

U. S. S. GUIDE (MSO-447)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California 9 March 1959

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding Officer
To: All Hands and Dependents

Subj: WESTPAC Deployment; information concerning

Encl: (1) List of Dependents addresses

1. This memorandum is originated in order to promulgate information useful for the crew of the GUIDE and their dependents for the duration of the WESTPAC deployment. While the ship is serving in the Western Pacific, visits will be made to various ports in Japan, The Phillipines, Formosa, and Korea. Joint operations will be conducted with Naval Forces of several of our allies. During the tour, the men of the GUIDE will be performing a critical job in a critical area during a manifestly important time. Dependents and close relatives may assist the crew in this regard, by not overburdening personnel of the GUIDE in small worries and anxieties. For this reason, enclosure (1) is attached to facilitate dependents and close relatives of GUIDE crew members in locating friends with whom such matters can be discussed.

2. MAIL.

a. The address of the GUIDE will continue to be as follows:

USS GUIDE (MSO-447)
Care of Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

b. If a dependent wishes to telegraph a crew member, the following is the address to use:

USS GUIDE (MSO-447)
Naval Communication Station, San Francisco, California

c. There may be stretches of one or two weeks, during which operations may preclude delivery to or sending of mail from the GUIDE. Do not become overly anxious unless the delay in receipt of mail is excessive.

d. It is strongly recommended that mail be sent via AIR MAIL to insure prompt delivery.

e. If dependents move while the GUIDE is overseas, insure that change of address cards are promptly executed and sent to the local post office.

3. FINANCIAL

a. As stated above, mail delivery is often delayed. Do Not rely on the mailing of money orders and checks from WESTPAC for support of dependents. Allotments are by far the most reliable means to insure prompt delivery. It is not too late to establish an allotment.

b. Personal checks are sometimes difficult to cash in WESTPAC, especially in Hong Kong. If dependents wish to send money for gifts, etc., it is recommended that it be sent by money order or a bank cashier's check.

c. If dependents run short of money to pay necessary bills, the following agencies may be called upon for assistance:

- (1) Navy Relief Society (In most Navy communities)
- (2) American Red Cross (In most all communities)
- (3) Local municipal relief organizations
- (4) Local Banks (in which the crew member and/or the dependents have established an account)

If at all possible do not obtain money through local commercial loan companies; the interest rates are excessively high.

d. Due to the nature of WESTPAC operations, long established contact with disbursing offices will be impossible. If there are any special arrangements such as allotments, to be made, they should be made before the GUIDE departs. For information, allotments can be established well in advance, if necessary.

4. LEAVE.

a. Little, if any annual leave, will be granted in WESTPAC due to the nature and extent of WESTPAC operations. Any leave that will be granted will be local; that is, for the immediate vicinity of the post in which the GUIDE is located.

b. The following have been established as the criteria for emergency leave:

- (1) Upon death of wife or unmarried minor child
- (2) When return of serviceman will contribute materially to the welfare of dying members of immediate family; that is father, mother, spouse, children, brother, sister, or only living relative.
- (3) When death or serious illness of member of immediate family (as above) cannot be attended to by the crew member from on board the GUIDE or by any one else who may be designated by the crew member.
- (4) When failure of crew member to return home would create severe and unusual hardship on himself and/or his family.

As can be noted, the criteria are difficult to meet. The prime reason behind such criteria are 1) the high cost of transporting personnel to and from the States, and 2) the possible hazard to the operational capability of a ship due to loss of personnel for extended periods of time. If, however, a dependent believes that her sponsor should take emergency leave, the following procedure should be followed:

- (1) Call the local Red Cross representative and give them the information as to the name of the person who is afflicted, relation to the crew member, name, rate, and service number of crew member, and the doctor whom the Red Cross may contact for confirmation of the emergency.

DO NOT telegraph the ship without going through the RED CROSS, since this will only result in loss of time. In any case of emergency leave, Red Cross verification must be received before leave will be granted.

5. MEDICAL.

a. Dependents who remain in the Long Beach area may continue to use the Naval Station facilities for routine medical care. If they wish to be treated by civilian medical facilities under the MEDICARE program, they must apply for a DD Form 1251 (MEDICARE PERMIT) at the Naval Station Dispensary. If Military Medical facilities are not available at the time of application, a MEDICARE PERMIT will be granted and the dependent will be free to obtain medical facility of her own choice. In this regard, it should be noted that some doctors and hospitals do not participate in the MEDICARE PROGRAM; only those who do participate may be used for MEDICARE purposes.

b. Dependents who will return home or reside in another area at a reasonable distance from Long Beach are exempt from the necessity of obtaining a MEDICARE PERMIT; they may have a free choice between civilian and military medical facilities. However, the government will pay their bills only if they are accepted by a doctor and/or hospital who subscribes to the MEDICARE program.

c. The government will pay for all bonafide emergencies, in any case, if a person is admitted to hospital as an emergency case, but is then diagnosed as not being an emergency case by the doctor within 18 hours, then the government will pay the charges. If more than 18 hours elapse before the person is diagnosed as a non-emergency case, the dependent must pay the charges.

(4) In no case will MEDICARE provide for chronic (recurring) illness, routine doctor visits or planned surgery.

6. GENERAL EMERGENCY.

a. In the case of a general emergency of any nature or if any assistance of a personal nature is needed, the following persons in the Long Beach Area may be contacted:

Commander Mine Force Chaplain
J. W. BERGER, LT, CHC, USN
Headquarters, COMINPAC
U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, California
Telephone: TE 2-3311 Ext 1554

Commander Mine Squadron NINE Maintenance Officer
L. THOMPSON, LCDR, USN
Commander Mine Squadron NINE
Telephone: TE 2-3311 EXT 1168

b. Dependents who are not in the vicinity of Long Beach may contact the nearest Armed Forces Chaplain at almost all large military activities.

c. In any case, dependents may contact the local branch of the American Red Cross for assistance in any matter.

7. GENERAL

a. If there are any matters in which the GUIDE may assist dependents are encouraged to ask for information, either through the crew member, or direct to the Commanding Officer, by letter.