



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AIR ASW ASSAULT AND SPECIAL MISSION PROGRAMS
47123 BUSE ROAD, UNIT # _____
PATUXENT RIVER, MD 20670-1547

IN REPLY REFER TO

From: Program Manager, Air ASW Sensor Systems (PMA264)

Subj: SPRING 2001 SONOBUOY LIAISON WORKING GROUP (SLWG)
MEETING

Encl: (1) Spring 2001 SLWG Agenda
(2) Spring 2001 SLWG Minutes
(3) List of Spring 2001 SLWG Attendees
(4) Old SLWG Action Items
(5) Spring 2001 SLWG Action Items (New)

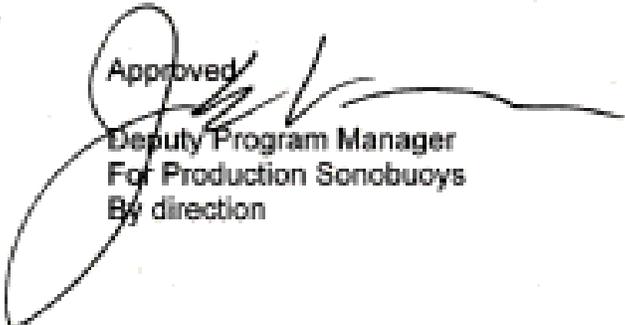
1. The Sonobuoy Liaison Working Group (SLWG) convened on 17-18 May 2001 at Naval Air Station North Island, California. The session was hosted by the Program Executive Office, Air ASW, Assault and Special Mission (PEOASWASM) programs (PMA264B). It was held in the SWATS facility at NAS NORIS.
2. The SLWG convenes every six months to provide an environment for the exchange of information, ideas and problems relating to Fleet sonobuoy requirements, logistics and technical issues. Representatives attend the SLWG from sonobuoy end-users, supply points, and other Fleet activities. Participation provides Fleet Commanders (CINC's) and Type Commanders (TYCOM's) an opportunity to receive immediate feedback concerning issues discussed during the conference. It also provides Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) resource sponsors the opportunity for consolidated feedback. Participation by naval logistics coordinators and local squadron personnel provides opportunities for the PMA264 technical staff to discuss sonobuoy issues with Fleet logistics and aircrew personnel. The Fall 2000 session of the SLWG was not held during this cycle due to schedule conflicts for numerous members.
3. Enclosures (1), (2), and (3) contain the conference agenda, minutes and list of attendees. Key points of discussions at this session of the SLWG were: (a) sonobuoy NCEA/NCER/NNOR issues; (b) sonobuoy Automated Inventory Technology (AIT) program; (c) current and future sonobuoy production plans; (d) transition of sonobuoy management from DLA to the Navy Weapons community; and (e) various logistics issues.
4. Action items reviewed and/or accepted during previous SLWG sessions and at this meeting are provided as enclosures (4) and (5). These action items should not preclude other individuals or organizations from developing interim solutions or from assisting responsible organizations in their efforts. Action item status should be reported to George Wolf, AWCS Scott Montgomery, or

Dave Polanco at the Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (6074) via the Sonobuoy Hotline (812-854-3577 or DSN 482-3577).

5. The Fall 2001 session of the SLWG is tentatively scheduled for October/November 2001 in Jacksonville, Florida. Action items or suggested topics for discussion are encouraged. Submit to:

Program Executive Office
Air ASW, Assault & Special Mission Programs (PMA264B)
47123 Buse Road Unit # IPT Suite 148
Patuxent River, MD 20670-1547

6. The point of contact for any questions or comments regarding the SLWG, these minutes, or action items is CDR Jack Vess (PMA264B) at (301) 757-5718/ DSN 757-5718 or Mr. Dave Baden (PMA264B1) at (301)-757-5717/DSN 757-5717.



Approved

Deputy Program Manager
For Production Sonobuoys
By direction

SONOBUOY LIAISON WORKING GROUP
NAS Jacksonville, Florida
May 17 - 18, 2001

AGENDA
May 17, 2001
Open Session, Gov Only until 1300

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
0800:	Convene	(NSWCC)
0815:	Action Item Review	(NSWCC)
0845:	NCEA/NNOR	(PMA-264B)
0915:	Program Brief	(PMA-264B)
1000:	Break	
1030:	Sonobuoy Management	(NALC)
1115:	ROLMS Training	(NALC)
1200:	Lunch	
1300:	NALC IM Brief	(NALC)
1315:	NALC ATR/NCEA Brief	(NALC)
1330:	ROLMS AIT	(NSWCC)
1415:	Break	
1500:	Logistics Team / Discussion	(NSWCC)
1520:	Sonobuoy Logistics	(NSWCC)
1600:	Adjourn	

May 18, 2001
Open Session

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
0800:	Convene	(NSWCC)
0815:	Action Item Review	(NSWCC)
0845:	CNE Brief (Cancelled)	(CNE)
0900:	PACFLT Brief	(CNAP)
0930:	Break	
1000:	New Sonobuoys	(NSWCC)
1030:	Break	
1045:	After Action Report	(NAWC PAX)
1115:	Action Item Discussion	(NSWCC)
1145:	Close	

SONOBUOY LIAISON WORKING GROUP
17 - 18 May 2001

MINUTES

May 17, 2001

0800 - CALL TO ORDER: (NSWCC 6074)

The APML called the Spring 2001 session of the Sonobuoy Liaison Working Group to order.

0815 – Action Item Review: (NSWCC 6074)

The APML reviewed all Action Items open as of the last Spring 2000 session of the SLWG at NAS Jacksonville, Florida. All Action Items, open or closed, discussed at this session are reiterated in Enclosure (4) and (5) of this document.

0845 – NNOR / NCEA / NCER: (PMA-264B)

The Deputy Program Manager for Production presented the briefing for OPNAV. Sonobuoy NCEA/NNOR issues were discussed and outyear NCEA plans presented.

0915 – Production Sonobuoy Programs: (PMA-264B)

PMA-264B presented a brief covering the production sonobuoy program. He discussed the production program testing and logistics processes, the status of current production contracts and delivery schedules, procurement drivers, projected budgets, and the projected inventory vs requirement through the FYDP. He also covered current sonobuoy production plans, accomplishments, and outstanding issues. He went on to report on the future of active and passive sonobuoys and various R&D initiatives.

1030 – Sonobuoy Management: (NALC Mechanicsburg)

The Commanding Officer of the Navy Ammunition Logistics Center (NALC), Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, presented a briefing on various NALC initiatives including a demonstration of the CAIMS OSE system via SIPERNET. He discussed the future of sonobuoy management (Action Item 01-11 applies.)

1115 - ROLMS TRAINING: (NALC)

The ROLMS Training Officer of NALC Mechanicsburg presented a briefing on the status of various ROLMS training initiatives including the Mobile Fleet Support Teams (MFST).

1300 – NALC Item Manager Brief: (NALC)

The Sonobuoy Item Manager at NALC Mechanicsburg presented a brief on the status of the current sonobuoy stockpile and a discussion of sonobuoy demilitarization levels.

1315 – ATR Brief: (NALC)

The NALC Mechanicsburg Sonobuoy Technician presented a brief concerning typical Ammunition Transaction Report (ATR) errors and their causes and discussed CAIMS NCEA expenditure retrieval processes.

1330 – ROLMS AIT: (NSWCC)

A representative of the NSWCC Crane ROLMS office presented a briefing on the current status of ROLMS and the ROLMS AIT program. She also discussed the 'Sonobuoy Module' for ROLMS and its processes.

1500 – Sonobuoy Management Team and Sonobuoy Logistics: (NSWCC 6074)

The APML presented a briefing on the status of the Sonobuoy Management Team and a discussion of sonobuoy logistics initiatives and issues.

1600 - Adjourn

May 18, 2001

0800 - CALL TO ORDER: (NSWCC 6074)

The APML called the second day of the Spring 2001 session of the Sonobuoy Liaison Working Group to order.

0815 – Action Item Review: (NSWCC 6074)

The APML reviewed Action Items generated during this session of the SLWG.

0845 – PACFLT Brief: (CNAP)

The COMNAVAIRPAC Sonobuoy NCEA manager reviewed Pacific Fleet sonobuoy issues with an emphasis on Load Plan quantities vs locations.

1000 – New Sonobuoys: (NSWCC 6074)

An engineer attached to NSWCC Crane (6074) presented a briefing on the technical parameters of the SSQ-53F, SSQ-62E, and SSQ-101 sonobuoys.

1045 – After Action Brief: (NAWCAD Patuxent River)

A representative of NAWCAD Patuxent River presented a report of recent EER operations conducted in MCBH Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

1115 – Action Item Review / Discussion: (NSWCC 6074)

The APML reviewed the Action Items a final time, solicited final discussion, and then closed the session.

SONOBUOY LIAISON WORKING GROUP
List of Attendees
17 – 18 May 2001

See the Secure Server for a list of attendees.

SONOBUOY LIAISON WORKING GROUP

ACTION ITEMS

Old Action Items

- **ITEM 98-03: CAIMS / ATR PROCESS**
 - Executive Committee: Errors in CAIMS directly affects procurement
 - Garbage in - Garbage out
 - ROLMS reporting difficulties
 - Little faith in CAIMS inventory numbers
 - Expenditures not reported
 - Need for World-Wide Inventory?
 - Assigned to PMA264, NALC, NSWCC
 - Status Spring 2001: **ONGOING**: Crane Sonobuoy Management Review Team chartered by CAIMS/ATR Working Subcommittee to reconcile Fleet activities in CAIMS and establish effective ROLMS reporting. Assist visits continue through FY 01. NALC developing end-user level ROLMS training. ROLMS AIT funded by PM for 'Major' end user sites, installed in FY 01.

- **ITEM 99-05: CAIMS INACCURATE FOR DDJC & DDNV**
 - AMMOPAC/AMMOLANT: CAIMS does not reflect accurate account for the Defense Depots
 - AMMO's source requisitions at DD's due CAIMS shows material avail
 - DD's deny requisition with 'A6A' because material not avail
 - Obvious that an Out-of-Balance condition exists when this occurs
 - NALC action is required when this occurs
 - Assigned to NALC
 - Status: **CLOSED**: NALC: Visibility of stock at DDJC has been recovered. Ongoing effort to maintain visibility & improve processes.

- **ITEM 00-01: SONOBUOY PLR (BG3) REQUIREMENT**
 - NSWCC: Periodic Lot Reports are required for sonobuoys at this time
 - PLR was once required due size of inventory vs usage
 - Required to indicate age stratification of stockpile
 - Stockpile has reduced to the point where the inventory is completely replaced every 2 - 3 years, making PLR unneeded
 - Rescind PLR requirement for sonobuoys
 - Assigned to N/A.
 - Discussion: NSWCC: The need for PLR (BG3) for sonobuoys has been negated by the shrinking inventory. We use the buoys at a rate that insures most types will be used prior to going over age. NSWCC suggests that PLR requirement be dropped. Discussion.
 - Closing Status Spring 2001: **CLOSED**. Discussion at last SLWG indicated PLR still important in view of shrinking inventory. PLR (BG3) to continue.

- **ITEM 99-09: HOST LEVEL REPORTING**
 - CNRFL: Feasibility of Weapons Departments providing host-level reporting for attached squadrons at Naval Air Stations
 - Host-level reporting would reduce number of reporters
 - Fewer reporters = fewer chances for ATR mistakes
 - Weapons Departments have more experience in ROLMS/ATR reporting & had onsite install and training by ROLMS program
 - Determine feasibility of establishing host-level reporting for Squadrons and Wings at applicable Air Stations
 - Assigned to CPRFL, CNAL
 - Status Spring 2001: **ONGOING**: NSWCC: Establishment of host-level reporting is underway. Status to be discussed at next session.

- **ITEMS 99-02, 99-11, & 99-12: (Consolidated)**
 ROLMS TRAINING SHORTFALLS
 - Membership: ROLMS training insufficient to meet Fleet requirements
 - NALC only fully supports ROLMS at major sites (e.g., WEPSTA, Weps Depts)
 - Small end-users are not supported other than ROLMS trouble desk & ROLMS CD tutorial
 - Existing Ammo Management School ROLMS curriculum inadequate
 - Establish effective ROLMS training!
 - Assigned to NALC
 - Status: **ONGOING**: NALC: Certain ROLMS training initiatives are underway. NALC to brief status at Fall 2001 session. NSWCC: ROLMS training conducted at sites visited by Sonobuoy Management Review Team, ongoing, experience with ROLMS 'Mobile Training Help' files good.

- **ITEM 99-13: ROLMS AIT SYSTEM**
 - PMA-264B: What is cost/configuration of ROLMS AIT system for sonobuoy sites; what are requirements?
 - How many sites need a ROLMS AIT system
 - What is configuration, cost of system
 - Feasibility of funding procurement
 - Assigned to NSWCC
 - Status: **ONGOING**: PMA-264 funded the procurement of the ROLMS AIT system (e.g., scanners, software, bar code printers, etc) for distribution to certain end-user sonobuoy sites not supported by the NALC ROLMS office. NSWCC is installing in FY01. To be briefed at Fall 2001 session.

- **ITEM 00-02: LOAD PLAN SCRUB**

See the Secure Server

SONOBUOY LIAISON WORKING GROUP

ACTION ITEMS

New Action Items

- **ITEM 01-01: See the Secure Server**

- **ITEM 01-02: EMATT NCEA**
 - USS HAWES 290815Z SEP 00: NCEA of 2 inadequate, require NCEA of 5.
 - Unit proficiency & exercises require larger NCEA for EMATT
 - Assigned to N/A
 - Discussion: NCEA changes must be requested through COC. USS HAWES should submit NCEA requirement to COMDESRON 22
 - Closing Status: **CLOSED**

- **ITEM 01-03: SONOBUOY EXTENSIONS**
 - USS COLE 291400Z SEP 00: Service life of several buoys extended in past. Concern that buoys getting too old & may not function reliably.
 - Continued testing required to insure buoys reliable; results to Fleet.
 - Assigned to: NSWCC, PMA
 - Discussion: Performance data for sonobuoy NALC's is tracked by NSWCC. Extensions are granted based on performance data & Fleet reported failures. Fleet report of significant failure rates would result in reevaluation of extensions. Extensions are valid based on existing data.
 - Closing Status: **CLOSED**

- **ITEM 01-04: SHIPFILL / NCEA PROCESS**
 - COMDESRON 31 081300Z OCT 00: The current process by which NCEA and Sonobuoy (Shipfill) Allowances are prescribed for Exercises (i.e., FLEETEX, RIMPAC, etc.) is inefficient.
 - DESRON provides buoy requirements to HSL & Ships. Ships & HSL request buoy augment from CHSLWP & requisitions from AMMOPAC.
 - RECOMMEND: CHSLWP and AMMOPAC publish a 'Standard NCEA Augment Training Sonobuoy Allocation' based on historical usage. Exercise participants will use the data for Sonobuoy Requirement Estimates & NCEA Augment Requests (if necessary).
 - Assigned to CPF
 - Discussion: Discussion by group.
 - Closing Status: **CLOSED** per CPF & discussion. This is a TYCOM/Ship problem if the ship does not requisition sufficient stock to support ops.

- **ITEM 01-05: See the Secure Server**

- **ITEM 01-06: ROLMS Tech Data Files**
 - NSWCRANE: ROLMS TECH DATA Update Files maintained on NALC Web Site routinely fail to function when attempting to update ROLMS
 - SALTS no longer posts the TECH DATA files; NALC now posts the files
 - NALC-maintained files routinely fail to work (corrupt?)
 - Contacting NALC, there appears to be no QA on the files & instructions for updating ROLMS on Web Site are incorrect and state 12 steps to do what can be done in 3 steps (e.g., save a 14Meg file to floppy disk?)
 - NALC has no ROLMS system to test posted files on. No instructions on NALC web site to indicate how to 'reset' ROLMS if upload fails.
 - Assigned to: NALC
 - Discussion: Action prior to opening session resolved this issue.
 - Closing Status: **CLOSED**: Referred to NSWCRANE office by NALC. Files will be tested when posted in future. ROLMS office will review process & instructions on NALC web site.

- **ITEM 01-07: PC FOR PATRON SIG ROLMS**
 - NSWCRANE: The PC and Printer being used by PATRON Sigonella for ROLMS reporting are inadequate
 - The PC and printer are living on borrowed time and are 'barely' adequate for ROLMS reporting.
 - It is only a matter of time until the PC dies & the printer cannot generate 1348's
 - ROLMS functionality is restricted on current PC
 - PATRON Sigonella makes most of the sonobuoy expenditures in the CNE AOR
 - Assigned to: CNE/CNAL/CPRFL
 - Discussion: Status of PC procurement in Fleet discussed
 - Closing Status: **ONGOING**: CLF (Mr. McKracherne) MFST representative stated that he would insure CTG 67.2 receives a good PC and printer in support of ROLMS operations. To be briefed at next session.

- **ITEM 01-08: LOAD PLAN/SHIPFILL USE FOR NCEA**
 - NSWC CRANE: Sonobuoys filling Load Plan and/or Shipfill Requirements should be used for NCEA expenditure
 - Current philosophy of Fleet Managers seems to be that Load Plan/Shipfill buoys cannot be used to support NCEA requirements
 - Results in 'nickel & dime' requisitions by remote sites
 - Load Plan/Shipfill should be used for NCEA per NAVSUP P-724 & NALC
 - Pre-positioning of assets could be precluded if Load Plan filled & used
 - HSL Dets should draw from Shipfill for training, replenish as needed
 - Projected inventory levels will not support Load Plan/Shipfill + NCEA planning
 - Assigned to: CLF/CPF/CNE/NALC
 - Discussion: General discussion by the group.
 - Closing Status: **CLOSED**: Discussion resulted in no action.

- **ITEM 01-09: NALC ATR TECH SUPPORT**
 - NSWC CRANE: Since NALC's reorganization ATR Technician support has suffered, suggest dedicated ATR Technician support be bolstered
 - ATR Technician support limited by personnel & experience level; only four (?) remain & they are subject to other tasking (i.e., ESI's, etc)
 - Manual intervention suffers (ex., USS Truman <deployed> on suspense for 14 days/> 60 ATR's with no response by NALC ATR Techs to several phone requests. In this example the errors show on the Battle Group Report Card.)
 - Tech's closing Documents with no remarks in file to indicate why/who
 - ATR Discrepancy Notification messages still refer Fleet to old Tech Personnel
 - Crane Logistics Office receives *many* calls from Fleet activities that should ideally be handled by NALC Techs
 - Assigned to: NALC
 - Discussion: Announcement by NALC of new policy.
 - Closing Status: **CLOSED**: Fleet support re ATR's has been assigned to AMMO's by NALC.

- **ITEM 01-10: See the Secure Server**

- **ITEM 01-11: SONOBUOYS TO ORDNANCE VICE SUPPLY**
 - NALC: Evaluate & make recommendations for moving sonobuoys from DLA management to Ordnance/Weapons management.
 - Management of sonobuoys by DLA ineffective
 - Management as an ordnance item in the Ordnance Community preferable
 - Form an IPT to evaluate and make recommendation to Ordnance Community for transition of DLA management to Ordnance Management of 8U & 2E sonobuoys
 - Assigned to: SLWG Executive Committee
 - Discussion: General discussion in support of issue.
 - Closing Status: **ONGOING**: APML will form IPT to evaluate Action Item suggestion and make recommendation to controlling authority. Tentative meeting at NALC Mechanicsburg for June/July depending on coordination.

- **ITEM 01-12: NCEA LINE FOR SSQ-53F FOR FY02 & FY03**
 - PMA264: Establish an allocation for the SSQ-53F during transition from SSQ-57B to SSQ-53F.
 - Allocation required to insure FIFO for DIFAR assets during transition from SSQ-57B to SSQ-53F
 - Assigned to: OPNAV
 - Discussion: PM will rectify
 - Closing Status: **ONGOING**: PMA-264B will coordinate with OPNAV to insure an allocation for SSQ-53F is established, independent of SSQ-53 NCEA line for FY02 & FY03.

- **ITEM 01-13: EXPENDITURE REPORTING TO INDICATE OPERATIONAL vs TRAINING EXPENDITURES**
 - CNAP: Reporting of sonobuoy expenditures should be coded as 'Operational' (Code H) and 'Training' (Code F) to differentiate between operationally required expenditures (contingency) vs training expenditures
 - Expenditures are not reported the same way Fleet-wide
 - No record of 'operational' expenditures vs 'training' expenditures
 - Historical record of operational vs training expenditures would facilitate correct NCEA planning and provide supporting info to procurement process
 - Assigned to: CLF/CPF/CNE/TYCOM's/NSWCC
 - Discussion: General discussion in support of issue.
 - Closing Status: **ONGOING**: Coordinated policy and message needs to be developed/transmitted by CINC's to sonobuoy reporters that requires reporting as operational (H) and training (F) expenditures. Discussion between CINC's/TYCOM's and NSWCC to result in guidance.

- **ITEM 01-14: MK25 & MK58 NCEA**
 - SLWG: Discrepancy between SLWG briefed MK25/MK58 NCEA and that briefed at the NCEA Conference
 - Question as to correct NCEA for MK25 & MK58
 - Assigned to: PMA-264
 - Discussion: PM will rectify
 - Closing Status: **ONGOING**: PMA-264B will liaison with OPNAV and disseminate correct NCEA for MK25 & MK58

- **ITEM 01-15: EXPIRATION OF SSQ-57B IN REMOTE LOCATIONS**
 - CTG 84.2: Some SSQ-57B's are located in remote sites. They cannot be used prior to expiration of Jan02. Request certain assets be extended beyond Jan02 so that they can be used instead of returned for demil.
 - APML will entertain 'case basis' extensions for SSQ-57B assets that cannot be easily returned for demil after Jan02.
 - Assigned to: APML
 - Discussion: Offline discussion between APML & CTG 84.2
 - Closing Status: **CLOSED**: Fleet activities can request a 'case basis' extension for SSQ-57B assets at remote sites. APML will evaluate requests and grant extensions when feasible.