
* UNCLASSIFIED *

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CRISIS COORDINATION CENTER

IMMEDIATE
020333Z FEB 91
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ASD:PA/
TO AIG 7406
AIG 7405
AIG 7581
AIG 9889
O 020333Z FEB 91 ZZK
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ASD:PA//

*PA
Guidance*

BT
UNCLAS
<SUBJECT>
SUBJ: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE -- OPERATION DESERT STORM CASUALTY AND MORTUARY AFFAIRS

PAGE 03 RUEKJCS2825 UNCLAS

- A. SECDEF MSG, DTG 211824Z JAN 91, SUBJECT AS ABOVE.
1. REF MSG PROVIDED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE RELATED TO OPERATION DESERT STORM CASUALTY AND MORTUARY AFFAIRS.
 2. THIS MSG CLARIFIES PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY CONCERNING MEMORIAL AND FUNERAL CEREMONIES AT THE PORTS OF ENTRY FOR REMAINS OF DECEASED MILITARY PERSONNEL ARRIVING FROM OVERSEAS, AND FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF SUCH CEREMONIES.
 3. ARRIVAL CEREMONIES AT THE PORT OF ENTRY MAY CREATE HARDSHIPS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO MAY FEEL OBLIGATED TO TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES TO ATTEND THEM. THEREFORE, IT IS THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS' POLICY THAT CEREMONIES/SERVICES BE HELD AT THE SERVICE MEMBER'S DUTY OR HOME STATION AND/OR THE INTERMENT SITE, RATHER THAN AT THE PORT OF ENTRY. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE REMAINS AT THE PORT OF ENTRY OR AT INTERIM STOPS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED, BUT MAY BE PERMITTED AT THE SERVICE MEMBER'S DUTY OR HOME STATION OR AT THE INTERMENT SITE, IF THE FAMILY SO DESIRES.
 4. UNITS MAY HAVE MEMORIAL CEREMONIES/SERVICES TO HONOR THEIR FALLEN COMRADES AT THE UNIT'S HOME BASE OR DUTY LOCATION. MEDIA COVERAGE IS AUTHORIZED DEPENDING UPON THE UNIT'S AND/OR THE FAMILY'S DESIRES. IN ALL CASES, THE FAMILY'S DESIRES WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE.

PAGE 04 RUEKJCS2825 UNCLAS

5. THIS POLICY IN NO WAY DETRACTS FROM THE SERVICE MEMBER'S VALOR AND SACRIFICE BUT, INSTEAD, PERMITS THE CEREMONY TO OCCUR AT A LOCATION WHERE THE SERVICE MEMBER'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS MAY MORE EASILY ATTEND.
6. OASD(PA) POC FOR PLANS IS LTC M. G. ANDREWS, USA, COMM (703) 693-1075, A/V 223-1075; FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, LTCOL S. WAGNER, USMC, COMM (703) 697,5131, OR A/V 227,5131.

BT
#0025

<...> MSG000287155865

MCN=91-01878

TOR=91/02/06 13:31:2

TAP=GESCAN

* UNCLASSIFIED *

PAGE 1
020333Z FEB 91