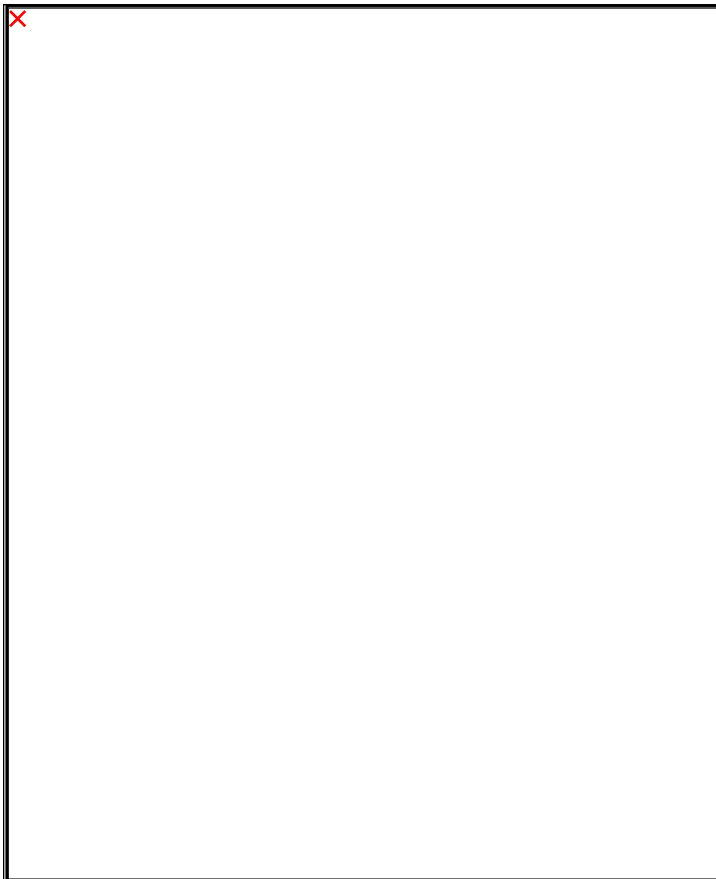


USAWC Soldiers remember sacrifices during Army birthday celebration

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, USAWC public affairs

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June 15, 2011 - On a hot June day in 1775, a group of British subjects did the unthinkable. They decided that their continued association with Great Britain was unbearable, and must be severed. To do this they created a Continental Army, made up of their fellow citizens that would be able to fight and defeat the British Army, in hopes of securing independence from that country. This citizen's army would embody "the strength of the nation" that these men hoped to create.



Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander, reads to children at the Moore Child Development Center, as part of the post's Army birthday celebration. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.

Two-hundred and thirty-six years later, the modern incarnations of the Continental Army gathered around the world to celebrate the birthday of the United States Army. One of the places was at the Army War College, where the next generations of strategic thinkers are developed and inspired

As the Soldiers gathered on the Root Hall patio to celebrate, many of them thought about the sacrifices made by their fellow Soldiers and their families throughout our nation's history.

"Our country was born in war," said Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, Army War College Commandant. "Today we are a combat

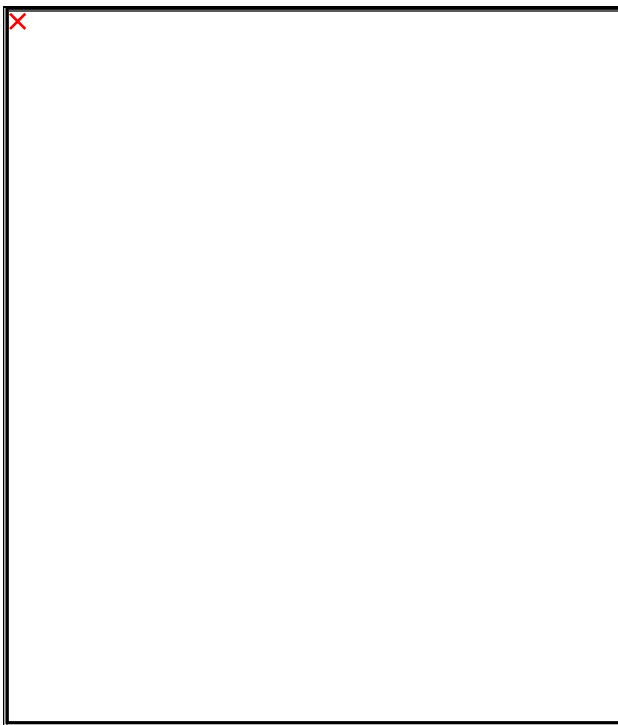
hardened force."

"From the first battles at Lexington and Concord to the streets of Mosul and Kandahar, Soldiers have always defended freedom and epitomized what is best about America," said Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chief of Staff of the Army, who spoke to Soldiers in Washington D.C.

“For me the Army birthday gives me a chance to reflect back on the contributions of the folks that are missing,” said Col. John Crews, the Army component commander for U.S. Africa Command, Combined Joint Task Force HOA, Djibouti. Crews, a member of the Army War College Distance Education Class of 2012, is at the USAWC for the first resident session of the program.

“The Army birthday establishes what we are as a nation,” said fellow distance education student Col. Paul Hicks, the deputy commander of the 14th Defense Contract Management Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va.. “It reminds us that we have to honor and uphold the legacy of the Soldiers before us.”

The sacrifices were not all on the battlefield. Some of the biggest sacrifices were made by Soldiers who were committed, “not to promote war, but to preserve peace.”



Staff Sgt. Jasser Gonzalez, the Carlisle Barracks Non-commissioned officer of the year, Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, USAWC Commandant, and Private 1st Class Cassandra Phipps, the youngest Soldier on post, cut the Army birthday cake during a celebration on June 14. Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.

“The real story of the Army is in the millions of Soldiers who did not fight a war, but detected a war,” said Martin. “During the Cold War, an entire generation of Soldiers never fired a shot, but their dedicated professionalism was no less noble than those in combat.”

“We are gathered here today to remember the Soldiers that went before us, to remember the victories we have won with the greatest Army in the world,” said Private 1st Class Cassandra Phipps who works at Dunham clinic, and also helped cut the Army birthday cake with Martin and Staff

Sgt. Jasser Gonzalez.