

**U.S. ARMY - CGSC**

**INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY**

**REMARKS BY**  
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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009**

**U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE**  
**FT. LEAVENWORTH, KS**

*Transcript by  
Federal News Service  
Washington, D.C.*

GENERAL ASHFAQ PARVEZ KAYANI: General Caldwell, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to thank Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, for having honored me by induction into the hall of fame. It's my great honor. It's an honor for the Pakistani army and also for Pakistan, for which I'm very grateful to General Caldwell. I just want to say a few words, also, about my stay at Fort Leavenworth. In fact, I joined Fort Leavenworth – this was the class of '87, '88, and we are two Pakistani officers who came to do the staff course.

And this one year that we spent here in Fort Leavenworth that has been a very unique experience for me in many ways. I think it was, professionally, very, very rewarding and it has served me very well subsequently, in different appointments that I've held in the Pakistani army. I would like to share with you that the best part that I found was the electives that were offered here in the Command and General Staff College and the two electives that we took – one was the classic theory and the second was the operational level of war – I think, what I learned here, having attended these two electives, later on, it helped me a great deal when I did my own war course in Pakistan, and also, on the operational assignments that I did in Pakistan's army.

In fact, that laid the foundation of my knowledge for subsequent studies and served me very, very well. Also, like General Caldwell has said, I also undertook the master's program here, and that was very unique in some ways. And at that time, the hot subject was Afghanistan and I wrote a thesis. In some ways – in many ways – in fact, my military sponsor, who was also sponsoring my thesis, had my name excluded from the master's program, not because of merit, but because of some other family problem that I had when I was attending the staff course here. But later on, of course, I rejoined and that became a unique experience for me, also, to complete the master's program.

Of course professionally, it was very rewarding, especially because, having done my own staff course in Pakistan, when I came to Fort Leavenworth, I was in a position to compare and contrast as to what the teaching was in Pakistan in the staff college and what were the teachings here at Fort Leavenworth. And of course, I learned many things which, when I went back to Pakistan, I served on the faculty of our own staff college, and many things that I found were very innovative and very original and very useful here at Fort Leavenworth, we did use them in our own staff college to improve our own syllabi and also to improve the instructions in the staff college.

So this was the professional part, but I think what I value the most is my association here, in one year, with my colleagues who are from different countries and also, my colleagues here, like other students, who are from the U.S. Army. Of course, there was a very close interaction as for section nine delta (ph) was concerned, of which I was a part. And I still remember the feeling that I carry and all that was shared, not only in the classroom, but also out of the classroom. And we were lucky to have a get-together the day before yesterday in Washington where I invited all my old section-mates and it was very kind of them, I think, a large number of

them, they turned up for the reception, and some of them, they traveled from far-off distances. And I think they were – after about 20 years their teammate.

But I can say with some confidence, and I'm sure Jay (ph) would agree with it, that having met after 20 years, the very first time when we came across in the dining hall in the hotel, it was as if we had just met yesterday and we were just carrying on the same association. That was the kind of depth of interaction and understanding that we had developed. And that is something which, I think, is very great.

Also, of course, there were a number of other students who were on the course, and for a period of time, we lost contact, but of course, by going through the (bell ?), one still keeps track of them as to where they are. And I'll be traveling to Australia, maybe, toward the end of the year and the chief of army staff in Australia also happens to be one of our close friends and I look forward to seeing him.

But I think this would not be complete if I don't mention the faculty here at Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth. I think they were some of the best professionals, people who taught us – they knew the subject very well and they guided us very well. And that's how this experience became so rewarding in my subsequent career in the army. But of course, the story would not be complete unless I mention the wonderful program of sponsorship that is here not only in Fort Leavenworth, but I also experienced it when I went to Fort Benning back in 1979 to do my advanced course, that is the sponsorship programs.

Of course, there are military sponsors, but also, there are civilian sponsors. I was very fortunate to have excellent sponsors when I went to Fort Benning and I had even better sponsors when I came to Fort Leavenworth. In fact, Lola Lages (ph), who is no longer with us – she died a few years back – I think she was a wonderful sponsor. My son was hardly five years old then. He started going to kindergarten here in Fort Leavenworth.

He always used to call her grandmother, and in her own language, Urdu, it is known as nani (sp) – that is, the grandmother, the mother of his mother – the maternal grandmother. And I think she took so much – (inaudible). I can never forget that almost daily she took it upon herself to take Sarosh, my son, who was just five years old and was unfamiliar with the environment – to take him to school in the morning and also to bring him back from the school in the afternoon.

Later on, we were fortunate to have – (inaudible) – in Pakistan. He spent some time with us. And all of us who were graduates, whether she sponsored them or not – all of us who were graduates from Fort Leavenworth, in fact – we all got together and we honored her with it. But I'm very fortunate to have Colonel and Mrs. Gordon here, who lived in Kansas at that time. And he was a retired colonel at that time also – he was – (inaudible).

And I'm very fortunate and I'm really very honored by Colonel Gordon and Mrs. Gordon to be here. And I look forward to seeing them because I have not seen them so far since they've entered this building. But this was a wonderful concept sponsorship and we still carry those

wonderful feelings. And through the sponsorship, I think what helped me a great deal and would help us a great deal, to know the way of life – the values – that are there in USA.

And ever since I've gone back, having done these two courses – one at Fort Benning and one at Fort Leavenworth here – I think one has such appreciation for the values and how wonderful the people in USA are that I'm never going to really forget. And that is what, in fact, is USA all about. And I am very proud and really very honored to have those associations. Of course it also helped me a great deal to learn how U.S. Army and U.S. Armed Forces operate.

And in my present position and also in my previous positions – I have served, of course – I was inducted in ISI and I also have served as director general of military operations. In fact, I was director general of military operations at the time of 9/11. So since 9/11, all these years, in one way or the other I have been dealing with the situation and I have been part of it.

But I think it helped me a great deal – the understanding that I developed, having done these two courses, having seen the system of the U.S. Army and the armed forces – how it functions. And I think it has really helped me to understand how the systems go and how one has to interact with people. I think without having done these two courses, without having had this exposure to these two courses in USA, maybe I would not have been able to do justice to my job.

And this is where the value is – the relationship between the Pakistan army and U.S. Army for a very long period of time: Our first graduate from Fort Leavenworth, like the general has said was 1928. And we have not missed in a year. For a long time, we kept sending two officers every year to Fort Leavenworth. And there was only a small break due to – (inaudible) – amendment. But of course, everybody has been coming here.

And this has helped to develop a very good, very deep understanding with the Pakistan army and the U.S. Army, which we carry to this day. And this, of course, helps a great deal the relationship between the two countries and especially the strategic relationship that we have today. And we are together in the war against terrorism in that part of the world. And then, ladies and gentleman and General Caldwell, I'll thank you once again for honoring me and for spending so much of your time and for being with us.

I thank all of you for myself and also on behalf of my wife. Thank you very much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(END)