

GENERAL ORDER 41.4.10

Consular & Diplomatic Relations

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Establishes procedures for contact with consular or diplomatic personnel from foreign nations.

DISCUSSION

By U.S. Treaty, consular officers of foreign nations are immune from arrest for criminal and traffic offenses unless ordered by a Federal magistrate. This immunity does not normally extend to members of consular officers' families or to employees of consular offices.

POLICY

I

Foreign consular personnel must have in their possession an identification card issued by the U.S. Department of State. The diplomat should also have documentation where in this country he is assigned and a telephone number of his assigned embassy.

II

When an officer contacts a foreign diplomat involved in a criminal offense, the officer shall immediately notify his supervisor, who in turn will notify a member of Command Staff. Verification shall then be made of the person's diplomatic status. The person shall not be detained any longer than is necessary to determine this person's involvement. On a serious offense, the local FBI will be notified for advice. All such contacts shall be documented.

III

When an officer contacts a foreign diplomat involved in a traffic offense, he shall verify the diplomatic status and take no further action. He shall notify his supervisor and document his actions.

IV

In no case shall a foreign diplomat be unnecessarily detained, and they shall at all times be afforded the respect and courtesy their position commands.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police