



History and Heritage
Module A – The Battle of Yorktown
The American Revolution and Founding of Our Nation
1775 to 1815



Lesson Introduction



Tasks:

- Acquire basic knowledge of the US Army's history
- Identify Army Values highlighted during the American Revolution
- Develop a sense of pride and heritage as members of the US Army

Conditions

- **Timeframe:** 20-minute block of instruction
- **Location:** Classroom environment
- **Equipment:** Projectors, Speaker System, Slide Deck, and Videos
- **Student Resources:**
 - Note taking materials
 - Water source
 - Sensory Systems (Eyes and Ears)
 - Cognitive Functions (Brain)
 - Response Mechanism (Voice)





Terminal Learning Objective



Standards

Pre-Requisite Reading:

- Trainees read pages 1-12 of “*Army History and Heritage, CH-1*”

Key learning points:

- The US Army’s Birthday
- The battle that convinced the French to support the Revolution
- How victory at Yorktown influenced the outcome of the Revolution
- How the highlighted individuals displayed Army Values

Lesson validation:

- Verify knowledge through checks on learning





The Army Values



Loyalty

Definition: *a strong sense of support or allegiance; fidelity; faithfulness*

Why is Loyalty important?

*The success of the Army relies on each individual
to bear true faith and allegiance
to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, their Unit, and other Soldiers*

>> Remember: the Army Values transcend circumstance <<



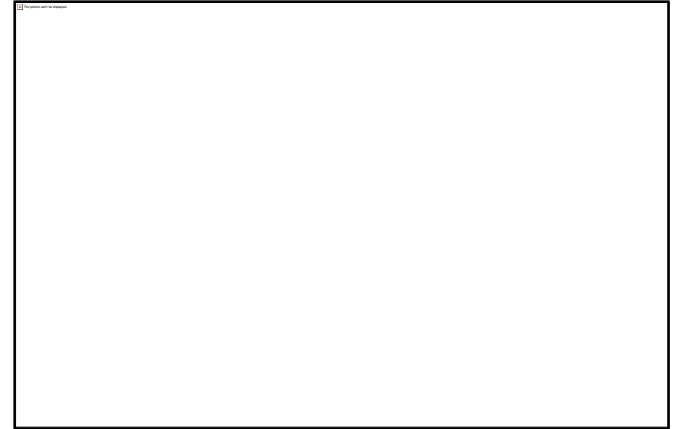


Before the Revolution...

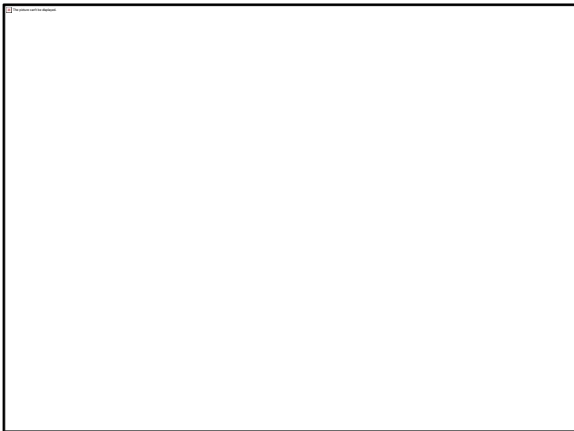


The **Militia System**: the Army's Deepest Roots

- Criminals, natives, invaders = Colonial Threats!
- Standing Armies = Expensive...
- Solution = Every able man defends the colony



Early American Colonial Militia



The French and Indian War

The “**French and Indian War**” (1754-1763)

- Subset of the global “Seven Years War”
- British fought the French and Indian Alliance
- British Victory! ...*but very expensive*...



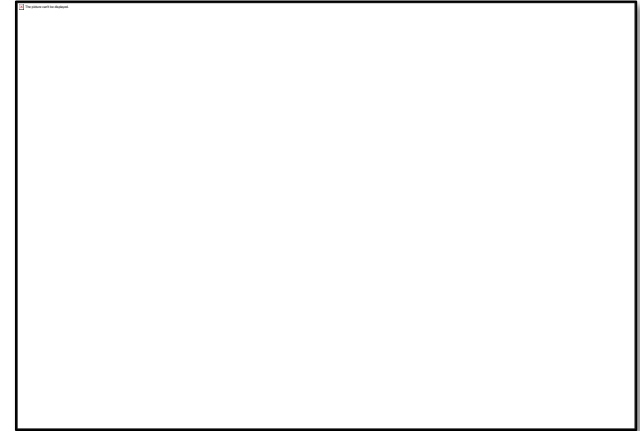


The Shot Heard 'Round the World



The Battles of Lexington and Concord

- 19 April 1775: Paul Revere and William Dawes warn the militia
- “**Minutemen**” form at Lexington and Concord
Lexington: Shots fired - Minutemen disperse
- British are harassed back to Boston
- News of *Concord* spreads around the world



Battle of Lexington

The Second Continental Congress

- Need an army to *defend colonial rights*
- **14 June, 1775:** The **Continental Army** formed
- **George Washington:** Commander-in-Chief!



The Second Continental Congress





The Early Challenges (1775 - 1777)



MAY 1775: Continental Army captures Fort Ticonderoga



Ethan Allen at Fort Ticonderoga

JUN 1776: Continental Army takes New York

- **4 July 1776: Declaration of Independence**

AUG 1776: British take back New York



General Washington crosses the Delaware

DEC 1776: Continental Army defeats Hessians at Trenton

SEP 1777: Continental Army wins **Battle of Saratoga**

- **Prompts French to support** the Americans



General Horatio Gates at Saratoga

SEP 1777: British take Philadelphia

DEC 1777: Continental Army withdraws to **Valley Forge**



General Washington rides into Valley Forge





Valley Forge, 1777-1778



The Continental Army suffered harsh weather, disease, and starvation

Continental Soldiers spent ***six-months training*** under Prussian General ***Baron Friedrich von Steuben***

The Continental Army *became a world-class fighting force*, hardened through hardship and resolved to achieve victory



Baron Fredrich von Steuben



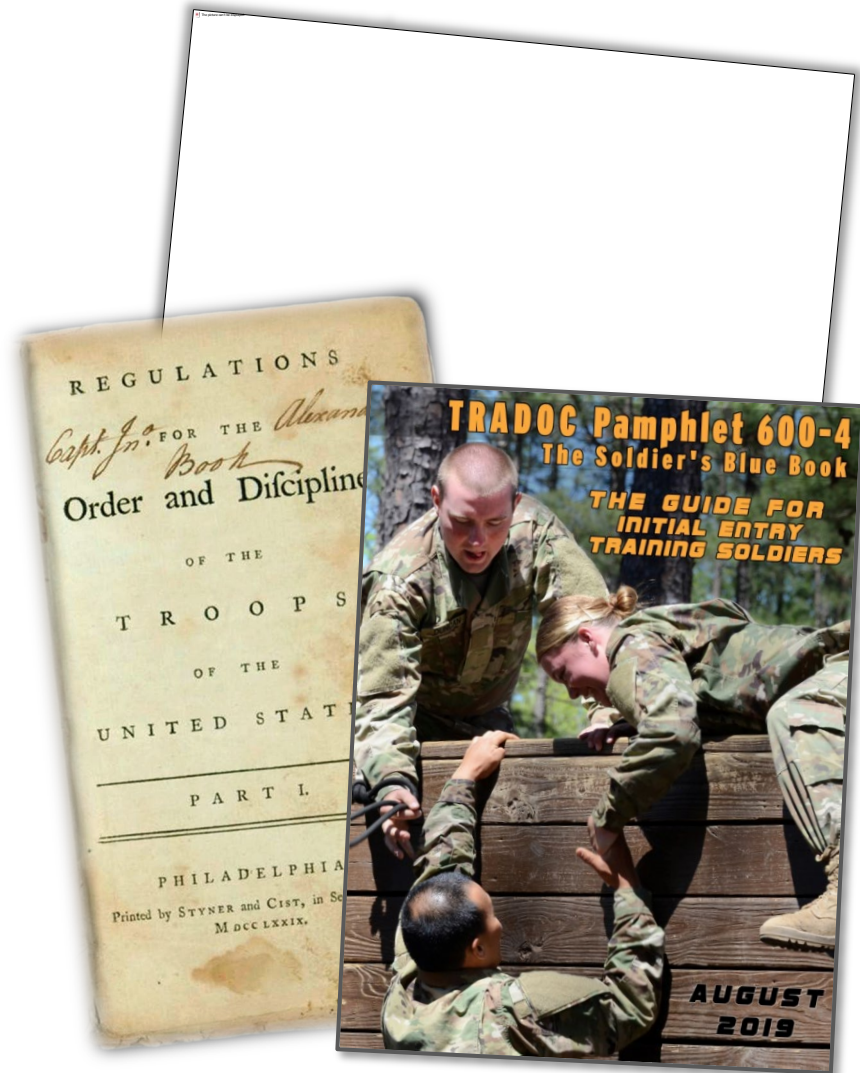
Continental Soldiers Performing Drills in Formation



Von Steuben's Training Manual



- Von Steuben's training manual was called the "**Blue Book**"
- The basis of training at Valley Forge with instruction on:
 - Uniforms and care of Equipment
 - Marching and Firing Orders
 - Bayonet Attacks and Charges
 - Accountability of Arms
 - Personal Cleanliness and Sick Call
 - NCO Leadership
 - General Orders
- **Why does this still matter today?**





Check On Learning



- When did Congress form the Continental Army?
- Why did Congress form the Continental Army?
- Why was the Army's victory at Saratoga important?
- Why was training at Valley Forge significant?
- What was Baron Fredrich von Steuben's Training Manual?





Video Clip



- 1c. Module A - Battle of Yorktown Video

(3:32 length)





The Battle of Yorktown: Aftermath



19 October 1781: General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown

- **Parliament concluded** that continuing the *war in America was futile*
- The **colonies** would be **granted independence in 1783's Treaty of Paris**



The British Surrender at Yorktown





Army Values - Loyalty



Ethan Allen and The Green Mountain Boys

- Formed as a militia of frontier farmers
- Fought in defense of their homesteads
- Took Fort Ticonderoga with General Benedict Arnold

Though never interested in the revolution, the boys were concerned about their farms and families.

Fighting the British promised peace and security, so they accepted Benedict Arnold's request.



Ethan stepped forward and shouted, "We're going to take this fort, so y'all had better run!"

He then headed toward the fort and, without prompt, the rest of the boys followed him. Once they had bypassed the walls, the British surrendered, having seen how many there were.

The Green Mountain Boys went on to assist in many other battles. When the war ended, they went back home to continue protecting their lands.

- Loyalty





Army Values - *Loyalty*



General Sir Benedict Arnold

- An early hero of the Revolution and capable General
- Fought at Ticonderoga, Quebec, and Bemis Heights
- Defected to the British due to perceived ingratitude

General Arnold's debt, which began accumulating during his time as governor, and his growing resentment having been passed up for promotion, prompted him to believe he would do better to assist the British.



Through British Major John Andre, he corresponded with British leadership to turn over his post at West Point in exchange for a commission in the British Army.

After the war had ended, Arnold would reside in England. The British regarded him with ambivalence while his former countrymen despised him.

His name would become synonymous with "Traitor" throughout US history
- Loyalty





Check on Learning



- What is the Army's Birthday?
- Why did the Continental Congress form the Army?
- What event convinced the French to support the American Revolution?
- Why was training at Valley Forge so significant?
- How did victory at Yorktown influence the Revolution?
- What is the importance of Loyalty?





Period Covered





“History Starts Here”