

Military Funeral Honors

A Federal Program

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Military Funeral Honors

Agenda

Recent History of MFH

Congressional Law

DOD/NGB Policy

Today's NG Mission

Contact Phone Numbers



Military Funeral Honors

- Military Funeral Honors Recent History
 - Congressional Law, which took effect Jan. 1, 2000, as part of the National Defense Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-65)
 - Under Title 10 USC Subtitle A, Part II, Chapter 75, Section 1491, reads in part:
 - The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that, upon request, a funeral honors detail is provided for the funeral of any veteran, except when military honors are prohibited under section 985 (a) of this title.



Military Funeral Honors

- Congressional Law (cont)
 - Composition of Funeral Honors Detail
 - The Secretary of each military department shall ensure that a funeral honors detail for the funeral of a veteran consists of two or more persons.
 - At least two members of the funeral honors detail for a veteran's funeral shall be **current** members of the armed forces (other than members in a retired status)
 - At least one of whom shall be a member of the armed force of which the veteran was a member. **Usually serves as detail leader.**
 - The remainder of the detail may consist of members of the armed forces (including members in a retired status) or members of veterans organizations



Military Funeral Honors

- Congressional Law (cont)
 - Ceremony – as a minimum will include
 - the playing of taps
 - folding of a United States flag
 - presentation of the flag to the veteran's family



Military Funeral Honors

- Congressional Law (cont)
 - Veteran defined:
 - served in the active military, naval, or air service (as defined in section 101(24) of title 38) and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable; or
 - was a member or former member of the Selected Reserve described in section 2301(f) of title 38



Military Funeral Honors

- Department of Defense INSTRUCTION
 - Directive Number 1300.15, October 22, 2007
 - Military Funeral Honors is designated a total force mission.
 - Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve component personnel, and retirees as part of the DOD Policy
 - Coordination will be through funeral directors **or family members**
 - Clarification of entitled veterans



Military Funeral Honors

- DOD Policy (cont.)
 - Veteran not eligible if convicted of a capital offense for which sentence was death or life imprisonment without parole (10USC985)
 - Veteran not eligible if
 - dishonorable discharge
 - bad conduct discharge
 - dismissal awarded by courts-martial
 - under other than honorable conditions
 - officer resignation for the Good of the Service



Military Funeral Honors

- DOD Policy (cont.)
 - Other Branch Services
 - The parent service of the deceased has first right to render military funeral honors for the deceased.
 - Only if the parent service declines the mission, can another branch of service render military funeral honors
 - In order for another branch of service to accept the mission, you must be able to document the reason for the parent branch of service declining the mission, the POC, and the POC's phone number.



Military Funeral Honors

The North Dakota Army National Guard Honor Guard is the only honors team in the state with a full time, **highly trained** staff. This means the NDARNG MFH team has the ability to train and maintain an extremely high standard of service for North Dakota's veterans.



Military Funeral Honors

- Military Funeral Honors

- The core elements (2-man detail) of funeral honors consists of:
 - Playing of Taps
 - Flag folding
 - Flag presentation
- For currently serving soldiers (active duty and reserve components), retirees and MOH recipients, (7-9 man detail) if resources are available, they are entitled to the core elements plus:
 - Firing detail
 - Color guard
 - Pall bearers



Military Funeral Honors

- Military Funeral Honors (cont.)
 - Funeral honors elements beyond the core elements may be rendered through the participation of the local VSO Honor Guard. **But cannot be paid for elements beyond the core elements.**
 - Burial Flag is provide at no cost to the funeral home or family through the VA or their distribution point.
 - **The NDARNG funeral honors team** is provided at no cost to the funeral home or the family.



Military Funeral Honors

- Military Funeral Honors (Sequence of Events: 2-Man detail) (Traditional Veterans)
 - The Playing of Taps
 - Flag Fold
 - Presentation of flag to the family
 - (Chaplain may be provided based of the needs of the family)



Military Funeral Honors

- Military Funeral Honors (Sequence of Events: 7/9-Man detail) (Retirees, Active/Reserve Component soldiers, and Congressional Medal of Honor recipients)
 - Pall Bearing (If Applicable)
 - Firing Detail (3 Volleys)(3-7 members, always odd)
 - The Playing of Taps
 - Flag Fold
 - Presentation of flag to the family
 - (Chaplain may be provided based of the needs of the family)



Military Funeral Honors

- Requesting Honors (Normal Process)
 - Family member requests honors from the Funeral Director
 - Family member provides FD a copy of the Veteran's DD-214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, or NGB-22
 - FD takes a copy of the death certificate to the Post Office to get flag
 - For Army funerals, the FD then calls the MFH team
- Some issues
 - Family does not have a copy of the honorable discharge



Military Funeral Honors

North Dakota Army NG Contacts

<u>Position</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>	<u>Number</u>
State Coordinator	Mitch Erhardt	701-333-3339
East Team Area Coordinator	SSG Chris Eppler	701-451-6314
West Team Area Coordinator	SGT Derrick Heins	701-333-3411
Military Authority	CPT Rachael Berg	701-333-3399

