

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
LOGISTICS OPERATIONS SCHOOL  
MARINE CORPS COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT SCHOOLS  
PSC BOX 20041  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28541-0041

STUDENT HANDOUT

INTRODUCTION TO THE SHIP'S LOADING

CHARACTERISTICS PAMPHLET (SLCP)

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Given an amphibious embarkation situation with the aid of and per the references, analyze a SLCP for an amphibious ship. (0430.03.02.3)

STUDENT REFERENCE: Joint Pub 3-02.2 Joint Doctrine For Amphibious Embarkation

REQUIRED RESOURCES:

1. Student Outline C111-1
2. Student Handout C111-2

OUTLINE:

1. SHIP VARIANCES. There are many causes for variances of physical characteristics between ships of the same type and class. We will discuss the principal ones today. They are:

a. Age. Ships take a long time to build; therefore it can be literally years before two ships of the same type are completed. As technology develops, it is incorporated into newer models of the ship class. In addition, lessons learned from the operations of the lead ship in the class determine changes to follow-on models.

b. Ship Alterations. Ship alterations, or "shipalts" as they are called, are authorized modifications to all ships of a particular type. They are numbered and completed when the opportunity is available. Very often this occurs during scheduled yard periods which occur on an average of every four years for an amphibious ship. As an example, the conversion from M-14 to M-16 rifle racks aboard all ships took over five years. This results in some ships being up-to-date and others being somewhat behind.

c. Special Modifications. Some ships have been specially modified for a particular mission. At times these modifications

are temporary, but often they are permanent. Examples are: test-bed for new equipment; support of NASA operations; etc.

d. Encroachment. Encroachment is the term used for unauthorized modifications to a ship that restricts the space or facilities available to the landing force. We'll discuss this in more detail later.

## 2. THE SHIP'S LOADING CHARACTERISTICS PAMPHLET (SLCP)

a. Purpose. The purpose of the SLCP is to provide embarking units information concerning the physical characteristics, methods of loading and stowage, operating procedures and capabilities/limitations of a specific ship.

b. Responsibilities. Each ship publishes its own SLCP.

(1) Now a "generic" SLCP is jointly published by the Commanders, Navy Surface Forces, Atlantic and Pacific. The "generic" SLCP concept is new and presently only the Newport Class (1179) LST and Whidbey Island Class (41) LSD are published.

(2) Each ship is required to publish an SLCP addendum, landing force operational reserve materiel (LFORM) supplement, and embarked troop regulations for their specific ship. The combat cargo officer (CCO) or ship's first lieutenant normally writes the SLCP addendum, LFORM supplement, and embarked troop regulations.

c. Organization. All SLCPs are organized in accordance with COMNAVSURFLANTINST 9010.2/COMNAVSURFPACINST 9010.1 (a joint instruction).

d. Contents. The SLCP contains specific data on:

(1) Characteristics/capabilities

(2) Loading, stowage and off-loading information

(3) Embarkation/debarkation procedures

(4) Troop living accommodations and head facilities

(5) Service support facilities

(6) Personnel augmentation requirements from embarked organizations

(7) Embarked organization working spaces

- (8) Troop cargo space capacity
- (9) Cargo space limitations
- (10) Profiles/weather deck presentations
- (11) Diagrams
- (12) Conversions (e.g., metric to US equivalent)
- (13) Sample addendum

3. ANALYSIS OF THE SLCP. We have devised a set of standard steps to analyze an SLCP for any ship. Let's use our SLCP for the LSD, and analyze it step-by-step.

a. Check Date for Currency. Let's make sure we're using an up-to-date document. The date should appear on the signature page. Call the ship or higher headquarters embarkation office to confirm that you have the most current SLCP.

b. Review Table of Contents. This will help familiarize us with the organization of this specific SLCP.

c. Locate Profile Diagram. This will aid us in completing the next step.

d. Layout Deck Diagrams According to the Profile Diagram. By laying out our deck diagrams so we can see the whole ship, we'll find it much easier to work our way through the other sections of the SLCP with a visual representation in front of us.

e. Review Symbols and Terms. This step merely refreshes our memory for the things we'll see later in the analysis.

f. Check General Capacities and Characteristics. Section I of the SLCP gives basic dimensions, draft, etc., of the ship as well as landing craft, and helicopter capacities and the organic boats and helicopters the ship carries.

g. Determine the Ship's Cargo Handling Equipment (CHE) and Cargo Handling Systems. Normally found in Section II of the SLCP, it is best to take notes on the organic cargo handling capabilities of the ship before we review the rest of the SLCP, so we can bear them in mind as we look at the rest of the data.

h. Review Stowage and Off-load Information. Section II provides the mission of the ship, information as to types of cargo that can be accommodated, numbers of helicopters that can

be embarked under various conditions, and other general cargo limitation information.

i. Study Embarkation/Debarkation Procedures. Section III provides specific procedural information concerning the preferred methods of embarking and debarking the ship under various circumstances. It often includes a section of "lessons learned" from previous deployments which can help us avoid the mistakes of others, or benefit from their good ideas.

j. Determine Troop Living Space Capacities. Sections I and IV of the SLCP, contain billeting information.

k. Review Service Support Facilities. Section V contains information on service support facilities such as: ship store, postal, disbursing, laundry, barber shop, etc. This portion of the SLCP will be of interest to all troop leaders.

l. Review Personnel Augmentation Requirements for Embarked Organizations. Section VI contains information on the ships platoon, cooks, bakers, messmen, laundry details, etc.

m. Review Embarked Organization Working Spaces. Section VII contains information on the embarked organization working spaces.

n. Verify Cargo Space Capacities. Section VIII identifies the capacity and location of all troop cargo spaces aboard the ship.

o. Annotate Cargo Space Limitations. Section IX provides such essential data as minimum clearances, restrictions on type of cargo allowed, crane capacities, deck weight limitations, etc., for each cargo space. It can be extremely useful when we make preliminary stowage decisions.

p. Diagram Analysis. The analysis of the drawn-to-scale deck diagrams can be the most important aspect of the SLCP analysis. It is easily accomplished if we've done our homework on the rest of the document, and its done in an organized procedure. Let's analyze the diagrams you have on your desk.

- (1) "No Stow" areas
- (2) Load-limit lines
- (3) Obstructions
- (4) Clearances
- (5) Hatch openings (size/location)

- (6) Cargo handling equipment/systems available
- (7) Footnotes/special remarks
- (8) Analyze LFORM/MLA load and its impact
- (9) Encroachment