

□ NOVEMBER 8, 2017

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(U) Message from the Director: Veterans Day

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Team,

On Saturday our nation will pause to salute the generations of patriots who have courageously stepped forward to serve our country in uniform. Our veterans represent the very essence of America. They come from a host of backgrounds and nearly every walk of life, but they are inspired by the same set of principles: devotion to duty, a commitment to serving a cause greater than themselves, and a willingness to lay down their lives to safeguard the values that define us as a country.

Many of us at CIA have the privilege of collaborating closely with the military as we carry out our vital work. We also count many veterans as members of our Agency family, and we're much stronger for it. They bring invaluable skills and a unique perspective to our intelligence mission, enhancing our capabilities, enriching our debates, and strengthening our engagement with our military partners.

On Tuesday, I was in Kansas to give a talk at Fort Leavenworth. It was an honor to return to my home state as CIA Director, but the real highlight was meeting the young military leaders who are studying and training at the post. The experience reminded me of America's great fortune to have so many men and women of character, courage, and dedication volunteering to serve in our armed forces, ready to help lead the charge against the challenges of the future.

I'll be thinking of them on Saturday, just as I'll be giving thanks for all the brave Americans who throughout our history have answered our nation's call to arms. Their devotion to our country is a foundation of America's freedom and prosperity, and we all owe them an immense debt of gratitude.

Enjoy the long weekend, and I hope you'll join us on Monday for a Veterans Day celebration in the Cafeteria

Mezzanine. Brian and I, both proud Army veterans, will say a few words about the importance of military service and the contributions that veterans make to CIA. The celebration will get underway at 1:45 p.m., and it will include a commemorative cake as well as music by the US Army Band.

We look forward to seeing you there. And as always, thank you for everything you do each day for our Agency and for our country.

Mike

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