



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, PACIFIC
N.S.C., OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94625

MSTSPAC 5360.1
P-01D
14 July 1967

MSTSPAC INSTRUCTION 5360.1

From: Commander, Military Sea Transportation Service, Pacific
To: Distribution List

Subj: Burial at Sea; procedures for

Ref: (a) BUMEDINST 5360.1B, Subj: Decedent Affairs Manual
(b) BUPERS Manual, Articles C-12301 through C-12307
(c) U.S. Navy Regulations, Article 2193

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Instruction is to prescribe the procedures for burial at sea within the Military Sea Transportation Service, Pacific.

2. Information. The Commandant of the Twelfth Naval District may request the use of a MSTSPAC ship for a burial at sea. When a request is received by COMSTSPAC, the requirements of references (a), (b) and (c) have been met and the authorization has been granted by the Chief of Naval Operations, the Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) will determine the ship and the date and time the ship may be available to perform the burial at sea. The Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) will provide the Master with pertinent information.

3. Procedures

a. The Master of the ship shall insure that appropriate services and burial are provided in keeping with references (a), (b) and (c). Upon completion of the ceremony, he shall notify COMSTSPAC giving the time and location of the committal.

b. The Staff Medical Officer will provide the Master of the ship with a certification that an inspection of the body or cremated ashes, as required by references (a) and (b), has been made prior to delivery to the ship, and that the remains of the deceased may be received for burial at sea. The Master of a ship should not receive a body or ashes for burial without this certification, in addition to the other documents required by Chapter 8 of reference (a).

c. The Staff Chaplain will provide a chaplain for appropriate religious ceremony or provide the Master with a copy of "Ceremony for Burial of the Dead at Sea" (NAVPERS 15046A) in the absence of a chaplain. If known, the religious preference of the deceased will be provided to the Master.

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d. All burial ceremonies shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of references (b) and (c). The Commanding Officer, Military Department, shall, when present, coordinate appropriate honors for the deceased.

e. The Masters and Commanding Officers, Military Departments, are enjoined to maintain the closest coordination with the various Staff members in order that remains of personnel for which the Department of the Navy is responsible shall be cared for in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy and Marine Corps, and that surviving relatives are accorded the consideration and sympathy due them.

R. KEFAUVER

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