



U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE MILITARY ASSOCIATION



Fall 2024

UMA celebrates three special events in June

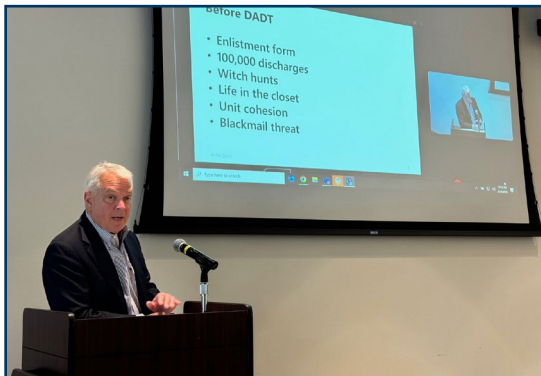
By Elizabeth Caraway, *UMA Secretary*

On June 14, the USPTO Military Association (UMA) hosted a “3-in-1” special event celebrating Pride Month, Caribbean Heritage Month, and the Army birthday.

The event, offered both in-person at the Alexandria campus and online, began with an introduction and welcome address by UMA president Robin Hylton. Next, the USPTO Chief Administrative Officer and UMA executive sponsor Fred Steckler gave a presentation on the history of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy and its impact.

After an intermission featuring music, UMA member Arlene Jones, who grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, shared a bit about her military service, Caribbean heritage, and the importance of volunteerism. Arlene is a member of many USPTO Voluntary Employee Organizations.

The final event highlight was the Army birthday cake cutting, which brought together the youngest and oldest veterans in the room to cut the cake. The U.S. Army turned 249 years old this year!



Clockwise from top left: Fred Steckler presents on the history and impact of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy; the cutting of the cake in honor of the Army’s 249th birthday; Arlene Jones shares a display of photos and souvenirs from Trinidad. (Photos by Robin Hylton)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Constitution/Citizenship Day Celebration coming soon!

Join us as we celebrate American citizenship and the Air Force Birthday at a special event **September 17th!** The program will be available in-person and virtually.

Interactive theater & game night: Oct. 3, 4:30 pm

Veterans Day event: Nov. 7

The weekly **UMA Coffee Break** is a virtual gathering that offers UMA members the chance to tell their story, hear about veteran organizations, and ask questions. Coffee Breaks are every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. Contact uma@uspto.gov if you are a member who is not receiving the invites.



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USPTO campus hosts Military-to-Civilian Transition Summit 7.0

By Elizabeth Caraway, *UMA Secretary*

More than 200 attendees from 93 veteran service organizations, federal agencies and divisions attended the 2024 Military-Civilian Transition Summit 7.0 at our Alexandria headquarters July 16-18. The collaborative forum for interagency leaders in military transition assistance tackled policies and programs to support the military community as they transition from active service to civilian careers. Sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, presenters included representatives from the Department of Labor, the Small Business Administration, and more.

In her keynote address, the Honorable Tanya Bradsher, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, stated that, "Veterans are assets to our collective welfare." She went on to explain that ensuring the 200,000 service members transitioning each year have a positive experience is a top department priority.

Over the next several years, the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Employment Navigator and Partnership Program (ENPP) will be undergoing changes and growth to better serve the military community.

As one presenter pointed out, you would never leave a job in the private sector and have your employer go to such great lengths to help you find success in your next role, from resume and interview preparation to directing you to specific employers.

The summit theme, "Transitioning Heroes into Thriving Civilians," expressed our agency perspective as well. Eastern Regional Outreach Office Director Elizabeth Dougherty presented on entrepreneurship resources for the military community, and members of her team spoke with attendees about entrepreneurship and career options at our agency. Many of the resource fair tables were also interested in USPTO materials because of the abundance of remote, flexible career options at our agency, which are often-requested in the veteran community.



Tanya Bradsher, Dep. Sec. of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, delivers the summit keynote.



Clockwise from upper left: UMA secretary Elizabeth Caraway (center) at the USPTO booth with members of the Eastern Regional Outreach Office (EROO). EROO Director Elizabeth Dougherty presents at the Summit. EROO Deputy Director Tomeka Oubichon speaks to potential job seekers. Elizabeth Dougherty speaks on a panel at the summit. (Photos by Elizabeth Caraway, USPTO)

UMA scholarship awarded to USPTO colleague's son

The USPTO Military Association is pleased to announce a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 was awarded to Ethan Pwu, son of patent examiner Jeffrey Pwu.

Upon learning of the award, Ethan sent the board the following note:

“*I am writing to express my gratitude for the UMA scholarship that was awarded to me. I am truly honored and appreciative of your support. This scholarship will help me cover the cost of textbooks and other educational resources at the University of Maryland. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and giving back to the community.*”

We wish Ethan the best of luck in his future academic and professional endeavors!



UMA Scholarship awardee Ethan Pwu

Volunteers needed for VEO Holiday Soiree

We have started planning for the annual agency VEO Holiday Soiree and are looking for volunteers. If interested, please email Angela Jenkins at angela.jenkins@uspto.gov. Save the Date for the event: December 2, 2024, 3 p.m. - 6p.m.

Who We Are

The USPTO Military Association (UMA) is a USPTO affinity group and 501(c)(3) non-profit charity with a mission to provide **fellowship, mentorship, and support** for military veterans working at the USPTO and to help educate others on the important contributions that veterans have made—and continue to make—to the workforce and our nation. Membership is open to everyone and prior military service is not required. Contact the UMA for more information or to join (it only takes one short form) at uma@uspto.gov.

Scuttlebutt Editorial Staff

Executive Sponsor: Fred Steckler
UMA President: Robin Hylton
Editor-in-Chief: Elizabeth Caraway
Copy Editing: Robin Hylton

The Scuttlebutt is produced with volunteer hours and may include stories, links, and references not directly connected to the USPTO Military Association, but which may be of interest to our veteran community. If you have questions or comments about any of the newsletter content, please contact us at uma@uspto.gov. We appreciate feedback as we strive to offer the best possible product to our members.



The history of "Meals, Ready-To-Eat" (MREs)

By Ephraim Blair, UMA Youth Communications Apprentice

The United States of America is blessed to have the strongest military in the history of the world. Our military is filled with dedicated personnel who faithfully protect our freedom here at home while maintaining peace abroad through their strength. Without the sacrifice of millions of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Guardians, living happily and freely in an independent nation would be impossible.¹ However, our servicemen and women are still humans, and humans need to eat. So what would they be eating during field training, in austere locations, or when food services are unavailable? MREs.

The acronym MRE stands for "Meal, Ready-To-Eat." MREs are meals "designed to sustain an individual engaged in heavy activity" especially in military contexts "when normal food service facilities are unavailable." (MREs can



also be bought and sold to civilians and provided during natural disasters.) They are packed in light bags that are easy to store. Each MRE is a "totally self-contained operational ration"

with "an entrée and a variety of other components." There are approximately 1,250 calories in each MRE, composed of 13 percent protein, 36 percent fat, and 51 percent carbohydrates. MREs provide "one-third of the Military Recommended Daily Allowance of vitamins and minerals determined essential by the Surgeon General of the United States." For people with religious and other dietary restrictions, there are special MREs for them.

According to the Defense Logistics Agency, once you have them, MREs will last three years at a constant temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit (cooler storage temperatures can increase the shelf life while warmer ones decrease it). "Except for the beverages, the entire meal is ready to eat," thus the name MRE. Everything can be eaten cold, but the entrée can also be heated in different ways, including "submersion [of the entrée bag] in hot water." Modern MREs all include "a flameless ration heating device."² That seems simple enough. However, like many things, MREs, and military food more broadly, have an interesting history of their own.

Ancient soldiers, just like anyone else, had to eat. However, for thousands of years, ancient armies rarely had a system to provide portable food rations to all their soldiers, often leading soldiers to have to forage or hunt for their food; occasionally, they would resort to even more desperate methods. Generally, the Romans are credited with being the first empire to provide rations for all their soldiers.³ These rations usually consisted of dried grains and cured meats, but other foods could be found in Roman soldier's diets when available or in lieu of their usual rations.⁴

The portability and durability of the Roman Army's rations contributed to their success. In fact, they were so successful that army rations changed little for centuries, long outlasting the Roman Empire. Yet, those rations were not perfect. Although convenient, cured meats and other portable foods from ancient times were often not very palatable. Habitual supply issues prevented many armies from ever receiving their rations, causing starvation and lowering morale. Such was the plight of the Continental Army fighting for Independence during the Revolutionary War, especially during the winter. During the war, soldiers often suffered from and complained about the government's inability to deliver rations, which were often requested and enumerated by generals and other leaders.⁵ (A significant example of the suffering of soldiers during the American Revolution is the winter at Valley Forge.⁶) Eventually, after winning the War of Independence, some issues would get solved by the new government under the Constitution and by faster transportation which ensured more continuous and consistent rations for soldiers.⁷ However, there were still many issues to be solved.

At the start of the 20th century, the greatest change to military rations in almost 2,000 years came about: canning. During World War I, American rations were revolutionized by canned goods, which made shipping across the ocean much easier while giving food a longer shelf life. Different types of military men (infantry, cavalry, etc.) were given different types of rations, but a soldier could expect to be eating over 4,000 calories a day just to keep them going. Often, soldiers would receive chocolate (Hershey's Bar generally) as part of their rations, giving them a quick sugary snack to keep going.⁸

When World War II broke out and brought about the

Continued on next page

"MREs" continued from previous page

largest deployment of American troops ever, it became clear that it would be advisable to have special rations for special divisions that fought in the jungles and the mountains, so the Army made them new canned rations. However, later during the war, cost-saving measures were made to keep up the war effort. More standardized, basic rations were sent to most soldiers to ensure consistent quality while producing large amounts at a time.⁹ Additional canned foods were shipped across the world, including upwards of 100 million cans of Spam sent to the Pacific Front.¹⁰ Similar cost-saving methods were used during the Korean War, for better or worse.

At the start of the Vietnam War, the military continued to use canned rations but made modest improvements. Yet, the new MCI (Meal, Combat, Individual) rations presented a variety of issues that often served as a hindrance. The MCI cans were so heavy that soldiers were reported to have been injured by them. MCIs were so bulky that they did not fit well inside soldiers' uniform pockets, if at all. Vietnam's tropical environment and climate did the MCIs no good. They were known to spoil easily from the temperatures and jungle environment which corroded the cans. This spoilage was especially bad because there were often supply chain delays, leaving soldiers with just bad MCIs. Even if a soldier was lucky enough to get a fresh MCI, they were not known to taste good, so soldiers would often not even eat all of it; this meant that soldiers were often not getting the nutrients they needed. The Vietcong were even known to produce booby traps out of leftover metal cans from the Americans. The Department of Defense began to realize that the military needed better rations, so they began developing the MRE.

Towards the end of the Vietnam War through the 1980s, MCIs started to be phased out, and the lighter and better tasting MREs were phased in. Since then, according to the DOD, "[t]he MRE components and packaging/packing have gone through continuous product improvement" to minimize cost while maintaining high quality.¹¹ Although not being the most gourmet meal on Earth, MREs truly represent a spirit of innovation that is so characteristic of the military and America in general. We have come so far since Roman times, I doubt that very many soldiers want to go back to eating hardtack anytime soon.

1. "Guardian" is the official term for someone who serves in the United States Space Force. For more about the Space Force, see the [Spring 2024 edition of the UMA Scuttlebutt](#), pages eight and nine.
2. "Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE)," Defense Logistics Agency, <https://www.dla.mil/Troop-Support/Subsistence/Operational-rations/MRE/>.



3. James Lloyd, "Roman Army," World History Encyclopedia, April 30, 2013. https://www.worldhistory.org/Roman_Army/.
4. "Food History: A Roman soldier's diet," Tastes of History, November 29, 2023. <https://www.tastesofhistory.co.uk/post/food-history-a-roman-soldier-s-diet#:~:text=The%20diet%20of%20a%20Roman,food%20for%20around%20three%20days.>
5. Revolutionary War Series: The Papers of George Washington, Volume One, 16 June 1775–15 September 1775, edited by Philander D. Chase. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1985), pp. 268–270.
6. Joseph Plumb Martin, Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers, and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier Interspersed with Anecdotes of Incidents that Occurred within His Own Observation, (Maine: Glazier, Masters & Co., 1830), p. 123.
7. Stephanie Butler, "The Hardships of Civil War Eating," History.com, August 31, 2018. [https://www.history.com/news/desecrated-vegetables-the-hardships-of-civil-war-eating.](https://www.history.com/news/desecrated-vegetables-the-hardships-of-civil-war-eating)
8. Trenton Streck-Havill, "Beef, Bread, and Coffee: Food Innovations during World War I," National Museum of Health and Medicine, March 20, 2023. https://medicalmuseum.health.mil/micrograph/index.cfm/posts/2023/beef_bread_and_coffee_food_innovations_during_world_war_i.
9. Major Cresson H. Kearney, Jungle Snafus ... And Remedies, (Cave Junction, Oregon: Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, 1996), pp. 286–291.
10. Olivia B. Waxman, "Spam Turns 80: History and Origins of Canned Meat," Time, July 5, 2017. <https://time.com/4827451/spam-history-80th-anniversary/>.
11. "Industrial Assessment for the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE)," (PDF), Department of Defense, December 1995, pp. 2–3. <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/tr/pdf/ADA304809.pdf>.



UMA Youth Communications Apprentice Ephraim Blair, son of April and Jeffrey Blair, is a high school freshman in Bethesda, Md. Ephraim was born in Walter Reed Military Hospital and his father was a Navy active duty medical officer. He is interested in history, politics, and economics. He loves activities such as reading, writing, debating, and playing golf. He is planning on pursuing a career in law and politics.



Photos from around the military services

ARMY



The 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy (7th Army NCOA) conducts day and night land navigation at the North Navigation Site to increase confidence in individual navigation skills and enhance readiness in the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, July 26, 2024. 7th Army NCOA enhances Soldier readiness in preparation for real world implementation. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Thomas Dixon)

NAVY



Gunner's Mate 1st Class Lane Schmidt, a native of Sullivan, Mo., reloads a 50-caliber machine gun aboard the Alreigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Stout (DDG 55) during a live fire exercise, July 28, 2024. The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting integrated naval warfighting training. Composite Unit Training Exercises are an intense, multi-week exercise designed to fully integrate a carrier strike group as a cohesive, multi-mission fighting force, to assess their ability to carry out sustained combat operations from the sea, and drive future warfighting development. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Ian Tumulty)

*All photos this page are courtesy of the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS)

MARINE CORPS



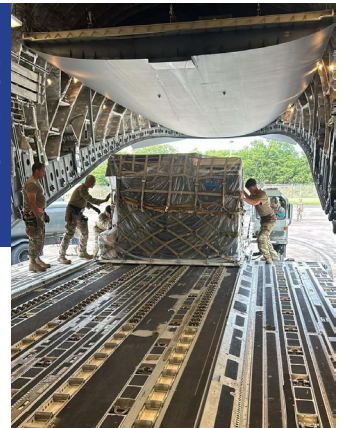
A U.S. Navy landing craft, air cushion, from the amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay (LPD 20), U.S. Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, during a combat support service area exercise, at Kin Blue Training Area, Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 9, 2024. The CSSA exercise utilized Combat Logistics Battalion 31 to create fresh water, maintain radio communications, and provide food, fuel, and fire support to sustain Battalion Landing Team 1/4 as the 31st MEU's ground combat element. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Christopher Lape)

COAST GUARD



In commemoration of the sinking of the SS Andea Doria, an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod performed a hoist and recovery maneuver to simulate a search and rescue in Boston Harbor on Thursday, July 25, 2024. On July 25, 1956, the MS Stockholm collided with the SS Andrea Doria resulting in 51 deaths and 1,644 rescued passengers. The U.S. Lightship Museum hosted the 68th anniversary commemoration of the SS Andrea Doria's sinking, honoring the Coast Guard's significant role in one of the greatest maritime rescues in history. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Amber Howie)

AIR FORCE



U.S. Airmen assigned to the 156th Contingency Response Group, Puerto Rico Air National Guard, depart for Agile Flag 24-3 exercise at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, Carolina, Puerto Rico, July 31, 2024. During the multi-unit training, the 156th CRG supported the 9th Fighter Squadron by managing incoming cargo and providing initial distribution capabilities, strengthening interoperability for agile combat employment. (U.S. Air National Guard courtesy photo)

SPACE FORCE



A United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket supporting the USSF-51, a classified National Security Space Launch mission, launches from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, July. 30, 2024. This was Atlas V's 53rd and final launch for the USSF. (U.S. Space Force photo by Joshua Conti)

There I was...

Please email your, or your family member's, veteran, civil service, or patriotic high-resolution photos, original art, or short poetry to uma@uspto.gov. Note that submission constitutes your approval for UMA to share the content in the newsletter and on social media and the editorial team reserves the right to approve or deny content. Have A LOT of creativity to share? Consider contributing to [Veterans' Voices](#), which publishes veteran prose, poetry, and art.



A continuing legacy of service: Meet Curtis Varner Jr. and family

Clockwise from upper left: All smiles after his selection to Chief. Top center photo: All the places Curtis has been stationed with the Navy and all the awards received over a period from August 27, 1985 to May 31, 2011. Top right: Curtis participated in the ceremony as his daughter graduated from boot camp. Bottom left: Curtis attends his daughter's graduation from boot camp, Oct. 2012. Bottom center: Curtis's son followed in his footsteps and serves in the Navy. Bottom right: Curtis walks along Virginia Beach, recruiting and soaking up the sun. (Courtesy photos from Curtis Varner Jr.)





The Battle of Freeman's Farm

By Ephraim Blair, *UMA Youth Communications Apprentice*

On September 19, 1777, the tranquility of the fields of Freeman's Farm in upstate New York was interrupted by sounds of war. Musket fire rang out as battle cries, accompanied by fifes and drums, could be heard. The Patriots and the British faced off in what was to become one of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War, which had already dragged on for almost two-and-a-half years by that point. The prospect of American Independence hung in the balance.

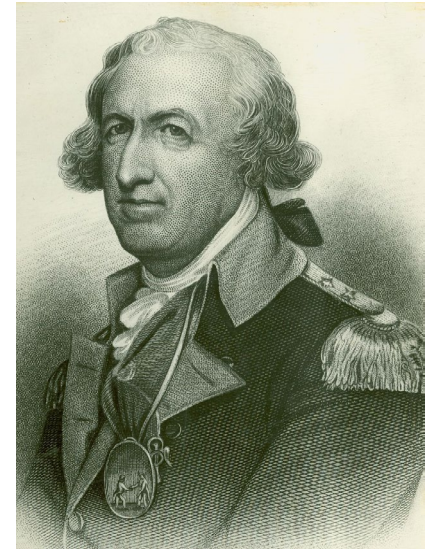
Before the battle unfolded, both sides were reevaluating their strategies. The Americans enjoyed modest successes, but they were also dealt massive losses by the British. Yet, the Redcoats were astonished at how well the Patriots had been holding up against the mightiest country in the world. The British decided that, in order to win, they had to separate the Thirteen Colonies by force. They were determined to cut off New England which they felt had been the region fomenting the rebellion. Once New England was isolated, the British felt that the more Loyalist Southern and Middle Colonies would fall in line. A three-way pincer formation was devised to surround and vanquish that section of the Continental Army, near Albany.¹

The Americans were going to be surrounded by the north, south, and west. Yet, in a stroke of luck for the Americans, "the southern advance never truly materialized, and the western advance was driven back at Fort Stanwix and Oriskany." That left only the northern column, led by General John Burgoyne, advancing from Montreal, which was controlled by the British. In June 1777, General Burgoyne left Canada with an army of 7,200 men, consisting of British troops, German Hessian mercenaries, and American Indian warriors from allied tribes. Things were looking up for Burgoyne and his army. In July, they captured Fort Ticonderoga and defeated American troops in Hubbardton, Vermont. Yet, the Americans got away to fight another day.

Burgoyne continued his march, which was hindered by General Phillip Schuyler, the future father-in-law of Alexander Hamilton, and his army "destroying bridges" and chopping down trees. In August, once the British got past the obstacles placed by General Schuyler, Burgoyne sent German Lieutenant Colonel Baum with 800 men to find more horses for the campaign, but he was ambushed by 1,500 American militiamen. Baum suffered a devastating defeat at what came to be known as the Battle of Bennington. This and other mistakes led Burgoyne to lose close to 1,000 men. These embarrassments led "many of

the Native American allies in Burgoyne's army" to abandon him.

While the British had to deal with their own foibles, the Americans were relatively calm getting themselves organized. Congress replaced General Schuyler with General Horatio Gates.² Commander in Chief of the American military, George Washington, shifted troops to Gates's army from General Israel Putnam's command. He also sent an aggressive commander, Major General Benedict Arnold, along with Major General Benjamin Lincoln, a highly respected military leader in New England.³



General Horatio Gates (*army.mil image*)

Once he got things in order, General Burgoyne continued his march toward the Americans who were located nine miles north of Saratoga, New York. There were last-minute scrambles to solidify American lines, especially their left flank, by General Gates, while Burgoyne cautiously marched his troops closer and closer to the Americans. The British sent out spies to figure out the Americans' strengths and weaknesses.

General Gates had 9,000 men at his disposal (eventually that number would increase by over 2,000 post-battle), while the British had less than 6,000. On September 19, 1777, while the American army was entrenched on John Freeman's Farm, with wide fields bordered by forest, the Burgoyne's forces started to make their way towards the Americans' weakest points, ready to attack. The British did not anticipate encountering American troops until they reached the encampment, but they were mistaken. General "Benedict Arnold anticipated the British maneuver" and, with the permission of the initially skeptical General Gates, commanded an army of 2,000 men.⁴

The greater British force was beginning to overrun Arnold, so Gates continued to allow more American regiments to

Continued on next page

"Battle" continued from previous page

join him and to shore up defenses from behind. Arnold's men were eventually overrun by Burgoyne's greater force, and the Americans were all retreating back to their defenses they had constructed with the help of a Polish engineer. Yet, the British could do little with any strategic advantage they had controlling the field because nightfall had set in.⁵ The British also suffered devastating casualties. They lost over 600 men, killed or wounded, which was equivalent to around 10-percent of their force; the Americans also suffered losses but only lost around half as many men, approximately 300.⁶



The 62nd Regiment of Foot attacking the Connecticut Militia and 3rd New Hampshire Regiment during the Battle of Freeman's Farm, 1777. By Don Troiani. (National Park Service)

Although there was arguably no definitive winner during the Battle of Freeman's Farm, the ramifications of the battle would be consequential. The actions of Americans troops held off the British for a few weeks. Burgoyne waited for more reinforcements, so he could more effectively launch another attack on the Americans. Yet, they never came, at least not in numbers substantial enough to fill out his ranks. Despite not actually losing to the Americans, the embarrassment of being outsmarted by them again led many of Burgoyne's troops to desert. His army dwindled to around 5,000 men.⁷ As a part of a last-ditch effort to defeat the Americans, the British attacked the Americans at Bemis Heights nearby, where they were soundly defeated this time. Burgoyne surrendered to General Gates. The two days of fighting, September 19 and October 7, became known as the Battle of Saratoga.⁸

During the Battle of Saratoga, General Gates showed off his competency, so much so that many people were floating replacing George Washington as Commander in Chief, however, those plans never came to fruition.⁹ More consequentially, the Battle of Saratoga demonstrated that Americans could hold their own in battle, even against the

most powerful army in the world. This showed that America was fighting to win the war and independence. After this powerful demonstration of strength, the French began to officially support the American cause, forever changing the war. French aid was essential to bringing the Revolutionary War to close in the favor of the Americans.¹⁰ If the Americans had not won the Battle of Saratoga so decisively, the French would not have thrown their support behind the cause of independence. If the French did not support the American war effort to change the tide of the world, it is unclear whether or not the Americans would have won. What if they did not win? However, we do not really have to ask questions like that because of the heroic actions of American soldiers at the Battle of Saratoga, which began on the peaceful fields of John Freeman's Farm.



Map of the Encampment Position of the British Army (National Park Service)

1. Richard M. Ketchum, *Saratoga: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War* (New York: Henry Holt, 1997), pp. 84-85.
2. Mark Maloy, "The Battle of Freeman's Farm: September 19, 1777," American Battlefield Trust. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/battle-freemans-farm-september-19-1777>.
3. Hoffman Nickerson, *The Turning Point of the Revolution* (Port Washington, NY: Kennikat, 1967), pp. 180, 216.
4. "Battle of Saratoga," George Washington's Mount Vernon. <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-saratoga#1>.
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6. Douglas R. Cobbison, *Burgoyne and the Saratoga Campaign: His Papers* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012), 109-115.
7. Hoffman Nickerson, *The Turning Point of the Revolution* (Port Washington, NY: Kennikat, 1967), p. 358.
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9. Ron Chernow, *Washington: A Life* (New York: Penguin Press, 2010), p. 313.
10. Robert Ernest Hubbard, *General Rufus Putnam: George Washington's Chief Military Engineer and the "Father of Ohio"* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc.), p. 62.



Active-duty service members represent America in Paris Games 2024

By Elizabeth Caraway, UMA Secretary

Two of Team USA's Olympics medals and five Paralympics medals were won by active-duty service members during this year's games in Paris.

Army Capt. Samantha Sullivan won an Olympic bronze medal as a forward on the U.S. women's rugby team.

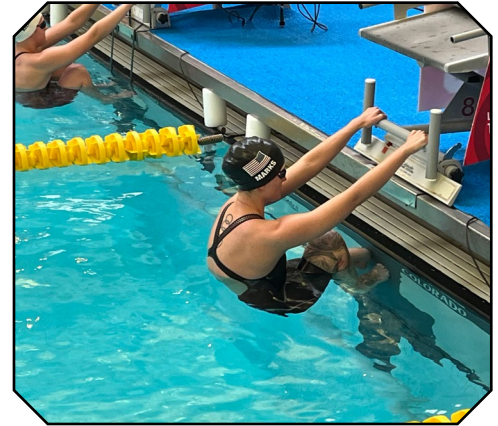
Amy Sgt. Sagen Maddalena won a silver medal in the women's 50-meter rifle three-position competition.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks won silver medals in the 100m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 200m individual medley, the 4x50m freestyle relay, and the 4x50m medley relay in the Paralympics.

In addition to Maddalena and Sullivan, the service members at the Olympics and their sports were:

- Staff Sgt. Rachel Tozier, shooting
- Staff Sgt. Will Hinton, shooting
- Sgt. Ivan Roe, shooting
- Staff Sgt. Leonard Korir, track and field marathon
- Spc. Kamal Bey, Greco-Roman wrestling
- Master Sgt. Dennis Bowsher, modern pentathlon coach
- Sgt. 1st Class Spenser Mango, wrestling coach
- Staff Sgt. Samuel Kosgei, track and field coach

In addition to Marks, Paralympic service member athletes competing through the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program included Sgt. 1st Class John Wayne Joss III and Staff Sgt. Kevin Ngyuen, both in shooting.



Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks gets ready to swim in the 100-meter backstroke S6 preliminaries June 27. Marks broke her own world record in the event with a time of 1:19.57 (Photo by Stephen Warns)



Capt. Sammy Sullivan, a Soldier-Athlete with the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, poses with the American flag and the Olympic bronze medal at the Team USA House at Palais Brongniart in Paris. Sullivan helped the U.S. Women's Rugby to victory as a team forward. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Nathaniel Garcia)



U.S. Army Sgt. Sagen Maddalena, an Olympian and a instructor/shooter assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit stationed at Fort Moore, GA., poses with her silver Paris 2024 Olympic medal at Lones Wigger Hall, Pool Outdoor Range Aug. 6, 2024. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kulani Lakanaria)

Join our Facebook group: USPTO Military Association Mess

Now that more members of the UMA are teleworking, it can be more difficult to ask questions, share accomplishments, and get to know one another. Our new unofficial Facebook group, [USPTO Military Association Mess](#), seeks to provide a place to do that. The tongue-in-cheek name refers both to the "beautiful mess" that is everyday life, as well as a military mess, a designated area where military personnel socialize and eat.

Fun fact: the root of the word "mess" is the Old French word "mes," meaning a "portion of food."

UMA members represent at Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

By Eric Atkisson, UMA Member

UMA members John Schneider, left, and Eric Atkisson, right, attended the 143rd National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in Lexington, Kentucky, August 1-4.

Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, the SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who fought for the Union during the American Civil War. Structured similarly to the G.A.R., the SUVCW is headed by a Commander-in-Chief, elected annually at the National Encampment, who oversees the operation of 31 Departments, each consisting of one or more states, a Department-at-Large, a National Membership-at-Large, and more than 200 community-based camps.

Schneider, an administrative patent judge Patent Trial Appeal Board, lives in Texas and has been a member of the SUVCW since 2007. Among other positions in the order he has served as commander of the Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp No. 18, in Dallas, and the Department of Texas and Louisiana. He is the great-grandson of Lt. Col. Kasper Schneider of the 103rd New York Infantry.



Atkisson, a communications manager in the Office of the Chief Communications Officer, currently on detail as a senior advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary, lives in Virginia and has been a member of the SUVCW since 2015. He recently served as commander of the SUVCW's D.C.-based Lincoln-Cushing Camp No. 2 and is currently Junior Vice Commander for the Department of the Chesapeake. He is the great-great-grandson of Private James P. Atkisson of the 15th West Virginia Infantry and Lieutenant Newton C. Whims of the 23rd Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops Infantry.

Schneider and Atkisson are also both members of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, whose members are descendants of Union officers of the Civil War.

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Headline highlights: A look at news affecting veterans

VA takes steps to expand access to benefits for Veterans who served at K2 and their survivors: The Department of Veterans Affairs announced several steps to expand access to VA benefits for Veterans who served at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) base in Uzbekistan after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as their survivors.

In two years of the PACT Act, VA has delivered benefits and health care to millions of toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors: VA is delivering more care and more benefits to more Veterans than ever before.

Since launch of Dial 988 then Press 1, Veterans Crisis Line is supporting more Veterans than ever: In these past two years, VCL has answered more than 1,638,138 calls, representing a 22.7% increase in calls per day since the launch. This means that more Veterans than ever are getting the support they need from caring, qualified responders during times of crisis.

VA extends presumptions of service connection for three new cancer types: Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the Federal Register, the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases: Male breast cancer, Urethral cancer, Cancer of the paraurethral glands.

From military service to the USPTO and back: Major Kayley Squire, an Air Force strategic policy fellow and the USPTO's outgoing senior military advisor, spoke recently with Public Affairs Specialist Christy Whitaker about Squire's Air Force fellowship with the USPTO and the role she played in enhancing the agency's military outreach initiative.

SBA and Dept. of Veterans Affairs Join Forces to Promote Veteran Entrepreneurship: A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will improve access to self-employment assistance and SBA training and counseling for active-duty service members and service-disabled veterans.

Veteran Resources and Contacts

USPTO Veteran Hiring Program Manager: Sharon Gibson, sharon.gibson@uspto.gov or HireVets@uspto.gov

USPTO OHR Military Service Time Buy Back Contact: Gladys English, gladys.english@uspto.gov

Benefits questions for current Reservists: BenefitsTeam@uspto.gov

Pay questions for current Reservists: OHR-CB@uspto.gov

Veterans Affairs (VA) Information

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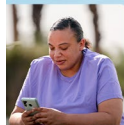
[Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then Press 1, or Text 838255](#)



CALL Dial 988 then Press 1



CHAT [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat)



TEXT 838255

