

The “First American Regiment” is now “The Old Guard”

**SERVING AS AMERICA’S PROTECTORS – A SOLEMN TRADITION
LIVES ON**

From Fort Harmar in 1785 to Arlington National Cemetery today.



1785: Red,
White & Blue
uniforms.



Today: Blue,
White & Gold
uniforms.

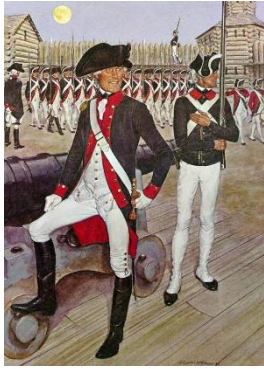
**Back then: protecting Native Americans, surveyors, and legal
settlers from 1785 - 1790 at Fort Harmar, the first post-
Revolution fort built in the Northwest Territory.**

**Today: protecting Arlington National Cemetery and other
hallowed sites in our nation’s capital.**

See full story, other side.

The US Army unit that served in 1785 – 1790 at Fort Harmar still serves today at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

Most-watched unit: Now called the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment or "Old Guard", it is the oldest regiment in the Regular United States Army. Today it is best-known for its ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. But the Regiment's history stretches back to the earliest days of the Republic.



Fort Harmar: Formed in 1784 as the First American Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Josiah Harmar, it was to consist of 700 men from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. In 1785, the unit built Fort Harmar at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio Rivers, the first post-Revolution fort in the Northwest Territory.

Fixed bayonets: Some of the campaigns they fought in were the frontier wars, the War of 1812, the second Seminole War, and the War with Mexico. In Mexico City, General Winfield Scott nicknamed the regiment the "Old Guard" in recognition of its long and distinguished service. The regiment parades with fixed bayonets in recognition of a key bayonet charge they made in 1847 at Cerro Gordo; this tradition of parading with fixed bayonets is unique among all U.S. Army infantry units.

Civil War to Afghanistan: The Old Guard's service continued, including many battles in the Civil War, the War with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection, the Spanish-American War, and World War II. Battalions from the 3d Infantry fought in Vietnam 1967-72, while parts of the unit also deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror.

Arlington National Cemetery: In April, 1948, the Old Guard assumed the mission of funeral support to Arlington National Cemetery, guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and ceremonial support to the Military District of Washington. Old Guard sentinels protect the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier all day, every day, in every kind of weather.

Sections of this report are taken from an article written by Chris Kolakowski as shown on the American Battlefield Trust website, battlefields.org on June 17, 2026; "[Defending a New Nation: 1783-1811](#)", by John Maass, Center of Military History, United States Army. Photos were downloaded from First Army Division's Facebook page, and websites: www.defenseflashnews.com, and US Army Center of Military History.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF FORT HARMAR

Friends of Fort Harmar is a charitable, nonprofit organization dedicated to utilizing the educational, historical, and community potential of the important role Fort Harmar played as the United States was founded and expanded into the Northwest Territory as directed by Congress. We seek a premier Marietta city park to honor the soldiers who served at Fort Harmar.



Contact Us

If you have comments or would like to help bring Fort Harmar Park to life, please contact us at fortharmarpark@gmail.com, or Friends of Fort Harmar, P.O. Box 57, Marietta, OH 45750, or Marietta Community Foundation, P.O. Box 77, Marietta, OH 45750, with "Friends of Fort Harmar" entered on the memo line of your check.

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<https://www.friendsoffortharmar.org/>