

Department of the Navy, DoD

§ 705.6

affairs responsibilities of the District Commandants.

[44 FR 6389, Feb. 1, 1979]

§ 705.3 [Reserved]

§ 705.4 Communication directly with private organizations and individuals.

(a) Questions from the public and requests from groups or individuals for pamphlets, photos, biographies, historical matter, etc., must be promptly answered. (32 CFR part 701, subparts A-D refers.)

(b) Assistance within the command's capabilities should (and in some cases, must) be given. Where an established channel for obtaining the item exists, such as a publication stocked by the Superintendent of Documents (Government Printing Office), or photos, as explained in the subparagraph below, the requester may be directed to it. Under some circumstances, a charge may be made. (Consult part 701 or the command's Freedom of Information authority for details.) If a lengthy search, beyond the convenient manpower resources of the command, would be required, the requester may be offered the opportunity of examining the material at the command instead of copies being made.

(c) If a request is refused, the reason must be fully and courteously explained, as required by part 701 of this chapter.

(d) Copies of released U.S. Navy photos may be purchased by the general public.

(1) Photos made within the last 10 years may be purchased from the Naval Photographic Center. Information on the conditions of sale can be obtained by writing to the Commanding Officer, Naval Photographic Center, Naval Station, Washington, DC 20390.

(2) Photos made more than 10 years prior to the current date may be purchased from the National Archives. Details are available from: Audio-Visual Branch National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20408.

[41 FR 29101, July 15, 1976, as amended at 44 FR 6390, Feb. 1, 1979]

§ 705.5 Taking of photos on board naval ships, aircraft and installations by members of the general public.

(a) Visitors will not be allowed to take photographic equipment on board a naval ship or aircraft or into a naval activity or to take photographs within a naval jurisdiction unless specially authorized by the officer in command or higher authority.

(b) Guests of the Navy who wish to take photos within naval jurisdictions will be advised of areas where photography is permitted. An escort will be assigned to assure that security is maintained, unless photography is permitted throughout the ship, aircraft or installation, or the areas in which it is not permitted are appropriately guarded or secured.

(c) If there is reason to believe that film exposed by a visitor or media photographer contains classified information, the film will be processed under Navy jurisdiction.

(1) Classified photos, if any, will be retained. All unclassified film will be returned to the owner.

(2) When film exposed by civilian visitors or media representatives in sensitive areas is beyond the capability of the local command to process, it may be forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Naval Photographic Center, for processing. Any special processing instructions should be sent with the film.

§ 705.6 Releasing public information material to the media.

(a) Methods of releasing information:

(1) Release at the seat of government and/or as approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

(i) Overall responsibility for release of information rests with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs). The Chief of Information is responsible for coordinating with him releases of national and international interest (and in the case of audiovisual material of regional interest) and for arranging for local release of such material if considered appropriate by OASD(PA). Information of the above types and also information proposed for release at the seat of government, with the exception of "spot news," as

described in paragraph (b) of this section, following.

(2) Releases by local commands:

(i) News of purely local interest may be released by the command concerned. Higher and coordinating authorities (such as the District Commandant) will be informed, when appropriate, that the release has been made.

(ii) News of national or other wide interest may be released by a local command under the following circumstances:

(A) The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), having approved a release, directs that it be issued by the command concerned.

(B) An event of immediate and urgent news interest, such as a disastrous accident, occurs at the command, and emergency announcements must be made as delay in issuing information would be against the best interests of the Navy. The officer in command will make a "spot news" release of all appropriate information considered releasable.

(1) Copies of spot news releases made (or a description if the announcement is made orally) will be forwarded promptly to the Chief of Information.

(2) If the situation is considered critical, the spot news release will be forwarded by telephone or message.

(b) Means through which information is released to media:

(1) Navy oriented information material (written, taped, motion picture, still photo) is regularly released to all media presumed to be interested.

(2) Similar material is provided in response to query from a news media representative. The material may be produced by the Navy, or the newsman may be assisted in researching, filming, etc. himself.

(3) Exclusive releases:

(i) Information concerning naval activities may be provided on an exclusive basis only when a specific request or inquiry is received from one news media representative for material not requested by other media.

(ii) In such cases, and assuming that the information is properly releasable, the following rules will apply:

(A) If prior to the time information is given to the newsman making the original inquiry or request substan-

tially similar inquiries or requests are received from other newsmen, the first inquirer will be so informed, and subsequent inquirers will be advised that a prior request has been received. None of the inquirers will be told the identity of the individuals or media who have placed these similar inquiries.

(B) If not more than three similar requests are received, the information will be provided simultaneously to each inquirer.

(C) If more than three requests for substantially the same information have been received before any are answered, inquirers will be advised as soon as possible that the information cannot be given on an exclusive or limited basis, and a general release covering the subject will be issued to all media.

(4) News conferences:

(i) A news conference is held when a command has something specific to announce to the press that cannot be handled in a news release or by phone call. A news conference should not be called just to get together with the press. A request from the press is also a reason for conducting a news conference. Special events, significant operations or serious accidents are frequent reasons for calling news conferences. If requested, spokesmen may be made available to the press for questions without specific subject matter in mind, but the press should be clearly informed of the nature of this meeting. Technically, this is not considered a news conference.

(ii) When a news conference is held, it is essential that all interested media be invited to attend.

(iii) A record of what is said should be kept. Ideally, the news conference should be tape recorded and a public affairs officer should be present.

(iv) Official spokesmen will be prepared to answer questions in a frank and candid manner. If the answer would compromise military security, the inquirer should be so advised. If the answer is not known to the spokesman, he should say so and add that the matter will be checked and any available unclassified information provided later.

(v) Newsmen are not normally asked to submit their questions in advance. If

Department of the Navy, DoD

§ 705.7

this is considered advisable, as in cases where highly technical answers may be required, the answers are prepared in advance and given to all attending newsmen (not just the questioner) at the news conference.

(5) Interviews. These are similar to news conferences except that they involve a single newsmen (who has usually requested the interview) and a single Navy spokesman.

(i) Required procedures are essentially the same as for news conferences. However, a public affairs officer should be present only if desired by the person being interviewed. The interview may be taped, if the newsmen agrees.

(ii) Without penalizing initiative displayed by a newsmen in asking pertinent questions, care should be exercised by the naval spokesman not to make a major revelation of news material to a single media outlet in the course of a routine interview.

(iii) If major areas of difficulty arise in the interview, the Chief of Information should be notified of them.

(6) Background briefings; "Not for attribution"; or "Off the record."

(i) Since there is a possibility or risk of a misunderstanding arising in these briefings, it is important that all concerned understand and agree to the ground rules.

(ii) In general, information will not be made public unless it can be openly attributed to the Navy and disseminated without reservation. Occasionally, a backgrounder may be helpful. An example is a briefing of embarked newsmen in advance of an operation, providing information which may not be reported until the operation is over. The purpose is to help the newsmen understand the operation while it is taking place.

§ 705.7 Radio and television.

(a) Navy relationships with radio and TV representatives are of two types:

(1) Dissemination to them of Navy produced tapes, photos, films, etc. (This is discussed in more detail in § 705.17).

(2) Cooperation with them when they produce a program on a Navy subject. This is discussed in the paragraph following:

(b) Requirement for approval by higher authority.

(1) Commanding officers may:

(i) Release audiovisual material which is spot news, as defined in § 705.6(a)(2)(ii) preceding, or is of purely local interest.

(ii) Participate in local community audiovisual projects of benefit to the Department of Defense or in the national interest.

(iii) Approve one-time, one-station participation by personnel of their commands (as individuals) in programs of purely local interest.

(2) All other audiovisual material originated by the Department of the Navy or requiring Navy cooperation must be approved by the Chief of Information, who will effect the necessary coordination and/or approval of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

(i) Requests for assistance from non-governmental audiovisual media will be forwarded, with the maximum available details and an evaluation of the request, through the chain of command to the Chief of Information.

(ii) No direct coordination or contact between local naval commands and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (PA) is authorized unless specifically provided for by separate directives or correspondence.

(c) Navy cooperation in productions by audiovisual media representatives (nongovernment).

(1) The production or project must:

(i) Be consistent with the goals and aims of the Department of Defense and/or be in the national interest.

(ii) Portray military operation, historical incidents, persons and places, in such a manner as to give a true portrayal and interpretation of military life.

(iii) Comply with accepted standards of dignity and propriety in the industry.

(2) There will be no deviation from established safety standards.

(3) Operational readiness shall not be impaired.

(4) Official activities of military personnel assisting the production must be within the scope of normal military activities. Exceptions to this policy