

Rendering the Salute

The junior member always salutes the senior member first. Any airman, non-commissioned officer, or officer recognizing a need to salute or a need to return one may do so anywhere at any time. When returning or rendering an individual salute, the head and eyes are turned toward the person saluted. When in ranks, the position of attention is maintained unless otherwise directed.

The following additional guidance is offered for **outdoors**: Salutes are exchanged upon recognition between officers or warrant officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces when they are in uniform. In other words, enlisted members salute officers and warrant officers, warrant officers salute senior warrant officers and commissioned officers, and commissioned officers salute senior commissioned officers. Enlisted members do not salute among themselves (although such salutes would not be illegal, they are just not customary).

Saluting outdoors means salutes are exchanged when the persons involved are outside of a building. For example, if a person is on a porch, a covered sidewalk, a bus stop, a covered or open entryway, or a reviewing stand, the salute will be exchanged with a person on the sidewalk outside of the structure or with a person approaching or in the same structure. This applies both on and off military installations. Use the same procedure when greeting an officer of a foreign nation.

Source: AFPAM 36-2241 V1

Who Do I Salute?

Professional protocol requires that you salute the following:

- President of the United States
- Commissioned and Warrant Officers
- All Medal of Honor Recipients
- Officers of Allied Foreign Countries

When Do I Salute?

Render a salute for the following:

- U.S. National Anthem, “To the Color”, “Hail to the Chief”, or the playing of any foreign national anthem
- When national colors are uncased outdoors
- Ceremonial occasions
- Ceremonial reveille and retreat
- Raising and lowering of the flag
- When honors are sounded
- Pledge of Allegiance — outdoors
- When rendering reports
- When turning over control to formations

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The MILITARY SALUTE

**Do you know the
meaning and history of
the Salute?**



Purpose

A salute is the privileged gesture of a professional which shows a sign of trust and respect among Airman. In the military, the subordinate always salutes first. The salute of an Airman reflects personal pride, pride in the unit, and shows confidence in their ability as an Airman.



When saluting, the eyes and head should face the person (or flag) being saluted. Military salutes are not required if the conditions are inappropriate or impractical, such as inside a public place (theater, restaurant, etc.) or when driving.

History of the Military Salute

salute

verb \sə-ˈlüt\

To give a sign of respect to a military officer, flag, etc.

No definitive beginning can be traced to the history of the military salute. Most sources speculate the roots to this time honored tradition date back to the Roman times when assassins were common. It is believed the raising of the right hand was a gesture to show they were not shielding any type of weapon. Also, medieval knights were said to raise their visors with their right hand upon greeting a comrade or superior.



The gesture eventually evolved as a show of respect and would sometimes include removing the hat. By 1820, the gesture was

officially modified to the current version still used in the military today – the touching of the hat. Hand salute, palm down is believed to be an influence of the British Navy, as deck hands were often dirty and to expose the dirty palm was regarded as disrespectful.



Long gone are the days of the Roman soldiers and the medieval knights, but the mark they left on history regarding the military salute continues to live on.
Source: Armed Forces History Museum

