

## MILPERSMAN 1770-170

### NOTIFICATION OF NEXT OF KIN IN CASE OF DEATH, MISSING, OR "DUTY STATUS WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN" (DUSTWUN) CASUALTIES

|                               |                          |                       |       |          |          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|----------|
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#### 1. Policy

a. In all cases of casualties to naval personnel involving death, "DUSTWUN", or missing classifications, the next of kin will be promptly notified in person by a responsible uniformed Navy representative between the hours of 0600 and 2400 hours.

b. If the member was hospitalized and listed as seriously/very seriously ill or injured immediately preceding the death or if any of the member's next of kin are already aware of the death, the notification will be made in person regardless of the hour.

c. Every notification will be confirmed in writing either by letter or delivery in person.

#### 2. Telephone Notification

a. **Under no circumstances** will notification of death be made by telephone unless a previous arrangement has been made between the family and the attending physician. This exception to the general Casualty Assistance Calls Program (CACP) policy is to be exercised in a judicious manner. At the time the medical officer makes telephone notification to the next of kin, he/she will simultaneously inform the Casualty Assistance Calls/Funeral Honors Support (CAC/FHS) Program Coordinator, in whose area the next of kin resides, of his/her action.

b. Normal CACP and reporting procedures will be followed after initial telephone contact. The Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) will be advised by the CAC/FHS Program

Coordinator of the previous telephone notification prior to the CACO's call to the next of kin.

3. **Delay in Notification.** If undue delay in notification is foreseen, the Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) will be informed by telephone. Undue delay is considered to be in excess of 12 hours from the receipt of information of the casualty. If a ship is in port at the time of casualty and sailing is imminent or notification impractical, NAVPERSCOM will affect the necessary notification, if so requested.