

DNASNOTE 3001
13/003
27 Mar 2013

DIRECTOR, NAVAL ACADEMY SAILING NOTICE 3001

From: Director, Naval Academy Sailing

Subj: GUIDELINES FOR VARSITY OFFSHORE SAILING TEAM SAILING IN
SUPPORT OF PARADE BACKDROP

Ref: (a) COMDTMIDNOTE 1710: Sports Teams and ECA Exemptions and
Excusals

1. Purpose. To provide guidance to USNA Sailing personnel on parade backdrop procedures and limitations.
2. Background. In accordance with ref (a), the Varsity Offshore Sailing Team (VOST) is exempt from marching in brigade parades. In direct support of those parades VOST is tasked with providing a Navy themed backdrop via blue and gold spinnakers flying aboard Navy 44 Sail Training Craft (STC). VOST supports practice and formal parades during the Spring season but only formal parades during the Fall Championship Season. In the event a formal parade is the day prior to a competition, the competing crews will resume normal practice and a reduced number of 44's will support the parade as backdrop. Due to the confines of the Severn River, executing this exercise can be a challenging endeavor, particularly during the early spring season when proficiency is less or in stronger wind conditions. Light or variable winds also present challenges where changing wind direction often compels our boats to maneuver in a manner that is likely inconsistent with the appearance desired. The procedures and safety considerations set below will be the operating guidelines for parade backdrop.
3. Procedures
 - a. Crews will muster at Robert Crown Sailing Center at 1545 for a pre-sail briefing. VOST coaching staff will determine and brief boat assignments, sail configuration, stationing and Operational Risk Management (ORM).
 - b. Upon completion of briefing, crews will rig boats and get underway.
 - c. Boats will be on station and commence back drop exercise at 1615 and continue until last company is seen marching off the parade field.

d. Stationing and interval for the boats will be such as to provide maximum visible presence as viewed from the VIP (covered) seating area at Worden Field.

e. A VOST coach shall orchestrate the exercise from a RHIB in the vicinity, maintaining communications via VHF radio.

f. Boats will augment their sail power with auxiliary engine propulsion to maintain necessary spacing, however, at no time will the boats use reverse (backing down) to fill spinnakers in low (under 5kts) or no-wind conditions.

g. CAUTION: STC Skippers will ensure all lines are clear prior to engaging the propeller to prevent fouling.

4. Safety. Given the procedures above and the complexity of maneuvers, the advisable wind envelope for sailing parade backdrop will range between 5 - 21kts (measured onboard the STC). Every effort will be made to present the fleet of Navy 44s with blue and gold spinnakers. Using the above wind limits as a guide the VOST coaching staff will assess winds and crew proficiency when deciding to fly spinnakers. In the event that conditions or early season crew proficiency make a full spinnaker backdrop an unacceptable risk, the boats will remain on station under sail providing a non-spinnaker backdrop. Enclosed are diagrams of acceptable wind speeds for pre-season crews (March - April) and post SAILTRAMID crews (August - October).

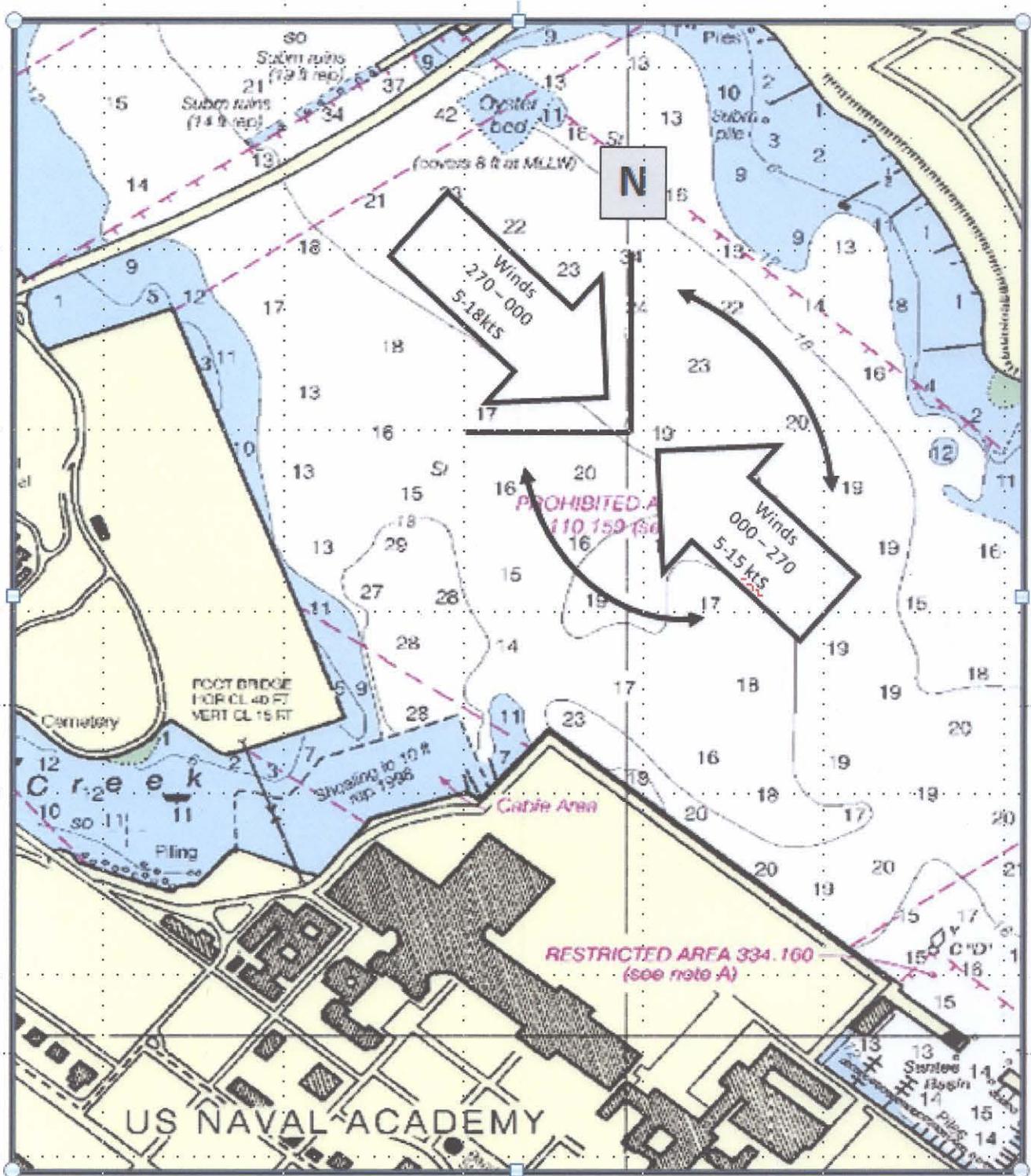
5. Promulgation. VOST Program Director, Assistant Coaches and officers shall ensure all personnel within their program are aware of the procedures described in this instruction and their responsibility in carrying them out.

6. Review. This instruction shall be maintained and reviewed by the VOST Operations Officer.

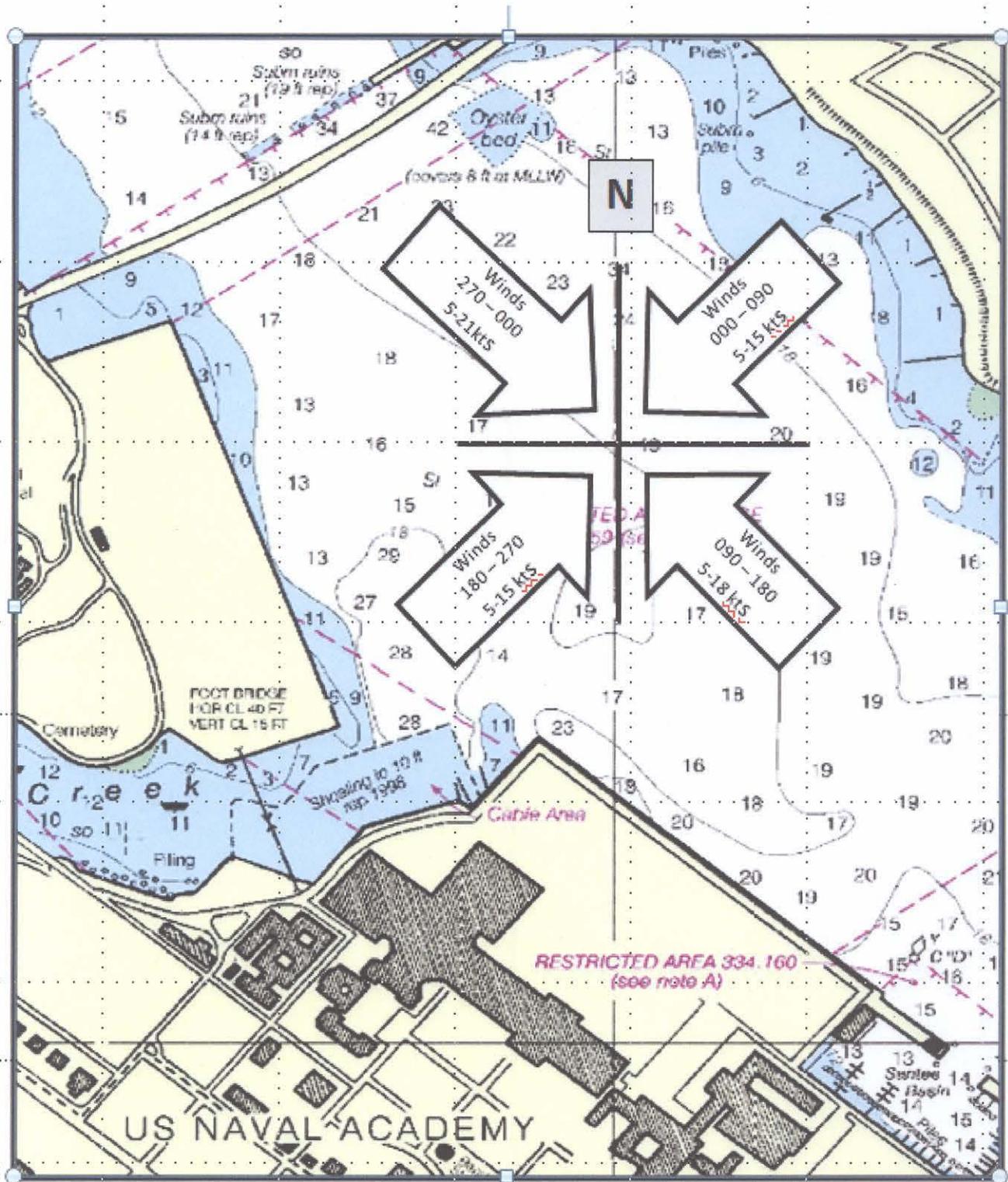

L. L. SPANHEIMER

DISTRIBUTION:

Director, Division of Professional Development
Coaching Staff, Varsity Offshore Sailing Team
Varsity Offshore Sailing Team (electronic)
Junior Varsity Offshore Sailing Team (electronic)



Enclosure 1: Pre-season Wind Envelopes



Enclosure 2: Post SAILTRAMID Wind Envelopes