

**Gen Wolters – Keynote Address – JLOTS Distinguished Visitors Day  
Port of Durres, Albania  
Tuesday, 4 May, 2021  
As Delivered**

President Meta, Prime Minister Rama, ministers, distinguished guests, flag officers... and most important... the wonderful citizens of Albania, it's an honor to be in your presence and so nice to be home in a nation who treats its guests like brothers and sisters and sons and daughters. Let me extend my heartfelt thanks to this nation for what you've done and what you'll continue to do to generate peace in the region and throughout Europe.

Let me offer my condolences to all of those impacted by COVID-19. Let me thank this great nation for its discipline and its vigilance in leading from the front to ensure that this pandemic does not materialize into a security crisis. As you know better than I, we still have a long ways to go but with your demonstrated expertise to beat the pandemic, we will be successful. This pandemic will not morph into a security crisis.

I want to extend my thanks to the military and to the nation for its willingness to host this international military exercise. As you well know by now, the task is daunting. What we are attempting to do is improve our strategic transparency and alignment, something that hasn't been done with this scope and scale since the 1940s.

**Gen Wolters – Keynote Address – JLOTS Distinguished Visitors Day  
Port of Durres, Albania  
Tuesday, 4 May, 2021  
As Delivered**

As we stand here on this tarmac and we look at this shoreline, we can't help but remember, what took place in World War II...the Sicily landings, D-Day, the Normandy invasion... ship-to-shore logistics... as we look at the pieces and parts, and as we stand and sit on this tarmac we realize what a daunting and difficult task it is.

What we will demonstrate today is wet ship-to-shore logistics... joint wet ship-to-shore logistics...very very complicated. We do so in typical NATO fashion with sound force protection provided by this nation and with U.S. and UK Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines engaging in a demonstration to improve their readiness. Our hope is this... that after today's demonstration, and after this exercise, each and every one of us are a little bit more responsive, a little bit more resilient, and a little bit more lethal. I'm convinced that we will accomplish this task.

As has been stated before, Defender Europe 21 spans over 30,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from numerous NATO Allies and nations... well over 25 countries. Its purpose is to

**Gen Wolters – Keynote Address – JLOTS Distinguished Visitors Day  
Port of Durres, Albania  
Tuesday, 4 May, 2021  
As Delivered**

test our mettle in the full gamut of experiences that we engage in in the military.

Throughout Defender 21, we will take a look at joint forcible entry, we'll improve our integrated air and missile defense, we'll engage in live-fire exercises, and we'll culminate with a command post exercise. Those events force us to improve our muscle and our intellect, but at the end of the day, we hope and we know that we will improve our readiness in all domains.

Let me close by thanking this nation for what you do. This nation is an exporter of security. The reason we can comfortably say that is the campaign momentum that you have demonstrated from your accession into NATO in 2009 to the present has provided us a more secure Albania, a more secure southern hub, a more secure Balkans, a more secure Mediterranean, and a more secure Atlantic. We are safer today than we ever have been. You prove day-in-and-day-out that we are stronger together.

Thank you very much.

**###**