

Purpose: Provide remarks as the Guest of Honor at the 2017 World Maritime University Graduation Ceremony. Approximately 293 students will graduate. This includes students from the 14-month Master's program in Marine Affairs (Sweden), China-based masters programs, post-graduate diploma programs, and Ph.D. programs. While all graduates should be acknowledged, emphasis should be on the 130 graduates from the 14-month MSc. program in Sweden. You will be introduced by WMU President, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry.

Audience: The event is hosted by WMU's Chancellor, the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr. Kitack Lim. The audience is made up of approximately 1,000 global VIPs, diplomats, UN officials, members of academia, Swedish politicians, and WMU graduates with their families and friends.

Media: Open to press; local media expected. The event will also be recorded and made publicly available.

Strategic Intent: Bolster international support and partnerships.

Duration: 8 minutes

[Extemporaneous Opening]

14 MONTHS

To the graduating class of 2017 – congratulations! While there are quite a few prestigious programs represented today, with varying durations, many of you arrived here in Malmo in September of 2016. 14 months ago. Looking back, I bet you're surprised how fast the time went. Or that you'd learn as much as you did. Or that you'd walk away today with this incredible network of partners – an alliance - as you step up as leaders in our global maritime community.

And if I impart anything today, let it be this: those partnerships that will carry the day.

Our motto in the United States Coast Guard is *Semper Paratus* – Always Ready. I look at the present and future challenges we face through that lens. And I'll tell you, the only way we live up to that motto is together, through our partnerships – domestic, international; industry, government, non-governmental organizations; across the entire spectrum.

So, I'll take you back to where I was 14 months ago and walk you to the present, showing you some of those partnerships.

And I'll tell you, the time has flown by for me as well...

ISS

Right around the same day most of you started here at the World Maritime University, I was in Newport, Rhode Island for the 22nd biennial International Seapower Symposium.

The theme: “Stronger Maritime Partners.”

More than 100 navies and coast guards were represented and the U.S. Navy hosts offered me the opening address. So, what did I talk about?

Transnational Criminal Organizations. Piracy. Human Trafficking. Mass Migration. Illegal Fishing. Cyber Threats. The global Maritime Transportation System. Opening waters of the Arctic and impacts of rising sea levels.

Well, these concerns that fall squarely in my wheelhouse dominated the conversations for the rest of the symposium. To be frank, most nations aren't looking to grow a traditional navy – instead they are looking to grow coast guards because these are the issues that truly pose existential threats for their citizens. Threats, and opportunities... worldwide!

That was Rhode Island.

SOAM / CENTAM

So then, this summer, I went to Central America. I traveled to Colombia, Ecuador, Panama. I met with heads of State and heads of Service. I later traveled to Mexico and met with Admiral Soberon, the Secretary of Navy (SEMAR).

Transnational Criminal Organizations pose an increasing threat in the Western Hemisphere. These networks of illicit actors threaten our prosperity and security. They wreak havoc in our hemisphere. So we are continuing to look at this problem set differently – with a global and whole of government approach.

And the United States Coast Guard has over 60 bilateral agreements with partner nations. We train together and operate jointly. We are prosecuting smugglers like never before. Our Coast Guard cutters would not pull into port every time with upwards of 50,000 pounds of cocaine and

heroin worth an estimated \$6 billion without our partners in the region.

But I pose to you, our next maritime leaders, what is our next strategic move in this campaign against these global networks?

ICELAND

And last month I was in Iceland where the Arctic Coast Guard Forum conducted another operational exercise – Arctic Guardian. The Arctic Coast Guard Forum has proven to be even more successful than I could have hoped – and thank goodness.

Knowing how quickly the private sector can mobilize... we need to ready ourselves in the Arctic now. Prudence demands it. And this new operating environment requires a solid governance regime and cooperative partners – readiness in the Arctic requires collaboration.

FINLAND

Readiness also requires presence. And the United States is moving out on recapitalizing our tired icebreaker fleet. So, just this week I was in Finland. I visited Arctia Inc., a Finnish Icebreaker Operator, to learn more about Finnish Icebreaker operations... Aker Arctic Inc a shipbuilder to learn more of

their efforts... I met with the President to discuss our incredible partnership and collaboration.

Again, I pose to you, our next maritime leaders, what are the unforeseen challenges in the Arctic and how do we address them? This is our world's newest frontier – we have an opportunity to get this right.

NETHERLANDS

And in just a few weeks I'll visit the Netherlands to learn more about their efforts to ready for rising sea levels.

Another challenge on our horizon that you will face.

Another challenge that sees no border – just like our shifting and depleted fish stocks...

IMO

And I will end my 14 month journey later this month in London, where I will head the United States Delegation at the International Maritime Organization General Assembly.

[Cyber] There we will talk about the challenges and opportunities in cyber... our world's incredible technological advances... we'll talk about automation and modernization.

[MTS] We'll talk about how to ensure safe, secure, and efficient shipping on our global highways – on the thing that bonds us all and brings us here today – our oceans.

And those issues as well, are posed for you to explore... our next maritime leaders.

CLOSING

So I wish you all the very best! You have challenges and opportunities abound.

Your work here has armed you with an education that will help – but even more importantly – with the partnerships you'll need.

So God Bless. Good Luck! And *Semper Paratus!*