Wow --- alright well I’d really like to thank everyone for joining me today for this very special day.

Before I begin, Major C, can you please place the Squadron at ease.

Chaplain B, thank you once again for that wonderful invocation and TSgt P…., thank you for that beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. \*\*Pause\*\* Col V, thank once more for entrusting me to lead the men and women of the Force Support Squadron.

Distinguished guests, Gen A, thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to be here Sir. I’m sorry my time on your staff was such short lived! Gen E, thank you for your mentorship and leadership. Colonel R, it has been a pleasure working for you these last couple of years, there is no doubt that I would not be standing here if it weren’t for your mentorship, guidance and pearls of wisdom. Thank you Sir. Col V, Col A, thank you both for your vote of confidence in my ability to lead the Wing’s backbone of support, I will not let you down. Col C, I am looking forward to working with you and the entire maintenance team Sir! Other distinguished guests, thank you all for being here today.

I look to this side of the room where my family is and words cannot express my joy. Many of you know that last year was very hard year for my family. My father was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and my mother suffered ailments that landed her in the hospital for some time. But through the grace of God, my parents are both here and alive to see today. They traveled 13 hours from Anchorage Alaska to be here this afternoon. Thank you. My mother comes down to visit from Alaska almost annually but my Father has not been out of the state in almost 15 years. The last time that my Dad saw me in uniform was at my commissioning ceremony, roughly 10 years ago. I’m so glad they could be here today. Thank you for everything that you’ve done for me, from instilling values in me at a very young age, sending me to college and not freaking out when I told you I had joined AF ROTC my junior year to just give it a “try.” Thank you for your love and support throughout my career.

My beautiful sister, R is also here from Alaska to be with me today. Thank you for all of your support, listening to me vent and just being a shoulder I can lean on. I’m so greatful that you are here sharing this special moment with me.

My girls, O and T, Mommy loves you both very much. Thank you both for keeping me on my toes. And to my amazing husband, T, the love of my life. Thank you for being my rock and my support. Each day we wake up and hit the ground running, it’s a non-stop sprint from dawn until dusk. \*\*Don’t know what else to put here\*\*\* a little polishing would help.

To the men and women of the Force Support Squadron, it is an incredible honor to stand before you today as your new Commander. About three years ago, I remember confiding in my husband, “boy, it would be really neat to be the FSS/CC, and now here I am. NEED A TRANSITION HERE TO THE NEXT SENTENCE DICUSSING DEPLOYMENT.

A leader is someone who earns trust, sets a clear standard then inspires people to meet that standard. Although many of you know me and my background --- and if you don’t, well it’s in the program. My first goal is to earn your trust as a leader. That’s not something that will happen overnight but I can assure you that as your commander I believe that together, we can continue to accomplish great things and move the ball down the field. If you’re wondering what’s important to me, it is taking care of our customers, no matter who they are. I think the FSS is doing an incredible job right now because like many in this room, I too have been a customer of the FSS. As we continue to progress forward and manage our own internal FSS processes I look forward to us strengthening and expanding innovative support to the Wing. My priority is to always consider the effects on our customer before we make any changes. Gone are the days when people could visit their local MPFs and get help right away. Today we have diminished resources, but the workload is still there and our customers expect to have their issues taken care of in a timely manner. We have a tough job that isn’t going to get any easier. In less than 6 UTA days, many of you will be heading down range to do what you have been trained to do. Provide outstanding support. These next few UTAs will seem like a sprint as you not only ensure you meet all readiness requirements but ensure other deplorers from other units are ready to go as well. Service before self. You guys know all about that core value. INSERT MORE VERBIAGE HERE, SOMETHING THAT SAYS I’M HERE FOR THEM AS THEIR COMMANDER…….AND TRANSITION TO THE NEXT PARAGRAPH…

I always want to balance the needs of you all with the needs of the 1,500+ Airmen that we support across two states. If each and every one of you aren’t happy to come to work and don’t feel you can take care of your families or have a balance, then we have a problem. NEED A SOLID CLOSING LINE HERE OF HOW I AM GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE UNIT TO ENSURE WE CAN IN TURN TAKE CARE OF THE WING.

Col V, again thank you Ma’am for your vote of confidence in me. I assure you that the FSS has been and will continue to be in good hands and the FSS strengthen and expand its support to the Wing. Thank you once again to my family for joining me today for this important milestone in my career. I know these ceremonies don’t put themselves together so thank you to everyone who had a hand in putting this event together. I am proud to be back in the Wing and I look forward to leading the men and women of the FSS.