**14535, Scott Helms – Military - Promotion**

**G**ood Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

This promotion from Captain to Major is a very important event in my life. I’ve worked very hard over the years to pursue a career in the military and this is one more step in a long sought after dream. I look forward to many more years working at a career that I love.

I want to thank my all of my family for being here with me today, my wife Alexandra, my daughter Morgan, my brother Michael, as well as my mother and father-in-law Todd and Myra. My career is important to me and I couldn’t have accomplished what I have without the love and support of my family. My wife and daughter mean all the world to me and have given me so much joy in my life. It means a lot to me to have them to share this event with me. I want to thank Colonel Jonda for hosting this ceremony. I also want to thank everyone for setting up this ceremony and for the beautiful singing of the National Anthem.

People don’t achieve success in their career without having good leadership mentors to teach and train them in the important skills and attributes needed for their career. I want to specifically thank my leadership mentors for their trust and confidence in me. I recognize that this promotion comes with a great deal of responsibility and I have had a great career with fulfilling assignments and some of the best leaders possible. I have had the good fortune to work with strong and talented leadership who have continually guided me to where I am today. These leaders, while teaching and training me have displayed not only the leadership qualities, but also the Army values that are so important in my career. They have patiently given me advice, answered my questions and pointed me in the right direction. It is my hope that I can pass along my lessons as I mentor those under my leadership.

I have had a wide range of experiences that have prepared me for this promotion. I started in the Joint Staff working for the J2 and was later assigned to the Joint Operations Center (JOC) as the J2 representative. Then I was assigned to numerous other positions within the J2 that I thoroughly enjoyed and allowed me to develop as a professional. I have been with the ARNG G2 since 2012, starting as the XO, and currently assigned to Intel communication branch. All of these positions, coupled with my assignment as a Company Commander in PA have instilled professionalism, opportunities, and technical knowledge necessary to be an effective leader.

Today is one of the most important days of my life and of my career. I am thankful for my life experiences, for my mentors and for my family. Today I am thankful for everyone who has made this day happen. I’m even thankful for all the free food and refreshments. With my speech complete I invite everyone to take advantage of all these refreshments and relax and enjoy yourselves.

Thank you Everyone