



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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OPNAVINST 1700.16A
N135
07 June 2012

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1700.16A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Ref: (a) U.S. Navy Regulation, 1990, Art. 1162
(b) DoD Instruction 1015.10 of 6 July 2009
(c) ASN (M&RA) memo, Delegation of Authority to Promulgate Policy on Alcoholic Beverage Control, of 16 May 2005 (NOTAL)
(d) SECNAVINST 5300.28E
(e) SECNAVINST 4650.16D
(f) DoD Directive 4515.12 of 15 January 2010
(g) SECNAVINST 7042.7K

1. Purpose. To provide additional guidance per references (a), (b) and (c) for the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages within military installations under naval jurisdiction.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1700.16.

3. Policy. Use of alcoholic beverages on naval installations must be consistent with the overriding need for military readiness, discipline, and community safety. In meeting this objective the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be governed by the following considerations:

a. Most Navy personnel who use alcoholic beverages do so responsibly. Because some abuse alcoholic beverages, balanced measures to prevent and deter abuse as provided in reference (d), must be an integral part of the management of alcoholic beverages on naval installations.

b. Sale of alcoholic beverages must be balanced with non-alcoholic beverages and recreational activities to encourage healthful life styles for members, their families, and friends.

c. Club and mess operations, intended to foster camaraderie, esprit de corps, and friendship in the naval community, must maintain a satisfactory balance of wholesome service to all personnel. Proper standards of dress and decorum are required at all times.

d. Sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages on naval installations shall be restricted to personnel 21 years of age and older in all 50 U.S. States and U.S. Territories. In foreign countries in which the installation is located, the drinking age will conform to the legal age set by the host country. In the absence of any local law, the minimum drinking age shall be 21 years for active duty military personnel.

e. Except as specifically authorized in this instruction, sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages within any military installation or vessel under naval jurisdiction is prohibited.

4. Definition

a. The term "alcoholic beverage" means wines, distilled spirits, and malt beverages.

b. The term "non-alcoholic beverage" may be used on malt beverage product, provided the statement "contains less than 0.5 percent (or .5 percent) alcohol by volume" appears in direct conjunction with it, in readily legible printing and on a completely contrasting background.

5. Sale of Package Alcoholic Beverages. Sale of retail packaged alcoholic beverages may be authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) or by commanders designated by CNO.

6. Sale, Possession, and Consumption by the Drink. The CNO or commanders designated by CNO may authorize:

a. Sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages by the drink in appropriate locations on board naval installations. These activities may include (the below list is not all inclusive):

- (1) Officers' messes and clubs.
- (2) Chief petty officers' messes.
- (3) Petty officers' messes.
- (4) Staff non-commissioned officers' clubs.
- (5) Enlisted messes.
- (6) Golf course club houses.
- (7) Morale, welfare, and recreation catering, clubs, and conference centers.
- (8) Areas designated by installation commanders for command entertainment or organized social functions on an occasional basis.

b. Sale and consumption of malt beverages only at the following activities:

- (1) Navy exchanges.
- (2) Bowling alley snack bars.

c. Sale of alcoholic beverages at Navy Exchange operations are authorized for those exchange facilities located within a lodging facility.

d. With respect to paragraphs 6a and 6b, the following shall have approval authority for activities under their cognizance:

- (1) Vice Chief of Naval Operations;
- (2) Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command;
- (3) Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet;
- (4) Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe;
- (5) Commander, Navy Installations Command;

(6) Commanders of Navy Regions; and

(7) Commanding Officers of Navy installations.

7. Possession and Consumption in Quarters and Lodging. Subject to the minimum drinking age for all Navy installations, possession and consumption is authorized in:

a. Officers' quarters.

b. Married enlisted quarters.

c. Bachelor enlisted quarters as authorized by Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) (CNO (N1)).

d. Civilian employees' quarters.

e. Navy Gateway Inns and Suites.

f. Navy lodges.

8. Employment of Personnel in the Dispensing of Alcoholic Beverages. No person shall be employed within any installation as a bartender or in any other capacity involving selling or dispensing of alcoholic beverages when State law, because of age, prohibits such employment in civilian establishments.

9. Alcoholic Beverages Aboard Naval Vessels and Aircraft

a. Except as provided in this paragraph, introduction, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes aboard naval vessels and aircraft is prohibited unless authorized by the CNO per references (a) and (c).

b. Malt beverages may be transported in naval vessels for sale to ship's personnel sent ashore at isolated points outside the continental United States (OCONUS) not having adequate recreational facilities.

c. Alcoholic beverages may be transported for personal use, at the discretion of the commanding officer (CO), on naval vessels and aircraft subject to the reporting and certification requirements of reference (a).

d. Alcoholic beverages may be transported as cargo consigned to bases OCONUS, for use in authorized activities of such bases.

e. Sherry, wine, and beer may be served on naval vessels in support of diplomatic and community relations as prescribed in paragraph 10, and may be maintained and transported in naval vessels for this purpose.

f. Three and four star officers with an assigned barge may authorize the serving of sherry, wine, and beer aboard the barge for events hosted for Department of Defense (DoD) personnel that further DoD interests (e.g., retirement ceremonies, reenlistment ceremonies, etc.). Authorization for the serving of distilled spirits aboard assigned barges requires Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) approval.

g. As a limited exception to references (a) and (b), numbered fleet commanders of naval and Military Sealift Command vessels participating in high-tempo, arduous operations are authorized to permit consumption of up to two 12-ounce cans or bottles of beer by each member of the crew or embarked unit during an appropriate 1-day stand down at sea. Consumption is to occur in conjunction with appropriate morale enhancing activities such as flight deck or fantail cookouts where non-alcoholic beverages must also be available. One-day stand downs are authorized subject to operational commitments and local threat assessments, for vessels that have attained 45 consecutive days at sea and will not arrive in a liberty port within 5 days of the day scheduled for consumption. Consumption is permitted on a one-time basis following each 45-day period and is not a daily ration. Any voyage repair, upkeep period or in-port period where any liberty is granted, and any at-sea stand down under this exception constitutes termination of a continuous at-sea period.

h. Per provisions of reference (a), dispensing and use of alcoholic beverages as defined in paragraph 4a is authorized for beverage purposes aboard naval aircraft in conjunction with congressional travel. Authorization applies only to DoD or SECNAV approved missions, which are in direct support of Congressional travel authorized by references (e) and (f).

i. Alcoholic beverages transported as provided in this paragraph shall be accounted for and secured properly at all times.

10. Alcoholic Beverages in Naval Vessels in Support of Diplomatic and Community Relations

a. When hosting American and foreign visitors, as appropriate, in support of diplomatic and community relations goals, COs of afloat units and embarked flag officers are authorized to serve sherry, wine, and beer aboard U.S. Navy vessels, when in U.S. and foreign ports.

b. Possession and consumption of sherry, wine, and beer on these occasions shall be limited to the wardroom, flag mess, or other area designated by the CO or embarked flag officer.

c. These beverages shall be purchased using funds of the hosting private mess. When the use of official representation funds is authorized per reference (g), those funds may be used for the purchase of appropriate alcoholic beverages.

11. Responsibility. CNO (N1) is responsible for ensuring control of alcoholic beverages following the policies and procedures in this instruction.

12. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per SECNAV Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



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