

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I stand before you today, I'm filled with a mix of emotions--gratitude, nostalgia, and a sense of fulfillment. It's hard to believe that the time has come for me to retire from a military career that has been more than just a job; it has been a journey, a calling, and a second family.

Looking back, I remember the first day I donned this uniform. It was a moment of pride and excitement, albeit with a sprinkle of nerves. Over the years, those nerves turned into confidence, thanks to the countless experiences and challenges we've faced together. Each mission, each deployment, taught me lessons that books never could--about resilience, about camaraderie, and about dedication.

I've been privileged to work alongside some of the finest men and women, whose courage and conviction have been a constant source of inspiration. Together, we've shared stories, laughter, and sometimes tears, forming bonds that will undoubtedly last a lifetime.

One of the many highlights of this journey has been the opportunity to mentor young soldiers. Watching them grow, excel, and become leaders in their own right has been a deeply rewarding experience. It makes me proud to know that the spirit and values of our military family will continue to thrive in their capable hands.

As I prepare to take off this uniform for the last time, I carry with me a treasure trove of memories. Memories of early mornings and late nights, of challenges met head-on, and of victories, both big and small. These memories will always have a special place in my heart.

Thank you to each and every one of you for being a part of this incredible journey. Though my role may change, my commitment to this great country and its values remains unwavering. Here's to new beginnings and to the enduring spirit of service.

Thank you.