

**BY ORDER OF THE
11TH WING COMMANDER (AMC)**

**11TH WING OPERATING
INSTRUCTION**



90-802

30 JULY 2025

Special Management

ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS GUIDE

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available for downloading or ordering on the e-Publishing website at www.e-Publishing.af.mil.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: USAF HG/HGE

Certified by: 11 OG/CC
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Pages: 15

This Instruction provides unit specific guidance on environmental decisions in accordance with (IAW) AFI 90-802, Risk Management, 01 April 2019. This instruction standardizes decisions regarding environmental factors that affect ceremonial performance and uniform requirements during military funerals, ceremonies and parades. The USAF Band, USAF Honor Guard, and USAF Chaplain Corps at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) conduct ceremonies year-round under all types of weather conditions. This guidance ensures that risk management is considered when evaluating environmental decision factors during missions. Plans will be developed and implemented to minimize risk of accidental injury to personnel and/or damage to equipment. This guidance aids in determining when to modify ceremonies and uniform combinations in cases of extreme weather conditions to optimally execute ceremonial missions while minimizing risk to the health and safety of personnel. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication; route AF 847s from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. The 11th Operations Group commander must approve exceptions to, and is the waiver authority, for this instruction. Section Chiefs will ensure all personnel within their respective work centers comply. It applies to The USAF Band (BA), USAF Honor Guard (HG), USSF HG and USAF Chaplain Corps (HC-A) at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Ensure all records created as a result of this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction 33-322, Records Management and Information Governance Program, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication has been revised and must be completely reviewed. Changes include updates to temperature categories, cold-weather gear requirements, and adds additional environmental factors to aide in decision making.

Chapter 1

RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1. 11th Operations Group Commander's Responsibilities.

1.1.1. The 11th Operations Group Commander (11 OG/CC) is responsible for ensuring ceremonial missions are executed with the utmost dignity, respect and professionalism, while considering the short and long-term health and welfare of unit personnel. In all cases, appropriate decisions must be made based on conditions, location, timing, and other operational factors to execute the mission while protecting personnel and their equipment.

1.1.2. 11 OG/CC has the authority to waive the guidance in this instruction.

1.1.3. 11 OG/CC is the approval authority for any alteration in funeral support as well as any changes in 11 OG level of participation or resource support for Air Force outdoor events.

1.1.4. 11 OG/CC may appoint a representative to act on his/her behalf regarding this Operating Instruction.

1.2. USAF Honor Guard.

1.2.1. The HG Officer-In-Charge or Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge (OIC/NCOIC) is responsible for evaluating the on-site conditions and will make the final decision on behalf of 11 OG/CC concerning any modifications to the ceremony, IAW DODI 1300.15. HG OIC/NCOIC will consider all environmental/operational factors and will discuss these factors with key personnel, to include BA OIC/NCOIC and HC-A in a timely manner prior to the ceremony. When possible, all efforts will be made to contact ANC Administration no later than 90 minutes prior to ceremony start time to inform them of any changes from SOP.

1.2.2. When a ceremony modification involves the reduction of resource support due to hazardous conditions, HG OIC/NCOIC has the authority to direct ceremony modifications, on behalf of 11 OG/CC to correct/prevent unsafe situations. The HG OIC/NCOIC will notify the HG MOC via radio or telephone; the DO or ADO will then notify 11 OG/CC, CD, and appropriate Sq/CCs. Exception: When Band support is modified without affecting HG or HC-A support, BA OIC/NCOIC has the authority to direct ceremony modifications on behalf of 11 OG/CC, to correct/prevent unsafe situations. The BA OIC/NCOIC will notify 11 OG/CC, CD, Ops Cell Director, and BA/CC post ceremony through email or text.

1.3. USAF Chaplain Corps at ANC.

1.3.1. HC-A is responsible for briefing ANC Administration and coordinating with the family of the deceased when modifications are made to ANC funerals. HC-A will apprise/notify HG OIC/NCOIC and BA OIC/NCOIC of specific family and/or ANC Administration concerns, as required.

1.3.2. HC-A should consider adjusting committal length to approximately 3–5 minutes when extreme weather conditions dictate. Strongly consider performing military honors prior to the religious committal for committals that will take longer than 10 minutes. For guest clergy, if the committal will exceed 10 minutes, conduct the religious committal after honors.

1.4. The USAF Band.

1.4.1. BA OIC/NCOIC is responsible for coordinating and notifying HG OIC/NCOIC, HC-A, and any other participating units of any concerns regarding environmental factors and uniform recommendations that may affect ceremonial musical performance. When the temperature is 32°F or below, or if the wind chill is 25°F or below, band support will be modified to provide an appropriate musical ensemble to render musical honors for outdoor ceremonies.

1.4.2. When on-site decisions affecting musical performance are necessary, BA OIC/NCOIC, in close consultation with HG OIC/NCOIC, should employ measures necessary to ensure that proper musical support is provided.

Chapter 2

PROTOCOLS

2.1. Procedures.

2.1.1. One duty day prior to ANC funerals, an 11th Operations Group Scheduler will send the ANC Interment schedule to the HG MOC.

2.1.2. The HG OIC/NCOIC in coordination BA OIC/NCOIC and HC-A should attempt to conduct mission analysis at least one day prior to extreme projected weather conditions (see [Paragraph 2.3](#)). All due consideration should be given to projected troop exposure, mission load during high ops periods, and expected participation level at funerals with high command interest. When possible, the day prior to ceremonies, COAs should be built to streamline internal communications and notification to ANC. If prior coordination between the assigned personnel is not possible, concerns and suggestions should be channeled to the HG/DO and the BA/DO for coordination.

2.1.3. Prior to ceremonies, HG OIC/NCOIC will access hour- by-hour forecasts for the ceremony location online via www.weather.com For funerals at ANC, enter “Fort Myer, VA” at www.weather.com for the closest observation point in ANC. Forecast should include, at a minimum:

2.1.3.1. Temperature.

2.1.3.2. “Feels Like” Temperature (Wind Chill/Heat Index).

2.1.3.3. Wind Velocity.

2.1.3.4. Humidity.

2.1.3.5. Precipitation Probability.

2.2. Uniform Guidance.

2.2.1. HG OIC/NCOIC will use the category in which the forecasted temperature (see [Attachment 2](#)) falls to determine the level of participation and uniform guidance for the ceremony. In all cases, appropriate decisions must be made based on conditions, location, timing, and other operational factors to exhaust every means possible to execute the mission while protecting personnel and their equipment.

2.2.2. Whenever precipitation is present or imminent, wear the all-weather coat. This applies to all temperatures. Members shall wear uniform accessories as dictated by temperature category.

2.2.3. Uniform accessories (gloves, scarves and earmuffs) will be the same for all 11 OG members to the maximum extent possible.

2.2.4. Cold weather garments and accessories will be carried on all outdoor ceremonies from 1 October to 31 March.

2.2.4.1. HG will wear boots in ANC during this period.

2.2.4.2. For rehearsals and training events in Class Bs, the HG will wear long sleeve blue shirts during this time, and short sleeve blue shirts from 1 April to 30 September.

2.2.4.3. When wearing Class As or Bs, wear the standard issue all-weather coat if an Air Force topcoat has not been issued or is unavailable.

2.2.4.4. BA wears BA-specific tunic as a substitute for blouse and BA-specific ceremonial overcoat as a substitute for overcoat and all-weather coat.

2.2.5. HG OIC/NCOIC will coordinate uniform decisions with all participating units before making final decision. HG OIC/NCOIC will communicate (via radio/cell phone) final uniform determination with all units no later than 30 minutes prior to start of the ceremony.

2.2.6. HG OIC/NCOIC coordination with ANC will be through ANC/IS (Arlington National Cemetery Interment Services) at (703) 692-5004. Coordination with HC-A will be through HC-A Automation Assistant Line at (703) 614-0887

2.3. Modification Guidance.

2.3.1. When extreme heat/cold is forecasted to drive formation and funeral service modifications, i.e. "Honors First," pre-posting, or reduction in ceremonial elements, contact the HG Mission Operations Center (MOC) at (202) 491-2115, no later than 0700 on the day modifications are expected.

2.3.2. Once verified, HG MOC, on behalf of the 11OG, will send an email to Arlington Cemetery ISB Group before 0730, the day of the modification. See [Attachment 4](#) for situations requiring pre-coordination and [Attachment 5](#) for detailed procedures on coordinating these modifications.

Chapter 3

TEMPERATURE CATEGORIES

3.1. 10°F and below:

3.1.1. Uniform items: Overcoat, blue winter cap, scarf, black boots and black gloves.

3.1.2. For ANC funeral ceremonies, military honors may be rendered prior to the religious committal.

3.1.3. For ANC funerals, HG OIC/NCOIC may modify all Military Funeral Honors with Escort (MFHE) to Military Funeral Honors (MFH) to reduce time of exposure and numbers of personnel exposed to hazardous conditions. In the case of multiple ceremonies, HG OIC/NCOIC may use different personnel to minimize individual exposure to the conditions and still accomplish the mission.

3.1.4. HG OIC/NCOIC will coordinate with BA, HC-A, ANC Administration, and any other participating unit, when snow or ice creates hazardous conditions on roadways. In such instances, troop formations may be pre-positioned at the gravesite or on the adjacent roadway if the ground is covered by snow/ice.

3.2. 11°F through 32°F:

3.2.1. Uniform items: Overcoat, cap with black earmuffs, scarf, black boots and black gloves.

3.2.2. For ANC funeral ceremonies, military honors may be rendered prior to the religious committal.

3.2.3. HG OIC/NCOIC will coordinate with BA, HC-A, ANC Administration, and any other participating unit, when snow or ice creates hazardous conditions on roadways. In such instances, troop formations may be pre-positioned at the gravesite or on the adjacent roadway if the ground is covered by snow/ice.

3.3. 33°F through 39°F:

3.3.1. Uniform items: Overcoat, cap with black earmuffs scarf and black gloves.

3.3.2. For non-standard missions, and/or missions not involving BA, the HG may wear overcoat, cap and white gloves.

3.4. 40° through 44°F:

3.4.1. Uniform items: Overcoat, cap, scarf and black gloves.

3.4.2. For non-standard missions, and/or missions not involving BA, the HG may wear overcoat, cap and white gloves.

3.5. 45°F through 94°F:

3.5.1. Uniform items: Blouse, cap, and white gloves (optional for BA).

3.6. 95°F through 99°F:

3.6.1. Uniform items: Blouse, cap, and white gloves (optional for BA).

3.6.2. For ANC funeral ceremonies:

3.6.2.1. Honors First.

3.6.2.2. Colors will be received 5 minutes prior to the ceremony start time.

3.6.2.3. HG OIC/NCOIC should attempt to coordinate with ANC representative so that buses can remain at transfer point (as cooling stations) until immediately before family arrives.

3.6.2.4. Formation is pre-posted at gravesite following the transfer of remains from Chapel to hearse/caisson.

3.7. 100°F through 106°F:

3.7.1. Uniform items: Blouse, cap, and white gloves (optional for BA).

3.7.2. For ANC funeral ceremonies:

3.7.2.1. Honors First.

3.7.2.2. Colors will be received 5 minutes prior to the ceremony start time.

3.7.2.3. HG OIC/NCOIC will attempt to coordinate with ANC representative so that buses can remain at transfer point (as cooling stations) until immediately before family arrives.

3.7.2.4. Formation is pre-posted at gravesite following the transfer of remains from Chapel to hearse/caisson.

3.7.2.5. MFHEs are pre-posted at gravesite for transfer points.

3.8. 107°F and above:

3.8.1. Uniform items: Blouse, cap, and white gloves (optional for BA).

3.8.2. For ANC funeral ceremonies:

3.8.2.1. Honors First.

3.8.2.2. MFHEs are modified to MFHs to reduce the exposure of personnel to hazardous conditions.

Chapter 4

ADDITIONAL HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

4.1. Extreme Weather Conditions.

4.1.1. The following weather conditions are hazardous to the health and safety of our personnel:

4.1.1.1. Blizzard conditions.

4.1.1.2. Wind conditions (See [Attachment 3](#)).

4.1.1.3. Lightning: any local (15-mile radius of ceremony location) reported/observed occurrence (See [Attachment 3](#)).

4.1.1.4. Ice storms or sleet: reported/observed at the ceremony location.

4.1.1.5. Air Quality Index (AQI) 150 and above (See [Attachment 3](#)).

4.1.1.6. Ultraviolet (UV) Index 8 or above (See [Attachment 3](#)).

4.2. Procedures.

4.2.1. When hazardous conditions are observed on site, HG OIC/NCOIC, in coordination with all participating units, will make appropriate ceremony modifications to ensure the protection of personnel and equipment. HG OIC/NCOIC and all element leaders have the responsibility and authority to employ any measures necessary to ensure the safety of personnel and to maintain the integrity of the ceremony.

4.2.2. When hazardous conditions are anticipated, HG OIC/NCOIC is responsible for obtaining a forecast and coordinating modification recommendations through HG MOC, and when at ANC, HC-A (or respective representatives). HG OIC/NCOIC is responsible for the communication of modifications, postponements, and cancellations to all participating units. HG OIC/NCOIC will notify HG MOC of any modifications as early as possible. HG MOC will then relay this information to 11 OG/CC and all applicable stakeholders.

4.2.3. AQI metric will be sourced from www.airnow.gov, using zip code 22211. When the anticipated AQI is 150 and above, HG OIC/NCOIC will coordinate with ANC to modify all MFHE to MFH to reduce the exposure of personnel to hazardous conditions.

4.2.4. UVI metric will be sourced from www.weather.com, using “Ft Myer, VA” as the location. When anticipated UVI is 8 or above, HG OIC/NCOIC will take into consideration placement of formation at gravesite to reduce exposure. If necessary, HG OIC/NCOIC may coordinate with ANC to pre-post formations at gravesite.

4.2.5. When hazardous conditions prevent the Army caisson from supporting funerals at ANC, HG OIC/NCOIC is responsible for coordinating the pre-positioning of the troop formation at the gravesite or recommending that the funeral be modified to an MFH. If for any other reason the Army caisson does not participate, 11 OG/CC may still authorize HG, BA, and HC-A will still support accordingly.

Ryan A. Crowley, Col, USAF
Commander, 11WG

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 90-802, *Risk Management*, 01 April 2019

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADO→Assistant Director of Operations

ANC→Arlington National Cemetery

AQI→Air Quality Index

BA→Band

CC→Commander

CD→Deputy Commander

COA→Course of Action

COT→Commander of Troops

DO→Director of Operations

EDF→Environmental Decisions Factor

HC-A→Chaplaincy—Arlington

HG→Honor Guard

MDW→Military District of Washington

NCOIC→Noncommissioned Officer—In-Charge

OG→Operations Group

OIC→Officer in Charge

SOP→Standard Operating Procedures

USAF→United States Air Force

Terms

Honors First—An abbreviated term used to describe the act of performing MFH prior to any religious services or non-official presentations at gravesite. Specifically, within ANC, and after remains have come to rest at the gravesite, “Honors First” is: A Military Chaplain provided ANC introduction narration with a closing narration that begins with “Across the Potomac...”.

Attachment 2

CEREMONIAL UNIFORM MATRIX

Table A2.1. CEREMONIAL UNIFORM MATRIX.

Feels Like Temp	Outer Garment		Uniform Combination					
	Blouse	Overcoat	Ceremonial Cap	Blue Winter Cap	Earmuffs	White Gloves	Black Gloves	Scarf ³
	All-weather coat (if precipitation is present or imminent)							
45°F and above	X		X			X		
40°F–44°F ¹		X	X				X	X
33°F–39°F ¹		X	X		X		X	X
11°F–32°F ²		X	X		X		X	X
10°F and below		X		X			X	X

Notes:

1. HG may wear overcoat and white gloves for non-standard missions.
2. Boots are worn by the HG in ANC from 1 October through 31 March.
3. During MDW-led, Joint Service missions, white gloves may be worn with the scarf. Refer to MDW Regulation 1-6, Army and Armed Forces Funerals in the National Capital Region, for additional guidance.

Attachment 3

ADVERSE WEATHER SAFEGUARDS

Table A3.1. ADVERSE WEATHER SAFEGUARDS.

Adverse Weather	Modifications		
	Colors Team/Guidon/Flag Bearers	Formation	Uniform
AQI (150 to 200)	N/A	Pre-post	N/A
AQI (201 to 300)	N/A	Drummer only	N/A
AQI (Greater than 301)	N/A	Remove procession escort (shelter in place)	N/A
UVI (8–10)	N/A	Modify positioning at gravesite to shaded area	N/A
UVI (Greater than 10)	N/A	Pre-post optional	N/A
Heavy Rain (.40+ per hour)	Remove campaign/unit award streamers	N/A	Wear boots
Snow/Sleet/Freezing Rain	Remove campaign/unit award streamers	N/A	Wear boots
Lightning (11–15-mile radius)	N/A	Drummer only	N/A
Lightning (6–10-mile radius)	Pre-post	Pre-post	N/A
Lightning (5-mile radius)	N/A	Remove formation (shelter in place)	N/A
Wind (20–25 mph sustained or 25–30 mph gusts)	Remove campaign/unit award streamers	N/A	Chin strap down
Wind (26–30 mph sustained or 31–35 mph gusts)	Utilize modified attention stance	N/A	Chin strap down
Wind (31–39 mph sustained or 36–44 mph gusts)	Pre-post	Pre-post	Chin strap down
Wind (40–49 mph sustained or 45–54 mph gusts)	Remove Colors Team	Drummer only	Chin strap down
Wind (50+ mph sustained or 55+ mph gusts)	N/A	Remove procession escort (shelter in place)	N/A

Attachment 4

TEMPERATURE MODIFICATION MATRIX

Table A4.1. TEMPERATURE MODIFICATION MATRIX.

Temperature Range	Modifications	
	Religious Services	Formation
32°F and below	May conduct "Honors First"	Drummer Only
95°F-99°F	Will conduct "Honors First"	Will Pre-post after remains transfer at Chapel
100°F-106°F	Will conduct "Honors First"	Will Pre-post all MFHEs and/or after remains transfer at Chapel
107°F and above	Will conduct "Honors First"	Will Remove procession escort (reduce to MFH)
Note: The above mandatory modifications require coordination with ANC no later than the morning of the affected funeral (see paragraph 2.3. and Attachment 5).		

Attachment 5**ANC COORDINATION PROCEDURES AND EMAIL TEMPLATE****A5.1. Once coordination has occurred with HG MOC, HG MOC will perform the following coordination with other mission partners:**

A5.1.1. Send an email to Arlington Cemetery ISB Group before 0730. The subject line should be *//UPDATE// USAF weather modification(s) for (date)*. Funeral time, decedent, and modification should be listed for all funerals.

A5.1.1.1. Due to weather conditions, the following USAF funerals are modified:

A5.1.1.2. 1100 MFHE Col Snuffy (projected 96)-Honors First

A5.1.1.3. 1300 MFHEC Maj Gen Snuffy (projected 97)-Honors First and Formation Pre-Posted at Gravesite following transfer from Chapel to caisson/hearse

A5.1.1.4. 1300 MFHE Maj Snuffy (projected 101)-Honors First and Formation Pre-Posted at Gravesite

A5.1.2. Call Arlington National Cemetery Scheduling at (703) 692-5004, stating:

A5.1.2.1. "Sir or Ma'am, this is _____ (Name) from the HG MOC; I am calling to inform you that due to weather conditions, the 11OG has modified support for the following funerals today:

A5.1.2.2. List times, decedents, projected real feel temps, and modifications per A5.1.1.1 through A5.1.1.4.

A5.1.3. Inform Air Force Chaplains at (703) 614-0887 (Chaplaincy executive assistant), (571) 256-4338, or (571) 256-4339. If modifying more than one funeral for the day, provide all funeral modification info in one phone call.

A5.1.4. Send an e-mail to the 11OG Funeral Modification Group. If modifying more than one funeral for the day, provide modification info for all funerals that day. The subject line should be *//UPDATE//USAF weather modification(s) for (date)*.

A5.1.4.1. Due to weather conditions (XX Real Feel), the following USAF funerals are modified-

A5.1.4.2. List times, decedents, projected real feel temps, and modifications per A5.1.1.1 through A5.1.1.4.