

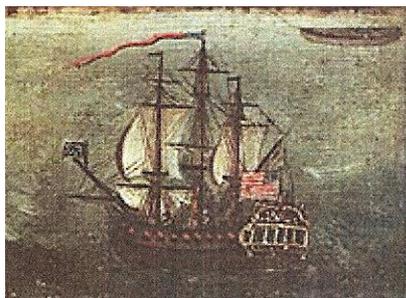
Timeline of the creation of United States Navy

1775, April – 1783, September – The war for American Independence is fought. The Treaty of Paris is signed 3 September 1783, ending the war between the American colonies & Great Britain.

1778 – Treaty of Alliance between the United States & France - pledges to support each other against Great Britain. If/when Great Britain acknowledged the independence of the United States, France & the U.S. would conclude a truce and strike peace with Great Britain.

1783 – The first of American merchant ships are captured by Barbary corsairs off the coast of North Africa.

1785 – The last warship of the Continental or American Navy – the frigate *Alliance*, is sold.

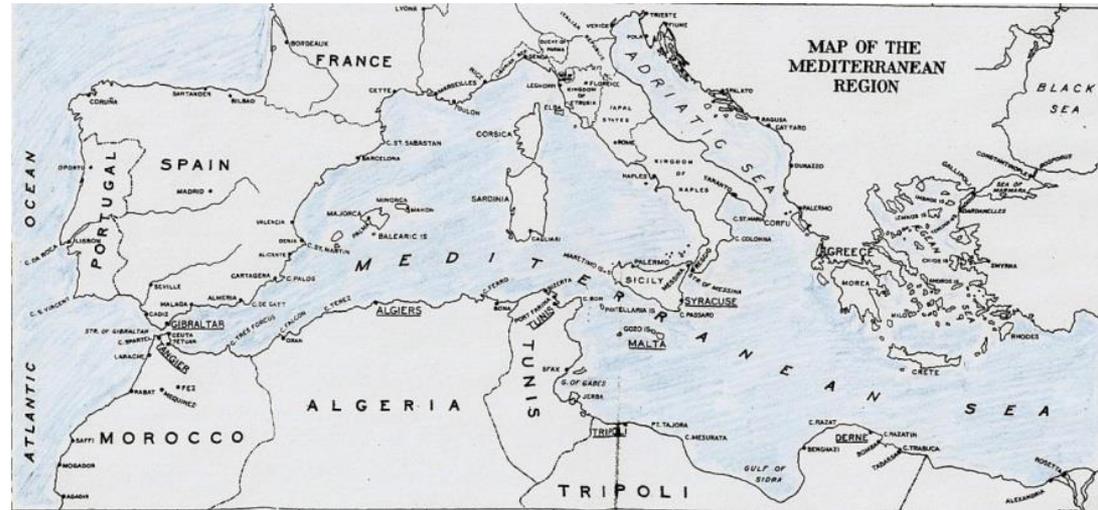


1785-1794 – There is no navy to protect American shipping.

1787 – U.S. Treaty with Morocco – tribute is paid to Morocco which stops ship seizures; Algiers continues to capture American ships & crews

1789 – Louis 16th, King of France, is overthrown; at first some British politicians support the removal of the absolute monarch

1789 - The U. S. War Department is established & oversees the non-existent navy



1791 – The U.S. Senate Committee on Mediterranean Trade concludes that only a navy can protect American shipping in the Mediterranean Sea

1792 – The French Legislative Assembly declares war on Austria, which marks the beginning of a massive war that would last for the next 23 years – and become known, eventually, as the “Napoleonic Wars”

1792 - President Washington declares America neutral – to avoid the growing war in Europe; U.S. shipping is prevented by both the French and British, who are now at war with each other...

1793 – 8 U.S. merchant ships -captured by Algiers; President Washington suggests building a U.S. Navy to defend U.S. commerce & assert U.S. rights as a sovereign nation



“Preparation for War

to Defend Commerce”

1794 - March 27th – The Naval Armament Act – construction/purchase of 6 frigates to create the U.S. Navy; if peace is established with Algiers, the construction of the frigates was to be halted

1795 - USS *Constitution*'s keel is laid in Hartt's Shipyard, Boston; Peace with Algiers – the 3 frigates furthest along in building are continued (1796)

1796- 97 - Peace with Tripoli; peace with Tunis

1797 Launches: 10 May USS *United States*; 7 September USS *Constellation*; 21 October USS *Constitution*