



# Army's 244th birthday highlights long history of excellence

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America's Army was founded June 14, 1775, and under the new Constitution enacted in 1789, it became a military department of the federal government — a hierarchical, bureaucratic institution. Many decades later, by the early 1900s, generations of Army leaders slowly transformed the Army into the modern professional entity of today.

The first cohort professionalized by today's standards was the officer corps. It developed a codified body of expert military knowledge in land warfare doctrine, instituted formal programs of career-long military education and cultivated a unique military culture grounded in the Army ethic of honorable service to the nation.

Because of these and other such advancements, bonds of trust between the Army and the American people began to grow.

For many years, some believed that only officers were professionals. But in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, while rebuilding the hollow Army of the 1970s, such status was extended through professional development to warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and Army civilians as their vital contributions and value to the profession gained recognition.

The Army as an institution has a dual character — it is both a governmental occupation within a military department organized as a hierarchical bureaucracy and, more recently, recognized collectively as a military profession. These two aspects of the institution — bureaucracy and profession — have very different characteristics, ethics and ways of behaving. Both aspects are necessary



The painting "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis" by John Trumbull is on display in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. The subject of this painting is the surrender of the British army at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, which ended the last major campaign of the Revolutionary War.



COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Continental Army, 1779-1783, by Henry Alexander Ogden, IV / H. A. Ogden; lith. by G. H. Buek & Co., N.Y. Summary: Illustration depicts the uniforms and weapons used during the 1779 to 1783 period of the American Revolution by showing four soldiers standing in an informal group.

within the variety of organizations and functions within the Army, but overall the challenge is to keep the predominant culture and climate of the Army as that of a military profession.

According to John R. Maass, a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, when the American Revolution broke out, the rebellious colonies did not possess an army in the modern sense. Rather, the revolutionaries fielded an amateur force of colonial troops, cobbled together from various New England militia companies. They had no unified chain of command, and although Artemas Ward of Massachusetts exercised authority by informal agreement, officers from other colonies were not obligated to obey

his orders. The American volunteers were led, equipped, armed, paid for and supported by the colonies from which they were raised.

In the spring of 1775, this "army" was about to confront British troops near Boston, Mass., Maass said.

The revolutionaries had to re-organize their forces quickly if they were to stand a chance against Britain's seasoned professionals. Recognizing the need to enlist the support of all of the American seaboard colonies, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress appealed to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia to assume authority for the New England army. Reportedly, at John Adams' request, Congress voted to "adopt"

the Boston troops on June 14, although there is no written record of this decision. Also on this day, Congress resolved to form a committee "to bring in a draft of rules and regulations for the government of the Army" and voted \$2,000,000 to support the forces around Boston and those at New York City. Moreover, Congress authorized the formation of ten companies of expert riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, which were directed to march to Boston to support the New England militia.

George Washington received his appointment as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army the next day and formally took command at Boston on July 3, 1775.

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# First Team leads the way for Fort Hood

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The 1st Cavalry Division was formally activated Sept. 13, 1921, at Fort Bliss, in El Paso. The division's early duties included rough-riding and patrolling the Mexican border. Technological progress of the 1940s diminished the usefulness of horse-mounted soldiers, however, and the division served as dismounted cavalry in World War II's Pacific Theater.

In March 1944, the 1st Cavalry Division stormed the beaches of Los Negros Island, fighting fierce campaigns against the Japanese Empire. The division's next action was a few months later on the Philippine Islands of Leyte and Luzon. The division was "First into Manila" in February 1945. Maj. Gen. William C. Chase gave the division its nickname "First Team," which was well-received and remains in use today. In September 1945, the First Team led occupational forces into Japan's capital city, earning the distinction of "First in Tokyo."

Next, the division stormed ashore at Poe-Hongdong, South Korea, in the Korean War's first amphibious landing. By July 1950, the 1st Cav began offensive operations to the north and crossed the 38th parallel on Oct. 9, 1950. Closing on North Korea's capital 10 days later, the First Team was "First in Pyongyang."

In July 1965, the 1st Cavalry Division was re-stationed to Fort Benning, Ga., and organized for new missions in Southeast Asia. The unit became the Army's first "Airmobile" division and initially saw combat in the Republic of Vietnam during the thirty-five day Pleiku Campaign, earning a Presidential Unit Citation. The enemy launched the



A 1st Cavalry Division tank takes on the appearance of a Times Square subway train at the rush hour as GIs pile aboard on March 14, 1951, for a ride across the Hongchon River near the former Red supply base of Hongchon, Korea.

JIM PRINGLE/AP

famous Tet Offensive in late January 1968. Already on the move, the First Team rushed north, liberating cities and boldly repelling the enemy offensive. The division's sky troopers flew in to relieve the besieged Marine base at Khe Sanh and the division was "First into Cambodia" in May 1970.

Redeployment to Fort Hood began one year later, where the division reorganized into a "Triple Capability" or "Tri-


cap" division, incorporating an armor brigade, an air mobility brigade and an air cavalry brigade. In 1990, the division deployed to Southwest Asia to help deter Iraqi aggression during Operation Desert Shield. In January 1991, 1st Cav staged elaborate deceptions in support of the main ground effort in Operation Desert Storm. The division was exploiting the Iraqi withdrawal when the U.S. commander, Gen. Norman Schwartz-

kopf, halted offensive operations.

In 1998, the 1st Cavalry Division assumed the mission of Task Force Eagle, conducting peace support operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Following four months of highly successful and intensive planning, training and maintaining, America's First Team assumed the mission of ensuring peace and stability

PLEASE SEE **FIRST TEAM, A7**

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Pfc. Paul Davis is welcomed to Tokyo by Maj. Gen. William C. Chase, commanding general.

# FIRST TEAM

FROM PAGE A6

throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina for over a year.

From the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, the division and its brigades continued the tradition of service by deploying six times to Iraq in support of Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation New Dawn. These deployments would include engaging anti-Iraqi and al-Qaeda forces throughout the country, the first free elections in Iraq and providing training to Iraqi security forces and support to the people. The division's four brigade combat teams deployed to Iraq in 2010-2011 as Advise and Assist Brigades with the goal to strengthen Iraqi sovereignty, stability and self-reliance while supporting counter-terrorism operations.

The division and its brigades would deploy to Afghanistan four separate times

in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2011, the division distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious achievement from May 19, 2011, to April 19, 2012, in Regional Command-East, Afghanistan. The command created a unified team that was integrated in all operations and committed to working by, with and through Afghan institutions. The 1st Cav Headquarters deployed to Afghanistan to assume command of Regional Command-South on July 7, 2014 and later the Train, Advise, Assist Command-South. U.S. and Coalition forces, under the command of the division in Southern Afghanistan, conducted train, advise and assist missions so that the Afghan National Security Forces would be sustainable and capable of protecting their population and government into the future. With the division Headquarters and elements of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment deployed to Afghanistan, events required the division's remaining units take on new missions around the world. Units deployed to areas where no 1st Cav



Vincent Suarez on horse 5C in 1942.

COURTESY OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

troopers have ever been or had not seen for decades. These areas included Europe, Korea, Africa and Cuba. First Team troopers demonstrated their excellence while performing a wide variety of missions during multiple operations.

The Army's finest soldiers and best equipment, the hard-riding spirit of the

United States Cavalry, is alive and well in the 1st Cavalry Division. The division's more than 26,000 soldiers combine the spirit of the Cav's heritage with challenges facing an alert, combat-ready, armored division. The "First Team" remains ready to fight anywhere, anytime, and win.

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# Mary Edwards Walker is the only female Medal of Honor recipient

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Of the nation's 1.8 million women veterans, only one woman has ever earned the Medal of Honor — Mary Edwards Walker, for her service during the Civil War.

As a young woman, the rural New York state native taught school to earn enough money to put herself through Syracuse Medical College, which was the nation's first medical school that accepted women and men on an equal basis. She graduated as a medical doctor in 1855 — the only woman in her class.

When the Civil War broke out, she tried to join the Union Army in Washington, according to a story in [www.medalofhonornews.com](http://www.medalofhonornews.com). She was denied a commission as a medical officer, so volunteered anyway as a nurse. As an unpaid volunteer, she worked in the U.S. Patent Office Hospital in Washington, D.C., as an unpaid volunteer and later worked as a field surgeon near the Union front lines for almost two years.

She was eventually awarded a commission as a "Contract Acting Assistant Surgeon," a civilian position, by the Army of the Cumberland in September 1863, becoming the first ever female U.S. Army Surgeon.

According to [www.aboutnorthgeorgia.com](http://www.aboutnorthgeorgia.com), Walker would often cross enemy lines to assist Georgians whose lives had been destroyed by the Civil War. Following the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, women and children in northwest Georgia frequently lived in swamps and low ground near water, sometimes sick or near death. Walker treated them with supplies taken from Federal stores.

On April 10, 1864, dressed in full uniform, she accidentally walked into a group of Rebel soldiers just south of the Georgia-Tennessee border. Their commander, Gen. Daniel Harvey Hill, ordered her sent to Richmond as a prisoner. She was released in time to help during the battle for Atlanta as a surgeon in Louisville, Kentucky. Walker was greatly pleased that she had been traded "man for man," for a Confederate Officer.

On Nov. 11, 1865, President Andrew Johnson signed a bill to present Dr. Mary Edwards Walker with the Congressional Medal of Honor for Meritorious Service, in order to recognize her contributions to the war effort without awarding her an army commission. She was the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor.

Her citation reads:  
"Whereas it appears from official reports that Dr. Mary E. Walker, a graduate of medicine, has rendered valuable service to the Government and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways, and that she was assigned to duty and served as an assistant surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louis-



COURTESY PHOTO

Civil War veteran Mary Edwards Walker was the only woman veteran who has ever earned the Medal of Honor.

ville, Ky., upon the recommendation of Major Generals Sherman and Thomas, and faithfully served as contract surgeon in the service of the United States, and has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers,

both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a Southern prison while acting as contract surgeon; and whereas by reason of her not being a commis-

ioned officer in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank cannot, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and whereas in the opinion of the President an honorable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made: It is ordered, That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker; and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her.

Given under my hand in the city of Washington, D.C., this 11th day of November, A.D. 1865."

In 1917, the federal government tried to clear up a lot of errors made in issuing medals during the Civil War. Walker's medal was revoked for "unusual circumstances" two years before she died. She refused to relinquish the medal to the Army as requested and proudly wore it daily until she died in 1919.

President Jimmy Carter reinstated the medal to Walker in 1977.

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