



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

To All Service Members and their Families:

The mission at the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operation (AFMAO) is to provide dignity, honor and respect to the fallen and care, service and support to their families. The professionals whose privilege it is to perform this solemn duty take great pride in that responsibility to care for America's fallen.

However, due to specific concerns raised by AFMAO professionals regarding policies, processes, and procedures, the Air Force conducted an investigation that focused on allegations of mismanagement and accountability. The Air Force has contacted the four families directly affected by the investigation and discussed these matters with them personally. If you were not contacted already, you are not one of the impacted families.

I also want you to know that the Air Force has kept the office of the Secretary of Defense, members of Congress and committees apprised of the investigation and the corrective actions we have taken. I am also working with our Service counterparts to ensure that their equities are respected. In addition, an independent panel of the Defense Health Board has been tasked to review the adequacy and effectiveness of our corrective actions and to recommend any further improvements at Dover mortuary.

The professional staff at AFMAO takes great pride in their important mission and remains dedicated to maintaining trust and confidence in their solemn duty to you and your family. As Secretary of the Air Force, you have my commitment that we will continue to ensure the highest standards are met to provide dignity, honor, respect and reverence for our fallen and care, service and support to their families.

Thank you for your service,

Michael B. Donley
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Secretary of the Air Force