

**IHOF Induction, LTG Bertholee
Fort Leavenworth, KS
2 OCT 08**

Our second inductee has also distinguished himself, and today LTG Robert Bertholee serves as the Commander of the Royal Netherlands Army.

He is fondly remembered by many to have been an avid runner (he even ran the New York Marathon), someone who loves tennis and horseback riding, and really enjoys riding a BMW “motor-bike.”

LTG Bertholee and his lovely wife “Reeah” have one daughter Daphne, who was four when he attended CGSC in 1992. Many fondly recall Daphna’s love of horses – she even had horse pajamas and sheets. She has excelled at equestrian activities all of her life.

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 Reeah here today. His family deserves the praise, recognition, honor, and pride of this event.

LTG Bertholee had three wonderful sponsor families while he was at Leavenworth: the Winan family of Leavenworth, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison of Kansas City, and COL (Ret) and Mrs. Anastasio. Another dear friend of the family who is in the audience today is Ms. Majorie Howard. When there were social events to attend, she would watch Daphne. She has done this for many Dutch families over the last 30 years and even received a Royal Dutch Award for it.

The sponsors loved sharing their culture with the Bertholees – one discovered the family had never seen “Gone With The Wind” and proceeded to have a dinner/movie night where they prepared fried chicken, pecan pie, and fried green tomatoes to go with the movie. Others recalled Reeah’s love of shopping and a trip to pick apples at the orchards in Weston. Several families visited the Bertholees in Europe where the hospitality favors were graciously returned. Mr. Harrison remembers telling his wife, “Rob will be a general some day.”

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

LTG Bertholee’s class of 1992 was a remarkable class.

- There were 90 International Military Students from 68 countries**
- 17 of them have made general officer.**
- LTG Bertholee is one of 50 officers from the Netherlands that have graduated from CGSC.**
- 28 of them have become general officers.**
- LTG Bertholee will be the fourth graduate from the Netherlands to be inducted into the IHOF.**

Now to the man of the hour: LTG Bertholee was commissioned as a field artillery officer from the Royal Military Academy in 1979. He has held command and staff positions at all levels of the Royal Netherlands Army and the Defense Staff. His extraordinary talent to cooperate with all agencies made him not only invaluable to the Defense Staff, but also in executing his NATO assignments. This ability, and his language skills, made him very successful in leading Dutch, German, and other Soldiers from many nationalities in operations from Kosovo to Afghanistan.

He was the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff for ISAF III in Afghanistan. On 3 March 2008, he assumed command of the Royal Netherlands Army.

LTG Bertholee, you have been described by your colleagues and friends as serious about your profession, yet also as someone who liked to have fun, and was always honest and forthright. I could not think of a finer officer to be the 228th officer inducted into the International Hall of Fame.

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!