ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADETS

PHASE TWO

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

SECTION 2

EO M223.02 – IDENTIFY THE WATCH SYSTEM

Total Time:	30 min

PREPARATION

PRE-LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

Resources needed for the delivery of this lesson are listed in the lesson specification located in A-CR-CCP-602/PG-001, Chapter 4. Specific uses for said resources are identified throughout the Instructional Guide within the TP for which they are required.

Review the lesson content and become familiar with the material prior to delivering the lesson.

PRE-LESSON ASSIGNMENT

N/A.

APPROACH

An interactive lecture was chosen for this lesson to present basic material and to orient the cadets to the watch system, timings, and duty personnel responsibilities.

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

N/A.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson the cadet shall be expected to identify the watch system.

IMPORTANCE

It is important for cadets to identify the watch system because it is used throughout Sea Cadet training and cadets may be required to stand watch during training exercises.

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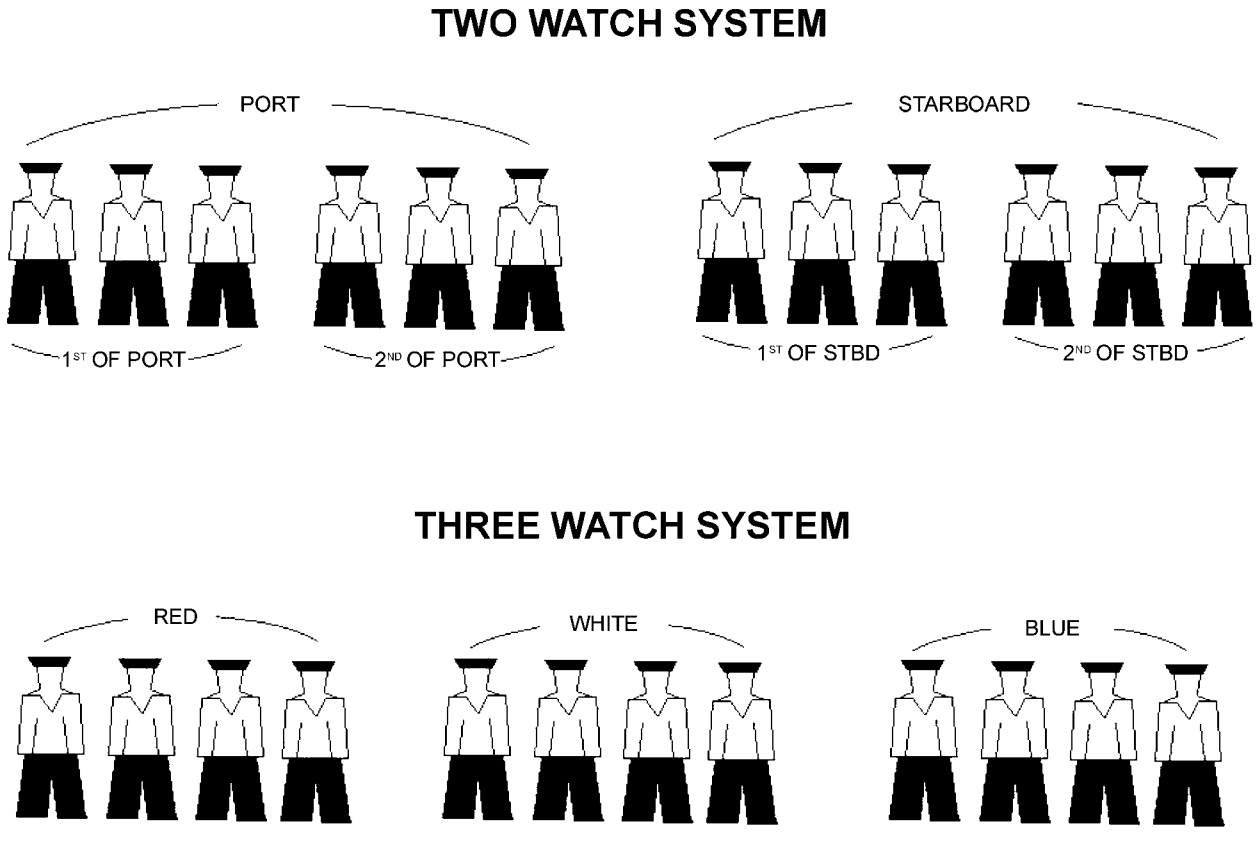
Teaching point 1 **Describe How Watch Systems Are Organized**

Time: 5 min Method: Interactive Lecture

To ensure maximum efficiency and 24-hour operation, personnel aboard a ship are divided into watches. Each watch has duties and responsibilities, as well as specific positions held within.

There are two systems for organizing a ship's company into watches. The first is a two-watch system, referred to as the port and starboard watch. This watch system may also be broken into four watches (first of port, second of port, first of starboard, and second of starboard). The second type is a three-watch system, called the red, white, and blue watch.



D Cdts 3, 2007, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence

Figure 1 Watch Systems

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 1

QUESTIONS

Q1. What is the purpose of watch systems?

Q2. What is the three-watch system called?

Q3. Which watch system can be divided into four watches?

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ANTICIPATED ANSWERS

A1. To ensure maximum efficiency and 24-hour operation.

A2. The red, white, and blue watch.

A3. The two-watch system (port and starboard).

Teaching point 2 **Describe the Division of Time for the Watch System**

Time: 10 min Method: Interactive Lecture

TIMINGS FOR WATCHES

Each watch will be assigned a time that they will be on duty (e.g. port assigned the middle watch/blue assigned the morning watch), depending on the watch system being used. The timings for the watches are outlined in the table below.

Watch	Timings
Middle watch	0000hrs to 0400hrs
Morning watch	0400hrs to 0800hrs
Forenoon watch	0800hrs to 1200hrs
Afternoon watch	1200hrs to 1600hrs
First dog watch	1600hrs to 1800hrs
Last dog watch	1800hrs to 2000hrs
First watch	2000hrs to 0000hrs



The dog watches are only half the time of the others to create a seventh watch, ensuring that personnel do not stand the same watch every day.

BELLS AND WATCHES

Each watch begins and ends with eight bells being rung, with the exception of the first dog watch, which ends with four bells, and the last dog watch, which begins with four bells. The bell is rung every half hour increasing the number of rings consecutively from the start of the watch resulting with eight bells at the end of the watch (with the exception of the dog watches). For example the bells rung during the forenoon watch would be as follows:

- eight bells at 0800hrs,
- one bell at 0830hrs,
- two bells at 0900hrs,
- three bells at 0930hrs,
- four bells at 1000hrs,
- five bells at 1030hrs,

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- six bells at 1100hrs,
- seven bells at 1130hrs, and
- eight bells at 1200hrs.



It is not common practice for bells to be used to indicate time aboard a ship today, as it was in the past. Currently the bell is only struck at colours, at anchor in fog/bad visibility, or to sound the general alarm in the event of an emergency.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 2

QUESTIONS

Q1. What are the timings for the first watch?

Q2. Why are dog watches half the time of the other watches?

Q3. How many bells are rung at the end of the first dog/beginning of the last dog watch?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS

A1. 2000hrs to 0000hrs.

A2. To ensure that personnel are not standing the same watch every day.

A3. Four.

Teaching point 3 **Describe the Responsibilities of Duty Personnel**

Time: 10 min Method: Interactive Lecture

OFFICER OF THE WATCH (OOW)

The OOW has responsibility of the ship and reports to the Commanding Officer (CO) for the movements and safety of the ship. When on duty, the OOW has command over all ship's personnel with the exception of the CO and Executive Officer (XO). Responsibilities of this position may include:

- safety of the ship and its personnel;
- navigation;
- anti-collision;
- damage-control (DC) state; and
- routine administration.

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SECOND OFFICER OF THE WATCH

The second officer of the watch reports to the OOW and has the same responsibilities as the OOW. The majority of second officers of the watch do not have a Bridge Watchkeeping ticket and are therefore closely monitored by the OOW. Responsibilities of this position may include:

- navigation;
- helicopter operations; and
- administration of the watch.

PETTY OFFICER OF THE WATCH (POOW)

The POOW is responsible to the OOW for the control of the watch. The POOW must report to the OOW hourly on completion of rounds, at any significant occurrence, and when the watch closes up. Responsibilities of the POOW include:

- mustering the watch prior to turnover;
- assigning personnel to positions and arranging the rotation;
- ensuring the ship's boats are ready for immediate use;
- ensuring all lifesaving equipment is serviceable and ready for immediate use;
- taking charge of any seamanship evolution during the watch;
- conducting hourly rounds of the ship; and
- supervising cleaning stations assigned to the watch.

QUARTERMASTER

The quartermaster is responsible to the OOW and must ensure that all steering activities are properly carried out. Responsibilities of the quartermaster include:

- remaining closed up at the steering position for the duration of the watch;
- ensuring the helmsman is rotated every thirty minutes;
- taking the first twenty minutes on the helm at the beginning of each watch; and
- supervising those on watch.

HELMSMAN

The helmsman is under the supervision of the quartermaster and is responsible for steering the ordered course.

LOOKOUT

The lookout is responsible for watching for and reporting any objects, vessels, or aircraft to the OOW. The lookout also raises the alarm and marks the position if they see a man overboard.

LIFEBUOY SENTRY

The lifebuoy sentry is responsible to the POOW, and raises the alarm and throws lifesaving devices should a person fall overboard. This watch is kept near the stern of the ship and are stationed whenever the ship is underway. The lifebuoy sentry also performs the duty of the after lookout.

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Duty personnel and their responsibilities will vary depending if the ship is at sea, anchored or alongside.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 3

QUESTIONS

Q1. Who does the OOW report to?

Q2. Who is responsible for any seamanship evolutions during the watch?

Q3. What must the lookout watch for?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS

A1. The CO.

A2. The POOW.

A3. Any objects, vessels, or aircraft.

END OF LESSON CONFIRMATION

QUESTIONS

Q1. What are the two watch systems called?

Q2. With the exception of the last dog watch, how many bells does each watch start and end with?

Q3. What is the OOW responsible for overall?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS

A1. Port and starboard, and red, white and blue.

A2. Each watch begins and ends with eight bells.

A3. The ship.

CONCLUSION

HOMEWORK/READING/PRACTICE

N/A.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

N/A.

CLOSING STATEMENT

The watch system is used during many Sea Cadet activities (e.g. Sea Cadet Training Vessel activities [SCTV]). Cadets are responsible for numerous positions within the watch. This ensures the safety and 24-hour operation of cadet training activities. The watch system is an aspect of serving within a naval environment.

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INSTRUCTOR NOTES/REMARKS

N/A.

REFERENCES

A1-024 Venture Naval Officer Training Centre. (2005). *Naval Environmental Training Programme – Officers Handbook*. Esquimalt, BC: Venture Naval Officer Training Centre.

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