

# MORTUARY AFFAIRS



## HOW-TO GUIDE



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The Center for Army Lessons Learned leads the Army Lessons Learned Program and delivers timely and relevant information to resolve gaps, enhance readiness, and inform modernization.



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## FOREWORD

“... the officer who doesn’t know his communications and supply as well as his tactics is totally useless.”

- GEN George S. Patton, USA

TRADOC Pamphlet 525-8-2, The U.S. Army Learning Concept for Training and Education, states that “In the Army, learning is continuous.”

In support of this guiding principle, the Quartermaster School is proud to present this How-To Handbook that serves as a quick reference guide for Company Grade Officers and Junior Leaders. QM How-to Handbooks are an excellent resource that can be used in support of training across all three training domains (Institutional; Operational; Self Development).

The Army truly is a learning organization, and we must take advantage of every opportunity and means to train and educate our Soldiers and Leaders. Quartermaster Handbooks are an effective means as a combat multiplier for our force.

The contents of this handbook have been written and prepared by the professionals at the Quartermaster School and Army Sustainment University, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM}, Fort Gregg-Adams, VA.

This Quartermaster How-to Handbook is one of several developed across all QM functional areas. Look for the other Quartermaster How-To Handbooks published on the CALL website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael B. Siegl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' at the end.

MICHAEL B. SIEGL  
BG, USA  
57<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster General

## **PREFACE**

This document serves as a basic mortuary affairs (MA) command and staff guide for units within a theater of operations. Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1300.22, *Mortuary Affairs Policy*, 2 September 2021, and Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1300.29, *Mortuary Affairs Program*, 28 June 2021, identifies our nation's commitment to return our fallen Servicemembers to their next of kin (NOK) for final disposition. This commitment requires commands to provide dignified, reverent, and respectful handling of all human remains. The expedient and proper recovery and evacuation of the fallen is the first step in honoring our dead and assisting the family.

Commands must ensure completion of the MA mission in accordance with (IAW) joint and Army doctrine, using available personnel and equipment. Leaders must also be aware of the types of problems they may face in performing the MA mission. Commanders and staff planners should use the information in this guide for MA recovery and evacuation procedures. For additional detailed information, refer to Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 4-46, *Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Mortuary Affairs in Theaters of Operations*, 3 August 2022.



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## SECTION 1

### **Unit Duties and Responsibilities: The First Step in the Mortuary Affairs Process is at the Unit Level**

- Commanders at all levels have the responsibility to care for deceased personnel. Commanders should review this guide and ensure all references listed at the end of this guide and current theater policy are on hand. Commanders' immediate responsibilities include the following:
  - Expedient recovery and evacuation of human remains to the nearest MA facility. When possible, a Department of Defense (DD) Form 565, Statement of Recognition of Deceased, August 2015, should accompany the remains.
  - Timely and accurate submissions of the Department of the Army (DA) Form 1156, Casualty Feeder Card, 1 June 2015, to S-1.
  - Securing all personal effects (PE) in the unit area. Appointing a summary courts-martial officer (SCMO) to safeguard, inventory, package, and accompany the PE to the designated facility for evacuation to the joint personal effects depot (JPED). Conduct these procedures IAW Army Regulation (AR) 638-2, Army Mortuary Affairs Program, 3 March 2023, and current policy messages.
  - Appoint and train unit recovery teams.
  - Commanders have the responsibility to ensure adequate planning, training, and support is in place to prevent MA mission failure. A failure within the MA mission or disrespectful handling of human remains can have a negative impact on any or all the following key areas:
    - \* Troop morale within the losing unit
    - \* National public support
    - \* Coalition or local national support
    - \* Enemy treatment of human remains, detainees, or prisoners of war
  - Soldiers will respond to any situation according to the training they receive. Units should add the following individual and collective tasks to the unit training plan:
    - \* Units should train personnel in these basic MA tasks:
      - a) Recover human remains
      - b) Evacuate human remains
      - c) Inter (temporarily bury) human remains

- \* Unit recovery team. Brigade support battalion (BSB) MA noncommissioned officer (NCO) maintains a roster of unit recovery team personnel and conducts semi-annual training.

- ° Although usually located at the battalion level, unit recovery teams may be assigned at the company or platoon level based on the situation and mission requirements. The unit recovery team usually consists of four to six non-MA personnel but may be larger based on the threat and the unit mission. The unit recovery team assists supported units when recovery and evacuation is beyond the capability of the supported unit.

- ° Some Army commands require unit recovery teams to be on orders as an additional duty and complete semi-annual training.

- Health and sanitation.

- \* One of the intrinsic dangers of MA recovery is the potential for sustained contact with human remains. Proper personal health and sanitation practices are vitally important as handling remains in various stages of decomposition can result in medical and biological hazards. The necessary handling of remains during recovery operations may cause organisms to spread to individuals physically handling human remains. Decedents may have chronic blood infections (hepatitis or human immunodeficiency virus [HIV], tuberculosis, or diarrheal disease). Most infectious organisms do not survive beyond 48 hours in human remains. HIV is an exception, known to survive up to six days postmortem. To prevent the spread of infection, personnel handling human remains should adhere to the following health and sanitation guidelines:

- ° Always wear disposable surgical gloves when handling human remains. Discard the gloves after each use.

- ° Use disposable surgical masks or N-95 face masks when available.

- ° Scrub hands, forearms, and any other body portion that come into contact with human remains or the bodily fluid of human remains. Use a medicated or disinfectant soap.

- ° Avoid wiping the face or mouth with hands.

- ° Shower, cleansing the entire body, including the hair at the end of the duty day when handling human remains.

- ° After use, dispose of all protective equipment in the proper manner. Dispose of items by either incinerating them or turning them over to the proper biological hazard collection facility.

- ° Thoroughly wash and disinfect all equipment, clothing, and vehicles that come into direct contact with human remains or bodily fluids.

- ° Recovery team personnel should maintain current tetanus and hepatitis vaccinations and be on the alert for tetanus-prone injuries.



- \* Additional guidelines for the protection of personnel handling human remains can be found in Army Public Health Center (APHC) Technical Guide (TG) 195A, *Safety and Health Guidance for Mortuary Affairs Operations: Infectious Materials*, November 2015.
- Official notification of injury or death is required before the unit contacts the family. Do not make direct contact with the family until all NOK notifications are completed. AR 638-8, *Army Casualty Program*, 7 June 2019, outlines procedures for condolence letters and contact with the family.
- Information management. Respect the privacy of victims and relatives. Unit and MA personnel should not allow journalists direct access to human remains, photographs, individual records, or names of deceased personnel. Commanders and unit personnel will not release information regarding deceased personnel without the consent of the geographic combatant commander (GCC).

## SECTION 2

### Staff Responsibilities

- S-1/G-1.
  - The adjutant, upon receipt of a DA Form 1156, Casualty Feeder Card, ensures accuracy and completeness of the casualty report and forwards it to the appropriate level headquarters without delay or as the battlefield permits. IAW AR 638-8, the battalion commander or field-grade designee, verifies the accuracy and completeness of DA Form 1156 for a fatality before submission. **Note.** Information concerning deceased personnel is sensitive in nature and access to casualty/fatality reporting systems is highly regulated.
  - The S-1/G-1 monitors SCMO activities. The first O-6 in the decedent's chain of command appoints the SCMO. SCMO activities and inventory timelines vary based on location and operation; refer to AR 638-2, Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA Pam) 638-2, *Procedures for the Army Mortuary Affairs Program*, 23 June 2015, and the servicing casualty area command (CAC) for specific guidance. Coordinate with the S-4 for footlockers, padlocks, interlock sealed plastic bags, and seals and with the S-3 to move the sealed containers.
- S-3/support operations (SPO).
  - In a battalion support area, units should identify a fatality collection point or holding area separate from the casualty collection point. Fatality collection points must have adequate security and screening to block viewing by unauthorized personnel, if possible.
  - In most cases, the S-3/SPO submits an air support request (ASR) upon notification of a fatality to transfer the remains to the nearest MA facility. However, operations and theater distribution may make this difficult, at times. The S-3 must develop an alternate ground evacuation plan in the event air evacuation is not feasible. Vehicles transporting human remains must be covered or allow for screening of remains from view. The S-3/SPO coordinates for air or ground evacuation of human remains to the nearest MA facility or MACP.

- The MA staff planner in the SPO organizes and coordinates for additional MA support when a situation occurs that has exceeded the MA capability on the ground. Air crashes, friendly fire, and host-nation incidents are examples that may require MA-trained personnel, an Armed Forces Medical Examiner, disaster MA response team, or medicolegal death investigation. It is best to cover and guard the location until the arrival of MA personnel and/or forensic investigators in some instances.
- Commanders and S-3/SPO should also be aware that in events resulting in multiple fatalities with fragmented remains (referred to as “portions”), units should request assistance, if circumstances allow, from a trained MA specialist (military occupational specialty [MOS] 92M) to ensure proper procedures are followed. However, the security and safety of all personnel must be the primary concern.
- S-4/G-4.
  - Maintain the following MA equipment stocks:
    - \* Human remains pouch (HRP) Type IIA (national stock number [NSN] 9930-01-331-6244): Units should maintain a stock of HRPs at a quantity equal to 10 percent of the personnel strength. Higher levels of stocks may be necessary based on mission and threat. Supply support activity should stock 25 percent supported strength IAW ATP 4-46.
    - \* Personal protective equipment (PPE). Latex gloves and surgical masks for recovery operations.
    - \* In a mature theater, units should stock footlockers (Gorilla/Tuff boxes) for securing PE of fatalities. Units must also carry padlocks and seals for SCMO PE inventories. Early in a military operation, units secure PE to the extent possible using duffle bags and waterproof containers, if available, as well as seals and locks.
  - Develop an issue system to account for and track class VIII, MA stocks. Some units include HRPs and PPE as part of vehicle basic issue items; others create and issue MA kits for convoy and patrol operations.
  - The Joint Mortuary Affairs Center (JMAC) knowledge portal has a list of recommended MA supplies and equipment. See <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/community/spaces/sustainnet/quartermastercommunity/jointmortuaryaffairs>. (common access card required)
- Home-station rear detachment. When the main body of a unit is deployed, the rear detachment of a unit has the “be prepared to” mission to perform casualty notification officer (CNO)/casualty assistance officer (CAO) or SCMO duties. These responsibilities require trained unit personnel who are ready to perform assigned duties for any unit fatalities in the area of operations (AO). The rear detachment may be required to execute tasks related to MA, casualty notification/assistance, or other specific related duties IAW AR 638-8 and AR 638-2, including the following:

- Secure and safeguard any PE in the unit's home-station area until the appointment of a SCMO. Once appointed, the rear detachment monitors the SCMO actions to ensure compliance with required actions and timelines.
- Seek guidance from and maintain contact with the servicing CAC. The CAC provides the most current information concerning human remains and PE status.
- The CAC provides direct assistance to the family via CAO. It is natural to want to assist the family during this trying time; however, this is the role of the CAO. The CAC will give guidance on contact with the family and on sending a unit representative to the funeral.

### SECTION 3

## Pre-Deployment Information and Training

- All personnel should update DD Form 93, *Record of Emergency Data*, and SGLV 8286 (Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate).
- Units should identify and counsel Soldiers with unique family situations to seek guidance from the judge advocate general (JAG) office.
- Coordinate with the CAC for casualty notification and casualty assistance training. In-person training is required for initial notification and assistance training. Refresher training is required no later than (NLT) 24 months after the initial certification date. Recertification training can be found online at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Training>.
- Train all leaders and Soldiers in the command on the common/shared MA tasks located in the Central Army Registry.
- 101-COM-9151 Recover Human Remains: <https://atiam.train.army.mil/catalog-ws/view/100.ATSC%2F5329DAEE-9EBB-4546-8B25-2BF1FDD45002-1618315370606/report.pdf>
- 101-COM-9152 Evacuate Human Remains: [https://atiam.train.army.mil/catalog-ws/view/100.ATSC/2B9AAA7F-AD58-4851-835D-0C482D765035-1618315384343/report.pdf?code=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA.75ujiP9c2QimCTXSW6dGShJfNj4.ORol9FSTNSvQ2IAfjq83GtFy71NUocyqMDy41tZGdmm8UGuVqWg8gLu5umUpXxu7P6KG6P5iy1R7xC6aX4gZI2RVlpeCJXYCTf35cAVj0sBS-RvVYQ6NstYokaDqyiPSL9Up5fOP\\_GaIlnX3b-pEEb8mh46A46NvabM8z-l3QepmsqXGaerhWz4GgXyrqqjlnkekY3-yiQ-0pGvj7p3gxqGehtl4mqCkOWCAqGnkWbTQGepQVTii5dewZRU5VVS7VAhcwZIRhS2ClqqDG1WHa\\_bHKjL-q0TOBGiJF-1tXqUaOx87LEyfoXtndmQ38p8CMvsQ8eRuQkMK6gnkOkRg&state=13e9da5b-637a-4d3c-a542-eb104edea91b&client-request-id=5bb6977d-e68f-406f-5d05-0080000000f7](https://atiam.train.army.mil/catalog-ws/view/100.ATSC/2B9AAA7F-AD58-4851-835D-0C482D765035-1618315384343/report.pdf?code=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA.75ujiP9c2QimCTXSW6dGShJfNj4.ORol9FSTNSvQ2IAfjq83GtFy71NUocyqMDy41tZGdmm8UGuVqWg8gLu5umUpXxu7P6KG6P5iy1R7xC6aX4gZI2RVlpeCJXYCTf35cAVj0sBS-RvVYQ6NstYokaDqyiPSL9Up5fOP_GaIlnX3b-pEEb8mh46A46NvabM8z-l3QepmsqXGaerhWz4GgXyrqqjlnkekY3-yiQ-0pGvj7p3gxqGehtl4mqCkOWCAqGnkWbTQGepQVTii5dewZRU5VVS7VAhcwZIRhS2ClqqDG1WHa_bHKjL-q0TOBGiJF-1tXqUaOx87LEyfoXtndmQ38p8CMvsQ8eRuQkMK6gnkOkRg&state=13e9da5b-637a-4d3c-a542-eb104edea91b&client-request-id=5bb6977d-e68f-406f-5d05-0080000000f7)
- 101-COM-9153 Inter Human Remains: <https://atiam.train.army.mil/catalog-ws/view/100.ATSC%2FF9D7FEA8-A417-4DD3-B98E-5069B29A5DA5-1618315397865/report.pdf>

## SECTION 4

### Mortuary Affairs Operations in a Theater

- The BSB is authorized one MA NCO within the SPO. The reality of “do more with less” leads to multiple duties for the MA NCO; however, their primary responsibility must be MA. The MA NCO should review all internal MA plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and policies and train on MA tasks for the brigade IAW ATP 4-46. MA operations within the brigade include the following:
  - The losing unit recovers and evacuates the human remains to the nearest MA facility immediately following a death event.
  - Coordinate with the brigade SPO MA NCO to conduct recovery operations when the recovery is beyond the losing unit’s capabilities.
  - Units should request assistance from the brigade MA NCO, if the situation allows, in a multiple-fatality event with fragmented human remains. The handling of portions when commingled remains exist is complex and units must follow proper recovery procedures. The brigade MA NCO, when available, may oversee recovery actions (proper handling and safety procedures) including the accurate documentation of the recovery site.
- Theater commanders normally allocate MACPs throughout a theater to provide MA support to geographic regions. MACPs can also be task organized to provide direct support to a brigade- or above- sized element. MACP authorizations include an MA team (normally six Soldiers) to support 24-hour operations. Combining MA teams during large-scale combat operations may assist with the backlog of fatalities. The MACP mission is to—
  - Receive, preserve, and safeguard human remains from all supported units.
  - Process the human remains for tentative ID and inventory accompanying military equipment and PE.
  - Coordinate evacuation of human remains to the TMEP or to the port mortuary at Dover AFB, DE.
  - A SCMO may require assistance from MACP/TMEP personnel with evacuation of PE shipments to the JPED. Once the SCMO completes the inventory and packaging of PE, the SCMO evacuates PE to the MACP. MACP personnel check the PE shipment for proper documentation and packaging, and combine it into larger shipments inside a Tri-Wall for shipment to the JPED. JPED personnel clean and process PE for shipment to the person eligible to receive effects (PERE) IAW ARs.
- Theater mortuary evacuation point. TMEPs are at central locations such as major strategic air hubs in most theaters of operation. The TMEP receives all human remains, performs a quality assurance check of documentation, and prepares remains for onward movement to the port mortuary at Dover AFB, DE. The TMEP coordinates for evacuation and tracks human remains using the Mortuary Affairs Reporting and Tracking System (MARTS) to the port mortuary. An MACP may function as the primary hub for human remains rather than establishing a TMEP operation in smaller theaters of operations.

- The Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) or home-station CAC assigns an official escort when human remains arrive at the port mortuary. Escorts accompany human remains from the preparing port mortuary to the funeral home. Escort selection is IAW the deceased member's Service policy. Escorts from a theater of operation to the port mortuary are not authorized without written exception to policy approved at the general officer level.
- It is part of military tradition to honor the fallen; however, do not delay the evacuation of human remains for memorial activities. Departure ceremonies, fallen-Soldier details, or other ceremonies with human remains present are not authorized without a general officer signature. If approved, ceremonies must not delay the scheduled evacuation of human remains.

## **SECTION 5**

### **Awaiting Evacuation**

- Ensure proper recovery and evacuation of human remains to the nearest MA facility. While awaiting evacuation, follow these steps:
  - Unit personnel may remove mission-essential equipment such as weapons, night vision goggles, and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices from the human remains. Do not remove any other military equipment or decedent/PE.
  - Removing the individual body armor (IBA) and ballistic helmet may be necessary during first aid. Tag removed items with the decedent's name and last four numbers of their Social Security number (SSN). Bag these items and place them with the remains. Bagged items accompany the human remains to the nearest MA facility. Do not remove these items if the individual does not require first aid.
  - Limit the number of personnel who handle human remains. Working with the human remains of a fellow Soldier may cause psychological trauma.
  - Remove human remains from the view of the general public to maintain the dignity and respect of the fallen. This procedure also reduces stress on the living. Ensure someone maintains a direct line of view of the HRP until evacuation to the nearest MA facility; unattended human remains may fall prey to animal scavengers or tampering.
  - Place human remains out of direct sunlight. In hot environments, human remains should be cooled if evacuation will not occur within four hours. During the planning process, determine if MA refrigeration assets at remote locations are necessary. If no refrigeration capability exists, cool human remains by placing bagged ice or cooling packs on the HRP. Do not place ice over the face, place loose ice inside the HRP, or use dry ice. See ATP 4-46 for icing procedures.
- An individual who can visually identify the deceased should accompany the human remains to the MACP when possible. This is not feasible in some instances because of current operations or battlespace distribution. In this event, prepare a DD Form 565 and evacuate it with the human remains to the MA facility.
- Prepare and submit a DA form 1156 for each loss through the S-1 and casualty channels. DA Pam 638-8, Procedures for the Army Casualty Program, 23 June 2015, has examples and instructions for preparing this form.

- Secure the room or area containing any PE of the deceased within the unit. Only an appointed SCMO may handle these effects. It may be necessary to make alternate sleeping/living arrangements for roommates during the inventory period. Escort roommates to collect personal hygiene items and clothing.
- Unit commanders should consult the chaplain regarding memorial services. Units are encouraged to hold memorial services to honor the fallen and help the unit come to terms with the death. Hold memorial services without the human remains for psychological reasons and because units must not delay evacuation of human remains for any reason.

## **SECTION 6**

### **Fragmented Remains Recovery**

- High-energy events such as explosions will likely result in fragmented human remains. Thus, tentative ID of the deceased may be impossible. Therefore, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis will likely be used for positive ID. Carefully document all pertinent data associated with such an event.
- Portions of several individuals may become commingled during explosions or crashes. Commanders should secure the area and request assistance from the brigade MA NCO or the nearest MACP if the situation permits. However, safety and security are paramount, and units often must conduct the search and recovery with available members of the unit.
- If time and situation permit and a MA specialist is on hand, recover and bag portions as follows:
  - Consider a torso (with or without the head) “human remains” and place it in its own HRP in a multiple-fatality event.
  - Place all other portions in an HRP marked and sealed for transport.
  - Placing several portions in one HRP to facilitate evacuation is acceptable. Do not place portions in the same HRP as human remains.
- In many instances, a deliberate recovery supervised by a 92M may not be supportable because of security concerns or a lack of resources. In such instances, the unit must conduct the recovery using on-hand personnel. Do not separate portions. Refer to ATP 4-46, chapter 4 for further guidance.
- Following a catastrophic vehicle explosion, such as an improvised explosive device (IED), cover the vehicle in a manner that prevents the possible loss of portions when transporting the damaged vehicle back to the battalion or brigade support area. Take the vehicle to a secure location to examine the vehicle for portions of human remains. While conducting a thorough search of the vehicle for possible human remains and/or portions, screen the vehicle area from public view. This is a difficult process; Units should request assistance from the brigade MA NCO, if possible.



## **SECTION 7**

### **Additional Information on Recovery Operations**

- Approach the recovery of bodies from confined, unventilated spaces with caution. After several days of decomposition, potentially hazardous toxic gases may be present. Allow time for fresh air to ventilate confined spaces.
- Rapid recovery is a priority to aid in ID and reduces the psychological burden on unit personnel, MA personnel, and the family.
- Recovery should not interrupt life-saving operations.
- Unit recovery team personnel should request trained specialists when required. Examples include collapsed structure recovery; water recovery; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) events outside the unit capability; or when unexploded ordnance (UXO) is present.

## **SECTION 8**

### **Handling Non-U.S. Remains**

- Handle all human remains, regardless of nationality, in the same manner, with dignity, reverence, and respect. When possible, take religious and cultural practices into consideration when recovering, handling, or processing human remains.
- Encourage allied/coalition forces and local civilians to recover their dead. If this is not possible, recover and evacuate to the nearest MACP. MACP personnel coordinate turning over human remains to the respective nations. Using the International Red Cross/Red Crescent is strongly encouraged, if available. Units should use the combatant command J-9, civil affairs, and host nation to establish procedures for the repatriation of non-U.S. remains. Follow established memorandums of agreements or policy regarding repatriation of allied/coalition partners.
- Intelligence and investigative personnel may process combatant enemy dead for military information and equipment; do not remove any PE. Evacuate the human remains to the nearest MA facility.
- Report enemy prisoner of war and civilian detainee deaths immediately to the supporting criminal investigative agency (for example, criminal investigation division [CID] or Naval Criminal Investigative Service [NCIS]). The investigative agency, in conjunction with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, determines the evacuation route for those remains. When evacuation for examination is not required, coordinate with the S-5/G-5 for return to local authorities (see Field Manual [FM] 3-63, Detainee Operations, 2 January 2020).

## SECTION 9

### Mortuary Affairs Related Stress

Handling human remains involves direct exposure to death. Each person reacts differently to this stress. It is difficult to predict psychological problems that may occur for a specific individual. However, the following management plan (see ATP 4-46, appendix A, section III, and APHC TG 195A, fact sheet 19) can help minimize later difficulties. Units suffering losses should request assistance from their supporting chaplain's office and community mental health center. In addition, the unit should contact its supporting chaplain and behavioral health offices for continuing support when the unit returns to home station/base.

Stressor	Coping Strategy
Before Exposure (Pre-Event)	
Lack of information	Training, drills, and briefings
Anticipation of reaction	Gradual exposure
Anticipation of separation	Family and organization support systems
Exposure (During Event)	
Sensory overload	Avoid/diminish strong stimuli
Appearance of bodies handling PE	Non-attachment/distance role recognition
Fatigue/over-dedication	Breaks, food, sleep, and supervision
Intense personal feelings	Pair with experienced Soldier supervision (talking and humor)
After Exposure (Post-Event)	
Need for information	Event debriefing and education
Intense personal feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family support group</li> <li>• Unit support systems</li> <li>• Role recognition</li> <li>• Community mental health debriefing</li> </ul>

## SECTION 10

### Summary

MA is a systematic process beginning with unit recovery followed by the actions of the MA company personnel supporting the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System roles and responsibilities. To this end, it is imperative commanders at every level prepare to carry out their portion of the MA mission, keeping in mind DOD's commitment to handle our nation's fallen with dignity, reverence, and respect.

The JMAC has subject matter experts to advise, assist, and conduct staff visits on all aspects of MA. Contact the JMAC at (804) 734-3831 or at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/community/spaces/sustainnet/quartermastercommunity/jointmortuaryaffairs> (common access card required) for assistance.

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## GLOSSARY

### ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFB	Air Force base
AO	area of operations
APHC	Army Public Health Center
AR	Army regulation
ASR	air support request
ATP	Army techniques publication
BSB	brigade support battalion
CAC	casualty area command
CAO	casualty assistance officer
CBRN	chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear
CID	criminal investigation division
CMAOD	Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (Fort Knox)
CNO	casualty notification officer
DA	Department of the Army
DD	Department of Defense (used on forms)
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DOD	Department of Defense
DODD	Department of Defense directive
DODI	Department of Defense instruction
FM	field manual
GCC	geographic combatant commander
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HRP	human remains pouch

IAW	in accordance with
IBA	individual body armor
ID	identification
IED	improvised explosive device
JAG	judge advocate general
JMAC	Joint Mortuary Affairs Center
JP	joint publication
JPED	joint personal effects depot
MA	mortuary affairs
MACP	mortuary affairs collection point
MOS	military occupational specialty
NCIS	Naval Criminal Investigative Service
NCO	noncommissioned officer
NLT	no later than
NSN	national stock number
PAM	pamphlet (Department of the Army)
PE	personal effects
PERE	person eligible to receive effects
PPE	personal protective equipment
SCMO	summary courts-martial officer (commissioned officer)
SOP	standard operating procedures
SPO	support operations
SSN	Social Security number
TG	technical guide
TMEP	theater mortuary evacuation point
UXO	unexploded ordnance





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