



HEADQUARTERS  
Military District of Washington, U. S. Army  
Washington, D. C. 20315  
Office of the Chief of Staff, Ceremonies and Special Events  
IN REPLY REFER TO  
ANCS-SE

SUBJECT: After Action Report - President John F. Kennedy's Funeral

TO: Commanding General  
Military District of Washington  
Washington, D. C.

1. The after action report for the funeral of the late President John F. Kennedy is submitted.

2. Statistics:

a. Troops	<u>Participating</u>	<u>Supporting</u>	<u>Total</u>
US Military Academy	89		89
US Naval Academy	89		89
US Air Force Academy	89		89
US Coast Guard Academy	89		89
US Army (1st Bn, 3d Inf)	778	92	870
USMC (Marine Barracks)	983	7	990
US Navy (PRNC)	523	8	531
USAF (Hq Comd)	495	8	503
USCG (Cape May Rec Sta)	180	30	210
Composite Company (Women)	82		82
US Army (Natl Guard)	89		89
US Army (Reserve)	89		89
US Marine (Reserve)	89		89
US Navy (Reserve)	89		89
US Air Force (Natl Guard)	89		89
US Air Force (Reserve)	89		89
USCG (Reserve)	89		89
D. C. Natl Guard	689	100	789
US Army (Ft Belvoir)	519		519

US Army (Special Forces)	38		38
US Air Force (Bagpipes)	10		10
Service Bands	401		401
Floral Detail (Ft Myer)	25		25
Black Watch (Scottish)	9		9
Irish Honor Guard	30		30
Veterans Organizations	22 (See Incl 4)		22

#### HQ MDW (US ARMY)

Special Events	7		7
General Staff	6		6
Medical	187	2	189
Provost Marshal	325	3	328
Signal	43	4	47
DCS INT & 116th Intel Gp	117	22	139
DCSPER		13	13
DCSLOG		45	45
DCS O&T		3	3
INFO		13	13
AG		28	28
Comptroller		3	3
Chaplain			1
Ushers & Guides	88		88
	6547	381	6918

b. Cost - to be submitted by DCS COM, this headquarters, upon final computation of after action cost reports by the participating installations and activities.

c. Time Frame: 221805 Nov - 251530 Nov 63

### 3. Summary of Events:

a. A joint service casket bearer and security detail met the remains of the late President Kennedy at Andrews Air Force Base at 221805 Nov 63, but was prevented from removing the remains from the aircraft. The detail assisted the Secret Service in transferring the remains to an ambulance for movement to U.S. Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. The details were airlifted to Bethesda for the reception of the remains at the U.S. Naval Medical Center. The detail transferred the remains to the Medical Center and remained as security during the autopsy and preparation period. At 230355 Nov 63, the details transferred the remains to the White House, arriving at 230430 Nov 63.

b. A joint service cordon and Guard of Honor were posted at the

White House to receive the remains at 230430 Nov 63. A marching platoon of troops from the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., escorted the remains along north portico drive to the north portico entrance. A detail from Fort Myer Garrison delivered the catafalque to the White House and assembled it in the East Room. Upon arrival of the remains at the White House, the casket bearer detail carried the remains to the East Room, placing it on the Catafalque. The Joint Guard of Honor was posted.

c. At 230930 Nov 63, a joint service cordon was positioned on north portico drive extending through the north portico entrance of the White House to the East Room. This detail was positioned to guide visiting government and diplomatic officials through the Repose Room (East Room); the detail was dismissed at 231900 Nov 63.

#### Repose Schedule

1000 - 1100	Family
1100 - 1400	Executive Branch; Presidential Appointees; White House Staff
1400 - 1430	Supreme Court
1430 - 1700	Senate; House; Governors
1700 - 1900	Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions at Washington

d. At 241100 Nov 63, the remains were moved from the East Room, White House, by the casket bearer detail, through a joint service cordon to the mounted caisson detail at the north portico entrance. From the north portico entrance of the White House, the caisson carried the remains through a joint cordon of State and Territorial Flags to Pennsylvania Avenue for the procession to the U. S. Capitol. Preceded by the Metropolitan Police, the Commanding General, MDW, a joint detail of muffled drummers, a company of U. S. Navy personnel, the Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the National Flag, the caisson followed by the personal flag and family proceeded along Pennsylvania Avenue to the U. S. Capitol.

e. From the East Capitol Plaza the casket bearer detail carried the casket through a joint service cordon and White House Staff (30 persons) lining the steps into the Rotunda, placing the casket on the Lincoln Catafalque. The Joint Guard of Honor was posted. Short eulogies were delivered by Senator Mansfield, Chief Justice Warren, and Speaker McCormack; following which President Johnson placed a wreath at the base of the catafalque. The public was allowed to file past the casket beginning at 241400 Nov 63 and ending 260930 Nov 63.

f. Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by the family (5 cars) arrived at the Capitol at 251038 Nov 63, went into the Rotunda, and said a short prayer, and returned to the base of the Capitol steps. At 251050 Nov 63, the Guard of Honor was dismissed and the casket bearer detail carried the casket from the

Capitol and placed it on the caisson for movement to St Matthews Cathedral. The caisson preceded by the Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Presidential Aides, moved to Constitution Avenue and joined the main funeral procession composed of: The US Marine Band, a company from each Service Academy; Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard; a company from the regular forces: Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard; a composite company of service women (minus U. S. Coast Guard); the U. S. Navy Band; a company of National Guard; the national host of Veterans Day Committee; the U. S. Air Force Band; the national commanders of veterans organizations chartered by congress; a platoon of Special Forces (U. S. Army); and a company of U. S. Marines. A joint street honor cordon lined the route from the U. S. Capitol to St Matthews Cathedral.

g. The main funeral procession moved along Constitution Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House where a platoon from the U. S. Marine Company, the Chairman and JCS, the Presidential Aides, and caisson elements turned into northeast gate of the White House, onto north portico drive and stopped with the head of the column at northwest gate of the White House. When Mrs. Kennedy and family, President Johnson, the visiting Chiefs of State and heads of government, U. S. government officials, etc., had joined the procession, and the Black Watch marching element had taken its position (between the Marines and the JCS), the procession began its movement from the White House Grounds to join the main funeral procession which had halted on 17th Street. The procession then proceeded to St Matthews Cathedral.

h. The dignitaries and government officials not participating in the procession were seated in the Cathedral prior to the arrival of the procession. When the procession arrived, the marching elements of the joint services preceded along Rhode Island Avenue to a turn-around point while the JCS, Presidential Aides, the caisson elements, and mourners halted on Rhode Island Avenue at the Cathedral. Once the mourners who had arrived at the Cathedral with the procession were seated in the Cathedral, the casket bearer detail secured the casket from the caisson and moved into the Cathedral for the funeral service. While the funeral service was in progress, the vehicles of the procession to Arlington National Cemetery were drawn into position on Rhode Island Avenue.

i. At the conclusion of the funeral service, the casket bearers carried the casket from the cathedral and placed it on the caisson. Mrs. Kennedy and family, President Johnson, and other dignitaries were escorted to their vehicles to begin the procession to Arlington National Cemetery.

j. The procession moved on 17th Street to Constitution Avenue, around the Lincoln Memorial to Memorial Drive to the Memorial Gate of Arlington Cemetery, entered the cemetery, moving directly to gravesite. A joint service street cordon lined the route from St Matthews Cathedral to Arlington National Cemetery. A platoon from each of the regular services: Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard; and the Marine Band detached from the troop marching elements and moved to the gravesite as the escort element within the cemetery. The Special Forces element moved to gravesite and formed a cordon flanking the route from the dismount point to the grave. Positioned at gravesite was a 30 man contingent of the Irish Honor Guard, the bagpipe section of the U.S. Air Force Band, a bugler from the U.S. Army Band, and a firing party from the U.S. Army. Preceded by the Escort Commander, Cardinal Cushing and clergy, and National Colors, the casket bearers carried the casket to the grave, as a flight of U.S. Air Force aircraft flew over the grave. The Irish Honor Guard element began the graveside service by performing the Irish Funeral Drill, then moved off to form with the escort troop element. At the conclusion of the funeral service, the U.S. Army (gun battery) fired the final gun cannon salute to the late President Kennedy. The Benediction was then given, followed by three volleys of musketry by the firing party and Taps by the bugler. The National Flag which had been draped on the casket was then folded by the casket bearers and presented to Mrs. Kennedy by Mr. John Metzler, Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery. Mrs. Kennedy then lit the "eternal flame" which is located at the head of the grave.

#### 4. Comments:

a. General. The State Funeral for the late President John F. Kennedy was successfully performed with dignity and solemnity. The normal amount of "on the spot" decisions and changes were encountered but were promptly reduced by site control officers. Information and operation orders reached the troops later than as planned on previous CPX operation; however, this was and must be expected because:

(1) Changes were made to the basic plan to concur with the wishes of the next of kin.

(2) Civilian and governmental agencies who participated were not familiar with the funeral procedures outlined in "State, Official and Special Military Funeral Plans and Policies", this headquarters, dated 1958. Conversely, the operation at gravesite was smoother than anticipated because of the large flat assessable surrounding areas that allowed

larger participation of dignitaries and friends than could normally be expected any where else in Arlington National Cemetery.

b. Specific comments on operations listed in paragraph 3.

(1) Confusion occurred at the arrival of the remains at Andrews Air Force Base on 22 November because the area of responsibility was not understood. The Secret Service attempted to transfer the remains from the aircraft; this was a task for which they were not trained and is clearly the responsibility of the Commanding General, Military District of Washington, as outlined in "State, Official and Special Military Funeral Plans and Policies", dated 1958. Armed Forces personnel were directed to assist only when it became apparent the Secret Service could not perform the task.

(2) Large crowds of spectators surged around the entrance to Bethesda Naval Medical Center when the ambulance transporting the remains stopped to allow Mrs. Kennedy to enter the hospital. The motorcade had not been anticipated, since the White House had notified MDW that the move from Andrews Air Force Base to the Medical Center would be made by helicopter. Consequently, Naval cordon personnel were prepared only to secure the route from the helipad to the morgue (rear) entrance of the hospital.

(3) On arrival of the remains at the U.S. Capitol, the caisson was halted in the wrong place, which fortunately did not impair the ceremony. The site control officer did not properly brief the caisson detail for arrival at the Capitol.

(4) The White House Staff (30 persons) stood in the East Door of the Rotunda at the Capitol during the Rotunda ceremony and completely blocked the exit of the casket team and the color teams. The White House Staff was informed by Captain Groves, Honor Cordon Commander, to return to their positions inside the Rotunda after the family had passed them on the outside steps.

(5) The portable latrine facilities for the marching elements of the funeral procession were improperly located for use by the troops. This situation prevented the marching elements from taking a "relief break" while waiting for the funeral to conclude.

(6) The U.S. Navy contingent of the joint street honor cordon did not fully understand the limits of the Navy sector of the cordon. Once posted in the improper positions, an adjustment was necessary to properly cover their assigned sector of the cordon.

(7) The U. S. Marine platoon designated as part of the gravesite escort was forced to take a position in rear (or left flank) of the escort because the other elements of the escort arrived at gravesite and took positions before the U. S. Marines arrived.

(8) Several groups of dignitaries became intermingled with the escort at gravesite, greatly impairing the signalling and continuity of the interment services.

(9) The joint honor street cordon was confused on the matter of saluting (i. e. who to salute), since many of the vehicles in the procession had general officer plates showing. These plates should be covered so the street cordon will only salute the caisson as it passes their position.

#### 5. Action Taken:

a. The "State, Official and Special Military Funeral Plans and Policies" has been redrafted to include workable solutions to problem areas encountered during the funeral for the late President Kennedy.

b. Additional office space has been assigned to Ceremonies and Special Events for the purpose of enlarging the Funeral Operations Center. Permanent "jacks" for a SCAN Line and a White House direct phone have been installed.

c. Additional personnel have been assigned to each phase of the ceremonial "on site" control groups to allow officer-in-charge of each phase the time needed to brief all elements on the procedures to be used. An experienced officer from the 3d Infantry has been assigned to each site as Ceremonial Site Coordinator. The Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery has been designated officer-in-charge of gravesite, with a field grade officer from 1st Bn (REINF) 3d Infantry as assistant in charge of ceremonies.

#### 6. Action to be Taken:

a. To publish the revised plan under Department of Defense cover and control to ensure proper receipt and retention of the plan by appropriate military, governmental and civilian agencies.

b. To solicit maximum participation of all concerned elements in the quarterly CPX conducted by this headquarters.

c. Establish liaison with the White House Staff and Secret Service, to maintain lists of "contact" personnel to be used in event another such tragedy necessitates the implementation of these plans.

d. To train "in depth" a sufficient number of personnel to implement the plan in the absence of key personnel, and to provide additional knowledgeable personnel for briefing at the White House, State Department, Department of Defense and similar levels.

e. To reorganize the Funeral Operations Center to ensure a smooth flow of information to higher headquarters and to "action" officers on site.

7. Completion date for actions enumerated in paragraph 6 above is approximately June 1964.

8. Significant Effects:

a. The "State, Official and Special Military Funeral Policies and Plans" proved to be a sound document; when republished with changes should prove of inestimable value in future planning.

b. The quarterly CPX for State Funerals conducted by this headquarters properly prepared the participating personnel with procedures used in the operation; without this prior training the task might have been overwhelming.

c. It is noted, the total cooperation of all branches of the Armed Forces was superb as exemplified by the instantaneous reaction at all levels and the exceptionally outstanding performance of a difficult and tragic task.

4 Inclosures

1. Gun Cannon Salutes
2. Funeral Music
3. Unit Participation  
(Funeral Procession)
4. Veteran's Organizations  
(Funeral Procession)

*Paul C. Miller*  
PAUL C. MILLER  
Chief,  
Ceremonies & Sp Events

# Gun Cannon Salutes Fired in Conjunction with Funeral Ceremonies for the Late President John F. Kennedy

## Number of Rounds

<u>Saturday, 23 November 1963</u>	Arlington Hall Station.....	23
(One round every half hour)	Fort Myer.....	23
	Fort McNair.....	23
 <u>Sunday, 24 November 1963</u>	 1st Bn, 3d Inf(At US Capitol).....	 21
 <u>Monday, 25 November 1963</u>	 Arlington Hall Station.....	 21
(Noon Salute)	Fort Myer.....	21
	Fort McNair.....	21
 ( At Retreat - Salute to Nation)	 1st Bn, 3d Inf(At gravesite).....	 21
	Arlington Hall Station.....	50
	Fort Myer.....	50
	Fort McNair.....	50
	Total	324

Inclosure #1

Music Played at Funeral Ceremonies for the Late President John F. Kennedy

Sunday, 24 November 1963

At the Capitol  
US Navy Band

- a. "Ruffles and Flourishes"
- b. "Hail to The Chief"
- c. "Oh Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Monday, 25 November 1963

At the Capitol  
US Coast Guard Band

- a. "Ruffles and Flourishes"
- b. "Hail to The Chief"
- c. "Oh God of Lovliness"

Monday, 25 November 1963

Procession  
US Marine Band

- a. "Our Fallen Heroes"
- b. "Beethoven's Funeral March"
- c. "The Vanished Army"

US Navy Band

- a. "Beethoven's Funeral March"
- b. "Funebre"
- c. "Religioso"

US Air Force Band

- a. "Chopin Funeral March"
- b. "Vigor in Arduis"
- c. "America the Beautiful"

Monday, 25 November 1963

At the White House  
US Naval Academy Choir

- a. "Oh Eternal Father, Strong to Save"
- b. "Dona Nobis Pacem"
- c. "Above the Hills of Time the Cross  
is Gleaming"

Inclosure #2

### Marching Troops Composing the Funeral Procession

1. Police escort ( 1 chief & 4 staff).
2. Escort Commander - Commanding General, Military District of Washington.
3. Commander of Troops - Commanding Officer, 1st Bn (Reinf), 3d Infantry. Staff consisted of one field grade officer each from Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

#### 4. First March Unit:

March Unit Commander (field grade officer, US Army) and staff (one field grade officer from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard).

#### The U.S. Marine Band

Company of Cadets, USMA  
Company of Midshipmen, USNA  
Squadron of Cadets, USAFA  
Company of Cadets, USCGA  
Company, US Army (3d Inf)  
Company, US Navy (PRNC)  
Squadron, US Air Force (1100th AFB Wing, Bolling AFB)  
Company, US Coast Guard (Baltimore District)  
Composite Company Service Women (US Army, N. J.)  
Marine Corps, U. S. Navy and U. S. Air Force

#### 5. Second March Unit:

Troop Commander (N. J. Army National Guard) and staff (one field grade officer each from the Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air National Guard, and Coast Guard Reserve).

#### The U.S. Navy Band

Company, Army National Guard (116th MP Bn, DC NG)  
Company, Army Reserve (317th Regt, 80th Div)  
Company, Marine Corps Reserve (13th Inf Bn)

Monday, 25 November 1963

At the Cathedral  
US Army Band

- a. "Ruffles and Flourishes"
- b. "Hail to The Chief"
- c. "Processional - "Prayer for the Dead"
- d. "Recessional - "Holy God, We Praise thy Name"

Monday, 25 November 1963

At the Cemetery  
US Marine Band

- a. "Ruffles and Flourishes"
- b. "The National Anthem"
- c. "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

US Air Force (Bagpipes)

- a. "Mist Covered Mountain"

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN THE FUNERAL PRO-  
CESSION FOR THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY

ORGANIZATION

REPRESENTATIVE

AMVETS

Edmund M. Gulewicz  
National Commander

American Legion

Daniel F. Foley  
National Commander

Congressional Medal of Honor  
Society

Luther Skaggs, Jr.  
President

Disabled American Veterans

Douglass H. McGarrity  
National Commander

Legion of Valor

Lt. Colonel Robert M. Gaynor  
National Adjutant  
representing  
J. Whiting Friel  
National Commander

Marine Corps League

Raymond B. Butts  
National Commandant

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Robert Schumack  
National Commander  
Richard P. Golick  
National Service Director

United Spanish War Veterans

James H. McElroy  
Adjutant General  
representing  
Archie J. House  
Commander-in-Chief

Veterans of Foreign Wars of  
the United States

Joseph J. Lombardo  
National Commander-in-Chief

Veterans of World War I

W. R. Kime  
National Commander

Army & Navy Union of the United States

Lawrence N. Fariello  
Past National Commander  
representing

Inclosure #4

Peter Tedeschi  
National Commander

Company, Naval Reserve (NAFA)  
Company, US Air National Guard (Andrews AFB)  
Company, US Air Force Reserve (Andrews AFB)  
Company, US Coast Guard Reserve (Cape May, N. J.)

6. Third March Unit:

Troop Commander - Committee Chairman of the National  
Executive Committee of the Veterans Day Committee.

U.S. Air Force Band

Representatives from the 22 national veterans  
organizations chartered by Congress. (See Inclosure #4)

7. Special Forces (field grade officer as commander), staff of four  
NCO's and a marching platoon.

8. Black Watch - drum major and five man contingent.

9. Company, US Marine Corps (Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C.)