



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000

1640
Ser 841/081
16 APR 01

From: Commander, Navy Personnel Command
To: Distribution

Subj: POLICY ON BREASTFEEDING IN NAVY CONFINEMENT FACILITIES

Ref: (a) Right to Breastfeed Act, H. R. 4628
(b) SECNAVINST 1640.9B

1. Purpose. To provide policy and program guidance to ensure a woman's right to breastfeed her child in Navy confinement facilities during visitation.

2. Definition. Per Section 3 of reference (a), "federal property" means any building, land, or other real property owned, leased, or occupied by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States (including the Department of Defense), or any other instrumentality wholly owned by the United States.

3. Background

a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, reference (a) ensures a woman's right to breastfeed her child on any portion of federal property where the woman and her child are otherwise authorized to be.

b. Article 8301.14-15 of reference (b) provides visitation policy within Navy confinement facilities. Visitation between prisoners and their family is allowed to the greatest extent possible, consistent with maintaining good order and discipline within the confinement facility.

c. Within confinement facilities, visitation typically occurs within common areas. Circumstances unique to corrections suggest that public breastfeeding could be disruptive in the visitation area and may also contribute to post-visitiation disruptions among prisoners.

4. Policy. Navy confinement facilities shall make a separate area available for visitors who need to breastfeed their children. This area will not be in view of prisoners. Visitation contact with the prisoner will be interrupted during

Subj: POLICY ON BREASTFEEDING IN NAVY CONFINEMENT FACILITIES

the feeding time, but once completed the visit may continue. Arrangements for breastfeeding at the facility should be displayed along with other visitation rules.

5. This policy is applicable to all Navy brigs, pretrial confinement facilities, and detention facilities, where applicable. These procedures will be reflected in the next change to reference (b), until then, file a copy of this letter with reference (b) and ensure all personnel are aware of the contents.

6. My point of contact is Mr. Tim Purcell, DSN 882-4469 or (901) 874-4469.


W. E. PECK
By direction

Distribution:
Navy Brigs/CCUs
PCFs
CINCPACFLT (N4683)
CINCLANTFLT (N16)
CNET (OOJC)