

# Navy Military Funerals



0500LP5432900

**NAVPERS 15555C**

## INTRODUCTION

This manual provides naval activities with guidance in the rendition of military honors at funerals of active duty, retired and former members of the Navy and to assist the next of kin of eligible personnel in making funeral arrangements.

Navy military funerals are conducted to recognize the proud American tradition of honorable service which Navy men and women have given to their country.

Our Nation regards the burying of its military dead as a solemn and sacred obligation. Ancient naval and military customs are the basis for honors at their funerals. The flag covering the casket symbolizes their service in the armed forces of the United States. Taps are played to mark the beginning of the last, long sleep and to express hope and confidence in an ultimate reveille to come. According to ancient belief, the three volleys that are fired were out of his/her country. To signify that at death all persons are equal, the honorary pallbearers are positioned in reverse order of rank.

The Navy has specially trained ceremonial personnel to perform honors only at Arlington National and Golden Gate Cemeteries. At all other locations, funeral honors personnel have only limited training in the rendition of honors and ceremonies. However, their participation in funeral honors, on a collateral duty basis, is a vital role in fulfilling the obligation of our country to pay tribute to those who served so well. Naval activities shall make every effort to provide funeral honors. On rare occasions the resources required to render honors might seriously interfere with the installation's ability to carry out its primary mission. Honors support in these situations would not be expected. Additional guidelines on the furnishing of honors are contained in the text of this manual.

M.S. DEBIEN  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Director, Personal, Family  
and Community Support Division

16 September 1993  
(Date)

First edition 1980  
Revised 1982  
Revised 1986  
Revised 1993

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

### SECTION I. THE RENDITION OF NAVY MILITARY FUNERALS

- ART. 1-1. Eligibility  
1-2. Military Participation at Funerals  
1-3. Burial in National Cemeteries  
1-4. Funeral Planning  
1-5. Military Honors for the Committal Service  
1-6. Military Honors for Cremated Remains (Cremains)  
1-7. Limited Military Honors  
1-8. Memorial Service  
1-9. Chaplain Participation in Military Funerals  
1-10. The National Ensign (Flag)  
1-11. Honorary Pallbearers  
1-12. Miscellaneous

### SECTION II. BURIAL AT SEA

- ART. 2-1. Eligibility  
2-2. Request for Burial at Sea  
2-3. Documents Required  
2-4. Place of Disposition  
2-5. Consignment of Remains  
2-6. Ceremonial Procedure for Burial at Sea  
2-7. Preparation for the Burial at Sea Ceremony  
2-8. The Ceremony for Burial at Sea  
2-9. Information Provided the Next of Kin after Committal Services Completed  
2-10. Dispersion of Cremains from an Aircraft

- APPENDIX**
- A. Service for Committal of a Person of the Protestant Faith
  - B. Service for Committal of a Person of the Catholic Faith
  - C. Service for Committal of a Person of the Jewish Faith
  - D. Service for Committal of a Person of the Eastern Orthodox Faith
  - E. Service for Committal of a Person of the Muslim Faith
  - F. Service for Committal of a Person of the Buddhist Faith
  - G. Casualty Assistance Calls Program/Funeral Honors Support Program Coordinators
  - H. Office of Medical Affairs
  - I. Request for Burial at Sea

## SECTION I

### THE RENDITION OF NAVY MILITARY FUNERALS

**Art. 1-1. Eligibility.** The following guidelines are based on Department of Defense criteria:

1. Members who die while on active duty or who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, shall be provided as escort consisting of the following: 6 casket bearers, a firing party, an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) or a Petty Officer-in-Charge (POIC) and a bugler. (When a military bugler is not available, a civilian musician or as a last resort a professional quality tape recording may be used). A chaplain shall also be furnished when requested by the next of kin.

NOTE: The eligibility for funeral honors of members who die while in an appellate leave status will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) Pers-663.

2. For members of the Naval Fleet Reserve or Retired members (with or without pay), a ceremonial escort of the same composition as that provided for active duty members should be provided. Otherwise, a ceremonial escort consisting of casket bearers and either an OIC/POIC should be provided. The minimum participation by the Navy will be that of a Navy representative who will attend the Funeral and present the flag to the next of kin.

3. For members of the Naval Reserve who have completed at least six months active duty (other than for training) a ceremonial escort of the same composition as that for a Naval Fleet Reserve or Retired member, is applicable.

a. The ceremonial escort should be principally comprised of members of the organized unit to which the member was assigned.

4. For members of the Naval Reserve on inactive duty, it is appropriate to furnish a ceremonial escort principally composed of reservists from the member's unit.

a. The minimum participation by the Navy will be that of a Navy representative.

5. A Navy representative shall be provided at the funeral of honorably discharged veterans. The Navy representative will attend the funeral and present the Flag to the next-of-Kin.

**ART. 1-2. Military Participation at Funerals.** Guidelines for naval activities in providing ceremonial escorts at Navy funerals are as follows:

1. Reserve component members, when performing funeral honors duty, may be in an inactive duty for training status which may be authorized as additional drills (pay or non

pay) or may be in annual training status. Paid drills which provide for unit training assemblies will not be used for this purpose. Drills or work days used for funeral detail purposes must be clearly identified in appropriate orders.

2. When personnel resources at the activity assuming responsibility for providing military honors for a funeral are insufficient, the Casualty Assistance Calls/Funeral Honors Support (CAC/FHS) Program Coordinator is authorized to levy requirements on other naval activities in the area. In those cases where Navy representation at the funeral cannot be provided, the next of kin should be advised and encouraged to request assistance from the patriotic or veteran's organizations where available.

3. Commands are encouraged to establish volunteer ceremonial units in Naval Reserve Centers to provide ceremonial escorts for funerals. These units would be used when other naval activities are remote or unable to provide ceremonial escorts. Other military services may also be contacted and asked to provide assistance after the Navy has exhausted all possibilities for providing the ceremonial escort.

4. Limitations which may preclude the furnishing of honors at funerals of other than active duty members and holders of the Medal of Honor are as follows:

a. Insufficient time from receipt of request to properly plan, prepare and transport the funeral honors detail to the interment site;

b. Furnishing of a ceremonial escort will seriously interfere with the primary mission of the installation;

c. Trained personnel or equipment are not available;

d. The detail will be absent from duty for more than one day;

e. Additional transportation costs to the government will exceed the cost of available transportation;

**ART. 1-3.** Burial in National Cemeteries. The following information concerns burial of Navy personnel and their dependents:

1. **Eligibility.**

a. Any member of the Navy who is serving on active duty (other than annual training).

b. Former members who were discharged with an honorable discharge.

c. Any member of the Naval Reserve organization whose death occurred under honorable conditions while the individual was:

(1) Annual training (includes authorized travel to or from annual training); or

(2) Hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the government for injury or disease incurred during active duty for training.

NOTE: An inactive duty reservist, not otherwise eligible by virtue of previous extended active duty terminated honorably, is not eligible for burial in a National Cemetery if death occurs while proceeding to or from annual training.

d. Members of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps whose death occurred under honorable conditions while they were:

(1) Attending an authorized training school or cruise, performing authorized travel to or from that school or cruise, or

(2) Hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the government for injury or disease incurred during authorized training.

e. The spouse, minor children and dependent adult children of the persons listed in a through d above, or the dependents of an eligible member whose remains were lost at sea. (Determination of dependent adult children eligibility is by the Chief, Memorial Affairs Director, Department of Memorial Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Washington, D.C. 20420.

NOTE: If the primary next of kin (PNOK) opts to have a member buried at sea who is eligible for national cemetery interment, the next of kin's eligibility for national cemetery interment is also terminated. However, they retain their eligibility for burial at sea.

2. Information on eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery is contained in NAVPERS 15956D, Naval Funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, and may be obtained by writing to CO, Navy Aviation Supply Office, 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19120-5099.

**ART. 1-4.** Funeral Planning. The following information concerns Navy funerals of active duty, retired and former members.

### 1. Active Duty.

a. The Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) will normally assist the next of kin making the funeral arrangements. The person making the arrangements (usually the PNOK) is responsible for costs incurred for the funeral and interment. Such costs are reimbursable by the Navy in limited amounts. The CACO will ascertain the primary next of kin's desires for disposition of remains and coordinate with either the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) (MED-332) (when death occurs outside the 50 states),

the CONUS Command responsible for delivery of the remains to the funeral home, or the national cemetery selected by the primary next of kin.

b. Military honors may be provided in a national or private cemetery. The CACO will coordinate arrangements with the CAC/FHS program coordinator or the nearest naval activity (see Appendix G).

c. A flag is provided for presentation to the primary next of kin. A second flag is provided for presentation to the parent(s), or if separated one flag for each parent of the member, if other than primary next of kin. The flag(s) should be provided by the command responsible for transportation of remains.

## **2. Retired or Former Members.**

a. At the time of death, the member's next of kin should engage the services of a funeral director. If the member's next of kin desires interment in a national cemetery, the funeral director should request interment directly from the superintendent of that national cemetery. The local VA Regional Office maintains a listing of available VA cemeteries within the desired burial area. The next of kin should provide the social security number/service number, branch of service, place and date of birth, date of death and date of retirement or dates of entry and separation from last service.

b. Military honors may be provided in any national cemetery or private cemetery. The funeral director should request military honors from the CAC/FHS coordinator in the geographical location in which the burial is to take place (see Appendix G).

c. The funeral director should request a flag from the VA Regional Office or a local Post Office for presentation to the primary next of kin.

3. In the event a member's eligible next of kin predeceases him/her and interment in a national cemetery is desired, the member must execute an agreement that upon death, he/she elects to be buried in the same grave. The superintendent of the cemetery will provide the forms for such an agreement.

## **ART. 1-5. Military Honors for the Committal Service.**

1. Unless the church service is on a military installation nearby or adjoining the cemetery, the funeral detail does not normally go to the church or funeral home. They report directly to the cemetery. The firing party, casket bearers and bugler take the position as directed by the OIC/POIC (see fig. 1) to await the arrival of the procession. If possible, the firing party should be positioned approximately one hundred feet from the foot of the grave, aligned to fire in the general direction of but not directly at the grave or mourners. They should be clearly visible to the next of kin. The casket bearers should be positioned approximately thirty feet aft of the location where the funeral coach will halt. Honorary pallbearers, if any, should be positioned in two ranks approximately twelve feet apart,

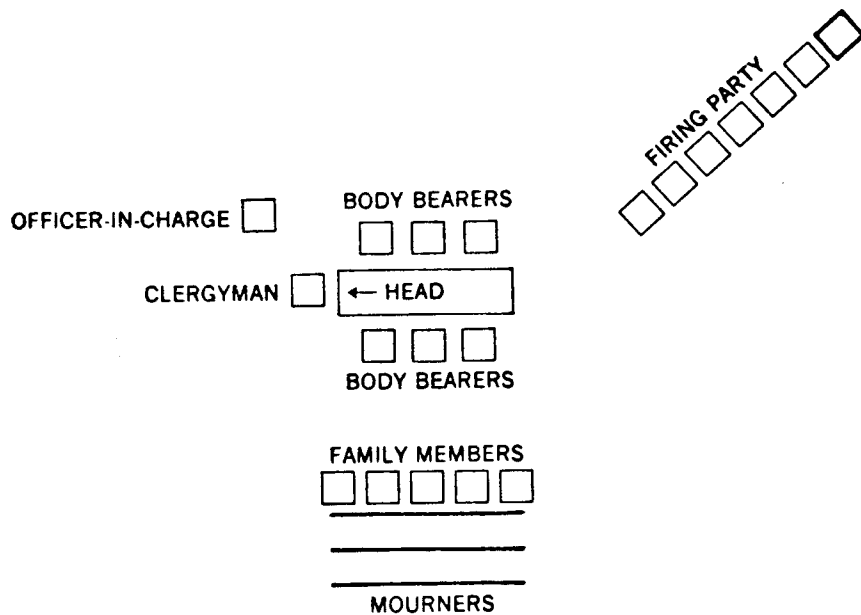
facing each other, next to the point where the rear of the funeral coach will stop. The senior honorary pallbearer is nearest the curb in the left file and junior honorary pallbearer is furthest away in the right file as one faces the grave. The OIC/POIC will take a position on the curb adjacent to the point where he will stop the funeral coach.

2. When the procession arrives, the head casket bearer, OIC/POIC and honorary pallbearers in uniform will render the hand salute as the funeral coach approaches and hold salutes until the hearse has halted. The honorary pallbearers in civilian clothing will place their right hand (with hat if worn) over the heart at the time the HAND SALUTE is rendered by the uniformed personnel. The funeral coach driver will open the door and pull the casket approximately one fourth of the way out. The clergyman takes position on the curb at the head of the honorary pallbearers. When the next of kin and family leave their cars, the OIC/POIC signals the head casket bearer to march the casket bearing detail into position at the rear of the funeral coach.



GUIDELINES FOR POSITIONING OF  
CEREMONIAL GUARD IN RENDERING  
MILITARY HONORS

BUGLER



(Figure 1)

3. When the casket bearers are ready to remove the casket from the funeral coach, the OIC/POIC signals the POIC of the firing party to bring the firing party to PRESENT ARMS. The OIC/POIC and all military personnel in uniform render the HAND SALUTE and turn to remain facing the casket as it is removed from the funeral coach. The clergyman, followed by the OIC/POIC then leads the way to the grave through the ranks of honorary pallbearers. The casket is carried to the grave foot end first except in the case of a Chaplain's funeral. As the casket passes through their ranks the honorary pallbearers terminate their salutes, face the grave and follow the casket bearing detail. The next of kin, family and others mourners follow the honorary pallbearers.

4. The clergyman takes position at the head of the grave. The OIC/POIC will direct the honorary pallbearers to their position at the head, foot or side of the grave opposite the family, formed in two ranks. The OIC/POIC will take position behind and to the side of the clergyman closer to the firing party. If a member other than the clergyman, or OIC/POIC has been designated to present the flag to the next of kin, he/she would take position behind and to the side of the clergyman opposite the OIC/POIC.

The funeral director or cemetery representative should ensure that the primary next of kin is directed to the seat closest to the head of the grave. All military personnel in uniform will resume the HAND SALUTE if they arrive in position before the casket comes to rest on the grave.

5. After the casket is placed on the grave, personnel in uniform terminate HAND SALUTE. The POIC of the firing party brings the firing party to ORDER ARMS and PARADE REST, and the casket bearing detail raises the flag from the casket and holds it waist high, stretched taut over the casket at the pall. The flag remains in this position throughout the service.

6. When the next of kin, family and other mourners have gathered at the grave, the clergyman begins the committal service (see Appendix A thru F).

7. For a gun salute: WITHOUT TAPS; the clergyman will complete all but the final benediction of the committal service, then step back from the head of the grave. The OIC/POIC will signal the POIC of the firing party to bring the firing party to ATTENTION. All military personnel in uniform will render the HAND SALUTE. The firing party fires three volleys on command of the POIC of the firing party. HAND SALUTES are terminated after the last volley of the gun salute. The POIC of the firing party brings the firing party to ORDER ARMS, the clergyman resumes his position at the head of the grave and offers the benediction. WITH TAPS; the clergyman will complete all but the final benediction of the committal service, then step back from the head of the grave.

The OIC/POIC will signal the POIC of the firing party to bring the firing party to ATTENTION. All military personnel in uniform will render the HAND SALUTE. The firing party fires three volleys on command of the POIC of the firing party and is brought

to PRESENT ARMS. THE BUGLER SOUNDS TAPS. Upon completion of TAPS, the firing party is brought to ORDER ARMS and military personnel in uniform terminate their salutes. The clergyman resumes his position at the head of grave and offers the benediction.

8. The casket bearers will then fold the flag (see ART. 1-10). The clergyman (if a military chaplain), or the OIC/POIC will step up to the head of the grave to accept the flag. The head casket bearer will hand him the flag, then render a HAND SALUTE to the flag. The casket bearing detail will then face toward the head or foot of the grave and march away from the gravesite. The person presenting the flag will approach the next of the kin and present the flag.

9. The flag (s) is/are presented with appropriate condolences as follows:

a. Active duty---one flag to the PNOK and one flag to parent(s) when PNOK is a spouse. One flag to each parent, if separated.

b. Retired and Former Members---to the primary next of kin.

c. Sample wording for presentation of the flag: “On behalf of a grateful nation and a proud Navy, I present this flag to you in recognition of your (relationship)’s years of honorable and faithful service to his/her country”. Upon presenting the flag, the presenter will step back one pace and render the HAND SALUTE. He should then either offer condolences to other family members or return to the head of the grave.

10. After the flag has been presented to the next of kin, honorary pallbearers may render condolences individually if they so desire. The OIC/POIC will signal the POIC of the firing party to march the firing party form the area for departure.

The clergyman (if a military chaplain) and the OIC/POIC will wait until the vehicle containing the next of kin and the folded flag departs, and render the HAND SALUTE as the vehicle passes them.

**ART. 1-6. Military Honors for Cremated Remains (CREMAINS).** When the remains of the deceased have been cremated, only two casket bearers are needed to transport the urn and folded flag from the vehicle containing the cremains to the grave. The remaining casket bearers are prepositioned at the grave, leaving open the two positions closest to the grave. The head casket bearer carries the folded flag to the right of the urn enroute to the head of the grave. Once the urn comes to rest at the grave, the casket bearers unfold the flag and fold it at the pall over the cremains. The remainder of the ceremony is conducted in the same manner as in ART. 1-5.

**ART. 1-7. Limited Military Honors**

1. When personnel are limited, military honors for funerals may be efficiently rendered by a detail of eight members and the OIC/POIC. The firing party will stack arms at the place from which volleys will be fired approximately one hundred feet from the foot of the grave. The POIC of the firing party and one other member will stay with the weapons. The remaining six members will carry the casket to the grave. After the casket comes to rest at the grave, the flag will remain draped over the casket (or held by the OIC/POIC if remains are cremated) and the casket bearers take position as members of the firing party.
2. After volleys have been fired and TAPS have been sounded, six of the firing party members stack weapons and return to the grave. Upon arriving at the grave, the casket bearers raise the flag from the casket and commence folding of the flag. Upon completion, the flag will be handed to the clergyman (if a military chaplain) or the OIC/POIC for presentation to the next of kin.

#### **ART. 1-8. Memorial Services.**

1. Chapel or Church Service. A memorial service with military participation may be held for deceased members whose remains are not recoverable. At the completion of such services TAPS will be sounded and the prefolded flag will be presented to the next of kin by the Navy representative. Full military honors are not provided at the chapel or church.
2. Erection of a Memorial Headstone or Marker in a Cemetery. When military honors are requested for the erection of a memorial headstone or marker in a cemetery for a deceased member whose remains are nonrecoverable, an OIC/POIC, firing party and a bugler may be provided.
  - a. When the clergyman completes the memorial service, the OIC/POIC signals the POIC of the firing party to bring the firing party to ATTENTION. The firing party fires three volleys to command and is then brought to the position of PRESENT ARMS.
  - b. The bugler sounds TAPS. Upon completion of TAPS the firing party is brought to ORDER ARMS. They remain in this position until the prefolded flag is presented the next of kin by the clergyman (if a military chaplain) or the OIC/POIC. After the flag has been presented, the OIC/POIC will signal the POIC of the firing party to march the firing party from the area.

#### **ART. 1-9. Chaplain Participation in Military Funerals**

1. In the event of an active duty death, the next of kin may request the services of a Navy chaplain through the CACO. The availability of an active duty chaplain will depend on church regulation for funeral/services.
2. For retirees and former members, it is appropriate for the member's minister, priest or rabbi to officiate at services with military honors. If a military chaplain is desired, the next

of kin should make the request to the CAC/FHS Coordinator (see Appendix G) at the time military honors are requested.

**ART. 1-10. The National Ensign (Flag)**

1. In naval funerals, when the National Ensign is draped over the casket, the blue field of the flag is over the left shoulder of the deceased (see fig. 2). The casket bearing detail, immediately after the sounding of TAPS, folds the flag in the following manner (see fig.3):

a. The lower, striped section of the flag is first folded over the blue field. The lower edge of the striped section should not quite extend to the upper edge of the field, so the lower edge bottom red stripe will not be visible after the flag is folded. The folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge, quartering the flag lengthwise.

b. A triangular fold is then started, bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.

c. The outer point is then turned inward, parallel with the open edge, forming a second triangle. The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.

d. When the flag is completely folded, it should be in the shape of a triangle with blue field visible.

2. The flag is saluted on each of the following occasions:

a. As the hearse arrives at the cemetery.

b. By the head casket bearer after flag is folded and is given to the Navy representative for presentation to the next of kin.

c. By the appropriate Navy representative after he/she presents the flag to the next of kin.

d. By all military personnel in uniform present when the vehicle containing the flag and the next of kin departs the gravesite.

**ART. 1-11. Honorary Pallbearers**

1. The selection of honorary pallbearers is the responsibility of the next of kin or family of the deceased. If honorary pallbearers take part in the funeral ceremony, the OIC/POIC of the ceremonial unit should be advised prior to the funeral. The honorary pallbearers should arrive at the gravesite in sufficient time prior to the funeral procession in order to receive instructions from the OIC/POIC.

2. The uniform for military personnel serving as honorary pallbearers should be the service dress uniform of the season, or as directed by the area CAC/FHS coordinator or other appropriate authority. In case of inclement weather, overcoats or raincoats may be worn. Grey gloves are worn only with the overcoat. White gloves are never worn. Mourning bands (black arm bands) may be worn whether in uniform or civilian attire, but are not required. They should be worn on the left arm midway between the shoulder and elbow (right arm for enlisted personnel).

3. The procedures for all honorary pallbearers are described in ART. 1-5.

**ART. 1-12. Miscellaneous**

1. Members of the service attending a military funeral in an official or unofficial capacity should wear service dress uniform of the season, or as directed by the CAC/FHS Coordinator or other appropriate authority.

2. Naval funerals are very seldom, postponed because of inclement weather.

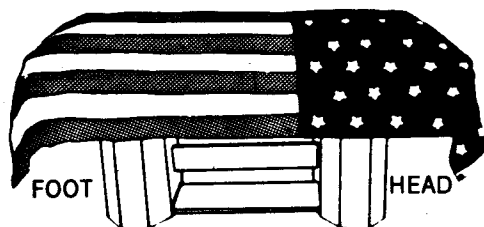
3. In case of inclement weather overcoats or raincoats are worn.

4. Articles of the uniform or accouterments (such as ribbons or medals) are not placed on the national ensign covering the casket. Any such articles that the next of kin may wish to place upon the casket are placed under the flag.

5. In accordance with an old custom based on the belief that a chaplain, even in death, should always face his/her flock, the body of a chaplain is carried head first into and out of the chapel/church and from the hearse to the grave.

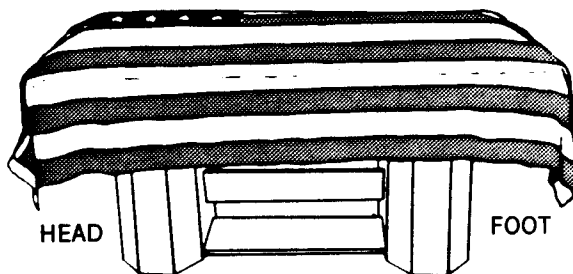
6. When any organization or fraternal order is represented at funerals and they wish to hold their own ritual, the Navy committal service shall be conducted in its entirety. The ceremonial unit will march off and the organization may then hold its service.

# CORRECT METHOD OF DISPLAYING THE FLAG WITH THE CASKET



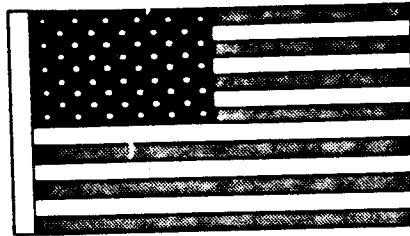
REAR VIEW

CENTER THE FLAG ON THE CASKET SO THAT THE BLUE SHIELD IS AT THE HEAD AND OVER THE LEFT SHOULDER OF THE DECEASED.

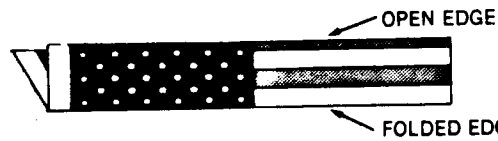
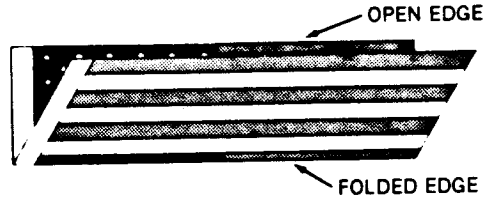


(Figure 2)

# CORRECT METHOD OF FOLDING THE UNITED STATES FLAG

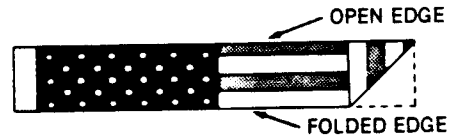


FOLD THE LOWER STRIPED SECTION OF THE FLAG OVER THE BLUE FIELD.



FOLD THE FOLDED EDGE OVER TO MEET THE OPEN EDGE.

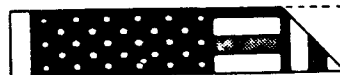
START A TRIANGULAR FOLD BY BRINGING THE STRIPED CORNER OF THE FOLDED EDGE TO THE OPEN EDGE.



FOLD THE OUTER POINT INWARD PARALLEL WITH THE OPEN EDGE TO FORM A SECOND TRIANGLE.



CONTINUE FOLDING UNTIL THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE FLAG IS FOLDED INTO A TRIANGLE WITH ONLY THE BLUE FIELD AND MARGIN SHOWING.



TUCK THE REMAINING MARGIN INTO THE POCKET FORMED BY THE FOLDS AT THE BLUE FIELD EDGE OF THE FLAG.



THE PROPERLY FOLDED FLAG SHOULD RESEMBLE A COCKED HAT.



(Figure 3)



## SECTION II

### AT SEA DISPOSITION

**ART. 2-1. Eligibility.** The regulations for the disposition of remains and inurned cremated remains (cremains) from a naval vessel, or inurned cremains from a naval aircraft are set forth by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. The following persons are eligible for at set disposition:

1. Members of the uniformed services.
2. Retired members of the uniformed services.
3. Former members of the uniformed services honorably discharged.
4. U.S. Civilian Marine Personnel of the Military Sealift Command.
5. Dependents of members and dependents of former members of the uniformed services.
6. Other U.S. citizens who are determined eligible by notable service or outstanding contributions to the United States.

#### **ART. 2-2. Request for at Sea Disposition**

1. Requests to conduct committal of remains casketed in a metal casket or inurned cremains at sea from a ship, or to disperse cremains from an aircraft should be referred by the CACO (in the case of active duty members) or by the commanding officer receiving the request, to the Office of Medical and Dental Affairs (OMA) listed in Appendix H. Outside the 48 contiguous United States and Alaska, the fleet commander in chief or CAC/FHS coordinator who is authorized to designate activities under his/her command or coordination control must be contacted for such dispositions. The CAC/FHS coordinator of the area where the death occurred may assist in the coordination. Civilian personnel will not be authorized to attend services aboard naval ships at sea or aboard a naval aircraft.
2. Upon receipt of a request for an at sea disposition, the OMA will notify the next of kin that casketed remains can/cannot be accepted for committal (before a specific date) or, only cremains are acceptable for committal due to limited facilities and capabilities.
3. Once the remains are received by the shore facility, the next of kin will be notified when a ship has been designated and an approximate sailing date determined.
4. Any change in the schedule that would cause a delay to exceed the 10 weeks disposition date, the OMA should advise the next of kin and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) of the change.

**ART. 2-3. Documents Required.** The following papers must be presented to the commanding officer of the ship or activity assigned responsibility for at sea disposition arrangements before the casketed remains or cremains are taken into their custody:

1. A signed and properly witnessed request and authorization from the primary next of kin or person designated to direct disposition of the remains. Appendix I is for PNOK use in submitting a request to the OMA listed in Appendix H.
2. A transit/interment permit issued by responsible civil authorities at the place of death, or a certificate of cremation.
3. A certified copy of the certificate of death, and when required, a copy of the burial at sea certificate issued by the state medical examiner. In a death from a communicable or contagious disease, it may be necessary to contact the State Board of Health relative to an at sea disposition of such cremains.
4. A copy of Chapter 8, NAVMEDCOMINST 5360.1.
5. A statement from the OMA certifying that remains are in a metal casket and that the casket and remains are properly prepared in accordance with NAVMEDCOMINST 5360.1.

**ART. 2-4. Place of Disposition.** Committal at sea of remains shall be conducted outside the 3-mile limit, off the continental shelf, and a depth greater than 100 fathoms (600 feet). Dispersion of cremains at sea from an aircraft shall not be performed less than 3 miles from the nearest land.

**ART. 2-5. Consignment of Remains:**

1. Active Duty. The naval activity responsible for transportation arrangements shall, in coordination with the OMA, consign the casketed remains to a mortuary at or near the port as designated by the primary next of kin. Expenses incurred at the consignee funeral home are considered a part of private arrangements and are reimbursable with limitations pertaining to secondary allowances. Inurned cremated remains shall be consigned in coordination with the OMA, to a naval activity at or near the place of final disposition. The OMA shall coordinate arrangements for delivery of remains or cremated remains to either the ship at dockside for committal at sea or to the commanding officer of the activity responsible for dispersion of cremated remains at sea from an aircraft.
2. Retired or Former Members. Any expense for preparation and delivery of the casketed remains/inurned cremains to the point of embarkation on board a naval ship or aircraft must be borne by the estate of the deceased.

3. It is the responsibility of the OMA, (see Appendix I) to ensure that the casketed remains are properly prepared in a metal casket. If the casketed remains do not submerge upon impact with the water, the commanding officer shall initiate action to retrieve the casket for additional weighing and drilling of additional holes prior to returning the casketed remains to the sea. ANY OTHER PROCEDURES TO SINK THE CASKET IS INAPPROPRIATE AND IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

**ART. 2-6. Ceremonial Procedure for at Sea Disposition**

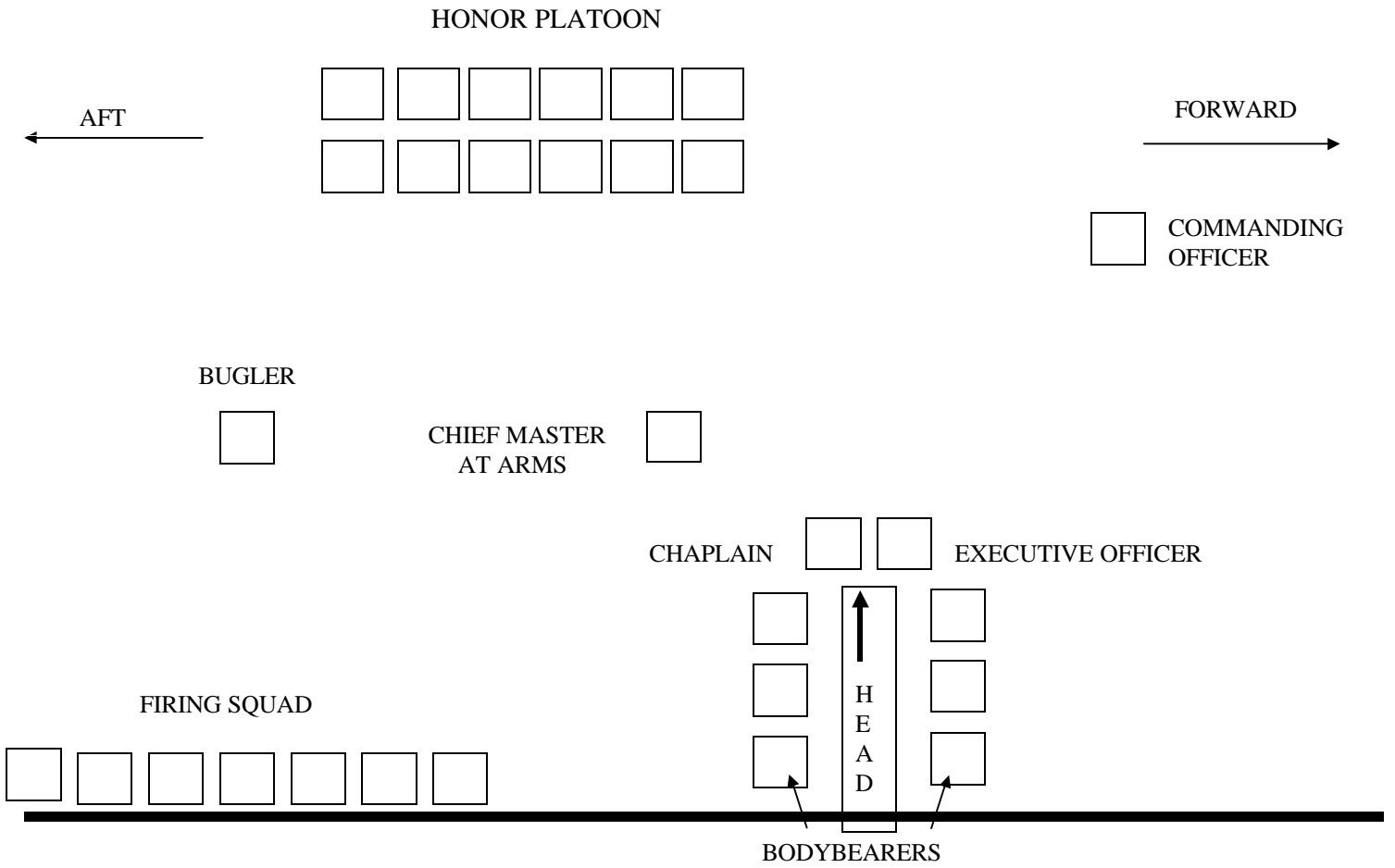
1. Personnel participating or attending the services must wear the Uniform of the Day. When a chaplain of appropriate faith is not available, the service may be read by the commanding officer or an officer designated by him/her. The committal service is as follows:

- a. Station firing squad, casket bearers, and bugler (see fig. 4).
- b. Officer's call. Pass the word "All hands bury the dead." (The ship should be stopped, if practical, and colors displayed at half mast).
- c. Assembly.
- d. Adjutant's call (Call to Attention).
- e. Bring the massed formation to PARADE REST.
- f. Burial service.
  - (1) The Scripture (PARADE REST).
  - (2) The Prayers (PARADE REST, heads bowed).
  - (3) The Committal (ATTENTION, HAND SALUTE).
  - (4) The Benediction (PARADE REST, heads bowed).
- g. Fire three volleys (ATTENTION, HAND SALUTE).
- h. TAPS. Close up colors. Resume course and speed at the last note of TAPS (HAND SALUTE).
- i. Encasing of the flag (ATTENTION).

j. Retreat (Resume normal duties).

2. Officers in the funeral procession and casket bearers may wear the mourning band on the left arm.

# DECK PLAN FOR BURIAL AT SEA



(Figure 4)

## **ART. 2-7. Preparation for the at Sea Disposition**

### **1. Casketed Remains from a Naval Ship**

a. There are two component parts of the ceremony of at sea disposition: religious and military. The reading of the scripture and prayers, the committal, and the benediction constitutes the religious part and may be performed by the chaplain, commanding officer, or an officer designated by him/her. All other aspects of the ceremony are performed by other military personnel.

b. For at sea disposition, the casketed remains are covered with the national ensign with the union placed at the head and over the left shoulder (see fig. 2). When draped with the national ensign, the cap and sword of the deceased are not displayed.

c. Six or eight casket bearers (depending upon the weight of the casketed remains) form according to height on both sides of the casket. Below decks, while not carrying the casket, casket bearers will uncover. At all other times they remain covered. The casket is always carried feet first.

d. The selected place for committal is cleared and rigged so that when the casketed remains are brought on deck they may be placed securely on a stand, if necessary, with feet outboard at right angles to and extending over the side for launching.

e. ATTENTION is sounded on the bugle or passed by word of mouth as the casket bearers, preceded by the chief master-at-arms, execute the HAND SALUTE as the cortege passes to the place selected for the committal. When the remains have been so placed, the HAND SALUTE is terminated by those in view and a sentry is posted unless the burial service is to follow immediately.

f. A chief petty officer is designated to take charge of the firing party of seven persons. The chief master-at-arms directs the casket bearers during the service until the flag is encased and delivered to the commanding officer.

**2. Cremains from a Naval Ship.** In cases where the remains have been cremated and the urn containing the ashes has been received on board for at sea disposition, the following procedures will govern:

a. If the urn is to be opened and the cremains scattered at the time of committal, a small table or stand should be securely rigged beforehand at the selected place for the committal. The urn will be placed on this table or stand during the reading of the service. The folded flag will be placed on the stand beside the cremains. The executive officer, or

some other officer appointed by the commanding officer, will assume responsibility for opening the urn and scattering the cremains at the appropriate time (keeping in mind the wind factor) during the committal ceremony.

b. If the urn is not to be opened, a small platform should be constructed and rigged so that during the service, the urn may rest thereon and be launched at the time of committal by tilting up the inboard end of the platform, thus permitting the urn and cremains to slide overboard into the sea.

c. The cremains received for committal at sea will sometimes be accompanied by floral tributes which may be used to surround the receptacle and cover the platform or table on which it rests during the service. The flowers may be permitted to slide overboard with the cremains or be tossed into the sea by the flag bearer after the urn has been launched or the cremains have been scattered.

d. For all phases of the funeral where the cremains are carried by hand, one enlisted member will be detailed to carry the receptacle containing the cremains.

e. Four enlisted members will be detailed as flag bearers and will also serve as urn bearers. The flag bearers will follow the bearer of the urn as it is brought on deck and carried to the place of committal. The folded flag will be carried by the leading flag bearer on the right. The flag is then placed on the stand beside the cremains. Immediately prior to scattering the cremains or committal of the urn to sea, the flag will be picked up and held by the leading flag bearer until completion of TAPS, at which time the flag will be presented to the commanding officer.

#### **ART. 2-8. The Ceremony For At Sea Disposition (Casketed Remains).**

1. When the honor platoon has been assembled in massed formation and has been brought to parade rest, the burial service is begun and read through to the end of the prayers. During prayers the assemblage remains covered with bowed heads. After the conclusion of the prayers, if not included in the service, it is fitting that the name of the deceased be mentioned. Upon conclusion of the prayers the casket bearers should hold the casket and national ensign in place by hand as may be necessary before the reading of the committal.

2. When these preparations have been completed and all is in readiness, ATTENTION is sounded. The command "Firing Squad, PRESENT ARMS" (Honor platoon HAND SALUTE) is given and the reading of the committal is commenced. When the indicated word of the committal is read, the casket bearers tilt the board until the casket slides along

it, under the national ensign, overboard into the sea. As it goes, the casket bearers retain the board and the national ensign on board and stand fast.

3. The commands, "Firing Squad, ORDER ARMS, PARADE REST," are given and all hands bow their heads. The Benediction is pronounced. Then follow the commands, "Firing Squad, ATTENTION. Fire three volleys." (Honor platoon HAND SALUTES and remain so until the last note of TAPS.) "Ready, aim, fire; aim, fire; aim, fire." After the last volley the firing party remains at the ready position, pieces locked, until the conclusion of TAPS, and salutes.

4. Upon completion of TAPS, the firing party is brought to ORDER ARMS. The casket bearers encase the national ensign by folding twice along the long axis of the flag. The blue field is kept to the outside. Beginning at the fly end (away from the blue field), the flag is folded with only the blue field showing (see fig. 3). It is then presented by the chief master-at-arms to the commanding officer.

5. After the commanding officer has received the flag and has departed, the command PARADE REST is given, and when all have assumed it, the details (firing party and casket bearers) are brought to ATTENTION, formed and marched away. When they are clear, the honor platoon is brought to ATTENTION, retreat is sounded and the ceremony is over.

#### **ART. 2-9. Information Provided the Next of Kin after Committal Services Completed**

1. Disposition at sea is normally accomplished within 8 to 10 weeks from the time the responsible Fleet Commander-in-Chief is notified of a request.
2. The Commanding Officer of a ship directed to conduct an at sea disposition will, within 10 days after the committal, mail to the next of kin a personal letter giving the date and time of committal and include photographs or video tape of the ceremony, the commemorative flag and a chart showing where the burial took place. Copies of the basic letter only will be forwarded to Naval Office of Medical/Dental Affairs, Great Lakes, IL; Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, DC; and Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC.

**ART. 2-10. Dispersion of Remains from an Aircraft.** Private memorial services and/or honors should be accomplished prior to forwarding request for remains dispersion from an aircraft. Appropriate coordination with a naval activity capable of accomplishing disposition by this means should be arranged. The next of kin shall be informed by letter



from the commanding officer or if appropriate the chaplain, advising when and where (by grid coordinates) disposition was accomplished.

## APPENDIX A

### SERVICE FOR COMMITTAL OF A PERSON

#### OF THE PROTESTANT FAITH

1. During the Committal service, the commanding officer or other person appointed by him/her shall stand near the head of the casket or urn and face in such a way that he/she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following.

#### 2. **The Scripture:**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, will we not fear, though the earth do change, and though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas. For this God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death.

#### **The Scripture lesson:**

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for all of us, will he not also give us all things with him? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### 3. **The Prayers:**

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies can be numbered, make us, we beseech Thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let Thy Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days: that, when we have served Thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Christian Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope; in favor with Thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world; All which we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, we pray Thee that the memory of our comrade, (name), (fallen in battle); may be ever sacred in our hearts; that the sacrifice which he/she has offered for our country's

cause may be acceptable in Thy sight; and that an entrance into Thine eternal peace may, by Thy pardoning grace, be open unto him/her through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Conclude with the Lord's Prayer by all hands.)

**4. The Committal:**

Unto Almighty God we commend the soul of our (brother/sister) departed, and we commit his/her body to the deep; (tilt the board and release the remains into the sea) in sure and certain hope of the resurrection unto eternal life, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.

**5. The Benediction:**

The Lord bless thee and keep thee, the Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee, the Lord life up the light of His countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Amen.

## APPENDIX B

### SERVICE FOR COMMITTAL OF A PERSON

#### OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

1. During the committal service, the commanding officer or such person as appointed by him/her shall stand near the head of the casket or urn and face in such a way that he/she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following:

**2. Scripture:**

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord, hear my voice! Let Thine ears be attentive to my voice in supplication. If Thou, O Lord, dost mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with Thee is forgiveness, that Thou mayest be revered. I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in His word. My soul waits for the Lord. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord, for with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; and he will redeem Israel from their iniquities. (Psalms 129) (130)

Martha therefore said to Jesus, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here my brother would not have died. But even not I know that whatever Thou shalt ask of God, God will give it to thee." Jesus said to her, "Thy brother shall rise." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said so her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he die, shall live; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Dost thou believe this? She said to him, "Yes Lord, I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, who hast come in the world." (St. John 11)

3. O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, hear our supplication and through Thy infinite love and mercy graciously grant to the soul of Thy servant departed the remission of all his/her sins, by which he/she may have deserved the severity of Thy justice and punishments in the world to come.

Vouchsafe to him/her attain to everlasting rest and happiness through the infinite merits of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(The following shall always be read):

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**4. The Committal:**

O Lord, we commend to Thee the soul of Thy servant (first name only), that, having departed from this world, he/she may live with Thee. And by the grace of Thy merciful life, wash the sins that in human frailty he/she committed in the conduct of his/her life. Through Christ our (tilt the board and release the remains into the sea) Lord. Amen.

Come to his/her aid, O saints of God; hasten meet him/her, angels of the Lord; Taking up his/her soul, presenting it in the sight of the Most High. May you be received by Christ, Who has called you; and may the angels bring you; into the bosom of Abraham.

**5. The Benediction:**

Eternal rest grant to him/her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May he/she rest in peace. Amen. May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

## APPENDIX C

### SERVICE FOR COMMITTAL OF A PERSON

#### OF THE JEWISH FAITH

1. During the Committal service, the commanding officer or such person as appointed by him/her shall stand near the head of the casket or urn and face in such a way that he/she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following:

**2. The Scripture:**

I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains from whence shall my help come? My help cometh from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; He that keepeth Israel doth neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall smite the day, or the moon by night. The Lord shall guard thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth and forever.

O Lord, what is moan that Thou are mindful of him and the son of man that Thou takest account of him? What are we? Do we not all seem as vanity, as a shadow that passeth away? In the morning we flourish and grow up, in the evening we are cut down and withered. Thou turnest all men to contrition and sayest unto us: Return ye children of men!

O, that we had wisdom and understanding and realized that when we die we take nothing with us; we do leave much behind. Mark the perfect and behold the upright for theirs is the way of peace. Thou, O Lord, redeemest souls of Thy children and none who serve thee and love their fellow men will be forsaken.

O Lord, help us to find in these ancient yet ever new sentiments, the realization that through our tears we can reach to truth, through the darkness of our sorrow venture toward the light of hope, and through our anguish attain to the great adventure of perfect faith in Thee and Thy wisdom. Love is stronger than death.

Though we surrender dust unto dust, through the majesty and might of your love, life will abide with life. Take unto Thyself our comrade who has given of his/her life to this our great country. And let the words of our mouths express the meditations of our hearts.

**3. The Prayer:**

O God, full of compassion, Thou who dwellest on high! Beneath the sheltering wings of Thy presence, among the holy and pure who shine as the brightness of the firmament, grant perfect peace unto the soul of (name), who has gone unto eternity. Lord of mercy, bring him/her under the cover of Thy winds, and let his/her soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life. Be Thou his/her inheritance, and may his/her repose be in peace. Amen.

**4. The Committal:**

Into Thy hands, O Lord, we commend the soul of Thy servant departed, now called unto eternal rest. (For at sea disposition and we commit his/her body to the deep - tilt the board and release the body into the sea)

**5. The Benediction:**

The Lord bless thee and keep thee, the Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee, the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

## APPENDIX D

### SERVICE FOR THE COMMITMENT OF A PERSON

#### OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX FAITH

1. During the Committal service, the commanding officer or such person as appointed by him/her shall stand near the head of the casket or urn and face in such a way that he/she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following:

**2. Scripture:**

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word. Do good to Your servant, and I will live; I will obey Your word. I am laid low in the dust; renew my life according to Your word. Teach me, O Lord, to follow Your decrees; then I will keep them in the end. May your unfailing love come to me, O Lord, Your salvation according to Your promise, Remember Your word to Your servant, for you have given me hope. You are my portion, O Lord; I have promised to obey Your words. Do good to Your servant according to Your word, O Lord. Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn Your commands. My soul faints with longing for Your salvation, but I have put my hope in Your word. Your word, O Lord, is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens. Save me, for I am Yours; I have sought out your precepts. Oh, how I love Your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. My flesh trembles in fear of You; I stand in awe of Your laws. I have done what is righteous and just, do not leave me to my oppressors. Your statutes are wonderful; therefore, I obey them. Righteous are You, O Lord, and Your laws are right. I call out with all my heart; answer me, O Lord, and I will obey Your decrees. Look upon my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten Your law. I wait for Your salvation, forgotten Your law. I wait for Your salvation, O Lord, and I follow Your commands. May my cry come before You, O Lord: give me understanding according to Your word. Let me live that I may praise You, and May Your laws sustain me. I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek Your servant, for I have not forgotten Your commandments. (Psalm 119)

**The Gospel lesson:**

I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself so He has granted Thy Son to have Life in Himself. And he has given Him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out, - those who have done good will rise and live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. By Myself I can do nothing; I



judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me. (John 5:24-30)

### **3. The Prayers:**

O God of spirits, and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death and overthrown the devil, and given life to the world: do Thou, the same Lord give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant (name), in a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he/she has committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought. For Thou art a good God who loves and sins not; for Thou only art without sin, and Thy righteousness is all eternity, and Thy word is true. For Thou art the resurrection, and the life, and the repose of thy servant (name) who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all holy and good, and life-creating spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Conclude with the Lord's Prayer by all hands).

### **4. The Committal:**

Eternal by Thy memory, O our brother, who art worthy to be deemed happy and ever-memorable. (three times)

(For at sea disposition - tilt the board and release body into sea.)

### **5. The Dismissal:**

May he who arose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all laudable apostles, of our holy God-bearing Fathers; and all of the saints, establish the soul of Your servant (name) who has been taken from us, in the mansions of the righteous, give him/her rest in Abraham's bosom, and number him/her among the just, and have mercy on us, forasmuch as Thou art good and loveth mankind. Amen.

The earth is the lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Psalm 24)

## **APPENDIX E**

### **SERVICE FOR THE COMMITMENT OF A PERSON OF THE MUSLIM FAITH**

1. During the Committal service, if for a person of the Islamic faith, the commanding officer or such person appointed by the commanding officer shall ensure that the service is set up as follows:

- It is not recommended to use a casket unless there is a need for it. The body must have been washed and wrapped as required for the bodies of Muslims.
- Plan the setting so that those who have gathered to pray will be facing toward Mecca, with the appointed leader in front facing them.
- Place the body (or bodies) in between the congregation and the appointed leader in such a way that the body is parallel to the congregation and so that, from the point of view of the congregation, the body's head is to the right.
- The appointed leader should face the congregation and stand by the middle of the body if the deceased is a man and by the shoulder if the deceased is a woman.
- If there is more than one body, then they should be put one in front of the other, those of the men nearest to the appointed leader, and those of the women furthest away.

2. If Muslims are present, permit them to come forward and perform the formal funeral prayer (Allahu Akbar) while others stand and pray silently.

### **3. Al-Fatihah**

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds; Most Gracious, Most Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment. Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek. Show us the straight way, the way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, those whose portion is not wrath, and who go not astray.

### **4. Supplication of Funeral Prayer**

O Allah, forgive our people who are still alive and who have passed away, forgive those who are present here and those who are absent, forgive our young and our elderly, forgive our males and females. O Allah, the one whom you wish to keep alive from among us make him alive according to Islam, and anyone whom you wish to die from among us, let him die in belief and faith. O Allah, do not deprive us from his reward and do not put us in hardship or any type of trial after his death.

O Allah, forgive him, have mercy on him, pardon him, grant him security, provide him a nice place and spacious lodgings, wash him (off from his sins) with water, snow and ice, purify him from his sins as a white garment is cleansed from dirt, replace his present abode with a better one, replace his present family with a better one, replace his present partner with a better one, make him enter paradise and save him from the trials of grave and the punishment of hell.

O Allah, you are its Lord, you have created it, and you have guided it towards Islam, and you have taken out his soul and you know best about its secret and open deeds. We have come as intercessors, so forgive him.

O Allah, grant us good in this life and good in the life to come, and save us from the torment of hell.

#### **5. Supplication at the Committal site:**

(Lower the body into the water at this time, in such a way that the face is toward Ka'aba (in Saudi Arabia).)

O Allah this is your servant who is now your guest, and you are the best of hosts. Forgive him and expand his entrance.

## APPENDIX F

### SERVICE FOR THE COMMITMENT OF A PERSON

#### OF THE BUDDHIST FAITH

1. During the Committal service, if for a person of the Buddhist faith, the commanding officer or other person appointed by him or her shall stand near the body and face in such a way that he or she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following:

#### 2. **Homage to the Three Treasures**

Buddham Saranam Gacchami. I go to Buddha for guidance.

Dhammam Saranam Gacchami. I go to the Dharma for guidance.

Sangham Saranam Gacchami. I go to the Sangha for guidance.

Homage to Him, the Exalted One, the Enlightened One, the Supremely Awakened One.

#### 3. **Opening Address**

On this day, we commemorate the passing of (name of the deceased) who departed from this world on (date of death).

#### 4. **A Reading from the Buddhist Sutras**

The Sutras tell us that, "Beneath the sala trees at Kusinagara, in his last words to his disciples, the Buddha said:

My disciples, my last moment has come, but do not forget that death is only the end of the physical body. The body was born from parents and was nourished by food; just as inevitable are sickness and death.

But the true Buddha is not a human body: it is Enlightenment. A human body must die, but the Wisdom of Enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma, and in the practice of the Dharma. He who sees merely my body does not truly see me. Only he who accepts my teaching truly sees me.

5. Incense burning by relatives and friends (optional)

#### 6. **Closing Meditation**

The Buddha surrounds all men and all forms of life with Infinite Love and Compassion. Particularly does He send forth loving thoughts to those in suffering and

sorrow; to all those in doubt and ignorance; to all who are striving to attain Truth; and to those whose feet are standing close to the great change men call death, He sends forth oceans of Wisdom, Mercy, and Love.

7. (Lower the deceased into the water at this time).

**APPENDIX G**  
**CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CALLS PROGRAM**  
**FUNERAL HONORS SUPPORT**  
**(CAC/FHS) PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

**Commander**  
**Naval Base**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19112-5098**

DSN: 443-8724/25  
Commercial: (215) 897-8724/25  
Duty Officer:  
DSN: 443-5120/42  
Commercial: (215) 897-5120/42

**Commander**  
**Naval Base**  
**Norfolk, Virginia 23511-6002**

DSN: 564-2870/2485/2558  
Commercial: (804) 444-2870/2558  
Duty Officer:  
DSN: 565-1953  
Commercial: (804) 444-7097/7098

**Commander**  
**Naval Base**  
**Charleston, South Carolina 29408-5100**

DSN: 563-3820  
Commercial: (803) 743-3820  
Duty Officer:  
DSN: 563-5430/5096  
Commercial: (803) 743-3890/5430

**Commander**  
**Naval Reserve Force**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana 70146-5000**

DSN: 363-1275/6  
Commercial: (504)948-1275/6  
Duty Officer:  
DSN: 363-5313  
Commercial: (504)948-5313

**Commander**

**Naval Base**

**San Diego, California 92132-5100**

DSN: 522-1512/1507  
Commercial: (619)532-1512/1507  
Duty Officer:  
DSN: 958-3547/74  
Commercial: (619) 532-1828

**Commander**

**Naval Base**

**Seattle, Washington 98115-5012**

DSN: 941-3481/6598  
Commercial: (206) 526-3481/3265  
Duty Officer:  
DSN: 941-3225  
Commercial: (206)526-3225

**Commandant**

**Naval District Washington**

**Washington, D.C. 20374-0721**

DSN: 288-2235/6  
Commercial: (202) 433-2235/6  
Duty Officer:  
DSN: 288-2607  
Commercial: (202)433-2607

**Originator:**

**BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
CASUALTY ASSISTANCE BRANCH PERS 663  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON DC 20370-6630**

DSN: 224-2095/6  
Commercial: (703) 614-2095/6

Overseas CAC/FHS Coordinates are listed in BUPERSINST 1770.1A

## **APPENDIX H**

### **OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS**

For the District of Columbia, Alaska and the 48 contiguous United States the following Office of Medical Affairs has been established:

Office of Medical/Dental Affairs

Mortuary Affairs, Bldg 38H

Great Lakes, Illinois 60088-5200

DSN: 792-2929/3950

Commercial: (708) 688-2929/3950

Toll Free: 1-800-876-1131 Ext 629



APPENDIX I

To: Commanding Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

To Whom it May Concern:

This is to certify that I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Full name of requester, Last, First, and Middle)  
am the person having the right to direct disposition of \_\_\_\_\_ of  
(remains/cremains)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(grade/rate, name of deceased, last, first and middle) (Branch of service)  
\_\_\_\_\_. I respectfully request and authorize the United States  
(Social Security No.)

Navy to commit the \_\_\_\_\_ at sea by dispersion of cremains from  
(remains/cremains)  
a naval vessel or aircraft or committal at sea of casketed remains from a naval  
vessel. This is in accordance with the expressed desires of my \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. The date of \_\_\_\_\_ retirement  
(Relationship  
to deceased, i.e., father, husband, etc.) (his/her)  
is, or if a veteran, the dates of service are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(day, month, year of entry)  
\_\_\_\_\_ and the date the deceased was honorably  
(day, month, and year of discharge)  
discharged. \_\_\_\_\_ died on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

(First Name) (day, month, year) (Street, City, State)  
\_\_\_\_\_. Cause of death as listed on the certificate of death was  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Cause of death)

\_\_\_\_\_ services are desired. Services at pierside  
(Catholic/Protestant/Jewish/Other)

\_\_\_\_\_ desired. I will defray all expenses incurred in preparation of  
(are/are not)  
the casket/urn and for delivery of \_\_\_\_\_ to the port  
(remains/cremains)  
of embarkation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Primary Next of Kin or  
Person responsible for funeral arrange-  
ments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number