



Director's Juneteenth Message

By Army Lt. Gen. David Bassett, DCMA Director /
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Juneteenth National Independence Day celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. Although the commemoration marking a federal holiday is recent — added to the calendar in 2021 — June 19 represents a centuries-long pursuit of equity, equality and justice for many Americans.

On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation, announcing “that all persons held as slaves” were free; however, the final action to end enslavement entirely was delayed due to the ongoing Civil War. A general order delivered in Texas served as the final act after the war.

Army Gen. Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free...,” in Galveston, Texas, June 19, 1865.

America’s last 158 years mark significant progress in fulfilling the founders’ promise of equality for all, but there is work to be done. Learning our past, listening to the stories of others and embracing the spirit of June 19 ensures that one day we can fulfill that promise together.

Freedom is our most powerful ideal. Let us embrace it with equality, dignity and respect for every American — on June 19 and every day of the year.

Have a safe and happy Juneteenth weekend, and thank you for your continued professional excellence and Warfighter support.



Juneteenth 2023

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