

Major General Timothy McGuire
ABCT Welcoming Ceremony Remarks
January 14, 2017
Zagan, Poland

GOOD AFTERNOON MADAME PRIME MINISTER, MR. MINISTER, AMBASSADOR, GENERALS, MR. MAYOR, AND ALL OTHER GUESTS TO INCLUDE THE GREAT POLISH ARMED FORCES, THE PEOPLE OF THE ZAGAN COMMUNITY, AND ALL THOSE WATCHING LIVE FROM ACROSS POLAND. ON BEHALF OF LTG BEN HODGES, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE U.S. ARMY EUROPE, THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE FOR THIS HISTORIC CEREMONY AND WELCOMING OUR SOLDIERS, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF 3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION – THE IRON BRIGADE. WE ARE THRILLED TO BE HERE!

TO THE MAYOR AND PEOPLE OF ZAGAN – WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS AND THE GENEROSITY YOU HAVE SHOWN TO OUR NEWLY ARRIVED SOLDIERS. IT MEANS SO MUCH TO ALL OF US TO KNOW THAT OUR SOLDIERS WILL BE AMONG FRIENDS AND FEEL WELCOMED WHEN THEY ARE SO FAR AWAY FROM THEIR LOVED ONES AND FAMILIES.

THESE SOLDIERS ARE ANOTHER SIGN OF THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO NATO AND TO OUR POLISH ALLIES. OUR SHARED HISTORY, COMMON VALUES, AND JOINT SACRIFICES, STAND AS A TESTAMENT TO OUR ENDURING FRIENDSHIP. THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND POLAND IS 238 YEARS OLD, AND HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER. WE CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE

IN THE EFFORTS OF OUR OUTSTANDING SOLDIERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENSURING PEACE AND PROSPERITY ACROSS EUROPE.

THE POLISH AND AMERICAN HERO, GENERAL CASIMIR PUWASKI, UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN AMERICA WROTE TO GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON "I CAME HERE WHERE FREEDOM IS BEING DEFENDED TO SERVE IT AND TO LIVE OR DIE FOR IT..." IN THE SPIRIT OF GENERAL PUWASKI, THIS BRIGADE IS HERE TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM AND YOURS.

TODAY, OUR SOLDIERS STAND UNITED ON POLISH SOIL READY TO SERVE TOGETHER TO DETER AND DEFEND.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE 3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM FROM THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA IS A CONCRETE SIGN OF OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF POLAND AND THE NATO ALLIANCE.

THIS OUTSTANDING BRIGADE, LED BY COL CHRIS NORRIE AND CSM GUNN IS A HIGHLY CAPABLE AND READY FORCE WITH THE BEST EQUIPMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND TRAINING OF ANY COMBAT FORCE IN THE WORLD. TO MAINTAIN COMBAT READINESS, THESE SOLDIERS WILL CONDUCT REALISTIC AND RIGOROUS TRAINING AND EXERCISES WITH OUR ALLIES IN LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT POLAND AND ACROSS EUROPE. AS IT HAS BEEN FOR MORE THAN SEVENTY YEARS, OUR COMMON GOAL IS TO KEEP THE PEACE BY ALWAYS BEING PREPARED AND READY.

JUST LIKE GENERAL PUWASKI DID MORE THAN 200 YEARS AGO, WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING TOGETHER TO DEFEND FREEDOM AND CONTINUING TO BUILD UPON OUR LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE OF POLAND AND WITH OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES ACROSS EUROPE.

TO THE PRIME MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER, MY FELLOW GENERAL OFFICERS AND THE POLISH SOLDIERS STANDING HERE TODAY, WE ARE VERY PROUD AND HONORED TO SERVE WITH YOU.

IN PARTICULAR, TO MAJOR GENERAL MIKA, COMMANDER OF THE 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY DIVISION, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, AND FRIENDSHIP. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING WITH YOU AND YOUR SOLDIERS IN THIS IMPORTANT MISSION.

TO AMBASSADOR JONES – THANK YOU FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND STEADFAST SUPPORT TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF U.S. ARMY EUROPE.

AS AMBASSADOR JONES SO ELOQUENTLY SAID – AMERICA WILL ALWAYS STAND WITH POLAND TO DEFEND FREEDOM.

Dziękuję.