



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 3120.16B
Op-602C
FEB 03 1981

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3120.16B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Embarkation of U.S. Military Units on Board Foreign
Naval Ships or of Foreign Units in U.S. Naval Ships

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5510.48G

(R)

1. Purpose. To set forth unclassified policy concerning the embarkation of foreign military units on board U.S. naval ships and the embarkation of U.S. naval units on board foreign combatant ships.

(R)

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST S3120.16A.

(R)

3. Policy. Reference (a) contains regulations regarding the disclosure of classified material to foreign nationals. The participation of U.S. naval forces in combined exercises and training should not infringe upon the maintenance of national integrity of groups/units. Therefore, except as provided for under conditions stated in paragraph 4, the following policy is prescribed for the embarkation of such units on board naval ships.

a. Foreign combatant units, such as troops, aircraft, tactical air control parties, etc., should not be embarked on board U.S. naval ships for the conduct of military operations.

b. Foreign naval or air commanders and/or their staffs should not be embarked on board U.S. naval ships for the purpose of exercising military command. This applies whether the forces commanded are allied or solely foreign.

c. U.S. naval units, such as aircraft, tactical air control parties, etc., should not be embarked on board foreign ships for the conduct of military operations.

d. U.S. naval officers shall not request or accept embarkation on board a foreign combatant ship for the purpose of exercising command or operational control of U.S. or foreign forces.

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4. Exceptions

a. The instructions contained in paragraph 3. do not apply under such circumstances that may be authorized through previously approved bilateral or multilateral agreements endorsed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Chief of Naval Operations concerning the employment of combined naval forces. In the absence of a formalized agreement, the cognizant U.S. naval commander-in-chief may request a waiver of the requirements stated in paragraph 3 from the Chief of Naval Operations. During these combined exercises, the commander of a combined force normally will fly his flag from a ship of his own nation. However, under special circumstances and for periods of short duration, the commander may temporarily shift his flag to another ship which is of different nationality than his own.

b. Foreign aircraft, to include helicopters, may be landed on U.S. ships for the purpose of familiarization to facilitate landing on board in emergency. The same applies for U.S. aircraft landed on foreign ships.

c. Foreign troops may be embarked in U.S. amphibious shipping for amphibious landing purposes provided that the commanders of the amphibious task force and attack groups are U.S. naval officers. The landing force commander should, if possible, be a U.S. Marine or Army officer.

d. U.S. troops may be embarked on board foreign amphibious shipping for landing purposes if the commanders of the amphibious task force and landing force are U.S. officers.

5. Emergency or Wartime. Although the above policy should normally be followed in wartime, nothing in this instruction should be construed as restricting a commander's freedom of action in emergency situations.

6. Observers. Existing policies under which accredited foreign representatives, approved by the Chief of Naval Operations or other authorized commanders, who are embarked in U.S. naval ships for the purpose of observing naval operations, for approved training and for liaison functions, are unaffected by this Instruction.



Distribution:
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Assistant Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Director of Naval Administration

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