Celebrating the United States Army's 239th Birthday
"America's Army: Our Profession"

"All other public purposes, all other public projects, all other public needs, great or small, will find others for their accomplishment; but you are the ones who are trained to fight. Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory, that if you lose, the Nation will be destroyed, that the very obsession of your public service must be duty, honor, country."

~ General Douglas MacArthur

Today the United States Army celebrates 239 years of dedicated service to our Nation. It is fitting that we pause to acknowledge the incredible competence, the enduring commitment and the extraordinary character of our Soldiers, Civilians, Veterans and their Families who have sacrificed so greatly in defense of American values.

During this historic month in Army history, we also commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landing. As we do so, we might recall the achievements of the very first American Soldiers, those militiamen of the Revolutionary War who persevered through the harshest of conditions. Following their example have been generations of men and women in uniform. The 187 campaign streamers that adorn our Army colors serve as a reminder of the courage and commitment of the troops who stormed the beaches of Normandy and those who held fast on and off the shores of Okinawa, of those who fought through the rice paddies of Korea, the jungles of Vietnam, the sands of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. Our heritage as members of the Profession of Arms is what binds us together through history and keeps us standing tall in today's formations.

We celebrate our Army's long tradition of service and sacrifice and thank our Soldiers and Veterans for their remarkable determination to defend our Nation with unwavering resolve. We thank our Civilians for their steadfast dedication to the mission, and our Families for their untiring strength of purpose. Today's All-Volunteer Force of professionals is inspiring and Army Strong! We wish our entire Army Family a Happy Birthday!

Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army

Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army