

**IHOF Induction, GEN Kianga
Fort Leavenworth, KS
2 OCT 08**

Good morning and welcome to Fort Leavenworth and the Command and General Staff College. What an incredible honor it is to participate in the International Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony – to recognize and honor the achievements of four incredible officers.....officers that once were students here and have continued on to rise to the highest military positions in their countries.

We also want to say thanks to their sponsors. For decades, two organizations - Operation International, a committee of the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International, have touched the lives of our international students and their families.

People to People International’s motto is “peace through understanding.” Understanding.... grows from interaction – and is on display in the many lifelong friendships formed right here at Fort Leavenworth between our international students and their sponsors.

We are also honored today to have the national leadership of the Business Executives for National Security in the crowd. General Boyd, gentlemen – welcome.

To our honorees.....Today, they join the ranks of the other distinguished officers in the International Hall of Fame. Just to show you what an incredible achievement this is....of the more than 7,000 international students that have attended CGSC, only 226 have been inducted – that’s only about 3%. When you consider that over 50% of our international students go on to make general officer, these officers are in a very elite crowd.

Our first inductee has certainly distinguished himself since departing the hallowed institution at Bell Hall in 1986, and today GEN Kianga serves as the Chief of the General Staff of the Kenyan Armed Forces.

A classmate of GEN Kianga’s, Marv Nickels, who works here at CGSC, relayed a story to me about GEN Kianga’s debut on the rodeo circuit here at FT Leavenworth. They were all down at the Hunt Lodge for a Halloween party and someone had their horse there. GEN Kianga decides he wants to try riding this horse.....and he did.....for a bit. GEN Kianga and the horse parted ways shortly thereafter, but not on good terms! “Jerry” as he was affectionately known to his classmates at the time, earned a new nickname that day and thereafter was known as “The Kenyan Cowboy.”

GEN Kianga was accompanied by his wife Christine and family when he attended CGSC in 1986. They now have four children – three sons and a daughter.

We want to recognize the contributions of his family in making him the man he is today, and thank them for their continued support. His family, especially his wife Christine, deserves the praise, recognition, honor, and pride of this event.

GEN Kianga had three wonderful sponsor families while he was at Leavenworth: then CPT and Mrs. Michael Quinn, Reverend and Mrs. Robert Palmer of Leavenworth, and COL (Ret) and Mrs. Charles Dribben of Independence. Charles passed away in 1991, but we know if he were here today he'd certainly be proud.

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

Several of GEN Kianga's sponsors have stayed in contact with him over the years and have had wonderful experiences because of their relationship to them. COL and Mrs. Dribben were later invited to the Kenyan embassy in Washington D.C.

The Quinns recall GEN Kianga as a very interesting and entertaining man and his wife as a very charming woman. GEN Kianga invited the Quinns to join him and his classmates in partaking of a goat they prepared as part of an end of the course celebration. The Quinns had never eaten goat before, especially a Navy goat, and were surprised at how good it tasted; Elaine Quinn was even more pleased that she did not have to witness it being prepared!

When he returned to Kenya, the General presented the Quinns with some napkin holders with hand carved depiction of African animals on them. Their oldest daughter, who was about 8 at the time, was quite taken with them and now has them in her home she shares with her husband, a native of Ethiopia.

GEN Kianga's class of 1986 was a remarkable class.

- **There were 98 International Military Student from 61 countries**
- **35 of them have made general officer.**
- **GEN Kianga is one of 59 officers from Kenya to attend CGSC.**
- **12 of them have become generals.**
- **GEN Kianga will be the second graduate from Kenya to be inducted into the IHOF.**

Now to the man of the hour: GEN Kianga joined the military in 1971 and after two years at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, he was commissioned and served as a platoon leader in the 5th Battalion, the "Kenya Rifles" as a platoon commander. GEN Kianga has served in command, staff, and instructional positions at every level in the Kenyan Armed Forces. In 2003, he was appointed Commander of the Kenyan Army. And in 2005, he was appointed as the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kenya.

GEN Kianga, you have been described by your colleagues and friends as very studious, a quiet professional, and a perfect gentleman. I could not think of a finer officer to be the 227th 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!