

FLYOVERS

Section E—Flyovers.

43. Flyovers at Funeral or Memorial Services.

43.1. Funeral or memorial services (other than Unit Memorial Services) for members who meet the governing criteria are eligible for Air Force flyovers. Funeral and memorial service flyover requests will be initiated by the servicing installation Mortuary Officer or Air Force Mortuary Affairs and staffed through MAJCOMs (Mortuary Affairs Directorates) to HQ USAF/A300. A funeral or memorial flyover is to be flown as part of a training sortie, not as a stand-alone mission.

NOTE: The servicing base Mortuary Affairs or Air Force Mortuary Affairs is the single point of contact for the next of kin.

44. **Eligibility.** The following list outlines those eligible for an Air Force funeral or memorial flyover:

44.1. Active duty or currently serving Air Reserve Component (ARC) rated officers (pilots, navigators, air battle managers, observers, and flight surgeons) and Career Enlisted Aviators (1AXXX enlisted crewmembers, i.e. flight engineers, loadmasters, boom operators, etc.). This category includes those taking courses of instruction leading to an aeronautical rating. Treat ARC members the same as active duty (eligible when death occurs whether on or off duty). This includes ARC members not on unit training assembly (UTA) or military orders.

44.2. Active duty or currently serving ARC non-rated officers, non-Career Enlisted Aviators, and Operations Support Flyers (as defined in AFI 11-402, *Aviation and Parachutist Service, Aeronautical Ratings and Badges*, i.e. nurses, medical technicians, intelligence specialists, etc.) but only when death occurs in the line of duty while performing aviation duties.

44.3. Dignitaries of the Armed Forces and federal government. HQ USAF/A300 has the authority to designate Dignitaries of the Armed Forces; requests with full justification must be made through the MAJCOM staff to HQ AF/A300.

44.4. Active duty or retired USAF 3-star and 4-star general officers, regardless of aeronautical rating.

44.5. Active Duty or retired Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force (CMSAF).

44.6. USAF members (active duty, retired or honorably separated) who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Army Distinguished Service Cross, or Navy Cross.

44.7. USAF aviators (active duty, retired or honorably separated) who have achieved at least one or more officially recognized aerial victories. The Air Force Historical Research Agency is the official source for aerial victories.

44.8. USAF members (active duty, retired or honorably separated) who were Prisoners of War.

45. Limitation: Although a funeral/memorial flyover may be authorized by meeting the above criteria, it may not always be appropriate. A funeral or memorial flyover is part of the honors bestowed on the deceased. If the lifestyle of an individual during or following his or her military service is not within the standards normally expected of a military professional or if the circumstances surrounding the death reflect negatively on the Air Force, a funeral flyover may not be approved in all cases. HQ USAF/A300 will make the determination in these cases.

46. Memorial Flyovers. Procedures and approval levels for memorial flyovers are the same as for funeral flyovers. Memorial flyovers commemorate or recognize an individual, group, or historically significant event. MAJCOMs may approve on-base flyovers in this category (may be delegated to Wing/CC). For deceased members authorized a flyover per paragraphs 44.1. – 44.8. and when the funeral service is held off-base, MAJCOM may authorize an additional memorial flyover at the base to which the individual was assigned (inform HQ USAF/A300). An off-base memorial flyover on other than the five patriotic holidays requires an ETP approved by HQ USAF/A30 and SAF/PAN.

47. Flyovers in National Capital Region. Flyovers in the Washington DC area are limited but may be approved with certain restrictions. HQ USAF A30-AF0 (Aerial Events) coordinator will take necessary action to obtain an aerial control team for the ceremony, coordinating with HQ ACC/A3TA (DSN 574-7854). AFMAO/MA will make the appropriate arrangements for flyovers being performed in conjunction with interments in Arlington National Cemetery for eligible Airmen.

48. Exceptions-to-Policy. Servicing base Mortuary Affairs initiates requests for exceptions to funeral and memorial service policy and staffs the request through MAJCOMs to HQ USAF/A300. Requests that are handled directly by Air Force Mortuary Affairs are staffed to HQ USAF/A300. Exceptions-to-policy are based on appropriate use of limited resources, and are typically considered only for service marked by valor or heroism, or has significantly impacted the aviation community or aviation history. ETP requests must reach HQ USAF AF/A300 at least 5 working days prior to the event. HQ USAF/A300 will coordinate a package for HQ USAF/CVA decision.

The ETP request must include:

48.1. DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or similar discharge documentation recording the individual's honorable discharge, rank, and decorations.

48.2. A letter from the LNOK or the person acting on their behalf requesting the flyover. The letter must include:

48.2.1. Name, address and phone number of the requester

48.2.2. A biography of the individual's service. Include commands and significant acts or service to the Air Force and the country.

48.2.3. Any other information about the individual's military service that is notable.

48.2.4. A copy of the citation for the decoration awarded

NOTE: If an exception is approved, HQ USAF/A300 will inform MAJCOMs to solicit a volunteer unit to perform the flyover. Due to the short-notice nature of many funerals, MAJCOMs may be asked to solicit volunteers while the approval package is being processed.