

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025

Remarks to the Department of War in Quantico, Virginia
September 30, 2025

Thank you very much, Pete, and great job you're doing too. Fantastic job.

I've never walked into a room so silent before. This is very—[laughter]—don't laugh. Don't laugh. You're not allowed to do that. [Laughter]

You know what? Just have a good time. And if you want to applaud, you applaud. And if you want to do anything you want, you can do anything you want. And if you don't like what I'm saying, you can leave the room. Of course, there goes your rank, there goes your future.
[Laughter]

But you just feel nice and loose, okay? Because we're all on the same team. And I was told that, "Sir, you won't hear a murmur in the room." I said, "We've got to loosen these guys up a little bit." So you just have a good time.

But I want to thank Secretary Hegseth and General Caine—General "Razin" Caine—for a reason, they call him that; when I heard his name, I said, "You're the guy I'm looking for"—the Joint Chiefs of Staff and so many others in this room who together represent the greatest and most elite fighting force in the history of the world: the United States military. We're very proud of our military.

I rebuilt the military during my first term. It's one of the greatest achievements. We had the greatest economy in history, and I built the military. Those are the two things I say more than anything else.

And I also kept us safe at the borders. We had very good borders. We didn't have people coming in from jails and prisons and everything like took place over the last 4 years. You'll never forget what happened to this country over the last 4 years with the incompetence.

There could be no higher honor than to serve as your Commander in Chief. It is a great honor. I look at you, you're just incredible people—central casting, I might add.

To each and every one of you, I thank you for your unwavering devotion to the Armed Forces and to the country that we've all sworn a sacred oath to defend. We all have that oath, every one of us.

I'm thrilled to be here this morning to address the senior leadership of what is once again known around the world as the Department of War. I know Pete spoke about it.

He gave a great speech, I thought. Great speech. I don't want him to get so good. I'm—I hate that. [Laughter] You know? No, I hate it. I almost fired him. I said, "You can't—I don't want to go on after that." [Laughter]

No, he gave a great speech, but he talked about Department of War. We were sitting there. I said, "Didn't it used to be called the Department of War?" Then he goes: "Yes, sir. They changed it, like, in the early fifties."

So we won the First World War. We won the Second World War. We won everything in between and everything before that. We only won. And then we went, in a way, woke. That was probably the first sign of wokeness, and we changed it to "Defense" instead of "War."

And I said: "What do you think? How do you think—if we changed it back? Would that be a nice idea?" And Pete loved it immediately. Some people thank—thought about it, you know, they gave it a little thought. But in the end, we did it.

And I have to be honest, it's so popular. It's—I thought it would be met with fury on the left, but they're sort of giving up. I must be honest with you. *[Laughter]* They've had it. They've had it with Trump. They've been after me for so many years now. Here we are. *[Laughter]* Here we are. Come to the White House anytime you'd like. No, they've given up. Bad—a lot of bad people.

But all over that's been so popular. It's been a very popular—I really thought that we were going to have to sort of fight it through. There's been no fight. There's been no fight.

Like when I call the Gulf of America, "the Gulf of America," because to me, it was always the Gulf of America. I could never understand—we have 92 percent of the frontage. And for years—actually, 350 years—they were there before us—it was called the Gulf of Mexico. I just had this idea. I'm looking at a map. I'm saying: "We have most of the frontage. Why is it Gulf of Mexico? Why isn't it the Gulf of America?" And I made the change, and it went smoothly.

I mean, we had a couple of fake news outlets that refused to make the change, and then one of them, AP, took us to court, and we won. And the judge, who was a somewhat liberal judge, said, "The name is the Gulf of America," because AP refused to call it the Gulf of America. They wrote—they're not a good outfit, by the way. They call it the Gulf of Mexico.

I said, "No, the Gulf of America is the name." And the judge actually said that: "In fact, you can't even go into the room because what you're doing is not appropriate. The name is the Gulf of America." Google Maps changed the name. Everybody did, but AP wouldn't, and then we won in court. How about that? Isn't that so cool?

As Secretary Hegseth beautifully described, the name change reflects far more than the shift in branding. It's really a historic reassertion of our purpose and our identity and our pride. That's when we go with the word "war."

And you know, we want "war" because we want to have no wars, but you have to be there, and, you know, sometimes you have to do it. I have settled so many wars since we're here. We're here almost 9 months, and I've settled seven, and yesterday, we might have settled the biggest of them all. Although, I don't know, Pakistan-India was very big, both nuclear powers. I settled that.

But yesterday is—could be the settlement in the Middle East. That hasn't happened for 3,000 years. I said, "How long have you been fighting?" "Three thousand years, sir." That's a long time.

But we got it, I think, settled. We'll see. Hamas has to agree, and if they don't, it's going to be very tough on them. But it is what it is.

But all of the Arab nations, Muslim nations have agreed. Israel has agreed. It's an amazing thing. It just came together. War is very strange. You know, you never know what's going to happen with war.

The easiest one of them all is Putin. I said, number one, it's a war that would have never happened if I were President. If the election weren't rigged and if I were President, that war would have never happened. Not even a little chance. And it didn't happen for 4 years.

But I knew Putin very well, and I thought that would be easy, because I know him so well. Well, that one's turned out to be the hardest of them all. We had some that were not settleable, and they all got settled.

So, if this works out that we did yesterday with the Middle East, then that's more than a war. That's lots of wars. That's—all combined, that's a lot of wars. Many of you were over there in many different capacities in many different countries. That was a—that's a big part of the Earth.

But if that works out, it would be eight-plus. I'm going to give myself two or three for that one. And then we just have the one to settle, and we have to settle it up with President Putin and Zelenskyy. Got to get them together and get it done.

But the only way we can do that is through strength. I mean, if we were weak, they wouldn't even take my phone call. But we have extreme strength.

We had the horror show in Afghanistan, which is really the reason I think that Putin went in. He saw that horror show by Biden and his team of incompetent people, and that showed—I think it gave him a path in. I wasn't there any longer. I watched that. It was so, so horrible. I think it was the most embarrassing day in the history of our country.

And now we're back, and that's it. And we're not going to have any of that crap happen, I can tell you. That was terrible. So terrible.

Together, we're reawakening the warrior spirit, and this is a spirit that won and built this nation and—from the cavalry that tamed the Great Plains to the ferocious, unyielding power of Patton, Bradley, and the great General Douglas MacArthur. These were all great men.

In this effort, we're a team. And so my message to you is very simple: I am with you, I support you, and as President, I have your backs 100 percent. You'll never see me even waver a little bit. It's the way it is. And that includes our great police officers and firemen and all of these people that are doing so well.

Together, over the next few years, we're going to make our military stronger, tougher, faster, fiercer, and more powerful than it has ever been before.

I rebuilt our nuclear, as you probably know, but we'll upgrade that also and just hope we never have to use it. We have to hope we never have to use it, because the power of that is so incredible. I've—I see things. I don't think they'd show it to you. I don't—I really wouldn't want them to show it to you. But when you see the result of what's left, you never want to use that. Never. Never, ever.

We were a little bit threatened by Russia recently, and I sent a submarine—nuclear submarine. The most lethal weapon ever made. Number one, you can't detect it. There's no way—we're 25 years ahead of Russia and China in submarines. Russia is actually second in submarines. China is third. But they're—you know, they're coming up. They're coming up.

They're way lower in nuclear too, but in 5 years, they'll be equal. They're coming up. And you don't have to be that good with nuclear. You could have one-twentieth what you have now and still do the damage that would be—you know, you—that'd be so horrendous.

But I announced that, you know, based on his mention of nuclear—and it was really a stupid person that works for him mentioned the word "nuclear." I moved a submarine or two—I won't say about the two—over to the coast of Russia, just to be careful, because we can't let people throw around that word.

I call it the N-word. There are two N-words, and you can't use either of them. You can't use either of them.

And frankly, if it does get to use, we have more than anybody else. We have better. We have newer. But it's something we don't ever want to even have to think about.

But when somebody mentions it, that submarine started immediately thereafter. And it's just lurking, but I'm sure we're not going to have to use it. But it's an amazing—it's undetectable, totally. Ours is; theirs isn't. Theirs are totally detectable. We can detect them easily. We go right to the spot.

But we have genius apparatus that doesn't allow detection. It doesn't allow detection at all by anybody, above water or below water. It's incredible. We're way ahead of everybody in that and other things.

As a result of the exciting renewal of the spirit of our Armed Forces—and that's what it is—it's really reaching that spirit, unprecedented heights—over the past 8 months, new enlistments—I'm so proud of this—have surged to record highs, the highest we've ever had. And we used to have recruiting shortages.

If you remember, about a year and a half ago, I was at the beginning stage of a campaign, and things came out that you couldn't get people to join the armed forces.

And by the way, the police also, fire department. I always put the fire department in, because they're great. They're great, and I got 95 percent of their vote too. That helps. When you get 95 percent of their vote, you always have to mention them. *[Laughter]* But they're great and they're brave.

In our inner cities, which we're going to be talking about, because it's a big part of war now. It's a big part of war. But the firemen go up on ladders, and you have people shooting at them while they're up on ladders. I don't even know if anybody heard that, but—and I said, "Don't talk about it much," but I think you have to.

Our firemen are incredible. They're up on one of these ladders that goes way up to the sky rescuing people, and you have animals shooting at them—shooting bullets at firemen that are way up in death's territory. You fall off that ladder, it's over. It's over. They don't even have to inspect you when you hit the ground. And you have people shooting bullets at them in some of these inner cities. We're not going to let that happen.

So I always mention the firemen, because that's actually a big problem we have. And they are unbelievable. Like you, they're unbelievable people.

For the first time on record, in 2025, the Navy, Air Force, and Space Force all met or surpassed their recruiting goals 3 months early. That never happened before. And the Army did even better. Congratulations, Army.

They met everything. And these were the highest standards, because we're making it larger. So these were much higher standards than you had 4 years ago, 3 years ago during the Sleepy Joe Biden era. And the Army did it 4 months early.

And you remember, a year and a half ago, they said—the big story is that we're way behind with the Army, Air Force, the Navy, the Marines—we're way behind—Coast Guard, and even Space Force.

I love Space Force because that was my creation. You know, when you create something—I love it. And the people we put in there were good. I got that right. We put in great people initially, and we—we've really dominated. We really dominate in that sphere now. We were way behind China and Russia, and now we dominate. Space Force turned out to be a very important thing.

I said from the beginning—you know, when Biden came into office, he wanted to terminate it. He said, "And this thing called Space Force, oh, we can get rid of that," and he got hammered by the people in this room for even suggesting it because it's very important. One of the most important. And as time goes by, it'll get more and more important.

But we're now at 106 percent of our recruiting targets for the year, and that's the best in far more than a generation.

And for the Marines, morale is so strong that the Marine Corps will meet its 2026 retention targets before the end of October, which never happens, and that's the earliest it's ever happened in the history of our country. And it makes you feel good, you know?

I felt guilty. I'd go make a speech in front of—never people like you; you are the—you are the leaders—but people, soldiers. And I felt embarrassed because there'd be stories about, you know, you couldn't—we couldn't fill up our Army, Navy, Air Force. We couldn't fill them up. And it was headlines. It was headlines. It was during Biden's 4 years. The autopen—I call him "the autopen."

It's—how would you like to have your thing signed by an autopen? You know, when I have a general, and I have to sign for a general—because we have beautiful paper—the gorgeous paper. I said: "Throw a little more gold on it. They deserve it. Give me—I want the A paper, not the D paper." *[Laughter]* We used to sign a piece of garbage. I said, "This man's going to be a general, right?" "Yes." "I don't want to use this. I want to use the big, beautiful, firm paper. I want to use the real gold writing when you talk about the positions," and they're beautiful.

And—but how would you like to have that, where you—some kid sitting in the back office is having it signed with an autopen?

I thought about it, and I thought about you people first—admirals, generals. I said somebody works his whole life. He gets into maybe the academies or wherever, but he—however you got there, and you go through years of work. And now you become an admiral or a general or a whatever. And when you do, the President of the United States is—signs your commission, as you know. And that commission is beautifully displayed.

And I sign it. Actually, I love my signature. I really do. Everyone loves my signature. *[Laughter]* But I sign it very proudly. And I always think to myself, "How can you have an autopen sign this?" It's just so disrespectful. To me, it's just totally disrespectful.

And it turned out that almost everything he did was signed by autopen, except for when he gave his son Hunter, pardon. He signed that one. *[Laughter]* And that's actually the worst signature I've ever seen. That was a bad—the autopen looks much better.

But as leaders, our commitment to every patriot who put on the uniform is to ensure that American military remains the most lethal and dominant on the planet not merely for a few years but for the decades and generations to come—for centuries. We must be so strong that no nation will dare challenge us, so powerful that no enemy will dare threaten us, and so capable that no adversary can even think about beating us.

And we've had it recently. I had—India and Pakistan were going at it. And I called them both, and in this case, I used trade: "I'm not going to trade with you. You start"—two nuclear nations—big nuclear. "No, no, no. You cannot do that." I said: "Yes, I can. You go into this freaking war that I'm hearing about"—you know, actually, they just shot down seven planes. Seven planes. It was starting. There's a lot of bad blood.

And I said, "You do this, there's not going to be any trade," and I stopped the war. It was going. It was raging for 4 days, but that was just the beginning. And we stopped it. It was a great thing.

And the Prime Minister of Pakistan was here along with the field marshal, who is a very important guy in Pakistan. And he was here 3 days ago.

And I didn't even realize it, as beautifully as he said it, but he said that—to a group of people that were with us—two generals, but a group—he said: "This man saved millions of lives because he saved the war from going on. And that war was going to get very bad. Very, very bad. President Trump saved millions and millions of lives." That was a bad war. And I was very

honored. I loved the way he said it. Susie Wiles was there. She said, "That was the most beautiful thing."

But we saved a lot of them. Saved a lot of them. Even in Africa, we saved the Congo, with Rwanda. They've been fighting for 31 years. Ten million people dead. I got that one done. And very proud of it.

So, if this works out, we'll have eight. Eight in 8 months. That's pretty good. Nobody has ever done that.

"Will you get the Nobel Prize?" Absolutely not. They'll give it—[laughter]—they'll give it to some guy that didn't do a damn thing. They'll give it to a guy that wrote a book about the mind of Donald Trump and what it took to solve the wars. And he'll get—the Nobel Prize will go to the—a writer. [Laughter]

No, but—well, let's see what happens. But it's—be a big insult to our country, I will tell you that. I don't want it. I want the country to get it. And it should get it, because there's never been anything like it. Think of it.

So, if this happens—I think it will. I don't say that lightly, because I know more about deals than anybody—this is what my whole life was based on—and they can change, and this can certainly change.

But we have just about everybody. We have one signature that we need, and that signature will—will pay in hell if they don't sign. I hope they sign for their own good, and we create something really great.

But to have done eight of them is just, like, such an honor. And then we have Putin and Zelenskyy. The easiest one of them all. I said, "That one, I'll get done." I thought that was going to be first. The others were much harder—some of them. Azerbaijan was—this was going on for 36 years. They said: "It's not solvable, sir. You can't. Don't do it." I said: "I will do it. I will do it." And I got on the phone with the two countries. They were great. They were great. I knew immediately—I knew as soon as I started talking to them we're going to solve that war, and we did. Now they're so happy. Now they're friends.

One said—he's been President for 32 years—22 years. He said, "You know, for 22 years I did nothing but kill his people." They were in the room together at the Oval Office. And they started off spread like this. I have the beautiful Resolute Desk. And one was here, and one was here. You couldn't get further away. That's the furthest I've ever seen two people in front of me.

And as the hour went by, they got closer, closer, closer. And at the end of the hour, we had it done. And they hugged and hugged and hugged. And I said, "That's so nice, and you're going to remain friends." And I spoke to them—one of them the other day. He said, "No, he's now my friend."

But for 22 years—he's been the head of Azerbaijan for 22 years. And the other guy—great guy too—seven.

And you know, that war—that was a war that was not solvable. He said, "For seven years"—the other one said for 22 years—"all I did was kill his people. That's all I've done." I said, "Well, we're going to put a stop to that." So we solved that.

So it's a great thing. It's a great feeling. You know, you're saving—Kosovo and Serbia—you're saving so many lives doing this, if you can do it.

But our people deserve nothing less than the very best, and we'll never going to let them down. And if we can solve wars instead of you having to fight wars, wouldn't that be wonderful? Right? Wouldn't that be wonderful?

That's why one of the first Executive orders I signed upon taking office was to restore the principle of merit. That's the most important word—other than the word "tariff." I love tariffs. [Laughter] Most beautiful word. But I'm not allowed to say that anymore. I said "tariff" is my favorite word. I love the word "tariff." You know, we're becoming rich as hell.

We have a big case in front of the Supreme Court, but I can't imagine—because this is what other nations have done to us. And we have, you know, great legal grounds. "Oh, but you still have a case." It would be very bad if something happened.

But I said my favorite word in the English dictionary is the word "tariff," and people thought that was strange. And the fake news came over, and they really hit me hard on it. They said: "What about 'love?' What about 'religion?' What about 'God?' What about 'wife,' 'family?'" I got killed when I said "tariff" is my favorite word. So I changed it. It's now my fifth-favorite word. [Laughter] And I'm okay with that. I'm okay with that. But they hit me hard.

But it is. I mean, when you look at—we've taken in trillions of dollars. We're rich again. And there'll never be—when we finish this out, there'll never be any wealth like what we have. Other countries were taking advantage of us for years and years—you know that better than anybody—and now we're treating them fairly. But the money coming in is—we've never seen anything like it.

The other day, they had \$31 billion that they found. Thirty-one billion dollars. "Sir, we found \$31 billion, and we're not sure from where it came." A gentleman came in, a financial guy. I said, "Well, what does that mean?" He said, "We don't know where it came." I said, "Check the tariff shelf." "No, sir, the tariffs haven't started in that sector yet." I said: "Yes, they have. They started 7 weeks ago. Check it." Comes back 20 minutes later. "Sir, you're right. It came from tariffs."

Thirty-one billion—that's enough to buy a lot of battleships, Admiral, to use an old term. But I think we should maybe start thinking about battleships, by the way. [Laughter] You know, we have a Secretary of the Navy. He came to me because I look at the Iowa out in California, and I look at different ships the old pictures. I used to watch "Victory at Sea." I love "Victory at Sea." Look at these admirals. They—it's got to be your alltime—in black and white.

And I look at those ships. They came with the destroyers alongside of them, and, man, nothing was going to stop—they were 20 deep, and they were in a straight line, and there was nothing going to stop them.

And we actually talk about, you know, those ships. Some people would say, "No, that's old technology." I don't know. I don't think it's old technology when you look at those guns. But it's something we're actually considering—the concept of battleship. Nice, six-inch sides, solid steel. Not aluminum—aluminum that melts if it looks at a missile coming at it. It starts melting as the missile is about 2 miles away. [Laughter]

No, those ships—they don't make them that way anymore, but you look at it—and your Secretary likes it, and I'm sort of open to it. And bullets are a lot less expensive than missiles. A lot of reasons—I should take a vote, but I'm afraid to take that vote, because I may get voted out on that one. But I tell you, it's something we're seriously considering. They're—they were powers. They were big powers. They were just about as mean and scary as you could be. And so we're looking at that.

One of the biggest cases that we won was the decision of the United States Supreme Court to allow us to proceed on the word "merit." "Merit." So those two words are right up there. So this is, I would say, the opposite—if you ask for a definition—the opposite of political correctness.

We went through political correct, where you had to have people that were totally unfit to be doing what you're doing. For many reasons—I won't get into them—but for many reasons, they were unfit.

Now it's all based on merit. That was such an unbelievable decision. I didn't expect we were going to win that one. We went in. We said, "We need it." We went in for colleges, you know, where kids with a "C" average are getting into the best colleges, and the kids with "A" averages won't get in. And kids with the highest boards and the highest marks and the best marks couldn't get into the best schools. And people that had not good boards and not very good marks—I mean, okay, but nothing special—they were getting into our best colleges. I said: "This is just crazy. We can't run—you can't run a country like this."

And it's—it was lingering for years. And it got to the Supreme Court, and we won that decision—merit. Everything is based on merit. You're all based on merit. We're not going to have somebody taking your place for political reasons, because they are politically correct and you're not.

We take the people that are going to do the best job. That's all. It's very simple, and that's the way our country was built. We were built on merit. We got away from it for a long time, and everyone understands it.

And it was done. It was approved. I give great credit to the Supreme Court, because I thought they had tremendous courage. I didn't think they'd do that. That was tremendous. I give them—maybe for that decision, almost more than anything, because it's a hard decision to make. It's really hard.

The apparatus of our country was not set up for merit. It was set up for political correctness, and you can never be great if you're going to do that, and we're going to be greater than we ever were before.

We're bringing back a focus on fitness, ability, character, and strength. And it's because the purposes of American military is not to protect anyone's feelings. It's to protect our republic, and it's the republic that we dearly love. It's to protect our country.

We will not be politically correct when it comes to defending American freedom, and we will be a fighting and winning machine. We want to fight, we want to win, and we want to fight as little as possible.

You have to count on people like me to keep you out of wars, because we don't want to go into wars. Many of the wars that I just told you about, we could have entered those wars and settled them in a different way, lose a lot of our troops.

And we're going to settle them, I guess, differently. Maybe not, actually, be—I—actually, you might not have been able to settle them. We just would have been in the middle of a lot of—a lot of firepower. But when we do need it, you're going to be so ready, and you know it.

But very importantly, with that goal in mind, I've committed to spending over \$1 trillion on our military in 2026, and that's the most in the history of our country. One trillion dollars, that's a lot of money. I hope you like that, ma'ams and sirs. I hope you like it. That's a hell of a lot of money

We have the best of everything. Every branch is seeing major investments. And as I announced in the Oval Office in March, we are rapidly moving forward with the first-ever sixth-generation fighter jet.

I didn't name it. I did not name it. Boeing came in, and they said: "Sir, this is our submittal. It's the greatest fighting jet ever done." And you know, they're testing all these planes. All the companies are testing, and this one tested, like, through the roof.

And they said, "We'd like to name it the F-47." I said, "All right, let me think about it." [Laughter] Then, after thinking for about 2 seconds, I said, "Okay." [Laughter]

You know what that means, 47? I'm 47. So I'm 45, 46, and 47, you know, if you think about it. I just don't want the credit for 46. [Laughter] I don't want to have their open borders and people coming in from all over the world, including jails and mental institutions—I don't want that on my record. But I like having it.

We're investing tens of billions of dollars in modernizing our nuclear deterrence capabilities like never before, and we've begun construction on what we call the Golden Dome missile defense shield. It will be the most sophisticated in the world. You watched it do well, until they had some problems at the end with a little bit of a lack of ammunition—defensive ammunition. But they've got that taken care of.

But I tell you, it's—what we're doing is so good, and we deserve it. You know, we help other countries with it. We don't have it ourselves.

And Canada called me a couple of weeks ago. They want to be part of it, to which I said: "Well, why don't you just join our country? You become 51. Become the 51st State, and you get it for free."

So I don't know if that made a big impact, but it does make a lot of sense. It actually makes because they're having a hard time up there in Canada now, because, as you know, with tariffs, everyone is coming into our country.

We have more investment than we've ever had before—\$17 trillion coming in. As an example, in 4 years, Biden didn't have \$1 trillion. We have \$17 trillion—more than that—in 8 months coming in. And they're coming in from Canada, Mexico, from Europe, from all over—AI, auto plants—everybody is coming back to the United States.

Under my budget, we will be expanding the U.S. Navy by at least 19 ships next year, including submarines, destroyers, assault ships, and more. And it's going to be much more than that as we go along, because we basically don't build ships anymore. We do build submarines, but we don't build ships.

Do you know, in the Second World War, there were freighters and different types, but we were doing a ship a day? And now we don't do ships. And I'm not a fan of some of the ships you do. I'm a very aesthetic person, and I don't like some of the ships you're doing aesthetically.

They say, "Oh, it's stealth." I say: "That's not stealth. An ugly ship is not necessary in order to say you're stealth."

By the way, the B-2 bombers were incredible. That is stealth. They went into that—I was with General Caine and every—and Pete were in the—we call it the "War Room." But we're watching them go in, and they were totally untouched. They were not seen. They were literally not seen.

They dropped their bombs. They hit—every single one of them hit its target. It was total obliteration.

CNN, when we came back—fake news, CNN—oh, their camera just went off. Look. [Laughter] You know, their camera—every time I mention, they turn their camera off, because it's never good. They say, "This is a problem." But I don't blame them. You're better off keeping it off.

But they have some scammer reporter who started saying, without any knowledge, that: "He may not have hit the targets as well as they thought. It may not have been obliteration. He did hit the targets." You know, they got to give us a little credit, right? It was obliteration, it turned out. The Atomic Energy Commission said it was obliterated—they had—not only did they hit the target, they had these chutes. And think of this. You're way up in the sky. There was no moon. It was dead dark. You couldn't see a thing. You couldn't see them. But they had, I guess, a beam going right into these chutes. Every single one of those bombs went right down those chutes into a granite mountain.

I think it's the last time they're going to build air chutes. They had these air chutes that were nice, beautiful. They were meant for us. But it was total obliteration, and now they give us credit for that.

But these people were phenomenal, I tell you. For the Air Force people here, you can be very proud. That B-2—we just ordered a lot of new ones—new ones and updated ones. But I'd be—I'd take the other ones, let me tell you. They couldn't have worked any better.

So they flew for 37 hours total, back and forth. No stops, no nothing. We had 52 tankers loading them up. And that's a job I wouldn't necessarily want too much: flying a tanker loaded up with hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel. I don't know if I'd do that job, you know.

I asked the question, "What happens if it gets hit?" "Sir, you don't want to know about that." Right? I don't want to know about that.

But those guys, they're just heroes. They're incredible. I had them all to the Oval Office. We had the B-2 pilots, and a lot of the people—even the people that took care of them, the maintenance people, just as important. We had them all to the White House, gave them a big party on the lawn, brought some of them into the Oval Office.

But, on top of all this, we'll deliver a hard-earned pay raise of 3.8 percent to every soldier, sailor, airman, coastguardsman, space guardman, and marine, something you weren't getting from the past administration. They did not treat you with respect. They're Democrats. They never do.

Not only are we rebuilding our great strength, but for the first time in years, my administration is actually using that strength to defend the core and vital interests of America. And very simply, we are putting America first. And I have—since I've been elected, I've always put America first. It's sort of simple, you know, when you think.

It's—my campaign was run on common sense, and we did great. We had the highest numbers ever received in terms of districts—you know, they have it broken up—2,500 versus 525. We won every swing State. We won the popular vote. We won everything. We won everything.

You have to take a look at the map. It's almost entirely red, except there's a little blue line on each coast, and I think that's going to disappear too. We did really great, and part of it is because of our success with the military, the rebuilding of the military.

The vote that I got from the military—and they—they're vicious people, you know, that we have to fight, just like you have to fight vicious people. Mine are different—a different kind of vicious. But they spread all these horrible—you know, they made up statements and said—what I said about everything, but even about the military. But fortunately, the military didn't believe it.

It's so hard. You know, they make up a statement and they said you say it. We had 25 people that said, "He never said that." Twenty-five. We had 25 affidavits. And they said, "Well, we're going with it anyway." You know, these sleazebags.

And that's why the press is really losing all power, because people aren't believing it. We need an honest press. We need borders. We need borders, we need an honest press, we need fair elections. I mean, those three things.

And we don't have an honest press. We have a really corrupt press, but we fight through the corrupt press, and the people understand.

You have to do this stuff a lot. You have to go on television a lot, because you can't get a fair shake if you're going to rely on somebody else. It's—they're just—they don't understand. They've destroyed the image of media now is at the lowest point it's ever been. It's lower than Congress. Can you believe that? [Laughter] That's something.

But together, with many of you in the room, we've brought back the fundamental principle that defending the homeland is the military's first and most important priority. That's what it is.

Only in recent decades did politicians somehow come to believe that our job is to police the far reaches of Kenya and Somalia, while America is under invasion from within. We're under invasion from within—no different than a foreign enemy, but more difficult in many ways because they don't wear uniforms. At least when they're wearing a uniform, you can take them out. These people don't have uniforms. But we are under invasion from within, and we're stopping it very quickly.

After spending trillions of dollars defending the borders of foreign countries, with your help, we're defending the borders of our country from now on. We're not going to let this happen.

Biden let people come in from prisons, mental institutions—drug dealers, murderers. You know, we had 11,488 murderers allowed into our country by this guy who had no clue. He had no clue. He shouldn't have been there in the first place. But he had no clue.

The people that ran the office, the White House, were people that surrounded him—radical-left lunatics that are brilliant people, but dumb as hell when it came to policy and common sense. And they allowed people from all over the world—from the Congo—they opened up prisons in the Congo. They came into our country totally unmatched, unvetted, unchecked—and from all over South America.

Not just South America. You know, you think South America. No, but from all over. A lot came in from Venezuela. Venezuela emptied its prison population into our country. That's why they have Tren de Aragua, one of the worst gangs ever. But we took care of them. We took good, strong care of them.

And I just want to thank the National Guard in Washington, DC. There was—it was—it's embarrassing to say this. Now I can say it because we solved it, but Washington, DC, was the most unsafe, most dangerous city in the United States of America and, to a large extent, beyond—and beyond that. Go to some—you go to Afghanistan, they didn't have anything like that. You go to countries that you would think there's problems, they didn't have that.

And now Washington, DC, after 12 days of serious, serious intensity—we took out 1,700 career criminals. If you have five career criminals, they can make your numbers look very bad because they'll commit many crimes a day. But we took out 1,700. And they took them out. There was no doubt who the boss was. They did an unbelievable job.

Then they started even cleaning. I said, "I don't want them doing that." "Sir, they want to." They were cleaning it up.

I drove through it 2 days ago. It was beautiful. People are walking down the street holding hands. Man and wife coming from Iowa, they're not worried about being shot. Washington, DC, is now a safe city.

In fact, I went out to dinner with my crew. I haven't done that. In theory, I wouldn't do it. And I felt totally safe. And nobody has been attacked. Nobody has been hurt. Washington, DC, went from our most unsafe city to just about our safest city in a period of a month.

We had it under control in 12 days. But give us another 15, 16 days, it was—it's perfect.

And people, other than politicians that look bad—they think—you know, the Democrats run most of the cities that are in bad shape. We have many cities in great shape too, by the way. I want you to know that. But it seems that the ones that are run by the radical-left Democrats—what they've done to San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles—they're very unsafe places, and we're going to straighten them out one by one.

And this is going to be a major part for some of the people in this room. That's a war too. It's a war from within. Controlling the physical territory of our border is essential to national security. We can't let these people in.

You know, we had no people enter in the last 4 months. Zero. Even I can't believe that.

You know, we had millions coming in, pouring in—25 million, all told. And of those 25 million, many of them should never be in our country. They would take their worst people and their people from prisons and jail, and they put them in a caravan, and they'd walk up.

CNN was interviewing one person: "Oh, why are you coming?" "I want freedom." "Good." "Were you in jail?" "Yes." "For what?" "Murder." She said, "You're in for"—you had to see this anchor, a young woman. She's like, "I couldn't believe"—she'll probably lose her job.

But—because the left doesn't want to hear that. But we're running it based on common sense and based on love of our country.

But I want to salute every servicemember who has helped us carry out this critical mission. It's really a very important mission. And I told Pete we should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military—National Guard—but military.

Because we're going into Chicago very soon. That's a big city with an incompetent Governor—stupid Governor. Stupid. They threw him out of his family business he was so stupid. I know the family. He becomes Governor. He's got money—not money that he made. But he ran for Governor, he won, and now he criticizes us all the time.

And last week, they had 11 people murdered, 44 people shot. The week before that, they had 5 people murdered, 28 people shot. Every weekend, they lose five, six. If they lose five, they're considering it a great week. They shouldn't lose any. You shouldn't lose any. This is civilization. And he's always up there saying: "We're in very good shape. We don't need the military." No, they need the military desperately.

How about Portland? Portland, Oregon, where it looks like a war zone. And I get a call from the liberal Governor, "Sir, please don't come in. We don't need you." I said: "Well, unless they're playing false tapes, this looked like World War II. Your place is burning down. I mean, you must be kidding." "Sir, we have it under control." I said: "You don't have it under control, Governor, but I'll check it, and I'll call you back." I called him back, I said, "You—this place is a nightmare." Probably—it's certainly not the biggest, but it's one of the worst. It's brutal.

They go after our ICE people, who are great patriots. And tough job too, but they love it. They love it because they're cleaning up our country.

And so, you look at some of the things where they took over parts of Seattle. They actually took over a big percentage of Seattle. Think of it. You remember that. That was a while ago. And I sent in the troops, and they were gone as soon as I sent them in. Oh, when we send in the troops—if you have a real leader that says you got to do what you have to do. I put that out the

other day: You've got to do what you got to do. Because we don't want our people hurt as they stand by.

I was watching, during Biden, they were—had troops standing up like this: brave, standing up at attention—the way I should stand all the time. And—like this. And people are standing there, their mouth is this far away from their mouth, and they're spitting at them, and they're screaming at them. And that soldier standing there, he wants to knock the hell out of the person, but he's not allowed to do anything. So they just stand there, and they get abused, and the—a woman was this far away from his face, and she starts spitting in his face. And he's not allowed to do anything.

If it's okay with you, Generals and Admirals, I've taken that off. I say, "They spit, we hit." [Laughter] Is that okay? I think so. They spit—it's a new—it's a new thing. "They spit, we hit."

How about the cars, where the cars are coming out? They get brandnew cars—Border Patrol, ICE—beautiful, nice, new cars. And they're driving along and have to go through a gauntlet of rocks being thrown at the car. So here's this beautiful, brandnew car. By the time it goes a hundred yards, it's destroyed. These guys have pretty good arms, some of them, and they're throwing bricks at full force into the window and into the car. It looks like it's a war zone.

And I said, "Never let that happen again." From now on, if that ever happens—and I say it here, you get out of that car and you can do whatever the hell you want to do, because those people are—you know, you can die from that. Those bricks go through the windows, you can die. They'd like it to—they'd like it to go through the window.

But this was a couple of months ago. They just kept driving, and bricks are hitting the car. And I said, "Why aren't they stopping?" Because they were under orders from the past administration: "Never stop."

But that's different with us. We stop. And since I gave that order, we haven't had that problem. It's very interesting. It's amazing.

It's just like in Venezuela—you've seen the boats going. "We can't find any more boats." They're carrying drugs. Massive—every boat kills about 25,000 people. That's what they had—they had fentanyl, mostly, and a lot of other drugs. And we take them out. And we've taken out four, so—and it's on air. Everybody gets to see it, not that we like to do that.

But every boat kills 25,000, on average. Twenty—there's—some people say more. You know, you see these boats, they're stacked up with bags of white powder. That's mostly fentanyl and other drugs too.

And now we have a problem. General Caine said: "Sir, there are no boats out there. Not even fishing boats. They don't want to go fishing." I don't blame them. There will be no fishing today, you know. [Laughter]

But it's amazing what strength will do, because what we want to do is stop drugs from flowing into our country. It's destroying—we lost—300,000 people died last year. Everybody knows friends—many friends, probably, that—you lost a child—or adults too—but you've lost a son or daughter because of what's coming into our border, and we're making it very hard. Oh, and we haven't even started yet.

Last month, I signed an Executive order to provide training for a quick reaction force that can help quell civil disturbances. This is going to be a big thing for the people in this room, because it's the enemy from within, and we have to handle it before it gets out of control. It won't get out of control once you're involved at all. They all joke. They say, "Oh, this is not good."

You saw it in Washington. We had gangs of Tren de Aragua—10, 12, 15, kids—and these military guys walk up to them. And they treat them with disrespect, and they just got pounded. They just got pounded—the gang—just pounded, then thrown into paddy wagons and taken back to their country.

Some are so dangerous we don't want to even do that because it—we don't want to—some of them, stone-cold murderers. We don't have the confidence. Even though they're not coming back very easily, we don't have the confidence. We put them in jails.

But these servicemembers are following in a great and storied military tradition, from protecting frontier communities to chasing outlaws and bandits in the Wild West. And our history is filled with military heroes who took on all enemies, foreign and domestic. You know that phrase very well. That's what the oath says: "foreign and domestic." Well, we also have domestic.

George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, George Bush, and others all used the Armed Forces to keep domestic order and peace. Many of our leaders used the military to keep peace. Now, they like to say, "Oh, you're not allowed to use the military."

And you know what the people say? The people in those cities where they're being raped and shot and beat up, you know what they say? "We love the military"—you ever see where they interview the people on the street? I've never seen somebody say they don't unless they're radical and paid off. Because a lot of these insurrectionists are paid by—whether it's Soros or other people—but they're paid by the radical left.

So today I want to thank every servicemember, from general to private, who has bravely helped us secure the nation's capital and make America safe for the American people. It's amazing. The whole world is watching.

Everybody in the White House, they come up to me—young women—"Sir, thank you." I know immediately what they're thanking me. They don't have to say it. They walk to work now, to the White House.

We haven't had a crime in Washington in so long because we got the careers—we call them "the careers." We got these lunatics out.

And they'll never be any good. You know, I hate to tell this to—to the liberal media. You could spend time with them. You could do whatever you want. You could send them to the finest schools, which they couldn't get into anyway. Mentally, they couldn't get in. But no matter what you do, they'll never be good. They're bad. They're—career criminals. They—I don't know, maybe they were born that way. Some people don't like me to say that, but maybe they were. Certainly, some were.

Together, with the leaders here today, we're also restoring a needed focus on defeating threats in the western hemisphere. Throughout this region, cartel terrorists have been allowed to wage a relentless campaign of death and destruction on our country, all because we had weak leadership on top. And we did a great job with it the first term, but this is something else, what we're doing now. We're taking it to the next level—probably next level times three.

But we had COVID come up, and we had to take care of that. We did a great job with COVID. We had the therapeutics—it was just Regeneron. So many things we did for COVID, but we had to focus on that, and every other country in the world was being decimated by COVID. So we had to change gear a little bit to take care of that.

But under our leadership, the military is now the knife's edge in combating the sinister enemy. We have to put the traffickers and cartels on notice, and we've done that. And we've put them—a lot of them, we've called them a terrorist organization, which is actually a big thing to do. Nobody's done it, but I've done it with a lot of them. It gives you a tremendous advantage.

If you try to poison our people, we will blow you out of existence, because that's the only language they really understand. That's why you don't see any more boats on the ocean. You don't see any boats around Venezuela. There's nothing.

As President, I will never hesitate to defend our people from threats of violence, from the horrible plague that's taking place from within.

The Iran nuclear power, the Iran—all of the—the great power that we thought existed, we blew it out to kingdom. We took advantage of it, and we just really took advantage of it, and it was a beautiful thing to see. And that's what military power can achieve.

That's why I chose "Razin" Caine. He's fantastic, by the way. I hope you all agree.

If anybody disagrees, could I please have your hand? Who disappears that "Razin" Caine is no good? Just raise your hand. I don't see any hands raised. All right. That means you're okay. That means that he's okay now.

But I saw his results. You know, he—he took out ISIS. I was told it was going to take 4 years. It took 4 weeks. I went to see him, and he took them out in 4 weeks. Knocked them out. Knocked them to hell. And I was told by military people it was going to take 4 to 5 years to do it. "And I don't even know if we'll have it then, sir"—these were the Washington generals. I call them the "television generals." But "Razin" Caine did it in 4 weeks, took out 100 percent of the ISIS caliphate.

As a result of these actions and many others since my Inauguration, we're witnessing the triumphant return of peace through strength. We have great peace through strength.

America is respected again as a country. We were not respected with Biden. They looked at him falling down stairs every day. Every day, the guy is falling down stairs. I said: "It's not our President. We can't have it."

I'm very careful. You know, when I walk down stairs or, like, I'm on stairs, like these stairs, I'm very—I walk very slowly. Nobody has to set a record. Just try not to fall, because it doesn't work out well. [Laughter]

A few of our Presidents have fallen, and it became a part of their legacy. We don't want that. You walk nice and easy. You're not having—you don't have to set any record. Be cool. Be cool when you walk down, but don't—don't bop down the stairs.

So one thing with Obama: I had zero respect for him as a President, but he would bop down those stairs. I've never seen—da-da, da-da, da-da, bop, bop, bop. [Laughter] He'd go down the stairs, wouldn't hold on. I said: "It's great. I don't want to do it." I guess I could do it, but eventually, bad things are going to happen, and it only takes once. But he did a lousy job as President.

A year ago, we were a dead country. We were dead. This country was going to hell. We were dead in every way, from immigration to military. We didn't have the weapons. We had given everything to—we were giving everything to Ukraine. We had nothing.

And by the way, I have to tell you, now, as you know, I went over, and I met with NATO, and NATO raised from 2 to 5, which everyone said—5 percent of GDP. Millions and now trillions of dollars are pouring in. They didn't pay the 2 percent because they knew we were there to pay it, and now they paid the 5 percent. That's trillions of dollars.

And we're not spending any money on that war. Not 10 cents. We sell our equipment to NATO. NATO pays us for the equipment, and they give it to Ukraine or whoever they give it to. But they can keep it. But we're not involved. We have no money going out.

Biden gave \$350 billion. It's not sustainable, \$350 billion. And we have a war that should have never started. But we're not doing that anymore. So I just want you to know we're selling equipment. Our people are buying equipment. They're buying—they are buying the equipment at full price, a fair price.

So I don't want to say we're making money, because I don't want to say—I don't want to be making money on a war. It's too many people dying. They're losing 7,000 soldiers a week—a lot of them are Russian soldiers, but between the two countries. Mostly soldiers. By the way, sometimes, you know, in Kyiv, they'll lob a missile in or some drones and kill some people, but mostly it's soldiers.

Russia and Ukraine are losing 7,000 souls. And, you know, they're not—they're not American. They're not us. They're not you or have a special obligation, but they're soldiers. They're young people. They leave their parents, they wave goodbye, and then 2 days later they're blown up so unnecessarily.

And so that's the primary reason I want to get it done, and we got to get it done. It's crazy what's going on. That's the worst war that there's been since World War II. The number of soldiers that—that are being killed there is just crazy. From 5- to 7,000 soldiers die a week. Think of that.

So I think we'll get that done, but that's turned out to be the toughest one. I'm so disappointed in President Putin. I thought he would get this thing over with. He should have had that war done in a week.

And I said to him: "You know, you don't look good. You're 4 years fighting a war that should have taken a week. Are you a paper tiger?"

And it's a shame, but I think eventually we'll get that one done, just like we, in theory—I want to knock on wood—

[At this point, the President knocked on the lectern.]

—because you never know—it's like we're going to have the Middle East done, which is actually a much harder thing to do. I mean, thousands of years. But we have to get that war done.

So now we're—just think of it, we were a dead country. I was with the King of Saudi Arabia. Great guy. I was with the Amir of Qatar. I was with the great leadership of U.A.E. I was over there. We brought back \$2 trillion and more. They ordered 200 planes, Boeings. They ordered so much, and they were great. But they all said essentially the same thing. They said, "One year ago, you were a dead country, and now you're the hottest country anywhere in the world." We are. We're the hottest country in the world right now. The absolute hottest country in the world. We have—there's nobody even close.

Putin said that to me. We met in Alaska. We had a good meeting. Then he went back and started sending drones into Kyiv. I said, "I thought we had a good meeting." But it's one of those things.

But we were a dead country a year ago, and now we're hottest country anywhere in the world. Think of that. You can be proud of that.

And you must have felt like hell when you have a wife or a husband at home, and you used to read the numbers that we can't get people to join the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard. You must have felt like, you know, "I have a job that nobody wants." That doesn't feel good.

Well, now you have a job that is brimming over with people wanting it. They want it. And you're able to get a much higher quality, because now you have your choice. You know, you want

so many, and we're going to have many, many people that aren't going to be able to join because of the fact that we don't—you know, we don't need them at this moment.

But think of it, how—what a difference that is from—I could just imagine. Two years ago, you're reading front-page articles in The New York Times, of course, and Wall Street Journal. They always give us unfair stories. But they played it so big. They were playing it so big: "Nobody wants to join the Army, the Marines, the Air Force. They want—they don't want to join. They don't want to join the Coast Guard at all. Nobody wants to join. Nobody wants to join our police forces." Our police forces also. It's—almost went hand in hand.

And I used to say, "Boy, you know, I'm speaking in front of the military today, and it's embarrassing, because I'm speaking in front of people who have a job that other people don't want." But now you have a job that everybody wants, so I think that has to make you feel good.

It's one of the reasons I love being here today, because I wanted to say that. I have to say that.

Everybody wants to be in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines—if you think—the Coast Guard, and Space Force—our beautiful Space Force. It's a whole different world.

And now they're signing up—by the way, seriously big numbers for the police—dangerous job, isn't it, huh?—fire department.

But that's the—paving the way for progress once thought almost impossible. I mean, a year ago, you wouldn't have thought that was possible. A year ago, they were talking about making the military smaller, because they can't get the people to join. We're thinking about making it larger, because we have so many people.

And it's nice to be able to cut people because of merit that aren't really qualified for any reason—a physical reason, a mental reason. You don't have to take them anymore because you have—you have the pick of the litter.

And they all want to be with you. They all want your job. They want to be with you. They want to work with you. They'll even take your job, you know? Got to be a little bit sharp. You've got to watch it. But everybody wants to be doing what you're doing now.

What a difference when I speak to you and I can say that, as opposed to a couple of years ago when I was talking to rooms where they were desperate to get people and they couldn't get them. What a difference a presidential election can make. That's all it is. It's just a Presidential election.

Yesterday, at the White House, we put forward a plan for peace in Gaza. We announced it. And we're going to create something that was my idea but, unfortunately, I got drafted. It's going to be called the Board of Peace. And it's going to reign over that territory, and we're going to get that done.

And they asked if I'd be the chairman of the Board of Peace. I wasn't counting on that. I had the idea for the Board of Peace, but I said yes. And I guess, because of that, every leader, every—everybody wants to be on the Board of Peace, and we're going to watch over that very volatile part of the world and keep it nonvolatile so you don't have to get involved.

We want to save you for other things—or save you for nothing, from that standpoint. We don't want you fighting wars, but if you have to, you're going to be—you're the most lethal fighting force in the world. And I would say that even 2, 3 years ago, but now I say it with great enthusiasm. It's so true.

And we're striving tirelessly to end the terrible war in Ukraine. And as you know, we're also working hard to get the allies to share more of the burden of our defense. Much of that has really

already taken place, but all NATO members have committed to the increase that I talked about. Think of that. That was unthinkable.

It used to be 1 percent, then we got it up to 2 in my last term, and they did not like it. And now I got it to 5, and I get along great with all of them. In fact, they call me the President of NATO. I said, "I don't think so." But they're great. They're great people, and they're spending a lot of money and a lot of money that they should have been spending in the past. But I think Putin was a wake-up call for them, really.

We're now selling large quantities of American-made weapons to NATO, and we're getting really fair pricing. We're making a lot of money.

It's my hope that from Europe to Asia to the Middle East, our allies will make similar commitments to increase their military capabilities, and this will greatly strengthen our alliances. And also, it will make war far less likely.

You know, if you have a strong—if you're a strong presence like we are—we are such a strong presence now. And I go around bragging about that. I've said, "We have the strongest military anywhere in the world." I say it. You never heard Biden say that. You never heard him say anything.

But you never heard him say—did you ever hear him say, "We have the strongest military"? He doesn't say that. I say it.

We have the strongest military anywhere in the world. We have great leadership. And I'll tell you, Pete and General Caine—all of the people that I've met that have been lifted up in rank—and we got many of them out of here too, I'll be honest with you. I didn't like doing it, but we got many of you out of here because we weren't satisfied. We have—we know everything about everybody.

It will also help the United States rapidly rebuild our defense industrial base. Each of you can play an important part in getting allies to do their part. So, to that end, Secretary Hegseth will soon be announcing major reforms to streamline military acquisitions and expedite foreign military sales.

We have tremendous numbers of countries that want to buy our equipment. And you know, in many cases, it takes too long. They're backlogged. We're backlogged on all the equipment, which is something that's new to us a little bit.

And I told those companies: "You'd better get your ass going, because we're—you know, we're buying—we're selling you a lot of equipment. We're getting countries to buy your equipment. You've got to produce the equipment." Some of the countries, I'm not going to mention, but some of the countries are buying a lot, and that's a good thing. They're on our side 95 percent. I'll never say 100 percent because it can always turn, right? You know about that. But they're on our side.

The problem is, we have to get the companies that make this equipment—and we make the best equipment in the world, but they got to make it faster. We have orders for the F-35. We have orders for everything—the new F-47. We have orders for everything. They've got to make it faster. A lot faster. Ammunition they have to make faster.

In the coming months, we'll be making even more historic announcements to fully embrace the identity of the Department of War. I love the name. I think it's so great. I think it stops wars. The Department of War is going to stop wars.

If we are as ruthless and relentless as our enemies, the United States Armed Forces will be totally unmatched in the future. We have a group of enemies that are very ruthless and very smart, but they can't match us. They can't match us. They don't even come close to matching us.

Again, you know, it's very important for me to say: We have the greatest military in the world, but we make the best equipment in the world. I watched our antimissile missiles—I watched our Patriots just knock things out. It was like a needle hitting another needle on this stage. There's a needle up there, and you send another needle up, and it hits it every time.

During the war, we went 14 for 14. We had 14—this is with Iran. We had 14 missiles coming at us. All 14 were knocked out of the sky. Every one of them. We make the best equipment.

From Sparta to Rome, to the British Empire, to the United States of America, history has shown that military supremacy has never been simply a matter of money or manpower. At the end of the day, it is the culture, spirit of our military that truly sets us apart from any other nation.

Our ultimate strength will always come from the fierce people and those brilliant people with such pride and the unbending will and the traditions of excellence that have made us the most unstoppable force ever to walk the face of the Earth. And that's what we are.

Remember, we never want to use it, but we have the most powerful nuclear capability—and I call it nuclear deterrent—of any other country. Nobody close.

The men and women in this room inherit the legacy built and won by Washington and Jackson, Grant and Pershing, Eisenhower and Patton, Nimitz and LeMay. We carry forward the majestic military heritage passed down from father to son, soldier to soldier, and one generation of warriors to the next.

You are warriors. You know that, right? You're great warriors, or you wouldn't be in this room. You're the best of the best.

From Concord Bridge to Fort McHenry, from Gettysburg to Manila Bay, from Normandy to Sicily, and from the jungles of Vietnam to the dusty streets of Baghdad, America's military has charged into hellfire, climbed up jagged mountains, crossed roaring oceans, and thundered across open deserts to defend our flag, our freedom, and our homeland. Nobody does it like you.

Now we are discovering American muscle, reasserting American might, and beginning the next storied chapter in American military legends and lore. That's l-o-r-e. It is lore.

When it comes to defending our way of life, nothing will slow us, no enemy will stop us—they're not—they cannot stop us—and no adversary will stand in our way. They won't stand in our way. We don't want them to stand in our way. We don't want to even put them in that position, but they're not going to stand in our way ever again.

You'll never see 4 years like we had with Biden and that group of incompetent people that ran this country that should have never been there, because we had the United States military—the best, the boldest, the bravest—that the world has ever seen, that the world has ever known.

With leaders like we have right here in this beautiful room today, we will vanquish every danger and crush every threat to our freedom in every generation to come, because we will fight, fight, fight, and we will win, win, win.

I want to just thank you once again. And God bless the United States military, and God bless America. God bless you all.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 a.m. in the Warner Auditorium at Marine Corps Base Quantico. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. J. Daniel Caine, USAF; Gregory G. Katsas and Neomi Rao, judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine; former President Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev of Russia, in his capacity as Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of Russia; R. Hunter Biden, son of former President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India; Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir of Pakistan; White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles; President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan; Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia; Secretary of the Navy John C. Phelan; CNN reporter Natasha Bertrand; Gov. Jay R. "J.B." Pritzker of Illinois; former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama; Gov. Tina Kotek of Oregon; George Soros, chairman, Soros Fund Management, LLC; King Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia; Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar; and President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Department of War, remarks in Quantico, VA.

Locations: Quantico, VA.

Names: Aliyev, Ilham; Bertrand, Natasha; Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Biden, R. Hunter; Bush, George W.; Caine, J. Daniel; Hegseth, Peter B.; Katsas, Gregory G.; Kotek, Tina; Medvedev, Dmitry Anatolyevich; Modi, Narendra; Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Munir, Asim; Obama, Barack; Pashinyan, Nikol; Phelan, John C.; Pritzker, Jay R. "J.B."; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Rao, Neomi; Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, King; Sharif, Shehbaz; Soros, George; Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir; Wiles, Susan; Zelenskyy, Volodymyr.

Subjects: Afghanistan, withdrawal of U.S. military forces; Armed Forces, U.S., recruitment efforts; Armenia, Prime Minister; Armenia, relations with Azerbaijan; Associated Press; Azerbaijan, President; Azerbaijan, relations with Armenia; Border security; Canada, defense relationship with U.S.; COVID-19 pandemic; Department of Defense, renaming as Department of War; District of Columbia, beautification efforts; District of Columbia, law enforcement improvement efforts; Foreign military sales, efforts to expedite; Gaza, conflict with Israel; Geographic names, efforts to restore American greatness; Hamas political-paramilitary organization; Illegal immigration; Illinois, crime in Chicago; Illinois, Governor; India, Prime Minister; India, relations with Pakistan; Iran, U.S. airstrikes on nuclear facilities; Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization; Israel, military operations in Gaza; Joint Chiefs of Staff; National Guard; Nobel Prize for Peace; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Oregon, Governor; Pakistan, Prime Minister; Pakistan, relations with India; Qatar, Amir; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, President; Saudi Arabia, King; Secretary of the Navy; Secretary of War; Suspected drug-trafficking vessels, U.S. airstrikes in Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific; Tariffs; U.S. Armed Forces, funding and equipment, improvement efforts; U.S. Border Patrol; U.S. diplomatic efforts, expansion; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. military readiness, improvement efforts; U.S. servicemembers, service and dedication; U.S. Space Force; Ukraine, international military aid; Ukraine, President; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Ukraine, U.S. assistance; United Arab Emirates, President; Virginia, President's visit; White House Chief of Staff.

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