

UNCLAS

ALCOAST 254/11: PUBLIC RELEASE OF NAMES OF PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

R 201407Z MAY 11
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-1/CG-092//
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS//N01770//

ALCOAST 254/11
COMDTNOTE 1770

SUBJ: PUBLIC RELEASE OF NAMES OF PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

A. PERSONNEL MANUAL, COMDTINST M1000.6 (SERIES)

B. PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANUAL, COMDTINST M5728.2 (SERIES)

C. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) PERSONNEL CASUALTY MATTERS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, DODI 1300.18 OF 8 JAN 2008

1. THIS COORDINATED ALCOAST BETWEEN COMDT (CG-1) AND COMDT (CG-092) REVISES POLICY ON THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF PERSONNEL CASUALTIES. NAMES OF CASUALTIES WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY RELEASED OR CONFIRMED UNTIL 24 HOURS AFTER NEXT OF KIN (NOK) NOTIFICATION IS COMPLETED. THE 24 HOUR DELAY PROVIDES A PERIOD OF DECENCY AND PRIVACY FOR NOK TO ABSORB THEIR INITIAL GRIEF.

2. DISCUSSION.

A. ARTICLE 11.A.10 OF REF (A) PRESCRIBES A FOUR HOUR DELAY FOR RELEASE OF THE NAMES OF CG PERSONNEL CASUALTIES. ARTICLES 11.A.1.A AND 11.A.1.B TOGETHER DEFINE THE PERSONS AND SITUATIONS THAT QUALIFY AS CASUALTIES.

B. SECTIONS 2.F AND 2.G OF REF (B) GIVE SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR RELEASING NAMES OF CG PERSONNEL CASUALTIES. NO TIMEFRAME OR DELAY IS SPECIFIED.

C. PARAGRAPH 4.6 OF REF (C) SPECIFIES THAT NAMES OF PERSONNEL CASUALTIES ARE NOT TO BE RELEASED UNTIL 24 HOURS AFTER OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF NOK. REF (C) RECOGNIZES THAT CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES MAY BECOME PERSONNEL CASUALTIES, AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD HAVE THE RESPECT AND COMFORT OF THE SAME DELAY IN RELEASING NAMES. REF (C) DOES NOT APPLY TO THE COAST GUARD WHEN OPERATING AS AN AGENCY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

3. POLICY.

A. EXPERIENCE CLEARLY SHOWS THE NEED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER MILITARY SERVICES IN THIS MATTER.

B. CASUALTY STATUS EXISTS WHEN A PERSON IS LOST TO THE COAST GUARD BECAUSE THE PERSON IS ILL, INJURED, WOUNDED, CAPTURED, MISSING, DEAD, EXCUSED ABSENCE BUT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN (EAWUN - EMPLOYEES ONLY), OR IN A DUTY STATUS BUT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN (DUSTWUN MILITARY ONLY). NOTE: DUSTWUN DOES NOT INCLUDE WILLFUL UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE.

C. NAMES OF PERSONNEL CASUALTIES WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED OR RELEASED TO THE MEDIA OR PUBLIC UNTIL 24 HOURS AFTER OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF NOK IS COMPLETED.

D. FOR A CASUALTY WHO WAS MISSING, EAWUN, OR DUSTWUN AND THEN

20 MAY 2011

PAGE 1

UNCLAS

UNCLAS

ALCOAST 254/11: PUBLIC RELEASE OF NAMES OF PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

CONFIRMED DEAD, OR AFTER IDENTIFICATION OF REPATRIATED REMAINS, OR FOR ANY RETURN OF PARTIAL REMAINS, THE LATEST NOTIFICATION BEGINS A NEW 24 HOUR PERIOD.

E. POLICY APPLIES AT ALL TIMES AND FOR ANY CASUALTY STATUS TO REGULAR MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE MEMBERS ON OR OFF DUTY, CADETS, CG ACADEMY PREP STUDENTS, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OFFICERS DETAILED TO THE COAST GUARD, AUXILIARISTS WHEN ASSIGNED TO DUTY, AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHILE ON THE JOB.

F. THIS POLICY APPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PERSONNEL ONLY WHEN DECEASED: DEPENDENTS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHILE NOT ON THE JOB, RETIREES, PERSONS JOINING THE CG, OR FORMER MEMBERS WHO DIE WITHIN 120 DAYS AFTER SEPARATING FROM THE CG.

G. NAMES OF NOK AND CONTACT INFO ARE RECORDED ON DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARIES AND RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA, FORM CG-2020D. THE FORM IS MANDATORY FOR ALL MILITARY MEMBERS AND VOLUNTARY FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. THE FORM IS POSTED AT [HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/FORMS/CG/CG2020D.PDF](http://www.uscg.mil/forms/cg/cg2020d.pdf)

4. UNDER THE PRIVACY ACT, DISCLOSURE IS AUTHORIZED UNDER EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES. FURTHER DETAILS AND EXAMPLES OF RELEASABLE PERSONNEL CASUALTIES ARE POSTED AT [HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/PSC/PSD/FS/CASUALTY.ASP](http://www.uscg.mil/psc/psd/fs/casualty.asp)

5. DIRECTIVES. THIS CHANGE WILL BE REFLECTED IN FUTURE REVISIONS TO REFS (A) AND (B).

6. POINTS OF CONTACT.

A. FOR THE PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER: LT TERRENCE WALSH, PROGRAM MANAGER FOR CASUALTY MATTERS, FIELD SUPPORT BRANCH (PSC-PSD-FS), PHONE 202-493-1931.

B. FOR THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS: COMDT (CG-0922), LT PAUL RHYNARD, MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION, COMDT (CG-09222), PHONE 202-372-4634.

7. RELEASED BY RADM RONALD T. HEWITT, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, AND RADM KARL SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

8. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.