



# Department of Defense **INSTRUCTION**

**NUMBER 1005.06**  
March 27, 2008

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USD(P&R)

**SUBJECT:** Display of the National Flag at Half-Staff

- References:**
- (a) DoD Directive 1005.6, "Display of the National Flag at Half-Staff," December 10, 2004 (hereby canceled)
  - (b) DoD Instruction 5025.01, "DoD Directives Program," October 28, 2007
  - (c) DoD Directive 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))," October 17, 2006
  - (d) Section 7 of title 4, United States Code
  - (e) through (g), see Enclosure 1

## 1. PURPOSE

This Instruction:

1.1. Reissues Reference (a) as a DoD Instruction in accordance with the guidance in Reference (b) and the authority in Reference (c).

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; during national days of mourning; and when directed by proclamation by the President of the United States, Governor of any State, territory, or U.S. possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

## 2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Instruction applies to:

2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard at all times, including when it is a Service in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with that Department), the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, the Department of Defense Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in 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 the national flag shall be flown at half-staff:

3.1. Worldwide on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels, as follows:

3.1.1. On Memorial Day until noon then raised to the top of the staff (section 7 of title 4, United States Code (U.S.C.) (Reference (d))).

3.1.2. On Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15 of each year (section 136 of title 36, U.S.C. (Reference (e))), unless that day is also Armed Forces Day (Reference (d)).

3.1.3. On Patriot Day, September 11 of each year (section 144 of Reference (e)).

3.1.4. On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7 of each year (section 129 of Reference (e)).

3.1.5. Each year in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service according to Public Law 107-51 (Reference (f)). This date is usually the first Sunday in October and is annually announced by Presidential Proclamation.

3.1.6. On the death of individuals listed in Enclosure 2.

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

3.2. On DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels in the area covered by a proclamation -- issued by the Governor of any State, territory, or U.S. possession or the Mayor of the District of Columbia -- that the national flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or U.S. possession or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces from that State, territory, or U.S. possession or from the District of Columbia who died while serving on active duty.

3.3. For individuals described in Enclosure 2, on receipt of notification of death from any reliable source, including news media.

3.4. Outside the United States on DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels worldwide even if another nation's flag is flown full-staff next to the national flag of the United States.

3.5. On buildings, grounds, or naval vessels under the jurisdiction of the Heads of DoD Components on occasions other than those specified in paragraphs 3.1. and 3.2. that the Component Heads consider proper and appropriate, in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 3044 (Reference (g)). The Heads of the DoD Components may also delegate the

authority to fly the flag at half-staff to individual post, station, detachment, ship, or installation commanders under their jurisdiction for occasions they consider proper and appropriate.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, is responsible for policies and procedures governing the conduct of flying the national flag at half-staff for all DoD Components.

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

4.3. Responsible military commanders shall ensure that the procedures for flying the national flag at half-staff are executed uniformly by all the U.S. military units under their authority and pursuant to Reference (d) as follows:

4.3.1. The term “half-staff” means the position of the national flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

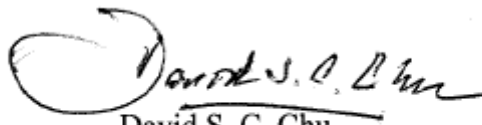
4.3.2. The national flag, when flown at half-staff, shall be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag shall be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.

#### 5. RELEASABILITY

UNLIMITED. This Instruction is approved for public release. Copies may be obtained through the Internet from the DoD Issuances Web Site at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

#### 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.

  
David S. C. Chu  
Under Secretary of Defense for  
Personnel and Readiness

Enclosures - 2

E1. References, continued

E2. Guidance for Display of the National Flag at Half-Staff

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) Sections 129, 136, and 144 of title 36, United States Code
- (f) Public Law 107-51, "Memorializing Fallen Firefighters by Lowering the American Flag to Half-Staff in Honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland," October 16, 2001
- (g) Presidential Proclamation 3044, "Display of the Flag of the United States of America at Half-Staff Upon the Death of Certain Officials and Former Officials," March 1, 1954

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

GUIDANCE FOR DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG AT HALF-STAFF

E2.1. 30-DAY DISPLAY. Flags on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels worldwide shall be displayed at half-staff for a period of 30 days from the day of death of the following persons:

E2.1.1. President

E2.1.2. Former President

E2.1.3. President-Elect

E2.2. 10-DAY DISPLAY. Flags on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels worldwide shall be displayed at half-staff for a period of 10 days from the day of death of the following persons:

E2.2.1. Vice President

E2.2.2. Vice President-Elect

E2.2.3. Chief Justice or Retired Chief Justice of the United States

E2.2.4. Speaker of the House of Representatives

E2.3. VARIOUS DISPLAY PERIODS

E2.3.1. Flags on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels worldwide shall be displayed at half-staff from the day of death through the day of interment of the following persons:

E2.3.1.1. Associate Justice of the Supreme Court (Including Retired Associate Justice)

E2.3.1.2. Former Vice President

E2.3.1.3. Member of the Cabinet

E2.3.1.4. Former Secretary of Defense

E2.3.1.5. Secretary of the Army, Navy, or Air Force

E2.3.2. Flags on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels worldwide shall be displayed at half-staff from the day of death until interment or 7 days, whichever is less. When the date of interment occurs beyond the seventh day, the flag shall again be lowered to half-staff on the date of interment of the following persons:

- E2.3.2.1. Deputy Secretary of Defense
- E2.3.2.2. Under Secretaries of Defense
- E2.3.2.3. Principal Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense
- E2.3.2.4. Assistant Secretaries of Defense
- E2.3.2.5. Other Officials in OSD Compensated at Executive Levels III or IV
- E2.3.2.6. Chairman or Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- E2.3.2.7. Vice Chairman or Former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- E2.3.2.8. Five-Star Flag Officer
- E2.3.2.9. Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
- E2.3.2.10. Chief of Naval Operations
- E2.3.2.11. Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force
- E2.3.2.12. Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps
- E2.3.2.13. Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

E2.3.3. Flags on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels worldwide shall be displayed at half-staff from the day of death through the day of interment of the following persons:

- E2.3.3.1. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- E2.3.3.2. Majority Leader of the Senate
- E2.3.3.3. Minority Leader of the Senate
- E2.3.3.4. Majority Leader of the House of Representatives
- E2.3.3.5. Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

E2.3.4. Flags on all DoD buildings, grounds, and naval vessels worldwide shall be displayed at half-staff from the day of death through the following day upon the deaths of the persons listed in subparagraphs E2.3.4.1. through E2.3.4.4. 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 these officials from the day of death through the day of interment.

E2.3.4.1. A U.S. Senator

E2.3.4.2. A Representative, U.S. House of Representatives

E2.3.4.3. A Territorial Delegate

E2.3.4.4. A Resident Commissioner From the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

E2.3.5. On the death of a Governor of a State, territory, or U.S. possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, 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 U.S. possession of the deceased official.

E2.3.6. 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.

E2.3.7. On the death of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, the period of display shall be as directed in the proclamation issued by the Governor of the State, territory, or U.S. possession or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, or as otherwise directed pursuant to paragraph 3.5.