US NAVY
CASUALTY
ASSISTANCE
CALLS
OFFICER
(CACO)
TRAINING
STUDENT
GUIDE

2015

COMMANDER NAVY INSTALLATIONS COMMAND

Version Date: 08 July 2015
This guide supersedes and cancels all previous versions.
Welcome to Casualty Assistance Calls Officer Training.

As a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer, you will face one of the toughest and saddest challenges of your career, one that will add an extra dimension to the words "Honor, Courage, Commitment."

You will play an enormous role in paying final tribute to a fallen shipmate. This duty goes beyond a moment of silence in remembrance of the fallen. This duty goes straight to the heart of surviving family members during one of their darkest hours. This is an important job and one that must be handled with the utmost care and commitment and epitomizes the meaning of "taking care of our own."

Your training will equip you to function effectively and professionally, no matter where, no matter when. I encourage you to focus all of your energy on the topic at hand, learn as much as you can, follow up to keep your knowledge fresh and up-to-date, and approach this assignment with all the seriousness and dignity it rightfully demands.

Our surviving family members consistently point to the assistance of their CACO as a comforting and sustaining presence during their time of trauma and grief. CACO duty can be difficult, time-consuming and emotional, but I assure you it will be one of the most rewarding aspects of your Navy career.

As you look back on your career, you can hold your head high and say with pride, "I was a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer and served my shipmates when they needed me." On behalf of all your shipmates, you have my respect, admiration and full support as you assume this critical leadership role.
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Module Learning Objectives:

- Using the “My Experience of Loss” worksheet, the learner will discuss anticipated challenges in completing the tasks of a CACO.
- The learner will demonstrate knowledge of CACO terms.

References:

- MILPERSMAN 1770 Series.
- OPNAVINST 1770.1A, Casualty Assistance Calls and Funeral Honors Support (CAC/FHS) Program Coordination (May 7, 2007).
- SECNAV Instruction 1770.3D, Management and Disposition of Incapacitation and Incapacitation Benefits for Members of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Units (March 17, 2006).
- CNIC Instruction 1770.2, Casualty Assistance Calls Program (May 17, 2011)
My Experience of Loss

This exercise is a self-assessment of your personal experience with loss. There are no right or wrong answers.

Consider these questions and what your answers would be to prepare yourself for the tasks of a CACO.

1. At this point in my life, I would describe my personal experience with death as:
   a. None  b. Very limited  c. Moderate  d. Extensive

2. I would say that my primary feeling about death is one of:

   __________________________________________________________

3. To date, my most significant loss through death has been:

   __________________________________________________________

4. When I witnessed or heard about that death my first reaction was:

   __________________________________________________________

5. To me, the most difficult part of adjusting to and recovering from that death was:

   __________________________________________________________

6. □ I have □ have not  had the experience of telling another person that a loved one has died.

7. At this point, my biggest fear about making a notification visit is:

   __________________________________________________________

8. For me, the most difficult next of kin (NOK) reaction to respond to would be:

   __________________________________________________________

9. I think I would handle that type of reaction by:

   __________________________________________________________

10. □ I volunteered to be a CACO □ I was directed to be a CACO
Terminology

**CACO:** The person assigned by the service or DoD component concerned to provide assistance to the families of ill, injured, DUSTWUN, EAWUN, missing or deceased members.

**Courtesy CACO:** An assignment that may be short-term and that would provide assistance in one of the following ways:
- Assist NOK traveling to the bedside of critically ill or injured service members.
- Make one-time personal visit to the NOK to notify them of the death of a deserter.
- Meet NOK who travel to the local area for a funeral, memorial service, or Dignified Transfer. May be assigned when a member is on a seriously injured/very seriously injured (SI/VSI) list. NOK are entitled to round-trip transportation and up to 30 days per diem paid by PERS-13. Assists NOK in filing travel claim.
- Make a one-time personal notification visit to NOK of Department of the Navy civilian employees.

**Standby CACO:** A CACO assignment when a member is reported as death imminent or when member is hospitalized overseas (including Alaska and Hawaii). No contact is made with the NOK until directed by the Regional Program Manager. Must keep local commanding officer informed as to whereabouts at all times to ensure NOK will receive immediate notification if member dies. Once member dies, can immediately notify NOK (can disregard notification time rule).

**Command Representative (Liaison):** A designated point of contact from the “losing” command who manages the execution of command responsibilities (i.e., the submission of PCR, Record of Emergency Data and SGLI Election Form; establishment of Inventory Control Board, etc.) and supports PERS-13 and the Regional Casualty Office to ensure command requirements have been met.

**Seriously Injured (SI):** The casualty status of a person whose illness or injury requires medical attention and medical authority declares that death is possible but not likely within 72 hours, and/or the severity is such that it is permanent and life-altering.

**Very Seriously Injured (VSI):** The casualty status of a person whose illness or injury is such that medical authority declares it more likely than not that death will occur within 72 hours.

**Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN):** A casualty status that includes:
- Physical absence (unaccounted for) not in a UA status.
- Cannot immediately be determined if the absence is voluntary or involuntary because the search for the member has not yet been completed.
- Commanding officer has a 10-day window before he/she must change member’s status to either Missing/Missing in Action; Detainment in a Foreign Country; Capture or Under Attack by Hostile Forces; Death; or Seriously Ill/Very Seriously Injured; UA; or Returned to duty

**Excused Absence Whereabouts Unknown (EAWUN):** An administrative status, applicable only to civilian personnel, that is used when the responsible commander suspects the employee may be a casualty whose absence is involuntary, but does not feel sufficient evidence exists to make a determination of missing or deceased.

**Defense Casualty Information Processing System (DCIPS):** The official information database for casualty and mortuary processes. The DCIPS database is the information systems standard which supports uniform procedures, accurate accounting and reporting of casualties, benefits tracking, and coordination of mortuary affairs.
CAC/FHS Program Lines of Authority/Responsibility

The lines of authority/responsibility for the CAC/FHS Program flow from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), through the Navy Personnel Command (NPC), through the Navy Casualty Assistance Branch (PERS-13), through Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) to the appropriate CAC/FHS regional commanders.

Policy — **PERS-13 Casualty Branch**, Millington TN. The mission of the Navy Casualty Assistance Division is to provide timely, compassionate and caring assistance for Navy families in times of need.

Policy Execution — **Commander, Navy Installations Command Casualty and Funeral Honors Program Manager** (CNIC N00K). CNIC is responsible for the execution authority, funding and technical support of the program.

Management Control — **Regional coordinator for the Casualty Assistance Calls Program (CACP) and Funeral Honors Support Program (FHSP)** for the respective area of responsibility (AOR) with overall responsibility for casualties/funerals in their region.
There are no CNIC Casualty or Funeral Honors Regional Directors in the Singapore or Korea Regions.


PERS-13 toll-free number for assistance to next of kin: (800) 368-3202.
The CACO Process

1. Incident Occurs
2. Command Reports Incident
3. Command submits PCR, RED and SGLI Information to PERS13 via DCIPS
4. CACO is appointed by Command CACO Coordinator
5. CACO Team Conducts Notification Visit
6. CACO Reports back to Regional CACO Coordinator
7. CACO conducts Funeral Arrangement Visit(s)
8. CACO Meets Remains at Airport if Applicable
9. CACO attends Funeral if AOR
10. CACO Conducts Benefits Visit(s)
11. CACO Introduces Gold Star to NOK
12. CACO confirms with appropriate parties that Benefits and Entitlements have been received
13. Case is closed/Transfer to Gold Star Program

Module One
CACO Student Guide
The Role of the CACO

When tasked with a CACO duty assignment, the assignment becomes the primary responsibility for the CACO. The specific duties of the CACO are to:

- Personally notify the NOK of the casualty and apprise them of circumstances surrounding the casualty, based on the facts that they have.
- Ascertain from the person authorized to direct disposition of remains (PADD) their desire for disposition of the remains (embalming/casketing, cremation, etc.) and notify local Decedent Affairs Officer (DAO), Mortuary Affairs Office (MAO), and Region CACO Coordinator.
- Determine the schedule for shipment of remains and keep the NOK informed.
- Inquire as to the needs of the casualty's immediate family and extend assistance as appropriate and permitted under instructions. Contact the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, American Red Cross, and other service organizations, if necessary, to obtain financial assistance for family.
- Arrange for payment of the death gratuity and assist the NOK with filling out the appropriate forms.
- Assist with funeral arrangements, including funeral honors, chaplain services and NOK transportation.
- Offer assistance in completion of survivor benefits applications and in obtaining or photocopying needed documents.
- Monitor shipment of casualty's personal effects and household goods and keep the NOK informed of shipping status. Note: CACOs do not work with a deceased member's personal effects. Personal effects are handled by the command representative (liaison), as discussed in Module 4. The CACO keeps the NOK informed as to the status of personal effects, and helps with their receipt.
- Refer news media queries to the local public affairs officer and protect personally identifiable information (PII) as stated in the Privacy Act.

Keys to Success

1. CACO Checklist
2. CACO Resources at http://www.cnic.navy.mil/CACO
3. Organizations Skills
4. Communication Skills
Terminology Review

Match the terms with the correct definition.

___1. CACO
___2. Command Representative (Liaison)
___3. Courtesy CACO
___4. DUSTWUN (Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown)
___5. EAWUN (Excused Absence Whereabouts Unknown)
___6. SI (Seriously Injured)
___7. Standby CACO
___8. VSI (Very Seriously Injured)
___9. DCIPS (Defense Casualty Information System)

A) An administrative status, applicable only to civilian personnel, that is used when the responsible commander suspects the employee may be a casualty whose absence is involuntary, but does not feel sufficient evidence exists to make a determination of missing or deceased.

B) An assignment that may be short-term and that would provide assistance in one of the following ways:
   • Assist NOK traveling to the bedside of critically ill or injured service members.
   • Make one-time personal visit to the NOK to notify them of the death of a deserter.
   • Meet NOK who travel to the local area for a funeral, memorial service, or Dignified Transfer. May be assigned when a member is on a seriously injured/very seriously injured (SI/VSI) list. NOK are entitled to round-trip transportation and up to 30 days per diem paid by PERS-13. Assists NOK in filing travel claim.
   • Make a one-time personal notification visit to NOK of Department of the Navy civilian employees.

C) A casualty status that includes:
   • Physical absence (unaccounted for) not in a UA status.
   • Cannot immediately be determined if the absence is voluntary or involuntary because the search for the member has not yet been completed.
   • Commanding officer has a 10-day window before he/she must change member’s status to either Missing/Missing in Action; Detainment in a Foreign Country; Capture or Under Attack by Hostile Forces; Death; or Seriously Ill/Very Seriously Injured; UA; or Returned to duty.

D) A CACO assignment when a member is reported as death imminent or when member is hospitalized overseas (including Alaska and Hawaii). No contact is made with the NOK until directed by the Regional Program Manager. Must keep local commanding officer informed as to whereabouts at all times to ensure NOK will receive immediate notification if member dies. Once member dies, can immediately notify NOK (can disregard notification time rule).

E) The casualty status of a person whose illness or injury is such that medical authority declares it more likely than not that death will occur within 72 hours.

F) A designated point of contact from the “losing” command who manages the execution of command responsibilities (i.e., the submission of PCR, Record of Emergency Data and SGLI Election Form; establishment of Inventory Control Board, etc.) and supports PERS-13 and the Regional Casualty Office to ensure command requirements have been met.

G) The casualty status of a person whose illness or injury requires medical attention and medical authority declares that death is possible but not likely within 72 hours, and/or the severity is such that it is permanent and life-altering.

H) The person assigned by the service or DoD component concerned to provide assistance to the families of ill, injured, DUSTWUN, EAWUN, missing or deceased members.

I) The official information database for casualty and mortuary processes. The DCIPS database is the information systems standard which supports uniform procedures, accurate accounting and reporting of casualties, benefits tracking, and coordination of mortuary affairs.
Module Learning Objectives:

- During the “Using the PCR” activity, the learner will correctly identify key information contained in the PCR.
- Participating in a role-play, the learner will demonstrate proper notification technique.
- The learner will demonstrate knowledge of CACO terms by correctly completing a matching exercise.
- The learner will apply the appropriate steps, reports, forms and information of the notification visit to a group case study

References:

- MILPERSMAN 1770 Series.
- OPNAVINST 1770.1A, Casualty Assistance Calls and Funeral Honors Support (CAC/FHS) Program Coordination (May 7, 2007).
- CNIC Instruction 1770.2, Casualty Assistance Calls Program (May 17, 2011)
Terminology

**Personnel Casualty Report (PCR):** The initial report that records the casualty and all relevant, known information. At a minimum, PCR should include type of casualty, rank, name, Social Security number, location of the body and factual circumstances. PCR should be submitted within 4 hours by commander, commanding officer (CO) or immediate superior in command (ISIC) of a member who suffers the casualty. The PCR will be submitted electronically using the web-based PCR on the DCIPS portal.

**Record of Emergency Data:** A form used to designate beneficiaries for certain benefits and designate the PADD in event of the Service member’s death. It is a guide for disposition of that member’s pay and allowances if captured, missing, or interred. It also shows the names and addresses of the person(s) the Service member desires to be notified in case of emergency or death. The form for this information is the NAVPERS 1070/602 or DD form 93. Also called a “page 2” in the Navy.

**Primary Next of Kin (PNOK):** The person most closely related to the casualty, usually the unremarried surviving spouse (does not include one who obtained a divorce from the decedent at any time). If there is no surviving spouse, others are recognized in the following order: Natural and adopted children, parents, blood or adoptive relative with legal custody, siblings, grandparents, other relationships of legal age, persons standing in loco parentis, remarried surviving spouse. See DoDI 1300.18 for more details.

**Secondary Next of Kin (SNOK):** Any other NOK not designated as PNOK. Includes minor children who reside outside the immediate household of the member, parents (if not listed as PNOK), and any relative or friend named on the NAVPERS 1070-602, Dependency Application/Record of Emergency Data or DD 92, Record of Emergency Data (if listed to receive Death Gratuity/unpaid pay and allowances, SGLI). If the member does not have a spouse, the eldest adult child is PNOK and all other children are SNOK.

**Other Interested Parties (OIP):** Other interested parties include anyone named on a Sailor’s DD Form 93 (1-08), Record of Emergency Data; or SGLV 8286 (9-07), Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate, as a beneficiary.

**Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD):** A person who is authorized to direct disposition of human remains. Sailors identify a PADD on their DD Form 93. If the PADD is not designated by the Sailor, the PADD is recognized by order of precedence; surviving spouse, children who have reached the age of majority, parents in order of seniority, etc.

**NAVPERS 1770/9:** Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information Form. Form used by the CACO to verify personal information about the NOK, to include address information.

**NAVPERS 1770/8:** Consent for Release of Personal Information. Form signed by the NOK to authorize the release of their personal information to individuals and organizations, to include Members of Congress, making offers of support and condolences in the form of letters, gifts, grants, and financial relief.
**NAVPERS 1770/10**: Next of Kin Travel Request. Form that collects personal information, including desired travel arrangements, on persons using official travel due to a casualty.

**Death Gratuity**: One-time non-taxable payment to help surviving family members deal with the financial hardships that accompany the loss of a service member.

**Bedside Travel**: In those military VSI or SI cases in which a competent medical authority requests the presence of NOK at bedside, the casualty office of the military service concerned shall be the final approval authority and shall assist in arranging appropriate government-funded invitational travel in accordance with paragraph U5246 of the Joint Federal Travel Regulations.

**Dignified Transfer of Remains (DTR)**: The process by which the Department of Defense moves transfer cases containing human remains from one conveyance to another. Example: A dignified transfer occurs when human remains are removed from an aircraft arriving at Dover Air Force Base and placed into a mortuary transfer vehicle for ground transportation to the Port Mortuary.
Types of CACO Assignments

1. **CACO (Deceased Sailor):** The CACO has four main roles:
   a. Notifies the NOK of the death of their family member
   b. Assists the NOK with the funeral arrangements
   c. Assists the NOK in filing for all the survivor benefits they are entitled to.
   d. Ensures the proper forms and reports are completed for documenting the case

2. **CACO (DUSTWUN or Missing Sailor):** CACOs assigned to NOK in cases of Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN) or missing have additional responsibilities and procedures from that of a standard deceased case.
   a. Notifies the NOK of the casualty status of their family member
   b. Provides updates on search for the member
   c. Notify the NOK of any change to their family member’s status.
   d. Ensures the proper forms and reports are completed for documenting the case

3. **Courtesy CACO (Ill or Injured Sailor):** The Courtesy CACO will provide family arrival assistance to Designated Individuals when Invitation Travel Orders (ITOs) or Authorizations are issued. The Courtesy CACO will ensure the family is met at their point of arrival, where the member is hospitalized and escorted or provided directions to the hospital or military treatment facility. Additional assistance may be provided in securing lodging at or near the treatment facility
   a. **Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor:** The Navy’s sole organization for coordinating the non-medical care of seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, and providing resources and support to their families

4. **Courtesy CACO (Funeral attendance):** Attend the service member’s funeral as a Navy representative when the location of the funeral is not in the local area of the NOK’s assigned CACO.

5. **CACO (POW/MIA – repatriation case):** A Courtesy CACO will be assigned to the NOK of service members whose remains are found from past wars and conflicts and are repatriated to the United States.
   a. Accompany the Navy Identification Team for the initial Identification Briefing
   b. Assists the NOK with the funeral arrangements
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Checklist

There is a checklist to guide you through each phase of the CACO process.

- Relevant forms, offices and agencies are all listed.
- There are places for you to write important phone numbers, POCs and other information.
- This will be one of your primary organization tools.
- When you are assigned a case, start a binder (recommend a 2-inch, three-ring binder). Have several tabbed sections in the binder, and include a blank notebook for notes and diary entries.
- Put a copy of the checklist in the front of the binder.

*Complete copies of the CACO Checklists are contained in Appendix X and on the CACO Resources webpage.

Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Notification Checklist

Preparation

☐ Contact regional Casualty Assistance Calls (CAC) office prior to departure for specific guidance.

☐ Personnel Casualty Report and Other Forms: Obtain a copy of the Personnel Casualty Report (PCR), Record of Emergency Data (DD Form 93 or NAVPERS 1070/602) and Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) election form (SGLV 8286). (In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, next of kin (NOK) shall not see or be told who the other beneficiaries are on the Record of Emergency Data or SGLI election form.)

☐ Notification Team: Arrange for a chaplain to accompany you on the notification visit. (Chaplain support may be provided from a different military service) If a chaplain is not available, arrange for another uniformed service member to accompany you. Never conduct a notification alone!

☐ Latest Information: Contact the parent command to receive the latest information concerning the casualty.

☐ Transportation: Obtain a government vehicle.

☐ Directions and Map: Obtain directions and/or a map to the home of the NOK, or verify route using GPS.

☐ Calling Card: Print several CACO calling cards.

☐ Uniform: Prepare uniform for notification visit. Wear service dress uniform of the season. If unsure ask the region program manager or your command for guidance.
In accordance with the provisions of DoD Instruction 1300-18, MILPERSMAN 1770-030, and NAVADMIN 090/15, a PCR must be submitted to Navy Casualty for the following circumstances:

- Any Sailor who becomes unaccounted for (Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN))
- Any Sailor who dies on Active Duty
- Any Sailor who dies while a member of the Navy Reserve (regardless of duty status)
- Any Sailor who is declared Very Seriously Ill/Injured (VSI) by competent medical authority
- Any Sailor who is declared Seriously Ill/Injured (SI) by competent medical authority
- Any Sailor who is declared Not Seriously Ill/Injured (NSI) in an operational area (combat zone)

Whenever possible, PCR will be submitted electronically using the Web-based PCR the DCIPS portal.
To access the web-based PCR, CAC-holder must navigate to one of the following URL:

https://dcsa.hrc.army.mil/pcr
https://dcsb.hrc.army.mil/pcr
https://dcsc.hrc.army.mil/pcr
https://dcsd.hrc.army.mil/pcr

When the system requests it, select a valid certificate from your CAC and if asked, enter your PIN.

A User Guide for U.S. Navy Personnel Casualty Report (PCR) Online is available at:

After submitting PCR, it is highly recommended that the author contact Navy Casualty to ensure PCR was received and that all is in order.

During duty hours call 1-800-368-3202. DSN during duty hours is 882-2501. After hours call the Casualty Watch, their number is 901-634-9279.

Once the PCR has been submitted, all addressees that are preprogrammed to receive DCIPS notifications will receive an Email. This Email will prompt Navy Casualty (Casualty Watch during non-duty hours) to check DCIPS and take appropriate action to review and validate the report before submitting it to the CACO Regions and other functional offices for further action.

As an emergency capability only, commands may send an encrypted e-mail with pertinent reporting information to the mill_navcas_duty@navy.mil inbox. Report should include reporting command information, and required fields identified in the DCIPS reporting guide (page 5). Additionally, commands may attach necessary documents to the e-mail. As this is a backup capability, using this method may result in a delayed response.
Sample PCR

Field Report Type: INIT
Field Report Number: N47724-FY15-003
Casualty Type: Nonhostile
Casualty Status: Deceased
Casualty Category: Accident
Special Category Special Interest
Multi Casualty:
SSN: 123-45-6789
Last Name: Henry
First Name: John
Middle Name: Patrick
Suffix:
Person Type: Regular
Person Affiliation: Active Duty
Person Category: Obligated/Voluntary Service
Rank: CPO
Grade: E-7
Service: United States Navy
Unit: USS Flattop, Norfolk, VA
UIC: 00000
In Support of Other Service:
Incident Dt: 10 Apr 2015 21:45
Circumstances: Member lost control of motorcycle and hit curb then was thrown from motorcycle. Member sustained chest trauma.
Inflicting Force:
Was Conflict:
Ops Incident:
Event:
Investigation Required:
Vehicle Group:
Vehicle:
Armor level:
Vehicle Owner:
Position in Vehicle:
Incident City: Norfolk
Incident State: Virginia
Incident Country: United States
Grid:
Lat/Long:
Location:
Diagnosis:
Cause: Accident
Death Dt: 10 Apr 2015 21:45
Death City: Norfolk
Death State: Virginia
Death Country: United States
Died in Medical Facility: Died Outside A Medical Treatment Facility
Continuously Hospitalized: Not Continuously Hospitalized
Race: White
Ethnicity: None
Sex: Male
Religion:
Birth Dt: 20 Nov 1980
Birth City:
Birth State: Florida
Birth Country: United States
Citizenship: United States
DMOS:
PMOS:  
PEBD:  
BASD:  
Home of Record (City):  
Home of Record (State):  
Home of Record (Country):  
Civilian Employer Type:  
Civilian Pay Grade:  
Civilian Contract Agency:  
Civilian Organization:  
DD93/RED Completion Dt:  
DD93/RED Review Dt:  
SGLI Dt:  
Training/Duty Related:  
Training Type:  
Training Start Date:  
Training End Date:  
Duty Status:  Pass/Liberty  
Start Dt:  
End Dt:  
Retired/Separation Dt:  
TDRL/PDRL:  
TDRL/PDRL %:  
TDRL/PDRL Dt:  
Posthumous Recommend Date:  
Posthumous Rank Recommended:  
Higher Rank Held:  
Higher Rank Held From Dt:  
Higher Rank Held To Dt:  
DG Remarks:  
Remarks:  
(PNOK) Jane Henry, Hometown Street, Any Town, USA, Spouse  
(SNOK) Joseph Henry, Old Road, Another Town, USA, Father.  
SVMBR's remains are held at Community Regional Medical Center, Any Town, USA. 800-555-1234.  
Closed Dt:  
User Registration Info:  
Name:  Jones, Sailor C.  
Rank/Grade:  CPO - Chief Petty Officer - E07  
Phone:  888-555-1234  
Email:  sailor.jones@navy.mil  
Service:  United States Navy  
Unit:  USS Flattop  
UIC:  00000  
Location:  
City:  Norfolk  
State:  Virginia  
Country:  United States
Using the PCR/PG2/SGLI

(See MILPERSMAN 1770-030 and NAVADMIN 090/15 for more details on the PCR.)

Locate the following information on the sample PCR on the next page:

1. What are the circumstances of the service member’s death?

2. Who is the POC at the service member’s command?

3. Who is the PNOK? SNOK?

4. Where did the incident happen?

5. Where are the remains?

6. Who is to receive the death gratuity?

7. Who is the PADD?
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer Notification Checklist

Notification of Primary Next of Kin

☐ **Time of Notification:** Notification will be made between the hours of 0500 and 2400 unless one of the following circumstances occurs:
  - Death occurred in theater during the war.
  - High media interest.
  - Otherwise directed by PERS-13 or regional commander.

☐ **Media Attention:** If contacted by the media have them contact your Public Affairs Officer (PAO). If your command does not have a PAO, have them contact your immediate superior in charge (ISIC) PAO.

☐ **In-Person Contact with NOK:** Identify and make contact in person with the NOK immediately. If notification must be made at place of employment, speak with a manager or someone in charge. Try to arrange for a private place to make the notification, and arrange to get the NOK home safely.

☐ **Notification:**
  - Identify yourselves and present a calling card
  - Confirm the identity of the NOK
  - Confirm their relationship to the service member
  - Ask to enter the home
  - Deliver the notification:
    - “On behalf of the Secretary of the Navy, I regret to inform you that your (relation) died today of (list circumstances as known). I am deeply sorry.” (specific information can be read from Items Charlie and Delta on the PCR):

☐ **Casualty Details:** Provide NOK with reported circumstances of the incident.

☐ **Inform** NOK of current location of remains. Update family as the status changes on the location of their loved one’s remains and the anticipated transportation dates.
Notification Samples

Identity yourself:

“Mrs. Brown, I am LT Green and this is Chaplain Blue. We have some important news about your husband CWO Frank Brown. May we speak with you?”

Confirm the identity of the NOK:

“Let me make sure our information is correct. Are you the wife of CWO Frank Brown who is stationed on the USS Kitty Hawk?”

Ask to enter home: Speak quietly, clearly and slowly. Make every professional effort to obtain approval to enter their home.

“Mrs. Brown, may we please step inside. We need to speak with you privately.”

Be simple and direct: Avoid euphemism or vague language: Use the word “dead.” The words “death” and “dead” have a finality that has been found to be helpful for NOK’s acceptance of the loss.

“On behalf of the Secretary of the Navy, I regret to inform you that your husband (CWO Frank Brown) was in a traffic accident this morning and was reported dead at 8 a.m. I am deeply sorry.”

Make clear and factual statements about the incident (refer to the PCR). Inform the PNOK of the current location of remains. Inform the PNOK that the American Red Cross can assist with notifying any other active-duty relatives. Advise the PNOK that a letter of condolence will be forthcoming from the commanding officer, and that you can assist them in getting the results of any relevant investigations into the death.

*Place of Employment: If notification must be made at place of employment, speak with a manager or someone in charge. Try to arrange for a private place to make the notification, and arrange to get the NOK home safely.

“Mr. Johnson, I am LT Gray and this is Chaplain Blue. We have some important information for Mrs. Brown. Is there somewhere that we may speak with her privately?”

NOTE: Do not make the official notification to the manager as you are there to notify the NOK.

Condolence Call. When a notification of death is made by sources other than the Navy, (e.g., hospital staff, law enforcement, death at home with NOK, etc.) a condolence call is suggested:

"On behalf of the Secretary of the Navy, I offer condolences on the death of your (relation). I am deeply sorry.”
Notification Visit Continued
(Checklist)

☐ Dignified Transfer of Remains: If killed in action, inform NOK of the details of the dignified transfer of remains, and obtain preferences for media coverage in accordance with DoDI 1300.18 and the Dignified Transfer of Remains Script from DCIPS. The only forms that absolutely must be completed on the notification visit is the Dignified Transfer of remains paper work and the Next of Kin Travel Request, NAVPERS 1770/10.

☐ Notifying Other Active-Duty Relatives: Inform the NOK that PERS-13 can assist with notifying any other active-duty relatives.

☐ Letter of Circumstances: Inform NOK that a condolence letter is forthcoming from the commanding officer and then follow up with parent command to ensure the letter is prepared and mailed to NOK within 48 hours.

☐ Investigations: Advise NOK that investigations will be conducted as warranted, i.e., Line of Duty, JAGMAN, Aircraft Mishap or police report. Tell them that you can assist them in completing the requests for this information on a later visit and will keep them apprised of the status of any relevant investigations.

☐ Immediate Needs: Inquire as to any immediate needs of NOK (for example emergency financial needs). Assistance can be obtained from the local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the American Red Cross.

☐ Personal Information and Forms:
  o If appropriate, complete NAVPERS 1770/8 and 1770/9 (see below). If not appropriate, get the following information from the NOK:
    ▪ Complete name.
    ▪ Correct address and phone numbers.
    ▪ If death gratuity beneficiary, get Social Security Number (death gratuity beneficiaries are indicated on the deceased member’s Record of Emergency Data)
  o Consent for the Release of Personal Information, NAVPERS 1770/8: If appropriate, obtain the signature of the PNOK on the form and fax/e-mail it to the regional CAC office and PERS-13. Reassure the NOK that if they choose not to consent to the disclosure of their information, it will not affect processing benefits and other official actions. This form only restricts the release of information to third-party organizations such as grief counseling agencies, other non governmental agencies and commercial vendors.
  o Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information, NAVPERS 1770/9: If appropriate, complete the form. Ensure that all blocks are completed to include ZIP code +4 (example: 12345-6789).

☐ Death Gratuity (electronic funds transfer): Provide death gratuity recipients with the DD 397 and SF1199A forms to fill out. Get a voided check from the beneficiary’s banking institution. When completed, fax/e-mail the DD 397, SF1199A, and voided check to your Regional CAC and forward to PERS-13 after confirmation from your Regional CAC.

☐ Death Gratuity (paper check only): Follow the procedures in MILPERSMAN 1770-280 to assist the NOK if the death gratuity is requested to be paid by paper check.
☐ **If the Casualty is an Officer:** Obtain the following information about the deceased member from the NOK:

- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Religion
- Home of Record
- Place of Entry into the Navy

☐ **Do Not Leave NOK Alone:** Before leaving the NOK, ensure that they are not alone. Arrange for someone to be with them (family, friends, or ombudsman) to provide continuing support and assistance.

☐ **Arrange Funeral Arrangements Visit:** Before leaving, assure the NOK that you will provide continuing assistance and of your availability. Schedule a visit with the NOK, if they are the PADD, for the following day to make funeral arrangements.

**CACO Calling Card:** Leave several completed CACO calling cards with the NOK.
Dignified Transfer of Remains Script

RANK AND NAME OF FALLEN: Petty Officer 1st Class John S. Sailor

RELATIONSHIP TO PNOK: Son

PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN (PNOK): Sailor

Sir/Ma’am:

The Department of Defense ensures our Fallen are returned to the United States as soon as possible by way of Dover Air Force Base, Dover, Delaware. Currently, it is not known when your son is scheduled to arrive. At the time of your son’s arrival, a Dignified Transfer will occur. This solemn and dignified moment embraces the movement of your son in a flag-draped transfer case from the aircraft to an awaiting transport vehicle. This vehicle departs in silence and proceeds to the Port Mortuary.

The United States Navy will arrange for you and two eligible Family members to travel, at government expense, to Dover Air Force Base to observe this Dignified Transfer. Please know that the Dignified Transfer will be approximately fifteen minutes in length. Neither you, nor the members of your party, will be permitted to view or spend time with your son while at Dover Air Force Base. Neither you nor members of your party will be permitted to enter the Port Mortuary. If you have any questions, we will make every effort to address those concerns.

Your Assistance Officer will be your primary point of contact throughout and beyond this event. Would you like for us to make travel arrangements for you and two eligible family members to attend the Dignified Transfer at Dover Air Force Base?

YES TRAVEL

NO TRAVEL

UNDECIDED AT THIS TIME

Designated Traveler (PNOK):__________________________

Secondary Traveler: ________________________________

Third Traveler: ________________________________

MEDIA CONSENT

Another matter on which I need your decision is media coverage of your son’s Dignified Transfer. Please decide on one of the following three alternatives.

1. PUBLIC MEDIA: yes and DVD yes: I choose to have the Dignified Transfer recorded and presented on a DVD; and I AGREE to allow representatives from the Public Media to record the event for possible release to local media. I understand that no Family members are ever seen or identified in this process. An announcement of the Dignified Transfer will be sent to the media outlets and members of the media may be present, however, they will not be in sight, film, or speak with Family members. (FULL RECORD)

2. PUBLIC MEDIA: no and DVD yes: I choose to have the Dignified Transfer recorded and presented on a DVD; I DO NOT wish to permit any representatives from the Public Media to be present. However, if this option is selected, the internal coverage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. This means external media and the general public may request a copy of the DVD. (LIMITED RECORD)

3. NO MEDIA AND NO DVD: I choose NO recording of the Dignified Transfer. (NO RECORD)

Witnessed Printed Name: ____________________________________________

Witnessed Signature / Date: _________________________________________

- This script is printed directly out of DCIPS and will be given to you by your Regional Casualty Assistance Center. Contact PERS-13 as soon as possible once PNOK decision is obtained. E-mail the above document as soon as possible.
Death Gratuity Information

The death gratuity is a lump-sum payment made by the Department of Defense to the survivors or other individuals identified by the service member prior to his/her death while on active duty, active duty for training, inactive duty for training, or within 120 days after release from active duty if the death is due to a service-related disability. The amount of death gratuity is $100,000.

A service member may designate one or more persons to receive all or a portion of the death gratuity payment. The designation of a person to receive a portion of the amount will be identified by the service member as a percentage of the total amount in 10 percent increments. Any amount not designated by the member will be paid to or for the living survivors of the member in accordance with existing law and regulation.

The death gratuity will normally be paid within 24 to 72 hours to the eligible beneficiary, although there are some situations where it may be delayed (e.g., legal guardianship of minor children must be established before payment, see below). When discussing the death gratuity payments, assigned CACOs will explain that electronic funds transfer (EFT) is the primary means of payment. Paper checks will only be offered as an alternative in the event that the beneficiary requests another form of payment. If families require any type of special handling, CACOs should contact the regional CAC office or their case manager for guidance.

Although EFT is the preferred method of delivery, if the beneficiary desires a paper check, the check is issued by DFAS, which will overnight the check to either the CACO or the regional CAC office. Whenever a check is issued in lieu of EFT, CACOs will offer to accompany the death gratuity beneficiary to the financial institution of their choice and provide assistance with the transaction. CACOs will inform and explain to any beneficiary who receives a death gratuity check that many financial institutions have policies which preclude immediate access to those funds and that this delay may range from 7 to 10 business days. EFT payment improves the security and speed by which the funds are made available to the eligible beneficiary.

CACOs will provide the bank representative and the eligible beneficiaries the following telephone numbers: (800) 368-3202 (toll free), (901) 874-2501 (Comm), and 882-2501 (DSN) so they can call 24/7 to speak with a Navy Casualty Office representative to verify death gratuity eligibility and the amount authorized.

CACOs will encourage the eligible beneficiary to seek financial counseling and advice from a duly licensed source (e.g., Navy Mutual Aid, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, their bank/credit union or a financial counselor). The CACO will offer assistance in obtaining the same, if desired.

**Minor Children:** Guardianship of the property of a minor child is completely different than guardianship of the child(ren). The laws of the state the children reside in will determine whether or not the monies can be delivered. A parent or guardian will be required to go through the local court system to establish guardianship of the minor’s property. Normally the court will set up a trust fund in the child’s name with the parent as a guardian of that fund. The guardian can return to the court to petition for a release of funds as needs arise. “Will” recommendations will be considered during this process. If the parent or guardian doesn’t desire to have guardianship established, the monies will remain in place until the child reaches the age of majority, at which time the monies will be awarded and the case can be closed.
The Range of Reactions to Notification

Be prepared for a wide range of reactions and responses to the notification. If the NOK remains silent, then usually it is safe to proceed with details. Reactions include:

**Physical Response:** Fainting, hyperventilating, nausea, vomiting, cardiac arrest or self-inflicted injuries.

**Anger:** Rage that may include screaming or attempts to strike the CACO or others.

**Uncontrolled Grief and Hysteria:** Crying, sobbing, tearing at clothing, pulling their hair.

**Apparent Disinterest:** Appearance that the news does not affect them (this reaction may be a form of denial).

**Denial:** A reaction that does not allow the NOK to process the news. Usually a temporary anesthetic that allows us to continue to function in the face of events that would otherwise be debilitating.

**Block Out:** A reaction to unexpected event that impairs recollection or memory of what was heard or said. Do not assume the NOK will hear or remember anything you say.

**Resentment/Blame:** In some cases, the NOK will feel resentment toward the Navy or others and blame the loss on them.
Communication Principles

Active listening skills are an effective tool for a CACO. At the time of the initial notification, communication principles are very simple: speaking softly and calmly, nodding your head to show acknowledgement, maintaining appropriate eye contact, and using words such as “I see” or “I understand.”

As your relationship with the family continues, other active listening skills will help:

- **Minimize internal distractions.** If your own thoughts keep intruding, simply let them go and continuously re-focus your attention on the speaker, much as you would during meditation.
- **Keep an open mind.** Wait until the speaker is finished before deciding that you disagree. Try not to make assumptions about what the speaker is thinking.
- **Avoid letting the speaker know how you handled a similar situation.** Unless they specifically ask for advice, assume they just need to talk it out.
- **Even if the speaker is launching a complaint against you, wait until the speaker finishes defending yourself.** The speaker will feel as though his/her point has been made. They will not feel the need to repeat it, and you will know the whole argument before you respond. Research shows that, on average, we can hear four times faster than we can talk, so we have the ability to sort ideas as they come in… and be ready for more.
- **Engage yourself.** Ask questions for clarification, but, once again, wait until the speaker has finished. That way, you will not interrupt his/her train of thought. After you ask questions, paraphrase what you heard to make sure you did not misunderstand. Start with: “So you’re saying…”
- **Do not make promises.** Do not make promises about benefits. Do not commit to or promise the NOK anything that cannot be provided or that is clearly outside the jurisdiction of the Navy. You are not a benefits expert, so during the notification visit it is best to refrain from discussing benefits, entitlements, and disposition of remains unless specifically requested by the NOK. These issues will be briefed to you by the RPM and case managers at PERS-13 prior to the benefits visit.
Barriers to communication can be significant in any situation, but especially under the conditions that you will be working. Barriers include:

- **Expectations**: Assumptions a person has made before the communication begins about what will take place, how another person thinks or feels or how another person will act.
- **Self-concept**: How we see ourselves affects how we communicate. For example, if you believe you are less intelligent than the person you are communicating with you may simply accept what that person says, even if you disagree.
- **Emotion**: How we are feeling affects the way we communicate. A normally calm person who is able to express ideas rationally may have trouble doing that if he is experiencing a strong emotion such as grief, frustration or anger. People in the grip of emotion may also have problems hearing suggestions that do not mirror their point of view.
- **Message content**: The message content is unpalatable, and the receiver may choose to disregard the message or turn against the messenger.
- **Social Role Assumptions**: Differences in rank and rate can lead to perceived differences in social status. A person may defer to or be less open with people who are perceived to be in a higher social position or rank.
- **Gender Assumptions**: Similar to expectations, but the assumptions made are based on gender. For example, women are impractical and emotional; men are unobservant and poor communicators.
- **Muddled or Confused Messages**: When you are not clear on what you want to say, or when you give out too much information.
- **Unfavorable Channel**: Choosing a method of delivery that is not optimal. (Example: having to deliver notification over the phone.)
- **Language**: Assumption that the words you use are understood in the same way by the receiver. This would include use of shorthand and acronyms.
- **Unintentional Invalidation**: When someone discounts what someone else is feeling or saying. Dangerous statements include things like, “You’ll find someone else,” or “You’ll get over it,” or “Come on, it isn’t that bad…” or “You think you’re suffering. When my dog died, I was devastated.” Or “I know exactly how you feel. When my grandfather passed away, I was lost.”
- **Timing is off**: When a person is dealing with emergency issues, he/she will not be able to focus on long-term fixes.
- **Discomfort with Silence**: When a speaker rushes in because he/she is uncomfortable with silence. You must recognize the importance of letting people think and letting silence work.
- **Diverting**: When one speaker moves the conversation to what he or she wants to talk about (“You think that’s bad, the other day I was …”)
Tips for Productive Communication:

- Do not attempt to fix or remedy the situation — it can’t be done. However, you can help pick up the pieces.
- Do not argue, defend, rationalize or justify.
- Do not minimize or diminish: Phrases such as “It’s for the best” or “You’ll feel better soon” are often not effective.
- Do not absorb or invalidate.
- Do chunk information into small pieces. Large amounts of information are difficult to process. Pause after presenting two or three facts.
- Do check for understanding. Do not wait for the NOK to seek clarification. (Example: “Let’s make sure we have this correct.” Rather than simply asking if there are any questions.)

Do summarize often: Rephrase and summarize key points. (Example: Now, let’s review what we have said so that I can ensure that we have covered everything or if something needs further explanation.)
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Notification Checklist

Follow-Up to the Notification Visit

☐ Provide Information to regional CAC office (ROC if after hours): Immediately report the following by phone

- Date of Notification:
- Time of Notification:
- Verified Name of NOK:
- Address and Phone of NOK:
- Accompanying Chaplain’s Name (or service member)(if applicable):
- Social Security number of NOK (if applicable):
- Preference for receiving death gratuity (if applicable):

☐ Provide Information to Commanding Officer of Deceased Service Member: Call the deceased service member’s commanding officer (PCR Item Bravo) and report the date and time of notification to the NOK.

☐ MAO/DAO: If your NOK is the PADD, contact the Mortuary Affairs Office or Decedent Affairs Office for a detailed breakdown of authorized mortuary benefits and guidance.

- Ask if the AFMAO FAQ sheet and acknowledgement is required.

☐ Advise Others: Keep PERS-13, other involved CAC offices, and any other CACOs assigned to this case informed of any issues.

☐ Additional Administration: Keep accurate and up-to-date case notes in your case file.

- Travel Notes
  - Mileage records for travel claims
  - Official cell phone calls above normal plan
- Make 2 copies of all documents
  - Maintain file copy and give one to PNOK/SNOK
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Notification Checklist

Forms and Information for the Notification Visit available at the CACO resource webpage

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Form Name</th>
<th>Form Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACO Calling Card Template</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dignified Transfer of Remains Script</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Next of Kin Travel Request</td>
<td>NAVPERS 1770/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consent to Release Personal Information</td>
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<td>Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death Gratuity</td>
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<td>Death Gratuity Payment Instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment</td>
<td>DD 397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form</td>
<td>SF1199A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case Contact Information for Notification Visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Type</th>
<th>Contact Information (Name, Phone, Fax, Email, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td>Toll Free: (877) 272-7337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command Information (CO, XO, CMC, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decedent Affairs Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Mortuary Affairs Office</td>
<td>Toll Free: (866) 787-0081 After Hours Cell: (901) 619-8157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society</td>
<td>Toll Free: (800) 654-8364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other CAC Offices/ CACO's</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional CAC Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Forms

Dignified Transfer of Remains Script

RANK AND NAME OF FALLEN: GM2 LEROY Q SAILOR
RELATIONSHIP TO PNOK: SON
PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN (PNOK): JOHN Q. SAILOR

Sir/Madam:

The Department of Defense ensures our Fallen are returned to the United States as soon as possible by way of Dover Air Force Base, Dover, Delaware. Currently, it is not known when your son is scheduled to arrive. At the time of your son's arrival, a Dignified Transfer will occur. This solemn and dignified moment embraces the movement of your son in a flag-draped transfer case from the aircraft to an awaiting transport vehicle. This vehicle departs in silence and proceeds to the Port Mortuary.

The United States Navy will arrange for you and two eligible Family members to travel, at government expense, to Dover Air Force Base to observe this Dignified Transfer. Please know that the Dignified Transfer will be approximately fifteen minutes in length. Neither you, nor the members of your party, will be permitted to view or spend time with your son while at Dover Air Force Base. Neither you nor members of your party will be permitted to enter the Port Mortuary. If you have any questions, we will make every effort to address those concerns.

Your Assistance Officer will be your primary point of contact throughout and beyond this event. Would you like for us to make travel arrangements for you and two eligible family members to attend the Dignified Transfer at Dover Air Force Base?

- [ ] YES TRAVEL
- [ ] NO TRAVEL
- [ ] UNDECIDED AT THIS TIME

Designated Traveler (PNOK): JOHN Q. SAILOR
Secondary Traveler: KERI L. SAILOR
Third Traveler: SAM Q. SAILOR

MEDIA CONSENT

Another matter on which I need your decision is media coverage of your son’s Dignified Transfer. Please decide on one of the following three alternatives.

1. [ ] PUBLIC MEDIA: yes and DVD yes: I choose to have the Dignified Transfer recorded and presented on a DVD and I AGREE to allow representatives from the Public Media to record the event for possible release to local media. I understand that no Family members are ever seen or identified in this process. An announcement of the Dignified Transfer will be sent to the media outlets and members of the media may be present, however, they will not be in sight, film, or speak with Family members. (FULL RECORD)

2. [ ] PUBLIC MEDIA: no and DVD yes: I choose to have the Dignified Transfer recorded and presented on a DVD. I DO NOT wish to permit any representatives from the Public Media to be present. However, if this option is selected, the internal coverage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. This means external media and the general public may request a copy of the DVD. (LIMITED RECORD)

3. [ ] NO MEDIA AND NO DVD: I choose NO recording of the Dignified Transfer. (NO RECORD)

Witnessed Printed Name: ANY CACO
Witnessed Signature / Date: ANY CACO

* This script is printed directly out of OCP5 and will be given to you by your Regional Casualty Assistance Center. Contact OPNAV N135C as soon as possible once PNOK decision is obtained. E-mail the above document as soon as possible.
Sample Forms

Next of Kin Travel Request (NAVPERS 1770/10)
Sample Forms

Consent to Release Personal Information

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

AUTHORITY: 10 USC 113 AND 5 USC 552A
PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: TO OBTAIN CONSENT TO RELEASE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF DECEASED SERVICEMEMBERS’ FAMILY.
ROUTINE USES: TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES OFFERING PRIVATE VICTIM RELIEF AND CONDOLENCE AS A RESULT OF A SERVICEMEMBER DEATH.
DISCLOSURE: DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY. IF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION IS NOT PROVIDED, THE U.S. NAVY WILL NOT PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES CONDUCTING PRIVATE RELIEF OR OFFERING CONDOLENCE AS A RESULT OF A SERVICEMEMBER DEATH.

RELEASE INFORMATION

DECEASED SERVICE MEMBER'S NAME: 

I hereby authorize the U.S. Navy, through its agents including my Casualty Assistance Calls Officer, to release the personal information listed below to any individual(s) or organization(s), to include Members of Congress, making an offer of support and condolences in the form of letters, gifts, grants and financial relief. I understand this authorization may be revoked at any time, if requested in writing by me, except to the extent that action has already been taken. If authorizing the release of personal information concerning a minor, I assert I am the named minor's parent or legal guardian.

PERSONAL INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED (attach continuation sheets as necessary)

NAME

JOHN Q. SAILOR

RELATIONSHIP

FATHER

AGE (IF MINOR)

ADDRESS

123 MAIN ST, ANYTOWN, PA 12345

TELEPHONE NUMBER

444-687-5231

PLEASE INITIAL ONE OF THE BELOW OPTIONS:

☐ I CONSENT TO THE DISCLOSURE OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION LISTED ABOVE TO INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS, TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO MAY CONTACT THE NAVY FOR THIS INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED.

☐ I DO NOT CONSENT TO THE DISCLOSURE OF MY PERSONAL INFORMATION.

USE OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION

THE PERSONAL INFORMATION MAY ONLY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PRIVATE VICTIM RELIEF AND CONDOLENCE AS A RESULT OF A SERVICEMEMBER DEATH. ANY DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION BY THE RECIPIENT(S) IS PROHIBITED EXCEPT WHEN IMPLICIT IN THE PURPOSES OF THIS DISCLOSURE.

SIGNATURE

DATE:

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PRIVACY SENSITIVE

Consent to Release Personal Information (NAVPERS 1770/8)
# Sample Forms

## PRIMARY/SECONDARY

### NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION

*(PLEASE NOTE THAT NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OF THE DECEDED'S PARENTS, MINOR CHILDREN AND OTHERS RECEIVING BENEFITS)*

**REGION:** COMNAVREG MIDLANT

**SUBMITTED BY:** Any CACO

**DATE:** 10-Feb-2015

**PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION**

**AUTHORITY:** 10 USC 113 and 5 USC 552A

**PRINCIPLE PURPOSE:** TO OBTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM FAMILY MEMBERS OF DECEASED SERVICEMEMBERS.

**ROUTINE USES:** NAVY CASUALTY ASSISTANCE DIVISION (N152) WILL ONLY USE THIS INFORMATION IN PROCESSING YOUR CASE TO INCLUDE THE CERTIFICATION OF BENEFITS, ENTITLEMENTS AND NOTIFICATION OF NEXT OF KIN (NOK). DISCLOSURE: DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY. SHOULD YOU CHOOSE NOT TO DISCLOSE THE REQUESTED INFORMATION, PAYMENT OF BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS MAY BE DELAYED. USE OF THIS INFORMATION WILL BE USED INTERNAL TO THE NAVY CASUALTY ASSISTANCE DIVISION AND WILL NOT BE RELEASED WITHOUT YOUR WRITTEN PERMISSION.

### 1. DECEDENT'S FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE):

Sailor, Leroy, Quincy

### SECTION 1. PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION

#### 1. FULL NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST):

John Q. Sailor

#### 2. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED:

Father

#### 3. SSN:

-123-45-6789

#### 4. DATE OF BIRTH:

Mar 28, 1952

#### 5. NOTIFICATION TIME/DATE:

0930/20150210

#### 6. NOTIFIED BY:

LT ANY CACO

#### 7. ADDRESS (ZIP+4):

123 Main St, Anytown PA, 12356-8596

#### 8. ABOVE ADDRESS IS:

[ ] BASE HOUSING  [ ] CONTRACT HOUSING  [X] PRIVATE HOUSING

#### 9. NAME AND ADDRESS (IF ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE, INDICATE MAILING ADDRESS (ZIP+4)):

#### 10. HOME PHONE:

(555) 444-1212

#### 11. WORK PHONE:

(555) 444-1478

#### 12. CELL PHONE:

(555) 444-7898

#### 13. EMAIL ADDRESS:

johnsailor@yahoo.com

### SECTION 2. CACO INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN IS VERIFIED AS FOLLOWS

#### 1. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE):

CACO, Any, Body

#### 2. RANK/RATE:

03/LT

#### 3. DUTY STATION:

ANY NOSC

#### 4. STREET ADDRESS FOR BENEFITS PACKAGE (INDICATE HOME OR COMMAND ADDRESS) (FEDEX ADDRESS (ZIP+4)):

345 Navy Road, Anytown PA 12545-5895 (Command)

#### 5. HOME PHONE:

(445) 845-8585

#### 6. OFFICE PHONE:

(445) 845-8659

#### 7. CELL PHONE:

(445) 875-9585

#### 8. FAX NUMBER:

(445) 858-8689

#### 9. EMAIL ADDRESS:

ANYCACO@NAVY.MIL

---

**NAVPERS 1770/9 (Rev. 06-2010) FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**PAGE 1 OF 4**
**Sample Forms**

**Primary/ Secondary Next of Kin Information (NAVPERS 1770/9) pg. 2 of 4**

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 3. Secondary Next of Kin Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. FULL NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST): Keri, L., SAILOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED: MOTHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. SSN: 154-54-5454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. DATE OF BIRTH: 22-Oct-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. NOTIFICATION TIME/DATE: 0930/20150210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. NOTIFIED BY: LT ANY CACO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. ADDRESS (ZIP+4): 123 Main St, Anytown PA, 12356-8596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. ABOVE ADDRESS IS: PRIVATE HOUSING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. NAME AND ADDRESS (IF ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE, INDICATE MAILING ADDRESS (ZIP+4)):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. HOME PHONE: (555) 444-1212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. WORK PHONE: (555) 526-8598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. CELL PHONE: (555) 448-4415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. EMAIL ADDRESS: <a href="mailto:KERISAILOR@YAHOO.COM">KERISAILOR@YAHOO.COM</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 4. CACO Information for Secondary Next of Kin is Verified as Follows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE): CACO, Any, Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. RANK/RATE: 03/LT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. DUTY STATION: ANY NOSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. STREET ADDRESS FOR BENEFITS PACKAGE (INDICATE HOME OR COMMAND ADDRESS) (FEDEX ADDRESS (ZIP+4)): 345 Navy Road, Anytown PA 12545-5895 (Command)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. HOME PHONE: (445) 845-8585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. OFFICE PHONE: (445) 845-8659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. CELL PHONE: (445) 875-9585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. FAX NUMBER: (445) 858-8689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. EMAIL ADDRESS: <a href="mailto:ANYCACO@NAVY.MIL">ANYCACO@NAVY.MIL</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 5. List of Dependent Children (If under the age of 18, list the guardians name and relationship)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NAME:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOB:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSN:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUARDIAN'S OR CUSTODIAN'S NAME:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELATIONSHIP:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NOTIFICATION TIME/DATE:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. NOTIFIED BY:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Please complete within 24 hours. When completed, fax to regional coordinator.**

NAVPERS 1770/9 (Rev. 06-2010) FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PRIVACY SENSITIVE PAGE 2 OF 4

---

Primary/ Secondary Next of Kin Information (NAVPERS 1770/9) pg. 2 of 4
**Sample Forms**

**PRIMARY/SECONDARY NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

(please note that next of kin information is required of the decedent's parents, minor children and others receiving benefits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region:</th>
<th>COMNAVREG MIDLAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submitted by:</td>
<td>ANY CACO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>10-Feb-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Decedent’s full name (last, first, middle):
Sailor, Leroy, Quincy

**SECTION 6. SERVICING PSD (IF APPLICABLE)**

1. Name and location of PSD:

2. POC:

3. Phone number:

4. Fax number:

4. Check will be delivered via:
- [ ] Fedex
- [X] USPS
- [ ] Picked-up

5. Additional notes (examples: will? pe?)

**SECTION 7. OTHER NOK INFORMATION**

1. Nok full name (first, middle, last):

2. Relationship to deceased:

3. SSN:

4. Date of birth:

5. Notification time/date:

6. Notified by:

7. Address (ZIP+4):

8. Name and address (if address is different from above, indicate mailing address (ZIP+4)):

9. Home phone:

10. Office phone:

11. Cell phone:

12. Fax number:

13. Email address:

**Please complete within 24 hours. When completed, fax to regional coordinator**

**NAVPERS 1770/9 (Rev. 06-2010)**

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PRIVACY SENSITIVE**
## PRIMARY/SECONDARY
### NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

(PLEASE NOTE THAT NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OF THE DECEDENT'S PARENTS, MINOR CHILDREN AND OTHERS RECEIVING BENEFITS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMNAVREG MIDLAND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBMITTED BY:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANY CACO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-Feb-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1. DECEDENT'S FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE):
Sailor, Leroy, Quincy

### 2. OK FULL NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST):

### 3. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED:

### 4. SSN:

### 5. DATE OF BIRTH:

### 6. NOTIFICATION TIME/DATE:

### 7. NOTIFIED BY:

### 8. ADDRESS (ZIP+4):

### 9. NAME AND ADDRESS (IF ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE, INDICATE MAILING ADDRESS (ZIP+4)):

### 10. HOME PHONE:

### 11. OFFICE PHONE:

### 12. CELL PHONE:

### 13. FAX NUMBER:

### 14. EMAIL ADDRESS:

### 15. OK FULL NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST):

### 16. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED:

### 17. SSN:

### 18. DATE OF BIRTH:

### 19. NOTIFICATION TIME/DATE:

### 20. NOTIFIED BY:

### 21. ADDRESS (ZIP+4):

### 22. NAME AND ADDRESS (IF ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE, INDICATE MAILING ADDRESS (ZIP+4)):

### 23. HOME PHONE:

### 24. OFFICE PHONE:

### 25. CELL PHONE:

### 26. FAX NUMBER:

### 27. EMAIL ADDRESS:

### SECTION 8. VERIFICATION OF NAVPERS 1770/9 INPUT FROM REGIONAL COORDINATION

1. ALL INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS VERIFIED TO BE CORRECT:    ☑ Yes    ☐ No

2. REGIONAL COORDINATOR’S NAME (LAST, FIRST, M):  

3. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL COORDINATOR:  

---

Primary/ Secondary Next of Kin Information (NAVPERS 1770/9) pg. 4 of 4
### Sample Forms

**Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment (DD form 397)**

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. BUREAU VOUCHER NO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return completed form to the appropriate Service Casualty Office or contact the Service Pay or Finance Office for direction on where to submit your completed form. DO NOT return your form to the address in the paragraph below.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, Washington, DC 20503-5007. Respondents should be aware that no Federal agency will ever request personal identifying information in a telephone call from a that is not the Department of Defense.

### PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

**AUTHORITY:** 10 U.S.C. Sections 1475-1480, and E.O. 9337.

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S):** To record the name and address of the designated beneficiary(ies) or next-of-kin eligible to receive the death gratuity payment for the deceased service member, in accordance with a finding by the Secretary of the Service concerned, and to maintain a record of the disbursement of these benefits.

**ROUTINE USE(S):** In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, these records or information contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows: The DoD "Blanket Routine Uses" set forth at the beginning of DoD's compilation of systems of records notices apply to this system.

**DISCLOSURE:** Disclosure is voluntary; however, failure to provide the requested information may impede or delay the processing of this claim.

**NOTE:** Penalties for presenting false claims or making false statements in connection with claims may include criminal fines or imprisonment of up to 5 years per incident and civil fines in excess of $10,000 (False Claims Act, as amended, 31 U.S.C. Sections 3729-3733 and 18 U.S.C. Sections 1001 and 1002).

### 3. APPROPRIATION SYMBOL AND TITLE

### 5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE (Number and Street, City, State and ZIP Code)

- John Q. Sailor
- 123 Victory Blvd
- Any Town PA 12354-5263

### 6. SERVICE MEMBER (Last name - First name - Middle initial)

- Sailor, Leot, Q

### 9. PLACE OF DEATH

- Where Ever VA

### 12. CERTIFICATE OF PAYEE (Place an "X" in one of the following boxes, according to your relationship to the decedent)

- [ ] HIS WIDOW
- [ ] HER WIDOWER
- [ ] A CHILD OF THE DECEDED; THAT THERE IS NO WIDOWER SURVIVING; THAT THE CONTENTS OF BLOCK 13 ARE ACCURATE AS SHOWN.
- [ ] THE FATHER
- [ ] MOTHER
- [ ] BROTHER
- [ ] SISTER OF THE DECEDED;
- [ ] THAT THERE IS NO WIDOWER OR CHILD SURVIVING.
- [ ] OTHER

### 13. CHILDREN OF THE DECEDED (If none, so state. Attach additional page if more space is needed)

- [ ] NAME (Last, First, Middle initial)
- [ ] ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code)

### 14. CERTIFICATE OF WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE OF PAYEE (Two witnesses are required)

- I certify that I am personally well acquainted with the above-named payee, that I have read the above statement which was signed in my presence, and that said statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

- [ ] FIRST WITNESS
- [ ] SECOND WITNESS

### 15. ADMINISTRATIVE STATEMENT

- The above-named payee is authorized to receive gratuity pay due to the death of the decedent, and has been so designated by the decedent.

- [ ] TYPE NAME
- [ ] TITLE
- [ ] SIGNATURE
- [ ] DATE (YYYYMMDD)

### 16. PAYMENT

- [ ] PAID BY CHECK DRAWN IN FAVOR OF PAYEE NAMED ABOVE
- [ ] ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

- [ ] CHECK NUMBER
- [ ] AMOUNT OF CHECK
- [ ] DATE OF CHECK
- [ ] BANKING INSTITUTION
- [ ] ACCOUNT NUMBER
- [ ] ROUTING NUMBER

DD FORM 397, DEC 2008
PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE.
Adobe Professional 8.0
```
### EFT DEATH GRATUITY PAYMENT FORM

**Privacy Act Statement:**

**Authority:** USC 5701, 37 USC 404-427, EO 9397, 31 USC 3322, 32 CFR 209 and/or 210.

**Principal Purpose(s):** Used for payment of death gratuity. SSN is required for payment of benefits. The information is confidential and is needed to prove entitlement to payments. The information will be used to process payment data from the Federal agency to the financial institution and/or its agent.

**Routine Use(s):** To provide financial institution information for payment of benefits via electronic funds transfer.

**Disclosure:** Voluntary; however, failure to furnish information requested may delay or prevent the receipt of payments through the EFT/DDS programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Beneficiary:</th>
<th>SSN:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*******EFT/DDS payments please provide the following information************

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Type (circle)</th>
<th>Account Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHECKING</td>
<td>SAVINGS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Financial Institution</th>
<th>Financial Institution’s Routing Transit Number (RTN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# ____________  
Note: RTN is available on the bottom of Your checks or from your financial institution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
## Terminology Review

**Match the terms with the correct definition.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Bedside Travel</td>
<td>A. A person, usually the PNOK, who is authorized to direct disposition of human remains. Service members will identify this individual on their DD Form 93. Absent the identification of this person by the service member, then the position is recognized in the following order: surviving spouse, children who have reached the age of majority, parents in order of seniority, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Death Gratuity</td>
<td>B. The person most closely related to the casualty, usually the unremarried surviving spouse (does not include one who obtained a divorce from the decedent at any time). Is usually the PADD. If there is no surviving spouse, others are recognized in the following order: Natural and adopted children, parents, blood or adoptive relative with legal custody, siblings, grandparents, other relationships of legal age, persons standing in loco parentis, remarried surviving spouse. See DoDI 1300.18 for more details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. NAVPERS 1770/8</td>
<td>C. Consent for Release of Personal Information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NAVPERS 1770/9</td>
<td>D. Could be grandparents, stepparents, stepbrothers and stepsisters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other Next of Kin (ONOK)</td>
<td>E. In those military VSI or SI cases in which a competent medical authority requests the presence of NOK at bedside, the casualty office of the military service concerned shall be the final approval authority and shall assist in arranging appropriate government-funded invitational travel in accordance with paragraph U5246 of the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (Reference (s)).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Page 2</td>
<td>F. Next of Kin Travel Request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD)</td>
<td>G. Includes minor children who reside outside the immediate household of the member, parents (if not listed as PNOK), and any relative or friend named on the NAVPERS 1070-602, Dependency Application/Record of Emergency Data or DD 92, Record of Emergency Data (if listed to receive Death Gratuity/unpaid pay and allowances, SGLI). If the member does not have a spouse, the eldest adult child is PNOK and all other children are SNOK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Personnel Casualty Report (PCR)</td>
<td>H. One-time non-taxable payment to help surviving family members deal with the financial hardships that accompany the loss of a service member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Primary Next of Kin (PNOK)</td>
<td>I. The process by which the Department of Defense moves transfer cases containing human remains from one conveyance to another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Secondary Next of Kin (SNOK)</td>
<td>J. Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information Form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Dignified Transfer or Remains</td>
<td>K. Service member’s Record of Emergency Data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. NAVPERS 1770/10</td>
<td>L. The initial report that records the casualty and all relevant, known information. At a minimum, PCR should include type of casualty, rank, name, Social Security number, location of the body and factual circumstances. PCR should be submitted within 4 hours by commander, commanding officer (CO) or immediate superior in command (ISIC) of a member who suffers the casualty.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Module Learning Objectives:

- Using the CACO Checklist, the learner will identify the funeral arrangements to be discussed with the PADD.
- Participating in the “Quick Quiz” the learner will correctly identify options for the disposition of remains.
- Using the Risk Factors for Complicated Bereavement, the learner will have the ability to identify complicated grief issues and recommend appropriate referrals.
- The learner will demonstrate knowledge of CACO terms by correctly completing the matching exercise or other review activity.
- The learner will apply the appropriate steps, reports, and information of the Funeral Arrangements Visit to a group case study.

References:

- DoD Instruction 1300.15, Military Funeral Support (Oct 22, 2007).
- MILPERSMAN 1770 Series.
- NAVMED P-117, Manual of Medical Department
- CNIC Instruction 1770.1A, Funeral Honors Support Program
Terminology:

- **Disposition of Remains Form:** PADD completes this with the assistance of the CACO. It indicates funeral arrangement preferences.

- **Mortuary Affairs Office (MAO):** This office ensures prompt and uniform death benefits are provided to all Navy beneficiaries worldwide:
  - Morticians are available 24 hours a day to provide benefits guidance and technical assistance to funeral directors and CACOs, or to answer any questions that may arise.
  - Coordinates the Navy's Burial-At-Sea program.
  - Navy morticians (both military and civilian) are assigned to Navy Casualty with duty locations at PERS-13 in Millington, Tenn., Dover Port Mortuary at Dover AFB, DE, and USMC Casualty Branch at Quantico, VA.

- **Decedent Affairs Office (DAO):** This office provides support for the identification, care and disposition of remains of deceased persons for whom the Department of the Navy is responsible. Service includes:
  - Obtaining proper authorizations for autopsy.
  - Preparation and submission of Death Certificates.
  - Preparation of remains.
  - Advice and counsel to CACOs.
  - Advice and counsel to eligible family members.

- **Escort:** 1) Military: A uniformed member of appropriate grade who accompanies the remains of a deceased member from the servicing mortuary to the place of burial or interment.
  2) Special: A military member, a family member or a friend of the family specifically requested by the PADD to escort the deceased member’s remains.

- **Planeside Honors:** A simple ceremony to observe the transfer of the flag-draped casket from the airplane to ground transportation at the final destination. To the maximum extent possible, small honor guards will render appropriate honors plane-side at the arrival airports for all fallen active-duty service members.

- **Memorial Service:** A 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 pre-folded flag will be presented to the next of kin by the Navy representative.

- **Unit Memorial Service:** A ceremonial command program that honors the service of deceased Military Service members and offers support to grieving unit survivors.
- **Primary Care:** The military services annually contract with CONUS mortuaries/funeral homes to provide services at a fixed rate or at no cost to the family including:
  - Removal from place of death.
  - Preparation (dressing and cosmetics).
  - Selection of casket (metal or wood).
  - Uniform preparation.
  - Cremation and urn (metal or wood).
  - Shipment of remains to place of services.
  - Shipment of remains to place of burial under military escort

- **Secondary Care:** Includes reimbursement for funeral home usage and cost of gravesite, vault, clergy person’s services, opening and closing of grave, floral tribute and obituary notices.
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Funeral Arrangements Visit Checklist

☐ Uniform: Service Khaki or Navy Service Uniform for E-6

☐ Death Gratuity (paper check only): Deliver the death gratuity check (if not already delivered).
  - Have NOK sign the DD-397, Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment, and fax/e-mail the signed copy to the regional CAC office.

☐ Consent for the Release of Personal Information, NAVPERS 1770/8: If not completed on the first visit, obtain the signature of the NOK on the NAVPERS 1770/8 and fax/e-mail it to the regional CAC office and PERS-13.

☐ Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information, NAVPERS 1770/9: If not completed on the first visit, complete the NAVPERS 1770/9. Ensure that all blocks are completed to include all ZIP codes +4 (example: 12345-6789).

☐ Location of Remains: Continue to update family as the status changes on location of their loved one’s remains and the anticipated transportation date.

☐ Funeral Allowances: Counsel Person Authorized to Direct Disposition of remains (PADD) on funeral options/allowances.
  - Disposition of Remains Form: Assist the PADD in completing the form.
  - Fax/e-mail a signed copy of the form to the regional CAC office and all other parties concerned.

☐ Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses (DD-1375): Obtain PADD signature for each funeral home used.
  - Fax/e-mail to regional CAC office and MAO.

☐ Navy Escort:
  - Inform the PNOK of the Navy escort of remains (provided by the casualty’s command. Arrangements for travel of the escort/remains will be funded by the MAO or the DAO).

☐ Funeral Honors:
  - Inform the NOK of eligibility and availability of funeral honors.
  - Arrange for funeral honors through the regional CAC office.
Funeral/Memorial Date:__________________________________________________________________

- Advise the PADD to not schedule a firm funeral date until the remains arrive at the receiving funeral home.

Funeral/Memorial Travel Allowances:
- Complete and submit NAVPERS 1770/10, Next of Kin Travel Request
- Assist with the family’s travel needs; contact PERS-13 for travel orders.
- Verify with the airline that the tickets are indeed purchased and waiting.

Funeral Attendance
- Advise the NOK of your planned attendance at the funeral if the funeral is in your local area.

Survivor Benefit Applications:
- Advise the NOK that survivor benefit applications will be forthcoming within the next 10 working days, and that you will call and make an appointment with them to assist with the completion of the applications.

Advise Others: Keep PERS-13, other involved CACO offices, and any other CACOs assigned to this case informed of any issues.

Submit NAVPERS 1770/7 — every 30 days until case is closed.
Burial Entitlement and Allowances for Active-Duty Personnel

CACO Counseling
Note: The CACO should contact their regional CAC office to arrange a joint call with the MAO before counseling the NOK on entitlements.

After personally notifying the PNOK, the CACO arranges a second visit, at which time he or she will counsel and assist with the funeral arrangements. The PADD (often the PNOK) will complete the Statement of Disposition of Remains.

The CACO should encourage the family to allow the Navy to utilize "Primary Care" contractual arrangements because it is economically advantageous. Primary Care expenses include: removal, embalming, casket, clothing, cosmetic/ restorative work, permits, air tray, transportation, cremation, urn, engraving and a flag case.

The Primary Care authorization and the name of the funeral home or national cemetery, if no funeral home services are desired, should be telephoned/faxed/e-mailed to the local DAO or MAO.

In geographic areas where no contract for services exists, the Navy can arrange a one-time contract. The CACO should call the MAO regarding contractual questions.

Interment Expense Allowances
The Statement of Disposition of Remains form has several different options available to the PADD. In Options 1 through 4, Primary Care is completed by a government-contracted funeral home. The government contract need not be used for Secondary Care; any funeral home of the PADD's choice can be used. Secondary care expenses include professional services, facilities, staff, church, transportation, gratuities, obituary notices, memorial items, grave plot, cemetery labor, marker, vault/out burial container and columbarium.

Separate from the initial costs described above, additional maximum amounts for interment expenses are payable by the Navy as follows:

Option 1 — Interment in a Private Cemetery
A maximum amount of $9,000 for interment in a private cemetery is authorized. Reimbursable expenses include:

- Use of a funeral home selected by the PADD for the remains to lie in repose; cost of a single grave space; opening and closing of grave; flowers; contributions to a religious person officiating at service; obituary notices; funeral home rental cars (for family transport) or flower cars and vault.
- Costs for transport of remains are payable in addition to the $9,000 maximum.

Option 2 — Interment in a Government Cemetery Or Burial At Sea
A maximum of $6,000 is authorized when remains are taken to a funeral home prior to interment in a government cemetery or prior to being shipped to a naval activity or ship for burial at sea. Reimbursable expenses include:

- Use of a funeral home selected by the PADD for remains to lie in repose, obituary notices, flowers and contributions to religious person officiating at services.
- There are no costs to the PADD for opening and closing of grave in a national cemetery or for burial at sea.
- Costs for transport of remains are payable in addition to the $6,000 maximum.
Option 3 — Direct Consignment to National Cemetery or Ship/Port Activity for Burial at Sea
Up to $2,500 is authorized when remains are shipped directly from the site where they were initially prepared and casketed to a national or other government cemetery, or to a ship for burial at sea (no funeral home involved). Reimbursable expenses include obituary notices, flowers and contributions to a religious person officiating at services.

Option 4 — Cremation of Remains
When the PADD requests the Navy to make arrangements for cremation of the remains, advise that the wood casket will be used. Cremation may be accomplished prior to or following the funeral service. After cremation, the cremains (the term for cremated remains), will be placed in the urn selected by the PADD and hand carried by military escort to the designated location for the funeral service or interment.

Cremation Note: When cremation is desired at any point/option, the wood casket will be used. Cremation permit/authorization for cremation must be signed by the PADD for presentation to the crematory, prior to the cremation.

If the family selects Option 1 or Option 2 and would like to cremate the remains following the funeral service, the cost of the cremation will be covered by the government under Primary Care expenses. A standard military urn (wood or metal) may be provided to the PADD at no additional cost, or they may select an urn with an allowance of up to $300, also covered under Primary Care expenses. The inurned cremains may then be returned to the family or interred in the cemetery indicated in the option.

Option 5 — PADD Desires to Make All Arrangements
Should the PADD desire to make all the arrangements, reimbursement for all other expenses associated with the interment of the remains cannot exceed: $10,500 or $9,000, subject to change. The total amount of allowance for the casket, preparation and interment of the remains is predicated on the choice of the cemetery indicated on the form. To obtain reimbursement for funeral expenses, the PADD must complete a DD 1375 and submit original receipts to the MAO.

Option 6 — Relinquishing of Rights
The PADD may relinquish his/her rights to another named individual. If this option is selected/signed, the responsible CACO will be required to obtain a new form from the newly named PADD. Service members should designate their PADD on their Record of Emergency Data/ pg 2. The PADD can be anyone the service member designates as long as they are of majority age (at least 18 years old). There is no predetermined area for the PADD designation on the Record of Emergency Data. The customer service representative editing the Record of Emergency Data must type the information in the comments block of the document.
Sample Forms

Statement of Disposition of Remains (pg. 1 of 2)
The Statement of Disposition of Remains form is a written declaration from the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) as to their intent, wishes, and directions for Navy Mortuary Affairs to ensure the expeditious preparation, and return of remains of their active duty Navy or Marine Corps member.

This form is to be presented to the PADD when discussing death/burial benefits – by either the Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) or by the Decedent Affairs Officer (DAO).

Fill in the selected block (1 through 6) completely.

The NOK/PADD must select one of the “Options” – Option 1 through 6 – and initial the space under the option number. Additional information regarding Options 1 through 6 is provided below:

For Option 1 or 2, write the name, address, city, state, zip code and phone number of the funeral home the remains will be shipped to or that will be handling the interment. In the space provided to the right of the option block. Also include the name of the cemetery and the city and state of its location.

For Option 3, write the name, address, city, state and zip code of the VA or National Cemetery where the interment will occur.

For Option 4 (Cremation), when the PADD desires the remains to be cremated, advise the PADD that a wood casket should be utilized. Option 4 must be used in conjunction with Option 1 or 2. Cremation will be accomplished at the funeral home or cremation facility contracted by the PADD. After cremation, the cremains (the term for cremated remains), will be placed in the urn selected by the PADD.

The cost of the cremation will be covered by the government under Primary Care Expenses. A standard military urn (wood or metal) may be provided to the PADD at no additional cost. The inurned cremains may then be returned to the family or interred in the cemetery indicated in the option.

For Option 5, when the PADD desires to make all arrangements without the Navy’s assistance, the total amount of allowance for the casket, preparation, and interment of the remains is predicated on the choice of the cemetery indicated by the initial of the PADD in the space next to their choice. To obtain reimbursement for funeral expenses, the PADD must complete a DD-Form 1375 and submit original receipts to:

Navy/Marine Corps Mortuary Affairs
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington TN 38055

For Option 6. The PADD who relinquishes their right of disposition must initial the space below Option 5 and may relinquish to the next legal NOK (i.e. spouse relinquishing rights of disposition to parents of the deceased, etc.) and indicated by name in the space provided below the statement. A new Statement of Disposition of Remains form must be filled out with the new PADD’s information and selected Option. Both forms must be faxed to Navy Mortuary Affairs.

Fax the completed form to the Navy Mortuary Affairs located in Millington TN at (901) 874-2003.

A Navy Mortician is available 24 hours a day.

Questions regarding this form may be directed to Navy Mortuary Affairs at 1-866-787-0081 or 901-619-815

Statement of Disposition of Remains (pg. 2 of 2)
Funeral Travel (see MILPERSMAN 1770-270 for details)

The Navy will provide funds toward a funeral as indicated in the Statement of Disposition of Remains form. For those who are entitled, the Navy will also fund their travel.

A memorial service may be held in lieu of a funeral when remains are not recovered. For this memorial service, travel is also funded by the Navy. If no remains are recovered and the family opts for a memorial service, the CACO will put “Memorial Service” and location of the service under Option 2, and the family will be allowed $6,000 for expenses.

Note that this type of memorial service (remains not recovered) is different from a command-sponsored memorial service (covered in the next section).

Expenses for travel to and from the funeral or memorial service are paid by the government. Qualified travelers are:

- The deceased member’s surviving spouse (including a remarried surviving spouse).
- The deceased member’s children (including stepchildren, adopted children and illegitimate children) regardless of age.
- The deceased member’s parent or parents (as defined).
- The deceased member’s siblings (including half and adopted siblings).
- Parents of the surviving spouse.
- The PADD.
- An attendant who accompanies an eligible relative to the burial ceremony if PERS-13 determines:
  1. The accompanied eligible relative is unable to travel unattended because of age, physical condition or other justifiable reasons; and
  2. There is no other eligible relative traveling to the burial ceremony that is qualified to serve as an attendant.

- If no relative identified above is provided allowances for travel and transportation, expenses may be provided for:
  1. PADD; and
  2. Up to two additional persons closely related to the deceased that is selected by the PADD. CACOs must ascertain the eligible traveler’s intention to travel to the burial ceremony.

Travel by Privately Owned Conveyance (POC) or Personally Procured Commercial Travel: If the traveler desires to travel via POC or procures their own commercial air fare, the CACO will assist the traveler in completing DD Form 1351-2 (Travel Voucher or Subvoucher) and submit the form with receipts to PERS-13 for liquidation. Reimbursement will be at the government rate.

Travel via Government Provided Commercial Air: If the traveler desires to travel via government provided commercial air, the CACO will do the following:

- Complete and submit NAVPERS 1770/10, Next of Kin Travel Request
- Notify PERS-13 of traveler’s desires. PERS-13 will make reservations for traveler.
- Coordinate with commands and other CACOs to assist family members and eligible funeral travelers with transportation to and from airports.
- Upon traveler’s return, assist with completing DD Form 1351-2 and submit the form with receipts to PERS-13 for liquidation.
Memorial Services Travel (see MILPERSMAN 1770-271 for details)
The Navy will provide round-trip travel and transportation allowances to eligible family members to attend one memorial service of any Sailor who dies while on active duty. This entitlement is only for a command memorial service at a location other than the burial location. The deceased Sailor’s command or designated Navy representative will coordinate with the PNOK to invite eligible family members to attend the memorial service.

- Complete and submit NAVPERS 1770/10, Next of Kin Travel Request

Eligible Travelers:
An eligible relative is authorized travel and transportation allowances for one round-trip to the installation or unit memorial service. This round-trip is in addition to the burial ceremony. Authorized travelers include:

- The surviving spouse (including a surviving spouse who has remarried since the service member’s death)
- Child or children of the deceased member (including stepchildren, adopted children and illegitimate children)
- Parents as indicated below:
  - A natural parent
  - A stepparent
  - A parent by adoption
  - A parent, stepparent or adopted parent of the current surviving spouse
  - Any other person, including a former stepparent, who has stood in loco parentis to the member at any time for a continuous period of at least five years before the member became 21 years of age
- Siblings of the deceased member (including half and adopted siblings)
- PADD
- Attendants. The Navy will provide round-trip travel and transportation allowances to an attendant who accompanies an eligible relative to the memorial service if the PERS-13 determines that:
  - The accompanied eligible relative is unable to travel unattended because of age, physical condition or other justifiable reasons; and
  - There is no other eligible relative of the deceased Sailor traveling to the memorial service and qualified to serve as an attendant

Authorized Expenses:
Travel and transportation allowances are limited to travel to and from the memorial service location plus two days of per diem at the memorial service location.

- Travel by POC or personally procured commercial travel: If the traveler desires to travel via privately owned vehicle (POV) or pays for his/her commercial air fare, the traveler will need to complete DD 1351-2 (3-08), Travel Voucher or Subvoucher, and submit the form with receipts to PERS-13 for liquidation.
- Travel via government-provided commercial air: If the traveler desires to travel via government-provided commercial air, PERS-13 will make reservations for the traveler.
Election for Air Transportation Of Remains From A Theater Of Combat Operations

- All service members who die in a combat theater of operation are brought to the mortuary facility at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, for identification and final preparation.
- The PADD provides written instructions to the Navy indicating final disposition of his/her loved one to include funeral home and/or cemetery selections.
- If the return of his/her loved one to final destination requires transportation by air, legislation requires that the armed services provide a dedicated military aircraft or military contracted aircraft, unless directed otherwise by the PADD, to the destination selected by the PADD.
- The aircraft will depart from Dover Air Force Base and arrive at a selected airport servicing the location chosen by the PADD for funeral services.
- CJMAB Form 4, The Election of Air Transportation of Remains from a Theater of Combat Operations, documents the PADD's acknowledgement or request for exception. The default option is the use of military or military contracted aircraft, with provision for an exception if the PADD explicitly directs the use of a scheduled commercial airline.
- The PADD should be fully informed of the transportation schedule to include date, time and location of arrival of remains.
- Upon completion of the CJMAB Form 4, the CACO should fax a copy to the MAO.

Social Security Burial Allowance

A maximum lump-sum benefit of $255 is payable when a member has sufficient quarters of coverage to be eligible for Social Security benefits. Application should be made directly to the local office of the Social Security Administration within two years after date of the member's death. The benefit is payable in the following order of precedence:

- To a widow(er) who was living in the same household as the deceased at the time of death. Temporary absence or separation because of marital difficulties precludes payment unless the spouse was eligible for or entitled to monthly benefits; if none,
- To the member's (minor age) children in equal shares.

Plane-side Honors

To the maximum extent possible, small honor guards will render appropriate honors plane-side at the arrival airports for all fallen active-duty service members.

Military Funerals

If requested by the family, honors details may be used at the interment service for cremated remains as well as for a casketed burial service.

- Fifteen personnel will be used to render full honors for an active-duty death if desired by the PNOK/PADD.
- Honors details may be used at the interment service for cremated remains as well as for a casketed burial service.
- The CACO should notify the CAC/FHS office of the PNOK's desire for a funeral honors detail. The CACO may be requested to arrange the utilization of members of his or her command.
- The CACO should inform the family that funeral honors will be provided.
Additional Counseling and Assistance

- Other CACOs—Keep any other CACOs assigned to other family members informed of funeral plans.
- Timing of Funeral—Advise the NOK to not schedule a firm funeral date until the remains arrive at the receiving funeral home.
- American Red Cross—Advise the NOK to contact the American Red Cross to inform other relatives in the armed forces of funeral plans.
- Obituary Notice—Help as needed with obituary notice.
- Coordinate Decedent Affairs Activities—Arrange for flags, contact escort and funeral director.
- National Cemeteries—Show the PADD a list of national cemeteries if one is desired.
- Member’s Command—Contact the deceased member’s command to inform the commanding officer of the time and location of funeral.
- Funeral Attendance—Attend the funeral if it takes place in the area. Arrange the flag presentation.
- Benefits Package (Forms)—PERS-13 will send a packet of benefits claim forms to the CACO within 10 working days after the casualty.

Partial Remains Recovered

- In the event that only partial remains are recovered, the PADD must complete CJMAB “Form 1, Disposition of Remains Election Statement, Initial Notification of Identified Partial Remains.”
- If remains are recovered at a later date and identified to belong to the deceased the PADD will have to complete CJMAO Form 3, Notification of Subsequent Identified Partial Remains.

Retained Remains

- In the event that partial remains are retained, the PADD must complete CJMAB “Form 8, “Disposition of Organs Retained for Extended Examination”
Funeral Expense Claims

- Claims for reimbursement for funeral expenses should be prepared with the assistance of the CACO on DD 1375, Request for Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses. An itemized funeral invoice must accompany all claim forms. If the Navy's allowance is to be paid directly to the funeral home or other person, the PADD must include such information in Section 17 of the DD-1375.
- The Navy escort accompanying the remains is required to deliver the DD-1375. He or she will also deliver personal items such as jewelry and medals.
- Claims should be sent to the MAO.
- Claims for memorial service (remains not recovered) expenses have a maximum of $6,000. The DD-1375 should be sent directly to the MAO.
## Request for Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses (DD Form 1375)

### Form Acquiesced

OMB No.: 0704-0030
Expires May 31, 2006

- **PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**
  - **AUTHORITY:** 10 USC Sections 1481 through 1488; EO 9397.
  - **PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** To record amount of funeral and/or interment expenses incurred by next of kin.
  - **DISCLOSURE:** Disclosure of requested information is voluntary; however, if not furnished, claim cannot be paid.

- **PART I - TO BE COMPLETED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES**

  | 1. NAME | a. | NAME |
  | 2. NAME | b. | NAME |
  | 3. ADDRESS (Street, City, State and ZIP Code) | a. ADDRESS (Street, City, State, and ZIP Code) |
  | 4. PAY GRADE/RANK | O3 |
  | 5. SERVICE NUMBER/SSN | 123-45-6789 |
  | 6. PLACE OF DEATH (City, State, Country) | Anytown, VA, USA |
  | 7. DATE OF DEATH | 20150210 |
  | 8. RELATIONSHIP | Father |
  | 9. FUNERAL HOME AND/OR NATIONAL CEMETERY | Smith Funeral Home |
  | 10. ADDRESS (Street, City, State, and ZIP Code) | 453 Funeral Home Lane, Any Town, PA 23456-1250 |

- **PART II - TO BE COMPLETED BY CLAIMANT (Proper completion will expedite settlement.)**

  | 11. GOVERNMENT CONTRACT FOR CARE OF REMAINS IN EFFECT AT PLACE OF DEATH |
  | 12. CEMETERY, MAUSOLEUM OR OTHER DISPOSITION | X |
  | 13. DATE OF INTERMENT | 20150215 |

- **INTERMENT COSTS (To be completed when claimant arranged for interment only.)**

  | 14. AMOUNT CLAIMED |
  | 15. FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT COSTS (To be completed when claimant made all arrangements.) |
  | 16. SHIPPING COSTS OF REMAINS (To be completed when claimant paid or incurred cost for shipment of remains.) |

  | 17. SHIPMENT OF REMAINS (Complete when shipping costs claimed.) |
  | 18. STATEMENT OF CLAIMANT: I have paid or incurred expenses in the amounts entered in items 16, 18, and/or 18. |

  | 19. NAME OF PAYEE (Print or type) | Smith Funeral Home |
  | 20. ADDRESS OF PAYEE (Street, City, State, and ZIP Code) | 453 Funeral Home Lane, Any Town, PA 23456-1250 |

- **DD FORM 1375, OCT 2003**

  - **PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE.**

### Sample Forms
Forms for the Funeral Arrangements Visit

- Death Gratuity Check (if not already delivered) and Form DD-397
- Disposition of Remains Form
- If not all remains are recovered — Disposition of Remains Election Statement — Initial Notification of Identified Partial Remains (CJMAB 1)
- Partial Remains found/identified — Disposition of Remains Election Statement — Notification of Subsequently Identified Partial Remains (CJMAB 3)
- In Theater of Combat Operations only — Election for Air Transportation of Remains from a Theater of Combat Operations (CJMAB 4)
- Request for Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses (DD-1375)
- Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information Form (NAVPERS 1770/9, if not completed on first visit)
- Consent for the Release of Personal Information (NAVPERS 1770/8, if not completed on first visit)
- Next of Kin Travel Request (NAVPERS 1770/10) — If NOK travel is required for the funeral or command memorial
- Casualty Assistance Calls Program (NAVPERS Form 1770/7)

Forms and Information for the Funeral Arrangements Visit available at the CACO resource webpage (http://www.cnic.navy.mil/caco)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form Name</th>
<th>Form Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private Cemetery or State Veteran’s Cemetery</td>
<td>VA 40-1330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial at Sea Request Form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposition of Remains Election Statement Notification of Subsequently Identified</td>
<td>CJMAB Form 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposition of Remains Election Statement/ Initial Notification of Identified Partial</td>
<td>CJMAB Form 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election for Air Transportation of Remains from a Theater of Combat Operation</td>
<td>CJMAB Form 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposition of Organs Retained for Extended Examination</td>
<td>CJMAB Form 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Travel</td>
<td>MILPERSMAN 1770-270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Service Travel</td>
<td>MILPERSMAN 1770-271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next of Kin Travel Request</td>
<td>NAVPERS Form 1770/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood Flag Case Request Form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructions for DD1375</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request For Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses</td>
<td>DD 1375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Disposition of Remains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Voucher or Subvoucher</td>
<td>DD1351-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case Contact Information for Funeral Arrangements Visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Type</th>
<th>Contact Information (Name, Phone, Fax, Email, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navy Mortuary Affairs Office</td>
<td>Toll Free: (866) 787-0081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After Hours Cell: (901) 619-8157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Navy Mortician on duty 24 hours a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airline for Travel to Funeral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Forms

Disposition of Remains Election Statement/ Initial Notification of Identified Partial Remains (CJMAB Form 1)

Module Three

CACHO Student Guide 57
### Sample Forms

**Disposition of Remains Election Statement Notification of Subsequently Identified Partial Remains (CJMAB Form 3)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Transferred for interment in a suitable burial container above the original casket to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funeral Home&lt;br&gt;Name and Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 2</th>
<th>Transferred to the funeral home below for subsequent cremation at Government expense, arranged by the person with legal authority at the final destination:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urn Choice: Metal&lt;br&gt;Wood X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>Funeral Home&lt;br&gt;Name and Address&lt;br&gt;SMITH FUNERAL HOME&lt;br&gt;135 Funeral Home Lane&lt;br&gt;ANTITOWN, PA 12345-4562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 3</th>
<th>Cremated, placed in a Metal or Wood urn and delivered to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>Name and Address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 4</th>
<th>Retained at the Servicing Mortuary for appropriate disposition by the parent Service.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 5</th>
<th>Retained by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System for teaching and research purposes with final disposition as a medical specimen.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the event that further subsequent remains are identified beyond today (select Notify or Do Not Notify):

**NOTIFY**

You may select one or both:

- I would like to be notified and given the choice of accepting individual portions for disposition.
- I would like to be notified in the event that further remains are classified as part of a group, so that I can be provided information on any planned ceremony in honor of Service members in the group.

**DO NOT NOTIFY**

I DO NOT want to be notified. I authorize the parent Service to make appropriate disposition.

**SIGNATURE OF PADD**

[Signature]

**DATE**

18 FEB 2015

**CERTIFIED COPY OF WITNESS**

[Signature]

**DATE**

18 FEB 2015

[CJMAB Form 3 (October 2009) Previous editions are obsolete]
Sample Forms

CJMAB Form 4 GUIDE

Points listed below are provided to aid Casualty Assistance Officers or Mortuary Affairs Officers in explaining to the person authorized to direct disposition (PADD) the air transport options for remains of Service members who die in a combat theater of operations.

- All remains of Service members who die in a combat theater of operations are brought to the mortuary facility at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, for identification and final preparation.

- The person authorized to direct disposition (PADD) provides written instructions to the Military Service indicating where he/she wants the remains returned.

- If the transportation of remains requires transportation by air, legislation requires that the Armed Services provide military aircraft or military contracted aircraft, unless otherwise directed by the PADD, to the destination selected by the PADD.

- The aircraft will depart from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware and arrive at the nearest useable military or civilian airport servicing the location selected by the PADD for funeral services.

- Military air or military contracted air is not as robust as scheduled aircraft through the commercial airline industry, but may fly to non-commercial airports that are more direct and closer to the final destination. Commercial flights are generally more available but are limited to commercial airports which may not be closest to the final destination.

- CJMAB Form 4 has been developed to document the PADD’s air transport decision. The form has two options and a General Waiver.
  
  - Option 1 directs military airlift support to the airport nearest to the funeral home, or interment site selected by the PADD, as can be accomplished by the Services.

  - Option 2 allows for the transportation of remains by Commercial airlines however, flights are limited to commercial airports which may not be the closest location to the receiving funeral home.

  - A notes section is provided to record any known comments or wishes of the PADD, especially if there is a specific military or commercial airfield that the PADD would prefer as a first option.

  - General waiver allows the appropriate Service to select the method of transportation which will return the Service member in the most expeditious manner.

- The PADD will be kept fully informed of the transportation schedule to include date, time and location of arrival of remains.
ELECTION FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION OF REMAINS FROM A THEATER OF COMBAT OPERATIONS
DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

Authority: Title 10 USC, Sections 1461 through 1468
Principal Purpose: To record air transportation of remains desired by the person authorized to direct disposition of remains (PADD) and to provide a document with the information necessary to return the remains.
Disclosure: Disclosure of requested information is voluntary. Without disclosure, your desires may not be recorded and accommodated.

NAME OF DECEASED (Last, First, Middle Initial)

SAILOR, JERRY Q
USN / 6GM2
1234567890

RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED
FATHER

COMPLETE ADDRESS OF PADD

123 MAIN ST
ANY TOWN, PA 12345 - 6789

PHONE NUMBER(S)
444-624-3827

As the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) of remains, I acknowledge the air transportation options available to me, and, if an option is exercised, that the remains be transported by either military or commercial aircraft to an appropriate location.

Option 1
I direct that the remains be transported by military / military contracted aircraft to an airport or military base appropriate to the receiving funeral home or interment site.

Option 2
I direct that the remains be transported by commercial aircraft to an airport or military base appropriate to the receiving funeral home or interment site.

NOTES:

GENERAL WAIVER
In the unlikely event that the choice of air transportation selected above is delayed due to circumstances beyond the military Services' control, I authorize the military Service to arrange other transportation, if required, to ensure the timely arrival of my loved one's remains.

Authorization of PADD and Witness

SIGNATURE OF PADD

ARTHUR Q. SAILOR

DATE: 10 FEB 2015

TYPE OR PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS

ANY CACO

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

ANY CACO

DATE: 10 FEB 2015

CJMAB Form 4 (MAR 2007) Previous editions are obsolete.
Sample Forms

Disposition of Organs Retained for Extended Examination (CJMAB Form 8)

Module Three  CACO Student Guide 61
HARDWOOD FLAG CASE REQUEST FORM

(Flag Cases arrives with blank nameplate, engraving not provided)

Name of Deceased:  Leroy Q. Sailor
Rank/Rate:  GM2  Date of Death:  20150210
Type of Flag Case:  □ US Navy  □ US Marine Corps

It is HIGHLY SUGGESTED that the requested flag case(s) be delivered to the CACO for acceptance, inspection and preparation for delivery to beneficiary.

Requesting CACO Signature:  
Requesting CACO Contact Information:  Adam Caco Phone: 7578598585
Number of total flags requested  □ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ 5  □ 6  □ OTHER:

Eligible Beneficiaries:
Check all that apply:  □ Spouse  □ Legal Children #1  □ PADD (if different from others)

□ Parents- Living Together or Living Separately  □ Other:

(Circle one)

ELIGIBLE FLAG CASE RECIPIENTS:  (Please identify each recipient and their relationship to deceased)
Name:  Leroy Sailor JR.  Relationship:  Son
Name:  John Q. Sailor  Relationship:  Father/PADD
Name:  Keri L. Sailor  Relationship:  Mother
Name:  Relationship:  
Name:  Relationship:  
Name:  Relationship:  

If all requested Flag Cases are to be delivered to same address i.e. CACO, Please provide that UPS Deliverable Address below. If any recipient(s) will receive flag case(s) at an address different from the one provided below, please attach HARDWOOD FLAG CASE REQUEST ADDRESS ADDENDUM FORM

Forward Flag Case to:  Adam CACO

123 CACO DRIVE
Anytown PA 12345-6789

FAX TO NAVY-MARINE CORPS MORTUARY AFFAIRS ATTN: FLAG CASE REQUEST 1-901-874-2003
LAST RESORT MAIL TO:

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY- OFFICIAL BUSINESS
OPNAV N135C MORTUARY AFFAIRS
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-6200
BLDG 457 / RM 097

Hardwood Flag Case Request (Pg. 1 of 2)
Sample Forms

HARDWOOD FLAG CASE REQUEST ADDRESS ADDENDUM FORM

Name of Deceased:__________________________________________

Rank/Rate:_________________ Date of Death:_________________

ELIGIBLE FLAG CASE RECIPIENTS: (Please identify each recipient and their relationship to deceased)

Name:________________________________________ Relationship:________________________________________

Forward Flag Case to:________________________________________

(Name)

(Address for UPS Delivery)

Name:________________________________________ Relationship:________________________________________

Forward Flag Case to:________________________________________

(Name)

(Address for UPS Delivery)

Name:________________________________________ Relationship:________________________________________

Forward Flag Case to:________________________________________

(Name)

(Address for UPS Delivery)

Name:________________________________________ Relationship:________________________________________

Forward Flag Case to:________________________________________

(Name)

(Address for UPS Delivery)

FAX TO NAVY-MARINE CORPS MORTUARY AFFAIRS ATTN: FLAG CASE REQUEST 1-901-874-2003
The Stages of Grief

Are There Stages of Grief?
In 1969, based on her years of working with terminal cancer patients, psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross introduced what became known as the “five stages of grief.” While these stages represented the feelings of people who were themselves facing death, many people now apply them to experiencing other negative life changes (a break-up, loss of a job) and experiencing the death of loved ones.

Kübler-Ross proposed these stages of grief:

- **Denial**: “This can’t be happening to me.”
- **Anger**: “Why is this happening? Who is to blame?”
- **Bargaining**: “Make this not happen, and in return I will ____________.”
- **Depression**: “I’m too sad to do anything.”
- **Acceptance**: “I’m at peace with what is going to happen/has happened.”

However, Kübler-Ross herself never intended for these stages to be a rigid framework that applies to everyone who mourns. In her last book before her death in 2004, she said of the five stages, “They were never meant to help tuck messy emotions into neat packages. They are responses to loss that many people have, but there is not a typical response to loss, as there is no typical loss. Our grieving is as individual as our lives.”

There is no timetable for grieving. While the sense of loss and the intermittent sadness may never go away completely, people experience the cycle of grief differently. Some find that within a few weeks or months the period between waves of distress lengthens, and they are able to feel peace, renewed hope, and enjoy life more and more. Others may face years of being hit with what feels like relentless waves of grief.
The Grief Cycle

The Grief Cycle can be shown as in the chart below, indicating the roller-coaster ride of activity and passivity as the person wriggles and turns in his/her desperate efforts to avoid the change.

- Shock stage: Initial paralysis at hearing the bad news.
- Denial stage: Trying to avoid the inevitable.
- Anger stage: Frustrated outpouring of bottled-up emotion.
- Bargaining stage: Seeking in vain for a way out.
- Depression stage: Final realization of the inevitable.
- Testing stage: Seeking realistic solutions.
- Acceptance stage: Finally finding the way forward.
How Trauma Affects the Grieving Process

Grief tends to be mixed with trauma when a loss is sudden and unexpected — a fatal heart attack, an accident, a murder — or when it is perceived as being outside the normal cycle of life, as in the death of a child. For example, someone who nurses a spouse through a long illness will grieve when the spouse is gone, but the person who witnesses the sudden death of a spouse in a car crash will likely be traumatized as well. A sudden loss can be even more difficult to deal with if you don’t have a socially recognized outlet for mourning, as may be the case with a miscarriage or stillbirth.

While trauma always incorporates grief, the two states are very different in how they are experienced and the effect they can have. Grief is a normal reaction to loss, with its symptoms diminishing over time. On the other hand, trauma is a disabling reaction that can block the grieving process, disrupt life and leave a person psychologically vulnerable. Those coping with a traumatic loss may want to think about turning to a counselor or other professional for help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grief vs. Trauma</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Effects of Grief</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Effects of Trauma</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadness is the dominant emotion.</td>
<td>Terror is the dominant emotion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grief feels real.</td>
<td>Trauma feels unreal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking about grief can help.</td>
<td>Talking about trauma is difficult or impossible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain is related to the loss.</td>
<td>Pain involves not just loss but terror, helplessness and fear of danger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger is nonviolent.</td>
<td>Anger often involves violence toward self or others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilt involves unfinished emotional business with the deceased.</td>
<td>Guilt includes self-blame for what happened or thoughts that it should have been you who was harmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your self-image and confidence generally remain intact.</td>
<td>Your self-image and confidence are distorted and undermined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You dream about the person you lost.</td>
<td>You dream about yourself in danger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms lessen naturally over time.</td>
<td>Untreated, symptoms may get worse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Risk Factors for Complicated Bereavement

Below is a list of potential risk factors for complicated bereavement. The importance of these risk factors varies in terms of time since the casualty. The table provides areas of concern that are cross-tabbed with specific timeframes. It can be used as a guide for CACOs to know when to notify the Regional CACO program of problems and seek additional assistance for the NOK.

Legend:
* - Expected
1 - Actions may be within “normal” ranges. Continue to observe and update Regional CACO Coordinator.
2 - Consult with the Regional CACO Coordinator, Gold Star, Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) staff, or Chaplain.
3 – Situation warrants immediate consultation with Regional CACO Coordinator, Gold Star, FFSC staff or Chaplain. Monitor closely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>At Funeral Time</th>
<th>1 Month</th>
<th>3 Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sleep Problems: Survivor complains of sleep difficulties (too much or too little).</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration Problems: Survivor describes a lack of concentration and/or attention problems.</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness: Survivor experiences a medical problem and/or needs medical attention.</td>
<td>2 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety and Panic Attacks: Survivor reports having bouts of intense anxiety and or/panic.</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight Changes: Survivor reports significant weight gain or loss.</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue or Lethargy: Survivor reports low energy levels and tiredness.</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse: Family comments or your own observations suggest abuse of alcohol, prescription or over-the-counter drugs or street drugs.</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shock and Disbelief: Survivor continues to deny the death has occurred and acts as if the deceased is alive.</td>
<td>* 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intense Emotions: Survivor has feelings of intense sorrow and yearning for the deceased.</td>
<td>* 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inability to Stop Thinking About the Deceased: Survivor incessantly thinks about the deceased.</td>
<td>* 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance of the Death: Survivor has difficulty accepting the death. May feel a mistake has been made.</td>
<td>* 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide: Survivors express desire to hurt themselves, either explicitly stated or implied.</td>
<td>Seek Assistance Now!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grief and Distress: These feelings appear unimproved or increasing since the funeral.</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depressed Feelings: Survivors report they feel very depressed or are feeling hopeless about the future.</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searching for the Deceased: Survivor may actively look for the deceased, and/or report “seeing” the deceased.</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Recent Deaths: Survivor has experienced other significant deaths in the past 12 months.</td>
<td>3 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feelings of Loss of Security, Trust, Control, and Predictability: Survivor expresses not feeling secure or safe and does not want to perform activities that interfere with normal functioning (e.g., no longer wants to drive a car or go to the store).</td>
<td>1 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irritability or Anger: Survivor displays increasing irritability and anger. May be directed at a person, military, or the deceased.</td>
<td>3 3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Factor</td>
<td>At Funeral Time</td>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td>3 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absence of Emotional Response: Survivor expresses no emotions or does not deal with the death. Suppresses emotions.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling of Emptiness or Lack of Purpose: Survivor expresses a feeling of being adrift; life has no more meaning, difficult in thinking long term.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance with Referrals: Survivor does not follow up on referrals for supportive help.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Physical Appearance: Unkempt appearance, unwashed hair, poor personal hygiene.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Asks for Support with Children: Family requesting assistance with children’s grief.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Child Difficulties: A child expresses a desire to harm him/herself or commits acts of violence toward others (peers, siblings, parents)</td>
<td>Seek Assistance Now!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Difficulties: Children appear to be having adjustment problems at home, school, or with friends. Radical changes in behavior (good or bad). Have trouble concentrating, are moody or irritable.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Support: Contact with family, friends, or other support appears to be absent or prone to conflict. Limited or no access to family.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare: Inadequate or neglected for bereaved family’s needs.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Management: Home management is problematic, house is unclean or in disarray, inadequate amount of food or lack of transportation.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial: Money problems are present. Bills are unpaid, lack of funds. Bill collectors call.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal and Isolation: Survivors withdraw and isolate themselves from tasks, job, school or social support by survivors.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoidance: Survivor avoids dealing with emerging issues, people, places and responsibilities.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Images: Media constantly displays images of the events resulting in the decedent’s death and disturbs survivors.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwanted Media Attention: Family is approached by press or media for interviews or does not desire media interest.</td>
<td>Notify PERS, Regional CACO coordinator, and PAO.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destructive Behaviors: Survivor becomes involved in improper relationships, commences impulse shopping, takes unnecessary risks, etc.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty coping with Traumatic Details: Survivor complains of an inability to cope with details or events associated with the death.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counseling services are available through Gold Star, FFSC and others. Check with the Regional CACO coordinator for any assistance needed.
### Terminology Review

**Match the terms with the correct definition.**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Decedent Affairs Office (DAO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dignified Transfer of Remains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Disposition of Remains Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Escort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Memorial Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mortuary Affairs Office (MAO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Primary Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Secondary Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Unit Memorial Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A.** This office ensures prompt and uniform death benefits are provided to all Navy beneficiaries worldwide:
- Morticians are available 24 hours a day to provide benefits guidance and technical assistance to funeral directors and CACOs, or to answer any questions that may arise.
- Coordinates the Navy's Burial-At-Sea program.
- Navy morticians (both military and civilian) are assigned to Navy Casualty with duty locations at PERS-13 in Millington, Tenn., Dover Port Mortuary at Dover AFB, DE, and USMC Casualty Branch at Quantico, VA.

**B.**
1. **Military:** A uniformed member of appropriate grade who accompanies the remains of a deceased member from the servicing mortuary to the place of burial or interment.
2. **Special:** A military member, a family member or a friend of the family specifically requested by the PADD to escort the deceased member’s remains.

**C.** A 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 pre-folded flag will be presented to the next of kin by the Navy representative.

**D.** Honors rendered when welcoming home a fallen sailor. An Honors Team will be provided to convey appropriate and dignified honors upon arrival of the service member and to transfer the flag-draped casket to ground transportation. May be attended by the family, CACO and the press; however, members of the media are not typically involved.

**E.** Includes reimbursement for funeral home usage and cost of gravesite, vault, clergy person’s services, opening and closing of grave, floral tribute and obituary notices.

**F.** A ceremonial command program that honors the service of deceased Military Service members and offers support to grieving unit survivors.

**G.** PADD completes this with the assistance of the CACO. It indicates funeral arrangement preferences.

**H.** The military services annually contract with CONUS mortuaries/ funeral homes to provide services at a fixed rate or at no cost to the family including:
- Removal from place of death.
- Preparation (dressing and cosmetics).
- Selection of casket (metal or wood).
- Uniform preparation.
- Cremation and urn (metal or wood).
- Shipment of remains to place of services.
- Shipment of remains to place of burial under military escort.

**I.** This office provides support for the identification, care and disposition of remains of deceased persons for whom the Department of the Navy is responsible. Service includes:
- Obtaining proper authorizations for autopsy.
- Preparation and submission of Death Certificates.
- Preparation of remains.
- Advice and counsel to CACOs.
- Advice and counsel to eligible family members.
Module Learning Objectives:

- Using the CACO Checklist, Student Manual and CACO website, the learner will demonstrate understanding of the scope of information and steps to be taken in the benefits phase of a CACO case.
- While participating in the “Setting Boundaries” discussion, the learner will discuss setting personal and emotional boundaries and designate a personal support system.
- The learner will apply the appropriate steps, reports and information of the benefits visit group case study.
- Using the CACO website (www.cnic.navy.mil/CACO), the learner will locate the CACO Checklist and all forms appropriate for each phase of the CACO process and will indicate items that will help them overcome knowledge attrition.
- After examining the sample Command Brief, the learner will discuss the importance of helping the command members prepare in the event of a death.
- The learner will demonstrate knowledge of CACO terms by completing a review activity.

References:

- NAVSUP P-485, Transportation of Personal Property Afloat.
- NAVSUP P-490, Transportation of Personal Property Ashore.
- CNIC Instruction 1770.2, Casualty Assistance Calls Program
Terminology:

- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):** This legislation gives citizens the right to get information about the governance, actions, decisions and past records which are not confidential and not affecting the security of the nation, required by them from the authorities. For casualty investigations, a request form must be submitted to obtain certain records.

- **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS):** A 24/7 tragedy assistance resource for anyone who has suffered the loss of a military loved one, regardless of the relationship to the deceased or the circumstance of the death.

- **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):** A retirement savings program for civilians and members of the armed forces who are employed by the United States federal government.

- **Servicemember’s Group Life Insurance (SGLI):** A program of low-cost group life insurance for qualifying service members.

- **Traumatic SGLI (TSGLI):** A rider to Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance that provides for payment to service members who are severely injured (on or off duty) as the result of a traumatic event and suffer a loss that qualifies for payment. Payments range from $25,000 to $100,000 based on the qualifying loss suffered.

- **Dependent’s Educational Assistance (DEA):** Provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits which may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training.

- **Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Refund:** Provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for qualified education expenses. Members contribute $1,200 during their first year of active duty. If the benefit is unused by a deceased member, the unused portion of the payment is reimbursed to the designated beneficiary.

- **Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship):** Provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level.

- **Personal Effects:** Articles owned by an individual, as well as any articles of government property in his/her temporary custody.

- **Person Eligible to Receive Effects (PERE):** The person eligible to receive the personal effects of a deceased military member or civilian employee.

- **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC):** A tax-free monthly benefit authorized for unremarried spouses and eligible children of members who died on active duty or died following active duty from a service-connected disability. Benefit amounts change from year to year and are available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website.
- **Navy Gold Star Program**: The Navy’s official program for providing long-term support to surviving families of Sailors who pass while on Active Duty.

- **Gold Star Coordinator**: Serves as the long-term support advocate for Survivors and is responsible for service delivery. Works closely with the CACO. Provide, either directly or through appropriate professional resources; support groups, life skills education, assistance in managing applicable life-long benefits transition milestones and referrals to counseling resources.
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Benefits Visit Checklist

☐ **Uniform**: Service Khaki or Navy Service Uniform for E-6

☐ **Benefits Brief**
  o Upon receipt of the benefits package (to be sent to the CACO within 10 days of receipt of the PCR), call the regional CAC office to arrange to attend a brief on assisting the PNOK in completing applications for benefits.
  o Download applicable forms as indicated in the benefits package checklist provided by Navy Casualty (PERS-13) prior to attending the brief.
  o Make an appointment with the PNOK for the benefits visit. Date/Time: ______________________

☐ **Privacy Act Authorization**
  o Have the PNOK sign the Privacy Act Authorization, if not already done, and attach a copy to all benefit claim forms.

☐ **DD-1300**
  o Make copies of the DD-1300 as needed.
  o Attach a copy of the DD-1300 to all benefit claim forms.

☐ **Housing**
  o Advise the family on housing options.
  o Family choice: ____________________________________________

☐ **Investigations**
  o Provide family with the status of any investigations, and assist with completing the FOIA request, if not done on a previous visit.

☐ **Inventory of Personal Effects**
  o When the command Inventory Control Board completes the inventory and a DD 1300 with a Line of Accounting is received, contact the Personal Property Office to arrange for delivery.
  o Monitor status of personal effects and address inquiries to member’s command. (Should be inventoried and shipped within 14 days.)

☐ **Legal Issues**: Contact Naval Legal Services Office for guidance as needed (e.g., appointment for family for probate or guardianship issues).
  o **Appointment Date/Time:** __________________________________________

☐ **Navy Gold Star**
  o Regional CACO coordinator will provide Gold Star Coordinator contact information:
    ▪ Gold Star Coordinator: __________________________________________
    ▪ Contact Number: ________________________________________________
    ▪ Email: _________________________________________________________
  o Contact Gold Star Coordinator and arrange and introduction to the NOK
Recordkeeping and Tracking

- Keep copies of all claims submitted.
  - Copy for your case file.
  - Copy for PNOK.
- Fax a copy of all completed application forms to the regional CAC office.
- Monitor the progress of all survivor benefit entitlements by submitting a NAVPERS 1770/7 as follows:
  - Submit “initial” NAVPERS 1770/7 to regional CACO coordinator within 30 days of the casualty:
    - Due Date
  - Submit “interim” NAVPERS 1770/7 every 30 days:
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
  - Submit “final” NAVPERS 1770/7 when all benefits/monies have been received.
  - Submit DD 1164 via DTS for reimbursement of CACO expenses (for example, mileage, toll, phone calls) to the regional CAC office monthly:
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
    - Due Date

- CACO Change
  - If you transfer, turn your case over to another CACO and provide his or her name and phone number to the regional CAC office.
The Benefits Package

A Survivor’s Benefit Package will be sent to the CACO from PERS-13, usually within 10 days of the casualty. This package will contain a checklist of appropriate forms for the case to be downloaded, as well as other applicable material as determined by PERS-13. If the Survivor's benefit package is not received within eight days, call the regional program manager and inform them. The Benefits Package will include a large binder titled, “The Days Ahead,” which is an organizer for the family to keep all their documents in one location.

Contents of the benefits package may include:

- Veterans Affairs folder
- Gold Star Certificate(s)
- Gold Star lapel pin(s)
- Flag case request card
- TAPS brochure
- DD 1300 (Report of Casualty)
- Project Compassion brochure
- “The Days Ahead” binder
- A Survivor’s Guide to Benefits
- Military Widow: A Survival Guide
- Gold Star Wives brochure
- TRICARE fact sheet
- Survivor Benefit Plan Package
- Beneficiary financial counseling brochure
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society letter (loans, grants, scholarships available)

Benefit claim forms that can be downloaded from the CACO website (www.cnic.navy.mil/CACO):

- VA Form 40 1330 (Applications for Standard Government Headstone Marker)
- VA Form 21-534a (Application for Dependency and indemnity Compensation)
- Form TSP-U17 (Information Relating to Deceased Participant)
- NAVPERS 1770/7 (Casualty Assistance Calls Program) CACO USE ONLY
- SGLV-8283 (Claim for Death Benefits)

Immediately upon receipt of the benefits package from PERS-13, contact regional CAC office to set up a time for CACO staff to go over package with you via phone or in person. Next, make an appointment with the NOK to go over the forms and help to complete them and send to the agency or address stated on the form; often a return envelope is provided. Both the CACO and the NOK should keep a copy of all completed forms.

The NOK will need to provide certain documents to submit the claims, including:

- Marriage certificate
- Divorce decrees
- Birth certificates of children
Sample Benefits Package Letter/Checklist

From: -----------------, Casualty Case Manager
To:                                    , Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO)
Subj: BENEFITS PACKAGE ICO

1. I have enclosed the benefits package for, (Spouse). Please acknowledge receipt by calling (901) 874-4396, DSN 882-4396 or toll free 1-800-368-3202; you can also reach me via e-mail at ---------@navy.mil. Also, please notify your CAC/FHS Regional Casualty Assistance Program Manager that you have received the benefits package.

2. The following (checked) items are included in this package:

   - “The Days Ahead” Binder
   - “A Survivor’s Guide to Benefits” see “Survivor’s Guide” tab
   - DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty) see “DD1300” tab
   - Taps Brochure see “Resources” tab
   - Project Compassion Brochure see “Resources” tab
   - Gold Star Wives Brochure see “Resources” tab
   - TRICARE Survivor Benefits Brochure see “Resources” tab
   - Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Letter see “Resources” tab
   - VA Benefits for Survivors Brochure see “VA” tab
   - Beneficiary Financial Counseling Service Brochure see “Insurance” tab
   - Gold Star Lapel Pin(s)
   - Gold Star Certificate(s)

3. Please download the following (checked) forms and assist the NOK with submission.
Since payment of benefits is contingent upon receipt of claims it is imperative these forms are filed as quickly as possible.

   - Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker (VA Form 40-1330)
     Fax completed form to 1-800-455-7143
   - Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA Form 21-534a)
     Fax completed form to (215) 381-3084 AND (901) 874-6654
   - Claim for Death Benefits (SGLV-8283)
     www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/forms/8283.htm
     Fax completed form to (877) 832-4943
   - Information Relating to Deceased Participant (Form TSP-U-17)
     Fax completed form to (703) 592-0170
Casualty Assistance Calls Program (NAVPERS 1770/7) CACO USE ONLY


Contact your Regional Casualty Assistance Program Manager for submission requirements.

4. The VA Form 21-534a (Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) is
designed to expedite all VA based claims and must be returned to both the VA In-Service Claims office
and OPNAV N135C. Please fax the DIC worksheet to the VA at (215) 381-3084 and scan/email an
encrypted copy to ----------------@navy.mil

5. For additional information on survivor benefits, please visit the Department of Veterans’
Affairs website: www.vba.va.gov/survivors/index.htm. To inquire about Montgomery G.I. Bill refunds,
contact Mr. James Yetman at james.yetman@va.gov. To request a Presidential Memorial Certificate,
complete the form at http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf and fax your request and all
supporting documents to: (800) 455-7143.

6. Ten copies of the DD Form 1300 have been included in the benefits package. In lieu of a
death certificate, this form may be used by the next-of-kin as proof of death. It may also be used as
proof of service, as a DD Form 214 will not be issued.

7. The NAVPERS 1770/7 is for your initial, interim, and final CACO reports which should be
submitted via your Regional Casualty Assistance Program Manager.

8. Please hand deliver packet and lapel button(s).
Military Benefits

Military Benefits
Military benefits may include:

- Unpaid pay and allowances up to the day of death
  - Unpaid re-enlistment bonus
  - Unused leave
  - Unpaid Bonuses
- 365-day government quarters residence OR 365-day BAH entitlement
- One-time move at government expense to any location (including OCONUS) within three years of death
- Death Gratuity Payment (if not already paid)
- Survivor Benefit Plan (monthly annuity for survivors of deaths in the line of duty)
- Dependents’ ID Card for spouse and child(ren) (all ID cards must be reissued)
- Commissary, exchange, medical care, proper DEERS status
- TSP Benefits

Note: Medical and dental benefits terminate for the spouse after three years after sponsor's death (i.e., date of death is May 3, 2008 termination date would be May 31, 2011) after which the spouse will have the option of continuing with TRICARE and Delta Dental at the same costs as a retired individual. However, minor children and unmarried dependent children remain in transitional survivor status at the active duty rate until they reach the age of 21 or up to 23 if they are enrolled in secondary school of higher learning. These children remain transitional survivors until they reach the eligibility age limit, marry, or otherwise become ineligible for tri-care.

Housing Issues
Families residing in government quarters should be advised as follows: that the military allows dependents 365 days of no cost continued residence in government quarters or entitlement to a quarters allowance if they choose to reside in private quarters (not for active-duty spouse — only dependents). Notify the government housing office of family's intentions, and apprise PERS-13 and the regional CAC office of the family's intentions and address should they vacate government quarters.

If family resides in other than government quarters, the CACO should apprise dependents of a 365-day BAH entitlement for private quarters. Contact PERS-13 to arrange the entitlement, and immediately notify PERS-13 of any change of address. Brief the family on Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) payment procedures.

Dependents are entitled to a one-time move, at government expense, for spouse and child(ren) within three years after a military member's death. Also, the Navy will store household belongings until the family is ready to move, up to one year. In some instances, more than one move may be allowed.
Thrift Savings Plan

TSP benefits are passed to designated beneficiaries via the member’s validly completed TSP-U-3. If no TSP-U-3 was completed, the benefits will be passed according to the order of precedence required by law.

If a participant dies while he or she is still in federal service, the participant’s personnel or payroll office will report the participant’s death to the TSP. If the participant dies after separating from service, his or her next of kin, legal representative or other responsible person must report the participant’s death to the TSP. In either case, however, to begin the process, the participant’s survivor(s) must submit Form TSP-17, Information Relating to Deceased Participant, to the TSP, along with a copy of the participant’s certified death certificate.

Form TSP-17 can be downloaded and printed from the TSP website, under Forms & Publications; it is also available from the participant’s agency or service personnel office or the TSP.

Payments to beneficiaries can take several months from the time the TSP is notified of the participant’s death. If there is an outstanding loan or a court order against the account, it must first be resolved. Beneficiaries must be located, their Social Security numbers must be obtained and verified, and their addresses must be obtained or confirmed. Payments are usually made 60 days after the beneficiary determination package is sent from the TSP or after the TSP has received all of the information it needs to make the payment (e.g., an Election of Payment form), whichever is sooner. Beneficiaries can also request an accelerated payment by submitting the Waiver of Tax Notice Period that is in the beneficiary determination package.

- Options for the Spouse(Children):
  - Take all money in TSP out
  - Leave money in TSP, but no new contributions
  - Rollover monies into an IRA (Non-Roth IRA has to go into traditional IRA’s)

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

SBP is payable to all active-duty spouse and/or children, pending a JAG LOD determination. If no election is made/signed/forwarded, SBP will default to “Spouse” or “Spouse and child” election after one year. The benefit amount is 55 percent of 75 percent of base pay at the time of death.

Example: Base pay of $4,000 per month

- 75% of $4,000 = $3,000
- 55% of $3,500 = $1,650

The SBP benefit amount is offset dollar for dollar by receipt of DIC (Spouse or Spouse and Child elections), while SBP (Child-only election) is not.

Example: DIC $1254 (Spouse) + ($310 per child) + SBP (S & C) $0 = $1,564
(2015 Dollars) DIC $1254 (Spouse) + ($310 per child) + SBP (C only) $1650 = $3,214

If the surviving spouse has one or more children under the age 1, add the 2-year transitional benefit of $270.00.

SBP is taxable and DIC is not. SBP for child(ren) will stop once each child reaches 18, or 22 if an unmarried full-time student. It also stops when a spouse remarries. See http://militarypay.defense.gov/Benefits/sbp.html.
Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
  - Spouse and child(ren).
  - Monthly allotment.
  - Service-related death.

- Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI)
  - SGLI is payable to the designated beneficiary on SGLI election form. If none is designated, it is paid to spouse, children, and parents, in that order, by law.
  - Normally paid within three to four weeks.
  - Must submit DD 1300, a copy of death certificate, SGLI election form (SGLV-8286) and LES or statement confirming the last month for which the SGLI premium was collected from the member’s pay.
  - Monthly installment option available.
  - An Accelerated Benefits Option (ABO) is available in terminally ill cases; see resource in CACO Toolkit for more information.
  - Upon the death of the service member, SGLI payment is made by the Office of Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) to the service member’s beneficiary in either a lump-sum payment or in 36 equal monthly installments as specified by the service member. Eligible beneficiaries may elect to change the lump-sum payment to 36 equal monthly payments; however, they cannot change the 36 equal monthly payments to lump sum.
  - If the proceeds are to be paid in a lump-sum payment, the beneficiary will be given the option of receiving the lump-sum payment either through the Prudential Alliance Account or by check.

An Alliance Account is an interest-bearing draft account established in the beneficiary’s name with a draft book. The beneficiary can write drafts (checks) for any amount up to the full amount of the proceeds. There are no monthly service fees or per-check charges and additional checks can be ordered at no cost. Fees do apply for some special services including returned checks, stop payment orders and copies of statements/checks.

The funds in an Alliance Account begin earning interest immediately and will continue to earn interest until all funds are withdrawn. The interest rate may change, but not more than once a month and will vary over time subject to a minimum rate that will not change more than once every ninety days.

Alliance Account funds are part of Prudential’s General Account and are backed by the financial strength of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, which has been in business and serving its customers for more than 130 years. The Alliance Account is not a bank account or a bank product, and therefore, is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

  - TSGLI: Traumatic SGLI coverage (while living) is automatic with SGLI coverage for an additional $1 per month. Coverage provides a payment of $25,000 up to $100,000 (in $25,000 increments) for members with a qualifying loss. Payment is also made to the beneficiary of a member who has died from a qualifying injury seven days or more after a qualifying injury occurs.

- Headstone
  - PNOK or PADD Only, delivery in three to four months
• Dependent Educational Assistance
  o Spouse and child(ren).
  o Up to 45 months.

• MGIB Refund:
  o Unused GI Bill monies refunded to designated SGLI life insurance beneficiaries (only what member put in). Must submit letter requesting refund.

• Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship):
  o Provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level.

Accompany the NOK to the local Department of Veterans Affairs office for a detailed explanation of benefits if required. Some local VA representatives will agree to visit the NOK to discuss benefits. Consult with your regional program or case manager for additional guidance.
Social Security Benefits

- Lump Sum Death Benefit
  - $255
  - Spouse or child

- Monthly Allotment
  - Unmarried children who are under age 18 (or up to age 19 if they are attending elementary or secondary school full time). Children can get benefits at any age if they were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled. Under certain circumstances, benefits also can be paid to your stepchildren, grandchildren or adopted children.

- Young Widow(er) Benefit
  - Through child's 16th birthday if not still in high school.

You can call a special toll-free number for families of military service members (866-777-7887) between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST Monday through Friday, and they will take the NOK’s claim right away over the telephone using their expedited process.

You can also visit the local Social Security office if not using the expedited telephone claims process. Check the local telephone directory for the nearest office, or call (800) 772-1213 between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST Monday through Friday, or visit their website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

Using the toll-free number is highly recommended.
Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services (BFCS)
Free, unbiased financial counseling tailored to a survivor’s needs is available from the national team at FinancialPoint®. Their certified financial planners and other financial professionals are experts in handling a wide range of financial situations and offering customized assistance. FinancialPoint counselors have no products to sell. They do not receive a commission for their services, and they are not affiliated with any banks or investment firms.

Phone Access: 888-243-7351

Fleet and Family Support Center Financial Programs
The local Fleet and Family Support Center offers financial education, information and referrals, and one-on-one financial counseling to all Sailors and family members. Their services are free and unbiased, with many centers having accredited financial counselors available to work
### Active-Duty Casualty Benefits and Entitlements Summary

Current as of July 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFIT and ENTITLEMENTS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOD Impact</th>
<th>Taxable/ Non-Taxable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) JFTR Chapter 10 par. U10424</td>
<td>May remain in government quarters up to 365 days or receive one-time lump-sum payment if in civilian quarters not to exceed 365 days of BAH or a combination of both again, not to exceed 365 days. If beneficiary is active-duty military, payments will be made on a quarterly basis for this entitlement.</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Services ID and Privilege Card DoD Instruction 1000.13</td>
<td>Continues for unmarried widow(er), handicapped dependent children or dependent children attending school through age 21 (may be extended to age 23 if a full-time student in a VA-approved educational institution).</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange, Commissary and Theater Privileges DoD Instruction 1000.13</td>
<td>Continues for unmarried widow(er), handicapped dependent children or dependent children attending school through age 21 (may be extended to age 23 if a full-time student in a VA-approved educational institution).</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid Pay and Allowances (UPPA) DODFMR 7A Chapter 36</td>
<td>Paid to designated beneficiary. Consists of any unpaid pay and allowances, unused leave, any remaining bonus entitlements, etc. DFAS generally will process final pay within 60 to 90 days.</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>T/NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-9/11 GI Bill Public Law 111-32, the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33)</td>
<td>An individual who is the child or spouse of a person who, after Sept. 10, 2001, dies in the line of duty while serving on active duty, is eligible for education assistance under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. This educational assistance is known as the “Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship.” In this instance, a child may be married or above the age of 23. Each spouse or child would receive the 36 months of benefits to include tuition capped at the highest in-state undergraduate tuition, BAH for E5 w/ dependents based on the ZIP code of the college and up to $1,000 for books. The dependent would have to be going full time in order to receive the full BAH.</td>
<td>Will Impact</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Savings Plan Contributions Federal Employees’ Retirement System Act of 1986</td>
<td>Paid to designated beneficiary. If no beneficiary form is on file, then payment is made by law.</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Gratuity DODFMR 7A Chapter 36</td>
<td>Paid to designated beneficiary(ies) $100,000 (one-time payment) 100% tax-free.</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) &amp; Spouse Transitional Benefit 38 CFR 3.312 &amp; M21-1MR, Part IV</td>
<td>DIC is a tax-free monthly benefit authorized for unremarried widow(er)s and eligible children of service members who died on active duty or died following active duty from a service-connected disability. Must be VA approved. Current rates can be found at <a href="http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates/comp03.htm">http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates/comp03.htm</a>. A transitional benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse with dependent children for the first two years after member’s death or until the youngest child turns 18 (23 if attending college), whichever period is shorter. Additional benefits are payable if the spouse and/or child is incapacitated or in need of assistance.</td>
<td>Will Impact</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENEFIT and ENTITLEMENTS</td>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>LOD Impact</td>
<td>Taxable/ Non-Taxable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA)  
Dependents’ Educational Assistance Pamphlet  
U. S. Code 38, Chapter 35 | DEA is payable by the VA to the spouse and each child to defray the expenses of higher education. Amounts are payable monthly. Note: Children can only receive DEA or DIC — not both. Spouse can receive both DIC and DEA concurrently. See www.vba.va.gov. | No Impact |  |
| Headstones, Grave Markers and Medallions  
38 CFR 38.631 & | Provided by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). | No Impact |  |
| Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Servicemembers’ and Veterans’ Group Life Insurance Handbook | $400,000 coverage unless member has declined or elected a lesser amount. If the deceased was married to another military member, an additional $100,000 (FSGLI) is payable unless spouse has declined or elected a lesser amount. | No Impact | NT |
| Traumatic Injury SGLI Public Law 109-13 & TSGLI Procedural Guide | A rider to the SGLI policy provides payments to help traumatically injured service members and their families with financial burdens associated with recovering from a severe injury. Payments range from $25,000 to $100,000 depending on the qualifying loss suffered. Also payable to SGLI beneficiary(ies) if the member died seven days or more after a qualifying injury occurs. | No Impact | NT |
| Social Security Burial Allowance Social Security Survivor Benefits Publication | $255 one-time lump-sum death benefit, if eligible. | No Impact | NT |
| Funeral Travel  
JFTR par. 5242  
MILPERSMAN 1770-270 | Travel to attend burial ceremonies is authorized for the spouse, children, parents (including in-laws), and siblings (full, half or adopted); or the person authorized to direct disposition of the remains (PADD), if not one of the previously mentioned. If there are no other qualifying relatives, the PADD may select an additional two persons closely related to the deceased. Per diem is payable for the time necessary to travel to the location concerned, plus not to exceed 2 days at that location, and the time necessary to return from that location. | No Impact | NT |
| Memorial Service Travel  
JFTR par. 5242  
MILPERSMAN 1770-271 | An eligible relative (as outlined above in “Funeral Travel”) may be authorized travel and transportation allowances for one round-trip to one installation/home port/unit memorial service if that memorial service occurs at a location other than the burial ceremony location. The memorial service must be in CONUS, a non-foreign OCONUS area or the deceased member’s last PDS or home port, and may not be in a theater of combat operations. Per diem is payable for travel days to and from the location concerned, plus up to 2 days at that location. Note: Commands must provide a statement indicating the date and location of the memorial service, as well as the list of invited/attending family members. | No Impact | NT |
| Travel to Dignified Transfer  
DOD INST 1300.18 | The Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), plus two eligible relatives of the PNOK’s choosing (see “Funeral Travel” for eligible relatives list) of Navy fatalities from a theater of combat operations may travel to Dover Air Force Base to observe the Dignified Transfer of Remains | No Impact | NT |
| Travel to Very Seriously ill or injured Sailors Bedside  
JFTR par. 5246  
MILPERSMAN 1770-230 | A Military physician may determine that such travel is warranted. Such travel is authorized for up to three individuals, as designated by the member (verbally or indicated on the page 2), or by the attending Physician. Individuals are entitled to lodging and per diem for the duration of the “bedside warranted” status. Subsequent arrangements may be authorized through Navy Safe Harbor. | No Impact | NT |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFIT and ENTITLEMENTS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOD Impact</th>
<th>Taxable/ Non-Taxable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel to Bedside of Not Seriously Injured Sailors JFTR par. 5246 MILPERSMAN 1770-230</td>
<td>Travel is authorized for up to three individuals (as determined above) to visit a member who has a wound or injury incurred in a combat operation or combat zone and who is hospitalized in a medical facility in the U.S. for treatment of that wound or injury. Per diem authority must not exceed 30 days unless an extension is authorized/approved through the Secretarial Process.</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortuary Services U. S. Code Title 10 Chapter 75</td>
<td>Preparation, encasement and transportation of remains provided through a contract mortuary or government facility.</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravesite U. S. Code Title 10 Chapter 75</td>
<td>Provided by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) through the National Cemetery System.</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) &amp; Special Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) DoD Directive 1332.27 &amp; DODFMR 7B Chapters 42–52 PL 110-181 (18 Apr 08)</td>
<td>Annuity computed at 55% of member’s disability retired pay (75% of basic pay) (*Note: Computation of disability retired pay predicated on member’s retirement plan, i.e. final pay or high 36 average.) Any SBP payable to the spouse is offset dollar for dollar by DIC. Child(ren) may receive payment with no offset. – Surviving spouses whose SBP payments have been offset (partially or totally) as a result of receiving DIC, including surviving spouses of members who died while serving on active duty, are eligible for the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). SSIA will not be payable for any period prior to 1 Oct 08. -- Monthly SSIA payments will be paid as follows: --- 1 Oct 08 thru 30 Sep 09 - $50 --- 1 Oct 09 thru 30 Sep 10 - $60 --- 1 Oct 10 thru 30 Sep 11 - $70 --- 1 Oct 11 thru 30 Sep 12 - $80 --- 1 Oct 12 thru 30 Sep 13 - $90 --- 1 Oct 13 thru 30 Sep 14 - $150 --- 1 Oct 14 thru 30 Sep 15 - $200 --- 1 Oct 15 thru 30 Sep 16 - $275 --- 1 Oct 16 thru 30 Sep 17 - $310 SSIA payments terminate 1 Oct 17</td>
<td>Will Impact</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Return of Personal Effects

The Navy has no authority to decide lawful succession to or title of ownership of the personal effects of a member who has died. The member's command is only responsible for inventorying and taking custody of personal effects for safekeeping and delivery to the legal recipient, known as the person eligible to receive personal effects (PERE), including the member's POV. The inventory should be recorded on NAVSUP 29. This is a command responsibility. The CACO should not be involved in inventorying or custody of a deceased member’s personal effects.

- Per DoDI 1300.18, PEREs are recognized in the following order:
  1. The legal representative of a person’s estate.
  2. Unremarried surviving spouse.
  3. Children in order of seniority (age).
  4. Parents in order of seniority (age).
  5. Siblings in order of seniority (age).
  6. Other blood relative.
  7. A person standing in loco parentis.
  8. A person named as a beneficiary in a will.

The command should appoint an Inventory Control Board (ICB) which will provide status reports on the personal effects to the regional CAC office. The ICB must consist of at least two people (who are not the CACO) to maintain dual custody at all times. All personal effects should be inventoried, including items in the work space. If the personal effects are in a private residence that the member was sharing with another individual and that person refuses the Navy permission to enter the residence to collect items for shipment, the NOK may have to obtain a court order for release of those items. The shipment of personal effects must be completed within 14 days. The command representative (liaison) should advise the regional CAC office of any estimated shipment date and date of arrival. See NAVSUP 490, Rev 5, for more guidance, or consult NAVSUP Code 53.
Bank Accounts: Contact the bank to determine necessary steps to close member accounts.

POV: If the POV(s) are located at a commercial storage facility, the costs for storage have to be paid by the recipient prior to shipment; the CACO needs to contact the storage facility and obtain details on how to retrieve the vehicle and apprise the NOK of arrangements. If there is a lien against the vehicle, the legal recipient will be advised and given the name and telephone number of the lien holder. Inform the legal recipient that you will, at his/her request, call the financial institution to inform them that the member is deceased.

Documentation: Be specific and use caution when documenting personal effects on the NAVSUP 29. Never inventory personal effects alone. It is important to use generic information when describing personal effects. For example, rather than say “A 2-carat diamond ring” use “a yellow ring with a clear stone.” Do not use words such as gold, silver, china, Rolex, etc.

Mail: Read opened mail, but do not read unopened mail.

Shipment Documentation: The command representative is the liaison with the origin Personal Property Shipping Office (PPSO). The liaison communicates with the assigned CACO (at destination) and provides information as to shipment, storage and/or delivery of personal property. The assigned CACO at destination is the agent for NOK and initiates the delivery of the personal property to the NOK/legal recipient (PERE) via the PPSO. Make an appointment with the Personal Property/Household Goods Office to arrange for “Blue Bark” shipment.

Documents to provide are:

- Copy of PCR
- CACO appointment letter
- Copy of member’s Page 2
- A DD 1300 with the line of accounting (LOA)
- NAVSUP Form 29
- Vehicle registration and/or supporting documents

If death occurred outside the 48 contiguous states, then the personal effects are normally routed through the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Williamsburg, VA. While personal effects are being processed, the command to which the member was assigned will keep the CACO advised as to when and how the effects were sent, bill of lading numbers, intermediary shipment points and expected arrival time of effects. If there is indication of a delay or effects do not arrive, do not hesitate to contact the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, or the Personal Property Division, HQ Naval Supply Systems Command. Forms for personal effects are included in the Command Information page of the CACO website (www.cnic.navy.mil/CACO).

Items Not Covered or Shipped: Examples include pets, garbage and damage to property. Check with your case manager or regional CAC office for guidance if you encounter an issue with an item not covered or shipped.
INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS
(Lost - Abandoned - Unclaimed)
NAVSUP Form 29 (REV 6-00)

THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974, AUTHORITY: Title 5, U.S.C. Code 5724, Use of SSN: authorized by Executive Order 9397 of 22 November 1943; Title 4 U.S.C. code 406. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To serve as a record property impounded by the Government incident to a member's death or disappearance. ROUTINE USES: (A) Serves as a record of all property impounded by Government which has been left behind by members who have disappeared or belonging to deceased members or employees. (B) Serves as a source document for preparation of shipping documents used to return property to next of kin or legal owner. VOLUNTARY: Lack of SSN on this will not directly affect the member. When it is furnished, however, it precludes any possible mistaken identity when names are the same and this is a frequent occurrence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME (Last)</th>
<th>(First)</th>
<th>(Middle)</th>
<th>SSN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHIPSTATION</td>
<td>DATE ACQUIRED CUSTODY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOME OF RECORD

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN, HEIR, LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

REASON FOR INTERVENTION (SELECT ONE ITEM)

☐ DECEASED ☐ DECLARED AWOL/DESERTER ☐ MENTALLY/PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED ☐ DATE DECLARED:

☐ TRANSFERRED ON LV OR TEMDU ☐ TRANSFERRED W/O BELONGS ☐ MIA

INVENTORY BOARD APPOINTED SENIOR:

DATE OF APPOINTMENT APPOINTED BY (Typed name of CO/OIC signature)

OTHER:

RECEIVED FROM INVENTORY BOARD, DATE

SIGNATURE, RANK, TITLE OF RECEIVING OFFICER

SHIPSTATION (If other than above)

STATEMENT OF UNSETTLED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

OWED TO ABOVE NAMED MEMBER BY AMOUNT OWED BY ABOVE NAMED MEMBER TO AMOUNT

PERSONAL EFFECTS BEING SHIPPED TO

☐ NEXT OF KIN ☐ LEGAL OWNER ☐ PEDIC CHATHAM ANNEX

REMARKS (Comments) Typed name of Custom Inspector (if applicable)

SN 0108-LF-500-0080
## Sample Forms

### Inventory of Personal Effects (NAVSUP Form 29) (pg. 2 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>CLASS III - MONEY</th>
<th>DENDUM.</th>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Bills</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover, Pillow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover, Mattress</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bag, Duffel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Coins</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cap (Blk/Lv/Khaki)</td>
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<td>Coat (Rain)</td>
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<td>.25</td>
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<td>Coat Uniform (Winter/Summer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloves/Handbag</td>
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<td>Hat (Combination)</td>
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<td>Hat, Covers (Wh/Blk/Khaki)</td>
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<td>Shoe (Gym/Safety)</td>
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<td>Socks</td>
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<td>Trousers (Utility)</td>
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<td>Trousers (Bl/Wh/Khaki)</td>
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<td>Undershirt</td>
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<td>Underdrawers</td>
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**CLASS IV - NEGOTIABLE AND NONNEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS**

**VALUE**

**CLASS V - MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES OF INTRINSIC, SENTIMENTAL & UTILITY VALUE**

---

**INVENTORY BOARD**

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<th>SEAL NO.</th>
<th>SENIOR BOARD MEMBER</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
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**DATE OF INVENTORY**

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<th>OTHER BOARD MEMBER</th>
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**DISPOSITION (If other than owner/vallee or shipment to other activity)**

**FOR USE OF SUPPLY OFFICER**

**APPROVED BY (Signature of appointment officer)**
Sample Forms

Shipment of Personal Effects Letter

[Form Content]

To: Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-1352)
Via: [Area Coordinator’s Command]

Subj: SHIPMENT OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

1. This is to request the personal effects of my
husband / wife / son / daughter, (circle one)

[Signature, Name, Social Security Number]

be shipped to the following individual and address:

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________

2. If you have any questions, please call:

(CACO’s name and telephone number with area code)

Requestor: ________________________

(signature)

(printed name)

(relationship to the deceased)

Recipient: ________________________

(signature)

(printed name)

(relationship to the deceased)

Signature of Requestor affixed in the presence of:

(signature of CACO)

Appendix V
Sample Forms

Handling of Personal Effects Designation Letter

Module Four  CACO Student Guide 93
Investigations

Sometimes an investigation is initiated to explore the circumstances surrounding the death of a military member (or DoD civilian employee who becomes a fatality while accompanying military personnel in the field or as a result of military-related actions). Navy Casualty (PERS-13) will task commands to provide the following, usually by a casualty assistance follow-up message e-mailed to the command:

- The name of the DoD organization conducting the investigation
- The type of investigation being conducted.
- The existence of any reports by the investigating organization that have been or will be issued as a result of the investigation
- A point of contact within the investigating organization that can provide information on the status of the completion of any investigative reports.

Examples of investigations are Line of Duty (LOD) Investigations, JAGMAN Investigations, or an Aviation Mishap Investigation.

Your role as a CACO is to provide the PNOK and parents with current information about ongoing investigations (if applicable) and the process for obtaining a copy of such investigation and any autopsies (if conducted). You should work with your regional program manager to obtain this information.

DoD informs PERS-13 about the procedures for family members to obtain a copy of the completed report(s), to the extent that such reports may be furnished, and for obtaining answers to their questions on the completed investigation from a fully qualified representative.

If the question of investigations comes up on the notification visit, assure the family that you will keep them apprised of the status as soon as you know anything, and that you will help them fill out any forms to get the information they want.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request form is included in the CACO Toolkit.

When speaking with a family about ongoing investigations:

Do:

- Tell the family what information is available.
- Assist the family to complete Freedom of Information Act request forms.
- Coordinate with your regional program manager to obtain the latest information.

Don’t:

- Speculate; only tell the family information you have.
- Make promises that you cannot keep (for example, telling the family when investigations will be completed or available.)
Sample Forms

Commander
Navy Personnel Command
(PERS-00J6)
Attn: Freedom of Information Coordinator
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 102-484, Section 1072 of the 1993 National Defense Authorization Act, I request a copy of the below listed documents from the service record or medical record of:

__________________________
(Rate, Name, Last Four of SSN)

who died on ________________

Documents requested: ______________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________
(Signature)

________________________
(Printed Name)

________________________
(Relationship to Sailor)

________________________
(Street Address)

________________________
(City, State, ZIP Code)

________________________
(Telephone Number)

(Form received from OPNAV N135C 6 November 2009.)

Freedom of Information Request Letter: Service and Medical Records
Freedom of Information Request Letter: Police Investigation

Chief of Police
(name & address)

To whom it may concern:

In accordance with section the Privacy Act of 1974, I request a copy of the police report in the case of my husband, ____________________________

who died on __________, in ____________________________

(date) (place)

(Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Relationship to deceased)

(Street Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Telephone Number)
Sample Forms

Freedom of Information Request Letter: JAGMAN

(Module Four)

(CACO Student Guide 97)
NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
INVESTIGATION REQUEST

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Headquarters
WNY, Building 111, Attn: OQJF
716 Sicard Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20388-5380

To Whom It May Concern:

__________ (U.S. Navy Member’s Rank, Name, and SSN) ________ died
while serving on active duty with the United States Navy on ___ (Date of Death) ___.

I understand an independent investigation into the death of the above named Sailor is
being conducted by your organization. Under the Freedom of Information Act, request a
copy of the completed investigation be provided to me at the below address. I am
__________ (Relationship) ________ to the deceased.

I (do/do not) desire the report to include pictures taken by the investigators.

Sincerely,

__________________________
(Signature)

__________________________
(Printed name)

__________________________
(Street address)

__________________________
(City, State, Zip Code)

__________________________
(Telephone number)

Freedom of Information Request Letter: NCIS
SAMPLE REQUEST FOR AUTOPSY

DATE: ________________

Armed Forces Medical Examiner System
115 Purple Heart Drive
Dover AFB, DE 19902

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 5, United States Section 552 Freedom of Information Act, and the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, I am requesting a copy of the autopsy report and the results of the examination surrounding the death of my husband, ________________ USN,

that died on ________________. I understand that some autopsy reports may contain graphic information. Please forward a complete copy to the following address as soon as feasible.

(Signature of Next of Kin)

________________________
Address

________________________
City, State, Zip

(____) __________________
NOK’s Phone number

(Signature of Witness)

Freedom of Information Request Letter: Autopsy
Setting Boundaries

In his book, Boundaries & Relationships: Knowing, Protecting, Enjoying the Self, psychotherapist Dr. Charles L. Whitfield describes a boundary or limit as "how far we can go with comfort in a relationship. It delineates where ‘I’ and ‘my’ physical and psychological space ends and where ‘you’ and ‘yours’ begin."

If your boundaries are intact and you have good self-awareness, you will have a negative response to people around you who don't. Think of the co-worker or casual acquaintance who shares intimate details of her or his marriage with you. What about the boss who seems to be trying to develop a friendship with you? At the least, this can be confusing. We are comfortable in relationships when we know the "rules" or conventions that define them.

Setting boundaries is not a more sophisticated way of manipulation — although some people will say they are setting boundaries, when in fact they are attempting to manipulate. The difference between setting a boundary in a healthy way and manipulating is: when we set a boundary we let go of the outcome.

It is important for a CACO to maintain personal and emotional boundaries when working with a case, especially an extended case. This means setting limits without feeling like you have hurt or disappointed another person and being able to ask for what you want or deserve.

Clearly defined boundaries indicate that you have self-respect, care for yourself and are aware of protecting your own interests. People who are able to do this are able to say NO! You may find that saying “no” brings up many different emotions for you. If you have emotional boundaries that are too restrictive, you may feel emotionally numb. To others you may seem to be insensitive, unaccepting and not interested. You may avoid reacting or showing your feeling to others and have problems asking for or giving help.

If you have emotional boundaries that are too loose, you may be unable to contain your feelings and you may overreact to yourself or others. You may tell others too much about yourself, may depend too much on others to meet your needs and may trust too quickly or get into intimate, sexual relationships too fast or inappropriately. You may also agree to do things when you to really want to say “no.” You may also give too much, take too much and not respect your own or others’ personal rights. You have the right to set limits on your physical and emotional space and ask others to respect those limits.
How Can I Tell if My Boundaries Are Violated?

Any of the following may be signs that you do not have adequate boundaries in place:

- Always saying YES when someone asks you to do something, even if you don't feel like it.
- Often putting the needs of others before your own.
- Putting up with verbal and emotional abuse.
- Allowing yourself to be manipulated by another's moods.
- Feeling hurt and angry when someone treats you a certain way.
- Being taken for granted.

CACO duty can take a physical and emotional toll on a member. Before taking on a case, set your own boundary guidelines and stick to them. Have a support system in place, a person or group of people you can talk to when you are experiencing stress, strong emotions or secondary trauma from your CACO duty. Your spouse, adult friends, chaplain or religious advisor, parents or siblings could be in your support system and help you maintain your boundaries and your perspective.

Take a few minutes now to consider who could be your support when you are called to CACO duty. When you complete this training, talk to the person or people listed, tell them about the duty you may be called on to perform, and discuss how they can provide support to you as you accomplish this critical service to your fallen shipmates and their families.

Name:_______________________________________________
Name:_______________________________________________
Name:_______________________________________________
Name:_______________________________________________
Long-Term Assignments

CACO assignments can range from a few hours to many months. In extended assignments, communication needs change over time. Two kinds of communication problems are common: 1) the NOK may become frustrated and angry about slow progress, or 2) the NOK may show signs of becoming too dependent on the CACO. The following approaches will help to avoid both of these problems.

**Establish short, medium and long-term goals.** As the situation changes, the purposes and goals of communication between the CACO and NOK also change. Remain flexible, establish interim and final goals, and discuss them with the NOK to facilitate this process. Measuring and acknowledging progress compared to these goals is a useful tool for keeping communication open and reducing frustration.

**Identify and discuss milestones and changes.** As each milestone is reached, any changes in communication goals and patterns can be identified and discussed. For example, advising the NOK in advance that calls will be decreasing will help to avoid surprises and negative feelings of resentment at being "abandoned."

**Involve other resources as needed.** In some long-term assignments, ongoing NOK needs will ultimately be passed off to other support services. Planning for and discussing this long-term strategy can be included as part of the mid- and long-term goal setting process.

**Navy Gold Star Program:** The Navy’s official program for providing long-term support to surviving families of Sailors who pass while on Active Duty. The Navy Gold Star program will

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**Navy Gold Star Coordinator:** Serves as the long-term support advocate for Survivors and is responsible for service delivery. Coordinators provide, either directly or through appropriate professional resources; support groups, life skills education, assistance in managing applicable life-long benefits transition milestones and referrals to counseling resources. The Gold Star Coordinator will work closely with the CACO. The Coordinators primary role is to support their area of responsibility (AOR) in order to follow the Navy Gold Star mission of providing long term Survivor Assistance. Some AORs will be geographically larger than others, especially in locations with limited resources and large areas of responsibility.

The CACO will coordinate an introduction between the Survivor and the assigned Gold Star Coordinator. The Survivor determines when and if the meeting will occur. If Survivor declines meeting, the CACO will ensure Survivor is aware of grief and bereavement counseling resources and will provide Survivor with the local resource list to be added to their Days Ahead Binder. If meeting is desired, the Gold Star Coordinator will offer grief and bereavement counseling information to Survivor and CACO, as well as, additional local resource list

The Regional CACO Coordinator will make the determination when all applicable elements of the short-term casualty assistance process (CACO) is verified or properly initiated on behalf of that Survivor. When the CACO has completed all required duties the case will then be officially transferred to the Navy Gold Star program.

"Close" the assignment. In all CACO assignments that include substantial periods of CACO-NOK interaction, a final call or visit to acknowledge that the assignment is finished is usually beneficial. This action is especially helpful after a long-term assignment. The discussion can be opened with a statement such as "We have reached all of our goals" or "Everything has been completed." A closing statement such as "It has been an honor to serve you" can provide a sense of closure for both the NOK and the CACO.
CACO Completion Report: The NAVPERS 1770/7

The NAVPERS 1770/7 tracks the progress of a CACO case. The initial report is due 30 days after assignment, and interim reports are due every 30 days thereafter. A final report shall be completed when all benefits have been received and the CACO is ready to close out the case.

The CACO may add any comments or recommendations for improvements on this form for review. Be sure to include man hours worked on the case.
Forms for the Benefits Visit

- Benefit Claim Forms as Directed by Navy Casualty (PERS-13)
- NAVPERS 1770/7
- DD 1300, Report of Casualty
- DD 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business
- Privacy Act Authorization

Forms and Information for the Benefits Visit available at the CACO resource webpage (http://www.cnic.navy.mil/caco)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form Name</th>
<th>Form Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary of VA Dependents’ and Survivors’ Benefits</td>
<td>VA Pam 21-12-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Survivors Guide to Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by a Surviving Spouse or Child</td>
<td>VA 21-534a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Refund of Educational Contributions</td>
<td>VA 24-5281</td>
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<td>BAH Non Receipt Letter to DFAS</td>
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<td>Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services for SGLI VGL FSGLI Beneficiaries</td>
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<td>Claim for Death Benefits</td>
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<td>Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditure on Official Business</td>
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<td>Freedom of Information Act Request</td>
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<td>Information Relating to Deceased Participant</td>
<td>TSP-U-17</td>
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<td>MGIB Refund Letter</td>
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<td>Personal Effects Extension Letter</td>
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<td>Personal Effects Shipment Request Form</td>
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<td>Post 9/11 GI Bill Fry Scholarship</td>
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<td>Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) Fact Sheet</td>
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<td>Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) Request Form</td>
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<td>Tricare Survivor Benefits Brochure</td>
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<td>VA Bereavement Counseling webpage</td>
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<td>VA Death Pension Benefits webpage</td>
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<td>VA Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC) webpage</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Educational Benefits Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Type</td>
<td>Contact Information (Name, Phone, Fax, Email, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Casualty Benefit Claims</td>
<td>PERS-13 is available to answer questions regarding SGLI at (800) 368-3202</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| SGLI/OSGLI                   | Office of Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI)  
Tel. (800) 419-1473 
Main Fax. (800) 236-6142 
Claims Fax. (877) 832-4943 
http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/sgli/sgli.htm |
| VA Representative/Office    |                                                      |
| Navy Gold Star Coordinator   |                                                      |
## Sample Forms

### Casualty Assistance Calls Program (NAVPERS 1770/7) (pg. 1 of 3)

| DATE BUPERS BENEFITS PACKAGE RECEIVED: | 20150225 |
| DATE COMMAND LETTER OF CONDOLENCE/CIRCUMSTANCES RECEIVED: | 20150213 |
| DATE AND TIME OF PERSONAL NOTIFICATION: | 20150210/0930 |

### SUBJECT

1. REPORT OF CASUALTY (DD FORM 1368) (FURNISHED TO NEXT OF KIN AND OTHER AGENCIES)

### ACTION (AS APPROPRIATE)

| N/A | 20150225 |

### CLAIMS AND APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

2. BURIAL ENTITLEMENTS:
   - A. NAVY
   - B. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

3. DEATH GRATUITY

4. UNPAID COMPENSATION (UNPAID PAY AND ALLOWANCES)

5. SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY (ALL ACTIVE DUTY DEATHS AND CERTAIN RESERVIST WHILE ON INACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING WITH QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES)

6. SERVICE MEMBER'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (OSGLI) CLAIM

7. COMMERCIAL LIFE INSURANCE APPLICATION (INDICATE IN REMARKS THE NAME OF THE COMPANY WHICH COMMERCIAL INSURANCE IS CARRIED)

8. UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD (DD FORM 1173) (MAY INCLUDE MEDICAL CARE, EXCHANGE AND COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES)

9. DEPENDENTS' TRAVEL
   - 1. FUNERAL TRAVEL (SETTLE AT LOCAL PSD)
   - 2. BEDSIDE TRAVEL (SEND TO PERS-423 FOR PAYMENT)

10. TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS/PERSONAL EFFECTS

11. SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR BENEFITS (CALL 1-866-777-7887 MON-FRI 7:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. EST TO FILE FOR BENEFITS. HEARING IMPAIRED MAY CALL 1-866-545-7316 TO FILE FOR BENEFITS, SAME HOURS AS ABOVE)

NAVPERS 1770/7 (Rev. 06-2010) FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: PRIVACY SENSITIVE
### CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CALLS PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>ACTION (AS APPROPRIATE)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. FINANCIAL COUNSELING (CSGLI OR OTHER SOURCE)</td>
<td>DATE APPLIED FOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN REFUND</td>
<td>20150225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. FLAG CASE</td>
<td>20150211</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) BENEFITS**

| 15. A. DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION | N/A |
| 1. SPOUSE | N/A |
| 2. CHILDREN | N/A |
| 3. PARENTS | N/A |
| 16. GOVERNMENT HEADSTONE OR MARKER (APPLICATION NOT REQUIRED IF BURIAL IS IN NATIONAL CEMETARY) | 20150225 |
| 17. MONTGOMERY GI BILL (MGIB) AND VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VEAP) | 20150225 |
| 18. PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE | 20150211 |
| 19. VETERAN’S AFFAIRS (VA) EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS | N/A |

**ASSISTANCE REQUIRED (INDICATE IN "REMARKS" TO WHOM REFERRED FOR ASSISTANCE)**

| 20. GRIEF COUNSELING (SERVICE SUPPORT OR VA) | N/A |
| 21. INCOME TAX (W-2 FURNISHED DIRECTLY TO NEXT OF KIN BY DFAS WITHOUT REQUEST UPON COMPLETION OF PROCESSING) | N/A |
| 22. BANK ACCOUNTS, SAVINGS BONDS, SECURITIES, REAL ESTATE, WILL | N/A |

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS REQUEST (AS APPLICABLE)**

| 23. JAGMAN INVESTIGATION REPORT | N/A |
| 24. NCIS INVESTIGATION REPORT | N/A |
| 25. AIRCRAFT MISHAP INVESTIGATION REPORT | N/A |
| 26. LINE OF DUTY INVESTIGATION (REQUIRED TO SATISFY ENTITLEMENT TO SIAND DVC BENEFITS) | 20150309 |

**SPECIAL REQUEST MADE BY BENEFICIARY:**

**ACTION TAKEN BY CACO (I.E., MILEAGE AND MANHOURS SPENT ON CASE):**

**ACTION DESIRED BY NPC AS FOLLOWS:**

NAVPERS 1770/7 (Rev.06-2010) FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY-
PRIVACY SENSITIVE PAGE 2 OF 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>FORWARDED TO CAC/FHS PROGRAM MANGER DATE:</th>
<th>FIRST ENDORSEMENT</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>FROM: CAC/FHS PROGRAM MANAGER DATE:</th>
<th>TO: NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND (PERS-623)</th>
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<tr>
<td>NAVPERS 1770/7 (Rev. 06-2010)</td>
<td>1. Forwarded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY-PRIVACY SENSITIVE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Casualty Assistance Calls Program (NAVPERS 1770/7) (pg. 3 of 3)
Sample Forms

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Regional Office and Insurance Center
P.O. Box 8079
Philadelphia, PA 19101

We are truly sorry for your loss. We know this is a most difficult time in your life, but we want to provide you with the options that are available for you to receive your life insurance payment. Unless the insured designated otherwise, you have four options:

Option A: Alliance Account
This is an account opened for you by the program’s primary insurer, The Prudential Insurance Company of America. This account earns interest, and you would be sent a book of drafts (similar to a checkbook). You then have the choice of writing a draft for the entire balance in your account, or you could use drafts to pay any immediate bills and leave the balance in the Alliance Account until you have the opportunity to consider permanent alternatives.

The Alliance Account is not a bank account and is not insured by the FDIC. The Alliance Account is a contractual obligation of Prudential and backed by the financial strength of the company. While the account is not insured by the FDIC, every state has a state guaranty association that is legally obligated to guaranty payment of at least $250,000, with most states providing $300,000 in protection, and a few providing protection of up to $500,000. These associations have met all obligations since they were created 25 years ago.

If you do not decide on a way to receive your insurance payment, you will automatically receive the funds in an Alliance Account.

Option B: Check Mailed to You
A check for the full amount due will be mailed in your name to the address you enter on the Claim for Death Benefits.

Option C: Electronic Funds Transfer
The full amount due will be transferred to the bank account you provide on the Claim for Death Benefits.

Option D: 36 Equal Monthly Installments
You would receive a check each month for the insurance, plus interest, over a period of 36 months.

We strongly urge you to take advantage of the free, independent, third party financial counseling offered through Beneficiary Financial Counseling Service. For more information about the counseling service call FinancialPoint® at 1-888-243-7351.

The Casualty Officer assisting you will be able to answer any questions you have, and will help you complete the claim form. If you have questions at a later date please call the Office of Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance at 1-800-419-1473.

Again, please accept our condolences on your loss.

Sincerely,

Department of Veterans Affairs

Ed. 06/2014
Sample Forms

Prudential
Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance

HOW TO COMPLETE A CLAIM FOR DEATH BENEFITS*

This form should be used when the deceased had insurance in force under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) or Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI).

Completion of Parts I through V
It is important that all requested information be furnished. Omission or incomplete answers will delay settlement of the claim. All information should be typed or printed in ink, except the signature.

- Item 1: Show full name of the deceased service member or Veteran.
- Item 2: Show Social Security Number of deceased. If the deceased did not have a Social Security Number show service number.
- Item 3: Show date of death of deceased.
- Items 4, 5: Show branch of service, duty status on date of death (if known), and date of discharge or separation (if known) of deceased.
- Items 7, 8, 9 and 10: Show your full name, relationship to deceased, your date of birth, and Social Security Number.

If you were married to the deceased when he/she died, but were not named as his/her insurance beneficiary, complete items 11A through 14C as applicable.

If you were not married to the deceased when he/she died and were not specifically named as his/her insurance beneficiary, complete Part II through 15D. Be sure to provide the required information as to the deceased's marital status and any children. In items 15A through 15D give the information about persons indicated in the answers to the preceding questions. Use a separate signed sheet if necessary.

Complete Part III if you were not named as the insurance beneficiary, were not married to the deceased at his/her death, and are not a parent of the deceased.

Parts IV and V must be completed by all claimants.

Payment of Death Benefits
SGLI and VGLI death benefit payments must be made in the following order:

- To the beneficiary named in writing by the insured; if none, the insurance is payable to
- the widow or widower of the insured; if none, it is payable to
- the child or children in equal shares with the share of any deceased child distributed among the descendants of that child; if none, it is payable to
- parent(s) in equal shares; if none, it is payable to
- a duly appointed executor or administrator of the insured's estate, and if none, to
- other next of kin.

Evidence Required
If the deceased died while on active duty, or while a member of a Reserve or National Guard Unit, the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will be furnished with proof of death by the Uniformed Service. In all other situations, the claimant must submit a certified copy of the Certificate of Death.

Members performing duty on a full-time basis, usually over 30 days, and qualified members of the Ready Reserve are insured for 120 days following separation. Members totally disabled at separation may be insured for up to two years following separation as long as total disability continues. If the insured died while covered following separation from service, the claimant must also submit a copy of a report of separation, DD 214.

You will be informed if it becomes necessary to submit other evidence.

* Contact your nearest Department of Veterans Affairs Office if you need assistance with completing this claim form.
## Claim for Death Benefits (SGLV 8283) (pg. 2 of 4)

### PART I - Information of Deceased and Claimant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claim for Death Benefits</th>
<th>Return Completed Form To:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance</td>
<td>The Prudential Insurance Company of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans' Group Life Insurance</td>
<td>Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90 Livingston Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roseland, NJ 07068-1733</td>
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Note: This form is not to be used for National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) Policy Numbers Prefixed by V, H, RH, RS, W, J, JH and JS or United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) Policy Numbers Prefixed by K

1. Name of deceased (first middle last)  
   Leroy Quincy Sailor
2. Social Security Number  
   123-45-6789
3. Date of death  
   02/15/2015
4. Branch of service  
   USN
5. Duty status on date of death (if known)  
   Active Duty
6. If discharged or separated, give date (if known)  
   (month day year)
7. Your name (first middle last)  
   John Quincy Sailor
8. Your relationship to the deceased  
   Father
9. Your date of birth (month day year)  
   03/28/1951
10. Your Social Security Number  
    123-45-7694

If you are the widow or widower of deceased complete Items 11A through 14C

11A. Date of marriage (month day year)  
11B. Place of marriage (City & State)
12. Did the marriage continue until date of death?  
   Yes  No

13A. Did deceased have any previous marriages?  
   (If yes, complete 13B & 13C)
   Yes  No
13B. Previous marriage terminated by:  
   Death  Divorce
13C. Date previous marriage terminated (if divorced within last 5 years, attach copy of the divorce decree)

14A. Did you have any previous marriages?  
   (If yes, complete 14B & 14C)
   Yes  No
14B. Previous marriage terminated by:  
   Death  Divorce
14C. Date previous marriage terminated (if divorced within last 5 years, attach copy of the divorce decree)

### PART II - Information concerning the next of kin of the deceased

If you are not the named beneficiary, widow, or widower of the deceased, complete Parts II and III

In the table below, list the name, age, relationship, and address of:

(a) Widow or widower  None  If none, was insured ever married?  Yes  No  If Yes, did marriage terminate by:  Divorce (mm dd yyyy)  Death (mm dd yyyy)
(b) If there is no surviving widow or widower, list all the children of the deceased. Include any adopted child or illegitimate child and indicate each child’s status. List the descendants of any deceased child or children. If no children, check box.
(c) If there are no children or descendants of children, list the surviving parent or parents.
(d) Is the father deceased?  Yes  No  Is the mother deceased?  Yes  No

<table>
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<tr>
<th>15A. Name</th>
<th>15B. Age</th>
<th>15C. Relationship to deceased</th>
<th>15D. Address</th>
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Complete items 16 and 17 ONLY if any of the persons listed above are under the age of 21.

16. Name and address of guardian for any minor children listed above if one has been appointed by the court. (Attach copy of appointment paper issued by court.)
17. If a guardian has not been appointed, will one be appointed?  Yes  No
Sample Forms

Claim for Death Benefits (SGLV 8283) (pg. 3 of 4)
Claim for Death Benefits (SGLV 8283) (pg. 4 of 4)
Presidential Memorial Certificate Request (VA Form 40-0247)
Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA Form 21-534a) (pg. 1 of 2)
Sample Forms

APPLICATION FOR VA FORM 21-534a

PRINT ALL ANSWERS CLEARLY.

SIGN AND DATE THE APPLICATION.

MAKE A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS APPLICATION AND EVERYTHING YOU SUBMIT TO VA BEFORE YOU MAIL IT.

NOTE - All the information requested must be answered fully and clearly or action on your claim may be delayed. If you do not know the answer, write "unknown."

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

ITEMS 1-2 - Self-explanatory.
ITEM 3 - Name of surviving spouse or person applying on behalf of minor children.
ITEMS 4-12 - Self-explanatory.
ITEM 13 - Expected date that new mailing address will be effective.
ITEMS 14-17 - Self-explanatory.
ITEMS 18-20 - To be completed by Military Casualty Assistance Officer.

MINORS AND INCOMPETENT PERSONS - If the person for whom the claim is being made is a minor or incompetent person, the application should be completed and filed by the legal guardian. If no legal guardian has been appointed, it may be completed and filed by some person acting on behalf of the minor or incompetent person.

IMPORTANT: If you are certifying that you are married for the purpose of VA benefits, your marriage must be recognized by the place where you and/or your spouse resided at the time of marriage, or where you and/or your spouse resided when you filed your claim (or a later date when you became eligible for benefits) (38 U.S.C. § 103(c)). Additional guidance on when VA recognizes marriages is available at http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage/.

THIS FORM, ALONG WITH THE SERVICEMEMBER'S DD FORM 1300, REPORT OF CASUALTY, SHOULD BE MAILED OR FAXED TO:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
REGIONAL OFFICE AND INSURANCE CENTER
P.O. BOX 8079
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19101

FAX NUMBER (215) 381-3084.

For assistance in completing this application, or information about VA benefits and services, call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 (Hearing Impaired—TDD Line 1-800-829-4833).

VA FORM 21-534a
JUN 2014

Page 2
Sample Forms

MGIB Refund Request Letter

Module Four

CACO Student Guide 117
Claim for Standard Government Headstone of Marker (VA Form 40-1330) (pg. 1 of 4)
Sample Forms

ILLUSTRATIONS OF STANDARD GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

UPRIGHT HEADSTONE
WHITE MARBLE OR LIGHT GRAY GRANITE

BRONZE NICHES

FLAT MARKERS
BRONZE

ROBERT C. WILLIAMSON
SP 1
US NAVY

This niche marker is 8-1/2 inches long, 5-1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker. Used for columbarium or mausoleum interment. Also provided to supplement a privately-purchased headstone or marker for eligible Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery.

ROBERT C. WILLIAMSON
US ARMY
1905 - 1988

This grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The base is not furnished by the Government.

LIGHT GRAY GRANITE OR WHITE MARBLE

INSCRIPTION INFORMATION

MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS (remains are not buried). The words "In Memory Of" are mandatory and precede the authorized inscription data. The words "In Memory Of" are only inscribed when remains are not available.

MANDATORY ITEMS of inscription at Government expense are: Legal Name, Branch of Service, Year of Birth, Year of Death, and for State Veterans and National Cemeteries only, the section and grave number. Branches of Service are: U.S. Army (USA), U.S. Navy (USN), U.S. Air Force (USAF), U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF), and other parent organizations authorized for certain periods of time; and special units such as Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP), U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Different examples of inscription formats are illustrated above. More than one branch of service is permitted, subject to space availability.

OPTIONAL ITEMS are identified on the claim in boxes with bold outlines. These items may be included at Government expense if desired. Optional items include month and day of birth in block 5A, month and day of death in block 5B, highest rank attained in block 7, awards in block 9, war service in block 10, and emblem of belief in block 12. War service includes active duty service during a recognized period of war and the individual does not have to serve in the actual place of war, e.g., Vietnam may be inscribed if the Veteran served during the Vietnam War period, even though the individual never served in the country. Supporting documentation must be included with the claim if you wish to include the highest rank and/or awards.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS may be inscribed at Government expense if they are requested on the initial claim and is space available. Examples of additional items include appropriate terms of endearment, nicknames (in expressions such as "OUR BELOVED POPPY"), military or civilian credentials or accomplishments such as DOCTOR, REVEREND, etc., and special unit designations such as WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS, ARMY AIR CORPS, ARMY NURSE CORPS or SEABEES. All requests for additional inscription items should be stated in block 27, and are subject to VA approval. No graphics, emblems or pictures are permitted except available emblems of belief, the Medal of Honor, and the Southern Cross of Honor for Civil War Confederates.

RESERVED SPACE for future inscriptions at private expense, such as spouse or dependent data, is allowed if requested in block 27 and if space is available. Only two lines of space may be reserved on flat markers due to space limitations. Reserved space is unnecessary on upright marble or granite headstones as the reverse side is available for future inscriptions.

INCOMPLETE OR INACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE CLAIM MAY RESULT IN ITS RETURN TO THE CLAIMANT, A DELAY IN RECEIPT OF THE HEADSTONE OR MARKER, OR AN INACCURATE INSRIPTION.
Sample Forms

Claim for Standard Government Headstone of Marker (VA Form 40-1330) (pg. 3 of 4)
Final Issues of Note

Religious Issues: Brief summaries of various religious traditions regarding death are included on the CACO website (www.cnic.navy.mil/CACO). CACOs should review the material on their own and understand that they could encounter a variety of religious issues while working on a case. A CACO should always attempt to bring a chaplain along when notifying NOK of a casualty.

Organizing a Case File: As stated at the beginning of the training, organization is one of the two keys to success as a CACO (communication is the other). Keep copies of everything in a well-organized file. Keep all of your CACO materials together in an easy-to-access place so that when you are assigned a case you can easily and efficiently accomplish the necessary tasks.

Dealing with Knowledge Attrition: It is possible to be assigned a case within just a few days of taking this training, but it is also possible it could be a few months. It is normal for there to be some knowledge attrition between now and the time a case is assigned. The CACO website (www.cnic.navy.mil/CACO) contains all forms and resources. The CACO Checklist that has been used at the start of each module is included on the CACO website (www.cnic.navy.mil/CACO), and reviewing that periodically will help keep you ready for a case assignment.

CACO Refresher Training: There is a CACO refresher course located on the TWMS web site. The TWMS website is CAC enabled. Type this link in your internet browser: https://twms.nmci.navy.mil/selfservice/online_Training/.

1. Click on the Online training and Notices under the Tools/Actions section.
2. Click on available training and the CACO Refresher and Just In Time CACO training should appear in your course selection.
3. If you have a problem finding the course on the TWMS website there is a Power Point presentation located on the CACO toolkit that will instruct you on how to access the refresher course.
4. If you cannot access the course contact your TWMS customer service representative.
Terminology Review

Match the terms with the correct definition.

1. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
2. Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA)
3. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
4. Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Refund
5. Person Eligible to Receive Personal Effects (PERE)
6. Personal Effects
7. Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI)
8. Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
9. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
10. Traumatic SGLI (TSGLI)
11. Fry Scholarship
12. Navy Gold Star Program
13. Gold Star Coordinator

A. This legislation gives citizens the right to get information about the governance, actions, decisions and past records which are not confidential and not affecting the security of the nation, required by them from the authorities. For casualty investigations, a request form must be submitted to obtain certain records.

B. Articles owned by an individual, as well as any articles of government property in his/her temporary custody.

C. A rider to Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance that provides for payment to service members who are severely injured (on or off duty) as the result of a traumatic event and suffer a loss that qualifies for payment. Payments range from $25,000 to $100,000 based on the qualifying loss suffered.

D. The Navy’s official program for providing long-term support to surviving families of Sailors who pass while on Active Duty

E. A tax-free monthly benefit authorized for unremarried spouses and eligible children of members who died on active duty or died following active duty from a service connected disability. Benefit amounts change from year to year and are available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website.

F. A program of low-cost group life insurance for qualifying service members.

G. A 24/7 tragedy assistance resource for anyone who has suffered the loss of a military loved one, regardless of the relationship to the deceased or the circumstance of the death.

H. Provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level.

I. Provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits which may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training.

J. Provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for qualified education expenses. Members contribute $1,200 during their first year of active duty. If the benefit is unused by a deceased member, the unused portion of the payment is reimbursed to the designated beneficiary.

K. A retirement savings program for civilians and members of the armed forces who are employed by the United States federal government.

L. Serves as the long-term support advocate for Survivors and is responsible for service delivery. Works closely with the CACO. Provide, either directly or through appropriate professional resources; support groups, life skills education, assistance in managing applicable life-long benefits transition milestones and referrals to counseling resources.

M. The person eligible to receive the personal effects of a deceased military member or civilian employee
Module 5:
Capstone Case Studies and Conclusion

Module Learning Objectives:

- Given a case study scenario, the learner will demonstrate appropriate overall understanding of the CACO process, roles and responsibilities.

Case Study Group Presentations

Your group is to prepare a five- to seven-minute presentation on your case study. Choose a spokesperson to present the information. You will have five minutes to present your case. The presentation should include the following:

1. Read the scenario to the class.
2. Discuss two or three things that are unique to your case and that the rest of the class will benefit from learning about ("lessons learned"). Be prepared to state the issue, the steps taken, and why your group feels these two or three issues are worth mentioning.
Case Study One: ENS Stella Douglas

ENS Stella Douglas is stationed on the USS CARNEY presently at sea off the coast of Florida. ENS Douglas was washed overboard and is reported as DUSTWUN.

ENS Douglas has two minor sons (age 3 and 2) and they are currently residing with ENS Douglas’ in-laws in Richmond, Virginia. Her husband died two years ago, she has a brother in the Marine Corps stationed in Washington state and a sister in the Army stationed in Virginia.

You are the CACO for her parents in Miami, Florida and you are in receipt of the DUSTWUN PCR, Page 2 and SGLI Election Form. The SGLI designation names the two minor children as beneficiaries, Unpaid Pay and Allowances (UPPA) is designated to her mother and Death Gratuity to the two minor children (equally). The PADD as listed on the Page 2 is a friend of ENS Douglas who is a 29 year old civilian male who lives in Mayport, FL.

AS A TEAM, DO THE FOLLOWING:

Module Two
1. Who is the PNOK and what actions would you take to notify the PNOK?
2. The parents want ENS Douglas’ brother and sister notified. What role do you play in the notification?
3. What additional information do you need to gather since this case involves an officer?
4. How long can the Commanding Officer of the USS CARNEY keep ENS Douglas in a DUSTWUN status and how often do updates to the DUSTWUN PCR need to be done?
5. Eight days after the initial notification ENS Douglas is declared “deceased”. Her remains were not recovered. What do you do?
6. How do you arrange for the payment of the Death Gratuity (DG)?

Module Three
7. What arrangements do you do to get the Disposition of Remains Form filled out?
8. The command is having a Command Sponsored Memorial at the Chapel on Naval Station Mayport, Florida. What form is required to be submitted and to whom and what is your involvement in this procedure as the CACO?
9. How do you as the CACO coordinate funeral travel and who is eligible for the NOK that you are assigned? The funeral is being held in Brianca Cemetery, Miami, Florida.
10. What are your responsibilities for attending the funeral in Miami, Florida?

Module Four
11. How do you arrange for the payment of the SGLI for the two minor children?
12. The parents want ENS Douglas’ vehicle shipped to them. It is located in a commercial facility close to the ship’s home port in Mayport, Florida. What steps are required to accommodate this request? Who is responsible for these steps?
13. There is a house full of furniture in the house that ENS Douglas is renting which belongs to her. Her parents want the furniture placed into a temporary storage unit until they decide what to do with it. How do you help the command representative accomplish this request?
Case Study Two: LT Robert Brown

LT Robert Brown is shot while on liberty in Yokosuka, Japan and is pronounced dead on the scene of the crime. LT Brown is survived by his wife and two daughters, age 8 and 6 years, who reside in your local area. He is also survived by his parents who reside in San Diego, California.

You are assigned as the CACO for the PNOK and receive the PCR, Page 2 and SGLI Election form at 1400 local. The wife is receiving Death Gratuity, SGLI, and Unpaid pay and allowances and is listed as the PADD. The case has been picked up by the local media.

AS A TEAM, DO THE FOLLOWING:

Module Two
1. Outline the procedures you would follow to notify the PNOK.
2. When you knock on the PNOK’s door you discover that the wife speaks no English and you realize that she is Japanese. She quickly starts to panic. Explain how you would handle the situation-how would you notify her? What will you do about the children?
3. What forms must be completed during the Notification Visit?
4. Describe the procedures you would follow for the payment of the Death Gratuity (DG)?

Module Three
5. The PADD is leaning toward burial in a national cemetery in the Houston area and is undecided as to what option to select on the Disposition of Remains Form (DISPO). Describe how you would assist the PADD in making a decision on funeral arrangements. What counseling or allowable funeral expenses would you provide? Who would you advise of the PADD’s decision?

Module Four
6. Who is eligible to receive the personal effects? There is no will in place. Describe the process you would follow to facilitate the return of the deceased service member’s personal effects, including those on his person?
7. The wife would like copies of all investigations. How would you assist her in obtaining these?
8. Describe how to assist the wife in applying for her benefits?
9. When do you submit the initial NAVPERS 1770/7?
10. The wife receives the Death Gratuity ($100,000 tax free) and the SGLI $400,000 tax free). She has also received $600,000 (tax-free) from a commercial life insurance policy that LT Brown had set up 4 years ago. The wife tells you that her husband made all of their investment decisions and has no idea what to do with the money. What is your response to her?
Case Study Three: HN Joseph Hamilton

HN Joseph Hamilton, stationed with MARDIV ONE, Camp Pendleton, California was deployed to a unit in Afghanistan. He died from a gunshot wound that went thru his chest and killed him immediately. Survivors include his wife of one year and a son who is two months old. The wife and son reside in the local military housing complex and the member’s parents live in Orlando, Florida. The wife is designated to receive the Death Gratuity, Unpaid Pay and Allowances and SGLI. There is no indication on the Page 2 as to who is the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition.

You have been assigned as the CACO for the PNOK and arrive at the PNOK’s residence at 1300.

AS A TEAM, DO THE FOLLOWING:

Module Two
1. The PNOK is not at home when you arrive. Outline the procedures that you would follow to locate the PNOK and once located what would you say to the PNOK?
2. What paperwork needs to be completed on the notification visit?
3. The PNOK states that she has immediate needs/financial assistance (the baby needs diaper and formula). What resources are available to assist the PNOK? Describe how you would proceed with the arrangement for the payment of the Death Gratuity?
4. You have discussed the Dignified Transfer Ceremony and she and her son want to attend along with you as the CACO and the service member’s parents. How will you assist her with travel arrangements? What about for the parents?
5. HN Hamilton’s name and cause of death have been noted by the media. Additionally, the spouse and some family members have posted information on Facebook. What will you do when the media contacts the spouse?

Module Three
6. The PNOK/PADD is unsure whether she wants the Navy to do the primary care. What explanation do you provide?
7. During the second visit, the PNOK indicates that she desires to have her husband’s burial in a national cemetery in San Diego, California. How would you set up the funeral honors? Describe how you would arrange the travel for the spouse and 2 year old son? What about for her parents who live in Los Angeles, California? What about for the deceased service member’s parents?

Module Four
8. The PNOK has indicated that she will remain in base housing for a total of 60 days (from the service member’s date of death) before moving to Rome, Italy. What are her housing entitlements and what is required to execute the move?
9. The PNOK tells you she just found out she is pregnant and wants to know if the new baby will qualify for benefits. What benefits will the baby qualify for? What explanation do you provide and what documents does she need to provide to you?
10. When should you get your Navy Gold Star Representative involved in this case and when can you transfer the case to the Navy Gold Star Representative?
11. The wife desires a copy of the Line of Duty Investigation what do you do?
Case Study Four: DC2 John Robinson

DC2 Robinson is stationed at Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy and was killed at 0230 local Italian time as a result of a motorcycle accident. He is currently single. His parents live in Bremerton, Washington and his father is an active duty Senior Chief Petty Officer.

DC2 Robinson is engaged to a local Italian woman who is rumored to be pregnant, and his page 2 also lists a daughter age 2 who currently resides with his ex-wife in New York City. The Page 2 lists DC2 Robinson’s ex-wife as the PNOK and has a note in the remarks section that the service member has a will and it is currently located at his home address in Naples, Italy. The father of the deceased service member is designated as the PADD, SGLI is directed to the current fiancée’ (100%), the Death Gratuity and Unpaid pay and allowances are designated to the 2 year old daughter. The command in Italy has indicated that they are preparing to conduct a Command Sponsored Memorial in four days. The service member’s remains are in custody of the Italian government and due to government transfer agreements the deceased remains will not be transferred for approximately 10 days.

You are assigned as CACO for the parents. You receive the casualty call at 2300 (your local time).

AS A TEAM, DO THE FOLLOWING:

Module Two
1. Identify the PNOK.
2. Outline the procedures you would follow to notify the parents taking into account the time difference between your location and the place of death. Is this a Dignified Transfer of Remains (DTR) and so what paperwork is required on the Notification Visit.?

Module Three
3. The PADD indicates during the first visit that he wants to cremate the service member and bury the remains at Arlington National Cemetery. Describe how you would make those arrangements?
4. The father is upset over the delay of the shipment of the remains. Explain how you would handle this and what explanation would you offer to the father?
5. Who is eligible to attend the funeral in Arlington at the Navy’s expense?
6. All family members wish to travel to Italy for the Command Sponsored Memorial; but the ex-wife is causing issues and does not want the fiancée at the memorial service. Who is responsible for deciding who can and cannot attend?

Module Four
7. Death Gratuity benefits go to his 2 year old daughter. Describe what procedures you would follow to get the Death Gratuity paid?
8. The father wants to know who receives the SGLI. How do you handle this situation? Describe what your response to the father is.
9. Who receives the 365 days of BAH on this case and how do we ensure payment.
10. The fiancée asks which benefits her new baby will receive. What should the CACO’s response be?
Case Study Five: YN2 Cecilia Smith

YN2 Cecilia Smith was stationed at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. She died from a gunshot wound apparently inflicted by her husband PSCS John Smith. Her husband is in the custody of local law enforcement. There are two minor sons (Age 10 and 8) from the current marriage who were present at the scene of the incident. Deceased service member’s parents are divorced and the mother lives in Chicago and the father lives in Boston. Another daughter (age 14) from a previous marriage resides with YN2 Smith’s ex-husband in San Diego. The husband (PSCS Smith) is listed as the beneficiary for the full amount of SGLI, Death Gratuity and Unpaid Pay and Allowances. YN2 Smith and PSCS Smith owned a house in the Norfolk, Virginia area. You are stationed at Naval Station Norfolk and have been assigned as the CACO for the husband.

AS A TEAM, DO THE FOLLOWING:

Module One
1. Who is the PNOK? What procedures would you follow to make notification to the PNOK?
2. How many CACO’s are assigned to this case and what regions are the CACO’s from?
3. The husband is incarcerated in the local city jail. How would you notify him of the death? What would you tell the husband during the notification?
4. What procedures would you follow to get the Death Gratuity (DG) paid to the husband?

Module Three
5. Describe what action you would take in getting the Disposition of Remains Form (DISPO) completed by the husband?
6. The husband would like you as the CACO to persuade the warden to allow him to attend the funeral. What step (s) would you take to assist him?

Module Four
7. The husband wants to know when he will receive the $100,000 Death Gratuity. What is your response?
8. The husband asks when he can expect the $400,000 SGLI on the wife’s policy and the $100,000 FSGLI. How do you respond to these questions?
9. What are the husband’s potential benefits?
10. Describe the procedures you would follow in regards to the deceased service member’s personal effects located in their house?
Appendices

Contents:

A. CACO Checklist
B. Sample Command Brief
C. Governing Directives
D. The Other Side… of CACO
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer  
Notification Checklist

Preparation

☐ Contact regional Casualty Assistance Calls (CAC) office prior to departure for specific guidance.

☐ Personnel Casualty Report and Other Forms: Obtain a copy of the Personnel Casualty Report (PCR), Record of Emergency Data (DD Form 93 or NAVPERS 1070/602) and Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) election form (SGLV 8286). (In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, next of kin (NOK) shall not see or be told who the other beneficiaries are on the Record of Emergency Data or SGLI election form.)

☐ Notification Team: Arrange for a chaplain to accompany you on the notification visit. (Chaplain support may be provided from a different military service) If a chaplain is not available, arrange for another uniformed service member to accompany you. Never conduct a notification alone!

☐ Latest Information: Contact the parent command to receive the latest information concerning the casualty.

☐ Transportation: Obtain a government vehicle.

☐ Directions and Map: Obtain directions and/or a map to the home of the NOK, or verify route using GPS.

☐ Calling Card: Print several CACO calling cards.

☐ Uniform: Prepare uniform for notification visit. Wear service dress uniform of the season. If unsure ask the region program manager or your command for guidance.

Notification of Primary Next of Kin

☐ Time of Notification: Notification will be made between the hours of 0500 and 2400 unless one of the following circumstances occurs:
  o Death occurred in theater during the war.
  o High media interest.
  o Otherwise directed by PERS-13 or regional commander.

☐ Media Attention: If contacted by the media have them contact your Public Affairs Officer (PAO). If your command does not have a PAO, have them contact your immediate superior in charge (ISIC) PAO.

☐ In-Person Contact with NOK: Identify and make contact in person with the NOK immediately. If notification must be made at place of employment, speak with a manager or someone in charge. Try to arrange for a private place to make the notification, and arrange to get the NOK home safely.

☐ Notification:
  o Identify yourselves and present a calling card
  o Confirm the identity of the NOK
  o Confirm their relationship to the service member
  o Ask to enter the home
  o Deliver the notification:
    ▪ “On behalf of the Secretary of the Navy, I regret to inform you that your (relation) died today of (list circumstances as known). I am deeply sorry.” (specific information can be read from Items Charlie and Delta on the PCR):

☐ Casualty Details: Provide NOK with reported circumstances of the incident.
Appendices

Location of Remains: Inform NOK of current location of remains (PCR Item Echo). Update family as the status changes on the location of their loved one’s remains and the anticipated transportation dates.

Dignified Transfer of Remains: If killed in action, inform NOK of the details of the dignified transfer of remains, and obtain preferences for media coverage in accordance with DoDI 1300.18 and the Dignified Transfer of Remains Script from DCIPS. The only forms that absolutely must be completed on the notification visit is the Dignified Transfer of remains paper work and the Next of Kin Travel Request, NAVPERS 1770/10.

Notifying Other Active-Duty Relatives: Inform the NOK that PERS-13 can assist with notifying any other active-duty relatives.

Letter of Circumstances: Inform NOK that a condolence letter is forthcoming from the commanding officer and then follow up with parent command to ensure the letter is prepared and mailed to NOK within 48 hours.

Investigations: Advise NOK that investigations will be conducted as warranted, i.e., Line of Duty, JAGMAN, Aircraft Mishap or police report. Tell them that you can assist them in completing the requests for this information on a later visit and will keep them apprised of the status of any relevant investigations.

Immediate Needs: Inquire as to any immediate needs of NOK (for example emergency financial needs). Assistance can be obtained from the local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the American Red Cross.

Personal Information and Forms:

- If appropriate, complete NAVPERS 1770/8 and 1770/9 (see below). If not appropriate, get the following information from the NOK:
  - Complete name.
  - Correct address and phone numbers.
  - If death gratuity beneficiary, get Social Security Number (death gratuity beneficiaries are indicated on the deceased member’s Record of Emergency Data)

- Consent for the Release of Personal Information, NAVPERS 1770/8: If appropriate, obtain the signature of the PNOK on the form and fax/e-mail it to the regional CAC office and PERS-13. Reassure the NOK that if they choose not to consent to the disclosure of their information, it will not affect processing benefits and other official actions. This form only restricts the release of information to third-party organizations such as grief counseling agencies, other non governmental agencies and commercial vendors.

- Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information, NAVPERS 1770/9: If appropriate, complete the form. Ensure that all blocks are completed to include ZIP code +4 (example: 12345-6789).

Death Gratuity (electronic funds transfer): Provide death gratuity recipients with the DD 397 and SF1199A forms to fill out. Get a voided check from the beneficiary’s banking institution. When completed, fax/e-mail the DD 397, SF1199A, and voided check to your Regional CAC and forward to PERS-13 after confirmation from your Regional CAC.

Death Gratuity (paper check only): Follow the procedures in MILPERSMAN 1770-280 to assist the NOK if the death gratuity is requested to be paid by paper check.
If the Casualty is an Officer: Obtain the following information about the deceased member from the NOK:

- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Religion
- Home of Record
- Place of Entry into the Navy

Do Not Leave NOK Alone: Before leaving the NOK, ensure that they are not alone. Arrange for someone to be with them (family, friends, or ombudsman) to provide continuing support and assistance.

Arrange Funeral Arrangements Visit: Before leaving, assure the NOK that you will provide continuing assistance and of your availability. Schedule a visit with the NOK, if they are the PADD, for the following day to make funeral arrangements.

CACO Calling Card: Leave several completed CACO calling cards with the NOK.

Follow-Up to the Notification Visit

Provide Information to regional CAC office (ROC if after hours): Immediately report the following by phone

- Date of Notification:
- Time of Notification:
- Verified Name of NOK:
- Address and Phone of NOK:
- Accompanying Chaplain's Name (or service member)(if applicable):
- Social Security number of NOK (if applicable):
- Preference for receiving death gratuity (if applicable):

Provide Information to Commanding Officer of Deceased Service Member: Call the deceased service member’s commanding officer (PCR Item Bravo) and report the date and time of notification to the NOK.

MAO/DAO: If your NOK is the PADD, contact the Mortuary Affairs Office or Decedent Affairs Office for a detailed breakdown of authorized mortuary benefits and guidance.

Advise Others: Keep PERS-13, other involved CAC offices, and any other CACOs assigned to this case informed of any issues.

Additional Administration: Keep accurate and up-to-date case notes in your case file.

- Travel Notes
- Mileage records for travel claims
- Official cell phone calls above normal plan
  - Make 2 copies of all documents
  - Maintain file copy and give one to PNOK/SNOK
Forms for the Notification Visit

- Personnel Casualty Report
- Record of Emergency Data (DD Form 93 or NAVPERS 1070/602)
- SGLI Election Form (SGLV 8286)
- Consent for the Release of Personal Information (NAVPERS 1770/8)
- Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information Form (NAVPERS 1770/9)
- Claim Certification Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment (DD 397)
- Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form (SF 1199A)
- DCIPS Notification Script Regarding Dignified Transfer of Remains at Dover Air Force Base
- Next of Kin Travel Request (NAVPERS 1770/10)

Forms and Information for the Notification Visit available at the CACO resource webpage (http://www.cnic.navy.mil/caco)

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<thead>
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<td>CACO Calling Card Template</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dignified Transfer of Remains Script</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next of Kin Travel Request</td>
<td>NAVPERS 1770/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consent to Release Personal Information</td>
<td>NAVPERS 1770/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information</td>
<td>NAVPERS 1770/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death Gratuity</td>
<td>MILPERSMAN 1770-280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Gratuity Payment Instructions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment</td>
<td>DD 397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form</td>
<td>SF 1199A</td>
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Case Contact Information for Notification Visit

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<tr>
<th>Contact Type</th>
<th>Contact Information (Name, Phone, Fax, Email, etc.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td>Toll Free: (877) 272-7337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command Information (CO, XO, CMC, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decedent Affairs Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Casualty Office (NAVPERSCOM PERS-13)</td>
<td>Toll Free: (800) 368-3202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Mortuary Affairs Office</td>
<td>Toll Free: (866) 787-0081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After Hours Cell: (901) 619-8157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society</td>
<td>Toll Free: (800) 654-8364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other CAC Offices/ CACO’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional CAC Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Funeral Arrangements Visit Checklist

☐ Uniform: Service Khaki or Navy Service Uniform for E-6

☐ Death Gratuity (paper check only): Deliver the death gratuity check (if not already delivered).
  - Have NOK sign the DD-397, Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment, and fax/e-mail the signed copy to the regional CAC office.

☐ Consent for the Release of Personal Information, NAVPERS 1770/8: If not completed on the first visit, obtain the signature of the NOK on the NAVPERS 1770/8 and fax/e-mail it to the regional CAC office and PERS-13.

☐ Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information, NAVPERS 1770/9: If not completed on the first visit, complete the NAVPERS 1770/9. Ensure that all blocks are completed to include all ZIP codes +4 (example: 12345-6789).

☐ Location of Remains: Continue to update family as the status changes on location of their loved one’s remains and the anticipated transportation date.

☐ Funeral Allowances: Counsel Person Authorized to Direct Disposition of remains (PADD) on funeral options/allowances.
  - Disposition of Remains Form: Assist the PADD in completing the form.
  - Fax/e-mail a signed copy of the form to the regional CAC office and all other parties concerned.

☐ Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses (DD-1375): Obtain PADD signature for each funeral home used.
  - Fax/e-mail to regional CAC office and MAO.

☐ Navy Escort:
  - Inform the PNOK of the Navy escort of remains (provided by the casualty’s command. Arrangements for travel of the escort/remains will be funded by the MAO or the DAO).

☐ Funeral Honors:
  - Inform the NOK of eligibility and availability of funeral honors.
  - Arrange for funeral honors through the regional CAC office.

☐ Funeral/Memorial Date:___________________________________________________________________________
  - Advise the PADD to not schedule a firm funeral date until the remains arrive at the receiving funeral home.

☐ Funeral/Memorial Travel Allowances:
  - Assist with the family’s travel needs; contact PERS-13 for travel orders.
  - Verify with the airline that the tickets are indeed purchased and waiting.

☐ Funeral Attendance
  - Advise the NOK of your planned attendance at the funeral.

☐ Survivor Benefit Applications:
  - Advise the NOK that survivor benefit applications will be forthcoming within the next 10 working days, and that you will call and make an appointment with them to assist with the completion of the applications.
- **Advise Others:** Keep PERS-13, other involved CACO offices, and any other CACOs assigned to this case informed of any issues.
- **Submit NAVPERS 1770/7** — every 30 days until case is closed.

### Forms for the Funeral Arrangements Visit

- Death Gratuity Check (if not already delivered) and Form DD-397
- Disposition of Remains Form
- If not all remains are recovered — Disposition of Remains Election Statement — Initial Notification of Identified Partial Remains (CJMAB 1)
- Partial Remains found/identified — Disposition of Remains Election Statement — Notification of Subsequently Identified Partial Remains (CJMAB 3)
- In Theater of Combat Operations only — Election for Air Transportation of Remains from a Theater of Combat Operations (CJMAB 4)
- Request for Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses (DD-1375)
- Primary/Secondary Next of Kin Information Form (NAVPERS 1770/9, if not completed on first visit)
- Consent for the Release of Personal Information (NAVPERS 1770/8, if not completed on first visit)
- Casualty Assistance Calls Program (NAVPERS Form 1770/7)
Forms and Information for the Funeral Arrangements Visit available at the CACO resource webpage (http://www.cnic.navy.mil/caco)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form Name</th>
<th>Form Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private Cemetery or State Veteran’s Cemetery</td>
<td>VA 40-1330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burial at Sea Request Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disposition of Remains Election Statement Notification of Subsequently Identified</td>
<td>CJMAB Form 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disposition of Remains Election Statement/ Initial Notification of Identified Partial</td>
<td>CJMAB Form 1</td>
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<td>Election for Air Transportation of Remains from a Theater of Combat Operation</td>
<td>CJAMB Form 4</td>
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<td>Disposition of Organs Retained for Extended Examination</td>
<td>CJMAB Form 8</td>
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<td>Funeral Travel</td>
<td>MILPERSMAN 1770-270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Service Travel</td>
<td>MILPERSMAN 1770-271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next of Kin Travel Request</td>
<td>NAPERS Form 1770/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardwood Flag Case Request Form</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructions for DD1375</td>
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<tr>
<td>Request For Payment of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses</td>
<td>DD 1375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Disposition of Remains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Voucher or Subvoucher</td>
<td>DD1351-2</td>
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Case Contact Information for Funeral Arrangements Visit

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<tr>
<th>Contact Type</th>
<th>Contact Information (Name, Phone, Fax, Email, etc.)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navy Mortuary Affairs Office</td>
<td>Toll Free: (866) 787-0081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After Hours Cell: (901) 619-8157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Navy Mortician on duty 24 hours a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airline for Travel to Funeral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
Benefits Visit Checklist

☐ **Uniform**: Service Khaki or Navy Service Uniform for E-6

☐ **Benefits Brief**
  - Upon receipt of the benefits package (to be sent to the CACO within 10 days of receipt of the PCR), call the regional CAC office to arrange to attend a brief on assisting the PNOK in completing applications for benefits.
  - Download applicable forms as indicated in the benefits package checklist provided by Navy Casualty (PERS-13) prior to attending the brief.
  - Make an appointment with the PNOK for the benefits visit. Date/Time: __________________________

☐ **Privacy Act Authorization**
  - Have the PNOK sign the Privacy Act Authorization, if not already done, and attach a copy to all benefit claim forms.

☐ **DD-1300**
  - Make copies of the DD-1300 as needed.
  - Attach a copy of the DD-1300 to all benefit claim forms.

☐ **Housing**
  - Advise the family on housing options.
  - Family choice: _______________________________________________________________________

☐ **Investigations**
  - Provide family with the status of any investigations, and assist with completing the FOIA request, if not done on a previous visit.

☐ **Inventory of Personal Effects**
  - When the command Inventory Control Board completes the inventory and a DD 1300 with a Line of Accounting is received, contact the Personal Property Office to arrange for delivery.
  - Monitor status of personal effects and address inquiries to member’s command. (Should be inventoried and shipped within 14 days.)

☐ **Legal Issues**: Contact Naval Legal Services Office for guidance as needed (e.g., appointment for family for probate or guardianship issues).
  - Appointment
    Date/Time: __________________________________________________________

☐ **Navy Gold Star**
  - Regional CACO coordinator will provide Gold Star Coordinator contact information:
    - Gold Star Coordinator: __________________________
    - Contact Number: __________________________
    - Email: __________________________
  - Contact Gold Star Coordinator and arrange and introduction to the NOK
**Recordkeeping and Tracking**

- Keep copies of all claims submitted.
  - Copy for your case file.
  - Copy for PNOK.
- Fax a copy of all completed application forms to the regional CAC office.
- Monitor the progress of all survivor benefit entitlements by submitting a NAVPERS 1770/7 as follows:
  - Submit “initial” NAVPERS 1770/7 to regional CACO coordinator within 30 days of the casualty:
    - Due Date
    - Submit “interim” NAVPERS 1770/7 every 30 days:
      - Due Date
      - Due Date
      - Due Date
      - Due Date
  - Submit “final” NAVPERS 1770/7 when all benefits/monies have been received.
  - Submit DD 1164 via DTS for reimbursement of CACO expenses (for example, mileage, toll, phone calls) to the regional CAC office monthly:
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
    - Due Date
- **CACO Change**
  - If you transfer, turn your case over to another CACO and provide his or her name and phone number to the regional CAC office.

**Forms for the Benefits Visit**

- Benefit Claim Forms as Directed by Navy Casualty (PERS-13)
- NAVPERS 1770/7
- DD 1300, Report of Casualty
- DD 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business
- Privacy Act Authorization
Forms and Information for the Benefits Visit available at the CACO resource webpage (http://www.cnic.navy.mil/caco)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form Name</th>
<th>Form Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary of VA Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits</td>
<td>VA Pam 21-12-2</td>
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<td>A Survivors Guide to Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by a Surviving Spouse or Child</td>
<td>VA 21-534a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Refund of Educational Contributions</td>
<td>VA 24-5281</td>
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<td>BAH Non Receipt Letter to DFAS</td>
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<td>Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services for SGLI VGL FSGLI Beneficiaries</td>
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<td>Claim for Death Benefits</td>
<td>SGLV 8283</td>
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<td>Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditure on Official Business</td>
<td>SF 1164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom of Information Act Request</td>
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<td>Information Relating to Deceased Participant</td>
<td>TSP-U-17</td>
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<td>MGIB Refund Letter</td>
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<td>Personal Effects Extension Letter</td>
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<td>Personal Effects Shipment Request Form</td>
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<td>Post 9 11 GI Bill Fry Scholarship</td>
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<td>Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) Fact Sheet</td>
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<td>Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) Request Form</td>
<td>VA 40-0247</td>
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<td>Request Pertaining to Military Records</td>
<td>SF 180</td>
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<td>Social Security Survivor Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tricare Survivor Benefits Brochure</td>
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<td>VA Bereavement Counseling webpage</td>
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<td>VA Death Pension Benefits webpage</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC) webpage</td>
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<td>VA Educational Benefits Information</td>
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Case Contact Information for Benefits Visit

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<tr>
<th>Contact Type</th>
<th>Contact Information (Name, Phone, Fax, Email, etc.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navy Casualty Benefit Claims</td>
<td>PERS-13 is available to answer questions regarding SGLI at (800) 368-3202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SGLI/OSGLI                  | Office of Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI)  
Tel. (800) 419-1473  
Main Fax. (800) 236-6142  
Claims Fax. (877) 832-4943  
http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/sgli/sgli.htm |
| VA Representative/Office    |                                                                                                              |
| Navy Gold Star Coordinator  |                                                                                                              |
The Sample Command Brief

The job of the CACO is made much easier if command members have their Record of Emergency Data, SGLI Election forms and Wills complete and up-to-date. More importantly, having these forms in order will ensure that the member’s wishes are carried out and the survivors are cared for.

A short, 15-minute Sample Command Brief is included in this curriculum (see the outline on the following page). This brief, appropriate for all hands, explains the role of the CACO, introduces you as a trained CACO to the rest of the Command, and encourages all members to ensure their Record of Emergency Data, SGLI Election Forms and wills (and any other beneficiary designations, such as TSP or private insurance) are up-to-date. This program should be offered annually, or included in any check-in counseling. A short “In Case of Emergency” checklist is included as a handout and would appropriately serve as a reminder to command members to care for their families by ensuring their paperwork is in order. Don’t wait for a pre-deployment brief to have this conversation with command members, casualties can happen at any time.
CACO Command Brief Outline

1) Introduction (2 Minutes)
   a) Introduce self and provide contact information
   b) Explain the role of the CACO
      i) To care for the survivors in the event of a casualty
      ii) To notify the next of kin of the death
      iii) To Assist with funeral arrangements
      iv) To help eligible beneficiaries get benefits

2) Casualties Happen, We Can Help (3 Minutes)
   a) Casualties can happen at any time
      i) Not just a deployment issue
      ii) Members want to make sure the benefits go to the right people at any time during their career, not just during deployment
   b) The Navy will help your survivors in any way possible, but
      i) All the systems are in place to help survivors
      ii) One of the biggest stumbling blocks is when paperwork isn’t in order
         (1) Wrong people designated to receive benefits
         (2) No people designated to receive benefits
         (3) Old addresses and contact information
      iii) You have to help do it

3) Take Care of Your Family and Your Business (5 Minutes)
   a) Determine your beneficiaries
      i) Carefully determine who should be your beneficiaries
      ii) There is a lot of money and benefits at stake
      iii) Death Gratuity is $100,000, SGLI can be up to $400,000
      iv) Death Gratuity determined by your Record of Emergency Data
      v) SGLI determined by who you designated on the Beneficiary Election form
      vi) Other life insurance proceeds are determined by beneficiary election forms
      vii) Personal items determined by Will or by law.
      viii) Guardianship of children determined by Will or law
   b) Accurately complete your forms
   c) Update whenever a life event occurs
      i) Birth, death, marriage, divorce, relocation, deployment

4) The “In Case Of Emergency” Checklist (5 minutes)
   a) Distribute checklist
   b) To be given to all command check-ins

5) Thank you
In Case of Emergency.....

Have you had a...

Marriage  Birth  Relocation
Divorce  Death  Deployment

Update Your Forms Now!

- Record of Emergency Data
- SGLI Election Form (for SGLI Proceeds)
- TSP Beneficiary Form
- Other Private Insurance Beneficiary Forms
- Will

See the Command CACO or Legal Officer for Assistance.
Casualty Assistance Calls/Military Funeral Honors Program Governing Directives


DoD Instruction 1300.15, “Military Funeral Support” (Oct. 22, 2007)


OPNAVINST 1770.1A, Casualty Assistance Calls and Funeral Honors Support (CAC/FHS) Program Coordination

SECNAV Instruction 1770.3D, Management and Disposition of Incapacitation and Incapacitation Benefits for Members of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Units (March 17, 2006)

SECDEF Memorandum, March 24, 2009, DoD Policy Regarding Media Access to Dignified Transfers at Dover Air Force Base

MILPERSMAN 1770 Series

CNICINST 1770.2 Casualty Assistance Calls Program (May 17, 2011)

CNICINST 1770.1A Funeral Honors Support Program (May 6, 2013)

NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department

NAVSO P-6034, Joint Federal Travel Regulations, (JFTR), Volume 1

NAVSUP P-485, Transportation of Personal Property Afloat

NAVSUP P-490, Transportation of Personal Property Ashore

USD Memorandum, Feb. 9, 2006, Enhanced Honors for Deceased Service Members

PAYBIB 1208 / R 01135Z May 12 Pay and Personnel Information Bulletin
The Other Side… of CACO

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here today to share my story. My name is Jane Smith and on Saturday, April 7th of this XXXX, I became a military widow. My husband, John Smith was a Naval Supply Corps Officer on an I/A assignment in Iraq for six months. He died over the Easter weekend holiday as a result of an IED roadside bomb. He was scheduled to return home at the end of May. He had a little over 19 ½ years in the Navy. After his return from Iraq, we were heading to his last and final tour so that we could retire. We have three children; ages 14, 12, and our youngest is 5.

The weekend that John was killed, the kids and I were not at home in Anytown, Pa., but in a remote area of Virginia at a good friend’s house. We were meeting three other military families that we have known throughout our career. On the drive down that Friday, John called and we had a long and great conversation. Little did I realize it would be our last.

When John took on this assignment, the whole I/A process in Anytown was in its infancy stages of “what to do in case of emergency.” Unlike a ship, there was no ombudsman, so sponsoring of families of active-duty personnel was informal and not a defined process. So… I was not in Anytown…, John is killed over the Easter holiday…, the Associated Press now has the information, and no one at the command knew where I was. By sheer luck, I had talked to a fellow Navy wife the previous day regarding my plans for the Easter Holiday. She had my cell number to reach me if needed. This chance meeting ended up being the lifeline contact for the CACO to get a hold of me.

It was about 9 o’clock on Saturday night and we had about 5 families all outside by the bonfire. The kids were roasting marshmallows and one of my girlfriends and I was getting the s’mores prepped for the kids. So we were joking, laughing, and watching the kids make absolute messes. As with any large gathering, people were inside the house, out by the bonfire, and all enjoying themselves wherever they landed. My oldest daughter was inside the house at the time when my cell phone was ringing. She came running out and handed me the cell phone saying someone had called but hadn’t reached it in time. I took the phone and looked at the number. The number looked familiar but I could not recall the name to which it belonged. Ironically, I can still remember that phone number to this day. I hit redial… something I normally do not do but decided if someone needed to reach me the day before Easter, it must be important. I was surprised that Judy answered, the same woman I spoke to the day before I left to Virginia. She handed over the phone to a male voice I didn’t recognize. He identified himself as a Chaplain Jones and then he said those fated words, “Mrs. Smith, I am so sorry that I have to do this over the phone, but Ma’am, your husband, John was killed today by an IED roadside bomb.” I remember having the makings of the s’mores in my lap and kids still wanting my help. I was trying to keep what I thought was a composed face… and calmly tried to focus on the voice coming through the phone. He was using foreign words like “dispatching a CACO” team as if they were terms I would use in my everyday conversation. All of this is happening in seconds. My friend, Bob came over to me when he realized my face was one of horror and absolute despair. Things I didn’t see or comprehend at the time, but were told to me afterwards. I remember trying to eloquently get up from my seat without making a mess as well as be as unobtrusive to the festivities around me. Bob was immediately in my face asking what was wrong. He looked at me as if I was completely messing with him when I told him John has just been killed in Iraq and you need to get me out of here immediately before the kids see me. He was holding me up and walking quickly into the house so we could talk to the chaplain on the phone more discreetly. All we knew at that point was that John had been killed by a roadside bomb. They still insisted that a CACO team from Norfolk be dispatched to come out with official notification. I remember I handed the phone over to Bob because I knew I couldn’t process what the chaplain was saying. He took over the conversation and was in discussion about the logistics of this being accomplished. While he was talking, I was looking down at my hands seeing graham crackers, chocolate, and the feeling of stickiness from marshmallows. I kept opening and shutting my hands remembering the sensation of my skin coming together and pulling apart. I could still hear my friend talking and giving directions but I felt I was a spectator to a horror show and the voices
were so quiet. I could see lips moving but not hearing anything. The room is filling up with my close friends to see how they could help. I remember having a rational moment where I was coming back into the reality of the situation. I turned to Bob and told him, “No, tell the chaplain to not send the team here.” I felt the logistics of the CACO team being dispatched from Norfolk and driving the three-plus hours to the lake house, the holiday weekend being here, and actually finding this place in the middle of the night, were going to be challenges that would not change the outcome.

My oldest daughter was hovering outside the door, knowing something has happened but was not sure why I was so upset. Months later when we talked about that night, she told me her first thought was Grandma had died. The women quickly dispersed guests to rooms and children to bed. I unfortunately had to tell my daughter what had happened but I spared giving the younger ones the news until the following day. I decided they should have one more normal night before I blew their world apart in the morning.

After telling Mary and comforting her, I realized I had to start calling family. Since we were not home, the only source of phone numbers I had was on my cell phone. I called my side of the family first. Both sides of the family live in Idaho and needed as much advance warning for traveling even though I only had sketchy details. My other concern was the possibility of media getting to them first. I immediately called my brother. I knew I could count on him to notify the rest of the family and be able to handle the families’ grief on my behalf. He could restore calm after I had created the chaos. I dreaded calling John’s mom and dad. No one wants to be the person responsible for informing anyone of their son’s death. Children are supposed to outlive their parents. This was going to be beyond devastating for them all. I called John’s sister first, since he was closest to her. I can still remember the screams coming into the phone from her that sounded like a high pitched animal that had been mortally wounded. I remember saying again and again into the phone, “I am so sorry. I am so sorry.” His sister took over the duties of informing John’s side of the family. I was so mentally exhausted.

I was blessed that my friend, at whose house I was visiting, was a senior medical officer and was able to help me thru the initial stages of shock and grief that took over my body and emotions. I still think back to how my body provided an insulated barrier to handle the waves of shock that would hit me continually. I still marvel at how the human body handles the trauma of grief. We all expect to experience shock when you receive notice of the death of a spouse, but I was not prepared for the physical toll it takes and how you have no control. I remember seeing some of my friends’ faces at the lake house and see horror reflected in their eyes. They were so unsure what to do in my state because I was shaking violently, vomiting, speaking incoherently, and at times sitting in a catatonic state. I barely ate for two weeks, had difficulty sleeping, and continually had bouts of shaking that I couldn’t control. It helped to understand the clinical side of what was happening due to my friend’s medical expertise and know it was normal, but unfortunately I had to ride it out.

His wife drove me back to Pennsylvania with the kids early the next morning. I wanted to get back as quickly as possible. Home felt safe and I so wanted to be there. I needed to regroup and understand more of the details of what had happened and what was yet to come. Keeping the communication lines open was essential and things could easily spiral out of control if it wasn’t managed. When we arrived at home, there was an unfamiliar car parked in front. I didn’t recognize the person inside and hoped they weren’t media. It ended up being the PAO who was stationed outside the home in the event the media did make an appearance that day. None arrived on Easter; however the next day was chaos. Starting at 8 a.m. the following morning, the house phone never was silent, all cell phones going off, working with the schools about the kids, and checking e-mail to see the official command notice go out, which then resulted in more phone calls. In addition, we had the CACO and other members of the Navy coming in to the house and we were filling out all sorts of paperwork. All walks of the media arrived at my home; television, radio stations and newspapers. They walked the neighborhood looking for a story when we declined to be interviewed. At about 10 a.m. that morning, the command gave the news media an interview acknowledging the death of one of their own. Then began the real siege… We logged in about 175 phone calls the first day at my home. I had to recharge the battery on my cell phone twice due to the multitude of calls that kept coming. The middle school where my oldest attended decided to release the information to the kids
so when school let out, we had a multitude of them show up to see Mary or call the house to speak with her. I was blessed to have close family friends with me during the first week. Three sets of families were with me in my home through the absolute chaos. All were military families and were able to see to my needs, my children’s needs, fielding questions from the media that were coming to our home and children’s schools, understanding the military lingo that we were wading thru to ultimately scheduling his funeral and interment at Arlington.

I don’t know how other widows have handled this whole life-altering situation without some support system from military friends. John had been prior enlisted for 4 years and as a naval officer for almost 16 years. Throughout your naval career, you meet so many people that become professional acquaintances and lifelong friends. Many of these friends were calling the CACO wanting status updates and to help where needed. Sometimes their “help” caused a few hiccups. Again, all well intentioned but did add another layer of pressure for the CACO. All were calling the CACO who was a LT and asking what was happening, wanting feedback immediately, and compromising his tasks of trying to take care of the task at hand. I couldn’t imagine the pressure that he was under with all of the “help” he was receiving. All things I discovered when we were able to take a step back later on and evaluate the situation. It helped my CACO that I had one military member in my home who could help and deflect some of the “help” and still keep things on track. My CACO, James, had the foresight to see that I was swimming in details due to the high profile of John’s death that little details could be presented to me through a trusted friend. Also one who could repeat again what was said if I failed to capture the information the first time around.

In the end, John’s funeral was a little over a week later in Pennsylvania and he was interred in Arlington the following morning. We had a receiving line at the church 2 hours before the service where I greeted over 1,500 people from the military, family, friends and the community. The following day at Arlington was equally overwhelming with the number of people attending to pay their final respects. To say it was chaotic is an understatement. But the one underlying theme was teamwork and communication. We had one central logbook that kept every bit of information, no matter how trivial. Many times I couldn’t remember information that I know was clearly given to me.

My hope with telling you my story is to realize and understand the following:

My CACO did not witness the telling of John’s death to me. He missed the phone calls to family where they were screaming, crying, hysterical, etc. You may witness that and need to be prepared for things being out of control. Sometimes the procedural manual that you are reading is a “guide.” I was not notified in person as is customary. I was told over the phone by a chaplain and not the CACO. Due to the circumstances of being in a remote location and that it was a high-profile media case, it was the right decision at the right time.

When a service member has been in the military for a long period of time, many of his co-workers are going to want to “help.” You will face some difficult challenges, especially if they outrank you.

Iraq-related deaths are high-profile cases for the community and the media. Having the public affairs officer was vital to my case. If you have the opportunity to utilize one, do it. Not only do they want to speak with the widow, but they also are trying to contact his parents. It can be an overwhelming task to face for parents of their son or daughter.

I received a lot of phone calls from John’s co-workers and friends stationed on the front lines. I received a multitude of misinformation due to the circumstances of his death. You may have a widow who could challenge you with the official information that you were given.

Be prepared for shock and grief way beyond your comfort zone. Have your phone handy in case you need to call medical personnel. I was blessed to have a doctor with me at the time I was notified of John’s death. Did I need one, I don’t think so, but it was reassuring to those around me that I was taken care of by a professional.

Our funeral director was familiar with the structure of military funerals and handling the large crowds efficiently. Our funeral director worked well with the military funeral home and when any hiccups were encountered, helped
to iron out the details. You may want to make sure that the funeral home chosen is asked a few questions about size of the funeral, managing the crowd, dealing with the military coroners in case they cannot meet their own self-imposed deadlines. Bottom line: use them.

The widow who is standing before you is not thinking clearly and needs someone who can help make the decisions that have to be made. Know the job and be prepared. Exhibit confidence, even if you don’t feel it. Fake it until you make it.

Whoever is in the widow’s closest support network, utilize them as another listening ear. If they are military, even better. My family had no clue as to how the inner workings of the military runs; it is overwhelming for them. Decisions sometimes need to be made quickly, and having the intuition to recognize who is a stable force in the home will help to keep everything on track. I have to give kudos to my CACO in recognizing who was my biggest help and keep it to a small number who were a part of the communication chain.

I would recommend that there is one central book for the family that records everything. It is so confusing during that time and if there is one central communication device that can be used, it takes away some of the chaos. If there is a possibility of suggesting a journal or spiral notebook to the widow and her family, do it. It helps you in the long run.

It has been my pleasure to share my life-altering experience with you. It is my hope that providing the details surrounding my experience can be of value to the CACO situation that you may one day face. When my husband took this class almost 10 years ago, there was a widow in the class that impressed him with a few pieces of her story that he used when he was faced with the challenges of being a CACO.