

R 172044Z NOV 03 PSN 522590I23

FM COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA//N7//

TO EWTGLANT NORFOLK VA//N5//  
NAVSURFLANT SHIPS

INFO COMLANTFLT NORFOLK VA//N7//  
COMNAVSURFOR SAN DIEGO CA//N7//  
COMSUBLANT NORFOLK VA//N3//  
COMSECONDFLT  
COMNAVVAIRSYS COM PATUXENT RIVER MD//PMA-248//  
PEO IWS WASHINGTON DC//1E//  
EWTGPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N5//  
FACSFAC VACAPES OCEANA VA//N3/N7//  
FACSFAC JACKSONVILLE FL//N3/N7//  
TACTS NAS OCEANA VA//IMPASS//  
CG II MEF//G3/NGLA//  
CG II MEF//G3/NGLA//  
CG SECOND MARDIV//G3/NGLO//  
CG SECOND MARDIV//G3/NGLO//

UNCLAS //N03570//

MSGID/GENADMIN/COMNAVSURFLANT/-/NOV//

SUBJ/NAVAL SURFACE FIRE SUPPORT FIREX I UTILIZING INTEGRATED MARITIME  
/PORTABLE ACOUSTIC SCORING AND SIMULATION SYSTEM (IMPASS) NUMBER 2//

REF/A/RMG/COMNAVSURFLANT/301320ZAUG2003//

REF/B/RMG/CNSF/102306ZOCT2003//

NARR/REF A IS IMPASS POLICY MESSAGE NUMBER 1. REF B IS CNSF  
RE-ADDRESSAL OF NSWC PORT HUENEME DET LOUISVILLE'S MK 34 MOD 0 GUN  
WEAPON SYSTEM (GWS) TECHNICAL ADVISORY 03-04.//  
POC/HASSELBERGER/OSCS/CNSL N734/LOC:NORVA/TEL:(757)836-3067  
/TEL:DSN 836-3067/EMAIL:SHASSELBERGER(AT)CNSL.SPEAR.NAVY.MIL//

RMKS/1. THIS MESSAGE IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF MESSAGES ON  
GUIDANCE, POLICY, AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE  
EXECUTION OF FIREX I/II EVENTS USING IMPASS. POLICY MESSAGE NR 1  
(REF A) PROVIDES THE BASIC OVERVIEW AND FUNDAMENTALS REQUIRED TO  
SCHEDULE AND UTILIZE IMPASS. THIS MESSAGE ADDRESSES SYSTEM CARE AND  
THE USE OF BL&P AS THE PRIMARY AMMUNITION.

2. AS A RESULT OF LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE SIX FIREX I'S AND TWO  
FIREX II'S ACCOMPLISHED USING IMPASS, NEW PROCEDURES WILL BE  
IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE SYSTEM AVAILABILITY FOR ALL NSFS REQUIREMENTS.

### 3. HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

A. THE IMPASS SYSTEM REQUIRES PRE AND POST EVENT TASKS THAT ARE MANDATORY TO GUARANTEE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONAL LIFE.

1) THE BUOYS MUST BE RINSED WITH FRESH WATER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER RECOVERY TO REDUCE CORROSION.

2) THE BUOYS MUST BE SECURED IN THE CONTAINERS, AND

3) THE CONTAINERS MUST BE SECURED FOR SEA PRIOR TO COMMENCING OTHER EVOLUTIONS THAT WOULD PRECLUDE THOSE MEASURES FROM OCCURRING.

B. RECENT EXERCISES THAT HAVE NOT ALLOWED SUFFICIENT TIME FOR MAINTENANCE HAVE RESULTED IN DAMAGED BUOYS AND THE TEMPORARY LOSS OF ONE SYSTEM FOR FLEET TRAINING.

C. STORE THE IMPASS CONTAINERS PRIOR TO AND AFTER THE FIREX OUT OF THE WEATHER IN A PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT TO REDUCE LONG TERM CORROSION. THE CONTAINERS WERE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE BUOYS FROM THE ELEMENTS AND UNDERWAY DAMAGE, BUT THE CASES THEMSELVES NEED ATTENTION TO ENSURE LONGEVITY.

1) THE LIDS ARE EQUIPPED WITH HANDLES THAT ARE ONLY DESIGNED TO LIFT OFF THE LID, AND CAN NOT SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF THE LOADED BUOY OR BE USED AS HANDLES FOR CARRYING THE CONTAINER. THERE ARE SPECIFIC CARRYING HANDLES ON THE LOWER HALF OF EACH CONTAINER.

2) THE STOWAGE LOCATION SHOULD BE AWAY FROM DIRECT GUN BLAST PRESSURE.

3) THE CONTAINERS SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNSECURED OR THE LID LEFT OFF WHEN NOT WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THAT CONTAINER.

### 4. USE OF BL&P.

A. IMPASS WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR USE WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVE (HE) ROUNDS. SYSTEM TESTS HAVE PROVEN THAT WITH THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT, BL&P HAS ADEQUATE SOUND LEVELS TO BE DETECTED BY IMPASS BUOYS CONSISTENTLY ENOUGH TO SCORE A FIREX EVENT. HUE CITY WILL BE THE FIRST SHIP TO IMPLEMENT THE BL&P DECISION MATRIX PROCESS IN PARA B BELOW. OTHER DECEMBER FIRING EVENTS WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH BL&P AS AMMO LOADOUTS ALLOW. COMMENCING JANUARY 2004, ALL IMPASS FIREX EVENTS WILL BE SCHEDULED WITH BL&P AS THE PRIMARY AMMUNITION AND HE ROUNDS AS THE ALTERNATE IF THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOT CONDUCIVE FOR THE LOWER DB LEVEL OF BL&P. EWTGLANT AND THE FIRING SHIP WILL TEST ENVIRONMENTALS FOR FEASIBILITY OF BL&P USE PRIOR TO EACH EVENT.

B. THE FOLLOWING DECISION MATRIX WILL BE USED:

1) IF SVP SUPPORTS DETECTION/DIRECT PATH AT 1800 METERS, BUOYS WILL BE DEPLOYED IN THE DICE FIVE GEOMETRY AT A SPACING OF 1600 METERS.

2) FIRE THREE ROUNDS OF BL&P ACROSS THE BUOY FIELD (TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM). IF TWO OR MORE ROUNDS WERE DETECTED, CONDUCT PAC FIRE.

3) IF BL&P WAS CONSISTENTLY DETECTED DURING THE PAC, COMMENCE FIREX USING BL&P.

4) IF THE INITIAL THREE ROUNDS OR THE PAC FIRE DOES NOT PROVIDE CONSISTENT SCORING OF BL&P IMPACTS, SWITCH AMMUNITION TO HE.

C. IN ADDITION TO THIS BL&P PROCEDURE, THE EMBARKED EWTGLANT IMPASS TEAM WILL CONSULT THE IMPASS USERS GUIDE FOR BUOY FIELD GEOMETRY AND SPACING DEPENDANT ON ACOUSTIC CONDITIONS PRESENT IN THE APPROVED OPAREA.

5. IMPASS HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL SCORING TOOL DURING ONE FIREX DEMONSTRATION, FIVE GRADED FIREX I EVENTS AND TWO FIREX II EVENTS. THE HIGHEST FIREX I SCORE WAS 95.9% AND THE AVERAGE WAS 93.33%. THE USE OF IMPASS NOT ONLY APPLIES A NUMERICAL VALUE TO EACH ISE, IT ALSO ENABLES THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO GWS ISSUES IN A SAFE AND CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. NSWC PORT HUENEME DIV DET LOUISVILLE WILL RIDE THE NEXT FIREX I SHOOTER TO ANALYSE THE ANOMALY DESCRIBED IN

REF B. ALL SHIPS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH AMMUNITION INFORMATION  
NOTICES AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AVAILABLE AT URL:  
[HTTPS://WWW.NALC.NAVY.MIL/NALC/MAINPAGE.HTML//](https://www.nalc.navy.mil/nalc/mainpage.html)

3T  
NNNN