



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Change of Command Speech
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr.
16 October 2013
As prepared for delivery**

Ladies and gentlemen, let's give it up again for our singers, Musician 3rd Class Lamonica and Ms. Ciana Pelekai. Wow!

Lt. Gov. Tsutsui, Adm. Locklear -- thank you, sir, for your words, presence and confidence; Adm. Haney, Adm. Chen, Adm. Akahoshi, Admirals Hays, Fargo and Macke, fellow flag and general officers, Fleet Master Chief Ramirez. Men and women of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, what you do on a daily basis is of fundamental importance to our nation's defense. I'm proud to be your commander.

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Let me begin by saying how wonderful it is to be back in Hawaii. Bruni's and my roots run deep here in the Pacific; it's great to be home. But I must be honest, it's getting a little old when every time I introduce myself, I get, "Oh, you're the guy married to Bruni Bradley, right?"

Let me add my welcome to that of Adm. Haney. Thank you all for joining us. I'm going to follow the Navy's two cardinal rules for incoming commanders: Be brief and be seated. But I do want to take a moment to thank a few folks. To Cecil and Bonny Haney and their daughter Beth for welcoming Bruni and me with open arms and total access. Adm. Haney has set a high bar. Under his command, the Pacific Fleet has been well-led, well-trained, and highly disciplined. Sir, you will be greatly missed. Fair winds, following seas and bundle up. It gets cold in Nebraska.

To Russ Penniman and Nick Sarap for leading my transition team. As they will tell you, I needed a lot of help. To Rick Williams' and Jeff James' Navy Base Team, the base looks terrific. Rick and Jeff truly epitomize "One Team One Fight" and I'm proud to serve with them.

We are who we have been brought up with, and who we have come up with, and that means family and friends. To my mom-in-law and brother-in law from Arizona, cousin Margaret from London, Uncle Dave from right here in Honolulu, cousins Peggy and Diane from the great state of Tennessee, thank you for making this a family affair.

I've stood on the shoulders of giants and many are here today. To great friends from Annapolis days, P-3 bubbas, Pensacolians, Miamians, Bostonians, Seattle-ites, Pentagonians, friends from Down Under and tours in Japan, England, Italy, Guantanamo, folks who have come from all over the U.S. to share this day with Bruni and me, and maybe to get in a little diving and fishing and luau-ing as well. I'm glad to have given you an excuse to visit Hawaii.

To the many veterans here, we all owe you a debt of gratitude, thank you.

To our industry partners and Hawaii civic organizations represented here today. America's strength comes from the synergy between the nation's brave sons and daughters who have chosen the warrior's way and the people and organizations in our communities and in industry that provide them with the steadfast support and the best equipment to get the job done. Thank you for all that you do.

I want to especially acknowledge Rear Adm. Jerry and Linda MacKay, I was Adm. MacKay's aide as a lieutenant (and, I might add, once an aide always an aide), he taught me how to be a flag officer before I made lieutenant commander. He has mentored me ever since and he and Linda have been a part of Bruni's and my lives from the get-go. Thank you both for being here today.

And finally to Bruni, who keeps me honest, tries to keep me humble (an impossible task I might add), and lets me continue this great adventure called Navy.

Ladies and gentlemen, our president and secretary of defense are clear. As a nation, we will rebalance to the Pacific and we will work closely with our allies and partners in the Indo-

Asia-Pacific region. To this end, Pacific Fleet, with our brothers and sisters at PACAF, USARPAC, MARFORPAC, SOCPAC and 14th Coast Guard District, will support Adm. Locklear as he devises the strategy to accomplish our national objectives.

We are also mindful of our responsibilities to Adm. Locklear, to the CNO, and with Fleet Forces Command, to man, train, equip and maintain the considerable naval forces assigned to the Pacific, and to judiciously manage their global employment and readiness.

This is hard work but this is what we do. Our nation deserves no less and our CNO and Adm. Locklear expect no less.

And our adversaries did not pause for this ceremony. So let's get to it.

Thank you.