

GUIDANCE FOR TRAINING RELATED DEATHS

AR 385-40 Business Rule Training-Related Deaths 20 Aug 02

1. All training-related deaths will be recorded, investigated, and afforded all other oversight and scrutiny received by an Army accident. CAI or IAI investigation will be conducted to meet DOD requirements. Training-related deaths are Army accidents unless results of the investigation determine that an accidental injury did not result in the death. Record of the investigation will be maintained by USASC on training-related deaths regardless of whether the investigation revealed the death to be accidental.

2. This business rule is in effect until official Army documentation assigns training-related deaths that are not accidents to a functional element of HQDA other than the DASAF.

3. The DASAF plays two roles in Training-Related Deaths.

a. First, his normal safety role. That is, receive immediate notification of on-duty soldier death, determine if CAI or IAI is appropriate, record as relevant class, notify senior leaders and others as indicated, establish countermeasures, track DA level recommendations, and so forth.

b. Second, on behalf of the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff, Army, the DASAF executes the DODI requirements relating to record for training-related deaths whether or not they are accidents. That is, training-related deaths are treated as if they are accidents with immediate notification, CAI or IAI investigation, DA level recommendations, and so forth.

4. For DODI 6055.7, the DASAF serves as Army agent for Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff, Army, to assure that requirements are executed in the Army. Therefore, the DASAF retains responsibility for mandated recordkeeping and investigatory requirements associated with training-related deaths until those that are non-accident events are assigned elsewhere. This interim assignment outside the normal scope of safety responsibilities is appropriate because the DASAF oversees and executes the Army's premiere onsite, immediate, systemic investigatory process, both CAI and IAI. Application of that process is essential to obtain the information DOD has mandated. Training-related deaths will not be counted as Army accidents when the investigation reveals that the death is not accidental.

5. References.

a. DODI 6055.7 (3 Oct 00) provides this definition:

‘E2.1.38. Training-Related Death. A death:

E2.1.38.1. Associated with a noncombat military exercise or training activity that is designed to develop a military member's physical ability or to maintain or increase individual/collective combat and/or peacekeeping skills, and is

E2.1.38.2 Due to either an accident or the result of natural causes occurring during or within on hour after any training activity where the exercise or activity could be a contributing factor.’

b. DODI 6055.7 requires that heads of DOD components ‘E4.2.4 Establish procedures to screen every fatality and determine whether or not it was accidental. All DOD training-related deaths will be investigated to determine if changes are needed in the training.’

c. DODI 6055.7 also provides this definition of one of the types of events that is non-reportable under its provisions: ‘E4.9 Non-reportable accidents/events.

E4.9.13 Death due to natural causes that are unrelated to the work environment. See paragraph E4.2.4 of this enclosure, above, and definition E2.1.39 of enclosure 2 for training-related deaths.’

d. DASAF official message, DTG 171919Z Nov 00, Army Accident Reporting and Records.

This message intended to mandate this requirement. The message was considered interim guidance pending publication of revised AR 385-40.

The revised AR was expected to assign the DOD training-related deaths investigation requirement to The Surgeon General, G-1, or G-3. The draft AR was staffed with TSG assigned the responsibility but a revised draft AR requires restaffing before publication.