



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Change of Command  
Admiral Patrick M. Walsh  
20 December 2012  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**

Welcome and aloha.

Lt. Governor Schatz, Chief of Naval Operations – Admiral Greenert, U.S. Pacific Commander -- Admiral Willard, Commander of Pacific Air Forces -- General North and other component commanders, Consuls General, former Mayor Mufi Hanneman, former Pacific Fleet and Pacific Command Commanders, senior representatives from Japan, Republic of Korea, and Singapore, flag and general officers, distinguished business and government leaders from Hawaii and the Asia Pacific region, and my dear friends and family.

In the words of my father, today is another glorious day in which to excel. We are excited to be here, we are excited for the Haney's, and although they had to give up living in Omaha in January, I think that the Haney's have warmed up to the idea of living in Hawaii.

It is a high honor for the Walsh family and the Haney family, to share this moment with so many family, friends, and colleagues (from around the world). Andy and I are proud that you could join us today because your friendship, support, and presence here today remind us that whenever we are with you...we are truly at home.

Andy and I are especially grateful for those who have travelled from across the Pacific to be here ...I learned many years ago with the passing of my mother, how important it is to take every opportunity possible to express our gratitude and thanks, to each other, for each other, and to reciprocate the same hospitality so generously given to us. We have friends who have joined us from Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, California, Georgia, Washington State, Florida, and the Great State of Texas including former classmates from elementary school and high school in Dallas -- shipmates from my first operational assignment over 30 years ago in

Lemoore, California, former members of the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron, neighbors in Northern Virginia, teachers on the mainland who taught our children.

Today is a day to express gratitude to our families and those who have been very special to us. I am grateful for the love and support of Andy's family. Andy's mother, Sue, her brother, Hank, and sister, Anna and their families are in Georgia and have been a consistent and constant source of long distance support for our children, Andy, and myself throughout multiple deployments and unaccompanied tours. Andy lost her younger brother, Dale, while I was on one of those deployments...and it is special times such as today that we remember him.

I started my journey with many who are in attendance today...and was able to navigate through career challenges and personal milestones because of the support of many of you. I feel very fortunate, lucky, and grateful for the opportunity to say 'thank you' to so many friends and colleagues for your help along the way.

I am the oldest of six children and have the distinct honor to introduce my father, Jim, and his friend Barbara, along with my sister, Peggy, and her husband, Jess, as well as my brother, Dan. My father enjoys living vicariously through the success of others. For me, he has been a long time supporter for my goals and dreams...beginning with the role that he played at Jesuit College Preparatory School. Growing-up in Dallas, I attended the same high school where my father worked ultimately, for 47 years. The highest form of praise and the most respected title that I had ever heard, was the one earned by my father – he was known simply as Coach Walsh. In my life's experience, the singular – most successful leadership model and example I ever witnessed was the one practiced by my father. Admirals might have been interesting (to study), but coaches were Gods! As a teenager, I could ride with my Dad to school...many years later, I learned to appreciate his upbeat outlook, optimistic view, and humming on the way to work...during the day, I could go see Dad in his office. When I witnessed the parade of athletes in his office and years later, the generations of alumni who returned to the campus to see him, I realized what it meant to be truly wealthy in mind, soul, and spirit.

My mother would have enjoyed today's ceremony because she would enjoy all of you in the audience. In our house, there was never a small party...it was, instead, a reflection similar to what you see here today...a broad array of talented people from around the world all gathered under one roof...and she would make sure that no-one left the party a stranger or hungry. Please do not leave today without a chance to shake-hands with my father. He wants to meet you and I would be very proud for you to meet him.

My only regret today is that our kids Jennifer and Matthew could not attend because they are already in school in Dallas. We are proud of you and miss you.

Today is an opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate the combined teamwork of so many who have given so much of themselves to our community and mission. Together they fostered relationships in Hawaii and in the region; they take care of Pacific Fleet sailors, families and Navy civilians. Andy and I have learned to appreciate...that much of this work goes on day-to-day, quietly, selflessly, and running in the background...and people do this work, for the benefit of others without calling attention to themselves.

On any given day, when you walk or drive through our community, you will find the grounds are kept in a mint-like condition that provide a setting of welcome and beauty that is attractive for families (young and old), friends and colleagues, or delegations and heads of state. The warmth and embrace generated from our neighborhood does not happen on its own – it comes from Mario Daquep (Da qeep), Guy McNichols, and their supervisor Dean Straight.

I have been very fortunate to have been part of this team, and I am lucky to have had Andy by my side. We are a large organization of more than 125,000 people; it is the largest fleet in the world, where on any given day a substantial percentage of the fleet is underway, a substantial percentage of the force is married, and a substantial percentage of the force moves with kids every two to three years. The talent and the skills resident in our navy are truly extraordinary, but our sailors have very basic needs as families as people do everywhere. Andy has been my eyes and ears, and helped me to understand the requirements of our families. Today, I want to

highlight the valuable contribution that this remarkable team of community leaders and spouses make to our mission, often as quiet volunteers. They are leaders in their own right who help us, help those who serve. I ask that they please rise so we can recognize them.

Ms. Mildred Courtney (who works closely with the greater Hawaii community)

Ms. Elaine Ota (who supports the Navy League)

Ms. Etsuko Kamo (spouse of the Consul General from Japan; Operation TOMODACHI)

Mr. Stan Lum (Armed Services YMCA – directing 21 programs in support of Sailors)

Ms. Jennifer Hughes (who represents the Continuum of Resource Education for families)

Senior Chief Pelekai (our senior enlisted resident manager for historic Nimitz House)

Ms. Amy Sheridan (a key volunteer for our sailors and families).

I am grateful to share today with so many leaders (both on the dais and in the audience) who have earned the respect and won the admiration of generations of Sailors over the course of their respective careers. Moreover, I am especially thankful for the once in a lifetime opportunity to command the Pacific Fleet.

Our speakers follow the twin themes of our command responsibility to organize, train, and equip the Navy for the challenges of today and tomorrow, and our operational mission to promote security and stability in the Pacific Command area of responsibility.

It is my honor and privilege to introduce our first guest speaker, Admiral Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations.....a distinguished submarine officer with extensive experience in this region, having served in Hawaii four times, as well as two tours in Yokosuka, Japan, and two on the West Coast. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Greenert has commanded at all levels including the USS Honolulu where he earned the Vice Admiral Stockdale award for inspirational leadership, as well as Naval Forces Marianas, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and U.S. Fleet Forces Command. He is ideally experienced to guide our Navy through the challenges of the future. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Admiral Jonathon Greenert.

Thank you, Admiral Greenert, for your generous remarks and kind recognition of Andy.

Two and a half years ago I had the honor of relieving Admiral Bob Willard as Commander of Pacific Fleet, and benefitted from the legacy of his many years of experience in this vast, diverse region. Since then, I have served on his Pacific Command team along with the other service component commanders headquartered here in Hawaii. As PACOM commander, Admiral Willard is responsible for more than 300,000 personnel, nearly one-fifth of the U.S. military strength, serving in an Area of Responsibility (AOR) that encompasses about half the earth's surface.

Pacific Command is an essential presence in the Asia-Pacific region committed to promoting peace and security in an area that is home to 36 nations, more than 50 percent of the world's population, several of the world's largest militaries and five nations allied with the U.S. through mutual defense treaties.

ADM Willard spent many years flying the mighty F-14 Tomcat as a fighter pilot; he has held significant leadership positions in the Pacific to include command of Carrier Group Five and U.S. Seventh Fleet. I am proud to have the distinct honor and privilege to introduce to you the Commander of U.S. Pacific Command. Ladies and Gentlemen, Admiral Bob Willard.

I have often wondered about the view you have from your seats; it is easy to lose track of time when we are here, in this peaceful, idyllic setting, where the harbor and its history steals our gaze. It is important to understand what we have here and all that it represents.

Today, in the Asia-Pacific region, maritime considerations influence national security planning, economic exchange and societal development more than any other location or aspect of the global environment.

Here, the maritime narrative influences the largest populations, economies, and militaries of the world, so nations that desire the capability to protect their economic interests, ensure stability, and secure the key lines of approach to their future, need maritime capabilities. As a result, decisions made about maritime forces directly impact the protection, representation, and ability

of a nation to defend its sovereign interests at sea; in this region, seapower is an essential element of national power.

In the Pacific Century, seapower resumes its traditional role in the sea lines of communication as an instrument of peace, stability, and protector of trade and development. Nations in the region are watching, with keen interest, the affect of US economic challenges and the strain of more than a decade of war on the Navy's ability to remain forward, engaged, and ready. We have faced austere economic cycles in the past. While the American public has kept faith with the navy, they have not changed their view of our mission or their expectations for our response to crisis conditions.

Over the course of the 34 years in my career, I have witnessed a Navy engaged in a variety of operations in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, sometimes focused on one adversary, as in the Cold War against the Soviet Union, or sometimes deployed against a regional adversary, as in Vietnam or the Gulf War. In all that time, the U.S. Navy configured platforms for one contingency, but actually used those same platforms globally for many other locations and many other missions, including disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, which were well beyond the imaginations of those who planned the original design or laid the keel of the ship.

What has kept the Navy relevant since ship/submarine/aircraft design of our current fleet many years ago has been the skill and ingenuity of Sailors, young Americans, who continue to adapt, to think critically and address challenges for sustained operations from any location, at any time – without caveats.

I would suggest that the continued investments made in people have improved the relevancy and responsiveness of the fleet in an era of great challenge and change. It is our people who make contact in the region, who represent the national interest, who act on democratic principles that appeal to audiences well beyond the confines of a single mission or operation, and who demonstrate the leadership, commitment, and resolve of the American government.

It is an extraordinary time and place to be in command. If ever there was a person who was ready to assume command of the Pacific Fleet, with all its complexities, with all its challenges, and who has worked and held critical leadership positions at every level, it is Cecil Haney. He has had a sterling career, filled with many challenging assignments. He knows the Pacific and has served here as an exceptional, one of a kind leader. Cecil and Bonnie are up to the challenge. My only advice is, don't blink, it goes by fast. Congratulations!

I stand before you today a blessed, humble, and fortunate man. I am lucky to have a soul mate and best friend, Andy, whom I married 23 years ago stand with me today. She can light up a room with her energy, warmth, and generous spirit along with our two wonderful children -- Jennifer and Matthew, whom I adore, and a family (and extended family) that has supported our goals and dreams for many, many years. Andy, thank you for all that you have shared and all that you have given to me, our families, and our sailors. You are my precious present...and I am so lucky, grateful, and proud to stand with you as we enter the next chapter of our lives together.

Ladies and gentlemen, this team and its storied performance will always be a source of great personal pride for me and my family.

My career has taught me that –

If ever there was a country worth living in  
If ever there was a country worth defending  
If ever there was a country worth fighting for  
If ever...in the history of the world there was a country whose values and principles were worthy of our sacrifice...it is the United States of America.

On behalf of a very grateful Sailor and a very grateful family -- Thank you, God Bless you and all those who stand with us.

**I will now read my orders.**

**FROM: CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**

**CNO ORDER 1977**

**WHEN DIRECTED, DETACH FROM DUTY AS COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET. YOU ARE HEREBY RELIEVED OF ALL ACTIVE DUTY REQUIREMENTS, REPORT TO HOME OF RECORD, DALLAS, TEXAS.**

**REAR ADMIRAL PENNIMAN, HAUL DOWN MY FLAG.**