and to provide resolution to critical operational issues and report documentation adequacy findings to CNO.

   f. Conduct follow-on operational test and evaluation to complete deferred testing, validate correction of deficiencies identified from previous testing, and finish incomplete and or waived testing. Test and evaluate hardware and software alterations that change system capability (evaluating operational effectiveness, operational suitability, and cyber survivability as appropriate), including system upgrades.

   g. Assist with development of initial operational concepts, tactics, and procedures for employment of capabilities undergoing operational test and evaluation, or as directed by CNO, through close liaison with Naval Warfare Development Command, Naval Aviation Warfare Development Center, Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, Expeditionary Warfighting Development Center, Naval Information Warfighting Development Center, and Undersea Warfighting Development Center.
h. Coordinate and publish Warfare Capability Baseline reports of operation plan, and concept of operation plan, kill chains and effects chains, as nominated by Navy component commanders and assigned by U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Pacific Fleet. Collaborate with capability solution management stakeholders to provide operational context and detailed mission engineering justification for this horizontal system-of-system assessment.

i. Ensure operations security missions are met during all operational test and evaluation functions.

j. Act as CNO's agent for coordination and scheduling of fleet services in support of research, development, test, and evaluation and operational test and evaluation programs.

k. Monitor and report on other test and evaluation efforts directed by CNO.

l. Provide recommendations to the CNO for the development of new capabilities or the upgrade of Navy ranges, test facilities, simulators, targets and other assets necessary for test and evaluation.