

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Military Sea Transportation Service Office  
APO San Francisco 96243

8 December 1966

From: Commanding Officer, Military Sea Transportation Service Office, Saigon.

To: Master of USNS and MSTS Chartered Merchant Vessels

Subj: Berthing and rations furnished personnel aboard ships in MSTS Employment, Chartered, GAA Berth term, shipping contract vessels

1. In order to be reimbursed ship owners/masters must have written authorization from the charterer to virtual military personnel in RVN ports.

2. MSTS REPS upon initial boarding will notify the master in writing that meals will not be provided to personnel for MSTS account without written authorization in advance.

3. Terminal commander or designated representative should send authorization for personnel to subsist on board ship to the master of ships via the MSTS Office, Saigon.

4. Prior to sailing the master must return a dated certificate listing personnel by full name, rate, serial number, military organization, breakfast, lunch, dinner, date of meal for certification and forwarding to appropriate authority by MSTS Office, Saigon.

5. To repeat: Ships owner/masters must have prior written authorization of the charterer to virtual military or non military personnel in RVN ports.

6. Masters are not required to subsist military personnel but when feasible it is requested that you do when so requested in writing.

7. Feeding of MP's Stationed aboard Ship. Normally four (4) U.S. Army Military Police will board your ship at Cape St. Jacques and remain aboard until the ship returns to the Cape prior to departure. Their function is, of course, to provide protection for the ship during the river transit and anti-pilferage security while discharging cargoes in port. All MP's are subsisted by the military authorities. Subject services are no longer furnished in exchange for currency. U.S. MP's boarding MSTS ships will be furnished berthing and rations and have their orders endorsed accordingly without exchange of funds. Subject service may be provided to other U.S. Military personnel if requested in writing by shore commanders. No funds to be exchanged. Orders will be endorsed accordingly. Masters are reminded MSTS policy requires that they not provide meals or quarters to any personnel other than MP's unless authorized in writing.

R.H. LAIGHTON  
By Direction