



Media Advisory

United States Military Entrance Processing Command

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2003

MPA – 11-03

Nationwide Ceremonies Mark 30th Anniversary of All-Volunteer Armed Forces

North Chicago, Ill. – The Department of Defense will mark the 30th anniversary of the all-volunteer military on July 1st, 2003, with a White House reenlistment ceremony presided over by the President, and 11 a.m. oath of enlistment ceremonies at all 65 Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) located throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The **Fort Dix** MEPS will conduct its ceremony at **the Timmermann Center, 8th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Dix, NJ**. The guest speaker, **Major General William H. Russ, Commanding General, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and Fort Monmouth, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey**, will administer the Oath of Enlistment to 10 new Armed Forces members awaiting their departure to basic training. Each represents one of nation's armed services; the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard.

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All-Volunteer

The ceremony will conclude with the playing of the newly-created “All-Volunteer Force March,” composed by the U.S. Army Band. The march is a testament to the success of the all-volunteer force and also recognizes the accomplishments and sacrifices of the members of the Armed Forces who have supported and are supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The nation depended upon an involuntary system of conscription or draft to fill the ranks of the Armed Forces during most of the 20th Century, including World Wars One and Two, the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

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All-Volunteer

By the late 1960's the American public came to view the draft with growing dissatisfaction. As a result, the Congress approved then Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird's establishment of the All-Volunteer Force in 1973.

During the intervening 30 years the All-Volunteer Force served in conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Panama, Bosnia, and Kosovo and serves today in operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom.

The **Fort Dix** MEPS is a joint-service Department of Defense activity responsible for ensuring that all applicants for enlistment into the Armed Forces are qualified medically, mentally and morally. It is staffed by representatives of each of the five armed services and Department of the Army civilian employees.

Members of the media wishing to cover this event are asked to contact the Fort Dix Public Affairs Office, 609-562-4034.