

§ 1492. Authority to provide travel and transportation allowances in connection with transfer ceremonies of certain civilian employees who die overseas

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—A covered official may treat a covered relative of a covered employee under the jurisdiction of that covered official in the same manner the Secretary of a military department treats, under section 481f(d) of title 37, next of kin and family members of a member of the armed forces who dies while located or serving overseas.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered employee” means a civilian employee—

(A) under the jurisdiction of a covered official; and

(B) who dies while located or serving overseas.

(2) The term “covered official” means—

(A) the Secretary of the military department concerned; and

(B) the head of a Defense Agency or Department of Defense Field Activity.

(3) The term “covered relative” means—

(A) the primary next of kin of the covered employee;

(B) two family members (other than primary next of kin) of the covered employee; and

(C) one or more additional family members of the covered employee, at the discretion of the Secretary a sibling of the covered employee.

(Added Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title XI, §1104(a)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3889.)

CHAPTER 76—MISSING PERSONS

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AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113–291, div. A, title IX, §916(f)(2), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3479, added item 1501a and substituted “Program to resolve missing person cases” for “Program to resolve preenactment missing person cases” in item 1509.

2009—Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title V, §541(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2298, substituted “Program to resolve preenactment missing person cases” for “Preenactment cases” in item 1509.

1996—Pub. L. 104–201, div. A, title V, §578(f)(2)(B), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2537, struck out “, special interest” after “Preenactment” in item 1509.

§ 1501. System for accounting for missing persons

(a) **RESPONSIBILITY FOR MISSING PERSONS.**—

(1)(A) The Secretary of Defense shall designate a

single organization within the Department of Defense to have responsibility for Department matters relating to missing persons from past conflicts, including accounting for missing persons and persons whose remains have not been recovered from the conflict in which they were lost.

(B) The organization designated under this paragraph shall be a Defense Agency or other entity of the Department of Defense outside the military departments and is referred to in this chapter as the “designated Defense Agency”.

(C) The head of the organization designated under this paragraph is referred to in this chapter as the “designated Agency Director”.

(2) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, the responsibilities of the designated Agency Director shall include the following:

(A) Policy, control, and oversight of the program established under section 1509 of this title.

(B) Responsibility for accounting for missing persons from past conflicts, including locating, recovering, and identifying missing persons from past conflicts or their remains after hostilities have ceased.

(C) Coordination for the Department of Defense with other departments and agencies of the United States on all matters concerning missing persons from past conflicts.

(D) Dissemination of appropriate information on the status of missing persons from past conflicts to authorized family members.

(E) Establishment of a means for communication between officials of the designated Defense Agency and family members of missing persons from past conflicts, veterans service organizations, concerned citizens, and the public on the Department’s efforts to account for missing persons from past conflicts, including a readily available means for communication of their views and recommendations to the designated Agency Director.

(3) In carrying out the responsibilities established under this subsection, the designated Agency Director shall be responsible for the coordination for such purposes within the Department of Defense among the military departments, the Joint Staff, and the commanders of the combatant commands.

(4) The designated Agency Director shall establish policies, which shall apply uniformly throughout the Department of Defense, for personnel accounting (including locating, recovering, and identifying missing persons from past conflicts or their remains after hostilities have ceased).

(b) **UNIFORM DOD PROCEDURES.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe procedures, to apply uniformly throughout the Department of Defense, for—

(A) the determination of the status of persons described in subsection (c); and

(B) for the systematic, comprehensive, and timely collection, analysis, review, dissemination, and periodic update of information related to such persons.

(2) Such procedures may provide for the delegation by the Secretary of Defense of any re-