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Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick presides over military ceremony which dates from English Puritans of 1638

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Present with the Governor today were representatives of England's "Honourable Artillery Company", and the British Consul General in Boston, Phil Budden.

The Governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick, presided over a military ceremony on Boston Common which dates from the English Puritans of 1638.

Watch a video message from Governor Patrick, and more coverage of the event, below:

Every year, the head of the "Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company" resigns his military commission to the Governor, representing the civil power: the new head (known as the "Captain Commanding") then assumes his commission from the Governor. Both the "Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company" and the ceremony date back to the first English settlers of Boston. From their home country, they brought with them both the tradition of military power being subject to the civil authority, and the organisational structure of the original "Honourable Artillery Company" of London (dating from 1537).

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**Further information**

[Visit London's Honourable Artillery Company online here.](#)

[Visit Boston's Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company online here.](#)