

CHAPTER 507

MILITARY CUSTOMS INSPECTORS-EXCEPTED (MCI-E)

A. JUSTIFICATION

CBP may find it advantageous to establish a MCI-E Program at DOD installations within specific jurisdiction of CBP port directors. Conversely, DOD installations may benefit by establishing MCI-E programs to expedite the movement of passengers and cargo arriving at military airfields. The primary purpose of the MCI-E program is to grant DOD personnel the authority to perform CBP inspectional duties, to include customs, immigration and agricultural disciplines, in connection with the arrival of a military aircraft or military-chartered aircraft from overseas areas. Such action must be done in cooperation with and the approval of the DOD installation CDR.

B. DESIGNATION

MCI-Es are appointed in writing by the base/installation CDR after CBP issues a CF 55, Designation, Customs Officer-Excepted, [Figure 507-1](#), designating the individual as a MCI-E. By agreement with DOD installation CDRs, CBP port directors will specifically train military and civilian personnel to act as MCI-Es at selected CTUS military bases. This document authorizes the individual to perform the duties of a CBP Inspector in the CTUS. The CF 55 must be surrendered to CBP upon change of assignment or change of station.

C. SCOPE

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) negotiated between the installation CDR and the local CBP Port Director usually establishes an MCI-E program. A signed copy of the MOU must be maintained by the installation TO and the military unit(s) designated to perform MCI-E duties. Installation CDRs will request CBP to re-certify the installation MCI-E program yearly. The scope of MCI-E duties will be designated on the form and may vary from installation to installation and location to location. Those persons so designated will be responsible for the enforcement of the regulations of the CBP and other border clearance agencies. This responsibility may require the examination of military aircraft, accompanied and UB, personnel, and certain cargo. Military and civilian MCI-E candidates will be in grades E-5/GS-5 and above with a candidacy waiver for E-4 military police/security forces or similar law enforcement personnel. CBP does not authorize an MCI-E to conduct personal searches or to collect duties, fines, or federal taxes. Data on the number of active MOUs is available from CBP.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. MCI-Es
 - a. Will inspect or examine baggage, professional equipment and cargo as authorized in the MOU and designated on his/her CF55. Inspections will be accomplished in a courteous and professional manner. All passengers and crewmembers are subject to inspection. The degree to which accompanied baggage or equipment is inspected or examined is dependent upon the discretion and judgment of the MCI-Es. “Dumping” of baggage contents is against both DOD and CBP policy and is prohibited. MCI-Es will only inspect active duty military personnel. All civilian personnel will be inspected by a CBP officer. MCI-Es will be granted access to aircraft in all circumstances.
 - b. Immediately report contraband discoveries (e.g., drugs, firearms and/or explosives) to the closest CBP Port Director and the military CDR.

2. Installation TO:
 - a. As major stake holders of the DTS, provide installation CDRs the expertise to ensure contents of the MOU are not counterproductive for DTS users. The MOU will include language that ensures the understanding of this part of the DTR.
 - b. When an MCI-E capability has been established, maintain a signed copy of the MCI-E MOU and forward a copy to Major Command HQ and USTRANSCOM TCJ5/4-PT, 508 Scott Drive., Scott AFB IL, 62225. Contact information for USTRANSCOM can be found at: USTCJ5J4-PT@USTRANSCOM.MIL.

E. APPOINTMENT

1. MCI-Es will be given an appointment by the installation CDR and placed on orders after the CBP has completed all necessary background checks and training. To enable CBP to train and certify new MCI-Es, CBP must receive the names, SSN and pay grade for each trainee at least two weeks prior to any requested training. CBP's determination of the eligibility of an individual to participate in the MCI-E program cannot be overturned by the military. Once the training is completed, CBP will designate each qualified MCI-E using a CBP Form 55 (Designation, Customs Officers-Excepted).
2. Certification/appointments are command specific and automatically terminate when an MCI-E is transferred to a new command.
3. The CBP will re-certify the base MCI-E program on an annual basis. The program re-certification and the MCI-E recertification may take place at the same time. CBP may make unannounced visits during the year to evaluate the program. In order to accomplish the no-notice visits, at a minimum, the individuals identified as the CBP POCs must be allowed unrestricted entry to the base and the area established for CBP operations. Re-certification and refresher training for individual MCI-Es will be conducted periodically as conditions change or the individual situation warrants.

F. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

1. Training and certification of MCI-Es is accomplished under the auspices of the CBP Directors, Field Operations and CBP Port Directors as authorized by the Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations. After gaining approval to establish an MCI-E program, installation CDRs are authorized direct communication with the CBP Director, Field Operations and CBP Port Directors to request the necessary training. For a listing of locations and phone numbers of Field Operations Offices, see the CBP web page: <http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/contacts/cmcs/> (*) **Non-DOD Website**.
2. Training Assistance:
 - a. Instruction, training material, and limited training aids are available from the CBP.
 - b. Requests for CBP support will be forwarded to the local CBP Port Director.
3. Costs associated with MCI-E training (e.g., transportation, per diem, overtime), will be borne by the requesting DOD organization.
4. Instruction will include but not be limited to the following subjects:
 - a. Customs, agriculture, and immigration orientation.
 - b. Preparation of border clearance forms.
 - c. Exemptions.
 - d. Art of inspection.

- e. Drugs and drug enforcement.
- f. Firearms and ammunition.
- g. Restricted and prohibited articles.
- h. Customs enforcement.
- i. Inspection workshops (On-the-job training under supervision).
- j. Smuggling methods of operation and concealment and detection techniques.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE		
DESIGNATION, CUSTOMS OFFICER (EXCEPTED) Customs Directive 1510-2		
1. NAME OF OFFICER BEING DESIGNATED	2. SOCIAL SECURITY	3. RANK OR GRADE
4. CUSTOMS DESIGNATION Military Customs Inspector (Excepted)	5. POSITION AND AGENCY OR SERVICE	
6. DUTY STATION	7. EFFECTIVE DATE	
<p>Pursuant to the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1401(i), and appropriate redelegations, and by agreement with your employing agency or service, you are hereby designated a Customs Officer (Excepted) without additional compensation. This designation, for the performance of such duties as outlined below, will be in effect while you remain in your present position and location unless revoked at an earlier date.</p> <p>In performing the duties of a Customs officer, you will be subject to all guidelines, directives and instructions of the United States Custom Service.</p> <p>Arrangements will be made for you to receive the training necessary to perform your duties as a Customs officer at your location.</p>		
8. DUTIES		
Issued for the clearance of U. S. army and other U.S. military flights arriving at _____ from points of origin outside the United States.		
Primary determination of military passenger's and crews status and exemptions allowable under Customs laws and regulations.		
Primary inspection of aircraft and baggage for Customs violations.		
Inspection of cargo under Customs supervision.		
Enforcement of related laws for the U. S. Department of Agriculture.		
Enforcement of related laws for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.		
NOT authorized to collect duty, effect arrests, use detector dogs or perform personal searches under customs authority.		
This designation does not modify current Customs procedures or practices concerning the reporting, handling, and investigation of persons arrested and seizures made for violations of laws enforced by the Customs Service. Any arrests and seizures effected while acting under this designation and any information received concerning Customs or related violations should be promptly reported to the nearest Customs office.		
9. ENDORSEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS, IF ANY	10. SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATING OFFICER	
This designation is for use within the Confines of <u>(Name of Military Installation)</u> ONLY . This designation is for 1 (one) year.		
	11. PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF DESIGNATING OFFICER	
	12. ISSUING REGION, DISTRICT OR HEADQUARTERS	
Previous editions are obsolete and should not be used		
Customs Form 55 (020188)		

Figure 507-1. CF Form 55, Designation, Customs Officer (Excepted)