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the Coast Guard when it is operating as a military service in the Navy by agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Joint Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components"). The terms "Military Services" and "military personnel," as used herein, refer to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps. Similar provisions may be implemented by the Military Services for retired members and members of the Reserve Components not on active duty (AD), active duty for training (ADT), or inactive duty for training (IADT).

## C. DEFINITIONS

a. Central Joint Mortuary Affairs Office (CJMAO). A functional coordinating group consisting of representatives from the Military Services, the Joint Staff, and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner.

b. Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI). A scientific laboratory which provides anthropological and dental review of remains from past conflicts

c. Armed Forces Identification Review Board (AFIRB). A board consisting of representatives from the Military Services who approve or disapprove recommendations for identification made by CILHI of repatriated remains of US military personnel whose deaths occurred during the Vietnam Conflict or other recommended identifications referred to it by competent authority.

d. Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME). Purpose is identified in reference (d).

## D. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

a. The remains of all members of the Military Services will be provided permanent disposition according to the wishes of the person authorized to direct disposition.

b. Remains will be handled with the reverence, care and dignity befitting them and the circumstances.

c. Personal effects will be returned to the next of kin as rapidly as possible. Final disposition will be as directed by the eligible recipient. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Every effort will be made to identify remains and account for unrecovered remains.

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e. Temporary internment will be authorized in a theater of operation only as necessary to preserve remains. Burial at sea is authorized only when preservation capability is unavailable aboard ship, or when transfer to shore is not timely or operationally advisable. ✓

f. The recovery, evacuation, preliminary identification, and further disposition of remains that are under the jurisdiction of the Military Services are command responsibilities.

g. The preservation of remains will be given the highest priority. Every effort will be made to preserve the condition of the remains and portions thereof, particularly those recovered from past conflicts.

h. Coordination with the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner is mandatory in all peacetime mass fatality or politically sensitive incidents occurring in either CONUS or OCONUS.

#### E. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall monitor compliance with this Directive.

2. The Secretary of the Army shall:

a. Serve as the Executive Agent for mortuary affairs for DoD consistent with the guidance at reference a.

b. Maintain a mortuary affairs force structure capable of providing support to Army units and backup general support to the other Military Services when mutually agreeable. Provide technical assistance to the other Military Services whether or not Army personnel are involved.

c. Maintain the CJMAO and appoint a Chairman. In peacetime, the CJMAO will meet at least twice a year or at the call of the Chairman. During wartime or special incidents, the CJMAO will become the functional body which will provide guidance on mortuary affairs matters.

d. Administratively process cases considered by the AFIRB in coordination with the other Services.

e. Develop and obtain the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff approval of joint mortuary affairs doctrine and training material to be used by the Military Services.

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f. Operate the CILHI for the processing of remains from past conflicts.

g. Discharge the responsibilities in paragraph 5 below.

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3. The Secretary of the Air Force shall:

a. Provide for air transportation of remains from overseas areas during both peacetime and during contingency operations.

b. Operate and maintain CONUS east and west coast port of entry mortuaries in support of all the Military Services.

4. The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

a. Be the approval authority for all joint doctrine concerning mortuary affairs.

b. Provide guidance to the commanders of the unified and specified commands on policy and procedures for mortuary affairs within a theater of operations.

c. Determine requirements to support joint mortuary operations in CONUS when more than a single Military Service is involved.

5. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

a. Maintain an organizational capability to provide for mortuary affairs in support of individual Service needs.

b. Maintain a staff responsible for mortuary affairs matters.

? c. Operate overseas mortuaries consistent with force demands and needs of all the Military Services.

6. The Armed Forces Medical Examiner shall:

a. Provide consultive services in forensic pathology to the DoD and participate in medicolegal investigations, post mortem examinations, and exhumations, when requested and authorized by the Director of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP).

b. Provide medicolegal opinions and testimony for the Armed Forces when requested.

G. EFFECTIVE DATE

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This directive is effective immediately.

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