



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 3100.9A  
N3AT  
OCT 02 2006

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3100.9A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: DEFINITION AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH VALUE  
TRANSITS (HVT) OF THE PANAMA CANAL

1. Purpose. To define a High Value Transit (HVT) of the Panama Canal and establish security requirements for such transits.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3100.9.
3. Discussion. Vessels transiting the Panama Canal encounter situations in which they are isolated from any forces of the United States which could provide additional security if required. These instances provide an opportunity for unfriendly agents to harass or damage a vessel, or potentially embarrass the United States. Therefore, supplemental or increased security will be provided for certain vessels, designated HVTs, due to the nature of their cargo, local threat, type of vessel, public sensitivity, or current defensive capabilities.
  - a. Definition of HVTs. Any transit of a nuclear-powered submarine (SSN/SSBN/SSGN), inactivated nuclear powered vessel, or any vessel so designated by Fleet Commanders, is considered a HVT.
  - b. Security Requirements for HVTs. The level of security required for a HVT is that necessary to fully ensure the vessel is not compromised in any manner. This includes prevention of acts by groups and individuals to impede, board, harass, or disturb the cargo/vessel during the transit. Specific requirements are dynamic and subject to change as threats change.

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c. Transit of the Panama Canal. For the purposes of this instruction, a Panama Canal transit refers to the actual transit through the Panama Canal and an inactive nuclear power vessel is considered in transit, whether anchored, moored, or underway between the Cristobal breakwater and Isla Flamenco on the Pacific approach to Panama.

4. Responsibilities. Fleet Commanders shall:

a. Establish and conduct liaison with the appropriate Combatant Commander and Navy Component Commander to ensure a level of security is obtained consistent with the requirements of paragraph 3.

b. Establish in the appropriate operations order that no transit shall commence or be conducted without sufficient assets available to meet the security requirements of paragraph 3.



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