Retirement speech input

Military career started out as an enlisted Airman Basic and retiring as a Colonel

Retiring after close to 40 years in the Air Force

Active duty enlisted 1978 – 1979 Fire and rescue days of the F-4 and A-7 aircraft (pre F-16 era)

South Carolina Air National Guard 1979-1982 fire and rescue, then break in service

117th Air Control Squadron 1987 – 1991, Air Battle Manager (my first job after getting my commission)

Medical School 1991-1995, Residency 1995-1998

Active Duty 1995-2001, physician SHAW AFB (payback from financial assistance while a resident)

25 years in the Georgia Air National Guard

5 years with the 117th Air Control Squadron as a Battle Manager

20 years with the 165th Medical Group as a physician and Flight Surgeon

10 of the 20 years as the Medical Group Commander

Highlights/accomplished over my 20 years with the Medical Group:

1. Received my Flight Surgeon rating enabling me to be part of the 158th squadron C-130 flying community (part of the 165th Airlift Wing)
2. Deployed to Iraq during Iraqi Freedom providing Flight Surgeon support
3. Deployed to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom (with the 158th)
4. Deployed to Kuwait with the 158th
5. With the Medical Group participated in many memorable events:
6. Over the years many exercises and Inspections: Operational Readiness Exercises (ORE’s), Operational Readiness Inspections (ORI’s), Health Services Inspections (HSI’s), Unit Effectiveness Inspection’s (UEI’s), Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) exercises which remind me of our trips to Alpena, Volk Field, Gulfport where we conducted EMEDS exercises (Chem Gear and Gas Mask exercises)
7. Humanitarian Joint Service community healthcare project
8. 781st Army/Air Force Joint Force/Homeland Response Force missions
9. Fighting the COVID 19 Pandemic

This retirement ceremony will follow immediately after my Change of Command

Ceremony will be held in an aircraft hangar in the middle of June in Savannah, GA

Need a slightly shorter speech of around 6-7 minutes

The Wing Commander Col Noren will preside over the ceremony

In attendance will be fellow Group Commanders, squadron commanders, Chiefs and first sergeants

Also attending is my daughter Lindsey, her husband Brian, daughter Harper, my brother Jim, his wife Janet and my dear friend Hannelore

I want to thank the Commanders, Chiefs and First Sergeants for being there.

Special recognition to my family and Hannelore.

I’d like to recognize and extend thanks to the men and women of the 165th Medical Group comprised of several physicians, a Nurse Practitioner, many medics and nurses, the Admin section, Public Health, Bioenvironmental, medical logistics, dental and optometry sections…all vital components that make up the Medical Group.

Closing with some inspirational remarks to the audience and to the young airman who have their military career and future still ahead of them.