



Department of Defense

DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 1300.22E

May 25, 2011

USD(P&R)

SUBJECT: Mortuary Affairs Policy

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. This Directive:

a. Reissues DoD Directive (DoDD) 1300.22 (Reference (a)) to establish policy and assign responsibilities for the DoD Mortuary Affairs Program.

b. Designates the Secretary of the Army as the DoD Executive Agent (DoD EA) for Mortuary Affairs in accordance with DoDD 5101.1 (Reference (b)).

c. Establishes the Central Joint Mortuary Affairs Board (CJMAB) for coordinating mortuary affairs policy, procedures, mobilization planning, and recommendations on mortuary services during military operations.

d. Provides overarching policy guidance for Joint Publication (JP) 4-06 (Reference (c)), which establishes tactics, techniques, and procedures for mortuary affairs in joint operations.

2. APPLICABILITY. This Directive applies to OSD, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard at all times, including when it is a Service in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with that Department), the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components").

3. DEFINITIONS. See Glossary.

4. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. The remains of deceased DoD-affiliated or covered persons, consistent with applicable law and regulation, who die in military operations, training accidents, or other DoD related fatality incidents shall be recovered, identified, and returned to their families as expeditiously as possible while maintaining the dignity, respect, and care of the deceased as well as protecting the safety of the living. Mortuary services shall be provided on a non-reimbursable or reimbursable basis as prescribed by sections 1481–1490 of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.) (Reference (d)).

b. The transportation of fallen Service members and other DoD affiliated personnel is a very sensitive matter and the movement of their remains shall be handled with the reverence, care, priority, and dignity befitting them and the circumstances.

c. The remains of deceased Service members shall be continuously escorted by a uniformed member of appropriate grade and a special escort, if approved by the appropriate Service or DoD Component concerned, from the preparing mortuary to the funeral home or other location requested by the person authorized to direct disposition of human remains (PADD).

d. The preservation of remains shall be given the highest priority. Every effort shall be made to preserve the condition of remains, including those recovered from past conflicts.

e. If remains are contaminated with biological, chemical, or radioactive agents, all efforts shall be made to mitigate the contaminant and return them through routine mortuary channels. However, for remains that cannot be decontaminated to a safe transportation level, protecting the health of Service members and the public must take precedence over the rapid repatriation of remains.

(1) Temporary interment of those contaminated remains that still pose a threat to public health is the recommended method for disposition until safe handling procedures and materials can be identified. Temporary interment should only be considered after all other courses of action have been explored. Authority for temporary interment in a theater resides with the geographic Combatant Commander as outlined in Reference (c).

(2) Directed cremation is not considered an acceptable option.

f. Burial at sea, without the knowledge or consent of the family, may be authorized by the ship's captain only when preservation capability is unavailable aboard ship or when transfer to shore is not timely or is operationally inadvisable. The burying command will make every practical effort to document the burial in a dignified manner for presentation to family as expeditiously as possible. After the deceased member's remains have completed mortuary affairs processing at a land-based facility, disposition instructions obtained from the PADD may include burial at sea as an option for military funeral honors in accordance with individual Service regulations.

g. Mortuary support may be provided on a reimbursable basis for the recovery, identification, and disposition of remains and personal effects of all U.S. citizens who die outside of the United States, upon the request of the Department of State in accordance with section

1486 of Reference (d) and sections 5741, 5742, and 8134 of title 5, U.S.C. (Reference (e)) and section 2715 of title 22, U.S.C. (Reference (f)).


h. Mortuary support may be provided for the recovery, transportation, and disposition of civilian remains in the United States for Defense Support of Civilian Authorities missions when directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense in accordance with DoDD 3025.15 (Reference (g)).

i. The remains of combatant or non-combatant host nation or third country nationals will be given the same level of dignity and respect afforded U.S. personnel. Coordination for hand-over to the host nation will reside with the geographic Combatant Commander in conjunction with the Department of State through host nation embassy or the International Red Cross, as appropriate.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 2.

6. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. This Directive is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Directive is effective upon its publication to the DoD Issuances Website.



William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures

1. References
2. Responsibilities

Glossary

ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 1300.22, "Mortuary Affairs Policy," February 3, 2000 (hereby cancelled)
- (b) DoD Directive 5101.1, "DoD Executive Agent," September 3, 2002
- (c) Joint Publication 4-06, "Mortuary Affairs in Joint Operations," current edition
- (d) Sections 164(c), 1481–1490, and 1501 of title 10, United States Code
- (e) Sections 5741, 5742, and 8134 of title 5, United States Code
- (f) Section 2715 of title 22, United States Code
- (g) DoD Directive 3025.18, "Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)," December 29, 2010
- (h) DoD Instruction 2310.05, "Accounting for Missing Persons—Boards of Inquiry," January 31, 2000
- (i) Joint Publication 1-02, "Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms," current edition

ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD(P&R)). The USD(P&R) shall:

- a. Monitor compliance with this Directive.
- b. Provide a single focal point for the coordination of all matters related to the Mortuary Affairs Program.
- c. Develop DoD issuances to manage the Mortuary Affairs Program to include a DoD Instruction to codify the composition, duties, and responsibilities of the CJMAB.
- d. Develop, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)) through the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoners of War/Missing Personnel Affairs (DASD POW/MPA), those mortuary affairs policies and procedures necessary to support the USD(P) statutory mission of the recovery and identification of remains from past conflicts and military operations.
- e. Upon request from the Department of State for mortuary support for the disposition of remains and personal effects of U.S. citizens, coordinate any requested mortuary affairs support with the Department of State, to include cost reimbursement, where appropriate.
- f. Provide an O-6-level representative to serve on the CJMAB.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R) and through the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, shall:

- a. Serve as the DoD scientific authority for the identification of remains of DoD affiliated personnel in current deaths and of other deceased individuals for whom a death certificate has not been issued.
- b. Supervise and provide consultative and analytic deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) identification services to the DoD.
- c. Conduct or review medico-legal investigations, which may include autopsy examinations, of the deaths of active duty Service members or other DoD affiliated personnel.
- d. Serve on the CJMAB

3. USD(P). The USD(P) shall coordinate through the DASD POW/MPA with the USD(P&R) on the development of mortuary affairs policies and procedures to support the recovery and identification of remains from past conflicts and military operations.

4. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

a. Maintain an organizational capability to provide for mortuary affairs support of individual Service needs, to include recovery, storage, and transport to mortuary affairs facilities.

b. Provide the funding for the search, recovery, identification, preparation, and transportation of remains; travel and per diem for escorts; travel and per diem for family members to attend interment services, memorial services, and dignified transfers; and other related expenses prescribed by policy and statute.

c. Operate overseas mortuaries consistent with force demands and needs of the Military Services, ensuring that remains of DoD-affiliated personnel and eligible noncombatants are processed quickly and efficiently.

d. Appoint an O-6-level representative to serve on the CJMAB. The Secretary of the Navy may appoint one member from the Navy and one member from the Marine Corps.

5. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. The Secretary of the Army, in addition to the responsibilities in section 4 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Serve as the DoD EA for Mortuary Affairs consistent with the direction in Reference (b).

b. Maintain a force structure to perform the Mortuary Affairs theater level missions and provide backup support to other Services upon request. Theater level missions include operating mortuary evacuation points, personal effects depots, and the contaminated remains processing mission.

c. Maintain the records and charter of the CJMAB and appoint an O-6-level representative to serve as Chair.

6. SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE. The Secretary of the Air Force, in addition to the responsibilities in section 4 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Operate and maintain a port-of-entry mortuary within the continental United States (CONUS) and, as required, establish other CONUS port-of-entry mortuaries in support of all the Military Services.

b. Serve as the DoD Component with operational oversight of the Dignified Transfer Process and related Media Access Policy at Dover Air Force Base.

7. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

a. Provide any necessary mortuary affairs implementing guidance to the Combatant Commands in coordination with the CJMAB.

b. Provide an O-6-level representative to serve on the CJMAB.

8. COMMANDERS OF THE GEOGRAPHIC COMBATANT COMMANDS. The Commanders of the Geographic Combatant Commands shall give authoritative direction and guidance on providing mortuary affairs support to all assigned and attached forces within their areas of responsibility in accordance with section 164(c) of Reference (d), this Directive, and the guidance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

9. COMMANDER, UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (CDRUSTRANSCOM). The CDRUSTRANSCOM shall provide strategic airlift to requesting components to evacuate remains of deceased DoD affiliated personnel (or others as approved) to preparing mortuaries.

GLOSSARY

PART I. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
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| CDRUSTRANSCOM | Commander, U.S. Transportation Command |
| CJMAB | Central Joint Mortuary Affairs Board |
| CONUS | continental United States |
| DASD POW/MPA | Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoners of War/Missing Personnel Affairs |
| DoDD | Department of Defense Directive |
| DoD EA | Department of Defense Executive Agent |
| JP | Joint Publication |
| PADD | person authorized to direct disposition of human remains |
| U.S.C. | United States Code |
| USD(P&R) | Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness |
| USD(P) | Under Secretary of Defense for Policy |

PART II. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this Directive.

CJMAB. A functional coordinating group consisting of representatives from the USD(P&R), the Services, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner.

covered persons. Defined in DoD Instruction 2310.05 (Reference (h)).

DoD-affiliated personnel. Those personnel eligible for benefits under sections 1481 to 1490 of Reference (d).

mortuary affairs. Defined in JP 1-02 (Reference (i)).