Good afternoon General Scraba, Deputy Minister Rasić, Director Maxhuni, Mr. Bradford and our distinguished guests and colleagues from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro.

As I flew here I thought about what I might say to you on this day if I was given the chance. I searched for words of wisdom that might inspire you. Standing here in this moment, the reality is that it is me who is inspired by you – by your actions, by your dedication to duty and by your commitment to each other.

You are not just supervisors, or managers, or bosses – you are leaders. You have proven this not by finishing this course, but more profoundly by your very presence here. Through your actions over these last 10 weeks you have led by example, you have set the bar high for all to witness – peers, subordinates and your bosses. Lead from where you are here and now, and your positive influence will be felt in this amazing part of the world for many years to come.

ICITAP has been partnering with each of your agencies for over 10 years and I was fortunate enough to live and work for ICITAP in the Balkans for 4 years from 1999 to 2003. What you have achieved was unthinkable during these years. I am reminded that pride is a dangerous thing, but today I must tell you that I am extremely proud, and honored to be a part of this important milestone.

So it is with much humility and gratitude that I thank you for inspiring me. Thank you for setting an example for all of us – for being human – for being leaders.

Congratulations.