



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet**  
**73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Commemoration**  
**Introduction of General Lori Robinson**  
**Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**  
**December 7, 2014**  
*As prepared for delivery*

Thank you, Admiral Rick Williams, for that introduction and for your leadership as region commander.

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Before I start, let's give a round of applause to the Kapolei High School students for singing our national anthem. I can think of no better way to preserve the memory of Pearl Harbor than to have young people like them involved in today's ceremony.

As I look around I realize there are so many distinguished guests here today that it would take a whole hour to name them — so I won't. But I do want to acknowledge a few:

Governors Brewer and Ige,

Senator Schatz and Representative-elect Takai,

Mayor Caldwell, state and city leaders,

Esteemed members of our consular and diplomatic corps,

Mr. DePrey, Admirals Hayward, Hays, Macke,

Fellow flag and general officers,

Veterans, past and present,

And most of all, a special welcome to the "Greatest Generation," our World War II veterans and Pearl Harbor survivors, to whom we owe an immeasurable debt for their heroic efforts, seven decades ago.

For the last 73 years here in the Pacific, we've remembered Pearl Harbor. We've remained vigilant; and just as the Greatest Generation before us, today's armed forces are more than ready to answer the alarm, and if need be, we're ready to fight tonight and win.

And we're doing everything we can to keep the alarm from sounding in the first place, by enacting America's current strategic rebalance to the Indo-Asia-Pacific, designed to maintain stability, prosperity and peace throughout the region.

And a key leader in the rebalance strategy is today's guest speaker.

And because she's going to do most of the talking today, my part in this ceremony is pretty easy. All I have to do is introduce her.

But the challenge for me is to convey to you the nature of who she is without taking the easy way out and simply reading her bio. You can read her bio: it's in the program, and I encourage you to do so. But wait until after she has spoken or you'll miss some important learning.

So, about a hundred years ago, there was this chess player by the name of Frank Marshall. Most of you probably don't know Frank, but for 27 years he held the title of United States chess champion.

During that time he captained the U.S. team to four gold medals at four Chess Olympiads. He was considered the strongest chess player in the world.

Now I see some confused looks out there. Just bear with me a minute.

Now Frank was respected for his brilliant strategic and tactical skill, and he made chess history when, in 1912, he was playing against the reigning Russian chess champion.

Toward the end of that game he sacrificed his queen, allowing it to be captured any of three different ways. That unexpected move allowed him to win the game just a few moves later. And to this day, it's considered one of the most brilliant chess moves ever played.

Legend says that the audience was so delighted by his victory, that they showered the game board with gold coins.

Now, what does Frank Marshall's legendary mastery of chess have to do with our guest speaker?

Well, let me tell you:

General Lori Robinson served as an ABM, an Air Battle Manager, the essence of which is command and control. With the powerful radar of an AWACS aircraft, she's held the God's eye view of the entire game board, including the disposition of friendly and enemy aircraft, determining the best tactics and then directing the movement of forces to ensure that the good guys are able to checkmate the bad guys.

As far as ABMs go, she's the best of the best; she went on to serve as an ABM instructor, teaching at the Weapons School and then later at her squadron as the chief of tactics. In chess terms, ladies and gentlemen, she's an ABM grandmaster.

She's an accomplished leader, having led Airmen as she commanded an operations group, a training wing and an air control wing.

During Operations *Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*, she deployed as vice commander of the 405<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing, where she was required to continuously assess the tactical situation on both sides of the battlefield, and to marshal forces to put bombs on target, on time, surprising enemy forces and leading the U.S. team to victory in every match.

And she has spent a sizable amount of time studying leadership and strategy and all the stuff that goes into winning on the battlefield.

She earned one master's degree from Troy State University, another from the Naval War College — let me repeat that, the *Naval War College* — and she's a fellow of the Brookings Institution and Harvard University, so clearly she's got the intellect to back up her operational savvy.

Just as Frank Marshall was showered with gold coins for his ability to win at the game of chess, Lori has also been recognized for her bold leadership in the profession of arms.

She made history as the first ABM to put on four stars.

And now she's the commander of the Pacific Air Forces, responsible for Air Force activities encompassing over half the globe. I always say that 70 percent of the world is covered by water. Well, 100 percent of it's covered by air.

And her being PACAF is another first for an ABM. No doubt the Air Force recognizes her mastery of the craft and all she has to offer in leading an important leg of the Combat Air Forces.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm delighted to introduce General Lori Robinson.

Please help me welcome her to the podium.