

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
Customer Advisory
June 02, 2014
CA-14-06/02-0062

Subject: Impacts of Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr on CENTCOM AOR Cargo Shipments

Purpose: To inform the shipping community of the disruption of cargo movement expected to occur during Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr Holiday.

Be Advised:

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Ramadan, the Muslim Holy Month of Fasting, will tentatively begin at sundown on 28 June 2014 and end on 28 July 2014. The exact dates of Islamic holidays cannot be determined in advance, due to the nature of the Islamic lunar calendar. Estimates are based on expected visibility of the hilal (waxing crescent moon following a new moon) and may vary according to location.

Eid Al Fitr holiday, which marks the end of Ramadan, is celebrated for 3-4 days. The actual dates may vary in each country depending on the region. Movement of cargo will continue during Ramadan at a lower velocity and will stop during Eid due to Customs office and border closures in the CENTCOM AOR.

IMPACT ON CENTCOM AOR:

Pakistan (PAK GLOC)

Ramadan: Karachi ports, Customs at port and borders, and GOP offices will observe reduced office hours during Ramadan starting from 0800 to 1400. Port operations will continue during Ramadan as most of the movements take place at night from port.

Beginning 21 Jul 2014, truck drivers will start going to their native villages to celebrate the festival with their families so there will be a shortage of available trucks in the market causing dispatch delays from ports and base camps. Movement will partially resume on 04 August 2014 and normal operations should resume on 12 August 2014.

Dispatches from port will only be done if cargo can reach destination by 22 Jul 2014 as carriers are unable to hold cargo at BXPs if APPF escorts will not be available from the border to Kabul/Kandahar. Import cargo that is in-transit will be staged and secured at CHYs.

Eid Al Fitr: Customs offices will be closed for three days on/about 28 July 2014 through 30 July 2014 for Eid holiday. Port operations are closed only for one day on Eid day. Chaman border will likely be closed 28 July to 29 July 2014. Carriers and transporters normally stop movements from port at least one week prior to Eid as most of the drivers take leave for Eid holiday.

Customs office at Torkham is closed 3 days for Eid holiday. Eid being celebrated a day earlier in Afghanistan, at times would affect Pak Customs working and cutting off clearance a day earlier from the Pakistan side i.e., no transportation for 4 days.

Afghanistan

Ramadan: Official timing of operations at the borders will be reduced. Interaction points with the staff at Chaman and Torkham borders and Host Nation officials are expected to result in slower processing times and possible delay to deliveries or pickup timings.

Lifting from base camps will only be done if cargo will be able to reach NDN Ports (Hairatan or Sher Khan Bander) or cross PAK GLOC borders by 22 July 2014.

Afghan Ministries/ACD/BCP's working hours are from 0700 to 1300. U.S. Embassy working hours are 0800 to 1530 (local employed staff). Embassy Kabul/SDDC Customs' collection/delivery of paperwork to and from carrier representatives are 1000 and 1400.

Eid Al Fitr: Customs clearance and dispatch process of Import cargo will be on complete hold during the official Eid holiday. Cargo en-route will be staged at respective carrier holding yards (CHY) prior to the stoppage of cargo movement. All export cargo should depart from the hubs at least 12-15 days before Eid so that the trucks may cross the border and/or reach the CHY before Eid. Truck calls received during holidays will be processed after movement resumes completely.

Further, no trucks will take loads 8-10 days before Eid holiday due to the risk of being stuck on the Afghanistan side or at the border during Eid holiday. Multi-modal carriers will also hold dispatches of cargo from APOEs and camps. Movement from APOEs/camps is expected to start 6 days after Eid.

Bahrain

Ramadan: Port operations and Customs will work a reduced schedule from the normal 8 hours per day to 6 hours per day. General work slowdown is expected

during this period. Trucking will continue on a very slow phase provided the clearance has been completed prior to the holiday.

Eid Al Fitr: Port operations and Customs will be closed therefore, no Import/Export operations will occur during Eid.

Qatar

Ramadan: Reduced work hours will lead to slower processing of customs documentation/GHQ letters. Port terminal operations will work as usual but will stop from 1700–1900 for Iftar.

Eid Al Fitr: GHQ process will be slow in Customs. Carriers request the shipping community to apply for GHQ letter well in advance of Eid.

Saudi Arabia

Ramadan: Port terminals will work during Ramadan; however, productivity is expected to be low due to reduced operating schedules i.e., 6 hours per day. Vessel movements in and out of the port will not happen during dawn and at sunset.

Eid Al Fitr: Port and Customs will be closed on Eid. No clearance of cargo from port during Eid Holidays. Local Saudi Government offices declare official holiday commencing on the last week of Ramadan until 04 August 2014. Customs may operate on urgent matters only during this period.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Ramadan: Business in UAE ports will remain unaffected, but there will be delays in operations (i.e. customs documentation, inspection and any accessorial activities). There will be minimal delays on cargo movement.

Eid Al Fitr: Port operations will be closed on the first day of Eid. Customs Offices, EHS, CID and all other Government organizations will be closed during the holiday.

Oman

Ramadan: Increased time in obtaining CCR approvals due to shortened work hours. Clearances must be submitted as soon as cargo details are available to mitigate further delays.

Eid Al Fitr: Customs and port will be closed only on the first day of Eid.

Kuwait

Ramadan: Port operations will proceed as normal provided that the carriers have the approved AK-302 paperwork. The Customs/AK-302 process is expected to slow down due to Kuwait Customs working half days for the entire month of Ramadan.

Eid Al Fitr: Kuwait Customs responsible for approving AK-302s will be closed for the first 2 days of Eid however, the port will be open. AK-302s must be submitted 2 days before Eid in order to be processed. Delivery will commence once all required customs documents are obtained/cleared. Cargo en-route prior to Eid will move without any delays.

***NOTE:** Military cargo moving in/out of Shuaiba (PN4) will not be directly affected since there is no AK-302 requirement.

Iraq

Ramadan: In previous years, the times of actual working hours changed on a daily basis. Port operations will work reduced hours with minimal interruption on cargo delivery if cargo was customs cleared prior to Eid.

Eid Al Fitr: All operations in Port and Customs will stop during Eid. Import cargo that is undelivered prior to Eid will stay at the port. Pick up of export cargo will resume after Eid.

Jordan

Ramadan: No significant delays at the port. Local transporters will stop working on the last day of Ramadan.

Eid Al Fitr: There will be no work on the first 2 days of Eid but will resume normally the next day. Cargo that arrives on the last day of Ramadan or the first two days in Eid will be delayed for 3 days and will be staged at the port. No issue with the camp if containers are out-gated before the holiday.

Egypt

Ramadan: Customs office will have a reduced work schedule.

Eid Al Fitr: Customs/port terminals' Eid holiday is observed in the same manner as the other CENTCOM countries.

NORTHERN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK (NDN) OPERATIONS: Via Ports of Klaipeda/Riga/Poti/Tallin/Mersin through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan passing through Hairatan border into Afghanistan.

Ramadan: There will be limited or no significant delays during Ramadan however, Customs will have reduced operating hours. There will be duty officers at all rail facilities throughout Ramadan.

Eid Al Fitr: Anticipate office closure or delays only on the 1st day of Eid but this is subject to change depending on the different governments along the NDN. Afghan Customs is expected to be closed on Eid.

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