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பாதுகாப்பு, நகர அபிவிருத்தி அமைச்சு, இல. 15/5, பாலதக்ஷ மாவத்தை, கொழும்பு 03, இலங்கை.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE & URBAN DEVELOPMENT, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka, ministry@defence.lk

දිනය } 18 September 2012  
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Date }

## TO ALL PRIVATE MARITIME SECURITY COMPANIES

### DEPLOYING OF A FLOATING ARMOURY FACILITY OFF GALLE- SRI LANKA

The Ministry of Defence and Urban Development has decided to deploy a Floating Armoury off Galle, South of Sri Lanka, in the International Waters with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Accordingly, the Land Based Naval Armouries at Galle and Colombo will cease to function. This decision has been arrived at taking into consideration the National security concerns. The responsibility of deploying this Floating Armoury has been entrusted with M/S Avant Garde Maritime Private Limited (AGMS).

Therefore, all weapons owned by the PMSC s should be cleared from the aforesaid Armouries before the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2012. Vessels entering Port of Colombo will retain weapons as bonded stores on board.

This Ministry will monitor all the activities pertaining to the Floating Armoury. The Sri Lanka Navy will provide afloat security for the Floating Armoury as well as security and supervision in relation to service boats during all weapon /Sea Marshal transfer operations. Controlling the Armoury on board the vessel and the overall administration will be handled by AGMS. The operations will be jointly handled by AGMS and Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Limited (RALL) which are legally incorporated under the laws of Sri Lanka.

The procedure applicable for the weapon transfer from the Sri Lanka Navy Armouries to the Floating Armoury will be handled and coordinated by RALL and AGMS under the supervision of Sri Lanka Navy. The procedure is annexed herewith.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) applicable for the transfer of Sea Marshals and weapons to Merchant Vessels and vice versa will be issued by AGMS on or before 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2012.

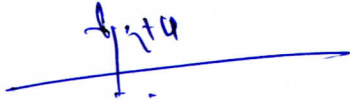
The Ministry of Defence and Urban Development will inform the Commander of the Navy to relieve the respective PMSCs from all the legal obligations and to obtain due payments as per their existing agreements.

The information required to obtain the Flag state approval for the weapons of PMSC s and the contents of the working agreement to be between the parties will be issued by AGMS.

Any further instructions in regard to administration and operation procedures of the Floating Armoury will be issued by this Ministry as and when required.

In order to give effect to this arrangement, you may contact the under mentioned officials at the OPS combine of RALL/AGMS located at BMICH, Colombo 7 and at No. 613, Bangalawa Junction Kotte Road, Kotte. Contact details are as follows.

Contact Numbers: - +94 11 4346796-8 (AGMS), +94 11 2673410 (RALL)  
Fax Number: - +94 11 2877671 (AGMS), +94 11 2676513 (RALL)  
Email: [agmaritime@sltnet.lk](mailto:agmaritime@sltnet.lk)  
Website: - [www.avantmaritime.com](http://www.avantmaritime.com)  
Air Vice Marshal P.B. Premachandra (SLAF Rtd.) Tel: 0771 088404  
Commodore Sudharman Silva (SLN Rtd.) Tel: 0777 118532  
Commander Nandana Diyabalanage (SLN Rtd.) Tel: 0772 083514



**D.M.S.D. Jayaratne**  
Additional Secretary (Police and Civil Security)  
For Secretary  
Ministry of Defence and Urban Development,  
Sri Lanka

**D. M. S. D. JAYARATNE**  
Additional Secretary (Police & Civil Security),  
Ministry of Defence & Urban Development  
Sri Lanka.

Copy: -

The Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy  
Director General of Sri Lanka Customs  
Director General of Merchant Shipping  
Chairman, Sri Lanka Ports Authority  
CEO, Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Limited  
Chairman, Avant Garde Maritime Services PVT LTD

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**Annex 'A'**

**TRANSFER PROCEDURE FOR WEAPONS OWNED BY PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANY TO FLOATING ARMOURY FROM LAND BASED ARMOURY AT GALLE**

1. Floating Armoury will be berthed at Port of Galle from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012, to facilitate transfer of weapons.
2. PMSC's are required to make all due payments to the last date of storage to Sri Lanka Navy as applicable, to obtain clearance for transfer of weapons and accessories.
3. Upon confirmation by the Sri Lanka Navy on above (2), this Ministry will authorize to carry out the weapon transfer.
4. Upon clearance of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, Agents are required to transfer PMSC weapons under the supervision of the Sri Lanka Navy to the vessel (Floating Armoury) berthed at Galle Harbour on or before 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
5. Agents are required to obtain necessary custom clearance prior transfer of weapons. If required, Agents may obtain assistance from RALL/AGMS.
6. Agents shall ensure that, under any circumstances during the transfer that, they are not authorized to unload/hand over any weapon or accessory to any person or Agent.
7. RALL/AGMS will carry out a detailed check onboard whilst taking over. Therefore, it is imperative that, Agents carry clear documents to prove the authenticity of weapons.
8. Upon aforesaid verification, RALL/AGMS will accept weapons and same will be stored onboard Floating Armoury.

  
**D.M.S.D. Jayaratne**

Additional Secretary (Police and Civil Security)  
For Secretary  
Ministry of Defence and Urban Development,  
Sri Lanka

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