

National Defense University News  
Release No. 11-022  
For Immediate Release  
May 3, 2011

### **National Defense University Inducts Three Graduates into its International Hall of Fame**

(Washington, DC) Three distinguished graduates of the National Defense University recently were inducted into its International Hall of Fame in a ceremony hosted by Vice Admiral Ann E. Rondeau, USN, President of the university.

The newest members of the Hall of Fame are His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the United States; General Dato' Sri Zulkifeli bin Mohd Zin, Chief of the Malaysian Army; and (posthumously) Major General Gordon Cacic, former State Secretary of the Croatian Ministry of Defense. His Excellency Al Otaiba and General Zulkifeli returned to NDU for the induction and Mrs. Vesna Cacic was present to accept the honor on behalf of her late husband.

The honor recognizes NDU graduates who have attained through military merit the highest positions in their nation's armed forces or who have held equivalent positions in a multinational military organization.

Ambassador Al Otaiba received a Bachelor's degree from Cairo American College in Egypt and a Master's degree in international relations from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He was selected to attend National Defense University in Washington, DC, where he graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2000 with a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy. He took up his Washington-based post in July 2008. Previously, Ambassador Al Otaiba served for seven years as the Director of International Affairs for the Court of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. During that time, he was a senior counselor to HH General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

In these roles, Ambassador Al Otaiba has helped strengthen the UAE's security and economic relations throughout the region, with the United States and with other nations. His responsibilities included serving as the UAE's principal security, antiterrorism and defense liaison to other governments and he was heavily involved in diplomatic efforts to improve regional security and defense cooperation.

General Dato' Sri Zulkifeli bin Mohd Zin graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in Great Britain and was commissioned as an infantry officer into the 2nd Royal Malay Regiment. General Zulkifeli has held various assignments at the Battalion level including Commanding Officer of the 9th Royal Malay Regiment. His staff appointments at Army Headquarters include serving as Director of Infantry and as Commander of the Army Land Warfare Training Centre. He was selected to attend National Defense University in Washington,

D.C., where he obtained a Master's degree in National Resource Management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2001. As a General Officer, General Zulkifeli commanded the Reserve Service Division, the 8th Infantry Brigade, the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Army Field Command. In 2004 he held a one year assignment as Commander of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Mindanao, Philippines, and was awarded the Legion of Honor by President Aroyo of the Philippines. He was appointed as the 23rd Chief of the Malaysian Army in May 2010 at the rank of General.

Major General Gordan Cacic volunteered for the Croatian National Guard at the beginning of Croatia's War of independence in 1991 where he was quickly promoted from Reconnaissance Company Commander to Infantry Battalion Commander. He was severely wounded during that period and later was assigned to duty as Training Advisor for the Croatian Armed Forces. In 1994 he assumed duty as Chief of Staff to the Croatian Chief of Defense. In 2001, he was given command of the legendary 1st Guards Corps Special Forces unit. Major General Cacic was selected to attend the George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies and the National Defense University where he graduated in 2001 from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a Master's of Science degree in National Resource Strategy. He then was instrumental in developing the first comprehensive reform of the Croatian Intelligence Community and became the Director of the Military Intelligence Agency until his reappointment as Director of the Military Security and Intelligence Agency. Major General Cacic was confirmed as State Secretary (Deputy Minister) for National Security of the Ministry of Defense in July 2008, a post he held until his untimely death in December 2008. He was the recipient of numerous awards for heroism and achievement.

The National Defense University is the nation's premier center for joint professional military education. The university is an accredited graduate-level institution that provides an educational and research environment to prepare future leaders of the armed forces and civilian agencies for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities. For more information about the National Defense University, please contact: Dave Thomas, Public Affairs Officer, at 202-685-3140 or [ThomasD2@ndu.edu](mailto:ThomasD2@ndu.edu); or visit [www.ndu.edu](http://www.ndu.edu).

###

Dave Thomas  
Director of Public Affairs  
National Defense University  
[ThomasD2@ndu.edu](mailto:ThomasD2@ndu.edu)  
(O) 202-685-3140  
(C) 703-969-0633