
The Redlegacy is a U.S. Army School initiative designed to inspire and engage our Field Artillery Soldiers and leaders to renew our commitment to what it means to be a professional of our branch.

The logo features the words "OUR REDLEGACY HISTORY" in a bold, stylized font. "OUR" is in a smaller, grey font at the top. "REDLEGACY" is in large, red letters with a white outline, and "HISTORY" is in grey below it. The text is set against a red circular background with a white swoosh that curves around the top and right sides.

OUR REDLEGACY HISTORY

The Field Artillery provides a wealth of experience for Redlegs to achieve high-levels of leadership

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Throughout history, Field Artillerymen have played a key role in the nation's success during both peace and wartime.

Many have distinguished themselves as role models and have been instrumental in the outcome of Army conflicts. While some left a profound legacy on the battlefield, others shaped current affairs – all possessed honor, sacrifice, and a resolute commitment to the Nation and the Field Artillery profession.

Without a doubt, great leaders in the Field Artillery will continue to shape our future; there's no reason to think otherwise. However, as we move further into the 21st Century it's important for us to remember our history and our legacy because it allows us to understand the importance of where we stand today, and where our young leaders will take us in the future.

In this article there are several historical Redlegs highlighted; leaders such as **Henry Knox**, who is considered to be the "Father of the Field Artillery," and **President Harry S. Truman**. Also highlighted in this article are more contemporary leaders, such as **General Maxwell D. Taylor**, **General John M. Shalikashvili**, **General Carl E. Vuono**, **General Tommy R. Franks**, and **General Raymond T. Odierno**.

All of these Redlegs have used their innate leadership talents to propel them to high levels of command, and have also proven that their branch choice propelled them to the highest levels of leadership. Most importantly, these leaders have shown being a Redleg is not just a 9 to 5 profession; it's about maintaining the Nation's trust and never forgetting our profession requires a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week commitment.

Henry Knox

Henry Knox, the "Father of the Field Artillery," led the

Continental Army's artillery during a pivotal time in our Nation's history. Most notably, after the famous crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night, 1776, he was the one, under General George Washington's orders, who directed the Field Artillery's fire as they cut down the Hessians as they emerged sleepily from their quarters. Without his decisive action on the battlefield, the outcome of our Nation could have turned out quite differently.

Following in Knox's footsteps, other Redlegs established themselves as role models and shaped the U.S. Military. President Harry S. Truman is among these men.

President Harry S. Truman

President Truman enlisted in the Missouri National Guard in 1905. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, he helped organize the 2nd Regiment of Missouri Field Artillery which was later re-designated as the 129th Field Artillery, 60th Brigade, 35th Division.

Later, during the intense fighting in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign of 1918, Captain Truman's D Battery destroyed two German batteries. During four days of fighting, there were more than 7,300 casualties. This experience gave him a clear understanding of the rigors of combat and the sacrifice it required.

After the war, President Truman retained his association with the Army. He achieved the rank of colonel in the Officers' Reserve Corps and commanded a National Guard Field Artillery Regiment. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1934.

His time in the U.S. Army and with the Field Artillery gave him invaluable leadership skills that paved the way for his success as President of the United States in 1945. As President, he ordered the invasion of Japan in 1945, but when the atomic bomb became militarily usable he employed it to save the lives of thousands and to end the war. Later, he decisively responded to North

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Korean aggression when the North Korean army invaded South Korea in June 1950.

Subsequently, he convinced the United Nations to intervene in Korea, and eventually dismissed General Douglas A. MacArthur in April 1951 for insubordination. Although MacArthur's dismissal caused criticism by the American public, it reflected President Truman's training as a Field Artillery officer years earlier during World War I. It was during this time he learned officers had to assume responsibility for both the successes and failures of their units. In this case, President Truman stood firmly and accepted the mantle of leadership and responsibility for intervening in Korea and for relieving General MacArthur of command. As the Cold War continued, it produced another extraordinary Field Artilleryman, General Maxwell D. Taylor.

General Maxwell D. Taylor

Although General Taylor started his Army career as an engineer, he later transferred to the Field Artillery and served in the 10th Field Artillery Regiment in 1926. During World War II, General Taylor served as Division Artillery Commander in the 82nd Airborne Division, and subsequently during the invasions of Sicily and Italy in 1942. In 1945, he commanded the 101st Airborne Division during the Normandy Invasion and Western European campaigns. In June 1955, he assumed the duties of the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

As Chief of Staff, General Taylor played a major role in shaping the Army. He guided the Army into the nuclear age by restructuring the infantry division for the tactical nuclear battlefield and criticized the doctrine of "Massive Retaliation" that arose after World War II.

"Massive Retaliation" depended upon the atomic bomb to enforce the United States' will, and it formed a critical part of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's "New Look" policy of 1953. However, General Taylor relentlessly campaigned for "Flexible Response" as an alternative to "Massive Retaliation" because it would permit the U.S. military to adapt and tailor its forces without being forced to resort to nuclear weapons.

Unable to convince the Eisenhower administration against its reliance upon nuclear weapons to deter aggression, he retired from the Army in 1959, but still energetically crusaded to abolish the "New Look." His untiring efforts eventually caused the United States to forsake the "New Look" in the 1960s for "Flexible Response." This move placed the U.S. military, especially the U.S. Army, in a better position for combat operations in Southeast Asia during the 1960s.

Years later, another Redleg, General Carl E. Vuono, picked up the baton as the Chief of Staff of the Army.

General Carl E. Vuono

After various leadership opportunities in the Field Artillery, General Vuono became the Commanding Gener-

al, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command in 1986 and Chief of Staff of the United States Army in 1987.

As the commander of TRADOC, he developed the concept of advanced collective training facilities that led to opening the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Chaffee, Ark., the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany, and the Battle Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Another lasting contribution focused on the development of small group instruction that fostered critical thinking skills in officers and the invigoration of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System.

As Chief of Staff of the Army, General Vuono provided timeless insights, most notably in addressing Redleg Officers' and Noncommissioned Officers' roles. He noted they had to be "technically and tactically competent," they had to be truly selfless in their dedication to the Soldier and their units, and they had to have the highest ethical standards.

A Redleg peer of General Vuono, General John M. Shalikashvili, also provided valuable leadership across the Army.

General John M. Shalikashvili

After graduating from Bradley University, Peoria, Ill., in 1958, with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, he became an American citizen. For him this represented a significant step. As a child, he and his parents were refugees from Russia following the fall of its Tsar in 1917. In 1958 he received his draft notice, entered the Army as a private, and later attended Officer Candidate School.

General Shalikashvili is most known for guiding the U.S. military through the chaos of the immediate post-Cold War period and the uncertainty that permeated Europe and the United States at the time. His strategic thinking and diplomatic skills played a key role in securing any "loose nukes" which could have led to a nuclear catastrophe.

Others argue that "Operation Provide Comfort" was General Shalikashvili's greatest achievement. At the end of the first Gulf War in 1991, Iraqi forces chased over 500,000 Kurds into the inhospitable mountains along the Turkish-Iraqi border. Lacking food, water, and shelter, Kurdish men, women, and children were dying at a rate of 1,000 per day. To avert a humanitarian crisis of calamitous proportions, General Shalikashvili led the operation to alleviate the suffering. This operation involved 35,000 Soldiers from 13 countries as well as thousands of volunteers from various countries. In 90 days, "Operation Provide Comfort" returned all Kurds back to safe havens in Iraq. General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs at the time, said that General Shalikashvili had worked "a miracle."

Like General Shalikashvili, another Field Artilleryman, General Tommy Franks, rose from the enlisted ranks to critical leadership positions that spanned the Cold War and post-Cold War.



General Tommy Franks

General Franks enlisted in the United States Army in 1965 and attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MD, and later trained as a Cryptologist at Fort Devens, MA.

After standing out among his peers in marksmanship and leadership qualities, Private First Class Franks was selected to attend the Field Artillery and Missile Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1967.

Upon being promoted to General, he was made Commander in Chief, United States Central Command. In this position General Franks led the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan and the overthrow of the Taliban in response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

On Sept. 12, 2001, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld directed him and his staff to prepare for military operations in Afghanistan.

On Sept. 19, 2001 General Franks presented Secretary Rumsfeld with a few options. The country could apply force or threaten to apply force. It could use cruise missiles or introduce a large number of conventional combat forces on the ground. In the past, the Soviets tried ground troops and failed. An unconventional approach of leveraging operational forces, air-to-ground forces, and air support was also presented. Rumsfeld and President George W. Bush chose the unconventional option. By the end of September 2001, the United States had a coalition in place to support the effort against the Taliban in Afghanistan. General Franks garnered a great deal of praise for this successful U.S. strategy that kept American casualties to a minimum. He also directed the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Like General Franks, the Cold War and the post-Cold War shaped another Field Artilleryman, General Raymond T. Odierno.

General Raymond T. Odierno

After graduating from the United States Military Academy in June 1976, his initial duty stations took him throughout the United States, Europe and Germany. During Operation Desert Storm of 1991, he was the Executive Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery and held the same position for the 3rd Armored Division's Division Artillery.

Later, he commanded the 4th Infantry Division from October 2001 to June 2004, leading it through the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers from his division captured Saddam Hussein in December 2003. General Odierno later commanded III Corps from May 2006 to May 2008. From December 2006 to February 2008, he commanded the Multi-National Corps-Iraq and later United States Forces-Iraq from September 2008 to September 2010. On September 7, 2011, he assumed duties as the Chief of Staff of the Army.

General Odierno's time as Commander of III Corps stood out. He was sent back to Iraq in 2006 as second in command of U.S. forces under orders to begin the withdrawal of American troops and to shift fighting responsibilities to the Iraqis. Once there, Odierno found a situation that he recalled as "fairly desperate." To that end, he advocated for a change of direction. He became the lone senior officer in the active-duty military to advocate a buildup of American troops in Iraq, a strategy rejected by the chain of command above him, including General George W. Casey Jr. At the time, General Casey was the top commander in Iraq, and was General Odierno's immediate superior. However, with support from retired General Jack Keane, an influential former Army vice chief of staff and his most important ally in Washington, General Odierno pushed for change in direction in Iraq. He argued for a surge in the number of U.S. military forces on the ground.

In pressing for an increase in U.S. forces in Iraq, Odierno went up against the collective powers at the top of the military establishment. In November 2006 Army General John P. Abizaid, then head of Central Command, told a Senate hearing that opposed sending more U.S. forces to Iraq.

Despite the opposition, in 2007 President George W. Bush announced that he was ordering a "surge" of U.S. forces, but it represented only a part of a major change in the mission of American troops. Through 2007 U.S. commanders relied upon traditional methods of warfare. However, General Odierno abandoned the traditional means in favor of counterinsurgency warfare. Along with General David H. Petraeus, who replaced General Casey as the top U.S. commander in Iraq in 2007, General Odierno changed the direction of the war. General Petraeus might have been the public face for counterinsurgency warfare, but it was General Odierno who provided the real impetus for the surge.

Going forward, it is indeed worth the time to analyze these Redlegs' careers because they have forged a path for present and future Field Artillerymen and women to follow.

To be sure, the Army's system of promotion and assignments groomed General Odierno and these other Redlegs for high-ranking leadership appointment, but it was their experience as Field Artilleryman that provided them with ample opportunities to develop their command skills. Such experience instilled confidence in them, and laid the foundation for assuming even greater duties.

For additional biographies of key Redleg leaders and NCOS go to the USAFAS homepage at <http://sill-www.army.mil/USAFAS> to explore our interactive Redlegacy database.

