

Air Force Honor Guard History



Undated photo of the USAF Honor Guard Drill Team at the Washington Monument. Circa 1960s

The Honor Guard traces its beginning to May 1948 when Headquarters Command USAF was instructed to develop plans for an elite ceremonial unit comparable to those of the other armed services. As a result, a ceremonial unit was activated within the Air Police Squadron in September 1948 with an authorized strength of 98 enlisted and two officers. However, due to transfers and personnel attrition, the end of the year found the Ceremonial Detachment, for all practical purposes, disbanded. It wasn't until March 1949 that sufficient personnel were assigned to enable the unit to function. The Ceremonial Detachment continued to be assigned to the Air Police Squadron until December 1971. Finally, on January 1, 1972, the Honor Guard came into its own as a separate unit. Today's Honor Guard is comprised of volunteers who are carefully screened for their ability and physical dexterity. Only those persons who are highly motivated and maintain an exceptionally high standard of appearance, conduct, and aptitude for ceremonial duty are considered.



Types of Details

Presentation of the Colors

Post and Retire Colors

Memorial Services

Flag Bearer in Parade

Youth Education Briefing

Demonstration

Retirement

Reveille and Retreat Ceremony

Funerals for Veterans and Retiree

Contact the Honor Guard office with questions about other events not listed.

****Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice****

"Military personnel are not authorized to participate in partisan political management, campaigns, or conventions; use his or her official authority or influence for interfering with an election; affecting the course or outcome of an election; soliciting votes for a particular candidate or issue; or requiring or soliciting political contributions from others."





Receiving of military funeral honors is a congressional right awarded to all U.S. Military veterans, and is provided free of charge.

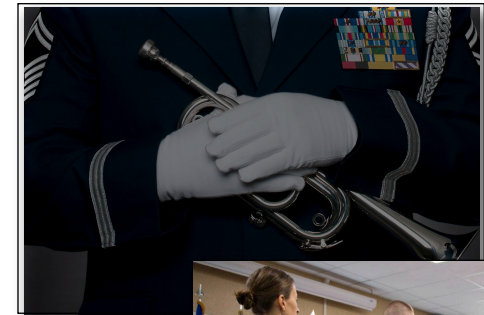
INDIVIDUALS THAT QUALIFY TO RECEIVE MILITARY HONORS

- ▶ *All prior Air Force and Army Air Corps personnel who have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces. To include active duty personnel, retirees, veterans, national guardsmen, and reservists.*
- ▶ *Individuals must provide proof of service by filing a DD FORM 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty).*



MISSION STATEMENT

“To render funeral honors for our fallen veterans and to perform ceremonial functions with precision, professionalism and pride. To strive to exceed the standards of conduct and appearance while demonstrating the highest level of commitment as we represent the United States Air Force and 167th Airlift Wing.”



CONTACT INFORMATION

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[167th AW Base Honor Guard](#)