

## MILPERSMAN 1770-150

### RELEASE OF CASUALTY INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA OR GENERAL PUBLIC

<b>Responsible Office</b>	<b>OPNAV (N135C)</b>	Phone	DSN:	882-2501	
		TOLL FREE WITHIN U.S.	(800)	368-3202	
			COM:	(901)	874-2501
			FAX:		882-6654

NAVPERSCOM CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER	Phone: Toll free	1-866-U ASK NPC
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<b>References</b>	(a) DoD Instruction 1300.18 of 8 Jan 08 (b) SECNAVINST 5720.44B
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1. Reference (a) dictates policy on the **release of casualty information to the media or general public for military, DoD civilian and Department of Defense (DoD) contract personnel.** Reference (b) provides additional guidance on the release of information concerning Navy personnel. Commanders shall consult both of these directives and their assigned public affairs officials prior to the release of any casualty information.

#### 2. Policy

a. **Deceased.** Per reference (a), para. 4.6, no casualty information on Sailors or DoD civilians will be released until 24 hours after the Next of Kin (NOK) has been notified of the casualty. The 24-hour clock will start over each time the NOK are notified of a change in casualty status. (**Exception - Dignified Transfer at Dover Air Force Base:** Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) approval of media coverage of a dignified transfer at Dover Air Force Base waives the DoD 24-hour policy.)

b. **Multiple loss incident.** Per reference (a), para. 4.6.1, the 24-hour period will commence upon the notification of the last NOK.

c. **Not Seriously, Seriously, Very Seriously Ill or Injured (NSI/SI/VSI).** Per reference (a), para. 4.6, casualty information about NSI/SI/VSI military or DoD civilian may not be released to the media or general public without the consent of

the individual. For further guidance consult reference (b), para. 0208.

d. **Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN) or missing under potentially hostile situations.** Per reference (a), para. 4.6.3, casualty information on Sailors or DoD civilians will not be released until 72 hours after NOK has been notified or combatant commander clears information for release. NOK will be asked not to make status of their loved one public until notified by their Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO). This delay is requested to allow commanders the opportunity to ensure operational security is not compromised due to premature release of casualty information that could negatively influence the chances of a recovery.

e. **Prisoner of War.** Per reference (b), para. 0207, DoD will be the point of first release of casualty information.

f. **DoD civilian and contractor.** Per reference (a), para. 4.6.4, casualty information on DoD civilians will only be released to the media or the general public after notification of the NOK. Casualty information on DoD contractor employees will only be released by the NOK or by the casualty's employer.

### 3. Releasable information.

a. **Deceased cases.** Per reference (a), para. 6.3.3, and reference (b), para. 0203 2g, the following is prescribed: Death generally extinguishes an individual's privacy rights. However, surviving family members may have a legitimate privacy interest. Particularly sensitive personal details about the circumstances surrounding an individual's death may be withheld when necessary to protect the privacy interests of surviving family members. This includes personal information on the NOK or others. It also includes information pertaining to the deceased if disclosure would result in an invasion of the family's privacy. Examples of items of a personal nature about family members or others that should be protected include residential addresses and telephone numbers, social security numbers, age and date of birth.

b. **DUSTWUN or missing cases.** Per reference (a), para. 6.3.2, the amount of information releasable to the general public on these Sailors is limited to basic biographical information such as name, date of loss, country of loss, and current status.