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NATO STANDARD

ATP-92

EMERGENCY BURIAL PROCEDURES

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ALLIED TACTICAL PUBLICATION

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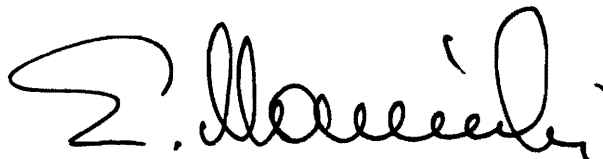
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

NATO STANDARDIZATION OFFICE (NSO)

NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION

27 January 2016

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Edvardas MAŽEIKIS,
Major General, LTUAF
Director, NATO Standardization Office

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

0101 PREFACE

1. During operations the dead of NATO forces are handled according to national regulations.
2. Specific circumstances (such as CBRN circumstances) permit emergency burials for the dead of another NATO nation, the opponent and non-combatants (civilians) within standardised procedures. Burial of indigenous dead may occur when in specific circumstances force protection of NATO forces might be hampered or endangered.
3. It should be possible to recover the remains for war crime investigations, identifications or to present them to the relatives for a decent and final burial.

0102 GENERAL

1. Whenever practicable separate emergency burial should be given to the remains, or even part of remains, of each deceased person.
2. The form of emergency burial being prescribed in this agreement is normally the responsibility of the unit and is not that of the specialised graves registration personnel.
3. Personnel who deal physically with the remains should take safety precautions:
 - a. Use gloves and boots, if available
 - b. Wash hands with soap and water after handling bodies and before eating.
 - c. Avoid wiping face or mouth with hands.
 - d. Wash and disinfect all equipment, clothes, and vehicles used for transportation of bodies.
 - e. Face masks are unnecessary, but should be provided if requested to avoid anxiety or when the smell / odour is very penetrating.
4. Emergency burials¹ are carried out so as to:
 - a. Conform with accepted principles of hygiene;

¹ Cremation of dead bodies should be avoided.

- Cremation will destroy evidence for any future identification;
- Large amounts of fuel are needed;
- Achieving complete incineration is difficult, often resulting in partially incinerated remains that have to be buried.

- b. Obtain the maximum of safety from marauding animals and looting;
 - c. Provide the maximum chance of subsequent recovery of remains;
 - d. Provide the maximum safety for the environment in case of contaminated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear remains;
 - e. Minimise decomposition of remains prior to recovery.
5. It is recommended to avoid burial in rocky areas. Digging in rocky areas may require special equipment and is likely to increase digging time and physical labour.
 6. If burial is not possible due to the condition of the soil (rock or stone) the remains may be stored under a pile of rocks or stones. The amount of rocks or stones should avoid animals to recover the remains. But this possibility must be considered as a last resort (transportation of remains to a place where the emergency burial can be performed has always the advantage, even if this should involve a larger effort).
 7. All corpses are potentially infectious, although the widespread belief that corpses pose a serious health risk is wrong. It is unlikely that a healthy person using normal universal precautions would become infected. There is a potential for the contamination of streams, wells or other water resources, which could result in the transmission of gastroenteritis or food poisoning syndrome to survivors.

CHAPTER 2 GRAVES

0201 LOCATION OF BURIAL

1. Graves are normally located as near as convenient to the scene of death. Sites should be selected as much as possible with reference to ease of subsequent relocation and identification. Graves should not be dispersed. If body parts are originally found in close association or groups, try to maintain these associations in terms of burial location. Easy recovery is essential and protection from water is desirable.
2. As a guide, the minimum depth should be about 1.5 metre, the body is to be enclosed in a pouch (for human remains), poncho, blanket, sheet etc. whenever possible.
3. Burials are to be grouped by nationality. Different areas for separate graves, trench, or group burials are to be allotted to each nationality².
4. Whenever practicable, a brief burial service of the appropriate religion is to be held. The unit's chaplain/religious advisor should be consulted during the planning phase of an operation or at least prior to initiating burial procedures to ensure burial is in accordance with the religious requirements of the deceased. Methods of burial vary from religion to religion and, to the maximum extent possible, due care should be taken to honour these religious practices.

0202 MARKING OF THE GRAVES

1. Graves are normally located as near as convenient to the scene of death. Sites should be selected as much as possible with reference to ease of subsequent relocation and identification. Graves should not be dispersed. If body parts are originally found in close association or groups, try to maintain these associations in terms of burial location. Easy recovery is essential and protection from water is desirable.
2. An appropriate (religious) marker high enough to be seen readily is to be erected. At its base, a bottle, can, or other suitable container is to be half buried, open end downwards, containing a paper on which is recorded such information listed below as available:
 - a. Name (surname, prefix and forename or initials).
 - b. Rank or Grade.
 - c. Gender.
 - d. Service Number.

² This may not always be possible with disassociated body parts, so it may be necessary to create an area specifically for mingled remains or those whose nationality cannot be immediately determined.

- e. National Force, Unit, and Place of Birth, if desired.
 - f. Date and cause of death, if known.
 - g. Date buried.
 - h. By whom buried.
 - i. Religious faith.
 - j. Nature of contamination.
3. In the case of trench and group burials a marker and list in a suitable container endorsed accordingly are to be placed at each end of the grave and the distance of the remains from the marker is to be shown against the relevant entry in the list. In group burials the number of the bodies buried must be recorded, with the names of the known but unidentifiable dead listed. Where a burial ground contains CBRN casualties it is to be marked in accordance with STANAG 2521.

CHAPTER 3 SPECIFIC PERSONS
--

0301 CIVILIAN DEAD

1. Non-combatants belonging to Coalition forces are interred in accordance with the same procedure as for military personnel.
2. The indigenous community is to be encouraged to inter its own dead. For reasons as mentioned in para 0105, however, the burial of indigenous dead can be conducted by Coalition forces.

0302 UNIDENTIFIED DEAD

3. Unidentifiable dead should be buried and reported as others, except that the word `unknown` is to be used in place of the name. Particular care must be taken to list all information which may assist identification later. The fullest possible physical, especially dental, description is to be recorded and fingerprints taken if possible. Details of numbers and markings on uniform, equipment, vehicles or aircraft, and particulars of IDENTIFIABLE DEAD in the vicinity should be noted. It is important to make a record of any obvious damage to the remains as seen when they are recovered and buried such as injuries and missing body parts³.

³ Rationale behind recording damage, obvious injuries and missing body parts:

- To assist the pathologist in distinguishing between ante-mortem and post-mortem trauma
- To assist the pathologist in determining cause of death
- To assist in refuting potential accusations of deliberate mutilation

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CHAPTER 4 DOCUMENTATION

0401 DOCUMENTATION

1. In all cases an emergency burial report must be completed by the unit responsible. The type of report form to be used is given in Annex A. This is not a prescribed format, but shows generally the information most nations consider essential to have, provided it is available.
2. The number of copies made and the description of the emergency burial report will vary with circumstances. As a minimum however:
 - a. When Coalition nationals are buried, a copy is dispatched to the appropriate NATO headquarters for transmission to the national force headquarters concerned.
 - b. Burial reports covering enemy nationals are forwarded to the theatre headquarters and to the national headquarters of the forces which accomplish burial.
 - c. When Civilian nationals are buried, a copy is dispatched to the appropriate NATO headquarters and to the indigenous authority nearest to the burial site.
3. The emergency burial report(s) may also be sent digitally to the appropriate headquarter or authority

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CHAPTER 5 PERSONAL EFFECTS
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0501 DISPOSITION OF EFFECTS

1. With the exception of deceased United States personnel, all personal effects (including all personal and official papers) are removed from the remains and placed in a suitable receptacle. One identification tag/disc must be buried with the corpse. The second identification tag/disc, or the removable part, is placed in the receptacle with the personal effects. In the case of United States personnel, all personal effects and identification tags are buried with the remains.
2. An inventory is to be made of the personal effects, checked and signed by an officer, and dispatched with the receptacle containing the personal effects. In the case of the United States personnel, an inventory is to be conducted by an officer and one additional service member of all of the personal effects on the remains. This signed inventory will be sent along with a subsequent casualty report to higher headquarters.
3. Personnel of one nation burying the dead of another nation dispatch the receptacle containing the personal effects of the deceased as follows:
 - a. Coalition dead: Except for the United States personnel (see paragraph 0501/1) personal effects are sent along the normal logistical channels to a point where they can be handed over to an appropriate national authority of the deceased.
 - b. Enemy dead: Personal effects are handled under arrangements laid down by the national authorities of the burial party.
 - c. Civilian dead: Personal effects are handed over to an appropriate indigenous authority nearest to the burial site.

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ANNEX A EMERGENCY BURIAL REPORT FORM

1. OPERATION CODEWORD	
2. REFERENCE	
3. DATE/TIME	
4. ORGANISATION DESIGNATOR	
5. MAPS	
6. BURIAL UNIT	
a. Unit ID	
b. Supervising Rank	
c. Supervisor Name	
7. BURIAL LOCATION	
a. Country	
b. UTM Grid Reference	
c. Geo-reference	
d. Reference Point	
e. Direction	
f. Distance	
8. SITE DETAILS	
a. Site Number	
b. Date of Burial	
c. Contamination Type	
d. Contamination Detail	

9. BODY COUNT	
a. Identified	
b. Unidentified	
10. IDENTIFIED DECEASED	
a. Nationality	
b. Name	
c. Gender	
d. ID Number	
e. Disposition of effects	
f. Rank	
g. Religion	
h. Unit	
i. Date of Birth	
j. Date of Death	
k. Cause of Death	
11. UNIDENTIFIED DECEASED	
a. Nationality	
b. Gender	
c. Date of Death	
d. Cause of Death	
e. Disposition of Effects	
12. REGISTRANT	
a. Rank	
b. Name	

GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR USING THIS FORM

1. Each individual internment is listed on a separate form.
2. Names of places and individuals are shown in BLOCK CAPITALS.
3. Where data have to be estimated, the notation "estimated" is shown.
4. Unused spaces are to have a line drawn through them from the left lower corner to the right upper corner. When information is unknown the notation "unknown" is shown.
5. ID number to be confirmed from the number as shown on identity disc.
6. With unidentifiable dead the fullest possible physical, especially dental, description is to be recorded and fingerprints taken if possible. Details of numbers and marking on uniform, equipment, vehicles or aircraft, and particulars of identifiable dead in the vicinity should be noted overleaf.

DETAILED INSTRUCTION FOR FILLING OUT THE FORM

- Line 2: If used, provides details of other documents to which this form refers.
- Line 4: Provides unit, country of the world, higher formation and armed service or civilian agency of the unit who prepared the form or authorised its release.
- Line 5: Alphanumeric identification of all map references in the form, or reference to an agreed dataset if in an automated GIS-based environment.
- Line 6a: The name and/or UIN of the unit conducting the burial.
- Line 6a: The rank or rating of the supervising officer using data codes in accordance with STANAG 2116.
- Line 7a: Gives the authorised country code to indicate where the burial took place in accordance with STANG 1059.
- Line 7c: An alternative to Grid reference or used for clarification. Gives the name of a nearby town/village with 4-digit UTM coordinates.
- Line 7d: If used, defines a prominent reference object, e.g. church, in the vicinity of the burial location.
- Line 7e: If Reference Point is used, gives the direction from it to the burial site followed by the authorised data code for the unit or measurement used from the following table:

<u>UNIT-DEGREES</u>	<u>DATA CODE</u>
---------------------	------------------

Degrees/magnetic north	DGM
------------------------	-----

Degrees/true north	DGT
--------------------	-----

Degrees/grid north	DGG
--------------------	-----

<u>UNIT-MILS</u>	<u>DATA CODE</u>
------------------	------------------

Mils/magnetic north	MLM
---------------------	-----

Mils/true north	MLT
-----------------	-----

Mils/grid north	MLG
-----------------	-----

Line 7f: If Reference Point is used, gives distance (1-9999) from it in meters.

Line 8a: Gives a simple numeric indication whether the site involves an individual burial, a group or a trench burial.

Line 8b: Provides the day, month and year of the burial.

Line 8c: Confirms whether or not the site is contaminated, using the following data codes:

<u>CONTAMINATION TYPE</u>	<u>DATA CODE</u>
---------------------------	------------------

Biological	BIO
------------	-----

Chemical	CHEM
----------	------

Radioactive	RACTV
-------------	-------

Unknown	UNK
---------	-----

No contamination	NONE
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Line 8d: Provides comments about any contamination that does exist.

Line 9: Provides accurate details or best estimate of overall body count.

Line 10a: Identifies the deceased's nationality using authorised data codes in accordance with STANAG 1059.

Line 10e: Confirms whether the deceased's personal effects have been buried with the body (BURIED) or forwarded to the appropriate national authority (FORWARD).

Line 10f: Using authorised data codes in accordance with STANAG 2116, gives the deceased's rank or rating if known.

Line 10j: Gives the actual date of death if known, if not known provides a best estimate.

Line 10k: Provides details of the cause of death using, as appropriate, authorised data codes for General Trauma Class/Category, Specific Agent Categories and Trauma Place of Occurrence.

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ANNEX B EMERGENCY BURIAL FOR CBRN CONTAMINATED REMAINS**Section I – General**

- 0101** This Annex gives additional information about the procedure for emergency burial of CBRN contaminated remains.

Section II – Identification of cause of death

- 0201** In order to handle the remains with minimum risk to the personnel interring remains, the cause of death and any toxic hazards present in the environment at the time of death should be known and recorded.

Rapidly Deployable Outbreak Investigation Team (RDOIT, STANAG 2529) might assist in ascertainment of cause of death and in detection and delineation of toxic hazards. In addition to providing such rapid preliminary determinations, RDOITs are equipped to provide:

- liaison with CBRN assets within theatre
- expertise in handling infectious material (including bodies)
- advice on securing the potentially contaminated area

- 0202** In an CBRN context death may result from the effects of gamma and neutrons radiation, persistent and non-persistent CW agents, toxins and live micro-organisms (particularly spores).

- 0203** The hazards posed by handling remains are caused by residual contaminants which are detailed below. A persistent contact hazard may be posed by residual radioactive dust, CW agents, toxins and live micro-organisms (including spores). Advice for dealing with such residual contamination and persistent contact hazards is under development (STUDY 2461 – The Medical Management of CBRN Casualties (AmedP-7.1)).

Section III – Types of hazard

- 0301** Nuclear. It may be that the casualty died outside the radioactive area. The probable hazard will be due to the radioactive dust on the body's skin and clothing and to disturbance of dust in the area. The personnel interring remains should wear rubber gloves, fuel handler's apron, protective boots, respiratory protection (dusk mask) and coveralls which can subsequently, be washed or discarded. Radioactive monitoring is essential. The main hazard is posed by the possibility that radioactive dust may be suspended during handling and subsequently inhaled. To reduce the risk of re-suspension, the remains should be placed in a remains pouch (body bag) as early as possible and interred in the normal manner. Following burial the handlers should decontaminate their hands and coverall by washing and removal. Monitoring of radioactive contamination should be carried out at all times. The level for skin contact hazard is probably so low as to make it unnecessary to

decontaminate the remains, the deceased's clothing or personal effects prior to the burial.

0302 Chemical. The problem is posed by liquid nerve and blister (particularly thickened blister) agents. Blister agents and some nerve agents may persist unchanged in soil for months or even years. Again the main hazard may be posed by the toxic environment in which the personnel interring remains are trying to work. The handlers will be required to work wearing a complete protective ensemble. The CBRN specialist should attempt to identify the agent for later documentation. It is unlikely that the remains would have been decontaminated. The use of a remains pouch (body bag) is necessary to ensure that contaminated remains do not become a source of agent emission which could infiltrate the water table and contaminate adjacent areas. Such a pouch will also provide protection to personnel from contact with contaminated remains that are being exhumed for relocation to a more permanent burial site. If un-decontaminated remains are to be bagged then the bag must be of a durable plastic or other appropriate material which is resistant to permeation by CW agents and should be fully sealed. The bag must be labelled to indicate hazardous contents. The suitable receptacle should clearly indicate whether the personal effects are contaminated or not.

0303 Biological. Live micro-organism, particularly spores, may persist for a long time and may present an infection hazard. Respiratory protection, gloves and protective clothing are essential unless otherwise advised by medical personnel. To reduce risk of suspending contamination spores in the air, the remains should be placed in a remains pouch (body bag) as soon as possible and interred in the normal manner.

Section IV – Documentation

0401 The critical requirements to limit the problems are to record when and where spore-forming biological warfare agents attacks took place, the extent of the hazardous areas, the duration that the areas were considered hazardous and most importantly recording when victims were killed. This last information is critical to enable subsequent disinterment teams to eliminate those bodies which could NOT have been contaminated. This information should be held by unit records as well as being appropriately recorded at the burial location. The cause of death may have to be ascertained post hostilities.

Section V – Emergency Burial Report Form

0501 Details of the type of contamination, and any decontamination action taken, must be recorded under "Contamination Detail" on the Emergency Burial Report Form (see Annex A to this standard).

Section VI – Mass Grave Policy

0601 In mass casualty situations where there are large numbers of deceased, emergency burial procedures, as already outlined, may have to be modified. Should this situation arise then Trench burials should be carried out.

Section VII – Clothing

- 0701** After contaminated remains have been stripped and washed, clothing should be burned or buried separately in appropriately marked pits in sealed bags, if circumstances allow before being bagged.

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ANNEX C ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The Lexicon contains abbreviations relevant to ATP-92 and is not meant to be exhaustive. The definitive and more comprehensive list of abbreviations is in AAP-15, abbreviations introduced in ATP-92 are annotated.

CW	Chemical Warfare
DTG	Date Time Group
GIS	Geographical Information System
ID	Identity Disc
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
STANAG	Standard NATO agreement
UIN	Unit Identification Number
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator

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ANNEX D TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following definition is taken from the NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions for military use in English and French (AAP-06) and are repeated here for convenience:

Emergency Burial. A burial, usually on the battlefield, when conditions do not permit either evacuation for interment in a cemetery or burial according to national or international legal regulations.

The following used definitions are not in the NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions:

Group Burial. A burial in a common grave of two or more individually unidentified remains.

Trench Burial. A method of burial resorted to when casualties are heavy whereby a trench is prepared and the individual remains are laid in it side by side, thus obviating the necessity of digging and filling individual graves.

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ANNEX E REFERENCED PUBLICATIONS
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STANAG 1059	LETTER CODES FOR GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITIES
STANAG 2521	CBRN DEFENCE ON OPERATIONS – ATP-3.8.1, Vol. I
STANAG 2116	NATO CODES FOR GRADES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL
STANAG 2529	RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION TEAM (RDOIT) FOR SUSPECTED USE OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENTS

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