

<http://www.navy.com/about/mission.html>

On October 13th, 1775, the Continental Navy was established by the Continental Congress, launching a 239 year Naval history across the seas of the world.

From the US Navy's Historical website <http://www.history.navy.mil/birthday.htm>:

The United States Navy traces its origins to the Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on 13 October 1775, by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning, and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. The legislation also established a Naval Committee to supervise the work. All together, the Continental Navy numbered some fifty ships over the course of the war, with approximately twenty warships active at its maximum strength. After the American War for Independence, Congress sold the surviving ships of the Continental Navy and released the seamen and officers.

Following the ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1789, Congress acted upon authority granted to them in the Constitution, and in 1794 ordered the construction of Naval vessels, placing them under the administration of the War Department for the subsequent four years.

On April 30th of 1798, The U.S. Congress established The Department Of The Navy.