

HISTORY OF SERVICE ACADEMIES



JANUARY 27, 1778:
Connecticut militia under General Samuel H. Parsons first occupy West Point

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

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

AUGUST 9, 1865:
After four years in Newport, R.I., during the Civil War, the USNA returns to Annapolis, Md.

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

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

1850:
The U.S. Naval School is renamed the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA)



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 *Dobbins*



JUNE 14, 1877:
Henry O. Flipper becomes the first Black cadet to graduate from the USMA

1910:
Coast Guard Academy established at Fort Trumbull, a Revolutionary War fort in New London, Conn.



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



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



SEPTEMBER 18, 1947:
Air Force becomes separate entity under the National Security Act and formation of an academy begins

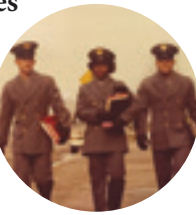
1932:
The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

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



JUNE 3, 1959:
The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets

OCTOBER 7, 1975:
President Gerald R. Ford signs law that allows women to be admitted to the then all-male military colleges



April 18, 2020:
86 graduates receive their diplomas from the USAFA and move directly into the U.S. Space Force