

History and Background

Since 14 June 1775, soldiers have defended freedom and are fighting on behalf of the American people for various missions. All of our forces – heavy and light, Active, Guard and Reserve – share the heritage of the Continental Army.

The Army's Birthday celebrates this great institution and upon reflection a simple truth arises: there is no greater profession than the Profession of Arms and no greater job than ours – serving on point for our Nation.

Thanks to American Soldiers, freedom's light shines as a beacon throughout the world.

Your unit, organization and or installation may celebrate the Army's Birthday and Flag Day together. For example, some have the youngest and oldest soldier attend the ceremony to cut the cake and be a part of the retreat ceremony as the guest speaker explains this traditional event.

The Army has courageously fought our country's wars and served honorably in peace for over two centuries. We can all be justifiably proud of the Army's achievements – a distinguished history of service to the Nation. Ever since the American Revolution, through the trial of the Civil War; from the trenches of World War I to the beaches of Normandy and the island battles in the Pacific of World War II; from the frozen mountains of Korea to the sweltering paddies of Vietnam; from Grenada and Panama to the sands of Kuwait and Iraq and on the plains and mountains of Afghanistan: Soldiers have upheld democracy and liberty and justice for all.

Throughout that history of service, the key to the Army's success is our flexibility and willingness to change, to meet the world as it is – without altering the core competencies that make the Army the best fighting force in the world. You are the best Army in the world. You represent what is most noble about our Nation: liberty, freedom and unity. As a symbol of our transformed Army, you are and will continue to be, respected by your allies, feared by your opponents and esteemed by the American people. Your courage, dedication to duty and selfless service to the Nation will remain the hallmark you, the Soldiers of the United States Army, carry into the 21st Century.