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THESIS

SURFACE WARFARE ATTRITION: DOES SHIP TYPE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

by

William James Kear

December 1989

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Surface Warfare Attrition:
Does Ship Type Make a Difference?

by

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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ABSTRACT

This thesis seeks to determine if there is a relationship between ship type and first-term enlisted attrition in the Surface Warfare Navy. The data used in this thesis were taken from the Department of Defense (DOD) Enlisted Master Record Information on male sailors aboard ships with 33 months or less of completed service was extracted from the EMR., Three cohorts were examined those who joined their first ship in fiscal 1977, 1981, and 1985, respectively. total of 77,502 personnel serving in 300 ships were analyzed in three data formats: individual ship, ship class, and ship The results revealed wide variation in mission category. attrition rates between individual ships and respective ship classes across different cohorts. In addition, a distinct trend in attrition was observed between ships in different mission categories. For example, oilers generally had the highest rate of attrition across all three cohorts--followed (in order) by amphibious ships, minesweepers, and repair ships with cruisers, destroyers, and frigates having the lowest rate. Further research is recommended to determine the causes for differences in attrition between ship types. Understanding this aspect of enlisted attrition may further aid Navy manpower planners and leaders in reducing personnel attrition and its consequences for the Surface Warfare Navy.

K.

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I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

A. PROBLEM

Navy manpower requirements are becoming increasingly difficult to meet. The All-Volunteer Force (AVF), given proper funding by Congress, was to solve many problems that had developed under the draft. Enlisted attrition rates were expected to fall from a Vietnam-era peak of 28 percent to a projected 23 percent by 1977 upon completion of the transition to an all-voluntary military. Even more optimistic was the President's Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force (or Gates Commission), which forecasted an attrition rate as low as 15 percent under the AVF. At the same time, retention rates were expected to rise along with the number of careerists [Ref. 1:p. 24].

In 1969, the Gates Commission also predicted that the military would have to take a large proportion of low aptitude recruits during the AVF transition and that the services would experience early deficits in manpower end-strengths. Yet, as Cooper notes, the fact that neither of these happened provides "some indication that the problems of transition have been fewer than originally anticipated." [Ref. 2:p. 387] During a conference on the future of the AVF held at Annapolis, Maryland in 1983, Secretary Defense Caspar Weinberger observed that,

...least part of the criticism levelled against our All-Volunteer Force was really just a smoke screen. Behind the smoke screen was a basic unwillingness to pay the price of giving our Armed Forces decent compensation for their contribution to their nation's security. Then there was fear that we could not attract enough educationally qualified people unless we had a draft--that fear has been completely dispelled by the facts. [Ref. 3:p. 2]

While many of the benefits forecasted by original AVF proponents have been realized, attrition remains a perplexing problem and one that has worsened as this decade comes to a close. The question remains: what is the best way for Navy manpower planners, recruiters, and unit commanders to maximize their resources to reverse first-term attrition within the Navy?¹ To make matters worse, the population of young adults will continue to decline through the mid-1990s--acting to intensify competition between the military, employers, and colleges [Ref. 5:p. 13]. With this smaller pool of young adults in the population available for reenlistment, there is even greater interest in seeing that enlistees successfully complete their first term.

In an effort to define and investigate one aspect of the attrition issue, this study seeks to determine if there is a relationship etween first-term enlisted attrition and ship type. The results of the research should help to clarify

¹ Elster and Flyer define attrition as "separation or discharge from military service prior to tour completion." [Ref. 4: p. 11] Recruits may sign enlistment contracts of varying length up to six years.

current understanding of personnel attrition in the Navy and provide greater insight for developing appropriate policy.

B. BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Since the end of the draft, there has been extensive analysis of the attrition issue. Manpower experts have concerned themselves not only with the causes but with the effects on this growing problem on fleet readiness.

A number of factors have been examined and found to be related in some way to attrition. First and foremost, there appears to be general agreement that recruits who are high school diploma graduates (HSDGs) are almost twice as likely to complete their first enlistment than are those who do not graduate from high school [Ref. 7:p. 2]. In addition, as Cooke and Quester observe, there is also a strong relationship between attrition and aptitude test scores:

Aptitude, as measured by the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) scores and resulting AFQT category classification, is negatively related to early attrition. Recruits with high aptitude generally qualify for the most valuable technical training the Navy offers, which may increase their job satisfaction and reduce attrition propensity. [Ref. 7:p. 2]

However, Elster and Flyer add that the "validity of AFQT in predicting attrition varies for different population subgroups. For example, it is less valid for NON-HSDGs and blacks." Additional demographic factors, such as age, sex, race, and marital status, are likewise related to attrition. [Ref. 4:pp. 66-67]

Several studies have shown that older recruits (over age 20) are more likely to separate before completing their term of enlistment than younger recruits. For instance, Buddin found that "early attrition increases about one percentage point per year for each year beyond age 17 at enlistment." Additionally, he found that prior work experience before enlistment influences attrition, "although the magnitude and significance of the effects vary somewhat." Navy enlisted personnel are four-to-five percent "more likely" to leave during the first six months if they have a period of unemployment the year before they enlist. [Ref. 8:pp. 6-7]

A study by Smith and Kendall found a relationship between attrition and assignment to the Navy's GENDET (General Detail personnel with no formal training outside boot camp) positions. As the authors point out, "GENDETS separated from the Navy early much more frequently than NONGENDET personnel." The differences were significant with over 61 percent of the GENDETS leaving the Navy in 34 months compared with 15 percent of the NONGENDETs. [Ref. 9:p. 77] Quester and Cooke hypothesize that this may be occurring in part because "the GENDET work environment is inherently less satisfying than the environments of those receiving skill training."

The Navy Personnel Research and Development Center (NPRDC), San Diego, CA has done extensive research on the personal and organizational determinants of enlisted attrition. A 1979 NPRDC study found that of an experimental

group of 636 sailors who separated from the Navy early, a majority said their decision to separate was based upon the following grievances (in order of importance):

- family or personal problems.
- general dissatisfaction with Navy life.
- lack of freedom and independence.
- dissatisfaction or lack of interest in the entry job. [Ref. 10:p. 16]

However, very little research has focused on the possible relationship between first-term enlisted attrition and ship type within the surface Navy. There are a few notable efforts in this direction. For example, Cooke and Quester examined the first-term enlisted attrition of Navy recruits from 1985 through 1988 within Atlantic and Pacific naval air forces (AIRLANT/AIRPAC), surface ship forces (SURFLANT/SURFPAC), and submarine forces (SUBLANT/SUBPAC). The results showed a trend of increasing attrition among both Atlantic and Pacific combatants from 1985 to 1988. SURFLANT combatants discharged an average of 6.15 personnel in 1988, while SURFPAC combatants discharged an average of 5.64 personnel. The number of annual first-term losses among SURFLANT surface combatants increased by 48 percent between 1985 and 1987--compared with an increase of 75 percent in the total fleet over the same period. Although the analysis by Quester and Cooke concludes that attrition is up during the 1985 through 1988 period in both SURFLANT and SURFPAC, no conclusions are drawn regarding any possible relationship between attrition and specific ship classes. The study used the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) Enlisted Master Record (EMR) to track file records. A list of all SURFLANT Unit Identification Codes (UICs) was considered. Only surface combatants were considered in SURFPAC. All those who left the Navy with less than 33 months on board ship were included in unit attrition statistics. The authors computed individual unit loss rates by dividing first-term attrition losses for each year by the average number of enlisted personnel on board each unit with less than 33 months on active duty aboard the unit. [Ref. 6:pp. 2-6]

A Master's thesis by C.G. Carlson examined the various factors affecting first-term attrition from Navy ships. A total of 554 ships (divided into 39 classes) was considered. This study included submarines and aircraft carriers. It also included both active and reserve ships. The data were extracted from the Survival Tracking File (STF) by UIC. Carlson attempted to determine the relationship between ship type and attrition; however, the results were inconclusive. To draw distinctions between the ship classes, Carlson examined the average underway time (i.e., time spent at sea) of each ship class. He found that nuclear submarines, while maintaining a high operational tempo (op tempo) with long periods at sea, have relatively low attrition. He recognizes that other factors unique to the nuclear submarine force weigh heavily in keeping submarine attrition low. Aircraft carriers

reflected high relative attrition (11.45 percent), as did destroyer tenders (ADs) with comparatively little underway time (12.4 percent attrition). On the whole, the results suggested that smaller ships appear to have lower attrition rates than larger ships. By analyzing the attrition data by ship class as well as by individual UIC, Carlson also attempted to control for other variables by "looking at ships with similar crew size, engineering plant, age, weapons suite, mission, habitability, and cohort distribution over time." [Ref. 4:p. 43] The Carlson study did not analyze attrition distributions by occupation (or ratings) across ship classes or types. Nor did the study delve deeply into the educational levels of attrition losses from specific ship classes. Carlson's study also revealed attrition peaks and valleys in individual ships. (This is probably explained by reasons external to ship class--such as homeport, commanding officer leadership, command climate, ship performance, or morale.) While the author drew no conclusions across ship class, he did conclude that while "some disparities among ships of the same class exist, the attrition rates are close to each class average." [Ref. 11:pp. 34-46]

Other attrition studies have only scratched the surface of the research question pursued in this analysis. The Smith and Kendall effort, for example, introduced variables to see if attrition were higher for those whose initial duty assignments were at shore commands or at sea in ships. In answering this

fundamental question, the authors observed that "personnel who were assigned to shore stations had the highest attrition rates (over 37 percent vs. 21 percent for ship duty)." As illustrated in Figure 1, Smith and Kendall concluded that "initial assignment to shore-duty stations (as opposed to sea duty) appears to increase the risk of attrition." [Ref. 9: pp. 74-77] Similar studies suggest the same relationship of sea/shore assignment to attrition.

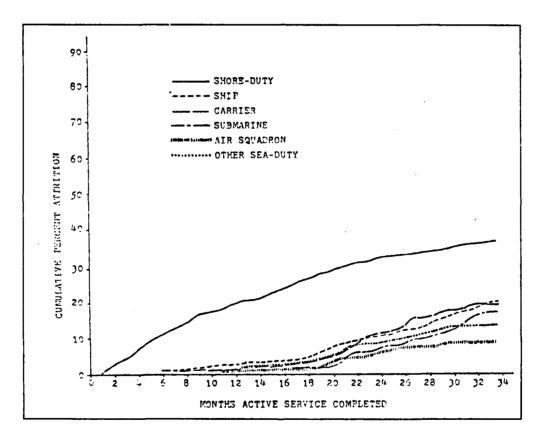


Figure 1. Attrition Over Time by Initial Fleet Duty Assignment [Ref. 9:p. 76]

C. OBJECTIVE

With dwindling dollars for defense and a shrinking population of "baby busters," military leadership must explore all aspects of the manpower issue--not only to recruit but to retain fully qualified personnel. During the last decade, over one-third of first-term Navy enlistees failed to complete their enlistment. This rate of attrition is growing and now approaching a staggering 40 percent. Thus, every avenue must be explored to unravel the causes so that solutions may be found and implemented. Attrition will always exist. It is a reality. But at current levels, the costs and overall effect on readiness are too great. The military, unlike the private sector, is unique in that its ranks are manned initially by teenagers who have little or no previous job experience. The Navy does not recruit mid-level or senior enlisted leaders. It "grows" them from their first enlistment. Therefore, if the Navy misses that narrow window to recruit the necessary talent to maintain a quality force for the future, the opportunity is lost. Of equal importance is to ensure that those who enter the Navy are given every possible opportunity to succeed.

This thesis seeks to determine if there is a relationship between ship type and first-term enlisted attrition in the surface warfare Navy. Drawing upon the DOD Enlisted Master File maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), data are matched with information on over 300 ships.

Attrition behavior is examined for three cohorts: those who joined their first ship in fiscal 1977, 1981, and 1985, respectively. Individuals are tracked for 33 months from the date of enlistment.

Chapter II outlines the research methodology in detail and summarizes the ship classes considered as well as the key distinctions between them. Chapter III provides data analysis to determine possible trends in ships or ship classes that may lead to a positive relationship between ship type and first-term enlisted attrition. Chapter IV summarizes relevant findings and recommendations in view of the research results.

II. METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the data sources, population, variables, and the programming technique used in the study. The various constraints and limitations of the data analysis are also discussed. The key distinctions between the 36 ship classes are then outlined to set the stage for Chapter III.

A. PROCEDURE

The data used in this thesis were taken from the Department of Defense (DOD) Enlisted Master Record (EMR), maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA. Information on male sailors aboard ships with 33 months or less of completed service was extracted from the EMR and used in the analysis. Three cohorts were examined—enlisted personnel who joined their first ship in fiscal 1977, 1981, and 1985, respectively. Utilizing the same methodology in an earlier study, Cooke and Quester justify their selection of a similar population:

All non-prior service recruits have at least a three-year obligation so that any discharge at or before 33 months of service is a loss of obligated service to the Navy. Separation within three months of contract expiration is at the convenience of the government, permitting individuals to request an early out up to 90 days before their contract expiration. [Ref. 6:p. 2]

Using ten variables from a field of over 100 available in the EMR, data were extracted for tabulation and comparison

across ships, ship classes, and general ship mission categories. Entry variables into the EMR are listed as follows:

- Service Branch.
- Unit Identification Code (or UIC, a ship identifier).
- Sex.
- Educational Level.
- Reason for Loss (Separation Code).
- Date of Separation.
- Occupation Code (or Navy rating).
- Age.
- AFQT.
- Race.

Information provided by OP-122 (Navy Manpower Programs and Support Branch, Washington, D.C.) was used to construct a data file on over 300 ships, incorporating the following five variables:

- Unit Identification Code (UIC).
- Ship Name.
- Hull Number.
- Category/Class.
- Average crew size.

Additional information on ship class was obtained from <u>Jane's Fighting Ships</u>. This included the number of ships in the class as of fiscal 1978, 1982, and 1986; the propulsion system (Nuclear, Gas Turbine, Diesel, Steam); and the general

weapons capability (Guns, Missiles, Torpedos) of the ship. The average age (in years) of each ship class was also calculated using information on each ship's commissioning date in <u>Jane's</u>. The data provided by OP-122 aided in matching UICs with ship names and hull numbers. Utilizing PL/1 (Programming Language 1), DMDC incorporated two software programs to extract and recode information from the EMR, and merge EMR data with the OP-122 data file.

B. VARIABLE EXPLANATION

The UIC represents a key element in this research, since the objective is to determine if a possible relationship exists between ship type (as identified from the EMR by UICs) and first-term enlisted attrition.

Women were not included in this study. By restricting the study to men, an effort was made to compare "apples with apples" across all ship classes. The inclusion of women in this study would inflate first-term attrition figures on the relatively few ships partially manned by them. As Elster and Flyer point out, this is due, in part, because "large numbers of women are separated for pregnancy reasons during their first three years of service." [Ref. 4:p. 19]

The educational level (HSDG vs. NHSDG/GED) of those that separated early from the Navy is also extracted from the EMR to note any possible relationship to ship class. Likewise, a breakdown of reasons for separation and the ratings

(occupation) of those that separated early are tabulated to study any possible correlation with ship type. Also examined across ship types are average Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) scores, average crew member age, and distribution by race (white, black, Hispanic, and other).

This study compares loss rates by ships, ship classes, and ships of similar mission capability (i.e., cruiser/destroyers vs. amphibious ships vs. minesweepers vs. oilers). "Loss rate" is defined as the number of individuals in a particular ship or ship class who separate early from the Navy, divided by the total number that reported aboard with less than 33 months active duty in 1977, 1981, and 1985. Attrition cases are limited to those serving in their initial ship assignment and having less than 34 months on active duty.

Average crew sizes are based upon fiscal 1988 manning levels in naval ships, as provided by OP-122. The final variable considered is average underway steaming time as defined by the average number of days-per-year a ship spends underway at sea. These data were provided by the Center for Naval Analyses and are available for each ship class for one year during each of the three cohort periods being examined. This variable represents a partial measurement of how the operating frequency of a ship or ship class may or may not influence attrition.

With the exception of minesweepers, only active-duty naval ships were considered in this study. This exception was made

to permit a comparative look at the minesweeper force where, unlike other ship classes, the vast majority of minesweepers (18 of 21) are in the Naval Reserve Force (NRF). Unlike larger naval ships in the reserve force that have a reduced manning level of 60-65 percent of active-duty ships within the same class, reserve minesweepers (MSOs) are manned to approximately 70-75 percent of active duty MSOs. In the minesweeper class only, active-duty MSOs (3 of 21) were eliminated from the analysis due to higher manning levels.

C. CONSTRAINTS OR LIMITATIONS

In the documentation of attrition by ratings, a designated "striker" (a GENDET who is working through correspondence courses and on-the-job training to achieve a particular occupation code or rating) may separate before completing his term of enlistment and before his newly-achieved rating code is administratively documented into the EMR. This loss statistic may be counted against total GENDET attrition statistics when it should be included in the occupation or rating statistics of the sailor's newly acquired rating. Consequently, GENDET attrition figures may be somewhat higher, and rating attrition figures (in ratings where designated strikers are permitted) may be somewhat lower than are actually the case. This problem probably does not distort comparisons made here when the attrition rates of ships are examined for the same rating.

As previously observed, average crew sizes by ship class were provided by OP-122 based upon fiscal 1988 manning levels. It should be noted that crew sizes have fluctuated over the years with modifications to weapons and other shipboard systems that require increased or decreased manning. Second, as ships become older, manning may increase because of increased manpower required to maintain aging systems such as a ship's engineering plant. Furthermore, total Navy manpower end strengths will also influence shipboard manning distribution resulting in rating surpluses or shortages in individual rating manning levels.

D. SHIP-TYPE CHARACTERISTICS

Before examining the loss rate data in Chapter III, it is helpful to review the unique mission capabilities and characteristics of the 36 ship classes considered here. This information can aid in identifying possible links that may exist between ship type and first-term enlisted attrition.

In this section, ship classes are examined by broad mission capability and numbers of ships within each class. In highlighting key differences, Table 1 outlines average crew sizes, average yearly underway operating time, type of propulsion system, general weapons capability, and average age of each ship class.

Aircraft carriers and amphibious helicopter carriers were not included in the analysis. Carriers have a rather unique

rating structure with large numbers of aviation-rated personnel. Therefore, comparisons with the majority of other surface ships that have no or relatively small aviation capability would be difficult.

Similar ship classes have similar broad mission requirements, described as follows:

CGN 9, 25, 35, 36, and 38 classes: CGN-Guided missile cruiser (nuclear).

CG 16, 26, and 47 classes: CG-Guided missile cruiser.

Mission: to destroy enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines, and surface ships in order to prohibit the employment of such forces against U.S. forces. Cruisers will normally be assigned to carrier battle groups or surface action groups. [Ref. 12]

DDG 2, 37, and 993 classes: DDG-Guided missile destroyer.

Mission: to provide anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine self-defense and to provide local area protection to carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious groups, underway replenishment groups, and other military shipping against air, surface, and sub-surfaces threats.

[Ref. 12]

FFG 1 and 7 classes: FFG-Guided missile frigate.

<u>Mission</u>: to provide anti-air, anti-surface, and antisubmarine self-defense and to provide local area protection to underway replenishment groups, amphibious groups, and other military shipping against sub-surface, air, and surface threats. The class may also make a limited contribution to carrier battle group or surface action group defense by temporarily supplementing more capable battle group assets.

[Ref. 12]

FF 1052 class: FF-Fast frigate.

Mission: to provide anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine self defense and to provide local area protection to underway replenishment groups, amphibious groups, and other military shipping against sub-surface and surface threats. The class can also provide naval gunfire support and make a limited contribution to carrier battle group or surface action group defense by temporarily supplementing more capable battle group assets. [Ref. 12]

LPD 1 and 4 classes: LPD-Amphibious Transport Dock.

Mission: to transport and land troops and their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft or amphibious vehicles augmented by helicopter lift.

[Ref. 12]

LKA 113 class: LKA-Amphibious cargo ship.

Mission: to transport and land combat equipment and
material with attendant personnel in amphibious operations.
[Ref. 12]

LSD 32, 36, and 41 classes: LSD-Dock landing ship.

Mission: to transport and launch loaded amphibious craft and vehicles with their crews and embarked personnel in amphibious assault by landing craft and amphibious vehicles.

LSDs will also render limited docking and repair service to small ships and craft. [Ref. 12]

LST 1179 class: LST-Tank landing ship.

<u>Mission</u>: to transport and land amphibious vehicles, tanks, combat vehicles, and equipment in amphibious assault.
[Ref. 12]

LCC 19 class: LCC-Amphibious command ship.

<u>Mission</u>: to serve as a command ship for an amphibious task force, landing force, and air control group commanders during amphibious operations. [Ref. 12]

AE 21, 23, and 27 classes: AE-Ammunition ship.

Mission: as elements of the Combat Logistics Force, to support sustained combat operations at sea by naval task groups. By providing logistics support and ammunition to all classes of surface combatants, AEs will make task groups as independent as possible of overseas sources of ammunition supply. [Ref. 12]

AFS 1 class: AFS-Combat store ship.

Mission: as elements of the Combat Logistics Force, to support sustained combat operations at sea by naval task groups. AFSs support warfare tasking by providing repair/spare parts support and refrigerated and non-refrigerated consumables. Additionally, AFSs are capable of simultaneously providing refrigerated stores, general stores, fleet freight, mail and personnel to all classes of surface combatants. [Ref. 12]

AO 98 class: AO-Oiler.

Mission: to operate as units of an Underway Replenishment (UNREP) Group shuttling fuel, freight, and personnel to the fleet at sea. [Ref. 12]

AO 177 class: AO-Oiler.

Mission: to operate as units of an Underway Replenishment (UNREP) Group shuttling fuel, freight, personnel, and ammunition to the fleet at sea. [Ref. 12]

AOE 1 and AOR 1 classes: AOE-Fast Combat support ship.

AOR-Replenishment oiler.

Mission: as an element of the Combat Logistics Force, to support sustained combat operations at sea by naval task groups. AOEs and AORs are equipped with modern replenishment transfer equipment and a full aviation capability for vertical replenishment of stores, ammunition, and fuel to all classes of surface combatants. [Ref. 12]

MSO 427 and 509 classes: MSO-Ocean minesweeper.

Mission: to provide mine warfare surface ship and neutralization countermeasures, and to effectively provide protection to surface battle groups, amphibious groups, and other military shipping against mining threats. [Ref. 12]

AD 15, 37, 41 classes and AR 5 class: AD-Destroyer tender. AR-Repair ship.

Mission: as an element of the Combat Logistics Force, to support sustained combat operations at sea by naval task groups. ADs and ARs provide ship repair and logistic support

facilities. Normally operating near the battle group, the AD/AR will moor or anchor in a safe haven to provide battle damage repair and intermediate maintenance to surface combatants. The AD has limited aviation capability, providing personnel and parts support to ships within the embarked flight radius. [Ref. 12]

Table 1 further highlights ship class distinctions by summarizing unique characteristics. 170 ships are cruisers, destroyers, or frigates; 55 are amphibious ships; 36 are oiler or ammunition ships; 18 are minesweepers; and eight are repair As of fiscal 1978, cruiser, destroyer, and frigate class ships had the lowest average age (9.3 yrs), followed by amphibious ships (9.9 yrs), oilers and ammunition ships (14.5 yrs), and repair ships (26.4 yrs). In fiscal 1986, average ship class ages continued to be lowest among cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (14.9 yrs), followed by amphibious ships (17.9 yrs), oilers and ammunition ships (20.8 yrs), repair ships (26.8 yrs), and minesweepers (30.5 yrs). 1 also highlights average yearly days underway for one year during each of the three cohort periods. Cruisers, destroyers, and frigates have the highest average operating time sea, followed by oilers, amphibious at minesweepers, and repair ships. Repair ships have the largest average crew size (1059), while minesweepers have the smallest (56). Clearly, cruisers, destroyers, and frigates represent the greatest weapons capability, as required to fulfill their

mission statements. Most other ship classes have only guns, primarily for self-defense in a hostile environment.

TABLE 1

SHIP CLASS CHARACTERISTIC MATRIX

4 4 0.4 3.5 7.5 118 132 113 2 2 3.2 7.2 11.2 139 127 87 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Ship Class	in FY78	# of ship in class (3 78 FV82	a) FY86	Av of shi	Avg. age of ship class FY78 FY82	(h) FY86	Avg days FV78	g. yearl underw	Avg. yearly ays underway (c)	Avg. crew	Propulsion System (e)	Weapc	Weapons Capability Guns Missiles Torpe	ability (f) s Torpedos
4 4 0.4 3.5 7.5 118 132 113 359 2 2 3.2 7.2 11.2 139 127 87 579 1 1 1 15.0 19.0 23.0 147 98 146 529 1 1 1 16.0 20.0 24.0 165 (9) 167 736 (h) 4 NA NA 1.0 NA NA 152 340 9 9 14.0 18.0 22.0 151 140 115 397 4 4 A NA 0.1 4.0 (b) 95 129 318 10 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 6 6 10.0 14.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 5 5 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771	į		-								- 1				
2	ζ٠,		4	4	0.4	3.5	7.5	118	132	113	359	Nuclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 1 10.3 14.3 18.3 159 185 196 566 1 1 1 15.0 19.0 23.0 147 98 146 529 1 1 16.0 20.0 24.0 165 (9) 167 736 (h) 4 NA NA 1.0 NA NA 152 340 9 9 14.0 18.0 22.0 151 140 115 397 4 4 4 NA 0.1 4.0 (b) 95 129 318 10 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 66 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 5 5 8 1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 20 20 66 10.6 14.6 138 130 101 331 21 20 20 66 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241	~	٠.	7	2	3.2	۲ د:	11.2	136	127	87	579	Nuclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 1 15.0 19.0 23.0 147 98 146 529 1 1 16.0 20.0 24.0 165 (9) 167 736 (h) 4 NA NA 1.0 NA NA 152 340 9 9 11.3 15.3 19.3 104 155 130 444 4 4 NA 0.1 4.0 (b) 95 129 318 10 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 339 5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 339 6 6 10.6 14.6 138 130 101 331 6 7 7 107 130 105 329 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241	_		_	_	10.3	14.3	18.3	159	185	961	999	Nuclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 1 16.0 20.0 24.0 165 (g) 167 736 (h) 4 NA NA 1.0 NA NA 152 340 9 9 11.3 15.3 19.3 104 155 130 444 4 A NA 0.1 8.0 22.0 151 140 115 397 4 4 A NA 0.1 4.0 (h) 95 129 318 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 310 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 132 85 126 336 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 20 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 133 271			_	_	15.0	0.61	23.0	147	86	146	529	Nuclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
(h) 4 NA NA 1.0 NA NA 152 340 9 9 11.3 15.3 19.3 104 155 130 444 9 9 14.0 18.0 22.0 151 140 115 397 4 4 NA 0.1 4.0 (b) 95 129 318 10 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 339 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 339 6 6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 6 7 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241			_	_	16.0	20.0	24.0	165	(3)	167	736	Nuclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
9 9 11.3 15.3 19.3 104 155 130 444 4 4 NA 0.1 4.0 (b) 95 129 318 10 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 110 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 339 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 21 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 133 231	_=	~	(F)	4	< Z	۲X	0.1	۲ Z	Ϋ́	152	340	Gas Turbine	Yes	Yes	Yes
9 9 14.0 18.0 22.0 151 140 115 397 4 4 NA 0.1 4.0 (b) 95 129 318 10 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 136 128 104 260 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 339 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 339 10 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 21 22 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771	5	_	6	6	11.3	15.3	19.3	1 <u>0</u>	153	130	444	Steam	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 4 NA 0.1 4.0 (b) 95 129 318 10 10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 5 5 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130	5	_	6	6	14.0	0.81	22.0	151	140	115	397	Steam	Yes	Yes	Yes
10 16.7 20.7 24.7 117 110 124 376 23 23 15.1 19.1 23.1 120 139 111 339 30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 5 5 8.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 60 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 <td>-</td> <td>_</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>۲X</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>4.0</td> <td>(</td> <td>95</td> <td>129</td> <td>318</td> <td>Gas Turbine</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td>	-	_	4	4	۲X	0.1	4.0	(95	129	318	Gas Turbine	Yes	Yes	Yes
23	$\underline{}$	_	01	01	16.7	20.7	24.7	117	011	124	376	Steam	Yes	Yes	Yes
30 31 0.5 3.8 7.7 98 140 130 310 6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 8 11.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 8 11.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 10 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 22 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771	<u>i</u>	~	23	23	15.1	1.61	23.1	120	139	111	339	Steam	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 6 10.2 14.2 18.2 137 116 87 254 46 46 6.0 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 5 8 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 6 6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 2 2 6 8 10 8 14 8 134 110 133 771	_		30	31	0.5	3.8	7.7	86	140	130	310	Gas Turbine	Yes	Yes	Yes
46 46 60 10.0 14.0 138 143 129 270 10 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 5 5 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 db 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771	•		y	9	10.2	14.2	18.2	137	911	83	254	Steam	Yes	Yes	Yes
10 10 11.0 15.0 19.0 136 128 104 260 21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 5 5 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 (h) 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771	=	,_	46	46	0.9	10.0	14.0	138	143	129	270	Steam	Yes	å	Yes
21 48 0.1 0.6 2.9 114 109 118 195 13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 5 5 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 (h) 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771	$\overline{}$	_	≘	01	11.0	15.0	0.61	136	128	104	260	Steam	Yes	°Z	Yes
13 13 10.0 14.0 18.0 133 139 121 400 5 8 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 38 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 3 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 31 30 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 12 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771 8	_		73	2 8	0.1	0.6	2.9	114	601	118	195	Gas Turbine	Yes	Yes	Yes
5 5 8.1 12.1 16.1 132 85 126 336 38 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 329 320 320 320 320 320 320 320 320 320 320		er.	~:	13	10.0	14.0	0.81	133	0£.1	121	400	Steam	Yes	Š	ž
8 8 21.7 25.7 29.7 107 130 105 329 3 5 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 31 (h) 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 1 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 1 2 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771 3	٠,		v.	v,	<u>~</u> .	12.1	16.1	132	8,5	126	336	Steam	Yes	Š	N _O
5 5 6.4 10.4 14.4 138 130 101 331 3 (b) 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 1 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 1 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771 3	~	~	×	œ	21.7	25.7	29.7	107	130	105	329	Steam	Yes	ŝ	S _o
do 2 NA NA 0.1 NA NA 145 322 1 20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 1 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771 3	٠.		v.	Υ	6.4	10.4	14.4	138	130	101	331	Steam	Yes	č	ž
20 20 6.6 10.6 14.6 130 136 115 241 1 2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771 9	_	=	<u>=</u>	7	A A	V N	0.1	< Z	Z Z	145	322	Diesel	Yes	ž	ŝŽ
2 2 6.8 10.8 14.8 134 110 133 771	Σ.	_	50	70	9.9	9.01	14.6	130	136	115	241	Diesel	Yes	å	Š
	C1		L 3	7	8.9	8.01	14 .8	134	110	133	171	Steam	Yes	Š	N _o

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

Weapons Capability (f) Guns Missiles TorpedosShip	Yes No No	S Z	2 Ž	%	Š	S _o	No No No	Š	No No No	Š	No
Propulsion System (e)	Steam						Diesel	Steam	Steam	Steam	Steam
Avg. crew size(d)	347	386	352	208	583	442	95	827	1286	1277	847
y ay (c) FY86	125	110	83 83	129	151	911	∞ ∞	9/	74	\$	72
Avg. yearly days underway (c) FY78 FY82 FY86	139	150	103	129	157	149	88	53	4	36	73
Avg days FY78	86 126	96	155	105	132	117	78	5	47	Z V	2
b) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4	28.7	14.5	40.0	8.8	0.81	13.7	30.5	42.7	17.8	4.2	42.7
Avg. age of ship class (FY78 FY82 F	24.7 22.1	10.5	36.0	0.3	14.0	6.7	26.5	38.7	13.8	1.2	38.7
Av of shi FY78	20.7	6.5	32.0	Ϋ́	10.0	2.7	22.5	34.7	8.6	ź	34.7
3) FY86	2 %	7 1	- ₩	5	4	7	21	3	7	4	7
# of ships in class (a) FY78 FY82 I	2 %	7	٠, ١٠٠	۲,	4	7	21	~.	7	۳,	~1
# in FY78	٦ ٣	7	- س	Ê	4	7	7	~ ,	C1	(F)	7
Ship Class	AE 21 AE 23	AI: 27	AC 98	AO 177	AOE 1	AOR 1	MSO 4.7/ MSO 509	AD 15	AD 37	AD 41	AR 5

(a), te) Ret. Jane's Lighting Ships (1987-1988 edition)

Computed from ship commissioning dates (in years) from Jane's Fighting Ships for each class. Margin of error +/- .25 <u>ج</u>

Ref. Center for Naval Analyses (Mr. John Viner) ٤

Ref. OP-122/Manpower Programs and Support Branch (CDR Nicholn)

Ref. Jane's Fighting Ships. Guns includes installed 3in/50, 5in/54, 5in/38, and/or Mk 16 Close-In Weapons System (CIWS). ΞE

Missiles includes installed anti-air or cruise missile capability

No underway time in FY82 due to extended overhaul period in shipyard facility. No ships in this class in active service during period of observation.

III. DATA ANALYSIS

This research represents an effort to study relationship between ship type and first-term attrition by Navy enlistees. Since there is little previous research in the area, this study is exploratory--seeking to break new ground and to clear a path for further research. Nevertheless, the analysis has revealed several consistent trends across cohorts, suggesting possible directions for subsequent research on the causes of and cures for first-term enlisted attrition in the Navy.

A. COHORT ANALYSES

In analyzing the fiscal 1977, 1981, and 1985 cohorts, a total of 77,502 records were examined. These numbers reflect personnel who reported to their initial ship assignment with less than 34 months of active service (27,701 in 1977; 25,739 in 1981; and 24,062 in 1985). Personnel are then tracked to identify those who separate before reaching a total of 33 months of active service while aboard their initially-assigned ship.

As noted in Chapter II, only male attrition is evaluated. The cohort sample was drawn from a total of 227° ships in fiscal 1977, 263 ships in 1981, and 300 ships in 1985. The rise in number of ships between the first and last cohorts

represents the addition of 73 newly-commissioned ships distributed as follows:

- 65 cruisers/destroyers/frigates.
- 1 amphibious ship.
- 5 oilers.
- 2 repair ships.

Data were tabulated in three formats: by individual ship (as identified by Unit Identification Code (UIC)), by ship class, and by mission category. The first digit of the category/ship class code represents the category of ship by broad mission requirement, as outlined in Chapter II. The first digit of the code signifies one of the following categories (CAT):

- 1--Cruisers (CG/CGN), Destroyers (DDG/DD), or Frigates (FFG/FF).
- 2--Amphibious ships (LPD/LKA/LSD/LST/LCC).
- 3--Oilers (AE/AFS/AO/AOE/AOR).
- 4--Minesweepers (MSO).
- 5--Repair ships (AD/AR).

The second character (a letter) of the code represents a specific ship class within each category. Ships within a common class are constructed to the same general specifications. As an example, the USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS 3) has a CAT/CLASS code of 3D meaning this ship is an oiler in the Mars-class (see Appendix B).

Before exploring the attrition loss rates within and between each cohort, several demographic variables were examined by ship category. The demographic variables include average age, mean percentile score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), and racial/ethnic group.

1. <u>Aqe</u>

Table 2 shows the average age of all persons who separated from the Navy by ship category for each of the three cohorts.

The data reveal a consistent trend between cohorts. Within ship categories, cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) and repair ships (CAT 5) have the oldest personnel, on average, of those who separate early in each cohort. Minesweepers (CAT 4) tend to have the youngest personnel among those who separate early from the 1981 and 1985 cohorts.

TABLE 2

AVERAGE AGE OF ALL ENLISTEES AND FIRST-TERM LOSSES
BY SHIP CATEGORY: 1977, 1981, AND 1985 COHORTS*

1	0	7	7	C	$\overline{}$	11		n	п	п
	. 7	-/	-/-	L	u	ю	·	к		Γ.

		Aver	age Age
SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES
1	120	19.8	19.2
2	48	19.7	19.1
3	32	19.7	19.0
4	18	20.1	19.2
5	<u>9</u>	19.8	<u>19.1</u>
TOTAL	227	19.8	19.2

^{*}Age computed at time of loss.

1981 COHORT

		Avera	age Age
SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES
1	152	20.1	19.5
2	48	19.9	19.4
3	35	19.9	19.4
4	18	20.1	19.2
5	_10	20.0	19.6
TOTAL	263	20.0	19.5

TABLE 2 (Continued)
1985 COHORT

		Aver	age Age
SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES
1	185	20.7	20.1
2	49	20.5	19.8
3	37	20.6	20.1
4	18	20.4	18.4
5	_11	20.7	20.1
TOTAL	300	20.6	20.0

Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

2. AFOT

Table 3 shows the AFQT mean percentile scores of all enlistees assigned to ships within each cohort by ship category. As pointed out by Elster and Flyer, "enlistees with higher AFQT scores are less likely to attrite than those with lower scores." [Ref. 4:p. 30] The data in this analysis are consistent with this finding for the 1977 and 1985 cohorts. The reader should note that these data aggregate loss rates across educational levels.

TABLE 3

AVERAGE AFQT PERCENTILE SCORES OF ALL ENLISTEES AND FIRST-TERM LOSSES BY SHIP CATEGORY: 1977, 1981, 1985 COHORTS

1977 COHORT

		Average AFOT	Percentile Score
SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES
1	120	57.4	53.5
2	48	50.8	49.6
3	32	49.0	49.4
4	18	59.0	52.2
5	9	51.7	48.3
TOTAL	227	54.0	51.2

1981 COHORT

		Average AFOT	Percentile Score
SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES
1	152	56.5	55.5
2	48	51.5	53.1
3	35	49.9	51.9
4	18	56.7	62.3
5	_10	50.5	<u>53.3</u>
TOTAL	263	53.9	54.2

TABLE 3 (Continued)

1985 COHORT

Average	AFOT	Percentile	Score
---------	------	------------	-------

SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES
1	185	59.4	55.9
2	49	52.5	51.3
3	37	52.9	53.9
4	18	47.1	43.7
5	<u>11</u>	<u>53.7</u>	<u>52.3</u>
TOTAL	300	56.7	54.2

Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

Across all ship categories and cohorts, personnel in cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) have the highest AFQT mean percentile score, while personnel in oilers have the lowest overall score across the three cohorts. Also worthy of note is that the AFQT mean percentile score of the 1981 cohort losses in minesweepers (CAT 4) was noticeably higher than the cohort average for minesweepers or in the other ship mission categories. The reason for this is unknown; however, the number of minesweeper losses is relatively small (37) compared to that of other ship mission categories. A step toward understanding this observation would be to organize the data by educational level and mental group.

3. Racial/Ethnic Group

Table 4 shows the racial/ethnic distribution of first-term losses by ship category. Appendix A presents the racial/ethnic make-up of each cohort by ship mission category as well as the first-term losses depicted in Table 4.

TABLE 4

PERCENT OF PERSONNEL FAILING TO COMPLETE FIRST-TERM
OF ENLISTMENT BY SHIP CATEGORY AND RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP:
1977, 1981, AND 1985 COHORTS

1977 COHORT

SHIP	NO. OF SHIPS		RM LOSSES		
CATEGORY	IN CATEGORY	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER
1	120	17.0	11.3	17.4	11.2
2	48	23.4	20.1	21.4	14.7
3	32	23.7	17.1	18.3	13.6
. 4	18	17.4	50.0	38.4	33.3
5	9	<u>19.3</u>	17.1	22.1	10.7
TOTAL	227	19.5	15.1	19.1	12.6

TABLE 4 (Continued)

1981 COHORT

SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	FIRST-TE WHITE	RM LOSSES BLACK	(% OF ALL HISPANIC	ENLIST.) OTHER
1	152	18.3	16.0	17.2	13.4
2	48	23.3	17.8	15.3	19.3
3	35	23.8	18.4	13.8	17.2
4	18	18.4	9.1	14.3	0
5	<u> 10</u>	17.8	16.2	16.2	7.5
TOTAL	263	20.0	16.8	16.0	12.6

1985 COHORT

SHIP CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	FIRST-TE	RM LOSSES BLACK	(% OF ALL HISPANIC	ENLIST.) OTHER
1	185	12.7	12.6	12.4	8.4
2	49	17.7	15.3	12.2	10.4
3	37	19.5	14.1	15.3	6.2
4	18	15.1	17.9	0	33.3
5	_11	<u>12.4</u>	13.9	11.6	5.8
TOTAL	300	14.6	13.6	12.7	8.4

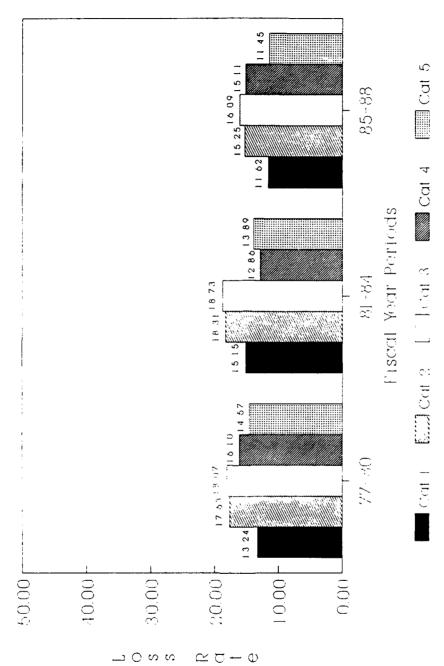
Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

In all cohorts, whites generally experienced the highest attrition levels, followed by Hispanics, blacks, and "others" (primarily persons of Asian or Filipino descent). There were exceptions within each cohort. In the 1977 cohort,

first-term losses of blacks and Hispanics on minesweepers (CAT 4) was relatively high (50.0 percent and 38.4 percent, respectively) compared to whites. This is due to very small sample sizes where one of two blacks and two of five Hispanics separated early. In the 1981 cohort, black and Hispanic losses were relatively low on minesweepers (CAT 4). Again, this is attributed to small sample sizes (see Appendix A). In in the 1985 cohort, loss rates for blacks are actually higher than white loss rates on minesweepers and repair ships. It is interesting to note this departure from past observations as it represents a reversal from previous data observations. The reason for this change is unknown.

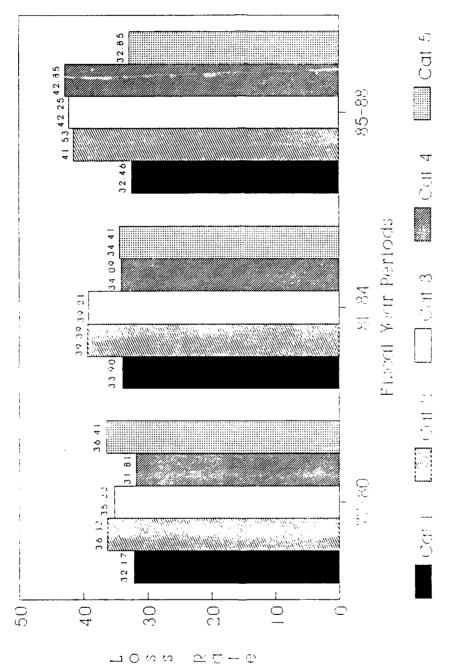
4. Educational Level

Figure 2 illustrates the loss rates of High School Diploma Graduates (HSDGs) by mission category. Figure 3 does the same for Non-High School Diploma Graduates (NHSDGs) or those with General Educational Development (GED) equivalency certificates. Loss rates are calculated as the number of HSDG (or NHSDG/GED) personnel who separate early from the Navy divided by all enlistees assigned to ships who are HSDGs (or NHSDG/GEDs). In Figures 2 and 3, and Table 5, loss rates are expressed as percentages. In examining educational levels, the loss rates of personnel who were high school graduates were consistently lower than the rates of those in the NHSDG/GED category. As shown in Figure 2, cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) have the lowest attrition



Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA. Source:

Loss Rates (%) of First-Term High School Diploma Graduate (HSDG) Enlistees by Ship Category: 1977, 1981, and 1985 Cohorts Figure 2.



Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Nonterey, CA. Source:

Loss Rates (%) of First-Term Non-High School Diploma Graduate (HSDG) Enlistees by Ship Category: 1977, 1981, and 1985 Cohorts Figure 3.

TABLE 5

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF ALL ENLISTEES AND FIRST-TERM LOSSES WITH LOSS RATES BY SHIP CATEGORY: 1977, 1981, AND 1985 COHORTS

1977 COHORT

		HSDG		NGSDG/GED		
SHIP CAT.	ALL ENL.	FIRST- TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE	ALL ENL.	FIRST- TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE
1	11,446	1,516	13.2	2,530	814	32.2
2	4,644	819	17.6	1,346	489	36.3
3	3,740	676	18.1	1,198	422	35.2
4	149	24	16.1	44	14	31.8
5	2,052	299	14.6	<u>552</u>	201	36.4
TOTAL	22,031	3,334	15.1	5,670	1,940	34.2

1981 COHORT

		HSDG		NGSDG/GED		
SHIP CAT.	ALL ENL.	FIRST- TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE	ALL ENL.	FIRST- TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE
1	11,805	1,789	15.2	1,979	671	33.9
2	3,974	728	18.1	853	336	39.4
3	3,453	647	18.7	709	278	39.2
4	171	22	12.9	44	15	34.1
5	2,317	322	13.9	433	<u>149</u> (34.4
TOTAL	21,721	3,508	16.2	4,018	1,449	36.1

TABLE 5 (Continued)
1985 COHORT

	···	HSDG		NGSDG/GED		
SHIP CAT.	ALL ENL.	FIRST- TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE	ALL ENL.	FIRST- TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE
.1	13,423	1,560	11.6	653	212	32.5
2	4,090	624	15.3	248	103	41.5
3	3,536	569	16.1	239	101	42.3
4	172	26	15.1	7	3	42.9
5	1,624	1,624	11.5	70	_23	32.9
TOTAL	22,845	2,965	13.0	1,217	442	36.3

Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

rates of HSDG personnel, followed by repair ships (CAT 5) and minesweepers (CAT 4). Conversely, oilers (CAT 3) have the highest HSDG losses, followed closely by amphibious ships (CAT 2). In Figure 3, cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) have the lowest loss rates for NHSDG/GED personnel, followed by minesweepers (CAT 4) (except in the 1985 cohort). It should be noted that the sample size among minesweepers was very small (three of seven NHSDG/GED personnel in the sample who separated early) relative to the numbers of personnel in other ship categories. Table 5 further compares the first-term loss rates of enlistees who had a traditional high school diploma with those who did not, by ship category for each cohort.

Cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) have the largest numbers of HSDG and NHSDG/GED personnel within each cohort, whereas minesweepers (CAT 4) have the smallest. This is explained by a larger number of ships in Category 1 relative to all other ship categories. Minesweeper crew sizes are also much smaller (about 56 personnel on average), compared with all other ships considered in this study (see Table 1). The next smallest crew size (241 personnel) can be found aboard LSTs (CAT 2), while the largest crews (1,286 personnel) serve on repair ships (ADs-CAT 5).

As discussed in Chapter I, Cooke and Quester found that NHSDG/GEDs have attrition rates that are <u>twice</u> as large as those of HSDGs. The loss rates in the 1977 and 1981 cohorts are consistent with this finding, however, in the 1985 cohort, the NHSDG/GED loss rate (36.3 percent) is almost three-times greater than the HSDG rate (13.0 percent). Even with specific ship mission categories in the 1985 cohort, this approximate three-to-one (NHSDG/GED-to-HSDG) loss ratio is consistent. As one hypothesis, it is possible that due to slightly higher quality enlistees in the 1985 cohort, higher standards in the fleet and elsewhere may have partially influenced an increase in the number of NHSDG/GED losses.

Across cohorts, there was no ship mission category that consistently had the largest NHSDG/GED or HSDG loss rates. However, cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) did have the lowest overall HSDG and NHSDG/GED loss rates

(1977, 1981, and 1985 cohorts combined). This is further investigated in the attrition loss rate analysis later in this chapter.

B. ATTRITION RATE RESULTS

With an understanding of cohort composition by sex, age, AFQT scores, racial/ethnic group, and educational level, data were extracted from the Enlisted Master Record (EMR) by individual ship (as identified by UIC), ship class, and mission category to determine possible trends in attrition between the 1977, 1981, and 1985 cohorts.

1. Individual Ship Analysis

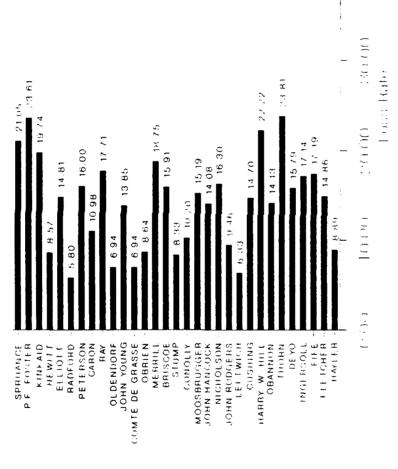
Appendix B shows the number of attrition losses, by UIC, among personnel who reported to their ship in each cohort year with less than 34 months of active service. Personnel were tracked aboard their ship until they reached the 33-month time-in-service window. By running a frequency history on each cohort, it was determined that the average sailor reported aboard his initial ship with between four and ten months time-in-service. Specifically, the greatest number of sailors had between five and seven months active service by the time they reported aboard ship. The frequency history also revealed that there were relatively more persons with less than 12 months of service (69.1 percent) in the 1977 cohort than in the 1985 cohort (64.8 percent). This suggests

that sailors in the 1985 cohort received more training enroute to their first ship than did those in the 1977 cohort.

Further analyzing loss data in Appendix B, it was observed that attrition rates are largest during the first year aboard a ship (i.e., the year following cohort entry). This trend is consistent in the 1977, 1981, and 1985 cohorts. Attrition then tapers off in succeeding years, as sailors become more experienced and accrue more time aboard their ship.

Figure 4 provides an example of differences in loss rates that may occur among individual ships of the same class. In Figure 4, the personnel loss rates from the 1985 cohort for 31 Spruance-class destroyers (1L) are shown. While the Spruance-class average loss rate is 14.1 percent, a high of 23.8 percent (THORN) and a low of 5.8 percent (RADFORD) can be observed. The explanation for this wide variation between individual ships is not clear. The ships within this class are of similar age. They possess the same mission capability. Where they may be different is in operating schedules (although over a 33-month period, the operating days at sea are not expected to be greatly different), command climate, commanding officer leadership, crew/ship performance record, and other possible variables discussed in Chapter I. observing one ship over two different cohorts, there may also be wide variation. For example, one ship in the Spruance class (1L) had a loss rate of 6.9 percent (THORN) for the 1985





Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

00.01

Loss Rates (%) of First-Term Enlistees Among Individual Ships of the Spruance-Class (1L): 1965 Cohort Figure 4.

cohort. That same ship had a loss rate of 19.1 percent for the 1981 cohort (see Appendix B). This difference in loss rate may reflect both differences between the 1981 and 1985 cohorts, and the differences betwee DD988 (circa 1981) vs. DD988 (circa 1985) with regard to ship schedule, commanding officer, and so on.

2. Ship Class Analysis

The following is a list of ship classes that correlate to the CAT/CLASS code appearing in Table 5 and Appendix C:

- 1A--Virginia class CGN.
- 1B--California class CGN.
- 1C--Truxton class CGN.
- 1D--Bainbridge class CGN.
- 1E--Long Beach class CGN.
- 1F--Ticonderoga class CG.
- 1G--Belknap class CG.
- 1H--Leahy class CG.
- 1I--Kidd class DDG.
- 1J--Farrragut class DDG.
- 1K--Adams class DDG.
- 1L--Spruance class DD.
- 1M--Brooke class FFG.
- 1N--Knox class FF.
- 1P--Garcia class FF.
- 1Q--Oliver Hazard Perry class FFG.
- 2A--Raleigh class LPD.

- 2B--Charleston class LKA.
- 2C--Spiegel Grove class LKA.
- 2D--Anchorage class LSD.
- 2E--Whidbey Island class LSD.
- 2F--Newport class LST.
- 2G--Blue Ridge class LCC.
- 3A--Suribachi class AE.
- 3B--Nitro class AE.
- 3C--Butte class AE.
- 3D--Mars class AFS.
- 3E--Caloosahatchee class AO.
- 3F--Cimarron class AO.
- 3G--Sacramento class AOE.
- 3H--Witchita class AOE.
- 4A--Constant class MSO.
- 5A--Prairie class AD.
- 5B--Samuel Gompers class AD.
- 5C--Yellowstone class AD.
- 5D--Vulcan class AR.

Table 6 provides a summary of loss data in the ship-class format.

TABLE 6

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF COHORT LOSSES (ATTRITION)
BY SHIP CLASS: 1977, 1981, AND 1985 COHORTS

1977 COHORT

		Number of Personnel CREW WITH LESS THAN	<u>Personne</u>	l Losses
CAT/ CLASS	NO. SHIPS	34 MONTHS SERVICE	NUMBER	RATE*
CIMOS	BHIFB	SERVICE	NOMBER	KAIL
1A	3	382	49	12.8
1B	2	362	66	18.2
1C	1	148	23	15.5
1D	1	202	26	12.9
1E	1	343	44	12.8
1G	8	1,210	191	15.8
1H	9	1,237	191	15.4
1J	0	1,477	241	16.3
1K	3	2,767	510	18.4
1L	8	865	129	14.9
1M	6	584	115	19.7
1N	9	3,542	579	16.3
1P	9	857	166	19.4
2A	13	2,188	476	21.8
2B	5	534	116	21.7
2C	3	337	60	17.8
2 <i>D</i>	5	625	153	24.5
2F	0	1,790	421	23.5
2G	2	516	82	15.9
3 A	2	240	54	22.5
3B	3	364	104	28.6
3 C	7	903	233	25.8
3D	7	1,024	205	20.0
3E	2	271	62	22.9
3G	4	868	180	20.7
3H	7	1,268	260	20.5
4 A	8	193	38	19.7
5 A	3	903	163	18.1
5B	2	707	144	20.4
5C	1	208	22	10.6
5D	3	786	171	21.8
TOTAL	227	27,701	5,274	19.0

*Rate of personnel losses is the percentage of those with less than 34 months of service who leave the Navy before completing a first-term enlistment

TABLE 6 (Continued)

1981 COHORT

CAT/	NO.	Number of Personnel CREW WITH LESS THAN 34 MONTHS	Personne	l Losses
CLASS	SHIPS	SERVICE	NUMBER	RATE*
1A	4	492	66	13.4
1B	2	280	37	13.2
1C	1	153	18	11.8
1D	1	153	27	17.6
1E	1	194	43	22.2
1G	9	1,117	200	17.9
1H	9	1,101	208	18.9
11	4	446	39	8.7
1J	10	1,094	218	19.9
1K	23	2.291	416	18.2
1L	30	2,304	411	17.8
1M	6	454	103	22.7
1N	39	2,959	531	17.9
1P	9	606	122	20.1
1Q	4	140	21	15.0
2A	13	1,721	404	23.5
2B	5	318	74	23.3
2C	3	327	72	22.0
2D	5	507	108	21.3
2F	20	1,501	314	20.9
2G	2	454	92	20.3
3 A	2 3	169	43	25.4
3B	3 7	270	70	25.9
3C 3D	7	740	172	23.2
3E	2	949	178	18.8
3E 3F	3	238	60	25.2
3G	3 4	230	36	15.7
3 G	7	691	174	25.2
4A	18	875 215	192	21.9
5A	3	215	37	17.2
5B	2	785 684	177	22.5
5C	2	684 637	112	16.4
5D	3	644	75 107	11.8
30	J	044	107	16.6
TOTAL	263	25,739	4,957	19.3

TABLE 6 (Continued)

1985 COHORT

CAT/ CLASS	NO. SHIPS	Number of Personnel CREW WITH LESS THAN 34 MONTHS SERVICE	Personne:	l Losses
1 A	4	515	42	8.2
1B	2	267	28	10.5
1C	1	156	21	13.5
1D	1	158	15	9.5
1E	1	231	29	12.6
1F	3	273	15	5.5
1G	9	945	136	14.4
1H	9	833	90	10.8
1I	4	343	36	10.5
1J	10	926	129	13.9
1K	32	1,842	229	12.4
1L	31	2,419	342	14.1
1M	6	364	48	13.2
1N	39	2,484	305	12.3
1P	9	551	89	16.2
1Q	33	1,769	218	12.3
2Ã	13	1,356	234	17.3
2B	5	467	72	15.4
2C	3	265	49	18.5
2D	5	437	74	16.9
2E	1	207	22	10.6
2F	20	1,213	238	19.6
2G	2	393	38	9.7
3 A	2	203	53	26.1
3B	3	270	47	17.4
3 C	7	653	138	21.1
3 D	7	812	110	13.5
3E	2	175	33	18.9
3 F	5	214	31	14.5
3G	4	639	97	15.2
3 H	7	809	161	19.9
4 A	18	179	29	16.2
5 A	3 2	371	43	11.6
5B	2	478	57	11.9
5C	3	495	62	12.5
5D	3	350	47	13.4
TOTAL	300	24,062	3,407	14.2

Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

Across all three cohorts, the Suribachi (3A), Nitro (3B), and Butte (3C) class oilers have the highest attrition rates, while nuclear-powered guided missile cruisers (CGNs) have the lowest rates. There is wide variation in loss rates by cohort year among the 36 ship classes examined. As the age of a ship class increases, attrition rates among later cohorts (1981 and 1985) do not necessarily increase. In fact, in some classes, the rate of attrition actually declines for later No clear relationship can be shown regarding Some ship classes with relatively operating days at sea. heavy operating schedules (see Table 1) have low loss rates compared with the cohort average. At the same time, other ship classes with few operating days at sea also have relatively low loss rates compared to the cohort average. The attrition loss rates are similar for repair ships, which have light operating schedules, and some cruiser, destroyer, and frigate classes, which have many more average operating days at sea.

Among the majority of ships across ship classes, there remains no distinct relationship of attrition with operating days at sea. Within and across ship classes, loss rates may be low with a high yearly number of days at sea, and in other cases, loss rates may be high with a high number of days at sea (see Appendix B).

Ship size revealed no clear relationship across ship classes. Repair ships (CAT 5) have the largest average crew

sizes (see Figure 1), yet their loss rates were comparable to or lower than some ship classes in all cohorts. The loss rates for repair some destroyers and frigates, which tend to have comparatively small crew sizes, were higher than repair ships with larger crews.

3. Ship Mission Category Analysis

Ship classes were grouped in the five broad mission categories described earlier in this chapter. This format was chosen to determine general trends among ship classes that may share similar mission requirements as outlined in Chapter II. Table 7 presents the attrition loss rates for each cohort by these five categories.

Across all three cohorts, it can be seen that ships in the cruiser, destroyer, and frigate classes (CAT 1) have the lowest loss rates. Repair ships (CAT 5), which have the largest crew sizes and the fewest operating days at sea, have the second lowest attrition rates compared with all other ship classes examined here. The third lowest rates are found on minesweepers (CAT 4), followed by amphibious ships (CAT 2). Oilers (CAT 3) tend to have the highest personnel loss rates of the five categories. The trends are quite clear. (There may be numerous explanations for these results, some of which are explored in the concluding chapter.) The loss rates are graphically displayed in Figure 5, which provides another view of the differences between ship classes.

TABLE 7

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF FIRST-TERM LOSSES (ATTRITION)
BY MISSION CATEGORY: 1977, 1981, AND 1985 COHORTS

1977 COHORT

First-Term	Enlisted	Personnel

MISSION CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE*
1	120	13,976	2,330	16.7
2	48	5,990	1,308	21.8
3	32	4,938	1,098	22.2
4	18	193	38	19.7
5	9	2,260	500	<u>19.2</u>
TOTAL	227	27,701	5,274	19.0

1981 COHORT

First-Term Enlisted Personnel

•				
MISSION CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE*
1	152	13,784	2,460	17.8
2	48	4,828	1,064	22.0
3	35	4,162	925	22.2
4	18	215	37	17.2
5	<u> 10</u>	2,750	<u>471</u>	<u>17.1</u>
TOTAL	263	25.739	4.957	19.3

TABLE 7 (Continued)
1985 COHORT

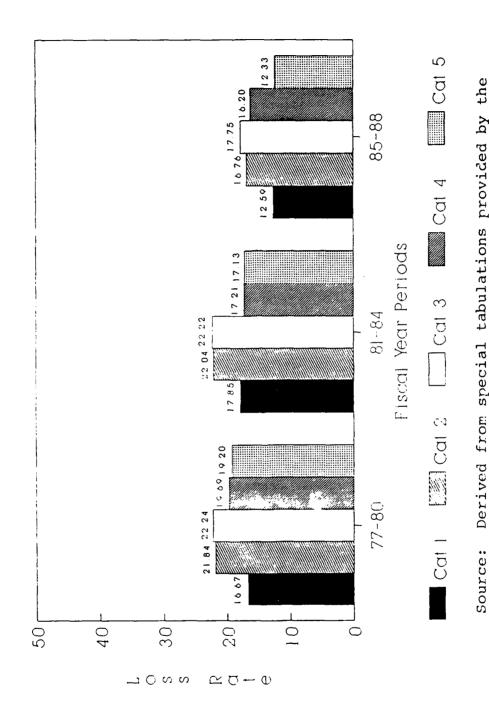
First-Term Enlisted Personnel

MISSION CATEGORY	NO. OF SHIPS IN CATEGORY	ALL ENLISTEES	FIRST-TERM LOSSES	LOSS RATE*
1	185	14,076	1,772	12.6
2	49	4,338	727	16.8
3	37	3,775	670	17.7
4	18	179	29	16.2
5	_11	1,694	209	12.3
TOTAL	300	24,062	3,407	14.2

*Rate of personnel losses is the percentage of those with less than 34 months of service who leave the Navy before completing a first term of enlistment.

Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

The total average personnel loss rate remained relatively constant between the 1977 and 1981 cohorts (19.0 and 19.3 percent, respectively); but it fell to 14.2 percent for the 1985 cohort. It should be noted that a substantial number of persons in the designated cohorts actually enlisted during the prior year. Thus, a large portion of persons in the 1985 cohort (those assigned to ships in 1985) enlisted during fiscal 1984. In 1983 and 1984, the Navy experienced an increase in the quality of its new recruits. This increase in



Defense Mannower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA. Loss Rates (%) of First-Term Enlisted Personnel by Ship Category: 1977, 1981, and 1985 Cohorts Figure 5.

quality resulted in a modest reduction in attrition of firstterm enlistees during the mid-1980s. [Ref. 7] The lower attrition rate for the 1985 cohort is also affected by a rise in the relative number of persons leaving the Navy during the first few months of service (i.e., before many report to their first ship because they are in the school pipeline). example, in 1981 male attrition during the first 12 months was 12.1 percent, compared to a rate of 15.1 percent for those in the 1985 cohort. This rise in early attrition, combined with the fact that personnel are apparently reporting aboard ship with more training (i.e., this is inferred from greater timein-service) in 1985 than 1977 or 1981, may also help to explain why attrition rates were unexpectedly lower for the 1985 cohort of enlistees assigned to ships. Although the 1985 cohort represents an increased number of high quality accessions compared with the 1977 and 1981 cohorts, the drop in attrition represented in this cohort has not been sustained by those who enlisted beyond late 1985. Consequently, this may partially explain why overall attrition rates have continued to rise since that time [Ref. 7].

4. Losses by Rating

From the loss statistics, the ratings (or occupations) of personnel were extracted to examine possible relationships among ship types. Appendix D details cohort losses by rating within ship categories. Table 8 shows the loss rates for Navy ratings that had the highest attrition rates within each ship

TABLE 8

THE TEN NAVY RATINGS WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF ATTRITION WITHIN SHIP CATEGORY: 1977, 1981, AND 1985 COHORTS (a)

		1977 Co	hort	_1981_Cd	hort	1985 Co	ohort_
SHIP CAT.	RANK	RATING	LOSS RATE	RATING	LOSS RATE	RATING	LOSS RATE
1	1	FR	34.4	ВМ	71.9	SR	28.9
	2	SR	28.5	SR	31.6	FR	27.0
	3	FN	25.9	FR	28.2	SM	25.2
	4	ВМ	23.1	SH	24.3	ВМ	18.4
	5	FA	22.9	SA	23.7	FN	17.7
	6	SA	22.0	FN	22.5	SH	16.7
	7	YN	20.9	SN	20.6	SA	16.1
	8	SH	19.0	SK	19.6	FC	15.0
	9	SN	18.7	FA	19.6	FA	14.3
	10	BT	17.7	SM	18.1	BT	12.5
2	1	FR	36.3	FN	42.5	SR	31.9
	2	SR	28.7	SR	36.6	SM	29.4
	3	SA	26.9	FR	31.7	FR	24.5
	4	FA	24.5	AR	28.9	SK	23.3
	5	MS	24.4	MS	28.3	MS	21.7
	6	AA	23.4	BT	26.6	QM	20.3
	7	SN	22.1	SA	20.9	HT	19.1
	8	SH	19.6	SN	19.9	FA	18.6
	9	SM	17.4	HT	18.6	YN	18.4
	10	FN	17.4	FA	17.1	SA	18.1

TABLE 8 (Continued)

		1977 C	hort	1981 Co	ohort	_1985_Cd	hort
SHIP CAT.	RANK	RATING	LOSS RATE	RATING	LOSS RATE	RATING	LOSS RATE
3	1	FR	34.3	SR	33.8	FR	28.9
	2	FN	31.8	FR	30.2	SR	27.3
	3	FA	28.7	GMG	25.6	FN	26.8
	4	SA	27.9	EN	24.0	SH	21.7
	5	SR	24.6	SA	22.1	sĸ	18.1
	6	MS	23.9	FN	21.2	MS	19.4
	7	SN	21.7	BT	20.2	SK	18.1
	8	BT	17.2	SM	19.1	SA	17.7
	9	MM	16.5	os	18.4	SN	15.9
	10	RM	16.2	SN	18.0	нт	14.4
4	1 (c)	FR	50.0	SN	45.5	SR	30.8
	2	HT	44.4	MS	36.4	FA	25.0
	3	SR	40.9	BM	33.3	SA	17.9
	4	FN	33.3	FR	28.6	EM	14.3
	5	FA	28.6	SA	21.7	FN	12.5

TABLE 8 (Continued)

		<u>1977 Co</u>	hort	_1981 Cc	hort	_1985_Cd	hort
SHIP CAT.	RANK	RATING	LOSS RATE	RATING	LOSS RATE	RATING	LOSS RATE
5	1	FA	32.3	SR	34.9	MS	27.3
	2	FR	30.3	FR	27.2	SR	23.6
	3	YN	27.8	SN	23.1	FR	21.7
	4	SA	27.0	YN	20.0	YN	14.3
	5	SR	26.7	sĸ	17.9	MM	12.3
	6	FN	24.6	вт	17.9	SA	12.4
	7	SN	23.3	FN	16.7	SN	10.8
	8	EN	17.9	EN	13.6	FA	10.3
	9	BT	15.9	MM	13.4	FN	10.0
	10	STG	13.3	нт	12.3	sĸ	10.0

- (a) This is a relative scale and does not take into account the actual size of the cohort within the ratings listed.
- (b) Loss rates are relative within each ship mission category among all ratings that experienced losses.
- (c) Due to the relatively small crews on minesweepers (an average of 56 per ship), relative to other ship classes, there is a much narrower range of ratings that serve on this class of ship. Therefore, only the <u>five</u> highest ratings that experienced the highest loss rates were listed.

Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, Ca.

mission category. The abbreviations for the Navy ratings listed in Table 8 are explained below:

- AR--Airman Recruit.
- BM--Boatswain's Mate.
- BT--Boiler Technician.
- EM--Electrician's Mate.
- EN--Engineman.
- FA--Fireman Apprentice.
- FC--Fire Controlman.
- FN--Fireman.
- FR--Fireman recruit.
- GMG--Gunner's Mate (Guns).
- HT--Hull Technician.
- OS--Operations Specialist.
- QM--Quartermaster.
- RM--Radioman.
- SA--Seaman Apprentice.
- SH--Ship's Serviceman.
- SK--Storekeeper.
- SM--Signalman.
- SN--Seaman.
- SR--Seaman Recruit.
- STG--Sonar Technician.
- YN--Yeoman.

As seen in Table 8, within the same mission category, there are distinct trends across cohorts. Within cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1), for example, the highest losses are consistently among SR, SA, SN, BM, FR, A, and FN

personnel. In amphibious ships (CAT 2) and oilers (CAT 3), the MS rating also experiences high losses. Within minesweepers (CAT 4), the greatest losses are in line with CAT 1, 2, and 3 ships. Unlike the other mission category ships, YNs also experience high loss rates in repair ships (CAT 5). These findings are consistent with previous studies showing that persons in General Detail (GENDET) ratings (SR, SA, SN, FR, FA, FN, AR, AA, AN) generally have higher attrition than do personnel who have completed additional formal skill training after boot camp. [Ref. 9:p. 77] As Quester and Cooke state:

Although there are competing hypotheses, the usual interpretation of higher attrition rates for GENDETs is that the GENDET work environment is inherently less satisfying than the environments of those receiving skill training. [Ref. 13:p. 11]

High rates of attrition in other ratings (as shown in Table 8) may be partially explained by the workload or work environment (especially in the engineering ratings, such as EN,BT,HT,MM, and EM) unique to a particular ship or ship class. It is difficult to interpret loss rates in specific Navy ratings since many other factors such as command climate, organizational culture, and supervisory leadership may also affect these rates. However technical ratings tend to have fair selective aptitude and education standards, screening out new recruits who are more likely to experience attrition or fail training. GENDETs, on the other hand, are among the least selective occupations in the Navy, attracting new

recruits who have generally lower aptitude test scores and levels of education. Previous research has shown that education (completion of high school) and aptitude are strongly linked with attrition, providing further explanation for the higher loss rates among those in non-technical or GENDET ratings.

5. Reason for Loss

The reason for each loss was tabulated to note similarities or differences between ship types. Table 9 categorizes these data for each cohort by mission category. Percent losses are grouped under five general discharge categories:

- Medical (includes disability or unqualified for active duty).
- Hardship or dependency.
- Death (battle or non-battle casualty).
- Performance (failure to meet performance criteria, such as drugs, court martial, desertion, homosexuality, behavioral disorders, misconduct, unsuitability, or civil conviction).
- Other (such as breach of contract, pregnancy, sole surviving son, or erroneous enlistment).

Table 9 shows that performance deficiencies account for between eight or nine out of every ten personnel losses within each cohort, followed by medical, and then "other." (Performance-related discharges increased in all categories except CAT 1 for the 1981 cohort.) In 1983 Navy and Marine Corps policy changes resulted in modifications to coding

TABLE 9

ATTRITION RATES, BY REASON, WITHIN SHIP MISSION CATEGORY:
1977, 1981, AND 1985 COHORTS

SHIP	Reason	Attrition	Rate	(Percent)
CATEGORY		1977	1981	1985
1	Medical	8.3	3.7	4.5
	Hardship or dependency	1.5	0.7	1.8,
	Death	2.2	1.5	1.1
	Performance	82.6	90.8	92.0
	Other	5.4	3.3	.6
2	Medical	6.3	1.8	5.8
	Hardship or dependency	1.0	0.8	1.0
	Deach	1.8	1.6	1.1
	Performance	88.9	92.0	91.1
	Other	2.6	3.9	1.0
3	Medical	6.4	1.5	4.5
	Hardship or dependency	1.2	0.6	1.2
	Death	1.3	1.0	1.0
	Performance	85.7	93.6	92.5
	Other	5.4	3.1	.8

TABLE 9 (Continued)

SHIP	Reason	Attrition		
CATEGORY		1977	1981	1985
4	Medical	5.3	0	6.9
	Hardship or dependency	0	0	3.4
	Death	2.6	0	0
	Performance	86.8	91.9	89.7
	Other	5.3	8.1	0
5	Medical	6.8	2.9	5.3
	Hardship or dependency	1.0	0	. 5
•	Death	1.2	1.3	. 5
	Performance	86.2	94.1	92.8
	Other	4.8	1.7	.9

Source: Derived from special tabulations provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Monterey, CA.

losses. This policy change may explain the apparent difference in performance-related discharges between the 1981 and 1985 cohorts for CAT 2, 3, 4, and 5 ships. CAT 1 ships, however, still experienced a slight increase in performance-related discharges between the 1981 and 1985 cohorts. Likewise, there was also a policy change in loss coding between the 1977 and 1981 cohorts that resulted in a decrease in medical discharges in all ship mission categories.

(Appendix E provides a specific breakdown of Navy personnel who separate early in each cohort by mission category.)

In Chapter IV, conclusions are made based upon a summary of the data analysis. Additionally, recommendations for future research are offered, stemming from new questions raised in this study as a result of the research findings.

IV. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. SUMMARY

This thesis has attempted to determine if there is a relationship between first-term enlisted attrition and ship type, using the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Enlisted Master Record (EMR). The results of longitudinal analysis suggest that a relationship exists.

Each of three cohorts (including over 77,000 enlisted personnel) was examined with respect to average age, mean percentile score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), racial/ethnic background, and educational level. was done to better understand the demographic composition of the cohorts and to provide possible explanations for the early separation of enlistees within each cohort. The distributions of personnel losses by demographic variables are generally consistent with the findings of previous studies. example, results by aptitude followed the findings of previous studies, where it has been observed that those who separate early generally have lower AFQT scores than do their counterparts who complete a first term of enlistment. comparison of loss rates by racial/ethnic group revealed higher attrition among whites than among other groups. loss rates for Hispanics were higher than those for blacks; and the rates for blacks were higher than those for "other"

groups. This finding is also supported by previous research. Studies conducted over the past 30 years have repeatedly shown that possession of a high school diploma is strongly linked with adaptability to military life and successful completion of a first term of enlistment. Those who separated early and did not possess a high school diploma outnumbered (in terms of percent lost) high school graduates by greater than two-to-one in the 1977 and 1981 cohorts; and this ratio was three-to-one in the 1985 cohort, with no clear explanation for the increase.

By arranging the cohort data in three formats--individual ship, ship class, and broad mission category--trends and common relationships could be observed. As revealed in Chapter III, individual ships showed wide variation in cohort loss rates, which may suggest the influence of other factors such as command climate, commanding officer/executive officer leadership, crew/ship performance, operating schedule, and so on. Similarly, no clear trends could be observed within the separate ship classes. For example, age of the ship class, crew size, weapons capability, and operating days at sea appeared to vary in relationship to attrition within different classes of ships. On the other hand, evidence of a relationship between attrition and ship type was found when the data were analyzed using the third format. Here, ship classes were grouped into one of five broad categories--cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1),

amphibious ships (CAT 2), oilers (CAT 3), minesweepers (CAT 4), and repair ships (CAT 5). Cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) had the lowest loss rates overall (all three cohorts combined). Repair ships (CAT 5) and minesweepers (CAT 4) had similarly low loss rates. The highest loss rates were found for oilers (CAT 3) and amphibious ships (CAT 2).

There are several possible hypotheses that may explain the observed trends in attrition by mission category. Cruisers, destroyers, and frigates (CAT 1) have long been regarded by many Surface warfare sailors as the "most glamorous" ships in the fleet. This image has included perceptions, true or false, that warships provide sailors with greater challenge, prestige, opportunities for warfare skill development, and "importance." Thus, among many Surface Warfare officers and enlisted sailors alike, cruisers, destroyers, and frigates are frequently the most sought-after ships for duty assignment. This introduces the opinion of some in the Surface Warfare Navy that, in general, more qualified leaders (in commanding officer and executive officer positions) are being assigned to these ships than to others. This may partially explain the difference in attrition between ship types, assuming that attrition is influenced to some extent by the greater abilities or higher achievements of senior personnel (officer and enlisted) on the ship. While this may offer a possible explanation for differences in cruisers, destroyers, and frigates, it may not be as valid for minesweepers and repair ships. Across ship types, the presence and relative influence of other variables may explain observed differences in loss rates.

As observed in Chapter III, cruisers, destroyers, and frigates generally receive a slightly higher caliber sailor, based upon AFQT mean percentile scores and educational level. This occurs because more technically qualified enlisted personnel are required on these ships. Since education and aptitude are linked with success in naval service, this distribution of enlisted talent may also provide a partial explanation for lower attrition rates on such ships.

As previously noted, a combination of factors may influence attrition including crew/ship performance, number of operating days at sea, and command climate. These variables should be explored to more fully determine which may serve to increase or decrease attrition across varying ship types. Multivariate analysis techniques should be applied in attempts to model attrition as a function of personnel, ship, deployment and other data.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

This research suggests that there is a relationship between ship type and first-term enlisted attrition. These results raise several questions:

 Given the loss rates among ships within differing mission categories, is the difference large enough to warrant enlisted and officer manning policy changes in an attempt to distribute more evenly personnel talent, given the unique requirements of each ship class?

- Given the technology of differing ships, is such a distribution of talent feasible?
- If the loss rate differences between ship types are determined to be significant enough to consider making policy changes, what negative and/or positive effects would these changes cause in the mission readiness of each ship class?
- What other variables unique to different ships, such as deployment cycle and operating days at sea, might be related to attrition differences between ships with different mission requirements?

There are several possibilities for future research that may help to determine the cause for differences in attrition among ship types. For example, one area of research could examine more directly the distribution of enlisted talent across ships in the fleet, given varying levels of complexity in ships with differing requirements for technically-skilled personnel. Additionally, a survey might be useful to examine whether there is a perception among surface warriors that duty on cruisers, destroyers, and frigates enhances a naval career more than on other ship classes. If so, are officer manning policies and the personnel detailing process influenced by this to the detriment of other ship classes? manpower planners and researchers should determine attrition differences exert a disproportionate influence, negative or positive, on the readiness of different ship types.

Navy manpower experts agree that attrition is currently at unacceptably high levels. Navy records show that just three out of every five new recruits can be expected to complete a first term of enlistment. Although attrition will always exist, present levels are too high, with the cost in dollars reaching into the hundreds of millions, and the cost in readiness exacting an immeasurable toll. There is not just one cause of early separation, but many. With continued focus on this important issue, Navy manpower planners and leaders may more effectively reduce its impact on the readiness of the Surface Navy.

APPENDIX A LOSS RATES BY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP

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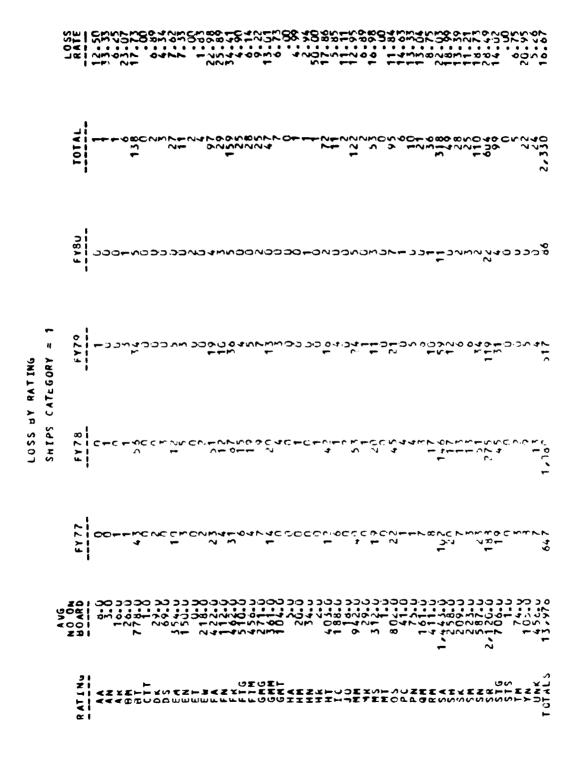
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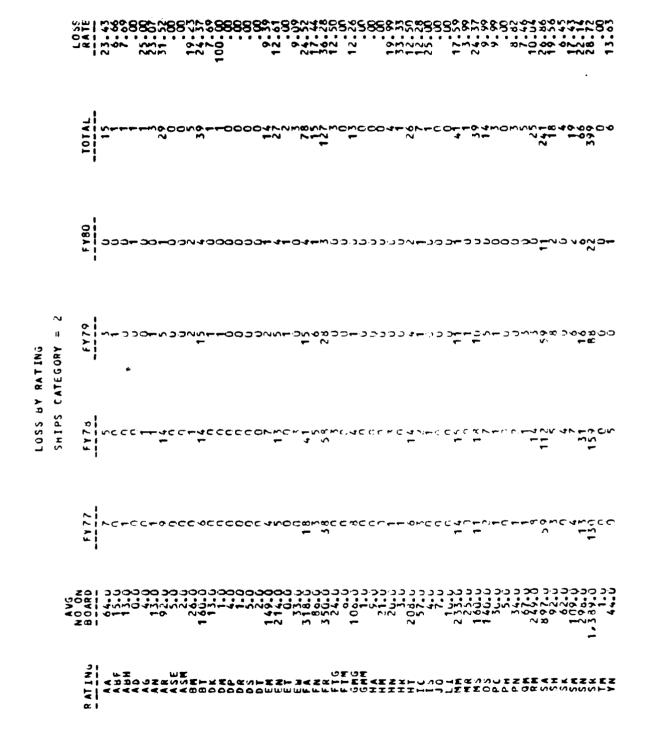
APPENDIX C LOSS RATES BY SHIP CLASS

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APPENDIX D LOSS RATES BY RATING (OCCUPATION)





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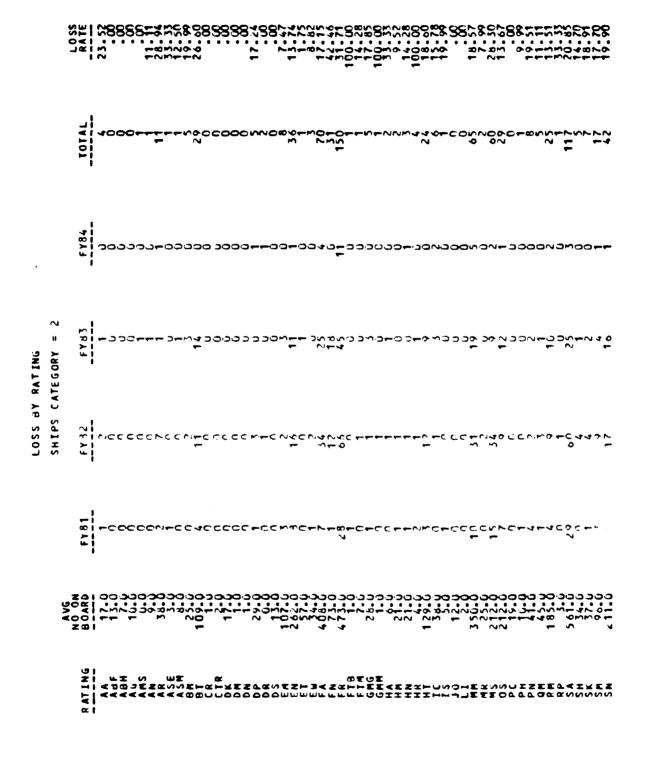
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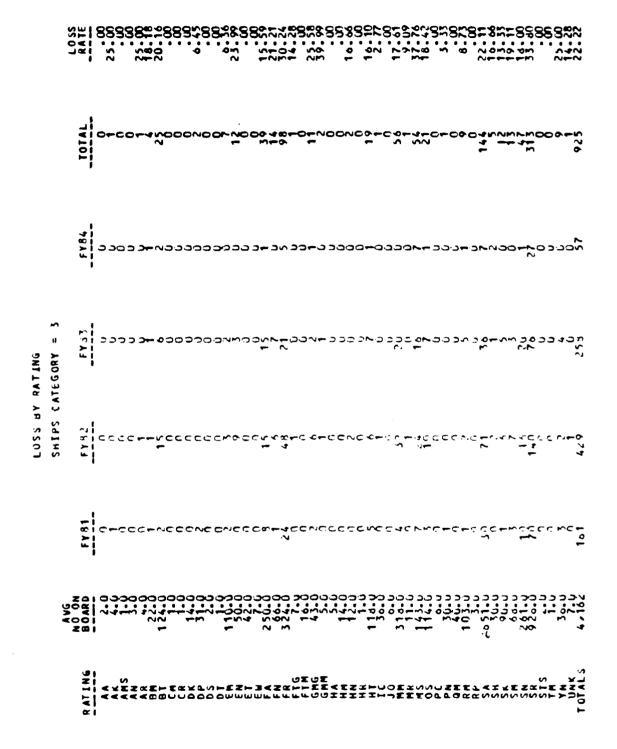
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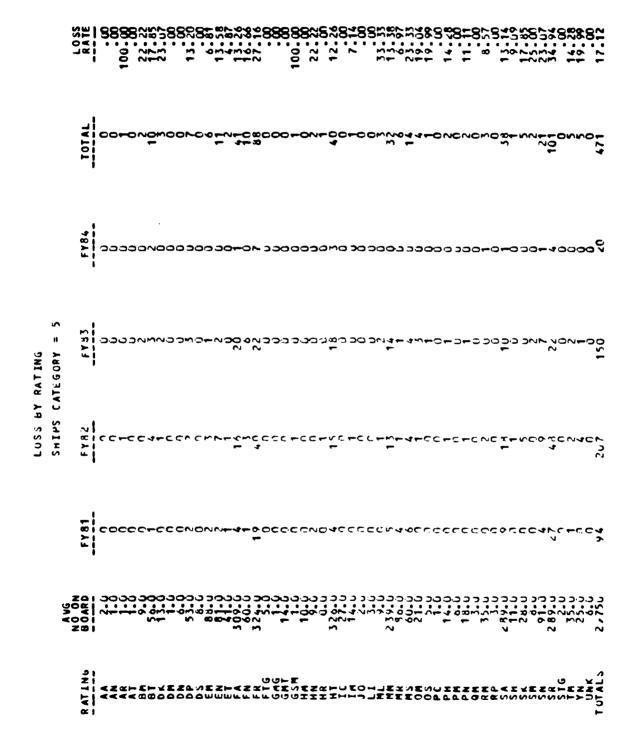
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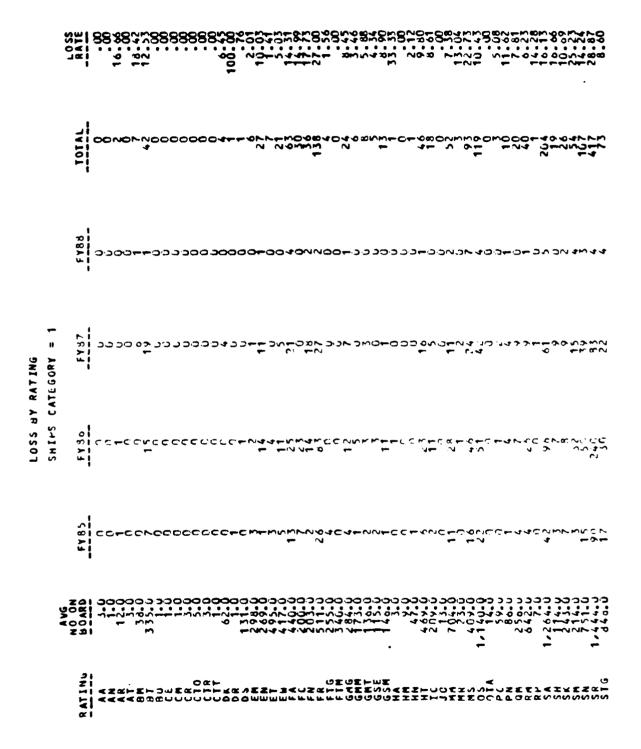


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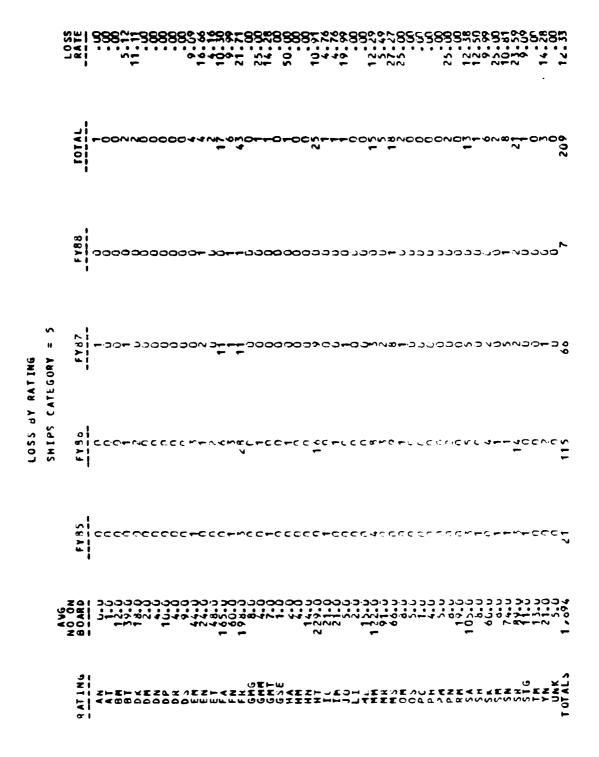
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