

TABLE 5

Vessel	No.	Masthead lights not over all otehr lights and obstructions. annex I, sec. 2(f)	Forward mast-head light not in forward quarter of ship. annex I, sec. 3(a)	After mast-head light less than 1/2 ship's length aft of forward mast-head light. annex I, sec. 3(a)	Percentage horizontal separation attained.
USS Benfold	DDG 65	X	X	X	20.0

Approved: June 5, 2000.

G.A. Cervi,

*Lieutenant Commander, JAGC, U.S. Navy,,
Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Admiralty and Maritime Law).*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

32 CFR Part 706

Certifications and Exemptions Under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy is amending its certifications and exemptions under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), to reflect that the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Admiralty and Maritime Law) has determined that USS *Winston S. Churchill* (DDG 81) is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot fully comply with certain provisions of the 72 COLREGS without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this rule is to warn mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 7, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lieutenant Commander Gregg A. Cervi, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Admiralty and Maritime Law), Office of the Judge Advocate General, Navy Department, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-5066; telephone number: (202) 685-5040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the authority granted in 33 U.S.C. 1605, the Department of the Navy amends 32 CFR part 706. This amendment provides notice that the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Admiralty and Maritime Law), under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Navy, has certified that USS *Winston S. Churchill* (DDG 81) is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot fully comply with the following specific provisions of 72 COLREGS without interfering with its special function as a naval ship: Annex I, paragraph 2(f)(i) pertaining to placement of the masthead light or lights above and clear of all other lights and obstructions, Annex I paragraph 2(f)(ii) pertaining to the vertical placement of the task lights, Annex I paragraph 3(a) pertaining to the location of the forward masthead light in the forward quarter of the vessel, and the horizontal distance between the forward and after masthead lights, and Annex I paragraph 3(c) pertaining to the horizontal placement of the task lights.

The Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Admiralty and Maritime Law) has also certified that the lights involved are located in closest possible compliance with the applicable 72 COLREGS requirements.

Moreover, it has been determined, in accordance with 32 CFR parts 296 and 701, that publication of this amendment for public comment prior to adoption is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to public interest since it is based on technical findings that the placement of lights on this vessel in a manner differently from that prescribed herein will adversely affect the vessel's ability to perform its military functions.

List of Subjects in 32 CFR Part 706

Marine safety, Navigation (water), and Vessels.

Accordingly, 32 CFR part 706 is amended as follows:

PART 706—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 32 CFR part 706 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1605.

2. Table 4, paragraph 15 of § 706.2 is amended by adding, in numerical order, the following entry for USS *Winston S. Churchill*:

§ 706.2 Certifications of the Secretary of the Navy under Executive Order 11964 and 33 U.S.C. 1605.

* * * * *

TABLE 4

Vessel	Number	Horizontal distance from the fore and aft centerline of the vessel in the athwartship direction
USS Winston S. Churchill	DDG 81	1.87 meters.

* * * * *

3. Table 4, paragraph 16 of § 706.2 is amended by adding, in numerical order, the following entry for USS *Winston S. Churchill*:

§ 706.2 Certifications of the Secretary of the Navy under Executive Order 11964 and 33 U.S.C. 1605.

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TABLE 4

Vessel	Number	Obstruction angle relative ship's headings
USS <i>Winston S. Churchill</i>	DDG 81	101.96 thru 112.50°.
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4. Table 5 of § 706.2 is amended by adding, in numerical order, the following entry for USS *Winston S. Churchill*:

§ 706.2 Certifications of the Secretary of the Navy under Executive Order 11964 and 33 U.S.C. 1605.

* * * * *

TABLE 5

Vessel	Number	Masthead lights not over all other lights and obstructions. annex I, sec. 2 (f)	Forward mast-head light not in forward quarter of ship. annex I, sec. 3(a)	After masthead light less than 1/2 ship's length aft of forward masthead light. annex I, sec. 3(a)	Percentage horizontal separation attained
USS <i>Winston S. Churchill</i>	DDG 81	X	X	X	13.8
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Approved: March 7, 2000.

G.A. Cervi,

Lieutenant Commander, JAGC, U.S. Navy,
Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Admiralty and Maritime Law).

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 21

RIN 2900-AI68

Reservists Education: Monthly Verification of Enrollment and Other Reports

AGENCIES: Department of Defense, Department of Transportation (Coast Guard), and Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the educational assistance and educational benefit regulations of the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA). It expands the current requirement that some reservists receiving educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve (MGIB—SR) verify their pursuit of a program of education monthly to include those reservists who are pursuing a standard college degree. At the same time the document reduces the number of reports VA receives from educational institutions. We believe this is a cost-effective way to reduce overpayments.

DATES: *Effective Date:* June 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William G. Susling, Jr., Education Adviser, Education Service (225C), Veterans Benefits Administration, (202) 273-7187.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a document published in the **Federal Register** on March 31, 1998 (63 FR 15341), VA, the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Department of Transportation (Coast Guard) proposed withholding monthly payments of educational assistance under the MGIB—SR until VA receives the reservist's monthly certification of enrollment in and satisfactory pursuit of a program of education. In addition, in keeping with statutory provisions, VA, DOD, and the Coast Guard proposed that when a reservist withdraws from one or more

courses with mitigating circumstances, VA would reduce or discontinue his or her educational assistance on the effective date of the reduction in training. Furthermore, we proposed that an educational institution had to report changes and interruptions in a reservist's training to VA without delay. We sought comments under the Paperwork Reduction Act concerning the collections of information in proposed §§ 21.7654 and 21.7656.

We gave interested persons 60 days to submit comments. We received no comments.

As proposed, the rule would have authorized the Secretary to permit submission of the monthly certification in writing or by telephone. Although we received no formal comments, we have concluded that there is no reason that the rule should not also authorize VA to allow the reservist to submit the monthly verification electronically. Accordingly, the final rule makes a change to proposed § 21.7654 by adding the words "or electronically." Based on the rationale set forth in the proposed rule and in this document, we are adopting the provisions of the proposed rule as a final rule, with this change; with nonsubstantive changes for the purpose of clarification; and with a change to display the currently valid Office of Management and Budget