



**Immediate Release**  
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Contact: Public Affairs  
202.541.7552 DC  
228.897.4429 Gulfport  
[public.affairs@afrh.gov](mailto:public.affairs@afrh.gov)

### **Armed Forces Retirement Home Celebrates the U.S. Army's 247<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

In honor of the United States Army's 247<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) will hold two events today in Gulfport, Mississippi and Washington, D.C. to honor America's oldest military as well as the veteran residents and staff who served in that branch.

The Gulfport, Miss. ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. (CST) and will feature Lancaster, Penn.-native Army Captain Brad Dinkel, commander of the 169<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Charlie Company in Gulfport. Dinkel served as the 31st Engineer Battalion Operations Officer and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Secondary Education from Millersville University and commissioned from the Officer Candidate School in 2012. He is a graduate of the Engineer Captain's Career Course and Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course. He will deliver remarks at the AFRH in Gulfport ceremony in the community center.

The D.C. ceremony will commence at 1:00 p.m. (EST) and will feature Alabama-native National Guard Chief Command Sergeant Major John T. Raines. Raines has served in the Army National Guard and Regular Army for over 32 years and earned a Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College. Prior to becoming the 13th chief of the Army National Guard, Raines was the Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the MSNG, the MSARNG State CSM, the J3 Senior Enlisted Leader for US INDO-Pacific Command as well as holding numerous key leadership positions in the MSARNG. He deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and was also part of Operation Noble Eagle and served in the Republic of Korea. He will deliver remarks at the AFRH in Washington, D.C. ceremony in the Hall of Honors.

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The Armed Forces Retirement Home is the nation's premier life community for veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their spouses. Its mission is to fulfill America's commitment to its military veterans by providing an excellent community with exceptional residential care and extensive support services. The Home is one of America's most enduring veterans' retirement homes with campuses in Washington, District of Columbia and Gulfport, Mississippi. For more information, visit: [afrh.gov](http://afrh.gov) , [facebook.com/AFRH.gov/](https://facebook.com/AFRH.gov/)