

PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
Coast Guard Action Center
139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila

01 December 2003

CGAO/CG3/CGAC

C I R C U L A R -

N U M B E R 11 - 03

DECLARATION AND CATEGORIZATION OF READY
FOR SEA (RFS) STATUS OF PCG SHIPS

1. PURPOSE:

a. To set forth the basic guidelines in establishing the level of capability of PCG ships to aid operational and administrative commanders in the management of floating assets.

b. To classify ready for sea (RFS) commissioned vessels into three (3) categories to guide/aid the type and operational commanders in the proper/appropriate deployment/utilization and effective accomplishment of respective missions and tasks.

c. To establish an organizational relationship between the operating units and the type/operational commanders to ensure effective command, control and communication.

d. To aid/guide Commanding Officers of ship, administrative and operational commanders in the determination/planning of maintenance and repair activity to prolong the ship's life on the level/degree of utilization before and major activity.

e. To serve as an effective parameter in the programming and deployment of vessels.

2. SCOPE:

This circular is applicable to all PCG commissioned vessels that are being operated and maintained by the Philippine Coast Guard. It must not be confused with preparatory administrative activities like ORE, AGI and maintenance and repair programs of ships, which aim to upgrade their operational readiness and capabilities but as a basis for declaring ships for certain missions.

3. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

a. Administrative Type/Force Commander – a Commander whose functions of command involve the organization, training, equipping and maintaining subordinate forces including all aspects of administration and management, planning, programming and budgeting and promulgation of policies to govern such areas of concern in terms of discipline, internal organization and unit training.

IGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
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*Please draft memo
requesting OCAOF comments
on the designation for RM
status of PCG vessels as
per attached circular.*

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b. ~~Operational Commander~~ – a Commander whose functions of command were the ~~integration/orchestration of assets and attached forces/units~~ for carrying out the missions given by higher authorities in his area or responsibility. These involve the composition of subordinate forces, assignment of tasks and designation of objectives toward the accomplishment of missions. He has the full authority in directing assigned forces and allocating resources in the attainment of objectives and tasks.

c. Mission – The objectives and tasks together with purpose, which clearly indicate the action to be taken and reason thereof. An objective in the concrete sense, it is the effect desired. Task is assignment given to a unit or individual. Normally, it involves the accomplishment of physical movement of forces, to occupy, strike, control, defend and attain an objective.

d. Ship – A Commissioned self-propelled coast guard vessel of the Republic of the Philippines of at least eighty-five (85) gross tonnage commanded by a commissioned officer of the Philippine Coast Guard.

e. Ready for Sea (RFS) status - It is the state of readiness and capability of a ship to undertake/respond to a mission within a prescribed/anticipated period of time.

f. Not ready for Sea (NRFS) status – It is the state of unreadiness, ineffectivity and incapability of a ship to undertake a mission for Coast Guard operations.

g. Categorization of RFS status of ships:

- 1) RFS ONE – a PCG ship is categorized as RFS ONE when her state of readiness would enable her to operate or get underway to undertake a mission up to two (2) days.
- 2) RFS TWO – a PCG ship is categorized as RFS TWO when her state of readiness would enable her to operate or get underway to undertake a mission up to seven (7) days.
- 3) RFS THREE – a PCG ship is categorized as RFS THREE when her state of readiness would enable her to operate or get underway to undertake a mission beyond seven (7) days.
- 4) Any ship/craft incapable to undertake any mission or does not fall under the purview of the aforementioned categorizations is considered Not Ready for Sea (NRFS).

4. POLICIES:

a. Declaration of RFS status of a ship is the responsibility of the Commanding Officer.

b. A ship on RFS status, in any category, must be able to depart within eight (8) hours notice to undertake a particular mission. This excludes emergency missions covering a period of twenty-four (24) hours wherein a ship must have to depart immediately.

c. In preparing, anticipating and declaring the ship on ready for sea status, the Commanding Officer shall endeavor to discover and correct any defects and inadequacies in the crew and in the ship her installations equipment hull ammunition and stores; and shall

insure that appropriate installations and equipment can be operated satisfactorily by the crew. He shall be assisted by the immediate Force or Operational Commander who ever is in a better position or concern to do so.

d. The Commanding Officer shall insure before declaring the ship ready for sea or departing for sea/mission that the officers and crew have been properly organized, stationed and trained to cope effectively with normal shipboard evolutions and any emergency that might arise in the normal course of scheduled operations.

e. Administrative preparations and operational readiness evaluations/activities like AGT, ORE, related shipboard training policies, maintenance and repair program, etc., by the unit Commanding Officer, Force/Type Commander and even the Operational Commander will be continued to assist PCG ships in attaining an optimum degree of operational readiness.

f. The change from NRFS to RFS ONE status and vice versa shall be the responsibility of the Commanding Officer and shall be confirmed by the Operational/Force Commander, as the case maybe.

g. Upgrading/Downgrading of the categorization of RFS status will be the primary responsibility of the Commanding Officer.

h. Annex A outlines the kinds and types of ship's mission.

i. The categorization of RFS to commissioned vessels will be a criterion in the award of the Command-At-Sea Badge as prescribed in the GHQ Circular 19 dated 04 December 1979.

5. STATUS REPORT:

All PCG ships are required to report and include vessel's category in their Daily Vessels Report (DVR).

6. RESCISSION:

All other circulars and publications in conflict with this Circular are hereby rescinded.

7. EFFECTIVITY:

This Circular takes effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF COMMO GOSINGAN

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM O ARQUERO
LT
Coast Guard Adjutant PCG

ORIGINAL SIGNED

WILFREDO D. TAMAYO
COMMO PCG
Chief of Staff, PCG

ANNEX A

(SUBJ: DECLARATION AND CATEGORIZATION OF READY FOR SEA
(RFS) STATUS OF PCG SHIPS)

I. PATROL MISSIONS

COMBAT SUPPORT
BORDER SUPPORT
BLOCKADE/BARRIER PATROL
ENROUTE PATROL
COAST GUARD GUNFIRE SUPPORT
SUPPORTING TF/TG REQUIREMENT (PATROL COMBAT)
NEGATION PATROL
MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT

II. SEALIFT MISSIONS

PCG CARGO SEALIFT
PCG PERS SEALIFT
PCG PERS/CARGO SEALIFT
CIV CARGO SEALIFT
CIV PERS SEALIFT
CIV PERS/CARGO SEALIFT
PCG/CIV CARGO SEALIFT
PCG/CIV PERS SEALIFT
PCG/CIV PERS/CARGO SEALIFT
FERRY MISSIONS

III. SERVICE/SUPPORT MISSION

PRES/VIP SUPPORT
SUPPORTING TF/TG REQUIREMENT (SERVICE/SUPPORT)
SUPPORTING/ESCORTING OTHER VESSEL/UNIT
SEARCH/RESCUE OPERATIONS
SALVAGE OPERATIONS
TOWING OPERATIONS
REWATERING OTHER VESSELS
REFUELLING OTHER VESSELS
REPAIRING OTHER VESSELS

IV. TRAINING ACTIVITIES

REFRESHER/SHAKEDOWN TRAINING
INDIVIDUAL TRAINING
UNIT TRAINING
SQUADRON TRAINING
DIVISION TRAINING
COAST GUARD EXERCISE