



THE JOINT STAFF

~~SECRET~~

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

In Oc
- mild pres
24 MAY 1980

Indian Ocean

DOC # 125

CM-622-80
24 May 1980

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Chief, Records & Document Mgmt
Date: NOV 04 2015

ISA - Lt's check on
what port visits are
feasible with the new
electronics suite via (one
carrier on 24 hr, the other
on 96 hour, readiness)
and process promptly
arrangements
for port calls
in IO.

HTB

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Indian Ocean Port Visits (U)

1. (S) As you are aware, our aircraft carriers have been operating in the Indian Ocean without the benefit of the crew rest and relaxation normally afforded by planned port visits. Recently, the MIDWAY, NIMITZ, and CORAL SEA completed extended deployments to the Indian Ocean without relief. During these deployments, NIMITZ operated nearly five months and CORAL SEA operated nearly four months without a port visit. The MIDWAY's normal Indian Ocean deployment was extended three months because of the Iranian crisis. These continued extended deployments, uninterrupted by port visits, are having an adverse impact on the personnel manning of these ships.
2. (S) Our ships have demonstrated that they can survive this operational tempo, but such operations cannot be sustained indefinitely. We can soon expect to pay a heavy price in reduced personnel retention and material readiness and, perhaps, safety and performance. A significant amount of necessary maintenance can only be accomplished in port, and adverse weather conditions often prevailing in the region further reduce the level of maintenance which can be accomplished at sea.
3. (S) Either aircraft carrier currently on station in the Indian Ocean is capable of responding rapidly to all applicable assigned missions. In the event it is feasible to permit one aircraft carrier to conduct a port visit, the second aircraft carrier would remain on station fully capable of fulfilling all mission requirements. The military situation would be monitored closely before authorizing the temporary relaxation to one carrier on station. If it should become necessary to recall the second aircraft carrier from a visit to a port such as Mombasa, it could be in position to launch mission aircraft from the Arabian Sea in less than four days.

(24 MAY 80)

330-82-0217, box 8

Indian Ocean

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4. (S) Unless the tactical situation requires the presence of two carriers in the northern Arabian Sea, deployment planning for the Indian Ocean must provide opportunities for periodic carrier port visits. In view of this, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that port visits be approved for our carriers deployed in the Indian Ocean.

David C. Jones

DAVID C. JONES General, USAF
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

MAY 30 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Indian Ocean Port Visits(U)

(C) I appreciate fully the stresses placed upon our aircraft carriers and their personnel by the current Indian Ocean operating tempo cited in your 24 May memorandum.

(S) While meeting readiness criteria requiring one aircraft carrier to be available on station in the Arabian Sea within 24 hours and the second within 96 hours, you are authorized to arrange aircraft carrier port visits in accordance with normal procedures for obtaining diplomatic clearances.

(S) We will, of course, be handicapped in securing such major visits by the paucity of suitable ports in politically receptive regional states. In your scheduling, you should insure that we do not jeopardize our overall access to any particular port or country through overuse.

Harold Brown

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Date: NOV 04 2015

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