



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Change of Command Speech
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Admiral Cecil D. Haney
16 October 2013
As prepared for delivery**

Ladies and gentlemen, I can't think of a better way to start than to thank all those involved in setting up today's ceremony. Capt. Paul Bourgeois, your team has done a remarkable job considering some of the very challenging obstacles you had to overcome given the government shutdown. Thank you.

I would also like to thank those who have performed here today, including the Color Guard, Pacific Fleet Band, MU3 Lamonica who sang the National Anthem, and of course Ciana Pelekai, who sang the Hawaii State Song.

For those of you who don't know Ciana, she's the daughter of my Culinary Specialist, Senior Chief Pelekai. She has also done an outstanding job as a contestant on America's Got Talent, not once, but twice! So well done and thank all of you.

It's great to see such a turnout today. Let me start by welcoming Adm. Locklear, Lt. Gov. Tsutsui, fellow Pacific Command Component Commanders, Gens. Hawk Carlisle, Vince Brooks, Guts Robling, Rear Adm. Gardner Howe, and Rear Adm. Cari Thomas with U.S. Coast Guard, District 14. I'm so glad each of you could make it.

It's also great to see state leaders, former Pacific Fleet and Pacific Command commanders, including Adm. Hays, Macke and Zlatoper here. Also senior government and military representatives in the audience from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Taiwan, welcome.

Fellow flag and general officers, community and business leaders, family and friends, and United States Naval Academy classmates, Rick Hiel and Gary Shaw, good morning and aloha!

That's one of the last times I'll get to say that in front of a crowd as the commander of the Pacific Fleet, and I'm going to miss the warm way that everyone says it back. You know, I tried it on a crowd of folks the last time I was stationed in Nebraska and it didn't work so well. So knowing this is the last time I can effectively use it for a while, I might just stop in the middle of my remarks and call out-Aloha!

Thanks for indulging me.

I'm excited to be here today with so many friends and supporters of the Pacific Fleet. I'm also excited for Harry and Bruni, and not just because they left Washington in time to miss the Government shutdown, but also because you are now officially part of the great Hawaii ohana as you take the reins of the Pacific Fleet today. Congratulations!

The presence of so many guests is a clear reflection of the remarkable relationship between our Navy, the Hawaii community, and our allies, partners and friends throughout the region and the world. It is truly a blessing to have your support, friendship and presence here today. Thank you and mahalo.

Today's guest speaker, my boss, truly needs no introduction. Adm. Sam Locklear, Commander, United States Pacific Command, is well known here in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific. Normally, I would encourage each of you to open your paper program and refer to Adm. Locklear's impressive biography. But you will find that a little hard to do today. Given the lack of appropriations, we have had to get creative.

Since we live in this high-tech, fast-paced world, I am told that everyone who is anyone has the latest and greatest iPad or iPhone. Not me, of course, because my wife Bonny, who is also my banker, has not authorized one for me yet. It's a long story and I won't bore you with it, but if you have one, you can go to our Commander of the Pacific Fleet website and see a digital version of the program with his biography. We call it the e-program; it's the latest thing; we're starting a trend.

For those who don't have a smartphone, let me elaborate on a few facts associated with Adm. Locklear's spectacular career. Adm. Locklear has led on all levels of command, including as commander of Nimitz Carrier Strike Group during the major combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom, commander of the U.S. Third Fleet, and Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe, U.S. Naval Forces Africa, and Allied Joint Force Command Naples, where he led Operation Odyssey Dawn with respect to Libya.

Today, as PACOM, he is responsible for an area of responsibility that encompasses about half the earth's surface and has more than 50 percent of the world's population. PACOM is an essential presence in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, committed to promoting security and peace in an area that is home to 36 nations and five of our seven treaty allies.

It's a busy job. In fact, I know that as PACOM, Adm. Locklear has traveled to most of these nations as he works to fulfill his tremendous responsibility, in addition to traveling to Washington D.C. What's not in our e-program is what an inspirational leader and change agent he has been as Commander of Pacific Command. Considering our Nation's strategic rebalance

to the Indo-Asia-Pacific and the dynamics of the Indo-Asia Pacific region, it has been my distinct pleasure to serve under his astute leadership.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Adm. Sam Locklear.

{ADM Locklear speaks and presents award}

Thank you, Adm. Locklear, for your kind remarks and your leadership.

While I am sincerely honored and humbled by this award, it is more about the hard work and sacrifice of so many outstanding Pacific Fleet Sailors, civilians and family members. They are the ones who have earned it and who I sincerely thank for their hard work during my tour.

Just to give you a snapshot of some of their efforts, let me provide a few examples. First, Pacific Fleet Sailors of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group who were recently headed home after a long deployment, had to turn around to support our National objectives regarding Syria. Today they are on track to be deployed more than nine months.

Similarly, the flexibility and resolve of the crew of the John C. Stennis, who deployed for seven months, returned home for six, and then surged back out for eight more. They were on deployment protecting our Nation 16 out of 21 months.

Or perhaps how our Sailors work to strengthen our relationships and interoperability with allies, partners and friends throughout the region, including engagements like those I recently saw performed by Sailors from USS Chosin in Australia for International Fleet Review and associated multi-lateral exercises. Or operations performed by the Destroyer Squadron 31 team during Pacific Partnership 2013, or Third Fleet leading the Rim of the Pacific exercise from Hawaii.

Finally, let us not forget the work of our Pacific Sailors in supporting theater and National objectives, like the Sailors on submarine USS Charlotte, who just returned from their deployment or the George Washington Carrier Strike Group that is at sea today having just completed routine training with the Republic of Korea's Navy and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

Our Pacific Fleet Sailors are at work every day at sea, and I also know how hard they work in port or ashore. I can't say enough about the tremendous effort of my Pacific Fleet headquarters staff, led astutely by a line of ace deputies, currently Bob Girrier, but also Russ Penniman and Pat Driscoll; or my commanders, from the Seventh Fleet, Scott Swift, then Robert Thomas; Third Fleet Gerald Beaman then Ken Floyd; Naval Air Force Pacific, Al Myers and Dave Buss;

Naval Surface Force Pacific, Rick Hunt and Tom Copeman; and Submarine Force Pacific Frank Caldwell and Phil Sawyer; and their organizations.

This includes not only our Sailors, but our civilian employees who are working hard in the face of so much uncertainty as they have been furloughed, or lived under the threat of furlough, more than once over this year, while working overtime on options to address anticipated budgetary constraints.

Despite challenges, this team consists of hard-working professionals directing, overseeing and managing the operations of the largest fleet in the world.

As you would expect, today we have Pacific Fleet Sailors and civilians who could not be here because they are on watch, on station, conducting important operations, not just in the Pacific Command area of responsibility, but well beyond it. I am grateful for their resiliency and dedication. Something we as a country must never forget and must properly fund.

So, here I am a Sailor who is once again headed for the heartland of the U.S., Nebraska. When I was there at U.S. Strategic Command the last time, I met many folks that would ask, what is a Sailor like you doing in the middle of the country, in Nebraska? I would simply state that this is what happens to a Sailor whose performance at sea was so dismal that I was exiled appropriately away from the sea, which usually generated a smile.

Now departing paradise, as winter approaches the Midwest, makes one pause to critique the Chaplain's prayer. I was disappointed that he did not pray for a mild winter in Nebraska. You see, Bonny and I just became grandparents. If we fail to have a mild winter in Nebraska, I might find Bonny back in North Carolina visiting our new grand baby boy; perhaps all winter.

So I ask all here to pray for that mild winter. That's why I asked some at our church, Our Savior Lutheran Church, to join us here for this ceremony to help. Thank you Pastor Gowan, for your community leadership and for attending.

Other local organizations such as the Navy League and Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Council also serve to support our local military. Thank you for helping our team, including families.

Now back to Bonny. At 35 years of blissful marriage I can't thank you enough for your help tour after tour. I hope to entice you to the heartland perhaps with some Nebraska steak. Seriously sweetheart, thank you for all of your love and support. You represent so many Navy spouses that tolerate this Navy business.

My daughter Elizabeth is also here representing her siblings; her two brothers who could not be here. Thanks Beth for all the encouragement for diet and workouts. Beth frequently asks me,

‘how many days did I work out this month?’ Needless to say that number has steadily grown this tour, to the horror of some of my travel team that felt obliged to work out with me.

Our families are important. Although our Moms could not be here today, we surely thank them for all of their love and support over the years.

Similarly, I can’t say enough about the many families of the Pacific Fleet that support us. Today in the audience is Mrs. Irene Inouye, the late Sen. Daniel Inouye’s wife. Sen. Inouye was such a guiding hand in the Congress over the many tours I have had here in Hawaii. He was also a decorated veteran who valued a strong military. Thanks, Mrs. Inouye, for gracing us with your presence here. I know there are other vets of past and current wars in the audience, and I can’t thank you enough for your service and example for today’s military.

While we move to the very patriotic heartland of the United States of America, the veteran density here in Hawaii makes this place extra special. I will miss the Dec. 7th commemorations, having known many Pearl Harbor survivors.

Considering the setting behind me; it’s hard not to let your gaze wonder across the harbor to the Arizona Memorial and the Battleship Missouri; bookends of the history of World War II. They stand as reminders today that our freedom is not free and we must be ready and vigilant.

Our Nation today looks to the future as we rebalance to the Indo-Asia-Pacific. The world watches to see how economically and politically this rebalance will work. First, given the importance of the region, we have already made significant headway. Second, we have faced austere economic cycles and political turmoil in the past, but we have maintained a continuous present, robust and capable Naval presence in the Pacific since World War II.

Given the consistent message of our political and military leadership, I can stand on firm ground and predict that the United States will remain a Pacific power, far into the future. Threats, whether man-made or natural disasters, can negatively affect the free flow of trade in the maritime domain and all of them can have a negative impact on the global economy. Our Naval forces must continue to maintain credible and capable presence in the region, executing our maritime strategy across the full spectrum, from humanitarian assistance and disaster response, to deterrence, and remaining trained to respond, if deterrence fails.

It has been fantastic to see new capability join this vibrant theater – Littoral Combat Ship; Virginia-class submarines; new EA-18 Growlers; MV-22 Ospreys and the MH-60 Romeo and Sierra helicopters; just a few examples.

As excited as I am about our new platforms and equipment I am even more excited about the rebalance of intellectual focus. The whole of our United States Government is rebalancing

intellectual capital and leadership attention toward the region. This is important, given the trillions of dollars of trade directly related to the United States that flows through the South China Sea.

Given the uncertainty in the region regarding friction over sovereignty claims of features and certain nation state provocations, we must continue to work peaceful solutions using existing international norms and multi-lateral approaches to foster peace and stability.

Before I close, I just want to state how privileged I have been to live here in Hawaii, work with an incredible team of Sailors and civilians, working side by side our sister services and our allies, partners and friends. It has been a true honor.

The only thing that makes my departure from Hawaii and the Pacific Fleet a little easier is knowing that my good friend and Naval Academy classmate, Adm. Harry Harris, is my replacement.

Since the Naval Academy, we have served together again in the Pentagon. He has had an exceptional career, filled with challenging assignments that have more than prepared him for command of the Pacific Fleet. He knows the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and fully understands its complexities. He has held important leadership positions at every level inside the Navy, Joint Forces and interagency, and I know that Harry and his wife Bruni are ready for the challenges that await. Congratulations to both of you and best of luck. Enjoy this incredible tour.

I stand here today, truly a blessed man, thankful for this opportunity and excited about what the future holds. While Aloha at this point in my remarks mean good-bye, I prefer to think of it as 'see you later.' Today concludes my fourth tour in Hawaii, and I have enjoyed each of them immensely. We will, as a family, miss the ohana here. Finally, I hope that some of you will be able to visit us in Nebraska.

I wish you the very best. May God bless our Nation, our Navy and each of you. Aloha and mahalo nui loa

I will now Read My Orders.