



ARLINGTON  
NATIONAL CEMETERY

HONOR • REMEMBER • EXPLORE

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Happy Birthday, U.S. Army!



ARMY 250 CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PACKET

# When the Army began...

# 1775



Number of Colonies: **13**

*When the U.S. Army was created, there were no states, only British colonies*

Population: **estimated 2.41 million**

*Similar to the population of Chicago, IL in 2025*

Colony with the most people: **Virginia**

*Home of the future first President of the United States, George Washington*

President: **None**



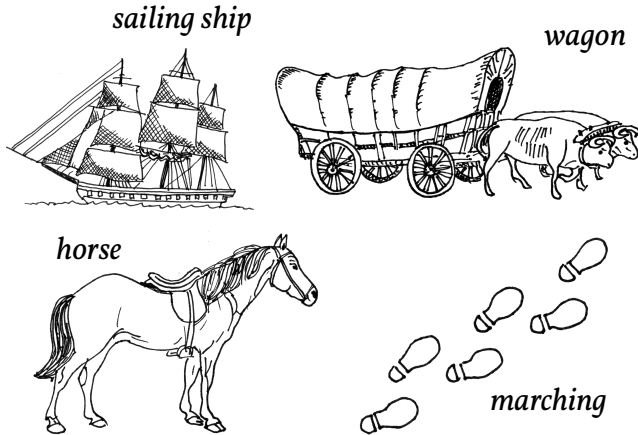
Revolutionary War soldiers had to march on foot and carry almost everything they needed with them. What would you pack? Draw the items you would bring along.



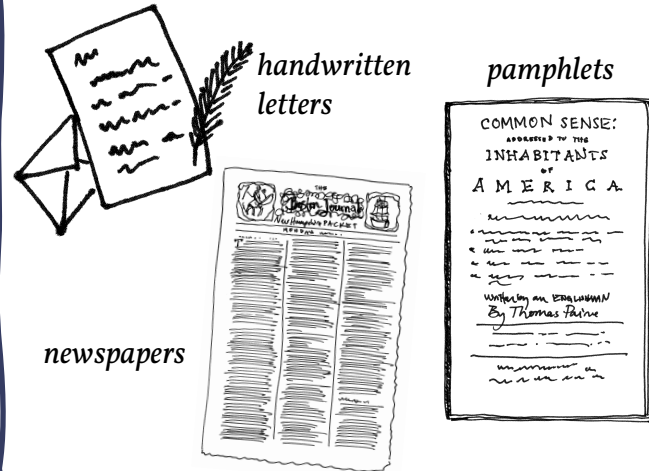
# Life for soldiers and Americans from...

# 1775-1825

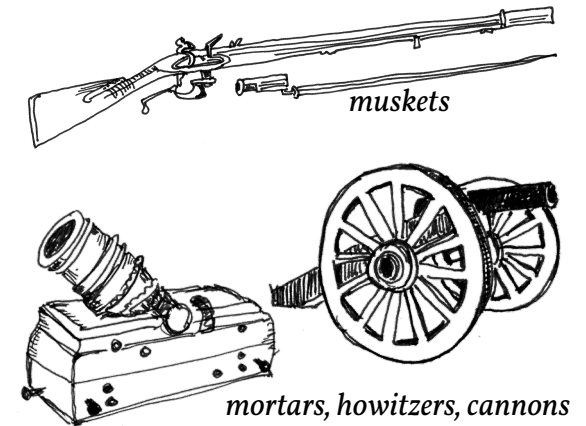
## TRANSPORTATION



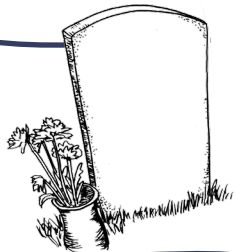
## COMMUNICATION



## COMMON WEAPONS



## ANC Connection



- 11 Revolutionary War veterans and 14 War of 1812 unknown soldiers are buried at ANC.
- Most were buried in other cemeteries and moved to ANC between 1892-1911.
- They are buried in Sections 1 and 2.

The Army was established during the Revolutionary War against Great Britain.

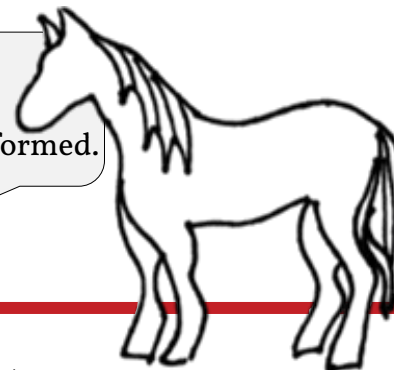


1775

**Revolutionary War**  
1775-1783

At 17 years old, the Army got a pony! Sort of. In 1792, the first cavalry regiments formed.

1792



The Army fought the British again in the War of 1812. The British set the White House on fire in 1814.

1812

**War of 1812**  
1812-1815

1775

1785

1795

1805

1815



# When the Army turned 50... 1825



Number of States: **24**

*Missouri was the westernmost state at the time*

U.S. Population: **~11.3 million**

*Similar to the population of Georgia in 2025*

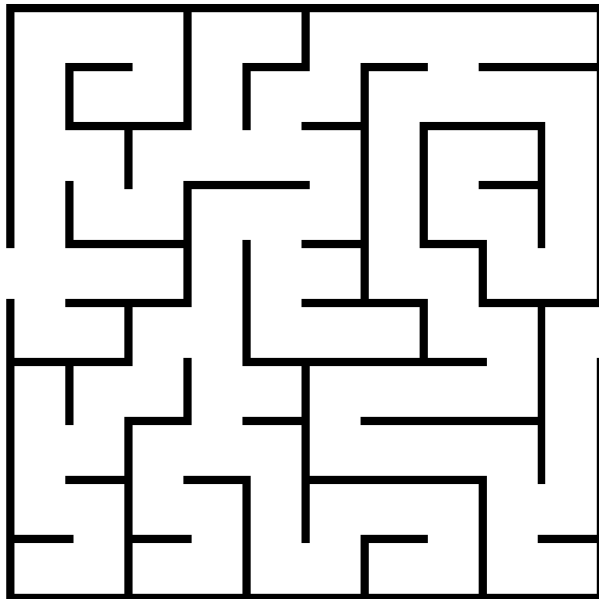
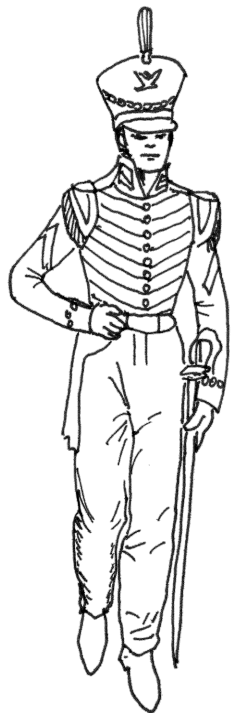
State with the most people: **New York**

*The Erie Canal opened in 1825 and improved transportation and trade*

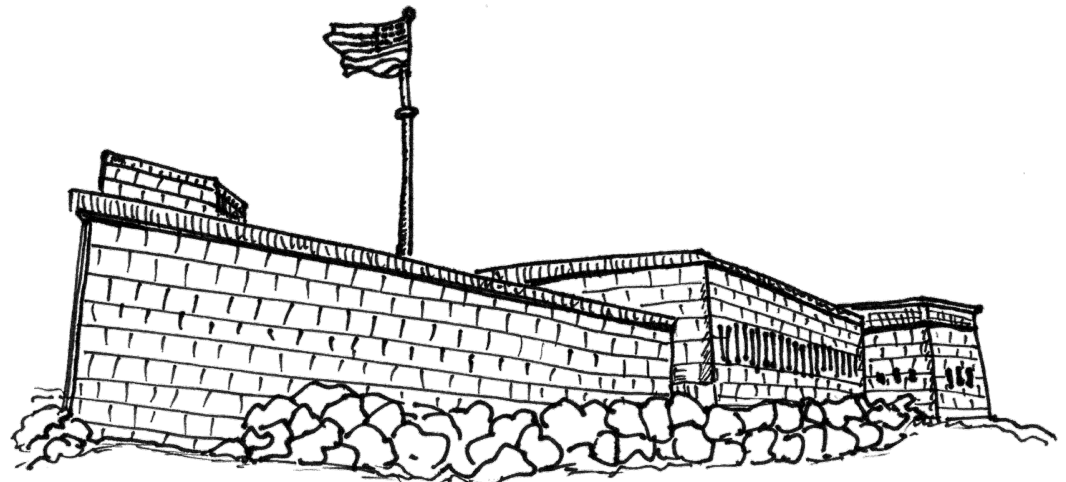
President: **John Quincy Adams**



MARCH TO THE FORT



Help the U.S. Army soldier  
find his way to his fort.







# Life for soldiers and Americans from...

# 1825 – 1875

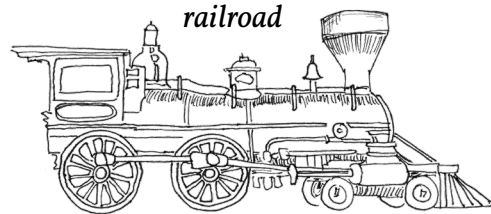
## TRANSPORTATION

sailing ship

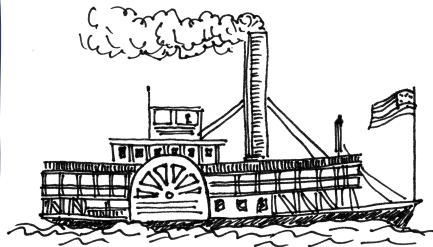
wagon

horse

marching



railroad



steamboat



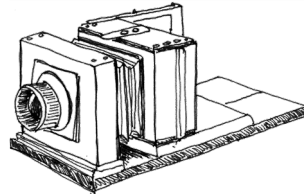
canal boat

## COMMUNICATION

handwritten letters

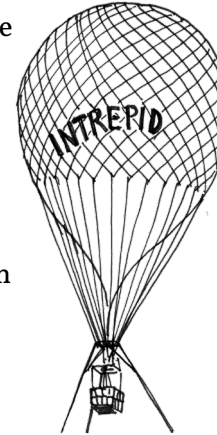
pamphlets

newspapers



photography

In 1861, the Army got balloons! During the Civil War, the Army Balloon Corps helped find enemy locations.

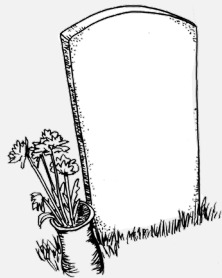


## COMMON WEAPONS



rifle muskets

Larger and more accurate mortars, howitzers, cannons



**Erastus Capron** (Section I, Grave 289) served in the Mexican-American War. He was killed in action while leading his company in the Battle of Churubusco in 1847. His family reburied him at ANC a few decades later. The Mexican-American War was the first large-scale American victory against an enemy on foreign soil.

The U.S. Army seized the property that is now the cemetery and built three forts to protect Washington, DC from the Confederate Army.



The Army established Arlington National Cemetery. Thousands of Civil War service members are buried here.



1835

1845

**Mexican-American War**  
1846-1848

1855

**Civil War**  
1861-1865

1865

1864

1861

1847

# When the Army turned 100...

# 1875



Number of States: **37** *By 1875, the U.S. flag had 37 stars, one for each state*

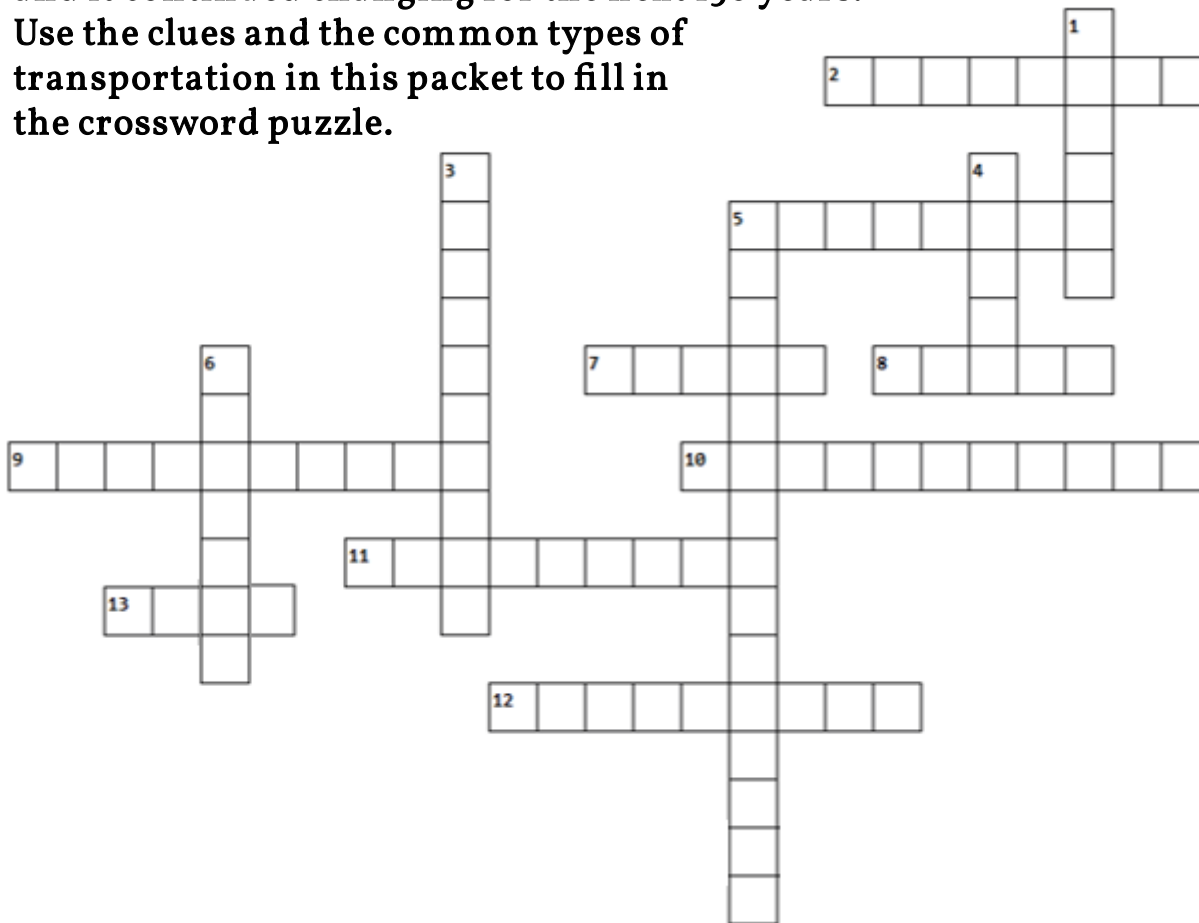
U.S. Population: **~45 million** *Similar to the combined 2025 populations of Texas and Pennsylvania*

State with the most people: **New York** President: **Ulysses S. Grant**



Army transportation technology changed a lot in its first 100 years, and it continued changing for the next 150 years.

Use the clues and the common types of transportation in this packet to fill in the crossword puzzle.



## Down

1. Animals used to move people and equipment
3. Aircraft with revolving rotors overhead
4. Four wheeled vehicle pulled by animals that moves people and equipment
5. Warship that can launch and land aircraft
6. Humans traveling by foot

## Across

2. Transportation system using iron rails
5. Aircraft with fixed wings
7. Has four or more wheels and a combustion engine; used to move equipment
8. Artificial rivers used to move people and goods
9. Large, heavily armored warship
10. Boat that uses wind power to move
11. Boat that uses steam power to move
12. Boat that operates underwater
13. Four wheeled vehicle that carries passengers over rough terrain; used a lot during WWII

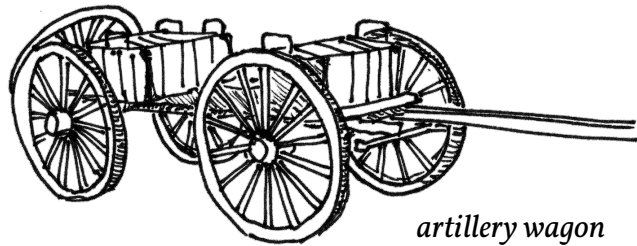


# Life for soldiers and Americans from...

# 1875 – 1925

## TRANSPORTATION

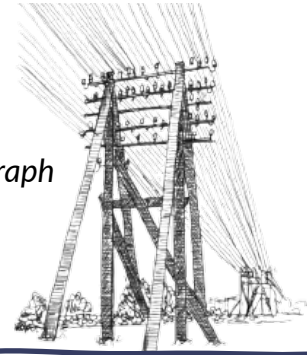
steamboat   horse   marching   railroad



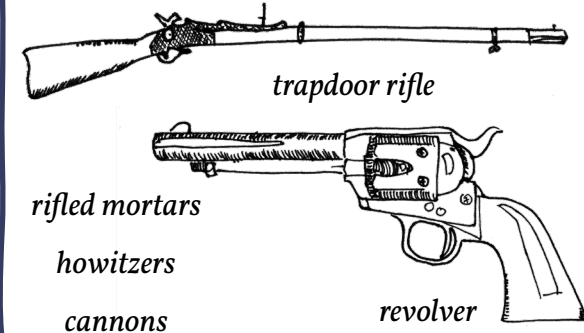
## COMMUNICATION

handwritten letters  
pamphlets  
newspapers  
photography

telegraph



## COMMON WEAPONS



Arlington hosted the first national Decoration Day (now Memorial Day).

1868

In 1898, the U.S. fought Spain in its shortest declared war: **the Spanish-American War**. Among those who fought in Cuba were African American **Buffalo Soldiers** and the **Rough Riders** led by future president Theodore Roosevelt.

Look for their memorials in Section 22.

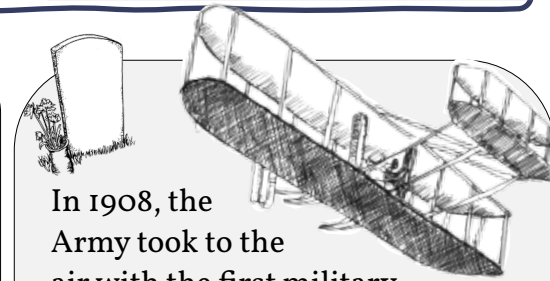


1898



The Army established the Army Nurse Corps. Over 650 nurses are buried in Section 21, also known as the "Nurses Section."

1901



In 1908, the Army took to the air with the first military airplane. Orville Wright and Lt. **Thomas Selfridge** were conducting a trial flight for this plane when it crashed near ANC, killing Selfridge. One ANC gate is named for Selfridge, who is buried in Section 3, Grave 2158.

1908



1875

1885

1895

1905

1915

**World War I**  
1917-1918



# When the Army turned 150... 1925



Number of States: **48** *Alaska and Hawaii would be added as states in 1959*

U.S. Population: **~100 million** *About 30% of the 2025 U.S. population*

State with the most people: **New York** President: **Calvin Coolidge**



How many communication words can you find?

|                    |            |              |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Cell phone         | Pamphlet   | Telephone    |
| Email              | Photograph | Text message |
| Handwritten letter | Radio      | Typed letter |
| Newspaper          | Telegram   | Video        |



*During World War I, female telephone operators used a switchboard with cords, plugs, lights, and buzzers to connect phone calls. They connected calls about troop movement and supplies, often in code, and also translated messages between French and English.*

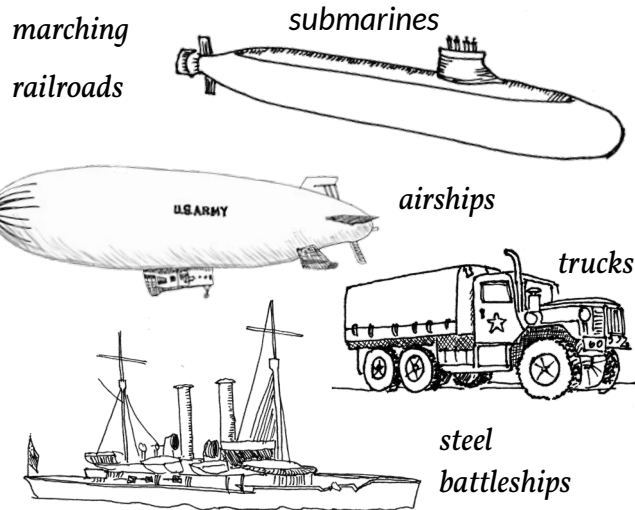
T O U T Q O C P O K F M M C V Q B A R Z  
Z L L E M V V K V X P P J A N N X P D F  
Z Z P X K K O Y G J F W U U R F R H F E  
B N F O Q Y C R X R D J T W M P A F Y D  
U J M K F I E C A E B B B Q T H D R I E  
W H I Y Z R K H S T D B F E J O I R X Y  
G U I V I D E O P T J S D Q X T O E E A  
W O L M B A I D G E X D V C G O T P N H  
S X W G B I M T T L L N R V O G Y A O B  
S A U Q N G R Z S N X Z N J F R P P H A  
D J G B T E X T M E S S A G E A E S P L  
E T C T O B M E U T B A D D O P D W L R  
N E O Q Q S C C H T M B P K Z H L E L E  
O L O O X P Y W X I V C C X K K E N E M  
H H T H G N W S E R E A J P I D T S C A  
P P G J U J H C F W F P V A O U T M T I  
E M P X O M W C C D F D Y A F G E C M L  
L A W Z U E G J G N V M J I C W R J K L  
E P Q W L Z E I Y A W P H W L Q W L X Z  
T E L E G R A M T H O H I E J K R W R H



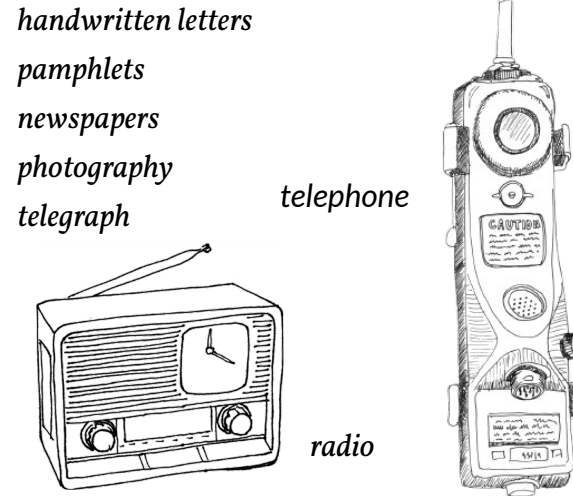
# Life for soldiers and Americans from...

# 1925 – 1975

## TRANSPORTATION

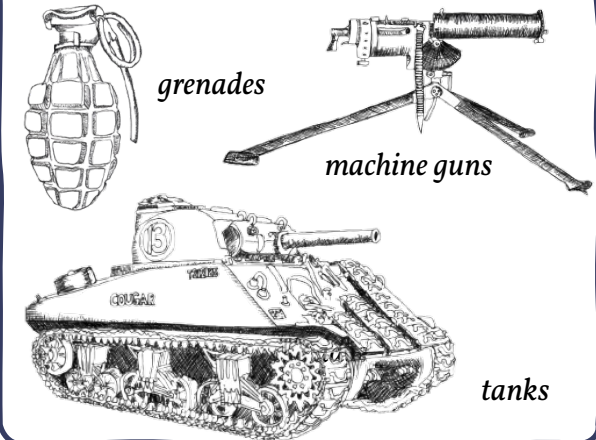


## COMMUNICATION

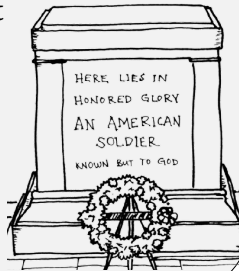


## COMMON WEAPONS

Larger, more accurate, and longer-range mortars, howitzers, and cannons



To honor unidentifiable service members from WWI, the U.S. built the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. An unknown soldier from WWI was buried there on November 11, 1921.



1921

**Lt. Col. Lillian Harris** (Section 65, Grave 2503) enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942 as part of its first class. Harris was one of the first female career Army officers.



1942

In 1948, the U.S. military desegregated. **Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr.** (Section 2, Grave E-478-B) was one Army leader who helped prove African Americans' ability to serve in the military.



1948

**Spc. 4 Richard McKinley** (Section 3I, Grave 472) was one of three victims of the United States' first nuclear accident — a casualty of the Cold War nuclear race.



1961

**World War II**  
1941-1945

**Korean War**  
1950-1953

**Vietnam War**  
1958-1975



1935

1945

1955

1965

# When the Army turned 200...

# 1975



Number of States: **50**

State with the most people: **California**

U.S. Population: **~215 million**

President: **Gerald Ford**

*Similar to the 2025 population of Brazil*



## Use the cipher below to decode the secret message.

When people in the Army communicate with each other, they often need to keep their messages secret. They have done this using tools like encryption and secret codes. You can learn more about this, and people like **James Pryde** (Columbarium 9/N43/I8/I) who sent and received coded messages, in Arlington's Military Intelligence Activity Packet.

*An Army officer in Vietnam makes a call using equipment carried by a radio telephone operator*

|       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A = P | H = G | O = J | V = F |
| B = U | I = Y | P = A | W = R |
| C = T | J = O | Q = N | X = Z |
| D = K | K = D | R = W | Y = I |
| E = S | L = M | S = E | Z = X |
| F = V | M = L | T = C |       |
| G = H | N = Q | U = B |       |

1.                                          
         G        J        L        S
2.                                          
         E        P        V        S



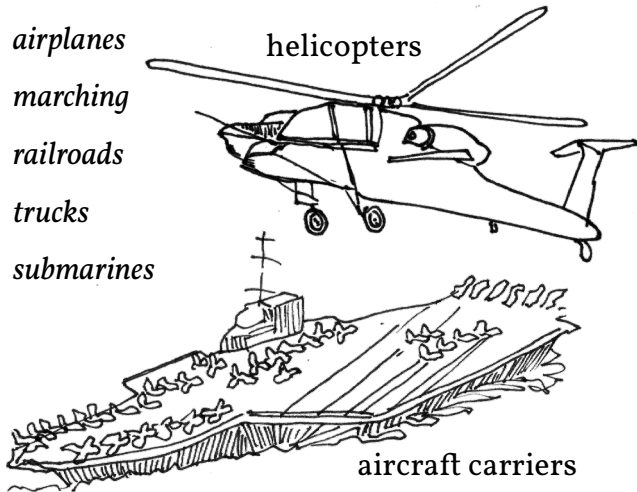




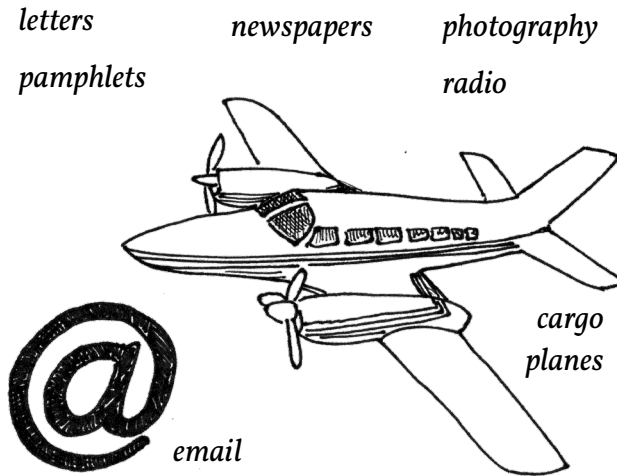
# Life for soldiers and Americans from...

# 1975 – 2025

## TRANSPORTATION

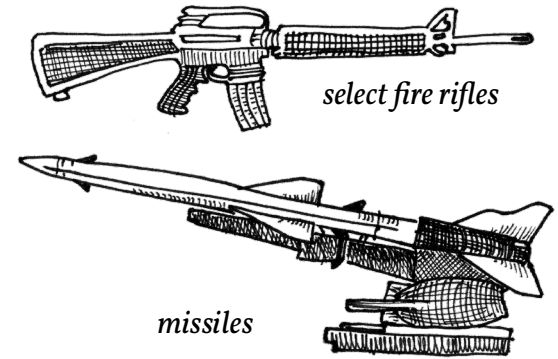


## COMMUNICATION



## COMMON WEAPONS

Larger, more accurate, and longer-range mortars, howitzers, and grenades. Tanks and machine guns



1968

**Lt. Billy Walkabout**  
(Section 66, Grave 59)  
of the Cherokee tribe of Anishanoy was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for bravery while serving in the Vietnam War.



1989-1993

**Gen. Colin Powell**  
(Section 60, Grave 11917) was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War.



**Capt. Maria Ines Ortiz**  
(Section 60, Grave 8647)  
served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. She was the first Army nurse killed in combat since the Vietnam War.



2007



1985

**Gulf War**  
1990-1991

1995

**Afghanistan War**  
2001-2021

2005

**Iraq War**  
2003-2011

2015

# As the Army turns 250...

# 2025



Number of States: **50**

U.S. Population: **~341 million**

*More people than in any other country except  
China and India*

State with the most people: **California**

*Almost 40 million people live in California!*

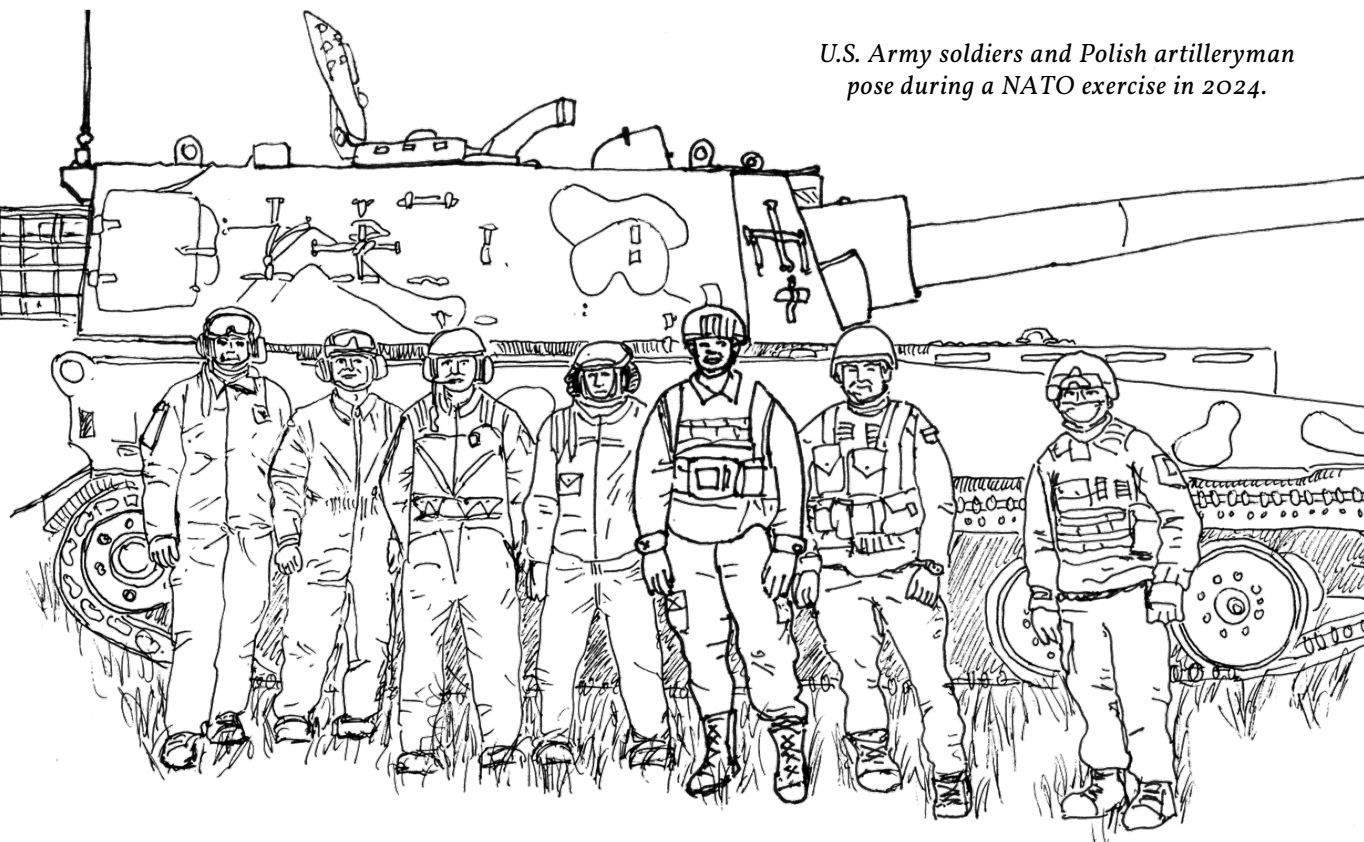
President: **Donald Trump**



Army technology is always evolving.  
What new technology do you imagine  
soldiers will use in the future?

Draw or write your ideas below:

*U.S. Army soldiers and Polish artilleryman  
pose during a NATO exercise in 2024.*

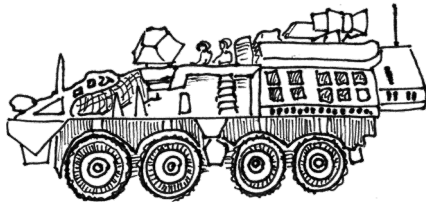




# Life for soldiers and Americans in... 2025

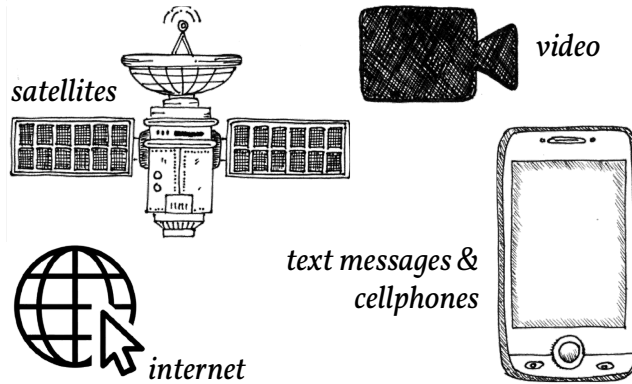
## TRANSPORTATION

airplanes  
marching  
railroads  
trucks  
submarines  
helicopters  
aircraft carriers

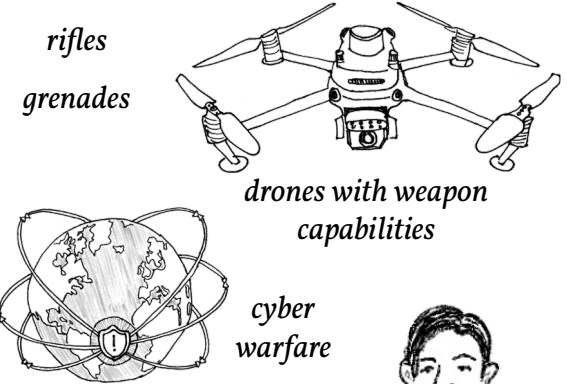


More updated methods of transportation and battlefield protection, combining mobility with weaponry

## COMMUNICATION



## COMMON WEAPONS



## Where will the next 50 years take the Army?

- What will the technology look like?
- How will the U.S. change?

Draw pictures and fill in the timeline to show what you think could happen.

While ANC is a place to learn about the Army's past, it's also part of the Army's present and future. Every day, up to 30 funeral services for soldiers or other service members are conducted at the cemetery, allowing ANC to tell the story of the U.S. military as it continues.

2025



2035

2045

2055

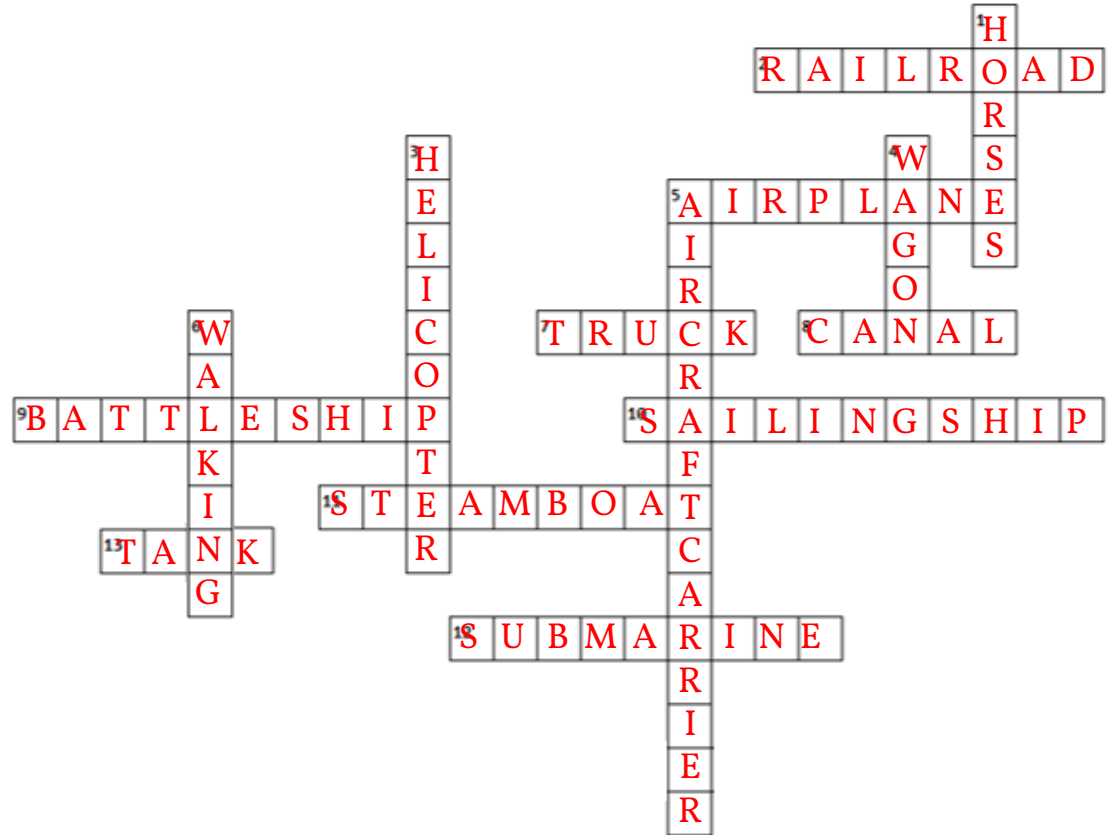
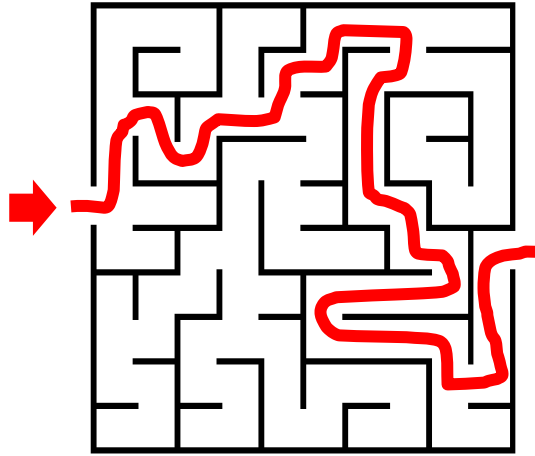
2065







# PUZZLE KEY



T O U T Q O C P O K F M M C V Q B A R Z  
Z L L E M V V K V X P P J A N N X P D F  
Z Z P X K K O Y G J F W U U R F R H F E  
B N F O Q Y C R X R D J T W M P A F Y D  
U J M K F I E C A E B B B Q T H D R I E  
W H I Y Z R K H S T D B F E J O I R X Y  
G U I V I D E O P T J S D Q X T O E E A  
W O L M B A I D G E X D V C G O T P N H  
S X W G B I M T T L L N R V O G Y A O B  
S A U Q N G R Z S N X Z N J F R P P H A  
D J G B T E X T M E S S A G E A E S P L  
E T C T O B M E U T B A D D O P D W L R  
N E O Q Q S C C H T M B P K Z H L E L E  
O L O O X P Y W X I V C C X K K E N E M  
H H T H G N W S E R E A J P I D T S C A  
P P G J U J H C F W F P V A O U T M T I  
E M P X O M W C C D F D Y A F G E C M L  
L A W Z U E G J G N V M J I C W R J K L  
E P O W L Z E I Y A W P H W L Q W L X Z  
T E L E G R A M T H O H I E J K R W R H

1. 

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| H | O | M | E |
| G | J | L | S |
2. 

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | F | E |
| E | P | V | S |