

Salutations with a

BANG!

THE MILITARY GUN SALUTE

If you've ever attended a significant military ceremony, you may not have seen it, but you've certainly heard it: the booming report of a military gun salute.



THE EVOLUTION

The hand salute demonstrated that the renderer of the salute was, for all intents and purposes, unarmed.

It was also once customary for a ship entering a friendly port to discharge its cannons to show they were unloaded.



The Continental Navy brigantine fired a salute of 13 guns on entering the harbor of St. Eustatius, representing the newly-formed United States.

1776

"First Salute"
to the American flag

21

The first written instruction on the 21-gun salute comes from 1818 U.S. Naval Regulations to signify a presidential visit aboard a ship.

1818

21 guns
for 21 states



TODAY

The national salute of 21 guns is fired in honor of a national flag, chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of the reigning royal family, and the President, ex-President, or President-elect of the United States



DID YOU KNOW? Though sometimes mistaken for a 21-gun salute, the three volleys fired at funerals by a firing party do not constitute a 21-gun salute.

