



A **21-gun salute** is often confused with the **three-volley salute** performed at military funerals. The reason a **21-gun salute** isn't conducted at a military funeral is that these are two separate traditions with different meanings and purposes:

1. **21-Gun Salute (Cannons or Artillery)** o The **21-gun salute** is a ceremonial honor reserved for heads of state, military leaders, and national dignitaries.

o It is performed using **cannons or artillery**, not rifles.

o It takes place at military bases or during national ceremonies, not at funerals.

2. **Three-Volley Salute (Rifles at Funerals)** o At military funerals, the **three-volley salute** is performed by a firing party of service members who fire **three rifle volleys** in unison.

o This tradition originates from battlefield customs, where it signified that the fallen had been properly cared for and the battle could resume.

o The number of rifles used varies (typically 7 rifles firing 3 times, but fewer may be used based on available personnel).

Many people mistakenly refer to the **three-volley salute** as a **21-gun salute**, but they are distinct traditions. The **three-volley salute** is what you typically see at military funerals, not the **21-gun salute** reserved for national honors.