

**Major General Paul Stanton's Remarks**  
**The redesignation ceremony from Fort Gordon to Fort Eisenhower**  
**27 Oct 2023**

Sixty-two years ago, on a cold January day, President Eisenhower stood on this parade field (motion to left), with a large hometown Augustan crowd in attendance, to hold the most meaningful formation of his service – it was his last before retiring. President Eisenhower stated to the soldiers –

As I have this chance to say goodbye to you, I hope that you will understand that my heart will always be filled with admiration for you, and there will be in my soul a certain nostalgia as I see a uniform, whether it be a single soldier on the streets or when I see a unit marching in a parade.

God bless you--and keep going. I have seen a command this morning that would thrill the heart of any soldier, and so I send with you my very best wishes for your future.<sup>i</sup>

General Eisenhower, sir, here we are on the same field where it thrills *our* hearts to commemorate your legacy. Fort Eisenhower will forever be associated with an incredible Soldier, statesmen, visionary, and world leader. To reuse your 1952 campaign slogan: “It’s Time for a Change” and here on Fort Eisenhower “We Like Ike.”<sup>ii</sup>

Welcome to all. I want to thank the following special guests -

- The Honorable Secretary Wormuth
- The Eisenhower family, represented today by his granddaughters Susan and Mary Jean
- ADM Howard, the Naming Commission chair

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- Master Sergeant (Retired) Louis Graziano who served with General Eisenhower and witnessed General Yodl, of the German Army, sign the articles of surrender in front of General Walter Bedell Smith, General Susloparov on behalf of the Soviet High Command, and French Major-General Francois Sevez.
- Our Community leaders and individuals who advocated for the Eisenhower name and remain steadfast in their support of all our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coasties, and Guardians.

Thank you.

I told many of the Soldiers and Civilians who prepared our renaming ceremony, this day may be amongst the most memorable of your career. Today we honor a true American hero; a leader respected by the world, a nation, and, of course, the people of Augusta, Georgia.

We are the last military installation to hold a renaming ceremony. As Secretary of Defense Austin said, changing the name of our post ensures our Nation remains a “champion of liberty, equality and freedom, and continues to defend these values here at home and throughout the world.”<sup>iii</sup>

We are now Fort Eisenhower, an inspiring name that underscores the role this installation plays as a Cyber Power Projection Platform on a world stage – General Eisenhower dedicated his life to global impact. Here, we forge and project power daily in and through the cyberspace warfighting domain – cyber, signal, electronic warfare,

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and intelligence... we cultivate leaders who must embody the qualities of courage, integrity, and selflessness that General Eisenhower exemplified throughout his career, because our actions, like his, have wide-reaching impact.

It is fitting that our CSRA community did, in fact, recommend the name Fort Eisenhower to the Naming Commission – for as Susan Eisenhower noted in her biography of her grandfather, “Augusta was the place that really brought the president relaxation and a sense of perspective.”<sup>iv</sup> Fitting, also, that Eisenhower’s name now adorns an Army post – there are countless streets, buildings, even towns across the United States and the world that bear his name, but not until today, an Army post. As he rests eternal with his 5 stars on his shoulders, the Army now honors this Soldier for life.

General Eisenhower, Mamie, and their family lived an Army life. Thirty-three moves in his career. General Eisenhower spoke of posts with no family housing – separating from wife and son when required, personally converting an old barracks into a home during his battalion command at Camp Meade, living with bats, yes, bats in his house in Panama. There were the no-notice adjustments to orders and of course deployments to war. There is no mistake, the Eisenhowers were an Army Family!

From a humble, hard-working upbringing in Abilene Kansas, GEN Eisenhower argued in his own words that “*You’ve got to be for something.*”<sup>v</sup> That must resonate with us, for in our profession as Soldiers – we are *for* something. We fight and win our nation’s wars to support and defend the Constitution of the United States – “This we’ll Defend.” We

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answer the call when asked and we, here on Fort Eisenhower, stand our post every minute of every day. We accept this calling just as GEN Eisenhower recognized when he first swore our oath upon entry to West Point – In his words - "...when we raised our right hands and repeated the official oath, there was no confusion. A feeling came over me that the expression "The United States of America" would now and henceforth mean something different than it ever had before. From here on it would be the nation I would be serving, not myself."<sup>vi</sup> This remains our Oath, unchanged – it is a cornerstone upon which we Strengthen our Profession.

Graduating West Point, Dwight D. Eisenhower began his long and arduous path to lead our nation in war and peace.

One remarkable story: In 1919 he crossed the county in a truck convoy ... to literally see if it could be done. Absent contracted maintenance or Field Service Reps, absent a road network, the months-long trip made a lasting impression that drove the need for change. Years later, having proven a master logistician in WWII, President Eisenhower would create the interstate system we recognize today – it was the largest public works program in history – connecting our country for commerce and pleasure.

Let us learn from his example. Identify the need for change, and drive results – ***this is innovation, this is the hallmark of our community on Fort Eisenhower.***

President Eisenhower's map notably didn't include the I-20 Connector to Gate 6. I'm sure he'd be proud of our community's vision to extend our interstate and improve the

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flow of intellectual capital all the way from Atlanta, GA to Columbia, SC. We are the Southeast's cyber hub, and we must invest in the infrastructure to support our growth.

Innovation, Vision, and investment marked GEN Eisenhower's career. He recognized the need to "Be focused on the present while anticipating the future."<sup>vii</sup> He may have been the perfect TRADOC and Army Futures Command leader long before either organization existed. He started with our people – the will of our Soldiers and Civilians is, and always has been, our Army's asymmetric advantage. He taught 2LTs at Leavenworth, trained new soldiers at Camp Colt, and was twice assigned to training at Camp Meade - fitting that it is now home to USCYBERCOM and many of the Soldiers we develop at Fort Eisenhower. There is a small plaque in the back corner of post along one of my favorite running routes where then LTCs Eisenhower and Patton developed the concept for tank warfare – transforming tanks from the slow, laboring, trench-warfare-machines of WWI to meet the speed and agility that Eisenhower guided, and Patton led to victory in WWII.

Fort Eisenhower Soldiers and Civilians must have the same sort of vision. We must guide the future of our data-centric network, our evolution of cyber capabilities, and our effective employment of Electronic Warfare in large-scale combat operations. See the future and guide the formation from slow and laboring to speed and agility!

General Eisenhower's contributions to our nation did not end on the battlefield. In 1953, he again swore the oath to defend the Constitution when he became President of the United States. He guided our nation through a period of immense change and transformation. He championed peace, prosperity, and the pursuit of the American

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Dream. Under his leadership, the United States experienced tremendous growth and stability, and an advancement of civil rights and desegregation.

President Eisenhower communicated effectively to lead these successes of his "Middle Way" agenda – he championed Information Advantage before we wrote the doctrine. He recognized the need to keep "the American public so well informed about the Army that there would be an authentic partnership between the civilians at home and the troops in uniform."<sup>viii</sup> A partnership emulated today between the CSRA and Fort Eisenhower. He delivered his message with timing as a "critical ingredient in public relations." It's not always about the picture, the quote, or the video itself, but how the message is delivered to resonate with audience. President Eisenhower demonstrated mastery with print and the novel introduction of television news... begging the question - how good are we with online news, Snapchat and Instagram?

He was not a computer scientist, but thankfully President Eisenhower was an advocate for advancement of technology. GEN Eisenhower's personal foray into early computing would not have resulted in a career as a 17 Series cyber soldier, but he did promote science! As Chief of Staff of the Army, he oversaw the post-WWII return of US soldiers from overseas -- a logistics and administrative challenge of unprecedented scale. It required punch-card computers that strained to keep track of hundreds of thousands of people scattered in tiny outposts spanning the globe. General Eisenhower wrote, "I must confess that the machines, perhaps feeling the pressure themselves, at times

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seemed confused by the data fed into them... Since then, I've always mistrusted, a little, even the most handsome, most intricate, and guaranteed computer."<sup>ix</sup>

Rest easy GENERAL. The Soldiers on this field today would certainly earn your trust and confidence in assured computing. I'm not sure what a handsome computer is, but I'm sure we have one in Fortitude Hall!

Fortunately, President Eisenhower saw past his early computer challenges and promoted the rapid development of science; he set conditions for the technology in use today on Fort Eisenhower. A few hallmarks include the U2 program for deep sensing, the first American satellite launched in 1958, establishing NASA, and establishing ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) that pioneered the Internet and later became our deep-thinking DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) Where would our Fort Eisenhower mission be without this early foresight?

We wouldn't be postured to fight and win in cyber operations - operations that GEN Nakasone has called the ultimate team sport. From football at West Point to leading the strongest coalition in world history, there has been no better team player and architect of coalitions than General Eisenhower.

Our allies and partners are on the field with us today. More importantly, they are on the other end of our radios in combat and sending and receiving 1's and 0's in the cyber domain as we speak. Our Fort Eisenhower mission is building those partnerships

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through education and training. And then, as a team, we work together to hold our adversaries at bay.

Just as General Eisenhower found himself at the vanguard of new technology, concepts, and world events that changed the character of war – we on Fort Eisenhower are ready to meet the vision for a data-centric Army. We will support warfighting by enabling better and faster decisions that gain a position of advantage.

Today and henceforth, we operate under the banner of Fort Eisenhower and ***hone our knowledge and warfighting spirit***, to honor the legacy of this extraordinary leader and his family. We will uphold the highest standards of military excellence, by fostering an environment of inclusion, and by continuing to serve our nation with honor, loyalty, and dedication. Let us be visionary. Let us be innovative technologists. Let us be inspiring. Let us be warfighters. Let us be proud of our name. Fort Eisenhower!

Forge and Project Power to be all you can be!

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<sup>i</sup> Remarks at Troop Review Ceremonies, Fort Gordon, Georgia, Jan 7, 1961 accessed 8 Sep 2023 at [Remarks at Troop Review Ceremonies, Fort Gordon, Georgia. | The American Presidency Project \(ucsb.edu\)](https://www.americanpresidencyproject.org/remarks-at-troop-review-ceremonies-fort-gordon-georgia/).

<sup>ii</sup> Hitchcock, William I. *The Age of Eisenhower: America and the World in the 1950s*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018: 75. Print

<sup>iii</sup> The Naming Commission Final Report to Congress, Part 1 (3).

<sup>iv</sup> Eisenhower, Susan. *How IKE Led: The Principles Behind Eisenhower's Biggest Decisions*. New York: St. Martin, 2020. 237. Print

<sup>v</sup> *Ibid.*, 329.

<sup>vi</sup> Letters page 4.

<sup>vii</sup> Eisenhower, Susan. *How IKE Led: The Principles Behind Eisenhower's Biggest Decisions*. New York: St. Martin, 2020. 331. Print.

<sup>viii</sup> Letters 320

<sup>ix</sup> Letters 319