



**Remarks for Admiral Patrick M. Walsh
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea Change of Command
9 September 2011
U.S. Army Garrison Yongson, Seoul, ROK**

Thank you very much, Pete, for your kind introduction.

Ambassadors, Admiral Kim and General Thurman, distinguished guests, fellow Flag and General officers, CNFK and the ROK Navy staff, and most importantly, family and friends...on behalf of Gary Roughead our Chief of Naval Operations...aloha, good morning and a warm welcome to all of you!

I am especially grateful for the opportunity to be with you today, to re-connect with many close friends, to spend time with many distinguished colleagues, and to call attention to...as well as highlight...the enduring alliance and the strong relationship between the United States Navy and the Republic of Korea Navy.

It is an honor and privilege to participate in this formal ceremony, in this combined setting, and recognize the important work done by the servicemen and women from our two countries and our two navies...to express the gratitude of our Navy for their service and sacrifice, and to honor the departing and arriving commanders and their families. I would like to offer a very warm welcome – especially to those who have traveled far to join us as we recognize the many contributions of Pete and Ann Marie Gumataotao and welcome Bill and Selena McQuilken. Pete and Bill - thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your change of command ceremony – to honor you and your families for your service and dedication...and to also recognize the important work of the men and women of Naval Forces Korea and our partnership with the ROK Navy.

My remarks begin with you...friends, family, and our hosts within this great nation, because we are reminded that the days pass too quickly, our opportunities with each other too fleeting, our reunions too limited, to miss out on a chance to express our personal gratitude to each

other...for each other. Today's ceremony follows a centuries old naval tradition – but its overseas and Army setting reflects the unique joint and combined roles that Admiral Gumataotao has executed so well. Thank you, General Thurman and Admiral Kim, for sharing with us so eloquently your praise for Pete's contributions and service in support of our two navies and the bi-lateral alliance.

As we gather here today, our team operates in an area where life at sea influences the largest populations, economies, and militaries of the world. In a region where the sea affects so much of our daily lives, seapower has returned to its traditional role in the sea lines of communication as an instrument of peace, stability, and protector of trade and development. Those of us who have the honor and good fortune to wear the naval uniform and to be part of this wonderful profession, do so in a time and place of great consequence.

In the Asia Pacific community, we are at an extraordinary moment in history – when the movement of information, the shipment of energy, goods, and commodities, combined with the ability to communicate beyond national borders and opportunities to travel...have resulted in linkages and connections that make us increasingly reliant on partners in the community of nations...and dependent on the sea, for many elements of our lives...with these benefits come responsibilities to each other...for each other...to be vigilant, ready, and responsive to address coercive, unsafe, or unhealthy conditions that can at-once affect the lives and livelihoods of so many populations and nations.

Our alliance has been fundamental to security and an enabler of stability and prosperity...the relationship between our two navies has grown and matured over the years not only through professional interactions, exercises, and operations, but especially through the personal connections of our families.

One year ago I was here for the re-enactment of the Inchon Landing, attended the ROK Navy's 10th International Sea Power Symposium, and visited the wreckage of ROKS Cheonan, and remembered the courage of the crew, and the selfless, unwavering dedication of Warrant Officer Han, who reminded us all by his example what we must do for honor. In the United States, this

weekend marks the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks and serves to remind us all that security cannot be taken for granted and we must always be ready and vigilant.

As Sailors, we have the honor, good fortune, and responsibility to represent our nations at sea, where the risks and the very nature of the operating environment as well as the vastness of it, requires a collective approach for the shared benefits and shared responsibilities for the sea. This is especially true in the Korean theater, where the U.S. Navy and ROK Navy's histories and warfare capabilities are intertwined.

As the 31st Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, Admiral Gumataotao has continued to enhance bi-lateral war fighting capabilities and interoperability by advancing Anti-Submarine Warfare improvements and initiating bi-lateral flag-officer talks that have strengthened the bond between our two navies. He cares deeply about people and is a vocal advocate for them. He recognizes the special needs of service at Freedom's Frontier and spearheaded initiatives for Sailors and their families... such as formal Resiliency Training for Sailors and their spouses and the establishment of Navy Family Readiness Groups in Seoul and Chinhae.

Thank you, Pete, for your unmatched commitment to mission and people. Your contributions have enhanced security and improved readiness during a challenging and dynamic time in East Asia.

Those of us who serve in the armed forces know that the most important part of our lives, the most important source of strength and support, is our family - so we understand and appreciate the personal sacrifices that your family has made. Anne-Marie has been a true champion of Sailors and their families - active with the Family Readiness Group and other organizations or causes that she has often put ahead of her professional career. Pete and Anne-Marie, on behalf of the Pacific Fleet, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all you have done - we are grateful for your service and fortunate to have your continued support to Pacific Fleet during your next assignment with Carrier Strike Group 11.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Rear Admiral Bill McQuilkin and his wife Selena. Admiral McQuilkin has extensive operational experience and policy expertise – the selection of this fine warrior and strategist for this most important command speaks to our Navy leadership's confidence that he is exactly the right officer for the challenges ahead.

Bill, I have every confidence your impressive record and proven ability to lead teams to success will serve the Pacific Fleet, the U.S. Navy and our allies here well. Welcome aboard and I look forward to serving with you.

To the men and women of Naval Forces Korea, thank you for dedicating your lives to the cause of freedom and security...serving at the leading edge of Freedom's Frontier;...and finally to our host nation and naval partners, on behalf of our Chief of Naval Operations and the U.S. Pacific Command Commander, I extend our gratitude for your friendship and convey our deepest commitment to continued cooperation in defense of freedom and prosperity...we do it for honor.

Thank you.....Pete, please join me so that we can recognize you formally for your achievements in command