



Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 1344.08

March 11, 2009

USD(P&R)

SUBJECT: Interment Allowance for Deceased Military Personnel

- References:**
- (a) DoD Directive 1344.8, "Interment Allowance for Deceased Active Duty Personnel," September 25, 1978 (hereby canceled)
 - (b) DoD Directive 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))," June 23, 2008
 - (c) Chapter 75 of title 10, United States Code
 - (d) DoD Instruction 1300.18, "Department of Defense (DoD) Personnel Casualty Matters, Policies, and Procedures," January 8, 2008

1. **PURPOSE.** This Instruction reissues Reference (a) as a DoD Instruction in accordance with the authority in Reference (b) to establish policy and assign responsibilities to ensure that survivors of military personnel are reimbursed for interment expenses on a uniform basis.

2. **APPLICABILITY.** This Instruction applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components").

3. **DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Instruction, Interment expenses are those expenses typically incurred incident to the death of a member covered by section 1481 of Reference (c) and authorized to be paid or reimbursed under the provisions of section 1482 of Reference (c). Such expenses include not only those specifically listed in the law, but also any other usual and customary expense clearly associated with and appropriate to the recovery, care, and disposition of the member's remains, including cremation and associated inurnment expenses and, when a Military Department determines that remains are non-recoverable, those expenses associated with a memorial service.

4. POLICY. It is DoD Policy that:

a. Unless otherwise requested, arrangements for interment of deceased active duty personnel will be made by the person authorized to direct disposition of human remains as defined in DoD Instruction 1300.18 (Reference (d)). The Military Departments will provide advice and assistance as appropriate.

b. Individuals shall be reimbursed by the Military Departments for usual and customary expenses they incur incident to a member's death that are typically associated with recovery, care, and disposition of remains. No amount shall be paid for expenses not actually incurred, including services provided without charge, such as the cost of preparation of the body when performed or directly paid by the Military Departments.

c. Rates authorized for reimbursable allowances shall not be larger than those normally incurred by the Military Departments in furnishing the supply or service concerned.

d. Currently authorized rates for reimbursable allowances are listed in the Enclosure. They shall be reviewed not less often than every 2 years and new rates published if significant changes have occurred.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (PDUSD(P&R)). The PDUSD(P&R), under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall approve and publish reasonable and adequate uniform DoD monetary rates for reimbursable allowances based on the reviews and reports prescribed in section 5.b. Maximum authorized rates of reimbursement allowances may be specified according to a structure consistent with the way costs are normally incurred and related, such as when burial is in a private cemetery versus in a national or other government cemetery.

b. Secretary of the Army. The Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Navy and the Air Force, shall conduct reviews, consistent with the policy stated in sections 4.c. and 4.d., to determine the adequacy of interment allowances and report the results to the PDUSD(P&R) within 30 days of the completion of each review. Each report will include, at a minimum, a recommendation of the adequacy of the current reimbursement allowances and an analysis of cost data for interment, comparing the current allowance rates with current interment costs incurred by the Military Departments and those in the civilian community.

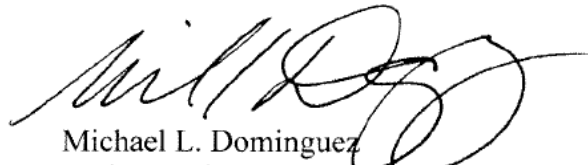
c. Secretaries of the Military Departments. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall be constrained by the maximum authorized rates of reimbursement published by the PDUSD(P&R) when providing reimbursement under Reference (c). They shall conduct periodic internal reviews to ensure the adequacy of interment allowances. The Secretaries of the Air

Force and Navy shall report the results of the reviews prescribed in section 5.b., to the Secretary of the Army.

6. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS. The reporting requirement described in section 5.b. has been assigned Report Control Symbol DD-P&R(BI)894.

7. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. This Instruction is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Web Site at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective immediately.



Michael L. Dominguez
Acting Under Secretary of Defense for
Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure
Interment Allowances

ENCLOSURE

INTERMENT ALLOWANCES

Interment Allowances – Effective April 1, 2007		
When	and a responsible individual pays the expenses for	then the maximum reimbursable amount is:
a Military Department arranges for preparation and casket	remains that are consigned to a funeral home, and burial is in a private cemetery	\$6,000
	remains that are consigned to a funeral home, and burial is in a national or other government cemetery	\$3,600
	remains that are consigned directly for burial in a national or other government cemetery	\$1,000
a responsible individual arranges for preparation and casket	burial in a private cemetery	\$8,800
	burial in a national or other government cemetery	\$7,300