



# News Advisory

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
102 East Hill Blvd., Rm. 223, Charleston AFB, S.C. 29404-5154  
Phone: (843) 963-5608, 5588 or 5589 Fax (843) 963-5604

**PAO email:** Linda.pepin@charleston.af.mil  
After duty hours, call the base operator or  
command post (963-2531) & ask for a PA rep

**Release No. 08-01**

**August 13, 2003**

### **Charleston AFB Honor Guard adjusts to new M-14 rifles**

**Who/What:** Charleston AFB Honor Guard and honor guard units Air Force wide have switched to a different rifle, the M-14, to be used for their ceremonial salute. The switch has been implemented because the previously used rifle, the M-16, is not nearly as loud as the M-14. The change has been made in order to make ceremonies performed by the honor guard sharper and more impressive. The Charleston AFB Honor Guard will be performing several training exercises with the M-14 rifles.

**Background:** The mission of the Firing Party element is to provide support for a variety of ceremonies. Traditionally, a firing party was used to indicate to an opposing force that the duty of burying the dead was complete and that battle was ready to commence again. Today, the tradition of three volleys, or blank shots, continues to be used as a final farewell to a military member who served this country with pride and honor.

**When:** Thursday, August 14, 10:30 a.m.

**Visuals:** Firing of M-14 rifles in formation.

**(Media interested in covering this event MUST contact 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kristy Miller at 963-5537 or Staff Sgt. Jason Smith at 963-5608.)**