

NAVY SUPPORT ELEMENT (NSE)

Outline

1. NSE Mission

The Navy support element (NSE) is responsible for the off-load and delivery of maritime pre-positioning equipment and supplies (MPE/S) from the maritime pre-positioning ships (MPS) to the high water mark or pier.

2. Composition of the Navy Support Element (NSE)

- a. Composition. The exact size and composition of each component depends on what facilities are available within the arrival and assembly area (AAA) and whether the off-load will be conducted across a beach, through a port, or both. Total cargo off-load for the entire MPSRON is three to five days pierside (rolling stock – 18 hours) and five to seven days in-stream (24 hours to prepare lighterage prior to off-load).
- b. Deployment. The NSE deploys incrementally as part of the survey, liaison, and reconnaissance party (SLRP), the off-load preparation party (OPP) and the advance party.
- c. Commander, Navy Support Element (CNSE)
 - (1) Designated by the numbered fleet commander.
 - (2) Has the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Command the NSE.
 - (b) Participate in off-load planning and conduct the off-load in coordination with the MAGTF commander and COMPSRON.
 - (c) Exercise tactical control (TACON) over the Marine Corps debark team during arrival and assembly.
 - (d) Recommend naval reserve augmentation to the commander, maritime pre-positioning force (CMPF).
 - (e) Reports to the MAGTF commander for marshalling and movement.
- d. Major Units of the NSE
 - (1) Detachment, naval beach group (NBG)
 - (a) NBG-1 (San Diego, CA)
 - (b) NBG-2 (Norfolk, VA)
 - (2) Detachment, amphibious construction battalion (ACB)
 - (a) ACB-1 (San Diego, CA)
 - (b) ACB-2 (Norfolk, VA)

(3) Detachment, assault craft unit (ACU)

- (a) ACU-1 (San Diego, CA)
- (b) ACU-2 (Norfolk, VA)

(4) Detachment, beachmaster unit (BMU)

- (a) BMU-1 (San Diego, CA)
- (b) BMU-2 (Norfolk, VA)

(5) Detachment, Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group (NAVCHAPGRU)

(6) Detachment, Naval Special Warfare Group (SPECWARGRU) and mobile inshore undersea warfare unit (MIUWU), if required.

e. Major components of the NSE

(1) Reserve unit activation and augmentation

(a) The NBG has sufficient active duty manning with ACB, ACU, BMU, and NAVCHAPGRU to off-load two MPF ships simultaneously (in-stream operations) and one full squadron during pierside operations.

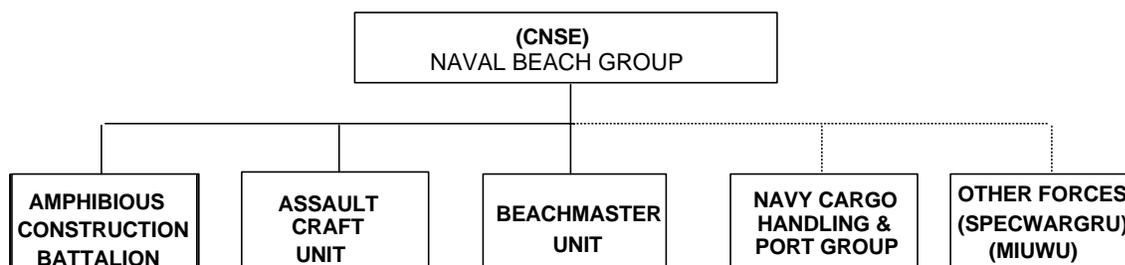
(b) To off-load an entire squadron simultaneously (in-stream), the NBG must be augmented by reserves.

1 For exercises and operations scheduled and planned in advance, the NBG provides the scheduled dates to its assigned reserve units so that the units can plan their two-week active duty for training periods in conjunction with the exercise or operation.

2 The NBG requests reserve augmentation to a higher authority if the reserve activation and augmentation has not taken place.

3. NSE Equipment Positioned Aboard MPS

The following NSE equipment is pre-positioned aboard MPS units. This equipment will be discussed in detail during the transportation and throughput lesson.



OPCON ———
COORD ······

- a. Causeway section, non-powered (CSNP)
- b. Causeway section, powered (CSP)
- c. Causeway/barge ferry (assembled from single a CSP and several CSNP sections)
- d. Side loadable warping tug (SLWT)
- e. Landing craft, mechanized MK 8 (LCM-8)
- f. Lighter, amphibious resupply, cargo (LARC V)
- g. Roll-on/roll-off discharge facility (RRDF)
- h. Fuel/water discharge systems (AABF/WS to be replaced by ABLTS).

4. NSE Off-load Organization

The Navy support element off-load organization is composed of an off-load control unit (OCU), a beach support unit, and a defense unit.

- a. Off-load control unit

(1) Mission: The OCU is organized to accomplish off-load in-stream or pierside.

(2) Officer in Charge: The off-load preparation party (OPP) OIC is a Navy officer designated by the CNSE. The OIC's responsibilities and priorities are established by the MAGTF commander with CNSE coordination. The OPP OIC usually transitions to become the MPSRON off-load control officer (OCO).

(3) Location: NSE and OCU headquarters are located on the MPSRON flagship during arrival and assembly.

(4) Subordinate elements

(a) Debarkation teams

1 One team per ship

2 Composed of MAGTF, NAVCHAPGRU, lighterage personnel, and the ship's crew (through the ship's master)

3 Under the command of a debarkation officer, the senior naval officer on board

4 Accountable to the OCO for efficient MPE/S off-load.

5 Subordinate elements:

a Cargo handling detachment

(1) NAVCHAPGRU personnel

(2) Tasks:

(a) Unlash weather deck cargo not unlashd by the OPP.

(b) Operate the ship's cargo handling equipment to off-load lighterage, containers, and equipment.

(c) Provide hatch crews (8 personnel per hatch).

(d) Ensure each lift is completed safely.

b USMC debark team

(1) One team per MPS

(2) MAGTF OPP personnel are augmented by maintenance and vehicle equipment operators.

(3) Tasks:

(a) Unlash vehicles and equipment below the weather deck that are not unlashd by the OPP.

(b) Complete the vehicle activation required for debarkation.

(c) Stage cargo in hatch squares.

(d) Assist cargo handling detachment with the hook-up of lifting equipment.

(e) Move vehicles on board ships and lighterage to accomplish off-load.

c Lighterage control teams (LCTs)

(1) LCTs are supervised by a lighterage control officer (LCO).

(2) During in-stream off-loads, LCTs directs lighterage to the appropriate position alongside MPF ships for off-load and, when ships are loaded, dispatch the lighterage to the control of the OCO.

(b) Lighterage

1 Lighterage is operated by ACB and ACU personnel.

2 During alongside maneuvering and loading operations, lighterage is controlled by the ship's LCO.

3 At all other times (i.e., during craft awaiting station and craft transit to and from the beach), lighterage is controlled by the OCO.

4 During pierside off-load, lighterage is placed ashore or in the water, as directed by the OCO.

5 During RRDF operations, lighterage is controlled by the RRDF OIC.

(c) Beach party group

- 1 The beach party group is responsible for beach operations. The beach party group reports to the OCO and advises on areas available for lighterage landings. It coordinates with the landing force support party (LFSP).
- 2 The beach party group is organized into beach party teams and liquid transfer teams. During pierside off-load, these teams are composed mainly of port operations personnel from NAVCHAPGRU.
- 3 Tasks:
 - a Coordinate bulk liquid transfer system beach-end operations.
 - b Conduct beach preparations to receive lighterage.
 - c Assist the shore party in improving beach exits.
 - d Control lighterage movement from the surf line to the high-water mark.
 - e Control lighterage salvage.
 - f Advise OCO of wind and surf conditions.
 - g Provide local security.
 - h Operate port cargo and material handling equipment.

b. Beach support unit

- (1) The beach support unit is composed of personnel from ACB, ACU, BMU, SPECWARGRU, and MIUWU (if required).
- (2) Beach support unit supplies are pre-positioned aboard MPS for 30 days of operation.
- (3) Tasks:
 - (a) Construct and operate the NSE camp ashore.
 - (b) Make limited repairs to NSE radios, vehicles, and lighterage.
- (4) When operating ashore, the beach support unit coordinates with the beach party commander.

c. Defense unit

- (1) The defense unit comprises beach party personnel and other elements, as required.
- (2) The defense unit is activated whenever the security situation requires.
- (3) Tasks: Provide security and defense of the camp area and beach support area in conjunction with the shore party and MPS.

5. NSE Organizations During Off-load

a. In-stream off-load, following report to off-load control officer (OCO)

(1) Ship's debarkation officer

(a) Coordinates efforts of the Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group Detachment, the Marine Corps debarkation teams, and the lighterage control teams to off-load each ship as efficiently as possible. The debarkation team comprises MAGTF personnel, TACON to CNSE, to prepare MPE/S for off-load and assist NAVCHAPGRU personnel with the off-load (Sea states affect ship-to-shore movement).

(b) Coordinates with the beach operations group (BOG) to forecast and coordinate lighterage loads.

(2) Lighterage. Boat crews report to the OCO for ship and beach assignments.

(3) Beach Party. The beach party advises the OCO on the beach situation and on available causeway and boat landings areas. The beach party coordinates with the LFSP.

b. Pierside off-load, following report to the OCO

(1) Ship's debarkation officer

(a) The ship's debarkation officer coordinates shipboard efforts to off-load each ship as efficiently as possible.

(b) NAVCHAPGRU personnel conduct the lift-off portion of the discharge operation.

(c) The Marine debarkation team conducts the roll-off portion of the discharge operation.

(2) Lighterage. Off-loaded and placed either ashore or in the water as directed by the OCO.

(3) Beach party. Coordinates with the OCO, if the lighterage is beached, to determine location and availability of the lighterage.

6. Summary

This lesson has covered the mission, components, subordinate elements, and tasks of the Navy support element.