

Good evening and aloha.

Thanks Ed. Thanks for the opportunity to join you. I want you to know I felt compelled to go out and get a haircut to give this speech.

I get asked a lot about how it feels to be retired. In the 5 months since then, I've been to....

- Japan and Korea w/ Former Secretary Bill Perry.
- China with the Governor of Hawaii.
- Singapore and Thailand 3 weeks ago.
- 4 trips to Washington D.C.
- And today.....well I'm here, but I am home....for a little while, at least!

So it doesn't appear to me I have made a lot of progress in the retirement business!

However, one thing that has changed when you retire as a 4-star Combatant Commander—a lot of things do go away. The car, the boat, the plane and you guessed it—the Speech Writer.

So, today— if you are expecting a long speech—you will be disappointed.

Actually, I think this transition has gone pretty well – contrary to any rumors, I have not walked out to my driveway and gotten into the backseat of an empty car. But, I do have one confession of sorts...I pulled up in front of a restaurant last week and left the car for the valet. About 30 minutes later a guy walked up to the table and said...Admiral Fargo – I nodded – Would you mind giving us the keys?

- You know, he probably walked away shaking his head and telling folks – the Admiral thought that was his parking spot.

Nonetheless, I am absolutely delighted to participate in this Tenth Anniversary celebration of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. During its first decade, the Asia-Pacific Center has superbly established the foundation for realizing the vision of the Center's founding fathers, Senator Daniel Inouye and former Secretary of Defense, Dr. William Perry. Both of these leaders intended

for this Center to better enable civilian and military leaders from all Asia-Pacific nations to frame, develop, and use enhanced methods of security cooperation to meet regional, transnational and global concerns of the 21st Century. And there is no doubt this center has achieved that vision.

Tremendous credit goes to Hank Stackpole, the first President of the Asia-Pacific Center, for building the Center's solid foundation of good people and great programs.

And represented here tonight are the distinguished APCSS alumni. The relationships they have developed with each other are a testament to what has been accomplished during Hank's tenure.

And working behind the scenes from the very beginning has been Jim Lackey, who was the original project officer when the Asia-Pacific Center was no more than a good idea at the Pacific Command, and now the Executive Director of this fully mature and vibrant organization. And beyond that, every member of the APCSS faculty and staff has contributed significantly to something that benefits so many others all over this region.

Let me ask the faculty and staff and alumni, past and present, to stand.

[APPLAUSE]

You have much to be proud of.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to interact with I believe every executive education course conducted at the Center during my watch. I was struck each time by the energy level of the class, the solid bonding among the fellows, the caliber of the questions they asked, and their sincere concern about the prospects for security and international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. It was pretty clear—in many cases—they didn't walk in the door with those bonds built and relationships established. So, I became convinced that something very special happens routinely at APCSS. And that's the transforming of attitudes and the engendering of trust and confidence so vital to long-term security cooperation.

And on the foundation of this first decade, we now begin the next chapter of the Asia-Pacific Center, and I am fully confident, as I know we all are that Ed Smith is precisely the right person to lead this Center to the next level. I had an opportunity to observe Ed's leadership and intellect each day while he was in command of our Pacific Army and he is the right person at the right time (Don't want to put any pressure on you, Ed—or maybe I do).

We will need solid leadership and imaginative programs because the topical agenda ahead is daunting: terrorism in all its forms; international crime to include illegal drugs, money laundering, piracy and trafficking in humans; natural disasters so tragically exemplified by the earthquake and tsunami unleashed in

December of 2004 and hurricane Katrina recently; the prospect of pandemic disease such as SARS or avian flu; financial vulnerability related to economic globalization; and the need for energy security on a global scale. That's just what we can foresee. There will be others.

Transnational threats, moreover, pose broad challenges that can best be handled with a multinational approach. What we know to be true is that we all find ourselves in situations in which no nation alone can provide for its own security. This was a statement agreed to by all the Asian-Pacific CHODs at our conference in Singapore two years ago. Challenges faced today by our regional and global communities of nations necessitate shared solutions. And each country must decide how best to participate. U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld made that clear in his remarks at the Shangri-La Dialogue this year when he said...

"People in the United States understand that no country can function in this world unilaterally. There are things that simply can't be done by any one country or any small aggregation of countries. It requires the cooperation of like-thinking people all across the globe. That's what the United States has tried to do."

This is an important statement, but even more important is the objective evidence.

- I can't name an Asia - Pacific regional issue in the past 5 years that hasn't been dealt within a multi-lateral fashion.
 - Six-party talks are, of course, the most important and immediate example.
 - East Timor is an example on a different, lower scale.
 - Tsunami response is the best and most recent example.
 - "Eye in the sky" initiatives with respect to Maritime Security in the Malacca Strait may be the next success.
- Worth spending a few moments on why the collective Tsunami effort was successful.
 - This complex relief effort didn't just happen because we wanted it to...or because we decided to act together quickly—which we did.

- It was possible because of a set of habitual relationships—really habits of cooperation that had been established over many years.

Today every nation is working to interdict various threats its citizens, property, and vital infrastructure. Almost all nations are attempting to counter violent extremism. Most importantly, we all are realizing together that world efforts to deter and defeat terrorism and other transnational threats, man-made and natural, will require a new level of security cooperation.

And to do this, we have to broaden the definition of security requirements and link these requirements to good governance... specifically, governance which inspires confidence in the rule of law and the respect for basic human rights and dignity.

Good governance is also important to foster healthy civil-military relations, to provide quality education that leads to opportunity, and to ensure access to the basic services that promote health and safety so fundamental to human prosperity. This is difficult work. It takes time and investment and commitment by many. And, in my view, developing good governance and strong institutions may be one of the most dynamic contributions of this center in the important years ahead.

That's because APCSS's executive education classes yield a cross-fertilization of military professionals and governmental and non-governmental civilians better prepared to address broad security challenges together. Better able to provide leadership and direction to their nations institutions with both competence and compassion.

So, the Asia-Pacific Center must be more than an institution that just imparts knowledge and develops relationships. It will do that clearly. It must also inspire, educate, interknit, and empower current and future leaders to take action to deal with our most pressing regional problems.

Malcolm Gladwell's best selling book, The Tipping Point, explores the common elements of epidemics whether the epidemics are diseases, dress fashions, or food fads. For an epidemic to occur, Gladwell says, you need people with three different attributes: People who connect other people together, people whose knowledge of their subject is acclaimed, and people who can persuade.

For the last decade the purpose of the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies has been to produce such people—professionals who have the contacts, knowledge and persuasive skills to infect others with a cooperative spirit to help ensure security in this important region.

In the course of over 100 APCSS-hosted conferences, ranging the spectrum of security issues from China's emergence as a global actor and ultimately a great power to the Energy Security prospects for the future, the Center has been at

the leading edge in accounting for and analyzing change in the region. The Center's over 50 research publications have informed thousands of policy makers, practitioners, and scholars on current issues and prospects for the future. Furthermore, APCSS's over 2000 executive education program graduates are provided knowledge, a framework in which to place it, skills with which to use it, and a rolodex of not mere contacts but friends.

The Asia-Pacific Center is now one of five regional study centers, all critically important to the comprehensive security of the regions they serve... and all linked together. I mentioned the trips to Washington just briefly at the outset. There is no doubt in my mind that these centers, lead from Honolulu, have demonstrated, unequivocally, their value and as such, we will expand their capacity to do more.

Tonight we mark a significant milestone in the journey of our Center for security studies in this region. From humble beginnings, it nonetheless has steadily grown in its value added to regional communities of interest and influential leaders. The alumni and friends gathered here, and those thousands more whose labors don't permit pause to join us tonight, are justly proud of APCSS progress so far... And certainly should be.

Congratulations, APCSS. I am confident you will contribute even more — for the good of all — in the next decade ahead!

Thank you very much.