



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND
3511 NW 91ST AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33172-1217

22 June 2000

SC Regulation 360-1

Effective Upon Receipt

Public Affairs
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraph	Page
Purpose.....	1	1
References.....	2	1
Responsibilities.....	3	2
Policy	4	3
Public Affairs Guidance for Operational Deployments and Redeployments	5	7
Public Affairs Guidance for Replacements for Deployed Personnel.....	6	8
Conduct of Public Affairs in Contingency Operations and Crisis Situations.....	7	8

Appendices

A. DoD, Principles of Information	A-1
B. DoD, Statement of Principles for News Media Coverage of DoD Operations..	B-1
C. SECDEF Public Affairs Guidance – Release of Information Action.....	C-1

1. **Purpose.** This directive provides policy and guidance, establishes responsibilities, and defines channels of communication for conducting public affairs activities in the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). This regulation applies to USSOUTHCOM HQ, component and subordinate commands, Security Assistance Offices, and other activities under USSOUTHCOM operational control (OPCON), as appropriate.

2. **References.**

- a. DoD Directive 5122.5, “Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).”
- b. DoD Directive 5230.9, “Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release.”

3. Responsibilities.

a. USSOUTHCOM Public Affairs Directorate (SCPA) is responsible for:

(1) Representing USSOUTHCOM in military public affairs matters in coordination with agencies of the U.S. government agencies and host nation representatives.

(2) Coordinating directly with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) (OASD(PA)) for direction and guidance in public affairs matters.

(3) Coordinating with the Joint Chiefs of Staff Public Affairs Office on public affairs plans, programs, policies or actions with sensitive operational or political implications.

(4) Coordinating public affairs engagement activities within the USSOUTHCOM AOR in close coordination with Department of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs), U.S. Embassies and host nations.

(5) Coordinating travel clearances for public affairs-related visits and embarks in the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

(6) Preparing and reviewing public affairs annexes, plans and guidance for contingencies, operations and exercise deployments.

(7) Recommending the lead agency for public affairs in contingency operations and crisis situations.

(8) Providing guidance and direction for joint task force (JTF) public affairs operations unless specifically delegated by USCINSO to the JTF commander by exercise or deployment order.

(9) Coordinating security and foreign disclosure review for release of DoD information in the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

(10) Coordinating the deployment of public affairs personnel and resources to assist news media coverage of U.S. forces in the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

(11) Developing and publishing an annual Public Affairs Plan for USSOUTHCOM.

b. Component and Subordinate Command Public Affairs Offices are responsible for:

(1) Executing component or subordinate command public affairs programs and activities in accordance with SCPA guidance, as approved by USCINCSO.

(2) Preparing and submitting public affairs annexes and plans for contingencies, operations and exercise deployments to SCPA.

(3) Assisting SCPA with accomodating news media representatives (NMRs) covering U.S. forces in the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

(4) Providing personnel to augment public affairs detachments in support of contingencies or operations, as directed.

(5) Placing SCPA on simultaneous distribution for all internal and external releases of significant interest to the national and international news media.

(6) Informing SCPA about actions, news media products and official messages that relate to or affect USSOUTHCOM or its subordinate commands.

(7) Coordinating local public affairs travel and transportation, as appropriate.

(8) Developing and publishing an annual command-level Public Affairs plan.

c. Security Assistance Offices. USSOUTHCOM Security Assistance Offices will assist public affairs events coordination and provide support, as required, to implement the provisions of this regulation.

4. Policy.

a. General.

(1) Commanders at every level are responsible for public affairs. Public affairs officers and specialists provide advice and recommendations on public affairs matters. To do this, they must be informed of activities and operations, planned or in progress, and coordinate plans either with the Commander or his designated representative.

(2) USSOUTHCOM subordinate commands will ensure SCPA is kept fully informed about events or situations that have been, or are likely to be, reported by U.S. national or international news media, particularly the wire services. Initial notification and subsequent significant developments will be reported by telephone (secure voice if necessary) to SCPA or the SCPA Duty Officer through the USSOUTHCOM Joint Operations Intelligence Center (JOIC).

b. Media Facilitation.

(1) All representatives of bona fide international, national, regional and local news media organizations will be treated equitably with courtesy and will be offered reasonable assistance to help them carry out their responsibilities.

(2) USSOUTHCOM HQ and subordinate commands will be responsive to requests for information and access to facilities, subject to security and operational requirements. There may be instances, however, in which it is desirable to grant official cooperation only on the condition that the writer agrees, in the interest of national security, to submit the manuscript for security review.

(3) The instantaneous, worldwide capabilities of the news media and the dynamics of international relations require Public Affairs officers and specialists of USSOUTHCOM HQ and subordinate commands to:

(a) Synchronize SCPA activities to maximize return from existing resources and to ensure USSOUTHCOM subordinate commands speak with one voice.

(b) Develop mobile and readily available public affairs resources to assist the media with coverage of USSOUTHCOM programs.

(4) Provide timely after-action reports to SCPA after major news media visits to component and subordinate commands, units or installations. Make reports via E-mail, fax or official message. Forward media products to SCPA as appropriate.

c. Release of Information.

(1) USSOUTHCOM component and subordinate commands are authorized to release unclassified information pertaining to their activities, per established DoD policy. Exceptions would include unclassified information that is specifically exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, or is denied by the U.S. Embassy or host government on the basis of legitimate host nation sensitivities or agreements. In addition to the basic DoD directives concerning the release of information, DoD frequently publishes supplemental public affairs policy guidance regarding a specific subject or area.

(2) Component and subordinate commands will ensure that statements and releases conform to established USSOUTHCOM, OASD(PA), DoD and DoS policy guidance. As appropriate, SCPA will coordinate with the USSOUTHCOM HQ Staff and other agencies to ensure information targeted for release meets established standards of security, accuracy, policy and propriety.

(3) USSOUTHCOM(SCPA) and OASD(PA) clearance is required for public announcements or statements and responses to query regarding the following:

(a) Military activities which are likely to have an impact on the defense, economic or political sensitivities of any country within the USSOUTHCOM AOR. When one or more countries within the USSOUTHCOM AOR are affected, the proposed announcement will be coordinated with the appropriate U.S. Embassy(s) prior to submission to USSOUTHCOM (SCPA) for approval.

(b) Information on operational matters which have U.S. national or international significance, or are intended for national release in the United States.

(c) Matters on which the release of information would have significant impact on USSOUTHCOM or higher authorities.

(d) Initial announcements of significant training exercises.

(e) Movements or transfers of military units.

(f) The introduction into, or removal of major weapons, aircraft, equipment or other material from any nation within the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

(g) Matters relating to the military activities or policies of host nations within the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

(h) The evacuation of U.S. or other noncombatants from any country within the USSOUTHCOM AOR under possible threat or hostile conditions.

(i) The establishment of combined or integrated defense arrangements involving U.S. and allied forces.

(j) Ongoing strategic negotiations.

(k) Space and strategic missile activities, missile firing operations, reconnaissance satellites and non-U.S. space activities.

(l) Sensitive strategic concepts.

(m) Sensitive tests or evaluation of units and equipment.

(n) Terrorist activities, hostile actions, man-made or natural disasters that may require an increase in force protection posture.

(o) Other statements or material which require OASD(PA) security and policy review in accordance with reference (b).

(4) The release of information will be in accordance with the stated exercise or event public affairs approach. An "active" public affairs approach maximizes the amount of information for public release, while a "passive" approach is response to query (RTQ) only. SCPA will coordinate with the appropriate U.S. Embassy(s) and OASD(PA) to determine the public affairs approach for each event.

d. **Proposed Public Affairs Guidance (PPAG).** Per principles and guidance in appendices A and B, PPAG will be prepared for exercises, operations and significant events within the

USSOUTHCOM AOR. PPAG will be prepared by component or subordinate commands acting as the executive agent for the exercise, operation or event. Addressees for PPAG messages will include, as a minimum: USSOUTHCOM components and subordinate commands, U.S. Embassies, Security Assistance Offices, and other units and agencies, as appropriate.

(1) **Significant Military Exercises.** PPAGs will be submitted to SCPA for all major exercises, operations or contingencies that may attract media attention.

(2) **Coordination.** PPAG must be coordinated in theater by the exercise or operations executive agent, prior to forwarding to SCPA for review. The PPAG should be coordinated with the partner Services, applicable interagencies, the appropriate U.S. Embassy(s), and host nations involved in the joint or combined exercise. Following SCPA review, PPAGs will be forwarded to OASD(PA) for final review and approval/release. PPAGs should be forwarded to SCPA well in advance of the commencement of the exercise or operation to facilitate staffing.

(3) **Statement for Release.** Exercise PPAG will contain a statement explaining the exercise or event and will recommend a public affairs approach (e.g., active or passive). The statement shall be suitable for public release (active PA approach) or in response to query (RTQ) (passive PA approach). In addition to the statement, a list of proposed questions and answers (Q&As) will be included to adequately prepare potential interviewees. The Q&As apply in both active and passive PA approaches. The Q&As are for internal use and should not be distributed externally.

(4) **Release Timing.** Exercises shall not be announced until OASD(PA), in conjunction with the host nation, approves the exercise PAG and the critical cancellation date has passed.

(5) **Prior to Official Release (Contingency Statement).** Queries received prior to the release date of the composite PAG shall be answered using the following contingency statement: "Planning for exercise (name of exercise) is currently underway. Additional information will be available when public announcement of the exercise is made." However, this statement may be modified, as appropriate, depending on the classification and circumstances of the exercise.

e. **Community Relations.** USSOUTHCOM HQ, component and subordinate commands serve as representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces and the United States of America in the 32 countries and 14 territories of the USSOUTHCOM AOR. It is in the best interest of the United States, DoD and USSOUTHCOM for all elements of the command to participate in Community Relations programs that support the following objectives:

(1) Promote U.S. and host nation public awareness and understanding of USSOUTHCOM's mission and engagement strategy.

(2) Demonstrate USSOUTHCOM HQ's and subordinate commands' cooperation and involvement in the local community through participation in public events, official ceremonies, and community service activities.

(3) Maintain the command's reputation as a respected professional organization and a good neighbor in host nation communities.

f. **Command Information.** Commanders will conduct a robust command information program in order to keep personnel and family members informed of command activities (i.e. exercises, operations, command-sponsored events, etc.).

5. **Public Affairs Guidance For Operational Deployments And Redeployments.** Public affairs activities for exercise, operational and contingency/crisis deployments and redeployments will be governed as outlined below:

a. **U.S. Army/ U.S. Marine Corps Unit/Troop/Equipment Deployments.**

(1) Normally, there will be three phases when a unit is considered for deployment:

(a) **Notification of Possible Deployment:** Units will be notified that they may possibly be deployed on short notice. At this point, public affairs officials will use "The unit has been notified of possible deployment, but we have no additional information at this time." Families should be informed that a deployment is possible.

(b) **Prepare to Deploy:** Units have been notified that they will deploy on a specified date/time. Families should be provided details of the deployment, and unless specifically approved, destinations will not be revealed. Round off numbers of personnel and equipment scheduled for deployment. Confirmation can also be given to news media queries that the unit will deploy.

(c) **Deploy:** Media may be invited to cover the departure of people and equipment prior to departure. Destinations will not be revealed except in broad terms, such as Central America, South America or Carribean. Interviews may be granted, but interviewees must speak only about their unit and within their area of expertise.

(2) The arrival of units or equipment at a final destination within the USSOUTHCOM AOR may be confirmed following appropriate coordination with USSOUTHCOM and U.S. Embassy(s).

b. **U.S. Air Force Deployments.** Commander, Southern Air Forces (SOUTHAF) will be responsible for making public announcements of U.S. aircraft and crews deploying or redeploying within the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

c. **U.S. Navy Surface and Air Unit Deployments.** Deployments, port visits and operations are continuously and routinely conducted in the USSOUTHCOM AOR. Detailed public affairs guidance is contained in U.S. Naval Forces, Southern Command directives to ensure maximum, visibility and publicity. In the case of special operations or sensitive port visits, specific public affairs procedures will be coordinated with SCPA, as appropriate.

6. Public Affairs Guidance For Replacements For Deployed Personnel.

a. Public announcement or confirmation of the numbers of individual replacements or movements of such replacements will not be made during hostile or sensitive contingency operations.

b. In response to query only, OASD(PA) has authorized CONUS commands to confirm that they have been directed to provide replacements. However, exact numbers, units furnishing the replacements, or destination of replacements will not be revealed.

c. When status is obvious, the presence of units in transit may be confirmed by response to query. However, the number of units, home station and destination may not be revealed during hostile or sensitive contingency operations.

d. This guidance is not intended to preclude the release of general information through appropriate Hometown News Centers concerning deployed personnel, nor is it intended to preclude the announcement of assignments to key command billets.

7. Conduct Of Public Affairs In Contingency Operations And Crisis Situations.

a. **General.** USSOUTHCOM operations in a contingency or crisis situation will be conducted using the crisis action planning process per Joint Publication 5-03.1 (JOPES Vol. I). Public affairs is an integral part of this process. Public affairs goals and objectives must support NCA objectives. The public affairs mission and concept of operations at each level of command must reflect the operational mission and intent of the next higher commander. When properly accomplished, this ensures that public affairs activities fully support and contribute to the success of the overall operational campaign, which in turn supports and contributes to the theater strategic goals and NCA objectives. Public affairs must continuously focus on this concept throughout the crisis. SCPA will recommend the lead agency for public affairs in contingency operations and crisis situation.

b. **Deployment.** SCPA may deploy a PAO to establish public affairs presence prior to establishing a Joint Task Force (JTF). As a member of the Deployable Joint Task Force Augmentation Cell (DJTFAC), the DJTFAC PAO's primary responsibility is to help create and assist the JTF PA staff during its initial planning effort. During this time, the JTF PAO will retain the lead in all public affairs matters. The DJTFAC PAO provides public affairs support to include:

(1) Provide an on-scene public affairs assessment.

(2) Establish liaison with the U.S. Embassy(s), Security Assistance Offices and other in-country agencies, as appropriate.

(3) Generate the initial PPAG and the Public Affairs Annex (Annex F) to the OPOD coordinated with the designated JTF.

(4) Support the on-scene JTF PAO, as appropriate.

c. **Augmentation.**

(1) Occasionally, a public affairs event may occur without existing public affairs infrastructure or the existing infrastructure is insufficient to meet requirements. In those situations, SCPA will deploy a joint public affairs augmentation cell (JPAAC) which is tasked through normal channels. The initial deployments will be for a short period of time until additional personnel arrive in country. The JPAAC's mission includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Establishing and augmenting a designated JTF Public Affairs Office.
- (b) Operating a Joint Information Bureau (JIB).
- (c) Advising the JTF commander on public affairs matters.

(2) Countries without a sufficient U.S. public affairs infrastructure may require a JPAAC member to act as a liaison with U.S. Embassy (and, if appropriate, the host nation) to ensure in-country, national level integration of the public affairs effort.

(3) JPAACs will be tailored to meet the specific task force requirements and consist of designated personnel from all component and subordinate commands.

d. **Equipment & Supplies.** On order from USCINCSO, SCPA will provide equipment and supplies to set-up a JIB.

e. **Funding.** Component and subordinate commanders will bear TDY costs associated with deployment of the JPAAC.

f. **Product Requirements.** A major responsibility of the designated JTF PAO is to generate the Public Affairs Annex (Annex F) to the OPOD. JOPES Volume I provides sample formats for CJCS warning orders, planning orders, alert orders and operations orders. These sample formats provide the JTF PAO an indication of various planning considerations.

g. **Audio-Visual Support.** The JTF PAO will ensure electronic and still photo imagery intended for public release is forwarded to SCPA and OASD(PA) electronically, when available. Audio-visual products will be released by the JTF only after a security review has been conducted by the JTF commander or designated representative (e.g. PAO). Once approved by SCPA, the JTF PAO will ensure copies of all imagery are provided to the appropriate component and subordinate commands.

h. **Combat Camera.** Combat Camera's primary mission is to support on-scene commanders and decision makers. The on-scene commander has the responsibility to provide the media timely, high quality imagery when media access to military operations is limited. In meeting these requirements, the USSOUTHCOM Director for Operations (SCJ3) will ensure Combat Camera assets provide still and video products to the JTF PAO upon initial deployment of U.S. forces and throughout the operation for possible public affairs use and public release. All audio-visual products require security review prior to release.

The proponent agency of this regulation is the U.S. Southern Command. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements directly to: HQ US Southern Command, Attn: Public Affairs, 3511 NW 91st Avenue, Miami, FL 33172-1712. Fax DSN 567-1241.

SCPA

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

OFFICIAL:
JERRY C. MCABEE
Brigadier General, USMC
Chief of Staff


CHARLES D. BOWKER
Colonel, USAF
Adjutant General

Distribution:
D

Appendix A

PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION

It is the policy of the Department of Defense to make available timely and accurate information so that the public, Congress, and the news media may assess and understand the facts about national security and defense strategy. Requests for information from organizations and private citizens will be answered in a timely manner. In carrying out this policy, the following principles of information will apply:

1. Information will be made fully and readily available, consistent with statutory requirements, unless its release is precluded by current and valid security classification. The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) will be supported in both letter and spirit.

2. A free flow of general and military information will be made available, without censorship or propaganda, to the men and women of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

3. Information will not be classified or otherwise withheld to protect the government from criticism or embarrassment.

4. Information will be withheld only when disclosure would adversely affect national security or threaten the safety or privacy of the men and women of the Armed Forces.

5. The Department's obligation to provide the public with information on its major programs may require detailed public affairs planning and coordination within the Department and with other government agencies. The sole purpose of such activity is to expedite the flow of information to the public: propaganda has no place in Department of Defense public affairs programs.

NOTE: Extracted from reference (a).

Appendix B

STATEMENT OF DOD PRINCIPLES FOR NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF DOD OPERATIONS

1. Open and independent reporting will be the principal means of coverage of U.S. military operations.
 2. Pools are not to serve as the standard means of covering U.S. military operations. Pools may sometimes provide the only feasible means of early access to a military operation. Pools should be as large as possible and disbanded at the earliest opportunity—within 24 to 36 hours when possible. The arrival of early-access pools will not cancel the principle of independent coverage for journalists already in the area.
 3. Even under conditions of open coverage, pools may be appropriate for specific events, such as those at extremely remote locations or where space is limited.
 4. Journalists in a combat zone will be credentialed by the U.S. military and host nation, as appropriate. They will also be required to abide by a clear set of military security ground rules that protect U.S. forces and their operations. Violation of the ground rules can result in suspension of credentials and expulsion from the combat zone of the journalist involved. News organizations will make their best efforts to assign experienced journalists to combat operations and to make them familiar with U.S. military operations.
 5. Journalists will be provided access to all major military units. Special operations restrictions may limit access in some areas.
 6. Military public affairs officers should act as liaisons but should not interfere with the reporting process.
 7. Under conditions of open coverage, field commanders should be instructed to permit journalists to ride on military vehicles and aircraft whenever feasible. The military will be responsible for the transportation of pools.
 8. Consistent with its capabilities, the military will supply PAOs with facilities to enable timely, secure, compatible transmission of pool material and will make these facilities available whenever possible for filing independent coverage. In cases when government facilities are unavailable, journalists will, as always, file by any other means available. The military will not ban communications systems operated by news organizations, but electromagnetic operational security in battle field situations may require limited restrictions on the use of such systems.
9. These principles will apply as well to the operations of the standing DOD national media pool system.

NOTE: Extracted from reference (a).

APPENDIX C

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

R 130141Z DEC 83 ZYB
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//132059Z DEC 83
BT
UNCLAS

SUBJ/PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE-RELEASE OF INFORMATION//
RMKS/1. THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED TO CONSOLIDATE AND REITERATE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE FOR RELEASING INFORMATION ON OPERATIONAL
MATTERS SUCH AS SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISES AND
TROOP/SHIP/AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES. THE GUIDELINES
ARE DICTATED BY OPERATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS THAT REMAIN
VALID IN PEACETIME AS WELL AS DURING TIMES OF HOSTILITIES. IT
IS RECOGNIZED THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND THE NEED TO
NEGATE BLATANTLY INACCURATE RUMORS MAY REQUIRE OASD(PA)
DEVIATION FROM STATED POLICY IN CERTAIN INSTANCES.
2. WITH RESPECT TO JCS-DIRECTED/SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISES,
THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES PERTAIN:

A. EXERCISES ARE DEEMED SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISES IF
THEY FALL INTO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

(1) THOSE INVOLVING COMPARATIVELY LARGE-SCALE
PARTICIPATION OF U.S. OR FOREIGN FORCES OR COMMANDS.

(2) THOSE REQUIRING THE GRANTING OF RIGHTS OR APPROVAL BY
ANOTHER NATION OR REPRESENTATIVE THEREOF, EXCEPT WHERE SUCH
APPROVAL IS SOUGHT BY NATO AUTHORITIES.

(3) THOSE WITH PARTICULAR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OR
IMPLICATIONS.

(4) THOSE IN WHICH THE SITUATION, MISSION, INTELLIGENCE
BUILDUP, CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS, POLITICO-MILITARY SCENARIO, OR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE DEALS WITH COUNTER-INSURGENCY ACTIVITIES
BY U.S. FORCES. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) EXERCISES TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES.

(B) UNILATERAL TRAINING EXERCISES IN NORMAL U.S.
TRAINING AREAS OUTSIDE CONUS.

(5) THOSE PLANNED FOR GEOGRAPHIC AREAS CONSIDERED
POLITICALLY SENSITIVE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(6) ANY EXERCISE WHICH IS OTHERWISE OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO
RECEIVE PROMINENT ATTENTION BY THE NEWS MEDIA.

(7) THOSE EXERCISES WHICH THE COMMANDERS OF UNIFIED OR
SPECIFIED COMMANDS BELIEVE TO BE OF INTEREST TO THE JOINT CHIEFS
OF STAFF.

B. IF THERE IS TO BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON A SIGNIFICANT
MILITARY EXERCISE, IT WILL NORMALLY BE MADE BY OASD(PA). IF
QUERIED ABOUT SUCH AN EXERCISE PRIOR TO ITS BEING ANNOUNCED THE
RESPONSE SHOULD BE, "WE DO NOT DISCUSS EXERCISE DETAILS UNTIL AN
EXERCISE IS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON." SIGNIFICANT
MILITARY EXERCISES REQUIRE WHITE HOUSE APPROVAL. NORMALLY, NO
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EXERCISE WILL BE MADE UNTIL THAT APPROVAL IS
RECEIVED. NOT ALL SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISES ARE ANNOUNCED.
FOR UNANNOUNCED EXERCISES A CONTINGENCY STATEMENT AND

ACCOMPANYING Q'S AND A'S WILL NORMALLY BE SUBMITTED TO OASD(PA) FOR APPROVAL BY THE COMMAND CONDUCTING THE EXERCISE.

C. THE DETAILS OF ROUTINE, SINGLE-SERVICE EXERCISES HELD IN THE UNITED STATES MAY BE AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE BY THE COGNIZANT COMMANDER AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. UNFORESEEN CONSIDERATIONS THAT MAY TAKE AN EXERCISE OUT OF THE "ROUTINE" CATEGORY AND CAUSE AN EXERCISE TO DRAW NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SERVICE CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS WHO WILL ADVISE OASD(PA) AS APPROPRIATE.

3. AS A GENERAL RULE, TO AVOID COMPROMISING THE SECURITY OF OUR FORCES WE DO NOT DISCUSS CONTINGENCY PLANS, FUTURE SHIP/TROOP/AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS OR FUTURE ACTIONS OF OUR OPERATING FORCES. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL GUIDELINES PERTAIN TO SHIP/TROOP/AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS:

A. WE DO NOT USUALLY DISCUSS SUBMARINE MOVEMENTS, OPERATIONS OR LOCATIONS; HOWEVER, ACTUAL SUBMARINE IN-PORT LOCATIONS, BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND OVERSEAS, ARE UNCLASSIFIED. CERTAIN SUBMARINE AT-SEA OPERATIONS (SUCH AS DEPENDENTS' CRUISES, MEDIA VISITS, OR PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISES) MAY BE UNCLASSIFIED AND ANNOUNCED WHEN APPROVED BY FLEET COMMANDERS. A SUBMARINE'S RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT WILL NOT NORMALLY BE ANNOUNCED UNLESS THERE IS A SPECIAL ASPECT (RETURN FROM AROUND THE WORLD DEPLOYMENT, UNDER ICE OPERATIONS, OR OTHER SUCH SPECIAL CASES) THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE PRESS.

B. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT NORMALLY DISCUSS FUTURE SHIP MOVEMENTS EXCEPT FOR MAJOR EXERCISES OF GOODWILL CRUISES, NAVY SHIPS AND MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNITS DEPARTING ON ROUTINE, PRE-SCHEDULED DEPLOYMENTS MAY ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM AND RETURN TO HOMEPORT 4-7 DAYS IN ADVANCE.

C. WE DO NOT DISCUSS THE EXACT NUMBER AND TYPES OF U.S. NAVY SHIPS DEPLOYED TO AN AREA SUCH AS THE MEDITERRANEAN OR INDIAN OCEAN. IF ASKED, WE ACKNOWLEDGE MAJOR UNITS, SUCH AS CARRIER BATTLE GROUPS, ARE ON STATION IN A GENERAL AREA. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, WE PROVIDE APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF U.S. SHIPS IN A GENERAL AREA AND CONFIRM SPECIFIC NAMES OF MAJOR UNITS.

D. IF ASKED, WE ACKNOWLEDGE SOVIET NAVY SHIP PRESENCE IN GENERAL NUMBERS IN A GENERAL AREA AND IDENTIFY MAJOR UNITS.

E. WE DO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF SHIPS IN PORT AND THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE DEPARTED.

F. ROUTINE SHIP TRANSITS (ENTERING AND DEPARTING) THE INDIAN OCEAN, INCLUDING CV BATTLE GROUPS AND ARG/MAGS, WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED. HOWEVER, THEY WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN RESPONSE TO QUERY BY OASD(PA) AND ALL COMMANDS INVOLVED.

G. WITH RESPECT TO NAVAL MOVEMENTS, THIS GUIDANCE IS NOT INTENDED TO SUPERSEDE STANDING FLEET DIRECTIVES CONCERNING PORT VISIT NOTIFICATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND RELATED DIPLOMATIC, PROTOCOL, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MATTERS.

H. ROUTINE, GENERAL NATURE HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE, INTERNAL MEDIA AND EXTERNAL HOMEPORT/BASE MEDIA RELEASES ONCE SHIPS/TROOP/AIRCRAFT UNITS ARE ON STATION OR WHEN NEARING HOMEPORT/BASE AT THE CONCLUSION OF A DEPLOYMENT ARE AUTHORIZED.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESPONSES TO QUERIES CONCERNING ROUTINE SINGLE SERVICE, PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED SHIP/TROOP/AIRCRAFT

22 June 2000

SC Regulation 360-1

MOVEMENTS BOTH OVERSEAS AND IN CONUS SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHANNELS.

4. ADDRESSEES REQUIRING CLARIFICATION OF THIS POLICY, OR WHO FEELS THEY HAVE A SITUATION NOT COVERED BY THIS GUIDANCE, SHOULD ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS TO OASD(PA) THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

5. OASD(PA) IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING AND UPDATING PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY GUIDANCE ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES AND WILL PROMULGATE UPDATED GUIDANCE AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.//

BT

#0001

NNNN