



The Old Guard

Presidential Salute Battery



The Presidential Salute Battery, also known as the Guns Platoon, renders honors to foreign dignitaries and heads of state visiting the White House, the Pentagon and other places in the area. It also fires the final salute during funerals for flag officers at Arlington National Cemetery. Not only does this platoon provide ceremonial support, but also the mortar men provide 81-mm mortar indirect-fire support during the tactical training of 3D Infantry units.

During ceremonies, the platoon fires 75mm blank rounds mounted on a 105-mm howitzer chassis. The battery consists of two men per cannon; Loader + Gunner and a staff line consisting of an NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer in charge), a Watchman, Chief Watchman, a Counter and the OIC (Officer in Charge) who fire at intervals from three to nine seconds, depending on the type of ceremony.

Every summer the Salute Guns Platoon joins the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," in performing Tchaikovsky's "Festival Overture" on the National Mall.