



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 1005.6

January 13, 2003

Certified Current as of November 21, 2003

ASD(FMP)

SUBJECT: Display of the National Flag at Half-Staff

- References: (a) DoD Directive 1005.6, "Display of the National Flag at Half-Staff," April 27, 2000 (hereby canceled)
- (b) Section 7 of title 4, United States Code
 - (c) Section 136 of title 36, United States Code
 - (d) Section 127 of title 36, United States Code
 - (e) through (g), see enclosure 1

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive:

- 1.1. Reissues reference (a).
- 1.2. Updates policy and responsibilities for display of the national flag of the United States at half-staff on the death of present and former principal officials of the Federal Government and during national days of mourning.

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive applies to:

- 2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a Military Service in the Department of the Navy under agreement with the Department of Transportation), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, the Defense

Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

2.2. The Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under agreements with the Departments of Health and Human Services and Commerce, respectively.

3. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

3.1. The national flag shall be flown at half-staff in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels, as follows:

3.1.1. On Memorial Day until 12:00 noon, then raised to the top of the staff (reference (b)).

3.1.2. On Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15 of each year (reference (c)), unless that day is also Armed Forces Day (reference (b)).

3.1.3. On National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27 of each year, until the year 2003 (reference (d)).

3.1.4. On Patriot Day, September 11 of each year (reference (e)).

3.1.5. On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7 of each year (reference (f)).

3.1.6. On the death of individuals listed at enclosure 2.

3.1.7. When so directed by the President or Secretary of Defense.

3.2. The responsible military commander shall ensure that the procedures for flying the flag at half-staff are executed uniformly by all the U.S. military units under his authority and pursuant to section 7 of title 4 United States Code (reference (b)) as follows:

3.2.1. The term "half-staff" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

3.2.2. The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.

3.3. The flag shall be flown at half-staff for individuals described in enclosure 2, on receipt of notification of death from any reliable source, including news media.

3.4. The flag shall be flown at half-staff outside the United States on DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels even if another nation's flag is flown full-staff next to the national flag of the United States.

3.5. In accordance with reference (g), the Heads of Department of Defense Components and Defense Agencies may direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on buildings, grounds, or naval vessels under their jurisdiction on occasions other than those specified in paragraph 3.1., which they consider proper and appropriate.


4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall develop policies governing the conduct of flying the national flag at half-staff for all the DoD Components.

4.2. The Heads of the DoD Components shall ensure implementation of this Directive and compliance with its provisions.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.



Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 2

- E1. References, continued
- E2. Guidance for Display of National Flag at Half-Staff

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) Section 144 of title 36, United States Code
- (f) Section 129 of title 36, United States Code
- (g) Presidential Proclamation 3044, "Display of Flag at Half-Staff Upon Death of Certain Officials and Former Officials," March 1, 1954

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

GUIDANCE FOR DISPLAY OF NATIONAL FLAG AT HALF-STAFF

E2.1.1. Flags on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels shall be displayed at half-staff for a period of 30 days from the day of death of the:

E2.1.1.1. PRESIDENT.

E2.1.1.2. FORMER PRESIDENT.

E2.1.1.3. PRESIDENT-ELECT.

E2.1.2. Flags located in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels shall be displayed at half-staff for a period of 10 days from the day of death of the:

E2.1.2.1. VICE PRESIDENT.

E2.1.2.2. VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

E2.1.2.3. CHIEF JUSTICE OR RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

E2.1.2.4. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

E2.1.3. Flags located in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels shall be displayed at half-staff from the day of death through the day of interment of:

E2.1.3.1. ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT (INCLUDING RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUSTICE).

E2.1.3.2. FORMER VICE PRESIDENT.

E2.1.3.3. MEMBER OF THE CABINET.

E2.1.3.4. FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

E2.1.3.5. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

E2.1.3.6. UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE.

E2.1.3.7. PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE.

E2.1.3.8. ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE.

E2.1.3.9. OTHER OFFICIALS IN OSD COMPENSATED AT EXECUTIVE LEVELS III OR IV.

E2.1.3.10. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, NAVY, OR AIR FORCE.

E2.1.3.11. CHAIRMAN OR FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

E2.1.3.12. VICE CHAIRMAN OR FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

E2.1.3.13. FIVE-STAR FLAG OR GENERAL OFFICER.

E2.1.3.14. CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY.

E2.1.3.15. CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

E2.1.3.16. CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. AIR FORCE.

E2.1.3.17. COMMANDANT, U.S. MARINE CORPS.

E2.1.3.18. COMMANDANT, U.S. COAST GUARD.

E2.1.4. Flags located in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels shall be displayed at half-staff from the day of death through the day of interment of:

E2.1.4.1. THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

E2.1.4.2. MAJORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE.

E2.1.4.3. MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE.

E2.1.4.4. MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

E1.1.4.5. MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

E2.1.5. Flags located in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels shall be displayed at half-staff from the day of death and the following day upon the deaths of a:

E2.1.5.1. U.S. SENATOR.

E2.1.5.2. REPRESENTATIVE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

E2.1.5.3. TERRITORIAL DELEGATE.

E2.1.5.4. RESIDENT-COMMISSIONER FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.

E2.1.6. The flag shall also be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the State, Congressional District, Territory, or Commonwealth of such Senator, Representative, Delegate, or Commissioner, respectively, from the day of death through the day of internment.

E2.1.7. On the death of a GOVERNOR OF A STATE, TERRITORY, OR POSSESSION, the period of display shall be the day of death through the day of interment for flags located on all DoD buildings and grounds in the State, territory, or possession of the deceased governor.

E2.1.8. On the death of FOREIGN DIGNITARIES, OTHER OFFICIALS OR FORMER OFFICIALS, the period of display shall be as directed by the President or dictated by custom not inconsistent with law.