

GOOD AFTERNOON...

GOVERNOR ROWLAND,

CONGRESSWOMAN DELAURO, MR.

BORGMAN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

MEMBERS OF THE COMANCHE TEAM,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WE PROBABLY ALL HAVE  
DIFFERENT REASONS FOR BEING HERE  
TODAY... FOR SOME IT MAY BE ABOUT  
JOBS, FOR SOME FINANCIAL, OTHERS  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT...

HELL SOME MAY HAVE STOPPED BY TO  
GET SOMETHING TO EAT AND SAY  
HELLO TO GOVERNOR ROWLAND!...  
BUT REGARDLESS OF WHY YOU ARE  
HERE WE ALL SHARE A COMMON  
BOND, A LOVE FOR OUR NATION AND  
OUR SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMAN AND  
MARINES, AND A DESIRE TO PROVIDE  
THEM WITH THE BEST TRAINING AND  
EQUIPMENT IN THE WORLD!

I AM HONORED TO BE WITH YOU  
TODAY AS WE MARK A SIGNIFICANT

AND LONG AWAITED MILESTONE IN THE COMANCHE PROGRAM. IT HAS BEEN AN ARDUOUS PROCESS FOR BOTH THE ARMY AND INDUSTRY TO GET THE COMANCHE TO THE POINT OF OPENING THIS PRODUCTION LINE TODAY. I WAS A MAJOR AT FT RUCKER WHEN THE INITIAL CONCEPTS FOR A FUTURE SCOUT ATTACK AIRCRAFT WERE CONCEIVED. THROUGH ALL THE CUTS, RESTARTS RESTRUCTURES AND CHANGES, A CORPS OF BELIEVERS, BOTH INTERNAL

AND EXTERNAL TO THE ARMY KNEW  
WE NEEDED AN ARMED  
RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITY FOR  
OUR ARMY AND MEMBERS OF THE  
JOINT FORCE. THE COMANCHE IS A  
WEAPONS SYSTEM THAT WILL BE  
MANNED BY SOLDIERS... FOR  
SOLDIERS... TO GAIN THE  
INFORMATION EDGE ON FUTURE  
BATTLEFIELDS. OUR CONVICTIONS  
THAT WE NEED COMANCHE WERE  
STRONG THEN AND EVEN STRONGER  
NOW!

WE ARE A NATION AT WAR TODAY,  
AND THIS MAY BE THE NORM FOR US  
IN THE YEARS TO COME. I BELIEVE  
RECENT EVENTS IN BOTH  
AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ STARKLY  
DEMONSTRATE THE ABSOLUTE  
NECESSITY FOR THIS AIRCRAFT AND  
THE TREMENDOUS CAPABILITIES IT  
CAN PROVIDE COMMANDERS. IN THE  
MOUNTAINS OF EASTERN  
AFGHANISTAN DURING OPERATION  
ANACONDA, AMERICAN SOLDIERS

WERE AIR ASSAULTED INTO AN ENEMY STRONGHOLD. REAL TIME, ON THE SCENE, PERSISTENT AND DEDICATED RECONNAISSANCE, PROVIDED BY SOLDIERS FOR SOLDIERS, WAS NOT READILY AVAILABLE. COMANCHE IS BEING DEVELOPED TO BE THERE FOR OUR FORCES, TO RECON IN ADVANCE OF THE FORCE, TO PROVIDE ARMED ESCORT, TO DETECT AND ENGAGE AN ENTRENCHED ENEMY, AND TO FOCUS ARMY AND JOINT FIRES TO ACHIEVE PRECISION EFFECTS. COMANCHE IS

BEING DEVELOPED TO ENSURE MORE AMERICANS COME HOME SAFELY.

IN IRAQ, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SQUADRON 6<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT EXECUTED A DEEP ATTACK TO FIND AND DESTROY THE MEDINA DIVISION. THE ENEMY HAD PREPARED AN AMBUSH THAT RESULTED IN 30 OF THE 32 AIRCRAFT RECEIVING BATTLE DAMAGE, WE LOST ONE AIRCRAFT AND HAD TWO PILOTS CAPTURED. OUR SOLDIERS ARE MAGNIFICENT. THEY DO THEIR BEST

TO PERFORM THE MISSION WITH THE TOOLS WE GIVE THEM. WE OWE THEM THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB. THE MORE AGILE COMANCHE IS BEING DEVELOPED AS AN INDISPENSABLE PARTNER FOR THE HEAVIER ATTACK APACHE, SCOUTING FORWARD AND PROVIDING DETAILED INFORMATION ON ENEMY LOCATIONS. THE COMANCHE WILL BE THE BRAINS, THE APACHE THE MUSCLE...IF ONE EVER QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR THIS AIRCRAFT; THE EVENTS IN THE LAST

TWO YEARS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE  
NEED THIS WEAPONS SYSTEM MORE  
THAN EVER.

THE COMANCHE WAS THE FIRST  
TRUE TRANSFORMATIONAL CONCEPT.  
IT IS DESIGNED FOR THE JOINT  
NETWORK CENTRIC BATTLEFIELD. WE  
SAW ONLY A GLIMPSE OF THIS DURING  
THE MOST INTENSE FIGHTING OF  
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM WITH OUR  
ABILITY TO TRACK OUR FORCES AS  
THEY MOVED TOWARD BAGHDAD,

BLUE FORCE TRACKING. THIS IS ONLY THE START OF THE AIR GROUND TEAM'S ABILITY TO GAIN COMPLETE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS THROUGH THE FUTURE COMMON OPERATING PICTURE, JOINT INTERDEPENDENCE. THE COMANCHE WILL BE KEY TO DEVELOPING AND EXTENDING THAT OPERATIONAL PICTURE FOR JOINT FORCES COMMANDERS.

THE COMANCHE PROGRAM IS ON A VIABLE PATH TO PRODUCTION AND

FIELDING...BUT THE PROGRAM WILL ALWAYS BE UNDER CONTINUOUS SCRUTINY.

I HUMBLY ASK EACH OF YOU, AS MEMBERS OF THE COMANCHE TEAM, TO TAKE THIS PROGRAM TO THE NEXT LEVEL THROUGH COST EFFICIENCIES AND SOLID PRODUCTION RESULTS THAT WILL KEEP THIS PROGRAM ON SCHEDULE AND UNDER BUDGET. IF THE TEAM DOES ITS PART, WE WILL SOON PUT A MUCH NEEDED QUALITY WEAPONS SYSTEM INTO THE HANDS

OF OUR SOLDIERS...I ALSO PROVIDE  
YOU WITH A CAUTION, IF WE FAIL, THE  
ULTIMATE LOSER IN THIS EQUATION  
WILL BE OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
IN UNIFORM.

IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT “ROSIE  
RIVETER” DID HER PART FOR THE WAR  
EFFORT OF WORLD WAR II, THESE  
AIRCRAFT, THE ONES YOU WILL  
PRODUCE RIGHT HERE – WILL SEE  
COMBAT IN SOME DISTANT LAND IN  
THE NOT SO DISTANT FUTURE. THE

COMANCHE PROGRAM IS A VITAL PART  
OF OUR NATION'S FUTURE AND EACH  
OF YOU HAVE A PART IN THE DESTINY.

SO YOU SEE, REGARDLESS OF WHY  
YOU ARE HERE TODAY, WHAT YOU ARE  
A PART OF IS NOT JUST ABOUT  
OPENING A SOPHISTICATED ASSEMBLY  
LINE.... ITS MUCH DEEPER THAN  
THAT... ITS REALLY ABOUT OUR MOST  
PRECIOUS RESOURCE-OUR SONS AND  
DAUGHTERS. THEY DON'T GET TO  
CHOOSE WHEN AND WHERE THEY GO

INTO HARM'S WAY FOR THIS NATION...  
BUT WE THROUGH THE SUCCESSFUL  
FIELDING OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS  
SUCH AS COMANCHE CAN HELP MAKE  
SURE THEY COME HOME ALIVE.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING A  
PART OF THIS NOBLE EFFORT. GOD  
BLESS YOU ALL, THE UNITED STATES  
ARMY, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!



## Roosevelt Middle School

1. It is a **great day to be a Soldier**...it is especially a great day when I have the opportunity to **speak to the students of Roosevelt Middle School**...to **see so much potential gathered in one place** - future Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen) in one place! **We need you**; you are the future of our Nation! **Hooah!**
  
2. "HOOAH," pronounced "WHO...AH," is a **greeting used by Soldiers to express their feelings**...hello or goodbye, yes or no; agree or disagree, alright, right on...but most used is the meaning of... "let's do it! Let's all in unison give a loud "HOOAH!" It is great to be here!

3. Each of you here at Roosevelt are given a **precious gift...the opportunity to learn...to be whatever you want to be...**“IF” you **set your goals** for success and **work hard**. You may decide to be doctors, lawyers, schoolteachers and some may decide to be a Soldier in the United States Army. Pursue your dreams – you are our country’s future.

4. I would like to **recognize each of you who have relatives in the military** today. Please stand [or come forward]. In the Army, Commander’s have a distinctive coin they present to various individuals for recognition of outstanding performance. I would like to **recognize each of you and thank you and your families for the support and**

**sacrifices you make** for your Soldier,  
Marine, Sailor, or Airman. [PRESENT  
COINS]

5. I, like each of you, **did not realize the opportunities or potential available to me in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.** You have so many more opportunities available to you than I did. Do not waste them. You [STUDENT'S NAME] may be the next President or you [STUDENT'S NAME] may be the first pilot of the Comanche helicopter manufactured around the corner in the Boeing-Sikorsky plant

6. **Don't ever stop dreaming and pursuing your dreams!** Each of you can make a difference to our great Nation, whether it is as

a member of the military or as a worker at the  
local Comanche factory, be all you can  
be...**HOOAH!**

## **AAAA/ AUSA Reception**

Industry and the Army are partners in developing tools of war. Opening Comanche production line an important milestone in long voyage.

The Government has made a commitment to the

Comanche – as long as program remains on-schedule and within budget.

Events in Afghanistan and Iraq –undeniable case for need for Comanche.

Up to the Comanche Team to produce the best armed recon helo in the world

More and more -- The Army is in a partnership with industry to insure our soldiers are receiving the best equipment on schedule or better and within budget.

Pleasure to meet our partners from the Conn Chapters of  
AAAA & AUSA

Many employees in the Guard and Reserve – Thank you for your support of them.

The Army salutes you and recognizes the sacrifices you  
make as a company in support of these soldiers and  
their families Joint Force Commander  
Transformational System!