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### **America's New Allies in the War on Terrorism**

*Remarks as Delivered by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Omaha, NE, Friday, July 09, 2004*

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Thank you very much [David Brown, President of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce]. It's a pleasure to be here. As it was pointed out, we've come from a truly moving ceremony. It was the change of command at Strategic Command and a chance to pay tribute to some remarkable achievements that command has made but, most of all, a chance to say "farewell" or "good retirement" to Admiral [James] Ellis who's completed 35 years on active duty in the U.S. Navy—a remarkable human being, a remarkable patriot, a remarkable naval officer. And you see in a relatively short ceremony, kind of a whole life in front of you. And all you can do is say "wow" and with great admiration.

I'm lucky. Normally, the Secretary of Defense would have taken that duty and I would have had to stay home. Today happens to be Don Rumsfeld's 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday, so he's celebrating it with the kids and grandkids and I got to come out here. And I'm told that it's Omaha's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. So the secretary is still behind you—[laughter]—but trying madly to catch up, I'm sure.

Today's ceremony was a reminder to me of what a privilege it is in my job to work with the extraordinary leaders of the U.S. military and people like General Dick Myers, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, [General] Pete Pace, who's sort of my counterpart, as the Vice Chairman, and a whole range of combatant commanders. But most of all, I think one of the greatest things about my job is a chance to work with the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces at all ranks and all levels. It's a truly extraordinary institution and they're truly remarkable individuals.

I don't think it's any accident that Strategic Command with its truly global responsibility is based right here in America's heartland. Now that may strike some people as not obvious at all, but it has struck me over some 25 years now, mostly in public service, how states like Nebraska—particularly Nebraska—deep in America's heartland, have continually produced leaders with a broad international outlook on world affairs.

I had the pleasure of working with Senator Nelson. He's on my oversight committee—the [Senate] Armed Services Committee. And he brings to it great fairness, great judgment, great bipartisanship. Thank you for that, Ben. I'm probably going to get in trouble by singling out a single individual, but I'm going to do it anyway. He's not here. Congressman Doug Bereuter who is retiring from the Congress this year, was one of the senior members of the House International Relations Committee back when I was the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and played a major role in shaping our policy toward the Philippines and other issues. And I think he's going to stay involved in Asian issues after his retirement, so that is good news.

This is a remarkable state. It's a remarkable maritime state. In fact, for a state without a sea coast, you certainly have a large Navy. [Laughter.]