U.S. Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard

Commandant (G-CPI)
United States Coast Guard

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COMDTINST 3128.1G

16 JUN 1987

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 3128.1G

Subj: Foreign Port Calls

Ref: (a) Coast Guard Regulations (COMDTINST M5000.3)

1. PURPOSE. This instruction provides policy on visits to foreign countries by U.S. Coast Guard vessels and prescribes procedures for obtaining clearance or making notification of foreign port calls.

2. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. Commandant Instruction 3128.1F is canceled.

3. DISCUSSION.

a. Visits to foreign ports by U.S. Coast Guard vessels are conducted to support U.S. interests and policies abroad; foster goodwill by participation in civic action projects, cultural events, and professional exchanges with foreign counterpart organizations; obtain logistic support; effect ship maintenance and repairs; and enhance crew morale by providing the opportunity for liberty and recreation. Vessels and their crews represent the United States government. Vessel appearance and conduct of the crew in foreign ports must be exemplary at all times.

b. Each entry of a U.S. Coast Guard vessel into a foreign port or anchorage requires the permission (clearance) of the host government, except where emergency or stress of weather dictates force majeure or where existing agreements provide access to ports upon advance notification to the host government. Procedures for obtaining clearance or making notifications are provided in enclosure (1).

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3 c. Area commanders are delegated responsibility and authority to administer foreign port visits to the countries listed in enclosure (2). This authority may be further delegated to operational commanders at the discretion of the area commander. Commandant approval is required for port visits to all other countries.

d. Operational commanders may seek local arrangements to simplify clearance procedures through U.S. defense attaches or diplomatic missions. Such local arrangements must be submitted to the chief of the U.S. diplomatic mission for consideration and concurrence. Commandant (G-CPI) and cognizant area commander shall be notified of all such local arrangements.

4. ACTION.

a. Commandant (G-CPI) will communicate directly with the Department of State and chiefs of U.S. diplomatic missions on matters of general policy and the status of diplomatic arrangements, and with appropriate clearance agencies to initiate requests for diplomatic clearances for foreign port calls to countries not listed in enclosure (2).

b. Area commanders or their designated subordinates will communicate directly with the appropriate clearance agencies to provide notification, information, or initiate requests for diplomatic clearance for foreign port calls to countries listed in enclosure (2).

c. Unit commanding officers shall ensure that the provisions of the instruction are followed in planning, requesting and executing port visits to foreign countries.

5. CHANGES. Corrections or recommendations for improving this instruction shall be submitted to the Commandant (G-CPI).

CLYDE T. LUSK, JR.
Chief of Staff

Encl: (1) Port Visits by U.S. Coast Guard Vessels to Foreign Countries
(2) Clearance Procedures by Country

16 JUN 1987

PORT VISITS BY U.S. COAST GUARD VESSELS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1. Scope. This enclosure applies to all U.S. Coast Guard vessels except those under the operational control of the U.S. Navy at the time of a proposed visit who will comply with applicable Navy directives and orders in lieu of this Instruction.

2. Types of Visits. Ship visits are classified as formal (visit of courtesy), informal, or routine (operational).

   a. Formal Visits. Formal visits of courtesy are normally made upon invitation to special occasions such as national or international celebrations or visits of chiefs of state.

   b. Informal Visits. Informal visits are made primarily in the interest of familiarization and goodwill and require no special formalities other than courtesy calls prescribed by U.S. Coast Guard Regulations. Informal visits may, and usually do, include the objectives of routine visits. An exchange of social courtesies with local military and civilian officials is usually associated with an informal visit.

   c. Routine (Operational). Routine visits are those made primarily for logistic support, maintenance, repairs, liberty and recreation, or in connection with operational missions. No protocol is required other than that dictated by local practice.

3. Preparation for Visits. In scheduling visits to foreign ports, the following must be taken into consideration:

   a. A foreign port visit offers a unique opportunity to foster goodwill and facilitate cooperation with the host government in areas of mutual concern such as maritime search and rescue, marine safety, pollution prevention and drug interdiction. Port calls which are possible without adversely affecting normal operations are encouraged. However, frequent use of particular ports may result in lessening the spirit of welcome and cooperation.

   b. Mid-week visits are often more acceptable than weekends, when local activities are closed. Arrivals and departures should be scheduled on weekdays and during normal working hours whenever possible.

   c. The frequency of visits and sizes of liberty parties should be in consonance with available port and recreational/liberty facilities.

   d. Visits should not be scheduled during periods of elections, religious holidays, or when political developments indicate that ship visits are not desirable.

   e. Since a visit to a foreign port requires approval by the host nation, it is essential that the visit be handled expeditiously and correctly. Consideration must be shown not only for the host but also the U.S.

3. e. (con't) diplomatic officials who arrange the visit. Visit approvals are often handled at such high levels within the host government that oversights or inconsiderate actions could cause embarrassment to the U.S. government.

4. Clearance Requirements and Procedures.

a. Each entry of a Coast Guard vessel into a foreign port or anchorage requires the permission (clearance) of the host government, except where emergency or stress of weather dictates force majeure or where existing agreements provide access to ports upon advance notification to the host government. Countries for which notification procedures are in effect are indicated in the "Arrangement Required" column of enclosure (2).

b. Vessel requests for foreign port visits shall be submitted via the operational chain of command to the cognizant area commander or his designated subordinate. Commandant (G-CPI) and the Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center shall be information addresses on all port visit requests. Non-Coast Guard addressees shall not be included on the vessel's initial request. For approved visits to countries listed in enclosure (2), the area commander or his designated subordinate will initiate requests for diplomatic clearance or provide notifications to the appropriate clearance agencies indicated in enclosure (2). For a visit to any other country, the area commander shall notify Commandant (G-CPI) by message of his conceptual approval of the visit and Commandant (G-CPI) will initiate the request for diplomatic clearance.

c. Except as noted in enclosure (2), or modified by local arrangements, clearance requests or notifications must be initiated in time to assure receipt by the clearance activity or agency at least thirty (30) days in advance of the visit. Adequate time for processing by area commanders or Commandant must be considered and is not included in the 30 day requirement.

d. Vessel requests for foreign port visits and subsequent diplomatic clearance requests or notifications should include the following information:

(1) Name of port and country to be visited.

(2) Type of visit and purpose (see paragraph 2).

(3) Name of vessel(s) including type (WHEC, WMEC, etc.) and hull number. If appropriate, indicate whether saluting or non-saluting.

(4) Dates and times (local country time) of arrival and departure.

(5) Name of commanding officer, rank, and date of rank.

4. d. (6) Total number of officers, enlisted personnel, and civilians embarked, and the maximum daily liberty party. Commanding officers shall ensure that civilians have all necessary passports and visas and shall so state (it is the responsibility of the civilians to obtain passports and the necessary visas).

(7) Major logistic requirements, including type and quantity if appropriate (food, fuel, water, electricity, garbage removal, telephone, pilot, pier space, etc.).

(8) Specific information on frequencies to be used within foreign territorial waters so that transmission authority can be obtained to preclude inadvertent disruption of host country communications. This information must be include: (a) frequency, (b) emission, (c) designator, (d) type of emission and (e) power (e.g., 13144.6 KHZ, 2K8J3E, SSBSC TELEPHONY, 1000 W). Note: Extractions from M2400.1 (Frequency Plan) are not classified. If classified frequencies are to be use while in a foreign port, then ship's initial request message must be classified and contain all the required frequency information.

(9) Information on aircraft embarked and need for local flights if desired.

(10) The length, beam, and anticipated draft of vessel(s) at time of visit. Include the metric equivalent.

(11) Name and title of flag officers or distinguished passengers (e.g., anyone senior to CO) on board.

(12) Other pertinent information such as willingness to hold open house, provide professional presentations/discussions, extend courtesies to local officials, and participate in community action projects and/or athletic contests while in port.

e. U.S. government policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence or absence of nuclear weapons on board U.S. military ships or aircraft applies to Coast Guard vessels and aircraft. U.S. clearance activities and agencies will comply with this policy when arranging clearance or making notification with the host government.

f. Once diplomatic clearance has been requested or notification of a foreign port visit has been made, every reasonable effort should be made to comply with the visit schedule as requested. If a minor change in schedule or cancellation of the port visit is necessary prior to receipt of diplomatic clearance, the vessel shall notify the cognizant area commander, his designated subordinate, or Commandant, as appropriate, who will notify the clearance activity or agency of the change or cancellation. Once diplomatic clearance has been granted by the country or notification of a foreign port visit has been made, however, the responsibility for follow-up or amendment shifts to the vessel. All addressees on prior message traffic will be included on the change request.

CLEARANCE PROCEDURES BY COUNTRY

1. This enclosure identifies the activity or agency responsible for arranging clearance or making notification of visits to foreign ports and will be used by the cognizant area commander or his designated subordinate to initiate requests for diplomatic clearance or provide notification of U.S. Coast Guard ship visits.

2. Commandant (G-CPI) and the Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination will be information addressees on any message relating to U.S. Coast Guard ship visits to foreign ports.

3. Commandant (G-CPI) will initiate requests for diplomatic clearance for ship visits to any country not listed in this enclosure after receipt of conceptual approval of the visit from the cognizant area commander.

4. Area commanders will monitor clearance requests for visits to ports in the area of their cognizance to ensure that ports are not overvisted and that the host government, as well as U.S. diplomatic officials, are not overburdened.

5. Visits requiring clearance by the host government shall not be made public until such clearance has been granted.

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
ANGUILLA	USDAO LONDON	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB MODUK NAVY LONDON AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA CINCLANTFLT CNO
	NOTE: For message traffic to MODUK Navy London include as internal passing instructions "MODUK Navy for DIGKRI."			
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB USDAO BRIDGETOWN CINCLANTFLT CNO
	NOTE: Diplomatic clearance can normally be obtained if request received at least 5 working days prior to arrival. LOGREQ should be sent to USDAO Bridgetown.			
AUSTRALIA	USDAO CANBERRA	CLEARANCE	COMPACAREA	CINCPACFLT AMCONSUL PERTH, SYDNEY OR MELBOURNE (AS APPROPRIATE) CNO
BAHAMAS	AMEMBASSY NASSAU	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
BARBADOS	USDAO BRIDGETOWN	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
	NOTE: Notification must be provided at least 5 working days prior to arrival.			

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PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
BELIZE	AMEMBASSY BELIZE	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	USCINCSO USDAO MEXICO CITY COMUSNAVSO CINCLANTFLT CNO
BERMUDA	NAS BERMUDA	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	COMNAVFORCARIB AMCONSUL HAMILTON COMUSFORCARIB RNO BERMUDA CINCLANTFLT CNO
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	USDAO LONDON	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB USDAO BRIDGETOWN COMUSNAVFORCARIB MODUK NAVY LONDON CINCLANTFLT CNO

British Virgin Islands include Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Anegada.

Note: For message traffic to MODUK Navy London include as internal passing instructions "MODUK Navy for DIGKRL."

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
CANADA				
ATLANTIC AND GREAT LAKES PORTS	MARCOMHQ HALIFAX NS	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	NDHQ OTTAWA USDAO OTTAWA AMCONSUL HALIFAX QUEBEC CITY, MONTREAL, OR TORONTO (AS APPROPRIATE) CINCLANTFLT CNO
PACIFIC PORTS	MARPACHQ ESQUIMALT BC	NOTIFICATION	COMPACAREA	NDHQ OTTAWA USDAO OTTAWA AMCONSUL VANCOUVER CINCPACFLT CNO
Note: Include following internal passing instructions on messages: "NDHQ FOR CMO" AND "MARCOMHQ OR MARPACHQ (as appropriate) FOR DCOSOPS."				
CAYMAN ISLANDS	GOVERNORS OFFICE GEORGETOWN, GRAND CAYMAN TLX 3094260 CIGOVT CP	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	USDAO LONDON COMNAVFORCARIB COMUSFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
Note: Message must be commercially refiled and cannot be sent EFTO.				
COLUMBIA	USDAO BOGOTA	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA (FOR ATLANTIC PORTS) COMPACAREA (FOR PACIFIC PORTS)	USCINCSO USCOMSOLANT COMUSNAVSO CINCLANTFLT CNO
Note: 45 days notice required in advance of arrival date.				

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
COSTA RICA	AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA (FOR ATLANTIC PORTS) COMPACAREA (FOR PACIFIC PORTS)	USDAO SAN JOSE USDAO MEXICO CITY USCINCSO COMUSNAVSO COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
	Note: Clearance requests should be initiated as early as possible and in no case with less than 30 days notice to AMEMB. Costa Rica's constitution requires that visits by military ships be approved by the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly. Visits strictly for liberty/crew rest are not approved. Vessels must indicate willingness to participate in community action projects.			
DOMINICA	USDAO BRIDGETOWN	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
	NOTE: Diplomatic clearance can normally be obtained if request is received at least 5 working days prior to arrival.			
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	USDAO SANTO DOMINGO	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMNAVFORCARIB COMUSFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
	Note: No more than six U.S. military ship visits per year are allowed. None allowed in February. President of Dominican Republic personally approves each visit, requiring 15-20 day process.			

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
FRENCH WEST INDIES (MARTINIQUE, GUADELOUPE, ST. MARTIN)	USDAO PARIS	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA CINCLANTFLT CNO
GREENLAND	USDAO COPENHAGEN	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	CINCUSNAVEUR CINCLANTFLT CNO
GRENADA	AMEMBASSY GRENADA	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB USDAO BRIDGETOWN CNO
	NOTE: Diplomatic clearance can normally be obtained if request is received at least 5 working days prior to arrival. LOGREQ should be sent to USDAO Bridgetown.			
GUATEMALA	USDAO GUATEMALA	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA (FOR ATLANTIC PORTS) COMPACAREA (FOR PACIFIC PORTS)	USCINCSO COMUSNAVSO COMNAVFORCARIB CNO
HAITI	USDAO PORT AU PRINCE	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	USDAO KINGSTON COMNAVFORCARIB COMUSFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
HONDURAS	USDAO TEGUCIGALPA	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA (FOR ATLANTIC PORTS) COMPACAREA (FOR PACIFIC PORTS)	USCINCSO COMNAVFORCARIB COMUSNAVSO CINCLANTFLT CNO

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
ICELAND	COMICEDEFOR	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK CINCLANTFLT CNO
JAMAICA	USDAO KINGSTON	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMNAVFORCARIB COMUSFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
	Note: Short lead time (3 working days) visits can be arranged.			
JAPAN	COMNAVFORJAPAN	NOTIFICATION	COMPACAREA	USDAO TOKYO COMSEVENTHFLT CINCPACFLT CNO
	Note: Notification not required for Yokosuka, Sasebo, Iwakuni, or Okinawa visits.			
KIRIBATI	AMEMBASSY SUVA	CLEARANCE	COMPACAREA	AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON CINCPACREP SUVA FIJI CINCPACFLT CNO

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
KOREA	SEE NOTE.		COMPACAREA	COMNAVFORKOREA SEOUL KOR COMNAVFORKOREA DET POHANG KOR (FOR POHANG VISITS) COMFLEACT CHINAE KOREA (FOR PUSAN, POHANG AND CHINHAE VISITS) USDAO SEOUL CINCPACFLT CNO

Note: No clearance is required. Once visit is approved by COMPACAREA, vessels should submit logistics requirements not less than seven days prior to arrival to COMNAVFORKOREA SEOUL KOR for visits to Port of Inchon and to COMFLEACT CHINHAE KOR for visits to ports of Pusan, Pohang and Chinhae.

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
MEXICO	USDAO MEXICO CITY	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA (FOR GULF PORTS) COMPACAREA (FOR PACIFIC PORTS)	COMNAVFORCARIB, COMUSFORCARIB, AND CINCLANTFLT (FOR GULF PORTS) CINCPACFLT (FOR PACIFIC PORTS) CNO AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA (FOR VISITS TO PUERTO VALLARTA) AMCONSUL MAZATLAN (FOR VISITS MAZATLAN) AMCONSUL MERIDA (FOR VISITS TO CANCUN AND COZUMEL) AMCONSUL TIJUANA (FOR VISITS TO CABO SAN LUCAS AND ENSENADA) DIA WASHINGTON DC//OA-5//
	Note: At least 30 days advance notice required. All requests for fuel purchases must be approved by the central office of Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) in Mexico City, who provides an authorization number to the local facility. All payments for fuel must be made in cash (U.S. dollars).			
MONSERRAT	USDAO LONDON	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA USDAO BRIDGETOWN CINCLANTFLT CNO

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
NETHERLAND ANTILLES (ARUBA, CURACAO, ST. MAARTEN)	USDAO THE HAGUE	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB AMCONSUL CURACAO CINCLANTFLT CNO CMARBARSVANETA ARUBA (FOR VISITS TO ARUBA)
	Note: At least 45 days advance notice required.			
PANAMA	NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PM	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA (ATLANTIC PORTS) COMPACAREA (PACIFIC PORTS)	USDAO PANAMA COMNAVFORCARIB USCINCSO COMUSNAVSO CINCLANTFLT CNO
	NOTE: Notification is not required for Rodman.			
PHILIPPINES	USDAO MANILA	NOTIFICATION	COMPACAREA	COMUSNAVPHIL CINCPACFLT CNO
	NOTE: At least 10 days advance notification required. Notification is not required for Subic Bay.			
ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS	AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA	NOTIFICATION	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT USDAO BRIDGETOWN CNO
	NOTE: Notification must be received at least 5 working days prior to arrival. LOGREQ should be sent to USDAO Bridgetown.			

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
ST. LUCIA	USDAO BRIDGETOWN	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
NOTE: Diplomatic clearance can normally be obtained if request received at least 5 working days prior to arrival.				
ST. VINCENT	USDAO BRIDGETOWN	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
NOTE: Diplomatic clearance can normally be obtained if request received at least 5 working days prior to arrival.				
SAMOA, WESTERN	AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON	CLEARANCE	COMPACAREA	CINCPACREP SUVA FIJI CINCPACFLT CNO
TAHITI (FRENCH POLYNESIA)	USDAO PARIS	CLEARANCE	COMPACAREA	AMEMBASSY SUVA USDAO WELLINGTON CINCPACREP SUVA FIJI CINCPACFLT CNO
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB USCOMSOLANT USCINCSO USDAO CARACAS CINCLANTFLT CNO

PLACE	CLEARANCE ACTIVITY OR AGENCY	ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED	COGNIZANT AREA COMMANDER	NON-COAST GUARD INFO ADDEES
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	AMEMBASSY NASSAU	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	COMUSFORCARIB COMNAVFORCARIB CINCLANTFLT CNO
VENEZUELA	USDAO CARACAS	CLEARANCE	COMLANTAREA	USCOMSOLANT USCINCSO COMNAVSO CINCLANTFLT CNO

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**United States
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