



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
AREA SUPPORT GROUP KUWAIT
APO AE 09366

ACEN-ASG-KU-DHA

1 September 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Military Weapons on Commercial Airliners Entering/Departing Kuwait

1. General information.

a. In accordance with the DOD Foreign Clearance Guide www.fcg.pentagon.mil a traveler may not enter or depart Kuwait through the commercial airport with a weapon or ammunition. Under host nation law, Kuwait government authorities can, and do, confiscate weapons and ammunition upon arrival to the commercial air terminal.

b. Exceptions are possible if certain procedures are followed. Individuals requesting an exception will receive a Letter of Exception from Area Support Group-Kuwait (ASG-KU). This letter is prepared in Arabic, stamped by the DHA, and delivered to officials of the Ministry of Interior Special Installation Security Authority and the Civil Aviation Security Authority. This process applies to all U.S. military and U.S. government personnel. Non U.S. Government employees, including civilian contractors, are not entitled to the exception.

2. Travelers Departing with Weapons.

a. If a traveler intends to depart Kuwait with a U.S. government owned and issued weapon on a commercial carrier through Kuwait City International Airport, prior arrangements must be made with the ASG-KU Directorate of Host Nation Affairs. The time required to produce an exception letter is 5 working days (Kuwaiti weekends are Friday and Saturday), so it is imperative the traveler take this into account when is planning their travel itinerary.

b. The following information is required for an ASG-KU DHA exception letter:

- (1) Traveler's itinerary
- (2) Name, grade, SSAN
- (3) Weapon type, (e.g., 9mm pistol)
- (4) Weapon serial number
- (5) Amount/type of ammunition
- (6) Copy of military/government ID card, (e.g. CAC front/back)
- (7) Copy of Orders (annotated with "weapons authorized") with serial number of weapon

c. The above information will be delivered to the DHA office; located in room 104, ASG-KU Command Building (bldg 216), Camp Arifjan, or faxed to DSN 318-430-2359.

The Kuwait government functions through a network of fax machines. Due to the high operational tempo, hardcopy documents are essential in tracking items in the Kuwaiti system.

d. ASG-KU-DHA will prepare the Letter of Exception, and hand-carry it to the appropriate Kuwait authorities for approval. A copy of the approved Letter of Exception will be forwarded to the Kuwait Ministry of Interior's Airport Security Office at the Kuwait City International Airport. The airport is located off of 6th Ring road and Kuwait State highway 50. The security officials keep the document in a black binder located behind the front desk. The Director of Special Installation Security, Kuwait Ministry of Interior, will maintain the original letter. The traveler or LNO will pick up a copy of the approved exception letter from the ASG-KU-DHA office, Bldg 216 Room 104, Camp Arifjan before departure. A back up copy will be maintained in the ASG-KU-DHA office. If you experience a problem at the airport, the Airport Security Desk will call the DHA office for you and then hand you the phone (24 hours response).

e. If you do not have a supporting organization in Kuwait, and require a copy of your Letter of Exception, please call the DHA office and provide a DSN Fax number for the letter to be forwarded to.

f. Additional Note. The Letter of Exception process fails and has to be re-initiated approximately 5 percent of the time because of the nuances between different countries and cultures. Kuwait religious holidays are frequent and national holidays can be unpredictable. Friday-Saturday is the weekend in Kuwait. All government offices are closed for weekends and holidays.

3. Travelers arriving with weapons.

a. DOD Civilians and U.S. Military personnel are authorized to arrive in Kuwait with weapons if the weapons are annotated on orders.

b. U.S. Military Personnel Assistance Team operating at the Kuwaiti Airport will assist travelers with the recovery of their weapons.

4. ASG-KU DHA contact information:

0800-1600 local, 7 days a week

DSN 318-430-2417; COMM 011-965-2389-2417

24 HR Assistance to In-Country Travelers

MOBILE 965-9923-9031 LTC Mark Alexander

MOBILE 965-9942-7254 MAJ Michael Cole

MOBILE 965-9722-6353 SFC Leigh Murchison

DSN FAX 318-430-2359: COMM FAX 011-965-2389-2359

5. Currently, United Airlines that flies directly into the U.S. (not transiting thru Europe) is the only commercial carrier that allows weapons on their aircraft; coordination with

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British Airways and KLM is complex and use of this carrier should be avoided if traveling commercially with a weapon.

6. The Letter of Exception does not pertain to those travelers arriving or departing on an Air Mobility Command flight (private charter or military air) that is positioned on the military side of the airport (APOD). Regardless of the arrival mode or location, the traveler's orders must reflect authorization to travel with weapons.

7. This process does not constitute theater clearance, country clearance, or weapons clearance, which is a unit responsibility and should be executed in accordance with the DOD Foreign Clearance Guide.

8. Point of contact for this memorandum is MAJ Michael Cole at DSN 430-2130, or cell 9942-7254.



MARK E. ALEXANDER
LTC, CA
Director, Host Nation Affairs