

## GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING OCEANOGRAPHIC UNIT TWO DUTY

Oceanographic Unit TWO is an independent Naval command permanently embarked in USNS DUTTON (T-AGS 22). The Unit has an allowance of three officers and 24 enlisted, 10-15 Naval Oceanographic Office Scientists and six Manufacturer's Technical Representatives.

Oceanographic Unit TWO is homported in Norfolk, Virginia, however, for purposes of household goods shipment, dependents travel, dislocation allowance and separation pay, this Unit is listed by SECNAV as a deployed Unit on an unaccompanied tour. You can expect to remain outside the Continental Limits of the United States for your entire tour of duty. In accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations, you are authorized to move your dependents to any location you desire within the United States. Should this not be specified on your orders, you are advised to request your present personnel officer to call BUPERS for the necessary authority.

The ship has operated in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean since it was commissioned and it is expected to continue operations in this area. The normal operating period for the ship is 29 to 33 days at sea and 7 days in port. If you have dependents, it is strongly advised to make out an allotment sufficient for their support prior to reporting on board. This advice is pertinent to any financial responsibility you may have – either arrange for payments directly by allotment or establish an allotment to someone who will make the payments for you. Your present Disbursing Officer can assist you on this matter.

Mail transfer and receipt is accomplished only during inport periods. It has been our experience that transit time for mail is approximately 4 to 7 days from stateside to the ship and 4 to 12 days from the ship to stateside. This time lag is due to the fact that our mail is frequently transmitted via round-about channels since regular Fleet Post Office services are not available aboard ship or in the ports we visit. For dependable mail delivery, all correspondence should be sent via airmail – U.S. postage is used exclusively unless you would have a personal reason for using the host country postal system. Your mailing address will be:

Name, Rate, Service Number  
Oceanographic Unit TWO  
USNS DUTTON (T-AGS-22)  
FPO New York 09501

Your telegraphic address in case of an emergency at home is:

Name, Rate, Service Number  
Oceanographic Unit TWO  
Naval Communication Station  
Washington, D.C.

Your pay record will be maintained by the ship's Purser. He can make regular disbursements against your pay account, but all special claims are processed by the Disbursing Officer at MSTIS Atlantic Area Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. Due to the time involved in settling claims,

it is recommended that arrangements be made to have your pay record as current as possible prior to reporting to Oceanographic Unit TWO. Some claims, such as dislocation allowance and advance travel and per diem settlements must be forwarded to MSTSLANT after you report, but again, your present Disbursing Office can advise you concerning particulars as to which actions cannot be completed until you report to your ultimate destination. Allotments can be started, stopped or changed while you are aboard, however, there can be considerable delay in accomplishing these actions due to the infrequent mail service.

Uniform requirements during this tour of duty will mainly be the working uniform, dungarees for PO1 and below and wash khakis for CPO and Officers. Dress uniform requirements are minimal, however, at least one complete set of each type is required. PO1 and below should bring two or three sets of undress blues. I recommend three or four sets of whites for PO1 and below and two sets for Officers and CPOs. Self service washing machines and dryers are available for all hands use and the ship provides laundry service at nominal rates for items requiring pressing. Dry cleaning services must be obtained ashore and quality of service ranges from barely satisfactory to excellent dependent on location. Civilian clothing for all hands constitutes the normal liberty uniforms, however, dress uniforms may be worn ashore if you desire. My experience indicates that most personnel in the Unit wear civilian coat and tie as standard dress for liberty.

The ship operates a Navy Exchange Store which stocks necessities such as toilet articles plus limited quantities of luxury items, cameras, radios, lighters and articles of clothing. The ship does not have a small stores on board. In most cases, there are not Navy facilities in ports that are visited. You are advised to stock up on underwear, socks and uniform items prior to departure from CONUS.

Watches at sea are rotated on a three or four section basis, dependent on actual number of qualified personnel aboard. During inport periods a four section watch has been the order of the day with open gangway for personnel without the day's duty. Liberty on day of arrival and day of departure from port is curtailed due to the workload on these days. Overall, you will find that you have sufficient time available for sightseeing trips to many places you normally cannot expect to visit during a regular sea tour.

There is a good supply of recreational material provided by MSTSLANT special services. Facilities and equipment are available on board for many athletic activities, gymnasium, basketball, etc., as well as a wide range of games and hobby crafts. You will find plenty of time for working on training courses for advancement or other correspondence courses in which you may desire to enroll.

Separate messing facilities are provided for the Navy enlisted personnel. Food is served, individually, by MSTS stewards. Normally there are three entrees at each meal including breakfast, plus several choices of vegetables, salads, deserts and drinks.

The Unit personnel berth separately from the ship's crew, although accommodations are quite similar. All hands are berthed in staterooms designed for from two to four men, except for one

six man stateroom. Each room has it's own washbasin and adjoining rooms share a head and shower.

The medical facilities available on board are adequate under normal circumstances. The Hospitalman is qualified for independent duty and has the necessary equipment and supplies for routine treatment of common ailments and injuries. If treatment is determined to be beyond the scope authorised for administration by the onboard medical representative, civilian personnel and facilities are contracted for ashore. It is necessary, however, that you receive a chest X-RAY prior to departing your present duty station. If you require eyeglasses, you should insure that you have two pairs with you prior to reporting aboard. Eyeglasses can be obtained on an emergency basis, but even under these circumstances a two or three month delay is common. Routine vaccinations and immunizations are within the capabilities and facilities of the medical representative.

If you have questions concerning your new assignment not answered in this letter, feel free to write me at the following address:

Commanding Officer  
Oceanographic Unit TWO  
USNS DUTTON (T-AGS-22)  
FPO New York 09501