

## Performance Objective 8: Citizenship

### Enabling Objectives:

1. Understand American Values
  2. History of our National Anthem
  3. History of our Flag
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### E.O. 1 Understand American Values

As Young Marines you live your life with a set of values. Moral courage, self discipline, and respect for others are but a few of these. As Americans we have a set of values established long ago and found in the Americans Creed. Freedom, Equality, Justice and Humanity are the values all Americans should strive to live by everyday of their lives. Let's read the American's Creed below to see how these values fit our lives as Americans.

#### The Americans Creed

I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of **freedom, equality, justice, and humanity** for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

**Freedom - ability to act freely:** a state in which somebody is able to act and live as he or she chooses, without being subject to any, or to any undue, restraints and restrictions. (**Country's right to self-rule:** a country's right to rule itself, without interference from or domination by another country or power.)

**Equality - state of being equal:** rights, treatment, quantity, or value equal to all others in a given group.

**Justice - The quality of being just:** conformity to the principles of righteousness and rectitude in all things; strict performance of moral obligations; practical conformity to human or divine law; integrity in the dealings of men with each other; rectitude; equity; uprightness.

**Humanity - 1. human race:** the human race considered as a whole.

**2. qualities of a human being:** the qualities or characteristics considered as a whole to be typical of human beings.

**3. kindness:** kindness or compassion for others

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States also holds a set of values that we should keep in mind when deciding on our political leadership. The government is bound by the constitution to govern our country keeping these values always in mind. The Preamble reads as follows;

## The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union **establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty** to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

These are the values our forefathers felt best described America and its people, and these are the values we as a people today should continue to uphold thus ensuring generations to come a land that will be safe and free.

### E.O. 2 History of our National Anthem

1. National Anthem. Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) penned the lyrics of the National Anthem in 1814. Francis Scott Key was a respected young lawyer living in Georgetown just west of where the modern day Key Bridge crosses the Potomac River (the house was torn down after years of neglect in 1947). He made his home there from 1804 to around 1833 with his wife Mary and their six sons and five daughters. At the time, Georgetown was a thriving town of 5,000 people just a few miles from the Capitol, the White House, and the federal buildings of Washington.

After war broke out in 1812 over Britain's attempts to regulate American shipping and other activities while Britain was at war with France, all was not tranquil in Georgetown. The British had entered Chesapeake Bay on August 19, 1814, and by the evening of the 24th of August, the British had invaded and captured Washington. They set fire to the Capitol and the White House, the flames visible 40 miles away in Baltimore.

President James Madison, his wife Dolly, and his Cabinet had already fled to a safer location. Such was their haste to leave that they had to rip the Stuart portrait of George Washington from the walls without its frame!

A thunderstorm at dawn kept the fires from spreading. The next day more buildings were burned and again a thunderstorm dampened the fires. Having done their work the British troops returned to their ships in and around the Chesapeake Bay.

In the days following the attack on Washington, the American forces prepared for the assault on Baltimore (population 40,000) that they knew would come by both land and sea. Word soon reached Francis Scott Key that the British had carried off an elderly and much loved town physician of Upper Marlboro, Dr. William Beanes, and was being held on the British flagship TONNANT. The townsfolk feared that Dr. Beanes would be hanged. They asked Francis Scott Key for his help, and he agreed, and arranged to have Col. John Skinner, an American agent for prisoner exchange to accompany him.

On the morning of September 3, he and Col. Skinner set sail from Baltimore aboard a sloop flying a flag of truce approved by President Madison. On the 7th they found and boarded the TONNANT to confer with Gen. Ross and Adm. Alexander Cochrane. At first they refused to release Dr. Beanes. But Key and Skinner produced a pouch of letters written by wounded British prisoners praising the care they were receiving from the Americans, among them Dr. Beanes. The British officers relented but would not release the three Americans immediately because they had seen and heard too much of the preparations for the attack on Baltimore.

They were placed under guard, first aboard the H.M.S. Surprise, then onto the sloop and forced to wait out the battle behind the British fleet.

Now let's go back to the summer of 1813 for a moment. At the star-shaped Fort McHenry, the commander, Maj. George Armistead, asked for a flag so big that "the British would have no trouble seeing it from a distance". Two officers, a Commodore and a General, were sent to the Baltimore home of Mary Young Pickersgill, a "maker of colors," and commissioned the flag. Mary and her thirteen year old daughter Caroline, working in an upstairs front bedroom, used 400 yards of best quality wool bunting. They cut 15 stars that measured two feet from point to point. Eight red and seven white stripes, each two feet wide, were cut. Laying out the material on the malt house floor of Claggett's Brewery, a neighborhood establishment, the flag was sewn together. By August it was finished. It measured 30 by 42 feet and cost \$405.90. The Baltimore Flag House, a museum, now occupies her premises, which was restored in 1953.

At 7 a.m. on the morning of September 13, 1814, the British bombardment began, and the flag was ready to meet the enemy. The bombardment continued for 25 hours, the British firing 1,500 bombshells that weighed as much as 220 pounds and carried lighted fuses that would supposedly cause it to explode when it reached its target. But they weren't very dependable and often blew up in mid air. From special small boats the British fired the new Congreve rockets that traced wobbly arcs of red flame across the sky. The Americans had sunk 22 vessels so a close approach by the British was not possible. That evening the cannonading stopped, but at about 1 a.m. on the 14th, the British fleet roared to life, lighting the rainy night sky with grotesque fireworks.

Key, Col. Skinner, and Dr. Beanes watched the battle with apprehension. They knew that as long as the shelling continued, Fort McHenry had not surrendered. But, long before daylight there came a sudden and mysterious silence. What the three Americans did not know was that the British land assault on Baltimore as well as the naval attack had been abandoned. Judging Baltimore as being too costly a prize, the British officers ordered a retreat.

Waiting in the predawn darkness, Key waited for the sight that would end his anxiety; the joyous sight of Gen. Armistead's great flag blowing in the breeze. When at last day light came, the flag was still there!

Being an amateur poet and having been so uniquely inspired, Key began to write on the back of a letter he had in his pocket. Sailing back to Baltimore he composed more lines and in his lodgings at the Indian Queen Hotel he finished the poem. Judge J. H. Nicholson, his brother-in-law, took it to a printer and copies were circulated around Baltimore under the title "Defense of Fort McHenry". Two of these copies survive. It was printed in a newspaper for the first time in the Baltimore Patriot on September 20, 1814, then in papers as far away as Georgia and New Hampshire.

To the verses was added a note "Tune: Anacreon in Heaven," written by British composer John Stafford Smith. In October a Baltimore actor sang Key's new song in a public performance and called it "The Star-Spangled Banner". An Act of Congress adopted it on March 3, 1931 as the United States National Anthem.

## THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

### *First Stanza*

*Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

### **E.O. 3 History of our Flag**

Before we became a nation, our land knew many flags. Long ago, the Norsemen probed our coastal waters sailing under the banner of the black raven. Columbus carried a Spanish flag across the seas. The Pilgrims carried the flag of Great Britain. The Dutch colonists brought their striped flag to New Amsterdam. The French explored the continent under the royal fleur-de-lis. Each native Indian tribe had its own totem and insignia. Immigrants of every race and nationality, in seeking a new allegiance, have brought their symbols of loyalty to our shores.

During our Revolution, various banners were used by the not-yet-united colonies. A green pine tree with the motto, "An Appeal To Heaven," was popular with our young Navy. Aroused colonists along the Atlantic seaboard displayed the rattlesnakes warning, "Don't Tread On Me," The Moultrie "Liberty" flag, a large blue banner with a white crescent in the upper corner, rallied the defenders of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776. The Bunker Hill flag was a blue banner with a white canton filled with a red cross and a small green pine. The flag of the maritime colony of Rhode Island bore a blue anchor under the word "Hope." Strikingly similar to the stars and stripes was the flag carried by the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont at the Battle of Bennington on 16 August 1777.

The first flag of the colonies to have any resemblance to the present Stars and Stripes was the "Grand Union Flag," sometimes referred to as the "Congress Colors." When Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1776, he stood under the "Grand Union Flag" which continued to show a dependence upon Great Britain. The flag consisted of thirteen stripes, alternately red and white, representing: the Thirteen Colonies, with a blue field in the upper left hand corner bearing the crosses of St. George (England) and St. Andrew (Scotland), signifying union with the mother country.

The first Stars and Stripes was created by the Continental Congress on 14 June 1777. This date is now observed nationally as "Flag Day."

In this flag the thirteen stars, representing a constellation, were arranged in a variety of designs. Congress did not specify the arrangement of the thirteen stars on the blue union, except to say that they should represent a new constellation. The most popular with the stars in a circle so that no state could claim precedence over another is known as the Betsy Ross flag, in honor of the seamstress who is supposed to have sewn the first one.

The first Navy Stars and Stripes had the stars arranged in staggered formation in alternate lines and rows of threes and twos on a blue field. A close inspection of this arrangement of the stars shows a distinct outline of the diagonal X-shaped cross and the cross of St. George of the English flag. This indicates how difficult it was for the colonists, even at this late date, to break away entirely from the British flag under which they had been born and had lived all the years of their lives.

As the American frontier expanded, two new States were added to the Union, and these were incorporated into the flag. This meant that two stars and two stripes were added to the design - making a total of fifteen each. It was this flag that withstood enemy bombardment at Fort McHenry, Maryland, 13-14 September 1814, and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner."

Realizing that the flag would become unwieldy with a stripe for each new state, Captain Samuel C. Reid, USN, suggested to Congress that the stripes remain thirteen in number to represent the Thirteen Colonies, and that a star be added to the blue field for each new state coming into the Union. A law of April 4, 1818, that resulted, requires that a star be added for each new state on the 4th of July after its admission.

Since 1818, each new state has brought a new star for the flag. A 48-star flag came along with admission of Arizona and New Mexico in 1912. Alaska added a 49th star in 1959, and Hawaii paved the way for 50 stars in 1960. This growing pattern of stars could be said to reflect the growing dimensions of America's responsibilities, as the thirteen stripes reflect the constant strength of our country's traditions.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**

- a. Dr. John W. Baer writes in "The Pledge of Allegiance a Short History" that Francis Bellamy (1855 - 1931), a Baptist minister, wrote the original Pledge in August 1892. The original Pledge read as "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
- b. What follows is Bellamy's own account of some of the thoughts that went through his mind in August 1892, as he picked the words of his Pledge:

It began as an intensive communing with salient points of our national history, from the Declaration of Independence onwards; with the makings of the Constitution.. .with the meaning of the Civil War; with the aspiration of the people...

The true reason for allegiance to the Flag is the republic for which it stands. ...And what does that vast thing, the Republic mean? It is the concise political word for the Nation - the One Nation which the Civil War was fought to prove. To make that One Nation idea clear, we must specify that it is indivisible, as Webster and Lincoln used to repeat in their great speeches. And its future?

Just here arose the temptation of the historic slogan of the French Revolution which meant so much to Jefferson and his friends, Liberty, equality, fraternity. No, that would be too fanciful, too many thousands of years off in realization. But we as a nation do stand square on the doctrine of liberty and justice for all...

- c. In October 1892, the pledge was changed to read "... the Republic..." to "...to the Republic...."
- d. In 1923 and 1924 the National Flag Conference, under the leadership of the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution, changed the Pledges words, ..."my Flag"... to ..."the Flag of the United States of America."
- e. In 1942, an Act of Congress approved the Pledge of Allegiance as the official pledge of the United States.
- f. In 1954, Congress after a campaign by the Knights of Columbus, added the words, "under God," to the Pledge. The Pledge was now both a patriotic oath and a public prayer.

**NOTE:** No other flag may be flown above the Stars and Stripes, except; (1) the United Nations flag at UN Headquarters; (2) the church pennant, a dark blue cross on a white background, during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea.

**PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION REVIEW**  
**Performance Objective 8: Citizenship**

<b>E.O. No.</b>	<b>Enabling Objective Description and Performance Requirement</b>	<b>Authorized Evaluators Signature</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Understand American Values</b>	
<b>a.</b>	Can recite the Americans Creed.	
<b>b.</b>	Can define the four principles of the American's Creed.	
<b>c.</b>	Can state the five values of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.	
<b>2</b>	<b>History of our National Anthem</b>	
<b>a.</b>	Knows who penned the lyrics of the National Anthem.	
<b>b.</b>	Knows the first title of the poem that became the National Anthem.	
<b>c.</b>	Knows the tune that was added to the poem that became the National Anthem.	
<b>d.</b>	Knows the date Congress adopted the Star Spangled Banner as the National Anthem.	
<b>3</b>	<b>History of our Flag</b>	
<b>a.</b>	Knows the date and year flag day was created.	
<b>b.</b>	Knows how many stripes are on the U.S. Flag.	
<b>c.</b>	Under the law of April 4, 1818 the Young Marine knows how a star is added to our flag.	