

**International Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong, Singapore
LTG Ng Yat Chung, Singapore
GEN Moeen Uddin Ahmed, Bangladesh**

Remarks given by: BG Ed C. Cardon

Eisenhower Auditorium – Fort Leavenworth, KS

01 OCT 09

Good morning and welcome to Fort Leavenworth and the Command and General Staff College. On behalf of the Commander of the Combined Arms Center, Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, thank you for attending this very special event. It is an honor to be a part of this special International Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Today, we add 3 great leaders to the distinguished list of 231 International Hall of Fame inductees. Although all three carry their own honors, we are humbled to have with us the first International Hall of Fame inductee from The People's Republic of Bangladesh.

We also want to say a special "thank you" to two organizations that have made outstanding efforts to touch the lives of our international students and their families. For decades, Operation International, a committee of the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International have been an integral part of the success of our International Military Student program.

People to People International's founder, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, said "I have long believed, as have many before me, that peaceful relations between nations requires understanding and mutual respect between individuals." 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.

Today our honorees join the ranks of the other distinguished officers in the International Hall of Fame. Of the more than 7,000 international students that have attended CGSC, only 231 have been inducted – that's only about 3%. When you consider that over 50% of our international students achieve the rank of general officer, these officers are among a very elite group. The 231 International Hall of Fame members in the history books, the 3 inductees we celebrate at this ceremony, and the young leaders of our Nation we see around the world today are the legacy of this great institution. It is made up of people – students, a world class faculty and staff, a supporting community that includes the selfless service of our sponsors.

Our first inductee certainly made his CGSC instructor proud. He has distinguished himself since departing the hallowed institution at Bell Hall in 1979. Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong is the third and current Prime Minister of Singapore.

Prime Minister Lee is a charismatic, energetic, intelligent leader...with a keen sense of humor. As Prime Minister he has focused on the education system, embraced innovation and technology, and worked tirelessly to bring Singapore through the economic downturn we are all experiencing.

Prime Minister Lee's class of 1979 was remarkable. There were 101 International Military Students from 74 countries. 45 of are known to have attained General Officer rank. In fact, LTG Seth Obeng, a section classmate of the Prime Minister, was inducted into the International Hall of Fame in March of 2004. Prime Minister Lee was the 7th of Singapore's 42 CGSC graduates. 8 of them have become general officers. Prime Minister Lee will be the third graduate from Singapore to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame.

While here at CGSC, Prime Minister Lee was in Section 20...nicknamed "The Roaring Twenty." Close-knit from the beginning, the section worked hard, laughed hard...admittedly not necessarily in that order...and enjoyed a professionally enriching year. As their page in the Bell yearbook says, "More important than the knowledge we gained were the friends we made." The motto of the Roaring Twenty was "Do Not Erase." Prime Minister Lee did not erase anything from his memory banks...Upon graduation from CGSC in 1979, he rose quickly through the ranks becoming the youngest Brigadier General in Singapore's history.

Prime Minister Lee had three wonderful sponsor families while he was at CGSC; the McGurk Family, the Maahs Family of Leavenworth, KS, the Schmeling Family of Overland Park, KS.

As you all know, this amazing international exchange program would not be possible without the families that volunteer as sponsors.

Prime Minister Lee has a rich educational background. Prior to attending CGSC, he was awarded the President's Scholarship and the Singapore Armed Forces Scholarship. He attended Singapore's National Junior College. He studied mathematics at Trinity College and graduated with distinction and honors from Cambridge University. He was later a Mason fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, where he received a Masters of Public Administration.

Prime Minister Lee joined the Singapore Armed Forces in 1971. After graduation from Officer Candidate School and the Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute, he was commissioned a Field Artillery Officer. Upon return to Singapore from Fort Leavenworth and Harvard, Prime Minister Lee commanded an Artillery Gun Battalion. He was then promoted to Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Chief of the General Staff, and to Director, Joint Operations and Planning Directorate.

On the 29th of January 1983, a Panamanian-registered oil rig, passed under the cable car aerial ropeway at Sentosa Station in Singapore. The oil rig struck the cable that stretched over the waterway carrying the cable cars. As a result, two cable cars plunged 55 meters into the sea, killing seven people. It also left 13 people trapped in 4 other cable cars. Colonel (now Prime Minister) Lee led the rescue operation. Helicopters from the Singapore Armed Forces rescued

the stranded passengers in daring mid-air operations. Prime Minister Lee was publicly commended for his role in coordination of the Sentosa cable car rescue operations.

Prime Minister Lee retired from the Singapore Armed Forces in 1984. His leadership contributed to the joint capability of Singapore's Armed Forces. He served 13 years in the military and retired as a Brigadier General, but his service to Singapore did not end there.

Shortly after retirement from the military, he entered politics. After various positions in the Government of Singapore, he was elected as the third Prime Minister of Singapore. Prime Minister Lee has been a Soldier, a General, a Leader...a Husband, a Father...a Cancer Survivor...and now we are proud to add to that list...member of the International Hall of Fame

Ladies and Gentlemen, the US Army Command and General Staff College is extremely proud to induct His Excellency Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong as the 232nd member of our International Hall of Fame...

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Our next inductee rose to the highest ranks in the Singapore Armed Forces after departing Fort Leavenworth in 1989. Lieutenant General Ng Yat Chung served as the Chief of Defense Staff for the Singapore Armed Forces from April 2003 thru March 2007.

LTG Ng's leadership strengthened the Singapore Armed Force's capability to meet new security challenges. LTG Ng's vision broadened the Singapore Armed Force's ability to apply full spectrum operations successfully. In many ways, his guidance helped to raise their capabilities for conducting simultaneous conventional, civil, and stability operations ...sounds familiar doesn't it?

LTG Ng had a great group of classmates in 1989. There were 107 International Military Students from 64 countries. 18 of are known to have attained General Officer rank. LTG Ng was the 16th of Singapore's 41 CGSC graduates. 8 of them have become general officers. LTG Ng will be the fourth graduate from Singapore to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame.

In April of 1964, the Henry Leavenworth Chapter of the Association of the United States Army established "The International Award" to recognize the Distinguished Allied Officer Graduate of each year's class. In 1969, the Commandant of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College arranged for future international awards to be known as the "Dwight D. Eisenhower Award". The award is presented to the most outstanding international student for military scholarship.

LTG Ng, at the age of 27, was the General Dwight D. Eisenhower Award winner. At the age of 27 he was the top International Military Student graduate in the 1989 CGSC Class. Of the 154 nations that have participated in our International Military Student program, Singapore has the second most recipients of this prestigious award...no pressure for our current students from Singapore.

LTG Ng had three wonderful sponsor families while he was at Leavenworth; LTC and now BG (ret) Charles Viale, the Skaptason Family of Leawood, KS, and LTC (ret) and Mrs. Russell Singleton of Leavenworth, KS.

From the moment of his enlistment in 1979, LTG Ng Yat Chung, served the Singapore Armed Forces with distinction.

As the Chief of Defense Staff, LTG Ng successfully commanded the deployment of the Singapore Armed Forces in support of operations and humanitarian missions across the globe. This included peace operations in East Timor...tsunami relief as a part of Operation Flying Eagle... and deployments to Northern Thailand following natural disasters there.

As Chief of the Defense Force, LTG Ng laid the transformational blueprint for the Singapore Armed Forces and demonstrated bold leadership in its execution. He was instrumental in transforming the Singapore Armed Forces into a "3d Generation" networked, knowledge-based force. He developed new operational concepts and integrated cutting-edge technologies to build a new force structure.

Singapore is an essential partner to the United States in a vital region of the world. It is well known that Singapore consistently punches “well above their weight”. Singapore supports our coalition efforts in Afghanistan. They have state of the art facilities that allow for cooperation in naval operations and intelligence. Singapore also continues to participate in a broad range of exercises. All these efforts illustrate their dedication to peace and security throughout the world.

LTG Ng’s academic credentials and post military accomplishments are exceptional. He is an alumnus of the Victoria School and Hwa Chong Junior College and was the recipient of the Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship in 1980. He studied at Cambridge University and earned his MBA at Stanford University. LTG Ng retired in March of 2007. He now holds the position of Senior Managing Director for an Asian investment house, Temasek Holdings, managing a portfolio worth 135 billion dollars.

Temasek Holdings’ statement of purpose illustrates LTG Ng’s continued commitment to service, reading in part: “We actualize our commitment as a responsible corporate citizen by supporting efforts that build people and communities through education...as well as building bridges between peoples through deeper understanding and friendship...”

Ladies and Gentlemen, the US Army Command and General Staff College is extremely proud to induct LTG Ng Yat Chung as the 233rd member of our International Hall of Fame...

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Next we have a special “first.”

We are proud to add to this list, the first International Hall of Fame member from Bangladesh.

After departing Fort Leavenworth in 1987, General Moeen Uddin Ahmed rose through the ranks of the Bangladesh Army, ultimately serving as Chief of the Army Staff, from June 2005 through June 2009.

In a ceremony at the Bangladesh Military Academy graduation in June 2008, General Moeen challenged the graduates “to uphold the image, honor, and glorious tradition of the Army through their character, competence, and professionalism.” A challenge this superb officer has already met through a lifetime of service during complex and trying times.

What was happening in 1987? Let’s look at some of the news events of 1987 to help us remember. President Reagan signed one of the most influential pieces of legislation for our Armed Forces to date - the Goldwater-Nichols Act. As you all know, this act was named after Senator Barry Goldwater and Representative William Nichols. It streamlined the chain of command and emphasized the need for our Armed Forces to be fully joint: intellectually, operationally, organizationally, doctrinally, and technically.

After leaving Uetersen near Hamburg on May 13, nineteen year-old West German pilot Mathias Rust refueled his rented Cessna. He told air traffic control that he was going to Stockholm, but right after his final communication with traffic control he turned his plane to the east. Rust evaded Soviet air defenses and landed a private plane on Red Square in Moscow.

In June 1987, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher won the United Kingdom general election for the third time.

While here at CGSC, General Moeen was assigned to Section 13B. According to the Bell Yearbook, Section 13B’s motto was “Blow it off”. As we all know, this phrase usually means shirking your assignments. Obviously, GEN Moeen did not blow anything off...perhaps it referred to blowing off all the snow that fell that year. GEN Moeen’s classmate LTC (ret) Billy Johnson recalled, “it was the first time he had seen snow – and it was a very bad winter.” A brief look at some of General Moeen’s U.S. classmates tell us there must have been something in the water at Bell Hall in 1987...Some of his U.S. CGSC Classmates include:

- BG (ret) David Fastabend
- MG (ret) Walter Wojdakowski
- LTG Mark Herling
- LTG Benjamin Freakley
- LTG Benjamin Mixon
- GEN Ann Dunwoody
- And of course...our own LTG William Caldwell

There were 111 International Military Students from 70 countries. 34 of are known to have attained General Officer rank. Three of General Moeen’s international military student

classmates have been inducted into the international hall of fame. General Moeen is one of 28 officers from Bangladesh that have graduated from CGSC. 13 of them have become general officers. General Moeen will be the first graduate from Bangladesh to be inducted into the IHOF.

Classmate LTC (retired) George Cushman tells us that you all spent a fair amount of time in the basement of Bell Hall waiting for tornado warnings to pass with your section mates. Between the snow and the tornadoes I trust you had a couple days of non-severe weather to enjoy.

GEN Moeen was active in the community and participated in numerous social events with his family and classmates. He lived off post on Seneca Street, and enjoyed attending baseball games. Section 13B classmate, LTC (ret) Ben Moreira remembers GEN Moeen's interest in baseball and softball, as it was similar to his favorite sport, cricket.

General Moeen's lovely wife, Nazneen, and daughter, Sabrina, accompanied him to CGSC in 1987. Sabrina was 4 when her father attended CGSC in 1987. Shortly after CGSC, their son Nihat was born. Sabrina now works for the UN and their son is an Aerospace student at University of Florida.

We also talked to LTC (ret) James McGarrah about his CGSC memories with GEN Moeen. James recalled talking to the Moeen family about their next assignment where GEN Moeen would be a battalion commander in a relatively austere part of Bangladesh. James recalled Nazneen remarking that "the house will have to be on stilts so tigers will not carry the children away." We all come from different Nations and cultures, yet we all understand the sacrifices and hardships our families endure and the importance of their support. Although not able to join us here today, we want to recognize his family's contributions and support.

Sir – please take our best wishes and congratulations back to your family...pls give them a big round of applause.

General Moeen had three wonderful sponsor families while he was at Leavenworth. His military sponsor was LTC (ret) and Mrs. David Sheppard. His Leavenworth sponsor was the late David Pennington and his wife of Leavenworth, KS. General Moeen's Kansas City sponsor was Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGowan of Shawnee Mission, KS.

Would you all please join me in a round of applause for all our sponsors, past and present.

General Moeen started his military career in January 1975. He was commissioned in the 2nd East Bengal Regiment as an Infantry Officer. He has held command and staff positions at all levels of the Bangladesh Army to include command of the 19th and 24th Infantry Divisions.

A significant time in his service came as the Deputy Chief Military Observer to United Nations Assistance Mission Rwanda (UNAMIR). Operating in one of the most densely populated countries of the world, in an extremely complex environment, and among many different world agencies, no doubt shaped him as an officer.

GEN Moeen is the first to become the Army Chief among the officers commissioned in independent Bangladesh. He is one of the only three army chiefs to become a 4 star general. And in 2005, he was appointed Chief of the Army Staff, Bangladesh.

GEN Moeen, your colleagues and friends describe you as a sharp intellectual, a professional, and a perfect gentleman. Your work ethic and dedication to excellence has served you well. I could not think of a finer officer to be the 234th officer inducted into the International Hall of Fame.

Our sincerest congratulations go to you and your family, and I give you our personal thanks....for being such a great friend and partner to the United States.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the US Army Command and General Staff College is extremely proud to induct General Moeen Uddin Ahmed as the 234th member and the first officer from Bangladesh into the International Hall of Fame.

Please, Publish the Order!