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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-1//
TO ALCOAST
XMT CNO WASHINGTON DC
COGARD LO AFLOATRAGRUMIDPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
COGARD MARITIME FORCE PROTECTION UNIT KINGS BAY GA
COMNAVSEASYSCOM WASHINGTON DC
DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC
DIRJIATF SOUTH
HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
JIATF WEST
NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER JOHNSTOWN PA
NATNAVMEDCEN BETHESDA MD
NAVAIRWARCENTRASYSDIV ORLANDO FL
NAVMEDCEN PORTSMOUTH VA
NAVPGSCOL MONTEREY CA
SWOSCOLCOM NEWPORT RI
USNA ANNAPOLIS MD
WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE WASHINGTON DC
BT
UNCLAS //N01770//
ALCOAST 016/11
COMDTNOTE 1770
SUBJ: MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS AND BURIAL AT SEA
A. SECTION 1491 OF TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE
B. SECTION 101 OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE
C. MILITARY FUNERAL SUPPORT, DODI 1300.15
D. SECTION 1482 OF TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE
E. PERSONNEL MANUAL, COMDTINST M1000.6(SERIES)
F. SECTION 229.1 OF TITLE 40, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR)

1. THIS ALCOAST UPDATES AND CLARIFIES COAST GUARD POLICY ON MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS (MFH) AND BURIAL AT SEA (BAS). THIS ALCOAST ALSO REPUBLISHES POLICY ON MFH FOR MERCHANT SEAMEN, THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE (PHS), AND THE NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA).

2. THE MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM IS AUTHORIZED UNDER REFS (A) THROUGH (C). WHEN REQUESTED BY THE NEXT OF KIN (NOK), THE COAST GUARD SHALL PROVIDE A FUNERAL HONORS DETAIL FOR THE FUNERAL OF A QUALIFIED COAST GUARD VETERAN. THE COAST GUARD WILL PROVIDE A DIGNIFIED CEREMONY THAT HONORS OUR PROFESSION AND RESPECTS OUR SHIPMATE. THE DETAIL SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST TWO REGULAR OR RESERVE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES (OF WHICH AT LEAST ONE MUST BE COAST GUARD). THE FUNERAL DETAIL MUST BE IN UNIFORM. THE CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLDING OF A UNITED STATES FLAG AND PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG TO THE FAMILY OF THE VETERAN, AND THE PLAYING OF TAPS. TAPS MAY BE PLAYED BY A BUGLER, SIMULATED USING AN ELECTRONIC BUGLE, OR PLAYED USING A RECORDING ON AUDIO EQUIPMENT. THE FUNERAL HONORS DETAIL WILL PROVIDE THE AUDIO EQUIPMENT IF ADEQUATE AUDIO EQUIPMENT IS NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE.

A. A QUALIFIED COAST GUARD VETERAN IS ANYONE WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE COAST GUARD, OR IN THE COAST GUARD RESERVE. NO MINIMUM PERIOD OF SERVICE IS DEFINED. THE VETERAN MUST HAVE BEEN:

(1) REGULAR (ACTIVE DUTY) OR RESERVE (TO INCLUDE ALL RESERVE STATUS) AT THE TIME OF DEATH, OR

(2) RETIRED (REGULAR RETIREMENT, TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT

DISABILITY RETIREMENT, OR ANY NON-REGULAR RETIRED STATUS FOR A RESERVIST), OR

(3) CADET AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY, PER SECTION (21) OF REF (B), OR

(4) DISCHARGED OR RELEASED WITH HONORABLE DISCHARGE, OR GENERAL DISCHARGE UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS. SEE SECTION 4.7 AND SECTION E2.11 OF REF (C) FOR DISCHARGES AND RELEASES THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR FUNERAL HONORS. WHILE THE DOCUMENTED CHARACTER OF SERVICE IS SIGNIFICANT, IN RARE CASES A QUALIFIED VETERAN MAY BECOME DISQUALIFIED BASED ON POST-SERVICE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. NOT ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IS DISQUALIFYING. DENIAL OF MFH UNDER THESE PROVISIONS IS DELEGATED TO COMMANDER, PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER.

B. A PHS OR NOAA VETERAN IS ENTITLED TO MFH. BY INTERSERVICE AGREEMENT THE COAST GUARD NORMALLY SUPPORTS MFH FOR PHS AND NOAA VETERANS, ALONG WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PHS OR NOAA.

C. WORLD WAR II MERCHANT SEAMEN WHO SERVED IN HARMS WAY ARE ENTITLED TO VETERAN STATUS, INCLUDING MFH. BECAUSE THEY SAILED UNDER NAVAL ORDERS DURING WWII, THE U.S. NAVY NORMALLY PROVIDES HONORS.

D. A REQUEST FOR HONORS MAY BE MADE BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF NOK, SUCH AS BY A FUNERAL DIRECTOR.

E. THE NORMAL UNIFORM FOR FUNERAL HONORS DETAILS IS SERVICE DRESS BLUE WITH COMBINATION CAPS.

F. OTHER MUSICAL TRIBUTE MAY BE PERFORMED IN ADDITION TO TAPS. FOR EXAMPLE, A BAGPIPE SALUTE MAY BE PROVIDED BY A MEMBER OF THE COAST GUARD PIPE BAND OR A PIPER FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION. ADDITIONAL INFO IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.USCGPIPEBAND.ORG.

G. FOR THE DEATH OF A VETERAN, RETIREE, OR OF A RESERVIST WHEN NOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY, THE FAMILY RECEIVES ONE FLAG. THE VA PROVIDES THE FLAG.

H. FOR THE DEATH OF A REGULAR MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY OR OF A RESERVIST WHILE IN A DUTY STATUS, THE COAST GUARD PROVIDES A FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE PERSON AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINS (PADD) AND TO EACH ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER, PER PARAGRAPHS (D) AND (E) OF REF (D). ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE PARENTS (INDIVIDUALLY IF THEY ARE NOT MARRIED), SURVIVING SPOUSE, AND EACH CHILD OF THE DECEASED GUARDIAN. ONLY ONE FLAG IS PRESENTED TO THE PADD EVEN IF THEY ARE ALSO AN ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER.

I. WHEN REASONABLY AVAILABLE THE GRADE OR RATING OF THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE HONORS DETAIL WILL BE THE SAME AS, OR HIGHER THAN, THAT OF THE DECEASED. IF A MEMBER OF THE SAME OR HIGHER GRADE OR RATING IS NOT AVAILABLE BY LOCAL TRAVEL, THE COORDINATOR MAY ASSIGN A SENIOR MEMBER WHOSE PARTICIPATION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE MANNERS OF OUR PROFESSION.

3. THE DECEDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER (DAO) IN THE FIELD MISSION SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, CURRENTLY AT EACH PERSONNEL SERVICES AND SUPPORT UNIT (PSSU), IS DESIGNATED AS THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS. THE DAO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MFH WITHIN THEIR GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. EACH AOR APPROXIMATES A TRADITIONAL COAST GUARD DISTRICT AND CONSISTS OF ENTIRE STATES, OR OF COUNTIES WITHIN A STATE. EACH AOR IS DESCRIBED AT WWW.MILITARYFUNERALHONORS.OSD.MIL.

A. REGIONAL COORDINATORS OF MFH SHALL SELECT UNITS AND DIRLAUTH TO PERFORM MFH AS NEEDED. NO UNIT IS EXEMPT. UNITS WILL BE SELECTED BASED ON EFFICIENT PROXIMITY TO THE LOCATION OF HONORS. IN SOME CASES THIS WILL CROSS DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. FOR UNITS THAT WOULD BE FREQUENTLY TASKED DUE TO LOCATION, SUCH AS A STATION CLOSE TO A NATIONAL CEMETERY, THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR HAS DISCRETION TO ROTATE

ASSIGNMENTS. BY ITS NATURE, TASKING FOR MFH WILL OFTEN HAVE LITTLE LEAD TIME, BUT PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE OF FUNERAL HONORS SHALL BE EXECUTED.

B. RECRUITERS AT OFFICES DISTANT FROM OTHER CG UNITS ARE OFTEN CALLED TO PERFORM FUNERAL HONORS. TO ENSURE AN APPROPRIATE BALANCE OF WORK AT SUCH SMALL OFFICES, ASSIGNMENT OF RECRUITERS TO ANY MFH DETAIL WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH THE COAST GUARD RECRUITING COMMAND (CGRC).

C. RESERVISTS NEAR A FUNERAL LOCATION MAY BE ASSIGNED.

D. REGIONAL COORDINATORS WILL REPORT ALL MFH ASSIGNMENTS IN THE DATABASE MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, INCLUDING MISSED ASSIGNMENTS. MISSED ASSIGNMENTS ARE REPORTED TO THE MFH DATABASE.

E. TRAVEL ORDERS WILL BE ISSUED, WHEN NEEDED, BY THE PARENT UNIT OF THE HONORS DETAIL. REGIONAL COORDINATORS MAY PROVIDE TRAVEL FUNDS FOR DETAILS TRAVELING BEYOND THE LOCAL AREA OF A UNIT.

4. MFH REGIONAL COORDINATORS ALSO COORDINATE THE BURIAL AT SEA PROGRAM. PER ARTICLE 11.B.17 OF REF (E), THE COAST GUARD WILL PROVIDE BURIAL AT SEA FOR CREMATED REMAINS (ASHES) OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, DEPENDENTS, AND CIVILIANS. MILITARY HONORS ARE PROVIDED WHEN APPROPRIATE. THE COAST GUARD WILL NOT NORMALLY PROVIDE BURIAL AT SEA FOR CASKETS WITH INTACT HUMAN REMAINS. BURIAL OF CREMATED REMAINS MAY BE PERFORMED BY BOATS, SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WHILE MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) REGULATIONS. SEE REF (F) FOR NAVIGATIONAL CONSTRAINTS AND MINIMAL EPA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. THE UNIT PERFORMING THE BURIAL AT SEA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPORT TO EPA.

5. THIS ALCOAST SUPERSEDES THE PROVISIONS OF REF (E), ARTICLE 11.B.16, AND WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO A SUBSEQUENT CHANGE TO REF (E). ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE REGARDING MFH IS CONTAINED IN REF (C) AND AT WWW.MILITARYFUNERALHONORS.OSD.MIL. REF (C), PROVIDES ADDITIONAL MFH GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. QUESTIONS AND INQUIRES FOR MFH SHOULD BE REFERRED TO YOUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS.

6. THE PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER POC FOR THE CASUALTY MATTERS PROGRAM IS LT TERRENCE WALSH IN THE FIELD SUPPORT BRANCH (PSC-PSD-FS) AT 202-493-1931.

7. RADM RONALD T. HEWITT, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, SENDS.

8. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.
BT
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