

MUSKIE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
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**Outline of remarks as prepared for General James N. Mattis, USMC
Commander, United States Joint Forces Command
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, NATO**

Thank you, Paul, it's been quite a ride since we started as Lieutenants in the Marine Infantry. I'm sure our Company CDR is *still* shaking his head in disbelief.

Even at a distance since our younger days overseas, it's been a matter of pride to all your former shipmates to watch you serve our nation. Certainly it's an honor to be introduced by you for this surprising recognition.

Senator Feinstein, Congressman Roemer, Representative Tauscher, 9-11 Family members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen-- this evening is perplexing and humbling.

I'm humbled in light of the statesman and leader in whose name the award is presented by CNP, and perplexed--for what possible connection could there be between Edmund Muskie and me?

Also, in light of some of my publicized remarks, it's an honor to find myself invited in to any polite company. Yet I did find one connection between Mr. Muskie and me, separated by several decades and different uniforms: we were both naval officers. As enshrined on his tombstone in Arlington, which reads, simply: "Edmund Sixtus Muskie, Lieutenant, United States Navy," just as the Father of our country chose to be remembered as General George Washington and is called that by the ladies who today guide us on tours of Mount Vernon, so did Governor, Senator and Secretary of State Muskie choose his naval service as the defining experience of his life in service to our country.

The Navy young Ed Muskie joined had to adapt in the midst of war; for example, for the first time in history, sea battles were fought by aircraft launched from fleets that never sighted each other, and vigorous amphibious assaults in the face of opposition changed the course of history.

These were the types of fighting with which we were unfamiliar and required us to adapt.

And, so has today's military adapted in the midst of 8 years of active operations.

For as a NATO Supreme Commander and U.S. Combatant Commander, I see first hand how our conventional superiority has fostered the historically expected adaptations by our enemy into a different character of war - Irregular, insurgent, and even hybrid threats.

What do I mean by hybrid threats? Let me quote from Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nazrallah on the second Lebanon war of two summers ago. He said:

"The resistance withstood the attack and fought back. It did not wage a guerrilla war either . . . it was not a regular army but was not a guerrilla in the traditional sense either. It was something in between."

He went on to say that Hezbollah:

"transformed from a traditional guerrilla war into a new unprecedented fighting school—somewhere between a guerrilla war and traditional armies' operations."

Thus, our enemies are blending types of war, searching for our weaknesses and exploiting our vulnerabilities. So as time and enemies change, so must your military – our military must be able to fight non-militaries, not just those who organize and fight in our preferred manner because we must avoid being dominant in conventional war yet irrelevant against the changed threat.

Nowhere is this balanced shift more evident than in what will be a watershed year in the war in Afghanistan, in this insurgent war against tyranny, cloaked in false religion garb, and a war fought among innocent people

This is a war in which we conscientiously do our best to avoid collateral damage and casualties among the innocent, even while our enemies intentionally target the innocent.

Much has been accomplished in our fight in Afghanistan, and much is still to be done.

It is difficult to accept that progress and violence co-exist.

But progress is on *our side* because terrorism's half-life is shorter than the unfounded optimism of a maniacal enemy, for wars are often won by whoever makes the fewest mistakes.

Our forces have learned and adapted, which will pay off in this watershed year – while the enemy is still making mistakes.

Our strategy has been modified by lessons learned the hard way: a recalibrated strategy abetted by a new command structure. Strengthened regional cooperation, diplomatic and military, has been demonstrated by Pakistan moving against our common enemies along the border with the full support of Pakistan's political parties. Overdue Afghan anticorruption efforts have gained traction thanks to the courage and efficiency of the new ministers of interior and finance. Our troops, today, are better trained than ever for this sort of warfare—our NCOs and officers now have graduate degrees in counter-insurgency, the results of years of war and multiple deployments.

Thanks to years of effort, Afghan security forces are gaining competence and confidence, now leading 60% of the operations. There are practical reasons to expect even more capability this year, and Afghan boys have proven that they will fight.

Strengthened by arriving U.S. and international reinforcements, the enemy cannot sustain their hold over the Afghan people anywhere in the country.

NATO's decision last year to move against drug labs is already helping to break the Taliban's hold on the poppy profits--undermining the nexus between drugs and our enemy.

So the pieces are all in play... but a watershed year as I anticipate in 2009 is *not* a victory year.

This is a most complex war and our robustly trained troops using adapted doctrine will be tested, as will the fortitude of our military families who will experience continued deployments of their loved ones.

As a nation, we turned our backs on Afghanistan in the 1990s and paid a price in East Africa, New York City, Washington and elsewhere among our friends. We cannot do that again or history will repeat.

The watershed year will send a message to our enemies who thought that by hurting us they could scare us.

I have fought this enemy for many years so I know full well that we must not patronize him; the enemy means what they say about the hatred of democracy, about intolerance unto death for religious freedom, about no human rights for girls.

But your military is committed, lock, stock and barrel to this fight. For your all-volunteer military is the real recipient of tonight's award. And with no false modesty, I accept this award on behalf of our military men and women, especially on behalf of the 3912 killed and 34321 wounded in action, many grievously wounded since 911, and their families.¹

Author Albert Camus said: "Men are never really willing to die except for the sake of freedom. . . ."

The all-volunteer military has stood the test of war and will continue to do so — as you know, it's a national treasure. We have no intention of failing to live up to the standards set by Lt. Muskie and the greatest generation.

The enemy's only hope is that public support for Afghanistan in the West will give out before their own medieval contradictions doom them in the eyes of the people there, similar to what happened in Iraq's al Anbar province when, for the first time in this war, an entire Middle Eastern population turned against the philosophy of hatred – and turned on Al Qaeda.

This is a continuing struggle, for in a manner of speaking, we have fought this enemy throughout the 20th century—the enemy is tyranny whether called militarism, fascism, communism, or terrorism—or simply totalitarianism.

¹ Global War on Terrorism (OIF & OEF), Casualties (Active, Guard, and Reserve), October 7, 2001 through June 6, 2009, Defense Manpower Data Center (retrieved 15 June 09).

It's just tyranny..instead of Jews and Gypsies who have no right to life, freedom OR dignity as in Lt. Muskie's day, today's tyranny denies human rights to women and all who believe in tolerance.

I thank you for the privilege of fighting this enemy in the finest traditions of Lt. Muskie.

Thank you. May God be with our troops fighting tonight half a world away.

I wish them every success and a safe return home.