



NAVAL
FUNERALS

AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

NAVPERS 15956D

INTRODUCTION

This manual serves as a guide for personnel designated as Escort Commanders or other participants in Navy funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. It may also be used as a general guide for all Navy funerals since most of these procedures are standard.

Navy military funerals are based on simple customs and traditions. Such funerals are open recognition of the Nation's debt for the services and sacrifices of its Navy men and women. The ceremonial customs comprising the elements of a naval funeral are rooted in ancient naval and military tradition. These customs have come to assume a deeper significance than that of mere battlefield expediency.

The flag that covers the casket today symbolizes the services of the deceased in the Armed Forces of the United States; the Nation regards the burying of its military dead as a solemn and sacred obligation. The three volleys that are fired, according to ancient belief, were to scare away evil spirits. It is appropriate that Taps be played over the grave to mark the beginning of the last, long sleep, and to express hope and confidence in an ultimate reveille to come. The reversal of rank at funerals is an acknowledgment that in death, all persons are equal. This is signified by positioning the honorary pallbearers and all other mourners, if practicable, in reverse order of rank.

In the Washington, D.C. area, funeral ceremonies for the Navy and Coast Guard are under the supervision of the Commandant, Naval District Washington. They follow a pattern based on United States Navy Regulations, with modifications resulting from local conditions, customs and traditions.

M.S. DEBIEN
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director, Personal, Family
and Community Support Division

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SECTION 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

ART. 1-1. Three types of naval funerals are conducted at Arlington National Cemetery:

1. Full Honor
2. Simple Honor
3. Dependent

ART. 1-2. The following persons are eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery:

1. Persons on active duty in the Armed Forces.
2. Retired members of the Uniformed Services who have performed active Federal Services, are carried on official service retired lists and who are eligible to receive compensation stemming from service in the Armed Forces. Retired members include members of the Naval Fleet Reserve, Retired Reservists, age 60, who are receiving retired pay and Retired Reservists who would have been eligible for retired pay, but die before reaching age 60.
3. Recipients of the Medal of Honor and any former member of the Armed Forces whose last active duty military service (other than for training) terminated honorably and who has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Air Force Cross or Navy Cross), the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star or the Purple Heart.
4. Former members of the Armed Forces, separated for a medical service-connected disability of 30% or greater prior to 1 October 1949, who had served on active duty (other than for training) and who would have been eligible for retirement under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 1201 had that statute been in effect on the date of separation.
5. Persons otherwise eligible by reason of honorable military service who had also held elective office in the U.S. Government or served on the Supreme Court or the Cabinet or in an office compensated at Level II under the Executive Salary Act.
6. The spouses, minor children and dependent adult children of the persons listed in (1) through (5) above and of persons already buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

ART. 1-3. The cremated remains of the following persons are eligible for burial in the Columbarium in Arlington National Cemetery:

1. Any honorably discharged veteran and/or,
2. His/her dependents (Those persons who are eligible for interment in Arlington National Cemetery who meet the criteria in ART. 1-2 shall have the option of burial in either a plot or the Columbarium). The ceremonies and honors described in this manual for interments are conducted in the same manner on the platform site outside the Columbarium.

ART. 1-4. Full Honor and Simple Honor funerals differ primarily in the size of the funeral escort and in the other elements participating in the funeral. The Table of Entitlements, Appendix A to this manual, indicates the types of funerals to which naval personnel are entitled.

ART. 1-5. Dependent funerals are conducted for the spouse or dependent children of naval personnel who are entitled to burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

ART. 1-6. The basic elements of Full Honor and Simple Honor funerals are:

1. American flag draped over the casket.
2. Honors rendered during each movement of the casket.
3. The appropriate religious service.
4. The procession to the grave.
5. The appropriate graveside committal service.
6. Honors rendered at the grave while three rifle volleys are fired and a bugler sounds Taps.
7. Presentation of the flag to the next of kin by an appropriate Navy representative.

ART. 1-7. FULL HONOR FUNERAL. A color detail and a ceremonial band are provided in addition to the escort specified in Appendix A. The band plays prescribed musical honors and/or a hymn during each movement of the casket. The color detail, band and escort march in the procession and the casket is borne to the grave on a horse drawn caisson.

ART. 1-8. SIMPLE HONOR FUNERAL. No color detail or band are provided, and the escort does not march in the procession. The casket is borne to the grave in a coach.

ART. 1-9. DEPENDENT FUNERAL. There are no military honors in connection with this funeral, and no flag is provided. The military casket bearer detail departs after placing the casket at the grave.

ART. 1-10. Each of the Navy funerals conducted at Arlington National Cemetery is categorized according to the location of the religious service. When the service is held at the Ft. Myer Chapel, the funeral is identified as a Chapel Service. When the religious service is held at any other church or in a funeral home, or when there is only a graveside religious service, the funeral is identified as a Ft. Myer Gate, Memorial Gate, Patton Circle, Coast Guard Monument, Old Administration Office Transfer or Grave Service.

ART. 1-11. MILITARY HONORS

1. Military honors at naval funerals consist of the escort and firing party at the position of PRESENT ARMS and all other military personnel in uniform, and not in ranks, at the position of HAND SALUTE.

2. Military honors are rendered during each movement of the casket, during each movement of the casket, during the firing of volleys, and during the sounding of Taps.
3. For Full Honor funerals of officials and officials entitled to a gun salute, the following military honors are rendered.:
 - a. Prescribed musical honors consisting of ruffles and flourishes.
 - b. Minute guns, fired during the procession to the grave in the cemetery.
 - c. A gun salute fired during the graveside committal service.
4. No additional honors are rendered during Simple Honor funerals.

ART. 1-12. State, Official and Special Military funerals are conducted in accordance with OPNAVINST 5360.1 series when directed by the Department of Defense. Armed Forces Full Honor funerals are conducted in accordance with Military District of Washington Standard Operating Procedures when directed by the Department of Defense. All other funerals for personnel of the naval service are conducted in accordance with this manual.

ART. 1-13. All military personnel in uniform, whether participating in or attending the graveside committal service, remain covered during the committal service unless their religious tradition dictates otherwise. During military honors, personnel in uniform render the HAND SALUTE.

ART. 1-14. The Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) is represented at Arlington National Cemetery funerals. The representative attends the funeral, and at the close of the graveside committal service extends the condolences of the CNP to the next of kin. Appropriate seasonal full dress uniform is worn when participating in both full honors and simple honors funerals.

1. A Commander selected from the BUPERS watchbill represents the CNP at the funeral of an active duty officer (through rank of Commander), an active duty enlisted member or a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor.
2. A Captain selected from the BUPERS watchbill represents the CNP at a funeral of an active duty Captain or retired Rear Admiral.
3. A Rear Admiral is designated by ADC's (N1B) office as CNP representative at a funeral of a retired Vice Admiral or full Admiral. The CNP representative for an active duty Rear Admiral, Vice Admiral or full Admiral will be determined at the time of demise.

ART. 1-15. The flag is presented to the next of kin by a U.S. Government official. It is the responsibility of the cemetery representative to ensure presentation to the proper person. In Full Honor funerals of officers or officials entitled to a gun salute, the Escort Commander will make the actual presentation of the flag to the next of kin. This will be done in all cases, whether or not a chaplain is present. In all other naval funerals, the

chaplain will present the flag to the next of kin. If no chaplain is present, the CNP representative or the officer in charge of the ceremonial guard will make the presentation.

ART. 1-16. An additional U.S. Flag (identical to the one presented to the widow/widower or child) will be presented to the parents (2 flags if parents are separated) of the deceased in attendance at the graveside committal service. The chaplain and the Escort Commander will present the flags. If no chaplain is present, the CNP representative, petty officer in charge, escort for the remains or cemetery representative, in that order, will present the second flag.

ART. 1-17. Naval personnel participating in the escort and other units in funerals at Arlington National Cemetery are considered members of the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard. The U.S. Navy Band provides all ceremonial bands and buglers for such funerals.

SECTION 2

COMPOSITION OF A NAVAL FUNERAL ESCORT

ART. 2-1. FULL HONOR FUNERAL

1. **SPECIAL FULL HONOR (COMBINED).** This ceremony will be conducted when directed by the Department of the Navy for officials (less 4 star admiral) listed in the Table of Entitlements. The escort and other participating elements consist of the following:

- a. The escort commander.
- b. The OIC of the funeral.
- c. The commander of troops: A Ceremonial Guard Officer with a staff of two officers, one Navy officer and one Marine Corps Officer as adjutant.
- d. The Navy ceremonial band.
- e. The escort: A combined battalion consisting of one Marine Corps company and one Navy company. Each company is comprised of a company commander with guidon bearer and two platoons, each platoon with a platoon petty officer, right guide and three squads of six persons.
- f. A combined color detail.
- g. A Navy personal flag bearer.
- h. A six person Navy casket bearer detail.
- i. A seven person Marine Corps firing party with NCOIC.

2. **SPECIAL FULL HONOR.** Conducted for a 4 star admiral . The escort and other participating elements consist of the following:

- a. The escort commander.
- b. The OIC of the funeral.
- c. The commander of troops: A Ceremonial Guard officer with guidon bearer.
- d. The Navy ceremonial band.
- e. The escort: A single battalion consisting of two companies. Each company comprised of two platoons with company officer, each platoon with a platoon officer, right guide and three squads of five persons (no right guide for 1st and 3rd platoons).
- f. A four person color detail.

- g. A personal flag bearer.
- h. A six person casket bearer detail.
- i. A seven person firing party with POIC.

3. **FULL HONOR (COMPANY)**. Conducted for vice admirals, rear admirals and captains. The escort and other participating elements consist of the following:

- a. The escort commander.
- b. The OIC of the funeral.
- c. The commander of troops: An officer of the Ceremonial Guard with guidon bearer.
- d. The ceremonial band.
- e. The escort: A single company consisting of two platoons, each with a platoon petty officer, right guide and three squads of seven persons.
- f. A four person color detail.
- g. A personal flag bearer (flag officer only).
- h. A six person casket bearer detail.
- i. A seven person firing party with POIC.

4. **FULL HONOR (PLATOON)**. Conducted for officers below the rank of captain. The escort and other participating elements consist of the following:

- a. The escort commander (Ceremonial Guard) with guidon bearer.
- b. The OIC of the funeral.
- c. The ceremonial band.
- d. The escort: A single platoon comprised of a petty officer, right guide and three squads of seven persons.
- e. A four person color detail.
- f. A six person casket bearer detail.
- g. A seven person firing party with POIC.

5. **FULL HONOR (SQUAD)**. Conducted for Master Chief Petty Officers of the Navy. Participating elements consist of the following:

- a. NCOIC of the funeral.

- b. Three squads.
- c. The ceremonial band with bugler.
- d. A four person color detail.
- e. A chaplain.
- f. A seven person firing party.
- g. A six person casket bearer detail.

ART. 2-2. Simple Honor Funeral

1. Conducted for senior chief petty officers and all other enlisted personnel. Conducted for officials and officers when desired by the next of kin. The escort and other participating elements are the same for all naval personnel and consist of the following:

- a. The escort petty officer (also the OIC of the funeral).
- b. The commander of troops: The POIC of the firing party.
- c. A bugler.
- d. A six person casket bearer detail.
- e. A seven person firing party (also the escort) with POIC.

ART. 2-3. The escort and other participating elements for Full Honor and Simple Honor funerals or retired personnel, as well as others entitled to burial at Arlington National Cemetery, are the same as for funerals of active duty personnel.

SECTION 3

THE ESCORT COMMANDER

ART. 3-1. The escort commander commands all military units that participate in a naval funeral, and together with the chaplain, is responsible for the proper conduct of the funeral ceremony.

ART. 3-2. Navy Regulations state that “the grade or rating of the escort commander normally shall be the same as, or higher than, that of the deceased.” The escort commander for naval funerals conducted at Arlington National Cemetery is assigned in accordance with OPNAVINST 5360.3 as follows:

1. Special Full Honor Funerals: A rear admiral
2. Full Honor (Company) Funerals: A captain or rear admiral.
3. Full Honor (Platoon) Funeral: An officer of the Navy Ceremonial Guard.
4. Simple Honor Funeral: A petty officer of the Navy Ceremonial Guard.

ART. 3-3. At a Special Full Honor and Full Honor (Company) funeral, an officer of the Navy Ceremonial Guard is assigned to act as commander of troops. The commander of troops marches in formation with and issues all commands to the escort, color detail and band.

ART. 3-4. At Full Honor (Platoon) funerals, the escort commander acts as commander of troops and marches in formation with and issues all commands to the escort, color detail and band.

ART. 3-5. At all Full Honor Funerals the escort commander is assisted by a qualified PO from the Navy Ceremonial Guard who acts as OIC of the funeral. The OIC of the funeral instructs the honorary pallbearers and assists the escort commander.

ART. 3-6. At Simple Honor funerals the escort PO is assisted by the POIC of the firing party who acts as commander of troops. The commander of troops marches in formation with and issues all commands to the escort.

ART. 3-7. At Special Full Honor and Full Honor (Company) funerals, the escort commander rides with the cemetery representative in the procession to the grave. If he/she desires to march in the procession he/she will march with the chaplain in front of the caisson (assuming the chaplain is also marching). At the grave the escort commander takes position with the chaplain and together they lead the way to the head of the grave, where the escort commander remains throughout the committal service.

ART. 3-8. At Special Full Honor and Full Honor (Company) funerals, the escort commander presents the flag to the next of kin with appropriate condolences at the conclusion of the committal service.

ART. 3-9. The uniform worn by the escort commander is the appropriate (seasonal) full dress uniform. This includes white gloves, large medals, black arm mourning band, the sword with gold sword knot and black sword mourning band. The overcoat or raincoat is worn as required.

SECTION 4

CHAPEL SERVICE

ART. 4-1. A Chapel Service is applicable to all Full Honor, Simple Honor and Dependent funerals. The ceremony begins with the arrival of the coach in front of the Ft. Myer chapel.

ART. 4-2. Ft. Myer chapel services usually begin on the hour, although Catholic services often begin fifteen minutes before the hour.

ART. 4-3. FULL HONOR FUNERAL

1. Approximately twenty minutes before ceremony time the escort, color detail and band are formed in the assembly area. The units are marched onto the roadway in front of the chapel, are halted, faced and dressed 15 minutes prior to ceremony time.
2. The units are formed in the following order from the right as faces the chapel:
 - a. Special Full Honor (Combined): Navy ceremonial band, Marine Corps 1st platoon, Marine Corps 2nd platoon, combined color detail, Navy 1st platoon, Navy 2nd platoon.
 - b. Special Full Honor: Band, 1st platoon, 2nd platoon, color detail, 3rd platoon, 4th platoon.
 - c. Full Honor (Company): Band, 1st platoon, color detail, 2nd platoon.
 - d. Full Honor (Platoon): Band, color detail, 1st platoon, 2nd platoon.
3. The casket bearer detail forms in two files in the walkway to the West of the chapel entrance.
4. The personal flag bearer (if any) takes position near the curb to the West of the chapel entrance.
5. The honorary pallbearers (if any) form in two ranks at the chapel entrance as directed by the OIC of the funeral.
6. When the escort commander and cemetery representative are ready to proceed, the OIC of the funeral signals the coach to approach the chapel.
7. As the coach arrives the flag-draped casket is saluted by the escort commander, commander of troops, OIC of the funeral, head casket bearers, honorary pallbearers and chaplain (unless wearing vestments).
8. The OIC of the funeral signals and the casket bearer detail marches out to the rear of the coach.
9. Upon signal from the OIC of the funeral, the escort and other units are brought to PRESENT ARMS.

10. The band plays the prescribed musical honors and/or a hymn.
11. The casket bearer detail removes the casket from the coach.
12. The chaplain leads the way through ranks of honorary pallbearers followed by the personal flag bearer and the casket bearer detail.
13. As the casket bearers enter the vestibule, they place the casket on the bier.
14. When the casket is on the bier the escort and all other units are brought to ORDER ARMS. When the chapel doors are closed units are given CEREMONIAL-AT-EASE.
15. The head and foot casket bearers wheel the casket into the chapel following the chaplain.
16. The appropriate religious service takes place.
17. When the service is complete, the chaplain takes position to lead the way out of the chapel and honorary pallbearers re-form in two ranks facing each other outside the chapel entrance.
18. The escort and other units are brought to ATTENTION.
19. The chaplain leads the way down the aisle toward the vestibule followed by the personal flag bearer and two casket bearers with the casket on the bier.
20. The chaplain halts outside of the chapel entrance. The casket bearers take position alongside the casket in the vestibule.
21. Upon signal from the OIC of the funeral the escort and other units are brought to PRESENT ARMS.
22. The band plays the prescribed music honors and/or hymn.
23. The casket bearers raise the casket from the bier and follow the chaplain and the personal flag bearer through the ranks the honorary pallbearers.
24. The casket bearers place the casket on the caisson.
25. When the casket is on the caisson, the escort and other units are brought to ORDER ARMS.
26. The casket bearers fasten the casket in place and take their position to the rear of the caisson.
27. While the next of kin, family and other mourners proceed to their cars, the honorary pallbearers take position alongside the caisson.

28. If the honorary pallbearers do not desire to march alongside the caisson, they proceed directly to their cars from their position at the chapel entrance.
29. If the honorary pallbearers ride to the grave, the casket bearers remain in their position alongside the caisson for the procession.
30. The chaplain takes the position in front of the caisson and the personal flag bearer takes the position behind the chaplain.
31. Upon signal from the OIC of the funeral, the escort and other units are faced toward the cemetery gate, and the escort is brought to **RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS**.
32. The procession is now ready to proceed to the grave.

ART. 4-4. SIMPLE HONOR FUNERAL

1. Approximately twenty minutes before ceremony time the escort is marched onto the roadway in front of the chapel, is halted, faced and dressed.
2. The casket bearer detail forms in two files in the walkway to the West of the chapel entrance.
3. The honorary pallbearers (if any) form in two ranks at the chapel as directed by the escort commander.
4. When the escort commander and cemetery representative are ready to proceed, the escort petty officer signals the coach to approach the chapel.
5. As the coach arrives, the flag-draped casket is saluted by the honorary pallbearers and chaplain (unless wearing Vestments).
6. The escort petty officer signals and the casket bearer detail marches out to the rear of the coach.
7. Upon signal from the escort petty officer, the escort is brought to **PRESENT ARMS**.
8. The casket bearer detail removes the casket from the coach.
9. The chaplain leads the way through the ranks of honorary pallbearers followed by the casket bearer detail.
10. As the casket bearers enter the vestibule, they place the casket on the bier.
11. When the casket is on the bier, the escort and other units are brought to **ORDER ARMS**. When the chapel doors are closed all units are given **CEREMONIAL-AT-EASE**.
12. The head and foot casket bearers wheel the casket into the chapel following the chaplain.
13. The appropriate religious service takes place.

14. When the service is over, the chaplain takes position to lead the way out of the chapel and the honorary pallbearers reform in two ranks facing each other outside the chapel entrance.
15. The escort is brought to ATTENTION.
16. The chaplain leads the way down the aisle toward the vestibule followed by the two casket bearers with the casket on the bier.
17. The chaplain halts outside the chapel entrance. The casket bearers take position alongside the casket in the vestibule.
18. Upon signal from the escort petty officer the escort is brought to PRESENT ARMS.
19. The casket bearers raise the casket from the bier and follow the chaplain through the ranks of honorary pallbearers.
20. The casket bearers place the casket in the coach.
21. When the casket is placed in the coach the escort is brought to order arms. The escort is faced, brought to RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS, and marched to the bus to proceed ahead of the procession to the grave.
22. The honorary pallbearers proceed to their cars while the next of kin, family and other mourners proceed to their cars.
23. The procession is now ready to proceed to the grave as directed by the cemetery representative.

ART. 4-5. DEPENDENT FUNERAL

1. Prior to ceremony time the casket bearer detail forms in two files in the walkway to the West of the chapel entrance.
2. When the cemetery representative and chaplain are ready to proceed with the ceremony, the coach is signaled to approach the chapel.
3. After the coach stops in front of the chapel, the casket bearer detail marches out to the rear of the coach.
4. The casket bearer detail removes the casket from the coach.
5. The chaplain leads the way into the vestibule followed by the casket bearer detail. As they enter the vestibule the casket bearers place the casket on the bier.
6. The head and foot casket bearers wheel the casket into the chapel following the chaplain.
7. The appropriate religious service takes place.

8. When the service is over, the chaplain takes position to lead the way out of the chapel.
9. The chaplain leads the way down the aisle toward the vestibule followed by the two casket bearers with the casket on the bier.
10. The casket bearers take position alongside the casket in the vestibule.
11. The casket bearers raise the casket from the bier and follow the chaplain out of the chapel.
12. The casket bearers place the casket in the coach. The casket bearer detail marches to the bus to proceed ahead of the procession to the grave.
13. The process is now ready to proceed to the grave, as directed by the cemetery representative.

SECTION 5

TRANSFER

ART. 5-1. A transfer is applicable only to Full Honor funerals. The escort waits at either the Ft. Myer Gate entrance, the Memorial Gate entrance, Patton Circle, Coast Guard Monument or the Old Administration Office of Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony begins with the arrival of the procession from the church, the funeral home or the cemetery administration office. The casket is transferred from the coach to the caisson and the procession continues to the grave.

ART. 5-2. Transfer ceremonies begin on the hour at the place designated for the transfer.

ART. 5-3. Approximately twenty minutes before ceremony time the escort, color detail and band are formed as follows:

1. **FT. MYER GATE TRANSFER:** On the road in front of the Ft. Myer chapel and facing the chapel.
2. **MEMORIAL GATE TRANSFER:** On the grass in the center of the gate entrance and facing the Memorial Bridge.
3. **PATTON CIRCLE TRANSFER:** On Patton Drive centered and facing the circle.
4. **COAST GUARD MONUMENT TRANSFER:** On Dewey Drive facing the monument.
5. **OLD ADMINISTRATION OFFICE TRANSFER:** On "Humphreys Drive" directly in front of and facing the administration offices of Arlington National Cemetery. The escort will form on the 2nd drive away from the Administration Building entered down on the Wilson Monument.

ART. 5-4. The units are formed in the following order from the right facing the Chapel, Memorial Bridge, Patton Circle, Coast Guard Monument or Old Administration Office:

1. Special Full Honor (Combined): Navy ceremonial band, Marine Corps 1st platoon, Marine Corps 2nd platoon, combined color detail, Navy 1st platoon Navy 2nd platoon.
2. Special Full Honor: Band, 1st platoon, 2nd platoon, color detail, 3rd platoon, 4th platoon.
3. Full Honor (Company): Band, 1st platoon, color detail, 2nd platoon.
4. Full Honor (Platoon): Band, color detail, 1st platoon.

ART. 5-5. For each type of transfer the caisson is drawn up on the road near the escort as directed by the OIC of the funeral to await the arrival of the procession from the church, funeral home or cemetery administration office.

ART. 5-6. The casket bearer detail forms in two files.

ART. 5-7. The personal flag bearer (if any) takes position as directed by the OIC of the funeral.

ART. 5-8. When the procession arrives the coach is stopped near the caisson as directed by the escort petty officer.

ART. 5-9. If the honorary pallbearers desire to march they are formed as directed by the OIC of the funeral. If they desire to ride in the procession they remain in their cars.

ART. 5-10. Upon signal from the OIC of the funeral the casket bearer detail marches to the rear of the coach.

ART. 5-11. Upon signal from the OIC of the funeral the escort and other units are brought to PRESENT ARMS.

ART. 5-12. The band plays the prescribed musical honors and/or a hymn.

ART. 5-13. The casket bearer detail removes the casket from the coach and places it on the caisson where it is fastened down.

ART. 5-14. The escort and other units are brought to ORDER ARMS.

ART. 5-15. If the honorary pallbearers are to march alongside the caisson, the casket bearer detail moves to a position at the rear of the caisson.

ART. 5-16. The honorary pallbearers are formed alongside the caisson as directed by the OIC of the funeral.

ART. 5-17. If the honorary pallbearers ride to the grave in the procession, the casket bearer detail remains in position alongside the caisson.

ART. 5-18. The chaplain takes position in front of the caisson and the personal flag bearer (if any) takes position behind the chaplain.

ART. 5-19. Upon signal from the OIC of the funeral, the escort and other units are faces and the escort is brought to RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS.

ART. 5-20. The procession is now ready to proceed to the grave.

SECTION 6

GRAVE SERVICE

ART. 6-1. A Grave Service is applicable only to Simple Honor and Dependent funerals. The escort and/or casket bearers wait at the grave. The ceremony begins with the arrival of the procession from the church, the funeral home or the cemetery administration office.

ART. 6-2. The procedures for a Grave Service are exactly as described in Section 8, "Committal Service at the Grave."

SECTION 7

THE PROCESSION TO THE GRAVE

ART. 7-1. The procession to the grave originates at the church or chapel where the religious service is held, at Memorial Gate or at the cemetery administration office. For a Chapel Service the procession originates at the Ft. Myer chapel.

ART. 7-2. The procession for a Transfer originates at a church other than Ft. Myer chapel, or at the cemetery administration office. When the procession arrives at either the Ft. Myer Gate, Memorial Gate, Patton Circle, Coast Guard Monument or Old Administration Office of Arlington National Cemetery, the casket is transferred from the coach to the caisson and the procession continues to the grave.

ART. 7-3. The procession for a Grave Service originates at a church other than Ft. Myer chapel, at a funeral home or at the cemetery administration office. The procession is met by the cemetery representative at the cemetery administration office or at Memorial Gate entrance to Arlington National Cemetery and then continues directly to the grave.

ART. 7-4. The procession for Full Honor funerals proceeds in the following order:

1. OIC of the funeral
2. Honorary pallbearers (if riding together; if not they proceed with the family and other mourners)
3. Cemetery representative
4. Commander of troops
5. Ceremonial Band
6. Escort with color detail
7. Chaplain and Escort Commander
8. Personal flag (if any)
9. Caisson with honorary pallbearers alongside (if marching)
10. Casket bearer detail (alongside the caisson if no honorary pallbearers or if honorary pallbearers ride).
11. Next of kin, family and other mourners.

ART. 7-5. The procession for Simple Honor and Dependent funerals is as formed by the cemetery representative and does not include the escort and/or casket bearer detail.

ART. 7-6. Mourners should ride in the procession in reverse order of rank, enlisted personnel immediately behind the family. At Arlington National Cemetery the tradition of reversed rank is usually applied to the honorary pallbearers only since it is impractical to form the mourners in any particular order.

ART. 7-7. In Full Honor funerals of officers and officials entitled to a gun salute, the prescribed number of minute guns are fired by an Army saluting battery during the procession in Arlington National Cemetery. The first gun is fired as the caisson enters the cemetery and the last gun is fired as the caisson stops at the grave.

ART. 7-8. The procession begins when the cemetery representative is ready to proceed. The procession ends when the casket arrives at the grave.

SECTION 8

COMMITTAL SERVICE AT THE GRAVE

ART. 8-1. FULL HONOR FUNERAL

1. The firing party takes position as directed by the OIC of the funeral to await the arrival of the procession.
2. If the honorary pallbearers have ridden to the grave, they take position in two ranks facing each other as directed by the OIC of the funeral while they await the arrival of the procession.
3. When the procession arrives, the escort, color detail and band are formed facing the grave where the units may best be viewed by the next of kin seated at the grave.
4. If the honorary pallbearers have marched in the procession, or if they did not precede the procession to the grave, they take position in two ranks facing each other as directed by the OIC of the funeral.
5. The casket bearer detail forms alongside the caisson in preparation for removing the casket.
6. The chaplain and personal flag bearer (if any) take position at the head of the ranks of honorary pallbearers next to the caisson.
7. When the next of kin and family leave their cars, the OIC of the funeral signals and the escort and other units are brought to PRESENT ARMS.
8. The band plays the prescribed musical honors and/or a hymn.
9. The casket bearer detail removes the casket from the caisson and follows the chaplain and personal flag bearer through the ranks of honorary pallbearers to the grave.
10. The honorary pallbearers follow the casket to the grave and are, in turn, followed by the next of kin, family and other mourners.
11. The chaplain takes position at the head of the grave for the committal service while the casket bearers place the casket on the grave. The personal flag bearer takes his position next to the casket.
12. The casket bearers raise the flag from the casket and hold it waist high at the pall. The flag remains in the position throughout the service.
13. After the casket is placed on the grave, the escort and other units are brought to ORDER ARMS and given CEREMONIAL-AT-EASE.
14. When the next of kin, family and other mourners have gathered at the grave the chaplain begins the committal service.

15. In Full Honor funerals of officers and officials entitled to a gun salute, the gun salute fired by an Army saluting battery takes place immediately prior to the chaplain's benediction.
16. In such funerals the OIC of the funeral signals when the committal service, except for the benediction, is completed. The escort and other units are brought to ATTENTION and PRESENT ARMS and the gun salute is fired.
17. Upon completion of the gun salute the units are brought to ORDER ARMS and the chaplain pronounces the benediction.
18. When the chaplain completes the committal service by pronouncing the benediction, the OIC of the funeral signals and the escort and other units are brought to ATTENTION and PRESENT ARMS.
19. The firing party then fires three volleys on command of the POIC of the firing party and then resumes the position of PRESENT ARMS.
20. The bugler sounds Taps. Upon completion of Taps the escort and other units are brought to ORDER ARMS. They remain in this position until the flag is folded.
21. The casket bearer detail folds the flag and the head casket bearer presents the flag to the Escort Commander or to the military chaplain if an Escort Commander is not assigned.
22. The casket bearer detail and personal flag bearer march from the grave to the bus.
23. The flag is presented to the next of kin with appropriate condolences. If the parents of the deceased, as well as the next of kin are present, a second flag is presented to them.
24. After the flag is presented, the escort and other units are marched to the bus for departure.

ART. 8-2. SIMPLE HONOR FUNERAL

1. The firing party and casket bearer detail take position as directed by the escort petty officer to await the arrival of the procession.
2. Honorary Pallbearers (if any) take position as directed by the escort petty officer.
3. When the procession arrives, the casket bearer detail marches to the rear of the coach in preparation for removing the casket.
4. The chaplain takes position at the head of the ranks of honorary pallbearers and next to the coach.
5. When the next of kin and family leave their cars, the escort petty officer signals and the firing party is brought to PRESENT ARMS.

6. The casket bearer detail removes the casket from the coach and follows the chaplain through the ranks of honorary pallbearers to the grave.
7. The honorary pallbearers follow the casket to the grave and are followed by the next of kin, family and other mourners.
8. The chaplain takes position at the head of the grave for the committal service while the casket bearers place the casket on the grave.
9. The casket bearers raise the flag from the casket and hold it waist high at the pall. The flag remains in this position throughout the service.
10. After the casket is placed on the grave the firing party is brought to ORDER ARMS and is given CEREMONIAL AT EASE.
11. When the next of kin, family and other mourners have gathered at the grave the chaplain begins the committal service.
12. When the chaplain completes the committal service the escort petty officer signals and the firing party is brought to ATTENTION and PRESENT ARMS.
13. The firing party then fires three volleys on command of the POIC of the firing party and then resumes the position of PRESENT ARMS.
14. The bugler sounds Taps. Upon completion of Taps the firing party is brought to ORDER ARMS. It remains in this position until the flag is folded.
15. The casket bearer detail folds the flag and the head casket bearer presents the flag to the escort commander of Officer in Charge of the funeral or the military chaplain.
16. The casket bearer detail marches from the grave to the bus.
17. The flag is presented to the next of kin with appropriate condolences. If the parents of the deceased, as well as the next of kin, are present, a second flag is presented to them.
18. After the flag is presented, the firing party is marched to the bus for departure.

ART. 8-3. DEPENDENT FUNERAL

1. The casket bearer detail takes position as directed by the head bearer to await the arrival of the procession.
2. When the procession arrives the casket bearer detail marches to the rear of the coach in preparation for removing the casket.
3. The chaplain takes position next to the coach.
4. When the next of kin, family and other mourners leave their cars the casket bearer detail removes the casket from the coach and follows the chaplain to the grave.

5. The next of kin, family and other mourners follow the casket to the grave.
6. The chaplain takes the position at the head of the grave for the committal service while the casket bearers place the casket on the grave.
7. The casket bearer detail marches from the grave to the bus.
8. The chaplain begins the committal service.

SECTION 9

PERSONAL FLAG BEARER

ART. 9-1. The personal flag is carried at FULL HONOR funerals of officers and officials who are entitled to a gun salute. If the deceased was a unit commander or ship commanding officer at the time of his/her death, his/her command pennant or commission pennant shall be carried throughout the ceremony following the procedures prescribed for personal flags.

ART. 9-2. CHAPEL SERVICE

1. The personal flag bearer takes position near the curb and to the West of the chapel entrance.
2. The personal flag bearer follows the chaplain into the chapel and takes position in the chancel facing the casket during the service.
3. After the service the personal flag bearer takes position behind the chaplain facing the chapel entrance.
4. When the chaplain leads the way down the aisle the personal flag bearer follows, the preceding the casket to the vestibule and halting immediately outside of the chapel entrance.
5. After musical honors are completed the personal flag bearer leads the way through the ranks of honorary pallbearers and takes position near the caisson.
6. After the casket is secured to the caisson the personal flag bearer takes position behind the chaplain and ahead of the caisson and remains in this position for the procession.

ART. 9-3. TRANSFER

1. The personal flag bearer takes position near the waiting caisson as directed by the OIC of the funeral.
2. After the casket is secured to the caisson the personal flag bearer takes position behind the chaplain and ahead of the caisson. He/she remains in this position for the procession.

ART. 9-4. PROCEDURES AT THE GRAVE

1. After the caisson arrives at the grave, the personal flag bearer takes position behind the chaplain at the head of the ranks of honorary pallbearers.
2. When the casket is removed from the caisson, the chaplain leads the way to the grave followed by the personal flag bearer, casket bearer detail and honorary pallbearers.
3. The personal flag bearer takes position centered on and facing the casket opposite from where the next of kin are seated.

4. The personal flag is dipped whenever honors are rendered.
5. After the committal service the personal flag bearer marches to the bus with the casket bearer detail.

ART. 9-5. MISCELLANEOUS

1. The personal flag bearer remains covered at all times, including during the religious service in the chapel.
2. The personal flag is draped with a mourning sash and is topped with the appropriate staff ornament according to the rank of the deceased.
3. If the deceased was eligible for command at sea, the personal flag is blue with white stars. If the deceased was not eligible for command at sea, the personal flag is white with blue stars.
4. Personal flags, command pennants and commission pennants are not presented to the next of kin.

SECTION 10

CASKET BEARERS

ART. 10-1. Casket bearers act as pallbearers at naval funerals. The casket bearer detail carries the casket whenever it is moved except during the procession when it is carried on a caisson or in a coach.

ART. 10-2. Casket bearers are used in the three types of naval funerals; however, they are detailed to churches other than the Ft. Myer chapel only in the case of State, Official, Special Military, Armed Forces Full Honor and Special Honor (Combined) funerals.

ART. 10-3. CHAPEL SERVICE

1. After placing the casket on the bier the casket bearers remove their covers. The head and foot casket bearers wheel the bier into the chapel to the chancel while the other members of the detail remain in the vestibule.
2. After leaving the casket in the chancel the head and foot casket bearers depart along the outer aisles of the chapel returning to the vestibule.
3. At the conclusion of the religious service the head and foot casket bearer proceed along the outer aisles to the chancel where they turn the casket around.
4. After the head and foot casket bearers return to the vestibule with the bier the remaining members of the detail form alongside the casket and all put their covers on.

ART. 10-4. In Full Honor funerals, the casket bearer detail marches in the procession as a unit in two files about three paces behind the caisson. If honorary pallbearers do not march in the procession, or if there are no honorary pallbearers, the casket bearer detail marches in the procession alongside the caisson.

ART. 10-5. When the body of the deceased has been cremated, the cremains and the folded flag will be carried to the Chapel/gravesite by the Cemetery's representative. Only two members of the casket bearer detail are needed to move the cremains and flag into the Chapel. The remaining members of the detail participate only to march alongside the caisson in Full Honor funerals and to fold the flag in both Full Honor and Simple Honor funerals. The following procedures apply to a Chapel Service:

1. The two casket bearers who are to receive the flag and the urn position themselves alongside the OIC/POIC on the curb in front of the Chapel.
2. In Full Honor funerals the remaining members of the casket bearer detail form in the walkway to the West of the chapel entrance.
3. In Simple Honor funerals the remaining members of the casket bearer detail stay in the bus until the procession arrives at the grave.
4. In Dependent funerals only one casket bearer participates.

5. The funeral ceremony begins with arrival of the car at the chapel.
6. When the coach stops and the rear doors have been opened, the two casket bearers, on signal from the OIC/POIC, will position themselves on opposite sides of the car. Once the escort has been brought to PRESENT ARMS they remove the urn and the flag from the car. The flag is to the right of the urn.
7. The two casket bearers follow the chaplain into the chapel where they place the urn and the flag on a stand in the chancel. They do not remove their covers.
8. In Full Honor funerals a simulated casket draped with the flag is fastened to the caisson. The simulated casket has a compartment in the rear which is used to hold the urn and the flag during the procession.
9. While the religious service takes place the caisson with simulated casket is brought in front of the chapel and the remaining members of the casket bearer detail form alongside.
10. After the religious service is completed the two casket bearers bring the urn and the flag to the vestibule. The flag is to the right of the urn.
11. Following the chaplain the two casket bearers move out of the chapel to the caisson and place the urn and the flag in the compartment of the simulated casket. The urn is placed in before the flag.
12. The casket bearer detail is now ready for the procession.
13. In Simple honor funerals the two casket bearers move out of the chapel with the urn and the flag and they enter the car which will take them to the gravesite.
14. In Transfers the remaining members of the casket bearer detail form alongside the caisson with the simulated casket to await the arrival of the procession. When the procession arrives the two casket bearers receive the urn and the flag and proceed to the caisson where they place the urn and the flag in the compartment of the simulated casket. The urn is placed in before the flag. The casket bearer detail is now ready for the procession.
15. In Full Honor funerals, after the procession arrives at the grave the two casket bearers remove the flag and urn from the compartment of the simulated casket. The flag is removed first and is carried to the right of the urn when the casket bearer detail is faced toward the rear of the caisson.
16. The detail then proceeds to the grave with the urn and the flag in the front.
17. In Simple Honor funerals the remaining members of the casket bearer detail position themselves beside the grave to await the casket bearers, remove the urn and flag from the car and then move together to their positions at the grave with rest of the detail. The flag is carried to the right.
18. The urn is placed over the grave. The flag is unfolded by the casket bearer detail in such a way as to have the blue field of the flag over the left shoulder of the deceased.

SECTION 11

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

ART. 11-1. The selection of the honorary pallbearers is the responsibility of the next of kin or family of the deceased. If honorary pallbearers take part in the funeral ceremony they should meet at the chapel, transfer location or grave at least twenty minutes before ceremony time in order to receive instructions.

ART. 11-2. The following describes honorary pallbearer duties at a Chapel Service:

1. Prior to ceremony time the honorary pallbearers are formed in two ranks facing each other in front of the chapel entrance. The junior pallbearer is the first person in the left rank and the senior pallbearer is the last person in the right rank as one faces the chapel.
2. The senior honorary pallbearer takes command and gives all necessary orders (the OIC of the funeral will give commands if desired by the senior honorary pallbearer).
3. Upon arrival of the coach all pallbearers salute the flag-draped casket; military salute if in uniform, all others place right hand over heart if in civilian attire.
4. When the casket is removed from the coach, **PRESENT ARMS** is ordered and the honorary pallbearers will render the appropriate salute.
5. The casket is carried through the ranks of honorary pallbearers into the vestibule and is placed on the bier.
6. As the casket passes through their ranks the honorary pallbearers terminate their salute, face the chapel and follow the casket into the chapel, uncovering as they enter.
7. When the chaplain is ready to proceed into the chancel the casket is wheeled on the bier and the honorary pallbearers follow it down the aisle.
8. The right file of pallbearers walks into the first pew on the left side. The left file of pallbearers walks into the second pew. All seat themselves when the chaplain signals the congregation to be seated.
9. The religious service is conducted.
10. When the service is completed, the chaplain takes position to lead the way out of the chapel. The honorary pallbearers proceed out of the chapel where they reform in two ranks facing each other in the original order.
11. The chaplain leads the way out of the chapel to the vestibule.
12. When **PRESENT ARMS** is ordered the honorary pallbearers render the appropriate salute and the casket passes through their ranks and is placed on the caisson (or in the coach).

13. In Full Honor funerals the honorary pallbearers may either march alongside the caisson in the procession or they may ride in cars to the grave.

14. If they choose to march in the procession, they form on either side of the caisson after the casket bearer detail has moved to its position to the rear of the caisson. If they choose to ride in cars to the grave they proceed to their cars when directed by the OIC of the funeral.

15. Honorary pallbearers march in the procession only in Full Honors Funerals.

16. In Transfers, the OIC of the funeral determines whether honorary pallbearers will or will not participate and, if so, whether they desire to march in the procession. If they choose to march in the procession they are formed alongside the caisson as directed by the OIC of the funeral. Otherwise they remain in their cars.

ART. 11-3. The following describes honorary pallbearers at the grave:

1. When the honorary pallbearers reach the grave the OIC of the funeral forms them in two ranks facing each other and next to the rear of the caisson. The senior pallbearer is nearest the curb in the left file and the junior pallbearer is furthest away in the right file as one faces the grave.
2. When PRESENT ARMS is ordered the honorary pallbearers will render the appropriate salute.
3. As the casket passes through their ranks the honorary pallbearers terminate their salute, face the grave and follow the casket to the grave.
4. The OIC of the funeral will direct the honorary pallbearers to their position at the grave for the committal service.
5. Honorary pallbearers come to ATTENTION and render the appropriate salute during honors at the grave and during the firing of volleys and sounding of taps.
6. After the flag has been presented to the next of kin, the honorary pallbearers may render their condolences.

ART. 11-4. The uniform for honorary pallbearers is the service dress of the season. In case of cold or inclement weather overcoats or raincoats may be worn. Grey gloves are worn with the overcoat. White gloves are never worn.

ART. 11-5. If civilian clothing is worn by honorary pallbearers the right hand with hat (if worn) is placed over the heart at the time that the HAND SALUTE would be rendered.

ART. 11-6. Mourning bands are not required to be worn by the honorary pallbearers but if desired, may be obtained from the officer in charge or escort petty officer.

SECTION 12

FOLDING THE FLAG

ART. 12-1. In naval funerals the flag is folded by the casket bearer detail immediately after the sounding of Taps.

ART. 12-2. PROCEDURES

1. The lower, striped section of the flag is first folded over the blue field. The folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge, quartering the flag lengthwise.
2. A triangular fold is then started, bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.
3. The outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge, forming a second triangle. The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.
4. When the flag is completely folded, only the blue field should be visible and the flag should be folded in a triangular shape.

SECTION 13

MISCELLANEOUS

ART. 13-1. Articles of the uniform or accouterments are not placed on top of the national ensign covering the casket. Any such articles that the next of kin may wish to place upon the casket are placed under the flag.

ART. 13-2. Military personnel in uniform attending a funeral in Arlington National Cemetery must wear service dress of the season. Naval funerals are seldom, if ever, postponed because of inclement weather. In cases of inclement weather, overcoats or raincoats are worn.

ART. 13-3. In accordance with an old custom based on the belief that a chaplain, even in death, should always face his/her flock, the body of a chaplain is carried head first into and out of the chapel and from the caisson or coach to the grave.

ART. 13-4. The family should be consulted regarding music to be played at Full Honor funerals and the leader of the Navy Band should be informed of their wishes. The following musical selections are suggested.

1. Moving the body into and out of the chapel. One hymn during entry and one during departure:

- a. Crown Him with Many Crowns
- b. My Faith Looks Up to Thee
- c. Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
- d. The Day of Resurrection
- e. Holy God We Praise Thy Name
- f. Come Holy Ghost

2. During the procession to the grave, played in the order listed:

- a. March Funebre
- b. Departed Comrades
- c. God of Our Fathers
- d. Funeral March by Beethoven
- e. March Religioso

3. Removing the casket from the caisson at the grave: Eternal Father (Navy Hymn).

4. During folding of the flag: America the Beautiful.

ART. 13-5. When the Masonic Lodge or similar fraternal orders are represented at funerals and they wish to hold their own ritual, the Navy committal service will be conducted first. The escort and other units, including the band and casket bearer detail will march off, and the organization may then hold its service.

ART. 13-6. When the chaplain desires to conduct his/her service in uniform instead of the vestments of his/her church, the full dress uniform shall be worn.

ART. 13-7. When the flag is draped over the casket, the blue field of the flag is over the left shoulder of the deceased.

ART. 13-8. The flag is saluted on each of the following occasions:

1. As the coach arrives in front of the chapel or as it arrives at one of the transfer locations.
2. By the head casket bearer after the flag is folded and is given to a U.S. Government official (chaplain in a mass burial).
3. By the appropriate U.S. Government official (when in uniform) after he/she presents the flag to the next of kin.
4. By all military personnel present when the car bearing the flag and the next of kin departs the gravesite.

SECTION 14

MASS BURIALS

ART. 14-1. A special ceremony is observed in conducting mass burials involving from five to twenty caskets.

ART. 14-2. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS.

1. One officer in charge (OIC of the funeral).
2. A seven person firing party with POIC.
3. A six person casket bearer detail for each casket.
4. Four perimeter guards.
5. One escort for the next of kin or family (normally the same grade of the deceased).
6. Band with bugler.

ART. 14-3. PROCEDURES:

1. The flag-draped caskets are placed in position over the graves, either in a single or double row, prior to commencement of the burial. The four perimeter guards take position at the corners of the area to ensure privacy of the service.
2. Chairs are placed by each casket for the next of kin and family. The chairs of each row face in the same direction.
3. The casket bearer details are all in a straight line formed outside of the line of caskets. Each detail is formed in two files facing its respective grave.
4. The firing party takes position as directed by the OIC of the funeral.
5. The band is formed on the flank which is faced by the next of kin seated at the graves.
6. When the next of kin and family have taken their seats at each grave, the OIC of the funeral signals to commence the burial service.
7. The firing party is brought to ATTENTION.
8. The band plays a hymn and casket bearer details solemnly march to their position alongside and facing their respective caskets.
9. The casket bearer details raise the flags from the caskets and hold them at the pall.
10. When the music ceases, the firing party is brought to CEREMONIAL AT EASE.
11. The chaplains conduct their services.

12. When the last committal service has been completed, the OIC of the funeral signals and the firing party is brought to ATTENTION.
13. The firing party then fires three volleys and resumes the position of PRESENT ARMS.
14. The bugler sounds Taps. Upon completion of Taps, the firing party is brought to ORDER ARMS.
15. The casket bearer details fold the flags and each head casket bearer presents the flag to his/her respective chaplain with a salute to the flag.
16. The casket bearer details march off and each chaplain presents his/her flag to the respective next of kin with appropriate condolences.
17. When the next of kin are not present at the funeral, the chaplain returns the flag to the cemetery representative at the conclusion of the service.
18. The firing party marches off to the bus. The perimeter guards march off to the bus when directed by the OIC of the funeral.

TABLE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR MILITARY FUNERALS

	State	Official	Special Military	Armed Forces Full Honor	Special Full Honor	Full Honor (Company)	Full Honor (Platoon)	Full Honor (Squad)	Simple Honor
* President of the United States * Ex-President of the United States * President Elect of the United States * Other persons designated by the President * Vice President of the United States * Chief Justice of the Supreme Court * Cabinet Members * Other Government Officials designated by the President of the United States * Foreign civil dignitaries designated by the President of the United States * Deputy Secretary of Defense * Former Secretary of Defense * Secretary of Army, Navy and Air Force Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Chief of Naval Operations Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard * Other person designated by the Secretary of Defense * Foreign military personnel designated by the President of the United States * Former Deputy Secretary of Defense Former Chairman Joint Chief of Staffs * Assistant Secretary of Defense * Former Secretary of the Army, Navy and Air Force Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; U.S. Air Force and Chief of Naval Operations * Under Secretary of the Army, Navy and Air Force Four Star General and Admiral * Assistant Secretary of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Lt General, Vice Admiral, Major General, Rear Admiral, Brig. General Colonel, Captain and other officers Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy All other Military personnel									

* Not entitled to burial in any national cemetery by virtue of the position alone.
 See the Act of 14 May 1948 (62 Stat. 234, 24 U.S.C. 281) and AR 290.5.