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NAVAL SPEEDLETTER—

Permits dispatch or informal language.

May be sent (1) with enclosures, (2) in a window envelope (size 8 3/4" x 3 3/4"), if contents are not classified as confidential or higher, (3) to both naval and nonnaval activities.

Is packaged 500 sheets of white or of one color: yellow, pink, or green.

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Questions have been raised by ships' masters and employees concerning the appropriate type of duties to be assigned quartermasters in addressee ships. In accordance with the provisions of CMFI 610.1-8 and in consonance with shipboard requirements, the following information is furnished:

a. At sea

(1) Quartermasters shall be assigned to the wheel during their normal 4 on and 8 off sea watch. When requested by the employee and approved by the officer on watch the quartermaster may be relieved for short periods of time from the wheel by a qualified watchstander. When this is done, the quartermaster may be assigned to duties normally assigned the able seaman in the wheelhouse. The past practice of relieving the man on the wheel for other breaks such as coffee breaks shall be continued.

(2) During arrivals and departures one quartermaster shall be at the wheel. If workload requirements are such, the master may call out the other quartermasters from the watch below to perform docking station duties. Since these two quartermasters will be on overtime, the master may assign them to any docking station duties that are necessary. However, the master should consider the fact that quartermasters are chief petty officers and should assign them to the less arduous and dirty work. Enclosure (1) is a suggested station bill.

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b. In port. Quartermasters shall be assigned to the port anchor, gangway and fire watches. The watches should be rotated to insure equal distribution of night watches. Quartermasters shall perform all duties normally associated with the anchor, gangway and fire watches such as was previously performed by able seamen prior to the establishment of the quartermaster rating. When necessary, they may also be required to perform other work such as rigging cargo lights for a short period of time and only if such work does not interfere with the performance of their normal watch duties.

Since quartermasters are chief petty officers they are entitled to CPO privileges. This does not mean, however, that they are entitled to separate staterooms unless such staterooms are available. Uniform requirements listed in CMPI 594.3-4 for quartermasters are waived while incumbents are serving in addressee ships.

In addition to the above, masters should take action to insure that all ordinary seamen desiring upgrading are given wheel and other navigational experience during their normal watch assignments. This practice is considered desirable to insure that ordinary seamen are afforded the necessary training to meet U. S. Coast Guard requirements for able seaman endorsements.

M. W. Dilley
M. W. DILLEY
By direction

Encl:
(1) Suggested Station Bill

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