

# Battle Of Midway

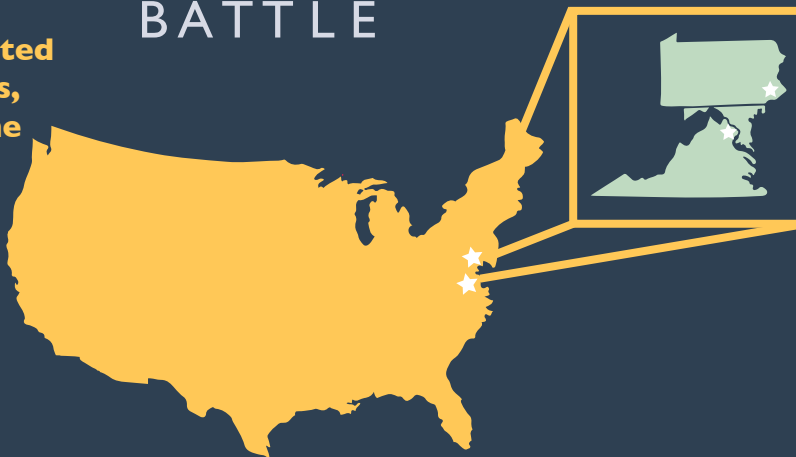
The U.S. Navy's victory at Midway in June 1942 was the turning point of World War II in the Pacific. Success at Midway set the course for the Allies' defeat of Imperial Japan. This epic naval battle provides many lessons learned about the importance of naval force and intelligence capabilities, and the importance of securing maritime superiority in a conflict - yesterday and today.



- An atoll is a ring-shaped reef or islands formed of coral. The U.S. Navy, Marines, and Army used Midway as an air base. It was also a Navy submarine base.
- Japan wanted to remove an Allied foothold in the Pacific and establish a base for eventual attacks on Hawaii and the U.S. West Coast.

## BATTLE

The battle, which lasted more than three days, covered an area in the Pacific Ocean larger than the contiguous United States.



During the battle, many of the ships were 50-150 miles apart--as far as the distance between Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

## U.S. AND JAPANESE FORCES COMPARED BEFORE THE BATTLE AND LOST

### UNITED STATES

**15/1**  
**3/1**  
**8/0**  
**0/0**  
**360/150**  
**16/0**

### IMPERIAL JAPANESE

**12/1**  
**4/4**  
**2/1**  
**2/0**  
**276/248**  
**0/0**

The United States lost 307 service members in the battle. Japan lost 3,057, most of them crewmembers of lost or damaged ships.

Want to learn more about the victory at Midway? Visit [history.navy.mil/midway](http://history.navy.mil/midway)