

Today we mark the 229th birthday of America's Army. On April 19, 1775, America militiamen opposed British regulars at Lexington Green, Massachusetts. Two months later, on June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution to raise 10 companies of riflemen – this formally established the United States Army – the first Armed Service formed within our great nation – the senior service.

Over the past 229 years, America's sons and daughters have answered the nation's call and put aside the things that our society normally considers "important" to preserve our democratic, pluralistic way of life and to preserve the enormous opportunities that make America unique – a shining light of hope to disadvantaged peoples throughout the world.

The Army flag has 175 campaign streamers – each one reflecting the dedicated efforts of units in battle and the selfless sacrifice of the Soldiers and Army civilians involved. As you know, this year's Army birthday finds our nation, our military and our Army engaged in the third war of a Global War on Terrorism – a tough, protracted war we did not seek, but one which threatens the core values and liberties this nation stands for – it's a war we will decisively win.

The heritage of our fighting men and women is rooted in the Army's values:

- Loyalty to our Constitution, Army, unit and fellow Soldiers
- Sense of duty to fulfill our obligations
- Respect for our teammates
- Selfless approach to service to our nation, Army and subordinates
- Commitment to honor our country and Army through actions which embrace Army values and never bring discredit on this uniform, fellow Soldiers or Army
- Full integrity – doing what's right legally, ethically and morally
- Courage – physical and moral – to execute the mission under the toughest circumstances and always do what's right, regardless of risk

It links us with earlier generations of Soldiers – it stems from a belief that America is different – that our Soldiers defend a positive, progressive, optimistic society which champions the right of each individual to realize their full potential without repression or oppression.

As military members, we know that freedom isn't free. As we speak, almost 800 INSCOM members are deployed in harm's way. They do this willingly for the sake of us, their children, families and future generations. Terrorism and religious totalitarianism threatens the essence of our free and open society – our Army plays a key role as part of the joint military team to ensure the extremists and the evil they represent do not prevail.

We gather here today as comrades in arms and members of the Army family. Together, we guarantee the successful outcome of this ongoing conflict on terms acceptable to our nation. It's appropriate for us to rededicate ourselves, on this 229th celebration of our Army's birthday, to getting this tough job done in a manner which is consistent with Army values and what America stands for. As the world's only real superpower, we

really do wear a “white hat.” We really are the good guys – no other Army or military comes close. Our people are our credentials and our own, overwhelming powerful asymmetric advantage.

Thanks for what each of you does and sacrifices for our Army and nation. Be proud of the historic role you’re now playing as part of America’s Army. God bless each of you, your families, our deployed forces and God bless America.