



The Old Guard

Caisson Platoon



One of the hallmarks of the Arlington National Cemetery funeral procession is the stately caisson pulled by six handsome horses. The horses and their riders are members of the Caisson Platoon of The Old Guard.

During a procession, six horses of the same color, matched into three pairs, make up the team that pulls the flag-draped casket on a black artillery caisson. The riders are dressed in the Army blue uniform with riding breeches and boots with spurs. To the left front of the team, on a separate mount, rides the section chief, who commands the caisson unit.

One of the older customs in a tradition-rich, full-honor funeral is the caparisoned horse. Allowed for a funeral of a Soldier or Marine in the rank of colonel or higher, the horse is led behind the caisson wearing an empty saddle with rider's boots reversed in the stirrups, indicating the warrior will never ride again.