

and was discharged on August 19; and Jatu, ky, Liberians infected with the Ebola virus and awaiting treatment.

## Statement on the First Anniversary of the Shooting at the Washington Navy Yard

September 16, 2014

One year ago, our dedicated military and civilian personnel at the Washington Navy Yard were targeted in an unspeakable act of violence that took the lives of 12 American patriots. As we remember men and women taken from us so senselessly, we keep close their family and friends, stand with the survivors who continue to heal, and pay tribute to the first responders who acted with skill and bravery. At the same time, we continue to improve

security at our country's bases and installations to protect our military and civilian personnel who help keep us safe. One year ago, 12 Americans went to work to protect and strengthen the country they loved. Today, we must do the same, rejecting atrocities like these as the new normal and renewing our call for common-sense reforms that respect our traditions while reducing the gun violence that shatters too many American families every day.

## Remarks at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida

September 17, 2014

*The President.* Hello, MacDill! I want to thank General Austin for his introduction—Lloyd, for your exceptional leadership. Were you about to sneak off the stage?

*General Lloyd J. Austin III, USA, commander, U.S. Central Command.* Yes, sir. Yes, sir, I was.

*The President.* Go ahead. [*Laughter*] The—it's better when Lloyd is not standing next to me because I don't look small. [*Laughter*] General Austin has done such extraordinary work, both commanding our forces in Iraq, today as the commander of CENTCOM. I want to thank somebody else for his own lifetime of service to America, first as a soldier who fought in Vietnam, now as our Secretary of Defense: Chuck Hagel. Give it up for Chuck.

Chuck was here a few weeks ago to welcome the new head of Special Operations Command, General Joe Votel. Give Joe a big round of applause. For those of you who don't know, 13 years ago, Joe led his team of Army Rangers as they jumped into Afghanistan to establish our first base there by jumping out of the plane alongside them. So Joe is a tough guy, and he knows what he is doing, and I can't think of somebody who is more qualified to head up

our Special Forces. And so we want to thank Joe for accepting this assignment.

Your Member of Congress, Kathy Castor, is here. Give Kathy a big round of applause. There she is right there. Your wing commander, Colonel Dan Tulley. Your senior enlisted leaders: Command Sergeant Major Chris Greca; Command Sergeant Major Chris Faris; Chief Master Sergeant Matt Lussion. And most of all, I want to salute all the spouses and military families on base, because let's be honest, they're the force behind the force. I spent time with some of them last night, and it's clear why our military is the finest fighting force in the history of the world, and it's because our military families are serving right alongside you.

I know we've got some Air Force in the house. It's great to be at the home of the Sixth Air Mobility Wing. The 927th Air Refueling Wing. CENTCOM. SOCOM. We've got some Army here.

*Audience members.* Hooah!

*The President.* Navy.

*Audience members.* Hooah!

*The President.* Marines.

*Audience members.* Hooah!