

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

DIRECTIVE  
NUMBER 632-2\*

14 June 1965  
(MACJ1)

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT  
PERSONAL CONDUCT AND ACTIVITIES OF US PERSONNEL

1. PURPOSE. To summarize policies governing personal conduct and activities of US military personnel and US civilians under the supervision of MACV.

2. GENERAL. The growing strength of US Forces in Vietnam has increased the possibility of unfavorable incidents involving US personnel and RVN nationals or military personnel. Such incidents provide material for hostile propaganda and can be detrimental to the United States cause. Commanders and supervisors must take positive measures to prevent incidents and to minimize the disrupting effects of incidents which do take place. The Community Relations Program, described in MACV Directive 551-3, provides one means to prevent or minimize unfavorable incidents and to facilitate cooperations with local officials. Nonetheless, the major means for control remains command emphasis and individual motivation. Conduct below acceptable standards cannot be tolerated and will be the subject of appropriate disciplinary or administrative action.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. All unit commanders and staff division chiefs will issue widest distribution of this directive.

b. Major subordinate commanders will insure that personnel arriving in-country read this directive or receive and orientation on its contents. A record to the effect that this has been accomplished for all new arrivals will be maintained.

4. OBSERVANCE OF LOCAL LAWS. Personnel will abide by local laws. Normally the exercise of prudence and common sense in the individual's personal conduct will keep him well within these laws. The following will be observed at all times:

a. The orders of the local police must be strictly obeyed. Paragraphs 10 and 11, MACV Directive 27-1 contain detailed guidance for dealing with civil police and legal officials.

\* This directive superseded MACV Directive Number 612-2, 3 July 1964.

b. MACV personnel will obey local curfew regulations if not in conflict with regulations imposed by military authority.

c. MACV personnel will not interfere with the local police on behalf of a third person. Should a situation arise when intervention would appear appropriate, the Provost Marshal will be notified immediately and he will take the necessary action.

d. Off limits restrictions will be obeyed. Off limits areas are marked by signs.

e. MACV personnel will neither register with local police nor permit themselves to be registered as either a head or member of a household, except as follows:

(1) An individual legally married to a Vietnamese, in accordance with appropriate directives, may be registered as a member of a household.

(2) Component commanders may authorize registration as a member of a household when such registration is necessary for the protection of an individual who is authorized to occupy privately rented Vietnamese quarters for use as regular billets.

f. Alcoholic beverages will not be carried openly or consumed in streets or in public places where consumption is not customary.

5. USE OF TAXIS. When travelling by Saigon Taxi, avoid un-metered cabs. Taxi fares are regulated by the Saigon City Government. Insure meter reads 2.50 piasters at start of travel. There is a minimum charge of 6 piastres if the meter reads less upon completion of travel. Taxis are authorized to charge 25 piasters per hour or fraction thereof for waiting time. Taxi fare between 2200-0500 is computed by adding 50% to the figure indicated on the meter. Fares outside of Saigon (i.e., civilian terminal, Tan Son Nhut or Golf Course but not military entrance to Tan Son Nhut) are double the meter reading. Insist that drivers stay on main streets. Do not enter taxis containing persons other than the driver unless the individual(s) is known to you. Prior to exiting cab, check to see that you have all of your personal belongings. In the event differences of opinion arise pertaining to the fare, personnel will:

a. Pay the requested fare.

b. Record the incident in the "Passengers Complaint Book" (each driver is required to maintain a complaint book).

c. Record the time, date, location and taxi number (Painted on the vehicle door) and forward this information to include the fare paid to the Provost Marshal, Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon.

6. PERSONAL SECURITY. In general, use common sense. Follow these rules:

a. Do not loiter in front of messes, or bus stops. Wait inside buildings or compounds for transportation. Avoid all crowds and demonstrations and do not gather at the scene of an incident. Leave the area of an incident immediately unless you are requested by competent authority to render assistance.

b. Visits to bars, night clubs or restaurants should be restricted to those places that are located on well lighted streets, have a guard or doorman on duty and have a wire screen over the front doors and windows. Avoid remote areas of town. When out after 2000 hours, it is highly advisable to use the buddy system. Do not become involved in disputes with local citizens.

c. Refuse to accept unsolicited packages or require the bearer to open them. Instruct maids or servants not to accept packages from non-US personnel. Report any loiterers or suspicious packages, jars, cans, bicycles or other objects left in or near residences, offices or vehicles. DO NOT TOUCH OR ATTEMPT TO REMOVE ANY SUSPICIOUS OBJECT YOURSELF. Call the military police or senior individual and clear everyone from the vicinity. Attempt to learn as much as possible about when and how the object got there.

d. Before entering a vehicle, either official or personal, be sure that there are no suspicious objects or unexplained wires or strings inside or underneath. All US military vehicles not in use will be secured either in a military compound or under guard.

e. All employees, including privately employed maids or houseboys, will be investigated and cleared for employment by the Vietnamese National Police or Military Security Service prior to employment.

7. COUNTER INTELLIGENCE:

a. All MACV personnel must remember that they are potential targets for hostile intelligence. Refrain from discussing classified information outside of secure offices or similar locations. Information will be discussed on a need to know basis, and with personnel who possess the appropriate security clearance.

b. Personal conduct must not allow an individual to become a target for blackmail or undue pressure from any source.

c. An individual who is approached for the purpose of subversion, espionage, or blackmail should make no attempt to follow up the contact. Instead, he should notify his supervisor immediately, then follow instructions. (MACV Dir 381-3).

8. PERSONAL CONDUCT IN BACHELOR QUARTERS AND MESSES:

a. MACV personnel may entertain guests in dining rooms, bars, lounges, and patios operated in connection with bachelor quarters during the

authorized operating hours of such facilities. MACV personnel will exercise propriety and good judgment in the selection of their guests. Guests of the opposite sex will not be permitted access to private billets, rooms, or apartments in bachelor quarters.

b. Servants will not be permitted access to private billets, rooms or apartments in bachelor quarters after 1800 hours or prior to 0700 hours.

c. Any complete uniform may be worn in messes. Civilian clothing will be in good taste. Blue jeans, T-shirts and athletic shorts are not considered appropriate for wear in messes.

9. BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

a. MACV personnel are prohibited from engaging in any business or commercial enterprise conducted in Vietnam. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Sales of merchandise, stocks, bonds, insurance, or any other property, tangible or intangible, except as otherwise authorized by this or other pertinent instructions.

(2) The importation or exportation of merchandise for business purposes, personally or through an agent or broker.

(3) Extending credit or loans or otherwise financing a business conducted by an individual or firm, foreign or domestic, located in Vietnam.

b. This prohibition does not apply to business transactions concerning property physically located outside of Vietnam or with agents or brokers outside Vietnam. However, under no circumstances will MACV personnel be permitted to engage in a commercial activity if the logistic support provided him by the United States enables him to secure a competitive advantage over persons not so supported.

10. ACQUISITION, POSSESSION, AND CONVERSION OF UNITED STATES AND/OR LOCAL CURRENCY.

a. MACV personnel will abide by Republic of Vietnam regulations which prohibit:

(1) Purchase of piastres from other than those exchange offices officially authorized by the U. S. Embassy, MACV, or the Government of Vietnam.

(2) Purchase or sale of currency at a rate differing from legal recognized rate of exchange.

(3) The importation and/or exportation of more than 500 piastres into or from Vietnam without the prior express approval of the National Office of Exchange.

(4) Acquisition of US currency in excess of the authorized maximum established in MACV Dir 37-6.

11. POST EXCHANGE, COMMISSARY, AND IMPORTATION PRIVILEGES.

a. MACV personnel have been granted special privileges for tax free importation of merchandise, either directly or by purchase from exchanges and the commissary. This privilege is designed to provide for individual convenience ; it will not be used to obtain property for Vietnamese nationals or other residents of Vietnam who are not so entitled.

b. The sale, barter, exchange, loan, or transfer of possession of any item imported directly or purchased from an exchange facility to persons not authorized exchange privileges is prohibited, except in the case of bona fide gifts. Bona fide gifts of a value of ten dollars or less are exempt from this prohibition provided gifts are not limited purchase (ration card) items. A person giving a gift is responsible for the ultimate disposition of that gift.

c. Certain items may not be brought into Vietnam under any circumstances. These items are listed in MACV Dir 643-1 and on the customs forms prepared at the time of entry into the country.

d. Sale to non-US individuals of personal property which is excess to needs may be permitted under restricted circumstances. Limitations and procedures are contained in MACV Dir 643-1.

12. WEAPONS.

a. Individual weapons will be carried by personnel serving in the field or while travelling within RVN by air, vehicle, or other means outside the Saigon-Cholon area. Weapons will be carried openly, except by those personnel listed in paragraph 3b, MACV Dir 210-5.

b. While in Saigon and when travelling in secure areas, firearms will be unloaded and the magazine or clip removed. Under no circumstances will personnel carry weapons into bars.

c. To preclude incidents involving the misuse or loss of weapons while in the Saigon-Cholon area, transient personnel will check government or privately owned weapons at one of the following temporary weapon storage facilities.

(1) Air Police, Building 19, 2d Air Division Area, Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

(2) Headquarters Detachment, US Army Support Command, Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

(3) Ambassador BEQ, 719 Cong Truong Lam Son, Saigon.

(4) Military Police Desk, Military Police Compound, 30 Petrus Ky, Saigon.

d. Effective 1 March 1965 MACV personnel may not purchase locally or import privately owned weapons into the Republic of Vietnam. Personnel who brought weapons to Vietnam prior to 1 March 1965 must register weapons in accordance with MACV Dir 210-5.

e. When an individual weapon is issued for retention in quarters, the person to whom it is issued will insure all reasonable means available are utilized to prevent loss of the weapon.

13. MOTOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING MOTORCYCLES.

a. The senior person in a US military vehicle will insure that the vehicle is operated in a safe manner and in accordance with local laws and command regulations.

b. US military personnel operating RVNAF military vehicles will have in their possession both US and RVNAF driver's licenses.

c. Individuals who own or operate a private automobile or motorcycle must have US and Vietnamese vehicle registration and Vietnamese driver's license. Exceptions to this policy are motor scoters and those motor bikes started by pedaling.

d. Insurance requirements and procedures for obtaining vehicle registration and driver's licenses are contained in MACV Dir 58-3.

14. USE OF MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE. Persons and organizations authorized military postal privileges will not:

a. Act as intermediaries for persons or organizations not authorized use of such facilities.

b. Use the military postal facilities for commercial purposes, or transmit items intended for sale.

c. Enter into the US mail, civil or military channels, any item prohibited by the Postal Manual, US Post Office Department, and military regulations and directives. Prohibited items are listed in MACV Directive 241-1.

15. LEAVES AND PASSES.

a. Leave to visit CONUS will normally not be approved except for

emergency and/or compassionate reasons as specified in MACV Dir 630-3. An exception is made for personnel serving tours of 18 months or longer.

b. Leaves other than to CONUS will not be granted for periods in excess of 15 days except in emergency or compassionate cases.

c. Passes involving travel outside Vietnam are not authorized.

d. One Rest and Recreation (R&R) trip to Hong Knong or Bangkok, not chargeable as leave, is allowed during a twelve month tour. An individual must have served at least three months in RVN to be eligible for R&R. (MACV Dir 28-2)

16. MARRIAGE. Military personnel will not enter into a marriage within Vietnam without first having complied with the requirements of MACV Dir 608-1.

17. AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS. Amateur or "HAM" radio transmitters (including MARS) will not be operated by any member of the Armed Services stationed in the Republic of Vietnam.

18. REFERENCE:

a. MACV Dir 27-1, Legal Services and Litigation

b. MACV Dir 28-2, R&R Program (Out-of-Country)

c. MACV Dir 37-6, Policy Relative to the Acquisition, Possession, and Conversion of United States and/or Local Currency.

d. MACV Dir 58-3, Motor Vehicles

e. MACV Dir 60-1, Purchasing and Disposition of Tax Free Items

f. MACV Dir 105-6, Amateur Radio Operation, RVN

g. MACV Dir 190-1, Military Police; US Forces Police Operations

h. MACV Dir 210-5, Carrying, Possession, and Use of Government and Privately Owned Weapons.

i. MACV Dir 341-1, US Military Postal Service

j. MACV Dir 381-3, (C) Subversion and Espionage Directed Against US Personnel in Vietnam

l. MACV Dir 551-3, Community Relations

m. MACV Dir 630-3, Leave and Pass Policy

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n. MACV Dir 643-1, Importation and Disposition of Personal Property other than Motor Vehicles

o. MACV Dir 670-1, Uniform and Insignia - Male Personnel

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