

making any further provocative—[inaudible]—and rhetoric. This is not helpful. And I really highly commended President Obama’s firm, principled, but measured response in close consultation with the Republic of Korea Government and with strong engagement with neighboring countries like China.

We hope that more of the countries, including China, who may have influence over North Korea, can exercise their leadership and influence so that this situation will be resolved peacefully. First and foremost, tension levels must come down. North Korea should not confront the international community as they are now doing. I hope that concerned parties, including the United States, China, the Republic of Korea, and Russia, and Japan will continue to work together on this matter.

On Middle East, I really appreciate President Obama’s initiative to visit the region. We need to do more of our efforts to fully utilize

the generated momentum by President Obama’s visit so that a two-state solution can be successfully implemented as soon as possible.

On climate change, I intend to work very closely with the member states so that the legally binding global treaty can be achieved by the end of 2015. And for that possible—to facilitate this process, I intend to convene a leaders meeting sometime next year. I have invited President Obama. I invited him to play a very important leadership role for humanity.

As far as the United Nations reform is concerned, we will continue to make this organization more effective, efficient, accountable, and more trustworthy. I thank you for your leadership.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:47 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief’s Trophy to the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen

April 12, 2013

The President. Hello, everybody. Hello. Please, everybody have a seat. Well, good afternoon. Welcome to the White House.

I want to start by recognizing Coach Ken Niumatalolo, my fellow Hawaiian, for being here once again. Where is he? There he is right here. [Laughter] Hard to miss him. Give him a big round of applause. I also want to recognize Vice Admiral Mike Miller, the Superintendent of the Naval Academy, for his outstanding service to our country and for keeping all of you guys in line. [Laughter]

Now, it is my pleasure to welcome the Navy Midshipmen back to the White House to receive the Commander in Chief’s Trophy again. They have now won 19 of their last 21 games against the other service academies, making this their eighth trip here in 10 years. And so Michelle and I were thinking about just leaving the key under the rug. [Laughter]

This season, you finished 8 and 5, earned your ninth bowl appearance in the last 10

years. But perhaps most importantly, after a 2-year break, you achieved that very first goal you set at the start of every season: You beat Air Force, you beat Army, and lugged this 170-pound trophy back to Annapolis.

Against Air Force, you lost your quarterback to an injury in the middle of the game. You trailed by eight points in the fourth quarter. But freshman quarterback Keenan Reynolds took over and led you back in overtime. That’s when an unlikely hero, offensive lineman Jake Zuzek, gave you a—

Team members. Zu!

The President. Zu!

—gave you a 28–21 win when he recovered a fumbled snap in the end zone for his first-ever touchdown. [Laughter] I’m not sure Coach called the fumblerooski, but I bet that Jake will take it anyway.

That set up a winner-take-all game with Army to end the season. Down three entering the fourth quarter, Keenan again led the come-

back, driving the team down the field for 80 yards and the winning score, and showing why he was only the third Navy freshman ever to start at quarterback. The win gave the Midshipmen their 11th straight victory over Army, which is a series record.

But at Navy, obviously, it's not just about the wins. It's about how you win. This year, your team motto was INAM, which is short for "It's Not About Me." And that ethic of teamwork and discipline and unselfishness was led by your captains, Bo Snelson and Brye French, and it ran through your entire season.

All season long you kept your priorities in line, your mission in focus. Your work in the classroom helped keep the Naval Academy's graduation rate in the top 10 of the NCAA for the eighth straight year, including linebacker Keegan Wetzel, a first-team Academic All-American with a 3.89 GPA in system engineering. So give Keegan a big round of applause. I like that.

And when you faced adversity, you pulled together. Over Thanksgiving break, freshman Rafi Montalvo was in a serious car accident, and doctors pulled him into a coma. And even though the Army game was next on the schedule, Coach was one of his first visitors at the hospital down in Florida. And then pretty soon, his teammates started showing up. When it came time to take the field against your biggest rival, you all put "Rafi" stickers on your helmets and gave him the game ball after your victory.

So, gentlemen, that's why I have no greater honor than serving as your Commander in Chief. You're there for each other, and you are there for our country. In just a few weeks when I visit you all for commencement—and I always have to get ready, because Midshipmen, they've got strong handshakes, some of them give me chest bumps, I've got to just make sure

I don't tip over—18 of you will be commissioned as ensigns in the Navy and 10 more as second lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

And in the years to come, you will all follow their footsteps. You'll be leading your peers in some of the most complex, dangerous missions on the planet. You'll be teaching them to pull together, to keep their mission in focus, to always remember that "It's Not About Me." And together, your victories will not simply be about football trophies—as impressive as that trophy is—but it will be about our security and our values and protecting our freedom.

So I want you to know that I could not be prouder to have each of you representing this great country of ours. Americans all across the country feel the very same way. And every single day, we will stand behind you and support you and do the very best that we can in our own lives to reflect the courage and the honor and the character of the men and women of the United States Naval Academy. So God bless you.

And with that, let's—I understand I've got a little something waiting for me. All right, that's the official Navy helmet, fitted for me. [*Laughter*] Pretty sharp.

Audience member. Put it on.

The President. All right. [*Laughter*] Here's a general rule: You don't put stuff on your head if you're President. [*Laughter*] So yes, that's Politics 101. [*Laughter*] You never look good wearing something on your head. Are we going to—we're going to have the coach up here. Come on.

Coach, great to see you again.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Trey Miller and Ralph "Rafi" Motalvo, quarterbacks, U.S. Naval Academy football team.