



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet,  
Rear Admiral Patrick Driscoll's Retirement Ceremony  
Arizona Memorial  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
Admiral Cecil D. Haney  
20 June 2013  
As Prepared for Delivery**

Good Evening and Aloha.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, friends and family, thank you for being here to honor Rear Admiral Pat Driscoll, callsign "Blood," as we salute his spectacular career that has spanned 35 years of dedicated service to our Navy and our Nation.

I would like to especially thank this remarkable family, his wife Carol and his children Ginny, Katie and John, who flew in only a few short hours ago to surprise him. I know how much it means to your dad to have you all here for this event. Thank you.

What a great choice of setting for this transition ceremony. This memorial reminds us of December 7th, 1941, "a day that will live in infamy." When you think about it, the events of that day started a war that would bring Naval air power to preeminence and make carrier aviation what it is today. For a man who has spent most of his career directly associated with naval aviation, this association and setting seems particularly fitting.

In the few minutes we have, it is impossible to highlight all of the momentous achievements of Pat Driscoll's career. I do want to highlight some of it and not just his achievements as my deputy. He is a combat veteran, flying ace, a passionate leader, dedicated husband and caring father. He is the real deal!

As a highly decorated Naval aviator, his flying career is the stuff of legend. It is not just about the more than 5,000 flight hours he has logged; but can you imagine more than 1,200 arrested carrier landings in three different aircraft, the S-3 Viking, A-7E Corsair and finally the F/A-18 Hornet? It's interesting to note that he has flown for so long that all but one of these aircraft can only be found in a museum.

Pat has flown and led in combat. As you will hear in his own words, he flew in Operation Desert Storm as our Nation fought to stop Iraqi aggression in 1990. In 2003 he again flew in Iraq as he led Carrier Air Group FIVE on USS Kitty Hawk while they flew more than 100 strike sorties during Operation Iraqi Freedom. It seems that whenever our Nation was in need of our air warriors, Pat Driscoll answered the call to fly and lead in combat.

One of Pat's most cherished flying assignments was leading the Blue Angels as their Commanding Officer. For two years, his team awed countless spectators and inspired the next generation of Naval aviators.

On Veterans Day, 1998, Pat flew a once in a lifetime public relations event for the Blues as he conducted arrested landings and launches from the newest aircraft carrier at the time, USS Harry S. Truman. This event was carried by newspapers all across the Nation including a front page picture, above the fold, in the Pensacola News Journal.

It is even mentioned on Wikipedia today where it says Commander Pat Driscoll "made the first blue jet landing on the haze gray and underway aircraft carrier." He was definitely off to a fast start as he had been in command of the Blues less than a week.

But the mark of a respected leader is what others say about you, Blood, as a leader. Captain Keith Hoskins, currently the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola and one of your team members with the Blues, remarked: "Rear Admiral Driscoll was a confident and unshakable leader, totally committed to being the very best at everything he does. Not only was he the epitome of a talented aviator and demo pilot, but he was the model leader for Blue Angel bosses for the ensuing years thereafter." Trust me when I say, it has been fantastic to have his unshakable, confident leadership here as the Pacific Fleet deputy.

Also, Air Boss, Vice Admiral Dave Buss, the commander of Naval Air Forces, speaks highly of Blood's leadership and especially to his contributions at Fleet Forces Command during the stand-down of Second Fleet and the merger of its operational functions into Fleet Forces Command. He said: "Pat is a brilliant planner, thinker and leader and we never could have pulled off a merger of that magnitude without him showing us the way." It's been great having an insider from Fleet Forces Command when you are the commander of the Pacific Fleet.

We've benefited from that same level of brilliance throughout Pat's tenure as deputy as he worked any number of initiatives, including operationalizing the Air Sea Battle concept, improving our fleet's readiness and warfighting capabilities, both today and in the future, as well as improving our headquarters operational capabilities. Carol, he may have withdrawal symptoms from his early morning Secure Video Teleconferences, but this might actually help with his time zone change to the East Coast.

Dave went on to write that you both worked for General David Petraeus in Baghdad with the Multinational Force Iraq. There you were leading our strategic communication effort, before it was cool to do so. Pat brought that wealth of experience here to Pacific Fleet where he revamped our communications synchronization efforts, aligning our actions and messages with those of higher headquarters.

As the ultimate sea warrior, Pat deployed as the commander of Carrier Strike Group TEN in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, once again he was on USS Harry S. Truman. During that deployment, my executive assistant, Captain James Wyatt, was the commodore of our maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft operating in the Central Command region; James commented on Blood's leadership of Carrier Strike Group TEN and said: "Out of the eight strike groups we supported during my two and a half year tenure as commodore, Rear Admiral Driscoll was the most tactically engaged strike group commander, across all warfare areas. In his respectful and inspiring way, he understood and demanded the best capability we could provide in support of each strike group mission. No other strike group commander understood our capabilities like he did or held us to a higher standard of support."

Pat was just as tactically engaged here at the Pacific Fleet where his tactical and operational leadership was invaluable to our campaign analysis and capability assessments. He provided important insight that continues to influence how we engage and how we advocate for improved capability in the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

With five treaty allies and over 36 countries in the region, I get to do a lot of traveling, and even into hostile territory, Washington, D.C. In the year and a half Pat and I have worked together, I have leaned on him to run the fleet in my absence, to include leading response options such as those during recent North Korean provocations. All told that was more than 140 days and he always had my full trust and confidence, which made my travels so much easier.

Pat, I have one last quote to leave you with. It's from Colonel Hunter "Hamster" Hobson, your right wingman on the Blues in 2000. Hamster said, "Boss Driscoll is by far the finest Navy leader I have ever worked for; that's including seven different carrier air groups on six cruises."

Pat, everyone I know says the same thing, you are universally respected as an aviator, warrior and a leader, and you will be missed. Your leadership has carried over in everything you have done, throughout your career and here as deputy. I congratulate you on your stellar career and the tremendous legacy you leave behind. Your leadership has made our Navy better and will have a lasting impact on the people you have led and trained over your career. Blood, will you please join me for a well deserved award?

[Awards Presentation]

Carol, this is a big day for you too. Carol has provided Pat with tremendous support and has been just as committed to the Navy as he has. As many of you know, she was a Navy nurse, having retired as a commander in the Reserves.

Considering this, it is no surprise that Carol has always been an advocate of Navy families, and is selfless in her charitable participation. She was the lead sponsor of the Wings over America fundraiser for children of aviation service members to go to college. As Sponsor of the Year, they even named a scholarship in her honor. She was an advisor for numerous clubs and boards, including the Boutiki gift shop.

I personally admire her skill as a golfer, partly because they are superior to my own. I can remember how skillfully she played when we took out the Singapore CNO, Ng Chee Peng over to the course at K-Bay. There Pat, Ng Chee Peng and myself kept holding up Carol and her group. We just couldn't move through the course as fast as they could. Carol, I'm not sure you should be able to tee off from the ladies tees anymore.

Seriously though Carol, thank you for your efforts in supporting your husband, your service to the United States Navy and to our Sailors and their families.

Will you join me up front here?

[Awards Presentation]

I know Carol and Pat are proud of their many accomplishments together, but perhaps none gives greater pride than their family. Ginny, Katie, John, I'm so glad each of you could be here today to surprise your dad.

Ginny and Katie both traveled here from Washington, D.C. Ginny is working at Hilton worldwide and is a proud University of Virginia graduate. Katie is working at the Eastern Research Group as a biosystems ENG. She graduated from Virginia Tech. I'm not sure how you two still get along, aren't those rival schools?

John, it's good to see you here as well. John's currently attending East Carolina University where he is majoring in business. Didn't want to choose a Virginia school?

As you can see, Pat and Carol's children are growing up as professional leaders in their own right. What a remarkable family.

Ginny, Katie and John, thank you for lending your dad, and your mom, to our Navy for so long. I know it was difficult at times; I sincerely appreciate your sacrifice as well. Will you please join me here at the podium?

[Present Awards]

Pat, Carol, it's hard to see you leave us. Bonny, Beth and I, as well as the Makalapa Association will miss you both, including your cat Shiro and dog Roxie who come over so often to visit us. We appreciate all that you have given to our Nation and our Navy in your combined 55 years of service in uniform.

I wish you the very best of luck in your future. Thank you for your dedication and commitment. I wish you fair winds and following seas. Thank you and mahalo.