HISTORY OF SERVICE ACADEMIES

1778: Connecticut militia under General Samuel H. Parsons first occupy West Point

1780: Tadeusz Kosciuszko witnesses the completion of construction on the West Point defenses he designed after General Washington deemed the location “the most important port in America”

1802: U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point established by President Thomas Jefferson; two attendees graduate that same year

1805: The West Point Museum opens to the public as the first federal museum

1805: After four years in Newport, R.I., during the Civil War, the USNA returns to Annapolis, Md.

1817: USMA begins a huge reorganization under superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, becoming one of the nation’s finest sources of civil engineers

1832: Naval Academy Museum building, later named Preble Hall, is dedicated

1845: U.S. Naval School, located at the site of Fort Severn in Annapolis, Md., established through efforts of Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft

1854: The West Point Museum opens to the public as the first federal museum

1861: With the War Department in desperate need of Union officers, the USMA graduates the classes of 1861 and 1862 in the summer of 1861

1876: The first Coast Guard Academy, then called the Revenue Cutter School of Instruction, started aboard the two-masted topsail schooner Dobbin

1876: The first Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

1885: After four years in Newport, R.I., during the Civil War, the USNA returns to Annapolis, Md.

1891-1910: World War I; cadets and midshipmen from both the USMA and USNA graduate early to fill the ranks during the conflict

1912: Henry O. Flipper becomes the first Black cadet to graduate from the USMA

1917-1918: World War I; cadets and midshipmen from both the USMA and USNA graduate early to fill the ranks during the conflict

1919: The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

1922: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

1932: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

1939: Naval Academy Museum building, later named Preble Hall, is dedicated

1946: Seized from Germany following WWII, the Barque Eagle arrives at the USCGA

1948: With the War Department in desperate need of Union officers, the USMA graduates the classes of 1861 and 1862 in the summer of 1861

1959: The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

1960: Naval Academy Museum building, later named Preble Hall, is dedicated

1972: The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

1975: President Gerald R. Ford signs law that allows women to be admitted to the then all-male military colleges

1987: Henry O. Flipper becomes the first Black cadet to graduate from the USMA

1989: Seized from Germany following WWII, the Barque Eagle arrives at the USCGA

1990: The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

2000: The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

2020: 86 graduates receive their diplomas from the USAFA and move directly into the U.S. Space Force