

TWENTY-ONE GUN SALUTE

The ceremonial salute rendered by a military firing party is one that is as old as the profession of arms. Traditionally, a firing party was used to indicate to an opposing force that the duty of burying the dead was complete and that the battle was ready to commence again.

Today, the tradition of a twenty-one gun salute, though obscured by time, continues to be used as a final farewell to a soldier who served this country with pride and honor. Today the M-1 Rifle is used to render the twenty-one gun salute. The twenty-one gun salute is performed to honor those who have passed away. The Firing Party consists of 7 Honor Guard members and their weapons firing 3 volleys each. The 3 volleys represent the Trinity, "The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit."