

POINT PAPER

Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS FOR MARINES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Ref: (a) MCO P5800.16A
(b) DoD Directive 5500.7-R, Joint Ethics Regulation, of 30 Aug 93

Encl: (1) Draft Donor Letter

1. **General Rule:** Per reference (a), no gift will be accepted by the USMC or by a Marine if it has the potential to embarrass the USMC.
2. **General Considerations:** (a) What will the gifts be used for? (b) OCONUS/CONUS distribution? (c) Is the donor a prohibited source? (d) Can MCCS accept/distribute gifts in lieu of command?
3. **Solicitation of Gifts.** Not permitted unless SECNAV approves.
4. **Acceptance Authorities.** Per reference (a), unsolicited gifts of personal property to the Marine Corps may be accepted as follows:
 - a. SPCMCAs may accept gifts of a value not exceeding \$1500.00.
 - b. GOs in command (GCMCA), district directors, SJA to CMC, and Counsel for CMC may accept gifts of a value not exceeding \$10K.
 - c. CMC may accept gifts to the Marine Corps of a value less than \$50k. **Per reference (a), MCCS (HEADQUARTERS) has acceptance authority for gifts up to \$50K; this authority is currently reduced to \$10,000 pending SecNav delegation.**
 - d. Any commander may accept unsolicited gifts of **perishables or consumables, regardless of donor or value**, and subject to the "General Rule" above. No alcohol or tobacco products. Acceptance is subject to the condition that the items be consumed at one specific event; i.e., unit picnic, command event, or the like.
 - e. Gifts valued at or over \$50K shall be forwarded to CMC (JAR) for submission to the appropriate acceptance authority.
5. **Gifts from Prohibited Sources.** Process per reference (a).
6. **Procedure for Handling Gifts.**
 - a. Commander's shall refuse gifts that violate the "General Rule."
 - b. Commanders may take temporary possession of property while making acceptance determination or awaiting the determination of higher authority.
7. **Recommendations:** (a) Establish a local POC for gift acceptance. (b) Coordinate with local PAO and MCCS to develop an acceptance system/procedures tailored to the needs of the locale and educate public regarding gift giving procedures (what Marine Corps can and cannot accept, amount limits, etc.), to streamline process, coordinate donation deliveries, minimize impromptu gift deliveries. (c) Use the enclosure to memorialize the transaction.