

MILPERSMAN 1770-010

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

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References	(a) DoD Instruction 1300.18 of 8 January 2008 (b) DoD Instruction 1300.29 of 28 June 2021
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1. **Purpose**. This article contains definitions and acronyms used throughout the Casualty and Survivors' Benefits [MILPERSMAN 1770](#) series. The definitions and acronyms are provided as a general reference and are derived primarily from references (a) and (b).

2. **Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms**

a. **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)**. The spouse and children of a deceased Service member living in Government quarters are entitled to either remain in Government housing for 365 days, or to relocate to private quarters and receive a year of BAH or overseas housing allowance, as appropriate. To receive this allowance for private quarters, the deceased Service member must have been eligible to receive those allowances for his or her dependents at the time of death.

b. **Bedside Travel**. Funded roundtrip transportation and per diem for up to three family members or other designated individuals to visit a Service member listed as:

(1) Serious illness or injury (SI),

(2) Very seriously ill or injured (VSI), or

(3) Not seriously injured (NSI) (designated combat operation and or combat zone injuries only).

NOTE: Travel to bedside is authorized only when a military medical authority determines in writing that the presence of family members is medically necessary for the health and welfare of the Service member (see [MILPERSMAN 1770-230](#)).

c. Beneficiary. Person entitled to or designated to receive various benefits.

d. Casualty. Any Service member or reportable civilian who is determined to be deceased, duty status whereabouts unknown (DUSTWUN), excused absence - whereabouts unknown (EAWUN), missing, or ill or injured classified as SI, VSI, or NSI (in a combat zone).

e. Commander Navy Installations Command Casualty Assistance Calls/Funeral Honors Support Office. Responsible for casualty assistance calls officer (CACO) training and assignments, supporting the Navy Casualty Office in the execution of casualty case management, and supervision and execution of the Navy's Funeral Honors Program.

f. Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO). The CACO is the official Navy representative who provides information, resources, and assistance to the next of kin (NOK) and other beneficiaries in the event of a casualty (see [MILPERSMAN 1770-160](#)). CACO duties are varied and dependent upon the status of the Service member at the time the casualty occurs (i.e., death, DUSTWUN, missing, ill, or injured).

g. Casualty Operations Case Manager (Navy Casualty Assistance Primary Point of Contact). The casualty case manager (assigned for every reported casualty) provides guidance and coordination for all benefits, funeral expenses, and travel. Duties include, but are not limited to:

(1) Determination of primary next of kin (PNOK) and secondary NOK;

(2) Identifying the most current [DD 93 Record of Emergency Data](#) and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) election, to ensure benefits are paid to the proper beneficiaries;

(3) Coordinating with CACOs for the delivery of benefits packages to KNO and other designated individuals;

(4) Processing claims for death gratuity, BAH, SGLI, and other survivor benefits;

(5) Coordinating funeral, bedside, memorial service, and dignified transfer of remains (DTR) travel as applicable; and

(6) Providing line of accounting data for the relocation of the dependents' household goods.

h. Conservatorship. A legal status in which a party has been appointed to manage the affairs of a minor child's monies and or property. Conservatorship law varies from state to state.

i. CONUS. Continental United States (U.S.).

j. Defense Casualty Information Processing System (DCIPS). The official Department of Defense (DoD)-directed information technology system for all aspects of casualty case processing. DCIPS is also used to report a casualty.

k. Death Gratuity. Immediate financial assistance to eligible beneficiary(ies) of \$100,000 (See MILPERSMAN 1770-280).

l. DFAS. Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

m. DD 1300 Report of Casualty. The official document used to record the death of an active duty Service member.

n. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. A Department of Veterans Affairs benefit program that provides a monthly payment to a surviving spouse or qualifying dependent of a deceased Service member.

o. Dignified Transfer of Remains (DTR). The solemn disembarkation of a deceased Service member's remains when arriving at Dover Air Force Base, Dover, DE from outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS).

p. Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN). A transitory casualty status that is used when the responsible commander suspects the Service member may be a casualty and whose absence is **involuntary**, but sufficient evidence does not exist to make a definite determination of current status, be it unauthorized absence, missing, or deceased. This applies to Service members presumed to be lost at sea or absent ashore due

to unknown circumstances. DUSTWUN affords the commanding officer (CO) up to 10 days to conduct search and rescue efforts, investigate the circumstances of the loss incident, and assemble information regarding the Service member's disappearance. DUSTWUN has no effect on pays or allowances and differs by definition and legal entitlement from the "missing" casualty status (see [MILPERSMAN 1770-020](#)).

q. Escort. The uniformed member who accompanies the remains of a deceased Service member being transported to the funeral site. Navy Mortuary Affairs is responsible for funding the escort travel.

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

s. Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI). An extension of the SGLI Program to provide insurance to the spouse and dependent children of Service members. A Service member must be insured under the SGLI Program to qualify for FSGLI. FSGLI provides up to a maximum of \$100,000 of insurance coverage for spouses not to exceed the amount of the Service member's coverage. Dependent children are automatically covered for \$10,000. See [MILPERSMAN 1741-030](#) for more information.

t. Funeral Travel. Roundtrip transportation and allowances for family members and other eligible travelers to attend the burial ceremony of Service members who die while on active or inactive duty (see [MILPERSMAN 1770-270](#)).

u. Guardianship (In the Case of Minor Beneficiaries). Similar to conservatorship (depending on State law), a legally appointed person responsible for handling the affairs of a minor's estate. Depending on State law, this can also apply to the handling of money and property on behalf of the minor (this must be explicitly documented). This may be required even if the child is in the care of a surviving natural or adoptive parent.

v. In Loco Parentis. Any person(s) or institution who acted in place of a Service member's parents for a period of not

less than a year at any time before the Service member joined the Navy.

w. Killed in Action (KIA). A casualty that occurred due to hostile action, other than terrorist activity, in which a Service member died as a result of wounds or other injuries **before** reaching a medical treatment facility.

x. Line of Duty Investigation (LODI). An LODI is required upon the death of a Service member. The investigation is used to determine if the Service member died while in the line of duty and whether the death was due to his or her own misconduct. Commands should consult the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGINST 5800.7G) for further guidance.

y. Missing. This status is used when a Service member is not present at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons and whose location is unknown. A Service member may only be placed in a "missing" status by the Secretary of the Navy.

(1) A CO may make a recommendation to put a member in a "missing" status if the facts so suggest. "Missing" does not include Service members whose status is listed as absent without leave, deserter, or who have been dropped from rolls.

(2) A person declared "missing" is categorized as the following:

(a) Beleaguered. The Service member is a member of an organized element that has been surrounded by a hostile force to prevent escape of its members;

(b) Besieged. The Service member is a member of an organized element that has been surrounded by a hostile force, compelling it to surrender;

(c) Captured. The Service member has been seized as the result of an action of an unfriendly military or paramilitary force in a foreign country;

(d) Detained. The Service member is prevented from proceeding or is restrained in custody for alleged violation of international law or other reason claimed by the Government or group under which the person is being held;

(e) Interned. The Service member is definitely known to have been taken into custody of a nonbelligerent foreign power as the result of, and for reasons arising out of, any armed conflict in which the U.S. Military Services are engaged;

(f) Missing. The Service member is not present at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons and whose location is unknown; and

(g) Missing in Action. The casualty is a hostile casualty, other than the victim of a terrorist activity, who is not present at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons, and whose location is unknown.

z. Non-Medical Attendant. One who accompanies an eligible relative or designated individual to the bedside of a qualifying ill or injured Service member or burial ceremony of a deceased Service member if it is determined:

(1) The accompanied individual is unable to travel unattended because of age, physical condition, or other justifiable reasons; and

(2) There is no other eligible relative or designated individual qualified to serve as an attendant traveling to the burial ceremony of the deceased Service member.

NOTE: A non-medical attendant accompanying an individual to the bedside of a qualifying ill or injured Service member is considered to be one of the designated persons bedside (see [MILPERSMAN 1770-230](#)).

aa. Notification. The process of informing the next of kin or other interested parties of the death, illness, injury, or a status of DUSTWUN of a Service member.

(1) Death. Notification following a death will be made in person by a team of two persons (a chaplain should be assigned to the team, if available). Notification should be made to the PNOK first, when practical. The initial visit entails notification, condolences, answering of any questions, and addressing any concerns. Notification should be accomplished within 24 hours of receipt of casualty, between the hours of 0500 and 2400. Unusual circumstances, such as OCONUS

next of kin or high media interest may dictate deviation from this guidance.

(2) Illness or Injury. Notification following illness or injury must be made by phone.

(3) DUSTWUN. Notification following a DUSTWUN designation will be made in person, to the PNOK, and to the parents. Factual details may be relayed to the family members during the notification visit.

ab. Not Seriously Injured (NSI). A casualty which involves illness or injury that requires medical attention (may or may not require hospitalization) and medical authorities declare the illness or injury less severe than seriously injured.

NOTE: A personal casualty report (PCR) is required **only** if the NSI case occurs within a theater of operations.

ac. OCONUS. Outside of the continental U.S.

ad. Other Interested Parties. Other interested parties include anyone named on a Service member's [DD 93](#), or SGLV 8286 Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate.

ae. Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD). Service members identify a PADD on their [DD 93](#). If the PADD is not designated by the Service member, the PADD is recognized in the following order of precedence:

(1) Surviving Spouse: The legal spouse is one who was married to the deceased as prescribed by civil law, was not divorced from the deceased, and has not remarried at the time disposition of remains is to be made. If the spouse has remarried at the time disposition is to be made, the right of disposition will go to the next person in order of priority, and the remarried spouse will take priority as stated in subparagraph 2ae(8) below;

(2) Children: Children who have reached the age of majority in order of seniority (age);

(3) Parents: In order of seniority (age), unless legal custody was granted to another person by reason of court decree or statutory provision. Stepparents who have not adopted the Service member, serve in loco parentis, and are not considered parents for PADD purposes;

(4) Blood or Adoptive Relative: A relative of the Service member who was granted legal custody by reason of a court decree or statutory provision. The person to whom custody was granted remains the PADD despite the fact that the individual had reached the age of majority at the time of death;

(5) Siblings: Brothers or sisters of legal age in order of seniority (age). Half-siblings will be considered after full siblings. Stepsiblings are not eligible to direct disposition. Adopted siblings are treated the same as full siblings when adopted by both of the deceased Service member's biological parents. Adopted siblings are considered as half-siblings when adopted by only one of the deceased Service member's biological parents;

(6) Grandparents: In order of seniority (age);

(7) Other Adult Blood Relatives: In order of relationship to the individual under the laws of the Service member's domicile. When two individuals are of equal relationship, priority will be determined by seniority (age);

(8) Remarried Surviving Spouse: One who was not divorced from the deceased and has remarried at the time disposition of remains is to be made. The latter might apply in the case of a Service member who is declared deceased, though his or her body was not recovered and whose remains are subsequently recovered and identified at a later date;

(9) Persons Standing in Loco Parentis: Refer to "in loco parentis," subparagraph 2v above;

(10) Legal Representative of The Estate: May make disposition of remains when all efforts to identify or locate a person listed in subparagraphs 2ae(1) through 2ae(9) above are unsuccessful. The legal representative must be properly appointed by a civil court having jurisdiction of the Service member's estate; or

(11) Other: When all known persons in subparagraphs 2ae(1) through 2ae(10) above relinquish disposition authority or cannot be identified or located, then disposition of the remains will be made by the Secretary of the Navy.

af. Person Eligible to Receive Effects (PERE). The PERE receives custody of the personal effects of a deceased Service

member. This transference of property does not imply ownership, merely an entity in which to pass the Service member's property. The PERE is recognized in the following order:

(1) Legal Representative of The Service Member's Estate. To qualify as a legal representative, an individual must present duly certified copies of a will, letter testamentary, letters of administration, or other evidence of final qualification issued by a proper court of competent jurisdiction;

(2) Surviving spouse who has not remarried;

(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. When two individuals are of equal relationship, priority will be determined by order of seniority (age);

(7) A person standing in loco parentis; or

(8) A person named as a beneficiary in the will, but not specifically named as the recipient of personal effects.

ag. Personnel Casualty Reporting. A PCR should be submitted as soon as practical, preferably within 4 hours of learning of a casualty. A PCR is required for:

(1) All deceased military personnel in an active duty or inactive duty training status;

(2) All deceased or missing DoD civilian employees and DoD contractors OCONUS who are casualties as a result of hostile action, non-hostile action, or while accompanying U.S. Military Services in the field; and for all CONUS casualties as a result of hostile action;

(3) All deceased 120-day disability retired members;

(4) All deceased personnel who were attending a Military Service academy;

(5) All active duty military personnel whose status is listed as SI or VSI;

(6) All DoD civilian personnel, including DoD contractors OCONUS, who are listed as SI or VSI as a result of hostile or non-hostile action, or while accompanying U.S. Military Services in the field;

(7) All military personnel listed as DUSTWUN, all DoD civilian employees, and DoD contractor personnel listed as EAWUN; and

(8) All personnel (including military and DoD civilians and DoD contractors) who are wounded in action.

ah. Primary Next of Kin (PNOK). The person most closely related to the deceased Service member is considered PNOK for casualty notification and assistance purposes. The surviving spouse (not having remarried following the Service member's death) is always designated the PNOK. The term "surviving spouse" does not include one who obtained a divorce from the Service member (at any time). Other NOK is recognized by law in the following order of precedence:

(1) Eldest natural or adopted child including a child or children by prior marriage. The age of majority is 18. If the child is a minor, his or her surviving parent or legal guardian will exercise the rights of the minor child;

(2) Parents in order of seniority (age), unless legal exclusive (sole) custody was granted to a person by reason of a court decree or statutory provision;

(3) Blood relative who was granted legal custody of the person by a court decree or statutory provision;

(4) Brother(s) and sister(s) of legal age (18 or over) in order of seniority (age);

(5) Grandparents in order of seniority (age);

(6) Other relatives of legal age in order of relationship to the individual according to civil laws. When persons are of equal degree of relationship to the Service member (e.g., aunt, uncle, and cousin), seniority (age) will determine priority;

(7) Persons standing in loco parentis to the Service member; or

(8) The remarried surviving spouse.

NOTE: When doubt exists concerning the determination of PNOK, Navy Casualty Assistance will provide guidance for determination.

ai. Prisoner of War (POW). POW is not a casualty status for casualty reporting purposes. For reporting purposes, the casualty status and category would be "missing-captured". POW is the international legal status of military and certain other personnel captured during an armed conflict between two countries.

aj. Record of Emergency Data ((RED)/DD 93). Form used to designate beneficiaries for certain benefits and to designate the PADD in the event of a Service member's death.

ak. Returned to Military Control. Status of a Service member whose casualty status of DUSTWUN or missing has been changed due to the Service member's return or recovery by U.S. military authority.

al. Seriously Ill or 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.

am. Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). A low cost group life insurance for Service members available in \$50,000 increments up to the maximum of \$500,000. Service members are automatically insured under SGLI for the maximum amount of \$500,000 unless an election is filed reducing the insurance by \$50,000 increments or canceling it entirely.

an. Survivor Benefit Plan. Monthly payment to the spouse of a deceased Service member who is found in the line of duty at time of death. If no qualifying spouse, the Service member's children will receive the benefits until they reach the age of 18 or 22, if enrolled in school.

ao. Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. A traumatic injury protection rider under SGLI that provides for payment to any Service member covered by SGLI who sustains a qualifying traumatic injury which results in designated severe losses.

ap. Unaccounted For. An inclusive term (not a casualty status) applicable to Service members whose person or remains are not recovered, or otherwise accounted for following hostile action. Commonly used when referring to Service members who are KIA and whose body is not recovered.

aq. Unpaid Pay and Allowance (UPPA). Pay and allowances accrued, but not yet paid, upon the death of a Service member. UPPA may include unpaid basic pay, accrued leave, amounts due for travel, and unpaid installments of variable reenlistment bonuses. A complete pay audit is performed by DFAS prior to issuance of UPPA to the designated beneficiary.

ar. Very Seriously Ill or 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.

as. Wounded in Action (WIA). A casualty category applicable to a hostile casualty, other than the victim of a terrorist activity, who has incurred an injury due to an external agent or cause. The term encompasses all kinds of wounds and other injuries incurred in action (whether there is a piercing of the body as in a penetration or perforated wound, or none as in the contused wound). These include fractures, burns, blast concussions, all effects of biological and chemical warfare agents, and the effects of exposure to ionizing radiation or any other destructive weapon or agent. The hostile casualty's status may be categorized as SI, VSI, or NSI.