

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

Educational Department

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EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT NOTICE No. 80

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TO: ALL SQUADRON EDUCATIONAL OFFICERS

COPY: Squadron Commanders
District Commanders
District Educational Officers
National Educational Department Staff
Members of the Operating Committee

SUBJECT: **REVISED AGE-LIMIT RULES ON SIGHTS FOR JN & N SIGHT FOLDERS.**

PURPOSES:

- 1) To eliminate the prohibition on submission of sights over two years old; and,
- 2) To prescribe rules for materials that must be included in sight folders containing sights over two years old.

BACKGROUND: The traditional rules for Junior Navigation and Navigation sight folders have prohibited the inclusion of any sights that were taken more than two years prior to the initial submission of the sight folder to USPS HQ. This was intended to avoid requiring most JN and N committee members from having to maintain a many-year library of nautical almanacs in order to check submitted sights. Those committee members do routinely have available to them nautical almanacs for the current year and the two immediately preceding years.

However, the two-year age limit on sights submitted places a hardship on some JN and N candidates whose course of study and/or sight taking schedule may be hampered by weather or personal problems or conflicting priorities. This has proved discouraging to some students when perfectly good sights have "expired." The leadership of the JNCom and the NCom have been seeking a compromise that would allow course candidates to submit all usable sights, regardless of age, without placing an undue burden on their own committee members. This EDN introduces the changes to sight submission rules to implement that compromise.

SIGHT REQUIREMENTS: The celestial sights required for satisfactory completion of Junior Navigation and Navigation are detailed in the respective course manuals. These requirements cover the types of sights (e.g., specified single body, meridian transit, two- or three-body fix, high altitude, etc.), the sight reduction method(s) to be used, standards of precision and accuracy, and supporting plots and diagrams that must accompany the sights in the candidate's sight folder. All sight work must be that of the candidate, and the sight folder and its contents must comply with the requirements of the current edition of the respective course or an immediately preceding edition for which the examination and sight folder deadlines have not yet expired. Superseding any statements to the contrary in current course manuals, *sights included in a candidate's sight folder may have been taken at any time (i.e., no age limit), provided that they meet the above rules.*

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As of the date of this EDN, the current course editions are JN-99 and N-99, respectively. The exam and sight folder submission deadline for JN-89/92 is 31 December 2002. The exam and sight folder submission deadline for N-93/94 is 31 December 2001. The exam and sight folder submission deadline has long since passed for all previous editions of both courses.

SPECIAL MATERIAL FOR SIGHTS OVER TWO YEARS OLD: For any submitted sight that was taken more than two years prior to the date of initial submission of the sight folder to USPS HQ, certain extra materials that are unique to the date of the sight must be included in the sight folder. These materials are to be easily-readable photocopies of the following pages from the nautical almanac for the year in which the sight was taken:

- (1) The left-hand and right-hand daily pages applicable to the date (UT) of the sight.
- (2) If the over-two-year-old sight is of Venus or Mars, the “Altitude Correction Table (10°-90°)” that includes additional corrections for planets (normally on inside front cover of the almanac).
- (3) If the over-two-year-old sight was taken in 1998 or earlier and is reduced by the NASR (Nautical Almanac Sight Reduction) method, the “NASR Auxiliary Table (Adjustment to Tabular Altitude)” that follows the NASR Sight Reduction Tables.

These extra materials are to be marked on the top right hand corner of each sheet with the sight number to which they apply. They are to be placed in the sight folder immediately following the sight reduction form for that sight.

OBJECTIVE: It is the hope and intent of the entire Educational Department, and especially of the JN and N committees, that this change in sight “age-limit” rules will make it easier for some candidates to complete their sight folders. It is also hoped that it will encourage others whose sights may have “expired” to recommit themselves to completing their study of off-shore navigation. SEOs are encouraged to seek out fellow members who have started JN or N but not completed it to see if this change will motivate them to complete their course work.

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Please note the contents of this EDN and advise all concerned.