The Knox County Joint Veterans Council are looking for volunteers!!!

The Knox County Joint Veterans Council is located at the Knox County Veterans Service Office located at 105 E Chestnut St. Mount Vernon, Ohio. The post conducts regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting time is 7:00 P.M. Contact Carol Riley @ 740-504-3264 to schedule services. Contact Eddie Stage@ 740-504-1597 if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!



They stand guard silently, vigilantly through whatever Mother Nature dares throw at them. They do so with great pride to honor one of their own. And they do this without thought of payment. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

For the families of the deceased soldier, they are the ever-watchful sentinels, and their selfless act is a much-appreciated tribute.

They are the Joint Veterans Council.

Space Force celebrates first Officer Training Course graduation at Peterson Space Force Base

The Space Force celebrated the first graduating class of its new Officer Training Course Thursday, marking a new approach to training that ensures the new leaders will have knowledge across key areas. The year-long course brings together training in space operations, cyber defense, intelligence and acquisitions — traditionally separate specialty areas in the field. “We can no longer afford to stove pipe our leaders from day one,” Gen. Chance Saltzman, chief of space operations, told 84 graduates and their families who gathered at Peterson Space Force Base. The class included a mix of new officers who commission through the Air Force Academy, Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and Officer Training School. Saltzman explained that with their year of training, those who focus on cyber defense now have the knowledge to ask tough questions of their colleagues in intelligence. Those working in intelligence will be able to provide better information to space and cyber operators, he said. “I need you to be the big-picture multidisciplinary thinkers,” Saltzman said. Maj. Gen. James Smith, commander of Space Training and Readiness Command, also addressed the class and described the challenges in space he expected the new officers will face in 15 years. U.S. intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance satellites could be tailed by a fleet of enemy satellites with small telescopes to monitor their every move by 2040. It’s also possible enemy satellites could disrupt satellite communications and carry nuclear weapons, among other threats, he said. “It may all sound like science fiction, but quite a bit of it is already happening,” Smith said. In April a Chinese commercial company targeted U.S. warships in the Red Sea and in May Russian hackers replaced TV from a Ukrainian satellite with footage of a military parade as a form of intimidation, he said. The people attracted to this kind of work are future minded, said Lt. Col. Liam Conley, commander of the 319th Combat Training Squadron. “They’re really on the cutting edge of what the transformation for future warfare looks like,” he said. The new Officer Training Course started last fall and accepts a new class every two months, Conley said. Previously, the training was spread across California, Texas and Mississippi and focused on individual specialties. Now, all Space Force officers will flow through one course in Colorado Springs, he said.

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Why Truman changed the 'War Department' to the 'Department of Defense'

During a White House press event on Aug. 25, President Donald Trump remarked that the Department of Defense name "didn't sound good" to him. "Department of Defense, I don't want to be defense only," he continued. "We want defense, but we want offense, too. The president noted that under the old moniker, the Department of War, the United States enjoyed an "unbelievable history of victory" that included the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the wars against Native Americans, the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II. "We've reestablished at the department the warrior ethos. We want warriors, folks that understand how to exact lethality on the enemy," Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth told "Fox & Friends" several days later. "We don't want endless contingencies and just playing defense," he continued. "We think words and names and titles matter. So, we're working with the White House and the president on it. Stand by."

In 1789, President George Washington signed legislation to create America's first iteration of the War Department. Under Henry Knox, the first secretary of war, the Department of War replaced the wartime Board of War and Ordnance, which was established under Washington in 1776. The act was responsible for "for military commissions, land and naval forces, warlike stores, Indian affairs, and granting lands for military services." However, the War Department primarily oversaw the Army, with the Navy getting its own Cabinet-level department less than a decade later — which also oversaw the Marines. That structure remained in place until 1947, when President Harry Truman received approval from Congress to create a National Defense Establishment. The NDE eventually took power from the Army and Navy, as well as the newly formed Air Force. It was, writes Air and Space Forces Magazine, "a landmark in the organization of America's military establishment."

Just a few months after the conclusion of World War II, Truman announced his goal to implement a new governing structure for the military, as the war had induced a need for a more codified command structure. In a special message to Congress on Dec. 19, 1945, Truman stated: "I recommend that the Congress adopt legislation combining the War and Navy Departments into one single Department of National Defense. Such unification is another essential step — along with universal training — in the development of a comprehensive and continuous program for our future safety and for the peace and security of the world. One of the lessons which have most clearly come from the costly and dangerous experience of this war is that there must be unified direction of land, sea and air forces at home as well as in all other parts of the world where our Armed Forces are serving. We did not have that kind of direction when we were attacked four years ago — and we certainly paid a high price for not having it." Cognizant of the potential pushback from the Army and Navy and its generals who might view the proposal as a threat to their service's autonomy, Truman wrote in a White House press release on April 5, 1946, "Unification does not mean subordination of any branch of the service. It does not mean a loss of identity. "It means just what the word says — unification. It means a concentration and cohesion of our best military thought and our best military resources, geared to maximum efficiency. It means using our experience in World War II for the peace of the world."

However, Truman's words of pacification did little to placate certain members of the Navy. In 1949, a small group of senior Navy officers took their private feud with the Army and Air Force public, calling into question the strategy to defeat a Soviet invasion of Europe and the allocation of scarce budget dollars, according to the U.S. Naval Institute.The resulting civilian-military dustup, dubbed the "Revolt of the Admirals" would later involve two congressional hearings and amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 "that decisively shaped the character and organization of the military for the next half century," according to the Air and Space Forces Magazine. The cause for the revolt was twofold, arising from both a mismatch between the United States' expansive postwar conception of its national security and the demands for fiscal orthodoxy, according to the U.S. Naval Institute. In a tale as old as time, senior officials wanted a global presence in the wake of World War II — but didn't want to pay for it. The Truman administration was determined to hold the defense budget to about $13 billion per year. That relatively tight budget was split into thirds — one slice each for the land, air and the sea. "This intensified the roles-and-missions struggle," writes the Institute. "The Navy thought it was in danger of losing its air arm to the Air Force. The Air Force was convinced that the Navy was attempting to build a strategic air force of its own."

According to historian Anand Toprani, there were two stages of the revolt. In the first, a civilian employee of the Navy (and a naval reservist) fabricated and then leaked to a sympathetic congressman (a retired reservist) an "Anonymous Document" accusing then Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson and Air Force Secretary Stuart Symington of corruption for favoring the procurement of the B-36 heavy bomber. The publication of the document resulted in the first of two congressional hearings in August of 1949, which ultimately vindicated Johnson and Symington — much to the embarrassment of the Navy. The second stage, according to Toprani, involved a Navy officer attached to the Joint Staff releasing an "internal Navy correspondence alleging that Johnson's policies — including the cancellation of the first 'supercarrier' [USS United States (CVA-58)] back in April — were harmful to the Navy's morale and detrimental to national security." The correspondence led to senior Navy officers publicly breaking with Johnson and Symington, describing the Air Force's "fetish" for strategic bombing against the Soviet Union as immoral and ineffective. In light of this "revolt," several amendments to the National Security Act were implemented, converting the National Military Establishment into the Department of Defense.The amendments made the DOD a cabinet-level department and downgraded the services from executive to military departments. The secretary of defense gained complete "direction, authority, and control" over the entire department, becoming the "principal assistant to the President in all matters relating to the Department of Defense." In addition, changes to the National Security Act included the creation of a chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who would directly advise both the president and the secretary of defense. Gen. Omar Bradley became the first chairman in 1949."We finally succeeded," Truman noted, "in getting a unification act that will enable us to have unification, and as soon as we get the crybabies in the niches where they belong, we will have no more trouble." On Sept. 5, 2025, Trump issued an executive order to restore the use of the Department of War name, albeit as a "secondary title" for the Department of Defense.

Pictures of the Month



The world's largest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, arrives in Oslo, Norway, Sept. 12, 2025, while on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.



A U.S. Army paratrooper flies the American flag during a Bright Star 25 multinational partnership jump at the Pyramids of Giza, Egypt, Sept. 6, 2025.