

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Westover ARB Honor Guard is to honor the veterans of New England and the 439th Airlift Wing by providing an excellent rendition of military funeral honors, drill and ceremony precisions, all while maintaining the highest level of professionalism, excellence and reputation of the honor guard and Westover’s elite.”

BASE HONOR GUARD CHARGE

***H**andpicked to serve as a member of the Westover Air Reserve Base Honor Guard, my standards of conduct and level of professionalism must be above reproach, for I represent all others in my service.*

***O**thers earned the right for me to wear the ceremonial uniform, one that is honored in rich tradition and history. I will honor their memory by wearing it properly and proudly.*

***N**ever will I allow my performance to be dictated by the type of ceremony, severity of the temperature, or size of the crowd. I will remain superbly conditioned to perfect all movements throughout every drill and ceremony.*

***O**bligated by my oath I am constantly driven to excel by a deep devotion to duty and a strong sense of dedication.*

***R**epresenting every member, past and present, of the United States Air Force, I vow to stand **SHARP, CRISP, and MOTIONLESS**, for I am a ceremonial guardsman.*

WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE

HONOR GUARD

TO HONOR WITH DIGNITY...



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USAF HONOR GUARD HISTORY

The USAF Honor Guard traces its beginning to May 1948 when Headquarters, USAF Command was instructed to develop plans for an elite ceremonial unit, comparable to those of the other Armed Services. As a result, a ceremonial unit was activated within the Air Police Squadron in September, 1948 with an authorized strength of 98 airmen and 2 officers. However, because of transfers and personnel attrition, it wasn't until March 1949 that sufficient personnel were assigned to enable the unit to function. The ceremonial detachment continued to be assigned to the Air Police Squadron until December 1971. On 1 January 1972, the USAF Honor Guard came into its own as a separate unit. Today's honor guard is comprised of volunteers who are carefully screened for their ability and physical dexterity. Only those persons who are highly motivated and maintain an exceptionally high standard of appearance, conduct, and aptitude for ceremonial duty are considered.



WHAT DOES THE HONOR GUARD DO?

The base honor guard's primary mission is to provide military funeral honors for the active duty, retiree and veteran members who served honorably in the United States Airforce, Army Air Corp., Air Guard, and Air Reserve.

The secondary mission of the base honor guard is performing military change of commands, retirements, retreats and other special functions.

The Westover Honor Guard AOR extends from New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, and Massachusetts.



HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER?

In order to become a member of the Westover honor guard, an application must be submitted to the NCOIC which has been completed by the member and signed off on by the member's supervisor, first sergeant, and unit commander.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Members of the Base Honor Guard are exceptional members of the Air Force. As such, they must exemplify Air Force standards of customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, and personal conduct. Applicants must have **one year** retainability in the Air force Reserve, completed their 5 level skill training. Applicants must have and maintain a passing score on their Fit to Fight test. Applicants must not be on a Control Roster, nor have a UIF or Article 15 (pending or otherwise). Additionally, applicants cannot be on a duty restricted profile or shaving waiver.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

There are many benefits associated with being an honor guard member. Among them are

- Honor guard uniforms
- Awards program
- Professional development
- Be the best of the best around base.

