



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE MORTUARY AFFAIRS OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJCOM/AIS MORTUARY AFFAIRS PROGRAM MANAGERS

SEP 23 2011

FROM: AFMAO/CC

SUBJECT: Revised Flag Case / Escort Procedures

1. The purpose of this message is to announce a change in procedures as it relates to preparation of flag cases for all authorized recipients and selection of escorts for eligible personnel.
2. As of 1 October 2011, Installations are not authorized to include any awards, decorations, nametags, or any other accoutrements in flag cases for eligible active duty personnel. Although no items will be placed in the flag case other than the folded interment flag, installation mortuary affairs offices should follow the same procurement procedures and inspect all flag cases received to ensure they are free from defect. This change is reflected across the DoD ensuring standard delivery of service and consistency among the services in support of their families.
3. In accordance with Title 10 U.S.C., §1482 *Expenses Incident to Death*, and DOD Directive 1300.22E, *Mortuary Affairs Policy*, only one uniformed member is authorized as an escort for eligible personnel. The person authorized to direct disposition of remains (PADD) may choose a uniformed member to act as the escort if available and cleared by the member's commander, otherwise a uniformed member will be appointed using prescribed procedures already in place. The PADD may no longer choose a civilian (to include retirees) to act as an escort for a fallen Airman.
4. Both of these changes have already been incorporated into the revision of Air Force Mortuary Affairs Policy, soon to be released as AFI 34-501, *Mortuary Affairs Program*.
5. Please ensure the widest dissemination to your installation mortuary affairs personnel. My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Dean, DSN 445-3982.

Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated and thank you for all that you do in support of this mission.


THOMAS C. JOYCE, Col, USAF
Commander

9/23