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FM DA WASHINGTON DC//DAPE-PRO-PCC//
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RUEAHOF/PERSCOM TELECOMMCEN ALEXANDRIA VA
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INFO RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC//DAMO-AOC-CAT//
BT

UNCLAS ALARACT 105/2002

SUBJ:UPDATE ON MORTUARY AFFAIRS AND DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

1. REFERENCES:

- A. ARMY REGULATION 638-2, CARE AND DISPOSITION OF REMAINS AND DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS, DATED 22 DECEMBER 2000.
 - B. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PAMPHLET 638-2, PROCEDURES FOR THE CARE AND DISPOSITION OF REMAINS AND DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS (PE), DATED 22 DECEMBER 2000.
 - C. JOINT PUBLICATION 4-06, JOINT TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES FOR MORTUARY AFFAIRS IN JOINT OPERATIONS DATED 28 AUGUST 1996.
2. MORTUARY AFFAIRS AND DISPOSITION OF PE OPERATION GUIDANCE UPDATE #2. THIS MESSAGE UPDATES THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN TAPCPEDD MESSAGE DTG 101333Z JAN 02. THE GUIDANCE IN THIS MESSAGE MUST BE PROVIDED

PAGE 02 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

TO ALL MACOM G1 AN G4 PERSONNEL, ALL DIVISIONAL/BRIGADE G1S/S1S, G4S/S4S, AND COMMANDERS OF UNITS (DOWN TO COMPANY LEVEL) DEPLOYED, OR SCHEDULED TO BE DEPLOYED, IN THE OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AREA OF OPERATIONS (AOR), TO INCLUDE REAR DETACHMENTS AT HOME STATION AND ALL CASUALTY AREA COMMANDS (CAC).

3. IN THE EVENT OF THEATER CASUALTIES, THIS MESSAGE EMPHASIZES, CLARIFIES, SUPPLEMENTS AND UPDATES ARMY MORTUARY AFFAIRS OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENT UNITS; DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (DA) CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES; AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CONTRACT PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO AN AOR. ADDITIONALLY, THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO COMMANDERS CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF PE OF DECEASED, MISSING (ALL CATEGORIES) SOLDIERS, DA CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO THE AOR. THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WILL BE APPLIED UNIFORMLY TO ALL CATEGORIES OF DECEASED PERSONNEL IN THE AOR.

4. ONLY KEY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE RECOVERY OF REMAINS AND PE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE CENTCOM MORTUARY AFFAIRS PLAN ARE PROVIDED IN THIS MESSAGE. REFERENCES 1A, 1B, AND 1C SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR DETAILED POLICY AND PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE. THE CENTCOM PLAN PROVIDES FOR THE EVACUATION OF SIX (6) OR LESS REMAINS TO

PAGE 03 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

LANDSTHUL, GERMANY FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION. MORE THAN SIX (6) REMAINS WILL BE EVACUATED TO DOVER, AIR FORCE BASE, DE FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

5. RECOVERY OF REMAINS.

A. COMMANDERS WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, AS THE TACTICAL SITUATION PERMITS, TO SEARCH FOR AND RECOVER REMAINS OF THEIR

SOLDIERS, DA CIVILIANS, AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL WHO DIE OUTSIDE OF MEDICAL CHANNELS. REFERENCES 1B AND 1C PROVIDE THAT COMPANY AND BATTALION COMMANDERS WILL EVACUATE REMAINS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE THEATER MORTUARY AFFAIRS COLLECTION POINT. PROCEDURES FOR THEATER MORTUARY AFFAIRS COLLECTION POINT TO SEARCH AND RECOVER REMAINS AND THE PROCEDURES USED BY THE THEATER MORTUARY AFFAIRS EVACUATION POINTS TO EVACUATE REMAINS FROM THE AOR ARE FOUND IN REFERENCE 1C.

B. THE RESPONSIBLE COMMANDER (AS DEFINED IN CHAPTER 8, REFERENCE 1A) WILL DISPATCH, AS SOON AS THE TACTICAL SITUATION PERMITS, APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT. RECOVERY AND REMOVAL OF MULTIPLE REMAINS AT THE SCENE OF AN INCIDENT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED CAREFULLY IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT/PRESERVE ALL POSSIBLE EVIDENCE/INFORMATION THAT CAN BE USED IN THE IDENTIFICATION

PAGE 04 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

PROCESS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY CRUCIAL IN CASES WHERE REMAINS HAVE BEEN DISASSOCIATED.

6. INCOMPLETE REMAINS AND PORTIONS OF REMAINS.

(A) MULTIPLE DEATH INCIDENTS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT CRASHES, DESTRUCTION OF CREW-SERVED WEAPONS AND VEHICLES CREATE SEVERELY TRAUMATIZED AND INCOMPLETE REMAINS. IN ADDITION TO THE INITIAL VIOLENT NATURE OF THE INCIDENT, ENSUING FIRE OR ADDITIONAL DESTRUCTIVE FORCES CAUSE FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE REMAINS. IT IS ARMY POLICY THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO RECOVER ALL PORTIONS OF REMAINS AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT. THIS WILL MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR ADDITIONAL PORTIONS BEING SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVERED FROM INCIDENT SITES AND THE RESULTING EMOTIONAL DISTRESS TO GRIEVING FAMILY MEMBERS.

(B) SITE CLEARANCE MEMORANDUMS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL INCIDENT SITES WHERE PARTIAL REMAINS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. THE CLEARANCE MEMORANDUM WILL INCLUDE THE INFORMATION FOUND IN PARAGRAPH 8-11, REFERENCE 1A.

(C) THE ARCENT MORTUARY OFFICER WILL SUBMIT TO COMMANDER, PERSCOM (ATTN: TAPC-PED-D), ALEXANDRIA, VA 22331, A REPORT DOCUMENTING THE COMPLETENESS OF THE RECOVERY EFFORTS OR EXPLAIN WHY RECOVERY OPERATIONS COULD NOT BE ATTEMPTED OR COMPLETED. THIS REPORT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN THE ONLY RECOVERED PORTIONS ARE NOT VITAL

PAGE 05 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

TO LIFE AND THE INDIVIDUAL (S) COULD HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT THE RECOVERED PORTIONS. THIS REPORT WILL BE CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER THE SOLDIER WILL RECEIVE A PRESUMPTIVE FINDING OF DEATH OR PLACED IN A MISSING STATUS.

7. IDENTIFICATION PROCESSING.

A. COLLECTION OF MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS OF ARMY PERSONNEL

(1) MACOMS MUST ADVISE MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS HOLDING FACILITIES THAT IN THE EVENT OF ARMY FATALITIES, MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF REMAINS. UPON RECEIPT OF AN INITIAL CASUALTY REPORT FOR A DECEASED OR MISSING SOLDIER (ALL CATEGORIES), UNITS HOLDING MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS SHOULD SCAN RECORDS AND EMAIL THEM TO ADDRESS BELOW IMMEDIATELY. IF UNABLE TO

SCAN, THEN RECORDS SHOULD BE SENT BY EXPRESS MAIL OR EXPRESS COURIER.

(A) WHEN IDENTIFICATION PROCESSING AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION WILL OCCUR AT THE LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, GE (6 OR LESS REMAINS) RECORDS WILL BE SENT TO:

EMAIL: ROUTH@HQ.21TSC.ARMY.MIL
ARMED FORCES REGIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER
U.S. HOSPITAL

PAGE 06 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS
GEB 3711

D-66849 LANDSTUHL-KIRCHBERG
TELEPHONE: 01149 6371 86 8292

(B) WHEN THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESSING AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION WILL OCCUR AT THE PORT OF ENTRY MORTUARY, DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DE (7 OR MORE REMAINS) THE RECORDS WILL BE SENT TO:

EMAIL: MALLAK@AFIP.OSD.MIL
U.S. ARMY LIAISON OFFICER
U.S.A.F. PORT MORTUARY
121 CARSON DRIVE
DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DE 19902-7121
TELEPHONE (302) 677-5381

B. PROCEDURES MUST BE IN PLACE TO MAKE MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS ACCESSIBLE ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. IMMEDIATE ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE RECORDS ARE ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED OR SHIPPED TO THE AFME WITHIN 24-HOURS OF RECEIPT OF THE INITIAL CASUALTY REPORT. DECEASED AND MISSING SOLDIERS' MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS, WHICH ARE MAINTAINED IN THE OPERATIONAL THEATER, MUST BE FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY THROUGH MORTUARY AFFAIRS CHANNELS TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS PROVIDED ABOVE. IF RECORDS ARE TRANSFERRED (E.G. DUE TO

PAGE 07 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

REASSIGNMENT), IT BECOMES CRUCIAL TO KNOW THEIR LOCATION. MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORD CUSTODIANS SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD RECORDS FROM DESTRUCTION.

C. DECEASED PERSONNEL MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BY EMPLOYING SCIENTIFIC MEANS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. MULTIPLE REMAINS WILL BE PROCESSED FOR IDENTIFICATION SIMULTANEOUSLY. COMMINGLED REMAINS WILL NOT BE SEPARATED ARBITRARILY.

D. PERSCOM IS THE ONLY AUTHORIZED AGENCY WHICH MAY RELEASE INFORMATION CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION OR SHIPMENT OF REMAINS. THIS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO NEWS MEDIA, OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR AGENCIES, UNTIL PERSCOM HAS APPROVED THE RELEASE THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS.

8. MEMORIALS OR DEPARTURE CEREMONIES IN AOR. SHIPMENT OF REMAINS FROM THE AOR TO THE PROCESSING MORTUARY WILL NOT BE DELAYED TO ACCOMMODATE CEREMONIES OR UNIT MEMORIAL SERVICES IN THE AOR. RETAINING THE REMAINS IN THE AOR FOR CEREMONIES DELAYS PRESERVATION OF THE REMAINS AND THEREBY ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE CONDITION OF THE REMAINS, WHICH MAY SEVERELY DISTRESS THE NEXT OF KIN. REMAINS THAT

MAY HAVE BEEN VIEWABLE IF NOT EXPEDITIOUSLY PROCESSED MAY BECOME NON-VIEWABLE.

PAGE 08 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

9. ESCORTS FOR DECEASED PERSONNEL.

A. COMMANDERS WILL NOT APPOINT AN ESCORT FROM AOR FORCES TO ACCOMPANY THE REMAINS OF DECEASED SOLDIERS OR DA CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES ABOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT. THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER IS THE ESCORT FOR ALL REMAINS ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT.

B. WHEN REMAINS ARE PROCESSED AT THE US ARMY MORTUARY AT LANDSTUHL, GE, THE ESCORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY EITHER:

- (1) THE REAR DETACHMENT OF THE DECEDENT S UNIT OR,
- (2) THE 21ST TAACOM, WHEN THE DECEDENT S UNIT REAR DETACHMENT IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE ESCORT.

C. WHEN REMAINS ARE PROCESSED AT USAF PORT ENTRY MORTUARY, DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DE, THE ESCORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY EITHER:

- (1) THE CONUS REAR DETACHMENT OF THE DECEDENT S UNIT OR,
- (2) THE CAC WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PLACE OF INTERMENT WHEN THE UNIT REAR DETACHMENT IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN ESCORT.

D. UNITS AND CACS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ESCORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF THE US ARMY ESCORT DETACHMENT AT THE PORT MORTUARY, DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DE. COMMANDER, PERSCOM (ATTN: TAPC-PED-D) WILL ADVISE ALL AFFECTED UNITS AND CACS IF AND WHEN THE US ARMY ESCORT DETACHMENT WILL BE ACTIVATED.

PAGE 09 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

E. AN EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY MAY BE APPROVED BY COMMANDER, PERSCOM (ATTN: TAPC-PED-D), ONLY WHEN THE PERSON AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINS (PADD; NORMALLY THE PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN), REQUESTS A SPECIAL ESCORT BY NAME. A SPECIAL ESCORT MUST BE A CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER (E.G. PARENT, SIBLING, CHILD, ETC.) OF THE DECEDENT OR THE PADD. THE SPECIAL ESCORT IS EXPECTED TO PERFORM ALL OF THE ASSIGNED ESCORT RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES. WHEN THE REQUESTED PERSON IS ASSIGNED TO THE AOR, THE COMMANDER, PERSCOM (ATTN: TAPC-PED-D) WILL NOT APPROVE THE SPECIAL ESCORT REQUEST WITHOUT FIRST RECEIVING THE CONSENT OF THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER.

10. PERSONAL EFFECTS.

A. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL GUIDANCE PERTAINS TO THE PE OF DECEASED, HOSPITALIZED (NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THEIR UNIT), AND MISSING (ALL CATEGORIES) PERSONS. MANY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO AN AOR HAVE PE LOCATED AT HOME STATION IN ADDITION TO PE IN THE AOR. THE PE IN BOTH LOCATIONS MUST BE PROPERLY PROCESSED AS PROVIDED BY REFERENCE

1B. SUMMARY COURT OFFICER (SCMO) WILL BE APPOINTED IN THE AOR FOR A DECEASED MISSING, CAPTURED OR INJURED SOLDIER NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THE UNIT. A SCMO WILL ALSO BE APPOINTED FOR A DECEASED OR MISSING ARMY CIVILIAN, ARMY CONTRACT EMPLOYEES (WHO IS SUBJECT TO

PAGE 10 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

MILITARY LAW) OR CIVILIAN (NOT SUBJECT TO MILITARY LAW) WHO DIES AT A PLACE UNDER MILITARY CONTROL. THIS INCLUDES COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF THE SUMMARY COURT OFFICER'S REPORT TO COMMANDER, PERSCOM (ATTN: TAPC-PED-D), 2461 EISENHOWER AVE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22331, REFERENCE 1A, CHAPTER 18.

B. PERSONAL EFFECTS (PE) RECOVERED ON THE REMAINS. THE PE RECOVERED ON REMAINS WILL BE EVACUATED WITH THE REMAINS THROUGH MORTUARY AFFAIRS CHANNELS. AT THE PROCESSING MORTUARY, THE PE ON THE REMAINS WILL BE SEPARATED FROM THE REMAINS AND TURNED OVER TO THE MORTUARY S PE SECTION. WHEN A CONUS PE DEPOT HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED, THE MORTUARY'S PE SECTION WILL INVENTORY THE PE AND FORWARD IT TO THE HOME STATION REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER FOR DISPOSITION BY THE ASSIGNED SCMO.

C. SENTIMENTAL PE IN THE AOR BUT NOT ON REMAINS.

(1) WHEN A SOLDIER DIES OR IS DECLARED MISSING (DUSTWUN) IN THE AOR, IT IS NECESSARY TO APPOINT A SCMO IN THE AOR TO INVENTORY AND SECURE THE PE FOUND IN THE UNIT CANTONMENT AREA. A SUMMARY COURT OFFICER IS NOT REQUIRED WHEN THE PERSON ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE EFFECTS (PERE) IS PRESENT AND IN POSSESSION OF THE SOLDIER'S PE IN THE CANTONMENT AREA (E.G. A MILITARY SPOUSE IN THE SAME UNIT).

PAGE 11 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

(2) PE IN THE AOR, BUT NOT ON THE REMAINS, WILL BE INVENTORIED AND SHIPPED TO THE SUMMARY COURT OFFICER APPOINTED BY THE HOME STATION VIA THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MANNER WHILE STILL MAINTAINING STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY. WHEN PRACTICAL, THE SCMO IN THE AOR MAY USE APO REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED MAIL TO SHIP THE EFFECTS TO THE HOME STATION SCMO OR DELIVER TO THE THEATER PE DEPOT (WHEN OPERATIONAL).

ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS ARE USED TO SHIP THE EFFECTS. THE SUMMARY COURT OFFICER AT THE HOME STATION WILL MAKE DISPOSITION OF THE PE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AR 638-2. ONCE A PE DEPOT IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN CONUS, THE AOR SUMMARY COURT OFFICER WILL SEND THE PE TO THE CONUS PE DEPOT FOR DISPOSITION.

D. PERSONAL EFFECTS AT HOME STATION WITHIN MILITARY CONTROL. THIS PE MUST BE COLLECTED, INVENTORIED AND PROCESSED BY THE HOMESTATION SCMO WHEN THE SOLDIER'S PE AT HOME STATION IS NOT ALREADY IN THE POSSESSION OF THE PERE (E.G. IN QUARTERS SHARED WITH SURVIVING SPOUSE). USING THE PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED IN REFERENCE 1B, THE HOME STATION SUMMARY COURT OFFICER WILL CONSOLIDATE THE PE FROM THE PREPARING MORTUARY, THE AOR, AND HOME STATION BEFORE SHIPPING THE PE TO THE PERE.

E. THE COMMANDER, PERSCOM (ATTN: TAPC-PED-D) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

PAGE 12 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF SUMMARY COURT OFFICER ACTIONS IN THE AOR, PE DEPOT, AND AT THE HOME STATION. THE HOME STATION CAC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE PERSON'S NAME, RELATIONSHIP TO THE DECEASED OR MISSING PERSON, AND ADDRESS TO: THE PE DEPOT; THE AOR SUMMARY COURT OFFICER; AND THE COMMANDER, PERSCOM. DIRECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ALL PARTIES ON ROUTINE OPERATIONAL MATTERS IS

AUTHORIZED.

11. POC: COMMANDER, PERSCOM (ATTN: TAPC-PED-D) IS MR. HARRY CAMPBELL
AT DSN 221-5322/1882 OR COMMERCIAL (703) 325-5322/1882, EMAIL:
PEDDOPN@HOFFMAN.ARMY.MIL.

- DRAFTERS REMARKS

NONE

- COORDINATION RECORD

! DAC: NONE
! CLASSIFICATION: U
! DTG: 152247Z OCT02
! DATE: 10/16/02 09:15
! PRECEDENCE: P

PAGE 13 RUEADWD5989 UNCLAS

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