



## ***Farewell Message***

30 April 2008

1. As I depart the Command, I can honestly say that I have never been prouder to be a Soldier. The commitment by USAREUR Soldiers, Families, and Civilians has been and will continue to be nothing short of awesome. Service to the Nation could not be better exemplified anywhere than is the case here in USAREUR. People—you—have made a difference in defending the values our great country stands for. Every day over the past two and one-half years has reinforced that point to me. Trained and ready formations and Soldiers deployed downrange, continuous transformation of our footprint, constant engagement with today's and tomorrow's coalition partners, and doing all those things the Army and its people do each and every day—you have met and exceeded any goal set by your chain of command. In addition, and critically important to our Army, there is a whole generation of great young officers and noncommissioned officers, experienced as never before, ready to step up and lead our formations into the future. Serving with you has been a singular honor for me, and Carmen and I are inspired by your contributions to this command and its people.

2. Our Nation and our Army will continue to face many challenges in an uncertain world. Terrorism, international crime, political and social unrest, natural disasters, human migration, and many other threats to global security will remain a "persistent" reality for a long time to come. It is our duty to the Nation as Soldiers, supported by a professional Civilian workforce and strengthened by magnificent Family members, to operate in this complex environment and defeat and remove those threats to our Nation and our Allies. We must also continue transforming our Army to better meet the challenges of tomorrow while maintaining a demanding deployment and reset schedule. When combined, these challenges make it hard for us to see the other side of a wide and raging river of uncertainty . . . and to build that bridge that gets us to the far side: security and preservation of our values. We have worked hard together to bridge this gap and reduce uncertainties on our way toward that far riverbank. Carmen and I leave knowing that the leaders of this Command—whether they be Soldiers, Civilians, Spouses, or Volunteers in the Family support chain—will continue to work hard to reduce the complexities and the anxieties of those they lead, and move the 7th Army toward a more certain future. Together, we've come a long way toward the ends we set out in the USAREUR&7th Army Strategy Map. Thank you for making such great progress toward achieving these critical objectives and launching USAREUR down the road to 7th Army.

**McKIERNAN SENDS #3-08**

3. We can also be proud as members of USAREUR&7th Army for what we have already contributed to the fight, and we will never forget the many sacrifices our Soldiers and their Families have made. We are an expeditionary, forward-stationed Army, one that will project boots on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and other dangerous places for as long as they are needed. We will be called on to serve in many other places in the future where American and Allied interests are threatened, locations we cannot even predict today. As long as we stay positive . . . seeing the glass as half full, understanding that only individual leaders and small units win wars, and taking care of the people who remain the centerpiece in all we do . . . we will accomplish all missions. Leadership, people, clear and coherent communications, and sticking to our values as an Army will indeed get us to the far side of that river!



DAVID D. McKIERNAN  
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Commanding

