

# MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

## *Honoring Those Who Served*

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful Nation can provide to the veterans' families.

Military funeral honors are a time-honored ritual that many people find comforting at a veteran's interment service. The Department of Veterans Affairs welcomes military honors at committal services held at national cemeteries.

Military funeral honors may consist of uniformed body bearers, a flag-folding detail, rifle salute, a bugler playing taps and a chaplain. The ritual may be modified or shortened to be consistent with the number of people available to provide funeral honors. The minimum standard for deceased veterans is two persons to fold and present the flag and ensure the playing of Taps. Larger honors teams are usually provided for those who die on active duty and for retirees.

The provision of military funeral honors by active-duty service members is at the discretion of local military commanders. Volunteer groups may also be able to render honors. If military funeral honors are desired, the family arranges for them in advance through their funeral director or Mortuary Officer.

Funeral directors may call the closest military installation or service organization to see if military funeral honors can be provided. The cemetery director will assist by providing telephone numbers and locations of organizations that may be able to provide military honors.