

113 years of courageous service to the Army and the Nation

By Robert Martin, USAWC PAO and U.S. Army Reserve 18 April 2021



On April 23, 2021, the U.S. Army Reserve celebrates 113 years of courageous service to the Army and nation

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April 23, 2021, the US Army Reserve celebrates 113 years of courageous service to the Army and the Nation, evolving from a small corps of medical professionals to what it is today: the best trained, best equipped, and most ready Army Reserve in our Nation's history.

The Army War College congratulates the 24 Army Reserve resident students and the 130 Army Reserve distance education students along with the 199,000 Reserve Soldiers who protect our national interests around the globe.

"As the Army's Federal Reserve Force turns 113 years old, it is inspiring to see how our Army Reserve students have met the demands of a challenging academic environment during a pandemic," said Col. Bettina Avent, director of the Reserve Component Integration Office at the Army War College. "They are the best citizens our nation has today. As demonstrated by the role they fill as citizen-Soldiers, their ability to multi-task and juggle the immense demands of military service, senior professional military education, civilian employment, and love of family and country are commendable."

"The understanding of what it means to serve part-time while living among

our communities across the nation brings value to the discussions of strategic issues we have here," said Avent. "I'm honored to serve alongside them and be part of the Army Reserve and the Army War College."

Through every war, operation, and emergency, at home and abroad, the men and women of the Army Reserve have never failed to meet the challenges of their time.

"The U.S. Army Reserve birthday represents a significant milestone in the history of the total force," said Brig. Gen. Jocelyn Leventhal, Deputy Commanding General, 76th Operational Response Command. "This day is for both reflection and future thought. One hundred thirteen years ago, the Army Reserve began its contribution as a cornerstone of U.S. national defense. Its citizen-soldier has served faithfully in many roles since. For the future, the Army Reserve is positioned to contribute its expertise to addressing national threats, extending from peer competitors to pandemics. As a bridge between the military and local communities, it serves an important role in our democracy," said Leventhal.

From the valor of the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regiment in World War II – whose awards include 560 Silver Star Medals, 21 Medals of Honor, and seven Presidential Unit Citations – to the courage of the Soldiers and units who responded to the COVID-19 pandemic without delay, the Army Reserve has always been there when the nation needed them most.

Today, even amid a global pandemic, nearly 8,000 Soldiers from more than 250 units are deployed to 23 countries worldwide. We are grateful for their courage and dedication to ensuring that the Army Reserve is ready today and shaping the force to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

As we move into the future, the Army must have the forces and capabilities it needs to compete with our adversaries, respond to a crisis in the homeland, win in conflict, and change as required for the future.

To accomplish that mission, the Army needs a dedicated Federal Reserve that is ready today and shaping the force to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

That force is the United States Army Reserve.

In keeping with this year's theme: Celebrating the Courage of the Army Reserve Soldier, we will continue to develop ready and resilient Soldiers and capable leaders in support of the Army and the Joint Force; supportive

employer and partner relationships to build strong families and communities; and an environment of dignity and respect that fosters a mindset of teamwork, continuous learning, and growth so our Soldiers will continue to serve and lead and shape the future.

The journey we are on together includes many challenges, but we are ready now, and we will shape the Army Reserve for the demands of tomorrow.

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