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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC //CG-13//

TO ALCOAST

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SUBJ: CAREER SEA PAY ENTITLEMENT DURING EXTENDED SHIPYARD PERIODS

A. Title 37 U. S. Code, Section 305a

B. Coast Guard Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29 (series)

1. PURPOSE: This ALCOAST clarifies Coast Guard Career Sea Pay (CSP) policy for personnel assigned to cutters undergoing extended maintenance availabilities. This policy clarification affects crewmembers whose cutters are in shipyards that are more than 50 miles from their home port (e.g., beyond a reasonable commuting distance), are in extended shipyard availabilities planned for more than 30 days duration, and who are not performing duty on board or in the immediate vicinity of their vessels while in a shipyard. This policy clarification does not apply to crews of multi-crewed vessels (e.g., Structural Enhancement Dockside Availability (SEDA) periods for CGCs BERTHOLF and WAESCHE).

2. BACKGROUND:

A. In some cases during extended maintenance availabilities, some or all of the crew will leave the geographic location of their assigned cutter for the period of the availability. For example, this has occurred during the 140-WTGB Service Life Extension Project and the 225-WLB Midlife Maintenance Availability project. This model has many advantages to the Coast Guard because it reduces temporary lodging and messing service costs, enhances crew proficiency by enabling training and temporary duty, eliminates the costs associated with Family Separation Allowance, improves administrative and medical support to members, and increases flexibility for the Operational Commander to efficiently employ personnel.

B. REF (A) is the statutory authority for CSP, which is a special pay intended to compensate service members for the additional arduousness of sea duty as compared to normal duties ashore. Statutory authorities are the basis for all pays and are not subject to modification by policy, except where specifically permitted in law. Coast Guard CSP regulations are contained in Sec. 4.B. of REF (B) and are based upon the statutory definition of sea duty for which CSP may be paid. Entitlement to CSP requires a member to be:

1. Performing duty; and
2. Permanently or temporarily assigned to a ship; and
3. Serving on a ship with the primary mission that is

accomplished while under way.

3. APPLICABILITY:

A. When personnel are geographically displaced from their permanently assigned cutter, they are not considered to be serving on a CSP-eligible ship for the purpose of CSP and are not entitled to CSP. In these cases, CSP ends 30 days following the date each crewmember departs their vessel per Rule 4 in Figure 4-3 of REF (B). Rule 10 in Figure 4-3 of REF (B) does not apply because the affected crewmembers will not be performing duty on or near their permanently assigned cutter.

B. Individual crewmembers performing duty at the same geographic location of the vessel during the availability period are entitled to

CSP, and CSP will resume on the date each crewmember returns to the same geographic location of their vessel.

C. Rule 6 in Figure 4-3 of REF (B) will apply when affected crewmembers perform Temporary Duty (TDY) on board CSP-eligible vessels, but are only authorized CSP for the duration of their TDY to a CSP-eligible vessel. Performing temporary duty on board a different CSP-eligible vessel does NOT reset the 30-day clock for Rule 4 in Figure 4-3.

D. Periods of CSP ineligibility described above are considered neutral time for the purposes of calculating CSP-Premium eligibility. Sea Time will continue to accrue for the purposes of eligibility for Temporary, Permanent, or Master Cutterman, Gold and Silver Ancient Mariner, and advancement for rates that have sea duty requirements.

4. A working group is being chartered to consider alternative incentives or incentive pays that will attract top performing personnel to serve on board cutters undergoing major maintenance availabilities.

5. Point of Contact: CWO Chase Mercer, Chase.A.Mercer@uscg.mil, (202) 475-5394, Office Of Military Personnel Compensation Division, COMDT (CG-1332).

6. RADM Kurt B. Hinrichs, Director of Reserve and Military Personnel, sends.

7. Internet release is authorized.