



RAMP Ceremony and Service Funerals

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Safety - Improvement - People

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OBJECTIVES

- Explain difference between RAMP Ceremony and Service Funeral
- Discuss RAMP Ceremony procedures
- Discuss liaison with funeral directors for RAMP Ceremonies and Service Funerals

Entitlement to RAMP Ceremony

- All Service personnel who die on an operational deployment or overseas duties/postings will be repatriated to Australia

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DEFINE RAMP CEREMONY

- The return of a Defence member's remains to Australia who has died while serving their country overseas
- The military's opportunity to pay their respects for the member's service before the remains are returned to the care and custody of the deceased family

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Coordination and Conduct of RAMP Ceremony

- Conducted at the point of embarkation and debarkation, hence overseas in the area of operations and upon arrival in Australia

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Notification of Fatal Casualty

- In Theatre – commence coordination of arrival of deceased, Memorial Service and RAMP Ceremony
- In Australia - commence coordination of RAMP Ceremony
- In Theatre – Conduct memorial service and RAMP Ceremony

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Embarkation RAMP Ceremony

- Aircraft in position
- Honour Guard
- Task Force Contingent
- Service - blessing, saying of the Ode
- Hearse arrives and deceased slow marched onto aircraft

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Embarkation RAMP Ceremony

- Chaplain leads Bearer Party and casket to waiting Aircraft
- Honour Guard Salute 'To Our Fallen Comrade'
- Last Post played as deceased is marched through the Honour Guard onto Aircraft
- RAMP raised

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Disembarkation RAMP Ceremony

- Quiet Room set up
- Memorial area set up
- VIPs, Senior ADF Representatives, Families present
- Aircraft arrival - stops away from ceremony area
- Designated personnel board aircraft
- Casket dressed by WOFF and blessed by Chaplain
- Aircraft taxis to reception area for commencement of RAMP Ceremony and shuts down
- VIPs and family move to viewing area, honour guard marches into position

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Disembarkation RAMP Ceremony

- Ceremonial RAMP lowered, escorts exit
- Bearer Party Slow march deceased from aircraft – lead by Chaplain, drummer and/or piper
- Procession moves through honour guard and into the grieving/quiet room
- Quiet time for family only – nil military or VIPs (chaplain, DCO family liaison officers only)

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Disembarkation RAMP Ceremony

- Casket slow marched from quiet room and placed on portable bier ready for ceremony to commence – all present stand until casket is in position
- Bearer Party depart

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Order of Service

- Lords Prayer – Soldiers Prayer – Regimental Prayer – Prayer for the bereaved
- CO's address
- Chief of Army presents awards if appropriate
- RSM – senior WOFF says The Ode
- Last Post – One Minute Silence – Rouse
- Farewell Prayer and Benediction
- National Anthem

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Completion of Service

- Casket slow marched out and placed in hearse – funeral director secures casket and closes doors
- Bearer party form up either side of hearse, turn in to face the hearse and salute as the vehicle departs
- Family and attendees do not witness the casket being placed into the hearse or the driving away of the hearse

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Service Funerals

- Concurrent planning
- All about the families wishes
- Full Service Funeral v Partial
- Liaise with Family, Chaplain, Funeral Director – order of service, photo, awards – coordinate all ceremonial aspects of service

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Service funeral

- Recce of Church, Chapel, Grave site
- Location of funeral home
- Rehearsal - use of portable bier
- Hearse – rehearsal if appropriate
- Dressing of casket – ANF or Ensign, service cap, bayonet or sword, flowers

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Order of Service

- Procession into Church/Chapel
- Chaplain introduction
- Family eulogy
- Tribute by Unit member
- Family tribute – poem, readings
- Prayers
- Military Address – Commanding Officer

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Service Funeral

- Undress casket – Flag presented to NOK by official mourner/CO
- Committal
- Ode of Remembrance
- Firing of Blank Volleys
- Last Post
- Silence
- Reveille

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Conclusion

- Discussed ADF RAMP Ceremonies and Service Funerals
- Importance of liaison with Funeral Directors for such occasions

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