

# Military Funeral Honors (MFH)



The Mission of the Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors program is to provide the ceremonial paying of respect and the final demonstration of the country's gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our nation. This page is to be used as a resource and for assistance in all things related to the Survivor Services Contract.

## **VIARNG MFH POC**

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Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65, the rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran, free of charge, is mandated by law. An honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps.

## **What is Military Funeral Honors?**

Military Funeral Honors have always been provided whenever possible. However, the law now mandates the rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible Veteran if requested by the family. As provided by law, an Honor Guard Detail for the burial of an eligible Veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. The Honor Guard detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American Flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by electronic recording.



## **Who is eligible to receive Honors?**

Any person (Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve) who has completed as least one enlistment or other obligated military service (officer), and received anything other than a dishonorable discharge is eligible for military funeral honors. No matter if you served in peace time or war-time, you earned the right for honors.

## **How do I request Funeral Honors?**

Families of eligible Veterans request Military Funeral Honors through their funeral director. The funeral director will contact the appropriate Military Service to arrange for the funeral honors detail. Families may coordinate with the Military Funeral Honors team directly at the contacts provided. However, the preferred method would be to go through the funeral director.

## **Basic Honors:**

The Two Soldier Detail is authorized for all NON-RETIRED Veterans and consists of a flag fold and the playing of taps.

## **Seven Soldier Modified Honors:**

The Seven Soldier Detail authorized to for Retired Service Members that have retired with 20 years or more of service. This detail is authorized to consist of pallbearers, a firing party, flag fold and the playing of taps.

## **Full Honors:**

Designated for an Active Service Members, a Medal of Honor recipient, a General officer, and E-9. Ceremony may consist of Nine (9) personnel to conduct basic honors, ceremonial rifle volley, pall bearers, color guard, and Chaplain.

## **How do you verify eligibility?**

The preferred method for verifying eligibility is the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Form NGB 22 or 55. Or, Certificate of Honorable Discharge. If these forms are not available you can contact the Funeral Home or the office of Veterans Affairs to assist you in obtaining these documents. Family members of the deceased veterans may also obtain documentation by submitting a request for copies to the National Archives. Next of kin are able to specify urgency of the request.

This may be done via the web at: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Or, you may mail/fax your signed and dated Standard Form 180 to: National Personnel Records Center  
1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138.