

**Army Regulation 600–8–1**

**Personnel—General**

# **Army Casualty Program**

**Headquarters  
Department of the Army  
Washington, DC  
30 April 2007**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

# ***SUMMARY of CHANGE***

AR 600-8-1

Army Casualty Program

This administrative revision, dated 30 April 2007--

- o Updates DA Form 1156 (Casualty Feeder Card) (fig 4-1).
- o Updates instructions for using DA Form 1156 (para 4-5).

This administrative revision dated 28 February 2007--

- o Add paragraph to update guidance on IG requirements for fatal accident presentations of friendly fire casualties (para 3-10g).
- o Updates administrative changes throughout the publication.
- o Corrects typographical errors throughout the publication.

This administrative revision dated 17 May 2006-

- o Changes fatal training briefs to fatal accident briefs (summary of change page).
- o Adds hostile death 15-6 investigation requirements (para 2-9h).
- o Adds hostile death 15-6 investigation requirements (para 2-9h).

This major revision dated 7 April 2006-

- o Changes the title to Army Casualty Program.
- o Incorporates a new format that more directly follows the course of casualty reporting, notification, and assistance as it actually occurs (throughout).
- o Replaces references to PERSCOM and AR-PERSCOM with Army Human Resources Command (AHRC) and Army Human Resources Command-St. Louis (AHRC-STL), respectively (throughout).
- o Consolidates DA Form 1155 (Witness Statement on Individual) and DA Form 1156 (Casualty Feeder Report) into the combined DA Form 1156 (Casualty Feeder Card) (paras 1-7 and 4-5).
- o Combines information concerning Reserve and National Guard casualty reporting and notification (para 3-1).
- o Updates reporting requirements for U.S. Army Reserve/Army National Guard Soldiers (para 3-1).
- o Adds reference to fatal training briefs (para 3-10).

- o Replaces message addresses for casualty reporting with e-mail addresses, along with references to Web site for up-to-date information on e-mail addresses (table 4-1).
- o Adds warrant officers to the pool of eligible casualty notification officer and casualty assistance officer personnel (para 6-3).
- o Clarifies the use of active duty Soldiers only for casualty notification officer and casualty assistance officer duties (para 6-3).
- o Adds sample Commander's Letter of Condolence (chap 8).
- o Clarifies U.S. Army Reserve Soldier coverage to include those Soldiers who overnight en route to drill or duty (para 9-2).
- o Establishes the importance of and explains DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data) (chap 11).
- o Lists the Casualty Assistance Center's responsibilities (app B).



Effective 15 May 2007


Personnel—General

Army Casualty Program

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

GEORGE W. CASEY, JR.  
*General, United States Army*  
*Chief of Staff*

Official:

  
JOYCE E. MORROW  
*Administrative Assistant to the*  
*Secretary of the Army*

**History.** This publication is an administrative revision. The portions affected by this administrative revision are listed in the summary of change.

**Summary.** This consolidated regulation prescribes policies and mandated tasks governing U.S. Army casualty operations, to include casualty reporting, casualty notification, and casualty assistance. It provides policy guidance and information to Soldiers who have been designated to perform the duties of a casualty notification officer or casualty assistance officer. Also, this regulation provides policies and information pertaining to casualty related documentation, specifically the DD Form

93 (Record of Emergency Data), Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, and other life insurance programs administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**Applicability.** This regulation applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve unless otherwise stated.

**Proponent and exception authority.** The proponent of this regulation is the Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1. The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions or waivers to this regulation that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. The proponent may delegate this approval authority, in writing, to a division chief within the proponent agency or its direct reporting unit or field operating agency, in the grade of colonel or the civilian equivalent. Activities may request a waiver to this regulation by providing justification that includes a full analysis of the expected benefits and must include formal review by the activity's senior legal officer. All waiver requests will be endorsed by the commander or senior leader of the requesting activity and forwarded through their higher headquarters

to the policy proponent. Refer to AR 25–30 for specific guidance.

**Army management control process.** This regulation does not contain management control provisions.

**Supplementation.** Supplementation of this regulation and establishment of command and local forms are prohibited without prior approval from HQDA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1, ATTN: DAPE–ZA, 300 Army Pentagon, 20310–0300.

**Suggested improvements.** Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Commander, U. S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC–PEZ, Alexandria, VA 22332–0400.

**Distribution.** This publication is available in electronic media only and is intended for command levels A, B, C, D, and E for the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

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\*This regulation supersedes AR 600–8–1, dated 28 February 2007.

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### Glossary



## Chapter 1 Introduction

### 1-1. Purpose

This regulation prescribes the policies and mandated operating tasks, responsibilities, and procedures for casualty operations functions of the military personnel system. The casualty operations functions include casualty reporting, notification, assistance, and fatal accident family brief program.

### 1-2. References

Required and related publications and prescribed and referenced forms are listed in appendix A.

### 1-3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

### 1-4. Overview

Casualty Assistance Centers (CACs) accomplish the administrative functions of the casualty operations, mortuary affairs, and line of duty programs, the key subcomponents of the Army Casualty Program. They account for, report, and document all casualties. The Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC), U.S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC-PEZ), has technical supervision over CACs worldwide. The major functions of the Army Casualty Program are described briefly as follows—

*a. Casualty reporting.* Casualty reporting is the source of information provided to the next of kin (NOK) concerning a casualty incident. It is of the utmost importance to provide that information accurately, promptly, and in as much detail as possible so that the NOK receive as full an accounting as possible of the casualty incident. Dispatch the initial report within 12 hours from the time of the incident to CMAOC.

*b. Casualty notification.* The casualty notification officer (CNO) notifies the NOK of an individual who has been reported as a casualty in a timely, professional, and dignified manner. The CNO will notify NOK within 4 hours of his/her assignment as CNO. The method of notification varies, depending upon the type of casualty and circumstances surrounding the incident. This regulation specifies duties of a person designated as a CNO for deceased, missing, or duty status—whereabouts unknown (DUSTWUN) Soldiers at chapter 5, section I, and for injured or ill Soldiers at chapter 5, section II. Notification is made in person by a uniformed Soldier for deceased, missing, or DUSTWUN Soldiers and telephonically for injured or ill Soldiers (chap 5). If there is a chance that the NOK may learn of the casualty by other than official sources, the chief, CMAOC (AHRC-PEZ) may approve notification by the quickest means, normally the telephone. In such an event, a Uniformed Services representative will render official condolences (for death cases) or official expressions of concern (for missing or DUSTWUN cases) in person. The CAC should make every effort to provide a chaplain to accompany the CNO. When a chaplain is not available, a second Soldier will accompany the CNO on the notification mission.

*c. Casualty assistance.* Casualty assistance is always provided to those receiving benefits and/or entitlements in death, missing, or DUSTWUN cases and to those NOK who have need for ongoing exchanges of information with the Department of the Army (DA), such as parents who are secondary next of kin (SNOK). The casualty assistance officer (CAO) provides these services. The main objectives of casualty assistance are—

- (1) Assist the NOK during the period immediately following a casualty.
- (2) Assist in settling claims and applying for and receipt of survivor benefits.
- (3) Assist in other personnel-related affairs.
- (4) Serve as the Army's liaison to pass information relating to the Soldier or the incident between the Army and the family.

*d. Casualty assistance officer length of service.* Casualty assistance varies greatly by case. Therefore, there are no time limits on providing assistance. The person assigned casualty assistance duties will remain in contact until all actions related to settling the decedent's personal affairs have been completed and all benefits and entitlements have been applied for and begin to flow. Document assistance in an after action report (AAR). The CAO and the family member must agree to the completion of all CAO responsibilities, and the CAC will verify this agreement. During contingency operations or for training-related casualties, the duties of a CAO may last 6 to 12 months or more.

*e. Mortuary affairs.* The Army's Mortuary Affairs Program provides for the care and disposition of remains and for the disposition of personal effects. This program is closely related to and dependent upon the Army Casualty Program (see AR 638-2 and DA Pam 638-2 for detailed information about the Mortuary Affairs Program).

*f. Line of duty determination.* The Army's Line of Duty Determination Program establishes a Soldier's or surviving family member's eligibility for disability payments and other benefits provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (see AR 600-8-4).

### 1-5. Principles of support

The Army will—

*a.* Operate the casualty reporting system in peacetime and wartime to ensure CACs expeditiously report all individuals who become casualties to Director, CMAOC (AHRC-PEZ).

*b.* Operate the CMAOC 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. The CMAOC will manage the flow of all casualty information.

*c.* Develop procedures to ensure timely notification to the primary next of kin (PNOK) for all reportable casualties, as well as to the SNOK, the person authorized to direct disposition (PADD), and other designated beneficiaries for all deceased, missing, or DUSTWUN personnel.

*d.* Provide casualty assistance to PNOK, PADD, parents who are SNOK, and other designated beneficiaries in the case of all individuals who are reported as deceased, missing, or DUSTWUN through the casualty network.

#### **1-6. Standards of service**

*a.* Casualty Assistance Centers will expeditiously record, report, and account for every casualty in peacetime and wartime.

*b.* Casualty Assistance Centers will have 24-hours a day, 7 days a week casualty operations capability.

*c.* A Uniformed Services representative will notify the individual's PNOK, SNOK, and other designated beneficiaries in person in the event of death, missing, or DUSTWUN cases.

*d.* A designated CAO will assist those receiving benefits and or entitlements.

*e.* Casualty notification will include information concerning the date, location, and detailed circumstances under which the casualty occurred.

*f.* Every level of command (CMD) will initiate a heads-up phone call to the next higher level, then pass casualty information to the responsible CAC, which will continually reconcile, verify, consolidate, and pass information to the CMAOC.

#### **1-7. Wartime reporting standards**

*a.* Units will report all casualties found on the battlefield (that is, American civilians, personnel of other Services, Allied forces, and Soldiers from other units). When the unit suspects that a death may have resulted from possible friendly fire, it will report this possibility immediately to the CAC on an initial (INIT) or supplemental (SUPP) casualty report.

*b.* Units will record casualties on DA Form 1156 (Casualty Feeder Card) and submit to battalion level without delay or as the battlefield situation permits.

*c.* Units will forward each DA Form 1156 to the appropriate Adjutant (S-1) without delay or as the battlefield situation permits.

*d.* The Adjutant will, upon receipt of a DA Form 1156, ensure accuracy and completeness of the casualty report and forward it to the appropriate level headquarters without delay or as the battlefield permits.

*e.* The theater CAC will immediately place a heads-up phone call to the Army Human Resources Command (AHRC) OC and then verify information and dispatch casualty reports to the OC as soon as possible.

*f.* Casualty liaison teams (CLTs) will be assigned where best suited to capture all casualties (field hospitals, mortuary collection points, and so forth).

*g.* Wartime notification and assistance standards will be the same as peacetime until such time as the number of casualties exceeds the one-on-one notification and assistance capabilities of the CAC, or until the Director, CMAOC modifies standards.

#### **1-8. Policies overview**

This regulation provides an operating source document to the field. As such, it is binding on all communities involved in Army casualty operations. Everyone providing information to the casualty system should be aware that all documentation, reports, board findings, or investigative reports may be requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). All materials pertaining to a casualty should be well documented and properly filed and/or stored for immediate retrieval upon request, in accordance with AR 25-400-2.

#### **1-9. Public release of casualty information**

Army Regulation 360-1, chapter 5, gives guidelines for public release of casualty information and precludes public release of casualty information until the Army notifies NOK. In cases where there is or may be news media or public interest, the CAC must advise the OC as well as the appropriate public affairs officer (PAO) concerned after completing notification.

#### **1-10. Requirements control exemption**

The reports, notifications, and verifications prescribed in this regulation are exempt from requirements control action under AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2b(5).

## **1-11. Casualty and mortuary affairs open allotment**

*a.* Operations and Maintenance, Army (OMA) fund is controlled by CMAOC, AHRC. This open allotment is established to provide funding for those expenses that are directly related to the casualty operations, disposition of remains, disposition of personal effects programs; travel in support of certain casualty and mortuary affairs requirements as authorized by AR 638-2, this regulation, and AR 600-34; and operational supplies and equipment during contingency and military operations. The open allotment is used only for those expenses that cannot be foreseen or programmed in advance. It is not intended to be used for normal or routine operating expenses.

*b.* The following expenses may be charged to the open allotment—

(1) Very seriously wounded, injured, or ill (VSI), seriously wounded, injured, or ill (SI), and not seriously injured, wounded, or ill (NSI) travel and per diem as prescribed in chapter 7.

(2) Casualty notification officer travel and per diem expenses when more than 3 hours one-way from the installation or place of residence for U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) and Army National Guard (ARNG) Soldiers.

(3) Reimbursement of CAO cell phone expenses.

(4) Casualty assistance officer travel and per diem expenses when more than 3 hours one-way from the installation or place of residence for USAR and ARNG Soldiers.

(5) Repatriation family travel for family members of Soldiers who are repatriated prisoners of war or recovered missing Soldiers (see chap 13).

(6) Gold star lapel pins (both types) presented to family members of deceased Soldiers in accordance with AR 600-8-22.

*c.* See AR 638-2 for detailed information concerning the casualty and mortuary affairs open allotment. Questions concerning the use of this allotment should be referred to Director, CMAOC.

## **Chapter 2 Responsibilities**

### **2-1. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1**

The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 (DCS, G-1) is the Army Staff proponent for the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Family SGLI (FSGLI) coverage, and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs. The DCS, G-1 will establish personnel policies relating to Army casualty operations.

### **2-2. The Chief, National Guard Bureau**

The Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) will—

*a.* Establish policies and procedures within the National Guard to support the Army Casualty Program, based upon this regulatory authority for all casualties.

*b.* Establish procedures within the ARNG to implement the Army Casualty Program for National Guard Soldiers who die while not in an active duty status to—

(1) Properly dispose of the Soldier's personnel records according to AR 600-8-104.

(2) Issue or have issued at State level, DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty) for all deceased Guardsmen except those identified in paragraph 3-1*b*, who are managed by DA CMAOC.

(3) Establish policies and procedures to ensure Soldiers are informed of their SGLI benefits.

(4) Establish procedures to ensure SGLI premiums are paid according to chapter 2, section III.

(5) Certify Soldier's eligibility in the SGLI and family member eligibility for FSGLI to the Office of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (OSGLI).

### **2-3. The Chief, Army Reserve**

The Chief, Army Reserve (CAR) will—

*a.* Establish policies and procedures within the Army Reserve to support the Army Casualty Program, based on this regulatory authority for all casualties.

*b.* Implement the Army Casualty Program within the Army Reserve to support Soldiers who die while not in an active duty status to—

(1) Properly dispose of the Soldier's personnel records according to AR 600-8-104.

(2) Issue or have issued by the commander (CDR), AHRC (AHRC-PAP-R), the DD Form 1300 for all deceased USAR Soldiers except those identified in paragraph 3-1*b*. Additionally, the CDR, AHRC (AHRC-PAP-R) will issue this form for all retired members, except those who die within 120 days of retirement and those identified in paragraph 3-1*b*.

(3) Establish policies and procedures to ensure Soldiers are informed of their SGLI benefits.

(4) Establish procedures to ensure OSGLI pays premiums according to chapter 12, section III.

(5) Certify Soldier's eligibility for SGLI and dependent eligibility to the OSGLI.

#### **2-4. Department of Veterans' Affairs**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will monitor all veteran and retirement insurance programs listed in this regulation.

#### **2-5. Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance**

The Director, OSGLI will oversee SGLI, FSGLI, and VGLI payments.

#### **2-6. U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command**

The CDR, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) will inform Director, CMAOC of initiation of all CID investigations involving a deceased Soldier and forward a copy of the completed report in redacted form to the CDR, AHRC (AHRC-PEZ). This regulation is not intended to provide the PNOK with information not otherwise releasable under 5 USC 552, 5 USC 552a, and the Act of 21 August 1996, Public Law 104-91, Health and Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) (Act of 21 August 1996, PL 104-91). When necessary, this copy can be redacted to limit confidential information.

#### **2-7. U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center**

The CDR, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center will inform Director, CMAOC of initiation of all accident investigations involving a deceased Soldier and forward a copy of the completed accident report in redacted form to Director, CMAOC. The release of information from accident investigation reports is limited (see AR 385-40, para 1-11 for additional information on the proper release of information from accident investigation reports).

#### **2-8. U.S. Army Human Resources Command**

The CDR, AHRC (AHRC-PEZ) will establish standards and mandatory operating tasks for Army casualty operations. Specifically the CDR, AHRC (AHRC-PEZ) will—

- a. Publish peacetime and wartime policies and procedures, and establish standards for the Army Casualty Program.
- b. Ensure accurate and timely casualty reporting.
- c. Ensure prompt, accurate, and professionally executed casualty notification.
- d. Administer the Army Casualty Assistance Program to include establishing minimum training and performance standard for CAOs.
- e. Designate CACs, in coordination with the Installation Management Agency (IMA), by geographical location.
- f. Provide technical support and guidance to CACs worldwide.
- g. Issue a DD Form 1300 on those categories of casualties identified in paragraphs 3-1a through 3-1n, except l.
- h. Posthumously promote Soldiers according to applicable promotion regulations, and issue a DA Form 3168 (Posthumous Promotion).
- i. Disseminate procedural guidance on the DVA laws concerning SGLI/FSGLI/VGLI/Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI).
- j. Certify eligibility for SGLI and FSGLI to the OSGLI for those persons listed in paragraphs 3-1a through 3-1n, except 3-1l.
- k. Prepare letters of condolence for the Secretary of Army (SA) and the Chief of Staff, Army (CSA) signatures for all military-related deaths.
- l. Manage the Fatal Training and Operational Accident Presentation Program in accordance with regulatory guidance (see AR 600-34, para 1-18 for the concept of collateral investigations of fatal training and/or operations accidents).

#### **2-9. Commanders of all major Army commands and major subordinate commands**

Commanders of major Army commands (MACOMs) and major subordinate commands (MSCs) will—

- a. Monitor and assist in the administration of the Army Casualty Program to ensure compliance with policies and mandatory tasks of this regulation.
- b. Ensure subordinate CDRs train basic casualty reporting procedures and standards, down to the individual Soldier.
- c. Ensure CDRs directing the deployment of a task force from whose area Army Soldiers are deployed, have trained personnel to perform the casualty reporting functions.
- d. Establish procedures to ensure Soldiers understand the purpose of the SGLI/FSGLI programs and the need to maintain a current certificate.
- e. Provide Soldiers the opportunity to apply for or decline SGLI/FSGLI.
- f. Monitor the records custodian to ensure that Soldiers prepare insurance election forms and certificates in accordance with chapter 12.
- g. Ensure their Soldiers keep their DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data) and SGLI election form up-to-date at all times.



*h.* Commanders of deployed forces will initiate AR 15–6 collateral investigations (formal or informal) for all hostile deaths.

## **2–10. The commandant, Adjutant General School**

The commandant, Adjutant General (AG) School will—

- a.* Appoint a casualty operations subject matter expert and doctrinal proponent.
- b.* Publish doctrinal literature for Army casualty reporting.
- c.* Serve as the branch proponent for the Army Casualty Program.
- d.* Develop doctrine and establish and conduct personnel training to support casualty operations, in coordination with Director, CMAOC, AHRC–PEZ.

## **2–11. Commanders of installations, overseas communities, and mobilization stations**

Only those installations or commands identified in appendix B are authorized to implement and operate the casualty program (casualty reporting, notification, and assistance). These installations or CMDs will be called CACs. Installation Management Agency CDRs and CDRs of overseas communities and mobilization (MOB) stations will—

- a.* Establish, resource, and operate a casualty operations program that accomplishes the requirements established by this regulation.
- b.* Upon mobilization, activation, or deactivation of installations, the Director, CMAOC, in coordination with the IMA, designate other installations or commands as CACs in support of contingency operations, as required.
- c.* Identify and train Soldiers and DA civilians from local CMD resources who may work as augmentee casualty clerks during a mass casualty incident.

## **2–12. Casualty Assistance Centers**

The CACs, as identified in appendix B (or as posted to the CMAOC Web site, <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/CMAOC/cmaoc.htm>), will—

- a.* Operate all aspects of the casualty program.
- b.* Maintain liaison with local veterans' hospitals regarding benefits for active duty service.
- c.* In fulfilling their responsibilities in casualty related matters, task both Active Army and Reserve Component (RC) commands within their geographical area of jurisdiction to provide support, which will include CNOs, CAOs, chaplains, unit escorts, summary court–martial officers, funeral honors details, and other funeral support.
- c.* Establish procedures within their geographical area of responsibility to designate and train individuals to perform casualty notification and casualty assistance duties in death, DUSTWUN, and missing cases prior to being assigned a notification or assistance mission.
- d.* Assist task force CDRs in all aspects of casualty reporting during a civil disturbance.
- e.* Develop and maintain a mass casualty operations plan (OPLAN) that identifies responsibilities in the event of a mass casualty situation within the CAC area of responsibility.
- f.* Establish and operate an installation and/or community casualty working group.
- g.* Establish procedures to issue travel orders to the NOK of Soldiers identified by proper medical authority as SI or VSI, or as otherwise determined eligible in accordance with chapter 5 of this regulation.
- h.* Establish procedures to maintain an accurate and current DD Form 93.
- i.* Assist task force CDRs in establishing a casualty reporting unit as an integral organizational element of the task force. The duties of this element will be—
  - (1) Institute effective procedures to ensure that the casualty information flows quickly and accurately from elements of the task force to the task force casualty reporting unit.
  - (2) Establish immediate communication with the CDR in whose area the task force is deployed, the CDR from whose area Active Army personnel are deployed, and the home unit CDR of the ARNG and USAR Soldier.

## **2–13. Battalion commanders**

Battalion CDRs or field designee will—

- a.* Ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information submitted on the DA Form 1156, which captures the essential information used in making NOK notification.
- b.* Review and approve all initial or supplemental deceased, missing, and DUSTWUN casualty feeder reports with particular focus on timely casualty reports, detailed circumstances, and, in the case of hostile casualties, on verification of the accuracy of the reported inflicting force.
- c.* Request an exception of this requirement to Director, CMAOC, if units cannot meet this requirement due to personnel shortages or unit structure limitations.
- d.* Be responsible, during hostilities, normally, for sending the letters of sympathy which provide detailed circumstances surrounding death.

## **2-14. Unit commanders**

- a.* Local Army CDRs in support of notification and assistance missions will—
  - (1) Have overall area responsibility for the Casualty Assistance Program.
  - (2) Appoint CNOs and CAOs.
  - (3) Release the CAO from all conflicting duties and requirements until the CAC reviews the CAO's AAR, confirms with the NOK that he or she is satisfied that all assistance matters have been properly completed, and releases the CAO back to his/her unit.
- b.* Commanders of deceased Soldiers will—
  - (1) When practical, contact the family of the deceased Soldier by telephone (or other electronic means) within 1 week of the death to offer their condolences and to relate to the family the full circumstances concerning the incident that resulted in the Soldier's death, consistent with AR 600-34, para 1-18*b*.
  - (2) When an investigation is still pending, inform the family of such and contact the family again as soon as the investigation is complete.
  - (3) When relating the circumstances to the family, be mindful of operational security. This should not greatly affect the information that the family needs to hear.

## **2-15. Casualty notification officer team**

The CNO team represents the SA. Casualty notification may create in the NOK any number of possible emotional responses. Compassion and sensitivity to their loss will reflect the Army's concern for its personnel and their families. The CNO team will—

- a.* Be courteous, helpful, and compassionate toward the NOK while performing this sensitive mission.
- b.* Be trained and certified to perform this sensitive mission prior to conducting an actual CNO assignment.

## **2-16. Casualty assistance officer**

The CAO represents the SA. The CAO's role is dependent upon the needs of the assigned beneficiary or family member. Refer to chapter 6 for specific guidance. The CAO will—

- a.* Be courteous, helpful, and compassionate toward the NOK while performing this sensitive mission.
- b.* Be trained and certified to perform this sensitive mission prior to conducting an actual CAO assignment.
- c.* Assist and counsel the PNOK or other designated beneficiary on all matters pertaining to the deceased.

# **Chapter 3 Casualty Reporting**

## **Section I Personnel Requiring a Casualty Report**

### **3-1. Categories of reportable casualties**

A casualty report is required when any of the personnel listed in the categories below becomes a casualty.

- a.* All Army members on active duty. The term "active duty" includes RC members in an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) status, Reserve and National Guard members mobilized under 10 USC, and RC Soldiers serving in a "sanctuary" status or recalled retired Soldiers.
- b.* U.S. Army Reserve and ARNG Soldiers who die while en route to or from, or while participating in, any of the following authorized training activities—
  - (1) Annual training (AT).
  - (2) Active duty for training (ADT).
  - (3) Full-time National Guard duty (FTNGD).
  - (4) Temporary tour of active duty (TTAD).
  - (5) Initial active duty training (IADT).
  - (6) Scheduled inactive duty training (IDT).
  - (7) Active duty for special work (ADSW).
  - (8) Special active duty for training (SADT).
- c.* Soldiers who die while en route to or from or at a place for final acceptance for entry on active duty (AD) with the Army. This includes personnel in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) en route to or from Recruiting Command approved activities.
- d.* Cadets and students enrolled in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) performing authorized training or travel (5 USC 8140 or 36 USC 2110).
- e.* United States Military Academy (USMA) cadets.

- f. Soldiers in an absent without leave (AWOL) status.
- g. Soldiers in a deserter status.
- h. Members of other Services (para 3–6).
- i. Retired general officers of the Army.
- j. Retired Soldiers who held the office of Sergeant Major of the Army.
- k. Medal of Honor recipients.
- l. Retired Soldiers with 100 percent disability who die within 1 year of separation from the Army (RETIRED—Temporary Disability Retired List/Permanent Disability Retired List (TDRL/PDRL) 100 percent).
- m. Retired, separated, or discharged Soldiers who die within 120 days of separation from the Army. This Includes Soldiers with disability of less than 100 percent (released from active duty (REFRAD 120)).
- n. All other retirees, including those covered in accordance with 10 USC 1331 (grey area retirees—retired but not yet receiving retirement pay).
- o. Retirees who die after being continuously hospitalized, including hospice care facilities and veterans’ treatment facilities, since the date of retirement or separation from service.
- p. Department of the Army employees paid from appropriated funds who die during travel status or temporary duty (TDY) within the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- q. Department of the Army employees paid from appropriated funds while assigned, deployed, or TDY outside the continental United States (OCONUS).
- r. Family members of DA employees paid from appropriated funds residing with the employee stationed outside of the 50 states and the District of Columbia or while in transit to or from the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- s. Other U.S. civilians who become a casualty OCONUS and are—
  - (1) Non–appropriated fund employees of the DA.
  - (2) Contract field technicians or other contract employees working in support of the Armed Forces of the United States or other U.S. Government agencies in a deployed theater of operations.
  - (3) Visiting dignitaries.
  - (4) Representatives of DA–sponsored organizations (such as the American Red Cross, the United Services Organization (USO), and banking facilities).
  - (5) U.S. citizens for whom local State Department officials have requested the overseas CMD assume casualty reporting responsibilities.
  - (6) Contract representatives of the DVA and the Department of Labor.
  - (7) Reporters who are embedded with deployed U.S. armed forces.
  - (8) Any other category of interest so designated by the SA or CSA as reportable.
- t. All family members of active duty personnel. Family members are those who are entitled to military identification (ID) cards or are claimed as dependents on the Soldier’s tax returns.
- u. Allied government personnel who die in continental United States (CONUS).
- v. Foreign military trainees who die in CONUS.
- w. Family members of retired personnel who die in a medical treatment facility (MTF) within the United States (does not include Alaska or Hawaii).

### **3–2. Reporting Army general officers, Sergeants Major of the Army, and Medal of Honor recipients**

- a. Casualty reports on personnel in the categories below will have additional information (3–2 c, below) included in item 61 (Remarks) of the casualty report. The Director, CMAOC will provide this information to HQDA (DACS–DSP) Protocol Office for release of an Army–wide message announcing the death of these personnel—
  - (1) Any general officer in active or retired status.
  - (2) Any past or present Sergeant Major of the Army.
  - (3) Any Medal of Honor recipient if the family requests a CAO.
- b. Upon death of an active or retired 4–star general officer, if the family requests a CAS, appoint an active duty general officer as the CAO. Director, CMAOC may grant exceptions to this policy, only when it is clearly not feasible to appoint an active duty general officer.
- c. Additional information required is as follows—
  - (1) Date, time, and location of the funeral.
  - (2) Date, time, and location of interment.
  - (3) The desires of the PNOK concerning expressions of sympathy, contributions, or memorials.
  - (4) The HQDA (DACS) statement in an Army–wide message that the NOK does or does not consent to the release of the preceding information announcing the death of the Soldier concerned.
- d. Do not delay the INIT report if this information is not immediately available. Submit a SUPP report as soon as this information is available.

### **3-3. Reporting persons away from their station of assignment**

When a person becomes a casualty while away from his or her permanent station (such as on leave), the CAC in whose area the casualty occurs will submit a casualty report. Since the CAC may not be able to supply all the required items of information, the following instructions apply—

- a.* Submit an INIT casualty report containing the items of information available to the—
  - (1) Normal addressees.
  - (2) Casualty Assistance Center responsible for the area in which the person's permanent station is located.
  - (3) Commander of the individual's permanent station.
- b.* Upon receipt of the casualty report, the CAC responsible for the area in which the individual's permanent station is located will obtain personal data from the Soldier's records. The CAC will then submit that data, in the form of a SUPP report, to the original addressees and to the CAC that submitted the INIT casualty report. Normal CAC responsibilities are then in effect.

### **3-4. Reporting deaths of civilians residing overseas**

- a.* Director, CMAOC will coordinate with American Embassy or consulate officials to provide casualty notification or assistance for—
  - (1) Individuals listed in paragraph 3-1*l* through 3-1*r*.
  - (2) Their family members.
  - (3) Family members of active duty personnel.
- b.* When the NOK are not in reasonable distance to a CAC, CMAOC may request the Embassy or consulate personnel to make notification and provide assistance as needed.
- c.* If death occurs in a designated contingency operational area, the contingency CAC will report the death and coordinate with Embassy personnel as necessary.
- d.* After the initial report, should the deceased civilian be found to be a retired Soldier or current RC member, the servicing CAC for disposition will prepare a supplemental report and forward to CMAOC and appropriate Service headquarters of the deceased.

### **3-5. Reporting U.S. Army members attached to another Service**

Do not apply the reporting requirements of this regulation to Army members who become casualties while attached to another Service. That Service, under its regulations will report those members to Army Casualty (AHRC-PEC).

### **3-6. Reporting members of other Services**

When a person from another Service becomes a casualty and the sponsoring Service is not in the immediate area, the CMD that would submit a report for Army personnel will handle the initial reporting. The format for these reports is the same as when reporting Army personnel. The CAC will address the reports to Director, CMAOC, so it can coordinate with the responsible Service.

### **3-7. Joint Service casualty message**

When casualties occur in a situation involving personnel of more than 1 Service, each Service component will generate an initial casualty message for its casualties. If other Service casualty reporting elements are not present, the Service responsible for the area of incident will prepare reports for all casualties. The Joint operational CDR will ensure consistency and accuracy of all information reported by each Service component.

### **3-8. Reporting enemy prisoners of war and civilian internees in U.S. Army custody**

- a.* In the case of enemy prisoners of war (EPW), the camp CDR, hospital CDR, or other officers charged with the custody of the EPW will report in accordance with AR 190-8.
- b.* When a civilian internee in U.S. Army custody dies or becomes seriously ill because of injury or disease, the camp or hospital CDR will report in accordance with AR 190-8.

## **Section II**

### **Casualty Reporting—Special Circumstances**

#### **3-9. Casualty reporting during hostilities**

- a.* Commanders will prepare and periodically review, both prior to deployment and thereafter as battlefield conditions permit, procedures for casualty reporting and casualty operations to determine how effective and responsive these procedures will be during hostilities. Plans for a casualty reporting system during hostilities must include and provide for—

- (1) A method of collecting casualty data within the area of operation. The method will include using DA Form 1156 and the Defense Casualty Information Processing System-Forward (DCIPS-FWD).
- (2) A means of verifying the casualty status of a person by comparing casualty information with military or civilian

personnel records. Such records include DD Form 93, strength reports, military police and straggler reports, prisoner of war (PW) reports, MTF admission and disposition reports, graves registration and mortuary interment reports, and intelligence information reports.

(3) A means of verifying the accuracy of all information reported on initial and supplemental casualty feeder reports.

(4) Preparation of letters of sympathy, condolence, and concern.

*b.* Commanders at brigade and higher level of CACs preparing to support a mass casualty incident should develop a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between each mortuary affairs collection point (MACP) and MTF within the CAC's or unit's area of responsibility to allow for CLT involvement in the administration and processing of casualties evacuated from an area of military operations or mass casualty incident site. This action will support DA casualty operations requirements. Commanders at brigade and higher level or CACs preparing to support a mass casualty incident should prepare and periodically review procedures to ensure—

- (1) An effective mass casualty reporting system.
- (2) Maintenance of a master casualty file.
- (3) Maintenance of statistical data on casualties.
- (4) Preparation of letters of sympathy, condolence, and concern.
- (5) Timely determination of line of duty status for all casualties.
- (6) Disposition of personnel records.
- (7) Provision of cutoff and disposition instructions for casualty files.

### **3-10. Reporting suspected friendly fire casualties**

Reporting units must report all suspected friendly fire incidents to the CMAOC as soon as evidence leads personnel on the ground to believe that enemy fire might not have caused a casualty incident during hostilities. Suspected friendly fire incidents will require—

*a.* Immediate telephonic heads up to the CMAOC.

*b.* An INIT or SUPP casualty report with detailed circumstances in item 39. Indicate either “Amigo” (Allied Forces), “Buddy” (U.S. Forces), or “UNK” (Unknown) in item 40 on the casualty report. If a casualty results from suspected friendly fire, but is unconfirmed, the casualty report will state “Unknown.” In the event the suspected friendly fire is discovered after submitting the INIT casualty report or feeder report, the reporting unit must immediately submit a SUPP casualty report to the CMAOC to update or correct the information provided in the INIT report.

*c.* Notification of incident through CMD channels to combatant CDR.

*d.* Notification of incident to CONUS Replacement Center (CRC).

*e.* Initiation of an AR 15-6. The CDR having general courts-martial jurisdiction over the unit to which the casualty was assigned (or a higher authority designated by the combatant CDR or intermediate CDR authorized to make such designation) will appoint an officer or a board of officers under AR 15-6 to inquire into the suspected friendly fire incident. If a board is appointed, the board will consist of not less than 3 commissioned officers (field grade recommended). The investigating officer or board will conduct the inquiry in accordance with AR 15-6, and once approved by the combatant CDR, will submit proceedings, with the appropriate attachments, to the CMAOC on DA Form 1574 (Report of Proceedings by Investigating Officer/Board of Officers).

*f.* As soon as the inflicting force is determined by the AR 15-6 or other investigation, the reporting unit must submit a SUPP casualty report to AHRC (AHRC-PEZ), updating items 39 and 40, as well as provide a detailed explanation in item 61.

*g.* Make presentations to next of kin in accordance with AR 600-34, paragraph 4-1. Units will coordinate with CMAOC prior to giving presentations to the family. Detailed guidance concerning the coordination and execution of these presentations is contained in AR 600-34, chapter 4.

### **3-11. Casualty reporting during movement by military air or sea, to or from overseas commands**

Report casualties involving Army personnel occurring in the air, over water, or at sea, while traveling to or from an overseas CMD as directed by CMAOC.

### **3-12. Casualty reporting during field exercises**

*a. Actual casualty reports.* When conducting maneuvers or major exercises of division-size or larger units, the maneuver or exercise director or the designated Army representative will establish a central casualty reporting agency. This central agency will prepare and process reports for the responsible CAC on actual casualties incurred during the exercise. Report actual casualties on DA Form 1156 and forward to the nearest CAC.

*b. Simulated casualty reports.* Simulated casualty reporting during field exercises is essential as a training device that adds depth and realism to CMD exercises. Exercise special care and handling of such simulated reports to ensure that exercise messages remain within exercise channels and are always clearly marked, “FOR EXERCISE ONLY” at the top and bottom of the simulated report. Closely follow AR 25-11.

- c. Actual casualties will be reported on DA Form 1156 to be forwarded to the nearest CAC.

### **3-13. Casualty reporting during an attack on the continental United States**

In the event of an attack on the United States, its territories, or possessions, the scope of military support of civil authorities in each geographical area will depend on the commitment of military resources to military operations, the extent of damage sustained by the civilian communities and the status of the Active Army and RC forces. The DOD will be prepared to provide forces and capabilities in support of civil authorities in domestic attacks. Casualty Assistance Centers will prepare casualty reports as outlined in this regulation and be prepared to assist civil authorities if directed to do so. In the event of an emergency—

- a. Military personnel and their family members will be reported.
- b. The DOD civilians will be reported by CAC in conjunction with the Civilian Personnel Office (CPO).
- c. Other civilian persons will be the responsibility of civil authorities.
- d. Soldiers on TDY will be reported by the CAC where incident took place and notification will be coordinated by the home station CAC (HSCAC) where the Soldier's records are located (see DODD 3025.1).

## **Section III**

### **Special Interest Casualty Reporting**

#### **3-14. Special interest casualty matters**

The following casualty incidents have been designated as special interest casualty matters:

- a. Unique or bizarre circumstances resulting in a casualty that can be expected to generate media interest.
- b. Any casualty incident involving a person subject to special interest. Persons subject to special interest include—
  - (1) Active duty general officers and general officer designees.
  - (2) Retired general officers.
  - (3) Officers commanding battalions (BNs)/brigades (BDEs) or higher units of similar size and responsibility in hostile fire areas.
  - (4) Field grade officers in an advisory position in hostile fire areas.
  - (5) Former or present Sergeants Major of the Army.
  - (6) Any government official or public figure that becomes a casualty while under Army sponsorship.
  - (7) Returned prisoners of war (PW).
  - (8) Other persons who the Director, CMAOC identifies as subject to special interest.

#### **3-15. Reporting special interest casualty matters**

Immediately upon receipt of information concerning a special interest casualty matter, the responsible reporting CDR will relay all available information by the fastest possible method (normally telephone) to Director, CMAOC. This advance report (heads up) is designed primarily to alert casualty personnel of the casualty incident. Do not delay to complete the details. The CMAOC may apply special interest designation in the DCIPS database after receipt of the casualty report

- a. Prepare the initial report with minimum required data fields in accordance with chapter 4 within 12 hours of incident.
- b. Report all persons involved in a multiple casualty event regardless of their desire or severity of the illness, injury, or the wounds sustained.
- c. Prepare additional reports as necessary as soon as information is available.
- d. Follow procedures for notification and assistance as outlined in chapters 5 and 6.
- e. The Director, CMAOC may consider it appropriate to direct a notification be made to the NOK without regard to the normal hours of notification

## **Section IV**

### **Casualty Report Types and Submissions**

#### **3-16. Types of reports**

The casualty report is the source of information provided to the NOK concerning a casualty incident. The 4 types of casualty reports are—

- a. Initial (INIT) is the first report submitted for each person involved in a casualty incident, whether hostile or non-hostile, as designated in paragraph 3-1.
- b. Status change (STACH) reports casualty status change from any previously reported major casualty status to another.
- c. Supplemental (SUPP) reports any change or addition to any previous report immediately upon receipt.
- d. Prognosis or Progress (PROG) Report provides the initial prognosis and medical progress of hospitalized, injured,

or ill persons in an NSI, SI, or VSI casualty status in order to keep NOK not at bedside informed of the medical condition of casualties.

### **3-17. Submitting reports**

*a.* The INIT casualty report is submitted by the responsible CAC in the area of incident within 12 hours of the incident. During hostilities, the CLTs provide medical information for any casualty, regardless of Service affiliation, to the established casualty channels. Prepare the INIT in accordance with chapter 4.

*b.* The STACH report is submitted for any major status change.

- (1) Any status to deceased
- (2) Missing to returned to military control (RMC).
- (3) Duty status—whereabouts unknown to any other status.

*c.* The SUPP is submitted without delay as soon as information is available and verified. Specifically, submit a SUPP if friendly fire is suspected or whenever an investigation is initiated concerning a fatality. These changes may significantly change information necessary for the NOK.

*d.* The PROG report is submitted for injured, ill, and hospitalized personnel.

- (1) Not seriously wounded, injured, or ill if hospitalized, at a minimum of every 5 days.
- (2) Seriously wounded, injured, or ill and VSI every 24 hours until the status upgrade to NSI.
- (3) On arrival at any MTF recording the admitting diagnosis.
- (4) Final PROG is due upon discharge.

### **3-18. Reporting a person as deceased**

The Armed Forces Medical Examiner will make official positive identification by means of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) dental records, fingerprints, or other approved methods of identification

*a.* Report a person as deceased for the following situations—

- (1) When remains recovered are visually identified.
- (2) When remains have not been recovered but conclusive evidence of death exists.
- (3) When remains recovered are not or cannot be visually identified, include a ‘believed to be’ statement in Circumstances and “believed to be” notification will be conducted. This type of notification to the NOK will include an explanation as to why the remains are “believed to be” the deceased, based on—

- (a)* Witness.
- (b)* Manifest.
- (c)* No known suspected or possible survivors.

*b.* Keep NOK updated on any findings concerning identification.

### **3-19. Determination of date and time of death**

*a.* Date and time of death will be the official date and time the deceased was pronounced by medical personnel or as determined by the medical examiner.

*b.* Explain any discrepancy between date and time of incident and date and time of death in the circumstances. Example: Soldier dies at incident site and must be transported to a medical facility a distance away to be officially pronounced deceased by medical personnel. Explain the difference in date and time of death and the date and time of incident in circumstances.

*c.* When all available evidence cannot establish an actual date and time of death, select the latest date that death can reasonably be presumed to have occurred. For example, death occurred in a particular month but can not determine day, select the last day of that month as the date of death.

*d.* Soldiers on authorized leave and disappears, and an exact date of disappearance cannot be established, select the last day of authorized leave so the Soldier will not be considered AWOL if determined to have died.

*e.* The date of death for individuals determined to be brain dead by competent medical authorities will be the date the Soldier was removed from life support. Notification to the PNOK, however, will occur as in any other death. Medical personnel will not, under any circumstances, contact the PNOK until after they receive confirmation from the responsible CAC that notification to the PNOK is completed.

### **3-20. Reporting a person as wounded, injured, or ill**

*a.* To report a person as wounded, injured, or ill, medical authorities must properly classify the individual in 1 of the categories listed below. Medical facility CDRs will establish procedures for medical authorities to identify and report these patients promptly. The categories are—

- (1) VSI.
- (2) SI.
- (3) NSI.

*b.* During hostilities, report and track all hostile categories of wounded. Record whether the casualty was—

- (1) Treated and returned to duty.
- (2) Hospitalized and transferred out of theater.
- c. Report and track non-hostile injury or illness.
  - (1) SI and VSI are reportable
  - (2) NSI is reportable only if hospitalized.
- d. The CAC responsible for the area in which hospitalized will prepare the initial report and any PROGs required during hospitalization and upon final PROG on discharge or transfer.

## Chapter 4 Preparing and Sending Casualty Reports

### 4-1. Security classification

Generally, casualty matters are unclassified, but they are assigned the protective marking of **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO)** per AR 380-5. In cases other than missing status, remove these markings after notification to the NOK. A case concerning a person in a missing status will remain marked FOUO until the person is RMC or until his or her status is changed to deceased, or to any other status listed in table 4-4, message item 3a.

### 4-2. Dispatch of reports

a. Send casualty reports electronically, without delay, unless circumstances dictate otherwise. Table 4-1 contains the addresses of where to send casualty reports.

b. Electronically transmit casualty reports using DCIPS-FWD.

(1) The DCIPS-FWD is the casualty database subordinate reporting commands use to create casualty reports and transmit them forward through CMD channels to CMAOC.

(2) The DCIPS Headquarters (HQ) is a CMAOC-level database which receives the DCIPS-FWD reports. This is a much larger database enabling casualty personnel to manage all reported casualty cases.

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**Table 4-1**  
**Addresses for casualty reports**

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**Category of person:** All reportable persons

**Casualty Status:** Wounded, injured, or ill

**Action:** DA CASUALTY:

tapcpec@hoffman.army.mil

cocopns@hoffman.army.mil

Home station CAC, if different from reporting CAC (see note 2)

Supporting CACs (see note 10)

Other ACTION addressees required by reporting CMD

**Information:** (See note 1)

Combat Readiness Center cssc@safetycenter.army.mil

USARC: casualtyar@usar.army.mil (see note 9)

HRC-STL: (see note 6)

State Adjutant General (see note 3)

Other information addresses required by reporting CMD

---

**Category of person:** All reportable persons EXCEPT U.S. Army retired, separated, or discharged.

**Casualty Status:** Deceased, DUSTWUN, missing, or returned to military control.

**Action:** DA CASUALTY: tapcpec@hoffman.army.mil cocopns@hoffman.army.mil

DA MORTUARY: tapcpedd@hoffman.army.mil

THEATER MORTUARY: tapcpedd@hoffman.army.mil

Supporting CACs (see note 10)

Home station CAC, if different from reporting CAC (see note 2)

**Information:** (See note 1)

DFAS (Active): dfas-incasualty@dfas.mil

DFAS (Retired): casualty@dfas.mil (see note 8)

EREC: pcre-ft@erec.army.mil

Armed Forces Medical Examiner: afipcme@afip.osd.mil

Combat Readiness Center

USARC: casualtyar@usar.army.mil (see note 9)



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**Table 4-1**  
**Addresses for casualty reports—Continued**

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HRC-STL: (see note 6)  
HRC-STL: (see note 7)  
Other information addressees required by reporting CMD  
State Adjutant General (see note 3)  
Supporting CID (see note 4)

---

**Category of person:** AWOL and Deserters

**Casualty Status:** Deceased

**Action:** DA CASUALTY: tapcpec@hoffman.army.mil cocopns@hoffman.army.mil  
DA MORTUARY: tapcpedd@hoffman.army.mil  
THEATER MORTUARY: peddopn@hoffman.army.mil  
Supporting CACs (see note 10)  
Other ACTION addressees required by reporting CMD

**Information:** (See note 1)

DFAS (Active): dfas-incasualty@dfas.mil  
DFAS (Retired): casualty@dfas.mil (see note 8)  
State Adjutant General (see note 3)  
USARC: casualtyar@usar.army.mil (see note 9)  
HRC-STL: (see note 7)  
Other information addressees required by reporting CMD

---

**Category of person:** Retired general officers and retired enlisted persons that have held position of Sergeant Major of the Army.

**Casualty Status:** Deceased

**Action:** DA CASUALTY: tapcpec@hoffman.army.mil cocopns@hoffman.army.mil  
DA MORTUARY: tapcpedd@hoffman.army.mil  
Supporting CACs (see note 10)  
DFAS (Retired): casualty@dfas.mil

**Information:** (See note 1)

DACS (GOMO): gomo@us.army.mil (see note 5)  
State Adjutant General (see note 3)  
USARC: casualtyar@usar.army.mil (see note 9)  
HRC-STL: (see note 7)  
Other information addressees required by reporting CMD

---

**Category of person:** Retired, separated, or discharged person who dies within 120 days. Report those persons retired with 100 percent disability (TDRL) up to 1 year after retirement.

**Casualty Status:** Deceased

**Action:** DA CASUALTY: tapcpec@hoffman.army.mil cocopns@hoffman.army.mil  
DA MORTUARY: tapcpedd@hoffman.army.mil  
Supporting CACs (see note 10)  
DFAS (Retired): casualty@dfas.mil

**Information:** (See note 1)

State Adjutant General (see note 3)  
USARC: casualtyar@usar.army.mil (see note 9)  
HRC-STL: (see note 7)  
HRC-STL: (see note 6)  
Other information addressees required by reporting CMD

---

**Category of person:** All other retired persons (includes persons on TDRL)

**Casualty Status:** Deceased

**Action:** DA CASUALTY: tapcpec@hoffman.army.mil cocopns@hoffman.army.mil  
DA MORTUARY: tapcpedd@hoffman.army.mil  
Supporting CACs (see note 10)  
DFAS (Retired): casualty@dfas.mil

**Information:** (See note 1)

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**Table 4-1**  
**Addresses for casualty reports—Continued**

---

State Adjutant General (see note 3)  
USARC: casualtyar@usar.army.mil (see note 9)  
HRC-STL: (see note 7)  
HRC-STL: (see note 6)  
Other information addressees required by reporting CMD

---

**Category of person:** Family members of retired persons who die in a MTF within the United States.

**Casualty Status:** Deceased

**Action:** DA CASUALTY: tapcpec@hoffman.army.mil cocopns@hoffman.army.mil

DA MORTUARY: tapcpedd@hoffman.army.mil

---

**Information:** (See note 1) Other information addressees required by reporting CMD

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**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Information addressees will not accomplish any notification action solely on the basis of a casualty report.

<sup>2</sup> For individuals who become casualties while away from their permanent station, the CAC having jurisdiction over the unit of assignment will be an action addressee (para 2-4). This also includes those individuals who are mobilized and deployed in support of a contingency operation. The MOB CAC is the home station CAC.

<sup>3</sup> The State Adjutant General will be an information addressee on all casualty reports pertaining to ARNG personnel of the State.

<sup>4</sup> The supporting CID activity will be an information addressee on all casualties when medical authorities cannot determine that a non-combat death resulted from natural causes.

<sup>5</sup> To be included ONLY for general officer casualties.

<sup>6</sup> CDR, AHRC-STL, ATTN: AHRC-AR will be an information addressee for all USAR Soldiers on active duty in an AGR status.

<sup>7</sup> CDR, AHRC-STL, ATTN: AHRC-PA will be an information addressee for all USAR deceased personnel.

<sup>8</sup> Do not include DFAS as an information addressee on reports of civilians who die overseas.

<sup>9</sup> The United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) will be an information addressee on all casualty reports pertaining to USAR personnel.

<sup>10</sup> Any CAC, other than the home station CAC or reporting CAC, which provides support (that is, notification or interment location, and so forth.)

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### **4-3. Rules for preparing an initial casualty report**

- a. Prepare casualty reports using DCIPS-FWD for reportable casualties as described in paragraph 3-1.
- b. Report items of information in table 4-5.
- c. The CACs will electronically transmit casualty reports with, at minimum, addresses in table 4-1.
- d. Prepare theater casualty reports in the above manner, using information recorded on DA Form 1156 or similar CMAOC-authorized checklist.

*CASUALTY TYPE		CASUALTY FEEDER CARD		* Indicates required fields.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HOSTILE	<input type="checkbox"/> PENDING	For use of this form, see AR 600-8-1; the proponent agency is DCS, G-1.		<b>*PERSONNEL TYPE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-HOSTILE		<b>*SSN</b> 111-22-2333	<b>*RANK</b> SP4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> CIVILIAN
<b>*CASUALTY STATUS</b>		<b>*NAME</b> Jones, John J.		<b>*INCIDENT DATE/TIME</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> NSI	<input type="checkbox"/> DECEASED	<b>*SERVICE</b> U.S. Army		<b>*PLACE OF INCIDENT</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DUSTWUN	<b>UIC</b> wawa12		<b>GRID</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> VSI	<input type="checkbox"/> PENDING	<b>*UNIT</b>		<b>DEATH DATE/TIME</b> 1/1/07 0100	
DUSTWUN/MISSING LAST SEEN (DATE/TIME/PLACE)		<b>*INFLECTING FORCE (hostile)</b>		<b>PLACE OF DEATH</b> Bahgdad, Iraq	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENEMY <input type="checkbox"/> ALLY <input type="checkbox"/> US (buddy) <input type="checkbox"/> UNK		<b>PRONOUNCED BY</b>	
<b>IDENTIFYING MARKS (tatoos, scars)</b>		<b>REMAINS: VISUAL ID</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
		ID BY: _____			
		MEANS USED: _____			
<b>*CIRCUMSTANCES</b> While on patrol his vehicle detonated on IED					

DA FORM 1156, MAR 2007

REPLACES DA FORM 1156, MAR 2006. WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

APD V.1.00

BACK OF CARD		INTERCEPTOR BODY ARMOR (IBA)		HOSPITAL	
<b>VEHICLE GROUP/TYPE</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> PASGT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTV	_____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HMMWV	<input type="checkbox"/> STRYKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/> DIED IN	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> APC	<input type="checkbox"/> TRACK	<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> DIED OUTSIDE	
<input type="checkbox"/> ENG	<input type="checkbox"/> LAV	<input type="checkbox"/> THROAT	<input type="checkbox"/> GROIN	<b>INVESTIGATION INITIATED</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> MTV	<input type="checkbox"/> PLS	<input type="checkbox"/> YOKE/COLLAR	<input type="checkbox"/> DAP	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> PENDING
<input type="checkbox"/> ARTILLERY	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> SAPI		<b>TRAINING DUTY RELATED</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> HELICOPTER	_____	<b>HELMET</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ACH	<input type="checkbox"/> MICH	<b>DUTY STATUS</b> _____	
<b>UP-ARMORED</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PASGT	<input type="checkbox"/> CVC		
<input type="checkbox"/> YES		<input type="checkbox"/> SHELL	<input type="checkbox"/> NO SHELL		
<b>LEVEL</b>		<b>EYE PROTECTION</b>		<b>WEAPONS</b>	
<b>POSITION (aboard)</b>	passenger rt front	<input type="checkbox"/> SWD	<input type="checkbox"/> BLPS	<input type="checkbox"/> IED	<input type="checkbox"/> VBIED
<b>HOR (if known)</b>	Alexandria, VA	<input type="checkbox"/> OAKLEY	<input type="checkbox"/> WILEY	<input type="checkbox"/> SVBIED	<input type="checkbox"/> RPG <input type="checkbox"/> MORTAR
		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/> ESS	<input type="checkbox"/> SAF	<input type="checkbox"/> GRENADE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NONE		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
<b>SIGNATURE OF PREPARER</b> John Smith (signature)				<b>DATE (YYYYMMDD)</b> 20070101	
<b>APPROVED BY COMMANDER (Field Grade Officer-Required all Deaths/DUSTWUN/Missing)</b> Richard Smith (signature)				<b>DATE (YYYYMMDD)</b> 20070101	

DA FORM 1156, MAR 2007

APD V.1.00

Figure 4-1. DA Form 1156 (Casualty Feeder Card)

#### 4-4. Steps for preparing initial casualty reports

Table 4-2 shows the steps required for preparing an INIT casualty report for non-theater casualties.

Step	Work Center	Required Actions
1	UNIT/BNS1/MTFA/HOSP/ Provost Marshal Office (PMO)	Receive information concerning a casualty incident.
2	UNIT/BNS1/MTFA/HOSP/ PMO	Pass casualty information to CAC.
3	CAC	Verify facts of the incident; obtain personnel data from records or personnel database.
4	CAC	Telephonically inform CDR and CMOAC of the casualty incident. Provide names and SSNs of individuals involved in incident.
5	CMAOC/CAC/ HSCAC	Immediately transmit DD Form 93, SGLV Form 8285 (Request for Insurance), and SGLV Form 8286 (Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate) to CDR and CMAOC (AHRC-PEZ). Extract appropriate personnel information from personnel records to prepare INIT casualty report.
6	CAC	Prepare casualty report, review for accuracy and completeness. Transmit within 12 hours in accordance with table 4-1. Establish suspense for SUPP, PROG, STACH reports as needed; dispatch report in accordance with table 4-1.
7	CAC/HSCAC	Prepare for notification and assistance in accordance with chapters 5, 6, and 7.
8	CMAOC	Review and submit casualty report into DCIPS. Transmit report to HSCAC and any supporting CAC. Oversee notification and assistance process.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Home station CAC is the permanent duty station for the source of records for the casualty.

<sup>2</sup> Non-hostile hospitalized injuries are reportable, as transportation and travel order (T&TO), may be extended to family members by the attending physician.

<sup>3</sup> Completion of a casualty case is addressed in other areas of this regulation.

#### 4-5. Steps for preparing initial theater casualty reports

*a. Using DA Form 1156 for casualty reporting.*

(1) Use DA Form 1156 as a casualty checklist to assist creating reports, letters of sympathy, and awards documentation as well as a field casualty report in the event of electronic failure (see fig 4-1).

(2) The 2007 version of DA Form 1156 is also the witness card. Persons having firsthand knowledge of a reportable casualty should prepare the casualty feeder card.

*b. Preparing DA Form 1156.*

(1) Data fields align with the DCIPS-FWD (see table 4-4).

(2) Data fields marked by an asterisk (\*) indicate minimum requirements to send a casualty report forward.

(3) Fill in all required fields (\*) and include body armor worn at the time of the incident.

(4) Fill in as much information as available to include weapons causing injury, and vehicle information.

(5) "DUSTWUN/missing/captured." Include date, time, and place last seen, and identifying marks.

(6) "**Investigation required**" refers to all investigations conducted concerning the circumstances of a casualty incident (for example, a nonhostile fatal accident, AR 15-6 collateral investigation). **All hostile deaths require investigation.**

(7) "**Identification of remains.**" Include the means of identification: ID tags, name tag, personal recognition, other.

(8) "**Date/time of death.**" Enter the date and time of death that the medical officer provides, and the name of the medical officer who pronounced the person deceased. Also enter the place of death if outside a medical facility, and the name of the hospital if a medical facility. .

(9) Field grade battalion-level CDR , or field grade designee authenticates the casualty information for accuracy and thoroughness of casualty type, circumstances, and inflicting force for all deceased and DUSTWUN cases prior to submission of the report.

(10) Include the name of the preparer and the officer authenticating in remarks on the casualty report.

*c. Table 4-3 shows the steps required to submit an INIT casualty report for theater casualties.*

**Table 4–3**  
**Preparing an initial casualty report for the theater casualties**

Step	Work Center	Required Actions
1	Soldier/Unit	Complete DA Form 1156 minimum required fields. Other information if available.
2	Unit/BNS1/ BDES1	Receive, review, and authenticate DA Form 1156. Telephonically alert next reporting level of casualty incident.
3	CLT/BNS1/BDES1	Prepare casualty report using DCIPS–FWD Transmit electronically to next reporting level.
4	Corps/Theater Army Area Command (TAACOM) AG	Review and prepare report to send forward using DCIPS–FWD, transmit to theater CAC.
5	Theater CAC	Theater CAC will dispatch within 12 hours of incident to AHRC–CMAOC and other distribution in accordance with table 4–1.
6	AHRC–CMAOC	Review and submit casualty report into DCIPS. Transmit report to HSCAC and any supporting CAC to prepare for notification and any additional reports (see note 2).
7	HSCAC/ MOB CAC	Transmit DD Form 93 and SGLV 8286 by fax or other electronic means to AHRC–CMAOC upon receipt of telephonic notification of incident.
8	CMAOC/HSCAC/ supporting CAC	Prepare for notification and assistance as appropriate in accordance with chapter 5,6, and 7. Oversee notification and assistance process.

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Unit reporting levels are pre–defined by CMD level S–1. Theater reporting levels are defined by theater CMD.
- <sup>2</sup> Each reporting level will telephonically contact the next level up to CMAOC. CMAOC will contact home station and supporting CACs of a casualty incident and request DD Form 93 and SGLV 8286.
- <sup>3</sup> DCIPS is the CMAOC level database for casualty cases.
- <sup>4</sup> CMAOC. Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operation Center.
- <sup>5</sup> HSCAC. Home Station CAC.
- <sup>6</sup> MOB CAC. Mobilization point for USAR and ARNG Soldiers.
- <sup>7</sup> Completion of a casualty case is addressed in other areas of this regulation.

**4–6. Rules for preparing a status change casualty report**

- a. Electronically transmit STACH casualty reports.
- b. Submit STACH casualty reports when there is a definite change in the person’s status from the initial report as described in paragraphs 3–16 and 3–17.

**4–7. Steps for preparing a status change casualty report**

Take the following required steps for preparing a STACH casualty report—

- a. Upon notification that a change has occurred in the previously reported status of a casualty, verify the new status.
- b. Once status has been verified, prepare a STACH casualty report in accordance with table 4–5.
- c. Review the report for accuracy and completeness and dispatch in accordance with paragraph 4–2.
- d. File a copy of the STACH in appropriate casualty file for the Soldier.

**4–8. Rules for preparing a supplemental casualty report**

- a. The SUPP reports are submitted after an initial report to provide additional or corrected information, other than medical, previously submitted.
- b. The SUPP reports are required whenever additional or corrected information is obtained for circumstances of the casualty incident.
- c. No SUPP is required to be submitted if source document is in case file at AHRC–CMAOC and entered into DCIPS(HQ). Example: CMAOC case manager has current Enlisted Records Brief (ERB) and enters data into case file. Supporting CAC need not prepare a SUPP for verified information on the source document.
- d. Number SUPP report sequentially using established format, that is, SUPP01, S01.
- e. Electronically submit SUPP reports.

**4–9. Steps for preparing a supplemental casualty report**

Prepare a SUPP casualty report as follows—

- a. As soon as additional information is available, prepare a SUPP casualty report in accordance with table 4–5.
- b. Review the completed SUPP casualty report for accuracy and completeness; dispatch in accordance with table 4–1 without delay.
- c. File a copy of the SUPP casualty report with the original in case file.
- d. Supplemental reports should not include medical information which is reported on the PROG report.
- e. Supplemental reports should only include excerpts of a CID or other investigative reports to update any changes of previously submitted reports.

- (1) If additional or corrected information changed any information previously furnished to the NOK, determine if

the notifier should return to the PNOK and SNOK to provide the new information. Example: Date of death changed, status changed from DUSTWUN to deceased.

(2) If the notifier should revisit PNOK and SNOK, he or she will coordinate with the appropriate CAC for a briefing of the changed information, and revisit NOK immediately.

(3) Confirm notification to the PNOK of individuals who are reported injured/ill in accordance with chapter 5, section II.

(4) Confirm personal notification to PNOK and SNOK of deceased, DUSTWUN, and missing casualties in accordance with chapter 5, Section I.

#### **4-10. Rules for preparing a prognosis or progress report**

- a. Casualty Assistance Centers will electronically transmit PROG reports.
- b. Reportable items of information are in table 4-5 and paragraph 3-16.
- c. Furnish PROG reports as paragraphs 3-16 and 3-17 require.
- d. Establish contact with MTF or hospital (HOSP) in reporting area of responsibility. This applies to theater CAC and any supporting CAC.

#### **4-11. Steps for preparing a prognosis or progress report**

Prepare a PROG report as follows—

- a. Use the PROG screen for *prognosis* of injured or ill on initial report.
- b. Contact MTF or HOSP for update of medical status. At a minimum, establish a 5-day suspense for PROG reports. For critical injuries, more often. Daily is suggested, in order to provide NOK with up to date status.
- c. Use DCIPS-FWD, replicating the latest report, SUPP, or PROG for specific casualty, and update medical information.
- d. Review the PROG report for accuracy and completeness, and submit.
- e. Place a copy of the PROG report in the case file.

#### **4-12. Preparation of prognosis or progress reports**

- a. *Control*. Each PROG report will deal with only 1 patient and will be sequentially numbered for control purposes.
- b. *Details*. Reporting CMDs will include all relevant details about the health, well-being, and medical progress of patients.
- c. *Final*. Clearly identify these reports as final.

#### **4-13. Content of prognosis or progress reports**

a. Report the initial prognosis and medical progress of hospitalized injured or ill personnel in an NSI, VSI or SI category.

b. In addition to the required PROG message items (table 4-5) also provide the following information—

- (1) Patient's morale.
- (2) Current and anticipated treatments, to include surgical operations (type and whether or not successful).
- (3) Additional and terminal diagnosis.
- (4) Anticipated period of hospitalization.
- (5) Any evacuation plans, including dates and destination.
- (6) If an OCONUS CMD has issued a transportation and travel order (T&TO) to the NOK, each PROG report will indicate whether the NOK is at bedside or has departed.
- (7) Include any information that might reduce NOK anxiety. Examples are—
  - (a) State of consciousness and mental disposition.
  - (b) Degree of alertness.
  - (c) Whether the patient is taking nourishment.
  - (d) Whether the patient is ambulatory.
  - (e) Type of diet.
  - (f) Whether patient is on life support equipment (type of life support equipment and medical status).

c. In most cases, when a person becomes a casualty, the NOK are located a considerable distance from the person, particularly during the early and usually the most critical period of the person's medical treatment. As a result, the NOK are unable to obtain information regarding the person's status through their own resources. The PROG report is designed to furnish the NOK with information that they would normally acquire if they were physically present at the medical facility. Note that when the presence of the NOK is considered necessary for the health and welfare of a Soldier classified as VSI or SI, the Director, CMAOC, (AHRC-PEZ) may issue a T&TO. The T&TO may be extended to NOK of Soldiers classified as NSI and hospitalized in a CONUS MTF (see chap 7 for requirements and procedures for requesting T&TOs).

#### 4-14. Health and welfare reports

- a. Most health and welfare reports are generated at the request of the NOK as a result of a person having been—
- (1) A casualty, but not injured severely enough for the Soldier to have been hospitalized.
  - (2) Hospitalized or medically evacuated.
  - (3) The subject of a hoax.
- b. Only process health and welfare reports during peacetime.

#### 4-15. Rules for casualty report preparation using DCIPS-Forward

- a. There are 92 possible items of information involved in casualty reporting and 5 separate screens for body armor, awards, PROG, NOK, and CAO. Instructions for each item are in table 4-4. Not all of the items pertain to every type of casualty report. Table 4-5 lists those items required for each type of casualty report. Follow the information in these tables exactly.
- b. Emphasize the accuracy and completeness of casualty reporting. These items may be the only sources of information for the NOK concerning the facts surrounding the person's death or injury.
- c. "CASUALTY REPORT" is the subject of each report.
- d. List message item numbers vertically in ascending order on the completed casualty report.
- e. If manually preparing a report, list each item on a separate line using the same format as DCIPS-FWD. For example, date and time of incident DD MMM YYYY hh:mm.

#### 4-16. Preparing the casualty report

Table 4-4 provides detailed instructions for each message item. For each item it gives the item name, data description (within parenthesis), item instructions, codes, and a format example. Follow the instructions exactly as shown. The DCIPS-FWD data fields are formatted for easy entry and drop-down menu selections keyed to the casualty status and type. All fields do not apply to every casualty.

---

**Table 4-4**  
**Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61**

---

**Message Item: 01**

**Item Name/Description:** Casualty Report Type

**Instructions:** Enter 1 of the following casualty report type codes.

**Codes:** INIT initial report  
SUPP supplemental report  
STACH status change report  
PROG progress report

**Format Example:** 01. INIT

01. SUPP

---

**Message Item: 02**

**Item Name/Description:** Type of Casualty

**Instructions:** Enter 1 of the following type casualty codes.

**Codes:** HOSTILE. A person who is the victim of a terrorist activity or who becomes a casualty in action. "In action" characterizes the casualty as having been the direct result of hostile action, sustained in combat or relating thereto, or sustained going to or returning from a combat mission, provided that the occurrence was directly related to hostile action. Included are persons killed or wounded mistakenly or accidentally by friendly fire directed at a hostile force or what is thought to be a hostile force. However, do not consider as sustained in action and do not interpret as hostile casualties injuries or death due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, combat fatigue, and except in unusual cases, wounds or death inflicted by a friendly force while the individual is in an AWOL, deserter, or dropped-from-rolls status, or is voluntarily absent from a place of duty.

NON-HOSTILE. A person who becomes a casualty under circumstances not qualifying as a hostile casualty. Casualties due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, and combat fatigue are non-hostile casualties.

PENDING. A person whose casualty circumstances are insufficient to make a selection between "hostile" and "non-hostile." This type must be updated to "hostile" or "non-hostile" upon receiving sufficient information.

**Format Example:** 02. HOSTILE

02. NON-HOSTILE

02. PENDING

---

**Message Item: 03**

**Item Name/Description:** Casualty Status

**Instructions:** Enter 1 of the following casualty status codes and an applicable casualty category.

**Codes:** (Leave Blank)

---

**Table 4-4****Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

BESIEGED—Besieged by a hostile force. The type casualty code must be hostile.  
BELEAGURED—Beleagured by a hostile force. The type casualty code must be hostile.  
CAPTURED—Captured by a hostile force. The type casualty code must be hostile.  
DETAINED—Individual is detained in a foreign country. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.  
DECEASED—Individual casualty is dead. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.  
DUSTWUN—Individual whereabouts unknown. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.  
INTERNED—Individual is interned in a foreign country. The type casualty code must be non-hostile.  
MIA—Individual whose whereabouts and status are unknown but are attributable to hostile activity. The type casualty code must be hostile.  
MISSING—Individual whose whereabouts and status are unknown, provided the absence appears to be involuntary. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.  
NSI—Not seriously injured or ill. Treated at a medical facility and released. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.  
RMC—Returned to military control. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.  
SI—Seriously injured, wounded, or ill. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.  
VSI—Very seriously injured, wounded, or ill. The type casualty code can be either hostile or non-hostile.

**Format Example:** 03. DECEASED

03. VSI

---

**Message Item: 04**

**Item Name/Description:** Report number (up to 8 characters)

INIT and STACH reports: Each agency submitting reports to CMAOC will establish, on a calendar-year basis, a sequential numbering system for INIT and STACH reports. Enter the current number in this item. SUPP reports: Enter the number of SUPP reports (including this one) submitted on the person. For example, if this was the 5th SUPP to the INIT report submitted, the correct entry would be "5" PROG reports: Enter the number of PROG reports submitted on the person, including this one, in the same manner as for SUPP reports.

**Instructions:** NA

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 04. 06-00001 04.SUPP01 or SO1

04. PROG01 or PO1

---

**Message Item:** 05a and 05b. Used only with the DCIPS-FWD stand-alone database.

**Item Name/Description:** Previous Casualty Status or Previous Category

**Instructions:** System will auto populate these fields for subsequent reports, SUPP or STACH.

**Codes:** Same as item 3.

**Format Example:** Same as item 3.

---

**Message Item: 06 (6A)**

**Item Name/Description:** Multiple Casualty Event Code

**Instructions:** Six to eight alpha and/or numeric characters. Used for 2 or more Soldiers in same incident.

**Codes:** NA

**Format Example:** 06. 06-001 FY and multiple casualty sequential number.

06. BH061 Blackhawk, FY and sequential number for Blackhawk incidents.

---

**Message Item: 07a through c**

**Item Name/Description:** Personnel Type (Component) Affiliation/Category

**Instructions:** Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 07a. ACTIVE DUTY/Reserve/Guard/Civilian

07b. Active/non-active/retired/DOD/Federal employee, and so forth.

07c. Obligated/voluntary; Recalled/mobilized, and so forth.

---

**Message Item: 08**

**Item Name/Description:** Social Security Number

**Instructions:** Enter the person's SSN, to include dashes.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 08. 123-45-6789

---



---

**Table 4-4**  
**Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

**Message Item:** 09a through 09d

**Item Name/Description:** Name

**Instructions:** Enter the person's last name/first name/middle name/suffix (Jr., Sr., III, and so forth). Do not enter initials unless the initial is the complete first or middle name.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 09. DOE/JOHN/PAUL/JR. (Complete name)

09. ROSE/MARIA/ROSANNA DANNA/ (Two middle names)

09. DOE/JOHN//JR. (No middle name)

09. DOE/JOHN// (No middle name, no suffix)

---

**Message Item:** 10a through 10d

**Item Name/Description:** Race/Ethnicity/Sex/Religious Preference

**Instructions:** Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 10a through 10d. Black/Latin/Female/Baptist

10a through 10d. White/None/Male/No Preference

---

**Message Item:** 11a through 11e

**Item Name/Description:** Date and Place of Birth (city, state, country), citizenship

**Instructions:** Enter the person's date and place of birth in the following manner—YYYYMMDD/birth city/birth state/birth country. Manually type birth city. Select state and country from the pull-down menu. Citizenship may be left blank if unknown or not verified.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 11. 19521018/BALTIMORE/MD/US

11. 19521018//MD/US (birth city unknown)/US

11. 19521018///US (birth city/state unknown)

11. 19521018/KARLSRUHE/XX/GE (Individual was born in Germany)

11. //NY/US (date and birth city unknown)

---

**Message Item:** 12a and 12b

**Item Name/Description:** grade

**Instructions:** Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu. Includes historical grades for prior conflicts. Select correct grade for the casualty.

**Codes:** See DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Format Example:** 12a. SSG Staff Sergeant

12b.E6

12a. CPT Captain

12b. 03

12a. PFC Private First Class

12b. E3

---

**Message Item:** 13

**Item Name/Description:** Service

**Instructions:** Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 13. U.S. Army

---

**Message Item:** 14a and 14b

**Item Name/Description:** Military Unit of Assignment

**Instructions:** Enter the person's organization down to company level, including UIC, if applicable. Include installation name and state.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** CO B 307th ENGR BN (W3VS99), FORT BRAGG, NC

CO A, 1st BN, 8th INF, 3rd BCT, (101st AA), Fort Carson, CO

---

**Message Item:** 15a and 15b

**Item Name/Description:** Duty Military Occupational Specialty (DMOS)/Primary Military Occupational Specialty (PMOS)

**Instructions:** Enter the Soldier's DMOS. Use 5 characters in all cases (enlisted, warrant officer, and officer).

**Codes:** Enter valid DMOS.

**Format Example:** 15. Enlisted— 42A40

---

---

**Table 4–4****Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

15. Warrant officer—150AO

15. Officer—13A00

---

**Message Item:** 16 Deleted. See NOK Tab**Item Name/Description:** For a family member casualty, enter as NOK on the NOK screen.**Instructions:** If the person being reported is a dependent or family member, enter the sponsor's grade.**Codes:** NA**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 17**Item Name/Description:** Deleted**Instructions:** See NOK Tab**Codes:** NA**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 18**Item Name/Description:** Deleted**Instructions:** See NOK Tab**Codes:** NA**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 19**Item Name/Description:** Deleted**Instructions:** See NOK Tab**Codes:** NA**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 20**Item Name/Description:** Deleted**Instructions:** See NOK Tab**Codes:** NA**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 21a**Item Name/Description:** Retirement/Separation Date**Instructions:** Enter the retirement or separation date (YYYYMMDD) from the Service.**Codes:** No codes used.**Format Example:** 21a. 19671018

---

**Message Item:** 21b, c**Item Name/Description:** TDRL or PDRL/Percentage**Instructions:** If the person being reported was on the TDRL or the PDRL, enter the list that the casualty was on, including the percentage of disability.**Codes:** TDRL Temporary Disability Retired List.**Format Example:** 22.b.TDRL/c. 10022.b. PDRL/c. 100

---

**Message Item:** 21d**Item Name/Description:** Date Placed on TDRL/PDRL**Instructions:** Enter the date the casualty was actually placed on the TDRL or PDRL.**Codes:** No codes used.**Format Example:** 21d. 19891018

---

**Message Item:** 24a**Item Name/Description:** Died in an MTF**Instructions:** Enter "YES" or "NO" as to whether the casualty died while a patient in an MTF.**Codes:** No codes used.**Format Example:** 24. YES

---

---

**Table 4-4**  
**Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

**Message Item:** 24b (Previously Item 62 in DCIPS-FWD)

**Item Name/Description:** Continuously hospitalized

**Instructions:** Select Yes or No whether the deceased was continuously hospitalized from onset of injury or illness.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 24b. NO

---

**Message Item:** 25a through 25c

**Item Name/Description:** Home of Record (HOR)

**Instructions:** Enter the casualty's HOR in the following format: Home City/Home State/Country (city must be manually typed. Select state and Country from the pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 25. BALTIMORE/MD/US

25. /MD/US (city unknown)

25. //US (city and state unknown)

25. KARLSRUHE/XX/GE (When person's HOR is in a foreign country use "XX" for the home state code). For the purposes of reporting, Alaska and Hawaii are OCONUS.

---

**Message Item:** 26a

**Item Name/Description:** Civilian Type

**Instructions:** Select from the DCIPS/DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** AFE Appropriated Fund Employee

DOD Dependent School Employee

FND Foreign National Direct Hire Employee

FNI Foreign National Indirect Hire Employee

NAF Non-appropriated Fund Employee

**Format Example:** 26a. AFE

---

**Message Item:** 26b

**Item Name/Description:** Civilian Pay Table

**Instructions:** Select from the DCIPS/DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** AFE, General Schedule, and so forth

**Format Example:** 26b. General Schedule

---

**Message Item:** 26c

**Item Name/Description:** Civilian Pay Grade

**Instructions:** Enter the pay grade of the civilian casualty. This may not apply to contractors.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 26c. GS 12

---

**Message Item:** 26d

**Item Name/Description:** Civilian Contract Agency

**Instructions:** If the person being reported is a civilian, enter his or her name and address.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 26d. AAFES, KARLSRUHE GE

26d. AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY INC., DALLAS TX

---

**Message Item:** 26e

**Item Name/Description:** Civilian Organization

**Instructions:** If the person being reported is a civilian, enter his or her employer name and address. Abbreviate as necessary.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 26e. KBR, 120 Wall Street, New York, New York

26e. DynCorp, 5021 Wise Street, Baltimore, Maryland

---

---

**Table 4-4****Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

**Message Item:** 28 Item no longer numbered

**Item Name/Description:** NOK to be notified

**Instructions:** Enter the full name, social security number, relationship, date of birth, complete address (including zip code), and telephone number (including area code) of the NOK to be notified. Indicate if parents are deceased.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 28. MRS. PAULA A. TENTPEG, 123-45-6789, WIFE, 5312 TERRACE COURT, BALTIMORE, MD 21221, (301) 684-8888; MRS. MARY E. TENTPEG, 456-56-7823, MOTHER, DECEASED; SGM-USA, THOMAS E. TENTPEG, 212-56-7897, FATHER, 2122 CUB HILL RD., FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28302, (717) 939-0092.

---

**Message Item:** 29 Item no longer numbered

**Item Name/Description:** NOK notification completed

**Instructions:** Select NOK Tab. Enter notification method, notifying CC, notifier name, date/time of notification.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** Same as Message NOK to be notified.

---

**Message Item:** 30a and 30b

**Item Name/Description:** Preparation/Review date of DD Form 93

**Instructions:** Enter the preparation date of the DD Form 93 and the latest review date. If no review date, repeat the preparation date.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 30a. 19891018/b.19901018  
30a. 20020315/b. 20020315

---

**Message Item:** 31a

**Item Name/Description:** Vehicular Group

**Instructions:** Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 31a. HMMWV

---

**Message Item:** 31b

**Item Name/Description:** Type of vehicle

**Instructions:** Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 31b. M1114

---

**Message Item:** 31c

**Item Name/Description:** Armor level

**Instructions:** Select from options in pull-down menu

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 31c. Level 1, Up-Armored

---

**Message Item:** 31d

**Item Name/Description:** Vehicle ownership

**Instructions:** Enter the code that reflects the ownership of the vehicle. Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 31d. COMMERCIAL

---

**Message Item:** 31e

**Item Name/Description:** Position aboard vehicle

**Instructions:** Enter the person's position aboard the vehicle. Select from available options in DCIPS-FWD pull-down menu.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 31e. Passenger

---

**Message Item:** 34a-c

**Item Name/Description:** Duty status at time of incident/dates to and from

**Instructions:** Enter the person's duty status at the time of the incident in the following format- Duty status/from date/to date.

**Codes:** No codes used.

AWL Absent Without Leave  
DFR Dropped from the Rolls  
PDY Present for Duty  
HOS Hospitalized  
LEA Leave

---

**Table 4-4**  
**Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

OFF Off Duty  
PAS Pass/Liberty  
TDY Temporary Duty

**Format Example:** 34a-c. AWL/19891015/19891018  
34a-c. LEA/19921015/19921018  
34a-c. PDY//

---

**Message Item:** 35a-c

**Item Name/Description:** Training Type/Start Date/End Date

**Instructions:** This field is for Reserve and National Guard Soldiers performing duty other than recall/mobilized or AGR. Select the Soldier's Training Type at the time of the incident in the following from the pull-down menu. The end date should reflect the full period of duty for which there is an order, as the date of Casualty must fall within that date to be reportable.

**Codes:** AT, ADT, IDT, IADT, ADSW, SADT

**Format Example:** 35a. AT

35b. 2005/12/20

35c. 2006/01/07

---

**Message Item:** 36

**Item Name/Description:** Date/time of incident (YYYYMMDD/HHMM)

**Instructions:** Enter the local date and time (24 Hour) of incident. do not use zulu times.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 36. 19921018/1203

36. 20030415/0125

---

**Message Item:** 37a

**Item Name/Description:** Place of incident/city/state/country

**Instructions:** Enter the city/state/country location of the incident in the following format—

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** (a/b/c)

37a-c. BALTIMORE/MD/US

37a-c. /MD/US (Incident City Unknown)

37a-c. //US (Incident City/State Unknown)

37a-c. KARLSRUHE/XX/GE (If incident occurred OCONUS the incident state must be "XX"). For reporting purposes, Alaska and Hawaii are OCONUS.

37a-c. PACIFIC OCEAN/X112Y223 (If the incident occurred over water, enter the body of water name along with an 8-digit grid coordinate.)

---

**Message Item:** 38a-c

**Item Name/Description:** Grid Coordinates; Latitude/Longitude; Location

**Instructions:** Enter data provided by incident reporting element. If Item 37 is unknown, enter 1 of these data fields.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 38a. MB 32120 87590

38b. 30NNW

38c. FOB Summerall

---

---

**Table 4-4****Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

**Message Item: 39****Item Name/Description:** Circumstances

**Instructions:** Report all known facts. If circumstantial evidence exists that can't be confirmed, include it but clearly show where fact ends and supposition begins. Provide as much information as possible addressing the 5 Ws (who, what, when, where, and why). Include information on type of protective gear worn and details regarding protective equipment on any vehicle involved. Don't delay initial reports to gather more details, but continue to submit SUPP reports as circumstances become clear and complete. During hostilities enter the cause and circumstances here to include as much unclassified information about the mission and purpose as possible. During hostilities use of the "Hasty Report" or Tab 1 "Casualty" in web-based DCIPS-FWD (Edf) may be more beneficial. Include the place of incident and diagnosis or cause of death when using the "Hasty Report". Only edit for spelling/grammar errors. Don't change content provided by the DA Form 1156 or other approved incident statement. Include names of persons who pronounced and identified the deceased.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 39. While performing unit PT, SGT Jones began having chest pains. He stopped running to rest. While resting along the road, he collapsed and apparently suffered a massive heart attack. Medical aid was summoned. Unit personnel performed CPR. He was transported to Womack Army Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

---

**Message Item: Body Armor Tab****Item Name/Description:** Personal Protective Gear Worn by the Casualty

**Instructions:** Select from the Vest, Helmet, Eye pull-down menus and check-select attachments if appropriate.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** Vest: OTV Attachments: DAP, Groin, SAPI

---

**Message Item: 40****Item Name/Description:** Inflicting Force

**Instructions:** If casualty occurred as a result of hostile activities, enter the inflicting force code.

**Codes:** AMIGO Allied Forces, 15-6 investigation required

BUDDY U.S. Forces, 15-6 investigation required

ENEMY Enemy Force

UNK Unknown, 15-6 investigation required

**Format Example:** 40. ENEMY

---

**Message Item: 41****Item Name/Description:** Diagnosis

**Instructions:** For VSI, SI, NSI and SPECAT patients, enter complete diagnosis (to include all injuries and ailments) in non-technical language. Do not use medical abbreviations. Include causes and circumstances in the description of injuries. The NOK and their family physician extensively scrutinize the information reported. Be certain to report complete information and proper identification, such as right or left.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 41. SGT Johnnie Jones has extensive burns over 40 percent of his body. The burns are mainly on left leg, stomach and lower left arm. Soldier has lost 10 pounds from not eating.

---

**Message Item: 42 Item no longer numbered****Item Name/Description:** Place hospitalized

**Instructions:** Select PROG Tab

**Codes:** NA

**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item: 44 Item no longer numbered****Item Name/Description:** Medical progress and prognosis report

**Instructions:** Enter the code that reflects the person's medical progress. Also enter a detailed narrative statement in lay terms, indicating the medical progress, dates placed on or removed from the VSI or SI list, period of hospitalization, evacuation plans, etc. On all VSI reports, include a statement whether the SM is or is not on life support and the type (such as respirator). Include name and commercial phone number of attending physician. Report codes are not required, but if not using them, the slash (/) is required. Other information can include: patient's morale; current and anticipated treatments; to include surgical operations (type and whether or not successful); anticipated period of hospitalization; state of consciousness and mental disposition; degree of alertness; whether the patient is ambulatory; and type of diet.

**Codes:** (Leave Blank)

A Making Normal Progress (AGATE)

L SI or VSI and evacuated or transferred (BROKE)

C Not Making Normal Progress (CRIMP)

I Released from Hospital (ERECT)

K VSI (previously SI) (IMPEL)

J SI (previously VSI) (PROVE)

M Removed from SI or VSI list and will be evacuated to United States (SCRAM)

---

**Table 4-4**  
**Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

D Condition Remains the Same (STALE)  
H Removed from SI List, Not Placed on VSI List (WRITE)  
F Complication Classified as Serious after Battle Wound (RHINO)  
B Convalescing (BIBLE)  
N Evacuated to the United States (EVENT)  
E SI (Not SI or VSI Last Report) (RISKY)  
G Sinking Rapidly (ROGUE)

**Format Example:** 44. AGATE/Patient is starting to come around. He is conscious and beginning to complain about the food, a sure sign of improvement. Patient will remain hospitalized for approximately 1 week. ECECT/Released from Hospital. Soldier was treated and returned to duty.

---

**Message Item:** 45 Item no longer numbered  
**Item Name/Description:** Casualty Assistance  
**Instructions:** Select CAO Tab.  
**Codes:** No codes used.  
**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 46a and b  
**Item Name/Description:** a. PEBD/b. BASD (YYYYMMDD/YYYYMMDD)  
**Instructions:** Using the format shown, enter the Soldier's pay entry basic date (PEBD) followed by the Soldier's basic active service date (BASD). (Not required for ARNG/USAR Soldiers).  
**Codes:** No codes used.  
**Format Example:** 46a, b. 19901231/19901101  
46a, b. /19901101(PEBD unknown)

---

**Message Item:** 47 See Item 10d  
**Item Name/Description:** NA  
**Instructions:** NA  
**Codes:** NA  
**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 48 Deleted  
**Item Name/Description:** NA  
**Instructions:** NA  
**Codes:** NA  
**Format Example:** NA

---

**Message Item:** 49 Awards Tab Item no longer numbered  
**Item Name/Description:** Decorations and Awards  
**Instructions:** Select from the Menu in the database.  
**Codes:** No codes used.  
**Format Example:** 49. NDSM, VCM, Exp-M-16, VSM, MSM

---

**Message Item:** 50  
**Item Name/Description:** Training related  
**Instructions:** Enter "YES" or "NO" to indicate if the incident was training related.  
**Codes:** No codes used.  
**Format Example:** 50. YES  
50. NO

---

**Message Item:** 51a  
**Item Name/Description:** Date recommended/selected for promotion (YYYYMMDD)  
**Instructions:** Enter the date recommended or selected for promotion. For Second Lieutenants and Warrant Officers 1, enter the date of the DA Form 78 (Recommendation for Promotion of Officer) (AR 624-100). For enlisted personnel, enter the date of the approved selection list on which the Soldier's name appears or the date the Soldier's CDR recommends. If Soldier hasn't been selected for promotion, don't report this item.  
**Codes:** No codes used.  
**Format Example:** 51a. 19911112

---

---

**Table 4–4****Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

---

**Message Item: 51b****Item Name/Description:** Rank to which recommended**Instructions:** Enter the grade to which recommended.**Codes:** Refer to item 12 for valid military grade codes.**Format Example:** 51b. SSG

---

**Message Item: 53a–c****Item Name/Description:** Held higher grade; dates held from and to**Instructions:** If the individual previously held a higher grade enter the highest grade held.**Codes:** Refer to Item 12 for valid grade codes.**Format Example:** 53a. LTC

53b. 2003/04/24

53c. 2009/01/05

---

**Message Item: 54****Item Name/Description:** Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (YYYYMMDD)**Instructions:** Enter the date the Soldier's SGLV Form 8286 (Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate) was last prepared or reviewed.**Codes:** No codes used.**Format Example:** 54. 19911231

---

**Message Item: 55****Item Name/Description:** Death GratuityRemarks**Instructions:** Enter to whom the Death Gratuity should be paid and any other information necessary.**Codes:** No codes used.**Format Example:** Pay the Spouse of the Soldier. DFAS determination

---

**Message Item: 56****Item Name/Description:** Investigation Required**Instructions:** Enter "YES" or "NO" to indicate whether any investigation has been initiated (for example, LOD, collateral 15–6, accident/safety, CID, and so forth). Enter type(s) of investigation(s) in item 61. When investigation(s) complete, submit a SUPP to update items 36, 37, 39, and 40, as necessary. (By law, NOK must be informed of any death investigations initiated by DOD and provided a redacted copy of the completed report. Therefore, it is essential to report any and all such investigations that have been initiated and to SUPP once those investigations have been completed)**Codes:** YES, NO, PENDING**Format Example:** 56. YES

56. NO

56. PENDING

---

**Message Item: 57****Item Name/Description:** Date/Time of Death (YYYYMMDD/HHMM)**Instructions:** Enter the Date and Time (24 Hour) of death.**Codes:** No codes used.**Format Example:** 57. 19921018/1203

---

**Message Item: 58A–C****Item Name/Description:** Place of Death: City/State/Country**Instructions:** Enter the Hospital/City/State/Country in which the death occurred in the following format—Hospital/Death City/Death State/Death Country.**Codes:** State and country codes are listed in appendix C.**Format Example:** 58. FRANKLIN SQUARE/BALTIMORE/MD/US

58. //MD/US (Hospital/Death City Unknown)

58. //US (Hospital/Death City/State Unknown)

58. /BALTIMORE/MD/US (Casualty died at the scene)

58. KARLSRUHE KLINK/KARLSRUHE/XX/GE (If death occurred OCONUS the death state must be "XX"). For the purposes of reporting, report Alaska and Hawaii as OCONUS.

58. PACIFIC OCEAN/X112Y223 (If the death occurred over a body of water, enter the body of water name along with an 8–digit grid coordinate).



**Table 4-4**  
**Instructions for completing the casualty report message, items 1 through 61—Continued**

**Message Item: 59**

**Item Name/Description:** Cause of Death

**Instructions:** Enter the specific medical diagnosis and cause of death, once confirmed using diagnostic nomenclature. In cases where the person was previously reported as wounded, include a notation to that effect.

**Codes:** No codes used.

**Format Example:** 59. CARDIAC ARREST

59. GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE HEAD. INVESTIGATION PENDING.

**Message Item: 60**

**Item Name/Description:** Body recovered

**Instructions:** Select "Yes" or "No"

**Codes:** NA

**Format Example:** NA

**Message Item: 61**

**Item Name/Description:** Remarks. Will be mapped to the Journal in DCIPS

**Instructions:** Use this item for reporting data not recorded elsewhere, include for example—

Name of person who prepared the casualty report.

Name of person who prepared DA Form 1156.

Name of officer who authenticated DA Form 1156.

Any information needed to clarify the preceding items, explain corrections or additions.

Invitational travel order requests.

Names of other persons involved in the same incident.

Whether remains are pending individual identification, and so on.

For family members, indicate if sponsor desires notification.

If the report is on the death of a general officer in active service, a retired 3- or 4-star general, or a Soldier who holds or has held the position of Sergeant Major of the Army, include date, time, and location of funeral; date, time, and location of interment; a statement that surviving NOK information on the DD Form 93 is correct; the PNOK's desires regarding expressions of sympathy, contributions, or memorials; and a statement that the PNOK does or does not consent to release of preceding information in an HQDA Army-wide message, announcing the death of the concerned person.

If non-combat death and medical authorities cannot determine that death resulted from natural causes, state name, address, and telephone numbers of CID activity that will investigate the death.

In cases involving Soldiers of the USAR/ARNG who die while on active duty status or while participating in authorized training, the report will also contain the following additional information: type of training being performed, the training dates, sex, branch of service, date and place of last entry on active duty.

Describe any and all investigations initiated into the circumstances of death and indicate name and contact information of IO.

**Codes:** NA

**Format Example:** Report prepared by SGT Smith. Next of kin does not want information released by HQDA Army-wide message.

**Table 4-5**  
**Items to be included on a casualty report**

Report Item	INIT REPORT										STACH REPORT				
	Military			Civilian			Family Member				Non to Hosp	RMC			
	Dead	MIS	WND	Dead	MIS	WND	Dead	Dead	MIS	WND					
War Conflict	X	X	X	X	X	X									X
Ops Incident	X	X	X	X	X	X									X
Event	X	X	X	X	X	X									X
<b>Minimum Required fields to send an Initial report</b>															
01Field Report Type	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02 Casualty Type	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
03a Casualty Status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Table 4-5  
Items to be included on a casualty report—Continued**

Report Item	INIT REPORT										STACH REPORT			
	Military			Civilian			Family Member				Non to Hosp	RMC		
03b Casualty Category	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
04 Field Report Number	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
06 Multiple Casualty Code (if applicable)	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X
07a Personnel Type	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
07b Personnel Affiliation	X	X	X				X				X	X	X	X
07c Personnel Category	X	X	X				X				X	X	X	X
08 SSN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
09a Last Name	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
09b First Name	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
09c Middle Name	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
09d Suffix	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
12a Military Rank	X	X	X									X	X	X
12b Military Grade	X	X	X									X	X	X
13 Service	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X
14a Military Unit of Assignment	X	X	X											
14b Military UIC	X	X	X											
36 Date/Time of Incident	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
39 Circumstances	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
40 Inflicting Force <sup>10</sup> (Hostile Onlu)	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	
61 Remarks (used for any report)														

**Items to be SUPPd if not included on the Initial Report**

10a Race	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10b Ethnicity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10c Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10d Religious Preference	X						X							
11a Birth Date	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X		
11b Birth City	X	X		X			X	X	X		X	X		
11c Birth State	X	X		X			X	X	X		X	X		
11d Birth Country	X	X		X			X	X	X		X	X		
11e Citizenship	X	X		X			X	X	X		X	X		
14c In Support of Other Service	X													
15a DMOS/AFSC	X	X	X								X	X	X	X
15b PMOS	X	X	X								X	X	X	X
21a Retirement/Sep Date						X	X							
21b TDRL/PDRL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
21c TDRL/PDRL Percent	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
21d TDRL/PDRL Date	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	x		
24a Died in/out of Medical Treatment Facility	X			X			X	X			X	X		
24b Continuously Hospitalized Y/N	X			X			X	X		X	X	X		
25a HOR City	X	X	X					X			X	X		

**Table 4-5  
Items to be included on a casualty report—Continued**

Report Item	INIT REPORT									STACH REPORT				
	Military			Civilian			Family Member			Non to Hosp	RMC			
25b HOR State	X	X	X					X			X	X		
25c HOR Country	X	X	X					X			X	X		
26a Civilian Type				X	X	X								
26b Civilian Pay Table				X	X	X								
26c Civilian Pay Grade				X	X	X								
26d Civilian Contract Agency				X	X	X								
26e Civilian Organization				X	X	X								
30a DD Form 93 Date	X	X	X								X	X		
30b DD Form 93 Review Date	X	X	X								X	X		
31a Vehicle Group	X	X	X								X	X	X	
31b Vehicle Type	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	
31c Armor Level	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	
31d Vehicle Owner	X			X			X	X			X	X	X	
31e Position in Vehicle	X			X			X	X			X	X	X	
34a Training Type (ANG/USAR)	X	X	X								X	X	X	
34b Training Start Date (ANG/USAR)	X	X	X								X	X	X	
34c Training End Date (ANG/USAR)	X	X	X								X	X	X	
35a Duty Status	X	X	X								X	X	X	X
35b Start Date	X	X	X											
35c End Date	X	X	X											
37a Incident City	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
37b Incident State	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
37c Incident Country	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
38a Grid (required with no city)														
38b LAT/LONG (required with no city)														
38c Location (further detail of location)														
41 Diagnosis			X										X	
46a PEBD	X	X	X								X	X		
46b BASD/ADBD	X	X	X								X	X		
50 TRNG/Duty Related	X	X	X								X	X		
51a Posthumous Recommend Date	X										X	X		
51b Posthumous Rank Recommended	X										X	X		
53a Higher Rank Held	X										X	X		
53b Higher Rank Held from Date	X										X	X		
53c Higher Rank Held to Date	X										X	X		
54 SGLI Date	X										X	X		
55 Death Gratuity Remarks	X										X	X		
56 Investigation Required	X	X	X								X	X		X
57 Date/Time of Death	X			X			X	X			X	X		
58a Place of Death City	X			X			X	X			X	X		

**Table 4-5  
Items to be included on a casualty report—Continued**

Report Item	INIT REPORT									STACH REPORT			
	Military			Civilian			Family Member			Non to Hosp	RMC		
58b Place of Death State	X			X			X	X		X	X		
58c Place of Death Country	X			X			X	x		X	x		
59 Cause of Death	X			X									
60 Body Recovered	X			X						X	X		
01b Closed Date (all reports at any reporting level)													
NEW Body Armor Tab	X	X	X										
NOK Tab (Sponsor of Dependents)	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CAO Tab	X	X								X	X		
Prognosis and Progress Tab			X									X	
Awards Tab	X	X								X	X		

Legend for Table 4-5:

MIS—Missing, WND—Wounded, VIS, SI, NSI, RMC—Returned to Military Control, NON—Not VSI or SI, RET—Retired.

## Chapter 5 Casualty Notification

### Section I

#### Actions Required for Notification of Deceased, Duty Status—Whereabouts Unknown and Missing Casualties

##### 5-1. Line of succession to establish next of kin

The person most closely related to the casualty is considered the PNOK for casualty notification and assistance purposes. This is normally the spouse of married persons or parents of unmarried individuals who have no children. The parent or legal guardian will exercise the rights of their minor children. Use the following order of precedence to identify the PNOK—

- a. Spouse, even if a minor.
- b. Natural, adopted, and illegitimate children (if acknowledged by the member or paternity/maternity has been judicially decreed). Children are considered PNOK along with spouse, if applicable.
- c. Eldest parent, unless legal exclusive (sole) custody was granted to a person by a court decree or statutory provision.
- d. Person standing in loco parentis at least 1 year.
- e. Persons granted legal custody of the member by a court decree or statutory provision.
- f. Brothers and sisters, to include half-blood and those acquired through adoption.
- g. Grandparents.
- h. Other relatives in order of relationship to the individual according to the laws of the deceased's state of domicile.

(1) If no other persons are available, the Secretary of the Military Department may be deemed to act on the behalf of the individual.

(2) The SNOK is any NOK other than the PNOK. The line of succession used to determine SNOK is the same line of succession in *a* through *h*, above. An example of SNOK would be the parents of a deceased Soldier who has a surviving spouse or the younger parent of a deceased Soldier without a surviving spouse or child.

(3) The adult next of kin (ANOK) is normally the adult who is highest in the line of succession listed in *a*, above, provided there is no adult PNOK or SNOK. Normally, to be considered an ANOK, a person must have reached the age of 18. An ANOK would be designated if there were surviving minor children, but no surviving spouse or parent.

##### 5-2. Rules for making notification to the next of kin of a casualty

a. Make notification to the NOK within 4 hours of receipt of the INIT casualty report by the CAC. Communicate any delay in notification to the CMAOC promptly, with an explanation for the delay by the CAC responsible for notification.

b. A Uniformed Services representative in Class A uniform will make personal notification to the PNOK, SNOK,

and ANOK (if applicable) in ALL death, DUSTWUN, and missing cases. Making notification is a matter of highest priority, taking precedence over all other responsibilities.

*c.* If at the time of notification, it is known that the NOK is not fluent in the English language, obtain a qualified linguist to accompany the CNO team, if available. Instruct the linguist to interpret only what is spoken between the CNO and the NOK.

*d.* Make the visit as inconspicuous as possible without calling undue attention to the unusual presence of the military.

*e.* When notifying, be as natural as possible in speech, manner, and method of delivery.

*f.* Be alert for any adverse reaction to the news. If there seems to be no other adult member of the family at home and the news produces a shock, it may be helpful for someone to be with the NOK. If so, ask, "Is there anything I can do to assist you?" In case of severe reaction say, "May I call someone or ask a neighbor to step in?" The CNO should have on hand the name of the local hospital and the telephone numbers for the local ambulance service and fire department rescue squad.

*g.* Use good judgment by not passing gory or embarrassing details about the casualty incident.

*h.* Inform the PNOK that a CAO will contact them as soon as possible to provide assistance. However, do not specify the date or time of that contact.

*i.* In death cases, unless otherwise instructed, take the following action—

(1) If remains have been recovered, inform the PADD that the CAO will present them with information concerning the status of remains, information concerning identification and autopsy of remains, and burial entitlements, and will assist the PADD (use the PADD's given name) in staying apprised on the status of remains and in making burial arrangements.

(2) If a notification is based on "believed to be" identification and the NOK has asked whether or not remains were recovered, tell the NOK that the CAO may have additional information and will discuss how memorial services are conducted when he or she visits.

(3) Advise the NOK (if asked) that the CAO will have or may obtain information on the return of remains from an overseas area to the final destination.

*j.* If the NOK is not at home, get help from neighbors, friends, clergy, postmaster, or the police, if necessary. Take care not to disclose the full purpose of your mission except to the NOK. If the NOK's absence is temporary, you may await their return. If the NOK is out of town and not expected to return shortly, contact the CAC for further guidance.

*k.* Inform the PNOK that military personnel will personally notify the SNOK.

*l.* Inform the SNOK that military personnel have already informed the PNOK. (Ensure the PNOK is notified first unless the CAC directs otherwise.)

*m.* Provide the CAC the completed notification checklist immediately upon return.

*n.* After making notification, locate the nearest telephone away from the NOK premises and call the CAC to confirm that the notification has been made. Do this immediately after leaving the premises where notification was made and provide as much detail about the notification and family situation as possible so the CAC can update the CAO.

### **5-3. Casualty notification procedures (peacetime)**

When a deceased, DUSTWUN, or missing casualty occurs, take the following actions—

*a.* The CAC in whose area the casualty occurred is the reporting CAC. The reporting CAC's first action upon learning of the casualty is to phone in a "heads up" to the AHRC CMAOC.

*b.* Upon receiving the heads up from the reporting CAC, CMAOC will verify personal data and contact the HSCAC.

*c.* The HSCAC will obtain the Soldier's DD Form 93 and SGLV 8286 certificate for use by the CMAOC to determine PNOK, SNOK, PADD, and other individuals that may require notification.

*d.* The CMAOC will identify the location of all people requiring notification and the corresponding supporting CAC in whose area of responsibility they reside.

*e.* The supporting CAC will identify a suitable trained CNO and make every attempt at obtaining a military chaplain to assist in the notification. If a chaplain cannot be located without unduly delaying notification, the CAC will identify a mature Soldier to accompany and assist the CNO.

*f.* Make no notifications until the CMAOC receives a hard copy casualty report unless otherwise directed by CMAOC in instances where there is danger of other sources revealing the casualty.

*g.* Upon receipt of the INIT casualty report, the supporting CAC responsible for notifying the PNOK will direct the CNO to make notification to the PNOK.

*h.* Upon successful notification of the PNOK, the CMAOC will authorize notification of the SNOKs and other designated beneficiaries residing in the other supporting CAC's area of responsibility.

*i.* Upon completion of notification, the supporting CACs will notify the CMAOC. Once all supporting CACs have completed the notification of all NOK, CMAOC will send the "notification complete" e-mail to all CACs involved in the notification mission.

#### **5-4. Casualty notification procedures (contingency operations)**

- a. When a deceased, missing, or DUSTWUN casualty occurs, those individuals most knowledgeable about the casualty incident will complete DA Form 1156.
- b. Casualty Feeder Cards are reported through unit personnel channels to BN and BDE Adjutants.
- c. The BDE Adjutant is responsible for the preparation and accuracy of casualty reports.
- d. Casualty reports will flow up through personnel channels to the contingency CAC.
- e. The contingency CAC, as the reporting CAC, submits the casualty report to CMAOC.
- f. See paragraph 5-3 for follow-on procedures.

#### **5-5. Selection of the casualty notification officer/casualty notification team**

The CNO represents the SA. The notification officer will be courteous, helpful and compassionate toward the NOK and will reflect the Army's concern for its personnel and their families while performing this sensitive mission. Casualty notification may create any number of possible emotional responses.

a. With few exceptions, use trained active duty officers in the grade of captain and higher, warrant officers in the grade of chief warrant officer two and higher, and senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) in the grade of sergeant first class through command sergeant major to personally notify NOK. This group includes Army personnel assigned to DOD or Joint agencies and activities, USAR advisors, ARNG advisors, and ROTC instructors. The CMAOC will approve exceptions to this policy.

b. The grade of the CNO will, whenever possible, be equal to or higher than the grade of the casualty. If known that the PNOK is also a Soldier or retiree from any branch of Service, the grade of the CNO will be equal to or higher than the grade of the PNOK.

c. A casualty notification team is composed of the CNO and chaplain (or other clergy). When chaplain is not available or locating a chaplain may unduly delay notification, the second member of the team may be a staff sergeant or above. The purpose of the second soldier will be to support the CNO.

d. Do not use the personnel listed below as CNOs—

(1) Persons assigned to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. Persons assigned to the Retention and Transition Force (Army Reserve/AGR, PMOS 79V).

(2) Persons assigned to the U.S. Army Military Entrance Processing Command.

(3) Students at military or civilian schools.

(4) Personnel whose duties do not require them to wear a uniform. (example: CID undercover personnel).

(5) Inspectors General.

(6) Chaplains (precluded by AR 165-1). However, chaplains should accompany the CNO as the second member of the CNO team to provide solace to the bereaved NOK whenever possible.

e. Members of the Army Medical Corps, except when they and the NOK are both present at the place of death.

#### **5-6. Hours of notification**

Make notification with urgency and with utmost sensitivity. Except when the NOK is physically present at the place of death, make personal notification from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time. Director, CMAOC must approve exceptions to this time period. The CACs will maintain the capability to report and coordinate notification duties on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week basis. Report casualties that occur during non-notification hours; and brief and dispatch CNOs so that they can notify NOK at 6 a.m. This means dispatching the CNO well before 6 a.m. The intent is to notify the NOK while at home, not while on the job.

#### **5-7. Manner of notification**

a. *Procedures.* A Uniformed Services representative will promptly notify the NOK in an appropriate and dignified manner. Make personal notification to the PNOK of separated and retired personnel when these personnel become a casualty overseas and the PNOK is located in CONUS or vice versa, if requested.

(1) Always notify the PNOK first unless all efforts to contact him or her have been unsuccessful. In cases where the PNOK are minors, notify the SNOK before the minor PNOKs.

(2) The same CNO will personally notify the SNOK who resides near the PNOK.

b. *Deviations from prescribed procedures.* It is important to spare the NOK the shock of learning unofficially of the casualty through public information sources. Exceptions may include lifting the restriction on hours for notifications or using the telephone for notification. If using telephonic notification, a uniformed Army representative will offer official condolences or expressions of concern at the earliest opportunity. Director, CMAOC must approve deviations to uniformed personal notification. Therefore with the Director, CMAOC's concurrence, apply the following notification deviations—

(1) When the news media may release specific casualty information before the notifying officer can personally notify the NOK (due to time and distance).

(2) When there is a strong likelihood that the NOK may learn of the casualty through unofficial sources.

(3) When a casualty dies in a military hospital, the hospital CDR will follow the notification procedures prescribed for notifying the NOK, if they are present at the time of death.

*c. Adverse medical reaction caused by notification.* Should an NOK suffer an adverse medical reaction that appears to be directly attributable to a casualty notification, after contacting appropriate emergency personnel, immediately notify the CAC.

*d. Action when the NOK cannot be determined or located.* If there is no record of a person to be notified and the NOK cannot be determined locally, immediately relay any information that may help in finding the NOK to the supporting CAC.

## **5–8. Notification information**

The CAC will furnish the CNO with a copy of the casualty notification checklist and a script tailored to the specific casualty incident, using items 31 through 44 of the casualty report. The CNO will relay the information to the family member or beneficiary being notified and will exercise judgment to preclude passing gory or embarrassing details. The CNO will internalize the script provided by the CAC before proceeding to make notification and will relay the information orally and in person in a calm and sensitive manner to the person being notified.

## **5–9. Notification scripts**

The CACs will provide the casualty notification team with individualized scripts tailored to the specific incident, based on items 31–44 of the casualty report, and to the family members being notified, using the following templates—

*a. Death cases.* “The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that your (relationship; son, John or husband, Edward; and so forth) (died/was killed in action) in (country/state) on (date). (State the circumstances.) The Secretary extends his deepest sympathy to you and your family in your tragic loss.”

*b. Suspected friendly fire death cases.* “The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that your (relationship) (died/was killed in action) in (country) on (date). (State the circumstances). His/her death is a result of suspected friendly fire. A formal investigation is being conducted. You will be further advised as additional information is received. The Secretary extends his deepest sympathy to you and your family in your tragic loss.”

*c. Suspected friendly fire death cases—suspected after initial notification of death.* “The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that information has come to light that indicates your (relationship) may have died as a result of suspected friendly fire. A formal investigation is being conducted. You will be further advised as additional information is received. The Secretary extends his sincerest condolences to you and your family in your tragic loss.”

*d. Casualties not involving death.* “The Secretary of the Army has asked me to inform you that your (relationship; son, John or daughter, Janet; and so forth) has been reported duty status—whereabouts unknown in (country/state) since (date). (State the circumstances.) When we receive more information, you will be promptly notified. The Secretary extends his deepest sympathy to you and your family during this trying period.”

*e. Death, identification not complete.* “The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that your (relationship of deceased to NOK—son/daughter/husband/wife) is believed to (have died) or (been killed in action) on (date of death). Preliminary investigations revealed that (state circumstances surrounding the death). (Whenever the Soldier’s name or relationship is mentioned it must be preceded by “BELIEVED TO BE.”) The investigation surrounding this incident is ongoing. You will be further advised as additional information is received. The Secretary extends his deepest sympathy to you and your family during this trying period.”

## **5–10. Don’ts of personal notification**

*a.* Do not notify PNOK by telephone unless the Director, CMAOC authorizes or unique circumstances dictate spontaneous telephonic release (for example, a Soldier is VSI, just died, and family calls for status update).

*b.* Do not call for an appointment prior to making the initial personal notification.

*c.* Do not hold your notes or a prepared speech in hand when approaching the residence of the PNOK.

*d.* Do not disclose your message except to the NOK concerned.

*e.* Do not leave word or notes with neighbors or other persons to have the NOK call you.

*f.* Do not speak hurriedly, or continuously refer to notes when talking to the NOK.

*g.* Do not use code words or acronyms that may have been used in the casualty report.

*h.* Do not touch the NOK in a manner that may be misunderstood. If the NOK faints or has an extreme emotional response, assist the NOK as required and request appropriate assistance.

*i.* Do not discuss entitlements for death cases at this time. If asked, advise the NOK that a CAO will be assigned to discuss such matters.

*j.* Do not discuss disposition of remains or personal effects at this time.

*k.* Do not inform the SNOK that they will receive a visit from the CAO. Do tell parents who are SNOK that the casualty notification team will remain available as needed to render assistance and to keep them updated on the situation.

*l.* Do not commit your organization or CDR, AHRC (AHRC–PEZ) to a given time to carry out an action or obtain

particular information. Promptly forward all requests for information or other assistance to the proper agency or through the casualty reporting chain of command.

*m.* The CNO team members should not have alcohol on their breath or be inebriated.

## **Section II**

### **Actions Required for Notification on Injured or Ill Casualties**

#### **5-11. Rules for notification**

*a.* Accomplish casualty notification to the NOK of an individual who has been reported as a casualty in a timely, professional, dignified and understanding manner.

*b.* Telephonically notify the Soldier's NOK in the event of illness or injury.

*c.* Accomplish notification within 2 hours of receipt of INIT casualty report. When 2 hours has lapsed with no indication that the PNOK has been notified, the CAC or CDR will explain the reason for the delay and describe those actions that have been initiated to preclude further delay.

*d.* Make notification with urgency between 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time in the area of the PNOK. No notification is required if the PNOK is physically present at the time of incident or accompanies the casualty to a medical facility. The CMAOC must approve exceptions to this time period.

*e.* Notify CMAOC immediately if—

(1) The PNOK cannot be identified or located.

(2) The DD Form 93 is unavailable or illegible.

*f.* If notification apparently causes an adverse medical reaction—

(1) Immediately contact the CAC and the CAC will contact the CMAOC.

(2) Provide the physician's name and contact information and condition of the PNOK.

#### **5-12. Responsibility for notification**

*a.* Peacetime.

(1) Primary responsibility for notification rests with the officials listed below—

*(a)* In CONUS (includes Alaska and Hawaii), it rests with the CDR of the MTF in which the casualty is located, or with the MTF CDR having administrative responsibility for the non-military medical facility in which the casualty is located.

*(b)* In overseas CMDs, it rests with the CDR of the major overseas CMD within whose area of responsibility the casualty is located.

*(c)* In other areas, it rests with the senior Army representative.

(2) When the responsible hospital CDR cannot notify the PNOK, relay the casualty information to the CAC. The CAC will send a casualty report to Director, CMAOC. The CMAOC will then assume responsibility to notify the PNOK when the casualty occurs in—

*(a)* CONUS and the NOK to be notified resides outside CONUS or vice versa.

*(b)* An overseas CMD and the PNOK to be notified resides in a different overseas CMD.

*b.* During hostilities.

(1) Primary responsibility rests with CMAOC.

*(a)* The CMAOC will contact the HSCAC to contact the rear detachment of the casualty.

*(b)* Rear detachment CMDs will be offered the opportunity to complete notification.

(2) Notification will be completed by CMAOC if—

*(a)* Rear detachment does not complete in reasonable time, normally 2 hours and unable to explain delay.

*(b)* Rear detachment elects to have CMAOC make notification.

(3) Responsible CAC will establish communication with the rear detachment to assist with notification and inform CMAOC immediately of completion or delay.

#### **5-13. Identifying the primary next of kin**

*a.* The HSCAC with access to personnel records will transmit DD Form 93 and SGLV 8286 to CMAOC.

*b.* Verify persons listed on the DD Form 93, and officially notify them when a person becomes a casualty.

#### **5-14. Notification desires of the casualty victim**

*a.* A Soldier listed as non-hostile, NSI, and returned to duty may elect, at the time of treatment, to have their PNOK notified.

*b.* A person may list on the DD Form 93 not to notify PNOK in the event of injury or illness, or that the individual identified as the PNOK not be notified due to ill health. The CMAOC will make the final determination for notification for casualties in status VSI, SI, or non-responsive Soldiers, regardless of their election stated on the DD Form 93.



c. The attending physician or CMAOC will notify PNOK of Soldiers listed in line 39 as under psychiatric care for attempted suicide. The unit will not make this notification.

### **5-15. Casualty status requiring notification**

Notify the PNOK of the following categories of wounded, injured, or ill personnel—

- a. Very seriously injured.
- b. Seriously injured or ill.
- c. Not seriously injured or ill as a result of hostile action.
- d. Not seriously injured or ill as a result of non-hostile actions and hospitalized or subject to special interest (in accordance with DODI 1300.18, para 6.1.1.3).

### **5-16. Notification information**

a. Notify PNOK of the information contained in the INIT report, precluding any gory or embarrassing details. Be careful to fully disclose all facts to lessen the concern and anxiety of the PNOK.

b. Casualty items to disclose—

- (1) 31. Vehicle information (if applicable to the incident).
- (2) 36. Date and time of incident.
- (3) 37. Place of incident.
- (4) 39. Circumstances.
- (5) 41. Diagnosis.

(6) PROG screen—prognosis and place hospitalized or treated.

c. Provide SUPP and PROG information to the PNOK as soon as it is available.

- (1) Seriously wounded, injured, or ill VSI at a minimum of every 24 hours.
- (2) Not seriously injured as a minimum of every 5 days or until released from the medical facility.

d. Confirmation of notification.

(1) The CAC will prepare a SUPP using DCIPS-FWD transmitted DCIPS.

(2) Manual entry by CMAOC into NOK screen.

(3) Confirmation will contain—

(a) Date and time of notification.

(b) Who made the notification.

(c) Forty-five days address and phone number for PNOK.

### **5-17. Methods of notification**

a. When a person is in an MTF and classified as VSI, it is always desirable for the attending physician to speak directly with the PNOK. In CONUS, the MTF CDR is responsible for the notification to the PNOK of an injury or illness. For an OCONUS MTF, if PNOK is in CONUS, either the attending physician or CMAOC will notify. After CMAOC notification, CMAOC will facilitate follow-up communication between the PNOK and the attending physician. It is imperative that notification be made expeditiously to PNOK and contact information be provided in order to aid connection with attending physician.

b. If a newsworthy person or other special interest case dictates haste in notification, use the quickest means possible that the PNOK does not learn of the incident through other than official channels.

c. The attending physician or CMAOC will notify PNOK of persons under psychiatric care or attempted suicide. Notification will not be made at unit level.

## **Chapter 6 Casualty Assistance Program**

### **Section I**

#### **General**

### **6-1. Objectives of the program**

The objectives of the casualty assistance program are to—

- a. Assist the PADD with coordinating funeral honors support, remains information, and filing of interment claims.
- b. Assist the PADD and NOK receiving benefits or entitlements during the period immediately following a casualty.
- c. Assist in settling claims and payment of survivor benefits to the NOK.
- d. Assist the PNOK in other personal affairs.
- e. Assist personnel eligible to receive effects (PERE) with shipping status and delivery of the personnel effects (PE).

*f.* Assist in keeping NOK informed on status of any ongoing investigations and assist with obtaining copies of final investigation reports.

## **6-2. Persons entitled to a casualty assistance officer**

*a.* The PERE and NOK receiving benefits or entitlements of the persons described below are entitled to a CAO.

(1) All Army members on active duty. The term “active duty” includes Reserve members in an AGR status and Reserve and ARNG Soldiers mobilized under 10 USC.

(2) The USAR and ARNG Soldiers who die while en route or while participating in any of the following authorized training activities—

(*a*) Annual training.

(*b*) Active duty for training.

(*c*) Scheduled inactive duty training.

(*d*) Full time National Guard duty.

(*e*) Temporary tour of active duty.

(*f*) Initial active duty training.

(*g*) Active duty for special work.

(*h*) Special active duty for training.

(*i*) Soldiers who die while en route to or from or at a place for final acceptance for entry on active duty with the Army; includes personnel in DEP attending Recruiting Command sanctioned activities.

(*j*) Cadets and students enrolled in ROTC performing authorized training or travel (5 USC 8140 or 36 USC 2110).

(*k*) USMA cadets.

(3) Soldiers in an AWOL status.

(4) Retired general officers of the Army.

(5) Retired Soldiers who held the office of Sergeant Major of the Army.

(6) Retired Soldiers collecting retired pay as required in paragraph 6-6.

(7) Department of the Army civilian personnel who become a casualty while assigned, deployed, or TDY outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Department of the Army civilian personnel who become a casualty while TDY inside CONUS.

(8) Anyone as directed by Director, CMAOC

(9) Medal of Honor recipients, if requested.

*b.* While the Casualty Assistance Program provides assistance to the PNOK, a CAO may also provide advice and guidance to other NOK, if warranted by the situation. Some of the most common situations where additional assistance will be furnished are—

(1) The parents or children of a deceased or missing individual, who are not the PNOK.

(2) Separated or discharged persons who die within 120 days of discharge or separation. In this case, provide assistance to verify the death and to provide the CAC with the information needed to submit a casualty report and to assist the NOK in applying for any authorized benefits such as SGLV.

*c.* When 2 or more persons at different addresses should be provided assistance, more than 1 CAO may be necessary to provide assistance. Careful coordination in these cases is extremely important.

*d.* When parents die, are incapacitated or unavailable, and the their minor children are being returned to CONUS, a responsible person will be designated by the Soldier’s CDR to accompany the children to their final destination (see JFTR, Vol 1).

*e.* Provide assistance to the NOK of those Soldiers who die while in a suspected of desertion status. However, if the CDR, U.S. Army Deserter Point (USADIP) determines that the Soldier was indeed a deserter, withdraw casualty assistance. When the CDR, USADIP makes an AWOL or a desertion determination and submits it to CMAOC (AHRC-PEZ), relay the determination to the appropriate CAC in the area nearest the NOK. The CAO or CAC will notify the NOK.

## **6-3. Selection of casualty assistance officers**

*a.* The CAC having responsibility for the geographical area in which the PNOK or PADD resides will appoint a CAO from trained and certified active duty personnel. The CAOs will be knowledgeable, competent, dependable, sympathetic, and, if possible, able to communicate in the same language as the PNOK or PADD. Director, CMAOC may approve exceptions to qualifications, but CAOs should approximate the following qualifications:

(1) Mature Soldiers with 6 or more years of service.

(2) Officers in the grade of captain or higher, chief warrant officers in the grade of chief warrant officer two or higher, and NCOs in the grade of sergeant first class or higher.

(3) The grade of the CAO will, whenever possible, be equal to or higher than the grade of the casualty and equal to or higher than the grade of the PNOK when applicable.

(4) Of similar military or professional background as the deceased, especially when death is mission- or training-related.

(5) Possess a neat, military appearance and bearing.

(6) Commanders will release Soldiers appointed as CAOs from conflicting duties and/or requirements so that they can give the NOK all possible and meaningful assistance. The CAO duties will take precedence over peacetime military duties, to include TDY, duty roster and detail assignments, ordinary leaves and passes, and field exercise requirements.

*b.* Do not assign as a CAO—

(1) A relative.

(2) A close personal friend.

(3) Anyone scheduled for deployment, reassignment, retirement, or release from active duty within the next 6 months.

*c.* Do not use civilian personnel and retirees as CAOS for Army personnel without prior coordination with the Director, CMAOC.

*d.* The CDR of the installation nearest the residence of the NOK will assign DOD civilian casualty assistance personnel to provide casualty assistance to the PNOK of DOD civilian casualties. Where possible, they will abide by the same guidelines as for military casualty assistance.

*e.* Contracting agencies have the responsibility to provide their own casualty assistance personnel to provide casualty assistance to the PNOK of their contract employees.

*f.* The CACs may use Soldiers used in the casualty notification as CAOs, except those specifically listed in paragraph 5-5d(1) through 5-5d(6). However, do not assign an individual who was the CNO to a family as the CAO to assist the same family where they made a notification. Exception is use of CNOs for parents who are SNOK. The CNOs who notify parents who are SNOK, will stay on to provide continued assistance and information updates through the funeral and any investigation process.

*g.* Upon death of an active or retired 4-star general officer, appoint an active duty general officer as the CAO. Director, CMAOC may grant exceptions to this policy only when it is clearly not feasible to appoint an active duty general officer.

*h.* The CAOs will assist NOK as this regulation and the situation requires.

#### **6-4. Continuity of assistance**

When a CAO must be replaced because of reassignment, separation, extended absence, or by request of the NOK—

*a.* Provide explanation for the change of CAO request to CMAOC for decision.

*b.* Ensure that the NOK is prepared for the change.

*c.* Ensure that the new officer has time to become thoroughly familiar with the case and is ready to continue assistance without interruption. A 60-day lead time is desirable, when possible.

*d.* Ensure the CAO accompanies the new officer on initial contact with the NOK—

(1) Review CAO checklist thoroughly.

(2) Confirm status of benefits requests.

(3) Review contact list.

(4) Address any questions with the family.

#### **6-5. Casualty assistance officer packets**

To ensure consistency and appropriate standards within its geographical area of responsibility, each CAC will develop casualty assistance officer packets, and keep them up to date. These packets will include—

*a.* The HQDA Casualty Assistance Officer Guide.

*b.* The location and telephone number of the nearest Department of Veterans' Affairs CAO and Social Security Administration (SSA) offices and the centralized expedited claims offices of DVA and SSA.

*c.* Telephone numbers and addresses (e-mail) of officials who can coordinate and provide information on all aspects of the Casualty Assistance Program.

*d.* Appendix A and all forms listed therein, as appropriate, and make readily available to the CAO.

*e.* A list of organizations that can provide services, and the locations of the nearest Army Emergency Relief (AER) and American Red Cross.

*f.* The DFAS CAO Guide.

*g.* List of all Uniform Resource Locators (URL) relating to Army casualty assistance forms, procedures, guides, and support.

*h.* Guide For Surviving Family Members.

#### **6-6. Assignment and transfer of person receiving casualty assistance**

When the NOK relocates before casualty assistance actions are completed, reassign assistance as stated below. The

losing CAC responsible for casualty assistance, whether CONUS and overseas, will promptly notify CMAOC concerning such movement.

a. Actions to take when the NOK moves from a CAC's area of responsibility are—

(1) The losing CAC will telephone the CMAOC before the move and follow-up with an e-mail message and copy the gaining CAC. Provide the specifics of the case and what assistance the losing CAC has already rendered. CAOs from the losing and gaining CACs will communicate directly with one another to affect a formal handoff. The losing CAC will send a copy of the complete case to the gaining CAC. It will include the CAO's AAR, all casualty reports, and copies of pertinent personnel records to facilitate any pending claims or actions.

(2) E-mail will include whatever information is necessary to provide a smooth transition in continuing casualty assistance to the NOK. Also, the e-mail will include the NOK's time of departure, estimated time of arrival, mode of travel, and address at destination.

(3) When the NOK will need assistance at intermediate points en route to the final destination, the losing CAC will send an e-mail to all persons concerned, stating the NOK's itinerary and the assistance needed.

b. Ensure that the NOK is prepared for the change and that the new CAO has time to become thoroughly familiar with the case and is ready to continue assistance without interruption.

## **Section II**

### **Assistance to the next of kin of deceased individuals**

#### **6-7. Role of the casualty assistance officer**

a. The CAO will assist and counsel the PNOK on all matters pertaining to the deceased. The CAO as a minimum will—

(1) Communicate directly with the person making the personal notification to help ensure the first and subsequent contacts with the NOK are productive.

(2) Call the NOK within 4 hours (but not between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.) following initial notification to schedule an appointment to visit the PNOK. The NOK will expect the telephone call, so any delay will cause them needless anxiety. Timing of the first visit should be based on the desires of the PNOK. Comply with any request to wait to have the first visit.

(3) Obtain a copy of a divorce decree, if applicable.

(4) Obtain a valid 45-day residence address and mailing address, if different from the residence address. Also, obtain additional information on dependents (children), not previously reported.

(5) Determine the immediate needs or problems facing the NOK and render prompt, courteous, and sympathetic assistance.

(6) Direct all inquiries on non-recovered remains or validity of identification of remains to CMAOC.

(7) When the PNOK is a surviving spouse, or the designated natural parents when there is no spouse or children, advise the PNOK of the status of the death gratuity payment. Assist in the payment of that gratuity.

(8) Initiate a CAO log.

(9) Arrange for emergency financial assistance with the AER and American Red Cross, if needed.

(10) Assist in arranging for military honors for the funeral, if desired by the PADD.

(11) When the decedent was married, also pass pertinent information regarding the return of the remains, the funeral arrangements, and similar information to the surviving parents and to the decedent's children by a former marriage (or their guardian).

(12) Advise the NOK of monetary benefits and entitlements for which they are eligible. Use local facilities, such as the Legal Assistance Office and Government copying equipment, in developing or supporting claims for benefits. When possible, use the DVA and SSA expedited benefits processing call centers or accompany the NOK to the Veterans Benefits Office and the SSA to discuss survivor benefits and to assist in completing applications for benefits.

(13) Advise the NOK that DFAS will mail claim forms for unpaid pay and allowances, with instructions for completion, to the designated beneficiaries.

(14) Inform NOK who are family members about the period of entitlement for transporting and shipping household goods and about procedures for requesting extension of entitlements (AR 55-46).

(15) Immediately notify CMAOC and the CAC of any move the NOK makes or contemplates. Include both the old and the new addresses and the effective date of the move in the notification, and record this information on the CAO AAR.

(16) Immediately inform CMAOC if the NOK requests a letter of sympathy from the deceased Soldier's unit CDR, in cases when another official would normally prepare the letter.

(17) When a death occurs in a combat zone make the NOK aware of section 2201 of the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) code. This code grants forgiveness of all income tax for the year of death and any prior taxable year ending on or after the first day the member served in the combat zone. The CMAOC will certify the DD Form 1300 and forward it to the IRS.

(18) Coordinate closely with the Army Benefits Center (ABC) for all civilian Government employees' deaths

(19) Inform family members of, and if they desire, assist them in obtaining a copy of any fatality or investigative reports pertaining to the death of the Soldier in accordance with appendix D. Consult with CMAOC case manager to confirm which investigation reports apply to the case at hand prior to advising NOK of the existence of specific kinds of investigation reports.

(20) When applicable, coordinate with CMAOC for the delivery of findings of the accident investigation of fatal accident collateral investigation report to the NOK.

*b.* If needed and available, use Government vehicles to assist the NOK. You may operate beyond the normal permissible operating distance of the installation, activity or unit providing assistance. Use privately owned vehicles when that will avoid undue delay and is more advantageous to the Government.

#### **6–8. Assistance to the next of kin of retired Soldiers**

*a.* In honor of their retired service, CACs are encouraged to provide assistance to the NOK of a retiree who dies. In cases where notification of the death of a retiree is not very timely, it may not be necessary to provide assistance in person. When contacted concerning a deceased retiree, the CAC will contact the NOK to determine the extent of assistance needed. Whenever feasible, CACs should assign a CAO to NOK of a requests assistance. However, if a CAO is not available CACs should develop information packets to mail to the NOK containing the necessary forms and postage-paid return envelopes, along with instructions and telephone number to contact for further assistance. The CACs will follow up with the NOK after a mailing to ensure receipt of packet.

*b.* Retirees may be entitled to certain mortuary benefits as covered in AR 638–2 and table 2–1.

*c.* When a military retiree dies in a foreign country—

(1) Contact nearest military facility for assistance.

(2) Contact an American Embassy or Consulate responsible for the geographical area for assistance with disposition of remains, the estate, contact of nearest military facility and mortuary.

(3) The State Department's consular representative in the country concerned will be the official who assists in the disposition of the remains. The State Department's point of contact in Washington, DC on such matters is the Special Consular Services.

*d.* The CAC should contact Retired Pay Operations, DFAS, to obtain information concerning survivor benefits, allotments, and so forth.

#### **6–9. Assistance to the next of kin of civilian employees**

The Army will provide casualty assistance to the PNOK of all DA civilians who die while assigned, deployed, or TDY outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as to the overseas PNOK of all overseas-stationed DA civilians who die while TDY in CONUS. Commanders will ensure that the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) responsible for the area, in coordination with the local CAC, identifies a DA civilian to provide casualty assistance to the NOK. This assistance will be comparable to that prescribed in this regulation for military family members. The Army Benefits Center, in coordination with the appointed CAO, will provide assistance with the processing of all benefits and entitlements. After the family members enters CONUS, the gaining CPAC, in coordination with the local CAC, will normally provide for any remaining assistance that might be necessary. The responsible CDR will transfer the case to the proper CAC so that he or she may furnish pertinent information to the civilian personnel officer at the installation nearest the NOK. If a DA civilian is not reasonably available to serve as a CAO, the responsible CDR can appoint a military CAO to provide assistance and ensure the local CPAC and the ABC assist the military CAO in processing of all civilian benefits and entitlements.

### **Section III**

#### **Performance of Duties as the Casualty Assistance Officer in Deceased Cases**

##### **6–10. General**

The local Army CDR with overall responsibility for the Casualty Assistance Program appoints the CAO as the SA's representative to the NOK. As the SA's representative, the CAO's CDR will release the CAO from all conflicting duties and requirements and will monitor Soldier's performance as a CAO until the CAC reviews the CAO AAR and releases the CAO back to his or her unit. The local casualty and mortuary affairs officer supervises the assistance program for the CAC (see appendix B for a listing of CACs). All of the CAC's resources, including the resources of its entire staff, are available to the CAO to carry out his or her duties.

*a.* The CAC and CMAOC will be the main points of contact and source of information. The CAC will assist in coordinating mortuary affairs. Other agencies, such as the Staff Judge Advocate, surgeon general, chaplain, provost marshal, public affairs office, retirement services officer and the finance, housing, and transportation offices may assist the CAO. The CAO is expected to make such contacts, when necessary, without CAC referral. The American Red Cross, AER, and regional offices of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and SSA will also help when needed. Department of Veterans' Affairs and SSA, prefer to provide specific information directly to the survivor. The CAO

will make necessary appointments with Department of Veterans' Affairs and SSA for those NOK who do not opt to use the centralized expedited call centers, and accompany the NOK when applicable. The CAO should call on these local service and support activities when necessary.

b. The SA charges the CAO to render all reasonable assistance needed to settle the claims and payment of survivor benefits. The quality of service must reflect full attention to duty and to the NOK. It will lessen the emotional and financial strain borne by the NOK during a period of great trauma. The CAO should pursue the assignment with a keen sense of urgency but conform to the NOK's time preferences. The CAO should take pride in conduct, military appearance, and services rendered; and keep the thoughts, feelings, and position of the NOK uppermost in mind.

c. The CAO will read and follow all guidance contained in the CAO Guide the CAC will provide.

#### **6-11. Disposition of casualty assistance officer after action report**

Forward the completed AAR through channels to the responsible CAC or major overseas CDR for review and corrective action. The CACs responsible for providing casualty assistance to the NOK of deceased active duty Soldiers will contact the NOK after receipt of the AAR to confirm the NOK is satisfied that all needed assistance has been rendered and to ensure NOK has the CAC's Toll-Free number if additional assistance is later requested. After verifying NOK's satisfaction with casualty assistance, CACs will submit the original CAO AAR to CMAOC. Complete the AAR on the form from the CAO Guide, and forward the AAR form not later than 120 days after submission of the INIT casualty report unless assistance is still ongoing. The CACs continue to maintain the form for retirees and maintain a copy of completed reports.

### **Section IV**

#### **Obtaining Personal Information from the Next of Kin of a Deceased Individual**

##### **6-12. Obtaining information**

To settle a deceased individual's personal affairs and financial accounts, personal information pertaining to the decedent is normally required from the NOK. In order to protect both the deceased and the NOK, advise the NOK of the necessity to disclose the information covered by the provisions of the Privacy Act.

##### **6-13. Advising the next of kin**

Advise the NOK of a deceased individual of the reasons for disclosure of the requested information. Provide them a copy of DA Form 4475 (Data Required by the Privacy Act of 1974–Personal Information From the NOK of a Deceased Service Member). This form is the only manner of advisement required before requesting information from the NOK. To print DA Form 4475, go to [http://www/army/mil/usapa/eforms/da4475-r\\_to\\_da4831-r\\_1.html](http://www/army/mil/usapa/eforms/da4475-r_to_da4831-r_1.html).

### **Chapter 7**

#### **Transportation and Travel Orders for Family Members of Very Seriously Wounded, Injured, or Ill and Seriously Wounded, Injured, or Ill Soldiers**

##### **7-1. Very seriously wounded, injured, or ill, seriously wounded, injured, or ill, not seriously injured travel and transportation orders (invitational travel orders)**

Department of the Army is permitted, within certain parameters of the USC, to extend an invitation for movement to the bedside of ill or injured Soldiers. Soldiers must be VSI, SI, or NSI (and are hospitalized and are in the United States) status as determined by a military physician. The USC does not authorize T&TO for the families of Soldiers who become NSI. Director, CMAOC is the approving authority for this invitation and extends it in the form of a travel order. The CMAOC will publish all T&TOs that result from war and contingency operations illness and injuries. Requests from CAC for all other T&TOs will be considered upon receipt of a valid DA Form 2984 (Very Seriously Ill/Seriously Ill/Special Category Patient Report). One round-trip movement (travel, excluding in and about movement) for up to 3 family members (PNOK) (as designated by USC), and provides subsistence funds (transportation) as determined by the DOD Per Diem Committee. Initial orders will not extend beyond 15 days unless approved by CMAOC. Requests for extension to VSI or SI initial orders may be made to CMAOC through the servicing Patient Administration Division (PAD) to the CAC to AHRC-PEZ. The NSI (injured or ill) orders will not be extended. All orders will cease when a Soldier leaves initial inpatient status at the MTF caring for her or him. A DA T&TO does not follow a Soldier to a veteran's or specialty care center.

##### **7-2. Outside continental United States travel and transportation orders for family members**

Director, CMAOC may issue a T&TO to 3 family members of a Soldier who is hospitalized and classified as VSI, SI, or is retired for the illness or injury, whether or not electrical brain activity still exists or brain death is declared. The JFTR, Vol 1, paragraph U5246 governs T&TOs. The definition of a family member as defined in the JFTR, means the member's spouse, children (including step, adopted, and illegitimate children), parents of the member and siblings of

the member (includes fathers and mothers through adoption and persons who have stood in loco parentis to the member for a period of not less than 1 year prior to the member's entry into the U.S. Army). Only 1 father and 1 mother or their counterparts may be recognized in any one case. In addition, the following guidelines must be met—

a. The attending physician or surgeon and the CDR or head of the military medical facility exercising control over the Soldier determines that the presence of the family member may contribute to the Soldier's health and welfare.

b. The MTF will document this determination on a DA Form 2984. This form requires the signature of the MTF CDR and the attending physician, PAD or administration officer of the day (AOD).

c. The Soldier is hospitalized in an overseas area and the PNOK are in CONUS, Soldier is hospitalized in CONUS and the PNOK are OCONUS, or both Soldier and PNOK are OCONUS but in different overseas locations.

d. Restrictions on issuing T&TOs are as follows—

(1) The CMAOC will publish the T&TO for PNOK of injured or ill Soldiers in the combat zone.

(2) Travel to a hostile fire area is not authorized.

(3) The T&TO request made by a PNOK or on behalf of a PNOK that does not comply with the above criteria.

(4) The CMAOC may approve a T&TO for the PNOK of captured, missing, or detained Soldiers.

(5) Movement of the PNOK must be initiated within 24 hours of receipt of a valid DA Form 2984 from the MTF.

(6) The CMAOC will act as the approving authority for all T&TOs issued by it or on its behalf. The issuance of a DA Form 2984 by an MTF does not constitute approval of a T&TO. Funding for commitments made by other than CMAOC will not be reimbursed by DA. Only CMAOC will commit said organization to a DA T&TO.

(7) The T&TO will cease at the time a Soldier is discharged, becomes an outpatient, is transferred to a veteran's or specialty care medical center or when the PNOK leaves the bedside of the Soldier.

e. The CAC will review the request for a T&TO to ensure it meets the above criteria and verify PNOK information. The CAC will then send the request immediately by e-mail or fax (confirmed by follow-up telephone call) to CMAOC. Each request will contain the following information—

(1) The PNOK's name, address, telephone number, and relationship to the patient.

(2) Statement that the attending physician and the MTF CDR determine the presence of the PNOK is necessary and will contribute to the recovery of the Soldier.

(3) Passport and visa requirements of the PNOK.

(4) Instructions on what the PNOK is to do upon arrival (such as contact the staff duty officer).

(5) Information concerning the availability of Government quarters and dining facilities.

(6) Estimated cost per day for each PNOK while they are present in the CMD.

(7) Type of weather the PNOK should expect to encounter and suggested type of apparel to bring (for example, spring apparel or summer apparel). Coordination will be made with the Soldier's unit.

(8) The CAC or PAD at the MTF must promptly coordinate movement of PNOK to the bedside.

f. When CMAOC approves the T&TO arrangements and confirms the arrangements they will notify the CAC and provide an itinerary.

g. Once a T&TO is issued, the following restrictions apply—

(1) The Government will provide to the PNOK 1 round-trip transportation from place of residence to the overseas location of the hospital and return. In and around transportation is not authorized.

(2) The Government may reimburse expenses incurred for expedited passport processing.

h. Information on sending and completing reports on NOK travel is listed below—

(1) The appropriate CAC will fax or e-mail to the CMD that the PNOK will be visiting, and include all appropriate information, addresses, or the CAC may telephone CMAOC. The message or telephone conversation will announce the PNOK's estimated time of arrival (ETA), estimated time of departure (ETD), and all other pertinent travel information. If the CAC uses a telephone conversation, CMAOC will inform the CMD and other necessary activities that the NOK will visit.

(2) Include the date of the PNOK's arrival in the overseas CMD in the first PROG report following arrival. Include in subsequent reports that the PNOK remains in the CMD. Report the departure of the PNOK in the next PROG report following the departure.

i. Initial orders will not exceed 15 days without CMAOC approval.

(1) Requests for extension to VSI/SI initial orders may be made to CMAOC through the servicing PAD to the CAC.

(2) This T&TO will not be extended beyond the Soldiers' hospitalization.

j. The T&TO will not be issued to a family member once a Soldier recovers from SI status.

k. In extreme time-sensitive instances where CMAOC provides a voice approval, T&TO will be dated to reflect the date of the voice approval.

l. Primary next of kin (as defined in the Joint Federal Travel Regulation and chapter 6 of this publication) who are active duty Army personnel may be moved to the bedside of VSI OR SI Soldiers hospitalized OCONUS.

(1) The PNOK must coordinate with his/her unit CDR when requesting T&TO.

(2) Memorandum of approval and/or disapproval from the unit CDR must be forwarded to AHRC-PEZ operations.

The memorandum must state the number of days authorized at the bedside of VSI and SI Soldiers. Active duty Army personnel will be attached to the Medical Hold Unit (MHU) at the MTF if authorized time is more than 30 days.

(3) Active duty personnel must bring required issued uniforms, CAC card, ID tags, and physical fitness uniforms.

(4) The PNOK who are active duty personnel from other branches of Service must coordinate with their respective Service for travel to the bedside of their casualty.

### **7-3. Continental United States travel and transportation orders for family members**

The CONUS CAC identified in appendix B may issue a T&TO to 3 family members of a Soldier who is hospitalized in CONUS and classified as VSI, SI, NSI (for NSI only, injured in an operation or area designated as a combat operation or combat zone) hospitalized or retired for the illness or injury, whether or not tests show electrical brain activity or brain death. The JFTR, Vol 1, paragraph U5246 governs T&TOs. The definition of a family member (PNOK) as defined in the JFTR is the member's spouse, children (including step, adopted, and illegitimate children), parents of the member and siblings of the member (includes fathers and mothers through adoption and persons who have stood in loco parentis to the member for a period of not less than 1 year immediately prior to the member's entry in the U.S. Army). However, only 1 father and 1 mother or their counterparts may be recognized in any 1 case. In addition, the following guidelines must be met—

*a.* The attending physician or surgeon and the CDR or head of the military medical facility exercising control over the Soldier determines that the presence of the family member may contribute to the Soldier's health and welfare.

*b.* The MTF will document this determination on a DA Form 2984. The attending physician, PAD or AOD, and MTF CDR must sign the DA Form 2984.

*c.* The Soldier is hospitalized in an MTF in the United States.

*d.* Restrictions for CONUS T&TOs are as follows—

(1) The CMAOC will publish the T&TO for PNOK of hostile injured or ill Soldiers.

(2) The MTF personnel will not commit the Army to issuing a T&TO. Only CMAOC can approve and offer a T&TO.

(3) One round-trip transportation from place of residence to the MTF and return. In and about transportation is not authorized.

(4) A monetary allowance for the official distance between home and the MTF if travel is performed by privately owned conveyance.

(5) Movement of PNOK must be initiated within 24 hours of receipt of a valid DA Form 2984 from the MTF.

(6) The T&TO will cease at the time the Soldier is discharged, becomes an outpatient, is transferred to DVA or specialty care medical center, or when the PNOK leaves the bedside of the Soldier.

*e.* The JFTR, Vol I, paragraph U5246 identifies the only reimbursable expenses in connection with this travel (such as taxis to and from airports, baggage handler tips, and so forth).

*f.* Upon approval from CMAOC, the CAC will provide AHRC-PEZ with the following information—

(1) The CAC responsible for the area in which the Soldier is currently hospitalized must send a facsimile copy of the completed and signed DA Form 2984 to the CMAOC and the names and relationship of the PNOK to the Soldier in the request for the T&TO. Also include INIT casualty reports for all SI/VSI Soldiers for which the CAC requests a T&TO.

(2) A copy of Soldier's DD Form 93, SGLV 8286, and MOB orders (USAR/ARNG) Soldiers.

(3) Estimated cost of the T&TO, to include air transportation and or mileage.

*g.* After review, CMAOC will telephonically provide the requesting CAC a control number and fund cite authorization.

*h.* Send a copy of the T&TO to AHRC-PEZ when issued.

*i.* The CACs will maintain a T&TO log that includes as a minimum—

(1) Soldier's name, grade, and SSN.

(2) Control number.

(3) Name of the PNOK to which the T&TO was issued.

(4) Name of CMAOC approving the individual.

(5) Estimated cost of the T&TO.

(6) Date T&TO was issued.

(7) Update DCIPS interested persons and benefits and entitlements.

*j.* Do not extend initial orders beyond 15 days unless CMAOC (AHRC-PEZ) approves.

(1) Make requests for extension to VSI/SI/NSI (injured or ill) (for NSI only, injured in an operation or area designated as a combat operation or combat zone) initial orders to AHRC-PEZ through the servicing PAD to the CAC to AHRC-PEZ.

(2) All requests for extension of NSI (injured or ill) (for NSI only, injured in an operation or area designated as a combat operation or combat zone) hospitalized in the United States past 30 days requires Secretarial approval and must be processed 10 days prior to end of T&TO.



- (3) The T&TO will not be extended beyond the Soldiers' hospitalization.
- k. In extreme time-sensitive instances where CMAOC provides a voice approval, T&TO will be dated to reflect the date of the voice approval.

## **Chapter 8**

### **Preparation and Dispatch of Letters of Sympathy, Condolence, and Concern**

#### **Section I**

#### **Letters of Sympathy**

##### **8-1. Description of letters of sympathy**

Letters of sympathy are designed to extend expressions of sympathy to the PNOK. They are also an instrument that CDRs or supervisors may use to advise the PNOK of the factual, detailed circumstances surrounding the person's death or missing status. AR 25-50 is the primary reference for preparing correspondence. When preparing letters of sympathy, use the following guidance—

a. Send a letter of sympathy to the PNOK of all deceased military Soldiers, including those in an AWOL status, except for those mentioned in paragraph 8-3 below. Also send a letter of sympathy to the PNOK of all DA civilians assigned or deployed overseas, who are CONUS in a TDY status, or who becomes a casualty in support of contingency operations. The Director, CMAOC (AHRC-PEZ) will determine whether to send a letter to the PNOK of deserters.

b. Send a letter to the parents when they are the PNOK. If they are separated or divorced, prepare and send individual letters to each parent.

c. Do not prepare letters of sympathy for any NOK who, by his or her presence or through some appropriate source (note: appropriate source does not include the official casualty notification which is made for all reported deaths), is fully aware of the circumstances surrounding the casualty.

d. Normally the individual or CDR most knowledgeable of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the casualty incident prepares the letter of sympathy. The initiator will usually be the individual's supervisor or unit CDR (company, battery, troop, or detachment). However, during contingency operations, it is normally more appropriate for the first field grade CDR in the chain of command (who is also responsible for verifying the circumstances in the INIT casualty feeder report) to prepare and send the official letter of sympathy. Certain circumstances may require or even dictate that someone other than the CDR writes the letter, as outlined below—

(1) When an individual dies or becomes missing while in a transient status, the CDR responsible for the location where the incident occurred will prepare the letter of sympathy.

(2) When an individual dies in CONUS after evacuation from an overseas medical facility, the CDR of the medical facility where the death occurred will prepare the letter of sympathy. If death occurred in a non-military medical facility, the CDR having administrative responsibility for that area will prepare the letter of sympathy.

(3) When an individual who is being medically evacuated dies while en route to a CONUS medical facility, the CDR of the losing overseas medical facility will prepare the letter of sympathy.

e. Should the NOK express a desire to receive a letter of sympathy from the decedent's previous unit CDR, this information should be relayed for action to the CAC concerned.

##### **8-2. Procedures for preparing letters**

a. When a casualty occurs in CONUS, write a letter of sympathy within 24 hours after notification to the PNOK. The preparing CDR will coordinate the mailing with the appropriate CAC (or deployed G-1 when so designated by the contingency CAC concerned) to ensure that all aspects of the letter are proper and correct.

b. When the casualty occurs OCONUS, write the letter within 72 hours after the time of the incident or after submitting the INIT casualty report, except for contingency area deaths. Write letters for deaths occurring in contingency areas within 7 days after the time of the incident or after submitting the INIT casualty report. Do not date or send the letter until receiving confirmation that the PNOK has been notified. Upon confirmation of notification, date and send the letter. The preparing CDR will coordinate with the CAC to ensure that all aspects of the letter are proper and correct before sending it.

c. If the death, DUSTWUN or missing status resulted from an aircraft accident (see AR 385-95 for the procedures to follow).

##### **8-3. Content of letters**

Keep letters sincere and in simple language. Show a warm personal interest in the Soldier and the addressee. Extend condolences and describe the circumstances surrounding the Soldier's death or missing status. See further details on content below and sample commander's letters of sympathy at figures 8-1 and 8-2.

a. Tell the circumstances factually, tactfully, sympathetically, and logically. Besides supplying enough facts to

answer the “5 Ws” and any questions that the family would normally ask, give pertinent facts that would in some way comfort the NOK. These facts may include saying the Soldier did not suffer, the Soldier received the last rites of his or her faith, and memorial services were held. When appropriate, add information concerning the Soldier’s work and efficiency and his or her adaptation to service life. If the NOK is informed that the effects will be sent to the person authorized by law to receive them, the letter may include a statement about the collecting, safeguarding, and disposing of the Soldier’s personal effects. Avoid unfitting compliments and ghastly descriptions. Do not send photographs depicting casualties. The writer may include photographs and a tape recording of the memorial services.

*b.* In cases of death from hostile action and cases of missing in action, when security restrictions permit, provide facts describing the combat operation or action and other circumstances concerning the Soldier’s status. Include details concerning the date, geographic location, and type of mission and actions taken once the incident occurred. Carefully describe how the incident occurred and, if appropriate, show that medical aid was immediately available. If significant results were obtained, state what the combat action accomplished, and describe the contribution of the Soldier in this and other actions.

*c.* When describing a missing case avoid statements that will either cause the NOK to lose all hope for or to become overly optimistic about the Soldier’s return.

*d.* Ensure that information in the letter does not conflict with data previously provided in a casualty report.

*e.* Do not state that the Soldier is being or has been recommended for a posthumous promotion, decoration, or award.

*f.* Ensure that letters to members of the same family agree on circumstances surrounding the casualty, but change them somewhat so each is personalized.

*g.* When full and accurate details cannot be provided to the NOK until a thorough investigation or inquest has been conducted, prepare an interim letter of sympathy.

(1) Send interim letters every 4 to 6 weeks, giving whatever facts are available. Send letters sooner if significant facts are developed. Advise the NOK that they will be informed as soon as the full facts are known. The CAC and major overseas CDRs will ensure that these follow-up letters are sent promptly for death cases. Director, CMAOC will keep the family informed of the facts on missing persons.

(2) When no additional facts are available, and it cannot be determined when such facts will become available through investigations, interim letters of sympathy are not required. However, in the last such interim letter, include a paragraph assuring the NOK that they will be notified immediately upon receipt of any additional facts.

*h.* Do not use predominately military terms or abbreviations. (For example, 1300 hours should be expressed as 1 p.m.). Avoid using “line of duty” and “misconduct.” Writers and reviewers make certain that the details given in each case agree with the findings of an investigation, if conducted.

*i.* In cases of homicide or suicide, include a brief, carefully worded statement of the circumstances of death. Write this statement so the addressee will not misconstrue the cause and manner of death. Be factual about the cause of death, but do not provide information that will unfavorably reflect on the decedent unless required to explain the cause of death.

*j.* Do not include any statements that might be the basis for a claim against the Government or another agency or person. Also avoid disclosing information that security regulations prohibit.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 52d INFANTRY BATTALION  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS  
67590

December 14, 2005

Mrs. Samuel Johnson Beckett  
123 Redding Lane  
Surtain, Florida 76558

Dear Mrs. Beckett:

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband, Private Samuel J. Beckett, who had recently volunteered to serve his country as an American Soldier, and who was a good man to all who knew him. This tragedy has taken this fine young man from his family and his friends. Words cannot and will not describe to you how sorry I am about this tremendous loss and how much Sam's death has and will continue to impact those of us still serving.

As you know, Sam had recently arrived here in Bravo Company, 52d Infantry Battalion from Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Sam was extremely proud to now be wearing his black beret and eager to join his new unit and family—the Bravo Company Bulldogs. He had settled into his brand-new barracks room, sharing it with PFC Darren Compton and preparing for the unit's first big training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. As Sam probably told you, the unit was training hard in preparation for this exercise. The First Infantry Division conducts three Warfighter exercises each year in order to stay finely honed for combat and this was the first for Sam. As a member of the second squad of the 3d platoon, he was setting the example for others as a fine rifleman and Soldier.

On Monday, December 13, 2005, the Soldiers of B Company awakened early for an esprit de corps physical training run. Sam proudly carried the guidon for his platoon that morning, leading the other 35 Soldiers on a five-mile run through Fort Riley. After breakfast, the company boarded buses for the ride to Range 31 to qualify with their individual weapons one last time before the trip to Fort Polk. Sam was in the third firing order at the seventh firing point, and his roommate PFC Compton was next to him. The Soldiers fired their familiarization rounds and then cleared their weapons in preparation for qualification. As the Soldiers left their firing positions and moved downrange to check their targets, another Soldier's weapon accidentally fell to the ground and discharged. The bullet struck Sam in the head, killing him instantly. The other Soldiers, his battle buddies, rushed to his side. A combat medic, trained in life-saving techniques, was there on the range in an ambulance. Although he tried extensively to revive Sam, he was unable to. A medical evacuation helicopter from the post hospital was on sight within fifteen minutes and transported Sam to Irwin Army Community Hospital where the doctors declared him deceased.

At this time, the incident is under investigation to determine how this tragic accident occurred and how to prevent a recurrence. Once the investigation has been completed, I will ensure that you have an opportunity to be briefed on the results of the investigation.

Figure 8–1. Sample commander's letter of sympathy to next of kin (non-hostile)

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I think it is important that you know how much Sam loved the Army and what he was doing. Although he was only in our unit for a short time, he already stood out as one of my most motivated and promising young Soldiers. He was always first to volunteer for missions, kept his uniform and boots immaculate, and never missed a formation or a work call. He was an extremely promising Soldier, well-liked by all others in the platoon and the company. I have a very clear memory of Sam carrying the platoon guidon that last morning as the companies passed in review before me and my battalion staff. I remember how proud he was and how tall he marched carrying the Bulldog 3 flag. Sam was an American Soldier and an Infantryman – doing the job that he signed on to do. I am proud to have been associated with this outstanding American.

I cannot even begin to imagine the impact that this loss will have on you, his family. I don't know how much peace this will bring you, but I know that the Soldiers with whom Sam served have a great deal of respect and love for him. We had a memorial service at 10:00 a.m. today, where we remembered Sam and his fighting spirit. The comments made by those who served closely with Sam were spoken from the heart with a great deal of emotion. I think that Corporal Freeman, his squad leader, best summarized Sam's service when he said, "I am going to miss the sharpest, most motivated Soldier in my squad, the one who always yelled 'Yes, Corporal' the loudest, the one who I could always count on to get things done. But most of all, I'll miss the potential he had and all he could have been." Following the formal service as bagpipes played "Amazing Grace" in the background, each Soldier in turn rendered a solemn salute to an M16, laden with a set of Sam's identification tags (dog tags) that had been secured between a pair of his boots, and placed on a pedestal in front of us.

Please know that the unit is treating Sam's personal effects with the utmost care and will forward them to you, as the person eligible to receive his effects, very shortly. We will include in those personal effects the guidon that Sam carried the morning of his death.

It is very important to me that you know two things. First, Sam loved what he was doing. Second, Sam loved the Soldiers with whom he served; and they loved him. I wish you and your family the very best as you deal with this unthinkable tragedy. If there is anything I can do to help ease your pain during this time, I welcome that opportunity. Please know that you are, and always will be, part of the 52d Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, the "Big Red One."

With Deepest Sympathy,

ROGER G. CORBETT  
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army  
Commanding

Figure 8–1. Sample commander's letter of sympathy to next of kin (non–hostile)—Continued

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 123d ENGINEER BATTALION (FWD)  
CAMP RAMADI, IRAQ  
APO AE 09396

March 1, 2005

Mr. James J. Monroe and family  
713 West Barnard Street #131  
Ames, Idaho 12345

Dear Mr. Monroe:

Please accept my most personal regards and deepest sympathy on the recent death of your son, Sergeant Jason Warren Monroe, a Non-Commissioned Officer, an American Soldier, and a good man. This tragedy has taken a nephew from his Aunt, a son from his father, a brother from his siblings, a friend from hundreds here in Iraq, and untold hundreds back home, as well. Words cannot describe to you how sorry I am about this tremendous loss, and how much Jason's death has and will continue to impact those of us still serving.

As you know, Jason's unit was alerted on February 11, 2004. He mobilized on May 12, 2004, and went with the rest of the battalion to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where we trained in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Jason arrived at Forward Operating Base Salem, near An Najaf, Iraq, on September 1, 2005. The Battalion began displacement operations from Forward Operating Base Salem on September 20, 2005, and has been assigned to our current duty location of Camp Ramadi, Ar Ramadi, Iraq, since that time.

On Tuesday, February 27, 2005, at 7:12 a.m., 3rd Platoon, Company C, 123d Engineer Battalion, reinforced with Soldiers from Headquarters & Headquarters Company 456th Engineer Battalion, Company C 456th Engineer Battalion, a United States Marine Corps Explosives Ordnance Disposal Team, departed Camp Anzio, which is on the East Side of Ar Ramadi, to conduct route clearance operations in support of the 2d Battalion 9th Infantry, 2d Brigade Combat Team (Task Force Steel). The purpose of this operation was to clear improvised explosive devices and mined areas in the City of Ar Ramadi. At 9:50 a.m., two 155 millimeter howitzer rounds, primed but with no initiating system detected, were discovered by the scanning team. These rounds were placed by insurgents into a pothole in the road. As our primary ordnance removal vehicle, called a Buffalo, began retrieving these pieces of ordnance so that they could be detonated, both our advance guard and security team began pulling 360 degree perimeter security. Jason was one of four Soldiers in the M113A3 Armored Personnel Carrier, Bumper #C12, positioned approximately 200 meters in front of the Buffalo, scanning for snipers, vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, and other activity in the area. At 10:03 a.m., Jason was engaged by one round from a sniper while standing in the troop hatch of the M113A3. Jason's Squad Leader was within two feet of Jason when he was shot. A Combat Medic assigned to the Platoon was on the site within two minutes, as were Jason's Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant. Jason was evacuated by the 3d Battalion 151st Ground Medical Evacuation Team very quickly, and received immediate care, but his wounds proved too severe to save his life.

I think it is important that you know how your loved one spent his last days. As the Battalion Commander, I participated in this mission with Company C in support of Task Force Steel. We linked up with this Task Force at Camp Anzio, on Sunday, February 25, 2005, and cleared routes in this City on the evening of the 25th and early morning of the 26th. The platoon then had approximately 36 hours of down time between missions, where they had time to enjoy each

Figure 8-2. Sample commander's letter of sympathy to next of kin (hostile)

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others' company. I hung out with these Soldiers for this 36-hour period, and remember very clearly seeing Jason with a very content smile on his face on numerous occasions. The platoon enjoyed cooling off by swimming in a converted irrigation pond in the afternoon, joining Soldiers from the 2-9 Infantry. They sat around watching movies on portable DVD players, listening to music, and most of all talking amongst themselves. I do not recall Jason saying very much – at least when I was around. But, I do remember him glancing from person to person as his platoon communicated amongst themselves, hanging on the words that they used, and clearly being among people whom he truly loved, and who loved him. He was an American Soldier and a Combat Engineer – doing the job that he signed on to do. I am proud to be associated with this outstanding American.

I cannot even begin to imagine the impact that this loss will have on you, his family. I don't know how much peace this will bring you, but I know that the Soldiers with whom Jason served have a great deal of respect and love for him. We had a memorial service at 10:00 am today, where we remembered Jason and his contributions to this battalion. The comments made by those who served closely with Jason were spoken from the heart with a great deal of emotion. I think that Specialist Basker's comments best summarized the service when he said, "I am going to miss the person I ate every meal with, the person who would always bring me a cold drink when I needed one, the person who had so many great stories to tell and such a talent for telling them; but, most of all I am going to miss my friend." Following the formal service, I was provided the honor of rendering the first salute to an M16, laden with a set of Jason's identification tags (dog tags) that had been secured between a pair of his boots, and placed on a pedestal in front of us. As bagpipes played "Amazing Grace" in the background, I watched each Soldier follow suit over the next 15 minutes; I saw many tears – shed from Soldiers representing all of our companies, truly an indicator that he will never be forgotten.

Please know that an officer has been appointed to secure and inventory all of Jason's personal effects. Once that inventory is complete, his effects will be forwarded to you, as the person eligible to receive his effects, through the Joint Personal Effects Depot in Maryland. We will include in those effects pictures and a DVD of the memorial service.

It is very important to me that you know two things. First, Jason loved what he was doing. Second, Jason loved the Soldiers with whom he served; and they loved him. I wish you and your family the very best as you deal with this unthinkable tragedy. If there is anything I can do to help ease your pain during this time, I welcome that opportunity. Please know that you are, and always will be, part of the Idaho Army National Guard family. Know also that there are 503 Soldiers who will never forget Sergeant Jason Warren Monroe.

With Deepest Sympathy,

JACOB T. MACKS  
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army  
Commanding

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Figure 8–2. Sample commander's letter of sympathy to next of kin (hostile)—Continued

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#### 8–4. Review of letters

The CAC (or deployed Adjutant when so directed by the contingency CAC concerned), will review all letters of sympathy for compassion, clarity, accuracy, and completeness before sending to NOK.

## **Section II**

### **Letters of Condolence and Concern**

#### **8-5. Description of condolence letters**

Letters of condolence convey condolence on a Soldier's death from a higher level of CMD; however, do not describe the circumstances surrounding the death in a condolence letter.

#### **8-6. Preparation of condolence letters**

- a.* Commanders who would normally send a letter of sympathy will send a letter of condolence when the NOK—
  - (1) Was present at the time of death and knows the circumstances firsthand.
  - (2) Has been provided the details by some appropriate authority such as the local police or other member of the chain of command.
- b.* Appropriate CDRs in the chain of command (other than the CDR writing the letter of sympathy) such as medical facility CDRs and chaplains, while not required to prepare letters of condolence, may do so.
- c.* An immediate CDR (particularly overseas where retirees, family members, and DA civilian employees are part of the military community) may send a letter of condolence to the NOK of a family member of DA civilian employee who dies within his or her CMD.

#### **8-7. Sending condolence letters**

Do not mail letters of condolence prepared per paragraph 8-6 above until receipt of confirmation that NOK were notified. Do not mail any other letters of condolence until at least 24 hours after mailing the letter of sympathy.

#### **8-8. Review of condolence letters**

The CAC (or deployed Adjutant when so directed by the contingency CAC concerned), will review the letter of condolence to ensure compassion, clarity, accuracy, completeness, and that it is in compliance with paragraph 8-5, above. When the CAC does not prepare a letter of condolence, the preparing CMD will provide the CAC with an information copy of the letter.

#### **8-9. Letters of concern**

If they desire, CDRs of personnel hospitalized and listed as VSI, SI, or NSI, may correspond with the Soldier's NOK. If they write, they must follow the procedures for preparing and reviewing letters of sympathy.

#### **8-10. Rules for preparing letters of sympathy, condolence, and concern**

- a.* The CDR most knowledgeable of the Soldier and the facts and circumstances surrounding the casualty incident will prepare the letter of sympathy except as indicated in paragraph 8-1, above.
- b.* Send letters of sympathy to the PNOK in all death and missing cases except those mentioned in paragraph 8-1c.
- c.* Mail letters of sympathy only after receiving confirmation of notification.
- d.* The CAC (or deployed G-1 when so directed by the contingency CAC concerned), will review letters of sympathy prior to dispatch.
- e.* Prepare letters of condolence and concern in those situations as described in paragraph 8-6.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Death gratuity benefit and unpaid pay and allowances**

#### **9-1. Eligibility**

A beneficiary may be eligible for a death gratuity (DG) and/or the unpaid pay and allowances of a deceased Soldier. There are special rules to determine each category of beneficiary. For further information, consult DOD 7000.14-R, Volume 7A, paragraphs 40504, 40513, and 40514 for DG and unpaid pay and allowances, or consult the local Staff Judge Advocate's office.

#### **9-2. Death gratuity**

- a.* Death gratuity is payable to certain survivors of—
  - (1) Deceased active duty Soldiers.
  - (2) Soldiers who die within 120 days of separation or retirement from active duty, to include retirement for disability or length of service, may be eligible for payment.
- b.* One hundred-twenty day period begins on the day following the date of discharge or release.
- c.* Character of service must be under honorable conditions.

*d.* The DVA must determine that death resulted from disease or injury incurred or aggravated while the Soldier was—

(1) On active duty.

(2) While on authorized travel status to and from duty.

*e.* The DFAS will make payment of DG only after the DVA makes a determination.

*f.* Disbursement will be made by the field Finance and Accounting Office (FAO) through the CAO to—

(1) Surviving spouse (see DOD 7000.14-R, Volume 7A, para 40505) or natural parents as designated beneficiary on the DD Form 93.

(2) If there is no surviving spouse and there is a surviving child, DFAS will authorize the payment to children and Soldier designated natural parents as beneficiary on DD Form 93.

*g.* The CAO will discuss options for payment on the initial visit with the NOK, which is normally within the first 24 hours of the notification.

*h.* The responsible CAC will inform CMAOC of any delay in payment and reason for delay.

*i.* If there is no surviving spouse, children, or designated natural parent, DFAS will determine the eligible beneficiary and make payment within 45 to 60 days.

*j.* A DG is payable to certain survivors of deceased active duty Soldiers. Certain NOK of Soldiers who die during the 120-day period beginning on the date following date of discharge or release, under honorable conditions, from active duty (including retirement for disability or length of service) may be eligible for a DG. However, the DVA must determine that the death resulted from disease or injury incurred or aggravated while the Soldier was on active duty or while authorized travel status to or from duty. In 120-day cases DFAS will make payment of DG only after the DVA makes a determination.

*k.* When the deceased Soldier is survived by a spouse and payment is not restricted, the field FAO will make the DG payment via the CAO (see DOD 7000.14-R, Volume 7A, para 40505). The FAO will also make the DG payment when there is no spouse or children and the Soldier has designated the natural parents as beneficiary on the DD Form 93. The FAO will make payment within 72 hours after the initial notification of death, or within 72 hours of receipt of authorization, as applicable. When there is no surviving spouse or designated natural parent, DFAS will determine the eligible beneficiary and make payment within 45 to 60 days.

*l.* The DG is not payable to a beneficiary or survivor who is suspected in the death of a member, unless there is evidence that clearly absolves such beneficiary or survivor of any felonious intent.

*m.* The local FAO will make the DG payment directly to the eligible spouse or designated natural parents. The CAC must verify the DG recipients with 100 percent accuracy prior to payment. The CAO will assist in making this payment. When direct payment is not practical, the CAO will make payment as follows—

(1) The CAC in possession of the local personnel records will send a DG authorization memorandum to the CAC having geographical responsibility for the area in which the NOK resides. The responsible CAC will coordinate with the local DFAS to make payment.

(2) If the Soldier's records are not available, CMAOC or DFAS must grant the DG authorization.

*n.* The CAO will follow the detailed procedures below in assisting with payment of gratuities, pay, and allowances—

(1) Give the Army, Air Force, or Navy FAO serving the area where the NOK is located a duly certified DD Form 397 (Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment) with items 5 through 11, 13, 14, and the claim certification portion of block 18 completed. (Beneficiaries need to add their SSN to item 5 to expedite process.) If applicable, submit copies of the document appointing the CAO as a Class A Agent with the DD Form 397. If the disbursing officer of another Service will obtain funds, also include a statement authorizing the CAO to obtain funds from that Service and the Army DG funds citation.

(2) For beneficiaries electing a paper check, obtain the gratuity check, the voucher, plus 1 copy of the DD Form 397 from the finance or disbursing officer and deliver them to the eligible payee.

(3) When the CAO presents the check to the payee, obtain the required certification and signature on the original and 1 copy of DD Form 397. If the payee does not sign the DD Form 397, return the voucher, the check, and a statement describing the details to the finance or disbursing officer for action.

(4) Once the CAO has delivered the DG to the authorized beneficiary, notify the servicing CAC of the amount paid, date paid, to whom payment was made, and who made the payment.

### **9-3. Claims for unpaid pay and allowances**

*a.* The CAO will assist in completing SF 1174 (Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Services), parts A and E, when the NOK is the beneficiary for both the DG payment and the unpaid pay and allowances. Ensure you have the full address of the beneficiary reflected in part A1 and both witness sections of part E properly completed. (Line through the portion of part E pertaining to funeral expenses, as it is no longer applicable.)



b. The CAO will return the signed original SF 1174 and, if applicable, 1 copy of the DD Form 397, to the finance or disbursing officer.

c. Where there is no surviving spouse or natural parents, and in the case of all other beneficiaries, DFAS will determine the eligible beneficiary and make payment. This decision may require the CAO to investigate and provide supporting documentation. When the beneficiary (other than spouse) is dependent on the Soldier and is found to be in urgent need of money, the CAO will contact—

(1) DFAS-IN, ATTN: PMTCBC-IN (CASUALTY), Indianapolis, IN 46249-0800, DSN: 699-7189 or 699-7190 for payment of the DG allowance.

(2) The nearest AER, local chapter of the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society, or Navy Relief Society Auxiliary.

## **Chapter 10**

### **Report of Casualty**

#### **10-1. Report of death**

Follow procedures in chapter 3 and those below when reporting the death of a Soldier of the ARNG or USAR—

a. The State Adjutant General for ARNG, unit CDRs for USAR, or both, will report unit personnel in training status identified in paragraph 3-1a and 3-1b to CMAOC. Promptly send the documents below (for SGLI purposes) to CDR, AHRC (AHRC-PEZ) via fax or electronic mail. Mail original forms to AHRC-STL ATTN: PAP-R, 1 Reserve Way St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

(1) The DD Form 93 and the SGLV Form 8286 and SGLV Form 8285, if applicable.

(2) A copy of the training schedule for IDT, or a copy of orders to active duty, ADT, TTAD, or AT, as related to the circumstances of the death.

(3) When appropriate, a statement of the option elected by a non-prior service Soldier who was not in a pay status.

b. Report ARNG and USAR personnel not in training as stated below—

(1) Report ARNG personnel to the appropriate State Adjutant General. Documentation is prescribed in paragraph 10-2, below.

(2) Report USAR personnel to CDR, HRC-STL, ATTN: AHRC-PAP-R, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

c. Upon receipt of the official certificate of death, RC unit CDRs will send a copy to State Adjutant General or CDR, HRC-STL.

#### **10-2. Documentation**

Officials listed below may prepare DD Form 1300—

a. The CMAOC for the Soldiers below—

(1) State Adjutant General personnel, in all cases of death while Soldier was training or death resulted from such training (para 3-1a and 3-1b).

(2) U.S. Army Reserve personnel, in all cases of death while Soldier was in any status identified in paragraph (para 3-1a and 3-1b).

b. State Adjutant General, in death cases of a Soldier of the ARNG who is not listed in paragraph 3-1.

c. The USARC, in all cases of death where Soldiers are not on active duty.

#### **10-3. Certification**

Officials listed in paragraph 10-2, above, will certify a copy of the DD Form 1300 and supporting documents listed in paragraph 10-1, to the OSGLI. The OSGLI will then correspond directly with the beneficiaries.

#### **10-4. Report of casualty**

The CMAOC issues DD Form 1300 as the official certificate of casualty. The DD Form 1300 provides an official record of death or missing status of persons. Government agencies use the completed DD Form 1300 as a basis for paying benefits, collecting casualty data, and closing out active personnel files. The AHRC may provide persons, organizations, or agencies not connected with the Government a copy of this form for settling claims that require proof of death. Normally, AHRC sends 10 certified copies of the completed form to all beneficiaries and the PADD. The DD Form 1300 may be used for any matter where proof of death is required.

## Chapter 11 DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data)

### Section I Casualty-Related Documents

#### 11-1. Overview

The Army Casualty Program depends upon the DD Form 93 having accurate, up-to-date information. This extremely important form designates beneficiaries for certain benefits in the event of a Soldier's death. It is a guide for the disposition of that Soldier's pay and allowances if captured, missing, or interned. It also indicates the name and address of the persons the Soldier desires to be notified in case of emergency or death. The DD Form 93 for all Active Army Soldiers is stored on eMILPO database and available for retrieval with authorized access.

#### 11-2. Confidential data

All Soldiers (Regular Army (RA), USAR, and ARNG) are required to have a completed DD Form 93 on file. Advise individuals that the data collected on the DD Form 93 is used only for official purposes, consistent with 5 USC 552a.

#### 11-3. Importance of DD Form 93

This form is extremely important because—

- a. When completed, it becomes an official and legal document that designates the beneficiaries of certain benefits in the event the individual is in a missing status or deceased.
- b. It provides the name and address of the persons to be notified in case of an emergency, sickness, or death.

### Section II Preparation, Review, Update, and Disposition of DD Form 93

#### 11-4. Preparing DD Form 93

Agencies responsible for preparing DD Form 93 and the categories of personnel for whom this form is prepared are shown in table 11-2. Except as specifically noted, complete all entries in eMILPO or by typewriter. If a typewriter or electronic form is not available, print in black or blue-black ink, ensuring a legible image on all copies. Table 11-1 provides instructions for item-by-item preparation.

- a. Agencies preparing the DD Form 93 will ensure that—
  - (1) They submit a new, signed and authenticated, completed form when there is a change in any one of the items, except unit.
  - (2) They do not staple, fold, punch holes, or mutilate the completed form (original copy) for transmittal to CDR, AHRC (AHRC-PEZ).
  - (3) Members carefully read and fully understand the instructions and the statement before they sign in ink.
  - (4) Members complete any item that is the same as a previous entry by repeating the name and entering "SEE ITEM ...."
- b. The preparing activity may require individuals filling out the form to present documented evidence of marriage, divorce, birth of family member, adoption of a family member, or any other significant change.

#### 11-5. Review, update, and disposition of DD Form 93

- a. Active Army Soldiers will review the form—
  - (1) During out-processing for permanent change of station (PCS) and pre-separation processing.
  - (2) Upon arrival at a new duty station.
  - (3) During any record audit.
  - (4) In conjunction with Soldier Readiness Program (SRP).
  - (5) Annually, in their birth month. Soldiers may accomplish this requirement in conjunction with any of the above.
- b. Reserve Component (USAR and ARNG) Soldiers will review the form—
  - (1) During in-processing to a new troop program unit (TPU).
  - (2) In conjunction with a nationwide deployment or MOB readiness exercise.
  - (3) Annually, in their birth month. Soldiers may accomplish this requirement in conjunction with (1) or (2), above.
- c. All DA civilians assigned to emergency essential (EE) positions, and all civilians deploying in support of military operations will complete or review the DD Form 93 as follows—
  - (1) Upon acceptance of assignment to a position designated as EE and annually while in that position.
  - (2) Prior to departure from home station en route to CRC or other central processing facilities.
  - (3) In conjunction with an emergency deployment readiness exercise (EDRE).
  - (4) During out-processing for PCS to an overseas assignment and annually while in the overseas area.

d. When reviewing, the person will enter the date of the review in pencil below item 16 (date signed) of the paper copy of the DD Form 93 filed in the local personnel record.

e. A new form is prepared when—

- (1) There is a change in any item, except unit.
- (2) Five years have elapsed since the latest form was submitted, or 5 years will have elapsed since the last regular annual review. This 5-year criterion applies only to Soldiers on active duty and DA civilians covered in paragraph c, above, whose original DD Form 93 is maintained at CMAOC.

f. Prepare the DD Form 93 in accordance with table 11-1 and distribute in accordance with table 11-2.

g. Within 2 working days of the casualty's death, remove the DD Form 93 from the local personnel records, make a copy for the local personnel file and forward the original by mail to CDR, AHRC (AHRC-PEZ), 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332.

**Table 11-1**  
**Preparation of DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data)**

Step	Work Center	Required action
1	PSC/Military Personnel Division (MPD)	Complete the DD Form 93. Follow instructions contained in this chapter. Ensure that each item is explained and fully understood. Additional instructions are contained in table 11-2.
2	PSC/MPD	Prepare a new form when there is a change in any of the items or 5 years have elapsed since the latest form was submitted.
3	PSC/MPD supervisor	Review and ensure that— a. All items are completed or marked as shown in the detailed instructions in table 11-2. b. Forms which include a continuation are secured with a paper clip. c. All members read and fully understand the instructions.
4	Individual	Promptly notify the unit/BNS1 when changes require an update to DD Form 93.
5	Unit/BNS1	Expediently arrange with the PSC/PSD to interview the Soldier and accomplish desired change.
6	PSC/MPD	Ensure that members review the form— a. During out-processing for PCS and pre-separation. b. Upon arrival at a new duty station. c. In conjunction with a unit-wide deployment or pre-mobilization readiness exercise.
7	PSC/MPD	Enter date of review in pencil below item 16 of DD Form 93 on the copy filed in individual's records.
8	PSC/MPD	Verify the correctness and completeness of data contained on the DD Form 93. Refer to table 11-2 for complete dispositions instructions.
9	PSC/MPD	Periodically (at least once annually), during the personal affairs orientation, emphasize the importance of maintaining the DD Form 93 in a current condition.

**Table 11-1  
Preparation of DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data)—Continued**

Step	Work Center	Required action
10	PSC/MDP	Upon death, remove the Soldier's record copy of the DD Form 93, SGLV 8286, and SGLV 8285, if applicable; make copies for the records, and forward the originals by mail to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0001 within 2 working days.

**Table 11-2  
Preparation and distribution of DD Form 93**

Category of personnel	Responsible agency	Initial distribution	Disposition when status changes
Active duty enlistees, inductees, and reenlistees from civilian life entering the Active Army	Military Enlistment Processing Station (MEPS)	Place all copies of completed DD Form 93 in Soldier's record, and handcarry to the Reception Battalion.	Upon death, mail original immediately to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332
	Reception Battalion	Mail copy to CDR, send copy to record AHRC-PEZ, and provide copy to Soldier.	Upon death, mail original DD Form 93 with SGLV 8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332. Send copy of DD Form 93 last LES/MPV via the DFAS input station to CDR, DFAS, ATTN: Inquiries Division, Department 363, Indianapolis, IN 46249.
ARNG and USAR personnel on active duty for less than 6 months, or en route to or from or while participating in authorized training.	Responsible unit or organization to which attached or training site.	File copy in a separate file at unit. File copy in record, and give copy to Soldier and copy to FAO.	Upon death, mail copy of DD Form 93 with SGLV-8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. Send personal financial record (PFR) with last MPV to DFAS via the servicing DFAS-RC input station.
ARNG and USAR on active duty for more than 6 months.	Responsible unit or organization.	Mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332. File copy in record, give copy to Soldier and copy to servicing FAO.	Upon death, mail original with SGLV-8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. Send PFR with last MPV to DFAS via the servicing DFAS input station.
ARNG and USAR unit member not in duty or training status	Responsible unit or organization	File copy in a separate file at unit. File copy in record, and give copy to Soldier and copy to FAO.	See paragraph 10-1.
USAR enlistees and reenlistees from civilian life entering the USAR and scheduled for IADT.	MEPS	File copy in Soldier's records and handcarry file to Reception Battalion. Send copy to USAR unit of assignment and a copy to Soldier.	Upon death, mail copy of DD Form 93 and SGLV 8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332.
	USAR Unit of assignment	Furnish copy to FAO.	Upon death, notify FAO to send last LES/MPV to DFAS via the servicing DFAS input station.
	Reception Battalion	File a paper copy in the record.	Upon death, mail copy of DD Form 93 and SGLV-8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. Notify FAO to forward DD Form 93 with last LES/MPV to DFAS via the servicing DFAS input station.

**Table 11-2  
Preparation and distribution of DD Form 93—Continued**

Category of personnel	Responsible agency	Initial distribution	Disposition when status changes
USMA cadets and newly commissioned graduates	USMA	File paper copy in cadet's records at the USMA. Give copy to cadet.	When commissioned, fill out new form and mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. File paper copy in record and give copy to Soldier. If death occurs in cadet status mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. With SGLV-8286. Send 1st paper copy to DFAS with last LES/MPV via the servicing DFAS station.
ROTC cadets attending summer camp and ROTC cadets receiving commission upon graduation.	ROTC Instruction Group.	File paper copy in cadet's record and give copy to cadet.	When commissioned, fill out a new form and mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. File original in record and give copy to Soldier. While at summer camp, send copy to Installation CDR of camp. Return copy to Professor of Military Science at school upon completion of camp. If death occurs at camp, mail original with SGLV 8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, and mail copy to DFAS with last LES/MPV via the servicing DFAS input station..
2LT's commissioned under the early commission program (assigned to USAR Contingency Group Delayed)	Army HQ processing the appointment	Home unit will file original, file a paper copy in record, and give a copy to Soldier.	Upon death, send original of DD Form 93 with SGLV 8286 to CDR, AHRC (PEZ). Send a copy with last LES/MPV to DFAS via the servicing DFAS input station.
Active Duty, USAR, and ARNG Soldiers needing changes to their DD Form 93.	Agency responsible for individual record.	Mail copy to CDR AHRC-PEZ. File paper copy in record and give a paper copy to Soldier.	Upon discharge (except to reenlist or REFRAD), destroy paper copy. Upon death, mail original of DD Form 93 with SGLV-8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. Send copy of DD Form 93 with last LES/MPV to DFAS via the servicing DFAS input station.
DA civilians assigned OCONUS, not designated EE.	Home station CPO	Mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. File copy in employee's OPF, give a copy to employee.	Upon deployment in support of military operations, place paper copy in out-processing packet to take to central processing center. Upon death, mail original to CDR, AHRC-PEZ.
DA civilians assigned OCONUS, designated as EE.	Home station CPO	Mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. File copy in employee's OPF, forward a copy to theater AHRC. Give copy to employee.	Upon death, mail a original to CDR, AHRC-PEZ.
DA civilians in CONUS assigned to EE.	Home station CPO	File copy in employees OPF and give a copy to employee.	Upon deployment, mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332. File copy in OPF, place copy in employee's out-processing packet.
DA civilians in CONUS or OCONUS deploying TDY	Home station CPO	Mail copy to CDR, AHRC-PEZ. File copy in OPF, place copy in employee's processing packet, and give a copy to employee.	Upon death, mail original to CDR, AHRC-PEZ.

**Table 11-2**  
**Preparation and distribution of DD Form 93—Continued**

Category of personnel	Responsible agency	Initial distribution	Disposition when status changes
	CRC or other central processing center	Upon deployment, forward paper copy with employee to theater	Upon arrival in theater, turn copy over to the in-processing center.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Upon death of a Soldier, documents to be sent to CDR, AHRC-PEZ will be mailed immediately (within 2 working days). Agencies responsible for preparation and initial distribution of DD Form 93 will send the forms to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, when applicable, within 72 hours of preparation.

<sup>2</sup> Forms prepared by MEPS and the Army recruiting battalion will retain the record for a minimum of 15 days and then destroy it.

<sup>3</sup> The DD Form 93 will be completed at least 30 days before the opening date of camp or entry on active duty ( AR 145-1).

<sup>4</sup> Prepare a new DD Form 93 when there is any change on the old form, that is, unit, marriage, divorce, birth of children, a family member deceased, home address changes, and so forth.

<sup>5</sup> If Soldier's pay and allowances are processed by DFAS, then send the 2d copy to the Soldier's BNS1 for filing in Soldier's readiness file or other POR screening/MOB file.

**11-6. Person authorized to direct disposition designation**

*a.* All Soldiers will designate their PADD selection in the remarks portion of the DD Form 93.

*b.* In compliance with 10 USC 1482, the order of precedence for determining the PADD is as follows—

(1) The first person in the PADD order of precedence for both married and unmarried Soldiers will be the person designated on the DD Form 93. The Soldier can designate any blood relative or the spouse (if married).

(2) When the person designated by the Soldier declines to be the PADD or the designated person does not survive the Soldier, then the order of precedence prescribed below will take effect.

*(a)* Surviving spouse, even if a minor.

*(b)* Sons or daughters who have reached the age of majority in the order of seniority (age).

*(c)* Parents in order of seniority (age) unless legal custody was granted to another person by reason of court decree or statutory provision. The person to whom custody was granted remains the PADD despite the fact that the Soldier had reached the age of majority at the time of death. Stepparents serve in loco parentis and are not parents.

*(d)* That blood or adoptive relative of the individual who was granted legal custody of the individual by reason of a court decree or statutory provision. The person to whom custody was granted remains the PADD despite the fact that the individual had reached the age of majority at the time of death.

*(e)* The elder sibling who has reached the age of majority in the order of seniority (age). When the deceased person has full siblings, half-siblings, or step-siblings; the order of precedence is the full siblings by seniority then the half-siblings by seniority. Step-siblings are not eligible to direct disposition of remains. Adopted siblings are treated the same as full siblings when adopted by both of the deceased person's biological parents. Adopted siblings are considered as half-siblings when adopted by only 1 of the deceased person's biological parents.

*(f)* Grandparents in order of seniority (age).

*(g)* Other adult blood relatives in order of relationship to the individual under the laws of the deceased's domicile. When 2 individuals are of equal relationship, priority will be determined by age.

*(h)* Remarried surviving spouse. For this directive, the remarried surviving spouse is one who was not divorced from the deceased and has remarried at the time disposition of remains is to be made. The latter would apply to the case of a Soldier who has been declared deceased, body not recovered, and whose remains are later recovered and identified.

*(i)* Person in loco parentis.

*(j)* Legal representative of the estate may make disposition of remains when all efforts to identify or locate a person designated on the DD Form 93 or in categories *(a)* through *(i)* are unsuccessful. The legal representative must be properly appointed by a civil court having jurisdiction of the decedent's estate. The legal representative of the estate will submit a claim to direct disposition of the remains through the casualty assistance center to MACS.

*(k)* Personal friend of the deceased when the remains are not claimed by a person designated on Soldier's DD Form 93 or in *(a)* to *(j)* above. The Chief, Disposition Branch (AHRC-PED-D) will determine the PADD whenever the PADD will be someone other than a blood relative of the decedent.

*(l)* When the person designated in Soldier's DD Form 93 and all known persons in categories *(a)* through *(k)* relinquish disposition authority or cannot be identified or located, then disposition of the remains will be made by the administrative determination of Chief, Disposition Branch.

*(m)* When the person designated by the Soldier on the DD Form 93 and the highest in the order listed in *(a)* through *(j)* declines in writing to direct the disposition of remains DA Form 7302 (Disposition of Remains Statement), the authority will be offered to the next person in order of priority.

*c.* Other members of the deceased Soldier's family may not necessarily agree with the Soldier's designated PADD. The Army will not become involved with this family issue and will comply with the Soldier's wishes to the extent

possible. However, the Army will comply with a civil court order enjoining the Army from transferring custody of the remains or granting control or custody of the remains to a person other than the person the Soldier designated.

*d.* Personnel offices assisting Soldiers with the completion of the DD Form 93 will ensure Soldiers make a PADD designation in the remarks section and include name, relationship, address with zip code, and telephone number for the person designated as the PADD. When a Soldier designates a blood relative other than the spouse, if married or a parent if single, the Soldier will be counseled by an officer, warrant officer, senior NCO (SFC–CSM), or civilian employee (GS–5 equivalent or higher) or contract employee, and the counselor will attach a copy of the counseling to each copy of the DD Form 93. If the Soldier insists on designating a relative other than the PNOK, the counselor will annotate the following comments in the counseling form: On (date) this Soldier was counseled regarding this unusual PADD designation.

*e.* Currently PADD information may be entered in eMILPO under the additional emergency information category. After this selection is made, the system will display the data related to the selected Soldier's PADD information. You may select individual authorized to direct disposition of the Soldier's remains and enter the address with zip code and telephone number in the general remarks block. Additional emergency notification data will currently print in the continuation/remarks block of the DD Form 93. A change to eMILPO will be published in the near future to modify the mandatory recording of PADD information and make this information a separate line item.

## **Chapter 12**

### **Life Insurance**

#### **Section I**

#### **Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance**

##### **12–1. Establishment**

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Program became effective on 29 September 1965 with the enactment of PL 89–214. Since its inception, the SGLI program has had several amendments. The major changes have been the amount of coverage, the persons eligible to be insured, the conditions under which persons are eligible for SGLI, and the continuation of such insurance after the Soldier's transition from the Service. These laws are codified as 38 USC 1965–1980. The SGLI is a group life insurance policy purchased by DVA from a commercial life insurance company. The program is operated under an arrangement with commercial companies through the OSGLI.

##### **12–2. Soldier responsibilities**

*a.* Soldiers will ensure the amount of insurance coverage and beneficiary designations on their SGLV Form 8286 are current.

*b.* Soldiers will promptly inform the personnel officer of any—

- (1) Election to increase or decrease coverage.
- (2) Election not to have coverage.
- (3) Change or addition to beneficiaries.
- (4) Legal name change.

##### **12–3. Application, type, and amount of insurance**

*a.* Eligible Soldiers apply for SGLI coverage and designate beneficiaries with SGLV Form 8286.

*b.* The insurance issued under the SGLI is term life insurance. SGLI does not pay dividends. There are no loans, cash, paid-up, or extended insurance values, or any provision for waiver of premiums or benefit because of total disability, accidents, and so forth, except for disability.

*c.* As of 1 September 2005, all Soldiers are automatically insured under SGLI for the maximum \$400,000 amount of coverage, unless they elect in writing to be covered for a lesser amount, or not to be covered at all. They may purchase lesser amounts in increments of \$50,000.

*d.* The SGLI coverage does not affect the right to retain any other Government or private insurance, except VGLI. This coverage is in addition to any other benefits payable in case of death (including any other Government life insurance that the Soldier may have in force, except VGLI).

##### **12–4. Soldiers eligible to be insured**

*a.* Full-time coverage is provided for the following Soldiers while performing full-time active duty or ADT under calls or orders that do not specify a period of less than 31 days—

- (1) Commissioned, warrant, and enlisted Soldiers.
- (2) Members of the Ready Reserve who are assigned to a unit or position in which they may be required to perform

active duty or ADT and each year will be scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of IDT that is creditable for retirement purposes under 10 USC.

(3) Cadets of the United States Military Academy.

*b.* Cadet members of ROTC while taking part in field training or practice cruises, under calls or orders that do not specify less than 31 days (full-time coverage) or orders specifying less than 31 days (part-time coverage)

*c.* Members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) who volunteer for assignment to a MOB category under 10 USC 12304(i)(1).

*d.* Part-time coverage is provided to the following eligible Soldiers of the Reserves who do not qualify for full-time coverage while performing AD or ADT under calls or orders specifying period of less than 31 days—

(1) Commissioned, warrant, and enlisted Soldiers.

(2) Soldiers in the IRR during 1-day call-ups.

(3) Soldiers in the ARNG while performing duty under 32 USC 316, 32 USC 502, 32 USC 503, 32 USC 504, or 32 USC 505.

(4) Cadets of the ROTC, while attending field training exercises.

## **12-5. Termination of coverage**

*a. Absent without leave.* When a Soldier is determined to be AWOL, the CDR will promptly submit DA Form 4187 (Personnel Action) to the DFAS. The DFAS will automatically terminate the Soldier's pay if the AWOL continues for 31 consecutive days. The SGLI coverage is terminated at the end of the 31st day of absence. Deductions for SGLI will also cease as of the 31st day of absence.

*b. Court-martial sentence.* The SGLI coverage terminates at the end of the 31st day of continuous confinement when a Soldier is under court-martial sentence, including total forfeiture of all pay and allowances. (As an exception, see offenses listed in paragraph 12-7, below which would result in prompt termination of coverage.)

*c. Arrest or confinement by military authorities.* Arrest or confinement by military authorities does not terminate SGLI coverage, except as stated in *b*, above.

*d. Civilian confinement.* The SGLI coverage terminates at the end of the 31st day of civilian confinement if a Soldier is confined under a sentence adjudged by a civilian court.

## **12-6. Restoration of terminated coverage**

The CDR will ensure that the DA Form 4187 is forwarded to DFAS so that premium deductions can be resumed for any insurance terminated under the provisions of paragraph 12-5 *a*, 12-5*b*, and 12-5 *d*. The DFAS will automatically restore coverage as of the date the Soldier is returned to duty with pay. Beneficiary designations or elections of settlement in effect at the time of termination will remain the same as before coverage termination.

## **12-7. Forfeiture of coverage**

*a.* The persons below will forfeit all rights to SGLI.

(1) Those guilty of mutiny, treason, spying, or desertion.

(2) Those who, because of conscientious objections, refuse to perform service in, or wear the uniform of, the Armed Forces of the United States.

*b.* No insurance will be payable for death inflicted as a lawful punishment for crime, or for military or naval offenses. However, it will be paid for death inflicted by an enemy of the United States.

## **12-8. Payment of claims**

The OSGLI manages all SGLI claims payments. Send claims to OSGLI.

## **Section II**

### **Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for Active Duty Soldiers**

#### **12-9. Premium rates**

Soldiers of the Uniformed Services pay the cost for full-time coverage under the SGLI program. A monthly premium charge is deducted from the Soldiers' pay. Premiums will not be prorated; a full monthly premium will be deducted for the month in which a Soldier enters or leaves active duty or ADT unless he or she declines coverage under this program.

#### **12-10. Continuity of elections and designations**

*a.* Following active duty, if the Soldier becomes obligated or must become obligated for duty in the ARNG or USAR, he or she must make a new election or designation by completing a new SGLV Form 8286. When a Soldier is on continuous active duty, ADT, or TTAD for more than 1 year, any reserve obligation will be considered a new obligation and will require a new election or designation.

*b.* Any election or designation within the 120 days following transition from active duty, ADT, or ADSW will



replace an election made while on AD. It will continue for the remainder of the 120 days. During this time the Soldier may not reduce or increase the amount of coverage to which entitled.

c. Individual Soldiers of the IRR who are not eligible for full-time SGLI coverage must complete a new SGLV Form 8286 each time they enter on active duty, AT, ADT or ADSW, of 31 days or less.

### **Section III**

## **Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for the U.S. Army Reserve, the Army National Guard, and the Reserve Officers' Training Corps**

### **12-11. Who is covered**

a. The SGLI coverage is provided for all unit Soldiers of the ARNG and USAR and unit Soldiers in pay status.

b. Soldiers of the IRR or individual mobilization augmentee, attached for training in a non-pay status to units that are scheduled for at least 12 periods of IDT annually, that is, reinforcement training unit, MOB designation detachment, or an Army Reserve Forces School student detachment.

c. Soldiers who have completed at least 20 years of satisfactory service creditable for retirement purposes (if they are assigned to, or on application would be eligible for assignment to, the Retired Reserve; and have not received the first increment of retired pay or reached age 61).

d. Cadet members of ROTC while taking part in field training or practice cruises, under calls or orders that do not specify less than 31 days (full-time coverage) or specifying less than 31 days (part-time coverage).

e. Soldiers of the IRR or individual mobilization augmentee, not included in *b*, above, during AT, ADT or ADSW for a period of less than 31 days (part-time coverage only).

### **12-12. Periods of coverage**

Coverage under the SGLI Program is provided as follows—

a. Full-time coverage.

b. Part-time coverage.

### **12-13. Beginning and ending dates of coverage**

The periods during which a Soldier is insured under the SGLI Program will begin and end as follows—

a. *Beginning dates of coverage.*

(1) The first day of active duty, ADT, ADSW.

(2) The beginning of IDT scheduled in advance by competent authority.

(3) The first day a Soldier of the IRR is assigned or attached to a unit.

(4) Upon application and payment of 1 month's premium for Soldiers who complete 20 years of satisfactory service.

b. *Termination of coverage.* Insurance terminates as stated below, unless the insured aggravates or incurs a disability during his or her period of coverage (see (3), below).

(1) Full-time coverage will terminate 120 days after transition from duty. This does not apply if the Soldier is eligible for transfer to Retired Reserve for having completed 20 years of satisfactory service creditable for retirement purposes. The Soldier must send an application to OSGLI before the end of the 120-day period.

(2) Part-time coverage terminates as stated below. (The insurance continues in force while the Soldier is returning directly from the place of duty).

(a) At midnight, local time, on the last day of a period of active duty, ADT, ADSW, TTAD, for 31 days or less.

(b) At the end of IDT scheduled in advance by competent authority.

(3) The insurance coverage will cease if terminated or forfeited under the conditions listed in paragraphs 12-5 and 12-7.

(4) The automatic insurance coverage of a Soldier who either cancels or elects reduced coverage will end at midnight of the last day of the month in which the custodian of the local personnel records received the new completed SGLV Form 8286.

c. *Extensions of coverage for disabled Soldiers.*

(1) The insurance of a Soldier will continue in force if on the date of separation or release from eligible status, he or she is totally disabled. Termination dates in *b*(1), above will be extended to 1 year after separation or release; or to the date the Soldier ceases to be totally disabled, whichever is earlier. The insurance will not terminate during the 120-day period following separation or release from an eligible status.

(2) The insurance of a Soldier with part-time coverage will continue in force for 120 days after the end of a period of duty during which he or she becomes disabled or aggravates a pre-existing disability which causes him or her to be uninsurable at standard premium rates. This will be according to the good health

(3) The insurance is payable if death results from the incurred or aggravated disability within 120 days following the period of duty. Standards approved by DVA.

## **12-14. Applying for insurance**

The maximum amount of insurance is \$400,000. Eligible Soldiers are automatically covered for \$400,000, unless they elect in writing to be covered for a lesser amount, or not to be covered at all. To prevent restoration of maximum coverage when the Soldier completes a new SGLV Form 8286, he or she must write the desired amount of insurance requested in the amount of coverage field. If the Soldier is paying for insurance less than \$400,000 and the amount of coverage field is left blank on the SGLV Form 8286, the Soldier is essentially requesting maximum coverage.

## **12-15. Payment of premiums**

Premium rates cannot be prorated. They are not reduced if coverage is provided for less than 1 full month or less than 1 full year. Soldiers of the IRR and Standby Reserve who have completed 20 years of creditable service will also be charged these same rates when assigned or attached to a unit. Rates for all other eligible Soldiers will be the same regardless of age. Premiums are as follows—

*a. Automatic payroll deduction.* The DFAS will automatically deduct premiums from the Soldier's pay. Deductions will continue unless the member waives the insurance or reduces coverage.

(1) Those assigned to ARNG and USAR in pay status.

(2) Those on active duty, ADT, ADSW, TTAD under call or order for not less than 31 days.

(3) The ROTC cadets on ADT for not less than 31 days while attending summer field training.

*b. Annual payment.* Premium rates for Soldiers on brief periods of duty will be collected at the site of AT, ADT, ADSW, or TTAD of 31 days or less. The DFAS will automatically deduct premiums from the Soldier's training pay. Soldiers who have already paid the current fiscal year premium must present proof of payment at the training site to preclude automatic deduction.

*c. Waived or reduced coverage.* A new premium deduction (or no deduction) for reduced or waived full-time coverage begins on the first day of the month. It will be following the date the FAO or custodian of the Soldier's records received the completed SGLV Form 8286. Insurance coverage cannot be waived or reduced for a Soldier who has part-time coverage with premium rate paid semiannually (2), above or annually (3), above).

*d. Premium collection.* The CDR, HRC-STL is responsible for collecting premiums for attached personnel. The HRC-STL will compute and collect premiums semiannually.

## **12-16. Counseling for Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve coverage**

*a. Counseling.* Counsel ARNG and USAR members according to paragraph 2-2 and 2-3 of this regulation.

*b. Twenty qualifying years-Retired Reserve.* The unit CDR will counsel ARNG and USAR Soldiers who completed 20 qualifying years of service before transfer to Control group or before transition.

## **Section IV**

### **Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate**

## **12-17. Beneficiary designations**

*a.* All Soldiers electing SGLI coverage are required to designate each principal and contingent beneficiary by name. Soldiers may not designate beneficiaries "BY LAW" or "BY WILL."

*b.* A Soldier may designate as beneficiary any person, firm, corporation, or legal entity, including a charitable organization or a trust. The Soldier may designate a principal (first) and a contingent (second) beneficiary. A contingent beneficiary receives the SGLI proceeds if the principal beneficiary dies before the Soldier. When a Soldier designates more than 1 beneficiary, the SGLV Form 8286 must clearly show each beneficiary designated as either "principal" or "contingent." When the Soldier designates 2 or more beneficiaries as principal or contingent, the Soldier should specify in fractions, percentages, or monetary amounts the share to be paid to each beneficiary shown on the form.

## **12-18. Counseling on beneficiary designations**

*a. Initial requirement.* Explain the rights, benefits, and privileges available under SGLI to all eligible Soldiers entitled to coverage upon initial entry on active duty, and to USAR or ARNG. Advise all Soldiers that servicing legal assistance attorneys are available to counsel Soldiers on the impact of their beneficiary

*b. Designations on payment.* Designations on the payment of proceeds or on their estate plan as a whole, at no expense to the Soldier. Written handouts will provide all counseling this paragraph requires except for the unusual beneficiaries designations (para 12-18b, below). Servicing staff and CMD judge advocates must review and provide legal advice on the content of such handouts (see AR 27-3).

*c. Initial requirement, unusual designation.* The installation AG will appoint an officer, warrant officer, senior NCO (E7-E9), or civilian (GS-5 or higher) employee or contract employee to counsel Soldiers who name some person or organization other than family members or parents as a beneficiary. The appointed officer will sign the SGLV Form 8286 in the "Witnessed and Received By" block. If an appointed Federal contract employee signs, enter the word "Contractor" in the "Rank, Title, or Grade" block of the SGLV Form 8286. Appointment of a contract employee will

be in writing and will include the statement that the contractor is authorized to sign “for” the delegating official as a ministerial act based upon objective criteria as set forth in existing regulations or policy requiring no exercise of discretion. At a minimum, the counselor will advise the Soldier that SGLI is intended to provide some form of financial security for family members or parents. Additionally, inform the Soldier that election of beneficiaries is a personal choice requiring careful consideration. If the Soldier insists on an unusual designation, the person providing the counseling to the Soldier will insert the following notation near the bottom of the SGLV Form 8286: “On (date) this Soldier was counseled regarding this unusual beneficiary designation.” The person who counseled the Soldier will sign and date the form.

*d. Married Soldiers.* While the selection of a beneficiary is a matter of free election for the insured, and the insured should never be forced to designate otherwise, under PL 190–80, if a married Soldier elects reduced insurance coverage from the maximum amount or designates a beneficiary outside of his or her spouse or family members, the servicing personnel unit (representing the DOD) must provide the spouse with written notification of the designation change.

*e. Designation of minors directly by name.* Counsel a Soldier who wishes to name a minor as a principal or contingent beneficiary directly by name that SGLI proceeds cannot be directly paid to a minor. Further advise the Soldier of the following—

(1) Advantages are—

(a) The probate of a will is not required in order to pay SGLI proceeds. If the SGLI proceeds are the only major asset in the Soldier’s estate, the delay and expense involved in probate may be avoided altogether.

(b) A court will determine the person best qualified to serve as guardian of the SGLI proceeds for the benefit of the minor.

(2) Disadvantages are—

(a) Before the SGLI proceeds may be released and used for the benefit of a minor (other than a minor spouse), an adult acting on behalf of the minor (or appointed by a court to do so) must petition a court to appoint the guardian for the SGLI proceeds. Since the appointment of a guardian takes place after the Soldier’s death, the Soldier has no input about the person selected to act for the minor. In many cases, the person appointed guardian for a child who is designated as an SGLI beneficiary may be the Soldier’s spouse or former spouse.

(b) Most courts will require the guardian to pay for a surety bond to ensure payment of the SGLI proceeds.

(c) Under some state laws, only a certain amount of money may be spent on behalf of a minor each month or year, despite the Soldier’s election. If more is needed, a judge must approve.

(d) Certain bond, court, and legal expenses are paid out of the SGLI proceeds, initially, as well as while the designated beneficiary remains a minor.

(e) The distribution of SGLI proceeds are delayed pending the appointment of a guardian.

(f) All SGLI proceeds must be paid to the minor at age 18, regardless of the minor’s maturity, or lack thereof.

*f. Designations of custodians and trustees.* Designating a custodian for minor beneficiaries or a trustee for minor and/or adult beneficiaries may be preferable to designating some persons directly by name as SGLI beneficiaries. These methods require taking certain steps before such designations can be made. A Soldier should be counseled to not delay completing the SGLV 8286 in order to complete these steps. For example, it is preferable that Soldiers designate a minor beneficiary directly by name and later execute a new SGLV Form 8286 after they have found a person who has agreed to serve as the minor’s custodian or trustee.

*g. Designating a custodian.* Advise a Soldier who desires to name a custodian for a minor as the principal or contingent beneficiary under the UGMA or the UTMA that before completing the SGLV 8286, they should obtain the approval of the friend, relative, or financial or other institution they want to serve as the UGMA/UTMA custodian for distribution of the SGLI proceeds. Transfer of SGLI benefits under the UGMA/UTMA may be for the benefit of a minor child or children, regardless of their relationship to the Soldier. Further advise the Soldier that—

(1) Advantages are—

(a) There is no requirement for court involvement. The court appointment of a custodian and the probate of a will is not required in order to pay SGLI proceeds. If the SGLI proceeds are the only major asset in the Soldier’s estate, the delay and expense involved in probate may be avoided altogether.

(b) The Soldier, not a court, determines who will act in the minor’s best interest with regard to the use of SGLI proceeds.

(c) The UGMA/UTMA custodian can use the SGLI proceeds, as the UGMA/UTMA custodian determines is appropriate, for the benefit of the children during the time the children remain minors.

(d) Ordinarily the UGMA/UTMA custodian will not be required to pay for a surety bond to receive the SGLI proceeds.

(e) There ordinarily will be no delay in the distribution of SGLI proceeds to the designated UGMA/UTMA custodian.

(2) Disadvantages are—

(a) All SGLI proceeds must be paid to the minor at age 18, regardless of the minor’s maturity, or lack thereof.

(b) There is no automatic court supervision of the UGMA/UTMA custodian.

(c) There is no surety bond required that could protect the minor's funds from theft, fraud, waste, and other such acts by the UGMA/UTMA custodian.

*h. Designating a trustee under a trust established in a will.* Advise a Soldier who wishes to designate a trustee under a trust established in a will (a testamentary trust) as a primary or contingent beneficiary that before completing the SGLV 8286, the Soldier must have a will prepared that contains a trust, and the Soldier must sign (execute) the will. The trust in the will may be established for minors or adults, regardless of their relationship to the Soldier. Further advise the Soldier the following—

(1) Advantages are—

(a) The will may waive a surety bond and related expense.

(b) The trustee can use the SGLI proceeds for the benefit of the minor for the period of time, and in the manner specified, in the will. Direct distribution of SGLI proceeds may be delayed beyond the 18th birthday of the minor (for example, upon completion of college, or age 25, which ever occurs first).

(2) Disadvantages are—

(a) The will, which might not have otherwise required probate (for example, because of the small amount of other property in the Soldier's estate), will be probated and the court must appoint the trustee before the designated trustee may receive the SGLI proceeds. Court and legal expenses must be paid.

(b) The distribution of SGLI proceeds will be delayed.

(c) There is no surety bond required that could protect the minor's funds from theft, fraud, waste, and other such acts by the trustee.

*i. Designating a trustee under a trust established in a trust document (outside a will).* Advise a Soldier who wishes to designate a trustee under a trust established in a trust document as a primary or contingent beneficiary that before completing the SGLV 8286, the Soldier must have a trust document prepared, and the Soldier must sign (execute) the trust document. The trust document may be established for minors or adults, regardless of their relationship to the Soldier. Further advise the Soldier of the following:

(1) Advantages are—

(a) Court involvement is not required. The court appointment of a guardian and the probate of a will are not required in order to distribute SGLI proceeds. This usually avoids court costs and attorney's fees.

(b) A surety bond (and related expense of maintaining the bond) is not required.

(c) There ordinarily is no delay in the distribution of SGLI proceeds to the trustee.

(d) The trustee can use the SGLI proceeds for the benefit of the minor for the time specified in the trust document in the manner stated in the trust document. Direct distribution of SGLI proceeds may be delayed beyond the 18th birthday of the minor (for example, upon completion of college, or age 25, which ever occurs first).

(2) Disadvantages are—

(a) The court does not supervise the trustee.

(b) Surety bond that could protect the minor's funds from theft, fraud, waste, and other such acts by the trustee is not required.

(c) The Soldier must usually pay a civilian lawyer to draft and execute a trust document.

*j. Failure to properly name beneficiary.* Advise Soldiers that if they do not designate beneficiaries, or their designation fails, (for example, the designated beneficiary dies before the Soldier dies; a trustee is designated, but no trust was established) 38 USC 1970 determines the payment of SGLI proceeds in the following order—

(1) Widow or widower; if none, to—

(2) Child or children in equal shares with the share of any deceased child distributed among the descendants of that child; if none, to—

(3) Parents in equal shares; if none, to—

(4) The executor or administrator of the Soldier's estate; if none, to—

(5) Other NOK.

## **12–19. Change or cancellation of beneficiary designation**

*a.* Advise Soldiers that they must execute a new SGLV 8286 to change a beneficiary designation and that any event occurring after the Soldier completes the SGLV 8286 (for example, divorce, annulment) will not change their beneficiary designation. A last will and testament, a power of attorney, or any other document will not and cannot change or cancel any SGLI beneficiary designation. To change a beneficiary, the Soldier must complete a new SGLV 8286.

*b.* An insured Soldier may designate a beneficiary or change a prior designation any time without knowledge or consent of the beneficiary (exception noted in paragraph 12–19f of this regulation. The Soldier must complete SGLV 8286. In part 2, the Soldier will enter the names of principal or contingent beneficiaries.

*c.* Any Soldier who desires to change beneficiaries and is on an authorized leave, TDY, or approved administrative absence, and cannot report to the custodian of the local personnel records, may go to the nearest Army, ARNG, or

USAR installation. The Soldier will report to the CDR or agency responsible for preparing, revising, or making changes to SGLI benefits. With proper identification, he or she may prepare a new SGLI election. That agency will give the Soldier the proper copy and promptly send the original and other copy to the custodian of the Soldier's local personnel records.

*d.* Soldiers may change beneficiaries after transition for as long as coverage is in effect. A copy of DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) is required as proof of coverage. The Soldier may make beneficiary changes by sending a letter with his or her signature and a copy of his or her DD Form 214 to OSGLI requesting the desired change. Include a statement that the change of beneficiary applies to the 120 days following transition from active duty or other applicable period.

*e.* A designation or change of beneficiary will not be valid unless it is received by OSGLI, the custodian of the Soldier's records, or authorized representative prior to payment.

*f.* The unit personnel center will notify the member's spouse in writing if the Soldier chooses 1 of the following elections—

- (1) When the member is eligible for insurance and makes an election not to be insured.
- (2) When the member makes an election for coverage less the maximum amount.
- (3) When the member makes a designation of any persons other than the spouse or child of the Soldier.

## **12-20. Automatic termination of beneficiary designation**

A beneficiary designation will automatically terminate for 1 of the following reasons—

*a.* Insurance under the group policy terminates 120 days following transition from all duty, or there is no longer an obligation to perform duty in a Uniformed Services.

*b.* The Soldier re-enters on active duty, or assumes an obligation to perform duty, in another Uniformed Services.

*c.* The Soldier re-enters on active duty, ADT, IDT, or TTAD in the same Uniformed Services after a break in service.

*d.* At the end of an extended period of disability coverage, not to exceed 1 year.

## **12-21. Election and review of coverage**

*a.* To elect options, every eligible Soldier must have on file a properly completed SGLV Form 8286. Personnel officials ensure all entries are typed or printed legibly in ink, except for the following, which must be in the Soldier's handwriting—

(1) Signature (First, MI, Last).

(2) Reduction or refusal of insurance.

*b.* A Soldier's election on or before the first day of entry on active duty is effective starting that date and for subsequent months, unless he or she changes or terminates it.

*c.* If a Soldier waives the right to SGLI or reduces the amount of coverage from the maximum allowable to a lesser amount, it must be in his or her own handwriting.

*d.* Coverage in effect on the day a Soldier waives or reduces SGLI will end at midnight of the last day of the month in which the custodian of the Soldier's personnel file or authorized representative receives the revised SGLV 8286, as stated above.

*e.* A waiver or reduction of SGLI ends on discharge and immediate reenlistment (in the same or another Uniformed Services) or when discharged to accept a commission or warrant officer appointment, with or without a break in service. A Soldier who has a waiver or reduction of SGLI terminated by the foregoing is automatically reinsured for the \$400,000 amount of SGLI after changing status. At that time, the Soldier must complete a new SGLV 8286. He or she must again specify the waiver or reduction desired.

*f.* Review and update SGLV 8286 anytime there is change or during any records audit. A new SGLV 8286 is not required when the only change is the Soldier's unit of assignment. If no update is required during any records audit, the Soldier will initial and enter date in ink, on the bottom right margin of the form.

## **12-22. Restoration or reinstatement of waived coverage**

*a.* When a Soldier who waived the right to be insured under SGLI or elected reduced insurance coverage now wants to obtain coverage or increase the amount, the Soldier must apply with the OSGLI, in writing, by completing SGLV 8285.

*b.* Soldiers desiring to reinstate or increase current SGLI coverage will complete and sign SGLV 8285, part I. The Soldier's CDR or equivalent superior (person should have general knowledge of the Soldier's general health condition) will certify part II. Retain the original completed SGLV 8285 and a new SGLV 8286 in the local personnel records if the Soldier answers "NO" to item 11, and all parts of items 12 and 13, and forward a copy to DFAS to deduct premiums from the Soldier's pay. Do not send a copy of the SGLV 8285 to the OSGLI. In the event of the Soldier's death, forward a copy of the completed SGLV 8285 and SGLV 8286 to CDR, AHRC-PEZ, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332.

*c.* If the Soldier answers "YES" in item 11, or to any part of items 12 or 13 on the SGLV 8285, file the original

SGLV 8285 in the local personnel records and send a copy of the completed form to the OSGLI, 290 West Mt Pleasant Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039, or fax to (877) 832-4943. The OSGLI will review the application and return an annotated copy to the Soldier's unit showing whether they approved or disapproved the request. File the copy the OSGLI returns in the Soldier's local personnel records. Do not submit a new SGLV 8286 to DFAS until the OSGLI returns the "APPROVED" SGLV Form 8285. Upon receipt of the "APPROVED" SGLV 8285, submit the completed form to DFAS with an effective date as of the date the SGLV 8285 was submitted to the OSGLI. If the request for insurance is disapproved, notify the Soldier and advise that he or she may write OSGLI for an explanation of the disapproval.

## **Section V**

### **Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance**

#### **12-23. General**

Public Law 107-14, effective 1 November 2001, established Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for members of the Uniformed Services who are eligible for SGLI coverage. This law allows for elected SGLI insurance coverage of the member's spouse for up to \$100,000, in \$10,000 increments, and automatic coverage of the member's dependent children for \$10,000 for the time that they have full-time SGLI coverage. Dependent spouses also have the opportunity to convert FSGLI to a private life insurance policy.

*a.* The FSGLI is a program extended to the spouses and dependent children of Soldiers insured under the SGLI program. The FSGLI program provides up to a maximum of \$100,000 of insurance coverage for a spouse, not to exceed the amount of SGLI the insured Soldier has in force, and \$10,000 for dependent children. Spousal coverage is issued in increments of \$10,000.

*b.* The FSGLI coverage is provided under a group life insurance policy purchased from a commercial life insurance by DVA. The DVA supervises the OSGLI, who administers the FSGLI program.

*c.* The FSGLI provides life insurance protection only. It does not provide disability or other supplementary benefits. It has no cash, loan, paid-up, or extended insurance values and does not pay dividends.

*d.* Soldiers with FSGLI coverage also have access to up to 50 percent of the face value of the spousal coverage through the Accelerated Benefits Option (ABO). To qualify for the ABO, the spouse must have a medical prognosis of life expectancy of 9 months or less. Only the Soldier can apply for and receive the accelerated benefits.

*e.* If an insured Soldier declines FSGLI coverage for a spouse or elects an amount less than the maximum amount available, the Soldier may later apply for coverage or an increase in coverage up to the \$100,000 maximum, or the amount of SGLI held by the insured Soldier, whichever is less. The DVA requires proof of spouse insurability (proof of good health) in these cases.

*f.* The Soldier is the beneficiary of the FSGLI coverage, so no beneficiary need be named. A Soldier is not entitled as beneficiary if he/she is convicted or pleads guilty to involvement in the death of the spouse or the dependent child.

*g.* A Soldier married to another Soldier can be insured under both the FSGLI and SGLI programs at the same time, for a maximum coverage amount of \$500,000.

#### **12-24. Eligible persons to be insured**

*a.* Persons eligible to be insured in the FSGLI program are the current spouse and the dependent children of all Soldiers (active duty and Ready Reserve) who are covered under the SGLI program on a full-time basis.

*b.* Dependent children are defined as follows—

- (1) All natural born children and legally adopted children under the age of 18.
- (2) All stepchildren under the age of 18 who are members of the Soldier's household.
- (3) Any dependent child between the ages of 18 and 23 who is a full-time student.
- (4) Any dependent child who has been declared legally incompetent before the age of 18.

#### **12-25. Coverage levels**

*a.* Spousal coverage is a maximum of \$100,000 and can be in lesser amounts in increments of \$10,000. Spousal coverage cannot exceed the Soldier's level of SGLI coverage.

*b.* Dependent child coverage is the set amount of \$10,000 for each dependent child.

#### **12-26. Effective date of coverage**

*a.* The FSGLI coverage begins automatically when the Soldier—

- (1) Enters service and is married/has dependent children, or
- (2) Gets married or gains a dependent child during service, and
- (3) Has full-time SGLI coverage.

*b.* Spousal coverage is automatically at the maximum level of \$100,000 or the Soldier's SGLI coverage level, if it is less than \$100,000. Automatic coverage begins with the following events—

- (1) The date of induction into service.

- (2) The date of a marriage while in service.
- (3) The date a child becomes a dependent (that is, date of birth, date of adoption, date entered the household).

### **12-27. Premiums**

The Soldier pays premiums for the spousal coverage. The dependent child coverage is free.

*a.* For all Soldiers entitled to SGLI coverage, DFAS will deduct the premium amount from the Soldiers pay, or otherwise collect from the Soldier.

*b.* Spousal premiums are based on 7 age brackets. Premiums increase as the spouse reaches each successive age bracket. The increase is effective the month of the spouse's birthday.

### **12-28. Termination of insurance**

The Soldier can choose to decline FSGLI spousal coverage at any time. The FSGLI dependent child coverage is not affected by the declination of FSGLI spousal coverage. The FSGLI dependent coverage will remain in effect as long as the Soldier has full-time SGLI coverage and the child qualifies as an insurable dependent. The FSGLI coverage will also end due to any event that causes the Soldier's full-time SGLI coverage to end, or if the spouse or child becomes ineligible to be covered under FSGLI.

*a.* The following events end FSGLI spousal coverage—

- (1) Soldier declines SGLI coverage.
- (2) Soldier declines FSGLI spousal coverage.
- (3) The marriage ends due to divorce.
- (4) The Soldier dies.
- (5) The Soldier is discharged or released from active duty.

*b.* Soldiers who desire to not have SGLI coverage must complete an SGLV 8286. When completing SGLV 8286, the Soldier should also complete an SGLV 8286A (Family Coverage Election declining FSGLI coverage).

*c.* The Soldier must complete SGLV 8286A in order to decline FSGLI coverage. Elections made on SGLV 8286A take effect upon the date the Soldier's personnel office receives the form. The Soldier may decline coverage prior to automatic issue or after coverage has been in effect.

*d.* The FSGLI coverage for both spouses and dependent children will terminate 120 days after termination of the Soldier's full-time SGLI coverage.

### **12-29. Reduction and cancellation of Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance**

If a Soldier chooses to have less than the maximum spousal coverage of \$100,000, he or she can elect a lower coverage level. Lower coverage levels range from \$90,000 to \$10,000, in increments of \$10,000. Spousal coverage cannot exceed the level of the Soldier's coverage. While the spousal FSGLI coverage can be reduced, the dependent child coverage level is fixed at \$10,000. The Soldier pays no premium on child dependent coverage.

*a. Spousal coverage.* An insured Soldier may elect to reduce or cancel spousal coverage at any time. If the Soldier elects to reduce the amount of spousal coverage, the reduced amount of coverage remains in effect until the Soldier requests an increase in coverage or cancellation of coverage. Where spousal coverage is cancelled, it will terminate as follows—

- (1) 120 days after the date of an election made in writing by the Soldier to terminate the coverage.
- (2) 120 days after the date of the Soldier's death.
- (3) 120 days after the termination of the insurance on the Soldier's life.
- (4) 120 days after the termination of the marriage.

*b. Dependent child coverage.* Dependent child coverage may not be reduced for any reason while the Soldier is insured. Dependent child coverage automatically terminates when the insured Soldier is no longer insured or when the dependent child no longer qualifies as a dependent. Dependent child coverage will terminate at the earliest of either—

- (1) 120 days after the date of the Soldier's death.
- (2) 120 days after the date of termination of the insurance on the Soldier's life.
- (3) 120 days after the termination of the dependent's status as an insurable dependent of the Soldier.

### **12-30. Restoring and increasing Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage**

To restore and increase FSGLI coverage, the Soldier must request in writing on SGLV 8285A (Request for Family Coverage for Spouse) and SGLV 8286A through the unit personnel office. The "good health" of the spouse is an issue in being eligible to restore and increase FSGLI coverage, and the Soldier must answer health questions. Election to restore or increase coverage made on SGLV 8285A takes effect upon the date the Soldier's unit receives the form if "good health" is not an issue. If the OSGLI must determine "good health," the coverage does not go into effect until the OSGLI makes an affirmative decision. Once the OSGLI establishes "good health," a premium is due for the month the unit received the election. The OSGLI will advise both the Soldier and the unit of the acceptance or rejection of the application.

a. The Soldier and the Soldier's spouse will complete and sign SGLV 8285A, parts I and II. Upon receipt, the unit CDR or equivalent or designee will then complete the certification in part III.

b. If all medical questions are answered "NO" file the SGLV 8285A in the Soldiers local personnel records with completed SGLV 8286A.

c. If any of the medical questions are answered "YES," send the SGLV 8285A directly to the OSGLI, or fax for review and decision.

d. Upon receipt of the OSGLI decision, file SGLV 8285A and SGLV 8286A, if applicable, in the Soldier's local personnel records. Do not deduct premiums until the OSGLI returns its decision.

### **12-31. Accelerated Benefits Option**

The ABO permits a Soldier to receive up to 50 percent of the spousal FSGLI coverage for a spouse whose physician has diagnosed him or her as being terminally ill. In order to qualify for the ABO, the spouse must have a valid written medical prognosis from a physician of life expectancy of 9 months or less to live. Only the Soldier can apply for and receive the spousal or servicemember ABO benefit. Write for the SGLV Form 8284 (Servicemember/Veteran Accelerated Benefits Option Form) or SGLV 8284a (Servicemember Family Coverage Accelerated Benefits Option Form) at: The OSGLI, 290 West Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039 or call the office Toll-Free at 1-800-419-1473. The application is also available for downloading from the Internet at: <http://www.va.insurance.gov>.

### **12-32. Other Government life insurance policies**

The DVA administers various types of Government life insurance policies. The type of insurance policy in force depends upon the law that authorized its issuance and is identified by the letters preceding the policy number. In addition to SGLI, Government life insurance policies include VGLI, United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI-policy letter prefix K), National Service Life Insurance (NSLI-policy letter prefixes V and H), Veterans Special Life Insurance (VSLI-policy prefixes RS and W), Veterans Reopened Insurance (VRI-policy letter prefixes J, JR, and JS), Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) (S-DVI-policy letter prefix RH and ARH) and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI). The VMLI is designed to provide financial protection to cover an eligible veteran's home mortgage in the event of death. This insurance is restricted to those severely disabled veterans who have received grants for specially-adapted housing from DVA. They are automatically eligible for up to \$90,000 decreasing term insurance. That is, as the mortgage balance reduces below \$90,000, so does their coverage. They cannot have more than the amount of their mortgage. Upon death, the proceeds are payable only to a mortgage lender. The other DVA life insurance program other than SGLI and VGLI available to current Soldiers is S-DVI. The S-DVI policy is available to persons separated on or after 25 April 1951, who are granted a service-connected disability, but are otherwise in good health. Eligible individuals may apply directly to the DVA for up to \$10,000 life insurance coverage at standard insurance rates within 2 years of notice by DVA of service-connected rating. The S-DVI policyholders under the age of 65 who are eligible for waiver of premiums can purchase up to an additional \$20,000 in supplemental coverage at standard rates base on the insured's current age. Purchase supplemental coverage in increments of \$500 for a total of between \$1000 and \$20,000. All individuals receiving a waiver award are notified of their eligibility to increase their coverage. They have 1 year from the date of the letter to apply for the additional amount. Premiums on Supplemental S-DVI cannot be waived.

a. The DVA Life Insurance offers VGLI. The VGLI program commenced 1 August 1974 with the enactment of PL 93-289. A Soldier entitled to SGLI coverage may convert his or her SGLI to renewable 5-year term coverage known as VGLI. The DVA supervises the program. This insurance is 5-year renewable term coverage with the right to either convert to an individual policy with any of the participating companies licensed to do business in the veteran's state, or to renew the coverage for another 5-year term at the premium rate for the veteran's age group.

b. Government life insurance is administered at DVA Regional Office and Insurance Centers in St. Paul, MN, and Philadelphia, PA. For information concerning a policy, write directly to the DVA office administering it, furnishing the insured's policy number, if known, or the insured's full name, date of birth, and SSN. Use the following addresses when corresponding with the DVA offices in Philadelphia, PA and St. Paul, MN.

(1) Department of Veterans' Affairs Center, PO Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8079.

(2) Department of Veterans' Affairs Center, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111-4050.

c. A dependent spouse of a Soldier has 120 days of free coverage and can convert to a commercial life insurance policy when the FSGLI policy terminates. The dependent spouse decides whether and where to convert the FSGLI policy. Conversion takes place upon the dependent spouse's written application to the participating company and payment of the required premiums. The FSGLI policy cannot be converted to a VGLI policy. Where the insurable dependent is a child, that policy may not be converted to another individual policy of insurance. To obtain information about conversion contact the OSGLI by telephone or letter.

d. As Soldiers transition from active duty, reenlist, and make other changes in duty status, some will be eligible for both SGLI and VGLI. Any veteran insured under VGLI who may again become eligible for SGLI is automatically insured under the SGLI program. The Soldier can participate in both plans, but the combined amount of SGLI and VGLI cannot exceed \$400,000. Upon regaining SGLI coverage, if a Soldier desires to retain VGLI, he or she must decline the proportionate amount of SGLI. Under these circumstances, the Soldier may also convert some or all of the



VGLI coverage to an individual commercial policy. The Soldier must accomplish this within the 60-day period and before conversion. VGLI will be payable only in an amount which, when added to the SGLI payable, does not exceed \$400,000.

### **12-33. Amount of insurance**

The Soldier may obtain coverage in increments of \$50,000 up to a maximum of \$400,000, but not more than the amount of SGLI in force at the time of separation from military service. Premiums may be paid monthly or annually; rates are shown separately on the SGLV 8714 (Application for Veteran's Group Life Insurance).

### **12-34. Eligibility**

The VGLI is available to—

- a. Individuals being released from active duty, ADT, or ADSW under call or orders specifying not less than 31 days.
- b. Reservists who, while performing active duty, ADT, or IADT under call or order specifying a period of less than 31 days, have their SGLI continued in force for an additional 120 days for a disability incurred or aggravated during their period of duty. In this case, the Soldier may convert their SGLI to VGLI during the 120-day period.
- c. Members of the IRR and Inactive National Guard.
- d. Members who have part-time SGLI and who, while performing duty, suffer an injury or disability which renders them uninsurable at standard premium rates. This includes travel directly to and from duty. They are eligible to convert their active duty SGLI coverage to VGLI coverage.

### **12-35. Application of Veteran's Group Life Insurance**

a. Soldiers on active duty entitled to full-time SGLI coverage may convert to VGLI by submitting SGLV 8714 with the premium to within 120 days of separating from active duty. If the veteran, unless totally disabled, does not submit the premium within 120 days, VGLI may be granted within 1 year after SGLI coverage is terminated. However, if the veteran waits beyond the 120 day window, he or she must include evidence of insurability, that is, (current physical examination) along with the SGLV 8714 and initial premium. Insurance will be effective the date the OSGLI receives the premium.

b. Soldiers with full-time SGLI coverage who are totally disabled at the time of separation and whose service makes them eligible for VGLI may purchase this insurance while remaining totally disabled up to 1 year following separation. To apply for VGLI, totally disabled Soldiers must submit proof of disability with an application within 1 year of separation. The effective date of VGLI will be at the end of the 1-year period following separation or the date the disability ends, whichever is earlier, but in no event prior to 120 days after separation.

c. Soldiers insured under part-time SGLI coverage who incur a disability or aggravate a pre-existing disability during AD, ADT, or IADT can apply for VGLI within the 120-day period following the period during which the disability was incurred or aggravated. The insurance would be effective on the 121st day if the disability—

- (1) Results in his or her death.
- (2) Renders the member uninsurable at standard premiums, in which event the insurance will continue in force to death, or for the 120 days after separation or release from active duty or ADT, whichever is the earlier date.

d. Coverage will cease 120 days after separation or release from assignment for a member of the IRR who meets the criteria in paragraph 12-13.

(1) Unless the member is totally disabled on the day of separation or release, in which case the insurance will cease 1 year from the date of separation or release, unless the insured ceases to be totally disabled, whichever is earlier, but in no event prior to 120 days; or

(2) Unless on the date of separation or release the member has completed at least 20 years of satisfactory service creditable for retirement purposes and would upon application be eligible for assignment to or is assigned to the Retired Reserve, in which event the insurance, unless converted to an individual policy will, upon timely payment of premiums, continue in force until the member receives the first increment of retirement pay or the member reaches age 61, whichever comes earlier.

e. Coverage ceases for the Retired Reserve Soldier who meets the criteria in paragraph 12-13 when the member receives the first increment of retirement pay or the member reaches age 61, whichever is sooner. This insurance is contingent upon the member making timely payment of the initial and subsequent premiums.

### **12-36. Notification of insurance**

The OSGLI will send a certificate of coverage to the veteran as confirmation of the approved application, and will also provide premium notices as needed.

### **12-37. Traumatic injury protection**

Public Law 109-13 signed by the president on 11 May 2005 established a traumatic injury protection insurance program under the auspices of the SGLI program..

*a. Post 1 December 2005.* The effective date for this program is 1 December 2005. As of 1 December 2005, all Soldiers covered by the SGLI program will automatically be covered by TSGLI. Soldiers include active duty, Army Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers.

*b. Pre 1 December 2005.* The TSGLI is designed to provide financial assistance to Soldiers during the recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

(1) A retroactive provision is provided for any Soldier who suffered a qualifying loss as a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) on or after 7 October 2001, but before 1 December 2005.

(2) For the purpose of this provision, retroactive refers to those injuries that are incurred in the theater of operations of OEF. For such purpose, a Soldier must have been deployed outside of the United States on orders in support of OEF or OIF or serving in a geographic location that qualified the Soldier for the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE) (see PL 109–13).

(3) Soldiers entitled to retroactive payments do not need coverage under SGLI. Entitlements to TSGLI payments for a traumatic loss after 30 November 2005 requires SGLI coverage.

*c. Seven full days.* Soldiers must serve for a period not less than 7 full days from the date of the traumatic event. (The 7 day period begins on the date and time of the traumatic event, as measured by zulu (Greenwich) time and ends 168 full hours later.)

*d. Non-taxable benefit.* The 38 USC 5301 exempts all benefits paid under any law administered by the DVA from taxation. The TSGLI is a benefit administered by the DVA, therefore any and all TSGLI benefits paid are not taxable.

*e. Frequently asked questions.* To view frequently asked questions, download claim applications, or to determine eligibility criteria, visit the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Program Web site at <https://www/aw2.army.mil/TSGLI/index.htm>, write to U.S. Army Warrior (AW2) Program, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332–0470, or call 1–800–237–1336, option 2.

## **Chapter 13**

### **Procedures for Casualties Involving Missing Persons (Non-Hostile and Hostile)**

#### **Section I**

##### **General**

#### **13–1. Implementation**

*a.* This chapter provides guidance for implementing the provisions of 10 USC 1501 through 10 USC 1513, also known as the Missing Service Personnel Act (MSPA), 37 USC 551 through 37 USC 558, also known as the Missing Persons Act (MPA), DODI 1300.18 and DODI 2310.5.

*b.* Only the SA or his designee may make a status determination. The SA delegates authority to AHRC, The Adjutant General (TAG) for making status determinations. The authority includes responsibility to make determination of death, status, and essential facts and dates necessary to administer the MSPA. The SA's or his designee's determinations are conclusive on all departments and agencies of the United States.

*c.* The board of inquiry instructions apply to any member of the Army on active duty and RC members performing official duties, a U.S. civilian officer or employee of the Army and any other person the SA determines to be a "covered person" as defined by DODI 2310.5, paragraphs E2.1.7; E3.1.5 (for example, contractors; non-U.S. citizen officers and DOD employees) who serve in direct support of or accompany the Army in the field under orders and who become involuntarily absent as a result of hostile action or under circumstances suggesting that the involuntary absence is a result of hostile action and whose status is "undetermined" or who is "unaccounted for" as defined by DODI 2310.5, enclosure 2.

*d.* While DODI 2310.5 implements the provisions resulting from an involuntary absence as a result of a hostile action, for purpose of this regulation, the implementing instructions found in DODI 2310.5 also apply to involuntary absences that result from a non-hostile action.

*e.* Continental United States non-hostile missing cases that involve DA civilians or DA contractors will be handled by civil authorities.

#### **13–2. Explanation of terms**

The explanation of terms below only applies to terms used in this chapter and the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA).

*a. Primary next of kin.* In accordance with 10 USC 1482(c) and 10 USC 1513(4), in the case of a missing person, the PNOK is the individual who is authorized to direct disposition of the remains.

(1) In accordance with Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, dated 14 July 2005, 10 USC 1482 order of precedence for the PADD prescribed in AR 638–2, paragraph 4–4, has been amended to allow the Soldier to

designate any blood relative or spouse (if married) on the DD Form 93. Where no designation has been made the prescribed order of precedence will apply.

(2) For cases of missing persons, the PNOK will have the rights addressed in paragraph 13–8 of this regulation.

(3) The designated PADD is responsible for the disposition of remains.

*b. Immediate family member.* In the case of a missing person, immediate family members are the following—

(1) Spouse.

(2) Natural child, adopted child, stepchild, or illegitimate child (if acknowledged by the person or parenthood has been established by a court) of the person, except that if such child has not attained the age of 18 years, the term means surviving parent or legal guardian of such child.

(3) Biological parent of the person, unless legal custody of the person by the parent has been previously terminated by a court decree.

(4) Brother or sister if they have attained the age of 18.

*c. Previously designated person.* The person or persons (other than the missing person's PNOK or immediate family) who the missing person specified in writing on the DD Form 93 to receive information on the whereabouts and status of the missing person.

*d. Missing person's counsel.* The Secretary concerned appoints counsel to represent the interests of the person covered by the inquiry (excluding any member of the person's family or other interested parties).

*e. Responsible commander.* Commander having Summary Court Martial jurisdiction over the unit to which the missing Soldier is assigned (or a higher authority designated by a CDR authorized to make such a designation).

*f. Duty status—whereabouts unknown.* The DUSTWUN is an interim/temporary status only designated to allow the responsible CDRs enough time to recommend a person's duty status. The CAC should submit supplemental reports as additional information or corrected information becomes available.

### **13–3. Reporting a person as duty status—whereabouts unknown**

*a.* If, after 24 hours, the person's status is still unknown the CAC will coordinate telephonically with the CMAOC for permission to submit a DUSTWUN report. Normally, a person is retained in a DUSTWUN status for a maximum of 10 days. If an involuntary absence cannot be determined from the facts, report the person as AWOL as required by AR 630–10. The CAC will submit a SUPP immediately when additional or corrected information becomes available. The CAC and CMAOC should maintain telephonic contact.

*b.* The CAC coordinates with responsible CDR of the missing person for submission of DD Form 2812 and an informal investigation within 10 days of the incident.

*c.* The responsible CDR initiates DD Form 2812 (Commanders Preliminary Assessment and Recommendation Regarding Missing Person) and an informal investigation under the provisions of AR 15–6. Within 10 days, the CDR will forward the DD Form 2812 and the informal investigation through the CAC to the CMAOC. The SA or his designee can grant an extension on any time limit.

*d.* Upon receipt of the DD Form 2812 and 15–6 investigation report, the SA or his designee will appoint an initial board of inquiry as outlined in section II, below.

*e.* On day 10, the SA or his designee appoints an initial board of inquiry. The SA or his designee can grant an extension on any time limit.

*f.* A DD Form 2812 is only required in hostile missing cases. An informal investigation is required in both hostile and non-hostile cases.

### **13–4. Personnel files**

The CDR will forward a copy of the following documents to Director, CMAOC.

*a.* Soldier's records, to include—

(1) Enlisted Records Brief or DA Form 4037 (Officer Record Brief), as applicable.

(2) Record of court-martial conviction.

(3) Any other forms of personnel records used by the Service component or home station CPO.

*b.* Original health and dental records.

*c.* A copy of unit assignment orders for Active Army or MOB orders for ARNG and USAR personnel.

*d.* The person's DD Form 93 and SGLV 8286

## **Section II**

### **Boards of Inquiry**

#### **13–5. Appointment of boards of inquiry**

*a.* The SA or his designee appoints boards of inquiry (including a legal advisor who provides counsel to the board and counsel for the missing person or persons), reviews board's findings, and makes status determinations in accordance with 10 USC 1503 through 10 USC 1505.

b. Board composition, qualifications, and duties will be as prescribed in DODI 2310.5 and as follows.

### **13–6. Initial board of inquiry**

a. Appointment of an initial board of inquiry is not always required. For instance, evidence regarding a “covered person” may be received through news coverage or discovered through diplomatic channels. That evidence may be sufficient to enable the SA or his designee to make a determination regarding the “covered person’s” whereabouts and status and whether the absence of the person is involuntary. In all cases, however, record and preserve the evidence upon which this determination is made. Receipt of additional evidence could require SA or his designated representative to appoint an initial board of inquiry. The DODI 2310.5, paragraph E4.1.3–E4.2.3 contains further clarification regarding conditions requiring an initial board of inquiry.

b. The number of board members will correspond to the number of individuals whose whereabouts are unknown, except that no board is required to consist of more than 3 members.

c. Appoint to the board at least 1 individual who has experience with, and understanding of, military operations or activities similar to the operation or activity in which the persons disappeared. This individual will be a military officer in the case of an inquiry regarding a member of the U.S. Army, or a civilian in the case of an inquiry regarding a civilian employee or DOD contractor.

d. Appoint at least 1 military officer and 1 civilian to the board in the case of inquiry regarding 1 or more members of the Army and 1 or more civilian employees or DOD contractors. The ratio of such officers to such civilians on the board will be roughly proportional to the ratio of the number of members of the Army and the number of civilian employees of DOD contractors who are the subjects of the board’s inquiry.

e. Individuals appointed as members of the board must have a security clearance that allows them access to all information relating to the whereabouts and status of the personnel covered by the inquiry.

f. In the case of a board that will inquire into the whereabouts and status of 1 or more military personnel (and no civilians or contractors) the SA or his or her designee will appoint at least 3 officers in the grade of major or above. The senior board member will serve as President of the board.

g. In the case of a board that will inquire into the whereabouts and status of 1 or more civilian employees or contractors of the Army (and no military personnel), the board will be comprised of 3 civilian employees equal to or greater than the grade GS–13.

### **13–7. Subsequent board of inquiry**

a. Appoint a subsequent board of inquiry to inquire into the whereabouts and status of a missing person on or about the anniversary date of the incident. However, a subsequent board of inquiry may be convened if any credible evidence becomes available that may change the missing person’s status.

b. The board will be composed of at least 3 members as follows—

(1) In the case of a board that will inquire into the whereabouts and status of 1 or more military personnel (and no civilians), the board members will be in the grade of major or above. At least 1 of these officers will be senior to the person whose status is being reviewed. The senior board member will serve as President of the board.

(2) In the case of a board that will inquire into the whereabouts and status of 1 or more civilian employees or DOD contractors (no military personnel), the board members will be DOD employees in the grade of GS–13 or above. At least 1 of these members will be senior in grade to the most senior individual whose status the board is reviewing. The board may include military members as the SA or his designee considers advisable. The senior board member will serve as President of the board.

(3) In the case of a board that will inquire into the whereabouts and status of 1 or more military personnel and 1 or more civilians, the board will include at least 1 military member in the grade of major or above and 1 DOD employee in the grade of GS–13 or above. The ratio of such officers to such civilians on the board will be roughly proportional to the ratio of the number of military personnel and civilian personnel who are the subjects of the board’s inquiry. The senior board member will serve as the President of the board.

(4) The board will include at least 1 member who has an occupational specialty similar to that of 1 or more of the persons covered by the inquiry and who has an understanding of and expertise in the type of official activities in which 1 or more such persons were engaged at the time such persons disappeared.

c. The provision of this regulation relating to board of inquiry actions and to the SA or his designated representative actions on those reports will cease to apply in the case of a missing person, at the time the person becomes accounted for, or if the board of inquiry otherwise determines the person to be in a status other than missing.

### **13–8. Next of kin rights**

a. The individual who is PNOK of any person covered by DODI 2310.5 may designate another individual to act on his or her behalf as the PNOK. The person who made the designation may revoke it at any time.

b. For boards of inquiry under DODI 2310.5, the PNOK of a missing person and any other previously designated person will have the identity of the missing person’s counsel made known to him or her, and have the right to submit information to the missing person’s counsel relative to the disappearance or status of the missing person.

c. The proceedings of a board during an initial board of inquiry under DODI 2310.5 will be closed to the public (including the PNOK, other members of the immediate family, and the previously designated person of the missing individual).

d. Dependents of a person in a missing status who are currently receiving the person's pay and allowances (including allotments benefiting these dependents) which could be reduced or terminated by the contemplated status change (such as a change from "missing" to "AWOL" or "deceased") are entitled to notice that the person's missing status will be reviewed.

e. The SA or his designee will notify each individual referred to in paragraphs *a* through *d*, above, by certified, return-receipt mail that an initial board of inquiry is going to convene.

f. For subsequent boards of inquiry under DODI 2310.5, the PNOK of a missing person, other members of the immediate family and any other previously designated person of the missing individual may attend the proceedings of the board during the inquiry with private counsel, if desired, at no cost to the government. Not less than 60 calendar days before the convening of the board the SA or his designee will notify each individual referred to in paragraph 13-8 *d*. by certified, return-receipt mail of the opportunity to attend the proceedings of a subsequent board of inquiry. The notification will include a letter of election to attend or not to attend the board (see fig 13-1). If they attend they will—

(1) Have access to the case resolution file of the missing person, unclassified reports of the initial board of inquiry, and to any other unclassified information or documents relating to the whereabouts and status of the missing person.

(2) Be allowed to present information to the board that such individual considers relevant to those proceedings.

(3) Be allowed to submit in writing objections to any recommendation of the board by providing the board a letter of intent not later than 15 calendar days after the date on which the recommendations are made. They must submit written objections to the President of the board no later than 30 calendar days after the date on which the recommendations are made.

(4) Not be entitled to reimbursement by the Government for any costs (including but not limited to, travel, lodging, meals, local transportation, legal fees, transcription costs, witness expenses, and other expenses that the individual incurred attending such proceedings).

TO: Department of Army  
U.S. Army Human Resources Command  
(ATTN: AHRC-PED)  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22332

(I) We understand that the Army will, upon  (my) our completion of this letter, proceed with a review of the case of John Doe who is  (my) our Husband.

(I) We understand the rights which have been afforded to (me us) and have indicated by checking the appropriate block the rights desired in connection with the review to be made.

Please check one of the boxes below.

I.  Board of Inquiry Rights (10, USC § 1504 or 1504): (I We) desire to attend the board of inquiry and understand that a civilian attorney may attend with (me us). (I We) desire reasonable access to the information upon which the review will be based. A summary of the information which (I we) desire to be considered by the board (is is not) attached. (I We) understand that (I we) will not be entitled to reimbursement by the United States for any costs (including but not limited to, travel, lodging, meals, local transportation, legal fees, transcription costs, and witness expenses) (I we) incurred in attending the proceedings.

II.  Waiver or Rights: (I We) hereby waive (my our) right to attend the board of inquiry.

III.  Election of Waiver to Attend with Right to Submit Information:  (I) We hereby waive  (my) our right to attend the board of inquiry, but have attached information which  (I) we desire to be considered by the board.

Signature(s)	Relationship to Soldier	Date
<u>Susan Doe</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>March 7, 2006</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Figure 13-1. Letter of election board procedures

### **13–9. Board procedures**

*a.* The Army is required to place before the board all relevant evidence in its possession on the absence or status of the missing member. If it appears that the absence or missing status of 2 or more persons is factually related, the SA or his designee may appoint a single board to conduct the inquiry into the whereabouts and status of all such persons. Neither the Army nor those having board rights are required to call witnesses.

*b.* The board will—

(1) Collect, record, and safeguard all facts, documents, statements, photographs, tapes, messages, maps, sketches, reports, and other information (classified and unclassified) relating to the whereabouts and status of each person the inquiry covers.

(2) Gather information relating to actions taken to find the persons, including any evidence of the whereabouts and status arising from such actions.

(3) Arrive at its findings and recommendation by majority vote, and ensure that a preponderance of the evidence supports its findings.

(4) Maintain a record of its proceedings.

(5) Submit to the SA or his designee a complete report, using DD Form 2811 (Report of Proceedings by Initial/Subsequent Board of Inquiry or Further Review Board), which will include—

*(a)* A discussion of the facts and evidence the board considered.

*(b)* The board's recommendation with respect to each person the report covers.

*(c)* Disclosure of whether the board reviewed or otherwise used classified documents and information in forming its recommendations.

*(d)* The missing person's counsel's independent review of the board's report.

*(e)* A legal review of the board's report.

### **13–10. Legal advisor and counsel for missing persons**

For the purposes of a board of inquiry conducted in accordance with DODI 2310.5 inquiry into hostile cases, the SA or his designee will—

*a.* Provide a legal advisor by assigning a judge advocate, or appointing an attorney who has expertise in the law relating to missing persons, the determination of death of such persons, and the rights of family members and dependents of such persons. The legal advisor will represent the interests of the United States, advise the board on questions of law or procedures pertaining to the board, instruct the board on governing statutes and directives, and monitor the deliberations of the board.

*b.* Appoint counsel to represent each person the board of inquiry names. If the absence or missing status of 2 or more persons may be factually related, SA or his designee will appoint 1 counsel to represent all such persons. If a conflict of interest results, then the missing person's counsel will report this to the SA or his designee, who will appoint additional counsel as necessary.

(1) Counsel appointed under this paragraph may be referred to as "missing person's counsel" and represents the interest of the missing persons and not those of any member of the person's family, previously designated person, or any other interested parties.

(2) Qualifications and duties of "missing person's counsel" are prescribed by DODI 2310.5.

### **13–11. Board findings and recommendations**

*a.* Findings.

(1) The person is declared missing.

(2) The person is declared to have deserted.

(3) The person is declared to be absent without leave.

(4) The person is declared to be dead.

*b. Recommendations.* A preponderance of evidence must support a finding of missing, deserted, or absent without leave. The board may not recommend a finding of dead unless—

(1) Credible evidence exists to suggest that the person is dead.

(2) The United States possesses no credible evidence that suggest the person is alive.

(3) Representatives of the United States have made a complete search of the area where the person was last seen and have examined the records of the Government or entity having control over the area where the person was last seen (unless, after making a good faith effort to obtain access to the area or to the records, the representatives are not granted access).

*c. Submittal of information of death.* If a board appointed under DODI 2310.5 recommends that a missing person be declared dead, the board must include the following in the report with respect to the missing person—

- (1) A detailed description of the location where the death occurred.
- (2) A statement of the date on which the death occurred.
- (3) A description of the location of the body, if recovered.
- (4) A certification by a forensic pathologist that the body recovered is that of the missing person, if the body has been recovered and is not identifiable through visual means.

### **13–12. Record of board proceedings and legal review**

*a.* Any member of the board or missing person's counsel may request a verbatim record for any part of the proceedings or the entire proceedings. SA or his designee is the approval authority for such requests. In those cases, record the hearing with a mechanical recording device and prepare a verbatim transcript of the proceedings. The legal advisor will certify the record as accurate before it is distributed to anyone and will resolve any disagreement as to the accuracy.

*b.* The legal advisor will prepare a legal review for each board conducted.

### **13–13. Final board action**

*a.* The board will forward its findings and legal reviews to the SA or his designee not later than 30 calendar days after its appointment.

*b.* The SA or his designee will determine whether or not the report is complete and free of administrative error. If the SA or his designee determines that the report is incomplete, or that the report is not free of administrative error, SA or his designee may return the report to the board for further action. If SA or his designee determines that the report is complete and free of administrative error, the SA or his designee will make a determination concerning the status and whereabouts of each person the report covered. The SA or his designee will declare the person dead or missing. If declared missing, the SA or his designee will designate the appropriate missing category in which to place the person, will issue a DD Form 1300, and will notify the CAC concerned of the determination.

*c.* The SA or his designee will review the report not later than 30 calendar days following its receipt.

*d.* Not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which the SA or his designee determines the status, he or she will provide to the PNOK, other immediate family members, and any other previously designated person—

(1) An unclassified summary of the unit commander's preliminary assessment and recommendations (DD Form 2812).

(2) The report of the board (DD Form 2811) including the names of the board members.

(3) In the case of the initial board of inquiry, a notice that the Army will conduct a board of inquiry into the whereabouts and status of the missing persons upon the earlier of—

*(a)* On or about the 1 year after the date of the first official notice of the disappearance; or

*(b)* When information becomes available that may result in a change in status.

*(c)* In the case of a subsequent board of inquiry, a notice that the Army will conduct a further review board into the whereabouts and status if the board receives information in the future that may change the missing person's status.

### **13–14. Further review board**

*a.* Following a subsequent board of inquiry, SA or his designee will appoint a further review board to inquire into the whereabouts and status of the person whenever—

(1) The U.S. Government receives information.

(2) The information may result in a change to the missing person's status.

(3) The SA or his designated representative deems it appropriate.

*b.* The procedures for further review boards are identical to those of the subsequent board of inquiry. (See fig 13–2 for flow chart of the missing report process.)



# Missing Reporting

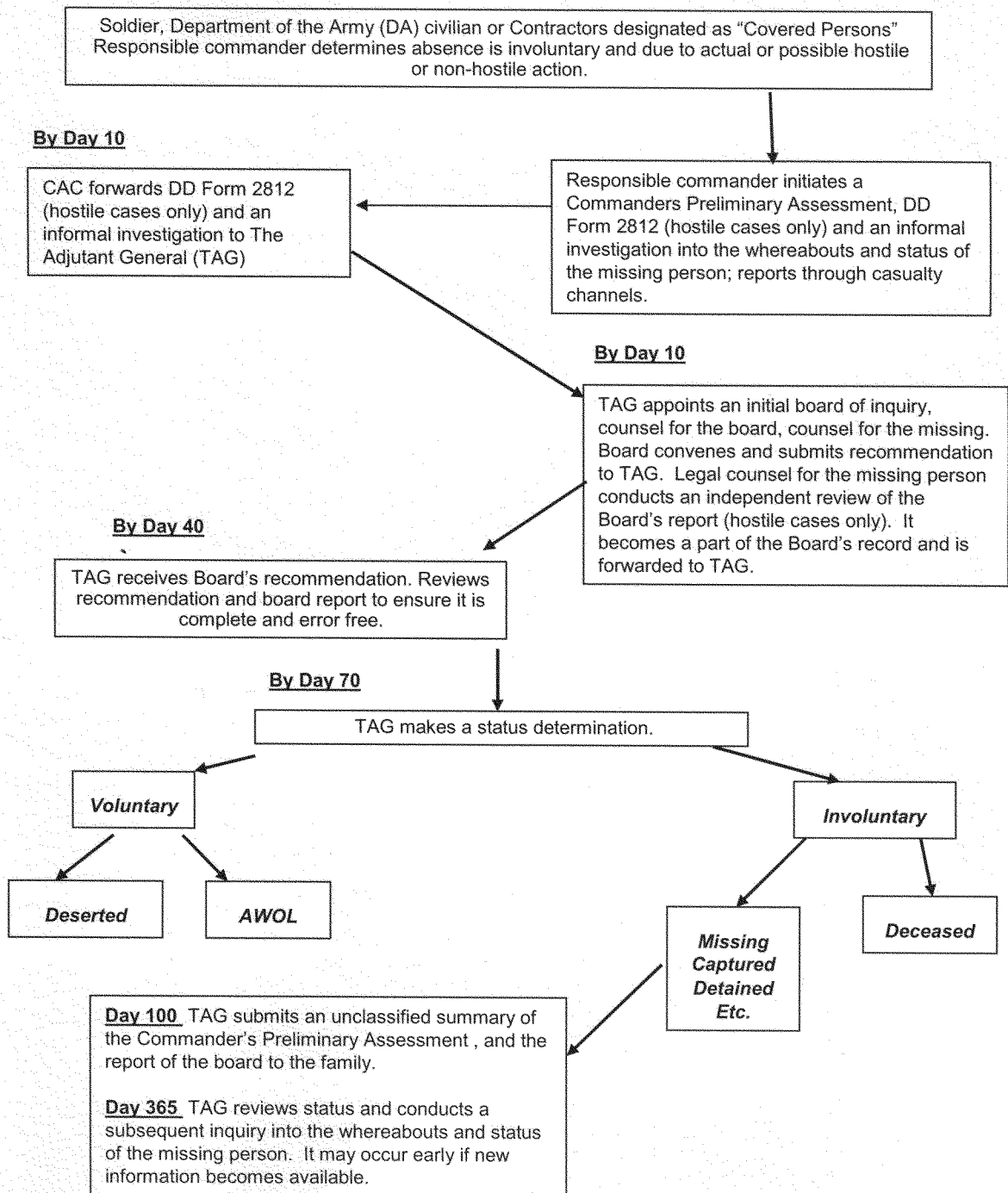


Figure 13-2. Flow chart of the missing report process

## **Appendix A References**

### **Section I Required Publications**

For casualty assistance contacts, questions, and other links, visit the CMAOC Web site at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/cmaoc/cmaoc.htm>

#### **AR 15-6**

Procedures for Investigating Officers and Boards of Officers (Cited in paras 2-12d, 8-3b, 8-4b, 8-7a, 8-13, 8-21, and 8-26c.)

#### **AR 25-11**

Record Communications and the Privacy Communications System (Cited in para 2-14b.)

#### **AR 25-50**

Preparing and Managing Correspondence (Cited in para 5-1.)

#### **AR 25-400-2**

The Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS) (Cited in para 1-16.)

#### **AR 27-3**

The Army Legal Assistance Program (Cited in para 11-31a.)

#### **AR 55-46**

Travel Overseas (Cited in para 6-11a(14).)

#### **DA Pam 638-2**

Procedures for the Care and Disposition of Remains and Disposition of Personal Effects (Cited in para 1-4e.)

#### **H-98.98-1**

Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance Handbook (Available at <http://www.insurance.VA.gov>) (Cited in para 11-25c(1).)

### **Section II Related Publications**

A related publication is a source of additional information. The user does not have to read a related publication to understand this regulation.

#### **AR 11-2**

Management Control

#### **AR 12-15**

Joint Security Assistance Training (JSAT)

#### **AR 15-185**

Army Board for Correction of Military Records

#### **AR 25-52**

Authorized Abbreviations, Brevity Codes, and Acronyms

#### **AR 25-55**

The Department of the Army Freedom of Information Act Program

#### **AR 27-20**

Claims

#### **AR 27-26**

Rules of Professional Conduct for Lawyers

**AR 40-1**

Composition, Mission, and Functions of the Army Medical Department

**AR 135-200**

Active Duty for Mission Projects, and Training for Reserve Component Soldiers

**AR 145-1**

Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program: Organization, Administrations, and Training

**AR 165-1**

Chaplain Activities in the United States Army

**AR 190-8**

Enemy Prisoners of War—Retained Personnel, Civilian Internees and Other Detainees

**AR 210-50**

Housing Management

**AR 210-190**

Post Cemeteries

**AR 290-5**

Army National Cemeteries

**AR 335-15**

Management Information Control System

**AR 340-21**

The Army Privacy Program

**AR 360-1**

The Army Public Affairs Program

**AR 380-5**

Department of the Army Information Security Program

**AR 385-40**

Accident Reporting and Records

**AR 385-95**

Army Aviation Accident Prevention

**AR 600-20**

Army Command Policy

**AR 600-25**

Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy

**AR 600-34**

Fatal Training/Operational Accident Presentations to the Next of Kin

**AR 600-8-2**

Suspension of Favorable Personnel Actions (Flags)

**AR 600-8-4**

Line of Duty Policy, Procedures, and Investigation

**AR 600-8-10**

Leaves and Passes

**AR 600–8–14**

Identification Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, the Family Members, and Other Eligible Personnel

**AR 600–8–24**

Officer Transfers and Discharges

**AR 600–8–104**

Military Personnel Information Management/Records

**AR 600–8–29**

Officer Promotions

**AR 600–8–105**

Military Orders

**AR 608–1**

Army Community Service Program

**AR 630–10**

Absence Without Leave, Desertion and Administration of Personnel involved in Civilian Court Proceedings

**AR 635–5**

Separation Documents

**AR 635–40**

Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation

**AR 635–200**

Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations

**AR 638–25**

Armed Services Graves Registration Office

**AR 680–29**

Military Personnel, Organization and Type of Transaction Codes

**AR 700–84**

Issue and Sale of Personal Clothing

**AR 840–10**

Flags, Guidons, Streamers, Tabards, and Automobile and Aircraft Plates

**AR 930–4**

Army Emergency Relief

**AR 930–5**

American National Red Cross Service Program and Army Utilization

**CTA 50–900**

Clothing and Individual Equipment

**DA Pam 55–2**

It's Your Move (Personal Property Shipping Information)

**DA Pam 600–8**

Management and Administrative Procedures

**DA Pam 608–4**

A Guide for the Survivors of Deceased Army Members

**DA Poster 608–10**

Soldier—Record of Emergency Data

**DFAS–IN Reg 37–1**

Finance and Accounting for Installations Travel and Transportation Allowances

**DOD 1000.21.R**

Passport Agent Services Regulation

**DOD 4500–35**

Personal Property Traffic Management Regulation (Supplement to DOD 4500–34)

**DOD 4515.13–R**

DOD Air Transportation Eligibility

**DOD 7000.14–R, Vol. 7, Part A**

Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations (Military Pay Policy and Procedures—Active Duty and Reserve Pay)

**DOD 5030.49**

DOD Customs and Border Clearance Program

**DODD 3025.1**

Strategy for Homeland Security

**DODI 1300.18**

Military Personnel Casualty Matters, Policies, and Procedures

**FAR**

DOD Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Supplement (available at <http://www.Diskbook.OSD.mil>)

**FM 3–21.5**

Drill and Ceremonies

**FM 4–20.65**

Identification of Deceased Personnel

**JFTR, Vol. 1**

Joint Federal Travel Regulations

**JP 4–06**

Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Mortuary Affairs in Joint Operations

**JTR, Vol II**

DOD Civilians

**MACR 76–1, Volume I**

Air Mobility Command, Regulation Military Airlift Transportation

**NAVPEPS 15560D**

Naval Military Personnel Manual

**NGB Pam**

Unit Level Military Pay Manual

**NGB Pam**

State Level Military Pay Procedures—Army National Guard

**NGR 600–3**

Line of Duty Determinations

**NGR 600–200**

Enlisted Personnel Management

**NGR 638–40**

Care and Disposition of Remains

**NGR 640–100**

Officers and Warrant Officers Military Personnel Records Jacket

**PL 89–214**

Established the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Program, effective 29 September 1965.

**PL 93–289**

A bill to amend title 38, United States Codes, to encourage persons to join and remain in the Reserves and National Guard by providing full-time coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for such members and certain members of the Retired Reserve.

**PL 107–14**

An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for CHAMPVA, to provide for family coverage and retroactive expansion of the increase in maximum benefits under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, to make technical amendments, and for other purposes.

**PL 109–13**

An act to making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

**PL 109–80**

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Enhancement Act of 2005. Made the increase in maximum SGLI and VGLI coverage to \$400,000, and the change in SGLI increments to \$50,000 permanent. Also, it provided for spousal notification of change in SGLI beneficiary and reduction or declination of coverage.

**5 USC**

Government Organization and Employees

**10 USC**

Title 10 U.S. Code Armed Forces

**10 USC 1482c**

Expenses incident to death

**10 USC 1503**

Actions of Secretary concerned; initial board inquiry

**10 USC 1504**

Subsequent board of inquiry

**10 USC 1505**

Further review

**10 USC 1513**

Definitions

**10 USC 12304(i)(1)**

Selected Reserve and certain Individual Ready Reserve members; order to active duty other than during war or national emergency.

**32 USC 316**

Detail of members of Army National Guard for rifle instruction of civilians

**32 USC 502**  
Required drills and field exercises

**32 USC 503**  
Participation in field exercises

**32 USC 504**  
National Guard schools and small arms competitions

**32 USC 505**  
Army and Air Force schools and field exercises

**36 USC 2110**  
Claims against the Commission

**37 USC 551–558 and 37 USC 1501–1513**  
Missing Persons Act (MPA)

**38 USC 1965**  
Definitions

**38 USC 1966**  
Eligible insurance companies

**38 USC 1967**  
Persons insured; amount

**38 USC 1968**  
Duration and termination of coverage; conversion

**38 USC 1969**  
Deductions; payment; investment; expenses

**38 USC 1970**  
Beneficiaries; payment of insurance

**38 USC 1971**  
Basic tables of premiums; readjustment of rates

**38 USC 1972**  
Benefit certificates

**38 USC 1973**  
Forfeiture

**38 USC 1974**  
Advisory Council on Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance

**38 USC 1975**  
Jurisdiction of District Court

**38 USC 1976**  
Effective date

**38 USC 1977**  
Veterans' Group Life Insurance

**38 USC 1978**  
Reinstatement

**38 USC 1979**

Incontestability

**38 USC 1980**

Option to receive accelerated death benefit

**VA–DMA–IS–1**

Interments in National Cemeteries. (This Publication is available from the VA Department of Memorial Affairs, Directors of National Cemetery Area Offices, All VA National Cemeteries, and the Nearest VA Regional Office or Facility.)

**Section III****Prescribed Forms**

Except where otherwise indicated below, the following forms are available as follows: DA Forms are available on the Army Electronic Library (AEL) CD-ROM (EM 0001) and the APD Web site (<http://www.apd.army.mil>); DD Forms are available from the OSD Web site (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm>); Standard Forms (SF) are available from the GSA Web site (<http://www.gsa.gov>); SGLV Forms are available from the DVA Web site (<http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliforms/forms/forms.htm>); VA Forms are available from the VA Web site (<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>).

**DA Form 1156**

Casualty Feeder Card (Prescribed in para 1–7.) (Also available through normal forms supply channels.)

**DA Form 4475**

Data Required by the Privacy Act of 1974–Personal Information From the NOK of a Deceased Service Member (Prescribed in para 6–11.)

**DD Form 93**

Record of Emergency Data (Prescribed in para 2–9.)

**DD Form 1300**

Report of Casualty (Prescribed in para 6–5.)

**SGLV 8285**

Request for Insurance (SGLI) (Prescribed in para 10–1.)

**SGLV 8286**

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate (Prescribed in para 4–2.)

**SGLV 8286A**

Family Coverage Election (Prescribed in para 12–28.)

**SGLV 8714**

Application for Veterans Group Life Insurance (Prescribed in para 12–33.)

**VA Form 21–535**

Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parents (Prescribed in para K–3.)

**Section IV****Referenced Forms****DA Form 78**

Recommendation for Promotion to 1LT/CW2

**DA Form 1574**

Report of Proceedings by Investigating Officer/Board of Officers

**DA Form 2984**

Very Seriously Ill/Seriously Ill/Special Category Patient Report



**DA Form 3168**

Posthumous Promotion (Enlisted)

**DA Form 4037**

Officer Record Brief

**DA Form 4187**

Personnel Action

**DA Form 7302**

Disposition of Remains Statement

**DD Form 214**

Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

**DD Form 397**

Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment

**DD Form 1172**

Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card – DEERS Enrollment

**DD Form 1173**

Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card

**DD Form 1375**

Request for Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses

**DD Form 2656**

Data for Payment of Retired Personnel

**DD Form 2811**

Report of Proceedings by Initial/Subsequent Board of Inquiry or Further Review Board

**DD Form 2812**

Commander's Preliminary Assessment and Recommendation Regarding Missing Person

**SF 1174**

Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Services

**SGLV 8283**

Claim for Death Benefits

**SGLV 8284**

Servicemember/Veteran Accelerated Benefits Option Form

**SGLV 8284A**

Servicemember Family Coverage Accelerated Benefits Option Form

**SGLV 8285A**

Request for Family Coverage for Spouse

**VA Form 21-534**

Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child

**VA Form 21-4138**

Statement in Support of Claim

**VA Form 29-4125**

Claim for One Sum Payment

**VA Form 29-4125A**

Claim for Monthly Payments

**VA Form 40-1330**

Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker

**Appendix B**

**Casualty Assistance Centers**

Casualty Assistance Center areas of responsibility are detailed on the CMAOC Web site at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/cmaoc/cmaoc.htm>.

**B-1. Casualty Assistance Centers—continental United States**

- a. Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5016 (MDW) (BEL)
- b. Fort Benning, GA 31905-5010 (TRADOC) (BNG)
- c. Fort Bliss, TX 79916-0058 (BLI)
- d. Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000 (BRA)
- e. Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000 (CAM)
- f. Fort Carson, CO 80913-5014 (CAR)
- g. Fort Dix, NJ 08640-5162 (DIX)
- h. Fort Drum, NY 13602-5009 (DRU)
- i. Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5082 (EUS)
- j. Fort Gordon, GA 30905-5020 (GOR)
- k. Fort Hood, TX 76544-5056 (HOD)
- l. Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-6000 (HUA)
- m. Fort Jackson, SC 29207-5240 (JAC)
- n. Fort Knox, KY 40121-5000 (KNO)
- o. Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-5080 (LEW)
- p. Fort Lee, VA 23801-5152 (LEE)
- q. Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-5000 (LNW)
- r. Fort Lewis, WA 98433-5000 (LEW)
- s. Fort McPherson, GA 30330-5000 (MCP)
- t. Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5073 (MEA)
- u. Fort Polk, LA 71459-5000 (POL)
- v. Fort Riley, KS 66442-6621 (RIL)
- w. Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5127 (RUC)
- x. Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5000 (FSH)
- y. Fort Sill, OK 73503-5100 (SIL)
- z. Fort Stewart, GA 31314-5000 (STE)

**B-2. Casualty Assistance Centers—outside continental United States**

- a. Alaska (Fort Richardson), Alaska (ALA) — The state of Alaska
- b. Europe (1st Personnel Command) (EUR)
- c. Hawaii (Schofield Barracks) (HAW) — 25th INF DIV (L)
- d. Japan, Camp Zama (JAP) — USAR, 9th TSC
- e. Korea (KOR) — 8th Personnel Command (PROV), Korea
- f. Okinawa (OKI) — 10th Area Support Group, UNIT 35115, APO 96376-5115, Okinawa Philippines
- g. Puerto Rico (PUE) — U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico
- h. Kuwait (KUW) — CENTCOM controlled areas

**Appendix C**

**Location Codes**

**C-1. State codes**

- a. A-H

- (1) AK–Alaska
- (2) AR–Arkansas
- (3) AZ–Arizona
- (4) CA–California
- (5) CT–Connecticut
- (6) CO–Colorado
- (7) DC–District of Columbia
- (8) DE–Delaware
- (9) FL–Florida
- (10) GA–Georgia
- (11) HI–Hawaii

*b.* I–M

- (1) IA–Iowa
- (2) ID–Idaho
- (3) IL–Illinois
- (4) IN–Indiana
- (5) KS–Kansas
- (6) KY–Kentucky
- (7) LA–Louisiana
- (8) MA–Massachusetts
- (9) MD–Maryland
- (10) ME–Maine
- (11) MI–Michigan
- (12) MN–Minnesota
- (13) MO–Missouri
- (14) MS–Mississippi
- (15) MT–Montana
- (16) NC–North Carolina
- (17) ND–North Dakota
- (18) NE–Nebraska
- (19) NH–New Hampshire
- (20) NJ–New Jersey
- (21) NM–New Mexico
- (22) OK–Oklahoma
- (23) NV–Nevada
- (24) NY–New York
- (25) OH–Ohio
- (26) OR–Oregon
- (27) PA–Pennsylvania
- (28) RI–Rhode Island
- (29) SC–South Carolina
- (30) SD–South Dakota
- (31) TN–Tennessee
- (32) TX–Texas
- (33) UT–Utah
- (34) VA–Virginia
- (35) VT–Vermont
- (36) WA–Washington
- (37) WI–Wisconsin
- (38) WV–West Virginia
- (39) WY–Wyoming

**C–2. Country codes**

*a.* A–H

- (1) AA Aruba
- (2) AC Antigua and Barbuda

- (3) AF Afghanistan
- (4) AG Algeria
- (5) AL Albania
- (6) AN Andorra
- (7) AO Angola
- (8) AQ American Samoa
- (9) AR Argentina
- (10) AM Armenia
- (11) AS Australia
- (12) AT Ashmore/Cartier Islands
- (13) AU Austria
- (14) AV Anguilla
- (15) AY Antarctica
- (16) AZ Azerbaijan
- (17) BF Bahamas
- (18) BA Bahrain
- (19) FQ Baker Island
- (20) BG Bangladesh
- (21) BB Barbados
- (22) BS Bassas Da India
- (23) BO Belarus
- (24) BE Belgium
- (25) BH Belize
- (26) BN Benin
- (27) BZ Berlin, Germany
- (28) BD Bermuda
- (29) BT Bhutan
- (30) BL Bolivia
- (31) BK Bosnia–Herzegovina
- (32) BC Botswana
- (33) BV Bouvet Island
- (34) BR Brazil
- (35) IO British Indian Ocean Territories
- (36) VI British Virgin Isles
- (37) BX Brunei
- (38) BU Bulgaria
- (39) UV Burkina (formerly Upper Volta)
- (40) BM Burma
- (41) BY Burundi
- (42) CB Cambodia
- (43) CM Cameroon
- (44) CA Canada
- (45) CV Cape Verde
- (46) CJ Cayman Islands
- (47) CT Central African Republic
- (48) CD Chad
- (49) CI Chile
- (50) CH China
- (51) KT Christmas Island
- (52) IP Clipperton Island
- (53) CK Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- (54) CO Colombia
- (55) CN Comoros
- (56) CF Congo
- (57) CW Cook Islands
- (58) CR Coral Sea Islands

- (59) CS Costa Rica
- (60) HR Croatia
- (61) CU Cuba
- (62) CY Cyprus
- (63) EZ Czech Republic
- (64) CZ Czechoslovakia (historical)
- (65) DA Demark
- (66) DJ Djibouti
- (67) DO Dominica
- (68) DR Dominican Republic
- (69) EC Ecuador
- (70) EG Egypt
- (71) ES El Salvador
- (72) EK Equatorial Guinea
- (73) U4 Estonia
- (74) ET Ethiopia
- (75) EU Europa Island
- (76) FA Falkland Islands
- (77) FO Faroe Islands
- (78) FM Federal States of Micronesia
- (79) FJ Fiji
- (80) FI Finland
- (81) FR France
- (82) FG French Guiana
- (83) FP French Polynesia
- (84) FS French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- (85) GB Gabon
- (86) GA Gambia
- (87) GZ Gaza Strip
- (88) GG Georgia
- (89) GE Germany
- (90) GC German Democratic Republic
- (91) GH Ghana
- (92) GI Gibraltar
- (93) GO Glorioso Islands
- (94) GR Greece
- (95) GL Greenland
- (96) GJ Grenada
- (97) GP Guadeloupe
- (98) GT Guatemala
- (99) GQ Guam
- (100) GK Guernsey
- (101) GV Guinea
- (102) PU Guinea-Bissau
- (103) GY Guyana
- (104) HA Haiti
- (105) HM Heard/McDonald Isles
- (106) HO Honduras
- (107) HK Hong Kong
- (108) HQ Howland Islands
- (109) HU Hungary
- b. I-M*
- (1) IC Iceland
- (2) IN India
- (3) ID Indonesia
- (4) IR Iran

- (5) IZ Iraq
- (6) IY Iraq–Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone
- (7) EI Ireland
- (8) IM Isle of Man
- (9) IS Israel
- (10) IT Italy
- (11) IV Ivory Coast
- (12) JM Jamaica
- (13) JN Jan Mayan
- (14) JA Japan
- (15) DQ Jarvis Island
- (16) JE Jersey
- (17) JQ Johnston Atoll
- (18) JO Jordan
- (19) JU Juan de Nova Island
- (20) KZ Kazakhstan
- (21) KE Kenya
- (22) KQ Kingman Reef
- (23) KR Kiribati
- (24) YU Kosovo
- (25) KU Kuwait
- (26) KG Kyrgyzstan
- (27) LA Lao
- (28) U8 Latvia
- (29) LE Lebanon
- (30) LT Lesotho
- (31) LI Liberia
- (32) LY Libya
- (33) LS Liechtenstein
- (34) U9 Lithuania
- (35) LU Luxembourg
- (36) MC Macau
- (37) MK Macedonia
- (38) MA Madagascar
- (39) MY Malaysia
- (40) MI Malawi
- (41) MV Maldives
- (42) ML Mali
- (43) MT Malta
- (44) MB Martinique
- (45) MR Mauritania
- (46) MP Mauritius
- (47) MF Mayote
- (48) MX Mexico
- (49) MQ Midway Islands
- (50) MD Moldova
- (51) MN Monaco
- (52) MG Mongolia
- (53) MV Montenegro
- (54) MH Montserrat
- (55) MO Morocco
- (56) MZ Mozambique
- c. N–Z
- (1) WA Namibia
- (2) NR Nauru
- (3) BQ Navassa Island

- (4) NP Nepal
- (5) NL Netherlands
- (6) NA Netherlands Antilles
- (7) NC New Caledonia
- (8) PP Papua New Guinea
- (9) NZ New Zealand
- (10) NU Nicaragua
- (11) NG Niger
- (12) NI Nigeria
- (13) NE Niue
- (14) NF Norfokj Uskabd (Norfolk Island)
- (15) KN North Korea
- (16) VN North Vietnam
- (17) CQ N. Mariana Islands
- (18) NO Norway
- (19) MU Oman
- (20) PK Pakistan
- (21) PS Palau
- (22) LQ Palmyra Atoll
- (23) PM Panama
- (24) PF Paracel Islands
- (25) PA Paraguay
- (26) PE Peru
- (27) RP Philippines
- (28) PC Pitcairn Islands
- (29) PL Poland
- (30) PO Portugal
- (31) RQ Puerto Rico
- (32) QA Qatar
- (33) RE Reunion
- (34) RO Romania
- (35) RU Ruislip
- (36) UR Russia (USSR)
- (37) RW Rwanda
- (38) SH St. Helena
- (39) ST St. Lucia
- (40) SB St. Pierre and Miguelon
- (41) VC St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- (42) SM San Marino
- (43) TP Sao Tome and Principe
- (44) SA Saudi Arabia
- (45) SG Senegal
- (46) SP Serbia
- (47) SE Seychelles
- (48) SI Sicily
- (49) SL Sierra Leon
- (50) SN Singapore
- (51) LO Slovak Republic
- (52) BP Solomon Islands
- (53) SO Somalia
- (54) SF South Africa
- (55) KS South Korea
- (56) SP Spain
- (57) PG Spratly Islands
- (58) CE Sri Lanka
- (59) SU Sudan

- (60) NS Suriname
- (61) SV Svalbord
- (62) WZ Swaziland
- (63) SW Sweden
- (64) SZ Switzerland
- (65) SY Syria
- (66) TW Taiwan
- (67) TI Tajikistan
- (68) TZ Tanzania
- (69) TH Thailand
- (70) TL Tokelau Islands
- (71) TN Tongo
- (72) TO Togo
- (73) TD Trinidad and Tobago
- (74) TE Tromelin Island
- (75) NQ Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
- (76) TS Tunisia
- (77) TU Turkey
- (78) TX Turkmenistan
- (79) TK Turks and Caicos Islands
- (80) TV Tuvalu
- (81) UG Uganda
- (82) UP Ukraine
- (83) TC United Arab Emirates
- (84) UK United Kingdom
- (85) US United States
- (86) UY Uruguay
- (87) VQ US Virgin Islands
- (88) UZ Uzbekistan
- (89) NH Vanuatu
- (90) VT Vatican City
- (91) VE Venezuela
- (92) VM South Vietnam
- (93) WQ Wake Island
- (94) WF Wallis and Futuna
- (95) WC West Bank
- (96) WI Western Sahara
- (97) WS Western Samoa
- (98) YE Yemen (Aden)
- (99) YS Yemen (Sanau)
- (100) YO Yugoslavia
- (101) CG Zaire
- (102) ZA Zambia
- (103) ZI Zimbabwe

## **Appendix D**

### **Reports of Investigations and Autopsy Reports**

#### **D–1. Reports of investigations**

*a.* Section 1072, Public Law 102–484, requires that fatality reports and records in redacted form pertaining to any member of the Armed Forces who dies in the line of duty be made available to family members of the Servicemember. This requirement may be waived on a case-by-case basis but only if the Secretary of the Army determines that compliance with this requirement is not in the interest of national security. Within a reasonable period of time after family members of a service member are notified of the member’s death, but not more than 30 days after the date of notification, the CAO will give the family members—



(1) The names of the agencies within the Department of Defense conducting the investigations, and the existence of any reports by such agencies that have been or will be issued as a result of the investigations, in any case in which the cause or circumstances surrounding the death are under investigation, and

(2) A redacted copy of any completed investigative report and any other completed fatality reports that are available at the time the family members receive the information described in paragraph *b*(1) (if the family members so desire). If the family members desire such reports and the reports are not available at the time the family members receive the information in paragraph *b*(1), the reports will be furnished to the family members when they are completed and become available. These reports are required to be furnished only to the extent that such action is consistent with the Freedom of Information Act ( 5 USC 552) and the Privacy Act (5 USC 552a).

*b.* In any case in which an investigative report or other fatality report cannot be released at the time the family members receive the information described in paragraph *b*(1), because of the Freedom of Information Act or the Privacy Act, the CAO will inform family members of the requirements and procedures necessary to request a copy of such reports and are assisted, if they so request, in submitting a request for such reports. Assistance with obtaining these reports will be provided to family members until a copy of each report is obtained or until access to any such report is denied by competent authority within the Department of Defense. Should the family members desire assistance in submitting a Freedom of Information or Privacy Act request, the CAO should consult his servicing Staff Judge Advocate.

## **D-2. Line of duty investigation reports**

*a.* When a Soldier dies from natural causes, an investigation is not required; therefore, there is no report. If an investigation is required, it could be done by several different agencies simultaneously, depending on the cause and the circumstances of the death. If a line of duty investigation is made, the NOK may request a copy of the report of investigation by sending a written request to HQDA (AHRC-PED-S), Alexandria, VA 22332.

*b.* A line of duty determination is not made by DA on death cases. However, the DVA uses the line of duty report to determine the NOK's benefits from that agency.

*c.* Responsible agencies will forward a copy of the report to HQDA (AHRC-PED-S) about 60 to 90 days after the date of death.

## **D-3. Criminal investigation reports**

*a.* If a criminal investigation of a Soldier's death was conducted and the NOK desires a copy of the report, assist the NOK by writing to the Director, U.S. Army Crime Records Center, USACIDC, ATTN: CICR-FP, 6010 6th Street, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5585. Explain to the NOK that the Commanding General, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is the releasing authority for the report.

*b.* Safety investigation reports

*c.* If a Soldier dies in an accident involving Army equipment or operations, two investigations will be conducted.

*d.* Safety personnel will conduct an investigation for accident prevention purposes within the DOD, under the provisions of AR 385-40.

*e.* Members of the public, to include the NOK, may request copies of this report under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (AR 25-55). However, only limited portions of the investigation are released in response to such a request. Confidential witness statements, evidence derived from confidential statements that would reveal the identity of the witness, the investigation board's analysis, or the findings and recommendations for corrective action will not be released.

*f.* All requests for this report must be in writing and should be sent to the CDR, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, Freedom of Information Act, 5th Avenue, Building 4905, Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5363. This report is usually not available until 120 to 180 days after the accident. Reports of safety investigations may not be released, even to the NOK, by either the local safety office or the Soldier's chain of command; they can only be released by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center.

*g.* A separate administrative investigation, known as the collateral investigation, is conducted on all fatal Army accidents.

*h.* The collateral investigation board is appointed by the CDR who exercises general court-martial convening authority over the unit or installation that was responsible for the equipment, personnel, or operations involved in the accident.

*i.* This investigative report is used to determine if any administrative and or disciplinary actions will be taken. It is also used to prepare press releases, to adjudicate claims and lawsuits, and to prepare the Fatal Accident Presentation in accordance with AR 600-34.

*j.* Request for copies of the collateral investigation should be made under the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552) and should be addressed to the appointing authority. If a Soldier is killed in a civilian aircraft accident, request the report from the Federal Aviation Agency, National Transportation Safety Board, Public Inquiries Section, Washington, DC 20594-9998.

#### **D-4. Autopsy reports**

*a.* The Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME) performs autopsies on deceased Soldiers who are killed or die within the United States. The attending pathologist will prepare a preliminary report within 24 to 48 hours of the examination. In most cases a final report will be issued in approximately 4 to 6 weeks. A copy of the final report is available upon request. The CAO will draft the NOK's request for a copy of the final report and obtain the NOK's signature if the report of autopsy is desired by the NOK. Once signed it will be faxed to (301) 319-0635, or mailed to The Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, 1413 Research Blvd, Rockville, MD, 20850, along with a copy of the DD Form 1300 and a picture ID (for example, drivers license, family member ID card) in order to comply with the Act of 21 August 1996, PL 104-91.

*b.* In those cases where a Soldier dies within the United States and is not autopsied by a representative of the AFME, the CAC will obtain from PAD of the responsible military hospital, the address where the NOK is able to send the request for autopsy report if an autopsy had been conducted. The address will be provided to the CAO who, in turn, will assist the NOK drafting the letter requesting the autopsy report.

### **Appendix E**

#### **Survivor Benefit Plan/Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan**

##### **E-1. General**

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) was established by Congress in 1972 to allow military retirees to voluntarily elect to receive a reduced amount of retired pay in order to provide an annuity for qualified survivors. The qualified survivors of all Soldiers who die on active duty in the line of duty are eligible to receive SBP. The retirement services officers (RSO) are trained and experienced in SBP counseling and assisting survivors. The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) was established by Congress in 1978 to allow Reservists who qualified for retired pay, except for not yet being age 60, to voluntarily elect to provide to qualified beneficiaries a monthly annuity based on their future retired pay. The AHRC-STL, Transition and Separation Branch, counsels survivors on RCSBP issues and assists eligible survivors with applying for RCSBP annuities.

##### **E-2. Role of the Casualty Assistance Centers**

*a.* The CAC will direct survivors of retirees to the installation RSO for assistance with applying for the SBP annuity and Arrears of Pay.

*b.* The CAC ensures that the survivors of all Soldiers who die on active duty are counseled by an RSO on SBP. After the RSO's SBP counseling, the CAC will ensure that the CAO has assisted qualified survivors with the completion of the SBP annuity paperwork. The CAC will review the completed SBP annuity request and forward to the DFAS-Cleveland for establishment of the SBP annuity.

*c.* The CAC will direct survivors of Reservists who qualified for retired pay, but are not yet age 60, to contact the AHRC-STL, Transition and Separation Branch, for RCSBP counseling and assistance with applying for the RCSBP annuity.

### **Appendix F**

#### **Social Security Payments**

##### **F-1. Eligibility**

Social security payments may be made to eligible survivors of deceased Soldiers if survivors meet the following requirements—

*a.* Widow or widower of the decedent at any age if he or she has care of a natural or legally adopted child under 16 or a disabled child.

*b.* Widow or widower on reaching age 60.

*c.* Surviving divorced husband or wife at age 60 if he or she was married to the Soldier for at least 10 years.

*d.* Surviving divorced mother or father who is not married and has in care a natural or legally adopted child who is under age 16 and entitled to social security benefits on the Soldier's record.

*e.* Dependent parents on reaching age 62 if they were receiving at least one-half of their support from the deceased Soldier (VA IS-1 Fact Sheet).

*f.* Student benefits payable at age 18 to age 22 are being phased out. However, benefits are payable up to age 19, if the child is a full-time student at an elementary or secondary school.

*g.* Students' eligibility should be discussed with the local social security office.

## F-2. How to apply

Call the Toll-Free number 1-866-777-7887 to get started. The widow or widower will need some of the following documents—

- a. The DD Form 214.
- b. Previous year's W-2 Form.
- c. Marriage certificate (original or certified copy).
- d. Divorce papers of previous marriages for both widow or widower and deceased member (if applicable).
- e. Birth certificates of children (original or certified copies) and widow or widower.
- f. Civilian death certificate or DD Form 1300.
- g. Social security lump sum payment.
- h. A lump sum death payment of \$255 is payable if the deceased Soldier at the time of death was fully or currently insured for social security payments. The lump sum death payment is paid in the following order of priority—
  - i. The widow or widower living in the same household of the deceased at the time of death.
  - j. The widow or widower who was eligible for benefits based on the deceased member's record for the month of death.
  - k. In equal shares to each child who was eligible for benefits based on the deceased member's record for the month of death.
  - l. The CAO will escort the NOK to the nearest social security office.

## Appendix G Education Benefits

### G-1. Eligibility

- a. These benefits generally apply to—
  - (1) Survivors of deceased veterans.
  - (2) Spouses of living veterans.
  - (3) Children of either (1) or (2), above, who are between age 18 and 26, when the death or permanent and total disability was the result of Service in the armed forces after the start of the Spanish-American War (21 April 1898).
- b. Spouses and children of Soldiers are eligible if the Soldier has been listed in 1 of the following categories for more than 90 days, and remains in 1 of the categories—
  - (1) Missing in action.
  - (2) Captured in line of duty.
  - (3) Forcibly detained or confined in line of duty by a foreign power.
  - (4) If eligible children under age 18 have graduated from high school or are above the age of required school attendance, the DVA may begin this schooling before they reach age 18.

### G-2. Programs

a. *Veterans Education Assistance Program.* Soldiers who initially entered the Service after 1 January 1977 may deposit money through the Joint Uniform Military Pay Systems (JUMPS) allotment (coded EDSAV) under the Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP). The VEAP is administered by DVA. The CAO will review deceased Soldier's Personal Financial Record to determine if the EDSAV allotment was in effect. The NOK may apply in writing to the nearest DVA regional office for reimbursement of VEAP deposits. The request may be in letter form or on VA Form 21-4138 (Statement on Support of Claim) and must include a copy of the DD Form 1300. The Montgomery GI Bill established a program of education benefits for individuals entering military Service after June 30, 1985. Service persons entering active duty after that date had their basic pay reduced by \$100 a month for 12 months of their service, unless they specifically elected not to participate in the program. A death benefit may be payable to a designated survivor if the Service person's death is in Service and is Service-connected. The Service person must have been eligible at the time of death, or would have been eligible but for the high school diploma and or length of service requirements. Any monthly contributions made by the Soldier to the VEAP are reimbursable to his or her family in the following order of precedence—

- (1) Spouse.
- (2) Children.
- (3) Parents in equal share (or other persons who stood in loco parentis).
- (4) To other relatives in equal shares.

b. *Army Emergency Relief educational assistance program.* AER has an undergraduate level educational assistance

program for spouses and unmarried dependent children of deceased Soldiers (active or retired). The program includes loans and a limited number of scholarships. Obtain detailed information from National Headquarters, AER.

## **Appendix H Civil Service Employment for Survivors**

### **H-1. Employment preference**

- a.* Unmarried widow or widowers are entitled to a 10–point preference for Federal Civil Service employment if the Soldier served on active duty—
- b.* During any war or during the period 28 April 1952 through 1 July 1955.
- c.* In a campaign or expedition for which a campaign or service medal was authorized.
- d.* Employment information.

### **H-2. Information**

For more information, contact the Federal Job Information Center nearest the home of the survivor.

## **Appendix I Lapel Buttons**

### **I-1. Gold Star Lapel Button for next of kin of deceased personnel**

*a.* The Gold Star Lapel Button was established by an Act of Congress to provide an appropriate identification for widows, widowers, parents, and NOK of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who lost their lives during the following periods—

- (1) World War I, 6 April 1917 to 3 March 1921.
- (2) World War II, 8 September 1939 to 25 July 1947.
- (3) Any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before 1 July 1958 (United Nations action in Korea, 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954).
- (4) After 30 June 1958, while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.
- (5) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force.
- (6) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force.

*b.* Any incident in which the service member was killed as a result of an international terrorist attack.

*c.* The Gold Star Lapel Button consists of a gold star on a purple circular background, bordered in gold and surrounded by gold laurel leaves. On the reverse is the inscription, “United States of America, Act of Congress, August 1966” with space for engraving the initials of the recipient.

*d.* One Gold Star Lapel Button will be furnished without cost to the widow or widower, to each of the parents, each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half–brother, sister, and half–sister of a member of the armed forces who lost his or her life while in the active military service during the periods indicated in *a*, above. The term “widow or widower” includes those who have since married, and the term “parents” includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis. The CAC will stock the Gold Star Lapel Button and ensure the CAOs are provided them for issue to eligible NOK.

*e.* There is no best time to present the buttons to the NOK; when to present them depends on the judgment of the CAO. If the CAC has scheduled a presentation ceremony for a posthumous decoration for the NOK, and other immediate family members are to be present, experience has shown that this is a good time to give out the buttons. If a posthumous decoration has not been awarded or a ceremony is not planned, the CAO may distribute the buttons just prior to or shortly after the funeral. Do not force the buttons on NOK who may be angry or bitter; they can always apply for the lapel button at a later date.

### **I-2. Lapel Button for next of kin of deceased personnel**

*a.* The Lapel Button for NOK of Deceased Personnel is provided to widows or widowers, parents and primary NOK of armed services members who lost their lives while serving on extended active duty or while assigned in an Army Reserve or Army National Guard unit in a drill status.

*b.* The button consists of a gold star within a circle (commemorating honorable service) surrounded by sprigs of oak (referring to the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps).

*c.* One lapel button will be furnished without cost to the widow or widower, to each of the parents, each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half–brother, sister and half–sister of a member of the armed forces who lost

his or her life while on active duty. The term widow or widower includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in place of a parent.

*d.* The Lapel Button for NOK of Deceased Personnel is authorized for issue retroactive to 29 March 1973. The NOK of Soldiers who became deceased since that date may request issue of the button by writing to the CDR, HRC-STL, ATTN: AHRC-CC-B, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132. The name, grade, SSN, and date of death of the deceased Soldier should be furnished. The names and relationships of the NOK must also be provided.

*e.* The CAC will stock the Lapel Button for NOK of Deceased Personnel and ensure the CAOs are provided them for issue to eligible NOK.

*f.* There is no best time to present the button to the NOK; when to present the button depends on the judgment of the CAO. If the CAC has scheduled a presentation ceremony for a posthumous decoration for

*g.* the PNOK, and other immediate family members are to be present, this is a good time to give out the buttons. If a posthumous decoration has not been awarded or a ceremony is not planned, the CAO may distribute the buttons just prior to or shortly after the funeral. Do not force the buttons on NOK who may be angry or bitter. These persons can always apply for the button at a later date. These lapel buttons should be provided to the NOK free of charge by the CAO. For more information, contact your CAC's casualty section. The servicing CAC will ensure adequate quantities are on hand.

## **Appendix J Posthumous Awards and Decorations**

### **J-1. General**

Frequently, deceased Soldiers are recommended for posthumously awarded decorations. If asked by the NOK, the CAO should contact the losing unit CDR to ascertain whether a recommendation is in process or whether a decoration has been approved. As a matter of information, deceased first-term enlisted Active Army Soldiers, if otherwise qualified, may be awarded the Good Conduct Medal regardless of the time spent on active duty, provided the death occurred in the line of duty. This is a common question and the Good Conduct Medal may be the sole medal to which a Soldier may be entitled.

### **J-2. Role of the casualty assistance officer**

The CAO should never indicate to the NOK that a specific level of award has been recommended, but only that the Soldier is being considered. If the CAO receives official notification that a decoration has been approved, the CAO should assist in arranging a presentation ceremony if desired by the NOK. If the NOK does not wish a presentation ceremony, the award elements may be given to the NOK at the most opportune time and in a setting they and the CAO agree on. Should conflict arise among NOK as to who is entitled to the deceased Soldier's awards, the CAO should request guidance from the CAC or AHRC (PDO-PA).

### **J-3. Awards not received or presented and request for replacements**

Periodically, a PNOK will ask about obtaining or receiving awards that were not presented to the deceased prior to death or seek to replace awarded emblems that the deceased Soldier received. The NOK should address these questions to the National Archives Records Administration, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. The NOK should be advised to wait 6 months following the death before submitting a written request. The request must contain the name, grade, and SSN of the deceased Soldier. (The delay is necessary because the deceased's records are first consolidated by a central records custodian before filing at National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).)

## **Appendix K Checklist and Information for the Survivor**

### **K-1. General**

The checklist in K-3 is provided for use by the NOK of active duty deceased Soldiers, CAOs, and contact representatives of Government agencies counseling and/or assisting survivors in the preparation and submission of claims for survivors' benefits.

### **K-2. Directions for inquiries and letters**

*a.* For convenience in directing letters and inquiries in the event additional information is required, points of contact and addresses are shown below.

*b.* For information on the death gratuity, arrears of pay, and other financial questions or requests, contact your local finance office.

- c. For information on interment allowances and personal effects, contact the installation casualty office.
- d. For information on transportation of dependents and personal property, contact the nearest activity having a transportation officer.
- e. For information on decoration and awards, contact the CDR, AHRC-STL ATTN: AHRC-CC-B, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132.
- f. For information on government insurance (USGLI or NSLI), contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs, P.O. Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101-0001.
- g. For information on SGLI, contact the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, 213 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102-2999.
- h. For information on Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), contact the nearest DVA regional office.
- i. For social security information contact the nearest social security office.
- j. For information on investigations, contact the local CAC.
- k. For Federal Income Tax information contact, Director, Internal Revenue Service, Bureau of Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC 20224-0001 or the IRS office that services your area.
- l. For State Income Tax information, contact the commission that services your area.
- m. For information on Federal Civil Service employment, contact the Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5017; the state employment office, or local post office.
- n. For information on emergency assistance while awaiting receipt of any survivor benefits and/or financial assistance for pursuit of undergraduate level educational schooling, contact the National Headquarters, Army Emergency Relief, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-6000, telephone: (703) 325-0184 or 325-0185.

### **K-3. Checklist for preparing benefits claims**

- a. VA Form 21-535 (Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from Veterans' Affairs. (Widow(er) and children)).
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: (Department of Veterans' Affairs office address).
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- b. VA Form 21-535 (Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the Veterans' Affairs. (Parents)).
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: (DVA office address).
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- c. SGLV Form 8283 (Claim for Death Benefits (SGLI and VGLI)). To be completed for those eligible and/or designated as beneficiaries.
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, 213 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102-2999.
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- d. VA Form 40-1330 (Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker).
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: Director, Monument Services (42), National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420-9999.
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
  - (5) DD Form 1375 (Request for Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses) (Reimbursement in the amount applicable by the Department of the Army).
  - (6) Date received.
  - (7) Date submitted.
  - (8) Submitted to: (Office of Mortuary Affairs having responsibility).
  - (9) Name and address of person assisting.
- e. DD Form 397 (Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payments).
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: local finance office.
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- f. DD Form 2656 (Data for Payment of Retired Personnel).

- (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: Local finance office.
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- g. DD Form 1172 (Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card) (furnished widow, eligible dependent children, and dependent parents of the deceased).
- (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date presented for issue of DD Form 1173 (Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card).
- h. VA Form 29-4125 (Claim for one sum payment) (National Service and United States Government Life Insurance) Person eligible or designated as beneficiaries.
- (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Name and address of person assisting.
  - (4) VA Form 29-4125A (Claim for monthly payments ) (National Service Life Insurance) (Persons eligible or designated as beneficiaries).
  - (5) Date received.
  - (6) Date submitted.
  - (7) Submitted to: Department of Veterans' Affairs, Regional Office and Insurance Center, P.O. Box 7208, Philadelphia, PA 19101-0001, or Department of Veterans' Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111-4050.
  - (8) Name and address of person assisting.
  - (9) Point of contact at CAC.
  - (10) Name and address.
  - (11) Telephone.
  - (12) Other Items of Information (remarks).

## **Appendix L**

### **Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card**

#### **L-1. Applying for a DD Form 1173**

- a. Survivors eligible for DD Form 1173 should have new cards issued under their new status as soon as possible.
- b. When applying for the new DD Form 1173, the following is required—
  - (1) A copy of the death certificate.
  - (2) Marriage certificate.
  - (3) Retirement orders.
  - (4) Birth certificates of children.
  - (5) For a child over 21 (attending an accredited school full-time), a letter from the school verifying the status.
- c. If dependents are unable to visit a military installation to get the DD Form 1173, they may mail a properly completed DD Form 1172 with the proper documents and a small photo to the CDR of the nearest military installation. DD Form 1173s are not transferable; take extreme precaution to avoid theft or mutilation. The DD Form 1173 will be replaced on the following instances—
  - (1) On expiration, loss, or mutilation.
  - (2) To correct an error when there is a significant change in the identification data.
  - (3) To reflect the sponsor's SSN.

#### **L-2. Need information**

Replacing DD Form 1173—

- a. Application for replacement may be made to the CDR of the nearest military installation, using DD Form 1172. Application should include a statement concerning the circumstances surrounding the loss, action taken to affect recovery, and the card number, if available.
- b. The DD Form 1173 is the property of the U.S. Government and is not transferable; a sponsor or dependent must surrender it upon any change in status affecting eligibility, expiration of the card, or on request of military authorities.

#### **L-3. Effects of remarriage**

At remarriage, military benefits are ended (except that Retired Servicemen's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP)/SBP payments continue if remarried after age 55). If that subsequent marriage ends, the following benefits can be reinstated:

SBP, PX, commissary, motion picture theaters, and CHAMPVA (through DVA). Medical care from Uniformed Services facilities or CHAMPUS will not be reinstated.

## **Appendix M Checklist and Information for the Survivor**

### **M-1. General**

The checklist in N-3 is provided for use by the NOK of active duty deceased Soldiers, CAOs, and contact representatives of Government agencies counseling and/or assisting survivors in the preparation and submission of claims for survivors' benefits.

### **M-2. Directions for inquiries and letters**

For convenience in directing letters and inquiries in the event additional information is required, points of contact and addresses are shown below.

*a.* For information on the DG, arrears of pay, and other financial questions or requests, contact your local finance office.

*b.* For information on interment allowances and personal effects, contact the installation casualty office.

*c.* For information on transportation of dependents and personal property, contact the nearest activity having a transportation officer.

*d.* For information on decoration and awards, contact the CDR, HRC-STL, ATTN: DARP-PSE-AW, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5260.

*e.* For information on government insurance (USGLI or NSLI), contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs, P.O. Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101-0001.

*f.* For information on SGLI, contact the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, 213 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102-2999.

*g.* For information on Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, contact the nearest DVA regional office.

*h.* For social security information contact the nearest social security office.

*i.* For information on investigations, contact the local CAC.

*j.* For Federal Income Tax information contact, the Director, Internal Revenue Service, Bureau of Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC 20224-0001 or the IRS office that services your area.

*k.* For State Income Tax information, contact the commission that services your area.

*l.* For information on Federal Civil Service employment, contact the Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5017; the state employment office, or local post office.

*m.* For information on emergency assistance while awaiting receipt of any survivor benefits and/or financial assistance for pursuit of undergraduate level educational schooling, contact the National Headquarters, Army Emergency Relief, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-6000, telephone: (703) 325-0184 or 325-0185.

### **M-3. Checklist for preparing and submitting survivor's benefits claims**

*a.* VA Form 21-534, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the DVA (widow or widower and children).

(1) Date received.

(2) Date submitted.

(3) Submitted to: (Department of Veterans' Affairs office address).

(4) Name and address of person assisting.

*b.* VA Form 21-535, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. (Parents).

(1) Date received.

(2) Date submitted.

(3) Submitted to: (Department of Veterans' Affairs office address).

(4) Name and address of person assisting.

*c.* SGLV Form 8283, Claim for Death Benefits (SGLI and VGLI). To be completed for those eligible and/or designated as beneficiaries.

(1) Date received.

(2) Date submitted.

(3) Submitted to: Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, 213 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102-2999.

(4) Name and address of person assisting.

*d.* VA Form 40-1330, Application for Headstone or Marker (PNOK or person controlling remains).



- (1) Date received.
- (2) Date submitted.
- (3) Submitted to: Director, Monument Services (42), National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20420-9999.
- (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- e.* DD Form 1375, Request for Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses (Reimbursement in the amount applicable by the Department of the Army).
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: (Office of Mortuary Affairs having responsibility).
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- f.* DD Form 397, Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payments.
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: Local finance office
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- g.* AS-IN Form 20-258R, Application for Annuity and/or Final Pay.
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: Local finance office.
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- h.* DD Form 1172, Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (furnished widow or widower, eligible dependent children and dependent parents of the deceased).
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date presented for issue of DD Form 1173.
- i.* VA Form 29-4125, Claim for one sum payment (National Service and United States Government Life Insurance) Person eligible or designated as beneficiaries.
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Name and address of person assisting.
- j.* VA Form 29-4125A (Claim for Monthly Payments) (National Service Life Insurance) (Persons eligible or designated as beneficiaries).
  - (1) Date received.
  - (2) Date submitted.
  - (3) Submitted to: Department of Veterans' Affairs, Regional Office and Insurance Center, P.O. Box 7208, Philadelphia, PA 19101-0001, or Department of Veterans' Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111-4050.
  - (4) Name and address of person assisting.
- k.* Point of contact at CAC—
  - (1) Name and address.
  - (2) Telephone.
- l.* Other Items of Information (Remarks).

## **Appendix N**

### **Preparation for Visit to Department of Veterans' Affairs and Social Security Offices**

#### **N-1. Preparing to visit Department of Veterans' Affairs and Social Security offices**

*a.* If the NOK are remaining in an overseas area, contact the DVA and social security sections and departments of the nearest Embassy or consuls for assistance with survivors' benefits under their programs.

*b.* Prepare the widow or widower for the visit to DVA and social security offices by making certain he or she has the following:

(1) The DVA claim number if the deceased Soldier has ever filed a Department of Veterans' Affairs claim. This will permit DVA to identify the Soldier quickly and expedite processing of claims. If the widow or widower cannot locate the claim number, DVA can identify the Soldier by name, original service serial number or social security number, and date of birth. If no prior claim has been filed with DVA, the data below will be necessary for the widow or widower to complete the required claim forms.

- (a) Full name of the deceased.
  - (b) Original service serial number or social security number (whichever is applicable).
  - (c) Rank.
  - (d) Branch of Service.
  - (e) Organization.
  - (f) Date and place of birth.
  - (g) Date, place, and cause of death.
  - (h) Date and place of burial.
  - (i) Total expense of burial, funeral, transportation, and, if claimed, burial plot.
  - (j) Dates entered into and separated from active service.
  - (k) Dates all expenses paid.
- (2) Data relating to marriage of Soldier.
- (a) Marriage certificate. This will only be necessary if the widow or widower or deceased Soldier had a prior marriage. However, proof of marriage may be requested.
  - (b) The number of times that the Soldier was married.
  - (c) Date and place of marriage(s).
  - (d) Name(s) of person(s) to whom the Soldier was married.
  - (e) How the marriage ended (death, divorce, and so forth). (Take documents relating to dissolution of marriage. The same data will be required relating to marriage of the widow or widower).
  - (f) If legally separated, a certified copy of the court order.
- (3) Data concerning children.
- (a) Names of children.
  - (b) Dates of birth.
  - (c) Social security numbers.
  - (d) Names of those not in custody of the widow or widower and name and the address of persons having custody.
  - (e) Children's birth certificates.
- (4) Annual income and life insurance (including life insurance policy numbers) if the Soldier was retired at the time of death.
- (5) The Soldier's birth certificate if the Soldier's parents wish to establish eligibility.
- (6) Copies of DD Form 1300 or the civilian death certificate. The DD Form 1300 is the official record of death and is prepared by the CMAOC; the CDR, HRC-STL; or the State Adjutant General, depending on the status of the Soldier at the time of death.
- c. Veterans' benefits are paid effective the first day of the month following application for benefits. They are not retroactive; therefore, the NOK should be advised to apply for veterans' benefits as soon as possible. Normally the application can be submitted immediately, and additional supporting documentation, such as a death certificate, can be added at a later date.

## **N-2. Department of Veterans' Affairs offices**

- a. Addresses and telephone numbers change frequently. Consult the telephone directory to confirm the address and telephone number of a DVA regional office.
- b. Beneficiaries residing or traveling overseas that require information or assistance relative to DVA benefits, should contact the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

## **N-3. Social Security offices**

There are more than 1,400 social security offices located throughout the 50 States and in Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. These offices will give information on social security matters. The address and telephone number of the nearest social security office can be found in the telephone directory (may be listed under U.S. Government, Department of Health and Human Services) or from the postmaster of any U.S. Post Office. The military personnel office can also help. Much time can be saved by calling the social security office before visiting. The social security office may be able to transact business completely by phone. Before the NOK can get any social security benefits, they must apply for them. If the NOK is a surviving spouse, he or she should not delay filing a claim.

## **Appendix O Reimbursement of Funeral Expenses**

### **O-1. Cost**

When the NOK of a person entitled to mortuary benefits elects to personally make all arrangements for the disposition

of remains, the Army will reimburse the NOK for expenses incurred for the removal, preparation including embalming, casket and transportation to common carrier, in the amount of the contract price (if one is in effect) or \$1,750.00, whichever is less. The Army will reimburse the amount it would have cost the Government to ship the deceased to final destination and the interment allowance. In most cases, the family will be responsible for a substantial payment if they elect to assume responsibility.

## **O-2. Preparation**

When the Army assumes responsibility for the remains, it will provide for the removal, preparation including embalming, casket, military escort to accompany the remains, and transportation to the funeral home selected by the NOK, or to a Government cemetery of their choice that has grave space available. The Army will also make arrangements for cremation if the NOK requests it in writing.

## **O-3. Internment allowances**

Whether the Army makes all arrangements or if the NOK personally makes all arrangements, an interment allowance will be paid to help defray burial expenses. The NOK will indicate on the DD Form 1375 to whom the interment allowance will be paid to, (either the NOK or funeral home).

## **O-4. Non-reimbursable expenses**

Some non-reimbursable expenses are—

- a.* Certified death certificates.
- b.* Food or catering.
- c.* Cars for other than the Soldier's parents, spouse, and children or stepchildren.
- d.* Perpetual care.
- e.* Services or merchandise not directly related to the interment.

## **Appendix P Personal Effects**

### **P-1. Personal effects and property**

*a.* Personal effects include all personal property of the deceased. Effects include those personal items that are normally with the person such as watches, rings, jewelry, wallets containing personal papers, pictures, and money. Personal effects also include household goods and automobiles.

*b.* Personal effects are authorized shipment to the place directed by the NOK, with certain limitations. Automobiles are authorized to be shipped to the destination directed by the NOK, provided it is operable and the value of the automobile is commensurate with the cost of shipment.

*c.* Shipment of effects must normally be accomplished within 1 year of death. When shipment to a destination cannot be made due to uncertainty of the NOK about a permanent address or other considerations, the effects may be placed in non-temporary storage for a period not to exceed 1 year after death.

*d.* Shipment of a house trailer may be authorized at Government expense, in lieu of shipment of household goods, if the house trailer will be used as a residence at the place to which it is shipped. The cost of shipment is subject to certain limitations.

*e.* Contact the transportation officer to obtain exact authorizations and limitations on shipment, and storage, if applicable, of effects, automobiles, and house trailers.

### **P-2. Disposition of personal effects**

*a.* When the NOK is present at the place of death, the NOK will normally be in possession of effects of the deceased except those items found on the remains and those items which are located in the unit area. Under these circumstances, the items not already in possession of the NOK will be inventoried by the deceased's CDR, or his representative, and delivered to the NOK. The CAO may be designated to deliver these effects to the NOK, and obtain the signature of the NOK for the effects.

*b.* When the NOK is present at the place of death, the CAO will assist the NOK with the shipment of household goods. If the NOK departs prior to shipment, the CAO will complete application for shipment of household goods and act as the agent of the NOK for the shipment. It will be necessary for the CAO to obtain a limited power of attorney from the NOK for this purpose.

*c.* When the NOK is not present at the place of death, a Summary Court Officer is appointed to collect, inventory, safeguard, and send the effects located on post or in Government quarters to the place requested by the NOK. The Summary Court Officer has authority to complete all applications for shipment of effects without further authority from the NOK. The detailed duties and responsibilities of a Summary Court Officer are contained in AR 638-2.

*d.* The Army does not determine ownership of the deceased's effects. The effects are sent to the person highest on the list of authorized recipients contained in chapter 4, for disposition according to the laws at the deceased's domicile.

### **P-3. Effects of missing Soldiers**

The effects of Soldiers officially determined as missing for 30 days may be shipped to the NOK at Government expense.

## **Appendix Q Disposition Authority**

### **Q-1. Right to direct disposition**

*a.* The right to direct disposition of remains is a highly emotional issue in many families. On occasion each family member will have a different opinion on what to do. The Army does not negotiate with committees or intervene in family disputes. Accordingly, the CAO must ensure that he/she is talking only with the person authorized to give disposition instructions. Normally the PNOK has the authority to direct disposition. AR 638-2, paragraph 4-4, provides specific guidance to determine who is authorized to direct disposition. Before requesting or accepting disposition instructions the person's authority to make disposition must be established by determining—

- (1) The exact relationship to the deceased of the person attempting to direct disposition.
- (2) If there are any other living relatives who may have a higher precedence to direct disposition.
- (3) If the individual had authorized a specific person to make disposition, AR 638-2, paragraph 4-4c.

*b.* On occasion the person authorized to direct disposition may be unwilling, unable or unavailable to do so. In these cases, the person with primary disposition may relinquish their authority. However, they may not name someone to act on their behalf or in lieu of them. The next person in the order of precedence assumes the authority to direct disposition.

### **Q-2. Designation of disposition next of kin**

In some cases, unmarried Soldiers are permitted to authorize a specific relative to direct disposition. This designation is found on the DD Form 93. However, before contacting the named individual, verify with the CAC that the designation has not been overridden by a change in the Soldier's family status. For example, a marriage would give the spouse precedence over a named individual on the DD Form 93.

*a.* It is important that the CAO verify that the person with whom they are talking has authority to direct disposition. For example, the CAO may be talking with the elder parent when he/she learns about the Soldier's spouse. A spouse has a higher precedence to direct disposition. The disposition provided by the parents cannot be used. If the disposition was directed by the parents, the spouse could require the Army to disinter the remains and reinter them elsewhere at the Government's expense.

*b.* When in doubt, contact the CAC and the local Judge Advocate General.

## **Appendix R Viewability**

### **R-1. Condition of remains**

The family will ask about the condition of the remains and specifically if the remains are viewable. Do not attempt to answer this question until you verify the condition of the remains with the CAC. The final decision to view the remains or not, always rests with the NOK.

### **R-2. Classification**

Generally speaking, there are 3 classifications of viewability: viewable, viewable for ID, and non-viewable. Final determination of the remains viewability must be made at the receiving funeral home.

*a.* Viewable remains are presentable and will in themselves not cause further distress. It is believed the appearance of the remains is similar to the deceased's normal appearance.

*b.* Viewable for ID remains are less presentable than viewable and may cause additional distress when viewed. However, the remains still show identifiable features and characteristics.

*c.* Non-viewable remains are not presentable and may cause additional distress when viewed. Frequently non-viewable remains have been severely disfigured and bear no resemblance to the deceased. The family should be asked to allow the funeral home staff or family physician to view the remains first and to advise them whether viewing the remains is in their best interest.

## **Glossary**

### **Section I Abbreviations**

#### **2LT**

second lieutenant

#### **AAFES**

Army and Air Force Exchange Service

#### **AAR**

after action report

#### **ABC**

Army Benefits Center

#### **ABO**

Accelerated Benefits Option

#### **ACS**

Army Community Services

#### **AD**

active duty

#### **ADSW**

active duty for special work

#### **ADT**

active duty for training

#### **AER**

Army Emergency Relief

#### **AFE**

appropriate fund employee

#### **AFIP**

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

#### **AAFES**

Armed Forces Medical Examiner

#### **AG**

Adjutant General

#### **AGR**

Active Guard/Reserve

#### **AHRC**

U.S. Army Human Resources Command

#### **ANOK**

adult next of kin

#### **AOD**

Administration Officer of the Day

#### **APO**

Army Post Office

**APOD**

Aerial Port of Debarkation

**APOE**

Aerial Port of Embarkation

**ARC**

American Red Cross

**ARIMS**

Army Records Information Management System

**ARNG**

Army National Guard

**ARNGUS**

Army National Guard of the United States

**AT**

annual training

**AUTOVON**

automatic voice network

**AUS**

Army of the United States

**AWOL**

absent without leave

**BASD**

basic active service date

**BN**

battalion

**BNS1**

battalion S-1

**BDE**

brigade

**BDES1**

brigade S-1

**CAC**

Casualty Assistance Center

**CAO**

casualty assistance officer

**CAR**

Chief, Army Reserve

**CAS**

casualty

**CAT**

crisis action team

**CDR**

commander

**CID**

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

**CHAMPUS**

Civilian Health and Medical Plan of the Uniformed Services

**CLT**

casualty liaison team

**CMAOC**

Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center

**CMC**

Commandant of the Marine Corps

**CMD**

command

**CNGB**

Chief, National Guard Bureau

**CNO**

casualty notification officer

**CFR**

Code of Federal Regulations

**CONUS**

continental United States

**CONUSA**

the numbered armies in the continental United States

**CPAC**

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

**CPO**

Civilian Personnel Office

**CRC**

CONUS Replacement Center

**CSA**

Chief of Staff, Army

**CWG**

casualty working group

**CZTE**

Combat Zone Tax Exclusion

**DA**

Department of the Army

**DAC**

Department of the Army Civilian

**DCIPS–FWD**

Defense Casualty Information Processing System–Forward

**DCS, G–1**

Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1

**DDN**

Defense data network

**DEERS**

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System

**DEP**

Delayed Entry Program

**DFAS**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

**DFR**

dropped from rolls

**DG**

death gratuity

**DIC**

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

**DMOS**

duty military occupational specialty

**DNA**

deoxyribonucleic acid

**DOD**

Department of Defense

**DODI**

Department of Defense Instruction

**DSN**

Defense Switch Network

**DUSTWUN**

duty status–whereabouts unknown

**DVA**

Department of Veterans' Affairs

**E–7**

sergeant first class

**E–9**

sergeant major

**eDCIPS–FWD**

electronic DCIPS–FWD

**EDRE**

emergency deployment readiness exercise



**EDSAV**

educational savings allotment

**EE**

emergency essential

**EFT**

electronic fund transfer

**EPW**

enemy prisoner of war

**ERB**

Enlisted Records Brief

**EREC**

Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center

**ETA**

estimated time of arrival

**ETD**

estimated time of departure

**ETS**

expiration term of service

**FAO**

Finance and Accounting Office

**FND**

Foreign National direct hire employee

**FNI**

Foreign National indirect hire employee

**FOIA**

Freedom of Information Act

**FORSCOM**

U.S. Army Forces Command

**FOUO**

For Official Use Only

**FSGLI**

Family SGLI

**FTNGD**

full-time National Guard duty

**FY**

fiscal year

**GCMA**

general court-martial authority

**GCMCA**

general court-martial convening authority

**GTR**

Government Transportation Request

**hh:mm**

hour minute

**HIPAA**

Health and Insurance Portability and Accountability

**HOSP**

hospital

**HQ**

Headquarters

**HQDA**

Headquarters, Department of the Army

**HRC**

Human Resources Command

**HS**

home station

**HSCAC**

home station Casualty Assistance Center

**IAW**

in accordance with

**IADT**

initial active duty for training

**ID**

identification

**IDT**

inactive duty training

**IMA**

Installation Management Agency

**ING**

inactive National Guard

**INIT**

initial

**INSCOM**

Intelligence and Security Command

**IRR**

Individual Ready Reserve

**IRS**

Internal Revenue Service

**ITO**

invitational travel orders

**JFTR**

Joint Federal Travel Regulations

**JTR**

Joint Travel Regulations

**KIA**

killed in action

**LES**

leave and earnings statement

**LOC**

letter of condolence

**LOD**

line of duty

**LOS**

letter of sympathy

**LRA**

local reproduction authorized

**MACOM**

major Army command

**MACP**

mortuary affairs collection point

**MACS**

Mortuary Affairs Casualty Support

**MDW**

Military District of Washington

**MEPS**

Military Entrance Processing Station

**MIA**

missing in action

**MPD**

Military Personnel Division

**MPV**

military pay voucher

**MOCC**

Major Overseas Casualty Command

**MOA**

memorandum of agreement

**MOB**

mobilization

**MOS**

military occupational specialty

**MOSC**

military occupational specialty code

**MPA**

Missing Persons Act

**MPR**

military pay record

**MPRJ**

Military Personnel Records Jacket

**MPSA**

Military Postal Service Agency

**MPV**

military pay voucher

**MSC**

major subordinate command

**MSPA**

Missing Service Personnel Act

**MTF**

medical treatment facility

**MTFA**

medical treatment facility authorities

**NA**

not applicable

**NAF**

non-appropriated fund

**NAFE**

non-appropriated fund employee

**NARA**

National Archives and Records Administration

**NCO**

noncommissioned officer

**NCOIC**

noncommissioned officer in charge

**NPS**

no prior service

**NSI**

Not seriously wounded, injured, or ill

**NSLI**

National Service Life Insurance

**NB**

nonbattle

**NGB**

National Guard Bureau

**NOK**

next of kin

**OCONUS**

outside continental United States

**OEF**

Operation Enduring Freedom

**OIC**

officer in charge

**OIF**

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**OMA**

Operations and Maintenance, Army

**OPF**

official personnel folder

**OPLAN**

operations plan

**Ops**

operations

**OSGLI**

Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance

**PAO**

public affairs officer

**PAD**

Patient Administration Division

**PADD**

person authorized to direct disposition

**PAP**

personnel assistance point

**PCS**

permanent change of station

**PDRL**

Permanent Disability Retirement List

**PE**

personnel effects

**PEBD**

pay entry basic date

**PERE**

personnel eligible to receive effects

**PFR**

personal financial record

**PID**

positive identification

**PL**

Public Law

**PM**

provost marshal

**PMO**

Provost Marshal Office

**PMOS**

primary military occupational specialty

**PNOK**

primary next of kin

**POB**

place of birth

**PROG**

prognosis or progress

**PSB**

personnel service battalion

**PSC**

Personnel Service Center

**PSD**

Personnel Service Division

**PT**

physical training

**PW**

prisoner of war

**RA**

Regular Army

**RC**

Reserve Component

**RCSBP**

Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan

**REFRAD**

released from active duty

**RMC**

returned to military control

**ROTC**

Reserve Officers' Training Corps

**RSFPP**

Retired Servicemen's Family Protection Plan

**RSO**

retirement services officer

**S-1**

Adjutant

**SA**

Secretary of the Army

**SADT**

special active duty for training

**SBP**

Survivor Benefit Plan

**SCOMO**

summary court martial officer

**S-DVI**

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance

**SGLI**

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance

**SI**

seriously wounded, injured, or Ill

**SIDPERS**

Standard Installation/Division Personnel System

**SNOK**

secondary next of kin

**SPECAT**

special category

**SPEINT**

special interest

**SRP**

Soldier Readiness Program

**SSA**

Social Security Administration

**SSN**

social security number

**STACH**

status change

**SUPP**

supplemental

**T&TO**

transportation and travel order

**TAACOM**

Theater Army Area Command

**TAG**

The Adjutant General

**TDA**

tables of distribution and allowances

**TDRL**

Temporary Disability Retired List

**TDY**

temporary duty

**TIS**

time in service

**TOE**

term of enlistment; table(s) of organization and equipment

**TPU**

troop program unit

**TRADOC**

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

**TTAD**

temporary tour of active duty

**UGMA**

Uniform Gifts to Minors Act

**UIC**

unit identification code

**URL**

Uniform Resource Locator

**USACID**

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

**USADIP**

U.S. Army Deserter Point

**USAEREC**

U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center

**USAR**

U.S. Army Reserve

**USARC**

U.S. Army Reserve Command

**USC**

United States Code

**USGLI**

United States Government Life Insurance



**USMA**

United States Military Academy

**USO**

United Services Organization

**USPFO**

U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer

**UTMA**

Uniform Transfer to Minors Act

**VEAP**

Veterans Education Assistance Program

**VGLI**

Veterans' Group Life Insurance

**VMLI**

Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance

**VRI**

Veterans Reopened Insurance

**VSI**

very seriously wounded, injured, or ill

**VSLI**

Veterans Special Life Insurance

**Section II****Terms****Active duty (AD)**

Full-time duty in the active military Services of the United States. A general term applied to all active military service with the active force without regard to duration or purpose. The term "active duty" also applies to ROTC applicants, cadets, and midshipmen participating in practical military training; service academy cadets and midshipmen; and members of the RC serving on AD, ADT, or IDT.

**Active duty for training (ADT)**

A tour of AD that is used for training members of the Reserve components to provide trained units and qualified persons to fill the needs of the Armed Forces in time of war or national emergency and such other times as national security requires. The tour of duty is under orders that provide for return to nonactive duty status when the period of ADT is completed. It includes annual training, special tours of ADT, school tours, and the initial tour performed by non-prior military service enlistees.

**Adopted child**

Individual whose adoption has been legally completed before the child's 21st birthday. A child for whom the member has a final decree of adoption.

**Adoptive parent**

A person who has a final decree of adoption of the military member or the member's spouse.

**Adult next of kin**

The adult highest in the line of succession will be considered the adult next kin.

**Annulment**

The status of an individual whose marriage has been declared annulled by a court of competent jurisdiction. This restores unremarried status to a widow, widower, or former spouse for purposes of reinstatement of benefits and privileges.

**Age of majority**

18

**Beleaguered**

The casualty is a member of an organized element which has been surrounded by a hostile force to preclude escape of its members.

**Beneficiary**

The person (or persons) who, according to law or written designation of the Soldier, is entitled to receive certain benefits. A beneficiary may be 1 person for the death gratuity, while another person may receive the decedent's unpaid pay and allowances. The designation of beneficiaries for death gratuity and unpaid pay and allowances does not, for instance, affect the designation of beneficiaries of life insurance, either commercial or Government sponsored, or for benefits administered by agencies outside the Army. Beneficiaries for life insurance as designated by the insured person on the policies.

**Besieged**

The casualty is a member of an organized element that has been surrounded by a hostile force for compelling it to surrender.

**Blue Bark**

A term used to designate members of DOD and their family members who are (returning from overseas) traveling in connection with the death of a Soldier or civilian employee's immediate family, and who are otherwise authorized transportation under the Joint/Federal Travel Regulations. The term "Blue Bark" also is used with emergency leave or emergency curtailment of an overseas tour based on the death of a Soldier's immediate family residing in the Soldier's household.

**Body recovered**

The remains of a deceased casualty have been recovered by U.S. military authorities.

**Captured**

The casualty has been seized as the result of action of an unfriendly military or paramilitary force in a foreign country.

**Casualty**

Any person who is lost to the organization by reason of having been declared beleaguered, besieged, captured, dead, diseased, detained, DUSTWUN, injured, ill, interned, missing, missing in action or wounded.

**Casualty Assistance Center (CAC)**

The CAC assigned responsibility for the area in which the casualty occurs or the area in which the NOK resides, and who has casualty reporting responsibilities to AHRC. This term applies to both CONUS and OCONUS CACs.

**Deceased**

A casualty status applicable to a person who is either known to have died, determined to have died based upon receipt of conclusive evidence, or declared dead based upon a presumptive finding of death. The recovery of the person's remains is not a prerequisite to determining or declaring a person deceased.

**Dependent or family member**

Individuals whose relationship to the sponsor leads to entitlements to benefits.

**Detained**

A casualty status applicable to a person who is prevented from proceeding or is restrained in custody for alleged violation of international law or other reasons claimed by the government or group under which the person is being held.

**Disability**

Any type of injury or disease whether mental or physical.

**Documentation**

Properly certified birth certificate (of live birth) which includes the names of both parents or certificate of live birth with the name of at least 1 parent issued from the hospital; marriage certification; includes the names of both parents; marriage certification; final decree of divorce dissolution, or annulment of marriage; court order for adoption or guardianship; statement of incapacity from physician; retirement orders (providing entitlement to retired pay is

established) or DD Form 214; DD Form 1300; certified death certificate; certification from the DVA of 100 percent disabled status; order awarding Medal of Honor; civilian personnel records, military personnel records, DD Form 93, SGLV 8286, SGLV 8285, SGLV 8714, unit training orders, TDY orders, training schedules, invitational travel orders and, DA Form 31 (Request Authority for Leave).

#### **Duty status—whereabouts unknown (DUSTWUN)**

A transitory/temporary casualty status, used when the reason for a member's absence is uncertain and it is possible that the member may be a casualty whose absence is involuntary, but there is not sufficient evidence to make a determination that the member's actual status is missing or deceased.

#### **Full-time coverage**

A Soldier who has full-time coverage is insured regardless of when death occurs.

#### **Hostile casualty**

A person who is the victim of a terrorist activity or who becomes a casualty "in action." "In Action" characterizes the casualty as having been the direct result of hostile action, sustained in combat or relating thereto, or sustained going to or returning from a combat mission provided that the occurrence was directly related to hostile action. Included are persons killed or wounded mistakenly or accidentally by friendly fire directed at a hostile force of what is thought to be a hostile force. However, not to be considered as sustained in action and not to be interpreted as hostile casualties are injuries due to elements, self-inflicted wounds and, except in unusual cases, wounds or death inflicted by a friendly force while the individual is in AWOL, deserter, or dropped from the rolls status or is voluntarily absent from a place of duty.

#### **Inactive duty training (IDT)**

Authorized training performed by a member of a Reserve component not on AD or ADT and consisting of regularly scheduled unit training assemblies, additional training assemblies, periods of appropriate duty or equivalent training, and any special additional duties authorized for Reserve component personnel by the Secretary concerned, and performed by them in connection with the prescribed activities of the organization in which they are assigned with or without pay. Does not include work or study associated with correspondence courses.

#### **Initial active duty for training (IADT)**

Initial active duty for training (IADT) is defined as:

- a. Includes basic military training and technical skill training.
- b. Is required for all USAR or ARNG accessions. Active duty for special work (ADSW).
- c. Used when the purpose of the tour is to accomplish organizational mission, support, and administration, or for critical reserve component unique projects.
- d. Training for the individual Soldier is incidental.

#### **Interned**

Any person definitely known to have been taken into custody of a non-belligerent foreign power as the result of and for reasons arising out of any armed conflict in which the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged.

#### **Killed in action (KIA)**

A casualty category applicable to a hostile casualty, other than the victim of a terrorist activity, who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.

#### **Missing**

A casualty status applicable to a person who is not at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons and whose location may or may not be known.

#### **Missing in action (MIA)**

The casualty is a hostile casualty, other than the victim of a terrorist activity, who is not present at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons and whose location is unknown.

#### **Next of kin (NOK)**

The person most closely related to the casualty is considered primary NOK for casualty notification and assistance purposes. This is normally the spouse of married persons and the parents of single persons who have no children. The precedence of NOK with equal relationships to the member is governed by seniority (age). The rights of minor children shall be exercised by their parents or legal guardian. The below order of precedence is used to identify the primary

NOK. All other persons are considered secondary NOK. For the order of precedence used concerning the disposition of remains and personal effects, consult appropriate statutes and Service regulations.

- a. Spouse.
- b. Natural, adopted, step, and illegitimate children (if acknowledge by the member or paternity/maternity has been judicially decreed.)
- c. Parents, unless legal exclusive (sole) custody was granted to a person by reason of a court decree or statutory provision.
- d. Persons standing in loco parentis.
- e. Persons granted legal custody of the member by a court decree or statutory provision.
- f. Brothers or sisters, to include half-blood and those acquired through adoption.
- g. Grandparents.
- h. Other relatives in order of relationship to the member according to civil laws.
- i. If no other persons are available, the Secretary of the Military Department may be deemed to act on behalf or the member. In those cases involving missing service members found dead pursuant to 37 USC, the remarried surviving spouse should be notified when remains are recovered. Although the remarried surviving spouse has no blood relationship to the members, the prior marital relationship and the continuing interest in the members are the determining factors. The term remarried surviving spouse does not include one who obtained a divorce from the member or who remarried before a finding of death pursuant to 37 USC.

#### **Non-hostile casualty**

A person who becomes a casualty due to circumstances not directly attributable to hostile action or terrorist activity. Casualties due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, and combat fatigue are non-hostile casualties.

#### **Not seriously wounded, injured, or ill (NSI)**

The casualty status of a person whose injury or illness may or may not require hospitalization, medical authority does not classify as VSI, SI or III, and the person can communicate with the NOK.

#### **OSGLI**

Office of the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, 213 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102. The administrative office of SGLI and VGLI for veterans.

#### **Overseas**

All locations, including Alaska and Hawaii, outside the continental United States.

#### **Parent/loco parentis**

This means in the place of or instead of a parent charged factitiously with a parents duties and responsibilities. The natural father or mother, father or mother through adoption, or person who stood in relationship of a parent to the deceased for a period of at least 5 years prior to the Soldier reaching 18 years of age.

#### **Part-time coverage**

A Soldier who has part-time coverage is insured only during the specified duty periods and while proceeding directly to or from the place of duty. Coverage is not provided during work or study in connection with correspondence courses or while attending educational institutions in an inactive status.

#### **Presumptive finding of death**

A declaration by the Military Service Secretary or designee of the Military Service concerned, based upon a recommendation by a board or other official body that a person who was placed in a missing casualty status is dead.

#### **Primary next of kin (PNOK)**

The legal NOK. That person of any age most closely related to the individual according to the line of succession. Seniority, as determined by age, will control when the persons are of equal relationship.

#### **Personnel Service Company (PSC)**

The office that maintains a Soldier's DA Form 201, (Military Personnel Records Jacket)

#### **Personnel Service Center/Division (PSC/PSD)**

The personnel office that maintains an individual's Personnel Records

#### **Posthumous promotion**

Promotion to a higher grade following a casualty's death; however, this promotion is not for pay purposes.

**Returned to military control (RMC)**

The status of a person whose casualty status of DUSTWUN or missing has been changed due to the person's return or recovery by U.S. military authority.

**Secondary next of kin (SNOK)**

Any NOK other than the primary NOK.

**Seriously wounded, injured, or ill (SI)**

Casualty status of a person whose illness or injury is classified by medical authorities to be of such severity that there is cause for immediate concern, but there is no imminent danger to life.

**Service-connected**

A service-connected death must have occurred in the line of duty, and not a result of the deceased Soldier's willful misconduct or negligence. It is not necessary that death occur while actually performing military duties or during military operations to be service-connected.

**Terrorism**

The unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence against individuals or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives. A victim of a terrorist act directed against the United States or its allies is a hostile casualty.

**Total disability**

Any impairment of mind or body which continuously renders it impossible for the insured to follow any substantially gainful occupation.

**Very seriously wounded, injured, or ill (VSI)**

The casualty status of a person whose illness or injury is classified by medical authorities to be of such severity that life is imminently endangered.

**Unmarried spouse**

A widow or widower who has remarried and through annulment, divorce, or death is no longer married.

**Unremarried spouse**

A widow or widower of a deceased Soldier who has not remarried.

**Wounded in action**

A casualty category applicable to a hostile casualty, other than the victim of a terrorist activity, who has incurred an injury due to an external agent or cause. The term encompasses all kinds of wounds and other injuries incurred in action, whether there is a piercing of the body, as in a penetration or perforated wound, or none, as in the contused biological and chemical warfare agents, and the effects of exposure to ionizing radiation or any other destructive weapon or agent. The hostile casualty's status may be VSI, SI, III, or NSI.

**Section III****Special Abbreviations and Terms**

This section contains no entries.

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