

Remarks By  
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To  
The 10th Annual American Legion Boys' Nation  
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Captain Gordon, Gentlemen:

I want to add my own words of welcome to those you have already received.

Each of you may be extremely proud to have been selected as a member of Boys' Nation.

Speaking for the Army, I know that I am proud to have such an outstanding group of young men visit us here at The Pentagon.

My part of the program this morning is to talk to you for a few minutes about the Army.

The Defense of our Nation depends upon a great team consisting of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

All three are indispensable to our security, no one can do the job alone. Each has an indispensable part to play in peace and in war.

The Army's role in peace is to be so obviously strong and ready that any enemy will hesitate to attack us or our friends.

If the enemy is unwise enough to commit such an attack and war ensues, the Army's role is to win that part of the war which is fought on the ground.

Since men live, work and keep their most prized possessions generally somewhere on the earth's surface, the Army thinks that a decisive part of any war will be fought for objectives on the ground.

There was a time when, with the U.S. secure behind the barrier of great oceans, in a world without long range airplanes, atomic weapons and a powerful Communist enemy, the Army was in the second line of defense and comparatively remote from the likelihood of sudden commitment to battle.

That day is long since passed.

The Army stands today constantly in the immediate presence of armed enemies.

Both in Europe and the Far East our Army units stand guard along the iron-bamboo Curtain, constantly alert to meet any aggression by a formidable enemy. If that Curtain should suddenly lift to allow hostile forces to sally forth in renewed aggression, it would be Army soldiers who would first meet them. Thus, the Army is truly a first line defense of our Country.

Behind that overseas Army, we have the Army in the United States as a General Reserve available to carry help overseas to any part of the world. In time of general war, this home army would expand very rapidly and by the process of mobilization would eventually reach the size of many millions of men, organized into thousands of varied types of fighting units.

With such a heavy responsibility in time of peace and war, and because of the many ways in which the Army affects the life and well-being of the Nation and its citizens, the Army must be good <sup>and</sup> in terms of the men who make it x up, and the weapons and equipment which it uses and the strategy and tactics which it employs.

It has been properly said that there are no prizes for second place in war. If we are to have an Army it must be number one in quality.

The quality of the Army is no better than that of its leaders, a point upon which I want to dwell. The increasing requirements of our security have added immeasurably to the complexity of the Army, of its organization and of its weapons. Our officers and men are required to use and maintain the most complex instruments of war which require increasingly advanced skills and techniques on the part of all concerned.

Our military leaders must study and evaluate correctly the effects on the art of war of many new and untried weapons and equipment such as atomic weapons, guided missiles and ultra-modern methods of communication and transportation.

At the same time, these leaders must study the human problems created by these new weapons.

They must study men if they are to provide the successful leadership on the atomic battlefield of the future.

To produce qualified men of this type is a constant preoccupation of the Army.

Our concern for this requirement has made the Army into one of the greatest schools in the world, <sup>This edict begins</sup> ~~beginning~~ in the basic training of the soldier which he receives upon entry into the Army and extending over a vast field of specialist and advanced training conducted either directly by the Army or by elements of our civilian school system.

For the officer this training starts at West Point, in college or in the Officers' Candidate Schools and is extended by many years of post-graduate training in many areas of knowledge.

No man is too good for this Army.

It has a place for every competence, ~~and~~ × every skill and every line of training.

The artisan, the foreman, the scientist, the scholar, yes, even the genius, will all find Army activities which are worthy of their best talents.

In talking to you young men this morning, I do not wish to sound like an Army recruiting sergeant, but I do urge you, as you consider your future, to look at the Army as a possible career.

In 37 years of service, I have found it a most rewarding profession, which has × brought me experiences and satisfactions <sup>S</sup> which I would never have equalled in any other walk of life.

I invite you gentlemen to join me in giving reality to the slogan I think should receive the support of every citizen concerned about the safety of his country:

"Let's put the best heads  
of America in the brass hats of  
the Army."

The Army wants it that way.

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