



**Celebrating the United States Army's 240th Birthday
"240 Years of Selfless Service to the Nation"**

"The American Soldier is among the greatest assets this country has. Generations of Americans will be able to enjoy the freedom that American Soldiers have defended and preserved in war after war throughout our history...When you think of the freedom you enjoy in this country, think of the sacrifices the Soldier has made to keep us free."

—SMA George W. Dunaway

Today, we celebrate an institution that has been around longer than our Republic. As the provider of strategic landpower for the joint force, the Army must meet ever-growing challenges in a world where the velocity of instability is on the rise. Every day—whether on land, air, sea, space or cyberspace—U.S. Soldiers are shaping the security environment, preventing conflict and winning wars.

As Soldiers for Life, today's Army stands on the shoulders of those who came before. Two hundred and forty years ago, our Nation's leaders established the Continental Army. Those Soldiers forged this Nation through selfless service, teamwork and a common purpose that has been passed down through generations of American Soldiers. Their shared sacrifices formed the bedrock of trust with the American people that remains strong.

Throughout 240 Years of Selfless Service to the Nation, the Army has honored its commitment to protect and preserve the Nation. As it says on the Army flag: This We'll Defend. American Soldiers never quit. It is our Soldiers' unbreakable will to win and incomparable devotion that made and kept our Nation free.

Every generation of Army heroes has exemplified pride in our country's commitment to freedom and democracy. Those Army heroes came together as a team to bear the cost of preserving those ideals. One day, you may be asked how you made a difference. You can say, "I became a Soldier."

On the Army's Birthday, we thank every Soldier, Civilian and Family member of the Army team—those who serve, and all those who have served—for their dedication to duty, selfless service and the sacrifices they have made for our Nation. Happy 240th Birthday, United States Army.

Daniel A. Dailey
Sergeant Major of the Army

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

John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army