



HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE - IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342-1400

June 14, 2009

To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians of Multi-National Force-Iraq:

Today, we celebrate the 234th birthday of our Army, forged in the fires of the Revolution to defend our freedoms. From 1775 until today, Soldiers have sacrificed their comfort and safety so that others could enjoy the blessings of liberty.

Today, our Army remains strong and resilient. The very best Army in the world. The full-spectrum operations you perform are among the most difficult our nation's Soldiers have ever faced, carried out in an unforgiving climate against a resourceful enemy. It is a task which calls for the strength, intelligence and tenacity which you exemplify. Our struggle to bring stability to Iraq links you to the proud heritage of Soldiers who have fought far from home in the defense of the nation.

Today, we fight and serve alongside our comrades-in-arms from other services and nations. We are part of a Joint and Combined team in Iraq. We are Soldiers, mentally and physically tough, adaptive to the changing environment, who will always win.

Today, and every day, you exemplify the Soldier's Creed in who you are and what you do. I am proud to serve with you. May God bless every one of you, your families, and our nation.

With respect and admiration,

Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Commanding