

SPAIN AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

The Chief of Staff of the Army inaugurates a temporary exhibition at the Army Museum

THE Chief of Staff of the Army (JEME), Army General Amador Enseñat, accompanied by the US Ambassador to Spain and Andorra, Benjamin León Jr., presided over the inauguration of an exhibition at the Army Museum (Toledo) on 25 March 2026. Organised to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, the exhibition highlights Spain's pivotal support during the conflict, marking the Spanish Army's primary commemorative milestone for 2026. The event was attended by various civil and military authorities, including the Government Delegate for Castilla-La Mancha, José Pablo Sabrido, and the Mayor of Toledo, Carlos Velázquez.

The US Ambassador addressed the attendees, expressing his desire to "acknowledge the Spanish Army for dedicating this year to celebrating Spain's role in the independence of the United States and for its significant institutional commitment to preserving this shared legacy".

For his part, the Chief of Staff of the Army detailed the primary milestones of that historical moment which, more than two centuries later, have paved the way for a fruitful and close cooperative relationship: "This exhibition is not merely a look back at the past; it is also a means to connect the past with the present.

A space where a shared history is recognised and present-day bonds are strengthened," explained Army General Enseñat. He further emphasised that these initiatives "are instruments of knowledge, but also of connection, which allow us to remember where we come from in order to better understand where we want to go".

Subsequently, the various civil and military authorities toured the exhibited collection, which features over 60 items from the Army Museum, private



Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau, 2015. Oil on canvas

The Battle of Pensacola (1781), led by General Bernardo de Gálvez, marked the culmination of Spain's effort to recapture the Floridas from British rule.

collections, other units of the Armed Forces and institutions such as the National Library, the General Archive of the Indies and the Bank of Spain. They also received a briefing from the exhibition's curator, Lieutenant Colonel Segura.



Ejército de Tierra

General Enseñat and U.S. Ambassador Benjamin León Jr. at the exhibition's opening ceremony.

The exhibition will be open to the public free of charge from 26 March to 12 October 2026. Visitors will have the opportunity to delve into three historical moments of this close relationship between Spain and the United States. The first section, "A Time of Explorations: Legends behind the Legend", is dedicated to Spanish expeditions into what is now US territory. The second, "A Time of Consolidation: The Difficult Life on the Northern Frontier of the Hispanic World", illustrates the strategy for the occupation and control of a territory that the Spanish sought to defend with limited resources.

The last section, "A Time of Revolutions: The Birth of a Giant", explains the role of the Spanish people and their armies during the American Revolution.

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