



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION  
2221 ADAMS AVENUE, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
FORT LEE, VIRGINIA 23801-2102

Reply to  
Attention of:

ATZF-OCT-S

15 March 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction for the US Army Vessel Naming Program

1. PURPOSE: To provide the basis, history, and procedures of the Army Vessel Naming Program for the US Army Transportation Corps.

2. REFERENCES:

- a. AR 1-33, 30 May 06, Memorial Programs.
- b. TB 43-0144, 5 Oct 90, Painting of Watercraft.

3. BACKGROUND: IAW AR 1-33 the vessel naming process is directed to be in consonance with applicable provisions and is to include memorialization of deceased personnel (who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor or service), significant battles or campaigns, words or phrases that recognize or represent a brigade's motto, and values that exemplify warrior ethos or patriotism in the Transportation Corps.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. The Office of the Chief of Transportation (OCOT) is the manager for the US Army Vessel Naming Program, coordinator for Vessel Naming Review Boards, and maintainer of the Registry of Army Vessel Names.

b. The Vessel Naming Review Board is comprised of individuals, who are serving in positions of significant responsibility, involving Transportation functions. The board consists of seven voting members: The Director, Office of the Chief of Transportation (Board President); Deputy Commanding Officer, 7th Sustainment Brigade; Chief, Reserve Affairs; the Regimental Warrant Officer; the Chief, Marine Qualification Division; the Senior Warrant Officer, Maritime Intermodal Training Division, US Army Transportation School; and the Command Sergeant Major, 7th Sustainment Brigade. The Command Historian, OCOT (non-voting member) will sit on the board as an advisor.

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c. The US Army Tank and Automotive Command (USATACOM) will coordinate with OCOT for the assignment of names for new vessels and the retirement of old names from vessels being removed from the Army's inventory.

d. Watercraft commands, with responsibility for the operation or storage of US Army vessels, will ensure all eligible vessels under their control are named. They will also ensure that the name is affixed to the appropriate vessel in accordance with TB 43-0144, Painting of Watercraft.

## 5. PROCEDURES:

a. When new names are required for vessels, OCOT, as the manager of the Army Vessel Naming Program, will solicit recommendations from the field and schedule a Vessel Naming Review Board. The board's recommendations will be cleared with USATACOM to prevent duplication and then forwarded to the COT for final approval. Once the COT approves, OCOT will notify USATACOM and publish a memorandum of authorization assigning the approved name to the appropriate vessel by hull number. The name of a vessel is not a replacement for the numerical identification, but is used in addition to the numerical identification. OCOT will coordinate with the command having operational control over the vessel for the formal naming ceremony to commence. (Class A2 vessels organized as separate detachments will be formally commissioned.) The approved names and associated hull numbers will then be entered into the Registry of Army Vessel Names.

b. When an Army vessel is removed from the inventory, the vessel's name will be retired. The name will be placed in the retired section of the registry, where it will remain for a period of five years. After five years, the name will again become eligible for use for another vessel.

## 6. CRITERIA:

a. The criteria for naming vessels includes:

(1) Deceased personnel (who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor or service) may be memorialized in consonance with applicable provisions of AR 1-33 (reference 2a). The application of criteria in AR 1-33 is recommended, but not limited to large vessels that are fully ocean capable (Class A-2 vessels).

(2) Battles or campaigns significant to the Transportation Corps. The application of criteria in Annex A (enclosed) is recommended, but not limited to small vessels that normally operate in coastal and harbor waters (Classes A-1, B and C vessels).



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(3) Words or phrases used to identify or represent a brigade level or higher motto in the Transportation Corps (e.g., Resolute, Spearhead) or values that exemplify warrior ethos or patriotism. Justification should include a brief description of the brigade's motto, values that exemplify warrior ethos, or patriotism specific to the Transportation Corps. The recommended name will be considered for large vessels that are fully ocean capable (Class A-2 vessels).

b. Any individual, unit, command, or organization having an association with Army watercraft may recommend names for vessels. Recommendations should be submitted to the Chief, Marine Qualification Division, OCOT (ATZF-OCT-S), 461 Kerr Road, Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5407, or sent by FAX to (757) 878-6669, and should be accompanied by a full explanation with biographical information to recognize an individual or the appropriate historical significance and justification if the recommended name for a vessel is a battle, campaign, or brigade's motto. The format for submitting a recommendation to name a vessel is enclosed as Annex A.

#### 7. VESSEL NAMING REVIEW BOARD:

a. Upon receipt of recommendations for a vessel name, the Marine Qualification Division, OCOT will assemble and distribute read-ahead packets to the members of the Vessel Naming Board containing all pertinent information to allow a thorough review.

b. Following review by the board members, OCOT will convene a formal Vessel Naming Review Board in accordance with para 4 above, to compile (in a group forum) an order of Merit List of names for the COT's final approval.

#### 8. NAMING AND COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES:

a. Newly acquired vessels will be formally named when christened. This action may take place at the shipbuilder's location or upon delivery to the command's home port. For new construction, the name will be applied to official documentation and affixed to the vessel during building.

b. Commands having operational control over a vessel that is authorized a name, but is unnamed, will arrange an appropriate ceremony to name the vessel.

9. This memorandum supersedes, memorandum, OCOT, ATZF-OCT, 11 MAR 08, subject: Letter of Instruction for the US Army Vessel Naming Program.

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10. Point of contact for this action is the Chief, Marine Qualification Division, Office of the Chief of Transportation, DSN 826-4622 or CML (757) 878-4622.



Encl

SAM C. BLANTON III  
LTC, LG  
Director, Office of the Chief  
of Transportation

DISTRIBUTION:

Commander

USARC (AFRC-OPT), 1401 Deshler St, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2009

7th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5484

143rd TRANSCOM (AFRC-TCFL-TR), 2800 Dowden Rd, Orlando, FL 32827-5299

HQ, 9th Regional Support Command, Bldg 648 Bishops Point, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860

8th Trans Bde (ATSP-BD), Fort Eustis, VA 23604

32nd Trans Gp (Comp), 4815 North Hubert Ave, Tampa, FL 33614

USATACOM (SFAE-CSS-FP-W), 6501 E. Eleven Mile Road, Warren, MI 48397-5000

1176th Transportation Terminal Brigade (STA), 700 East Ordnance Rd, Baltimore, MD  
21226

6th Trans Bn (TRK) (AFFG-Z), Fort Eustis, VA 23604

10th Trans Bn (TML) (AFFG-J), Fort Eustis, VA 23604

11th Trans Bn (TML) (AFFG-I), Fort Story, VA 23459

24th Trans Bn (TML) (AFFG-X), Fort Eustis, VA 23604

359th Trans Bn (TML) (AFRC-TAVA-SG-BN), Bldg 1034, 24th St, Fort Eustis, VA  
23604-5000

385th Trans Bn (TML), 401 Alexander Ave East, Tacoma, WA 98404-4599

545th Harbor Master Detachment (LSV SPT), Bldg 648 Bishops Point, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860

USA Kwajalein Atoll (CSSD-KA-IS), P.O. Box 26, APO AP 96555

Chief, Reserve Affairs (ATZF-RA), Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5000

Deputy Commanding Officer, 7th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5484

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