

AIR FORCE REGULATION }
NO. 34-55 }

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, 9 APRIL 1953

MISCELLANEOUS

Air Force Memorialization Program

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1. Purpose and Scope: To establish the Air Force Memorialization Program within the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel. This program includes the formulation and execution of Department of the Air Force policies relating to naming of Air Force installations and other objects in memorialization of individuals who have distinguished themselves in the military service of the United States.

2. Policy. In selecting individuals to be memorialized, consideration will be given only to deceased Air Force persons who have performed heroic feats in the air and/or whose outstanding services have brought honor to the Air Force.

3. Functions. The functions of the Air Force Memorialization Program will be to make recommendations for the naming of installations, and such other objects as may require, or be suitable for, memorialization.

4. Responsibility. The Air Force Memorialization Program will be governed by this Regulation, AFR 900-9, and established policies of the Department of the Air Force relative to the subject. Specifically, the integrated responsibilities are to:

a. Receive and evaluate recommendations for memorialization of outstanding deceased officers and airmen who, while serving in positions of great responsibility, or who by acts of outstanding heroism and sacrifice, have distinguished themselves to such an extent that the Nation would wish to perpetuate their memories by naming installations or other suitable projects in their honor.

b. Coordinate recommended memorializations with interested air staff agencies and direct the actions necessary to effectuate the program.

c. Assist other Government agencies and

civilian communities desiring, or proposing, to memorialize military personnel by furnishing whatever advice, means, or arranging for such participation as may be appropriate on behalf of the Department of the Air Force.

d. Request the Director of Legislation and Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, to accomplish congressional coordination as required.

5. Recommendations for Memorialization. To insure consideration of all outstanding military personnel, recommendations for memorialization may be submitted through channels to the Director of Military Personnel, Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D. C., by any person having knowledge of an outstanding deceased officer or airman who has not been memorialized.

a. Each recommendation will include the following data:

- (1) Name, grade, branch of service, and service number of the deceased.
- (2) Biographical data pertaining to the person.
- (3) Reasons why person should be memorialized.

b. A specific installation or project considered to be an appropriate memorial for a person may be included in the recommendation. Supporting data reflecting the association of the person with the installation or project recommended will be submitted.

c. Installation commanders processing recommendations initiated by local civic groups will include the following additional information: Evidence that the interested civic groups have been advised of the scope of achievement normally required for memorialization as outlined in paragraph 6 and that final approval rests with the Chief of Staff, USAF.

* This Regulation supersedes AFR 900-3, 27 April 1949.

MR - Memorialization

MR - Naming of Units, Camps and Stations

d. The following principles will govern in making recommendations:

- (1) Recommendations for naming a specific installation or project, which, if approved, might provoke local objections or controversies, for any reason, should be avoided.
- (2) In selecting names for installations consideration should be given to outstanding persons who were native to the State in which the base is located or who were of national or local prominence.
- (3) Names which are a duplication of, or

might cause confusion with, the name of another designated installation or national activity will not be used.

e. Recommendations will be submitted only for installations in the continental United States, its possessions, and bases leased under Base Lease Agreement of 2 September 1940.

6. Magnitude of Memorialization:

a. The following categories for memorialization of deceased military personnel and the magnitude appropriate for each, are furnished as criteria in submitting recommendations:

Category

- (1) Absolute preeminence by a high position such as to be a national hero. Example: repeated heroism or achievement demonstrated by award of any combination of two or more of the following decorations: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal or Silver Star.
- (2) Outstanding performance of duties of great responsibility with major contributions to the mission and/or development of the Air Force.
- (3) Heroism with death as a result of wounds received in action against an enemy. Example: recipient of the Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross.
- (4) Heroism or high responsibility with death not as a result of battle wounds.

Magnitude of Memorialization

Name of a large installation with or without flying facilities.

Name of an installation with or without flying facilities.

Name of an installation with or without flying facilities or other suitable Air Force project.

Name of an area, building, street, or recreational facility within an installation.

7. Naming of Objects on Air Force Installations:

a. The naming of an area, building, street, or recreational facility within an installation is a prerogative of installation commanders without reference to the Department of the Air Force. A copy of each order issued announcing the memorialization of individuals in this category will be forwarded to the Director of Military Personnel, Headquarters USAF, ATTENTION: Personnel Services Division, Washington 25, D. C.

b. When the facilities of the base permit, a metal plaque, or other suitable marker, identifying the person memorialized, should be made. This marker will be placed in a conspicuous location adjacent to the object named.

c. The naming of other objects requiring names and not specifically provided for herein, will be as directed by the Chief of Staff, USAF.

8. Dedication of Air Force Installations.

Each installation redesignated under the provisions of this program will be dedicated with an appropriate ceremony (see AFR 900-9). Arrangements for dedication of an installation will not be made until the redesignation has been approved and announced in Department of the Air Force General Orders.

9. Proceedings.

Proceedings of the Air Force Memorialization Program are for the information of the Chief of Staff USAF, and will not be disseminated to lower echelons.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

K. E. THIEBAUD
Colonel, USAF
Air Adjutant General

HOYT S. VANDENBERG
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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