

ARMY BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

In June of 1775, thirteen months before thirteen British colonies on the North American continent formally declared their independence, the U.S. Army was born. The Continental Army that fought the Revolutionary War had little in the way of weapons, equipment, training and provisions. Yet it was an Army rich in spirit, the spirit felt by patriots fighting for their freedom. Often, those brave Soldiers went into battle outnumbered and outgunned – but, in the end, they emerged victorious, and the United States of America became a free nation.

Today, America's Army is as good as it's ever been. We are, in fact, the best Army in the world, and the best Army ever seen in human history. We have the best weapons, the best equipment, the best training, and the best support systems. Our Soldiers have a high level of education and physical fitness, and are backed by a highly skilled, well-motivated team of civilian employees and contractors.

What truly sets the U.S. Army apart is our spirit, the spirit we share with those courageous Soldiers of the Continental Army who won our freedom against all odds. It is the fighting spirit that moves us to fight for that which is worth fighting for, and to lay our lives on the line for our nation and the ideals which it represents.

As we celebrate the Army's 235th birthday, we celebrate that fighting spirit, and honor all the warriors who exemplified it. We salute an organization based on values such as courage, loyalty, duty, service and self-sacrifice, and we recommit ourselves to living out those values.

We are truly privileged to be part of America's Army, and truly grateful for all that the Army has given us. I thank every one of you for your hard work, devotion to duty, and support. I also thank the American public for their continuous support to our Soldiers and their families.

May our Army always remain strong, and may the nation it defends always remain free. Airborne!