

REVISION OF NCA DIRECTIVE 3130, ACCOUNTING FOR REMAINS INTERRED IN VA NATIONAL CEMETERIES

1. PURPOSE/REASON FOR ISSUE: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is making technical corrections to its policy for accounting for remains interred in VA national cemeteries (“cemeteries”).

2. BACKGROUND: On May 19, 2021, NCA published NCA Directive 3130, which replaced previously issued guidance, updated procedures, and defined duties of NCA officials regarding accounting for remains interred in VA national cemeteries. However, changes specified in this notice are necessary to implement updated procedures and eliminate practical obstacles affecting completion of required tasks.

3. CHANGE TO PROCEDURES: The following changes are effective upon publication of this notice:

a. In lieu of the requirement for two cemetery-designated personnel to transport remains to the designated gravesite after verifying label accuracy and signing the chain-of-custody checklist, at least one cemetery-designated personnel will transport remains to the designated gravesite while maintaining positive control.

b. In lieu of the requirement to use the chain-of-custody checklists provided at NCA Directive 3130 Appendix B, cemeteries may use local chain-of-custody checklists for positive control of remains that incorporate the key interment process control points provided in the example checklists at Appendix B of Directive 3130. These same example checklists are also available at Appendix A of 41-SOP-006, *Interment Operations* (September 30, 2020) (for internal VA employee use only).

4. ACTION:

a. The Legislative and Regulatory Service will review NCA Directive 3130 and identify provisions that must be revised to reflect the changes contained in this notice.

b. The Office of Cemetery Operations will review and provide input on the revised directive. When these offices and the Legislative and Regulatory Service are agreed on the revisions to the document, the Legislative and Regulatory Service will process the revised directive for final publication with a new certification date.

5. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: National Cemetery Administration, Legislative and Regulatory Service (42E), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20420, is responsible for the contents of this notice. Questions may be referred to NCA42EAction@va.gov.

6. RESCISSION: None.

7. EXPIRATION: This notice may be archived one year after issue date. The content will remain in force until incorporated into an NCA directive.

/s/

Matthew T. Quinn

Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs

Distribution: Electronic