



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**  
**2000 NAVY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000**

OPNAVINST 1700.16B  
N17  
22 Jul 2015

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1700.16B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Ref: (a) CNO ltr 4066 Ser N00/100056 of 18 Jul 2013  
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990  
(c) ASN (M&RA) memo, Delegation of Authority to Promulgate Policy on Alcoholic Beverage Control, of 16 May 2005 (NOTAL)  
(d) DoD Instruction 1015.10 of 6 July 2009  
(e) SECNAVINST 5300.28E  
(f) VCNO ltr 5402 Ser N09D/1U11824 of 6 Dec 2011  
(g) SECNAVINST 4650.16D  
(h) DoD Directive 4515.12 of 15 January 2010  
(i) COCINST 1730.3  
(j) SECNAVINST 7042.7K

1. Purpose

a. To provide additional guidance per references (a) through (d) for the purchase, possession, sale, service and consumption of alcoholic beverages within military installations under naval jurisdiction.

b. This revision provides changes directed by Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to update and further refine Navy's alcoholic beverage control policy per reference (a). This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1700.16A.

3. Policy. Use of alcoholic beverages on naval installations must be consistent with the overriding need for military readiness, discipline, and community safety. References (b) through (d) provide guidance for the purchase, possession, sale, service and consumption of alcoholic beverages within military installations under naval jurisdiction. In meeting this

objective, the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be governed by the following considerations:

a. Most Navy personnel who use alcoholic beverages do so responsibly. Because some abuse alcoholic beverages, balanced measures to prevent and deter abuse, as provided in reference (e), must be an integral part of the management of alcoholic beverages on naval installations.

b. Sale of alcoholic beverages must be balanced with non-alcoholic beverages and recreational activities to encourage healthy lifestyles for members, their families and friends.

c. Club and mess operations, intended to foster camaraderie, esprit and friendship in the Navy community, must maintain a satisfactory balance of wholesome service to all personnel. Appropriate standards of dress and decorum are required at all times.

d. Navy Exchange Command must:

(1) Restrict all distilled spirit sales to main exchanges or dedicated package store facilities. Commander, Navy Supply Systems Command, in consultation with Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), will consider exceptions to this policy for locations not served by a main exchange.

(2) Limit the floor space dedicated to the sale and display of alcoholic beverages in locations other than package stores to no more than 10 percent of total retail floor space available. Alcoholic products and displays should be in a consolidated location at the rear of the facility.

(3) Make single-use alcohol detection devices available for sale in Navy Exchange facilities.

(4) Limit hours for the sale of alcoholic beverages to 0600 to 2200.

(5) Facilities outside of the continental United States (OCONUS) (other than Hawaii and Guam) will be evaluated by CNIC on a site-by-site basis, consistent with existing ration programs and applicable status-of-forces agreements.

e. Sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages on naval installations shall be restricted to personnel 21 years of age and older in all 50 States and U.S. territories. In foreign countries the drinking age on the installation shall conform to the legal age set by the host country. In the absence of any local law, the minimum drinking age shall be 21 years.

f. Except as specifically authorized in this instruction, the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on any military installation, aircraft or vessel under naval jurisdiction.

g. In reference (f), the Vice Chief of Naval Operations has delegated the Director, Navy Staff authority to:

(1) Authorize sale, possession and use of alcohol by Navy activities and commands, to include aboard vessels and aircraft.

(2) Authorize possession and consumption of alcohol on board the Pentagon reservation per policy and procedures as established by the Washington Headquarters Service.

#### 4. Definition

a. The term "alcoholic beverage" means wines, distilled spirits, and malt beverages.

b. The term "non-alcoholic beverage" may be used on malt beverages, provided the statement "contains less than 0.5 percent (or .5 percent) alcohol by volume" appears in direct conjunction with it, in readily legible printing and on a completely contrasting background.

5. Sale of Package Alcoholic Beverages. Sale of retail packaged alcoholic beverages may be authorized by the CNO or CNO designees.

6. Sale, Possession, and Consumption by the Drink. CNO or CNO designees may authorize:

a. Sale and consumption of all alcoholic beverages by the drink are authorized in the following locations on board naval installations. These activities may include (the below list is not all inclusive):

(1) Officers' clubs.

(2) Chief petty officers' clubs.

(3) Petty officers' clubs.

(4) Staff non-commissioned officers clubs.

(5) Enlisted messes.

(6) Golf course club houses.

(7) Morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) catering, clubs, and conference centers and "internal brand" full and partial service food and beverage activities.

(8) Marinas.

(9) Casual dining facilities under the contract of MWR or the Navy Exchange.

(10) Areas designated by installation commanders for command entertainment or organized social functions on an occasional basis.

b. Sale of alcoholic beverages is authorized at exchange facilities located within an unaccompanied housing facility designated for permanent party personnel or within a lodging facility.

c. With respect to subparagraphs 6a and 6b, the following shall have approval authority for activities under their cognizance:

(1) Vice Chief of Naval Operations;

- (2) Director, Navy Staff;
- (3) Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command;
- (4) Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet;
- (5) Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe;
- (6) CNIC;
- (7) Commander of Navy Regions; and
- (8) Commanding officers (CO) of Navy installations.

7. Possession and Consumption in Housing and Lodging. Subject to the minimum drinking age for the installation, possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages are authorized in:

- a. Family Housing.
- b. Unaccompanied housing designated for permanent party personnel as authorized by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Readiness and Logistics (CNO N4).
- c. Navy Gateway Inns and Suites.
- d. Navy Lodge.

8. Employment of Personnel in the Dispensing of Alcoholic Beverages

a. No person shall be employed on any installation as a bartender or in any other capacity involving selling or dispensing of alcoholic beverages when State law prohibits such employment in civilian establishments because of the employees' age.

b. No person shall be employed on any installation as a bartender or in any other capacity involving selling or dispensing of alcoholic beverages prior to completion of an industry recognized alcohol service training program that prepares servers to handle the challenges of balancing guest services with the legal responsibilities involved in serving alcohol.

9. Alcoholic Beverages Aboard Naval Vessels and Aircraft

a. Except as provided in this instruction, the introduction, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes aboard naval vessels and aircraft is prohibited unless authorized by the CNO per references (b), article 1162, and (c). CNO has delegated this authority via the chain of command to the Director, Navy Staff as indicated in subparagraph 3g.

b. Malt beverages may be transported in naval vessels for sale to ship's personnel sent ashore at isolated points OCONUS that do not have adequate recreational facilities.

c. Alcoholic beverages may be transported for personal use, at the discretion of the CO, on naval vessels and aircraft subject to the reporting and certification requirements of reference (b), article 1162.

d. Alcoholic beverages may be transported as cargo consigned to bases OCONUS for use in authorized activities on such bases.

e. Sherry, wine, and beer may be served on naval vessels in support of diplomatic and community relations, as prescribed in paragraph 11, and may be maintained and transported in naval vessels for this purpose.

f. Three and four star officers with an assigned barge may authorize the serving of sherry, wine, and beer aboard the barge for events hosted for Department of Defense (DoD) personnel that further DoD interests (e.g., retirement ceremonies, reenlistment ceremonies). Authorization for serving distilled spirits aboard assigned barges requires Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) approval.

g. Numbered fleet commanders of naval and Military Sealift Command vessels participating in high-tempo, arduous operations are authorized to permit consumption of up to two 12-ounce cans or bottles of beer by each member of the crew or embarked unit during an appropriate 1-day stand down at sea. Consumption is to occur in conjunction with appropriate morale enhancing activities such as flight deck or fantail cookouts where non-alcoholic beverages must also be available. One-day stand downs

are authorized subject to operational commitments and local threat assessments, for vessels which have attained 45 consecutive days at sea and will not arrive in a liberty port within 5 days of the day scheduled for consumption. Consumption is permitted on a one-time basis following each 45-day period and is not a daily ration. Any voyage repair, upkeep period, or in-port period where any liberty is granted, and any at sea stand down under this exception constitutes termination of a continuous at sea period.

h. Dispensing and use of alcoholic beverages as defined in subparagraph 4a is authorized for beverage purposes aboard naval aircraft in conjunction with congressional travel. This authorization applies only to DoD or SECNAV approved missions which are in direct support of congressional travel as authorized by references (g) and (h).

i. Alcoholic beverages transported as provided in this paragraph shall be accounted for and secured properly at all times.

10. Alcoholic Beverages On Board Navy Installations and Aboard Naval Vessels in Support of Religious Ministry. Commanders establishing command religious programs (CRP) to accommodate religious needs per reference (i) are responsible for the security, safeguarding and accountability of alcoholic beverages explicitly used for religious purposes as a part of the CRP. Alcohol use and storage, as part of the CRP, is authorized to meet the religious needs of the Navy personnel and their families.

11. Alcoholic Beverages in Naval Vessels in Support of Diplomatic and Community Relations

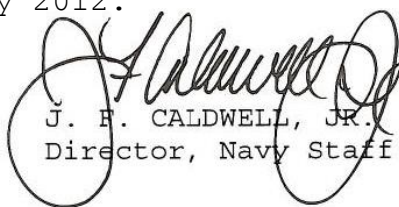
a. When hosting American and foreign visitors, as appropriate, in support of diplomatic and community relations goals, COs of afloat units and embarked flag or general officers are authorized to serve sherry, wine, and beer aboard U.S. Navy vessels, when in U.S. and foreign ports.

b. Possession and consumption of sherry, wine, and beer on these occasions shall be limited to the wardroom, flag mess, or other area designated by the CO or embarked flag or general officer.

c. These beverages shall be purchased using funds of the host's private mess. When the use of official representation funds is authorized per reference (j), those funds may be used for the purchase of appropriate alcoholic beverages.

12. Responsibility. Navy Inspector General and Deputy of Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (CNO (N1)) are responsible for ensuring control of alcoholic beverages following the policies and procedures in this instruction. Each member of the Navy is responsible to control use and consumption of alcoholic beverages following the policies and procedures in this instruction.

13. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, must be managed per SECNAV Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



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