

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96243
Office of Information

MACOI

22 August 1966

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

MEMORANDUM TO CORRESPONDENTS

SUBJECT: Conditions under which newsmen operate

The three most important policy matters affecting newsmen covering combat assignments in Vietnam are: the ground rules established in the interest of national security, financial responsibility in case of personal injury and cooperation with military authorities in identification matters.

Ground rules. The release of military information is covered in the memorandums issued at the time of your arrival in country. These spell out the guidelines to be followed while writing about ground operations, air strikes and personnel casualties. Every effort has been made to keep these rules as realistic and workable as possible within security limitations. If these rules are not completely understood, we ask that you make inquiry as soon as possible through the Public Information Division of the MACV Office of Information (Telephones: PTT 25565, ARVN 40133 and Tiger 409). Officers there will be glad to assist you at any time. After working hours, a duty officer is always available to answer your questions. His name and quarters telephone number appear in the daily MACV news communique.

Financial responsibility. In the past some misunderstandings have occurred concerning financial responsibility for medical treatment, both routine and as a result of injury from hostile fire. It is important for all correspondents to know that their employers are expected to be financially responsible for medical treatment received while on assignment in Vietnam. This is the primary reason for requiring the financial responsibility statement to be in written form addressed directly to MACV as a prerequisite to your accreditation. In case your employer does not honor this obligation, you as an individual are expected to assume this responsibility. All routine medical treatment, hospital care and medical air evacuation must be paid for at the standard government rates which are in effect at the time these services are rendered.

Use of MACV press cards. Your press card is probably your most valuable identification card while here in Vietnam. It serves many purposes beyond mere identification. It is your "airline ticket" for military flights while on news gathering assignments, it permits you access to military commands and the JUSPAO building to attend news briefings. We also ask that you show this card when requested to do so by Military Police authorities. Only in this way can American civilians be distinguished from members of the U. S. Armed Forces in civilian clothing.

The MACV Press Card authorizes you to travel on regularly scheduled military flights while on actual assignments. Government air transportation is not autho-

rized for any other business or personal use. Abuse of this convenient travel authorization will result in withdrawl of accreditation.

RODGER R. BANKSON
Colonel, GS
Chief of Information