2006 Army Birthday Message
Call to Duty – Boots on the Ground

The United States Army was born out of the desire to defend liberty and proudly celebrates its 231st birthday on 14 June 2006.

Since 1775, millions have worn the uniform and lived the "Warrior Ethos." Soldiers have always understood that the freedoms our nation guarantees are worth fighting for and America's decision to put "boots on the ground" illustrates like no other action its continued commitment to these ideals.

Today, America's Army is engaged in a global war on terrorism and has a presence in 120 countries. Soldiers have long sacrificed their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling. Despite hardships and dangers to life and limb, Soldiers have always answered the call — and our nation has long relied on your courage, your sacrifice and your selfless service.

To our Soldiers around the world, our thoughts are with you and your families on this 231st Army Birthday. We are proud to serve with you, as you embody the Warrior Ethos. You have made our Army the most respected institution in the United States and the pre-eminent land power on Earth. We are humbled by your sacrifice and awed by your achievements.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, and God bless America.

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

Peter J. Schoomaker
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army