



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO  
MCO 5512.1A  
DG-2884-blr  
28 Jul 1956

MARINE CORPS ORDER 5512.1A

Subj: Issuance of DD Form 489, Noncombatants Certificate of Identity

1. Purpose. To promulgate the identification system established by the Department of Defense for the protection of civilian noncombatants who accompany the Armed Forces of the United States in regions of war and armed conflict.

2. Cancellation. Marine Corps Order 5512.1

3. Administrative Instructions for DD Form 489, Noncombatants Certificate of Identity.

a. Issue. DD Form 489, Noncombatants Certificate of Identity, will be issued in duplicate to civilian noncombatant personnel who are authorized to accompany military forces of the United States in regions of war and armed conflict where they are liable to capture and detention by the enemy as prisoners of war. DD Form 489 shall not be issued below Division (or equivalent) level, unless otherwise directed by competent authority.

b. Preparation. Table 1 below lists the classes of civilian non-combatants which may be authorized to accompany Marine Corps organizations into combat areas (column 1), and the level at which the Non-combatants Certificate of Identity will be issued to such personnel, when required (column 2). Table 2 lists the military-civilian grade relationships for prisoner of war identification purposes. When required to issue DD Form 489, the issuing activity will assign individuals to the appropriate assimilated Geneva Conventions Category, utilizing Table 2 as a basis for determining the correct category. The assimilated category determines the entry to be made in the "assimilated grade, rate, or rank" space on the reverse side of the DD Form 489. Except for accredited news media representatives, the entry in that space will

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indicate the range or level of military grades included in the assimilated category rather than a specific assimilated rank. For example:

Assimilated Grade, Rate or Rank	Military Service
WO through CAPT	

c. Protected Personnel. The staffs of National Red Cross Societies and those of other Volunteer Aid Societies, duly recognized and authorized by the United States, whose members are subject to military laws and regulations and who may be employed on duties as medical personnel are a category of "Protected Personnel" as established by the Geneva Conventions. DD Forms 489 issued to this category of "Protected Personnel" will be over stamped on the reverse side in red, permanent, waterproof-type ink, with a cross of dimensions not less than one and one-half inches and the word "MEDIC" clearly reproduced in the center. Care will be taken not to obscure the fingerprints.

d. Lamination. Whenever possible, the card will be laminated between two pieces of clear plastic or chemically impregnated to make it waterproof and durable.

e. Recovery. When the individual leaves the area in which he is subject to capture, the card will be recovered and destroyed.

4. Military-Civilian relationships for prisoner of war identification purposes. Relationships between military personnel and civilian non-combatants and other civilian personnel as stated in Tables 1 and 2 of this order, have been developed specifically to conform with the pattern for advances of pay to prisoners of war established by Article 60 of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, relative to the treatment of prisoners of war. It is not intended by these instructions to require use for any other purpose.

5. Use of the card. Both copies of the card will be kept together and carried by the person to whom issued. In the event of capture as a prisoner of war, one copy will be retained by that person so that he may identify himself at all times. The other copy will be available for surrendering to the capturing authorities.

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TABLE 1

Class of Civilian Noncombatant	DD Form 489 Issued by -	Geneva Conventions Category (Assimilated) Assignment Instructions
1	2	3
1. Experts, consultants, and other special categories of personnel directly employed by the Federal government.	Headquarters, MarCorps (or higher Headquarters)	Assign to an appropriate category based upon a salary or grade comparison with civilian employees listed in columns 3 and 4 of Table 2.
2. Non-appropriated fund employees and regular employees of service organizations (such as Young Men's Christian Associations, Salvation Army, etc.)	Headquarters, MarCorps (or higher Headquarters)	Assign to an appropriate category based upon a salary or grade comparison with civilian employees listed in columns 3 and 4 of Table 2.
3. Advisors, observers, contractors' representatives and employees, and similar categories of non-Federal personnel.	Headquarters, MarCorps (or higher Headquarters)	Assign to an appropriate category based upon the individual's standing in his profession or line of work and the difficulty and responsibility of the duties to be performed.
4. Professional entertainers	Department of Army	- - - -
5. Red Cross personnel	By the command which processes individual concerned for movement to a combat area.	Red Cross personnel will be placed in Category III
6. Accredited news media representatives	Headquarters, MarCorps (or higher Headquarters)	Assign the assimilated rank as set forth in joint regulations for "Correspondents Accompanying Armed Forces of the United States".
7. Aliens locally hired in foreign areas	Form to be issued at the level determined by the overseas area commander concerned.	Assign to appropriate categories as determined by overseas area commander.

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TABLE 2

TABLE OF MILITARY-CIVILIAN RELATIONSHIPS FOR  
PRISONER OF WAR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES

Geneva Convention Categories		Military Grades	Classification Act and Similar Categories of Personnel	Ungraded Employees of the Department of the Navy
1		2	3	4
V	General Officers or Prisoners of War of Equivalent Rank	0-7 and 0-8	GS-16 through GS-18 Public Law 313	
IV	Majors, LtCols, and Colonels or Prisoners of Equivalent Rank	0-4 through 0-6	GS-12 through GS-15	Masters, Foremen, Chief Quartermen, and Equivalentents
III	Warrant Officers and Commissioned Officers below the rank of Major or Prisoners of Equivalent Rank	0-1 through 0-3 W-1 through W-4	GS-7 through GS-11	Quartermen, Leadingmen, Planners and Estimators, Progressmen and other ungraded staff and supervisory personnel above the journeyman level.
II	Sergeants and other Noncommissioned Officers or Prisoners of Equivalent Rank	E-4 through E-7	GS-5 and GS-6	Journeyman and other Group III, and equivalentents.
I	Prisoners Ranking below Sergeants	E-1 through E-3	GS-1 through GS-4	Laborers, Helpers and Equivalentents

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6. Reserve Applicability. This order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL R. McC. PATE

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