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ASD (Manpower)

Department of Defense Instruction

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SUBJECT Half-Staffing of the National Flag

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Instruction is to amplify Presidential Proclamation 3044 of 1 March 1954 with regard to the Department of Defense. That Proclamation directs display of the flag of the United States at half-staff upon the death of certain officials and former officials.

II. AUTHORIZATION

Presidential Proclamation 3044 provides that:

"The heads of the several departments and agencies of the Government may direct that the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff on buildings, grounds, or naval vessels under their jurisdiction, on occasions other than those specified herein which they consider proper, and that suitable military honors be rendered as appropriate."

III. POLICY

In addition to the half-staffing of the national flag provided for in Presidential Proclamation 3044, the flag of the United States of America will be flown at half-staff within the Department of Defense upon the death of the following individuals as indicated:

- (a) President-elect: thirty days from the date of death, in the same manner as prescribed for the President or former President in the Proclamation.
- (b) Chairman or former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: On all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels of the Department of Defense in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions from the day of death until sunset of the day of interment.

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- (c) Chief of Staff or former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Chief or former Chief of Naval Operations, Chief or former Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force, Commandant or former Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, and any U. S. military officer of five-star rank: As directed by the cognizant Departmental Secretaries at installations within their respective Departments from the day of death until sunset of the day of interment.

At joint installations or commands the procedures prescribed by the responsible military commander or the Executive Agent, will be executed uniformly by all the U. S. military units present.

IV. REGULATIONS OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

While recognizing the desirability of complete similiarity of regulations it is not intended to abridge the rights of Secretaries of the Military Departments to prescribe suitable honors upon the death of personnel serving under them. Accordingly, in cases other than those noted above, half-staffing of the National Ensign may be prescribed in accordance with traditional procedures.

V. NOTIFICATION

The flag will be half-staffed upon receipt of notification of death of one of the designated officials from any reliable source, including news media.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

Directives and regulations of the Military Departments implementing this Instruction will be coordinated to ensure reasonable uniformity, and forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) not later than 90 days from the date of this Instruction.



Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Manpower, Personnel and Reserve)

PROCLAMATION 3044

Display of the Flag of the United States of America at  
Half-Staff Upon the Death of Certain Officials and  
Former Officials

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is appropriate that the flag of the United States of America be flown at half-staff on Federal buildings, grounds, and facilities upon the death of principal officials and former officials of the Government of the United States and the Governors of the States, Territories, and possessions of the United States as a mark of respect to their memory; and

WHEREAS it is desirable that rules be prescribed for the uniform observance of this mark of respect by all executive departments and agencies of the Government, and as a guide to the people of the Nation generally on such occasions:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, President of the United States of America and Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, do hereby prescribe and proclaim the following rules with respect to the display of the flag of the United States of America at half-staff upon the death of the officials hereinafter designated:

1. The flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions for the period indicated upon the death of any of the following-designated officials or former officials of the United States:

(a) The President or a former President: for thirty days from the day of death.

The flag shall also be flown at half-staff for such period at all United States embassies, legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

(b) The Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives: for ten days from the day of death.

(c) An Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former Vice President, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Air Force: from the day of death until interment.

2. The flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia on the day of death and on the following day upon the death of a United States Senator, Representative, Territorial Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and it 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 such Senator, Representative, Delegate, or Commissioner, respectively, from the day of death until interment.

3. The flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all buildings and grounds of the Federal Government in a State, Territory, or possession of the United States upon the death of the Governor of such State, Territory or possession from the day of death until interment.

4. In the event of the death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries, the flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff in accordance with such orders or instructions as may be issued by or at the direction

