



Admiral John C. Aquilino
U.S. Pacific Fleet Change of Command Ceremony
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
May 17, 2018
As prepared for delivery

I will now read my orders – BUPERS order number 0011. When directed, report to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet as his relief.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Thank you all for being here today.

Let me begin by saying how great it is to be back in Hawaii – and what an honor it is to become the 36th commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. There is no greater team sailing on, under, or flying above the sea.

That said, I'm going to follow the Navy's two cardinal rules for incoming commanders: be brief, and be seated.

I do want to take a few moments though and thank some very important people:

- To my wife Laura and daughters Lisa and Jessica, who keep me honest, keep me humble, and support me while we continue this great Navy adventure. Thanks for your love and being with me every step of the way.
- Dianne & Gino/Helen & Stripper
- To CNO and Admiral Harris – thank you both for being here. Thanks for the profound words and the warm welcome. I look forward to working with you both in the weeks, months, and years to come. I'm grateful for your confidence in me and am excited for this tremendous opportunity.
- To Admiral Swift and Trish – sir, thank you for your service to our nation. You have built an exceptional team and I am grateful for your leadership. Thanks to both you and Trish for welcoming Laura and I with open arms.

I'd also like to add my personal welcome to all of the other distinguished guests here today. Specifically:

- Ambassadors, foreign dignitaries, consul generals in attendance today, I look forward to getting to know each of you.
- Governor Ige and Lt. Governor Chin, local senators and representatives, – Aloha and thanks for coming. Hawaii plays a vital and strategic role in our national defense. I am excited to work alongside you to strengthen our whole-of-government approach to national security.

- Heads of navies and representatives from our allies, partners, and friends, I'm excited to continue the work we do together and look to build on the efforts of both Admirals Harris and Swift.
- To the Hawaii civic organizations represented here today. We are grateful for your steadfast support of our Sailors.
- Admirals Zlatoper and Macke; component commanders, numbered fleet and TYCOM commanders; current and former flag and general officers, and other distinguished guests, I look forward to working with and learning from each of you.
- Last and certainly not least... to the amazing Sailors and civilians who make up the U.S. Pacific Fleet team. It's great to be able to work with so many old and new friends. Thanks for everything you do day in and day out.

Ladies and gentlemen, great-power competition has reemerged as the central challenge to security and prosperity. Nowhere are the stakes of that great-power competition higher than here in the Indo-Pacific.

Our mission is simple and clear: Be ready to execute prompt and sustained combat operations at sea against any adversary – and win!

The mission will drive everything we do.

Admiral Harris, we will collaborate with our brothers and sisters at PACAF, ARPAC, MARFORPAC, SOCPAC and 14th Coast Guard District to execute all tasked missions.

CNO, we will help provide you best military advice and generate solutions to fleet challenges in coordination with Admiral Grady and Fleet Forces Command.

Lastly, to any potential adversary, you have a choice – you can have “no better friend, or no worse enemy” than the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Let's go to work!