

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE OFFICE
VIETNAM
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Ser 1282
13 Mar. 67

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From: Commanding Officer, Military Sea Transportation Service Office,
Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96214
To: Master/Commanding Officer - - - - -

Subj: Ship Security during Saigon River Transits

1. MSTS controlled shipping will take the following precautions when transiting the Saigon River and MSTS interest shipping is requested to comply with these precautions.

a. Transit the river only after the Military Police detachment has embarked (Military Police are not provided to U.S. Navy ships).

b. Ensure transceiver for 2716 KC voice is in good operating condition. Guard 2716 KC voice from one hour prior to getting underway until ship is berthed or clear of the river. Report any hostile activity and passing of miles 35, 30, 25, 22, 18, and 10 to Saigon Port Control (MSTS Office Saigon). If "Saigon Port Control" cannot be reached, request "any station this net" to pass the message to Saigon Port Control.

c. Ensure that there are no necessary personnel topside or in the engineering spaces.

d. Keep all watertight doors secured except leave escape hatches open.

e. If attacked, repeatedly fire a red flare or smoke flare in the direction of attack and sound long blasts on the ships whistle until air support arrives (aircraft patrol river during daylight hours).

f. Lay out and charge main deck fire hoses.

g. If ship is critically hit and sinking, the Master/Commanding Officer must make every attempt to ground the ship clear of the shipping channel.

h. It is recommended that U.S. Navy ships transit the river at General Quarters.

i. Have anchor detail stationed with one anchor ready for letting go.

2. Master/Commanding Officers of MSTS controlled and MSTS interest ships are requested to retain this letter on file for reference on subsequent calls to Saigon.

James A. Dunn

James A. Dunn
Lt. USN
by direction