

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 26 }

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 16 April 1948

## AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE AREA AND SEPARATE ZONE COMMANDS

**1. Legal basis.**—In accordance with Public Law 388—79th Congress (sec. III, Bul. 13, WD, 1946), as amended by Public Law 368—80th Congress (sec. III, Bul. 21, WD, 1947), and TM 10—281, Permanent Interment of World War II Dead, provision is hereby made for American Graves Registration Service area and separate zone commands.

**2. Basic principles.**—The following basic principles will be adhered to in the establishment of these commands:

*a.* Major oversea commanders will be responsible for graves registration activities within their respective command areas until such time as their commands are abolished. At that time, responsibility for such activities will pass to The Quartermaster General. Required graves registration personnel must be provided within authorized troop strength.

*b.* The purpose of these commands is to provide for self-contained organizations capable of operating and administering the American Graves Registration Service in areas outside the continental limits of the United States.

*c.* The Quartermaster General is charged with technical supervision of all graves registration activities, and, for this purpose, direct communication is authorized between theater, area, and separate zone commands and the Office of The Quartermaster General.

**3. Area commands—continued and established.**—*a.* One area command is continued as follows: The American Graves Registration Command, European Area (Short Title: AGRC-EA), under the control of the Commander in Chief, European Command, includes the areas formerly comprising the European Theater and contiguous areas not otherwise assigned.

*b.* One area command is established as follows: The American Graves Registration Command, Far Eastern Area (Short Title: AGRC-FEA), under the control of the Commander in Chief, Far East Command, includes the areas formerly comprising the India-Burma Theater, the China Theater, and the Far East Command, and contiguous areas not otherwise assigned, less Australia, and plus the Marianas, Bonins, Volcano Islands, and the Palau Group. Graves registration activities in China will be coordinated with Chief, Army Advisory Group, China, and personnel so engaged will be placed on temporary duty with the Army Advisory Group.

**4. Certain separate zone commands continued.**—Four separate zone commands are continued as follows:

*a.* American Graves Registration Service, Alaskan Zone (Short Title: AGRS-ALDZ), under the control of the Commanding General, United States Army, Alaska, includes the areas assigned to the United States Army, Alaska, and contiguous areas not otherwise assigned.

*b.* American Graves Registration Service, Caribbean Zone (Short Title: AGRS-CARZ), under the control of the Commanding General, United States Army, Caribbean, includes the areas assigned to the United States Army, Caribbean, and contiguous areas not otherwise assigned, plus Brazil and Mexico.

*c.* American Graves Registration Service, Mediterranean Zone (Short Title: AGRS-MZ), under the control of The Quartermaster General, includes the areas formerly comprising the Mediterranean Theater, Africa-Middle East Theater, and contiguous areas not otherwise assigned.

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d. American Graves Registration Service, Pacific Zone (Short Title: AGRS-PAZ), under the control of the Commanding General, United States Army, Pacific, includes the areas assigned to the United States Army, Pacific, and contiguous areas not otherwise assigned, less the Marianas, Bonins, and Volcano Islands, and the Palau Group, plus Australia.

5. Certain separate zone commands discontinued.—a. *Effective as of 0001, 1 April 1948*, the following separate zone commands were discontinued:

(1) India-Burma Zone (Short Title: AGRS-IBZ).

(2) China Zone (Short Title: AGRS-CZ).

b. *Effective 0001, 1 May 1948*, the Africa-Middle East Zone (Short Title: AGRS-AMEZ) will be discontinued.

6. Subdivisions.—There will be established under each area and zone headquarters such subdivisions as may be required, subject to Department of the Army approval. These subdivisions will, so far as practicable, be in conformity with TM 10-281. Area and zone headquarters and subordinate units and organizations will, to the extent practicable, be organized in accordance with T/D 10-3 and T/D's 10-3-1 through 10-3-7, inclusive, 7 January 1947.

7. Responsibilities of area and separate zone commanders.—Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2, area and separate zone commanders will be responsible for the establishment, improvement, maintenance, administration, and operation of all World War II military cemeteries within their respective areas or zones, recovery and identification of deceased, the return of the United States dead of World War II to their homelands or other permanent burial places, in accordance with existing regulations, and such other related activities as may be directed by appropriate commanders. As set forth in current Department of the Army directives, The Quartermaster General, as Chief of the American Graves Registration Service, will originate, prepare, and publish the policies, plans, and manuals necessary to implement existing and subsequent Department of the Army graves registration directives.

8. Rescissions.—General Orders 50, War Department, 1947; section I, General Orders 3, Department of the Army, 1947; and section III, General Orders 17, Department of the Army, 1947, are rescinded.

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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

EDWARD F. WITSELL  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

OMAR N. BRADLEY  
Chief of Staff, United States Army