



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

August 13, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Directive-type Memorandum 21-006 – “Eligibility Criteria for Official Korean War Casualties Classification for Inclusion on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall”

References: DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” June 23, 2008
DoD Instruction 1300.18, “Department of Defense (DoD) Personnel Casualty Matters, Policies, and Procedures,” January 8, 2008, as amended
Public Law 114-230, “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act,” October 7, 2016
United States Code, Title 50, Section 4302

Purpose. In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, this directive-type memorandum (DTM):

- Pursuant to Public Law 114-230, provides guidance supplementing DoD policy regarding the DoD reporting of Military Service casualties incurred during military operations, specifically, the eligibility criteria for classifying personnel as an official Korean War casualty.
- Is effective August 13, 2021; it must be incorporated into DoD Instruction 1300.18. This DTM will expire effective August 13, 2022.

Applicability. This DTM applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD.

Policy.

- Using the official casualty of the Korean War criteria set forth in the attachment, DoD validates whether an individual meets the eligibility criteria for classification as official Korean War casualties.
- If the eligibility criteria are met, DoD submits the name of the deceased Service member to the Department of Interior for inclusion on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall.

- The sole function of DoD regarding the Korean War Memorial is providing a determination that the deceased Service member is an official casualty of the Korean War as determined by established criteria.
- DoD is not authorized to classify a deceased Service member who does not meet the established casualty criteria as an official casualty of the Korean War, and is not authorized to deviate from the established criteria for purposes of including a deceased Service member on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall.

Responsibilities. Director, Department of Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA). Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Director, DHRA serves as the DoD review authority for validating the pertinent facts and determining whether a casualty meets the eligibility criteria to be considered a Korean War casualty in Paragraph 2 of the attachment.

Releasability. Cleared for public release. Available on the Directives Division Website at <https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD/>.



Virginia S. Penrod
Acting

Attachments:
As stated

ATTACHMENT

DETERMINING OFFICIAL KOREAN WAR CASUALTIES

1. KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL.

a. Requests to include names to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall will be sent to the Military Service concerned, which will review the request and relevant information in the individual's official personnel record in accordance with Paragraphs 6.1.2.3.4. and 6.1.2.3.6 of DoD Instruction 1300.18.

b. The Military Service concerned will review each request and provide its recommendation to DHRA on whether the case meets the eligibility criteria in Paragraph 2 of this attachment to be declared as an official casualty of the Korean War.

c. After the Military Service concerned completes its review, the request will be forwarded to the Director, DHRA. Family members or other interested parties will be advised by the Military Service that the request has been received, and an update will be provided when a determination of whether the individual meets the established Korean War casualty criteria has been made.

d. A representative from the DHRA and the respective Military Service will present the case to the DoD Casualty Advisory Board, which will review and provide its recommendation for the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness' final review and validation as to whether or not an individual is an official casualty of the Korean War under the established criteria.

e. The names of the individuals validated by DoD as official Korean War casualties will be provided by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness through the Secretary of the Interior to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc., for inclusion on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

a. For a Service member to be considered an official casualty of the Korean War, they must meet one of the following criteria.

(1) Died within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in aerial flight over Korea, while participating in combat operations or in support of combat operations. Geographical boundaries include the Korean peninsula, the Yellow Sea, the Sea of Japan, the Korean Strait, the Korean Bay, and the Northeast section of the Peoples' Republic of China (referred to collectively in this DTM as the "combat zone") between June 25, 1950, and July 27, 1953;

(2) Died in the defined combat zone from July 28, 1953, to July 27, 1954;

(3) Died as a result of wounds, illness, or injury sustained in the combat zone;

(4) Died in the defined combat zone while participating in, or providing direct support to, a combat mission immediately in route to or returning from a target; or

(5) Died from wounds resulting from combat or hostile related action by an enemy of the United States within the territorial limits of Korea before June 25, 1950, or after July 27, 1954.

b. The criteria in Paragraphs 2.a.(1) through (4) of this attachment do not require that the Service member was killed in action or that the cause of death was combat related.

GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	MEANING
DHRA DTM	Department of Defense Human Resources Activity directive-type memorandum

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
enemy of the United States	Defined in Section 4302 of Title 50, United States Code.