

JUNE 2 – 8, 2025

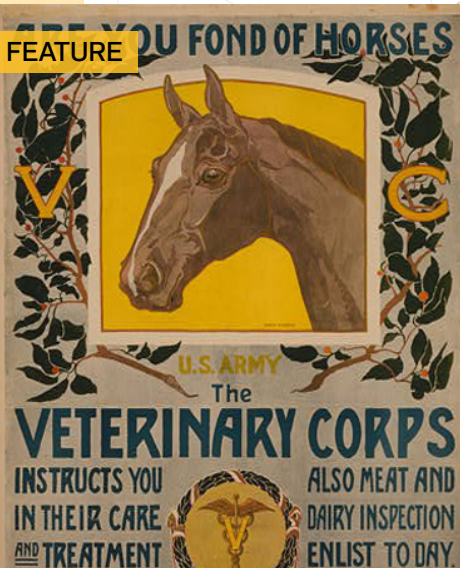
5 8 DAYS  
MAY 30 - JUL 27



**June 2, 1969**

SP4 Joseph G. LaPointe Jr., a combat medic with the 101st Airborne Division, earns the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. LaPointe was administering aid to wounded Soldiers, while under direct fire, until he was mortally wounded by an enemy grenade.

### FEATURE



**June 3, 1916**

The U.S. Army Veterinary Corps was established with the National Defense Act.

### FEATURE



**June 6, 1944**

As Allies began liberating France in World War II, D-Day medics worked heroically to save as many wounded as they could. Called "band-aid bandits" by some, but more often known as "Doc" to their fellow Soldiers, they cared for the wounded and the dying.

## WEEK IN REVIEW

**June 4, 1920**

The National Defense Act of 1920 establishes the Medical Administrative Corps (MAC) in both the Regular U.S. Army and reserve components. The MAC was created to take care of administrative duties, leaving other Army Medical Department officers to focus on patient care.

**June 5, 1944**

In the run-up to the June 6, 1944 D-Day landings in Normandy, numerous medical units and personnel departed England to support the Allied invasion. These medical personnel were essential for providing medical care to the wounded and ill Soldiers, POWs, and French civilians during the invasion and its aftermath. The medical units transported to France included field hospitals, clearing stations, and medical supplies.

**June 7, 1944**

CPT Willis P. McKee, Medical Corps, 326th Airborne Medical Company, 101st Airborne Division, jumped by parachute at the head of his section, and established an aid station near Hiesville, in occupied France.

**June 8, 1969**

1LT Sharon Lane, Army Nurse Corps, is mortally wounded by a rocket attack on the 312th Evacuation Hospital. Lane would be the only Army nurse killed as the result of enemy activity in Vietnam.

## FEATURE - U.S. ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

While the Veterinary Corps was made official on June 3, 1916, the recognition of the need for veterinary expertise began in 1776 when GEN George Washington of the Continental Army directed that a "regiment of horses with a farrier" be raised.

During the Civil War, the War Department General Orders provided each Cavalry regiment with a veterinary surgeon in the rank of regiment sergeant-major and pay of \$75 a month. In 1879, Congress passed a resolution requiring all applicants for veterinary positions with the Cavalry be graduates of a recognized veterinary college.

After the 1890's veterinarians were used to inspect meat, poultry and dairy products destined for frontier posts. The Spanish American War was pivotal in the evolutionary pathway leading to establishment of the Veterinary Corps.

Veterinary Corps participation in all our nation's conflicts since World War I has been an essential element in the maintenance of the health and well-being of both animals and Soldiers. The highly technical education obtained by veterinarians has continued to prepare them for their changing mission requirements for over the past one hundred and nine years.

The U.S. Army Veterinary Corps now provides service to more than 400 installations around the world. Veterinary officers, reservists, enlisted, and civilian personnel provide a myriad of functions, such as food safety and security, animal care, veterinary public health, and research and development.

## FEATURE - U.S. ARMY MEDICS ON D-DAY

In preparation for ground combat after Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Army hurried to create a ready force. Medical units made up of individuals of both military and civilian background were gathered and trained. Their duties included treating minor injuries, applying splints and tourniquets, and bandaging wounds.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, dozens of medics went into battle on the beaches of Normandy, usually without a weapon. The large red cross on their helmets was supposed to protect them, and Germans usually (but not universally) respected that convention. But even aside from the threat of direct enemy fire, being a combat medic was a dangerous assignment; shell fire and shrapnel drew no distinction between combatants and noncombatants.

On D-Day, and especially on Omaha Beach, evacuation of wounded Soldiers was a nearly impossible task. Not only did the number of wounded exceed expectations, but the means to

evacuate them did not exist. Landing craft off-loading invasion personnel had no time to carry the wounded back to the fleet, and were not under orders to do so. While some did assist in medical evacuation, most of the wounded on the beaches had to be brought forward to cover, or left where they had fallen. The Normandy Invasion is one of the few battles in history where the wounded were moved forward, into fire, whether than back, away from the fighting.

Historian Stephen Ambrose once noted that after the War, if he ever heard a veteran speak of another Soldier as the "bravest man I ever met," he was usually speaking of a medic. In the maelstrom of combat, they selflessly ran from wounded man to wounded man, bringing a chance at life in the midst of scenes where death reigned. For tens of thousands of wounded men, the combat medics of WWII literally made the difference between life and death.

## 250<sup>TH</sup> U.S. ARMY EVENTS

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|---------|--|
| June 4  | The Army 250th Special American Revolution Lecture by Rick Atkinson  |
| June 5  | Call to Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War  |
| June 6  | FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 1/9)   |
| June 7  | FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 2/9)<br><br>AVCoE Army Birthday Week Festivities (Day 1/8)<br><br>NMUSA Rev War Exhibit Opens<br><br>Redstone Arsenal 250th Army Birthday Celebration  |
| June 8  | FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 3/9)<br><br>AVCoE Army Birthday Week Festivities (Day 2/8)<br><br>Aberdeen Proving Ground Army 250th Birthday Concert in the Park  |
| June 9  | FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 4/9)<br><br>AVCoE Army Birthday Week Festivities (Day 3/8)<br><br>ATC Fort Jackson Army 250th Birthday Celebration Week (Day 1/6)<br><br>CCoE Army Birthday Week Celebration (Day 1/6)<br><br>MCOE & Fort Benning 250th Army Birthday Week Celebration (Day 1/6)<br><br>Aberdeen Proving Ground Army 250th Birthday 2.50 mile Fun Run/Walk |
| June 10 | FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 5/9)<br><br>AVCoE Army Birthday Week Festivities (Day 4/8)<br><br>ATC Fort Jackson Army 250th Birthday Celebration Week (Day 2/6)<br><br>CCoE Army Birthday Week Celebration (Day 2/6)<br><br>MCOE & Fort Benning 250th Army Birthday Week Celebration (Day 2/6)   |

Learn more about U.S. Army 250<sup>th</sup> events at: [www.army.mil/1775/index.html#todaysarmy](http://www.army.mil/1775/index.html#todaysarmy)

