MILPERSMAN 1770-130

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING CASUALTIES DURING HOSTILITIES OR AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTS WHICH COULD RESULT IN AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT

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Governing Directive	37 U.S.C. 551-559

1. **Policy**

   a. When war or hostile action by an organization force results in personal casualties, notification of the next of kin will be made as directed by higher authority.

   b. During hostilities, or in the case of an international or other applicable incident, records of personnel missing in action will be controlled as "For Official Use Only" until the member is determined to be dead or returned. Significant details, including biographical data, will not be publicly disclosed.

   c. Service records and flight logbooks of members continued in a missing status will be forwarded to Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) (PERS-621).

   d. The family members of members missing in action, captured, interned, beleaguered, besieged, or detained will be provided for under the Missing Persons Act (37 U.S.C. 551-559) (see MILPERSMAN 1770-220).

2. **Classifications**. The definitions, classifications, and nomenclatures for the collection and reporting of battle casualty statistics are as follows:

a. **Battle casualty** - any member lost to the member's organization because of death, wound, missing, capture, or internment, providing such loss is incurred in action. "In action" characterizes the casualty status as having been the direct result of hostile action sustained in combat or relating thereto, or sustained going to or returning from a combat mission, provided that the occurrence was directly related to hostile action or through misadventure (friendly fire).

NOTE: Injuries due to the elements and self-inflicted wounds are not considered as sustained in action and are not battle casualties.

b. **Wounded in action (WIA)** - applies to a battle casualty, other than "killed in action," where the member has incurred an injury due to an external agent or cause. The term encompasses all kinds of wounds and other injuries incurred, internal or external, to include all fractures, burns, blast concussions, all effects of biological and chemical warfare agents, the effects of exposure to ionizing radiation, or any other destructive weapon or agent.

c. **Died of wounds received in action (DOW)** - applies to a battle casualty who dies of wounds or other injuries received in action after having reached any medical treatment facility while still alive. It is essential to differentiate these cases from battle casualties found dead or who died before reaching a medical facility (the "killed in action" group).

d. **Killed in action (KIA)** - applies to a battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching any medical treatment facility.

e. **Missing in action (MIA)** - applies to all battle casualties whose whereabouts or actual fate cannot be determined and who are not known to have deserted or to be absent without leave.

f. **Captured (CPTR)** - applies to all battle casualties definitely known to have been taken into custody of a hostile force as a result of and for reasons arising out of any armed conflict in which Armed Forces of the United States are engaged.

g. **Interned (ITD)** - applies to all battle casualties 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 Armed Forces of the United States are engaged.

h. **Beleaguered or besieged** - applies to a member who is surrounded by a hostile force either to preclude escape or to compel the member's surrender.

i. **Detained** - applies to a member who is detained in a foreign country against the member's will and not as the result of an armed conflict in which Armed Forces of the United States are engaged.