

FOI 1083-14 – Digest

Sections From:

DIEGO GARCIA BEST PRACTICES DOCUMENT; Edition 7; 29 May 2014

Diplomatic Clearance for Visiting Vessels and Aircraft

- Diplomatic clearance for third nation visiting units is approved by the UK. Prior to a diplomatic clearance being granted to a third nation, consultation will take place between CO NSF and CBF to ensure the visit is operationally convenient.
- CO NSF is responsible for notifying CBF of any planned NPW visit, giving as much advance notice as possible prior to arrival. Operationally urgent and emergency visits will be accommodated as required.
- The US forces shall have a blanket diplomatic clearance. Other nations will generally be granted clearance to land based on approval from CO NSF and CBF once the necessary approvals detailed below are in place.
- Where clearance has been approved, a Prior Permission Required (PPR) application must still be submitted to the US. A PPR is not needed for US Air Mobility Command (AMC) aircraft arriving during normal airfield operating hours. US and most non-UK aircraft should contact the US Navy Air Operations Department to obtain a PPR number.
- The point of contact for UK aircrew is generally the Brit XO. He will liaise directly with the Air Operations Department to ensure the paperwork is completed and the PPR is passed both to the aircrew and the Senior Customs and Immigration Officer.
- The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the US Department of State (DOS) have granted permission for Boeing 767 and 777 aircraft to utilize Diego Garcia as an emergency airfield for Extended-Range Twin-Engine Operations (ETOPS) purposes. This permission allows aircraft to fly a more direct route across the Indian Ocean. No flight-filing or PPR is required for ETOPS aircraft using Diego Garcia in the event of an emergency. After landing, the aircraft and crew would be processed under normal customs procedures.
- As the senior representative of the host nation, CBF will take precedence when very important people (VIP) and units from third nations visit BIOT. UK and US visitors will be met by CBF and CO NSF or their representatives, either upon arrival or at a time and location to be arranged.

Ship and Aircraft Movement Notification

- CO NSF, or his representative, will provide ship and aircraft movement reports to CBF no later than the fifth working day of each month. Aircraft movement reports will include callsign, type of aircraft, time and date of launch, previous and next airfield, and tail/mission number. Ship movement reports will include ship name, date of movement, previous and next location, and notes detailing reason for movement.

**Sections From:
FOREIGN WARSHIPS GUIDE; 31 MARCH 2010**

GUIDE - SUPPORTING A WARSHIP VISITING BIOT

INTRODUCTION

1. In light of the diminished continuity in forces deployed to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), this guide has been written to give advice on a visit of any non-US Navy warship.

BASE OPERATING SUPPORT CONTRACT/LINE OF ACCOUNTING

4. All foreign vessels are required to obtain Diplomatic Clearance prior to arriving in BIOT from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The request for funds prior to arrival is broached at this point by the BIOT desk of the FCO.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

8. The recommended practice can be summarized as;
- a. Visiting Government agency approach the FCO for Diplomatic Clearance to visit BIOT.
 - b. Clearance is given and a copy of this guide is submitted.
 - c. FCO notify BF BIOT LO who will act as the Visit Liaison.
 - d. Visit request letter/LOGREQ is submitted to BF BIOT LO – with a minimum of two weeks lead up time.
 - e. BF BIOT contacts US Port Ops, US Base Finance Office (BFO), Supply Dept and PWD and disseminates the information/requirements in the LOGREQ.
 - f. A consolidated price list of requested services is compiled – BF BIOT LO will pass this onto the visiting vessel.
 - g. Funding is made available to US BFO.
 - h. Visiting vessel arrives and services are provided.
 - i. Cost of IDIQ services and commodity services are presented to the visiting vessel for signature; adjustments are made if necessary. All supply costs are also presented and signed for; the endorsed invoice is then forwarded to the visiting vessel's respective finance department.
 - j. Vessel departs.