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SEP 26 1969

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390

USNS POPE T-AP110

COMSTSINST 4650.2A

M-32

29 August 1969

COMSTS INSTRUCTION 4650.2A

From: Commander, Military Sea Transportation Service
To: Distribution List

Subj: Utilization of cargo ships under control of MSTs for movement
of passengers

1. Purpose. This Instruction sets forth the policy on the movement of passengers in cargo ships operated or controlled by the Military Sea Transportation Service.

2. Cancellation. COMSTS INSTRUCTION 4650.2 is superseded.

3. Scope. This Instruction is applicable to the movement of passengers in all cargo ships (commissioned ships [USS], in-service ships [USNS], ships allocated under General Agency Agreement, and time and voyage chartered ships) operated or controlled by MSTs.

4. Policy. The requirements for overseas personnel transportation by surface means are normally within the capabilities of passenger ships. However, passengers sponsored by the Service Departments of the Department of Defense may be embarked in MSTs cargo ships by, or at the direction of, the MSTs commander in whose area the ship is operating. Embarkation in cargo ships shall be governed by the following considerations:

a. Commissioned Cargo Ships (USS)

(1) The transportation of uniformed male personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces is authorized, and such personnel may be embarked subject to the limitation of the ships' quarters. Personnel shall not be quartered in cargo spaces to the exclusion of cargo.

(2) The transportation of male civilian employees of the Department of Defense, traveling under competent orders necessitating travel on a commissioned cargo ship, is authorized. Proper security clearance as required by the Department of Navy Security Manual for Classified Information, (OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5510.1), should be certified by the sponsoring department.

(3) Uniformed female personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces, civilian personnel not included in subparagraph 4.a.(2) above, and dependents, may be transported in ships having a medical officer and

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adequate medical facilities, subject in each instance to the approval of COMSTS. Requests for COMSTS approval should be submitted sufficiently in advance of scheduled embarkations to allow for completed action and shall contain the following information:

- (a) Number of passengers to be embarked by category.
- (b) Itinerary of ship.
- (c) Reasons for necessity of transportation by this means.
- (d) Sponsoring department.
- (e) Adequacy of security clearance of passengers.

b. In-Service Cargo Ships (USNS). The transportation of uniformed male personnel of the U. S. Armed Forces and male civilian employees of the Department of Defense is authorized subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) Adequate accommodations must exist for the carriage of passengers.
- (2) Male civilian employees of the Department of Defense must meet the requirements of paragraph 4.a.(2), as applicable.
- (3) The exigencies of time and/or space require the transportation of uniformed male personnel of the U. S. Armed Forces by this medium in lieu of MSTTS passenger service, or the nature of cargo loaded is such as to require special maintenance personnel to accompany it.

c. Time and Voyage Chartered Ships and Ships Allocated under General Agency Agreement. The transportation of uniformed male personnel of the U. S. Armed Forces and male civilian employees of the Department of Defense is authorized subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) Adequate accommodations must exist for the carriage of passengers.
- (2) The exigencies of time and/or space require the transportation of uniformed male personnel of the U. S. Armed Forces by this medium in lieu of MSTTS passenger service, or the nature of cargo loaded is such as to require special maintenance personnel to accompany it.
- (3) The number of passengers embarked shall not exceed the number allowed by the Certificate of Inspection, except to meet the requirements of urgent military operations. As the military situation

may permit, the approval of COMSTS will be requested prior to embarking passengers in excess of the Certificate of Inspection. Due consideration must be given the potential liability of MSTs in these cases as the embarkation of excess passengers may be held to vitiate insurance placed on the vessel by the operator, in which event MSTs would, in accordance with the time charter war risk addendum, be obligated to indemnify the operator for losses that would otherwise have been covered by such insurance.

5. Priority of Passengers. In authorizing passage of personnel in cargo ships, area and subarea commanders, MSTs, will insure that cargo ships are neither delayed nor diverted for embarkation of personnel and that personnel embarked at one port do not pre-empt space required for passengers of greater priority at a subsequent port. Prior to authorizing passage of personnel on cargo ships, area and subarea commanders, MSTs will consult with the commanding officer or master of the ship to ascertain that adequate facilities exist aboard the ship to accommodate the number of passengers to be embarked.

6. Emergency Movement of Passengers in MSTs Cargo Ships. Nothing in the foregoing policy is intended to prevent or restrict the movement of passengers in MSTs cargo ships in an emergency. Where, in the opinion of competent authority an emergency is deemed to exist which overrides considerations of adequate medical facilities, expense to the Government, and normal hazards of passenger travel on board cargo ships not equipped or alerted to safeguard passengers at sea, passengers may be embarked and transported without prior approval of COMSTS.

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