

**IHOF Induction, BG Dillon
Fort Leavenworth, KS
2 OCT 08**

Our final inductee has also distinguished himself, and today BG Dillon serves as the Chief of the Defense Staff of the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force.

I hear Eddie is a big fan of reggae music.....and his steel pan drums had to be played loud enough to they could be heard in the street.....so everyone could enjoy it!

I also heard that at his farewell party Eddie and Ava danced to “Who let the dogs out?”

BG Dillon was accompanied by his lovely wife Ava and their three children when he attended CGSC in 2001. They have two daughters and a son. Their son Cleavon was an all-state track champion at Leavenworth High School, and went on to be a track star at Texas Christian University. He was a three-time all-American, and ran for Trinidad-Tobago at the 2004 Olympics in Athens....and as a side note, he married his Leavenworth childhood sweetheart Alicia yesterday afternoon – congratulations!

We want to recognize the contributions of his family in making him the man he is today, and thank them for their continued support. We’d like to welcome Ava and their extended family here today. We would specifically like to recognize Eddie’s sister, Ingrid Phillip, and his cousin-in-laws Mr. and Mrs. Malefant. His family deserves the praise, recognition, honor, and pride of this event.

The Dillons had three wonderful sponsor families while he was at Leavenworth: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander of Leavenworth, COL (Ret) and Mrs. Londerholm of Kansas City, and LCDR and Mrs. Brower.

One sponsor family had this to say about the BG Dillon “General Dillon quickly displayed those qualities of a born leader – combining high intelligence, insightful thinking and quick perception of situations with a genuine friendliness, good humor, and a joy for living, obviously matched.....by his lovely wife.”

Would the family and their sponsors please rise....and would you all please join me in a round of applause for the family.

BG Dillon’s class of 2001 was a remarkable class.

- **There were 92 International Military Students from 80 countries.**
- **BG Dillon is the first officer from his class to achieve the rank of general....as we say in our Army – Hooah!**
- **BG Dillon is one of nine officers from Trinidad and Tobago to attend CGSC.**
- **He is the first IHOF inductee from the class of 2001.**

Now to the man of the hour: BG Dillon enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1974 where he served for four years before accepting a commission in the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment. He received his commission from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He has commanded and served on staff at every level in the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Forces.

In 1994, he served as the second in command of the first Caribbean Command (CARICOM) Battalion that participated as part of the multinational force alongside the U.S. military in OPERATION RESTORE DEMOCRACY in Haiti. BG Dillon was recently published in a book titled “Caribbean Security in the Age of Terror.”

Eddie, you’ve been described by your colleagues and friends as a diligent worker who took your school work seriously and was popular with others. You’ve also been described as someone who loves to eat, and loves to party – some have said it was hard to find rum and coconut water in KS!

I could not think of a finer officer to be the first general officer from the class of 2001, and the first from the class inducted into the International Hall of Fame.....sounds like being fast on the track is a Dillon family trait!

Our sincerest congratulations go to you and your family, and I give you my personal thanks....for being such a great friend to the U.S. You are a true role model for others to emulate.

Without further ado, please Publish the Order!