

Errata Sheet:		
Corrections of facts or attributions made in the print version. These changes do not alter the findings or recommendations of the Dover Port Mortuary Independent Review Subcommittee.		
Page Number	Pre-print text	Changes as they appear in the print version
Page ES1	In 2009, employees of the Dover Port Mortuary (DPM) alleged wrongdoing at the facility involving handling and disposition of human remains returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Specifically, these individuals described improper preparation of remains of a deceased Marine; improper handling and transport of remains with possible contagious disease; improper handling and transport of fetal remains of military dependents; and improper handling of cases of missing portions of remains.	In November 2009, <u>U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware received a letter</u> employees of the Dover Port Mortuary (DPM) alleged <u>alleging</u> wrongdoing at <u>Dover Port Mortuary (DPM)</u> the facility involving handling and disposition of human remains returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. <u>In May and July of 2010 the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) referred allegations made by three DPM employees to the Secretary of Defense for investigation.</u> Specifically, these individuals described <u>alleged</u> improper preparation of remains of a deceased Marine; improper handling and transport of remains with possible contagious disease (<u>suspected tuberculosis based on nodules observed on lungs at the time of autopsy</u>); improper handling and transport of fetal remains of military dependents; and improper handling of cases of missing portions of remains.
Page 4	In November 2009, U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware received a letter from three DPM employees alleging wrongdoing at the facility involving handling and disposition of human remains returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Specifically, these individuals (later granted status as whistleblowers) alleged improper preparation of remains of a deceased Marine; improper handling and transport of remains with possible contagious disease (suspected tuberculosis based on nodules observed on lungs at the time of autopsy); improper handling and transport of fetal remains of military dependents; and improper handling of cases of missing portions of remains. Senator Carper forwarded the letter to the DoD Inspector General's (IG's) Hotline, which was referred to the Secretary of the Air Force IG (SAF/IG) because of Air Force command of mortuary operations. On March 3, 2010 a complaint was made to the 436th Air Wing IG, Dover AFB. Subsequently, the SAF/IG, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the Department of the Army IG conducted investigations into the allegations. The Air Force Office of Special	In November 2009, U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware received a letter from three DPM employees alleging wrongdoing at DPM the facility involving handling and disposition of human remains returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. <u>Senator Carper forwarded the letter to the DoD Inspector General's (IG's) Hotline, which was referred to the Secretary of the Air Force IG (SAF/IG) because of Air Force command of mortuary operations. On March 3, 2010 a complaint was made to the 436th Air Wing IG, Dover AFB. In May and July of 2010 the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) referred allegations made by three DPM employees to the Secretary of Defense for investigation.</u> Specifically, these individuals (later granted status as whistleblowers) alleged improper preparation of remains of a deceased Marine; improper handling and transport of remains with possible contagious disease (suspected tuberculosis based on nodules observed on lungs at the time of autopsy); improper handling and transport of fetal remains of military dependents; and improper handling of cases of missing portions of

	<p>Investigations review was dropped because there was no criminal activity involved. The Army IG investigation focused on one area of concern, the shipment of fetal remains from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) to DPM. Information from the SAF/IG and Army IG investigations was combined to prepare the Report of Investigations that was forwarded to the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). OSC is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency that, among other duties, provides a safe channel for government employees to disclose wrongdoing and investigates and prosecutes allegations of Prohibited Personnel Practices.</p>	<p>remains.</p> <p>Senator Carper forwarded the letter to the DoD Inspector General's (IG's) Hotline, which was referred to the Secretary of the Air Force IG (SAF/IG) because of Air Force command of mortuary operations. On March 3, 2010, a complaint was made to the 436th Air Wing IG, Dover AFB.</p> <p>Subsequently, The SAF/IG, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the Department of the Army IG conducted investigations into the allegations. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations review was dropped because there was no criminal activity involved. The Army IG investigation focused on one area of concern, the shipment of fetal remains from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) to DPM. Information from the SAF/IG and Army IG investigations was combined to prepare the Report of Investigations that was forwarded to the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). OSC is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency that, among other duties, provides a safe channel for government employees to disclose wrongdoing and investigates and prosecutes allegations of Prohibited Personnel Practices.</p>
Page 4	<p>With regard to the preparation of remains of the Fallen Marine, SAF/IG determined that the decisions made by the mortuary fell within an ambiguous area, one for which DPM had no clear written standards. OSC concluded that while there was no violation of DoD regulations or state licensing statutes, there remained concerns about the nature and timing of the consent that had been obtained from the PADD regarding the need to surgically excise bone in order to prepare the Marine to properly fit him in his Service dress uniform.</p>	<p>With regard to the preparation of remains of the Fallen Marine, SAF/IG determined that the decisions made by the mortuary fell within an ambiguous area, one for which DPM had no clear written standards. OSC <u>SAF/IG</u> concluded that there was no violation of DoD regulations or state licensing statutes. there <u>However, OSC remained concerned</u> about the nature and timing of the consent that had been obtained from the PADD regarding the need to surgically excise bone in order to prepare the Marine to properly fit him in his Service dress uniform.</p>
Page 4-5	<p>With regard to the allegations about improper handling and transporting of remains with possible contagious disease, OSC found no substantial and specific danger to public health; adequate cautionary measures were taken and adequate warnings were given.</p>	<p>With regard to the allegations about improper handling and transporting of remains with possible contagious disease, OSC <u>SAF/IG-</u> found no substantial and specific danger to public health; adequate cautionary measures were taken and adequate warnings were given.</p>
Page 5	<p>OSC did not find any violation of DoD regulations regarding the transport and processing of fetal remains of a military dependent.</p>	<p>OSC <u>The Air Force and the Army IG</u> did not find any violation of DoD regulations regarding the transport and processing of fetal remains of a military dependent.</p>

Page 5	Here OSC found multiple violations of rule and regulation including: failure to account for portions of remains on two separate occasions; loss of accountability; and failure of senior AFMAO officials to adequately attempt to reestablish accountability or to determine disposition.	Here OSC <u>SAF/IG</u> found multiple violations of rule and regulation including: failure to account for portions of remains on two separate occasions; loss of accountability; and failure of senior AFMAO officials to adequately attempt to reestablish accountability or to determine disposition.
Page 5	In general, OSC concluded that gross mismanagement occurred under previous DPM leadership, in that leadership failed to recognize and address repeated issues that violated the standard of care, despite prior notice. OSC also noted that while several corrective actions were taken, particularly with regard to personnel, not all seams between AFMAO and AFMES were addressed, which could create problems in the future.	In general, OSC <u>SAF/IG</u> concluded that gross mismanagement occurred under previous DPM leadership, in that leadership failed to recognize and address repeated issues that violated the standard of care, despite prior notice. OSC also noted that while several corrective actions were taken, particularly with regard to personnel, not all seams between AFMAO and AFMES were addressed, which could create problems in the future <u>commented that the Air Force findings demonstrate a pattern of the Air Force's failure to acknowledge culpability for wrongdoing. However, OSC acknowledged that despite the failure to accept accountability with respect to certain allegations, the Air Force has taken substantial corrective actions to address the findings and issues brought to light through this investigation.</u>