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**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY
CLOSING CEREMONY OF FLASH BUFFALO 09-1**

BNS ISSA KHAN NAVAL BASE

May 25, 2009

Commodore Razib Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Commander Alim, Commanding Officer Bangladesh Navy Special Warfare and Diving Salvage Center, Ladies and gentlemen: Assalum Aleikum and good morning.

I am very pleased to join you here today for this important graduation. The Bangladesh Navy Special Warfare and Diving Salvage Center now has 40 new naval commando instructors.

Congratulations to you all. This training program is another example of the close cooperation between the U.S. and Bangladeshi militaries. Whether on land, sea or in the air, the armed forces of the United States and Bangladesh have a long history of friendship.

The Bangladesh Navy Special Warfare and Diving Salvage Center is the direct descendent of the famous "Nau Commandos." That unit sabotaged 24 ships during "Operation Jackpot" in August 1971. The Bangladesh Navy played an important role in Bangladesh's independence and plays an equally important role now.

A new generation of Navy commandos will be born through this training course. You, as graduates of this course, will soon begin instructing the next generation of naval commandos. As you train these sailors, please remember that it is not just about improving their skills and capabilities. This training will also ensure that commandos serve Bangladesh with courage, honor, integrity and patriotism.

The United States Government is committed to helping Bangladesh establish this new naval commando unit. A strong unit will protect the people of Bangladesh. A strong unit will also bring stability to the Bay of Bengal, deter terrorists, and contribute to international maritime security. I look forward to closely following the naval commandos' success in the years to come.

Congratulations to the graduates of this important training exercise and thank you for your service.

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