Celebrating Women's Equality Day – 26 August 2013

Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women full voting rights. This 1920 amendment is a testament to the courage and tenacity of the women who challenged our Nation to live up to its founding principles. Their legacy continues to inspire us to strive for liberty and equality for all Americans.

Women of the highest caliber have served in our Army for generations and have proved that sacrifice and selfless service know no gender. They have performed alongside their brothers-in-arms with the same great skill and exceptional ability and have more than earned the opportunities now being afforded to them through Soldier 2020. Soldier 2020 is an effort to enhance force readiness and capability by identifying the best-qualified Soldiers for every job in the Army. The full realization of this effort will support the opening of previously closed positions to women and will ultimately aid leadership in shaping our future force – a ready all-volunteer Army capable of defending America at home and abroad.

As we pay tribute to the women of the past and salute the women of today, we recognize that their dedication to duty is equal to the task of soldiering. We honor all Soldiers through our continued commitment to cultivate a climate of trust and respect in which everyone is able to thrive and achieve his or her full potential. On this Women's Equality Day, we encourage units, agencies and Army activities to plan and execute appropriate commemorative activities to celebrate the indomitable spirit of the women who have served and sacrificed for this great Nation. Army Strong!

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