

General Joseph Dunford
Change of Command, Headquarters ISAF, Kabul, Afghanistan
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Good morning. Salam Aleikum

Your excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors, distinguished members of the diplomatic community, ladies and gentlemen – once again, thank you for taking the time to be here to share in this ceremony.

I'd especially like to thank our Afghan brothers, Minister Of Defense Muhammadi, Minister Of Interior Patang, and General Karimi for joining us.

General Dempsey, General Domröse, General Mattis, thank you for travelling so far to be a part of today's ceremony.

It's also great to look out and see General Amos and General Bartels with us.

Ambassador Cunningham, Ambassador Olsen, I look forward to working with you and the many other ambassadors here today.

It's truly an honor for me to join the ISAF team.

As General Allen mentioned, this is not the first time I've followed him in command.

I am proud to follow in his footsteps once again.

I've watched with admiration all that the Coalition and our Afghan partners have accomplished under his leadership.

As General Allen departs the theater he leaves the Coalition and our Afghan partners postured for success.

I'll endeavor to continue the momentum of the campaign and support the people of Afghanistan as they seize the opportunity for a brighter future.

General Allen – John – I heard you loud and clear. And I assure you ISAF will remain focused on winning.

Today we're saying good bye to a great leader and changing commands. But today is not about change. It's about continuity.

What's not changed is the will of this coalition.

What's not changed is the discipline and the spirit of the ISAF team.

What's not changed is the growing capability of our Afghan partners, the Afghan National Security Forces.

What's not changed is our commitment to accomplish the mission.

Most importantly, what's not changed is the inevitability of our success.

Once again, on behalf of the men and women of the Coalition and USFOR-A, thank you for being here.

I look forward to greeting you at the reception. Most importantly, I look forward to serving with our Afghan and Coalition partners in this important mission.

Thank you.