

CHAPTER 4**INFORMATION SUPERIORITY – COMMANDING OFFICERS AS INFORMATION ASSET OWNERS**

(MOD Sponsor: FLEET DCS - DPA)

This chapter has been equality and diversity impact assessed by the sponsor in accordance with Departmental policy. No direct discrimination or adverse impact was identified. This chapter is due for review at the next routine amendment exercise.

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CHAPTER 4

INFORMATION SUPERIORITY–COMMANDING OFFICERS AS INFORMATION ASSET OWNERS

SECTION I - INFORMATION SUPERIORITY

0401. Introduction–Information Superiority

1. Information is a strategic asset and the way an organisation manages its information is critical to its effectiveness. There are three strands to the effective and efficient use of information; Technology, Process, and most importantly – People. All three are critical to our success in delivering the Naval Service’s contribution to the Defence Information Vision;

‘Agile exploitation of our information capabilities to improve effectiveness and efficiency on operations and in support areas through access to and sharing of timely, accurate and trusted information’.

2. The Navy Board has a strategic objective to transform the way we manage, share, present, protect, and exploit information to deliver Information Superiority in the battle-space, efficiency in the business-space, and Information Assurance.

3. Information Superiority is the UK Defence’s Communications and Intelligence Capability. It is about using Technology, Process, and People to provide UK Defence with the understanding it needs, so the right decisions are made, and the right action is taken, at the right time. Joint Doctrine Publication 0.01.1 defines Information Superiority further as;

‘Possessing a greater degree of information about the battle-space, being able to exploit that information more rapidly and preventing the adversary from obtaining or exploiting information which could give combat advantage’.

4. In any Naval Unit the Commanding Officer, as Information Asset Owner, is key to the successful achievement of Information Superiority.

SECTION II - THE INFORMATION ASSET OWNER

0402. The Commanding Officer as Information Asset Owner

1. Within Navy Command TLB all Commanding Officers and senior NCHQ staff (OF6 and above) have the secondary role of Information Asset Owner (IAO). The IAO is accountable for the risks to an organisation's outputs (including reputation and public trust) that are associated with the use of information, both personal and business-critical.
2. The IAO is responsible for leading and fostering a culture that values, protects and uses information as a strategic asset, and for the public good throughout the organisation and its supporting chain, and for championing best practices to support the above Navy Board objective.
3. The IAO needs to know what information the unit stores and processes, ensuring it does so efficiently and effectively to achieve the organisation's outputs, and in accordance with relevant and extant statutory regulations (e.g. DPA98) and departmental and Navy Command policies.
4. Within Navy Command TLB all IAOs are mandated to undertake appropriate Information Superiority training including the 'Responsible for Information – Information Asset Owner' computer-based-training package, on appointment and annually thereafter. They also need to ensure 100% compliance within their organisation for such training in accordance with MOD CIO and Navy Command policies.
5. Information Superiority will not be achieved by an organisation without the leadership and support from the Commanding Officer as an IAO.

SECTION III - FURTHER READING

0403. BRd 7747 Maritime Information Management Policy and Guidance

1. The single definitive source for policy and guidance on Information Superiority and the role of the IAO is BRd 7747 Maritime Information Management Policy and Guidance.