ASSUMPTION OF BATTALION COMMAND SPEECH

FOR

GLENDA GILL

LTG Johnson, MG Golden, MG Champoux and other distinguished guests, friends, family and United States Forces Korea Special Troops Battalion Soldiers and civilians, I want to welcome all of you and thank you all for sharing this historic ceremony as we witness the activation of a new Army Battalion. Today is a very special day made even more special by having the honor and privilege of sharing it with all of you. To the Eighth Army’s G4 Mobility Division, everyone in the Eighth Army G4 Directorate, and other members of the Eighth Army Staff, thank you for being here today. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to offer my gratitude for your encouraging words and humbling introduction, and for doing a masterful job at hosting today’s event. I want to extend a special acknowledgement to LTC Spletsoser and her Team for everything they’ve done to make the USFK Special Troops Battalion a reality. And of course, to the Eighth Army Band and Color Guard, I want to express sincere gratitude as we thank you for adding dignity and class to this tradition rich ceremony. Throughout history, the sound of the Army’s music and the brilliance of our flags are the standards that have inspired us with pride and determination and you’ve all done a wonderful job in keeping that inspiration alive within all of us. Thank you to the entire Team for your hard work and preparation to make this ceremony such an outstanding event. To SG Canonico, I am honored to serve with you and glad to have you as my battle buddy.

Thomas Jefferson said, “The price of freedom is eternal vigilance,” and with that, a new Battalion is born. We are all embarking on a new adventure together; one that we intend will be effective and efficient. As I look out at all of you here today, and as I see our new Battalion, standing proudly in formation, I am reminded of what makes this country great. I am reminded that as a country, we are only a context. If not for the people-our countrymen and countrywomen, who give these United States the heart and soul and character of the greatest country on earth, those hearts would not beat, that music wouldn’t play, those flags would not billow in this breeze. As President Jefferson reminds us, it takes **VIGILANCE**, and that is why we are here. It takes people and that is why we serve. That is why this new battalion has been formed.

There are many leaders that have inspired me throughout my career in the military, and there is even more inspiration found every day when I interact with each one of you, that have inspired and informed my dedication to this battalion. General Colin Powell may have said, “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure,” I observe you, our comrades, living in those essential moments of hard work and preparation, and your dedication to achieve the end result is truly what inspires me and propels me forward. **Together** we find the way to **victory**.

President George Washington taught us “Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all.” As your commander, I intend to encourage discipline in new lights. With discipline comes focus, concentration and single-mindedness of purpose. Together we will encourage each other to constantly hone our skills and abilities on all fronts.

We are here because we choose to win. And I choose to win with each one of you. I want to congratulate each one of this team and I want you to know that every single person in this battalion is essential to its success. Our skills and strong suits complement each other, and as a team we will succeed at each task and challenge in our mandate. I am proud to be an American and I am proud to assume command of this great new Battalion. Rest assured that my education, training, and Army preparedness will serve me well as I serve all of you and our new venture. Although General George Patton may have said, “Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way,” I am confident that our excellent training and mutual respect for each other and this command will lead to much success for all!! Thank you and onward! (**Insert Army motto if appropriate**)