

**MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS**

**L-hour:** In amphibious operations, the time at which the first helicopter or tiltrotor aircraft of the airborne ship-to-shore movement wave touches down or is scheduled to touch down in the landing zone

**Lance corporal:** the third enlisted rank in order of seniority in the United States Marine Corps, just above private first class and below corporal (the most common rank in the USMC)

**Landing aid:** any illuminating light, radio beacon, radar device, communicating device, or any system of such devices for aiding aircraft in approach and landing



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**Words to Ponder:**

"Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all."

~ George Washington

**Pray for our Deployed Members:**

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: US Army, serving the Lord in Fort Hood, Texas

**Together in Scripture Reading:**

This month: the book of Numbers



**The Making of a Soldier**

**Colonel Steve Martin**

George Washington once said; "Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all." The discipline that Washington spoke of was not a natural virtue of the men who fought at his side during the Revolutionary War. The men had to be trained in the art of war, how to follow commands, and to engage an enemy that was vastly superior in numbers, equipment and experience.



When Washington was appointed by Congress as the Commander of the Continental Army, he did not have a standing army to command. His new army was a ragtag collection of farmers, masons, shopkeepers and men of a variety of other professions not versed in combat or the discipline of arms. Most officers were appointed according to their standing within their communities and many of the soldiers were illiterate and had little or no skills that would translate to advantage in combat. A few officers had training and drill manuals from other armies around the world, but there was no standard and each unit could look and perform vastly different than the next.

The later success of General Washington's army can be directly attributed to one man: Major General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (pictured above, center). Most Americans do not immediately recognize the name, but his contributions to the Continental Army cannot be overstated. General von Steuben was born in Magdeburg, Germany and joined the Prussian Army at the age of 17. For the next sixteen years, he served as a Prussian Army officer in various positions and he even served as the aide-de-camp to Frederick the Great. As the Prussian Army began to reduce its numbers in 1763, von Steuben found himself unemployed. Eventually, he found himself in great debt.

While in Paris in 1777, he was introduced to Benjamin Franklin. Franklin was so impressed by the Prussian that he provided a letter of introduction to George Washington. Von Steuben arrived in America on December 1, 1777; and on February 23, 1778, he reported to Washington at Valley Forge.

Washington initially appointed von Steuben as the Inspector General for the army. During his time in this position, von Steuben made major changes to army encampment layouts and procedures. He also established sanitary standards that helped the prevention and spread of disease which was decimating the Continental Army at that time. So effective were his changes that they were still being used in the United States Army a century and a half later. Von Steuben's insistence on strict accounting of equipment and supplies shored up an abysmal accounting system and made the best use of limited resources. Washington saw the obvious talents of this Prussian officer and on May 1, 1778, recommended him to Congress for appointment as a Major General.

General von Steuben's greatest contributions to the army came in the area of training. Upon his appointment, he realized that the army could never successfully combat the British troops if they did not have a standard of training that would make them both efficient and effective on the battlefield. At this point in history, maneuvers on the battlefield were very complicated and commanders had to be able to successfully combine maneuvering of troops and effective rates of fire to win the day. The reliability of troops in combat was directly related to their ability to be where they were supposed to be, at the proper time, bringing maximum force against the enemy.

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## Did You Know: Facts About Military Working Dogs (PART 1)

**Editor's Note:** This two-part feature is adapted from two articles; one posted by military blogger Mene Mathleson in 2015, the other posted in 2018 by Donna Milles, American Forces Press.

The recently released movie "Max" (2015) from Warner Bros. is about a military dog that returns to the United States from Afghanistan and is adopted by the family of his handler, a U.S. Marine who was killed in action. The movie highlights the contributions that dogs have made to the military and honors the dogs, their hero handlers, and the powerful bond that they share.

Dogs have been officially serving as four-legged soldiers in the United States military since World War I. Known as military working dogs (MWDs), they stand side-by-side with our servicemen and servicewomen and are more than just their companions – they are their protectors and actively contribute to U.S. combat operations. In fact, according to the American Humane Association, each MWD saves between 150-200 lives. Here are some other facts you may not know about these K-9 comrades-in-arms.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, there are approximately 2,700 active-duty military working dogs in the U.S. Armed Forces (as of 2015). They are deployed around the world, with a large number serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

All military working dogs and their handlers are trained at the 341st Training Squadron located

at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.



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# A Tribute to the First Military Pilot

Mike Benitez

**Editor's Note:** Have you ever wondered who was the first rated military pilot in the US? In this multi-part feature, Mike Benitez, USAF and USMC veteran and author, pays tribute to Thomas D. Milling.

In 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act, which established a new organization of defense. The law went into effect on 18 September 1947 and created the Air Force as an independent branch of the U.S. military. As a service founded in seeking, maintaining, and exploiting technological advantages, reflections on this year's 69th birthday of the Air Force naturally gravitates toward all of the planes, equipment, and widgets that adorned the service over the years. But it's really about the people behind, in, and out in front of that equipment that has made all the difference. I offer the following as an insightful tribute to these people by ex-

*'Since they were the initial cadre of military pilots, they also had to learn how the planes were built and maintained...'*

ploring just one person: the first military pilot.

On April 21, 1911, War Department Special Order 95 assigned two Army second lieutenants to "aeronautical duty with the Signal Corps...to proceed to Dayton, Ohio, for the purpose of undergoing a course of instruction in operating the Wright airplane." Until that time, being a pilot in the Signal Corps meant you "flew" a balloon. The following month, Lieutenant Thomas D. Milling (pictured above, center) and another lieutenant joined three civilians and a Navy lieutenant to start pilot training. They trained with the Wright brothers and a core of test pilots. Since they were the



initial cadre of military pilots, they also had to learn how the planes were built and maintained, as a cohort of military mechanics and ground crews had yet to be formed.

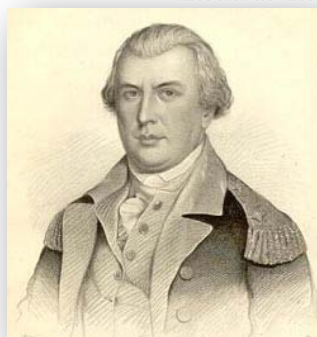
On July 6, 1911, the two new pilots were granted Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) pilot certificates No. 29 and No. 30. Their next assignment: Teach. The two lieutenants were sent to College Park, Maryland to the U.S. Signal Corps Aeronautical Division, where they opened the first military pilot training class. Their first students were their commander, Capt. Charles Chandler, and his adjutant, 1st Lt. Roy Kirtland, who were both balloon pilots. Kirtland was the one who submitted the initial recommendation for airplane training for a friend and Army classmate of Milling.

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## The Making of a Soldier

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Von Steuben developed an aggressive plan to form the American Army into a cohesive fighting unit. First, he organized a "model company" made up of about 120 men chosen from within each army brigade. He then began training these men in the standard method of drill and tactics by using streamlined training techniques. This model company helped demonstrate to the officers how their units were to operate on the battlefield. Then the members of the model company were dispersed to each army unit to work with the officers to train their men. Von Steuben's training plan was much more aggressive than used in most European armies - reducing training time to weeks rather than months. Although a tough task master, he was



loved by the Continental Army and his training had a marked impact on both the morale and confidence of the troops.

General Von Steuben worked with General Nathanael Greene (pictured below) and Colonel Alexander Hamilton to solidify this training which became the Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, also known as the "Blue Book." This book was used by the army until 1814 and it impacted the training and tactics of American troops well into the 1840s. As stated in the "Blue Book:" "A Captain cannot be too careful of the company the state has committed to his charge. He must pay the greatest attention to the health of his men, their discipline, arms, accoutre-

ments, ammunition, clothes and necessaries." The professional standards he set then have been the model for generations to follow.

Major General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben left his mark on the United States Army in its very infancy and served as one of Washington's three division commanders at the final victory at Yorktown. Over the years his memory has been a fixture in many German communities throughout the United States. Statues of General von Steuben are located in Lafayette Square just north of the White House; Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; and Utica, New York. Three U.S. Naval ships have borne his name. Several buildings have been named in his honor, including the cadet barracks at Valley Forge Military Academy and College. Steuben County, New York, Steuben County, Indiana and Steubenville, Ohio were all named in his honor.

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# Grunts Should Train Like Rangers

The director of the Pentagon's Close Combat Lethality Task Force wants to make sure infantry squads approach training like the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Too often, Marines and Army infantrymen are tapped to serve as borrowed military manpower – details such as guard duty to support base-level operations, task force director Joe L'Etoile said 26 Sep 2018 at the Modern Day Marine Expo.

"We have to get serious about removing distractions from the infantry squad," L'Etoile said. "Infantry individuals should be doing infantry tasks; if you go to the Ranger Regiment, they are not guarding gates, they are not lifeguards at the pool, they are not crossing guards ... Rangers are doing Ranger things. Infantrymen in the Marine Corps

need to be doing infantrymen things."

Instituting such a manpower policy is not easy task, but "there is a lot that OSD can do to provide relief from that," L'Etoile said.

Representatives from the task force recently traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia and met with leaders from the 75th, an elite direct-action unit in Army Special Operations Command, to gain insight on how to make conventional infantry more lethal.

"Rangers are not getting eaten up by borrowed military manpower," L'Etoile said. "Rangers do Ranger things, daily, so they are very good light infantry. We produce very good



Matthew Cox

light infantry today, but I think we can raise the game if we stop distracting people from the tasks that don't contribute to their lethality."

One way to do this is to adjust the priority placed on common military training, or CMT. This training focuses on topics within Defense Department that have nothing to do with lethality, he said, describing classes such as suicide awareness, sexual assault, sexual harassment and cyber awareness.

"They are all important, but are they more important than lethality. That is the question that needs to be asked," L'Etoile said.

For more information, visit [www.military.com](http://www.military.com)

# Tribute to the First Military Pilot

(Continued from page 2)

Unfortunately, this to-be-named airman experienced the first of several crashes a short time later, in August of 1911.

Less than a year after this crash, amid a growing military aviation movement, the Army decided to create a military aviator rating. The requirements were first published 20 April 1912 and included the following stipulations:

- Attain an altitude of at least 2,500 feet.
- Pilot an aircraft for at least five minutes in a wind of at least 15 miles per hour.
- Carry a passenger to an altitude of 500 feet, with a combined weight of pilot and passenger of 250 pounds or more, and make a dead stick landing to within 150 feet of a designated point.
- Make a military reconnaissance flight of at least 20 miles cross-country at an average altitude of 1,500 feet.

On July 5, 1912, the first Military Aviator Certificates were issued. Milling must have had a slight feel-

ing of redemption when he and his yet-to-be-revealed friend were both issued the newly created military pilot certificates. A year earlier, Milling had been granted FAI pilot certificate No. 30, directly after his classmate. With the roles now reversed, Milling was issued Military Aviator Certificate No. 1, and his squadronmate received certificate No. 2.

Unfortunately, Milling's friend and fellow aviator had two more near-fatal crashes in the same year and developed a fear of flying. He grounded himself and took a leave of absence from aviation. In 1913, he married, with Milling presiding as his best man. The former pilot left aviation, returning to the infantry with an assignment in the Philippines. There he became good friends with his new roommate, a sharp Army infantry lieutenant with a bright future named George Marshall.

However, before he left aviation for the Philippines, this former pilot would become part of history. On May 27, 1913, War Department General Order No. 39 certified 24 officers as "qualified" pilots and authorized issuance of a certificate and a yet-

to-be created badge. Beyond the airman that had been recently reassigned to the infantry, this group included his friend Milling and his commander Chandler (the first rated military pilot and the first airplane squadron commander, respectively). The newly created military aviator badge was fashioned after other Army badges in that it hung below the ribbons when worn. It featured a bar embossed with "Military Aviator" that suspended an eagle holding Signal Corps flags in its talons.

In 1916, after a three-year hiatus in the infantry, our mystery aviator was contacted by the executive office of Signal Corps' Aviation Section with an offer he couldn't refuse: return to flying duties and get promoted to Captain. This executive officer, Major Billy Mitchell, also offered a consolation prize of a ground job (but with no promotion) if this airman could not get over his fear of flying. By the end of the year, the airman was flying again and slowly conquered his fear. He went on to take multiple aviation assignments and rose to the rank of colonel by 1917, back to captain in 1920 after World War I ended, then the following month was promoted to major. The first military pilot would retain this rank for the next 11 years.



Milling, circa 1912

# Did You Know: Facts About Military Working Dogs (PART 1)

(Continued from page 2)

Each year approximately 425 Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine students are trained to be handlers, 185 dogs are trained and certified to detect explosives, and 85 dogs are trained for patrol and drug detection.

Standard MWD (military working dog) breeds are German Shepherds, Dutch Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, and Labradors.

MWD's are primarily trained for:

- Explosive detection
- Narcotics detection
- Search & rescue
- Sentry
- Guard Duty
- Scout and patrol

Traits of the MWD:

- Acute sense of smell, hearing and vision
- Drive to prey and hunt
- Sociable
- Aggressiveness
- Possessiveness
- Easily trained
- Motivated to please

With an acute sense of smell five to 10 times stronger than a human's, MWD's can detect minute traces of explosives or drugs and alert their handlers of their presence.

In the past, military dogs were considered "equipment" and either left behind or euthanized when they were no longer able to work. This has changed. In 2000, "Robby's Law" was passed that facilitates "the adoption of retired military working dogs by law enforcement agencies, former handlers of these dogs, and other persons capable of caring for these dogs."



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## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Ashley Huskey - 7
- Albert Watkins - 10
- Seth Ingersoll - 11
- Sam Johnson - 21
- Ruth Miller - 24

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- Ed & Kristy Salerno - 4
- Brian & Ivey Palmer - 17



# THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

**2 Oct 1799** - The Washington Navy Yard is the U.S. Navy's oldest shore establishment, in operation since the first decade of the 19th century. It evolved from a ship-building center to an ordnance plant and then to the ceremonial and administrative center for the Navy. The yard is home to the Chief of Naval Operations and is headquarters for the Naval Histori-

cal Center, the Marine Corps Historical Center, and numerous naval commands.

**4 Oct 1822** - Birth of Rutherford B. Hayes, Union Brig. General and 5-time wounded Civil War veteran, 19th President of the United States

**13 Oct 1754** - American Revolutionary War heroine Molly Pitcher was born. During the American

Revolution, at the Battle of Monmouth, NJ, Molly helped out as a water carrier, gaining her nickname, Molly Pitcher. Her husband, John, was wounded during the battle and Molly dropped the water pitcher, taking up her husband's job of loading and firing a cannon. General George Washington appointed her a noncommissioned officer.

## The Making of a Soldier

*(Continued from page 2)*

Ephesians chapter 6 tells us to: "put on the whole armour of God." In the verses that follow, it tells us about our enemy and what our armour should consist of: loins girt with truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (Word of God).

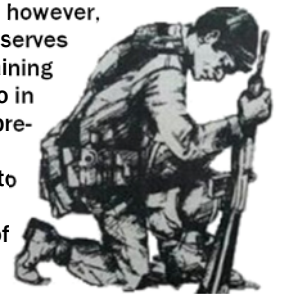
Now that scripture has identified the enemy and described defensive weapons we can deploy against attack. How do we become good soldiers and know how to conduct ourselves? In 2 Timothy chapter 2, the apostle Paul addresses our conduct, our character, and how to prepare ourselves for battle. Verses 1-3 tell us: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." The character of a good soldier of Christ is to first, be strong in Christ; second, share our knowledge with others; and third, suffer willingly for the cause of Christ. We will have trials and tribulations in our lives, but we are to be prepared spiritually for these difficulties when they arise. We must

be willing to teach and encourage others who are fighting the spiritual battle alongside us. We must be willing to suffer for Christ, realizing that spiritual warfare is not for the faint of heart.

2 Timothy chapter 2 also tells us how to prepare for the warfare that we will face. First, we are to invest in others. (Verse 2) - "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Second, endure hardship. (Verse 3) - "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Third, avoid entanglements. (Verse 4) - "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." Fourth, nourish yourself. (Verses 6-7) - "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." Fifth, wield the sword. (Verses 10-15) - "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny

him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Finally, believe in the cause. (Verse 19) - "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

We are told in Ephesians 6: 12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The task at times seems daunting, however, the Bible serves as our training manual to in all ways prepare and equip us to be good soldiers of the cross.



## Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please continue to keep our missionaries, Brian and Ivey Palmer, in your prayers as they minister to our service members at Fort Hood, Texas. Please keep Merry Dare Goodwin in your prayers as she is preparing for sea duty with the U.S. Navy. Merry Dare is the granddaughter of Dixie and Dale Ulmer and the niece of Rachel Vradenburg. (NOTE: If you have a

friend or relative who is deployed into a combat zone, on active duty, or at a military training school, please let us know so we can include them in our prayer list.

~ Colonel Martin

### Coming Up Next Month:

- Did You Know: Facts About Military Working Dogs (part 2)
- Tribute to the First Military Pilot (part 2)



The Brian Palmer Family

