**The U.S. ARMY BIRTHDAY: America’s Senior Service**

[A group of soldiers in a battle

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America's Revolutionary War began on 19 April 1775 with exchanges of musketry between British regulars and Massachusetts militiamen at Lexington and Concord. As their fellow citizen soldiers from New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island responded to the alarm, a state of war existed between the four colonies and the British government. Called the Army of Observation, a force of New Englanders surrounded Boston and had the British troops who occupied it under siege, but they needed help. They appealed to delegates who represented all thirteen colonies to join them in the struggle for American liberty.

When the delegates to the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on 10 May, they soon learned that armed men commanded by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold had captured the British forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain in New York. The constitutional crisis, in which Americans sought a redress of grievances from the British king and Parliament, had become open hostilities. The delegates realized that even though many desired reconciliation, they would now have to address the new military situation. The Congress took the next step that eventually transformed a local rebellion into a war for independence when it established the Continental Army: the force we know today as the U.S. Army.

[A painting of a group of soldiers firing guns

Description automatically generated](https://www.history.army.mil/html/faq/birth_images/Lex2.jpg)

On 14 June 1775, Congress "Resolved, That six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia… [and] as soon as completed, shall march and join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command of the chief Officer in that army."

The delegates then prescribed an oath of enlistment that required the soldiers to swear:

“I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American continental army, for one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said. Army.”

The next day Congress voted to appoint George Washington “to command all the Continental forces” and began laying the foundation for "the American army."

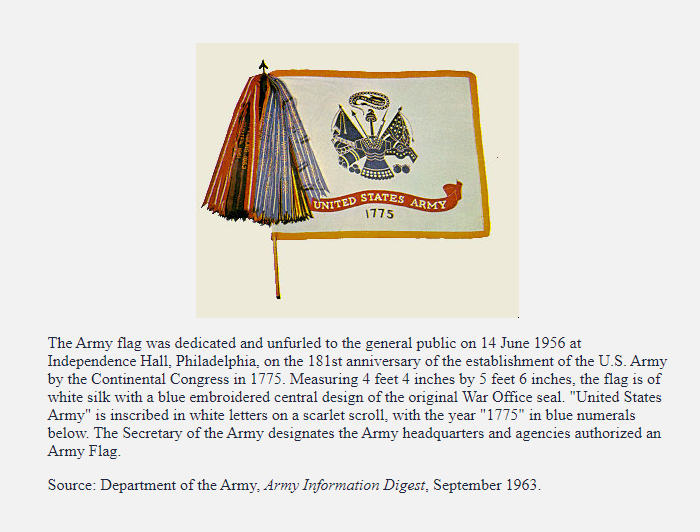
[A group of people sitting in a room

Description automatically generated](https://www.history.army.mil/html/faq/birth_images/wash-appt.jpg)

[](https://www.history.army.mil/html/faq/birth_images/Washington-Assumes-Command.jpg)

With words that sound hauntingly familiar two hundred forty-five years later, "The delegates of the United Colonies … reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, conduct, and fidelity” of George Washington, issued its first commission by appointing him “General and Commander in chief of the Army of the United Colonies, and of all the forces now raised, or to be raised by them, and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their services, and join the Defense of American liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion…”

US Army Flag



**Revolutionary War (16 Streamers)**

Revolutionary War streamer

* Lexington 19 April 1775
* Ticonderoga 10 May 1775
* Boston 17 June 1775-17 March 1776
* Quebec 28 August 1775-3 July 1776
* Charleston 28-29 June 1776; 29 March-12 May 1780
* Long Island 26-29 August 1776
* Trenton 26 December 1776
* Princeton 3 January 1777
* Saratoga 2 July-17 October 1777
* Brandywine 11 September 1777
* Germantown 4 October 1777
* Monmouth 28 June 1778
* Savannah 29 December 1778; 16 September-10 October 1779
* Cowpens 17 January 1781
* Guilford Court House 15 March 1781
* Yorktown 28 September-19 October 1781

**War of 1812 (6 Streamers)**

War of 1812 streamer

* Canada 18 June 1812-17 February 1815
* Chippewa 5 July 1814
* Lundy's Lane 25 July 1814
* Bladensburg 17-29 August 1814
* McHenry 13 September 1814
* New Orleans 23 September 1814-8 January 1815

**Mexican War (10 Streamers)**

Mexican War streamer

* Palo Alto 8 May 1846
* Resaca de la Palma 9 May 1846
* Monterey 21 September 1846
* Buena Vista 22-23 February 1847
* Vera Cruz 9-29 March 1847
* Cerro Gordo 17 April 1847
* Contreras 18-20 August 1847
* Churubusco 20 August 1847
* Molino del Rey 8 September 1847
* Chapultepec 13 September 1847

**Civil War (25 Streamers)**

Civil War streamer

* Sumter 12-13 April 1861
* Bull Run 16-22 July 1861
* Henry & Donelson 6-16 February 1862
* Mississippi River 6 February 1862-9 July 1863
* Peninsula 17 March-3 August 1862
* Shiloh 6-7 April 1862
* Valley 15 May-17 June 1862
* Manassas 7 August-2 September 1862
* Antietam 3-17 September 1862
* Fredericksburg 9 November-15 December 1862
* Murfreesborough 26 December 1862-4 January 1863
* Chancellorsville 27 April-6 May 1863
* Gettysburg 29 June-3 July 1863
* Vicksburg 29 March-4 July 1863
* Chickamauga 16 August-22 September 1863
* Chattanooga 23-27 November 1863
* Wilderness 4-7 May 1864
* Atlanta 7 May-2 September 1864
* Spotsylvania 8-21 May 1864
* Cold Harbor 22 May-3 June 1864
* Petersburg 4 June 1864-2 April 1865
* Shenandoah 7 August-28 November 1864
* Franklin 17-30 November 1864
* Nashville 1-16 December 1864
* Appomattox 3-9 April 1865

**Indian Wars (14 Streamers)**

Indian Wars streamer

* Miami January 1790-August 1795
* Tippecanoe 21 September-18 November 1811
* Creeks 27 July 1813-August 1814; February 1836-July 1837
* Seminoles 20 November 1817-31 October 1818;  
  28 December 1835-14 August 1842; 15 December 1855-May 1858
* Black Hawk 26 April-20 September 1832
* Comanches 1867-1875
* Modocs 1872-1873
* Apaches 1873; 1885-1886
* Little Big Horn 1876-1877
* Nez Perces 1877
* Bannocks 1878
* Cheyennes 1878-1879
* Utes September 1879-November 1880
* Pine Ridge November 1890-January 1891

**War with Spain (3 Streamers)**

War with Spain streamer

* Santiago 22 June-11 July 1898
* Puerto Rico 25 July-13 August 1898
* Manila 31 July-13 August 1898

**China Relief Expedition (3 Streamers)**

China Relief Expedition streamer

* Tientsin 13 July 1900
* Yang-tsun 6 August 1900
* Peking 14-15 August 1900

**Philippine Insurrection (11 Streamers)**

Philippine Insurrection streamer

* Manila 4 February-17 March 1899
* Iloilo 8-12 February 1899
* Malolos 24 March-16 August 1899
* Laguna de Bay 8-17 April 1899
* San Isidro 12 April-30 May 1899; 15 October-19 November 1899
* Zapote River 13 June 1899
* Cavite 7-13 October 1899; 4 January-9 February 1900
* Tarlac 5-20 November 1899
* San Fabian 6-19 November 1899
* Mindanao 4 July 1902-31 December 1904; 22 October 1905
* Jolo 1-24 May 1905; 6-8 March 1906; 6 August 1906; 11-15 June 1913

**Mexican Expedition (1 Streamer)**

Mexican Expedition streamer

* Mexico 1916-1917 14 March 1916-7 February 1917

**World War I (13 Streamers)**

wwI streamer

* Cambrai 20 November-4 December 1917
* Somme Defensive 21 March-6 April 1918
* Lys 9-27 April 1918
* Aisne 27 May-5 June 1918
* Montdidier-Noyon 9-13 June 1918
* Champagne-Marne 15-18 July 1918
* Aisne-Marne 18 July-6 August 1918
* Somme Offensive 8 August-11 November 1918
* Oise-Aisne 18 August-11 November 1918
* Ypres-Lys 19 August-11 November 1918
* St. Mihiel 12-16 September 1918
* Meuse-Argonne 26 September-11 November 1918
* Vittorio Veneto 24 October-4 November 1918

**World War II (38 Streamers)**

**WWII - American Theater (1 Streamer)**

WWII - American Theater streamer

* Antisubmarine 7 December 1941-2 September 1945

**WWII - Asiatic-Pacific Theater (21 Streamers)**

WWII - Asiatic-Pacific Theater streamer

* Philippine Islands 7 December 1941-10 May 1942
* Burma, 1942 7 December 1941-26 May 1942
* Central Pacific 7 December 1941-6 December 1943
* East Indies 1 January-22 July 1942
* India-Burma 2 April 1942-28 January 1945
* Air Offensive, Japan 17 April 1942-2 September 1945
* Aleutian Islands 3 June 1942-24 August 1943
* China Defensive 4 July 1942-4 May 1945
* Papua 23 July 1942-23 January 1943
* Guadalcanal 7 August 1942-21 February 1943
* New Guinea 24 January 1943-31 December 1944
* Northern Solomons 22 February 1943-21 November 1944
* Eastern Mandates 31 January-14 June 1944
* Bismarck Archipelago 15 December 1943-27 November 1944
* Western Pacific 15 June 1944-2 September 1945
* Leyte 17 October 1944-1 July 1945
* Luzon 15 December 1944-4 July 1945
* Central Burma 29 January-15 July 1945
* Southern Philippines 27 February-4 July 1945
* Ryukyus 26 March-2 July 1945
* China Offensive 5 May-2 September 1945

**WWII - European-African-Middle Eastern Theater (16 Streamers)**

WWII - American Theater streamer

* Egypt-Libya 11 June 1942-12 February 1943
* Air Offensive, Europe 4 July 1942-5 June 1944
* Algeria-French Morocco 8-11 November 1942
* Tunisia 17 November 1942-13 May 1943
* Sicily 9 July-17 August 1943
* Naples-Foggia 18 August 1943-21 January 1944 (Air);  
  9 September 1943-21 January 1944 (Ground)
* Anzio 22 January-24 May 1944
* Rome-Arno 22 January-9 September 1944
* Normandy 6 June-24 July 1944
* Northern France 25 July-14 September 1944
* Southern France 15 August-14 September 1944
* Northern Apennines 10 September 1944-4 April 1945
* Rhineland 15 September 1944-21 March 1945
* Ardennes-Alsace 16 December 1944-25 January 1945
* Central Europe 22 March-11 May 1945
* Po Valley 5 April-8 May 1945

**Korean War (10 Streamers)**

Korean War streamer

* UN Defensive 27 June-15 September 1950
* UN Offensive 16 September-2 November 1950
* CCF Intervention 3 November 1950
* First UN Counteroffensive 25 January-21 April 1951
* CCF Spring Offensive 22 April-8 July 1951
* UN Summer-Fall Offensive 9 July-27 November 1951
* Second Korean Winter 28 November 1951-30 April 1952
* Korea, Summer-Fall 1952 1 May-30 November 1952
* Third Korean Winter 1 December 1952-30 April 1953
* Korea, Summer 1953 1 May-27 July 1953

**Vietnam War (17 Streamers)**

Vietnam War streamer

* Advisory 15 March 1962-7 March 1965
* Defense 8 March-24 December 1965
* Counteroffensive 25 December 1965-30 June 1966
* Counteroffensive, Phase II 1 July 1966-31 May 1967
* Counteroffensive, Phase III 1 June 1967-29 January 1968
* Tet Counteroffensive 30 January-1 April 1968
* Counteroffensive, Phase IV 2 April-30 June 1968
* Counteroffensive, Phase V 1 July-1 November 1968
* Counteroffensive, Phase VI 2 November 1968-22 February 1969
* Tet 69/Counteroffensive 23 February-8 June 1969
* Summer-Fall 1969 9 June-31 October 1969
* Winter-Spring 1970 1 November 1969-30 April 1970
* Sanctuary Counteroffensive 1 May-30 June 1970
* Counteroffensive, Phase VII 1 July 1970-31 June 1971
* Consolidation I 1 July-30 November 1971
* Consolidation II 1 December 1971-29 March 1972
* Cease-Fire 30 March 1972-28 January 1973

**Armed Forces Expeditions (4 Streamers)**

Armed Forces Expeditions streamer

* Dominican Republic 28 April 1965-21 September 1966
* Grenada 23 October-21 November 1983
* Panama 20 December 1989-31 January 1990
* Somalia 5 December 1992-31 March 1995

**Southwest Asia (3 Streamers)**

Southwest Asia streamer

* Defense of Saudi Arabia 2 August 1990-16 January 1991
* Liberation and Defense of Kuwait 17 January-11 April 1991
* Cease-Fire 12 April 1991-30 November 1995

**Kosovo (2 Streamers)**

Kosovo streamer

* Kosovo Air Campaign 24 March - 10 June 1999
* Kosovo Defense Campaign 11 June 1999 - 31 December 2013

**War on Terrorism (14 Streamers)**

War on Terrorism streamer

* Global War on Terrorism 11 September 2001 -  
  (Closing date to be determined)

**Afghanistan (5 Streamers)**

Afghanistan streamer

* Liberation of Afghanistan 11 September 2001 - 30 November 2001
* Consolidation I 1 December 2001 - 30 September 2006
* Consolidation II 1 October 2006 -30 November 2009
* Consolidation III 1 December 2009 – 30 June 2011
* Transition I 1 July 2011 – 31 December 2014
* Transition II 1 January 2015 – (Closing date to be determined,  
  not authorized for display)

**Iraq (7 Streamers)**

Iraq streamer

* Liberation of Iraq 19 March 2003 - 1 May 2003
* Transition of Iraq 2 May 2003 - 28 June 2004
* Iraqi Governance 29 June 2004 - 15 December 2005
* National Resolution 16 December 2005 – 9 January 2007
* Iraqi Surge 10 January 2007 -31 December 2008
* Iraqi Sovereignty 1 January 2009 – 31 August 2010
* New Dawn 1 September 2010 – 31 December 2011

**Inherent Resolve (1 Streamer)**

Inherent Resolve streamer padding-top-2px

* Abeyance 15 June 2014 to 24 November 2015
* Intensification 25 November 2015 -(Closing date to be determined,  
  not authorized for display)