

Remarks by Admiral Keating during the Change of Command (as prepared)

Press Release

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WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO STAND BEFORE THIS REMARKABLE BAND OF NORAD AND NORTHCOM WARRIORS.

SENATOR ALLARD?REPRESENTATIVE HEFLEY?DR. WOLFOWITZ?GENERAL HENAULT?GENERAL MYERS?THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELED FROM AROUND THE WORLD?BAHRAIN TO JAPAN?TO JOIN US THIS MORNING. WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU HERE, ITO-SAN?KONNICHIWA.



Photo credit: Tech Sgt Lawrence Holmes, USAF

I HUMBLY THANK THE LEADERS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. NORAD AND NORTHCOM HAVE VITAL MISSIONS BEING EXECUTED BY DEDICATED, CREATIVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PUT COUNTRY BEFORE SELF.

WANDALEE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU?CANADIANS, AMERICANS, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS--WHO MAKE PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS JOB #1.

WE?D LIKE TO THANK THE GOOD PEOPLE OF COLORADO SPRINGS WHO MAKE OUR MILITARY FAMILIES FEEL SO MUCH AT HOME. WE NEED AND APPRECIATE YOUR STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT. THE EBERHARTS ASSURE US WE?LL ENJOY OUR TIME WITH YOU, JUST AS THEY HAVE.

I FOLLOW A SUPERB COMMANDER WHO LED TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE AT NORAD, AND ENGINEERED THE STANDUP OF U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND. GENERAL EBERHART HAS EARNED THE RESPECT OF SENIOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS IN CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND AROUND THE WORLD.

ED AND KAREN EBERHART ARE A WONDERFUL TEAM, AND WE APPRECIATE THEIR SERVICE TO OUR NATION. UNDER THEIR LEADERSHIP, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF NORAD AND U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND HAVE ACHIEVED UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS--WHILE BUILDING NEW RELATIONSHIPS AND CAPABILITIES.

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF NORAD AND NORTHCOM: YOU?VE DONE MUCH FOR WHICH YOU CAN BE PROUD. IT?S OK FOR YOU TO WALK WITH JUST A BIT OF A SWAGGER. YOU?VE BUILT A SOLID BASE FOR INTEGRATED HOMELAND DEFENSE, AND OUR NATIONS ARE WELL-POSITIONED TO FACE CHALLENGING AND EVOLVING THREATS. PROTECTING OUR HOMELANDS REQUIRES CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND MORE. OUR MISSION DEMANDS FLEXIBILITY, INNOVATION, AGGRESSIVENESS, AND ROCK-SOLID READINESS TO ACT ON A MOMENT?S NOTICE.

OURS IS A SIGNIFICANT BOTTOM LINE: SECURING LIBERTY AND KEEPING THE TRUST?AS THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT AND DESERVE.

WANDALEE AND I ARE PROUD TO JOIN THIS TEAM. WE ASK GOD?S CONTINUED BLESSINGS FOR ALL OF US, OUR FAMILIES, AND FOR THE GREAT NATIONS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!