

FM 10-64  
MORTUARY AFFAIRS  
OPERATIONS

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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FIELD MANUAL  
NO. 10-64

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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## MORTUARY AFFAIRS OPERATIONS

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## **PREFACE**

### **PURPOSE**

This manual serves as a planning and operations guide for all personnel involved in MA within the theater of operations. These personnel must ensure the mission is done with available personnel and equipment. They must also know the types of problems they face in performing the mission to specified standards. This manual will assist in determining operational capabilities and limitations and help guide the allocation of resources to do the mission.

### **OPERATIONS**

This manual gives existing doctrine, relates procedures and policies, and outlines standards. It is designed for use as a guide to operations and procedures by commanders and supervisors of Active Army, NG, and USAR units. The use of AIS that are used to execute business functions is common throughout the CSS mission area. The specific automation requirements and functional software applications that will support MA operations for the total army are under development. Automated systems include the GCSS the DCIPS, and the necessary interfaces among the CSSCS, and other related AIS at all force levels. These automated systems will provide the automated means to do the MA requirements given in this manual.

### **SCOPE AND USE**

This manual is a doctrinal guide to MA operations within the theater. As such, it gives the mission and organization of the MA force structure. The role of the various levels of command in the theater of operations is also given. This manual should be used with JTTP 4-06.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

The Armed Forces are charged with defending the nation and its people. This extends to safeguarding the natural environment. The Chief of Staff, General Dennis Reimer, has stated "Environment responsibility involves all of us". The environment ethic must be part of how we live and how we train. We must seize the opportunities to do things smarter and better. By working together, we can forge a premiere Environmental Stewardship Program. Protection of the environment is the key to ensuring we can continue to conduct tough, realistic training and keep the Army trained and ready in the future. All leaders are expected to serve as the Army's environmental stewards and have a personal and professional responsibility to understand and support the Army's environmental program. Violations of environmental laws and regulations can lead to civil and criminal liability, as well as liability under UCMJ. Leaders should ensure that unit personnel are properly trained and equipped to achieve environmental legal compliance. Special considerations should be given to the storing, handling, and transporting of hazardous materials and wastes. Pollution-prevention techniques should be followed wherever possible. Such methods are preferred because they cost less than environmental cleanup and prevent adverse public opinion. Related publications are listed in the References of this publication.

## USER INFORMATION

The proponent of this FM is HQ, TRADOC. Users of this manual are encouraged to recommend changes and submit comments for its improvement. For each change, key comments to the specific page and paragraph in which the change is recommended. Provide justification for each comment to ensure understanding and complete evaluation. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 directly to:

Commander  
USAQMC&S  
1201 22d Street  
ATTN: ATSM-MA  
Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-1602

## REFERENCES

Users should not view this manual as a sole source of information. Other supporting publications are referenced throughout this manual. A list of publications supporting this manual is provided in the References. Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

# CHAPTER 1

## OVERVIEW OF MORTUARY AFFAIRS IN A THEATER OF OPERATIONS

### MISSION

As today's Army transitions into the force of the twenty-first century, Force XXI, the role of MA personnel (MOS 92M) is important as the DOD and the American public continue to emphasize the expeditious return of deceased personnel. The role of the (92M MOS) MA Specialist in a theater of operation is to search, recover, tentatively identify, and coordinate evacuation of remains through a structured evacuation system to the CONUS. The 92M NCO's function is to ensure subordinate personnel and unit leaders are trained, to standard, on current MA policies and procedures. Current MA policy states that the remains of all members of the Armed Forces of the United States be returned for permanent disposition according to the desires of the PADD. The MA program provides for the care and disposition of deceased personnel and their personal effects. Subprograms which MA personnel operate under are Current Death, Concurrent Return, and Graves Registration subprograms. The Army is the executive agent for MA and maintains a current MA force structure.

### THEATER OF OPERATIONS RELATIONSHIPS

A theater is defined as the total area of land, air, and sea that is or could become involved in the conduct of war. Figure 1-1, page 1-2, shows an example of a territorial organization within a TO. It consists of a zone of interior and one or more theaters of operations. A zone of interior supports the TO. It includes industries, mines, farms, natural resources, and supply depots. The zone of interior consists of all national territory (CONUS including Hawaii and Alaska). It may also include foreign territory if the territory becomes an area where food is raised, supplies and equipment are manufactured, and personnel replacements are trained. A TO is that portion of the theater of war necessary for the conduct of military operations including CSS.

### THEATER OF OPERATIONS

#### TO

A TO is usually divided into a COMMZ and a CZ. The COMMZ will be setup when control of the rear area of the theater by the tactical commander becomes unmanageable. FM 100-10 provides a detailed discussion of the territorial organization of a theater.

#### Communications Zone

The COMMZ is that portion of the TO that serves as an operational area for the theater commander. Also, it provides for the movement of material and personnel forward to the corps rear area, or as with MA, the return to CONUS/OCONUS of deceased personnel and personal