COMMANDING OFFICERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WANT TO THANK EVERONE BEING HERE TODAY.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WANT TO THANK MY WIFE TAMMY FOR ALWAYS SUPPORTING ME DURING MY DEPLOYMENTS AND TDY’S. SHE HAS ALWAYS ADJUSTED TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN WHILE I HAVE BEEN AWAY

NEXT, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY PARENTS BILL AND BETH FOR ALWAYS… FOR FATHERS DAY YEARS AGO MY DAD SAID “THIS YEAR FOR FATHERS DAY I WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN THE MILITARY, SO I DID AND 34 YEARS LATER HERE I AM. EVERY TIME I DEPLOYED MY DAD WOULD GIVE HIS ADVICE “DON’T VOLUNTEER FOR ANYTHING AND DON’T PICK UP ANY WOODEN NICKLES. OF COURSE, I VOLUNTEERED FOR EVERYTHING AND TO THIS DAY I STILL DON’T KNOW WHAT “DON’T PICK UP ANY WOODEN NICKELS” MEANS

TO MY FAMILY, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND YOUR SUPPORT ALL THESE YEARS AND THANKS FOR BELIEVING IN ME

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE 272D. IT HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE HONOR AND A PRIVILAGE TO SERVE WITH YOU. I HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU PAST AND PRESENT WHICH HAS MADE ME A BETTER MAN. ALL OF YOU ARE PART OF THE BEST E&I UNIT IN THE COUNTRY, DON’T EVER FORGET THAT AND I KNOW THAT YOU ALL WILL CONTINUE TO DO GREAT THINGS

FINALLY, I WANT TO ESPECIALLY THANK COL DOMINGUEZ. WITHOUT YOUR PUSH AND YOUR MENTORSHIP, I NEVER WOULD HAVE PURSUED HALF TO THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAME MY WAY. EVERY TIME YOU CHALLENGED ME TO GO FORWARD BODLY, I FELT EMPOWERED. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A BIG PORTION OF MY SUCCESS.

POST RETIREMENT Continue to work for the phone company, spend more time with family and friends, get in on some volunteering opportunities such as Habitat for Humanity, become a more proficient shooter with the hand gun

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING TODAY TO HEAR ME TALK ABOUT THE END OF MY MILITARY CAREER. Thank you for 34 years of fun, camaraderie, and life-changing moments. Good Luck and safe travels on your up coming deployment.