



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
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From: Director, Corrections and Programs (OPNAV-N135E)
To: Distribution

Subj: SIGHTING AND DOCUMENTING THE SIGHTING OF SUICIDE RISK PRISONERS

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1640.9C
(b) American Correctional Association (ACA), Adult Correctional Institution (ACI) Standards (4th Edition)

1. Purpose. Provide clarifying guidance to reference (a) as it relates to policy and procedures for sighting and documenting the sighting of suicide risk prisoners within special quarters.

2. Background

a. Per article 1104 of reference (a), national accreditation standards issued by the American Correctional Association (ACA) shall be followed in determining correctional policies and administering confinement facilities and functions.

b. Per article 4205.1.d of reference (a), prisoners who have threatened suicide or have made a suicide gesture but are found fit for confinement may be placed within special quarters under continuous observation while in the category of suicide risk.

c. Per article 4205.5.b of reference (a), prisoners who have threatened suicide or have made a suicidal gesture, but are found fit for confinement, may be placed in the category of "suicide risk" for observation. They shall be placed in special quarters under continuous observation. CO/OIC/CPOIC may direct removal of the prisoner's clothing when deemed necessary. Prisoner must be under observation of a supervisor of the same sex. Closed circuit television may be installed at a limited number of cells for observation. Use of this equipment would be in addition to the requirement above.

d. Article 4205.5c of reference (a) requires that suicide risk prisoners berthed in special quarters shall be physically checked every 5 minutes, and that such checks shall be annotated on an operational report, or other locally generated form, and shall accompany the prisoner's DD 509.

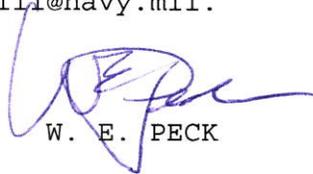
3. Action. Suicide risk prisoners berthed in special quarters shall be under "continuous observation". In-cell closed circuit television that provides dedicated continuous observation may be used to satisfy the observation requirement. In either observation situation (e.g.,

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direct physical presence or direct viewing of camera), the observation shall be by a staff member and considered a primary duty. For documentation purposes, a logbook shall be maintained by the staff observer (date, observer, time the observer took over and ended the shift/observation to include relief, behavioral remarks as applicable). Annotation on the prisoner's DD 509 is unnecessary as the observation is continuous and annotated within the log. Supplemental [physical] sighting of and visit to suicide risk prisoners shall be officially recorded on the DD 509 and include date, time, name of visitor, and any appropriate remarks. This guidance clarifies compliance to the aforementioned articles of reference (a) and exceeds ACA Standard 4-4257 of reference (b).

4. Applicability. This guidance applies to all Navy brigs, afloat and shore.

5. Point of Contact. Mr. Tim Purcell, OPNAV-N135E/PERS-00D1, (901) 874-4452, DSN 882, timothy.purcell1@navy.mil.



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