



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 3100.9

N311

21 MAY 1997

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3100.9

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: DEFINITION AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH VALUE TRANSITS
(HVT) OF THE PANAMA CANAL

1. Purpose. To define a High Value Transit (HVT) of the Panama Canal and establish security requirements for such transits.
2. Discussion. Vessels transiting the Panama Canal encounter situations in which they are isolated from any forces of the United States which could provide additional security if required. These instances provide an opportunity for unfriendly agents to harass or damage a vessel, or potentially to embarrass the United States. Therefore, supplemental or increased security will be provided for certain vessels, designated HVTs, due to the nature of their cargo, local threat condition, type of vessel, public sensitivity, or current defensive capabilities.
 - a. Definition of HVTs. Any transit of a nuclear powered submarine (SSN/SSBN), inactivated nuclear powered vessel, or any vessel so designated by Fleet Commanders, is considered a HVT.
 - b. Security Requirements for HVTs. The level of security required for a HVT is that necessary to fully ensure the vessel is not compromised in any manner. This includes prevention of acts by groups and individuals to impede, board, harass or disturb the cargo/vessel during the transit. Specific requirements are dynamic and subject to change as threat conditions change but as a minimum one U.S. river patrol craft with armed crew and direct communications to the regional commander will be provided for all transits.
 - c. Transit of the Panama Canal. For the purposes of this instruction, a Panama Canal transit refers to the actual transit through the Panama Canal and an inactive nuclear power vessel is considered in transit, whether anchored, moored or underway between the Cristobol breakwater and Isla Flamenco on the Pacific approach to Panama.



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3. Responsibilities. Fleet Commanders shall:

a. Establish and conduct liaison with the appropriate unified and area commanders to ensure a level of security is obtained consistent with the requirements of paragraph 2.

b. Establish in the appropriate operations order that no transit shall commence or be conducted without sufficient assets available to meet the security requirements of paragraph 2.


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