Army War College, Carlisle Barracks celebrate Army Birthday 246

By Public Affairs Office 14 June 2021



This year marks 246 years of the U.S. Army serving and defending our country. No matter the challenges the Army has faced along with our nation, Army Soldiers and Civilians have had the courage and patriotism to answer the call to serve.

Today, at Carlisle Barracks, Army Soldiers were joined by sister Service representatives, Active, Reserve and Guard, Civilian employees, and family members from the Army War College/ Carlisle Barracks military community for a 2-mile Army Family Run, followed by traditional cake cutting.

"It's a great day to be a Soldier," said Maj. Gen. David Hill to the crowd on Indian Field, here, at the end of the 2-mile Army Birthday run. "It's a great day to be a member of the Army Family,"

The Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. McConville spoke to the graduating class 3 days ago, said Hill, talking about People First and Winning Matters. "Winning today was being here and having fun. If you started with somebody, and finished with somebody, that's a good rule of thumb for every day ... in the United States Army. We're charged to do two things in particular as leaders today. Build cohesive teams that are highly trained,

Army War College family member Colby Keith (center) takes the saber & (l-r) MG David Hill, mom Randi Keith, PFC Darrell Sykes, Jr., Colby, DA civilian Jennifer Fink, CW5 Myron Turner, CSM Brian Flom for the #ArmyBDay cake-cutting ceremony, Jun 11. 2



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disciplined, and fit, and ready to fight and win. The foundation of fitness starts with individual readiness and fitness.

"It is strengthened by a strong and supportive Army Family Team -- and we certainly have that here today," said Hill.

"I can't think of a better place to celebrate and recognize the Army's birthday than right here on this field, which was constituted as part of an Army Garrison in 1776 by the Continental Congress You can be proud of the opportunity to serve here where we continue to develop ideas and leaders for the future," he said, before inviting a cross-section of the Army family here for the traditional cake cutting.

In keeping with Army tradition, the youngest Soldier on base, Pvt. 1st Class Darrell L. Sykes, Jr. and senior Soldier, Chief Warrant Officer-5 Myron Turner, Jr., assisted in the cake cutting. And because the Carlisle Barracks tradition is to include the Army Family, they were joined by Command Sgt. Major Brian Flom, DA civilian employee Jennifer Fink; and military family members Randi Keith and her son Colby Keith.

My maiden name is Pershing, said Randi Keith, who grew up "Army brat" and married a Marine Corps officer, recently graduated in the Army War College Class of 2021. Keith served fellow student spouses this year as a senior seminar representative in meetings with the command group.

"My great grandfather and the general were first cousins. [Gen. Patton] died when my dad was 5 but he can remember his parents taking his grandfather to Walter Reed to visit the general," said Keith. "My dad and my uncle were in the Army, she noted.

"We enjoyed our year here," she said with a nod to her son Colby. "From the day we arrived, there were kids out playing [in the Meadows] and it's been that way the whole year through the craziness of not being able to go to school five days a week."

The Army Senior Leaders' Army Birthday message:

"Our Nation has faced significant challenges this year and the Army has risen to those challenges in support of our citizens. The Total Army's swift and deliberate response to the coronavirus pandemic provided augmentation to medical facilities and care in our most stressed cities, assistance to FEMA and local leaders to provide critical medical supplies, and innovative science and research to develop a lifesaving vaccine.

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Birthday message from the Army Senior Leaders

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video: Army Showcase, celebrating the
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people. In recent weeks, we have done that, in the protection of the American people's right to peacefully assemble. Within our Army, now is the time to come together and listen, learn, and take action against discrimination that has existed in our country and our Army.

"Army Soldiers and Civilians embody the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage and are committed to the mission. We thank our Soldiers and their families, Army Civilians, Veterans, and retirees for their extraordinary service and steadfast determination.

"The U.S. Army's honorable lineage dates back to June 14, 1775. Today, 245 years later, we observe our Army's values and patriotism, our legacy of service and making a difference in our communities, and the sacrifices we have made. We encourage all members of the Army family to participate in the virtual events that are taking place to pay tribute to America and commemorate the 245th anniversary of the U. S. Army's establishment. Please join us live on Facebook June 14, 2020, at 7 p.m. for, "The Army at 245: A Tribute to America." -- a joint message by Sergeant Major of the Army Michael A. Grinston, Army Chief of Staff General James C. McConville, and Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy.

"We enjoyed our year here, said Randi Keith, whose spouse was in the Army War College Class of 2021.

Join in these virtual celebrations across the Army, as we honor the courage of the American Soldier and the total Army force. Check out the list of the 2021 Army Birthday events below.

- The National Museum of the United States Army is reopened on June 14, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia,
- 9 a.m. *Virtual Event* Army Birthday Wreath Laying at Arlington National Cemetery. The wreath-laying ceremony is a tradition that honors the service and sacrifice of our fallen service members and the legacy they left behind. This annual event will take place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and will be live-streamed; you may watch it on the Military District of Washington Facebook page and the U.S. Army Twitter page here.
- 10 a.m. *Virtual Event* -The **2021 Army Birthday Showcase**: *Honoring the Courage of the American Soldier* - Join us in celebrating 246 years of courage that our Soldiers have demonstrated while defending our great nation. You may watch on the U.S. Army social media pages: <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>YouTube</u>.
- 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. *Virtual Event* Cake-cutting and Reenlistment ceremony - Come celebrate with us as 10 Soldiers join

- us in the National Capitol Region and 50 Soldiers join virtually from Forts Bragg, Drum, Campbell, Hood and Stewart; these Soldiers will reaffirm their oath to the constitution during a mass reenlistment. You may watch on the U.S. Army social media pages: Twitter, LinkedIn.
- 7 p.m. *Hybrid Event* Army Day with the Nationals at Nationals Park - This is an annual event as part of the Washington, D.C. Nationals' salute to the services. This year, it will involve video performances of the U.S. Army Drill Team and Army Senior Leader shout-outs. It will also involve an Army color guard, Army chorus and an Army Senior leader to announce, "Play Ball!" The Nationals will play the Pittsburgh Pirates, and you may watch the game on Mid-Atlantic Sports Network.

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