



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**  
**SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION**

**SACT REMARKS to**  
**Change of Command Ceremony**  
**NORFOLK,**  
**11 September**  
**Général d'armée aérienne André LANATA**

*782 mots : approx. 6'*

*Préparé par LCL Philippe BAILLOT d'ESTIVAUX*



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Dear FOGOs,

ACT Staff members and NATO partners,

My dear family and friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I must begin by telling you how proud I am to be appointed as Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.

Although the weather has disrupted the meticulously prepared ceremony and forced us to change the timing and location, I remain deeply moved.

As you may know, two Florence were racing to join this ceremony and unfortunately instead of Florence Parly, the French Minister of the Armed Forces, we got Florence from the tropics.

I am of course deeply honoured by your presence and I would like to thank all of you for taking part in this very special moment in my life and career. I would especially like to thank as



well all of those who worked hard to prepare this event and adapt at the speed of relevance, example to be followed...

To my dear wife Christine and my 5 wonderful children, Antoine, Marie Laetitia, Alix, Maïlys and, Marie-Gabrielle, who unfortunately is the only one who could make it here today, thank you for your love and your constant support.

Looking out at these diverse uniforms from the Alliance as well as Partner Nations, I am reminded of the spirit of the Washington Treaty. Faced with an existential threat, Allies gathered in collective defense of their values and ideals and stood, shoulder to shoulder, to found this Alliance almost seventy years ago.

Today if we had to rewrite the Treaty, we would probably not change a word, as our strong Alliance has always been able to adapt to our global security environment.



I am extremely honoured to lead one of NATO's two strategic commands and the only one located in the United States of America, a concrete and strong symbol of our transatlantic bond.

As I received the ACT flag, it brought to mind the various flags worn by the men and women who have given so much to NATO from the Cold War to today in Afghanistan, the Balkans, the Mediterranean and elsewhere. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten!

And even as we speak, soldiers, sailors and airmen continue to defend our core values, and ensure the security of our populations and territories, on land, at sea and in the air. God bless all of them and their families.

To succeed in our task, I believe we, as Team ACT, will need the right balance of professionalism, dedication and creativity –or imagination which my illustrious fellow Corsican Napoleon thought [quote] “...*rules the world*” [end quote].

Faced with an unpredictable future and multiple threats, we will have numerous challenges to overcome.



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But I have the utmost confidence in:

- The committed personnel who serve in this command;
- This Command's ability to maintain the pace of Transformation set by General Mercier;
- The Command's willingness to prepare a future based on readiness and responsiveness as we have been tasked to do by our Nations;
- Its ability to harness the creativity needed to leverage emerging technologies and design innovative concepts in order to ensure our future security;
- Its capacity to implement with success the changes to our organization associated with NCS adaptation.
- Its openness and ability to work with others, which is a great source of strength!



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Denis, let me take the opportunity to thank you publicly for your significant contributions over the past three years, to the Alliance as a whole and to this Headquarters in particular. You and your five predecessors are the reason we are where we are today.

I would also like to thank the United States of America and underline the old friendship between our two Nations since the eighteenth century. I take this opportunity to spare a thought for those who suffered on 9/11.

On a more personal note, Denis and Agnès, you have done so much to make Christine and I feel welcome in Hampton Roads and for that we will be forever grateful. I would also especially like to thank the US Navy, despite the aircraft carrier departure, and the city of Norfolk for the many symbols of friendship and welcome we have received since our arrival.



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It includes great advice to help Christine buy the best survival kit possible.

Anyway this is yet more proof of the importance of resilience as we stand in solidarity with the Virginia State authorities.

I am honoured to serve alongside the men and women of the Alliance in the NATO Command and Force Structures, as well as in their national commands and units, who dedicate their lives to peace and security in this world.

I am proud to be ACT's Commander!

Let's move forward! Let us all move forward together!