

## **Remarks for Powidz 08/22/12**

*Dzień dobry. Szanowni państwo, chciałbym podziękować ministrowi Siemoniakowi, generałowi Cieniuchowi i generałowi Majewskiemu za zaproszenie nas na dziesiątą uroczystość. Ten dzień rozpoczyna kolejny etap współpracy między wojskiem Polskim i Amerykańskim.*

[Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank Minister SIEMONIAK (Minister of Defense), Generał CIENIUCH (Chief of General Staff) and Generał MAJEWSKI (Polish Air Force Commander) for extending an invitation to me and to members of the United States Air Force to participate in today's events. For me, as the American Ambassador to Poland, today is a powerful example of the strong and vibrant relationship between Poland and the United States.]

Today, marks the completion of the delivery to Poland of C-130E aircraft. The military commanders here today understand as well as anyone the value of more and better logistics, and that is what Poland's C-130 fleet provides. U.S. Admiral E. J. King once said, famously, and I paraphrase, "I don't know what the [heck]. . . this 'logistics' [is that] everyone is always talking about. . . But [all I know is] I want some of it."

With the C-130 program, Poland has gained a tactical airlift capability to support its forces and has increased its interoperability with the United States and NATO.

Polish C-130s have already been used to support missions worldwide. Today, Poland's C-130s routinely fly back and forth to Afghanistan. This has been a good joint investment: from Poland \$34.5 million, from the U.S. a contribution of \$120 million. This C-130 program has elevated Poland's military capability.

Our partnership in the C-130 program is a fine example of how our day-to-day security cooperation continues to grow, and I am proud of what we have accomplished as Allies.

There is no more advanced F-16 fleet in Europe than Poland's. The F-16s and C-

130s are located at modern air fields at Krzesiny, Łask, and here at Powidz, constructed with the support of 1.5 billion dollars in NATO infrastructure funds. Poland's F-16 pilots are NATO certified. With the support of Polish C-130s, they participated successfully in the prestigious Red Flag exercises in Alaska in June.

*Gratuluje!*

In a few weeks we'll take another important step with the opening of the U.S. Aviation Detachment at Łask airbase. This will be the first continuous presence of U.S. troops in Poland. The signing of this agreement last year was one of my proudest days in this job. The Aviation Detachment is an important next step for our air forces, enabling us to conduct advanced training together here in Poland.

Poland has been a steadfast ally in NATO's mission in Afghanistan. I visited Polish troops there, and on behalf of all Americans I want you to know the United States knows of your sacrifices and is grateful for your dedication. Dziękuję.

We are here to mark the final delivery to Poland of the C-130s, an important day for our militaries. But our relationship is not about machines, but about the men and women of both our countries who defend our values and our freedom. To them, on behalf of the United States, I say thank you, and congratulations.