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NATIONAL CEMETERY
HONOR · REMEMBER · EXPLORE



Arlington National Cemetery: Essential New Information

NFDA Webinar

November 20, 2019

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Arlington is...

“Our nation’s unique and iconic resting place for those who have made a significant sacrifice and commitment to the defense of our country in the Armed Services.”

— *Honor Subcommittee, Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery*

Part of the fabric of our nation...

Hallowed ground...

A national shrine...





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Vision, Mission and Priorities

great people honoring service and sacrifice to a grateful nation

Office of Army Cemeteries



Mission: As the Army's ceterians, OAC provides oversight and expertise for all Army cemeteries through policy, program management, inspections, training and assistance, and honoring those laid to rest in perpetuity.

Arlington National Cemetery



Mission: Arlington National Cemetery represents the American people for past, present and future generations by laying to rest those few who have served our nation with dignity and honor, while immersing guests in the cemetery's living history.

striving for perfection - every service, every day



Readiness

- ❖ Daily operations: 27-30 funerals, ~37 new requests per day
- ❖ Balancing funeral services (private) and national shrine (public, open 365 days per year)
- ❖ Balancing distinguished visitor and public events

Taking care of people

- ❖ Quality control: maintaining these hallowed grounds at shrine standard
- ❖ Enhancing technology: operations, visitor experience
- ❖ Enhancing security

Future of ANC

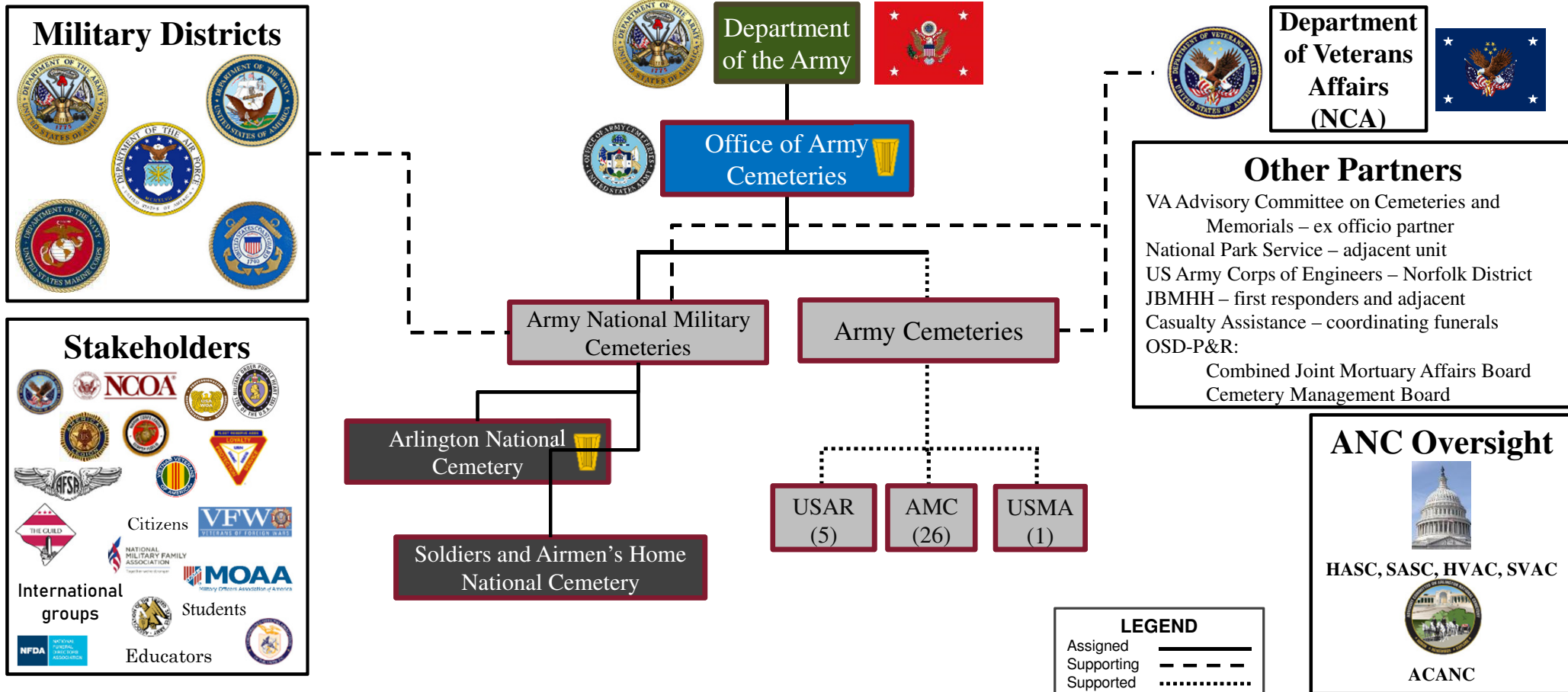
- ❖ Increase the cemetery's lifetime
- ❖ Expansion
- ❖ Eligibility



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Relationships





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Laying to Rest with Dignity and Honor

❑ A Cemetery – Our Primary Mission (*Every Day* is Memorial Day at ANC)

- 160 services a week: approximately 24-27 per weekday, 10 on Saturdays
- 6440 services conducted during FY19
- 1 of 2 national cemeteries operated by the U.S. Army
- 151 other national cemeteries
 - 139* are operated by the VA
 - 14** are managed by the Department of the Interior

❑ Eligibility & Unique Military Honors

- Different from VA cemeteries
- In-ground and columbarium

❑ Demand and Scheduling

- At least as many new requests each day as we have services
- Military Honors most significant challenge (resources)

❑ Peace of Mind

- Detailed/formal, verified chain with vigilant positive control
- Structured transfer of custody



*<https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/about/index.asp>
** <https://www.nps.gov/ande/planyourvisit/np-natcem.htm>



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Connecting Visitors to a Rich History

❑ 3M+ Visitors per Year: Open 365 Days

- Historic tours
- Interpretive and educational programming

❑ National Events: Memorial Day, Veterans Day

❑ Hundreds of Media Events

- International, national and local
- Photographers and film crews
- Responses to queries

❑ Distinguished Visitor/Public Events (FY19)

- 25 Congressional engagements
- Symbolic visits for world leaders
- 200+ distinguished visitor wreath ceremonies
- 3100 public wreath ceremonies
- 400+ Honor Flight buses

❑ Annual Events

- Wreaths Across America (WAA)
- Organizational memorial services



A continuous challenge to strike a **balance:**
funeral services (private) and a **national shrine** (public)



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Scheduling Services at ANC

- ☐ Each request is unique and is handled individually.
- ☐ We are prohibited by law from creating a reservation.
- ☐ Eligibility is determined at the time of need; this is *different from the NCA* (pre-need).
- ☐ Documents required at time of need:
 - ☐ DD 214 (or equivalent documentation showing an honorable discharge and active duty service)
 - ☐ Death certificate
 - ☐ Cremation certificate
 - ☐ Other documents as required





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Scheduling Services: Wait Times

- ❑ Influenced by **three primary factors**: type of remains, military resources available, family preferences (e.g. level of honors, chapel requests).
- ❑ **Order of priority:**
 - Active duty service members killed in action
 - Active duty service members, regardless of manner of death
 - Veterans or dependents with casketed remains
 - Veterans or dependents with cremated remains
- ❑ **Casketed burials**: Scheduled within three weeks of request.
- ❑ **Cremated remains**: Wait times average 9-11 months for military funeral honors with funeral escort, 7-8 months for military funeral honors or dependent service.





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Military Funeral Honors at ANC

- ❖ **Military Funeral Honors:** most enlisted service members, some officers (WO1, CW2-CW3, O1-O3)
 - Casket team (body bearers/pallbearers)
 - Firing party
 - Bugler
 - Folding and presentation of the U.S. flag

- ❖ **Military Funeral Honors with Funeral Escort:** service members killed in action, senior NCOs and officers (CW4-5, O4 and above)
 - ... all of the above, *plus*:
 - Marching element (size varies according to rank)
 - Military band
 - Caisson, if requested
 - *Colonels or above of land forces*: caparisoned horse
 - *Generals or flag officers*: cannon salute

- ❖ **Dependent Honors**
 - Casket team (body bearers/pallbearers)
 - Military chaplain, if requested

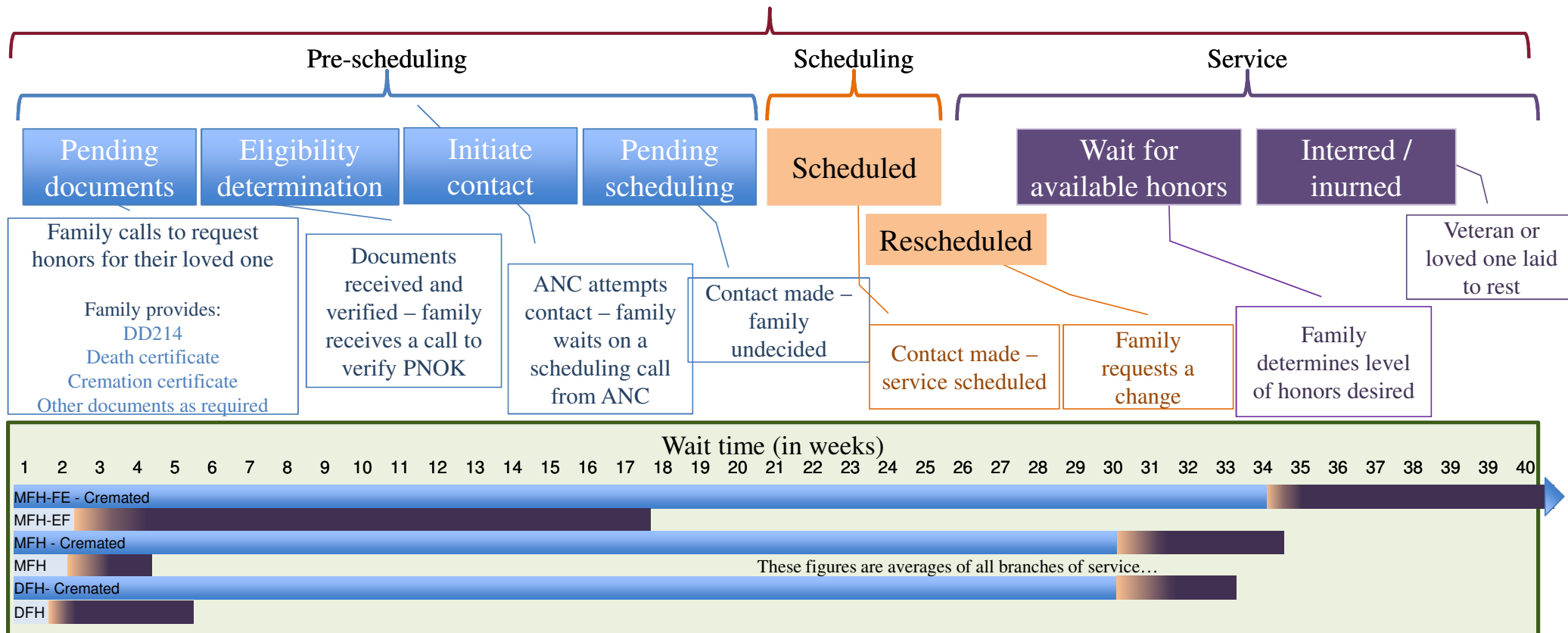




Continued High Demand

The process a family experiences when requesting honors at Arlington National Cemetery:

ANC sees the process in *three phases*... families see this as all *one process*





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Eligibility for VA National Cemetery Administration and ANC – A Comparison

1

| | Character of Service (type of discharge) | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Honorable | General (under honorable conditions) | Other than honorable | Entry-level | Bad conduct | Dismissal (officers only) | Dishonorable |
| VA National Cemetery Administration | | | all other cases are individually adjudicated | | | | |
| Arlington National Cemetery | | | | | | | |

2

| | Months of qualifying active duty service | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| VA National Cemetery Administration | After 1980, 24 months of continuous active duty or full period ordered to active duty | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arlington National Cemetery | One day of active duty (not for training) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3

| | The categories below must first meet the character of service listed above | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Killed in Action | Medal of Honor | Silver Star or above | Active duty | Former POW | Active duty designees | Retirees | High public office | Traditional veteran |
| VA National Cemetery Administration | No differentiation is made by the VA based on these categories (if the space is available at the desired cemetery) | | | | | | | | |
| Arlington National Cemetery | | | | | | Periods of war 1945 and prior | | | |
| In ground interment or inurnment | | | | | | | | | |
| Above ground inurnment | | | | | | | | | |

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Current Eligibility for ANC

| Service Member with Honorable Discharge | Eligibility* | |
|---|---|---|
| | Inurnment in Columbarium Court or Niche Wall | In-ground burial (Casket or Urn) |
| Dies on Title 10 Federal Active Duty (other than for training) | Yes | Yes |
| Dies on active duty for training only under Title X | Yes | No |
| Veteran – Retired from active duty; receiving retirement pay | Yes | Yes |
| Veteran – At least one day active duty other than for training | Yes | No |
| Veteran – Received Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross (Air Force or Navy), Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star or Purple Heart | Yes | Yes |
| Any member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, and any member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard, whose death occurs under honorable conditions while on active duty for training or performing full-time service | Yes | No |
| Any former prisoner of war who, while a prisoner of war, served honorably in the active military, naval or air service; whose last period of service terminated honorably; and who died on or after Nov. 30, 1993 | Yes | Yes |

* Reflects current eligibility criteria, as of July 1, 2017, in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 553, Section 12 and 13.



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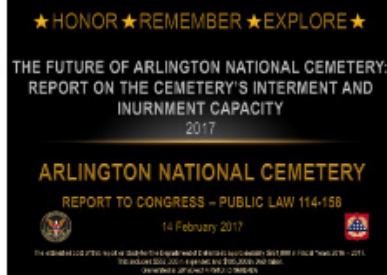
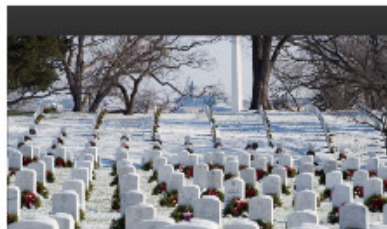
The Future of America's Cemetery

High demand and the eligible population (past, current & future)

- Active duty
- High award recipients
 - Retirees
 - Veterans
- Special categories



Public Law 114-158



Capacity & available space

- Millennium
- Southern Expansion
- Other adjacent areas?

100% capacity in
~22 years

The National Dialogue

- 1st survey
- 2nd survey
- Face-to-face
- Media engagement

Feasible, acceptable,
and suitable options
and/or actions

Evaluation Criteria

- Creates new capacity
- Ensures access for certain groups
- Avoids disenfranchising groups
- Maintains iconic look
- Maintains current physical space
- Expands with contiguous land
- Time to implement
- Cost to the taxpayer

John S. McCain NDAA

H. R. 5515

FY2019

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
of the
United States of America
AT THE SECOND SESSION

Passed and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,
the third day of January, one thousand and eighteen

An Act

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for each fiscal year, and for other purposes

Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act may be cited as the "John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in this or any other Act to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019" shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into four divisions as follows:

(1) Division A.—Department of Defense Authorizations.

(2) Division B.—Military Construction Authorizations.

(3) Division C.—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

(4) Division D.—Funding Tables.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.

Sec. 3. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 4. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 5. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 6. Funding Tables.

Sec. 7. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 8. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 9. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 10. Funding Tables.

Sec. 11. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 12. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 13. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 14. Funding Tables.

Sec. 15. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 16. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 17. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 18. Funding Tables.

Sec. 19. Department of Defense Authorizations.

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Sec. 21. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 22. Funding Tables.

Sec. 23. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 24. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 25. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 26. Funding Tables.

Sec. 27. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 28. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 29. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 30. Funding Tables.

Sec. 31. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 32. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 33. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 34. Funding Tables.

Sec. 35. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 36. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 37. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 38. Funding Tables.

Sec. 39. Department of Defense Authorizations.

Sec. 40. Military Construction Authorizations.

Sec. 41. Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

Sec. 42. Funding Tables.

"...well into the future"
(150 years)



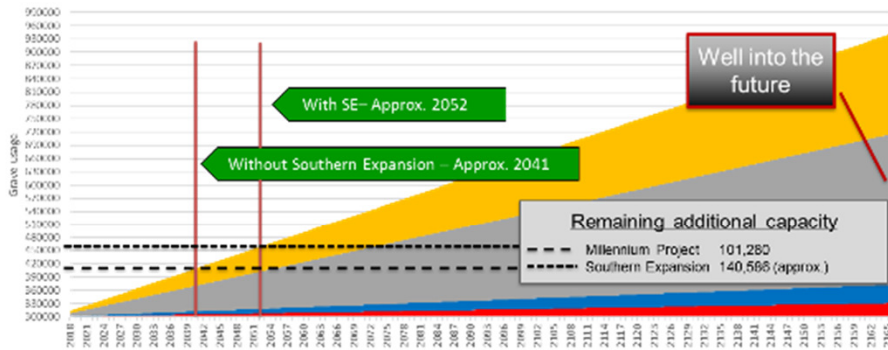
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Our Dialogue and Outreach

Forecast of available ANC space by Veteran population and time

Active Duty/KIA Decorated Veteran Retired Honorable service, one day or active duty



Restrict ANC to:

| | No substantial change | Retirees POWs Valor awards/PH Medal of Honor KIA, Active duty | POWs Valor awards/PH Medal of Honor KIA, Active duty | Medal of Honor KIA |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| Overall | 13% | 35% | 74% | 91% |
| Veterans | 15% | 47% | 68% | 88% |
| Military members | 11% | 31% | 78% | 93% |
| Military Families | 21% | 23% | 72% | 83% |
| Unaffiliated | 20% | 13% | 67% | 83% |
| Existing interment space | ~ FY 2041 | ~ FY 2054 | ~ FY 2200 | ~ FY 2500 |
| + Southern Expansion | ~ FY 2054 | ~ FY 2074 | ~ FY 2300 | ~ FY 2700 |

Survey question: If you believe rules should change, is there a group(s) of Veterans that you feel strongly should remain eligible? (select all that apply)

| | Killed in Action n=13,600 | MoH Recipients n=13,533 | High Award Recipients n=11,128 | Former POWs n=10,574 | Perish on Active Duty n=8,073 | Retirees n=5,298 | Honorable Discharge n=2,024 | Other n=1,087 | Politicians n=308 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Overall n=14,991 | 91% | 90% | 74% | 71% | 54% | 35% | 13% | 7% | 2% |
| Veterans n=2,828 | 88% | 86% | 68% | 65% | 53% | 47% | 15% | 11% | 2% |
| Service Members n=4,889 | 93% | 93% | 78% | 73% | 53% | 31% | 11% | 6% | 2% |
| Military Families n=1,075 | 83% | 79% | 72% | 59% | 56% | 23% | 21% | 13% | 3% |
| Unaffiliated n=138 | 83% | 76% | 67% | 57% | 54% | 13% | 20% | 10% | 6% |

Most support from respondent groups

Least support from respondent groups

- ❖ Over **2.5 years** of thoughtful deliberation & public outreach
- ❖ National survey: more than **250,000 responses**
- ❖ **96% of respondents** want Arlington National Cemetery to remain open and active well into the future (150 years)



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Eligibility: What's at Stake

- ❑ Without changes to eligibility, ANC will run out of space for new burials **by 2041**, or **2055** with Southern Expansion. We continue to pursue opportunities to expand the cemetery, but expansion alone will not keep the cemetery open to new interments well into the future (150 years).
- ❑ The Secretary of the Army **was required** by the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) **to establish revised eligibility criteria by Sept. 30, 2019.**
- ❑ The Secretary of the Army proposed changes to eligibility criteria and established three imperatives:
Sacrifice, Service and Impact to the Nation.





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Proposed Revised Eligibility Criteria

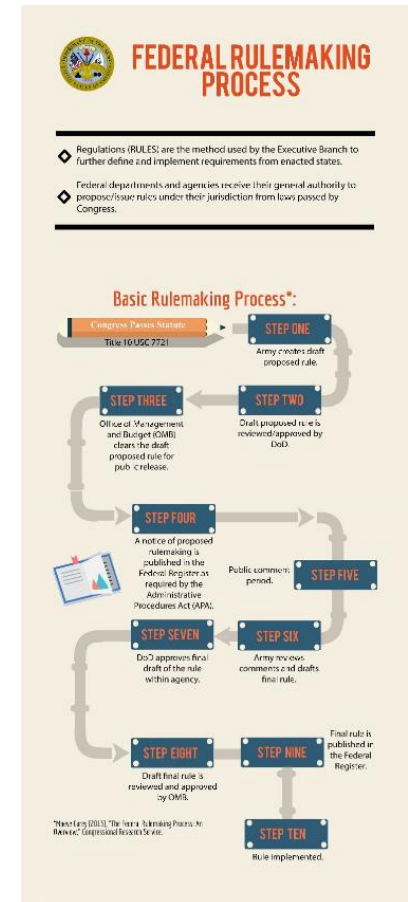
For below-ground interment:

- Killed in action, to include repatriated remains of service members
- Award recipients of the Silver Star and above who also served in combat
- Recipients of the Purple Heart
- Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities
- Former prisoners of war
- Presidents and vice presidents of the United States
- Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service

For above-ground inurnment:

- World War II-era veterans, to include legislated active duty designees
- Retirees from the armed forces who are eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment
- Other veterans who have served a minimum of two years on active duty and who have served in combat
- Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service

Eventual implementation of revised eligibility will not affect previously scheduled services at Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, the proposed revisions will not affect veterans' burial benefits or veteran eligibility at Department of Veterans Affairs 137 national cemeteries and 115 state veterans cemeteries.





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Proposed Revised Eligibility Criteria

“The following imperatives were considered in proposing revisions to the eligibility criteria:

Sacrifice; Service; and Impact.

- ❖ **Sacrifice:** Service members who were either killed, wounded or captured during combat against the enemy, or killed on active duty while preparing for combat.
- ❖ **Service:** Service members who either served in combat or gave the nation a professional lifetime of distinguished service in uniform.
- ❖ **Impact:** Service members who, while in uniform, made a significant contribution to defend the nation during wartime, or who, out of uniform as a government official, made significant contributions to the nation’s security at the highest levels of public service.

- Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper, June 12, 2019

- **The Process Forward:** The Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, will implement the proposed revised eligibility criteria through a public rulemaking process. We expect the clearance process to take a minimum of nine months prior to publication of the draft rule in the Federal Register for public notice and comment. **No changes in eligibility criteria will occur until the rulemaking process is completed.**
- **More Information:** www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility



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