

DETENTION HOSPITAL GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA	SOP NO: JMG 006
Title: MORTUARY AFFAIRS	Page 1 of 4 Effective Date: 1 Jun 2005
SCOPE: JOINT MEDICAL GROUP (JMG)	

- Ref:** (a) Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War
 (b) JTF GTMO/JDOG SOP for Mortuary Affairs
 (c) NAVMEDCOMINST 5360.1

I. BACKGROUND:

As a consequence of disease, battle injury and non-battle injury it is assumed that some loss of life may occur among detainees.

II. POLICY:

JTF GTMO conducts mortuary affairs services in support of detainee operations. Mortuary services include the supervision and execution of matters pertaining to:

- A. Search, recovery, identification, and evacuation of deceased U. S. Military, civilians, and detainees.
- B. Recovery and disposition, including collection, receipt, recording, and storage of personal effects of deceased personnel.
- C. The maintenance of pertinent records and reports in connection with graves registration services. A graves registration program will only be implemented at the direction of USSOUTHCOM.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. Mortuary services (current/concurrent death program) will remain in effect as long as the operational and logistical situation permits. Mortuary affairs will not be performed per reference (a), but "consistent with" the Geneva Convention.
- B. JTF GTMO J4 Mortuary Affairs Officer serves as coordinating activity for all aspects of mortuary affairs at GTMO and coordinates directly with USSOUTHCOM Joint Mortuary Affairs Office (JMAO).
- C. Limited mortuary services are available at Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay.

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D. All U. S. remains will be handled per reference (b) and (c).

E. Detainee remains.

1. If a detainee dies while in the Detention Hospital or Delta Medical Clinic the JDOG Watch Officer, Detention Hospital Officer in Charge, Duty Medical Officer, Senior Medical Officer and JTF SG/JMG Commander will be notified immediately.

(a) Once a detainee's body is cleared for release (by NCIS), JDOG personnel will bag the body and place it in an ambulance. Care will be given to not remove any life sustaining tubes or lines, these must be clipped and remain intact. Detention Hospital will provide the ambulance and driver to transport the body to the morgue.

2. Detainee remains will be cared for per reference (a) and as amplified by the following procedures:

(a) To the extent possible, detainee remains will be cared for in a matter consistent with their religious tradition.

(b) JTF GTMO JOC Watch Officer will notify USSOUTHCOM CAC and provide detainee personal data.

(c) JTF Surgeon will coordinate a post mortem medical evaluation.

(d) JTF GTMO Surgeon's Office will request a pathologist from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP). The AFIP/Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME) takes the request for action and a pathology team will be ready to fly within four (4) hours of notification. Military Air will need to be coordinated with the J4 Strategic Mobility Officer.

(1) As of May 2005, the point of contact is [REDACTED] at b(6)
the Office of Armed Forces Medical Examiner, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

[REDACTED] b(6)

(e) JTF GTMO Surgeon's Office will coordinate with the JTF Chaplain, and if necessary, request an Imam from Navy Mortuary Affairs (Great Lakes).

(1) As of May 2005, the Military Medical Support Office Mortuary

[REDACTED] b(6)
Normal office hours are 0700 to 1600 Central time. After hours, the duty mortician can be paged. Mortuary Affairs can be contacted at

[REDACTED] b(7) and follow the prompts provided.

(f) An autopsy will be conducted in every case to document the cause of death for all detainees. The autopsy will be conducted at the Naval Hospital morgue. Once complete and AFME has released the body, burial will occur as soon as practical.

(g) JTF GTMO Surgeon will send a copy of detainee death certificate to USSOUTHCOM CAC (surgeon).

(h) JTF GTMO J-4 Mortuary Affairs Officer will notify the Department of State, who will contact the embassy of the decedent's home of record and advise them of the death and for a determination of the detainee remains disposition as well as disposition of detainee personal effects.

(i) [REDACTED] b2

(j) Naval Hospital Patient Administration (mortuary services) will coordinate with the JTF GTMO J-4 Mortuary Affairs Officer to obtain cemetery access and purchase services from base contractor for burial ground preparation.

(k) Detainee personal effects will be handled by the J-4 in the same manner as those of U.S. decedents.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
Detention Hospital
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Officer In Charge _____ Date _____

IMPLEMENTED BY:

Director for Administration _____ Date _____

Senior Enlisted Advisor _____ Date _____

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