



**UNITED STATES CYBER COMMAND
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MEDIA RELEASE

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FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Army Gen. Keith B. Alexander, Commander, USCYBERCOM and Director, NSA/Chief, Central Security Service, will retire from active duty at a relinquishment of command ceremony here March 28. Alexander, who dedicated nearly four decades of service to the nation, holds the distinction of being the longest-serving director of the NSA (August 2005) as well as the first Commander of USCYBERCOM (activated in May 2010).

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey will retire Alexander from active duty. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper, and the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, will also participate in the ceremony Friday.

Alexander was pivotal in the creation of USCYBERCOM and the new Cyber Mission Force, which provides decision makers with cyber capabilities to defend the nation in cyberspace, defend DoD information networks, and support combatant commands. As Director, NSA/Chief, CSS, Alexander revolutionized cryptologic support to the warfighter while maintaining focus on protecting the nation from terrorist attacks and evolving the enterprise to meet the challenges of cyberspace.

During the ceremony, Hagel will present Alexander with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, and Clapper will present the outgoing commander with the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal. Alexander's wife, Debbie, will be honored with the Distinguished Public Service Award for her contributions over the past 40 years to the welfare of service members and their families.

Pending confirmation of Alexander's successor, U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John M. Davis, Deputy Commander, USCYBERCOM, assumes duties as acting Commander, USCYBERCOM; Richard H. Ledgett, Deputy Director, National Security Agency, assumes duties as acting Director, NSA; and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. D. Scott George, Deputy Chief, Central Security Service, assumes the duties as acting Chief, Central Security Service.