§ 700.855 Status of boats.

(a) Boats shall be regarded in all matters concerning the rights, privileges and comity of nations as part of the ship or aircraft to which they belong.

(b) In ports where war, insurrection or armed conflict exists or threatens, the commanding officer shall:

(1) Require that boats away from the ship or aircraft have some appropriate and competent person in charge; and

(2) See that steps are taken to make their nationality evident at all times.

§ 700.856 Pilotage.

(a) The commanding officer shall:

(1) Pilot the ship under all ordinary circumstances, but he may employ pilots whenever, in his or her judgment such employment is prudent;

(2) Not call a pilot on board until the ship is ready to proceed;

(3) Not retain a pilot on board after the ship has reached her destination or a point where the pilot is no longer required;

(4) Give preference to licensed pilots;

(5) Pay pilots no more than the local rates.

(b) A pilot is merely an adviser to the commanding officer. The presence on board of a pilot shall not relieve the commanding officer or any subordinate from his or her responsibility for the proper performance of the duties with which he or she may be charged concerning the navigation and handling of the ship. For an exception to the provisions of this paragraph, see “Rules and Regulations Covering Navigation of the Panama Canal and Adjacent Waters,” (35 CFR Chapter I, subchapter C) which directs that the pilot assigned to a vessel in those waters shall have control of the navigation and movement of the vessel. Also see the provisions of these regulations concerning the navigation of ships at a naval shipyard or station, or in entering or leaving drydock.

§ 700.857 Safe navigation and regulations governing operation of ships and aircraft.

(a) The commanding officer is responsible for the safe navigation of his or her ship or aircraft, except as prescribed otherwise in these regulations for ships at a naval shipyard or station, in drydock, or in the Panama Canal.

(b) During an armed conflict, an exercise simulating armed conflict, or an authorized law enforcement activity, competent authority may modify the use of lights or other safeguards against collision. Except in time of actual armed conflict, such modifications will be authorized only when ships or aircraft clearly will not be hazarded.

(c) Professional standards and regulations governing shiphandling, safe navigation, safe anchoring and related operational matters shall be promulgated by the Chief of Naval Operations.

(d) The Commanding Officer is responsible for ensuring that weather and oceanic effects are considered in the effective and safe operation of his or her ship or aircraft.

§ 700.859 Quarantine.

(a) The commanding officer or aircraft commander of a ship or aircraft shall comply with all quarantine regulations and restrictions, United States or foreign, for the port or area within which the ship or aircraft is located.

(b) The commanding officer shall give all information required by authorized foreign officials, insofar as permitted by military security, and will meet the quarantine requirements promulgated by proper authority for United States or foreign ports. However, nothing in this section shall be interpreted as authorizing commanding officers to permit on board inspections by foreign officials, or to modify in any manner the provisions of §700.828 of these regulations.

(c) The commanding officer shall allow no intercourse with a port or area or with other ships or aircraft.
§ 700.860 Customs and Immigration inspections.

(a) The commanding officer or aircraft commander shall facilitate any proper examination which it may be the duty of a customs officer or immigration officer of the United States to make on board the ship or aircraft. The commanding officer or aircraft commander shall not permit a foreign customs officer or an immigration officer to make any examination whatsoever, except as hereinafter provided, on board the ship, aircraft or boats under his or her command.

(b) When a ship or aircraft of the Navy or a public vessel manned by naval personnel and operating under the direction of the Department of the Navy is carrying cargo for private commercial account, such cargo shall be subject to the local customs regulations of the port, domestic or foreign, in which the ship or aircraft may be, and in all matters relating to such cargo, the procedure prescribed for private merchant vessels and aircraft shall be followed. Government-owned stores or cargo in such ship or aircraft not landed nor intended to be landed nor in any manner trafficked in, are, by the established precedent of international courtesy, exempt from customs duties, but a declaration of such stores or cargo, when required by local customs regulations, shall be made. Commanding officers shall prevent, as far as possible, disputes with the local authorities in such cases, but shall protect the ship or aircraft and the Government-owned stores and cargo from any search or seizure.

(c) Upon arrival from a foreign country, at the first port of entry in United States territory, the commanding officer, or the senior officer of ships or aircraft in company, shall notify the collector of the port. Each individual aboard shall, in accordance with customs regulations, submit a list of articles purchased or otherwise acquired by him abroad. Dutiable articles shall not be landed until the customs officer has completed his inspection.

(d) Commanding officers of naval vessels and aircraft transporting United States civilian and foreign military and civilian passengers shall satisfy themselves that the passenger clearance requirements of the Immigration and Naturalization Service are complied with upon arrival at points within the jurisdiction of the United States. Clearance for such passengers by an immigration officer is necessary upon arrival from foreign ports and at the completion of movements between any of the following: Continental United States (including Alaska and Hawaii), the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or other outlying places subject to United States jurisdiction. Commanding officers, prior to arriving, shall advise the cognizant naval or civilian port authority of the aforementioned passengers aboard and shall detain them for clearance as required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require delaying the movements of any ship or aircraft of the Navy in the performance of her assigned duty.