



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Change of Command
Admiral Cecil D. Haney
20 January 2012
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
As Prepared for Delivery**

Thank you, ADM Walsh, for your kind remarks, brilliant leadership, and your distinguished career. Our nation and this region have been fortunate to have you in charge during this critical period in history.

VIPs

- Gov. Abercrombie
- ADM Greenert, ADM Willard, ADM Walsh and GEN North
- Friends and partners of the Asia-Pacific region;
- Leaders of the Hawaii community,
- Retired and Fellow flag and general officers,
- Ladies and gentlemenGood morning and Aloha!

I'd like to thank all of you for sharing this change of command with us, especially those who traveled some distance to be here:

Especially my friends and family from the Washington, DC area. Mostly Redskins fans, who having had a disappointing football season, I know you are really looking for some relief here in paradise.

I will not mention all of you due to time constraints, but do want to acknowledge my Mom – Ella Diggs, who with my Dad instilled discipline, patience and Christian values in me as a youngster.

- Mom hates to fly and this is her first time in Hawaii.
- Thanks Mom for coming along with my sisters Yvette Morris and Dr. Yvonne Coates, Uncle Brewer and Nephew Cedric just to name a few. Great to have you here along with ADM Paul Reason who also grew up and resides in DC. Sir, thanks for your leadership, mentorship, and example.

Friends Skip and Judy McGarvey from Eastport, ME and Jay Black from Florida completes the East Coast coverage while my family from California is represented by Jessica and Floyd Renty, and the Nockold family is a special group from California that ties me to a special Pearl Harbor survivor – Lou Nockold. Thank you for coming.

To the great team of those men and women of Pacific Fleet and Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam whose hard work made this ceremony possible, Bonny and I extend our sincerest thanks to each of you.

I am grateful and honored to be standing here before you and remain in awe of the opportunities our US Navy and nation have provided me. Given the rich history and importance of this area of operation, I will do my utmost to serve you and especially the Sailors, Civilians and the families that make up the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Pat and Andy Kay Walsh, thanks for making Bonny and I feel welcomed with much aloha as we returned to Hawaii. I truly appreciate the informative turnover, the superb staff, and the tremendous war fighting capability you have turned over. Bonny and I want to thank you both for your decades of sacrifices and service to our grateful nation and to this immense and dynamic region which remains so important to the United States.

I am most grateful to ADM Walsh for his unparalleled leadership of Pacific Fleet and tireless efforts strengthening critical ties to enhance security of the region. Under his guidance, Sailors headquartered here and on station across the Pacific have performed remarkably across the wide spectrum of our Navy's mission areas.

To these men and women and their families, thank you for putting country before self. Your work and support are critical to the security and prosperity of our nation and the Asia-Pacific region. I am honored to serve with you and to follow in the footsteps of great leaders such as Admiral Walsh and giants of history such as ADM Nimitz and Spruance.

CNO, thank you and Darlene for being here and for your leadership and trust in me as a leader. I still recall that day when you were COMNAVMARIANAS and you came to have lunch on board my sub HONOLULU shortly after we pulled into Guam. Although we are a long time from that particular day, I had then as I do today, deep respect for the Pacific region, its importance and the unique capability the US Pacific Fleet provides Pacific Command. ADM Willard, thank you for being here and for your leadership.

You, as well as many other peers, mentors, friends and shipmates have been key to me having this unique opportunity. I am indebted to them all to include my 1st USNA roommate Brett Ayotte representing USNA class of 78 and Dr. Will Bundy and Joe Peterson who are part of the historic group called the Centennial Seven. These individuals represent the numerous professional Sailors who along with so many other Sailors and Civilians have been critical to my development in this very demanding profession to include: a former Commanding Officer – Pat Casey, former Pacific Fleet commanders such as ADM Roughead and ADM Doran, as well as WWII and Korean War veterans.

Each responsible for my being here by reinforcing the principles that my upbringing provided which were in keeping with the Navy core values of courage, honor, and commitment. It is also great to have representatives here from my church in the DC area, Omaha, Nebraska, and of course Hawaii who help to further reinforce my values and have supported my family during my various lengthy absences.

To our international allies and partners and our local community friends, thank you for coming and for your enduring relationship with the U.S. Navy. I look forward to getting acquainted with you and building on the foundation of trust and mutual respect that Admiral Walsh has nurtured.

For the past 33+ years, my wife Bonny has been by my side every step of the way and is representative of all the many spouses who are the unsung heroes of our military. Thanks, dear!

Our children – Elizabeth, Thomas and Joseph have also provided a great source of support and love, even though they knew the demands this naval profession have on family life. I am proud of each of them as they too represent the children of our Navy families that allow our all volunteer force to work. Our families know we all must make sacrifices for the greater good..... it is an inherent aspect of wearing a military uniform and being a responsible and contributing member of our democratic society.

The U.S. Navy has been a dutiful servant of the nation and its people, and a champion of freedom, security and prosperity abroad. In the Pacific, our history here is rich and we have played an integral role in furthering those principles to better the lives of others.....

Today, as the Pacific Fleet Commander, I look forward to working with the other service components in support of U.S. PACOM, enhancing maritime security and freedom of the seas with the talented men and women of Pacific Fleet and our allies and partners. We have much work to do with the finest maritime capability on the planet. Let us continue to make our nation proud.

Thank you all and God Bless the United States Navy and God Bless America.