



# HISTORY

## A century of constant readiness.

U.S. Army Central is a unit rich in history and steeped in the tradition of victory on the battlefield. Our lineage goes back to the Third U.S. Army, activated in France during the first World War.

During WWII, Third Army rolled back the Nazis from France all the way to Austria, and in the process, devastated Germany's ability to fight.

It would be almost 50 years before Third Army, now known as U.S. Army Central, found itself tested on the battlefield again; this time emerging victorious in the deserts of the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm.

Since 9/11, U.S. Army Central has led and sustained the fight during combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of the war on terror, all the while building the security capacities of those and other nations in the region.



### “Patton's Own”

It was during World War II that Third Army gained true notoriety by becoming the spearhead U.S. force against Germany under the leadership of the hard-charging General George S. Patton Jr.

- **NOV 1918** - Third Army is activated at Chaumont, France during WWI. Five days later, the war ends in victory for the Allies.
- **JUL 1919** - Third Army deactivates in Germany, where it had served as part of the Allied Army of Occupation since the end of the war.
- **OCT 1933** - Third Army reactivates at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas - training hundreds of thousands of Soldiers for the coming war.
- **DEC 1943** - Third Army is called to participate in the Allied Invasion of Europe during WWII.
- **SEPT 1945** - At the end of the war, Third Army becomes part of the Army of Occupation, remaining in Germany until 1947.
- **OCT 1973** - As a result of post-Vietnam War Army downsizing, Third Army is inactivated at Ft. McPherson, Georgia.
- **DEC 1982** - Third Army reactivates at Ft. McPherson to serve as the Army Component Command for U.S. Central Command.
- **AUG 1990** - Third Army deploys to Kuwait to command land forces during the Gulf War.
- **FEB 1991** - Third Army and coalition forces liberate Kuwait from the Iraqi Republican Guard.
- **OCT 2001** - As the Coalition Forces Land Component for U.S. Central Command, Third Army commands the ground war in Afghanistan and the surrounding countries.
- **MAR 2003** - Third Army begins a campaign to liberate Iraq - which takes only six weeks. Third Army headquarters returns to Kuwait in June.
- **JUN 2006** - Third Army is renamed U.S. Army Central.
- **JUL 2011** - USARCENT relocates to Shaw Air Force Base.
- **JUL 2014** - USARCENT deploys to Iraq to support Operation Inherent Resolve. In 2015, this mission is passed to III Corps.
- **TODAY** - U.S. Army Central continues to support the fight and prepare for the future, protecting our forces and building partner nation capacity in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.