

# Casualty Assistance

Commander's Spouses

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Head, Case Management, HQMC Casualty Section





# Casualty Section

## Mission Statement

**Under the staff cognizance of the Director, Marine and Family Programs Division, implement, execute and manage the Casualty Assistance Program for the U.S. Marine Corps, which includes providing assistance to Marine Corps families with compassion, dignity and honor.**

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# Casualty

- Any Marine lost to the organization having been declared deceased, DUSTWUN, missing, ill or injured.

**Can occur any time...any place**

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# Casualty Notification

- **Primary/Secondary next of kin (NOK) of Active Duty Deceased and DUSTWUN are notified in-person as well as all beneficiaries listed on the Record of Emergency Data (RED).**
  - **0500-2400 hours unless directed otherwise**
  - **Uniform - Service Alpha**
  - **Will always attempt to have a chaplain on notification team**
- **Telephonic notification to Marine/Navy NOK of injured/ill made by HQMC Casualty Section.**
- **Families are provided all known facts concerning the casualty incident to include a copy of the Personnel Casualty Report (PCR).**



# CACO TRAINING

- **Training provided by Unit / HQMC**
- **Training:**
  - **Full day that focuses on policy, notification/call procedures and bereavement training**
  - **Guest Speakers (i.e., chaplains, former CACOs, VA Reps, etc.)**
  - **Annual mandatory training and certification of all CACOs**
  - **Implementation of Web based Interactive Casualty Training**

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# Casualty Assistance Command Representative

- **Casualty Assistance Command Representative (CACR)**
  - **New billet requirement established by MCO 3040.4**
  - **Assigned down to Battalion/Squadron level**
  - **Be fully informed on casualty assistance program**
  - **Annual HQMC Casualty Training required**
  - **Maintain roster of trained CACOs/personnel**
  - **Provide RED/SGLV 8286 expertise at audits**
  - **Update Commander on casualty policy changes**
  - **Educate Marines/families on the casualty process**

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# CACO RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Individual responsible for representing the Commandant of the Marine Corps with the NOK**
- **Acts as enabler:**
  - **Serves as liaison with other agencies (i.e. DVA, SSA, etc.)**
  - **Assists with funeral arrangements**
  - **Assists with the completion/submission of claim forms**
  - **Identifies and/or coordinates need for “Family Support”**
  - **Assists with handling the media**

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# CACO Self-Care

- **Duty can take a toll on the CACO**
- **Self-care/Commander awareness continuously emphasized**
- **Encouraged to talk to spouses, friends, or chaplains**
- **CACOs are informed/directed to contact professionals**
  - **Military OneSource**
  - **TAPS**
- **HQMC available 24/7 for CACO support**

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# Benefits & Entitlements

## **Death Gratuity (within 72 hours via direct deposit)**

- **\$100,000.00 (exempt from tax)**
- **Marine can designate up to 100% in 10% increments**
- **Remainder to Spouse, Children, parents**

## **Arrears of Pay (AP) (as designated per RED)**

## **SGLI – up to \$400K (as designated per SGLV 8286)**

- **Direct Deposit/Prudential Alliance Account/36 equal monthly payments**
- **Accrues interest from date of death, once deposited becomes taxable**
- **Spouse can convert FSGLI coverage as well as it continuing for 120 days after service members death**



# Benefits & Entitlements

## Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services

## Burial Allowances

- **Reimbursement of Funeral and/or Interment Expenses:**
  - \$9,000 private cemeteries (pc) (w/gov't involvement)**
  - \$6,000 national cemeteries (nc) (w/gov't involvement)**
  - \$10,500 (pc) or \$9,000 (nc) plus transportation cost  
(no gov't involvement)**
- **Headstone or Marker (DVA)**
- **Memorial Flags, Display Cases and Floral Tribute**

## Full Military Funeral Honors

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# Benefits & Entitlements

## Travel to Bedside

- **Serious or worse condition**
- **OEF/Contingency related but not seriously ill/injured (NSI) – hospitalized in CONUS; not more than 30 days**
- **Up to three (3) designated individuals selected by the service member**
- **Transportation and per diem**

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# Benefits & Entitlements

## **Travel to Dover AFB, DE to witness dignified transfer**

- **Round trip transportation and per diem**
- **Accompanied by CACO**

## **Travel to Burial**

- **Spouse, children, parents including in-laws, siblings of the decedent and the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD)**

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# Benefits & Entitlements

- Transportation of Family Members (PCS Orders)**
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) 365 days**
- ID Card (within 30 days)**
- Medical/Dental – 3 Years**
- Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP)**
- Benefits Analysis Provided (Armed Forces Services Corp)**
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) – paid by DVA**
  - **Spouse \$1254.19, Child \$310.71 (tax free monthly payment)**

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# Benefits and Entitlements

**DIC Transitional Benefit - \$270.00 monthly for two years or when last child attains 18 years of age**

**Montgomery GI Bill Refund paid to SGLI beneficiary**

**Thrift Savings**

**Bonds**

**Social Security Benefits**

**Income Taxes**

**Educational Opportunities**

**Benefits paid to minors are governed by state law**

**Benefits vary from case-to-case**



# SMCR Death

**Any member of a Reserve component who, when authorized or required by competent authority, assumes an obligation to perform ADT or IDT, and who dies from an injury incurred while proceeding directly to or returning directly from such ADT or IDT is considered active duty and eligible for all benefits and entitlements.**

**For SMCR deaths not on active duty, it is at the Commander's discretion to provide condolence calls/assistance visits to the deceased family members.**

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# Long Term Assistance

**Three assigned civilian personnel**

**Long Term Assistance Provider contacts Primary  
Next of Kin via mail and telephone**

- **Collects remaining issues**
- **Provides guidance and assists as necessary**
- **Follows up**

**Referral and coordination with support agencies  
and benevolent/philanthropic organizations**

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# Partnership with Taps

- **Memorandum of Agreement with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).**
  - **Greatly improves the communication between TAPS and the NOK.**
  - **Within days of the incident, Marine families are connected with representatives from TAPS.**
  - **Provide families with a full range of Grief and Trauma Support services.**
  - **Services are at no cost to families - available 24/7.**
  - **Feedback from family members has been overwhelmingly positive.**

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# Commander Spouses Role

**Allow the HQMC Casualty process to work**

**Be an active member of your Unit Family Readiness Program**

**Support the families of our Marines after notification**

- **Local support needed days/weeks after incident**

**Educate the importance of updating the SGLI/RED as changes occur, i.e., marriage, birth of child, divorce, change of address, etc.**

**Ensure you inform your Family Readiness Officer (FRO) of your location throughout the deployment if**

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# Taking Care of Our Own

**HQMC Contact Information**  
**HQMC, M&RA, MFPC**  
**2008 ELLIOT ROAD**  
**QUANTICO, VA 22134**

**PHONE: (703) 784-9512**  
**TOLL FREE: 800-847-1597**  
**DSN: 278-9512**  
**Casualty.Section@usmc.mil**



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