

24-HOUR CLOCK

To avoid confusion with times of various events and times mentioned in written messages and orders, the military uses the 24-hour clock. More information can be found in the Naval Science 3 textbook, but the basic times are shown here. (NOTE: the Navy does not use the term “hours” after the time, such as “Zero Five Thirty Hours.” In Naval parlance, that would be “Zero Five Thirty.”)

MORNING

1 A.M.	0100
2 A.M.	0200
3 A.M.	0300
4 A.M.	0400
5 A.M.	0500
6 A.M.	0600
7 A.M.	0700
8 A.M.	0800
9 A.M.	0900
10 A.M.	1000
11 A.M.	1100
12 A.M. (noon)	1200



AFTERNOON

1 P.M.	1300
2 P.M.	1400
3 P.M.	1500
4 P.M.	1600
5 P.M.	1700
6 P.M.	1800
7 P.M.	1900
8 P.M.	2000
9 P.M.	2100
10 P.M.	2200
11 P.M.	2300
12 P.M. (midnight)	2400/0000

SHIP'S BELL TIME

Aboard ship, passage of time on watch is noted by ringing of the ship's bell. The custom derives from the early days of sailing ships without accurate ship chronometers (clocks). Instead they used a half-hour glass, turning it over each half hour for a 4-hour watch; and with each turn, another bell was rung. The bells are sounded in couplets with about a 1-second pause between couplets. Odd numbered bells are sounded at the end. For example, 0530 would be sounded: “ding-ding, pause, ding.”



MID-WATCH		MORNING WATCH		FORENOON WATCH		AFTERNOON WATCH		EVENING WATCH		NIGHT WATCH	
Time	Bells	Time	Bells	Time	Bells	Time	Bells	Time	Bells	Time	Bells
0030	1	0430	1	0830	1	1230	1	1630	1	2030	1
0100	2	0500	2	0900	2	1300	2	1700	2	2100	2
0130	3	0530	3	0930	3	1330	3	1730	3	2130	3
0200	4	0600	4	1000	4	1400	4	1800	4	2200	4
0230	5	0630	5	1030	5	1430	5	1830	5	2230	5
0300	6	0700	6	1100	6	1500	6	1900	6	2300	6
0330	7	0730	7	1130	7	1530	7	1930	7	2330	7
0400	8	0800	8	1200	8	1600	8	2000	8	2400	8