

---

## CONCLUSION

---

From the tense streets of the Balkans to Korea's Demilitarized Zone, the United States Army stands ready to defend and promote the Nation's interests. It is a quality force composed of America's sons and daughters—citizens who have met stringent entry requirements and endured rigorous training to earn a place in the world's best Army. Having earned this distinction, America's soldiers are often called upon to serve in dangerous places doing difficult things. Wherever they go, they are living symbols of a society in which people of different religions and ethnic backgrounds live and work together in harmony—a society with an economy, an infrastructure and a vitality that are the envy of much of the world.

When we send our sons and daughters abroad, the freedom of the society they represent is their most powerful tool. American soldiers are potent symbols of this freedom. They are volunteers, serving in a values-based organization that exemplifies Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. In the midst of foreign lands struggling to achieve basic order and dignity, our soldiers are beacons that illuminate what is possible.

From Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to the jungles of Colombia, to the war-torn Balkans, and elsewhere around the world, 65 brave American soldiers gave their lives last year, training hard and performing dangerous duties in support of our Nation. Their service and sacrifice are a reminder of the generations of soldiers who have served and sacrificed for over 224 years. As it has been throughout our history, only the determination and vigilance of this and succeeding generations can safeguard the freedoms that make our Nation great. We must ensure that our Army has the resources to prepare for tomorrow as well as meet the requirements of today.