

Special Veteran's Day Edition
eNEWSLETTER



*The Faces of
Rural Transit Veterans*

LETTER FROM MISSOURI RTAP

Dear Transit Veterans,

This special edition eNewsletter recognizes and honors all veterans associated with Missouri rural transit agencies. Heath, Kristi and I would like to thank each one of you for serving in the military for the greatest nation in history.

A veteran has patriotism and love of country while being humble, courageous and loyal. Moreover, he or she is fearless, selfless, and willing to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Simply stated, a veteran is someone who, at some point in life, wrote a check to the United States of America for an amount up to and including his or her life. No other commitment matches this great sacrifice to our country.

I am an Air Force veteran and extremely proud of my 20 years active duty service to my country and her people. Being in the military changed my life in the very best ways. I come from a long line of veterans, including my father, many uncles, many cousins, and my youngest brothers. Service to country runs in my family. However, I am the only woman in my large family to serve in the military as well as the first to serve 20 years and retire.



To share a sweet story that happened years ago at a Columbia hospital, I was at the bistro for coffee. Standing in front of me were a WWII veteran and his wife. Looking at his tiny frame and kind, gentle face underneath his WWII Veteran hat, brought tears to my eyes as I imagined the horrors he must have seen and the comrades he lost in the biggest and deadliest war in history. I offered to buy their coffee and snacks. At first they said no but I insisted. The entire time we chatted, they both smiled brightly as he talked about his service, remembering things as if they happened yesterday. Before I left them, I gave his fragile hand a gentle shake, thanking him as well as his wife for their service. Military spouses are part of military service too as they tend the home front, take care of their families, and in the case of this veteran's wife, support the war effort working in a factory. They are no less important than their spouse because they give their all too.

Veterans continue to serve after discharge or retirement, contributing to their community's strength and well-being. Veterans find ways to apply their skills and the leadership they learned and mastered during their military careers. Almost every Missouri rural transit agency employs at least one veteran. OATS Transit's workforce consists of 645 active employees, of which 17% are veterans (103 personnel).

Throughout this special edition eNewsletter honoring the rural transit veterans, please find interesting facts about each branch of the military our veterans have served. We have highlighted those veterans that chose to participate. Their names, branch of service, rank and pay grade upon discharge, along with years of military service are listed underneath their picture.

I would like to personally extend a HUGE thank you to all my military brothers and sisters. Even though I don't know you, we are connected nonetheless through service to country.

Thank you to all Missouri's rural transit agency veterans!

Doreen Harkins, TSgt, USAF, Retired

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!
HAPPY VETERANS DAY!**



The Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) was initiated in 1986 by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to provide resources, training and technical assistance to rural transit providers. The Missouri RTAP Center is located at Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) in Rolla. Since April 2012, Missouri S&T has been contracted by MoDOT to manage the RTAP program.

A close-up, vertical view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is draped and appears to be part of a larger composition.

THE VETERAN'S CREED

1. I AM AN AMERICAN VETERAN.
2. I PROUDLY SERVED MY COUNTRY.
3. I LIVE THE VALUES I LEARNED IN THE MILITARY.
4. I CONTINUE TO SERVE MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY AND MY FELLOW VETERANS.
5. I MAINTAIN MY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISCIPLINE.
6. I CONTINUE TO LEAD AND IMPROVE.
7. I MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
8. I HONOR AND REMEMBER MY FALLEN COMRADES.

UNITED STATES ARMY: MAIN U.S. GROUND FORCE



The Army is the main ground-force of the United States. Its primary function is to protect and defend the country and its interests with ground troops, armor (such as tanks), artillery, attack helicopters, tactical nuclear weapons, and other weapons. The Army is the oldest U.S. military service, officially established by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1775. It's also the largest of the military services. The Army is supported by two Reserve Forces which can be tapped for trained personnel and equipment during times of need: The Army Reserves, and the Army National Guard.

FACTS ABOUT A BRANCH THAT'S OLDER THAN THE U.S.

FACT #1: THE ARMY OWNS A TON OF LAND

Overall, more than 15 million acres of land across the United States belongs to the Army. If the Army was considered a city, it would be the fourth largest city in the United States. Between equipment and land, the Army owns:

- 4,406 manned aircraft
- 225,000 vehicles
- 24,000 square miles of land

FACT #2: THE ARMY IS THE SECOND LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THE U.S. HERE'S A LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS (AND ANIMALS!) THE U.S. ARMY CURRENTLY EMPLOYS:

- 476,000 Regular Army personnel
- 343,000 Army National Guard personnel
- 199,000 Army Reserve personnel
- 1,018,000 total uniformed personnel
- 330,000 civilian personnel
- 500 Military Working Dogs

FACT #3: THERE ARE 13 ENLISTED RANKS

- Private
- Private Second Class
- Private First Class
- Corporal
- Specialist
- Sergeant
- Staff Sergeant
- Sergeant First Class
- Master Sergeant
- First Sergeant
- Sergeant Major
- Command Sergeant Major
- Sergeant Major of the Army

INTERESTING U.S. ARMY FACTS

- Most U.S. Presidents with military service served in the Army.
- 30 of the 43 Presidents that served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (George Washington and Dwight D. Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (Theodore Roosevelt).
- Army General Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion pioneered modern guerrilla warfare tactics during the Revolutionary War.
- There have only been five Five-Star generals in the Army: General of the Army George C. Marshall, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, General of the Army Henry H. Arnold, and General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.
- The American Turtle was the first documented submarine and was used (unsuccessfully) by the Army in the Revolutionary War.
- Military Working Dogs, or MWDs are trained in various methods of attack, detection, and patrol. The dogs can also specialize in narcotics or explosives detection. Dogs must undergo 16 hours of training every month, in addition to quarterly evaluations.
- The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all Army affair.
- Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.



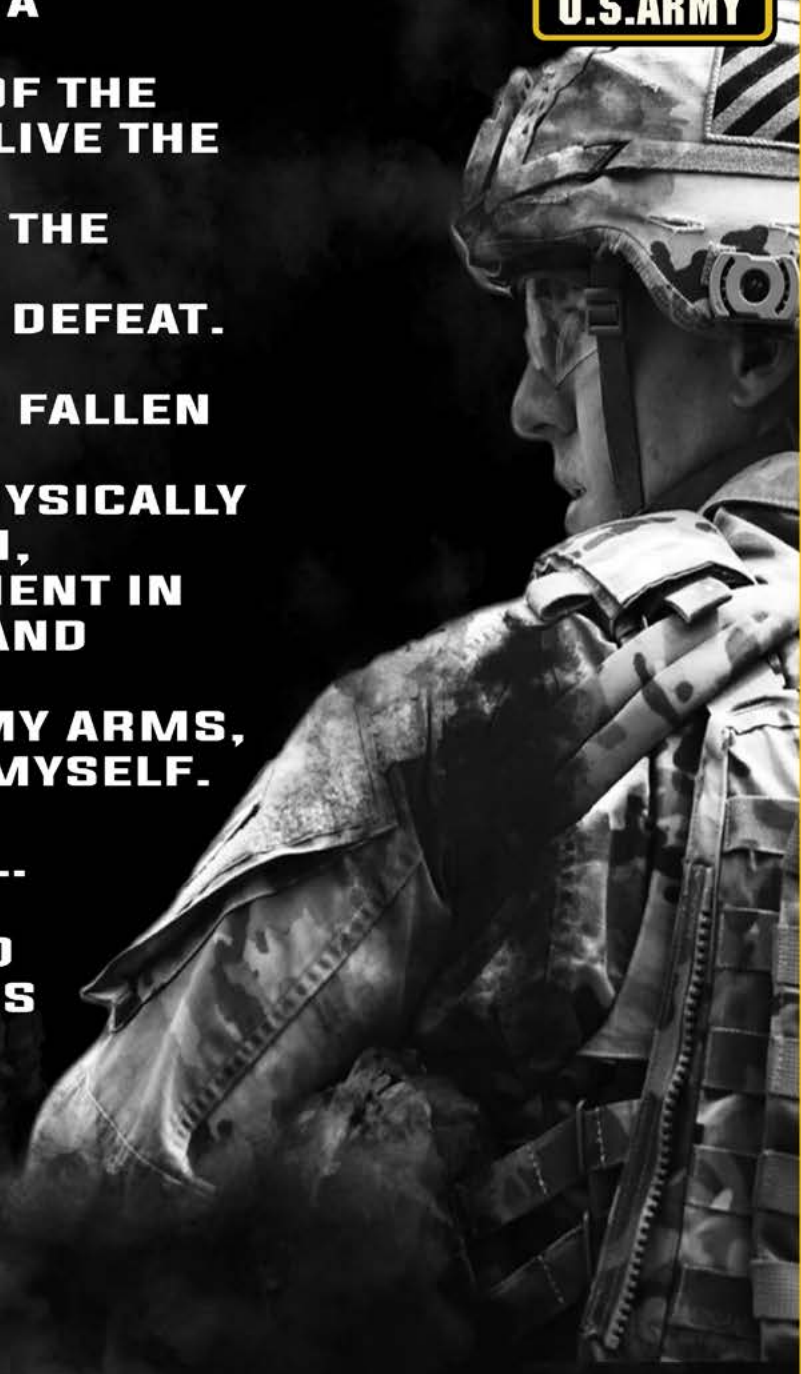
SOLDIER'S CREED



U.S. ARMY

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.
I AM A WARRIOR AND A MEMBER OF A TEAM.
I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND LIVE THE ARMY VALUES.
I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST.
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT.
I WILL NEVER QUIT.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.
I AM DISCIPLINED, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY TOUGH, TRAINED AND PROFICIENT IN MY WARRIOR TASKS AND DRILLS.
I ALWAYS MAINTAIN MY ARMS, MY EQUIPMENT AND MYSELF.
I AM AN EXPERT, AND I AM A PROFESSIONAL.
I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE, AND DESTROY THE ENEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CLOSE COMBAT.
I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.
I AM AN...



AMERICAN SOLDIER.



OUR TRANSIT VETERANS

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM



GARY MILLER	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	2 YEARS
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CITY OF NEVADA



WAYNE TIPTON	U.S. ARMY	STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)	14 YEARS
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RIPLEY COUNTY TRANSIT



GEORGE T. ARNOLD	U.S. ARMY	SPECIALIST (E-4)	3 YEARS
JOHNNY D. GARRETT	U.S. MARINE CORPS	CORPORAL (E-4)	3 YEARS
GEORGE B. NEFF	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	5 YEARS
KEVIN M. OWEN	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	4 YEARS
VERNON R. RAPER	U.S. NAVY	PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS (E-5)	4.5 YEARS
VERNON R. RAPER	U.S. NAVY SEABEES/RESERVES	SEABEES DK3 (E-4)	21 YEARS



SERVE, Inc.

Serving others is our mission

Thomas Mustain	U.S. ARMY	SPECIALIST (E-4)	5 YEARS
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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE: NEWEST BRANCH



The Air Force is the youngest military service. Prior to 1947, the Air Force was a separate Corps of the Army. The primary mission of the Army Air Corps was to support Army ground forces. However, World War II showed that air power had much more potential than simply supporting ground troops, so the Air Force was established as a separate service.

The primary mission of the Air Force is to defend the U.S. and its interests via air and space. It operates fighter aircraft, tanker aircraft, light and heavy bomber aircraft, transport aircraft, and helicopters. The Air Force is also responsible for all military satellites and controls strategic nuclear ballistic missiles. Like the Army, the active duty Air Force is supplemented by the Air Force Reserves and the Air National Guard.

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE U.S. AIR FORCE

1. The Air Force tracks Santa.

On December 24, 1955 a newspaper ad told kids that they could call Santa at an included phone number. The number listed called the U.S. Air Defense Command. The colonel on duty ordered his team to give all kids Santa's "current location." This tradition now handles calls from over 200 countries.

2. The Air Force shares its birthday with the CIA.

Both were founded on September 18, 1947.

3. An Airman first broke the sound barrier.

In 1947, then-Air Force Capt. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in his Bell X-1 rocket-powered aircraft, kicking off a race of pilots who competed to do the next big thing, eventually leading to outer space and a man on the moon.

4. The Air Force built a supercomputer out of Sony PlayStations.

The Air Force Research Lab built a supercomputer called the Condor Cluster to analyze HD satellite imagery. The supercomputer is made up entirely of 1,760 PlayStation 3's. It's the 33rd most-powerful computer in the world.

5. An Ace isn't just a good pilot. They're the best combat pilots.

An "ace" is a pilot who has shot down five or more enemy aircraft. The top jet ace in U.S. Air Force history is Joseph C. McConnell, a "Triple ace" who shot down 16 MiG fighters during the Korean War over a four-month period, bagging three on his last combat mission of the war. His record still stands.

6. Airmen respect North Dakota.

At the height of the Cold War, North Dakota was home to so many USAF nuclear weapons that if it seceded from the Union, it would have been the third largest nuclear power in the world.

7. Airmen get hairier every spring.

Every year, airmen participate in a Mustache March, a tradition where airmen grow mustaches throughout the month of March to honor Air Force legend, WWII and Vietnam veteran, and triple ace Brigadier General Robin Olds.



U.S. AIR FORCE

8. Some Airmen took the "Live in Fame" part of the Air Force song to heart.

Johnny Cash, George Carlin, Willie Nelson, Morgan Freeman, Hunter S. Thompson, and James Stewart are just a few celebrities who were Airmen. Stewart flew missions in World War II and Vietnam and rose to the rank of Brigadier General while still working in Hollywood.

9. The Air Force boasts two Presidents.

Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush served as airmen. Reagan served in WWII when the branch was still the Army Air Forces. Bush served in the Texas Air National Guard before transferring to the Air Force Reserve during the Vietnam era.

10. "Air Force One" isn't a plane.

It's the radio call name for any U.S. Air Force plane carrying the President of the United States.

11. The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly.

12. Air Force weathermen are Special Forces.

They go through Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Air Force Basic Survival School, Air Force Water Survival Training, Air Force Underwater Egress Training, Combat Control School at Pope Field, North Carolina, and Special Tactics Training at Hurlbert Field. They work primarily with Air Force and Army Special Operations Forces but can also be attached to Marine MARSOC and Navy SEAL teams.

13. An Air Force tour in Korea made Chuck Norris the man he is today.

While Chuck Norris was stationed in Korea, he realized he wasn't physically able to do his job as an Air Policeman (now called Security Forces) and developed an interest in martial arts. This is also where he earned the nickname Chuck.



THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN

I AM A WARRIOR

I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN

MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN

I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE

A TRADITION OF HONOR

AND A LEGACY OF VALOR

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN

GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD

ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER

I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE

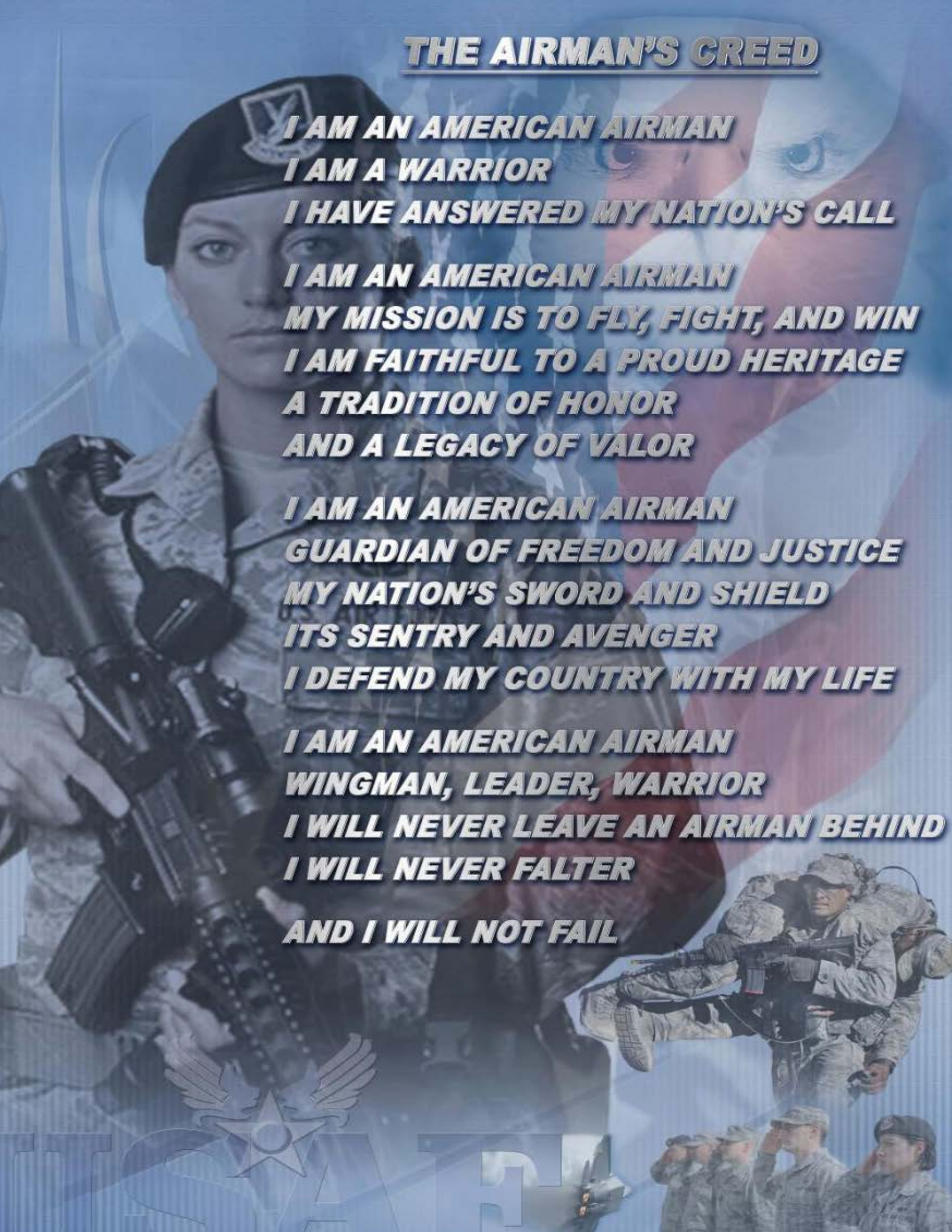
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN

WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR

I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND

I WILL NEVER FALTER

AND I WILL NOT FAIL



OUR TRANSIT VETERANS

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC.



DARRELL HOWE	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	7 YEARS
DAVID JOHN	U.S. AIR FORCE	MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)	21 YEARS
DAVID PARSONS	U.S. NAVY	SEABEES BU3 (E-4)	4 YEARS
GARRY WALKER	U.S. NAVY	PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS (E-4)	5 YEARS
GERALD MCCLOUD	U.S. AIR FORCE	SERGEANT (E-4)	4 YEARS
HARRY ABBOTT	U.S. MARINE CORPS	LANCE CORPORAL (E-3)	2 YEARS
JERRY SMITH	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	3 YEARS
JIM KLEIN	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	6 YEARS
KENNETH WHITED	U.S. MARINE CORPS	STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)	12 YEARS
KENNY GRASS	U.S. AIR FORCE	STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)	4.5 YEARS
LYNDEL BROWN	U.S. NAVY	PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS (E-4)	4 YEARS
MICHAEL THOMPSON	U.S. AIR FORCE	TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)	14 YEARS
PAUL MASHBURN	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	21.5 YEARS
THOMAS MORRIS	U.S. ARMY	SPECIALIST (E-4)	3 YEARS
WENDELL MOORE	AIR NATIONAL GUARD	TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)	21.5 YEARS

UNITED STATES NAVY: SAFETY AT SEA



Like the Army, the Navy was officially established by the Continental Congress in 1775. The Navy's primary mission is to maintain and protect U.S. interests at sea. In times of conflict, the Navy helps to supplement Air Force air power, since Navy aircraft carriers can often deploy to areas where fixed runways are impossible. An aircraft carrier usually carries about 80 aircraft, mostly fighters or fighter-bombers.

Navy ships can attack land targets from miles away with very heavy guns and cruise missiles. Navy submarines allow stealth attacks on our enemies from right off their shores. The Navy is also primarily responsible for transporting Marines to areas of conflict. The Navy is supported in times of need by the Naval Reserves.

However, unlike the Army and Air Force, there is no Naval National Guard.

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE U.S. NAVY

1. Volunteering, then volunteering again.

If you're pulling duty on a submarine, it's not by chance. Due to the claustrophobic and technical nature of the assignment, any Navy personnel serving on a submarine is asked to do so.

2. Fouled Anchors.

If an anchor is fouled, it means the line or chain is wrapped around the shank and fluke arms. This indicates the anchor is no longer suitable for use. These retired anchors are usually displayed for decorative purposes on base or in Navy communities. The symbol is also part of the Chief Petty Officer rank insignia.

3. Mind your Ps and Qs.

Sure, you want to write your lowercase letters correctly, but this wasn't originally a grammar warning. Instead, according to the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, it was a way of keeping bar bookkeepers - and their seafaring patrons - honest in waterfront taverns. In centuries past, sailors often had bar tabs on credit, with barkeepers making marks next to each patron's name under P for pint and Q for quart. Minding one's Ps and Qs meant both settling up and also staying somewhat sober as to keep an accurate count on what one had consumed.

4. A sign inside the camo.

Much like the Marine Corps camouflage pattern upon which the Navy version was developed, Navy "digis," as they are often called, have tiny Navy emblems printed inside the pattern. Next time you're close to a sailor, see if you can spot one.

5. Bravo Zulu means "well done".

Through World War II, sailors who did well were told "Tare Victor George," which was code for "well done." After the war, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed and it standardized communications. NATO created a system of B-flags for administrative communication. The last B-flag was BZ. The Allied Naval Signal Book created the phonetics for each letter and BZ became Bravo Zulu.

6. The story behind the art.

Though tattoos are discouraged in today's Navy, sailors for hundreds of years tattooed themselves as souvenirs to show where they'd been and what they'd gone through. Here is a short (and far from comprehensive) list collected from sources around the Web.

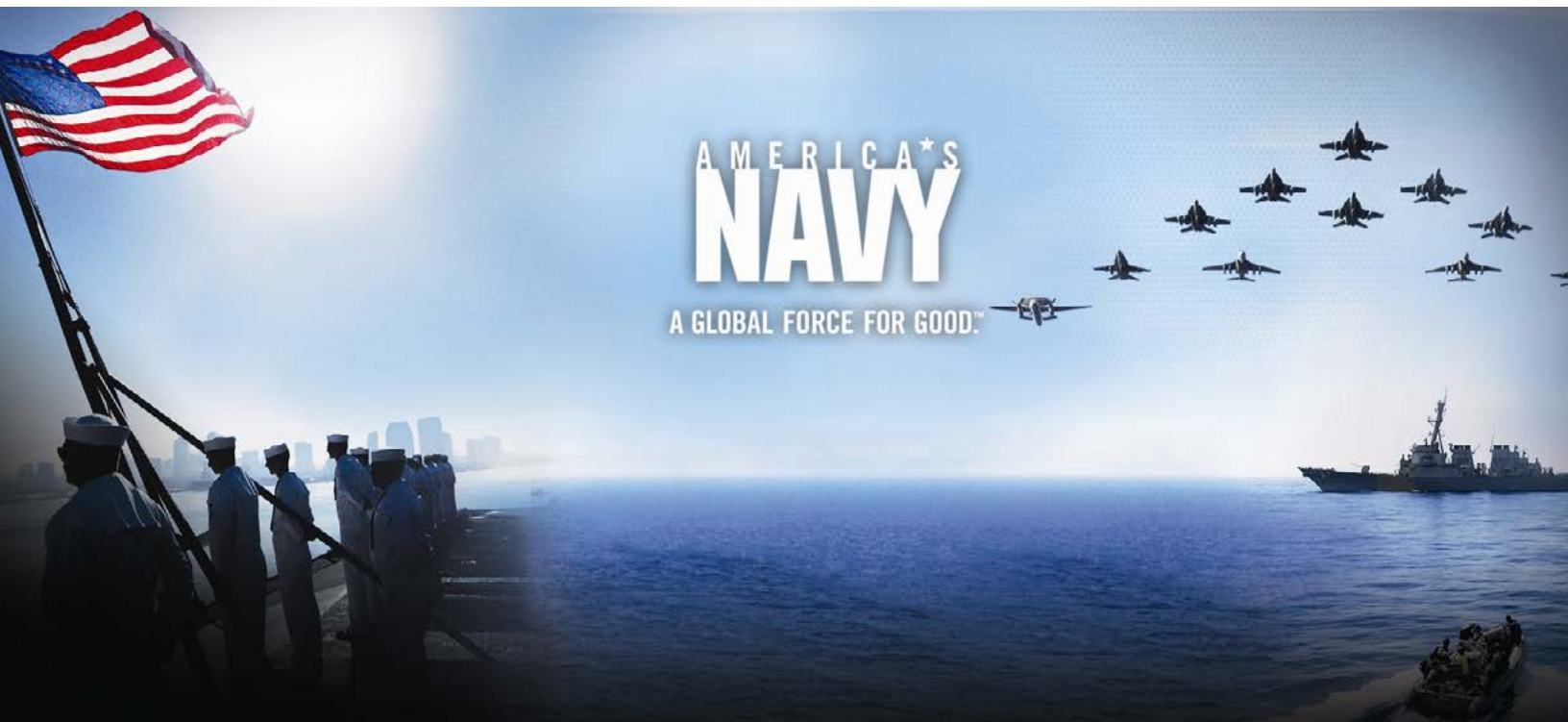
- Swallows: Home (each denotes 5,000 miles at sea)
- Compass/Nautical Star: Never losing one's way (each denotes 10,000 miles at sea)
- Trident: Special warfare
- Rose: A significant other left at home



- Twin screws or props on one's backside: Propels one forward through life
- Rope: Deckhand
- Octopus: Navy diver
- Dolphin: Wards off sharks
- Sharks: Rescue swimmer
- Polar bear: Sailed the Arctic Circle
- Dragon: Sailed the Pacific
- Fouled anchor: Sailed the Atlantic
- Turtle: Crossed the equator
- Gold dragon: Crossed the International Dateline
- Gold turtle: Crossed the International Dateline and the Equator where they intersect
- Emerald fouled anchor: Crossed the Prime Meridian
- Emerald turtle: Crossed the Prime Meridian and the Equator where they intersect
- Full-rigged ship: Sailed around Cape Horn
- Helm: Quartermaster
- Pin-up girls: Company at sea/port call
- Hula girls: Sailed to or ported in Hawaii
- Dagger through a swallow: Signifies a lost comrade
- Pig and chicken: Superstition to keep from drowning
- Gold turtle: Crossed the International Dateline and the Equator where they intersect
- Emerald fouled anchor: Crossed the Prime Meridian
- Emerald turtle: Crossed the Prime Meridian and the Equator where they intersect
- Full-rigged ship: Sailed around Cape Horn
- The words "HOLD FAST": Signifies a deckhand's tight grip on the lines

7. Loretta Perfectus Walsh was the first woman to not only enlist, but allowed to serve in the Navy ... or any armed service branch.

Walsh enlisted in 1917 and became a Yeomanette in World War I, serving in a clerical position rather than being a nurse. She was the first of 13,000 yeomanettes to receive the same benefits and responsibilities as men, including identical pay. The monument at her burial site reads "Woman and Patriot. First of those enrolled in the United States Naval Service. World War 1917-1919. Her comrades dedicate this monument to keep alive forever memories of the sacrifice and devotion of womanhood."



THE SAILORS' CREED

The background of the text is a composite image. On the left, there is a semi-transparent image of a sailor in a white uniform and cap, looking towards the right. On the right, there is a large, dark-hulled ship at sea, with its mast and rigging visible against a blue sky. The overall scene is set against a dark, possibly dusk or dawn, background.

I am a United States Sailor.

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment.

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

OUR TRANSIT VETERANS

OATS TRANSIT - HEADQUARTERS



JOHN FIELDS, JR.	U.S. AIR FORCE	STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)	11 YEARS
JIM ROSENBERG	U.S. ARMY	SPECIALIST (E-4)	3 YEARS

OATS TRANSIT - MID-MO REGION



RANDY BEEM	U.S. AIR FORCE	TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)	11 YEARS
RANDY BEEM	U.S. AIR FORCE	MAJOR (O-4)	14 YEARS
DARWIN GEORGE	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT (E-5)	3 YEARS
DALE WADE	U.S. MARINE CORPS	CORPORAL (E-4)	3 YEARS
MARTY WIESKAMP	U.S. ARMY	SPECIALIST (E-4)	4 YEARS

OATS TRANSIT - MIDWEST REGION



JAMES DORRELL	U.S. MARINE CORPS	STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)	6 YEARS
EDGAR MURPHY	U.S. ARMY	MAJOR (O-4)	12 YEARS
PETER WITTMAN	U.S. AIR FORCE	SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)	4 YEARS

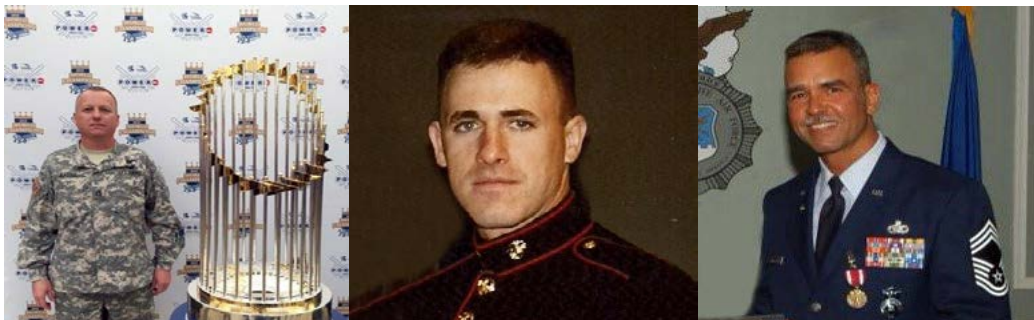
OUR TRANSIT VETERANS

OATS TRANSIT - NORTHEAST REGION



DONALD COX	U.S. NAVY	BT2	5 YEARS
JOHN DILLE	U.S. MARINE CORPS	SERGEANT (E-5)	3 YEARS
BETRAM WINN	U.S. NAVY	OS2	13 YEARS

OATS TRANSIT - SOUTHWEST REGION



PAUL AKERS	U.S. ARMY	SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (E-7)	20 YEARS
TYLER BAXTER	U.S. MARINE CORPS	SERGEANT (E-5)	6 YEARS 7 MONTHS
JEFFREY ROBINSON	U.S. AIR FORCE	CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT (E-9)	27.5 YEARS





Marines specialize in amphibious operations; their primary specialty is to assault, capture, and control beachheads, which then provide a route to attack the enemy from almost any direction. The Marines were officially established on 10 November 1775 by the Continental Congress to act as a landing force for the United States Navy. In 1798, however, Congress established the Marine Corps as a separate service. While amphibious operations are their primary specialty, in recent years, the Marines have expanded other ground-combat operations, as well.

For combat operations, the Marine Corps likes to be self-sufficient, so it also has its own air power, consisting primarily of fighter and fighter/bomber aircraft and attack helicopters. But the Marines do use the Navy for logistical and administrative support; there are no doctors, nurses, or enlisted medics in the Marine Corps, for instance. Even medics that accompany the Marines into combat are specially-trained Navy medics.

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

1. According to legend, the first Marine Corps recruitment took place in a bar called the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. As the story goes, Captains Robert Mullan and Samuel Nicholas attracted potential Marines by luring them with beer and stories of adventure at sea. While some historians may dispute aspects of this story, the tale is carried on as Marine lore.
2. November 10th is the birthday of the Marine Corps, first formed as the Continental Marines in 1775 during the Revolutionary War
2. "The Marines' Hymn" is the oldest official anthem of any U.S. military service.
3. The phrase "a few good men" originated in 1779. On March 20, 1779, Captain William Jones of the Continental Marines placed a recruiting advertisement in the Providence Gazette stating, "The Continental ship Providence, now lying at Boston, is bound on a short cruise, immediately; a few good men are wanted to make up her complement." The phrase was revived in 1970 by adman Warren Pfaff and used in recruitment ads for decades. However, younger recruits might be more familiar with their current slogan, "The Few, the Proud, the Marines" which was created in 2007.
4. In 1883, the Marine Corps adopted their motto, "Semper Parati". You've probably seen this motto plenty of times, but what does Semper Parati actually mean? It's actually a shortened version of the Latin phrase, "Semper Fidelis", which means "Always Faithful". In 1888, American composer John Philip Sousa wrote the march Semper Fidelis, the official march of the US Marine Corps.
5. The Rifleman's Creed, also known as My Rifle and The Creed of the United States Marine, is a part of basic United States Marine Corps doctrine. Major General William H. Rupertus wrote it during World War II, probably in late 1941 or early 1942. In the past, all enlisted Marines would learn the creed at recruit training. However, in recent years the creed has been relegated to the back pages of the standard recruit training guide book and its memorization is no longer considered doctrine for recruits.
6. The nickname "Leatherneck" originates from the stiff leather stock that early Marines wore around their necks, probably to protect their jugular vein against saber blows.
7. The English Bulldog, also known as "Teufel-hunden," or "Devil Dogs," is the unofficial mascot that symbolize the ethos of the Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines. The U.S. Marine Corps earned this unofficial mascot during World War I, when many German reports called the attacking Marines "Teufel-hunden," meaning Devil-Dogs. "Teufel-hunden" were the vicious, wild and ferocious mountain dogs of German Bavarian folklore.

8. "Jarheads" is a slang term for Marines. During World War II, sailors began to refer to Marines as "Jarheads". While some say this refers to their "high-and-tight" haircuts, others claim it was because the high collar on the Marines' WWII era dress uniforms made their heads look like Mason jars. Of course, this wasn't the first time sailors attempted to insult Marines with silly nicknames. During WWI, members of the U.S. Navy would use the term "gyrene" in reference to a Marine. In both instances, the Marines took the intended insult in stride and actually embraced the nicknames.

9. The average Marine carries about \$14,000 worth of equipment and gear – a figure that doesn't account for expensive night-vision goggles. In comparison, Marines in the early 2000s carried just \$2,500 worth of gear.

10. Marines often pin their next promotable rank onto their uniforms as motivation. They usually hide it in their cover, or under a pocket flap.

11. To date, retired Marines have collected and distributed over 584 million toys for children in need. While most people have heard of Toys for Tots, many don't realize this wonderful organization is actually a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve mission! The organization was founded in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, was inspired by his wife to gather a group of Los Angeles-based Marine reservists with the goal of collecting toys to be distributed to families-in-need during the holidays. The group wound up collecting over 5,000 toys in that first year, and made Toys for Tots a national effort the following year.

12. Fewer than 100 people have received the title of honorary Marine, a title than can only be bestowed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Chuck Norris and Gary Sinise are honorary Marines. The title of "Honorary Marine" was established as a way to recognize civilians who have made extraordinary contributions to the Marine Corps. For example, Gary Sinise - who played Lieutenant Dan in "Forrest Gump" - went on to form The Lt. Dan Band with the goal of raising money for wounded veterans, boosting morale on military bases, and spreading awareness. Others are Brigadier General Bob Hope, Master Sergeant Bugs Bunny, and Corporal Jim Nabors, star of Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.

HAPPY 245TH BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS!

The Marine Corps Birthday is observed on November 10. It was created on November 10, 1921 by the U.S. Government to show appreciation for the United States Marines. Having taken part in nearly every U.S. conflict, the Marine Corps has defended our country since America's inception. The Corps, with over 186,000 active duty members and 38,500 reserves as of 2017, continues its proud tradition as protectors of the U.S. and its people.



At first assumption, the traditions surrounding the United States Marine Corps' birthday may seem stuffy and full of military pageantry, pomp and circumstance. But, this is when the marines let their proverbial hair down in the most uniformed version of fun - a ball and a cake cutting ceremony. In addition to a fancy ball and cake cutting ceremony many birthdays have included a variety of battle reenactments, pageants, musical performances, and even sporting events. But the main event - so thoroughly baked into the system of the Marine Corps that it's written into the official manual - is the cake cutting ceremony. Done with the same respect for tradition and order as a 21 gun salute, the cake cutting was formalized in the Drill Manual in 1956 where, by tradition, the first slice of cake is given to the oldest marine present who then hands it to the youngest marine present, symbolizing a passing of knowledge and tradition from wisest to newest.

After that, a traditional reading of Marine Corps Order 47, which created the official holiday as a mandatory celebration, followed by any format of pageantry and celebration that time allows.



The Rifleman's Creed

by Major General W. H. Rupertus, USMC

THIS IS MY RIFLE.

There are many like it but this one is mine. My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. My rifle, without me, is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me.

I will....

My rifle and myself know that what counts in this war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count.

We will hit...

My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weakness, its strength, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will ever guard it against the ravages of weather and damage. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other.

We will...

Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and myself are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy, but Peace.

OUR TRANSIT VETERANS

RAY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION, INC.



DARRIN DANIEL	U.S. AIR FORCE	LIEUTENANT COLONEL (O-5)	24 YEARS
JOHN TAYLOR	U.S. MARINE CORPS	CORPORAL (E-4)	4 YEARS
KEN BENDURE	U.S. AIR FORCE	STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)	4 YEARS
MONA GOODLOE	U.S. MARINE CORPS	FIRST SERGEANT (E-8)	20 YEARS
SID LEWIS	U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)	4 YEARS
TOM THURIER	U.S. ARMY	CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 (CW-4)	2 YEARS

SCOTT COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM, INC.



SHIRLEY JONES	U.S. ARMY	PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3)	3 YEARS
JAKE JONES	U.S. NAVY	SEAMAN (E-3)	2 YEARS
MARY THOMAS	U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	SERGEANT (E-5)	21 YEARS



A close-up photograph of the American flag, focusing on the field of stars. The stars are arranged in a grid, with some appearing in white and others in a light blue color. The background is dark and out of focus, showing green foliage. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*For
everything
you have
done for
the service
of our
country ...*

Thank You!