



June 14 FAQs

As of June 12, 2025

The Army's 250th birthday celebration will be the opening event for the yearlong celebration of America's 250th birthday in 2026. The Army is planning a full week of events, culminating in an action-packed celebration in Washington, D.C., on June 14, 2025. During the day, the Army will present a full, interactive display on the National Mall, transitioning to a parade showcasing the history of the Army, Army flyovers, and a Golden Knights parachute demonstration at the White House ellipse. The day will end with a concert and fireworks.

"This We'll Defend" is the central theme for all birthday-related events, which will be used to build and maintain strong relationships with the American public and to connect them with the Soldiers who serve our nation.

Leader Quotes

"Since 1775, American Soldiers have represented the very best of our nation. They embody courage, sacrifice and strength. Sworn to defend the Constitution and our core American values, American Soldiers have fought against anyone who might threaten our country. They are the most lethal land fighting force the world has ever seen. The U.S. Army has upheld this legacy for 250 years, and we will carry this legacy into the future."

– Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll

"As we prepare for our future, we also reflect on our past. 'This we'll defend' was first used as a battle cry by the Continental Army. Today it reminds us that our Army's purpose is clear: to fight and win the nation's wars. We remain committed to honing our warfighting skills, enforcing standards and discipline, and living the values that have defined our Army culture for the past 250 years."

– Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Randy George

"For 250 years, Soldiers have proudly served our country and protected its people with our oath to support and defend the Constitution as our guiding principle. We continue to stand ready to respond to the needs of the nation, and fight and win when called upon. This we'll defend!"

– Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Weimer



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Celebrating the Army Birthday on the Mall

- On June 14, the Army celebrates its birthday worldwide. Sec. Hegseth will start the day by laying a wreath at Arlington National Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It will be livestreamed [here](#).
- The birthday festival is on the National Mall. Enter near 7th St. (near the National Gallery of Art on the north side and the National Air and Space Museum on the south side).
- The Army Fitness Competition is from 9:30-noon. Fourteen teams will compete to see which is the fittest.
- The festival is from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is free and family friendly.
- The festival includes musical performances, military demonstrations, celebrity appearances and equipment displays. Children can interact with NFL legends, climb rock walls, learn about Revolutionary War heroes and interact with robotics. Astronauts, Medal of Honor recipients, subject matter experts and everyday Soldiers will be there to talk about the Army.
- After 6 p.m., the festivities will shift to a parade, which starts on Constitution Ave. It begins at 6:30 p.m. and lasts until 8:00 p.m., after which there will be an enlistment ceremony, a concert on the Ellipse and fireworks.

FAQs

Q1. Who is the Army working with regarding assessments of the road?

A1. The Army is working with local law enforcement, National Park Services, District Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration, U.S. Park Police, and DC Water, who will assess the roads and bridges.

Q2. What is the timeline of events on June 14?

A2. The events will begin at approximately 8:15 a.m. with a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, then an Army Fitness event and Army Birthday Festival at the National Mall, Washington D.C. Festivities will continue throughout the day, culminating with an Army parade and fireworks. Events will be [livestreamed](#).

Q3. What will be included in the parade?

A3. As of June 6, 2025, in the parade we anticipate approximately 6,700 Soldiers from every division, 150 vehicles, 50 aircrafts, 34 horses, two mules and one dog to highlight the Army's 250 years of service to the nation. The parade will include the National Guard and Army Reserve, Special Operations Command, United States Military Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps to highlight the Army's 250 years of service to the nation. The procession will tell the story of the history of the Army, beginning with the Revolutionary War and concluding with the future Army.



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Q4. What will be included in the festival?

A4. The national level celebration will include a day-long festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The festival will feature a fitness competition, displays of Army equipment, military demonstrations, games, activities for kids and musical performances.

Q5. Is the parade and festival open to the public and what is the cost to attend?

A5. The parade and festival are free and is open to the public. Register [here](#).

Q6. Who are the sponsors for the festival? Will the sponsors participate in the parade activities and expenses?

A6. The 250th Army Birthday Festival is made possible through the support of 22 sponsors. This includes presenting sponsors General Dynamics and USAA, and festival entertainment sponsor the Gary Sinise Foundation. Platinum sponsors include the Wounded Warrior Project, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, the Association of the United States Army, Bell Textron, Wal-Mart, GOVX, Leonardo DRS, RTX Corporation, Lockheed Martin, Leidos and BAE Systems. Gold sponsors include Armed Forces Mutual, Boeing, First Command, General Electric Aerospace, T-Mobile, King George, InterContinental Hotels Group and the NFL. Sponsorship does not imply U.S. Army or federal endorsement.

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Q7: What does the fitness competition entail?

A7: The 250th Army Birthday Fitness Competition will be held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and will feature events highlighting the fitness of both individuals and squads. Part of it will test how the teams work under stress and motivate each other either verbally or by assisting each other to complete the tasks. The expectation is for the teams to cross the finish line together and complete the event while giving 100% physically and mentally while working as a cohesive team.

Q8. Where will the Soldiers be housed? Will this displace any federal workers who work in those offices? Or is this empty space?

A8. Soldiers will be staying in empty government buildings. This will not displace any federal workers.

Q9. Will Soldiers sleep on cots or mats?

A9. Soldiers will sleep on cots.

Q10. How will Soldiers be fed?

A10. Soldiers will be provided three meals a day - two Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), one catered hot meal and partial per diem.

Q11. When will the Soldiers arrive and depart?

A11. Actual arrival and departure depend on the unit and their task. Arrival times and departures will vary but most will arrive on June 11 or 12 and depart June 15 or 16.

What media need to know

Unfortunately, there aren't any other press opportunities through the controlled areas. Public access/entrance is probably the best route to go at this time. And, of course, you are invited out to the Army Birthday Festival on the National Mall. If you have any additional questions regarding press access for the parade, please reach out to press@america250.org

For more information, members of the media can reach out to Army Office Chief of Public Affairs at usarmy.pentagon.hqda-ocpa.mbx.mrd-press-desk@army.mil.

All events are considered NSSE (National Special Security Event). Once you are in the secured area, you will have access to both the festival and the parade.

Interviewing requests: [Army Office Chief of Public Affairs press box](#)

Resources

Microsite <https://www.army.mil/1775/>



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Media resources: <https://www.army.mil/article/285249>

U.S. Army Center of Military History <https://history.army.mil/Revwar250/>

Video <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/Army250>

CMH [Revolutionary War Toolkit](#)

Document showing the Army's beginning:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/9037931/historical-documents-show-us-army-began>

Curated historical photos of Army history: <https://history.army.mil/Research/Artwork-and-Photography/250-Years/>

Points of Contact

250th Army Birthday Planner – [Samantha Treadway](#)

Media Relations – [Army Office Chief of Public Affairs press box](#)

Digital Media – Sgt. 1st Class [Edwin Pierce](#)

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